

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



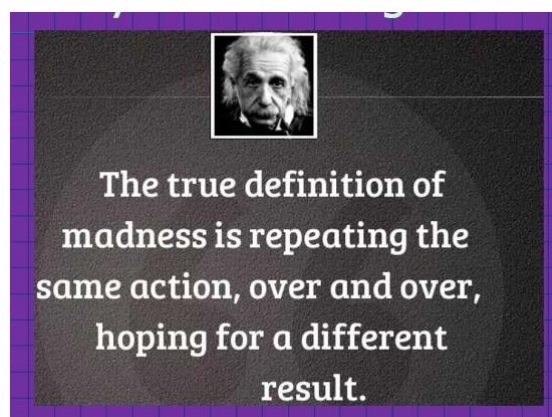
Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII
The Saloon of the Town Hall, Greenock
Regular Meetings – 7.30pm 1st and 3rd Tuesdays – September to April
Summer Meeting – 1st Thursday in June
Burns Supper – Last Saturday in February

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)

The Leadership Imperative

Our opinions differ (*writes Iain White*). So too do our feelings, thoughts and beliefs. It's all part of the human condition. One thing that I believe strongly is that the Scottish Craft is in a crisis. There are various features of the Craft today that point to it. It is in a similar sort of crisis as our national church, the Church of Scotland. If something is not done about this – and sooner rather than later – in 20 years, or before, there might not be much of a Craft to talk about in Scotland. I also believe that fundamental to our moving forward to ameliorate this crisis is having quality leadership. We are not good at leadership in the Craft, either recognising it, or getting the correct, properly qualified people into leadership positions. Recently, I have spoken in 2 lodges about this crisis – Lodge Houston St. Johnstone No. 242 and The Trades House of Glasgow Lodge No. 1241. In the post presentation discussion, on both occasions, I didn't get any voices of dissent raised against my crisis hypothesis nor the importance of inspired and creative leadership to turn the ship around.

One thing is definitely true. Change facilitated by leadership is needed. As Einstein had it,



Now Einstein, I'm sure you will agree, was not a stupid man. So, he would be telling us, we need to think differently and change as a result.

This week I attended 2 meetings where creative leadership had led to a fantastic Masonic experience for all who were privileged enough to attend.

Meeting 1 – Bro Brian S. McClure RWM and Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626.

On Monday 8th April Lodge Firth of Clyde had a `Raising scheduled. The brethren could have done the Raising themselves but they did not. The Master invited Lodge Greenock John's No. 175 to do the Raising, so that guaranteed a good degree. More than that though, he did this on a Monday evening where Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 (unusually) had no meeting. As generally happens on such rare occasions, a healthy deputation from 'the Port' is likely. A quick word with RWM Bro. Bert Hill and that would be assured. It was.



The Masters – Bros. McClure (626) and McKenzie (175)

Then effective communication comes into play. Getting the word out that this special evening was coming up, keeping the information flowing, inviting folk to come along – everywhere from lodge meetings, in the barber's shop to football supporters' buses. The expectation of a great night in store is fuelled. The result was that about 100 brethren were in the hall with every Lodge in the Province of Renfrewshire West represented. The atmosphere was terrific, anticipation of the degree to come was palpable and, of course, 175 did not disappoint. The lion's share of the floorwork was carried out by Bro. Ian Williamson WJW and Bro. Kenny Tait PM. Their work was a joy: clear, audible, precise, with light and shade to effectively tell the story get the message over and keep the attention of the audience. It was a *tour de force*. Equally superb contributions came from RWM John W. McKenzie with the Obligation and

the Charge from Bro. Eddie Ross PM.

Now that's the sort of experience and ambience to bring the 2 candidates, and the rest of us in attendance, back. Thanks to creative leadership it was different; it was innovative; it exuded quality; it was well marketed; it created high expectations; it worked.

After the meeting, the vast majority of those present stayed behind for some hospitality and a blether. It was great to see the brethren mixing informally and enjoying each other's company. There was much laughter.



