



The West Column



Brethren, I hope that you all had a very happy and blessed Christmas full of festive cheer with good food and great company. As usual the Livingstone Clan gathered at our house and there is such pleasure in watching the grandchildren opening their presents with such an excited glow on their wee faces and it was even more special this year as we welcomed the newest addition to the family, wee Callum, to his very first Christmas celebration. I have to confess though that I didn't quite manage to match all that youthful energy without a wee nap after my dinner.

We have been quite lucky in recent years as both my daughters work shifts which means that they can't always be guaranteed to be home at Christmas but sadly my oldest girl, Nicola, drew the short straw this year and was on duty with her job with British Airways. She didn't even get one of the better flights but was stuck at Heathrow airport with a pager on 45 minute stand-by – (oh the glamour)!

It is a wee reminder that while most of us get to enjoy Christmas in the company of our loved ones, we owe a huge debt to the many who are on duty, perhaps with emergency services or the armed forces and maybe we can take a moment to think and pray for them who keep things moving on our behalf while we enjoy ourselves.

It's good to take a moment and reflect that in the midst of our good fortune, there are so many who, for Christmas, it will not be a time of celebration, there may be no presents, no food, no shelter, no roof over their heads, no place of safety, no place to call home, no love to share.

Take a moment to think of those less fortunate than ourselves and it may allow us to appreciate more fully our own good fortune.

Speaking of which, I hope that Santa was good to you all. As I say it was a delight watching the grandchildren open their presents on Christmas morning, although in some cases, the wrapping paper seemed to be the most exciting thing ever experienced.

It made me recall a Christmas many years ago, when I woke up to find that Santa had delivered a sledge. Not just any sledge, this was the Aston Martin of sledges. Not your plastic trays that you get nowadays but a creation of beauty. All varnished wooden slats mounted on perfectly balanced blue steel runners. This sledge could take two passengers and was about 4 feet in length. Surely this would make me the envy of everyone on the Darroch Park putting green!

Now the first drawback to this ambition came the following day, when all my pals gathered to show what they had received. There were new footballs, a whole platoon of Action Men, board games galore, roller skates, scooters, even the occasional bike although nothing electronic (this was the late fifties/early sixties remember). The problem was that, as we gathered down at the Battery Park for a game of football, it was impossible not to look a bit daft carrying a sledge when there was no snow. In fact, the problem was, that like this year, the winters were so mild that it was to be a few years before I ever got to use my top of the range sledge by which time it wasn't so cool for a teenage lad in the sixties to spend his days with a sledge.

That sledge is now well over 50 years old and is in pristine condition in my loft (might try ebay) but it didn't matter that I never got any great use out of it or that I would have happily swapped it for something more useful at the time. It was given with love by my parents and that is the very best present you can receive, the gift of love.

Perhaps as we now approach the new-year and we start to make all sorts of resolutions, we can make resolutions which could be gifts to others. What about being a little bit more considerate in our dealings with others, a little bit more tolerant, a little bit more understanding, a little bit less selfish, a little bit more helpful, a little bit more loving.

These would be resolutions really worth keeping and gifts which would be useful every day and a guaranteed return on your investment.

Thanks for putting up with my ramblings during the past year. I look forward to meeting up with you all at various meetings and events in the coming year and in the meantime, could I extend to each and every one of you and your loved ones, a very happy, peaceful and healthy 2016.

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

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

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 15 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.

Summer Ball – Tickets are now on sale through your Lodge Secretary. Around 140 tickets have already gone, so don't miss out on yours (the wife/partner will not be pleased)!

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. December has been another very busy month and I was privileged to attend the following meetings:

Tuesday 1st – Annual Divine Service of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Wednesday 2nd – Provincial Committee.

Friday 3rd – Annual Installation of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Saturday 4th – Meeting of Provincial Grand Masters associated with the MHH.

Wednesday 9th – Attended Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 (Fellowcraft Degree).

Friday 11th – Annual Installation of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Saturday 12th – Attended Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Sunday 13th – Attended Children's Party at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Monday 14th – Attended Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 (Fellowcraft Degree).

