



## The West Column

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*You gotta have faith* – so the great George Michael said (or similar). I was reminded of this recently when I complained to my wife that after spending so much energy planting spring bulbs last autumn, I was beginning to despair of them coming into bloom. “You should have a bit more faith”, she said but all I could see was the emergence of snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils everywhere but my own wee patch of ground. Indeed, it was almost as if nature was having a right good laugh at my expense by showing off her glorious displays of welcome Spring colour even on waste-ground and roadsides, everywhere but where I had given myself backache a few short months ago.

On a more serious scale, it would not be difficult to imagine the faith of many being challenged at the moment, with seemingly daily reports of atrocities being carried out by those who seem to think that their particular brand of faith or religion should be the only way to God. The scenes in Belgium where people were simply making their way to work, or the carnage wrought in Lahore in Pakistan, where a suicide bomber, decided that it was appropriate to detonate his charges amongst a crowd, irrespective of their religion and whether it was women and children. Even the hate-filled murder of an innocent shopkeeper in Glasgow or the senseless murder of a young girl in Clydebank could easily test the faith of anyone.

Social media reflected the despair felt by many. How? Why? It is difficult to answer such questions. However, that is exactly what the terrorist wants to achieve for once we have lost our faith, he has won. Martin Luther King said that, “Faith is about taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase”.

It is important that we take from the example of Asad Shah, the devout Muslim shopkeeper in Glasgow, murdered by a religious fanatic for simply posting a message of love, wishing a happy Easter to all his Christian friends. As a result of this dreadful act, people, of all persuasions across Glasgow, united in their outpouring of grief and respect for this man. He will be remembered long after the perpetrator of the crime has gone to stand in judgement before his Maker. It is these small acts that allow us to take the next step in Martin Luther King’s staircase of faith.

As is always the case, we are reminded of this in the scriptures, in Matthew 13:22; “It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

This is the last West Column of the session and my thanks go to all who have contributed over the last eight months. At the end of April the lodges go into a welcome recess in order to allow (some of us anyway) to recharge batteries. There are still lots of events scheduled throughout the summer months and I hope that you will be able to find time to support as many as you can.

I also hope that wherever you go and whatever you do, that the sun will shine brightly upon you although given the memories of the washout that was last summer, the expectation of a glorious summer, might take a very great act of faith. That is the test that is placed upon us all.

Oh, by the way, what about my garden? Well as you can see from my photo, I should have listened to Elspeth and had more faith. Keep the faith, brethren!



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](mailto: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.**

## \*\*\*\* - PROVINCIAL NEWS - \*\*\*\*

**Provincial Website.** For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to [www.pglrw.org](http://www.pglrw.org)

Brethren, if you have anything that you wish added to the Provincial website, contact Brother Jim Donnelly at [jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com](mailto:jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com)

### Meetings.

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

Day	Day of month.				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the months of September, October, April and May.

### Dates and duties for your diaries:

#### Provincial Regular Communication (May).

The May Regular Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held, with the kind permission of the Lodge, in Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68, Brown Street, Port Glasgow on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30 pm.

#### Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Off/bear	Annual Visit	Commenting
12	17 <sup>th</sup> November	Alexander Johnstone	1 <sup>st</sup> March	DPGM
68	11 <sup>th</sup> December	George J Carson	15 <sup>th</sup> February	SPGM
175	23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Alistair Glenney	8 <sup>th</sup> January	WSPGW
217	27 <sup>th</sup> November	Paul Docherty	21 <sup>st</sup> April	WSPGW
626	17 <sup>th</sup> October	William A McLarty	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	WJPGW
989	20 <sup>th</sup> November	Gerald C Robertson	13 <sup>th</sup> April	SPGM
1121	6 <sup>th</sup> November	Kenneth K Morrison	26 <sup>th</sup> January	WJPGW
1425	4 <sup>th</sup> December	Richard Harrison	11 <sup>th</sup> February	DPGM
1814	6 <sup>th</sup> May (2016)			

#### 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

Provincial Grand Treasurer has asked me to draw to your kind attention that we are now starting a new year for the RW200 club and that contributions are now due. If you have not already "signed up" to the club, please consider doing so. Forms are available from Brother Trotter.

**I am also pleased to advise that the draw for this month's winner was made at the meeting of Provincial Grand Committee on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March and was Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68! Cheque's in the post brethren.**

#### **Provincial Grand Master's Diary.**

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

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> – Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII – Passing and Annual visit of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 – Passing

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> – Annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge Lanarkshire Middles Ward (Airdrie) accompanied by DPGM and SPGM.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Crawforddsburn No. 1121 – Entering

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 – Raising

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 – Mark Degree

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 – Passing conferred by Lodge Prince of Wales No. 426.

