

Twelve Talk

15.03.13

Issue 44

Meetings 2012-13

- * 01.01.13
No meeting
- * 15.01.13
Passing
- * 05.02.13
Passing
- * 19.02.13
Raising
- * 05.03.13
Passing
- * 19.03.13
Raising
- * 02.04.13
Raising
- * 16.04.13
Mark
- * 11.06.13
Special Summer Meeting
Entering



Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII
The Saloon of the Town Hall, Greenock
Regular Meetings – 7.30pm 1st and 3rd Tuesdays – September to April

RWM Bro Alan D Beck *Westhaven* 44 Denholm Street Greenock PA16 8RJ (07739514242)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro Iain White PM *Eagles* 23 Manor Crescent Gourrock PA19 1UZ (07575752570)

Our next meeting 19th March 2013

The next meeting is a Raising and the Candidate is Bro Bob Crossan. The Degree team is: **Obligation** RWM Bro Alan D Beck; **Prayer** Bro Albert MacLean BB; **Retrospect** Bro Allan Goodall; **Raising** Bro James S Adams PM; **Secrets** Bro KK Morrison PM **Apron** Bro Martin Anderson WSW; **Working Tools** Bro Martin Anderson WSW;

Traditional History and Tracing Board Bro Robert J Bain IPM; **Charge** Bro Ken MacDougall PM. This will be a very interesting degree as our Immediate Past Master Bro Bob Bain is treating us to his lecture on the Third Degree Tracing Board. This is a lecture that is very seldom heard and Bob does it very well – no pressure then, Bob! We hope for another great attendance.

Bro Kenneth MacLeod

In the last edition, there was an obituary for our dear departed brother, Kenny MacLeod. I found out after the publication of XII Talk that, in addition to Kenny's sterling Committee work over many years, he had the honour of being Depute Master when Bro Alex More was RWM in the 1970s. This was something that I did not remember, although I joined No XII when 'Big Alex' was in the Chair.

The Charity Drive

Our Charity Drive has been ticking along nicely with collections at our Regular Meetings and generous donations from members. It received a tremendous boost at the Burns Supper. As you would see from the Special Edition of XII Talk this event was a great success. With money from auctions and raffles added to very handsome donations from sponsors, the sum raised on the evening was just over £5000. Our work will continue for a while yet to add to this total.

The Burns Supper 2014

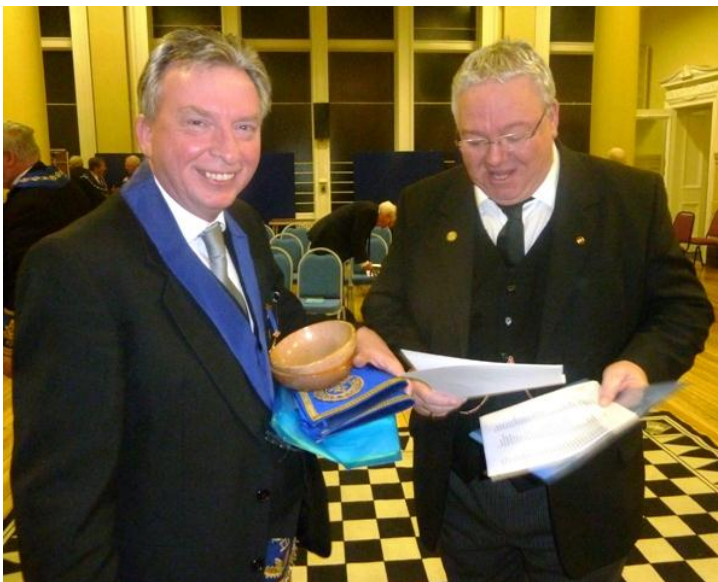
Although it is but a few weeks since the 2013 event, we are on the way for 2014 when our aim is to make the evening still bigger and better. We already have the biggest Burns Supper in Inverclyde. Our aim is to make it grander still! To that end we have signed up two terrific speakers for next year. Bro Jack Glenly, a Past Master of No XII, will deliver the Immortal

Memory. Jack is Past President of The Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) and has spoken all over the world. The Lassies will be toasted by Bro Bobby Shaw, RWM of the Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle Lodge No 275, and he too has spoken in places near and far. The 2014 Burns Supper will be in the Town Hall on Saturday 1st March.

