



The West Column



Brethren, as I sit down to write this leader column, the clocks have moved forward to signal the start of British Summer Time but unfortunately, it would appear that nobody has remembered to inform Mother Nature as the frequent rain and sleet showers, with gusts of high wind give the lie to any thoughts of Summer or even Spring for that matter. It is more like the depths of Winter!

However, all is not gloom for as I look over towards the Old Kilpatrick hills, there is a wonderfully bright rainbow confirming that even on the dullest of days, God has a way of letting the beauty of the world around us shine through.

As we go through life, we meet all sorts of different people with different attitudes. However, one thing is certain which is that is that no two people look at a problem in the same way. In particular we have the folk who look at a glass as being half empty while others see it as half full.

You are probably all familiar with the Pharrell Williams' song "Happy" with its chorus;

Because I'm happy;
Clap along if you feel like a room without a roof;
Because I'm happy;
Clap along if you feel like happiness is the truth;
Because I'm happy;
Clap along if you know what happiness is to you;
Because I'm happy;
Clap along if you feel like that's what you wanna do:

Strikes me as being pretty sound advice because we all have the power to make other people happy. It's easy - as Desmond Tutu said "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world".

Freemasonry gives us a perfect opportunity to follow that example by doing good, by making other people happy and in doing so cheering ourselves up.

As we move forward towards the summer recess, I hope that you will all have enjoy the break with hopefully sunny weather to cheer us up as we head for the garden or the bowling green or the golf course or whatever is the pastime preferred by you for your enjoyment.

However, never forget that there are many ways, some of them quite small and insignificant, which can make a person's day. Hold a door open for someone, say good morning to everyone you pass on the way to buy your morning paper. Such little acts of kindness can often make a person's day and in doing so make your own day special. We can all do a little to brighten even the darkest day.

Grasp the opportunity, for it may not present itself again or as Confucius put it so much better than I can -

"Man who stand on hill with mouth open will wait long time for roast duck to drop in!"

Be happy folks!

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

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	JPGW
175	24th October	William A McLarty	27 th March	JPGW
217	28th November	Alexander Johnstone	16 th April	SPGW
626	18th October	Edward M Ross	9 th March	SPGW
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)			

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

As the premises at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 will be out of use for the immediate future, the next Regular Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge, which will take place on Wednesday 6th May at 7.30 pm, will be held within the Temple of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

In the event that the facilities at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 are still unavailable at the beginning of next session, a decision will then be made regarding meetings of Provincial Grand Committee and Provincial Grand Lodge but it is possible that we will seek the co-operation of the Lodges and take the opportunity of taking meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge to other Lodges in the Province.

Renfrewshire 200 Club (RW200Club).

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

New Provincial Lapel Badge.



As you travel to other Provinces, you will notice how members of the Province proudly sport a Provincial Lapel Badge to identify themselves as members of that Province. I thought it was about time that in this Province, we also had a similar badge and so I am able to announce that these are now available for purchase from myself at a cost of £5.00 each with all profits going to the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Fund.

The badge shows the crest of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

Whether you are a member of Provincial Grand Lodge or simply a member of one of the daughter Lodges, I hope that as many of you as possible take the opportunity to purchase a badge and that you will wear it proudly on your travels within and especially beyond the Province. Stocks are fairly limited and I expect that they may soon be exhausted so please don't be disappointed. Because of minimum order quantities, it is unlikely that there will be a repeat order.

Provincial Grand Master's Diary.

As always, I am grateful for the excellent support of the members of Provincial Grand Lodge and in particular to the team of Commissioned Office-bearers. During the month of March, it has been my privilege and pleasure to attend the following meetings;

- Tuesday 2nd - the annual visit to Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.
- Friday 6th - the annual meeting and Installation of elective office-bearers at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Middle Ward, accompanied by Depute PGM, Brother John Keith and SPGM Brother Robert Shields.
- Monday 9th - the annual visit to Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 where it was a very great pleasure to present diplomas of Distinguished Service to Brothers Murdo Munro and Rudi Stetz, both Past Masters of the Lodge and Past Provincial Grand Senior Wardens.
- Saturday 14th - I attended a meeting of Provincial Grand Masters with the Most Worshipful Grand Master in Perth (see separate report).
- Wednesday 18th - Provincial Grand Committee
- Thursday 19th - Special Meeting of Grand Committee in Edinburgh.
- Friday 27th - the annual visit to Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

It was also my pleasure to attend a total of five other meetings during the month outwith my capacity as Provincial Grand Master.

