

The West Column



Sometimes a phrase or saying just simply sticks in your head for no apparent reason. One such phrase which often comes into my head was one I heard on an edition of the Michael Parkinson show many years ago, when Dame Flora MacLeod was asked why (she would then be in her nineties) did she still retain such a passion for reading and learning. Her reply was simply; "education ceases only with death and only then according to your beliefs". That phrase has resonated with me all those years ago and considering that Dame Flora died in 1976 at the age of 98, you will appreciate that my memory is not too bad after all.

Dame Flora was a very interesting woman. She was actually born in 10, Downing Street, the home of her grandfather, Sir Stafford Northcote, who was, at that time, Chancellor of the Exchequer. In 1901, she married Hubert Walter, who died in 1933 and with whom she had two daughters. Her mother was Lady Agnes Mary Cecilia Northcote and her father was Sir Reginald MacLeod. Sir Reginald became Chief of the Clan MacLeod in 1929 and Flora was elected President of the clan's society and went to live with her father at Dunvegan Castle in Skye. She was widowed in 1933 and upon the death of her father in 1935, she inherited the estate and was recognised as the 28th Clan Chief of the Clan MacLeod. She was created a Dame in 1953 and lived at Dunvegan Castle until 1973 before moving to Ythan Lodge in Aberdeenshire where she died in 1976, aged 98. She is buried at Dunvegan Castle.

Why this biography lesson. Dame Flora, as previously mentioned, had two daughters, Alice (MacLeod) and Joan, who became Mrs Wolrige Gordon and we come to the link between Dame Flora MacLeod and our present Grand Master Mason, Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon.

All of the above is simply a bit of (hopefully) interesting background information. The purpose of this leader item is to draw attention to the words which made such an impression upon me at the time. "Education ceases only with death and only then according to your beliefs".

I was reminded of this recently when I attended the walk through degree which the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 kindly undertook following my request to him and an excellent job he made of it. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening as I believe did most of those who attended. On the evening, we had nearly all the Masters in the Province present along with around 70 brethren from all the Lodges in the Province. The experience was a pleasant change from the usual exemplification which while they serve a purpose when no candidate is present, it cannot be denied that, no matter how well it is executed, there is something missing.

Any criticism that I heard after the meeting was all very positive and we will take a number of suggestions on board but overall, the event was warmly received and is all part of the efforts being made to make membership of the Craft more fulfilling, especially for newer members.

And that is the only part of the evening which was slightly disappointing – there were very few newer members of the Lodges present to hear a fuller explanation of the Entered Apprentice Degree. The assembled brethren mainly comprised of more experienced and established members of the Craft and most welcome they were.

As Dame Flora suggested, education and learning is a lifelong exercise and to quote Isaac Newton, when it comes to freemasonry, “what we know is a drop, what we don’t know is an ocean”.

Over the last few years, we have provided explanatory booklets for new members, we have organised seminars, arranged for members to join in with the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East in their Intender training schemes and now offered the first of hopefully a series of walk through degrees.

It would be hoped that those seasoned members of the Lodges will now go back to their respective Lodges and try and encourage the newer members of the Lodge to come along and support future initiatives.

Education, especially when it comes to freemasonry, is a lifelong (and perhaps longer) vocation!



Dame Flora MacLeod, 28th Chief of the Clan MacLeod and if I have my facts correct, the Great Aunt of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon.

Regards,
Jim

Obituary:**Brother Wilson J McCulloch, Past Master, Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Brother Wilson J McCulloch, Past Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII who served with distinction as Right Worshipful Master of his Mother Lodge but who also served the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West with great respect as Provincial Grand Chaplain.

A wonderful speaker, Brother McCulloch is well remembered for his inspiring sermons at Divine Services and his funeral on 1st March reflected his love for his Lodge, his Craft and his faith.

In addition to family and friends, the Craft was well represented at his funeral by his Lodge, the sister Lodges and Provincial Grand Lodge.

