



The West Column



Stakeholder participation and Social Inclusion. When I worked in local government (Oh, how I miss it), these were phrases which caused eyes to roll and great sighs to be emitted! Towards the end of my working life, I was required by Central Government to develop a rolling three-year plan for the development and improvement of my function (Procurement) and this had to include comprehensive sections on Stakeholder participation and Social Inclusion. Strangely enough, when I had started in Local Government more than thirty years previously, these terms were unheard of and perhaps it was just my imagination but the roads seemed in better condition, bins were lifted regularly, children seemed better educated and life seemed much more simple (even without computers)!

Oh well, that's progress I suppose but it did seem as if we had more time to get on with the "day job" as in recent years, it was as if most of my time was taken up with strategic planning, otherwise known as justifying my existence. To be fair (and this is just a personal comment), I sometimes think that we could do with a wee bit more long-term strategic planning within our organisation. At Grand Lodge, there is much discussion going on regarding the re-organisation of the committee structure but I can't help but feel this is the wrong way round. Perhaps it might be better if we developed a 5/10 year plan of where we want the Craft to be with objectives and measurable targets and then developed a committee structure to deliver?

Back to stakeholder management and social inclusion! I'm not suggesting that each Lodge develops a comprehensive and complicated plan for its future objectives but it would not do any harm to give some thought as to how to develop stakeholder (member) participation and inclusion (making members feel part of the Lodge, particularly new members, a *Best Practice Guide* if you like).

Towards the end of my Commission, I was drawing attention to the poor retention rates of new members within the Craft and according to the figures which have become available, it is likely that for every new initiate who joins a Lodge, only one in five will still be regularly attending his Lodge within five years with the greatest loss taking place within the first 18/24 months.

It is very clear that unless we make an effort to involve (inclusion) the new members at the outset and make him feel part of the Lodge (become a stakeholder), then the new member will begin to drift away from the Lodge and what is undoubtedly true is that once a member has stopped attending, it is extremely difficult to encourage them to return.

There is a small working group set up by the Information and Communications Committee of Grand Lodge who were initially tasked to look at the subject of Recruitment and Retention (which is where the retention figures came from) and which has more recently turned its attention to how to encourage new members to become more involved in the Lodge. To this end, it is hoped that in the not too distant future, the Grand Lodge of Scotland will publish a booklet which will deal with two aspects of interest; firstly, Masonic Etiquette and secondly, Encouragement of new members, which will be in a simple “do’s and do not’s” format.

Now I’m sure if this publication comes to fruition, many will look at it and simply ridicule it and state that the contents are just common sense but I wonder how many of the suggestions are actually practised within a Lodge nowadays. The “Best Practice” guide is intended to cover a new member’s journey from initial enquiry to join a Lodge through to his becoming an active and contributing member and I have provided a flavour of the content below, which deals with stimulating the interest of the new member.

On becoming a full member:

- *Ignoring a new member will be the quickest way to lose him;*
- *Encourage him to visit other Lodges;*
- *Encourage him to attend practice sessions;*
- *Encourage his interest in learning ritual (get him first, to read a portion of ritual at a practice session, before delivering it from memory);*
- *Make him feel included by getting him involved in helping with refreshments, selling raffle tickets, putting away Lodge furnishings etc at the close of a meeting. This will help him to get to know the other members of the Lodge.*

Now, I’m sure many of you will already be criticising the format and content, too obvious – too simplistic perhaps but now ask yourselves, can you honestly say that the five steps above are practised within your own respective Lodges. If they are, that’s great but I suspect that too many times, new members are left to their own devices. They do not feel as if they are **included** or have become **stakeholders**.

The quickest way to lose members is to ignore them.

The duty of the Master, Wardens, Office-bearers and members of a Lodge does not end with the conclusion of the Candidate’s degree – it is just beginning!

Finally, during the last couple of weeks of my Commission as Provincial Grand Master, I did try to get around as many of the Lodges as possible to express my thanks for all the support over the last five years. If I missed you at any of the meetings, please be assured that I very much appreciated all the support of the Commissioned and elective office-bearers of Provincial Grand Lodge, of Lodges and of individual brethren. I wish the new Commission and newly installed non-commissioned office-bearers of Provincial Grand Lodge every happiness and success and hope that they will be able to enjoy the same level of support that I received during my tenure of office.

