



The West Column



Brethren,

All the Lodges have by now, held their first meetings of the new session and it has been a very busy start for all. I have managed to visit most of the Lodges in the Province over the past few weeks and have very much enjoyed the high standard of degree work witnessed. My one slight concern is perhaps that the number of visitors appears to be slightly down on the excellent levels of last session and I would ask each of the Masters to consider ensuring that they visit each of the sister Lodges in the Province, with a deputation, at least once in the session.

I know that the Masters work extremely hard and undertake many visits but to take along a deputation of ten or twelve to a sister Lodge can have a very positive effect on attendances as well as maintaining a high profile for your Lodge.

There are 8 months in the session and 8 Lodges to visit so it basically works out at one visit per month.

The month of September got off to a flying start with the Divine Service on the 7th September to the historic Old West Kirk, organised on behalf of the Western County Provinces to mark the anniversary of the appointment of Alexander Drummond as the first Provincial Grand Master on the 7th February 1739. Nearly 200 brethren took part in the parade which was to the best of everyone's knowledge, the first such parade to be held in the Province in over 50 years. I was a very proud and happy Provincial Grand Master following a wonderful Service and when I attended Grand Committee the following week in Edinburgh, many of the members of Grand Lodge who had attended the Service made a point on complimenting the Province on a wonderful day. It was an excellent start to the session and a foundation on which to build for the rest of the year.

October is, of course, the start of the Installations, with Lodge, Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626, on Saturday 18th October followed by Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 on the 24th October. Again, I sincerely hope that these will be well supported.

I'm now well into the second year of my Commission as Provincial Grand Master and during my first year, with the assistance of my fellow officers in Provincial Grand Lodge, an attempt was made to try and encourage the Lodges to work and socialise together. The visit to Grand Lodge last year, the annual Communication in February, the Drummond Ball, the Divine Service, the RW200Club etc.

Given the success of these various events, it will be no surprise therefore to tell you that we will be continuing with that theme during the 2014 – 2015 session. First up is an organised bus trip to the October Communication of Grand Lodge. We are also trying to organise a mini-bus to the Festival of St Andrew in November and given the fantastic success of the Drummond Ball in May, we are considering organising another Ball in 2015. Further details of some of these events are contained later in this month's "Column".

In the meantime, let me convey my best wishes to the Masters, Wardens and Office-bearers who will be taking office, perhaps for the first time over the next couple of months and wish all the Lodges a very successful Installation.

I look forward to meeting up with many of you over the next month.

Regards,
Jim

Contributions to the West Column

I would thank those who have provided contributions to this month's edition and a reminder that photographs of events are also welcome but I have to reserve the right to limit their use as it can affect the email transmission speed. However, please continue to send photographs as I can always include them in later editions. Most importantly, it is assumed that any photographs sent to me have the permission of the subjects for publication. If sending articles with accompanying photographs, could I ask that these are not embedded into a word document but send separately as JPEG files. All contributions should be sent to Jim626Col@aol.com

I am aware that many Lodges have had new initiates or even existing members who may have email addresses but do not receive the West Column. I would be grateful if the Lodge Secretaries could mention the West Column in your respective Lodges and perhaps encourage those who do not yet receive it to drop me a note of their email address and I will add them to the distribution list. The Column goes all over the world but let's make sure that it reaches all possible addresses in the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde area as well! My thanks go to those who have forwarded on new contact details within the last month.

Views expressed by individuals within the West Column do not necessarily represent the views of Provincial Grand Lodge.

****** - PROVINCIAL NEWS - ******

Provincial Website. For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to www.pglrw.org
Brethren, if you have anything that you wish added to the Provincial website, contact Brother Jim Donnelly at jimdonna@ntlworld.com

Meetings.

Lodge meetings in the Province of Renfrewshire West take place as follows;

Day	Day of month.				
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Monday	68	68	68	68	68
Monday		626		626	
Tuesday	XII	1121	XII	1121	
Wednesday	Preceptory	989	Royal Arch		
Thursday	217	1425	217		
Friday	1814 *	175	175	175	175

- The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 meets on the 1st Friday of the months of September, October, April and May.

Dates and duties for your diaries:

The next Regular Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge will take place on Wednesday 1st October at 7.30 pm within the premises of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217, King Street, Port Glasgow. At this meeting, we will vote on the various nominations for the citizen of the Year Award which will be presented at our Annual Communication in February.

Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Off/bear	Annual Visit	Commenting
12	18th November	George J Carson	3rd March	DPGM
68	12th December	Robert J Bain	16th February	SPGM
175	24th October	William A McLarty	9th January	SPGW
217	28th November	Alexander Johnstone	16th April	SPGW
626	18th October	Edward M Ross	9th March	JPGW
989	21st November	Richard M Harrison	8th April	SPGW
1121	7th November	James Donnelly	27th January	DPGM
1425	5th December	Gordon Price	12th February	SPGM
1814	1st May (2015)			

Renfrewshire 200 Club (RW200Club).

We have now had a total of 6 draws of the RW200Club with the prize-winners as listed below. The draws for July draw was made at a meeting of the Commissioned Office-bearers and the August draw at a meeting of Provincial Grand Committee. Draws during the session will be held at appropriate Lodge meetings.

March William Lawson (68)
 April Ian Freer (1121)
 May Paul Stewart (1425)
 June Paul Stewart (1425)
 July Anthony Stewart (1425)
 August Robin McIntyre (626)

Application forms are also still available within each Lodge. If you have not already "signed up" I hope that you will give your earnest consideration to this excellent method of charity fund-raising which should at the same time, assist in boosting attendance figures throughout the Lodges. It has been decided to reduce the monthly "ticket" cost to £5.00 rather than £10. However, those wishing to participate are not limited to any number of "entries" and if anyone wishes to purchase two or more tickets they may do so. It is hoped that Lodges will also participate by purchasing tickets and perhaps this could be favourably considered by your General or Finance Committees. Members may either pay cash (cheques should be made out to the Provincial Grand Lodge) or may take out a standing order arrangement.

You can also take part on a monthly basis but to take part in the draw your contribution, whether by cash, cheque or standing order must be with the Provincial Grand Treasurer prior to the draw taking place.

Please remember that a minimum of 50% of the income will be going directly to charity. I have not as yet decided on a good cause for this project as I felt that we had to be assured that it would get "off the ground". It is probably that when the time comes to divide up the proceeds, it will be split between a national charity and a local charity or charities. I have a fairly open mind about a national charity and would welcome suggestions from Lodges or individuals. There are, of course, many worthy charities and many of them will resonate with many of you for personal reasons. Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland, Breast Cancer, Cancer Research, Childline, Help for Heroes, the list is endless. If you have a suggestion, please email me at Jim626Col@aol.com

Provincial Grand Master's Diary.

As always, it has been a privilege and pleasure to represent the Province at a number of meetings during the month.

Although strictly speaking still in August, I attended a meeting of the Waverley Organising Committee on Saturday 30th to finalise a few outstanding matters from the cruise on the 21st June. While the purpose of the cruise was simply to provide an opportunity for the brethren of the various Provinces to come together, I am delighted to be able to report that a surplus of £4,175 was realised and that this will be presented to Grand Lodge for their Prostate Scotland appeal.

On Friday 5th September, I attended a meeting of Lodge Tarbolton (Kilwinning) St James No. 135 where I presented back to the Lodge, A Past Master's jewel belonging to Brother William Walker, who was Master of the Lodge in 1940 - 41. I was also able to present to the Lodge, copies of Burns Supper programmes dating back to 1936 which will be placed in the Lodge's museum.



Brother Robert Little, RWPGM of Ayrshire, Depute PGM of Renfrewshire East, Brother Neil Fraser, presenting PM jewel to Brother Samuel Duffy, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge.

It was also a great pleasure to be present at this meeting to witness Brother Robert Little, RWPGM being granted honorary membership of the Lodge for his support of the Lodge and for his services as Provincial Grand Master.

Divine Service 7th September (see separate report).

On Wednesday 10th September, I attended a Mark Degree at Lodge Montgomerie (Kilwinning) Skelmorlie No. 624 where I had the pleasure of presenting back to the Lodge a Past Master's jewel belonging to Brother James Halliday, who was Master of the Lodge in 1933. Brother Halliday was also a founder member and Master of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 in 1948. It is understood that Brother Halliday and Brother Walker (see above report) were possibly brothers-in-law.

On Thursday 11th September, I attended a meeting of Grand Committee in Edinburgh.

