



The West Column



Thank you for some of the nice comments I received on my piece last month regarding the hymn “Abide with me”! As I confessed in last month’s leader column, its publication was due to a shortage of preparation time but many of you still appeared to find it interesting. Not as interesting or as thought and comment provoking as the previous month’s issue on which I touched on the subject of public rebuke as opposed to constructive criticism so to an extent I would like to return to that theme in this month’s issue.

However, I will start with a short riddle. What is it that as soon as you think you have it, you’ve lost it? The answer is, of course, humility.

I am often astonished at how dogmatic people can be, especially politicians, many of whom have the attitude that they are never wrong. They will not even consider for a single moment that someone else may just hold an opinion which, if different from their own entrenched view, can be even worthy of consideration. It seems that when some individuals obtain a position of power, they believe that they have achieved some sort of exalted status that results in them being always right. In the Gospel according to St. Luke, (14:11), he has some good advice for such people. “For everyone who exalts themselves will be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted”.

Yes, a little humility goes a long way. Sadly, in my experience in my former working life in Local Government, it was common to find elected officials (that’s councillors to most of us) to suddenly believe that they were experts in all manners of things and often took the opportunity to berate ordinary employees, from a position of power, in all sorts of way.

Of course, such examples of power corrupting, can be found in all walks of life and I’m sure that we can all recall examples of individuals “getting above themselves”. Sadly, our Craft is no exception to such behaviour and we have often seen brethren attaining rank and power only to exercise it in a dogmatic or autocratic fashion.

At this point, I would say that I have always tried very hard to consider other points of view but if at any time, any Brother considers that I am getting above myself in my position as Provincial Grand Master, then I sincerely hope that you will give me a very sharp tug on my coat tails.

In the Book of Proverbs, we receive excellent advice on this subject: “When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom”; “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice”!

As we present the implement of authority in a Lodge, be that a maul, a gavel or a mallet, to a newly installed Master, we charge him to yield it with discretion and wisdom and not to act in a dictatorial or autocratic manner.

It is one of the most important pieces of advice that can be provided to a new and inexperienced Master. It is always important to seek out and consider the views of others especially those who can bring experience and wisdom to assist in the responsibilities of leading a Lodge. The Lord gave us TWO ears and only ONE mouth and sometimes it's helpful to use them in that proportion.

At this time of the year, it is perhaps particularly appropriate to have in mind humility as Jesus was born not into wealth and status but in the most humble of circumstances.

Turning back to the Scriptures, I would finish up with a quote from Philippians; "Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests but also to the interests of others".

Perhaps if we all showed a little more humility, the Lodge, our workplaces and the world around us would be better off for it!

It only remains for me to extend my very best wishes to you and your families for a very happy, peaceful and joyous Christmas.

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

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.

Future of the West Column:

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

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

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

Please support the West Column.

Reminder - Advertising of meetings:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Advertising of Services:

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

Defibrillation Equipment.

On the subject of advertising, there is later in this edition of the West Column, an advert for First Aid Training which is offered by Brother Bryn Hopper, a member of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

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

Many firms will offer to sell such equipment but of course there is an element of training which is also required and which can also be costly.

To this effect I am happy to draw to your attention an offer made by Brother Hopper to the Lodges in the Province who is willing to sell such equipment for the special price of £699.00 plus VAT and provide training necessary, free of charge.

Brother Hopper can be contacted at brynrfc@sky.com

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

Provincial Website. For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to www.pglrw.org

Brethren, if you have anything that you wish added to the Provincial website, contact Brother Jim Donnelly at jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com

Meetings.

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

Day	Day of month.				
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Monday	68	68	68	68	68
Monday		626		626	
Tuesday	XII	1121	XII	1121	
Wednesday	Preceptory	989	Royal Arch		
Thursday	217	1425	217		
Friday	1814 *	175	175	175	175

- The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 meets on the 1st Friday of the months of September, October, April and May.

Dates and duties for your diaries:

2017:

Provincial Grand Lodge

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

Annual Installations and Visitations:

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

In the event that any Provincial Office-bearer is unable to make any of the above dates, it would be appreciated if an apology could be registered with Provincial Grand Secretary in advance of the meeting.

Byelaws and Notices of Motion:

Brethren, could I please urge you to ensure that any proposed changes to bye-laws be discussed with the Provincial Grand Secretary BEFORE compiling a Notice of Motion for submission to the Lodge. This will ensure that the Motion is in an acceptable format and avoid any delays caused by having to have the proposal reworded and resubmitted.

