



## The West Column

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Brethren,

I hope that you and your families all had a wonderful Christmas and that Santa was good to you but how quickly it all passes and the festivities are over.

This was brought home to me the other day when I surfaced from the over-indulgence of Christmas Day and Boxing Day and decided that I would walk down to the local Co-op, to get myself a newspaper and get a bit of exercise and fresh air at the same time.

I could hardly believe it when I walked into the shop to find that one of the staff members was already removing the Christmas decorations while another was packing the shelves with Cadbury's Crème Eggs. Seriously – you'll have had your Christmas

How quickly do things move on and Christmas becomes just a memory. On the days before Christmas, I managed to acquire a bit of a chest infection and normally I can shake these things off in a few days but this one did really floor me. (Apologies by the way for my absence at meetings over the last two weeks but you definitely would not have wanted me sitting next to you!) I was left with a bark that a performing seal would have been proud of. As my daughter was off on leave during this time, it meant that we were not looking after the grandchildren as usual but when my two and a half year-old grandson, Callum phoned me up during the week, he seemed very concerned when he heard me coughing down the phone. Such was his concern that he told his Mum, that he had to come up to see if I was all right.

The next day he duly arrived and the first words he said as he came through the door were "are you OK Grandpa"? This is all very touching but his concern didn't last too long as when he realised that I had been off my food and that there was a pile of chocolates from my advent calendar lying uneaten (yes – Mrs PGM still gets me an advent calendar even after 44 years of married life), Callum decided that he could best help me out by turning his attention to the chocolates and I'm sure they were very nice. Unsurprisingly, the attention span of a two and a half year old is limited but his initial concern was very much appreciated.

Over the Christmas period, it is likely that we have all felt a bit more charitable towards our fellow man with a little bit of that Christmas spirit working its magic upon us. Perhaps, we have made an extra contribution to our favourite charity or perhaps taken the time to stop and show a little concern for that homeless person that we would normally pass by on the street. Was it our annual visit to a Church Service or perhaps you made a contribution to the local foodbank?

Sadly all too often our concerns last no longer than the average two and a half year-old's and it's a case of out of sight and out of mind.

However, as we see on the news programmes, the homeless are still homeless, the destitute are still destitute. Bombs continue to explode in Kabul killing innocent people, children have to be evacuated from Damascus to have life-saving treatment. A typhoon hits parts of Indonesia and leaves thousands of people without anything. Refugees flee oppression in Burma and terrorists continue to carry out acts of atrocity against innocent lives across the world.

The challenge for us is of course not to put the plight of others less fortunate than ourselves out of our minds but to continue to lend our active support and help wherever we can. The challenge is not to pass by on the other side of the street but to cross that street and do our bit. It's a true saying that the only time you should look down on a person is when you are giving them a hand up!

So let us start the new-year with our own resolution to think less of ourselves and more of others and may I extend to all a very happy peaceful, healthy and prosperous new year.

As this will be my last West Column as Provincial Grand Master, I would also like to say what a privilege it has been to serve this Province during the last five years as Provincial Grand Master and indeed the last twenty-five years as a Commissioned Office-bearer. It is a privilege which I have never taken lightly and I am very conscious of the support which I have received during my term of office as Provincial Grand Master from my Commissioned and Elected office-bearers but most particularly from the members of the Lodges within the Province of Renfrewshire West. It has been such a support to feel the warmth of the welcome whenever I have attended a Lodge meeting and I can only hope that you have been satisfied with my efforts over the past five years. I would wish the new Commission which will assume their responsibilities on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018, every success over the next five years.

Regards,  
Jim

#### **Obituary – Brother William Anderson Boyd:**

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Brother William Anderson Boyd a Past Master of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 and a Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden.

Brother Boyd had suffered a period of ill-health and passed to higher service on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at the age of 86. He had been initiated into Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1955, passed on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1955 and raised on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 1955, receiving his Mark degree the following year on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1956.

Brother Boyd served his Lodge for over 62 years with great distinction and was Master from 1969 – 1971.

These are the bare facts of his membership but do little to fully describe his service to the Lodge, the Province and to the Craft. Bill was first and foremost a gentleman and it was always a great pleasure to be in his company.

Although his health did not allow him to be so actively involved in recent years, he nevertheless retained a huge interest in what was happening in his Lodge and in the Province.

His passing to the Grand Lodge above will be felt by many but in particular by his family and our sincerest condolences are offered to them.

## **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.**

## **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](mailto:brynrfc@sky.com)

## \*\*\*\* - 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) - 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	RAC XVII		
Thursday	217	1425	217	PGRAC 900	
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:

#### Provincial Grand Lodge

#### Annual Meeting and Installation of elective office-bearers.

The annual meeting and Installation of elective office-bearers for session 2018 – 2019 will take place within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 at 6.45 pm prompt. This will be the first meeting for our new Provincial Grand Master following the commencement of his Commission on the 1<sup>st</sup> February and it is hoped that this meeting will be well supported by the Lodges in the Province. While a ticket is not required to attend the meeting, there will be an informal supper following the meeting and tickets for the supper are now available through your Lodge secretary at a cost of £10.00.

