

# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



January 2025

# The Mallet

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

No. 480

*Editorial*



January 2025

How can a Lodge thrive amidst changes in Freemasonry post-Covid? Is it numbers, quality ceremonial, or financial stability? It's likely a blend of all these factors driven by strong, imaginative leadership and dedicated members.

At Lodge Union & Crown, we combine these elements and take decisive actions to reach our goals. We've accepted that attendance from 30 years ago won't return, and consider 50-70 attendees excellent today. Many lodges struggle to meet without visitors' help.

Some lodges repeat ceremonies without real candidates, diminishing their impact. Our well-structured syllabus of ceremonies and dramatizations draws visitors. Effective use of social media keeps Brethren informed about upcoming events.

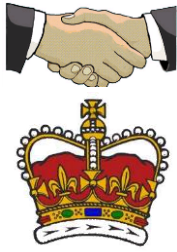
However, having avoided touching upon the financial side of things up to this point, we really do have to take a long hard look at how we as a Lodge survives, and what financial support is required to maintain the high level of achievement we have in Union & Crown today.

We have no debt, and our premises are in excellent condition. However, our Social Club attendance has significantly dropped, leading to a financial shortfall. Despite various fundraising efforts, we need approximately £20,000 annually to simply maintain the Lodge.

We continually explore ways to attract people to the Social Club and raise additional funds. A major expense is our annual dues to Grand Lodge, exceeding £4,000 and expected to rise. This is essential for the Craft's survival in Scotland, and beyond.

We must pay £45 for each attending Brother, even Life Members. Some kindly donate to cover the GL Capitation Fee, often through Standing Orders, but many do not, believing they are exempt due to their Life Membership. While this is constitutionally correct, morally it seriously impacts our Lodge financially.

Setting up a Standing Order for £5 monthly can ensure your contributions are covered, offering a free entry in the Monthly 100 Club Draw. Consider what you can do for **YOUR** Lodge, rather than what the Lodge can do for you. A little over £1 per week. What can you get for that nowadays ?



# Lodge Union & Crown

## No. 307

*Dear Sir & Brother,*

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

*Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc*

*Followed by.*

*201<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dinner*

*Harmony*



*Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Prisoner of War Dramatisation*

*Carried out by the Brethren of the Instruction Class*

*Harmony*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

*R Evans Reid P.M., Lodge Secretary*

# Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class gave a fine rendition of the dramatised 'Burns versus Kipling' degree.

All in attendance cannot fail to have been impressed by the performances of all involved. This shows the depth of talent available to Union & Crown.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9.21pm**

**Attendance : 65**

## 100 CLUB

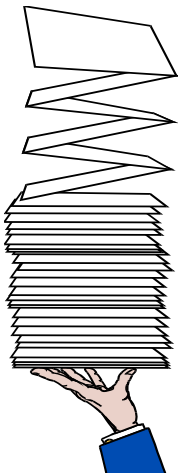
The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

**21<sup>st</sup> January      £20 :      Bro Thomas Smillie**

**£10 :      Bro Bobby Clark PM**

Bro George McGrandles PM, our worthy Treasurer, is now taking names for this year, with the annual fee is still very good value at £10.

## Paper Appeal



As ever, we are always on the lookout for that most essential of commodities – PAPER, for our journal.

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.

## Bro Bartholomew Ruspini

Bro Bartholomew Ruspini, a member of Burning Bush Lodge in Bristol, and founding member of the Lodge of the Nine Muses, was a progressive 18th century dental surgeon who developed one of the earliest forms of toothpaste.

He founded the Royal Masonic School for Girls, which still exists today. He used most of his resources for charity and when he died, left a modest annuity which could support only his wife — two of his granddaughters therefore becoming wards of the Royal Masonic School he had founded.

# Dates for your Diary



## Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February

Following a short Business Meeting, the Lodge is holding its 201<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dinner. Tickets are available from Bro Campbell Ritchie WJW.

## Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February

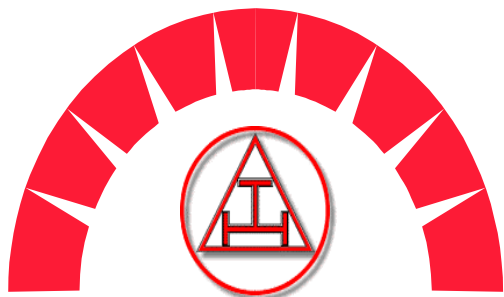
Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

## Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February

Dramatised 'Prisoner of War' Degree

(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 Robert Scott RWM or any senior Office-bearer,

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 14<sup>th</sup> January, the Companions of the Chapter carried out a Mark Affiliate and Excellent Master's Degree upon

### **Robert Dickson Scott**

Those taking part are to be congratulated upon their efforts in what was the very first time for many.

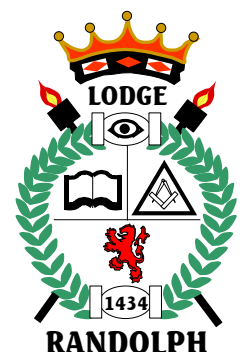
At the close of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions, along with their visitors retired downstairs where a quiet, yet enjoyable, harmony was enjoyed by all.

MEC James Renfrew MEZ cordially invites all to the next Regular meeting of the Chapter to be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 8.15pm, where the Provincial Grand Chapter of Renfrewshire will be carrying out their annual visit to Rockmount

The later start is to accommodate the PGC visit to Rockmount CC at 7.30pm.

## Randolph Lunch

Our Sister Lodge – Lodge Randolph, No.1434 is holding its Annual Lunch, here in 307 on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 1pm for 1.30pm. Tickets costing £20 are available for any 1434 Office-bearer (of which there are many within Union & Crown).



# BITS & PIECES

- Bro Lawrence Webb is still filling in for our absent Almoner, and if you hear of any Brother or Widow of the Lodge who is in need of a visit, don't hesitate to contact Bro Lawrence (☎ 07736 780 132)
- Bro Ross Aitken WSW, a lover of exotic jaunts, has just returned from a short visit to Bucharest in Romania. Despite its dull communist past, he said that many of the buildings was spectacular
- Good to see Bro Vic Chapman back at his meetings after a spell of ill health
- Cufflinks with the Lodge's new 'Coat of Arms' are still available for sale. All interested should contact Bro Ross Aitken WJW (☎ 07590 207 365) In addition, a lovely new Lodge Tie is also for sale at a bargain £15 !!
- The Lodge visit to Bro William Ramsay McGhee's Lodge in the Black Isle is having to be pushed back until Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November and all who wish to travel should let either of the Worshipful Wardens know as soon as possible to allow transport to be arranged.
- Bro Graham Manson PM, our hard-working Instruction Master would be delighted to see some new blood at the Lodge Instruction Class on Monday evenings, and he'll be only too happy to help you out if required.
- Great to see that Bro Stef Lawniczak is almost recovered from his heart scare of last year. Unfortunately, he is having trouble with one of his knees and it may require surgery !!!
- It is good to see that Bro Ronnie MacIsaac's taxi is back on the road after a serious bump back in November.
- We are informed that Bro Jim Renfrew PM, already a 'Proxy Master' of a Scottish Lodge in Sierra Leone, has been appointed to one of the Grand Lodge Committees
- Sorry to hear that Bro Lee Renfrew has had a bit of a health scare recently, but is making a good recovery and has just started back at work.
- We gather that Bro Lawrence Webb is hoping to retire before the end of the year. Already on a three day week, it should be too much of an adjustment.

## Regius Manuscript

The oldest known Masonic writing, the Regius Manuscript or "Poem of Moral Duties" was discovered to be a Masonic document by a non-Mason, J. O. Halliwell, in 1839.

It was written about 1390 and was given the name "Regius" because it was found in the Royal Library of England. It now resides in the British Museum.

## Military Freemasons

It has long been an association between the Military and Freemasonry, with a goodly number of Lodges in the past being formed by soldiers whilst overseas on duty. Many of these held 'Travelling Warrants' which allowed them to operate in various locations throughout the globe.