Our Previous Meeting Tuesday 5th March 2013

It was a big night in No XII at our last meeting. In addition to the brethren of No XII, we had a deputation of over 20 visiting brethren from within and outwith the province. It was headed by RWM Bro Ian McFadyen of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626. He was accompanied by RWM Bro Bill Duncan of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624 and RWM Bro John Dallas of Lodge Prince of Wales No 426 from Renfrew. After that an even larger deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West entered the Lodge, the purpose of the visit being the Annual Visitation. The Lodge being so was busy, the scene was set with a great atmosphere for the excellent evening which followed.

Bro Tony Buckley was passed to the Second Degree. The Degree team was: **Obligation** RWM Bro Alan D Beck; **Secrets** Bro James S Adams PM; **Apron** Bro Martin Anderson WSW; **Working Tools** Bro Allan Macfeate DM; **Tracing Board** Bro Ken MacDougall PM; **Charge** Bro Robert J Bain IPM.



Bros MacDougall and McIntyre celebrate the clear minute

Bro George Banks, WSPGW, commented upon the degree work most favourably on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge. Also given very favourable reports were the administrative and financial works of the Lodge in the feedback by Provincial Grand Secretary Bro Robin McIntyre and Provincial Grand Treasurer Bro Thomas Trotter who had examined the books and records. We were delighted with the clear minute we received across the board.

As if this was not enough, more was to come. In the Lodge were Bro Kenneth Munn McCrae, Past Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 and James McNeil Lever, Past Master of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624. Both of these brethren have been great supporters of No XII over the years. They have visited on a very regular basis and have been a tremendous encouragement to us all. Little did they know that this was to be recognised by their receiving Honorary Membership of No XII! The surprise and pleasure on their faces when they were called to the centre of the floor was there for all to see. The obligation of Honorary Membership was delivered by Bro Robert J Bain IPM as he had nominated Kenny and Jim for this great honour. They both expressed their thanks in very sincere terms. No mention will be made in this quality publication of Bro Kenny's footwear...



From left: Bro Bill Duncan RWM Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624 Bro Robert J Bain IPM No XII Bro Kenneth M McCrae PM Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 (New Honorary Member of No XII) Bro Alan D Beck RWM No XII Bro James M Lever PM Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624 (New Honorary Member of No XII) Bro Iain White PM No XII Bro Ian McFadyen RWM Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626

And finally, Bro Euan McLean was presented with his certificate of Affiliation

Visits – Diary Dates

Monday 1st April 2013 at 7pm
Tuesday 30th April 2013 at 730 pm

The Prince's Lodge No 607 (Glasgow)
Lodge Burns Dundonald No 1759

Entering by 607
XII conferring Mark

Reports on Visits

The RWM, Office Bearers and brethren of No XII continue to do a power of work visiting sister Lodges.

Reports:

- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 21st February 2013 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro James Adams PM, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill and HM Bro James Strachan
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 22nd February 2013 (Passing conferred by Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121) – attended by IPM Bro Robert Bain, Bro Allan Glen, Bro Eddie McGill and HM Bro Neil Forbes
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 25th February 2013 (Raising) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, IPM Bro Robert Bain, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill and Bro Joseph Fogarty
- Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 26th February 2013 (Raising) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro James Adams PM, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick and Bro Eddie McGill
- Lodge The Gael No 609 on 28th February 2013 (Exemplification of a Passing conferred by No XII) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, IPM Bro Robert Bain, WJW Bro Paul Galbraith, DM Bro Allan MacFeate, PM Bro Iain White, PM Bro Kenneth MacDougall, SD Bro Allan Glen, JD Bro James Adams PM, IG Bro Gordon Thomson, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Ewen MacLean, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick and RWPGM Bro James Livingstone
- The Funeral of Almoner Bro John MacFadyen on 1st March 2013 – attended by a number of Brethren of the Lodge
- The Funeral of Bro William Lothian on 4th March 2013 – attended by a number of Brethren of the Lodge
- The Prince's Lodge No 607 on 4th March 2013 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck

On all occasions Fraternal Greetings were exchanged. The RWM thanked the Brethren for their support.

