



The West Column



Brethren, currently an exercise is being conducted to establish what are perceived as being the greatest threats to our Craft and whether a common plan could be developed to address such concerns. This is part of the work of the Information and Communications Committee and a simple questionnaire was created and sent to the 32 Provinces to ascertain if similar problems are faced by all, what work has been carried out and whether successes in one Province could be copied in other Provinces with similar concerns. This was not an extensive survey, it was a simple on-line survey consisting of around ten questions and yet only 23 Provinces responded!

Unsurprisingly, the top three concerns were Retention of Existing Members (72%), Recruitment of New Members (68%) and Lapsed Members (64%). Nothing terribly earth-shattering in those statistics and I am certainly not going to disagree with anything that the survey established. However, I wonder if we can add another symptom to our problems which is apathy. Apathy of leaders whether at Lodge, Provincial or Grand Lodge level? Apathy of members in failing to support their Lodges?

Apathy is contagious and if it is seen that one member no longer has any interest in supporting his Lodge, it can easily spread. If, as leaders, we fail to provide inspiration and innovation, is it any wonder that such an attitude results in an apathetic membership.

John Berling Hardy is a noted motivational speaker and in one of his best-selling books states that "Apathy is the death knell of any Order. Once a system has degenerated to the point that apathy is the only thing holding it in place, it is in the twilight phase. Then one day the music stops".

Sound familiar? I stated above that I have no issue with the outcome of the survey recently carried out but that is only part of the task. The difficult part has yet to come as we have simply confirmed the problems that we all knew existed. The hard part is addressing those difficulties and failure to do so, is simply turning a blind eye to our problems. It is apathy!

As leaders, whether we are Masters of a Lodge, or Masters at Provincial level or in senior offices at the very top level, we owe it to our Lodges and to our Craft to develop a forward strategy which might mean taking some difficult decisions. It might mean reviewing some of the traditional practices, it might mean trying out things only to find that they don't work. There is no shame in such an approach. Is your Lodge's traditional meeting night no longer suitable for its membership? Would you consider trying to meet during the summer months instead of during the winter for a couple of years? It is likely that radical action may often be required.

Apathy is a disease and is probably the greatest threat to our Craft. However, for every negative there is a positive, a Ying and Yang!

There is a sure cure for apathy and that comes in the form of enthusiasm! "Enthusiasm is the yeast that raises the dough" said Paul Meyer. "It moves the world" said Arthur Balfour. However, no better quote can I make than by stating the words of our Queen, who said, "I know of no single formula for success. But over the years, I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration to work together".

Just as apathy is contagious, so too is enthusiasm. Not so very long ago, one of the Lodges in this Province was struggling and many were concerned over the future of the Lodge. However, the enthusiasm of just a few new members took hold and the Lodge is now thriving and looking forward to a bright future.

We are about to enter a new year and I for one am looking forward very much to the challenge. Although I am shortly about to enter the final year of my Commission, I remain just as enthusiastic as I was when I took up my Commission four years ago. I hope that you can all share in that enthusiasm and together we can make freemasonry thrive in the Province of Renfrewshire West.

I hope that you all had an excellent Christmas and as we come to the end of 2016, I would like to thank you all, particularly the office-bearers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West for their continued support through the year.

I would simply close by wishing everyone and their loved ones, a very happy, peaceful, healthy and prosperous new year.

Regards,
Jim

Contributions to the West Column

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

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.

Advertising:

For some time, I've been thinking whether to offer to include adverts in the West Column although we have occasionally carried the odd Masonic related advert.

I am aware that there may be brethren within Lodges who can offer a range of services, painting, decorating, building, plumbing, car servicing etc. Equally, I have often heard it said that brethren would be happy to provide work to fellow brethren, not because they are looking for a reduced price but more because they feel that they can trust them. I am therefore happy to try and run a trial over the coming session to see if we can link the two to everyone's benefit.

At the moment there is no charge to include an advert in the Column but perhaps if taking advantage of the service, it could be mentioned that the advert had been seen in the Column, which would allow us to gauge the success or otherwise of the trial. If you would like to advertise your services, simply drop me a note of the advert and I will include it in the Column. Regrettably, I would have to stress that the West Column could not be responsible for any work carried out as a result of the advert!

Last Chance –

I must say that there has been little response to the above note since its first publication in September's edition. If this is not a feature which is of interest to the brethren, I will review the matter in the new-year. I am a little surprised that there has been little take-up, especially by the tradesmen amongst the brethren. This is a chance to advertise your services and/or products free of charge to a readership of around 500 every month.

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

Provincial Website. For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to www.pgllrw.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:

Provincial Grand Lodge Schedule of Meetings:

2017:

Annual Communication – 6.45 pm, Friday 3rd February, (Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175).

While there is no charge for the meeting itself, brethren wishing to stay for the Supper which follows the meeting can purchase a ticket, available through their respective Lodges at a cost of £10.00. While there are no formal speeches at the harmony, there will be a presentation of this year's Citizen of the Year Award which for 2016, will be presented to representatives of REACH Inverclyde, which provides support for adults and young people with autism.