It was not uncommon for many senior officers and commanders to be Freemasons themselves. Below we publish a short list of important and well-known soldiers and sailors who were members of the Craft :

- **Field Marshal Douglas Haig**, 1st Earl Haig, Elgin Lodge No. 91, Leven in Fife
- **Admiral John Jellicoe**, Past Provincial Grand Master, United Grand Lodge of England
- **Lord Horatio Kitchener**, Past District Grand Master of Egypt and Sudan; Past Grand Warden and District Grand Master, Punjab, India;
- **General Douglas MacArthur**, 33° Manila Lodge No. 1, Philippines.
- **General Arthur Wellesley**, Duke of Wellington, Lodge at Trim No. 494, Meath, Ireland

### 'Masonic Forts ?'

During the British – American war of 1812 – 1815, "Fort Masonic" was built on what was known as the Heights of Brooklyn, which later became Bond and Nevins Streets in Brooklyn, New York. On September 1, 1814, the officers of the Grand Lodge of New York accompanied by a group of Masons from fourteen lodges went to the place and performed one day's work. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, another day's work was done to complete the fort.



"Fort Hiram" was built on October 3, 1814, at Fort Point, Rhode Island.

Thomas Smith Webb, Grand Master at the time, supervised the work of 230 Master Masons that day. The purpose of the fortification was to protect the harbor of Providence, Rhode Island from British attack during a blockade of the east coast of North America.

## Masonic Symbols.

In the Museum of Naples there are many articles from Pompeii such as gavels, compasses, chisels, squares, also include a tiled mosaic square-shaped altar top consisting of a human skull, a level of colored wood and brass; a plumb line, 6-spoked wheel, upright spear and coloured cords; symbols similar to the present day Masonic symbols.



## Mexico

Mexico is probably the most diverse country in the Masonic world, possessing almost 30 Grand Lodges, most of which are not widely recognised. The exception being the York Grand Lodge of Mexico, founded in 1862, which has approximately a dozen Lodges and a combined membership of over 600 Brethren. Today, the Masonic population is difficult to quantify, due to the high number of irregular lodges, but it is accepted that it exceeds 30,000.

The history of Freemasonry in that part of Central America is extremely complex and is undoubtedly linked to the varied politics of the country. Since Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1810, it has suffered approximately 100 revolutions with about 80 different governments resulting from the turmoil and it is no surprise that the Craft has been greatly affected as a result.

Whilst legend states otherwise, the earliest Lodges for which evidence exists, were chartered in the early part of the last century by lodges from several American jurisdictions such as Louisiana, Pennsylvania and New York. The newly-formed Lodges were soon disowned by their US cousins, due to the extreme political nature of Mexican society in those days which had found itself entrenched in Freemasonry and indeed the two factions who battled for control of the country in the 1820's were largely comprised of Masons! The battle lines were drawn between the York Rite Masons on the one hand and the Scottish Rite on the other with the respective Grand Masters actually coming up against each other in the fight for the Presidency of Mexico in 1827 with the Scottish Rite winning on points in a contest which cost many men their lives. Shortly afterwards several well-intentioned masons attempted to unite the two factions, creating the Mexican National Rite and although they failed and Mexican Freemasonry lapsed into darkness in 1833, a Grand Lodge still exists in Mexico today practising this irregular rite.

Masonry lay dormant for almost thirty years until Scottish Rite Lodges were established at Mexico City and Vera Cruz in 1860. In keeping with earlier days, it soon factioned and by 1878 a whole proliferation of differing governing bodies existed with Grand Lodges, State Grand Lodges, Grand Orients, Supreme Councils and even a Grand Diet! All claiming to be wholly independent from each other, with some even offering "**cut-rate initiations**" in an attempt to woo prospective candidates away from their competitors.

The craft continued to prosper well into the 20th century with mostly English and Spanish speaking Lodges, although the great division between York Rite and Scottish Rite continued unabated. Only after the end of the Second World War in 1945 did the two bodies begin to come together when agreement was reached on inter-visitation treaties. These treaties, certainly novel in Freemasonry, allow members from either allegiance, under certain conditions, to visit each others lodges and although stopping short of actual recognition they are a great step forward in the somewhat difficult relationship that had previously existed and give hope that, in time, it might be possible for amity to exist throughout Mexican Freemasonry.