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.

****** - 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:

Provincial Grand Committee:

Could the Commissioned and elective office-bearers please note that due to a clash of dates, the next meeting of Provincial Grand Committee due to be held on Wednesday 15th March has been rearranged to meet on Wednesday 29th March instead. The meeting will take place in the premises of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

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

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 January was made at the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge and the winner was 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 February, the following visits were made;

Saturday 28th. Accompanied by Provincial Grand Secretary Brother Robin McIntyre and Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Alexander Galbraith, I attended the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire.

Saturday 28th. The 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 attended the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East.

Thursday 2nd: Regular Communication of Grand Lodge.

Friday 3rd: Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Sunday 5th: Annual Joint Divine Service of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Tuesday 7th: Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII (Entering).

Thursday 9th: Annual Visit of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Friday 10th: Provincial Grand Lodge Ayrshire Regular communication (Troon) accompanied by Substitute Provincial Grand Master Brother Robert Paul Shields.

Monday 13th: Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 (Passing).

Thursday 16th: Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 (Walk through of Entered Apprentice Degree).

Monday 20th: Annual Visit to Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 (Passing).

Tuesday 21st: Attended the Annual Meeting and Installation of Elective office-bearers at the Provincial Grand Lodge Kilwinning accompanied by Brother Hugh M Docherty, Provincial Grand Inner Guard.

Friday 24th: Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 (Entering).

Saturday 25th: Attended the Annual Meeting and Installation of elective office-bearers of the Provincial Grand Lodge Stirlingshire (Denny) accompanied by Brother James McCorkell, Provincial Grand Tyler, Brother Alistair J Barlas.

Saturday 25th: Attended the Annual Charity Burns Supper of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Monday 27th: Attended a meeting of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 (Lecture).

Tuesday 28th: Attended a meeting of the Information and Communications (Sub-group) in Perth.

Tuesday 28th: Attended Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 (Entering)

Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire.

It was a great honour to be asked to head the deputation from the sister Provinces into the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire on Saturday 27th January. The occasion was the annual meeting and installation of elective office-bearers and was the final such meeting for Brother John Reid McCormack, Provincial Grand Master who would demit office the following Thursday in favour of Brother James Forrest.

It was a further honour to be asked to propose the toast to the Province at the dinner which followed the meeting. Also in attendance and representing the Province were Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Alexander Galbraith and Provincial Grand Secretary Brother Robin McIntyre.

The meeting was held in the beautiful temple of Lodge Dumbarton Kilwinning No. 18 and the photograph below shows Brother McCormack along with the heads of the deputation from the seven sister Provinces who were represented on the day.





It is suspected that the broad smile on Brother McCormack's face had something to do with the fact that he was counting down the last few days of his Commission!



Proposing the toast to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire Regular Communication.



I was again honoured to be asked to head the deputations from the sister Provinces into the regular communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire supported on this occasion by Substitute Provincial Grand Master Brother Robert P Shields.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire.

Annual meeting – Saturday 25th February 2017.

On Saturday 25th February, in the company of Brother James McCorkell, Provincial Grand Lodge Tyler, I attended the annual meeting and Installation of elective office-bearers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire in Denny. As can be seen by the photograph below, it is a very popular occasion and no fewer than eight reigning Provincial Grand Masters were present along with representatives from other sister Provinces. The deputation was led by Brother Douglas Fergie, the Provincial Grand Master of East Lothian and was warmly received by the Provincial Grand Master of Stirlingshire, Brother Alistair T Marshall.



Accompanying me to Denny was Provincial Grand Tyler, Brother Jim McCorkell. As most will know, Brother McCorkell is a very shy person who usually is most content to help away in the background so it was quite a result actually persuading him to take part in a quick photoshoot.

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.

