



The West Column



Brethren, by the time the West Column is transmitted we will hopefully all have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and will be looking forward to celebrating a new year complete with all its hopes, expectations and fears. The decorations will shortly be coming down, leaving the house with that peculiarly bare feeling even although the decorations have only been in place for a few weeks. The lights will be carefully packed away in the hope that in twelve months, they will be taken out of storage and will work first-time and that the mysterious “tangle-fairy” (you know that mythical creature which tangles up all your cables when you are not looking) has not wreaked its usual mischief. For those with an artificial Christmas tree, the branches will be carefully folded and the tree will be placed back in its box and stored away until next year.

I’m sure every house has its own personal preference as to whether it’s an artificial or real tree. Certainly in our house, it is always a real tree (purchased from the excellent range and competitively priced *Gowanlea Nurseries*, proprietor Brother Russell Johnston of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 – also an excellent source of summer bedding plants and flower arrangements). So every year, at the beginning of December, the roof bars get fitted to the car and we make the short trip over to Johnstone to select and transport our tree home. There is something very Christmassy about the smell of a real tree in the house! For those who share our preference, did you know that the tree that you will buy 10 years from now in 2028, will be putting down its roots now!

However, I appreciate that for most, it is probably the ease of an artificial tree and I was intrigued recently when I heard a piece on the radio which informed me that prior to the middle of last century, households had no choice but to purchase a real tree. In fact, the first artificial Christmas trees were fairly crude efforts and came about because in the 1930’s, a manufacturer of toilet brushes in America found that they had excessive stocks of materials and in an effort to reduce stocks, they “branched out” (couldn’t resist the pun), in producing the first artificial Christmas trees!

It got me thinking a little about people, the difference between those that make an effort to put down roots and make the best of their situation by becoming involved in the life around them and those whose interest is fleeting and never make a commitment. We could also apply the comparison to our freemasonry, those who commit to the Lodge and get involved by putting down roots and those, like the artificial Christmas trees, who pack their freemasonry away in the attic, only to be seen once a year or when they find that they wish to propose someone for membership. What kind of freemason are you?

Can I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you and your loved ones, a very happy, peaceful, prosperous and healthy new year!

Kind regards,
Jim

Contributions to the West Column

I would as always thank those who have provided contributions to this month's edition and a reminder that photographs of events are also welcome but I have to reserve the right to limit their use as it can affect the email transmission speed. However, please continue to send photographs as I can always include them in later editions. Most importantly, it is assumed that any photographs sent to me have the permission of the subjects for publication. If sending articles with accompanying photographs, could I ask that these are not embedded into a word document but send separately as JPEG files. All contributions should be sent to Jimliv626@gmail.com (Note change of email address).

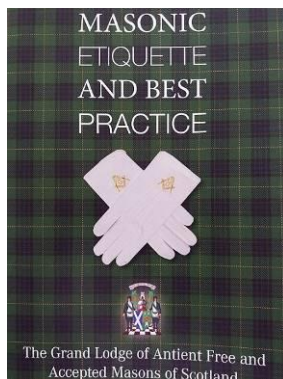
Views expressed by individuals within the West Column do not necessarily represent the views of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Advertising: I would appeal to Lodge secretaries to let me know the details of meetings taking place. I am very conscious of the fact that without the medium of advertising in the local newspaper, there is a void of information which requires to be filled. By letting me know of meetings taking place, I can issue the details in the West Column which is sent out to nearly 500 email addresses as well as adding a weekly update to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West's facebook page which now has around 300 members. PLEASE take advantage of this medium. The schedule of meetings for the week ahead (where such information has been provided, is published in the Province's facebook page each weekend.

Personal Information and E-Mail Addresses.

Please note that the email address list held for the purposes of distribution of the West Column, are held for that purpose only and are not made available to any third party without consent. The West Column is distributed using "blind copies" to maintain the privacy of the recipients.

