

The Mallet

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

No. 472

Editorial



March 2024

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One of the enduring and enjoyable things about Freemasonry in Scotland, has long been the custom that Brethren inter-visit between Sister Lodges freely, without the formality that exists in other areas , especially England. There is nothing nicer that to see a line of visiting Brethren enter a Lodgeroom in a small, unofficial deputation, paying, what is basically a social visit.

We in Union & Crown have long prided ourselves that the hard work and efforts of a long succession of R.W.M.'s and their Brethren over a long number of years has often bore fruit with the many visits from grateful Brethren returning the compliment and adding an extra dimension to our regular meetings.

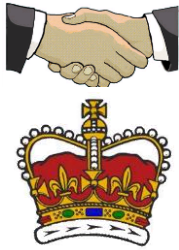
It has long and frequently been quoted that "Visitors are the lifeblood of Freemasonry" and never has a truer word been spoken. Where would each and every one of the Lodges the length and breadth of the country be without the large number of visitors ? Not only do they add colour and presence to the formal part of the meetings, but assist immeasurably in bringing atmosphere to the after-meeting harmonies.

How many times have we witnessed a whole series of small groups of Brethren dotted about at harmonies ; each made up of Brethren from differing Lodges engrossed in conversation, reminiscing about times passed and thoroughly enjoying the experience.

Sadly a mixture of hard times and other commitments has meant that the number of visitors is decreasing in many Lodges, especially in the inner city areas. It is not uncommon now for some Lodges to have no visitors at all, an embarrassing situation for the R.W.M. who, apart from anything else, is deprived from extending an invitation to someone to reply on behalf of the visitors at the close of the meeting, a tradition of long standing in all Lodges.

We in 307 are no different, although we haven't suffered just as much as others, we notice that the number of visitors are steadily decreasing, despite the sterling efforts of our Senior Office-bearers. Recently, we experienced both ends of the spectrum with a large turnout in excess of 50 at one meeting, followed by a mere handful at the next !!

Much discussion on the perplexing subject has been held, with an opinion forming that some Lodges are definitely being more selective in their visits, perhaps somewhat cynically choosing to visit those Lodges which provide the best return. Who knows ? but we would hope that the delights of visiting are exposed to the future generations of Brethren, before it is too late.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 2nd April 2024

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree

By the Guid Brethren o' the Lodge

Harmony



Tuesday 16th April 2024

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Master Mason Degree

By the Installing Masters

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M.

Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 5th March, the Lodge welcomed the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East, who were there to conduct their Annual Visitation to Union & Crown. The deputation was headed by Bro Chris Kerr, Depute Provincial Grand Master who gave a report of the workings of the Lodge during the last 12 months whilst Bro Bobby Clark IPM was Master.

The Lodge received a 'clear minute' with especial mention being given to the Executive Office-bearers of the Lodge for all their hard work. Thereafter, all Brethren present retired to the Function Suite to enjoy the harmony.

Opened : 7.32pm

Lodge Closed : 8.18pm

Attendance : 56

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 19th March, the following Candidates :

DARREN POLE

DARREN ANDERSON

had a fine FC Degree conferred upon them by the Worthy Deacons of the Lodge, assisted by some of the members of the Lodge Instruction Class.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.01pm

Attendance : 49

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

5th March £20 : **Bro David Watson PM** £10 : **Bro PJ Smith**

19th March £20 : **Bro Colin Hamilton PM** £10 : **Bro Craig Haugh**

Bro George McGrandles P.M., our Treasurer, is taking names for this year, which commenced immediately after our Annual Installation.

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

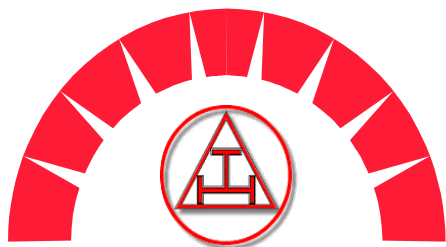
Dates for your Diary



- Tuesday 2nd April** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Dramatised FC Degree will be conferred
- Monday 15th April** Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
- Tuesday 16th April** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a MM Degree will be conferred by the Installing Masters
- Monday 22nd April** Visitation to Lodge Nitshill where we have been invited to confer an EA Degree

(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)



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 12th March, the Companions of Rockmount RAC conferred an emulation of the Royal Arch Degree. It was a good degree and certainly shook a lots of the 'rust' out of the Office-bears who participated.

