



The West Column



Brethren,

My little editorial last month, when I spoke of how the two words “if only”, were amongst the most unfortunate of phrases in our vocabulary, seemed to strike a chord with many of you, especially from some of the overseas brethren. If only I had kept in touch If only I had spoken with that new candidate etc and I think I can now add another “if only”.

If only I had thought before I had opened my mouth or put pen to paper. What brought this to my mind? Well when I was attending the Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Lanarkshire Upper Ward recently, I was in the company of a number of my PGM colleagues.

They advised me that in the latest edition of *The Ashlar* (excellent read and only £4.00 per copy available through Brother Alexander Galbraith), there is published a letter from an anonymous contributor, making some less than complimentary remarks regarding Provincial Grand Lodge office-bearers. Something along the lines of being nothing more than an “old men’s drinking club”! Now I have to admit that I have not yet received my copy of *The Ashlar* so I have not read the actual wording but if accurate, I certainly take exception to the use of the adjective “OLD” but how sad that the writer makes such disparaging remarks while hiding behind a cloak of anonymity!

I certainly hope that the brother concerned is not a member of a Lodge in this Province. However, if that is the case, IF ONLY, he would approach me, I would be more than happy to have an open and honest discussion with him and try to convince him of the merits of having a strong, effective Provincial Grand Lodge.

The truth is that although from time to time, a Provincial Grand Lodge may be required to make decisions or take actions which are unpopular, without a governing body to co-ordinate, control, cajole, encourage and stimulate, it is unlikely that many Lodges would continue to survive. An effective Provincial Grand Lodge is there to lead and to guide.

Some twenty years ago, when I was first commissioned as Provincial Grand Secretary, a Provincial Grand Master, in addition to his duties within his own Province, might be invited to the annual meetings of some of the neighbouring Provinces. In the past few years, such invitations have increased significantly to the extent that there is now an expectation that the Province will be represented at Regular Communications of other Provinces, Divine Services, Annual Meetings, Installations, Grand Lodge Committee meetings, Regular Communications of Grand Lodge, 6-monthly meetings of Provincial Grand Masters and other special meetings.

My diary which appears later in this edition, is by no means exceptional. Visits, previously restricted to neighbouring Provinces, now take place from Campbeltown to Cupar and from Dumfries to Peterhead.

This can only be a good thing for the Scottish Craft! Through such communication, we learn from each other, what is being tried in other Provinces, what works and what doesn't! The support extended by Provinces to each other is exceptional.

Experience is not gifted down from one Provincial Grand Master to his successor, it has to be gained and this can be achieved through the collaboration between the Provinces.

The system of governance through Provincial Grand Lodges has been tried and tested over a period of 275 years, it is the glue which binds the Scottish Craft together.

So an "old men's drinking club"? IF ONLY, instead of writing anonymous letters, the author would like to offer a little more in the way of constructive proposals for improving the Craft!

IF ONLY some individuals were a little more positive in their views, we might all be better off.

In the event that the author is a member of a Lodge in this Province, he would like to contact me personally, I would be happy to discuss with him the merits of an effective Provincial Grand Lodge, perhaps even over a dram!

This is the last West Column of this part of the session. The next edition will be in September so in the meantime, I hope that you all have a very relaxing recess and that wherever you get to over the summer months, your life will be filled with sunshine.

Regards,
Jim

Contributions to the West Column

I would thank those who have provided contributions to this month's edition and a reminder that photographs of events are also welcome but I have to reserve the right to limit their use as it can affect the email transmission speed. However, please continue to send photographs as I can always include them in later editions. Most importantly, it is assumed that any photographs sent to me have the permission of the subjects for publication. If sending articles with accompanying photographs, could I ask that these are not embedded into a word document but send separately as JPEG files. All contributions should be sent to Jim626Col@aol.com

I am aware that many Lodges have had new initiates or even existing members who may have email addresses but do not receive the West Column. I would be grateful if the Lodge Secretaries could mention the West Column in your respective Lodges and perhaps encourage those who do not yet receive it to drop me a note of their email address and I will add them to the distribution list. The Column goes all over the world but let's make sure that it reaches all possible addresses in the Renfrewshire and Inverclyde area as well! My thanks go to those who have forwarded on new contact details within the last month.

