

## The West Column

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Brethren, I wonder if you heard the comments by Andrew Neil recently on his Politics programme in which he spoke of the atrocities which had taken place in Paris and of the differences in the ideology of those who had committed the attacks and what they had to offer the world and the free lives and expression of the people of Paris, a city which had contributed so much to civilisation over the passage of the centuries. Andrew Neil summed up his thoughts by saying that in a thousand years, the terrorists would be nothing but dust but that Paris would still be the City of Light.

What particularly interested me was the reaction over the following days to his comments with probably most people associating themselves with his sentiments but not all were so impressed.

I enjoy listening to Jeremy Vine's show each lunchtime and there are often very interesting debates take place. A few days after Andrew Neil's show, there was a debate on the JV show in which a journalist complained at great length that Neil had no right to say what he did, that it was all simply rhetoric, achieved little and offered nothing.

I couldn't help thinking of all the speeches that Churchill made during the dark days of World War II, when he spoke of the time being *Britain's Finest Hour*, the heroics of the Royal Air Force and that we would *never surrender!*

Rhetoric certainly, promising nothing but *blood, sweat and tears*, absolutely but achieving nothing. I don't think so. What Churchill's speeches meant to the British people cannot be dismissed as pure rhetoric. The British people were only too well aware of their precarious position but Churchill gave them hope, he gave them inspiration, a focus.

For me Andrew Neil, perhaps not quite in the same league as Churchill performed a similar task and reminded us that while the world is faced with a huge evil as a result of terrorist attacks, such acts of violence will not succeed over time because good will ultimately triumph over evil.

In our daily lives, we are sometimes faced with difficult situations. Challenges arise in our personal lives which we require to face up to and if we had no hope or faith, then our task to do so would be made much more difficult.

As I share these thoughts with you, I am reminded of one of my favourite passages in the Bible, from John's Gospel , C1, V5 – *"The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out"*.

In a few weeks, we will celebrate Christmas, the coming of Christ into the world that *light* which gives us all hope for the future of mankind. It is so very hard to maintain a balance in our lives when it seems that there is nothing but bad news whenever we turn on the television or the radio but there is still so much kindness and consideration. It simply does not make the news in the same way.

Faith, hope and love, the great tenets of freemasonry, *love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail. Faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love. (Paul's first letter to the Corinthians V13).*

Brethren, as we approach Christmas, I would extend to you, your families and all that are close to you, my very best wishes for a happy and peaceful time. God bless.

Regards,  
Jim

#### **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](mailto: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.**

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

**Provincial Website.** For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to [www.pglrw.org](http://www.pglrw.org)

Brethren, if you have anything that you wish added to the Provincial website, contact Brother Jim Donnelly at [jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com](mailto:jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com)

**Meetings.**

Lodge meetings in the Province of Renfrewshire West take place as follows;

Day	Day of month.				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
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 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the months of September, October, April and May.

**Dates and duties for your diaries:**

Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Off/bear	Annual Visit	Commenting
12	17 <sup>th</sup> November	Alexander Johnstone	1 <sup>st</sup> March	DPGM
68	11 <sup>th</sup> December	George J Carson	15 <sup>th</sup> February	SPGM
175	23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Alistair Glenny	8 <sup>th</sup> January	WSPGW
217	27 <sup>th</sup> November	Paul Docherty	21 <sup>st</sup> April	WJPGW
626	17 <sup>th</sup> October	William A McLarty	14 <sup>th</sup> March	WSPGW
989	20 <sup>th</sup> November	Gerald C Robertson	13 <sup>th</sup> April	SPGM
1121	6 <sup>th</sup> November	Kenneth K Morrison	26 <sup>th</sup> January	WJPGW
1425	4 <sup>th</sup> December	Richard Harrison	11 <sup>th</sup> February	DPGM
1814	6 <sup>th</sup> May (2016)			

**Renfrewshire 200 Club (RW200Club).**

Application forms are also still available within each Lodge. If you have not already "signed up" I hope that you will give your earnest consideration to this excellent method of charity fund-raising which should at the same time, assist in boosting attendance figures throughout the Lodges. The monthly entry fee is £5.00. However, those wishing to participate are not limited to any number of "entries" and if anyone wishes to purchase two or more tickets they may do so. It is hoped that Lodges will also participate by purchasing tickets and perhaps this could be favourably considered by your General or Finance Committees.

