

# The Mallet

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

No. 296



September 2006

We are delighted to report that the decision to take three degrees out of the recognised Lodge syllabus has finally been taken, in a clear effort to retain the full interest of our Brethren, and of course our visitors. This has not been taken lightly, and is the end result of a lengthy consultation period between senior members of the Lodge and the Brethren themselves.

As ever it was a democratic decision, following a well thought out, and carefully researched recommendation was put forward for the Brethren to consider. It is obvious to even a blind man that wholesale changes require to be made, if our fraternity is to survive in these troubled times. In the age of cable television and the internet, and the myriad of entertainment readily available to most of us, it is obvious that something special is required to grasp and hold the attention of the Brethren in these enlightened times.

Union & Crown has long considered itself to be innovative and pioneering when looking ahead to see what's right for its Brethren. Indeed, almost 10 years ago we had a long and hard look at what we had on offer, and introduced two carefully prepared dramatised degrees to offer "something different". These have been a resounding success, and have been taken on the road by the Lodge on numerous occasions when invited by Sister Lodges

Our new proposals entail revamping and extending the current dramatised third degree, which has proved to be so popular, and reintroducing it to the Brethren. A completely new "Evening at the table of Scottish Freemasonry" is being prepared and will showcase the Craft in Scotland from it's earliest days until the present, with many of its prominent members over the years being portrayed by our own Brethren. Lastly, on an annual basis, we are reintroducing the "Civic Dinner" as a regular feature of our syllabus. This important occasion has normally been kept for special anniversaries, but it was thought that a place could be found each year for a function which brings the whole community into contact with the Lodge, and shows just exactly what and who we are to the general public.

We are all excited by the developments which are sure to be a success, and we are convinced that they will be embraced and heartily accepted by our members in due course.



# Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

*Dear Sir & Brother,*

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

*Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2006*

*Business :*

*Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

*Fellowcraft Degree*

*conferred by Lodge Nitsbill, No.1478*

*Harmony*



*Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2006*

*Business :*

*Minutes & Correspondence etc.*

- *Annual General Meeting of the Lodge*
- *Nomination & Election of Office-bearers and Committees*
  - *Harmony*

*Yours faithfully & fraternally*

*James C Kerr P.M., Secretary*

# Regular Meetings

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September, the following Candidates :

**CLARK RENFREW**

**SCOTT O'HARA**

was raised to the high and sublime degree of a Master Mason by Bro Willie Love 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 : 9-44pm**

**Attendance : 87**



At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September, the following Candidate :

**LAWRENCE WEBB**

was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our order by an experienced degree team from our good friends, and close neighbours, Lodge Saint Conval, Giffnock, No.1359.

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

**Opened : 7-29pm**

**Lodge Closed : 9-48pm**

**Attendance : 86**



## 100 CLUB

The fortunate winners of our cash prizes for the month of September were :

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September**    £10 : **Bro Jim Renfrew PM**

£5 : **Bro Duncan Birse**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September**    £10 : **Bro Jim Miller PM**

£5 : **Bro Jim Heron**



Bro Donald Cook PM, our worthy Treasurer, is currently taking names for the 2006/2007 100 Club. The annual fee is still £10, and anyone interested should append their name to the notice which has been posted in the Downstairs Lounge.

All monies should be paid by the Installation in November.



# *Dates for you Diary*

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October** A Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a FC Degree will be conferred by Lodge Nitshill, No.1478
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October** Visitation to Lodge Woodhall St John's, No.305 in Bellshill, where Bro Tom Mulholland IPM will be conferring a MM Degree.  
*(The bus will leave Cochrane Street at 7pm)*
- Monday 16th October** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October** Annual General Meeting of the Lodge, where all Office-bearers and Committees will be nominated and elected for the forthcoming session 2006/2007.

