

Meetings 2020-21

• 05.01.21

Jack and Alistair Glenny
Memorial Lecture by Bro. James
P. Livingstone PPGM
“Every picture tells a story.”

* 19.01.21

Lecture by Bro. Canon Joseph J
Morrow Past Grand Master
Masonic Heraldry

* 02.02.21

Lecture by Bro. Ronnie Armstrong
PM The Lodge of Erskine No
1566
John Witherspoon

* 16.02.21 Lecture by Bro Donald
Finlayson PM Lodge The Gael
No 609 HM XII

Cowboy Masons

* 02.03.21

Lecture by Bro. Robert Geddes
PM Lodge St John's Whiteinch
No. 683

The symbolism of The Magic Flute

* 16.03.21

Lecture by Bro. N Grant MacLeod
PM Houston St. Johnstone No.
242 PPGSecy. (Renfrewshire
East)

Aprons through the Ages

* 06.04.21

Lecture by Bro. John NS Malcolm
PM The Lodge of Erskine No
1566

The week before Kick Off

* 20.04.21

Lecture by Bro Kevin Pollock
The Holy Land

*03.06.21 SPECIAL MEETING

Lecture by Bro. Canon Joseph J
Morrow Past Grand Master
*The Ceremonial Year of The Lord
Lyon King of Arms*



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 Dungleary 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)

COVID-19/Corona Virus Pandemic (12)

The big day came along, and I was off on the great adventure. A drive across almost the whole of Inverclyde to get to Port Glasgow Town Hall! Just before 0930 on Friday 5th February, I arrived and was met at the entrance by a very pleasant woman wearing a badge saying ‘Volunteer’. She smiled at me and said, “Hello. What time is your appointment?” “930,” I replied, mirroring her smile. “That’s great she said, “just take the stairs, go up on the left-hand side and join the queue at the top, on the landing.” 10 minutes later I was sitting in a chair, relaxing, having had my vaccination. Yes – THE vaccination. It was problem free. In fact, apart from being very quick and efficient, the staff – paid and volunteer – were so pleasant and helpful that the experience was painless (almost).

It is difficult to see how the system could have worked without the volunteers. They played a vital role and the demeanour of those that I met was absolutely fit for purpose. I am sure that many members of the Craft will have offered to take up these roles. This is the sort of thing that we do, isn’t it? We look after others in society and not just our brethren in the Craft; we do it very well, too and often without recognition. In a sense, that doesn’t matter. We don’t do it for the recognition; we do it because it’s the sort of people we are, and we belong to that sort of organisation in the Craft. However, maybe, going forward we should be seeking more recognition and more publicity for the good work that we do in our communities. This would surely help to dispel some of the myths

that surround us and might make it easier to recruit new members.

We have a great example in No. XII. Nearly 10 years ago, we decided to run a Charity Burns Supper and to try to raise as much money as we could on the night from raffles, an auction and the like. It has been successful, with anywhere between £4,000 and £6,000 being raised year on year. Thereafter, the Charities come to the Town Hall, or are visited by us, and the Cheque is presented with accompanying photo. This is then publicised online, in Twelve Talk and, most importantly, in the *Greenock Telegraph*. Why most importantly the local paper? That’s a significant way in which the general public gets to see the good we do.

There are other benefits. Each year we have had anywhere between 120 and 160 in attendance. We provide a quality meal, in the quality surroundings of Greenock Town Hall with quality speakers and quality entertainers. At the event we stress the charitable nature of what we are doing and who the recipients will be. We encourage brethren to invite friends who are not in the Craft to let them see something of what we are really about. Each year, at least one application has been forthcoming from people attending the Burns Supper and often four or five. Self-promotion, PR and marketing? Of course, it is, and we need more of this as the Craft moves out of the COVID lockdown. We shall need new members to replace those who do not return post-COVID. Given the age profile of the membership of the Craft, for one reason or another some will not come back.

The necessary changes will require inspiration and strong, effective leadership. How do we nurture these leaders and get them to the fore? Just asking ...

Iain White PM

Financial Matters

All No XII members will have just received a resend of a communication from our Treasurer Bro. David Stevenson. We cannot meet just now, but our financial obligations continue e.g., Test and Capitation Fees, Charitable work, Insurance etc. Please give Bro David's request your careful consideration

The Monthly Draw has restarted. This is a very important fund raiser, so please contact Treasurer David to renew your subscription or simply leave your standing order running. December's winner was Bro. KK Morrison PM. January and February draws are due.

