

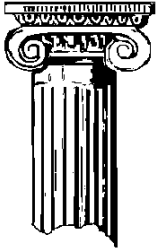
The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union & Crown No.307



Issue No. 389

December 2015



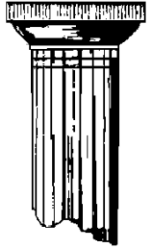
Issue No. 389

The Mallet

Editorial



December 2015



By the time the majority of you are reading this the Installation will be but a distant memory and we will have embarked upon yet another Masonic year with a fresh set of Office-bearers, hopefully fully charged with enthusiasm, ready and willing to work long and hard for the good of their Mother Lodge.

We, in Lodge Union & Crown, are indeed still fortunate in this day and age that we are able to muster a full complement of Office-bearers without having to resort to utilising, outwith the administrative offices, our Past Masters. It is now a difficult time of the year for many Lodges with a high percentage struggling to fill every office.

Each and every one of the Brethren who have seen fit to serve their Lodge whether it be for the first time or by progression have been carefully selected at one time or another and have been entrusted and instructed in exactly what is expected from one who wears the light blue of Lodge Union & Crown No. 307.

They must remember, and believe, that it is an honour to be an office-bearer in Union & Crown and must strive to maintain the highest standards possible which was set by their predecessors over many years.

We have for the forthcoming session quite a wide and varied bunch of Brethren occupying the offices. This variety and strength in depth has been seen by many to be to be one of the cornerstones upon which the continued success of 307 is based.

At the helm we are fortunate to have an extremely able Right Worshipful Master in Bro Ian Blair, and we are sure that you will all join with us in congratulating him on attaining the Chair of King Solomon. He is long in experience and has worked tirelessly for his Lodge for many years.

Bro Ian has a good and sensible head on his shoulders and has successfully contributed to almost every aspect of the Lodge. We in turn can also show our support for the Lodge and the RWM by accompanying him on visits, certainly the 'official visits' but also the more relaxed and informal ones which can often be arranged at very short notice...

Yes, it is a new year and we will be faced with new and unforeseen obstacles but at least we do so in the sure knowledge, that we as a Lodge are well equipped and ready to face any challenges in store.



Happy New Year to all our readers



Hugh Cattigan PM Ed.



Brethren,

The Right Worshipful Master Bro. Ian Blair cordially requests your attendance at the forthcoming meetings of the Lodge: -

Tuesday 5th January 2015

7:30pm

Business meeting

&

MM DEGREE

(By the Installing Masters)



Tuesday 19th January 2015

7:30pm

Business meeting

&

EA DEGREE

Conferred by the Office Bearers and Brethren of Lodge Nitshill No. 1478



Thursday 21st January 2015

7:30pm

Official visit to Lodge Thistle & Crown No. 1167

M.T. Main Street, Neilston

When the Brethren of Lodge Union & Crown will confer an:

EA Degree



100 CLUB

The lucky winners of our cash prizes for the month of December were:

Tuesday 2nd December	£10:	Mrs. Christine Miller
	£5:	Bro. William H Gauld PM
Tuesday 16th December	£10:	Bro. Tom Mulholland PM
	£5:	Bro. Alex White



If you are interested in joining the 100 club for 2014-2015, the annual fee is still very good value. Just contact Bro Jim Kerr PM Treasurer.

Regular Meetings

At the regular meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 1st December 2015 and after the business the following candidates:-

WILLIAM BEATTS and GRANT MAYBERRY

were initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our order by a relatively inexperienced degree team drawn from the ranks of the Lodge's Instruction Class, and led by the Worshipful Wardens. Although it was a first time with everyone in their new offices and nerves showing a wee bit it was nevertheless a very good EA Degree, ably conferred in the manner we have come to expect from the Brethren of Lodge Union & Crown.

A harmony followed with the majority of the brethren and visitors remaining to enjoy an evening of fellowship.

Lodge Opened - 07:30pm Lodge Closed – 09:22pm Attendance – 45

At the regular meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 15th December 2015 and after the business of the Lodge the same two candidates William Beatts and Grant Mayberry were passed to the Second Square or FC degree by a degree team drawn from the ranks of the Lodge's Instruction Class, and led by the Worthy Deacons. This was a very good FC Degree conferred by the Brethren of Lodge Union & Crown and appreciated by all in attendance.

