

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



January 2024

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No. 470

Editorial



January 2024

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The Final Countdown

Shortly after I had been initiated into Freemasonry, and unsure of who was who, or how things were done, I recall sitting in the body of the Lodge at a regular meeting. When the Master asked if there was any other business to come before the Lodge, a young Past Master rose to his feet in the East and announced that 'in a little over 9 years Union and Crown would be celebrating its 200th anniversary'. He asked that the brethren start considering preparations for this event as it would be 'here before we knew it'. I remember thinking... 9 years? He's keen!! The young PM was our own Johnny Gauld and my goodness he was right.

Nearly 7 years ago a small sub-committee was formed, under the leadership of PM Bud Gauld, to prepare for the big day and we have been working tirelessly ever since. The committee has met formally on 20 occasions and the list of actions and decisions taken since its formation is very long and impressive.

An early decision, to approach the Brethren of 307 with a fundraising idea titled '200 for 200' was one that has proven to be a huge success. When pitching this idea, I don't think any of us could have imagined how popular it would be. That of course speaks volumes to the generosity of the brethren of this fine Lodge. The scheme attracted 71 fully paid members and took fundraising for the bicentenary to well over £15,000. This will allow us to celebrate our anniversary, with no negative impact on existing funds. Once again, my personal thanks go to all those who contributed to this initiative.

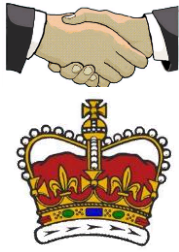
From nine years in the planning, our rededication ceremony is now a matter of days away! I have no doubt that it will be a day to remember. With large deputations from Provincial, and from Grand Lodge, I am sure that our office bearers and brethren will rise to the occasion and perform to the highest standards. It is important of course that we act with dignity and professionalism throughout the day, however, it is also extremely important that we enjoy the occasion, and take time to consider how hard we have all worked to get here.

It is incredible to think that 200 years ago, before the invention of motor vehicles, before the American Civil War, before passenger railway, before the first photograph was taken, before the reign of Queen Victoria, brethren were meeting in a Masonic Lodge in Barrhead. Will they still be attending masonic meetings in another 200 years? Who can possibly say?

So, let us mark this historic occasion in true 307 style, lets enjoy our big day, and let's look forward to the next chapter, whatever that may be.

May brotherly love prevail.

Robert D Scott, Right Worshipful Master



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 :

Saturday 3rd February 2024

Re-Dedication of Lodge

To Commemorate the Bi-Centenary

Carried out by the Grand Lodge of Scotland

Harmony

Tuesday 20th February 2024

Prisoner of War Dramatisation

Carried out by the Brethren of the Instruction Class

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

R Evans Reid P.M. Lodge Secretary

Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 16th January, the Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class took part in the popular 'Burns Vs Kipling' dramatization. Before a busy meeting the Brethren taking part excelled, with all in attendance thoroughly enjoying this somewhat unusual dramatization.

However, earlier in the evening deputations from both the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East (led by Bro Ronald E Fraser PGM) and The Grand Lodge of Scotland entered the Lodge in rather mysterious circumstances.

However, all was soon revealed by Bro William H Gauld, Depute Grand Master, who proceeded to ask the Grand Director of Ceremonies to introduce two special Brethren to the Lodge - Bro Nicol Hynd PM and Bro William Little Lodge Architect.

Both Brethren were to be honoured for service to the Lodge, with Bro Billy receiving his 50 year Diploma and Bro Nicol being awarded with a 'Distinguished Service Diploma' for all his hard work within the Temple over the years. In what was an emotional moment, two stunned Brethren refrained from speaking in response, and took their seat in the Lodgeroom to a thunderous applause from all the assembled Brethren.

At the close of the meeting most of the Brethren retired to the Function Suite, where a busy harmony was held.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.17pm

Attendance : 79



“If you had it, would you give it”

We would like to pass on our grateful thanks to the members of Lodge Union & Crown 307 who have faithfully and quietly supported our outreach work in Largs over the last few years. This outreach supports people who struggle with addiction as well as the lonely, vulnerable and homeless in Largs and the surrounding area.

