



The West Column



Brethren, I was amused by a story I heard on the radio the other day and it related to reactions to a situation where God had spoken to mankind and told them that it was his intention to send a great flood in three days-time which would cover the earth and effectively put an end to human life as we know it.

When hearing of this, the head of the Buddhist religion called on everyone to immediately embrace the one true religion.

The head of the Christian Church, called on all sinners to repent and to embrace the teaching of Jesus.

The Chief Rabbi on the other hand stated, "My people, we have three days to learn to live underwater"!

A pragmatic approach to a problem and that is perhaps what we need in freemasonry right at this very moment.

I mentioned last month about a questionnaire that had been sent out to all Provinces to gather information on what were considered to be the main concerns shared by those within the Scottish Craft and to no surprise the two main areas of concern were recruitment and retention.

I became a member of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626, forty years ago this month and on the evening of my initiation, I joined the Lodge along with another 4 brethren which was not unusual at that time. Neither was it unusual to find at a Mark degree, the candidates lined up in rows, three deep with anything from fifteen to twenty candidates taking their Mark degree on the same evening. Now many Lodges are fortunate to be able to initiate one or two candidates each year.

Our traditional "recruiting" grounds in Inverclyde, no longer exist. Gone are the shipyards and engineering works with their Masonic Associations. Young men now work shift patters which are no longer compatible with active membership of a Lodge.

In the 1960/70's, sufficient candidates were initiated to allow, even with a retention rate of around 20% after five years, a steady flow of office-bearers some of whom would go on to become Right Worshipful Masters of their respective Lodges. Sadly now, when I undertake an annual visit to a Lodge, it is often the case that the number of obituaries outnumber the intake of initiates. Add to that the fact that the retention rate for new intrants is probably around 20% and it is not difficult to arrive at the conclusion that the present situation is not sustainable in the long term.

We must very quickly learn to be able to live underwater!

We must freshen up our ideas and actively recruit suitable gentlemen for membership of our Lodges. It is likely that there are many men in their middle years, whose families have perhaps grown up and have both the time and the resources to become good members of the Craft. Experience has shown that very often, new members who fall into this category become very active and supportive members of the Lodge.

We must work much harder on behalf of new members to make their membership as enjoyable and as fulfilling as possible. They must be made to feel welcome and to feel included as part of our Masonic family. We must find out what the younger members of the Lodge are looking for from their membership before they drift away and are lost to the Craft. Experience shows that once a Brother has been lost to the Craft for more than 12 months, it is unlikely that he will ever resume his membership unless and until he wishes to propose or second a candidate.

The average age of the membership of our Lodges is probably in the 50 to 60 age range. It is not appropriate for such brethren to determine what social activities brethren in the twenties and thirties are looking for. They must be involved in such matters.

I don't pretend to have the answers to all the problems that the Craft faces in this day and age but to ignore them is not the answer. We must actively seek solutions some of which may be unpalatable. We must try new things, some of which I mentioned in a previous leader column.

Brethren, it's time that we started to learn to live underwater!

Regards,
Jim



Brethren, I've often made reference to my short walks around the local countryside with my grandson and as we were out for our usual walk recently, near to Mar Hall in Erskine, we came across this carpet of snowdrops which perhaps act as a welcome reminder that Spring may indeed be just around the corner!

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:

Happily it would appear that the tradesmen who are members of the Craft in the Province all have plenty of work as nobody has taken up my offer of free advertising in the West Column. I will happily continue to advertise those companies who have asked to be included and in the event that any individual Brother would like to advertise his professional services in the future, I will gladly include their details.

News of Special Meeting:

During the course of this Commission, we have tried ways for new initiates, of providing greater insight into the various degrees, from seminars to booklets. On Thursday 16th February, Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 have kindly agreed to undertake an exemplification of an Entered Apprentice degree as a "walk through" degree. In essence, the degree will be interrupted at appropriate points in order to provide a fuller explanation of what is happening.

