

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



September 2026

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No. 496

Editorial



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For generations, countless Brethren have felt it right and proper to support their Mother Lodge through regular contributions. They have given generously to collections, fund-raising efforts, and charitable ventures, many believing wholeheartedly that this was sufficient commitment to the wellbeing of their Lodge. Yet only in recent years have many begun to recognise the true cost of sustaining Freemasonry. In these challenging times of financial uncertainty, it is perhaps wise for all of us to reflect seriously on this important matter.

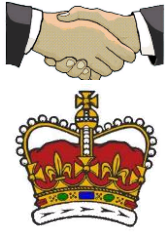
Every Lodge faces unavoidable, year-round expenses: building maintenance, repairs, rates, electricity, gas, insurance, telephone charges, and—where premises are rented—the ever-increasing cost of hall hire. These obligations remain constant regardless of how healthy or strained a Lodge's finances may be.

In addition, every Lodge must meet one significant annual cost: the Capitation Fee payable to Grand Lodge. At present, this stands at around £40 per member and is expected to rise to £50 in the very near future. When you consider the number of Brethren on our Lodge roll, this can amount to a substantial sum approaching £4,000 due each year, irrespective of attendance levels or financial circumstances. One does not need to be an accountant to appreciate that, while entirely justified, this charge places considerable pressure on Lodge finances in these austere times.

So what is the solution? Many Brethren attend regularly, contribute a few pounds to the collection, and if not Life Members, pay their annual Test Fees. In their view, the responsibility for meeting the Capitation Fee lies solely with the Lodge.

The reality, however, is different. Each of us must consider what is truly expected of us and accept personal responsibility for contributing our fair share. You may choose to call this a "Fee of Honour," but perhaps it is better described as a "Fee of Reality," for the reality is simple: Freemasonry cannot survive in any meaningful form if we do not collectively pay our way.

Brethren, let us ensure that we each contribute something toward the genuine cost of being a Mason. Better still, attend your Lodge, hand your Treasurer the Capitation Fee, or set up a small monthly Standing Order to spread the cost. Above all, do not leave your Lodge to shoulder a burden it can ill afford



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 6th October 2026

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Master Mason Degree

By the Brethren of the Instruction Class

Harmony

Tuesday 20th October 2026

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Annual Business Meeting

Including Submission of Reports, Election of Office-Bearers etc.

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid PM, Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 1st September, the following Candidate :

Fraser McCuish

was initiated in to the mysteries and privileges of the Entered Apprentice Degree by a deputation of Brethren from Lodge Nitshill, No.1478, in what was a fine First Degree. The Brethren were led by their Right Worshipful Master – Bro Martin Stobo, who must have been proud of the high standard of his Brethren.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.32pm

Attendance : 75

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 15th September, the same Candidate, was passed to the second, square or Fellowcraft Degree by the Brethren of our near neighbours – Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167.

Unfortunately, due to holiday arrangements, their RWM – Bro Andy Irvine was unable to attend, but his place was more than capably filled by Bro Ian Brenchley IPM.

All in attendance cannot fail to have been impressed by the particularly high standard of ceremonial on that evening.

On the same evening, Bro Jim Miller PM was presented with his 60 year diploma. Our own RWM Bro Alan Izatt was assisted by Bro Jim McDonald RWM of Lodge Rutherglen RA, No.116 which was Bro Jim's Mother Lodge before he affiliated to Union & Crown in 1994.

The Brethren then retired to the Function Suite where all in attendance enjoyed a calm and relaxing harmony, after the exertions of the evening.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.11pm

Attendance : 68

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes over the last month were :

1st September £20 : **Bro Donald Cook PM** £10 : **Bro Bobby Clark PM**

15th September £20 : **Bro Billy Dickie** £10 : **Bro Hugh Cattigan PM**

Visitation



On Thursday 3rd September a deputation of 17 brethren travelled over to Linwood, where we had been invited to confer the FC Degree within Lodge Craigends, No.1042.

The brethren of 307 who took part are to be congratulated on delivering a fine FC degree which was very well received by all the brethren in attendance.

Dates for your Diary



- Tuesday 6th October** Master Mason Degree to be conferred by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class.
- Monday 19th October** Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
- Thursday 19th October** General Committee at 7.30pm
- Tuesday 20th October** A Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where our Annual Business Meeting will be held.

