

Twelve Talk

31.03.13

Issue 45

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
Past Masters' Degree
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 2nd April 2013

The next meeting is again a Raising and the Candidates (yes 2 of them) are Bros Iain Hanlon and Tony Buckley. The Degree team is: **Obligation** RWM Bro Alan D Beck; **Prayer** Bro Albert MacLean BB; **Retrospect** Bro Allan Glen SD; **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. In addition, **Bro Jack Glenny PM** will be presented with his **Golden Jubilee Diploma**. He joined No XII exactly 50 years ago to the day – on 2nd April 1962. Jack was in the Chair, of course, between 1981 and 1983.

For the Boolers ...

As the greens all begin to open, after the under soil heating has melted the ice, Bro Jimmy Miller has let me know that the Orr Trophy will be held on the greens of the Grosvenor Bowling Club on Saturday 8th June at 930 for 1000. Lodge rinks should be triples. Also, Bro Kenny Morrison is seeking a date in May for No XII's annual match with Lodge Crawfordsburn at Ardgowan. More details to follow!

The Charity Drive

The Burns Supper made an overall profit of £5499.10 resulting in £4910.40 being transferred to the Charity Drive. With money from our regular collections and donations, the total sum raised for charity is £5282.40. The beneficiaries chosen by the RWM this year are the Erskine Home and Youth Theatre at The Beacon. Provost Robert Moran has nominated Glenburn School. Our work will continue to add to this total. We have already passed the 2012 total of £3500

The Special Summer Meeting

Last year we held a summer meeting celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and it was a great success. The meeting will be repeated this year. It will be a First Degree with a difference. The difference is that it will be a Past Masters' Degree with all offices from RWM to Inner Guard being filled by Past Masters of No XII. The great honour of taking the Chair

has been given to our senior Past Master in regular attendance, Bro Kenneth K Morrison. Kenny is thinking about his team for the evening and those lucky enough to be selected will hear the good news soon, I am sure. We all await the ringing of the phone with bated breath ... or not as the case may be! It is hoped that this approach will help to create the interest that will bring the crowds out to the summer meeting.

Our Previous Meeting Tuesday 19th March 2013

Bro Bob Crossan was Raised to the High and Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. The Degree Team was **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.

The degree went very well and it was a delight to hear Bro Allan Goodall deliver the retrospect. Bro Allan has been back with us a couple of times recently and when he attended the Burns Supper he agreed to return to the floor. We believe it was his first time on the floor this century! However, the old expertise was still there and came to the fore – something to do with quality, I think. Here's to the next time Allan!!

We had a fine deputation of visiting brethren headed by Bro Gerry Robertson, RWM of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217. Included in the deputation were three Past Masters, and good friends, from Lodge the Gael No 609 in the Province of Glasgow – PMs Bro Hamish McLachlan and Donnie Finlayson (No XII Honorary Members) and also Hamish's son, PM Bro Peter McLachlan. Our newest Honorary Member, Bro Jim Lever of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624, was there too!

Visits – Diary Dates

Monday 1 st April 2013 at 7pm	The Prince's Lodge No 607 (Glasgow)	Entering by 607
Tuesday 30 th April 2013 at 730 pm	Lodge Burns Dundonald No 1759	XII conferring Mark
Wednesday September 2013	Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624	XII conferring Passing

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 7th March 2013 (Raising) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, IPM Bro Robert Bain, Bro James Adams PM, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill and HM Bro James Strachan
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 8th March 2013 (Raising) – attended by IPM Bro Robert Bain, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick and HM Bro Kenneth McCrae
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 11th March 2013 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro James Adams PM, Bro Allan MacFeate, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Tony Buckley and Bro Bob Crossan
- Lodge Prince of Wales No 426 on 12th March 2013 (Passing) – RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Bob Crossan and HM Bro Kenneth McCrae
- Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624 on 13th March 2013 (Passing Exemplification) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, IPM Bro Robert Bain, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Tony Buckley, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick and HM Bro James Lever
- Lodge Shalom No 1600 on 14th March 2013 (Passing conferred by No XII) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, IPM Bro Robert Bain, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro James Adams PM, Bro Kenneth MacDougall PM, Bro Gordon Thomson, Bro Albert MacLean, Bro Allan MacFeate, Bro Ewen MacLean, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Bob Crossan, Bro James McGregor Snr and Bro James McGregor Jnr
- PGL of Renfrewshire West on 16th March 2013 (Installation of Bro James P. Livingstone) – attended by RWM Bro Robert Bain, IPM Bro Robert Bain, Bro James Adams PM, Bro Kenneth MacDougall PM, Bro Allan MacFeate, Bro Allan Glen, Bro Albert MacLean, Bro James McGregor Snr, Bro James McGregor Jnr, Bro Ewen MacLean, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Alexander Galbraith and Honorary Members Bros James Miller, Donald Finlaystone, B. Bryce and Kenneth McCrae.

