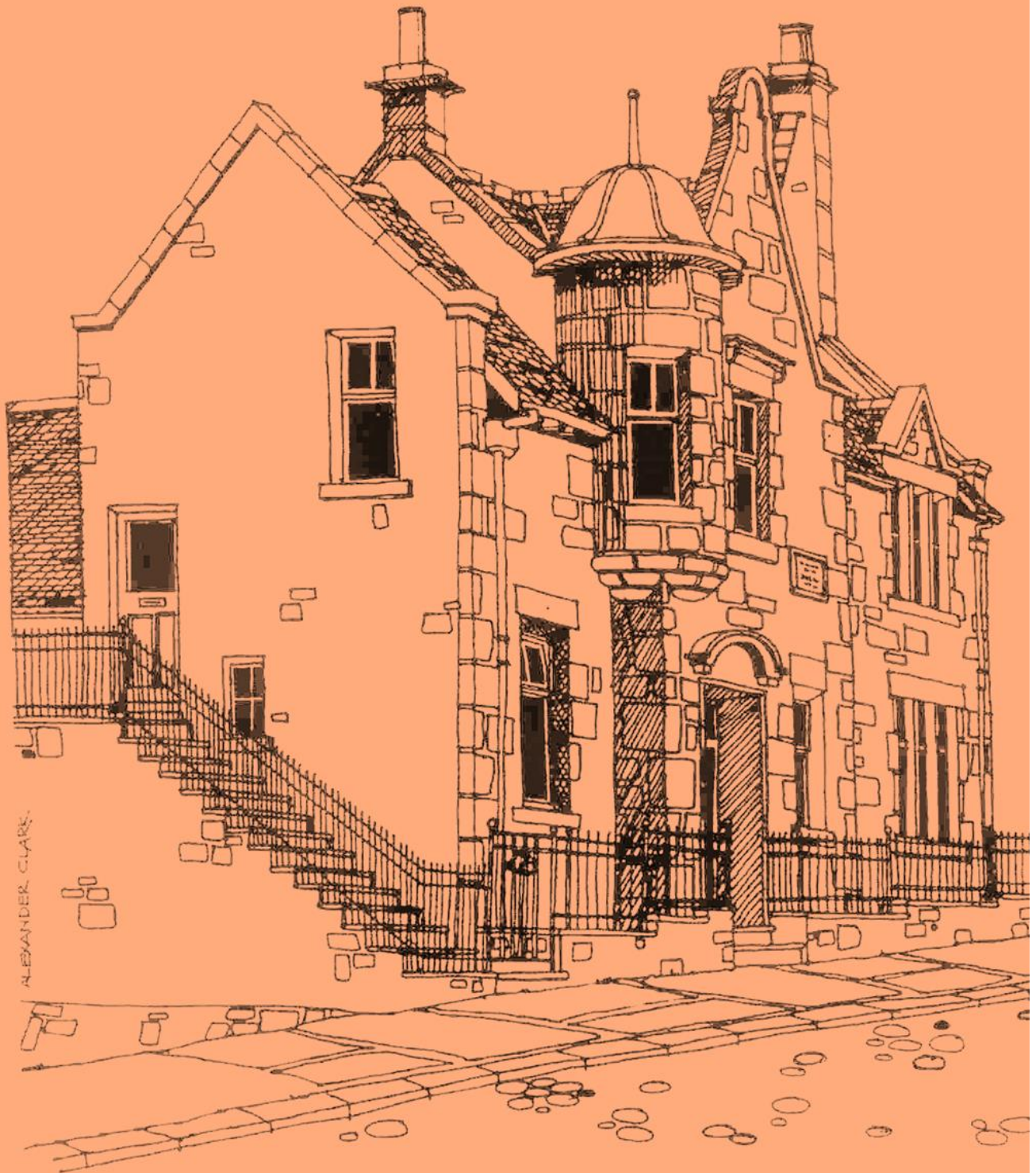


The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



September 2020

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

No. 436



September 2020

Well, we are certainly no nearer to a resumption of Daughter Lodges' regular meetings following the recent spike in the number of infections and deaths, which suddenly seem to be rising at a greater rate than they had previously during the early stages of the pandemic. Just when we thought there was light at the end of the tunnel, we discover that it was a false dawn and we are stuck in limbo, for what could indeed be a long period of inactivity within Freemasonry worldwide.