On Saturday 13th September, I attended a meeting of the Provincial Grand Masters with the Most Worshipful Grand Master in Perth. These informal meetings take place twice-yearly and there is always a good level of debate.

On Tuesday 16th September, I attended a meeting at Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII where I witnessed an excellent Fellowcraft Degree being conferred by Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217. On that occasion, the Lodge dispensed a number of cheques from their charity account including one to the Marcus Humphrey House for £500 which I was delighted to accept.

On Saturday 21st September, I attended a Drummond Celebration Dinner hosted by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire. On that evening, we were privileged to hear a most interesting talk on the life of Alexander Drummond by Brother Robert Cooper, the curator of the museum at Grand Lodge.



Visiting Provincial Grand Masters join the PGM of Ayrshire, Brother Robert Little, the Provost of East Ayrshire, James Todd, Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire, Mr John L Duncan, Brother Robert Cooper, Curator at Grand Lodge, who gave a very interesting talk on Brother Alexander Drummond.

Divine Service

My first 18 months as Provincial Grand Master has held many highlights but I was particularly proud of the Province on Sunday 7th September when every Lodge had obviously made a special effort to be present at the Special Divine Service which had been organised on behalf of the Provinces which had originally made up the Western Counties, over which Alexander Drummond had presided following his appointment as the very first Provincial Grand Master on the 7th February 1739.

It was a glorious day, which showed off the Old West Kirk at its very best. Around 250 brethren, families and friends attended the Service which was conducted by our own Provincial Grand Chaplain, Brother Reverend David Mitchell in his own very enjoyable and inimitable style.



The beautiful setting of the Old West Kirk.

A large deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, headed by Past Depute Grand Master, Brother Archibald M McGown, supported by deputations from many of the sister Provinces entered the Church following a short parade along the Esplanade, accompanied by three pipers.



Brother Livingstone, Brother Reverend David Mitchell, Brother Alan D Beck, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII with Brother Archibald M McGown and the Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

While it is difficult to be absolute certain, it is believed that this was the first such parade for at least 50 years.



Pipers, Brothers John Black PM68, Tommy Trotter PM626 and Nicky Donnelly MM217 leading the parade from Forsyth Street onto the Esplanade.



Provincial Grand Masters from the Provinces of Dunbartonshire (Brother John R McCormack), Lanarkshire Upper Ward (Brother Alx Thomson), Ayrshire (Brother Robert Little), Kilwinning (Brother T Wilson Aitken), Glasgow (Brother Alasdair Henderson), Stirling (Brother Andrew McKinnon), Fife and Kinross (Brother Reverend Andrew E Paterson) and Renfrewshire East (Brother John S Miller).

It has already been agreed that the collection would be added to the surplus from the Drummond Ball which had taken place in May and consequently, it was a privilege to present a cheque to Brother McGown for the sum of £2,000 on behalf of the Lodges in the Province. Further cheques ere presented to the Kirk Session and to the Organist, Mr John Bell who had provided such uplifting music at the Service.

Grand Lodge News.

As stated above, I had the pleasure of attending both a meeting of Grand Committee and the meeting of Provincial Grand Masters during the month and a number of matters arise from these meetings which are worthy of mention.

Dispensation - While Grand Lodge are happy to consider granting dispensation to Lodges who wish to initiate a candidate who is under the age of 21 years and has no direct Masonic connections, such requests for dispensation should now be directed through Provincial Grand Secretary.

Grand Lodge Meetings:

Regular Communication Thursday 30th October.

As last year, it is intended to organise a bus (subject to numbers) through to Grand Lodge. This will include a visit on the return journey to The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566 for a degree meeting. Details have been provided to each Lodge Secretary and the cost again subject to numbers should be approximately £12.00. Secretaries are asked to provide the PGM with names and numbers by 5th October.

Festival of St. Andrew - Thursday 27th November.

It is also intended to try and organise a minibus to the Festival. Lodges are reminded that it is entirely appropriate for a Lodge to pay for a ticket for the Right Worshipful Master. Tickets for the dinner cost £60. Anyone wishing to travel by minibus, should let the PGM know as soon as possible.

Carol Service Sunday 7th December.

Grand Lodge will be holding a Carol Service featuring the Phoenix Choir on Sunday 7th December. Full details are available on the Grand Lodge website.

