

# The Lodge Seal by Bro Bob Potter PM Acting Secretary January 2021



In February and March of 1934, the **Edinburgh Evening News and Dispatch**, **Linlithgow Gazette**, and the **Bulletin** reported a ceremony of great historic importance to the old masonic lodge, Kirknewton and Ratho No. 85, when its seal made in **1781**, which had been lost for about 125 years was recovered and restored to the lodge's possession.

The fact that the lodge had had such an instrument was not known to the present generation until a chance discovery by the then Secretary Bro Hugh MacGillivray P.M., whilst collecting material for a history of the lodge, that he came upon a reference to the seal in a minute written in October 1809.

In the late 1700's and early 1800's, the lodge issued its own diplomas written on vellum, on which the impress of the seal in wax on a ribbon was affixed. When the Grand Lodge later, started to supply diplomas, the lodge seal was then redundant and unfortunately misplaced.

Bro MacGillivray immediately set himself a task to find the Seal, and 22 years later his task was accomplished. The seal was discovered by chance, whilst visiting the workshop of a local Wright (joiner).

At the same time during 1934 a framed enlarged copy of the impress of the seal, painted by the daughter of the Master Bro Walter Dickson Scott, and was presented to the lodge. This painting still hangs in the Lodge today.



Below is a mirror image, and a recent wax impression of the actual seal which was used on the commemorative copies of the Lodge charter, during the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011. We know, from records, that it was not until 1826 that the Lodge was numbered 85, therefore the number must have been an 1826 addition to the seal, originally commissioned in 1781.