# Famous Freemasons

*(This month we look at the creator of Wooster and Jeeves)*

## **Brother Pelham Grenville Wodehouse KBE (1881 – 1975)**

Pelham Grenville Wodehouse, was an English writer and one of the most widely read humorists of the 20th century. His creations include the feather-brained Bertie Wooster and his sagacious valet, Jeeves; the immaculate and loquacious Psmith; Lord Emsworth and the Blandings Castle set; the Oldest Member, with stories about golf; and Mr. Mulliner, with tall tales on subjects ranging from bibulous bishops to megalomaniac movie moguls.

Known in his family as Plum was born on 15th October 1881 in Guildford, Surrey, a son of Henry Ernest Wodehouse and his wife Eleanor. After attending Dulwich College his first job was in a bank but he soon left to become a writer. In 1902 his first article for Punch appeared and his first novel for adults was published in 1906.

When he was in America he also worked as a lyricist, writing songs with Jerome Kern and others. In 1914 he married widow Ethel Rowley but they had no children. He was rejected for service in the Great War due to his poor eyesight. Among the memorable characters he created were Bertie Wooster and his intelligent manservant Jeeves, Psmith and Lord Emsworth and his pig in the Blandings series.

He was Initiated on March 22, 1929 at Jerusalem Lodge No. 197 in London.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he was living in France and was interned as an enemy alien by the Nazis. On his release he was taken to Berlin and tricked into making broadcasts to the Allies on German radio. This led to his being thought of by some as a collaborator but MI5 investigations found no evidence of this. In 1955 he became a US citizen but retained his British nationality although he never returned home.

A memorial tablet was unveiled in the south quire aisle of Westminster Abbey on 20th September 2019. It is on the wall next to Richard Dimbleby's memorial and not far from Noel Coward's stone. HRH the Duke of Kent was at the dedication with members of the P.G. Wodehouse Society. The limestone plaque was designed by Stephen Raw



In 1975 he was knighted but died not long afterwards on 14th February 1975 in hospital on Long Island, New York. He is buried there in the Remsenburgh Presbyterian church.

# "Presentation of the Pillars"

by Robert Burns

Long may this Lodge in prosperity shine  
And its members still vie with each other  
In spreading the light of our order divine  
And relieving the wants of a brother.

May envy and malice ne'er enter that door  
That is aye closely tyed to the cowan  
But peace, love and harmony aye be in store  
More abundant the older you're growing.

May our Master who presides like the Masters of old  
In wisdom excel and astonish  
May he never be heard erring brothers to scold  
But with brotherly love aye admonish.

May our Warden in the West, like the sun's setting rays  
Illumine the golden horizon  
May his strength never fail with the burden of days  
But increase every moment that flies on.

And to our Warden in the South, like the beauty of day  
May he gladden the worn, tired and weary  
Inspire with his smiles as they rest by the way  
The toilers, and make them feel cheery.

And to you whom our Master is honoured to rule and instruct  
Be ye always sober and steady  
Expert in the use of each working tool  
And aye hae them handy and ready.

Thus will the Temple we seek to upraise  
Be completed when all do their duty  
And our voices unite in a chorus of praise  
To Wisdom, to Strength and to Beauty

# Did you Know ?

Brother Charles Stratton, a.k.a. Tom Thumb, was 24 inches high and weighed just 16 pounds when raised in 1862 in St. John's Lodge No. 3, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The earliest record of a speculative Mason being admitted to a lodge is the record of the Lodge of Edinburgh, June 8, 1600, when John Boswell, the Laird of Auchenleck, attested his presence with his mark.

Jewel Lodge No. 374, San Francisco, is the only lodge in the world that opens at midnight. It holds a special midnight meeting once a year during the annual communication of the Grand Lodge, conferring the Master Masons degree for the benefit of visiting Grand delegates.

Lux in Tenebris Lodge # 3856 in London is for blind Masons. The Latin words mean "Light in Darkness."

For more than 140 years, the Lodge St. George of Bermuda has paid Bermuda's Governor "one peppercorn" as annual rent of the entire second floor of the old state house, which is used as their Lodge room.