Lodge Opened - 07:30pm Lodge Closed – 09:13pm Attendance – 51

Christmas Dance 2015

This year's dance took place on Saturday 5th December and a very successful evening ensued with a fantastic turnout of Brethren with their wives, partners and friends.

'Bronx' entertained the assembled company with a fine selection of songs old and new and a fine raffle helped to complete the evening's merriment.

Bro. Lawrence Webb, our social convenor is to be congratulated on organising this fine event and a big thanks to all who contributed raffle prizes on the night. It was good to see brethren and their partners attending and enjoying themselves and we hope to see them at many events in the future.



Bro. Lawrence was delighted to be able to hand in the sum of £550.00 to our Bro. Treasurer and would like to thank all who came and made it such an enjoyable night.



Congratulation also go to our treasurer, Bro. Jim Kerr PM, who reached the happy milestone of his 70th birthday on the 3rd December... Many happy returns from all your friends in the Lodge Bro. Jim.

Rockmount R.A.C. No. 367



At the regular meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday the 8th December 2015 the Companions witnessed a fine a Royal Arch Degree from the Companions being conferred upon the newly appointed Master of Lodge Union & Crown No. 307.

Bro Ian Blair

The Companions of Rockmount RAC taking part in the degree are to be congratulated on work well done.

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter is scheduled for:

Tuesday 12th January 2015 at 7:30pm

When a MMM and EM Degree will be conferred by the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount RAC. MEC Graham Manson, MEZ, extends a cordial invitation to all Companions to attend.

Rockmount Cryptic Council

A similar invitation is also extended by the T.I.M. Robert McCulloch and his Office Bearers to attend the next regular meeting of Rockmount Cryptic Council No. 367 on.

Tuesday 26th January 2015



The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East's final installation of the Masonic year is that of our good friends at Lodge Saint Conval Giffnock No 1359.

The ceremony will be on Saturday 9th January 2015 in their premises at The Duff Memorial Hall, Main Street, Busby.

The start time is 01:59pm (Not a typing error, using the 24 hour clock then this is 13:59... In line with the Lodge number, get it!).

Buy a Brick

Commemorative bricks which adorn the wall in the downstairs hallway are still available at £20.00 each.

Anyone interested should see Bro. Adam G Watson (Big Adam) to secure their personalised brick either for themselves or a loved one.

A social evening will take place in the lounge on Friday 29th January 2016. This will be a chance for everyone to catch up after the New Year, relax and enjoy a game of dominoes etc.

The previous nights of this kind have been most enjoyable and hopefully we'll have a good turnout.



FREEMASONRY AND CHRISTMAS

The observance of Christmas doesn't seem to bring satisfaction to some people. On one hand, many say it's too religious, and thus don't want Christmas trees in public buildings and nativity scenes within a shepherd's-crook length of government lawns.

On the other hand, many say it's not religious enough; it's too commercial. They've been saying it for years-it's the central theme behind the charming animated cartoon A Charlie Brown Christmas which was made some 40 years ago.

Setting that aside, what does Christmas mean to the Freemason? Certainly Freemasonry is not a religion, Christian or otherwise.

It leaves the determination on spiritual matters to each individual Mason, so long as he believes in the Almighty Creator. But there are certain messages from the story of Christmas that are applicable to all Masons, not just those who celebrate a certain birth on December 25th. Many Christians feel God gave his greatest gift to mankind, and that Gift's birth is marked on Christmas Day. And the spirit of giving is also outlined in our Masonic ceremonies.

The new Entered Apprentice is reminded in the northeast corner of charity, and to practice it whenever possible. There's the monetary charity of that portion of our ceremony. And there's another kind. The one referred to in the Charge in the same degree which admonishes "to relieve his necessities and soothing his afflictions, in short, to do unto him as you would in similar cases have him do unto you."

In other words, Christmas is a time of faith for our Christian brethren. But all Masons are reminded in the different degrees of the principle of faith. In the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, we hear "How ready and willing ought we to be to adore the Almighty Creator."

Therefore, let this time of year serve as a reminder to all Masons to practice their faith, whatever it may be. Faith and Charity are amongst the principals of our order.

But there is another, and that is Hope. Hope in Salvation, the concept of some kind of reward for following Masonic principles during our lives winds its way through the various degrees.

So let this season of the year remind all Masons, no matter what their religious beliefs, to follow those universal tenets of the Craft-faith, hope and charity. Doing so should bring satisfaction to you at Christmas-time.