New Publication from Grand Lodge:



Can I commend to all but especially to those making their way up through the offices, hopefully perhaps towards the chair of their Lodge, the new publication available from Grand Lodge and priced at a very reasonable £3.00 per copy, £1.00 of which is going to Masonic Charities.

The booklet is the work of the Information and Communications Committee and is a very easy guide to Masonic Etiquette and Best Practice.

It covers the A to Z of decorum within the Lodges from the correct positioning of the Altar to correct forms of Address, to Visiting. The booklet also contains guidelines for the use of Masonic Websites, Email and Social Media. One copy is currently being sent to each Master, free of charge and thereafter, the booklet will be available to all to purchase.

**** - 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

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.

Winners:

November Draw – Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

December Draw – Brother George J Carson, Provincial Grand Chaplain.

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.

Date for Provincial Visits to Daughter Lodges in 2019.

January

Tuesday 8th – Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Thursday 17th – Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Monday 28th – Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

February

Thursday 7th – Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Tuesday 18th – Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

March

Friday 8th – Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

Monday 18th – Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

April

Wednesday 10th – Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

October

Friday 4th – The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 (Annual Installation).

Provincial Grand Master's Diary.

On Tuesday 4 December I had the pleasure of heading a Deputation from PGL to Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No 12 for their Annual Divine Service, where we enjoyed an excellent Service conducted by Bro Alistair Glenney PM.

On Wednesday 5 December the December Committee meeting of PGL was held with Lodge Firth Clyde, Gourrock No 626.

On Friday 7 December I had the pleasure of heading a Deputation from PGL to Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 for their Annual Installation of Office-bearers with Bro Robert Rice being installed as RWM for a second year. An excellent Installation Ceremony was carried out by the Installing Masters; Bro Kenneth McCrae PM, Bro William McLarty PM and Bro James Livingstone PM and I wish the newly installed RWM and Office-bearers a very enjoyable and successful 12 months.

On Monday 10 December I attended Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 and witnessed an excellent MM Degree.

On Thursday 13 December I attended Grand Lodge Committee in Edinburgh.

On Friday 14 December I had the pleasure of heading a Deputation from PGL to Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 for their Annual Installation of Office-bearers with Bro James Hamilton being installed as RWM. An excellent Installation Ceremony was carried out by the Installing Masters; Bro Ian McPherson PM, Bro George Freeburn PM and Bro William Lawson and I wish the newly installed RWM and Office-bearers a very enjoyable and successful 12 months.

On Thursday 20 December I attended the Regular Meeting of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217, which included a very enjoyable Carol service in the hands of Bro Boyd Thomson.

On Thursday 27 December I headed a Deputation from PGL to Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No 12 who were celebrating the Feast of St John the Evangelist and also the 290th Anniversary of the Lodge. An enjoyable evening with an excellent dinner enjoyed by all in attendance followed by the usual Masonic Toasts and papers delivered by Bro Iain White PM and Bro Alan Beck PM.

On Saturday 29 December I attended a meeting the Commissioned Office-bearers, where we discussed the year to date and also our plans for the forthcoming year.

I hope Brethren that you have all enjoyed the Festive period and on behalf of the Commissioned Team and the Elective Office-bearers I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Provincial Ball.

Date for the diary. The date for the 2019 Provincial Summer Ball had been set for Saturday 18th May and tickets will be on sale from 1st February 2019.

Grand Lodge.



The Commission on an awayday or as alternatively titled, 'Five go mad in Edinburgh'!

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

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 1st – No meeting.

Tuesday 15th – Installation of remaining office-bearers and Lecture by Brother John S Miller PM1167 and IPPGM of Renfrewshire East entitled, “The Mission of Freemasonry”. This talk is suitable for all brethren.

Visit to The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 – 13th November 2018

Having been formerly invited by RWM Bro Ronnie Armstrong of The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 to lead a deputation into their Lodge and confer a Second Degree on the night, our new RWM Bro Bob Crossan was only too happy to accept.

