



The West Column



Brethren,

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.' And he replied, 'Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!'"

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East."

From a poem called "God knows" and which was used by King George VI in his 1939 Christmas message to the Commonwealth.

The above extract from the poem by Minnie Louise Haskins is well known but nevertheless very apt at this time of the year. We can look back over the past year with knowledge and hopefully understanding but we look forward with uncertainty and trepidation. 2014 promises to be a momentous year for all sorts of reasons, whether you are politically charged with the independence debate or physically stimulated by the thought of the Commonwealth Games taking place in Glasgow in the summer or the Ryder Cup later in the year. There is so much to look forward to in the new year and as always, it will no doubt also bring challenges for many, some of which will be more welcome than others.

It is a step into the unknown as the poem suggests - a bit like the Entered Apprentice taking his first steps into a Lodge - into the unknown. He puts his faith into the hands of his guide, the Senior Deacon, just as we must put our faith into the hands of our Maker.

While it is a step into the unknown, we have much to be grateful for and confident about. The last few months have been very positive in the Province and that has been reflected in the attendances at Regular Meetings, at Installations and in the fellowship which has been a part of the harmonies following the meetings.

Just as the new year promises exciting times ahead for Scotland, so do they also for freemasonry in the Province if we choose to make it so. Let's put our trust in God, build on the confidence of the first half of the session and step boldly forth into the new year.

Whatever challenges and opportunities present themselves in 2014, I would take this opportunity to wish you and your families, a happy, peaceful, healthy and prosperous new year.

Jim

Contributions to the West Column

I would 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.

Renfrewshire 200 Club (RW200Club).

Application forms are being distributed to each Lodge. 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.

It has been decided to reduce the monthly "ticket" cost to £5.00 rather than £10. 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.

Please remember that a minimum of 50% of the income will be going directly to charity. I have not as yet decided on a good cause for this project as I felt that we had to be assured that it would get "off the ground". It is probably that when the time comes to divide up the proceeds, it will be split between a national charity and a local charity or charities.

I have a fairly open mind about a national charity and would welcome suggestions from Lodges or individuals. There are, of course, many worthy charities and many of them will resonate with many of you for personal reasons. Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland, Breast Cancer, Cancer Research, Childline, Help for Heroes, the list is endless. If you have a suggestion, please email me at Jim626Col@aol.com

It is intended that the first draw will take place at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West on 7th February 2014 by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason.

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

Provincial Website.

For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to www.pglrw.org Brethren, if you have anything that you wish added to the Provincial website, contact Brother Jim Donnelly at jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com

Meetings.

Lodge meetings in the Province of Renfrewshire West take place as follows;

Day	Day of month.				
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Monday	68	68	68	68	68
Monday		626		626	
Tuesday	XII	1121	XII	1121	
Wednesday		989			
Thursday	217	1425	217		
Friday	1814 *	175	175	175	175

- The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 meets on the 1st Friday of the months of September, October, April and May.

Dates and duties for your diaries:

Annual Installation and Visitation:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Dep Head	Off/bear	Annual Visit	Commenting
12	19 Nov.	DPGM	G Carson	4 March	JPGW
68	13 Dec	PGM	Robert Bain	17 February	DPGM
175	25 Oct	PGM	John McAlister	10 January	JPGW
217	29 Nov	PGM	Gordon Porter	17 April	SPGM
626	19 Oct	PGM	Gordon Price	10 March	SPGW
989	15 Nov	SPGM	Jim Donnelly	9 April	DPGM
1121	1 Nov	PGM	John Black	28 January	SPGW
1425	6 Dec	PGM	Alex Johnstone	13 February	SPGM
1814	3 May (14)	PGM			

275th Anniversary of Provincial Grand Lodge.

As you will no doubt know by now, on the 7th February 2014, we will celebrate the appointment of Brother Alexander Drummond, Past Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII as the first Provincial Grand Master in 1739. A series of events will be held by a number of Provinces to mark the occasion. However, as our annual meeting in the Province of Renfrewshire West falls on the exact date, we will be privileged to host the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, at our Annual Meeting. Details of the event will be made available shortly. Watch this space.

Provincial Visits:

As always brethren, I am indebted to the members of Provincial Grand Lodge who have accompanied me on the various visits which have taken place since the last publication of the West Column.

In my capacity as PGM, I attended Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII on Tuesday 3rd December to witness a Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge The Gael No. 609.

On Wednesday 4th December, I chaired a meeting of Provincial Grand Committee.

