



The West Column



Saturday 17th March turned out to be a wonderful day for all in the Province as we witnessed the installation of Brother Robin McIntyre as our 16th Provincial Grand Master along with his team of Commissioned Office-bearers and I am sure that everyone will join together in extending the very best wishes to them for a happy, productive and fulfilling term of office.

Although the day was cold with the wintry weather of late keeping up its cauld blast from the East, it was heartening to note the very large attendance present to join in the proceedings. As the Saloon was filled to capacity, it is estimated that there were around 200 brethren present and I am sure all would have taken away some very happy memories of the day.

Prior to the start of the ceremony itself, the distinguished guests from Grand Lodge and sister Provincial Grand Lodges were treated to a superb finger buffet prior to the stramash which followed, otherwise known as the taking of the official photographs. Our thanks to Grand Director of Ceremonies Brother William "Bud" Gauld for herding us into some sort of semblance of order for the group photograph.

As you can see from the photograph below, it was a tight squeeze getting everyone into the space available in the Grand Corridor but what a magnificent setting. The photograph is of the Provincial Grand Master, his Commissioned, Past Commissioned and Elective office-bearers, along with members of the very influential deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, headed by the Immediate Past Depute Grand Master, Brother W Ramsay McGhee.

At this point, it is important to stress how much we are indebted in the Province, to Brother J Stewart Cruikshank for acting as official photographer, not only on this occasion but on many occasions over the years. Photographs which I regularly use in the West Column and on the Province's facebook page appear with the kind permission of Brother Cruikshank who is also able to provide quality copies of any photographs. If any Brother wishes details of the costs of formal copies, please let me know and I will provide Brother Cruikshank's contact details.



Following the photograph session, the brethren who were present in the Grand Corridor gave full attention to a short speech made by Provost Martin Brennan, who unfortunately was unable to attend the dinner later in the day. Provost Brennan had obviously carried out his research and spoke in glowing terms of the history of the Craft in the Town and of how much he appreciated the charitable work which took place on behalf of all aspects of society within the District of Inverclyde. In apologising for his absence, he extended his very best wishes to the new Commission for a happy term of office and to all for a successful day. Provost Brennan's words were very much appreciated by all present.



Brother Robert McIntyre along with members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West and Grand Lodge on the occasion of his Installation Saturday 17th March 2018.



Deputations from the Sister Provincial Grand Lodges of Argyll and the Isles, Ayrshire, Dunbartonshire, Fife and Kinross, Glasgow, Kilwinning, Renfrewshire East and Stirlingshire

Having opened Provincial Grand Lodge, the Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, Brother James Livingstone, firstly welcomed a very large deputation from the Sister Provincial Grand Lodges headed by Brother James Forrest, Provincial Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire. Having been piped into the hall by a platoon of pipers, Brother Forrest was warmly welcomed and asked to take his place in the East along with the remainder of the deputation.

Having warmed to the task, the pipers then ensured that the Grand Lodge deputation was also properly "piped" in and again a warm welcome was extended to the deputation, headed by the Immediate Past Depute Grand Master, Brother William Ramsay McGhee. Prior to tendering the Maul Gavel to Brother McGhee, Brother Livingstone extended the condolences of all in the Province to the Grand Master Mason, Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige-Gordon and to Mrs Wolrige-Gordon and their family on their recent sad loss.

Having assumed control of the Lodge, the Provincial Grand Master was escorted into the Lodge by Grand Director of Ceremonies, Brother William Gauld and presented to the Lodge. The Commission was then read by Grand Secretary Brother David Begg and the Oath of Fidelity was then administered by Immediate Past Depute Grand Master, Brother W Ramsay McGhee. The Provincial Grand Master was then invested with the insignia of his office and thereafter placed in the chair. The Depute Provincial Grand Master Brother John Williamson Black and Substitute Provincial Grand Master, Brother Stuart Robert Wilson were similarly, presented, obligated, invested and proclaimed.