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

Anniversary Badges.

Brethren, Brother David Stenvenson, 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.

Renfrewshire 200 Club (RW200Club).

The first draw of the club was made at the annual visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West to Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No. 626 and the lucky recipient of that first draw with a total prize of £130 was **Brother Willie Lawson**, the RWM of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68.

The next monthly draw will take place at the annual visit of PGLRW to Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 on Thursday 17th April so please come along and find out if your number is drawn.

Draws will now take place on a monthly basis at convenient meetings.

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. It has been decided to reduce the monthly "ticket" cost to £5.00 rather than £10. However, those wishing to participate are not limited to any number of "entries" and if anyone wishes to purchase two or more tickets they may do so. It is hoped that Lodges will also participate by purchasing tickets and perhaps this could be favourably considered by your General or Finance Committees. Members may either pay cash (cheques should be made out to the Provincial Grand Lodge) or may take out a standing order arrangement.

You can also take part on a monthly basis but to take part in the draw your contribution, whether by cash, cheque or standing order must be with the Provincial Grand Treasurer prior to the draw taking place.

Please remember that a minimum of 50% of the income will be going directly to charity. I have not as yet decided on a good cause for this project as I felt that we had to be assured that it would get "off the ground". It is probably that when the time comes to divide up the proceeds, it will be split between a national charity and a local charity or charities. I have a fairly open mind about a national charity and would welcome suggestions from Lodges or individuals. There are, of course, many worthy charities and many of them will resonate with many of you for personal reasons. Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland, Breast Cancer, Cancer Research, Childline, Help for Heroes, the list is endless. If you have a suggestion, please email me at Jim626Col@aol.com

Drummond Ball.

This unique event will take place in Greenock Town Hall on Friday 30th May at 7.00 pm with guests attending from a number of the neighbouring Provinces. Tickets costing £25 each for this black tie event are now on sale through your Lodge and it is hoped that each Lodge will make every effort to take at least two or three tables for the Ball. A superb 4 course dinner has been organised with dancing to midnight to the "Capitol Big Band". Proceeds from the event will be going to Prostate Cancer Scotland and it is earnestly hoped that each Lodge will give this event its fullest support.

The event has, of course, been organised to celebrate the 275th anniversary of the appointment of Brother Alexander Drummond as the first Provincial Grand Master but most of all brethren, it is a good excuse to join together in harmony. It is many years since we held such an event in the Province so lets make the most of it.

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

Provincial Website.

For up to date information on what's happening in the Province, go to www.pglrw.org Brethren, if you have anything that you wish added to the Provincial website, contact Brother Jim Donnelly at jimdonnelly@ntlworld.com

Meetings.

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

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

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

Dates and duties for your diaries:

Annual Installations and Visitations:

Lodge	Inst. Date	Dep Head	Off/bear	Annual Visit	Commenting
12	19 Nov.	DPGM	G Carson	4 March	JPGW
68	13 Dec	PGM	Robert Bain	17 February	DPGM
175	25 Oct	PGM	John McAlister	10 January	JPGW
217	29 Nov	PGM	Gordon Porter	17 April	SPGM
626	19 Oct	PGM	Gordon Price	10 March	SPGW
989	15 Nov	SPGM	Jim Donnelly	9 April	DPGM
1121	1 Nov	PGM	John Black	28 January	SPGW
1425	6 Dec	PGM	Alex Johnstone	13 February	SPGM
1814	3 May (14)	PGM			

Provincial Grand Master's Diary.

