



The West Column



Brethren, I usually find at this time of the year, that I have no problem compiling an editorial for the December edition of the West Column especially when surrounded by all the peace and goodwill generated by the Christmas message. Sadly, I found myself struggling a little bit this past week or so as there has been little evidence of peace and goodwill anywhere.

Perhaps I have been very fortunate in my first 18 months of office as Provincial Grand Master as it has been all highs and thoroughly enjoyable but of course, as with all things in life, one should not become too comfortable as there is always something around the corner to bring you back down to earth with a bump. There is an old Jewish saying that "Man plans and God laughs"!

So I will confess that for the first time since being commissioned as Provincial Grand Master, I have been faced with a couple of challenges in recent weeks. Like buses, there are none for ages and then they all come along at once and I have to confess that the head was going down and the shoulders were becoming slumped at the frustration of not being able to resolve matters to everyone's satisfaction.

However, before I got the chance to feel too sorry for myself I watched an edition of the late evening news which was full of the appalling scenes of violence in the Middle East and the horrible suffering of the victims of the ebola virus in West Africa and it reminded me of just how well off I really was and how my petty problems pale into insignificance in the great scheme of things.

In spite of all of these problems, there is hope for mankind and only two weeks or so ago, the British public made its magnificent response to the Children in Need appeal and we regularly receive reports of the hard work that is being done by volunteers to stem the tide of the ebola disease. Inspirational indeed!

Doctors and nurses, some of whom have themselves recovered from the virus, giving of their time and talents to help others. God does not create or fix our problems for us but he gives us the will, strength and talents to resolve our own difficulties.

So perhaps the Christmas message of peace, love and understanding is alive and well after all.

Perhaps, the Christmas message is enhanced by the unity and support that we as freemasons show to each other and in truth there is no problem so insurmountable for someone with patience, understanding and a willing heart.

In the meantime, I look forward to perhaps a little bit of a less busy time over the festive period, hopefully in the company of my two granddaughters, who will do their very best to teach their old Grandpa, the complexities of an X-box or whatever they will be getting for Christmas (not sure what they're getting but no doubt it will make a lot of noise)!

So let me just wish you and your families and loved ones, a very happy and blessed Christmas and may God's love be upon you and yours.

Regards,
Jim

Contributions to the West Column

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

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	Preceptory	989	Royal Arch		
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	Off/bear	Annual Visit	Commenting
12	18th November	George J Carson	3rd March	DPGM
68	12th December	Robert J Bain	16th February	SPGM
175	24th October	William A McLarty	9th January	SPGW
217	28th November	Alexander Johnstone	16th April	SPGW
626	18th October	Edward M Ross	9th March	JPGW
989	21st November	Richard M Harrison	8th April	SPGW
1121	7th November	James Donnelly	27th January	DPGM
1425	5th December	Gordon Price	12th February	SPGM
1814	1st May (2015)			

Renfrewshire 200 Club (RW200Club).

We have now had a total of 6 draws of the RW200Club with the prize-winners as listed below. The draws for July draw was made at a meeting of the Commissioned Office-bearers and the August draw at a meeting of Provincial Grand Committee. Draws during the session will be held at appropriate Lodge meetings.

March	William Lawson (68)
April	Ian Freer (1121)
May	Paul Stewart (1425)
June	Paul Stewart (1425)
July	Anthony Stewart (1425)
August	Robin McIntyre (626)
September	Alan Beck (XII)
October	George Carson (1121)
November	Jim Livingstone (626)

The November draw will take place following the Installation at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 on Friday 28th November.

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. 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. 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. 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

Provincial Grand Master's Diary.

Friday 31st October – Attended the Regular Communication of the PGL of Renfrewshire East and presented prizes to the winners of the various bowling, golf and fishing competitions.

Sunday 2nd – Attended the Divine Service of the PGL of Glasgow (in the company of Brother Alan Beck).

Friday 7th – attended the Installation of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

Tuesday 18th – attended the Installation of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No.XII

Friday 21st – attended the Installation of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.

Saturday 22nd – attended a meeting of Lodge Ugie No. 939 in the Province of Aberdeenshire East.

Thursday 27th – attended the annual Installation and Festival of St. Andrew at Grand Lodge.

Friday 28th – attended the Installation at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Saturday 29th – attended the Installation of the RWPGM of Glasgow Brother James C Peddie.

I also was privileged to attend a total of 7 other Lodge meetings or other Masonic Orders.

