



The West Column



Well brethren, it has been a bit of a struggle getting the West Column out in time for the first meeting of the month of December. A mixture of too much content and too little time I'm afraid as it has been a very busy month. On checking my diary though, I think that there may be a little window of opportunity coming up at the end of the month for a couple of weeks largely free of meetings and I will look forward to the rest. I've said it before but I am often amazed how quickly the time seems to fly past. It seems like no time at all since I commenced my commission as Provincial Grand Master but amazingly, almost four years have passed.

I was reminded of this during the week when I received a letter from Grand Lodge advising me that they had noted that my commission would end on the 1st February 2018 and asking me if I wished to be considered for re-election to the office. While I have (and still am) enjoyed my term as Provincial Grand Master immensely, I think it is only appropriate that someone else takes over the reins with a fresh outlook and initiative and I have responded accordingly to Grand Secretary.

Over the coming week or so, each Lodge will therefore receive a letter from Grand Secretary, inviting the Lodge to nominate a suitable brother for consideration as Provincial Grand Master by Grand Lodge. While the closing date for nominations is August, I would urge all Lodges to give the matter careful consideration well before that date and make every attempt to respond to Grand Secretary by the end of April.

In the meantime, I will continue to give of my very best to carry out my duties as Provincial Grand Master during the next year and until my commission is terminated and I demit from office.

With that important message out of the way, I'm sure that most of you are turning your thoughts to Christmas and the New Year. November has been a very interesting month especially for our cousins across the "pond" where the US Presidential election has been taking place. I would not dream of making comment on the race to the White House or indeed on the outcome but I was interested in events at the end of the month.

Thanksgiving always takes place in America on the 4th Thursday in November and was perhaps first recognised in 1789 when George Washington instituted the celebration. However, it was in 1863 that Abraham Lincoln pronounced that it would be a national holiday of "thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens".

A day when the nation is to take stock of all of God's gifts, of food, comfort, safety and family and I'm sure that most Americans do just that. However, what now follows the day of thanksgiving is another special day – **BLACK FRIDAY!**

Black Friday is the day when the big stores have their very special sales (sadly the practice is creeping into this country in recent years. In the space of 24 hours human nature is quickly transformed from one of thanksgiving to one of pure greed with people fighting over themselves in order to grab a bargain. Human nature at its very worst I'm afraid.

To be honest, such changes in nature are not uncommon. How many go to Church on a Sunday morning and come out feeling kindness towards our fellow man but how long does it last?

We attend our Lodge meetings and shake the hands of brothers but does that good feeling last until the next meeting?

As we approach Christmas and the festive period, again we will feel that glow of kindness and goodwill towards our fellow man and woman but the trickiest part will be maintaining that goodwill through to January and on through the whole year. So perhaps this year forget about a new year's resolution to cut down on the drinks and cigarettes or to lose weight or get a bit fitter. Here is a resolution for us all to simply show a bit more compassion, understanding and tolerance and extend the spirit of Christmas through the whole year.

In the meantime, I would wish you and your loved ones a very happy and blessed Christmas.

Regards,
Jim

As a wee Christmas postscript, my daughter, currently in Dallas, Texas, send me a photograph taken in the menswear department of Macy's asking me if I would like the jacket (and matching tie) in the red or blue. Apparently reduced to a bargain half-price – now only \$50! Sadly I feel only Brother David Stevenson of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 could really do it justice!



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!

I must say that there has been little response to the above note since its first publication in September's edition. If this is not a feature which is of interest to the brethren, I will review the matter in the new-year. I am a little surprised that there has been little take-up, especially by the tradesmen amongst the brethren. This is a chance to advertise your services and/or products free of charge to a readership of around 500 every month.

**** - 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:

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).

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. 27 th January	SPGW
217	Fri 25 th November	Alistair Glenny	Thur. 20 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. 12 th January	SubPGM
1425	Fri 2 nd December	Alan Beck	Thur. 9 th February	SubPGM
1814	October (2017)		October	

Please note that there is a change to the dates of the visits to Lodges 175 and 1121 from those published previously. The Annual Visit to The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 will also be changed to October to the night of the annual installation.