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII – Raising

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 – Entering

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Attended meeting of Information and Communications Committee at Grand Lodge.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Lodge Prince of Wales (Renfrew) No. 426 – Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 conferring a Master Mason's degree.

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> – Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge Committee.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 - Entering



Line-up from the 12 visiting Provinces at the final annual meeting presided over by Brother Tom Davidson, Provincial Grand Master of Lanarkshire Middle Ward.

Fees:

*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.



## Provincial Grand Master's Charity Appeal.



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

If you would like to know more about the TLC project go to <http://www.tlcappeal.org/>

### Marcus Humphrey House:

There are a number of events being held to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Marcus Humphrey House, which is, of course, within the Province of Renfrewshire West.

Firstly there will be a zip line challenge being jointly organised by the Provinces of Lanarkshire Middle Ward, Ayrshire, Glasgow, Renfrewshire East and Renfrewshire West.



## Charity Zip line Challenge in aid of Prostate Cancer Scotland.

We will be promoting this event over the next few weeks, which is being jointly organised by a number of the neighbouring Provinces, including Renfrewshire West in order to raise funds for the chosen charity of Grand Lodge, Prostate Cancer Scotland.

This is a Scottish charity set up to provide information, advice and help on prostate health and diseases of the prostate. Nearly 1 in 2 men in Scotland will be affected by prostate disease at some stage in their lives and 1 in 11 are likely to develop prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in Scotland. To bring this into perspective, of the nearly 500 brethren now on the direct distribution list for this edition of the West Column, around 40, will suffer from prostate cancer and I urge you to give your earnest consideration to supporting this charitable effort.

## **Participants:**

I am pleased to be able to confirm that following my request for "volunteers" to take part in this event, I received names from Lodges XII, 175, 217, 626, 1121 and 1425. At first the Province was only allocated 5 spaces but after an impassioned plea to the chief organiser, this has been increased to ten spaces. My thanks go to all who submitted their names and those not selected will be placed on a reserve list in case more spaces become available but the lucky ones taking part are;

From Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII; Brothers Bob Bain and Allan Glen;  
From Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175; Brothers Jim Campbell and Tom Harkins;  
From Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217; Brother Fraser Hamilton;  
From Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and Provincial Grand Lodge; the Provincial Grand Master!  
From Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121; Brother John Laird;  
From Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425; Brothers Scott Kerr and Robert Harron.

Following registration (cost £50 which covers the running costs of the event), each participant will be asked to raise a further £200 which, if achieved, will realise the target total of between £30,000 - £35,000. All participants are now in possession of the relevant sponsor forms.

The event will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May with participants assembling on the south side of the Clyde near the BBC offices, where they will be harnessed up before making their way on foot across the bridge to the Finnieston crane. There they will be hoisted up to a height of around 150 feet in a basket before being attached to the wire and launched back across the river. Simple!

Brethren it is hoped that ALL of the lodges and individual brethren will embrace this effort and whether your lodge has a brother taking part or not, that you will all lend your very best support to the challenge.

## **Provincial Grand Masters' Degree.**

On Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> June, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East is hosting a Provincial Grand Masters' Degree which will take place at 2.00 pm (change of time) within the Temple of Lodge Prince of Wales, No. 426, Queen Street, Renfrew. Following the degree when the various parts of the ritual will be carried out by a number of reigning Provincial Grand Masters, there will be a celebratory lunch costing £15.00. If anyone is interested in going, please let me know as soon as possible as it is expected that there will be considerable demand for seats and these will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. It is expected that this event will be attended by representatives from Grand Lodge.

## **Provincial Ball.**

Tickets have now been on sale for some time and it is with regret but also with some delight, that I have to advise that there are no more tickets available with around 270 now expected to attend what I am advised will be the biggest event of its kind within Inverclyde. Every attempt has been made to accommodate the extra demand for tickets and my apologies to anyone who has not been able to obtain a ticket. I would now be grateful if those responsible for selling tickets within the various lodges, could forward to me at the earliest a list of names of those attending as I suspect that considerable work will be required in organising tables. Donations for the raffle would be very gratefully received as would any major prizes for the auction.

