

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



Summer 2026

The Mallet

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

No. 495

Editorial



Summer 2026

With this edition of our journal, we bring another Summer Recess to a close and return to something resembling our normal Masonic rhythm, as Regular Meetings once again take their rightful place in our calendar.

It is remarkable how swiftly the months pass when we are occupied with the more leisurely pursuits that summer encourages. Those long, bright days — and yes, a few of them truly were sunny — provided ideal conditions for the Brethren involved in the various golf and bowling competitions. It hardly seems any time at all since we were putting the finishing touches to the May edition of this journal, looking forward to a well-earned rest, with the Summer issue still a distant speck on the horizon.

Throughout the recess, our Social Club remained active despite the warm, humid weather, and the Lodge extends sincere thanks to all who supported it. Particular gratitude is due to our dedicated Bar Teams, who gave their time and energy so faithfully.

Of course, the Lodge itself never truly sleeps. The Function Suite was busy throughout the break, hosting a wide range of events and celebrations — a welcome sight for our Treasurer during what is traditionally a quieter period. It is hard to believe that the Suite is now over thirty years old. One wonders how we ever managed without it.

On the sporting front, Union & Crown experienced mixed fortunes across the various competitions. Our thanks must go to the Convenors of each discipline, who faced the unenviable task of coordinating fixtures, teams, and arrangements.

Sadly, the summer also brought the loss of several Brethren. Each passing was deeply felt, and the Lodge extends heartfelt condolences to the families affected.

Looking ahead, we have much to anticipate in the coming session — not least the 50th Anniversary of our humble monthly journal. Union & Crown has always set itself high standards, and *The Mallet* is no exception. From its origin as a single page typed on an old army typewriter, it has grown in size and sophistication, yet the spirit behind it remains unchanged. The sentiments that guided its creation half a century ago continue to guide us today.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

By the Brethren of the Lodge Nitsbill, No.1478



Tuesday 15th September 2026

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Fellowcraft Degree

By the Brethren of the Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid PM, Lodge Secretary

Visitation



On Saturday 27th June we were once again off on our travels. The destination was the city of Perth, this time to confer the Dramatised P.O.W. Degree at Lodge Scoon And Perth No 3. 24 brethren traveled and included 4 from Lodge Dunlop Caledonia 1408. After a slight hiccup with the travel

arrangements we all arrived in plenty of time and having dropped our belongings and various props at the lodge we made our way to the St. Johnstone F.C. Supporters Club for a welcome sandwich and cuppa. The club was a convenient distance from the lodge which made for an easy afternoon as we shuttled between the club and the lodge.

On arriving at the lodge we were greeted by several of its members and of course by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Bro. Alexander Charles Graham Moncrieff who welcomed us into his mother lodge. With the lodge having been opened our deputation was admitted followed by deputations from The Provincial Grand Lodge Of Perthshire East and finally, The Grand Lodge Of Scotland which included our very own Bro. Bud Gauld PM, Past Depute Grand Master Mason.

After a warm welcome by RWM Bro. Ewan Reid the mall was handed over to our own RWM. Bro Alan Izatt who then took control of the lodge. After a short explanation of the afternoon's events by Bro. Bud the lodge was adjourned and was set up for the dramatisation. The brethren involved then performed a fine rendition of the P.O.W. Degree with everyone playing their parts with aplomb. The degree received a fine ovation from the large number of brethren in attendance. The degree team retired and with the lodge resumed the mall was returned and the lodge closed.

We made our way to the social club and enjoyed refreshments and a fine meal in good company with a female folk singer providing some excellent music for us to enjoy. Many of the brethren from Lodge Scoon And Perth spoke to members of the degree team and gave very kind and positive feedback. There was a limited number of toasts with the emphasis being on relaxing and enjoying ourselves. The G.M.M. made a point of circulating and speaking to a great many of the brethren present which was very well received and appreciated. A large raffle took place with a decent number of our deputation leaving with prizes.