The long and rugged road

A 'FLASHBACK' SPECIAL



RWM Bro. Alan Bernard

An addition to our usual article reviewing a past edition of the Mallet from previous years. Here we look back on the year just ending as seen through the eyes of our Immediate Past Master Bro. Alan C Bernard IPM.

My Grandfather, who was a member of St Columba Govan 729 passed to the Grand Lodge above in 1967 when I was barely a year old. My great grandfather and great uncle Jack who still attends, were also members there along now with my brother Stephen who joined this year.

About a year after joining Lodge Union & Crown my sister gave me what she probably thought was some insignificant Masonic memorabilia, My grandfather's life membership cards for his blue lodge and the Royal Arch and some other bits and bobs. He lived in Govan all his life apart from serving with the Royal Marine commando's during the war, so you can imagine my delight and surprise when among these things I found an order of service for lodge Thistle & Crown 1167 which I had now attended on numerous occasions myself, so knowing my grandfather had squared that same carpet always gives me Goosebumps every time I go up the hill to Neilston, so it was very apt that my first 'official' visitation on the 15th January 2015 with my mother lodge was to Lodge Thistle & Crown No. 1167 and at the harmony afterwards I addressed the brethren told them the story of finding the order of service and returned it to the RWM Bro. Robert, who made a friendly jibe about Govan people taking things when it quite clearly said to leave it on the chair when leaving.

The 9th February saw my next visitation to lodge Nitshill No. 1478. Being that I grew up about four hundred yards away from the Lodge premises. Over the years I played in the derelict tenements across the road and attended many 21st birthday parties, engagement parties and even wakes. So when joining the Craft I was very pleased and proud to find a lodge which was extremely well run, friendly and is the finest and only fraternal organisation in the area. Also the fact that the majority of the brethren are either old neighbours or former pupils of my own secondary school Craigbank has made every time I visit a bit of a reunion it makes Nitshill another memorable visit.

On the 24th March 2015 I led a deputation of over twenty office bearers and brethren to Lodge St Columba Govan to pass my oldest brother, Stephen, to the second square, once again the feeling of history was quite something and having my great Uncle Jack present, the only remaining member of my grandfather's generation, made it even more special. I was also able to play the part of the third Ruffian at his third degree which as the baby of the family was also quite enjoyable.

Then onwards, 28th April, to Our next visit to Prince of Wales Renfrew 426, This is another lodge which has become quite special to me over the years while visiting regularly in Past Masters Stevie Allen and Kenny Coleman's years in the Chair. Once again this fine old lodge has a family connection being my Great Great Grandfathers lodge once again the feeling of history came upon me, once again to the delight of our

present RWM Bro. Ian Blair who started jokingly reaching for the Kleenex. I addressed the brethren when we came in and told them my family story once again.

The 3rd of October saw us visit Lodge Paisley St Mirrin's No. 129, before commencing the degree I again addressed the brethren and told them My family connection with the lodge, explaining how proud I was as RWM of Lodge Union & Crown to attend my uncle Charles Hutchison's lodge and how proud I was of him, his lodge, and our craft in general that he was, to my knowledge, the first black RWM in the west of Scotland and possibly the only one. he was in the chair of 129 in 1972. In those days it was still normal for people to be refused jobs housing and many other things in life because of your colour but uncle Charles was elected to the highest office in his lodge and as far as I can tell from the older brethren of his lodge was very well thought of saying, "we never saw him as anything other than a well loved brother of the Lodge".

I spent quite a bit of time with the older brethren of 129 at the harmony and was told that the bible I stood at for the obligation was donated to the lodge by my uncle and the bible used by the chaplain was his Masonic bible which he left to the lodge when he died once again the feeling of history and the hairs on the back of my neck stood on end and having Pm Davie Noble along with me that night who was in the chair that same year to tell me stories of all the masters who had signed his Masonic bible was also special. I was presented with a 129 lodge tie and Penny By the RWM Bro John Syme on the night which I will always cherish, Lodge Paisley St Mirren 129 will always be very special for me.

Also in my year 307 visited PM Johnny Gauld's affiliated lodge, Dunlop Caledonia 1408 on 12th March to confer a FC degree, Lodge Loretto 1373 on 3rd October to perform the Dramatised FC degree and on the 6th November we went along to our good friends at Lodge St Conval Giffnock to confer the FC degree on one of their candidates.