The next regular meeting of Grand Lodge will be on Thursday 8th June and it should be noted that a notice of motion will be considered at that meeting to adjust the fees.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING DECEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 7th – Passing and Annual Visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 pm)
Tuesday 21st - Raising

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 6th - Business Meeting

Monday 13th – Mark Degree and Ballot (7.15pm).

Monday 20th – TBC (Entering)

Monday 27th – Degree TBC – conferred by Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

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.

Burns Supper.

Our 260th Anniversary Meeting and Burns Supper was held on Friday 17th January, and was sell-out.

The Immortal Memory was proposed by P.M. Jim Donnelly, the Toast to the Lodge by R.W.M. Bro. Gordon Leitch, the Toast to the Lasses by P.M. Ross Nugent, with the reply by P.M. Dan Blaney. Toast to the Visiting Brethren and the Toast to the Absent Brethren by Yours Truly, and the Toast to the Artistes and Stewards by W.J.W. Bro. Jim Hamilton.

Readings were performed by Bro. Jamie Donnelly, and songs by myself and Bro. Boyd Thompson.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 10th – Entering

Friday 24th – Raising

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 2nd. – Passing (Exemplification) and Ballot

Thursday 16th – Entering

April -

Thursday 6th April – Fellowcraft Degree

Thursday 20th Raising and Annual Visit by PGLRW NB 7.15 start

Friday 28th – Joint Mark degree with Lodge Greenock St Johns 175 to be held within LDK 68

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

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 8th – Raising.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Sunday 5th – Joint Annual Divine Service with Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 within the Lodge at 6.15 for 6.30 pm. Service will be conducted by the Reverend Frank J Gardner.

Monday 13th – Raising and Annual visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15).

Monday 27th – Passing conferred by Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew No. 426.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 8th – Passing conferred by Lodge Captain Spiers No. 791.

Brother Lauchie Webster.

Apologies are extended to Brother Lauchie Webster of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 for failing to include best wishes in last month's Column on celebrating his 99th birthday last month.

A slightly belated but nonetheless heartfelt best wishes to Brother Lauchie and hope that you had a wonderful birthday.

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 Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 14th - Passing

Tuesday 28th – Raising

On Thursday February 9th I attended lodge Springburn 1198 to participate in a Reigning Masters Degree, on an invitation from Lodge Springburn 1198.

I was invited to do the Apron Lecture which was very well received in Lodge Springburn 1198 and within the Province of Glasgow.

It was also heartening to hear very nice comments, on the work by myself and the reigning masters.

I did the full version of the apron charge which is apparently not often done in that lodge. The remaining lectures were carried out by the three other reigning masters who were there, unfortunately some reigning Masters were unable to attend and some members of Lodge Springburn in particular undertook the wardens duties, and conferring master, all in all it was a very enjoyable evening and fraternal greetings were exchanged, however as I was outside my own Province I took the opportunity to express the Fraternal Greetings on behalf of the PGM and OB's of the PGLRW.

We thereafter retired to a short harmony with the festive board of Pies and Beans being available to all brethren who wished to partake. (Report by Right Worshipful Master Brother Malcolm A Sinclair).

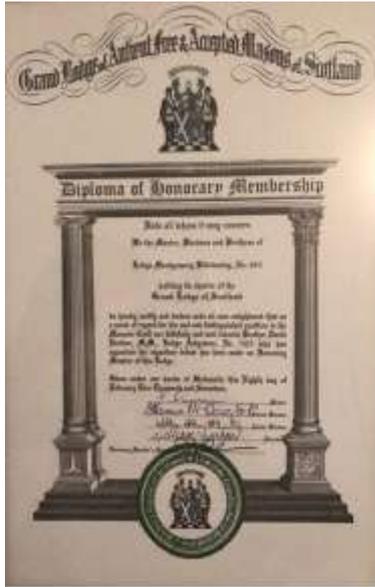


Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Sunday 5th – Joint Annual Divine Service with Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 within the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourrock at 6.15 for 6.30 pm. The Service will be conducted by the Reverend Frank J Gardner.