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for **Tuesday 9th April** at 7-30pm when the Companions of Rockmount will be conferring an Excellent Master's

degree upon a Candidate.

MEC Graham Manson MEZ and his Office-bearers extend a cordial invitation to all Companions, especially any visitors, to attend on that evening.

Lodge Attendances



As we require to keep a close eye on an accurate attendance at all our Regular Meetings to enable us to report in The Mallet we often take an accurate headcount during the business, before double-checking the Sederunt Book afterwards.

At almost every meeting there is always a shortfall of perhaps 2 or 3 Brethren who haven't signed the Sederunt before entering the Lodgeroom.

If you happen to be one of those who don't sign, please take an extra moment or two to add your 'non de plume' in future to keep an ageing editor happy.

BITS & PIECES

- We are reliably informed that tickets for our forthcoming 'Ladies Night in May' are selling well with only a few still available. Anyone interested should contact Bro Alan Izatt WSW (☎ 07742 423 890)
- Bro Graham Manson PM, our hard-working Instruction Master would be delighted to see some new blood at the Lodge Instruction Class on a Monday evening, but if you're too shy and would rather learn something quietly at home, he'll be only too happy to help you out and let you go forward when you're confident enough.
- Congratulations and best wishes to Bro Steven Blair on the birth of a son to be called Mason. Both baby and mother Jenna are doing extremely well
- We gather that the Lodge has accepted two invitations to confer their popular dramatized 'Prisoner of War' degree. As soon as suitable dates can be agreed, we'll let you know.
- The specially labelled and commemoratively boxed bottles of malt whisky are now ready to be distributed to those who pre-ordered, although Bro Ross Aitken WJW is only too happy to take further orders.
- We would like to remind our readers that our Sister Lodge – Lodge Randolph, No.1434 is holding its Annual Lunch, here in 307 on Saturday 22nd June at 1.30 for 2.00pm. Tickets are available for any 1434 Office-bearer (of which there are many within Union & Crown).
- It is heartening to see that our local newspaper, the Barrhead News is giving us excellent coverage of our Bi-Centenary celebrations. The two page spread with photographs of our Grand Lodge Rededication meeting got a fine two page spread in colour, with our Civic Dinner also getting great coverage.
- Some may have noticed that the Lodge Office-bearers look particularly splendid in their new regalia. How many have noticed that a fine embroidered crest now adorns the sashes. Several of our Past Masters have purchased identical crests to be added to their PM's Sashes.
- It was great to see 18 of our Past Masters at the recent meeting supporting our RWM in what has been a great year for the Lodge so far.
- Bro Ronnie MacIsaac PM tells us that there are a few seats available on the Lodge Bus Run to Rosslyn Chapel on Thursday 4th July. If you'd like to join the Brethren give him a ring on ☎ 07718 828 061
- Bro Alan Izatt WJW is organizing the Lodge Fishing Outing to Harelaw Fishery in Neilston on Saturday 1st June. All interested should contact him on ☎ 07742 423 890.

Football & its Connections with Freemasonry.

As football continues to remain the most popular sport throughout the world, we focus on the many connections that football and footballers have to Freemasonry.

The first rules of football were drawn up by the new Football Association at 6 meetings at the end of 1863 at the Freemasons' Tavern on Great Queen Street in London, now the New Connaught Rooms next door to Freemasons' Hall.

After the very first match under the new football governing rules way back in January 1864, a toast was drunk – how very Masonic in itself – to ‘success to football, irrespective of class or creed’.

There are a number of Masonic Lodges named after their famous teams – Anfield Lodge, No. 2215, Everton Lodge No. 823 and more recently the Football Lodge No.9921.

The Football Lodge was the brainchild of David Lallana, father of England star Adam Lallana, and a prominent PM on England's southern coast. Members of the Lodge share their passion for the love of the game and through Freemasonry they hope to connect with the grass roots of the sport in the community.

