

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



October 2025

The Mallet

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

No. 487

Editorial



October 2025

Just last weekend, twenty-nine Brethren travelled nearly 200 miles to the Black Isle and returned after three busy days, both exhausted and exhilarated by yet another demonstration of what our Lodge can achieve with determination. Over the past thirty years, our Lodge has journeyed across the country—and sometimes abroad—entertaining members from numerous Lodges with our popular dramatized degrees.

This time, we performed our 'Prisoner of War' degree, and judging by the laughter echoing through the Masonic Temple in Fortrose, both the Brethren of Lodge Alan Wilson No.851 and visiting guests truly enjoyed it.

We received a warm welcome from this Lodge, which was originally founded in Southern Africa in the late 19th century, then closed for a period before being reopened and relocated to the Black Isle, where its namesake Brother originated. Our visit was organized by our own Bro Bud Gauld and his close friend Bro William Ramsey McGhee—a past master of 851 and currently the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, and an Honorary Member of Union & Crown.

After the meeting, members from both Lodges enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Bro Ramsey and his wife Ann, setting the stage for an evening filled with excellent harmony. Many Brethren took part, performing songs, piping tunes, and lively music, with Bro Ramsey providing wonderful accordion accompaniment.

The Social Club had a great atmosphere, and everyone present had a memorable night. With some regret, the brethren of 307 boarded their coach at 10:30 pm to return to their hotel in Strathpeffer, though the celebrations continued well into the early morning hours.

The next morning, as the Brethren woke—somewhat bleary-eyed—enjoyed breakfast, and began their journey home, many wore contented smiles, proud of another successful endeavour.



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 6th November 2025

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Dramatised 'Table of Scottish Freemasonry'

By the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class

Harmony

Tuesday 18th November 2025

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Mark Ceremonial

By Bro Robert D Scott FPM

Harmony

Saturday 22nd November 2025

Installation of Office-bearers

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M., Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 7th October, the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class conferred a fine Master Mason Degree upon the following Candidate :

Alan Adam Watson

All in attendance were impressed by the excellent floor work of the Brethren conferring the degree. Sadly, our other candidate for that evening – Max Gilroy was unable to take part due to unfortunate family circumstances. Thereafter, the Brethren enjoyed a fine harmony.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.21pm

Attendance : 55

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 21st October, the Lodge held its annual business meeting, where all Office-bearers and committees were nominated and elected. Both our worthy Secretary and Treasurer are to be congratulated upon the way in which the business was carried out.

After the important business of the evening was complete, the Lodge was adjourned, and the Lodge's new "**Musical Degree**" was introduced.

Without giving too much away it took the format of a group of friends, all members of the craft who, after meeting in a bar, decided that it was perhaps time to update some of the music at the meetings. What followed can only be described as "different" with a very attentive and enthusiastic audience being well entertained by an equally enthusiastic group of performers.

Several songs and much hilarity later the team retired but not before being warmly applauded by a very appreciative audience. At the harmony afterwards the plaudits kept coming and the team involved could do nothing else than judge the evening a great success. In the days following the meeting the brains behind this latest dramatised offering - Bro Bud Gauld PM has happily reported very positive feedback from both within and outwith the province which is very encouraging indeed.

Offering up something different from time to time definitely appears to pay dividends.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 8.45pm

Attendance : 59

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

7th October £20 : **Bro Archie Allan** £10 : **Bro Bobby Clark PM**

21st October £20 : **Bro Jim Phillips** £10 : **Bro Eddie Mullin**

Our Treasurer, is taking names for next year, which will commence immediately after our Annual Installation.

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

Dates for your Diary



Friday 7th November Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where 'The Table of Scottish Freemasons' will be conferred by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class

Monday 17th November Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

Tuesday 18th November Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where the Mark Ceremonial will be conferred by Bro Robert D Scott IPM

Saturday 22nd November Annual Installation of Office-bearers at 4pm

(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)



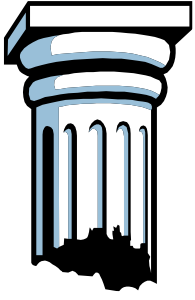
Did you Know ?

- That Freemasons played a great part in the 'Period of Enlightenment' in the late 1700s where they helped reform society.

Freemasonry has always valued human consciousness and reason, and these values were transmitted to the Enlightenment, when people were fighting for freedom of worship and speech, public education and a democratic government. Freemasons were also the first advocates of equality.

Our fraternity has always disregarded social distinctions and was one of the first organisations in the world to believe all men are equal.