Lodge Memorabilia

In my role as Lodge Librarian, I am still very keen to have any documentary or other links to the past – installation programmes, Orders of Service, postcards, flyers etc. etc. If they are lying in a cupboard or drawer at home, please get them to me to enhance our understanding of No XII's past.

I put this in *Twelve Talk* in each edition, but I don't get as many responses as I would like. If you have a bit of spare time, please dig around in the house and see what you can find. Things that seem, on the face of it, to be trivial can play a vital part in piecing together the history of the Lodge and filling gaps in the Minutes. For example, artifacts from the Conn family that we received recently have enabled me to identify Bro. James Conn, (RWM 1930-32) in the Installation photo of 1936.

Anything at all will be worthwhile – and if you happen to come across the Minute Books for 1796 – 1854 or 1867 - 1873, they would be particularly welcome! 😊

Previous Meeting using Zoom Technology Tuesday 2nd February 2021 *'John Witherspoon'* by Bro. Ronnie Armstrong PM The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566



Bro Ronnie Armstrong PM The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 (left with RWM Bro Bob Bain in 2012). Bro. Ronnie delivered a talk entitled 'John Witherspoon'. I have a report on the evening from Bro. Brian McFadyen, our WSW and, of course, himself a Past Master of The Lodge of Erskine.

On Tuesday 2nd February we were delighted to welcome Bro. Ronnie Armstrong, PM, The Lodge of Erskine 1566 to our regular Zoom meeting to present his Lecture on "John Witherspoon" who, of course, went on to become one of the founding fathers of the United States of America.

Bro. Ronnie began his talk by displaying a photograph of Old Tennent Presbyterian Church, Princeton, N.J which he had visited whilst on a holiday to see his sister. On visiting the church, and having a conversation with the minister thereof, this sparked an interest in John Witherspoon and resulted in Ronnie's research.

Bro. Ronnie took us through the very interesting life of John Witherspoon which began from his birth in 1723 at Gifford, not far from Haddington, and ended in 1794 with him being buried in Presidents' Row within Princeton Cemetery. Princeton Cemetery is the burial ground for U.S. Presidents, High Ranking Government Officials and some of America's most prominent early religious leaders - a high honour!!

Ronnie led us through John Witherspoon's education including gaining a Master of Arts Degree at Edinburgh University aged just 16 years old. He also studied Divinity and went on to be a Presbyterian Minister at both Beith in Ayrshire and at Laigh Church in Paisley, Renfrewshire. While at Beith, Witherspoon commanded a body of volunteers who were recorded as being present at the Battle of Falkirk in 1746. We were told of his capture at the hand of the Jacobites and resultant imprisonment in Doune Castle.

We were informed of an interesting friendship with Americans Benjamin Rush and Richard Stockton whom Witherspoon had met in Paisley. This friendship ultimately resulted in his [Witherspoon's] emigration to America in 1768 to take up the position as President and Head Professor at the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University.

In 1774 Witherspoon became disillusioned with Britain and gave support to the Revolution which resulted in the War of Independence. Bro. Ronnie also showed us a wonderful portrait of the occasion when the Declaration of Independence was presented to Congress with Witherspoon clearly depicted.

Witherspoon, Rush and Stockton were among the signatories to the Declaration of Independence in 1776 with Witherspoon being the only Clergyman to do so.

A Question-and-Answer session followed, and Bro. Ronnie answered the many questions posed.

A recorded copy of this talk is available on the No. XII YouTube page at <https://youtu.be/rMbZUpXLvXU>

40 attended the meeting.

Next Meeting using Zoom Technology
Tuesday 16th February 2021
‘Cowboy Masons’ by Bro. Donald Finlayson PM
Lodge The Gael No. 609



Our next zoom meeting will be on Tuesday 16th February 2021 when we welcome Bro Donald Finlayson PM Lodge The Gael No. 609 (left on left, visiting Lodge Kelvin Partick No. 1203 on 3rd September 2019 with my good self) who is doing a talk entitled ‘Cowboy Masons.’ Bro Donnie is, of course, an Honorary Member of No. XII and a weel-kent face at our meetings in the Saloon. These visits are carefully planned to allow him a staging post stop at another ‘Saloon’ outside Glasgow Central on the way home, before he gets his bus out to Victoria Park Drive!! A larger-than-life character, Donnie will give us an entertaining talk, one that I have heard him deliver before in The Gael to great acclaim.

