

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



February 2018

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No. 411

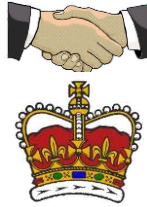


February 2018

How many of us have sat at a Regular Meeting within the Temple and in a moment of sheer idleness, lazily gazed about the Lodge Room and wondered fleetingly, where a particular Brother was on that evening ? Suddenly the realisation hits you that you haven't actually seen them within the Lodge, either at a meeting or socially for quite a while. We strongly suspect that each and every one of us have all done it on more than a few occasions and then just as promptly completely forgotten about our missing Brother, just as easily when distracted.

It is amazing just how soon a brother, who is rarely absent from more than only the occasional meeting, can rather quickly become a forgotten face if, for whatever reason, his absences become prolonged and as time slips by he finds it harder and harder to find the time to attend his Lodge. Eventually he stops going altogether, more often than not simply because he has grown out of the habit of attending, and is embarrassed to return. An all too familiar scenario in modern Freemasonry, especially within the Scottish Craft, and one which must cause concern in all Lodges in these days of falling attendances. Without doubt, if we put our mind to it, without too much effort, we could probably come up with a long list of Brethren who no longer attend their Lodge and are lost to our Fraternity, possibly for ever.

With this thought in our mind, surely each one of us could make a determined effort to coax an absent Brother back into the fold with a few well-chosen words of encouragement. This is a fairly simple and easily achievable task which we could all undertake during the course of our normal routine. So, let's set ourselves a target in the months ahead. Let's identify a particular Brother of the Lodge who, for whatever reason, has strayed away from the Lodge and make a concerted effort to entice him back to his meetings. The end result could be extremely profitable, not only for the Lodge, but for the Brother in question as well. And who knows who that "long lost, but now found" Brother could in turn reintroduce to the Lodge. The possibilities are endless, and for a small amount of effort, just think of the results.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 6th March 2018

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Visitation by PGL of Renfrewshire East
Harmony



Tuesday 20th March 2018

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Fellowcraft Degree
conferred by Lodge Thistle & Crown, No. 1167
Harmony



Yours faithfully & fraternally

David McArthur P.M.,
Secretary

Regular Meetings

On Friday 2nd February, after a short business meeting, the 194th Anniversary Dinner which took place in the Lodge Function Suite with several non-member guests attending. Following a fantastic meal the brethren and guests were suitably entertained by a number of toasts including a very fine toast to 307 being given by Bro. Charlie Hamilton RWM of Lodge Nitshill 1478.

We were then given a comic tour de force by Eric Davidson who not only performed a lengthy spot but included songs with his ukulele and a couple of very poignant poems which added up to a very enjoyable evening. As always it was great to see our non-masonic guests leaving with a very favourable opinion of the order

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 8.03pm

Attendance : 43



At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 20th March, the following Candidate :

STEPHEN SCOTT

was initiated in to our mysteries and privileges, by our good friends Lodge Nitshill, No.1478 in what was a fine EA Degree, conferred by Bro Duncan McGregor PM. It was good to see a handsome deputation of 25 Brethren (including 5 Reigning Masters) supporting Bro Charles Hamilton RWM

Following the meeting a harmony took place in the downstairs function suite and a goodly number of brethren who had attended the meeting enjoyed a time of friendship together.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.43pm

Attendance : 93



100 CLUB

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

Friday 2nd February

£20 : **Bro Brian Morton PM**

£10 : **Mrs Ann Easdon**

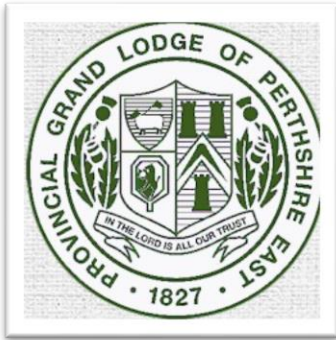
Tuesday 20th February

£20 : **Bro Johnny Gauld PM**

£10 : **Mrs Sadie Maclsaac**

Names are still being taken for the current year. The annual fee is still very good value at £10 per person

Visitation to Perth



On Saturday 24th February, 32 Brethren travelled to the fair city of Perth, where the Lodge had been invited to perform 'The Table of Scottish Freemasons' for The Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire East, within the premises of Lodge Scone & Perth, No.3

This large deputation was very well received by our Perthshire Brethren, and after the lodge was adjourned, those in attendance were entertained by our depiction of famous Scottish Freemasons throughout the centuries with many fine costumes, false beards and wigs being employed.

