

Twelve Talk

04.02.24

Issue 168

Meetings 2023-24

- 16.01.24
Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial
Lecture
Bro. Rev. Iain Ramsden
- * 06.02.24
Passing and PGLRW Annual Visit (715 start)
- * 20.02.24
Passing
- *05.03.24
Mark
Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626
- * 19.03.24
Lecture
Bro. Janes Gardiner PM
- *02.04.24
Raising
- *16.04.24
Mark
Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No. 370
- Saturday 24. 02.24
Burns Supper (630 for 7pm)
Held in 626 Masonic Hall, John Street, Gourock
- Thursday 06.06.24 (TBC)
Special Summer Meeting
Entering by PMs of the Lodge



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 Gourock PA19 1AH (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY (07887904910)



Master's Musings 4

Since 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 giving us his thoughts to be included in each edition and these make up the opening article. We hope you are liking this new approach.

I can't believe how hectic a start it has been to 2024! According to my diary, I will have attended nineteen meetings in 28 days and every weekend I will say to my long-suffering better-half, "I think it's a bit quieter next week", but she just gives me that knowing look and says, "I'll see you when I see you"!

What is interesting is the variety of the meetings - I never know what I'm going to experience. Some meetings are not very busy. The IPM Brother Brian McFadyen and I visited Lodge Georgetown No. 1170 along with The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566 and the host Lodge had about 12 members of their own in attendance. By contrast, on Saturday 20th, I attended the 150th anniversary meeting of Lodge St. John Dalmuir No. 543 and the hall was packed but one thing both meetings had in common was the sincerity of the welcome and the dedication of the brethren present.

At 543, I was most impressed with the words of our new MWGMM, Brother Doctor Joseph John Morrow who, in his short address to the brethren, said that he wasn't really that enthusiastic about the "esoteric" aspect of freemasonry as if we didn't know what a square and level were used for by this time, we should give it up. He was more concerned with where the Craft was heading and how we got there! As he stated, never be ashamed to broadcast that you are a freemason. Be proud of your membership and encourage those gentlemen of the outside world, by your example, to consider membership.

Every meeting that you go to will provide you with some thoughts to take away.

Yours aye,
Jim

Bro. Hamish MacLachlan (1941-2023)

Past Master Lodge The Gael No. 609
Past Provincial Grand Piper (Glasgow)
Honorary Grand Piper
Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden (Glasgow)
Honorary Member Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII



As previously intimated, ‘Big Hamish’ passed to the Grand Lodge Above, at home, surrounded by his family on 27th November 2023, aged 82. His grandson, Bro Keith J. Bowes PM (609) observed, “He was a ‘Gael man’ right to the end.” It is not surprising to hear that because Hamish was a ‘lover of the Craft’ and especially Lodge The Gael. He was born in Howat Street in Govan, his father having roots in Kilfinan and his mother in Islay, so he certainly was a bit of a ‘Highlander’ right from the outset. Hamish attended Fairfield Primary and then Govan High School and was very proud of his status as a Govan High FP. He was so pleased when I became the Heidie of his old school and played an active part in the Govan High Degrees (worked by FPs and members of staff) that we did for Lodge Neptune No. 419 in 2013 and 2014. On both occasions he delivered the First Degree Charge, proudly wearing his red and black striped Govan High FP tie. He is remembered by many for his enthusiastic – maybe manic - Harmony renditions of *The Laughing Policeman*, not only at Lodge The Gael but on visits near and far, at home and abroad.

His parents ran a dairy and bakery in Elder Street, but when Hamish left school he took an apprenticeship as an engineer in Alexander Stephens, the famous shipbuilder, just next door to where he lived. Once qualified, he joined the Merchant Navy but as bad luck would have it, in 1962 the Cuban Missile Crisis intervened and this meant that he was away from home for 2 years.

When he did get back, he married his sweetheart, Margaret. They had met at ‘the dancing’ as so many did in those days. In time, their family – Peter, May and Hamish – came along and happy holidays followed either in Islay or Kilfinan, where they dubbed the hotel at the latter *Fawlty Towers*. Of course, Hamish and Margaret were ultimately blessed with grandchildren and great grandchildren.

After his spell at sea, Hamish worked in Fairfield’s, Lobnitz, Rootes and finally Rolls Royce from where he retired early in 2000.

In his boyhood and youth, he was a keen member of the Boys’ Brigade in St. Mary’s Church at Govan Cross and was no mean footballer playing in midfield for local juvenile and amateur teams. However, football was overtaken by Hamish’s greatest love after his family and Lodge The Gael – the Great Highland Bagpipe. Hamish was a top class piper playing, back in the day, for the Red Hackle Pipes and Drums and then Renfrew Pipe Band in the First Grade. He came out of retirement when he joined son-in-law Keith Bowes who had taken over Johnstone Pipe Band helping lay the foundation, with other Lodge The Gael members, for JPB’s march up through the grades from 3 to 1. Hamish was also a successful solo piper, winning medals and prizes round the Highland Games including the Cowal Gathering.

