

The Mallet

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

No. 320



January 2009

I was driving along the Main Street in Barrhead recently, and was saddened to see that what was left of the old High School building was being demolished to make way for the town's new Health Centre. Whilst it certainly took me back well over 30 years to my formative years as a pupil there, it also brought back the vivid memories of the magnificent dinner there in February 1999 to celebrate our 175th Anniversary. Over 300 Brethren and their friends, joined us to celebrate, and it was a day (and night!!) never to forget, and it is astonishing to think that it is 10 years ago.

We staged a whole host of different social events, culminating in the dinner, and whilst it was very hard work arranging everything, and ensuring all the necessary funds were in place, we're positive we'd do it all over again – any excuse for a party !!

Over the last 25 years or so, we have taken great pride in the history of the Lodge, and marked many of its special anniversaries with, in some cases, week-long celebrations. The entire Lodge, including our wives, sweethearts and families have joined with us in what usually because a "week-long hangover" for a fair percentage of our members. Dinners, Discos, Dances, Parties and the like for a wide selection of the population, not just the brethren of the Lodge, have been our hallmark, and no doubt we will continue in a similar vein in the years ahead.

What next we hear you say. The next event on the horizon, is the Centenary of laying of the foundation stone of the Temple itself. This falls in November 2010 and already plans are well advanced to ensure that we mark this day with something just a little special. We're currently keeping the actual details "under our hat" until everything is confirmed, and we're sure that everyone required is available, but keep your eyes on the Noticeboard.

As it falls in November, the week before the annual Lodge Installation, we have to ensure that we don't have too much impact upon that special day, but weather permitting it will be a day to remember, in the best "Union & Crown" tradition. Watch this space !



Lodge Union & Crown

No. 307

Dear Sir & Brother,

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

Tuesday 3rd February 2009

Business :

Minutes & Correspondence etc.

185th Anniversary Dinner

Harmony



Tuesday 17th February 2009

Business : Minutes & Correspondence etc.

Entered Apprentice Degree

conferred by

Lodge Saint Conval, No. 1359

Harmony

Yours faithfully & fraternally

James Miller P.M., Secretary

Regular Meetings

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

JOHN ROBERTSON

was raised to the high & sublime degree of a Master Mason by the Installing Masters, Bro Jim Miller PM & Bro Graham Manson PM, ably assisted by the Past Masters of the Lodge, in what was a fine 3rd Degree conferred with the customary 307 "enthusiasm".

Opened : 7-30 pm Lodge Closed : 9.30 pm Attendance : 60

At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, held on Tuesday 20th January, the Brethren took part in one of the popular "Table of Scottish Freemasonry" This involved over 20 of our own Brethren who portrayed various well-known freemasons, who had an important part to play in the development of the Craft in Scotland over the centuries.

Led by Bro Bud Gauld PM, a fine musical accompaniment from Bro Sam Wilson, added greatly to the atmosphere. On the technical side, Bro Ian McPhie did some sterling work behind the scenes, which added much to the evening's entertainment. A good turnout of our own brethren was complimented by a host of visitors from both within and outwith the province and included Bro Alex Galbraith Past PGM of Renfrewshire West.

A mention must go to RWM Bro Robert Hunt from Lodge Bridgeton & Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle, No.275 who is a very frequent visitor to 307 and many other lodges within our province. A great atmosphere ensued at the aftermeeting harmony with many acquaintances being renewed.

Opened : 7-30pm Lodge Closed : 9.39pm Attendance : 100

100 CLUB

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

Tuesday 6th January £10 : Bro Douglas Rankin WSD

£5 : Mrs Lynn Watson

Tuesday 20th January £10 : Bro Douglas Rankin WSD

£5 : Bro John Gray PM



Names are still being taken for 2008/2009. The annual fee is still very good value at £10, & anyone interested should see Bro Jim Kerr PM, our Treasurer.