Friday 6th December, the Annual Installation of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

On Sunday 8th December, it was a privilege, along with my wife, to be an invited guest at the Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

On the 12th December, I represented the Province at a meeting of Grand Committee in Edinburgh and sadly have to report that there were no winners from the Province in the Annual Prize Draw.

On Friday 13th December, it was a real pleasure to witness Brother Willie Lawson being installed as Master of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

On Saturday 14th I attended a meeting of the Waverley "Provincial" Sail steering group.

And finally, on Tuesday 17th, it was a pleasure to be present for the Annual Divine Service of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

A relatively quiet month by recent standards! Reports and photographs from many of the above meetings can be found under Lodge reports.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING SEPTEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 7th - Visit and Lecture by The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814.

Please note that there is no meeting on Tuesday 21st January.

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 6th - Monthly Business Meeting

Monday 13th - Entering (Exemplification)

Monday 20th - No meeting

Friday 24th - 257th Anniversary Meeting and Burns Supper

Monday 27th - Passing (Exemplification)

Regular Saturday Night Dance takes place 8.30 pm.

Brother Charles Sydney Peach.

Brother George Freeburn PM has advised of a very special event concerning one of the old members of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68, Brother Charles Peach, who was recently presented with a 70th Jubilee Certificate in his adopted Lodge, Arnold No. 1799 in the Province of Essex.

Bro. Charles Sydney Petch (Syd) was initiated in 68 in 1943 and moved to Yorkshire where he became Master of Thornby Lodge. He then moved to Essex where he now lives – at the ripe old age of 97.



PM Charles Sydney Petch receiving his 70th Jubilee certificate from the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Essex Nigel Catchpole, and the Secretary of Thornby Lodge PM Terry Hanby.

On that occasion he was also presented with a copy of the drawing of our building which hangs in the Master's Room.



Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 10th - Passing and Annual Visitation by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

Saturday 18th - Annual Burns Supper (see poster)

Friday 24th - Raising and Ballot

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 2nd - No meeting

Thursday 16th - Passing (Exemplification) and Installation of office-bearers.

Thursday 30th - Annual Burns Supper

Social events.

The next Family Friendly Saturday will be in February.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Festival Of St. Andrew and Installation Of Office bearers

Friday 29 November, 2013

Brethren from within and out-with the province of Renfrewshire West met in the Masonic Hall, King Street, Port Glasgow, to celebrate the Festival of St. Andrew and the re-installation of RWM Bro. Gerard C. Robertson and his office bearers.

Deputations of visiting brethren from within and outwith the province were welcomed into the Lodge and were led by Bro. Alan D. Beck RWM of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Thereafter a large and influential deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West was welcomed, headed on this occasion by Bro. James P. Livingstone RWPGM.

The Installing Masters, Bros. James Donnelly PM, W. Ross Nugent PM and Robert S. Stone PM were received into the Lodge where they took their respective offices to conduct the Installation Ceremony in a traditional manner.

Following the Ceremonial the brethren retired to the festive board where the following toasts were proposed and given suitable replies. They thereafter continued the evening in harmony.

Toasts

"The Queen and Craft" and "The Three Grand Lodges" were proposed by Bro. Gerard C. Robertson RWM.

"The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West" was proposed by Bro. Gerard C. Robertson RWM. RWPGM Bro. James Livingstone replied on behalf of Provincial Grand Lodge.

"Installing Masters" were proposed by Bro. Gerard C. Robertson, followed by a suitable reply by Installing Master Bro. James Donnelly PM, W. Ross Nugent PM and Robert S. Stone PM.



“Visiting Brethren” proposed by Bro. Clive Taulbut WSW, reply by Bro. Andrew Piggott RWM of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No. 626

The “Right Worshipful Master” proposed by Bro. John Falconer IPM, reply Bro. Gerard C. Robertson RWM.

“Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217” Proposed by Bro. Alan D. Beck RWM of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII, reply Bro. John McAlister, PM.

“Absent Brethren” Proposed by Bro. Ian Docherty PM.

“The Artists and Stewards” proposed by Bro. Gordon D. R. Leitch WJW, reply Bro. George Hamilton PM, President Of Stewards.

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 8th - Passing (Exemplification)
Friday 10th - Annual Installation (7.30 pm).

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 13th - Passing, conferred by Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.
Monday 20th - Annual Burns Supper
Monday 27th - Entering



A wonderful time was had by all as over 100 packed the hall in John Street on Sunday 8th December for the Lodge's Christmas Treat. Friends from Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 joined the Senior Citizens of the Lodge and were treated to a superb lunch.



