

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



December 2025

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No. 489

Editorial



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By the time the majority of you are reading this the Installation will be but a distant memory and we will have embarked upon yet another Masonic year with a fresh set of Office-bearers, hopefully fully charged with enthusiasm, ready and willing to work long and hard for the good of their Mother Lodge.

We, in Lodge Union & Crown, are indeed fortunate in this day and age that we are able to muster a full complement of Office-bearers without having to resort to utilising Past Masters, outwith the administrative offices. It is a difficult period for many Lodges with a high percentage struggling to fill every office. In some instances, Installations have been postponed through a lack of support.

Each and every one of the Brethren who have seen fit to serve their Lodge have been carefully selected at one time or another and have been carefully nurtured and instructed in exactly what is expected from one who wears the light blue of 307. They must ever remember that it is an honour to be an office-bearer in Union & Crown and must strive to maintain the high standards set by their predecessors over many years.

We have for the forthcoming session quite a wide and varied bunch of Brethren occupying the offices, they come from all walks of life. This variety and strength in depth have been said by many to be to be one of the cornerstones upon which the continued success of 307 is based.

At the helm we have an able Right Worshipful Master in Bro Alan Izatt, who I'm sure will be well advised and guided through what will undoubtedly be a busy year. We are sure that you will all join with us in congratulating him on attaining the Chair of King Solomon and do all we can to support him and the Lodge over the next twelve months.

Only time will tell if the year is to be successful or not, but if we all work together to ensure that the traditions and high standards of Union & Crown are maintain, all will be well

A Happy & Prosperous New Year to all our readers



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Friday 16th January 2026

Short Business Meeting

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Followed by

'A Celebration of Robert Burns'

Harmony

Tuesday 6th January 2026 : No Meeting

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M.,

Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 2nd December, the following Candidate :

MATTHEW MANNION

was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of the Entered Apprentices Degree by the Worshipful Wardens, assisted by the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class in what was a good First Degree. The newly installed Officebearers did well in what could have been a nervous evening in their new positions.

All the Brethren and their guests then retired to the Function Suite and enjoyed a fine harmony including an excellent buffet.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.30pm

Attendance : 51

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 for various tasks within the Lodge

Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 6th January

NO MEETING

Friday 16th January

Short Business Meeting of the Lodge, to be followed by
'A Celebration of Robert Burns'

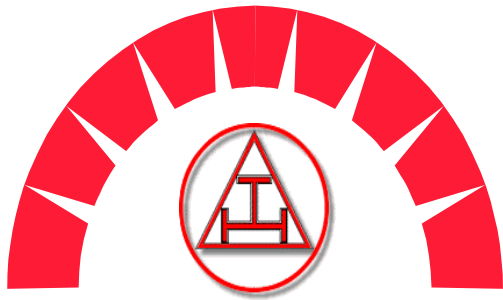
Monday 19th January

Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

Friday 6th February

Dinner to celebrate the Bi-Centenary of the Provincial
Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East.
(Admission by Invitation Only)

(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

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 9th December 2025, the following Brother :

Stephen Scott

was exalted to the Royal Arch Degree by the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount RAC in what was a very good degree, appreciated by all in attendance.

At the close of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions, along with their visitors retired downstairs where a quiet, yet enjoyable, harmony was enjoyed by all.

MEC Jim Renfrew MEZ cordially invites all to the next Regular meeting of the Chapter to be held on Tuesday 13th January at 7.30pm where a Mark Affiliate and Excellent Masters Degree will be conferred.

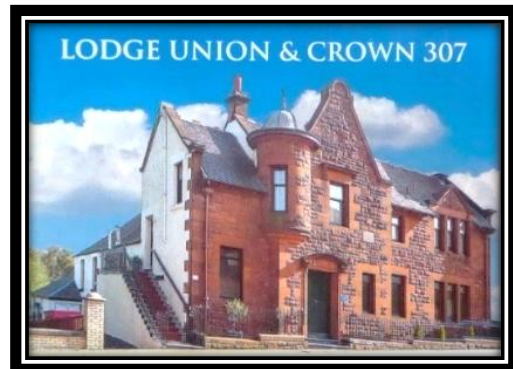
If you are a Brother who would perhaps like to join the Royal Arch, please speak with Bro Jim Renfrew MEZ at any time.



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.



Did You Know ??

That the first Lodge was constituted in Norway in 1749 in the city of Christiania (now known as Oslo). Founded by Count Christian Conrad Danneskoild-Laurvig, with the Danish King Frederick V present at the Initiation ceremony.

