



The West Column



Practice makes perfect or so the old saying goes.

My granddaughter has taken up the clarinet! It's OK I don't want your sympathy, even although the house now resounds to what I can only describe as painful shrieks making it sound as if there is a Hallow'een party underway.

As a former horn, euphonium and double bass player, my liking has always been for the premier section of the band, the brass of course (sorry Allan Glen), so to have to listen to the sounds of an embryonic Acker Bilk is not the most enjoyable time of the day!

In fairness, the shrieks have been getting less and the quality of the full rounded notes is a little bit more in evidence as she undertakes her 30 minutes practice every day (is it only 30 minutes)? Whether this is helped by my comments of "that sounds better Kaitlyn, practice makes perfect" or not, I'm not sure. I do keep saying to her though, that if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing well.

Criticism should be healthy, it should be encouraging but it should be gently offered. Past Masters in particular often get a bad name, sometimes deserved it must be said, of making unhelpful comments – "it wasn't done like that in my term" etc. Indeed, later in the Column, you will see that you can even purchase a "Grumpy Old Past Master" badge.

If truth be told, such criticism is not restricted to Past Masters but it seems that anyone who offers to undertake work of any kind for the Lodge can be subjected to criticism from all parts. Maybe it's a Scottish thing. "I'm not willing to do the work myself but that will not stop me having a go at someone else".

How much better and how much more appreciated is a word of gentle guidance or encouragement? How often do we hear of office-bearers being criticised because they "are not carrying out the office as they should be"!

Has anyone actually taken the time to explain the duties of the office?

Which brings me to the point of this leader this month. As we head into the installation season, I would appeal to those senior brethren who are taking part in the installation ceremonies to be sure to take time to explain the duties of the office to each Brother being installed. I spoke of this at the recent communication of Provincial Grand Lodge.

It is disappointing to hear a Brother being installed into office with the words, "you have been doing this job for 10 years, so there is no point in me telling you your duties".

Firstly, he may very well have been in office for 10 years but has the job been done correctly? Secondly and more importantly, there will inevitably be brethren present at an installation for the first time, they will not have heard the ritual and they will not be aware of the duties attached to each office. Is it any wonder that some problems occur if we do not adequately prepare brethren for their future career in the Lodge?

Is it any wonder that sometimes attendances at installation meetings are low if we take a half-hearted approach to the ritual work involved? What would happen at a normal degree meeting if someone went on the floor and simply said, "most of you have heard the tools before, so I'll not bother going through the whole ritual"?

So brethren, I make this appeal to all who are involved in forthcoming installations to make them special, not only for the brethren being installed but also for the brethren attending the ceremony and most importantly, for the next generation of potential office-bearers.

And for those seasoned ritualists, be gentle with your criticism, it is much more likely to be held in high regard.

A last word on the clarinet practice, I fear my granddaughter may have Van Gogh's ear for music but we shall persevere with a kindly word and much loved encouragement. In fairness, as a clarinet player, she's a brilliant gymnast!

Regards,
Jim

Visiting:

Brethren, it is always hard to make a valued judgement without examining the actual attendance figures. However, having visited all of the Lodges in the Province since the start of the session, I have the impression that the numbers, especially of visitors, is slightly down. This may be due to the very good weather we have experienced during the month of October with brethren making the most of it before the winter really sets in. I would encourage you all, especially the Masters and Wardens to make every attempt to support not only your own Lodge but also the sister Lodges in the Province wherever you can. While we are a small Province, one of our strengths is that we are a close-knot Province and generally when I attend a Lodge I will see three, four sometimes more Right Worshipful Masters present and representatives from most of the Lodges. That has not been quite so evident since the start of the session so I would exhort you all to try and find a night in your diaries and get along and support the sister Lodges.

In our own Lodges, we look to receive visitors but as in every walk of life, you reap the rewards of your own efforts.

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!

