



## *The West Column*

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Hau'd yer wheest! A great Scottish phrase which needs no explanation to a true Scot! For those who perhaps require a translation, it is simply "be quiet" or "keep silent"!

We talk a lot in Masonic circles about dignity and decorum but what do we really mean by the phrase? Further down, I've plugged the newish publication from Grand Lodge on the subject of Masonic Etiquette and Best Practice and if you haven't already obtained a copy I would urge you to do so as it provides a superb guide to the subject and answers many questions which may have arisen over the years about how and why we should conduct ourselves at meetings.

Decorum – from the Latin, meaning "that which is seemly". A dictionary definition is "dignified propriety of behaviour, speech and dress – an observance of polite society – a requirement of correct behaviour". That is all quite clear but unfortunately, we then come down to personal translation. What seems to be acceptable behaviour for some at a football match nowadays seems to vary dramatically from what others see as acceptable behaviour. But back to the word Decorum and its definition in the Grand lodge booklet.

*Etiquette takes the form of proper decorum. That means that loud or coarse talk, restless moving about, laughter and private conversations during ceremonial work, giving no attention to the work in hand is unacceptable. It disturbs the harmony of the Lodge. Degrees must be conferred not only in as perfect a ritualistic form as is possible but also with impressiveness. The impression made upon a candidate in his first Degree will remain with him throughout his life. Hums of conversation, tutting, restless moving about, have no place in the ceremonial work of any Lodge.*

The above paragraph is extracted from the book on Masonic Etiquette referred to below and dare I be so bold as to suggest that it is that very decorum which makes our meetings so different from any other gatherings.

Why do I bring this up? Simply because I have noted with sadness, the number of times that an office-bearer is delivering a piece of ritual on the floor of his Lodge and been distracted by whispers from those present. The really sad thing is that this is often from those who should know better. Past Masters with years of experience behind them who should know how easy it is to be distracted by unseemly noise from the columns are often the worst of culprits.

Criticism of an office-bearer performing ritual work, should be done in a kindly and helpful way, preferably AFTER the meeting. Likewise, those with a sweet tooth, if they could refrain from unwrapping particularly sticky toffees during the delivery of a piece of ritual, I'm sure the office-bearer on the floor would appreciate it. There is plenty of time between the delivery of separate pieces of ritual, to speak quietly and briefly to your neighbour or unwrap that toffee if you really must.

Does it make a difference? During one recent Master Mason's degree, I happened to be delivering a prayer to a candidate but was distracted by a conversation taking place between senior office-bearers of the Lodge. With over 40 years of experience, it didn't deflect me from my duty but I'm not sure what thoughts the candidate might have been thinking during a piece of very solemn work!

The section on Decorum within the booklet also includes the advice: *The degrees must be conferred not only in as perfect a ritualistic form as possible but also with impressiveness.*

So I appeal to you all brethren, the office-bearer who is on the floor, young or old, experienced or inexperienced, has taken the trouble to learn his ritual. He is to be supported and encouraged, not interrupted by inane chatter or unnecessary noise. If he makes a mistake, criticism should be constructive and kindly given. It should encourage him to strive to do better and not to give up.

The best way we can support him is by paying him the attention which his study, his work and his courage in speaking in public warrant.

Perhaps it is also one way that we can also improve our retention figures?

Kind regards,  
Jim

PS – And another thing – just because my eyes are closed, it doesn't necessarily mean I'm sleeping!



In The Herald edition of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, there was an article where medical opinion has now decreed that having a short nap is more beneficial for lowering high blood pressure than actual pills and medication. So if you happen to notice my eyes being closed during a meeting, it's just possible that I'm not sleeping, I'm just treating my blood pressure – honestly!

#### *Obituary:*

#### **Brother George Geddes, Past Master of Lodge International No. 1508.**

It is with sadness that we record the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Brother George Geddes, a Past Master of Lodge International No. 1508 and member of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989. Brother Geddes was a soft spoken man as befitting his Western Isles background but was a dedicated Master of Lodge International No.1508 between 1989 and 1991. When the Lodge surrendered its Charter in 2006, Brother Geddes embraced his membership of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 and was a regular visitor and supporter of the Lodge in recent years. His sudden death on 23<sup>rd</sup> March came as a shock to all and funeral arrangements will be advised in due course. Our sincerest condolences to the family.