The members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West are always very supportive of the Daughter Lodges throughout the year and this is an opportunity to reciprocate that support.

In view of the way in which the calendar works, this will also be the last annual meeting of the current Commission and the support of the Lodges would be very welcome on this occasion. The deputations from the sister Provinces will be headed by the new Provincial Grand Master of Dunbartonshire, Brother James Forrest.

Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Off/bear	Annual Visit 2017	Commenting
12	Tue 15 th November	Gerry Robertson	Tue 7 th March	JPGW
68	Fri. 9 th December	Billy McLarty	Mon 20 th February	SPGW
175	Fri. 28 th October	Kenny Morrison	Fri. 27 th January	SPGW
217	Fri 25 th November	Alistair Glenney	Thur. 20 th April	JPGW
626	Sat. 15 th October	George Carson	Mon 13 th March	DepPGM
989	Fri 18 th November	Robert Bain	Wed. 12 th April	SPGW
1121	Fri 4 th November	Alexander Johnstone	Tue. 10 th January	SubPGM
1425	Fri 2 nd December	Alan Beck	Thur. 9 th February	SubPGM
1814	October (2017)		Friday 6 th October	

Please note that there is a change to the dates of the visits to Lodges 175 and 1121 from those published previously. The Annual Visit to The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 will also be changed to October to the night of the annual installation.

Byelaws and Notices of Motion:

Brethren, could I please urge you to ensure that any proposed changes to bye-laws be discussed with the Provincial Grand Secretary BEFORE compiling a Notice of Motion for submission to the Lodge. This will ensure that the Motion is in an acceptable format and avoid any delays caused by having to have the proposal reworded and resubmitted.

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

The draw for the month of October and November was made at the regular communication of Provincial Grand Lodge with the winners being Brother Tommy Trotter (626) and Brother Tony Stewart (1425).

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. I regret that due to a recurrence of a back injury which has been causing some discomfort since the summer, I was unable to attend any meetings during the final two weeks of the year. Hopefully, the enforced rest will have done the trick and I look forward to the restart of the meetings in January. However, during the month of December, the following visits were made;

Thursday 1st – Attended the Annual Installation of Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No. 370.

Friday 2nd – Attended the Annual Installation of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Tuesday 6th – With other members of Provincial Grand Lodge, I attended the Annual Divine Service of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Wednesday 7th – Meeting of Provincial Grand Committee.

Friday 9th – Attended the Annual Installation of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Saturday 10th – Represented the Province at the Annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Monday 12th – Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and assisted in the presentation of Honorary Membership Certificates to Brother W. Crawford Kirkpatrick and Brother Edward McGill, both members of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

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 of which they are a member, have visiting rights withdrawn as well as the privileges which would normally be afforded to them in their Mother Lodges.

Provincial Ball.

It is confirmed that the 2017 Ball will be held on Saturday 27th May. Tickets are now on sale and it is anticipated that there will be a very high demand so the advice is get your order in quickly!

One small point Brethren in that it was agreed prior to the very first Ball back in 2014, the event was for members of the Craft and their partners only.

Grand Lodge.

2018 Celebrations to mark the signing of the Armistice on 11th November 1918.

In November 2018, it is intended to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War by holding a Service within Grand Lodge. There will be a short parade beforehand and it is likely, in view of the limitations in the capacity of Grand Lodge, that each Province will be invited to send a limited number of representatives. It is possible that this will be based on the size of each Province and might mean that the Province of Renfrewshire West will be invited to send only two or three representatives.

I have been asked to gauge the likely demand for tickets (no cost involved) and attending such an event is something that would be of interest to you, please let me know.

Masonic Etiquette and Scottish Usage:

In last month's West Column, I published an extract from the excellent paper by Brother George Draffen of Newington which dealt with forms of address. This seemed to stir a lot of interest so although, as an article, it is a bit longer than I would normally publish in an e-newsletter such as the West Column, I think publication of the full article might, in this instance be warranted. All members could do a lot worse than downloading the paper for their future reference and guidance.

MASONIC ETIQUETTE AND SCOTTISH USAGE

(Brother George Draffen of Newington 1966)

The word etiquette has been defined as the "established rule of procedure and ceremony in a court or in any official or other body". Perhaps for Masonic purposes it can be defined as "that set of conventions, rules, customs and traditions by which Masons are expected to govern themselves, when engaged in the rites and ceremonies of the Craft". Etymologically the word 'etiquette' means 'a la carte', that is 'according to the card'. It harks back to France when it was the custom to give each guest at court or formal reception, a card bearing his name, rank and precedence. While this suggestion of a more or less arbitrary convention and formal ceremoniousness continues, even in our own use of the word, etiquette is by no means wholly a matter of formality. It is born out of the necessity of social contacts and has its roots in social realities.

Every society or group of human beings has its own code of etiquette. There is etiquette of the streets as well as of the home. There is etiquette of the Courts of Law, of clubs, of theatres, indeed of all manner of social and formal gatherings. In every form and degree of human intercourse there is this tacit reference to a code of manners without which human conduct would become unbearable. In having its own code of manners, its etiquette, Freemasonry is but following the example of other social groups.

