



# The West Column

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Brethren,

I'm writing this piece on the 21<sup>st</sup> December, the shortest day of the year and with the rain pouring down outside, it certainly gives the impression of being one of the darkest days of the year. It brings to my mind, one of my favourite passages in the bible from St John's Gospel C1:V5: "And the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out".

We could certainly be doing with a little more light at the moment!

It also took my mind back to a very enjoyable meeting at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 the previous Thursday when we were treated to an excellent lecture by Brother Archie Hoey PM followed by the traditional carol harmony led by Brother Boyd Thomson.

I don't know if there was any prior collaboration between the two but Brother Archie's subject matter on the light of freemasonry fitted well with Brother Boyd then taking us through the Christmas story to the accompaniment of a number of favourite Christmas carols sung, with much gusto if not providing any serious competition to the Phoenix Choir!

The link was, of course, light! The light which hopefully sets us as freemasons apart and that light which came into the world, with its message of peace, love, hope and forgiveness and which the darkness has never put out.

However, light is reflective! Just as it is important for us as freemasons, to welcome the light of knowledge and as human beings, the message of God's love into our lives, it is equally important that we reflect that light back to the world at large, through our deeds, words and actions.

"In the same way, your light must shine before people so that they will see the good things that you do and praise your Father in heaven". (Matt. C5:V8).

So in 2015, let us all make just one resolution, to let our light shine forth brightly upon the world. I wish you and your families and all that you love, a very happy, peaceful and healthy new year.

Regards,  
Jim

## **Contributions to the West Column**

I would as always 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](mailto: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](http://www.pglrw.org)  
Brethren, if you have anything that you wish added to the Provincial website, contact Brother Jim Donnelly at [jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com](mailto:jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com)

### Meetings.

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

Day	Day of month.				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the months of September, October, April and May.

### Dates and duties for your diaries:

Annual Installations and Visitations:

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

Please note that the date of the Provincial visitation to Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 has been changed to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

### Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February within the premises of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175. The meeting will commence at 6.45 pm and the installation of elective office-bearers will, this year be carried out by Depute Provincial Grand Master, Brother John R S Keith. Following the meeting, there will be a buffet supper along with the presentation of the Citizen of the Year Award. This is an informal dinner with no speeches and it is hoped that all the Lodges will be represented at both the meeting and the supper. **I would advise that, at this meeting, there will be an item of business which will be of particular interest to all the Lodges.**

Tickets for the buffet supper, priced £10.00, are now available through your Lodge Secretary.

## **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)
September	Alan Beck (XII)
October	George Carson (1121)
November	Jim Livingstone (626)
December	Ross Nugent (217)

The January draw will take place following the Installation at Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

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. The monthly entry fee is £5.00. 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.**

Unfortunately, due to business commitments, I was unable to attend either the Divine Service of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December or the meeting of Provincial Grand Committee on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and my thanks to those who represented me on those occasions.

- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> - I attended a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree and In Memoriam Service for Past Master Brother John Anderson at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> - The Annual Installation of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> - The annual Installation of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> - Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> - The Annual Divine Service of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

I also was privileged to attend a total of 5 other events, Lodge meetings or meetings of other Masonic Orders and my thanks as always to the members of Provincial Grand Lodge who have supported me on these various occasions.

## **Drummond Ball.**



I am pleased to advise that following the success of this year's Drummond Ball, provisional arrangements are being made to hold another Ball in 2015. This time it will simply be called the "Summer Ball". The date, will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and an invitation has been extended to the MWGMM, Grand Secretary and their wives. Tickets will be on sale shortly and as we expect them to be sold out quickly, early booking is recommended.

## **Forthcoming Provincial Visits in January.**

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, I will be attending the meeting at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 for the purpose of presenting Brother George Banks with his Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden's regalia. Unfortunately, as most of you will know, Brother George has not enjoyed the best of health since his retirement from elective office in Provincial and this will be the first opportunity to make the presentation.