Forthcoming Provincial Visits in April.

- On Friday 3rd April, in my capacity as Provincial Grand Master, I will be welcoming Brother John S Miller, the Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, into the Province as he has accepted an invitation to deliver a paper at The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814.
- Wednesday 8th - the annual visit to Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.
- Thursday 16th - the annual visit to Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.
- Wednesday 22nd - the annual Home Degree at Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.
- Friday 24th - the Quarterly Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire.
- Sunday 26th - the Annual Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East.
- Thursday 30th - meeting of Grand Committee in Edinburgh.

See below for visits to Sister Provincial Grand Lodges.

Sister Provinces.

On Friday 24th April, an invitation has been extended to attend the Quarterly Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire, which will take place in the Masonic Hall, London Road, Kilmarnock at 7.30 pm.

On Sunday 26th April, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East will be holding its Annual Divine Service in Cathcart Congregational Church, Garry Street, Cathcart, G44 4AZ at 2.30 pm.

On Sunday 3rd May, the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter's annual Divine Service, at 3.00 pm in the Stowe Brae, Church, Paisley.

On Sunday 10th May, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire will be holding its Annual Divine Service in Old Kilpatrick Bowling Church, Dumbarton Road, Old Kilpatrick G60 5JG at 2.30 pm.

If anyone would like to attend any of these meetings, please let me know in order to arrange transport.

Looking a little further ahead, the Installation of Brother Alistair T Marshall as the new Provincial Grand Master of Stirlingshire, will take place on Saturday 20th June although tickets are limited to two per Province for this event.

On Sunday, 21st June, the annual BBQ takes place at the Marcus Humphrey House and further details of this event will be made nearer the time.

Grand Lodge News.

Grand Lodge Meetings:

Meeting of Provincial Grand Masters - Perth Saturday 14th March.

Unfortunately, the meeting was perhaps the first I have attended which was a little disappointing in its output as it is always a real pleasure to have the opportunity to network with the Provincial Grand Masters from the sister Provinces. On this occasion, the discussion was largely centred around a proposed reorganisation of Grand Committee, which took up almost two hours of discussion which left little time for anything else.

Sadly, it was difficult to come to any decision and this situation was largely mirrored at a special meeting of Grand Committee which was held on Thursday 19th March. After much discussion, it was not possible to reach any conclusion and the matter has been remitted back to the Administration Committee who have invited comments on the proposed changes.

At the Perth meeting, Brother John Miller provided an update on the work of the intender programme taking place at Renfrewshire East and as Brother Miller will be delivering a talk on the subject at the forthcoming meeting of The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814, I would encourage anyone with an interest in the educational aspect of the Craft, to attend the meeting on Friday 3rd April.

A progress report was also provided by Brother Ewan Rutherford, PGM Edinburgh, on the University Scheme which is being led by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Edinburgh. This is a very interesting initiative and one which appears to be bearing much fruit. I have copied below, a copy of the report by brother Rutherford, which provides a background to the scheme.

PGM Meeting: University Scheme Report

Introduction

The University Scheme was launched in Lodge St David (University Lodge) No. 36 on 19 December 2013 with the Installation of a new team of Office Bearers and adoption of its revised Bye-Laws. The purpose of this report is to give the reader a snapshot of where the University Scheme's pilot Lodge is currently, and how we would wish it to progress.

The Province of Edinburgh is actively supporting this Grand Lodge of Scotland initiative and has produced this report.

The Lodge

One of the lessons from other Grand Lodge University schemes was that to attract Students a Lodge should have some historic significance and be in some operational difficulties. From experience this means the Lodge has to be close to ceasing, as existing members may not otherwise accept the changes required:

- The Lodge will require significant changes to its Bye-Laws.
- The style of the Lodge will need to change.
- Historic Lodges have more of an interest to academics.

Lodge St David No.36 was close to handing in its charter having been in difficulties for several years. Therefore it was selected as an appropriate Lodge to pilot the University Scheme.

The vast majority of established members believe that Lodge St David (University Lodge) No. 36 has benefited greatly from the University Scheme; having improved attendance at regular meetings, initiating ten gentleman; six attaining full membership; four taking office.

