



The West Column



Can I just start by wishing you and your families a very happy new year and I hope that this new year of 2020 brings you peace, health and happiness. I would also hope that all of the Lodges in the Province have a very successful year ahead and although it would be nice to see every Lodge enjoying an upturn, it is certainly true to say that most of the Lodges have been blessed with an excellent number of initiates during the first half of the current session and let's hope it continues. Of course what we must all do is work hard to make sure that we keep all our new members interested and involved in the Lodge.



Now for those of you without young children in the family, this is Rosie! She is an "Elf on the Shelf" and for 11 months of the year, she disappears (either to the North Pole to assist Santa or to the Livingstone attic with the other Christmas decorations. Again, for those who don't know – Rosie serves a number of purposes. She appears on the 1st December each year to the delight of the young members of the family and in a different place every morning. Sometimes she hides on top of the curtain pole, sometimes in a vase of flowers, or perhaps peeping down from the ceiling light.

What is her purpose in life – well I suppose you could say she is an enforcer because for the weeks leading up to Christmas Day, the youngsters are told, "You need to be good because remember – Rosie is watching and will report back to Santa if you're being naughty"!

This, of course, results in all sorts of promises, genuinely meant for possibly all of ten seconds until of course another glint of mischief comes into the urchin's eye!

Promises are so easily made and sadly, just as easy to break.

We are approaching that time of year when we are likely to make resolutions for the coming year ahead. Resolutions from the verb resolve which comes from the Latin *resolvere* or be determined to carry out a decision.

I wonder how many resolutions are made in the few days after the 1st January and how many are broken by the end of the first week of the New Year.

I suppose the most common resolutions are to lose weight, to give up smoking, to be more tolerant (that's usually mine and I'm sure I hear you saying that doesn't appear to be very successful on my part)!

Promises. Of course are only as strong as the person who gives them and like the full moon, if they are not kept at once, they diminish day by day.

We have just completed the round of Installations in the Province for the current session and I would extend my congratulations to those who supported the sister Lodges in good numbers with many ceremonies having attendances in three figures. The ceremonial ritual was consistently excellent throughout and it was nice to see many brethren taking office for the first time.

I hope that all listened carefully to the obligation which they all accepted at the time "to further the interests of the Lodge and to support the Master in his various duties"!

A promise made and I hope one which will be kept during the year ahead.

We make a lot of promises in the Craft. From the first contact of a new applicant who appears at an Enquiry Committee and promises to attend the Lodge with his proposer and seconder promising faithfully to support their candidate (how quickly are these promises so often broken)?

The initiate then makes his promises during his obligation but again, given the poor retention rate of new members, how quickly are such promises broken. Perhaps we need a "Rosie" in each of our Lodges!

Once again, I wish you every success in the new-year and perhaps close by asking you to recall and act upon the promises you made as a new initiate and as an office-bearer.

*Losers make promises they often break. Winners make commitments they always keep!**

Don't be a loser brethren, be committed!

**Denis Waitley*

Kind regards,

Jim

Obituary: Brother Jack Glenny PM, Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

(submitted by Brother Alan D Beck, PM12 and Provincial Grand Secretary).

Bro John Clarke Glenny, Past Master - A Personal Reflection by Bro Alan D Beck, Past Master.

It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing to The Grand Lodge Above of our dear Brother and friend, Bro Jack Glenny PM, who died in the early hours of Sunday 15th December, 2019, and whose achievements and contributions to the local community cannot be overstated.

As well as being a long-standing member and a Past President and Honorary President of Greenock Burns Club, (The Mother Club), Jack was formerly HM's Inspector of Customs in Greenock, a Past Moderator of the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley, a Past President of Dunrod Angling Club and of course a Past Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning NoXII, assuming the Chair of King Solomon on November 17th 1981 for two consecutive 12-month terms of office, as is our custom.

Earlier this year when we took the decision to formally constitute our Lodge Burns Club as a separate entity, I was very proud to propose Bro Jack as the founding President of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning NoXII Burns Club and this received the unanimous approbation of the members. This was, for me, a great personal pleasure and an opportunity to repay him in some small measure for the honour he did me by appending his signature to two application forms: the first for my membership of Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) and the second for my membership of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning NoXII.