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> it is my intention, with the approval by the Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire, Brother Robert Little, to attend the annual Installation of Lodge Montgomery (Kilwinning) Skelmorlie, No.624. As it is often difficult to attend 624 because of other commitments, I would like to take advantage of the fact that this is actually a "free" Friday. Over the years, the brethren of this Lodge have been faithful supporters of the Lodges in Renfrewshire West and this would be an excellent opportunity to show our appreciation for that support. I would very much appreciate the support of any Provincial office-bearer who could accompany me on that evening.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January, I will be attending the joint Annual Divine Service of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

The first annual visit of the session will take place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January to Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

See below for visits to Sister Provincial Grand Lodges.

### **Sister Provinces.**

#### **Dunbartonshire**

At the moment, we have an invitation to attend the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015, which will take place at 2.30 in the premises of Lodge Dumbarton Kilwinning No. 18, Church Street, Dumbarton.

#### **Renfrewshire East**

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East will take place within the premises of Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew, No. 426, also on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 2.30pm.

It is my intention to attend the meeting in Renfrew, with the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master attending the meeting in Dumbarton and if any office-bearer of Provincial Grand Lodge would like to attend either of these meetings, please confirm to Provincial Grand Secretary.

#### **Glasgow**

It was a great privilege and pleasure to attend the installation of the new Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Glasgow on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, along with Depute Provincial Grand Master Brother John R S Keith. The meeting was held in Partick Burgh Hall, which was

full to capacity for the event which witnessed Brother James C Peddie being installed as Provincial Grand Master by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esselmont.

It was a very moving and dignified ceremony followed by an extremely enjoyable celebration dinner.

It was also a delight to be present when a good friend to the Province of Renfrewshire West, Brother William H Gauld, better to known to all as simply Bud, fitted seamlessly into his new role as Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The photograph below, shows Brother Peddie along with the Grand Master, representatives of Grand Lodge and the heads of the deputations from the sister Provinces.



### **Grand Lodge News.**

#### **Grand Lodge Meetings:**

The next Regular communication of Grand Lodge will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February.

#### *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 the Capitation Fee has now been increased to £30 per active member as per the recent membership return. This is 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.



### **Poppy Appeal.**

In last month's Column, it was noted that nearly all the Lodges had attended the various Remembrance Day Services held in the local towns, laying wreaths at the cenotaphs. All of the Lodges in this Province also contributed to the Poppy Appeal by Grand Lodge and a photograph of the poppy "garden" also appeared in the West Column.

I have since been advise by Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Alex Galbraith that this year 275 individual Lodges have donated so far to the Remembrance Crosses Campaign that was run in conjunction with Grand Lodge. These crosses were planted in the Field of Remembrance in November.

The fantastic amount of £14,521 from the Daughter Lodges added to the donation from Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Provincial Grand Lodges takes the grand total to in excess of £21,000. A response that we can all be justly proud of.

## LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING NOVEMBER.

### Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Lecture (delivered by Brother Archibald Chalmers, Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire).

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> - Raising

#### Brother Henry Tibbles PM.

Our heartiest congratulations to Brother Henry on being invested with the Ushakov Medal by a delegation representing the Russian government who arrived at Henry's house to personally present him with the award in appreciation of his wartime service as a Petty Officer aboard HMS Obedient.

The ship was based at Scapa Flow and performed essential work escorting convoys of food, fuel and other vital supplies through the U-Boat infested waters of the Arctic.

Brother Henry should have received his medal at a special ceremony for veterans in Glasgow in November but was unable to be present. Brother, now at the splendid age of 96, with his 70 year service diploma also tucked neatly away is, of course, no stranger to the Province and although being unable to be as active as was once the case, he is always keen to hear news of his Lodge and the Province.

I am sure that everyone will agree that this is a well-deserved award to a much loved and admired freemason.

*PS - this is not the first story recorded in the West Column of Henry's wartime exploits and I will try and locate the original story as it is well worthy of re-publication.*

### Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - No meeting

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> - Business Meeting

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - No meeting

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Raising

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> - The 258<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting and Burns Supper of the Lodge will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015 at 7.30 pm.

### Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> - Passing

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Entering

The Lodge's annual **Burns Supper** will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm within the upper hall at West Stewart Street, Greenock. The cost of a ticket is £12.50 and the event is open to everyone. Tickets are available from either Alex Johnstone on 07909 718096 or email at [Alexander.Johnstone@ntlworld.com](mailto:Alexander.Johnstone@ntlworld.com) or John McKenzie on 07835 055230 or email at [jwm175@ntlworld.com](mailto:jwm175@ntlworld.com). Please make any special dietary requirements known at the time of booking. The chef on the evening is Brother Jim Williams and the line-up is;

Immortal Memory - Joe Harkins  
Toast to the Lasses - Duncan Simpson  
Reply by John Lanigan;  
Recitations - Jim Naismith  
Piper - John Black  
Songs by Eric Carswell:

## **Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> - No meeting

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> - Raising and Installation of remaining office-bearers.

The Lodge annual Burns Supper will take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January and is open to non-members.

### **Annual Divine Service.**

The joint annual divine service with Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 will take place in St. Andrew's Church, Port Glasgow on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 6.15 for 6.30 pm. For the past 23 years, Reverend Andrew McLean has given the Lodges a warm welcome into the church and conducted the various Divine Services. At the end of January, Mr McLean will be retiring and it would be good to see a large attendance by brethren as a token of our respect for Mr McLean and for all his spiritual guidance over the years.

### **Social events.**

The next Family Friendly Saturday will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015 from 12 noon until 4.00 pm with food served until 2.00 pm - ALL WELCOME.

## **Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624**

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> - Passing

The Lodge's Annual Installation will take place on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.30 pm when Brother Colin McLarty will be installed to serve a second term by Installing Masters, Brothers Billy McLarty, Bill Duncan and James Lever. A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to attend.

*Note from PGM: Brethren, this is one of those unique opportunities for the brethren of Renfrewshire West to demonstrate their support for our friends at 624. Usually, their meetings and the Installation clash with meetings going on within this Province. However, there are no meetings in the Province on that evening and therefore it would be nice to affirm our support for our friends at 624 as a small way of saying thanks for all their support to the Lodges in this Province over many years. Brothers Bill Duncan, Jim Lever, Willie McIntosh are all well-known faces in our Lodges and Brother Billy McLarty is of course, an office-bearer within Provincial Grand Lodge as well as currently occupying the chair at Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.*

*With the kind permission of Brother Robert Little the PGM of Ayrshire, I shall be attending in my capacity as RWPGM of Renfrewshire West and would welcome the support of as many brethren from Provincial Grand Lodge and the Lodges in the Province as possible on that evening of installation.*

## **Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626**

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Passing (presentation to Brother George Banks PM of Paste Senior Warden's Regalia).

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - Burns Supper.

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – Raising

### **Social.**

In recent years, the Lodge has held a very popular Burns Supper and 2015 is no exception. The event will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. The line-up this year is;

Immortal Memory	- Depute Provost Brother David Wilson;
Toast to the Lasses:	- Brother Iain MacLeod;
Reply	- Brother Ian Savage;
Readings	- Brother Sandy Reddy;
Songs	- Brother David Docherty;
Piper	- Brother John Black.

Tickets, priced £10.00 each, can be obtained from the Social Convener, Brother Stewart McFadyen (stewart.mcfadyen86.sm@googlemail.com) or through any senior office-bearer.

It has been a very busy time for the Social Convener and the Almoner and they would both like to convey their grateful thanks to all who assisted at the various events. The Senior Citizens' Christmas dinner held jointly with the members of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 was another wonderful day with around 75 in attendance all enjoying the atmosphere and catching up with old friends. The following day was the Children's Party with 63 youngsters enjoying the visit from Santa and the final event of the year was the Lodge's Christmas dance on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Brother Santa looking slightly worried as he prepares to give out the presents at the Lodge's Children's Christmas Party.



The traditional game of pass the parcel took place without any trouble after Worshipful Senior Warden, Brother Nicky Stetz was assured that there was not a bottle of Jack Daniels inside.