Brother McGhee then invited Past Substitute Grand Master, Brother Alexander Galbraith, Past Provincial Grand Master, to similarly install Provincial Grand Secretary Brother Alan Duncan Beck and Provincial Grand Chaplain, Brother George Johnstone Carson.

The roll of Lodges was then called and I'm sure that our new Provincial Grand Master would have been delighted to note that all of the Lodges in the Province were well represented.



Our Provincial Grand Master, with Brother W Ramsay McGhee, Immediate Past Depute Grand Master and Brother Hugh Clelland, Substitute Grand Master.

Following an enlightening address by the Immediate Paste Depute Grand Master, Brother McGhee, the Emblem of Authority was presented to the newly installed Provincial Grand Master by Brother McGhee.



Brother McIntyre, Provincial Grand Master then addressed the brethren present, thanking them for the trust placed in him and a collection was uplifted in aid of the Benevolent Funds of Grand Lodge.

The deputation from Grand Lodge then retired followed by the deputation of sister Provincial Grand Lodges.

The formal part of the day over, the brethren retired to a beautiful celebratory dinner prepared by Brother Tony Buckley and the staff of ICE Catering followed by the usual toasts and speeches.

A wonderful and memorable day.

Over the course of the last few days, many photographs have already been published on social media but I have added just a few more of the principal speakers from the Celebration Dinner below.



Immediate Past Depute Grand Master, Brother W. Ramsay McGhee presents our new Provincial Grand Master with an autographed photograph of our Grand Master Mason.



Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Jim Livingstone presents Brother Reverend David Mitchell with a token of the esteem of the Province following completion of twenty-five years as Provincial Grand Chaplain.



Brother James Forrest, Provincial Grand Master of Dunbartonshire proposes the toast to the Province.



Brother David D Stevenson, Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 responds to the toast to the Daughter Lodges proposed by Brother John W Black, Depute Provincial Grand Master.



Brother William A Perry, Provincial Grand Master of Lanarkshire Middle Ward replies to the toast to the Visiting Brethren, proposed by Brother Stuart R Wilson, Substitute Provincial Grand Master.

And of course, the day was rounded off in traditional style with the singing of “Auld Lang Syne”.

It would be remiss of us if we did not pay tribute to the entertainment provided on the day by Mr Craig Dunsmore to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude.

A personal memory of the day by our new Depute Provincial Grand Master, Brother John Williamson Black.

Brethren could I take this opportunity to thank all of you who offered congratulations and the very kind thoughts I received on being commissioned into the office of Depute Provincial Grand Master on Saturday 17th March.

It was a great privilege and honour and I hope over the next 5 years I can justify the faith placed in me by Provincial Grand Master Bro Robin McIntyre. The day for me started with an early rise at 7.30am then down to the town hall for 9am to lend a hand with setting out the temple where I found Provincial Grand Secretary Bro Alan Beck who was in complete control of the situation. Where does he get his energy from, and a few other brethren already hard at work getting the town hall set out according to the plan laid down by Grand Lodge for installation later that day.

I was put to work placing the square and compass up above the stage which was no easy task but with help from the two caretakers Hugh and Drew thanks lads, my task was complete in no time at all, by the way brethren apparently one of the table girls had asked if the big A on the curtain stood for Alan! What on earth was he telling them? Then a quick change into provincial garb and a run through with Grand Lodge Director of Ceremonies Bro Bud Gauld thanks Bro Gauld for keeping us right on the day, then find and inform the pipers when to play and play they did and sounded wonderful thanks Bro's Russell Young, Billy Mooney and Donald McRae,

Then it was time for the photos no rest for the wicked. Photos complete. We were then ready for the main event the Installation, which was carried out in a temple full to capacity with brethren from within and outwith the Province. Immediate Past Depute Grand Master Bro Ramsey McGee then installed Bro Robin into the office of Provincial Grand Master followed by myself as Depute Provincial Grand Master then Bro Stuart Wilson as Provincial Grand Master Substitute in a manor worthy of the respect of all brethren present.

Bro Alan Beck and Bro George Carson were then installed into their respective offices by Immediate Past Substitute Grand Master Bro Alexander Galbraith in his usual excellent manner and to the delight of Alan And George as they had no idea that Alex would be installing them.