Food, toilet rolls, cleaning products and monetary donations from our friends in the Lodge have helped us support a whole range of people. Whether that was fortnightly deliveries during Covid, emergency food parcels, school uniforms or Christmas presents we have been able to help a whole host of people who are grateful to be reminded that while they live on the margins of society, they are not forgotten.

Thank you for helping us to cast light in dark places.

The Largs Bus Outreach Team

Dates for your Diary



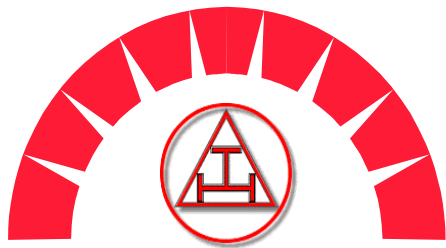
Saturday 3rd February Bi Centenary Celebrations where the Lodge travel to the nearby Bourock Church before turning to the Lodge for the Re-dedication Ceremony by Grand Lodge. Details of all timings are shown later in this edition. *(invited guests only)*

Monday 19th February Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm

Thursday 20th February Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Dramatised PoW Degree will be conferred.

(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

At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 9th January, a fine emulation of the Excellent Master's Degree was conferred upon a mock Candidate by the Companions of Rockmount.

Considering the circumstances, it was pleasing to see all who took part doing so with a good amount of enthusiasm.

The next meeting of the Chapter on Tuesday 9th January will be a Royal Arch Degree, and MEC Graham Manson MEZ and his Companions extend an invitation to any Companions who would like to attend. They will be most welcome.

Masonic Presidents

Much has been written and said over the years, especially within these pages, about Presidents of the United States who were (or weren't) Freemasons. But how many of us were aware of the following :

Lyndon B. Johnson took the EA degree on the 30th of October 1937 but never progressed any further. On a similar note, **Warren G. Harding** was initiated on June 28, 1901 but it took him a further 19 years !! before he was Passed and Raised. **Franklin D Roosevelt** raised two of his sons on the same night in November 1935 within Architect Lodge #519 in New York. Whilst still President, **Harry Truman** served as Master of his lodge in 1951

Lodge Union & Crown No.307
Bi Centenary Celebrations
Saturday 3rd February 2024



- 11:00 -11:30** Lodge opened by office bearers and recessed.
- 11:30 – 12:30** Official Photographs
- 12:30 – 13:00** Parade from Lodge to Bourock Church
- 13:00 – 13:30** Service of Re-dedication
- 13:30 – 14:00** Parade from Church to Lodge
- 14:00 – 15:30** Rededication Ceremony by Grand Lodge
- 15:30 – 16:30** Drinks Reception
- 16:30 – 18:30** Meals/Toasts etc
- 18:30 – Late** Lodge Harmony

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

16th January £20 : **Bro Richard Brown** £10 : **Bro Tom Mulholland PM**

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

Famous Freemasons

(This month we tell of an Irish poet, author and playwright, who courted a fair bit of controversy during his relatively short life)

Brother Oscar Wilde (1854 – 1900)

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was born in Dublin on 16 October 1854 to Sir William Wilde and his wife Lady Jane Francesca Wilde a successful poet and journalist. She wrote patriotic Irish verse under the pseudonym "Speranza". Oscar's father, was a leading ear and eye surgeon, a renowned philanthropist and gifted writer, who wrote books on archaeology and folklore. Oscar had an elder brother, Willie, and a younger sister, Isola Francesca, who died at the early age of 10.

An Anglo-Irish playwright, novelist, poet, and critic. He is regarded as one of the greatest playwrights of the Victorian Era.

He was educated at Portora Royal School and Trinity College, Dublin before attending Magdalen College, Oxford (1874-78). While at Oxford, he became involved in the aesthetic movement and became an advocate for 'Art for Art's Sake'. During this period at Oxford, he was initiated into Apollo University Lodge No. 357 in Oxford in May 1875.