It was a very special evening on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 when a very large number of brethren were present to witness the presentation of long-service certificates to two well-known brethren of the Lodge.

To mark 50 years service is a wonderful achievement and our congratulations go to Brother George Turner who has been a faithful attendee at his Mother Lodge for half a century. However, he will probably admit that he is just a youngster compared with Brother Lawrence (Lawrie) Henderson, who was the recipient of a 70 year service certificate from the Right Worshipful Master Brother Andrew Pigott. Both were delighted with their awards and it was a particularly nice touch when Brother Lawrie asked the Master's permission to go over and offer congratulations to the evening's candidate, the newest Fellowcraft in the Lodge from the oldest member of the Lodge.

Congratulations to both Brother George and Brother Lawrie.

The above photograph shows both Brethren along with Brother Lawrie's nephew, Brother norrie Henderson, himself the recipient of a 50 year diploma and the Right Worshipful Master Brother Andrew Pigott (who has obviously dressed in a hurry)!

### **Lodge Sir Michael No. 989**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Passing

Many congratulations to Brother Paul Docherty, IPM who, along with a couple of friends at work, joined together in a sponsored weight loss programme (Ed - OK, I can hear you know, Paul Docherty and a sponsored weight loss programme, is stretching the bounds of credibility to the extent that this article could be filed under "fiction" but read on .....)! I'll let Paul take up the story.

*"The charity we chose was CHAS which we all agreed was a most worthwhile cause*

*<http://www.chas.org.uk/>.*

*We decided that the easiest way to raise money was to be sponsored for our combined overall weight loss, and also have a competition whereby whoever guessed closest to our*

*combined weight would win a bottle we had donated. Of course things snow balled and it meant that the three of us had to donate a bottle each but no matter, for a great cause! Whilst we collected monies only from our respective departments in work, we still managed to raise the fantastic sum of £428.50.*

*Now for the facts!*

*We lost weight over a 16 week period.*

*Our combined weight loss was 74lbs!*

*2 of us have put nearly all the weight back on!*

*1 has continued to lose weight and has now lost over 3 stone from original weight!*

*The more astute amongst you will know that it certainly isn't me who has continued to lose weight!, but the feeling of being able to raise such a sum in a relatively short period for even mere mortals like myself and 2 pals has certainly inspired me to think about doing something else, something different perhaps, and who knows, something that we as Freemasons can possible consider doing as a Province in the future? No matter what we decide, I hope that we consider doing something even as individuals, or Lodges or, as I did, groups of friends, and further promote our charitable aims".*

Well done Paul!

Visit as Lodge to EC Bedfordshire (from Right Worshipful Master Brother Robert Marshall).

Brethren, As many of you know, we have been exchanging visits with a number of Lodges from the English Constitution, more often than not, Lodge Arklow Regis 4481 (EC), where we have conferred an exemplification of our degrees. This has been a great success and this year is no different with us having been invited down to Dunstable to confer a Mark Degree.

Dates are Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March fly down, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>, confer the degree and Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> fly back to Glasgow Airport. This has been a great success in the past and we already have a number of brethren committed to coming down to support. A travel club is already in operation with some brethren having contributed quite handsomely already! This is open to all qualified brethren, including outwith Lodge Sir Michael brethren and we would be delighted to welcome along any brother who wishes to come along. Please speak directly to myself or IPM if you are interested or indeed would like to find out more. We would be delighted to let you know what happens. brethren.



This photo is of the newly installed RWM Robert Marshall, and his Installing Masters, Bro Paul Docherty (PM) and Bro. Richard Montgomery (PM). Our Installation was held on the evening of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of November, and was witnessed by a fabulous turnout. RWM would like to personally thank everyone who made the effort to attend.

### **Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> - Regular Meeting & Burns Harmony

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> - Passing and Annual visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

The annual Senior Citizens' Dinner will be held in the 175 Club, Kelly Street, Greenock on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 1.00 for 1.30 pm.