At the Regular Meeting of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 on Monday 9th December, a very large number of brethren were present, including a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West headed by the PGM Brother Jim Livingstone, not only to witness an excellent degree but also to assist with the presentation of 50-year Jubilee Certificates to Past Masters Brothers Murdo Munro and Norman A Henderson. It must have been a good night 50 years ago for not only were Brothers Murdo and Norrie initiated on the same night, so also was Brother Donald McPherson, who although not reaching the chair in his Mother Lodge, did attain that high office in the USA where he lived for many years before returning to Scotland. It is quite some achievement for 3 brethren initiated on the same evening, all to reach such high office.

Both Brother Munro and Brother Henderson continue to provide sterling service to their Mother Lodge and to freemasonry across the Province and beyond and the honour bestowed upon them was very much deserved.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 8th - Raising

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 14th - Annual Divine Service (7.30 pm).

Tuesday 28th - Passing and Annual Visitation by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.



Many younger brethren will not remember the beautiful Masonic Temple of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 which stood in MacDougall Street. So in this centenary year of the Lodge, I thought it would be worth including a photograph of the building.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 9th - Raising

Friday 6th December, the hall at John Street, witnessed an excellent Installation Ceremony conducted by Brother Kenneth M McCrae PM626 HM1425, assisted by Brother Robert Marshall PM989 and Brother Joe Brice PM939, HM1425. Brother Joseph Anthony Fogarty was installed into the chair of his adopted Lodge along with his office-bearers. Following the ceremony, a large number of brethren, stayed behind to join in the excellent harmony.



Back row: Brothers, Tony Stewart, Alistair Anderson, Billy McLarty (IPM), Jim McLellan, Sid Alexander, David Sheard, Stephen Bethel, David Durkan, Scott Brice, Alistair Barlas, Peter Wilson
Front Row: Kyle Wilson, Robert Marshall (RWM989), RWPGM Jim Livingstone, Right Worshipful Master Brother Joe Fogarty, Kenneth M McCrae PM626, HM1425, Joe Brice, PM939, HM1425, Robert Rice.

The brethren of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 will remember Brother Richard Vanderhoef who, although living in his native USA, always takes the opportunity to fly the flag for his Mother Lodge. A few years ago, Brother John Brice, when Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 arranged to have a dress apron made which was sent to Brother "Van" shortly after Brother John passed to the Grand Lodge above.



Brother Van is in regular communication and only recently sent his best wishes to all at Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425. The above photograph was taken at the recent Installation at Waukegan Lodge Number 78, AF&AM-IL (Illinois). I think it is very easy to pick out Brother Van in the photograph, proudly wearing his "1425" apron!

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

In recess.

Other Orders.

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII meets in the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourrock on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th January at 7.30 pm to which all Companions are cordially invited. Most Excellent First Principal, Tommy Trotter and office-bearers of the Chapter extend a warm invitation to all, especially any Companions who may not have been to the Chapter for some time. Remember, the hardest thing can be walking through that door again. For anyone contemplating returning to the Chapter, you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

No meeting in January

Greenock Royal Ark Mariners Lodge and Council No. 17

Greenock Cryptic Council No. 17.

Preceptory of Ardgowan

The Preceptory of Ardgowan extends a warm welcome to any Frater who has been unable to attend over the past few years through other personal commitments and looks forward to seeing them at any of our Statutory Musters in the future.

A pocket sized Syllabus is currently being compiled to assist those not currently on e-mail and a general aide memoire for all. Current Statutory Musters and Executive Committees forecast for 2014 are as follows;

Tuesday 21 January 2014 - Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday 05 February 2014 - Muster

Wednesday 05 March 2014 - Muster (District Visit TBC)

Wednesday 02 April 2014 - Muster

St. George's Conclave No. 79 - 2013/14 Syllabus

The next meeting will be held in the Masonic Temple, 7, Brown Street, Port Glasgow on Tuesday 21st January at 7.30 pm.

2014:

21st Jan (KHS),

18th Feb (RCC),

18th March (KHS),

15th April – Installation of Grant McLeod.

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 davidstevenson50@aol.com
Please make cheques payable to "David Stevenson".

At the beginning of this month's Column, I made reference to the poem by Minnie Louise Haskins. It is very appropriate for this time of the year and I have therefore printed the full text below.