For both of these I will remain eternally grateful to him. If ever a man could confidently own the adjective "much-beloved", it was Jack. His charm, wit, grace and honesty were renowned and much in evidence to all who met him. His knowledge of Burns was tremendous and this, combined with his natural humour and his numerous stories, drawn from his many interesting and varied life-strands, made him a thoroughly engaging after-dinner speaker, proving with consummate ease that speeches can be hilarious ... and clean at the same time.

As a Reader of The Church of Scotland, Jack conducted services around the country and in 2009, he was very honoured to be invited to address the Scottish Parliament at their "Time for Reflection" which is held at the beginning of each new session. As Mother Club Bard, Jack was called upon to write poetry to illustrate various important items in the Mother Club calendar and we always looked forward immensely to his work which would adorn our Annual Celebration programmes.

Only a couple of weeks ago I contacted him to wish him a happy St Andrew's Day. It was clear from his reply that he was very unwell and that he wasn't up to composing a new poem. I told him that I, as President, would compose one on his behalf and looked forward to him resuming his post in the new year - he seemed pleased by this and I was honoured that he said he knew the club was "in good hands".

Another great honour of mine took place on April the 2nd, 2014 when as Master of NoXII, I was delighted to present him with his Golden Jubilee Diploma - 50 years to the day of his initiation. Jack embodied all that is good and true about Freemasonry - he always struck me as the embodiment of the Charge to the Brethren; and that is saying something!

He also embodied the ethos of the Burns movement. He was, in the truest sense, a Friend of The Poet, and the movement will be far poorer for his passing.

I offer my deepest condolences to Elizabeth and all the family and especially to his brother Alistair Glenny Past Master, (also a much-beloved brother to us all at NoXII) who loved him dearly. The photo was taken on April 2nd, 2014 at Lodge Greenock Kilwinning NoXII, with both Bros Glenny and myself in much happier times.



**Bros Alan Beck RWM Jack Glenn PM Alistair Glenn PM
on Jack's Golden Jubilee evening**

Thought for the start of the New Year from the Rev. I.M Geordie.

Are you thinking about resolutions for the new year? Giving up something? Starting something new? A health regime? Good luck with whatever your endeavour is for 2020. I gave up making new year resolutions many years ago but if I am going to make a resolution this year I think it will be to try to be more kind.

"Be kind, for whenever kindness becomes part of something, it beautifies it. Whenever it is taken from something, it leaves it tarnished." Prophet Muhammad

"My religion is very simple. My religion is kindness." Dalai Lama XIV.

"The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer." Mahatma Gandhi.

"But deep this truth impress'd my mind:
Thro' all His works abroad,
The heart benevolent and kind
The most resembles God."

Robert Burns

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love." Romans 12 vs 10.

So kindness crops up in many faiths and philosophies. Maybe we should give it a go for 2020's resolution.

On Tuesday 17th December, there was a very good attendance at the Divine Service of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 conducted as last year by Brother George J Carson, Past Master and Chaplain of the Lodge and also Provincial Grand Chaplain. The Sermon which George delivered was excellent and I thought that it was worth sharing with a wider audience so I asked George if he would mind if I published his sermon in the West Column and he kindly agreed. Take a moment to read it through – it is well worth the effort.

SERMON 2019 delivered at the Annual Divine Service of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 on Tuesday 17th December 2019

“Yet what I can I give Him? Give my heart”.

The bible tells us that the Wise Men brought gifts: - *“and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh”*. So on the first Christmas gifts were given. However the first gift I would argue came from God: - *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son*. So God gave us his Son as the first Christmas present to all mankind.

NOW THERE'S A GIFT

Following that, as we hear in the hymn “In the Bleak Mid-Winter”, shepherds may have brought sheep. We know from the Bible that the Wise men brought gold, frankincense and myrrh. The first steps in giving gifts at Christmas began on the First Christmas Day. I wonder if there was any ill feeling when the lowly shepherds turned up with no expensive gifts only to be outdone by the riches of the Wise Men.

Was this the first step towards the commercialisation we have today? Since then it has become common practice ...with the commercialisation perhaps overtaking the original meaning of Christmas. The gifts to children have become so expensive that there have been moves to ask parents to consider making the smaller Christmas presents to their children from Santa and... if there are any expensive presents like a new iPad or a bike ...that the parents give them as a gift from themselves Not Santa. This makes sense. How heart breaking must it be for children in poorer families when they hear that Santa has brought their classmates big expensive presentswhen maybe all they got was a new coat that they needed or an Oor Wullie annual and some sweets.

