

# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



October 2021

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

No. 447



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Whilst the attendances at recent Regular Meetings, since our resumption after the 18 month break caused by the global pandemic, have in some eyes been disappointing it is entirely reasonable just why this is. A rough average of around 45 per meeting is I believe very good considering what the Lodge, and the world in general has had to go through in recent times. From what we gather, other Lodges are struggling along with numbers attending below 20 !

Some people are understandably still extremely cautious about going out, especially in to crowded spaces. You just have to look at public transport, where buses with only a handful of people onboard are commonplace. You also have to appreciate that the average age of our attending Brethren is probably over 50 at least, if not higher. Perhaps we need to get across a clearer message to all our Brethren that the Lodge is rigorously enforcing **ALL** the governments strict protocols to ensure as much as possible that infections are kept at bay, and that everyone attending the Lodge is as safe as we can possibly make it with face covering in force right across the board, with sanitisers and 'deep cleaning' the order of the day.



We are fully enforcing our own version of 'Track & Trace' at all meetings, with The Sausage Club also under full control. Luckily, we have managed to avoid any instances of infections spreading, even though there have been disappointing rises within our local community.

So we would encourage as many of our Brethren to make an effort to attend their Lodge meetings whenever possible. Perhaps you have grown out of the habit of attending, but rest assured, we are doing all we can to make the environment in which we meet as safe as possible, and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible in the weeks, and months ahead..



# Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

*Dear Sir & Brother,*

*The Right Worshipful Master, Bro Ronald Angus MacIsaac cordially requests your attendance at the forthcoming Meetings of the Lodge to be held within the Masonic Temple, Cochrane Street, Barrhead on :*

***Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021***

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Burns vs Kipling*

*Dramatised Degree*

*Harmony*

***Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021***

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Mark Ceremonial by Bro Stewart Gray F.P.M.,*

*assisted by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class*

*Harmony*

***Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021***

***at 4pm***

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Installation of Office-bearers*

*Harmony*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

*David McArthur P.M., Secretary*

# Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October, after a short Business Meeting, James Ferguson and Bro Jack Crisp were affiliated in to the Lodge, with the obligation given by Bro Ronnie Maclsaac R.W.M.

Thereafter, the Brethren retired to the Function Suite where our Worshipful Junior Warden, Bro Robert Scott, gave an interesting illustrated talk about an important aspect of his former working life, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 8.06pm**

**Attendance : 38**

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, the Lodge held its Annual General Meeting with both Secretary and Treasurer gave detailed and informative reports on the workings of the Lodge during a peculiar period, where few regular meetings were held due to the pandemic. Thereafter, all Office-bearers and Committees were elected for the forthcoming year.

**Opened : 7-30 pm**

**Lodge Closed : 8.23 pm**

**Attendance : 39**

## 100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

**5<sup>th</sup> October**

£20 : **Bro Gordon Lawson**

£10 : **Bro Paul Smith**

**19<sup>th</sup> October**

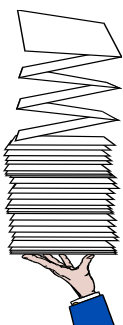
£20 : **Bro Paul Smith** (*again !*)

£10 : **Bro Ian Blair PM**

Bro George McGrandles P.M., our Treasurer, has started taking names for next year, which will commence immediately after our Annual Installation in November.

The annual fee is still very good value at £10, & anyone interested should see Bro George as soon as possible.

## Paper Appeal



As ever, we are still looking for that essential commodity – PAPER.

As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m<sup>2</sup> 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.

In addition, we also need 160g/m<sup>2</sup> card for various tasks within the Lodge..