Membership Returns:

At the last meeting of Provincial Grand Masters in Perth in April, I was disappointed to be informed that the Province was one of a very few which had not made a single return. I am delighted to advise that at the most recent meeting, the Province was the only one to have made a 100% return and I would like to thank all the Lodges for their hard work over the summer (even if a few needed a bit of a gentle push along the way). Lodges should make sure that the annual returns that they make to Grand Lodge are in line with the membership returns now made. These returns will be co-ordinated to ensure that brethren attending other Lodges or Orders are clear in their respective Lodges.

Test Fees:

Please be reminded that it is important that Test Fees are kept up to date. Most Lodges now offer the facility of paying by direct debit which is an excellent way of ensuring that you are always clear in your Lodge. In particular, it is also important to make sure that if you are an affiliate member of another Lodge, you must be clear in ALL Lodges in which you are a member to ensure that you may continue to visit other Lodges. Brethren who are not up to date in all Lodges have visiting rights withdrawn as well as the privileges which would normally be afforded to them in their Mother Lodges.

Capitation Fees:

Brethren should be aware that there is a proposal to come before Grand Lodge at the October Communication to increase the Capitation Fee to £30 per active member as per the recent membership return. This will be the first increase in three years and it is hoped that, if approved, this rate will be fixed for a three-year period. It may be appropriate for some Lodges to now consider whether their TEST FEES continue to be at an appropriate level.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING SEPTEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 7th - Fellowcraft Degree conferred by The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566.
Tuesday 21st - Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

On Thursday 2nd October, the Lodge will be conferring a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 6th - Business Meeting (Members Only).
Monday 13th - Raising
Monday 20th - Passing
Monday 27th - Mark

Report on the Lodge's visit to Lodge Fortrose No. 108 in Stornoway. (Kindly provided by Brother George Freeburn PM).

At the beginning of September a hardy bunch of souls from 68 headed to the wilds of the Outer Hebrides to confer a 1st Degree in Lodge Fortrose No 108 in Stornoway. Some 50 members of 68 accompanied by a couple of interlopers from other Lodges in Renfrewshire West assembled in 68 on the evening of Thursday 4th to avail themselves of a small refreshment prior to boarding the overnight bus to Ullapool which left the Port close to midnight.

During the long and arduous trip north (featuring many stops to water the foliage on the way) the brethren stopped to lay a floral tribute at the Royal Marines Monument at Spean Bridge. Daybreak saw the buss in Muir of Ord where a hearty breakfast had been organised (or should we say "heart attack" breakfast.)

On to Ullapool to catch the first ferry of the day arriving in Stornoway just after midday to be met by members of 108 and dispersed to various B & Bs for a well earned siesta.

Later that night the Office Bearers conferred an E.A. Degree on one of Fortrose's candidates (who purely by coincidence originally hailed from Port Glasgow) to a jam packed Lodge room.

After that followed a few pleasant hours of harmony in 108's splendid Lodge rooms.

The Saturday saw the brethren left to their own devices - in some cases it was a bus trip round the Isle of Lewis, for others it was a football or a rugby match, and for others it just meant a day trying out the local hostleries. Then followed another evening of high jinks in 108.

The Sunday saw the brethren assembling to catch the only ferry of the day back to Ullapool for the long trip back down the A9 to the Port arriving safely back just before midnight.

It was noted with some surprise that the ferry didn't sink with the additional weight of all the Stornoway Black Pudding that was brought back. A record was achieved in Stornoway when wee Brother Iain MacLeod went into the best butcher shop in the town and ordered 167 black puddings - handing over more than a thousand quid to pay for it.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 10th - Annual General Meeting, Ballot, Nomination and Election of Right Worshipful Master and Office-bearer (members only).
Friday 24th - The Annual Installation of the Lodge will take place when Brother RC Marshall North will be installed into the chair to serve a second term as Right Worshipful Master.

The Installing Masters are Brothers Alexander Galbraith, Matthew B Henderson and Robert P Shields all Past Masters of the Lodge. The ceremony will commence at 6.45 pm prompt and a warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to attend the meeting and the celebration dinner which follows.