Renfrewshire 200 Club (RW200Club).

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

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

Please remember that a minimum of 50% of the income will be going directly to charity.

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

Provincial Grand Master's Diary.

Meetings attended in November:

Friday 3rd - I attended the annual Installation of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121.

Sunday 5th – Attended the Annual Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow in Sherbrooke St. Gilbert's Church.

Monday 6th – I attended and took part in a Fellowcraft Degree at The Prince's Lodge No. 607 in the Province of Glasgow chaired by Brother James C Peddie, Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow. My thanks goes to Brother James McCorkell, Provincial Grand Tyler, and the brethren from Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII and Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 who supported me on that occasion.

Tuesday 7th – Attended the AGM of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII followed by an excellent Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121.

Wednesday 8th – Attended a meeting of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 at which an excellent Master Mason's Degree was conferred by the Master and brethren of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Thursday 9th – Attended a Master Mason's Degree at Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Monday 13th – Attend a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

Friday 17th – Led a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West to the Annual Installation of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.

Sunday 19th – Led a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West to the Annual Divine Service of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121.

Monday 20th – Attended the funeral of Brother Ivor G W Gibson, Past Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

Monday 20th: - Attended a meeting of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and witnessed a Fellowcraft Degree carried out by Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Tuesday 21st – Led a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West to the annual Installation of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Friday 24th – Led a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West to the Annual Installation of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Monday 27th – Attended an Entered Apprentice Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

Tuesday 28th – Attended a meeting of the Education Sub-group of the Information and Communications Committee in Perth.

Thursday 30th – Attended the Festival of St. Andrew at the Grand Lodge of Scotland.



The line-up of representatives from six visiting Provinces at the Annual Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow.



A superb night at the Princes' Lodge No. 607 where a "Five Provinces" Fellowcraft Degree was conferred. Many well-kent faces in the above photograph.

Change of Commission:

On the 1st February 2018, there will be an entirely new Commission taking control of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West when the present Provincial Grand Secretary, Brother Robin McIntyre, currently Provincial Grand Master-designate will assume the responsibilities of office of Provincial Grand Master.

Although Brother McIntyre is somewhat limited in his mobility following a serious injury sustained in a fall returning from a meeting, he was able to attend the Installation at Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 on Friday 17th November and took the opportunity to thank the brethren in the Province for the trust placed in him following his nomination by the Lodges and his appointment by Grand Lodge.

He also took the opportunity to announce his team of Commissioned office-bearers who will take up their respective offices on the 1st February as follows;

Depute Provincial Grand Master – Brother John Williamson Black, Past Master of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and Past Senior Provincial Grand Warden.

Substitute Provincial Grand Master – Brother Stuart Robert Wilson, Past Master of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.

Provincial Grand Secretary – Brother Alan Duncan Beck, Past Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII, Past Master of Lodge The Prince's No. 607 (Province of Glasgow).

Provincial Grand Chaplain – Brother George Johnstone Carson, Past Master of Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121.

Congratulations as extended to all. Although the Commission is effective from 1st February 2018, the actual Installation will take place in Greenock Town Hall and Saloon on Saturday 17th March 2018 and further details will be provided in future editions of the West Column.

Test Fees:

Please be reminded that it is important that Test Fees are kept up to date. Most Lodges now offer the facility of paying by direct debit which is an excellent way of ensuring that you are always clear in your Lodge.

In particular, it is also important to make sure that if you are an affiliate member of another Lodge, you must be clear in ALL Lodges in which you are a member to ensure that you may continue to visit other Lodges. Brethren who are not up to date in all Lodges of which they are a member, have visiting rights withdrawn as well as the privileges which would normally be afforded to them in their Mother Lodges.

Provincial Ball.

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

Grand Lodge - Festival of St. Andrew.

The Province was well represented at the Festival of St. Andrew at Grand Lodge on Thursday 30th November where we witnessed Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont being installed, once again, for his tenth year, into his office as Grand Master Mason. Following an excellent installation ceremony, the brethren retired to the Corn Exchange for the celebration dinner and were well entertained by the toasts and speeches. A very enjoyable day!

It is hoped that there might be some photographs of the event in the next edition of the West Column. One interesting aspect of the day was the presence of the BBC who are currently recording a programme on The Grand Lodge of Scotland and Scottish Freemasonry. Finally, it was very pleasing to note that a further donation of £11,500 was made by the Grand Master Mason to Mr Adam Gaines of

Prostate Scotland bringing the total so far donated to the charity to over £400,000. The Grand Master also confirmed that the sponsorship of this chose charity would continue for the next 4 years.

