

The Mallet

The monthly journal of Lodge Union and Crown No.307



April 2025

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

No. 483

Editorial



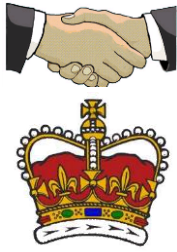
April 2025

Writing and editing a monthly journal such as ours has certainly had its moments over the years. We have had some incredibly rewarding and fulfilling highs, when you come to realise that a simple idea when written down, translates into a satisfying article one can be proud of. Correspondingly, there will always exist the occasional low point that results from wrong information, poor research, too tight a deadline or simply too little attention to detail. To be perfectly honest, there have even probably been a few isolated cases when poor articles have been used simply to fill pages, when information was scarce.

We like to think that our Journal has, over the forty-eight and a half years it has been in existence, set high standards which in our modest opinion and the opinion of many independents, haven't been consistently matched by any of our many contemporaries, a record of which Lodge Union & Crown can be justifiably proud, and when you realise that "The Mallet" has been printed and reprinted over and over again, throughout the English-speaking Masonic world almost since its conception in 1976, we must be doing something consistently right !

Having been at the helm for over 30 years, we have always attempted to maintain the distinctive style originally achieved, it has not always been easy and we can honestly admit that we have probably settled for a more comfortable and conservative stance at times, publishing a wide variety of pieces which have come through a tried and tested process and over the years proved successful. Perhaps we should have taken the crusading approach, often adopted by our pioneering predecessors on a more regular basis. That isn't to say that we didn't provoke the odd bit of controversy with certain articles, and we would like to hope that we can continue to provoke comment from the wide spectrum of people who populate Freemasonry, both at home and abroad.

One thing we have never done, and will certainly never do, is write simply to upset anyone just for the sake of it, we may feel passionately about certain topics, and this passion may be reflected honestly and sincerely on the pages of our journal and if this attracts unfavourable criticism or comment so be it. One thing we will always be grateful for is material for publication in The Mallet, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem all is most welcome. From time to time we are accused of many things, one month it is that we're too serious and another we are too flippant, so at times we simply cannot win and we'll continue to accept the brickbats and praise in equal measure, in the hope that your comments and contributions continue to maintain our newsletter's position right at the top. But remember we only as good as the information we receive, and if things prove to be unpopular, or we are becoming too bland let us know ! Don't say we didn't give you the opportunity.



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 6th May 2025

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Dramatised

Master Mason

By the Brethren

of the Lodge 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 1st April, the '**Guid Brethren o' the Ludge**' conferred a fine Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree, before an excellent attendance of Brethren and visitors.

All of those taking part rose to the occasion, and gave a good performance for all in attendance

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.23pm

Attendance : 91

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 15th April, the following Candidate:

ANDREW MURRAY

had an excellent Master Mason Degree Degree conferred upon him by the Installing Masters, assisted by some of the Past Masters of the Lodge in what was truly an excellent flawless degree. All in attendance cannot fail to have been impressed by the particularly high standard of ceremonial on that evening.

The Brethren then retired to the Function Suite where all in attendance enjoyed a calm and relaxing harmony, after the exertions of the evening.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.33pm

Attendance : 53

100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes this month were :

1st April	£20 :	Bro Jim Ferguson
	£10 :	Bro Jim Cherry
15th April	£20 :	Bro Jim Cherry (Again !!)
	£10 :	Bro Billy Petrie

Bro George McGrandles PM, our worthy Treasurer, is still taking names for this year, with the annual fee is still excellent value at £10.

Legal Tender

In 1794 a Masonic token was minted in honour of the Prince of Wales, the son of George III, he later became George the IV. From 1790 to 1813 he served as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England.

