



The West Column



Brethren,

I'm sure that I am not the only one who is anticipating a very busy month ahead with the lead up to Christmas and the new year festivities and all the various treats, dinners and parties which take place. (I do hope that you will remember to send me reports along with some photos for next month's Column).

It's important that while we acknowledge the importance and solemnity of the ritual, that we apportion time for enjoying ourselves as often that is the cement of friendship that bonds us together.

Equally important and particularly at this time, that we remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

One only has to think of the devastation caused recently in the far east by the Typhoon and as I write this leader, Scotland is mourning the deaths of so many in the terrible accident in Glasgow City Centre on Friday 29th November.

It perhaps brings it home so clearly that life is precious and that we must take every advantage offered to us as the sands of time flow so swiftly away. Such disasters simply bring it home to us that we should take the opportunities afforded to us to enjoy ourselves. One of the very pleasing aspects of the Installations this session, has not just been the excellent attendances (and quality of ritual work) at the ceremonies but the numbers remaining for the harmonies which follow. I sincerely believe that these are an important aspect of our meetings. It is where friendships are made and forged forever.

We still have two Installations in the month of December and I hope that the excellent support afforded by the sister Lodges continues.

In the meantime, I would extend my very best wishes to you all and your families for a merry and blessed Christmas time and of course, best wishes also for a happy, healthy and fulfilling new year, when we shall look forward to the various visitations to the Lodges along with the celebration of the 275th anniversary of the appointment of Brother Alexander Drummond as the first Provincial Grand Master on the 7th February 2014. In the meantime, seasons greetings to all.



Contributions to the West Column

I'm not sure if everyone has been particularly busy these past few weeks but contributions to the Column have been rather scarce, which is disappointing given the number of Installations that have taken place and the number of photographs taken which generally seem to delay the dinners that follow. It would be nice to receive a short report along with copies of the photographs.

However, I would thank those who have provided contributions to this month's edition and a reminder that photographs of events are also welcome but I have to reserve the right to limit their use as it can affect the email transmission speed. However, please continue to send photographs as I can always include them in later editions. Most importantly, it is assumed that any photographs sent to me have the permission of the subjects for publication. If sending articles with accompanying photographs, could I ask that these are not embedded into a word document but send separately as JPEG files. All contributions should be sent to Jim626Col@aol.com

I am aware that many Lodges have had new initiates or even existing members who may have email addresses but do not receive the West Column. I would be grateful if the Lodge Secretaries could mention the West Column in your respective Lodges and perhaps encourage those who do not yet receive it to drop me a note of their email address and I will add them to the distribution list. The Column goes all over the world but let's make sure that it reaches all possible addresses in the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde area as well! My thanks go to those who have forwarded on new contact details within the last month. **Views expressed by individuals within the West Column do not necessarily represent the views of Provincial Grand Lodge.**

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

Provincial Website.

For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to www.pglrw.org Brethren, if you have anything that you wish added to the Provincial website, contact Brother Jim Donnelly at jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com

Meetings.

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

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

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

Dates and duties for your diaries:

Annual Installation and Visitation:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Dep Head	Off/bear	Annual Visit	Commenting
12	19 Nov.	DPGM	G Carson	4 March	JPGW
68	13 Dec	PGM	Robert Bain	17 February	DPGM
175	25 Oct	PGM	John McAlister	10 January	JPGW
217	29 Nov	PGM	Gordon Porter	17 April	SPGM
626	19 Oct	PGM	Gordon Price	10 March	SPGW
989	15 Nov	SPGM	Jim Donnelly	9 April	DPGM
1121	1 Nov	PGM	John Black	28 January	SPGW
1425	6 Dec	PGM	Alex Johnstone	13 February	SPGM
1814	3 May (14)	PGM			

Bowling:

A report on the bowling competitions are available at the PGLRW website www.pglrw.org

Renfrewshire 200 Club (RW200Club).

The observant will notice that the previous muted RW100Club has become the RW200Club. This is mainly because it has been decided to reduce the monthly "ticket" cost to £5.00 rather than £10. 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. Please remember that a minimum of 50% of the income will be going directly to charity.

Full details of the rules of the Club are being currently determined and application forms will shortly be made available through each Lodge. 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.

275th Anniversary of Provincial Grand Lodge.

As you will no doubt know by now, on the 7th February 2014, we will celebrate the appointment of Brother Alexander Drummond, Past Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII as the first Provincial Grand Master in 1739. A series of events will be held by a number of Provinces to mark the occasion. However, as our annual meeting in the Province of Renfrewshire West falls on the exact date, we will be privileged to host the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, at our Annual Meeting. Details of the event will be made available shortly. Watch this space.

Provincial Visits:

As always brethren, I am indebted to the members of Provincial Grand Lodge who have accompanied me on the various visits which have taken place since the last publication of the West Column. I did take advantage of an opportunity to take a late winter break in Cyprus for 12 days and I am grateful to the Depute and Substitute Provincial Grand Masters for their attending to the Installations at Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 and Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

On Saturday 1st November, I attended the annual Installation at Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 and the following day I was at a meeting of the organising committee for the intended Provincial outing on the PS Waverley on Saturday 21st June.