(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)

Almoner's Report

I managed to visit Bro Victor Chapman and his wife Ellen, who been in hospital, but was now home. I passed on the best wishes of the Right Worshipful Master and the Brethren of the Lodge and wished them well/

I paid a short visit on Mrs Sylvia Watson, the widow of Bro Adam Watson and mother of Bro David Watson P.M. She's doing well after a short stay in hospital and it is one day at a time.

I also had a great chat with the late Bro Ian McPhie's wife Nancy who's bearing up after a spell of ill health.

I telephoned Brother Jimmy Laing at home as his wife Ann had been in hospital but was now home recuperating. They passed on their regards to all at 307.

If anyone hears of someone who would appreciate a visit, please let me know.

Brother Lawrence Webb ☎ 07514 772 560

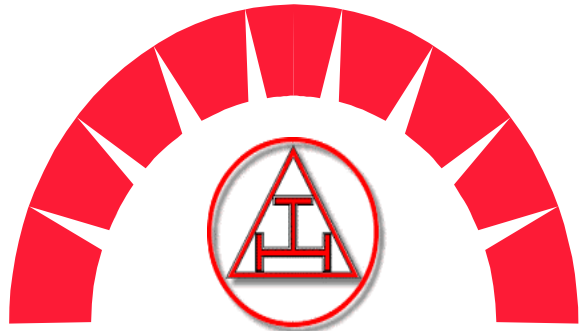
Famous Entered Apprentice

"Freemason" generally refers to a Master Mason, or one who has received all three of the degrees of Freemasonry. Those who have received only the Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft degrees are only initiated members, but without all the rights and privileges accorded to Master Masons.

President Lyndon B. Johnson was initiated into Freemasonry in 1937, in Johnson City Lodge No.561. Unfortunately, his congressional duties at that time made it impossible for him to pursue the second and third degrees.

Food for Thought

"Tact is a method of putting your foot down, without treading on anyone's toes"



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday, 8th September, the Chapter held its Annual General Meeting with the various reports presented, and all Office-bearers and committees nominated and elected.

Unfortunately, there were several offices still vacant due to a lack of volunteers coming forward, but it is hoped that these may be filled before the Annual Installation

At the close of the meeting, all retired downstairs where they enjoyed a quiet yet 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 13th October at 7pm, where the Annual Installation of Office-bearers will be held. All Office-bearers are reminded that dress is formal, and that white gloves should be worn, and that they are asked to provide a raffle prize on that evening.

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



Royal Arch

2026

Tues 13 Oct	Installation
Tues 10 Nov	Regular (EM)
Tues 8 Dec	Regular (RA)

2027

Tues 12 Jan	Regular (EM)
Tues 9 Feb	Provincial Visit @ 8-15pm
Tues 9 Mar	Regular (RA)
Tues 13 Apr	Regular (EM)
Tues 11 May	Regular (RA)
Tues 14 Sept	Chapter A.G.M.
Tues 12 Oct	Installation

Cryptic Council

2026

Tues 22 Sept	AGM & Installation
Tues 24 Nov	Regular

2027

Tues 26 Jan	Regular
Tues 9 Feb	Prov. Visit @ 7-30pm
Tues 23 Mar	Regular
Tues 27 Apr	Regular
Tues 23 rd Sept	AGM & Installation

Scottish Freemasons

Join New Great Britain-Wide Council



During the Summer, Scottish Freemasonry joined forces with male and female counterparts across Great Britain under a new national council.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland has become the latest member of the Council for Freemasonry in Great Britain, which now unites the country's major governing bodies under one banner.

The council includes the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), the Order of Women Freemasons (OWF), the Honourable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons (HFAF), and now the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Created in 2024, the council aims to strengthen collaboration between the organisations while promoting shared values including integrity, friendship, respect and service.

Its work focuses on public engagement, charitable projects, membership growth and challenging outdated perceptions of Freemasonry.

The inclusion of Scotland means the council now represents Freemasonry across the whole of Great Britain.

Bro Alexander Moncrieff, Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, said:

"The Council for Freemasonry is a vital platform that reflects our shared principles and commitment to community service Scotland's Freemasons are proud to join with our counterparts across Great Britain to strengthen understanding, collaboration, and the charitable spirit that underpins Freemasonry."