Wednesday 16th Attended meeting of Greenock RAC XVII.

Thursday 17th – Attended Regular Meeting of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 (Carol Harmony).

Saturday 19th – Attended Annual Christmas Dance at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

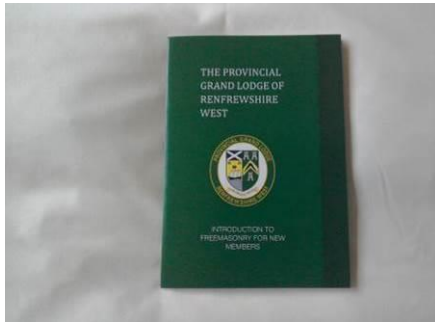
Monday 21st – Attended Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 (Fellowcraft Degree).

Monday 28th – Attended Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 (Master Mason's Degree).

Provincial Grand Lodge Almoner's Duties.

Following the resignation of Brother Jim Pearson as Provincial Grand Lodge Almoner, I am pleased to advise that the duties have been kindly taken on by Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden, Brother W Ross Nugent. At this time I would express my grateful thanks to Brother Pearson for his kind attention to duties over the past 3 years and along with my thanks to Brother Ross Nugent for kindly agreeing to take on this responsibility.

New Member's Booklet



Following the demand for the initial print of the booklet, I have obtained permission from Provincial Grand Lodge to re-order stocks of the booklet which should be available early in the new year and I will arrange to have these made available to every Lodge secretary.

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.

Other Fees:

Brethren, in particular, the trustees of the various Lodges, should be aware that a Notice of Motion is currently before Grand Lodge, which if approved at the February communication will result in an increase in fees payable.

This virtually replaces the First Schedule of the Constitution and Laws and amongst the changes would see:

- The minimum fees payable by members (Test Fee) rise from £25 to £30.
- The direct contribution for each initiate payable to Grand Lodge rise from £70 to £90.
- The fees payable by Lodges on behalf of each initiate to Provincial Grand Lodge rise from £5 to £10 and the annual fee to Provincial Grand Lodge rise from £50 to £60.

In addition, the minimum initiation fee would rise from £130 to £150, affiliation fees from £70 to £90 and the mark fee from £25 to £35.

I would stress that the above is simply a synopsis of the various changes and trustees should refer to the billets issued by Grand Lodge for full details.

This Notice of Motion will be considered at the February communication of Grand Lodge and should your Lodge have any opinion on the various changes, that is the forum where these will be discussed.

Report on the Festival of St. Andrew 2015.

The Annual Installation of the Grand Master Mason and Grand Office-bearers and Festival of St. Andrew took place on Thursday 26th November 2015 and was attended by a large number of brethren from the Province of Renfrewshire West.



At the Installation and Dinner were;

Brother Alexander Galbraith, Past Substitute Grand Master and Past Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West.

Brother James Pearston Livingstone, Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West.

Brother John Robert Spence Keith Depute Provincial Grand Master.

Brother Archibald Hoey, President of Grand Stewards, Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden.

Brother Allan I Macfeate, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Brother Allan T Glen, Senior Warden of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Brother Fraser Harvey, Master Mason of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Brother Nicholas R R Stetz, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Brother Neil Johnston, Master Mason of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Brother James Strachan, Master Mason of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

Brother Peter Wilson, Past Master of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Brother James Cowan, Right Worshipful Master of The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814, Past Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 and Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.



Also attending the Installation were;

Brother Archibald M Wright, Past Master of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68, Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden.

Brother William Lawson, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Brother Callum Wohlgemuth, Substitute Master of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

Brother Ian Wohlgemuth, Master Mason of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.



As can be seen by the very impressive list above, almost every Lodge in the Province was represented at Grand Lodge on the day, a tremendous effort from a small Province.



Grand Lodge was opened by Brother Sir Archibald D. Orr Ewing and after extending a warm welcome to the special guests and visitors to Grand Lodge, the principal guest, Most worshipful Brother Peter G Lowndes, Programme Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England was escorted into Grand Lodge followed by Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont.



