



The West Column



How often do we regret saying or doing something, not realising the implications of our words and actions? This thought has been very much in my mind over the past few weeks and the reason for this is that at the start of the year, in those few days immediately after the new year when we are usually in a contemplative mood, my wife informed me that we needed a new carpet as our daughter is getting married in August. Now quite how a woman links the need for a new carpet with our eldest daughter getting married is quite beyond me but I will just assume that it is a woman's logic at work and therefore nodded in agreement as you do in such circumstances.

Now here's the thing. I stated, without thinking, that if we were going to have a new carpet, I would need to redecorate. Well in that case, said the boss, what about removing that wall that you built 35 years ago and open the place up a bit. And if you are doing that, how about removing that marble fireplace as well and really open the place up a bit. And if you are redecorating the stairs, how about replacing the balustrade at the top of the stairs with a new glass effort.

So you are now getting the picture! (Incidentally, you will note from my diary, that I have been obvious by my absence over the last few weeks. My apologies but I have spent the time at the top of a set of step-ladders or on my knees replacing skirting etc).

An innocent remark led to a result which I wasn't entirely expecting but I am sure that my knees and joints will recover – possibly even in time for my daughter's wedding in August!

Thankfully now, the decorating has been almost completed with just a few bits and pieces to finish, the new carpet is down and the place is looking quite good, even if I do say so myself. However, it was amazing how a simple comment led to so much work. Actions and repercussions!

That thought has been in my mind more recently with the political turmoil which seems to be exercising everyone's thoughts at the moment, whether it is the question of Brexit or indyref2, everyone appears to have their own individual opinions. However, with the availability of social media sites such as Facebook, it is all too easy to make your opinions and comments to all and sundry.

While I would always defend an individual's right to free speech, I must confess to being more than a little disappointed when I see comments posted that offer nothing more than insults to either the leaders of various movements or to the opinions of others. From my own point of view this does nothing to further a particular argument and reduces the discussion to the level of the playground.

Of more concern is the possibility of such comments ruining long standing relationships and I strongly believe that social media is not the place to hold an intelligent and persuasive debate. I believe that criticism of a view or an individual is always better done face to face but such should be based on fact rather than simple insult.

I also believe that such a view is pertinent in most if not all aspects of life including freemasonry and sometimes our values can be diminished when discussions on Lodge business or on individuals is discussed outwith the proper confines of the Lodge or Committee.

I would stress in all of this that I have always refused to make any political statement on social media but if others do insist on exercising their right to free speech on such topics, I sincerely hope that the quality of debate improves over the level which has been apparent in recent days. Actions and repercussions!

In the meantime, I am conscious that we are fast approaching the recess and although April is still a very busy month for the Lodges and for Provincial Grand Lodge, I would take this early opportunity to wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter and that during the recess, the sun will shine brightly upon you and your families (goodness knows, it's about time we had a good summer)!

Regards,
Jim

Breaking news, my younger daughter has just announced her engagement – hopefully this will not result in another new carpet with accompanying refurbishment!

Obituaries:

Following on the passing of Brother Wilson J McCulloch, Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII has been further saddened during the month with the call to higher service above of Past Master Brother Arthur Young and also Brother Ivan Scott and our thoughts and prayers are with the families of these very fine freemasons and gentlemen.

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:

Happily it would appear that the tradesmen who are members of the Craft in the Province all have plenty of work as nobody has taken up my offer of free advertising in the West Column. I will happily continue to advertise those companies who have asked to be included and in the event that any individual Brother would like to advertise his professional services in the future, I will gladly include their details.

**** - 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:

Provincial Grand Lodge Schedule of Meetings:

2017:

Provincial Grand Lodge – Regular Communication:

The next Regular Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge will take place on Wednesday 3rd May at 7.30 pm within the premises of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

The October Regular Communication will take place on Wednesday 4th October in the Saloon of Greenock Town Hall.

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	

In the event that any Provincial Office-bearer is unable to make any of the above dates, it would be appreciated if an apology could be registered with Provincial Grand Secretary in advance of the meeting.

The Annual Visit to The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 is 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 February was made at the General Committee meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge and the winner was Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

Provincial Grand Master's Diary.