Thursday 9th – Raising (Exemplification)

Honour for Brother David Durkan, Senior Deacon of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.



On Wednesday 8th February, Brother David Durkan, Senior Deacon of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 was made an honorary member of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624 and further cemented the bond between the two Lodges. The first Master of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 being a member and Past Master of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624, Brother James Halliday. The photograph below shows a very proud Brother Durkan along with Right Worshipful Master Brother James Cannon of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624, Brother Alistair Barlas, Past Master of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 and Brother Lindsay Mungin also of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.



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, Gourrock 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 March RA
Wednesday 19 April MA & EM
Wednesday 17 May RA

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

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.

April.

Thursday 6th – Royal Arch degree.

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

ANNIVERSARY LAPEL BADGES.

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



Badges, may be purchased individually by qualified Brethren, or in bulk by Lodges who may wish to make presentations to deserving Brethren, for meritorious service. All enquiries and orders to treasurno12@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.

Excellent Charity Drive by members of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

For several years now there has been a group of us getting together to raise money for various charities. This year we decided to split the £2,700 we raised between Poppy Scotland and the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

This decision was made because of the 100th anniversary of The Somme and our feeling that the Gurkhas get a pretty raw deal. Our fund raising took several forms. Sponsored walks carried out by Bro Don Rousseau, Bro Jim Ellis and his good lady Liz myself Bro Eddie Lapsley. A tea party ran by my good lady wife Liz and we also ran a fun night in the 68 club in Port Glasgow on the 11th of November.

I would also like to thank the local shops Greenock & Gourock golf clubs who supported us with donations for raffles and auctions, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders for their donation, No Contract for playing for free at our Fun Night also all who supported us by sponsoring us on our sponsored walks



Interesting story from Brother George Nixon, PM1121.

Enclosed is an article written by the late Brother George Gray, past master of 1121 and may of interest to you for publishing in West Column :

"3rd September 1892.why should this date 21 years before 1121 was instituted and 40 years to the day when the temple at McDougall Street was opened be so important?"

Anchored at the tail of the bank was the Steel Barque 'SS Auchmountain' built by Russell of Port Glasgow. She was bound for Australia with general cargo, pottery, paper, and stationery from Greenock, linen and shawls from Belfast, Paisley and Ayrshire, furniture and candles from Glasgow and lastly loaded on the last day from Kilcreggan, 20 tons of gunpowder in 50lb barrels presumably for gold mines in Kalgoorlie .



On the eve of sailing, fire was discovered in the fore part of the ship too strong to be extinguished, she was left to burn out or blow up. Blow up she did and parts of her cargo were found as far afield as Port Glasgow and Cardross.

Windows were shattered at Carwood Street, Belville Street and Princes Pier and throughout Gourrock. The explosion was also heard at Dumbarton and Renfrew. Two weeks later a worker noticed a teakwood pump station floating in the wet dock at the Kingston Yard in Port Glasgow. It measured about two feet long by four inches square with a hole bored lengthways through it.

21 years later, 1121 having received their Charter from Grand Lodge, needed a charter case, the pump station was turned down, engraved suitably, mounted with silver ends, presented, and has been used by Lodge Crawfordsburn to this day, the only relic of the loss of the 'Auchmountain'.

Founder member and the first Master of 1121 was John Clark (joiner), who gifted numerous

important items to the lodge and though he is not minuted as the donor. It is believed that the Charter case was a work demonstrating his affection and pride in his newborn lodge".



Curse the "Hannah'mosity"

The following lines were written after the author had read an article in "The Daily Mirror" (20/3/52) containing excerpts from a book written by Rev. Walton Hannah, exposing Freemasonry. Rev. Hannah was a Church of England clergyman.

Sons o' the Square, ye maun tak' heid,
A meenister has learnt yer creed,
An' a' yer signs an' secrets gied
To daily papers,
For ordinary folk to read,
An' learn yer capers.