## 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 [Jimliv626@gmail.com](mailto:Jimliv626@gmail.com) (Note change of email address).

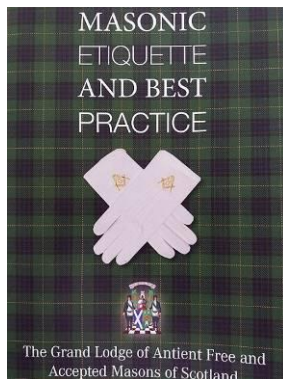
**Views expressed by individuals within the West Column do not necessarily represent the views of Provincial Grand Lodge.**

**Advertising:** I would appeal to Lodge secretaries to let me know the details of meetings taking place. I am very conscious of the fact that without the medium of advertising in the local newspaper, there is a void of information which requires to be filled. By letting me know of meetings taking place, I can issue the details in the West Column which is sent out to nearly 500 email addresses as well as adding a weekly update to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West's facebook page which now has around 300 members. PLEASE take advantage of this medium. The schedule of meetings for the week ahead (where such information has been provided, is published in the Province's facebook page each weekend.

### Personal Information and E-Mail Addresses.

Please note that the email address list held for the purposes of distribution of the West Column, are held for that purpose only and are not made available to any third party without consent. The West Column is distributed using "blind copies" to maintain the privacy of the recipients.

### New Publication from Grand Lodge:



Can I commend to all but especially to those making their way up through the offices, hopefully perhaps towards the chair of their Lodge, the new publication available from Grand Lodge and priced at a very reasonable £3.00 per copy, £1.00 of which is going to Masonic Charities.

The booklet is the work of the Information and Communications Committee and is a very easy guide to Masonic Etiquette and Best Practice.

It covers the A to Z of decorum within the Lodges from the correct positioning of the Altar to correct forms of Address, to Visiting. The booklet also contains guidelines for the use of Masonic Websites, Email and Social Media. One copy is currently being sent to each Master, free of charge and thereafter, the booklet will be available to all to purchase.

## \*\*\*\* - 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](mailto:jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com)

### Meetings.

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

Day	Day of month.				
	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Monday	68	68	68	68	68
Monday		626		626	
Tuesday	XII	1121	XII	1121	
Wednesday	Preceptory	989	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.

### Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Middle Ward.

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Robin McIntyre, supported by Depute Provincial Grand Master, Brother John W Black and IPPGM, Brother Jim Livingstone, attended the annual meeting and installation of elective office-bearers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Middle Ward. Having been warmly welcomed by the Provincial Grand Master, Brother William A Perry, the brethren present witnessed an excellent ceremonial followed by a very enjoyable supper. A hugely successful raffle followed in which the IPPGM was "lucky" enough (definitely not rigged) to go home with a large round mince pie, thoroughly enjoyed by the grandweans the following day!



Brother William A Perry and heads of deputations from the sister Provinces at the annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Middle Ward on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

**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.

**Winners:**

The winner of the March draw will be advised on the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West facebook page.

**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.

**Date for Provincial Visits to Daughter Lodges in 2019.****April**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 (Annual Homes Degree).

**October**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> – The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 (Annual Installation).

**Commission Change:**

It is with sadness that we report that for personal reasons, the Substitute Provincial Grand Master, Brother Stuart R Wilson has tendered his resignation and I'm sure that everyone will agree that Brother Wilson is to be commended for his contribution to the Province over the past twelve months. We all wish Brother Wilson every health and happiness in the future.

At the Annual visit by Provincial Grand Lodge to Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Robin McIntyre, announced that he had invited Brother Paul M Docherty, Past Master of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 to accept a Commission as Substitute Provincial Grand Master and we are delighted that Brother Docherty has accepted this invitation.





