



The West Column



A sense of perspective. I believe that it is always good to try and maintain a sense of perspective in life. I was thinking about this the other day when my mind wandered back to that beautiful Saturday morning in May; the day of the zip line challenge, which was such a fantastic success (see report later in the Column). Having struggled into our harnesses, our group made its way over to the crane which was to hoist us up to the start of the slide. As we waited underneath the crane for our turn, there was a great deal of boisterous and excited discussion and the Brother with whom I was standing and who shall remain nameless, with perhaps a little bravado, looked up at the crane and remarked that he thought it was not as high as he thought it would be.

I have to say that it looked more than high enough for my liking! Our moment came and we filed into the “basket” and as we were hoisted higher and higher, it was noted that the conversation became more and more subdued. The Brother who had previously remarked that it wasn’t as high as he thought it would be, looked over the edge at the River Clyde far below and said in a very quiet voice, “it’s a lot higher from up here”!

I have to say that personally speaking, as I stood at the edge of the basket thinking what on earth had possessed me to agree to this, Brother Stanners, who was in charge of the “sliders” rather put me at my ease by saying, “you’ll be fine – just take a short step forward with your left foot”! Where had I heard that before?

A sense of perspective – to view something or someone or problem from another point of view. What had seemed not very high looking up, suddenly seemed a lot higher looking down!

So many events have taken place over the last few weeks and months, acts of terrorism, leadership challenges, questions on immigration, the EU Referendum, the US Presidential Election, even the return of a certain club to the top tier of Scottish football, that social media has been awash with comment on this, that or the other.

While I would always defend the right of anyone to express a point of view on any subject, it does sometimes sadden me to note how quick we seem to be to judge. Comments are so dogmatic that you realise that it would not matter how reasonable an argument could be constructed to counter an opinion, there is no reasoning with a closed mind. Perhaps that is where many of our troubles begin?

As always the Good Book offers great advice on the subject; “Bearing with one another and if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. (Colossians 3:13). Also in Proverbs (10:12), “Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses”.

Would the world not be a better place if, before we rush to judgement, we could take a moment to consider the matter from another person's point of view – a different perspective?

Never judge a man until you have walked a mile in his shoes.

Many will be familiar with the above saying although it is a little bit misquoted. It was originally "Walk a mile in his moccasins" which is a saying attributed to various Native American tribes.

However, the saying actually comes from a poem written in 1895, entitled "Judge Softly" by Mary T Lathrap.

I have printed the complete poem later in the Column and would commend that you read it in its entirety for its sentiments should resound with every true freemason. In the meantime, I trust that like me, you are all suitably refreshed from the recess and looking forward to the new session.

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.

Advertising:

For some time, I've been thinking whether to offer to include adverts in the West Column although we have occasionally carried the odd Masonic related advert.

I am aware that there may be brethren within Lodges who can offer a range of services, painting, decorating, building, plumbing, car servicing etc. Equally, I have often heard it said that brethren would be happy to provide work to fellow brethren, not because they are looking for a reduced price but more because they feel that they can trust them. I am therefore happy to try and run a trial over the coming session to see if we can link the two to everyone's benefit.

At the moment there is no charge to include an advert in the Column but perhaps if taking advantage of the service, it could be mentioned that the advert had been seen in the Column, which would allow us to gauge the success or otherwise of the trial. If you would like to advertise your services, simply drop me a note of the advert and I will include it in the Column. Regrettably, I would have to stress that the West Column could not be responsible for any work carried out as a result of the advert!

Obituaries:

Brother William McIntosh, Past Master, Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624.



William Jackson McIntosh was born on the 22nd November 1931 he was initiated into Lodge 624 on the 26th February 1968 and became an office bearer from 11th December 1969 until his death on Monday 6th June 2016 a total of 48 years in continue office a remarkable achievement he was installed into the chair of King Solomon on the 13th of December 1988-90.and his last office for the past 23 years was as Lodge Almoner a duty that he carried out with dignity and compassion.

His first Love was his family his dear wife May his children Jean William and Ewen his grand daughters Teresa and Laura and his five great grandchildren he doted upon them it was our main conversation traveling the length and breath of Ayrshire and beyond.