My thanks as always to the members of Provincial Grand Lodge who have supported me on these various occasions.

In particular I would like to thank Brother John R S Keith and other members of Provincial Grand Lodge who have attended other events in my absence especially the Divine Service of the PGL Ayrshire which was held on the same day as that of the PGL of Glasgow.

Drummond Ball.



I am pleased to advise that following the success of this year's Drummond Ball, provisional arrangements are being made to hold another Ball in 2015. The date, will be Friday 29th May 2015 and an invitation has been extended to the MWGMM, Grand Secretary and their wives.

Sister Provinces.

I am also happy to include notification of two Carol Services being organised by the sister Provinces of Ayrshire and Renfrewshire East.

On Sunday 7th December, the Province of Ayrshire is holding a Carol Service in Crosshouse Parish Church, Crosshouse at 6.00 pm.

On Sunday 21st, the Province of Renfrewshire East is holding its Service in Stowe Brae Church in Paisley at 7.00pm.

Family and friends are welcome to both Services and no regalia is required.

Grand Lodge News.

Grand Lodge Meetings:

Festival of St. Andrew - Can I just thank everyone for the magnificent support from the Province at the Annual Installation and Festival of St. Andrew this year. We organised a mini-bus and to prove that the fates were smiling upon us, we managed to get parked right outside the door of Grand Lodge. A wonderful ceremony was followed by a magnificent dinner where we were well entertained by numerous excellent and humorous speeches. It was wonderful to see the brethren assembling from all part of the globe with the principal guest being the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Spain.

Hopefully we can be better organised next year and co-ordinate our ticket requests so that we can all be sat together.

*Grand Committee Thursday 11th December
Carol Service Sunday 7th December.*

Grand Lodge will be holding a Carol Service featuring the Phoenix Choir on Sunday 7th December. Full details are available on the Grand Lodge website.

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 have visiting rights withdrawn as well as the privileges which would normally be afforded to them in their Mother Lodges.

Capitation Fees:

Brethren should be aware that there is a proposal to come before Grand Lodge at the October Communication to increase the Capitation Fee to £30 per active member as per the recent membership return. This will be the first increase in three years and it is hoped that, if approved, this rate will be fixed for a three-year period. It may be appropriate for some Lodges to now consider whether their TEST FEES continue to be at an appropriate level.

Honorary Grand Rank.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we extend congratulations to Brother Archibald MaNaughton Wright, Past Master of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden on his being honoured by the Most worshipful Grand Master Mason with the Honorary Grand Rank of Senior Grand Standard-bearer. This is a most appropriate award for someone who has carried the standard of his Lodge and the Province for many years and I look forward to presenting him with his certificate at an early date.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING NOVEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 2nd – Annual Divine Service (conducted by Brother Jack Glenny PM).
Tuesday 16th – No meeting

Lodge Installation:

A full report on the Lodge Installation is provided below courtesy of Worshipful Junior Warden, Brother Bob Crossan. It was an excellent ceremony and one which will be remembered with much pride by the newly Installed RWM Brother Allan McFeate. A couple of photos from the evening are included below.



The new RWM with Installing Masters, Depute Provost Brother David Wilson, Sir Ludovic Houston Shaw-Stewart and the RWPGM.

I am also happy to include the following report from the newly elected Worshipful Junior Warden of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII Brother J Robert Crossan (that's you Bob)!

No XII Installation – from a WJW perspective

In the days leading up to the **Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII 286th** installation on 18th November 2014, I for one was trying hard not to show any nerves by playing it cool whilst at the same time growing evermore excited. Those who know me know I am quite a shy and quiet guy who keeps himself to himself and therefore didn't really show any emotions about the upcoming installation. In my short masonic life so far I have been to many installations including two of our own. At our last installation I was given the honour of taking up the position of Senior Deacon, this time however, the prospect of being installed as the **Worshipful Junior Warden** for this fine old lodge, filled my heart with an additional shot of pride.

Preparation for the big night for me was making sure I understood everything that was expected of me in the role not only on the night but during my term of office. Of course a big part of this is having the correct responses ready for the Worshipful Installing Masters and the Right Worshipful Master himself. So the night proceeded as expected and **Bro Captain Allan I MacFeate** was obligated and installed as **Right Worshipful Master**, after which the remaining office bearers were to be obligated and then installed by Worshipful Installing Master Bro Kenneth Morrison PM. This too went as planned and eventually I was installed

into my new office complete with matching jewel, gauntlets and column. I was installed alongside WSW Bro Allen Glen and I felt so proud to be led to my 'rightful' place in the south. The rest of the office bearers were then duly installed in their respective offices.