God Knows

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

*So heart be still:
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.*

*God knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In Him,
All time hath full provision.*

*Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill*

-----ooOoo-----

INSTALLATION NIGHT AT THE CELESTIAL LODGE

Over the centuries many well known men have been members of our Noble Craft. For a few moments, please allow your imaginations to run wild and consider what may take place at the Installation of The Celestial Lodge, otherwise known as the Grand Lodge Above.

Even though it was late fall, there was a warm breeze blowing and the sun was setting behind the Lodge Hall. Gathered in the parking lot filled with their works were Bros Henry Ford, Ransom Olds, Walter Chrysler, John Willys and Andre Citroen. The only vehicle missing was Bro Hart Massey's tractor. Greeting members in the entrance hall was Bro Cliff Arquette of Charley Weaver fame and Bro Ed Wynn.

In the boardroom, a group of senior DeMolays were gathered including Bros Walter Disney, Chet Huntley, Wendell Corey, Van Johnson, Robert Cummings, John Steinbeck, Fred McMurray and John Cameron Swayze. King Gillette, razor in hand, passed the lodge caretaker who was having a minor problem with his vacuum cleaner, which was quickly cleared up with the help of its inventor, Bro Frank Hoover, while at the other end of the hallway Bros Emmett Kelly, Clyde Beatty and all seven of the Ringling Bros were discussing the Shrine Circus.

Taking a quick look into the Banquet Hall, Bros John Molson, Frederick Pabst and Joseph Schlitz were busy rolling in some kegs of beer for Bros Sam Bronfman, late President of Seagrams Distillers, who was setting up the bar for the Festive Board to follow the Ceremony. Bro Colonel Harland Sanders was cooking up a storm in the kitchen and it was an easy guess as to what the evening meal would consist of.

The orchestra members for the dance to follow the Banquet were tuning. Members of this All-Star group included leader Paul Whiteman, WC Hardy, Nat King Cole, Irving Berlin, George M Cohan, Cyril Stapleton, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie and Al Jolson. Tonight's performance would be M.C. Ed by Bros Arthur Godfrey and Danny Thomas. Magical Bros Harry Houdini and Harry Blackstone were setting up their props while Bros WC Fields, Oliver Hardy, Bud Abbott, Harpo Marx, and Foster Brooks were fine tuning their comedy routines for tonight's show which was being produced by Bros Cecil B DeMille, Flo Ziegfeld, Louis B Mayer, Hall Wallis and DW Griffiths.

A number of sports celebrities were gathering together, including Bros Abe Saperstein, creator of the Harlem Globetrotters, who was explaining his version of the game to Bro James Naismith, the inventor of the game. They were joined by baseballers Bros Charles Ebbetts, Ty Cobb, Branch Rickey and Cy Young, the first pitcher to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. A little further along the hall was an array of masons dressed in knee breeches, lace cuffs and powdered wigs, others in tuxedos, including Bros Kit Carson, Davey Crockett and Buffalo Bill Cody, clad in their familiar buckskins, Chiefs Crazy Bull, Tecumseh and Joseph Brant in their native attire discussing his discoveries with Ben Franklin.

Most colourful are the military uniforms of Lord Nelson, Lord Cornwallis, Captain James Cook, the Duke of Wellington George Washington and John Paul Jones. I was gazing in awe at these members of Celestial Lodge, when the Grand Master, MW Bro Harry Truman, appeared from the preparation room accompanied by Bros John Jacob Astor, Luther Burbank, JC Penney, Adlai

Stevenson and Jennings Bryan. Bro John Diefenbaker had just signed the Tyler's Register with one of Bro John Shaeffer's pens. He was accompanied by Bros Robert Borden and RB Bennett. Fellow Canadian Prime Ministers, and by Bro Joe Smallwood of Newfoundland.

At this time, the Tyler, Bro J Edgar Hoover, informed the brethren that the meeting was about to come to order. On entering the lodge room the brethren were greeted by the Inner Guard, Bro Paul Revere.

Seated already were polar explorers, Robert F Scott of England and Bro Richard E Bird of the United States, together with Matthew G Perky and Canada's Henry Larsen. Bro Charles Lindbergh could be seen in deep conversation with Bros Hap Arnold, Gus Grissom, Eddie Rickenbaker and Charles Kingsford-Smith.

From the Junior Warden's station came a burst of laughter. Bro Will Rogers had brought broad smiles to the faces of the Royal personages gathered around him, including George I, Frederick the Great, Gustav V of Sweden and George VI.