Brother Docherty has served a number of terms as Master of his Mother Lodge, Lodge Sir Michael No. 989, where he was initiated on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1983 and has also served in the chair of other Orders. Paul is well known throughout the Province and beyond and is a welcome addition to the Commission.

I'm sure all within the Province of Renfrewshire West will welcome the appointment and provided that the commission can be drawn up and issued in time, it would be hoped that Brother Docherty might be installed into office at the Spring Regular Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

Please note that the next Regular Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held at the Masonic Temple, Brown Street, Port Glasgow at 7.30 on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

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

On Friday 1 March, accompanied by IPPGM Bro James Livingstone and DPGM Bro John Black, I attended the Annual Communication of the PGL of Lanarkshire Middle Ward in Cambuslang.

On Saturday 2 March together with the Commissioned Office-bearers hosted a meeting of the Masters and Wardens of the Province in Lodge Sir Michael No 989. A very productive and informative meeting.

On Wednesday 6 March attended PGL Committee meeting held in Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626.

On Thursday 7 March I had the pleasure of heading a Deputation from PGL to the Joint Annual Divine Service of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 and Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 for their Annual Divine Service conducted by Rev Mrs Ann Knox.

On Monday 11 March I attended Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626, and welcomed Bro Christopher Love, the newest EA of the Lodge into the Province.

On Monday 18 March On Thursday 14 February I had the pleasure of heading a Deputation from PGL to Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 for their Annual Visitation of the year where we enjoyed an excellent FC Degree and following the reports from PG Secretary and PG Treasurer, I was pleased to award the Lodge a Clear Minute for the session 2017-18.

On Friday 22 March On Thursday 14 February I had the pleasure of heading a Deputation from PGL to Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 for their Annual Visitation of the year where we enjoyed an excellent EA Degree and following the reports from PG Secretary and PG Treasurer, I was pleased to award the Lodge a Clear Minute for the session 2017-18. I also announced that Bro Paul M. Docherty PM of Lodge Sir Michael No 989 had accepted the Commission of Substitute PG Master.

On Monday 25 March I attended Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 and witnessed an FC Degree.

On Wednesday 27 March attended a meeting with the Commissioned Office-bearers.

## Marcus Humphrey House – Annual Fete.

The increasingly popular Annual Fete will take place this year on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June date from 1pm to 4pm with admission by programme, costing £1.00 or donation at entrance. The fete will be opened by Brother James Marcus Humphrey of Dinnet, Past Grand Master Mason and is open to brethren, family and friends and it is sincerely hoped that you will be able to support this worthwhile cause with all monies raised being used for the comfort of the residents. It is hoped that a cheque for the proceeds of the Annual homes Degree will also be presented on the day. The programmes are individually numbered and will be entered into a programme raffle, prize £100.



Stalls will include; Plant stall, Wine stall, Soft drink stall, Mini golf, Baked potatoes, Hamburgers / hotdogs, Scones, tea and coffee will be available in main building, along with toilet facilities and Parking is free.

Entertainment includes; The Nicola Boyle highland dancers, Accordion player, Piper, Riverside youth band from Greenock / Gourrock, Magician and Star Wars entertainers.

There is also £1 raffle for 3 stain glass windows approx 18" high namely, "Faith, Hope and Charity" which would make an excellent addition to any Masonic Lodge display cabinet and any brethren or lodge interested in purchasing a raffle number, see myself (Brother Malcolm Sinclair).

## Charity Golf Texas Scramble

In aid of The Marcus Humphrey House on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at Kilbirnie Golf Club Ayrshire Team of 4 £160, which includes a breakfast roll and cup of Tea/Coffee & A buffet meal when you finish the golf.

