

Twelve Talk

17.02.19

Issue 119

Meetings 2018-19

*15.01.19

Lecture: "The Mission of Freemasonry" by Bro John Miller IPPGM (Renfrewshire East)

* 05.02.19

Raising

* 19.02.19

Passing

Annual Visitation by PGLRW

Note: Lodge opens at 715pm

* 05.03.19

Passing

* 19.03.19

Raising

*02.04.19

Raising

*19.04.19

Mark

* Saturday 23 .02.19

Annual Burns Supper at 630 for 7pm

* Thursday 06 .06.19

Summer Meeting

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII
The Saloon of the Town Hall, Greenock
Regular Meetings – 7.30pm 1st and 3rd Tuesdays – September to April
Summer Meeting – 1st Thursday in June
Burns Supper – Last Saturday in February

RWM Bro J Robert Crossan 22 Dungourney Drive Greenock PA16 7UW (07788923074)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay PA18 6DX (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

Inauguration of the Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII Burns Club and annual Charity Burns Supper

Saturday 23rd February

Greenock has the oldest Burns in the world – The Mother Club - which was instituted in 1801. On Saturday 23rd February it will have the newest, when the Greenock Kilwinning No XII Burns Club is inaugurated at the Burns Supper in the Greenock Town Hall. All attending will become Founder Members.

Although No XII was Instituted on 27th December 1728, and is the oldest organisation in Inverclyde, it was only in 2012 that the Lodge started to have annual Burns Suppers. Since then, over £35,000 has been raised for national and local charities. This year, the brethren of the Lodge have decided to constitute a Burns Club and join the Robert Burns World Federation.

Bro Angus Middleton a Past Master of Lodge Royal Arch West Kilbride No 314, and Past President of the Robert Burns World Federation, will Toast the Immortal Memory and Bro Paul Docherty PM Lodge Sir Michael No 989 will Toast the Lassies. There will be the usual raffles and auctions. No XII always supports a veterans' charity and this year Royal Navy/Royal Marines charities will

benefit. Samaritans (Inverclyde) will also benefit.

No XII has had a close association with the council in Greenock since 1765 when it contributed significantly to the building of the first Greenock Town Hall. To mark that close partnership, Deputy Provost Bro David Wilson HM No XII will attend as a top table guest and represent Provost Martin Brennan. Each year the Provost is asked to nominate a charity to benefit from the Lodge's work and this year Provost Brennan has chosen Ardgowan Hospice.

Places are still available for brethren of the craft and friends and a ticket may be booked by contacting Bro Alan Beck on 07739 514242 or Iain White on 07733 112242.

Our Next Meeting Tuesday 19th February Passing

We have a Passing on Tuesday and the Candidate is Bro Callum Robert Price. It is also the Annual Visitation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West, so the Lodge will open at 715pm, 15 minutes early. The Degree will be worked by the brethren of No XII.



Bro George Johnstone Carson
Past Master Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No 1121
Honorary Member No XII

Bro George Carson PM ascended to the Grand Lodge Above last month. I am indebted to Bro Jim Livingstone PPGM for this Obituary, taken from the West Column.

Brother George J Carson, Past Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 and Honorary Provincial Grand Chaplain was called to higher service on Sunday 27th January 2019 at the age of 92. In addition to his life in Freemasonry, George was a well-loved member of the Royal West of Scotland Boat Club and was still enthusiastically rowing in recent years. However, Brother George's love for freemasonry was legendary and he was a regular visitor at all the Lodges in the Province until very recently, enjoying not only the meetings themselves but the fellowship which followed. As a mark of respect, the Boat Club will lower its colours to half-mast as his funeral procession passes by on the way to his committal at Greenock Crematorium on Wednesday 6th February 2019 at 2.00 pm. George had been a member of Lodge Crawfurdsburn No. 1121 for over 66 years having been initiated on the 9th January 1953, Passed on 10th June 1953 and Raised on the 17th November 1953. He served as a very popular Master of the Lodge and had the honour of installing his son George into the chair of their mother Lodge. In 2017, in his 90th year, he was presented with his jewel as Honorary Provincial Grand Chaplain, which he proudly wore at every meeting until his passing. The phrase is that we can hope for no more than to live respected and die regretted and this was never truer than when applied to Brother George Johnstone Carson PM.