After the installation there followed an excellent meal by ICE Catering, congratulations to all involved, and equally excellent speeches from the top table which were of the highest standard. On a personal note I feel the occasion may have been a little overwhelming which I feel showed on the day but we live and learn.

Finally I would first of all congratulate Robin, Stuart, Alan and George on being installed into their respective offices. I look forward to working with you all during the tenure of our commission, to all the brethren who turned up on the day many thanks. You made the day a great success, to the brethren who could not make the installation

Sorry you missed a great day but hope to see you all on our travels around the province, to Ramsay and Alex on their excellent Installation work many thanks, to ICE for the excellent meal and service and to Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master Bro James P Livingstone for his unwavering commitment and leadership over the last 5 years.

A quote from Provincial Grand Master Bro Robin McIntyre. "Its amazing what can be achieve d if we don't mind who takes the credit".

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

Views expressed by individuals within the West Column do not necessarily represent the views of Provincial Grand Lodge.

Advertising: Advertising of meetings is covered below but I would appeal to Lodge secretaries to let me know the details of meetings taking place. I am very conscious of the fact that without the medium of advertising in the local newspaper, there is a void of information which requires to be filled. By letting me know of meetings taking place, I can issue the details in the West Column which is sent out to nearly 500 email addresses as well as adding a weekly update to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West's facebook page which now has around 275 members. PLEASE take advantage of this medium otherwise it is not worth the effort.

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.

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.

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

Provincial Website. For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to www.pglrw.org - 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	RAC XVII		
Thursday	217	1425	217	PGRAC 900	
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

Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Off/bear	Annual Visit 2018	Commenting
12	Tue 20 th Nov.	TBA	Tues. 20 th Feb.	TBA
68	Friday 14 th Dec	TBA	Mon. 19 th March	TBA
175	Friday 26 th Oct.	TBA	Fri. 9 th March	TBA
217	Friday 30 th Nov.	TBA	Thurs. 18 th Jan.	JPGW
626	Saturday 13 th Oct.	TBA	Mon. 22 nd Jan.	SPGW
989	Friday 16 th Nov.	TBA	Wed. 11 th April	TBA
1121	Friday 2 nd Nov.	TBA	Tue 9 th Jan.	SPGM
1425	Friday 7 th Dec.	TBA	Thurs. 8 th Feb.	TBA
1814	Friday 6 th October	TBA	Friday 5 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.

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 Grand Master's Diary.

Meetings attended in March (from Provincial Grand Master).

Tuesday 6th - attended Lodge Greenock Kilwinning no 12 and witnessed and excellent EA Degree.

Wednesday 7th - chaired PG Lodge Committee meeting held in Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626

Thursday 8th - attended Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 and witnessed an excellent MM Degree

Friday 9th - Annual Visitation to Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 and witnessed an excellent EA Degree

Monday 12th - attended Lodge Firth of Clyde No 626 and witnessed an excellent FC Degree conferred by Lodge Prince of Wales Renfrew No 426

Wednesday 14th - attended Lodge Sir Michael No 989 and witnessed an excellent exemplification of a FC Degree conferred by Lodge Captain Speirs No 791

Saturday 17th - Installation of the PG Master and Commissioned Office-bearers by Immediate Past Depute Grand Master Bro Ramsay McGhee. My grateful thanks to the Brethren who turned out to support myself and the Commissioned Office-bearers in such great numbers. I am delighted and honoured to have the privilege to serve as the PG Master of Renfrewshire West.

Monday 19th - Annual Visitation to Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 and witnessed an excellent EA Degree

Tuesday 20th - attended Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No 12 and witnessed an excellent MM Degree

Saturday 24th - attended Installation of the PG Master and Commissioned Office-bearers of the PG Lodge of Ayrshire in Troon, accompanied by IPPGM Bro James P Livingstone, PPGM, Depute PGM Bro John W Black, also in attendance as part of the Grand Lodge Deputation Past Substitute GM and PPGM Bro Alexander Galbraith.