I would encourage all Right Worshipful Masters to ensure that all brethren, particularly those who have been initiated in recent years, are made aware of this opportunity and to encourage support at this meeting.

It would be intended later in the session to organise a similar "walk through" of a Fellowcraft degree.

**** - 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:

2017:

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

While there is no charge for the meeting itself, brethren wishing to stay for the Supper which follows the meeting can purchase a ticket, available through their respective Lodges at a cost of £10.00. While there are no formal speeches at the harmony, there will be a presentation of this year's Citizen of the Year Award which for 2016, will be presented to representatives of REACH Inverclyde, which provides support for adults and young people with autism. The members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West are always very supportive of the Daughter Lodges throughout the year and this is an opportunity to reciprocate that support. In view of the way in which the calendar works, this will also be the last annual meeting of the current Commission and the support of the Lodges would be very welcome on this occasion. The deputations from the sister Provinces will be headed by the new Provincial Grand Master of Dunbartonshire, Brother James Forrest.

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 Glenney	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. 10 th January	SubPGM
1425	Fri 2 nd December	Alan Beck	Thur. 9 th February	SubPGM
1814	October (2017)		Friday 6 th October	

Provincial visitations during February will be to Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 on Thursday 9th and to Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 on Monday 20th February.

In the event that any Provincial Office-bearer is unable to make any of the above dates, it would be appreciated if an apology could be registered with Provincial Grand Secretary in advance of the meeting.

The Annual Visit to The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 is changed to October to the night of the annual installation.

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 December was made at the annual visit of Provincial Grand Lodge to Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 and the winner was Brother Paul Stewart of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

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. During the month of January, the following visits were made;

Saturday 6th: Along with my wife, we attended the annual senior citizen's dinner of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121.

Monday 9th: Attended a Fellowcraft degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

Tuesday 10th: Headed a deputation of Provincial Grand Lodge for the annual visit to Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121.

Wednesday 11th: Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.

Thursday 12th: Accompanied Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 to Lodge The Gael No. 609 (see later report).

Friday 13th: Attended the annual Installation of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624.

Monday 16th: Delivered the Immortal Memory at the annual Burns Supper of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

Tuesday 17th: Attended a meeting of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII for a visit by The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566.

Thursday 19th: Attended an exemplification of a Fellowcraft degree at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Friday: 20th: Attended a meeting of the Information and Communications (sub-group) of Grand Lodge held in Glasgow.

Saturday 21st: Attended a meeting of the Installed Masters' Lodge in the Province of Worcestershire (see report) as guest of Brother Richard Harrison.

Monday 24th: Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Tuesday 25th: Attended a meeting of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 (series of short lectures and Burns Harmony).

Friday 26th: Headed a deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge for the annual visitation to Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

Saturday 27th: Accompanied by Provincial Grand Secretary, Brother Robin McIntyre and Past Provincial Grand Master, Brother Alexander Galbraith, I was privileged to head the deputations from the sister Provinces to the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire (also delivered toast to the Province).

Also on Saturday 27th, I am grateful to Substitute Provincial Grand Master Brother Robert P Shields, accompanied by Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Brother James Cowan and Provincial Grand Tyler, Brother James McCorkell who represented the Province at the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East.

Report:

On Saturday 21st, I was delighted to accept an invitation from Brother Richard Harrison, Past Master of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and also Immediate Past Master of Robin Hood Lodge (EC) in the Province of Worcestershire. The occasion was a meeting of the Worcestershire Installed Masters Lodge No. 6889 where the guest speaker was the RW Brother Sir David Hugh Wootton, Assistant Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, whose talk was on the subject of Recruitment and Retention. Subjects currently exercising our own minds in Scotland.

The meeting was followed by a dinner dance at which the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire announced its fundraising target for the next five years up until 2022. Needless to say the target announced at the dinner was £2,022,000 and we obviously wish them every success in meeting that target.

