

# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



**Summer 2025**

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

No. 485

*Editorial*



Summer 2025

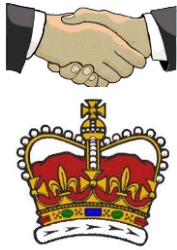
It is truly amazing just how fast time can pass when you are engaged in the more leisurely activities one is expected to pursue during the long, hot Summer months (honestly, some of them were !) It seems only a couple of short weeks ago that we were putting the finishing touches to the May Edition of our journal, and wistfully dreaming of a long and relaxing break, our Summer edition only a distant troublesome spot on the horizon.

Well here we are at the keyboard, forlornly trying to put together that distant dream in the last few days of another Summer which seems to have evaporated all too quickly.

Short thought it may have been, the break was most enjoyable and hopefully we will have fully recharged the batteries in readiness for another hectic session in an increasingly busy schedule for all in Lodge Union & Crown. From some of the stories that have filtered back to the editorial office, we gather that a good time was had by all.

Whilst most of you were sunning yourselves on beaches on distant shores, the business of the Lodge trundled on regardless and the grateful thanks of the entire Lodge must go to the long list of Brethren who gave much of their valuable time to ensure the Lodge continued to function properly.

Amongst them were our Worthy Secretary, Bro Evans Reid PM, aided and abetted by Bro Ronnie MacIsaac PM, our enduring Bar Convener and his enthusiastic bar teams are to be congratulated for their fine efforts. Whilst we are moving into another year statistically, there is still much to be achieved during the remainder of this session and we are sure that all of the Brethren of the Lodge will continue to provide the support and enthusiasm necessary to ensure that Union & Crown remains in the successful position we now occupy.



# Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

*Dear Sir & Brother,*

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

*Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Entered Apprentice Degree*

*By the Brethren of Lodge Nitsbill, No.1478*

*Harmony*

*Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Fellowcraft Degree*

*By the Brethren of Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167*

*Harmony*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

*R Evans Reid P.M., Lodge Secretary*

# ROCKMOUNT CRYPTIC COUNCIL

The next Meeting of the Council is scheduled for **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025** at the slightly earlier time of **7:00pm** and this will be the Council's Annual General Meeting and Installation of Office Bearers. All are most welcome.



## *Lodge Test Fees*

Brethren, as we return from the Summer recess, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind 'Test Fee Paying Brethren' that payment of our annual membership dues (probably better known as Test Fees) of £50 are now due.

Each year, every lodge must pay certain fees to Grand Lodge - usually announced in open lodge as 'Capitation Fees', the total amount of which is determined by the number of active brethren attending each lodge. Every member signature in the sederunt book is counted as an active member of the lodge, and a fee is paid to Grand Lodge for every active member, including those who hold Life Membership.

The lodge pays 90% of every test fee (amounting to £45 per person) to Grand Lodge as capitation.

As you can see brethren, our lodge does not get to keep very much of the test fee paid, and indeed from the remaining £5 of the test fee, some of that is also paid to Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East.

This is why, over the last few of years, we have asked brethren to consider setting up a monthly direct debit donation to the lodge to cover paying their Test Fees, and hopefully leaving a little extra to assist with covering the necessary running costs and repairs to keep our lovely building in good condition. This task does not come cheaply brethren.

A donation of £5 per month amounts to £60 over the year, which covers the annual Test Fee, with a little leftover to go towards essential running costs and maintenance. We have a number of brethren within the lodge, including Life Members, already contributing towards the lodge in this way, for which we are most grateful.

I would ask that, if you are not already committed to this donation programme, would you please give it serious consideration, and if you wish to join the Direct Debit programme, please arrange a bank mandate with details for the Lodge Account available from Bro George McGrandles PM, Treasurer.

Brethren can of course pay Test Fees to Bro. Treasurer at regular meetings if that is they prefer.

