



The West Column



Brethren, as they say at the New Year, it's out with the old and in with the new! A nice new Provincial Grand Master, a new team of Commissioned office-bearers and even a number of new elected office-bearers of Provincial Grand Lodge.

I am sure that all in the Province will join together and wish the new team every happiness and success in their new offices which I hope they find rewarding and fulfilling.

I must firstly apologies for this re-issue of the West Column within 24 hours of the first issue. To say that I have experienced an IT meltdown would be making light of the situation! Having learned my lesson in the past, I make a point of saving the document I am working on repeatedly. For some reason, the document that I issued yesterday reverted to a copy that I had been working on some days previously and as I was already trying to cope with the fact that after using AOL services for the last 18 years, they have decided to pull the plug on their desktop facilities which has made the emailing of the document much more difficult. The upshot of this was that I did not notice that the document being sent out was incomplete until I had completed the process of sending out the Column to nearly 500 recipients. The air was blue. So my apologies for any confusion.

I have therefore rather hurriedly put together this short leader this evening but would like to use the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me as Provincial Grand Master over the last 5 years, A special thanks goes to the Commissioned and Elective office-bearers for their hard work and support and to all the Lodges for making me so welcome (even when I was perhaps giving you a hard time)!

I have many very special memories from the last five years, visits to the Grand Lodge of Ireland with Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 and to the Province of Worcester with Brother Richard Harrison. Zip lines, donations to charities such as Prostate Scotland, Reach Inverclyde and Poppy Scotland, the New Members Seminar, the visits by the Grand Master Mason, the success of the Provincial Balls, the celebrations connected with the 275th anniversary of the appointment of Alexander Drummond and the Divine Service in the Old West Kirk and the honour of responding to the toast to the Provincial and District Grand Lodges at the Festival of St. Andrew in 2013.

All wonderful memories but most of all, I will always have great memories of attending the ordinary Lodge meetings where I have made so many friends over the years. If the new Commission can get half as much pleasure and satisfaction from their tenure of office as I have had, then they will be blessed indeed.

Thanks you all for your friendship Brethren, I am deeply indebted to you for affording me the huge honour of being your Provincial Grand Master.

God bless and kindest regards,

Jim

It has been many years since we managed to get a photograph of the Provincial Grand Lodge office-bearers along with the Masters in the Province so I was determined to get one before I headed off into the sunset if only for posterity's sake.



Front Row (left to right): William A McLarty, Alan D Beck, Thomas F M Trotter, Gordon Price, Robert P Shields, James P Livingstone, Robin McIntyre, John McAlister, Richard Harrison, Robert J Bain, George J Carson.

Middle Row: James McCorkell, W Ross Nugent, James H Ritchie, Hugh M Docherty, Gordon Porter, Gerard C Robertson, Kenneth K Morrison, Paul M Docherty, Archibald Wright, Rudolf L Stetz, John W Black.

Back Row: Malcolm A Sinclair, Robert J Rice, David D Stevenson, Allan T Glen, Alexander B Wilson, Scott McLaughlan.

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.

Reminder - Advertising of meetings:

The Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Scotland provide for three ways in which to advertise Lodge meetings.

1. By intimation at the previous Regular Meeting.
2. By advertisement in the local newspaper published at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.
3. By circular delivered or posted to every qualified member at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

The above are the three permissible methods of convening meetings. It is not necessary to use all three; in fact, one method may be used for all meetings. The Lodge bye-laws must make clear which method will be used for any particular meeting.

For many years, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West has compiled and published a composite advert in the Greenock Telegraph newspaper which has resulted in a significant saving to all Lodges over the previous practice of advertising meetings individually. However, due to the reducing readership of the Greenock Telegraph, it would appear to be the case that Lodges no longer consider this method of advertising to represent good value for money. One Lodge has already withdrawn from the composite arrangement and a further two are in the process of changing their bye-laws to effect a change.