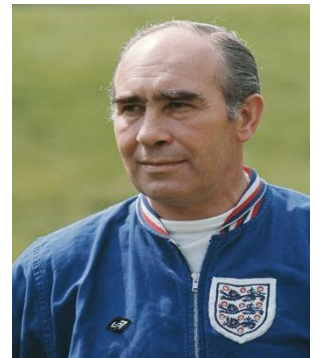
Many famous players and managers have enjoyed the companionship of Freemasonry including three England Managers :

SIR ALF RAMSEY

Sir Alf played for a number of top flight teams including Southampton and Tottenham Hotspurs and later went on to manage Ipswich Town where he reigned for 10 years.

His most famous role (which needs no explanation) was to lead England to victory at the 1966 World Cup

He was initiated into Waltham Abbey Lodge No.2750, Hertfordshire, England on the 5 October 1953 at the age of 33

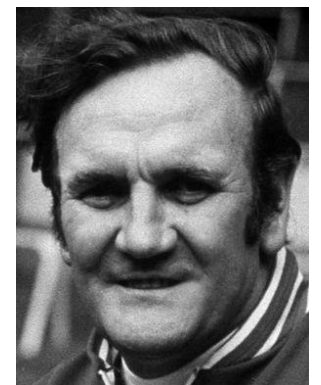


DON REVIE

Don Revie played for several football teams including Manchester City from 1951 to 1956) .

He then went on to managed Leeds United from 1961 to 1974) with whom he won the F.A. Cup in 1972 and the European Fairs Cup in 1973,

Don Revie became the manager of the England football team between 1974 and 1977. He had been initiated into Leodiensis Lodge No.4029, in Leeds, in 1965



RON GREENWOOD

Ron Greenwood started his playing career at Chelsea Football Club leaving for a brief spell to play for Brentford who he supported as a lad. He then returned to Chelsea before finally going to Fulham FC.

In July 1977 Ron Greenwood was appointed full-time manager of England ending his 15-year association with West Ham United.

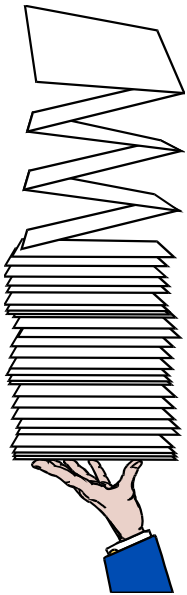
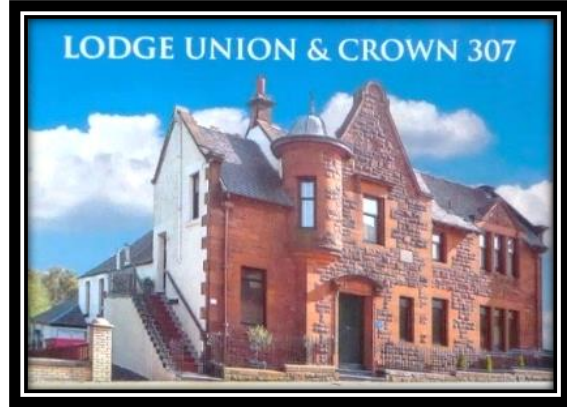
Ron Greenwood became a Freemason in 1956 at the end of his final season as a player. He was a member of Lodge of Proven Fellowship, No. 6225



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. As it stand, a magnificent total of almost £750 has been raised so far.



PAPER APPEAL

Unfortunately, due to the surprising lack of response to our earlier appeal, we have been forced to issue a further appeal to our readers. Due to the rapid, and unexpected, decline in our stock of, we are in danger of running out of that most essential of commodities – **PAPER**.

As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² copier or duplicator 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.

Angelo Soliman, was born in Africa in 1721 and brought to Europe as a slave at the age of ten. He was educated, married, and became a favorite in the royal court in Vienna.

Sometime before 1771 he became a mason. When he died in 1776, the Emperor had his body stuffed and mounted, and placed in the natural history museum, becoming not only the first black of African birth to become a mason, but the also the first Mason to be stuffed, mounted, and displayed.