# The Mystery of King Solomon in Paisley

In various towns throughout Scotland, symbols associated with Freemasonry can be found on both public and private buildings, often unnoticed by many people. One example is the fine statue of King Solomon situated above the former Masonic Hall at 20 High Street, Paisley. Installed in 1882, this statue reflects a period in Paisley's history when architecture, fraternal organizations, and symbolic motifs were integrated. Let us examine the background, artistic decisions, and cultural context of the statue and its building, placing them within the broader context of Scottish Freemasonry and local heritage preservation.

The choice to install a King Solomon statue was closely related to Masonic tradition. King Solomon, known for his role as the builder of the First Temple in Jerusalem and for symbolizing wisdom, represents virtues valued in Freemasonry. The statue was commissioned during the establishment of the Masonic Hall, which was designed by William Daniel McLennan, a local architect with affiliations to Freemasonry.

Born in 1872, McLennan made noteworthy contributions to Paisley's architecture. His other works include The Bull Inn (1901), a public house noted for its Art Nouveau interiors, and St. Matthew's Church (1907) on Gordon Street, which demonstrates the influence of Art Nouveau on Gothic architectural styles. McLennan was also a Freemason and created custom Masonic furniture, highlighting his ongoing association with the fraternity and its design traditions.

## The Masonic Connection

Freemasonry has long revered Solomon as a symbol of divine wisdom and architectural genius. The Masonic Hall on High Street served as a meeting place for local Freemasons, where they gathered to conduct rituals and discuss the principles that guide their fraternal order. The hall was not just a physical space but a representation of Masonic ideals, with King Solomon's statue serving as a constant reminder of their foundational myths and moral aspirations.

Masonic meetings were held for many years in the temple at 20 High Street. However, in the spring of 1957, notice was received by the hall's committee of the termination of the lease on 28th May. The nearby Liberal Club was used temporarily for nine months, after which a new temple was sought. The building at 68 Maxwellton Road, Paisley was purchased and, through the efforts of many volunteers, repurposed to meet the needs of the lodges. The new Masonic Temple was officially dedicated on 10th May 1958.

The original Masonic Hall on High Street also hosted significant regional Masonic events. Notably, in 1906, it was the chosen venue for the Provincial Grand Chapter for Renfrewshire, cementing its status as a central hub for Masonic activity in the west of Scotland.

## Design and Style

The former Masonic Hall, now a Category B listed building, is a prime example of French Renaissance architecture, characterised by its detailed stone façade, ornamental gables, and robust sculptural elements. The building's design reflects a period in architectural history when there was a keen interest in reviving and adapting classical styles to convey prestige and tradition.

Originally designed to accommodate Masonic rituals and gatherings, the building featured large meeting rooms, a banquet hall, and ceremonial spaces. After the Masons vacated the premises in 1957, it underwent several transformations, adapting to new

uses while retaining its historical and architectural significance. Though now empty and devoid of Freemasons, the statue of King Solomon remains a striking feature above what would have been the main entrance.

Depicting Solomon as a young man might symbolise the beginning of his reign, highlighting the potential and promise that he embodied at the start of his kingship. This artistic representation captures his early wisdom and the innovative spirit he brought to his rule, including the building of the Temple of Jerusalem.

Focusing on Solomon's formative years may serve to inspire viewers, particularly those involved in Masonic traditions, to value strength, growth, and development — key virtues in personal and spiritual life.

In Freemasonry, Solomon's Temple is a central symbol of spiritual and moral building. By portraying Solomon as youthful, the statue may represent the ideals and aspirations that are foundational in Masonic teachings — the journey from initiation to mastery, and the continuous betterment of the self.

A younger depiction may resonate broadly with themes of renewal and beginnings, which are appealing to Masons and the general public alike. It reinforces the timeless relevance of historical figures and their teachings.

By choosing to depict Solomon as young, the artist created a distinctive landmark. This uniqueness enhances its status as a cultural touchstone and a conversation piece, deepening interest in the statue and the building it adorns.

