



The West Column



Welcome to the first edition of the West Column for the new session and although the weather has been most disappointing over the summer months, I hope that you all managed to have a relaxing break and are all ready and refreshed and looking forward to a new session of meetings within the Province.

My wife and I decided this year to ask our two granddaughters, aged 9 and 7, to join us on a break to Cyprus and we duly departed from Edinburgh on the 1st July for two very glorious weeks of sunshine in Paphos.

When I phoned my daughter to let her know that we had arrived safely, she asked me how long it had taken Kaitlyn (the oldest one) to ask her first daft question. This is because any time spent with my oldest granddaughter is usually punctuated with the strangest questions. Well the truth is that as the wheels touched down on the tarmac at Paphos airport, Kaitlyn's first question was not how long will it take us to get to the house, or will I need my jacket getting off the plane but, "Grampa, are there any wolves in Cyprus"?

For those of us of a certain age, it reminded me of a sketch once performed by the wonderful Rikki Fulton and Jack Milroy as Francie and Josie: It involves Josie asking Francie if he can ask him a question, Francie says yes and then is asked a long series of questions to which he always gives the same answer "I don't know"!

The punch line is Josie asking Francie, "I hope you don't mind me asking you all these questions." To which Francie replies "Of course not, if don't ask questions how will you ever learn!" It is sheer genius and of course contains that element of truth, that we learn by asking questions, if we don't question then we never learn.

It is for this same reason, that I always try and answer Kaitlyn's questions no matter how strange and out of context they may seem and in fact I am always content that she has such an inquisitive and insatiable curiosity.

Unfortunately, that is not always apparent in our Craft and too often, new candidates are encouraged to put their jackets on following their degree and hastened over to the bar to join in some celebratory drinks with their proposer, seconder and assorted friends. This is all well and good but is it doing our new candidates any favours.

How much better would it be to spend some time, going over what the candidate had just experienced while it was fresh in his mind as the likelihood is that the next time he is brought into the Lodge it will be for his next degree!

How many proposers and seconders truly act as mentors for their candidates and plan out a path for his education? Indeed, how many are capable of delivering that education?

This is not intended to be insulting to anyone, it is simply realistic and I confess that when I first joined the Craft almost 40 years ago, I was told the very basics and it was a long time before I felt confident enough to ask questions. This is a terrible waste and I wonder how many new initiates are actually lost to the Craft simply because it does not fulfil their expectations.

There is so much of interest in the history and origins of the Craft to keep even the most inquisitive amongst us fully occupied for life. Having finally retired from honest toil, I have to say that I am enjoying doing a little extra reading and research into the Craft and this is after 40 years membership.

It is acknowledged that the size of our Province makes it difficult to organise certain events but it is intended during the course of my remaining years as Provincial Grand Master to try to address the question of Masonic education.

Whether that involves new intrants to the Craft, those seeking to move up the ladder to one of the senior offices or simply those wishing to find out a little bit more and making their membership more fulfilling, it is hoped that we can satisfy some of the demands.

We are very fortunate to have extremely good neighbours in the larger Province of Renfrewshire East who have undertaken an enormous amount of work in terms of mentoring and education. In this they have been extremely kind in offering to share some of the good work they have done and already we have some brethren from the Province taking part in their intendor programme (more on this later).

In May, I was delighted to be invited to their new member seminar in Barrhead and it was a most pleasant and enlightening Saturday morning and we are currently exploring whether a similar event could be organised within this Province and delivered by our friends and colleagues in Renfrewshire East.

In the meantime, if you feel that you would like to take part in one of the sessions, please let either myself or your Master know and we will assess the demand.

Many years ago, I heard the late Dame Flora McLeod, being interviewed on television and when asked why, at the age of 90 plus, she was still involved in researching material, her answer, which I recall from so long ago, was to me quite profound. She simply said, "Education ceases only with death and only then, according to your beliefs"!