I must say that there has been little response to the above note since its first publication in September's edition. If this is not a feature which is of interest to the brethren, I will review the matter in the new-year. I am a little surprised that there has been little take-up, especially by the tradesmen amongst the brethren. This is a chance to advertise your services and/or products free of charge to a readership of around 500 every month.

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

Provincial Website. For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to www.pgllrw.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:

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).

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. 27 th January	SPGW
217	Fri 25 th November	Alistair Glenny	Thur. 20 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. 12 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	

Please note that there is a change to the dates of the visits to Lodges 175 and 1121 from those published previously.

Byelaws and Notices of Motion:

Brethren, could I please urge you to ensure that any proposed changes to bye-laws be discussed with the Provincial Grand Secretary BEFORE compiling a Notice of Motion for submission to the Lodge. This will ensure that the Motion is in an acceptable format and avoid any delays caused by having to have the proposal reworded and resubmitted.

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

The draw for the month of September was made at the regular communication of Provincial Grand Lodge with the winner being Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

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. Although many of the Lodges held their Annual Meetings during the month of October, the following visits were still made;

Saturday 1st – Attended the consecration of Port Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter No. 900 accompanied by Brothers James Cowan and Alan Beck.

Tuesday 4th – An Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Wednesday 5th – Regular Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Monday 10th – Master Mason's Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Wednesday 12th – Attended a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624 as Provincial Grand Master with the kind permission of the Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire as it was the annual visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire. Accompanied by Brother Jim McCorkell.

Saturday 15th – Annual Installation of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626. As I was on duty in the Installing team, the deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge was kindly headed by Depute Provincial Grand Master Brother John R S Keith.

Thursday 20th – Attended a Master Mason's degree at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Saturday 22nd – Attended the Installation Dance at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Monday 24th – Attended a Fellowcraft degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Tuesday 25th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Pollok, Pollokshields No. 772 (Mark Degree).

Thursday 27th – Regular Meeting of Grand Lodge.

Friday 28th – Annual Installation of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

Sunday 30th – Annual Divine Service of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

Monday 31st – Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68, a Master Mason's degree.

Due to a personal engagement, I am unable to attend the Autumn Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire on the afternoon of Sunday 30th October or possibly also the Divine Service of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 on the same evening and my thanks go to those members of Provincial Grand Lodge who represented the Province on that occasion. At the time of compiling this edition of the West Column, some of the above events have still to take place.

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.

Provincial Ball.

It is confirmed that the 2017 Ball will be held on Saturday 27th May. Tickets will be on sale shortly and it is anticipated that there will be a very high demand so the advice is get your order in quickly!

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

Grand Lodge.

Regular Meeting – Thursday 27th October.

Happy to report that the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason being re-elected to serve for a further year making it his ninth year as Grand Master. Also nice to see the Province well represented at the meeting and well done to all the brethren who made it through for the meeting.

Festival of St. Andrew 2016.

The Festival of St. Andrew will take place on Thursday 24th November at 12.00 noon. Brethren attending the dinner which will follow the ceremony will have priority in being admitted to Grand Lodge.

2018 Celebrations to mark the signing of the Armistice on 11th November 1918.

In November 2018, it is intended to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War by holding a Service within Grand Lodge. There will be a short parade beforehand and it is likely, in view of the limitations in the capacity of Grand Lodge, that each Province will be invited to send a limited number of representatives. It is possible that this will be based on the size of each Province and might mean that the Province of Renfrewshire West will be invited to send only two or three representatives.

I have been asked to gauge the likely demand for tickets (no cost involved) and attending such an event is something that would be of interest to you, please let me know.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING OCTOBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 1st – AGM and Fellowcraft degree to be conferred by Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning No. 4 (visitors will be admitted at 7.45 pm).

Tuesday 15th – The Annual Installation of the Lodge will take place on Tuesday 15th at 6.15 pm when Brother Allan Thomas Glen will be installed into the chair of his Mother Lodge by Installing Masters Brother Iain White (Principal), Ken Macdougall and Alan D Beck.

Annual Divine Service will take place on Tuesday 6th December 2016 within the Saloon of the Town Hall at 7.30 pm.