As a result, it was agreed at the most recent meeting of Provincial Grand Committee that Lodges would be informed that the practice of advertising using a composite advert in the Greenock Telegraph would be discontinued from the end of the 2017 – 2018 session. This allows Lodges to fully consider the matter, determine what method they will use to advertise their meetings and allow a period of time to make appropriate alterations to their bye-laws.

In the event that Lodges determine that they wish to discontinue advertising in the Greenock Telegraph, it is recommended that the bye-laws should be altered to simply use option 1 above. This does not preclude the use of other means of advertising meetings such as the West column, Facebook, Lodges websites etc.

It is further recommended that in the event that a Lodge wishes to alter its bye-laws to reflect this change, consideration is given to any other changes which might be made at the same time such as fees etc. Finally, it is strongly recommended that before a change to Lodge bye-laws is submitted to the Lodge as a Notice of Motion, a draft is submitted to Provincial Grand Secretary for approval.

Advertising of Services:

If any Brother wishes to advertise their professional services in the West Column, please let me know and I will be happy to include them if space permits.

Defibrillation Equipment.

On the subject of advertising, there is later in this edition of the West Column, an advert for First Aid Training which is offered by Brother Bryn Hopper, a member of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

It is understood that many Lodges are currently considering the installation of defibrillation equipment on their premises and it is again confirmed that such equipment may be purchased using funds from a Lodge's Benevolent Account, if that is convenient.

Many firms will offer to sell such equipment but of course there is an element of training which is also required and which can also be costly.

To this effect I am happy to draw to your attention an offer made by Brother Hopper to the Lodges in the Province who is willing to sell such equipment for the special price of £699.00 plus VAT and provide training necessary, free of charge.

Brother Hopper can be contacted at brynrfc@sky.com

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

Provincial Website. For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to www.pglrw.org - 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	RAC XVII		
Thursday	217	1425	217	PGRAC 900	
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

Annual Meeting and Installation of elective office-bearers.

The annual meeting and Installation of elective office-bearers for session 2018 – 2019 will take place within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock on Friday 2nd February 2018 at 6.45 pm prompt. This will be the first meeting for our new Provincial Grand Master following the commencement of his Commission on the 1st February and it is hoped that this meeting will be well supported by the Lodges in the Province. While a ticket is not required to attend the meeting, there will be an informal supper following the meeting and tickets for the supper are now available through your Lodge secretary at a cost of £10.00.

Installation of Provincial Grand Master and his Commissioned Office-bearers.

Arrangements are in place for the Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master and his Commissioned office-bearers, which shall take place on Saturday 17th March 2018, within the Saloon of Greenock Town Hall at 1.00 pm prompt. Tickets for the celebration dinner which will follow this event are now on sale through your Lodge secretary at a cost of £25.00 each. It is hoped that the ceremony will be carried out by the Grand Master Mason, Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon. While it is not necessary to purchase a ticket for the dinner it is likely that demand for tickets for the dinner will be high and as there is limited seating within the Saloon area of the Town Hall, it is likely that priority will be given for admittance to the ceremony to those in possession of a ticket for the dinner.

Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Off/bear	Annual Visit 2018	Commenting
12	Tue 20 th Nov.	TBA	Tues. 20 th Feb.	TBA
68	Friday 7 th Dec	TBA	Mon. 19 th March	TBA
175	Friday 26 th Oct.	TBA	Fri. 9 th March	TBA
217	Friday 30 th Nov.	TBA	Thurs. 18 th Jan.	JPGW
626	Saturday 13 th Oct.	TBA	Mon. 22 nd Jan.	SPGW
989	Friday 16 th Nov.	TBA	Wed. 11 th April	TBA
1121	Friday 2 nd Nov.	TBA	Tue 9 th Jan.	SPGM
1425	Friday 7 th Dec.	TBA	Thurs. 8 th Feb.	TBA
1814	Friday 6 th October	TBA	Friday 5 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.

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.

The draw for the month of January took place with the winner being Brother Archie Wright PM68 AGAIN!

Provincial Grand Master's Diary.

Meetings attended in January.

Monday 8th: Attended a Master Mason's Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

Tuesday 9th: Headed a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West to Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 for their annual visit and witnessed an Entered Apprentice Degree.