It will not be long until the session gets underway and I wish all of the Lodges the very best for the year ahead. I look forward very much to meeting up with you all at the various meetings and to continue to serving you as Provincial Grand Master.

Regards,

Jim

Contributions to the West Column

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

I am aware that many Lodges have had new initiates or even existing members who may have email addresses but do not receive the West Column. I would be grateful if the Lodge Secretaries could mention the West Column in your respective Lodges and perhaps encourage those who do not yet receive it to drop me a note of their email address and I will add them to the distribution list. The Column goes all over the world but let's make sure that it reaches all possible addresses in the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde area as well! My thanks go to those who have forwarded on new contact details within the last month.

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

Obituary:

Brother Samuel Elliot Killens

Past Master of Lodge International No. 1508, member of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 and Past Senior Provincial Grand Warden.



It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Brother Samuel Elliot Killens, Past Master of Lodge International No. 1508, member of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 and Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden.

Those longer serving members of the Craft locally will remember Brother Elliot as a larger than life character, always ready to make his opinion known and always ready to make sure that even if you disagreed with him (and he would rarely admit he was wrong), you stayed friends. He was generous to a fault and loved his Lodge and the Craft.

For many years, Elliot was the strength behind Lodge International No. 1508 and when the Lodge was forced into darkness, he transferred his attention to Lodge Sir Michael No. 989. Sadly, Elliot's health deteriorated quickly and he suffered a long illness before his passing at the beginning of May.

Elliot served his Lodge with great devotion and also served through the ranks of Provincial Grand Lodge to become Senior Provincial Grand Warden.

His funeral on 18th May was well attended by many of his past friends and colleagues from the Province and from the bowling fraternity which was his other great passion in life and our condolences are with his loving wife Christine and the extended members of his family.

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

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

Brethren, if you have anything that you wish added to the Provincial website, contact Brother Jim Donnelly at jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com

Meetings.

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

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

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

Dates and duties for your diaries:

Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Off/bear	Annual Visit	Commenting
12	17 th November	Alexander Johnstone	1 st March	DPGM
68	11 th December	George J Carson	15 th February	SPGM
175	23 rd October	Alistair Glenny	8 th January	WSPGW
217	27 th November	Paul Docherty	21 st April	WJPGW
626	17 th October	William A McLarty	14 th March	WSPGW
989	20 th November	Gerald C Robertson	13 th April	SPGM
1121	6 th November	Kenneth K Morrison	26 th January	WJPGW
1425	4 th December	Richard Harrison	11 th February	DPGM
1814	6 th May (2016)			

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

As the premises at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 will be out of use for the immediate future, the next Regular Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge, which will take place on Wednesday 7th October at 7.30 pm, will be held within the Temple of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989, Glebe Road, Kilmacolm.

Renfrewshire 200 Club (RW200Club).

Application forms are also still available within each Lodge. If you have not already "signed up" I hope that you will give your earnest consideration to this excellent method of charity fund-raising which should at the same time, assist in boosting attendance figures throughout the Lodges. The monthly entry fee is £5.00. However, those wishing to participate are not limited to any number of "entries" and if anyone wishes to purchase two or more tickets they may do so. It is hoped that Lodges will also participate by purchasing tickets and perhaps this could be favourably considered by your General or Finance Committees. Members may either pay cash (cheques should be made out to the Provincial Grand Lodge) or may take out a standing order arrangement. You can also

take part on a monthly basis but to take part in the draw your contribution, whether by cash, cheque or standing order must be with the Provincial Grand Treasurer prior to the draw taking place.

Please remember that a minimum of 50% of the income will be going directly to charity. I have not as yet decided on a good cause for this project as I felt that we had to be assured that it would get "off the ground". It is probably that when the time comes to divide up the proceeds, it will be split between a national charity and a local charity or charities. I have a fairly open mind about a national charity and would welcome suggestions from Lodges or individuals. There are, of course, many worthy charities and many of them will resonate with many of you for personal reasons. Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland, Breast Cancer, Cancer Research, Childline, Help for Heroes, the list is endless. If you have a suggestion, please email me at Jim626Col@aol.com

Winners for June and July, drawn at the meeting of Provincial Grand Committee, were The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 and Brother George (Kit) Carson of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

New Provincial Lapel Badge.