Indeed, if the dreaded "R" number doesn't come down, there are undoubtedly further restrictions and hardship for most of us to come. Many have grown accustomed to a different lifestyle as a result of COVID-19 and are making the best of what are difficult circumstances. Cancelled holidays, social distancing, face masks etc. have become the norm as we collectively adapt to the restrictions, imposed or otherwise.

However, there are a great deal of people who have failed to cope with what are in fact massive changes in their daily life, with some of our elderly Brethren and their families now housebound for over six months! Some people who live alone, and don't have an extended family who live locally will be finding it extremely difficult to adjust, and loneliness will be taking its toll, especially as winter approaches and the sun becomes a stranger. I firmly believe that we do not fully realise just how much our regular meetings mean to our elderly Brethren, indeed how much any human contact means to some individuals, who's health at the best of times is fragile.

I fully appreciate that government restrictions are increasing this pressure, and making it nigh on impossible to visit others, or even meet publicly, but we as Freemasons MUST do something to aid our Brethren in their time of need. As it stands, we cannot pay a friendly visit, but surely we can pick up the telephone and make a call to someone. Enquiring after their wellbeing, and ensuring that they have everything they require in these difficult times. I would assume that it will be several long months at the very least before we are able to restart our meetings, and implore the Brethren of Union & Crown to ensure that nobody is left alone.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

The Right Worshipful Master, Bro Ronald Angus MacIsaac intimates that, until further notice, there will be no Regular Meetings held within the Masonic Temple, Cochrane Street, Barrhead.

When formal clearance is received from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, it is hoped there will be a resumption of meetings.

Yours faithfully & fraternally

Brother David McArthur P.M. Lodge Secretary



Masonic Privilege

One of the general public's misconception about Freemasons is that we invariably 'bend the rules' for each other. It just isn't so. Just as a judge may be more strict with a policeman who has been charged, so masons tend to expect 'better' from fellow members and do not take advantage of membership.

A Freemason I know admits to being 'impaired' whilst driving and drove in to a tree. He says that the paramedic who treated him was a mason, as was the policeman who charged him, the solicitor who defended him, and the judge who tried and ultimately sentenced him.

At no time did he receive any special consideration, nor did he expect any.

He was treated with courtesy, but without any favour.

Club 33

On the subject of 'Privileges', do you know that there is a set of private clubs within the Disney Parks in the US called **Club 33**. Membership is restricted to Freemasons. To become a member, the fee is \$25,000 and annual dues are about \$10,000. The current waiting list for membership is over 14 years !!

BITS & PIECES

- Best wishes to Bro Alan Barnard PM and his popular wife Linda, on their 25th Wedding anniversary.
- Brethren can tune in to the 'Virtual Instruction Class' being held on most Mondays at 7.30pm. If you want to participate, contact Bro Robert Scott WSW.
- It's pleasing to observe that several of the Brethren are still working away keeping the Lodge Buildings up to scratch, despite the restrictions caused by Covid-19.
- We notice that a couple of the latest Past Master's Photographs are just about to be hung in the Lodgeroom.
- It is good to see Bro Alex Morrison out and about again, albeit in a restricted manner. Bro Alex who is 88, was visiting his daughter in Northumberland when the pandemic struck, and he was quarantined there for almost 4 months
- Our Worthy Treasurer has informed us that Lodge Test Fees are now due, and should be paid as soon as possible.
- On the subject of our Worthy Treasurer, in the absence of Regular Meetings, he intends to still make the draw for the 100 Club for each of the postponed meetings from March until the present day, so you could still be in line for a small windfall.
- Our Instruction Master, Bro. Tom Mulholland P.M. would like to remind anyone wishing to try their hand at degree work that they should be making full use of all the spare time during the 'Lockdown' to perhaps learn some ritual parts, ready to start back.
- Congratulations to Bro Gordon Neill and his lovely wife Lynne on the occasion of their 20th Wedding Anniversary
- It's saddening to realise that many of our senior Brethren have probably never stepped over their own front door since lockdown started back in March !
- Hearty Congratulations to Bro Adam G Watson on turning 80 recently
- That you can still participate in the '200 for 200' scheme being offered by the Lodge's Bi-centenary Committee? A single payment of £200 (which can be paid up over the next 3 years if necessary) will secure a range of 200th Anniversary benefits including Tickets, Jewels, Books etc. Almost 40 Brethren have already enrolled, and anyone interested should be Bro Robert Scott WJW as soon as possible.
- We notice that the Refurbishment of the upstairs gents toilets is proceeding at pace. The entire area is to be completely clad in 'Wet Wall' with new worktop, wash basins and hand dryers.

