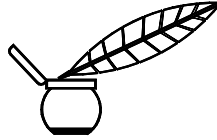


The Mallet

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

No. 316

Editorial



September 2008

Over many years, a great number of Brethren, have thought it right and proper that they make regular contributions to their Mother Lodge. This has been done in countless ways, as they contributed freely to all the various collections and fund-raising ventures, many truly and honestly believing that their support for their Lodge was wholehearted and committed. It's only in recent times that possibly many have finally come to realise the true cost of Masonry. In these perilous times of the 'credit crunch' perhaps it is time for all of us to give some serious consideration to this most important subject.

Consider the regular monthly upkeep of your Lodge, the building repairs, rates, electricity, gas, insurance, telephone etc. and if you don't have your own premises the ever-increasing hall rent. These are constant demands throughout the year, regardless of the financial state of a Lodge.

In addition, there is one cost which must be met by all Lodges, regardless of their circumstances and status, and that is the annual Capitation Fee which is payable to Grand Lodge each and year. It currently stands at about £16.00 per member, and is expected to rise to £20.00 very soon. When you consider the number of Brethren you could have in your Lodge, this could result in a sizeable sum, possibly approaching £2000 due to GL each and every year regardless of your attendances and financial position. Brethren you do not have to be an accountant to realise that this charge, although completely understandable and just, is a tremendous drain on the finances of your Lodge in these austere times.

What's the answer to the predicament, which many Lodges find themselves in, when the attitude of many is that they attend their Lodge meetings regularly, put a pound in the collection plate, and if not a Life Member, pay their annual Test Fees. In their eyes, unquestionably it is the responsibility of the Lodge to pay this bill.

The reality is that each of us must begin to consider what is expected of us and must impose upon ourselves the responsibility of paying what is due on an annual basis. You may call this realistically a "Fee of Honour", but personally I believe you should call it a "Fee of Reality" as the reality is that Freemasonry will not survive in any form, if we don't start paying our way.

So Brethren, ensure that you at least contribute something towards the high cost of being a Mason, or better still attend your Lodge meeting and hand your Treasurer the Capitation Fee. Please ensure that your Lodge isn't left to pay on your behalf, something it can ill afford !



Lodge Union & Crown No 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 7th October 2008

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Master Mason Degree

conferred by the Lodge Instruction Class

Harmony



Tuesday 21st October 2007

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

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

Yours faithfully & fraternally

James Miller P.M., Secretary

Regular Meetings

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

KENNETH BEATTS

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

It was a good, though lengthy EA Degree, ably conferred in the manner we have come to expect from the Brethren from Neilston, and Bro Jim Lawn RWM, who was unfortunately out of the country and missed the meeting, can be assured that his degree team, under Bro Gordon Wade PM, did a fine job in his absence.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.39pm

Attendance : 72



At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Tuesday 18th September, the same Candidate, was passed in to the second, square or FC degree by an experienced degree team from our close neighbours, Lodge Nitshill, No.1478. Bro John Brown, RWM was especially please with the performance of all who participated.

Opened : 7.30pm

Lodge Closed : 9.25pm

Attendance : 75



100 CLUB

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

Tuesday 2nd September £10 : **Bro Martin Carr**

£5 : **Bro Robin Murray PM**

Tuesday 16th September £10 : **Bro Hugh Cattigan PM**

£5 : **Bro Alan Davidson**



Bro Jim Kerr PM, our worthy Treasurer, is currently taking names for the 2008/2009 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 7th October

A Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where a Master Mason Degree will be conferred by the Lodge Instruction Class.

Thursday 16th October

General Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.

Monday 20th October

Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.

Tuesday 21st October

Annual General Meeting of the Lodge, where all Office-bearers and Committees will be nominated and elected for the forthcoming session 2008/2009.

(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 Candidate

Kenneth Beatts :

Whilst not a local man, Kenny is well-known in the town due to the fact that he is the son-in-law of Bro David Noble PM., and has spent many the night in our social club over the years. A civil servant within the 'Department of Employment', Kenny is based in and around Glasgow.

He is 45 years old and resides in the Clarkston Area, just off the Eaglesham Road, with his wife Jacqueline and their son and two daughters. Known to support a certain team on the southside of the city, he spends as much time as he can with his young family.

