



The West Column



Great Expectations:

It is probably true to say that we all start off new projects with great expectations and enthusiasm and sometimes when we fail to reach our goal there is a feeling of anti-climax. Defeat is not something that we like to experience.

My preferred mode of transport when I travel through to Edinburgh is by train. I like the comfort, the space and the opportunity sometimes just to have 45 minutes or so to myself when I can read a book, look at the scenery or just have a snooze.

Unfortunately, on my last trip by rail through for an 11.00 am meeting at Grand Lodge, I got on the 9.30 train from Queen Street, which should have got me into Waverley at around 10.15, in plenty of time for a leisurely stroll along Princes Street and up to Grand Lodge in time for a coffee and some of Grand Secretary's most excellent chocolate biscuits before the start of the meeting.

Alas, Scotrail were obviously unaware of my great expectations and I realised that by 10.30, the train was still some way from Waverley Station. When we finally arrived at our destination, the powers that be had decreed that they would make life even more difficult for me and instead of terminating at our usual platform, we were deposited at Platform 23.3/4 which seemed to be about 1 mile short of North Berwick, leaving me with 10 minutes to get to George Street. Needless to say by the time I arrived, the meeting had started but even worse, the chocolate biscuits had disappeared! My great expectations went unfulfilled.

I had another meeting of the Information and Communications Committee a couple of weeks ago and having read in the papers, our Scottish Government's pronouncements that following the opening of the "missing link" on the M8, journey times had been reduced by at least 20 minutes, I decided on this occasion to travel by bus. Alas my great expectations were again dashed as the bus took just as long as it had ever taken and to make matters worse, the bus had to execute an emergency stop, depositing some passengers onto the floor and making some minor medical attention necessary.

However, on the plus side, I made it to Grand Lodge before some of the others who had been held up in the Edinburgh Festival travel chaos and so got my pick of the biscuits.

It strikes me that the greater the expectation sometimes the greater the let down and this is probably true of people as well. Talking to one of my fellow Provincial Grand Masters recently, he remarked that one of the things he had noticed after he became Provincial Grand Master was that he was disappointed with some brethren who he thought he would have been able to rely on for support and who had failed to live up to his great expectations but this had been balanced out by the fact that there were others of whom he had limited expectations at the outset and yet had turned out to be hugely supportive.

The bottom line is that you cannot predict the future.

The same is true for Lodges of course. We are about to get a new session underway and for some Lodges that will mean a change in the management with a new Master at the helm and perhaps many new office-bearers taking office for the first time. There will be great expectations and sometimes these will not work out and sometimes they will exceed all expectations.

We should not be afraid of the future, of trying new things, of innovation. Some will succeed and others will fail but the most important thing is to learn from events and move on. I am currently a member of a working group looking at retention figures within the Scottish Craft and early results would suggest that after a period of five years, a Lodge will be fortunate if it can boast of a retention rate of 25 to 30%. With a low intake of new initiates, it does not take a high intelligence to realise that situation is not sustainable in the long term and we must be prepared to "think outside the box" to improve our ability to hold on to new members. The chances are that if you have not managed to capture the interest of a new member within the first 18 months, he will be lost to the Craft.

We need new ideas, for example, a number of Lodges have been holding meetings during the summer months and the attendance figures at the meetings have been extremely high. Is any Lodge in the Province willing to cancel its meetings between January and April (on a trial basis) and hold meetings instead from May through August?

We must try new ideas without worrying about great expectations. If an idea doesn't work, learn from it and move on. The experience is not wasted.

In the meantime, I hope that you have all enjoyed the summer recess and are all suitably refreshed. As we embark on another new session, I would wish every Lodge a happy and successful term with lots of new candidates (and new ideas)!

Regards,
Jim

Obituaries:

Brother John Robert Spence Keith.