## Provincial Ball.



The date for the 2019 Provincial Summer Ball had been set for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May and tickets priced, once again at £25 each, are now on sale. There has been considerable early demand for tickets so please book yours through your Lodge representative as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

## Acting the goat!



That very nice Brother Eddie Lapsley (68) from whom contributions to the West Column are always welcome, was kind enough to forward to me an extract from a recent copy of the Greenock Telegraph's "Stories from yesteryear". It was from the Varioriums from February 1909 and read as follows; *"A Goat strayed into a hall in the neighbourhood the other night where a Masonic dance was being held. Who let the amiable animal out of the Lodge repository"?*

It brought to mind an item which I included in the "Short History of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626" which was compiled after the disastrous Lodge fire destroyed many of our records in 2008. While researching the membership of the early days of the Lodge, it was noted that the membership increased greatly during the war years and in particular during the years immediately preceding and during the Great War.

In addition to drawing many members from amongst the crew of HMS Benbow, a battleship stationed on the Lower Clyde between 1894 and 1904, the Lodge also had its membership boosted by members of 2/1 Company Clyde, Royal Garrison Artillery, which was stationed at Fort Matilda for coastal defence purposes. As many members of the garrison became members of the Lodge, there is a story that for one particular meeting, the many members of the Lodge formed up and marched in procession the mile or so to the meeting preceded by their regimental mascot – a Goat!

The tale is further compounded by the story that there did appear in the accounts of the Lodge at that time, the cost of feed for the self-same goat. I could not find any further information that would substantiate the claim but in any event it's a good story!

Now we cannot guarantee the appearance of a goat at the forthcoming Provincial Ball (perhaps a few folk acting the goat) but we can assure you of an excellent evening so don't miss out and reserve those tickets and tables without delay!



Now here is a wee **Blast from the Past**. A photograph kindly provided by Brother Iain White, Past Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII of the Installation as Provincial Grand Master of Brother William M H Macfarlane which took place in 1988, within the Temple of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68. The ceremony was conducted by Immediate Past Grand Master, Brother James Marcus Humphrey and the photograph includes notable local freemasons, sadly many of whom are no longer with us.



Notable visitors include Brother Angus McInnes, Provincial Grand Master of Dunbartonshire, Brother Andrew Leckie Tannahill, Past Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, Alexander Hutton, Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, Brother William Shepherson, Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow and in the front row, alongside Brother Macfarlane and Brother Marcus Humphrey, there is, of course, Brother William M McKillop.

I am not able to put a name to all, but easily identified are; Brothers Johnny Johnston, George Purdie, Wilson McCulloch, Sam Mullen, David K Steel, Bill McSheffrey, Bill McCaig, John Scott, Russell Hair, Tom Smith, Stewart Jamieson, Rudi Stetz, Roy Drainer, Cornelius Coward, Joe Shields Willie Whyte, Nat Scouler, George Freeman, Alex McGuigan and Frank Williams.

It is obvious that this photograph was taken before we had Grand Director of Ceremonies who ensured everyone was lined up in order according to rank and size! In a future edition we might be able to reproduce the photograph from Brother David Kirk Steel's installation, held at Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 in 1993.

## Bowling:



The 2019 **Orr Masonic Bowling Trophy** Competition will be played on the Greens of the Grosvenor bowling Club at 10.00 am on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Lodges from within the Province of Renfrewshire West are invited to enter a team or teams of qualified brethren for the above competition, which will consist of two “nine-end” games of Triples and will be open to all brethren who are in “good standing” with their mother Lodge.

The cost of entry will be £15 per team (£5 each) and this will include a cup of tea/coffee and a filled roll after the first game.

There will be a Raffle in aid of a nominated charity and donations for the raffle will be gratefully accepted on or before the day.

Brethren are asked to arrive by 9.45 at the latest.

Dress Code Important – The Grosvenor Bowling Club state that there will be No Shorts allowed on their greens!

All applications should be sent to:

Brother John Freeburn at [john.freeburn@ntlworld.com](mailto:john.freeburn@ntlworld.com) Tel: 07961 057533 or 01475 798135.

**Advert:**

PG Secretary Bro Alan Beck invites you to join him and well-known jazz pianist Gareth Bowman for an evening of the songs of Ol' Blue Eyes at Greenock Town Hall. Supper at The Saloon with the Songs of Sinatra will take place on Saturday 4th of May. The evening will begin at 6:30pm with fizz and canapés. A terrific 3-course meal will then be served from 7:15pm and courses will be interspersed with loads of great Sinatra songs like Come Fly With Me, Young At Heart, I've Got You Under My Skin, One For My Baby (And One More For The Road), The Lady Is A Tramp, Strangers In The Night and many, many more. There is already very limited availability for this evening so call soon and don't miss it! Call ICE catering on 01475 638632 or 07885 658324 to book your seat.