After he graduated, he moved to Chelsea in London in 1879) to establish a literary career. In 1881, he published his first collection of poetry - Poems that received mixed reviews by critics. Over the next few years he worked as an art reviewer, lectured in the United States and Canada and lived in Paris. He also lectured in Britain and Ireland

In April 1881, Gilbert and Sullivan opened a play titled Patience in which a primary character, Bunthorne, was assumed to be based on Wilde. This false assumption was promoted by Wilde through early attendance at the play, in outrageous clothes —. When the play moved on to New York in December 1881, Richard D'Oyly Carte, the producer, hired Wilde to do a series of lectures to introduce the play to American audiences. The press was alerted and ready for his arrival, and Wilde played to them by proclaiming at customs that he had nothing to declare but his genius.

On May 29, 1884, Oscar married Constance Lloyd the daughter of wealthy QC Horace Lloyd. They had two sons, Cyril and Vyvyan. To support his family, Oscar accepted a job as the editor of Woman's World magazine, where he worked from 1887-1889.

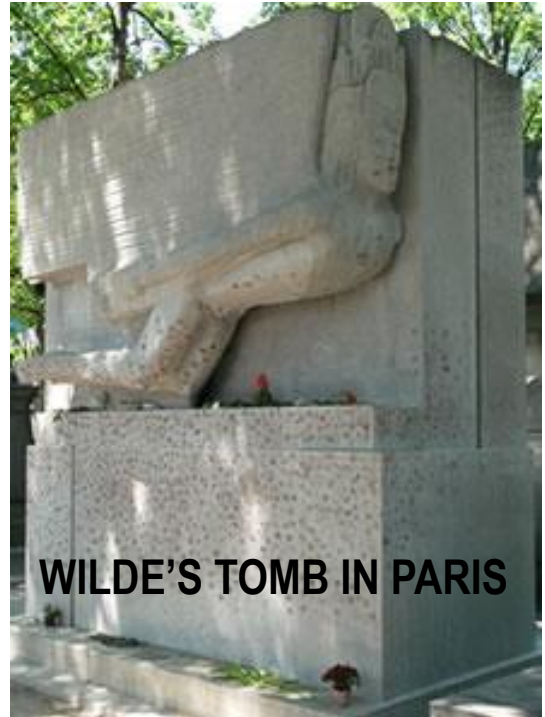
In 1888, he published The Happy Prince and Other Tales, fairy-stories written for his two sons. His first and only novel, The Picture of Dorian Gray, was published in 1891 and received quite a negative response. This had much to do with the novel's homoerotic overtones, which caused something of a sensation amongst Victorian critics. In 1891, Wilde began an affair with Lord Alfred Douglas, nicknamed 'Bosie' the son of the Marquis of Queensberry, who became both the love of his life and his downfall. Wilde's marriage ended in 1893.

Wilde's greatest talent was for writing plays. His first successful play, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, opened in February 1892. He produced a string of extremely popular comedies including *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *An Ideal Husband* (1895), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895). These plays were all highly acclaimed and firmly established Oscar as a playwright.

he was arrested and tried for gross indecency, he was sentenced to two years of hard labour and during his time in prison he wrote *De Profundis*, a dramatic monologue and autobiography. Upon his release in 1897, he wrote *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, revealing his concern for inhumane prison conditions. He spent the rest of his life wandering Europe, staying with friends and living in cheap hotels and died of cerebral meningitis on November 30, 1900, penniless, in a cheap Paris hotel

Well-known for his flamboyance and wit, his attributed last words, as he lay dying in a drab Paris bedroom were "Either that wallpaper goes, or I do."

He was buried in Le Père Lachaise Cemetery, Paris, France



Did you Know ?

