



The West Column



Brethren,

"It's only words and words are all I have to take your love away". Lyrics from the old Bee Gees hit of many years ago. As I attended a recent Burns Supper, it struck me forcibly how much enjoyment the audience gained from hearing the familiar words of the various readings, whether it was the "Address to a Haggis" or "Tam O'Shanter", we listened with rapt attention to the speaker.

Words are a very powerful tool in the right hands of course. My late father was fond of the expression that you are better to keep your mouth closed and appear a fool than to open it and prove the fact. I'm not sure that his comments were specifically aimed at me in my outspoken youth but I am sure that many of us who are called on to speak in public often reflect with some embarrassment, how easily the brain can disengage with the mouth.

However, words can often inspire us, depress us, enrage us, encourage us, sustain us and comfort us especially when spoken by the great orators of our time and in past times. The country is currently marking the 50th anniversary of the death of Winston Churchill, whose speeches during the war years certainly inspired that generation. We probably all have favourite sayings, whether they are from the mouths of Martin Luther King, Ghandi, the Dalai Lama, Einstein, and so on, or whether from the Volume of the Sacred Law.

A wonderful example of the power of words was shown recently following the shocking acts of violence in Paris, after which so many people were seen, not only in Paris and across France but throughout Europe and beyond, all holding pieces of cards with the three words "Je suis Charlie"! Three words which symbolised that human nature would not be suppressed in the face of violent acts.

Yes, words are indeed powerful but perhaps more so are deeds and example. As much as the words were important, who can ever forget the scenes in Paris when many hundreds of thousands of people showed their solidarity by taking to the streets and marching in protest.

I'm sure we will be bombarded with lots and lots of words over the next few months as politicians of all parties promise us all sorts of things to win our vote in the run-up to the General Election. What would be nice, of course, would be if, for once, we could see evidence of actions to deliver the promises after they win power.

So often are we disappointed by empty promises, which fail to deliver.

Yes, actions speaking louder than words. So by all means we should let ourselves be inspired, comforted, impassioned and sustained by words but let us show ourselves to be freemasons by deeds and by example. Don't just talk a good game.

Regards,
Jim

Special events.

Later in the Column, there are details of two special events to be held in February, the first is the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West which will take place on Friday 6th February at 6.45 pm (prompt), within the Temple at West Stewart Street, Greenock. This will be followed by a light supper and the presentation of the Citizen of the Year Award and it is hoped that this will be fully supported by all the Lodges. There will be an additional special item on the agenda which will be of interest to all the Lodges.

Please also note the arrangements for the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the granting of a Charter to Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175. This will be celebrated by a rededication of the Lodge by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West on Friday 14th February at 1.30 pm and once again, it is hoped that this rare event will be well supported by the sister Lodges.

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

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 jimdonnelly@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:

Annual Installations and Visitations:

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

Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West will take place on Friday 6th 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)
January	Paul Stewart (1425)

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.

Saturday 10th - I attended the annual Senior Citizen's dinner of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 and it was a great privilege to be present at such a happy occasion.

Monday 12th - Along with a very large deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West, I attended a regular meeting of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 to present Brother George Banks with his regalia as Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden.

Sunday 18th - I was present at the joint Annual Divine Service of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 at St. Andrew's Parish Church, Port Glasgow.

Tuesday 27th - Attended the annual visit to Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121.

I was also present at meetings of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII (twice), Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425, Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 (twice), Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 (twice), Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121, and Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.

Sadly, although all suited and booted and about to leave for the Installation at Lodge Montgomerie (Kilwinning) Skelmorlie No. 624 on Friday 16th, the weather took a turn for the worse and prevented my attendance. My grateful thanks to those members of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West who represented the Province on that evening.

Summer 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 29th 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 February.

See below for visits to Sister Provincial Grand Lodges.

Sister Provinces.

Saturday 31st January - Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire (Annual Communication).
Saturday 31st January - Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East (Annual Communication).

Tuesday 17th February - Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning (Annual Meeting 7.30 pm).

Confirmation of numbers attending have already been provided to the Provinces for the meetings taking place at Dunbartonshire and Renfrewshire East. However, should any member of Provincial Grand Lodge wish to attend the meeting at Kilwinning on Tuesday 17th February, please let either myself or Provincial Grand Secretary know so that we can co-ordinate travel arrangements.

Grand Lodge News.

