

# The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



September 2024

# The Mallet

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

No. 476

*Editorial*



September 2024

o

Many Lodges in recent times, and Union & Crown has been no exception, have found it difficult, if not impossible to attract Candidates into our order. Indeed it is not uncommon for some Lodges not to have initiated a single Candidate for several years. No longer is it to be taken for granted that Freemasonry will attract the numbers that it did in earlier years.

If we examine ourselves honestly and frankly, we must ask the question – “What do we offer to potential Candidates, especially in a modern world?” The answer in some cases will be deeply depressing, and perhaps the root cause of the troubles that the Craft finds itself in.

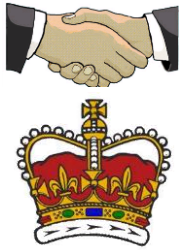
For many years 307 had “recruiting sergeants” in the local works and factories and these many of these, such as Shanks, provided a steady stream of promising Candidates, who went on to senior positions in the Lodge, serving Union & Crown loyally and well for many years. At one time we enjoyed the enviable position of being able to initiate batches of four or five at a time.

The social changes within the town over the last forty years, and the wholly different employment patterns which have emerged, have largely turned Barrhead in to a “dormitory town” whose populace now commute to Glasgow and Paisley to earn their daily bread.

It is therefore all the more pleasing to notice the trend in recent months, which has created a slight upturn in petitions, largely from young men in well-paid, secure employment, quite a high percentage of which are businessmen, or professionals. In addition, casual conversations reveal that quite a high number of sons of our members, may be waiting in the wings for the opportunity to join.

When talking to potential Candidates, or new initiates, it is obvious that their first glimpse of Union & Crown is normally through some of the social events in the Lodge, and the ‘Open Evenings’ where outsiders can come along and witness a dramatisation. We try present the correct image to the outside world, and this is heartening for the future of 307.

We will never return to the halcyon days of 20+ candidates a year, for the foreseeable future, batches of one, and perhaps two initiates will be the norm, which is an encouraging sign



# Lodge Union & Crown

## No. 307

*Dear Sir & Brother,*

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

*Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Master Mason Degree*

*By the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class*

*Harmony*



*Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024*

*Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Annual General Meeting*

*(Nomination & Election of Office-bearers and Committees)*

*Harmony*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

*R Evans Reid P.M.*

*Lodge Secretary*

# Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the Brethren of our good friends from Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167 conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree upon the following Candidate :

## **Marc McKenzie Jones**

All in attendance were impressed by the excellent floor work of our near neighbours in Neilston. Thereafter, the Brethren of both Lodges enjoyed a fine harmony.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9.44pm**

**Attendance : 64**

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, the same Candidate was passed to the second square, or Fellowcraft Degree by a deputation of Brethren from Lodge Nitshill, No.1478 who conferred a fine 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree.

Bro George Colvan RWM must have been delighted with the efforts of his Brethren

The Brethren of both Lodges then retired to the Function Suite to enjoy the harmony.

**Opened : 7.30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9.22pm**

**Attendance : 62**

## **100 CLUB**

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

**3<sup>rd</sup> September**      £20 : **Bro R Brown**                      £10 : **Bro Jimmy Laing**

**24<sup>th</sup> September**      £20 : **Bro Bobby Clark PM**                      £10 : **Bro Kenny Beatts**

Bro George McGrandles P.M., our Treasurer, is taking names for next year, which commenced immediately after our Annual Installation.

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

## **Did You Know ?**

That the cornerstone of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbour was laid by Scots-American businessman Willian A Brodie, Grand Master of Masons of New York, on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1884

That Mason City in Iowa was originally called Shibboleth. Unsurprisingly it was founded by local Freemasons.

That in 1947 eleven Caldwell Brothers made their twelfth brother a Master Mason in Corinthian Lodge No.96 in Ontario Canada.

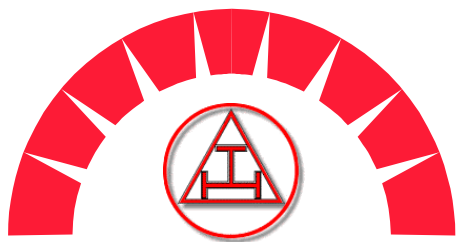
# Dates for your Diary



- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an MM Degree will be conferred by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October** Visitation to Lodge St Vigeans, No. 101 in Arbroath, where the Lodge will Be conferring our popular Dramatised 'Prisoner of War' degree. (*Bro Ross Aitken W.S.W. is still taking names for the trip*)
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October** General Committee Meeting at 7.30pm. All Office-bearers and Past Masters are expected to attend.
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October** Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an FC Degree will be conferred by the Brethren of Lodge Nitshill
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October** Management & Enquiry 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 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)



**Rockmount R.A.C. No.367**

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September the Companions of Rockmount held their their annual business meeting, and election of Office-bearers for 2024 – 2025.