Bro Jonathan Spence, Pro Grand Master of UGLE, said: "The expansion of the Council to include Scotland is a historic moment for Freemasonry in Great Britain.

"It builds upon the vision that brought together male and female Freemasonry under a shared Council and demonstrates our collective commitment to openness, inclusivity and service to our communities."

BITS & PIECES

- Bro Ian Blair, our worthy Treasurer, is still looking for some of our test fee paying Brethren to pay their annual dues.
- Cufflinks with the Lodge's new 'Coat of Arms' are still available for sale. All interested should contact Bro Ross Aitken SM (☎ 07590 207 365) In addition, a lovely new Lodge Tie is also for sale at a bargain £15 !!
- The Lodge will be travelling to Greenock on Saturday 6th February to confer a Dramatised Degree within Lodge Greenock St John No.175 and all are encouraged to come along.
- Great to see Bro Douglas Junner PM at our last meeting.
- The Lodge has also accepted an invitation to confer the PoW Degree within a Lodge in Oban on Saturday 24th April 2027. If you're interested in travelling up to Oban, you should give your name to Bro Bryce McCaig WJW.
- Bro Andy Irvine RWM of Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167 was conspicuous by his absence from their recent visitation to 307. It turned out that Bro Andy, who won almost £7,000 on ITV's The Chase earlier in the year, was away spending some of his winnings
- Congratulations to Bro Gordon Neil and his lovely wife Ashleigh following their recent wedding. We wish them both well.
- 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.
- It was very pleasing to see that there were a fair number of visitors at our last meeting, from all over the Province and beyond.
- Great to see that Bro Billy Little has is up and about after his recent bout of ill-health which resulted in a spell in hospital.
- We gather that Bro Alan Bernard PM's daughter Jessica is now home from her extended stay in Australia. Bro Ross Bernard, Alan's son is making a life for himself in Australia, and possibly unlikely to return.
- We are led to believe that Bro Lawrence Webb is shortly to retire, for the second time !! His former company had asked his to return for a few months and he was only too happy to assist.
- We are told that Bro Marc Jones, our worthy Steward, has purchased a house down in Kilwinning and will shortly be moving.

Famous Freemasons

(Continuing our series about Famous Brethren, this month we turn to an actor who often played suave and sophisticated characters)

Brother Sir Roger Moore, KBE (1927–2017)

To millions around the world, he was James Bond the sophisticated, quick-witted British secret agent who portrayed 007 in seven films, making him the longest-serving actor in the iconic role. Others knew him as Simon Templar in *The Saint*, Lord Brett Sinclair in *The Persuaders*, or as one of Britain's most beloved actors.

To Freemasons, he was also Brother Roger Moore.

Brother Moore was initiated into Chelsea Lodge No. 3098, a lodge under the United Grand Lodge of England with a long history of members from the entertainment industry. Like countless Brethren before him, he became part of a fraternity dedicated to making good men better through the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.

Long before he became an international film star, Roger Moore answered his country's call to serve. Following the Second World War, he completed his National Service and was commissioned as an officer in the Royal Army Service Corps. He later transferred to the Combined Services Entertainment branch, where he entertained and boosted the morale of British servicemen stationed in West Germany. By the end of his military service, he had attained the rank of Captain.

After leaving the military, Moore pursued acting and built one of the most recognizable careers in television and film history. His breakout role came as Simon Templar in *The Saint*, making him an international television star before he was chosen to succeed Sean Connery as James Bond.

Between 1973 and 1985, Roger Moore portrayed 007 in seven films:

- Live and Let Die
- The Man with the Golden Gun
- The Spy Who Loved Me
- Moonraker
- For Your Eyes Only
- Octopussy
- A View to a Kill

His portrayal of Bond was known for its charm, humour, sophistication, and unwavering sense of duty, making him one of the most beloved actors ever to wear the famous tuxedo.

Yet, Roger Moore often said that the accomplishment he was proudest of had nothing to do with Hollywood.



In 1991, he became a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, dedicating more than 25 years of his life to helping children around the world. He travelled extensively to raise awareness for poverty, disease, education, and humanitarian crises, using his celebrity not for personal gain but to improve the lives of others.

His extraordinary humanitarian efforts led to him being knighted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 2003, becoming Sir Roger Moore, not for portraying James Bond, but for his outstanding charitable service to humanity.

