

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



October 2022

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No. 457



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As the 'Masonic Year' in Lodge Union & Crown, No.307 draws to a close, with our annual Installation a few short weeks away, it always seems to make you reflective on what has gone on during the previous 12 months. Only on this occasion, for probably the very first time we are actually looking back upon an extended period of 36 months !

The COVID Pandemic affected all Lodges and similar fraternal organisations, with no meetings whatsoever for 18 months, and it has been a slow recovery since, as we all attempted to get back to normal. Many Brethren have been instrumental in our recovery, working constantly – sometimes in the background unseen, to keep 307 on an even keel through difficult circumstances but none more so than our own retiring Right Worshipful Master, Brother Ronald MacIsaac.

Many Past Masters would probably say that their year in the Chair is more than enough for anyone, especially in Union & Crown. Brother Ronnie has worked tirelessly to keep us moving forward, through 'thick & thin' and was extremely successful in his efforts over a particularly extended period, unheard of in our Lodge, as we have maintained a custom for well over 100 years of Past Masters not returning to the Chair, something that few Lodges can say nowadays.

He kept the Instruction Class ticking over throughout the pandemic, albeit electronically by Zoom initially. Wherever possible, he continued to attend other Lodges flying the flag for 307. Where work had to be done in the Temple, he was always there when it mattered.

Some would say that surely that is the prerogative of every Reigning Master, and they would not be wrong in many cases, but how many have continued to do this for 3 full years in such a busy Lodge as ours ?

We hope that he is able to step down gracefully, and perhaps enjoy life at a slower pace with his charming wife Sadie, but we doubt it as he will unquestionably continue to do everything he can for his Mother Lodge.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 1st November 2022

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Mark Ceremonial

By Bro Stewart Gray FPM

assisted by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class

Harmony



Friday 18th November 2022

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

'Table of Scottish Freemasonry

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

David McArthur P.M., Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 4th October, the following Candidate :

Calum MacIsaac

was raised to the high & sublime degree of a Master Mason, by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class in what was a good third degree

Thereafter the Brethren retired to the Function Suite, where they enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere at the Lodge Harmony.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.29pm