Members may either pay cash (cheques should be made out to the Provincial Grand Lodge) or may take out a standing order arrangement. You can also take part on a monthly basis but to take part in the draw your contribution, whether by cash, cheque or standing order must be with the Provincial Grand Treasurer prior to the draw taking place.

Please remember that a minimum of 50% of the income will be going directly to charity. I have not as yet decided on a good cause for this project as I felt that we had to be assured that it would get "off the ground". It is probably that when the time comes to divide up the proceeds, it will be split between a national charity and a local charity or charities. I have a fairly open mind about a

national charity and would welcome suggestions from Lodges or individuals. There are, of course, many worthy charities and many of them will resonate with many of you for personal reasons. Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland, Breast Cancer, Cancer Research, Childline, Help for Heroes, the list is endless. If you have a suggestion, please email me at Jim626Col@aol.com

### **New Provincial Lapel Badge.**



As you travel to other Provinces, you will notice how members of the Province proudly sport a Provincial Lapel Badge to identify themselves as members of that Province. I thought it was about time that in this Province, we also had a similar badge and so I am able to announce that these are now available for purchase from myself at a cost of £5.00 each with all profits going to the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Fund.

The badge shows the crest of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. Brethren, I have already re-ordered supplies of badges and am unlikely to be making any further repeat orders. I currently have around 30 badges left so if you don't want to be disappointed, please order your badge without delay. I am also delighted to say that when all badges are sold, the sum of around £500 will have been donated from the proceeds to the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Drive.

### **Provincial Grand Master's Diary.**

As always, I am grateful for the excellent support of the members of Provincial Grand Lodge and in particular to the team of Commissioned Office-bearers. November has been another very busy month and I was privileged to attend the following meetings:

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> – Along with DPGM Brother John R S Keith and SPGM Brother Robert P Shields, attended the Annual Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow.  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Attended the Installation at The Princes Lodge No. 607 in the Province of Glasgow.  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Attended a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII conferred by Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Installation of Right Worshipful Master and office-bearers at Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624 conferred by Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Attended a Master Mason's Degree at Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Installation of Right Worshipful Master and office-bearers of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.  
Wednesday – Regular Meeting of Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII.  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Installation of Right Worshipful Master and office-bearers of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Attended Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 at which the "Pipers' Degree" was conferred by Lodge The Gael No. 609 on a new initiate.  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> – Along with the brethren listed below, I attended the Annual Communication and Festival of St. Andrew at the Grand Lodge of Scotland.  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Installation of new Right Worshipful Master and office-bearers of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

## **Report on the Festival of St. Andrew.**

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November, I travelled through to Edinburgh with the following brethren for the annual meeting and Festival of St. Andrew at Grand Lodge.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII – Brother Allan Macfeate, Right Worshipful Master and Brother Fraser Harvey.

Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 – Brother Jim Livingstone, Provincial Grand Master, Brother John Keith DPGM, Brother Nicky Stetz, Right Worshipful Master, and Brother Neil Johnston.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 – Brother James Strachan,

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 – Brother Peter Wilson,

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 – Brother James Cowan, Right Worshipful Master.

Following a very memorable ceremony of installation at Grand Lodge, we retired to the Edinburgh Corn Exchange for the Festival of St. Andrew. All in attendance enjoyed a wonderful meal and terrific speeches.

At the meeting of Grand Lodge, it was an absolute delight to hear the names of two worthy brethren of the Province being honoured by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason for their services to the craft by being awarded Honorary Grand Rank.

Congratulations therefore go to:

Brother James Cowan, PM217, Right Worshipful Master of The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 and Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies with his appointment as Honorary Grand Director of Ceremonies and;

Brother James McCorkell, MM1121 AM624, with his appointment as Honorary Grand Sword-bearer,

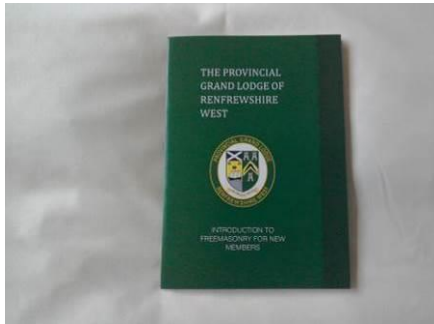
I had the pleasure of presenting Brother Cowan with his certificate at the annual meeting of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November while with the kind permission of the Master of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121, it is my intention to present Brother McCorkell with his certificate at the Annual Divine Service of the Lodge on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

