



The West Column



.Looking Forward!

As we begin a new session, the likelihood is that we will have a number of new Masters taking over the Chairs of their respective Lodges with others moving up in office or perhaps taking office for the first time. It's a new chapter in the lives of those concerned and, of course for the Lodge itself. It can be a scary time for a new Master in the chair of his Mother Lodge, anxious not to offend anyone, anxious to do the right thing, fearful of making a mistake but of course the person who never made a mistake, never made anything.

Frankly, the Craft suffers from too many who are content just to preside over their fortnightly or monthly meeting.

However, at this point in the history of the Craft, what we really require is Masters with vision, brethren who are not content to settle for the same old, same old status quo for that certainly will hasten the demise of our Lodges and our Craft. So I would challenge those who are seeking high office to give careful consideration as to how to strengthen their respective Lodges and to make plans for improvement.

Freemasonry is not about turning Lodges into "degree factories". It should be about enlightenment. The Craft continues to lose new members with around 75% of new members disappearing within 5 years of initiation. Can we blame them? Too often we stick to the habit of simply conferring degrees as quickly as possible on new candidates without providing any decent explanation or instruction in what they have just experienced.

So I would appeal to those in high office to consider carefully what can be done to enrich the experience for new and existing members.

Do we do enough to make new members feel included as part of the Lodge and if not, what can be done to achieve this objective?

How many of us ensure that a new member is given sufficient instruction and explanation regarding the degree he has just experienced and how many times does this simply consist of ensuring that the candidates can repeat, parrot fashion, the basic questions asked of him prior to his next degree?

How many times is a candidate encouraged to visit other Lodges to witness and experience his previous degree or does the desperation of our "degree factories" mean that there is no opportunity for this to be done?

If a candidate is not been given the encouragement which he should receive from his proposer and seconder, what is the back-up plan? Will someone else take on this responsibility – will the Master ensure that this is done?

Does the Master announce his intended visits in advance in open Lodge so that the other members of the Lodge can support him or does he simply visit and then report where he has been?

What value do we put on ensuring that applicants for initiation are worthy of being accepted as members or is our desperation to “feed the degree factory” such that we just accept anyone as a candidate?

Are we making the most of modern technology to keep our Lodges at the forefront of the minds of brethren and visitors (how many Lodges have an out of date or “static” website)?

How many Masters reach the chair of their Mother Lodge without having any understanding of the work undertaken by their secretary and treasurer – how many are familiar with the Rules and Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland or even their own Lodge bye-laws?

If the senior office-bearers of a Lodge can truthfully answer that they are actively working to improve the position of their respective Lodges then that is to be commended but if not, please take time to give the matter full consideration. Speak to those who might provide guidance and advice – develop, dare I say it – a business plan. Just about every organisation now has a mission statement and develops a plan for its future – it doesn’t depend on luck and good fortune. How can you achieve any objective if you don’t have a plan of how to get there in the first place?

The tenure of a Master in the chair is a short one, one or two years and the time flies by quicker than you can imagine. Far better to be able to look back at what has been achieved than to look back with regret at what might have been achieved. It’s possible that mistakes might be made – learn from them and move on.

A new session awaits and hopefully it will bring with it, new ideas, innovations and initiatives. Leaders never use the word “failure”, they look upon setbacks as “learning experiences”! You’ll likely have those who will criticise you but as someone once said, “If you have no critics, you’ll likely have no success”! I wish all those taking office in the coming months every success and that the Lodges in the Province have a very successful session

“Dare to Be

When a new day begins, dare to smile gratefully.
When there is darkness, dare to be the first to shine a light.
When there is injustice, dare to be the first to condemn it.
When something seems difficult, dare to do it anyway.
When life seems to beat you down, dare to fight back.
When there seems to be no hope, dare to find some.
When you’re feeling tired, dare to keep going.
When times are tough, dare to be tougher.
When love hurts you, dare to love again.
When someone is hurting, dare to help them heal.
When another is lost, dare to help them find the way.
When a friend falls, dare to be the first to extend a hand.
When you cross paths with another, dare to make them smile.
When you feel great, dare to help someone else feel great too.
When the day has ended, dare to feel as you’ve done your best.
Dare to be the best you can –
At all times, Dare to be!”