This was the first performance of this particular dramatisation outwith our own lodge and it also marked the debuts of 4 brethren who more than ably represented famous sportsmen and legal professionals! It would be fair to say the audience were taken aback with this performance and at the after-meeting harmony we were treated to fine food, refreshments and very kind compliments from all in attendance.

This event raised over £600 for local charities and we are more than happy to have assisted in making this fantastic event take place.



Meet the Initiate

Our most recent Initiate is 54 year old **Stephen Scott**. Originally from the Southside of Glasgow, he has lived in the Stewartfield area of East Kilbride for many years with his wife Diane. He has a daughter Leeann, and a son Mark (who recently attended our Burns Supper)

Like his younger brother, our Senior Deacon Bro Robert Scott, his is a former senior Fire-fighter. Now officially retired, he helps run the 'Firefighters Support Trust' – a charity for members of the Fire & Rescue service and their families, and this keeps him very busy.

When he can find some spare time he likes to play golf at Prestwick St Nicholas where Roberts tells us he's a bit of a bandit, playing off 13 !!)

Did you know ?

- That for more than 140 years, the Lodge St. George of Bermuda has paid Bermuda's Governor "one peppercorn" as annual rent of the old state house.
- Freemasons were also the first advocates of equality. The fraternity has always disregarded social distinctions and was one of the first organisations in the world to believe all men are equal.



"Freemasonry Around the World"

Japan

Japan has a fairly short Masonic history, having taken its inspiration largely from the U.S. and the Philippines, it currently possesses 25 Lodges under a wide variety of Grand Lodges such as Japan, England, Massachusetts, Philippines and, of course Scotland. The first handful of its Lodges were chartered by the Grand Lodge of England between 1866 and 1883, and of the original five, only one Rising Sun Lodge, No. 1401 in Kobe, survived the Second World War. Those chartered by the G.L. of Scotland in the 1870`s faired a little better, with two survivors still in existence.

In the aftermath of the last war, Japan found itself occupied by Allied forces, amongst whom were many masons. Naturally these Brethren wished to continue their masonic careers whilst in Japan and overtures were made to The Grand Lodge of the Philippines nearby and this resulted in three Lodges being formed in the early 1950`s. The one lodge chartered by the G.L. of Massachusetts, Sinim Lodge, has had quite a checkered history originally erected in mainland China at the turn of the century, it moved to Hong Kong to escape communism before finally settling in Tokyo.

Soon a large proportion of the now established Lodges felt established enough to seek to form their own Grand Lodge and all but 3 of the Philippine Lodges came together to form the Grand Lodge of Japan in 1957 with a total membership of over 10,000, although this soon dwindled to the present day total of almost 4000 when the American forces began to withdraw during the 60`s and 70`s.

Currently only approximately 10% of this total are of ethnic Japanese origin, but this figure is increasing each year. Brethren are permitted dual and plural membership and Candidates are only allowed to advance when they have proved their proficiency.

Many of the Japanese lodges use the Webb Ritual, inherited from the U.S., with the working in English, as most Japanese Masons are bilingual, but great strides are being made in translating the ritual in to Japanese, although some of the old English forms are proving difficult. Freemasonry in Japan has made great advances in recent years with a very large multi-storey Masonic Centre being constructed at Minato-ku in Tokyo in the 1980`s, by a group of Lodges renowned for their outstanding charity work and erection of a large Masonic Hospital in that city.

One point that must be noted is that ALL the Japanese lodges, without exception, are "Dry" and no alcohol whatsoever is permitted, a fact that will discourage many of our own Brethren from visiting, although they would be able to enjoy a dram at the two Scottish Lodges - Lodge Hiogo & Osaka, No. 498 and Lodge Star-in-the-East, No.640 who are always happy to welcome and entertain any visitors from Home.



Dates for you Diary

Tuesday 6th March

Regular Meeting of the Lodge where the PGLRE will carry out their annual visitation.

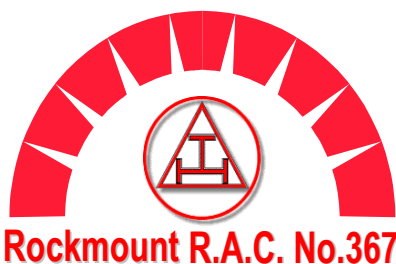
Monday 19th March

Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.