Regards,

Jim

Advertising: Advertising of meetings is covered below but I would appeal to Lodge secretaries to let me know the details of meetings taking place. I am very conscious of the fact that without the medium of advertising in the local newspaper, there is a void of information which requires to be filled. By letting me know of meetings taking place, I can issue the details in the West Column which is sent out to nearly 500 email addresses as well as adding a weekly update to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West’s facebook page which now has around 275 members. The facility is free but I still struggle to get responses from Lodges. PLEASE take advantage of this medium otherwise it is not worth the effort.

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

Views expressed by individuals within the West Column do not necessarily represent the views of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Reminder - 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.

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.

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

Provincial Website. For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to www.pglrw.org - 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	RAC XVII		
Thursday	217	1425	217	PGRAC 900	
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

Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Off/bear	Annual Visit 2018	Commenting
12	Tue 20 th Nov.	TBA	Tues. 20 th Feb.	TBA
68	Friday 14 th Dec	TBA	Mon. 19 th March	TBA
175	Friday 26 th Oct.	TBA	Fri. 9 th March	TBA
217	Friday 30 th Nov.	TBA	Thurs. 18 th Jan.	JPGW
626	Saturday 13 th Oct.	TBA	Mon. 22 nd Jan.	SPGW
989	Friday 16 th Nov.	TBA	Wed. 11 th April	TBA
1121	Friday 2 nd Nov.	TBA	Tue 9 th Jan.	SPGM
1425	Friday 7 th Dec.	TBA	Thurs. 8 th Feb.	TBA
1814	Friday 6 th October	TBA	Friday 5 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.

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 draw for the month of January took place with the winner being Brother Archie Wright PM68 AGAIN!

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 Grand Master's Diary.

Meetings attended in February (from Provincial Grand Master).

Thursday 1st February – Attended Grand Committee and Grand Lodge Communication – honoured and proud to enter Grand Lodge as PG Master of Renfrewshire West. Best wishes to the new Commissioned Office-bearers and I hope that we have a very enjoyable 5-year Commission.

Friday 2nd February – Annual Communication and Installation of Elective Office-bearers within the Temple of Lodge Greenock St John's No 175.

Thursday 8th February – Annual Visitation to Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 and witnessed an excellent FC Degree.

Monday 12th February – Attended Lodge Firth of Clyde No 626 and witnessed an excellent FC Degree.

Thursday 15th February – Attended Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217, with IPPG Master Bro James P Livingstone and witnessed an excellent FC Degree and presentation of Past Sen. PG Warden regalia to Bro John McAlister.

Tuesday 20th February – Annual Visitation to Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No 12 and witnessed an excellent MM Degree.

Many thanks to the Brethren who have accompanied me on the Annual Visitations to date, your support is very much appreciated.

My thanks also to IPPGM Bro Livingstone and the Commissioned Office-bearers for their attendance at the PG Lodge Communications in Kilwinning, Stirlingshire and Lanarkshire Middle Ward.

The Province was also represented at the following meetings:

Tuesday 20th - Annual meeting and Installation of elective office-bearers at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning (Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, Brother James Livingstone). Congratulations go to Brother Robert Little, Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire who had honorary membership of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning conferred upon him at the meeting.



Heads of deputations of visiting Provincial Grand Lodges at the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning on Tuesday 20th February 2018. A total of eight visiting Provinces were present.

Saturday 24th - Annual meeting and Installation of elective office-bearers at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire. (Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, Brother James Livingstone and Provincial Grand Secretary, Brother Alan D Beck).

Saturday 24th – Charity Burns Supper hosted by Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII. (Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, Brother James Livingstone).

Sunday 25th – Annual Joint Divine Service of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Friday 2nd March – Annual meeting and Installation of elective office-bearers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Middle Ward. (Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, Brother James Livingstone, Depute Provincial Grand Master, Brother John W Black, Substitute Provincial Grand Master, Brother Stuart R Wilson).