On Thursday 13th November 2018, along with a fantastic number of No XII Past Masters, Office Bearers and Brethren, our RWM duly led the deputation into the Lodge. This was actually the ‘new teams’ first rendition of a degree. After a very warm welcome by RWM Bro Ronnie Armstrong and the Brethren of the Lodge, our RWM and PMs were invited to the East. The Lodge still had a couple of business items, including the collection, prior to the Gavel being presented to our RWM Bro Bob Crossan to carry out the Passing on the night. After the usual remarks on the presentation of the Gavel our RWM asked for the office bearers to be exchanged in favour of No XII office bearers and immediately put the Lodge into recess to allow us to setup.



As the evening's degree would in fact be an exemplification our HM Bro Tony Stewart volunteered to be the Candidate. After approximately 5 mins our RWM resumed the session and we began the Passing. The Candidate was received in due and ancient form by our IG for the evening Bro Alistair Glenney PM and then he was asked to kneel for Lodge Prayer, delivered by our Bible Bearer Bro Alex Gray. The proper method of advancing from West to East was demonstrated by our SD Bro Campbell Snoddy and once presented at the Alter our RWM Bro Bob Crossan carried out the Obligation of the Second Degree. The Secrets of the Second, Square or Fellowcraft Degree were then communicated by Bro Alan Beck PM after which the Candidate was passed to the Wardens.

Next came the investing of the Apron which was carried out by our WSW Bro Brian McFadyen, who is a Past Master of The Lodge of Erskine No 1566. The Candidate was then placed in the SE corner of the Lodge and the Working Tools were delivered by Bro Allan MacFeate PM. The Lecture on the Tracing Board was then delivered by our Secretary Bro Ken MacDougall in his usual expert manner. To conclude the ceremony of the Passing the Charge was given by our IPM Bro Allan Glen.

Both RWMs then came from East to West to congratulate and thank the 'newly made' Fellowcraft Freemason Bro Tony Stewart and he was duly greeted by all of the Brethren present.

RWM Bro Bob Crossan then thanked all of the Degree team, all of the Brethren of No XII and a special thanks to Bro James Livingstone for playing the organ, for accompanying him on the evening. He then presented RWM Bro Ronnie Armstrong with a small token of the friendship between the Lodges and returned the Gavel to him. RWM Bro Ronnie Armstrong then thanked our Lodge for coming up to confer the degree of the evening and asked if we cared to retire, which of course was duly accepted.

At the close of the meeting, after moving from the cold lounge area back into the Lodge room instead, we enjoyed a great Harmony together which include lovely minestrone soup, pies and sausage rolls. We all then had to face the cold of the night and most of us made it back home on the same day as we left, only just!!

Thanks again to all of the No XII Brethren who came up to Erskine and to Bro Alistair Glen PM and IPM Allan Glen for filling in as IG and JD respectfully. Huge thanks also to Bro Jim Livingstone for his musical accompaniment, to Bro Ian Dyer for bringing along/giving out/collecting back in the No XII hymn books and to HM Bro Tony Stewart for standing in as the Candidate for the evening .

Report by RWM Bro Bob Crossan

Special Meeting.

On Thursday, 27th of December the brethren of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning NoXII celebrated the 290th anniversary of the lodge, on the Feast Day of St John the Evangelist. Such an event has not taken place on this date since the lodge's bicentennial meeting in 1928.