Big crowd of brethren at the post meeting hospitality enjoying themselves interacting with brethren from their own and sister lodges – happy days

Meeting 2 – Bro. David Smith RWM and Lodge Innellan and Toward No. 1435



It was across the water on Thursday 11th April. This time the creativity was being shown by RWM Bro. David Smith and Lodge Innellan and Toward in the Province of Argyll and the Isles. Lodge 1435 is a village Lodge. It meets in the village hall in Innellan and is one of 3 Lodges along the Clyde Coast of the Cowal peninsula, the others being in Dunoon and Sandbank. It is great to see these 3 lodges all thriving and I have been in them all in the past few weeks.



The degree on Thursday was a Passing. Lodge Dunoon Argyll supplied the candidate, Bro. Philip Stewart who is its Master's son. Bro. David Smith of Innellan and Toward was conferring master; the offices from Inner Guard through Senior Warden were filled by the home team but all the lectures were delivered by Argyll and the Isles Masters. The Masters involved were Dunoon Argyll No. 335; St. Munn Ardnadam No. 496 (Sandbank); Loch Fyne No. 754 (Lochgilphead); St. Modan No. 985 (Taynuilt); Kyles of Bute No. 1120 (Tighnabruaich). They brought brethren with them, of course.

RWM Bro. Kevin Barton of Lodge St. Munn Ardnadam No. 496 (left) led the Deputation. I was at Kevin's Installation a couple of weeks ago. He is, of course, a member of No. XII which is his Mother Lodge.

Again, there was a very good attendance in the Lodge, much better than would normally be the case and a happy atmosphere. It was a special evening with a good degree, great fellowship and made more special by Bro. Stephen Stewart, Master of Dunoon Argyll (on right in photo with the author on his left) illustrating the Working Tools for his son in his Passing.



I had to leave for the ferry before the hospitality but almost everyone seemed to be staying.

A great night was had by all.

Conclusion

If we can get the product right, we can create interest and a much better experience for all concerned. Creative thought followed by careful, determined and positive planned action makes a difference rather than same old, same old.

I truly believe that we have to embrace creativity and change and deliver that change through quality leadership. If we don't accept change, the alternative is irrelevance and that is where we could be heading if we do not change right now.

Iain White PM

No. XII Monthly Draw

The Monthly Draw for 2024 is now well 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! Set up a standing order and forget all about it till the prize money comes rolling in! The winner for March was Bro. Tony Buckley and for April was Bro. Bob Crossan.

Visit to Lodge Kurt Tucholsky 1060's Installation.

Bro. Hector Macphail PM

Saturday 23rd March 2024

I arrived in Munster, Germany on Friday 22nd March, in anticipation of the installation ceremony of W. Bro. Marc Dahl and his Officers the next day.

On Saturday 23rd, I was collected at my hotel at 10.30am by W. Bro. Thomas Biber and driven the short distance to the Lodge, where we enjoyed a hearty breakfast together with the Lodge Brethren and visitors.

Lodge K.T. now meet in the premises, which I understand is owned by Zu den Drey Balken Lodge No. 127 (Consecrated in 1778) and shared also with Lodge Keys of Munster No. 881. It is in an impressive four storey building on Diepenbrockstrasse. The upper floors contain flats and student accommodation, the rents of which, pay for the Lodge premises, and keeps Lodge costs low.

The Reception and Bar area has a 'Gentleman's Club feel' to it with nice wood panelling, leather wing backed chairs, a fine old fireplace, as well as a very inviting cut crystal decanter of malt whisky and matching glasses, placed conveniently on a side table (which was put to good use!).

At 12.00 noon the Installation Ceremony commenced. I was about to take my seat, when the Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. James Tasker, approached me stating that he had heard that I was the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies of Renfrewshire West. I replied that this was true, but it was 'no big deal', he replied saying that it was a 'big deal' in Germany, and that I would need to be received as part of the Grand Lodge Deputation!

