

Twelve Talk

17.12.11

Issue 26

Meetings 2011-12

* 20.12.11

Passing

* 17.01.12

Raising by The Lodge of
Erskine No 1566

(Renfrewshire East)

* 07.02.12

Provincial Visitation

* 21.02.12

Entering

* 06.03.12

Passing by Lodge Burns
Dundonald No 1759
(Ayrshire)

* 20.03.12

Entering Exemplification
by The Scots Lodge No
2319 (EC)

* 03.04.12

Raising

* 17.04.12

Mark



Merry Christmas!

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII
The Saloon of the Town Hall, Greenock
Regular Meetings – 7.30pm 1st and 3rd Tuesdays – September to April

RWM Bro Bob Bain PM 22 Bellesdale Avenue Largs KA30 9EF (07753108979)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay (07810270787)

Our Previous Meeting

Tuesday 5th December

On Tuesday 5th December, James McGregor Jr was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Antient Freemasonry. James followed his Dad, Bro James McGregor Snr (our Jeweller) into No XII. The degree team was **Obligation** Bro Bob Bain RWM, **Secrets** Bro Iain White PM, **Apron** Bro Alan Beck WSW, **North East Corner** Bro Paul Galbraith,

Working Tools Bro helped by the healthy Andrew Barton JD, attendance of 41 brethren. **Tracing Board** Bro Ken We had the highest MacDougall PM Secy and attendance of our own **Charge** Bro James S brethren in more than 5 Adams PM SD. The years (26) and the 15 Degree went really well visitors included reigning indeed. Bros Beck, masters Bro John Faulkner Galbraith and Barton all of Lodge Cumberland did their parts of the Kilwinning No 217 and the ceremonial for the first Ross Nugent of the Anchor time, with some aplomb. Lodge of Research No Bro Jim Adams delivered 1814.

The collection for lodge funds was £70 and for the Charity Drive £50. The atmosphere was

Our Next Meeting

Tuesday 19th December

Bro James McGregor Jr will have his Second Degree on Tuesday. The ceremonial will be as follows: **Obligation** Bro Bob Bain RWM **Secrets** Bro Jim Adams PM **Apron** Bro Alan Beck WSW **Working Tools** Bro Kevin Barton DM **Tracing Board** Bro Iain White PM **Charge** Bro Alan Beck WSW.

Financial Matters

Test Fees are now due and these are very reasonably set at £30 in No XII, especially when £25 of that goes straight to the Grand Lodge of Scotland to support its work. This sum is known as The Capitation Fee and it is levied on Life Members too. This means that the Lodge has a very considerable financial burden each year. After discussion at the General Committee, it has been decided that

the Lodge will request that all Life Members make a donation to match, or exceed, the amount of the Capitation Fee. A very encouraging response was given by the Life Members who were at the meeting on 6th December.

All fees and donations should be passed to Bro Iain White (Acting Treasurer)



On the Visitation Trail

It is crucially important that we are active in visiting our friends in the sister lodges. Like everything else in life, you reap what you sow. Whilst a few brethren have been active visitors in recent years, it certainly was too few! When Brother Bob Bain took the Chair last month, he emphasised the need for the Lodge to visit and for the brethren to support him when he does. Since our last meeting, we have been busy on the Installation circuit with No XII being represented at 6 Installations in a fortnight. One was in our own province - Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68. Two were in Glasgow - Lodge The Gael No 609 and Lodge St John Whiteinch No 683. Two were in Ayrshire - Lodge Troon Navigation No 86 and Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624. One was in Argyll and the Isles - Lodge Rothesay St John No 292. In addition to these the RWM and brethren visited regular meetings in the province at 68, 626 and 989. Not a bad showing in a fortnight!

I myself was involved in three of these that are particularly close to my heart as they involved Lodges with whom our once strong relationships had slipped a little but they are back on the up-and-up again, namely at The Gael, St John's Whiteinch and Rothesay St John. They were personally 'demanding' because they came one after the other, three days in a row!

The treadmill started on Thursday 8th December. How appropriate that the Installation at Lodge The Gael was on the evening of the



gales and hurricane that swept across Scotland. Five hardy souls braved the elements to be at the Blackie Street hall in Partick - Bro Bob Bain RWM, Bro Alan Beck WSW, Bro Paul Galbraith and Bro Iain White PM (i.e. me)! That's only four you are saying. The fifth was a guest player, Bro Iain D MacLeod of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 (aka Wee Iain). After convening (as always) in the Park Bar for a plate of steak pie and a drink of juice, we headed over to the hall. It was a fine Installation by our Honorary Member Bro Keith Bowes Snr PM and Bro Donald Iain Finlayson PM and an emotional evening for Bill Bryce who witnessed his son Douglas follow him into the Chair... Despite the weather, the attendance was good and most remained behind for 'a few hours' of Lodge The Gael harmony. I think the highlight of that

was the Highland Honours proposed by our Honorary Member Bro Donnie Finlayson PM, particularly when he totally missed the big stainless steel container when smashing the whisky glass. Another of our Honorary members, Bro Hamish McLachlan PM, and his grandson Bro Keith Bowes Jr played the tune 'Lodge the Gael' on the pipes to accompany the Toast.