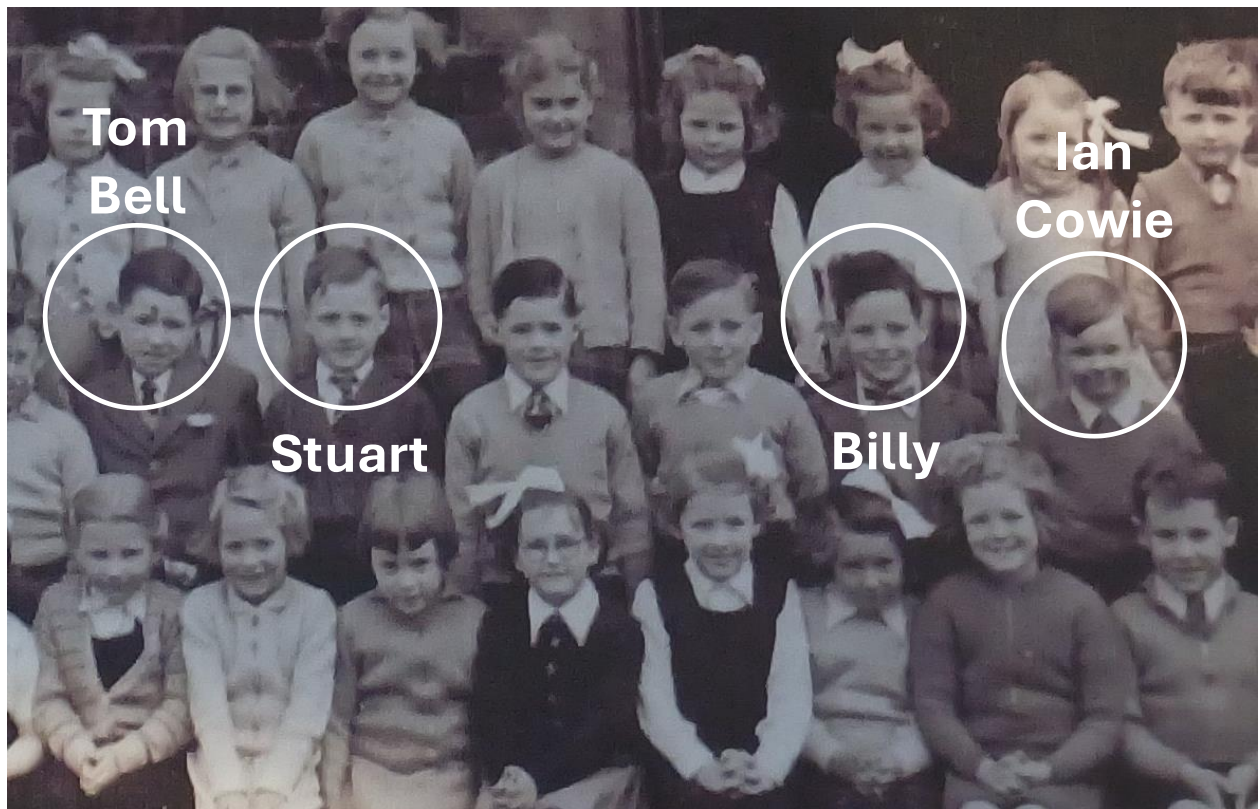
- ★ That Czar Nicholas I banned Masonry in Russia in 1801. He rescinded the order in 1803 and became a Freemason, probably for political reasons; but in 1822 he again banned Freemasonry in Russia. Masonry was reconstituted several times in the ensuing years, but was declared officially 'dead' around the time of the Bolshevik revolution. It rose from the ashes again in 1995 under the Grand Lodge Nationale Francaise.
- ★ That in order to have unbroken floor space in the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Washington, the cars in two elevator shafts move sideways thirty-five feet. As the elevators rise 255 feet in two slanting hoist-ways from the main floor to the observation platform at the top of the building, it moves sideways 1 foot for approximately every 7 ¼ feet it ascends or descends.
- ★ That Ely S. Parker, a full-blooded Indian chief, was the grandson of Red Jacket, a close friend of George Washington. He was a Union General in the Civil War, and served as General Grant's secretary. He was raised in Batavia Lodge No.88, Batavia, New York, and later affiliated with Valley Lodge No.109. He demitted and became a founder and first Worshipful Master of Akron Lodge No.527 of New York. Ely Parker Lodge No.1002 of Buffalo, New York is named after him.
- ★ That Doctor Joseph Guillotine was a member of Concorde Fraternal Lodge of Paris and a member of the French Assembly. He invented the device that bears his name and was later executed with one.