Sunday 26th - The Annual Divine Service of the Lodge will take place in the Lodge and brethren are asked to assemble at 6.15 for 6.30 pm. The Service will be conducted by Provincial Grand Chaplain, Brother Reverend David Mitchell.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 2nd - Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.
Thursday 16th - Entering.

Social events.

The next Family Friendly Saturday will be on Saturday 4th October from 12 noon until 4.00 pm with food served until 2.00 pm - ALL WELCOME.

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 8th - Fellowcraft Degree and annual visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 13th - Fellowcraft Degree
Monday 27th - Raising

Saturday 18th - The Annual Installation of the Lodge will take place when Brother Andrew Pigott will be installed into the Chair to serve a second term of office. A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to attend the meeting as well as the dinner which follows for which there is no charge.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 8th - Annual Meeting and Election of Office-bearers.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 14th - Annual Meeting and Election of Office-bearers.
Tuesday 28th - Entering

There will be a meeting of the Finance and General Committee Meeting on Tuesday 7th October.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 9th - Annual Meeting and Election of Office-bearers.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

A regular meeting of the Lodge will be held within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock, on Friday 3rd October at 7.30 pm, when the speaker will be Brother Mike Zanre, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Felix No. 355. The title of the paper to be delivered is "Lodge Felix - from West to East and back again".

At the September meeting of the Lodge, the speaker was Brother Charles Winston on the topic of the Oral History project. The Right Worshipful Master Brother Robert Shields has provided the following note on the project.

Oral History Project.

On Friday 5th September the Anchor Lodge of research invited Brother Charles Winston from the Scottish Masonic Materials Group to come along and give a talk about the "Oral History Project",

Brother Winston gave a full explanation of the historical importance for such a project and how this would benefit future generations by having access to video recordings of members that given a life time's commitment to Freemasonry, telling in a relaxed and informal manner their own memories of the Craft and what day to day life was like for them at that time,

At the conclusion of the meeting Brother Winston presented to the Anchor Lodge of research a full set of video recording equipment that the Scottish Masonic Materials group are lending out to those wishing to take part.

The Anchor Lodge will be compiling an inaugural list of members throughout the Province and the members will be advised accordingly.

Brother Robert P. Shields RWM 1814 PM175

The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566.

Brethren, I have never before included meetings of Lodges meeting within the neighbouring Province of Renfrewshire East but on this particular occasion, I would like to bring to your kind attention, the details of the Installation at the above Lodge on Saturday 4th October at 2.30 for 3.00 pm at Inchinnan Masonic Hall, Luckinsford Road, Inchinnan.

At that meeting, Brother Brian McFadyen, a member of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII will be installed into the chair of his adopted Lodge, Installing Masters, Brothers Iain McPhee, Andrew Greig and Stuart Brown, all Past Masters of the Lodge.

Brother Brian is well known in our Province and is a regular visitor to all the Lodges. I know that many of the brethren are intending going and I have made arrangements to attend in my capacity as PGM with the kind permission of Brother John S Miller, PGM of Renfrewshire East. Any member of Provincial Grand Lodge who would like to support me on that occasion along with members of Lodges would be most welcome. It would be an excellent start to Brother McFadyen's year in the chair to see a healthy support from his Province.

Other Orders

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII meets in the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourrock on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be the annual Installation on Wednesday 15th at 7.30 pm to which all Companions are cordially invited. Most Excellent First Principal, Tommy Trotter and office-bearers of the Chapter extend a warm invitation to all, especially any Companions who may not have been to the Chapter for some time. Remember, the hardest thing can be walking through that door again. For anyone contemplating returning to the Chapter, you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Monday 13th October - Annual Installation

Preceptory of Ardgowan

The Preceptory of Ardgowan extends a warm welcome to any Frater who has been unable to attend over the past few years through other personal commitments and looks forward to seeing them at any of our Statutory Musters in the future.

A pocket sized Syllabus is currently being compiled to assist those not currently on e-mail and a general aide memoire for all. Current Statutory Musters and Executive Committees forecast for 2014 are as follows;

Tuesday 7th October - AGM, election of office-bearers and Malta Grade

Wednesday 5th November - Annual Installation.

Wednesday 3rd December - Knight Grade and visit of the Most Eminent and Reverend Grand Master, James Robert Hodge GCT for a "Meet the Fratres" night.

Please ensure that the Secretary has your current contact details including e-mail and mobile number. All musters are held within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock.