## **New Member's Seminar**

In last month's Column, I made reference to our first New Member's Seminar, which was held in Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October. When this was organised, we were uncertain of the response although it had been discussed with the various Right Worshipful Masters at the Masters' dinner and all seemed in favour of the event. On the day, we were slightly overwhelmed by the response as around 60 brethren turned up. Not all new members, some with their proposers and some very experienced brethren. The event was run with the kind assistance of the Commissioned Office-bearers from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East headed by Provincial Grand Master Brother John S Miller assisted by DPGM Brother Neil Fraser and SPGM Brother Iain McPhee.

In addition to a couple of informative videos, much of the morning was taken up with an excellent discussion session and the general opinion was that it had been a very worthwhile event. The big question is, what now? The matter will be on the agenda at the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge committee on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and I would welcome any thoughts that brethren might have on how we build on the event.

It was also an opportunity to launch our new booklet designed to assist new members develop an understanding of the Craft and to answer some of the more basic questions following their initiation. Each Lodge will be provided with a copy of the booklet to present to a new member at their initiation and enquiries are being made with the printer to establish costings for further supplies as the booklet appeared to be popular with even the senior and experienced brethren who were present.



The event was organised to try and assist with the masonic education of brethren and to make their membership more interesting and fulfilling. I would welcome any ideas or suggestions that any brother might have in how we take this concept forward.

#### Fees:

##### *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 have visiting rights withdrawn as well as the privileges which would normally be afforded to them in their Mother Lodges.

##### *Capitation:*

Brethren should be aware that the Capitation Fee has now been increased to £30 per active member as per the recent membership return. This is the first increase in three years and it is hoped that, if approved, this rate will be fixed for a three-year period. It may be appropriate for some Lodges to now consider whether their TEST FEES continue to be at an appropriate level.

#### Other Fees:

Brethren, in particular, the trustees of the various Lodges, should be aware that a Notice of Motion is currently before Grand Lodge, which if approved at the February communication will result in an increase in fees payable.

This virtually replaces the First Schedule of the Constitution and Laws and amongst the changes would see:

- The minimum fees payable by members (Test Fee) rise from £25 to £30.
- The direct contribution for each initiate payable to Grand Lodge rise from £70 to £90.
- The fees payable by Lodges on behalf of each initiate to Provincial Grand Lodge rise from £5 to £10 and the annual fee to Provincial Grand Lodge rise from £50 to £60.

In addition, the minimum initiation fee would rise from £130 to £150, affiliation fees from £70 to £90 and the mark fee from £25 to £35.

I would stress that the above is simply a synopsis of the various changes and trustees should refer to the billets issued by Grand Lodge for full details.

This Notice of Motion will be considered at the February communication of Grand Lodge and should your Lodge have any opinion on the various changes, that is the forum where these will be discussed.



### Provincial Grand Master's Charity Appeal.



Not Broxi Bears but TLC bears - part of the first delivery to IRH.

If you would like to know more about the TLC project go to <http://www.tlcappeal.org/>

### Annual Poppy Appeal.

At the moment of compiling this Column, I am not aware of the total sum raised by the annual appeal to Lodges other than I am conscious that once again, this Province gave generous support to the appeal.



In addition to the individual crosses purchased by members of the various Lodges, each of which should have received a box of ten crosses, Provincial Grand Lodge had already subscribed to the appeal on behalf of the Lodges in the Province by purchasing a cross. The photo on the left shows the section of the remembrance garden where the "masonic" crosses were located.

Last year the November Column provided photographs of some of the Lodges who were represented at the various Cenotaphs and this year again, the Lodges were represented at every village and town in the Province. The photograph below shows the brethren of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 at the Cenotaph in Inverkip, where a wreath was laid on behalf of the Lodge.



Right Worshipful Master Brother William A McLarty and senior members of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 at the Cenotaph in the village of Inverkip. Similar wreaths were laid in Gourrock, Greenock, Port Glasgow and Kilmacolm.

### **Annual Installations.**

At the time of writing, we are well through the “installation season” with only two installation ceremonies still to take place. My congratulations go to all newly installed Right Worshipful Masters and office-bearers and I wish you all a very happy and successful term of office. The standard of ritual has also been extremely impressive and my congratulations are also extended to all the installing Masters for their hard work and attention to detail.