Photographic Memories - Revisited

In last month's edition we told the tale of Brothers Billy Little and Stuart Welsh who had started school 68 years ago and that had been the last time they had their photo taken together until our installation in November.



This month we've included an expanded version of that school photo showing another two our Brethren – Bro Tom Bell and Bro Ian Cowie.



They haven't changed a bit !!!!

"Drouthy Neebors & Merry Masons"

On Friday 19th January, in what had been a very busy week for the Brethren of 307, the Lodge held its annual Burns Evening with over 70 in attendance. Not what you would call a traditional 'Burns Supper', it was organised and executed by Bro Johnny Gauld PM, aided and assisted by several Brethren of the Lodge.

Whilst it certainly had a Burns theme running through the entire evening. It was far from the norm, and this brought a freshness that seemed to go down well with those in attendance.

There were some guid songs, fine poetry and more than a few comic moments which did much to undoubtedly make the evening a success.



Japan

Japan has a fairly short Masonic history, having taken its inspiration largely from the U.S. and the Philippines, it currently possesses 25 Lodges under a wide variety of Grand Lodges such as Japan, England, Massachusetts, Philippines and, of course Scotland. The first handful of its Lodges were chartered by the Grand Lodge of England between 1866 and 1883, and of the original five, only one Rising Sun Lodge, No. 1401 in Kobe, survived the Second World War. Those chartered by the G.L. of Scotland in the 1870`s fared a little better, with two survivors still in existence.

In the aftermath of the last war, Japan found itself occupied by Allied forces, amongst whom were many masons. Naturally these Brethren wished to continue their masonic careers whilst in Japan and overtures were made to The Grand Lodge of the Philippines nearby and this resulted in three Lodges being formed in the early 1950`s. The one lodge chartered by the G.L. of Massachusetts, Sinim Lodge, has had quite a checkered history originally erected in mainland China at the turn of the century, it moved to Hong Kong to escape communism before finally settling in Tokyo.

Soon a large proportion of the now established Lodges felt established enough to seek to form their own Grand Lodge and all but 3 of the Philippine Lodges came together to form the Grand Lodge of Japan in 1957 with a total membership of over 10000, although this soon dwindled to the present day total of almost 4000 when the American forces began to withdraw during the 60`s and 70`s. Currently only approximately 10% of this total are of ethnic Japanese origin, but this figure is increasing each year. Brethren are permitted dual and plural membership and Candidates are only allowed to advance when they have proved their proficiency.

Many of the Japanese lodges use the Webb Ritual, inherited from the U.S., with the working in English, as most Japanese Masons are bilingual, but great strides are being made in translating the ritual in to Japanese, although some of the old english forms are proving difficult. Freemasonry in Japan has made great advances in recent years with a very large multi-storey Masonic Centre being constructed at Minato-ku in Tokyo in the early 1980`s, by a group of Lodges renowned for their outstanding charity work and erection of a large Masonic Hospital in that city.

One point that must be noted is that ALL the Japanese lodges, without exception, are "Dry" and no alcohol whatsoever is permitted, a fact that will discourage many of our own Brethren from visiting, although they would be able to enjoy a dram at the two Scottish Lodges - Lodge Hiogo & Osaka, No. 498 and Lodge Star-in-the-East, No.640 who are always happy to welcome and entertain any visitors from Home.