*(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. and Wardens are constantly involved in unofficial visits to Sister Lodges details of which can be obtained by contacting any senior Office-bearer who will be only too pleased to take you along with them as they represent the Lodge throughout the Province. Full details of all visitations, be they official or otherwise, are available on the Lodge Website, which is updated constantly - <http://unionandcrown.org>)*



## ***Meet the Candidates***

- Clark Renfrew :** Bro Clark is 19 years of age, and is currently serving his apprenticeship as an Electrician with BAE Systems, whilst studying at college. The son of Bro Jim Renfrew PM, he lives in the Levenside area of the town and enjoys listening to music in his spare time. As yet unattached, he likes to socialise with his close group of friends.
- Scott O'Hara :** The best friend of his fellow candidate, Bro Scott is a few months older at 20, and recently relocated from Barrhead, he now lives with his parents in Uplawmoor. Having studied accountancy at University, he is now employed within the financial services sector with a company in Rutherglen and enjoys the company of his friends.

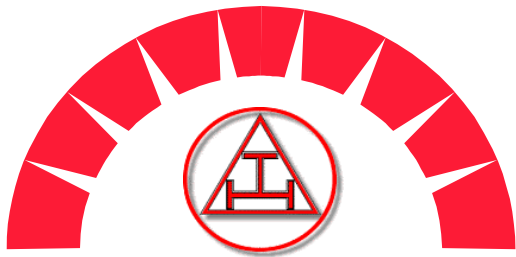
# BITS & PIECES

- Congratulations to Bro Walter Fleming and his wife Irene, who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding. Walter & Irene are now happily settled in the new Nether Kirkton development just as you enter the village of Neilston, nearby to their daughter.
- Our Worthy Treasurer has informed us that Lodge Test Fees are now due, and should be paid as soon as possible.
- A whole series of Fund-raising events are planned during the session. Racenights, Quizzes, Coffee Mornings etc. We will keep you advised of each event as arrangements are finalised, and we would ask all to support these endeavours as much as possible.
- With the Installation Season almost upon us, a list of all Installations in the Province of Renfrewshire East has been posted in the Downstairs Lounge. If you can assist our Senior Office-bearers by attending the odd Installation, it would be greatly appreciated.
- Congratulations to Bro Brian Wilkie, who recently married his long-term sweetheart, Linda, who happens to be Bro Jimmy Heron's daughter.
- On a similar note, best wishes to Bro Jim Bradshaw's son and his new wife Jackie on their recent betrothal.
- We notice that Bro Eric Gray seems to have put on a bit of weight recently. It appears that he is making a serious attempt to give up smoking.
- The gratitude of the entire Lodge goes to the Brother who made an anonymous donation of £200 towards our funds. Without doubt his gesture was made in the truest tenets of our order.
- Many thanks to Bro Bob Barnicott, a Past President of the Masonic Kilties of New Jersey, and a long time reader of The Mallet for his generous donation. Bro Bob, who attended a recent 307 meeting whilst visiting Scotland, is of course the Brother-in-Law of our own Bro Tom Wilson.
- Well done to Bro Jimmy Laing's elder daughter Heather who recently graduated with a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Degree from the University of Portsmouth and is now gainfully employed in the Financial world, with one of the large banks.
- Grateful thanks to the "Wee Arras" for their generous £100 donation to 307.

## GOLF NEWS



Congratulations to Bro Douglas Rankin who won the top prize - the Robert Little Trophy – at our annual golf outing to Eyemouth. Unfortunately, it is sad to report that all our pairings in the Provincial McMenemy trophy were eliminated early, and we lost the annual John Livingstone Memorial Quaich to Lodge St Barchan No.156 by a 2½ to 1½. Things can only get better !!!



## Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the regular meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September, the Chapter held its Annual Business Meeting, during which the nomination and election of Office-bearers and committees for the forthcoming session was carried out.

