

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union & Crown No.307



April 2017

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No. 403



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Many will have been pleasantly surprised, and obviously delighted at the news of the scale of Bro Duncan Birse's bequest to the Lodge recently. A magnificent gesture from a quiet and unassuming brother who found many friends amongst the Brethren of Union & Crown. Many will naturally assume that this windfall will mean a spending spree across the Lodge resulting from our good fortune.

However, whilst there will inevitably be the odd change to the Lodge and our Social Club, much has already been done in recent years and both our Lodgeroom and our Lounge are in excellent fettle, with many modern upgrades already carried out, and I honestly believe we are the envy of many. At the same time we are debt-free with a modest nest egg in the bank.

So to correct those who believe we should spend our windfall, we would ask the question – Why? As already explained, we already possess fine facilities, and our Lodge is in excellent hands. Bro Duncan's generosity with mean that we have nothing to fear in the future, and will undoubtedly be wisely invested for the continuing success of the Lodge, and future generations of our members. We are simply the guardians of our assets, and our continuing task will be to ensure we have a future.

That said, we still have to meet the considerable running costs of the Lodge and in order to remain in the excellent standing we currently find ourselves, we must continue to fundraise on a regular basis to maintain our healthy status. The Brethren of Union & Crown have always answered the call when necessary, be it a Coffee Morning, a Jumble Sale, a Function in the Social Club or a Summer Fayre. The ways and means that our canny members have found to bring a smile to Bro Jim Kerr PM, our Treasurer, are both ingenious and inspiring. The 'Sausage Club' for example grows weekly and the income that this ever-increasing band of retired Brethren provide to the Lodge is incredible. From humble beginnings, they have grown to the task, and hundreds of pounds have been contributed, largely unbeknown to the Lodge Members.

So without doubt, the Lodge will continue to explore new ways in everything we do, but we will do so with a firm financial foundation, knowing that we will all contribute something on a regular basis.

Bro Jim Renfrew PM, Editor



Lodge Union & Crown No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 2nd May 2017

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

by Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167

Harmony



Tuesday 16th May 2017

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Prisoner of War Dramatisation

conferred by the Lodge Instruction Class

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

James Miller P.M., Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the regular meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 4th April, a deputation of Office-bearers from the Grand Lodge of Scotland conferred a Master Mason Degree upon the following Candidates :

JASON DINNING ROSS FLOCKHART CHRISTOPHER GILBERT & PAUL SMITH

The deputation, which numbered 15 Brethren, was headed by the Right Worshipful Depute Grand Master, Bro William Ramsay McGhee. All in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the degree which was conferred to a high standard by those taking part.

At the conclusion of the degree, the Lodge conferred Honorary Membership upon Bro Ramsay McGhee, who was delighted with the honour, not bestowed lightly by 307, and made suitable reply.

Thereafter all in attendance retired to the Function Suite, where a fine 3 course meal for over 120 Brethren was served. The speeches were of a particularly high standard, with the 'Toast to Lodge Union & Crown' being proposed by Bro Gavin Stewart O.B.E. a Past Master of Lodge Anima No.1223, and a SPGM of Glasgow.

Lodge Opened – 6:00pm Lodge Closed – 9:55pm Attendance – 130



At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge on Tuesday 18th April, the members of the Lodge Instruction Class presented their popular 'Burns vs Kipling' Dramatisation.

All who participated are to be congratulated on their efforts in what was an enjoyable evening.

Opened : 7.30pm Lodge Closed : 9.01pm Attendance : 88

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes for the month of February, were :

Tuesday 18th April

£10 : **Bro Iain McPhie**

£5 : **Bro Robert Easdon PM**



All those who are participating in this year's 100 Club, should ensure that they have paid their £10 entry fee to Bro Jim Kerr PM as soon as possible, as it appears that there are still some outstanding.



Did you Know ?