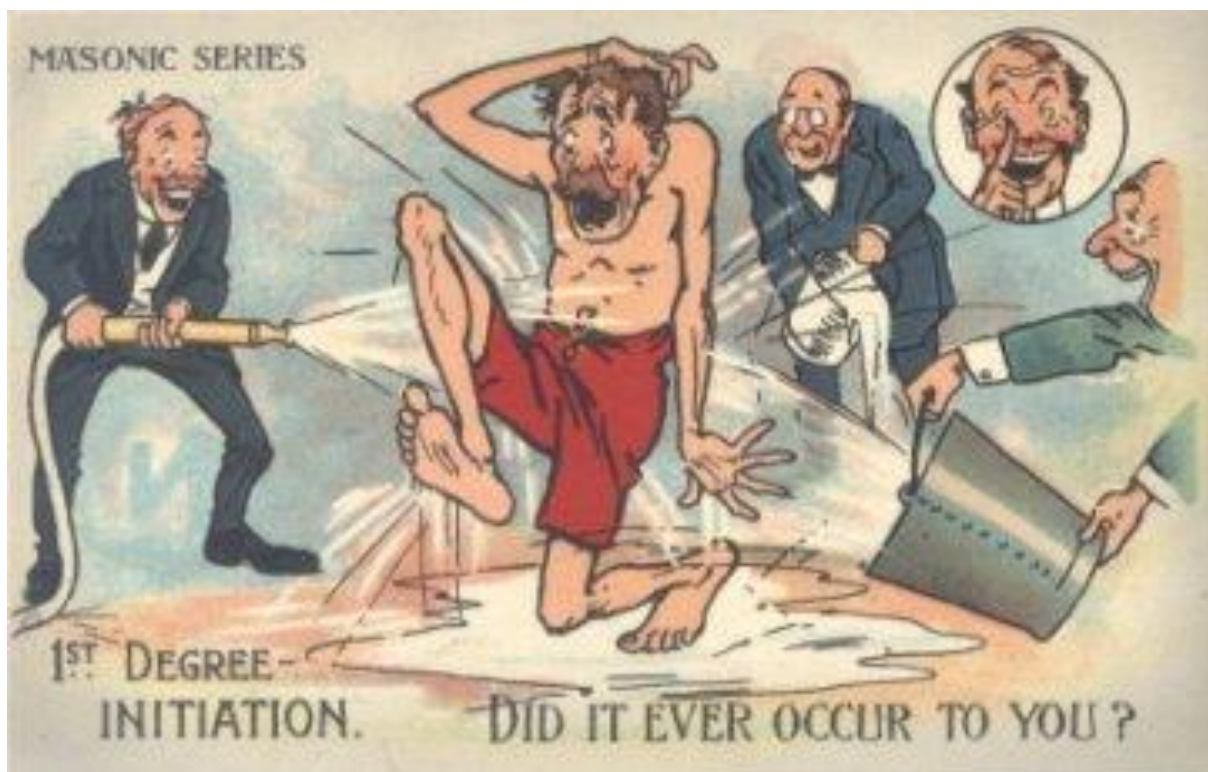
Attendance : 38

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 18th October, the Lodge held its Annual General Meeting, where all Office-Bearers and Committees were elected for the forthcoming year 2022-2023.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 8.29pm

Attendance : 27



Another example of the Comic Postcards, printed and sold by an Edinburgh printers, at the start of the 20th Century.

The series was available nationally under the title of "It's Fine to be a Mason"

BITS & PIECES

- It was pleasing to hear that the 'Big Breakfast' organised by Bro Ronnie MacIsaac RWM and Bro Bobby Clark SM was a great success with over £600 raised for Lodge funds. Thanks to all who attended, donated or helped out on the day.
- Bro Lawrence Webb, our Social Convener, now has the tickets for the Christmas Dance which is on Saturday 17th December. Priced at a reasonable £7.00, all interested should contact Bro Lawrence (☎ 07736 780 132)
- With the annual Installation season now underway ('The Steak Pie Marathon') it is pleasing to see 307 flying the flag at each one so far.
- Bro Robert Scott WSW tells us that it is still not too late to take part in the '£200 for 200' ahead of our Bi-centenary in February 2024.
- Good to hear that two initiation forms were read out at a recent Lodge Meeting.
- We gather that the recent 'Games Night' organized by Bro Lawrence Webb was a success, with a good number of Brethren in attendance.
- Congratulations to Bro Bobby Clark SM on his election as Right Worshipful Master Elect of Lodge Union & Crown.
- Installation Dinner tickets are still available from Bro Stephen Scott WJW. Price £15
- Sorry to hear that Bro Alan Bernard PM, our hard-working Almoner has gone down with Covid again ! We wish him a speedy recovery.
- We hear that Bro Hugh Cattigan PM has given up his since his retirement and plans to jump on a bus at the end of his road in Paisley which will drop him within yards of the Lodge.
- Great to see that Bro Alan Izatt WSD, who now lives in Kilcreggan in Argyll, rarely if ever misses a meeting, instruction class or his bar duty. When you consider that it entails a return journey of 90 miles, that's what you call dedication !!!
- Hasn't Bro Jimmy Laing thoroughly enjoyed his almost 3 year stint as RWM of his adopted Lodge in nearby Dunlop. Not bad when you consider that Bro Jimmy is 83
- Bro John McIntyre has been a great addition to the Lodge in the few short years since he joined. A Builder, he's always willing and able to do jobs around the Lodge when asked and you always find him with a smile on his face.
- Glad to hear that Bro David Noble PM finally got his heart operation recently and came through with flying colours. The only downside is that the surgeon has banned him from the golf course for another 3 months.
- Another regular attender at our Lodge Meetings, with a lengthy round trip of 100 miles is bro Bob Smillie who lives in Callander.

Dates for your Diary



- Tuesday 1st November** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Mark Ceremonial will be conferred by Bro Stewart Gray IPM **(Please note the change of both date and degree)**
- Monday 21st November** Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
- Friday 18th November** The 'Table of Scottish Freemasons' **(Please note the change of both date and degree)**
- Saturday 26th November** Annual Installation of Office-Bearers at 4.00pm

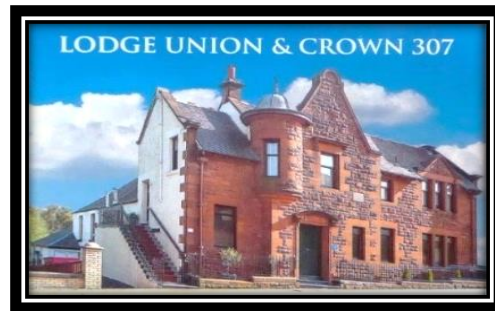
(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. and his Wardens are constantly involved in unofficial visits to sister Lodges. Details of which can be easily obtained by contacting Ronnie Maclsaac RWM or via the Lodge Website at <http://unionandcrown307.com>) or any senior Office-bearer, who will be only too pleased to take you along with them as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province)