On Sunday 3rd November, accompanied by the Depute and Substitute Provincial Grand Masters, Brother Alan Beck Provincial Grand Director of Music and Brother Tommy Trotter, I attended the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow's Annual Divine Service.



On Monday 11th November, I attended an In Memoriam Service at Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and also the Installation at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 on Friday 29th November.

Reports on the visits to Grand Lodge on the 31st October for the Regular Communion and for the Festival of St. Andrew on the 28th November are provided separately.

Visit to Grand Lodge on Thursday 31st October.

The following report was compiled by Brother Paul Docherty, IPM of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.

Brethren, As you are all aware, Renfrewshire West arranged for a bus to take over 40 Brethren through to Grand Lodge on Thursday 31st October 2013. We left bright eyed and bushy tailed (aye right) at 0915 from outside Lodge 626 Firth of Clyde, and collected at various points right up to Bishopton where the rowdier element embarked upon the bus. ;-)

We then made good speed towards Edinburgh where, after much coaxing, and despite many alternative routes being suggested by various “experts” on the bus, we alighted outside Grand Lodge on a beautiful Autumnal day at around 1130.

The 989 brethren, (or three amigos) then made use of the time, after dropping off our briefcases, to visit Victoria Regalia and also have some terrific lunch in a wee “spot” that brother Gordon Price had previously dined at. An excellent choice, and made even more enjoyable by the fact that Bro Price paid for our lunches! This was an even more pleasant surprise for Brother James Watson who, as a Fifer, made it very clear that this sort of wanton good will made him very uncomfy! ☺
(only kidding James)

We then headed back to Grand Lodge where we took in more of the atmosphere. We headed upstairs to the shop where one or two items were purchased before heading down into the main area to take our seats up at the earliest opportunity.

Whilst we were (after taking advice) seated very early, the time simply flew in as we tried to take in all the splendour around us. Before we knew it, we were on our feet to welcome the arrival of the Grand Master Mason and Office bearers, District Master, Provincial Grand Masters and Grand Committee members.

An impressive sight.



I wont say any more of the meeting itself rather than to say, I think every brother should make the time and effort to visit Grand Lodge at least once. If another bus is organised I would urge you to make the effort. All the worry of travel etc is taken out of your hands and you are simply required to enjoy yourselves.

We took the opportunity to take our pictures in Grand Lodge for keepsakes, had one final visit to the excellent shop upstairs in Grand Lodge, and readied ourselves for the next part of our day.



The Provincial Grand Master had arranged for all of us to visit a meeting of Lodge Sir Robert Moray no 1641 whose Master, we were delighted to note was Bro Sir Archibald Donald Orr-Ewing, Immediate Past Grand Master Mason!

As the Lodge Room filled up with many visitors, more and more extra seats were required to meet the demands of the large numbers of visitors. The DOC then introduced our own PGM and welcomed him to the East. He then presented Bro James Malcolm Marcus Humphrey as representative of all the reigning Masters in attendance for the day. Another Past Grand Master in attendance who also took his place in the East.

A small deputation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Edinburgh headed by the PGM of Edinburgh Brother Ewan Rutherford was then admitted and seated in the East. The final deputation was then admitted, headed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason Bro Charles Iain Robert Wolridge Gordon of Esslemont.

Included in his large and distinguished deputation were no less than 2 Past Depute Grand Masters, our own Bro Alexander Galbraith as current Substitute Grand Master and another Past Substitute Grand Master along with other high ranking officials from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. The East was positively heaving with Braid and medals and it was nice to see Renfrewshire West represented there amongst the great and good of Freemasonry in Scotland.

The meeting was duly opened whereby we were then given a most interesting lecture in Heraldry in Scotland by a Mr Adam Bruce, the son of Andrew Bruce, the 11th Earl of Elgin and Past Grand Master Mason of Scotland.

I would urge any brother to find out a little more about Adam and this interesting subject. A cursory glance at Wikipedia will give an initial insight and also links to this subject.

Link :- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adam_Bruce

Extract as follows :-

“In 2008 Bruce was appointed an Officer of Arms at the Lyon Court as Unicorn Pursuivant. In April 2012 he was promoted to Marchmont Herald of Arms. He was previously Finlaggan Pursuivant (Private Officer of Arms to Clan Donald), in which role he was installed in 2005 by Godfrey Macdonald, 8th Baron Macdonald of Slate, Chief of the Name and Arms of Macdonald and High Chief of Clan Donald.

This marked a reinstatement of the traditional Macdonald clan heraldic role after a break of 510 years.^[5] Bruce is 2nd cousin of Alastair Bruce of Crionaich, the current Fitzalan Pursuivant of Arms Extraordinary.^[5]“

At the end of the lecture, the RWM Bro Sir Archibald Donald Orr-Ewing thanked Mr Bruce and the Lodge was duly closed. An interesting and frankly once-in-a-lifetime visit to Lodge Sir Robert Moray no 1641 on a day when many brethren witnessed the attendance of the Grand Master Mason and so many distinguished brethren in a Lodge for the first (and probably perhaps) the last time.

Without wishing to be any more of a sook, a huge thanks goes out to our own Provincial Grand Lodge for making arrangements for the day and allowing perhaps one or two brethren to see Grand Lodge in action.

We all look forward to the next opportunity to visit Grand Lodge

Festival of St. Andrew - Thursday 28th November 2013.