Monday 26th - attended Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 and witnessed an excellent MM Degree

Tuesday 27th - attended Lodge Crawfordsburn No 1121 and witnessed an exemplification of a FC Degree by Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No 12.

Many thanks to the Brethren who have accompanied me on the Annual Visitations to date, your support is very much appreciated

Provincial Ball.

I can also confirm that the Town Hall (and the ever popular Capitol Big Band) have been booked 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. Tickets are now on sale through the respective Lodges, priced £25 each. As usual, we expect tickets to be in great demand, so don't delay, get your places booked as soon as possible.



Grand Lodge.

Future Meetings:

Thursday 14th June – Regular Communication

Thursday 25th October – Regular Communication

Thursday 29th November – Festival of St. Andrew.

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.

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.

Sadly, it is anticipated that "tickets" for admission to the Service in Grand Lodge will be very much restricted with the allocation based in relation to the size of each Province. At the moment, I understand that the allocation to the Province of Renfrewshire West will be limited to just six tickets.



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)!

Bowling:



It's that time of the year again (nearly) and happy to include the following notice from Brother John J C Freeburn!

The Orr Masonic Bowling Trophy to be played on the Greens of the Grosvenor Bowling Club at 10.00 am on Saturday 9th June 2018.

Lodges from within the Province of Renfrewshire West are invited to enter a team or teams of qualified brethren for the above competition.

The competition will consist of two none-end games of Triples and will be open to all brethren who are in "£good standing" with their Mother Lodge.

The cost of entry will be £15 per team (£5.00 each) this will include a cup of tea/coffee and a filled roll after the first game.

There will be a raffle in aid of a nominated charity.

Donations for the Raffle will be eagerly accepted on or before the day.

Brethren are asked to arrive by 9.45 am.

All applications should be sent to:

John J C Freeburn
John.freeburn@ntlworld.com
07961 057533
01475 798135

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

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 3rd – Passing conferred by Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No. 370
Tuesday 17th – No meeting.

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 £25 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.

Challenge Bowling Match between No XII and No 1121

Saturday 5th May at 10.00am at the Ardgowan BC

No XII Summer Special Meeting

Thursday 7th June at 7.30pm - 'Entering' conferred by the Past Masters of the Lodge (Brother Hector Macphail PM in the chair)

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

Monday 2nd – Business Meeting followed by the Spring Draw. There are a few tickets left but not many and going fast. The Lodge is then in recess until the 3rd September.

On Tuesday 24th April, the Lodge will be conferring a Mark Degree at Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 and the Master, Brother Alexander Bloomfield Wilson would be grateful for the support of the Lodge on that evening.

The usual Saturday night dances will continue during the recess 8.30 until midnight and the weekly "Joker" prize will also continue.

Our annual "Old Boys" outing will take place on Saturday 8th September to a TOP SECRET destination. A list for names is on the Notice Board and when the sheet is full – the bus is full, so please get your names in early to avoid disappointment.

For up to date information on events and meetings taking place at Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 go to the Lodge website at:

<http://www.lodgedorickilwinning68.org.uk/>

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 13th - Raising

Friday 27th – Joint Mark Degree with Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 5th - Fellowcraft Degree
Thursday 19th – Entering

On Tuesday 10th April, the Lodge will be conferring a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

On Saturday 14th April, the Lodge will be travelling down to Cambeltown to confer a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge St. John's No. 141.

On Friday 27th April, the Lodge will be holding its Joint Mark Degree with Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175. This meeting will take place within the Temple of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175, West Stewart Street, Greenock.

Looking forward, the Lodge will again be taking part in the annual COMET FESTIVAL at Coronation Park, Port Glasgow on Saturday 23rd June. The Lodge will be holding a Bottle Stall and all donations would be most welcome.

