



The West Column



Appreciation: It's nice to be appreciated.

One of the (many) nice things about being retired is that you can take matters at a slightly more leisurely pace although often you will hear someone newly retired saying that they don't know how they ever found the time to work!

To be honest, I think that is simply because, your time is filled with things that you enjoy doing which is, after all, what retirement should be about. I am most aware of this fact when I go for my paper each morning during the week.

Instead of jumping out of the car on my way to work and rushing in and out of the shop to try and beat the early morning commuter rush on the motorway, I now enjoy walking to the shop and back and taking my time and if the weather suits, my little grandson and I will make a huge detour to simply see what we can see. The first thing that I noticed was that folk, (generally of the same vintage), I meet on my way to the shop and back will rarely pass by without a cheery "good morning" and after a while, will often stop and pass the time of day. A little common courtesy which brightens even the most Scottish of mornings. Often I walk out of Bishopton, down to the hill above Langbank and then up towards Ingliston and although I have been looking at the view for over sixty years, I never fail to appreciate the sight of the Firth of Clyde estuary as it opens up before your eyes. It always told me I was on my way home – it was always a sight that I appreciated.

Pushing the pram with my ever-growing grandson up the hill towards Ingliston Country Club, it is easy to get lost in the sounds of the countryside between the cattle, sheep, horses and the birds singing, it simply makes me glad to be alive and to appreciate the gifts of nature that God provides.

What I do notice though is that unlike the older people I meet, the young folk that I pass on my daily route, will pass by without a glance, their heads bowed, their eyes glued to the screens of their phones and their ears plugged with their earphones as they listen to their music.

I feel like shouting at them to let them know what they are missing in the way of natural beauty and entertainment. Not for them, the glorious sight of the early morning sun over the Cowal hills and the mountains beyond. Not for them the sound of the blackbird singing far more sweetly than anything that can be downloaded from YouTube or wherever. These things are simply not appreciated. They are taking for granted.

However, if I am realistic, we are probably all a bit like that and we take many of God's gifts for granted. Our health, the fact that we live in comfortable warm and secure houses, the fact that we do not need to worry too much about where the next meal is coming from.

We assume that when we go to bed each night that we will wake up the following morning and that at the end of the day, we will safely once more tuck ourselves into a comfortable bed. I wonder if that was less of a certainty, would we appreciate life and all its riches a little more. One day our reckoning will come!

It's not as if we do not get constant reminders of such how painful life can be; simply turn on the news and consider the people in Aleppo and take a moment to consider their position. I suspect, they will simply appreciate being still alive at the end of each day.

Perhaps taking a few moments at the end of each day and thanking God for all the blessings we enjoy while praying for others would be worthwhile.

Perhaps we should also take a moment to appreciate our freemasonry. I occasionally hear complaints about test fees and membership fees but I would simply ask you what other organisation offers the opportunity to develop such trusted and often lifelong friendships.

That is something that you cannot put a price upon. Now that is something to be appreciated.

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.

Advertising:

For some time, I've been thinking whether to offer to include adverts in the West Column although we have occasionally carried the odd Masonic related advert.

I am aware that there may be brethren within Lodges who can offer a range of services, painting, decorating, building, plumbing, car servicing etc. Equally, I have often heard it said that brethren would be happy to provide work to fellow brethren, not because they are looking for a reduced price but more because they feel that they can trust them. I am therefore happy to try and run a trial over the coming session to see if we can link the two to everyone's benefit.

At the moment there is no charge to include an advert in the Column but perhaps if taking advantage of the service, it could be mentioned that the advert had been seen in the Column, which would allow us to gauge the success or otherwise of the trial. If you would like to advertise your services, simply drop me a note of the advert and I will include it in the Column. Regrettably, I would have to stress that the West Column could not be responsible for any work carried out as a result of the advert!

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

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

Provincial Grand Lodge Schedule of Meetings:

2016:

October Communication – 7.30 pm Wednesday, 5th October (Lodge Sir Michael No. 989).

