

# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



Summer 2017

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

No. 405



Summer 2017

With this edition of our journal, we mark the close of another Summer Recess (they definitely seem to be getting shorter each year !) and the resumption of a fairly normal Masonic existence for most of us, as we return to our usual diet of Regular Meetings and Visitations. Indeed, no sooner have we had our first Lodge meeting of the new session, and we almost immediately find ourselves on an official visit to Lodge Maudslie Castle, No.1630 in Wishaw the following Saturday to confer a Dramatised Fellowcraft !

It would have given us a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure to be able to say, for once, that we all enjoyed a long hot summer with seemingly endless bright sunny days with hardly a cloud in sight, but unfortunately we'd be slightly economical with the truth. The weather was rather mixed, with most seasons rolled in to one at times, not exactly what we needed if we had ties to play on the Golf or Bowling Clubs.

As ever throughout the recess the Lodge never stops and there is always something on the go, with lots of renovations and improvements, and we apologise to those who had some disruption due to the ongoing work.

On the sporting front Union & Crown enjoyed mixed fortunes in the various competitions and we hope to be able to publish full details of our efforts very soon. The thanks of the Lodge must go to the Conveners of the various Sports involved who had a thankless task in trying to get everyone involved to play their various ties.

On a sad note the Lodge lost a few of its Brethren and some of our Widows who passed away during the Summer. It was a particularly sad in each and every case and our condolences must go to each of the families involved, with details of each later in our Almoner's report.

However, on a very positive note, the Lodge is on a good footing and we must be extremely grateful to those who put in a hard shift over the summer months, cleaning, painting and renovating both inside and out. The Lodge is looking as good as it ever has, and we cannot thank everyone concerned enough.



# Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

*Dear Sir & Brother,*

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

***Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017***

*Business :*

*Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

***Fellowcraft Degree***

*conferred by*

***Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone, No.242***

*Harmony*



***Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017***

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

***Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree***

*conferred by*

***Lodge Instruction Class***

*Harmony*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

***James Miller P.M., Secretary***

# Lodge Golf Outing

A good mixture of Brethren and guests, totalling 28, set out on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June for Haddington Golf Club in East Lothian, for the annual Lodge Golf Outing.

A good day was had by all in what was one of the sunniest and hottest days of the year, with plenty of halts to consume much needed refreshments to avoid dehydration from our intrepid band of golfers. After an extremely close and hard-fought competition for the William Little Trophy, Bro Tommy Kelly came out on top.

All those attending enjoyed breakfast, lunch and a fine prize-giving dinner within the club house, and were warmly welcomed by all the staff at Haddington Golf Club.

Next year's event will take place during June 2018 at Crieff Golf Club, and Brethren and their guests are asked to book their place early, due to growing demand for this popular event.



## Annual Widow's Lunch

A goodly number of 'Ladies of the Lodge' accepted invitations and attended this most earnest and warm-hearted occasion, accompanied by a friend of their choosing on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June. The event was initiated and coordinated by several Brethren of Union & Crown, with the Function Suite beautifully laid out in preparation, and all involved are to be congratulated for their efforts.

The lunch catered was excellent, and the entertainment proved was first rate. The resultant atmosphere, mainly brought about by the Ladies themselves, was most joyful and encouraging. Many have since contacted our Lodge Almoner, Bro Alex White, expressing their gratitude to the Lodge for the loyalty and care shown towards them.

### *Bro Jim Flockhart*

The editorial team of ~~The Mallet~~ **The Mallet** are extremely grateful to the family of the late Bro Jim Flockhart, who kindly donated several items to aid us in publishing our monthly journal.

Indeed, this month's entire edition was printed on paper kindly donated by Josie and the family.



# "Freemasonry Around the World " Hong Kong

Whilst the earliest traces of Freemasonry in Asia are to be found on the Indian Sub-continent, the Craft finally reached Hong Kong around the late 1830`s when the Crown Colony was formed, records show that lodges with travelling warrants held meetings on the mainland nearby 70 years earlier. The earliest Masons were mainly the seamen, merchants, civil administrators and soldiers who populated that outpost of the British Empire and the first Lodge formed was Royal Sussex Lodge, No.501 (E.C.) in 1845, with the first Scottish Lodge, Cosmopolitan, No.428 following on almost 20 years later.