A number of brethren from the Province were present to witness Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont being installed as Most Worshipful Grand Master by Sir Archibald Donald Orr-Ewing, Immediate Past Grand Master. Following the ceremony, the Brethren retired to the Edinburgh Corn Exchange where an excellent celebration dinner was held and where I was privileged and honoured to be given the task of replying to the toast to the Provincial and District Grand Lodges. In all, I believe there were around 550 present to enjoy a wonderful dinner.

If I have missed anyone out please accept my apologies but from memory, present from Renfrewshire West, along with myself were RW Past Substitute Grand Master Brother Alexander Galbraith, Immediate Past PGM Brother Jim Miller, and Brothers Neil Johnston (626) Andrew Pigott, (RWM626), Alan Glen (WJW12), Malcolm Sinclair (WSW1121) and James Strachan (1121).

Grand Rank.

I am also delighted to advise that at the ceremony of Installation, among the names intimated as receiving Honorary Grand Rank was Brother **JAMES HERON RITCHIE**, Past Master of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 Worshipful Junior Provincial Grand Warden who can now add Honorary Grand Senior Deacon to his title.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING SEPTEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 3rd - Passing conferred by Lodge the Gael No. 609

Tuesday 17th - Annual Divine Service conducted by Brother Jack Glenny PM

Installation Report.

The 286th annual Installation of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning NoXII took place on Tuesday 19th of November in The Saloon of the Town Hall when 119 brethren including 12 reigning masters, witnessed Brother Alan Duncan Beck being installed for the second year into the Chair of his Mother Lodge by Installing Master Brother Iain White PM assisted by Brother Hector Macphail PM and Brother Kenneth C MacDougall PM.

Brother Richard Harrison RWM of Lodge Doric Kilwinning 68, led the visiting deputation, and the Depute RWPGM Brother John RS Keith, led the Provincial Grand Lodge deputation into the lodge on the evening, to the skirl of the pipes of RWM Brother Alasdair Beaton Lodge The Gael 609 and Brother Donnie Finlaystone PM Lodge The Gael 609 and HM No XII.

During the ceremony a board of installed masters was formed upstairs in the Town Hall Court Room (where Brother Alistair Glenny PM performed his first floorwork for over 20 years) after which the members of the board congratulated Brother Beck at a hot buffet in the Grand Corridor.

Following the closing of the ceremony in the Saloon, the brethren retired for an excellent dinner, courtesy of President of Stewards Brother Tony Buckley, in the main Town Hall. Amongst the usual speeches and masonic toasts, RWM Bro Alan Beck thanked the Brethren of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII for the honour and privilege of being installed as RWM for a second term and thanked the Installing Masters for their superb work. Depute Provost Brother David Wilson, tendered the apologies of Provost Robert Moran and offered the congratulations of Inverclyde Council to the RWM and his office bearers.

The Depute RWPGM tendered the apologies of RWPGM Brother James P Livingstone whilst offering not only the Provincial Grand Master's congratulations but also those of the Grand Master Mason. Entertainment on the evening was provided by Brother Beck's wife Polly, like Brother Beck a professional singer, who sang 3 traditional Scots songs accompanied on the piano by Craig Dunsmore. Mrs Beck was not only thanked for her beautiful singing, but also for the support she gave to the RWM during his 140 visitations made in his first year. An excellent evening was enjoyed by all, especially Brother Hector Macphail PM who won the gallon of The Famous Grouse Whisky in the raffle. Thanks must go to Brother Macphail PM for generously donating the whisky back to the Lodge for the Burns Supper raffle.

The evening was rounded off at midnight in traditional style by the singing of Auld Lang Syne ... some brethren stayed a little longer ...



Right Worshipful Master Brother Alan D Beck with Installing Masters, Past Masters Brothers Iain White, Hector McPhail and Kenny McDougall and Depute Provost Brother David Wilson.

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 2nd - Business Meeting
Monday 9th - No meeting
Friday 13th - Annual Installation
Monday 16th - to be confirmed

The Annual Installation of the Lodge will take place on Friday 13th December when Brother William Lawson will be installed (AT LAST) into the chair of his Mother Lodge. A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren.

Regular Saturday Night Dance takes place 8.30 pm.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 13th - Entering (Exemplification)
Friday 20th - No meeting - Informal Social Night and Spirit Draw.

Report on Installation.

At the Annual Installation of Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175 held on Friday 25th October 2013 in the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, the Brethren of the Lodge were joined by Brethren from Masonic Lodges from within and outwith the Province of Renfrewshire West to celebrate the Installation of Brother Marshall Richard Charles North as Right Worshipful Master.

RWM Brother Alexander Johnstone, after opening the Lodge, welcomed a Deputation of Brethren from visiting Lodges, headed on this occasion by Brother Andrew Pigott, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No. 626.

They were followed by a deputation of Brethren from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West headed by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Brother James Pearston Livingstone. Thereafter the Installing Masters, Brother Alexander Galbraith, Brother Matthew B. Henderson and Brother Robert P. Shields were received and warmly welcomed by RWM Brother Alexander Johnstone.

During the Ceremonial which followed Brother Marshall North was installed into the Chair of his Mother Lodge for the first time by Installing Master Brother Alexander Galbraith PM assisted by Brother Matthew B. Henderson PM.