Provincial Grand Committee – 7.30 pm, Wednesday 7th December (Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626).

2017:

Annual Communication – 6.45 pm, Friday 3rd February, (Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175).

Provincial Regular Communication (October).

The October Regular Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held, with the kind permission of the Lodge, in Lodge Sir Michael No. 989, Glebe Road, Kilmacollm on Wednesday 5th October 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Off/bear	Annual Visit 2017	Commenting
12	Tue 15 th November	Gerry Robertson	Tue 7 th March	JPGW
68	Fri. 9 th December	Billy McLarty	Mon 20 th February	SPGW
175	Fri. 28 th October	Kenny Morrison	Fri. 13 th January	SPGW
217	Fri 25 th November	Alistair Glenney	Thur. 19 th April	JPGW
626	Sat. 15 th October	George Carson	Mon 13 th March	DepPGM
989	Fri 18 th November	Robert Bain	Wed. 12 th April	SPGW
1121	Fri 4 th November	Alexander Johnstone	Tue. 24 th January	SubPGM
1425	Fri 2 nd December	Alan Beck	Thur. 9 th February	SubPGM
1814	Fri 5 th May (2017)		Fri. 5 th May	

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

Summer winners:

June: Brother Robert S Stone (217)
July: Brother Iain Freer (1121)
August: Brother Robert Crossan (XII)

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 September, the following visits were made;

Saturday 3rd – My grateful thanks to Depute Provincial Grand Master Brother John Keith who attended the 6 monthly meeting of Provincial Grand Masters in Perth as I was on holiday.

Thursday 8th – Attended a Fellowcraft Dgree (Exemplification) at Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Friday 9th – Attended a Sportsmans' Dinner as guest of the Provincial Grand Lodge Renfrewshire East.

Saturday 10th – with DPGM Brother Keith, we attended the Installation of Brother William A Perry as Provincial Grand Master of Lanarkshire Middle Ward which ceremony also marked the bi-centenary of the Province with a rededication ceremony. Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Alexander Galbraith was also present in his capacity as Past Substitute Grand Master.

Monday 12th – Attended an Entered Apprentice degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Tuesday 13th – Attended a meeting of the Information and Communications Committee at Grand Lodge.

Wednesday 14th – Attended Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 where a Fellowcraft Degree was conferred by Lodge Gleniffer No. 1219 (PGLRE).

Thursday 15th – Attended Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 to witness an Entered Apprentice Degree.

Monday 19th – Attended an EGM at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Tuesday 20th – Attended Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII and witnessed a Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No. 370 (PGLRE).

Wednesday 21st – Attended a meeting of Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning No. 4 (Entering).

Friday 23rd – Again my grateful thanks to DPGM Brother John Keith for deputising for me at the meeting of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 (Presentation).

Monday 26th – Attended Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and witnessed a Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Tuesday 27th – Attended Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 and witnessed a Master Mason's degree.

Friday 30th – Attended Lodge St. John's Operative No. 347 (Master Mason's degree conferred by Lodge St. John's Busby).

Provincial Grand Lodge Lanarkshire Middle Ward.

It was a huge privilege to be present along with Depute Provincial Grand Master Brother John R S Keith and Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Alexander Galbraith (in his capacity as Past Substitute Grand Master) at the installation of Brother William A Perry as Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Lanarkshire Middle Ward. Following the ceremony of installation held in Hamilton Academy, Grand Lodge then carried out a ceremony of rededication to mark the 200th anniversary of the Province. A busy day for all concerned in the ceremonial work all of which was carried out to an extremely high standard for which Grand Lodge is renowned.



Brother William A Perry, Provincial Grand Master of Lanarkshire Middle Ward

Following the ceremonial, the brethren (lucky enough to have tickets) retired to Hamilton Racecourse for a magnificent dinner. A very memorable day from start to finish.