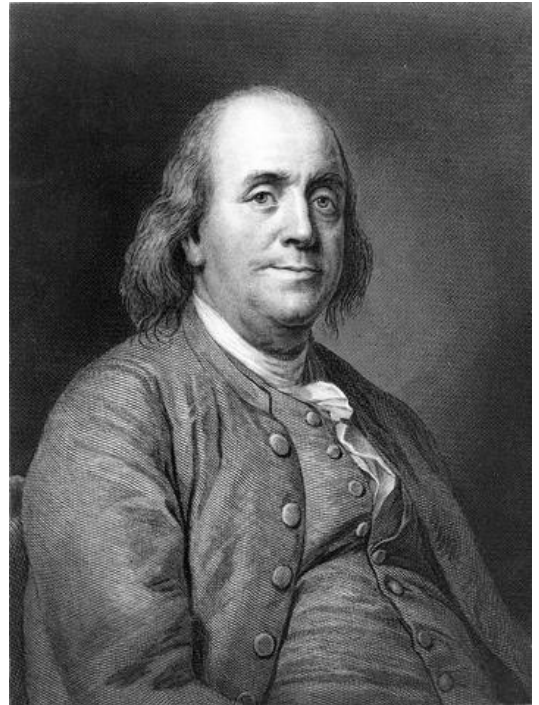
Famous Freemasons

(Continuing our series about Famous Brethren, this month we turn to one of the 'founding fathers' of the United States of America)

Bro Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790)

Greatest of American diplomats, hero of the War of Independence, distinguished also as publisher and printer, editor and author, a notable philosopher, a scientist whose valuable discoveries are even today highly esteemed Benjamin Franklin was also a devoted Freemason occupying for many years places of official prominence within the Fraternity.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin was the fifteenth of seventeen children of his father, Josiah Franklin, and his mother, Abiah Folger, who was Josiah's second wife. Like all his siblings, Benjamin was raised as a Christian. He attended the Boston Latin School until he decided to pursue a career as a journalist. Ending his formal education, he went to work as an apprentice printer for his brother, James Franklin: the creator of the first independent newspaper in the American colonies. At the age of twenty-four, Benjamin was hired by the Pennsylvania Gazette, where he was able to both publish and write editorials for the local community. One of Benjamin's defining characteristics was his seemingly insatiable desire for knowledge. He was driven by a love of learning that ultimately led him to become one of the best writers, statesmen, and scientists of his day.



The genius of Franklin was so overwhelming, and manifested in so many different directions, that no short biography can begin to list his achievements; the American Philosophical Society requires twenty large book pages merely to catalogue his inventions, discoveries, accomplishments and the events in which he was intimately concerned. Printer, author, editor, inventor, scientist, diplomat; founder of schools, postal systems, government; ambassador, wit, speaker; philosopher, politician and Freemason, he was not only the amazing intellect, the Voltaire of Colonial America, but one of the most complex and gifted men of all times.

