



The West Column



Just very occasionally, there is a story which catches my eye as I peruse the daily postings in Facebook and recently, the story which made me chuckle was about a teacher who started to write the 7 times table on her board. She started with $7 \times 1 = 7$.

However, then she wrote $7 \times 2 = 18$ before going on to write the rest of the sums correctly. Behind her, she heard the class laughing so she turned to ask them what was so amusing. Well Miss you've written one of the sums wrongly, they said. At this she pointed out that she had done this deliberately simply to show how quick people were at pointing out errors in others, while failing to give credit for what was done correctly.

Yes we certainly are too quick to find fault. The story resonated with me for a number of reasons.

Firstly, when I compile and issue the West Column, I can guarantee that within a couple of hours someone will have pointed out to me that I have got something wrong (that's fine by the way as I am only human and will often get dates mixed up)! However, I rarely get any feedback saying well done on the other 32 pages of information which has hopefully proved to be useful.

Likewise, when it comes to playing the organ at meetings. Now I will be the first to admit that I am no Russ Conway (older brethren will remember) and I would give my right arm to be a concert pianist – OK that wouldn't work! However, I do my best. As a matter of interest, there are approximately 200 notes in a verse of "Abide with me". If I play two verses of three similar hymns at a meeting along with some incidental music, it probably means that I will play around 1,000 notes throughout the degree. However, if I get a note wrong, I can guarantee that it will be brought to my attention immediately even although I have perhaps played 999 notes correctly. "Wearing boxing gloves tonight then Jim"?

Yes you've got to be a bit thick skinned at times!

The point I am trying to make is that we are all too quick to point out faults in others. Sadly, it is not just confined to general life but to our Masonic life as well and we are all too well aware of the criticism often levelled at one Brother by another.

I believe this is particularly less than helpful when we hear of young brethren attempting floor-work at an early stage in their Masonic career being subjected to the tut-tutting of (usually) Past Masters who frankly should know better.

What better way to discourage a young Brother than by criticising his work. The fact is that the Brother concerned has volunteered to learn and deliver a piece of ritual and should be commended for his efforts rather than castigated because he required a prompt or mixed up some of the ritual.

How often do we hear of newly installed Masters or Wardens being criticised on their abilities without due credit being given to the fact that they have volunteered to take on the heavy responsibility of leading their Lodge.

What is particularly sad is that such criticism is often not made directly to the Brother concerned but is the subject of gossip on bowling greens, golf courses or at other meetings. It would be nice to think that if anyone had what they considered to be constructive criticism of another individual, they would have the courage to speak to them directly.

A further reason to exercise caution before rushing to criticise is that we may not be aware of trials and tribulations which may be giving them concerns in their private or business lives. Health issues, problems at work, fears for their jobs and so on may all cause them to be a little distracted.

Now there is nothing wrong with constructive criticism provided it is made in a kindly, generous and preferably private manner. It is also much more likely to be well-received. There can often be a fine line between public castigation and bullying and criticism levelled in such a manner is much more likely to simply cause resentment.

So Brethren, here is my challenge to you; the next time you have some critical thoughts of someone, or are tempted to make a negative comment, take a moment, pause and make a list of the positive things that they have done, perhaps of the courtesy and kindness they show to others or work that they do behind the scenes and just maybe you will find that the list of positives outweigh the negatives.

Regards,
Jim

Future of the West Column:

Brethren, I know that many will skip over parts of the Column without really reading the content which is why I have put the following comment in a more prominent position.

I have been compiling this on-line document for around 17 years but often I struggle to find newsworthy articles which ARE of interest to brethren. I know this from comments received. However, I am often left frustrated when I realise that events take place but there is no reporting of it for inclusion in the Column.

Over the summer recess, I learned that one very well-known and respected Brother was presented with a 60-year service certificate and yet no mention was made by the Lodge concerned. Another Lodge had what appeared to be a hugely successful outing for their senior members with lots of photographs appearing on Facebook but again no mention of it for inclusion in the West Column.

These are items of interest particularly for brethren who may not be able to attend their Lodges for whatever reason. Nearly everyone has a camera phone nowadays so surely it is not a very difficult task to take a photo and send it to me with a few accompanying words?