Grand Lodge Meetings:

The next Regular communication of Grand Lodge will be on Thursday 5th February at 2.00 pm (brethren to be seated by 1.50 pm).

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.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING NOVEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 3rd - No meeting

Tuesday 17th - Raising

Monthly Draw (from Brother David Stevenson, Treasurer).

As we enter another year the monthly draw is available again to all of you - and family.

£1 per number per month with no limits !!

All participants will be entered into the draw and it is my intention to draw the winning number on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

PRIZES - I am hoping for £12 per month with the exception of June and December when the prize will be £50 each month. Please support the Lodge with this draw. Cash, cheques or through internet banking are all acceptable.

Charity Burns Supper.

The Lodge will once again, be hosting its Charity Burns Supper in the Town Hall on Saturday 28th February 2015 at 7.00pm. Tickets are available through IPM Brother Alan Beck at a cost of £20.00 or tables of 10 for £200.00. This is always a well supported event and early booking is strongly recommended.

Lecture



Brother Archie Chalmers, Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire with Brother Allan I MacFeate, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Although the meeting was very close to the New Year there was a big attendance at NoXII to hear a Lecture from IPPGM of Ayrshire, Bro Archie Chalmers. Invited to the East with Bro Archie were 2 visiting RWMs from out with the Province, viz. Bro Keith Bowes, RWM of Lodge The Gael No 609 and Bro Murray Hunter, RWM of Lodge Stinchar Valley No 1705. Bro Archie provided us with a fascinating insight into the foundation of the Robert Burns World Federation. The Federation's own website says "A chance remark in a London park over a hundred years ago led to the formation of a body which today ranks as the oldest national literary association in Scotland". That the idea of forming a Federation of Burns Clubs should have first been expressed somewhere south of Scotland is significant in itself for, from the very outset, the body which has become the official Burns movement has been no narrow national organisation, but one embracing the whole world.

Bro Archie informed us that the chance remark was in a conversation amongst 3 gentlemen who were in the capital to be present at the unveiling of a statue of Burns. The names of these gentlemen were Colin Rae Brown, David McKay and David Sneddon. Co-incidentally

they were all Freemasons and one of them, Colin Rae Brown, was a Greenockian! Indeed Colin Rae Brown was a member of Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 and had been President of The Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) in 1844-45 and was later its secretary. As they had with the publication of Burns Kilmarnock Edition, Bro Archie informed us that Freemasons played a big part in the foundation of the Burns Federation as at least 9 masons in total attended its inaugural meeting in Kilmarnock. All in all, Bro Archie's paper was very interesting, informative and enjoyable and was capped by in impromptu rendition of The Star o' Rabbie Burns by Bro Alan D. Beck IPM.

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 2nd - Business Meeting (7.15 pm)

Monday 9th - Passing

Monday 16th - Entering and Annual Visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 pm).

Monday 23rd - Raising

A warm welcome is extended to all brethren and friends to join the Lodge in their regular Saturday evening dances from 8.30 pm until midnight.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 13th - No meeting (due to 225th anniversary meeting taking place).

Saturday 14th - 225th Anniversary Rededication of Lodge Ceremony at 1.30pm.

Friday 27th - Passing

Congratulations to Brother James (Corky) McCorkell on being made an honorary member of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 on Friday 23rd February at the Lodge's regular meeting. A well-deserved honour for a well-loved and respected Brother.

"225th ANNIVERSARY REDEDICATION OF LODGE CEREMONY.

The Right Worshipful Master Brother Marshall North, Office-Bearers and Brethren extend Fraternal Greetings and an Invitation to all Brethren in Good Standing to attend our 225th Anniversary Rededication Ceremony to be held within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock at 1.30pm on Saturday 14th February 2014.

There will be a Dinner Harmony following the meeting and Tickets are available at £10 each, which includes a commemorative gift, and I would be obliged if you could order your Tickets by Monday 9th February to assist with catering. The Dinner Harmony is scheduled to last until 5.30pm.

You do not require a Ticket to attend the Meeting.

Contact Brother John McKenzie at jwm175@ntlworld.com or 07835055230 for Tickets."

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 5th - Entering

Thursday 19th - Passing

Social events.

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

Friday 28th November 2014

Festival Of St. Andrew and Installation Of Office bearers

Brethren from within and out-with the province of Renfrewshire West met in the Masonic Hall, King Street, Port Glasgow, to celebrate the Festival of St. Andrew and the installation of RWM Bro. Clive Taulbut and his office bearers.