DECORUM

By etiquette Freemasons acknowledge and express their respect for the Craft. It makes pleasant their contacts with their fellows, smoothes the path of duty, establishes an equality of treatment for all Brethren, protects the good name of the Craft and greatly assists in establishing that harmony and unity which should exist between all Freemasons. When Masons act as a unit, as in a Lodge meeting, or at a Regular Communication of Grand Lodge or Provincial Grand Lodge, etiquette takes the form of proper decorum. That means that all present act in a manner appropriate to the occasion. Loud talk, restless moving about, coughing, laughter and private conversations during ceremonial work, giving no attention to the work in hand - no Brother need consult a book on etiquette to discover that such behaviour is unseemly and irreverent. It disturbs the harmony of the Lodge, and it is such an atmosphere that hard feelings, not to mention the more serious menace of schism and feud, are most likely to take root.

It is not too much to say that the Master of a Lodge who permits such things is unwise, and not as faithful as he should be in discharging the duties of his office. At the beginning of things, before Grand Lodges were in existence, Freemasons discovered the necessity of decorum. Among the Old Charges, to which every candidate was required to swear obedience, a prominent place was given to the portions dealing with 'Behaviour'. The oldest of our known records—the Regius Manuscript, written about 1390—emphasises the necessity of paying due respect to the Craft. Anderson, in his Book of Constitutions, published by the Grand Lodge of England in 1723, says "You are not to hold private Committees, or separate conversation, without leave from the Master, nor to talk of anything impertinent or unseemly, nor interrupt the Master or Wardens, or any Brother speaking to the Master, nor behave yourself ludicrously or jestingly while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious or solemn; but to pay due Reverence to your Master, Wardens, Fellows and put them to worship", that is, pay them the respect due to them.

Bearing this in mind, the Master of a Lodge must be particular to see that nothing boisterous creeps into the ceremonial work of his Lodge. The Degrees must be conferred not only in as perfect a ritualistic form as is possible, but also with impressiveness. The impression made upon a candidate in his First Degree will remain with him throughout his life. Hums of conversation, restless moving about, have no place in the ceremonial work of any Lodge. Particularly in the conferring of the Master Mason Degree must all crudity and ruffianism be cut out. Neither has any place there.

While the points of etiquette and decorum, which have just been mentioned, are perhaps, the direct responsibility of the Master, there are others, which are the personal responsibility of every member of the Craft. Some of these are dealt with in the succeeding paragraphs.

REGALIA

Scottish Freemasons, in common with the Irish, normally wear the Apron under the coat. Not so long ago this was actually the Law on the matter, but with the advent of doublebreasted suits the Law now reads, "Aprons shall be fastened preferably under the coat and worn so that the flap is visible". Every Freemason should be encouraged to have a dress Apron of his

own. With constant use an Apron naturally becomes soiled and it should be remembered that Lambskin can easily be cleaned and kept in that condition for many years. Since the Apron is symbolically representative of the life and conduct of the wearer it is naturally a sad reflection on the wearer if it is not kept in a spotless condition. In many Scottish Lodges the Office-bearers wear sashes over the right shoulder and under the left arm. This is a relic of the days when all gentlemen wore swords suspended by a leather or cloth sash.

On entering the Lodge the sword itself was removed but the sash was left in position. The sash is worn over the jacket, not, like the apron, under it. In some Constitutions it is common for a Brother to wear, at all times, the apron and regalia appropriate to the highest Masonic rank he holds. This is not so in the Scottish Constitution. Even though a Brother holds Grand Lodge rank, or Honorary Grand Lodge rank, he should, when attending his own Lodge, wear the regalia of his Lodge. On no account should two collars be worn at the same time. It has been customary in Scotland for an Honorary Grand Lodge Office-bearer to wear his jewel of his Honorary Office on a thistle-green ribbon, one and a half inches broad, with his Lodge regalia.

The Constitution also states that no regalia or jewels other than those appertaining to Craft Masonry shall be worn at meetings of Grand Lodge, Provincial or District Grand Lodges or Daughter Lodges.

JEWELS

It is the custom in many Lodges to present to the retiring Master a Past Master's Jewel as a mark of appreciation for the work done by him while in the chair of the Lodge. It is but fitting that Past Masters should wear these jewels when attending meetings of the Lodge, which has awarded them. It is not, however, the Scottish custom to wear jewels when wearing Grand Lodge regalia. To this statement there are one or two exceptions. If a Grand Lodge Office-bearer is attending a Lodge in his official capacity he should wear the Past Master's jewel or the Lodge jewel if he is entitled to either of them. It is a mark of respect to the Lodge. There is nothing to prevent a Brother who is a Past Master of more than one Lodge wearing two or three Past Master's jewels at the same time. Indeed, a Brother may also be a Past Master of a Lodge under another Constitution and be entitled to wear a Past Master's jewel of a Lodge under that Constitution. It too may be worn in a Scottish Lodge. It is entirely a matter for the Brother concerned, remembering that in the Lodge all are Brothers of equal standing and that as little distinction in regalia and jewels as is possible should be the case. It is not, for example, the Scottish custom to wear Grand Lodge or Provincial or District Grand Lodge regalia except on official occasions.