Report - On Monday 19th March, a small deputation of brethren from the Lodge, headed by the Master, Brother Gerard C Robertson, visited Lodge Paisley St. Mirrin's No. 129 to witness a Master Mason's degree along with another very special piece of business. For on that evening, there was a presentation of not one, not two but THREE Jubilee Certificates to three very Past Masters who are all very well known in the Province of Renfrewshire West being regular visitors at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 and The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814. Three brethren who joined the Lodge together and thereafter followed each other through the offices and ultimately served as Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden. Our congratulations go to Brothers David Cloney, Harry Molloy and Alex Mathie. Well done, good and faithful servants indeed!

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 11th – Business Meeting – members only..

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 2nd – Entering (Special Meeting).
Monday 9th - Raising
Monday 23rd – Mark Degree

The Lodge will also be conferring a Mark Degree at Lodge Prince of Wales, Renfrew No. 426 on Tuesday 10th April and the Master would very much welcome the support of the members of the Lodge and also any visiting brethren who would like to accompany the Lodge on this visit.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 11th – Fellowcraft Degree and Annual Visitation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

Wednesday 25th - Homes Degree: This meeting will take place on Wednesday 25th April. Could all brethren wishing to attend please give their "ticket" money to either their respective Lodge Treasurer or passed to myself (Brother Paul Docherty) Could all Lodge Treasurers also forward all monies to Brother Secretary (Paul Docherty) or Brother Treasurer (Brother David Wilson). For any Brother who has not paid for a ticket, please make yourself known to either of the above. Our usual excellent raffle will take place and I would perhaps ask that if a Brother intends only staying for the degree, please feel free to buy some raffle tickets. All raffle prizes will find their way to the winners and all money raised will go to the comforts of the residents of the Marcus Humphrey house. Here's hoping for another terrific evening.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday.10th – Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Tuesday 24th – Mark Master Mason's Degree conferred by Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

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 £2.00 from every sale goes to good causes.

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



Digitisation of Records.

Following comments made by PGM Bro James P Livingstone at our Annual Visitation we thought it might be of interest to other Lodges if we shared how we are going about the digitisation of our records.

With the Lodge's approval, we have embarked on digitising our minute books. We got in touch with Andy Mushat at William Anderson & Sons Limited (Printers) and supplied him with our first two minute books. Each book contained some 300 pages and the two books covered the period 7th February 1913 to 6th December 1918 in total.

The cost of digitising each book was £125, for which we received the following:

- 2 CD copies of each book
- Storage of the master digitised record on William Anderson & Sons secure server.
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In addition, Andy indicated that he could make an additional copy of the CD that could be passed to The Grand Lodge of Scotland for their safekeeping. This additional service would incur an incremental fee.

The CDs have the minute books recorded in PDF format. The digitisation is done using the Photoshop application and consequently it does not pixelate, resulting in the ability to enlarge any page, without loss of clarity.

Obviously, we still have the original minute books, but we have enough copies to ensure that those records digitised will not be lost forever in the event of a fire etc.

If any Lodge would like to discuss the matter further or wish to receive an example page please contact either

Donald J McRae djmcr@aol.com or Douglas C Warnock dcwathome@aol.com

Article by Brother Andrew McKenzie Past Master.

The following article is based on information from Bro Drew McKenzie PM after he was given a photograph and petition on 6th March by John Clark, who lives in Largs and is the grandson of the above Lodge's first Master of the same name. Mr. Clark may be known to some of you as a former prominent member of Greenock Cricket Club. Mr. Clark is not in the craft.



The framed photograph of the Lodge members is from probably 1914. RWM John Clark is still in the chair. His son, Bro William Clark, our first secretary, is to the immediate left of him in the second front row. To the immediate left of him on the front row is the Depute Master Bro James Conlogue who was a driving force within Lodge Crawfordsburn for many years. (One of Bro James Conlogue's final duties in Lodge Crawfordsburn was to install Bro Jackie Brown PM into the chair in the early 50s.) The brethren are posing outside a brick built building. As of the date of submitting this article to West Column, nobody has identified the building so if anybody has any thoughts on the location or names of any brethren please pass them to the Lodge's secretary at djmcrae@aol.com.