Meeting Format

Most of the Lodge's meetings have moved to a Saturday:

- Tyle at 10:30am to open, complete administrative business and then adjourn.
- Resume at 11:00am to admit visitors and commence with degree work.
- Formal Introductions kept to a minimum.
- Degree work has been streamlined, while maintaining the character of the lodge.
- Around 12:30pm commence harmony (@ £10, payable by all), which is three courses "white table" and good standard of musical entertainment, concluding around 2.30pm.

This style and quality of the meetings, degree work and harmony are excellent, and sets the right tone for the University Scheme.

Membership

The fee structure and moving meetings to Saturday, with improved dining, has been a positive move and has encouraged several "stay-aways" to return. The profile of membership was enhanced by:

- Affiliating members at end of 2013 to take-up offices to increase Lodge Membership but more importantly improve degree work.
- The majority of Initiates are under 25 years of age, as was hoped for when we commenced this project, with quite a global mix: American, Canadian, Chilean, French, Slovakian and Turkish.
- Degree work has mostly been in the EA with a couple of FC degrees to progress candidates.
- Other Lodges within the Province have been used to progress candidates, which has generated bonds between the candidates and other lodges within the Province.

What Now?

1. Profile of Freemasonry in the FE Community needs to improve if we want this scheme to become an established part of Scottish Freemasonry.
 - Consider participating in FE Open Days which will require us to produce information on Freemasonry, focused on younger gentlemen.
 - Members with connections to FE institutions are they willing to be involved?
 - Projects that Grand Lodge and Province could get involved in to raise the profile:
 - Fund an Art Student to produce some art.
 - Fund a Journalism/English Student to produce professional information packs for the Media.
 - Employ one or two Students to work in the Grand Lodge to assist the Curator to catalogue and investigate archives.
 - Grand Lodge contribute to "Laying of the Foundation Stone" 225th anniversary fund to refurbish the Old College. For example, sponsor a lecture chair (circa £2000) where we will be recognised on a nameplate – could use famous Freemason's name or offer to present a short lecture (e.g. on laying the foundation stone) at one of their fund raising events.
 - Hold an Open Day at Grand Lodge and actively promote this within the FE Community.

These are only suggestions, the focus being on raising Freemasonry's profile positively within the FE establishment, any thoughts or projects should be considered.

2. Other Provinces should assess whether they have the correct profile (i.e. suitable FE establishments and a Lodge accepting they are in difficulty) to extend the Pilot to two or three Lodges.

What Next?

1. Produce quality information brochures and leaflets for distribution at possible Fresher's Days.
2. Encourage more brethren to affiliate, to assist with degree work, education and mentoring.

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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.

Summer Ball.



If there is anyone in the Province who is still unaware of the intention to hold a Summer Ball on Friday 29th May, then I feel that I am failing in my office as Provincial Grand Master!

We have sold in excess of 220 tickets already but as the Town Hall can accommodate up to 280, there are still plenty of spaces left for anyone who wishes to attend. The Grand Master, Grand Secretary and their respective partners will be in attendance as will the Depute Provost, representing the district of Inverclyde. We will also have as our invited guests, the Provincial Grand Masters of Glasgow, Dunbartonshire and Ayrshire along with guests from last year, the Provincial Grand Masters of Renfrewshire East and Stirlingshire.

The Capitol Big Band are booked and we are assured of a great meal with the catering in the hands of Brother Tony Buckley (I know as I've discussed the menu with him)!

We already have had a couple of offers for the auction, including tickets for Old Trafford and corporate hospitality for 4 at Cappielow but we could do with some options.

There will be a quick raffle (name on a fiver) for a gallon bottle of Grouse and of course, we would welcome donations of prizes for the main raffle from individuals and Lodges including non-alcoholic prizes such as vouchers etc.

If all Lodges could return any unsold tickets by 31st March, this will allow us to reallocate them as a number of Lodges have sold in excess of their original allocation. It would be helpful if all monies could be collected and forwarded to Provincial Grand Treasurer by 7th April if possible. Provincial Grand Lodge will invoice for all non-returned tickets. If names of those attending could also be provided to Brother Alan Beck at tenor.alanbeck@ntlworld.com as soon as possible as much work is required in developing a table plan.