Two Lodges in the Province regularly don't even respond to my request for information which I cannot understand considering it's free advertising of their meetings (see later note on advertising of meetings). I would therefore be grateful if you could perhaps give this matter your consideration. While the main purpose of the West Column was originally (and still is) to inform brethren of forthcoming meetings, it is important that other news items are included. Articles can be submitted by anyone, it does not need to be the Lodge Secretary. I am often told that the West column is valued by many of the nearly 500 recipients.

However, at the moment and unless there is a greater interest in providing articles, I would intend to cease publication at the end of my Commission and allow the new Commission to determine whether they wish to continue with the publication or introduce new ways to communicate with brethren in the Province. There are now possibly more effective mediums for advertising meetings nowadays such as Twitter, Facebook etc. In the meantime, my thanks as always to the very few who are kind enough to submit information.

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 of meetings:

The Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Scotland provide for three ways in which to advertise Lodge meetings.

1. By intimation at the previous Regular Meeting.
2. By advertisement in the local newspaper published at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.
3. By circular delivered or posted to every qualified member at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

The above are the three permissible methods of convening meetings. It is not necessary to use all three; in fact, one method may be used for all meetings. The Lodge bye-laws must make clear which method will be used for any particular meeting.

For many years, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West has compiled and published a composite advert in the Greenock Telegraph newspaper which has resulted in a significant saving to all Lodges over the previous practice of advertising meetings individually. However, due to the reducing readership of the Greenock Telegraph, it would appear to be the case that Lodges no longer consider this method of advertising to represent good value for money. One Lodge has already withdrawn from the composite arrangement and a further two are in the process of changing their bye-laws to effect a change.

As a result, it was agreed at the most recent meeting of Provincial Grand Committee that Lodges would be informed that the practice of advertising using a composite advert in the Greenock Telegraph would be discontinued from the end of the 2017 – 2018 session. This allows Lodges to fully consider the matter, determine what method they will use to advertise their meetings and allow a period of time to make appropriate alterations to their bye-laws.

In the event that Lodges determine that they wish to discontinue advertising in the Greenock Telegraph, it is recommended that the bye-laws should be altered to simply use option 1 above. This does not preclude the use of other means of advertising meetings such as the West column, Facebook, Lodges websites etc.

It is further recommended that in the event that a Lodge wishes to alter its bye-laws to reflect this change, consideration is given to any other changes which might be made at the same time such as fees etc. Finally, it is strongly recommended that before a change to Lodge bye-laws is submitted to the Lodge as a Notice of Motion, a draft is submitted to Provincial Grand Secretary for approval.

Advertising of Services:

If any Brother wishes to advertise their professional services in the West Column, please let me know and I will be happy to include them if space permits.

****** - 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.

A very busy start to the new session- meetings attended in September:

Tuesday 5th – Attended an exemplification of a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Wednesday 6th – Attended along with many other members of Provincial Grand Lodge, the funeral of Brother Cornelius Coward, PM626 and Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden.

Thursday 7th – Attended a business meeting at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Friday 8th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 where Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 conferred a Fellowcraft Degree.

Monday 11th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 for an Entered Apprentice Degree.

Tuesday 12th – Represented the Province at the removal of a memorial plaque at Ravesraig Hospital.

Tuesday 12th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew No. 626 at which Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 conferred a Master Mason's Degree.

Wednesday 13th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 to witness an Entered Apprentice Degree.

Thursday 14th – Attended Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 to witness the Lodge confer a Fellowcraft Degree.

Friday 15th – Along with many other brethren, I attended the sad occasion of the funeral of Mrs Mary Ritchie, wife of Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden, Brother James H Ritchie.

Monday 18th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 where Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 conferred a Fellowcraft Degree.

Tuesday 19th – Attended the nomination and election of office-bearers of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Thursday 21st – Attended a meeting of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 and witnessed an exemplification of a Fellowcraft Degree.

Monday 25th – Attended the AGM of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 after which the Master Mason's Degree was conferred by Lodge The Gael No. 609.

Tuesday 26th – Attended an exemplification of a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

Removal of commemorative plaque at former Ravenscraig Hospital.

I posted this story on the Provincial Grand Lodge Facebook page but for those who do not use Facebook, I was asked by the Estates Manager of NHS Inverclyde, Mr Ross Campbell if I would like to be present when they attempted to remove the foundation stone of the former Ravenscraig Hospital which had been originally laid by the Right Honourable, Earl of Kellie and Mar, Most Worshipful Substitute Grand Master acting for Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart, the Most worshipful Grand Master Mason. By chance, it was exactly 141 years to the day that the stone had been laid.