The originator of the coin was Bro James Sketchley of Birmingham who created the coin to commemorate the election of the Prince as Grand Master. These coins were so superior in their copper content that they readily became legal tender. In 1817 they were withdrawn from circulation by government order



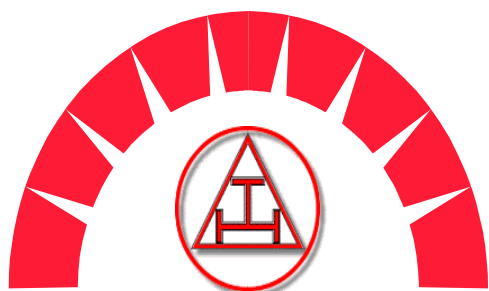
Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 6th May	Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Dramatised MM Degree will be conferred.
Saturday 10th May	Coffee Morning in the Function Suite 10am till 12 Noon
Monday 19th May	Management Committee Meeting at 7.30pm
Friday 30th May	Games Night in the Social Club 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

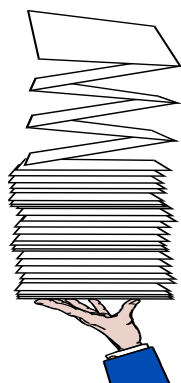
At the Regular Meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday, 8th April, the Companions from both Baron of Renfrew RAC No.114 and Port Glasgow RAC No.900 jointly conferred a fine Mark Affiliate and Excellent Masters Degree upon the following Candidates

Bro Stephen Scott & Bro Craig Park

All who participated in the combined degree team are to be congratulated for their efforts, in what was a thoroughly enjoyable performance. It was good to see a number of Visitors at the meeting, which swelled the attendance to almost 50 Companions

At the close of the meeting, the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount Royal Arch along with their guests, retired downstairs where they enjoyed a pleasant conclusion to the evening.

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

Masonic Facts

- Bro John Stafford Smith (1750-1836), a member of Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No. 4, London, actually wrote the music which later became our 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 Frederick A. Bartholdi, a French Freemason, designed the statue of Liberty in New York harbour, and the Grand Lodge of NY laid the corner stone on August 5, 1885
- The Reverend William Dodd, first Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of England, was hanged for forgery on June 2nd, 1777
- On July 2, 1751, King Ferdinand VI of Spain issued an edict against Freemasonry. Father Jose Torrubia secured a special dispensation from the Pope, joined a lodge, secured the names of its members, and proceeded to have them arrested. Hundreds were arrested, persecuted, and imprisoned.
- Dr. Carlos Rodriguez-Jimenez was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Venezuela in 1947. In 1957 he became the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Japan.
- The largest Master's chair is in Ophir Lodge #33 in Murphy, California. It is 15 feet long and can seat the Master, living Past Masters, and visiting dignitaries.
- Grand Masters in the US generally have the power to make "Masons at sight," which means the Grand Master can do away with formalities such as filing of petitions, waiting periods, learning of certain ritual, etc. Some famous Masons who were made at sight include: William H. Taft, General George Marshall, and General Douglas MacArthur.
- Lodges in the Massachusetts have no numbers. In Pennsylvania there are 11 lodges that have numbers but no names, and in Georgia there are two lodges with the number 1. In Maryland, Tennessee and Pennsylvania there is no lodge with the number 1.
- William Hesketh Lever Lodge No.2916 in Great Britain was the only lodge named for a non-Mason, the first Viscount of Leverhulme (the soap manufacturer "Lever").
- Bro Harry S Truman, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri was a Mason for 63 years and received his fifty-year Masonic veteran's emblem in 1959. About the ceremony he said, *"I don't think I've had anything touch me as much as that did."*
- In 1892, the tallest building in the world was the Masonic Temple at the corner of Randolph Street and State Streets, in Chicago, Illinois.
- Field Marshal, Earl Douglas Haig, was a Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.
- In the Museum of Naples are many articles from Pompeii such as gavels, compasses, chisels, squares, also include a tiled mosaic square-shaped altar top consisting of a human skull, level of coloured wood and brass; a plumb line, 6-spoked wheel, upright spear and coloured cords; symbols similar to the present-day Masonic symbols.