What has been most pleasing have been the attendances at all of the ceremonies, with numbers regularly around the 90/100 mark and additionally the number of brethren staying to enjoy the festive boards which follow the ceremonial has not only provided tremendous support to the host lodge but does much to develop the fraternal accord between lodges.

While freemasonry regularly has its detractors who complain about falling attendances etc, I would simply say that such a situation does not appear to exist within this Province and I sincerely hope that the wonderful support that the brethren of the Province have shown towards the sister Lodges so far, continues for the remaining ceremonies at Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 and Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68. Keep it up brethren.



## LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING DECEMBER.

### Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> – Annual Divine Service conducted by Brother Jack Glenny Past Master.  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – no meeting

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November, a very large number of brethren assembled for the installation of the Right Worshipful Master Brother Allan Macfeate and office-bearers of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII. The Installation ceremony was carried out (not unexpectedly) in a very dignified and professional manner by Brothers Iain White, Hector MacPhail and Kenneth MacDougall all Past masters of the Lodge. Following the ceremony, the brethren retired to a very enjoyable and excellent dinner at which the usual toasts were made.

The photograph below shows the line-up of office-bearers for session 2015/16.



Congratulations are also extended to Brother Alan D Beck, IPM of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII on his installation as Right Worshipful Master of The Princes Lodge No. 607 in the Province of Glasgow. His installation at the hands of Brother Iain White Past Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII and Brother Bobby Shaw, Past Master, was attended by a very large number of brethren from his Mother Lodge and supported by brethren from the Province. Another superb installation following by an equally superb harmony.



Brother Alan D Beck, Right Worshipful Master of The Princes Lodge No. 607 along with his installing Masters, Brother Iain White and Brother Bobby Shaw. Also in the photograph are the Provincial Grand Masters of Glasgow (Brother James C Peddie), the Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West (Brother James P Livingstone) and the PGM of Renfrewshire East, (Brother John S Miller). On the far left of the front row is of course, Brother Alexander Galbraith, Past Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West and in the back row, Brother James McMillan and Brother William Newlands, SPGMs of the Province of Glasgow.

### **Monthly Draw** (from Brother David Stevenson, Treasurer).

As we enter another year the monthly draw is available again to all of you - and family.

£1 per number per month with no limits !!

All participants will be entered into the draw and it is my intention to draw the winning number on the 1st Tuesday of each month.

PRIZES - I am hoping for £12 per month with the exception of June and December when the prize will be £50 each month. Please support the Lodge with this draw. Cash, cheques or through internet banking are all acceptable.

### **Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> – Annual Installation (6.45 pm). Installing Masters: Past Masters Brothers, George Freeburn, Archibald Wright, John Black

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> - Passing

### **Social Scene**

**Hogmanay Dance** – Tickets for the Hogmanay Dance are now available from Past Master Brother Archie Wright while tickets for the 259<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting and **Burns Supper** are also available from Brother Iain MacLeod.

A warm welcome is extended to all brethren and friends to join the Lodge in their regular Saturday evening dances from 8.30 pm until midnight.

### **Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> - Raising

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – Informal Social Night and Spirit Draw.

### **LODGE GREENOCK ST. JOHN'S NO. 175 ANNUAL INSTALLATION.**

At the Annual Installation of Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175 held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 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 Edward McNeil Ross as Right Worshipful Master.

Brother Marshall R. C. North RWM, after opening the Lodge, welcomed a Deputation of Brethren from visiting Lodges, headed on this occasion by Brother Nicholas R. R. Stetz, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626. They were followed by a deputation of Brethren from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West headed by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Brother James Pearston Livingstone. Thereafter the Installing Masters, Brother Robert P. Shields, Brother Matthew B. Henderson and Brother John L. Howe were received and warmly welcomed by Brother Marshall North RWM.

During the Ceremonial which followed Brother Edward McNeil Ross PM was installed into the Chair of his Mother Lodge for the third time by Installing Master Brother Robert P. Shields PM assisted by Brother Matthew B. Henderson PM.