INSTALLATION of the Provincial Grand Master and his Commissioned Office-bearers.

The installation of the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Robert McIntyre and his Commissioned office-bearers by the Grand Master Mason, Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige-Gordon and a deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland will take place on Saturday 17th March 2018, within the Saloon of Greenock Town Hall at 1.00 pm prompt. Brethren attending the meeting are requested to be seated by 12.50 pm.

Following the meeting, there will be a celebration dinner which will take place in the main hall with tickets for the dinner, currently on sale within your respective Lodges, at a cost of £25.00 each. Such events are always very happy occasions and given the commitments of the Grand Master Mason, we are very much delighted that he is able to attend the meeting personally to carry out the ceremony of Installation.

This is a once-in-five-years event Brethren and it is hoped that each Lodge will be well represented at the meeting. During the course of the ceremony, the members of each of the Province's Lodge present, will be asked to stand and salute the newly installed Provincial Grand Master. I am sure that each Master present will hope that his Lodge will be well represented at that point.

Provincial Ball.

I can also confirm that the Town Hall (and the ever popular Capitol Big Band) have been booked 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. Tickets are now on sale through the respective Lodges, priced £25 each.



Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge.

The annual meeting and installation of elective office-bearers of Provincial Grand Lodge took place on Friday 2nd February 2018 just a day after the commission of the new Provincial Grand Master, Brother Robin McIntyre took effect. Nevertheless, our new Provincial Grand Master, in addition to chairing the meeting, undertook the task of installing the elective office-bearers, a duty which he carried out with great dignity as well as including a very personal touch to proceedings. A deputation from the sister Provinces was headed by Brother Robert Little, Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire.

Following the formal part of the meeting, the brethren retired to a light supper which was well attended by all the brethren present.



Provincial Grand Master Brother Robin McIntyre and members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West at the annual meeting on Friday 2nd February 2018.



Brother John McAlister, PM217, received his certificate as Immediate Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden.



Bit of a squeeze to get everyone in but the above photograph shows members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West along with representatives from the visiting Provincial Grand Lodges headed by Brother Robert Little, Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire.



Following the formal part of the evening, brethren retired to the upper hall for a light supper.

Grand Lodge.

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 although it does now appear that the event will be held at Grand Lodge with a parade forming up in Castle Street and marching a short distance around Charlotte Square and along George Street to Grand Lodge for a Service of Commemoration which will be conducted by Past Grand Master Mason, Brother Canon Joseph J Morrow.



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. (See above comment regarding the challenge to raise £1,918)!

Grand Lodge Regular Communication – 1st February 2018.



Our new Provincial Grand Master, Brother Robert McIntyre on his first official outing at the Regular Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland on Thursday 1st February 2018 accompanied by Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, Brother James Livingstone.

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

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 6th – Entering and Ballot.
Tuesday 20th – Raising and Ballot).

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.

Charity Burns Supper.

A full report will appear in next month's Column but as a taster, the photograph below is of the top table guests prior to the start of the evening's proceedings.



The following photograph also probably needs some explanation but I've decided to make no comment other than I hope it never gets into the public domain - - suspect Brother Davie Docherty might have been involved!



Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 5th – Business Meeting

Monday 12th – Raising (7.15 pm).

Monday 19th – Entering and Annual Visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15pm).

Monday 26th – Mark Degree (7.15 pm).

Spring Draw tickets are on sale at a cost of £1 per ticket - the first prize is a Smart TV - and there are millions of other prizes.

Doric's Burns Supper.

The Lodge's 261st Anniversary Meeting and Burns Supper took place on Friday 26th January and the lower hall was full to enjoy the evening's entertainment.

The haggis was piped in by Junior Warden Brother Billy Mooney and was addressed fully and properly by the evergreen, Immediate Past Master Brother William Lawson. A sumptuous supper was then enjoyed by all before Past Master Brother George Freeburn proposed an excellent Immortal Memory.

A toast to the Lasses by Past Master Brother Colin Bonar of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 followed which was both informative and entertaining before a toast was offered to the Lodge by Provincial Grand Master, Brother Jim Livingstone, on his final official outing in the Province.