So I am now standing at my dais in the south whilst a little cheery voice in my head was saying that I was now officially WJW of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII, just one little problem it said, these gauntlets are a complete pain in the backside, something I overheard Bro Bob Bain PM moaning about sometime in the past but for once he was right. Nevertheless, that is something that I have already become used to, no not Bro Bob's moans, but the gauntlets. (Just a wee joke Bob, only kidding!) *'Worshipful Junior Warden'*, came a different voice but I continued to beam out across the lodge. Then a startled voice inside my head said, *'hey, that's me!!'*, it seemed to take forever to realise this but at last I turned to the east to see Worshipful Installing Master Bro Kenneth Morrison looking directly at me, my first test as WJW, could I find the right response inside this head of mine, let alone manage to get it out there. Well it all just seemed to fall into place and I managed to convey my first words as **WJW**.



Office Bearers 2014 – 2015

Back: Bro James McGregor Snr (Director of Music) Bro Tony Buckley (Senior Deacon) Bro Ewen MacLean (Tyler) Bro M. Barry Banks (2nd Assistant Steward) Bro Kenneth C. MacDougall PM (Secretary) Bro Robert J. Bain (Chaplain) Bro Murray Thomson PM Bro David Stevenson (Treasurer) Bro Iain Hanlon (1st Assistant Steward) Bro Derek MacFeate (Depute Master)

Front: Bro Allan T. Glen (Worshipful Senior Warden) Bro Alan D. Beck (IPM) Bro Kenneth K. Morrison PM (Almoner) Bro Iain White (Director of Ceremonies) Sir Ludovic Houston Shaw Stewart Bro Allan I. MacFeate (Right Worshipful Master) Bro David Wilson HM Bro Hector Macphail PM (Marshal) Bro Alistair Glenn PM (Inner Guard) Bro J. Robert Crossan (Worshipful Junior Warden)

Not in photograph: Bro Alexander Galbraith (Substitute Master) Bro Paul Galbraith (Junior Deacon) Bro Brian McFadyen (Architect) Bro Ross Gourdie (Jeweller) Bro Albert MacLean (Bible Bearer) Bro James McGregor Jnr (Sword Bearer) Bro Alasdair M. Beaton PM 609 (Piper) Bro John W. Dyer (President of Stewards)

The rest of the installation continued as normal and I just about managed to get all the correct responses and actions, at least that's how I perceived it. The installation was brought to a close and this was followed by hearty congratulations from brethren who attended. We went on to have some photographs taken as per above. Of course the evening was still young and we continued into the small hours by having our fantastic installation dinner, provided by our own Bro Tony Buckley and his team. After dinner we had various toasts from our top table all of which were to the usual No XII high standards. Interspersed between toasts we were thoroughly entertained by Mrs IPM Polly Beck, our own Bro Barry Banks and IPM Bro Alan Beck. Near the end of the speeches we had our raffle, which we had no less than twenty-one prizes on offer. Now I'm pretty sure the raffle wasn't fixed, as I helped setting it up, but sixteen of the prizes went to the top table and my table didn't even manage to get one. Oh well there's always next year... The toasts were not over though and it was the turn of WSW Allen Glen who gave a great toast to the Visiting Brethren. This was promptly followed by the Toast

to the Stewards and Lassies to be given by yours truly. I wanted to also include the artistes for the evening and also thanked them too. We finished off by a rousing Auld Lang Syne.

So all in all, our installation was a complete success and it goes without saying really that I am so proud to be the new **WJW of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII**. I would like to thank all of the brethren who helped answer my questions about what to do, where to do it and more importantly what to say, especially to my proposer into freemasonry Bro Alan Beck IPM.

Bro Bob Crossan **WJW**
Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 1st – Business Meeting.
Monday 8th – Passing
Monday 22nd – Entering

The annual Installation will take place on Friday 12th December at 6.45 pm when Brother William Lawson will be installed to serve a second term in office by Installing Masters Brother George Freeburn, Archie M Wright and Ian McPherson all Past Masters of the Lodge.

The Lodge will also be holding a Hogmanay Dance on Wednesday 31st December from 8.00 pm until 02.00 am as well as its regular Saturday night dances from 08.00 pm until midnight.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 12th - Entering
Friday 19th - Race night and Spirit Draw

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 4th – Raising (conferred by Past Masters of the Lodge) and In Memorium Service for Past Master Brother John Anderson.

