



The West Column



When I was a wee boy, my mother used to say as I went out to play, "just remember, whatever you get up to, would you do it if your mother was watching"?

I'm not sure that I always abided by the advice given but it often made me stop and think and maybe that advice still holds good today for the young and not so young alike.

Can we always be assured that our conduct both in and outwith the Lodge would meet with our mother's approval or the approval of our mother Lodge, for that matter?

In fairness when we enter our Lodges, we are expected to work together in harmony and maintain a certain decorum. We do not discuss religion or politics and we should be treating each other with courtesy and in the most part I'm sure we do. But what about when we leave the Lodge, how many of us leave these principles behind? How do we represent the Lodge and the Craft outside of the Lodge, do we still maintain these principles.

It is true to say that freemasonry is not a job – it is to some extent a hobby but if we are to reflect the principles of the Craft to the outside world, then it should be a 24/7 hobby, and we should always be mindful of the lessons we are taught within the Lodge. Uprightness, integrity, charity and benevolence should always be uppermost in our minds because the way that we act outside of the Lodge will reflect the Craft to the general public.

Would you use that language or do that action if your mother was watching or you were within the Lodge?

Now I am sure that many of you are terrific ambassadors for your respective Lodges and for the Craft in general but one aspect in particular sometimes concerns me and that is the trend towards the use of social media sites such as facebook.

Such sites can be used to promote the Craft in a very positive way and indeed much use can be made to advise of meetings and events etc.

However, I am sometimes concerned at some of the comments, language and statements which are added and would ask that you remember that those who know that you are members of the Craft may judge you on the language, comments and opinions which you post online and which can be seen by so many and may judge freemasonry accordingly. So I make the appeal to you to be careful what you post into such social media sites and ask yourself the question, would I be happy for my mother to read this or would I make this statement or use this language within the Lodge. If the answer is no, then please take a moment to reflect on your actions.

I have heard many different opinions from Lodge members as to how they see their membership. Some say it is just a hobby and others say that it is a way of life.

My own opinion is that there is plenty of guidance to assist you in this respect and that your family and work commitments should always be given your first priority. However, if we truly take on board the lessons we learn during our various degrees, then freemasonry should also provide guidance for you throughout your day on a 24/7 basis. The principle you are taught within the Lodge, should not be left at the door on the way home from your Lodge meeting. They should remain with you and be observed in all aspects of your life. If they are not present in your daily life, then we have failed somewhere along the line.

Enjoy your freemasonry, be ever conscious of its value to you in your daily life and perhaps take on board my earlier words, "would you do it if your mother (lodge) was watching"?

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.

Obituary:

Brother Hector Norman Campbell Duncan
Past Master of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Brother Hector Norman Campbell Duncan, Past Master of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 known and loved by all as simply "Norrie", who passed away peacefully at his home in Gourrock at the end of August. The attendance at his funeral at Greenock Crematorium on Friday 4th September, reflected the esteem in which he was held by so many brethren.

Norrie was always a delight to speak to in the Lodge, full of quiet good humour and a tremendous servant to his Lodge. In many ways, his life was summed up by the choice of music as his funeral drew to a close, "Bring me sunshine" and Norrie certainly brought sunshine into the lives of so many. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

****** - 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	17 th November	Alexander Johnstone	1 st March	DPGM
68	11 th December	George J Carson	15 th February	SPGM
175	23 rd October	Alistair Glenney	8 th January	WSPGW
217	27 th November	Paul Docherty	21 st April	WJPGW
626	17 th October	William A McLarty	14 th March	WSPGW
989	20 th November	Gerald C Robertson	13 th April	SPGM
1121	6 th November	Kenneth K Morrison	26 th January	WJPGW
1425	4 th December	Richard Harrison	11 th February	DPGM
1814	6 th May (2016)			

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Provincial Grand Lodge – Regular Meeting

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 7th October at 7.30 pm, will be held within the Temple of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989, Glebe Road, Kilmacolm.

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

Winners for June and July, drawn at the meeting of Provincial Grand Committee, were The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 and Brother George (Kit) Carson of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

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.

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.