Brother Ross Nugent, PM217, HM68, not only delivered Tam O'Shanter in his unique style but also further entertained the company with a rendering of the "Haggis of Private McPhee".

Senior Warden, Brother Jim Hamilton proposed a very eloquent and thoughtful toast to the artistes while Brother Mooney proposed a very well-deserved toast to the Stewards before the evening was rounded off in traditional style with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Brother Colin Bonar, Past Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 in full flow entertaining the assembled company with his Toast to the Lasses.



The haggis was piped in with full honours by Junior Warden, Brother Billy Mooney and delicious it was too!

Is there no end to the talents of Immediate Past Master Brother Willie Lawson. Addressing the haggis in impeccable style before the assembled company tucked in to a fine feast.



The toast to the Lodge was offered by Provincial Grand Master, Brother Jim Livingstone HM68, who is seen in the above photograph along with other guests at the top table.

For up to date information on events and meetings taking place at Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 go to the Lodge website at:

<http://www.lodgedorickilwinning68.org.uk/>

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 9th – Entering and Annual visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 pm).
Friday 23rd – Raising.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 1st – Raising

Thursday 15th – Entering (Exemplification).

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

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 14th – Fellowcraft Degree (Exemplification).

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 5th – General Committee Meeting

Monday. 12th - Passing

Monday 24th – Raising

Correction: In the February edition of the West Column, there was a report on the annual Burns Supper hosted by Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 in which it stated that the Toast to the Lassies was delivered by Brother John Lannigan of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175. Brother Lannigan is, of course, a member of Lodge Dunoon Argyle No. 335 and apologies to all concerned.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 14th – Passing conferred by Lodge Captain Spiers No. 791

Homes Degree: A bit of very advanced warning that the Homes Degree will take place this year on Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm with tickets, costing £6.00, available shortly from Lodge secretaries.

Appeal. As most will be aware, the work creating a new Lodge Room is nearing completion and the Lodge would be keen to obtain an electronic keyboard or organ. Sometimes a household may have upgraded their model or have such an item gathering dust in a corner somewhere. If anyone has such a thing and would like to donate it to the Lodge, I am sure it would be much appreciated. Either contact myself or Paul Docherty, Past Master.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday.13th – Raising

Tuesday 27th – Degree to be advised but will be conferred by Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

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 £2.00 from every sale goes to good causes.

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



Update on Callum McMichael's treatment.

Callum's mum and his grandfather, Bro James McCorkell have provided the following update:

On Tuesday 20th February, we managed to get a consultation from Pauline Mary Christmas PhD MSc MCSP SRP, who is the consultant physiotherapist for the Craighalbert Centre, Cumbernauld, who specialises in the management of spasticity in children. The consultant is based at The Birmingham NHS foundation trust but travels twice a year to the Craighalbert Centre.

It was a very eye opening consultation, as we now have another view of Callum's condition and can start to work on these specific problems to give a better start for him.

We also enjoyed a hydrotherapy session, which relieves the muscle spasms and tension thus giving him pain relief. Thereafter, he enjoyed a three-hour sleep!

On Saturday 24th February, I was allowed to take Laura to the centre as well and they both had an amazing time in the classrooms, sensory room and hydro pool, all of which has been amazing to see Callum thrive, and Laura feel included in everything.

Our next sessions are Saturday, 24th March just for the day and then Monday to Thursday from 16th to 19th April.

I will send another wee email after that date to keep you informed.

Once again, I am truly grateful and thankful for all the lodges help from the great donations received

Ed – I'm sure that on behalf of all in the Province we are delighted with Callum's progress and very much appreciate the update.

Digitisation of Records.

Following comments made by PGM Bro James P Livingstone at our Annual Visitation we thought it might be of interest to other Lodges if we shared how we are going about the digitisation of our records.

With the Lodge's approval, we have embarked on digitising our minute books. We got in touch with Andy Mushat at William Anderson & Sons Limited (Printers) and supplied him with our first two minute books. Each book contained some 300 pages and the two books covered the period 7th February 1913 to 6th December 1918 in total.

