

#### The Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland

William Ramsay McGhee, CStJ, D.L., Grund Master Mason William M.S. Semple, Grand Secretary

18th October 2023

Dear Sir and Brother

After detailed consideration and analysis of our service provision within the context of increasingly difficult operational challenges in the social care sector, it has been agreed that the Marcus Humphrey House will be sold as a going concern. The initial part of this process has been undertaken and completion of the transfer of ownership will take place when the purchaser of the Home has received registration from the Care Inspectorate.

The status of residents and staff is not affected by this transaction.

It is the intention that continuity of care for residents will be provided by the new operator, while a Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (TUPE) agreement means that employees are protected. Their terms and conditions of employment, including length of service, will automatically transfer across to the new owner.

Marcus Humphrey House was originally intended to provide residential assisted living for members of the Order and others, on an open referral basis, who needed a certain level of support. Over the years the requirements for the provision of that service have changed significantly and we are now offering residential care packages for, in the main, the community at large which require a considerably more complex service provision than was originally intended. Taking all factors into consideration, it has been agreed that such a provision would be better delivered by specialists in this field.

It is planned in future to help our members through more direct and targeted interventions and next steps in this regard are currently under review.

This decision was not taken lightly and in order to facilitate a smooth transition of the business transfer it has been agreed that the Homes and Charities Manager will be available to assist during this process.

I would ask you please to share this information with members as appropriate.

Yours faithfully and fraternally.

William M.S. Semple Grand Secretary

Hall Lets and Social Functions 2023-2024

Sat. 2nd. Dec. Lodge St. Bryde 579 Installation.

Fri. 12th. Jan. 2024 P.G.L. AGM

Sat. 13th. Jan. Lodge Bothwell Brig 1229 Installation

Sat. 27th. Jan. Lodge Burns Immortal No. 1730 Installation

Fri. 2nd. Feb Lodge Bothwell Brig 1229 Burns Supper.

Fri. 16th. Feb. Tannochside RSC Sportsmans Dinner.





**Thurs. 2nd.** Lecture by James L. Jack at Lodge Livingstone No. 599 at 7.30 p.m.

**Fri. 3rd.** Provincial Grand Lodge Quiz. 7pm in St. Thomas No. 306

**Sat. 4th.** Lodge Woodhall St. John's No. 305 Bi-centenary 1pm.

**Wed. 8th.** Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 Regular Meeting at 7.30 p.m. Memorial Meeting (no Degree)

Wed. 22nd. Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 Regular Meeting at 7.30 p.m. F.C. Degree by Lodge St. Enoch No. 1288. At this meeting William Pollock will receive his 50 year Certificate. Thurs. 30th. Grand Lodge of Scotland Installation and Festival of St. Andrew. Freemasons Hall, Edinburgh, 12.30 p.m. Sat. 2nd. Dec. Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 Installation of Office-

bearers at 4 p.m.

#### TEST FEES.

The minimum Test Fee is now £40.

These Fees are now due to be paid to the Lodge Treasurer.

# **Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 Installation.**

The Annual Installation of Office-bearers will take place on

Saturday 2nd. December at 4 p.m.

Tickets for the Dinner £15.

Please put your name on the Notice Board List.

#### **Grand Lodge News.**

On 6th. October at a Special Presentation at Freemasons Hall, The Grand Master Mason, Bro. W. Ramsay McGhee signed the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of The Grand Lodge of Scotland. The Covenant was co-signed on behalf of the Ministry of Defence by Colonel Anthony Phillips, Deputy Commander of 51 Brigade and Army Headquarters Scotland. Colonel Philips presented the Bronze Award to Grand Lodge.



The Covenant is a commitment by Grand Lodge to support the country's servicemen and women wherever and



however possible. Over one hundred attended the event. Grand Lodge will commence a programme of support soon.

## Christmas Draw

Saturday 16th. December at 8pm. in the Lounge. Tickets from Duncan Mulholland



#### Masonic Hall Centenary 1924-2024

Recently, we have been looking at the minutes of the Lodge from one hundred years ago, to try and get an idea of the difficulties that the Brethren experienced in the planning and building of our Masonic Hall. This month we look at November 1923! The Balance in

the Building Fund at the beginning of November 1923 was £3,044 17 4 1/2 d. Fund Raisers were being organised and the Secretary reported that the Bazaar Committee had been extended to include members of Bothwell RAC No. 170 and Bothwell OES No. 54 who were keen to assist. A Cherville Ring was donated by a Brother, who wished it to be sold and the proceeds be donated to the Building Fund. (A Cherville ring was a bespoke designer ring of high quality.) On a sadder note the Secretary reported that Bro. Robert Hynds had been killed in a work accident in Millinocket, Maine, USA. The local Lodge, Nollsimic No. 205 which Bro. Hynds had joined carried out a Masonic Funeral. The Lodge Treasurer reported that he had calculated that a further £1,000 was needed to complete the building. The Secretary was instructed to write to Provincial Grand Lodge and enquire if a loan from Provincial was available. (watch this space for the reply).