Kind regards,

Jim

Obituary:

It is with huge sadness that we note the passing to the Grand Lodge above of no less than four stalwarts of freemasonry in the Province over the summer recess months.

Henry Seddon Tibbles Past Master, Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII. 1919 – 2019

Henry Sebbon Tibbles was a remarkable gentleman, born in Kent on 4th November 1919, he joined Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII in 1942 while serving in the Royal Navy, stationed at Greenock and participatin in those infamous North Atlantic Convoys.

He met and married his wife Muriel who also worked on the movement of those same convoys prompting Henry to say that Muriel knew where he was going before he did. They were together for over 70 years raising three children, two of whom pre-deceased both him and Muriel. Following his retirement from a publishing business in London, Henry and Muriel retired to Skelmorlie where he resumed his attendance of his Mother Lodge.

In his over 70 years as a member of the Craft, Henry had become Master of the Scots Lodge No. 2319 (EC) in 1980, having joined that Lodge in 1969. He became Master of the Scots Mark Master Masons Lodge 406 (EC) in 1984 and Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England in 1987 as well as serving on the Board of Grand Stewards the same year. He became a Commander of the Scots Royal Ark Mariners Lodge No, 406 (EC) in 1994 and was elevated to Provincial Royal Ark Mariners rank in 1999.

Following his retirement and his return to Scotland, Brother Tibbles was made Master of his Mother Lodge Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII in 2001 at the age of 82 and was awarded the rank of Honorary Provincial Senior Grand Warden of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West in 2003.

Henry was a gentleman to the core and probably one of the very few who still wore a monocle! He was highly respected and a very popular friend and freemason.



Brother David Kirk Steel**Past Master, Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626, Past Provincial Grand Master.**

Brother David Kirk Steel was born on the 4th September 1931 and passed away in Larkfield View Nursing Home on Tuesday 9th April at the age of 87 years.

A native of Greenock, David attended the Mount School which he left at the age of 14 to take up employment with John Drummond Ltd where he remained his entire working life, starting off as an office boy, then learning the trade of tin plate printing as an apprentice before rising to the position of Print Manager for the company.

During the early years of the Second World War, David was evacuated to Port Bannatyne on the Island of Bute which became a favourite haunt of his throughout his life.

In 1955, David married his wife Eileen and it was perhaps only natural that David joined his father-in-law Brother John Bain's Lodge and on 20th December 1954, David was initiated into Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 which he served faithfully for the next 63 years.

David was passed on the 10th January 1955 and raised on the 24th January 1955, receiving his Mark on the 31st January 1955.

He rose through the various offices and served as Master of the Lodge from 1965 until 1967 and one of the highlights of his masonic career must have been having the privilege of installing his son, David John Kirk Steel into the chair of the Lodge in 1993.

That same year, David was installed in this Lodge, as Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West, an office which he served with great distinction for the following 5 years.

Rather uniquely, David had worked his way through all the elective offices of Provincial Grand Lodge and served as Substitute Provincial Grand Master under Brother William M McKillop for 9 years, then as Depute Provincial Grand Master under Brother William M H Macfarlane for 5 years before becoming Provincial Grand Master himself. There are very few brethren who can say that they served their Province for over 50 years!

In his private life, David's great passion was bowling and much of his leisure time was spent at Gourock Bowling Club where he was both Club Champion and a Past President. He was also the organiser of the annual Orr Masonic Bowling Competition for many years and believed strongly in the ability of the sport to bring brethren together.