(RWM & Installing Masters)
(Bro. Matthew B. Henderson PM, Bro.
Alexander Galbraith PM, Bro. Marshall
North RWM & Bro. Robert P. Shields PM)

Bro. James P. Livingstone PGM of
Renfrewshire West congratulates
Bro. Marshall North RWM



The Office-Bearers for the ensuing year were also installed into their respective offices by Installing Master Brother Robert P. Shields PM.

Office-Bearers for 2013-2014 are:

RWM Brother Marshall North; IPM Brother Alexander Johnstone; DM Brother J. Callum Wohlgemuth; SM Brother William Boyd PM; WSW Brother Edward Ross PM; WJW Brother James Robertson, Secretary Brother John W. McKenzie; Almoner Brother Adam Pickett; Senior Chaplain Brother Reverend David Mitchell B.D., Dip. P. Theo; Junior Chaplain Brother Greig Mitchell; SD Brother J. Campbell Pickett; JD Brother David McShane snr; Assistant Secretary Brother Brian Gillan jnr; D of C Brother Matthew B. Henderson PM; Architect Brother James Campbell; Jeweller Brother Tom Harkins; IG Brother James Bowman; Vice-President of Stewards Brother Robert Johnstone; 1st Assistant Steward Brother Paul Brain and Tyler Brother Thomas Porteous.

Later at the Installation Dinner the usual Loyal Toasts were given as follows:

"The Queen" followed by "The Grand Lodge of Scotland" and "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West" proposed by Brother Marshall North RWM, reply by Brother James P. Livingstone RWPGM; "The Installing Masters" proposed by Brother Marshall North RWM, reply by Brother Alexander Galbraith, Matthew B. Henderson and Robert P. Shields; "The Right Worshipful Master" proposed by Brother Alexander Johnstone IPM, reply by Brother Marshall North RWM; "Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175" proposed by Brother James Wilson PM of Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87 (IC), reply by Brother Marshall North RWM; "Visiting Brethren" proposed by Brother Edward Ross WSW, reply by Brother Kenneth McCrae PM of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 and finally "The Artists and Stewards" proposed by Brother James Robertson WJW reply by Brother Robert Johnstone Vice-President of Stewards.

LODGE GREENOCK ST. JOHN'S NO. 175 ANNUAL DIVINE SERVICE.

On Sunday 27th October 2013, the Right Worshipful Master Brother Marshall North accompanied by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Brother James Pearston Livingstone and the Lodge Chaplain Brother Reverend David Mitchell gathered at the Temple with Brethren and visiting Brethren for the Annual Divine Service of the Lodge. The Service was conducted by the Lodge Chaplain Brother Reverend David Mitchell, who provided the Brethren present with his usual inspiring and entertaining address.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 5th - Raising (exemplification) conferred by Past Masters of the Lodge.
Thursday 19th - Regular Meeting and Carol Harmony.

Social events.

On Saturday 21st December, the Lodge hosts another **FAMILY FRIENDLY SATURDAY** from 12 until 4 pm with food served between 12 and 2 pm.

Christmas Prize Draw tickets are now on sale from the Worshipful Junior Warden, Brother Gordon Leitch.

Orders are currently being taken for the **Lodge's 2014 diary** at a cost of £3.50 each.

The **Lodge's Festive Dance** takes place on Friday 27th December 2013 – append names to list.

The Children's Christmas Treat will take the form of a visit to the Pantomime at the Beacon Arts Theatre on Saturday 14th December at 3.00pm Children's tickets will be £8.00 payable by the Lodge with adult tickets available at a cost of £10.00 each. Please add names to list or contact Worshipful Junior Warden, Brother Gordon Leitch early to avoid disappointment.

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 11th - Annual General meeting and Ballot

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 9th - Entering
Monday 23rd - No meeting



Those who attended the Installation of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 will be aware that Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626, as one of their sponsor Lodges presented the new Master with a gift to mark their centenary. The gift was most unusual and is shown on the left. The old penny which is inserted into the watch is dated 1913, the year the Lodge was constituted.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 11th - Raising

Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 10th - Raising
Tuesday 17th - Passing

The Lodge's **Annual Divine Service** will take place on Tuesday 14th January 2014 in the Lodge Temple at 7.30 pm.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Friday 6th - Annual Installation.

The Annual Installation of the Lodge will take place on Friday 6th December at 6.30 pm when Brother Joseph Anthony Fogarty will be installed into the chair of his adoptive Lodge by Brother Kenneth M McCrae PM626 HM1425, Brother Robert Marshall RWM989 and Brother Joe Brice PM939 HM1425. A warm welcome is extended to all for both the ceremony and for the harmony dinner which will follow. There is no charge for the dinner.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

In recess.

Other Orders.

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII meets in the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourock on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30 pm to which all Companions are cordially invited. Most Excellent First Principal, Tommy Trotter 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.

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Monday 9th – RA Degree

No meeting in January

Greenock Royal Ark Mariners Lodge and Council No. 17

Greenock Cryptic Council No. 17.

Preceptory of Ardgowan

Details of meetings for 2014 will be provided in the January edition of the West Column.