## Solomon's Pillars

There is only one road leading from Eilat Israel to the Egyptian border at Taba. In the middle of the last traffic circle before arriving at the border you will find this Masonic Memorial. There is only one Lodge in Eilat, Solomon's Pillars No. 59.

They were allocated a traffic circle by the Eilat Mayor (who was also initiated few years ago!) in recognition of their activities for the benefit of the people in need in Eilat. The monument was designed by Bro Avi Baranes and erected by members of the Lodge.



# FLASHBACK

## Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 7 Years Ago

No. 410

January 2018

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, the Installing Masters, assisted by the Past Masters of the Lodge, conferred an excellent Master Mason Degree upon the following Candidates :

**PAUL GEORGE HIGGINS**

**ALAN IZATT**

The evening was badly affected by the atrocious weather conditions as a blizzard hit the town just a couple of hours before. Needless to say 'The show went on' and all those who managed to attend are to be congratulated.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

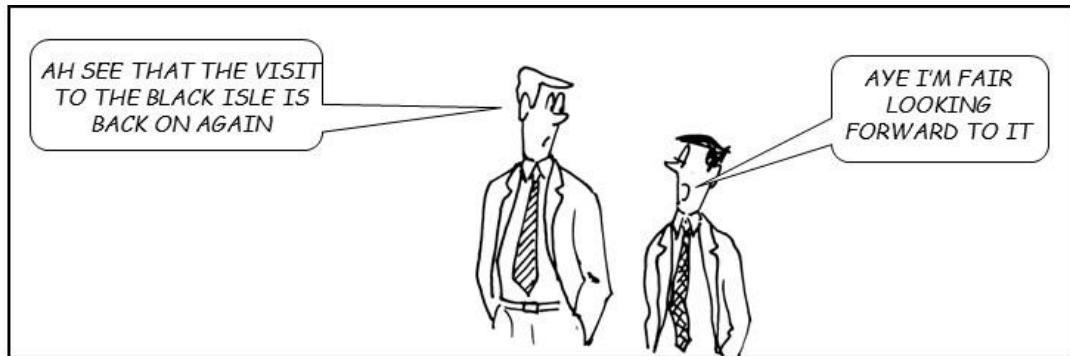
**Lodge Closed : 9.36pm**

**Attendance : 39**

### BITS & PIECES

- We apologise for a case of 'mistaken identity' in our January edition. We congratulated Bro David Bannerman PM 1478, on his installation as RWM of Lodge of Glasgow St John No.3 Bis, when in actual fact it should have been Bro David Jack PM 1478 who is now the RWM of No.3 Bis. The Past Masters of Lodge Nitshill are indeed proving popular this year with another two of them taking the chair in other Sister Lodges (Bro Terry Robinson – Lodge Thorntree, No.512 and Bro David Allan – Lodge Union & Crown, No.103)
- Whilst in conversation with Bro Keith Hodgson PM of The Glasgow Star Lodge, No.219 we discovered that he is back in the chair again for the 6<sup>th</sup> time !! He tells us that they are down to only one meeting a month (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) but still continue right through the recess with two meeting per month in the summer. Apparently, they are much busier than their other regular meetings.
- It's ironic that Bro Nicol Hynd and Bro Evans Reid, friends from school, are both in the chair of the two lodges who meet in our Temple at the age of 70.
- Do you know that it is 35 years since Lodge Union & Crown put 5 candidates through at the same time !
- Congratulations to Bro Jimmy Laing who was made an Honorary Member by Lodge St Conval, No.1359 at their recent Installation. Bro Jimmy is also the current WJW of Lodge Dunlop Caledonia in Ayrshire.
- As ever, we are interested in obtaining old Grand Lodge Yearbooks (especially dating from the 1950`s and 1960`s) If anyone has copies which they no longer want, please contact the editor who will arrange to uplift them.
- On the subject of Masonic literature, if you have any old books about Freemasonry laying around, why don't you donate them to PGLRE Library.

# MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW JAN 2025

*The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :*  
**Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.**

'Rapallo' 5 Stobs Drive, Barrhead, G78 1NY

☎ 0141-571-5979

e-mail : [renfrew2022@gmail.com](mailto:renfrew2022@gmail.com)

" With grateful thanks to all those who gladly gave their assistance "  
Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown307.com>