As you travel to other Provinces, you will notice how members of the Province proudly sport a Provincial Lapel Badge to identify themselves as members of that Province. I thought it was about time that in this Province, we also had a similar badge and so I am able to announce that these are now available for purchase from myself at a cost of £5.00 each with all profits going to the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Fund.

The badge shows the crest of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

Provincial Grand Master's Diary.

As always, I am grateful for the excellent support of the members of Provincial Grand Lodge and in particular to the team of Commissioned Office-bearers. Since the publication of the last issue of the West Column, I'm glad to say that it has been a little bit quieter during the recess period but nevertheless, we have still been active;

April:

22nd – It was a privilege to attend the Homes Degree this year organised by Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 and a report on this meeting appears later under Lodge News.

24th – Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire – Quarterly Communication in Kilmarnock.

26th – Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East – Annual Divine Service in Cathcart.

May:

3rd – Attended Church Service at Kilfinan where the Service was conducted by Brother Reverend David Mitchell, Provincial Grand Chaplain.

10th – Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire – Annual Divine Service.

23rd – Attended New Members Seminar organised by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East.

29th – Drummond Ball (see later report).

June:

4th – Attended special meeting of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

11th – Attended Regular Communication of Grand Lodge.

20th – Attended the Installation of Brother Alistair T Marshall as the new Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge Stirlingshire.

21st – Attended the annual BBQ at the Marcus Humphrey House.

August:

11th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew No. 426

18th – Attended the Regular Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning.

19th – Chaired a meeting of Provincial Grand Committee

26th – Attended the annual Masters' Dinner

30th – Was represented at the rededication of the Highland Mary Statue by DPGM Brother John Keith.

Fees:

Coming up to the various AGM's of Lodges, a little reminder of the need to pay test fees in a timely manner.

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 have visiting rights withdrawn as well as the privileges which would normally be afforded to them in their Mother Lodges.

Capitation:

Brethren should be aware that the Capitation Fee has now been increased to £30 per active member as per the recent membership return. This is the first increase in three years and it is hoped that, if approved, this rate will be fixed for a three-year period. It may be appropriate for some Lodges to now consider whether their TEST FEES continue to be at an appropriate level.

Homes Degree:

What a superb effort by the Lodges to make this year's Homes Degree the most successful ever. Around 100 brethren squeezed into the Temple of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 to witness and excellent Fellow Craft Degree conferred by the Masters of the various Lodges in the Province under the command of "Captain" Brother Hugh Docherty. It was not only an excellent and memorable degree but there was a great feeling of warmth and happiness at the harmony board.

As a result of the evening, just short of £900 was raised to provide additional comforts for the residents of Marcus Humphrey House.

On Sunday 21st June, despite the rather unseasonal weather, a very large crowd attended the annual BBQ held at the Home and this year, in addition to Brother James Marcus Humphrey, we were honoured by the attendance of the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Charles Iain Robert Gordon of Esslemont. A number of cheques were presented on the day and representing the Province of Renfrewshire West were Brother Hugh Docherty, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 and Brother Paul Docherty, IPM of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 who handed over the cheque for the money raised at the Homes Degree.

MHH BBQ:



The Docherty twins presenting the cheque from the Homes Degree at the MHH annual BBQ.



Not sure what the collective term is for a group of Provincial Grand Master's (no suggestions please) but in the picture, we have the respective Provincial Grand Master's from Midlothian, Ayrshire, Kilwinning, Renfrewshire East, Dunbartonshire and Lanarkshire Middle Ward.

Also in the picture in the back row alongside the Most Worshipful Grand Master and Brother Humphrey are Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, Mrs Dawn Oliff and of course Brother David Wilson (Depute Provost).