- That in 2003, the Grand Lodge of New York organised the mass initiation of over 2100 candidates in a single ceremony.
- Roslyn Chapel is often referred to as 'Scotland's answer to the Pyramids, but did you know that the foundations Stone was laid in 1446 by William Sinclair, the 3rd and last Prince of Orkney. It took 40 years to built
- That there is an organisation in North America entitled 'The Masonic Restoration Foundation' (MRF) Their main duty is to examine the issues facing North American Masonry, identifying successful current and historical practices and offering realistic solutions aimed at improving the experience for Candidates.

They hold their 8th Annual Symposium in Vancouver in August 2017

- That for many years until the late 1990s, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had their own 'Degree Team' which performed on average 10-12 degrees or exemplifications a year in both Canada and the United States.
- That the number of 'active' Freemasons in the United States is reckoned to be 1.5 million, a considerable drop from its peak of 4 million in the early 20th century.
- That although Mozart was initiated in Lodge Wohltätigkeit (Beneficence) in 1784, he was in fact passed and raised in another Lodge – Zur Wahren Eintracht (True Concord) the following year
- The Masonic Temple in Chicago, Illinois, was the tallest building in the world at the time it was built (1892) and it is 22 floors high.



Dates for you Diary

Tuesday 2nd May

EA Degree by the Brethren of Lodge Thistle & Crown

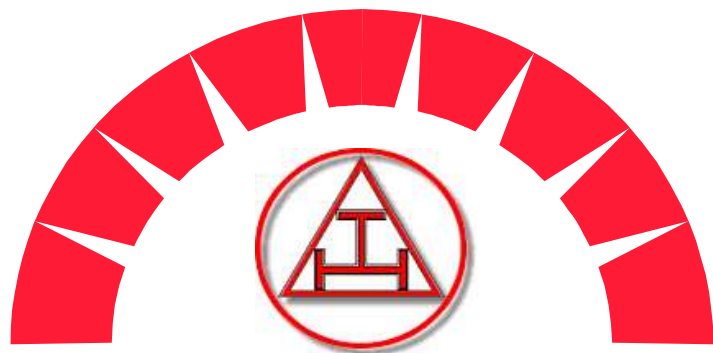
Monday 15th May

Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.

Tuesday 16th May

A Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the 'Prisoner of War' dramatisation will be conferred by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class.

(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. and Wardens are constantly 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 as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province. Full details of all visitations, be they official or otherwise, are available from our RWM and his Wardens.



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 11th April, the following Candidate :

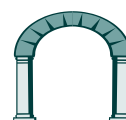
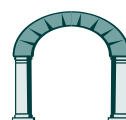
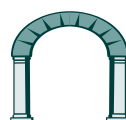
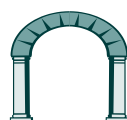
Bro. Lawrence Webb

a MM of Lodge Union & Crown, No.307 received a fine Mark Affiliation & Excellent Masters Degree from the Companions of Rockmount RAC. The Companions taking part in the degree are to be congratulated on their work,

with especial mention to MEC George E Paul MEH who was heavily involved in the floor work. There then followed a harmony downstairs in the function suite.

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for **Tuesday 9th May** where a Royal Arch Degree will be conferred by the office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount RAC, No.367.

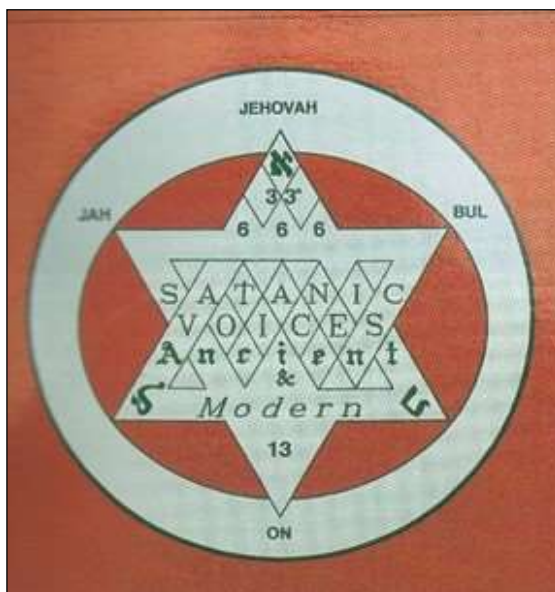
MEC Hugh Cattigan MEZ and his Office-bearers extend a cordial invitation to all Companions, especially any visitors, to attend on that evening.