Tuesday 20th March

Regular Meeting of the Lodge where our Good Friends from Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167 will be conferring a Fellowcraft Degree upon our Candidate.

(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. is 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.



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 9th February, the Chapter welcomed the Provincial Grand Chapter of Renfrewshire who were making their annual visitation.

The deputation was headed by the ME Provincial Grand Superintendent, MEC Gordon Renfrew and he was well supported by the Companions of PGC.

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter will be on: **Tuesday 13th March** at 7.30pm and the Companions of Rockmount, extend a warm invitation to all to attend on that evening, where a Royal Arch degree will be conferred by the Companions of Rockmount RAC.

As you may be aware, the Chapter is experiencing a shortage in Candidates at the moment, and would welcome any Brother (who's been through his MMM degree) and would like to join to contact MEC Hugh Cattigan ☎ 07981 566 901

Annual Joint Divine Service

Our annual church service took place on Sunday 25th February at Neliston Parish Church. The service was conducted by The Rev Fiona Maxwell and a good attendance enjoyed the hymns, bible reading by the RWMs of each Lodge.

A fine sermon mentioned the passing of American Evangelist Dr Billy Graham, and following the service the brethren paraded back to the premises of Lodge Thistle And Crown and enjoyed refreshments and a time of fellowship together.

A beautiful sunny day saw a goodly attendance from both lodges as well as a deputation from P.G.L.R.E. and brethren from sister lodges at this important event in 307 and 1167's calendar

Famous Scottish Freemasons

(Continuing our series of the Brethren portrayed in the Mural in our Function Suite, we turn this month to a distinguished and popular member of our Royal Family)



Brother HRH The Duke of York (1895-1952)

Prince Albert Frederick Arthur George (or Bertie as he was known within his family), was born at York Cottage on the Sandringham Estate on 14th December 1895 during the reign of his Great Grandmother Queen Victoria. His father was at that time Prince George, Duke of York and would eventually become HRH King George V in 1910. Prince Bertie was the second son, and grew up destined to serve in the forces and attended Naval College before joining the Royal Navy, where as a Midshipman he fought at the Battle of Jutland in 1916. He also served in the Royal Flying Corp during the closing stages of the Great War.

In 1923 he was made Duke of York, and in 1923 married Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, the daughter of the 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, with two Daughters – Elizabeth and Margaret Rose born in 1926 and 1930 respectively.

His elder Brother, Edward Prince of Wales, succeeded their father to the throne in 1936, but abdicated later that year to marry American socialite Wallis Simpson.

Thrust in to a role, he was not fully prepared for, the shy Prince Bertie became King George VI a few days before his 41st Birthday. The growing Likelihood of war in Europe dominated his early reign. Their Royal Majesties resolved to remain in London, despite the Blitz, and when the royal couple narrowly avoided injury when two German bombs exploded in the courtyard of Buckingham Palace in September 1939, Queen Elizabeth defiantly declared that *'I'm glad we have been bombed. It makes me feel we can look the East End in the face'*.

Throughout the War, The King and Queen provided morale-boosting visits throughout the UK, with the King personally visiting troops in France, Italy, North Africa, Malta and the Low Countries. Those years had a serious effect on the King's health and undoubtedly contributed to his early death.

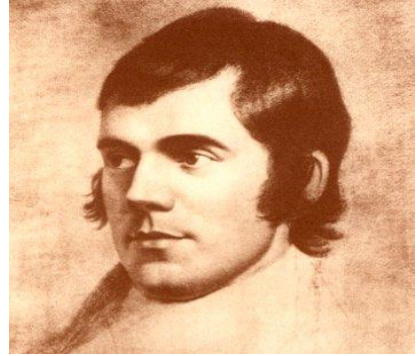
Initiated in December 1919 into 'Navy Lodge', No.2612 (EC), of which his Grandfather King Edward VII was the founding Master. He joined several other Lodges, becoming PGM of Middlesex in 1924, and Senior Grand Warden the same year. He affiliated to The Lodge of Glammis, No.99 (SC) in June 1936 and later that year was installed as Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason in December at a ceremony in the Usher Hall in Edinburgh attended by over 2500 people including The Lord Provost, The Earl of Cassillis, The Duke of Athol, The Earl of Stair, the Earl of Elgin, Lord Belhaven and Lord Saltoun among others. The occasion was also the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and HRH The Duke of York read a telegram message from his father King George V stating *'Please express to the Scottish Freemasons and the visiting Brethren assembled in Edinburgh my sincere thanks for their loyal and fraternal greetings'*.