I was of course hesitant to accept this honour, which offered me much more credit than warranted, however, it was such a very kind and thoughtful gesture: I gratefully accepted.

I was therefore personally introduced alongside V.W. Bro. James Lutton Grand Senior Warden and V.W. Bro. Steve Shirley Grand Junior Warden. We each, in turn, expressed our appreciation for the very warm personal greeting we each received from the outgoing Master W. Bro. Daniel Rable, who was also the Installing Master.



W. Bro. Marc Dahl – the new Master

The Installation Ceremony was very sincerely conducted by W. Bro. Rable, which saw W. Bro. Marc Dahl Installed into the Lodge Chair and his Officers into their various positions. It was an excellent Installation, and although it captured the solemnity of the occasion, it also included lighter moments of humour, which created a very warm and happy atmosphere within the Lodge.

The Installation Ceremony was similar in style to English and Irish Installations which I have attended, in that when it was time for W. Bro. Dahl to receive the Secrets of an Installed Master, the Lodge emptied, leaving only Installed Masters behind, to form an Installing Board.

It added greatly to the occasion for me to see my very good friend: R. W. Bro. Robert Rolf Grundmann, Past Assistant Grand Master present. R. W. Bro. Grundmann is, of course, an affiliate member of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII.

I also enjoyed witnessing another good friend, and former colleague, Bro. Jochen Wawzynkowski Installed as W.J.W., I had the pleasure of introducing Bro. Wawzynkowski, to

Freemasonry and I was fortunate to be able to attend his Entering and return, again for his Raising ceremony a few years ago; back when the Lodge met in Unna.



At the conclusion of the Installation Ceremony, I had the opportunity to congratulate W. Bro. Dahl in his Installation and to present him (left) and Lodge Kurt Tucholsky, with a glass 'Friendship' Ornament from Lodge Greenock Kilwinning, and to extend the fraternal greetings of our Lodge and our Province.



Group photo of Lodge K.T. including Robert, Hector to his left and J.W. Jochen adjacently behind

The Harmony which followed was a very friendly affair, like our own. The meal was a typical German Buffet of a great many cold cuts and different breads. My favourite is Mett, which is raw pork mince and onion on crusty bread. I developed a fondness for this traditional dish when I worked in Dortmund twenty years ago. The meal was washed down with lots of excellent German Beer and Riesling Wine.



W. Bro. Dahl, proposing a Toast

After the meal, the usual Toasts were honoured. Lodge K.T. being within The Grand Lodge of British Freemasonry in Germany, not only is there a Toast to the German President, but also the British King.

I had the honour of Relying to the Toast to the Visitors.



Traditional German Toast – on the tabletop

After the Installation festivities were over (around 6.30pm), R. W. Bro. Grundmann, kindly arranged for his driver to come and take us both back to my hotel, as Robert wanted to renew his acquaintance with my wife, Elaine.

Due to his physical disability, Robert has a luxury mini-coach, specially adapted and kitted out for all his needs, into which his Driver pushes Robert in his wheelchair up extendable ramps at the rear.

At the Hotel, we met Elaine, and Robert presented her with a very kind and generous gift, which she greatly appreciated.

After finishing his duties in the Lodge, Jochen then joined us and we all spent a happy few hours together.

Elaine and I spent the rest of the week exploring Munster, before returning home on the 29th March.

Our Next Meeting
Tuesday 16th April 2024
Mark Degree
conferred by
Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No. 370

The next Lodge meeting is a Mark by our old friends at 370. It will be great to see them down from Paisley and back in the Saloon. To say that the close friendship between our 2 lodges is longstanding might be a bit of an understatement. The first mention of 370 that I have found in my researches through the lodge minutes was on 27th December 1906 when Bro. Duncan Ferguson Dempster Neill was the Master of No. XII. The Festival of St. John The Evangelist was being celebrated and a deputation was welcomed from Lodge 370 (see Minute below).