Unfortunately, the precarious state of the building meant that it was not possible to remove the foundation stone which will have to wait until the rest of the building is demolished. However, it was possible to remove the memorial plaque which has been removed to Inverclyde Hospital, for safe keeping.



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 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 19th 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.

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 £65 (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.

Commemoration of the Fallen 2018.

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.

Arrangements are still a work in progress at this time but it is likely that a parade will form up on the Esplanade at Edinburgh Castle before marching down to St Giles' Cathedral for a Service of Commemoration.

Poppy Scotland.



It is intended to present a cheque from the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Fund, on behalf of the Freemasons' of the Province to Poppy Scotland. Arrangements have been made for the Organiser from Poppy Scotland (Brother) Gordon Michie to receive a cheque on behalf of the Province on Thursday 19th October.

The presentation will take place at the Regular Meeting of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 when Brother Gordon Michie, Past Substitute Provincial Grand Master of Fife and Kinross will provide a short insight into the work of Poppy Scotland. I will be attending this meeting in my capacity as Provincial Grand Master and would welcome the support of any office-bearers of Provincial Grand Lodge on that evening. It is also hoped that as many of the Lodge Masters and brethren might also be present to welcome Brother Michie into the Province and to support the presentation of the cheque being made on their behalf.

As an added "attraction" on the evening, there will be a presentation of a 50-year service diploma to Brother Tom Adair, Depute Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 who is a very well-known Brother and regular attender at both his own Lodge and other Lodges in the Province and beyond.



Looking ahead to 2018 and the commemoration of the ending of the First World War.

As part of events to mark the ending of the First World War, the Masonic Homes Group in conjunction with the Widows Sons Masonic Motor Cycle Group, will be doing a fundraising tour of the 32 Provinces in 2018 and are schedule to visit this Province on Saturday 29th September. It will be a very short stop but it is likely that the Group will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in Port Glasgow before heading off to their next stop in Dunbartonshire.

It would be appropriate if the Province could present them with a cheque on their visit and perhaps Lodges could consider making a donation to the funds of Poppy Scotland. This will be a matter for the new Commission to consider.

Last month I included a tribute by Brother Andrew McKenzie PM1121, to the late William Clark which I have reproduced again this month for reasons which will become clear.

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, Crawfurdsburn 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 Crawfurdsburn – 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

The following was provided by Brother Iain White PM XII which provides further narrative on the story.

"I did find it very interesting Drew and poignant and particularly as it struck a chord with me and my No XII researches. I was aware from you about Bro Clark and also 'met him' in my recent researches into the Crawfordsburn minutes for the lecture I gave at 1121 on The Curious Relationship between No XII and Lodge Crawfordsburn in the Early Days. I am presently doing some Great War research as connected with No XII. I have attached a 'cutting' from the Greenock Telegraph of 26th June 1917. Therein you will see that it is announced that No XII's Bro Captain Peter R Jacobs (later to be RWM of No XII and RWPGM Secretary and Depute) of the Northumberland Fusiliers had been awarded the Military Cross - and - that Bro Second-Lieutenant William Clark had lost his life. Both there together and their photographs too. Bro Jacobs went on to make a significant contribution to freemasonry and also to the community being a local solicitor and Provost of Gourrock between 1953 and 56. Tragically all of Bro Clark's significant promise was left unfulfilled.

Lest we forget "!

3 WEST BLACKHALL STREET 3
RUBBER

LOCAL WAR HEROES.

CAPTAIN P. R. JACOBS.



Northumberland Fusiliers
Awarded Military Cross, for
Distinguished Service in the
Field.

**LIEUTENANT JAMES
SINCLAIR.**



Canadians. Killed in action
at Vimy Ridge.

**SECOND-LIEUT. WILLIAM
CLARK.**



A. and S. Highlanders. Re-
ported killed on 23rd April
He was an assistant master
in Chapelon School, Port
Glasgow.

SPECIAL DISPLAY OF
SUMMER MILLINERY, BLOUSES, KNITTED COATS,
AND VOILE FROCKS.

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

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 3rd – Entering, affiliation and presentation of certificate.

Tuesday 17th – Passing.

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 2nd – Business Meeting

Monday 9th - Raising

Monday 16th – To be advised.