To the right of the Junior Warden's chair, architect Sir Christopher Wren was joined by Statue of Liberty sculptor, Frederic Bartholdi. Bros Norman Vincent Peale and Peter Marshall, who would assume the Chaplain's duties this evening, were in conversation with the DuPonts, Peter and Victor, and the Rothschilds, James and Nathan.

Gathered around the Secretary's desk, Bro Rudyard Kipling was discussing the evening's proceedings with Bro Robert Burns, who was to give one of the Charges assisted by Bro Mark Twain. Also taking part were Bros Conan Doyle, Walter Scott, Samuel Johnson, Alexander Pope and Robert Service. The Grand Organist, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, was discussing last minute changes with Bros Gilbert and Sullivan. Bros Clark Gable, Peter Sellers, Wallace Beery, Douglas Fairbanks and Brian Donleavy were discussing boxing with champions Jack Dempsey, Jack Johnson and Sugar Ray Robinson.

Another small group, in the persons of Bros John Wayne, Hoot Gibson and Tom Mix, were listening to Bro William Thaddeus Phillips, also known as Butch Cassidy.

The founding members, Bros George Washington, Sir John A MacDonald, Guiseppe Garibaldi, Benito Jaurez, John Hancock and Ben Franklin were seated in the East. They have been joined by Sir Stamford Raffles, founder of Singapore. The Generals, Omar Bradley, Jimmy Doolittle, George C Marshall, John Pershing and Douglas McArthur, take their seats next to Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill.

The Lodge Treasurer, Bro Henry Knox was busy collecting dues from Bros Thomas E Dewey and William McKinley. The Master, MW Bro HRH The Duke of Connaught, has rapped the gavel to call the Lodge to order and it is now time for us to depart.

With one last look at this brilliant assembly, one wonders what the public's perception of Freemasonry might be if they were able to visit such a lodge.

Remember.

Remember when a man's word was his bond?
When a handshake sealed the deal?
When a man's honour meant more than words on a piece of paper?
These virtues are still relevant in modern times.

There are still men who believe in personal honour.
Men who believe in principals.
Men who believe in moral and ethical behaviour, and setting a good example.
Men who know that character does matter.

*If you have to ask who?
you have already missed the point.*

The English Language (from Brother George Nixon PM1121).

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
but the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.

One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?

If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?

If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.

Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger;
Neither apple nor pine in pineapple
English muffins weren't invented in England .

We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes,

We find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square,

And a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write, but fingers don't finge,

Grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend?

If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them,

What do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

Sometimes I think all the folks who grew up speaking English

Should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane.

In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital?

We ship by truck but send cargo by ship...

We have noses that run and feet that smell.

We park in a driveway and drive in a parkway.

And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same,

While a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language

In which your house can burn up as it burns down,

In which you fill in a form by filling it out,

And in which an alarm goes off by going on.

And in closing...

if Father is Pop, how come Mother's not Mop?

Masonic Education.

I am continuing to publish a list of suggested reading which many of you appear to have found useful. It would be my intention to continue to keep this list as a standard feature and if anyone finds a website or article which could supplement the list, please let me know and I will be more than happy to add the details.

Reading Material

- The Ashlar
- The Grand Lodge of Scotland Year Book (order through your Lodge Secretary).
- Robert Burns - The Freemason edited by John Weir from Grand Lodge of Scotland
- The Origins of Freemasonry: Scotland's Century, 1590-1710 by David Stevenson
- The First Freemasons by David Stevenson
- The Craft by John Hamill
- The Genesis of Freemasonry by Knoop and Jones
- The Scottish Mason and the Mason Word by Knoop and Jones
- The Temple and the Lodge by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh
- A Pilgrim's Path by John J. Robinson
- The History of Freemasonry by Robert Freke Gould
- The History of Freemasonry by Albert G. Mackey
- The Secrets of Freemasonry by Robert Lomas
- Workman Unashamed by Christopher Haffner
- Famous Scottish Freemasons published by Grand Lodge of Scotland
- The Freemason at Work by Harry Carr
- A Masonic Miscellany by George Power

New Material.

Right Worshipful Master Brother George Carson advises for those with a Kindle Fire HD you can download for free: The Symbolism of Freemasonry by Albert G MacKey in the 1800's. and comments that it is a very interesting insight into the use of symbols and allegories and how they may have developed from ancient cultures into what we have in "modern" Freemasonry. A little bit heavy in parts but as a free download for the information and ideas it is excellent.