IL SHOWCASE IS PROUD TO PRESENT

SUPPER  
IN THE  
SALOON

WITH THE SONGS OF  
SINATRA

Join us at Greenock Town Hall on  
**SATURDAY 4TH MAY 2019**

Enjoy a fizz reception and canapés followed by a sumptuous 3 course meal prepared by ICE Catering, served in the intimate surroundings of the Town Hall Saloon.

Throughout the evening local musicians, **Alan Beck and Gareth Bowman** will entertain you with a selection of songs from 'Old Blue Eyes' himself.

*Dress code for gentlemen is lounge suit.*

Tickets for the evening are **£30** and are available from [enquiries@icescotland.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@icescotland.co.uk) or call **01475 638362 / 07885 658324**

SHOWCASE



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

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

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Raising and Ballot.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Mark degree.

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, the Lodge is travelling to Lodge Burns Dundonald No. 1759 to confer a Mark Degree and the Master would be delighted for the support of any qualified Brother who might wish to accompany the Lodge.

The **Summer Meeting** will this year take place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June and will be an Entered Apprentice Degree which will be in the very capable hands of Past Master Brother Ken Macdougall.

### **Another successful Charity Burns Supper for No XII!**

(Report by Brother Iain White PM).

Over 120 guests were the Greenock Town Hall for the Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII Burns Supper recently. The evening was greatly enjoyed by those who attended and almost £3000 was raised for the 2019 charities, Royal Navy and Marines, The Samaritans and Ardgowan Hospice. RWM Bro J Robert Crossan nominated the first two charities, whilst the third was the choice of Provost Martin Brennan. Bro Cllr David Wilson, Deputy Provost of Inverclyde and Honorary Member of No XII, represented the Provost at the Burns Supper. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West, Bro Robin McIntyre, attended.

It was an evening filled with fun and laughter and there was a great community spirit in the magnificent old hall. After the haggis had been piped in by Bro Iain White PM, and addressed by Bro David Docherty, Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626, Rev Owen Derrick sought grace. The Chair for the evening, RWM Bro Bob Crossan proposed the Loyal Toast. Bro Angus Middleton PM of Lodge Royal Arch No 314 (West Kilbride) delivered an amusing and thought-provoking Immortal Memory and Bro Paul Docherty, PM of Lodge Sir Michael No 989, proposed the Toast to the Lasses. There was an energetic recitation of *Tam o' Shanter* by Bro David Docherty. Bro Sandy Reddy (HM No XII) recited *Kilcreggan* by the late Davie Bowie. The accompanist for the evening was Craig Dunsmore. He was joined on trumpet by Jamie Stables and Bro Alan Beck PM sang.

The success of the fund-raising was undoubtedly due to the persuasive powers of No XII's auctioneer, Bro Alan Beck PM. The Lodge was delighted with support given by other local organisations. Of course, numerous other Lodges within and outwith the area were represented and many friends of No XII attended.

The company singing the *Star of Rabbie Burns* and Auld Lang Syne rounded off the evening. Inverclyde's oldest organisation (instituted in 1728) will continue the charity drive with further activities throughout the year.

Also, on the evening, the world's newest Burns Club, The Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII Burns Club was constituted with all in attendance becoming members. Bro Jack Glenny PM was elected its inaugural President. At that special moment, Greenock had the oldest and youngest Burns Clubs in the world. Of course, the Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) is the oldest having been founded in 1801.



