



The West Column



Dear Brethren,

I begin with an apology as due to the fact that I have managed to find some time to take Mrs L for a wee break before the winter sets in and the Installation season gets into full swing, I found it difficult to find enough time to compile an editorial this month although last month's seems to have stirred a few thoughts. It is nice to hear that you have enjoyed an article and indeed even if you have disagreed with what has been said, don't be afraid to tell me as at least it shows it has been read. So this month, I have taken the liberty of using an extract from a Divine Service which I conducted back in 2007.

"Our Hymn of reflection this evening is "Abide with me" and might seem a strange choice to some, as it is often associated with funerals but let me tell you a little of the background to this wonderful hymn.

The inspiration for the hymn is found in the text from St. Luke's Gospel Ch 24:29 "They urged Him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over".

The music is by William H Monk and was written in 1861. His wife described the setting as follows: "This tune was written at a time of great sorrow – when together we watched, as we did daily, the glories of the setting sun. As the last golden ray faded, he took some paper and pencilled that tune which has gone all over the earth".

The words are by the Reverend Henry Lyte, who was inspired to write the hymn while suffering from tuberculosis; he finished it the Sunday he gave his farewell sermon in the parish he had served for so many years. The next day, he left for Italy to regain his health but never made it as he died in Nice in France, just three weeks after writing these words.

In his farewell sermon he said, "*O brethren, I stand here among you today as alive from the dead, if I may hope to impress it upon you and induce you to prepare for that solemn hour which must come to us all, by a timely acquaintance with the death of Christ*".

For over a century, the bells of his church at All Saints in Lower Brixham, Devon, have rung out "Abide with me" daily.

Most are familiar with the words but there are in fact another three verses, which are unfortunately omitted from the traditional setting, which, to me, is a pity. Listen to the words.

Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word;
But as Thou dwell'st with Thy disciples, Lord,
familiar, condescending, patient, free.
Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.

Come not in terrors, as the King of Kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings,
Tears for all woes, a heart for every plea –
Come, Friend of sinners, and thus bide with me.

The third verse is almost Burnsian;

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile;
And, though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.

The words make it clear that however much you lose your way in life, however much you give in to life's many temptations, however much it seems at times that life is against you, God is always there and all you have to do is reach out to Him. He gives us hope and certainty that at the close of the day He is still with us and gives us courage to face the greatest unknown.

Let us join together in singing, not a hymn of sadness, fear or submission but a hymn of faith, of hope, of victory. Abide with me.

Regards,
Jim

Nomination and Election of new Provincial Grand Master.

Congratulations to Brother Robin McIntyre on his nomination and election for the office of Provincial Grand Master which will take effect from the 1st February 2018. Brother McIntyre's appointment was confirmed at the Regular Communication of Grand Lodge on 26th October 2017 and we wish Brother McIntyre and his new Commission every success

Future of the West Column:

Brethren, I know that many will skip over parts of the Column without really reading the content which is why I have put the following comment in a more prominent position.

I have been compiling this on-line document for around 17 years but often I struggle to find newsworthy articles which ARE of interest to brethren. I know this from comments received. However, I am often left frustrated when I realise that events take place but there is no reporting of it for inclusion in the Column.

These are items of interest particularly for brethren who may not be able to attend their Lodges for whatever reason. Nearly everyone has a camera phone nowadays so surely it is not a very difficult task to take a photo and send it to me with a few accompanying words and over the next few weeks it would be particularly nice to receive reports (with a photo or two) of Installations.

While the main purpose of the West Column was originally (and still is) to inform brethren of forthcoming meetings, it is important that other news items are included. Articles can be submitted by anyone, it does not need to be the Lodge Secretary.

Please support the West Column.

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.

Reminder - Advertising of meetings:

The Constitution and Laws of the Grand Lodge of Scotland provide for three ways in which to advertise Lodge meetings.

1. By intimation at the previous Regular Meeting.
2. By advertisement in the local newspaper published at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.
3. By circular delivered or posted to every qualified member at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

The above are the three permissible methods of convening meetings. It is not necessary to use all three; in fact, one method may be used for all meetings. The Lodge bye-laws must make clear which method will be used for any particular meeting.

For many years, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West has compiled and published a composite advert in the Greenock Telegraph newspaper which has resulted in a significant saving to all Lodges over the previous practice of advertising meetings individually. However, due to the reducing readership of the Greenock Telegraph, it would appear to be the case that Lodges no longer consider this method of advertising to represent good value for money. One Lodge has already withdrawn from the composite arrangement and a further two are in the process of changing their bye-laws to effect a change.