However, David will mostly be remembered by those who knew him for his ability to deliver perfect ritual. Always, extremely well turned out, David's presence would be felt immediately he walked onto the floor of his Lodge and there would be hushed appreciation as the ritual would be delivered with perfect diction.

Sadly, David's health in recent years, meant that he was unable to attend his beloved Lodge but it was a privilege to see him manage to attend the Pensioners' Christmas Dinner a few years ago and the opportunity was taken, by then Master, Brother Nicholas Stetz to present him with a well-deserved Distinguished Service Diploma.

David's wife Eileen pre-deceased him some 4 years ago but he is survived by his three children, Vivian, David and Karen and his grandchildren and the condolences of the Lodge are extended to all his family.

Brother David Kirk Steel was a gentleman, a very fine freemason and a wonderful representative of his mother Lodge, being the first member of the Lodge to serve as Provincial Grand Master.

The very essence of dignity and decorum.



I regret that the above photo is of rather poor quality. However, it records the Installation of Brother David Kirk Steel as Provincial Grand Master in 1993 following the ceremony in the Temple of his Mother Lodge, Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626. The ceremony was conducted by the then Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Brother Sir Gregor McGregor of McGregor and although many of those depicted have now passed to the Grand Lodge above, there are many recognisable faces (albeit younger looking and some even with hair)! Included is Brother Rudi Stetz standing in the second back row.

Rudolf Ludwig Stetz Past Master, Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 and Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden

Born in Geisavald, in Germany on the 15th August 1926 to parents, Josef and Marianne, Rudi was one of 5 children with 3 sisters and one brother who was killed serving with the Luftwaffe during the war. Called up to serve his country, when he was just 16, Rudi served with the 1st SS Panzer Division. He served at Stalingrad, which must have been so traumatic for such a young man, little more than a boy. He also served in the Balkans and in France which explained his ability to pick up languages as Rudi was able to get by in a number of languages. Wounded and captured in Normandy, Rudi was first interred in the UK before being shipped to Fort Devons, Mass. USA where he met General Eisenhower. With his linguistic skills, Rudi soon became the Camp's interpreter which also gave him the opportunity to indulge in, shall

we say, his more entrepreneurial skills. In fact, so much so, that he became known as Chicago Joe, engaged in many different schemes.

After he was demobbed, he firstly returned to the UK and then to Belgium where he attempted to trace his family but as his former home was now behind the Iron Curtain, this proved difficult and at the time, he was led to believe that his family had perished in the war. He returned to England and it was not until 1948, that his sister was able to make contact with him through the Red Cross.

By this time, Rudi had established himself in England, working as an engineer for British Thermostats. He was a keen footballer, at one time playing with the great Bert Trautmann, he was a boxer and even a circus prizefighter.

On a bus one evening, he spotted a girl, Barbara, a Gourock girl, who was visiting her sister and it was love at first sight. He chatted to her, got off the bus at her stop to continue the conversation and offered to walk her home. She agreed but to his disappointment, she only lived about 10 yards from the bus stop. But so began their courtship and on the 31st January 1956, they were married.

Over the next 46 years until Barbara passed away in 2002, they were blessed with a total of seven children, Marianne, Ingrid, Christine, Barbara, the late Rudi, Rosalind and Hans, and our thoughts are very much with them and Rudi's grandchildren and great-grandchildren at this time. In the late 1950's, they returned to Gourock, where they set up home at 42, Mathie Crescent, which has been Rudi's home for the last 60 years.

On settling in Gourock, Rudi was employed for a while at that famous institution, the Victoria Bar, he also worked as a Betterware salesman, then as an Insurance Salesman before taking over the Scrap Metal business which stood in Broomberry Drive before moving to Cardwell Road which also acted as a drop in centre for all Rudi's pals.

He had a passion for the youth of the town, creating and running the Gourock YAC, where he formed the first women's football club in Gourock. He organised and coached the town's entry into the BBC It's a Knockout competition on 2 occasions.

