



The West Column



Brethren,

What a month it has been! I'm not sure if I can recall a month which has flown by as quickly as February. Although from a quick look in my diary, I suspect that the months of March and April will speed by just as quickly!

There is a bit of a standing joke in the Livingstone household at the moment as each week I look at my diary and say to Mrs PGM that if only I can get over the next weekend or the next week, things will get a little bit quieter. However, we both know that will not be the case and that as the days pass, the diary just fills up with more appointments. However, please do not think this is by way of a grumble as I have so much enjoyed my first year in office.

It is perhaps a sign of the increasing friendships between Provinces, that we now receive invitations to so many events. In my first year, my duties took me to Dublin and to Campbeltown and from Edinburgh to Peterhead and every visit has been a joy. However, back to my diary and the phrase "if only". It struck me that this is really such an unfortunate phrase as it suggests a missed opportunity. If only I had attended a meeting, or if only we had visited more or if only our Lodge had supported our Sister Lodges a bit more, if only I had spoken to that new candidate and made him feel more welcome etc etc..... Of course, the one way to avoid such expressions of regret is by just doing it!

Over the last year, I have been heartened by the positive attitude which I have found and I believe that the Province is continuing to build on the foundations laid by my predecessors. In most cases, attendances are on the rise and when I was recently asked by a very senior member of Grand Lodge at a dinner how were things in my Province, I believe he was genuinely taken aback by my very positive response. If I could pick out one thing though that perhaps we could do better, it would be our support to our sister Lodges at Divine Services. Too often, Lodges are unrepresented, or are represented, at most, by the Master and maybe the Wardens. There are now only a maximum of four such Services in the session and I would encourage you all to support them if at all possible. It is hardly surprising if there is a poor turnout at your own Lodge's Divine Service - perhaps if only you had supported the others?

Don't let the phrase, *if only*, become part of your vocabulary!

Regards,
Jim

Contributions to the West Column

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.

Renfrewshire 200 Club (RW200Club).

Application forms are now available within 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. 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. 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.

Please remember that a minimum of 50% of the income will be going directly to charity. I have not as yet decided on a good cause for this project as I felt that we had to be assured that it would get "off the ground". It is probably that when the time comes to divide up the proceeds, it will be split between a national charity and a local charity or charities. I have a fairly open mind about a national charity and would welcome suggestions from Lodges or individuals. There are, of course, many worthy charities and many of them will resonate with many of you for personal reasons. Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland, Breast Cancer, Cancer Research, Childline, Help for Heroes, the list is endless. If you have a suggestion, please email me at Jim626Col@aol.com

The first draw for February 2014 will take place at the Regular Meeting of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII on Tuesday 4th March.

Draws will then be scheduled to take place around the middle of each month, at all the Lodges. Please come along to hear if your number has been drawn.

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

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.

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

Lodge Websites.

Occasionally, I access individual Lodge websites to obtain details of meetings (usually when I get no response from Lodge correspondents to my requests for information) and am often disappointed that many websites are not only not up to date but often there is evidence that there has been no attempt to update them for many months. Brethren, this reflects very badly on the Lodges and I would appeal to you to ensure that your Lodge websites are up to date so as to give accurate information to anyone interested but also to make a good impression on those viewing the site.

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 Installations and Visitations:

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			

275th Anniversary of Provincial Grand Lodge.

On Friday 7th February, it was our privilege and pleasure to welcome into the Province the most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esselemont to join us at our annual meeting and installation of elective office-bearers.

It was wonderful to see that the upper hall of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 full to capacity for the occasion and to welcome such a large and influential deputation from Grand Lodge and the sister Provinces.

Following the formal part of the evening, well over 100 brethren enjoyed an excellent dinner as well as a most interesting talk by Brother Robert Cooper, Curator at Grand Lodge. The Loyal Toast was made by the RWPGM followed by a toast to Grand Lodge, which was responded to in excellent fashion by the MWGM. A presentation was also made to the First Touch Football Coaching Group who had been nominated for the Citizenship of the Year Award by the Lodges (see under Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 in Lodge News for photographs).

Although largely an informal evening, a vote of thanks was offered by Brother John R McCormack the RWPGM of Dunbartonshire, who had led the deputation from the sister Provinces and the evening was rounded off in grand style with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

A wonderful evening and one of the highlights of an eventful year.