The Craft thrived during the boom years of the latter part of the last century and has continued to prosper in modern times, with the only set back being the Japanese occupation during the last war. Even in those dark days some Lodges bravely met within P.O.W. camps throughout the war and one at Stanley even managed to keep a minute book.

There are currently a total of 19 Lodges active in Hong kong (12 English, 5 Scottish and 2 Irish), the English & Scots Lodges under the jurisdiction of their respective Grand Lodges, and the Irish governed directly from Dublin. All of whom currently meet within the Zetland Hall in Kennedy Road, an imposing structure erected in the late 40`s to replace the Temple built in 1865 and destroyed by bombing in 1941. The Building houses 2 Temples, an administration area, an extensive library and a museum.

All Lodges within the colony (regardless of constitution) tend to meet on a monthly basis from September through to May, recessing during the months`s of June, July and August, with the sole exception being Lodge Cosmopolitan, No.428 who contrary to everyone else only meet on the 3rd Thursday of June, July and August !

Although membership of the Craft in Hong Kong was originally drawn from the British community, with the occasional recruit from other European nations, there is now a substantial number of native Chinese and other Asian nationalities of differing ethnic backgrounds and it is common to enter a Lodge and discover a wide variety of V.S.L.`s in use.

*(Acknowledgment : Grateful thanks to Bro Drew McHard of Lodge Dumbarton Kilwinning, No.18 for the kind provision of much of the background information used in the above article. Bro Drew visited Hong Kong, where he attended a close friend`s affiliation into Lodge Eastern Scotia, No.923)*



# Dates for you Diary

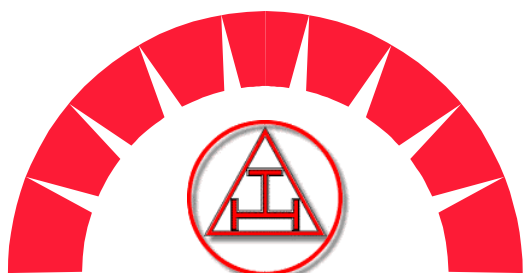
- Tuesday 5th September** FC Degree by Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone, No.242
- Saturday 9th September** Dramatised FC Degree' at Lodge Maudslie Castle, No.1630 at the MT 147 Stewarton Street, Wishaw M12 8AG at 2pm (The Brethren will be leaving Barrhead at 12.30pm)
- Monday 18th September** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.
- Tuesday 19th September** A Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Dramatised FC Degree will be conferred by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class. *(This is a late change to the Lodge Syllabus)*

*(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. is constantly involved in unofficial visits to Sister Lodges, details of which can be obtained by contacting any senior Office-bearer who will be only too pleased to take you along with them as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province and beyond. Full details of all visitations, be they official or otherwise, are available on the Lodge Website, - <http://unionandcrown.org>)*



## ROCKMOUNT R.A.C.

### NO. 367



**Rockmount R.A.C. No.367**

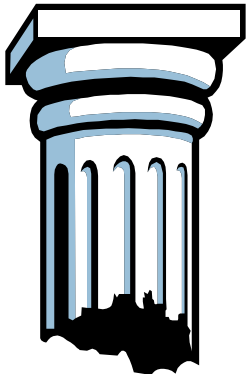
The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter is scheduled for:

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm**

When the Chapter will be holding its Annual General Meeting ~ MEZ Hugh Cattigan and his Office-bearers extend an invitation to all Companions to attend that evening.