DRESS

The Constitution stipulates that Brethren should when attending Lodge, where possible, wear dark clothes and dark ties. There is nothing sombre or funereal about this, for the colourful Scottish regalia—which is unique in the world of masonry—looks much better against a dark background. Attend your Lodge dressed soberly, for it is a sober business you are about. There is a philosophy in dress, as in so many other things, and the dress proper to Masonic meetings is no exception. Its principle is good taste, its practice is to wear such dress as shows respect to the Brotherhood and expresses the dignity of the Craft.

“BROTHER” IS A TITLE

In the usage of the Scottish Craft 'Brother' is neither a sentimental nor familiar form of address. It is a title—as much as Right Worshipful or Worshipful. A man does not attend his Lodge in his capacity as a private individual; he is not John Frazer or Robert Anderson. He is there in his capacity as a Master Mason—a Brother. For this reason he should always be

addressed in open lodge as 'Brother Frazer' or 'Brother Anderson'. It cannot be too strongly stressed that all Scottish Freemasons are Brothers — irrespective of their rank in the Craft. The Scottish Craft knows no such form of address as 'Right Worshipful Brother' or 'Worshipful Brother', etc.

In the Scottish Craft the appellations 'Right Worshipful' and 'Worshipful' are appropriate only to the office, not to the person. When addressing the Master of a Lodge it is correct to address him as 'Right Worshipful Master' and to refer to him as 'Right Worshipful Master, Brother Anderson'. It is incorrect and not in accordance with Scottish Custom to address him as 'Right Worshipful Brother Anderson'. In the same way a Past Master is never, repeat never, addressed as Worshipful Brother John Brown. He is Brother John Brown, Past Master and on a billet—again a Scottish term—his name would be written as Brother John Brown, P.M.

In recent years a habit has grown for Brethren to address each other as 'Brother John' or 'Brother David' and, even worse, to address the Master or visiting Provincial or District Grand Office-bearers in this fashion. Formality in our Lodges and Ceremonials is important as it underlines the solemnity and dignity of our proceedings and therefore a Brother should always be addressed by his surname or family name. e.g. Brother Brown.

The appellation Right Worshipful, Very Worshipful, Worshipful etc., is a form of address when addressing or referring to a Brother of the appropriate rank in the Lodge or at Harmony. There is no such office in the Scottish Craft as Right Worshipful Master or even Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, the respective offices are Master and Grand Master Mason. When the Office-bearers are listed in a billet or other written material they should be in the form of: Master Brother John Brown, Senior Warden Brother David White, Junior Warden Brother William Anderson etc.

It should also be remembered that a Scottish Lodge does not have 'Officers' but 'Office-bearers'.

ENTERING AND LEAVING THE LODGE

A Brother entering the Lodge after it has been opened should advance to a point about mid-way between the altar and the Senior Warden; salute the Master and quietly take his seat. If the Lodge is working in a degree other than the first, only the sign of the degree in which the Lodge is working should be given. 'Working-up' is a custom under the English Constitution but is not Scottish usage.

If you are entering your own Lodge, go quietly to a seat. Do not stop to exchange greetings on the way. Remember that the business of the Lodge has begun—and you are late. If you are a visitor, wait for the Director of Ceremonies to introduce you to the Master or conduct you to a seat. If you are a visiting Master or Past Master you will probably be invited to take a seat in the East. Accept this graciously if there is obviously room. If the East seems a little crowded ask the Master's permission to take a seat on the floor of the Lodge.

If you must leave the Lodge before it is closed you should wait until you have an opportunity of rising in your place and asking the Master's permission to retire. This given, you should go to mid-way point above referred to, salute the Master and retire quietly. In some Lodges it is customary on entering or retiring to salute the Wardens in addition to the Master. In this case salute the Master first, then the Senior Warden and last the Junior Warden.

VISITING ANOTHER LODGE

Visiting another Lodge is a privilege and not a right. A Brother may ask to be admitted to a Lodge as a visitor and he will always be welcome, but he cannot demand to be admitted. That right belongs only to the Grand Master Mason and, in his own Province or District, the Provincial or District Grand Master. The Master of a Lodge is entitled to refuse to admit, as a visitor, any Brother whose presence may, in his opinion, disturb the harmony of the Lodge. He may also ask any visitors to retire if he thinks that the business before the Lodge is of a private nature.

As a visitor, either alone or with a member of the Lodge, be sure to arrive in ample time before the Lodge is opened. It is very discourteous for a visitor to arrive late and if it is necessary to test him it will upset the Lodge business—for some Brother will have to be sent out of the Lodge to carry out this duty. No Brother should resent being tested at any time.