Certain facts of his Masonic career stand out; particularly it is to be noted that Franklin was not merely a lodge member content with that and nothing more, but a Freemason intensely interested in his Craft, willing to give his enormous powers for its welfare, and leaving an indelible impress on its history in America.

Franklin was initiated into Masonry in 1731, at the February meeting of St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia. The esteem in which he was held is evidenced by the fact that he was elected Grand Master just a few short years later in 1735.

According to Old Masonic and family traditions, the cornerstone of the Statehouse in Philadelphia (Independence Hall), built while Franklin was Grand Master, was laid by him and the Brethren of St. John's Lodge.

Franklin lived to be eighty-five years old. Sixty of those years as a Freemason; he lived and wrote and practiced the principles of the Order.

It is not for us to say what he would have been had there been no Freemasonry in his life; it is for us only to revere the Franklin who was among the very greatest of any other nation. Freemasons in America take great pride that this wise philosopher, this leader

of men and of nations, had taken to his heart the immutable and eternal principles of the Ancient Craft.

Prominent scientist, inventor, and civic activist, the United States founding father Benjamin Franklin is perhaps one of the most famous Freemasons. Alongside his duties as Grand Master of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin formulated theories of positive and negative electrical charges and invented the lightning rod and bifocal glasses. Benjamin Franklin also printed the first Masonic publication in the colonies - a book called The Constitutions of the Free-Masons. It's one of the rarest books in the world today.

Franklin suffered from obesity throughout his middle-aged and later years, which resulted in multiple health problems, particularly gout, which worsened as he aged. In poor health during the signing of the US Constitution in 1787, he was rarely seen in public from then until his death.

Benjamin Franklin died from pleuritic attack at his home in Philadelphia on April 17, 1790. He was aged 84 at the time of his death. His last words were reportedly, "*a dying man can do nothing easy*", to his daughter after she suggested that he change position in bed and lie on his side so he could breathe more easily.

Lodge of Aitchison's Haven

Also spelled ATCHESON, ACHISON. This was one of the oldest Operative Lodges consenting to the formation of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736. The age of this Lodge, like many or most of the oldest Lodges of Scotland, is not known. Some of its members signed the Saint Clair Charters in 1600 and 1601. The place of its meeting, Aitchison-Haven, is no longer on the map, but was in the County of Midlothian. The origin of the town was from a charter of James V, dated 1526, and probably the Lodge dated near that period. Aitchison's-Haven was probably the first meeting-place, but they seem to have met at Musselburgh at a later period.

Lyon, in his History of the Lodge of Edinburgh, speaks of trouble in the Grand Quarterly Communication respecting representatives from this Lodge when in May, 1737, it was "agreed that Acheson's Haven be deleted out of the books of the Grand Lodge, and no more called on the rolls of the Clerk's highest peril."

The Lodge was restored to the roll in 1814, but becoming dormant, it was finally cut off in 1866. The Lodge of Edinburgh has long enjoyed the distinction of having the oldest preserved Lodge Minute, which is dated July, 1599.

Just recently Brother R. E. Wallace-James has brought to light a Minute Book bearing this title: The Buik of the Actis and Ordinans of the Nobile Maisteris and fellows of Craft of the Ludg of Aitchison's heavine, and contains a catalogue of the names of the fellows of Craft that are presently in the Zeir of God 1598.

The first page of this rare book bears in a bold hand the date 1598.

The Minute to which we have already referred is as follows :

"The IX day of Januerie the Zeir of God upon ye quhilk day Robert Widderspone was maid fellow of Craft in ye presens of Wilzam Aytone Elder, Johne Fender being Warden, Johne Pedden Thomas Pettencrief John Crafurd George Aytone Wilzame Aytone younger Hendric Petticrief all fellowis of Craft upon ye quhilk day he chois George Aytone Johne Pedded to be his intenders and instructouris and also ye said Robert hes payit his xx sh. and his gluffis to everie Maister as efferis"

We continue our series of articles which trace the history of some of the local Lodges. This month we trace the history of another of the earliest Lodges in the Province.)