Bob Crossan RWM No XII is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

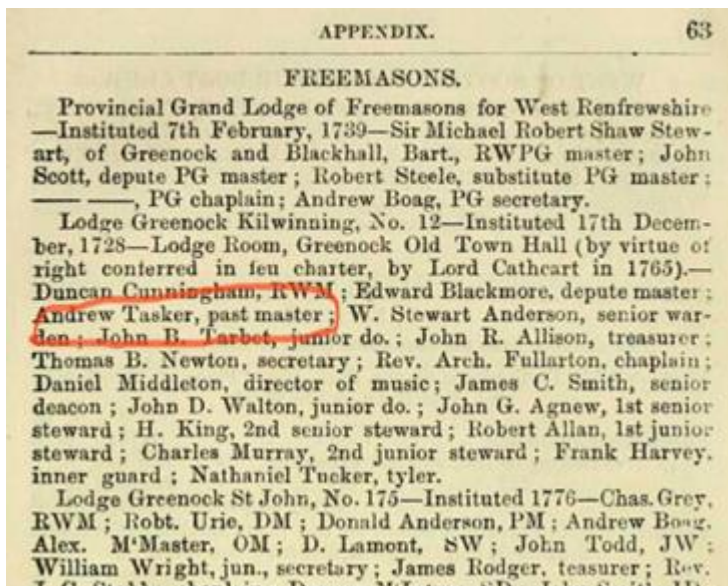
Topic: *Cowboy Masons* by Bro Donnie Finlayson PM Lodge The Gael No 609
Time: Feb 16, 2021 07:15 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96188496794>

Meeting ID: 961 8849 6794

Masters of No. XII
The Missing Years – ANOTHER Important Discovery by Bro Brian McFadyen



Bro. Andrew Tasker – RW Master in 1871

The missing Minute Books in No XII are a constant source of frustration when seeking information about the years between 1796 and 1854 and 1867 and 1873. Apart from anything else, we do not know who the Lodge Masters were during most of these years – well, not at least, from that source. Over the past few years various Lodge members have been digging into other sources of information to find the elusive names. Gradually pieces of the jigsaw are being put in place.

In the last Twelve Talk I reported that Bro Brian McFadyen WSW had come up with the Master Bro. Alexander May in 1806 from a *Greenock Telegraph* cutting accessed in the British Newspaper Archive on-line. He has done it again – this time for Bro. Andrew Tasker. Initially, he had seen a Post Office publication (above left) which gave him part of the story. He didn't know the year, but given that Duncan Cunningham is RW Master, Brian concluded that it had to be either 1872 or 1883. John R Allison being Treasurer led Brian to conclude that the former year was more likely.

He turned to the *Greenock Telegraph* on the British Newspaper Archive. The cutting (below) from Friday 1st December 1871, gave conclusive evidence that Bro Andrew Tasker was, indeed, RW Master in 1871 – 72.

LODGE GREENOCK KILWINNING
(No. 12).

The annual general meeting of this lodge was held yesterday evening, in the Council Chambers, John Fleming, Right Worshipful Master, presiding. Treasurer Allison read the annual report, which showed the affairs of the lodge to be in a highly satisfactory state. The Lodge then proceeded to the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year, when the following brethren were unanimously chosen: — Andrew Tasker, R.W.M. John Fleming, P.M.; Edward Blackmore, D.M.; Thomas Ballantine and John B. Crawhall, O.Ms.; Duncan Cunningham, S.W.; H. J. Boolas, J.W.; John R. Allison, Treasurer; Thomas B. Newton, Secretary; Rev. Charles Cole, B.D., Hon. Chaplain; Rev. H. Fullarton, Chaplain; Daniel Middleton, Director of Music; Arch. Roxburgh, Architect; William Stewart Anderson, S.D. John B. Tarbet, J.D.; James D. M'Macdonald, 1st S.S.; H. W. Chalmers, 2nd S.S. George M'Farlane, 1st J.S.; Henry King, 2nd J.S.; John D. Walton, Inner Guard; N. Tucker, Tyler.