Throughout his life, those who worked with him consistently described him as one of the kindest, most humble, and most gracious gentlemen in the entertainment industry a reputation that reflected the values Freemasons strive to live every day.

Brother Roger Moore reminds us that Freemasonry has long been home to men from every profession and every walk of life. Soldiers, craftsmen, teachers, first responders, doctors, actors, labourers, business owners, and public servants all meet upon the level. It is not fame, wealth, or status that unites us it is a shared commitment to building ourselves into better men so we can better serve our families, our communities, and our fellow man.

It's remarkable that despite examples like Brother Sir Roger Moore, Brother Danny Thomas, whose vision helped create St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and the countless hospitals operated by the Shriners, there are still people who insist Freemasonry is something sinister.

The truth is far less sensational and far more meaningful.

Time and again, history shows men quietly serving their country, giving to charity, caring for children, and improving their communities without asking for recognition. Those are the kinds of men Freemasonry seeks to encourage.

As Freemasons, we don't claim perfection. We simply strive to leave the world a little better than we found it.

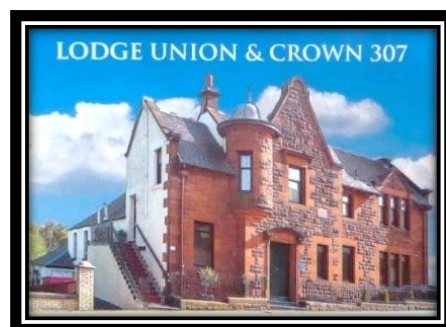
"The world is not enough... but kindness, charity, integrity, and brotherhood leave a legacy that lasts forever."



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.



Meet the Candidate

Our latest Candidate this month is **Fraser McCuish** who is 44 and lives in Rutherglen with his wife Lyndsey, and their three daughters aged 9, 7 and 4.

He works in business development with a firm which produce fasteners for the construction industry.

When he gets some spare time, he enjoys keeping himself fit in the gym and hillwalking

Ronald Reagan, 40th U.S. President

It is a popular misconception that former US President Ronald Reagan was a Freemason. However, he never joined a local Masonic lodge or went through the traditional initiation rites required to become a full Freemason.

On February 11, 1988, a group of Masonic leaders from Kansas City Scottish Rite visited the Oval Office to present him with an award. During this visit, he was given honorary Scottish Rite membership and an honorary membership in the Imperial Council of the Shrine.

Because these groups are tied to Freemasonry, receiving these honorary certificates often led people to mistakenly believe he was a full member of the fraternity.



Famous Names

JC Penney : Founded by Brother James Cash Penny. Wasatch Lodge No. 1, Salt Lake City. Give me a stock clerk with a goal and I'll give you a man who will make history. Give me a man with no goals and I'll give you a stock clerk.

Macy's :Founded by Brother Rowland Macy Merrimack Lodge, Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Kentucky Fried Chicken : Founded by Colonel Harland Sanders. Lodge No. 651, Henryville, Indiana. Hugh Harris Lodge No. 938, Corbin, Whitley County, Kentucky

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 35 Years Ago

No. 146

September 1991

Regular Meetings

On Tuesday 3rd September, the following three Candidates :

STEVEN ALLAN

ANDREW CLANNACHAN

ALAN CLUCKIE

were passed to the F.C. Degree by a deputation of Office-bearers and Brethren from our near neighbours Lodge Nitshill, No.1478. It was pleasing to see a good healthy attendance on such a fine evening with temperatures in the 70's.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-44pm

Attendance : 125

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 17th September the same three Candidates were raised to the high and sublime degree of a M.M. The ceremonial was in the capable hands of our good friends from Lodge Georgetown, No.1170 and all present witnessed a fine degree.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 10-09pm

Attendance : 119

100 Club

The fortunate winners for the month of September were as follows :

3rd September : £10 - Bro Robert Nixon P.M. £5 - Bro Graeme Wright

17th September :£10 - Bro David Dalglish Jnr £5 - Bro Billy Dickie

Bits & Pieces

It was good to see £600 donated to the Building Fund at the last meeting. The thanks of the Lodge go to each and every one of those who contributed