Every Master has the duty of seeing that none but Freemasons are present in his Lodge when it is open. It is usual to ask a Past Master to undertake this duty and he should report to the Master that he is satisfied that the visitor is a member of the Craft, a member of a Regular Lodge and not under any Masonic suspension or prohibition. A visitor should be ready to produce his Grand Lodge Diploma if it is asked for. A visitor can only be vouched for if the Brother vouching for him can truthfully say that he has sat with him in open Lodge.

A visiting Brother should, if possible, bring his own Regalia with him. Unfortunately, it has been known for a Brother to visit a Lodge whilst not in good standing with his own Lodge. This is contrary to the Constitution. Indeed it is the responsibility of the Lodge receiving the Brother to ensure that he is in good standing. For this reason all visitors should carry with them their receipt for the payment of the current year's test fees, or their Life Membership Cards.

As Life Membership is unknown in many other Constitutions, a Brother visiting, say in England, should take with him (a) his Grand Lodge Diploma and (b) his current receipt for test fees or his Life Membership Card together with a letter from the Lodge Secretary stating that Life Membership means that he has commuted his Annual Test Fees in one single payment. It is not in order for a Scottish brother visiting a Lodge to convey the greetings either of Grand Lodge or of the Grand Master Mason unless he has been specifically invited to do so.

ALTAR, LIGHTS AND TRACING BOARDS

The position of the altar varies from Lodge to Lodge. Symbolically it should be cubical in shape, although in practice it is often made oblong. On it are placed the three great Lights of Freemasonry. Since the V.S.L. with the square and compasses thereon really constitute the 'point within a circle' it follows, that the altar should be fairly centrally situated in the Lodge and ideally with the G over it.

The altar may be suitably painted or carved provided this is done with good taste. It may be covered with a cloth of the Lodge colour or in the case of a funeral Lodge draped with black crepe. The three Great Lights, of course, are on top of the cloth. It is interesting to observe in some of our overseas Lodges several different Volumes of the Sacred Law depending upon the religion of the Brethren concerned, placed side by side on the altar, the candidate being obligated on the one peculiar to his religion.

There is rather a strange custom in some Lodges of placing the Ballot Box on top of the V.S.L. This is wrong symbolically as it may obscure part of the V.S.L. and perhaps obscures completely, the square and compasses.

This may be overcome by placing a small table beside the altar or having a pull-out slide attached to the altar. Since the three Great Lights constitute the focal point of any Degree, it is felt in Scotland that it is quite in order for a candidate and his conductor to perambulate round the Lodge passing between the altar and the Master. This is mentioned because some Constitutions, for example the Irish, prohibit any Brother from passing between the altar and the Master, the reason possibly being that the Master in the East is in the Place of Light and his vision should not be obscured from the three Great Lights, which are his responsibility.

The position of the three candles or lamps varies from Lodge to Lodge. In some Lodges they are placed in tall candlesticks situated at three of the corners of the square pavement; in others on a candelabra of three lights on the Master's dais whilst a third method is to see them displayed on the pedestals of the Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden.

In some Constitutions quite a feature is made of the lighting of the candles when the Lodge is being opened and indeed the act of lighting may be accompanied by the words Wisdom, Strength and Beauty. In the Scottish Constitution all three candles are lit in the First Degree, one is extinguished in the Second Degree and two are extinguished, leaving only one alight, in the of three lights on the Master's dais whilst a third method is to see them displayed on the pedestals of the Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden.

In some Constitutions quite a feature is made of the lighting of the candles when the Lodge is being opened and indeed the act of lighting may be accompanied by the words Wisdom, Strength and Beauty. In the Scottish Constitution all three candles are lit in the First Degree, one is extinguished in the Second Degree and two are extinguished, leaving only one alight, in the Third Degree.

A symbolism, which has been suggested, is that as the candidate progresses from Degree to Degree he acquires more spiritual light and there is less necessity for material light. In Scottish Lodges the Tracing Board of the Degree does not lie on the floor. In some Lodges the Tracing Boards are placed on the wall, one being uncovered in each Degree. Other Lodges place them in front of the pedestals of the Junior Warden, Senior Warden and Master respectively. Others place them on an easel in some convenient part of the Lodge.

As some of the Tracing Board lectures are somewhat long, there is no objection to the candidate being seated during this lecture.

SIGNS, SALUTATIONS AND RISINGS

Grand Lodge has never legislated regarding signs, but there are some signs, or manner of giving signs, which might be regarded as intrinsically Scottish. For example, a great number of Lodges made use of the Due Guard sign. The Brethren stand in this position while the Lodge is being opened in the First Degree. Many regard this as being more fundamental than standing with the Penal sign, which is also given.

Within Scotland itself, every Mason will automatically adopt the sign of Fidelity when he stands in Lodge. In other Constitutions, the Brethren only use this sign when a prayer is being offered or a candidate is taking his obligation. If at the business part of a Meeting, a Brother addresses the Chair, he should rise, give the sign of the Degree, return to the sign of Fidelity, make his address, and before sitting down give again, the sign of the Degree. Finally, the Grand or Royal Sign with which is associated Grand Honours is always given three times. The manner of doing this is absolutely uniform throughout Scotland and is always accompanied by the words 'All Glory to The Most High'.