Byelaws and Notices of Motion:

Brethren, could I please urge you to ensure that any proposed changes to bye-laws be discussed with the Provincial Grand Secretary BEFORE compiling a Notice of Motion for submission to the Lodge. This will ensure that the Motion is in an acceptable format and avoid any delays caused by having to have the proposal reworded and resubmitted.

Renfrewshire 200 Club (RW200Club).

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

Members may either pay cash (cheques should be made out to the Provincial Grand Lodge) or may take out a standing order arrangement. You can also take part on a monthly basis but to take part in the draw your contribution, whether by cash, cheque or standing order must be with the Provincial Grand Treasurer prior to the draw taking place.

Please remember that a minimum of 50% of the income will be going directly to charity. 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

The draw for the month of September was made at the regular communication of Provincial Grand Lodge with the winner being Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

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. Although many of the Lodges held their Annual Meetings during the month of November, the following visits were made;

Tuesday 1st – Attended a meeting of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII and witnessed a degree conferred by Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning No. 4. My thanks for the support of IPPGM Brother James W Miller, Treasurer Brother Tommy Trotter, Sword-bearer, Brother George J Carson and Tyler, Brother James McCorkell, for their support at this meeting.

Friday 4th – Attended the annual installation meeting of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

Sunday 6th – Attended the Annual Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow.

Monday 7th – Was present at the Annual Installation of The Princes Lodge, No. 607 in the Province of Glasgow and was supported by Sword-bearer, Brother George J Carson and Tyler, Brother James McCorkell.

Tuesday 8th – Attended a meeting of the Information and Communications Committee at Grand Lodge.

Wednesday 9th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 and witnessed a Master Mason's degree conferred by Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

Thursday 10th – Witnessed a Fellowcraft degree at Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Friday 11th – Visited Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 and witnessed an Entered Apprentice Degree conferred by Lodge Bonhill and Alexandria At. Andrew's Royal Arch No. 321 from the Province of Dunbartonshire.

Monday 14th – Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Tuesday 15th – Attended the annual installation of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Thursday 17th – Visited Lodge Thistle and Crown No. 1167 in the Province of Renfrewshire East for a "walk-through" of an entered Apprentice degree.

Friday 18th – Attended the annual installation of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.

Tuesday 22nd – Attended a Master Mason's degree (exemplification) at Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

Thursday 24th – Attended the Annual Installation and Festival of St. Andrew at Grand Lodge. Also present were Brother Nicholas R R Stetz, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626, Brother James Cowan, Right Worshipful Master of The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814, Brother Allan T Glen, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII, Brother Malcolm A

Sinclair, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 Brother James Strachan, MM of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 and Brother Neil M Johnston, MM of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626. Also present in their Grand Lodge offices were Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Alexander Galbraith, Past Substitute Grand Master and Brother Archibald Hoey, Immediate Past President of the Board of Grand Stewards.

Friday 25th – Visited the REACH Inverclyde project, which is the winner of the Province's Citizen of the Year award.

Friday 25th – Attended the annual Installation of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Sunday 27th – Attended the annual Divine Service of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

Monday 28th – Attended a Master Mason's degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.



Brother Alistair Glenny and Brother Kenneth K Morrison who represented the Province at the Autumn Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge Ayrshire on Sunday 30th October.



The line-up of visiting Provinces at the annual Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow on Sunday 6th November.

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.

Provincial Ball.

It is confirmed that the 2017 Ball will be held on Saturday 27th May. Tickets are now on sale shortly and it is anticipated that there will be a very high demand so the advice is get your order in quickly!

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.

Festival of St. Andrew 2016.

Around 500 brethren from across the world gathered in Freemason's Hall to witness the installation of the Grand Master Mason, Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont being installed for the ninth successive year along with the elective office-bearers of Grand Lodge. In an excellent ceremony, Brother W Ramsay McGhee was again selected as Depute Grand Master while Brother Hugh Clelland was selected to be Substitute Grand Master. The principal guest was Most Worshipful Brother Cristoph Rosbach, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodges of Germany.