So even if we are poor we can still give our heart. Let's think about that. What does it mean to give your heart to your God? To me it means changing or focusing our world view to how God would want us to live our lives. To live by the principles we as Freemasons teach perhaps.

To live as God would want us to live.

How about as we say when we install the Standard Bearer..... We as Freemasons have a motto... Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Faith Hope and Charity? That seems like a good start. Sadly in our modern world much of that seems to have become unfashionable.

The world is full of “fake news”, untruths and half- truths. Some of our world leaders seem to take lying to a whole new level To them it is par for the course.They will change their story from one day to another. So let's be unfashionable. This Christmas let's give our hearts to the baby Jesus.

There is no need for gold, frankincense myrrh.

If you have riches consider what you can do to help others with some of it. Can you afford to give some relief where it is needed? Charity to all mankind. Remember the North East Corner. A bit of Brotherly Love costs nothing but can reward he who gives and he who receives.

Showing thoughtfulness and kindness to others will make them feel good but it will make you feel good too.

Be truthful. Be true to you. Except when your wife daughter or grand-daughter asks if you like her new hair style... or her new coat ... or does her bum look big in this....a wee white lie maybe works best there.

Last year I quoted the Beatles on the theme of All You Need is Love. Let me quote them again for this year's service.

The Beatles sang, "If I give my heart to you, I must be sure. From the very start, that you would love me....."

You can be assured if you give your heart to God that He will love you.

If you give your heart to God and live by the principles of your faith then others will love you too.

So whatever else you give this Christmas make sure you give your heart to the Baby Jesus. Give your heart to your God. Embrace your faith. Through that you can hope for immortality. And remember to be charitable not only to those you love but to all mankind.... Regardless of faith, creed or colour.

I would like to take the opportunity to now read you a sermon by someone else. It goes back to 1947..... but I think it is timeless. If any of you read the West Column you may have seen the short article in the December edition "A thought for the Season" from the Rev. I.M. Geordie. That article included the start to this sermon that I would now like to read in full. Don't worry, it is short.

Tonight I want to tell you the story of an empty stocking.

Once upon a midnight clear, there was a child's cry, a blazing star hung over a stable, and wise men came with birthday gifts. We haven't forgotten that night down the centuries. We celebrate it with stars on Christmas trees, with the sound of bells, and with gifts.

But especially with gifts. You give me a book, I give you a tie. Aunt Martha has always wanted an orange squeezer and Uncle Henry can do with a new pipe. For we forget nobody, adult or child. All the stockings are filled, all that is, except one. And we have even forgotten to hang it up. The stocking for the child born in a manger. It's his birthday we're celebrating. Don't let us ever forget that.

Let us ask ourselves what He would wish for most. And then, let each put in his share, loving kindness, warm hearts, and a stretched out hand of tolerance. All the shinning gifts that make peace on earth.

No prizes but does anyone know where that sermon comes from?

You know, to me that sermon kind of says it all. Maybe I should just shut up now and leave you with that though. But I won't! It is a heart-warming film that shows that in life love and relationships....kindness and thoughtfulness are much more important than the raising of money to build a cathedral. It is nice to give gifts to show that we are thinking on a friend or loved one. But let's not be overcome with the commercialism of Christmas.

Let's remember the stocking that wasn't hung up.

Let's remember Whose birthday we are celebrating.

Let's ask ourselves what He would wish for most.

Every day ... not just at Christmas ...put in your share of loving kindness, warm hearts, and stretch out a hand of tolerance.

All the shinning gifts that make peace on earth.

Advert:

Hogmanay Concert

with Alan and Polly Beck



Join Alan and Polly Beck from 7pm until 9pm on December 31st in Greenock Town Hall for a concert of Traditional Scottish Music. Accompanied by well-known pianist Hugh Reid, the couple will perform classic Scottish songs such as Dark Island, Highland Cathedral, My Ain Folk and many, many more. Tickets priced at £20 for adults and £12 for children can be obtained from the box office of The Waterfront swimming baths or by contacting Alan directly on 07739 514242.

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.

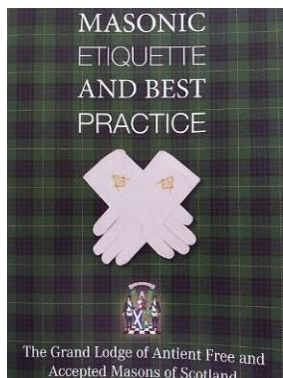
Personal Information and E-Mail Addresses.