It was an excellent day and I was made most welcome by all including the Assistant Grand Master and my thanks go to Brother Richard Harrison and his colleagues at Robin Hood Lodge for their kindness over the weekend. Robin Hood Lodge hope to visit Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 in the Autumn and I look forward to that very much indeed.



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 are now on sale 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.

A reminder that the regular communication of Grand Lodge will take place on Thursday 2nd February at 2.00 pm. Brethren to be seated by 1.50 pm. As always, it is heartening to see brethren from the Province taking their seats within Grand Lodge and it is hoped that all brethren will take the opportunity to visit Grand Lodge as often as possible.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING DECEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 7th - Entering
Tuesday 21st - Raising

Saturday 25th February - Charity Burns Supper - Greenock Town Hall - 6.30pm for 7.00pm start -
Tickets £20

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

Sunday 5th - joint Divine Service with 217 in St Andrews Church Port Glasgow at 7pm

Monday 6th - Business Meeting

Monday 13th - Exemplification of an E.A. degree by Lodge St John Kilwinning Largs No 173 - 7.30pm

Monday 20th -Annual Visitation by Provincial Grand Lodge and exemplification of F.C. Degree

Monday 27th February - to be confirmed.

Social Scene

Our regular Saturday dances continue every week from 8.30 until midnight

Also available is our Joker Prize. Tickets cost £1 and can be purchased on a Monday night from Bro. George Taft or on a Saturday night at the dance.

We are now selling tickets for our Annual Spring Draw to be held on 3rd April. The first prize is a 32" smart tv. There will be lots of other prizes, consisting mainly of booze and the occasional unwanted Christmas present. Tickets are available from J.W. Bro. Jim Hamilton or from the bar and are a bargain at £1 a ticket.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 10th – To be confirmed and Ballot

Friday 24th – To be confirmed.

Congratulations to Brother David McShane on being presented with his 60 year service diploma at the annual visitation of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West to his Mother Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 on Friday 27th January.

Brother McShane is well known and respected around the Province and beyond as a regular visitor and supporter of all the sister Lodges as well as many other Orders in freemasonry. This is one occasion when we refer to a service diploma we really mean **service** of the very highest order! Congratulations Brother McShane and a very happy birthday.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 2nd – Raising (Exemplification)

Thursday 16th – Entering (Exemplification). This meeting will include a “walk through” degree to help newer brethren in particular, to a better understanding of the content, meaning and lessons of the degree. The “walk through” has been developed in order that parts of the ritual can be explained as the degree proceeds.

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 8th – Fellowcraft degree and conferring of honorary membership.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 13th – Passing

Monday 27th – Raising (Past Master's degree).

Annual Burns Supper.

Once again, the Lodge held a very successful Burns Supper, with the slight twist that most of the performers were members of the Lodge. Past Master Brother Jim Livingstone provided the Immortal Memory, which by all accounts was the first time a Past Master of the Lodge had carried out this task since 1966, when the late Brother Archibald Glass PM was the principal speaker. The toast to the Lasses was offered by Senior Warden Brother David Stevenson while the response on behalf of the lasses was provided by Brother Jim Porter, Past Master. The haggis was piped in by Brother Tommy Trotter, Past Master and the readings were by Brother Davie Docherty. The team was able supplemented by Brother Alan Beck, Past Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII and The Princes Lodge No. 607 as we don't have any good singers at 626.



Brother Livingstone proposes the Immortal Memory at the annual Burns Supper while Brother Jim Porter is busily copying down all the good jokes!

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 8th - Entered Apprentice degree. Normally when there is a Father and Son reference it is when the father proposes his son into the Craft. At 989 we have a bit of a change where we have the father of our own Brother Carlo Pieri joining us for his Entered Apprentice degree. Emilio has made a fantastic impression on everyone who has met him and we very much look forward to welcoming him into our fraternity. Hopefully we will see larger numbers to witness this event. Lodge tyles at 730pm as usual with the excellent Lodge Sir Michael Harmony on offer afterwards.

