

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



May 2026

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No. 494

Editorial



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It never ceases to surprise how often, in the course of everyday life—whether socially, professionally, or by pure chance—you meet someone who is more than willing to exchange ‘The Grip’. It’s remarkable how quickly that simple gesture can break the ice. Within minutes, two strangers can feel like long-lost friends, pledging lifelong fraternity on the strength of a connection that is, if we’re honest, sometimes rather tenuous.

Yet there is an unfortunate truth behind these encounters. All too often, this newly rediscovered Brother hasn’t crossed the threshold of a Masonic Temple in years. Beyond the Grip itself, he may struggle to recall even the basics of the Craft he once embraced.

In Scotland, this is a familiar phenomenon. Thousands join our ranks from every walk of life, yet many never return after their initiation. If even a modest number of these “Lost Brethren” attended their Mother Lodges regularly, every Lodge in the country would be filled to capacity at every meeting. Their reasons for absence are many - often valid, often understandable - and we have explored them at length in these pages.

But the heart of the matter is simple. Many of these absent Brethren would return if only someone reached out. Some have never been asked. Others feel embarrassed, convinced they have forgotten too much to come back with confidence.

Every one of us knows at least one Brother in this position. So we set a challenge to all our readers, members of Union & Crown and beyond. During the Summer recess, when life moves at a gentler pace, take a moment to encourage one such Brother to return. Approach him kindly, tactfully, and without judgement. Let him know the Lodge would be delighted to welcome him home, and that any forgotten signs or ritual can be refreshed quietly and informally.

The task is simple. The potential reward is great.

And with a bit of collective effort, we hope to see the results of your endeavours when we gather again in September.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

By the Brethren of the Lodge Nitsbill, No.1478



Tuesday 15th September 2026

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Fellowcraft Degree

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

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid PM, Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 5th May, the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class conferred a fine Dramatised Master Mason Degree, before a goodly number of Brethren and visitors.

All of those taking part rose to the occasion, and gave a fine performance, creating just the right atmosphere which was enjoyed by all

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.14pm

Attendance : 53

Visitation



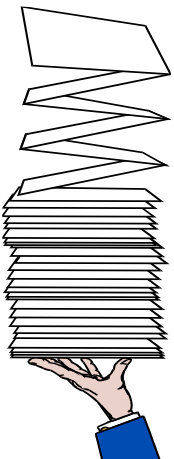
On Thursday 28th May a deputation of 14 brethren travelled through to Clydebank, where we were attending Lodge Barns O'Clyde, No.1018. The Brethren of 1018 had been frequent visitors to Union & Crown over the session, and it

was felt that it was time that we returned the compliment.

On that evening we were well rewarded as the visitors to 1018 were Lodge Leven St John, No.170 who were conferring their fabled Fellowcraft Degree upon a substitute Candidate.

Lodge 170 follow the McBride Ritual, one of only four Lodges in Scotland, and the Brethren were very keen to see their working of the Second, Square or Fellowcraft Degree. Those in a packed Temple were not disappointed with Leven St John's performance, using the special and particular paraphernalia used.

Paper Appeal



Due to a rapid, and unexpected, decline in our stock, we are in grave danger of running out of that most essential of commodities – PAPER.

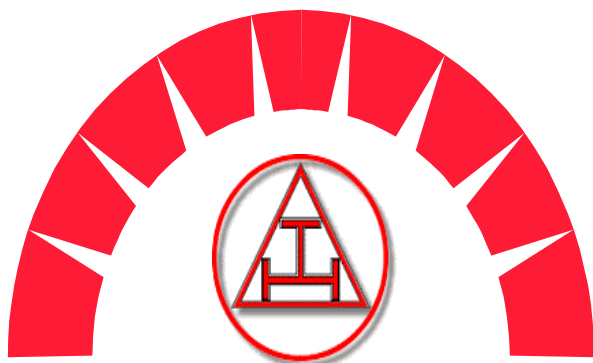
As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² copier or duplicator paper, preferably white but any colour will do. Without sufficient stocks, we simply cannot print enough copies of our journal to satisfy our wide-ranging readership. So if you have the odd ream lying about just let us know and we'll even arrange to have it picked-up if necessary.

Dates for your Diary



- Saturday 27th June** Visitation to Lodge Scone & Perth, No.3, where we have been invited to confer the Dramatised PoW Degree.
- Tuesday 1st September** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an EA Degree will be conferred by Lodge Nitshill, No.1478
- Friday 3rd September** Visitation to Lodge Craigends, No.1042 where we have been invited to confer the Fellowcraft Degree.
- Tuesday 15th September** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an FC Degree will be conferred by Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167
- Monday 21st September** Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

(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 our RWM or any senior Office-bearer, and 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 May, the Companions of Rockmount conferred a fine Royal Arch Degree upon

Brother Derek Smillie

And all who took part, including a late substitution from one of our visiting Companions, are to be congratulated for their efforts before an attendance of almost 40 Companions

At the close of the meeting, all retired downstairs where they enjoyed a pleasant harmony in each other's company.