Congratulations to Brother Bill Perry and his team of commissioned office-bearers and we look forward to welcoming him into the Province in the near future.



The photograph above provides an indication of the numbers attending the ceremonial. The photo is of the deputations from Grand Lodge and the sister Provinces and those with especially good eyesight might just about manage to pick out Brother Alexander Galbraith, (2nd right, front row).

Test Fees:

Please be reminded that it is important that Test Fees are kept up to date. Most Lodges now offer the facility of paying by direct debit which is an excellent way of ensuring that you are always clear in your Lodge.

In particular, it is also important to make sure that if you are an affiliate member of another Lodge, you must be clear in ALL Lodges in which you are a member to ensure that you may continue to visit other Lodges. Brethren who are not up to date in all Lodges of which they are a member, have visiting rights withdrawn as well as the privileges which would normally be afforded to them in their Mother Lodges.

Charity Zip line Challenge in aid of Prostate Cancer Scotland.

A final word on the zip line challenge: At the Installation of Brother William A Perry as Provincial Grand Master of Lanarkshire Middle Ward, Mr Adam Gaines, Director of Prostate Scotland, was a guest at the celebration dinner and was presented with a cheque covering the final income of monies from the appeal and which brought the final total to a remarkable £123,800!

Provincial Ball.

It is confirmed that the 2017 Ball will be held on Saturday 27th May.

One small point Brethren in that it was agreed prior to the very first Ball back in 2014, the event was for members of the Craft and their partners only.

Grand Lodge.

A reminder that the next regular communication of Grand Lodge will take place on Thursday 27th October and that the Festival of St. Andrew will take place on Thursday 24th November. Further details will be provided in next month's edition of the West Column.

War Memorials:

The Scottish Masonic Materials Group are currently collecting data on any war memorials located within Scottish Masonic Lodges and I believe it is intended to publish (not sure yet in what format) details of these to coincide with the celebrations to mark the centenary of end of the First World War in November 2018.

All of the Lodge secretaries have been contacted and a return made in respect of this Province. I will endeavour to keep you up to date with this interesting initiative.



2018 Celebrations to mark the signing of the Armistice on 11th November 1918.

In November 2018, it is intended to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War by holding a Service within Grand Lodge. There will be a short parade beforehand and it is likely, in view of the limitations in the capacity of Grand Lodge, that each Province will be invited to send a limited number of representatives. It is possible that this will be based on the size of each Province and might mean that the Province of Renfrewshire West will be invited to send only two or three representatives.

I have been asked to gauge the likely demand for tickets (no cost involved) and attending such an event is something that would be of interest to you, please let me know.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING OCTOBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 4th – Entering and Ballot
Tuesday 18th - Raising

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 3rd – Business Meeting
Monday 10th - Entering
Monday 17th – Passing conferred by Lodge Dumbarton Kilwinning No. 18
Monday 24th – Passing
Monday 31st – Raising (meeting commences at 7.15 pm).

Social Scene

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 14th – Annual General Meeting and Nomination and Election of office-bearers.
Friday 28th – Annual Installation 6.45 pm.
Sunday 30th – Annual Divine Service. The Service will be held in the Temple and will be conducted by Senior Chaplain, Brother Reverend David Mitchell at 6.30 pm. Brethren to assemble at 6.15 pm. Regalia to be worn.

Honour conferred upon Brother Alexander Galbraith, Past Master, Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175, Past Substitute Grand Master, Past Provincial Grand Master.

A regular meeting of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 took place on Friday 23rd September 2016 for the sole purpose of presenting a 50 year Jubilee Certificate to Brother Alexander Galbraith PM. The meeting was conducted by Brother Marshall North IPM, standing in for our RWM Brother Edward Ross who is on holiday. After opening the Lodge Brother North welcomed the following deputations, Visiting Brethren headed by Brother Nicky Stetz RWM of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No. 626, The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West headed by DPGM Brother John Keith and the Grand Lodge of Scotland headed by Substitute Grand Master Brother George Kelly.