Lodge Postcards

Unique colour postcards of our Temple are still available for sale at the bargain price of £1-00 each from Bro Jim Miller PM (☎ 0141 881 4006) jimmiller307@hotmail.co.uk

All proceeds will go to The Lodge Charity Fund, with an annual donation being made to a local charity each year at our Anniversary Dinner in February.



Masonic Limericks

There once was a Freemason called Mitchell
Who had trouble remembering his ritual.
The Master said, "Son,
The learning's not done
Until it becomes habitual."

The Master asked the Candidate from Fife,
"In times of difficulty and strife,
Tell us, you must,
In whom do you trust?"
The Candidate replied, "In the wife."

Famous Freemasons

(This month - a Brother who was one of our foremost Antarctic explorers)

Bro Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874 – 1922)

Ernest Henry Shackleton was born at Kildea in County Kildare, Ireland, of a farmer-physician father, whose ancestors hailed originally from Yorkshire, England, and an Irish mother. In 1884 the Shackletons moved to suburban London, and young Ernest became a student at Dulwich College. He seems to have been somewhat indifferent to academics, and his teachers held him up as an example only after he became famous.

Shackleton dropped out of school in 1890 and joined the Merchant Navy, making his first voyage from Liverpool to Valparaiso, Chile, aboard the SS Houghton Tower. He made other journeys in the next few years, becoming certified as a First Mate in 1896 and as a Master two years later. Somewhat later, he gained commission as a lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve. During this time, he served on two voyages that transported soldiers to Cape Town in the Boer War. That 1890 trip around Cape Horn always stuck in his mind and whetted his sense of adventure.



Ernest Shackleton's pathway to international fame and "the mysterious south" began when he joined the Discovery expedition organized by the Royal Geographical Society and led by Robert Falcon Scott, a navy officer and member of Drury Lane Lodge 2127 in London. In fact, prior to the group's departure, Shackleton took his Entered Apprentice degree on July 9, 1901, in Navy Lodge No. 2612, also in London. Several years would pass before was passed and raised.

Antarctic expeditions were a dangerous business. A legend concerning the Discovery voyage is that a 1901 recruiting advertisement in the Times of London read, "Men wanted for hazardous journey. Small wages. Bitter cold. Long months of winter. Constant danger. Safe return doubtful. Honour and recognition in case of success."

During the trip of 1901-1902, Scott, Shackleton, and a Dr Edward Wilson journeyed overland to a new record of 82°17'S latitude on December 31, 1902, they were still 463 nautical miles from the South Pole. Ernest became seriously ill with scurvy, and Scott had him sent back home. Back in England Shackleton married Emily Dorman on April 9, 1904. Emily had been a friend of Ernest's sister that he had first met in 1897 after returning from a sea voyage to Japan. The marriage would result in three children; Raymond, Edward and Cecil; but would be characterized by long separations in which Emily often had to support herself and the children.

Hoping to return to the Antarctic, Shackleton worked for Royal Magazine as a journalist and Secretary of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. The following year, the thirty-one-year-old explorer made an unsuccessful attempt for political office "standing" for a seat in the House of Commons from Dundee, Scotland. Soon after he began to work at securing financial support for another trip to the "far South." Much of the monetary help Shackleton needed was provided by a Glasgow industrialist named William Beardmore. A grateful Shackleton would subsequently name a newly discovered mountain range and glacier after his chief benefactor.

This journey, which commenced in August 1907, would become known to history as "the Nimrod Expedition" and provide Ernest Shackleton the "honour and recognition" he had so desperately sought. New innovations used by these explorers included the use of an automobile and Manchurian ponies as beasts of burden, but they proved of limited value.