# BITS & PIECES

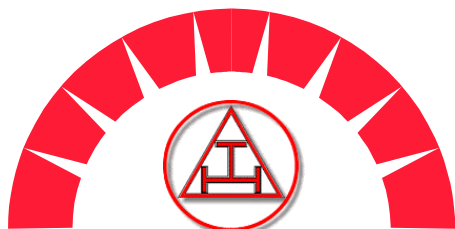
- Due to the current circumstances, and the low response, Bro Lawrence Webb our Social Convener has decided that the Annual Christmas Dance which was scheduled for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December has been called off.
- It was good to see that Bro Stephen Scott, our affable Senior Deacon, and his lovely wife Diane got the opportunity recently to fly out to Murcia in Spain to visit their family who now live there. It was the first time in over a year that they got to see their granddaughter Grace. Needless to say it was a joyous visit for all.
- Congratulations to Bro Ross Connolly who retained his hold on the Club Championship at Fereneze Golf Club.
- We see that Bros Jim Renfrew PM and Willie Renfrew PM both celebrated 40 years a member of the Lodge at the first meeting in October.
- It was good to see that the Lodge elected a full set of Office-bearers at our AGM yet again. A remarkable feat in these troubled times, especially when you see that apart from the executive offices, no past masters were asked to fill in any offices.
- It was pleasing to note that the Grand Lodge of Scotland has raised a further £800,000 for its chosen charity – Prostrate Scotland. We gather that their next push will be in support of 'Mental Health Scotland', another much deserving cause.
- On a similar subject, we gather that £1,6M has been raised by the Daughter Lodges in Scotland for a wide range of causes in recent times – Remarkable !!
- Congratulations to PM Willie Renfrew's daughter Clair who recently celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday.
- We see that our R.W.M.'s son Calum has started a new job with the multi-national company Aggreko. Qualified as a Marine Engineer, he's now decided to move ashore to further his career.
- We are sorry to hear that Bro Billy Dickie's recent spell in hospital was prolonged rather more than expected. We wish him all the best in his recovery from serious surgery.
- It was good to see Bro Graham Smith back at a recent meeting after a prolonged spell away.
- Best Wishes and heartiest congratulations to Bro Davie Noble PM who recently celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday with a family party at the golf club. Irrepressible as ever, Bro Davie remarked that his age and averaged golf score are almost identical !
- We gather that if the coronavirus situation continues to be stable, it is likely that the various clubs and organisations who use our premises will be permitted to return.
- Well done to our Almoner – Bro Alan Barnard PM who has produced sterling work throughout the pandemic and beyond. His thoughtful visit and telephone calls to the sick, aged and Widows of the Lodge have been greatly appreciated.
- Many thanks to Bro Lawrence Webb for his kind donations of much needed paper.

# Dates for your Diary



- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** Regular Meeting of the Lodge where a Dramatised 'Burns vs Kipling' degree will be performed by the Instruction Class.
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November** Regular Meeting of the Lodge where a MMM will be conferred by Bro Stewart Gray IPM.
- Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** Installation of Office-bearers at 4pm

*In addition to the above (COVID Restrictions allowing) the R.W.M. may be involved in unofficial visits to Sister Lodges, details of which can be obtained by contacting any senior Office-bearer who will be only too pleased to take you along with them)*



**Rockmount R.A.C. No.367**

The Companions of Rockmount met at an informal meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October to further discuss the way forward post COVID. There was a good attendance of Companions and the meeting was chaired by the ME First Principal MEC Harry Lloyd

The next regular meeting of the Chapter will be our delayed AGM on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, and this will be followed by the Annual Installation of the Chapter on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm

## Installation Dinner

Tickets for the forthcoming Installation Dinner on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November are now available for sale for either of our Worshipful Wardens.

There is a limited number available, and we would suggest that the Brethren move quickly to secure one before it's too late.

Lodge Union & Crown, No. 307

**INSTALLATION  
DINNER**

**Sat. 27th November 2021**

**Ticket £13.00**

# Famous Freemasons

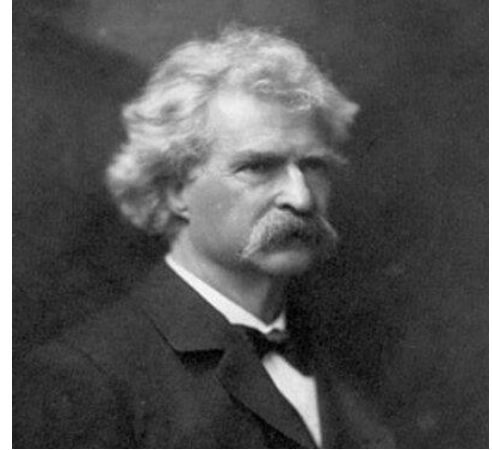
*(This month we read of the world famous magician, vaudeville star and escapologist)*

## Bro Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910)

Much better known by his 'Pen Name' – Mark Twain, he was the celebrated author of several novels, including two major classics of American literature: He was also a riverboat pilot, journalist, lecturer, entrepreneur and inventor.