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

A little from the History of No XII – The Blitz – Part 2

Monday 17th June 1941

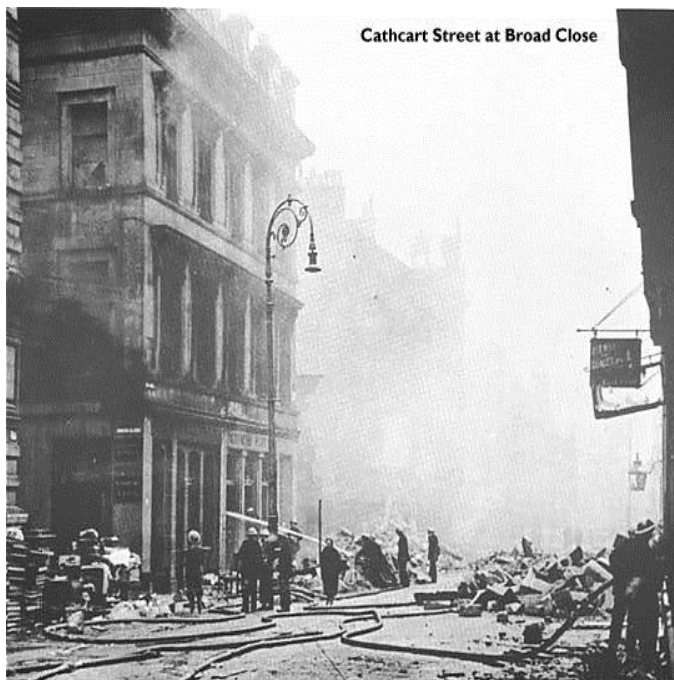
Bro James F McDougall, RW Master, in the Chair

In the last XII Talk, I highlighted No XII's meeting where the blitz was highlighted as follows.

“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. 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).

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



Belville Street Devastation

This item brought some interesting feedback from some of our readers.

From Honorary Member Bro James W Miller Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, Past Master of Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 and Honorary Member of No XII we had:

Iain,

I must comment on your article and the photographs of the Greenock Blitz for two reasons.

1. the Belville Street tenement devastation ,my Father in Law lost an Uncle and cousin in that building.
2. the picture of Cathcart Street and the devastated top of Duff Street is where we as a family belonged until being evacuated for several months to Girvan. On the night of the blitz, I was carried through that rubble and broken glass (which was about 4 inches deep) by a Sailor to what is now known as the Morton Supporters' Club. Then it was the Shepherds Hall in Regent Street.

Some more facts and history for your archives....

Regards

Jim

From Past Master Bro Hector Macphail, presently working in Baku, Azerbaijan we had:

I enjoyed your "piece" on the Blitz, particularly the Whinhill Decoy. My Father was involved in that, and told me the stories. I remember as a wee boy, my Dad taking me up to the hill to see all the bomb craters that were still clearly visible in the early sixties.

I did not realise that this decoy initiative had been formally recorded, as my Father was the only person I have ever heard discussing it, and so I was surprised when I saw it in the Article.

Hector

And from my own brother, speaking about the Belville Street photo - our Granny lived in the next close to the one that was bombed.

Iain

I very much enjoyed your article on the Greenock Blitz. The Belville Street photo is Granny White's tenement with the property next door being completely obliterated. [The Aunt Maisie mentioned is our father's sister. Dad (Bro Harry White of Lodge Greenock St John's No 175) was serving in the Royal Navy by 1941].

Granny White, Aunt Maisie and their dog Sheila had to flee for their lives down Belville Street and ended up evacuated to Bearsden. Aunt Maisie told Ruairidh and I all about it.

Hugh

The Installation of Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Bro James Pearston Livingstone Saturday 16th March 2013

I have the following from RWM Bro Alan D Beck.

The installation of a new Provincial Grand Master isn't exactly a once-in-a-lifetime event, but they don't come around that often, so I was honoured on Saturday March 16th to have been involved in the ceremony of installation of Renfrewshire West's new PGM, Bro James P Livingstone. In my role as Provincial Grand Director of Music, I found myself responsible for the organisation (and some performance) of the music both at the ceremony of installation and at the subsequent dinner. On top of this, the event was taking place in No XII's very own Saloon and as Master it was therefore also my duty to provide the furnishings and to assist in the setting up of the Lodge for the big event.

At 9am on the 16th I arrived at the Town Hall, only to find I had been beaten to it by Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick and Bro Tony Buckley. Bro Tony, as No XII's newest Fellowcraft was unable to attend the meeting (Master Masons only) but he had a major part to play in the day, given that he was providing a three-course dinner for 165 and a preceding buffet for 70. This didn't deter Bro Tony from providing the swelling number of helpers from No XII and other lodges in the Province (in the words of PGL Treasurer Bro Tommy Trotter, "We're no very clever, but we're good at lifting heavy things") with bacon rolls, teas and coffees to keep their strength up - even Bro Archie Chalmers and the Provincial deputation from Ayrshire who had arrived two hours early, got in on the act and finished the rolls off in Bro Tony's kitchen.