In 1972, he became a member of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 serving as Past Master of the Lodge between 1981 and 1983 and I know that one of his proudest moments was installing his grandson into the chair of his mother lodge in 2015 and 2016. He was a founder member of the Anchor Lodge of Research and also served in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West in which reached the rank of PSW in 1997.

His support and companionship was recognised by other Lodges and Rudi was an honorary member of Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew No. 426 and Lodge The Gael No. 609 both of which are represented here today. He was also a member of the Squaremen Organisation and loved his time spent with them.

On a Saturday, Rudi could always be found holding court in the Cardwell Bar. He had time for everyone young or old.

Rudi was a social animal but also a real grafter, to be found in his yard from early morning until early evening but in spite of all his commitments, he was, above all, a family man. His family came first and his love and support for them transcended all other considerations.

The attendance at Rudi's funeral which was estimated at between 300 – 400 was testament to the popularity of the man who had made the most of his 93 years on this earth. One of the

readings at his funeral was a poem called 'The Train if Life' which sums him up so well and I thought it was well worth reprinting it below. It is well worth taking a moment to read it through!

William Mearns Hill Macfarlane Past Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 and Past Provincial Grand Master.

Brother William Mearns Hill Macfarlane (note I have taken great care to type his name with a small 'f' as Billy would always be quick to correct any misspelling of his name. Brother Macfarlane was born in Port Glasgow on the 18th July 1931 and passed away on the 10th July 2019 in his 89th year. A 'Port' boy through and through, Billy left school to start in Lamont's shipyard before joining his father's family painting and decorating business in 1958, which he eventually took over, running it along with his wife Margaret. Billy served his apprenticeship in the business and was also a very accomplished sign-writer.

Billy met Margaret at a dance but sadly she pre-deceased him in 2012. Bill was an elder in firstly, Newark Parish Church and more recently in St. Andrew's Parish Church and it was obvious that his great faith sustained him throughout his life starting with his service in the 1st Port Glasgow Boy's Brigade.

He enjoyed a very sporting life, he was a member of Port Glasgow Curling Club and Port Glasgow Golf Club. A member of Port Glasgow Old Boy's Union and of course, a very fine football career as a goalkeeper with PG Juniors, Beith and a spell at Third Lanark.

In his Masonic Career, Billy worked his way up through the ranks as an office-bearer in his Mother Lodge, Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 and became Master thereof, between 1967 and 1969. He served in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West and became the Provincial Grand Master between 1988 and 1993.

Billy could be a quiet and reserved man but there was never any doubting of his passion and love for his Lodge, his Province and the Craft.

The Train of Life.

Some folks ride the train if life, looking out the rear.
Watching miles of life roll by and marking every year.

They sit in sad remembrance of wasted days gone by.
And curse their life for what it was and hang their heads and cry.

But I don't concern myself with that, I took a different vent.
I look forward to what life holds and not what has been spent.

So strap me to the engine, as securely as I can be.
I want to be out on the front, to see what I can see.

I want to feel the winds of change, blowing in my face,
I want to see what life unfolds, as I move from place to place.

I want to see what's coming up, not looking at the past.
Life's too short for yesterdays, it moves along too fast.

So if the ride gets bumpy while you are looking back,
Go up front and you may find your life has jumped the track.

It's all right to remember, that's part of history,
But up front's where it's happening, there's so much mystery.

The enjoyment of living is not where we have been,
It's looking forward to another year and ten.

It's searching all the byways, never should you refrain,
For if you want to live your life, you gotta drive the train!

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 Jimliv626@gmail.com (Note change of email address).

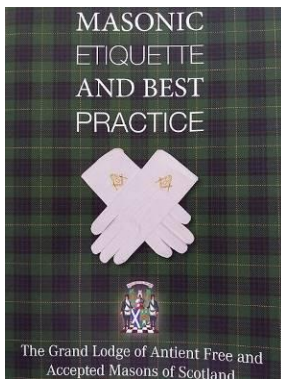
Views expressed by individuals within the West Column do not necessarily represent the views of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Advertising: 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 300 members. PLEASE take advantage of this medium. The schedule of meetings for the week ahead (where such information has been provided, is published in the Province's facebook page each weekend.