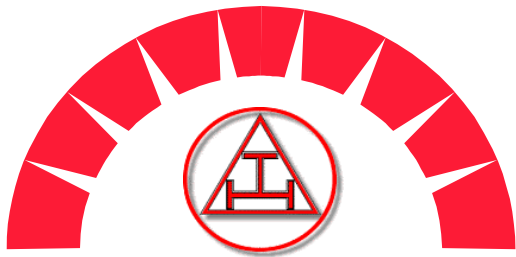
Bits & Pieces

- Our Worthy Treasurer has informed us that Lodge Test Fees are now due, and should be paid as soon 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.
- It was good to see Bro Gordon Lawson and the members of Barrhead Bowling Club organise another bowling competition recently for the “Stedfast Trophy” The event, which many of our own Brethren attended, raised the magnificent total of £300 which has been donated to the 3 local BB Companies.
- Congratulations to Bro Bud Gauld PM who has been nominated for the office of Grand Inner Guard, a great honour, not only for Bro Bud himself, but the Lodge too.
- Further congratulations to Bro Bud and his popular wife Mary following the occasion of their Ruby Wedding, which they celebrated with a party for family and friends in the Function Suite.
- Congratulations to Bro Brian Morton’s daughter who has now gained her Ph.D and will be taking up the offer of a new position in Aberdeen. We gather that Lynne is moving back in with her parents, who are now resident in Aberdeenshire.
- We see that Bro Ricky Little, despite the difficulties in the housing market, has sold his house in Levenside Avenue quickly.
- It was good to see Bro Barry Nutley, The Provincial Grand Master of Midlothian, in attendance at a Recent Regular Meeting of the Lodge.
- Congratulations to our own RWM, Bro David Watson, who was the lucky winner of a rather large bottle of whisky during the recent visit to Lodge Kemnay in Aberdeenshire.
- This year it is felt by the Instruction Master and several PM’s, that the office bearers, especially the newer ones, should have their duties and expected degree work explained to them more clearly. This will help the office bearers fulfil their offices properly, especially the progressive ones and make the journey to the chair a smoother transition.

“Food For Thought”

The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts.

(Bertrand Russell)



Rockmount R.A.C. No.367

At the regular meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 9th 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 Livingston Boyd MBE, and his team of office-bearers

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter will be the annual Installation on : **Tuesday 14th October at 7pm** and the Companions of Rockmount, extend a warm invitation to all to attend on that evening, where MECs John Miller PZ, Robert McCulloch PZ and Alexander White PZ will be performing the installation duties, in what should be a good evening's work.

On Tuesday 23rd September, Rockmount Cryptic Council, No. 367 held their AGM and Installation of Office-bearers. MEC Wilson Davidson was re-installed as Thrice Illustrious Master, with MECs Alex White PTIM and Robert McCulloch PTIM doing a fine job with the installing duties. 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 2008-2009 session :

Royal Arch

2007

Tues 14 Oct Installation (7pm)
Tues 11 Nov Regular (EM)
Tues 9 Dec Regular (RA)

2008

Tues 13 Jan Regular (EM)
Tues 10 Feb Prov. Visit @ 8-30pm
Tues 10 Mar Regular (RA)
Tues 14 Apr Regular (EM)
Tues 12 May Regular (RA)
Mon 1 June General Committee
Tues 8 Sep AGM

Cryptic Council

2007

Tues 23 Sept AGM & Installation
Tues 25 Nov Regular

2008

Tues 27 Jan Regular
Tues 10 Feb Prov. Visit @ 7-30pm
Tues 24 Mar Regular
Tues 28 April Regular
Tues 22 Sept AGM & Installation

Lodge Randolph



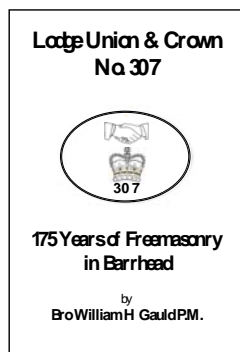
At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge held on Friday 12th September, Bro Brian Beacom MBE, of Lodge Nitshill, No.1478, was affiliated into membership of Lodge Randolph, with the obligation being given by Bro Johnny Gauld SM.

Bro Brian, a well-kent face in these parts, is the chairman of one of the local Heath Boards and we are sure that he will be a valuable addition to 1434.

At the after-meeting harmony, in a late change to the published arrangements, the guest speaker on that evening was Bro Gordon Smith, former footballer, and Chief Executive of the SFA. Bro Gordon entertained the assembled Brethren with a most enjoyable talk on his long and varied career in the football. Thereafter followed by a lively question and answer session with many of the Brethren participating.