Having said our goodbyes we returned home and reflected on a very successful day for our lodge. We discussed how we saw a good number of visitors from outwith the Perthshire area including Lochwinnoch, Edinburgh and Falkirk. Offering up something different was definitely met with both interest and approval from the brethren we performed for and it is good to know our efforts were appreciated by all.

On the day of our trip to Perth it was good to see the European Pipeband Championships taking place in that very city. One of the bands was warming up in the social club carpark and a number of lodge members enjoyed watching and listening in and remembering such times as ex pipeband members themselves.

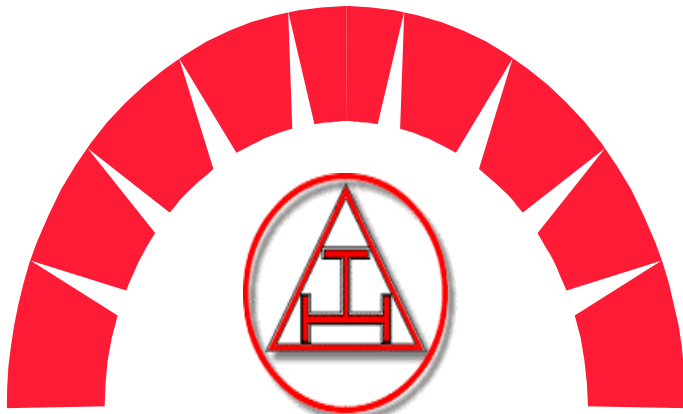
We saw a couple of visitors from Falkirk at Lodge Scoon And Perth, who have attended all our dramatisations at Lodge Union And Crown and have enthusiastically enjoyed every one! We will endeavour to find out their names and thank them properly.

Dates for your Diary



- Tuesday 1st September** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an EA Degree will be conferred by Lodge Nitshill, No.1478
- Friday 3rd September** Visitation to Lodge Craigends, No.1042 where we have been invited to confer the Fellowcraft Degree.
- Tuesday 15th September** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an FC Degree will be conferred by Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167
- Monday 21st September** Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

(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)

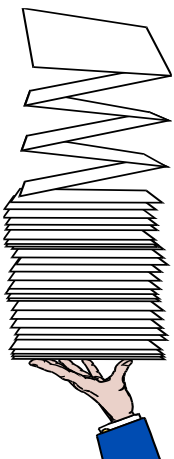


Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

MEC James Renfrew MEZ cordially invites all to the next Regular meeting of the Chapter to be held on Tuesday 8th September at 7.30pm, where Rockmount RAC will be holding its annual business meeting, and nomination and election of Office-bearers for the forthcoming 2026-2027 session

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

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.

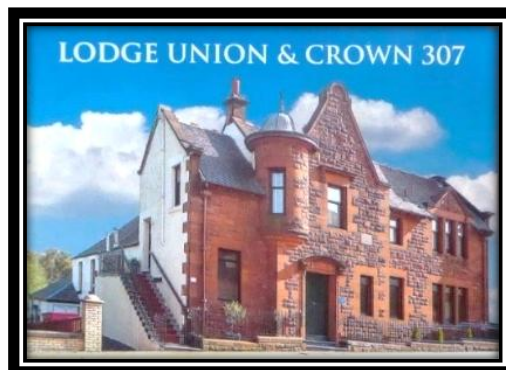
As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² copier or duplicator paper, preferably white but any colour will do. Without sufficient stocks, we simply cannot print enough copies of our journal to satisfy our wide-ranging readership. So if you have the odd ream lying about just let us know and we'll even arrange to have it picked-up if necessary.

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.



Masonic Trivia

- Colonel Paul Revere was initiated in Saint Andrew's Lodge in Boston, Massachusetts on Sept.4,1760, and was Grand Master from December 12, 1794 to December 27, 1797.