### **Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> - Raising

### **The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814**

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 is now in recess until April 2015.

## **Other Orders**

### **Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII**

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII meets in the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourrock on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. 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 12<sup>th</sup> - No meeting

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February - Provincial Grand Chapter Visitation.

### **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 has been 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;

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**

2015

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January – KHS  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February - RCC  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – KHS  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Installation

St George's Conclave No.79 will celebrate its 25th Anniversary on Saturday 28th February, 2015 at 2pm in the premises of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No.68, Port Glasgow. The ceremony will be carried out by Stewart Wood Grand Sovereign and the Grand Imperial Council for Scotland. All knights welcome.

Any wishing to attend after the meeting please contact Tommy Trotter for catering numbers:  
[tommytrotter1212@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tommytrotter1212@yahoo.co.uk)

## *The Wee Corner*

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

### CHARITY NEWS

#### STAMP APPEAL.

Please remember that Brother Bill Crumlish 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 Crumlish 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 [treasurerno12@aol.com](mailto:treasurerno12@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.



In the October edition of the West Column, I published a 'Grumpy Old Masters ' Badge, provided by Brother Brian Hopkins PM626. Brother David Stevenson, has advised me that following enquiries from a number of brethren, he has been able to source these at a cost of £5.50 each excluding postage. Brother David's details are provided above.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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

## Circle Publications.

I would take the opportunity to recommend to you that you take a few moments to click on the following link to see what is available through this excellent website. [www.circlepublications.com](http://www.circlepublications.com)

There is a vast range of interesting material available and in particular a booklet called "The Lodge Master", which explains his duties, powers and responsibilities and is an excellent read for every member of the Lodge.

Also available, are copies of the "Burns Print", signed by his wife in 1813 (the only one so signed), which makes an excellent gift for a friend, a speaker or a raffle prize.

### **Lodge Websites.**

Brethren, sadly my plea to Lodges to ensure that their websites are up to date appears to have fallen on deaf ears as many of the website contain information which is out of date. There is nothing more off-putting and I am of the opinion that if a Brother accesses such an out of date site, he is unlikely to return to it.

I would appeal to you to ensure that your material is up to date and if possible place a "Last Updated" post on it.

If you are not able to update your meetings in particular, I would suggest that it is better to delete this section and just have your website as a static basic information only site, with contact details.

### **Some useful site addresses.**

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](http://www.lgk12.com)

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 - <http://www.lodgedorickilwinning68.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.firthofclyde.org>

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 – [www.lodgesirmichael989.co.uk](http://www.lodgesirmichael989.co.uk)

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 – [www.lodgecrawfurdsburn.org.uk](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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 – January 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 <sup>st</sup> 217 - No meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
5 <sup>th</sup> 68 - No meeting	6 <sup>th</sup> XII - Lecture	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> 1425 - Raising	9 <sup>th</sup> 175 - Passing	10 <sup>th</sup> 1121 - Senior Citizens' Dinner	11 <sup>th</sup>
12 <sup>th</sup> 68 - Business Meeting 626 - Passing	13 <sup>th</sup> 1121 - Burns Harmony	14 <sup>th</sup> 624 - Passing 989 - Passing	15 <sup>th</sup> 217 - Raising (Installation of remaining office-bearers).	16 <sup>th</sup> 624 - Annual Installation (7.30pm).	17 <sup>th</sup> 175 - Burns Supper	18 <sup>th</sup> 68/217 - Annual Divine Service
19 <sup>th</sup> 68 - No meeting 626 - Burns Supper	20 <sup>th</sup> XII - Raising SGC No.79 - KHS	21 <sup>st</sup> RAC XVII	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup> 175 - Entering 68 - 258 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting and Burns Supper.	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>
26 <sup>th</sup> 68 - Raising 626 - Raising	27 <sup>th</sup> 1121 - Passing (AV by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West).	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup> 217 - Burns Supper.	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup> Provincial Grand Lodge visits	

**(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.pgllrw.org](http://www.pgllrw.org)*