In Masonic lore, King Solomon's Temple is not merely a historical edifice but a metaphor for the moral and spiritual edifice that each Mason strives to build within himself. The presence of Solomon's statue in Paisley is a manifestation of these ideals, serving as an emblem of the Masonic journey toward moral perfection and enlightenment.

Given the prominence of King Solomon above the doorway and the Masonic tendency to encode meaning in architecture, it's possible the statue was intended as more than decorative. It may have served as a symbolic guardian — a spiritual overseer of the temple space, representing the wisdom required to enter. For Masons, this could have been both literal and metaphorical: a reminder that one must be morally and intellectually prepared to progress.

## **Was the statue a subtle recruitment symbol?**

Freemasonry was both influential and secretive in late Victorian Paisley. A statue of Solomon would have been instantly recognisable to those 'in the know,' but obscure to the general public. Could it have served as a silent invitation? A means of sparking curiosity, starting conversations, and signalling fraternity to prospective members?

The King Solomon statue in Paisley stands as a significant cultural and historical landmark, embodying the Masonic ideals of wisdom, strength, and beauty. It serves not only as a reminder of Paisley's Masonic past but also as an inspiration, encouraging current and future generations to reflect on the broader implications of wisdom and heritage in shaping societal values. Through its continued presence, King Solomon continues to oversee the changing face of High Street — a silent guardian of Paisley's storied past and its hopeful future.



# Dates for your Diary

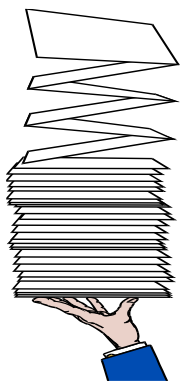


- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August** Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a EA Degree will be conferred by Lodge Nitshill, No.1478.
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September** Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a FC Degree will be conferred by Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167

(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 Robert Scott 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)

## Paper Appeal



As ever, we are always on the lookout for that most essential of commodities – PAPER, for our journal. As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m<sup>2</sup> paper, preferably white but any colour will do.

Without sufficient stocks, we simply cannot print enough copies of our journal to satisfy our wide-ranging readership. So if you have the odd ream lying about just let us know and we'll even arrange to have it picked-up if necessary. In addition, we also need 160g/m<sup>2</sup> card



## Lodge Fishing Outing

The Lodge Fishing Competition was held on Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup> at Harelaw Fishery. A good day was had by all with 8 fish caught between the 6 Lodge members who took part. Bro Nicky Hynd PM's grandson caught 4, but as he's not a Lodge member, unfortunately they didn't count.

The overall winner was Bro Chris McCaig with 4 fish, and the first fish was caught by Bro Nicky Hynd himself.

Bro Chris will receive the trophy and Nicky the £50 prize for first fish both to be awarded at the Annual Installation in November.

A huge vote of thanks to **VOE Chemicals** for their sponsorship of this event, paying for all breakfast and lunches and the £50 prize.

# Lodge Garden

After many years of loyal service, our dedicated Lodge Gardener Bro. Jimmy Cherry is hanging up his gardening gloves and stepping back to enjoy a well-earned rest. On behalf of all the brethren, we extend our heartfelt thanks to him for his tireless efforts in keeping the garden of Lodge Union & Crown looking tidy, welcoming, and well cared for - his contribution has been truly appreciated by all.



