



## The West Column

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*"Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration"! So said Albert Einstein and who am I to disagree with him! Well, certainly I would not wish to disagree with the reasoning behind his famous quote but I might take issue with the percentages suggested. I think everyone needs a little bit of inspiration in their lives from time to time. I wonder what inspires you brethren or perhaps I should also ask the question, who inspires you?*

Too often, I fear that the young people of today, draw their inspiration from the wrong sources.

I watch with huge disappointment as sportsmen and women cheat their way to success by using performance enhancing drugs. I watch with disgust as overpaid footballers, cheat and try to get their opponents sent off, seemingly incapable of moving the shortest distance without spitting or swearing at the referee. Popstars with their lavish lifestyles, spending money as if it is going out of fashion concerned only with themselves and not with others.

There are, of course, exceptions to this rule but they seem to be so few and far between and I can think of the example of Steven Naismith, a well-paid footballer but who still gives of his time and talents to assist with the homeless in Glasgow, not just financially but giving freely of his time to serve food to those most in need.

During the week, one of the programmes I managed to catch, was one about the KINDERTRANSPORT, which told the story of how Sir Nicholas Winton, organised the safe passage of a total of 669 Czech children out of the country to safety, shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War in 1938. Yet his story only came to light, when his wife discovered an old scrapbook nearly 50 years later and the story unfolded of his good work.

Sir Nicholas Winton died on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 at the age of 106 and I understand that there are plans to commemorate his life with a Service sometime this year. What a wonderfully inspirational figure. An example of selflessness and humility which marks him out as a real hero.

Inspiration can also come from the unlikeliest of sources as well. Think of the brother who never misses a meeting and while perhaps not taking a major role in the ritual, is quite content to carry out unseen work in the background, often without acknowledgement and praise.

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In conversation recently, I was reminded of a favourite read of mine, which was the autobiography of the Reverend J L Dow, known to many of our older members through his ministry at Cartburn Augustine Church and through his regular column, as *Albert Harbour*, in the Greenock Telegraph. He talks of his time as a young man assisting in the seaside missions in Aberdeen and how he never had any problem finding someone to play the portable organ at the beach but he could never find anyone to carry it there and back. A situation familiar to many I expect that there is always a queue to take the “glory” jobs but no volunteers for the hard graft behind the scenes. However, I digress, I was speaking about inspiration or perhaps the lack of it in our daily lives.

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We are fortunate in our Craft, that we have many examples of inspirational figures. Men who through their untiring labours provide great service not only to the Craft but to others in their daily lives, often without too much recognition or praise. Our teachings can provide us with great inspiration if we open our hearts, our eyes, our minds to the tenets and principles of our Order.

At the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, we will recognise the dedication and service of Brother Archie Hoey, a Past Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 who for the last 22 years has served, on behalf of this Province, on the Board of Grand Stewards at Grand Lodge and who was recently appointed to the office of President of the Board of Grand Stewards. I sincerely hope that many of you will join with us at the meeting to recognise the outstanding service of this truly inspirational freemason.

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One last thought before I finish – I opened this ramble with a quote from Albert Einstein, so I will close with another for you to bear in mind; *“Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value”*.

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With kindest 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

**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 Glenney	8 <sup>th</sup> January	WSPGW
217	27 <sup>th</sup> November	Paul Docherty	21 <sup>st</sup> April	WSPGW
626	17 <sup>th</sup> October	William A McLarty	<del>14<sup>th</sup> March</del> 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	WJPGW
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	WSPGW
1425	4 <sup>th</sup> December	Richard Harrison	11 <sup>th</sup> February	DPGM
1814	6 <sup>th</sup> May (2016)			

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**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

Latest winner drawn at the annual visit of Provincial Grand Lodge to Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 was Brother Paul Stewart of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

#### **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 ~~40-4~~ 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 £~~6~~500 will have been donated from the proceeds to the Provincial Grand Master's Charity Drive.

**Summer Ball** – Tickets are now on sale through your Lodge Secretary. There has already been considerable demand for tickets so don't miss out on yours (the wife/partner will not be pleased)!