On Friday 9th, RWM Bob Bain, in keeping with tradition, headed the deputation of visiting brethren into the Annual Installation at lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68. He was well supported by six additional brethren of No XII. In the meantime I was heading back to Partick again, this time to the Ardery Street halls for the Installation of St John Whiteinch. There was a big turn out to see Bro Robert D McLachlan PM go back into the Chair. Robert was RWM before in 1991 and I knew him back then when I was in the chair at No XII. The ceremonial was expertly carried out by two Past Masters of the Lodge, Bros Alistair Henderson and John McLean. It just so happens that they are RW Provincial Grand Master and RW Provincial Grand Master Substitute of Glasgow! It was great to see the temple beautifully rebuilt after the fire and also to see so many brethren that had been at Lodge The Gael the night before, including RWM Bro Douglas Bryce and our Honorary Member Bro Donnie Finlayson PM who was piping.

Saturday 9th saw RWM Bob Bain heading down the coast for the Installation at Lodge Troon Navigation No 86 while a wee deputation of five headed over the sea to Bute for the Installation of Lodge Rothesay St John No 292. It had been a good few years since we had visited 292 and we were made so welcome by the brethren. Bro Kenny Morrison and I, in years gone by, had been Installing Masters in Rothesay and accompanying us this year were Bro Hector Macphail PM and Bro Alan Beck WSW. Again, that numbers only 4. However, Bro Iain D Macleod of 68 had enjoyed our company so much at Lodge The Gael that he gave away his ticket to see the Rangers at Easter Road and joined us in our trip to Rothesay! Bros Ellis Rutherford and James McMillan, both Past Masters of 292, gave us an Installation Ceremony that was as good as I have ever heard as they placed Bro Robert B Sinclair PM into the Chair. We spent some time in social intercourse following the meeting and after some confusion about ferry times, we caught the last one at 7pm, pledging to return another day ...

The Charity Drive tops £600!

Since the last issue of XII talk, and our last meeting, there has been an influx of money to the Charity Drive. The collection on 6th December, and handsome donations from brethren, have brought the sum raised to **£620.77**. Beneficiaries already identified are *Help for Heroes* and one of the local Boys' Brigade Companies. We are conscious that the charitable work of the Lodge is a very important facet of the Craft and we urge all our brethren to give active support to raising funds for these worthy causes.

Visit to Rosslyn Chapel

RWM Bro Bob Bain is organising a visit to Rosslyn Chapel on Saturday 28th April 2012. To obtain further details and reserve a place on the coach, contact Bro Bob on rjbxll@aol.com.

No XII Burns Supper

Tickets (priced £18) are now available for the No XII Burns Supper from Bro Alan Beck WSW. Bro Iain White (XII) will propose the Immortal Memory, Bro Iain T Gordon (1566) will Toast the Lassies and Bro Alasdair Hendry (217) will reply. Bro Ian M Ross (XII) will take the Chair. We shall be holding it at home in the Saloon of the Town Hall on **Saturday 25th February** at 630 for 7 pm. The evening will be for males only and brethren are very welcome to bring friends along who are not (yet) masons. It is a really great opportunity to portray a positive image of the Craft. Everyone performing will be a Freemason. The evening will be in aid of the Charity Drive.

A dip into our history

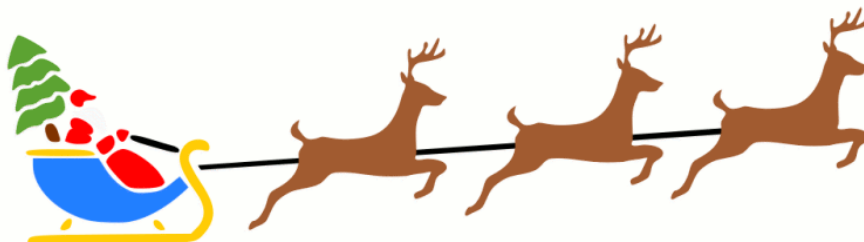
Nowadays, it is the general rule that a brother, as he approaches the Chair, starts to think about which Past Masters to invite to be his Installing Masters on the big day. The reasons for his selection are usually along the lines of asking his proposer and seconder if they happen to be Past Masters, asking a relative, asking someone with whom he gets on particularly well or asking someone that he thinks will make a good job of it! No surprises there, that's the tradition in No XII. Well, many of you might think that. However, a little look at our Minute Books paints a different picture altogether.

Thus far, I have only researched the years between 1924 and 1940. RC Smith was an Installing Master every year! For the first 4 years he was second to William Gray and the next 13 he was Principal. Further to that, in 12 of these 17 years Duncan C Kerr was on the team and in 11 of the 13 years from 1928 to 1940 Owen Dewar was an Installing Master.

So it seems that the pattern then was (more or less) that the same Past Masters did the job each year. Another No XII 'tradition' bites the dust!!!

... and finally ...

May you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Iain White PM