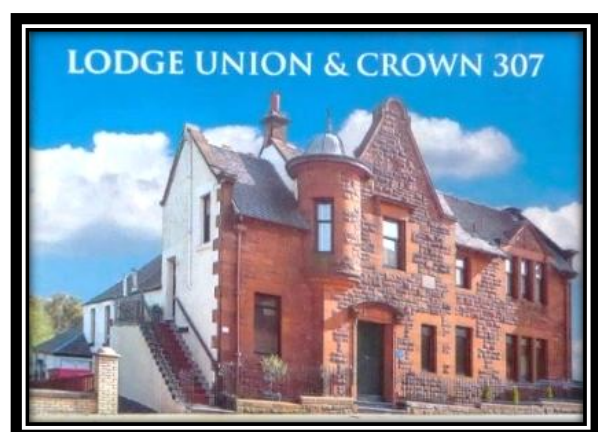
As we look ahead, we're now seeking a new volunteer to help maintain our Lodge garden. The role involves some light weeding, leaf clearing, and general tidying to keep the space looking its best for members and visitors alike.

If you have a bit of spare time, a love for the outdoors, and a willingness to lend a helping hand, we'd love to hear from you. Your efforts will continue the proud tradition of keeping our grounds neat and presentable — a small job that makes a big difference. Please get in touch if you're interested.

## *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](mailto:jimmiller307@hotmail.co.uk)

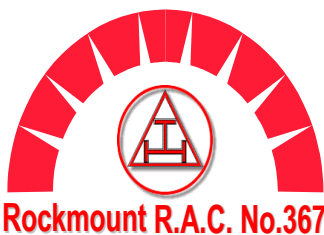
All proceeds will go to The Lodge Charity Fund, with an annual donation being made to a local charity each year at our Anniversary Dinner in February. As it stand, a magnificent total of almost £750 has been raised so far.



# Famous Freemasons

*(In our third departure from our customary more detailed format, we publish a list of 'Doctors, Scientists and Inventors' who were members of The Craft)*

- **Sir Edward Victor Appleton**, Isaac Newton Lodge No. 859, Cambridge
- **Elias Ashmole**, Warrington Lodge, Lancashire
- **Erasmus Darwin**, St. David's Lodge No. 36, Edinburgh
- **John Theophilus Desaguliers**, Past Grand Master of England
- **John Fitch**, Bristol Lodge No. 25, Bristol, PA
- **Sir Sandford Fleming**, St. Andrew's Lodge No. 16, Toronto, Ontario
- **Richard Jordan Gatling**, Centre Lodge No. 23, Indianapolis, IN
- **Edward Jenner**, Royal Berkeley Lodge of Faith and Friendship No. 449,
- **Charles Horace Mayo**, Rochester Lodge No. 21, MN
- **William James Mayo**, Rochester Lodge No. 21, MN
- **Franz Mesmer**, Lodge Les Philadelphes, France
- **Jacques-Étienne & Joseph-Michel Montgolfier**, Loge des Neuf Sœurs, Paris
- **Charles Robert Richet**, Lodge Cosmos, France
- **George Shillibeer**, Etonian Lodge of St. John No. 209, Windsor
- **William Stukeley**, Salutation Tavern Lodge, London
- **Sir Christopher Wren**, Lodge of Antiquity No. 2



The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter will be held on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, where Rockmount will hold its annual business meeting where all the Office-bearers and committees will be nominated and elected for the forthcoming 2025-2026 session.

It will be a short meeting and hopefully this will leave more time for the companions and their guests to enjoy the harmony.