That the first permanent Lodge established in Japan, was in Yokohama in 1865. Founded by the Grand Lodge of England, it was called Yokohama Lodge No,1092 and was very active for many years.

BITS & PIECES

- 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 !!
- Our grateful thanks goes to Brother Archie Chalmers PPGM of Ayrshire, and a good friend of 307, for his donation of all the remaining Mark Tokens for Ayrshire for our display upstairs.
- All of the invitations for the planned Celebration Dinner in February 2026 to mark the Bicentenary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East 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.
- The Lodge should be most grateful to Brother Billy Petrie for all his hard work on behalf of the Lodge behind the scenes. Every Monday and Friday morning will see Bro Billy working quietly away in the Lodge.
- We gather that our Treasurer Bro Ian Blair PM and his wife Mary enjoyed a restful far East cruise from Singapore to Australia during the month. They rounded off their holiday by visiting relative in New South Wales before setting off for home, tired but happy that everything had gone so well.
- Another of our Brethren enjoying some Winter sun was Brother David Raid and his wife Aurge who had a couple of weeks in the Caribbean.
- We gather that quite a number of our Brethren and their families have been affected by the recent flu bug with is sweeping round the country. We wish them well and hope they get back to full fitness very soon.
- The Grateful thanks of all go to Brother Lawrence Webb, our Worthy Almoner, who has taken on the job of tending to the Lodge gardens in his spare time. He's taken over from Brother Jim Cherry who has retired at 85 after many years in the job.
- Sorry to hear that Brother Donald Cook PM has been enduring some ill health of late. Apparently, they have now stabilised his medications, and he should be back in a better state of health going forward. We wish him well.
- Congratulations to Brother Kenny Beatts and his lovely wife Jacqueline on the birth of another Grandson – Rafael. This is of course another Great-Grandson for Brother Davie Noble PM.
- 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.

Famous Freemasons

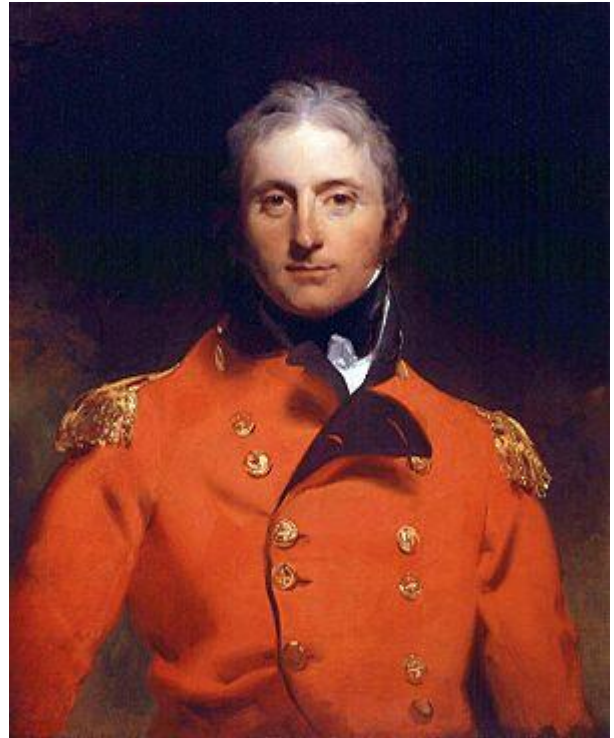
(Continuing our series about Famous Scottish Brethren, this month we turn to a military hero, who gave his life for his country)

Bro Lt-General Sir John Moore (1761-1809)

Sir John Moore, KB is best known for his military training reforms and for his death at the Battle of Corunna, in which he repulsed a huge French army under Marshal Soult during the Peninsular War.

He was born in Glasgow, the son of John Moore, a doctor and writer, and attended Glasgow High School, but at the age of eleven joined his father and Douglas, the young 8th Duke of Hamilton, on a grand tour of Europe, which included a two-year stay in Geneva, where Moore's education continued.

He joined the British Army in 1776 as an ensign and first saw action in 1778 during the American War of Independence. From 1779-1781 he was garrisoned at Halifax, Nova Scotia and it was during this period that he was initiated in St John's Lodge, No.2 in Halifax. After the war, in 1783, he returned to Britain and in 1784 was elected to Parliament as the Member for Lanark Burghs, a seat he held until 1790.



In 1787, he was made Major and re-joined the army, where in 1791 his unit was assigned to the Mediterranean and he was involved in campaigning in the invasion of Corsica, and he was given a Colonelcy and became Adjutant-General to Sir Charles Stuart.