Race Night

It is the intention of the Lodge to hold a Race Night in our own premises. Full details will be circulated to all as soon as they become available.

Founders Trail

We are delighted to announce that the presenters of The Founders Roadshow have confirmed their availability to conduct the Roadshow at Lodge Sir Michael on Friday 21st April 2017. The Founders Trail Roadshow tells the story of the Founders of Glasgow Rangers, from the shores of the Gareloch, to their arrival in Glasgow, their journey to the front door of Ibrox Stadium and beyond. This is done by way of a slide-show presentation. We profile each of our Founders and the subsequent growth of our unique club.

We hope that by telling this story it will give everyone an understanding of the very foundations upon which those four lads built the club. The presentation lasts for approximately 90 mins, with a 20 minute break half way through and there will be an opportunity for a Q&A session at the end.

Full details will be circulated when available, but it is likely to follow the example of the previous, hugely successful, night. Tickets will be priced at £10, which will include a light snack (soup / sandwiches for example) with the bar of course being open.

This night will be open to all. This is genuinely a fantastic experience and one not to be missed. All funds raised will be in aid of the Lodge refurbishment works. Tickets and Full details will be made available as soon as possible but please mark this night in your diary.

Homes Degree – Wednesday 26th April

a) Tickets to be £6 per last year. These will be produced asap and will be sent to all secretaries asap with usual 10 per Lodge.

b) Food of course will be provided.

c) Raffle of £5 per person with names on Envelopes is suggested with the usual array of terrific raffle prizes on offer. We are hopeful of having some larger prizes on the evening, the ENTIRE proceeds of which are donated to Marcus Humphry House as usual.

The "Master" for the evening this year is RWM of Lodge Sir Michael Bro Andrew Forsyth who, no doubt, will be in contact with the Masters of the Province in due course to discuss their various duties for the evening.

Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 14th Entering (Exemplification)
Tuesday 28th - Entering

Honours for Brother George!



One of the great pleasures of being Provincial Grand Master is that I am able to give recognition to those brethren who have made an outstanding contribution to freemasonry in their Lodge, the Province and the Craft in general. It was therefore a huge privilege and pleasure to confer upon Brother George Johnstone Carson (Kit to his many friends), Past Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121, the honorary rank of Honorary Provincial Grand Chaplain at the annual visitation to the Lodge on Tuesday 10th February. Unfortunately, no picture was taken on the evening so I made sure on my next visit to the Lodge, that I was able to capture the award for the sake of posterity. For the record, the previous evening, Brother Carson had been 64 years a member of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 and hopefully it is no secret that in a few months-time, he will celebrate his 90th birthday.

Lodge Crawfurdsburn's Senior Citizen's Lunch

At the turn of the year, Lodge Crawfurdsburn held their annual lunch for the Lodge's senior citizens. This is an event the Lodge has been holding for many years, with its origins being in the times that the Lodge met in McDougall Street, Greenock.

RWM Bro. Malcolm A. Sinclair, who was installed as Master of the Lodge in November, chaired the lunch and he was joined at the top table by the Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West, Bro. James P. Livingstone and his wife together with senior office bearers from the Lodge and their wives.

In time honoured tradition, the four course lunch was served by present office bearers and after the meal the Lodge's senior citizens accompanied by their spouses enjoyed a karaoke session and an impromptu dance.

From all reports those present at the lunch had a most enjoyable time.

Top table:



Waiters (Off-duty)



Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 9th – Fellowcraft degree (exemplification) and annual visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 pm).

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 15 February MA & EM
Wednesday 15 March RA
Wednesday 19 April MA & EM
Wednesday 17 May RA

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 2nd – Provincial Visitation (7.30pm).