The St John Operative Lodge, No.347

The first minute book of the lodge is dated on St. John's Day, 27th December, 1755 when the lodge met as 'Rutherglen Kilwinning Lodge'. The first Master was Patrick Fife and it was written into the minute book that the lodge "be regularly convened and opened on every St. John's day yearly and thereafter quarterly".

The minutes of meetings were very brief in those days and records only that a meeting was held and names of those attending. It is noted that the master was titled the 'Grand Master of the lodge' and not the Right Worshipful Master as is the title today.

Around the time of 1781 the lodge was know as 'The Lodge of Rutherglen Free Operatives' and the minute of March 23rd records that the lodge "gave out a Mark" although it doesn't state who the Mark was given to.

The Master of 1782, William Park called and a meeting of the Lodge but then didn't turn up at this meeting so the Brethren fined him "two Shillings Ster." which was a considerable amount of money in those days, also a brother who didn't attend the annual St. John's meeting was fined for "having no lawful excuse why he did not attend", just as well that we don't carry out this practice today on all office-bearers!!



The minutes start to give more information and on 5th December 1794 the minute records that a Brother Robert Rodger having been advanced in Masonry was raised to the degree of Master although the minutes still only gave 5 or 6 lines of information.

The name of the Lodge appears to change on 27th December 1826 when the minutes states that 'The Lodge of Rutherglen Free Operatives St. John' met to celebrate the life of St. John the Evangelist but by 19th January 1827 the name has changed slightly to 'The Rutherglen Free

Operative St. John's Lodge' and this minute shows the title of the master to be the R.W. Master. Later that year on 30 March the lodge was honoured by a large deputation from 'The Rutherglen Royal Arch Lodge in their clothing' and these visits are still an annual event to this day. By the time the lodge received it's charter on 30th November 1846 the name appears as 'The Rutherglen St. John's Operative Lodge' with Bother James Croft as R.W.M. and met in the Council Hall in the burgh. The first record of the lodge being known as 'The St. John's Operative Lodge Rutherglen' was in the minute of 16th July 1847.

On 9 April 1851 the lodge met with the brethren of The Rutherglen Royal Arch Lodge at ten o'clock in the morning and walked in procession from the town hall to the Cathedral of Glasgow where they met with other sister lodges where they heard an excellent sermon preached by the Rev. John Leckie after which His

Grace the Duke of Athole, Grand Master Mason, laid the foundation stone of the Stockwell Bridge with all Masonic Honours. The brethren travelled by train to Stirling on 24 June 1861 to assist in the laying of the foundation stone of the Wallace Monument at Abbey grange and also in July 1862 the lodge met with sister lodges to walk in procession to the United Presbyterian Church in Rutherglen where the Rev. William Beckit delivered a suitable sermon before the lodges attended the laying of the foundation stone of Rutherglen Town Hall by Bro. Sir Archibald Alison, Depute Grand Master of Scotland.

A ceremonial dagger was presented to the lodge by Brother George McCall in September 1868 that is still used in Entered Apprentice degrees today. In August 1874 the brethren and ladies of Lodge St. Barchan No. 156 joined with our members and ladies for refreshments then walked to Burnside for their annual outing. The first hall dedicated for the use of Freemasonry by our lodge had the Foundation stone laid in Cathcart Street on 6 March 1875 when approximately 800 members representing 28 lodges, plus Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge were present. The Temple was consecrated in November 1875 by Bro. Colonel Archibald Campbell, Prov. Grand Master.

The first lodge meetings to be advertised were in the Glasgow Evening News in 1894. The first recorded Divine Service took place in Wardlawhill Parish Church on 14 June 1903 when over two hundred brethren joined the congregation for worship and in 1912, four hundred attended a joint Divine Service.

The Lodge donated £30 towards the building of the new Grand Lodge Hall in Edinburgh in 1910.

During the first World War the average attendance was 110 per meeting with 30 meetings per year and 150 candidates. A number of brethren were killed during the Great War including 2 PM's and the IPM was hospitalised in Egypt and later killed in action in France.