Personal Information and E-Mail Addresses.

Please note that the email address list held for the purposes of distribution of the West Column, are held for that purpose only and are not made available to any third party without consent. The West Column is distributed using "blind copies" to maintain the privacy of the recipients.

New Publication from Grand Lodge:



Can I commend to all but especially to those making their way up through the offices, hopefully perhaps towards the chair of their Lodge, the new publication available from Grand Lodge and priced at a very reasonable £3.00 per copy, £1.00 of which is going to Masonic Charities.

The booklet is the work of the Information and Communications Committee and is a very easy guide to Masonic Etiquette and Best Practice.

It covers the A to Z of decorum within the Lodges from the correct positioning of the Altar to correct forms of Address, to Visiting. The booklet also contains guidelines for the use of Masonic Websites, Email and Social Media. One copy is currently being sent to each Master, free of charge and thereafter, the booklet will be available to all to purchase.

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

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

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.

Winners:

The winner of the draws for May and June were Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 and Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 respectively. The July draw was won by Brother Ross Nugent (217) and the latest draw in August was won by Brother Archie Wright (68) or to give him his full name Archie Wright 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.

Annual Installations:

October 2019.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 – Friday 4th October.
Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 – Saturday 19th October.
Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 – Friday 25th October.

November.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 – Friday 1st November.
Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 - Friday 15th November.
Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII - Tuesday 19th November.
Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 - Friday 29th November.

December.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 – Friday 6th December.
Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 – Friday 13th December.

Provincial Meetings.

Regular Communication - Wednesday 2nd October
Provincial Committee – Wednesday 4th December

Annual Meeting – Friday 7th February 2020.



Grand Lodge were in attendance at the May Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West for the installation of Brother Paul M Docherty as Substitute Provincial Grand Master by Past Substitute Grand Master, Brother alexander Galbraith.



Brother Paul M Docherty at his installation as Substitute Provincial Grand Master at the May communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West held in the Masonic Temple of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Congratulations and best wishes for a very happy and enjoyable commission.

Provincial Grand Master's Diary.

As we approach the beginning of another session I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable summer recess especially during the better weather that we enjoyed in June and July.

On Wednesday 1st May, was the Regular Communication of PG Lodge, when in addition to normal business a Deputation from Grand Lodge headed by Past Sub. Grand Master Bro Alexander Galbraith attended and Installed our new Substitute PG Master Bro Paul Docherty.

On Saturday 18th May I attended another extremely successful PGL Summer Ball in Greenock Town Hall. I hope that everyone enjoyed another great night.

On Friday 24th May I attended the funeral of PSPGW Bro Rudi Stetz, an excellent and fitting turnout of brethren at Greenock Crematorium.

On Thursday 6th June I attended the Special Meeting of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No 12 and witnessed an excellent EA Degree conducted by the Past Masters of the Lodge. My thanks to the Brethren of PG Lodge who accompanied me on that occasion.

On Saturday 8th June I attended the Summer Fete at Marcus Humphrey House many thanks to Bro Malcolm Sinclair for his hard working and organising the plant stall at the Fete. Thanks to Bro Kenneth McCrae who assisted on the day and to the Commission Team and the other Brethren of the Province who attended.

On Thursday 13th June I attended Grand Committee and also the Regular Communication of grand Lodge in Edinburgh and delighted to see a number of Brethren from the Province present on the day.

On Friday 19th July I attended the funeral of PPGM Bro William MH Macfarlane in St Andrew's Church in Port Glasgow

On Wednesday 14th August I attended a very enjoyable Masters Dinner, which also included several lively discussions.

On Tuesday 20th August accompanied by, IPPGM Bro James Livingstone, DPGM Bro John Black, SPM Bro Paul Docherty and PG Sec. Bro Alan Beck I attended the half yearly communication of the PGL of Kilwinning.