As always, I am grateful for the excellent support of the members of Provincial Grand Lodge and in particular to the team of Commissioned Office-bearers. During the month of March, the following visits were made;

Wednesday 1st – Attended the funeral of Brother Wilson J McCulloch, Past Provincial Grand Chaplain.

Friday 3rd – Accompanied by SPGM Brother Robert P Shields, I was privileged to head the deputation of sister Provinces at the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Middle Ward.

Sunday 5th – Attended the joint annual divine Service of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Tuesday 7th – Attended a meeting of the Information and Communications Committee at Grand Lodge.

Wednesday 8th – Attended a meeting at Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 (Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Captain Spiers No. 791).

Thursday 9th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 (Raising).

Monday 13th – Annual Visit to Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 (Raising).

Saturday 18th – Attended the Installation of Brother Neil Fraser as Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East. Accompanied by Brother Robert P Shields SPGM, Brother Robin McIntyre, Provincial Grand Secretary, Brother James Cowan, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Brother Alan D Beck, Provincial Grand Junior Deacon. Also present were Brother Malcolm Sinclair, RWM1121 and Brother Douglas Robertson PM989.

Saturday 25th – Attended the Installation of Brother James Forrest as Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Dunbartonshire, accompanied by Provincial Grand Secretary, Brother Robin McIntyre. Also present in his capacity as Past Substitute Grand Master was Brother Alexander Galbraith.

Monday 27th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 to witness a Fellowcraft degree conferred by Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew No. 426.

Wednesday 29th – Chaired a meeting of Provincial Grand Committee.



Newly installed Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, Brother Neil Fraser is congratulated by Grand Master, Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige-Gordon at his installation on Saturday 18th March 2017.



Members of Grand Lodge, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East and some of the visiting Provinces at the Installation of Brother Neil Fraser as Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East.



The Installation of Brother James Forrest as Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Dunbartonshire on Saturday 25th March 2017.

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.

The Ball will this year take place on Saturday 27th May and all tickets have now been issued to the various Lodges. Again we are delighted that we have obtained the services of the very popular Capitol Big Band and look forward to acting as hosts to a number of special guests on the evening. This is the 4th year of the Ball and we have tried to maintain a very high standard while at the same time keeping the cost as low as possible, much lower than would normally be paid for such events at a cost of £25 per ticket. This is only possible through the additional revenue of the raffle and the auction which is held and I would make an appeal to the Lodges and to individual brethren, to provide where possible a raffle prize. All donations are very much appreciated. Similarly auctions items are of considerable assistance in balancing the books in the evening. I hope that the Ball will provide the same enjoyment and success as in the previous years.

Grand Lodge.

The next regular meeting of Grand Lodge will be on Thursday 8th June and it should be noted that a notice of motion will be considered at that meeting to adjust the fees.

The role of the Lodge Trustee.

Very often, brethren reach the position of being a trustee of a Lodge without even realising the fact or what the role of the trustee entails. The following paper was compiled some time ago and may be subject to future review but it is essential reading for any Brother either already in the role of trustee or with ambitions of reaching the chair of his Mother Lodge.

Appended is the text provided by Grand Secretary as a supplement, and by way of further clarification of Law 182 in respect of the Trustees of Lodges.

The Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Scotland states at Law 182:

‘The whole property of the Lodge, heritable and moveable, of whatever description except cash in Bank shall be vested in Trustees in trust for and subject to the direction of the Lodge. The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund shall be as defined in Law 193. The Trustees of all other property of the Lodge shall be the following Office-bearers *ex officiis*, namely, the Master, Wardens and Secretary, and their successors from time to time in these offices’.

Lodge Trustees - Duties and Liabilities

I would first confirm that in terms of Law 182, the “General” Trustees of each Daughter Lodge are the Master, Wardens and Secretary, and their successors from time to time in these offices. In terms of Law 193, the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund of a Lodge are the Master, Secretary, Treasurer and Almoner (or the Benevolent Fund Treasurer) and their successors from time to time in these offices.

By virtue of the provision of Law 113, the equivalent Office-bearers of a Provincial or District Grand Lodge similarly are the Trustees of a Provincial or District.

It should be noted that, in terms of Law 135, a Brother who presently is an un-discharged bankrupt may not be nominated for any office which requires him to be a Trustee of the Lodge. Upon having an award of sequestration made against him, and for so long as he shall remain an un-discharged bankrupt, a Brother is *ipso facto* disqualified from holding any office which requires him to be a Trustee of the Lodge, an un-discharged bankrupt not having the legal capacity to be a Trustee.