Deputations of visiting brethren from within and outwith the province were welcomed into the Lodge and were led by RWM Bro. William Lawson of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Thereafter a large and influential deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge was welcomed, led on this occasion by PGM Bro. James P. Livingstone.

The Installing Masters, Bros. Robert Mcfarlane, Robert S. Stone and George Hamilton, all Past Masters of 217, were received into the Lodge where they took their respective offices to conduct the Installation Ceremony in a traditional manner.

Following the Ceremonial Bro. Clive Taulbut RWM and his office bearers, visiting Brethren and members of Provincial Grand Lodge retired to Harmony where the usual toasts were proposed and given suitable replies.

After the formal toasts, the brethren continue in harmony.



Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 11th - Raising and Installation of office-bearers.

Annual Installation.



Although the weather was a little unkind on the evening, the annual Installation of Lodge Montgomerie (Kilwinning) Skelmorlie No. 624, took place on Friday 16th January, when Brother Colin McLarty was installed into the chair of his Mother Lodge by his Brother (and brother) William A McLarty, assisted by Brothers James Lever and William Duncan all Past Masters of the Lodge. There was an excellent deputation in attendance from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire, including RWPGM Brother Robert Little, IPPGM Brother Archie Chalmers and Substitute Master Brother Robert Stewart. Also in attendance, representing the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West were Senior Provincial Grand Warden Brother Jim Ritchie, Brother Alan Beck and Brother George Carson.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 9th - Raising

Monday 23rd - Entering



Brother George Banks, resplendent in his PPGSW regalia, flanked by the PGM and Brother Andrew Pigott Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

What was possibly the longest presentation ever took place at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 on Monday 12th January when the RWPGM Brother Livingstone presented PPGSW Brother George Banks PM626 with his regalia on behalf of the Lodge. Brother Banks, was of course, presented with his PPGSW jewel at the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West on the 7th February 2014, where his certificate was also presented personally by the MWGMM Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esselmont. Unfortunately, George's health has prevented him from attending his own Lodge in recent months so it was with some relief that the presentation was completed almost 12 months after it started.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 11th - Entering

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 20th March fly down, Saturday 21st, confer the degree and Sunday 22nd 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.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 10th - Raising

Tuesday 24th - In Memoriam Lodge. An invite will be formally extended to all Lodges to attend this meeting which will be held in the upper hall. It has been a number of years since the Lodge held such a meeting where the ceremonial is quite unique to Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

The annual Senior Citizens' Dinner was held in the 175 Club, Kelly Street, Greenock on Saturday 10th January 2015 and a wonderful afternoon was had by the many brethren and ladies who attended. As before Brother John Paton and his team of helpers put on a lovely meal and following the meal there was an hour or so of harmony much enjoyed by all.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 12th - Passing and Annual Visit of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 pm).

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 3rd 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 9th 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.

2015 syllabus of meetings

4 th February 2015	-	Knight Grade
4 th March 2015	-	Knight Grade & District Visit,
1 st April 015	-	Knight Grade
6 th October 2015	-	AGM & Malta Grade
4 th November 2015	-	Annual Installation
2 nd December 2015	-	Knight Grade

Report on the Preceptory & Priory of Ardgowan.

Grand Master's Official Visit -Wednesday 3rd December 2014.

50 Knights including District and Great Priory Officers joined the Most Eminent & Reverend Grand Master James Hodge on his official visit to the Preceptory & Priory of Ardgowan. The Venerable Preceptor James Cowan warmly welcomed all the Knights and then welcomed and received the District Grand Prior Robert Stewart and his District Officers. He then welcomed and received the Most Eminent & Reverend Grand Master James Hodge along with the Officers of Great Priory. It had been 11 years, to the day, since the last visit by a Grand Master to the Preceptory & Priory of Ardgowan. The knights were treated to a superb ceremony of the Knight Grade by the Past Preceptor, Em. Kt. Michael A. Reddy and his team, who were faultless with their delivery. The meeting culminated with a most enjoyable refectory where 40 knights sat together and enjoyed the good food and company. The speeches were restricted to enable a more relaxed social aspect for the knights to talk with the Grand Master and his Officers. Venerable Preceptor James Cowan and the Knights of Ardgowan have worked tirelessly during their new term and the future for 2015 looks very promising indeed.