BITS & PIECES

- Our most grateful thanks goes to Bro Nicol Hynd and Bro David Reid for their generous donations to our funds.
- We're grateful to all the Brethren, for their generous donations of that much needed commodity – A4 Paper. Without it there would be no Mallet each month.
- Great to see Bro Jim Miller Back after his annual six-week winter sojourn to Portugal. He had to go a month earlier this year as he wanted to be back for 307's big birthday bash at the beginning of February.
- Bro Stephen Scott, Substitute Master has been working away of late with a series of colourful posters in various Masonic locations on social media advertising some of our dramatisations and other forthcoming events.
- It was pleasing to see a large deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge at our recent dramatization in support of the Grand Lodge deputation.
- We are expecting a total of 27 Brethren from the Grand Lodge of Scotland at our Bi-centenary Rededication next month. How lucky are we !!
- Good Luck to Bro Ross McLardy who has taken up a new job with a seafood firm up in Aberdeenshire. We wish him well.
- Hasn't Bro David A Reid recovered particularly well from his replacement hip surgery a few months ago. I was walking up the back stairs to the Lodgeroom recently, and I couldn't keep up.
- It was great to see Bro Douglas Junner PM at a recent meeting. Now 85 he looks well for his age.
- Congratulations to Bro Bobby Clark IPM and his wife Sharon on becoming grandparents with the birth of Arthur who was born on New Year's Day.



VISITATION

On Thursday 18th January we set off to first foot our good friends and near neighbours – Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167. The Right Worshipful Master, Bro Robert D Scott was supported by 31 Brethren on what was a very cold and icy night, especially up the hill in Neilston.

The business of the evening kicked off with a bang, as a deputation of Brethren from Grand Lodge entered the Lodgeroom and preceded to present a 60 Year Certificate to Bro Livingstone Boyd MBE P.M. and also a 50 Certificate to Bro William Neilson Dyer PM. Both Brethren were honoured by the presentations which were made by our own Bro William H Gauld RW Grand Depute Master.

Thereafter, we conferred a Master Mason Degree upon a single candidate in what was a fine MM Degree.

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 20 Years Ago

No. 270

January 2004

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 6th January, the following Candidates :

GORDON FLEMING CRAIG LONG RICHARD LITTLE

was raised to the high and sublime degree of a Master Mason by the Installing Masters – Bros Donald Cook PM and Jim Renfrew PM, ably assisted by a degree team drawn from the Past Masters of the Lodge, in what was a fine 3rd Degree. It was good that Bro Richard Little could manage to this meeting, after his work commitments offshore meant that he missed out last year.

Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9-42pm Attendance : 78

At the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 21st January, the following Candidate :

PAUL RATHERAM

was initiated in to the mysteries and privileges of our order in what was a fine E.A. Degree ably conferred by a team of Brethren hastily drawn from the Lodge Instruction Class. Originally, the intent had been for the degree to be conferred by a team of Brethren all from within Renfrewshire East, who each had the surname "Miller", led by our own RWM Bro Gordon Miller. Unfortunately some late call-offs scuppered this idea and the thanks must go to those who stood in at very short notice. A fine First Degree ensured that all in attendance were suitably impressed.