# BITS & PIECES

- Our 'Big Breakfast' on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June was a tremendous success, well supported by the Brethren and their families and friends. Almost £600 was raised for Lodge Funds, and the thanks of the Lodge goes to all who contributed, with especial mention to the RWM's wife Amanda, and her family, plus our own WJW's wife Sadie.
- Grateful thanks to both Bro Evans Reid PM & Bro Nicol Hynd WSW for all their efforts over the Summer Recess. The Downstairs Lounge Bar has been completely stripped and refurbished, with a whole host of new facilities and equipment installed to make it almost a pleasure to do your stint as Bar Staff. They gave a large part of their summer to ensure that it was all completed ahead of schedule, ready for the return of the Brethren in September.
- We noticed that Bro Bud Gauld PM, accompanied by his close friend Bro Jim Bell PM (Grand Treasurer) were guests in the Director's Box at a recent Rangers home game.
- We gather that Bro Iain Nicol has finally decided to sell his house in Stobs Drive, and move to something smaller elsewhere in the town.
- We gather that Bro George McGrandles RWM is finally getting used to retirement after 4 months, although we gather that his lovely wife Amanda still has a long list of tasks for him still to complete. It's going to be a busy winter.
- We congratulate Bro Hugh Cattigan on his election as MEZ in Rockmount Royal Arch Chapter for a second year.
- Congratulations to Bro Evan Reid PM who recently celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday (one of several in 307 this year !!)
- The whole town are relieved to have the work on the new bridge at the junction of Church Street and Glen Street completed. A much-used short cut through the town, its closure for almost 7 months was causing havoc.
- Aren't the Lodge gardens looking magnificent? Grateful thanks to both Bro Tom Wilson and Bro Jimmy Laing for all their hard work and dedication.
- Our Worthy Treasurer is always more than willing to accept any donations towards the annual Capitation Fee that the Lodge pays to Grand Lodge. Based upon the number of active Brethren in the Lodge and comes to a bill well in excess of £2000.
- We gather that our next door neighbours – Barrhead Bourock Church, are more than pleased with all the work the Brethren of the Lodge have done in their adjoining grounds over the Summer.
- Bro Steff Lawniczak retired in June from his job with the local hospital board, and marked it with a large party in the Downstairs Lounge for his former colleagues and friends.
- Grateful thanks to Bro George Smith of Lodge Pollokshaws Royal Arch, No.153 for his most generous donation of much-needed paper. Bro George is a local farmer at Springhill on the southside of the town.
- We gather that the Lodge is planning another 'Civic Dinner' during the early part of 2018. In the past, these have proved very popular within the town.



# From the East

I hope you all had an excellent break over our summer recess and are looking forward to resuming in September. I am looking forward to seeing you all again. On your return, you will observe the massive amount of work that has been carried out during this time. The ladies' toilets, the disabled toilets and the downstairs bar have been refurbished as well as numerous other tasks throughout the premises. I would like to thank those involved very much for their time and effort. The lodge is looking fantastic.

I have been given this opportunity to reflect on what has been an outstanding year for Lodge Union & Crown No 307 and for me personally. It commenced on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016 where I was given a day that I will never forget by my three installing masters Bros Paul Stewart PM, Tam Mullholland PM & Jim Renfrew PM were supported by many reigning masters, past masters and brethren from within and outside the province. It was also a great pleasure to see so many colleagues from the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service attending.

There are many highlights for my year so far which commenced with the traditional degrees, which the new office bearers performed superbly. Others included: the installation of the PGLRE Office Bearers at POW 426, the installation of the PGLRE RWM in Paisley Town Hall and a fabulous overnight stay in Aberdeen where the POW degree was performed for the daughter lodges of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeen City in their truly outstanding temple. The degree was well received and the company and hospitality were superb.

However, there is one event which will certainly remain with me for ever and that was the visitation to 307 by The Grand Lodge of Scotland, headed by the Right Worshipful Depute Grand Master Mason Bro Ramsay McGhie in order for them to perform a Master Mason's Degree. This is the first time this has been permitted and was a great honour for the lodge, for me as the RWM and the 138 Brethren who were in attendance. Bestowing Honorary Membership on Bro Ramsay McGhie was extra special, and I will never forget the cheer from the company when it was completed. My evening concluded with the complete privilege of performing the Toast to the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Notwithstanding the high-profile events detailed above, I have been deeply humbled by the support you have given me throughout my year. All deputations to lodges to perform degrees in our province have been large and distinguished, normally around 25 Brethren and your support for the trip to Ardrossan to perform the MMM degree on our Senior Deacon's Son Dale was brilliant.