Unfortunately, when he ascended to the throne in 1937, it meant that as King he regrettably had to resign all his Masonic Offices.

HRH King George VI died on the 6th February 1952 and was succeeded by his Elder daughter Elizabeth

Burns Supper

The Annual Burns Supper took place on Friday 16th February with some 65 brethren and guests enjoying a fine evening of food, good company and superb entertainment provided by brethren and gentlemen from both within and outwith our lodge. The evening was ably chaired by Bro Paul Stewart PM and the whole event was organised by Bro Robert Scott our Worthy Senior Deacon.



A fine meal was served with very convivial atmosphere prevailing from the outset. Following a short break the entertainment of the evening got underway with a very fine Immortal Memory being delivered by The Rev Bro Alec Shuttleworth. Bro Graham Manson led the singing of a few songs with his trusty guitar as well as reciting Holy Willie's Prayer.

The Toast to the Lassies was given by Bro Alex Clark and the reply from Mr. Stephen Scott had everyone in stitches! 'Tam O' Shanter' was performed by Bro Robert Scott himself and following a fantastic raffle our RWM, Bro Nicol Hynd gave the vote of thanks.

The entire company were in fine voice for 'The Star Of Rabbie Burns' and 'Auld Lang Syne' which brought a fantastic evening to a close. A good number of those in attendance sat on and enjoyed a drink or two together with everyone agreeing an excellent night had been enjoyed!

Bro Robert is to be congratulated on organising such a successful evening which raised the magnificent sum of £505 which will go to lodge funds.

BITS & PIECES

- A Sportsmans' Dinner is taking place on Friday 20th April and Bro Lawrence Webb IG is now asking if brethren can pay him for their tickets as soon as possible. A great evening is in prospect with a virtual sell out now being envisaged.
- It was great to see such a large attendance at our last meeting following a run of very bad winter weather.
- We are encouraged by the attendance of our recent initiates at the regular meetings along with all our stalwarts!
- Any brother wishing to get involved in degree work is warmly invited to attend Lodge Instruction Class on a Monday evening from 7.30 or speak to Bro. Tom Mulholland PM or Bro. Graham Manson P.M.
- Bro Nicol Hynd RWM is constantly visiting sister lodges both within and outwith the province and any brother wishing to accompany him on his travels is most welcome! Please Let Bro Nicky know and he will make sure you have transport.



WORLD AT WAR 1914 – 1918 (February 1918)



The German High Command decided to make a decisive attack in the west. Their target was the destruction of the British Army. They believed that the British were exhausted by the four major efforts in 1917 (Arras, Messines, Passchendaele and Cambrai). By mid-February 1918, the Germans had moved many Divisions from the now collapsed Eastern front to the West. It was believed by British intelligence that the Germans now had 177 Divisions in France and Flanders, out of their world-wide total of 241. By late 1918, the manpower advantage enjoyed by Germany would be gone as the American forces slowly built up to strength. The time to strike was now!

At the same time as German strength was growing, the British Army was depleted, having to face up to a manpower crisis and resultant reorganisation, and at a low point of morale after enduring the conditions of Passchendaele and the disappointment after early success at Cambrai. They were also coming to terms with the need to fight a defensive battle for the first time since 1915 and the adoption of a deep defensive zone rather than a continuous trench line system.

British intelligence had observed the troop movement and had come to the conclusion that a German attack was to be expected, even as early as November 1917 and only the precise date, time and place was to be determined. Forecasts made by the “E” (Enemy) Group of the British military staff at the Supreme War Council proved to be reasonably accurate but were largely dismissed by GHQ as a result of politics between the two.

The German army adopted an approach that had succeeded on the Eastern Front. Their infantry attack would be preceded by an intense barrage concentrated not on the British infantry holding the forward posts, but on the artillery and machine-gun positions, headquarters, telephone exchanges, railways and other important centres of communications.

The German Army advanced some 40 miles and came within reach of the vital railway junctions at Amiens. The crisis demonstrated that the “gentlemen’s agreement” between British and French commanders-in-chief was unworkable. It finally forced the Allies to consider a joint command, and they appointed Foch as General.