MEC James Renfrew MEZ cordially invites all to the next Regular meeting of the Chapter to be held on Tuesday 8th September at 7.30pm, where Rockmount RAC will be holding its annual business meeting, and nomination and election of Office-bearers for the forthcoming 2026-2027 session

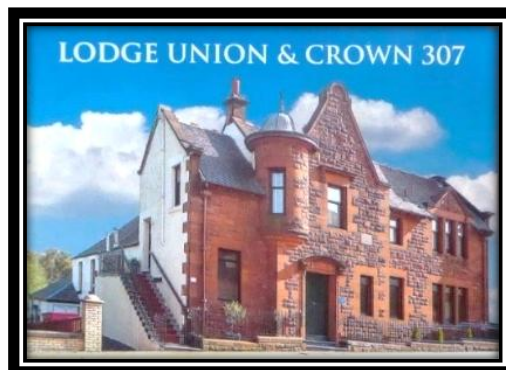
Any Brethren who perhaps may be interested in joining the Royal Arch should have a word with any of the Chapter Office-bearers.

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 stands, a magnificent total of almost £750 has been raised so far.



Masonic Trivia

- In 1860 in Limerick, Ireland, there was found in a small chapel a stone dated 1517 with the following inscription: *"I will serve to live with love & care Upon the level, by the square."*
- The Commissioner of Patents In 1872 ruled that the Masonic Square and Compasses emblem could not be used in any trademark or trade name for commercial purposes
- Lux in Tenebris Lodge # 3856 in London is for blind Masons. The Latin words mean "Light in Darkness."
- By Ancient custom, the King was always covered while his subjects were never covered in his presence. The American custom of the Master of the Lodge wearing a hat as a symbol of his authority is apparently a result of that ancient custom.
- Anthony Sayer, the first Grand Master of the Premier Grand Lodge in London, was chosen because he was the "Oldest Master Mason then Master of a Lodge."
- Masonic "Firing Glasses" of 18th Century England are priceless collectors items. Used for toasts, their thick bases were a protection when rapped upon the table in unison to accentuate applause, causing a sound similar to firing

BITS & PIECES

- Bro Ian Blair, our worthy Treasurer, is still looking for some of our test fee paying Brethren to pay their annual dues.
- Our Right Worshipful Master – Bro Alan D Izatt is took part in a 'Reigning Masters' Degree' at Lodge Nitshill on Monday 25th May and he was well supported by a fine deputation of our own Brethren on that evening.
- The Lodge is conferring our Dramatised PoW Degree within Lodge Scone & Perth, No.3 on Saturday 27th June. If you're interested in travelling up to Perth, it isn't too late to give your name to Bro Campbell Ritchie WSW.
- We are delighted to report that the new 'Stairlift' has now been fitted to the Back Stairs in the Lodge. This should make it so much easier for some of our less able Brethren in the future.
- We are glad to report that the newly revamped Lodge Website - <http://unionandcrown307.co.uk> has received glowing reports from many of our own Brethren and Brethren from other Lodges.
- We gather that Bro Lawrence Webb our worthy Almoner, has been persuaded to return to work a couple of day a week, having retired just over a year ago. Apparently his company just could do without his special talents. We hope that he isn't neglecting the Lodge Gardens which he kindly took on when he retired ?
- We gather that Bro Douglas Junner PM is now the oldest member of Barrhead Bowling Club at a sprightly 86 and was given the honour of raising the Club Flag on opening day.
- Many Congratulations to Bro Hugh Cattigan PM who celebrated his 70th Birthday during May with a family BBQ (and several nights out !!!)
- Thanks again to Bro Lawrence Webb for a further kind donation of paper.
- Hearty congratulations to Bro Willie Renfrew PM who was recently presented with Honorary Membership at Lodge Pollokshaws RA, No.153
- We are delighted to hear that Bro Donald Cook PM's lovely wife is making an excellent recovery after major heart surgery earlier in the year.
- Bro Graham Manson PM, our faithful Instruction Master would be delighted to see some new recruits at the Instruction Class on a Monday evening. He'll be only too glad to help you out and let you go forward when you're ready to take the floor.
- We are informed that Bro Mark Lawn has recently changed job and we wish him well.