Dates for you Diary

- Tuesday 3rd February** Short Business Meeting, followed by 185th Anniversary Dinner (*Tickets Costing £10 are available from Bro Stephen Allan WSW or any Senior Office-bearer*)
- Friday 6th February** Dramatised FC Degree at Lodge Thistle, No.270 in West Calder.
- Thursday 12th February** MM Degree at Lodge Woodhall St John's No.305 in Bellshill.
- Monday 16th February** Management Committee Meeting at 7-30pm.
- Tuesday 17th February** A Regular Meeting of the Lodge, where an EA Degree will be conferred by the Office-bearers and Brethren of Lodge Saint Conval, No. 1359

(In addition to the above, the R.W.M. is 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, - <http://unionandcrown.org>)



307 Racenight



To augment our under pressure funds, the Lodge is holding a Racenight, in late February/early March.

If you would like to sponsor a race, or perhaps can sell race sheets, or even just purchase a couple of houses, this would be a great boon to the Lodge.

The evening is being organised by Bro Douglas Rankin and anyone interested in contributing, or assisting should contact Bro Dougie as soon as possible.

Racesheets will available at Regular Meetings of the Lodge.

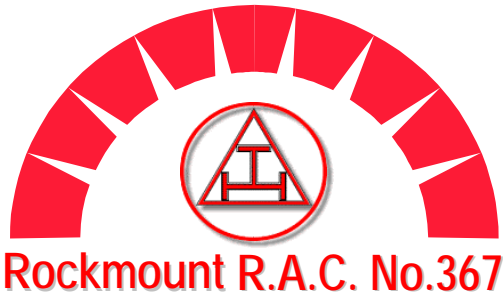
BITS & PIECES

- The annual Burns Supper of the Lodge is being held on Friday 6th March at 7pm. Tickets for this popular function, which is being organised by Bro Johnny Gauld PM, will cost £15 and you are advised to move quickly, as they are sure to sell out early.
- Congratulations to Bro Hugh Cattigan PM following his nomination and election as Vice-President of Stewards in Provincial Grand Lodge.
- Our Worthy Treasurer would be more than willing to accept any donations towards the annual Capitation Fee that the Lodge pays to Grand Lodge. This is based upon the number of active Brethren in the Lodge and comes to a bill well in excess of £1900.
- Brother Stephen Allan WSW is organising a St Valentine's Dance in the Function Suite on Saturday 14th February. Tickets costing £5 are available from Bro Stephen (☎ 881 6759)
- Arrangements for the special meeting to commemorate the "Centenary of the Temple" on Saturday 20th November 2010 are gathering pace and we hope to be able to provide you with details very soon
- Really good to see Bro Tom Young PM back at the Lodge again for the last couple of meetings, especially on such cold and wet nights.
- Congratulations to Bro Johnny Gauld PM and his fiancée Fiona, following their recent engagement
- Hasn't Bro Ian Brenchley RWM of Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167 been a great visitor to Union & Crown since regaining the Chair again.
- Bro Jim Renfrew PM has now been conferring the annual degree in Lodge Nitshill, No.1478 for almost 20 years, a remarkable achievement.
- Our Worthy Treasurer, Bro Jim Kerr PM has asked us to intimate that Social Club fees are now due. All should be reminded that you must pay this £5 fee to be able to use the facilities of the Social Club.
- Tickets for the premier social event of the year – the Annual Dinner Dance, which is to be held on Friday 27th March, are now available. They cost £30 per couple and are available from, Bro Ken Coleman WJW
- Congratulations to Bro Jim Renfrew's daughter Leanne, who passed her driving test first time recently, just a few days before her 18th Birthday.

Senior Member's Dinner

We are still attempting to update our list of Senior Members to ensure that all those who are eligible, are invited to attend the Senior Member's Dinner to be held in the Spring.

The invitations will be issued in due course, and if you are 65 or over and wish to attend, please ensure that you notify either Bro Jim Miller PM (☎ 881 4006) or our worthy Almoner Bro Alex White (☎ 571-6411) as soon as possible.