He was an outstanding ambassador for not only 624 but for our fraternity and especially Provincial Grand Lodge which he was so proud to represent Willie exemplified everything that our great graft represent and his greatest moment was when he was honored for his outstanding work to freemasonry by the then Provincial Grand Master Archibald Calmers who had bestowed uphim Honorary Grand rank of Architect as most of the brethren will know that most of Willie life was devoted helping those who were less fortunate than ourselves.

He spent 26 years of his life volunteering for I.C.V.S. serving the elderly and infirmed residents within and outwith Inverclyde area as a mini bus driver and when he reached the age of 80 they could no longer get insurance for him to say he was not happy is a misunderstanding as he often talked about the subject on our many travels.

He also served with distinction as a volunteer at Marcus Humphrey House for the past 25 years raising funds and helping out with joinery and other issues that he was capable of doing Willie McIntosh will be fondly remember by all who had the privilege of meeting him what an inspiration a true Christian who believed in the principals of Brotherly Love Relieve and Truth. God Bless.

The above obituary was submitted at my request by Brother Bill Duncan, RWM of L624. Although Brother McIntosh was not a member of a Lodge within the Province, he was so well known and respected that it seemed appropriate to publish a tribute.

**** - 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:

Provincial Grand Lodge Schedule of Meetings:

2016:

October Communication – 7.30 pm Wednesday, 5th October (Lodge Sir Michael No. 989).

Provincial Grand Committee – 7.30 pm, Wednesday 7th December (Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626).

2017:

Annual Communication – 6.45 pm, Friday 3rd February, (Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175).

Provincial Regular Communication (October).

The October Regular Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held, with the kind permission of the Lodge, in Lodge Sir Michael No. 989, Glebe Road, Kilmacoll on Wednesday 5th October 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Off/bear	Annual Visit 2017	Commenting
12	Tue 15 th November	Gerry Robertson	Tue 7 th March	JPGW
68	Fri. 9 th December	Billy McLarty	Mon 20 th February	SPGW
175	Fri. 28 th October	Kenny Morrison	Fri. 13 th January	SPGW
217	Fri 25 th November	Alistair Glenney	Thur. 19 th April	JPGW
626	Sat. 15 th October	George Carson	Mon 13 th March	DepPGM
989	Fri 18 th November	Robert Bain	Wed. 12 th April	SPGW
1121	Fri 4 th November	Alexander Johnstone	Tue. 24 th January	SubPGM
1425	Fri 2 nd December	Alan Beck	Thur. 9 th February	SubPGM
1814	Fri 5 th May (2017)		Fri. 5 th May	

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

Summer winners:

June: Brother Robert S Stone (217)
July: Brother Iain Freer (1121)
August: Brother Robert Crossan (XII)

Bowling – Orr Trophy Competition.

I am indebted to Brother John Freeburn of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 for not only organising the event but for submitting the following report.

"The Orr Masonic Trophy was played at the Grosvenor Bowling Club on Saturday 11th June 2016. This was the first year that Brother John Freeburn of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 was to take charge and he was hoping for a good turnout.

The trophy was gifted to the Provincial Grand Lodge in 1900 by Brother Daniel Orr, who was President of the Grosvenor in that year and was a member of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII – he was to win it two years later!

A healthy entry of 12 teams was accepted and the draw made. On the day of the competition, there was a bit of a hiccup when Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 weren't able to attend. An even number of entrants is really important and after a bit of rearrangement, the games got going.

Included in the entry price was a roll and slice and a cup of tea or coffee – which went down well (pardon the pun)!

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 got off to a flying start and set the bar high with a plus 15 score that was going to take some beating. As it turned out, nobody came near to it and after the two matches were completed, Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 were way out in front.

The weather was kind to us and the camaraderie was there for all to see. Brother Kenny Morrison, represented Provincial Grand Lodge, who were engaged on other Masonic business, and presented the prizes to the winners.



On this occasion, the winners were Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 represented by Brothers T Heggarty (Lead), J Docherty and skipped by J D Thomson.

Runners-up were a team made up of Brothers Malky Sinclair (1121) and John Freeburn (1425), while the wooden spoon was “won” if that is the word, by a team from Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 who debatably were led by Brother Tom Macdougall. The spoon was conveniently forgotten by Brother Clive but along with all the other items, will be presented at the various Lodge Installations.