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 7th – Monthly Business Meeting

Monday 14th – Raising (7.15pm).

Monday 21st – Raising (7.15 pm).

Monday 28th – AGM and election of office-bearers.

Social Scene

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 14th – Entering conferred by Lodge Bonhill and Alexandria SARA No. 321.

Friday 28th – Passing



Photo shows Brother Eddie Ross, Right Worshipful Master being congratulated by his Installing Masters, Brother Robert P Shields, PM, SPM, Brother Matthew Bell Henderson PM and Brother Alexander Johnstone PM.

An excellent evening at Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 on Friday 28th October where a large number of brethren witnessed the installation of Brother Edward M Ross as Right Worshipful Master (to serve for a 4th year). A wonderful example of installation ritual followed by an excellent harmony dinner.



Coffee Morning - Sat, 5th November 2016 10:00am until 2.00 pm

Brother Robert Johnstone is once again holding a Coffee Morning and is looking for your assistance with donations of Home Baking and bottles etc for the Tombola Stall. Tickets £2.00, Family and friends most welcome. Raffles and Tombola.



Hogmanay Party - Sat, 31st December 2016 8:00pm - Sun, 1st January 2017 2:00am

The Lodge will once again be holding an Hogmanay Party this year. This is always an excellent night and a great way to see out 2016 and bring in 2017. Tickets are priced at £10 each and will sell out very quickly so please contact Brother Thomas Porteous now to secure your Tickets. It is open to all so please bring along your Family and Friends and have a great start to the New Year.

Burns Supper - Sat, 14th January 2017 7:00pm - Sun, 15th January 2017 1:00am

The Lodge Burns Supper will take place on Saturday 14th January 2017 and as usual will be an excellent night dedicated to the Immortal Memory of our Nation's Bard. Tickets are on sale now priced at only £12.50 each and can be obtained from Brother Alex Johnstone. Wives, partners and friends all welcome. Ticket includes speakers, entertainment and meal,

This special event is open to all Members, Family and Friends so please book your Tickets now.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 3rd – AGM and election of office-bearers.

Thursday 17th – Fellowcraft degree conferred by Lodge Barns O' Clyde No. 1018.

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 9th – Election of office-bearers and Ballot.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 14th - Entering

Monday 28th – Raising

The annual Installation of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 took place within the Lodge Temple on Saturday 15th October when a full house witnessed Brother Nicholas R R Stetz being installed into the chair of his Mother Lodge by Past Masters Brother Brian G Hopkins, Kenneth M McCrae and James P Livingstone and also including the Master's Grandfather Past Master Brother Rudolf L Stetz, who at 90 years of age put in a very polished performance (not that we expected anything less)!

Around 100 brethren were present at the meeting which was an excellent start to the installation season and following the ceremony, the majority of the brethren stayed to enjoy the celebration dinner at which the usual masonic toasts were offered.



Brother Nicholas R R Stetz with the office-bearers and Past Masters of the Lodge for session 2016 – 2017.

Otters Cheque presentation:

Swimmers from Port Glasgow Otters have been selected to represent Scotland West at next year's Special Olympics National Summer Games. Katie Boyle, Lindi Steele, Ross O'Donnell and Aimee Hagan will all participate in the five day event which will be held in Sheffield in August 2017. Andrew Hemphill, a coach from Port Glasgow Otters, has also been selected as a team coach for the event. Special Olympics GB is the largest provider of a year-round, all ability, sports program in the United Kingdom and supports over 10,000 athletes with intellectual (learning) disabilities on a continued basis. The National Summer Games is held every four years within different Cities across the U.K. The competitors and coach, Andrew Hemphill, need to raise a total of at least £2500, £500 each, to cover the participation costs for the event. After a fundraiser held at 626 the Lodge became aware of the level of funds the kids had to raise just to send themselves to the Special Olympics.