The Installation meeting of the Chapter will be held on **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October** at 7pm (**Note the earlier start !!**)

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

## Did You Know 2 ?

That in November 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt attended the meeting of Architect Lodge No. 519 in New York and raised two of his sons, James and Franklin D., Jr. An honorary membership certificate was presented to the President by the Lodge.

That John Hancock was a member of St. Andrew's Lodge, Boston, Massachusetts. He was the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence. He wrote in a bold flourishing style. When asked why his signature was so large, he replied: "So that George III may read it without putting on his spectacles."

# BITS & PIECES

- 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.
- Grateful thanks to Bro Lawrence Webb for his donation of much-need paper.
- Cufflinks with the Lodge's new 'Coat of Arms' are now available for sale. All interested should contact Bro Ross Aitken WJW (☎ 07590 207 365)
- Our Worthy Treasurer, Bro George McGrandles PM, has asked us to point out that Lodge Test Fees are now OVERDUE !
- Great to see Bro Jim Renfrew PM attending the Lodge again after a recent health scare that saw him hospitalised for 10 days. We wish him well.
- Congratulations to Bro Robert Miller who recently turned 70 !!
- We hear that Bro Billy Petrie has sold his much-loved campervan, with a view to perhaps enjoying more 'conventional' holidays with his lovely wife Helen.
- 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.
- We wish Bro Ronnie Maclsaac PM and Bro Billy Petrie well as they are about to set off during October on a sponsored walk from the MT in Neilston to the MT in Busby, via 307 and Lodge Nitshill, a distance of over 10 miles. Please sponsor them if you have the chance as it's for a worthy cause.



## The Big Breakfast

The ever-popular '**Big Breakfast**' is being held on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** from 9.30am till 12 Noon, in the Lodge Function Suite.

Tickets costing £5.00 are now available from Bro Ronnie Maclsaac PM (☎ 07718 828 061) or any Office-Bearer

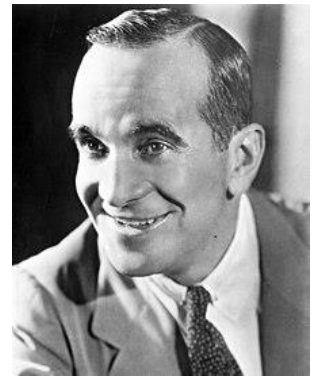
# Famous Freemasons

*(This month - a Brother who was undoubtedly one of the biggest musical stars of the 1930s and hopefully this'll bring a smile to Bro Jim Miller PM who's one of his biggest fans)*

## Bro Al Jolson (1886 – 1950)

"Al Jolson" was an acclaimed American singer and actor whose career lasted from 1911 until his death in 1950. He was one of the most popular entertainers of the twentieth century whose influence extended to other popular performers, including Bing Crosby and Eddie Fisher.

Jolson is best known today for his appearance in one of the first "talkies," *The Jazz Singer*, the first feature film with sound to enjoy wide commercial success, in 1927. Performing the song "Mammy" in blackface, Jolson ad-libbed his signature catchphrase, "You ain't heard nothing yet!" Along with being one of the supreme performers of the vaudeville stage, Jolson was also the first musical artist to sell over 10 million records. Although Jolson's legacy has been somewhat controversial due to his use of stage blackface, his work is being re-appreciated for capturing the roots of minstrel shows and the popular songs of his era.



Jolson was born in Seredzius, Lithuania, as Asa Yoelson. In his early childhood, he immigrated to the United States with his parents, Moshe Reuben Yoelson and Naomi Ettas Cantor. His father became the rabbi of the Talmud Torah Synagogue in Washington, D.C.

Jolson became a popular singer in New York City, when he and his brother entertained troops during the Spanish-American War. He gradually developed the key elements of his performance: blackface makeup; exuberant gestures; operatic-style singing; whistling; and directly addressing his audience.

