

# Twelve Talk

14.03.22

Issue 149

## Meetings 2021-22

- 15.02.22  
Passing
- \* 01.03.22  
Passing
- \* 15.03.22  
Entering
- \* 05.04.22  
Raising
- \* 19.04.22  
Raising
- \*12.05.22  
Mark
- \*Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June  
Special Summer Meeting and  
Platinum Jubilee Celebration
  
- Saturday 19.02.22  
Burns Supper



**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 Brian McFadyen 47 Renshaw Road Bishopton PA7 8HL (07810008075)  
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 6 Stirling Drive Gourock PA19 1AH (07810270787)  
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

**Previous Meeting**  
**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**  
**Passing**

Our previous meeting was a Passing, and the Candidate was Bro Craig McFadyen, the RW Master's son. There were 25 Brethren of No XII and 31 visiting Brethren in attendance. RWM Bro Brian McFadyen invited all RW Masters and Past Masters to the East. Bro William Mooney, RWM of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68, Bro Eric Sweeney, RWM of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217, Bro Graeme Wallace, RWM of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626, Bro James Watson, RWM of Lodge Sir Michael No 989 and Bro Gordon Sheridan, RWM of Lodge Bonhill & Alexandria No 321 accepted the invitation.

The Degree Team was **Prayer:** Bro Bob Bain PM **Obligation:** RWM Bro Brian McFadyen **Secrets:** IPM Bro Robert Crossan **Apron:** Bro Iain White PM **Working Tools:** Bro David Stevenson **The Tracing Board:** Bro Iain White PM **The Charge:** Bro Bob Bain PM

Bro Eric Sweeney, RWM of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217, replied on behalf of the visitors and thanked RWM Bro Brian McFadyen for the warmth of the welcome and for an excellent Fellowcraft Degree by the Lodge. The candidate was also congratulated the way he came prepared.

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022**  
**Passing**

The Lodge will confer an Entered Apprentice Degree on Mr Jordan James Kincaid and Mr Bryan Guy Adams Campbell-Black.

The Degree Team will be **Prayer:** Bro Bob Bain PM **Obligation:** RWM Bro Brian McFadyen **Secrets:** Bro AD Beck PM **Apron:** Bro Iain White PM **North-East Corner** Bro Robert Marshall SD **Working Tools:** Bro Bob Bain PM **The Charge:** Bro Ken MacDougall PM

**Provincial Grand Lodge Ball**  
**Saturday 21st May 2022**  
**Greenock Town Hall**

The Provincial Grand Lodge Summer Ball is back again. It will be the usual grand affair with a sumptuous 4 course meal from Tony Buckley's ICE Catering and dancing thereafter to the Capitol Big Band. Tickets (priced £25) are available from Bro. Alan D. Beck PM, in person, or by calling him on 07739 514242.

No XII usually has 2 tables – this year we have sold 29 tickets already so we shall have at least-3. Let's see how many we can get along!

## Monthly Draw

Bro David Stevenson, our Treasurer, tells me that the uptake for the Monthly Draw is quite good but we can always do with more participants. It is £1 per number per month, ideally by Standing Order to

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII  
Royal Bank of Scotland  
Sort Code: 83 22 20  
Account Number 10000509

Failing that, cash or cheque is quite acceptable and £12 per number may be given to David.

Recent winners have been

January Bro Hector Macphail  
February Bro James McGregor Jr.