Wednesday 10th: Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.

Thursday 11th: Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Friday 12th: Attended the annual Installation at Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624.

Saturday 13th: Attended the Annual Burns Supper of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

Tuesday 16th: Attended Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII for the presentation of a certificate of Honorary Grand Rank to Brother K K Morrison PM.

Thursday 18th: Headed a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West for the purpose of the annual visit to Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 and witnessed an exemplification of an Entered Apprentice Degree.

Monday 22nd: Headed a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West for the purpose of the annual visit to Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 and witnessed an Entered Apprentice Degree.

Tuesday 23rd – Attended a meeting of the Information and Communications Committee at Grand Lodge.

Friday 26th: Attended the anniversary meeting and Burns Supper of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and proposed the toast to the Lodge.

Saturday 27th: Headed the deputation from visiting Provincial Grand Lodges at the Annual Meeting and Installation of elective office-bearers at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East. Accompanied by Brother Robin McIntyre, Provincial Grand Master designate, Brother John W Black, DPGM designate and Brother Alan D Beck, Provincial Grand Secretary designate.

Saturday 27th – The Province was also represented at the annual meeting and Installation of the Provincial Grand Lodge Dunbartonshire by Substitute Provincial Grand Master Brother Robert Paul Shields, Director of Ceremonies, Brother James Cowan, Tyler, Brother James McCorkell as well as Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Alexander Galbraith, an honorary member of the Province.

Monday 29th – Attended a Master Mason's Degree at Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

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.

I can also confirm that the Town Hall (and the ever popular Capitol Big Band) have been provisionally booked for next year so put a note in your diaries for Saturday 19th May 2018. This is a little earlier than previous years as we are aware that this year, the date clashed with the long holiday weekend. Tickets are now on sale through the respective Lodges, priced £25 each.

Grand Lodge.

It must have been a great comfort to our new Provincial Grand Master, Brother Robin McIntyre attending the Regular Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland on Thursday 1st February to see so many brethren from the Province supporting him. For a small Province, the attendance must have been proportionately very high and it speaks volumes for the dedication of the brethren to see such numbers including 4 reigning Masters representing their respective Lodges.

Commemoration of the Fallen 2018.

Just a reminder that arrangements are being made for a parade and Church Service to take place on Sunday the 18th November 2018, to mark the end of the First World War. This is likely to be a very popular event and again, if numbers are sufficient, it might be possible to organise transport. I will provide further details as soon as they are known.

Arrangements are still a work in progress although it does now appear that the event will be held at Grand Lodge with a parade forming up in Castle Street and marching a short distance around Charlotte Square and along George Street to Grand Lodge for a Service of Commemoration which will be conducted by Past Grand Master Mason, Brother Canon Joseph J Morrow.



Looking ahead to 2018 and the commemoration of the ending of the First World War.

As part of events to mark the ending of the First World War, the Masonic Homes Group in conjunction with the Widows Sons Masonic Motor Cycle Group, will be doing a fundraising tour of the 32 Provinces in 2018 and are schedule to visit this Province on Saturday 29th September. It will be a very short stop but it is likely that the Group will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in Port Glasgow before heading off to their next stop in Dunbartonshire. It would be appropriate if the Province could present them with a cheque on their visit and perhaps Lodges could consider making a donation to the funds of Poppy Scotland. This will be a matter for the new Commission to consider. (See above comment regarding the challenge to raise £1,918)!

A small riddle and one which might be answered by Brothers in the Port!

Amongst others things for my sins, I serve on an Education sub-committee which meets every other month and for the convenience of the brethren who serve on the group, the meetings are held in Perth with the kind permission of Lodge Scoon and Perth No. 3. The Lodge buildings are amazing in their own right and well worth a visit with display cabinets full of items of interest and while perusing some of the contents one day I noticed a simple water jug and took a photograph (see below).

I asked the secretary who is normally a fount of knowledge if he knew anything about it and he didn't so here is my question. Can anyone shed any light on why this item would be in the museum at Lodge Scoon and Perth No.3 or indeed does anyone know anything about a Mrs Weir of Port Glasgow around 1872.