St. George's Conclave No. 79 - 2013/14 Syllabus

Kt Grant Macleod would be delighted to see any member of the Conclave attend his installation on Tuesday 15th April in the premises of Lodge Doric Kil No.68 at 7.30pm. If you haven't been for a while come along and enjoy the company with no pressure.

Future dates:

Tuesday 21st October — KHS **(Visit by Grand Sovereign)**

Tuesday 18th November – RCC

2015

Tuesday 20th January – KHS

Tuesday 17th February - RCC

Tuesday 17th March – KHS

Tuesday 21st April - Installation

The Wee Corner

The spot for all the stories that don't fit anywhere else!

CHARITY NEWS

STAMP APPEAL.

Please remember that Brother Bill Crumlsh of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 is collecting used stamps in aid of Ardgowan Hospice so please don't throw them away. Put them in an envelope and hand them on to Bill or to any member of 626 who will be pleased to pass them on. This costs nothing, simply a moment of your time and can mean so much to a very worthwhile cause. I'm sure than we all know of someone who has benefited from the care received at Ardgowan Hospice over the years so please help!

Brother Crumlsh has asked me to advise that if donating stamps it is very helpful if approximately 0.25" border is left around the stamp.

ANNIVERSARY LAPEL BADGES.

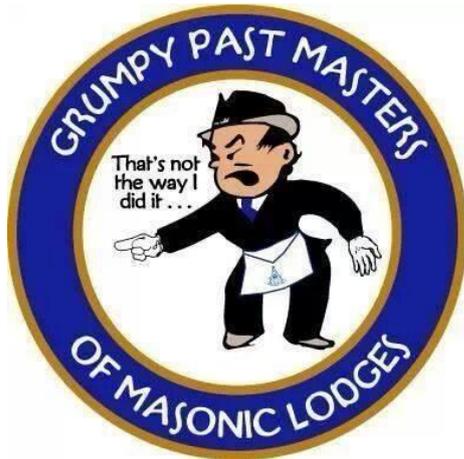
Lapel Badges for 25, 40, and 50 years service are available at a cost of £5.50 each. A special "gem" set badge for 60 years is also available at £10. **All prices are excluding postage.** For every badge sold, £2 will be donated to the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund. All cheques should be made out to "David Stevenson"



Badges, may be purchased individually by qualified Brethren, or in bulk by Lodges who may wish to make presentations to deserving Brethren, for meritorious service. All enquiries and orders to treasurer12@aol.com
Please make cheques payable to "David Stevenson".

Anniversary Badges.

Brethren, Brother David Stevenson, who kindly took on the task of co-ordinating the supply of anniversary badges from Brother Henry Tibbles has asked me to include a brief request to the effect that he would appreciate if Lodges could ascertain what the demand is likely to be for supplies of such badges during the coming year. It would be helpful if Lodge secretaries could co-ordinate any likely requests for such badges and advise Brother David of demand. His email address appears at the advert for the badges.



Received the "Logo" to the left from Brother Brian Hopkins PM626 all the way from China where he is currently working. Not sure if Brian is trying to tell me something!

Senior Deacon's Lament (A wee offering from Brother George Freeburn PM68).

Oh! I wish I'd looked after my ritual
 I wish I had studied the book
I might have got through a few meetings
 Without having to take a sly look
 At the words printed all neat and tidy
 With capital letters and dots
 And inverted commas,
 And rows of small hammers
 To remind you about them there knocks.

If I'd attended a lodge of instruction
 And followed the preceptors plan
 My signs might be more like a Mason
 And less like a tic tac man
 For a past master once said with sarcasm
 As he doffed his apron of blue
 You lay five to one,
 When the lodge is begun
 And evens the field when it's through.

Time was, when I was a Deacon
 I was proud of my wand and my Dove
 Initiation was due, and I was in a right stew
 So I wrote all my words on my glove.
 Now some candidates are cool and collected
 But mine he was nervous and hot
 I don't mean to boast,
 But his hand was like toast
 Left my palm an illegible blot.

As I thumped the warden's shoulder
The ink stained his coat a bright blue
 He said "Whom have you there?" I stood in despair
 He could see I hadn't a clue
 I gazed at my glove for an answer
 At those five fickle fingers of fate
 Then the blots rolled away,
 The whole Lodge heard me say.