Anti-Masonry

In our March edition, we told you of conspiracy writers and a growing number of websites who perpetrate fresh hatred of the Craft. They download tapes which allege that Freemasonry is responsible for most of the world's ills.

They claim that bodies such as the United Nations, the US Military and even the EEC are governed by Freemasons who use the power they possess to secretly orchestrate the spread of illegal narcotics, terrorism, organised crime, genetic engineering and even HIV AIDS, creating the constant need for higher levels of security in a quest to create a world super-state controlled by Freemasons. Their tape ends by identifying our members as agents of the Dajjal (the Muslim equivalent of the Anti-Christ) who it claims can be recognised by the symbol of the one eye, which can be found on the back of the US Dollar Bill



THE COVER OF A MODERN ANTI-MASONIC PUBLICATION AVAILABLE IN THE UNITED STATES

On the face of it, one would think that such self-evidently erroneous ideas would have little currency in the modern world. Yet sadly, such conspiratorial tales are growing in popularity within the ranks of some religious fundamentalists, a phenomenon that all Freemasons should be aware of.

In January 2006, the controversial north London Islamic cleric – Abu Hamza al Masri, who has since been extradited to the US after an eight year court battle, expressed his views in 'The Independent' saying :

I am not saying that every American government figure knew about September 11th but there are a few people in the US Government who want to trigger a Third World War. They are sponsored by the business lobby. Most are Freemasons, and have they have a loyalty to the Zionists

The roots of this malicious tale can be traced back to the end of the 18th Century, and the writings of a French priest – Abbé Barruel, and we will continue our article in our May edition.

(To be continued)

Summer Fayre

Yet another change of date to your diary, with the Annual Summer Fayre being moved yet again to avoid a clash with the 'Scotland vs England' World Cup Qualifier.

It will now return to its original date of **Saturday 3rd June** between 10am and 4pm.



As well as a fun day out, this is a much-needed fundraiser for the Lodge and if you have any fresh ideas, or can assist with any fund-raising schemes on that day, contact Bro Ian Blair IPM who is co-ordinating this year's event.

Bits & Pieces

- It was very pleasing to note that most of the Grand Lodge Brethren chose to sit amongst the Brethren at the Harmony recently, and how well everyone seemed to get on during the dinner.
- Bro Lawrence Webb, our Social Convener, still has a few tickets left for the 'Recess Dance', which is to be held on Saturday 20th May. The tickets cost £10 per couple.
- The annual Lodge Golf Outing is going to Haddington GC on Saturday 17th June. There are a few places left, and anyone interested should see Bro Paul Stewart PM as soon as possible to book their place and pay their £20 deposit.
- It was good to see so many visitors at the last couple of meetings. It just proves that we must be doing something right.
- Bro Bud Gauld has raised over £160 so far selling the 'Masonic Statement Bands'. The proceeds are being split between the Accord Hospice and our own 'Widow's Lunch'.
- Well done to Bro Paul Stewart PM who made an excellent reply to the 'Toast to the Lodge' at the GL visit
- Isn't it great that the Lodge has accepted the offer of becoming an 'Ambassador' from the Paisley & District Battalion of the Boys' Brigade.
- It was nice to see that the RWM who spoke on behalf of the Visitors at our last meeting – Bro Craig Carenduff of Lodge Union No.244 in Stonehouse is a fellow Fire Fighter with our own RWM.
- Great to see Bro Ian Russell managing along to a recent Regular Meeting. Bro Ian hasn't had his trouble to seek in recent years and enjoyed his time among the Brethren of 307.
- Isn't it great that Bros Jim Cherry and Robert Scott rarely miss a Lodge meeting. Bro Jim lives in Girvan, and Bro Robert in Perth.
- Grateful thanks to Brother Stewart Cruickshank of Lodge Ayr St Paul's, No.204 for taking all the photographs at the recent Grand Lodge visit.
- It is difficult to believe that Bro Steff Lawniczak will be 65 next month. He tells us that he's definitely retiring.
- We gather that the recent Lodge Coffee Morning organised by our popular Deacons – Brothers Bobby Clark and Grant Maybury was a success, with over £360.00 raised.
- Does anyone else think that our own Bro Johnny Gauld PM bears a passing resemblance to HRH The Duke of Cambridge