Two more of my highlights in the year were the lunch for the ladies of the lodge which the town is still talking about, and the dedication of a bench to our Late Past Master, Bro. Tam Young's out behind the function suite.

The numerous social functions lodge dances, games nights and attending Grand Lodge twice as RWM of 307. Seeing so many Renfrewshire East Brethren going into office in Grand lodge, but it is always special seeing our own PM Bud Gauld in Grand lodge colours being elevated to such a high position, Grand Director of Ceremonies, in Grand lodge is something which we should all be very proud of.

Throughout the year the support I have had has been great, the work on the Lodge by the older brethren is nothing if not amazing the place is looking fantastic.

I will remember being RWM of lodge Union and Crown for the rest of my life and the honour of being master of our lodge has been outstanding.

It has been a blur whoever said it is the fastest year of your life were certainly telling the truth.

Yours fraternally

Alan C Bernard IPM



Sadly, I have been advised by Bro. Donald Ferguson of the passing of Bro Frank McKay Pattison. Brother Frank was initiated into Lodge Union & Crown No. 307 on the 17th January 1956 and resided at Langton Cres. here in Barrhead before later moving to Glasgow where he was an electrician to trade. Bro. Frank was a very dear, and lifelong, friend of Bro. Donald Ferguson and they were both part of a group of seven great friends who all held the highest respect for one another.

The funeral service took place on Wednesday 23rd December at Denniston New Parish Church, Armadale Street, Glasgow at 13:45 and thereafter at Daldowie Crematorium. Bro. Donald conveyed condolences on behalf of the Lodge to members of the grieving family, including Bro. Frank's widow, Betty. My thanks go to Bro. Donald for bringing this sad news to my attention, sadly I was unable to attend due to another masonic commitment.

I am most pleased and encouraged to report that Bro. Jim M Scott's dear son, Adam, aged 17, who, after the consequences of a road traffic accident (previously reported in last month's issue), is now back home in Ayr after a time of great concern for the family and indeed all who know and love him. A time of rehabilitation is now beginning for Adam and I look forward to journeying to Ayr and to visit Adam and the family soon after the New Year festive celebrations which I am sure will be truly 'festive' and happy for all the Scott family.

I visited Bro. Eric Gray in the Royal Alexandria Hospital in Paisley. Bro. Eric has spent a few weeks there but is now back home in Barrhead and "cheerfully" endeavouring to recover. Bro. Eric, as always, when I visit him at home or in hospital exhibits a strong spirit to overcome any obstacle that he may be facing

During the past month I have visited the following Brothers and Ladies of the Lodge:-

Bro. Eric Gray	Bro. Jim Waterston
Mrs Helen Young	Mrs Isabel Heron
Mrs Margaret Hearn	Mrs Audrey McPhee
Mrs Janette McCready	Mrs Margaret McIntyre
Mrs Moira Campbell	

On Sunday the 20th December I attended the PGL of Renfrewshire East Carol Service at Stowe Brae Kirk, Paisley at which I experienced, as before, a truly uplifting and memorable occasion. It was indeed a family service with Bro. Rev. Robert Craig and Bro. Rev. Iain Robert Ramsdon through who the Grand Lodge of Scotland was represented officiating.

At the tea afterwards I had the opportunity to have a chat with Mrs Betty McCartney of 307 as well as others. I am most glad that I took time and attended this most enjoyable of Carol Services.

Finally, I would, once again, offer congratulations to the Office Bearers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East not only for their generosity and helpful assistance but also for the professional manner in which they conducted themselves in the administration and preparation of the Christmas parcels for delivery around the Province. A job well done and in record time.

Also, I could not mention the above without thanking my own team of helpers. Namely RWM Bro. Ian Blair, Bro. Alan Bernard IPM, Bro. Robin Murray PM, Bro. Ronnie McIsaac, Bro Tom Wilson, Bro. Allan McIntyre and Bro Gordon Neil.

“I send Festive Greetings to all and best wishes for 2016”

Bro. Alex White, Lodge Almoner, ☎ 0141-571 6411

Lodge Union & Crown No. 307

BURNS SUPPER

FRIDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2015

6:30 for 7:00pm

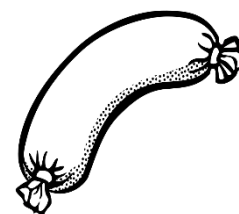
Ticket £15.00

Tickets are available from:
Sub. RWM, Bro. George McGrandles
Mob: 07766247489



If any of the brethren, particularly non-office bearers, would like to give their assistance in the kitchen on meeting nights, Bros Graham Manson PM and Paul Stewart PM would be pleased to hear from you as their working commitments occasionally prevent them from both attending on the same night. An extra pair of hands makes all the difference in ensuring the cordon bleu cooking is ready for the close of each meeting.