Reports of brethren passing to the Grand Lodge above are always tinged with sadness but some have a more profound effect than others which is the case with Brother John Keith. Brother Keith passed away after a long illness, bravely borne, on Sunday 23rd July 2017. He had been initiated into Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 at the age of 24 on the 20th September 1973, passed on 4th October 1973 and raised on the 18th October 1973. Twenty years later, he served as Master of the Lodge from 1993 until 1995 and had the very great pleasure of also installing his two sons into the Chair, firstly Alistair from 2003 to 2005 and again from 2007 to 2007 and also Gregor, from 2005 until 2007.

Not long after completing his term of office as Master, Brother Keith took up progressive office with the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West but it was not long before his talents were recognised and he was commissioned by Past Provincial Grand Master, Brother Alexander Galbraith as Provincial Grand Secretary in 2003 and served in this office until 2008, when the then Provincial Grand Master Brother James W Miller commissioned him as Substitute Provincial Grand Master.

When it came my turn to serve as Provincial Grand Master, it was necessary to commission my own team and without hesitation, the first name on the team sheet was that of Brother John Keith and I was delighted that he agreed to act as Depute Provincial Grand Master during my commission.

I was also privileged to act as his proposer when he intimated to me that he wished to affiliate to Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 which he did in September 2011.

Outwith the Province, Brother John Keith served as Master of Lodge Randolph No. 1434 in the Province of Renfrewshire East and also in many other Orders within freemasonry many of which he served actively and with distinction.

Outside of freemasonry, Brother Keith maintained a keen interest in the Boys' Brigade and most will know that he was a regular at a certain football club which plays at Ibrox Stadium!

His appointment as the next Provincial Grand Master had not yet been confirmed by Grand Lodge, although this would have been done at the Regular Meeting of Grand Lodge in October. It was well known that Brother Keith was looking forward to serving the Province as Provincial Grand Master and I am sure that he would have approached his Commission with the same vigour and determination as he approached all of the offices held during his 43 years as a member of the Craft.

It is impossible to do proper justice in this short obituary to the service provided by Brother John Robert Spence Keith, Depute Provincial Grand Master and his passing will be felt by all who knew him.

Brother Cornelius Coward.

It is possible that many of the readers of the West Column will not know who Brother Cornelius Coward was as he had not been in attendance at his Lodge for probably the best part of thirty years. However, that bare fact misrepresents the service that Brother Corney gave to Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 where he was initiated on the 20th April 1959 and where he served as Master in 1973 to 1975. Brother Coward also entered the ranks of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West and progressed through the offices to Provincial Grand Senior Warden.

Sadly, Corney's health was such that he did not feel comfortable attending meetings but that did not restrict his interest in the Lodge. In fact, when the Lodge was being rebuilt following the devastating fire some 10 years ago, Corney virtually camped outside and as I was working in Newton Mearns at the time, I received almost daily updates from Corney along with photographs showing the progress of the repairs. I can also now report that Brother Corney anonymously donated regular and substantial sums of money towards the repairs of the Lodge. Having lost many of our records in the fire, I set about compiling a short history of the Lodge and over the course of one summer, spent many an evening with Corney to tap into his encyclopaedic memory of all things relating to the Lodge and to Gourrock where Corney had been born, raised and lived all of his life.

Outside of Freemasonry, his interests lay in fishing and photography and those on Facebook might be aware that whenever someone asked a question relating to Gourrock's history, it was almost always Corney who provided the answer.

Sadly Brother Coward passed away after a short illness in the Larkfield Unit at Inverclyde Royal Hospital shortly after his 90th birthday and will be sadly missed by all who knew and respected him.

Brother Thomas Shields McIntyre.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Brother Thomas Shields McIntyre, a Master Mason of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217. Brother McIntyre had fought a long and courageous battle but even when suffering ill-health, he was still attending his Lodge and was always to be found in good humour and ready to welcome you into his Lodge. Tommy, of course, was also a great ambassador for his Lodge, the Province and for Scottish Freemasonry which he demonstrated on his many visits to Canada. His attendance at Lodge Ibrox in Ontario, resplendent in his full formal highland wear was obviously a source of great pride and he would insist on showing you the photographs taken during his visits at the first opportunity. Brother Tommy's presence in the back row of the Lodge will be missed by many. Next year, Brother Tommy would have celebrated 50 years as a member of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 having been initiated on the 4th December 1968.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who have suffered loss over recent times.