Shackleton's group included Frank Wild, Eric Marshall, and Jameson Adams. On their unsuccessful quest to reach the pole the foursome managed to cross the Trans-Antarctic mountain range and became the first humans to set foot on the South Polar Plateau. Stretched almost to the breaking point, they reached 88°23'S latitude on January 9, 1909, a new record but still 97 miles short of the pole. Fearing death and disaster if they tried to go further, they wisely returned to their base. Returning to England, they were, nonetheless, treated like heroes

for their valiant effort. Shackleton was knighted for his efforts and basked in the glory of having led a party farther south than anyone had ever gone. His book, *The Heart of the Antarctic*, won him further acclaim.

He received additional Masonic light, being passed to Fellowcraft on November 2, 1911, and raised a Master Mason on May 30, 1913, both in Guild of Freemen Lodge No. 3525. Shackleton remained a member of both Guild of Freemen Lodge and Navy Lodge for the rest of his life.

During these years back in England, other polar explorers reached the long sought destination of 90°S. The Norwegian Roald Amundson arrived late in 1911,

Shackleton now sought a new goal crossing the southern continent from the Weddell Sea to the Ross Sea. Seeking new financial supporters, he found three in the persons of Sir James Caird, a well-to-do jute manufacturing tycoon and member of Parliament; Dudley Docker; and Stancomb Wills. All three had lifeboats named in their honour.

The principal ship was the well-named *Endurance*. By now Greenland sled dogs had been established as the most successful animal companions for Antarctic exploration, and English schoolchildren were said to have raised the money to buy and train them with participating schools getting a dog named for their school. A second ship, the *Aurora*, would meet Shackleton on the Ross Sea side of the continent. World War I was just starting in early August 1914 as the twenty-eight voyagers prepared to depart England, but Winston Churchill, first Lord of the Admiralty, told Shackleton to "proceed" as he had originally planned.

The weather in 1914 was exceptionally cold in the Antarctic, and by January 18, 1915, the ship was surrounded by ice floes and soon became trapped, frozen into an ice floe. Under normal condition they were only a one-day journey from their proposed land base at Vahsel Bay. For 281 days this situation continued, although the ice floe shifted several hundred miles in the process.

The immediate goal of Shackleton and his men was to reach Paulet Island, some 346 miles away where they knew that a cache of supplies existed that had been left by a 1902 expedition (frozen food preservation did have some positives in Antarctic trips). They also had three lifeboats which they could drag across the ice and use in the chilly waters whenever they had the opportunity. After near brushes with death, the weary sojourners reached Elephant Island in the South Shetlands on April 12, 1916. They had made land on a barren island, but real safety still eluded them. Shackleton decided that he and five others would take the largest life boat, the *James Caird*, and attempt to re-

Shackleton's new goal was to learn the fate of the *Aurora* and its crew that was to meet him on the Ross Sea side of Antarctica. However, first he, together with Brothers Luis Pardo, Frank Wild, and Dr. A. McIlroy, the ship surgeon, and the other Mason on the expedition were honoured on September 30, 1916, at a special meeting of Lodge of Harmony No. 1411 under English charter in Valparaiso. Shackleton was escorted to the East and honored for his achievements. Some 44 members and 85 visitors from other English speaking and Chilean lodges attended this historic meeting. Brother Luis Pardo, the Chilean connection was promoted by the navy for his heroic efforts and eventually spent four years in Liverpool, England, as a Consul, dying in 1935.

With his health increasingly shaky, the adventurous explorer still hoped to get into military action but was instead sent on a diplomatic mission to South America in hopes of persuading Argentina and Chile to abandon neutrality and join the allies.

Despite his deteriorating health, Shackleton still planned a return to Antarctica; this time his goal was to circumnavigate the continent. Several veterans from earlier journeys joined him, and a ship renamed the *Quest* was outfitted for the journey. They left England on September 17, 1921, but the ship was not a good one and had to be repaired enroute more than once. The leader was also frequently ill. The *Quest* reached South Georgia on January 4, 1922. Later that night the noted explorer-old before his time-had another heart attack and died in the early morning hours on the 5th. Comrades were transporting his remains back to England, but when his widow got the news, she asked that his body be returned to South Georgia.

Receiving the word at Montevideo, Uruguay, they returned him to South Georgia where he lies in the cemetery at the whaling station at Grytviken.

(We continue our series of articles which trace the history of local Lodges. This month we travel across to Carmunnock, where we look at a lodge who completely changed their purpose over 30 years ago)

Lodge The King's Park, No.1386

The Lodge was chartered on 3rd May, 1934, the sponsor Lodges being Rutherglen RA, No 116 and Sir George Cathcart, No 617. The Founder Master was Bro. Jack MacTaggart, a PM of the Trades House of Glasgow Lodge, No 1241, and son of Sir John MacTaggart of MacTaggart & Mickel, himself a Founder Member of the Lodge.

