

## 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 Lodge 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays – September to April**  
**Summer Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (13)

Surely, we can now, finally, see that light at the end of the COVID tunnel. The number of people who have had their initial vaccination is increasing rapidly and, bearing in mind the age profile of Brethren in the Craft, our percentage vaccinated must be pretty high. These vaccinations seem to be working well. A study by Public Health England has shown that with the Pfizer vaccine, 1 dose reduces the risk of catching infection by more than 70%, rising to 85% after the second dose. This suggests the vaccine may also help to interrupt virus transmission, as you cannot spread the virus if you do not have infection. Other studies have given similar results with the other vaccines. I was very pleased to hear the Pfizer results since that's the one that I received!!

This being the case, now is the time that we need to start to think about our Lodges re-opening and to begin to plan for that. Advice and recommendations around the practicalities will be coming from Grand Lodge and this will be very helpful. I do believe that this will be a restart like no other. It will not be just like the Lodge opening after the summer break. There are many, serious questions to be faced.

How much preparation will be required to ensure that our meeting places and practices are safe? We have an aging membership and how ready will they be, on health grounds, to come to a place where a lot of people gather? Will people have simply got out of the habit of going out in the evening and need to be encouraged to come back? Will our candidates in the pipeline, and those who are partially through their degrees, still have the enthusiasm for the Craft? Shall we have a new vision? How will the results of the Grand Lodge survey, responded to by 7000+ members, impact on our thinking? Is your Lodge even considering any of these questions, and more besides? Does your Lodge have a communication strategy now? Does your Lodge have a communication

strategy for the future?

Of course, I may be wrong in my belief that we face many re-opening challenges. That is possible and I readily acknowledge the fact. When I was Head Teacher at Govan High, I had a leadership mentor, a man called Bob McKay. The late Bob was a man of great experience and wisdom. A retired Director of Education, I learned so much from him. In discussing the importance of self-reflection and critique in leadership with Bob, I remember him saying, “A leader does not have all the answers. That is a fact. But he has to know the right questions to ask.” I believe that the questions I am posing above are some of the right questions.

I have heard that some people are saying that the situation now is just like after World War I and II and that, just as then, men will be flocking to return to or to join the Craft. Well, I believe that to be wrong and here is why. (1) Lodges continued to meet all through both Wars and the infrastructure and momentum were there; we haven't been meeting. (2) Men were away from friends and family but had male comradeship which they, perhaps, sought to emulate in the Craft when they came home; I, for one, have been very comfortable with the increased family time (3) It was safer to be in a Lodge than where these men had been; arguably, the reverse is true now (4) The men could clearly see the wartime enemy; our wee virus is more insidious.

Coming out of a crisis, leadership is just as important as when you are in the middle of one. This leadership requires vision, creativity, organisation, communication, a corporate approach and planning. How do we develop and encourage such leaders in the Craft?

The old Boy Scout motto might be appropriate for where we find ourselves now viz: “Be prepared!”

Just saying...

**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.

January's winner was RW Master Bro. Bob Crossan and February was Bro. Ian M. Ross PM. The RW Master very generously donated his winnings to Lodge funds but there is no obligation to do this!

## 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! 😊

## Next Meeting using Zoom Technology

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**

***"The symbolism of the Magic Flute"* by Bro. Robert Geddes PM**  
**Lodge St. John's Whiteinch No. 683**

Bro Robert Geddes PM St John's Whiteinch No 683 will visit the world of classical music and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Freemasonry in Europe in his talk 'The Symbolism of the Magic Flute' on Tuesday. The Magic Flute (Die Zauberflöte), is an opera in two acts by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to German words by Emanuel Schikaneder. The work premiered on 30 September 1791 in Vienna, just two months before the composer's premature death. It was a great success. Mozart was, of course, a Freemason. We look forward to the way that Bro. Robert will link the opera to the Craft.

Bro Robert is a keen Mason in various orders and an enthusiastic Masonic researcher. In fact, I met him on a train going South a few years ago. We were both heading for Yorkshire. Robert was with Bro. George McGaughey of Lodge Bonhill and Alexandria St. Andrew's Royal Arch No. 321; they were heading to a high fallutin' Masonic Dinner. I was with Gail, Cameron and Kirsty; we were heading to Leeds to see Barry Manilow!

Robert was a schoolteacher by profession. Prior to his retirement he was Principal Teacher of Technological Subjects in Shawlands Academy, a large secondary school with a proud history, on the Southside of Glasgow. He was enthusiastically involved in schools' football and I even saw him interviewed on television in that regard.