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:

Happily it would appear that the tradesmen who are members of the Craft in the Province all have plenty of work as nobody has taken up my offer of free advertising in the West Column. I will happily continue to advertise those companies who have asked to be included and in the event that any individual Brother would like to advertise his professional services in the future, I will gladly include their details.

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

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

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

Meetings.

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

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

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

Dates and duties for your diaries:

Provincial Grand Lodge Schedule of Meetings:

2017:

Provincial Grand Lodge – Regular Communication:

The October Regular Communication will take place on Wednesday 4th October in the Saloon of Greenock Town Hall.

The next meeting of Provincial Grand Committee will take place on Wednesday 6th December 2017 within the premises of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 at 7.30 pm.

Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Off/bear	Annual Visit 2018	Commenting
12	Tue 21 st Nov.	Brother Paul Docherty	Tues. 20 th Feb.	TBA
68	Friday 8 th Dec	Brother William McLarty	Mon. 19 th March	TBA
175	Friday 27 th Oct.	Brother George Carson	Fri. 9 th March	TBA
217	Friday 24 th Nov.	Brother Hugh Docherty	Thurs. 18 th Jan.	JPGW
626	Saturday 14 th Oct.	Brother Jim McCorkell	Mon. 22 nd Jan.	SPGW
989	Friday 17 th Nov.	Brother Alex Johnstone	Wed. 11 th April	TBA
1121	Friday 3 rd Nov.	Brother Robert Bain	Tue 9 th Jan.	SPGM
1425	Friday 1 st Dec.	Brother Alistair Glenney	Thurs. 8 th Feb.	TBA
1814	Friday 6 th October		Friday 6 th October	

In the event that any Provincial Office-bearer is unable to make any of the above dates, it would be appreciated if an apology could be registered with Provincial Grand Secretary in advance of the meeting.

The Annual Visit to The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 is 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.

The fund has enabled Provincial Grand Lodge to make charitable donations to the recipients of the Province's Citizen of the Year Award for the last three years and as reported fully below, the sum of £10,000 was presented to REACH for Autism, Inverclyde at the Province's annual Summer Ball. This supplements donations already made to the Girl Guides and Hammy's project in Port Glasgow and a proposal will be made at the Regular Communication in October, to dispose of the remaining funds prior to the new Commission taking over on the 1st February 2018.

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 my Commissioned Office-bearers. During the recess, the following visits were made and duties carried out;

April:

Monday 3rd – attended a meeting of the Information and Communications Committee (Education Sub-group) in Perth.

Tuesday 4th – Attended a Master Mason's degree at Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Thursday 6th – Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Saturday 8th – Represented the Province at a meeting of Provincial Grand Masters in Perth.

Monday 10th – Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Wednesday 12th – Annual visit of Provincial Grand Lodge to Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 (Fellowcraft Degree).

Thursday 13th – Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Tuesday 18th – Attended a Mark Degree at Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Thursday – Annual visit of Provincial Grand Lodge to Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 (Fellowcraft Degree).

Monday 24th – Attended a Mark Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Wednesday 26th – Headed a deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge to the annual Homes Degree at Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 (Fellowcraft Degree).

Friday 28th – Attended a Meeting of the Information and Communications Committee (Education Sub-group) in Perth.

May:

Tuesday 2nd – Attended a meeting of the Information and Communications Committee at Grand Lodge.

Wednesday 3rd – Provincial Grand Lodge Regular Communication.

Saturday 6th – My wife and I were guests at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire's Annual Ball.
Sunday 14th – Attended the Annual Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire.
Saturday 27th – Hosted the Provincial Grand Lodge Summer Ball.

June:

Thursday 8th – Attended the Regular Communication of Grand Lodge.

July:

Tuesday 11th – Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew No. 426.

August:

Tuesday 8th – Attended a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Prince of Wales. Renfrew No. 426.