The Grand Master Mason took the oath “de fideli administratione officii” and was then invested in a most dignified manner with his jewel of office by Past Grand Master, Brother Sir Archibald D. Orr Ewing.

He was then escorted to the Throne of Grand Lodge and afterward proclaimed.

The Grand Master Mason named his Depute and Substitute Grand Masters being Brother W Ramsay McGhee and Brother George R Kelly respectively, who were then obligated and installed into office.



Depute Grand Master Brother McGhee and Substitute Grand Master Brother Kelly then shared the duty of obligating and installing the remaining office-bearers of Grand Lodge including our own Brother Archibald Hoey, who was installed as President of Grand Stewards.



Grand Lodge was then closed and a record number of brethren made their way to the Edinburgh Corn Exchange for the Festival of St. Andrew.



Most Worshipful Grand Master presenting a cheque for £10,000 in aid of Prostate Cancer Scotland.

A sumptuous meal with excellent entertainment followed with the following toasts being proposed and responses received:

The Queen – Proposed by the Grand Master Mason;

The Grand Lodge of Scotland – proposed by Most Worshipful Brother Peter G Lowndes, Pro Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.
Reply by the Grand Master Mason.

Provincial and District Grand Lodges – proposed by Depute Grand Master, Brother W Ramsay McGhee.
Reply by Brother Thomas C Smith, Provincial Grand Master of Midlothian.

The Daughter Lodges – proposed by Substitute Grand Master, Brother George R Kelly.
Reply by Brother Alberto Massimo, Master of Lodge St. David (University Lodge) No. 36.

The evening ended with the singing of Auld Lang Syne followed by the National Anthem.

I'm sure that all of the brethren who travelled through on the minibus would wish me to thank Depute Provincial Grand Master Brother John Keith for acting as chauffeur on the day and ensuring that we all got there and back safely.

As an added bonus on the day, there were two items of news which are worthy of bringing to the special attention of the brethren.

Firstly, the installation of Brother Archibald Hoey, Past Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 who was elevated to the office of President of Grand Stewards.

Brethren, it is worth noting that it takes longer to work up the ranks of the board of Stewards than it does to work through the elective offices of Grand Lodge and Brother Hoey has faithfully served this Province as its representative on the Board of Grand Stewards for a

total of 22 years culminating in him reaching the top of the ladder and his promotion to the office of President of Grand Stewards.

We would offer him our heartfelt congratulations and will no doubt return to the subject at the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge.

In addition, the Province was furthered honoured when the Grand Master Mason announced the names of the brethren on whom he was pleased to confer Honorary Grand Rank.

This year, we all rejoiced to hear that Brother James Cowan Right Worshipful Master 1814, PM217 and Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies received recognition as Honorary Grand Director of Ceremonies while Brother James McCorkell, MM1121, was similarly recognised with the rank of Honorary Grand Sword-bearer.

A fitting reward for many years hard work and dedication shown by both brethren.

All in all a very rewarding day and I would encourage all brethren to consider making the journey through to Grand Lodge at some point.

Provincial Grand Master's Charity Appeal.

The scheme appears to be ticking over quite nicely with the A & E Unit at Inverclyde Royal Hospital making a request for further supplies of teddies which have since been delivered to the Unit.



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

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

Grand Lodge.

The following report has been kindly provided by Past Provincial Grand Master, Brother Alexander Galbraith, Past Substitute Grand Master.

"The Phoenix Choir Christmas concert was once again held in Freemasons' Hall Edinburgh on Sunday, 7th December. Attendance at this popular Christmas Concert has increased year on year and this year I again had the great pleasure of being part of a record audience of 360.

The choir enthralled the audience with the usual Christmas carols and other festive pieces some with enthusiastic audience participation. All the proceeds from the concert are being donated to Grand Lodge chosen Charity 'Prostate Scotland'.

It was disappointing to see that there were no other members of the Province in the audience".

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING DECEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 5th – Lecture by Substitute Master Brother Alexander Galbraith, PSGM, PPGM, PM175 on the subject “The History of Freemasonry in Renfrewshire West”.