At the outbreak of the Second World War the Lodge Temple was taken over by HM forces and we met in the WP church hall then in the 'Rechabite Hall'. Bro. Rev. P. Hamilton was among many brethren who were killed in action during World War Two.

Our contribution to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East was started by Bro. William Brough P.M. who was our first member to reach Provincial Grand Senior Warden followed by Bro. William Scott P.M. as PGSW in 1929, Bro. G. Hollinger in 1961 and Bro. D. McLelland was the last brother to serve as PGSW. Bro. J. Ian Duncan was commissioned as Provincial Grand Secretary by Bro. Frank Johnstone PGM.

In 1936 it was agreed to provide the PGL deputation with a steak pie meal, cigarettes, twenty five cigars and liquor – the bill of which not to exceed £2. Brother George Munn P.M. presented the Past Masters board to the lodge on 14 September 1945 to mark the end of World War Two.

A coat of Arms was designed and approved by Lord Lyon to mark our centenary in 1946. The centenary installation was held in Rutherglen Town Hall, with a church service the following day in Stonelaw Church.

Bros. J. Steel and R. Brown received honorary rank of Grand Bible Bearer. Bro. John Morrison P.M. Honorary Grand Architect in 1965. Bro. W.A.C. McInnes

received Honorary Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1990 and Bro. J. Ian Duncan received Honorary Grand Assistant Secretary in 2002.

The present Temple in Melrose Avenue was opened in 1971 and Bro. John Hunter was the first master to be installed in these premises. The lodge premises have been upgraded on many occasions .



Masonic Snippets

- Thomas Jacob Shryock served as grand master of Maryland for 32 years. He died after being elected to serve his 33rd term.
- On August 23, 1879, French Lodge No.239 held a meeting in the basket of a giant hot air balloon flying over Paris, at which time a brother was initiated into the Lodge.
- The largest Master's chair is in Ophir Lodge No.33 in Murphys, California. It is 15 feet long and can seat the Master, living Past Masters, and visiting dignitaries.
- On June 7, 1921, Mystic Lodge No.21 of Red Bank, New Jersey conferred half of the Master Mason degree on brother Lyman C. Van before the power went out. He didn't receive the rest of the degree until several weeks later, making him for a time, a "two and half degree" Mason.
- When the great Obelisk of Alexandria (Cleopatra's Needle) was moved to New York in 1880, there were discovered certain emblems on the original foundation and pedestal. One is clearly a square, leading some to conclude that Masonry existed in ancient Egypt. Obviously, this issue is still open to debate.
- On his famous solo flight across the Atlantic, Charles Lindbergh, an active Freemason, wore a square and compasses pin on his jacket as a good luck piece.

If you had it, would you give it ?

The face of freemasonry in any town is the local masonic lodge, and Lodge Union and Crown No.307 has, for many years, had been an excellent example of the craft within the town of Barrhead.

All new initiates to freemasonry are taught a very important lesson, that of charity, and how important it is to practice this virtue towards not only our fellow brethren of the craft, but also to those in our communities. The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 provided many examples of just how important charitable work can be to small towns and communities. Lodge Union and Crown No. 307 stepped forward.

In last month's edition of The Mallet we heard that ourselves, and a handful of local Lodges and PGLRE donated towards a charitable fund to support local foodbanks, who themselves, were struggling to meet the demands to provide the basics of food to those less fortunate of the community who struggled through lockdown.

As the challenges of lockdown continued to affect the town, and the stresses of separation from loved ones began to become more apparent particularly for the elderly, many of the brethren of 307, and indeed brethren of other lodges who are very close friends of 307, donated to a Community Project fund initiated by Bro. Secretary with the aim of offering support to local care homes and sheltered housing complexes of the town where residents had a connection to the lodge.

In less than one week, the brethren had donated an amazing **£1300**.