Famous Freemasons

(Continuing our series about Famous Brethren, this month we turn to the Brother who was the 33rd President of the United States)

Bro Harry S Truman (1884-1972)

Harry S. Truman was the 33rd President of the United States, serving from 1945 to 1953. A self-made Midwesterner, he rose from a Missouri farmer and World War I artillery captain to the presidency following the sudden death of Franklin D. Roosevelt. And guided the US through the end of World War II and the dawn of the Cold War.

Harry S. Truman was born in Lamar, Missouri, on May 8, 1884, and raised in nearby Independence. He was the oldest child of John Anderson Truman and Martha Ellen Young Truman. He was named for his maternal uncle, Harrison "Harry" Young. His middle initial, "S", is not an abbreviation of one particular name. Rather, it honours both his grandfathers, Anderson Shipp Truman and Solomon Young, a somewhat common practice in the American South at the time.

While Truman's ancestry was primarily English, he also had some Scots-Irish, German, and French ancestry.

When Truman was six, his parents moved to Independence, Missouri, so he could attend the Presbyterian Church Sunday School.

Due to the lack of funds for college, Truman considered attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, which had no tuition, but he was refused an appointment because of poor eyesight. He enlisted in the Missouri National Guard in 1905 and served until 1911 in the Kansas City-based Battery B, 2nd Missouri Field Artillery Regiment, in which he attained the rank of corporal.

Harry S Truman was initiated into Belton Lodge No. 450 in Belton, Missouri 1909 at the age of 25.

During World War I he served as a captain in the Field Artillery in France, where his leadership earned him deep devotion from his men. After his wartime service, Truman returned to Independence, where he married Bess Wallace on June 28, 1919. The couple had one child, Mary Margaret Truman.

Truman is the only president since William McKinley (elected in 1896) who did not earn a college degree. In addition to having briefly attended business college, from 1923 to 1925 he took night courses toward an LL.B. at the Kansas City Law School but dropped out after losing re-election as county judge.

After a failed Kansas City haberdashery, he entered politics with the help of the local Democratic machine, serving as a county judge and presiding judge. Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1934, he later gained national prominence during World War II as head of the "Truman Committee," which famously exposed government waste and wartime contract fraud.

As Vice-President, he accidentally ascended to the presidency in April 1945, following the sudden death of Bro Franklin D Roosevelt, and within a few short weeks he made



the monumental decision to authorize the use of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to force Japan's surrender.

Following the end of WWII, he implemented the Marshall Plan to rebuild war-torn Europe and established the Truman Doctrine to contain the spread of communism. In 1949, and he oversaw the formation of NATO.

Truman overcame low approval ratings and deep splits in his own party to secure a historic, surprise victory over Republican Thomas E. Dewey and championed domestic policies called the "Fair Deal" and signed Executive Order 9981 in 1948, which officially desegregated the U.S. Armed Forces.

He ordered U.S. troops to defend South Korea against a communist invasion in 1950 and famously relieved General Douglas MacArthur of his command after the general publicly challenged his wartime strategies.

A deeply devoted Freemason, he remained active throughout his life and once said that becoming Grand Master of Masons in Missouri was one of the greatest honours he ever received — an achievement he valued even above the presidency itself.

He was a Founding member and first Worshipful Master of Grandview Lodge No. 618 in Missouri and was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri in 1940, while serving as a U.S. Senator

The only U.S. president known to have celebrated 50 years as a Freemason while still living.

For many Masons, Truman remains an example of humility, service, integrity, and quiet leadership — a man whose work ultimately spoke louder than public opinion.

After leaving office in 1953, Truman retired to Independence, Missouri, where he oversaw the creation of his presidential library. He died on December 26, 1972, at the age of 88, leaving behind a legacy as an accidental president who made some of the most critical decisions in modern history.



Almoner's Report

Bro Jim Laing was involved in a car accident, I visited him at the R.A.H and he is doing well. I also went to see Bro Billy Little at his house, and he is slowly recovering after his operation.

I spoke with Bro Micheal McBride and passed on our sympathy, following the sad passing of his mother. Bro Stewart Gray PM is recovering from his treatment and doing well. We wish him all the best.

While doing the garden recently, I had a great chat with the late Bro Tom Wilson's wife Liz, and she she is doing very well.

Can I wish everyone the best over the recess period. Please don't hesitate to contact myself with any illnesses.

Brother Lawrence Webb ☎ 07514 772 560

The Brethren

By Bro Edgar Alan Guest

The world is needing you and me,
In places where we ought to be
Somewhere today it's needing you
To stand for what you know is true.
And needing me somewhere today.
To keep the faith, let come what may.