St. George's Conclave No. 79 - 2013/14 Syllabus

The next meeting will be held in the Masonic Temple, 7, Brown Street, Port Glasgow on Tuesday 21st January at 7.30 pm.

2014:

21st Jan (KHS),

18th Feb (RCC),

18th March (KHS),

15th April – Installation of Grant McLeod.

The Wee Corner

The spot for all the stories that don't fit anywhere else!

CHARITY NEWS

STAMP APPEAL.

Please remember that Brother Bill Crumlish of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 is collecting used stamps in aid of Ardgowan Hospice so please don't throw them away. Put them in an envelope and hand them on to Bill or to any member of 626 who will be pleased to pass them on. This costs nothing, simply a moment of your time and can mean so much to a very worthwhile cause. I'm sure than we all know of someone who has benefited from the care received at Ardgowan Hospice over the years so please help!

Brother Crumlish has asked me to advise that if donating stamps it is very helpful if approximately 0.25" border is left around the stamp.

ANNIVERSARY LAPEL BADGES.

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



Badges, may be purchased individually by qualified Brethren, or in bulk by Lodges who may wish to make presentations to deserving Brethren, for meritorious service. All enquiries and orders to davidstevenson50@aol.com
Please make cheques payable to "David Stevenson".

Brethren, over the years, the sale of the above badges and the resulting small profits therefrom have been the work of Brother Henry Tibbles, Past Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII and we are greatly indebted to Brother Henry for all his efforts. However, this has now been passed on to Brother David Stevenson, Secretary of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII and again we are grateful to Brother David for taking this on.

Annual Appeal by Poppy Scotland.

Brethren at the Festival of St. Andrew, the Most Worshipful Grand Master announced that as a result of the appeal to the Lodges in Scotland, the amazing total of £21,000 had been raised and at the Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street, the section for the Lodges was by far the biggest section.



I am indebted to Brother Murdo Munro for providing the following which I am sure will be of interest.

The Red Poppy

Why we wear a poppy as a symbol of remembrance.



Brethren, at this time of year it is traditional to wear the poppy as a symbol of remembrance, a tradition that began as a result of the poem "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae.

The field poppy is an annual plant which flowers each year between about May and August. Its seeds are scattered on the wind and can lie dormant in the ground for a long time. If the ground is disturbed from the early spring the seeds will germinate and the poppy flowers will grow.

This is what happened in parts of the front lines in Belgium and France. Once the ground was disturbed by the fighting, the poppy seeds lying in the ground began to germinate and grow during the warm weather in the spring and summer months of 1915.. The field poppy was blooming when the ANZAC and British Forces arrived at the start of the campaign in April 1915.

The sight of these delicate, vibrant red flowers growing on the shattered ground caught the attention of a Canadian soldier by the name of John McCrae. He noticed how they had sprung up in the disturbed ground of the burials around the artillery position he was in. It was during the warm days of early May 1915 when he found himself with his artillery brigade near to the Ypres-Yser canal. He is believed to have composed a poem following the death of a

friend at that time. The lines of the poem have become some of the most famous lines written in relation to the First World War.

In Flanders Fields

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.**

**We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands, we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**

How the red Flanders poppy became the modern-day symbol of Remembrance was the brainwave of an American woman, Miss Moina Michael. "The Poppy Lady"

On the 9th November 1918, two days before the Armistice was declared at 11 o'clock on 11th November. Moina Belle Michael was on duty at the YMCA Overseas War Secretaries' headquarters in New York. She was working in the reading room, a place where U.S. servicemen would often gather with friends and family to say their goodbyes before they went on overseas service.

On that day YMCA hall was busy with people coming and going. The Twenty-fifth Conference of the Overseas YMCA War Secretaries was in progress at the headquarters. During the early part of the morning as a young soldier passed by Moina's desk he left a copy of the latest November edition of the "Ladies Home Journal" on the desk.

At about 10.30am Moina found a few moments to herself and browsed through the magazine. In it she came across a page which carried a vivid colour illustration with the poem entitled "We Shall Not Sleep". This was an alternative name sometimes used for John McCrae's poem, which was also called "In Flanders Fields". Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae had died of pneumonia several months earlier on 28th January 1918.

Moina had come across the poem before, but reading it on this occasion she found herself transfixed by the last verse:

**Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands, we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.**

In her autobiography, entitled "The Miracle Flower", Moina describes this experience as deeply spiritual. She felt as though she was actually being called in person by the voices which had been silenced by death.

At that moment Moina made a personal pledge to "keep the faith". She vowed always to wear a red poppy of Flanders Fields as a sign of remembrance. It would become an emblem for "keeping the faith with all who died".

Compelled to make a note of this pledge she scribbled down a response on the back of a used envelope. She titled her poem "We Shall Keep the Faith".

**Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.**

**We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.**

**And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.**

Three men attending the conference then arrived at Moina's desk. On behalf of the delegates they asked her to accept a cheque for 10 dollars, in appreciation of the effort she had made to brighten up the place with flowers at her own expense.

She was touched by the gesture and replied that she would buy twenty-five red poppies with the money. She showed them the illustration for John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" in the Ladies Home Journal, together with her response to it "We Shall Keep the Faith". The delegates took both poems back into the Conference.