The Office-Bearers for the ensuing year were also installed into their respective offices by Installing Master Brother John L. Howe PM. **Office-Bearers for 2015-2016 are:** RWM Brother Edward McNeil Ross; IPM Brother Marshall North; DM Brother Alexander Galbraith PM; SM Brother J. Callum Wohlgemuth; WSW Brother Thomas Porteous; WJW Brother Greig Mitchell, Secretary Brother John W. McKenzie; Treasurer Brother G. Grant Armstrong; Senior Chaplain Brother Reverend David Mitchell B.D., Dip. P. Theo; Junior Chaplain Brother Crawford McNeil; SD Brother J. Campbell Pickett; JD Brother James Bowman; Assistant Secretary Brother James Campbell; D of C Brother Matthew B. Henderson PM; Architect Brother David McShane snr; Jeweller Brother John L. Howe PM; IG Brother Paul Brain; President of Stewards Brother Robert Johnstone; Vice-President of Stewards Brother John Harkins, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Steward Brother Michael Micardo and Tyler Brother David Porteous.

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 Edward M. Ross RWM, reply by Brother James P. Livingstone RWPGM; "The Installing Masters" proposed by Brother Edward M. Ross RWM, reply by Brother Robert P. Shields, Matthew B. Henderson and John L. Howe; "The Right Worshipful Master" proposed by Brother Marshall North IPM, reply by Brother Edward M. Ross RWM; "Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175" proposed by Brother William McLarty RWM of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425, reply by Brother Edward M. Ross RWM; "Visiting Brethren" proposed by Brother Thomas Porteous WSW, reply by Brother William Moore PM of Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87 IC and finally "The Artists and Stewards" proposed by Brother Greig Mitchell WJW reply by Brother Robert Johnstone President of Stewards.

#### LODGE GREENOCK ST. JOHN'S NO. 175 ANNUAL DIVINE SERVICE.

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015, the Right Worshipful Master Brother Edward M. Ross accompanied by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Brother James Pearston Livingstone 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 Chaplain Brother Reverend David Mitchell, who provided the Brethren present with his usual inspiring and entertaining address.

#### **Burns Supper.**

Very early notice that the Annual Burns Supper of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 will take place within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.00 pm with tickets on sale at a cost of £12.50 each, which of course, includes guest speakers, entertainment and a 3-course meal. For further information and tickets, please contact Brother Alex Johnstone PM on 0790-971-8096.

**Hogmanay Dance.** – Please see details below.



Bring in the Bells  
*at the*  
Lodge Greenock St. John's  
No. 175 Hogmanay Party  
*with*  
Hot Stuff Disco  
*on*  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December  
2015  
*from*  
8pm until 2am.

Tickets are available now from  
Eddie Ross & Thomas Porteous  
at only £10 per person.

Late Supper Included.

## **Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Raising. The degree will be conferred by the Past Masters of the Lodge.  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – Lecture by Past Master Brother Archie Hoey, followed by a Carol Harmony.  
There will also be the presentation of a Jubilee Certificate.

The Children's Christmas treat will be a visit to the Pantomime at the Beacon theatre on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00 pm and names should be submitted to Worshipful Junior Warden, Brother Steven McKenna as soon as possible.

The Lodge Christmas Dance will take place on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December with food and live music to "River Island". This is now fully subscribed and if you wish to put your name on the waiting list, see Brother Gerry Robertson, PM.

Burns Supper – this year, the Lodge will be joining with Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 for the annual Burns Supper on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. This is open to non-masonic friends and tickets can be purchased from Brother Iain MacLeod of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

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

Due to the repairs required to our hall, the highly successful "Family Friendly Saturdays" have had to be cancelled until further notice. We apologise for this inconvenience to our many loyal supporters over the years but the major repairs will make the hall uninhabitable until they are complete. Could you please pass this information on to any friends that are not on email.

## **Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Raising and AGM.

The Annual Installation of the Lodge will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016 when Brother Bill Duncan, Past Master, will be installed into the chair of the Lodge by Brothers James Lever, PM624, Thomas More, PM1121, AM624 and Brother Alan Buntain PM173. A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to attend.

## **Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Passing  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> – Raising

The Lodge's Christmas Dance will take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December while the Annual Dinner for Senior Members and Widows will take place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December. The Children's Christmas Party will be on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

With regard to the joint 626/1425 Christmas Party for the Children, the Brother Social Convener has asked me to include the following request for details. The party will take place between 2 pm and 4 pm on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December and he is looking for the following details:

Lodge member name and Lodge number.  
Child's Full name and Age.

