



## The West Column

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Brethren, the clocks have now changed and we will be going to and from our meetings in the dark until next spring which seems a long way in the future as I write this looking out at the rain pouring down outside. I noticed that in the TV listings the other day that they were showing the comedy "Open all Hours" and as I recall, the closing scene was always Old Arkwright putting all the goods he would have for sale outside the shop behind inside the shop as the gloom lengthened outside the shop and the street lights would come on. Open all hours indeed.

I suppose Arkwright and people like him who ran corner shops across the country long before supermarkets became the norm, were the forerunners of the 24/7 world that we all take for granted now. We can shop, bank, order and pay for goods, use call-centres, book holidays, make complaints, have our vehicles serviced and do just about anything now on a 24/7 basis.

It's actually quite possible that such has had a detrimental effect on our attendance when so many of our particularly young members no longer have a set pattern of working but are often required to be on duty 24/7, which might make it difficult to attend their Lodges.

It set me wondering if freemasonry might be lagging behind a little in this respect. I touched last month on the need to think like a freemason all the time and spoke of this at the ceremony of consecration at Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 recently.

How many of us pack away our ideals along with our aprons at the end of each meeting to remain locked in our cases until the next meeting. Do we always strive to take our morals and teachings into our daily lives? I wonder if there is a need for us also to adopt a 24/7 attitude to our freemasonry and strive to practice outside of the lodge those excellent precepts that we are taught within.

Perhaps we should try to open our eyes to the wonders of the world around us; open our hearts to the needs of others; open our minds to be receptive to new ideas: Perhaps after all, we could learn a lesson from old Arkwright and be a bit more *Open all Hours!*

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](mailto: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.

## Obituary:

### Brother David Fleming

Past Master of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425, Past Provincial Grand Treasurer

Brother David passed to higher service in the Grand Lodge above on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October and his funeral took place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October and was well attended by his many friends in freemasonry. A quiet and unassuming man, Brother David was very active in his Mother Lodge of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 and served as its Right Worshipful Master on two separate occasions and was a member of the lodge for over 50 years.

He was instrumental in ensuring that the finances of the Lodge were always in excellent shape as he applied his skills as an accountant to good use as Treasurer of the lodge for many years.

It was in this capacity that he also served as Provincial Grand Treasurer until illness prevented him from fulfilling his duties in a manner satisfactory to David.

He was always a steady hand on the tiller at 1425 and could be relied on to provide sound common sense and guidance when required.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Myra and family at this sad time.

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

**Provincial Website.** For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to [www.pglrw.org](http://www.pglrw.org)

Brethren, if you have anything that you wish added to the Provincial website, contact Brother Jim Donnelly at [jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com](mailto:jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com)

**Meetings.**

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

Day	Day of month.				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
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 1<sup>st</sup> 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	17 <sup>th</sup> November	Alexander Johnstone	1 <sup>st</sup> March	DPGM
68	11 <sup>th</sup> December	George J Carson	15 <sup>th</sup> February	SPGM
175	23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Alistair Glenny	8 <sup>th</sup> January	WSPGW
217	27 <sup>th</sup> November	Paul Docherty	21 <sup>st</sup> April	WJPGW
626	17 <sup>th</sup> October	William A McLarty	14 <sup>th</sup> March	WSPGW
989	20 <sup>th</sup> November	Gerald C Robertson	13 <sup>th</sup> April	SPGM
1121	6 <sup>th</sup> November	Kenneth K Morrison	26 <sup>th</sup> January	WJPGW
1425	4 <sup>th</sup> December	Richard Harrison	11 <sup>th</sup> February	DPGM
1814	6 <sup>th</sup> May (2016)			

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**

**Renfrewshire 200 Club (RW200Club).**

Application forms are also still available within each Lodge. If you have not already "signed up" I hope that you will give your earnest consideration to this excellent method of charity fund-raising which should at the same time, assist in boosting attendance figures throughout the Lodges. The monthly entry fee is £5.00. However, those wishing to participate are not limited to any number of "entries" and if anyone wishes to purchase two or more tickets they may do so. It is hoped that Lodges will also participate by purchasing tickets and perhaps this could be favourably considered by your General or Finance Committees.

Members may either pay cash (cheques should be made out to the Provincial Grand Lodge) or may take out a standing order arrangement. You can also take part on a monthly basis but to take part in the draw your contribution, whether by cash, cheque or standing order must be with the Provincial Grand Treasurer prior to the draw taking place.

Please remember that a minimum of 50% of the income will be going directly to charity. 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

Winners for August and September, were the Provincial Grand Master and Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 (What can I say)?

### **New Provincial Lapel Badge.**



As you travel to other Provinces, you will notice how members of the Province proudly sport a Provincial Lapel Badge to identify themselves as members of that Province. I thought it was about time that in this Province, we also had a similar badge and so I am able to announce that these are now available for purchase from myself at a cost of £5.00 each with all profits going to the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Fund.