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.

Photographs:

Please note that if you are having your photograph taken at an event either as an individual or as a group, it will be assumed, unless clearly expressed otherwise, that you are content to allow the photograph to be published in the West Column and on the Province's facebook page. The West Column is distributed directly to a closed email mailing list of approximately 500 names, all of whom are members of the Craft. The Province's facebook page is a closed group made up of around 350 members.

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.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.

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:

November – Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

December – Brother George J Carson Provincial Grand Chaplain, PM1121.

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.**

Message from the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Robin McIntyre.

Further to my leg surgery at the beginning of October I have unfortunately not been able to attend many of the meetings and Installations that have been held in the Province during this period. Can I at this time thank all the Lodges and Brethren for all the cards and messages I received as I recuperated from the surgery, it was greatly appreciated.

I did have the great pleasure in assisting the RWM Bro James Watson of Lodge Sir Michael No 989 with the presentation of a 70-year Certificate to Bro Jimmy Ross of Lodge Sir Michael. On this occasion we were made very welcome by the staff of the Marchmont House Home and enjoyed spending time with Bro Ross and his wife who is also a resident of the Home. My thanks to Bro Watson and also Bro James Madden for all the arrangements.

On Thursday 28th November I attended the Installation at Grand Lodge and the Festival of St Andrew in Edinburgh, in the company of several Brethren from the Province. It was announced on the day that Bro James Strachan had been awarded the Honorary Grand Rank of Architect by the Grand Master Mason.

On Friday 29th November I had the pleasure of heading a Deputation from PG Lodge to the Annual Installation of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 where Bro Eric Ramsay was Installed as RW Master for a second year.

On Saturday 30th November in the company of IPPGM Bro James Livingstone and DPGM Bro John Black, I attended the Installation of Bro Andrew Mushet as the new PGM of the Province of Glasgow, with the Installation Ceremony being carried out by the MW GMM Bro W Ramsay McGhee, Past Sub GM Bro Alexander Galbraith was also in attendance as part of the Grand Lodge Deputation.

On Tuesday 3rd December I had the pleasure of heading a Deputation from PGL to Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No 12 for their Annual Divine Service, where we enjoyed an excellent Service conducted by Bro Alistair Glenny PM.

On Wednesday 4th December the December Committee meeting of PGL was held with Lodge Firth Clyde, Gourrock No 626.

On Friday 6th December I had the pleasure of heading a Deputation from PGL to Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 for their Annual Installation of Office-bearers with Bro Sidney Alexander being Installed as RWM.

On Monday 9th December, in the company of DPGM Bro John Black and PG Chaplain Bro George Carson I attended Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 and witnessed an excellent EA Degree.

On Saturday 14th December along with my wife I attended the Seniors Christmas Lunch in Lodge Firth of Clyde No 626.

On Tuesday 17th December I had the pleasure of heading a Deputation from PGL to Lodge Crawfordsburn No 1121 for their Annual Divine Service, where we enjoyed an excellent Service conducted by Bro George Carson PM. I was also pleased to assist the RWM Bro Adam McKenzie in presenting Bro James Strachan with a Jewel and Certificate to mark his Honorary Grand Rank of Architect.

My grateful thanks to the Commissioned Office-bearers and the Elected Office-bearers of PG Lodge for all their support during the past year and especially to our DPGM Bro John Black for heading the PG Lodge Deputations to various Meetings and Installations during the last few months.

I hope Brethren that you have all enjoyed the Festive period and on behalf of the Commissioned Team and the Elective Office-bearers I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Presentation of Platinum Certificate.

In last month's Column, we carried news of a Platinum Certificate presentation to a member of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 and it was stated that readers should have a good look as such presentations were very rare. However, just to prove the editor wrong, we carry news in this month's edition of just such a presentation to another weel-kent Brother who, although not a member of a Lodge in this Province is nevertheless very well known to many. (Report by Brother Alexander Galbraith PSGM, PPGM, PM175).

Brother Angus N McInnes PSGM, PPGM (Dunbartonshire).

Angus is a very special friend of our Province having served as Provincial Grand Master of Dunbartonshire at the same time as William M. McKillop was our Provincial Grand Master. He was presented with his Platinum Diploma for 70 glorious years of membership of Lodge St. Patrick No. 1309 at a Special Meeting of the Lodge on Monday 2nd December by the Grand Master Mason, Brother William Ramsay McGhee. Brother McInnes, is a Past Provincial Grand Master of Dunbartonshire and Past Substitute Grand Master and also founder of The Ashlar magazine.