Monday 23rd – Passing to be conferred by Lodge Dalry Blair.

Monday 30th - Raising

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.

Summer outing.

Once again this year, the Lodge organised an outing for its senior members although how Charlie Barnes got involved in the act nobody knows! This year the bus managed to find its way over to Tighnabruaich and a rare time was had by one and all.



If I'm not mistaken, the bus is parked outside the Tighnabruaich Hotel as Brother Ronnie Ramsay waits patiently for Brothers Charlie and Ricky to buy him a drink!



Meanwhile at the next table, things look as if they are about to get a bit rowdy!

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 13th – Annual General Meeting and nomination and election of office-bearers.

Friday 27th – Annual Installation 6.45 pm.

Sunday 29th – Annual Divine Service. The Annual Divine Service will take place within the Lodge on Sunday 29th October at 6.30 pm (brethren to assemble at 6.15) and will be conducted by the Senior Chaplain of the Lodge, Brother Reverend David Mitchell.

Social scene:

Saturday 28th October – Installation Dance with The Lovelles. Tickets available now priced at £8 each from Brother Thomas Porteous WSW or Brother Greig Mitchell WJW.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 5th – Raising.

Thursday 19th – Affiliation, Presentation of 50-year service diploma and presentation of cheque to Poppy Scotland. The Lodge will welcome Brother Gordon Michie, Past Substitute Provincial Grand Master of Fife and Kinross and Past Master of Lodge Earl Haig No. 1260.

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 11th – Passing (Exemplification) and annual visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire. The evening will include presentations of 50-year service diplomas including one to a very good friend to this Province Brother James Lever, Past Master of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624 and Honorary Member of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII and Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

I will be attending this meeting as Provincial Grand Master at the invitation of the Lodge and would welcome the support of any of the office-bearers of Provincial Grand Lodge who can make it along on the evening.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 9th - Entering
Monday 23rd – Entering

Saturday 14th – The Annual Installation of the Lodge will take place when Brother David Stevenson will be installed into the chair of the Lodge by Brother Brian G Hopkins, Brother Kenneth M McCrae, and Brother Robert M Wilson all Past Masters of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626. The meeting will commence at 2.00 pm and following the ceremony there will be a celebration dinner to which all brethren are invited to attend with the compliments of the Lodge.

The Lodge's annual Installation Dance will take place on Saturday 21st October with DJ Stuart McPherson and catering will be provided. There is no charge for attending but the WSD and WJW elect need to be approached for tickets in order to ensure enough food is ordered.

There will be a raffle etc and guests can arrive from 7:30 onwards.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

October 10th Lodge Sir Michael are conferring a degree at our friends at Captain Spiers 791 at Lodge St Barchan. A warm welcome will be extended to all and it would be our pleasure to invite any brethren from Renfrewshire West into our deputation

October 11th - AGM Meeting -- Members Only

November 8th - MM degree conferred at Lodge Sir Michael by Office bearers of Lodge Doric Kilwinning 68 -- Live candidate

December 11th - Regular meeting. FC degree conferred at Lodge Sir Michael by Office bearers of Lodge Glennifer 1219 -- Live candidate

Installation:

RWM Elect. Brother Scott McLaughlin shall be taking the chair of King Solomon for the first time in his Mother Lodge. The Installing Masters are Bro Paul Docherty PM, Bro Douglas Robertson PM and Bro George Robertson PM791. The meeting of Installation will be held in Lodge Sir Michael, Friday November 17th at 7pm. A warm invitation is extended to all qualified brethren to attend.

Charity:

Brethren. One of our own once again took part in a charity cycle. Charity is Poppy Scotland, close to our hearts. Brother David Bains personal page posted specific

"On Sunday 24th September I will set out to conquer the Poppy Scotland Sportive. 100 miles and approx. 6000ft climbing. As we found out last year, this is a very challenging route. I am doing this in aid of Poppy Scotland, and any donation, no matter how small, will be gratefully received by them".

<http://m.virginmoneygiving.com/.../showFundraiserProfilePage....>

Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 10th – Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 24th – Masonic talk delivered by Brother John S Miller, Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East and Past Master of Lodge Thistle and Crown No. 1167.

Sponsored Walk.