Freemasonry in Tahiti

La Grande Loge Régulière de Tahiti et des Archipels (*Grand Lodge of Tahiti and the Archipelagos*) was founded in 2011 by some French Brethren that thought it was about time that The Craft in Polynesia, governed itself. The first action of the new Grand Lodge was to appoint Dr Philippe Gestas as Grand Master, and to consecrate a new Craft A&ASR Lodge “Te Matamua”.



The name means appropriately “In the beginning”. Alongside the existing 3 French Lodges locally, these formed the new Grand Lodge which soon found itself at odds with its former ruling body the GLNF in Paris, who to this day still dispute the jurisdiction.

Today there are now approximately 150 Brethren, in a total of 5 lodges, with their numbers growing annually as more local ‘Polynesians’ join the craft.

Famous Freemasons

Entrepreneur James Cash Penney

Born September 16 1875, J.C. Penney was an entrepreneur who founded the J.C. Penney’s stores in 1902 after working for four years in a small chain called the Golden Rule stores. With an offer of partnership, Penney invested \$2000 and opened a store in Kemmerer, Wyoming, with two additional stores in 1907, when he bought out his interest partnership in all three stores. By 1920, Penney had opened 120 stores and by 1929 he had opened 1400. In 1940, in a visit to a Des Moines, Iowa, store where he trained a Sam Walton on how to wrap packages, the founder of Wal-Mart.



With the onset of the Great Depression, Penney was beset by financial ruin but met store expenses by borrowing against his life-insurance policies. He recovered from the financial setbacks but at the expense of his health, to give generously to a number of charities, eventually founding the James C. Penney foundation in 1954, later to be merged into the Oakland, California based Common Counsel Foundation, which partners with families and individual donors to expand philanthropic resources for progressive social movements.

Penney, an active Freemason for almost 60 years was initiated in Wasatch Lodge No. 1 in Salt Lake City, Utah on April 28, 1911.

He passed away in February 1971, and is buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, New York.



WORLD AT WAR

1914 – 1918

(April 1917)



With Russia looking inward at domestic issues following the revolution to overthrow Tzar Nicolas II, it was most fortuitous for the Allies that US President, Woodrow Wilson brought the USA into the War by declaring war on Germany.

On the 1st April 1917 the American steamer *Aztec* is torpedoed without warning by a German U-boat as it enters British waters. Twenty-eight Americans drown. On the 2nd April, President Wilson delivers his war message in a historic joint session of the House and Senate, stating that the world must be made “safe for democracy” and asks for a declaration of war. The day after an overwhelming majority in the Senate votes for war, President Wilson signs the declaration. The United States quickly puts the entire country on the road to war. Going from a standing army of 133,000 men with almost no heavy artillery pieces, millions of men were inducted into the armed forces over the next two years and given basic combat training.

While, in 2017, we can shake our heads and look at the events surrounding today's Superpowers in Asia. We have home comforts aplenty and the liberty and luxury of debating the standard of football referees as an important issue... One hundred years ago it was a different world. As seen in the National press and TV over the past few weeks, events in Scotland and France are being held to mark the centenary of the Battle of Arras, in which approximately 18,000 Scots died. The fighting saw the highest concentration of Scots involved in any World War One campaign. Of the 120 battalions that took part at Arras, 44 of them were Scottish.

Arras was fought from 9 April to 16 May 1917 and marked the beginning of the spring offensive on the Western Front. By the standards of the Western front, the gains of the first two days were nothing short of spectacular. A great deal of ground was gained for relatively few casualties and a number of strategically significant points were captured. Additionally, the offensive succeeded in drawing German troops away from other French offensives. In many respects, as the battle progressed it might have been deemed a victory for the British and their allies but these gains were offset by high casualties.