Did you know

- That a party of Brethren and their wives from the Grand Lodge of Indiana, led by Deputy Grand Master Jeff Zaring and his wife Margie, have been visiting the UK to tour sites of *'Masonic significance'* during September. The party of almost 20 visited The Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh, Rosslyn Chapel and many other places during their 10 day tour.
- That there is a lodge in Manchester called "**Internet Lodge No. 9659**" Part of the Province of East Lancashire, it was consecrated on 29th January 1998 at Freemasons' Hall, Bridge Street, Manchester after a small group of brethren who subscribe to the UK Mason List on the Internet felt that the time was right for a truly universal Masonic Lodge. Its members come from all over the world including: Andorra, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, India, Italy, Kosovo, Lebanon, Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, the United States of America and Venezuela. Whilst all the day-to-day business is carried out either by e-mail or in the "members only" section of its web site, the Lodge holds regular meetings three times a year.
- The Rev. Canon William Henry Cooper was a member of seventeen lodges. He was the founder and first master of three of them. His lodges were in Ireland, England, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.
- The Lord's Prayer contains only 56 words, The Ten Commandments contain only 297 words, The American Declaration of Independence contains a mere 300 words and a typical MM Obligation has about 770 words. However a recent U.S. Government order setting the price of cabbage, contains 26,911 words !!!



History of the Lodge

We would remind all our readers that there are still copies available of Bro Bud Gault 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.

Freemasonry in Cuba

Long discouraged and distrusted by the authorities, Cuba's Masons have seen their ranks more than double over the last 25 years to 29,000 members in more than 316 Lodges across the island. In 2002, the Cuban government gave permission for two new Lodges, the first since 1967.



Along with other fraternal or mystical groups, like the Oddfellows and the Rosicrucian's, the Masons have been attracting men searching for more enduring answers than those offered by Communism, the only system generations of Cubans have ever known. Members visit the sick in hospitals and help out their families. Mr Armada's Masonic Temple distributes medicine and vitamins donated by Lodges in the United States and Europe.

The brotherhoods are creating a mutual aid network that seeks, very cautiously, to provide what President Castro's government does not or will not.

(Editor's Note : Oddfellows are friendly societies which operate predominately in the [UK](#), USA and Australia. They were set up to protect and care for their members at a time when there was no welfare state, trade unions or National Health Service. The friendly societies are non-profit organisations "owned" by their members. All income is passed back to the members in the form of services and benefits.)

Gallows Humour

A man had been convicted of murder and was about to be hanged. Just before the sentence was executed, the hangman asked the man if he had any last words. "Yes" came his reply, "I hate Masons!"

"Why do you hate Masons?" asked the hangman.

"The man I killed was a Mason," explained the murderer, "the policeman who hunted me down was a Mason, the Prosecutor who tried my case was a Mason, the Judge who presided at the trial was a Mason, and all of the men on the jury who found me guilty and said I should be hanged were Masons!"

"Is that all?" asked the hangman, " "Yes" replied the convicted murder.

"Then you will take one step forward with your left foot"

Visit to Lodge St. Bryde, Kemnay No 991

Saturday 13th September saw 26 brethren travel North to Aberdeenshire, to confer the now famous Dramatised Fellowcraft Degree for the Brethren of the Province of Aberdeenshire West. We had responded to the kind invitation of Bro. Ian Matthews PPGM (*also a PM of Randolph 1434*) and packed the trunk full of props, our costumes and ourselves into 2 mini buses and 1 van. Some of the more mature brethren travelled by car with Bro. Evans Reid PM. The usual jovial atmosphere pervaded as we met at Cochrane St at 8am onwards to begin our sojourn. Bro Joe Harkins RWM of Lodge St. Barchan arrived to join us and Bros Adam Watson And Jimmy Herron did lower the tone somewhat by turning up with Lidl bags containing “refreshments” for the journey. Bro Johnny Gauld had brought his pipes and once the vehicles were loaded, off we went. The journey up was subdued on one bus and not so on the other and it wouldn't take a rocket scientist to establish which bus Bud, Jim Kerr, Adam, Euan etc. were on!



A brief stop North of Dundee for a cuppa and a roll soon had us refreshed and ready to carry on for the 2nd part of the journey. We met Bro Bill Simpson and his good lady in this particular establishment and although we tried hard to persuade him to bolster the numbers, he

insisted he had to go and visit his mother in Aberdeen. A short while later we arrived at our Travel Inn accommodation and got ourselves into our dinner suits and ready to go on the last short haul to the picturesque village of Kemnay. Unfortunately the weather wasn't too good but we arrived safe and well and were greeted by the RWM Bro Mike Pilgrim and, of course Bro Ian Matthews.

The Lodge St. Bryde temple is indeed a beautiful building with many Mason's Marks adorning the outer stonework. A small but tastefully decorated Lodgeroom came under the Instruction Master's scrutiny as he made sure there was space to carry out our performance. As the local brethren arrived and welcomed us into their province in traditional Masonic fashion, we were treated to a light lunch which again had us refreshed and set to carry out our special degree.