At the regular meeting of the Chapter held on Tuesday 13th January, the following Brother :

HUGH CATTIGAN

received a fine Mark Affiliate and Excellent Masters' Degree from the Office-bearers and Companions of Rockmount, in what was a fine degree. MEC Robert McCulloch can be particularly pleased by the floor work of all taking part.

The next Regular Meeting of the Chapter, is scheduled for **Tuesday 10th February** at 8-30pm, where the Provincial Grand Chapter of Renfrewshire will be making its annual visitation to Rockmount. MEC Livingstone Boyd MEZ and his Office-bearers would like to extend a cordial invitation to all Companions, especially any visitors, to attend on that evening.

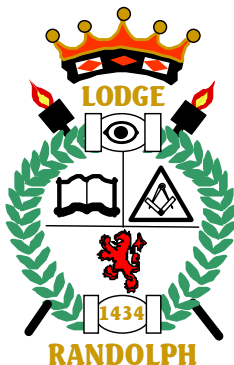
Cryptic Council

Rockmount CC held its regular meeting on **Tuesday 27th January**. Unfortunately, there wasn't a candidate available on that evening, although the Companions did confer a mock degree, to keep their hand in.

The next Regular Meeting of the Council, is scheduled for **Tuesday 10th February** at 7-30pm, where the PGC of Renfrewshire will be making its annual visitation. MEC Wilson Davidson TIM would like to extend a cordial invitation to all Companions to attend on that evening.



Lodge Randolph



The next Regular Meeting of the Lodge is on :

Friday 13th February 2009

when the Lodge will hold its Annual General Meeting, and nomination and election of all Office-bearers and committees.

At the after meeting Harmony, on that evening, Mr John West of Uplawmoor, will be our guest speaker. His talk on that evening will be on the city of Glasgow's Architecture –

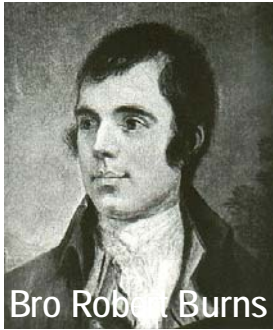
from a slightly different perspective

All Brethren planning to attending are most welcome, but they should inform our worthy Secretary, Bro Alistair MacDonald (☎01355 522731) beforehand to ensure the necessary catering arrangements can be made.

All Brethren are reminded that the mode of dress at all Lodge Randolph meetings is Dinner Suit & Black Tie.

The Table of Scottish Freemasons

During the rehearsals for this particular undertaking you couldn't help thinking that "This is really something." For so many brethren to go off and learn about the characters they are portraying, put together the relevant costumes and to perform each part with such vigour is something of which



Bro Robert Burns

we can be justly proud. There are of course moments of sublime humour during the run up to the performance itself and one of those was our new

affiliate member Bro Adam Watson being "cajoled" into becoming Jock Stein for the evening. As Adam put it himself, "If you stand around on the one spot for too long you get a job to do!" Of course Bro Adam stepped up to the plate and carried out his performance complete in coalminer's outfit with great aplomb. Also, to see Bro Colin McLardy sitting having his false beard trimmed by Barber Bro Jim Cherry makes you think, "No wonder we don't tell anyone what goes on at the lodge!"



Sir Robert Moray



Sir Thomas Lipton

Another amusing incident from the night itself was when Bro Tom Mulholland PM told us he was asked by a work colleague what he was up to that night. Tom told him he was going to The Lodge meeting and was going to go in wearing a Celtic strip to the tune of The Fields Of Athenry. As Tom is noted for his legendary

sense of humour this was not taken entirely seriously. After being quizzed by his boss, himself a mason, Tom explained why he would be doing this and the boss's mind was put at rest.