The second item is a framed petition from the brethren of the Lodge asking Bro John Clark to reconsider his decision to stand down as Master. Bro Clark did serve two years in the chair (1913- 15). Unfortunately the petition is not dated so we do not know whether it was raised at the end of Bro John Clark's first or second term in office. It is interesting to note that the petition does not seem to contain, for whatever reasons, the names of the DM, WSW or WJW.



Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 12th – Mark Degree

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

Friday 6th – Lecture by Brother Charles Winston, Past Master of Lodge Montefiore No. 753 on the subject; "The Painting, the Baillie and the Lodge".

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 18th April MA & EM
Wednesday 16th May RA

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 5th -

Port Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter No. 900

No information provided. The Chapter meets on the 4th Thursday of the month within the premises of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Preceptory of Ardgowan

Venerable Preceptor 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.

The March Muster will take place on Wednesday 7th March and will also be the annual visit of e District Grand Priory of Strathclyde. It would be great to see a large attendance on the evening and especially nice to see any member who has not attended in a while.

Wednesday

- 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, Gourrock No. 626. The next meeting is on Wednesday 26th April.

St. George's Conclave No. 79 –

Tuesday 17th – Installation 7.30pm.

For those Conclave Masons, please be advised that the Conclave Newsletter "Augustus" is available from conclave79@yahoo.co.uk

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.

Masonic Education.

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.

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.

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

Security Services

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

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

Customer Care

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

SIA Licensing

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

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

Cleaning Services offered

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

All staff vetted

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

Janitorial Supplies

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

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

Emmanuel Oroh
(Manager)
Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd

Advert:



First ABC Training

07958940412

First Aid Training Courses



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

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

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

What courses are available?

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

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

Below are some of our most popular courses:

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

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

Defibrillation Equipment. It is understood that many Lodges are currently considering the installation of defibrillation equipment on their premises and it is again confirmed that such equipment may be purchased using funds from a Lodge's Benevolent Account, if that is convenient.

Many firms will offer to sell such equipment but of course there is an element of training which is also required and which can also be costly. To this effect I am happy to draw to your attention an offer made by Brother Hopper to the Lodges in the Province who is willing to sell such equipment for the special price of £699.00 plus VAT and provide training necessary, free of charge.

Brother Hopper can be contacted at brynrfc@sky.com

Advert:

McPherson's Plumbing & Bathroom
Centre
11, Clarence Street, Greenock PA15 1LR
Telephone: 01475 720881
Website:
www.afmcperson@btconnect.com



A LITTLE BIT OF OUR HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deliveries in Inverclyde are free on orders over £100!

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

OPENING TIMES:

8.30am - 5.00pm Monday thru Friday and 9.00am - 12.00 noon Saturday

Advert:

sales@etprint.com  www.etprint.com
01475 650706

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You break it! We repair it...
Tel: 01475 650706
www.itechinverclyde.co.uk

Painting and Decorating.

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



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



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Barochan Road, Johnstone
PA5 8YS

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West
Calendar of Events and Meetings – April 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1 st
2 nd 68 – Business Meeting and Spring Draw 626 – Entering (Special Meeting)	3 rd XII – Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No. 370	4 th	5 th 217 – Fellowcraft Degree	6 th 1814 - Lecture	7 th	8 th
9 th 626 - Raising	10 th 1121 – Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217	11 th 989 – Fellowcraft Degree 624 – Business #Meeting	12 th 1425 – Mark Degree	13 th 175 - Raising	14 th 217 – Conferring Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge St. John's Cambeltown No. 141	15 th
16 th	17 th XII – No meeting. SGC79 - Installation	18 th RAC XVII – MA and EM degree	19 th 217 - Entering	20 th	21 st	22 nd
23 rd 626 – Mark Degree	24 th 1121 – Mark Degree conferred by Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.	25 th 989 – Homes Degree (special meeting – Fellowcraft Degree). CC and RAM17 - Meeting	26 th	27 th 175/217 – Joint Mark Degree	28 th	29 th
30 th						

(E) denotes an Exemplification

Information is correct at time of issue but may be subject to change. For up to date details of meetings and news and information please log on to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West website at www.pglrw.org