- That when the great Obelisk of Alexandria (Cleopatra's Needle) was moved to New York in 1880, there were discovered certain emblems on the original foundation and pedestal. One is clearly a square, causing some to conclude that Masonry existed in ancient Egypt. This issue is still open to debate.
- That the term 'on the level', used to describe someone who is truthful and honest, was actually derived from Freemasonry, where the level symbolizes being straightforward and truthful.



From the East

Tempus Fugit

Well, brethren, what a year it's been! When I first took my seat in the Chair of King Solomon, I knew I'd be busy, but I couldn't have imagined just how rewarding, emotional and, at times, challenging it would turn out to be.

Being the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Union and Crown No. 307 has been one of the greatest honours of my life. To lead a Lodge with such a proud history, filled with genuine, hard-working brethren, is something that will stay with me forever.

From the very start, I wanted to make sure that every brother, whether he's been here for fifty years or just walked through the door, felt welcome, valued, and proud to be part of 307. That to me, is what Freemasonry is all about, the sense of belonging, the friendship, and the laughter (and the odd tear) that come with being a member of Union & Crown.

This past year has been packed with highlights, but none stand out quite like our recent Prisoner of War Degree up in the Black Isle. What a weekend that was! To lead such a large deputation from the Crown was a very proud moment for me. The degree itself was superb, performed with the usual aplomb we've come to expect from our degree team and the welcome we received from the brethren of Lodge Alan Wilson was first-class. It reminded me once again of the bond we all share as Freemasons, no matter the distance between us.

Back home in 307, the support I've received from you, my own brethren, has been nothing short of fantastic. Your attendance, enthusiasm, and encouragement have been first class and truly appreciated. Whether it was our latest musical drama, our charitable efforts, or simply the craic at the harmony, the spirit of Union and Crown has been alive and well throughout the year.

I need to give special mention to my Depute Master, PM Jim Renfrew. Jim's steady hand, experience, and dry sense of humour have been invaluable. He's had a tough time health-wise, but it's been inspiring to see him bounce back and continue to give so much, both to me personally and to the Lodge.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without my office-bearers, the degree team, and my Instruction Master, PM Graham Manson. Together they have worked tirelessly to ensure that we maintain the high standards we've come to expect from Union and Crown.

When I look back on the year, what stays with me most isn't any single event, it's you, the brethren of 307! The handshakes, the kind words, the laughs, and the shared moments, remind me why I joined Freemasonry in the first place.

So, as I prepare to pass on the mallet, I do so with immense pride and gratitude. The Lodge is strong, our brethren are united, and the future looks bright.

To every brother who has supported me, travelled with me, or simply taken the time for a blether, thank you. It's been a privilege to serve as your Right Worshipful Master, and an even greater privilege to call you all my friends.

Bro Stephen Scott R.W.M.



At the Installation Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 14th October 2025, all Office-bearers were installed for the forthcoming year, with the installing Principals taking to the floor - MEC Graham Manson PZ and MEC Andrew Neilson PZ, doing a very fine job.

Our newly-install ME First Principal - MEC James Renfrew MEZ and his Office-bearers were well and truly installed in what was a fine ceremony, as you would expect from those involved.

At the close of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount Royal Arch Chapter along with their visitors retired downstairs where an enjoyable harmony was enjoyed by all.

During the Lodge's recent visit to the Black Isle, MECs Jim Renfrew MEZ, Graham Manson PZ and David Watson MEJ took advantage of the fact that St Clement RAC, No.244 were meeting in the Masonic Temple in nearby Dingwall on the Friday evening of the visit. They were warmly welcomed by no less a figure than ME First Grand Principal – MEC William Ramsay McGhee and all the Companions of the Chapter.

It was their Installation meeting and our three Brethren enjoyed an evening of warm companionship amongst our northern counterparts and fraternal greetings were exchanged



What is Masonry?

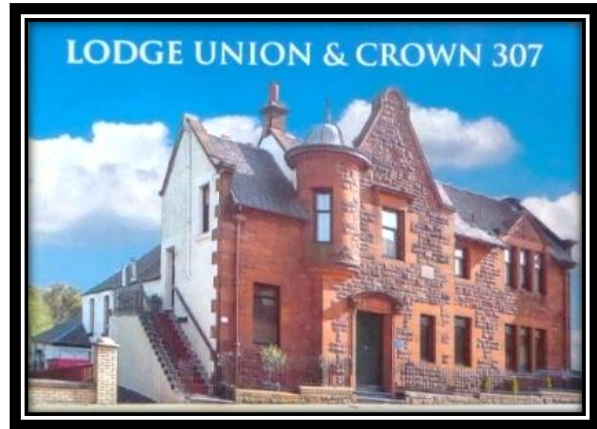
It's not a sign or handshake, a hall where tylers sit,
It's not a guarded building, where passwords will admit,
It's not a place of symbols, which Wardens oft display,
It's not a lodge of members, who meet in white array.