We performed to a packed lodgeroom with the team performing very well to the delight of the assembled brethren who enthusiastically participated in the songs. Perhaps this was to drown Bro Manson PM out! Bro Jim Kerr PM took on the role usually performed by the indisposed Bro Jim Renfrew PM very well indeed and the brethren who participated in the performance enjoyed themselves immensely. Following the Dramatised section of the meeting the team retired and changed back into formal wear and joined our hosts for a meal and harmony.

The evening which followed was very enjoyable with the usual suspects taking part in the entertainment, i.e. Adam Watson, Kenny Coleman, Jim Miller etc. The Aberdeenshire brethren perhaps not used to such a harmony were not to be outdone however and joined in the fun with many of them participating. Following the harmony we headed back to our accommodation with many of the brethren heading into Aberdeen to the RU Masonic Club and beyond. That story however is for another time! The journey back on the Sunday was pleasant albeit subdued with all the brethren agreeing it was yet another worthwhile venture.

To take the number of brethren we did to Aberdeenshire was an achievement in itself and one of which the RWM and his brethren can be proud.

Almoner's Report

Since submitting my "Almoner's Report" for our Summer Edition, I have managed a holiday in the Canary islands with my wife Grace, and as a result my activities of late have been somewhat curtailed.

Brethren, it is with regret that I report the passing of **Bro Andrew Monaghan**, who died on Thursday 21st August. I managed to attend the funeral service at Woodside and I expressed sincere condolences on behalf of the Lodge to family members.

Following his recent discharge from hospital. I called on **Bro Duncan McLellan** at home to discover that he's on the mend. **Bro David Campbell** has been in hospital on a couple of occasions recently, and indeed as we go to press I have learned that he's been readmitted and I will make every effort to pay a visit. **Bro Tom Forde** spent a week in the RAH, but is now back home and recovering well.

I have been informed that **Bro Stewart Crilley** has been in hospital, but I have been unable to contact him and will continue to try. **Bro Jack Livingston**, at the time of writing is in the RAH where I visited him and found him to be in good cheer.

Bro Arthur Renfrew is still in the RAH, where he has been for over 5 months. It is hoped that he will shortly move to a local Nursing Home, and I will endeavour to visit him there. **Bro Tom Young**, who hasn't had much luck recently with his health, has been admitted to the RAH and I hope to see him soon.

I have made visits to the following Brethren in their respective homes : **Bro John Brooks, Bro John W Smith, Bro John Hay, Bro Alan Cain, Bro Willie McCreadie, Bro Eric Gray and Bro Robert Smith**. I managed to speak with **Bro Joe Roberts** PM by telephone recently, and he tells me that both he and his wife Anna are well down in Leamington Spa, and they both send their wishes to all at 307.

I'm delighted to report that PM Tom Young's wife Helen has been discharged from the RAH after some 3 months and is recovering well at home. Whilst out and about in my travels as Lodge Almoner, I had the occasion to have a chat with **Bro Jim Waterston, Bro Willie Cook and Bro Alex Kerr** – all of whom appeared to be sprightly and cheerful.

All Brethren whom I visited, or made contact with, expressed their appreciation to me for taking the time to call, and showing interest in their wellbeing. I would like to thank Bro Jim Miller PM, our hard-working Secretary, for his efforts in covering my Almoner's duties whilst on holiday.

Bro Alex White

Lodge Almoner 0141-571 6411

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from The Mallet of 17 Years Ago

No. 146

SEPTEMBER 1991

Regular Meetings

On Tuesday 3rd September, the following three Candidates :

STEVEN ALLAN ANDREW CLANNACHAN ALAN CLUCKIE

were passed to the F.C. Degree by a deputation of Office-bearers & Brethren from our near neighbours Lodge Nitshill, No.1478. It was pleasing to see a healthy attendance on such a fine evening with temperatures in the 70's.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9-44pm Attendance : 125

At the Regular Meeting held on Tuesday 17th September the same three Candidates were raised to the high and sublime degree of a M.M. The ceremonial was in the capable hands of our good friends from Lodge Georgetown, No.1170 and all present witnessed a fine degree.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 10-09pm Attendance : 119

100 Club

The fortunate winners for the month of September were as follows :

Tuesday 3rd September : £10 - Bro Robert Nixon P.M.