The MWGM and RWPGM Brother Livingstone



The group photograph of the deputation of visiting Provinces and Grand Lodge including Depute Provost Brother David Wilson and Mr Guy Clark Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire.



Brother Robert Cooper, Curator of Grand Lodge, delivers an excellent talk on Brother Alexander Drummond, commissioned as the first Provincial Grand Master on 7th February 1739, exactly 275 years previously to the day.

Representatives from the First Touch Football Coaching Group receive the Citizenship of the Year Award from the RWPGM, Brother Jim Livingstone



However, if you thought that the Commissioned Office-bearers sat back after the annual meeting, you would be wrong! I am as always indebted to all who supported the Province at a number of meetings during the month.

Thursday 6th - Regular Communication of Grand Lodge with around 12 members of the Province present on the day. It should be noted that the proposal to delete the option of new Life Memberships was approved by Grand Lodge at this meeting. Existing life memberships, of course, remain valid.

Friday 7th - Annual Meeting and Installation of Elective Office-bearers.

Saturday 8th - Accompanied by the Depute and Substitute Provincial Grand Masters and the Provincial Secretary, I attended the annual meeting and rededication ceremony of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire, where I was afforded the privilege of heading the deputations from the sister Provinces and also offering the toast to the Province.

Sunday 9th - joint Annual Divine Service of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Thursday 13th - Annual visit to Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Monday 17th - Annual visit to Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 where I was afforded the very great honour of honorary membership of the Lodge.

Tuesday 18th - Along with the Depute and Substitute Provincial Grand Masters, I attended the annual meeting and Installation of office-bearers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning.

The photograph below shows the PGM of Kilwinning Brother T Wilson Aitken along with the deputation from no less than 14 sister Provinces. In total there were 11 Provincial Grand Masters present.



Saturday 22nd Again along with DPGM Brother John R S Keith and SPGM Brother Robert P Shields, I attended the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire's annual meeting and Installation of elective office-bearers in Grangemouth.



Now I know that sometimes my jokes are not all that great but I do believe that Past Senior Grand Chaplain Brother John H Jenkinson could have made a wee bit of an effort to laugh!

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING SEPTEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 4th - Passing and AV of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.
Tuesday 18th - Raising.

Sat 1st March - No XII Burns Supper in the Town Hall - Tickets £20 - contact Alan Beck
07739 514 242 or Bro Iain White 07575 752 570 for tickets

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 3rd – Business Meeting and Ballot
Monday 10th – Passing and Ballot
Monday 17th - Entering
Monday 24th – Raising
Monday 31st – Passing

April 7th – Business Meeting and Spring Draw.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 14th - Raising
Friday 28th - Entering

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 6th – Raising (E)
Thursday 20th - Entering

Social events.

The next Family Friendly Saturday will be on Saturday 1st March from 12 noon until 4.00 pm with food served until 2.00 pm - ALL WELCOME.

Report on Lodge Burns Supper (Brother Jim Donnelly PM).

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No.217 held its Annual Burns Supper in the Lodge rooms on Thursday 30th January, 2014, which was well attended by the brethren and their guests.

The evening commenced with the top table guests being piped to their table by Mr Nicholas Donnelly.

The Chairman, Bro. Gerard C Robertson RWM, welcomed everyone present and hoped that they would have a very enjoyable evening, after which, Mr. Jim Donnelly said grace.

A haggis was presented by Mr. John Falconer and ably addressed by Mr Jamie Donnelly. We then sat down to enjoy the dinner.

After the loyal toast, we were entertained by Mr Ross Nugent, who gave us his expert rendition of "Tam O'Shanter" complete with sound effects from Mr Ian Penny on the keyboards.

The Chairman then introduced Mr Tom Robertson, who presented his excellent immortal memory and toast to the bard. Being a proud Govanite, Tom decided that it would be

appropriate that he donned the appropriate attire and promptly changed his clothes to garb akin to "Rab C. Nesbit", including head bandage, string vest, morning paper and the compulsory bottle of Buckfast tonic wine.

The immortal memory, which was both humorous and informative, received a hearty applause by all present.