Following the installation ceremony, the brethren retired to the Edinburgh Corn Exchange where they enjoyed an excellent meal and were well entertained by the various speakers.

In addition to the Provincial Grand Master and the Past Substitute Grand Master Brother Alexander Galbraith, the Province was also represented by, Brother Allan T Glen, Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII, Brother Nicholas R R Stetz, Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626, Brother Malcolm A Sinclair, Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121, Brother Neil M Johnston, Master Mason of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and Brother James Strachan, Master Mason of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121. A very enjoyable time was had by all in attendance.



Right Worshipful Master Brother Malcolm A Sinclair, Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 listening intently to another seafaring tale from Brother Neil Johnston MM626.



The "Chain Gang".
Not sure what the collective noun might be for a group of Provincial Grand Masters
and not sure that I would like to open it up for suggestions.



The Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont along with Depute Grand Master, Brother W Ramsay McGhee and Substitute Grand Master, Brother Hugh Clelland.



Could be twins! You know who they are!



Wanted!

Does anyone recognise this man?

Last seen heading for the Province of Ayrshire and wanted in connection with assault of an innocent wee haggis!

If seen do not approach as he could be dangerous.

If found, please return to Brother Robert Little, Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire.

Honour for the Province:

The day was made extra special when the Grand Master announced that he had granted honorary grand rank upon **Brother John Williamson Black**, Past Master of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68. Brother Black has served the Province faithfully both in his capacity as Master of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 but also as an honorary member of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 and in his career within the ranks of Provincial Grand Lodge where he recently became a Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden.

It is most appropriate that Brother Black was made Honorary Grand Piper and he will be presented with his certificate at the Installation of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 on Friday 9th December.

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.

Remembrance Day Parades.



It is a matter of some pride that Freemasonry was represented at each of the War Memorials on Remembrance Sunday, with wreaths being laid on behalf of the various Lodges at Inverkip, Gourock, Greenock, Port Glasgow and Kilmacolm.

Masonic Etiquette.

Concern was recently expressed regarding a lowering of standards of Masonic etiquette particularly in relation to forms of address where a degree of familiarity is regarded as lowering the dignity of the ritual.

In fairness, we learn from our predecessors in this regard and in many cases such familiarity has been going on for so long that it has perhaps become the norm.

It might therefore be helpful to provide a copy of a portion of the late Brother George Draffen's excellent paper on Masonic etiquette part of which dealt with correct forms of address and which is reproduced below.

MASONIC ETIQUETTE AND SCOTTISH USAGE *(Brother George Draffen of Newington 1966)*

'BROTHER IS A TITLE'

In the usage of the Scottish Craft 'Brother' is neither a sentimental nor familiar form of address. It is a title – as much as Right Worshipful or Worshipful.

A man does not attend his Lodge in his capacity as a private individual; he is not John Frazer or Robert Anderson. He is there in his capacity as a Master Mason – a Brother. For this reason he should always be addressed in open Lodge as 'Brother Frazer' or 'Brother Anderson'.

It cannot be too strongly stressed that all Scottish Freemasons are Brothers – irrespective of their rank in the Craft. The Scottish Craft knows no such form of address as 'Right Worshipful Brother' or

'Worshipful Brother', etc. In the Scottish Craft the appellations 'Right Worshipful' and 'Worshipful' are appropriate only to the office, not the person.

When addressing the Master of a Lodge it is correct to address him as 'Right Worshipful Master' and to refer to him as 'Right Worshipful Master Brother Anderson'. It is incorrect and not in accordance with Scottish Custom to address him as 'Right Worshipful Brother Anderson'. In the same way a Past Master is never, repeat never, addressed as 'Worshipful Brother John Brown'. He is Brother John Brown, Past Master and on a billet – again a Scottish term – his name would be written as 'Brother John Brown, P.M.'

In recent years a habit has grown for Brethren to address each other as 'Brother John' or 'Brother David' and, even worse, to address the Master or visiting Provincial or District Grand Office-bearers in this fashion.