In a letter to the secretary of the Massachusetts Historical Society relating to the events of April,1775, he wrote:

'We held our meetings at the Green Dragon tavern. We were so careful that our meetings should be kept secret that every time we met, every person swore upon the Bible, that they would not divulge any of our transactions, but to Messr. Hancock, Adams, Doctors Warren, Church, and one or two more.'

- 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.

The membership of Jewel Lodge includes many musicians, theatrical men and newspapermen to whom midnight is a convenient hour and does not overlap any of the Grand Lodge proceedings.

BITS & PIECES

- Isn't Bro Ian Blair PM doing well in his first year as our Lodge Treasurer. Never an easy job, but Bro Ian has warmed to the task.
- We noticed that Bro Wille Renfrew PM was wearing a protective boot on his left leg. Apparently, it happened at a Provincial Grand Lodge 'Walking Football' session !! (One wag remarked that Bro Willie has always played walking football, especially during his long career with the local Bourrock YM amateur team.
- We were glad to see that Bro Ian Buttar and his wife Isobel were home from Australia for a holiday recently, after many years in the Antipodes. His visit didn't unfortunately coincide with a Lodge Meeting.
- Bro Ian Blair, our worthy Treasurer, is still looking for some of our test fee paying Brethren to pay their annual dues.
- Bro Ross Aitken SM, a former senior police officer, was kept very busy during the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in his new role as a Compliance Officer with HM Government.
- We gather that Bro Bobby Clark PM has really taken to his new found hobby of Kayaking
- Thanks again to Bro Lawrence Webb and Bro Jim Urie for a further kind donations of paper.
- We congratulate Bro Evans Reid PM as his year as RWM of Lodge Dunlop Caledonia, No.1408 draws to a close. We gather that he has had a very successful year.
- We are glad to see that our own RWM – Bro Alan Izatt appears to have recovered well from the back surgert he went through in July/
- 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.
- We are sorry to learn of Bro Jimmy Laing's continuing ill-health. His eyesight is deteriorating badly and this has been a burden. However, his spirit is high and we wish him well going forward.
- Congratulations to Bro Alan Izatt RWM and his wife Janice on becoming Grandparents during the recess.

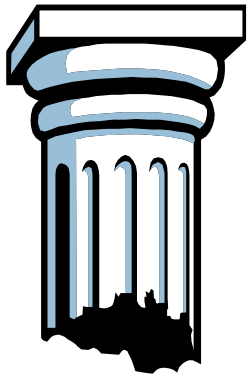
Brothers All

By Bro Silas H. Shepherd

In the Lodge we meet the fellows,
Who, in other walks of life,
We would seldom ever contact,
And then perhaps in strife.
They are men of every leaning
Whom we good and honest call,
And the splendid thing about it
Is, that we are Brothers All.

They are men of every station
Some are rich and some are poor
But they all are full of friendship
And of service have a store.
We may differ in our methods,
But our objects we recall
And it binds us in a labour
And it makes us Brothers All.

They are men of truth and honour
Trusting always in the right
Seeking always further light.
What a power for perfect justice!
How can failure e'er befall
Such a firmly founded body
For the Lodge makes Brothers All?



From the South

As I reflect on my year so far as Worshipful Junior Warden of Lodge Union & Crown No 307, I realise just how enjoyable, memorable, and rewarding the experience has been. The office has provided me with opportunities that I may never otherwise have had, and I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

One of the greatest privileges has been representing our Lodge on visits to many different lodges throughout the Province and further afield. Each visit has allowed me to experience different traditions, impressive Temples, and unique styles of working, while reinforcing the strong bonds of friendship that make Freemasonry so special. It has also been a pleasure to meet brethren from so many lodges, renewing old acquaintances and making many new friends along the way. Everywhere we have travelled, we have received a warm welcome and outstanding hospitality, for which I am sincerely grateful.