Back Row: Bros Sandy Reddy Alan D Beck PM David Docherty David Wilson Iain White PM  
Front Row: Robin McIntyre RWPGM Angus Middleton PM Bob Crossan RWM Paul Docherty Rev Owen Derrick

### **Brother Alistair Glenny, Past Master, Provincial Grand Almoner.**

At the Festival of St. Andrew last November, the Grand Master Mason was pleased to confer honorary membership of Grand Lodge on a number of brethren in recognition of outstanding service and contribution to the Scottish Craft. Amongst those honoured was our own Brother Alistair Glenny, Past Master and Almoner of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII and Provincial Grand Almoner. Not surprisingly, Brother Glenny was awarded the rank of Honorary Grand Almoner, a reward richly deserved for one of the most caring and attentive Almoners in any Lodge of Province.

At the regular meeting of his Mother Lodge on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February, which happened to be the date for the annual Provincial visit to the Lodge, Brother Glenny was presented with his diploma and a handsome jewel, a gift from his Lodge, in recognition of his services.



Brother Glenny is seen in the photograph along with Provincial Grand Master, Brother Robin McIntyre and his Master, Brother James Robert Crossan.



### **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** – The prizes are £25 per month with the exception of June and December when there is no uplift. Please support the Lodge with this draw. Cash, cheques or through internet banking are all acceptable.

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

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Business Meeting and Spring Draw.

Congratulations: To Brother William Lawson, Past Master and Brother Jim More both of whom were presented with their jewels to mark their 50 years of service to Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and the Craft at the Regular Meeting of the Lodge on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The brethren were presented with their jewels by the Master, Brother James Hamilton assisted by the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Robin McIntyre.

The Lodge is thereafter in recess.

### **Social Scene**



Another successful charity night at the 68 with £1,420 raised for make a wish foundation in memory of Wee Rosie who sadly passed away. Joan Mills on the left who organised the night with some assistance from Brother Eddie Lapsley.

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.

**Spring Draw** – tickets are now on sale from Junior Warden, Brother Bert Hill for the Spring Draw at a price of £ per ticket. The draw will take place immediately after the meeting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April and I am reliably informed from an insider that “there are pure hunners of brilliant prizes”!

**Golf Day** – It is also hoped to organise a Golf Day during the summer months – details to be confirmed.

**Senior Citizens Outing:** This will take place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September and the list for names is on the Notice board. This is open to members and invited guests only and there are still a few places left.

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/>

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

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Raising and Ballot at 7.15pm.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Mark Degree. This Meeting will take place at Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217, Masonic Temple of LDK No. 68, Brown Street, Port Glasgow. Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 will confer the Mark Degree on 175 and 217 Candidates.

All Lodge Members are encouraged and welcome to attend. Contact the Secretary if you require Transport to Port Glasgow.

#### **Social Scene:**

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April from 7.30pm we have an Easter Dance with the fantastic and much sought after Band, Masquerade, who are doing this Dance for free as they cancelled the Installation Dance at the very last minute due to illness.

This is a Fundraising Event but we also don't want to keep hitting the members and friends who attend the functions. Therefore, admission is free although we will accept cash donations from those attending and anyone who cannot attend but would like to contribute.

There will be a Raffle (Donations required please) on the night to raise funds for the upkeep of our Lodge. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

**Please note that meetings of the Lodge will continue to be advertised in the Greenock Telegraph and online edition on the first Friday of each month.**

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

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.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> – Passing.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> – Raising.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> – Joint Mark Degree with Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175. This degree will be carried out at the Temple of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.



Divine Services have sadly in recent times been poorly supported not only by Lodge members but also by sister Lodges and the Provincial Grand Master has recently addressed this issue with an appeal to all brethren to make the effort to attend. There is after all very few of these Services actually taking place during the session with at least three taking place on regular meeting nights.

Perhaps the message is getting through a little as it was very pleasing to note that a total of 91 brethren and friends attended the recent joint Divine Service for Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 and Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 organised by Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217. At the Service, conducted by Reverend Mrs Ann Knox, Minister of Inchinnan Parish Church, the hall was nearly full to capacity with the proceeds from the collection, a total of £225, being presented to Mrs Knox for her chosen charity. An excellent evening and thanks, as always go to all who were involved in organising the Service and in particular to the ladies who served up such a wonderful array of refreshments.