Friction between Moore and Stuart led to his recall and posting to the West Indies in 1796, where Moore played a leading role in the British reconquest of St. Lucia, where he participated in efforts to repress the slave rebels until falling ill of yellow fever, upon which he returned to Britain.

When it became clear that Napoleon was planning an invasion of Britain, Moore was put in charge of the defence of the coast from Dover to Dungeness. It was on his initiative that the Martello Towers were constructed following a pattern he had been impressed with in Corsica, and recruited about 340,000 volunteers to a militia that would have defended the lines of the South Downs if an invading force had broken through the regular army defences. In 1804 Moore was made a Knight Companion of the Bath and promoted to Lt-General. In 1806 he returned to active duty in the Mediterranean and following a short spell in the Baltic, he was ordered to Portugal, where Moore took command of the British forces in the Iberian Peninsula

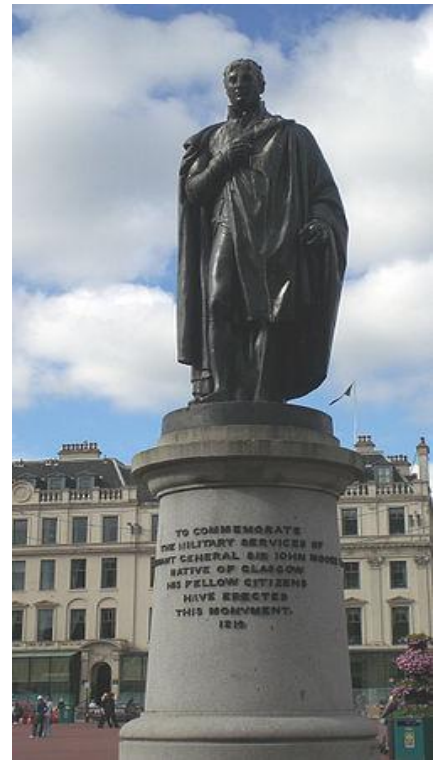
When Napoleon arrived in Spain, Moore drew the French northwards while retreating to A Coruña and Vigo, where he established a defensive position on hills outside the town. In the ensuing conflict, Moore was fatally wounded after being struck in his left breast and shoulder by a cannon shot. He remained conscious throughout, surviving long enough to be assured that he had gained a victory. He said to his old friend Colonel Anderson

"You know I always wished to die this way, I hope the people of Scotland will be satisfied! I hope my country will do me justice!"

He was then silent and died shortly afterwards.

Moore was buried wrapped in a military cloak in the ramparts of the town. When the French took the town, a monument was built over his grave by the orders of Marshal Soult. The monument was rebuilt and made more permanent in 1811.

In his native Glasgow he is commemorated by a statue in George Square, and in England by a monument in St Paul's Cathedral.



Masonic Presidents

There were a total of 14 US Presidents who were known to be Freemasons :

- George Washington**, Fredericksburg Lodge No.4; Alexandria Lodge No. 22
- James Monroe**, Williamsburg Lodge No. 6
- Andrew Jackson**, Harmony Lodge No. 1; Past Grand Master of Tennessee
- James K.Polk**, Columbia Lodge No. 31
- James Buchanan**, Past Master of Lancaster Lodge No. 43, Lancaster,
- Andrew Johnson**, Greenville Lodge No. 119
- James A.Garfield**, Magnolia Lodge No. 20
- William McKinley**, Hiram Lodge No. 21, Winchester
- Theodore Roosevelt**, Matinecock Lodge No. 806, Oyster Bay
- William Howard Taft**, "Mason at sight"; affiliated Kilwinning Lodge No. 356
- Warren G.Harding**, Marion Lodge No. 70
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt**, Holland Lodge No. 8
- Harry S. Truman**, Belton Lodge No. 450, Belton; Past Grand Master
- Gerald Ford**, Columbia Lodge No. 3, Washington

Masonic Trivia

In lodges of the 1700's the emblems and symbols of the different degrees were drawn on the floor of the lodge with chalk or charcoal. They were obliterated at the end of each meeting because lodges met in rented rooms, and they did not want strangers viewing their secret writings.

As this was troublesome and messy they were next painted on cloth or canvas, carried to each meeting and laid on the floor, hence the name 'carpets'. Today, these carpets, or charts as they are now called hang from walls or frames, and are displayed as required for the different degrees.

The importance of the phrase "on the level" that Masons often use, is that all Masons regardless of backgrounds, years of service, or officer positions held, we all are equal and have an equal voice.