Among the many visits I have enjoyed this year, three stand out as particular highlights. The first was my inaugural visit to the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh for the Festival of St Andrew. Attending alongside our Right Worshipful Master and Worshipful Senior Warden made the occasion even more memorable. Walking into The Grand Lodge for the first time was a special experience in itself, and it was an honour to witness such an important event in Freemasonry. A personal highlight of the day was meeting The Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Brother Alexander C. G. Moncrieff, for the very first time. It was a privilege to be introduced to him and to share in such a prestigious occasion.

Another unforgettable experience was our visit to Lodge Scoon & Perth No. 3. Their temple is truly magnificent and one of the most impressive I have had the pleasure of visiting. Our Lodge had the honour of conferring the Prisoner of War Dramatisation, which proved to be a great success. To perform in such a beautiful setting, and in the presence of The Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason,

Brother Alexander C. G. Moncrieff, made the evening especially memorable. It was a proud occasion for Lodge Union & Crown 307 and one that showcased the hard work and dedication of all the brethren involved.

A further highlight was attending the Bicentenary Rededication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East at Paisley Town Hall. Having never visited Paisley Town Hall before, I was impressed by both the grandeur of the building and the significance of the occasion. It was a privilege to attend as part of a large deputation from Lodge Union & Crown No 307 and to witness such an important milestone in the history of the Provincial Grand Lodge, surrounded by brethren from across the Province and beyond.

Although there is still much of my year ahead, the experiences so far have already made serving as Worshipful Junior Warden a truly rewarding privilege. The friendships formed, the places visited, and the opportunities to represent Lodge Union & Crown No 307 have created memories that I will treasure for many years to come.

I would like to thank the Right Worshipful Master, my fellow office-bearers, and every brother of Lodge Union & Crown No 307 for their friendship, encouragement, and support throughout my year so far. I look forward to the remainder of my term, continuing to represent our Lodge, visiting more brethren, and creating many more memorable experiences together.

Bro Bryce McCaig, Worshipful Junior Warden

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 7 Years Ago

No. 425

Summer 2019

. BITS & PIECES

- Congratulations to our own Right Worshipful Master – Bro Stewart Gray and his lovely wife Suzanne who recently celebrated their 'Pearl Wedding Anniversary'.
- We hear that Bro Iain Nicol has moved in to his new house up in the new development at Springhill..
- Well done to all the Brethren who worked hard over the Summer Recess to keep the Lodge in fine fettle. The evidence of their labours is there for all to see.
- Congratulations to Bro Adam Watson and his wife Sylvia, on their forthcoming Diamond Wedding Anniversary.
- Best wishes to Bro George McGrandles PM and his wife Amanda who have now moved in to their new home in Pitlochry. Very much a renovation project, they have grand plans for the extensive detach property in lovely Perthshire.
- We were saddened to hear that Bro David Taylor, a close friend of Bro Evan Reid PM and an Honorary Member of Union & Crown, has passed away after a short illness. Bro David was the link between 307 and Lodge Frituna in Essex.
- Our Bro Treasurer asks us to remind the brethren that Test Fees are now overdue at £40 per head & any brother wishing to pay the capitation fee, or contribute towards it should see him as soon as possible.