We look forward to hearing him.

**Previous Meeting using Zoom Technology**  
**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
**'Cowboy Masons' by Bro. Donald Finlayson PM**  
**Lodge The Gael No. 609**



On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021, we welcomed Bro Donald Finlayson PM Lodge The Gael No. 609, and Honorary Member of No. XII, to lead our Zoom meeting. We see Donnie often at No. XII, but this was the first time that he was with us online! Donnie is pictured left, in full flow, first up at a Lodge The Gael harmony (after the piper), giving the Gaelic song *Cailin Mo Ruinsa* (his party piece).

We had no singing this time, but we heard plenty from Donnie as he took us on a fascinating journey through The Wild West and Hollywood as he told us of cowboys, and actors, writers, producers, directors etc. involved with cowboy films, who were masons.

The names of the cowboy brethren are almost endless, from the heroes of the Alamo (Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, William Travis) to Kit Carson; from Samuel Colt to William F. Cody or 'Buffalo Bill' as he was known. Later in his life, Cody established The Wild West Show which thrilled audiences across America and Europe and even in Greenock and Paisley. 'Buffalo Bill' is buried in Golden, Colorado on Lookout Mountain

with a memorial from the Masons of Colorado beside his grave.

The Hollywood list was even greater: Cecil B De Mille, Darryl F Zanuck, Jack Warner, William Wyler from the production side and actors like Oliver Hardy WC Fields, Roy Rogers, Gene Autrey, Burl Ives, Clark Gable, Bob Hope, Randolph Scott, Audie Murphy and 'The Duke' – John Wayne himself.

It was a fascinating talk and much enjoyed by the 37 brethren who attended.

I'll have more about Bro. William F Cody and Cowboy Masons in the next edition as I visited Buffalo Bill's grave some years ago and Bro. Jim Dunlop has sent me some interesting cowboy photos

## **A blast from our past! Office Bearers and Past Masters Bro. Hector Macphail RWM 1991-1993**

I came across this photo, quite by accident, yesterday morning. It is taken at either Bro Hector's Installation or Re-installation and shows him with his team of Office Bearers and the Lodge Past Masters. It's amazing to think that it was taken 30 years ago! These years have taken their toll, as not many of us are as fresh faced now as we were back then. Also, and inevitably, a number of the Brethren in the photo have gone to The Grand Lodge Above, viz.: Bros. Tibbles, Glenny, McCulloch, Robertson, Adamson, Adams and Drainer. Those of us remaining do have our happy memories of times spent with them in peace, love and harmony.



Back Row (from left): Bro. Henry S. Tibbles Bro. James McGregor Bro. Rodney Beale Bro. Allan Goodall Bro. Alan Knox Bro. David Miller  
Middle Row: Bro Iain White IPM Bro. Jack Glenny PM Bro. H Campbell Barr PM Bro. Wilson J. McCulloch PM Bro. KK Morrison PM Bro. Philip Robertson Bro. Norman Gray. Bro. W Crawford Kirkpatrick  
Front Row: Bro. John Adamson PM Bro Murray Thomson Bro. Ian M Ross WSW Bro. Hector Macphail RWM Bro. James S. Adams WJW Bro. Robert J. Bain Bro. RJ Drainer Jr. PM

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

**Bro. Robert Ewing – RW Master in 1848-49**

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 two *Twelve Talks* I reported that Bro Brian McFadyen WSW had come up with the Master Bro. Alexander May in 1806 Bro. Andrew Tasker in 1871.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning, No. 12, instituted 27th December, 1728—  
Robert Ewing, R W Master; John Scott, jr., P Master; Robert Steele,  
Senior Warden; David Crawford, Junior Warden; Andrew Anderson,  
Treasurer; Donald M'Nicoll, Secretary; Rev. Charles Cole, Chaplain;  
William Park, Senior Deacon.  
Greenock St. John's Lodge, No. 175, instituted 1776. Adam Scott, R W

He's done it again!! The entry in the PO Directory has Robert Ewing as RW Master in 1848-49 which was a blank year in our records.

The hunt goes on...

## Lord Inverclyde (1897 – 1957) A Brother of No XII Part 4



In the last edition, we looked at Lord Inverclyde's involvement with No XII and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. This time, we'll step back from his involvement in Freemasonry and look a bit at his family lineage.

Baron Inverclyde was a relatively short lived title, there being only 4 in total. The title was created in 1897, a few months before the birth of James Alan Burns. It ended with his death in 1957 as he had no children.