Twain was born Samuel Langhorne Clemens in the tiny village of Florida, Missouri, on November 30, 1835, the sixth child of John and Jane Clemens. When he was 4 years old, his family moved to nearby Hannibal, a bustling river town of 1,000 people. His father worked as a storekeeper, lawyer, judge and land speculator, dreaming of wealth but never achieving it, sometimes finding it hard to feed his family. He was an unsmiling fellow; according to one legend, young Sam never saw his father laugh.

His mother, by contrast, was a tender-hearted homemaker who whiled away many a winter's night for her family by telling stories. She became head of the household in 1847 when John died unexpectedly. The Clemens family now was forced into years of economic struggle — a fact that would shape the career of Twain. He stayed in Hannibal until age 17. The town, situated on the Mississippi River, was in many ways a splendid place to grow up.



Steamboats arrived there three times a day, tooting their whistles; circuses, minstrel shows and revivalists paid visits; a decent library was available; and tradesmen such as blacksmiths and tanners practiced their entertaining crafts for all to see.

Sam kept up his schooling until he was about 12 years old, when he found employment as an apprentice printer at the Hannibal Courier, which paid him with a meagre ration of food. In 1851, at 15, he got a job as a printer and occasional writer and editor at the Hannibal Western Union, a little newspaper owned by his brother, Orion.

Then, in 1857, 21-year-old Twain fulfilled a dream: He began learning the art of piloting a steamboat on the Mississippi. A licensed steamboat pilot by 1859, he soon found regular employment plying the shoals and channels of the great river. However, his service was cut short in 1861 by the outbreak of the Civil War, which halted most civilian traffic on the river. As the Civil War began, the people of Missouri angrily split between support for the Union and the Confederate States. Twain opted for the latter, joining the Confederate Army but serving for only two weeks until his volunteer unit disbanded.

It was around this time that he was initiated in Polar Star Lodge No. 79, Missouri on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1861 and passed and raised shortly after. Only active in his lodge for about ten years, after a trip to the Middle East in 1867 he presented his lodge with a gavel made from Lebanese cedar.

Where, he wondered then, would he find his future? In July 1861, Twain climbed on board a stagecoach and headed for Nevada and California, where he would live for the next five years.

At first, he prospected for silver and gold, but nothing panned out, and by the middle of 1862, he was flat broke and in need of a regular job. Twain knew his way around a newspaper office, so that September, he went to work as a reporter for the Virginia City Territorial Enterprise. He churned out news stories, editorials and sketches, and along the way adopted the pen name Mark Twain — steamboat slang for 12 feet of water.

Twain became one of the best-known storytellers in the West. He honed a distinctive narrative style — friendly, funny, irreverent, often satirical and always eager to deflate the pretentious. He got a big break in 1865, when one of his tales about life in a mining camp, "Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog," was printed in newspapers and magazines around the country. His next step up the ladder of success came in 1867, when he took a five-month sea cruise in the Mediterranean, writing humorously about the sights for American newspapers with an eye toward getting a book out of the trip.

At 34, this handsome, red-haired, affable, canny, egocentric and ambitious journalist and traveller had become one of the most popular and famous writers in America.

In February 1870, he improved his social status by marrying 24-year-old Olivia (Livy) Langdon, the daughter of a rich New York coal merchant. The couple settled in Buffalo and later had four children. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer was published in 1876, and soon thereafter he began writing a sequel, Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. "All modern American literature comes from one book by Twain called Huckleberry Finn," Ernest Hemingway wrote in 1935.

After that, business and writing were of equal value to Twain as he set about his cardinal task of earning a lot of money. In 1885, he triumphed as a book publisher by issuing the bestselling memoirs of former President Ulysses S. Grant, who had just died. He lavished many hours on this and other business ventures, and was certain that his efforts would be rewarded with enormous wealth, but he never achieved the success he expected. His publishing house eventually went bankrupt.