Bro. George J. Carson (centre) on Tuesday 3rd April 2018 on the evening that he was made an Honorary Member of No XII. Bro. George is flanked by Bro Allan T Glen RWM of No XII at the time and his son, also Bro George Carson PM

Monthly Draw

I have this from our Treasurer, Bro. David Stevenson.

Already there are now 49 numbers taken up for the 2019 Draw. Bro David would be pleased to receive further enquiries about taking part. It all helps towards making the Lodge Tercentenary special in 2028.

The draws for January and February 2019 will be done at the meeting on Tuesday.

Articles in the Pipeline - Update

By the nature of looking into the Lodge history, it is often a challenge to see a job through without being distracted along side roads and also, on occasion, being unable to easily find a reliable and reputable source for the information you seek. For these reasons, I have a number of potential *Twelve Talk* features on the go. Some are listed below with a wee update on progress.

- The tragedy surrounding the family of Bro. Rev. JS McCallum, Past Chaplain of No XII (ongoing and featured again below).
Bro Peter R Sinclair PM has done an immense amount of research on the McCallum family and once the information is all collated it will be ready for publication. The collation will be a task in itself!
- The Great War Service for our Honoured Dead involving all the local Lodges – did it ever take place?
Bro Sandy Reddy HM has checked the Minutes of 175 to no avail. Bros Dougie Warnock PM and Donald McRae have been helpful with Lodge Crawfurdsburn minutes but also to no avail. At Bro Sandy's suggestion I contacted PGL Renfrewshire West, but its minutes are all missing! No luck there then. Again, at Sandy's suggestion, my next port of call will be past copies of the Greenock Telegraph.
- Peter R Jacobs MC PM, his family and No XII
I have now tracked down the details for the two brothers of Bro Peter R Jacobs who also joined No XII. Further researches on them will follow.
- Bro Rylie J. Erskine Orr OBE PM – a colourful character
- The mystery of how Bro. Ernest George Bushell (XII), The Lodge of Hope No 2153 (EC) and Bro Robert Wright of that Lodge are all connected
- Bro Stewart Grant, member of No. XII and Worshipful Master of Cathay Lodge 4373 (EC) in Hong Kong in 1962-63
Bro Stewart's son Keith has been a great help and I have amassed a good deal of information, photographs etc. I just have a couple more questions of Keith and the collation exercise will start.
- Bro Thomas Murray Gray (XII) and his interesting Masonic memorabilia
The information is almost ready to start. I have an outstanding enquiry with the United Grand Lodge of England. I am waiting for a response.
- No XII and the Commissioned Offices in the Provincial Grand Lodge
My enquiries have been frustrated by the lack of Provincial minutes.
- No XII and The Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club)
- Provosts of Greenock and Gourrock who were No XII members
- Bro William Watson Irving PM
I have a great deal of information, photos anecdotes and the like from Bill's daughter Mhairi. It too is ready for the collation stage.
- Bro Duncan C Kerr MC PM and the 1st/5th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
- Bro J. Reid Kerr PM – Territorial Officer, Sugar Refiner, Rugby and Cricket Internationalist and British Lion
A good deal of information has come from Bro Donnie Cunningham of 68 who is a Past president of Greenock wanderers, Reid Kerr's Rugby Club. I have yet to properly research the No XII records and beyond.
- Bro DFD Neill DSO PM – Territorial Officer, Sugar Refiner, Americas Cup yacht skipper and friend and executor of Sir Thomas Lipton
Duncan Ferguson Dempster Neill was a larger than life character. Research in ongoing.
- Bro Major Frederick Lyon Playfair RE member of No XII, friend of Bro RL Scott PM and RW Master of Elgin's Lodge at Leven No 91 (Fife) in 1906-1908.
Again, Bro Peter R. Sinclair PM has been busy on the internet and we have some more information about Bro Playfair although no photograph of him as yet. I have some interesting snippets from No XII records too.

No XII on the Burns Circuit

Brethren of No XII have been active on the Burns Circuit around the Burns Suppers this year. Past masters Alan D. Beck, Ian M. Ross and Iain White have been out speaking, Bro Sandy Reddy HM has been on the recitation trail and Hector Macphail PM piping. Bro Jack Glennie PM, Bard of the Mother Club, composed the poem for the Club's fraternal greetings card and delivered Grace at the Annual celebration. The photo below shows what is probably a unique occasion. All 3 speakers at the Burns Supper of Gourock Golf Club on Saturday 26th January were Past Masters of No XII. Bro. Iain White gave the Toast to the Immortal Memory; Bro Ian M. Ross proposed the Toast to the Club; Bro. Alan D. Beck proposed the Toast to the Lassies.