Tuesday 15th – Attended a meeting of the Information and Communications Committee at Grand Lodge.

Tuesday 15th – Along with other members of Provincial Grand Lodge, attended a Regular Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning. My grateful thanks for the support of Provincial Grand Secretary, Brother Robin McIntyre, Brothers Alan Beck, Billy McLarty and Jim McCorkell.

Wednesday 16th – Chaired a meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge General Committee.

Saturday 19th – Attended a meeting of Provincial Grand Masters with the Grand Master Mason in Perth.

Wednesday 23rd – Attended a meeting of the Information and Communications Committee (Education Sub-group) in Perth.

Thursday 24th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Barns O' Clyde, No. 1018 where Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 were conferring a Master Mason's Degree.

Monday 28th – Hosted the annual Masters' Dinner.

As everyone will know, it is not possible to be in two places at the same time and on Sunday 14th May, there were not one, not two, not three but four Provincial Divine Services taking place and I am indebted to Brother Kenneth Morrison and Brother Alistair Glenny for representing the Province at the Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East.



At the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire's Annual Divine Service. You wait all day for a Jim to come along and as usual, three come along at the same time! Brother Jim Forrest, Provincial Grand Master of Dunbartonshire, Brother Jim Peddie, Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow and yours truly making up the trio!

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.

I think it is fair to say that the Summer Ball was another huge success and although the object of the exercise is to provide the brethren and their wives with a nice event to end the session and to bring everyone together, I can report that the Ball raised around £2,500 for the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Fund.

As a result of the monies raised at the Ball and throughout the year through the Renfrewshire West 200 Club Draw, it was possible to present a cheque on the evening of the Ball to REACH for Autism, Inverclyde, for the sum of £10,000 which was very graciously received, on behalf of the organisation, by Mrs Margaret McGowan and Miss Kira McCarthy.

I can also confirm that the Town Hall (and the ever popular Capitol Big Band) have been provisionally booked for next year so put a note in your diaries for Saturday 16th May 2018. This is a little earlier than previous years as we are aware that this year, the date clashed with the long holiday weekend.



Principal guests from the Provinces of Argyll and the Isles, Ayrshire, Dunbartonshire, Stirlingshire, Lanarkshire Middle Ward at the beginning of the evening.



Provincial Grand Master, along with Provincial Grand Secretary, Brother Robin McIntyre, Provincial Grand Treasurer, Brother Tommy Trotter and representatives from REACH for Autism, Inverclyde, Ms Margaret McGowan and Ms Kira McCarthy.



REACH for Autism, Inverclyde had already received the Province's Citizen of the Year Award for 2016 having been nominated by Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

On left, are the representatives of REACH for Autism along with the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 Brother Gordon Leitch and Past Master Brother Gerry Robertson.



When you come to the end of a perfect day!

Nearly going home time when this photograph was taken of three amigos (and you will note still with jackets on and ties intact – even after nearly five hours of wining and dining in a very warm Town Hall).

Provincial Grand Master with old friends, Brother Rudi Stetz, PM of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 and Brother Bob Stone, Past Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 and both Past Provincial Grand Senior Wardens.



Lovely picture of our Principal Guest on the evening, Brother Jim Forrest, the Provincial Grand Master of Dunbartonshire along with Mrs Christine Forrest and his daughter Elaine.

Grand Lodge.

The next regular meeting of Grand Lodge will be on Thursday 26th October and it is hoped that an appointment will be confirmed at this meeting for our new Provincial Grand Master to take up his commission on the 1st February 2018.

Festival of St. Andrew.

The Festival of St. Andrew will take place this year on St. Andrew's Day, 30th November and letters will shortly be with Lodges inviting applications for tickets for the annual dinner at a cost of £60 (excluding wines). While it is a fairly substantial cost for the meal, it is a superb day, even if only experienced once.

As last year, I would encourage anyone wishing to go, to forward their application along with the remittance to Brother Tommy Trotter, Provincial Grand Lodge Treasurer who can compile one application on behalf of the Province. This allows everyone to be seated together and if there are sufficient numbers, we can perhaps organise transport again this year.

