

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



March 2026

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No. 492

Editorial



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It is essential for the Lodge to maintain a consistent stream of revenue to ensure continued solvency during challenging times for many organizations. Sustained financial stability allows us to offer facilities that uphold and enhance the reputation of the Lodge.

While Masonic achievements are valuable, it is important to recognize the ongoing efforts of our members who dedicate significant time and energy to generating necessary funds. Traditional methods such as meeting attendance and social club activities are no longer sufficient to guarantee our financial health.

Therefore, we must persist in identifying innovative and sustainable approaches to increasing capital, particularly by seeking opportunities outside the Lodge, so as not to repeatedly rely on the same group of dedicated members and their families.

We consistently encourage the development of new fundraising initiatives designed to engage a broader audience and generate greater interest. It is commendable that several members have recently taken the initiative to organize events that promise to deliver much-needed financial support for the Lodge.

The commitment of longstanding contributors who regularly organize popular and well-supported activities remains invaluable. However, it is often the case that those most involved receive the most critique. We acknowledge this reality and emphasize the importance of shared responsibility.

We encourage all members who can contribute, or who have suggestions for events that would interest our Brethren, their families, and the local community, to actively participate in these efforts. Every contribution is valuable, and by diversifying our fundraising strategies and expanding our reach, we will achieve our objectives.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 7th April 2026

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree

By the Guid Brethren o' the Lodge

Harmony



Tuesday 17th April 2026

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Master Mason Degree

By the Installing Masters

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M., Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 3rd March, the Lodge received a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East, who were paying there annual visit to Union & Crown.

The Deputation was led by Bro Brian Shields, Substitute Provincial Grand Master, and he was supported by a goodly number of PG Office-bearers, including Bro Ronnie E Fraser PGM. The Lodge received a 'clear minute' and Bro Brian was praiseworthy of the manner in which the affairs of the Lodge had been conducted over yet another busy year in 307. Bro Stephen Scott IPM made suitable reply.

Thereafter all Brethren retired to the Function Suite downstairs for a relaxed and amiable harmony.

Opened : 7.32pm

Lodge Closed : 8.34pm

Attendance : 51



At the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 17th March, the following Candidate :

Mathew Mannion

received a fine Fellowcraft Degree conferred by the Worthy Deacons, assisted by Brethren from the Lodge Instruction Class. The attendance was lower than of late, but the Brethren present still enjoyed the after-meeting downstairs.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 8.58pm

Attendance :41

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes over the last month were :

3rd March £20 : **Bro Eddie Mullan** £10 : **Bro Donald Cook PM**

17th March £20 : **Bro Callum MacIsaac** £10 : **Bro Stefan Lawniczak**

Brother William Logan

We apologise to Bro Bill Logan for omitting the fact that he affiliated at our Meeting on 17th February. It must have been the excitement of the PoW Degree that night that made us overlook the fact that he was now a Brother of Union & Crown.

We welcome Bro Bill and hope that he enjoys his time among us.

Dates for your Diary



| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Tuesday 7th April | Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Dramatised FC Degree will be conferred. |
| Monday 13th April | Visitation to Lodge Nitshill where we have been invited to confer an EA Degree |
| Thursday 16th April | General Committee at 7.30pm |
| Monday 20th April | Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm |
| Tuesday 21st April | Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Master Mason Degree will be conferred by the Installing Masters, assisted by the Past Masters of the Lodge. |
| Friday 1st May | Visitation to Lodge Caledonia, No.1408 where we have been invited to confer the Prisoner of War Degree. The meeting will be held in Lodge Thistle, No.127 in Stewarton. |

(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 our RWM or any senior Office-bearer, and they will be only too pleased to take you along with them as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province)



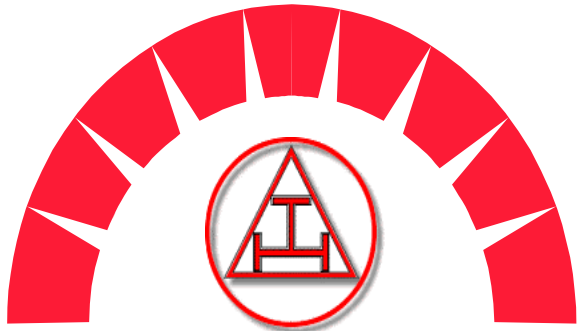
The Big Breakfast



Just as we went to press with our February edition on Saturday 28th February, the Lodge held its annual 'Big Breakfast'. Ever popular, this event always brings in the Brethren and their families and friends, and this time was no exception with the Function Suite filled to absolute capacity from early on, with a sizeable overflow into the Lounge next door.

The usual healthy fayre was on offer and was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. The usual stalls selling Home Baking, Raffle etc. were doing a roaring trade and all contributed to a very successful morning.

Grateful thanks must go to Bro Ronnie Maclsaac and his team for all their efforts and the magnificent sum of £703 was raised for Lodge Funds.