As stated, the weather was none too kind, so Mrs Provincial Grand Master (Elsbeth) decided to relive Brother Archie Chalmers of his very fetching hat.!

I always try to make sure that I thank my commissioned office-bearers for their support in the various visits but often they are not in the photographs (truth is that some of us are more photogenic than others). However, to balance this, I have included below a few photos of the Depute Provincial Grand Master and as they say – every picture (or in this case pictures) tell their own story and no further comment is necessary!



Raffle prize number 1!

Raffle prize number 2!



Caught!

Winning all these raffle prizes obviously gives you an appetite!

Heads of the deputations from the sister Lodges at the Regular Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge Ayrshire.



Representatives of the sister Provinces in attendance at the Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge Dunbartonshire



Representatives from the sister Provinces in attendance at the Installation of Brother Alistair T Marshall as Provincial Grand Master of Stirlingshire



At the Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East.



The above photograph was taken at the regular communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge Kilwinning and confirms the attendance of no fewer than 13 Provincial Grand Masters and Provinces represented.

Summer Ball.

After the great success of the Drummond Ball which we held in 2014, it was decided to hold the event again this year and so on Friday 29th May, the great and the good assembled once more at the Town Hall, which looked magnificent for the event, to enjoy an end of session occasion.

This year, we were honoured by the presence of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont along with a number of other special guests, including Grand Secretary and Mrs Begg. Sadly, Mrs Angela Wolrige-Gordon was unable to be present on the evening.

The success of the Drummond Ball reflected the increase in the numbers at this year's event and with every lodge in the Province well represented, around 230 brethren and their partners attended the Ball.

Following a wonderful meal prepared by Brother Tony Buckley and his catering staff, we were well entertained once again by the Capitol Big Band and I'm sure that everyone enjoyed the opportunity to get dressed up and dance the night away.

During the evening, at the raffles and auctions helped to raise around £2,000 for the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Appeal (more on this below).

The event was a huge success and arrangements are in hand to organise another Ball next year.

I have since received a lovely letter from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, thanking the Province for its kindness and congratulating us on the amount raised for charity. I also know of one visiting Provincial Grand Master whose wife was badgering him after the evening as to why his Province could not run a similar event.

We are aware of one or two things that we could perhaps do better next year and so we will try to make the future event run a little smoother. In the meantime, should you wish to view any photos of the event, these can be found at our website www.pglrw.org



The above picture was taken in the Provost's Lounge in the Town Hall and shows all of the invited guests, including the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Grand Secretary, and Provincial Grand Masters from Stirlingshire, Ayrshire, Renfrewshire East, Glasgow and Dunbartonshire. The Province is grateful to Provost Moran of Inverclyde Council for the kind use of the Grand Corridor and the Provost's Lounge for the reception of guests.

Provincial Grand Master's Charity Appeal.



Not Broxi Bears but TLC bears - part of the first delivery to IRH.

For some time, we have been trying to build up some funds in a new Provincial Grand Master's charity fund and having now managed to bring the total to an acceptable level where we can start dispensing some of the proceeds, (some monies were released as a donation to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal), I am pleased to announce the first project.

Some of you may be aware of the *Teddies for Loving Care* Scheme which currently operates within England and Ireland and is now being expanded to other Grand Lodges. I am pleased to say that following consultation with staff at Inverclyde Royal Hospital, the first teddies have been delivered to the Accident and Emergency Unit for dispensing to children who have arrived at the hospital following an accident.

The scheme is directed at children aged generally between 1 and 5, who have suffered a sudden traumatic injury, broken arm, burn, etc. It is not directed at children arriving for a pre-planned operation as they will usually have brought a favourite toy with them.

Experience has shown that the child will take great comfort from being given a bear to handle while receiving treatment and to thereafter take home with them. Other than a small label attached to the bear to state that it is a gift from local freemasons, there is nothing to indicate the source of the bear.