A raffle was organised by Brother Kennedy of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and raised £85, which will be donated to a Charity of the Provincial Grand Master’s choice.

All in all, it was a successful day and here’s to next year – let the games begin.

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. Since the last issue (April) of the West Column, the following visits were made;

April:

Friday 1st – The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 – Lecture

Sunday 3rd – Annual joint Divine Service of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Tuesday 5th – Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII – Raising

Thursday 7th – Lodge Thistle and Crown No. 1167, Neilston – Entering and annual visit by Provincial Grand Lodge Renfrewshire East.

Friday 8th – Lodge Greenock St. John’s No. 175 – Passing.

Saturday 9th – Bi-annual meeting of Provincial Grand Masters in Perth.
Monday 11th – Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 – Passing conferred by Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.
Tuesday 12th – Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 – Passing
Wednesday 13th – Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 – Annual Visit and Mark Degree.
Thursday 14th – Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 – Lecture.
Tuesday 19th – Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII – Mark Degree.
Wednesday 20th – Royal Arch Chapter Meeting.
Thursday 21st – Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 – Annual Visit, Passing and Presentation of Certificate of Service to Brother William M H Macfarlane, Past Master and Past Provincial Grand Master.
Friday 22nd – Attended Education Dinner of Provincial Grand Lodge Renfrewshire East accompanied by DepPGM Brother John Keith.

May:

Friday 13th – Lodge Largs St. John No. 173 – Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 conferring an Mark Degree.
Saturday 14th – Took part in Zip line Challenge in aid of Prostate Cancer Scotland (see report).
Friday 27th – Hosted the Annual Provincial Ball (see report).

June:

Thursday 2nd – Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII – Past Masters' degree (Entering).
Saturday 4th – Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 – bi-annual visit of Gibson Lodge No. 87 (IC).
Saturday 11th – Provincial Grand Masters' degree at Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew No. 426 to mark the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Marcus Humphrey House.
Sunday 12th – Attended the annual BBQ at Marcus Humphrey House (see report).
Tuesday 14th – Attended a meeting of the Information and Communications Committee at Grand Lodge.
Wednesday 15th – Attended the funeral of Brother William McIntosh, Past Master, Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624.
Saturday 18th – Attended the 250th anniversary rededication ceremony of Lodge St. Mark's No. 102 in the Province of Glasgow.

July:

Tuesday 12th – Attended a regular meeting of Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew No. 426 (Entering).
Thursday 14th – Attended an Education Working Group Meeting in Perth.

August:

Tuesday 9th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew No. 426 (Passing).
Tuesday 16th – Attended the Regular Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kilwinning, accompanied by DPGM Brother John Keith, Brother Alan Beck and Brother Jim McCorkell. Brother Malcolm Sinclair and Brother Allan Glen were also present.
Wednesday 17th – Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge Committee.
Monday 22nd – Attended the annual Dinner of Right Worshipful Masters.

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 of which they are a member, have visiting rights withdrawn as well as the privileges which would normally be afforded to them in their Mother Lodges.

Marcus Humphrey House:

Homes Degree.

Due to my absence on holiday, I missed the annual Homes Degree hosted by Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 in aid of the Marcus Humphrey House and am indebted to Depute Provincial Grand Master Brother John R S Keith for leading the deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge to this increasingly popular event. Another full house witnessed an excellent degree carried out by the Masters of the various lodges in the Province, led by Brother Nicholas RR Stetz, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626. A record total of £1,000 was raised on the evening and was presented at the annual BBQ at the House on Sunday 12th June by Right Worshipful Master Brother Stetz accompanied by Right Worshipful Master Brother Paul Docherty of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.



Right Worshipful Master Brother Paul Docherty, Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 accompanied by Right Worshipful Master Brother Nicky Stetz presenting a cheque for £1,000 to Brother James Marcus Humphrey, Past Grand Master.

I had also been asked by the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII to present on his behalf a cheque, also for the sum of £1,000, which was part of the proceeds from the Lodge's annual Charity Burns Supper.



The previous day, Saturday 11th June, had witnessed a packed Lodge in Renfrew, for a degree carried out by a number of Provincial Grand Masters from the Provinces supporting the Marcus Humphrey Home.