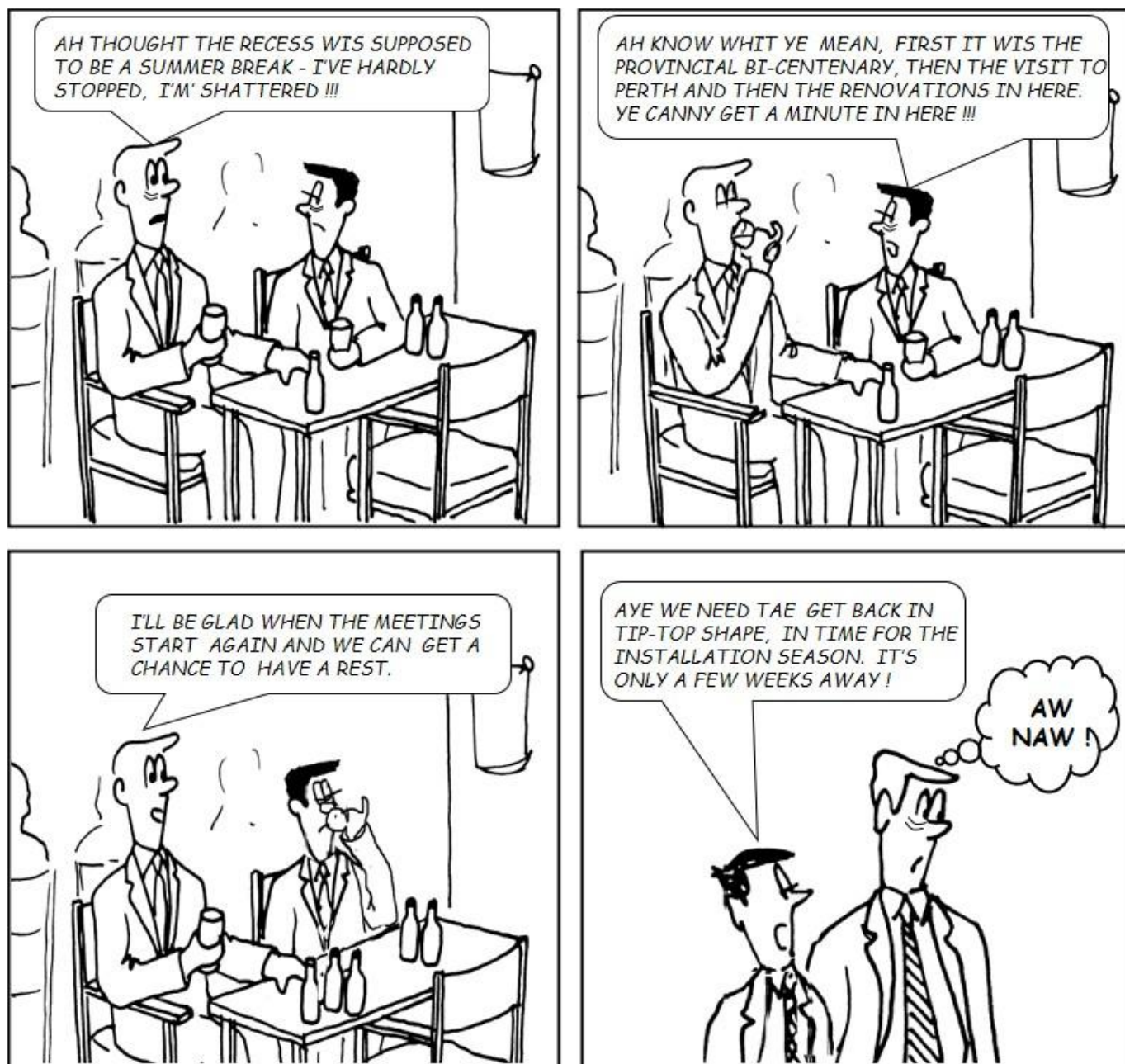
Did you know ???

John Stafford Smith (1750-1836), a member of Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No. 4, actually wrote the music which later became the US national anthem. Its original use is not known, but at an early date it was adopted by an Irish Masonic orphans' Home as its song. When Francis Scott Key utilized this music for the Star Spangled Banner, the tune was popular in taverns of that time.

Bro Charles Lindbergh, Keystone Lodge 243, St. Louis, once appeared on the cover of Time Magazine, not for any of his accomplishments in aviation, but for his role in inventing what was called an artificial heart !

Bro Sir Winston Churchill, Rosemary Lodge No.2581, Wartime Prime Minister and one of the great leaders of the 20th century, on April 9, 1963 became the first person ever to receive the designation "Honorary Citizen of the United States." Only 7 people hold this rare distinction.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW 2026

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

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

☎ 07957 556 689

e-mail : renfrew2022@gmail.com

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

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown307.co.uk>