Passing Conferred at Lodge The Gael No 609

On 28th February a big deputation of brethren from No XII visited our friends at Lodge The Gael No 609 in the Blackie Street Hall in Partick. Our task was to confer a Passing. The deputation of 15 brethren from No XII and several from sister lodges in the Province, received a very warm welcome from RWM Bro Alasdair Beaton. RWM Bro Alan Beck received the gavel from Bro Alasdair and the No XII Office Bearers replaced those of The Gael. Lodge The Gael's candidate had been taken unwell so, at the shortest of notice, we were delighted that Bro Tony Stewart of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 stood in for the exemplification. The degree team was **Obligation** RWM Bro Alan D Beck; **Prayer** Bro Albert MacLean BB; **Secrets** Bro James S Adams PM; **Apron** Bro Robert J Bain IPM; **Working Tools** Bro Allan Macfeate DM; **Tracing Board** Bro Iain White PM; **Charge** Bro James P Livingstone.



RWM Alasdair Beaton of Lodge The Gael with the brethren of No XII after the Degree

Back Row: Bro Hamish McLachlan PM (HM) Bro Iain White PM Bro Bob Crossan Bro Paul Galbraith WJW
Bro Ken MacDougall PM Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick Bro Gordon Thompson Bro Bill Bryce PM (HM) Bro Jim Livingstone

Front Row: Bro Donald Finlayson PM (HM) Bro Allan Macfeate DM Bro Robert J Bain IPM Bro Alasdair Beaton RWM
Bro Alan D Beck RWM Bro KK Morrison PM Bro Allan Glen Bro Albert MacLean Bro Euan McLean Bro James S Adams PM

You may recognise the couple at the very back ...

The degree was much appreciated by all present and, of course, a wee spot of the famous (or infamous) Lodge The Gael harmony was enjoyed after the meeting. Personally, the most satisfying part of the evening was the return to me of a coat that I had left on a visit to The Gael last month! Thanks to Past Master Bro Archie MacGillivray for that!

Passing Conferred at Lodge Shalom No 1600

No XII's friendship with Lodge Shalom has grown over the last couple of years. We conferred an Entering in June 2011 and a team was back to do a Passing on Thursday 14th March at Clifford Street in Ibrox. RWM Bro Alan Beck tells me that it went off very well with the work of the brethren being very much enjoyed as was time spent in harmony after the meeting. The degree team was **Obligation** RWM Bro Alan D Beck; **Prayer** Bro Albert MacLean BB; **Secrets** Bro James S Adams PM; **Apron** Bro Ken MacDougall PM; **Working Tools** Bro Allan Macfeate DM; **Tracing Board** Bro Ken MacDougall PM; **Charge** Bro Robert J Bain IPM.



No XII Brethren at Lodge Shalom after the Degree

Back Row: Bros Euan McLean James S Adams PM Ken MacDougall PM Albert MacLean (well almost) James McGregor Crawford Kirkpatrick James McGregor Jr

Front Row: Bros Bob Crossan Allan Macfeate DM Robert J Bain IPM Alan D Beck RWM KK Morrison PM Gordon Thompson

A little from the History of No XII

Monday 17th June 1941

Bro James F McDougall, RW Master, in the Chair

The country was, of course, enveloped in the darkness of World War II on 17th June 1941. The Greenock Blitz had occurred on 6th and 7th May. The internet is a great thing. I gleaned the following from Wikipedia