ST MICHAEL... ALL COTTON... SIZE EIGHT

Masonic Education.

I am continuing to publish a list of suggested reading which many of you appear to have found useful. It would be my intention to continue to keep this list as a standard feature and if anyone finds a website or article which could supplement the list, please let me know and I will be more than happy to add the details.

Reading Material

- The Ashlar
- The Grand Lodge of Scotland Year Book (order through your Lodge Secretary).
- Robert Burns - The Freemason edited by John Weir from Grand Lodge of Scotland
- The Origins of Freemasonry: Scotland's Century, 1590-1710 by David Stevenson
- The First Freemasons by David Stevenson
- The Craft by John Hamill
- The Genesis of Freemasonry by Knoop and Jones
- The Scottish Mason and the Mason Word by Knoop and Jones
- The Temple and the Lodge by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh
- A Pilgrim's Path by John J. Robinson
- The History of Freemasonry by Robert Freke Gould
- The History of Freemasonry by Albert G. Mackey
- The Secrets of Freemasonry by Robert Lomas
- Workman Unashamed by Christopher Haffner
- Famous Scottish Freemasons published by Grand Lodge of Scotland
- The Freemason at Work by Harry Carr
- A Masonic Miscellany by George Power

New Material.

Right Worshipful Master Brother George Carson advises for those with a Kindle Fire HD you can download for free: The Symbolism of Freemasonry by Albert G MacKey in the 1800's. and comments that it is a very interesting insight into the use of symbols and allegories and how they may have developed from ancient cultures into what we have in "modern" Freemasonry. A little bit heavy in parts but as a free download for the information and ideas it is excellent.

Websites

- <http://www.hawthornefortitude200.com/twtmag.html>
- <http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/>
- <http://freemason.pastperfect-online.com/37812cgi/mweb.exe?request=random>
- <http://www.americanmason.org/TheNorthernLight.aspx>
- <http://scottishrite.org/srjournal/>
- <http://www.esmason.com/news.html>
- <http://www.freemason.org/newsEvents/index.htm>
- <http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/>
- "Pietre Stones".
- Cinosam
- www.rurallodge.com
- Sadly, the last site is now no longer updated but there are a few back copies still on the site which are worth reading and I think that the lectures and material available at <http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/> are particularly good.

The Ashlar:

Of particular interest to all freemasons in the Ashlar edited and produced locally, it is one of the most informative publications that you could read and is available either through your Lodge or through Brother Alex Galbraith, Immediate Past Provincial

Grand Master, for the relatively modest sum of £4.00. Often with articles written by brethren known to us locally, it comes highly recommended.

I am also pleased to advertise the following publications which can be ordered through the Masonic Publishing Company, 30, Loanbank Quadrant, Glasgow G51 3HZ. Email at info@theashlar.com

Profits from the sale of any books goes towards Masonic benevolence.

Books - Price List.

Title	Price £	Postage and Packing			
		UK	Europe	World 1	World 2
Robert Burns, Cronies etc (Hardback 1.5 Kg.)	24.50	6.00	13.00	21.00	22.50
The Star of Robert Burns (Hardback 1.0 Kg.)	19.95	6.00	9.50	15.50	16.50
A Winter with Robert Burns (Hardback (0.3 Kg).	12.50	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
Robert Burns Print	29.95	Free	5.50	7.50	8.00
Illustrated Guide to Rosslyn Chapel (Hardback (0.3 Kg).	12.50	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
Nicolo and Antonio Zena. (Hardback (0.6 Kg).	22.50	3.50	6.50	10.00	11.00
MacBride Ritual. (Hardback (0.25 Kg).	18.00	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
A.S. MacBride Speculative Freemasonry. (Hardback (1.0 Kg).	20.00	6.00	9.50	15.50	16.50
The Church of the Knights Templar in London. (Hardback (0.25 Kg).	12.50	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
Also available in soft cover (0.25Kg).	8.00				
The Bruce - Robert King of Scots. (Hardback (0.6 Kg).	12.00	3.50	6.50	10.00	11.00
The Great War, 1914 - 1918 Victoria Cross Freemasons. (Hardback (1.6 Kg).	35.00	6.00	13.00	21.00	22.50

Lodge Websites.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland - <http://www.grandlodgescotland.com/>