Aye! By the Bishop an' his crook,
The "rev'rent sowl" has made a book,
An' mony kirk affairs forsook
While he did write it –
If ower the pages ye micht look,
Ye'll ken he's dightit!

But this sky-pilot's na sae soft –
In fac', he's nae completely daft –
He's learnt a deal about yer Craft
There's nae disputin' ;
Sae noo he dealin' in the graft –
An' I'm na dootin!

He's gi'en the public a' yer tips,
Yer tools, yer symbols, signs an' grips;
Yer verra corner-stone he chips
Wi' cocky candour;
An' hearty scuds yer sonsy hips
Wi' caustic slander.

He's keekit ower yer private deal,
Exposin' whit he could reveal,
To bring the Brethren a' to heel
By his vile story;
A' for the glory o' the De'il,
Or his *ain* Glory

An', senseless as a new-born wean,
This birkie has it in his brain
That muckle damage ye are dain'
Wi' squares an' gauges;
It's damned near driven him insane –
That's why he rages.
A' men that handle apron strings,

Compasses, squares or mason rings
Will ne'er wear ony angel wings,
Nor taste the manna,
'Cause damned are a' masonic things
By Maister Hannah!

The daunnert cratur's ill at ease;
Mixed up amang yer gran' degress;
Dumfoonert wi' yer "anes, twas, three" !
He's low in spirit
Gaun ower yer tiles on hans an' knees
Like ony ferrit!

This gowk is actin' unco rash
In gi'en ithers' creeds a slash,
To mak' some dirty, ill-got cash,
An' empty gain;
By loadin' book-shops up wi' trash
We a' disdain.

Alas! 'tis sad this day an' date
To see a priest sae fu' o' hate
That he juist winna tolerate
Anither's creed;
He's shairly in a' waefu' state –
He is indeed!

Is this the height o' his desire -
To open up his sleekit fire
Wi' fiendish tongue an' flamin' ire
Yer bluid to suck?
His book is like a stinkin byre
O' putrid muck!

The guid auld Craft langsyne has stood,
Symbol o' Warld-wide Britherhood;
An' still will staun' in rectitude,
Ower pride an' greed,
When Hannah's bundled in his stroud,
Cauld stiff an' deid!

Willie MacItrime

The above contribution was provided by a Brother of the Province.

Advert: (Brother Emmanuel Oroh is a member of Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175)
Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd
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E: anchorlimited73@gmail.com
Reg. No: 09394504

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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.

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Emmanuel Oroh
(Manager)
Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd

Advert:



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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). Also available in soft cover (0.25Kg).	12.50 8.00	3.50	5.50	7.50	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
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11, Clarence Street, Greenock PA15 1LR
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A LITTLE BIT OF OUR HISTORY

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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.

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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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PA5 8YS

Advert:

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West
Calendar of Events and Meetings – March 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 st Preceptory of Ardgowan – KG.	2 nd 217 – Passing (E) RAC289 – EM by Paisley Abbey RAC No. 86.	3 rd	4 th	5 th 626/1425 – Annual Divine Service
6 th 68 – Business Meeting	7 th XII – Passing and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15)	8 th 624 – Raising. 989 – Passing by Lodge 791	9 th 1425 – Raising (E).	10 th 175 – Entering	11 th	12 th
13 th 68 – Mark degree and Ballot (7.15) 626 – Raising and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge (7.15).	14 th 1121 – Passing	15 th RAC XVII – RA degree	16 th 217 – Entering	17 th	18 th	19 th
20 th 68 – Entering (TBC)	21 st XII - Raising SGC No. 79 – RCC Grade	22 nd	23 rd	24 th 175 - Raising	25 th	26 th
27 th 68 – TBC conferred by Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII. 626 – Passing conferred by Lodge 426.	28 th 1121 - Raising					

(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