

Twelve Talk

30.11.23

Issue 165

Meetings 2023-24

• 05.09.23

Mark

* 19.09.23

Entering by Past Masters of the Lodge

* 03.10.23

Mark

*17.10.23

Annual Meeting and Nomination and
Election of Office Bearers

Members only

* 07.11.23

Entering

*21.11.23

Annual Installation of Office Bearers

*05.12.23

Annual Divine Service

*19.12.23

No meeting as per Bye Laws

TBC 02.24

Burns Supper (630 for 7pm)

Thursday TBC.06.24

Special Summer Meeting

Enter



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 Jim Livingstone 60 Stuart Road Bishopton PA7 5BY (07800629999)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 6 Stirling Drive Gourrock PA19 1AH (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)



Master's Musings

With the Installation of our new Master, Bro. James P Livingstone (left), we have a new look to the front page of Twelve Talk. Jim is going to give us his thoughts for each edition and these will make up the opening article. We hope you will like this new approach.

At the Installation dinner, Brother Ndukwe was kind enough to offer to sing a song which he informs me is traditionally sung at Installations in Ghana and I was very grateful to Ndukwe and very humbled to hear the words of that old hymn sung to the beautiful tune of “Ottawa”. The lyrics include the words.

*“Master, speak! Thy servant heareth,
What hast Thou to say to me”?*

Brother Iain has graciously allowed me some space in this edition of *Twelve Talk*, so here is what I have to say to thee!

Firstly, could I express my enormous gratitude to everyone who made the Installation the wonderful event that it was. From the welcome problem of having to find seating for the 120 or so who attended, the Installing Masters for their excellent delivery of the ritual and indeed everyone who contributed to the evening’s success.

My congratulations go to the office-bearers who have taken on the responsibilities of office this session and I look forward to working with each of you during the coming year. Irrespective of the office we hold as individuals, we are stronger as a team and that means that we all “muck in”. Whether it’s setting up or clearing the Lodge furnishings or helping with the catering or simply extending a welcoming hand to our visitors, everyone needs to play their part! Every little helps!

Of course, we cannot rest on our laurels, as although we do not have a “home” degree to work until the visit of Provincial Grand Lodge in February, we have a few dates for the diary in between! On Tuesday 5th December, the Lodge will hold its Annual Divine Service which is open to all friends and family to attend.

(Continued over)

Please note that there will be a meeting of the Enquiry Committee at 7.00 pm, so assistance would be appreciated in setting up the Lodge on the evening to allow the Enquiry Committee to take place. As regards the Divine Service, this is an important meeting in the calendar of the Lodge and I would encourage all to attend. Donations of sandwiches, cakes and biscuits to provide refreshments for our guests would be much appreciated.

On Wednesday 13th December, the Lodge has been invited to confer a Master Mason's degree at Lodge Sir Michael No. 989 and on Tuesday 9th January, we have been invited to confer an Entered Apprentice degree at Lodge Burns Dundonald No, 1759. I hope that you will all be able to support the Lodge on those occasions.

On Tuesday 16th January, the Lodge starts the year with the annual Glenny Memorial Lecture and this year, I have arranged for a talk by Brother Reverend Iain Ramsden, Past Grand Chaplain, who has written a series of books based on his experience as a Parish Minister, entitled "Tales of a Highland Minister". Brother Ramsden recently provided a talk to the Port Glasgow Old Boys' Union, which was both illuminating and entertaining and I would recommend the evening to you.

Turning to the subject of visiting, while I greatly appreciate when brethren turn out to support the Master and the Lodge, I am equally aware that I am retired and my family is grown and while I may have the time to attend other Lodges, some of my office-bearers have careers and young families which demand their time. Consequently, I will advise through the WhatsApp group where I intend visiting during the week ahead and if anyone can make it along, that would be great.

However, I would like to make up a plan for a more formal visiting structure where I would welcome as many of the brethren of the Lodge to attend. There are eight other Lodges in the Province and eight months in the Masonic Calendar. If we can organise a visit to one Lodge per month "en masse" then it provides a greater visibility of the Lodge. I will compile a list for visiting over the next few days but it is likely that the first visit may be to Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 on Monday 18th December.

Finally, regarding new candidates, I am very conscious of the fact that if we do not gain the interest of new candidates at an early stage in their Masonic careers, we are likely to lose them as members within the first 18 months! In this respect, I would encourage all members to make our new candidates feel welcome. I would charge their proposers and seconders to make good their promise at the Enquiry Committee to support their candidates and especially by ensuring that they are encouraged to witness at least one other degree before they return for their own degree. It is not enough for them simply to appear having been tutored to answer a few questions – that is not sufficient preparation and it may well be that I will ask the Lodge to consider a rule that a candidate must have witnessed at least one other degree before he returns for his Fellowcraft or Master Mason's degree. Such an arrangement also encourages them to visit other Lodges and to get themselves known.