This has been one of the quickest years of my life but it has not yet concluded, as we have much business to conduct and I ask you for your continued support. It is a great privilege and honour to be the RWM of such a distinguished and respected lodge, and I thank you sincerely for every aspect of your support.

**Brother George McGrandles, R.W.M.**



**WORLD AT WAR**  
**1914 – 1918**  
**(June-August 1917)**



While an important period of time with regard to future World politics through the remainder of the twentieth century the political in-fighting of the Russian Revolution, including the relatively unknown Lenin and Trotsky, was regarded as an internal matter to the rest of the world as long as the Russian Front was maintained. I make no apology for concentrating the remainder of this article on The Third Battle of Ypres which is perhaps better known as Passchendaele. Ypres was the principal town in the British lines and the site of two previous battles First Ypres (October-November 1914) and Second Ypres (April-May 1915).

General Haig had long wanted a British offensive in Flanders and, following a warning that the German blockade would soon cripple the British war effort, wanted to reach the Belgian coast to destroy the German submarine bases there. On top of this, the possibility of a Russian withdrawal from the war threatened German redeployment from the Eastern front to increase their reserve strength dramatically.

The British were further encouraged by the success of the attack on Messines Ridge on 7 June 1917. The capture of the ridge inflated Haig's confidence and preparations began. Yet the flatness of the plain made stealth impossible: as with the Somme, the Germans knew an attack was imminent and the initial bombardment served as final warning. It lasted two weeks, with 4.5 million shells fired from 3,000 guns, but again failed to destroy the heavily fortified German positions.

The infantry attack began on 31 July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems. The left wing of the attack achieved its objectives but the right wing failed completely. Within a few days, the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it. Stalemate reigned for another month until an improvement in the weather prompted another attack on 20 September. Further attacks in October failed to make much progress. The eventual capture of what little remained of Passchendaele village by British and Canadian forces on 6 November finally gave Haig an excuse to call off the offensive and claim success.

However, Passchendaele village lay barely five miles beyond the starting point of his offensive. Having prophesied a decisive success, it had taken over three months, 325,000 Allied and 260,000 German casualties to do little more than make the bump of the Ypres salient somewhat larger. In Haig's defence, the rationale for an offensive was clear and many agreed that the Germans could afford the casualties less than the Allies, who were being reinforced by America's entry into the war. Yet Haig's decision to continue into November remains deeply controversial and the arguments, like the battle, seem destined to go on and on.

# THE MOUNTIES AND FREEMASONRY

Early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, residents of British North America began to fear that the United States wanted to absorb all of North America. As a result, many colonists sought to unify the British colonies. In 1867 Parliament passed the British North America Act which formed the colonies into a union called the 'Dominion of Canada'. By 1873 the Canadian people and their government were stirred by the prospect of a greater Canada. A new era had dawned, expansion and unity had become the foremost topic of Discussion, a call to adventure had been sounded. That same year the government's attention was drawn to an Imperial Proclamation of 1870 by which Rupert's Land and the North West Territories had been added and that the Dominion of Canada pledged to care for the thousands of Indians who lived there. This was in contrast to south of the border in the US, where a state of war against the Indians prevailed.

The Canadian Government contemplated the patrol of the Western frontier with a small force of mounted men but it was felt that something more comprehensive was essential. On 28<sup>th</sup> April 1873 the Prime Minister (and Freemason) Sir John Macdonald sought to establish a Police Force in the North-West Territories. The following day an invasion from Montana, resulted in the slaughter of helpless Indians at the 'Massacre of Cypress Hills' which caused outrage across Canada. On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1873 Royal Assent was given to Macdonald's bill and the 'North-West Mounted Police' became a reality, with 150 men soon sent to Lower Fort Garry.

Under the command of Lt Colonel James Macleod the Mounties soon pacified the 1000s of Indians, including Chief Sitting Bull, who'd moved in to Canada after the Battle of the Little Bighorn where he'd defeated Custer and his 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. Macleod and his men routed out the American whiskey traders and smugglers and assisted greatly in forging meaningful treaties with the tribes.

Some three months earlier the North-West Mounted Police HQ was set-up in Regina, Saskatchewan. The Grand Lodge of Manitoba, who had jurisdiction over the whole of the North-West Territories, had granted dispensation for a Lodge in Regina (Lodge Wascana, No.23) and several of the Mounties, who were already Freemasons, affiliated.