Report by Alexander Johnstone Secretary & Registrar. (alexander.johnstone175@gmail.com)



District Grand Prior Robert Stewart, Venerable Preceptor James Cowan,
Grand Master James Hodge, Grand Seneschal Stewart Wood, Grand Constable David Park.

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

2015

Tuesday 17th February - RCC
Tuesday 17th March – KHS
Tuesday 21st 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

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
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.

A nice contribution below from Brother George Nixon PM1121.

The soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.

'Step forward now, you soldier,
How shall I deal with you ?
Have you always turned the other cheek ?
To My Church have you been true?'

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,
'No, Lord, I guess I haven't.
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of time,
and the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

'Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell.'

Author Unknown~

Brother Henry Tibbles.

Last month's Column carried a story on the presentation made to Brother Tibbles by the Russian Delegation to mark his service on the Russian Convoys during the war. I mentioned that I had previously been privileged to print an article kindly provided by Henry on some other wartime exploits of his. After a little research, I found the article in the April 2005 edition and I think it is such an interesting story that I have no hesitation in republishing it.

"The most interesting account of P.M., Brother Hector MacPhail's Masonic visits in Dortmund took me back sixty years when, in June 1945 the ship in which I was then serving, a Fleet Destroyer of the 17th Flotilla, was deployed for guard ship duties at the base at Keil, where the surrendered U. Boats were being collected in readiness for sinking in the Atlantic. It was during a period of shore patrol, with another officer that we happened upon a small grocery/delicatessen shop, in the doorway of which stood the proprietor, a somewhat distinguished gentleman of mature age, smoking a cigar. In broken English, and with a welcoming smile, he suggested that we might like a cup of coffee. The invitation aroused some suspicion for coffee was then in very short supply, and my colleague, a trigger happy gunnery instructor, commenced to loosen the lanyard to his revolver, but we decided that the old boy looked harmless enough, and that we would accept his offer.

Having passed over the threshold of his modest emporium, we were led into a small dining area where Frau Husfeldt quickly produced an ertsatz beverage together with some home baked biscuits.

It was at this point that Herr Husfeldt became rather animated, and pointed to my signet ring, which in my early days in the Craft, was engraved with the Square and Compasses. It is not very clear now how we were able to prove to each other that we both members of the same Fraternity, taking into account the language difficulty, and I was a very raw recruit with only a couple of years since Initiation. My real problem was in conveying to my patrol colleague, who was not of the Freemason, that he could not be included in this interrogation, without upsetting him.

This was all resolved when Herr Husfeldt and I went to an adjoining room, and it was here that he rolled back the carpet, prised up some floor-boards, and brought out a large metal chest which he unlocked, opened and displayed a veritable cornucopia of Masonic Regalia. He intimated that this was the first time it had seen the light of day for over ten years. It appears that Herr Husfeldt had been and, to all intent, still was Provincial Grand Master of Schleswig-Holstein. This display of complete trust, to an erstwhile enemy, was indeed proof of the principles to which we are all sworn.

In the very short time we were in the area, I became very friendly with the Husfeldt family, including the son, who was a Lutheran Pastor, and daughter-in-law. Unfortunately, at that time, there were still no Masonic meetings, which one could attend. Despite all the promises that we would maintain contact, we did not and, over the years has been a source of profound regret.



Photo taken by Henry outside the shop of Herr and Frau Husfeldt.

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

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

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

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

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 – February 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 st
2 nd 68 - Business Meeting (7.15 pm).	3 rd XII - No meeting	4 th Preceptory of Ardgowan - Knight Grade	5 th 217 - Entering Grand Lodge - Regular Communication 2.00 pm	6 th Provincial Grand Lodge - Annual Meeting (6.45 pm).	7 th	8 th
9 th 68 - Passing 626 - Raising RAC289 -	10 th 1121 - Raising	11 th 624 - Raising 989 - Entering	12 th 1425 - Passing (Annual visit of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West 7.15 pm).	13 th 175 - No meeting	14 th 175 - 225 th Anniversary (1.30 pm).	15 th
16 th 68 - Entering (Annual visit of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West 7.15 pm).	17 th XII - Raising SGC No. 79 - RCC	18 th RAC XVII - Degree	19 th 217 - Passing	20 th	21 st	22 nd
23 rd 68 - Raising 626 - Entering	24 th 1121 - In Memoriam Lodge	25 th	26 th	27 th 175 - Passing	28 th SGC No. 79 - 25 th Anniversary.	

(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