Just a reminder that arrangements are being made for a parade and Church Service to take place on Sunday the 18th November 2018, to mark the end of the First World War. This is likely to be a very popular event and again, if numbers are sufficient, it might be possible to organise transport. I will provide further details as soon as they are known.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING the MONTH AHEAD.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 5th – Passing

Tuesday 19th – Nomination and Election of office-bearers and Ballot. (Members Only).

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 4th – Business Meeting

Monday 11th – Fellowcraft Degree

Monday 18th – Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Monday 25th - Entering

Social Scene

Our regular Saturday dances continue every week from 8.30 until midnight

Also available is our Joker Prize. Tickets cost £1 and can be purchased on a Monday night from Bro. George Taft or on a Saturday night at the dance.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 8th – Passing conferred by Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

Friday 22nd - Raising

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 7th – Business Meeting – Visitors Welcome

Thursday 21st – Passing (E) and ballot for affiliation.

Once again this year, the Lodge participated in the annual Comet Festival in Port Glasgow and for once, this summer, the weather behaved itself. The Lodge provided its usual bottle stall and the Right Worshipful Master would like to express his thanks for the record amount of donations contributed by brethren and friends of the Lodge.



All ready for the opening – brethren from the Lodge prepare for the onslaught!



All gone! Past Master and Secretary, Brother Dan Blaney counting up the takings!

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 13th – Entering (Exemplification).

The final meeting of the session was a very busy one for the Right Worshipful Master Brother James Cannon as in addition to the normal degree, he had the very pleasurable duty of conferring honorary membership upon a number of brethren who have been excellent supporters of the lodge in recent years.

Accompanied by Brother Robert Little, Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire, Brother Cannon conferred honorary membership upon, Brother Kenneth Munn McCrae, Past Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626, Brother John Paton, Past Master of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 and Brother Andrew G Pigott, Immediate Past Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.



Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 11th – Entering

Monday 18th – The Lodge will be conferring a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Monday 25th – Raising. This degree will be conferred by Lodge, The Gael No. 609.

The Lodge will also be conferring a Master Mason's Degree at Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew on Tuesday 12th September.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 13th - Entering

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 12th – Raising

Tuesday 26th – To be confirmed.

The Lodge will be conferring a Fellowcraft degree at Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 on Friday 8th September.

Appointment of Grand Steward at Grand Lodge.

Congratulations to Brother Malcolm A Sinclair who, at the Regular Meeting of Grand Lodge on Thursday 8th June, was appointed by the Grand Master Mason, to succeed Brother Archie Hoey as this Province's representative on the Board of Grand Stewards.

A tribute to:

William Clark

Second Lieutenant,

5th Bn, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

Who died on Monday, 23rd April 1917. Age 27

The recent Centenary Commemorations of the Battle of Arras have prompted me to gather together a few thoughts.

Around 1992 I had reason to visit an elderly lady, Miss May Clark, in Kempock House in Gourrock. She was well into her nineties but a preparatory telephone call the previous day had assured me that the former piano tutor had all her marbles and was indeed as sharp as a tack... and yes, she certainly was.

I had taken along a photograph for her to see that I knew would have been of interest to her. It was that picture from 1913 of the first office-bearers of the newly formed Masonic Lodge, Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121. Her father, John Clark, was the first Master and he is centred in the shot.

Miss Clark took the photograph from me but remained silent with no reaction.

I pointed out her father dressed in his full regalia but her attention was already focussed on another younger man in the second row. 'That's William', she said quietly, 'My brother. He died in the war'.

The silence returned as this ninety-something-year-old lady became a younger doting sister in her early twenties having just heard the news. A seventy-five-year-old tear came to her eye and a resigned smile came to her lips. She mentioned the impact of his death on her parents.

This was my introduction to William Clark, a man who remains to this day as my personal connection to the Great War. He is also a man with whom I seem to share so many similarities. We both grew up in the same street in the east end of Greenock, Bawhirley Rd, he at number 25 and I at 75. We both attended Hillend Primary School and both went on to the Greenock High School. We were both Secretary of Lodge Crawfordsburn – William at its founding and myself exactly one hundred years later.