Famous Freemasons

(In a departure from our customary more detailed format, we publish a long list of 'Actors and Entertainers etc' who were members of The Craft)

- **Bud Abbott**, Daylight Lodge No. 525, Michigan
- **Gene Autry**, 33°, Grand Cross. Catoosa Lodge No. 185, Oklahoma
- **Wallace Beery**, Blaney Lodge No. 271, Illinois
- **Mel Blanc**, Mid Day Lodge No. 188, Oregon
- **Ernest Borgnine**, Abingdon Lodge No. 48, Virginia
- **William "Buffalo Bill" Cody**, Platte Valley Lodge No. 15, New England
- **Harry H. Corbett**, Chevin Lodge No. 6848, London
- **Cecil B. DeMille**, Prince of Orange Lodge No. 16, New York
- **Douglas Fairbanks**, Beverly Hills Lodge No. 528, California
- **Clark Gable**, Beverly Hills Lodge No. 528, California
- **Oliver Hardy**, Solomon Lodge No. 20, Jacksonville, Florida
- **Harry Houdini**, Initiated Aug 21, 1923, St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York
- **Burl Ives**, Magnolia (now Magnolia-La Cumbre) Lodge No. 242, California
- **Al Jolson**, St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York
- **Harold Lloyd**, Hamilton Lodge No. 535, Hollywood, California
- **Harpo Marx**, Hamilton Lodge No. 535, Hollywood, California
- **Louis B. Mayer**, St. Cecile Lodge No. 568, New York, New York
- **Tom Mix**, Utopia Lodge No. 537, California
- **Eddy Murphy**, Hollywood Lodge No. 542, North Hollywood, California
- **Richard Pryor**, Henry Brown Lodge No. 22, Peoria, Illinois
- **Roy Rogers**, Hollywood Lodge No. 355, California
- **Peter Sellers**, Chelsea Lodge No. 3098, London
- **"Red" Skelton**, Vincennes Lodge No. 1, Vincennes, Indiana
- **Jack Warner**, Mount Olive Lodge No. 506, Los Angeles, California
- **John Wayne**, Marion McDaniel Lodge No. 56, Tucson, Arizona
- **Darryl F. Zanuck**, Mount Olive Lodge No. 506, Los Angeles, California
- **Adolph Zukor**, Centennial Lodge No. 763, New York

(Next Month – 'Writers, Journalists and Publishers')

BITS & PIECES

- Bro Bryce McCaig would appreciate any donations of Home Baking and Tombola Prizes for the Lodge Coffee Morning on Saturday 10th May.
- It is good to see that Bro Lawrence Webb's monthly Game Nights are still proving popular with another good attendance of Brethren and their friends.
- We would like to remind our readers that our Sister Lodge – Lodge Randolph, No.1434 is holding its Annual Lunch, here in 307 on Saturday 21st June at 1.30 for 2.00pm. Tickets are available for any 1434 Office-bearer (of which there are many within Union & Crown).
- Having thanked Brothers McIntyre & Ritchie for installed the magnificent new Light above our front door in last month's edition, it was remiss not to mention Bro Ronnie MacIsaac PM who had obtained the light for us.
- Great to see Bro Eddie Mullin WJD in better health and attending our last meeting after a heart scare and a spell in hospital.
- The annual Fishing Outing is being held on Saturday 24th May at Harelaw Fishery in Neilston. If you wish to attend just contact Bro Alan Izatt S.M.
- It's good to see Bro Vic Chapman out & about again after a period of ill health
- Well done to Bro John McCuish who recently completed the annual 'Scottish Kiltwalk' to Loch Lomond, with a sizeable amount raised for good causes.
- We gather that Bro Tom Mulholland PM after a short stay in hospital recently is awaiting a date to return for some surgery. We wish him well.
- Well done to Bro Jim Renfrew PM, who following a health scare in August, has lost over 3 stones in weight.
- We gather that Bro Evans Reid PM is to take the Chair in his adopted Lodge – Dunlop Caledonia, No.1408 in September.
- We congratulate Bro Paul Stewart PM's Father Bro Willie Stewart on received a 50-year diploma from his Mother Lodge – Thistle & Crown, No.1167
- We notice that Bros Lawrence Webb and Graham Manson PM have both got new cars. They must have been squandering their 'Lump Sums' following their recent retiral.
- We understand that over 30 of our Brethren are travelling up to the Black Isle at the beginning of November. We have been invited by the MW Grand Master Mason (and HM of 307) Bro Ramsay McGhee to confer a Dramatised Prisoner of War Degree within his adopted Lodge – Seaforth No.854 in Fortrose.

FREEMASONRY IS MANY THINGS.

Freemasonry is a Story of Life with all its joys, its heartaches, its failures and its final triumph over all earthly things.