And talking of Port Glasgow, I had my camera with me at the annual visit to Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 on Monday 22nd January and a certain individual insisted that I take his photograph.



Brother W Ross Nugent – Legend.

I was very grateful to Brother Ross for stepping into the role of Almoner halfway through my Commission and he has carried out those duties in such an exemplary fashion so I think the very least I could do is to take his photograph.

A handsome fellow indeed!

Brother W Ross Nugent, Past Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217, Past Master of The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814, Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden and Provincial Grand Almoner.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING the MONTH AHEAD.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 6th – Ballot Lecture by Brother Iain White, Past Master entitled “From No. XII to the King Emperor by way of the Scotts and the Cairds”.

Tuesday 20th – Raising

Saturday 24th February – Charity Burns Supper in Greenock Town Hall 6.30 for 7.00 pm. For more information and tickets/tables, contact Brother Alan Beck PM or Brother Iain White PM. There is a great line-up of speakers including Brother David Vennard (Immortal Memory, Brother Kenny Wilson proposing the Toast to the Lasses and the rendering of Tam O’Shanter by Brother Davie Docherty (626) which is well worth the admission money on its own!

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.

Tickets are now sale for the Burns Supper to be held in Greenock Town Hall on Saturday 24th February 2018. With a line-up of speakers including the renowned Brother David Vennard, proposing the Immortal Memory and Brother Kenny Wilson (the Wherries) proposing the Toast to the Lasses, this is bound to be a very popular evening so don’t be disappointed and make sure you secure your ticket as soon as possible.

Although the inclement weather meant that the lecture scheduled to take place on the 16th January was postponed until the next regular meeting, nevertheless, it was still a worthwhile visit to assist with the presentation of a certificate of honorary Grand Rank on behalf of the Grand Master Mason, to Brother Kenneth Kennedy Morrison, Past Master.

In the first picture below, Brother Morrison is seen with the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Jim Livingstone and Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII, Brother Allan T Glen.

Brother Glen had also presented Brother Morrison with a handsome neck jewel to mark the occasion.

It was considered to be particularly apt that Brother Morrison received the Honorary Grand Rank of Architect in view of the support that he has given to the Lodge over more than 50 years of membership.

In the second photograph (below), a presentation was made to Mr Donnie McDonald of the Inverclyde Music Festival Committee on behalf of the Lodge of a very handsome cup, presented in memory of the late Brother Wilson McCulloch, Past Master and Past Provincial Grand Chaplain. A cheque was also presented with the cup being awarded annually for verse speaking (Primary 7 pupils) at the Inverclyde Music Festival.

In view of the reputation that Brother McCulloch had as an orator, the trophy presented in his name was most appropriate.



Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 5th – Business Meeting

Monday 12th – Entering

Monday 19th – Raising conferred by Lodge Dumbarton Kilwinning No. 18

Monday 26th – Passing

Sunday 25th – Annual Divine Service held jointly with Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 will take place within the Lodge at 7.00 pm. Regalia to be worn

Spring Draw tickets are on sale at a cost of £1 per ticket - the first prize is a Smart TV - and there are millions of other prizes.

For up to date information on events and meetings taking place at Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 go to the Lodge website at:

<http://www.lodgedorickilwinning68.org.uk/>

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.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 9th – Raising

Friday 23rd - Passing

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 1st - Entering

Thursday 15th – Passing

Thursday 22nd – General Committee Meeting

Sunday 25th – Annual Divine Service held jointly with Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 will take place within the Lodge at 7.00 pm. Regalia to be worn

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 14th – Entering (E) and Installation of remaining office-bearers.

Annual Installation:

The annual Installation took place on Friday 12th January, when a very large number of brethren attended the installation of Brother James cannon to serve a second term as Master of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624. In addition to brethren from Ayrshire and Renfrewshire West, there was also a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire headed by the Provincial Grand Master Brother Robert Little. Also in attendance was the Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West, Brother Jim Livingstone HM624.

