

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



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Now almost ten weeks into lockdown, there are at least some chinks of faint light at the end of the tunnel. Government guidelines have been relaxed, and perhaps we are all heading in the right direction. With most, but not all, of our Brethren and their families 'confined to barracks' perhaps an outing to the Recycling Centre in the weeks ahead will be real treat. To be honest, I believe that probably everyone's gardens are in sparkling order, perhaps the best they have ever been, as we relieve the boredom in the fine weather we've been enjoying during lockdown.

It is indeed heartening to read that the dreadful toll of this pandemic is dropping as hopefully we are past the peak. Summer holidays are perhaps a forlorn dream this year, but as a Lodge we must hope that a continuing improvement in the statistics will eventual allow us to reach a point where we can seriously look at how we can return to a semblance of normality. There will have to be changes to how we operate at regular meetings, and for the foreseeable future social distancing will have to be enforced, but we are no different to many other social gatherings throughout the town and beyond.

I noticed in some recent correspondence that Lodges in Texas are being allowed to meet again from 1st June, but under such restrictions that I cannot see how they will be able to conduct the ceremonial part of their workings. Here is an extract of the regulations in place for our Texan Brethren :

The lodge will be kept locked at all times. Visitors will not be allowed. You must wait outside the front door keeping a 6' distance between all other Brothers until the Tyler lets one person enter at a time. Once you enter, your temperature will be taken and someone will make sure you are wearing a mask. You must remain 6' from your fellow Brethren at all times. The dining room will be closed to all brothers and there will be no meal or snacks available.

Perhaps this is the future for all of us, at least until the scientists discover an effective vaccine, and some normality returns to us all.

STAY SAFE



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

The Right Worshipful Master, Bro Ronald Angus MacIsaac intimates that, all being well, the following Meetings of the Lodge, will be held within the Masonic Temple, Cochrane Street, Barrhead on the following dates :

Tuesday 1st September 2020

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Fellowcraft Degree

'Conferred by the Brethren of Lodge Dunlop Caledonian, No.1408



Tuesday 15th September 2020

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Master Mason Degree

'Conferred by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class

Yours faithfully & fraternally

David McArthur P.M.

Lodge Secretary

BITS & PIECES

- The annual Lodge Golf Outing this year has understandably been cancelled, but has now been rebooked for 12th June next year.
- Many thanks to both Bro Nicol Hynd PM and Bro Evens Reid PM for the majors works they completed in the Temple during the Lockdown. A major revamp of the heating system which will make major savings, and a complete refreshment of the décor in the Function Suite respectively. (we hasten to add that 'Social Distancing' was fully observed at all times !)
- 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 hopefully in the Autumn.
- Brethren can tune in to the 'Virtual Instruction Class' being held each Monday at 7.30pm. If you want to participate, contact Bro Robert Scott WSW.
- 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 4 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.
- Thanks to Bro Billy Petrie for taking the time to paint the wooden fence at the side of the Lodge during the recent good weather. He even brought his wife Helen along, and she did a great job of cleaning out all the display cabinets in the Downstairs Lounge at the same time.
- Some of the Brethren are still 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.
- It's good to see some of the Brethren finding the time recently to do some 'Spring Cleaning' in the Lodge, with especial mention to Bro Stef Lawniczak and Bro Campbell Ritchie PM of Lodge Gleniffer.
- We gather that our RWM – Bro Ronnie MacIsaac has secured new temporary employment during the economic downturn of COVID-19 as part of the online team who will be 'tracking & tracing' the viruse in the coming months.

Food For Thought

- People who think they know it all are especially annoying to those of us who really do !
- Education can broaden narrow minds, but no man has yet found a cure for big heads.
- A wise man's mind, when stretched by a new idea, will never go back to its original dimensions

Definitions, We Need Definitions...

(This article is shared from a post by Bro Bob Cooper, Curator of the Library and Museum at the Grand Lodge of Scotland)

Language is constantly evolving and changing but that means we need to be careful to keep to original historical meaning(s) especially when discussing a document, subject or person from the past. This is even more important the further into the past one delves.