## **Grand Lodge.**

The next informal meeting of Provincial Grand Masters which takes place twice-yearly and is often the most productive of all the meetings will take place in Perth on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April. This is an opportunity to raise matters of interest or concern and if there is anything that you feel is appropriate to place on the agenda, please let me know.

The next regular meeting of Grand Lodge takes place on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June and the following evening is the Dennis Townhill Memorial Concert, details of which will shortly be circulated by grand Lodge to each of the daughter lodges.

You will all be aware of the recent trip by Grand Lodge to the Far East and needless to say we had a “spy” in the camp. See if you can spot him in the following photos.







## **LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING MARCH.**

### **Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Raising  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Mark Degree.

There will be a special meeting of the Lodge on THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> June when the Lodge will confer an Entered Apprentice Degree. This degree will be conducted by the Past Masters of the Lodge with Brother Derek Kirkpatrick PM in the Chair.

**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 4<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting and Spring Draw

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – The Lodge will be conferring a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and the Right Worshipful Master would be grateful of the support of the brethren for this visit.

### **Social Scene**

During the summer months, the Lodge will continue with its regular Saturday Night Social from 8.30 until midnight which includes, bingo, raffle and the joker draw.

### **Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April – Passing and Ballot  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mark Degree (joint with Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217).

Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 will be holding a special meeting on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 3.00 pm. The purpose of this meeting is the bi-annual visitation of our friends from Gibson Lodge No. 87 I.C who, on this occasion, will carry out an exemplification of a Fellowcraft degree, as conferred by the Irish Constitution. This will be followed by a dinner/harmony to which all brethren are cordially invited.

### **Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – The joint annual Divine Service with Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 will take place at St. Andrew's Church, Port Glasgow with brethren to assemble at 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Entering (Exemplification)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Passing (Exemplification) and Annual visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15pm). On this evening there will be a special presentation to Past Master Brother William M H Macfarlane to mark his 65 years of service to the Lodge.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Mark Degree. This is a joint meeting with Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 and the degree will be conferred at the Temple of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 at West Stewart Street, Greenock.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May – The Lodge will be conferring a Fellowcraft degree at Lodge Barns O'Clyde, Clydebank and a warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to join with the brethren of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 on this visit.

Comet Festival 25<sup>th</sup> June – Donations for the Bottle Stall which is run by the Lodge at the Comet Festival will be very gratefully received. This is a major source of income for the Lodge to assist in paying our various bills and it is important that we have a successful day.

**Important Notice - Due to urgent building repairs required to the Lodge's premises at King Street, Port Glasgow, meetings, with immediate effect, will take place at the Masonic Temple of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.**

#### **Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April – Mark Degree

#### **Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Fellowcraft degree conferred by Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Mark Degree.

The Lodge will also be conferring Mark Degrees at Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April and on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May at Lodge Largs St John's No. 173.

Social Scene.

End of session Dance will take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April and while there is no charge for this event, tickets are available from the Social Convener to assist with catering.

The Lodge will also hold its annual (and very popular) social night on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May to which everyone is very welcome to attend.

#### **Lodge Sir Michael No. 989**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Mark degree and annual visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15).

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Homes degree (Special Meeting). This will be a Fellowcraft degree conferred by the reigning Masters of the Province under the "control" of Brother Nicholas R R Stetz, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Please note that only a very limited number of the new and very smart Lodge ties are available from Brother Bob Winning who also has a few Lodge diaries left at a cost of £5 each. Brother Scott McLaughlin is also able to order Lodge glasses which can be engraved with a Brother's name and/or Lodge and the square and compasses.

#### **Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Passing

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Mark Degree (subject to confirmation, this will be conferred by Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626).

**Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – TBA – please refer to local press for further information.

**The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April – The lodge commences its new season of meetings with a lecture delivered by Brother T Wilson Aitken, Provincial Grand Master of Kilwinning entitled, Lodge Mother Kilwinning No. 0.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Annual Meeting and Installation of Office-bearers. This meeting includes the annual visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.



## Other Orders

### Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

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

Most Excellent First Principal, Andrew G Pigott and office-bearers of the Chapter extend a warm invitation to all, especially any Companions who may not have been to the Chapter for some time. Remember, the hardest thing can be walking through that door again. For anyone contemplating returning to the Chapter, you can be assured of a warm welcome.

2016

20<sup>th</sup> April – MA & EM

18<sup>th</sup> May – Royal Arch Degree

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April, the Chapter will be conferring a MA and EM at Rockmount RAC in Barrhead and a warm welcome is extended to all Companions to join and support the deputation on this visit.