The town of Joppa was seaport town that supplied Jerusalem during the construction of King Solomon's Temple. By 1870 it was called Joffa, and today is a suburb of the modern Israeli town of Tel Aviv.

Following the formation of the Grand Lodge in England in 1717, a number of lodges were formed, and as was the custom they were named by a number only. By 1723 there were 20 lodges, numbered 1 through 20. By 1738 there were 106 lodges, and a second descriptive portion was being added, such as Lodge #6 at the Rummer Tavern in Queen Street, Lodge #84 at the Black Bag in Castle Street, or Lodge #98 at the Bacchus Tavern in Little Bush Lane. This continued until the close of the 18th century, when Lodges began to be called 'The Shakespeare Lodge at Stratford-on-Avon', 'The Royal Brunswick at Sheffield' and 'The Lodge of Apollo at Alcester'. Since that time the delineation has included both name and number, along with an addendum of a location.

It is interesting to note that all early lodges met at taverns, and always in upper rooms. By having a separate room, raised and accessed by a stairway only, privacy and secrecy were thus secured. 'Cowans and eavesdroppers' were thus circumvented. Today, a great number of lodges have carried on this tradition, but out reasons are now more practical...the people who rent the commercial space below the lodge rooms pay for the mortgage and maintenance of the lodge building.

Sadly, since 1998, the Grand Lodge of Kansas is one of few state jurisdictions in the United States which recognizes fully (and rightly), our Prince Hall Brethren.

Its slogan: **"2 Jurisdictions, 1 Brotherhood, 0 Restrictions!"**

Ten Master Masons

Ten Master Masons, happy, doing fine;
One listened to a rumour, then there were nine.
Nine Master Masons, faithful, never late;
One didn't like the "Master," then there were eight.
Eight Master Masons, on their way to heaven;
One joined too many clubs, then there were seven.
Seven Master Masons, life dealt some hard licks;
One grew discouraged, then there were six.
Six Master Masons, all very much alive;
One lost his interest, then there were five.
Five Master Masons, wishing there were more;
Got into a great dispute, then there were four.
Four Master Masons, busy as could be;
One didn't like the syllabus, then there were three.
Three Master Masons, was one of them you?
One grew tired of all the work, then there were two.
Two Master Masons with so much to be done;
One said "What's the use," then there was one.

One Master Mason, found a brother -- true!
Brought him to the Lodge, then there were two.
Two Master Masons didn't find work a bore;
Each brought another, then there were four.
Four Master Masons saved their Lodges fate;
By showing others kindness, then there were eight.
Eight Master Masons, loving their Lodges bright sheen;
Talked so much about it, they soon counted sixteen.
Sixteen Master Masons, to their obligations true;
Were pleased when their number went to thirty-two.
So we can't put our troubles at the Lodge's door;
It's our fault for harming the Lodge we adore.
Don't fuss about the meetings or the "Master" in the East;
Keep your obligation by serving even the very least.

Author Unknown

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 39 Years Ago

No. 100

December 1986

The staff of The Mallet wish all their readers a HAPPY and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. We are confident that the Office-bearers and Brethren of 307 will continue to support their own Lodge Journal – more especially since all monies raised from the Mallet this year will go towards the re-slating of the Temple. This year offers a big challenge to all members of our Lodge. The re-slating will cost approximately £20,000 and in addition, a major repair which must be made to the south east wall will be costly – and we are trying to buy a piece of ground at the rear of the Temple, in order to extend the Social Club. Each of these is a major task – but surprisingly there is no fear from the Management Committee, who are confident that the money will be raised. The challenge is there – but if there is one thing which unites the members of Union & Crown it is just such a challenge.

Regular Meetings

A regular meeting was held on Tuesday, 2nd December when the following four candidates : James Deveney, Gordon Dinning, James Gillespie and Ronald Mathieson were admitted to the E.A. Degree by the wardens of the Lodge, ably assisted by Bros Colin McLean and Alec Meldrum. Understandably enough, with this being the first meeting of the new session, there was a little bit of nervousness about, but nevertheless a fair degree was carried out, with the candidates suitably impressed.

Lodge opened : 7-30pm Lodge closed : 9-25pm Attendance : 133

At the regular meeting on 16th December the same four candidates had the F.C. Degree conferred upon them by the Lodge Deacons. A good degree was conferred, with the candidates being suitably impressed.

Lodge opened : 7-34pm Lodge closed : 9-20pm Attendance : 141

Around the Town

We can confirm that the grassland adjacent to the Temple, all the way down to Glen Street is up for sale, on condition houses are built on it.