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West - <http://www.pglrw.org/>

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII – www.lgk12.com

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 - <http://www.lodgedoricilwinning68.org.uk/>

Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 - <http://www.greenock-st-johns-175.masonic-lodge.org.uk/>

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 - <http://www.lck217.org.uk/links.html>

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626 - <http://www.firhofclyde.org>

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 – www.lodgesirmichael989.co.uk

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 – www.lodgecrawfurdsburn.org.uk

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 - <http://www.Lodge1425.org>

Grand Lodge Guidelines for the creation of Lodge Websites

if anyone is considering the development of a lodge website please bear in mind that the Grand Lodge of Scotland have issued guidelines for the creation of such sites and I would be happy to provide a copy.

DO YOU ORDER GOODS AND SERVICE THROUGH THE INTERNET – READ ON -----

GRAND LODGE – BENEVOLENT FUNDS - Easyfundraising

Brethren, I draw to your attention the attached fundraising scheme for the Benevolent funds of Grand Lodge and I commend it to you. It is the easiest, most painless way to raise money for the Benevolent funds.

I have used it on a number of occasions and it is incredible the amount that can be sourced by simply buying online at your usual supplier - all the big names are there. e.g. simply renew your car insurance with your Insurance Company and the normal fee sent by the Company to your nominated charity or good cause is £35 other suppliers send a percentage anything from 1.1/2 -2.3/4%. It is so simple it is brilliant. Please read the attached and consider using if you buy online.

Many thanks

Alex Galbraith

Extract from Grand Lodge of Scotland Yearbook 9th September 2010.

The EASY FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE – AN EXCELLENT AND SIMPLE WAY OF RAISING MONEY FOR THE BENEVOLENT FUNDS OF GRAND LODGE.

The chairman and members of the Benevolence and Care Committee invite you to join them in supporting the above initiative which enables much needed monies to be raised for the Benevolent Funds at **NO** cost either to you or to Grand Lodge.

Please take the time to visit the website to find out more at: www.easyfundraising.org.uk

How it works:

The scheme operates by the registration of organisations and individuals with the service and when they shop online with a participating retailer, a donation is made to their nominated recipient. So many of us now shop online that it is an excellent way of raising funds just by doing something which we would anyway. Since the committee first approved participation in this initiative, Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund has been registered and now has a unique identification number which means that we can receive money from the scheme. Therefore, the more people who register and nominate Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund as their benefactor, the more funds we can raise simply by making online purchases in the normal way but using the links from the above site first.

To go directly to the unique web address for Grand Lodge type: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/glsbf and follow the links to register. The website is easy to use and gives a step by step guide. Different retailers give different percentage donations – for example, Grand Lodge has already received the sum of £35.00 which was donated by Direct Line when a member of staff renewed their car insurance. It is very difficult to raise funds in these challenging economic times so this initiative is worthy of consideration. Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West
Calendar of Events and Meetings – October 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 st	2 nd 217 - Passing (conferred by Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII).	3 rd 1814 - Lecture	4 th 217 - FFS	5 th
6 th 68 - Business Meeting	7 th XII - Passing (conferred by The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566). Preceptory of Ardgowan - AGM, election of office-bearers and Malta Grade	8 th 624 - Passing (E), Ballot and Annual visit by PGLA. 989 - AGM/Election of Office-bearers	9 th 1425 - AGM/Election of Office-bearers	10 th 175 - AGM/Election of Office-bearers	11 th	12 th
13 th 68 - Raising 626 - Passing RAC289 - Annual Installation	14 th 1121 - AGM/Election of Office-bearers	15 th RAC XVII - Meeting	16 th 217 - Entering	17 th	18 th 626 - Annual Installation	19 th
20 th 68 - Passing	21 st XII - Passing (conferred by Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121). SGC No. 79 - KHS and visit by Grand Sovereign	22 nd	23 rd	24 th 175 - Annual Installation (6.45)	25 th 175 - Annual Divine Service (615 for 6.30).	26 th
27 th 68 - Mark Degree 626 - Raising	28 th 1121 - Entering	29 th	30 th Grand Lodge Regular Communication	31 st		

(E) denotes an Exemplification

Information is correct at time of issue but may be subject to change. For up to date details of meetings and news and information please log on to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West website at www.pglrw.org