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March, it was a great privilege for MEP Andrew Pigott to present his father, Companion Duncan Pigott with a certificate to mark his 40 years of membership of the Chapter.



### Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday

## **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.

Venerable Preceptor Fr. Kevin Pollock 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 -**

2016

## *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 that we all know of someone who has benefited from the care received at Ardgowan Hospice over the years so please help!

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

#### **ANNIVERSARY LAPEL BADGES.**

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



Badges, may be purchased individually by qualified Brethren, or in bulk by Lodges who may wish to make presentations to deserving Brethren, for meritorious service. All enquiries and orders to [treasurerno12@aol.com](mailto:treasurerno12@aol.com)  
Please make cheques payable to "David Stevenson".

#### **Anniversary Badges.**

Brethren, Brother David Stevenson, who kindly took on the task of co-ordinating the supply of anniversary badges from Brother Henry Tibbles has asked me to include a brief request to the effect that he would appreciate if Lodges could ascertain what the demand is likely to be for supplies of such badges during the coming year. It would be helpful if Lodge secretaries could co-ordinate any likely requests for such badges and advise Brother David of demand. His email address appears at the advert for the badges.



In the October 2014 edition of the West Column, I published a 'Grumpy Old Masters ' Badge, provided by Brother Brian Hopkins PM626. Brother David Stevenson, has advised me that following enquiries from a number of brethren, he has been able to source these at a cost of £5.50 each excluding postage. Brother David's details are provided above.

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*From Brother Alexander Galbraith,*

## **INSURANCE**

"Lodges seeking to make savings in their running costs may like to consider a new Insurance Company offering exclusive insurance coverage to all Masonic bodies in the UK.

'The Masonic Mutual Limited' was established in 2014 with four founder Masonic Members and its membership has grown steadily since. It offers specialist cover for Masonic buildings, contents and liabilities through a real alternative to conventional insurance.

Mutuality is an unfamiliar concept to some, but is in fact a fast growing sector of financial services. An increasing number of groups are choosing to manage their risk in this way, including livery companies, doctors, farmers, newsagents and universities.

All Masonic bodies throughout the UK are eligible for Membership and can therefore benefit from the cover provided by The Masonic Mutual for their buildings, contents and liabilities.

A mutual is a company owned by and operated for the benefit of its members. The Masonic Mutual is run by a Board of Directors elected by the Membership, all of whom are Freemasons themselves and by taking out cover with the Mutual you become a member. This means the Mutual is run for you. There is a sense of community with being a member of a mutual, just as there is with being a Freemason.

The Chairman of The Masonic Mutual Limited, Brother Robin Furber is a long time personal friend and his lifetime expertise in the insurance industry cannot be questioned.

Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 has already made substantial savings in their insurance cover by joining the Mutual.

For further information and quotes please contact Jeff Moore Tel: 01580 752052. Mobile 07825 077220. Email [Jeff.Moore@rmml.com](mailto:Jeff.Moore@rmml.com)

Alex Galbraith, Past Substitute Grand Master.  
Past Provincial Grand Master."

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.lgk12.com)

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

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

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

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

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 – [www.lodgesirmichael989.co.uk](http://www.lodgesirmichael989.co.uk)

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 – [www.lodgecrawfurdsburn.org.uk](http://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.



## Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

### Calendar of Events and Meetings – April 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> 68/217 – Joint Divine Service 6.30 for 7.00pm.
4 <sup>th</sup> 68 – Business Meeting and Spring Draw	5 <sup>th</sup> XII - Raising	6 <sup>th</sup> Preceptory	7 <sup>th</sup> 217 – Entering (E)	8 <sup>th</sup> 175 – Passing and Ballot	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
11 <sup>th</sup> 626 – Passing conferred by Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.	12 <sup>th</sup> 1121 - Passing	13 <sup>th</sup> 624 – Mark Degree 989 – Mark Degree & Annual visit by Provincial Grand Lodge (7.15).	14 <sup>th</sup> 1425 – To be advised.	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup> XII – Mark Degree	20 <sup>th</sup> RAC XVII – MA and EM Degree	21 <sup>st</sup> 217 – Passing (E) and Annual visit of Provincial Grand Lodge (7.15). Presentation of diploma.	22 <sup>nd</sup> 175 – Joint Mark Degree with Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
25 <sup>th</sup> 626 – Mark Degree	26 <sup>th</sup> 1121 – Mark Degree conferred by Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.	27 <sup>th</sup> 989 – HOMES Degree (Passing).	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	

**(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](http://www.pglrw.org)*