#### Installation of Provincial Grand Master and his Commissioned Office-bearers.

Arrangements are in place for the Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master and his Commissioned office-bearers, which shall take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018, within the Saloon of Greenock Town Hall at 1.00 pm prompt. Tickets for the celebration dinner which will follow this event are now on sale through your Lodge secretary at a cost of £25.00 each. It is hoped that the ceremony will be carried out by the Grand Master Mason, Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon. While it is not necessary to purchase a ticket for the dinner it is likely that demand for tickets for the dinner will be high and as there is limited seating within the Saloon area of the Town Hall, it is likely that priority will be given for admittance to the ceremony to those in possession of a ticket for the dinner.

#### Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Off/bear	Annual Visit 2018	Commenting
12	Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	TBA	Tues. 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	TBA
68	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	TBA	Mon. 19 <sup>th</sup> March	TBA
175	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	TBA	Fri. 9 <sup>th</sup> March	TBA
217	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	TBA	Thurs. 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	JPGW
626	Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	TBA	Mon. 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan.	SPGW
989	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	TBA	Wed. 11 <sup>th</sup> April	TBA
1121	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov.	TBA	Tue 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	SPGM
1425	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	TBA	Thurs. 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	TBA
1814	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	TBA	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 draw for the months of November and December took place with the winners being Brother Archie Wright PM68 and Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 respectively.

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

Meetings attended in December

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> – Attended the Annual Installation of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425. The deputation from the PGLRW was headed on this occasion by Substitute Provincial Grand Master Brother Robert P Shields.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Attended the annual Divine Service of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Attended the annual Installation of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> – Attended the annual Senior citizen's Christmas Lunch at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Attended a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626.

Unfortunately, despite my best intentions to attend further meetings in the Province during the month, I succumbed to a viral infection which laid me low for a couple of weeks and I must tender my apologies for those meetings missed during the second half of December.

### **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 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This is a little earlier than previous years as we are aware that this year, the date clashed with the long holiday weekend. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

### **Grand Lodge - Festival of St. Andrew.**

In last month's West Column, I promised some photographs taken at the annual Festival of St. Andrew.





Brother Jim Strachan (1121), Brother Tommy Trotter RWM1814 and Secretary 626 and Provincial Grand Lodge Treasurer, along with Brother Robin McIntyre, Provincial Grand Master designate.





Brother Malcolm Sinclair, RWM1121 in his capacity as Grand Steward, making sure nothing gets out of hand along with Brother Willie Stevenson, Almoner of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.



Brother Stuart Johnston (626) admiring Brother Sinclair's nice green rosette.



Brother David D Stevenson, Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626 along with Brother Neil M Johnston (626)

### **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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 scheduled to visit this Province on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September. It will be a very short stop but it is likely that the Group will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in Port Glasgow before heading off to their next stop in Dunbartonshire. It would be appropriate if the Province could present them with a cheque on their visit and perhaps Lodges could consider making a donation to the funds of Poppy Scotland. This will be a matter for the new Commission to consider. (See above comment regarding the challenge to raise £1,918)!

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

### **Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – No meeting.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Lecture by Brother Iain White PM – “From No. XII to the King Emperor by way of the Scotts and the Cairds.

**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.

Tickets are now sale for the Burns Supper to be held in Greenock Town Hall on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018. With a line-up of speakers including the renowned Brother David Vennard, proposing the Immortal Memory and Brother Kenny Wilson (the Wherries) proposing the Toast to the Lasses, this is bound to be a very popular evening so don't be disappointed and make sure you secure your ticket as soon as possible.

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

No information was provided by the Lodge with regard to meetings taking place during the month of January.

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

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

### **Social Scene**

Our regular Saturday dances continue every week from 8.30 until midnight

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

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

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Passing and Ballot

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

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Burns Supper.

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

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> – No meeting.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> – Entering and Annual visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 pm).

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January, the Lodge will be conferring a Master Mason's Degree at Lodge Barns O' Clyde No. 1018 with the deputation being received at approximately 8.00 pm.

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

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

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – The annual Installation of the Lodge will take place within the Community Centre, Skelmorlie, when Brother James Cannon, will be installed into the chair to serve a second term as Master of the Lodge by Installing Masters, Brother William A McLarty PM624 PM1425, Brother Kenneth M McCrae PM626 and Brother Alan Buntain PM173. This meeting commences at 7.30 pm.

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

Monday. 8<sup>th</sup> - Raising

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Entering and annual visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 start).

Looking ahead to the Lodge's Annual Burns Supper. In a change to recent arrangements, the 2018 Burns Supper will take place on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> 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 [brians.mcclure@btinternet.com](mailto:brians.mcclure@btinternet.com)

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

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Entering**

**Homes Degree: A bit of very advanced warning that the Homes Degree will take place this year on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm with tickets, costing £6.00, available shortly from Lodge secretaries.**

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

Tuesday.9<sup>th</sup> – Entering and Annual Visit by Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15 pm).