As a result, it was agreed at the most recent meeting of Provincial Grand Committee that Lodges would be informed that the practice of advertising using a composite advert in the Greenock Telegraph would be discontinued from the end of the 2017 – 2018 session. This allows Lodges to fully consider the matter, determine what method they will use to advertise their meetings and allow a period of time to make appropriate alterations to their bye-laws.

In the event that Lodges determine that they wish to discontinue advertising in the Greenock Telegraph, it is recommended that the bye-laws should be altered to simply use option 1 above. This does not preclude the use of other means of advertising meetings such as the West column, Facebook, Lodges websites etc.

It is further recommended that in the event that a Lodge wishes to alter its bye-laws to reflect this change, consideration is given to any other changes which might be made at the same time such as fees etc. Finally, it is strongly recommended that before a change to Lodge bye-laws is submitted to the Lodge as a Notice of Motion, a draft is submitted to Provincial Grand Secretary for approval.

Advertising of Services:

If any Brother wishes to advertise their professional services in the West Column, please let me know and I will be happy to include them if space permits.

****** - 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:

2017:

Provincial Grand Lodge

The next meeting of Provincial Grand Committee will take place on Wednesday 6th December 2017 within the premises of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 at 7.30 pm.

Annual Installations and Visitations:

| Lodge | Inst. Date | Off/bear | Annual Visit 2018 | Commenting |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| 12 | Tue 21 st Nov. | Brother Paul Docherty | Tues. 20 th Feb. | TBA |
| 68 | Friday 8 th Dec | Brother William McLarty | Mon. 19 th March | TBA |
| 175 | Friday 27 th Oct. | Brother George Carson | Fri. 9 th March | TBA |
| 217 | Friday 24 th Nov. | Brother Hugh Docherty | Thurs. 18 th Jan. | JPGW |
| 626 | Saturday 14 th Oct. | Brother Jim McCorkell | Mon. 22 nd Jan. | SPGW |
| 989 | Friday 17 th Nov. | Brother Alex Johnstone | Wed. 11 th April | TBA |
| 1121 | Friday 3 rd Nov. | Brother Robert Bain | Tue 9 th Jan. | SPGM |
| 1425 | Friday 1 st Dec. | Brother Alistair Glenny | Thurs. 8 th Feb. | TBA |
| 1814 | Friday 6 th October | | 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.

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.

The fund has enabled Provincial Grand Lodge to make charitable donations to the recipients of the Province's Citizen of the Year Award for the last three years and as reported fully below, the sum of £10,000 was presented to REACH for Autism, Inverclyde at the Province's annual Summer Ball. This supplements donations already made to the Girl Guides and Hammy's project in Port Glasgow and a proposal will be made at the Regular Communication in October, to dispose of the remaining funds prior to the new Commission taking over on the 1st February 2018.

Provincial Grand Master's Diary.

Meetings attended in October:

Tuesday 3rd – Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Wednesday 4th – Chaired the Autumn Regular Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Friday 5th – Headed the deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge to the Annual Installation of The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814.

Monday 9th – Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Tuesday 10th – Attended a meeting of the Information and Communications Committee (Education sub-group) in Perth.

Wednesday 11th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624. A Fellowcraft Degree and the annual visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire.

Thursday 12th – Attended the Annual General Meeting of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Saturday 14th – Headed the deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge to the Annual Installation of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Monday 16th – Attended a Master Mason's Degree at Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Tuesday 17th – (Morning) I attended a meeting of the Information and Communications Committee at the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Tuesday 17th – (Evening). I attended a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Thursday 19th – Attended a meeting a Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 (see report).

Monday 23rd – Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

My thanks to the office-bearers of Provincial Grand Lodge who supported me on several of the above visits.

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.

I can also confirm that the Town Hall (and the ever popular Capitol Big Band) have been provisionally booked for next year so put a note in your diaries for Saturday 19th May 2018. This is a little earlier than previous years as we are aware that this year, the date clashed with the long holiday weekend.

Grand Lodge.

Festival of St. Andrew.

The Province will be well represented at the above celebration on Thursday 30th November and a report on the above will appear in next month's edition.

Commemoration of the Fallen 2018.