The badge shows the crest of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. Brethren, I have already re-ordered supplies of badges and am unlikely to be making any further repeat orders. I currently have around 40 badges left so if you don't want to be disappointed, please order your badge without delay. I am also delighted to say that when all badges are sold, the sum of around £500 will have been donated from the proceeds to the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Drive.

### **Provincial Grand Master's Diary.**

As always, I am grateful for the excellent support of the members of Provincial Grand Lodge and in particular to the team of Commissioned Office-bearers. October has been a very busy month and I was privileged to attend the following meetings:

- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> – Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 (Committee)
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lecture at The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814.
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Guest at Provincial Grand Lodge Glasgow Annual Ball where I was delighted to propose the Toast to the Ladies.
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 (Entering).
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII (Raising)
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – Provincial Grand Lodge Regular Communication.
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 Annual Meeting
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 (Raising).
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 (Entering).
- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 (Annual Installation).
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 (Passing).
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII (Entering).
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 (Annual Installation).
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 (Annual Divine Service).
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 (Passing).
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Attended Funeral Service for Brother David Fleming PM1425.
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 (Consecration Ceremony).
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> – Grand Lodge Regular Communication.
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> – Pre-meeting for New Members Seminar.

## Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> – New Members Seminar

Brethren at the point of compiling this edition of the West Column the New Members seminar has not taken place and a full report will appear in next month's edition. However, we have around 50 confirmed attendees at this point and we hope that the event will be very successful. I also hope to shortly take delivery of a "new member's booklet" currently at the printers, which we hope will provide a useful source of information for candidates. Each Lodge will be provided with copies to present to candidates upon their initiation.

Fees:

### *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:*

Brethren should be aware that the Capitation Fee has now been increased to £30 per active member as per the recent membership return. This is 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.

## Provincial Grand Master's Charity Appeal.



Not Broxi Bears but TLC bears - part of the first delivery to IRH.

Brethren, I was delighted to receive the following e-mail from a Brother in connection with the Teddies for Loving Care which I think confirms that the project is very worthwhile.

*Hi Jim*

*I meant to catch you last night at 68 and share a short story with you about the TLC bears.*

*I had the misfortune of having to take a trip to A&E on Sunday with my wife (all is ok by the way, no broken bone (as we had suspected!)), but whilst in A&E for 3 1/2 hours there was a young family came in with a little girl in a buggy, quite distressed and looking pretty fed up and*

*unwell. Thankfully she was called through quite quickly and you could hear her quite clearly upset when she was being examined by the doctors. Then after about 20 minutes of being really upset by this, all went very quiet. We had presumed that she had simply fallen asleep exhausted.*

*Another 20 minutes or so later, she reappears, being carried by her dad and clutching her TLC bear, which made me smile - she certainly appeared to be holding it close and not wanting to let it go!*

*Made me very proud to tell my wife of the initiative which you have instigated at IRH and we witnessed the clear affect it had on that one poor wee soul!*

*Best regards*

*Paul*

If you would like to know more about the TLC project go to <http://www.tlcappeal.org/>

## **Grand Lodge of Scotland**

### **Report by Brother Alexander Galbraith Past Substitute Grand MasterPPGM**

On Tuesday 20th October 2015 I had the great privilege of being among a small group of invited guests at the dedication of the new memorial to the brethren who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of others. The memorial in Freemasons Hall was unveiled by R.W. Bro. Lord Elgin Past Grand Master in the presence of a number of special guests including the sculptor Alan Herriot and the Lord and Lady Provost of Edinburgh.

Also unveiled was a portrait of HRH Prince Albert, Duke of York, later King George VI who was Grand Master Mason of Scotland 1936-37.

The magnificent memorial and the portrait of HRH add to the grandeur of Freemasons Hall.



## **LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING NOVEMBER.**

### **Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII**

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - AGM (7.15pm) and Passing conferred by Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 (visitors will be admitted at 8.00 pm)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Annual Installation 6.30 pm

On Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, many of the brethren from the Lodge will be accompanied by brethren of the Sister Lodges to the Installation of Brother Alan D Beck as Right Worshipful Master of The Princes' Lodge No. 607 at Mafeking Street, Ibrox, Glasgow. The ceremony starts at 5.30 pm and if staying for the dinner to follow, the cost is £20.00.

It is likely that there will be a significant number of brethren attending this event and if anyone is looking for assistance with transport, please contact Brother Beck. We would wish Brother Alan every success during his term of office in our neighbouring Province of Glasgow.