As usual it has been a busy month and my grateful thanks to those who have supported me on visits during the month and in particular to the Depute and Substitute Provincial Grand Masters. Meetings attended in March included;

Saturday 1 st	Meeting of the WAVERLEY Cruise Committee.
Saturday 1 st	Annual Burns Supper of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.
Sunday 2 nd	Annual Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire at the Allan Church, Bannockburn.
Tuesday 4 th	Annual Visit to Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.
Friday 7 th	Annual Meeting and Installation of Office-bearers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Middle Ward (Cambuslang) accompanied by DPGM and SPGM.
Sunday 9 th	Annual Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Renfrewshire (Paisley).
Monday 10 th	Annual Visit to Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626
Wednesday 19 th	Provincial Grand Committee
Saturday 22 nd	Attended the Installation of Brother Alexander George Thomson as PGM of Lanarkshire Upper Ward (Carluke) accompanied by DPGM.

Looking forward into April, May and June:

In addition to the meetings otherwise advertised in this edition of the West Column, I shall be attending the **Annual Divine Service** of the **Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East**, which will take place in the **Stowe Brae Kirk, Causeyside Street, Paisley on Sunday 20th April at 3.00pm**. The Service will be conducted by Brother Reverend Robert Craig, Grand Chaplain. Should ANY Brother wish to accompany me on that occasion, it would be much appreciated.

On Friday 25th April, I shall be attending the Regular Quarterly Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire in Kilmarnock. Should any Provincial Grand Lodge office-bearer wish to attend they would be most welcome. Please provide your name to the Provincial Grand Secretary.

On Saturday 26th April, I shall be representing the Province at the meeting of Provincial Grand Masters with the MWGMM in Perth.

On Sunday 27th April, I am unable to attend the Spring Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire in Dalmellington. However, it would be hoped that there would be a representation from the Province .

On Saturday 3rd May, Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 plays host to the bi-annual visit by their friends from Belfast, **Gibson Lodge No. 87**. I shall be attending in my capacity as Provincial Grand Master and would welcome the support of any Provincial Grand Lodge office-bearer at the meeting.

On Sunday 18th May, we have been invited to attend the Divine Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire, at 3.00 pm in St. Mary's Church, Kirkintilloch. Unfortunately, I will be on holiday but again if any Brother is able to represent the Province on that occasion, please provide your name to the Provincial Grand Secretary.

On Sunday 25th May, the Province will welcome a brief visit from the **Widow's Sons Masonic Motorcycle Group** who will be on a sponsored tour of the Provinces supporting the **Marcus Humphrey House**. It is hoped that we will present a cheque on behalf of the Province to the Group at Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68. If every Lodge could possibly contribute £50, we would be able to present a cheque for £500.

The month will end on **Friday 30th May** with the **Drummond Ball** details of which have now been circulated with tickets to all the Lodges. It is hoped that this will be promoted amongst the Lodges and will be a sell-out on the night. All proceeds will be going to the chosen charity of Grand Lodge which is Prostate Cancer Scotland.

Into June and on **Sunday 8th June**, the **Marcus Humphrey House** will be holding its annual **BBQ**.

On Friday 20th June, the **Provincial Grand Lodge of Stirlingshire** are hosting a special degree, when all the Provincial Grand Masters will be conferring an Entering Degree on the son of the present RWM of the Lodge in Bannockburn. Such a degree will be fairly unique in itself but adding to the occasion will be the fact that the degree will be conferred in the Allan Church, Bannockburn to mark the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn. I expect that seating will be at a premium but if anyone would like to attend, please let me know.

The following day, **Saturday 21st June**, will be the trip on the **Waverley** organised by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow. All tickets allocated to this province have been sold although some of the other Provinces still have some tickets available. Should anyone still be interested, I can enquire to see if tickets are still available.

Waverley Cruise.

For those joining us on the trip to Rothesay on the PS Waverley on Saturday 21st June, I will give definite times etc nearer the date. However, at the moment, the approximate times are as follows;

For those boarding at Glasgow, 9.30 am as the boat will leave at 10.00 prompt. You will be welcomed on board by a group of pipers from Lodge The Gael who will entertain us on board throughout the trip.

An interesting commentary will be provided on the history of the Clyde from Glasgow down to Greenock where the boat should arrive about 11.15. Then it is off over to Dunoon and those who wish to do so, may disembark and spend the day in Dunoon. Arrangements are being made to have the facilities of Lodge Dunoon Argyle No. 335 made available on the day.