Tuesday 19th - Raising

On Thursday 14th January, the Lodge will be visiting Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No. 370, in the Province of Renfrewshire East to confer a Fellowcraft Degree.

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 4th – No meeting

Monday 11th – Business Meeting, Installation of remaining office-bearers and Ballot.

Monday 18th – No meeting

Friday 22nd – Anniversary Meeting and Burns Supper, (Tickets available from wee Brother Iain MacLeod). The Anniversary Meeting will tyle at 7pm. The tickets are priced at £5 each.

Monday 25th - Entering

Please note that there will be a meeting of the Enquiry Committee on Thursday 7th January followed by a meeting of the General Committee.

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. Please note that the Hogmanay Dance is almost now sold out.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 8th – Entering and Annual Visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15).

Friday 22nd - Entering

Burns Supper.

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 16th 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 7th – Entering

Thursday 21st - Entering

Installation Report.

Brethren from within and out-with the province of Renfrewshire West met in the Masonic Hall, Brown Street, Port Glasgow, to celebrate the Festival of St. Andrew and the installation of RWM Bro. Gordon D R Leitch and his office bearers.

Deputations of visiting brethren from within and outwith the province were welcomed into the Lodge and were led by Bro. Allan MacFeate RWM of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No.XII.

Thereafter a large and influential deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge was welcomed, led on this occasion by PGM Bro. James P Livingstone.

The Installing Masters, Bros. Gerard Robertson PM, William R Nugent PM and Robert S Stone PM, were received into the Lodge, where they took their respective offices to conduct the Installation Ceremony in a traditional manner.

Following the Ceremonial visiting Brethren, members of Provincial Grand Lodge and the RWM Bro. Gordon D R Leitch and his office bearers retired to Harmony where the following toasts were proposed with suitable replies.

Toasts

"The Queen and Craft" and *"The Three Grand Lodges"* were proposed by RWM Bro. Gordon D R Leitch.

"The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West" was proposed by RWM Bro. Gordon D R Leitch.

Reply by PGM Bro. James P Livingstone PGM

"Installing Masters" was proposed by RWM Bro. Gordon D R Leitch.

Reply by Installing Master Bro. Gerard Robertson PM, Bro. William R Nugent PM and Bro. Robert S Stone PM.

"Visiting Brethren" proposed by Bro. Stephen McKenna WSW.

Reply by Bro. Nicholas R R Stetz RWM of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No. 626.

"Right Worshipful Master" proposed by IPM Bro. Clive L Taulbut.

Reply by Bro. Gordon D R Leitch RWM.

"Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217" Proposed by Bro. William Lawson RWM of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Reply by Bro. James Donnelly PM.

"Absent Brethren" Proposed by Bro. John McAlister PM.

"The Artists and Stewards" proposed by Bro. Fraser D Hamilton WJW.

Reply Bro. James Neill, President Of Stewards.



The gang's all hear. Brother Gordon Leith, newly installed Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217, with his installing Masters, Brother Gerard C Roberson, Brother W Ross Nugent and Brother Robert S Stone, all Past Masters of the Lodge, along with the newly installed office-bearers of the Lodge.

On Thursday 17 December, 2015, at the regular meeting of the Lodge, Bro. Archie Hoey presented a paper entitled "Charge After Initiation", which was delivered in his usual professional style and received the approbation of the Brethren.

Thereafter Bro. Gordon Leitch RWM asked the Director of Ceremonies to present Bro. William Airth, Substitute Master, who was then presented with his Jubilee Certificate from the Grand Lodge of Scotland in commemoration of him achieving 50 years in the Craft. It was a very emotional moment for Bro. Airth, who made a very suitable reply. Bro. Airth was also presented with a "50 years" lapel badge.



The Director of Ceremonies then presented Bro. James Cowan PM, who had been honoured with honorary Grand Rank by The Grand Lodge of Scotland at the November Communication. Bro. Gordon Leitch RWM then presented him with the jewel of Honorary Grand Director of Ceremonies. Bro. Cowan PM also made a very suitable reply, which also well received by the Brethren.