The Annual Installation of the Lodge will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 pm when Brother Allan I MacFeate will be installed into the chair of his Mother Lodge to serve a second term. The Installing team on this occasion will be Brother Iain White assisted by Brothers Hector Macphail and Kenneth Macdougall all Past Masters of Lodge. A warm welcome is extended to all brethren to attend the Installation ceremony and the dinner which will follow.

**Monthly Draw** (from Brother David Stevenson, Treasurer).

As we enter another year the monthly draw is available again to all of you - and family.

£1 per number per month with no limits !!

All participants will be entered into the draw and it is my intention to draw the winning number on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

PRIZES - I am hoping for £12 per month with the exception of June and December when the prize will be £50 each month. Please support the Lodge with this draw. Cash, cheques or through internet banking are all acceptable.

### **Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Business Meeting

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Entering

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Raising

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Passing

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> - AGM and election of office-bearers.

### **Social Scene**

A warm welcome is extended to all brethren and friends to join the Lodge in their regular Saturday evening dances from 8.30 pm until midnight.

### **Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Passing (Exemplification)

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Entering

A report on the Installation Ceremony will be provided in next Month's "Column".

Very early notice that the Annual Burns Supper of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 will take place within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.00 pm with tickets on sale at a cost of £12.50 each, which of course, includes guest speakers, entertainment and a 3-course meal. For further information and tickets, please contact Brother Alex Johnstone PM on 0790-971-8096.

## **Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> – AGM and Election of office-bearers  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> – Passing  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Annual Installation (6.45 pm).

The Children's Christmas treat will be a visit to the Pantomime at the Beacon theatre on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December and names should be submitted to Worshipful Junior Warden, Brother Steven McKenna as soon as possible.

The Lodge Christmas Dance will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Important Notice - Due to urgent building repairs required to the Lodge's premises at King Street, Port Glasgow, meetings, with immediate effect, will take place at the Masonic Temple of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.**

Due to the repairs required to our hall, the highly successful "Family Friendly Saturdays" have had to be cancelled until further notice. We apologise for this inconvenience to our many loyal supporters over the years but the major repairs will make the hall uninhabitable until they are complete. Could you please pass this information on to any friends that are not on email.

## **Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Passing conferred by Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 and election of office-bearers.

## **Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Entering  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Entering (Pipers' Degree conferred by Lodge The Gael No. 609

A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to attend the Pipers' degree on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. This is a unique evening provided by the brethren of Lodge The Gael No. 609 and is sure to be enjoyed by all.

## **Installation Report.**

A total of 142 brethren signed the attendance register on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October for the installation of Brother Nicholas Rudolf Robert Stetz as Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626. Brother Stetz was installed into the chair of his Mother Lodge by Brothers Brian G Hopkins, Kenneth M McCrae and James P Livingstone all Past Masters of the Lodge aided and abetted by Brother Nicky's grandfather, Brother Rudolf L Stetz PM.

A miracle!

It's not often that one can report a miracle happening at an installation ceremony but as the brethren arrived at the Lodge, there was no electricity supply following a fault in a nearby sub-station. Undeterred, the installing team set about their task by the aid of some strategically placed candles and the light of a well-tyled emergency exit door. As the ceremony progressed, the Master was eventually placed into the chair of the Lodge and as the Principal Installing Master, advised him of his duties to shed light and instruction to his brethren – the lights came on! It usually takes a new Master a little longer to work miracles.

A truly wonderful and enjoyable day was had by all.



Brother Stetz with his installing Masters and the office-bearers of the Lodge for session 2015/16.

### **Lodge Sir Michael No. 989**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Raising.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Annual Installation (7.00 pm)

The annual Installation will take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November when Brother Paul Docherty will be installed as Right Worshipful Master by Brother Robert Marshall the current Master. A warm welcome is extended to all.

The Lodge was delighted to host its first ever Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West regular communication and thanks go to all who assisted in setting up the Lodge and for their support on the evening.

Please note that only a very limited number of the new and very smart Lodge ties are available from Brother Bob Winning who also has a few Lodge diaries left at a cost of £5 each. Brother Scott McLaughlin is also able to order Lodge glasses which can be engraved with a Brother's name and/or Lodge and the square and compasses.

Progress Report.

It is very pleasing to be able to advise that the refurbishment of the Lodge is progressing well and that downstairs is largely complete. What will be the new Temple upstairs has now been floored ready for the major work to commence. Watch this space for details.

Reminder - Wreath Laying at Kilmacolm Cenotaph - As has become the norm in recent years, Bro Treasurer will arrange for a wreath to be provided on behalf of the Lodge. What has also become the norm in recent years is the RWM or his designate being supported

by brethren of Lodge Sir Michael and friends at the laying of the wreath at the Cenotaph in Kilmacolm. This year is no exception and the wreath will be laid at around 12.20/1230 by our own RWM, but I would encourage all Brethren to be at the entrance for 1200/1210 latest. Last year Bro David Wilson laid a wreath on behalf of Inverclyde council, Bro Gordon Porter PM also lay a wreath on behalf of the Old Kirk.