After a most successful first run of our 'Charity Chase the Ace' this seemed a very appropriate use for the funds which had been raised from all the Brethren of the Province and beyond. RWM Nicky Stetz expresses his most grateful thanks to all the brethren who supported the Chase the Ace scheme, it is through their generosity that 626 were able to support this worthwhile cause.

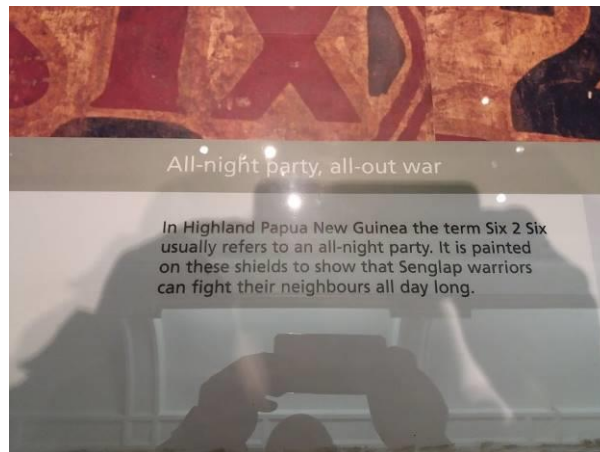
A little piece of culture for you all!



I was in the Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery recently and was intrigued by the exhibit shown on the left which is a war shield from Papua New Guinea.

Obviously what caught my attention was the number 626, the number of my Mother Lodge.

The explanation is also photographed below – so now you know Brethren!!!



Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 9th – Raising, conferred by Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121.

Friday 18th – Annual Installation (7.00 pm).

Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 8th – Passing (Exemplification)

Tuesday 22nd – To be confirmed

Friday 4th - The annual Installation of the Lodge will take place on Friday 4th November at 6.15 pm when Right Worshipful Master – elect Brother Malcolm Sinclair will be installed into the chair of his mother Lodge by Brother Michael O'Neill, assisted by Brother Thomas More and Brother George J Carson all Past Masters of the Lodge.

The Lodge will also be conferring a Master Mason's degree at Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 on Wednesday 9th November.

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 10th – No information provided.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

The Lodge is now in recess until April.

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.

Meetings for the session ahead.

Wednesday 16 November MA & EM
Wednesday 21 December RA
Wednesday 18 January Provincial Visit
Wednesday 15 February MA & EM
Wednesday 15 March RA
Wednesday 19 April MA & EM
Wednesday 17 May RA

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 3rd – Excellent Master's Degree

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

Tuesday 15th – KHS Grade

The Wee Corner

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

CHARITY NEWS

STAMP APPEAL.

Please remember that Brother Bill Crumlish of Lodge Firth of Clyde, 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 that 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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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.

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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.

Advert: (Brother Russell Johnston, Lodge Sir Michael No. 989).



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Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – November 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 st XII – Passing conferred by Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning No. 4	2 nd Preceptory of Ardgowan	3 rd 217 – AGM and Election of office-bearers (Members only). RAC 289 – EM Degree	4 th 1121 – Annual Installation (6.15 pm).	5 th 175 – Coffee Morning 10.00 am	6 th
7 th 68 – Business Meeting	8 th 1121 – Passing (E)	9 th 624 – Election of Office- bearers and Ballot 989 – Raising conferred by Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121.	10 th 1425 -	11 th 175 – Entering conferred by Lodge 321	12 th	13 th
14 th 68 – Raising (7.15 pm) 626 - Entering	15 th XII – Annual Installation (6.15 pm) SGC 79 – KHS Grade	16 th RAC XVII – MA and EM	17 th 217 – Passing conferred by Lodge Barns O' Clyde No. 1018	18 th 989 – Annual Installation (7.00 pm).	19 th	20 th
21 st 68 – Raising (7.15 pm)	22 nd 1121 – To be confirmed.	23 rd	24 th Grand Lodge Festival of St. Andrew.	25 th 175 – Passing. 217 – Annual Installation (6.45 pm).	26 th	27 th
28 th 68 – AGM and election of office-bearers. 626 - Raising	29 th	30 th				

(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.pg1rw.org