Anyone can read it, in countless books. Its teachings, its symbols, and its ambitions, are open for general observation. They are practiced in the light and held up for all the world to see.

Freemasonry is not practiced in the dark, neither are its teachings the dogma of some forbidden cult. We, as Freemasons, are required to reflect the light; to practice its teachings and love by their direction. No greater thing can be said of Freemasonry than that it is an ideal way of life.

No other fraternity offers such profound lessons in its Ritual or Work as does Freemasonry. Each word and each act in the ceremonies of the Lodge carries a true lesson to each of us, if we will but open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and hearts to accept.

We can study Freemasonry for years, as we attend its meetings, and each time we stop to think on the things said and done, we get a new meaning and inspiration from them. There is a never-ending source of pleasure in the various shades of meaning that can be read into each line of our work. Each new meaning and interpretation that we put into some word or act will make that passage live for us, and we will begin to see Freemasonry for what it is intended. Great men have devoted many years of study and meditation to the cause of Freemasonry and when their work is finished, they realise that they have only begun to see the light and that they have only started to uncover the true meanings of the work.

Freemasonry has been talked of and written about by countless men in every country of the world. Its members have been persecuted in all lands at one time or the other but it still grows and flourishes as no other fraternity on earth today.

There must be something good and great in Freemasonry, for it to stand through the years as a beacon of light to its members and as a symbol of the true way of life for all to see and follow. Its greatness is not due to its secret teachings, its mysteries or fanfare of its deeds, but rather to the profound lessons taught to its members and to the comfort, inspiration and enlightenment brought to all who will but study

Freemasonry frowns on advertising its good deeds, preferring to let those who benefit from them reflect on its goodness, that others might have hope and desire the better things of life. Freemasonry offers comfort to those who sorrow, hope for those who despair, wise counsel for those who err, and the joys and contentment of life to all.

The Significance of the Square & Compasses

Few symbols are as closely linked to Freemasonry as the square and compasses. It is perhaps one of the most recognizable symbols to the public, with strong associations to our craft. It proudly adorns our lodges and the Masonic regalia and artifacts of our fathers, grandfathers, and uncles who were members of our fraternity.

The square and compasses have a rich history dating back to our stonemason ancestors during the Middle Ages. While we cannot pinpoint precisely when it became an official symbol of the Free and Accepted Masons, these Masonic working tools are integral to our rituals. When combined, the square and compasses symbolize the ethical and moral ideals at the core of our fraternity, embodying our timeless traditions and values.

The exact date when the square and compasses were first used as symbols of Freemasonry has yet to be known, as their origins are shrouded in the historical mists of time. Freemasonry has its roots in the traditions of stonemasons and builders' guilds from the Middle Ages, and these tools were part of the working tools used by operative stonemasons.

These instruments were essential for stonemasons in their construction work: the square, used to test the accuracy of angles and corners, and the compasses, to draw circles and arcs. Over time, as speculative Freemasonry emerged from operative Masonry and began to adopt symbolism and rituals, these tools came to symbolize moral and ethical principles within the fraternity.

It is most likely that the square and compasses were officially adopted as Masonic symbols gradually as Freemasonry developed during the late 16th and early 17th centuries. By the 18th century, these symbols had become deeply integrated into Masonic ritual and symbolism.

Considering the square has been a vital geometrical and architectural tool for centuries, it's no surprise it has entered our vernacular. Terms such as "getting all squared away" or "getting a square deal" are commonly used. Nobody can describe what the square means within our fraternal ritual better than renowned Masonic author Albert Mackey, who wrote the following:

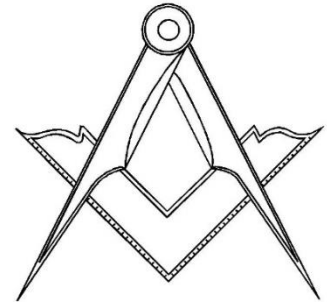
"In the operative stone mason era, the 90-degree angle of the square was a necessary tool used to test the accuracy of the sides of a stone to ascertain that the stone's angles matched the square's 'true' right angle... in speculative Freemasonry, the square is a symbol of morality."

Operative stonemasons used compasses as one of their tools in building and layering stone structures. Compasses were essential for drawing circles and arcs, ensuring precision in their work. As speculative Freemasonry emerged from operative Masonry, the tools of the trade, including the compasses, were retained as symbolic elements within the fraternity.