Famous Freemasons

(This month we differ from our normal article, and put the spotlight on a Showbusiness Lodge and some of their well-known Brethren)

Chelsea Lodge No.3098 was founded In 1905 by a group of artistes and musicians founded a Lodge which was destined to be one of the best known in the world of Freemasonry Its members have represented most branches of show business including music hall, variety, circus, pantomime, comedy, magic, ventriloquism, silent films and talkies, cinema, radio and television, not to mention musicians who were members of British dance bands and orchestras.

Brother Peter Sellers (1925 – 1980)

Born in 1925, Peter Sellers was an English film actor, comedian and singer. He performed in the BBC Radio comedy series The Goon Show and became known to a worldwide audience through his many film roles, including Inspector Clouseau in The Pink Panther series of films.

Sellers was initiated as a Freemason in the same Lodge as his father, Chelsea Lodge No. 3098 in London on 16 July 1948, where he completed his Second Degree on 21 January 1949 and his Third Degree on 16 November 1951.



Brother Bob Monkhouse (1928 – 2003)



Bro Robert Alan Monkhouse OBE (1928 – 2003) was an English comedian, writer and actor. He was the host of television game shows including The Golden Shot, Celebrity Squares, Family Fortunes and Wipeout.

Monkhouse was born on 1 June 1928 at 168 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent, the son of chartered accountant Wilfred Adrian Monkhouse and Dorothy Muriel Monkhouse. Monkhouse's grandfather John Monkhouse (1862–1938) was a prosperous Methodist businessman who co-founded Monk and Glass, which made custard powder and jelly

Brother Bradley Walsh (born 1960)

Bradley John Walsh (born June 1960) is an English actor, television presenter, comedian, singer, and former professional footballer.

His acting roles on television include Coronation Street, Law & Order: UK and Doctor Who. He has also presented various television game shows, including Wheel of Fortune, The Chase, Odd One In, Keep It in the Family, and Blankety Blank.

Since 2019, he has starred in Bradley Walsh & Son: Breaking Dad alongside his son Barney, and the two began hosting the reboot of Gladiators on BBC One in 2024. He also often appears onstage, particularly in pantomimes.



Brother Jim Davidson (born 1953)



Bro James Cameron Davidson OBE is an English stand-up comedian, actor, singer and TV presenter. He hosted the television shows Big Break and The Generation Game. And is known for his right-wing politics.

The son of a Scottish father from Glasgow and an Irish mother from Cork, Davidson was born in Kidbrooke, London. Having impressed some acquaintances of his father with impressions of celebrities, he was chosen to appear in Ralph Reader's Gang Show aged 12 and appeared on television in the Billy Cotton Band Show.

Upon leaving school, Davidson worked as a drummer for pub bands, as well as holding a job as a supermarket shelf stacker, a messenger, air ticket clerk for a travel agency, a cashier for Wall's ice cream and for Rank and a window cleaner.

He found his way into show business when, as a regular in a pub in Woolwich, he stepped in after the pub's regular comedian had not turned up. He then became a regular on the London comedy circuit, and first auditioned unsuccessfully for Opportunity Knocks in 1975. His audition for New Faces was more successful, and he proceeded to win the show by one point, coming second in the overall contest.

Brother Roger De Courcey (born 1944)

Bro Roger De Courcey was born 1944 in London and is a British ventriloquist and artists' agent, best known for performing with Nookie Bear. He was the winner of the 1976 New Faces televised talent competition grand final.

He has performed on the West End stage, in productions of musicals Sweet Charity, Two Cities and Company. He has appeared at the London Palladium many times including the 1976 Royal Variety Performance in the presence of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. In 1978 he released 'Nookie's Song', on the Pye Records Label.

Proud of his links to Freemasonry, he is also a member and former "King Rat" of the Grand Order of Water Rats which is the oldest theatrical fraternity in the world. As an agent, he represents musician Rick Wakeman and broadcaster David "Kid" Jensen.



Brother Rick Wakeman (born 1949)

Bro Richard Christopher Wakeman CBE is an English keyboardist and composer best known as a member of the progressive rock band Yes, and for his prolific solo career.