It is the home of justice, of liberty and truth,
Of loyalty to country, of sympathy for youth,
Of comfort for a brother, of gentleness and cheer,
Of tolerance for neighbours, whose life is often drear.

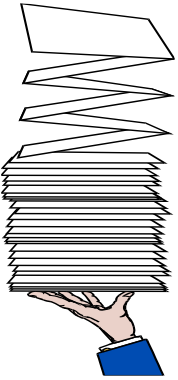
Lodge Postcards

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

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 almost £750 has been raised so far.



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/m² 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/m² card

Brother Napoleon Bonaparte ???

Whilst it was widely rumoured that Napoleon Bonaparte was a freemason it was never proven, although he did adopt the title of 'Protector of Freemasonry'.

However, his four brothers were masons, many of his Officers, members of his Grand Council for the Empire and 22 of the 30 Marshals of France were also Freemasons. Even his wife, Josephine was admitted into a French female lodge in 1804.



Famous Freemasons

(In another departure from our customary detailed format, we publish a list of 'Doctors, Scientists and Inventors' who were Freemasons)

Sir Edward Victor Appleton, Isaac Newton Lodge No. 859, Cambridge

Elias Ashmole, Warrington Lodge, Lancashire

Erasmus Darwin, St. David's Lodge No. 36, Edinburgh

John Fitch, Bristol Lodge No. 25, Bristol, Pennsylvania

Sir Alexander Fleming, London Scottish Rifles Lodge No. 2310;

Sir Sandford Fleming, St. Andrew's Lodge No. 16, Toronto, Ontario

Richard Jordan Gatling, Centre Lodge No. 23, Indianapolis, Indiana

Joseph-Ignace Guillotin, founding member of the Grand Orient of France

Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, Aesculapius Lodge No. 2410

Edward Jenner, Royal Berkeley Lodge of Faith & Friendship No. 449, Berkeley,

Charles Horace Mayo, Rochester Lodge No. 21, MN

William James Mayo, Rochester Lodge No. 21, MN

Charles Robert Richet, Lodge Cosmos, France

George Shillibeer, Etonian Lodge of St. John No. 209, Windsor

Sir Christopher Wren, Lodge of Antiquity No. 2

BITS & PIECES

- Grateful thanks go to Bro Jim Cherry, who being unable to travel with the Lodge to the Black Isle, gave a generous donation to be used to subsidise the travel costs for the Brethren.
- Congratulations to Bro Craig Allison who recently celebrated his 40th Birthday.
- 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, but if your too shy and would rather learn something quietly at home, he'll be only too happy to help you out and let you go forward when you're confident enough.
- Did anyone notice Bro Andy Irvine RWM of 1167 on an edition of ITV's The Chase recently? He and his two fellow competitors scooped a £20,000 jackpot
- It has been agreed that the Lodge will hold a Celebration Dinner in February 2026 to mark the Bi-Centenary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East. As one of the original founding Lodges of the Province, the other six surviving founder Lodges as well as Grand Lodge have been invited. Most of the invitations have now gone out,, but if you haven't received one yet, contact our Lodge Secretary Bro Evens Reid PM. The date is Friday 6th February 2026.
- We gather that Bros Robert Miller PM and Donald Cook PM recently travelled to France, Belgium and the Netherlands on a trip to the World War I & II battlefields and Forces Cemeteries. We are told that it was a very emotional journey, with Bro Robert finding his Great-Grandfather's name on the Menin Gate Memorial.
- Bro Lawrence Webb is now taking names for the Christmas Dance on Saturday 6th December and tell us that although there is over two months to go, tickets are selling well with only a few remaining.
- Sorry to learn that Bro Billy Little has been getting treatment following a recent bout of ill health. We wish him well and hope that he is on the road to recovery.
- Bro Jim Renfrew PM and his wife Anne are hoping to meet up with Bro Colin McLardy PM during a trip to Las Vegas next month. Bro Colin now lives and works there.
- Good to see Bro Mark Lawn being elected into Office again after an absence of several years. He has mellowed well over the years and we are sure that he will do especially well as a Lodge Office-bearer.
- Bro Stuart Welsh our trusty Tyler has just moved into one of the new houses built on the old Cowglen Savings Bank.
- Well done to Bro Graham Manson PM who the Minibus for our trip to Fortrose on the Black Isle. A total of 390 miles in total.
- Sorry to hear that Bro Iain Nicol had a short spell in hospital recently. Thankfully he was discharged after a few days and is recovering at home.