# BITS & PIECES

- We congratulate Bro Colin McLardy PM on celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday recently, also to Bro Jim Renfrew PM who also celebrated a milestone birthday – his 70<sup>th</sup>. Best wishes to both Brethren.
- Good to see that Bro Ronnie MacIsaac PM has made a good recovery from his surgery in July. It takes a lot more than that to stop Bro Ronnie.
- We gather that Bro Gregor Mullin is making quite a name for himself in golfing competitions over the summer months. Whilst still playing off a modest 12 Handicap, he is through to the latter stages of several competitions.
- Whilst we are on the subject of Golf, the planned Lodge Golf Outing hasn't yet been held and our Golf Convener, Bro Lawrence Webb, is hoping to stage the event during September. If you'd like to play, contact Bro Lawrence ASAP
- Most of the arrangements are now in place for the 307 deputation who are travelling up to the Black Isle at the beginning of November to confer a Dramatised Prisoner of War Degree within Bro Ramsay McGhee's adopted Lodge in Fortrose. It should be quite a weekend.
- We see that Bro Jim Renfrew PM is somewhat smaller in stature, having lost 4 stones (25 Kg) in weight after a health scare last year. However, he tells us that it's costing him a fortune replacing his wardrobe !!
- Whilst we were in Recess throughout the Summer months, our weekly Instruction Classes continued on a Monday evening for all who wanted to get some much-needed practice. Bro Graham Manson PM, our Instruction master, is to be congratulated on his hard work and encouragement.
- Sorry to hear that our worthy Substitute Master Bro Alan Izatt has been experiencing some trouble with his back, which meant that he couldn't sometimes make the long drive from his home in Kilcreggan to the Lodge.
- The latest bicentenary instalment of the Lodge's history '**The Last Twenty-Five Years**' has now been published and if you haven't yet received your copy, they are available from its author – Bro Bud Gauld PM.
- It's really good to see that Bro Vic Chapman has made an excellent recovery after a spell of ill health and is back to his very best.
- Great to see that the Lodge Randolph Lunch held in the Lodge in late June was a success with a great attendance of Brethren and their wives and friends.
- Best wishes to Bro Kenneth Robertson and his Fiancée Jackie who are getting married in early September
- Bro Ian Blair PM's son John has just bought one of the flats across the road from the Lodge in Centenary Court. He moves in during September.?

# A BAG OF TOOLS

by Bro R. L. Sharpe

Isn't it strange, that princes and kings,  
And clowns that caper in sawdust rings,  
And common people Like you and me  
Are builders for eternity?  
Each is given a bag of tools,  
A shapeless mass, A book of rules  
And each must make - Ere life is flown -  
A stumbling block, or a stepping-stone.

## **Correct but Useless!!**

Two experienced Master Masons were enjoying a flight in a hot air balloon when suddenly a thick cloud formed between them and the ground. Being without instruments, after half an hour they realised that they were well and truly lost.

A short time later there came across a large hole in the cloud and espied a gentleman below walking his dog across a field. They had time to exchange pleasantries and found that he too was a member of the Craft. The chaps in the balloon enquired of him as to their location and received the reply, "About 200 feet up in a balloon."



Just then the cloud closed the hole, and they were alone again. One turned to the other and said, " I bet he's the Secretary of his Lodge!" "Why do you say that?", the other asked. "Well, what he has told us is absolutely true - but in our present predicament is totally useless!"

## **Food for Thought**

I may disagree with what you say or what you think,  
but I would give my life for your right to say it



"If you and I exchange a pound, each of us would still have a pound -  
BUT - if you and I exchange an idea, each of us would have two ideas."

# FLASHBACK

## Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 30 Years Ago

No. 185

Summer 1995

With this edition of our journal, we mark the close of another Summer Recess and the resumption of a fairly normal Masonic existence for most of us, as we return to our usual diet of Regular Meetings.

It gives us a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure to be able to say, for once that is !, that we all enjoyed a long hot summer with seemingly endless bright sunny days with hardly a cloud in sight, just the job for all of us who had ties to play in the various Lodge Golf and Bowling competitions. Thankfully our Social Club managed to remain busy throughout the summer months despite the warm humid conditions and the Lodge is grateful to all our patrons who supported it.

### Bits and Pieces

- We congratulate Bro John Smith (Smudger) and his good lady Betty on celebrating their Golden Wedding in the middle of August. We wish them every happiness.
- Further congratulations, this time to Bro Johnny Gauld, a well kent face in Union & Crown since he could walk, reached the ripe old age of 21 during the recess. (doesn't it make you feel really old !)
- On the subject of old age ! Another couple of Brethren who also chalked up a milestone during the break. Bro John Osborne and Bro Jim Renfrew PM hit 50 & 40 within a day or so of each other last month. Or was it the other way round ?
- Bro Angus Dinning finally decided to tie the knot recently and we congratulate him and his new bride and wish them all the best for the future.