Sir Walter Scott

Sam Wilson's musical contribution cannot be underestimated with a good deal of preparation and practice going in to underpin the whole event with a fantastic soundtrack. Each character has his own signature tune and Sam must be congratulated on his sixth sense for choosing each piece so well. No show can work without the backstage crew and this event is no different. From Bro Ian MacPhie operating the spotlight with great accuracy to Bros Stef Lawniczak and Kenny Beatts serving as waiters for the evening and changing their mode of dress as the years being portrayed advance.

This particular dramatisation must surely have great mileage as there must be so many famous Scottish Masons we haven't yet attempted to emulate and this will spur us on to make this important addition to our syllabus and long-lasting one.



Bro Jock Stein CBE

The Faithful Few

When the Master calls to order
And you look about the room
You're sure to see some faces
That from the shadows loom;
They are always at the meetings
And stay 'till they are through;
The ones that I would mention
Are the Always Faithful Few

They fill the vacant offices
As they are always on the spot,
No matter what the weather
Though it may be awful hot.
It may be dark and rainy,
But they are tried and true;
The ones that you rely on
Are the Always Faithful Few.

There are many worthy members
Who will come when in the mood,
When everything's convenient
They can do the Craft much good;
They have knelt around our altar
And are necessary, too;
But the ones who never fail us
Are the Always Faithful Few.

If it were not for these Brothers
Who put their shoulders to the wheel,
And keep our Lodges moving forward
So their light they may reveal,
The Craft could never flourish,
Its work it could not do,
It would shrink and slowly perish
But for these Faithful Few.

(Anonymous)

Visitations



After the close of the Festive season, it wasn't too long before we were off on our official travels of the year. On Thursday 15th January, we "first-footed" our near neighbours and good friends from Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167, where we had been invited to confer a Mark Ceremonial.

A excellent deputation of over 20 Brethren supported Bro Colin Hamilton RWM, and congratulations to the Office-bearers and Brethren of the Lodge Instruction Class, who produced a particularly fine degree. Unfortunately, the candidate was unavailable due to pressing family commitments, and once again Bro Jim McDonald of Lodge Inchinnan stepped in. we estimate Jim MacDonald has approximately 235 degrees to his name after filling in for absent candidates on so many occasions.

After the meeting the Brethren of both Lodges, retired to enjoy the harmony and cement old friendships. It as good to get back and see our friends at 1167 and we look forward to the return leg in September

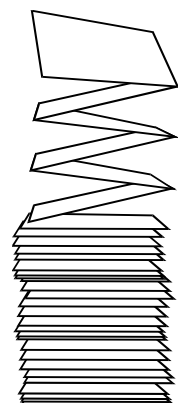
On Monday 26th January, over 30 of the Brethren made our customary early visit to Lodge Nitshill, No.1478 where an excellent Master Mason Degree was conferred upon a Bro Lee Campbell by Bro Jim Renfrew PM and his team of experienced degree workers. A good degree was conferred, and all who participated can be satisfied with their contribution. As many will already know, Bro Lee is the grandson of Bro George Munn PM of 1478.

Bro Colin Hamilton, Right Worshipful Master, was delighted by the excellent attendance of Brethren at both visits, and would personally like to thank all who supported the Lodge on both occasions.

Paper Appeal

Due to a rapid, and unexpected, decline in our stock in recent months, we are in grave danger of running out of that most essential of commodities – PAPER. As many of our readers will know we make regular appeals for A4 size, 80g/m² copier paper, Whilst we use more white, than anything else, we are low in coloured paper, which we use for Front Covers etc.

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.



Rest assured that it will be ***Gratefully received, and faithfully applied !***

Almoner's Report

It is with regret that I report the death of Bro James McKinnon (61) formerly of Carlibar Road, Barrhead. Bro Jim died earlier this month in Texas, where he has lived and worked for almost 10 years. A former Captain of Fereneze Golf Club, Bro Jim will be sadly missed by all who know him.

I have conveyed the condolences of the Lodge to Bro Sam Wilson, our worthy Organist, on hearing of the sad passing of his elder Brother – William (81) of Newton Avenue, Barrhead, who died last month.