Born and raised in West London, Wakeman quit his studies at the Royal College of Music in 1969 to become a full-time session musician. His early sessions included "Space Oddity", among other tracks, for David Bowie, and songs by Elton John, Marc Bolan, Cat Stevens, and Lou Reed. In 1970, Wakeman joined the folk rock group the Strawbs, during which his virtuosity gained national press coverage. He left in 1971 to join Yes, with whom he played on some of their most influential albums across two stints until 1980.



Bro Wakeman was installed into the Chair of Chelsea Lodge, No.3098 in May 2014.

Did you Know ?

- That on July 2, 1751, 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 imprisoned.
- That 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.
- That In 1954 Martin's Station Lodge No. 188 of Virginia was opened 952 feet below the surface of Cumberland Mountain in Cudjo's Cave, which lies between Cumberland Gap, Tennessee and Middleboro, Kentucky. A total of 345 Masons were present and a master Mason degree was conferred.
- That All four Presidents of the Republic of Texas, David Burnett, Sam Houston, Mirabeau Lamar, and Anson Jones, were members of the Craft.

You've been warned !!

Here's what was written in the world's oldest known Anti-Masonic document dated 1698:

TO ALL GODLY PEOPLE IN THE CITIE OF LONDON

Having thought it needful to warn you of the Mischiefs and Evils practiced in the sight of God by those called Freed Masons, I say take care lest their Ceremonies and secret swearings take hold of you: and be wary that none cause you to err from Godliness. For this devlish Sect of Men are Meeters in Secret which swear against all without their following. They are the Anti Christ which was to come leading Men from their Fear of God. For how should Men meet in Secret Places and with secret Signes taking Care that none observe them to do the Work of God: are not these the ways of Evildoers? Knowing how that God observest privilly them that sit in Darkness they shall be smitten, and the Secrets of their Hearts layed bare. Mingle not among this corrupt People lest you be found so at the World's Conflagration.

The only known copy of the above leaflet is in the possession of the United Grand Lodge of England and its text appears in the book, "The History of English Freemasonry" by John Hamill.

Hamill is the Librarian and Curator of the UGLE. The Mason who called this to our attention wrote

"What I find most interesting about the leaflet - aside from the period grammar and spelling - is that the nature of Anti-Masonry is the same today as it ever was: fear and hatred based on ignorance and intolerance with millennial and conspiracy paranoia."

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 10 Years Ago

No. 372

March 2014

Regular Meetings

A regular meeting of the lodge was held on Tuesday 4th March 2014 and following the opening, a deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East (P.G.L.R.E.) was admitted. The Deputation was headed by the Depute Provincial Grand Master, Bro Neil Fraser, who was supported by 11 brethren of the P.G.L.R.E.

The lodge received a very good report with Bro Neil running through some highlights of the previous year and with good humour and much buck-passing (of the speeches), I am confident Bro. Paul Stewart I.P.M. would have been relieved to be given a clear minute for his year in the chair of Lodge Union & Crown. Bro Paul Stewart made suitable reply and was given a warm ovation by the brethren in attendance.

Following the meeting the brethren gathered downstairs for an informal lodge harmony

Lodge Opened - 07:30pm Lodge Closed – 08:17 pm Attendance – 67

At the regular meeting of 18th March 2014 and following the business of the evening a large deputation from Lodge Thistle And Crown no 1167 was admitted in order to carry out a F.C. Degree on two candidates.

WILLIAM BEATTIE and FRASER BEATTS

Following the recess the office bearers and brethren of 1167 gave a fine rendition of the FC degree with every member of their team giving their all to a busy but silent lodge room.