Jolson was raised in St. Cecile Lodge No. 568 in New York on July 1, 1913. Founded in 1865, St. Cecile Lodge is a "daylight" lodge that meets during the afternoon. and was created for musicians, theatre professionals, and journalists whose evening work precluded them from attending nighttime meetings. Other famous members were Louis B Mayer and Harry Houdini Jolson was raised in St. Cecile Lodge No. 568 in New York on July 1, 1913.

Founded in 1865, St. Cecile Lodge is a "daylight" lodge that meets during the afternoon. and was created for musicians, theatre professionals, and journalists whose evening work precluded them from attending nighttime meetings. Other famous members were Louis B Mayer and Harry Houdini

His Broadway career is unmatched for its length and popularity, spanning close to 30 years (1911–1940). Audiences shouted, pleaded, and often would not allow the show to proceed without his encore, such was the power of Jolson's presence. At one performance in Boston, the usually staid and conservative audience stopped the show with applause for 45 minutes. He was said to have had an "electric" personality, along with the ability to make each member of the audience believe that he was singing only to him or her.

However, he is best known today for his appearance in one of the first "talkies"—*The Jazz Singer*—the first feature film with sound to enjoy wide commercial success, in 1927. In *The Jazz Singer* Jolson performed the song "Mammy" in blackface. In fact, Jolson's singing should not be considered as jazz, for his style remained forever rooted in the style of the vaudeville stage at the turn of twentieth century. Jolson ad-libbed his best-

known catchphrase, "You ain't heard nothing yet!," in *The Jazz Singer*. It is also the name of a song he co-wrote earlier.

Signing with the Warner Brothers studios for a series of "talkies", "Sonny Boy," became the first record to sell three million copies. He went on to make "Say It with Songs", "Mammy" and "Big Boy" before returning to the Broadway stage in 1931.

His fame faded a bit by the late 1930s and early 1940s, but with the 1946 release of the box-office-hit, and biographical film, "The Jolson Story"—with actor Larry Parks lip-synching Jolson tunes—the singer was once again in demand. The soundtrack went on to sell several million copies, and a new generation began to experience the inimitable Jolson style.



The *Jolson Story* is one of the most entertaining of the musical biopics of that era and was one of the biggest hits of the year. Larry Parks received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor for his role in the film. The *Jolson Story* and its sequel *Jolson Sings Again* (1949) led to a whole new generation being enthralled by Jolson's voice and charisma.

Jolson was the first musical artist to sell over ten million records in total. While no official Billboard magazine chart existed during his career, it has been estimated Jolson had the equivalent of 23 Number-One hits, the fourth-highest total ever, trailing only Bing Crosby, Paul Whiteman, and Guy Lombardo.

Jolson was married to actress/dancer Ruby Keeler from 1928 to 1939, when they divorced. The couple had adopted a son, Al Jolson Jr., during their marriage.

After leaving the Broadway stage, Jolson starred on radio with *The Al Jolson Show* which were typically rated in the top ten. In 1950, Jolson signed with CBS Television, but died in October before any broadcasts could be made.

Despite such singers as Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, and Perry Como being in their prime, Jolson was voted the "Most Popular Male Vocalist" in 1948 by a poll in the show biz newspaper *Variety*. The next year, Jolson was named "Personality of the Year" by the *Variety Clubs of America*.

A life-long devotion to entertaining American servicemen led Jolson, against the advice of his doctors, to entertain troops in Korea in 1950, even after his heart began to fail. Jolson collapsed and died of a massive heart attack on October 23, 1950. He was 64. Jolson was interred in the Hillside Memorial Park Cemetery in Culver City, California, where a statue of Jolson beckons visitors to his crypt. On the day he died, Broadway lowered its lights for ten minutes in Jolson's honor.

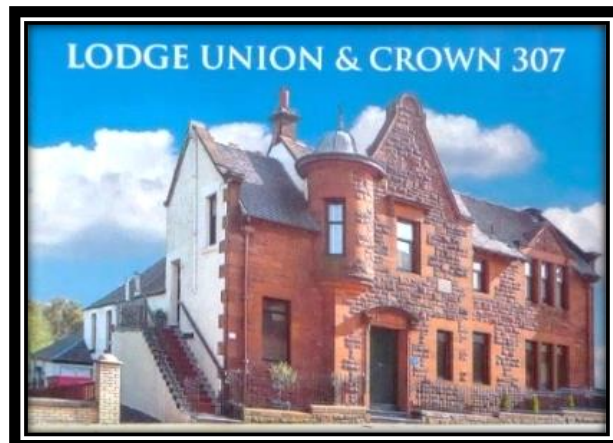
Forty-four years after Jolson's death, the United States Postal Service acknowledged his contribution by issuing a postage stamp in his honor. The 29-cent stamp was unveiled by Erle Jolson Krasna, Jolson's fourth wife, at a ceremony in New York City's Lincoln Center on September 1, 1994. This stamp was one of a series honoring popular American singers, which included Bing Crosby, Nat King Cole, Ethel Merman, and Ethel Waters.