One recent example has been the use of the word 'gavel' when in fact, in Scotland at least, Scottish Lodges never used a gavel but always used a maul (that being one of the main stonemason's working tool). But as the use word 'gavel' became the norm, some Lodges, quite logically, thought that they were using the wrong implement. They stopped using mauls and adopted gavels instead. This confusion as to the use of the correct word has led to a Scottish Masonic tradition being dropped in favour of one that is not Scottish. When discussing Scottish Freemasonry this lack of clarity when it comes to using certain words and phrases has led to some major problems.

For example, ask the question of any average person: 'What do you know about the Masons?' and the answer will invariably be: 'Oh, you mean the Freemasons - they are the ones wearing dark suits, carrying a small case...'. Such an answer will mean but one thing to most people and that the question and any subsequent discussion is about Freemasons.

In other words, 'the masons' means to most people: 'the Freemasons' but Freemasons certainly played no part whatsoever in building Rosslyn Chapel. The answer to that question should, of course be: 'stonemasons.'

There is therefore a problem of definitions. We have argued for a long time that when writing of 'masons', especially concerning Scotland, the following protocol should be adopted:

masons = stonemasons

Masons = Freemasons

This does not mean that masons could not be Freemasons and that leads us to another, associated, argument.

We have frequently heard the statement: 'purely Speculative Freemasonry began in London in 1717' but let us analyse this further. It, at first glance, means that Freemasonry which had no connection with the craft of stonemasonry, began in London in 1717. Consequently, Freemasonry as now practised began in 1717. However, that means that a stonemason could not have been a Speculative Freemason!

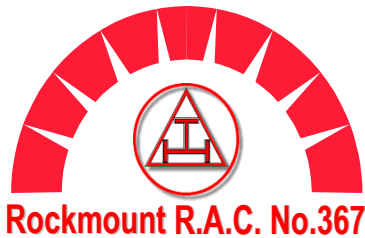
Yet we know differently here in Scotland...

Stonemasons worked on building projects during the day. This is known from town council records that give details of names, ages and status, to be paid for work done during daylight hours and which were longer in summer than in winter and therefore stonemasons were paid less in winter.

From Scottish Lodge Minute Books (from 1599 onwards) we read that stonemasons attended lodge meetings for ceremonial purposes - the Initiation of other stonemasons.

The argument outlined above, if accepted, means that Scottish stonemasons who erected buildings during the day were not Speculative Freemasons when they went to a Lodge meeting at night!

The argument is, in short, because they were stonemasons they could not be Speculative Freemasons - what do you think?



Companions, I hope you and your families are all keeping well. The ME First Principal Harry Lloyd, his fellow Principals 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

Fraternal greetings to you all and your families and I hope you are all safe and well and managing to keep yourselves occupied during this extraordinary period of our lives. It is amazing how you take things for granted, until it is taken away. On a personal note I am missing the companionship and friendship I enjoy when attending meetings. As I stated last month, our Scribe and Treasurer continue to work on behalf of the Chapter, and having communicated with both of them during the last couple of weeks it is most heartening and encouraging to witness their enthusiasm for Rockmount and I'm grateful for their continued support during these unprecedented times. On a similar note I also value the support and companionship given by my 2nd and 3rd Principals, and it is very reassuring to know they are only a phone call away. I would encourage companions to keep in touch with each other as much as possible. I don't have all the companions phone numbers but I can be contacted on ☎ 07720 291167.

It is customary at the May meeting that the first Principal takes the opportunity to wish the Companions a wonderful and restful summer, and this I do, but I would also like to add, take good care of yourselves, stay safe and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you as soon as we are allowed to do so.

MEC Harry Lloyd MEZ

OBITUARY

Sadly, the Chapter has lost another Companion : Companion IAIN MacDONALD (Aged 69). Companion Iain was a Brother of Lodge Thistle & Crown No. 1167 and was exalted into Rockmount Royal Arch Chapter No. 367 on the 8th February 1983

Our thoughts and prayers are with Iain's widow and family at this very sad time.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chapter received correspondence from both Provincial GC and Supreme GC sending best wishes and offering support in these challenging times.