The lodge was opened in due and antient form by Bro J Robert Crossan RWM in the Chair. It is worthy of note, that as in bygone days of yore the brethren sat in open lodge at properly set tables. As is the tradition of the lodge, the deputation of visitors was led by the Master of Lodge Doric Kilwinning 68 who was invited to join Bro Crossan in the East. The Director of Ceremonies, Bro Allan MacFeate, PM then presented the PG Master, his Depute and a deputation from PG Lodge. After the Master had presented the emblem of power and authority to the PG Master, the gavel was returned and the minute of the first meeting of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning, dated 27th December 1728, was read by the lodge Secretary and thereafter the lodge went from Labour to Refreshment. An excellent meal of steak pie and vegetables, followed by a superb cheese course and tea/coffee was then served. Two verses of the National Anthem was sung and the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were observed and the PG Master replied to the appropriate ones. The singing of Rule Britannia was lustily led by Bro Alan D Beck PM and Bro Iain White PM then gave a short presentation on "NoXII and The Feast of St John the Evangelist" wherein he spoke of the importance of this date to the lodge and also gave a very interesting resume of various St John's Day meetings from the lodge's history.

Bro Beck PM then gave a talk entitled "Looking Forward to the Tercentenary" wherein he described the format of the 300th anniversary meeting and how the funds required to pay for its celebrations might be raised.

Bro James Hamilton, Master of Lodge Doric Kilwinning 68 replied eloquently to the Toast to The Visitors from Junior Warden Bro Robert J Bain PM. The special prize raffle of corporate hospitality for four people at Greenock Morton (worth £400) was won by Bro Ronnie McCallum, Senior Deacon of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning 217. Thereafter the lodge was returned from Refreshment to Labour and then closed in due and antient form.

All in all this was a lovely and significant meeting for Lodge Greenock Kilwinning and all who were there agreed that it had been a privilege to have been involved in such an historic night for the lodge. The next meeting of NoXII scheduled to take place on the Feast Day of St John the Evangelist will be on Wednesday 27th of December, 2028 - the 300th anniversary of the lodge ... it is expected to be an even "grander" affair!

Bro Alan D Beck, PM

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 £25 per month with the exception of June and December when the prize will be £50 each month. Please support the Lodge with this draw. Cash, cheques or through internet banking are all acceptable.

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 7th – Business Meeting

Monday 14th – Fellowcraft degree (Exemplification) carried out by Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

Monday 21st – No meeting.

Friday 25th – 262nd Anniversary meeting and Burns Supper.

Monday 28th – Raising (7.15pm).



The newly installed Master Brother James McCallum Hamilton with his team of office-bearers for session 2018 – 2019.

The Installation Meeting was held on Friday 14th December when Brother James McCallum Hamilton was installed into the chair of his Mother Lodge.

It was a delight to see the Lodge so well filled for the occasion (a fitting tribute to Brother Hamilton for his hard work in the years leading up to his installation).

The large number of brethren witnessed an excellent ceremony performed by Installing Masters Ian McPherson, William Lawson, and George Freeburn.

After the meeting a large number of brethren stayed behind for the festive board where a most pleasant evening was had by all.

And it all finished at a civilised hour.

Brother Ronald Sanderson

A member of 68 recently celebrated a landmark occasion when he reached the milestone of 70 years a member of the Craft.

On 1st December a group of brethren gathered at the Enliven Rest Home near Wellington in New Zealand to make a presentation to Brother Ron Sanderson.

Brother Sanderson , who was born in Port Glasgow in 1925, was initiated into Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 11th March 1948. A Merchant Seaman (Engineer) he had sailed in six Arctic Convoy voyages as crew on Royal Fleet Auxiliary Laurelwood (see picture) for which he was awarded the Ushkov Medal from a grateful Soviet Government, and more recently The Arctic Star from the British Government.