How many salutes should be given to the Grand Master Mason, Grand Secretary, etc., when entering a Lodge? The answer is none. The only occasion when the Grand Master Mason is saluted—and once only as a Master Mason—is on the occasion of his Installation when he is proclaimed by the Grand Director of Ceremonies. This point is stressed because in some Constitutions there is a specified number of salutes for a Brother with 'Most Worshipful', a lesser number for 'Right Worshipful' rank and so on.

After the usual business of the Lodge has been transacted, it is not the custom in Scotland to have 'risings' at the first of which the Master asks "I rise for the first time to ask if anyone in this Lodge has aught for the good of Freemasonry in general or this Lodge in particular?"

The usual formula in Scotland is:—

R.W.M.—Worshipful Junior Warden, have you any further business in the South?

W.J.W. —No further business in the South, Right Worshipful Master (or, if he has, he states this first).

R.W.M.—Worshipful Senior Warden, have you any further business in the West?

W.S.W.—No further business in the West, Right Worshipful Master.

R.W.M.—Any further business in the East? (If none, the I.P.M. replies as above.)

R.W.M.—Any further business on the floor of the Lodge (waits and may receive Reports, Greetings, etc.).

R.W.M.—There being no further business, be upstanding Brethren and assist me to close the Lodge.

WORK IN THE LODGE

It is essential that a candidate's name be mentioned as frequently as possible in a Ceremony. He is not simply a candidate or a number, but someone with his own name and personality. At the very outset, the Inner Guard should report in these terms "At the door of the Lodge stands John Smith, a poor candidate... etc.",

Even if there are three candidates for initiation, all their names should be given and not simply described as "three candidates". As the whole essence of our Ritual is to impress upon the candidate that all Freemasons are on the level, all instruction should be carried out on the level—on the floor of the Lodge.

If the Master has work to do such as giving the obligation or communicating the secrets, he should leave his Chair on the dais and come to the floor of the Lodge. If, when the candidate is being conducted round the Lodge, he has to salute the Master, the Deacon should see that he halts, turns to face the Master, salutes, turns again and proceeds with his perambulation.

It is not Scottish usage to 'salute when passing' by which is meant to give the sign while still on the move, simply glancing sideways towards the Master when so doing. It has been noted that in some Lodges the Brethren slap the right knee at the conclusion of a given piece of ritual. This is a meaningless habit and should be discontinued.

AT HARMONY

'Even at Harmony' or as it is called elsewhere 'The Festive Board' there are certain Masonic customs. When His Majesty King George VI was alive the first loyal toast within Scotland was 'The King and The Craft'. It is felt that it would now be appropriate to have two loyal toasts firstly 'The Queen' and secondly 'The Craft'.

As there are a great many Scottish Lodges overseas in different countries it is left to the individual Lodge to decide on the form of loyal toast most acceptable to the country concerned. In Scotland the third loyal toast is 'The Grand Lodge of Scotland'. It is noteworthy that the toast is to the corporate body and not to the Grand Master Mason.

It naturally follows that, as there is no specific toast to the Grand Master Mason, there is likewise no toast to the Depute Grand Master, the Substitute Grand Master or to Grand Office-bearers. Throughout Scotland it is common to have 'Masonic Honours' following the proposal of a toast. In other Constitutions this is called 'Masonic fire'. For example, following the proposal of the toast to The Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Master of the Lodge would say:—

"Masonic Honours, Brethren, for Grand Lodge, Count, Wardens, count, one, two, three". Senior Warden says "Once, twice, thrice". Junior Warden says "One, two, three". Thereupon the Brethren give one of the many 'three times three' form of hand-clapping, followed each time by three hurrahs.

It should be noted that the phrase 'Point, left, right' is not used in Scotland for Masonic honours. Of recent years a few Lodges in Scotland have adopted the custom of certain groups of Brethren in England and Ireland of 'drinking wine with the Master'. This is most certainly not Scottish usage and this practice is deprecated. Finally, after the Tyler has given his toast "Here's to all poor and distressed masons", etc., Masonic honours are not accorded but the Master says—"Happy to meet" (repeated by Brethren); "Sorry to part" (repeated by Brethren); "Hoping to meet again" (repeated by Brethren). Sometimes the last phrase is altered to "Happy to meet again".

Brethren should also bear in mind that Harmony after a Lodge Meeting is a continuation of the Meeting so although a relaxed and social atmosphere is appropriate, and indeed desirable, - loud, coarse or intemperate behaviour is unacceptable.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING DECEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 3rd – No meeting

Tuesday 17th – Visit by The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566. Business – Lecture by Brother Iain McPhee, SPGM of Renfrewshire East and Past Master 1566.

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 2nd – No meeting.

Monday 9th – Business Meeting (members only).

Monday 16th – To be confirmed

Monday 23rd – No meeting.

Monday 30th – To be confirmed.

The Lodge's 260th anniversary meeting and Burns Supper will take place on Friday 27th January. Admission is by ticket only which are available for purchase at the bar. The Lodge will tyle at 7.00 pm.