Brethren, while any profit from the event will be going to charity and it is obviously important that the event is self-financing, the main purpose of the Ball is to bring Lodges together as well as giving the ladies a lovely night out. The food will be great, the company will be the very best, the music will have everyone up on their feet so please make sure you do not miss out on what will be a fantastic occasion.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING NOVEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 7th - Ballot and Fellowcraft Degree to be conferred by Lodge The Gael No. 609.
Tuesday 21st - Ballot and Mark Degree.

There will be a Special Meeting on THURSDAY 4th June which will be a Past Masters' Degree with Brother Alistair Glenly officiating in the Chair of the Lodge. The degree will be an Entered Apprentice Degree.

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.



The top table guests pose for a quick photograph before the Lodge's annual Burns Supper which raised around £5,700 for various charities. A magnificent effort.

A full report on the Burns Supper is available on the website of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 6th - Business Meeting and Spring Draw

The Lodge is thereafter in recess until Monday 7th September. General Committee Meetings will take place throughout the summer months on the last Thursday of each month.

Social Scene

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 10th - Raising
Friday 24th - Mark Degree conferred by Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.



Above photo taken at the recent visit of the Lodge to Lodge Troon Navigation No. 86

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 2nd - Passing - This degree will be conferred by Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.
 Thursday 16th - Raising and Annual Visit of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.
 Friday 24th - Mark Degree (Special Meeting). This meeting will be held at Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 where the brethren of the Lodge will confer the Mark Degree on the qualifying brethren of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 and Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

The Spring Draw will take place on Saturday 4th April and early notification is given that the Lodge will, once again, take part in the **PORT GLASGOW COMET FESTIVAL**, which this year will be on Saturday 27th June. The Lodge will be doing its usual Bottle Stall and donations as prizes would be very much appreciated.

Important Notice - Due to urgent building repairs required to the Lodge's premises at King Street, Port Glasgow, meetings, with immediate effect, will take place at the Masonic Temple of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

The Mark Degree will take place at Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 when the brethren of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 will confer the Mark Degree on brethren of both Lodges.

Due to the repairs required to our hall, the highly successful "Family Friendly Saturdays" have had to be cancelled until further notice. We apologise for this inconvenience to our many loyal supporters over the years but the major repairs will make the hall uninhabitable until they are complete. Could you please pass this information on to any friends that are not on email.

The Spring Draw arranged for Saturday 4th April will take place within the Lodge at 9 King Street. We still need donations of prizes and return of tickets urgently to help defray our Lodge running costs. These can be brought along to Lodge Doric Kilwinning 68 on Thursday evening 2nd April where we will be holding our next Regular Meeting or brought along on Saturday morning to the Lodge or contact any Office Bearer.

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 8th - Mark Degree

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 13th - Passing

Monday 27th - Mark Degree

The annual visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West to Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 proved to be a very busy evening with a number of presentations being made during the meeting. Following excellent reports on the transactions of the Lodge, resulting in a clear minute, the brethren witnessed a very fine Fellowcraft degree conferred by the Lodge.

Following the degree, the Brother Director of Ceremonies was instructed by the Right Worshipful Master to present to the Lodge, Brother Murdo Munro and Brother Rudi Stetz, both brethren being very surprised to find themselves standing on the floor, where they both received certificates of Distinguished Service to the Lodge. Both brethren, well known throughout the Province and beyond, have performed sterling service not only on behalf of their mother Lodge but on behalf of Freemasonry in general. The biggest surprise was perhaps that the brethren of the Lodge managed to keep the secret of the intended presentation from the two brethren.



Brothers Murdo Munro and Rudi Stetz proudly display their certificates of Distinguished Service following presentation by Right Worshipful Master Brother Andrew G Pigott and the Provincial Grand Master, Brother James Livingstone

A further presentation took place following the meeting, when the Right Worshipful Master presented a cheque for £500 to the local 2nd Gourrock Company of the Boy's Brigade to assist with expenses incurred in attending finals of national football competitions.



From left to right: Brother Nicky Stetz, Worshipful Senior Warden; Warrant Officer Iain Purdue; Brother James Livingstone, Provincial Grand Master; Brother Andrew G Pigott, Right Worshipful Master; Warrant Officer, George Turner.