My thanks to Brother Iain for allowing me to "hog" this edition of "TT" and you brethren for hopefully taking the time to read through my "musings". Perhaps Iain might allow me some space in future editions or then again, maybe not!!!

Regards,
Jim



Bro. Ewen MacLean

Ewen was born and bred in Greenock and worked for many years as a Composer with the *Greenock Telegraph*. He was a keen sportsman, and, like his father, was an excellent and competitive runner. He was also a lifelong Morton fan.

At the young age of 33 he was diagnosed with Chronic Kidney disease and had his first transplant which served him well for 20 years. Ewen had to eventually drive to Glasgow for dialysis twice weekly for many years.

As a result of Ewen's own health issues, he became involved in many kidney charities, eventually working for Kidney Care UK for 12 years becoming its lead advocacy officer for Scotland and later became an ambassador for the charity. He was a high-profile member of the Scottish Renal Association and a hard-working fund raiser for its hospice in Clydebank. Ewen fought hard for kidney patients in Campbeltown to have their own Dialysis unit rather than facing a 6-hour journey to the Vale of Leven Hospital for treatment. This achieved, he was asked to officially open the unit.

Not content with all his work, he served on Largs Community Council and was Secretary of the Scottish Kidney Federation. He was also a founding member of the Patient Support and Advocacy Service.

Ewen's first wife Marion sadly passed away while they were on holiday in 2010 and he lost his only son Barry 4 years ago. He was then happily married to Sandra.

Bro Ewen's health has suffered over the last few years. He had another kidney transplant suffering sepsis in the aftermath of his operation and more recently scalp cancer had hold of him, but Ewen fought back every time.

Bro. Ewen was sadly called to the Grand Lodge Above on the 13th November 2023. He died suddenly in the I.R.H. after suffering stomach pains the day before.

Ewen joined Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 on the 11th September 1978, Passed on the 25th September and Raised on the 9th October. It was due to Ewen having to attend hospital on Monday evenings for dialysis that in 2012 he affiliated to Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII. Ewen was also a Charter named member of The Brisbane at Largs Priory and Preceptory instituted Feb 2010.

RJ Bain PM
03.12.2023

Annual Installation Tuesday 21st November 2023

The Lodge was packed full and extra chairs were being brought in for the Installation this year. The Sederunt Book tells us that 116 brethren signed into the meeting; it's my belief that at least another 30 or so sneaked in because the crowd was much bigger than 116.

Anyway, irrespective of the actual number present, a great atmosphere was created for the ongoings. Those present were treated to a truly excellent ceremony, in the best traditions of No. XII, led by Principal Installing Master Bro Hector Macphail PM and his two assistants Bro. Robert J. Bain PM and Bro. Brian McFadyen IPM. The new Master Bro. James P. Livingstone had made an inspired selection when he chose his team. As is customary we were joined on the evening by the Provost of Inverclyde and, as the present incumbent Drew McKenzie is a Past Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No. 1121, we had the great pleasure of his company at the Ceremony as well as the dinner which followed, supplied by First Choice Catering.

The usual Loyal and Masonic Toasts were observed and we were entertained, in song, by Bro. Alan D. Beck PM and Bro. Ndukwe Ibe and the Provost addressed us, drawing on the very close links between No. XII and the municipality of Greenock stretching back to 1765 when Lord Cathcart instructed that the Lodge should have the right to meet in the new Town Hall, conferring the right through the feu charter. The brethren of the Lodge had made significant financial contributions to the funding of the new building.

The proceedings ended by the hour of low twelve with the hearty singing of *Auld Lang Syne*. Then, as Bro. Robert Burns put it in *The Twa Dogs*,

*An' each took aff his several way.
Resolv'd to meet some ither day.*



Post- Installation Reception in the Provost's Room
From left: Bro. Brian McFadyen IPM (Installing Master) Bro. John W. Black RWPGM Bro. James P. Livingstone RWM Bro Hector Macphail PM (Principal Installing Master) Provost Bro. Drew McKenzie PM Bro. Robert J. Bain PM (Installing Master)