It is good to note that each and every office within the Chapter was filled and that we can look forward to what we are sure will be a successful year in the capable hands of MEC Andrew Neilson, and his team of office-bearers

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter will be the annual Installation on : **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm** and the Companions of Rockmount, extend a warm invitation to all to attend on that evening. The Companions should take note that the Installation Meeting is much later than is customary, having been postponed by 2 weeks to accommodate the work commitments of the First Principal Elect, who unfortunately is unavailable on the original date.

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, Rockmount Cryptic Council, No. 367 held their AGM and Installation of Office-bearers. MEC Wilson Davidson was installed as Thrice Illustrious Master, with MECs Alex White and Drew Corrigan PTIM doing a fine job with the installing roles. We are sure that MEC Wilson and his team of Office-bearers will do well in the year ahead.

In an effort to keep all the Companions informed, we enclosed a copy of the Chapter & Council's Syllabus for the forthcoming 2003-2004 session :

### Royal Arch

#### 2006

**Tues 24 Oct** Installation (7pm)  
**Tues 14 Nov** Regular (EM)  
**Tues 12 Dec** Regular (RA)

#### 2007

**Tues 9 Jan** Regular (EM)  
**Tues 13 Feb** Prov. Visit @ 8-30pm  
**Tues 13 Mar** Regular (RA)  
**Tues 10 Apr** Regular (EM)  
**Tues 8 May** Regular (RA)  
**Mon 4 June** General Committee  
**Tues 11 Sep** AGM

### Cryptic Council

#### 2006

**Tues 26 Sept** AGM & Installation  
**Tues 28 Nov** Regular

#### 2007

**Tues 23 Jan** Regular  
**Tues 13 Feb** Prov. Visit @ 7-30pm  
**Tues 27 Mar** Regular  
**Tues 25 April** Regular (Rescheduled)  
**Tues 25 Sept** AGM & Installation

# A Dictator's Hatred of Masonry.

Religious and Political Dictators are threatened by any entity that prefers free thought and tolerance over complete submission. Masonry's detractors can be numbered by the dozens. Hitler persecuted Freemasons and sent many along with the Jews to concentration camps, many losing their property to the Third Reich. Mussolini maintained a constant watch over the Craft and had a number of our Brethren executed. Generalissimo Franco made a blanket proclamation classifying Homosexuals the same as Freemasons - banning both and executing many.

Religious leaders throughout the Middle East have outlawed the Craft and a number of Grand Lodges from that region are in exile. Many other political and religious tyrants throughout history have done the same.

At the establishment of Freemasonry in Western Europe, the Craft wisely ruled that Politics and Religion would not be discussed in Lodge. That may have saved the Craft from total destruction at the time of the age of enlightenment when the people were ruled by both political and religious tyrants.

Perhaps some of our religious leaders have forgotten that it was Freemasons who fought long and hard to establish the Freedom of Religion in this country. Perhaps they have just forgotten to thank us. If we are judged by whom our enemies are, we are doing very well.

## "A Thoughtful Prayer"

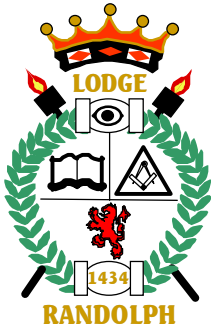
Help me to be, to think, to act what is right, because it is right; make me truthful, honest, and honourable in all things; make me intellectually honest, for the sake of right and honour and without thought of reward to me.

Give me the ability to be charitable, forgiving, and patient with my fellowmen - help me to understand their motives and their shortcomings - even as Thou understandest mine !

Amen, Amen, Amen.

*(A prayer used many times by Bro Harry S. Truman)*

# Lodge Randolph



At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September, Bro John Wright, of Lodge Ellangowan, No.716, was affiliated into membership of Lodge Randolph, with the obligation being given by Bro Jim Kerr SM.

Bro John, a well-kent face in these parts, is a very experienced Brother, and we are sure that he will be a valuable addition to 1434.

At the after-meeting harmony, Bro Craig Brown, the former Scotland Football manager, and a member of Lodge Albert, No.448 in Dundee, entertained the assembled Brethren with a most enjoyable talk on his career in professional football, followed by a lively question and answer session.