Tuesday 1st – Attended a Master Mason's degree at Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Thursday 3rd – Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Friday 4th – Attended the funeral of Brother H Norman C Duncan PM of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

Monday 21st – attended Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 for an Entered Apprentice Degree and presented a Jubilee Certificate to mark 50 year's service to the Lodge by Brother William Lawson Right Worshipful Master.

Tuesday 22nd – Attended a Master Mason's Degree at Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

Thursday 24th – Attended the Installation of Brother Richard M Harrison as Worshipful Master of Robin Hood Lodge No. 5877 (EC) in the Province of Worcester.

Saturday 26th – Attended the 275th anniversary meeting of the PGL of Argyll and the Isles in Oban.

Monday 28th – Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

I am particularly indebted to Depute Provincial Grand Master Brother John Keith for standing in for me at the rededication of the Highland Mary statue on Sunday 30th August as I was otherwise committed with the baptism of my new Grandson, Callum on that day. John has provided a report on those proceedings later in the Column.

John was also present at the Installation in Worcester and at the meeting in Oban so we are far travelled this month. I even managed to squeeze in a couple of weeks in Cyprus to top up my tan before the winter sets in!

Fees:

Coming up to the various AGM's of Lodges, a little reminder of the need to pay test fees in a timeous manner.

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:

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.

Provincial Grand Master's Charity Appeal.



Not Broxi Bears but TLC bears - part of the first delivery to IRH.

Brethren, following up on the article from the September edition, I can now confirm that I have delivered a supply of the bears which were gratefully received by Sister Anne Gray at the A & E Unit of Inverclyde Royal Hospital who has promised to provide me with a report on how they are received over the next couple of weeks.

If you would like to know more about the TLC project go to <http://www.tlcappeal.org/>

Highland Mary – Rededication of Statue.

On Sunday the 30th August 2015 at Greenock Cemetery the Rededication Ceremony of the refurbished Highland Mary Monument took place where a large crowd gathered to witness the occasion organised by the Greenock Burns Club, 'The Mother Club'.



The ceremony was conducted by Rev. Douglas Hamilton President of Renfrewshire Association of Burns Clubs and Past President of Greenock Burns Club. After a warm welcome was extended to all present Alan Currie the Master of Ceremonies introduced Brother Jack Glenney PM of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No.XII, Honorary President, Past President and Bard of the Greenock Burns Club.

Brother Glenney recited a poem which he had written especially for the occasion, his verses were very well received and added to the warmth of the proceedings.

The ceremony was further marked by the laying of Wreaths by Greenock Burns Club President Christine MacLeod, Guy Clark Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire and Councillor James Clocherty among others.

A Lament was played by Piper Rachael McDaid during that part of the Ceremony.

A Wreath was also laid on behalf of the Freemasons of the Province of Renfrewshire West. There was a good number Freemasons present at the ceremony including four Reigning Masters, Brother William Lawson Lodge Doric Kilwinning No.68, Brother Marshall North, Lodge Greenock St John's No.175, Brother Andrew Pigott, Lodge Firth of Clyde 'Gourock' No.626 and Brother James Cowan, The Anchor Lodge of Research No.1814, together with many other Past Masters and Brethren representing Lodges from within and out with the Province.

A big thank you to all the Brethren who attended. It was very appropriate that Freemasons were in attendance at this Rededication for on the 25th January 1842 at the Old West Kirk the foundation stone for Mary Campbell's monument was laid 'with full Masonic honours' by Brother Patrick Maxwell Shaw Stewart a member of Lodge Greenock St. John's No.175 and Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West. It was recorded at the time that many Brethren from various Lodges had attended the ceremony with a large proportion of them also being members of the Greenock Burns Club.

The Rededication Ceremony at the Refurbished Monument in Greenock Cemetery, where Mary Campbell now rests, was a fitting tribute.

Immense credit should be given to 'The Mother Club' President Christine MacLeod, their Executive Committee, all the Club Members and everyone who assisted in any way to make it possible.

Invited guests gathered at the Tontine Hotel after the ceremony where excellent hospitality was provided and very much appreciated.

Our thanks are also extended to Brother Malcolm Sinclair, Worshipful Junior Warden of Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No.1121, who was kind enough to take some photographs of the occasion.



The ceremony was attended by many well-known dignitaries including representatives from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West and daughter lodges including the Right Worshipful Masters of Lodges 68, 175, 626 and 1814 headed by the Depute Provincial Grand Master Brother John R S Keith.