The boat will then continue to Rothesay, where again, arrangements are being made to have the facilities of Lodge Rothesay St. John No. 292 made available. The boat will return ending the day at Glasgow around 18.00 hours. During the day further entertainment will be provided by magicians (Renfrewshire East) and Brother Alan Beck, his wife Polly and accompanist Craig Dunsmore.

The boat has been especially chartered for our exclusive use on the day and it is certain to be a very enjoyable day. There will be a lucky programme/raffle and all profits on the day will be donated to the Grand Lodge charity Prostate Cancer Scotland.

Unfortunately, our allocation of tickets has now been sold and in fact we managed to procure some additional tickets from a friendly neighbouring Province.

All we need now is the weather!

Homes Degree:

Brethren one meeting which I would commend to you is the Homes Degree hosted by Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 and which this year will take place on Wednesday 23rd April. This year it will be in the very capable hands of Brother Marshall North, RWM of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175. Each Lodge will be allocated a minimum of 10 tickets and if all tickets were sold, the event would be a sell-out with a full-house guaranteed as well as a nice donation from the Province to the Marcus Humphrey House. Please therefore make every attempt to sell your allocation of tickets.

Provincial Grand Lodge Divine Service.

On Sunday, 7th September 2014, this Province will be hosting a special Divine Service to mark the 275th anniversary of the appointment of the first Provincial Grand Master, Brother Alexander Drummond in 1739, at which point he was, the Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

The Service, which will be conducted by Brother Reverend David Mitchell, Provincial Grand Chaplain, will take place in the Old West Kirk, The Esplanade, Greenock commencing at 3.00 pm. Weather permitting, there will be a short procession to the Church, headed by pipers and invitations are being sent to other Provinces, along with Civic dignitaries etc.

We do not generally have a "Provincial Divine Service" in this Province, so it is very much hoped that there will be a very good response from the daughter Lodges on this unique occasion. As the Service takes place so soon after the re-start of the session, it is hoped that Lodges will take every opportunity to publicise the event before the end of the current session.

LODGE NEWS REPORTS, NOTES and MEETINGS DURING SEPTEMBER.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII

Tuesday 1st - Raising
Tuesday 15th – Mark

On Tuesday 5th June, the Lodge will be hosting a special meeting which will be an Entered Apprentice Degree conferred by the Past Masters of the Lodge. At this meeting it is intended to initiate a total of 5 candidates.

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

April 7th – Business Meeting and Spring Draw.

There are still tickets available for the Spring Draw at a cost of £1 each. Prizes include; 1st prize – a 32” Smart TV; 2nd prize – an “I” pad mini; 3rd prize - £50 Argos Vouchers; plus lots of other prizes.

Lodge Greenock St John’s No. 175.

Friday 11th – Passing (Change to syllabus)
Friday 25th – Mark Degree

Lodge Greenock St. John’s No. 175 will be holding a Special Meeting on Saturday 3rd May at 3pm. The purpose of this meeting is the Bi-annual Visitation of our friends from Gibson Masonic Lodge No. 87 I.C. who, on this occasion, will confer an exemplification of an Entered Apprentice Degree, as done under the Irish Constitution, followed by a Dinner Harmony to which all Brethren are cordially invited.

Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217

Thursday 3rd - Passing
Thursday 17th – Raising and Annual Visit of Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.
Friday 25th April – Mark Degree.

The Lodge will be conferring a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Barns o’ Clyde on Thursday 28th August 2014.

Social events.

The next Family Friendly Saturday will be on Saturday 5th April from 12 noon until 4.00 pm with food served until 2.00 pm - ALL WELCOME. Family Friendly Saturdays will continue throughout the summer.

Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning, Skelmorlie No. 624

Wednesday 9th - Raising

Lodge Firth of Clyde No. 626

Monday 7th - Entering
Monday 21st – Mark Degree

Lodge Sir Michael No. 989

Wednesday 9th – Passing and Annual Visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

Wednesday 23rd – Homes Degree (Passing conferred by the Masters of the Province led by Brother Marshall R C North RWM of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175). This degree will also be attended by members of the Marcus Humphrey House Friends Committee.