By the mid-1880s it was decided to form a new Lodge solely for members of the Mounties and in August 1894 fourteen Freemasons held a meeting to petition the GL of Manitoba at Winnipeg. Amongst the signatories, were eleven from Lodge Wascana, one from Ancient St John's Lodge No.3. one from Bow River Lodge No.28 and one from Lodge St John, No.175 in Greenock.

Their petition was granted and Lodge North-West Mounted Police, No.61 was formed. The first Master was the 3<sup>rd</sup> most senior officer in the Regiment – Bro Robert Belcher, and the Altar, Warden's Pedestals and Columns were made at Regina Barracks. They were painted white and trimmed with the Mounties colours of blue and gold. The Lodge's sword was presented by Inspector Church, who father had carried it at the 'Charge of the Light Brigade' during the Crimean war.

For many years a Degree Team of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (as they'd become) annually performed an average of 10 Degree ceremonies, and a few exemplifications in both Canada and the US, and even visited Scotland in 2004 when they conferred a degree with Lodge Fort William No.43.

# Almoner's Report

With much regret I intimate the passing of Mrs Marion Smith at the Firs Nursing Home, Barrhead on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May where she had been a resident for over a year. Marion was the widow of Bro Tom Smith PM. As Almoner I never got to know Marion all that well, but I have to say that when I did visit her at home in Victoria Place, I always received a warm welcome. A native of Govan, she lived in Barrhead for many years with Tom and their family – Alan, Brian and Kirstie. Condolences on behalf of the Lodge were given by me to all the family.



The funeral took place at Woodside Crematorium on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June, with a sizeable number of Brethren and their Ladies present to give support. Marion will be missed by many. I thank Marion's Son-in-Law - Bro Kenny Gasper of 307 for informing me of her passing.

With a heavy heart, I make known the passing of Bro John Brooks, aged 68, at his home in Barrhead on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June. Bro John had endured health issues for a number of years, but always found an inner resolve to overcome them, and was a determined man in many ways. I often bumped in to John whilst walking about the town, and had many a conversation with him. I extended condolences on behalf of the Lodge to his grieving wife Anna, and his Brother Martin, and through them to other family members.

The funeral service took place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June at Woodside Crematorium and I was joined by a number of other 307 members.

With heartfelt sorrow, I intimate the passing of Bro John Keith PM 217, an honorary member of Union & Crown., on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Bro John was instrumental in the success of the 307 'Brick Project' and he was also a Past Master of Lodge Randolph. Bro John, originally from Port Glasgow, but latterly a resident of Inverkip, was Depute Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West. I passed on the condolences of the Lodge to Bro John's wife Isabel and his two sons Alastair and Gregor. Sadly missed, he will be eternally remembered by all who knew him. The funeral service took place at Greenock Crematorium on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July and was attended by myself and a great deal of other 307 brethren in what was a huge attendance.

With sadness, I mark the passing of Mrs Joan Oliver, a resident of Auchenback, and the widow of Bro Bill Oliver of 307, who died peacefully at the RAH on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August. Condolences were tendered to grieving family members on your behalf. Over a period of time, I kept in contact with Joan with the occasional home visit or by telephone, and I was always made to feel most welcome. The funeral service took place at Woodside Crematorium on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August, and thereafter to the Dalmeny Park Hotel. Whilst I was unable to attend, due to an important hospital appointment, I called upon her daughter Dawn at the family home a few days before.

**Home Visits :** Bro Ewan Martin; Bro Eric Gray; Bro Jim Hughes; Bro Jim Waterston; Bro Robert Kennedy; Bro Donald Ferguson; Bro Robert Nixon PM; Mrs Myra Renfrew; Mrs Janet Cameron; Mrs Jean Ryan & Mrs Helen McGinlay.

**Hospital Visits :** Mrs Nancy Webster (RAH) When I made contact following her discharge, she assured me that she was feeling much better.