Social Scene

The Lodge will continue with its regular Saturday Night Social from 8.30 until midnight which includes, bingo, raffle and the joker draw. Full details are available on the Lodge website.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 13th – Raising and Ballot.

Friday 27th – Passing and Annual Visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 pm).

There will also be a presentation of a 60-year service diploma.



Hogmanay Party - Sat, 31st December 2016 8:00pm - Sun, 1st January 2017 2:00am

The Lodge will once again be holding a Hogmanay Party this year. This is always an excellent night and a great way to see out 2016 and bring in 2017. Tickets are priced at £10 each and will sell out very quickly so please contact Brother Thomas Porteous now to secure your Tickets. It is open to all so please bring along your Family and Friends and have a great start to the New Year.

Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175

BURNS SUPPER



SATURDAY, 14th JANUARY, 2017

7.30 pm prompt – 11 pm

∞ LADS and LASSES – £12.50 ∞

The Lodge Burns Supper will take place on Saturday 14th January 2017 and as usual will be an excellent night dedicated to the Immortal Memory of our Nation's Bard. Tickets are on sale now priced at only £12.50 each and can be obtained from Brother Alex Johnstone. Wives, partners and friends all welcome. Ticket includes speakers, entertainment and meal and this special event is open to all Members, Family and Friends so please book your Tickets now.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 5th – Entering (Exemplification).

Thursday 19th – Passing (Exemplification).

The annual Burns Supper with brethren and friends of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 will take place on Friday 27th January.

Finally – a reminder from the Brother Secretary that TEST FEES are now overdue.

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.

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 11th – Entering and presentation of Jubilee Certificate.

Friday 13th – The Annual Installation of the Lodge will take place on Friday 13th January at 7.30 pm within the Community Centre, Skelmorlie. At this meeting Brother James Cannon, a member of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 and affiliate member of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624 will be installed into the Chair of his affiliate Lodge.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 9th – Passing

Monday 23rd – Entering

On Thursday 12th January 2017, the Lodge will be “first-footing” Lodge The Gael No. 609 where they will be conferring a Fellowcraft degree. The Master hopes that this will be strongly supported by the brethren and, of course, friends of the Lodge would be most welcome to accompany the brethren on this visit.



The Lodge's **Annual Burns Supper** will take place on Monday 16th January at 7.00 for 7.30 pm within the Masonic Hall, John Street, Gourrock. Tickets for this ever popular event priced at just £10.00 and are available now from the Social Convener Brother Graeme Wallace graeme.wallace@outlook.com As this is often a sell-out event, early purchase of tickets is recommended.

The line-up for this year's event is the Immortal Memory delivered by the Provincial Grand Master, the toast to the Lasses by Senior Warden, Brother David Stevenson, the reply by Brother Jim Porter PM and with songs by Brother Alan Beck, readings by Brother David Docherty and the piper being Brother Tommy Trotter PM, there is surely something there for all to enjoy.

Congratulations to the Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 for their organisation of various festivities during the month of December.

The senior citizens' annual lunch for members of both Lodges took place on Saturday 10th December and was enjoyed by around 70 brethren, wives and widows of former members. It was a huge success and an opportunity for many to renew old friendships. The following day, was the turn of the children from both Lodges and a similar number enjoyed the fun and frolics with the traditional visit from Brother Santa Claus.



As for the Christmas Dance on Saturday 18th, it was another sell-out superbly organised and enjoyed by a full-house and obviously an opportunity to dress up as evidenced by the Junior Warden, Brother Stewart McFadyen.

All very festive but definitely NOT for a Monday night meeting Stewart.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 11th – Entering.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 10th – Passing (E) and Annual Visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. Please note this is a 7.15 pm start.

Tuesday 24th – Lecture evening and Ballot. “The Bible” by Brother Michael O’Neill PM; “Our Jewels” by Brother Tommy More PM and “Burns and Rhyme” by Brother Colin Bonar PM. A Burns Harmony will follow the after the meeting.

Lodge visit.

The Lodge will be conferring a Fellowcraft degree at Lodge Springburn No. 1198 on Thursday 26th January and the Right Worshipful Master would be delighted to have the support of not only his own brethren but that of any other Brother who would wish to join the Lodge in this visit. Subject to numbers, a bus will be arranged for this visit. Should you wish to travel by bus, please advise either the Right Worshipful Master or the Wardens.

Senior Citizens Lunch:

The annual Senior Citizens' lunch will take place on Saturday 7th January within the 175 Masonic Club, Kelly Street, Greenock at 1.00 for 1.30 pm.

Sunday 8th: There will be a rehearsal class at 1.00 pm in the 175 Social Club for the following brethren; Right Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Senior and Junior Deacons and the Director of Ceremonies.

Monday 9th; General Committee Meeting at 7.15 for 7.30pm.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 12th – No information provided – please refer to the Greenock Telegraph for information.



The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

The Lodge is now in recess until April.

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.

Most Excellent First Principal, Andrew G Pigott 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.

Meetings for the session ahead.