Companions, in these unusual times I have to ask you to give serious consideration to the immediate future of the Chapter and in particular the Companions who will fill the various offices come October. Normally we would have liked to have sounded out Companions, prior to the General Committee meeting, and on a face to face basis over the past 2 meeting nights but circumstances meant this could not happen.

Could I ask, all current Office bearers let me know their intentions to :

1. Accept a new Office
2. Stay in the same office for another year.
3. Leave Office altogether

INTIMATIONS

Monday 1st June – General Committee Meeting – 'On hold' pending lockdown clearance, but will be prior to AGM

Tuesday 8th September – AGM (To be confirmed)

As the Chapter enters our Summer Recess, may you and your loved ones stay healthy and safe until we can all meet again,

Hugh Cattigan PZ, Scribe E.

Famous Scottish Freemasons

(Continuing our series about Famous Scottish Brethren, this month we turn to a local brother who was a decorated soldier, scientist and politician)

Bro Sir Archibald Campbell, 1st Lord Blythswood (1838 -1908)

Born Archibald Campbell Douglas (he dropped the Douglas from his name in 1838) in Florence, Tuscany, he was the eldest son of Archibald Campbell, 17th Laird of Mains.

Campbell joined the 79th Highlanders at the age of 16 and fought in the Crimean War, where he was severely wounded. He transferred to the Scots Fusilier Guards and rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. In 1864, he married Hon. Augusta Carrington, a daughter of Lord Carrington, at Whitehall Chapel, London. He retired from the army in 1868 on the death of his father.

He was Member of Parliament for Renfrewshire from 1873 to 1874, and for West Renfrewshire from 1885 to 1892. He was also Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire from 1904 to 1908. On 4 May 1880, he was created a baronet, and was an ADC to Queen Victoria. In 1888 he was awarded an honorary doctorate of Law from the University of Glasgow and made a Freeman of the City of Glasgow. He was conferred with Honorary Membership of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland in 1891. On 24 August 1892, he was created Baron Blythswood.



He was initiated into the Lodge of Holyrood House (St Luke's), No.44 and was an honorary member of The Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), No.1. He held the office of Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East for a total of 35 years from 1866 to 1902.

Through his friendship with the Earl of Rosslyn, Sir Michael Shaw-Stewart and other leading Freemasons he took a part in the 'Masonic Reformation' of 1877 and was instrumental in preventing a threatened 'disruption' within Grand Lodge in 1879. He served as Grand Master Mason of Scotland from 1885 till 1892, presiding over the Ter-Jubilee celebrations of Grand Lodge in 1886, where

over 1400 Brethren and their guests. When HM Queen Victoria attended the Great Glasgow Exhibition of 1888, she did so as a personal guest of Lord Blythswood in his capacity as Grand Master Mason.

He was a notable scientist and designed a speed indicator, which was fitted to ships of the Royal Navy, and carried out studies into the efficiency of aerial propellers some years before the Wright Brothers' first powered flight in 1903. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1907. In the same year he was made a Freeman of the City of Glasgow.

He was for many years linked to the 3rd Volunteer Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry, where he was commanding Colonel.

He died at age 73 at his home Blythswood House, in Renfrew, without issue and was buried on 11 July 1908 at Inchinnan. His baronetcy became extinct but his barony passed to his younger brother, the Reverend Sholto Campbell.