Since its inception, over 15 million bears have been provided at A&E units throughout England and Ireland but for some reason, the scheme has never been extended into Scotland. to the best of my knowledge, there has been no uptake so far north of the border and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West in association with the staff at IRH will be the first to trial the project. It is hoped that other Provinces might also take up the scheme and some samples have been provided to one of our neighbouring Provinces for them to consider.

It is unlikely that the cost of this will be very high but it is also felt that it is a nice way of providing some loving care to children in the area. If you would like to know more about the TLC project go to <http://www.tlcappeal.org/>

I hope that you will support this effort.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING NOVEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 1st – Raising

Tuesday 15th – Nomination of Office-bearers and Passing conferred by Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No. 370

Monthly Draw (from Brother David Stevenson, Treasurer).

As we enter another year the monthly draw is available again to all of you - and family.

£1 per number per month with no limits !!

All participants will be entered into the draw and it is my intention to draw the winning number on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

PRIZES - I am hoping for £12 per month with the exception of June and December when the prize will be £50 each month. Please support the Lodge with this draw. Cash, cheques or through internet banking are all acceptable.

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 7th – Business Meeting and Ballot

Monday 14th – Passing (to be confirmed)

Monday 21st – Entering and Ballot

Monday 28th – Passing (to be confirmed).

Social Scene

A warm welcome is extended to all brethren and friends to join the Lodge in their regular Saturday evening dances from 8.30 pm until midnight.

The annual Old Boys' outing, under the control of Brother Iain MacLeod, will be leaving the Temple at Brown Street, on Saturday 5th September and travelling to a secret destination! A full report in next month's Column.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 11th – Business Meeting (Members only)

Friday 25th – To be confirmed.

Very early notice that the Annual Burns Supper of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 will take place within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock, on Saturday 16th January 2016 at 7.00 pm with tickets on sale at a cost of £12.50 each, which of course, includes guest speakers, entertainment and a 3-course meal. For further information and tickets, please contact Brother Alex Johnstone PM on 0790-971-8096.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 3rd – Entering

Thursday 17th - Passing

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.

Due to the repairs required to our hall, the highly successful "Family Friendly Saturdays" have had to be cancelled until further notice. We apologise for this inconvenience to our many loyal supporters over the years but the major repairs will make the hall uninhabitable until they are complete. Could you please pass this information on to any friends that are not on email.

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 9th – Passing

On Tuesday, 15th September, the Lodge will be travelling to Lodge Largs St John Kilwinning No.173 to confer a Fellow Craft Degree.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 14th – Passing

Monday 28th – Annual General Meeting (7.00 pm) followed by an Entered Apprentice Degree with visitors being admitted at 8.00 pm.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 9th – Entering.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 8th – Passing and Notice of Motion

Tuesday 22nd – Raising

Please note that dispensation has been provided for the Lodge to hold its meetings within the premises of the 175 Masonic Club, Kelly Street, Greenock, pending approval of a proposed change to the bye-laws of the Lodge, which will be the subject of a Notice of Motion to be submitted at the regular meeting of the Lodge on Tuesday 8th September.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 10th – Passing (To be confirmed).

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

Friday 4th – Lecture – “The Andrew and an Immortal Memory”. This lecture will be delivered by Phil Carmen who has suggested that as Greenock is an old seafaring port, this lecture will be of interest to those with a connection to the sea. Amongst his various masonic achievements, Brother Phil is a Past Master of Lodge Century No. 1492 and has previously presented a very popular paper at the Anchor Lodge.

Friday 2nd October – Lecture. The final lecture of this part of the session will be provided by Brother David B Vennard, Past Master of Lodge Glasgow Abercrombie No.1430 and Secretary of Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning No. 4, who will present a paper on Robert W Service, the Bard of the Yukon.

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.

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.

2015/16 Syllabus.

16th September – AGM and nomination of Office-bearers.