On Wednesday 21st August I attended the PGL Committee meeting.

With the session starting next week I hope that we all looking forward to another enjoyable period in each other's company.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire East.

On Saturday 13th April, a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West consisting of the Provincial Grand Master, the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Chaplain, Brother George J Carson and the Provincial Grand Secretary travelled through to Perth for the annual communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire East where they were made most welcome by the Provincial Grand Master Brother Russell Logan.

Following the Installation of elective office-bearers, the party were treated to excellent hospitality by the Province. On the day, our Provincial Grand Master, Brother Robin McIntyre had the honour of leading the deputation from the visiting Provinces into the beautiful Temple in Perth.



Bowling:



Once again, the Orr Trophy was played on the greens of the 'Grosvenor' and we were blessed with good weather (although not as good as last year) but quite acceptable conditions. Teams from most of the Lodges in the Province of Renfrewshire West were represented and there were a couple of new faces (which is always good). An even number of teams is a requirement but sometimes we have to do a little adjustment. However, this year we had the ideal number and this allowed us to get started on time

The Provincial Grand Master had asked us to change the date in order that he could attend as he had been previously booked for the week before at the Garden Fete at Marcus Humphrey House and we were happy to help.

As is always the case, the first game is the most important because it sets the bar for everyone who thinks they have a chance. There were six teams who won their first game – so indicating to anyone who was interested that they were 'up for it'. After the first game had finished, the brethren were treated to a roll and slice and a cup of some Beveridge resembling tea or coffee, prepared by Brother Ricky Kennedy of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 – 'once a Steward, always a Steward'!

The cup was eventually won by a team from Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII, winning both of their games with a shots total of +27, followed closely by a team from Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 with a shots total of +20. The winning team was skippered by Brother George Felgate, followed by Brother Kenny Morrison and led by Brother David Stevenson. Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 were skippered by Brother Alex Hunter, followed by Brother Tom Macdougall and led by Brother Iain Freer.



The trophy was presented by Brother Raymond Bruce on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master and votes of thanks were passed on to the Grosvenor and the organisers. Unfortunately, due to a slight misunderstanding concerning the timing of the event, the Provincial Grand Master missed out on the presentation. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Report by the Organiser of the event, Brother John Freeburn, Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425

Friendship Quaich.

The annual match, played on Sunday 18th August at the Gourock Bowling Club, between the Provinces of Renfrewshire West and Ayrshire was won this year by a team from Renfrewshire West.

Around the Masonic World.

From time to time, the Column is sent photographs from the travels of the brethren across the globe and just to show how universal freemasonry really is, I am always happy to include these when space and time permits. This month's photographs are kindly supplied by Brother Dougie Robertson, Past Master of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 and by Brother George Carson, Past Master of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 and Provincial Grand Chaplain.



Photo shows the front view of the Grand Lodge building in Pennsylvania in the Grand Old United States of America

A view of the very ornate Master's chair and dias within the building



Perhaps not quite as impressive as the Grand Lodge in America but the entrance to the Lodge which Brother George Carson visited whilst on a cruise to Norway (Allesund), is still very impressive



The beautiful interior of the Lodge in Norway and I bet that no pies will be allowed anywhere near that floor!

Always impressive to see a portrait gallery!



The view towards the east of the Lodge showing the impressive artwork at its best.

My thanks to Brother Robertson and Brother Carson for kindly sharing these photos with the Column. Brother George actually has provided more photos taken during his visit to Orkney which given the limited space available, I will provide in next month's Column. If anyone has similar photographs, I will be delighted to receive them.

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

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 3rd – No meeting due to the Saloon being unavailable.

Tuesday 17th - Entering

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 – The prizes are £25 per month with the exception of June and December when there is no uplift. 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 and Ballot.