HOMES DEGREE – WEDNESDAY 23RD APRIL 2014

On behalf of RWM Bro Robert Marshall and Lodge Sir Michael No 989 we extend a cordial invitation to your RWM and Brethren to attend the Annual Homes Degree held in aid of the Residents of the Marcus Humphrey Home, which will be held in our Masonic Hall, Glebe Rd, Kilmacolm on Wednesday 23rd April 2014 at 7.30pm.

On this occasion a Fellowcraft Degree will be conferred by Reigning Masters of the Province, headed by RWM Bro Marshall North of Lodge Greenock John's No175, with members of the Marcus Humphrey house Friends Group in attendance.

All the proceeds of the evening will be employed to the direct benefit of the Home residents and be raised by a Donation of £6.00 to cover collection and supper. Raffle Tickets will also be made available during the course of the evening.

10 Tickets have been delivered for each (RW) Lodge or more if needed. All local Lodges are welcome to attend.

PLANT SALE:

It's that time of the year again and the Lodge will be holding its annual plant sale on the dates shown below. Planters and hanging baskets made to order along with free advice on plants. Quality plants at value for money prices. As the Lodge is about to start a very significant programme of improvements, the plant sale is more important than ever this year and your support would be greatly appreciated.

Plant Sale times as follows;

Friday 16 th May	17.00 – 21.00
Saturday 17 th	09.00 – 16.00
Sunday 18 th	10.00 – 16.00
Friday 23 rd	17.00 – 21.00
Saturday 24 th	09.00 – 16.00
Sunday 25 th	10.00 – 16.00

Other Special Meetings taking place;

On Tues. 8th April, the Lodge will be visiting Lodge Gleniffer No 1219 to confer a Fellowcraft Degree.

Into June and the Lodge will be hosting two Charity Meetings;

The first meeting will be held on Friday 6th June when the visitors, Lodge Gleniffer No 1219 will be conferring the Mark Master Degree. Later in the month, on Friday 27th June, we will welcome Lodge Georgetown No 1170 who will also confer a Master Mason Degree both meetings commencing at 7.30 pm.

Lodge Crawfordsburn No. 1121

Tuesday 8th - Raising
Tuesday 22nd - Mark

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425.

Thursday 10th – Entering

Special Meeting: On Thursday 29th May, the Lodge will be holding a special meeting with an Entered Apprentice Degree being conferred.

The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814

A regular meeting of the Lodge will be held within the Masonic Temple, West Stewart Street, Greenock, on Friday 4th April, 2014 at 7.30 pm.

This is the Annual General Meeting & Election of Office-bearers.

At this meeting Brother Stewart Donaldson will present a paper entitled “Famous Scottish Freemasons – from Poets to Presidents.”

Brother Donaldson is a member of Lodge Stirling Royal Arch No.76 , where he currently Lodge Historian. He is also an affiliate member of the Hawick Lodge No. 111.

Friday 2nd May – Annual Meeting and Installation. The Annual Meeting and Installation of the RWM Brother Robert P Shields will take place followed by the William M McKillop Lecture.

Other Orders.

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII meets in the Masonic Temple, John Street, Gourrock on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 16th April at 7.30 pm to which all Companions are cordially invited. Most Excellent First Principal, Tommy Trotter 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.

Ranfurley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289

Monday 14th -

Preceptory of Ardgowan

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

A pocket sized Syllabus is currently being compiled to assist those not currently on e-mail and a general aide memoire for all. Current Statutory Musters and Executive Committees forecast for 2014 are as follows;

Wednesday 2nd April 2014 - Muster

Tuesday 7th October - AGM, election of office-bearers and Malta Grade

Wednesday 5th November - Annual Installation.

Wednesday 3rd December - Muster

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

St. George's Conclave No. 79 - 2013/14 Syllabus

Kt Grant Macleod would be delighted to see any member of the Conclave attend his installation on Tuesday 15th April in the premises of Lodge Doric Kil No.68 at 7.30pm. If you haven't been for a while come along and enjoy the company with no pressure.