Jolson has three stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame: For his contributions to the motion picture industry, to the recording industry, and to the radio industry. In August 2006, Al Jolson had a street in New York named in his honor after nine years of attempts by the international Al Jolson Society.

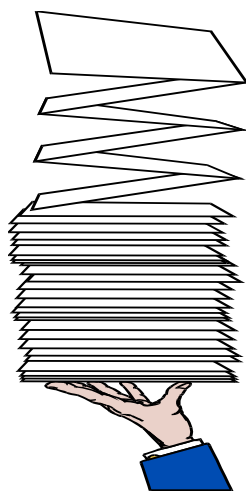
# Lodge Postcards

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](mailto: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/m<sup>2</sup> 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/m<sup>2</sup> card for various tasks within the Lodge, and any colour would do.

## Job Prospects

A recently raised Master Mason applied for a job and knowing his prospective boss to be a prominent Mason he made sure to wear his square and compass cuff links. When he arrived at the interview he approached his interviewer in the regular manner and proceeded to shake hands (yes with THAT handshake).

After an hour or so (with the candidate dropping numerous Masonic references) the prospective boss asked if he were to be offered the job, what package would he expect. Our candidate, now feeling very confident said that he would like £60,000 and six weeks of annual leave.

His interviewer replied, "We'll halve it and you begin."

**Lodge Union & Crown, No.307**



# **Xmas Dance**

**Saturday  
7th December**

**Tickets : £7.00**

**Available from :**

**Lawrence Webb (☎ 07736 780 132)**



**Dress : Smart Casual**



# *Meet the Candidate*

## **Marc McKenzie Jones**

Marc is 33 years old and lives with his wife Samantha and his young son and daughter in the new Bellway development off Blackbyres Road.

He is employed as a Cyber Security Engineer, but also is a partner in a growing firm called 'Coffee Blenders' which is based up in Neilston.

His father and Grandfather are both members in Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167 and his spare time, when he gets any ! Is normally spent dabbling in computers and IT.

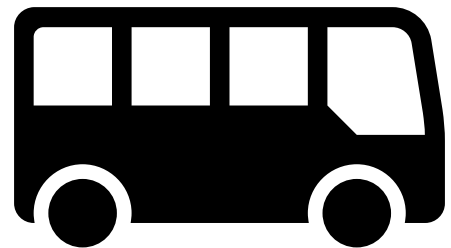
## **Visitation**

On Thursday 19th September the RWM Bro Robert Dickson Scott led a deputation of 24 Past Masters, Office Bearers and Brethren of Lodge Union and Crown No 307 into Lodge Newton Mearns No 1706 to confer a MM Degree.

The request to attend the lodge had come direct from the RWM of 1706 Bro David Dempster and as part of

our Bi Centenary Celebrations, Lodge Union and Crown were pleased to accept this kind invitation. Bro Dempster and his Wardens have been regular visitor to 307 over the past 12 months and are always very complimentary regarding the standard of work and the professional standards within Lodge Union & Crown No. 307.

Unfortunately, their planned candidate for that evening was ill, and a substitute was drafted in. Nonetheless, the degree was an excellent rendition of the Third degree, and all who took part are to be congratulated in what was a fine degree.



## **Divine Intervention**

A burglar broke into an old pastmasters house one night. He shined his torch around looking for valuables, and when he picked up a DVD Player to place in his sack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark saying,

"Jesus is watching you." He nearly jumped out of his skin !! , clicked his torch out and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head, promised himself a long vacation after his next big score, then clicked the light back on and began searching for more valuables. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you."

He freaked out, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot..."Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot.

"Yep," the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you." The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, eh? Who the heck are you?" "Moses," replied the bird.

"Moses?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a parrot Moses?" The bird promptly answered, "Probably the same kind of people that would name a 160lb Rottweiler Jesus."

# FLASHBACK

## Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 29 Years Ago

No. 276

September 2004

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September, the following Candidates :

**CAMPBELL KENNEDY      RONNIE MCISAAC**

was raised to the high and sublime degree of a Master Mason by Bro Michael Hughes PM, aided by the members of the Lodge Instruction Class in what was a fine 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, carried out in the usual "307" manner.