He was a talented young man. He was an assistant school master at Chapelton School in Port Glasgow and was a great student of art. It was generally thought by many that Art would eventually become his chosen profession. He was an inspirational character by all accounts.

I have read in his own handwriting how he heard the call of Lord Kitchener. I read also a letter from him dated 1915 saying how happy he was to be back at the lodge in which he modestly fails to mention that he had sustained injuries in fierce fighting at the Battle of Loos with the 6th Cameron Highlanders. He received his commission for gallantry in the field.

In early 1916 he joined the 5th Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and was retained as an instructor at Ripon for almost a year.

Early in 1917 he returned to France and by April he was involved in the conflict around the city of Arras. He was killed on the 23rd of April of that year. A day that has been named as 'Black Monday' in the memoirs of others. Some official documents list his death as the 24th of April which suggests a cold interlude between death and the recovery of his body.

The Greenock Telegraph described him as a popular officer, winning by his frank lovable nature and his devotion the confidence and respect of both officers and men. His loss is deeply mourned, but he has died gloriously it states.

In 2001 I drove to France. Part Holiday, part unspoken pilgrimage. It was a cold, wet and windy March day when we visited that small cemetery on the Heninel to Croisilles Road. His grave was not difficult to find. Out of the three hundred or so plots, half are unidentified and eleven are German. I stood in front of the stone inscribed William Clark, aware that his final resting place would not have been initially a single plot but a long trench, and the tears came to my eyes. The futility and the waste. The unfulfilled talent of a generation. And for what?

Andrew S McKenzie PM
April 2017

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 14th – Fellowcraft Degree

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

Friday 1st – Lecture – "The History of the Clyde Naval Base" presented by Brother George McGaughey.

Friday 6th October – AGM, Installation and Annual visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566.

At the request of Brother Robert McPhee, Past Master 1566 and Depute Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, I am happy to include the following intimation.

The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566 are holding a special meeting for the benefit of Erskine Home on Wednesday 20th September 2017 at 7.00 pm in the recreation room at Erskine Home, Erskine Ferry Road, Bishopton PA7 5PU. Full regalia to be worn.

On that evening there will be two speakers, Brother John S Miller, PM1167 and Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East and Brother Jim Ferguson, Almoner of Lodge Gleniffer No. 1219. Tickets are £10.00 per person which will be for the benefit of the Erskine Home recreation facility and all funds raised will be presented to them on the evening. The cost of the ticket can be paid on the evening but it would be helpful to have advance warning of numbers attending.

After the meeting, the brethren can enjoy harmony with the Erskine veterans with the Home providing refreshments for visitors. Many thanks and fraternal greetings from the Master and brethren of the Lodge of Erskine No. 1566.

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 20th September AGM
Wednesday 18th October Installation
Wednesday 15th November MA & EM
Wednesday 20th December RA
Wednesday 17th January Provincial Visit
Wednesday 21st February MA & EM
Wednesday 21st March RA
Wednesday 18th April MA & EM
Wednesday 16th May RA

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 7th – AGM and election of office-bearers.

Cryptic Council and Royal Ark Mariners.

The AGM of the above will take place on Wednesday 27th September within the Masonic Hall, John Street, Gourock.

Preceptory of Ardgowan

Venerable Preceptor Kevin Pollock and Office Bearers extend a warm to all Fraters to attend our Musters during 2017 especially those who have been unable to attend recently through other commitments.

MUSTERS and Grades for 2017 are;

Tuesday 03 October – AGM/ Election of office-bearers and MG
Wednesday 01 November – Annual Installation
Wednesday 06 December – KG

- A pocket sized syllabus is also available where required
- Executive Committee dates and times will be advised separately
- All musters are held within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock at 7.30 pm unless otherwise advised.

Please ensure the Secretary has your current contact details.

St. George's Conclave No. 79 -

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.

Bowling:

Orr Trophy - A report by Brother John Freeburn.