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday, 10th March, the Companions of the Chapter conferred a fine Royal Arch Degree upon a substitute candidate. All who took part are to be congratulated upon their efforts, with especial mention of MEC Danny Birrell PZ of Sir William Wallace RAC, No.109 who stepped in at very short notice and presented one of the Lecture following a late call-off.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions of both Rockmount Royal Arch and Cryptic Council, along with their guests, retired downstairs where they enjoyed a quiet yet pleasant gathering.

MEC James Renfrew MEZ cordially invites all to the next Regular meeting of the Chapter to be held on Tuesday 14th April at 7.30pm, where the Companions of Paisley Abbey, No.76 and Sir William Wallace, No.109 will jointly be conferring the Mark Affiliate and Excellent Master's Degree upon a couple of live Candidates.

Any Brethren who perhaps may be interested in joining the Royal Arch should have a word with any of the Chapter Office-bearers.

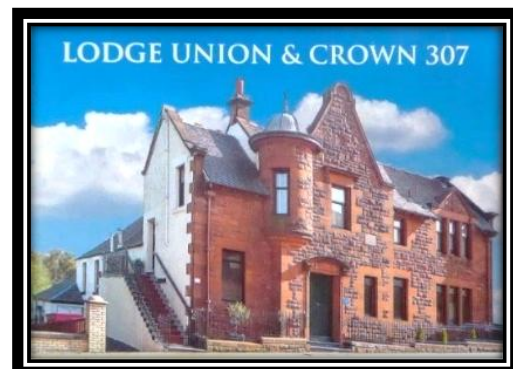


Lodge Postcards

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 stands, a magnificent total of almost £750 has been raised so far.



BITS & PIECES

- It is hoped that the newly revamped Lodge Website will go live in the next week or so. Bro Stephen Scott IPM has put a tremendous amount of work into it you will be impressed !
- It looks as if Union & Crown will have more than 15 Brethren attending The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East Bicentenary Rededication by The Grand Lodge of Scotland on Saturday 6th June at 1pm in the Paisley Town Hall, with a good number of them staying for the dinner afterwards. If you're still interested in attending, give your name to Bro Jim Renfrew P.M.
- Bro Ian Blair, our worthy Treasurer, is still looking for some of our test fee paying Brethren to pay their annual dues.
- Many congratulations to Brother Alex White and his wife Grace who recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary
- Bro Graham Manson PM, our faithful Instruction Master would be delighted to see some new recruits at the Instruction Class on a Monday evening. He'll be only too glad to help you out and let you go forward when you're ready to take the floor.
- Cufflinks with the Lodge's new 'Coat of Arms' are still available for sale. All interested should contact Bro Ross Aitken SM (☎ 07590 207 365) In addition, a lovely new Lodge Tie is also for sale at a bargain £15 !!
- Great to hear that Bro Donald Cook PM's wife Pauline is recovering at home now after recent heart surgery. We wish both of them well going forward.
- It was great to see Bro Bro Frank McLaughlin at the last couple of our meetings. He is friendly with our recent affiliate Bro Bill Logan.
- We gather that our Right Worshipful Master – Bro Alan D Izatt is taking part in a 'Reigning Masters' Degree' at Lodge Nitshill on Monday 25th May and we would call upon as many Brethren as possible to support him on that evening.
- The Lodge has accepted an invitation to confer the PoW Degree within Lodge Scone & Perth, No.3 on Saturday 27th June. If you're interested in travelling up to Perth for that weekend you should give your name to Bro Campbell Ritchie WSW.
- Great to see Bro Andy Meikle at one of our meeting recently. A close friend from the farming community was down from Argyll & the Isles and he took the opportunity to catch-up with him.
- Our Senior Deacon – Bro Craig Allison is coping well with the situation of living and working in Aberdeen whilst still making most of his meetings and rehearsals etc. down here in Barrhead.

Famous Freemasons

(Continuing our series about Famous Brethren, this month we turn to one of Britain's foremost politicians and statesman

Bro Sir Winston Spencer Churchill (1874 - 1965)

Winston Churchill was a pillar of stability for democracy, celebrated author, Freemason, and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during World War II.

Considered one of the most sublime British statesmen, Brother Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was a pillar of strength and stability for democracy during the dark days of World War II. A celebrated author and beloved Prime Minister of the U.K. (1940-45, 1951-55), Brother Churchill's tenacity and unfailing attitude demonstrated his Masonic training on the world's stage. Following WWII, he received two major accomplishments in 1953: investiture as a Knight of the Garter and recognition as a Nobel Prize winner in Literature.



Churchill faced adversity even at the very beginning of his life – born two months premature in Oxfordshire on November 30, 1874. By his own admission, Churchill struggled in school, particularly in mathematics. Although far from the top of his class, he excelled grammar, rhetoric, and logic – skills which served him substantially in his political career. His six-volume anthology on World War II, particularly the first book titled *The Gathering Storm*, is masterful historical prose. With eloquence, Churchill narrates his experience during the war with sharp imagery and poetic grace: “It is where the balance quivers, and the proportions are veiled in mist, that the opportunity for world-saving decisions presents itself.”