In 1889, Twain published A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, a science-fiction/historical novel about ancient England.

Twain's last 15 years were filled with public honours, including degrees from Oxford and Yale. Probably the most famous American of the late 19th century, he was much photographed and applauded wherever he went.

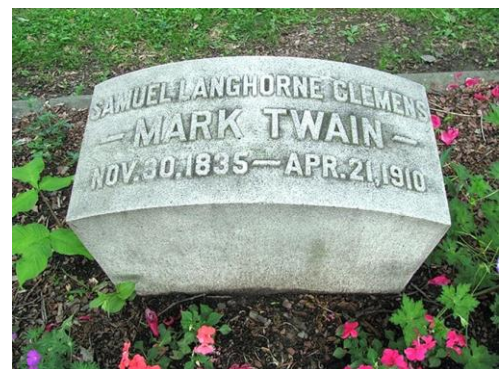
Indeed, he was one of the most prominent celebrities in the world, traveling widely overseas, including a successful 'round-the-world lecture tour in 1895-96, undertaken to pay off his debts. In June 1904, while Twain travelled, Livy died after a long illness.

Twain suffered volcanic rages and nasty bouts of paranoia, and he experienced many periods of depressed indolence, which he tried to assuage by smoking cigars, reading in bed and playing endless hours of billiards and cards.

Twain died on April 21, 1910, at the age of 74, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery Elmira, New York. The Mark Twain House in Hartford, Connecticut, is now a popular attraction and is designated a National Historic Landmark.

Twain is remembered as a great chronicler of American life in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Writing grand tales about Sawyer, Finn and the mighty Mississippi River, Twain explored the American soul with wit, buoyancy and a sharp eye for truth.

Freemasonry played little part in his many writings. In The Innocents Abroad Twain refers to God as the "Great Architect of the Universe" while in Tom Sawyer's Conspiracy he refers to a local pillar of the community as being a freemason.



In what may be the only public Masonic reference he made, he mentions "the grip and the word that lift a man up and make him glad to be alive" in a dinner speech to the New York City Lotus Club on November 10, 1900.

*(We continue our series of articles which trace the history of local Lodges. This month we look at our nearest neighbour up in the village of Neilston)*

## **Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167**

Lodge Thistle and Crown was originally chartered on 3rd February 1817 with the number 256 on the Roll of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Within a few short years, a re-numbering exercise undertaken in 1822, resulted in the Lodge being allocated the new number 267 on the Roll of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Unfortunately, in 1824 due to local economic conditions described at the time as a "depression" the Lodge was forced into "abeyance". During this period in 1826, a further re-numbering exercise by Grand Lodge allocated Thistle and Crown number 263. Sadly, after almost a quarter of a century of inactivity, the Lodge finally lapsed "into darkness" in 1848.

In April 1917 the local doctor in the village of Neilston, Dr David Pride MD, JP (a member of Lodge Union & Crown, No.307) wrote to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East seeking support for the "resuscitation" of the Lodge. A petition signed by thirty-seven local Masons, and supported by Lodge Paisley St Mirrins, No 129 and Lodge Craigends No 1042 was forwarded to Provincial Grand Lodge and received their support in October of that year.

A Charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland to "Thistle & Crown" on 7th February 1918, with the now familiar number of 1167.

Over the next forty years, the Lodge met in various places throughout the village of Neilston, including the Public School in High Street and the Glen Halls on Main Street.



In the early 1960s, the present building was purchased and converted to the fine Temple you now see. This was extremely fitting, as it had originally been the dwelling house of Dr David Pride MD (Knowle House), Thistle & Crown's founding Right Worshipful Master.

The premises, which are in a prominent position at the entrance to Neilston, were extended during the 1970s when a social club was added

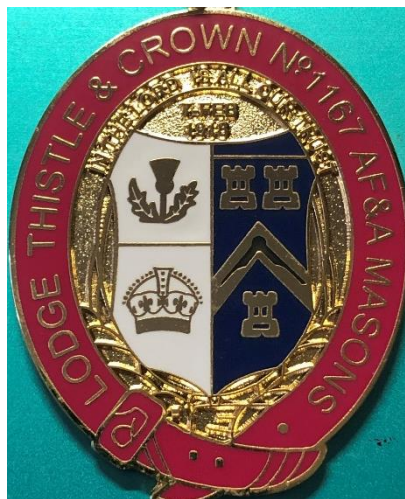
The Lodge continued to flourish in the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1993. Attendances over the years have fluctuated, mainly due to economic downturns, and the difficulty in getting public transport in the evenings.