In Masonic ritual, the compasses symbolize several important moral and ethical lessons. They are often associated with circumscribing one's desires and passions, keeping them within due bounds. This symbolism emphasizes self-discipline, temperance, and the importance of living a balanced and virtuous life. Just as the compasses are used to draw a circle, Masons are encouraged to draw a moral boundary around their actions and behaviours.

It is worth addressing the term "Square and Compasses" itself, as there is often confusion around whether "compasses" is correct. Many believe it should be referred to as the singular "compass," but in Masonic Ritual, the proper usage is, in fact, "compasses," as cited on page 162 of the Combined Ritual. Further, on page 173 of Mackey's Revised Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry (1929 edition), the entry under compasses reads:

"In Speculative Masonry, this important implement symbolic of that even tenor of deportment, that true standard of rectitude which alone can bestow happiness here and felicity hereafter. Hence are the compasses the most prominent emblem of virtue, the true and only measure of a Mason's life and conduct. As the Bible gives us light on our duties to God, and the square illustrates our duties to our community and brother, so the compasses give that additional light which is to instruct us in the duty we owe to ourselves – the great, imperative duty of circumscribing our passions, and keeping our desires within due bounds."



Lodge Union & Crown, No.307



**COFFEE
MORNING**

Saturday 10th May

Masonic Temple, Cochrane Street

10am till 12 Noon

**Tickets costing £2 are now available from
Bro Bryce McCaig, or any Office-bearer**

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 21 Years Ago

No. 273

April 2004

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

CAMPBELL KENNEDY RONNIE MCISAAC

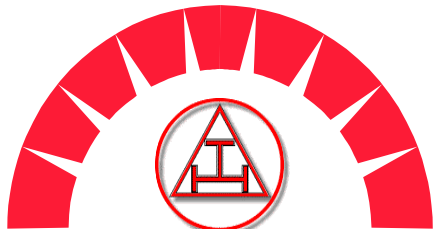
were initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our order, in what was a fine EA Degree, conferred by a deputation of the Brethren from Lodge Craigielea, No.1218 who were our guests for the evening. The deputation of 19 Brethren, which was headed by their R.W.M. – Bro Ian McDowall, who must have been very satisfied with the ceremonial work of his Brethren.

Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9-48pm Attendance : 80

Following the regular business meeting on Tuesday 20th April "The Guid Brethren o' the Ludge" gave a another splendid rendition of the Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree, which had proved so popular over the last few years

The lodge was greatly honoured on that evening, when a very special visitor, paid an unannounced visit to Union & Crown. None other than Bro Sir Archibald D. Orr Ewing, Bart., B.A., the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland, accompanied by the Grand Secretary, Bro C Martin McGibbon. It is believed that this is the first time that a GMM has ever attended 307, and it was most heartening to see Bro Orr Ewing mingling well amongst the Brethren of the Lodge.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9-40pm Attendance : 139