On the 14th January 2016 at 01:30pm the **Sausage Club** will be hosting a dinner for the Senior Members of the Lodge and a guest.



Brethren are reminded that our first regular meeting of February 2016 has been moved to Friday the 5th at 07:30pm. This will be a short business meeting followed by a 'dinner' to commemorate our:

192nd Anniversary

Tickets for the dinner are £12.50 and are available from the Worshipful Junior Warden Bro. Kenny Beatts



**WORLD AT WAR
1914 – 1918**
(December 1915)



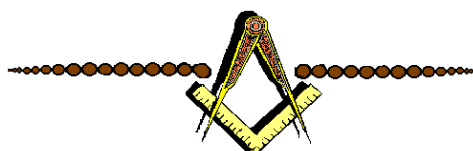
- 1st The US requests that Germany withdraw its military and naval attaches from the Embassy in Washington.
- 3rd General Joseph Joffre becomes Commander-in-Chief of the French Armies
- 4th Henry Ford's peace ship, Oscar II, sails for Europe "to get the boys out of the trenches by Christmas".
- 8th John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" appears anonymously in "Punch" magazine.
- 12th First all-metal aircraft (Junkers J-1) test flown at Dessau, Germany.
- 13th British Government order partial relaxation of economic pressure on Greece.
- 19th General Sir Douglas Haig succeeds Sir John French as Commander-in-Chief of the British Armies in France
- 20th Final withdraw of all allied troops from Anzac Cove
- 28th Today the British Cabinet recognizes the true nature of the war by deciding to institute compulsory military service, with single men to be conscripted before married ones
- 30th In Cromarty Harbour the British cruiser Natal explodes with the loss of four hundred and twenty one.

During the afternoon of the 30th December 1915, HMS Natal, under the command of Captain Eric Back, blew up at anchor with a great loss of life.

421 crew and civilian visitors died in the explosion, including women and children.

400 of the crew survived.

HMS Natal was a 'Warrior Class' cruiser of 13550 tons. She was launched in 1905 and had an interesting history before the First World War. In 1914 she joined the Second Cruiser Squadron, which by 1915 was based in the Cromarty Firth, in the north of Scotland.





FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from the Mallet of 31 Years Ago



Issue No. 80

December 1984

RWM Bro. Hugh Fraser

At the Regular Meeting on 4th December the following three Candidates were initiated into the Craft in a Degree conferred upon them by the Wardens of the Lodge, Bros Iain McFarlane and Willie Love:

Iain G Nicol

David S Cameron

John Gray

This was an excellent performance by two very efficient degree workers, ably assisted by the I.G. Bro Roy Dinning.

Lodge Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.28pm

Attendance : 136

At the Regular meeting on 18th December, the same three Candidates were passed to the Fellowcraft Degree by the Deacons Bros Raymond Smith and Robert Nixon.

Again the standard of the performance was excellent, and Bro Tom Young PM, Instruction Master, is to be congratulated on the high standards he maintains in the Instruction Class.

Lodge Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.12pm

Attendance : 118

Our readers may recall that, recently, we hinted of plans for factories on the site of the old Cross Arthurlie School. Approval has now been granted for 3 small factories.

Many of the small traders in the town are seriously concerned about their livelihoods, with the threat of a new supermarket at the old skinnery, and another at Cross Arthurlie St, on the site of the former Ideal Homes offices, now owned by Trafalgar House.

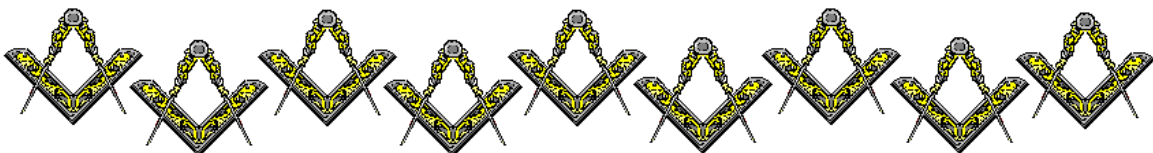
We sympathise with the traders, but can also see that competition is in the interests of all.

