

Meetings 2023-24

- 16.01.24
Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial
Lecture
Bro. Rev. Iain Ramsden PM
- * 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 7

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 has again given us his thoughts in the opening article.

The meetings seem to be coming thick and fast at the moment as the session disappears before our eyes! Our next meeting is a chance to sit back and relax a little bit as we welcome into the Lodge, Brother Jim Gardiner, Past Master of Lodge Barns O' Clyde and Past Provincial Grand Chaplain of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire. Brother Gardiner is a well-known and respected "speaker" and is in great demand to deliver talks at Lodges throughout the Scottish Craft and beyond. His topic for his talk at our next meeting is a very personal one for him as it is on the "Clydebank Blitz" which took place some 83 years ago this week. His Lodge actually held a meeting that night and the events of the following few hours after the meeting must provide a very interesting subject for his talk.

Also, the Lodge will hold a ballot to consider an application for affiliation for Brother Ndukwe Ibe, who has become a well-known visitor to our Lodge. Subject to the outcome of that ballot, it would be intended that Brother Ndukwe complete his affiliation with Past Master, Brother Hector Macphail delivering the Obligation.

The Lodge hold a meeting of its General Committee on Monday 18th March at 7.00 pm within the premises of Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourock No. 626. This will provide us with an opportunity to review some of the arrangements made for the recent Burns Supper and to consider if we can make any improvements to the running of the event. It would also be intended to seek any nominations for both the Citizen of the Year award as well as suggestions for suitable donations from our Charity Fund. So, thinking caps on brethren.

I had been asked some time ago, if I could assist Lodge Gleniffer No. 1219 with an *In Memoriam Service* which took place on Tuesday 12th March. What they didn't tell me was that they also had a visiting Lodge, Georgetown No. 1170 coming to confer a Master Mason's degree on the same evening! So, what I thought would be a short meeting turned out to be one where I thought I should have brought a camp bed! The circulation in my legs has just about returned after sitting for 3 hours on an overly high piano stool which must have been designed for someone in excess of 7 foot tall! My poor wee legs dangled in such a way that I could hardly reach the pedals! *Continued over*

However, it turned out to be a meeting of great contrasts. The format of the In Memoriam Service was new to me although I have attended a number of these over the years. The format on this occasion was quite unique and the ceremonial was beautiful and very moving and carried out with great dignity by the Past Masters of the Lodge. It was a great pity that there were so few brethren present to witness the ceremony.

By contrast, the degree work was less impressive. Yes, it should have been a nice ritual but parts of it were either carried out at a hundred miles per hour which my ageing brain could not take in (not sure what the candidate made of it)! Other parts were muttered and I doubt if anyone could have heard much unless they were sitting within very close proximity. What made me smile at the end of the evening was a comment made by one of the visiting Past Masters to the Right Worshipful Master of 1219, to the effect that he thought it had been an excellent degree!

Number one, self-praise is no praise at all and secondly, we should never be too comfortable with our own ability that we can never consider that we cannot improve and that is irrespective of how long we have been members and how much experience we have. We should always be humble enough to seek to improve our ability to confer ritual as, if not, how can we hope to convey the teachings of the Craft to our candidate? By the way, our General Committee meeting will be followed by a short rehearsal for the forthcoming Master Mason's degree!

On the subject of delivering floorwork (and this is not intended as a criticism of any individual), more as a word of advice; the Saloon of the Town Hall does not provide the best acoustics and in particular, if you are delivering a lecture from the centre of the carpet, it is likely that those sitting behind you, may experience difficulty in hearing your lecture.

It is essential that those delivering ritual, speak clearly, slowly and as if they are speaking to someone who is "hard of hearing" and standing at the very back of the hall. The question which must be considered is simply, are those who have difficulty in hearing going to continue to attend if they cannot hear what is going on?

Final thought and apologies, as these might be considered to be less musings and more diatribe!! At a recent meeting of Provincial Grand Committee, discussion took place regarding some of the work being carried out by the Prostate Champions which led to a general discussion regarding the comfort of the brethren. There are concerns that some brethren, particularly older brethren, may cease attending the Lodge if they find it uncomfortable to sit through a long meeting but equally feel "embarrassed" at seeking permission from the Master to retire.

Please note that in such circumstances, I would urge you not to stay away but to come and perhaps simply sit near the door. There is no requirement to seek permission to retire, simply wait an opportune moment, perhaps between sections of ritual, and discreetly leave and likewise return at an appropriate point. The Brother Inner Guard can assist with timing.

I hope this helps. In the meantime, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting.