Thursday 18th – Lecture (presented by Brother Archie Hoey PM) and Carol Harmony.

Social events.

The next Family Friendly Saturday will be on Saturday 6th December from 12 noon until 4.00 pm with food served until 2.00 pm - ALL WELCOME.

Secretary's Notes:-

- Orders are currently being taken for 2015 Lodge Diaries at £3.50p each.
- Children's Christmas Treat this year is on Saturday 13th December 2014 at the Beacon Centre for a Pantomime at 3 pm. Children's entry will be £10 (Lodge Paid) and all accompanying adults at £10 each. Please append names and details on sheet in adjacent or contact WJW Bro. Gordon Leitch or be disappointed.
- Lodge Festive Dance on Saturday 27th December 2014

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 10th - Annual General Meeting

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 8th – Passing and Installation of Office-bearers
Monday 22nd – no meeting

The joint 626/1425 Senior Citizens' Xmas dinner will be held within the Lodge on Saturday 13th December at 2.00 pm.

The following day, Sunday 14th December, the Lodge will host its annual party for the children of brethren of 626/1425.

On Saturday, 13th the Lodge will be visiting Lodge Dysart for the annual Installation. Transport has been organised and any Brother wishing to travel should contact WSW Brother Nicky Stetz.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 10th – Entering

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 9th – Raising

Tuesday 23rd – Annual Divine Service conducted by WSW Brother Adam McKenzie PM

The annual Installation of the Lodge took place on Friday 7th November and the brethren present witness Brother Hugh M Docherty being installed into the Chair to serve a second term by his Installing Masters, Brothers Colin Bonar, Tom More and Sam Hunter following which the brethren enjoyed an excellent harmony dinner well entertained by the RWM and another comedian who was not half as funny.

Some pictures from the evening;



Brother Hugh Docherty RWM with his Installing Masters, Brothers Tom More, Sam Hunter and Colin Bonar, all Past Masters of the Lodge.

The RWM with Wardens, WSW Brother Adam McKenzie PM and WJW Brother Malcolm Sinclair





The Master with his team of office-bearers 2014 – 2015.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

The Annual Installation of the Lodge will take place on Friday 5th December at 6.30 pm within the Temple at John Street, Gourock. A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren along with an invitation to be the guests of the Lodge for a harmony supper which will follow the ceremony.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 is now in recess until April 2015.

Other Orders

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII meets in the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourock on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Most Excellent First Principal, 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 8th - Excellent Master's degree conferred by office-bearers.

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 has been 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 3rd December - Knight Grade and visit of the Most Eminent and Reverend Grand Master, James Robert Hodge GCT for a "Meet the Frates" night.

On this most special occasion the Refectory will consist of a provided Hot and Cold Buffet and although some formal Toasts will have to be observed these will be kept to a minimum to ensure the Grand Master and other Officers are able to mingle with the Fraters.

We are aware that other Masonic business is being conducted that evening within the Province and on conclusion any Frater who is available to join us at Refectory will be most welcome.

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

2015

Tuesday 20th January – KHS
Tuesday 17th February - RCC
Tuesday 17th March – KHS
Tuesday 21st April – Installation

St George's Conclave No.79 will celebrate its 25th Anniversary on Saturday 28th February, 2015 at 2pm in the premises of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No.68, Port Glasgow. The ceremony will be carried out by Stewart Wood Grand Sovereign and the Grand Imperial Council for Scotland. All knights welcome.

Any wishing to attend after the meeting please contact Tommy Trotter for catering numbers:
tommytrotter1212@yahoo.co.uk

The Wee Corner

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

CHARITY NEWS

STAMP APPEAL.

Please remember that Brother Bill Crumlsh 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 Crumlsh 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 treasurer12@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.

Festival of Remembrance.

Once again this year, the Lodges were active at the various acts of Remembrance in the respective towns and were represented at the cenotaphs at Inverkip (1425), Gourrock (626) Greenock (XII, 175 and 1121), Port Glasgow (68, 217) and Kilmacolm (989).

Wreaths were laid on behalf of all the Lodges at these sites and of course, the Lodges also sponsored many crosses at the field of remembrance in Edinburgh.



I am also indebted to the brethren of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 and to its Master Brother Robert Marshall, for the following report which I am sure sums up the actions of all the brethren and Lodges who took part.