Masonic Snippets

- ★ On November 7, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt attended the meeting of Architect Lodge No. 519 in New York and raised two of his sons, James and Franklin Jr. An honorary membership certificate was presented to the President by the Lodge.
- ★ In 1860 in Limerick, Ireland, there was found a stone in a small chapel, dated 1517, with the following inscription: "I will serve to live with love & care, upon the level, and by the square."
- ★ In 1839 the Mormons left Missouri and settled in the area of Nauvoo, Illinois. October 15, 1841, the Illinois Grand Master issued a dispensation to form a Lodge at Nauvoo. On March 15th, 1842, Joseph Smith received his first degree and the others shortly after. Certain 'irregularities' were reported ...in five months the Lodge initiated 256 candidates and 243 were raised. After due investigation, the Grand Master revoked the dispensation, but the Lodge continued to work. On April 5, 1844, the Mormon Masons dedicated a Masonic Temple and Illinois Masons got in trouble for taking part in the ceremony. Opposition to the group and internal dissension led to the assassination of Joseph Smith and the eventual removal of the Mormons from Illinois.
- ★ Dr. Edward Jenner, in 1789 discovered the vaccination process against smallpox. He was Worshipful Master of Faith and Friendship Lodge #270 in Berkeley, England at the time.
- ★ During the American Civil War, Wheelock Commandery No. 5 in Texas had all 55 of its members killed while serving in the Confederate Army. The Commandery ceased to exist.
- ★ Missouri's first Confederate Capitol was the Masonic Building in Neosho. From there the legislature passed the Acts of Secession.
- ★ On July 2nd 1751, King Ferdinand VI of Spain issued an edict against Freemasonry. Father Jose Torrubia secured a special dispensation from the Pope, joined a lodge, secured the names of its members, and proceeded to have them arrested. Hundreds were arrested, persecuted, and later imprisoned.
- ★ When Mussolini gained control of Italy, Masonic lodges were declared illegal and the Grand Master was arrested, tried, and imprisoned, where he died. Mussolini also ordered all Masonic references removed, including the emblems on the base of Garibaldi's monument in Rome. After the restoration of the republic, fascist emblems were removed and the Masonic emblems were once again restored.
- ★ In Fascist Spain under Franco, it was a crime to be a Freemason. Masons convicted had to serve prison terms equal in years to the number of Masonic degrees possessed. Master Mason degree equalled 3 years in prison.

Freemasonry in Texas

Many of our readers will know of our warm relationship with Spring Lodge, No.1174 in Houston. Other than The Alamo, how much do we know of the early struggles of the Texans seeking Independence from Mexico? Many of these founding fathers were Freemasons, who not only gave their names to Texas cities but in many cases also gave their lives.



The history of the State of Texas and the Masons who shaped its course of history are so interwoven that they cannot be separated.

The first known Mason to come to Texas was Major Z.M. Pike, in 1806. At the time Americans were granted rights to settle in the new territory, Freemasonry was well established among the educated classes of Mexican society, where it had been introduced among the aristocracy.

Since 1820`s many settlers from the United States had colonized Texas. Moses Austin & his son Stephen F. Austin gained the right to settle in Texas, and led the colonists there. Stephen F Austin was certainly a mason, and it is believed that his father was also a member of the Craft. by the 1830`s they far outnumbered the Texas Mexicans. The Mexican Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna (himself a Freemason) attempted to reverse this trend by such measures as abolishing slavery and enforcing the collection of customs duties, and the settlers rebelled. Fully aware of the political philosophies of American Masons, the Mexican Government outlawed Masonry in Texas in 1828. Freemasonry was not so much the instrument of political change, as it was simply the most natural forum for the exemplification of those principals and tenets that free men held most dear.

So it was that, in March 1835, five Master Masons met in Brazoria and petitioned the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a charter to form a Lodge in Texas. One year later, on March 1st. 1836, Sam Houston and 58 other delegates rode into Washington-on -the Brazos (this is less than 70 miles NW of Spring Lodge) for a Convention to declare independence from Mexico. Twenty two of these delegates were Masons. By the next day they had drafted the Declaration of Independence from Mexico and was unanimously accepted and bravely signed by men who knew they might well be signing their own death warrants. The Convention appointed Brother Sam Houston Commander in Chief of the Texas Army. On the 6th March 1836, Houston left to take command of the troops, on that day other famous Masons lost their lives, as the Alamo fell to the Mexican Army.

The Alamo played a critical role in the Texas Revolution. The defenders held out against overwhelming odds, to give Sam Houston much needed time to organise the newly formed Army. Some of the most famous who died were Freemasons, Colonel William Barret Travis, Davy Crockett (Frontiersman and Tennessee Volunteer) and James Bowie (inventor of the famous "Bowie knife") - a beautiful example of which was presented to Union & Crown by Spring Lodge during their November 2002 visit. It is also interesting to note that four Scots also fought and died in the battle. Right from the birth of the Republic - from the Declaration of Independence from Mexico and the Constitution, to Texas eventually joining the United States, Masons took most of the prominent parts.