Chaired by Brother John S Miller, Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West, the Entered Apprentice Degree was conferred in an excellent and expert manner in the presence of a deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland



In total, over the weekend, around £8,000 was raised to supplement the comforts of the residents of the Home.

Charity Zip line Challenge in aid of Prostate Cancer Scotland.

It was perhaps a case of the sun shining on the righteous on Saturday 14th May as during a spell of not so good weather, the clouds cleared on a glorious day at Finnieston in Glasgow for the Zip line Challenge in aid of Prostate Cancer Scotland, the chosen charity of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason. This was the culmination of months of planning by the committee formed to organise the event under the hard-working guidance of Brother Tom Davidson, the Provincial Grand Master of Lanarkshire Middle Ward who put in an extraordinary amount of work in ensuring the success of the event.

When we first met to plan the event, it was thought that a figure of £35,000 would be a reasonable target to achieve. However, we underestimated the generosity and enthusiasm of the participants and contributors as the final total was around the £120,000 mark which was a wonderful and satisfactory achievement for all concerned.

It is not often that we are able to achieve positive press coverage especially in the national press but I am pleased to confirm that event was well covered in both national and local press including the Greenock Telegraph. (I must say as an aside that the Greenock Telegraph is always more than happy to publish any articles that we send them and I would urge the Masters and Secretaries of the Lodges in the Province to consider this carefully. It was once commonplace to see reports of the annual Installations in the Province).

This Province played its part in the event with ten of our brethren taking up the challenge and around £5,500 being contributed by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

My sincere thanks go to the following brethren, who participated along with myself;

Brother Allan Glen and Bob Bain of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Brothers Jim Campbell and Tom Harkins of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

Brothers Fraser Hamilton and Jamie Donnelly of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Brother John Laird of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

Brothers Robert Harron and Scott Kerr of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.



Not sure what the collective term is for a group of Provincial Grand Masters (and no, I'm not looking for suggestions)! We'll go with a posse of PGMs presenting a cheque to Mr Adam Gaines of Prostate Cancer Scotland on the day for £100,000. This was later increased to £115,000 and presented at Grand Lodge at the June Communication. The most recent total is £120,000.

Participants:

From Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII; Brothers Bob Bain and Allan Glen;
From Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175; Brothers Jim Campbell and Tom Harkins;
From Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217; Brother Fraser Hamilton;
From Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and Provincial Grand Lodge; the Provincial Grand Master!
From Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121; Brother John Laird;
From Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425; Brothers Scott Kerr and Robert Harron.



Those daring young men, Brother Scott Kerr (showing off with no hands) as he flies across the Clyde!

Brother Allan Glen with the more sensible approach of clinging on with both hands.



Provincial Ball.

What started as a one-off event in 2014, to mark the Drummond year of celebrations, seems to have become an annual event. There were around 180 at the Ball in 2014, increasing to around 210 in 2015 and this year around 255 brethren and their partners made their way to Greenock Town Hall on Friday 27th May for this year's Annual Provincial Ball.

It was a delight to again welcome distinguished brethren and their ladies from the neighbouring Provinces, which is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the Province and to improve its profile. The evening started with a small reception in the Grand Corridor for the visiting brethren and the Right Worshipful Masters of the Province and I am indebted to the Provost of Inverclyde for granting the use of the Grand Corridor and to Depute Provost Brother David Wilson for hosting the event.

The Ball itself followed the pattern of the last two years with the top table being piped in to the hall. Following welcoming remarks to all, we sat down to another sumptuous meal served by Brother Tony Buckley and his wonderful team before relaxing and dancing the night away to the sounds of the Capitol Big Band.



The evening is never intended to be a fund-raiser, more an opportunity for the brethren to let their hair down after a successful session and for their wives and partners to enjoy a good night out. However, I am pleased to advise that as a result of the raffles and auction, your generous contributions added around £2,500 to the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Fund.

As stated above, the popularity of the Ball seems to be increasing every year and we are now approaching the limit of the capacity of the Town Hall. I therefore expect that demand for tickets will be high for next year's event which will take place on Saturday 27th May. Note that it will be on a Saturday next year which brethren might find more acceptable.

One small point Brethren in that it was agreed prior to the very first Ball back in 2014, that the event was for members of the Craft and their partners only.