Brethren, as is customary at this time of year, the local youth, church and other organizations travel to the Cenotaph for the ceremony of remembrance, carried out each year at our own Kilmacolm Cenotaph. This year was no different. Unfortunately for myself, I was unable to attend this year which I was very much looking forward to, but a bit of a family crisis meant I asked our IPM to lay the wreath on my and the Lodge's behalf at the ceremony. As you can see, the wreath took pride of place this year as always, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of the brethren who took the time to go along and support the IPM and the Lodge on Sunday.



Brother Scott McLaughlin with the wreath. Scott and his wife rushed from their own church service in Bridge of Weir to support the RWM and the Lodge in the laying of the wreath.



Brethren present. Bros Harold Main, David Kerr, David Wilson (as depute Provost as well as 989 member) Bro Gordon Porter PM, (as Old Kirk member as well as 989 member), Paul Docherty IPM, Bob Winning (sect) and Scott McLaughlin



The wreath presented on behalf of all the brethren of Lodge Sir Michael 989.

“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”

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.

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.

I am also pleased to advertise the following publications which can be ordered through the Masonic Publishing Company, 30, Loanbank Quadrant, Glasgow G51 3HZ. Email at info@theashlar.com

Profits from the sale of any books goes towards Masonic benevolence.

Books - Price List.

Title	Price £	Postage and Packing			
		UK	Europe	World 1	World 2
Robert Burns, Cronies etc (Hardback 1.5 Kg.)	24.50	6.00	13.00	21.00	22.50
The Star of Robert Burns (Hardback 1.0 Kg.)	19.95	6.00	9.50	15.50	16.50
A Winter with Robert Burns (Hardback (0.3 Kg).	12.50	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
Robert Burns Print	29.95	Free	5.50	7.50	8.00
Illustrated Guide to Rosslyn Chapel (Hardback (0.3 Kg).	12.50	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
Nicolo and Antonio Zena. (Hardback (0.6 Kg).	22.50	3.50	6.50	10.00	11.00
MacBride Ritual. (Hardback (0.25 Kg).	18.00	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
A.S. MacBride Speculative Freemasonry. (Hardback (1.0 Kg).	20.00	6.00	9.50	15.50	16.50
The Church of the Knights Templar in London. (Hardback (0.25 Kg). Also available in soft cover (0.25Kg).	12.50 8.00	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
The Bruce - Robert King of Scots. (Hardback (0.6 Kg).	12.00	3.50	6.50	10.00	11.00
The Great War, 1914 - 1918 Victoria Cross Freemasons. (Hardback (1.6 Kg).	35.00	6.00	13.00	21.00	22.50

Circle Publications.

I would take the opportunity to recommend to you that you take a few moments to click on the following link to see what is available through this excellent website. www.circlepublications.com

There is a vast range of interesting material available and in particular a booklet called "The Lodge Master", which explains his duties, powers and responsibilities and is an excellent read for every member of the Lodge.

Also available, are copies of the "Burns Print", signed by his wife in 1813 (the only one so signed), which makes an excellent gift for a friend, a speaker or a raffle prize.

Lodge Websites.

Brethren, sadly my plea to Lodges to ensure that their websites are up to date appears to have fallen on deaf ears as many of the website contain information which is out of date. There is nothing more off-putting and I am of the opinion that if a Brother accesses such an out of date site, he is unlikely to return to it.

I would appeal to you to ensure that your material is up to date and if possible place a "Last Updated" post on it.

If you are not able to update your meetings in particular, I would suggest that it is better to delete this section and just have your website as a static basic information only site, with contact details.

Some useful site addresses.

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.firthofclyde.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.

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 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 st 68 – Business Meeting	2 nd XII – Annual Divine Service	3 rd Preceptory – see under notes	4 th 217 – Raising (PMs degree) and In Memorium Service	5 th 1425 – Annual Installation (6.30)	6 th 217 Family Friendly Saturday	7 th
8 th 626 – Passing RAC289 – EM degree	9 th 1121 - Raising	10 th 624 – AGM 989 - Entering	11 th	12 th 68 – Annual Installation (6.45) 175 - Entering	13 th	14 th
15 th 68 - Passing	16 th	17 th	18 th 217 – Lecture and Carol Harmony	19 th 175 - Race Night and Spirit Draw	20 th	21 st
22 nd 68 - Entering	23 rd 1121 – Annual Divine Service	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th 217 – Annual Dance	28 th
29 th	30 th	31 st 68 – Hogmanay Dance				

(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