Commander of the British Fifth Army, General Sir Hubert Gough, was sacked as a result of this battle. He is now generally considered to have been very badly treated and to have been made a convenient scapegoat. His Army had, after all, taken over a line to which David Lloyd George had committed the army against its wishes; had no time to build suitable defences; and was hit by an overwhelming attack. Fifth Army, while suffering terrible losses of men and material and giving up much ground, did not break.

Hugh Cattigan PM

Almoner's Report

With much sadness, and a heavy heart, I intimate the sudden passing away of Mrs Patricia Renfrew whilst in the RAH in Paisley, on Saturday 17th February. Pat was the widow of the late Bro Arthur Renfrew of 307, much loved Mother of Bro Jim Renfrew PM, loving Grandmother to Bro Clark Renfrew and his sister Leanne, and of course dear to her Daughter-in-Law Anne,



My thoughts and prayers are for the grieving family at this moment of bereavement, and indeed to the wider family and friends. I have expressed our heartfelt sympathy to the family on behalf of the Lodge, and received a warm response in return. Since I became Lodge Almoner I have visited Pat at her home in Neilston, and latterly at her Care Home in Darnley and most recently at Westerfield Care Home in Paisley, I was always met with a cheerful smile and an encouraging welcome. She always expressed to me her gratitude for taking the time to visit. She was a lovely lady.

The funeral service will take part at St Charles Church in Paisley at 10am on Tuesday 6th March, and thereafter to Woodside Crematorium at 11am. I do intend to be present at both services on that day to give my support to the sorrowing family.

Home Visits :

Bro Donald Ferguson
Bro Robert Kennedy
Bro James Laird

Bro Jim Kerr PM
Bro Jim Wade
Bro Robert Nixon PM

Mrs Margaret McLellan
Mrs Florence Laird
Mrs Margaret Ratcliffe

Hospital Visit : Bro Jim Paton (RAH)

Home Phone Calls :

Bro Robert McCulloch
Bro Ian Russell
Bro Willie Reid

Bro Eric Gray
Bro Ronnie Maclsaac WSW

'A Fellow Feeling Note' :

Mrs Mary Gauld, I as Lodge Almoner, and a fellow believer, send to you at this moment of writing, 'A Caring Thought' as you may be experiencing a measure of concern with regards to your most current health inquiry questions. Please remain as ever, strong and steadfast – 'I Care'.

Brother Alexander D. White

Lodge Almoner

☎ 0141-571 6411

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 33 Years Ago

No. 82

February 1985

At the Regular Meeting on 5th February, the following 3 Candidates :

STEPHEN WALKER EUAN MOFFAT and IAN SHAW

were initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the E.A. Degree by the Brethren of Lodge Thistle & Crown, No. 1167. The degree work was carried out in the usual high standard we have come to expect of our Neilston Brethren.

Lodge Opened : 7.32pm

Lodge Closed : 9.32pm

Attendance : 205

AROUND the TOWN

A rumour has been circulating in the town that there is a local man who is both a Freemason and a Knight of St Columba. The rumour has not, so far as we gather, been substantiated, and no one has been able to supply the name of the individual concerned. Any further information would be appreciated.

A popular Sunday afternoon outing among local folk recently has been a visit to the show houses which are now open at Gateside Park. The first of the homes in this development will be ready for occupation within the next week or two and if your wondering where Gateside Park is ? you'll probably know it better as Jock Gray's Field.

LODGE GOSSIP

We have just heard that Bro Ian Ryan has started up in business selling cars for himself. We wish him every success.

Our R.W.M. Bro Hugh Fraser was proud to be able to tell us that his daughter Shona has started work in the Royal Bank of Scotland.