Well we got the Orr Trophy played although the weather tried its best to put it off.

The Trophy had been refurbished and was looking magnificent.

We had 36 players plus a couple of interested spectators. Every Lodge in the Province supplied at least one team, with the exception of Lodge Sir Michael 989. (The Trophy is contested over 2 games of nine ends and in between these games the Brethren have a break for a slice roll and a cup of something warm. There were some very good bowlers on show and one or two who were trying it for the first time.

After the dust had settled and the cards were in for collation, the winner of the Orr Trophy for 2017 came from Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121. The members of the winning team were T.McDougall, J.Miller and S.Blaikie.

Runners-up came from Lodge Doric Killwinning nr.68, who were last years winners. W.McEachnie, D.McLellan and JD Thompson.

The Wooden Spoon was won by 68's 2nd team, J.McLymont, R.Kennedy and W.Lawson, and will be given to them whenever Lodge Cumberland Killwinning nr.217 give it back (apparently the wooden spoon feels very much at home in Port Glasgow).

Br.R.Kennedy dealt with the Raffle and a sum of £85 was raised for whatever charity you support.

I would like to thank the Brethren who played and the support they showed for our efforts, the Grosvenor for allowing us to use their greens and the Grosvenor Ladies who took care of the Rolls and Tea etc.

All in, it was a good day in good company and augers well for the future.



Winning rink of Brother J Miller, T MacDougall and S Blaikie all of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121.

Annual Challenge Match between Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 and Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII. (Report by Brother Malcolm Sinclair Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121.

A friendly bowling match took place today, between lodges 1121 and No 12. A fantastic game was played in the beautiful Saturday morning sunshine at the Ardgowan BC.

The games was played in the spirt of friendship, after 6 ends played, I would suggest the game was well balanced with rink 2 losing 5 to lodge Kilwinning No 12. At the break, all brethren retired for a convivial refreshment.

However! a spirited fight back was on the cards for the next 6 end to which Lodge Crawfurdsburn 1121 eventually becoming the victors winning with 2 shots thereby retaining the trophy. After the game all members retired for a spot of lunch and some harmony thereby cementing the bonds of friendship between the two lodges, all in all a lovely days was had by all. The RWM Bro Allan Glen presented the trophy to Bro Malcolm Sinclair RWM with a few words of banter.

Following the game a raffle was held with the proceeds amounting £80 going the MHH.



A rather reluctant looking Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII Brother Allan Glen, presenting the trophy to a beaming Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 Brother Malcolm Sinclair.



Looks like a good time was had by one and all as members of both Lodges mix at the annual challenge match.

Advert: (Brother Emmanuel Oroh is a member of Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175)
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Emmanuel Oroh

(Manager)

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Below are some of our most popular courses:

- [3 Day First Aid at Work](#)
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- [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.

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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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.

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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:

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Painting and Decorating.



For all your painting and decorating needs, contact Brother Lindsay Mungin (MM1425) on 01475 728073 or 07715 214 763

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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Advert:

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – September 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 st 1814 - Lecture	2 nd	3 rd
4 th 68 – Business Meeting	5 th XII - Passing	6 th Preceptory of Ardgowan – AGM and Malta Grade.	7 th 217 – Business Meeting (Visitors welcome). RAC289 – AGM and election of office-bearers.	8 th 175 – Passing conferred by Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.	9 th	10 th
11 th 68 – Passing 626 - Entering	12 th 1121 - Raising	13 th 624 – Entering (E) 989 - Entering	14 th 1425 - Passing	15 th	16 th	17 th
18 th 68 – Passing conferred by Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.	19 th XII – Nomination and election of office-bearers and Ballot. (Members only).	20 th RAC XVII - AGM	21 st 217 – Passing (E) and Ballot for affiliation.	22 nd 175 - Raising	23 rd	24 th
25 th 68 – Entering. 626 – AGM and Raising conferred by Lodge the Gael No. 609.	26 th 1121 – To be confirmed.	27 th CC and RAM - AGM	28 th	29 th	30 th	

(E) denotes an Exemplification

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