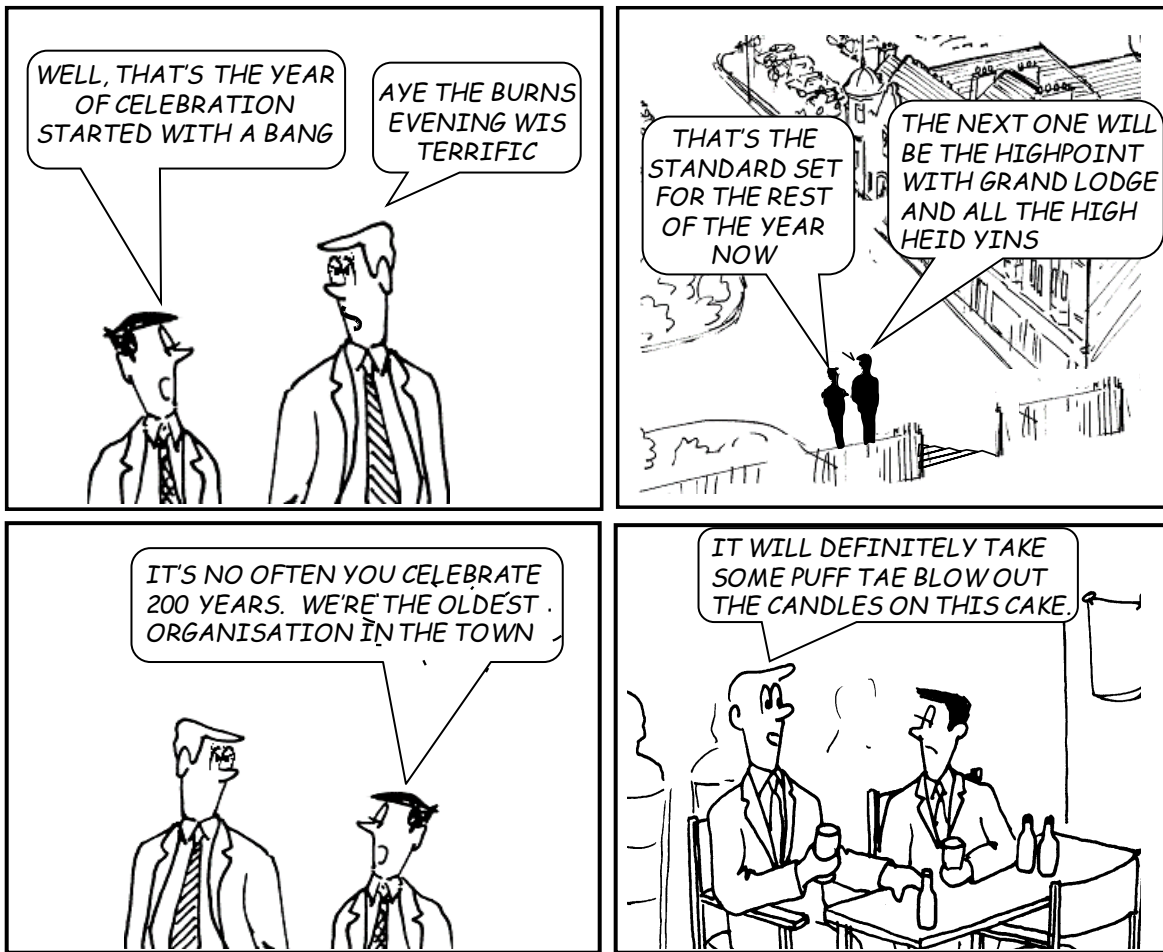
Lodge Opened : 7-31pm Lodge Closed : 9-26pm Attendance : 80



Notes from the Secretary's Desk

- ✍️ Congratulations to Bro Tom Bell who has taken early retirement from Rolls-Royce.
- ✍️ How can we continue to give a free meal to all visitors at every meeting, I'm asked. Good housekeeping that's how.
- ✍️ Bro Ian McFarlane PM had me laughing recently with his talks of when we were all young office-bearers. He spoke of a night we visited Dunlop and came out in the "Wee sma' hours". I said to Bro Bobby Easdon to get a taxi, wee Bobby answered "*Bud - this is Dunlop, not Downton New York !*"
- ✍️ Bro Hugh Cattigan has to be congratulated upon the manner in which he carries out his duties as Senior Deacon. In fact the choreography of the last couple of degrees has been absolutely superb. Keep it up.
- ✍️ I love the way Bro Walter Fleming has come back to Freemasonry and is getting so involved again in his Mother Lodge.
- ✍️ See that there were 51 in attendance at the last Royal Arch Meeting, with no visitation – absolutely fabulous - many Lodges don't see such good numbers. Why is it so good, it down to who is involved in the organisation of the Chapter that makes the difference.
- ✍️ How many of you know that Bro Ian McPhie, our Bible-bearer, is an accomplished flautist.
- ✍️ I hear that the Dinner following the Provincial Grand Lodge Installation at Union & Crown is completely sold out. Much of this may be down to Bro Jim Miller's Concert Party being in town.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J RENFREW JAN 2024

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

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