On Saturday the 3rd June 2017, RWM Bro Malcolm A Sinclair, WJW Bro John Laird, WJW Bro Iain D Hair & Secretary Bro Donald J McRae took on the challenge of walking round all the Masonic Lodges in the Province of Renfrewshire West, starting at Lodge Sir Michael 989 in Kilmacolm and finishing at the 175 Masonic Club in Kelly Street.



After visiting Lodge Firth of Clyde 626, the most westerly Lodge in the Province, the four brethren called in at the Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club on the Esplanade, Greenock to briefly take part in the 90th birthday celebrations of one of their Lodge's Past Masters, namely George (Kit) Carson.



After this stop, the brethren finished their walk by returning to the home of their Mother Lodge at the 175 Masonic Club.

The final sum raised was £1,277 and the Lodge has passed this amount to the British Heart Foundation. The Lodge would like to thank everybody who supported them in any way in the success of the event.

Picture of the brethren outside all the Lodge premises can be found at the following web site:
<http://www.lodgecrawfurdsburn.org.uk/rwm-s-sponsored-walk/>
Ideas for that special Christmas gift!

Still on the subject of charity, Brother John Paton PM1121 has a new hobby, making pens. Selling for between £10 and £15, the pens are made from a variety of materials and judging by the samples I saw will make an excellent gift. £2.00 from every sale goes to good causes.

Perhaps even an ideal gift for that superb team of Installing Masters?



Perfect stocking fillers for that special lady in your life?

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 12th – Annual General Meeting and Nomination and Election of office-bearers (Members only).



All at Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to Brother Richard "Van" Vanderhoef on the occasion of his marriage to his bride Wanda Lee on 10th June. Richard was initiated into Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 when on active service with the US Navy (nice to see the uniform still fits) and although having returned to the Colonies many years ago, maintains an active interest in the Lodge.

We wish you every happiness and hope perhaps that we might see you back in the old Lodge in the years to come.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

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

Other Orders

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII meets in the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourock on the 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 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 5th – Annual Installation 7.15pm. Companion Paul Docherty will be installed in to the chair of the Chapter by MEC James Rae Fletcher, MEC Andrew Forsyth and MEC Douglas M Robertson.

Preceptory of Ardgowan

Venerable Preceptor Elect Andrew G Pigott and Office Bearers extend a warm to all Fraters to attend the Annual Installation as well as 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.

Greenock CC & RAM 17

Annual Installations will be held on Wednesday The 25th of October

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 treasurno12@aol.com
Please make cheques payable to "David Stevenson".

Anniversary Badges.

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



In the October 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
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E: anchorlimited73@gmail.com
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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.

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

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Emmanuel Oroh

(Manager)

Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd

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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.

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.

Provincial Grand Lodge Renfrewshire East.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East operates a digital and lending library with over 5,000 books on a very wide range of Masonic topics and is free to access through their website at www.pgltre.org

Registration is a very simple process and open to brethren within the Province of Renfrewshire West.

Advert:

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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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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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Barochan Road, Johnstone
PA5 8YS

Advert:

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – October 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2 nd 68 – Business Meeting	3 rd XII – Entering, affiliation and presentation. Preceptory of Ardgowan – AGM and MG	4 th Provincial Grand Lodge – Regular communication.	5 th 217 – Raising RAC 289 – Annual Installation 7.15 pm.	6 th 1814 – Annual Installation 7.00 pm	7 th	8 th
9 th 68 – Raising 626 - Entering	10 th 1121 - AGM and nomination and election of office-bearers.	11 th 624 – Passing (E) and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge Ayrshire 989 – AGM and Nomination and Election of office-bearers.	12 th 1425 – AGM and Nomination and election of office-bearers.	13 th 175 – AGM and nomination and election of office-bearers.	14 th 626 – Annual Installation 2.00 pm	15 th
16 th 68 – To be confirmed	17 th XII - Passing	18 th RAC XVII - Installation	19 th 217 – Affiliation, Talk by Poppy Scotland and presentation of 50-year diploma.	20 th	21 st 626 – Installation Dance	22 nd
23 rd 68 – Passing by Lodge Dalry Blair. 626 - Entering	24 th 1121 - Lecture	25 th CC and RAM - Installation	26 th	27 th 175 – Annual Installation 6.45 pm.	28 th 175 – Installation Dance	29 th 175 – Annual Divine Service 6.30 pm
30 th 68 – Raising.	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