Masters at the Installation

From left: Bro. Ian Hair (Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No. 1121) Bro John McKenzie (Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175) Bro. Scott Ewing PM (Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No. 370) Bro. Jim Donnelly (The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814) Bro. Alasdair Keith (Lodge Sir Michael No. 989) Bro James P Livingstone (Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII) Bro. Jeff Taulbut (Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217) Bro. Alec Henderson (Lodge The Gael No. 609) Bro. Brian McClure (Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626) Bro. James Goldie (Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624) Bro. Billy Mooney (Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68) Bro Iain Shirley (The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566)



The company at Dinner (left) and the Bro. Provost addresses the Brethren (right)



The Master speaks (left) and Bro. Ndukwe sings The Master's Song (right)



Lodge Tobermory St. Mary's No. 1310 Annual Installation Friday 10th November 2023

Last month, I joined a deputation from one of my 'Honorary' Lodges – Lodge The Gael No. 609. The destination was Tobermory, on the Isle of Mull, for the Installation of Lodge Tobermory St. Mary's No. 1310. I was to be one of the Installing Masters and Bro. Donnie Finlayson, Past Master of Lodge The Gael, and Honorary Member of No. XII, the other. Another No. XII Honorary Member was in the Deputation, viz. Bro. Keith A. Bowes PM.

We had a very pleasant train journey up from Glasgow to Oban, although we almost went to Fort William by mistake, sitting, as we were, in the wrong part of the train! Fortunately, the announcement was heard and we all moved forward. The craic was good and punctuated with our packed lunches and picnics and cups of tea and coffee from the trolley. The 3 hours went by quickly.

The ferry journey from Oban to Craignure on Mull was not so pleasant. The boat was packed and there was great difficulty getting a seat. We couldn't even get a cuppa – there was no tea bar and the vending machine was 'Out of Order'. One good thing about the ferry journey was that we bumped into Provincial Grand Master Substitute of Argyll and the Isles, Bro. John McNaughton. He gave 3 of us a run into Tobermory, saving a 1-hour bus journey or a £54 taxi fare!

Bro. Donnie Finlayson and I had the honour and pleasure of being the Installing Masters for the evening, our second run out, having made our debut at Lodge The Royal Stuart No. 1414 the weekend before. Bro. Calum McDougall, the new Master, has Lodge The Gael as his Mother Lodge and Bro. Donnie Finlayson had been his Proposer. Both pipers, they played together in the Kinning Park Pipe Band.

It was a very enjoyable evening, although much less formal than what we are used to at our Installations. The ceremonial was enhanced by our 4 Grade 1 standard pipers, Bros. Keith A. Bowes and Keith J. Bowes of Lodge The Gael, Bro. Craig Bell of Lodge Dumbarton Kilwinning No. 18 and Bro. Alistair McNeil of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.



1013 Temple - Tobermory



Lodge The Gael No. 609 Deputation with Bro. Calum McDougall RWM 1310 and Bro. John McNaughton WPGMS (Argyll and the Isles)

**No. XII Christmas Day Out
Saturday 2nd December 2023**



Clockwise from left: Bros. Jim Livingstone Neil Johnstone David Stevenson Hector Macphail Robert Marshall Ken MacDougall Brian McFadven Craig McFadven Paul Branchfield

It was a big day out for the brethren in the photo (left) who went to Fort Matilda for the pre-match lunch. Greenock Wanderers opponents were supposed to be the lads from Stewartry, but the ground conditions led to the postponement of the match. Undeterred, the Brethren found other ways to amuse themselves through the afternoon and evening. After Fort Matilda, the Royal West Boat Club was paid a visit. The hardier (younger) souls thereafter headed for Cleats Bar Room whilst the auld yins were

taxied home. It seems that a good time was had by all.

Reports on Visits

- Lodge St John Largs No 173 on 4th November 2023 (Annual Installation) - attended by Bro Bob Bain PM
- Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624 on 8th November 2023 (Raising) attended by Bro Bob Bain PM
- Benfleet Lodge No 3798 (EC) on 9th November 2023 (Raising and Ceremony of Remembrance) – attended by Bro Derek Kirkpatrick PM
- Lodge Tobermory St Mary's No 1030 on 10th November 2023 (Annual Installation) – attended by Bro Iain White PM (Installing Master), Bro Donald Finlayson HM (Installing Master) and Bro Keith Bowes HM
- Remembrance Ceremony at Greenock Cenotaph on 12th November 2023 - attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen and other brethren of the lodge
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 13th November 2023 – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 16th November 2023 (Fellowcraft Exemplification) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Sir Michael No 989 on 17th November 2023 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, WJW Bro Robert Marshall, IPM Bro Robert Crossan, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM and Bro Eddie McGill
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 20th November 2023 (Entering) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen

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.

IW
04.12.23