Every President and Vice President of the Republic of Texas were Freemasons, as was the first governor. Every chief justice of the Republic was a Mason. 15 Masons were in the first House of Representatives and 7 were in the. 31 governors of Texas have been Freemasons, with 2 of them serving as Grand Masters.

The Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas was formed on 20th December 1837, in the Senate Chambers in Houston. Representatives of the three Lodges then chartered in Texas met, and Sam Houston himself presided.

Anson Jones was elected as the first Grand Master. Stephen F. Austin one of the most prominent Freemasons of his time and Father of Texas died before the Grand Lodge met for the first time on 16th. April 1838. The National emblem, the Lone Star, was chosen from among emblems selected by Freemasonry, to illustrate the moral virtues, it is a five pointed star, and alludes to the five points of fellowship



Symbols

Symbols have meanings only in terms of experience. Since no two men's experiences are ever exactly the same, they often give different interpretations to the same symbols.

A good illustration of this is the different meaning attached to the symbols of sound heard by four travellers in the compartment of a train approaching a tunnel near London – A Colonel, a Sergeant, an old Maid and her attractive niece.

Shortly after the train entered the dark tunnel there was the sound of a kiss, followed by the sound of a slap. Each of those present, clearly identified the symbols, but no two gave the same meaning to them.

The maiden aunt thought the Sergeant had kissed her niece and been slapped for his efforts. The niece thought the Colonel had kissed her aunt and that she had slapped him.

The Colonel knew he had been slapped, and figured that the Sergeant had kissed the young lady, she had thought he – the Colonel – had done it and slapped him. Only the Sergeant had enough experience with what had happened to give proper interpretation to what he heard.

He knew that he had kissed the back of his hand and then slapped the Colonel !!

The Atholl or 'Ancients' Grand Lodge

In 1751 a rival Grand Lodge was formed in England, sometimes later known as the 'Atholl Grand Lodge' after its Grand Master – The Duke of Atholl (who became Grand Master Mason of Scotland in 1773).

This rivalry was finally ended by the Act of Union in 1813 which formed the one body, since known as the United Grand Lodge of England.

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 Garthland St Winnoch, No.205

The Lodge which has been in existence in Lochwinnoch since 1799 is the fifth oldest in the Province, although the Grand Lodge Year Books state August 1799, the original Charter which is still in our ownership is dated November 1799. This places us in a rather exclusive company of Lodges in the Province which have existed in four different centuries.

Unfortunately the first minute book from 1799 to 1813 has been lost.

The name 'Garthland' derives from a local estate, owned by a very powerful and influential family the McDowalls of Garthland. Colonel William McDowall purchased the estate of Castle Semple in 1727 making the family even more powerful. The family numbered MPs, Generals, and a Lord Provost of Glasgow among their ranks. Strangely enough the McDowalls do not figure at all in the early annals of our Lodge, although they were influential in other Lodges or perhaps one Lodge in the Province, although they do figure prominently later.

We cannot boast of any Members attaining Commissioned Rank in the Province, although conversely enough, R.W Cochrane Patrick of Woodside and Ladyland, was R.W.M. of Garthland St Winnoch 1869-70 and Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire from 1876-1889.

The Lodge was fairly nomadic in its early days operating we assume from the back rooms of local hostelries, finding eventually fairly settled accommodation in the Eagle Hall, which was part of a staging inn 'The Eagle Inn'. In the early 1930's the McKillop Institute was built, and some features were incorporated to accommodate the Lodge.

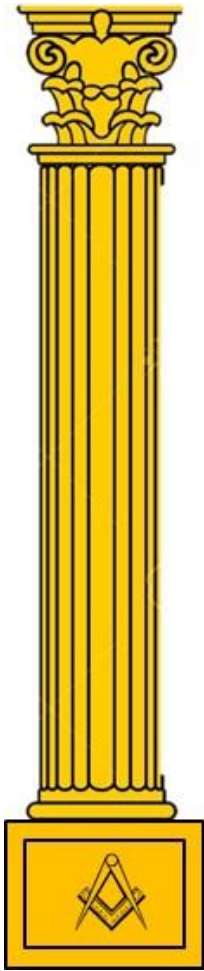
In 1954 we purchased the premises we now own, this hall was built in 1904 as the 'Liberal Club'. History tells us that the man behind the erection of this building was Joseph Johnstone, a local furniture manufacturer who was the Liberal Member of Parliament for West Renfrewshire.