Future dates:

Tuesday 16th September — RCC

Tuesday 21st October — KHS **(Visit by Grand Sovereign)**

Tuesday 18th November – RCC

2015

Tuesday 20th January – KHS

Tuesday 17th February - RCC

Tuesday 17th March – KHS

Tuesday 21st April - Installation

The Wee Corner

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

CHARITY NEWS

STAMP APPEAL.

Please remember that Brother Bill Crumlsh of Lodge Firth of Clyde, 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 Crumlsh has asked me to advise that if donating stamps it is very helpful if approximately 0.25" border is left around the stamp.

ANNIVERSARY LAPEL BADGES.

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



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

CHARITY NIGHT – ERSKINE HOSPITAL Report by Brother Eddie Lapsley.

I am more than pleased to report that the charity night that was ran by Bro Jim Ellis, Bro Rod Miller and myself for Erskine Hospital was a sell out success and we raised the grand sum of £1,705 for Erskine.

Although in the past we have raised sums of £2000 & £2678 for help For Heroes and £2002 for Mark Wright house the Army recovery centre I think this is the largest sum we have raised at a single event.

I would also like to commend *No Contract* which as you know consists of PM Bro George Freeburn and Brother Alan Bell of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 who provided us with an excellent night's entertainment as well as providing their services for free.

The toy soldier from Toy Story took the stand up bingo to a new level with everyone waiting to see how the next one would drop when their number was called out. It was also nice to see members of The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders Association with their Colonel in attendance.

It just shows what we can achieve for these causes if we all work together.

Yours faithfully & Fraternally

Bro Eddie Lapsley



Charity Bike Ride in aid of Marcus Humphrey House.

On Sunday, 25th May, the Masonic Motorcycle Group, the Widow's Sons, are holding a sponsored bike ride across the Provinces covered by the Friend's Group taking in a wide area from Lanarkshire, Dunbartonshire, Glasgow, Argyll and the Isles, Dumfriesshire, Galloway, Ayrshire and of course, the Provinces in Renfrewshire. It is hoped that all the Lodges/Provinces will support this effort and sponsor forms have already been sent to the various Lodges.

The group will set off from the Home at 7.30 on the morning of the 25th and their first port of call will be at Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 around 7.45 am where they will make a brief stop for the presentation of a cheque before heading off around 8.15 toward Dunoon and the next stop at Lodge Dunoon Argyle No. 335.

Masonic Education.

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

Reading Material

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

New Material.

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

Websites

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

Lodge Websites.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 - <http://www.Lodge1425.org>

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.

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.

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

GRAND LODGE – BENEVOLENT FUNDS - Easyfundraising

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

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

It is so simple it is brilliant. Please read the attached and consider using if you buy online.

Many thanks

Alex Galbraith

Extract from Grand Lodge of Scotland Yearbook 9th September 2010.

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

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

Please take the time to visit the website to find out more at: www.easyfundraising.org.uk

How it works:

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

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

Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West
Calendar of Events and Meetings – April 2014

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 st XII - Raising	2 nd Preceptory of Ardgowan PGLRW – Regular Communication	3 rd 217 - Passing	4 th 1814 - Lecture	5 th 217- FFS	6 th
7 th 68 – Business Meeting and Spring Draw	8 th 1121 - Raising	9 th 624 – Raising 989 – Passing and AV PGLRW.	10 th 1425 - Entering	11 th 175 - Passing	12 th	13 th
14 th 626 – Entering	15 th XII – Mark SGC No. 79 - Installation	16 th RAC XVII - Degree	17 th 217 – Raising (AV of PGLRW).	18 th	19 th	20 th
21 st	22 nd 1121 - Mark	23 rd 989 – Homes Degree (Passing)	24 th	25 th 175 – Mark Degree 217 – Mark Degree	26 th	27 th
28 th 626 – Mark Degree	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd 1814 – Annual Installation	3 rd 175 – Special Meeting (Gibson Lodge No. 87).	4 th
5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	12 th

(E) denotes an Exemplification

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