Honorary Grand Rank.

Heartiest **congratulations** are also extended to the following brethren from the Province who were all awarded for their services by the Grand Master Mason with honorary membership of Grand Lodge.

Brother Kenneth Kennedy Morrison, Past Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII and Provincial Grand Director of Music – Honorary Grand Architect.

Brother Robin McIntyre, Past Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626, Provincial Grand Secretary – Honorary Assistant Grand Secretary.

Brother Thomas Forgan Menzies Trotter, Past Master Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 and Provincial Grand Treasurer – Honorary Grand Treasurer.

Commemoration of the Fallen 2018.

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

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



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

As part of events to mark the ending of the First World War, the Masonic Homes Group in conjunction with the Widows Sons Masonic Motor Cycle Group, will be doing a fundraising tour of the 32 Provinces in 2018 and are schedule to visit this Province on Saturday 29th September. It will be a very short stop but it is likely that the Group will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in Port Glasgow before heading off to their next stop in Dunbartonshire. It would be appropriate if the Province could present them with a cheque on their visit and perhaps Lodges could consider making a donation to the funds of Poppy Scotland. This will be a matter for the new Commission to consider. (See above comment regarding the challenge to raise £1,918)!

Remembrance Day:

Once again, it is a source of some pride that all of the Lodges in the Provinces were represented at each of the towns and villages across the Province.



The Masters of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII, Brother Allan T Glen, Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121, Brother Malcolm A Sinclair and Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175, Brother Thomas Porteous pay their respects at the War Memorial in Wellpark, Greenock following the Remembrance Day Service. Wreaths were laid on behalf of each of the Lodges.



Brethren from Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 at the War Memorial at Inverkip.

Brother David D Stevenson and brethren representing Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 following the service at the War Memorial at Gourrock.

In Port Glasgow, the brethren of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 and Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 were represented and in Kilmacolm, Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 were also present.



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

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 5th – Annual Divine Service to be conducted by Brother Jack Glenny, Past Master to be held in the Saloon of Greenock Town Hall at 7.30 pm. Regalia to be worn.

Tuesday 19th – No meeting.

Installation:



Brother Allan T Glen and his team of office-bearers and brethren following the annual Installation Ceremony on Tuesday 21st November 2017, in the Saloon of Greenock Town Hall.



The Master, Brother Allan T Glen, his Installing Masters, Brothers Iain White, Alan Beck and Ken Macdougall along with Mr Martin Brennan, Provost of Inverclyde.

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 4th – No Meeting
Monday 11th – Business Meeting
Monday 18th – Entering
Monday 25th – No meeting.

Annual Installation. The Lodge's annual Installation meeting will take place on Friday 8th December at 6.45 pm when Brother Alexander Bloomfield Wilson will be installed to serve a second successive year as Master of the Lodge. Installing Masters are Brother George Freeburn, Brother Archie Wright and Brother Ian McPherson all Past Masters of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

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

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

Social Scene

Our regular Saturday dances continue every week from 8.30 until midnight

Also available is our Joker Prize. Tickets cost £1 and can be purchased on a Monday night from Bro. George Taft or on a Saturday night at the dance.

Hogmanay Dance tickets are on sale - available from Archie Wright or from the bar.

Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175.

Friday 8th – Passing
Friday 15th – Informal Social Night and Spirit Draw.
Friday 22nd – No meeting

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 7th – Master Mason's Degree conferred by the Past Masters of the Lodge.

Thursday 21st – Carol Harmony and Lecture by Brother Jim Gardiner, Past Master of Lodge Barns O' Clyde entitled "A Scottish Brother in an Irish Lodge in England".

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

Installation:

The annual Installation of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 took place on Friday 24th November within the Masonic Temple, Brown Street, Port Glasgow, when Brother Gerard C Robertson was installed into the chair of his Mother Lodge in an excellent ceremonial by Brother John McAlister, Brother Dan Blaney and Brother Jim Donnelly, all Past Masters of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217. Following the ceremony, the brethren retired to dinner and enjoyed an excellent harmony with the usual toasts and responses.

Brother Gerard C Robertson along with the two stalwarts of the Lodge Brothers Waldorf and Stadler – sorry correction – Brothers W Ross Nugent and Robert Smith Stone, Past Masters of the Lodge and Past Senior Provincial Grand Wardens.