Just a reminder that arrangements are being made for a parade and Church Service to take place on Sunday the 18th November 2018, to mark the end of the First World War. This is likely to be a very popular event and again, if numbers are sufficient, it might be possible to organise transport. I will provide further details as soon as they are known.

Arrangements are still a work in progress although it does now appear that the event will be held at Grand Lodge with a parade forming up in Castle Street and marching a short distance around Charlotte Square and along George Street to Grand Lodge for a Service of Commemoration which will be conducted by Past Grand Master Mason, Brother Canon Joseph J Morrow.

Poppy Scotland.



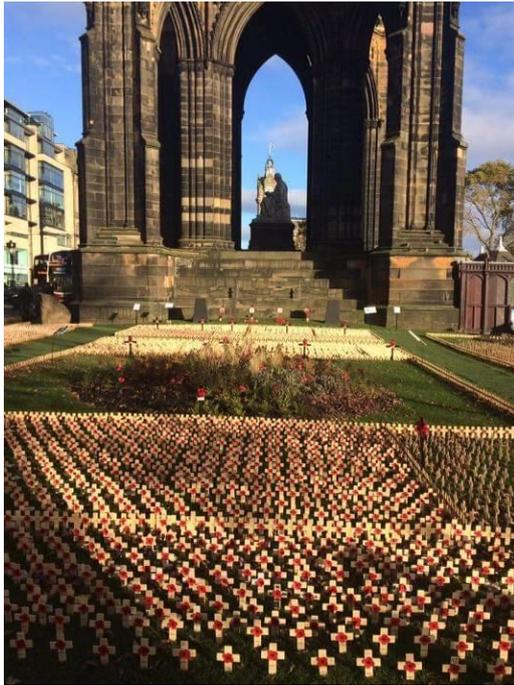
At the October Regular Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge, it was agreed that a donation would be made to Poppy Scotland from the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Fund of £2,000 on behalf of the brethren of the Province of Renfrewshire West and that arrangements would be made at an early opportunity to present a cheque to the organisation. The brethren of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 were kind enough to allow such an opportunity at their Regular Meeting on Thursday 19th October.

We were delighted to welcome Brother Gordon Michie, Past Substitute Provincial Grand Master of Fife and Kinross and Past Master of Lodge Earl Haig No. 1260 along with accompanying brethren from his Lodge to the meeting. Brother Michie is the Head of Fundraising for PoppyScotland and had offered to deliver a talk on the work of his organisation.

What followed was an enthralling insight into the history of Lodge Earl Haig and the background to the work of the organisation from its creation to the present day. The Lodge was well filled on the evening and from the many complimentary comments received it was clear that the talk had been very well received.

It was a very pleasant duty to be able to present the cheque to Brother Michie on behalf of the freemasons of Renfrewshire West and I would only add that if any Brother missed the meeting on Thursday night, they could do worse than watch for an opportunity to hear Brother Michie's talk at some point in the future. As one well-known and very experienced Brother said to me at the close of the meeting. It was one of the best talks he had heard given in the Province.

A huge vote of thanks is extended to Brother Michie for taking the time to travel all the way through from Fife on a fairly unpleasant evening to bring a little light from east to west!



As brethren will be aware, each of the Lodges is sent a box of crosses each year and from this week onwards, a team of volunteers will be busy in Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh, planting the crosses which have been purchased by the Lodges. The photograph on the left shows the crosses last year and if you get a chance to go through to Edinburgh, take a few minutes to visit the Gardens as it is a most poignant site.

During 2018, PoppyScotland have issued a challenge to organisations, to raise a target of £1,918 and I wonder – which of our Lodges would be up for that challenge?



Brother Gordon Michie is presented with a cheque for £2,000 from the brethren of the Province by Provincial Grand Master, Brother Jim Livingstone assisted by Provincial Grand Master-elect, Brother Robin McIntyre and Brother Gordon Leitch, Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.



Looking ahead to 2018 and the commemoration of the ending of the First World War.

As part of events to mark the ending of the First World War, the Masonic Homes Group in conjunction with the Widows Sons Masonic Motor Cycle Group, will be doing a fundraising tour of the 32 Provinces in 2018 and are schedule to visit this Province on Saturday 29th September. It will be a very short stop but it is likely that the Group will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in Port Glasgow before heading off to their next stop in Dunbartonshire.