Line-up of the Right Worshipful Masters and their partners along with the Provincial Grand Master and Mrs Elspeth Livingstone, taken in the Council Chambers at the pre-dinner reception. Also present is Depute Provost Brother David Wilson.

Grand Lodge.

A reminder that the next regular communication of Grand Lodge will take place on Thursday 27th October and that the Festival of St. Andrew will take place on Thursday 24th November. Further details will be provided in next month's edition of the West Column.

In my leader column, I referred to a poem entitled "Judge Softly", I would commend that you take a moment to read the full version reproduced below:

Judge Softly - Walk a Mile in His Moccasins

Pray, don't find fault with the man that limps,
or stumbles along the road.
Unless you have worn the moccasins he wears,
or stumbled beneath the same load.

There may be tears in his soles that hurt
though hidden away from view.
The burden he bears placed on your back
may cause you to stumble and fall, too.

Don't sneer at the man who is down today
unless you have felt the same blow
that caused his fall or felt the shame
that only the fallen know.

You may be strong, but still the blows
that were his, unknown to you in the same way,
may cause you to stagger and fall, too.

Don't be too harsh with the man that sins.
or pelt him with words, or stone, or disdain.
Unless you are sure you have no sins of your own,
and it's only wisdom and love that your heart contains.

For you know if the tempter's voice
should whisper as soft to you,
as it did to him when he went astray,
it might cause you to falter, too.

Just walk a mile in his moccasins
before you abuse, criticize and accuse.
If just for one hour, you could find a way
to see through his eyes, instead of your own muse.

I believe you'd be surprised to see
that you've been blind and narrow minded, even unkind.
There are people on reservations and in the ghettos
who have so little hope, and too much worry on their minds.

Brother, there but for the grace of God go you and I.
Just for a moment, slip into his mind and traditions
and see the world through his spirit and eyes
before you cast a stone or falsely judge his conditions.

Remember to walk a mile in his moccasins
and remember the lessons of humanity taught to you by your elders.
We will be known forever by the tracks we leave
in other people's lives, our kindnesses and generosity.

Take the time to walk a mile in his moccasins.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING MARCH.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 6th – Passing and Ballot

Tuesday 20th – Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No. 370

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 5th – Business Meeting and Ballot

Monday 12th – Passing

Monday 19th – Entering

Monday 26th – Raising

Social Scene

During the summer months, the Lodge will continue with its regular Saturday Night Social from 8.30 until midnight which includes, bingo, raffle and the joker draw.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 9th – Raising conferred by Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121. The meeting will commence at 7.15 pm with deputations received at 7.30 pm.

Friday – 23rd – Presentation of 50 year Jubilee Certificate to Brother Alexander Galbraith, Past Master of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175, Past Provincial Grand Master, and Past Substitute Grand Master.

Friday 30th – Special Meeting – Passing.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 1st – Passing (Exemplification) and Ballot

Thursday 15th – Entering.

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.

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 7th – Entering (Exemplification) and presentation of Honorary Membership.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 5th – Enquiry and General Committee Meetings.

Monday 12th – Entering

Monday 26th – Annual General Meeting (7.00 pm) followed by a Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII (8.00 pm).



Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 14th – Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Gleniffer No. 1219.

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.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 6th – Meeting of Finance and General Committees

Tuesday 13th – Raising

Tuesday 27th – Lecture and presentation of Jubilee Certificates to Brothers Iain Freer, Thomas Kay, David Hair and James Strachan.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

No information received – please refer to the Greenock Telegraph.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

No information received – please refer to the Greenock Telegraph.

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.

Wednesday 21st September – Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 19th October – Annual Installation.

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 1st – Royal Arch Degree conferred by Baron of Renfrew RAC (7.30PM).

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.

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

The Wee Corner

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

CHARITY NEWS

STAMP APPEAL.

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

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

ANNIVERSARY LAPEL BADGES.

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



Badges, may be purchased individually by qualified Brethren, or in bulk by Lodges who may wish to make presentations to deserving Brethren, for meritorious service. All enquiries and orders to 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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Brother Peter Wilson PM1425 submitted this historic photograph taken in 1915 at the laying of the foundation stone of the Capitol Building in Missouri.

Advert:



First ABC Training

07958940412

First Aid Training Courses



First ABC Training provide first aid training courses to groups and individuals throughout the UK.