Monday 9th – Entering

Monday 16th – Raising (Exemplification) by Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Monday 23rd – Passing

Monday 30th - Entering

The Senior Members outing will head to a top secret destination on Saturday 7th September – Brethren to assemble at the Lodge by 11.00 am.

The Joker Prize tickets are on sale and the usual Saturday night social nights take place from 8.30 until midnight.

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/>

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 13th – Passing conferred by Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Friday 27th – Entering.

Please note that meetings of the Lodge will continue to be advertised in the Greenock Telegraph and online edition on the first Friday of each month.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

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.

Thursday 5th – Business Meeting (Members only).

Thursday 19th – Entering (to be confirmed).

Comet Festival 22 June 2019

A good number of Brethren spent a very busy and financially successful day at the Coronation Park hosting the Lodge Bottle Stall at the Port Glasgow Comet Festival. Some Brethren followed this up with a visit to the Lodge to check on the progress of the building work



Rothesay Trip,

A number of Brethren and partners enjoyed an excellent day out at Rothesay on 8th June. After a look round the shops we took the Island tour bus to the Kingarth Hotel for lunch. The bus picked us up again later and dropped us off at Lodge Rothesay St Johns 292, where we enjoyed the hospitality of the locals. In true 217 tradition the Harmony song sheets were distributed to everyone and a great time was had by all. David Blane pleased the locals with his amusing rendition of “Rothesay Bay”



The advance contingent at Rothesay Pier



Lodge St John's 292

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 11th – Entering. This is the Lodge's first 'live' candidate for 2 years and a warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to join the Lodge on the evening.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 9th – Passing

Monday 23rd – Annual General Meeting and election of office-bearers

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 11th – Raising (conferred by Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68).

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 3rd – General Committee Meeting.

Tuesday 10th – Entering

Tuesday 24th - .Passing

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 12th – Entering

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

Friday 6th – Business – Ballot, Affiliation and Lecture, entitled “Early Operative Freemasonry and the Craft” by Brother Frank Johnstone, Past Master of Lodge The Royal Stewart No. 1414 and Past Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East.

Other Orders

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

September

Wednesday 18th – Annual General Meeting

October

Wednesday 16th – Installation

November

Wednesday 20th – Excellent Masters Degree

December

Wednesday 18th – Royal Arch Degree.

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, Nicholas R R Stetz 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.

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 5th September – Annual General Meeting 7.30 pm

Thursday 3rd October – Annual Installation at 7.15 pm.

Port Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter No. 900

Thursday.

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

Preceptory of Ardgowan

Wednesday 4th September –AGM and Election of office-bearers.

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 2018/2019 session especially those who have been unable to attend recently through other commitments.

- 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 will be on Wednesday 25th September and will consist of the AGM for both Cryptic Council (7.30) followed thereafter by the RAM.

St. George's Conclave No. 79 –

Tuesday 17th – 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 Past Master Brother Kenny McCrae 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 Kenny 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 McCrae has asked me to advise that if donating stamps it is very helpful if approximately 0.25" border is left around the stamp.

ANNIVERSARY LAPEL BADGES.

Lapel Badges for 25, 40, and 50 years service are available at a cost of £5.50 each. A special "gem" set badge for 60 years is also available at £10. **All prices are excluding postage.** For every badge sold, £2 will be donated to the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund. All cheques should be made out to "David Stevenson"



Badges, may be purchased individually by qualified Brethren, or in bulk by Lodges who may wish to make presentations to deserving Brethren, for meritorious service. All enquiries and orders to treasurerno12@aol.com
Please make cheques payable to "David Stevenson".

Anniversary Badges.

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



In the October 2014 edition of the West Column, I published a 'Grumpy Old Masters' Badge, provided by Brother Brian Hopkins PM626. Brother David Stevenson, has advised me that following enquiries from a number of brethren, he has been able to source these at a cost of £5.50 each excluding postage. Brother David's details are provided above.

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.