Brother Angus N McInnes, with GMM Brother W. Ramsay McGhee and Brother Alexander Galbraith PSGM, PPGM

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

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 7th – Lecture, Brother Alan D Beck, Past Master will deliver a lecture entitled “Mozart, Freemasonry and the Magic Flute”. There will also be a notice of motion and the Installation of remaining office-bearers,

Tuesday 21st – Meeting Cancelled (Inverclyde Music Festival).

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 and payment by cash, cheques or through internet banking are all acceptable. Please support the Lodge with this draw.

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 6th – Monthly Business Meeting.

Monday 13th – Passing conferred by Lodge Dalry Blair No. 290

Monday 20th – No meeting.

Monday 27th – Entering.

Friday 24th – The 263rd Annual Meeting and Burns Supper takes place at 7.30 pm.

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

Tickets are now on sale for the Hogmanay Dance from Past Master Brother Archie Wright.

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/>

Charity Night (Report by Brother Eddie Lapsley, Architect of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68).

While in the past each year Bro Eddie Lapsley of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 along with his daughters Tracy Lapsley Fay, and Michelle Lapsley, have raised money for one of the Military Charities. This year it was decided to raise money for Local Causes.



The two causes chosen were Compassionate Inverclyde and Scheihallion the Children's Cancer ward in Glasgow. In the past the money raised was for the larger Charities as Eddie got a large amount in sponsorship from his workmates off-shore. As Eddie has now retired it was thought to turn our attention closer to home.

The Scheihallion the Children's Cancer was chosen as we have had both friends with a child and relations whose grandchild had to attend. Anything that can bring a little happiness to the children on the ward must be worthwhile.

Compassionate Inverclyde was chosen because of the great work they do with little resources, in which Bro Billy Weir of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 plays a large part.

A total of £1,930 was raised which has allowed £965 to be presented to each cause.

The Charity night was held in Lodge Doric Kilwinning Social Club big thanks for the use of the hall, entertainment was by The Bone Idle Bros who provided an excellent nights entertainment.



A hearty thank you for all their family and friends who gave money and raffle prize donations also to Gourrock, Greenock, Ralston & Cochrane Castle Golf Clubs for providing 4 balls to raffle off and Gledloch Hotel for a voucher for an after-noon tea. Also to Gadsya for the brilliant face painting with the money raised being paid being donated.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 10th – Passing

Friday 24th – Entering and Ballot.

Tickets for this year's Hogmanay Dance are on sale now priced at £10 each and available by contacting Brother Thomas Porteous IPM.

The Lodge Annual Burns Supper will take place on Saturday 11th January 2020 with the usual highly regarded Speakers and Musicians from the Burns Fraternity along with the excellent

Catering from Brother Jim Williams. Tickets priced at £12.50 each are available from Brother Alex Johnstone PM.

“Go Sober for October.

Brethren, I would like to thank all of you for your kind and generous support during Go Sober for October. With your help I raised £1,642 for Macmillan Cancer Support towards the magnificent work they carry out across the Country. Thank you. From Brother John McKenzie, Secretary.

Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 meetings will continue to be advertised in the Greenock Telegraph, and Online Edition, on the first Friday of each Month.”

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 2nd – Meeting cancelled.

Thursday 16th – Entering and Annual visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. Please note this is a 7.15 pm start.

On Thursday 23rd January, the Lodge will be conferring a Fellowcraft degree at Lodge Barns O' Clyde No. 1018 and as always, the Master, Brother Eric Sweeney would be grateful for the support of the brethren of 217 and, of course, any brethren of sister Lodges who might wish to accompany the Lodge on that occasion.

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 8th – AGM and Ballot.

The Annual Installation meeting will take place on Friday 10th January at 7.30 pm when Brother Tom McDougall will be installed into the chair of his adopted Lodge to serve a second term. A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to join the Lodge both at the ceremony and the harmony supper which will follow.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 13th - Passing

Monday 24th – Entering

On Wednesday 8th January, the Lodge will be travelling to Lodge Cadder Freestone No. 1584 to confer a Master Mason's degree. It is some time since the Lodge visited to confer a degree, around 13 years and the Master, Brother Graeme Wallace would be delighted to have the support of as many brethren of the Lodge as possible.