#### Visit to Leinster Lodge No. 141, Dublin.

Lodge St. Bryde have received an invitation to attend the above Lodge on Friday 24th. May 2024 as part of their 190th. Year of continuous working. Further details will be forthcoming, but if you are Interested in attending contact J.L. Jack

### Lodge St. Bryde No. 579 visit to Lodge St. Thomas No. 40.

Lodge St. Bryde have received an Invitation to visit
Lodge St. Thomas No. 40 on Saturday 2nd. March 2024 to
confer a F.C. Degree. A sheet will be posted on the notice
board and Brethren wishing to attend should put their names
on the sheet so that arrangements can commence.
At this early stage the cost of transport and accommodation
will be difficult to gauge, but Norrie Telfer has opened a book
for Brethren who wish to save for the event.

#### Elected Office-bearers 2023-2024.

The following Lodge St. Bryde Brethren have been Elected to Office for the New Session. The Election of Office-bearers took place at the Annual General Meeting on 11th. October 2023.

RWM James L. Jack, WSW Duncan Mulholland, WJW James Vasey, Sec. Andrew McAlpine, Treas. David Shaw, Almoner John McLean, D of C Robert Abercrombie, S.D. Russell Parsons, J.D. Thomas Lynch, IG Scott Grant, Chap lan Cowan, B.B. lain Charlton, Arch. Norman Telfer, Jellr. Graeme Wardrope, Marsh William Jack, D of M Charles Nelson, Org. Andrew Nisbet, Sen St. Gary Burns, Jun St. Andrew Lang, Tyler Robert Gibb, Inst Mast. Alex Hamilton.



## Grand Lodge of Scotland Installation of Office-bearers and The Festival of St. Andrew.

The Installation will take place in Freemasons Hall on Thursday 30th. November at 12.30 p.m. and thereafter the Dinner will be held in the Corn Exchange at 3.30 p.m. Busses will be provided to take Brethren from

Freemasons Hall to the Corn Exchange. The cost of a ticket for the event is £80.

Lodge St. Bryde Brethren wishing to attend should forward their name to the **Lodge Secretary** immediately. As there is likely to be a New Grand Master Mason Installed there may be a large attendance, so it is important that our order for tickets is in early. Our Bro. James L. Jack, will be Installed as Senior Grand Deacon.





### A Symposium on the life of Sir Robert Moray.

This important Symposium was held in the Lodge Room of The Lodge of Edinburgh on 30th. September 2023. The event was chaired by the RWM of Lodge Sir Robert Moray No.1641, Charles I.R. Wolrige Gordon and the guest speakers were Andrew Hammer, Ewan Rutherford, Ian Robertson, Charles Winston and Adam Bruce. The symposium covered the extraordinary

life of Sir Robert Moray including his early life, military career and his Initiation

into the Lodge of Edinburgh at Newcastle in 1641. (Sir Robert Moray was the first recorded Initiate on English Soil, he was Quarter Master General of the Scots Covenanting Army which took Newcastle and was Initiated into the Lodge by members of the Lodge of Edinburgh who were also in the Scots Army). The more obscure side of his life was also detailed, Alchemy, Rosicrucianism, Science, politics and most importantly his relevance



through time. Lodge St. Bryde was well represented by James L. Jack, Stuart Jack and Mikel Stoops who had flown in especially for the Symposium. A number of key artifacts were available to view, many of these have never been seen in public before. They included the Schaw Statutes of 1598, the Minute Book from the Lodge of Edinburgh, recording the Initiation of Sir Robert Moray in 1641, and the minute recording the first non-operative to be admitted into a Lodge in Scotland in 1634.

A well organised, historical event.



The Schaw Statutes 1598.

### **Holiday Raffle**

The Lodge has received a very generous donation of a short stay holiday at the Loch Lomond Chalet of Bro. Paul McLaughlin. Bro. Paul administers our Lodge Website and has donated the Holiday to raise funds for our Hall Centenary celebrations. The Chalet sleeps 4 and various time options are available

Bro. Russell Parsons has agreed to organise the Holiday Raffle and tickets priced £5 are now on sale.

Details of the offer are pinned to the Notice Board and the Draw will be made early in the New Year.

The Lodge would like to thank Bro. Paul (a member of Lodge New Monkland Montrose No. 88) for his generosity.