Of course, Hamish became Master of Lodge The Gael in 1989 and was followed by his son Peter, son-in-law Keith and grandson Keith Jnr. Coincidentally Bro Rev Gordon Armstrong (Past Grand Chaplain) who conducted such a beautiful funeral service, was Master of Lodge Mosspark No. 1329 in the same year.

Above all Hamish was a true gentleman and our lives are the poorer for his passing.

IW



**Hamish , *The Laughing Policeman*
Annual Installation
Lodge The Gael No 609
December 2022**



**Hamish with grandson Keith James Bowes
Annual Installation
Lodge The Gael No. 609
December 2011**



**Lodge The Gael brings the Pipers' Degree to Greenock Kilwinning No. XII
4th October 2011**
From left: Bros. Iain White PM (XII) Keith A. Bowes PM (609) Donnie Finlayson PM (609) Arthur Young (Master No. XII) Bill Bryce (Master 609) Hamish MacLachlan PM (609)
Bros. Bowes, Finlayson, Bryce and MacLachlan had just been made Honorary Members of No. XII with the Obligation conducted by Bro. White

Our Last Meeting
Tuesday 20th January 2024
The Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture
Bro. Rev. Iain Ramsden PM Past Grand Chaplain

At our Master's invitation, we welcomed Brother Reverend Iain Ramsden into the Lodge to deliver the annual Glenny Lecture. For those who are perhaps unaware, Brother John (or Jack) and Brother Alistair Glenny were both highly respected past masters of this Lodge and sadly we lost both within a few weeks of each other just a few years ago.



In recent years, it has become a custom to start the year with a talk rather than a degree meeting and it was decided that following the sad passing of Jack and Alistair, that the event would be referred to as the Glenny Lecture.

We were very privileged to be able to call on the services of Bro. Iain Ramsden, who, although retired, is still a very busy man. However, he has managed to find the time to write not one, not two but nearly three books inspired by his experiences as a Minister in the Highlands.

Iain was born and brought up in a small village in Argyll and says that he learned many stories at his grandmother's knee. After serving in the Royal Navy, he worked in Forestry acquiring, along the way, as he says, an appreciation of the Islay Malts. In the 1970's he also worked as a navvy building roads in the Highlands and then as a Revenue Assistant. Iain was then called to the Ministry and after study at Aberdeen University, he graduated Bachelor of Theology. He ministered in the Black Isle for some 15 years.

Bro. Ramsden gave a most interesting, informative and enjoyable talk about the characters and scenes from his books. The talk was very well received by the brethren who showed the wages of appreciation to Bro. Ramsden. A significant number also further paid the wages of appreciation by purchasing one or two of Bro. Iain's books. (at a special reduced rate). Our RWM thanked Brother Iain for agreeing to deliver the talk this evening and for his time and effort preparing it.

As a footnote, you might be interested in Bro. Iain's Masonic history which he supplied for us as follows:

*MStJ – Member of the Holy Order of St John of Jerusalem (Civic Honour)
given by HM the Queen in 2012*

*CRAFT ~ Initiated 24.4.1975 MM degree 27.4.1976
Past Master of Lodge St James No 713 (Mother Lodge)
Past Master of Lodge Allan Wilson No 851 (and Founding Member)
Past Master of Lodge Aurora Borealis No 1809 (and Founding Member)*

*Past Provincial Almoner (Banffshire)
Past Provincial Chaplain (Banffshire)
Provincial Chaplain (Renfrewshire East)*

Past 1st Principal (Z) In Royal Arch Chapter No 495 - 1988

Past M.P. Sovereign (Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine) 1991
Past Preceptor (Knights Templar) (Elgin) 1979
Member of the Rosicrucians (Inverness) 1985

Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Scotland

18^o Elgin Sov. Chapter
30^o - 1990 (Aberdeen) (and Affiliate member of the Sov. Council in
Elgin, Maison Dieu)
31st Degree – October 2022

Member of the Royal Order of Scotland (Aberdeen) 1985

OTHER ORDERS ~

Past 1st Grand Master of the Guild of Operative Masons of Scotland 7^o
Past Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the North of Scotland (Order of the Secret Monitor)
Past Prior (Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests) (Dundee)

A busy man indeed!

Our Next Meeting **Tuesday 6th February 2024** **Passing**

On Tuesday we shall be having a Second Degree, worked by No. XII, and the Candidate is Bro. Alexander McCoist. It is also the Annual Visitation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West and, because of the resultant business, the meeting will have an early start at 715pm.