#### **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. January has been another very busy month and I was privileged to attend the following meetings:

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Regular Meeting (Lecture) of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> – Regular Meeting (Entering) at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Annual visit of Provincial Grand Lodge to Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Senior Citizen's annual dinner at Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Attended Regular Meeting (Raising) at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Attended Regular Meeting (Raising) at Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Annual Installation of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624.  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Attended the Annual Burns Supper of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.  
~~Thursday 24<sup>st</sup> – Attended Regular Meeting (Entering) of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.~~  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Annual visit of Provincial Grand Lodge to Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> – Represented the Province at the Quarterly Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire along with PPGM Brother Alexander Galbraith, ~~and JPGJPGW~~ Brother Gordon Porter and Bible-bearer Brother Alan Beck.  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> – The Province was represented at the Quarterly Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East by DPGM Brother John R S Keith.  
Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> – Attended the joint Divine Service of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting and installation of elective office-bearers of Provincial Grand Lodge will take place in the premises of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175, West Stewart Street, Greenock on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 6.45 pm with deputations from the sister Provinces being admitted at 7.30 pm. The installation of office-bearers will be carried out by Provincial Grand Secretary, Brother Robin McIntyre

and it is hoped that all daughter lodges will be well represented. Following the meeting, there will be a celebration supper at a cost of £10 (there is no charge if only attending the meeting). At the dinner, there are no formal speeches, however the Province's annual Citizenship Award will be presented to Mrs Elizabeth McDonald who will be our guest on the evening. The deputation from the sister Provinces will be headed by the Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow, Brother James Campbell Peddie.

There will also be another very special presentation on the evening:

#### **CHARITY ZIP LINE CHALLENGE.**



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I am pleased to be able to confirm that following my request for "volunteers" to take part in this event, I received names from Lodges XII, 175, 217, 626, 1121 and 1425. At first the Province was only allocated 5 spaces but after an impassioned plea to the chief organiser, this has been increased to ten spaces. My thanks go to all who submitted their names and those not selected will be placed on a reserve list in case more spaces become available but the lucky ones taking part are:

▲ From Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII; Brothers Bob Bain, Tam Hamilton and Allan Glen;  
From Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175; Brothers Jim Campbell and Tom Harkins;  
From Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217; Brother Fraser Hamilton;  
From Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 and Provincial Grand Lodge; the Provincial Grand Master!  
From Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121; Brother John Laird;  
From Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425; Brothers Scott Kerr and Robert Harron.

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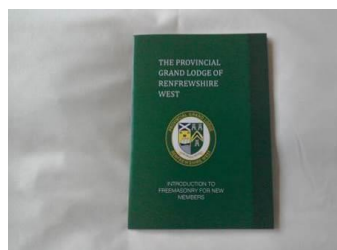
Following registration (cost £50 which covers the running costs of the event), each participant will be asked to raise a further £200 which, if achieved, will realise the target total of between £30,000 - £35,000.

The event will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May with participants assembling on the south side of the Clyde near the BBC offices, where they will be harnessed up before making their way on foot across the bridge to the Finnieston crane. There they will be hoisted up to a height of around 150 feet in a basket before being attached to the wire and launched back across the river. Simple!

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Brethren it is hoped that ALL of the lodges and individual brethren will embrace this effort and whether your lodge has a brother taking part or not, that you will all lend your very best support to the challenge.

#### **New Member's Booklet**



Stocks of the new member's booklet have now been distributed to all Lodges for presentation to new initiates.

#### *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.**

The scheme appears to be ticking over quite nicely with the A & E Unit at Inverclyde Royal Hospital making a request for further supplies of teddies which have since been delivered to the Unit.

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

### **Grand Lodge.**

The February Regular Communication of Grand Lodge will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 2.00 pm. As stated above, there is a notice of motion before Grand Lodge concerning fees.

The next informal meeting of Provincial Grand Masters which takes place twice-yearly and is often the most productive of all the meetings will take place in Perth on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April. This is an opportunity to raise matters of interest or concern and if there is anything that you feel is appropriate to place on the agenda, please let me know.

**LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING  
~~DECEMBER~~FEBRUARY.**

**Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Please note that due to the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Music Festival, there is no meeting of the Lodge.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Entering

The Annual Burns Supper of the Lodge will take place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February with tickets on sale now at a cost of £20.

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

As we enter another year the monthly draw is available again to all of you - and family.  
£1 per number per month with no limits !!  
All participants will be entered into the draw and it is my intention to draw the winning number on the 1st Tuesday of each month.  
PRIZES - I am hoping for £12 per month with the exception of June and December when the prize will be £50 each month. Please support the Lodge with this draw. Cash, cheques or through internet banking are all acceptable.

**Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Business Meeting  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – ~~Business Meeting-Raising (7.15 pm)~~  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Passing and annual visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15).  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Entering  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> – Raising (7.15 pm).

**Social Scene**

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.

Burns Supper.  
Report by Brother George Freeburn PM.

Approximately 100 brethren and their guests celebrated the Lodge's 259th Anniversary on 22nd January.



Brother William Lawson Right Worshipful Master, making sure the haggis was well and truly dead!

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A packed assembly giving rapt attention to Brother Ross Nugent, PM217 and HM68.

After the short Anniversary Meeting a fabulous Festive Board was held celebrating the Anniversary of the Lodge and the Life of Brother Robert Burns.

Wee Brother Iain MacLeod, the Lodge Bard, acted as Chairman of the Burns Supper.

The toast to the Immortal Memory of Bro. Burns was proposed by Bro. Campbell Snoddy of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No 12.

The toast to Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 was proposed by Bro. David Wilson of Lodge Sir Michael No 989.

The toast to the Lasses was proposed by P.M. Alan Beck of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No 12, the reply was given by Bro. John Lanigan of Lodge Dunoon Argyll No335.

Our P.M. Archie Wright proposed a toast to our Absent Brethren.

During the course of the evening the crowd were well entertained by P.M. Ross Nugent of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No217 and our own R.W.M. Bro. William Lawson with various recitations. Musical entertainment was provided by our own Senior Deacon Bro. Billy Mooney on the pipes, and P.M. Alan Beck in song.

All in all a most enjoyable night which finished some time in the early hours of Saturday morning.

**Spring Draw.** Tickets costing £1.00 each are now available for the Spring Draw with many fantastic prizes. First prize is a 40" Smart TV, second prize; and iPad Air; third prize; Argos vouchers and many other great prizes.

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

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Entering (a possibly unique meeting with a father and his three sons all being initiated on the same evening)!

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> - Passing

#### **Burns Supper.**

Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 Burns Club had their Annual Burns Supper on Sat 16th January 2016. Although the weather did affect the numbers, all the main speakers and special guests managed to get there. An excellent evening was had by all and every speaker was top notch. The evening was opened by the Chairman, Mr Eddie Ross. Grace was given by Mr Greig Mitchell. Piper

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Mr John Black then accompanied the haggis bearer, Mr Frank O'Donoghue whereby Mr Sandy Reddy gave the Address to the Haggis.

After a superb meal by chef Mr Jim Williams the Loyal toast was given. This was followed by Mr Sam Peden who gave a wonderful Immortal Memory. The Toast to the Lasses was given by Mr Jim Naismith and the Reply by a very humorous Mr Stuart Naismith. The readings were recited by Mr Walter Snedden and the musical interludes by artistes Mrs Morag O' Donaghue & Jim Robertson.

The final reflection of the evening was given by Mrs Christine MacLeod, President of Greenock Burns Club (the Mother Club). All the company then finished with Auld Lang Syne (and Happy Birthday as it was the Chairman's birthday !! ).

Mr Alex Johnstone would like to thank all those who assisted and supported the evening and looks forward to seeing everyone again next year.

### **Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> – Passing  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> – Raising

Would all office-bearers note that there will be a meeting of the General Committee on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February within the Lodge Temple at King Street Port Glasgow.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> - Raising

The Annual Installation of the Lodge took place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016, when Brother Bill Duncan, Past Master, was installed into the chair of the Lodge by Brothers James Lever, PM624, Thomas More, PM1121, AM624 and Brother Alan Buntain PM173. In spite of suffering from a dreadful cold, Brother Bill was overwhelmed to realise that a total of 106 brethren had packed into the Community Centre at Skelmorlie to witness his installation. He was particularly delighted with the representation of the Lodges from across the border in Renfrewshire West with five reigning Masters from the Province along with a healthy deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West all present. An excellent installation ceremony was followed by a very enjoyable harmony dinner and congratulations are extended to Brother Bill and the office-bearers and brethren of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624 for an excellent evening.

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My thanks go to Brother Robert Little, Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire for kindly allowing us to join his deputation.

### Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – [Passing](#)

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – [Entering \(annual visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West at 7.15 pm – Please note change from original date\).](#)

#### Burns Supper 2016.



The lodge held its annual Burns Supper on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January when an excellent attendance of brethren and friends, joined together to be entertained by a superb top table of speakers including Brother David Docherty who provided the Immortal Memory. The toast to the lasses was delivered by Brother Jim Donnelly PM217 and the reply by Brother Iain McLachlan of Lodge Rothesay St. John No. 292. The haggis was piped in by Brother Nicky Donnelly and readings and the address to the haggis were provided by Brother Jamie Donnelly both of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

I wonder if you follow the daily posts from Grand Lodge in their new (excellent) facebook page? If so, you may have seen a post recently in which they mention that they retain records on behalf of all lodges including memorabilia, photographs etc. I was reading this with interest and it was obviously from replies they were receiving from the post that I was not the only one who was unaware of this fact. On scrolling down the post, I was surprised and delighted to find, that as a sample of the type of material they were looking for, there was a photograph of the centenary meeting of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Although I was a member at the time, I did not take office until December of that year (1978) and so was not included in the photograph. In fact I was working behind the bar!

Interestingly, Grand Lodge was represented on the day for the ceremony of rededication, by the present Most Worshipful Grand Master's father, Brother Captain Robert Wolrige Gordon and as I recall it was a most enjoyable day.

Sadly many of those in the photograph have now passed to the Grand Lodge above including the Provincial Grand Master, Brother David Leith, Brother Walter Jamieson (in the top hat) etc but still with us are (back row far left – a youthful Brother Rudi Stetz, middle – Brother Ivor Gibson; far right, Brother Robert Wilson and Brother Raymond Bruce). The Right Worshipful Master was Brother David Munro and seated next to the Grand Master is Brother Murdo Munro.





### Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Raising (to be conferred by Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 – even although it is the Right Worshipful Master's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on the evening)!

Jubilee Certificate (report by Right Worshipful Master Brother Paul Docherty).

▲ At our meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2016, I was personally delighted to present a Jubilee certificate to Brother Arthur Scott Boyle. Bro Boyle was initiated in Lodge Sir Michael on November the 10<sup>th</sup> 1965.

He was the son of Arthur Scott Boyle senior who also was a member of Lodge Sir Michael and he, like his son, was born and bred in Kilmacolm. Arthur senior was born in 1916, just 11 years after our Lodge was even constituted, and became a member of the Lodge as soon as circumstances and discharges from the services allowed, and was initiated on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1946.

He was very proud of the day his son Arthur junior was initiated into his Mother Lodge in 1965, and was even more delighted when the first of his grandsons, Bro Roderick Boyle, was also initiated into Lodge Sir Michael on December 10<sup>th</sup> 1980. Thereafter, he was then the proud proposer of his second Grandson initiated in September 1983, the current RWM. Me!

▲ Brother Roddy was already an Office bearer when I joined in 1983. Unfortunately like many younger Freemasons, both Roddy and I fell away from the craft and only came back a few years later. Arthur senior (my granda) never saw me attaining the chair in our Mother Lodge, but I know with absolute certainty that he would have been looking down on us on Wednesday evening from the Grand Lodge above, smiling as his eldest grandson presented a Jubilee certificate to his son, in the company of his other grandson Bro Roderick. I couldn't have been prouder to do so.

▲ Who knows, maybe his grandson or indeed our sons (his great grandsons) will be Masters of our Grand wee Lodge in the future and continue this wee legacy! I look forward to what the future holds for us

~~Congratulations to Brother Arthur S Boyle who was presented at the regular meeting on~~

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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.

Homes Degree.

It might be a little bit away yet but tickets for the Homes Degree (Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April) have been distributed to all of the Lodges and it is hoped that every Lodge will sell its full allocation and more importantly will be fully represented on the evening. The degree will be in the hands of one of the "newbies" Brother Nicholas R R Stetz (on his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday) of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 who is no doubt already hard at work with his team.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Passing conferred by Lodge Springburn No. 1198 and Burns Harmony.  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Raising

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> – Passing (Exemplification) and Annual visit of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (meeting commences at 7.15 pm)

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April – The first meeting of the 2016 will include a lecture by Brother T Wilson Aitken, Provincial Grand Master of Kilwinning on the history of the Mother Lodge.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Annual Meeting and Installation of office-bearers.

The Lodge is now in recess until 2016.

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## **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.

2016

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**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> – Provincial Visit. Please note permanent change of meeting night from second Monday to the first Thursday of the month.

### **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 2015/16 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.