Please confirm details to Stewart McFadyen at [stewart.mcfadyen86.sm@googlemail.com](mailto:stewart.mcfadyen86.sm@googlemail.com)



## Report on visit by Lodge The Gael No. 609 on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

Brethren, a short report on the above is worthy of a mention particularly as lodges are often said to be “struggling”. This was a meeting which reflected days of old. On the evening, a total of 110 signed the register for the visit of Lodge The Gael No. 609 for the occasion of the conferring of their famous “Pipers’ Degree” on a new initiate of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

In addition to the representatives of the various Lodges, there was a small deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West to welcome Brother Keith Bowes the Master of 609 into the Lodge and the Province. Following an excellent degree on Brother Henry Atkinson, the brethren retired to a harmony, the likes of which probably hasn’t been witnessed for decades and was still going strong into the following morning. It was an occasion when old friends met up, songs were sung, new friendships made and bonds, which have existed between the two lodges for many years, were strengthened. As mentioned by the Provincial Grand Master, the records show that on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1920, a Past Master of Lodge The Gael No. 609 conferred the Mark degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 so the relationship goes back at least 85 years but owing to the destruction of secretarial records as a result of the fire which afflicted the lodge, there is no evidence of a relationship before that date. However, it is quite likely that such has existed from the start of the two Lodges which were consecrate only months apart in 1877/1878.



Old pals act.

Rudi Stetz and Donnie Finlayson (before the harmony started).



Brother Ian Savage,  
resplendent with his new Tyler's  
hat, regaling the company with  
a song.



The Star of Rabbie Burns has a lot to answer for as the Master takes matters to new heights!



Not looking too impressed there Tommy?

#### **Burns Supper 2016.**

Tickets are now on sale for the annual Burns Supper which will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. The cost is £10.00 each and cannot be reserved. They are NOW available from Social Conveners Brothers Stewart McFadyen and Graeme Wallace and given the excellent line-up of speakers for the event, it is advised that tickets should be purchased as soon as possible. Dress code is formal/collar and tie and it a requirement that jackets are worn until after the Loyal Toast.

The line-up for the evening is:

Immortal Memory and Songs from Brother David Docherty, Lodge Rothesay St. John No. 292  
 Toast to the Lasses from Brother Jim Donnelly Past Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.  
 Reply by Brother Ian McLachlan, Senior Warden of Lodge Rothesay St. John No. 292.  
 Piper – Brother Nicky Donnelly and readings by Brother Jamie Donnelly, both of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

An excellent evening is guaranteed.

#### **Lodge Sir Michael No. 989**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Fellowcraft Degree

Please note that only a very limited number of the new and very smart Lodge ties are available from Brother Bob Winning who also has a few Lodge diaries left at a cost of £5 each. Brother Scott McLaughlin is also able to order Lodge glasses which can be engraved with a Brother's name and/or Lodge and the square and compasses.

#### **Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121**

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Raising  
 Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Annual Divine Service

The Christmas Treat for the Children will take place at Funworld on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

**Installation.** On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November, a very impressive number of brethren gathered at the Masonic Temple in John Street, Gourrock to witness the installation of Brother Adam McKenzie and office-bearers for the session 2015/16. Following the installation ceremony conducted by Past Masters Brothers Michael O'Neill, Thomas More and George J Carson, the brethren were treated to an excellent festive board at which the usual masonic toasts were made.



Right Worshipful Master Brother Adam McKenzie and his team of office-bearers.



Right Worshipful Master Brother McKenzie with his installing Masters, Brother Michael O'Neill, Thomas More and George J Carson all Past Masters of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.



Well seeing who is leading who astray! Uncle Jimmy and nephew Hughie.

#### **Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> – The annual Installation of the Lodge will take place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30 pm when Brother Kyle Wilson will be installed into the Chair of the Lodge. A warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to come along.

Childrens' Christmas Party and Christmas Dinner for Senior Citizens and Widows of former members – see details above under Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

From overseas – I regularly receive communications from a Brother of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 who joined the Lodge during his active Service days and who subsequently returned to his homeland and has since risen through the ranks to higher service. However, Brother Richard Vanderhoef has never forgotten his Masonic roots and proudly wears his "1425" apron at every opportunity. In the photograph below, Brother "Van" is shown with his colleagues at the installation at his adopted Lodge Waukegan No. 78. As always, Brother "Van" extends his very best wishes to all the brethren of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Update. I've just received a communication from Van in the States to say that he was recently admitted to hospital for emergency heart surgery. I'm sure that all at 1425 will join together to send our very best wishes to him for a full and speedy recovery. Get well soon Van!