**Comet Festival:** The Lodge will again be participating in the annual Port Glasgow **Comet Festival** where we will be holding our usual **Bottle Stall**. All donations for the stall will be most welcome.

**Annual Homes Degree:** The meeting will take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm within the Temple of Lodge Sir Michael No. 989, Glebe Road, Kilmacolm and the team of Past Masters carrying out the degree, will be in the very capable hands of our own Master, Brother Eric Sweeney.

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

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Mark and Ballot.

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

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – Raising.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mark degree.



Last month's West Column contained a brief report on some charitable works by the Master and members of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and in the above photograph, we see the evidence as the Master, Brother David D Stevenson, accompanied by his Wardens, Brother Graeme Wallace and Brother Brian S McClure, presented the local Scout Group with a cheque for £400 to assist in repairing the Group's bus which had been vandalised.

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

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Passing and Annual visitation by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West (7.15pm).

The annual "Homes" degree will be "chaired" by 217 and it will be held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Most Lodges should now have quantity of 10 tickets if you haven't, please contact Paul Docherty PM, Lodge Secretary on 07905677750.

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, The Past Masters of the Lodge along with Installed Masters also Honorary Members, carried out the Third or high and sublime degree on one candidate for the evening.

Huge congratulations to all on the evening with particular thanks to our two Past Masters "guesting" namely Bros George Robertson and Bro James P Livingstone. The assembled brethren were particularly impressed with Bro Livingstone's Graveside/Emblems lecture which many hadn't heard previously. Brother Livingstone may inadvertently played himself into the 989 First team squad!



Degree Team of Past Masters L-R George Robertson PM/HM, Iain Brown PM, Douglas Robertson PM, Paul Docherty PM, Andrew Forsyth PM, James P Livingstone PM/HM, John Tanner PM, Murray Allan PM and Gordon Price PM.

Also thanks are extended to our WSW Bro James Watson who carried out a thorough testing of the candidate in Open Lodge before the Assembled Brethren. A great evening and we hope it perhaps may become a regular occurrence in the 989 Calendar.

The evening of the 13<sup>th</sup> March was the first occasion that Bro Tony Stewart of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No.1425, PM of Lodge "The Princes" 607 and HM of Lodge XII had been able to attend our newly refurbished Temple (seen in the above photo). The significance however, is much greater. On the evening under AOCB, PM Bro Paul Docherty was able to pay tribute to Bro Stewart formally and thank him personally and on behalf of the Lodge for all his assistance, help and generosity. It perhaps isn't a well-known fact, but Bro Stewart was able to allow the brethren of 989 to take almost all of the rough furnishings used in our new Temple from a Church project his company was undertaking.

It is suffice to say that whilst much of the fixtures and fittings were hand sanded and varnished, without Bro Stewart's generosity, there wouldn't have been any and we would have been looking at a hugely extended refurbishment period with associated costs. Bro Stewart was also able to extend his own personal thanks to the Lodge for the very kind words and also state that he was absolutely thrilled and amazed at how well the Temple has been finished and looks forward to many more visits.





Bro Tony Stewart with RWM of Lodge Sir Michael Bro Scott McLaughlin.

### **Charity Cycle Ride.**

As some of you may or may not know, Brother David Bain has a habit of undertaking some rather difficult or physically demanding activity each year, always for charity and mostly unsung. This year is no different. Bro Bain is undertaking the Prudential Cycle Ride in London on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August. He is already in training and has told me that it is 100 miles long with a 6000ft climb which is tough going in anyones book. As soon as it becomes available, we will share details if any brother wishes to donate.

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

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Raising  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Mark Degree.

### Visit to Lodge Springburn, Glasgow No. 1198

At the invitation of Lodge Springburn Glasgow No. 1198, RWM Bro John Laird led a deputation from 1121 to exemplify a Fellowcraft degree. RWM Bro James Henderson Campbell and three brethren from Lodge St Andrews, East Kilbride No. 524, joined the deputation. RWM Bro James Henderson Campbell's Mother Lodge is Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No. 1121.