Thursday 27th December 1906

Bro Col. DFD Neill IPM, in the Chair

(Festival of St John the Evangelist)

Deputations Despatched and received.

Deputations were despatched to visit Lodges No 68, Doric Kilwinning, No 175, Gnk St John, No 217, Cumberland Kilwinning, No 626, Firth of Clyde, and No 989, 'Sir Michael' Kilmacolm. In

the course of the evening Deputations were received from the same lodges and also from No 370, Renfrew County Kilwinning and No 624 Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie.

When RCK 370 confer the Mark on Tuesday it will not be for the first time. They did so on 7th May 1912!

Friday 23rd April 1912

Bro John J Park, RW Master, in the Chair

The RW Master intimated that a Lodge of Mark Master Masons would be held on 7th May and that the Degree would be conferred by Bro WD McLennan PM and Office Bearers of Lodge County Kilwinning No 370, Paisley

Tuesday 7th May 1912

Bro John J Park, RW Master, in the Chair

Mark Degree conferred by Bro WD McLennan PM and Office Bearers of Lodge County Kilwinning No 370, Paisley

Bro Park having vacated his Chair, the working of the Lodge was taken over by Bro WD McLennan PM and Office Bearers of Lodge County Kilwinning No 370, Paisley and constituted a Mark Masons Lodge

Forty three candidates presented themselves for this degree

Mark Degree Plans presented by Bro Alf Flett SM.

In the course of the evening, the RW Master thanked Bro Alf Flett SM for the set of Mark Degree Plans presented to the Lodge.

It is great that our 2 Lodges have a friendship that stretches back 118 years! Here's to the next 118.

It may also be seen from the Minute above that the Mark Degree plans we use were presented on that evening by substitute Master Bro. Alf Flett. Isn't it fantastic that we have Lodge furnishings of that age?

It is also of note that the Lodge had 43 candidates for the Mark that evening. We shall have but 1 on Tuesday.

It occurred to me that I should maybe give a bit more detail about the relationship between No. XII and 370. I had a good idea that I had done this before, so a wee computer search took me to *Twelve Talk Edition No. 75* which was published on 2nd October 2015. Gold was struck. The detail of the relationship was there and also a lovely photo (below). In the centre of the front row, proudly sits our Master at the time, Bro. Captain Allan I. MacFeate. During his time in the Chair 'The Captain', amongst so many other positive things that he led us in, was enthusiastic about nurturing and developing the long standing relationship with 370. One of the results was a fantastic evening we had in the Lodge on Tuesday 15th September 2015. Sadly, 'The Captain' has now passed to The Grand Lodge Above.

Tuesday 15th September 2015
A Deputation from Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No 370
confers a Passing



RWM Bro Allan I MacFeate of No XII with the deputation from Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No 370 whose RWM Bro James Parker Wilson is on his right hand side. The brethren of 370's degree was enjoyed by the large attendance in the Saloon. Particularly appreciated was the Charge delivered by Bro Tom Nixon PM which was based on the symbolism of the Coats of Arms of Greenock and the Shaw Stewart family, the history of Greenock. The history of No XII was intertwined throughout. It was a wonderful Charge.

When I joined No XII in 1974, there was a very strong link between the two Lodges. At that time, 370 met in the Town Hall in Paisley and No XII used to travel there at the Mark Degree each year, and similarly at the No XII Mark a deputation would visit from 370. As I said in a previous issue of XII Talk, the urban myth at the time was that this relationship had arisen because Bro Robert J Drainer PM had been Rector of Camphill Senior Secondary School in Paisley in the 1950s, a post he held after being head at Gourock High. Bob was a teacher of Classics originally. Indeed, he was RWM of No XII in 1951-53 at the time when he was Rector at Camphill.