Not two contestants from the programme “Eggheads” but Provincial Grand Master, Brother James P Livingstone congratulates the new Master, Brother Gerry Robertson on his installation as Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217.

Brother Robertson, of course, also serves as an office-bearer in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.



Brother Gerard C Robertson and his team of office-bearers for session 2017 – 2018.
Is it me or is Brother Ross Nugent keeling over before the harmony dinner?

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 13th – Fellowcraft degree (Exemplification) and AGM.

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 11th – Fellowcraft Degree.

Monday 25th – No meeting.

Christmas Festivities:

The annual Pensioner's Christmas Dinner will be held jointly with Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 on Saturday 9th December at 2.00 pm followed on Sunday 10th December at 2.00 pm by the Children's Christmas Party again held jointly with Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

The annual Christmas Dance will be held on Saturday 16th December from 7.30 until 1.00 am. Tickets for this extravaganza are now on sale at a cost of £6.00 each. Entertainment will be provided by DJ Craig Gibson and a hot supper of Pie (chicken, Steak or Macaroni) and peas/beans will be provided. There will be the usual raffle of course. Be sure to book your ticket quickly for this very popular event. Tickets are available from Senior Deacon, Brother Brian McClure (brains.mcclure@btinternet.com)

Looking ahead to the Lodge's Annual Burns Supper. In a change to recent arrangements, the 2018 Burns Supper will take place on Saturday 13th January at 7.00 pm with the usual fayre of soup, haggis with all the trimmings and cheese board on offer at a cost of just £10.00 for this very popular event.

The line-up of speakers and artistes is as follows:

Chairman: Brother David D Stevenson, Master.
Immortal Memory: Brother James G Porter, Past Master.
Toast to the Lasses: Brother John Lanigan, MM335
Reply to the toast to the Lasses: Brother Duncan Simpson MM1121.

Tickets available from Senior Deacon Brother Brian McClure at brains.mcclure@btinternet.com



Photograph of the newly Installed Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 along with his Installing Masters and office-bearers for session 2017 – 2018.

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

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

Installation:

On Friday 17th November, a packed Temple in Kilmacolm witnessed the Installation of Brother Scott McLaughlin into the Chair of his Mother Lodge along with his office-bearers for the forthcoming year. There were many visitors from outwith the Province including a very sizable deputation from Lodges under the control of the United Grand Lodge of England who had made the journey north to be present. The deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge was headed by the Provincial Grand Master, Brother James Livingstone who gave his customary welcome to those visitors from outwith the Province. The deputation of visitors was headed by Brother David D Stevenson, the Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626.

Following a very sincere ceremony by Installing Masters, Brother Paul Docherty PM989, Brother Douglas Robertson PM989 and Brother George Robertson HM989 PM791 the Lodge retired to a celebration meal where the usual toasts were offered. A very enjoyable evening.



Brother Scott McLaughlin, Master of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 is congratulated by Provincial Grand Master Brother James Livingstone and his Installing Masters, Brother Paul Docherty PM989, Brother Douglas Robertson PM989 and Brother George Robertson PM791 following his Installation.



Brother Scott McLaughlin, Master of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 along with Wardens, Brother James Watson and Brother David Kerr.

Obituary:

It is with much regret that we learn of the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Brother Lauchie Webster (father of Brother Martin Webster) a member for over 66 years of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989.

Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 12th – Entering (Exemplification) and Ballot.

Tuesday 19th – Carols, Readings and Christmas Harmony with mince pies and ginger wine.

RWM Malcolm A Sinclair

RWM Malcolm A Sinclair of Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No. 1121 was installed as a Grand Steward at the last meeting of The Grand Lodge of Scotland.



Annual Installation on 3rd November 2017

On Friday, 3rd November, Bro Malcolm Andrew Sinclair was installed for the second time, as Right Worshipful Master of his mother Lodge, Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No, 1121. Bro John Laird and Bro Iain D Hair were also re-installed as Worshipful Senior Deacon and Worshipful Junior Deacon respectively. The Principal Installing Master was Bro Michael O'Neill PM, who was assisted by Bro Thomas More PM and Bro Samuel L Hunter.

The Lodge was well supported by brethren from within and outwith the Province. The Lodge welcomed our regular installation visitors from Lodge Stirling No.1989 (EC), who had travelled from Cleator Moor in Cumbria. RWM Matt Davidson, who presented RWM Malcolm A Sinclair with a decorative walking stick, headed the large deputation from Lodge Stirling on this occasion.

Following the Installation a dinner and harmony took place, at which Loyal and Masonic toasts were made.