I don't think it is necessary to pick Brother "Van" out in the photograph above.

### **The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814**

The Lodge is now in recess until 2016.

## **Other Orders**

### **Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII**

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII meets in the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourrock on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

Most Excellent First Principal, Andrew G Pigott and office-bearers of the Chapter extend a warm invitation to all, especially any Companions who may not have been to the Chapter for some time. Remember, the hardest thing can be walking through that door again. For anyone contemplating returning to the Chapter, you can be assured of a warm welcome.

2015/16 Syllabus.

16<sup>th</sup> December – Royal Arch Degree

2016

20<sup>th</sup> January – Provincial Annual Visit

17<sup>th</sup> February – MA & EM

16<sup>th</sup> March - Royal Arch Degree

20<sup>th</sup> April – MA & EM

18<sup>th</sup> May – Royal Arch Degree

### **Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289**

No information provided.

### **Preceptory of Ardgowan**

The Preceptory of Ardgowan extends a warm welcome to any Frater who has been unable to attend over the past few years through other personal commitments and looks forward to seeing them at any of our Statutory Musters in the future.

A pocket sized Syllabus has been compiled to assist those not currently on e-mail and a general aide memoire for all. Current Statutory Musters and Executive Committees forecast for 2015 are as follows;

Please ensure that the Secretary has your current contact details including e-mail and mobile number. All musters are held within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock.

2015 syllabus of meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015                      -                      Knight Grade

Venerable Preceptor Fr. J. Cowan welcomes all knights and gives a warm invitation to attend.

Take that first step and join with us.

Further Information: Contact Secretary/Registrar Fr. A. Johnstone- 0790-971-8096.

### **St. George's Conclave No. 79 -**

2016

19<sup>th</sup> January – RCC

16<sup>th</sup> February – KHS

15<sup>th</sup> March – Lecture on Origins of Conclave Freemasonry (By Grant McLeod).



## *The Wee Corner*

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

### CHARITY NEWS

#### STAMP APPEAL.

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

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

#### **ANNIVERSARY LAPEL BADGES.**

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



Badges, may be purchased individually by qualified Brethren, or in bulk by Lodges who may wish to make presentations to deserving Brethren, for meritorious service. All enquiries and orders to [treasurerno12@aol.com](mailto:treasurerno12@aol.com)  
Please make cheques payable to "David Stevenson".

#### **Anniversary Badges.**

Brethren, Brother David Stevenson, who kindly took on the task of co-ordinating the supply of anniversary badges from Brother Henry Tibbles has asked me to include a brief request to the effect that he would appreciate if Lodges could ascertain what the demand is likely to be for supplies of such badges during the coming year. It would be helpful if Lodge secretaries could co-ordinate any likely requests for such badges and advise Brother David of demand. His email address appears at the advert for the badges.



In the October 2014 edition of the West Column, I published a 'Grumpy Old Masters ' Badge, provided by Brother Brian Hopkins PM626. Brother David Stevenson, has advised me that following enquiries from a number of brethren, he has been able to source these at a cost of £5.50 each excluding postage. Brother David's details are provided above.

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## Masonic Education.

I am continuing to publish a list of suggested reading which many of you appear to have found useful. It would be my intention to continue to keep this list as a standard feature and if anyone finds a website or article which could supplement the list, please let me know and I will be more than happy to add the details.

### Reading Material

- The Ashlar
- The Grand Lodge of Scotland Year Book (order through your Lodge Secretary).
- Robert Burns - The Freemason edited by John Weir from Grand Lodge of Scotland
- The Origins of Freemasonry: Scotland's Century, 1590-1710 by David Stevenson
- The First Freemasons by David Stevenson
- The Craft by John Hamill
- The Genesis of Freemasonry by Knoop and Jones
- The Scottish Mason and the Mason Word by Knoop and Jones
- The Temple and the Lodge by Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh
- A Pilgrim's Path by John J. Robinson
- The History of Freemasonry by Robert Freke Gould
- The History of Freemasonry by Albert G. Mackey
- The Secrets of Freemasonry by Robert Lomas
- Workman Unashamed by Christopher Haffner
- Famous Scottish Freemasons published by Grand Lodge of Scotland
- The Freemason at Work by Harry Carr
- A Masonic Miscellany by George Power

### New Material.

Right Worshipful Master Brother George Carson advises for those with a Kindle Fire HD you can download for free: The Symbolism of Freemasonry by Albert G MacKey in the 1800's. and comments that it is a very interesting insight into the use of symbols and allegories and how they may have developed from ancient cultures into what we have in "modern" Freemasonry. A little bit heavy in parts but as a free download for the information and ideas it is excellent.