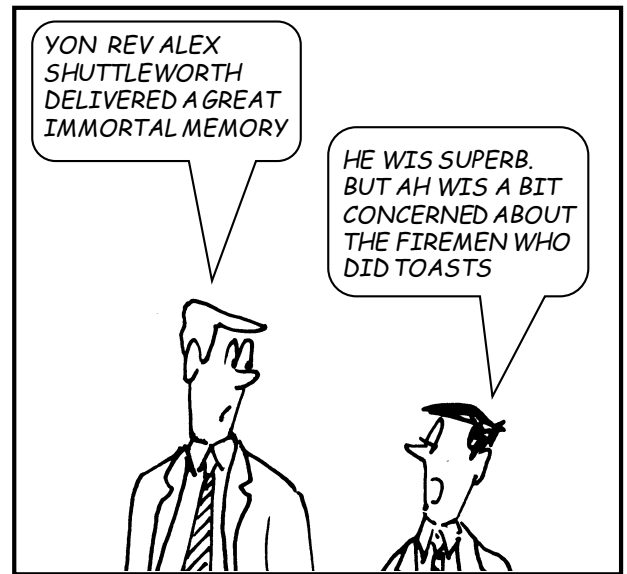
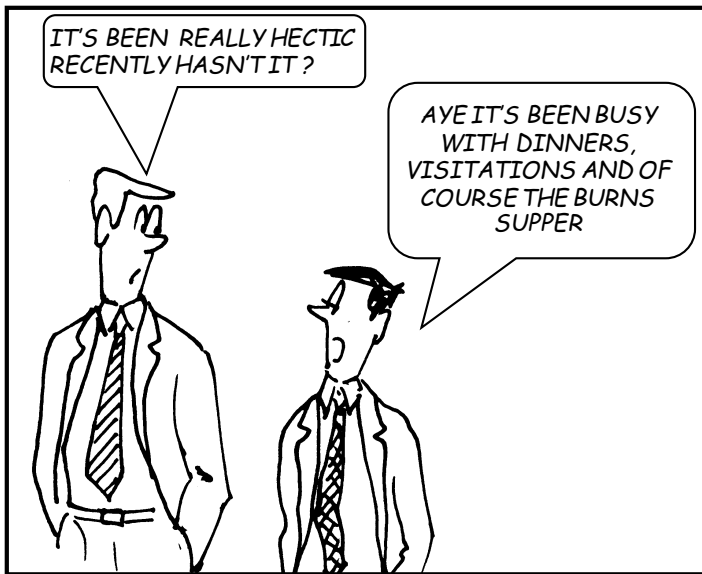
Last month we reported that Bro John Gray PM had been made redundant, we are now delighted to say that he has already succeeded in finding another job with William Anderson of Giffnock.

Still on the jobs front. Bro Vic Chapman, who recently returned from Australia, has started work, but sadly Bro Alan Cain, Bro John Wallace and Bro Stuart Gillan have joined the ranks of the unemployed.

Bro Ian Burgess has been appointed as Manager of the United Services Club in Paisley Road

Congratulations to our own Bro Joe Roberts PM, Sub Prov Grand Master of R.E. on being made an honorary member of Lodge St John Operative, No.347.

MARK N' ARCHIE



The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :

Brother Jim Renfrew P.M.

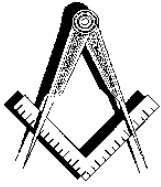
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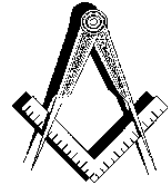
" With grateful thanks to all those who gladly gave their assistance "

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



Syllabus 2018

(* Denotes an Official Visitation)



March 2018

Tuesday 6th March		Visitation by PGL of Renfrewshire East
Tuesday 20th March	FC	Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167

April 2017

Tuesday 3rd April	MM	Lodge Instruction Class
Tuesday 17th April		'Burns vs Kipling' Dramatisation

May 2018

Tuesday 1st May	EA	'Visiting Master's Degree'
Tuesday 15th May		Prisoner of War Dramatisation
<i>* Saturday 2nd June</i>	<i>TSF</i>	<i>At Lodge St John Fisherrow, No.112</i>

September 2018

Tuesday 4th September	FC	Lodge Prince of Wales, No.426
Tuesday 18th September	MM	Lodge Instruction Class

October 2018

Tuesday 2nd October	DMM	Lodge Instruction Class
Tuesday 16th October	MM	Annual General Meeting
<i>* Saturday 20th October</i>	<i>PoW</i>	<i>At Lodge Loretto Centenary, No.1373</i>
<i>* Tuesday 23rd October</i>	<i>FC</i>	<i>At Lodge Prince of Wales, No.426</i>

November 2018

Friday 2nd November		'Open Night' (followed by the Table of Scottish FMs)
Tuesday 20th November	MMM	Bro George McGrandles IPM
Saturday 24th November		Annual Installation of Officebearers