It is with sadness that I report the early death on Friday 2nd January of Scott McLaughlan (33). Scott was the son of Bro Frank McLaughlan, and grandson of Bro Jim Liggat. I attended the funeral service at St John's Church and conveyed condolences on behalf of the Lodge to Bro Frank and the family.

Bro Robert Easdon PM was admitted to the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank recently and was operated on soon after admission. The following day he was transferred to the RAH, where I managed to pay him a visit. Thankfully, he was discharged soon after and we gather that he is recuperating well at home. **Bro John Brooks** is sadly back in the RAH once again and is quite unwell, I'm sorry to report. A frequent patient there over the years, he is causing concern, and we wish him well.

Since my last report, I have managed to pay a visit to **Bro Rikki Little** following news of his daughter Zoë having underwent surgery at the Southern General Hospital. During my visit, I did endeavour to express some words of comfort to Rikki and his wife Anne. I'm glad to report that Zoë is making a positive recovery, and I will keep in touch.

Over the past few weeks, I managed to call upon the following Brethren :

Bro Tom Young PM, Bro Jack Livingston, Bro Duncan McLellan, Bro Willie McLean, Bro George Harkness, Bro John Kay, Bro Alan Erskine, Bro Jim Waterston and Bro Jim Laird.

In addition, I also called on the following :

Mrs Margaret Miller, Mrs Betty McCreadie, Mrs Chrissie Walls, Mrs Betty Smith, Mrs Marie Anderson, Mrs Susan McDougall and Mrs Grace Crossan.

Please don't hesitate to keep me informed of any Brother or Widow, be they sick or housebound, who you think would benefit from a visit.

Bro Alex White,

Lodge Almoner

☎ 0141-571 6411

FLASHBACK

Some Snippets from "The Mallet" of 10 Years Ago

No. 220

January 1999

REGULAR MEETINGS

At the Regular Meeting on Tuesday 5th January, the following candidate :

JOHN WATSON SMITH

was raised to the high and sublime degree of a Master Mason by the Installing Masters, ably assisted by a large deputation of past Masters of the Lodge in what was a spirited rendition of the 3rd degree, well performed by all who participated.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

Lodge Closed : 9-41pm

Attendance : 68

On Tuesday 19th January, the following Candidate :

HUGH CATTIGAN

was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of our order, by the Office-bearers and Brethren of our good friends from Giffnock, Lodge St Conval No.1359 in what was a well worked Entered Apprentice Degree, thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. Bro Elliot Miller RWM of 1359 is to be congratulated on the standard of the degree, which maintained the fine traditions of 1359.