Venerable Preceptor Fr. Kevin Pollock 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

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 [treasurno12@aol.com](mailto: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.



## A century on .....

1915

THE YEAR IS 1915 – some reflections and comparison (From Brother George Nixon PM1121 – and no George is not speaking from personal memories)!

The year is 1915 "One hundred years ago". What a difference a century makes! Here are some statistics for the Year 1915:

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.

Fuel for cars was sold in chemists only.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bath.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average British wage in 1915 was £15 per year!

A competent accountant could expect to earn £800 per year.

A dentist £900 per year.

A vet between £600 and £900 per year.

And, a mechanical engineer about £2000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.

Ninety percent of all Doctors had no university education!

Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press AND the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost two pence a pound.

Eggs were 10 pence a dozen.

Coffee was five pence a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and, used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

The Five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza

2. Tuberculosis

3. Diarrhoea

4. Heart disease

5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars.

The population of Las Vegas , Nevada was only 30.

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Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was neither a Mother's Day nor a Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and, only 6 percent of all British pupils went to university.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at local corner chemists. Back then chemists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach, bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health!" (Shocking?)

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.! In 2014 this figure had risen to 14,249.

In the UK the murder rate in 1915 was 1420. In 2015 it was 537. (Perhaps we are doing something right!)

## 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.furallodge.com](http://www.furallodge.com)

### 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.grevfriars51.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.

From Brother Alexander Galbraith,

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## INSURANCE

"Lodges seeking to make savings in their running costs may like to consider a new Insurance Company offering exclusive insurance coverage to all Masonic bodies in the UK.

'The Masonic Mutual Limited' was established in 2014 with four founder Masonic Members and its membership has grown steadily since. It offers specialist cover for Masonic buildings, contents and liabilities through a real alternative to conventional insurance.

Mutuality is an unfamiliar concept to some, but is in fact a fast growing sector of financial services. An increasing number of groups are choosing to manage their risk in this way, including livery companies, doctors, farmers, newsagents and universities.

All Masonic bodies throughout the UK are eligible for Membership and can therefore benefit from the cover provided by The Masonic Mutual for their buildings, contents and liabilities.

A mutual is a company owned by and operated for the benefit of its members. The Masonic Mutual is run by a Board of Directors elected by the Membership, all of whom are Freemasons themselves and by taking out cover with the Mutual you become a member. This means the Mutual is run for you. There is a sense of community with being a member of a mutual, just as there is with being a Freemason.

The Chairman of The Masonic Mutual Limited, Brother Robin Furber is a long time personal friend and his lifetime expertise in the insurance industry cannot be questioned.

Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 has already made substantial savings in their insurance cover by joining the Mutual.

For further information and quotes please contact Jeff Moore Tel: 01580 752052. Mobile 07825 077220. Email [Jeff.Moore@rmml.com](mailto:Jeff.Moore@rmml.com)

Alex Galbraith, Past Substitute Grand Master,  
Past Provincial Grand Master."

## Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West Calendar of Events and Meetings – February 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 <sup>st</sup> 68 – Business Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> XII – No Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> <u>Preceptory of Ardgowan</u>	4 <sup>th</sup> 217 – <u>Passing</u> RAC 289 – Provincial Visit Grand Lodge – Regular Communication (2.00 pm).	5 <sup>th</sup> <u>Provincial Grand Lodge – Annual Meeting (6.45).</u>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> 68 – <u>Raising (7.15)</u> 626 – <u>Passing</u>	9 <sup>th</sup> 1121 – <u>Passing by Lodge 1198</u>	10 <sup>th</sup> 624 – <u>Raising</u> 989 – Raising (conferred by 626)	11 <sup>th</sup> 1425 – <u>Passing (E) and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge (7.15).</u>	12 <sup>th</sup> <u>175 - Entering</u>	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>
15 <sup>th</sup> 68 – <u>Passing and AV by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15)</u>	16 <sup>th</sup> XII – Entering SGC 79 - KHS	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup> <u>217 - Raising</u>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
22 <sup>nd</sup> 68 – <u>Entering</u> 626 – <u>Entering</u>	23 <sup>rd</sup> 1121 - <u>Raising</u>	24 <sup>th</sup> RAC XVII – MA and EM	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup> <u>175 - Passing</u>	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
29 <sup>th</sup> 68 – <u>Raising (7.15)</u>						

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