Yours aye,

Jim

Our Next Meeting
Tuesday 19th March 2024
Lecture

The next Lodge meeting is a Lecture by Bro. Jim Gardiner PM as above. His topic is *The Clydebank Blitz*, which resonates with us here as we had our own horrific blitz in May 1941

Our Previous Meeting
Tuesday 5th March 2024
Mark Degree
Conferred by Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626

It was a fantastic evening in the Saloon. 48 brethren of No. XII and visitors were in the Lodge at the opening. Bro John McKenzie, RWM of Lodge Greenock St John's No 175, Bro Jeff Taulbut, RWM of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217, Bro Alasdair Keith, RWM of Lodge Sir Michael No 989, and Bro Iain Hair, RWM of Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121, accepted the invitation to join Bro. James P. Livingstone in the East.

The deputation from Lodge Firth of Clyde was headed by its Master Bro. Brian McClure and was massive, containing 23 brethren. Its entry was preceded by a frenzy of activity as extra seats were sought for the Saloon. Over 70 brethren settled down for the evening's work.

Bro. Blair Fisher of No. XII and brethren from Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No. 1121 were treated to a wonderful rendition of the Mark Degree. The work was all the more commendable because the Mark Master, Bro. Graeme Wallace, and Conductor, Bro. Iain Wallace, were carrying out their respective duties for the first time. The thanks extended to the brethren of 626 were fulsome, sincere and well earned.

Thereafter, most of the brethren stayed back for further fellowship at the Harmony to round off what had been a perfect evening in the company of our visitors.

Provincial Grand Lodge (Renfrewshire West)
Charity Summer Ball
Saturday 18th May 2024

The rebranded Charity Summer Ball will be held in Greenock Town Hall on Saturday 18th May 2024 in the Town Hall at 7.00pm. Tickets are priced at £30. This will cover the meal and fantastic dance music from the Capitol Big Band. There will also be a raffle, an auction etc.

Brethren are encouraged to attend with friends and partners. The charity beneficiary is Children in Poverty Inverclyde which, as we know in No. XII, is a very worthy cause indeed, having supported Pat Burke's organisation for many years now.

Rituals

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

Tercentenary Jewels



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

Lodge Kurt Tucholsky No. 1060 Munster, Germany

I received these photos and the very interesting information below from Bro. Robert Grundmann, via Bro. Hector MacPhail PM. Thanks Bros. Robert and Hector!



From Hector

I have attached some photos(above) I received at the turn of the year from Robert Grundmann. Lodge Kurt Tucholsky 1060 is 10 years old, which is scary, as I spoke at their inauguration and presented them with a silver jewel, and it definitely doesn't seem like a full ten years has passed!! Tempus Fugit indeed. (That's why I am going over; to attend their 10th Installation)

The photos depict an artefact that Robert commissioned, to celebrate the Lodge's decade. It is a bit 'Dan Brown', but fun and interesting. I am not suggesting that we copy this idea, but I thought it very imaginative, and the idea perhaps may be adapted to something similar for XII's Tercentenary? I must admit, I never thought of a time capsule (although Robert Marshall a while ago suggested that there is space in the old chair for records, mind you, I have concerns about that chair being too old to be 'humphed' about, the way it is).

Aye, Hector

See below, part of Robert Grundmann's email:

... The wooden box for the rough and smooth ashlar was made by the same brother who did all the stonemason's work. He is a pensioner now and used to work for the NDR as a journalist – NDR being the BBC for the northern area of Germany. If you look at the bottom side you can see the three pointed star which if moved into the respective position opens the hole that had been drilled to allow the capsule to be put in. The meaning of the rough ashlar and the smooth one growing out of it is quite obvious. The corner is gold plated referring to an old book which reads in one part: The master is dressed in blue and gold.

A USB stick, Scroll or something similar will be placed in the capsule containing two lists which will be updated regularly – one showing the dates and names of our members...

We wish Bro Hector all the best for his trip and congratulations to our Bro. Robert Grundmann and Lodge Kurt Tucholsky on the 10 year celebration. Many of you will remember Robert as he affiliated to No. XII and is a Past Depute Grand Master in Germany. The Lodge previously met in Unna but is now in Munster.

The idea of a time capsule for the Tercentenary is very worthy of our consideration.

No. XII on the Road (1)
Saturday 23rd March 2024
Installation of Lodge St. Munn Ardnadam No. 496
Sandbank, Argyll



A bit closer to home, the Installation of No. 496 across the water holds interest for No. XII too. Going into the Chair will be Bro. Kevin Barton whose Mother Lodge is No. XII. Bro. Kevin served in a number of offices in No. XII and, of course, his Grandfather, the late Bro. Arthur Young, served two 2-year terms as Master in 2005-2007 and 2009-2011.

Kevin and Arthur are seen on the left at the Installation in No. XII in November 2009 when Arthur returned to the Chair and Kevin became Senior Warden. Bro. Arthur was a real old-fashioned gentleman, generous in every way and very proud of his membership of No. XII; Kevin is a real nice guy too! He visited us in the Saloon before the New Year with a couple of brethren from across the water.

The Installation Ceremony is at 230 pm in Sandbank Village Hall and then into Dunoon Argyll No. 335 for the Dinner and Harmony.