The Degree Team is: **Obligation** Bro. JP Livingstone RWM; **Secrets** Bro. AD Beck PM; **Apron** Bro. R Marshall WSW; **Working Tools** Bro. Jordan Kincaid; **Tracing Board** Bro. KC MacDougall PM; **Charge** Bro. RJ Bain PM.

The Wardens on the Road **A return to Lodge Burns Dundonald No. 1759**

I am grateful to our Senior Warden, Bro. Robert Marshall, for this report.

Paul Branchfield and I were invited to take part in a Wardens' Degree at Lodge Burns Dundonald No. 1759, meeting in the premises of Lodge Troon Navigation No. 86, on the 30th of January. We both attended and took our respective offices as part of the degree which was for the same candidate that we, as a Lodge, Initiated earlier in the month. As with many of these combined degrees, there were differences in ritual between all the different lodges which saw the WJW and I not needing venture from behind our daises.

The Degree work performed by the following brethren: -

I.G. Alec Solman Lodge Langside 955. Obligation Iain Murray Lodge Burns Dundonald 1759. Chaplain, Alec Shuttleworth 135, Signs and Secrets Lee Freeland Royal Arch West Kilbride 314. Apron Charge, Jim Sneddon Mother Kilwinning 0. Tools Donald Black Troon Navigation

86 Tracing Board Allan Fleming St John's Operative 347. Final Charge Ian Broadhurst Thistle Stewarton 127. Conferring Master, Stuart McCarlie St David Tarbolton Mauchline 133. Allan Fleming SD St John's Operative 347 and Thomas Herd SD St John's Operative 347.

The work was carried out to a high standard indeed and we have made new friends whom we hope to visit within this session. The meeting was well attended with over 80 signing the book and approximately £300 was raised for charity through the collection alone. We were accompanied by our IPM Bro. Brian McFadyen and Bro. Bob Bain PM; we both thoroughly appreciated their effort to attend and support us in what was new territory for us as Wardens.



Robert Marshall WSW

Annual Hospitality Levy 2023-24 Just a reminder...

We all know that the hospitality at No. XII's post meeting harmonies is famed far and wide for its generosity and, of course, President of Stewards Tony Buckley's superb food. However, all the drams and suppers do not come without a cost. Accordingly, each Office Bearer should bring WSW Bro. Paul Branchfield £10 in cash, or a bottle of spirits, as soon as possible. He is overseeing collection of the Levy. Of course, brethren of No. XII who wait behind and enjoy the harmonies may wish to contribute too and what they give will be very welcome.

Paul has been very pleased with the response thus far and would welcome the remainder of the donations.

Monthly Draw

The Monthly Draw for 2024 is now under way and if you haven't confirmed your entry yet, please contact our Treasurer Bro. David Stevenson. It is £1 per month per ticket. The good news is that you can buy as many numbers as you like!

Rituals and Tercentenary Jewels

The new rituals are available to all qualified brethren of No. XII at the price of £15 from Treasurer Bro. David Stevenson. Over half have been sold already!



The Tercentenary Jewels (left) commemorating the Lodge's 300th birthday on 27th December 2028. These are available to ALL brethren from the Bro. Treasurer and the price is £12 per jewel.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII Burns Club

Annual Charity Burns Supper - Saturday 24th February 2024

It is only 3 weeks now until the Annual Charity Burns Supper. It will be on the usual Saturday (above). However, the Town Hall is getting some roof repairs done and so is unavailable. Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No. 626 has been kind enough to make its premises available to us, so it will take place in John Street.

Tickets (priced £25) are now available by emailing our Master at jimliv626@gmail.com or from Bro. Alan Beck PM at 07739 6514242. Get your tickets ordered now, please so that we may get an idea of potential numbers. Please note that the tickets are in shorter supply because of hall capacity limitations – so act fast!



The Immortal Memory will be given by Bro. Bobby Shaw (left), Past Master of The Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle Lodge No. 275 on 2 occasions and Lodge The Prince's No. 607. He is presently one of the Province of Glasgow's Substitute Grand Masters and is a Past President of (at least) 2 Burns Clubs.



The Toast to The Lassies will be delivered by Bro. Martin Cassidy (left), IP Master of Lodge Craighends No. 1042 in Linwood. Bro. Martin has worn many Burns Club Presidential Chains!

The Burns Season (1) Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626 Burns Supper Saturday 13th January 2024

I was honoured to be asked to deliver the Toast to the Lassies at the 626 Burns Supper. It was an excellent evening with everyone seeming to enjoy themselves in the sell-out audience. The speakers had a good time too! The Immortal Memory was delivered by Bro. Ross McLelland of Lodge Prince of Wales No. 426 who spoke at No. XII a couple of years ago. His Toast was, again, very informative and interesting. Bro. Jim Donnelly RWM of the Anchor Lodge of research No. 1814 and Past Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 replied on behalf of the Lassies in his customary fashion. His son, Bro. Jamie Donnelly (217) delivered the readings with energy and enthusiasm. The principal guests are in the photo below.