Mr John Falconer then proposed an excellent toast to "Our Guest" Mr Tom Robertson, which received the approbation of all present. Mr Robertson made as suitable and dignified a reply as Rab C. could muster.

The 1st part of the evening was brought to a close when Mr Jamie Donnelly recited his excellent rendition of "Willie Wastle".

To begin the 2nd part of the evening, the chairman introduced Mr Ian Ross, who proposed a very humorous and entertaining toast to the lasses.

There followed some communal singing of a number of Burns songs, led by Mr Boyd Thompson, accompanied by Mr Ian Penny on keyboards.

This was followed by Mr Jock Service, gave an equally entertaining and humorous reply in response to the Toast to the Lasses.

Mr Ross Nugent then entered, dressed in nightshirt and entertained us with another excellent rendition of "Holy Willie" which received a standing ovation.

Mr Clive Taulbut WSW, then gave a humorous Toast to the Chairman, which was well received. The Chairman gave a suitable reply.

We were again entertained by Mr Jamie Donnelly with his rendition of "A Mans A Man for Aw That".

Mr Gordon Leitch WJW, humorously toasted the Artistes and Stewards, which was ably replied by Mr George Hamilton.

This was followed by a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

The evening drew towards its conclusion when Mr Boyd Thompson led the company in a rousing "Star O Rabbie Burns."

The evening ended with the company singing Auld Lang Syne.

The Bro. Gerard Robertson RWM would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the night a success. Especially the brethren who slaved away in the kitchen and behind the bar. It was very much appreciated.



Not the "Rabbie" but a "Rab" nevertheless!



Entertainers, guests and various high heid yins at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217's Annual Burns supper.

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 12th - Passing.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 10th - Passing

Monday 24th - Raising

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 12th - Raising

The Lodge will be hosting a visit by Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 on Wednesday 5th March at a special meeting at which a Fellowcraft Degree (E) will be demonstrated.

The Lodge will also be travelling to Lodge Captain Spiers No. 791 to confer a Master Mason's degree on Tuesday 11th March and the Right Worshipful Master looks forward to your support at all of the above meetings.

HOMES DEGREE – WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL 2014

On behalf of RWM Bro Robert Marshall and Lodge Sir Michael No 989 we extend a cordial invitation to your RWM and Brethren to attend the Annual Homes Degree held in aid of the Residents of the Marcus Humphrey Home, which will be held in our Masonic Hall, Glebe Rd, Kilmacolm on Wednesday 23rd April 2014 at 7.30pm.

On this occasion a Fellowcraft Degree will be conferred by Reigning Masters of the Province, headed by RWM Bro Marshall North of Lodge Greenock John's No175.

All the proceeds of the evening will be employed to the direct benefit of the Home residents and be raised by a Donation of £6.00 to cover collection and supper. Raffle Tickets will also be made available during the course of the evening.

10 Tickets will be delivered for each (RW) Lodge or more if needed. All local Lodges are welcome to attend.

This event has been extremely enjoyable and productive in the past and we are sure with your support on this occasion will assist in continuing its success. We look forward to a good turnout and giving you all our "Sir Michael Warm Welcome"

Master's Charity.

As has been recent tradition in Lodge Sir Michael, we invite a Lodge to confer a degree in June of each year and designate that as the "Masters charity". In recent years we have invited Lodge Georgetown Cardonald 1170 and Lodge Gleniffer 1219 from Renfrewshire East to confer a degree. Both Lodges have, and continue to bring larger numbers of brethren to these evenings and we very much feel that this fostering of relationships further cements the Masonic friendships we have with both of these Lodges in particular. The number of visitors that Renfrewshire East bring to our Lodge throughout the sessions and not just on those evenings is very much appreciated, and indeed, is reciprocated wherever possible.

In 2013, the degree was conferred by the Degree team of Lodge Georgetown Cardonald. A large turn-out of Renfrewshire East brethren were in attendance along with the Sir Michael brethren and other visitors from our own Province. After the fine degree was concluded, we moved into harmony and the usual Masters charity raffle took place. At the end of the evening, a sum of £300 was raised by all the brethren present which the RWM (Paul Docherty) thanked them most sincerely for. At this point the RWM stated that, as had been his declared intention during his tenure, the charitable donation should be within our local community which had been somewhat overlooked in previous years. On this occasion, the monies would be presented to Kidston Kids in the village.