I remember Bro Bob well as a Past Master with a gravelly, imperious voice, flawless floor work and always a kind word of encouragement for 'youngsters' like Hector Macphail, Jim Adams and me as we made our first tentative steps on to the floor. Bob is described in the Camphill website as having the 'reputation of a visionary, gentleman and a scholar'. These are words that are peculiarly appropriate and well deserved.



Bob Drainer as Rector of Camphill Senior Secondary

**Annual Bowling Challenge Match
No. XII vs Lodge Crawfurdsburn
Saturday May 25th 2024
Gourock Bowling Club**

Players are still required for this year's 'Clash of the Titans'. No bowling experience or expertise is required. All you need is a pair of flat soled shoes (like trainers) and the desire to represent your Lodge. All those interested contact Bro. David Stevenson on **07887904910**. It's a good day out!

**Provincial Grand Lodge (Renfrewshire West)
Annual Charity Ball
Saturday May 18th 2024
Greenock Town Hall**

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. No. XII has supported Pat Burke's organisation for many years now.

No. XII Memorabilia - Success

I am continually asking for Lodge Memorabilia and over the past couple of weeks I have been rewarded by 3 brethren: Bro. Eddie McGill (XII); Bro. Adam Pickett (175); Bro. Murray Alan PM ((989/1508).

Bro. Eddie gave me a huge pile of programmes, orders of service and the like many of which will fill gaps in our records.



Bro. Adam gave me a pile of programmes etc. too. He also provided a copy of the No. XII Historical Digest, written by Bro. Henry S. Tibbles PM. Adam's copy has been signed by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason Bro. Sir Archibald D. Orr-Ewing Bart. MA (left). I suspect this would have been done at the No. XII 275th Anniversary Celebrations held in the Town Hall on 11th October 2003.

From Bro. Murray, I received a No. XII Installation Programme from 1990 when the Master going in was the young chap you can see below (right). Anyone identify who he is??



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!

No. XII 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.

Looking forward to the Tercentenary Refurbishing the Lodge Tracing Boards



We are starting to put together the plans for the Tercentenary Celebrations in 2028. A subcommittee has been formed made up of Bros. Iain White PM (Chair); Ken MacDougall PM (Secretary); Bro Robert Marshall WSW; Bro. Paul Branchfield WJW; Bro. Colin Reddy WJW.

As the Lodge affirmed at the last meeting, the General Committee has decided to begin the refurbishment of our ancient Tracing Boards, commencing with that of the Third Degree which is the one in greatest need e.g., amongst other blemishes it has a significant tear which may be seen in the photos above. Bros. Iain White and Brian McFadyen took it to Sylvia Krauss, an art restorer, who is based in Glasgow. She has provided an action plan and schedule for the works and will begin soon. It is hoped the Tracing Boards will all be done before the celebrations begin.

The Tracing Boards were presented to the Lodge by a grateful brother, Major Joseph George Shanks in 1874.

Reports on Visits

- Lodge Cumberland Kilw2inning No. 17 on 21st March 2024 (IPassing) – attended by RWM Bro James Livingstone and Bro Bob Bain PM
- Lodge Kurt Tucholsky No. 1060 in Munster, Germany on 23rd March 2024 (Annual Installation) – attended by Bro Hector Macphail PM
- Lodge St Munn Ardnadam No. 496 on 23rd March 2024 (Annual Installation) – attended by Bro Iain White PM (Installation of Bro. Kevin Barton as Master whose Mother Lodge is No XII)
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 25th March 2024 (Raising) – attended by RWM Bro James Livingstone, IPM Bro Brian McFadyen and WSW Bro Robert Marshall
Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No 1121 on 26th March 2024 (Raising) – attended by IPM Bro Brian McFadyen and WSW Bro Robert Marshall
- Lodge Burns Dundonald No 1759 on 26th March 2024 (Mark Degree conferred by Lodge St. Maurs Kilmaurs No 1398) – attended by Bro Bob Bain PM
- The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 on 28th March 2024 (Raising) – attended by IPM 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
14.04.24