Formality in our Lodges and Ceremonials is important as it underlines the solemnity and dignity of our proceedings and therefore a Brother should always be addressed by his surname or family name, e.g. 'Brother Brown'.

The appellation 'Right Worshipful, Very Worshipful, Worshipful etc' is a form of address when addressing or referring to a Brother of the appropriate rank in the Lodge or at Harmony. There is no such office in the Scottish Craft as 'Right Worshipful Master' or even 'Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason', the respective officer are 'Master' and 'Grand Master Mason'

When the Office-bearers are listed in a billet or other written material they should be in the form of:

Master	Brother John Brown
Senior Warden	Brother David White
Junior Warden	Brother William Anderson etc.

It should also be remembered that a Scottish Lodge does not have 'Officers' but 'Office-bearers'.

The full article on Masonic Etiquette and Scottish Usage by Brother Draffen can be found in the 1966 edition of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Year Book and is recommended reading for all brethren.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING DECEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 6th – The Annual Divine Service will take place on Tuesday 6th December 2016 within the Saloon of the Town Hall at 7.30 pm. The Service will be conducted by Past Master Brother Jack Glenny.

Tuesday 20th – No meeting.

Installation Report.

Another large attendance was recorded as Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII celebrated with the installation of Brother Allan T Glen as Right Worshipful Master of his Mother Lodge. Following an excellent ceremony provided by the installing “team” of Past Masters, Brother Iain White, Brother Alan D Beck and Brother Ken Macdougall, the brethren retired to an excellent meal in the Town Hall where the usual masonic toasts were offered.



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 5th – No meeting.

Monday 12th – Business meeting (members only).

Monday 19th – Passing (Exemplification)

Monday 26th – No meeting.

The Annual Installation will take place on Friday 9th December at 6.45 pm, when the Right Worshipful Master – elect, Brother Alexander Bloomfield Wilson will be installed into the Chair of his Mother Lodge by Brother George Freeburn assisted by Brothers Archibald M Wright and Iain McPherson, all Past Masters of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

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. Full details are available on the Lodge website.

It is confirmed that there will also be the usual Saturday night dance on Christmas Eve and tickets for the Hogmanay Dance are now available from Past Master Brother Archie Wright.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 9th – Raising

Friday 16th – Special Business Meeting (Members only) followed by an informal social night and spirit draw.



Hogmanay Party - Sat, 31st December 2016 8:00pm - Sun, 1st January 2017 2:00am

The Lodge will once again be holding an Hogmanay Party this year. This is always an excellent night and a great way to see out 2016 and bring in 2017. Tickets are priced at £10 each and will sell out very quickly so please contact Brother Thomas Porteous now to secure your Tickets. It is open to all so please bring along your Family and Friends and have a great start to the New Year.

Burns Supper - Sat, 14th January 2017 7:00pm - Sun, 15th January 2017 1:00am

The Lodge Burns Supper will take place on Saturday 14th January 2017 and as usual will be an excellent night dedicated to the Immortal Memory of our Nation's Bard. Tickets are on sale now priced at only £12.50 each and can be obtained from Brother Alex Johnstone. Wives, partners and friends all welcome. Ticket includes speakers, entertainment and meal,

This special event is open to all Members, Family and Friends so please book your Tickets now.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 1st – Raising (Exemplification). The degree will be carried out by the Past Masters of the Lodge.



Thursday 15th - Lecture. Japanese P.O.W's and their influence on Scottish Freemasonry by Brother Ian McPhee, Past Master of The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566 and Substitute Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West. This meeting will also include the annual Carol Harmony.

The Lodge's **Festive Dance** and Buffet Dinner will take place on Tuesday 27th December within the "68 Club". Live music will be provided by "River Island" and tickets are now available from PM Brother Gerry Robertson.

The Lodge's **Childrens' Christmas Treat** will again take place at the Beacon Arts Centre. (See Brother Gerry Robertson PM for details).