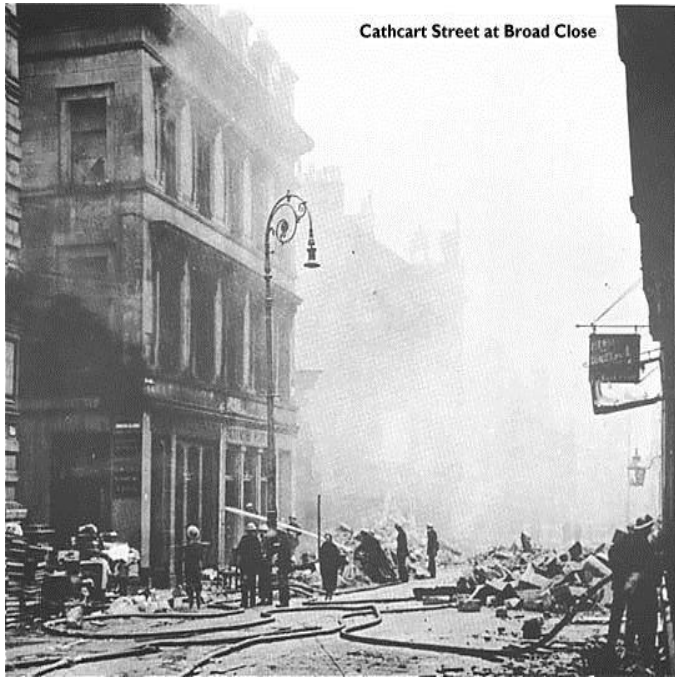


The **Greenock Blitz** is the name given to two nights of intensive bombing of the town of Greenock, Scotland during the Second World War when the Nazi German Luftwaffe attacked in May 1941.

The raids targeted the many ships and shipyards around the town but like the Clydebank Blitz the previous March the brunt of the bombing was taken by civilians. Over the two nights 280 people were killed and over 1,200 injured. From a total of 18,000 homes nearly 10,000 suffered damage and 1,000 were destroyed outright.

An Air Ministry 'decoy' behind Loch Thom prevented the number of casualties being even higher. The decoy was lit on the second night of the blitz. It consisted of a large number of mounds of combustible materials scattered over a wide area of the moorland to simulate a burning urban area. Scores of large bomb craters were found after an inspection of the decoy after the air raids.

Belville Street Damage



The Blitz began around midnight on 6 May when around fifty bombers attacked the town in an apparently random fashion. Bombs fell all over the town and surrounding area: serious damage being inflicted on East Crawford Street and Belville Street. Many civilians fled to the tunnels in the east end of the town, significantly reducing casualties the next night.

Air raid sirens at 12:15am on 7 May marked the beginning of a second night of bombing. Initially, incendiary bombs were dropped around the perimeter of the town. The second wave attacked primarily the east end and centre of Greenock; the distillery in Ingleston Street had been set alight in the first wave, providing a huge fire which acted as a beacon for the rest of the bomber force. The final wave came around 2am; dropping high explosive bombs and parachute land mines which caused widespread destruction.

Devastation just 200 yards from No XII's meeting place in the Town Hall

At 3:30am the "All Clear" sounded; the whole of the town appeared to be in flames. The sugar refineries, distillery and foundries were all extensively damaged, and several churches were left as burnt out shells. However damage to the shipyards was minimal.

The George Medal was awarded to three local firemen: Firemaster A.S. Pratten, Sub-Station Officer William Neill and Fireman James Berry who entered a burning building and at great personal risk managed to control a blaze which threatened to destroy a quantity of material essential to the war effort.

The Lodge had the following in the minute of 17th June ...

“Reference to Air Raid

The RW Master expressed sympathy with brethren who had been bereaved by the loss of relatives or friends through the Air Raid early in May and to those who, through it, had been rendered homeless. In this connection a circular was read from Grand Lodge regarding distress cause by Air Raid which invited brethren in necessitous circumstances to make application through the Lodge.

Grants to Greenock Air Raid Distress Fund and Greenock Royal Infirmary

The following recommendation from the General Committee was submitted for the approval of the Lodge: “That a grant of £5 be made to the Greenock Air Raid Distress Fund and one of £6 to the Greenock Royal Infirmary.” (£219.85 and £263.82 respectively in the present day).

The RW Master explained that, in past years, the collection taken at the Annual Divine Service was for the latter purpose but that this year there was difficulty in arranging for a Service at the usual time. He expressed the hope that this difficulty would be overcome so that a Service may be held in the Autumn.

On the motion of Bro John T Urquhart SW seconded by Bro Duncan M Holmes, the recommendation was unanimously agreed to.”

Lest we forget ...

Iain White PM