McIntyre's old repair shop in John Street is still up for sale, as is Cementation's place across the road.

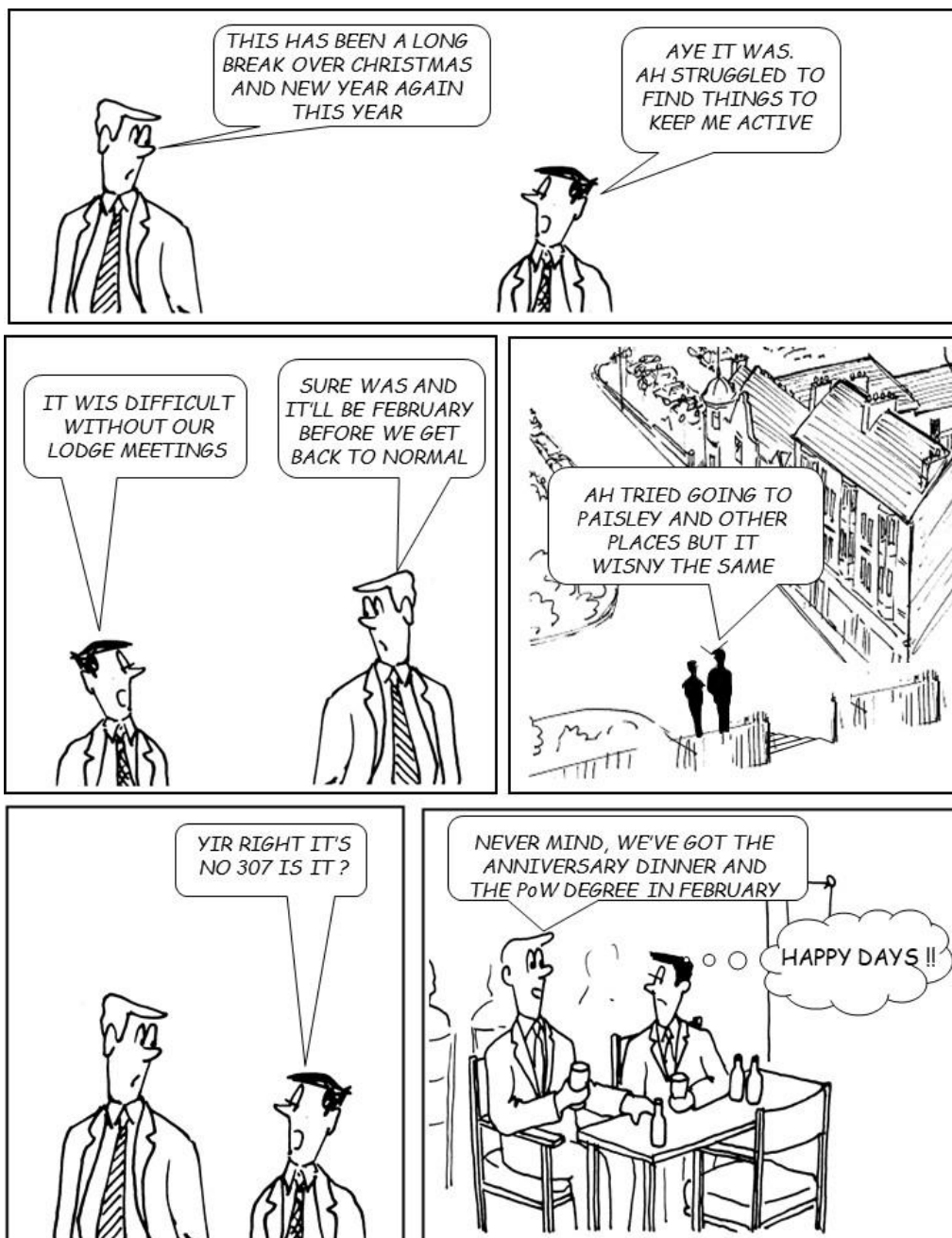
For those wondering, it is a house that is being built at Paterson's old garage in Glen Street.

The house being built behind the Vets in Arthurlie Avenue, is being built by one of the lay preachers in the Church of God for himself. His daughter is the Vet.

We can tell you that Eddie Monaghan who owns the Travellers' Rest in Neilston is opening another pub, in Sauchiehall Street in Glasgow.

There are only two pubs in the town which are not owned by Masons.

MARK N' ARCHIE



DECEMBER 2025

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

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