Enlisting the help of past Almoner Bro. Alex White, the care homes and complexes were contacted and asked what would help to raise the quality of life for the residents, even in some small amount.

Bro. Alex, true to form, produced a detailed list that was used to provide:

1. A multi-games table presented to The Firs care home to bring out their competitive spirits.
2. A 10" Fire Tablet presented to the Norwood care home to give residents both the opportunity to video call family members to chat and feel close for a while, and to provide music and visual entertainment to relieve the stresses of confinement due to COVID.
3. A 3m Parasol with base weight presented to Millview care home to allow residents to sit outside in the fresh air and sunshine; to have visits with family in a safe and sheltered outside environment.
4. A data projector with built in DVD together with an Amazon Firestick for streaming entertainment was presented to Westlea care home to provide their residents with different options of media entertainment to encourage their community spirit
5. Cheques for £150 each were presented to two of our sheltered housing complexes, with two more similar cheques still to be handed over to the remaining complexes.

Each donation was received with much thanks to the brethren of the lodge for the amazing kindness, generosity and consideration shown towards their residents.

Brethren, on behalf of all those you helped through your donations to the community project and the foodbank support initiative, thank you so very much. You are what freemasonry is all about, and we are immensely proud of 307 and the friends of the lodge who made such an impact and made a difference in the lives of many residents in Barrhead.



Almoner's Report

Over the past few weeks I've visited Mrs Marion Reid (widow of Brother Willie Reid) and she's getting on as well as can be expected.

I handed a card into Mrs Jean Shaw, the widow of Brother Jack Shaw she was visibly upset and unable to speak, I passed on the condolences of the lodge and tried to empathise.

I bumped into Bro Jimmy Laing coming back from lunch with some of the office bearers of lodge Dunlop Caledonian and he looked a million dollars, although he could still do with putting on a few pounds but is looking great.

I looked in on Brother Eric Gray and it's the best I've seen him this year. He is still waiting for some results from the hospital, but looking good, I believe that maybe it might have something to do with finally being able to get out the house on his electric scooter (and a wee visit to the local betting shop).

And finally, I checked in on Mrs Mary Ferguson, widow of Brother Donald and I was happy I did, as she was sorting several bunches of flower's into vases, the following day would have been Mary and Donald's 65th wedding anniversary. Her daughter was taking her to Peebles the following day for a wee break, it was lovely to catch up with her. She's doing well and I'm sure she will be reminiscing over the next few days.

Bro Alan Bernard P.M., Lodge Almoner

☎ 0141 583 4047

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 31 Years Ago

No. 126

September 1989

REGULAR MEETINGS

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 5th September the following two Candidates :

STEVEN AMABILE

PAUL JAMES CHERRY

were passed to the F.C. Degree by the Office-bearers and Brethren of Lodge Georgetown No.1170

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-52pm

Attendance : 132

At our Regular Meeting on Tuesday 19th September the same two Candidates were raised to the high & sublime degree of a M.M. by the Office-bearers and Past Masters of Lodge St John, Busby, No. 458. Those in attendance witnessed a fine degree and are to be congratulated for attending on an evening when Rangers were playing in a Skol Cup semi-final at Hampden.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-56pm

Attendance : 126

100 Club

The lucky winners for the month of September are as follows :

5th Sept £10 Bro Alan Weir £5 Bro Billy Dickie

19th Sept £10 Bro John Gray P.M. £5 Bro Jim Kerr

Bits & Pieces

Our very best wishes for many years of good health go to both Bro Tom Young PM & Bro Archie Douglas, who have recently retired.

Belated best wishes to Bro Willie Love's daughter Susan on her recent betrothal.