Annual Installation:

The Lodge's Annual Installation took place on Friday 25th November when the Right Worshipful Master Brother Gordon Douglas Robert Leitch was installed into the chair of his Mother Lodge in a very expert manner by Past Masters Brother Gerard C Robertson assisted by Brother Daniel Blaney and Brother John McAlister. The ceremony itself was carried out in a very dignified manner but retained the friendly touch which is evident amongst good friends.

The ceremony itself was again well attended and was followed by a superb celebration dinner at which the usual Masonic toasts were offered.



Brother Gordon D R Leitch
following his installation as
Master of his Lodge Cumberland
Kilwinning No. 217 .

Finally – a reminder from the Brother Secretary that TEST FEES are now overdue.

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 14th – Annual General Meeting and Affiliation.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 12th – Entering.

Monday 26th – No meeting.



The Christmas Dinner for Senior Citizens will take place on Saturday 10th December at 2.00 pm and the following day, Sunday 11th, will be the Childrens' Christmas Party also at 2.00 pm.

The Christmas Dance will be on Saturday 17th December and as tickets are already in demand, the advice is to get your tickets now.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 14th - Entering

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 13th – Passing (Exemplification)

Tuesday 20th – Lecture on the relationship between Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII and Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 by Brother Iain White Past Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII. This will be followed by a short carol harmony.

Installation Report.



The newly installed Right Worshipful Master
Brother Malcolm A Sinclair.

Wonder how long it took him to stop grinning?

A very large attendance of brethren of 134 from in and beyond the Province was present to witness Brother Malcolm A Sinclair being installed into the chair of his Mother Lodge by Past Masters, Brother Michael O'Neill, Brother Thomas More and Brother George J Carson. Following an excellent installation ceremony, the brethren retired to a harmony dinner with the usual masonic toasts being offered. An excellent evening and enjoyed by all.

Brother Sinclair Right Worshipful Master
along with his Installing Masters.





Right Worshipful Master Brother Malcolm A Sinclair along with newly installed Wardens, Brother John Laird, Senior Warden and Brother Iain D Hair, Junior Warden

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 2nd – Annual Installation 6.30 pm. Brother Kyle K Wilson will be installed into the chair of his Mother Lodge by Installing Masters, Brother Billy McLarty PM624, PM1425; Brother Kenneth M McCrae, PM626, HM1425 and Brother Jim Livingstone, PM626, PM1425. A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

The Lodge is now in recess until April.

Installation at The Princes Lodge No. 607 in the Province of Glasgow.

While we do not generally report on Installations outwith the Province of Renfrewshire West, we can make an exception as one of “our own”, Brother Anthony Stewart, a Master Mason of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 and Honorary Member of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII was installed into the chair of his adopted Lodge, The Princes No. 607 on Monday 7th November. The Installing Team are also well known to the Brethren of this Province, Brother Iain Macpherson MBE, Brother Alan D Beck and Brother Bobby Shaw.

There was a healthy representation of brethren from the Province of Renfrewshire West including the Provincial Grand Master who was kindly allowed to join the deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow by Depute Provincial Grand Master Brother Andrew Mushet and with the permission of the Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow, Brother James C Peddie. Accompanying the Provincial Grand Master were Brother George J Carson and Brother James McCorkell. Also in the deputation were the Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, Brother John S Miller and the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire, Brother Archibald Chambers Chalmers!



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.

Meetings for the session ahead.

Wednesday 21 December RA
Wednesday 18 January Provincial Visit
Wednesday 15 February MA & EM
Wednesday 15 March RA
Wednesday 19 April MA & EM
Wednesday 17 May RA

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 1st – Excellent Masters' Degree conferred by the office-bearers of the Chapter.

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 -

Next meeting is Tuesday 17th January 2017 (RCC). An invitation is extended to Royal Arch Chapters XVII and 900 to attend this Special meetings as a deputation.

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.

Advert: (Brother Emmanuel Oroh is a member of Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175)
Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd
T: 0777 543 9037
E: anchorlimited73@gmail.com
Reg. No: 09394504

Security Services

In today's commercial environment, Security is paramount to every organisation, but at Anchor Security Services we provide much more than a behind the scenes presence.