Masters of the Lodges represented,
Brothers Marshall R C North (175), Andrew Pigott (626), James Cowan (1814) and William Lawson (68).



A wreath was laid on behalf of the freemasons of the Province.

Masonic Bowling reported by - I.P.P.G.M. J.W.Miller .-- bowling convenor.

Report on the Annual Masonic Bowling Challenge match playing for the “**Friendship Quaich**” between the Bowlers of the Provinces of Renfrewshire West and Ayrshire at Prestwick Bowling Club on Sunday 30th August 2015.

The Town of Prestwick has long been renowned for the amount of sunshine recorded during the summer months (2015 included!!!) and once again Sunday 30th August 2015 did not let

anyone down on this situation, it was a bright sunny day and the players from both Provinces certainly enjoyed it and verify everything that has ever been said about Sunny Ayrshire.

The numbers of players made up 5 full rinks (two bowls each player) and 1 Triples (three bowls to each) playing for each Province, going for initially 17 ends or as Brother Archie Patrick the Bowling convenor put it until the bell rings for the end of play.

All of the games were played out in a very friendly and competitive manner with suitable breaks for welcome refreshments being fitted in (which I think was even more acceptable to all concerned) although I am sure the camaraderie at these stops became more prevalent as the game went on!

As the afternoon progressed (which in our game was 11 ends) the Friendship Quaich looked as if it was finally heading at last for our wee Province of Renfrewshire West our Triples rink were well in front of the Brethren from Ayrshire (which included the P.G.M. Bro. Robert Little himself (although his preferred sport is golf), playing for his Province).

The final tally up was eventually completed by Brother Archie Patrick (no cheating) and there was nobody more delighted than me when the shots counted showed just how close the result was going to be, a two shot difference was all that was between the teams, however **it favoured the team from Renfrewshire West**, 74 to 72, very close indeed at the finish but our thanks go to our three who made up the Triples they also won the special award for the highest up rink on the day,

I am sure the three Brethren, Brother John Freeburn, Cameron Montgomery and Robert Milne were very happy with their whisky. A donation from one of the Brethren from Renfrewshire West who does not like to be named for doing so.

As there had been 4 presentation of the whisky I decided that we should make 1 available to Brother Archie Patrick for all his organisation on the day which duly presented to him.

Another very successful day especially for Renfrewshire West and all the Brethren who played in this very aptly named competition for the **"Friendship Quaich"**.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING SEPTEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 6th – Raising and Ballot
Tuesday 20th - Entering

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.

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 5th – Entering
Monday 12th – To be confirmed
Monday 19th – Passing
Monday 26th – Mark Degree

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.

Annual Outing for Senior Brethren.

On Saturday 5th September 35 members of 68 (along with a couple of interlopers from other lodges) mustered at 10 in the morning at 68 bracing themselves for the ordeal to come.



Their resolve stiffened by a couple of emergency breakfast halves, they then bravely boarded the bus, knowing not where it would take them.

With the bus heading up Loch Lomond side many theories were suggested as to our final destination. When the bus turned left at Tarbet a resounding chorus of "It's a long way to Inverary" was heard from the on-board opera singer. In order to protect the innocent we won't tell you his real name. We'll simply call him Alan (Beck).

After a stop at Rest and Be Thankful for a scenic photo call, the brethren were thrown off the bus at Clachan Strachur and forced into a local hostelry for an emergency refreshment, at which point their eardrums were assaulted by some of 68's resident musicians, and the previously mentioned on-board opera singer.



After a few hours of this pain and suffering, they were again forced onto the bus and were taken to Lodge Dunoon Argyll No 335 where a delicious meal was forced upon them.

"Finally", they thought, "Our ordeal is over". WRONG!

Just when they thought they were safe, those annoying musicians piped up again, and kept going until they were told to shut up and get back on the bus, as they were booked on to the 8 o'clock ferry to McInroy's point.

With everyone arriving safely back at 68 by 9 o'clock the survivors expressed their gratitude to wee Brother Iain MacLeod for organising the whole day out, and braced themselves for next year's ordeal.

The brethren of 68 again would like to express our thanks to the R.W.M. and Brethren of Lodge Dunoon Argyll No 335 for their hospitality.