Kidston Kids is a charitable organisation run by a group of parents/grandparents in Kilmacolm Village (Old Kirk church hall)

They offer a music group for babies, a playgroup and older children groups and rent from the Old Kirk Church. This provides a vital transition for the kids between Playgroup and Nursery level which benefits all.

As with all organisations, they are feeling the pinch financially and are subject to market forces AND also a Scottish Govt policy to offer Free Nursery places to qualifying children. These combined make for a very tough environment for them to exist. Fiona Bretherton, the Playleader, applies for grants/assistance wherever she can and is constantly on the look out for revenue streams or help from anywhere to keep the organisation afloat. I have no hesitation in presenting this years Masters charity monies to Kidston Kids and wish them well in their future endeavours. We now have a relationship with this Organisation within Kilmacolm which I genuinely hope may prosper in the months and years going forward. (No more so than a wee donation from Lodge Sir Michael of some Plants during our annual sale that the kids can tend and nurture)



Brother Paul Docherty presenting the cheque for £300 to young Archie representing Kidston Kids (and Fiona Bretherton Play leader!)



Brother Paul Docherty also presented a cheque for £150 to the First Touch Football Group at the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West in the presence of the MW Grand Master. Earlier in the evening, the Group had received the Province's Citizenship of the Year Award for 2013.

Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 11th - Passing

Tuesday 25th - Passing to be conferred by Lodge Springburn No. 1198.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 13th – Raising

The Lodge will be conferring a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 at a Special Meeting on Wednesday 5th March and the RWM looks forward to the support of the brethren on that evening.

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 19th March 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 10th - Degree

Greenock Royal Ark Mariners Lodge and Council No. 17

Greenock Cryptic Council No. 17.

Preceptory of Ardgowan

The Preceptory of Ardgowan extends a warm welcome to any Frater who has been unable to attend over the past few years through other personal commitments and looks forward to seeing them at any of our Statutory Musters in the future.

A pocket sized Syllabus is currently being compiled to assist those not currently on e-mail and a general aide memoire for all. Current Statutory Musters and Executive Committees forecast for 2014 are as follows;

Wednesday 05 March 2014 - Muster (District Visit)

Wednesday 02 April 2014 - Muster

Tuesday 7th October - AGM, election of office-bearers and Malta Grade

Wednesday 5th November - Annual Installation.

Wednesday 3rd December - Muster

Please ensure that the Secretary has your current contact details including e-mail and mobile number. All musters are held within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock.

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 18th February at 7.30 pm.

2014:

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, I am indebted to Brother George Nixon, Past Master of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 for the following article and I would urge you all to read it as it has a very important lesson for us all.

The Carpenter

Once upon a time, two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side-by-side, sharing machinery and trading labour and goods as needed without a hitch.

Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference and finally, it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days' work," he said. "Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there I could help with? Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor. In fact, it's my younger brother! Last week there was a meadow between us. He recently took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll do him one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence an 8-foot fence -- so I won't need to see his place or his face anymore."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day. The carpenter worked hard all that day -- measuring, sawing and nailing. About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished his job.

The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all.

It was a bridge a bridge that stretched from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work, handrails and all! And the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming toward them, his hand outstretched

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox onto his shoulder.

"No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother. "I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but I have many more bridges to build."

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 – March 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1st 217 - FFS XII - Burns Supper	2nd
3rd 68 – Business Meeting and Ballot	4th XII - Passing and AV by PGLRW	5th Preceptory - Muster 989 - Special meeting - Passing (E) conferred by Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.	6th 217 - Raising (E) and Ballot	7th	8th	9th
10th 68 – Passing and Ballot 626 - Passing RAC289 - Degree	11th 1121 - Passing	12th 989 - Raising 624 - Passing	13th 1425 - Raising	14th 175 - Raising	15th	16th
17th 68 - Entering	18th XII - Raising	19th RAC XVII - Meeting	20th 217 - Entering	21st	22nd	23rd
24th 68 - Raising 626 - Raising	25th 1121 - Passing (Lodge 1198) SGC No. 41 - RCC	25th	26th	27th 175 - Entering	28th	29th
30th 68 - Passing	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.pglrw.org