I would first and foremost recommend to all Brethren who may meantime hold offices which involve them in being Trustees that they carefully study and familiarise themselves both with the Constitution and Laws in general and especially with Laws 182 and 192 to 195, both inclusive, which, as will be seen, particularly refer to the matter of Lodge property and funds.

It should be noted, for example, that a particular duty falls upon Trustees, in terms of the final paragraph of Law 182, to insure all heritable and moveable property against all appropriate risks, and for adequate sums, which require annually to be reviewed.

It clearly should be understood that in terms of Scots Law, (and it is likely that the Law which may apply to Daughter Lodges in other parts of the world will be similar), a Masonic Lodge is classed as a “voluntary association” and that it requires therefore to be represented, in legal or formal matters, by Trustees. It is important to appreciate that in the case where proceedings might be taken against a Lodge, a third party will direct any such actions against the Trustees. For example, if a Lodge does not repay a loan, in any Court proceedings for the recovery of funds, the creditor will sue any or all of the “General” Trustees of a Daughter Lodge. If the creditor were to obtain Decree, that is to say, judgement, against the Trustees, then **one of them** may be called upon to make payment **for the whole amount of the debt**. Payment can be taken from the personal assets and income of the Trustee concerned. Similarly, in matters of insurance, if a third party were to sustain an injury

because of a defect in Lodge premises, then any compensation proceedings would be directed against any or all of the four Trustees.

When contracts, for example a loan, are entered into by Lodge Trustees, on behalf of Lodge, the Brethren concerned are permitted, I terms of the last portion of Law 184, to seek to exclude any personal liability, as opposed to their general liability as members of the Lodge, but I am advised that any such endeavour to excluded themselves from liability in their position as Office-bearers or Trustees only would have effect if that exclusion was accepted in advance by the third party with whom the Lodge was entering into agreement.

A Lodge being a “voluntary” or “unincorporated” association, it should be appreciated that each and every single member, jointly and severally, potentially is liable for all Lodge debts, and therefore **all** Brethren should take an active interest in the Lodge affairs. Nonetheless the primary liability in this regards falls to the Trustees.

In short, those who are Trustees are “first in the firing line” should difficulties arise in relation to Lodge debts or other action, or lack of action, by a Lodge, which has a financial implication. They are at peril of losing personal assets, and even can be made bankrupt if they cannot pay the debt. This applies not only to loans, compensation claims but also to many other aspects of Lodge or Associated Social Club business, if the Brethren concerned also are Trustees of any such Club, such as the payment of VAT, Rates, PAYE and any other bills.

It is important to remember that, with the exception of the Lodge Benevolent Fund, **the Lodge Treasurer is not a Trustee**, and incurs no personal liability to any outside parties in relation to his day-to-day management of financial matters. Therefore, irrespective of how much a Lodge and its members may respect and have the highest regard for and trust in the Brother who meantime is Lodge Treasurer, it simply is good sense, for those who are Trustees, especially to keep in close contact with the Brother Treasurer, in order that they may reassure themselves that everything completely is in order. Full disclosure from time to time by the Lodge Treasurer, and any other relevant Office-bearers, of the financial position of the Lodge, should be insisted upon, in order that if any problems arise, these can be dealt with before it is too late.

As I have indicated, although Trustees may have a consequential right of recovery against each and every single member of a Lodge, they are very much likely to be “first in the firing line” and should therefore, please, be careful and cautious, and take a very active interest in all Lodge affairs in order that they may avoid their finding themselves in personal difficulties.

I must emphasise that the foregoing is in the nature of a brief lay-description of some of the more important legal liabilities and duties of those who are Trustees. It is not intended to be a definitive statement of Law.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING DECEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 4th – Raising and Ballot

Tuesday 18th – Mark Degree and Ballot

This year's "summer" meeting will take place on Thursday 1st June and will comprise of an Entered Apprentice Degree conferred by the Past Masters of the Lodge under the charge of Brother Robert J Bain, Past Master.

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.

Honorary Membership for our WSW

'It was a great honour for our Worshipful Senior Warden Bro Bob Crossan to receive Honorary Membership of The Princes Lodge No 607 last night (6th Feb 2017).