**Opened : 7-30pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9-49pm**

**Attendance : 90**

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September, the following Candidates :

**DAVID SLOAN      ELLIS MCKINNON**

was initiated in to the mysteries and privileges of our order by an experienced degree team from our good friends, and close neighbours, Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167 in Neilston.

It was a good EA Degree, ably conferred in the manner we have come to expect from 1167, and Bro Scott Connolly RWM must have been delighted by the standard of the floor work.

**Opened : 7-30pm**

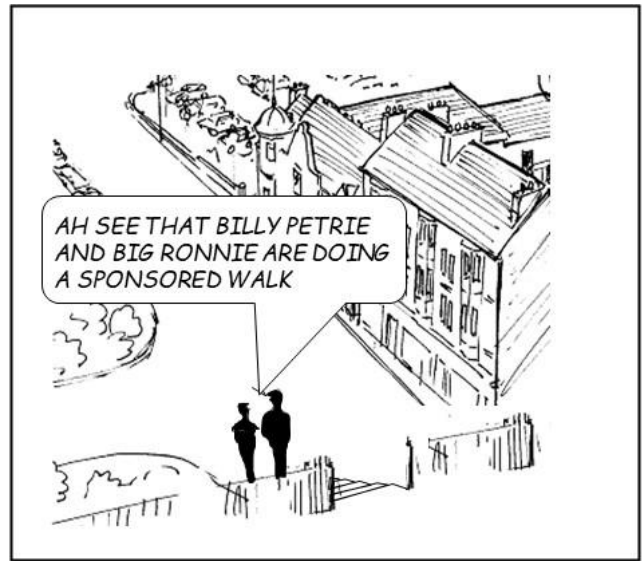
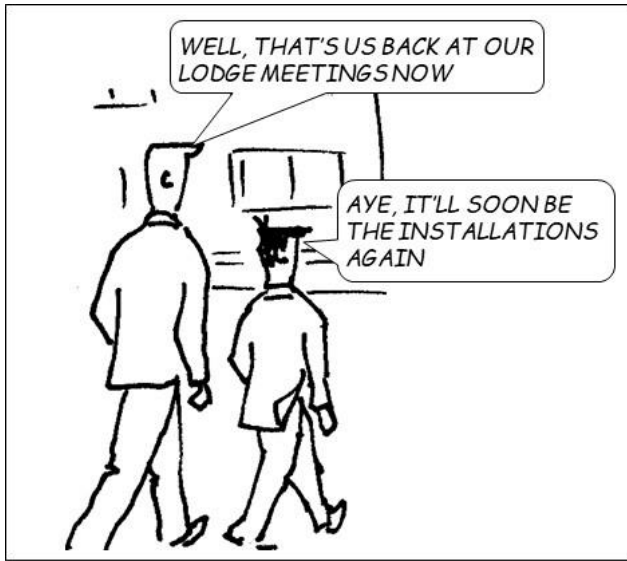
**Lodge Closed : 9-34pm**

**Attendance : 93**

## BITS & PIECES

- It appears that two ladies wigs (one blond, one brunette) which had been borrowed by the 307 Concert Party for use in their recent "ABBA Tributes" have gone missing. If you happened to have borrowed them, or know of their whereabouts, please contact Bro Jim Miller PM (☎ 0141 881 4006).
- It has been extremely heartening to see so many donations coming into the Lodge, many of which are anonymous. True to the tenets of our order !
- ♦ Bro Jim Kerr PM, our Treasurer, would also be more than willing to accept any donations towards the annual Capitation Fee that the Lodge pays to Grand Lodge. This is based upon the number of active Brethren in the Lodge and comes to a bill well in excess of £1300.
- Christmas isn't too far away, and we will soon be distributing a whole host of Benevolent Parcels to the Widows of the Lodge. This is quite a considerable expense for the Lodge, and donations towards this very worthy cause would be much appreciated. Why not "Sponsor a Parcel" for less than you think ?
- Well done to Bro Brian Morton's daughter Lynne, not content with a honours degree in Astro Physics from St Andrews University, she has now obtained her MSc and is currently studying for her PhD ! (She must get it from Penny !)
- Congratulations to Bro Ian Matthew IPPGM of Aberdeenshire West and a very frequent visitor to 307 on his installation as RWM in Lodge Felix, No.355 in Aboyne.

# MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW SEPT '24

*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](mailto:renfrew2022@gmail.com)

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

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