## Gift from Bro Andrew Piggott PM Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 Part 2



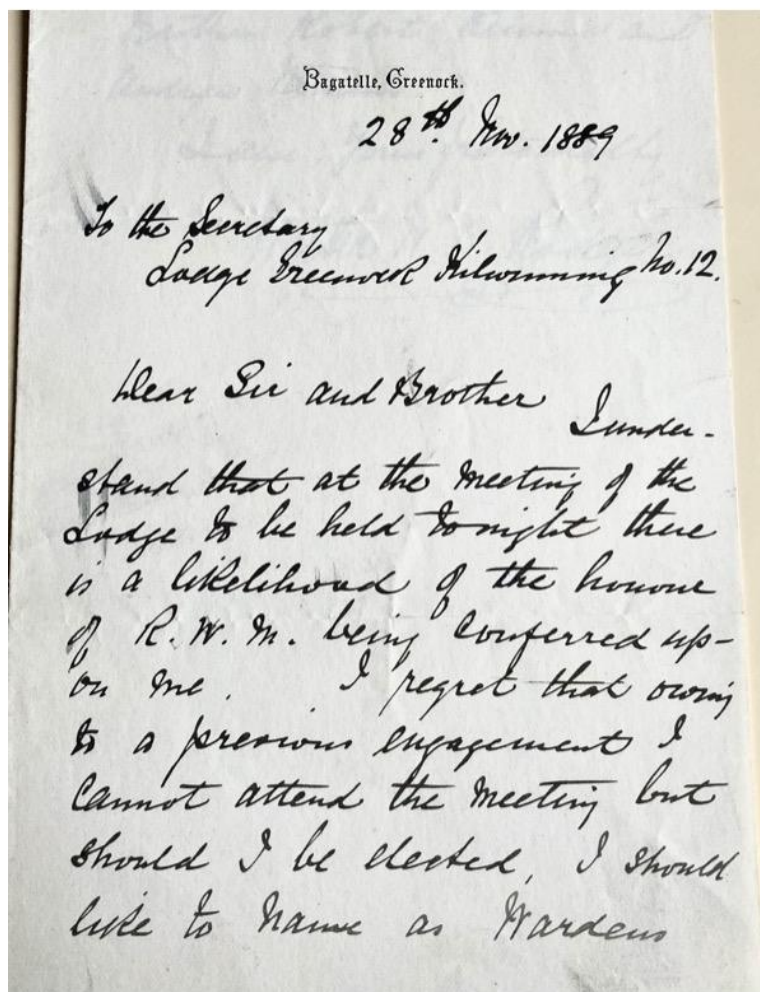
The beautiful solid silver antique Chief Steward's Jewel was presented to us by Bro Andrew, seen left with RW Master Bro Brian when he is making the presentation.

It was originally presented by Bro. Walter WB Rodger PM in 1892 according to the inscription on the back of the jewel. Bro Rodger was an eminent Greenockian and was Provost of Greenock in 1889-93. He was in the Chair of No. XII between 1889 and 1891.



Photographs of the jewel are shown on the left and the inscription is very clear. However, a look at the Minute Book for 1992 shoes no mention of the jewel's presentation. Undeterred, and proceeding onwards through the book, in the Minute of the meeting of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1893, the following is found.

Presentation to lodge of Chief Steward's Jewel by Bro. Provost Rodger IPM - He (Provost Rodger) presented a Jewel to be worn by the recipient of the Office of Chief Steward. So the jewel is engraved 1892 but the presentation was not until 1893. There may be any number of reasons why the dates are different. Shall we ever know why? I doubt it.



Bagatelle, Greenock.  
28<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1889

To the Secretary  
Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. 12.

Dear Sir and Brother Under-  
stand that at the meeting of the  
Lodge to be held to night there  
is a likelihood of the honours  
of R. W. M. being conferred up-  
on me. I regret that owing  
to a previous engagement I  
cannot attend the meeting but  
should I be elected, I should  
like to name as Wardens

In between the pages of the Minute Book of 1874-1889 I came upon the gold nugget, at least in the world of the Archivist, on the left It is a letter, written 28<sup>th</sup> November 1889, by WWB Rodger to the Lodge Secretary. Provost Rodger is intimating that he cannot attend the meeting that evening but is indicating that he would be happy to hold the post of RW Master if selected.

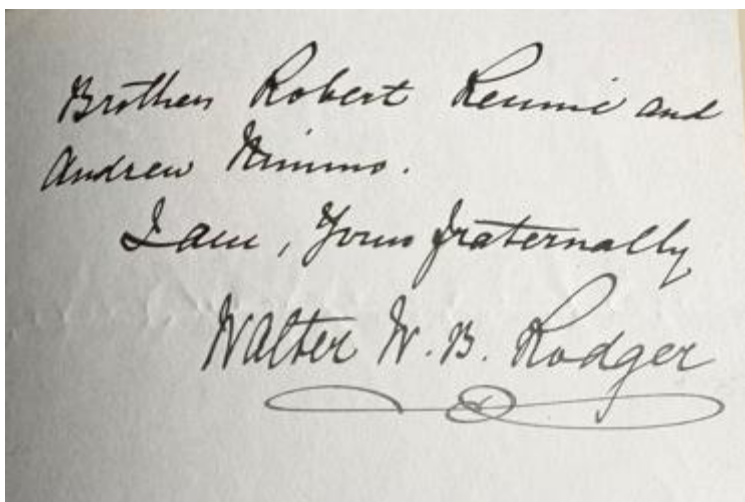
It is interesting to note that in the letter he nominates his preferred choice for Wardens viz, Bros. Rober Rennie and Andrew Nimmo.