The world needs honest men today
To lead its youth along the way,
Men who will write in all their deeds
The beauty of their spoken creeds,
And spurn advantage here and gain,
On which deceit must leave its stain.

The world needs men who will not brag,
Men who will honor Freedom's Flag,
Men, who although the way is hard,
Against the lure of shame will guard,
The world needs gentle men and true
And calls aloud to me and you.

The world needs men of lofty aim,
Not merely men of skill and fame,
Not merely leaders wise and grave,
Or learned men or soldiers brave,
But men whose lives are fair to see,
Such men as you and I can be.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 49 Years Ago

No. 8

May 1977

REGULAR MEETINGS :

The following Five Candidates : T Bell, S Fell, C Maclean, L Brooks and I Ryan were presented for the Entered Apprentice Degree on Tuesday 3rd May and received a highly competent degree at the hands of the Instruction Class before an audience of 129 Brethren and visitors.

VISITATION :

On Friday 6th May a large deputation of Members of 307 headed by Bro Jack Richardson R.W.M., visited our friends at Lodge St Conval, No.1359 and conferred an excellent Fellowcraft Degree.

GRAND LODGE :

Five Office-bearers attended the meeting of the Grand Lodge in Edinburgh on Thursday 5th May. Amongst other business it was decided that the minimum Initiation Fee be raised from £15 to £20. The amount paid to the Grand Lodge would also be raised, from the present £3-50 to £5. These two decisions and all that they imply could probably mean that the present Initiation Fee of Lodge 307 would require to be increased.

100 CLUB :

The winners of the last draw before the recess were :

£10 : Mrs C Little, £3 : Jack Brown £1 : Roy Dinning

SOCIAL EVENTS

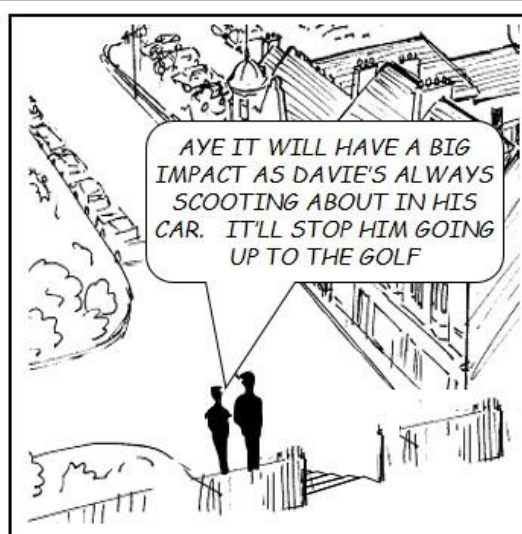
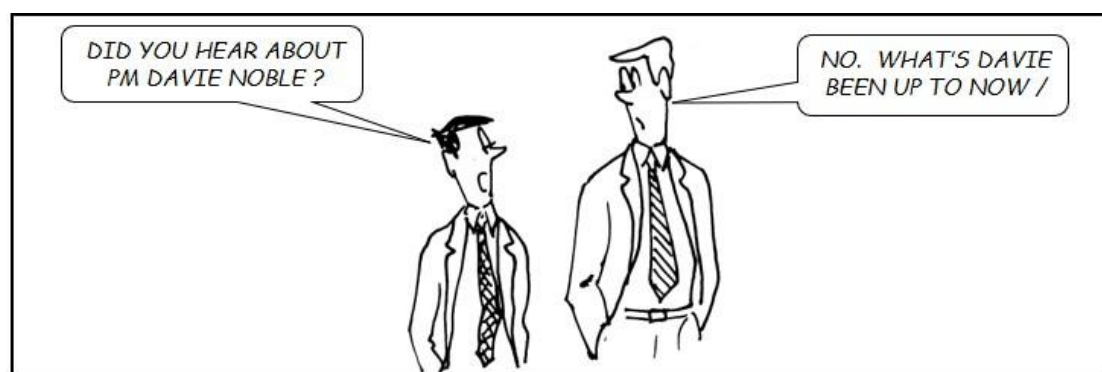
the Star Attraction at the Cabaret Night held on Saturday 21st May was Billy Jeffreys, a comedian and vocalist. A capacity crowd attended and were treated to a really excellent show. It is of interest to note that Billy is at present going through his Masonic degrees in Lodge Union, No.332.

A most enjoyable film night, organised by Bro Jim Dunn, was held on Friday 20th May, with two football films – Portugal Vs North Korea & England Vs The Rest of the World on show.

POINTS of INTEREST :

In the recent local Elections for Renfrew District Council, two SNP Candidates – Bro Jim McLeod and Bro James Simpson, both members of 307, were returned with handsome majorities.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW MAY 2026

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

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown307.co.uk>