### Bowls Triumph

We are delighted to announce that the Lodge has again been successful in the annual Bowls competition organised by Provincial Grand Lodge for the Lord Blythswood Trophy.

The successful Union & Crown rink, not for the first time we may add, was Bro Jack Richardson PM, Bro Jimmy Miller, Bro Tom Smith PM & Bro Alan McIntyre, who finished a remarkable 21 shots up.

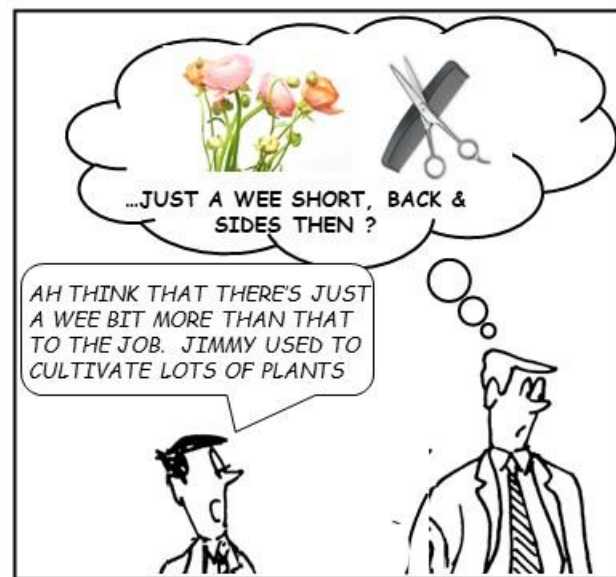
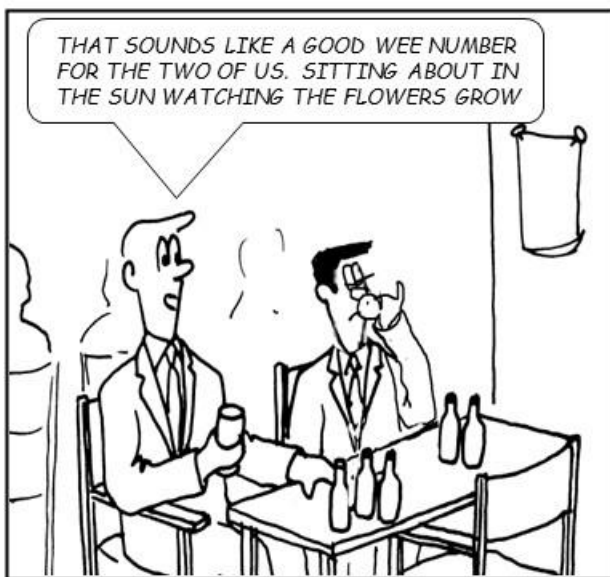
This follows closely on their success of 1993 and the mid 80's and in the case of Bro Jack Richardson this is in fact his FOURTH ! success over the years. A remarkable achievement when you consider the strength in depth throughout the province of Renfrewshire East.



A recent change of job has seen Bro Jim Renfrew PM having to travel to London on the odd occasion on business. During a recent visit in the midst of the excellent spell of weather, he found himself rather wistfully gazing out of his office window in centre of the city. Just like many "out of town hicks" he was taking in all the sights and trying hard to concentrate on the business in hand.

The rather grand building immediately next door looked vaguely familiar and Bro Jim was vainly trying to place just exactly which Art Gallery or Government building it was, a pastime that puzzled him for most of the day until he left the office that evening and was horrified to discover that he'd been staring at Freemason's Hall in Great Queen Street !

# MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW SUMMER 2025

*The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :*  
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" With grateful thanks to all those who gladly gave their assistance "

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