The Burns Season (2)
Lodge Mosspark No. 1329 Burns Supper
Saturday 3rd February 2024

Having been approached last year by my pal Bro. Alistair Hughes PM of Lodge Mosspark to bring a team to do its Burns Supper, Bro. Drew McKenzie PM (Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No.1121), Bro. Sandy Reddy (175 and HM XII) and my good self went to Glasgow to perform the necessary duties. Bro. Drew delivered The Immortal Memory, Bro. Sandy Addressed the Haggis and gave 2 readings from the works of Burns and the Lassies were toasted by yours truly. Bro. Cameron White IG XII accompanied us. We had a most enjoyable evening in the company of the brethren.



Bro. Sandy Reddy – *The hour approaches Tam maun ride...*



Bro. Drew McKenzie in character as *Soutar Johnnie* delivering the Immortal Memory



The Company sings *The Star o' Rabbie Burns*

Reports on Visits

- The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 on 6th December 2023 – attended by IPM Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No 370 on 7th December 2023 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone who was afforded Honorary Membership of the Lodge
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 8th December 2023 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone, IPM Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Bob Bain PM and Bro Iain White PM No XII
- Xmas Social Outing on 9th December 2023 at Greenock Wanderers RFC – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone, IPM Bro Brian McFadyen, WSW Bro Robert Marshall, WJW Bro Paul Branchfield, SM Bro Craig McFadyen, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Finlay Campbell and Bro Neil Johnstone HM
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 11th December 2023 (Entering) - attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone, IPM Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Alexander McCoist, Bro Alexander Easdale, Bro Blair Fisher and Bro Ian Moffat
- Lodge Prince of Wales No 426 on 12th December 2023 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone
- Lodge Sir Michael No 989 on 13th December 2023 (Raising conferred by No XII) – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone, WSW Bro Robert Marshall, WJW Bro Paul Branchfield, IPM Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Robert Crossan PM, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Colin Reddy, Bro Craig McFadyen, Bro Cameron White, Bro Eddie McGill and Bro Jordan Kincaid
- Lodge of Constant Trust No 7347 (EC) on 14th December 2023 (Business Meeting) – attended by Bro Derek Kirkpatrick PM
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 18th December 2023 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone, IPM Bro Brian McFadyen and Bro Iain White PM

- Lodge Paisley St Mirren's No 129 on 18th December 2023 (Entering) – attended by Bro Colin Reddy
- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 21st December 2023 (Carol Service) – attended by IPM Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Athole No 384 (Kirkintilloch) on 28th December 2023 (Fellowcraft Degree conferred by Lodge Caledonian St John Royal Arch No 195) – attended by Bro Colin Reddy along with brethren from Lodge Greenock St John's No 175
- The United Lodge of Dunkeld No 14 on 3rd January 2024 – attended by Bro Finlay Campbell who was invited on a guided tour of the lodge temple by the lodge's Brother Secretary
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 8th January 2024 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone
- Lodge Burns Dundonald No 1759 on 9th January 2024 (Entering conferred by No XII) – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone, WSW Bro Robert Marshall, WJW Bro Paul Branchfield, IPM Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Robert Bain PM, Bro Robert Crossan PM, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Colin Reddy, Bro Cameron White, Bro Craig McFadyen, Bro Jordan Kincaid, Bro Sandy Reddy HM and accompanied by Bro Graeme Wallace (IPM Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626)
- Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 9th January 2024 (Entering Exemplification and AV by PGLRW) – attended by Bro Hector Macphail PM
- Lodge The Prince's No 607 on 10th January 2024 (Business Meeting) – attended by Bro Iain White PM
- Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624 on 10th January 2024 (Business Meeting) – attended by Bro Bob Bain PM and Bro Alan Beck PM who gave a lecture
- Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 on 11th January 2024 (Passing exemplification) – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone
- Lodge The Gael No 609 on 11th January 2024 (Entering Exemplification by Lodge Clyde No. 406) – attended by Bro Iain White PM, Bro William Bryce HM, Bro Donald Finlayson HM and Bro Keith Bowes HM
- The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 on 11th January 2024 (Entering) – attended by IPM Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 12th January (Entering Exemplification) – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone and Bro Hector Macphail PM
- Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624 on 13th January 2024 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone and Bro Bob Bain PM
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 13th January 2024 (Burns Supper) – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone, IPM Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Cameron White, Bro Neil Johnston HM and Bro Iain White PM (Toast to the Lassies)
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 15th January 2024 (Entering) – attended by RWM Bro James P. Livingstone, WSW Bro Robert Marshall, Bro Iain White PM and Bro Eddie McGill

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.