His career in the Merchant Navy took him far and wide and, finding himself in New Zealand and became a Joining (Affiliate) Member of Aorangi Lodge No 2300 of the English Constitution in 1954, which meets just outside Wellington. In 1957 he resigned from Aorangi Lodge and affiliated to Lodge Hinemoa No 786 which is a Scottish Lodge which meets some 190 miles from Wellington

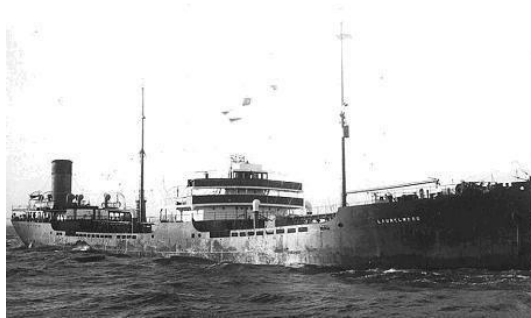
Later in life, having long since retired, in 2006 Brother Sanderson rejoined Aorangi Lodge.

On 1st of December the local brethren presented Ron with Jubilee Certificates from the Grand Lodges of Scotland and England together with a letter of congratulation from his Mother Lodge, and an Anniversary Jewel from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Appropriately, Brother Sanderson was suitably toasted in the amber nectar. His certificate from the Grand Lodge of Scotland was then presented to him by R.W.M. Bro. Robin Stanford of Lodge Hinemoa No 786, and his Certificate from our Southern Brethren was presented by the Assistant District Grand Master of North Island New Zealand (EC).

The photographs show Brother Sanderson being presented with his jubilee certificate and jewel and RFA Laurelwood.





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.

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/>

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 11th – Entering

Friday 25th – Passing and Ballot

Saturday 12th – Annual Burns Supper.

Please note that meetings of the Lodge will continue to be advertised in the Greenock Telegraph and online edition on the first Friday of each month.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

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.

Thursday 3rd – No meeting.

Thursday 17th – Entering and Annual visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. Note this meeting starts at 7.15 pm.

Social events:

Childrens' Treat:

(From Brother Eric Sweeney, Master). On 9th Dec, the big weans from 217 joined the wee weans and had a great time, oh yes they did. Sleeping Beauty at the Beacon proved to be excellent entertainment enjoyed by all. Joining in with the singalong at the end was particularly impressive (up doon up doon). It fairly had all the joints moving and pleased to report there were no injuries. A great time was had by all.

Installation: On Friday 30th November, over 100 brethren, representing Lodges from within and beyond the Province joined together to witness the installation of Brother Eric Sweeney into the chair of his Mother Lodge, in an excellent ceremony conducted by Installing Masters, Brother W Ross Nugent PM assisted by Brother Daniel Blaney PM and Brother James Donnelly PM. The formal part of the evening was followed by an excellent celebration meal provided by the Lodge with the usual toasts being offered.



Newly installed Master, Brother Eric Sweeney with his team of Installing Masters, Brother W Ross Nugent, Brother Danny Blaney and Brother Jim Donnelly, all Past Masters of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.



Brother Eric Sweeney, Master, with Brother Robin McIntyre, Provincial Grand Master and special guests.



A full supporting cast of Commissioned Office-bearers from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West at the annual Installation of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.



Brother Sweeney with his office-bearers and brethren following the Installation ceremony.

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 9th – No meeting.

Friday 11th – Annual Installation. The annual Installation of the Lodge will take place at 7.30 pm within the premises of Upper Skelmorlie Community Centre, when Brother Thomas MacDougall will be installed into the chair of his adopted Lodge. Brother MacDougall extends a warm welcome to all qualified brethren to attend both the ceremony and the supper which will follow. The installing Masters for the ceremony are Brother William Duncan PM assisted by Brother Tommy More PM1121, HM624 and Brother John Paton PM1121, HM624.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 7th – General Committee Meeting.

Monday 14th – Entering

Monday 28th – Passing

Saturday 19th - The Lodge's Annual Burns Supper will take place on Saturday 19th January at 7.00 pm. Tickets available for this ever-popular event priced at £12.00. Principal speaker for the evening is Brother Russell Manson, the toast to the Lasses will be delivered by Brother Jim Porter and the reply by Brother Bert Thomson. Other artistes will be announced shortly.