March

Thursday 2nd. Excellent Master's degree conferred by Paisley Abbey RAC No. 76. An invitation is extended to all suitably qualified Royal Arch freemasons to attend.

Preceptory of Ardgowan

Venerable Preceptor Kevin Pollock and Office Bearers extend a warm to all Fraters to attend our Musters during 2017 especially those who have been unable to attend recently through other commitments.

MUSTERS and Grades for 2017 are;

Wednesday 01 February – KG
Wednesday 01 March – KG
Wednesday 05 April – KG and District Visit.
Tuesday 03 October – AGM/ Election of office-bearers and MG
Wednesday 01 November – Annual Installation
Wednesday 06 December – KG

- A pocket sized syllabus is also available where required
- Executive Committee dates and times will be advised separately
- All musters are held within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock at 7.30 pm unless otherwise advised.

Please ensure the Secretary has your current contact details.

St. George's Conclave No. 79 -

Next meeting is Tuesday 21st February 2017 (RCC).

The Wee Corner

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

CHARITY NEWS

STAMP APPEAL.

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

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

ANNIVERSARY LAPEL BADGES.

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



Badges, may be purchased individually by qualified Brethren, or in bulk by Lodges who may wish to make presentations to deserving Brethren, for meritorious service. All enquiries and orders to treasurerno12@aol.com
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.

Advert: (Brother Emmanuel Oroh is a member of Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175)
Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd
T: 0777 543 9037
E: anchorlimited73@gmail.com
Reg. No: 09394504

Security Services

In today's commercial environment, Security is paramount to every organisation, but at Anchor Security Services we provide much more than a behind the scenes presence.

We successfully carry out static guarding duties, front of house commissionaire and reception operations, mobile patrols, key holding and alarm response services. We also carry out in-depth property surveys which comply with EEC regulations.

Customer Care

At the forefront of our operative's training is customer care. This allows us to carry out the dual role of a highly trained security operative, and create a professional welcome for your visitors and clients at the crucial first point of contact on your premises.

SIA Licensing

All our security operatives are licensed and regulated by the UK government's Security Industry Authority (SIA). These high standards mean that our clients can have complete confidence in our performance.

In addition, we rigorously vet all our staff to ensure only the highest calibre of applicant are employed by Anchor Security Services.

Cleaning Services offered

Our cleaning services range from daily office cleaning to carpet cleaning, decoration, initial deep cleaning and janitorial service/supplies.

All staff vetted

In accordance with our company policy, all cleaning staff are thoroughly vetted before being employed by Anchor Cleaning Services to ensure the highest levels of security before entering our client's premises.

Janitorial Supplies

As an additional service, we also offer vast range of janitorial supplies to our clients, making the procurement and supply of cleaning duties a one stop operation.

Our Control Centre operates 24 hours each day, every day of the year, contact us using the details.

Emmanuel Oroh

(Manager)

Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd

Advert:



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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Advert:

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

Calendar of Events and Meetings – February 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 st Preceptory of Ardgowan – KG.	2 nd 217 – Raising (E) RAC289 – Provincial Visitation.	3 rd	4 th	5 th 68/217 – Annual Divine Service
6 th 68 – Business Meeting	7 th XII - Entering	8 th 624 – Passing and HM presentation. 989 - Entering	9 th 1425 – Passing (E) and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge.	10 th 175 – TBC and Ballot	11 th	12 th
13 th 68 – Entering (E) by Lodge Largs 173. 626 - Passing	14 th 1121 – Entering (E)	15 th RAC XVII – EM and MA	16 th 217 – Entering (E) – Walk through degree.	17 th	18 th	19 th
20 th 68 – Passing E) and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge (7.15)	21 st XII - Raising SGC No. 79 – RCC Grade	22 nd	23 rd	24 th 175 - TBC	25 th XII – Charity Burns Supper.	26 th
27 th 68 – TBC 626 – Raising (Past Masters' degree).	28 th 1121 - Entering					

(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