To complete the evening, it was a pleasure to present a Jubilee Certificate to Brother Neil M Johnston, to mark his 50 years of service to the Lodge. Also in the photograph, is his son, Brother Stuart Johnston, who received his Master Mason's certificate at the same time.



Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 8th - Passing and Annual Visit of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

Wednesday 22nd - Passing (**Homes Degree**). This year the degree will be led by the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121, Brother Hugh M Docherty. It is hoped that the event will once again receive the support of the Lodges in the Province.

Wednesday 29th - Special Meeting - Passing conferred by Lodge Georgetown no. 1170.

Plant Sale.



The annual Plant Sale will take place on the weekends of 8th - 10th May and 15th - 17th May. Full details will be made available nearer the time.

Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 14th - Passing
Tuesday 28th - Mark Degree

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 9th - Raising



Old photo from way back when. Some will remember the brethren in the photograph in later years as Brother Tommy Plunkett, Brother Hugh McFarlane, Brother Russell Hair and Brother Richard S Bain.

Photo was provided by Brother Tommy turner and Brother Jim Donnelly and it would be hoped to provide some further photos from the past in later editions of the West Column.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

Friday 3rd - the first meeting of the new session for the Lodge will be a visit from the Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, Brother John S Miller who will provide a background to the Intendor scheme currently being implemented within his Province.

Brethren, a number have expressed interest in the Intender scheme and in the education initiatives being undertaken by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East.

This is your chance to hear, first hand, about the excellent work being carried out and to put any questions you might have to Brother Miller. It is hoped that there will be a large attendance of brethren to welcome Brother John into the Province.

I asked Brother John if it would be possible for me to attend the "New Members" seminar, which his Province is holding in May and I am privileged that an invitation has been extended to me to attend.

I'm not sure that we have sufficient numbers in this Province to organise such a seminar but I will be happy to report back and it might be possible to determine if there is interest in such a session in the future.

Annual Installation.

The Annual Installation Meeting will take place on Friday 1st May, when Brother James Cowan will be installed as Right Worshipful Master. This meeting will also include the annual visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

Other Orders

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII meets in the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourock on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th April and will be an Excellent Masters Degree.

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 - Excellent Master's Degree

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 2015 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

1 st April 2015	-	Knight Grade
6 th October 2015	-	AGM & Malta Grade
4 th November 2015	-	Annual Installation
2 nd December 2015	-	Knight Grade

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

2015

Tuesday 21st April – Installation

25th Anniversary Celebration.

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

It was an excellent day and enjoyed by all who attended.



Front Rank L to R: Tommy Trotter PS Recorder, Duncan McConnechie PS, Bill Norquay PS, Stewart Wood Grand Sovereign, Grant McLeod (MPS), John McAlpine PS, Kenny McCrae PS, John McMaster Tres, Eddie Gray 1st Aide,
Rear Rank: Jim McNeil, Jim Cowan, Tommy McDougal, Herald, John McAlister, Peter Smolarek, Danny Birrell 2nd Aide.



Just to prove what a nice day everyone had, Grant forwarded a picture of the celebration cake (it would have been nicer to receive a slice)!

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 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
- 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.firhofclyde.org>

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

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

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 - link deleted.

Stirling Royal Arch Websites

<http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/> - Lectures site

<http://www.lodge76.co.uk/> - Main site

<http://www.greyfriars51.fsnet.co.uk/> - Preceptory site

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 – April 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1st Preceptory - Knight Grade	2nd 217 - Passing (conferred by Lodge 68)	3rd 1814 - Lecture	4th 217 - Spring Draw	5th
6th 68 - Business Meeting	7th XII - Ballot and Passing (conferred by Lodge 609)	8th 624 - Mark 989 - Passing (AV by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West).	9th 1425 - Raising	10th 175 - Raising	11th	12th
13th 626 - Passing RAC289 - E M Degree	14th 1121 - Passing	15th RAC XVII - EM Degree	16th 217 - Raising (AV by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West - 7.15 pm start).	17th	18th	19th
20th	21st XII - Mark and Ballot. SGC No. 79 - Installation	22nd 989 - Homes Degree (Passing)	23rd	24th 175 - Mark Degree 217 - Mark (Special Meeting).	25th	26th
27th 626 - Mark	28th 1121 - Mark	29th 989 - Passing conferred by Lodge 1170 (Special).	30th			

(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