A hugely busy weekend at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 saw the Lodge play host to the annual Installation of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 on Friday followed by the joint annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner on the Saturday afternoon attended by around 80 senior members, wives, widows and friends. A lovely afternoon catching up with old friends.

Just time to clean up the Lodge for the annual Children's Christmas Party on Sunday afternoon again attended by around 80 children from both Lodges before once again a revamp before the Regular Meeting on Monday night when, swelled by a deputation from Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68, around 100 brethren witnessed an excellent Master Mason's degree conferred by the Lodge

Phew!



In case of any confusion, the picture on the left is of the Children's Christmas Party and not the Master Mason's degree of the following evening.

That is a different sort of mayhem although still a few desperate characters at both events!

Lovely picture of Brother Santa with the youngest attendee at the Christmas Party.

Not sure who is the cutest but well done to Santa and to Brother Brian McLure, Junior Warden for organizing another successful party!



Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 9th – Entering (with two candidates)!

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 8th – Fellowcraft degree Annual visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 pm).

Tuesday 22nd – Master Mason's degree.

Annual Installation at Lodge St Andrew No 524, East Kilbride.



While Storm Deirdre was hitting Scotland on 15th December and the UK Metrological Office and Transport Scotland were issuing various warnings about conditions, eight brothers from Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No. 1121 were making their way to East Kilbride for the Annual Installation of Lodge St Andrew No 524.

The reason for this trip was that the Master-elect was Bro James Henderson Campbell, whose Mother Lodge is No. 1121.

The Lodge was opened at 15.55, which the writer of this article found a strange time until it was explained that 15.55 converts to 5-2-4 i.e. the number of the Lodge!

The 1121 brothers in attendance were WSW Bro Iain D Hair, Bro Colin N Bonar PM, Bro Michael O'Neill PM, Bro George J Carson PM, Bro Gordon Barrett, Bro Graeme Dunn, Bro James McCorkell and Bro James Reid.

The Past Masters named above took part in the day as follows: Bro Michael O'Neill PM acted as Inner Guard during the Installing Board. Bro Colin N Bonar PM replied to the toast to the "Visitors". Bro George J Carson PM proposed the toast to "Lodge St Andrew No. 524".

Despite the dreadful weather, there was a very full attendance at the Installation, from brethren from within and beyond the Province of Renfrewshire East. Extra chairs had to be brought into the hall for the brethren attending. The Installation was carried out in a fine manner by the Installing Masters. After the Installation, there was a superb meal and Harmony with excellent hospitality laid on by the newly installed Master for those who were able to attend from his Mother Lodge.



The newly installed Master, Brother James Campbell with the deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge Renfrewshire East headed by Depute Provincial Grand Master Brother Robert McPhee.



Brother James Henderson Campbell and office-bearers of Lodge St. Andrew No. 524, East Kilbride.

Inverclyde Foodbank Appeal.

In 2017, at the suggestion from Bro George G Nixon PM, the above Lodge appealed for donations of appropriate foodstuffs or monetary donations to buy foodstuffs to support the Inverclyde Foodbank. The need for such support of the Inverclyde Foodbank in 2018 was as great, if not greater, than in 2017 and so Lodge 1121 decided again to support this cause in the run up to the Festive period, when demands at Foodbanks are generally higher. It was also considered appropriate to extend the types of donation to include selection boxes for children.

The appeal ran during November and into December. By the end of this period 32 large carriers bags were handed over to Inverclyde Foodbank. This included the foodstuffs that had been purchased through the £120 given as monetary donations. The level of donations in 2018 was over 50% greater than the successful 2017 appeal.

At the Lodge's meeting on 11th December, Bro George G Nixon PM informed those present of the above level of donations. In addition, Bro George G Nixon PM expanded on the monetary donations to explain that it had included £35 that he had received from the granddaughter of a brother. The circumstances of the donation was that the granddaughter had received £40 from a family competition, but having heard of the Lodge's appeal, asked her grandfather to donate £35 to this good cause. A great lesson in the meaning of charity and one that is humbling.