**Brother Alexander G. White, Lodge Almoner**

**☎ 0141 571 6411**

# FLASHBACK

## Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 31 Years Ago

No. 96

Summer 1986

### MASONIC NEWS :

We hear that the Paisley Lodges are holding a dance to celebrate the forthcoming 250th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Lodge Randolph Clarkston is struggling badly. If any Brethren can manage along to some of their meetings, in order to boost their numbers, it would be greatly appreciated. Better still, if any of their non-attending Brethren should happen to read this, may they feel ashamed for allowing their Lodge to decline in this manner !

As usual during the summer, managerial changes have taken place in the footballing world. At least two more Scottish clubs have Masons as managers - Partick Thistle, where Bro Derek Johnstone, a member of St Thomas` Larkhall has taken over, and Dumbarton, where Bro Alex Totten of Lodge Dolphin, No.911 is now in charge.

It is most impressive the way Lodge Douglas in East Kilbride have set about the task of converting the old Union Halls in the town into a Temple.

...ooo000ooo...

Anglo Arab Gelding, 15.2 10 years, placed showing and jumping 0141-334-5391
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The above advert appeared in the Glasgow Herald of Friday 4th July, under the heading of "Masonic Notices". Had it been for a Goat instead of a gelding we might have seen the connection !

...ooo000ooo...

### CONGRATULATIONS

To Bro Alan Mooney and his wife Christine on the birth of a baby daughter. and to Bro Dunky McLellend and his wife Margaret on becoming Grand Parents. We wish the new arrivals : HEALTH, WEALTH and HAPPINESS.

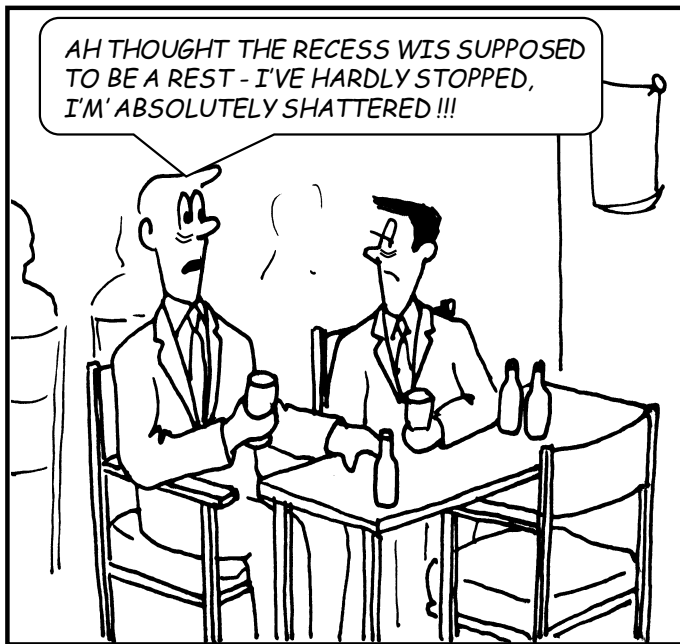
### LODGE GOSSIP

Our readers possibly read in the papers recently of a house in Neilston which was totally wrecked in a gas explosion. It belonged to Bro John Wood of 307 !

We are sorry to report that both Bro Jimmy Laing and Bro Willie Lannigan were both made redundant recently from Shanks. We wish them well.

On a happier note, Bro Douglas Miller (son of Dick) has graduated from Gray`s School of Art in Aberdeen, with a First Class Honours degree.

# MARK n' ARCHIE



J RENFREW 2017

*The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :*

**Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.**

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**Assistant Editor : Bro Graham Manson PM**

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

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



# Syllabus 2017



\* - Denotes an Official visit

## September 2017

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**    **FC**    by Lodge Houstoun St Johnstone, 242

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September**    **DFC**    by the Lodge Instruction Class

## October 2017

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October**    'Table of Scottish Freemasons' (Open Night)

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October**    Lodge Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm

\* **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**    **FC**    at Lodge St Conval, No.1359

\* **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October**    **EA**    at Lodge Poolokshaws RA, No.153

## November 2017

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November**    **DMM**    by the Lodge Instruction Class

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November**    **MMM**    by Bro Ian Blair IPM

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November**    Annual Installation of Office-bearers at 4pm