When the battle officially ended on 16 May, British Empire troops had made significant advances but had been unable to achieve a breakthrough. New tactics and the equipment to exploit them had been used, showing that the British had absorbed the lessons of the Battle of the Somme and could mount set-piece attacks against fortified field defences. After the Second Battle of Bullecourt, the Arras sector then returned to the stalemate that typified most of the war on the Western Front.

Despite significant early gains, the British were unable to effect a breakthrough and the situation reverted to stalemate. Although historians generally consider the battle a British victory, in the wider context of the front, it had very little impact on the strategic or tactical situation.

Almoner's Report

Brethren, it is with much gladness I am pleased to report that there are no Obituaries this month.

Home Visits :

Since my last Almoner's Report, I have visited the following Brethren on your behalf.

Bro Gordon Wright – Soon after he was discharged from Hospital

Bro Robert Kennedy (Several times)

Bro Donald Ferguson (Several times)

Bro Campbell Stewart

Bro Jim Heron

Bro Lex Shields (at Millview Care Home)

I have also visited **Mrs Jean Ryan** (87 Years old) and now in residence at Millview Care Home, Barrhead

During the most recent joyful Easter celebrations, I as your Lodge Almoner took the opportunity to contact by way of an Easter Card, the Widows of the Lodge, who I know well, and are in residence in Care Homes in Renfrewshire and Glasgow respectively. Namely :

Mrs Norah Hutton

Mrs Nan Grier

Mrs Mary Gray

Mrs Janet (Netta) Miller

Mrs Margaret Richardson

Mrs Jean Ryan


Mrs Patricia Renfrew

I do endeavour to maintain contact with all these dear Ladies, with regard to their general well-being, through further contact with the Care Home itself and family members, when possible.

Brethren, as previously commented by me in earlier editions of this magazine – my journey as your Lodge Almoner moves onward both enthusiastically and cheerfully.

Bro Alex White,

Lodge Almoner

 0141-571 6411

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from The Mallet of 38 Years Ago

No. 24

April 1979

REGULAR MEETINGS : On Tuesday 3rd April, two candidates, Brian Elliot & Glyndwr Bray were presented for the Entered Apprentice degree which was conferred by the members of the Instruction Class.

Attendance : 100

At the following meeting on the 17th April, the same two candidates received a fine Fellow Craft degree from our friends from Linwood, Lodge Craigends No.1042.

Attendance : 114

NEW LODGE : There is a persistent rumour going round in the Nitshill, Barrhead and Neilston area, that two prominent P.M.'s are seriously considering making an application for a charter to open a new Lodge which would be a 'Lodge of Instruction' only. The purpose of this Lodge would not be to initiate candidates, but would entail lectures and film shows etc. on all things appertaining to Masonic customs and practices with an annual subscription being charged to all members.

CONGRATULATIONS :

To Bro Jim Watt, a member of Lodge Albert Edward No.592 on his winning the World Lightweight Boxing Title at the Kelvin Hall on Tuesday 17th April. On the morning of the fight, a telegram was sent to him, on behalf of all the members of our Lodge, wishing him the very best of luck.

To Bro Brian Perry, whose wife has presented him with a baby daughter. We would at the same time offer our congratulations to his father-in-law, Bro Willie Wade P.M., who thus became a grandfather for the second time.

100 CLUB

This month's lucky winners are as follows :

£10 : Bros Brian Perry & John Mills

£3 : Bros Willie Webster & John Gray P.M.