During the time Churchill was considering joining, Freemasonry was viewed a fashionable and popular social pursuit. Receiving positive publicity, Freemasons were recognized and revered in their local communities. Following popular sentiment, Winston applied for membership and was initiated into the Studholme Lodge No. 1591 on May 24, 1901. Although he did not hold Masonic office, Brother Churchill was faithful and regular attendee of lodge meetings for more than a decade. Resigning from his lodge in 1912,

Churchill attempted to form a new lodge in 1918 – the Ministry of Munitions Lodge. When the petition was rejected, his masonic participation dwindled to the rare visit to a lodge, such as Royal Naval Lodge No. 59 in 1928. Yet, Brother Churchill's early masonic education and training clearly developed key virtues necessary for great leadership – temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice – which ultimately benefited humanity by preserving liberty and equality for future generations.

Almoner's Report

Past Master Donald Cook's wife Pauline is now back home after a major operation. I called in to see them both and handed in a bunch of flowers and a card on behalf of the Master and the Brethren. They were both delighted,

I managed a visit up to see Bro Alex White up in Neilston, Bro Alex is still having problems with his eyesight and on the day I called, it was Alex and Grace's Diamond Wedding Anniversary. I gave them a celebratory card which both of them greatly appreciated.

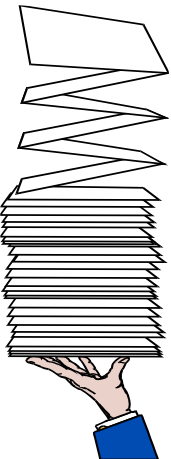
It was great to see Bro David Noble PM at the Lodge recently after his bad fall whilst up in Pitlochry for the weekend.

Bro Ian Cowie is back home from Hospital recovering after an operation.

It was extremely rare to see Bro Jim Cherry missing from one of our regular meetings recently and decided to give him a call. He'd been suffering from 'flu like' symptoms and didn't feel like leaving the house for a day or two. He's much better now and back on his feet.

Brother Lawrence Webb ☎ 07514 772 560

Paper Appeal



Due to a rapid, and unexpected, decline in our stock, we are in grave danger of running out of that most essential of commodities – PAPER.

As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² copier or duplicator 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.

DID YOU KNOW ??

- That masonic jewels are symbolic emblems worn by Brethren to represent specific lodge offices, ranks, or moral teachings, often functioning as badges of honour and identification rather than mere decoration. They embody philosophical, ethical, and spiritual lessons, such as the Square (master's integrity) or Level (equality).
- That many Freemasons choose to be buried with their white lambskin apron or simple cloth lodge apron, representing their final commitment to our fraternity.

Let's go to Lodge tonight

(Author Unknown)

My brother, let's go to Lodge tonight
You haven't been for years.
Let's don our Lambskin Apron white
And sit among our peers.

I feel a kind of longing, see,
to climb those creaky stairs
I know it'll be a thrill for me
to lay aside my cares.

We'll meet the Tyler at the door
and though he'll hesitate,
we'll hear him say just as before,
Come in or you'll be late.

I'd like to get out on the floor
Come on, let's get in line
I want to face the East once more
And give the same old sign.

I want to hear the gavel rap
the Brethren to attention
and see the Master stand so proud
a night without dissention.

So come! Pass up that picture show,
or your wrestling bout or fight
Switch off that TV set! Let's go!
Let's go to Lodge tonight.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 8 Years Ago

No. 412

March 2018

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 6th March the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East paid its annual visit to Union & Crown. The deputation of 9 Brethren, was headed by Bro Robert McPhee, Depute PGM, and it was pleasing to hear the Lodge being given a clear minute for the year of Bro George McGrandles our Immediate Past Master

Thereafter the Brethren retired to the Function Suite and enjoyed a spot of harmony.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 8.31 pm

Attendance : 47

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

STEPHEN SCOTT

was passed to the Fellowcraft Degree, by our good friends Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167 in what was a fine FC Degree, conferred by the Brethren from Neilston. It was good to see a handsome deputation of 20 Brethren supporting Bro Ian Brenchley RWM, who took the opportunity of thanking Union & Crown for the handsome gift presented at their Centenary Celebrations

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.28pm

Attendance : 93

BITS & PIECES

- Our Sportsman's Dinner is taking place on Friday 20th April and Bro Lawrence Webb still has a handful of tickets available. Give him a call on 07736 780132 if you are interested, but don't waste time as they're selling fast.
- We bumped into Bro George Logan recently when he was home to visit his Father-in-Law, Bro Archie Boyd of 1167, who was celebrating his 92nd Birthday. Bro George and his wife now live just outside Beverley in East Yorkshire
- Many thanks to Bro PJ Smith and Bro Bryce McCaig for their generous donations of paper. It was much needed, and much appreciated.
- It was most encouraging to watch the recent BBC Scotland documentary about the 'Secrets of the Masons' on BBC 2. To be honest, they gave us a fair hearing and didn't attempt to misrepresent the Craft. Several of our Brethren were spotted during the broadcast.
- It was most pleasing to welcome a sizeable deputation from Lodge Greenock St John, No.175 to a recent meeting. They'd been invited along by Bro Colin McLardy PM who now lives in Greenock and attends some of their meetings.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW MARCH 2026

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

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