Annual Divine Service.

The joint annual Divine Service for Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 shall take place on Sunday 26th January 2020 at 6.15 for 6.30 pm within the Lodge and to which all friends and family are cordially invited. Regalia should be worn and the Service will be conducted by the Chaplain of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626, Brother Jim Livingstone who is a Past Master of both Lodges.

Charity Donation.

Today our RWM Graeme Wallace along with WSW Brian McClure presented a cheque for £250 to Greenock Morton Community Trust for their Festive Friends Christmas Dinner, being held at Cappielow on Christmas Day.



This is the 4th year the event has been held and this year it is also being supported by Compassionate Inverclyde, River Clyde Homes and Amazon.

Christmas dinner, entertainment, companionship and support will be provided to over 70 vulnerable, lonely or homeless people from the local community.

626 Social Scene:

A busy time for the Lodge over the Christmas period starting with the Senior Member's and Widows Christmas lunch on Saturday 14th December when around 60 senior members and friends gathered for another very happy and successful event. The meal was organised by our President of Stewards, Brother Alex Black who, with his band of helpers conjured up a beautiful meal. For those present, it was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and maybe even make a few new friends!



Managed to gather the "Catering Team" together for a brief photoshoot and heartiest congratulations and grateful thanks go from all those who enjoyed the day, to Brother Alex black and his team for all their work in organising and preparing for the day.

The hard work was certainly appreciated by all.

However, there was no time to rest as the hall was quickly cleared and reset for the Children's Party the following day with around 50 children being treated to their annual party with, of course, a special appearance by the man himself.



A statement has been issued to dispel the scurrilous rumour that Santa looks as if he might have been pilfering the selection boxes being handed out to the Children. As my grandson informed me, he is just a nice fat jolly man!

No Children's party would be complete without a little bit of bedlam!



However, just to prove that they can behave, it's amazing what a game of pass the parcel can do, to bring a little bit of order to the proceedings!

And as if that wasn't enough excitement, the festivities were rounded off on Saturday 21st December when, once again, the hall was packed for the Christmas Dance with catering again provided by the wonderful Brother Alex Black, our President of Stewards. How many of us dithered over whether to have the chicken curry, the mouth-watering steak pie or the macaroni and cheese all served with rice or chips. Sadly, there are some indecisive individuals (like Past Master Brother Robert Wilson) who just can't make up their mind and so opt for a plate of each!!!

A wee rest now for the Social Committee before the annual **Burns Supper**.

Tickets are now on sale for the annual Burns Supper on Saturday 18th January priced at £12 (note tickets must be paid for BEFORE the evening). The line-up is Brother Paul M Docherty, PM989 and Substitute Provincial Grand Master delivering the Immortal Memory with Toasts to (and reply from) the Lassies being performed by Davie Docherty and Jimmy Law respectively. Always a great night but be sure and get your ticket as soon as possible.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 8th – Entering. Sure to be a busy evening with the Master's son being initiated.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 14th – Raising and Annual Visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (note 7.15 pm start).

Tuesday 28th – Regular meeting followed by Informal Burns Supper.

Report - Annual Installation

On 1st November Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No. 1121 held its Annual Installation. The Lodge was well attended by brethren from within and outwith the Province of Renfrewshire West to witness Bro Adam McKenzie PM being installed as the RWM for the next 12 months. The Installing Masters were Bro Michael O'Neill PM, Bro Thomas More PM, Bro Samuel L Hunter PM and Bro Nathan B McF H Scoular PM.



Master, Brother Adam McKenzie PM.



Master with his Wardens, Brother Iain Hair, Senior Warden and Junior Warden Brother Hugh McM. Docherty PM. (It was difficult obtaining this photograph as Brother Docherty is not keen on getting his photograph taken)!



A very experienced team of Installing Masters. Brother Tom More PM, Brother Michael O'Neill PM (Principal) and Brother Sam L Hunter PM.

After the Installation a Harmony dinner was held where Loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and replied to.