Bro. Ian M. Ross PM XII, Bro. Iain White PM XII, Ian Macnaughton Captain Gourock GC, Bro. Alan D. Beck PM XII, Avril O'Donnell Captain Gourock GC



On that evening, the brethren were delighted to see Bro James W. Miller, Past Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West and HM of No XII, in the audience with his wife Betty and family. As we all know, Bro Jimmy has not been keeping too well. Here he is in the photo (left) with the speakers.

We all wish Jimmy well.

Bro Iain White was with well-known brethren of the Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle No. 275 at the Grosvenor Bowling Club top table on Friday 1st February. No XII was also well represented in the audience with Bro Sandy Reddy HM XII (Grosvenor Past Champion and Past President), Bro Ken MacDougall PM and Bro David Stevenson Treas. all in attendance.



From Left: Bros. Iain White PM XII, Iain T. Gordon PM 607 WSW 275, Bobby Shaw PM 275 and 607 and John Hutcheson RWM 275

On Saturday 19th January Bros Alan D. Beck PM and Iain White PM were the Principal Speakers at the Burns Supper of the Johnstone Pipe Band. Many of our friends from Lodge The Gael No. 609 were there, including Bros Keith A. Bowes PM HM XII, Bro Keith J. Bowes PM and Bro Donnie Finlayson PM HM XII. The Brothers Bowes are Pipe Majors of 2 of the bands in the Johnstone organisation.

Reports on Visits

- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 18th January 2019 (Entering) – attended by WSW Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Georgetown No 170 on 22nd January 2019 (Raising) – attended by WSW Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 22nd January 2019 (Raising) – attended by WJW Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Allan MacFeate PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Fraser Cameron, Bro James Livingstone and Bro Kenneth McCrae HM
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 28th January 2019 (Passing) – attended by Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM and Bro James Livingstone
- PGL Renfrewshire West on 1st February 2019 (Annual Communication & Installation) – attended by WSW Bro Brian McFadyen, WJW Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Allan MacFeate PM, Bro Fraser Cameron, Bro Alex Gray, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Tony Stewart HM, Bro James Strachan HM and Bro Kenneth McCrae HM

On occasions, fraternal greetings were exchanged.

From the Old Minute Books Charitable Activities in 1920

As we embark on the Charity Drive with the Burns Supper, it is interesting to look back on the Lodge's Charitable donations in 1920

Tuesday 13th January 1920

Bro John D Macpherson, RW Master, in the Chair at a Meeting of the General Committee

It was agreed to submit the following recommendation to the Lodge:-

That a grant of £42 should be given by the Lodge as this year's donation to local organisations. Last year the amount was £21 and it is suggested that this amount should be doubled and allocated as follows:-

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Greenock Hospital and Infirmary | £10 : 10 :- |
| District Nursing Association | £ 4 : 4 :- |
| Children's' Convalescent Home | £ 4 : 4 :- |
| Eye Infirmary | £ 4 : 4 :- |
| Ear and Throat Infirmary | £ 4 : 4 :- |
| Medical Aid Society | £ 4 : 4 :- |
| Prevention of Cruelty to Children | £ 6 : 6 :- |
| Child Welfare Hospital | £ 4 : 4 :- |
| Total | £42 |

(This was ratified at the Lodge meeting of Tuesday 20th January 1920)

£42 in 1920 would be around £3,500 in 2019.

Test and Capitation Fees

Test Fees are now due and £40 should be paid by any of the means above. **Capitation Fees** are £35 for Life Members (at their discretion). These may be paid by a number of means – please see our Treasurer Bro David Stevenson for details.

Lapel Badges

For many years, Bro Henry S Tibbles PM sold anniversary lapel badges in aid of the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund through the West Column, the monthly newsletter of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. Recently, he passed the mantle on to our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson. Bro David asked me to start to publicise the badge availability through *XII Talk*. This will now be a regular feature.

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 treasureno12@aol.com. Please make cheques payable to *David Stevenson*.



Grumpy Past Masters badges are also now available from David at a cost of £5.50 each, excluding postage.

Iain White PM
17.02.19

Views expressed by individuals within Twelve Talk do not necessarily represent the views of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII. Unless otherwise stated, Bro Iain White PM is the author of all material.