Lodge Springburn Glasgow No. 1198 gained its charter on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1919 and on their 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, Lodge Crawfordsburn presented them with Warden batons. The batons and inscription are shown in the photo below.



After the degree had been exemplified, RWM Bro John Laird was made an honorary member of No. 1198. Honorary membership to the reigning RWM of the visiting Lodge has become a tradition since the association of 1121 with 1198 started in 1935. Since that first visit, many visits have been made between the two Lodges.



## **Informal Burns Supper**

Following Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No.1121's regular meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February, an informal Burns Supper took place. Some 40 brethren were in attendance, including all the visitors to the regular meeting.

The Selkirk Grace was delivered by WSD Bro Adam McKenzie PM, the haggis, which was piped and carried in by Bro Donald J McRae and Bro John Paton PM respectively, was addressed by SM Bro Samuel L Hunter PM.

After the traditional Burns Supper fare, RWM Bro John Laird paid an appropriate tribute to Scotland's National Bard and led the toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns.

The supper included the singing by the brethren of a few Burns songs, led on the organ by Bro R Fraser Gray, Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175, and piping by Bro Donald J McRae. An enjoyable supper was concluded with WSW Bro Iain D Hair proposing a Vote of Thanks to everybody who had made the evening a success.

Thoughts are now turning to making this informal Burns Supper a regular feature of our syllabus.

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

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> – Raising

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

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April – The first meeting of the 2019 session of The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814 will get underway when the Lodge welcomes as its first guest speaker, Brother Robert Shaw, Past Master of Lodge Bridgeton and Glasgow, Shamrock and Thistle No. 275 and Past Master of The Princes Lodge No. 607. Brother Shaw, a former senior police officer will give a talk entitled, "The Role of the Senior Investigating Office".

## **Other Orders**

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

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Excellent Master's Degree.

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, Nicholas R R Stetz 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.

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

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> –

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

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> – EM Degree.

The Chapter meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month within the premises of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

### **Preceptory of Ardgowan**

Venerable Preceptor Andrew G Pigott and Office Bearers extend a warm to all Fraters to attend the Annual Installation as well as our Musters during 2018/2019 session especially those who have been unable to attend recently through other commitments.

- 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.

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - KG

**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> – Installation Meeting 7.30 pm (All Knights welcome).

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

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

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



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

#### **Anniversary Badges.**

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



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



## **Masonic Education.**

### **The Ashlar:**

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

### **Provincial Grand Lodge Renfrewshire East.**

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

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

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**Advert: (Brother Emmanuel Oroh is a member of Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175)**  
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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)

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- [Basic Life Support](#)
- [Appointed Persons](#)
- [Paediatric First Aid Training 6 Hour](#) and [12 Hour](#)

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

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

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

Brother Hopper can be contacted at [brynrfc@sky.com](mailto:brynrfc@sky.com)

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*Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West*  
**Calendar of Events and Meetings – April 2019**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 <sup>st</sup> 68 – Business Meeting & Spring Draw	2 <sup>nd</sup> XII – Raising and Ballot.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Preceptory of Ardgowan	4 <sup>th</sup> 217 – Passing RAC289 -	5 <sup>th</sup> 1814 - Lecture	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> 626 - Raising	9 <sup>th</sup> 1121 - Raising	10 <sup>th</sup> 624 – Mark and Ballot. 989 – Passing and Annual visit of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.	11 <sup>th</sup> 1425 - Raising	12 <sup>th</sup> 175 – Raising and Ballot (7.15 pm).	13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>
15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup> XII – Mark Degree SGC 79 - Installation	17 <sup>th</sup> RAC XVII – EM Degree	18 <sup>th</sup> 217 - Raising	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>
22 <sup>nd</sup> 626 – Mark Degree.	23 <sup>rd</sup> 1121 – Mark Degree.	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup> 989 – Annual Homes Degree - Passing (Special Meeting). RAC900 – EM Degree.	26 <sup>th</sup> 175/217 – Joint Mark Degree	27 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
29 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	Provincial Grand Lodge – Regular Communication.				

(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)*