Lodge Opened : 7-30pm

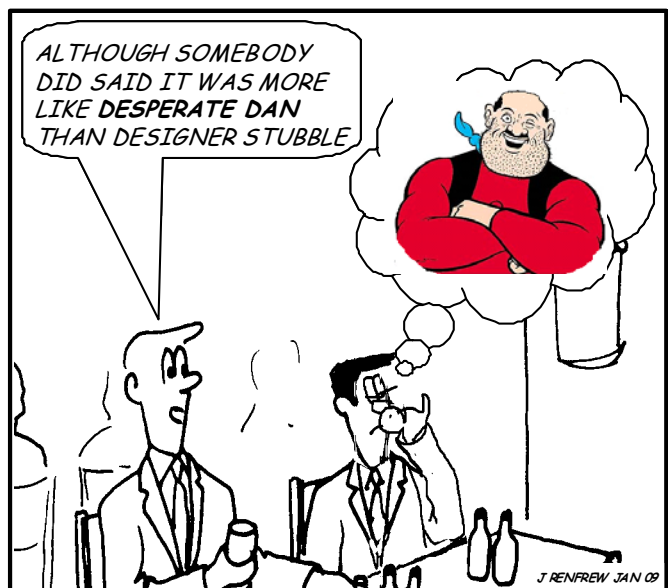
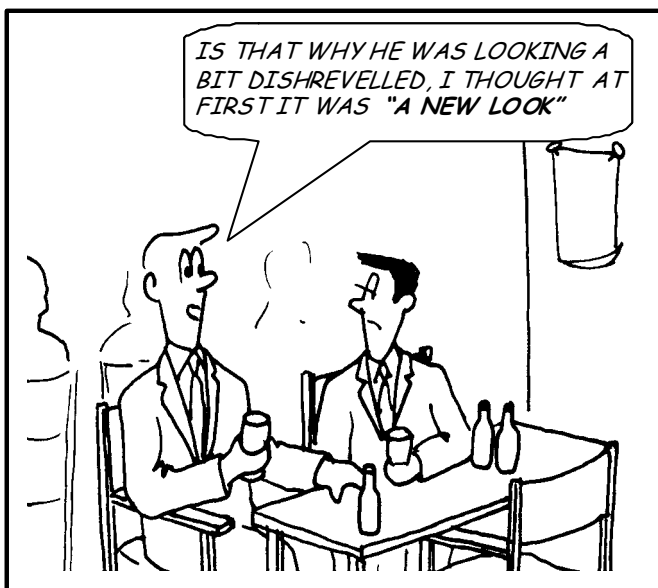
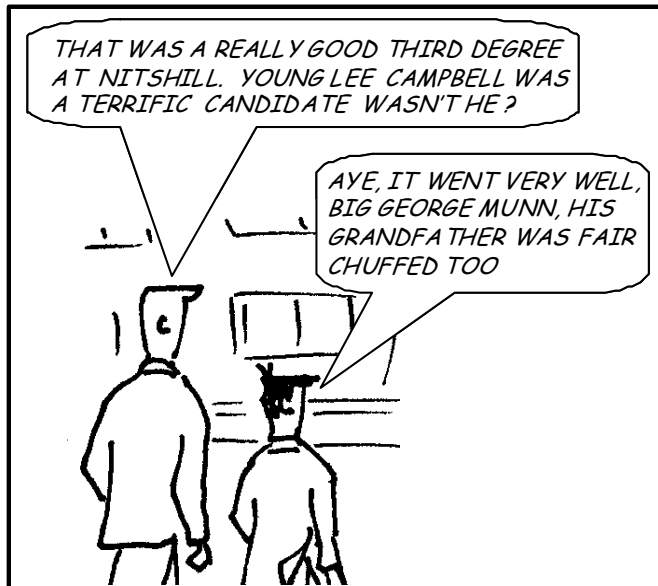
Lodge Closed : 10-03pm

Attendance : 119

BITS & PIECES

- We're sorry to hear that Lodge St Conval, Giffnock, No. 1359 had their premises broken into and a large quantity of their belongings, ceremonial items etc stolen.
- Congratulations to Bro Tom Young PM and his wife Nellie who recently celebrated their Golden Wedding. On the evening in question, Bro Tom was still supporting his Mother Lodge at the visitation to Lodge Thistle & Crown, No.1167.
- Best wishes to Bro Jim Walton and his wife Lesley, on the birth of Twins.
- It is hard to believe that Bro John Osborne and his lovely wife Marion recently celebrated their Pearl Wedding anniversary after 30 years of marriage. (*The only explanation must be that Marion was a child bride !*)
- The heartiest of best wishes from all to Bro Davie Law and his Fiancée Carol who recently became engaged during a holiday on Tenerife. (Not before time !)
- Congratulations to Bro Alan Davidson and his wife Diane on the birth of their son, Cameron, who weighed in at a healthy 7lb 2oz, a first grandchild for Bro Wilson Davidson PM.
- Congratulations to Bro Bert Smith and his wife Margaret on the birth of their first grandchild. Their son Colin's wife Kirsty recently gave birth to a 8lb 8oz bouncing baby boy who is to be called Sam.

MARK 'N' ARCHIE



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>