The Office Bearers for 2019-20 are:

RWM – Bro A. McKenzie PM; IPM – Bro J. Laird; DM – Bro I. McKenzie; SM – Bro S.L. Hunter PM; WSW – Bro I.D. Hair; WJW – Bro H.McM. Docherty PM; Secretary – Bro D.J. McRae; Treasurer – Bro M. O'Neill PM; Almoner – Bro C. McDiarmid; Chaplain - Bro G.J. Carson PM; Asst Chaplain – Bro J.H. Ritchie; SD – Bro G.P. Dunn; JD – Bro J.A.G. Freer; IG – Bro S. McC. Duncan; Architect – Bro G.R. Barrett; Jeweller – Bro T McDougall; DoC – Bro T More PM; BB – Bro J. Reid; SB – Bro D. Hair; PoS – Bro N.K Long and Tyler - Bro W.F McFarlane Snr.

Lodge St. Andrew, East Kilbride 524 Installation.

On Saturday the 14th of December 2019 at five minutes to four (524) the installation of James Henderson Campbell started. Bro Jim's Mother Lodge is Lodge Crawfordsburn and I am pleased to say that I proposed him and my father seconded him to join our Lodge.



Bro Campbell was an enthusiast worker for his Mother Lodge and would have taken the chair of the Lodge the year before me if commitments had not taken him to East Kilbride. Being the kind of guy he is Jim quickly fitted into the local scene and was proposed by Brother Derek Bell to affiliate to Lodge St Andrew. Being the hard worker he is he rose through the various offices and took the chair of the Lodge last year. I had the honour of toasting the Lodge at his installation last year.



I was somewhat surprised to get a call from Jim late summer asking if I would be an installing master for him this year. I was initially reluctant thinking I may be seen as an interloper as his lodge has many past masters more than capable of installing him. Jim can be very persuasive and convinced me that he really wanted me for the job. So, being incredibly honoured to do so, I accepted his invitation to install the office bearers of Lodge St Andrew.



I had a meeting with Jim and my fellow Installing Masters; Derek Bell and Graham Wyllie on the 23rd of October. It was a good day meeting Derek and Graham and discussing and planning for the installation over an excellent lunch at the Lodge. The planning was also helped with the wonders of technology having set up a WhatsApp Installing Masters group.

On the day I was made to feel very welcome by my installing colleagues and by the brethren of the Lodge and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East.

I think my work in learning the ritual for the various offices paid off as I was overwhelmed by the positive comments and thanks I got from the brethren of the Lodge, visitors to the Lodge and from Provincial Grand Lodge. I must thank Depute Provincial Grand Master Ronald E Fraser, who lead the deputation, and his office bearers for their kind words.

After the installation we had a hearty meal and we enjoyed some very informative and entertaining toasts and their replies. It is just as well that Bro Jim is thick skinned.

It was an excellent day and I have to thank Brothers Jim, Derek and Graham for their encouragement, support and for making me feel so welcome.

It was a bonus to be in the company for RWM Adam McKenzie along with Brothers, Jim (Corky) McCorkell, Iain Freer, Neil Long and Gordon Barret on the day.

George Carson
PM Lodge Crawfordsburn 1121

Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No. 1121 - Bro James Strachan

At The Grand Lodge of Scotland's Festival of St Andrew held this year on 28th November, Bro James (Jimmy) Strachan was conferred as a Honorary Grand Architect by the Grand Master Mason Bro William Ramsay McGhee. It has previously been stated on social media outlets and when people spoke to him that Jimmy was totally taken aback by this award, even to the extent that he was still in a state of shock and bewilderment by the time he got back to Greenock.



At the Lodge's meeting on 17th December, RWPGM Bro Robert McIntyre read out the wording on the certificate of his honorary office before presenting the certificate to Bro Strachan. During the presentation, RWPGM Bro Robert McIntyre also informed the brethren that Bro Strachan had been at 36 consecutive Festivals of St. Andrew in Edinburgh. Quite a feat, not just in relation to the cost of such trips but the logistics of getting to Edinburgh over all these years!

At the same meeting, RWM Bro Adam McKenzie PM presented Bro Strachan with the jewel of his honorary office, which the Lodge had been delighted to purchase for Bro Strachan given the honour this personal award had brought to the Lodge and the commitment and dedication he had shown to the Lodge and Freemasonry in general.



Congratulations Jimmy.

Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No. 1121 - Presentation of Long Service Diploma



At the last regular meeting of the previous session in April, RWM Bro John Laird, accompanied by RWPRM Bro Robert McIntyre, presented 5 brothers with long service diplomas for their commitment to the Lodge and Freemasonry in general.

Unfortunately Bro Alexander Hunter PM was unable to be present on that April night, but the position was remedied on 10th December, when RWM Bro Adam McKenzie PM was able to present Bro Hunter with his 50 year diploma.