Burns Supper – this year, the Lodge will be joining with Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 for the annual Burns Supper on Friday 22nd January. This is open to non-masonic friends and tickets can be purchased from Brother Iain MacLeod of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

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 13th – Annual General Meeting (Members only).

The Annual Installation of the Lodge will take place on Friday 15th January 2016 at 7.30 pm, when Brother Bill Duncan, Past Master, will be installed into the chair of the Lodge by Brothers James Lever, PM624, Thomas More, PM1121, AM624 and Brother Alan Buntain PM173. A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to attend.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 11th – Raising

Monday 18th – Annual Burns Supper

Monday 25th – Entering

Sunday 31st – Annual Divine Service 6.15 for 6.30 pm within Lodge. Service conducted by Reverend Frank J Gardner.

Senior Citizen's Dinner and Presentation.

The joint 626/1425 Christmas Dinner for Senior Citizens was held on Saturday 12th December with around 75 being well entertained by the brethren of the Lodge. The event always goes with a swing and is much enjoyed by all but on this occasion, there was a very special moment for all when Past Master Brother David Steel, who was attending with his daughter, was presented with a Certificate of Distinguished Membership by the Right Worshipful Master Brother Nicholas Stetz. Due to ill-health, Brother David had not been able to attend earlier in the year to receive his certificate so the opportunity was taken at the dinner.

There was hardly a dry eye in the house as Brother Steel received his certificate and spoke of his love for freemasonry, the Craft and in particular of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Brother Steel is the longest serving Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 having been Master of the Lodge in 1965 (50 years ago) and of course he served in every office in Provincial Grand Lodge before attaining the office of Provincial Grand Master in 1993 and serving his 5-year Commission until 1998.

We often talk about the difference between a certificate being due and a certificate being earned and on this occasion, this was an honour well-earned.



Brother David Steel receives his Certificate of Distinguished Service from the Right Worshipful Master Brother Nicky Stetz and Provincial Grand Master Brother Jim Livingstone

The following day, the Lodge held its annual Christmas Party for the children of members of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 and was greatly enjoyed by all but perhaps the least said about the Christmas Dance the following week might be better in order to save the blushes of those who re-enacted the reunion of the Spice Girls!

Burns Supper 2016.

Tickets are now on sale for the annual Burns Supper which will take place on Monday 18th January 2016 at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. The cost is £10.00 each and cannot be reserved. They are NOW available from Social Conveners Brothers Stewart McFadyen and Graeme Wallace and given the excellent line-up of speakers for the event, it is advised that tickets should be purchased as soon as possible. Dress code is formal/collar and tie and it a requirement that jackets are worn until after the Loyal Toast.

The line-up for the evening is:

Immortal Memory and Songs from Brother David Docherty.

Toast to the Lasses from Brother Jim Donnelly Past Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Reply by Brother Ian McLachlan, Senior Warden of Lodge Rothesay St. John No. 292.

Piper – Brother Nicky Donnelly and readings by Brother Jamie Donnelly, both of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

An excellent evening is guaranteed.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 13th – Raising

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.

Homes Degree.

It might be a little bit away yet but tickets for the Homes Degree have been distributed to all of the Lodges and it is hoped that every Lodge will sell its full allocation and more importantly will be fully represented on the evening. The degree will be in the hands of one of the "newbies" Brother Nicholas RR Stetz of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 who is no doubt already hard at work with his team.

As a matter of interest, the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 has informed me, that as part of the Lodge's ongoing support to the Marcus Humphrey House, he along with members of the Lodge will be visiting the Home with gifts for the residents and staff alike. Well done to 989 and I hope that all of the Lodges remembered to send a Christmas Card to the Home.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 12th –

Tuesday 19th –

Children's Christmas Treat.

With 12 sleeps to go before Christmas day the children of members of Lodge Crawfordsburn 1121 attended the annual Christmas treat, which this year was held at Fun World in Gourrock.

Approximately 25 children young and old attended a wonderful morning's fun, sliding on inflatable slides, playing football, basketball or on small motor bikes; all watched over by parents and members of the lodge, as time moved towards Santa time at about 11:30am the announcement came!