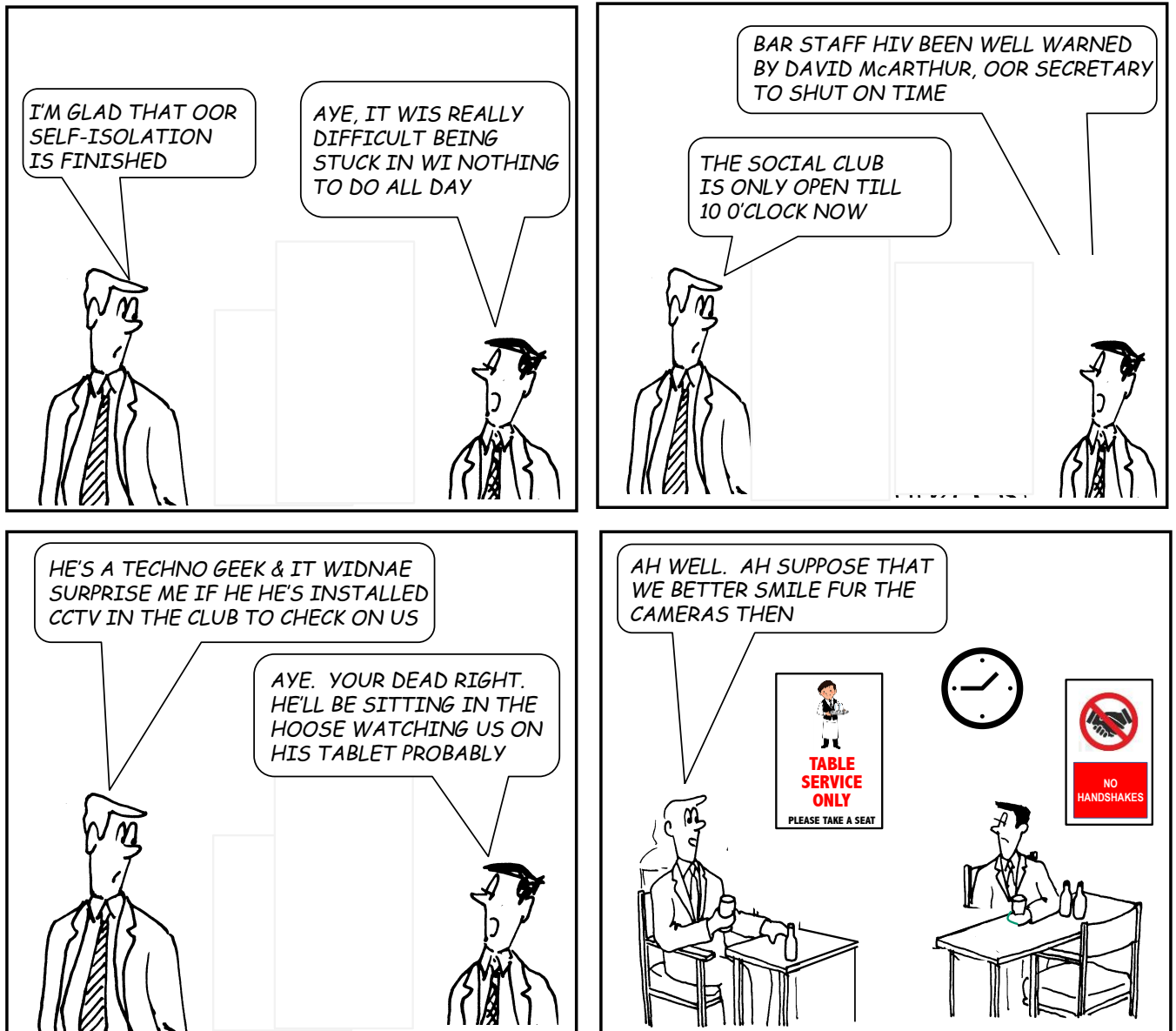
Bro Tom Forde's garden, after a year or two of inactivity, is now resplendent and lush. At great expense, Bro Tom has had it re-turfed.

Well done to Bro Colin Maclean after his recent success in the J & B Golf Tournament at Renfrew.

Bro Douglas Miller has at last secured a teaching post - in Campbeltown.

Bro Jackie Ross tells us he has purchased a retiral home in Largs.

MARK N° ARCHIE



J RENFREW SEPTEMBER '20

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

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown307.com>