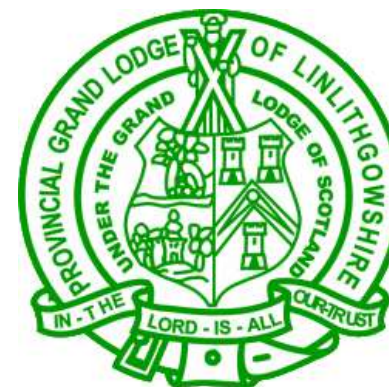


A little about Masonry and our history

No one can be certain when the Masonic Fraternity was formed. There is a widely accepted theory, among Masonic researchers, that it arose out of the stonemason's guilds during the Middle Ages. The oldest document to make reference to Mason's is the Regius Poem printed around 1390. The Grand Lodge of England was formed in 1717 and the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1736, our first Grand Master being William St. Clair of Roslin. During the 18th Century Freemasonry was one of the organisations responsible for spreading the ideals of what we know as the Enlightenment. But what is Freemasonry? It is a society, not a secret society, for men who are concerned with moral, social and spiritual values. Its members are taught a number of value precepts and it does this through a "series of ritual dramas." (Grand Lodge of England, 2002) Freemasonry is **NOT** a religion, nor is it a threat to religion. It expects each member to have a belief in a Supreme Being and is therefore open to men of any religion, creed, race or denomination. Freemasonry does not believe in sectarianism but it is non political and as an organisation stands aloof from all political theories. Members are expected to be promoters of three major concepts: Brotherly Love, Relief to those in need and Truth in requiring high standards of morality. This makes Freemasonry a way of life and not just a hobby. It is not a secret society, all of its teaching can be found in the Holy Bible or whichever Book a man finds best to express his Religion, all Books known to Freemasons as the Volume of the Sacred Law. However like other organisations, Freemasonry believes that its internal affairs are private.

The Province of Linlithgowshire was instituted on the 5th November 1827 by Grand Lodge, with 4 Lodges: Linlithgow 17, Bathgate 13, Ratho 85 and Midcalder 272. Essentially the Provincial Grand Lodge covered the old County or area of Linlithgowshire. As we all know counties and district boundaries have changed over time, albeit somewhat radically in the 1930's. However, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Linlithgowshire boundaries have remained so and have grown to supervise 19 Lodges from Ratho to Harthill and from Boness to Fauldhouse: 13, 17, 85, 272, 374, 409, 548, 590, 636, 827, 927, 1145, 1186, 1232, 1305, 1587, 1601, 1614, 1658.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Linlithgowshire Instituted 1827



A WELCOME BOOKLET
for
new members
and
existing members affiliating to
a Lodge in this Province

A message from the Provincial Grand Master: Robert W Scott

It is both a privilege and pleasure for me to welcome you into membership of Freemasonry and particularly to a Lodge in this Province. The Provincial Grand Lodge takes a real pride in all new members into one of its daughter Lodges, whether you have joined your mother lodge or as an affiliate. This leaflet comes to you as you have either just affiliated or been raised to the degree of a Master Mason. You have received an invitation to attend one of the welcome seminars when I and my colleagues will have the opportunity to meet you and to tell you a little more about the organisation you have joined and the part a Provincial Grand Lodge plays in its administration. Please take the opportunity to come and meet us and if you are one of a number or the only initiate or affiliate to your Lodge in this period, we are also inviting your Right Worshipful Master to accompany you.

There are some basic things you will want to know about Provincial. Its members are drawn from all Lodges of the Province therefore we are as one lodge, giving our Brethren one unified voice in the Grand Lodge of Scotland. We are a Lodge just like your Lodge but we do not make members in the way your Lodge can do. Our members are the Wardens and Masters of the 19 daughter Lodges and Past Masters of the same 19 Lodges. All Master Masons in good standing in their own Lodge are welcome to attend the Provincial Grand Lodge of Linlithgowshire meetings and you are warmly invited to attend the next Quarterly Communication (meeting). Like your Lodge we have Office-Bearers who are elected into office up to the really important offices of Junior and Senior Provincial Grand Wardens. However in addition we have a number of Commissioned Office-Bearers who are commissioned by either Grand Lodge or the Provincial Grand Master and they serve for a period of five years. This is enough for now, we can tell you more later but in the meantime welcome and I look forward to meeting you at the welcome seminars and at a Triennial meeting of the Province.

Tonight, please introduce yourself to another new member and try to agree to visit each others Lodge!

Robert W Scott
Provincial Grand Master

The Commissioned Office-Bearers

Provincial Grand Master	Robert W Scott
Depute PGM	James Ellis
Substitute PGM	David A Rintoul
Provincial Grand Secretary	Ronald Gemmill
Provincial Grand Chaplain	Robert J Potter

Past Provincial Grand Masters

1832	1846	William Downe Gillon of Wallhouse, M.P.
1846	1865	The Honourable Robert Sandilands, Master of Torphichen.
1865	1876	William Ramsay Ramsay of Barnton.
1876	1894	Peter McLagan of Pumpherston, M.P.
1894	1904	Captain Thomas Hope of Bridgecastle.
1904	1920	Robert Kirk, M.D., of Rowan Bank, Bathgate.
1920	1924	Henry Robinson, Linlithgow.
1925	1940	Robert Andrew Brown, M.A., F.E.I.S., Bathgate.
1941	1946	Forbes William Leslie, M.B.E., Linlithgow.
1946	1951	Rev. Lewis L. L. Cameron, O.B.E., D.D., B.Sc., Edinburgh.
1951	1961	James S. Williamson, Lodge Torphichen Kilwinning
1961	1968	Alexander Pennycook, Lodge Polkemmet
1968	1974	Dr. Ian H. Thomson, M.B., Ch.B., Lodge Hopetoun St. John
1974	1979	Rev. William Hume, Lodge Torphichen Kilwinning
1979	1987	Alexander Fraser, Lodge St. Margaret
1987	1992	James P. Thomson, Lodge Torphichen Kilwinning
1992	1997	William J. Hilditch, Lodge Polkemmet
1997	2002	Gavin W. MacDonald, Lodge Blackridge
2002	2007	George M. Preston, Lodge St John, Mid Calder
2007	2010	Kenneth L. Lindsay C.A., Lodge Ancient Brazen
2011		Robert W. Scott, Lodge Kirknewton & Ratho