Brother Marshall North IPM gave a brief resume of Brother Alexander Galbraith's Masonic career with his Initiation on the 23rd September 1966, 50 years to the day of this presentation, being Passed on the 16th December 1966 and Raised on the 20th October 1967. Brother Galbraith served as Lodge Secretary from 1979 to 1984, two years as RWM from 1987 to 1989 and as RWM again from 1990 to 1991. His service to the Craft was not confined to his Mother Lodge with Brother Galbraith serving as Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West from 2003 to 2008 and Substitute Grand Master Mason from 2011 to 2013.

Some of Brother Galbraith's other Craft Honours include, Instigator, chief architect and Founder Depute Master of The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 in 1996, serving for two years as Right

Worshipful Master between 2011 to 2013 as well as being an Honorary Member of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII, Lodge Sir Michael No. 989, Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121, Lodge International No. 1508, Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87 (IC) and an Honorary Member (Only the 3rd ever) of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire. The list of his participation in all of the other Orders to which he is dedicated is too long to be included in this short report suffice to say that when we say Freemasonry is Universal Brother Galbraith really takes that to heart and has been all over the World flying the flag for Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 and the Province of Renfrewshire West.

Brother Marshall North IPM then came from East to West, assisted by Substitute Grand Master Brother George Russell Kelly, and presented Brother Alexander Galbraith PM with his Jubilee Certificate to commemorate 50 years membership of his Mother Lodge.

Brother Galbraith replied with a few words of thanks to the Brethren of the Lodge and the Visiting Brethren, many from outwith our Province, for the honour bestowed upon him stating it has been a great privilege to be a Member of the Lodge, and the Craft, with many fond and happy memories recalled over the past 50 years with friendships continuing to grow.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Brethren moved to Harmony where a celebration dinner was enjoyed by all. On behalf of the Lodge I would like to thank all of our Visitors who came along to support this presentation, to the Deputations from the Provincial Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge for attending in such large numbers, to Brother John Keith for his assistance, to the Piper Brother Alistair McNeill of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175, to the Photographer Brother Stewart Cruickshank and to Brother Jim Williams and his Staff for the excellent catering.



Brother Marshall North IPM and Brother Alexander Galbraith PM with the Deputations from GL, PGL, Brother Nicky Stetz RWM and the Piper, Brother Alistair McNeill.



Brother Marshall North IPM, SGM Brother George Kelly, Brother Alexander Galbraith PM, DPGM Brother John Keith and GL DofC Brother William Gauld.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 6th - Passing
Thursday 20th – Raising.

Please note that the visit by Lodge Barns O' Clyde. No. 1018, which was due to take place on 6th October has been rescheduled and will now take place on Thursday 17th November.

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 12th – Passing (Exemplification) and Affiliation. The meeting will also include the annual visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire headed by Substitute Provincial Grand Master Brother James Bell.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 10th - Raising
Monday 24th - Passing

The Annual Installation of the Lodge will take place on Saturday 15th October at 2.00 pm when Brother Nicholas R R Stetz will be installed into the Chair of his Mother Lodge to serve a second term. Installing Masters on this occasion are Brother Brian G Hopkins, Brother Kenneth M McCrae and Brother James P Livingstone, all Past Masters of the Lodge. A very warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren, to attend the Lodge on this occasion and to join the brethren of the Lodge at the festive board which will follow as guests of the Lodge.

The Lodge's annual Installation Dance will take place on Saturday 22nd October at 7.30 pm and once again, a warm invitation is extended to all friends of the Lodge to be guests of the Lodge on that occasion.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 12th – Annual General Meeting and Election of office-bearers.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 4th – Meetings of the Finance, General and Enquiry Committees.

Tuesday 11th – Annual General Meeting, Ballot and Election of Office-bearers.