In the Minute for the Meeting of that evening we find the following: "Bro T Stewart intimated that the late Office Bearers had held a meeting and resolved, unanimously, to recommend as Right Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the ensuing twelve months Bro. Walter Washington Buchanan Rodger, Provost of Greenock. A deputation consisting of Bros. Cunningham, Fyfe, Allison, Fox and T Stewart had waited on Bro. Rodger and signified to him that his acceptance of the nomination would be a source of very great satisfaction to the Lodge and their belief that its business would increase and prosper in his hands. The Deputation was thereupon gratified to learn from the Provost that he would be pleased to undertake the duties of the Office they offered and Bro. Stewart now formally moved that Bro. WWB Rodger be elected RWM for the next year. The motion was seconded by Bro. Cunningham and supported by other members and unanimously adopted.

The Chairman then read the following letter from Bro. Rodger ( shown on the left).

The nominations referred to in the letter were unanimously adopted."

The Minute of the previous year's election (5<sup>th</sup> December 1888) shows that Bro. WWB Rodger had not held Office in 1888-89, nor in the preceding years. He had been Initiated into the Lodge on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1871. He had served long in the quarries but his rise to the Chair was meteoric!



Brother Robert Rennie and  
Andrew Nimmo.

I am, Yours fraternally  
Walter W. B. Rodger

The letter (above) had been written on Bro. Rodger's personal headed notepaper. With a great deal of class, it simply states "Bagatelle, Greenock." No mention of Eldon Street, or No. 47, simply the house name and the town. Such a grand mansion as Bagatelle needed no further identification.! It still stands proudly on the site, a Care Home now, owned by the Greenock Medical Aid Society.



WWB Rodger's obituary in 1907 stated "The death took place, from pneumonia, on the 11th inst. of Walter Washington Buchanan Rodger, of Greenock, who was a well-known figure and force in harbour and municipal affairs in Greenock of which town he was Provost from 1889 till 1892. Mr. Rodger, who was in his sixty second year, began his career as a civil engineer, and was an apprentice with Forman and McCall, of Glasgow, whilst this firm was engaged with the Gryffe waterworks, Greenock. Later he assisted Mr. Walter Kinipple at the harbour works, and was subsequently surveyor for Gourock and Innellan. On coming into possession of the mansion of Bagatelle, one of the fine old houses in Greenock, Mr. Rodger gave up following his profession, and entered upon the career of public service, in which he distinguished himself and conferred lasting

benefits upon Greenock, its industries, and citizens."

He died young, by today's standards, but had packed a great deal into his life including a spot of fishing by the look of the photo above. There will be more about this interesting Brother in the next edition of *Twelve Talk*.

## Charity Burns Supper Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022



The piece on the left appeared in the Greenock Telegraph of Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March reporting on the great success of the No. XII Burns Club Supper upon its return. It is great publicity for the Lodge and our focus on supporting the community.

It is likely that we shall have 3 or 4 papers in from gentlemen of the outside world who were in attendance; we have 2 already. Over the years, the Burns Supper has proved to be a good recruiting ground for us.

There are so many ways in which the Burns Supper is of benefit to the Lodge, not the least of which is that those who attend have a wonderful night.

## Test Fees

Lodge Test Fees are overdue and should be paid to Lodge Treasurer Bro David Stevenson asap.

## 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. I know there is 'stuff' out there! 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.

## Reports on Visits

- Provincial Grand Lodge at Lodge Sir Michael No 989 on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (Annual Communication) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, WJW Bro Alex Johnson, IPM Bro Robert Crossan, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Alan Beck PM and Bro Kenneth Morrison PM. Brother J. Robert Crossan was installed as Provincial Grand Inner Guard
- Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No 1121 on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 (Annual Divine Service) – attended by IPM Bro Robert Crossan and Bro Alan Beck PM
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 and Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (Joint Annual Divine Service) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Alan Beck PM and Bro James Livingstone
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, IPM Bro Robert Crossan, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Cameron White, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Tony Buckley and Bro James Livingstone

## Special Summer Meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022

The Special Summer Meeting will be held this year after an absence of 2 years because of the COVID crisis. It is an Entering and will be conferred by Past Masters of the Lodge. The team will be under the capable leadership of Past Master Alan D. Beck. He will be actively recruiting Past Masters soon to take part, so be warned!

In addition, it will be a Celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and a small subcommittee has been set up to organise the event, consisting of Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM and Bro Alex Johnson WJW.