Websites

- <http://www.hawthornefortitude200.com/twtmag.html>
- <http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/>
- <http://freemason.pastperfect-online.com/37812cgi/mweb.exe?request=random>
- <http://www.americanmason.org/TheNorthernLight.aspx>
- <http://scottishrite.org/srjournal/>
- <http://www.esmason.com/news.html>
- <http://www.freemason.org/newsEvents/index.htm>
- <http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/>
- "Pietre Stones".
- Cinosam
- www.ruralodge.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.

Lodge Websites.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland - <http://www.grandlodgescotland.com/>

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West - <http://www.pglrw.org/>

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII – www.lgk12.com

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 - <http://www.lodgedorickilwinning68.org.uk/>

Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 - <http://www.greenock-st-johns-175.masonic-lodge.org.uk/>

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 - <http://www.lck217.org.uk/links.html>

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626 - <http://www.firhofclyde.org>

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 – www.lodgesirmichael989.co.uk

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 – www.lodgecrawfurdsburn.org.uk

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 - <http://www.Lodge1425.org>

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.

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.

DO YOU ORDER GOODS AND SERVICE THROUGH THE INTERNET – READ ON -----

GRAND LODGE – BENEVOLENT FUNDS - Easyfundraising

Brethren, I draw to your attention the attached fundraising scheme for the Benevolent funds of Grand Lodge and I commend it to you. It is the easiest, most painless way to raise money for the Benevolent funds.

I have used it on a number of occasions and it is incredible the amount that can be sourced by simply buying online at your usual supplier - all the big names are there. e.g. simply renew your car insurance with your Insurance Company and the normal fee sent by the Company to your nominated charity or good cause is £35 other suppliers send a percentage anything from 1.1/2 -2.3/4%.

It is so simple it is brilliant. Please read the attached and consider using if you buy online.

Many thanks

Alex Galbraith

Extract from Grand Lodge of Scotland Yearbook 9th September 2010.

The EASY FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE – AN EXCELLENT AND SIMPLE WAY OF RAISING MONEY FOR THE BENEVOLENT FUNDS OF GRAND LODGE.

The chairman and members of the Benevolence and Care Committee invite you to join them in supporting the above initiative which enables much needed monies to be raised for the Benevolent Funds at **NO** cost either to you or to Grand Lodge.

Please take the time to visit the website to find out more at: www.easyfundraising.org.uk

How it works:

The scheme operates by the registration of organisations and individuals with the service and when they shop online with a participating retailer, a donation is made to their nominated recipient. So many of us now shop online that it is an excellent way of raising funds just by doing something which we would anyway. Since the committee first approved participation in this initiative, Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund has been registered and now has a unique identification number which means that we can receive money from the scheme. Therefore, the more people who register and nominate Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund as their benefactor, the more funds we can raise simply by making online purchases in the normal way but using the links from the above site first.

To go directly to the unique web address for Grand Lodge type: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/glsbf and follow the links to register. The website is easy to use and gives a step by step guide. Different retailers give different percentage donations – for example, Grand Lodge has already received the sum of £35.00 which was donated by Direct Line when a member of staff renewed their car insurance. It is very difficult to raise funds in these challenging economic times so this initiative is worthy of consideration. Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175

Burns Supper



Saturday 18th January 2014

7.30 pm prompt - 11.00 pm

Lads and Lasses - £12.50

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West
Calendar of Events and Meetings – January 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1st	2nd 217 - No meeting	3rd	4th	5th
6th 68 - Monthly Business Meeting	7th XII - Lecture by Lodge 1814 and Ballot	8th 624 - Passing (Exmp) 989 - Raising	9th 1425 - Raising	10th 175 - Passing and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West 624 - Annual Installation (7.30).	11th	12th
13th 68 - Entering (Exmp) 626 - Passing by Lodge 1425	14th 1121 - Annual Divine Service	15th RAC XVII - Degree	16th 217 - Passing (Exmp) and Installation of O/B	17th	18th 175 - Burns Supper	19th
20th 68 - No meeting 626 - Annual Burns Supper	21st XII - No meeting SGC No. 79 - KHS	22nd	23rd	24th 175 - Raising and Ballot 68 - 257th Anniversary Meeting and Burns Supper	25th	26th
27th 68 - Passing (Exmp) 626 - Entering	28th 1121 - Passing and AV by PGLRW	29th	30th 217 - Annual Burns Supper	31st		

(E) denotes an Exemplification

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