The ceremony was carried out in excellent fashion by three very experienced Installing Masters in Brother Billy McLarty, PM624, PM1425, assisted by Brother Kenneth M McCrae, PM626, HM624 and Brother Alan Buntain PM173, HM624.

Following the formal part of the evening, the brethren sat down to an excellent dinner at which the usual Masonic toasts were offered.



Brother James Cannon with his Installing Masters, the deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire and an interloper!



Master, Brother Jim Cannon with Wardens, Tom MacDougall and Colin McLarty PM.



Brother James Cannon, Master with his Installing Masters, Brother William A McLarty PM624, PM1425, Brother Kenneth M McCrae, PM626, AM624 and Brother Alan Buntain, PM173, HM624.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 5th – General Committee Meeting

Monday. 12th - Passing

Monday 24th – Raising



Brother David Docherty delivers the "Address to a Haggis" along with Chef, Brother Robert Love and Piper, Brother Tommy Trotter PM.

An excellent evening at the annual Burns Supper of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 on Saturday 13th January, when a very busy Lodge sat down to enjoy the evening's entertainment. With an Immortal Memory proposed by Brother James G Porter PM, a toast to the Lasses proposed by Brother John Lannigan (175) and responded to by Brother Duncan Simpson (1121), a very enjoyable evening was had by one and all. The raffle on the evening, supplemented by a donation from the Lodge resulted in a donation of £500 which will be made to Erskine Hospital.

On the final annual visitation of the present Commission and an absolute pleasure to assist in presenting two very worthy recipients of honorary Grand Rank to Brother Thomas F M Trotter (Honorary Grand Treasurer) and Brother Robin McIntyre (Honorary Grand Assistant Secretary). Both Past Masters of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 and currently also Provincial Grand Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Brother McIntyre is, of course, Provincial Grand Master Designate and will take up his Commission on the 1st February. In addition to their certificates, both brethren were presented with handsome collar jewels as gifts from their Lodge. These were presented by the Master, Brother David D Stevenson.



Brother Thomas F M Trotter, Past Master and Provincial Grand Treasurer, Brother Robin McIntyre, Past Master and Provincial Grand Secretary along with Brother David D Stevenson, Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 14th - Raising

Homes Degree: A bit of very advanced warning that the Homes Degree will take place this year on Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm with tickets, costing £6.00, available shortly from Lodge secretaries.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday.13th – Raising

Tuesday 27th – To be advised.

Senior Citizen's Annual Dinner.

On 6th January Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock hosted their annual Senior Citizens' dinner in the 175 Masonic Club.



Top table guests including, Worshipful Senior Warden, Brother John Laird, Brother Malcolm A Sinclair, Master and Brother Iain Hair, Worshipful Junior Warden.



Brothers in arms: Alex Hunter, Sammy Hunter, Kit Carson and Jim Reid.

The event was very well attended and as is the normal practice the meal, which n the main had been prepared by Bro John Paton PM and RWM Bro Malcolm A Sinclair, was served by present Office Bearers.



Brothers, Iain Freer, Dougie Warnock and Charlie Prentice.

From all accounts, all in attendance had an enjoyable time.

Brother John Paton PM1121 has a new hobby, making pens. Selling for between £10 and £15, the pens are made from a variety of materials and £2.00 from every sale goes to good causes.

Perhaps even an ideal gift for that superb team of Installing Masters?



Digitisation of Records.

Following comments made by PGM Bro James P Livingstone at our Annual Visitation we thought it might be of interest to other Lodges if we shared how we are going about the digitisation of our records.

With the Lodge's approval, we have embarked on digitising our minute books. We got in touch with Andy Mushat at William Anderson & Sons Limited (Printers) and supplied him with our first two minute books. Each book contained some 300 pages and the two books covered the period 7th February 1913 to 6th December 1918 in total.

The cost of digitising each book was £125, for which we received the following:

- 2 CD copies of each book
- Storage of the master digitised record on William Anderson & Sons secure server.
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In addition, Andy indicated that he could make an additional copy of the CD that could be passed to The Grand Lodge of Scotland for their safekeeping. This additional service would incur an incremental fee.