21st October – Installation

18th November – MA & EM

16th December – Royal Arch Degree

2016

20th January – Provincial Annual Visit

17th February – MA & EM

16th March - Royal Arch Degree

20th April – MA & EM

18th May – Royal Arch Degree

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

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 has been compiled to assist those not currently on e-mail and a general aide memoire for all. Current Statutory Musters and Executive Committees forecast for 2015 are as follows;

Please ensure that the Secretary has your current contact details including e-mail and mobile number. All musters are held within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock.

2015 syllabus of meetings

6th October 2015 - AGM & Malta Grade

4th November 2015 - Annual Installation

2nd December 2015 - Knight Grade

Venerable Preceptor Fr. J. Cowan welcomes all knights and gives a warm invitation to attend.

Take that first step and join with us.

Further Information: Contact Secretary/Registrar Fr. A. Johnstone- 0790-971-8096.

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

2015

Tuesday 15th – RCC Grade

The Wee Corner

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

CHARITY NEWS

STAMP APPEAL.

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

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

ANNIVERSARY LAPEL BADGES.

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



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

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A young Mason's initial impressions of the Craft.

Thought I might also take the opportunity to share a few thoughts with you!

I would like to say I already have a pride in the province of RW, the warm welcome from all Brethren when visiting has been first class. Repeated time after time since being initiated in November last year. Since then I have been to meetings in Kilmalcolm, Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourrock (when my status allows me!) and also outwith the province in Dundonald, Renfrew, Paisley and 3 in Glasgow. I know it is early days in my masonic career, but for me, getting out and visiting other lodges is the highlight of Freemasonry. Being able to represent my own mother lodge of No. XII, but also the province of RW, is a real privilege and one which I really look forward to every week.

I am also lucky to have the RWM, IPM and WJW of No. XII as 'serial visitors', which has been great, even managing to get to a meeting most weeks during our recess. Nothing quite like the experience of turning up to the lodge in New Stevenson in Lanarkshire a couple of weeks ago and being 'tested' - something which the RWM, IPM and WJW had all said 'never really happens'!... well it did, but fortunately as the only FC Mason in the group, the Depute Master of 919 chose to test the three others... they must have seen the terror on my face!

The model of regular visiting after joining is one which I would encourage every newly initiated Brother to do, as it adds so much value to get 'out and about' amongst a wider group of Freemasons. Seeing other lodge conferring degrees, attending lectures and discussions and meeting new faces who have a common interest has been excellent. The old adage of 'You will get out of it what you put in' has certainly rang true for me. I am also interested in hearing from the IPM on the 'Intender Course' which PGLRE have been running, I have volunteered to be mentored and look forward to it hopefully being formalised.

My second degree on the 7th April this year was a fantastic night, conferred by Lodge The Gael 609, an incredible attendance on the night in the lodge and a fabulous harmony after, which I believe is legendary for 'the boys of 609'. Now, just around the corner is my Raising, which will be our first meeting back on the 1st September, again I am looking forward to the night, but more importantly looking forward to the opportunity which being a Master Mason opens up in terms of being able to now visit a wider range of meetings and attend a full session in my own Mother lodge, through 2015 / 16!

I would also like to add my personal thanks to you for making me feel so welcome within the province, the warm smile and calm tones help newly initiated freemasons feel at ease (as there is enough going on in the brain of a new Brother at every meeting they attend!). It must be a challenge to get round all the lodges and remember all those names, although probably a blessing we have a relatively small number of lodges, at least it just about makes it physically possible. The dedication and commitment (as well as the ritual knowledge) continues to impress me every time I visit.

Best regards
Bro. Paul Stevenson

Masonic Education.

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

Reading Material

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

New Material.