It would be appropriate if the Province could present them with a cheque on their visit and perhaps Lodges could consider making a donation to the funds of Poppy Scotland. This will be a matter for the new Commission to consider. (See above comment regarding the challenge to raise £1,918)!

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING the MONTH AHEAD.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 7th – Annual Meeting and Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 with visitors being admitted at 8.00 pm.

Tuesday 21st – Annual Installation (6.15 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.

Notice of a Special Meeting which might be of interest (from Brother Alan Beck IPM12, IPM607).

The next regular meeting of The Prince's Lodge 607 in the Province of Glasgow takes place on Monday, November 6th at 6:30pm (visitors admitted at 6:50pm). This meeting will be the last meeting in the Chair of Right Worshipful Master Bro Anthony Stewart, a Master Mason of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan, 1425.

The business of the evening will be a Passing which will be conferred by the Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow, Bro James C Peddie assisted by commissioned office bearers from that Province and four neighbouring provinces (including our own PGM Bro James P Livingstone). This "Five Provinces" Degree will be a first in Glasgow and a rare sight in Scottish Freemasonry.

The formal part of the evening will be followed by lodge harmony to which all visitors are invited and at which they will partake of a three-course meal at a cost of £10.

A number of members of this province will be attending and NoXII's WSW Bro Bob Crossan will co-ordinate transport, but for first time visitors travelling on their own the lodge is easily reached from either the M8 Govan exit, or from the Glasgow Subway station at Ibrox.

The Prince's meet at Masonic Temple, 3 Mafeking Street, Glasgow G51 2UQ

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 6th – Business Meeting.

Monday 13th – Entering

Monday 20th – Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Monday 27th – AGM and election of office-bearers.

On Wednesday 8th November, the Lodge will be conferring a Master Mason's Degree at Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 and the Master, Brother Alexander B Wilson would very much appreciate the support of the brethren on that visit.

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.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 10th – Entering

Friday 24th - Raising

Installation Report:

At the Annual Installation of Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175 held on Friday 27th October 2017 in the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, the Brethren of the Lodge were joined by Brethren from Masonic Lodges from within and outwith the Province of Renfrewshire West to celebrate the Installation of Brother Thomas Andrew Porteous as Right Worshipful Master.



Brother Thomas Andrew Porteous on his installation as Master of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 on Friday 27th October 2017.

Brother Alex Johnstone PM, after opening the Lodge, welcomed a Deputation of Brethren from visiting Lodges, headed on this occasion by Brother Kyle Wilson, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

They were followed by a deputation of Brethren from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West headed by the Right Worshipful Substitute Provincial Grand Master Brother Robert Paul Shields. Thereafter the Installing Masters, Brother Edward M. Ross, Brother Matthew B. Henderson and Brother Marshall R.C. North were received and warmly welcomed by Brother Alex Johnstone PM.

During the Ceremonial which followed Brother Thomas Andrew Porteous was installed into the Chair of his Mother Lodge for the first time by Installing Master Brother Edward M. Ross PM.

The Office-Bearers for the ensuing year were also installed into their respective offices by Installing Master Brother Marshall R.C. North PM.

Office-Bearers for 2017-2018 are:

RWM Brother Thomas Andrew Porteous; IPM Brother Edward M. Ross; DM Brother J. Callum Wohlgemuth; SM Brother James S. Clark; WSW Brother Greig Mitchell; WJW Brother G. Grant Armstrong, Secretary Brother John W. McKenzie; Treasurer Brother Charon Singh; Senior Chaplain Brother Reverend David Mitchell B.D., Dip. P. Theo; Junior Chaplain Brother Crawford McNeil; SD Brother James Bowman; JD Brother Paul Brain; D of C Brother Matthew B. Henderson PM; Architect Brother John L. Howe PM; Jeweller Brother David McShane snr; Assistant Secretary Brother Alex Johnstone PM; IG Brother Alistair Lindsay; President of Stewards Brother Robert Johnstone; Vice-President of Stewards Brother J. Campbell Pickett; 1st Assistant Steward Brother Russell Craig; 2nd Assistant Steward Brother James Campbell and Tyler Brother Marshall R.C. North PM.