Independently, I had come across Bro. Tasker when reading the Minutes of the Lodge Meeting of 25th November 1875 where his passing to the Grand Lodge Above was recorded (below).

A Meeting of the Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII,

was held in the Council Chambers on Monday
15th Nov 1875 at 7.30 P.M.

James Newton R W M in the Chair

Present as per attendance Roll.

The Lodge having been opened in the Apprentice Degree,
in due and ancient form, the Secretary read the Minutes
of last Meeting which were approved and passed

See Zeller Book for letter to Mr Tarker.

On the motion of the Senior Warden, seconded by
the Junior Warden, it was unanimously resolved, that,
this Lodge express, and record in its Minutes, sincere regret
at the loss it has sustained by the lamented death of its
late worthy and respected Past Master Brother Tarker; and
the Brethren present desired, that there should be conveyed
to Mrs Tarker, the deep sympathy which they and their
absent Brethren feel, for her. in her sad bereavement, deprived
as she has been, of the comfort and companionship, of one
of the most upright and honorable of men, and most
devoted and affectionate of husbands.

Walter

The hunt goes on...

No XII supports work of the 32nd Scouts Donation of £350

The concert will 2/2We93kq

Scouts launch £10k effort to transform new base

By Amy Shearer
Amy.Shearer@greenockand.co.uk

GREENOCK scouting stalwarts have launched a mammoth fundraising appeal to help makeover their new home.

The 32nd Greenock & District Scouts recently took over the former Caladh House on Bank Street. To transform it into a state of the art base—with two halls, meeting rooms, a climbing wall, movie theatre, museum, shop and community wing—the group have launched an online crowdfunding appeal in a bid to raise almost £10,000.

They have recorded a video appeal featuring some of the 150 young people who belong to the group, to show those donating exactly where their money will be going.

David McCallum, project leader, said: "Due to the fact that traditional fundraising cannot take place at present, we decided to open a Crowdfunding page to hopefully raise £9,000 in order for our phase one, ground floor community hall to be created.

"We have been astonished at the support from former members, parents and friends.

"The young people who feature in the short video did all the hard work, they are a credit to us."

As a thank-you to those supporting the appeal, the Scouts are offering various 'rewards' depending on the amount donated. Those who donate £5 will receive a personalised hand-made thank-you card and in exchange for a £10 donation the Scouts are offering tea and cake when restrictions allow.

For a £25 donation, Scouts will be happy to serve a 'luxury cream tea' in their new hall and those who donate £100 to the appeal will be given exclusive half day access to the new premises for a children's party that includes a bouncy castle and popcorn machine.

Featured in the videos are members Caelin Davis, Alex Wiseman, Lucy Duffy, Kayden Morales and Leigh McCallum.

Leigh said: "We can't wait to use the secure place at the back of the building come rain or shine, it's breathtaking.

"We'd appreciate your help in making all our dreams come to light."



Main photo by George Munro



Back in December, the piece above appeared in the Greenock Telegraph. It describes how Greenock's 32nd Scouts are attempting to develop a new HQ and community facility in Bank Street. Fund raising is challenging in present times because of the COVID restrictions. Undeterred, the 32nd boys and girls have launched a crowd funding scheme.

No XII was anxious to support a such a worthy cause, especially since a Past Scout Leader in that group was a stalwart in No. XII – the late Bro. Ian S. Grant. No XII has donated £350. PGL Renfrewshire West had already given £1000 and other local Lodges are supporting the venture.

We look forward to seeing the enterprising spirit of these young people being rewarded as they get to their target of £10,000. They are almost there, I believe.

Lord Inverclyde (1897 – 1957) A Brother of No XII Part 3



In the last edition, we looked at Lord Inverclyde joining No. XII in 1947 and being Installed as Depute Master on 23rd December 1947, the next Regular Meeting after the Annual Installation a fortnight before. While he served in that office for a year, he did not continue in December 1948. We could hypothesise that this was because he knew that in 1949-50, he was to become Lord Dean of Guild in Glasgow. This role made him the Second Citizen of Glasgow, after the Lord Provost, and would have been very onerous in terms of civic duties. In addition to those associated with the office, he would have to deputise for the Lord Provost on numerous occasions. He was also an ex-officio member of the Council in Glasgow and much time would have to be spent at Council Meetings.