Freemasonry Assistance given to Callum McMichael

With a £2,500 donation made by Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock and other substantial donations made by other Lodges within the Province, the treatment for Callum McMichael, who suffers from a degenerative muscle disease and who is Bro James McCorkell's (Corky) grandson, will start by the end of the month at Craighalbert Centre, Cumbernauld.



Callum also had a special birthday present when IPM Bro Adam McKenzie turned up in his capacity as a police inspector with one of Police Scotland's cars. As can be seen from the attached photos Callum appears to have had the time of his life.



Callum's mum, Kerry, has expressed her family's extreme gratitude for all the support that Callum has received through the Lodges and has promised to provide us with periodic progress updates, which Lodge Crawfurdsburn will share through West Column.



What is it they say when you think police officers are looking awfully young nowadays?

Ideas for that special Christmas gift!

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

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



Perfect stocking fillers for that special lady in your life?

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

The Annual Installation meeting of the Lodge will take place on Friday 1st December at 6.30 pm when Brother Robert Rice will be installed into the chair of his Mother Lodge by an installing team headed by Brother Kenneth M McCrae, PM626, HM1425, assisted by Brother William A McLarty, PM1425, PM624 and Brother James Livingstone, PGM, PM1425, PM626. A very warm welcome is extended to all qualified brethren to attend the meeting and thereafter to be the guests of the Lodge at a celebration dinner to follow.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

In recess until April 2018.

Other Orders

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII meets in the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourock on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

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

Meetings for the session ahead.

Wednesday 20th December RA
Wednesday 17th January Provincial Visit
Wednesday 21st February MA & EM
Wednesday 21st March RA
Wednesday 18th April MA & EM
Wednesday 16th May RA

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Thursday 7th. The Chapter will be hosting a visit by Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII who will be conferring a Royal Arch degree.

Port Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter No. 900

Thursday – No meeting in December.

Preceptory of Ardgowan

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

MUSTERS and Grades for 2017 are;

Wednesday 06 December – KG

- A pocket sized syllabus is also available where required
- Executive Committee dates and times will be advised separately
- All musters are held within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock at 7.30 pm unless otherwise advised.

Please ensure the Secretary has your current contact details.

Greenock CC & RAM 17 - Meets 4th Wednesday at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

St. George's Conclave No. 79 - No conclave meetings until January.

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

The Wee Corner

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

CHARITY NEWS

STAMP APPEAL.

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

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

ANNIVERSARY LAPEL BADGES.

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



Badges, may be purchased individually by qualified Brethren, or in bulk by Lodges who may wish to make presentations to deserving Brethren, for meritorious service. All enquiries and orders to treasurno12@aol.com
Please make cheques payable to "David Stevenson".

Anniversary Badges.

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



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

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Emmanuel Oroh

(Manager)

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- [Paediatric First Aid Training 6 Hour](#) and [12 Hour](#)

Bryn Hopper Training Manager.

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

Masonic Education.

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

Reading Material

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

New Material.

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

Websites

- <http://www.hawthornefortitude200.com/twtmag.html>
 - <http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/>
 - <http://freemason.pastperfect-online.com/37812cgi/mweb.exe?request=random>
 - <http://www.americanmason.org/TheNorthernLight.aspx>
 - <http://scottishrite.org/srjournal/>
 - <http://www.esmason.com/news.html>
 - <http://www.freemason.org/newsEvents/index.htm>
 - <http://www.freemasons-freemasonry.com/>
 - "Pietre Stones".
 - Cinosam
 - www.rurallodge.com
- Sadly, the last site is now no longer updated but there are a few back copies still on the site which are worth reading and I think that the lectures and material available at <http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/> are particularly good.

The Ashlar:

Of particular interest to all freemasons in the Ashlar edited and produced locally, it is one of the most informative publications that you could read and is available either through your Lodge or through Brother Alex Galbraith, Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, for the relatively modest sum of £4.00. Often with articles written by brethren known to us locally, it comes highly recommended.

I am also pleased to advertise the following publications which can be ordered through the Masonic Publishing Company, 30, Loanbank Quadrant, Glasgow G51 3HZ. Email at info@theashlar.com

Profits from the sale of any books goes towards Masonic benevolence.

Books - Price List.