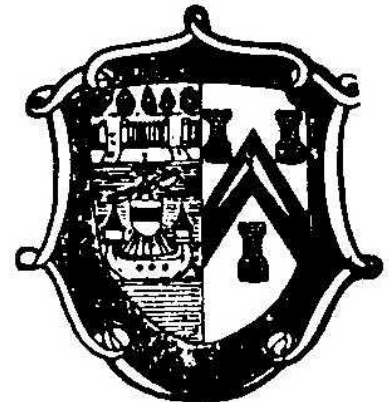


Our original meeting place was the King's Park Hall in Kingsbridge Drive, owned by the Tenant's Association but built by MacTaggart & Mickel and suitably adapted by them in construction to serve as a Lodge Room.

The Lodge colours adopted were Hunting Ross tartan, 1930 set, the MacTaggarts being a sept of the Clan Ross and this being a new tartan introduced just prior to the foundation of the Lodge.

Due to deterioration of the King's Park Hall in the 70's, the Lodge decided to move to more suitable premises, becoming tenants of one of our sponsors, Rutherglen RA, No 116. It was during this time that we celebrated our Jubilee in 1984. It is interesting to note that the RWM that year, serving for a second time, was our current Secretary, Bro. Peter Eason and that our membership then stood at 143.

Like many other Lodges, however, the late 80's saw us experiencing difficulties in retaining our members and attracting new members; for a while it was a possibility that the Lodge may have to go into darkness. At that time, some Masons wished to establish a Lodge of Research in the Province and the then PGM, Bro. A Bruce Watson, suggested that, rather than form a new Lodge, one of the existing Lodges in the Province who were going through hard



times

convert to a Lodge of Research. Thus it was in 1992 that Lodge The King's Park became the Lodge of Research for Renfrewshire East.

At that time, the Lodge again changed its meeting place – this time to the Meikle Hall in Clarkston. These premises were not ideal and so in 1995 we upped sticks again and moved to our present meeting place, the Castlemilk Hall in Carmunnock.

Although our numbers are substantially less than in 1984, we are a close knit but friendly and outgoing group of Masons.



The Lodge has successfully consolidated since converting to a Lodge of Research and have started to slowly but surely increase their membership, and successfully celebrated their 75th anniversary in 2009.

Lodge Union and Crown, No.307

Newsletter for October 1976 No.1

For the benefit of members who for various reasons have been unable to attend the Lodge regularly it has been decided to publish a Monthly Newsletter to enable them to keep up to date with current events in the Lodge.

At the regular Meeting on Tuesday 5th October the following candidates, Hugh Blair, William Montgomery, Brian Reid, Charles Rodgers and Robert Dinning had the E.A. Degree conferred by a deputation from St Andrews No.524 East Kilbride. Attendance members and visitors 153.

JUMBLE SALE

With the object of raising funds to enable the stonework on the outside of the Temple to be cleaned a Jumble Sale was held on Saturday 16th October. This proved to be highly Successful for at the end of the day and after a lot of hard work, the magnificent total of £307 was realised.

The order to proceed with the cleaning has now been placed with J Mackay, Stone Cleaners Ltd whose estimate of £276 was the best received. The surplus of £31 will go toward the cost of having the stonework pointed.

On the third Tuesday of the month the previously mentioned Entered Apprentices received the Fellowcraft Degree at the hands of the members of the Instruction Class. Bro W McCartney and Bro T Smith taking the leading parts with distinction.

VISITATIONS

Three visitations to sister Lodges were made during the month.

The Lodge conferred the E.A. Degree at Lodge Thistle and Crown No.1167, Neilston on 21st October and again at Lodge Ibrox No.1272 Glasgow on 25th October.

On the 28th October we were very pleased to visit our old friends of Lodge Darvel No.971 to confer the M.M. Degree.

All these visitations were extremely well attended.

100 CLUB

In a further effort to raise funds to provide new seating accommodation for the Lodge Bro W Gauld, S.D. and Bro. D. Noble, P.M. have formed a "100 Club". Brethren seeking more information are requested to contact these two brothers who will gladly explain how it operates.