Bro Donald J McRae and Bro George G Nixon PM dropping off some of the 32 bags of donated foodstuffs to Inverclyde Foodbank.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 10th – Entering

Annual Installation: The annual Installation of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 took place on Friday 7th January when Brother Robert John Rice was installed to serve a second term as Master of the Lodge by a very experienced team of installing Masters headed by Brother Kenneth M McCrae, PM626, HM 1425, assisted by Brother William A McLarty, PM624, PM1425 and Brother James Livingstone, IPPGM, PM626, PM1425.

Following a full ceremony attended by around 80 brethren from within and beyond the Province, brethren retired to enjoy an excellent buffet supper with the usual toasts being offered.



Brother Bobby Rice with (left to right), Brother Billy McLarty, Brother Kenny McCrae and Brother Jim Livingstone.



The Master, Installing Masters and office-bearers of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 for session 2018 – 2019.



I'm sure that the Master, Brother Robert Rice would have been delighted to have the full Commission from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West present at his Installation. (Left to right), Brother George J Carson, Provincial Grand Chaplain, Brother John W Black, Depute Provincial Grand Master, Brother Robin McIntyre, Provincial Grand Master, Master, Brother Robert Rice, Brother Stuart R Wilson, Substitute Provincial Grand Master, Brother Alan D Beck, Provincial Grand Secretary and interloping at the far right, Brother Jim Livingstone, Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

No information provided.

The Lodge is in recess until April.

Other Orders

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII meets in the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourock on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Most Excellent First Principal, Nicholas R R Stetz 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.

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Port Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter No. 900

No information provided. The Chapter meets on the 4th Thursday of the month within the premises of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Preceptory of Ardgowan

Venerable Preceptor Andrew G Pigott and Office Bearers extend a warm to all Fraters to attend the Annual Installation as well as our Musters during 2018/2019 session especially those who have been unable to attend recently through other commitments.

- 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.

Wednesday 6th February – KG

Wednesday 6th March – KG

Wednesday 3rd April - KG

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

St. George's Conclave No. 79 –

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th January 2019 (KHS).

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 Past Master Brother Kenny McCrae 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 Kenny 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 McCrae 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.

Masonic Education.

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.

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.



Platinum Paving. Brother William Peacock (Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425).

For all your garden, driveway and landscaping needs please call Bro William Peacock on 07588678211.

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).

Defibrillation Equipment. 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

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 - 12.00 noon Saturday

Advert:

sales@etprint.com  www.etprint.com
01475 650706

IT COMPUTER PRODUCTS
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You break it! We repair it...
Tel: 01475 650706
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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



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

 **Garden Centre
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Barochan Road, Johnstone
PA5 8YS

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West
Calendar of Events and Meetings – January 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 st XII – No meeting	2 nd	3 rd 217 – No Meeting.	4 th	5 th	6 th
7 th 68 – Business Meeting	8 th 1121 – Passing and Annual Visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 pm).	9 th 989 - Entering	10 th 1425 - Entering	11 th 175 – Entering 624 – Annual Installation	12 th 175 – Annual Burns Supper.	13 th
14 th 68 – Passing E) conferred by Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175. 626 - Entering	15 th XII – Installation of office-bearers and Lecture.	16 th	17 th 217 – Entering and AV of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 start).	18 th	19 th 626 – Annual Burns Supper 7.00 pm	20 th
21 st 68 – No meeting.	22 nd 1121 – Raising.	23 rd	24 th	25 th 175 – Passing and Ballot. 68 – 262 nd Anniversary Meeting and Burns Supper.	26 th	27 th
28 th 68 – Raising (7.15pm) 626 – Passing and AV of Provincial Grand Lodge (7.15).	29 th	30 th	31 st	1 st Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West - Installation		

(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*