**On the Road with the RWM  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
Lodge Sir Michael No 989  
Raising**

Our RW Master is a prolific visitor and is to be found at meetings in the Province and beyond. On Wednesday past he was at a Raising in Kilmacolm. The Candidate was Bro Cameron Watson, son of RWM Bro James Watson. James is, of course, an Honorary Member of No XII.

The meeting was graced by an impressive number of RW Masters – 9 visiting and, of course James himself.



**At Lodge Sir Michael No 989**

**Front Row L-R Bros. Douglas Rathey RWM Lodge St Conval 1389, Cameron Watson MM 989, Jim Watson RWM lodge Sir Michael 989, Eric Sweeney RWM Cumberland Kilwinning 217, David Begg RWM Lodge Gleniffer 1219, Billy Mooney RWM Doric Kilwinning 68**

**Back Row L-R Bros Graeme Wallace RWM Lodge Firth of Clyde 626, Brian McFadyen RWM Greenock Kilwinning No XII, Lyndsey Mungin RWM Inverkip Ardgowan 1425, Nicky Stetz RWM Anchor Lodge of Research 1814, Ross McLelland RWM Prince Of Wales 426**

RW Master Bro. Brian was supported on the evening by Bro. Alan D. Beck PM, Bro James Livingstone, and Bro. Neil Johnston HM

## The “Man of Many Lodges” adds another! Bro. Donnie Finlayson PM Lodge The Gael No 609

Bro Donnie Finlayson is a masonic legend. A *Leodhasach* who is a stalwart of Lodge The Gael, he is an Honorary Member of 7 Lodges, viz. Greenock Kilwinning No XII, Partick St Mary’s No. 117, Clyde No. 408, St John Whiteinch No. 683, Kelvin Partick No.1207, Western No. 1346, Highland Light Infantry/Royal Highland Fusiliers No. 1459.. A number of these have been conferred because he has acted as piper for Lodges at Installations and Burns Suppers over many years.

On 26<sup>th</sup> November past, he was being made an Honorary Member of St John Whiteinch No 683, a Lodge with which No XII has an affinity. Several of us travelled to Ardery Street to see Donnie being honoured. It was also very pleasant to see old friends like Bros Robert Geddes PM, Alasdair Henderson PM and Robert McLachlan PM of 683 again.



It was a very happy occasion. The business of the evening was an illustrated lecture on organisations and societies like the Shepherds, Foresters, Oddfellows and Rechabites by Bro Alan Cuthill. (left) Past Master of Partick St Mary’s Lodge No 117 and Depute Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow. It was a fascinating talk.

It brought back memories of my Granny’s house in Captain Street in Greenock in the early 1960s. In the kitchen, beside the big fireplace, a Shepherds’ Calendar used to hang. I can remember a black and white photo of a stern looking man on the calendar wearing what, at the time seemed to me a very strange costume. I’m sure his garb was not unlike Masonic regalia.

My Granny’s brother-in-law was active in the Shepherds and when he would come to visit, I remember him being greeted with the phrase, “Are you a good Shepherd?” Now, I assume that was taken from the ritual.

Wikipedia tells me, “The Shepherds started life as a sickness and benefits society, Ashton Unity, which was formed in Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire on Christmas Day in 1826. It was later renamed as the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds, "loyal" referring to the Crown and "shepherds" to the Nativity of Jesus. Its objects were "to relieve the sick, bury the dead, and assist each other in all cases of unavoidable distress, so far as in our power lies, and for the promotion of peace and goodwill towards the human race". It later spread across the country, organised into local branches; like other friendly societies such as the Oddfellows, these were known as 'lodges', and officers wore regalia somewhat similar to those of freemasons. By 1914 the membership had grown to 143,000. The Ancient Shepherds raised substantial funds from its members to support charities, presenting two lifeboats to the RNLI in the 1800s, and supported the Red Cross and YMCA in the Second World War.” The Shepherds had very imposing premises in Greenock in Regent Street called The Shepherds Halls. For some time, they have been occupied by the Morton Supporters’ Club.

The Shepherds Friendly Society has changed from a traditional insurance provider to a modern diversified [financial services](#) organisation. It offers a range of savings, protection and insurance plans for its members.

In the photo below, the No XII members who attended to support Bro Donnie may be seen with him.



At Lodge St John Whiteinch No 683  
From left: Bros Scott Branchfield IG Iain White PM Brian McFadyen RWM Donnie Finlayson PM Bob Bain PM

### 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 [treasurerno12@aol.com](mailto:treasurerno12@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**  
**14.03.22**

**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.**