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

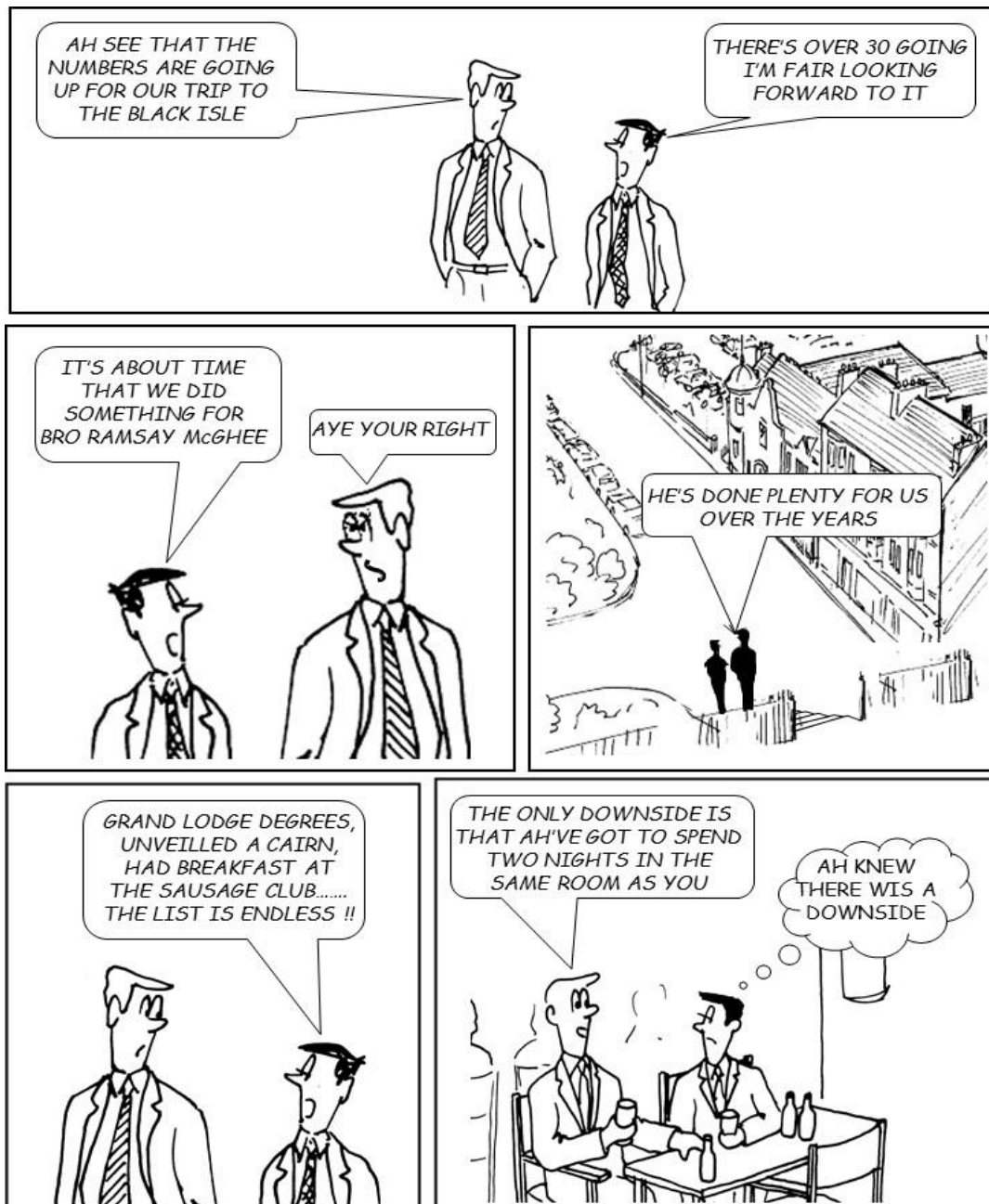
At the regular meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 130h April, Brother **DAVID TAYLOR** had the Mark Ceremonial conferred upon him by the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount R.A.C. Bro David who hails from the Province of Essex, and is an Honorary Member of Lodge Union & Crown. Bro David has long been desirous of becoming a Royal Arch Mason, and it was decided that he should receive his Mark within Rockmount in a special ceremony.

Thereafter, a fine Mark Affiliate & Excellent Master was conferred upon : **Bros JOHN HICKS, ALBERT WRIGHT, COLIN HAMILTON & KEN MACKENZIE** in what was a particularly busy evening.

BITS & PIECES

- It was good to see Bro Murray Hunter of 1167, a very frequent visitor to 307, at our recent visitation to Pollokshaws RA, No.153. Bro Murray who lives in Neilston got the train to Mount Florida and caught a bus to Pollokshaws to catch our visit, and returned by the same route !
- The town was devastated to hear that Nestlé are to close their Purina factory in the town with the loss of over 200 jobs. 307 have quite a number of Brethren who work in "The Kennomeat" and we sincerely hope that they are fortunate enough to secure new jobs soon.
- Well done to Bro Steff Lawniczak who recently filmed the 307 Concert Party in action, and gifted a DVD of the performance to each member of the cast.
- We see that Bro Graham Smith has sold his house in Kirkton Road and is moving to a new one in Arthurlie Street. Another on the move is Bro Walter Fleming, who has sold his house in Paisley and has bought one within Nether Kirkton, on the outskirts of Neilston.

MARK N' ARCHIE



J Renfrew - April 2025

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

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