The Lodge was honoured in 2012 when Bro John Samuel Miller PM was installed as Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, the first brother of 1167 to reach this exalted position.

In February 2018 the Lodge celebrated its Centenary with a series of functions, which culminated in a rededication by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, with the deputation headed by Bro Ewan Rutherford Depute Grand Master.

The Lodge has a high profile within the village and continues to further develop its relationships with the local community, having made several donations to local organisations to mark the Centenary in 2018. In 2019, they were very pleased to sponsor a Burns Competition in each of the two local primary schools.

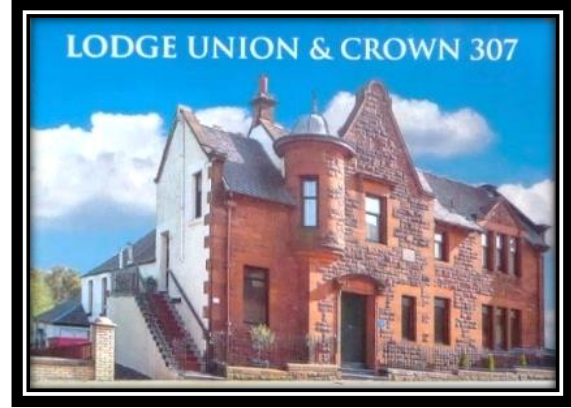
Meetings are held in the Masonic Temple, 1 Main Street, Neilston G78 3NN, at 7.30pm on the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month, from September through to May.



# 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](mailto:jimmiller307@hotmail.co.uk)

All proceeds will go to The Lodge Charity Fund, with an annual donation being made to a local charity each year at our Anniversary Dinner in February. As it stand, a magnificent total of £399 has been raised so far.



Well known actor Jack Carson, whose Hollywood career in motion pictures ran from 1937 to 1969, was the first of five candidates to receive the Entered Apprentice degree at Cecile Daylight Lodge No.305 in Independence, Missouri in 1936.

He was taught the proficiency while the other four candidates were being initiated. At his request, he then recited his Entered Apprentice proficiency that same evening, even examining himself with letter perfect proficiency!



## Freemasons' Hall, Richmond, Virginia



In 1865 when Union troops entered the city of Richmond in Virginia, a Union General, also a Freemason, ordered a guard placed at the Lodge building to prevent its burning.

In the ante-room of Richmond-Randolph Lodge No.19 there hangs to this day a beautiful sabre, with its original patina, left behind by a Union soldier following the unpleasantness while the city was still under military rule. That sabre is being held by the Lodge for the soldier to return and claim that relic of strife.

Freemasons' Hall in downtown Richmond is indeed the oldest Masonic Lodge building in continuous use in the United States.

# FLASHBACK

## Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 26 Years Ago

No. 187

October 1995

### Regular Meetings

On Tuesday 3rd October the following four Candidates : David Watson, Paul Elcock, Archie Tannock and Ian Milliken were passed to the second degree by a deputation of Office-bearers from Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew, No. 426 in what was a fine rendition of the F.C. degree which was greatly appreciated by all. Although the attendance was greatly affected by the televised match at Ibrox, all in attendance thoroughly enjoyed a fine evening in excellent company.

**Lodge Opened : 7-30pm      Lodge Closed : 9-24pm      Attendance : 97**

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 17th October the Lodge held its annual business meeting with the nomination and election of all Office-bearers and committees for the forthcoming year 1995-96. Prior to the Business part of the meeting, Bro Alex G Murray PGM and a small deputation from PGL entered the meeting and presented the Lord Blythswood Bowling Trophy to the winning rink from 307 and thereafter presented the Samuel Love Pairs Trophy to Bros Bill Simpson & Brian Estlick, a unique double for the Lodge.