ALMONER

The Almoner Bro Len Matthews continued to visit the sick, the aged and the infirm at home and in hospital. For obvious reasons details of these visits cannot be broadcast but up to 24 brethren or widows of brethren were visited during the month, Bro Len would like to thank all the members of the Lodge and especially Bro John Smith for their unfailing help and effort.

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Bro Hugh Turnbull. While not a regular attender of the Lodge in recent years he was held in high esteem by all who knew him. The world will be a poorer place without him.

COMING EVENTS

Regular Meetings
Installation Meeting

Dinner provided by members wives and sweethearts

Harmony ticket £1.25p

Limited amount available. If demand too great tickets will be balloted.

Lodge Union & Crown, No.307



Xmas Dance

**Saturday
17th December**

Tickets : £7.00

Available from :

Lawrence Webb (☎ 07736 780 132)



Dress : Smart Casual



FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 21 Years Ago

No. 247

October 2001

Regular Meetings

Unfortunately due to a series of unforeseen circumstances, beyond our control, at the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd October for the first time in many years there wasn't a Candidate for that evening's ceremonial. We had planned to present 2 Candidates for their F.C. Degree, but due to long-standing arrangements both were out of the country and as we only found out about one of them the night before the meeting, there was little we could do to rectify the situation.

Nevertheless, "the show must go on" and at the Regular Meeting our guests for the evening, Lodge Nitshill, No.1478, carried out a fine 2nd Degree upon a substitute candidate. In what can be trying circumstances, our good friends from just over the Glasgow boundary, conferred a very good degree, greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-34pm

Attendance : 79



At the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 16th October, the following Candidates :

ANDREW MEIKLEJOHN

ALEXANDER JOHNSTON

were passed to the Second, Square or Fellowcraft in what was a hastily convened degree, by the members of the Lodge Instruction Class. In addition, the Lodge held its annual general meeting, the scheduled business for that evening and still had the Brethren sitting at the harmony table shortly after 9-30pm, quite a feat when you consider all the various items of business that had to be carried out. All who took part, either in the degree or the business, are to be congratulated for all their efforts. The syllabus is now back on track for the remainder of this year.