We successfully carry out static guarding duties, front of house commissionaire and reception operations, mobile patrols, key holding and alarm response services. We also carry out in-depth property surveys which comply with EEC regulations.

Customer Care

At the forefront of our operative's training is customer care. This allows us to carry out the dual role of a highly trained security operative, and create a professional welcome for your visitors and clients at the crucial first point of contact on your premises.

SIA Licensing

All our security operatives are licensed and regulated by the UK government's Security Industry Authority (SIA). These high standards mean that our clients can have complete confidence in our performance.

In addition, we rigorously vet all our staff to ensure only the highest calibre of applicant are employed by Anchor Security Services.

Cleaning Services offered

Our cleaning services range from daily office cleaning to carpet cleaning, decoration, initial deep cleaning and janitorial service/supplies.

All staff vetted

In accordance with our company policy, all cleaning staff are thoroughly vetted before being employed by Anchor Cleaning Services to ensure the highest levels of security before entering our client's premises.

Janitorial Supplies

As an additional service, we also offer vast range of janitorial supplies to our clients, making the procurement and supply of cleaning duties a one stop operation.

Our Control Centre operates 24 hours each day, every day of the year, contact us using the details.

Emmanuel Oroh
(Manager)
Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd

Advert:



First ABC Training

07958940412

First Aid Training Courses



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

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

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

What courses are available?

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

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

Below are some of our most popular courses:

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

Bryn Hopper Training Manager.

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

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:

McPherson's Plumbing & Bathroom
Centre
11, Clarence Street, Greenock PA15 1LR
Telephone: 01475 720881
Website:
www.afmcperson@btconnect.com



A LITTLE BIT OF OUR HISTORY

A local family business established over 140 years ago, continues to develop new services.

McPherson's, founded by the great grandfather of the present owner Bill Knox, Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626, offers their customers a wide range of plumbing and building products from a nail to complete bathrooms. A supply only or supply and fit service is available with free design. The front counter staff of Morag, John and Mark, Bill's son in law, are able to provide advice on a wide range of plumbing and building matters.

A supply only or supply and fit service is available with free design.

From Contemporary Bathroom Design to Traditional Bathrooms we offer bathroom suites, plumbing accessories, bathroom sinks and taps, and bathroom accessories.

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With over 100 baths available to order you're sure to find exactly what you're looking for in your new bathroom design.

McPhersons are the major stockist in the area of a wide range of pipes and gutters in different profiles and colours, manufactured by Flowplast, Brett Martin and Polypipe. Many of the stockists in Glasgow can't match the range of sizes and colours available in our store.

Deliveries in Inverclyde are free on orders over £100!

Friendly service and value for money along with quality are all important to the staff, whether it's a tap washer or complete bathroom, DIY and trade customers will all receive the same professional attention.

OPENING TIMES:

8.30am - 5.00pm Monday thru Friday and 9.00am - 4.00pm Saturday

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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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E. gowanlea-nurseries@hotmail.co.uk
Barochan Road, Johnstone
PA5 8YS

Advert:

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – December 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 st 217 – Raising (E) Past Masters' degree. RAC298 – EM degree.	2 nd 1425 – Annual Installation (6.30 pm).	3 rd	4 th
5 th 68 – No Meeting	6 th XII – Annual Divine Service	7 th Provincial Grand Committee (7.30 pm).	8 th	9 th 175 – Raising 68 – Annual Installation (6.45 pm).	10 th	11 th
12 th 68 – Business Meeting (Members only). 626 - Entering	13 th 1121 – Passing (E)	14 th 624 – AGM and Affiliation 989 - Entering	15 th 217 – Lecture and Carol Harmony.	16 th 175 – Special Business Meeting (Members only) and spirit draw.	17 th	18 th
19 th 68 – Passing (E)	20 th 1121 – Lecture and carol harmony.	21 st RAC XVII – RA degree.	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th
26 th 68 – No meeting 626 – No meeting.	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st	

(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