The hall was at the time of purchase, in a sad state of dilapidation, but due to the hard and mostly unpaid work of the Members, we now have a handsome building in our possession, also the first premises we could call our own.

Unfortunately now due to penurious Community Tax, Water and Sewage Charges, what was and still is for that matter, a magnificent asset, is slowly becoming a liability, however we are boosted to some extent by the knowledge that property prices are rocketing in Lochwinnoch, and should we at some time in the future be obliged to sell the property it will be worth a very considerable sum of money, which will no doubt enable us to carry the old Lodge forward, and hopefully into yet another century.

We must think this way optimistically and wonder if our ancient Brethren in 1799 envisaged us still being in existence over two hundred and twenty years later.



From the East

Is this the new normal, no going out except to exercise or shop? It seems such a long time ago that I came through the temple door as master elect with all the plans for things we as a lodge were going to do in the coming year. That has all been put as side in these challenging times.

But we can look forward and upward. I for one have managed to do all the things that I told the wife I would do later like paint the bedroom, hall and the living room, power wash the drive oh yes and cut the grass(not very often that's her job) and a whole lot of other things. I've start baking bread and making tattie scones and may I say with great success no doubt you have all done the same.

When and how will we get back to doing what we all love, being masons? Will it be different at the start? Handshakes that simple but most precious thing you can get from a brother; can we do degrees and have harmony the part of the evening that brings us all together and lets us meet old and new friends.

I do miss getting in from work on a Tuesday night knowing I have meeting. Then put my dinner suit on, check my case for my regalia and get out the door it is such a buzz. The pride I fell in being master you cannot measure. Also, the support from my office bearers, past masters and brethren is the amazing thing. I cannot wait till this is over and we can all get back to meeting again.

To kill the boredom myself and the office bearers have been having a zoom get together on the internet once a week just to keep up to date with any problems that need to be sorted. I would like to thank the secretary and treasurer for all the work they have done during these challenging times.

At 307 we are blessed to have so many brethren who can turn their hand to just about anything and in turn save the lodge a great deal of money. Brother Nicky Hynd PM has sorted out the heating , Brother Evens Reid PM has Painted the function suite , Brother (wee) Steph Lawniczak has done the cleaning in the lodge with Brothers Billy Petrie and PJ Smith sorting out the garden and fence a special thanks to Billy's wife for cleaning the display cabinets. It is true what they say about masonry it takes good men and makes then better.

My thanks also go out to Brother Jim Renfrew PM for all his work keeping the Mallet going, Brother Bud Gauld PM for keeping the secretary abreast of all that is good and bad in Barrhead.

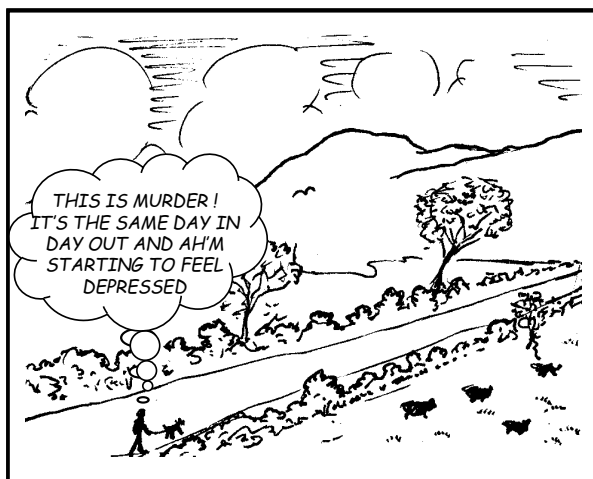
The summer is almost upon us sad to say the golf outing this year has been cancelled but rebooked for 12th June next year.

I look forward to our first meeting whenever it is and hope you are all there.

Keep well and stay safe.

Bro Ronald Maclsaac RWM

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW MAY 2020

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

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