Right Worshipful Master Bro Tony Stewart (HM of No XII) bestowed this great honour on Bro Bob for his help in creating the artwork for The Princes Lodge No 607 coat of arms which is now used in all their correspondence and was also used to create the magnificent laser etched part of their new lectern'



Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 3rd - Business Meeting

Social Scene

Our regular Saturday dances continue every week from 8.30 until midnight

Also available is our Joker Prize. Tickets cost £1 and can be purchased on a Monday night from Bro. George Taft or on a Saturday night at the dance.

We are now selling tickets for our Annual Spring Draw to be held on 3rd April. The first prize is a 32" smart tv. There will be lots of other prizes, consisting mainly of booze and the occasional unwanted Christmas present. Tickets are available from J.W. Bro. Jim Hamilton or from the bar and are a bargain at £1 a ticket.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 14th April – Entering.

Friday 28th April – Mark Degree.

This Meeting will take place at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217, Masonic Temple of LDK No. 68, Brown Street, Port Glasgow. Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 will confer the Mark Degree on 175 and 217 Candidates. All Lodge Members are encouraged and welcome to attend. Contact the Secretary if you require Transport to Port Glasgow.

The Lodge will also be conferring a Fellowcraft degree (exemplification) at Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 on Tuesday 25th April.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 6th April – Fellowcraft Degree

Thursday 20th Raising and Annual Visit by PGLRW NB 7.15 start

Friday 28th – Joint Mark degree with Lodge Greenock St Johns 175 to be held within LDK 68

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 12th – Lecture by Brother Bert Thomson on the life of Robert Burns and conferring of honorary memberships.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 10th – Entering

Monday 24th – Mark Degree

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 12th – Fellowcraft Degree and annual visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 pm).

Race Night -

It is the intention of the Lodge to hold a Race Night in our own premises. Full details will be circulated to all as soon as they become available.

Founders Trail

We are delighted to announce that the presenters of The Founders Roadshow have confirmed their availability to conduct the Roadshow at Lodge Sir Michael on Friday 21st April 2017. The Founders Trail Roadshow tells the story of the Founders of Glasgow Rangers, from the shores of the Gareloch, to their arrival in Glasgow, their journey to the front door of Ibrox Stadium and beyond. This is done by way of a slide-show presentation. We profile each of our Founders and the subsequent growth of our unique club.

We hope that by telling this story it will give everyone an understanding of the very foundations upon which those four lads built the club. The presentation lasts for approximately 90 mins, with a 20 minute break half way through and there will be an opportunity for a Q&A session at the end.

Full details will be circulated when available, but it is likely to follow the example of the previous, hugely successful, night. Tickets will be priced at £10, which will include a light snack (soup / sandwiches for example) with the bar of course being open.

This night will be open to all. This is genuinely a fantastic experience and one not to be missed. All funds raised will be in aid of the Lodge refurbishment works. Tickets and Full details will be made available as soon as possible but please mark this night in your diary.

Homes Degree – Wednesday 26th April

- a) Tickets to be £6 per last year. These will be produced asap and will be sent to all secretaries asap with usual 10 per Lodge.
- b) Food of course will be provided.
- c) Raffle of £5 per person with names on Envelopes is suggested with the usual array of terrific raffle prizes on offer. We are hopeful of having some larger prizes on the evening, the ENTIRE proceeds of which are donated to Marcus Humphry House as usual. The "Master" for the evening this year is RWM of Lodge Sir Michael Bro Andrew Forsyth who, no doubt, will be in contact with the Masters of the Province in due course to discuss their various duties for the evening.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 11th – Lecture and CPR demonstration (Heartstart).

Tuesday 25th – Passing (Exemplification) conferred by Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

From Brother George Nixon PM.

Enclosed photograph of my Past Masters jewel presented to me by the lodge on completion of my two year term as Master 1975/1977. The reason for this article is that the jewel was engraved in my name after being returned to the lodge by the widow of a previous 1121 Past Master namely Jack Miller, who had served two years as Master in 1942/1944. Whilst I am very proud of my gift from the lodge it was a shame that the jewel had not been returned to the lodge a couple of years earlier as the outgoing Master of 1121 for 1973/1975 was William Miller and he was the brother of said Jack Miller, and how appropriate it would have been for Willie to have received his brothers jewel as his Past Masters jewel. However it wasn't to be and whilst wearing it I am reminded of Willie fondly as having been his WSW for two years and at the same time remembering his brother Jack and the service he rendered to 1121 during the war years and what must have been a very difficult time for all masonic lodges.



Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 13th – Entering

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

Friday 7th – Lecture – The Deacons' rods to be delivered by Brother Gordon Price,

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 19 April MA & EM

Wednesday 17 May RA

The Chapter is also visiting RAC No. 900 in Port Glasgow on Thursday 27th April and will confer a Mark Affiliation and Excellent Master's Degree.

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 6th – Royal Arch degree.

Port Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter No. 900.

Thursday 27th – Excellent Master's Degree conferred by Greenock Royal Arch chapter No. XVII.

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 05 April – KG and District Visit.

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 -

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.

Bowling:

Brother John Freeburn has kindly submitted the following report for the bowlers amongst the members.

"I am reliably informed that some of our Brethren are or will be involved in Bowls matches / friendlies / competitions, over the coming weeks and would like to ensure that they get the correct dates.

As far as I know, Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 and Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII are having their annual get together on the Ardgowan Club greens on Saturday 6th. May with a 10.00 am start.

(I believe that this is the same day as Br. Nicki Stetz is running his 10 pin excursion - hopefully the mornings proceedings will not produce any casualties !!)

The Orr Trophy will be played on the greens of the Grosvenor Bowling Club on Saturday 10th. June with a 10.00 am start. Paperwork has been circulated and I await its return (properly filled in of course.) A filled roll and cup of good cheer is included in the entry fee.

The Greenock / Argyll touring party to Campbeltown is due to start on the 21st of August and runs thru' to the 26th.

The annual challenge match between the PGL of Ayrshire and the PGL of Renfrewshire West is due to take place on the greens of Prestwick Bowling Club on Sunday 27th. of August".

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

Security Services

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.

We successfully carry out static guarding duties, front of house commissionaire and reception operations, mobile patrols, key holding and alarm response services. We also carry out in-depth property surveys which comply with EEC regulations.

Customer Care

At the forefront of our operative's training is customer care. This allows us to carry out the dual role of a highly trained security operative, and create a professional welcome for your visitors and clients at the crucial first point of contact on your premises.

SIA Licensing

All our security operatives are licensed and regulated by the UK government's Security Industry Authority (SIA). These high standards mean that our clients can have complete confidence in our performance.

In addition, we rigorously vet all our staff to ensure only the highest calibre of applicant are employed by Anchor Security Services.

Cleaning Services offered

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

All staff vetted

In accordance with our company policy, all cleaning staff are thoroughly vetted before being employed by Anchor Cleaning Services to ensure the highest levels of security before entering our client's premises.

Janitorial Supplies

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 ABC Training

07958940412

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.

Our courses are a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical sessions. They are designed to give you the ability and practical confidence to protect your family, friends, colleagues, and members of the community.

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.

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.

From Contemporary Bathroom Design to Traditional Bathrooms we offer bathroom suites, plumbing accessories, bathroom sinks and taps, and bathroom accessories.

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.

OPENING TIMES:

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

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Painting and Decorating.



For all your painting and decorating needs, contact Brother Lindsay Mungin (MM1425) on 01475 728073 or 07715 214 763

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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Barochan Road, Johnstone
PA5 8YS

Advert:

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – April 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
3 rd 68 – Business Meeting	4 th XII – Raising and Ballot	5 th Preceptory of Ardgowan – KG and District Visit.	6 th 217 – Passing RAC289 – RA Degree	7 th 1814 - Lecture	1 st 8 th	2 nd 9 th
10 th 626 – Entering	11 th 1121 – Lecture and CPR demonstration	12 th 624 – Lecture and HM. 989 – Passing and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15).	13 th 1425 - Entering	14 th 175 - Entering	15 th	16 th
17 th	18 th XII – Mark Degree and Ballot	19 th RAC XVII – MA & EM	20 th 217 – Raising and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15pm).	21 st	22 nd	23 rd
24 th 626 – Mark Degree	25 th 1121 – Passing (E) conferred by Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.	26 th	27 th RAC900 – EM conferred by Greenock RAC XVII.	28 th 175/217 – Joint Mark Degree	29 th	30 th

(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