Bro Craig, is a personal friend of our own Bro Jim Flockhart.

## Did you know . . . .

That records held in the Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum indicate that Bro. George Washington recruited six Masons from Edinburgh to help build the White House, and that all six became founding members of the Federal Masonic Lodge No.1 of Washington D.C.

One of these Brethren was none other than Bro. James Hoban, who also went on to build the United States Capitol Building. A devout Catholic and ardent Freemason. Federal Lodge No.1 was formed under his leadership by a group of Irish Catholics and Scots Presbyterians, and he became its first Worshipful Master in September 1793.

One of it's earliest office-bearers was Alexander McCormick, who went on to serve as Worshipful Master on 15 occasions between 1798 and 1816, a not uncommon occurrence in those days.

President Andrew Jackson, FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover and Polar Explorer, Admiral Richard E. Byrd were all members of Federal Lodge, whilst President Theodore Roosevelt was made an honorary member in November 1901.

It was good to see **Bro Alex Faulds** taking the opportunity of attending the Lodge recently. Bro Alex who has lived in England for over forty years, where he was employed by regalia manufacturers Toye, Kenning & Spencer. The Lodge took the opportunity of presenting him with a Long Service Diploma to mark his 50 years a member of 307.

Bro Alex now lives in Carlisle, and is currently Junior Deacon of his adopted Lodge – St George & St Andrew, No.9677.

# Almoner's Report

It was with deepest regret that I report the unexpected death of Bro David Noble PM's young grandson Corey, who tragically passed away recently, aged three weeks. I attended the funeral service at the South & Levern Church and extended the condolences of the Lodge to Bro David and his family.

Whilst slightly restricted by a family holiday in Cumbria, I still managed to call on several Brethren during the month. I saw **Bro Tom Young PM**, who was in good cheer and very appreciative of a visit. **Bro Joe Roberts PM** is currently still in the town, but is expected to relocate to Lemington Spa in Warwickshire very soon to be nearer to his daughter. He received me well and was delighted to receive a signed and dedicated copy of the Lodge History from Bro Bud Gauld, and asked to be remembered to all the Brethren. **Bro John W Smith** and I had a good chat when I called on him and it was refreshing to exchange our points of view on several subjects.

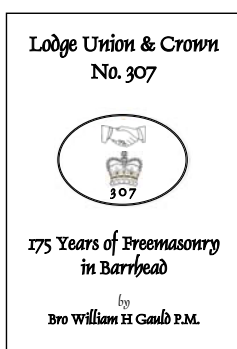
**Bro John Osborne** and his wife Marion are settling in well to their new home in Lochlibo and we enjoyed a good blether. **Bro John Brookes** was much the same when I dropped in, but he passed on his regards to all. I visited **Bro Arthur Renfrew** who has had an extended spell in the RAH. Bro Arthur, a kindly man, had been quite unwell but was showing signs of recovery and is hopeful of getting home soon.

I called in on Mrs Elspeth Davidson, Mrs Vera English and Mrs Patricia Renfrew, and all thanks me and the Lodge for our kind consideration.

I made my regular visits to **Bro James Smith**, **Bro Peter Cameron**, and **Bro Hugh Munro** (now happily settled in the Firs Nursing Home) and by the time you will have read my report, I hope to have caught **Bro Jim Liggat**, **Bro Willie Pattison** and **Bro Jimmy Sharp**.

Thanks to all who have assisted me recently, it was greatly appreciated. I am extremely grateful to all who make my job so much easier. If anyone knows of any Brother or Widow who is ill or housebound, or would appreciate a visit, please let me know as soon as possible.

**Bro Alex White** Lodge Almoner 0141-571 6411



## History of the Lodge

We would remind all our readers that there are still copies available of Bro Bud Gauld P.M.'s excellent History of Lodge Union & Crown, No.307 available - priced £10.