The CDs have the minute books recorded in PDF format. The digitisation is done using the Photoshop application and consequently it does not pixelate, resulting in the ability to enlarge any page, without loss of clarity.

Obviously, we still have the original minute books, but we have enough copies to ensure that those records digitised will not be lost forever in the event of a fire etc.

If any Lodge would like to discuss the matter further or wish to receive an example page please contact either

Donald J McRae djmcr@aol.com or Douglas C Warnock dcwathome@aol.com

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 8th – Passing and Annual visitation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 pm).

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

The next meeting will be on Friday 6th April when the guest speaker will be Brother Charles Winston on the subject of the Masonic Oral History Project.

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, William A McLarty 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 21st February MA & EM
 Wednesday 21st March RA
 Wednesday 18th April MA & EM
 Wednesday 16th May RA

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 1st February – Provincial Visit.

Port Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter No. 900

Thursday 22nd -

Preceptory of Ardgowan

Venerable Preceptor Elect Andrew G Pigott and Office Bearers extend a warm to all Fraters to attend the Annual Installation as well as our Musters during 2017 especially those who have been unable to attend recently through other commitments.

MUSTERS and Grades for 2018 are;

Wednesday

- 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.

Greenock CC & RAM 17 - Meets 4th Wednesday at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

St. George's Conclave No. 79 –

Tuesday 20th -

For those Conclave Masons, please be advised that the Conclave Newsletter “Augustus” is available from conclave79@yahoo.co.uk

The Wee Corner

The spot for all the stories that don't fit anywhere else!

CHARITY NEWS

STAMP APPEAL.

Please remember that Brother Bill Crumlish of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 is collecting used stamps in aid of Ardgowan Hospice so please don't throw them away. Put them in an envelope and hand them on to Bill or to any member of 626 who will be pleased to pass them on. This costs nothing, simply a moment of your time and can mean so much to a very worthwhile cause. I'm sure than we all know of someone who has benefited from the care received at Ardgowan Hospice over the years so please help!

Brother Crumlish has asked me to advise that if donating stamps it is very helpful if approximately 0.25” border is left around the stamp.

ANNIVERSARY LAPEL BADGES.

Lapel Badges for 25, 40, and 50 years service are available at a cost of £5.50 each. A special "gem" set badge for 60 years is also available at £10. **All prices are excluding postage.** For every badge sold, £2 will be donated to the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund. All cheques should be made out to "David Stevenson"



Badges, may be purchased individually by qualified Brethren, or in bulk by Lodges who may wish to make presentations to deserving Brethren, for meritorious service. All enquiries and orders to treasurno12@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

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.

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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.

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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 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, Gourrock 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.

Provincial Grand Lodge Renfrewshire East.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East operates a digital and lending library with over 5,000 books on a very wide range of Masonic topics and is free to access through their website at www.pglre.org

Registration is a very simple process and open to brethren within the Province of Renfrewshire West.

Advert:

McPherson's Plumbing & Bathroom
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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 - 12.00 noon 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

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – February 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 st 217 - Entering RAC289 – Provincial Visit GRAND LODGE 2.00 pm	2 nd Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West – Annual Meeting 6.45 pm.	3 rd	4 th
5 th 68 – Business Meeting	6 th XII – Ballot and Lecture	7 th	8 th 1425 – Passing and Annual Visit of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15pm).	9 th 175 - Raising	10 th	11 th
12 th 68 – Entering 626 - Passing	13 th 1121 - Raising	14 th 624 – Entering (E) and Installation of office- bearers. 989 – Raising	15 th 217 - Passing	16 th	17 th	18 th
19 th 68 – Raising conferred by Lodge Dumbarton Kilwinning No. 18	20 th XII – Raising SGC79 - KHS	21 st RAC XVII – MA and EM.	22 nd	23 rd 175 - Passing	24 th	25 th 68/217 – Annual Divine Service 7.00 pm.
26 th 68 – Passing 626 - Raising	27 th 1121 – To be confirmed.	28 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.pg1rw.org