Title	Price £	Postage and Packing			
		UK	Europe	World 1	World 2
Robert Burns, Cronies etc (Hardback 1.5 Kg.)	24.50	6.00	13.00	21.00	22.50
The Star of Robert Burns (Hardback 1.0 Kg.)	19.95	6.00	9.50	15.50	16.50
A Winter with Robert Burns (Hardback (0.3 Kg).	12.50	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
Robert Burns Print	29.95	Free	5.50	7.50	8.00
Illustrated Guide to Rosslyn Chapel (Hardback (0.3 Kg).	12.50	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
Nicolo and Antonio Zena. (Hardback (0.6 Kg).	22.50	3.50	6.50	10.00	11.00
MacBride Ritual. (Hardback (0.25 Kg).	18.00	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
A.S. MacBride Speculative Freemasonry. (Hardback (1.0 Kg).	20.00	6.00	9.50	15.50	16.50
The Church of the Knights Templar in London. (Hardback (0.25 Kg). Also available in soft cover (0.25Kg).	12.50 8.00	3.50	5.50	7.50	8.00
The Bruce - Robert King of Scots. (Hardback (0.6 Kg).	12.00	3.50	6.50	10.00	11.00
The Great War, 1914 - 1918 Victoria Cross Freemasons. (Hardback (1.6 Kg).	35.00	6.00	13.00	21.00	22.50

Circle Publications.

I would take the opportunity to recommend to you that you take a few moments to click on the following link to see what is available through this excellent website. www.circlepublications.com

There is a vast range of interesting material available and in particular a booklet called "The Lodge Master", which explains his duties, powers and responsibilities and is an excellent read for every member of the Lodge.

Also available, are copies of the "Burns Print", signed by his wife in 1813 (the only one so signed), which makes an excellent gift for a friend, a speaker or a raffle prize.

Provincial Grand Lodge Renfrewshire East.

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

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

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Lodge Websites.

Brethren, sadly my plea to Lodges to ensure that their websites are up to date appears to have fallen on deaf ears as many of the website contain information which is out of date. There is nothing more off-putting and I am of the opinion that if a Brother accesses such an out of date site, he is unlikely to return to it.

I would appeal to you to ensure that your material is up to date and if possible place a "Last Updated" post on it.

If you are not able to update your meetings in particular, I would suggest that it is better to delete this section and just have your website as a static basic information only site, with contact details.

Some useful site addresses.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland - <http://www.grandlodgescotland.com/>

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West - <http://www.pglrw.org/>

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII – www.lgk12.com

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 - <http://www.lodgedorickilwinning68.org.uk/>

Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 - <http://www.greenock-st-johns-175.masonic-lodge.org.uk/>

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 - <http://lck217.org.uk>

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626 - <http://www.firhofclyde.org>

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 – www.lodgesirmichael989.co.uk

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121 – www.lodgecrawfurdsburn.org.uk

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 - link deleted.

Stirling Royal Arch Websites

<http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/> - Lectures site

<http://www.lodge76.co.uk/> - Main site

<http://www.greyfriars51.fsnet.co.uk/> - Preceptory site

Grand Lodge Guidelines for the creation of Lodge Websites

if anyone is considering the development of a lodge website please bear in mind that the Grand Lodge of Scotland have issued guidelines for the creation of such sites and I would be happy to provide a copy.

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



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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 st 1425 – Annual Installation 6.30 pm	2 nd	3 rd
4 th 68 – No Meeting	5 th XII – Annual Divine Service 7.30 pm.	6 th Preceptory of Ardgowan - KG	7 th 217 – Master Mason's Degree conferred by Lodge Past Masters. Ranfurley RAC No. 289 – RA degree conferred by RAC XVII.	8 th 68 – Annual Installation 6.45pm 175 - Passing	9 th 626/1425 – Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner 2.00 pm	10 th 626/1425 – Children's Christmas Party 2.00 pm.
11 th 68 – Business Meeting 626 - Passing	12 th 1121 – Entering (E) and Ballot.	13 th 989 – Passing conferred by Lodge Gleniffer No. 1218. 624 – Passing (E) and AGM.	14 th 1425 – Business Meeting (Ballot) – Members only.	15 th 175 – Informal social Night and Spirit Draw.	16 th 626 – Christmas Dance 7.30 pm	17 th
18 th 68 - Entering	19 th XII – No meeting 1121 – Carols, Readings and Harmony.	20 th RAC XVII – RA Degree	21 st 217 – Carol Harmony and Lecture	22 nd 175 – No meeting.	23 rd	24 th
25 th 68 – No meeting 626 – No meeting.	26 th 1121 – No meeting	27 th	8 th	29 th 217 – Christmas Dance.	30 th	31 st

(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