Bro Hunter was initiated on 2nd May 1967 and served as RWM for two years starting on 4th November 1977.

The photo below shows Bro Alexander Hunter PM receiving his diploma from RWM Bro Adam McKenzie PM

Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No. 1121 Donation to Inverclyde Foodbank

With the festive period approaching and following the success in previous years, the Lodge brethren, over the recent weeks leading up to Christmas, have been accumulating donations of non-perishable foodstuffs or monetary donations that would be used to purchase the same.

The aim of these donations was to give the goods to the Inverclyde Foodbank for their distribution to the needy in Inverclyde society at this festive time.

The donations included soup, peas, beans, pasta of all sorts, breakfast cereals, tea, coffee, sauces, tuna, biscuits etc. and in keeping with the season some Christmas puddings, selection boxes and mince pies - basically, everything that you would see in the food aisles of a supermarket at this time of year.

The foodstuffs were delivered to the Inverclyde Foodbank on 18th December and the donations were gratefully received by the staff who run the operation.

At the Lodge's Annual Divine Service on 17th December the Lodge's Chaplain Bro George J Carson PM based his sermon on the theme "The Gift of your Heart" and made reference to giving to the less well off. It seems appropriate that the day after the service the Lodge made this donation.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 9th – Entering

Annual Divine Service.

The joint annual Divine Service for Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 shall take place on Sunday 26th January 2020 at 6.15 for 6.30 pm within the Lodge and to which all friends and family are cordially invited. Regalia should be worn and the Service will be conducted by the Chaplain of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626, Brother Jim Livingstone who is a Past Master of both Lodges.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 is now in recess until April 2020.

Other Orders

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

Wednesday 15th January – Greenock RAC XVII has the annual visit of the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Renfrewshire. 8.15PM approx. start as the meeting will be preceded by the visit to Cryptic Council and Royal Ark Mariners.

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.

Greenock CC & RAM 17 - Meets 4th Wednesday at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

No meeting in January. The next meeting will be on Thursday 7th February at 7.30 pm and will be the annual Provincial visit.

Port Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter No. 900

The next meeting will be on Thursday 30th January 2020 and will be the Provincial Royal Arch Chapter visit. The Chapter meets on the 4th Thursday of the month within the premises of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Preceptory of Ardgowan

There is no meeting in January for the Preceptory of Ardgowan the next meeting being 5th February which will be a Knight Grade and a Jubilee Presentation for which the Grand Master and District Grand Prior will be in attendance for.

It would therefore be helpful for those wishing to attend to advise so for catering purposes.

Venerable Preceptor Nicholas R R Stetz 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.



The above photograph was taken at the recent installation on 6th November 2019 of Venerable Preceptor Nicholas Stetz and installing office, Sandy Reddy along with IPP Andrew G Pigott.

St. George's Conclave No. 79 –



The next meeting of the Conclave is on Tuesday 21st January 2020 (RHS) with two candidates..

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, 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.

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.

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Mobile: 07549 230766

Email: scott@sdlocksmiths.uk

Advert.



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Gourock, PA19 1UB

01475 636190
07852296110

Cars, white goods & metals

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Emmanuel Oroh

(Manager)

Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd

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

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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?

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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

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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.

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



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



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Cleaning and Maintenance

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – January 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 st Preceptory – no meeting.	2 nd 217 – No meeting	3 rd	4 th	5 th
6 th 68 – Monthly Business Meeting	7 th XII - Lecture	8 th 624 – AGM and Ballot 989 – Entering	9 th 1425 - Entering	10 th 175 – Passing 624 – Annual Installation 7.30pm	11 th	12 th
13 th 68 – Passing by Lodge Dalry Blair No. 290. 626 - Passing	14 th 1121 – Raising and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15).	15 th RAC XVII – Annual Visit by the PGRAC of Renfrewshire.	16 th 217 – Entering and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15).	17 th	18 th	19 th
20 th 68 – No meeting	21 st XII – No meeting SGC 79 - RHS	22 nd	23 rd	24 th 68 – Lodge 263 rd anniversary meeting and Burns Supper. 175 – Entering and Ballot.	25 th	26 th 626 – Annual Divine Service (6.15 for 6.30).
27 th 68 – Entering 626 - Entering	28 th 1121 – Reg Meet and Informal Burns Night	29 th	30 th PGRAC 900 – Provincial Visit.	21 st		

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