The cost of digitising each book was £125, for which we received the following:

- 2 CD copies of each book

- Storage of the master digitised record on William Anderson & Sons secure server.
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In addition, Andy indicated that he could make an additional copy of the CD that could be passed to The Grand Lodge of Scotland for their safekeeping. This additional service would incur an incremental fee.

The CDs have the minute books recorded in PDF format. The digitisation is done using the Photoshop application and consequently it does not pixelate, resulting in the ability to enlarge any page, without loss of clarity.

Obviously, we still have the original minute books, but we have enough copies to ensure that those records digitised will not be lost forever in the event of a fire etc.

If any Lodge would like to discuss the matter further or wish to receive an example page please contact either

Donald J McRae djmcr@aol.com or Douglas C Warnock dcwathome@aol.com

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 8th –Master Mason's Degree.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

The next meeting will be on Friday 6th April when the guest speaker will be Brother Charles Winston on the subject of the Masonic Oral History Project.

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, William A McLarty 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 21st March RA
Wednesday 18th April MA & EM
Wednesday 16th May RA

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 1st – Excellent Master's Degree

Port Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter No. 900

No information provided. The Chapter meets on the 4th Thursday of the month within the premises of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Preceptory of Ardgowan

Venerable Preceptor 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.

The March Muster will take place on Wednesday 7th March and will also be the annual visit of e District Grand Priory of Strathclyde. It would be great to see a large attendance on the evening and especially nice to see any member who has not attended in a while.

Wednesday

- 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 - Meets 4th Wednesday at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626. The next meeting is on Wednesday 28th March.

St. George's Conclave No. 79 –

Tuesday 20th - RCC

For those Conclave Masons, please be advised that the Conclave Newsletter "Augustus" is available from conclave79@yahoo.co.uk

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.

Masonic Education.

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.

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.pglre.org

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

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

Security Services

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

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

Customer Care

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

SIA Licensing

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

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

Cleaning Services offered

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

All staff vetted

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

Janitorial Supplies

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

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

Emmanuel Oroh

(Manager)

Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd

Advert:



First ABC Training

07958940412

First Aid Training Courses



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

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

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

What courses are available?

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

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

Below are some of our most popular courses:

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

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

Defibrillation Equipment. It is understood that many Lodges are currently considering the installation of defibrillation equipment on their premises and it is again confirmed that such equipment may be purchased using funds from a Lodge's Benevolent Account, if that is convenient.

Many firms will offer to sell such equipment but of course there is an element of training which is also required and which can also be costly. To this effect I am happy to draw to your attention an offer made by Brother Hopper to the Lodges in the Province who is willing to sell such equipment for the special price of £699.00 plus VAT and provide training necessary, free of charge.

Brother Hopper can be contacted at brynrfc@sky.com

Advert:

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



A LITTLE BIT OF OUR HISTORY

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

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

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

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

Stop by today to view some of our showroom examples or to pick up at catalogue containing 100s of options for you next bathroom project!

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 - 12.00 noon Saturday

Advert:

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01475 650706

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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



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

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Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – March 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 st 217 – Raising RAC289 – EM degree.	2 nd .	3 rd	4 th
5 th 68 – Business Meeting	6 th XII – Entering and Ballot	7 th Preceptory of Ardgowan – AV District Grand Priory of Strathclyde.	8 th 1425 – Raising	9 th 175 – Entering and AV Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15)	10 th	11 th
12 th 68 – Raising (7.15) 626 - Passing	13 th 1121 - Raising	14 th 624 – Passing (E) 989 – Passing conferred by Lodge 791	15 th 217 – Entering (E)	16 th	17 th Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West – Installation 1.00 pm	18 th
19 th 68 – Entering and AV Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. (7.15).	20 th XII – Raising and Ballot SGC79 - RCC	21 st RAC XVII – Royal Arch Degree	22 nd	23 rd 175 – Raising	24 th	25 th
26 th 68 – Mark Degree (7.15) 626 - Raising	27 th 1121 –.Degree TBA, conferred by Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.	28 th RAM17 - Degree				

(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