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! The winner in January was Bro. Tony Buckley and Bro. Norrie Frizzell in February.

**No. XII on the Road (2)
Monday 4th March 2024
Lodge The Prince's No. 607
Burns Supper**

A great night was had at Lodge The Prince's in Mafeking Street in the shadow of the Stadium. A big crowd was in attendance for the Annual Burns Supper and the entertainment was well appreciated even if it did go on into the wee sma' hours!

No XII was represented by Bros Alan D Beck, a PM of 607 of course, and Iain White himself an affiliate member. Renfrewshire West was further represented by Bro. Alasdair Hendry, who is a member of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217. Alasdair gave a fine Immortal Memory; Alan addressed the Haggis and sang and Iain Replied to The Toast to the Lasses on their behalf. Photos are below.



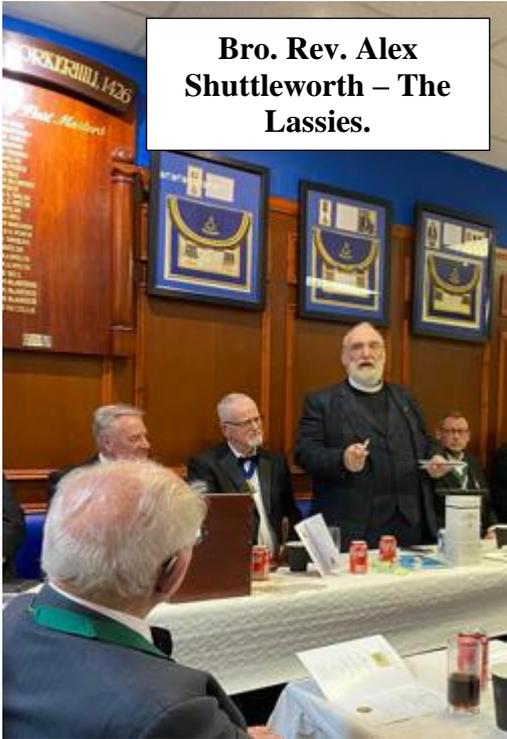
Alan Toasts The Haggis



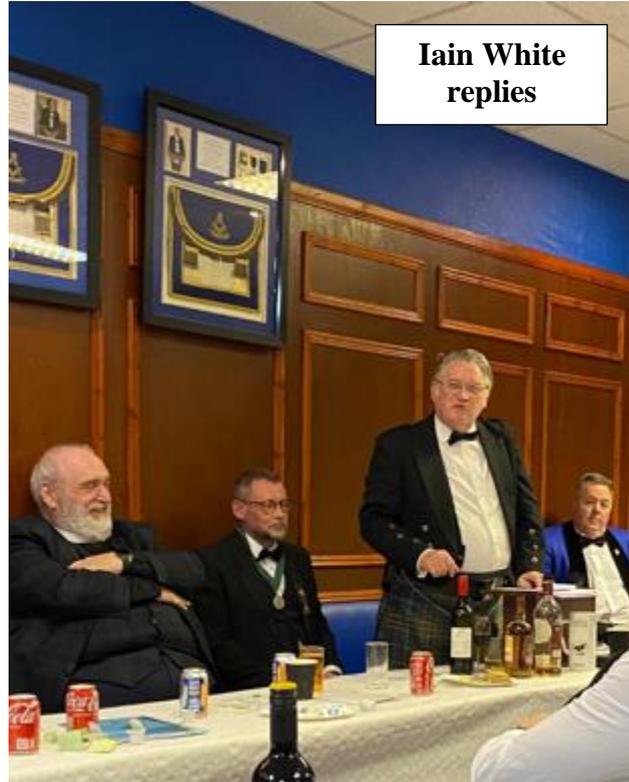
Tam the Bunnet from John Hutcheson PM 275



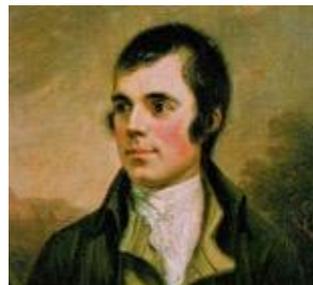
Bro. Rev. Alex Shuttleworth – The Lassies.



Iain White replies



Iain and Alasdair Beaton RWM The Trades House of Glasgow Lodge No. 1241



Reports on Visits

- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 26th February 2024 (Raising) – attended by RWM Bro James Livingstone, IPM Bro Brian McFadyen, WSW Bro Robert Marshall, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick and Bro Eddie McGill
- Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 27th February 2024 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro James Livingstone and IPM Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Canongate Kilwinning No 2 on 28th February 2024 (Entering) – attended by Bro Allan Glen PM

On these occasions, Fraternal Greetings were exchanged. The RWM thanks the brethren for their support on those visits.

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
17.03.24