The ranks of nobility in the UK are, from highest to lowest: duke, marquess, earl, viscount, baron. All except dukes are styled "Lord + title"; the dukes are simply dukes. The title Baron Inverclyde had been preceded by a Baronetcy, the rank below Baron. Baronets (like the Shaw Stewarts) are the hereditary equivalent of a knighthood and are styled "Sir So-and-so".

Lord Inverclyde's lineage was

### **George Burns, 1st Baronet (1795-1890)**

George Burns was born in Glasgow, the son of Rev John Burns (1744–1839), a Presbyterian minister. He was co-founder of the *Cunard Steamship Co.* and made a baronet at age 94 in 1889, the oldest ever recipient of the award.

**John Burns, 2nd Baronet and 1st Baron Inverclyde** (24 June 1829 – 12 February 1901) John Burns was a ship owner and Chairman of *Cunard*. He inherited his father's Baronetcy in 1890 and was created Baron Inverclyde, of Castle Wemyss in the county Renfrew, on 28 July 1897. He died on 12 February 1901; his wife Emily, dying the next day. They were interred together. He was succeeded by his elder son, George.

**George Arbuthnot Burns, 2nd Baron Inverclyde** (17 September 1861 – 8 October 1905) By the time George succeeded his father, the Burns's fleet of ships amounted to over 100 vessels,

trading between the Clyde, Ireland, Liverpool, and the Scottish Highlands. His father had eventually handed him control of the *Cunard Steamship Company*, making him chairman.

On 6 April 1886, he married Mary Fergusson, younger daughter of Hickson Fergusson, of The Knowe, Ayrshire. However, he died childless in 1905, and the titles and business passed to his younger brother, James.

**James Cleland Burns, 3rd Baron Inverclyde, (14 February 1864 – 16 August 1919)**

So, James Cleland Burns was the second son of John Burns, the first Lord Inverclyde, and grandson of Sir George Burns, 1st Baronet, the cofounder of the *Cunard Line*. James Burns succeeded to the title of Baron Inverclyde on the death of his elder brother, George Burns, in 1905. He was the principal Director of the shipping business of Messrs. G. & J. Burns, Limited, and took a strong interest in everything connected with shipping, and was a Director of the Cunard Steamship Co., Ltd.

He married on 2 April 1891, Charlotte Mary Emily, youngest daughter of Mr. Nugent-Dunbar of Machermore Castle, Newton Stewart, and had two daughters, Emily and Muriel, and a son, John Alan Burns, who succeeded him.

**John Alan Burns, 4th Baron Inverclyde, (12 December 1897 – 18<sup>th</sup> June 1957)**

John Alan Burns is 'No XII's Lord Inverclyde' and the title ended with him as he died childless. It would seem that he took no interest in the family businesses.

He was born on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1897 at Castle Wemyss, the family estate in Wemyss Bay. His birth record is shown below.

1897. BIRTHS in the District of *Inverclyde* in the County of *Renfrew* Page 6.

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Residence, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, Name, Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
17	<i>John Alan Burns</i>	<i>12 Dec. 1897 Castle Wemyss Inverclyde</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>Mr. James Cleland Burns Shipowner Charlotte Mary Emily Burns W. S. Nugent-Dunbar 1891 April 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Stephen's Church London</i>	<i>James C Burns Father (Present)</i>	<i>1897. December 25<sup>th</sup> at Inverclyde J. F. Campbell Registrar.</i>

After a very full life, he passed to the Grand Lodge Above in the early hours of 18<sup>th</sup> June 1957, also at Castle Wemyss. He died suddenly, in his sleep, of a heart attack. Lord Inverclyde was married and divorced twice.

1957. DEATHS in the District of *Inverclyde* in the County of *Renfrew* Page 3.

No.	Name and Surname. Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
8	<i>John Alan Burns 3rd Baron Inverclyde formerly married to (1) Miss Seminary (2) Jane Howard Child against whom he obtained Decree of Divorcement</i>	<i>1957. June Eighth 24. On. A.M. Castle Wemyss Wemyss Bay</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>James Cleland Burns Miss Anne Inverclyde Shipowner (Decedent) Charles Mary Emily Burns W. S. Nugent-Dunbar (Decedent)</i>	<i>Cerebral Thrombosis (Decedent) As certified by Col. Gourlay M.D. A.S.</i>	<i>W. S. Gourlay Colonel Wemyss Bay Glasgow</i>	<i>1957. June 19<sup>th</sup> at Inverclyde John F. S. Henderson Registrar.</i>

## 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](mailto: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**  
**28.02.21**

**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.**