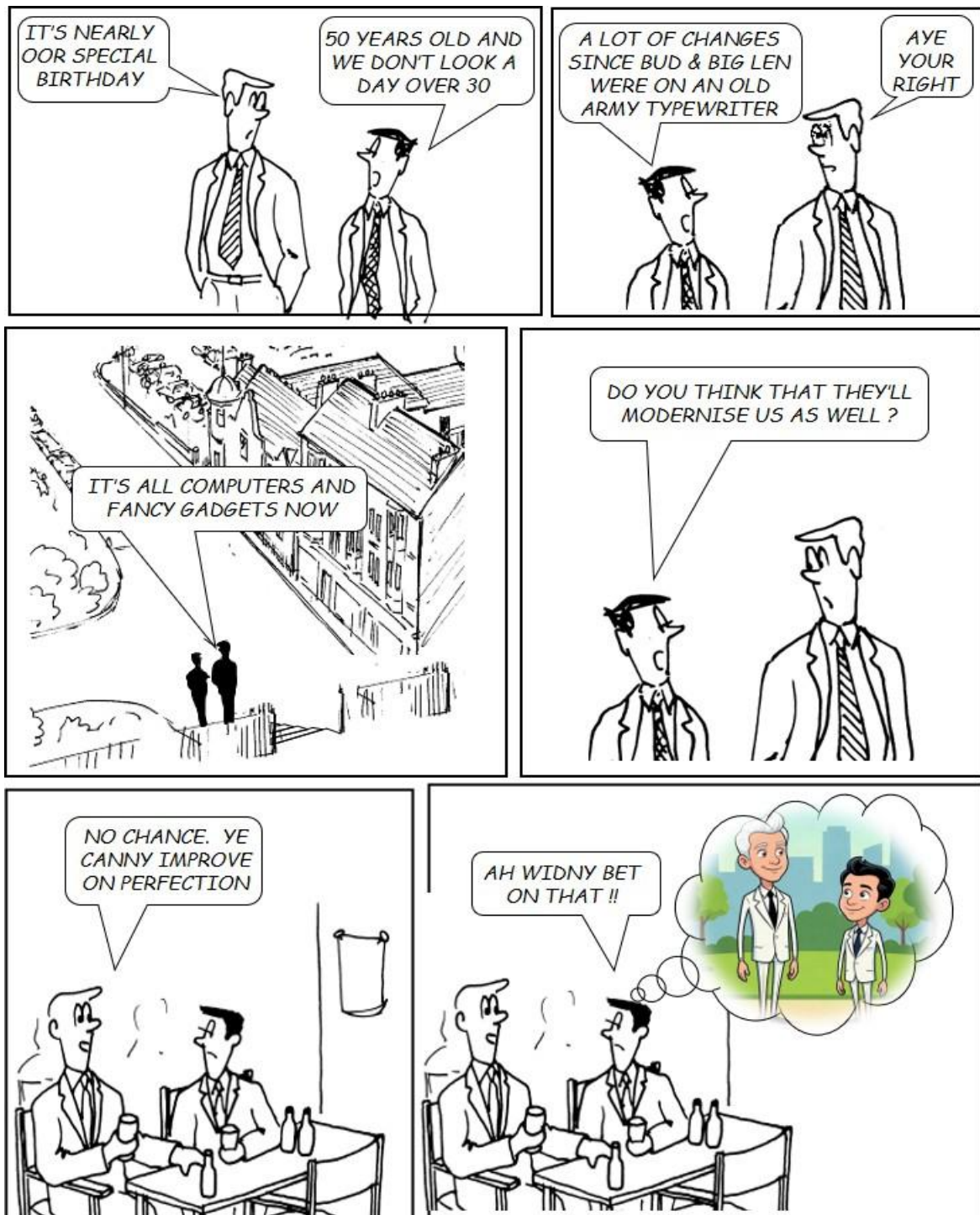
Congratulations to Bro Nigel Fennell and his wife Lorraine on the birth of a bouncing 8lb 4oz baby boy named Ross

The Football Accumulator, which so successful last year, has now restarted with big prizes available. See Bro Willie Renfrew W.J.W. if you are interested.

Many of the Brethren will have noticed that there appears to be an acute shortage of working aprons for general use at Regular meetings. We therefore appeal to those members of the Lodge who may have borrowed one in the past, please return it as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Bro Billy Leckie on celebrating his 50th Birthday.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J Renfrew – SEPT 2026

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

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