On Wednesday 18th September, the Lodge of Erskine No. 1566 are holding a Special Meeting within the Recreation Room of Erskine Home, Bishopton at 6.30 for 7.00 pm. The cost of a ticket is £10 and the evening will have two guest speakers. The first speaker is Brother James Ferguson (Master Mason's Degree of 1219) who will give a talk on "The bombing of Woodside First Aid Post – May 1941" and that will be followed by Brother Robert L D Cooper, Curator at the Grand Lodge of Scotland who will give a talk entitled "Masonic PoW's in Singapore". Both are assured to be highly interesting.

Regalia is to be worn and refreshments will be provided by the Home.

All proceeds will go to the Erskine Home Recreation Facility.



The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566

Special Meeting - Erskine Home



Wednesday 18th September (6:30 for 7:00pm)

Location: Erskine Home Recreation Room, Ferry Rd, Bishopton PA7 5PU

Two Guest Speakers:

Bro. James Ferguson (MM of No. 1219)

"The Bombing of Woodside 1st Aid Post – May 1941"



Bro. Robert LD Cooper (Curator Grand Lodge of Scotland)

"Masonic POW's in Singapore"



Tickets £10 – all proceeds to Erskine Home Recreation Facility - Regalia to be worn

Harmony Refreshments supplied by Erskine Home

ADVERTISING:

I am always delighted to include any adverts for companies and services operated by our members and there are some additional new adverts included in this month's Column.



Platinum Paving. Brother William Peacock (Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425).

For all your garden, driveway and landscaping needs please call Bro William Peacock on 07588678211.

Advert:

Brother Scott Dunlop.

S D Locksmiths.

Accredited by the UK Locksmith Association.

UPVC window and door locks.

Contact: Scott Dunlop.

Mobile: 07549 230766

Email: scott@sdlocksmiths.uk

Advert: If you happen to be taking the air down in Largs, make sure you take a few minutes to visit *Moda Boutique*, in Tron Place, Largs (opposite the Station), which is the new venture of the Brother Graeme Wallace and his partner, Louise.

Just recent opened, we wish them every success.



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:

sales@etprint.com  www.etprint.com
01475 650706

IT COMPUTER PRODUCTS
61 Shore Street: Gourock: PA19 1RF

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Custom built PCs for business and home - Laptop sales & service
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 **PHONE - TABLET & GADGET
SALES & REPAIR CENTRE**
You break it! We repair it...
Tel: 01475 650706
www.itechinverclyde.co.uk

Painting and Decorating.

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



Advert.

D & D All Trades (Brother Graeme Dunn of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121).



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



Don't forget that Gowanlea Nurseries is the place to go for all your bedding plants!

Charity Event.

As many will be aware, Ben, the son of Alisdair and Gillian (Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68) spent some considerable time over the winter months in hospital and we were delighted to see that his recovery has enable him and twin sister Abbie, to start on life's next big adventure in Primary one a few weeks ago.

Gillian and Alisdair are organising Charity Event on Sunday 6th October and even if you can't get along, please consider a donation or a raffle prize for this excellent cause.



Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – September 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2 nd 68 – Monthly Business Meeting and Ballot	3 rd XII – No meeting	4 th	5 th 217 – Business meeting (Members only) RAC289 - AGM	6 th 1814 – Ballot, Affiliation and Lecture	7 th	8 th
9 th 68 – Entering 626 – Passing.	10 th 1121 - Entering	11 th 989 – Raising (conferred by Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68). 624 - Entering	12 th 1425 - Entering	13 th 175 – Passing conferred by Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.	14 th	15 th
16 th 68 – Raising (Exemp).by Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 97.15).	17 th XII – Entering	18 th	19 th 217 – Entering (TBC)	20 th	21 st	22 nd
23 rd 68 – Passing 626 - AGM	24 th 1121 - Passing	25 th	26 th	27 th 175 – Entering.	28 th	29 th
30 th 68 – Entering						

(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*