Lodge Union & Crown, No.307



Xmas Dance

**Saturday
6th December**

Tickets : £7.00

Available from :

Lawrence Webb (☎ 07514 772 560)



Dress : Smart Casual



FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 17 Years Ago

No. 317

October 2008

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting, held on Tuesday 7th October, the following Candidate :

KENNETH BEATTS

was raised to the high and sublime degree of a Master Mason, by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class, in what was a very good 3rd Degree. Bro Michael Hughes PM, our Instruction Master cannot fail to have been delighted by the efforts of his team.

Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-23pm

Attendance : 63

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 21st October, the Lodge held its Annual Business Meeting. The various Office-bearers and committee members for the forthcoming year were nominated and elected by the Brethren, with the worthy Secretary and Treasurer submitting their respective reports. Both gave clear and precise details of the complex workings of the Lodge, with an emphasis on a need to increase attendances in future, and were well received by the Brethren, who were grateful to both of the executive office-bearers for their efforts over the preceding twelve months in what was an extremely busy year for the Lodge.

Opened : 7-30pm

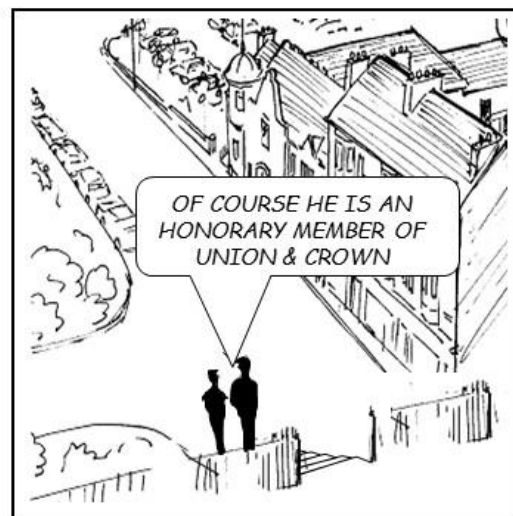
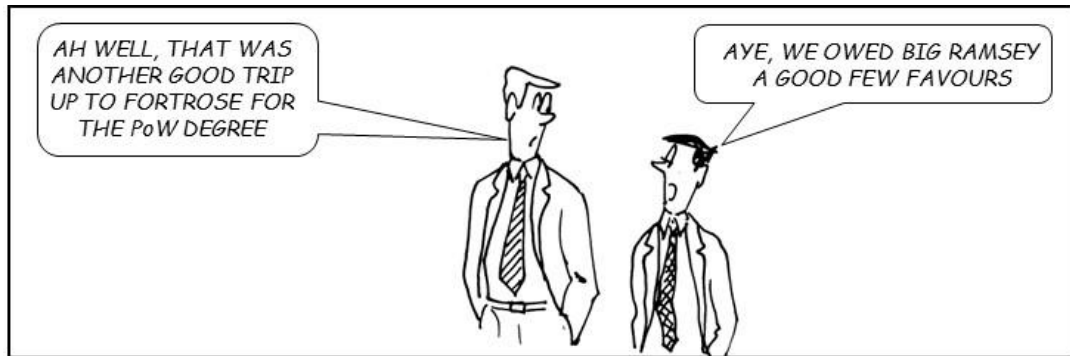
Lodge Closed : 8-23pm

Attendance : 49

Bits & Pieces

- Brethren are reminded that the Function Suite, with all the facilities of the Lodge are available for hire at a very modest charge. Depending upon the nature of the function, it can accommodate up to 120 people and is ideal for family parties and dances.
- Sorry to hear that Bro Mark Lawn has had to cut back in several of his business interests due to ill health. He's happily working now as a taxi driver in the town, and hopefully recuperating well.
- We see that Bro Jimmy Laing's younger daughter, Michelle, is now settled in her new house in Gateside Crescent.
- Good to see RWM Bro George Munn 1434 and several Brethren from Lodge Nitshill who have given excellent support over the years along with another regular Bro Tom Nixon PM of 370 at a recent regular meeting.

MARK N' ARCHIE



October 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

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

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