Be fantastic to see as many Brethren as possible. Please speak to myself or Bro David Wilson re times etc.

### **Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Entering

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> – Passing

The annual Installation will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November within the Masonic Temple of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 at John Street, Gourrock at 6.45 pm. On that evening, Brother Adam Mackenzie PM, will be installed into the chair of his Lodge by Brothers Michael O'Neill, Tom More and George Carson, all Past Masters of the Lodge. A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to attend the ceremony and the harmony which will follow.

#### **Consecration of Lodge meeting rooms.**

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October, a total of 104 brethren attended the ceremony of consecration for Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 to dedicate their new meeting place for use as a Masonic Temple.

The ceremony was conducted in his usual exemplary manner by Provincial Grand Chaplain Brother Reverend David Mitchell and I believe that it would be true to say that everyone enjoyed the ceremony very much indeed.

It is never easy for a Lodge to make major decisions such as changing their meeting place or their meeting nights and it takes a deal of bravery to do so but we wish the Right Worshipful Master and the members of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 every success in their new home and if the attendances so far are to be taken as a guide, it would appear that the decision to move is a popular choice for the brethren.

### **Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Raising.

### **The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814**

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the assembled brethren were very much treated to an extremely interesting, informative and enjoyable talk by Brother David Vennard PM of Lodge Abercrombie No. 1435 on the life and work of Brother Robert W Service, the Bard of the Yukon.

The Lodge is now in recess until 2016.

## **Other Orders**

### **Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII**

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII meets in the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourrock on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

2015/16 Syllabus.

18<sup>th</sup> November – MA & EM  
16<sup>th</sup> December – Royal Arch Degree

2016

20<sup>th</sup> January – Provincial Annual Visit  
17<sup>th</sup> February – MA & EM  
16<sup>th</sup> March - Royal Arch Degree  
20<sup>th</sup> April – MA & EM  
18<sup>th</sup> May – Royal Arch Degree

### **Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289**

No information provided.

### **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 2015 are as follows;

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.

2015 syllabus of meetings

4<sup>th</sup> November 2015        -        Annual Installation  
2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015       -        Knight Grade

Venerable Preceptor Fr. J. Cowan welcomes all knights and gives a warm invitation to attend. Take that first step and join with us.  
Further Information: Contact Secretary/Registrar Fr. A. Johnstone- 0790-971-8096.

### **St. George's Conclave No. 79 -**

2015

November 17<sup>th</sup> – RCC Grade

*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, Gourock 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 [treasurerno12@aol.com](mailto:treasurerno12@aol.com)  
Please make cheques payable to "David Stevenson".

### **Anniversary Badges.**

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



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

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## 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](http://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](mailto: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).	12.50	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
Also available in soft cover (0.25Kg).	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](http://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](http://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](http://www.lodgesirmichael989.co.uk)

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 – [www.lodgecrawfurdsburn.org.uk](http://www.lodgecrawfurdsburn.org.uk)

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 - link deleted.

## **Stirling Royal Arch Websites**

<http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/> - Lectures site

<http://www.lodge76.co.uk/> - Main site

<http://www.greyfriars51.fsnet.co.uk/> - Preceptory site

## **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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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 – November 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 <sup>st</sup>
2 <sup>nd</sup> 68 – Business Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> XII – Passing conferred by Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 (AGM at 7.15pm)	4 <sup>th</sup> Preceptory of Ardgowan – Annual Installation	5 <sup>th</sup> 217 – AGM and election of Office-bearers	6 <sup>th</sup> 1121 – Annual Installation (6.45 pm)	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>
9 <sup>th</sup> 68 – Entering 626 - Entering	10 <sup>th</sup> 1121 - Entering	11 <sup>th</sup> 624 – Passing conferred by Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 989 - Raising	12 <sup>th</sup> 1425 - Raising	13 <sup>th</sup> 175 – Passing (Exemplification)	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>
16 <sup>th</sup> 68 - Raising	17 <sup>th</sup> XII – Annual Installation (6.30 pm) SGC No. 79 – RCC Grade	18 <sup>th</sup> RAC XVII – MA and EM	19 <sup>th</sup> 217 - Passing	20 <sup>th</sup> 989 – Annual Installation (7.00 pm)	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
23 <sup>rd</sup> 68 – Passing 626 – Entering conferred by Lodge The Gael no. 609 (Pipers' degree).	24 <sup>th</sup> 1121 - Passing	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup> Grand Lodge – Festival of St Andrew	27 <sup>th</sup> 217 – Annual Installation (6.45PM) 175 - Entering	28 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
30 <sup>th</sup> 68 – AGM and election of Office-bearers						

**(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.pgllrw.org](http://www.pgllrw.org)*