Wednesday 18 January Provincial Visit
Wednesday 15 February MA & EM
Wednesday 15 March RA
Wednesday 19 April MA & EM
Wednesday 17 May RA

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 5th -

Preceptory of Ardgowan

Venerable Preceptor Kevin Pollock and Office Bearers extend a warm to all Fraters to attend our Musters during 2017 especially those who have been unable to attend recently through other commitments.

MUSTERS and Grades for 2017 are;

Wednesday 01 February – KG
Wednesday 01 March – KG
Wednesday 05 April – KG
Tuesday 03 October – AGM/ Election of office-bearers and MG
Wednesday 01 November – Annual Installation
Wednesday 06 December – KG

- A pocket sized syllabus is also available where required
- Executive Committee dates and times will be advised separately
- All musters are held within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock at 7.30 pm unless otherwise advised.

Please ensure the Secretary has your current contact details.

St. George's Conclave No. 79 -

Next meeting is Tuesday 17th January 2017 (RCC). An invitation is extended to Royal Arch Chapters XVII and 900 to attend this Special meetings as a deputation.

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 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.

Advert: (Brother Emmanuel Oroh is a member of Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175)
Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd
T: 0777 543 9037
E: anchorlimited73@gmail.com
Reg. No: 09394504

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In today's commercial environment, Security is paramount to every organisation, but at Anchor Security Services we provide much more than a behind the scenes presence.

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Our cleaning services range from daily office cleaning to carpet cleaning, decoration, initial deep cleaning and janitorial service/supplies.

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As an additional service, we also offer vast range of janitorial supplies to our clients, making the procurement and supply of cleaning duties a one stop operation.

Our Control Centre operates 24 hours each day, every day of the year, contact us using the details.

Emmanuel Oroh
(Manager)
Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd

Advert:



First Aid Training Courses



First ABC Training provide first aid training courses to groups and individuals throughout the UK.

We regularly work with local authorities, members of the public and companies in industries including education, catering, construction, and more.

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What courses are available?

We provide flexible training and curriculums that vary in length to suit your requirements; including 1 and 3 day first aid courses, as well as programmes up to 12 hours and 6 hours or under.

This makes it easier for HR, Health and Safety, Training and Compliance Managers to arrange sessions around their different needs and availability.

Below are some of our most popular courses:

- [3 Day First Aid at Work](#)
- [1 Day EFAW](#)
- AED (Defibrillator)
- [Basic Life Support](#)
- [Appointed Persons](#)
- [Paediatric First Aid Training 6 Hour](#) and [12 Hour](#)

Bryn Hopper Training Manager.

(Brother Bryn Hopper is a member of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626).

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.

Advert:

McPherson's Plumbing & Bathroom
Centre
11, Clarence Street, Greenock PA15 1LR
Telephone: 01475 720881
Website:
www.afmcperson@btconnect.com



A LITTLE BIT OF OUR HISTORY

A local family business established over 140 years ago, continues to develop new services.

McPherson's, founded by the great grandfather of the present owner Bill Knox, Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626, offers their customers a wide range of plumbing and building products from a nail to complete bathrooms. A supply only or supply and fit service is available with free design. The front counter staff of Morag, John and Mark, Bill's son in law, are able to provide advice on a wide range of plumbing and building matters.

A supply only or supply and fit service is available with free design.

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Stop by today to view some of our showroom examples or to pick up at catalogue containing 100s of options for you next bathroom project!

With over 100 baths available to order you're sure to find exactly what you're looking for in your new bathroom design.

McPhersons are the major stockist in the area of a wide range of pipes and gutters in different profiles and colours, manufactured by Flowplast, Brett Martin and Polypipe. Many of the stockists in Glasgow can't match the range of sizes and colours available in our store.

Deliveries in Inverclyde are free on orders over £100!

Friendly service and value for money along with quality are all important to the staff, whether it's a tap washer or complete bathroom, DIY and trade customers will all receive the same professional attention.

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8.30am - 5.00pm Monday thru Friday and 9.00am - 4.00pm Saturday

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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://lck217.org.uk>

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.

Advert: (Brother Russell Johnston, Lodge Sir Michael No. 989).



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PA5 8YS

Advert:

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – January 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th 217 – Entering (E)	6 th	7 th	8 th
9 th 68 – Business Meeting 626 - Passing	10 th 1121 – Passing (E) and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15)	11 th 624 – Entering 989 - Entering	12 th 1425 – No information provided.	13 th 175 – Raising and Ballot 624 – Annual Installation (7.30 pm)	14 th	9 th
16 th 68 – To be confirmed	17 th XII – Visit by Lodge 1566 and Lecture. SGC 79 - RCC	18 th RACXVII – Provincial Visit.	19 th 217 – Passing (E)	20 th	21 st	22 nd
23 rd 68 – No meeting. 626 - Entering	24 th 1121 – Lecture evening and Burns Harmony.	25 th	26 th	27 th 175 – Passing and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15). 68 – 260 th Anniversary Meeting and Burns Supper (7.00 pm).	28 th	29 th
30 th 68 – To be confirmed.	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