Anyone interested should contact Bro Bud (☎ 881-9552) who will be only too glad to sell you a copy.

# FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from The Mallet of 17 Years Ago

No. 126

September 1989

## REGULAR MEETINGS

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 5th September the following two Candidates :

**STEVEN AMABILE**

**PAUL JAMES CHERRY**

were passed to the F.C. Degree by the Office-bearers and Brethren of Lodge Georgetown No.1170

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-52pm

Attendance : 132

At our Regular Meeting on Tuesday 19th September the same two Candidates were raised to the high & sublime degree of a M.M. by the Office-bearers and Past Masters of Lodge St John, Busby, No. 458. Those in attendance witnessed a fine degree and are to be congratulated for attending on an evening when Rangers were playing in a Skol Cup semi-final at Hampden.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-56pm

Attendance : 126

## 100 Club

The lucky winners for the month of September are as follows :

5th Sept        £10        Bro Alan Weir        £5        Bro Billy Dickie

19th Sept       £10        Bro John Gray P.M.   £5        Bro Jim Kerr

## Bits & Pieces

Our very best wishes for many years of good health go to both Bro Tom Young PM & Bro Archie Douglas, who have recently retired.

Belated best wishes to Bro Willie Love's daughter Susan on her recent betrothal.

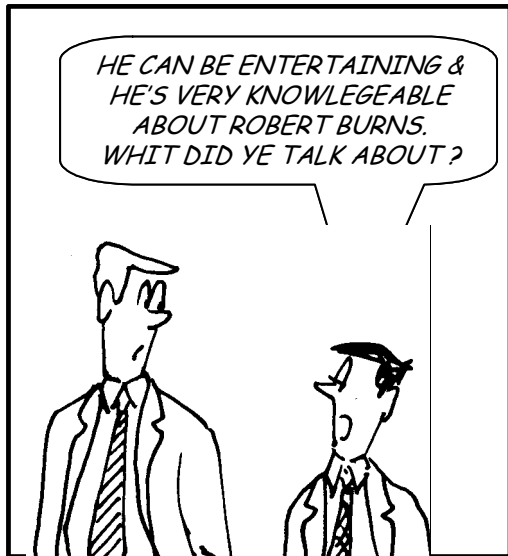
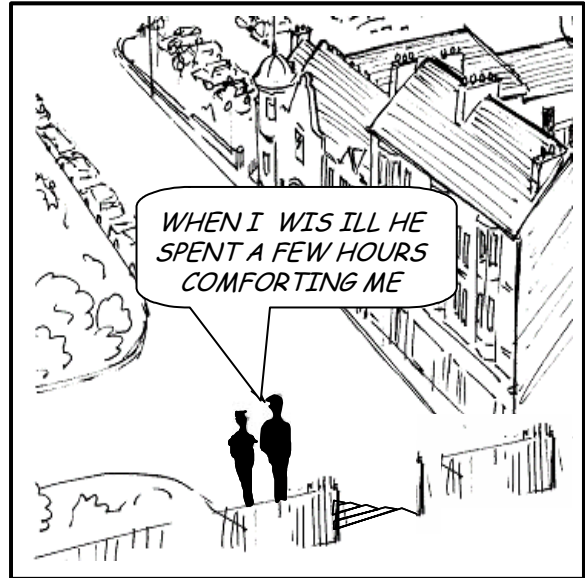
Bro Tom Forde's garden, after a year or two of inactivity, is now resplendent and lush. At great expense, Bro Tom has had it re-turfed.

Well done to Bro Colin Maclean after his recent success in the J & B Golf Tournament at Renfrew.

Bro Douglas Miller has at last secured a teaching post - in Campbeltown.

Bro Jackie Ross tells us he has purchased a retiral home in Largs.

# MARK & ARCHIE



J Renfrew Sept 2006

The Mallet is researched, edited & printed by :

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

Lodge Website address : <http://unionandcrown.org>