After searching the shops for some time that day Moina found one large and twenty-four small artificial red silk poppies in Wanamaker's department store. When she returned to duty at the YMCA Headquarters later that evening the delegates from the Conference crowded round her asking for poppies to wear. Keeping one poppy for her coat collar she gave out the rest of the poppies to the enthusiastic delegates.

According to Moina, this was the first group-effort asking for poppies to wear in memory of "all who died in Flanders Fields". Since this group had given her the money with which to buy them, she considered that she made the first sale of the Flanders Fields Memorial Poppy on 9th November 1918.

Moina Michael was determined to put all her energy towards getting the Poppy emblem adopted in the United States as a national memorial symbol. She was encouraged by a positive reaction to the idea by the press.

She began a tireless campaign at her own expense, starting with a letter to her congressman in December 1918. In the letter she asked him to put the idea to the War Department, which he immediately did. She wanted to act swiftly so that this new national emblem might be already be produced in the form of pins, on postcards and so on in time for the signing of the peace treaty at Versailles in June 1919.

She realized that after the war the numerous signs related to the war - the Red Cross, War Loan insignia, Service Flags - which had been evident all over the United States during its involvement in the war would gradually be removed. Moina considered that a replacement emblem, the red poppy, could be used to fill those empty spaces as a symbolic reminder of those who had not returned home to celebrate the end of the war.

Her religious upbringing inspired her to believe that the Flanders Memorial Poppy was indeed a spiritual symbol with more meaning behind it than pure sentimentalism. She likened the new

optimism for a world returned to peace after the “war to end all wars” to the magnificent rainbow which appeared in the sky after the terrible flood in the bible.

Originally Moina intended to use the simple red, four petalled field poppy of Flanders as the Memorial Poppy emblem.

However, in spite of the interest raised by the appearance of the new emblem at the time, and Moina's continued efforts to publicize the campaign, this emblem was not taken up by any group or individual to help establish it as a national symbol.

By March 1919 she had moved back to Georgia to take up her place at the University of Georgia. With the return of thousands of ex-servicemen to the state Moina realised that there was not only a need to honour the memory of those who had died in the service of their country, but also a need to remember that those who were returning also had mental, physical and spiritual needs.

During the summer months of 1919 Moina taught a class of disabled servicemen. There were several hundred ex-servicemen in rehabilitation. She thought the emblem could be developed so that it could be used to help all servicemen who needed help for themselves and for their dependants.

By 1920 Moina Michael was beginning to lose hope that the Memorial Poppy idea would ever come to fruition. She was in a dilemma about whether to pursue her own academic career or whether to abandon it in order to devote herself entirely to the Memorial Poppy campaign. However, in the early 1920s a number of organizations did adopt the red poppy as a result of Moina's dedicated campaign.

In 1919 the American Legion was founded as an organization by veterans of the United States armed forces to support those who had served in wartime in Europe during the First World War.

In August 1920 Moina discovered by chance that the Georgia Department of the American Legion was to convene on 20th of that month in Atlanta. Prior to the convention she searched out the delegates and the Navy representative promised to present her case for the Memorial Poppy to the convention.

The Georgia Convention subsequently adopted the Memorial Poppy and also agreed to endorse the movement to have the Poppy adopted by the National American Legion and resolved to urge each member of the American Legion in Georgia to wear a red poppy annually on 11th November.

One month later, on 29th September 1920, the National American Legion convened in Cleveland. The Convention agreed on the use of the Flanders Fields Memorial Poppy as the United States' national emblem of Remembrance.

A French woman by the name of Madame Anna E Guérin was present at the 29th September National American Legion convention. Anna was a representative of the French YMCA Secretariat. She was inspired by Moina Michael's idea of the poppy as a memorial flower and she also believed that the scope of the Memorial Poppy could be expanded to help the needy. She considered that artificial poppies could be made and sold as a way of raising money for the benefit of the French people, especially the orphaned children, who were suffering as a result of the war.

Anna Guérin returned to France after the convention. She was the founder of the “American and French Children's League” through which she organized French women, children and war veterans to make artificial poppies out of cloth. Her intention was that these poppies would be sold and the proceeds could be used to help fund the restoration of the war-torn regions of France.

Anna was determined to introduce the idea of the memorial poppy to the nations which had been Allied with France during the First World War. During 1921 she made visits or sent representatives to America, Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand.

In 1921 Madame Guérin made arrangements for the first nationwide distribution across America of poppies made in France by the American and French Childrens' League. The funds raised from this venture went directly to the League to help with rehabilitation and resettlement of the areas of France devastated by the First World War. Millions of these French-made artificial poppies were sold in America between 1920 and 1924.

Madame Anna Guérin travelled to Canada, where she met with representatives of the Great War Veterans Association of Canada. This organization later became the Royal Canadian Legion. The Great War Veterans Association adopted the poppy as its national flower of Remembrance on 5th July 1921.

The first British Poppy Day Appeal was launched that year, in the run up to 11th November 1921. It was the third anniversary of the Armistice to end the Great War. Proceeds from the sale of artificial French-made poppies were given to ex-servicemen in need of welfare and financial support.