"Would all children from the Lodge Crawfordsburn party please make their way to Santa Grotto?"



A mad rush ensued

All of a sudden we had about 35 children and parents queuing to see Santa, on checking, we quickly realised that several children queuing were not with the pre booked party, after advising the parents it was a private event for children of the lodge, we then quickly arranged for all children who queued to see Santa, went into see Santa and received a small Christmas present, compliments of the lodge, this was very much appreciated by the other parents who offered to pay for their children to see Santa, however, this was politely refused.

We had children young and old sitting with Santa telling him what they wanted for Christmas with one child even giving Santa a drawing, Santa was delighted to receive the drawing and assured the child that on returning to the north pole he would pin it up somewhere in the kitchen after speaking to Mrs Clause.

We were also delighted when one of our senior children who just recently received Honorary Grand Rank sat on Santa's knee to receive his present from Santa



This event was organised on behalf of Lodge Crawfordsburn by Bro John Laird WJW and Bro Malcolm Sinclair WSW we would also like to thank Santa aka Bro Neil Long who was immediately booked for next year's Christmas Treat, a fun morning was had by all children and parents alike.

Both Wardens would like to express their gratitude to all brethren who have supported fund raising events to assist in funding this event

Brother James McCorkell.

Many congratulations to Brother Jim McCorkell on being awarded honorary Grand Rank (Honorary Grand Sword-bearer) by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason. Brother "Corky" is always ready to assist any Lodge in the Province, usually by doing the "unseen" work in the background and is thoroughly deserving of this honour. It was a real pleasure to assist along with the Right Worshipful Master Brother Adam McKenzie with the presentation of his certificate and jewel which was a gift from the Lodge at the Lodge's Annual Divine Service on Tuesday 15th December.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425

Thursday 14th – Raising

Report on Installation.

On Friday, 4th December, the Temple in John Street, was again busy with brethren from across the Province to witness the Installation of Right Worshipful Master Brother Kyle K Wilson as Master of his mother lodge. Installing Masters on the evening were Brother William A McLarty, Past Master, PM624, Brother Robert Marshall, IPM989 and Brother Kenneth M McCrae, PM626 and HM4125.

Following the ceremony, the brethren retired to an excellent harmony and were well entertained by Brother Kenny Wilson and the new Right Worshipful Master. "Sam the Skull" was never sung so well!



The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

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, Gourock on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Most Excellent First Principal, Andrew G Pigott 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.

2016

20th January – Provincial Annual Visit

17th February – MA & EM

16th March - Royal Arch Degree

20th April – MA & EM

18th May – Royal Arch Degree

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Wednesday 7th - Ranfurly 289 have changed their meeting night from 2nd Monday to 1st.Thursday. There is no meeting scheduled for January so our new meeting night starts in February which will be provincial visit.

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 2015/16 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.

Venerable Preceptor Fr. Kevin Pollock 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 -

2016

19th January – RCC

16th February – KHS

15th March – Lecture on Origins of Conclave Freemasonry (By 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 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 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.

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).	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

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://lck217.org.uk>

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 - 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 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 – January 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 st	2 nd	3 rd
4 th	5 th XII – Lecture, Ballot and Installation of Office- bearers.	6 th	7 th 217 – Entering	8 th 175 – Entering, Ballot and Annual visit by Provincial Grand Lodge (7.15 start).	9 th 1121 – Senior Citizen's Dinner	10 th
11 th 68 – Business Meeting, Installation and Ballot 626 - Raising	12 th 1121 -	13 th 624 – AGM (Members only) 989 - Raising	14 th 1425 - Raising	15 th 624 – Annual Installation (7.30).	16 th	17 th
18 th 68 – No meeting	19 th XII – Raising SGC 79 - RCC	20 th RAC XVII – Provincial Visit	21 st 217 - Entering	22 nd 68 – Anniversary Meeting and Burns Supper 175 - Entering	23 rd	24 th
25 th 68 - Entering 626 - Entering	26 th 1121 -	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	31 st 626 – Annual Divine Service

(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