Apparently some of the residents of "Traub`s Close" have had an offer made for their properties. This would appear to indicate that a start to the widening of Main Street is fairly imminent.

We notice that Mrs Muriel McDonald has taken over the 'let' of the kitchen for the sale of hot food. So far this has been a great success with the punters.

Bro Jim Renfrew tells us that the quiz he has organised for the 12th January is sold out !

Our "Sales & Wants" on the noticeboard is a huge success with the members.



Humour



The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by:

Bro. Hugh Cattigan P.M.

73 Falside Road, Paisley, PA2 6JU

☎: 0141-580 6928 💻: h.cattigan@ntlworld.com

Sub-editor:

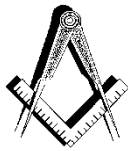
Bro. Graham Manson P.M.

31 Cruachan Way, Barrhead, G78 2LG

☎: 0141-580 0871 💻: graham.manson@ntlworld.com

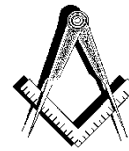
Lodge Website: www.unionandcrown307.com

"With grateful thanks to all those who have freely given their assistance"



Syllabus 2015-2016

* - Denotes an Official visit



January 2016

Tuesday	05 th	07:30pm	MM Degree	Installing Masters
Tuesday	19 th	07:30pm	EA Degree	By Lodge Nitshill, No.1478
*Thursday	21 st	07:30pm	EA Degree	At Lodge Thistle & Crown, 1167

February 2016

Friday	05 th	07:30pm	Business meeting followed by 192 nd Anniversary Dinner	
*Monday	08 th	07:30pm	FC Degree	At Lodge Nitshill, No. 1478
Tuesday	16 th	07:30pm	Dramatisation	Burns v Kipling

March 2016

Tuesday	01 st	07:30pm	Business meeting including P.G.L.R.E. Visitation	
*Thursday	10 th	07:30pm	FC Degree	At Lodge Dunlop Caledonia, No. 1408
Tuesday	15 th	07:30pm	FC Degree	By Lodge Ardrossan St John, No. 320
*Tuesday	29 th	07:30pm	FC Degree	At Lodge Pollokshaws RA, No. 153

April 2016

Tuesday	05 th	07:30pm	MM Degree	By the Lodge Instruction Class
Tuesday	19 th	07:30pm	EA Degree	By Lodge Thistle & Crown No. 1167
*Tuesday	26 th	07:30pm	EA	At Lodge Prince of Wales No. 426

May 2016

Tuesday	03 rd	07:30pm	Dramatisation	Prisoners of War
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September 2016

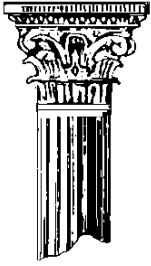
Tuesday	06 th	07:30pm	FC Degree	By Lodge Prince of Wales, No.426
Tuesday	20 th	07:30pm	MM Degree	By the Lodge Instruction Class

October 2016

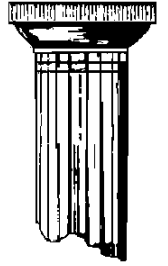
Friday	07 th	07:30pm	Open night dramatisation, The Table of Scottish Freemasons	
Tuesday	18 th	07:30pm	Annual General Meeting	

November 2016

Tuesday	01 st	07:30pm	MM Degree	Dramatisation
Tuesday	15 th	07:30pm	MMM Degree	By Bro. Alan Bernard IPM
Saturday	26 th	04:00pm	Installation	2016-2017



OFFICE BEARERS 2015 - 2016



RWM	Ian Blair
WSW	Christopher Baillie
WJW	Kenneth Beatts
IPM	Alan Bernard IPM
Depute Master	William H Gauld PM
Substitute Master	George McGrandles
Secretary	James Miller PM
Treasurer	James Kerr PM
Almoner	Alexander White
Senior Deacon	Ronald McIsaac
Junior Deacon	Nicol Hynd
Inner Guard	Robert Clark
Senior Chaplain	Alan Ross
Junior Chaplain	Steven Ross
Director of Ceremonies	David McArthur PM
Architect	Roy Farquhar
Jeweler	Tommy Wilson
Bible bearer	Lee Renfrew
Director of Music	Lawrence Webb
Organist	Billy Petrie
Marshall	Adam Watson
Standard bearer	John Miller
President of Stewards	Evans Reid PM
Steward	Gordon Neil
Tyler	Jimmy Laing