Lodge Opened : 7-31pm

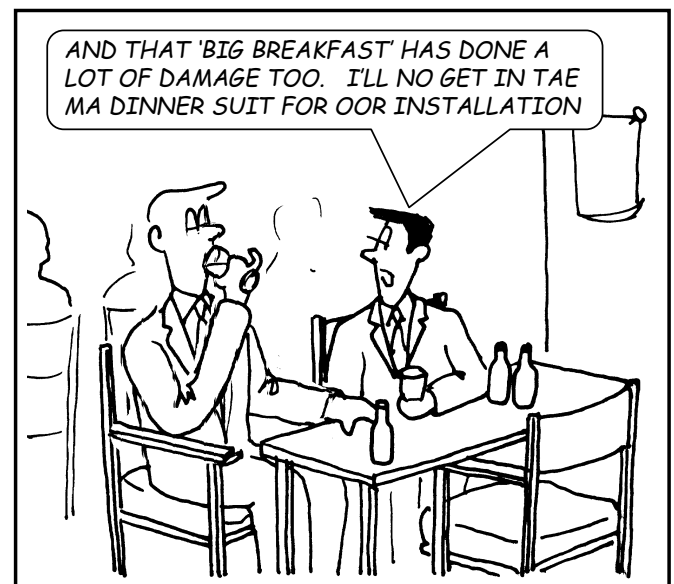
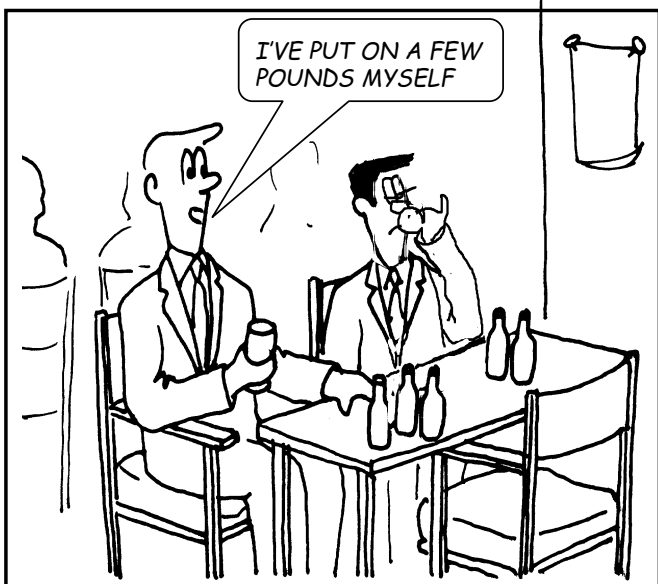
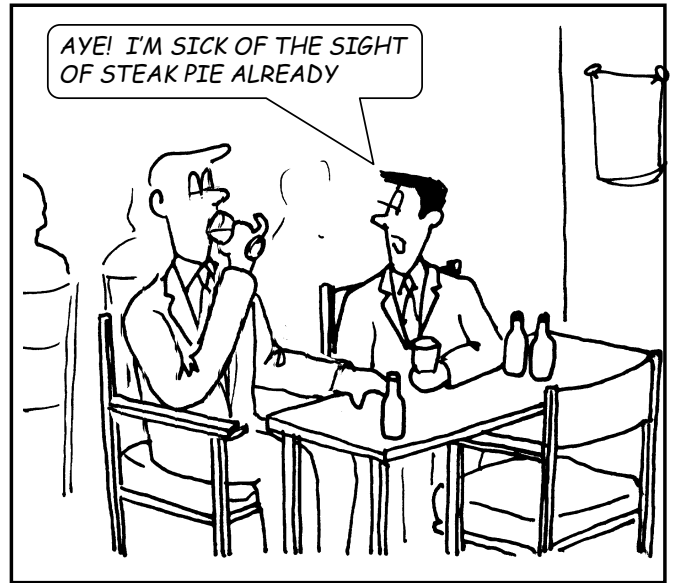
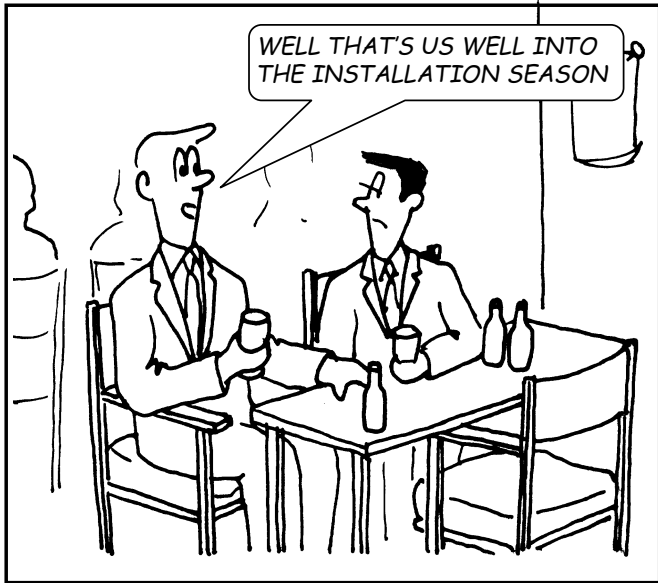
Lodge Closed : 9-31pm

Attendance : 59

BITS & PIECES

- Shock ! Horror ! ... Bro Brian Morton PM was observed at the last meeting of refusing pies at the harmony ! Our sources inform us that he is bravely attempting to recover his boyish figure. We will keep you informed of any developments.
- We gather that Bro Alan Easdon was home recently after his travels to Australia & the Far East.
- It was good to see Bro Harry Stirling, who hasn't enjoyed the best of health, at a recent meeting. He was in the company of his son-in-law Bro Joe Goudie & his grandson Bro Brian Goudie.
- Congratulations to Bro Tom Mulholland, our W.J.W. Elect who has been invited to reply on behalf of the visitors at the installation of Lodge Woodhall St John's, No.305 in Bellshill.
- Bro Alan McIntyre tells us that he was sitting in a café in Gran Canaria recently with his wife Margaret, when he struck up a casual conversation with the couple at the next table. His neighbour happened to be Bro Billy Dempsey of 307, the son of a very regular attender, Bro Willie Dempsey from Paisley.
- We congratulate Bro Jimmy Kerr PM on attaining the office of M.E. First Principle in Rockmount Royal Arch Chapter, No.367. We are sure that Rockmount will be in safe hands during Bro Jimmy's year in the Chair.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW OCT 2022

The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :

Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.

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

☎ 0141-571-5979 e-mail : jim.renfrew@ntlworld.com

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

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