With the help of all these brethren, the Town Hall staging was quickly set up with the east being reversed and raised a couple of feet off the floor. Knowing full well that over two hundred were expected at the meeting, I had decided earlier in the week that the checkered carpet at No XII was simply too big and would not allow all the seats we needed to fit in, so I was indebted to Bro Tony Stewart for arriving at my house on Friday night with the small carpet from 1425. This allowed an extra 40 seats to be placed and, believe me, they were needed.

The Master's room was then set up for PGL to be constituted before the meeting was due to begin at 1pm and after this set up was complete, I was able to get changed into my stripes, discover I had forgotten my cufflinks, shoes and hymn book, go home, pick them up and then get back to the Saloon to practise said hymns on the No XII keyboard. How much easier it is for a non-organ player like myself to have a normal, single keyboard to play as opposed to the double keyboard and foot pedals of the electric organs in the Province, and at the end of the meeting, for the first time in my PGL career I actually felt that I'd played more right notes than wrong ones!

However, the musical highlight of the meeting was not my hymn playing but the pipers who piped in the deputations. Led by RWM Bro Alasdair Beaton, Lodge The Gael 609, and featuring 3 honorary members of No XII, Bros Donald Finlaystone and Bill Bryce, along with the newest MM in this Province, Bro Nicky Donnelly of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning 217 and Bros Donald Iain Finlayson, Keith Bowes Jnr and Dougie Bryce of The Gael, the roof was lifted as these fine brethren, resplendent in Highland dress

"hotch'd and blew wi' might and main" to the utter delight of the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason.

The ceremony of installation went like clockwork. Bro Jim was installed along with his commissioned office bearers by the MWGMM and the declarations of the offices were made by the Grand Director of Ceremonies Bro Ramsey McGhee (whose performance could take up a whole article on its own). During the meeting, reference was made to Bro Jim's antient predecessor Bro Alexander Drummond RWM of No XII and the first ever PGM of the Scottish Craft and this is something of which we in Renfrewshire West in general and No XII in particular are justly proud ... especially when the PGM of Renfrewshire East is in attendance !

After the ceremony had been concluded and the official photographs taken, we organised a photograph with all the No XII PGM office bearers in their regalia. Bro Jim Adams, Bro Bob Bain and I stood next to fellow No XII members Bro Alexander Galbraith and Bro Jim Livingstone. Both of these brethren are affiliate members of No XII but we are nevertheless just as proud of them as their own Mother Lodges, 175 and 626 respectively.

Bro Tony Buckley's meal in the main Town Hall was excellent and throughout it the assembled brethren were entertained by pianist Craig Dunsmore and Brass Sounds Inverclyde, both of whom did the PG Director of Music proud.

The MWGMM Bro Charles Iain Robert Wolridge Gordon of Esselmont spoke warmly of the Province of Renfrewshire West and particularly of the influence and contribution of the Shaw Stewart family who had been so heavily involved in both No XII and the PGL and this was well received by HM's Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, Guy Clark JP, a member of the Shaw Stewart family and heir presumptive to the baronetcy of Greenock and Blackhall.

The new RWPGM spoke of his hopes for the future of the Province and how he wished to empower the Masters and Brethren to change, improve and make innovation in Freemasonry in Renfrewshire West.

Amongst the speeches I feel it necessary to single out Bro Gerry Robertson, RWM of 217 whose very sincere and thoughtful reply on behalf of the Daughter Lodges to the toast to the Province, delivered by the PGM of Renfrewshire East, was very well-received ... especially by the assembled RWMs.

A most excellent and memorable day was rounded off in traditional Masonic fashion with the assembled brethren singing Auld Lang Syne and The National Anthem to the piano accompaniment of Craig Dunsmore ... well actually, the day was rounded off a few hours later with several glasses of the PGM's excellent The Singleton ... but that's another story for another time.

On behalf of all the brethren of No XII and indeed on behalf of all the readers of XII Talk all over the world, I would like to conclude this report by offering our sincerest good wishes and hearty congratulations to the new Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West, Bro James P Livingstone - Si Je Puis!

Alan D Beck RWM Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII Provincial Grand Director of Music

And photos from the big day ...



The No XII table at the Dinner in the Town Hall **From Left** Bros Ewan McLean Ken MacDougall Jim Adams Alan Glen Bob Crossan Allan Macfeate Alan Beck – and Bob Bain was taking the photo!



The No XII Guys

From Left Bros **Robert J Bain** Provincial Grand Inner Guard **Alexander Galbraith** Right Worshipful Substitute Grand Master Mason Past Provincial Grand Master **James P Livingstone** Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master **Alan D Beck** Provincial Grand Director of Music **James S Adams** Provincial Grand Sword Bearer
 Alex Galbraith and Jim Livingstone are affiliate members of No XII



Bros Alan Beck and Bob Bain



Bros Ewan McLean and Ken MacDougall



Bros Bob Crossan and Allan Macfeate



Bros Jim Adams and Allan Glen

Iain White PM