Before retiring, Bro Alex was asked to accept Honorary Membership of the Lodge and thereafter obligated and presented formally to the assembled Brethren by the R.W.M. Bro Jim Kerr. It should be noted that the privilege accorded to the PGM is not lightly bestowed upon anyone and that the living H.M.'s of Union & Crown can be counted on the fingers of one hand

Thereafter, the Brethren of the Lodge and the small number of visitors in attendance retired to an earlier than normal harmony, much enjoyed by all in attendance.

**Lodge Opened : 7-30pm      Lodge Closed 8-52pm: pm      Attendance : 75**

### 100 CLUB

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

Tuesday 3rd October	£10	: Bro Tom Scott IPM, No.592
	£5	: Bro Jim Renfrew PM
Tuesday 17th October	£10	: Miss Evelyn Davidson
	£5	: Mrs Elspeth Davidson

### BITS and PIECES

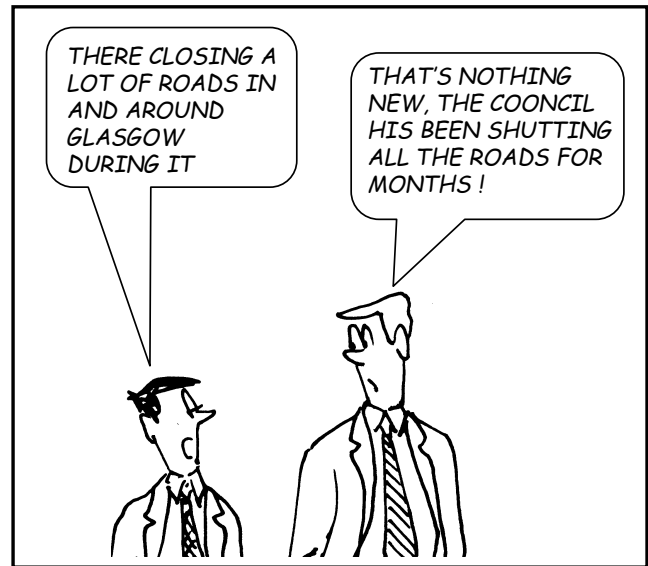
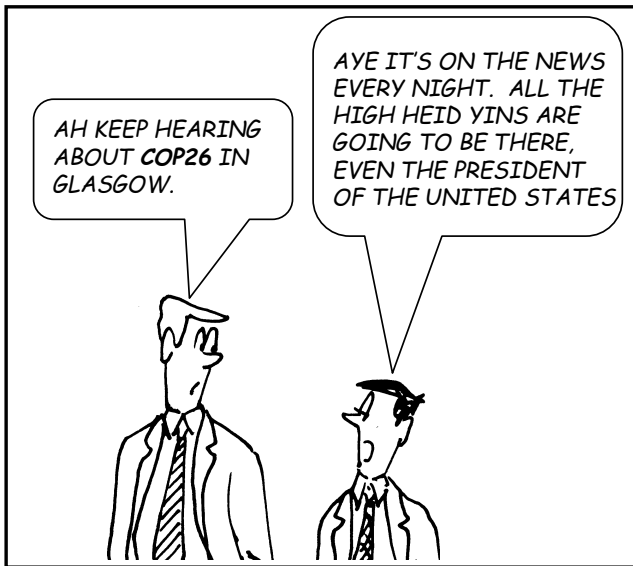
Best wishes to Bro Jim Flockhart's daughter Carol Ann who graduated from Paisley University with a BA and has now started work in Reid Kerr College in Paisley.

We hear that Bro Ian Shaw, one of our growing band of Brethren on the south coast of England, and his wife Gail have moved into a new house in his adopted home of Paignton.

We recently received a most complimentary telephone call from Bro Andrew Tannahill PPGM. An avid reader and keen supporter of The Mallet since its conception he has over the years made many contributions to our cause.

We congratulate Bro Kenny Hill on his installation as M.E. First Principal of Rockmount R.A.C., No. 367. Bro Kenny is one of several Brethren of the Lodge who have taken office in the "Reds" and we wish them every success and hope that as many of the Brethren of the Lodge will support them during the forthcoming year.

# MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW - OCTOBER 2021

*The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :*

**Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.**

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

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