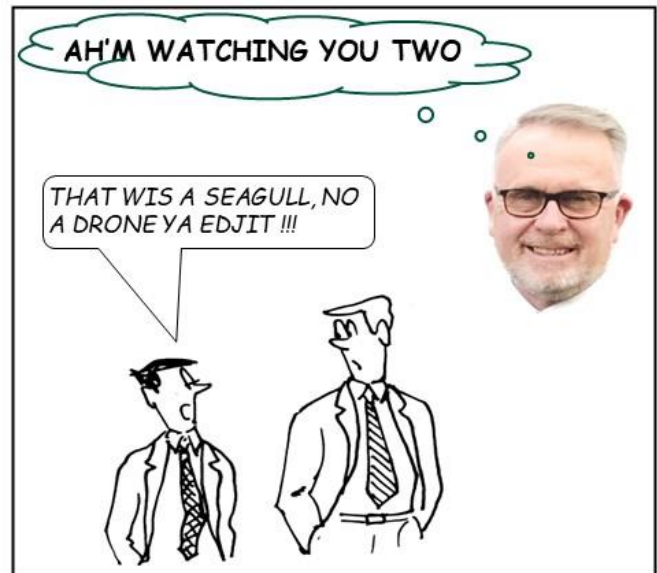
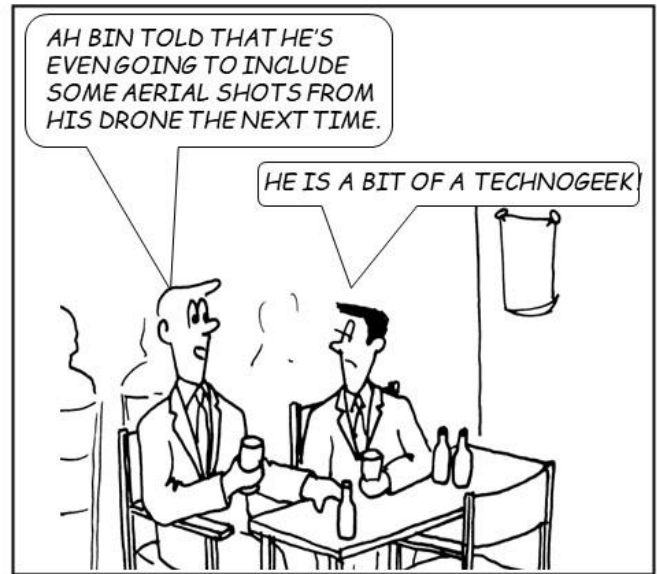
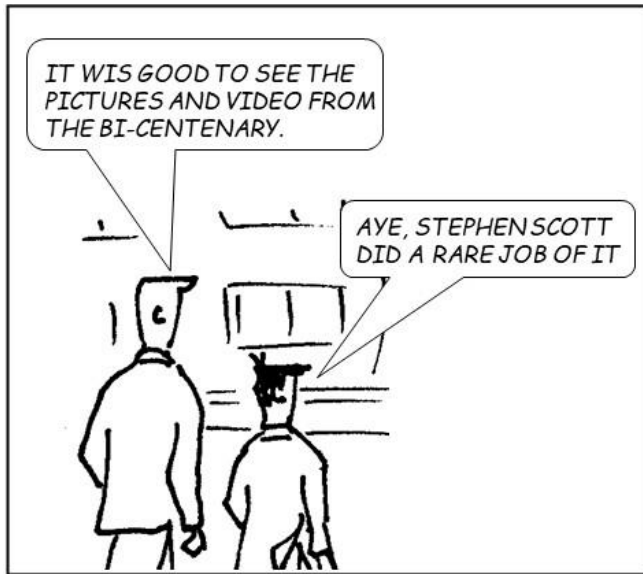
Following the meeting the brethren gathered in the function suite to enjoy a spirited harmony.

Lodge Opened - 07:30pm Lodge Closed – 09:33 pm Attendance – 90

Lodge Gossip

- Our Annual Burns Supper raised the superb sum of £385.00 for lodge funds and again Bro. Alan Bernard S.M. is to be commended for his efforts.
- Our Bar Convenor Bro. Evans Reid P.M. is appealing for bar staff to man the pumps at the forthcoming Scottish Nights on the 25th and 26th of April. We will require 4 members each evening in order to keep things running smoothly so anyone who can assist should contact Br. Evans as soon as possible
- Our R.W.M. and all round Technogeek Bro. David McArthur has launched a "members only" Facebook page on t'internet so the members can keep up to date with all thin gs 307 at the push of a button.
- Isn't it good to see so many of our recent initiates attending regularly? We must be doing something right!
- The new doors into the function suite really give the downstairs part of the lodge a fresh new look.
- The recent games night in the lounge was a major success with a good number of brethren getting together to enjoy a night of fun and games, quite literally!

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW MARCH 24

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

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