The Lord Dean of Guild is an ancient office, elected by the Merchants House of Glasgow which was constituted in 1605. In the 17th and 18th Century, the Merchants formed a majority on the town council and every Lord Provost was drawn from their ranks.

The Merchants House is now a major charitable institution and over the past five years it has committed over £2.5m of grants and other charitable financial assistance, principally to third sector organisations operating predominantly in Glasgow and the West of Scotland. It generously supported Newlands Junior College when I was Principal there.

The Merchants building is situated at the corner of George Square and West George Street and as well as a Grand Hall has six floors of office space.

Lord Inverclyde's involvement with the Merchants House possibly explains why he chose the Trades House of Glasgow Lodge No. 1241 as his first Scottish Lodge of Affiliation. The Trades House of Glasgow was created at the time of reform of Glasgow's local government in 1605. At that time the electorate was essentially divided into two groups: the Merchants and the Craftsmen. The Craftsmen were looked after by the Trades House. Today, like the Merchants House, it is a charitable organisation. He may have been a member of one of the Craft Incorporations. The Incorporation of Coopers supported, and worked closely with, Govan High when I was HT there.

Although he chose not to continue as Depute Master (as noted in his obituary in the Greenock Telegraph of 18th June 1957), Lord Inverclyde did serve a full Commission as Provincial Grand Master Substitute of Renfrewshire West from 1948 till 1953. Bro Sir Walter Guy Shaw Stewart (No. XII) of Ardgowan and Blackhall was RWPG Master and Bro Robert A. Clapperton-Stewart (Greenock St John's No.175) was RWPGM (Depute). Lord Inverclyde was replaced in 1953 by Bro. J Reid Kerr and Bro RA Clapperton Stewart by Bro. Peter R. Jacobs MC, both of No. XII.

However, there is an interesting twist to Lord Inverclyde's involvement with No. XII in 1951. The Substitute Master, Bro Neil McGilp had passed to the Grand Lodge Above. A Special Meeting of the General Committee was convened. RW Master Bro Duncan M. Holmes said that he had approached Lord Inverclyde with a view to his being nominated as Substitute Master. This was agreed (see Minute Below)

At a Special Meeting of the General Committee, held within the adjacent of the Saloon of the Town Hall on the 16th January 1951 at 700 pm.

Brother Duncan M. Holmes RW Master in the Chair

Present: Bro J. Riech Kurt P.M. Drainer. S.W. Jas. L. Black J.D.
James Kennedy I.G. A. Miller. S.D. John Riech Treasurer
Thos. Hutchings, C.S. and Arthur Lang Secy.

brod Inverclyde
nominate as
S.M.

The P.W. Master explained that by the death of Bro. Mr. Pelf. the office of S.M. was now vacant and expressed the desire that the office be filled as early as possible. In this connection he had approached brod Inverclyde and received from him permission to allow his name to go forward for the office. On a motion by the P.W. Master seconded by Bro J. Riech Kurt P.M. it was unanimously agreed to nominate brod Inverclyde as S.M.

The P.W. Master intimated that the nomination would be submitted to the Lodge that evening.

The proposal was to go to the Lodge. However, what a stramash! There was an alternative proposal – Bro. John Fraser (see Minute below)..

At a Meeting of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. 12, held in the Saloon of the Town Hall on 16th January 1951 at 730 pm.

Brother Duncan M. Holmes RW Master in the Chair

nomination and
election of S.M.

The P.W. Master reported that the General Committee unanimously recommended Bro Lord Inverclyde to the Lodge for election as S.M. This was seconded by Bro J. Riech Kurt P.M. Bro James Brodie nominated Bro John Fraser and this was seconded by Bro John R. Syle. On a vote being taken Bro John Fraser was declared elected.

After a vote, Bro John Fraser was declared elected. Lord Inverclyde lost!!

There will be more about Bro. Lord Inverclyde in the next edition of *Twelve Talk*.

Lapel Badges

For many years, the late 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. He passed the mantle on to our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson. Bro David asked me to start to publicise the badge availability through *Twelve Talk*. It has been, and remains, 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 treasurno12@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
13.02.21

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.