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Springburn No. 1198.

#### **Donation to Inverclyde Foodbank and Compassionate Inverclyde**

##### Inverclyde Foodbank

Throughout the year, but especially at this time of year, we know that for various reasons individuals and families have to be referred to foodbanks throughout the country in order that they can get a basic meal.

At the above Lodge's first meeting in November, Bro George G Nixon PM announced that, if the brethren were so inclined, he would like to organise a collection for the Inverclyde Foodbank in the meetings running up to Christmas. The brethren were happy to agree to this suggestion.

At the following two regular meetings, food donations and monetary gifts were brought to the Lodge to meet this appeal. George, who also delivered all the goods to Inverclyde Foodbank's premises, converted any gifts of money to appropriate foodstuffs by visiting a supermarket.



The donations were gratefully received by the Foodbank organisers, pictured below, who thanked the Lodge's brethren for their kindness.

In total some 20 large carrier bags of food were donated in a short period of time, all of which will be put to good use over the Festive period. It just goes to show that small individual efforts mount up and have a significant positive impact on people worse off than us.

#### Compassionate Inverclyde

The project "Compassionate Inverclyde" was brought to the Lodge's attention in a letter from Bro. W Stevenson, Almoner Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68, who is involved in the project. "Compassionate Inverclyde" completes its good work by providing a small box of groceries to people, who are being discharged from home and possibly going home to an empty house. After hearing about this excellent effort the Lodge decided to donate funds to allow the project to buy 10 boxes for their cause.



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

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







Perfect stocking fillers for that special lady in your life?

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

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> – No information was provided by the Lodge in respect of meetings. However, it is understood that the Lodge will be conferring an Entered Apprentice Degree.



Brother Robert Rice newly installed Master of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 along with his office-bearers, Installing Masters and Substitute Provincial Grand Master Brother Robert P Shields.

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 4<sup>th</sup> January –no meeting.  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Provincial Visit.

### **Port Glasgow Royal Arch Chapter No. 900**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> -.

### **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 2018 are;

Wednesday

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

Please ensure the Secretary has your current contact details.

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

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

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – KHS.

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



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.

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

### **Security Services**

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

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

### **Customer Care**

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

### **SIA Licensing**

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

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

### **Cleaning Services offered**

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

### **All staff vetted**

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

### **Janitorial Supplies**

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

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

**Emmanuel Oroh**

(Manager)

**Anchor Security & Cleaning Services Ltd**

Advert:



# First ABC Training

## 07958940412

### First Aid Training Courses



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

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

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

### ***What courses are available?***

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

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

Below are some of our most popular courses:

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

Bryn Hopper Training Manager.

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



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

- Sadly, the last site is now no longer updated but there are a few back copies still on the site which are worth reading and I think that the lectures and material available at <http://www.lodge76.wanadoo.co.uk/> are particularly good.

### The Ashlar:

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

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

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

#### Books - Price List.

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

#### Circle Publications.

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

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

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

#### 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](http://www.pglre.org)

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

## Advert:

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



## A LITTLE BIT OF OUR HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deliveries in Inverclyde are free on orders over £100!

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

## OPENING TIMES:

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

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Painting and Decorating.



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

### **Lodge Websites.**

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

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

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

### **Some useful site addresses.**

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

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

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII – [www.lgk12.com](http://www.lgk12.com)

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

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

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

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

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 – [www.lodgesirmichael989.co.uk](http://www.lodgesirmichael989.co.uk)

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

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 - link deleted.

### **Stirling Royal Arch Websites**

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

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

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

### **Grand Lodge Guidelines for the creation of Lodge Websites**

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



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



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E. gowanlea-nurseries@hotmail.co.uk

Barochan Road, Johnstone

PA5 8YS

# Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

## Calendar of Events and Meetings – January 2018

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> XII – No meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> RAC289 – No meeting 217 – No meeting.	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> 68 – Business Meeting? 626 – Raising and ballot.	9 <sup>th</sup> 1121 – Entering and AVPGLRW (7.15pm).	10 <sup>th</sup> 989 - Entering	11 <sup>th</sup> 1425 – Entering?	12 <sup>th</sup> 175 – Passing and Ballot 624 – Annual Installation (7.30 pm).	13 <sup>th</sup> 175 – Burns Supper  626 – Burns Supper	14 <sup>th</sup>
15 <sup>th</sup> 68 - Meeting	16 <sup>th</sup> XII – Lecture SGC 79 - KHS	17 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup> 217 – Entering and AVPGLRW (7.15).	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
22 <sup>nd</sup> 68 – No meeting 626 – Entering and AVPGLRW (7.15).	23 <sup>rd</sup> – 1121 – Passing by Lodge Springburn No. 1198	24 <sup>th</sup> RAC XVII – Provincial visit	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup> 68 – Anniversary meeting and Burns Supper 175 - Entering	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
29 <sup>th</sup> 68 – Meeting	30 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>		

**(E) denotes an Exemplification**

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