In 1921 Anna Guérin sent some French women to London to sell their artificial red poppies. This was the first introduction to the British people of Moina Michael's idea of the Memorial Poppy. Madame Guérin went in person to visit Field Marshal Earl Douglas Haig, founder and President of The British Legion. She persuaded him to adopt the Flanders Poppy as an emblem for The Legion. This was formalized in the autumn of 1921. By 1922 Haig established the first Poppy Factory in Richmond, Surrey, but such was the demand for poppies that few were reaching Scotland. In 1926 his wife, Lady Haig, established a Poppy Factory in Edinburgh to produce poppies exclusively for Scotland.

Since then the poppy has become a symbol of remembrance and for the sacrifices made by our Armed Forces, both at times of war and in their peace keeping duties. Importantly, for nearly 90 years it has raised millions of pounds to support the needs of veterans and their families, living in Scotland.

And from that time the red poppy has been sold each year by The British Legion from mid October to raise funds in support of the organization's charitable work.

This article came from a combination of two sites, The Great War and Scotland poppy, and the website can take no credit.

Our readers might notice that the picture used at the top of this article features a poppy with four petals and no leaf. This is what is known as the 'Scottish Poppy.' And this is the official reason why we have one.

Why is there a different poppy in England, Wales and Northern Ireland?

Since Earl Haig first launched the Poppy Appeal in Scotland in 1921, we have always had our own unique design. The Scottish poppy features four petals, whereas the poppy produced by the Royal British Legion for the Appeal in England, Wales and Northern Island has two petals and a green leaf.

Why can I not buy a poppy with the green leaf on it in Scotland?

Apart from being botanically incorrect it would cost £15,000 to make leaves for all poppies - money we feel is better spent on veterans. We might be slightly biased but we think the Scottish poppy looks nicer too! Now you know why we Scots wear a poppy without a leaf!

With or without, Just buy one please. Lest we forget!

Brethren,

I am particularly proud to note that the freemasons of Inverclyde were represented at the Cenotaphs in each of the towns in the Province and the following was provided by Brother Paul Docherty of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.

LODGE SIR MICHAEL 989

Brethren, It was my honour and privilege to represent Lodge Sir Michael 989 at the ceremony of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in the village on Sunday 10th November.

Myself, Brothers David Kerr and Bob Winning were there to represent the Lodge, whilst Brothers Gordon Porter PM and David Wilson were also there to lay wreaths for The Old Kirk Church Kilmacolm and Inverclyde Council respectively.



We assembled on Lochwinnoch Road and, behind the colour party and a lone piper, made our way towards the Cenotaph on a beautiful Sunday morning.

On arriving, the ceremony was conducted by 2 ministers on the day. After the first sermon, the lone bugler played the Last Post, thereafter two minutes silence were impeccably observed as usual.

It almost seemed like the birds knew to stop singing for the two minutes such was the stillness.

The minister gave another short sermon closing with some famous words from "The Fallen"

***They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them***

Thereafter, the various organisations placed their respective wreaths at the Cenotaph. It was most humbling to be involved and it struck home even more so how significant this simple but poignant ceremony is.



Once the wreaths had been laid, the second minister gave a short sermon followed by a prayer, thereafter, the National Anthem was sung.
The British Legion representatives then arranged for the colour party to assemble, the piper to the front, and we made our way behind them towards Lochwinnoch road where we were "fallen out"

To the brethren who came along to support, my deepest thanks.

We will remember them

Paul Docherty (IPM Lodge Sir Michael No 989)

And from Brother George "Kit" Carson

The Zoo Keeper

A bloke starts his new job at the zoo and is given three tasks. First is to clear the exotic fish pool of weeds.

As he does this a huge fish jumps out and bites him. To show who is boss, he beats it to death with a spade.

Realizing his employer won't be best pleased he disposes of the fish by feeding it to the lions, as lions will eat anything.

Moving on to the second job of clearing out the Chimp house, he is attacked by the chimps who pelt him with coconuts.

He swipes at two chimps with a spade killing them both..
What can he do? Feed them to the lions, he says to himself, because lions eat anything....

He hurls the corpses into the lion enclosure..

He moves on to the last job which is to collect honey from the South American Bees.

As soon as he starts he is attacked by the bees. He grabs the spade and smashes the bees to a pulp.

By now he knows what to do and shovels them into the lions cage because lions eat anything.

Later that day a new lion arrives at the zoo. He wanders up to another lion and says "What's the food like here?"

The lions say: "Absolutely brilliant, today we had Fish and Chimps with Mushy Bees!"

Masonic Education.

I am continuing to publish a list of suggested reading which many of you appear to have found useful. It would be my intention to continue to keep this list as a standard feature and if anyone finds a website or article which could supplement the list, please let me know and I will be more than happy to add the details.

Reading Material

- The Ashlar
- The Grand Lodge of Scotland Year Book (order through your Lodge Secretary).
- Robert Burns - The Freemason edited by John Weir from Grand Lodge of Scotland
- The Origins of Freemasonry: Scotland's Century, 1590-1710 by David Stevenson
- The First Freemasons by David Stevenson
- The Craft by John Hamill
- The Genesis of Freemasonry by Knoop and Jones
- The Scottish Mason and the Mason Word by Knoop and Jones
- The Temple and the Lodge by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh
- A Pilgrim's Path by John J. Robinson
- The History of Freemasonry by Robert Freke Gould
- The History of Freemasonry by Albert G. Mackey
- The Secrets of Freemasonry by Robert Lomas
- Workman Unashamed by Christopher Haffner
- Famous Scottish Freemasons published by Grand Lodge of Scotland
- The Freemason at Work by Harry Carr
- A Masonic Miscellany by George Power

New Material.