£1 : Bros Lex Shields & Alex McCartney

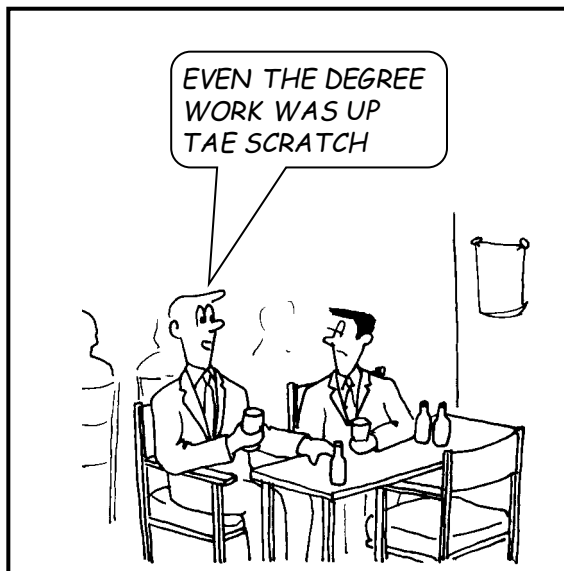
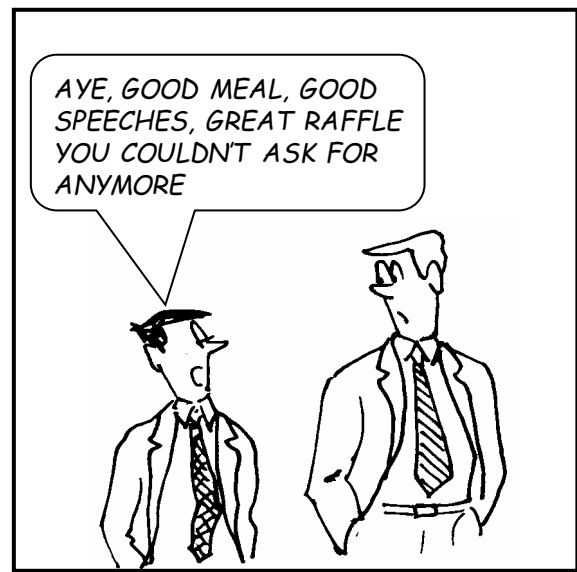
FROM THE PRESS :

Did anyone spot the photograph of Bro Bobby McFadyen on the front page of the 'Rangers News' standing alongside Derek Johnstone the Rangers Captain who had just newly been presented with the Scottish League Cup at Hampden Park at the end of March. Bro Bobby is a member of Lodge Thistle & Crown, No 1167 in Neilston, but is a frequent visitor to 307. He has been Chief Steward at Hampden for many years and is well known to all the leading Scottish football officials.

WHIPPET SNIPPET :

Bro Jack Gauld has recently acquired part-ownership of a grey hound which runs at Shawfield Stadium, under the name of 'Lady Natalie'. As we go to press, we discovered that she won her latest race at the handsome price of 4/1.

MARK "N" ARCHIE



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

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown.org>

Lodge Syllabus 2016-2017

** Denotes an Official visitation*

May 2017

Tuesday 2nd @ 7.30pm EA Degree by Lodge Thistle & Crown No. 1167

*Saturday 6th @ 2pm..... PoW Dramatisation in Aberdeen **

Tuesday 16th @ 7.30pm PoW Dramatisation

September 2017

Tuesday 5th @ 7.30pm FC Degree by Lodge Prince of Wales, No.426

*Saturday 9th @ 3pm DFC Degree at Lodge Maudslie Castle, No.1630 **

Tuesday 19th @ 7.30pm MM Degree by the Lodge Instruction Class

October 2017

Friday 7th @ 7.30pm..... Dramatisation "The Table of Scottish Freemasons"

Tuesday 17th @ 7.30pm Annual General Meeting

*Friday 20th @ 7.30pm..... FC Degree at Lodge St Conval 1359 **

*Tuesday 31st @ 7.30pm EA Degree at Lodge Pollokshaws RA 153 **

November 2017

Saturday 4th @ 3pm Dramatisation Lodge Old Inverness St Johns, No.6

Tuesday 7th @ 7.30pm Dramatised MM Degree

Tuesday 21st @ 7.30pm Mark Ceremonial by Bro. Ian Blair IPM

Saturday 25th @ 4.00pm ... Lodge Installation