Tuesday 25th – Passing (Exemplification)

Congratulations to the following brethren, who all achieved the milestone of being members of the Lodge for 50 years and were presented with their Jubilee Certificates during the month of September;

Brothers, Iain Freer, David Hair, James Strachan and Thomas Kay.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 13th – Annual General Meeting and Election of Office-bearers.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

No information received – please refer to the Greenock Telegraph.

Other Orders

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

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

Most Excellent First Principal, 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.

Wednesday 19th October – Annual Installation.

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 6th – Annual Installation (7.15pm).

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.

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 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 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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Advert:



First ABC Training

07958940412

First Aid Training Courses



First ABC Training provide first aid training courses to groups and individuals throughout the UK.

We regularly work with local authorities, members of the public and companies in industries including education, catering, construction, and more.

Our courses are a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical sessions. They are designed to give you the ability and practical confidence to protect your family, friends, colleagues, and members of the community.

What courses are available?

We provide flexible training and curriculums that vary in length to suit your requirements; including 1 and 3 day first aid courses, as well as programmes up to 12 hours and 6 hours or under.

This makes it easier for HR, Health and Safety, Training and Compliance Managers to arrange sessions around their different needs and availability.

Below are some of our most popular courses:

- [3 Day First Aid at Work](#)
- [1 Day EFAW](#)
- AED (Defibrillator)
- [Basic Life Support](#)
- [Appointed Persons](#)
- [Paediatric First Aid Training 6 Hour](#) and [12 Hour](#)

Bryn Hopper Training Manager.

(Brother Bryn Hopper is a member of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626).

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.

Advert:

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Telephone: 01475 720881

Website:

www.afmcperson@btconnect.com



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Lodge Websites.

Brethren, sadly my plea to Lodges to ensure that their websites are up to date appears to have fallen on deaf ears as many of the website contain information which is out of date. There is nothing more off-putting and I am of the opinion that if a Brother accesses such an out of date site, he is unlikely to return to it.

I would appeal to you to ensure that your material is up to date and if possible place a "Last Updated" post on it.

If you are not able to update your meetings in particular, I would suggest that it is better to delete this section and just have your website as a static basic information only site, with contact details.

Some useful site addresses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 - link deleted.

Stirling Royal Arch Websites

<http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/> - Lectures site

<http://www.lodge76.co.uk/> - Main site

<http://www.greyfriars51.fsnet.co.uk/> - Preceptory site

Grand Lodge Guidelines for the creation of Lodge Websites

if anyone is considering the development of a lodge website please bear in mind that the Grand Lodge of Scotland have issued guidelines for the creation of such sites and I would be happy to provide a copy.

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



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Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – October 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 st Consecration of RAC 900 (1.00 pm).	2 nd
3 rd 68 – Business Meeting	4 th XII – Entering and Ballot	5 th Preceptory of Ardgowan	6 th 217 – Passing RAC289 – Installation (7.15).	7 th 1814 – Meeting – Notice of Motion	8 th	9 th
10 th 68 – Entering 626 - Raising	11 th 1121 – AGM, Nomination and election of Office- bearers. and Ballot	12 th 624 – Passing (E) AV by Provincial Grand Lodge Ayrshire 989 – AGM, Nomination and election of Office- bearers.	13 th 1425 – AGM, Nomination and election of Office-bearers.	14 th 175 – AGM, Nomination and election of Office- bearers.	15 th 626 – Annual Installation (2.00 pm)	16 th
17 th 68 – Passing conferred by Lodge 18	18 th XII - Raising	19 th RAC XVII - Meeting	20 th 217 - Raising	21 st	22 nd 626 – Annual Installation Dance.	23 rd
24 th 68 – Passing 626 - Passing	25 th 1121 – Passing (E)	26 th	27 th	28 th 175 – Annual Installation (6.45 pm).	29 th	30 th 175 – Annual Divine Service (6.30pm).
31 st 68 – Raising (7.15pm).						

(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