Right Worshipful Master Brother George Carson advises for those with a Kindle Fire HD you can download for free: The Symbolism of Freemasonry by Albert G MacKey in the 1800's. and comments that it is a very interesting insight into the use of symbols and allegories and how they may have developed from ancient cultures into what we have in "modern" Freemasonry. A little bit heavy in parts but as a free download for the information and ideas it is excellent.

Websites

- <http://www.hawthornefortitude200.com/twtmag.html>
- <http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/>
- <http://freemason.pastperfect-online.com/37812cgi/mweb.exe?request=random>
- <http://www.americanmason.org/TheNorthernLight.aspx>
- <http://scottishrite.org/srjournal/>
- <http://www.esmason.com/news.html>
- <http://www.freemason.org/newsEvents/index.htm>
- <http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/>
- "Pietre Stones".
- Cinosam
- www.rurallodge.com
- Sadly, the last site is now no longer updated but there are a few back copies still on the site which are worth reading and I think that the lectures and material available at <http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/> are particularly good.

Lodge Websites.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland - <http://www.grandlodgescotland.com/>

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West - <http://www.pglrw.org/>

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII – www.lgk12.com

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 - <http://www.lodgedorickilwinning68.org.uk/>

Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 - <http://www.greenock-st-johns-175.masonic-lodge.org.uk/>

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 - <http://www.lck217.org.uk/links.html>

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626 - <http://www.firhofclyde.org>

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 – www.lodgesirmichael989.co.uk

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 – www.lodgecrawfurdsburn.org.uk

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 - <http://www.Lodge1425.org>

Grand Lodge Guidelines for the creation of Lodge Websites

if anyone is considering the development of a lodge website please bear in mind that the Grand Lodge of Scotland have issued guidelines for the creation of such sites and I would be happy to provide a copy.

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.

DO YOU ORDER GOODS AND SERVICE THROUGH THE INTERNET – READ ON -----

GRAND LODGE – BENEVOLENT FUNDS - Easyfundraising

Brethren, I draw to your attention the attached fundraising scheme for the Benevolent funds of Grand Lodge and I commend it to you. It is the easiest, most painless way to raise money for the Benevolent funds.

I have used it on a number of occasions and it is incredible the amount that can be sourced by simply buying online at your usual supplier - all the big names are there. e.g. simply renew your car insurance with your Insurance Company and the normal fee sent by the Company to your nominated charity or good cause is £35 other suppliers send a percentage anything from 1.1/2 -2.3/4%.

It is so simple it is brilliant. Please read the attached and consider using if you buy online.

Many thanks

Alex Galbraith

Extract from Grand Lodge of Scotland Yearbook 9th September 2010.

The EASY FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE – AN EXCELLENT AND SIMPLE WAY OF RAISING MONEY FOR THE BENEVOLENT FUNDS OF GRAND LODGE.

The chairman and members of the Benevolence and Care Committee invite you to join them in supporting the above initiative which enables much needed monies to be raised for the Benevolent Funds at **NO** cost either to you or to Grand Lodge.

Please take the time to visit the website to find out more at: www.easyfundraising.org.uk

How it works:

The scheme operates by the registration of organisations and individuals with the service and when they shop online with a participating retailer, a donation is made to their nominated recipient. So many of us now shop online that it is an excellent way of raising funds just by doing something which we would anyway. Since the committee first approved participation in this initiative, Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund has been registered and now has a unique identification number which means that we can receive money from the scheme. Therefore, the more people who register and nominate Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund as their benefactor, the more funds we can raise simply by making online purchases in the normal way but using the links from the above site first.

To go directly to the unique web address for Grand Lodge type: www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/glsbf and follow the links to register. The website is easy to use and gives a step by step guide. Different retailers give different percentage donations – for example, Grand Lodge has already received the sum of £35.00 which was donated by Direct Line when a member of staff renewed their car insurance. It is very difficult to raise funds in these challenging economic times so this initiative is worthy of consideration. Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West
Calendar of Events and Meetings – December 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2nd 68 - Business Meeting	3rd XII - Passing by Lodge The Gael No. 609	4th Provincial Grand Lodge Committee Preceptory of Ardgowan	5th 217 - Raising (PM's degree - Exemp).	6th 1425 - Installation 6.30 pm	7th	8th 626 - Senior Citizens' Dinner 1.30
9th 626 - Entering RAC289 - RA Degree	10th 1121 - Raising	11th 989 - Raising 624 - AGM and Ballot	12th	13th 68 - Installation 175 - Entering (Exemp).	14th 217 - Children's Treat	15th 626 - Children's Party 2.00pm
16th 68 - To be confirmed	17th XII - Annual Divine Service 1121 - Passing	18th RAC XVII - Degree	19th 217 - Regular Meeting and Carol Harmony.	20th 175 - No meeting - Informal Social Night and spirit Draw	21st 217 Family Friendly 1121 - Children's Party	22nd
23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th 217 - Festive Dance	28th	29th
30th	31st					

(E) denotes an Exemplification

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.pgllrw.org