Installation at Robin Hood Lodge No. 5877, (English Constitution).

On Thursday 24th October, a party of missionaries journeyed over the border to impart light and education to our neighbours in the south, namely Robin Hood Lodge No. 5877, in the Province of Worcester, where Brother Richard M Harrison, Past Master of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 was being installed as worshipful Master of that Lodge.

Most of us struggle sometimes to get ourselves to our Lodge down the road, so great credit is due to Richard for his devotion to the Lodge given that he has a round trip of some 700 miles to attend his meetings.

We all witnessed a very interesting installation ceremony in the magnificent Temple at King's Heath in Birmingham before joining with the Brethren of the Lodge for dinner.

In the photograph below, Worshipful Brother Richard, the newly installed Master, is seen with Worshipful Brother Michael Coles, Provincial Grand Master Deputy of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcester, along with the deputation of brethren from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. Brother George Freeburn PM68 was on the other side of the camera. A very enjoyable couple of days!



Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 9th – AGM and Nomination and Election of Office-bearers,
Friday 23rd – Installation (6.45 pm)

Very early notice that the Annual Burns Supper of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 will take place within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock, on Saturday 16th January 2016 at 7.00 pm with tickets on sale at a cost of £12.50 each, which of course, includes guest speakers, entertainment and a 3-course meal. For further information and tickets, please contact Brother Alex Johnstone PM on 0790-971-8096.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 1st – Raising and Ballot
Thursday 15th - Entering

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.

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.

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 14th – Entering and Annual Visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 12th – Raising
Monday 26th – Passing

The annual **Installation** of the Lodge will take place on **Saturday 17th October** at 2.00 pm prompt. On that date, Brother Nicholas Robert Rudolf Stetz, will be installed into the chair of his mother Lodge by Past Masters, Brother Brian G Hopkins, Kenneth Munn McCrae, James P Livingstone and Rudolf Ludwig Stetz. A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to attend and an equally warm welcome is extended to take part in the harmony which will follow as guests of the Lodge.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 14th – To be confirmed (no information provided).

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 13th – AGM and Notice of Motion
Tuesday 27th – Consecration of Lodge premises (subject to approval of the above Notice of Motion)

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 8th – AGM and Election of Office-bearers.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

Friday 2nd October – Lecture. The final lecture of this part of the session will be provided by Brother David B Vennard, Past Master of Lodge Glasgow Abercrombie No.1430 and Secretary of Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning No. 4, who will present a paper on Robert W Service, the Bard of the Yukon.

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.

2015/16 Syllabus.

21st October – Installation
18th November – MA & EM
16th December – Royal Arch Degree

2016
20th January – Provincial Annual Visit
17th February – MA & EM
16th March - Royal Arch Degree
20th April – MA & EM
18th May – Royal Arch Degree

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Monday 12th – Installation Ceremony (7.00 pm).

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

Venerable Preceptor Fr. J. Cowan welcomes all knights and gives a warm invitation to attend. Take that first step and join with us.
Further Information: Contact Secretary/Registrar Fr. A. Johnstone- 0790-971-8096.

St. George's Conclave No. 79 -

2015
Tuesday 15th – RCC Grade

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, Gourock 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 2014 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.

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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 – October 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 st 217 – Raising and Ballot	2 nd 1814 - Lecture	3 rd	4 th
5 th 68 - Entering	6 th XII - Raising and Ballot Preceptory of Ardgowan – AGM and Malta Degree	7 th Provincial Grand Lodge Regular Communication (989)	8 th 1425 – AGM	9 th 175 - AGM	10 th	11 th
12 th 68 – TBC 626 – Raising RAC 289 – Installation (7.00 pm)	13 th 1121 – AGM & Nomination of Office-bearers.	14 th 624 – Entering and AV of PGLA 989 – TBC	15 th 217 - Entering	16 th	17 th 626 – Installation (2.00 pm)	18 th
19 th 68 - Passing	20 th XII - Entering	21 st RAC XVII - Installation	22 nd	23 rd 175 – Installation (6.45 pm)	24 th	25 th
26 th 68 – Mark 626 - Passing	27 th 1121 – Consecration Ceremony	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	

(E) denotes an Exemplification

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