### Websites

- <http://www.hawthornefortitude200.com/twtmag.html>
- <http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/>
- <http://freemason.pastperfect-online.com/37812cgi/mweb.exe?request=random>
- <http://www.americanmason.org/TheNorthernLight.aspx>
- <http://scottishrite.org/srjournal/>
- <http://www.esmason.com/news.html>
- <http://www.freemason.org/newsEvents/index.htm>
- <http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/>
- "Pietre Stones".
- Cinosam
- [www.rurallodge.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://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.

## **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](http://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](http://www.lodgesirmichael989.co.uk)

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 – [www.lodgecrawfurdsburn.org.uk](http://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.

## **DO YOU ORDER GOODS AND SERVICE THROUGH THE INTERNET – READ ON -----**

### **GRAND LODGE – BENEVOLENT FUNDS - Easyfundraising**

Brethren, I draw to your attention the attached fundraising scheme for the Benevolent funds of Grand Lodge and I commend it to you. It is the easiest, most painless way to raise money for the Benevolent funds.

I have used it on a number of occasions and it is incredible the amount that can be sourced by simply buying online at your usual supplier - all the big names are there. e.g. simply renew your car insurance with your Insurance Company and the normal fee sent by the Company to your nominated charity or good cause is £35 other suppliers send a percentage anything from 1.1/2 -2.3/4%. It is so simple it is brilliant. Please read the attached and consider using if you buy online.

Many thanks

Alex Galbraith

Extract from Grand Lodge of Scotland Yearbook 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

#### **The EASY FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE – AN EXCELLENT AND SIMPLE WAY OF RAISING MONEY FOR THE BENEVOLENT FUNDS OF GRAND LODGE.**

The chairman and members of the Benevolence and Care Committee invite you to join them in supporting the above initiative which enables much needed monies to be raised for the Benevolent Funds at **NO** cost either to you or to Grand Lodge.

Please take the time to visit the website to find out more at: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)

#### **How it works:**

The scheme operates by the registration of organisations and individuals with the service and when they shop online with a participating retailer, a donation is made to their nominated recipient. So many of us now shop online that it is an excellent way of raising funds just by doing something which we would anyway. Since the committee first approved participation in this initiative, Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund has been registered and now has a unique identification number which means that we can receive money from the scheme. Therefore, the more people who register and nominate Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund as their benefactor, the more funds we can raise simply by making online purchases in the normal way but using the links from the above site first.

To go directly to the unique web address for Grand Lodge type: [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/glsbf](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/glsbf) and follow the links to register. The website is easy to use and gives a step by step guide. Different retailers give different percentage donations – for example, Grand Lodge has already received the sum of £35.00 which was donated by Direct Line when a member of staff renewed their car insurance. It is very difficult to raise funds in these challenging economic times so this initiative is worthy of consideration. Many thanks in anticipation of your support.



## Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West Calendar of Events and Meetings – December 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 <sup>st</sup> XII – Annual Divine Service	2 <sup>nd</sup> Preceptory of Ardgowan – Knight Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> 217 - Raising	4 <sup>th</sup> 1425 – Installation (6.30pm)	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>
7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup> 1121 - Raising	9 <sup>th</sup> 624 – Raising (AGM) 989 - Passing	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup> 68 – Installation (6.45 pm). 175 - Raising	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>
14 <sup>th</sup> 68 – Business Meeting 626 – Passing	15 <sup>th</sup> 1121 – Annual Divine Service	16 <sup>th</sup> RAC XVII – RA Degree	17 <sup>th</sup> 217 – Lecture and Carol Harmony	18 <sup>th</sup> 175 - Informal Social Night and Spirit Draw	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>
21 <sup>st</sup> 68 – Passing	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>
28 <sup>th</sup> 626 – Raising	29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>			

**(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.pgllrw.org](http://www.pgllrw.org)*