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

Websites

- <http://www.hawthornefortitude200.com/twtmag.html>
 - <http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/>
 - <http://freemason.pastperfect-online.com/37812cgi/mweb.exe?request=random>
 - <http://www.americanmason.org/TheNorthernLight.aspx>
 - <http://scottishrite.org/srjournal/>
 - <http://www.esmason.com/news.html>
 - <http://www.freemason.org/newsEvents/index.htm>
 - <http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/>
 - "Pietre Stones".
 - Cinosam
 - www.rurallodge.com
- Sadly, the last site is now no longer updated but there are a few back copies still on the site which are worth reading and I think that the lectures and material available at <http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/> are particularly good.

The Ashlar:

Of particular interest to all freemasons in the Ashlar edited and produced locally, it is one of the most informative publications that you could read and is available either through your Lodge or through Brother Alex Galbraith, Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, for the relatively modest sum of £4.00. Often with articles written by brethren known to us locally, it comes highly recommended.

I am also pleased to advertise the following publications which can be ordered through the Masonic Publishing Company, 30, Loanbank Quadrant, Glasgow G51 3HZ. Email at info@theashlar.com

Profits from the sale of any books goes towards Masonic benevolence.

Books - Price List.

Title	Price £	Postage and Packing			
		UK	Europe	World 1	World 2
Robert Burns, Cronies etc (Hardback 1.5 Kg.)	24.50	6.00	13.00	21.00	22.50
The Star of Robert Burns (Hardback 1.0 Kg.)	19.95	6.00	9.50	15.50	16.50
A Winter with Robert Burns (Hardback (0.3 Kg).	12.50	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
Robert Burns Print	29.95	Free	5.50	7.50	8.00
Illustrated Guide to Rosslyn Chapel (Hardback (0.3 Kg).	12.50	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
Nicolo and Antonio Zena. (Hardback (0.6 Kg).	22.50	3.50	6.50	10.00	11.00
MacBride Ritual. (Hardback (0.25 Kg).	18.00	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
A.S. MacBride Speculative Freemasonry. (Hardback (1.0 Kg).	20.00	6.00	9.50	15.50	16.50
The Church of the Knights Templar in London. (Hardback (0.25 Kg).	12.50	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
Also available in soft cover (0.25Kg).	8.00				
The Bruce - Robert King of Scots. (Hardback (0.6 Kg).	12.00	3.50	6.50	10.00	11.00
The Great War, 1914 - 1918 Victoria Cross Freemasons. (Hardback (1.6 Kg).	35.00	6.00	13.00	21.00	22.50

Circle Publications.

I would take the opportunity to recommend to you that you take a few moments to click on the following link to see what is available through this excellent website. www.circlepublications.com

There is a vast range of interesting material available and in particular a booklet called "The Lodge Master", which explains his duties, powers and responsibilities and is an excellent read for every member of the Lodge.

Also available, are copies of the "Burns Print", signed by his wife in 1813 (the only one so signed), which makes an excellent gift for a friend, a speaker or a raffle prize.

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://www.lck217.org.uk/links.html>

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626 - <http://www.firthofclyde.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.

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.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West Calendar of Events and Meetings – September 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 st XII - Raising	2 nd	3 rd 217 - Entering	4 th 1814 - Lecture	5 th	6 th
7 th 68 – Business Meeting and Ballot	8 th 1121 – Passing and Notice of Motion	9 th 624 – Passing 989 – Entering	10 th 1425 – Passing (To be confirmed)	11 th 175 – Business Meeting (Members only).	12 th	13 th
14 th 68 – Passing (TBC) 626 - Passing	15 th XII – Passing conferred by Lodge 370. SGC No.79 – RCC Grade	16 th RAC XVII – AGM and Nom of O/B.	17 th 217 - Passing	18 th	19 th	20 th
21 st 68 – Entering and Ballot	22 nd 1121 - Raising	23 rd	24 th	25 th 175 – To be confirmed.	26 th	27 th
28 th 68 – Passing (TBC). 626 – AGM and Entering	29 th	30 th				

(E) denotes an Exemplification

Information is correct at time of issue but may be subject to change. For up to date details of meetings and news and information please log on to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West website at www.pglrw.org