We regularly work with local authorities, members of the public and companies in industries including education, catering, construction, and more.

Our courses are a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical sessions. They are designed to give you the ability and practical confidence to protect your family, friends, colleagues, and members of the community.

What courses are available?

We provide flexible training and curriculums that vary in length to suit your requirements; including 1 and 3 day first aid courses, as well as programmes up to 12 hours and 6 hours or under.

This makes it easier for HR, Health and Safety, Training and Compliance Managers to arrange sessions around their different needs and availability.

Below are some of our most popular courses:

- [3 Day First Aid at Work](#)
- [1 Day EFAW](#)
- AED (Defibrillator)
- [Basic Life Support](#)
- [Appointed Persons](#)
- [Paediatric First Aid Training 6 Hour](#) and [12 Hour](#)

Bryn Hopper Training Manager.

(Brother Bryn Hopper is a member of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626).

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.

Advert:

McPherson's Plumbing & Bathroom Centre

11, Clarence Street, Greenock PA15 1LR

Telephone: 01475 720881

Website:

www.afmcperson@btconnect.com



A LITTLE BIT OF OUR HISTORY

A local family business established over 140 years ago, continues to develop new services.

McPherson's, founded by the great grandfather of the present owner Bill Knox, Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626, offers their customers a wide range of plumbing and building products from a nail to complete bathrooms. A supply only or supply and fit service is available with free design. The front counter staff of Morag, John and Mark, Bill's son in law, are able to provide advice on a wide range of plumbing and building matters.

A supply only or supply and fit service is available with free design.

From Contemporary Bathroom Design to Traditional Bathrooms we offer bathroom suites, plumbing accessories, bathroom sinks and taps, and bathroom accessories.

Stop by today to view some of our showroom examples or to pick up at catalogue containing 100s of options for you next bathroom project!

With over 100 baths available to order you're sure to find exactly what you're looking for in your new bathroom design.

McPhersons are the major stockist in the area of a wide range of pipes and gutters in different profiles and colours, manufactured by Flowplast, Brett Martin and Polypipe. Many of the stockists in Glasgow can't match the range of sizes and colours available in our store.

Deliveries in Inverclyde are free on orders over £100!

Friendly service and value for money along with quality are all important to the staff, whether it's a tap washer or complete bathroom, DIY and trade customers will all receive the same professional attention.

OPENING TIMES:

8.30am - 5.00pm Monday thru Friday and 9.00am - 4.00pm Saturday

Advert:

sales@etprint.com		www.etprint.com 01475 650706
IT COMPUTER PRODUCTS 61 Shore Street: Gourock: PA19 1RF		
PC & LAPTOP SALES AND REPAIR CENTRE		
Custom built PCs for business and home - Laptop sales & service No Fix No Fee - Guaranteed Work - Fully Insured. Wide range of compatible Inkjet & laser toner cartridges for printers, copiers and faxes		
	PHONE - TABLET & GADGET SALES & REPAIR CENTRE	
www.itechinverclyde.co.uk	You break it! We repair it... Tel: 01475 650706	

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.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – September 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 st 217 – Passing (E) and Ballot RAC 289 – RA Degree conferred by Baron of Renfrew RAC.	2 nd 1814 - Meeting	3 rd	4 th
5 th 68 – Business Meeting and Ballot 626 – Enquiry and General Committee	6 th XII – Passing and Ballot 1121 – Finance and General Committee	7 th	8 th 1425 - Meeting	9 th 175 – Raising (conferred by Lodge 1121 – 7.15 pm)	10 th	11 th
12 th 68 – Passing 626 - Entering	13 th 1121 - Raising	14 th 624 – Entering (E) and presentation. 989 – Meeting	15 th 217 - Entering	16 th	17 th	18 th
19 th 68 - Entering	20 th XII – Passing conferred by Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No. 370	21 st RAC XVII - AGM	22 nd	23 rd 175 – Presentation of 50 year Service diploma.	24 th	25 th
26 th Raising 68 – 626 – AGM (7.00 pm) and Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.	27 th 1121 – Lecture and Presentation of Jubilee Certificates.	28 th	29 th	30 th 175 – Special Meeting (Passing).		

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Exemplifi
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*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