 £5 - Bro Graeme Wright

Tuesday 17th September : £10 - Bro David Dalglish Jnr

 £5 - Bro Billy Dickie

Bits & Pieces

It was good to see £600 donated to the Building Fund at the last meeting. The thanks of the Lodge go to each and every one of those who contributed

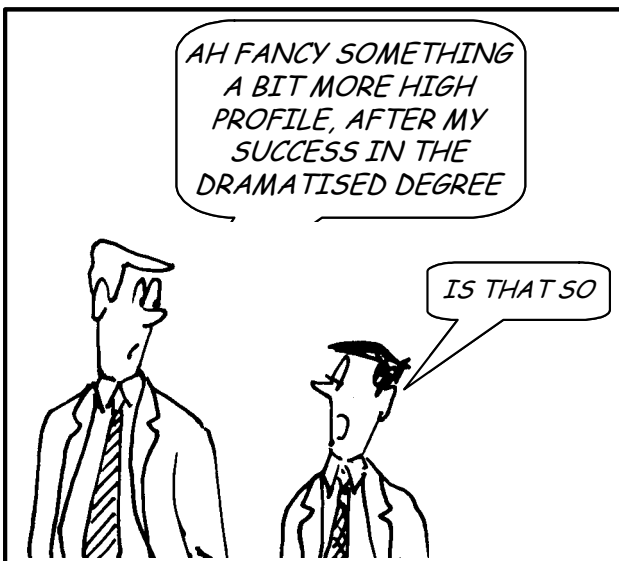
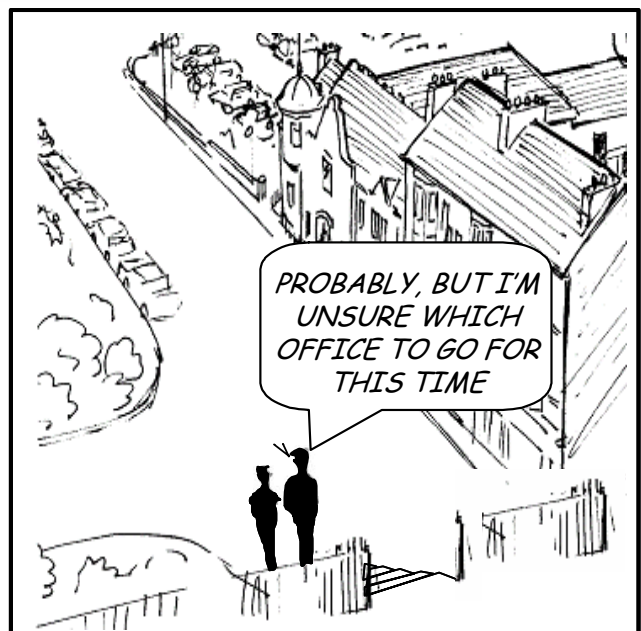
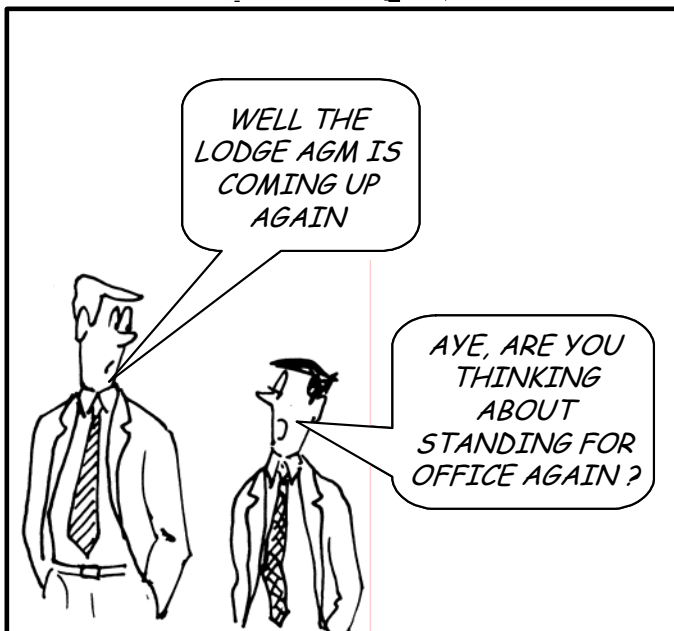
Congratulations to Bro Nigel Fennell and his wife Lorraine on the birth of a bouncing 8ib 4oz baby boy named Ross

The Football Accumulator, which so successful last year, has now restarted with big prizes available. See Bro Willie Renfrew W.J.W. if you are interested.

Many of the Brethren will have noticed that there appears to be an acute shortage of working aprons for general use at Regular meetings. We therefore appeal to those members of the Lodge who may have borrowed one in the past, please return it as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Bro Billy Leckie on celebrating his 50th Birthday.

MARK & ARCHIE



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

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