Later at the Installation Dinner the usual Loyal Toasts were given as follows:

"The Queen" followed by "The Grand Lodge of Scotland" and "The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West" proposed by Brother Thomas Andrew Porteous RWM, reply by Brother Robert P. Shields SPGM; "The Installing Masters" proposed by Brother Thomas Andrew Porteous RWM, reply by Brother Edward M. Ross PM, Brother Matthew B. Henderson PM and Brother Marshall R.C. North PM; "The Right Worshipful Master" proposed by Brother Edward M. Ross IPM, reply by Brother Thomas Andrew Porteous RWM; "Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175" proposed by Brother George Fletcher PM of Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87 I.C., reply by Brother Thomas Andrew Porteous RWM; "Visiting Brethren" proposed by Brother James S. Clark SM, reply by Brother William Fletcher PM of Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87 I.C. and finally "The Artists and Stewards" proposed by Brother Grant Armstrong WJW reply by Brother Robert Johnstone President of Stewards.



The newly Installed Master of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 Brother Thomas Andrew Porteous along with his installing Masters, Brother Edward McNeil Ross, Brother Matthew Bell Henderson and Brother Marshall R C North all Past Masters of the Lodge.

ANNUAL DIVINE SERVICE.

On Sunday 29th October 2017, the Right Worshipful Master Brother Thomas Andrew Porteous accompanied by the Right Worshipful Substitute Provincial Grand Master Brother Robert P. Shields and the Lodge Chaplain Brother Reverend David Mitchell gathered at the Temple with Brethren and visiting Brethren for the Annual Divine Service of the Lodge. The Service was conducted by the Lodge Senior Chaplain Brother Reverend David Mitchell who provided the Brethren present with his usual inspiring and entertaining address with the accompanying Bible Readings by the Junior Chaplain Brother Crawford McNeil.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 2nd – Annual General Meeting (Members only).

Thursday 16th – Passing (Exemplification)

Friday 24th – Annual Installation. The meeting will commence at 6.45 pm prompt. Brother Gerard Cameron Robertson PM will be installed into the chair of his Mother Lodge by Installing Masters, Brother John McAlister, Brother Daniel Blaney and Brother James Donnelly all Past Masters of the Lodge. A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren.

On Monday 20th November, the Lodge will be conferring a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and the Master, Brother Gordon Leitch would be delighted to receive the support of the brethren of 217 and visitors at what will be his last degree meeting of his tenure of office.

Sunday 12th – the Lodge will be represented at the Remembrance Day Service in St. Andrew's Church at 10.45 am followed by the parade to the Cenotaph at 12.30 pm where a wreath will be laid by the Master. All brethren are welcome and encouraged to support the Lodge on this important occasion.

Friday 29th December – The date of the Lodge's annual Festive Dance within the lounge of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68. Dancing to River Island with a hot buffet and tickets are now available from Brother Gerry Robertson PM.



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 – Election of office-bearers (Members only).

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 13th – Fellowcraft Degree

Monday 27th – Entered Apprentice Degree



Brother Stevenson is surrounded by his Past Masters at the Installing Board at his Installation. Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 is well served by its Past Masters but for Brother Stevenson's sake, we just hope that they all don't tut-tut at once!

The Lodge was packed on Saturday 14th October for the annual Installation of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 which saw Brother David D Stevenson being installed into the chair in an excellent manner by Brother Brian G Hopkins PM, Brother Kenneth M McCrae PM and assisted by Brother Jim Livingstone PM Provincial Grand Master, who was standing in for Brother Robert M Wilson PM who had sadly injured himself and was unable to attend. (Our best wishes go to Brother Wilson for a speedy recovery)!

It is always pleasant to hear that there will be a slight delay as more chairs require to be brought into the hall before the start of the meeting and such was the case on this occasion. Following an excellent ceremony, the brethren retired to a celebration dinner which was again well supported. The remaining brethren were treated to an excellent dinner and entertained by some superb speeches. A most enjoyable day.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 8th - Raising conferred by the Office bearers of Lodge Doric Kilwinning 68 -- Live candidate

December 11th – Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Office bearers of Lodge Glennifer 1219 -- Live candidate

Installation:

RWM Elect. Brother Scott McLaughlin shall be taking the chair of King Solomon for the first time in his Mother Lodge. The Installing Masters are Bro Paul Docherty PM, Bro Douglas Robertson PM and Bro George Robertson PM. The meeting of Installation will be held in Lodge Sir Michael, Friday November 17th at 7pm. A warm invitation is extended to all qualified brethren to attend.

Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121

Friday 3rd – The Annual Installation will take place within the premises of the 175 Club, Kelly Street, Greenock at 6.15 pm prompt during which Brother Malcolm A Sinclair will be installed into the chair for a second successive year along with the office-bearers. Deputations will be received at 6.30 pm and will be headed by Brother Allan T Glen, Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII. - A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to attend along with the dinner and harmony to follow.

Tuesday 14th – Entering (Exemplification) and Affiliation.

Tuesday 28th – Raising

Sunday 19th – The Annual Divine Service of the Lodge will take place within St. John's Episcopal Church, Union Street, Greenock at 6.30 pm (Brethren to assemble at 6.15 pm). The Service will be conducted by Brother Reverend Idris Jones and a warm welcome is extended to all Brethren and families. Regalia to be worn.



On Thursday 19th October, it was a privilege to present a cheque for the sum of £250 from the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Fund to Brother Jim McCorkell, of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 in support of his Grandson, Callum.

Ideas for that special Christmas gift!

Still on the subject of charity, Brother John Paton PM1121 has a new hobby, making pens. Selling for between £10 and £15, the pens are made from a variety of materials and judging by the samples I saw will make an excellent gift. £2.00 from every sale goes to good causes.

Perhaps even an ideal gift for that superb team of Installing Masters?



Perfect stocking fillers for that special lady in your life?

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 9th - Raising

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

In recess until April 2018.

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, William A McLarty 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 15th November MA & EM
Wednesday 20th December RA
Wednesday 17th January Provincial Visit
Wednesday 21st February MA & EM
Wednesday 21st March RA
Wednesday 18th April MA & EM
Wednesday 16th May RA

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 2nd – EM Degree

Port Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter No. 900

Thursday 23rd – Excellent Master's Degree

Preceptory of Ardgowan

Venerable Preceptor Elect Andrew G Pigott and Office Bearers extend a warm to all Fraters to attend the Annual Installation as well as our Musters during 2017 especially those who have been unable to attend recently through other commitments.

MUSTERS and Grades for 2017 are;

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.

Greenock CC & RAM 17

Meets 4th Wednesday at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

St. George's Conclave No. 79

Tuesday 21st – RCC (on one candidate).

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 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.

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3 COURSE MEAL AND A TRADITIONAL CEILIDH

DOORS OPEN 6.30PM

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DECEMBER 31ST, 2017, GREENOCK TOWN HALL

SHOW & 3 COURSE MEAL £48.00 PER TICKET

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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
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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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Emmanuel Oroh

(Manager)

Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd

Advert:



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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](#)
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- 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.

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.

Provincial Grand Lodge Renfrewshire East.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East operates a digital and lending library with over 5,000 books on a very wide range of Masonic topics and is free to access through their website at www.pglre.org

Registration is a very simple process and open to brethren within the Province of Renfrewshire West.

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A LITTLE BIT OF OUR HISTORY

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

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Painting and Decorating.



For all your painting and decorating needs, contact Brother Lindsay Mungin (MM1425) on 01475 728073 or 07715 214 763

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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Barochan Road, Johnstone
PA5 8YS

Advert:

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

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|---|---|---|--|------------------|---|
| | | 1 st Preceptory of Ardgowan – Annual Installation. | 2 nd 217 – AGM and Election of Office-bearers. Ranfurley RAC 289 – EM Degree | 3 rd 1121 – Annual Installation 6.30 pm | 4 th | 5 th |
| 6 th 68 – Business Meeting | 7 th XII – AGM and Passing conferred by Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121. | 8 th 624 – Election of office- bearers. 989 – Raising conferred by Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68. | 9 th 1425 - Raising | 10 th 175 - Entering | 11 th | 12 th |
| 13 th 68 – Entering 626 - Passing | 14 th 1121 – Entering (E) and affiliation. | 15 th RAC XVII – MA and EM. | 16 th 217 – Passing (E) | 17 th 989 – Annual Installation 7.00 pm. | 18 th | 19 th 1121 – Annual Divine Service (6.15 for 6.30 PM) |
| 20 th 68 – Passing conferred by Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217. | 21 st XII – Annual Installation 6.15 pm SGC 79 - RCC | 22 nd | 23 rd PGRAC 900 – EM degree. | 24 th 175 - Raising 217 – Annual Installation | 25 th | 26 th |
| 27 th 68 – AGM and election of office-bearers. 626 - Entering | 28 th 1121 - Raising | 29 th | 30 th Festival of St Andrew – Grand Lodge 12.00 noon. | | | |
| | | | | | | |

(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