

Meetings 2014-15

- * 02.09.14
Passing

- * 16.09.14
Nomination and Election of
Office Bearers and
Passing by Lodge
Cumberland Kilwinning
No 217

- * 07.10.14
Passing by The Lodge of
Erskine No 1566

- * 21.10.14
Passing by Lodge
Crawfurdsburn
Greenock No 1121

- * 04.11.14
Annual Meeting and
Passing

- * 18.11.14
Annual Installation

- * 02.12.14
Annual Divine Service
Bro Jack Glennly PM

- * Saturday 28.02.15
Annual Charity Burns
Supper



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 David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

Greater love hath no man than this ...

Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends John 15:13

Ten brethren of No. XII made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War. Their names are carved on the Lodge's Memorial Altar. It was unveiled and dedicated on Friday 31st March 1922. The dedication ceremony was carried out by Bro Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart Bart. RWPGM. They are

George Wm. Campbell
James Hannah
Henry Hay
Arthur Johnstone
Duncan Macfarlane
David R.F. Mackail
Alexander N Russell
James Ritchie Smith
Joshua H. Sanders
Archibald L. Barr



Remembrance Sunday

RWM Bro Alan Beck laid a wreath at the Cenotaph in the Wellpark on Remembrance Sunday in memory of the 10 brethren of No XII who made the supreme sacrifice in World War 1 and for all those who have given their lives that we may enjoy the freedom we have today. It was our second year of paying tribute in this way and all the better in that Alan was joined by RWM Bro Marshall North of Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 and RWM Bro Hugh Docherty of Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No 1121.



Bros Hugh, Marshall and Alan



RWM Bro Alan in Reflective Mood



As I prepare to leave the Chair of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII, at the 286th Annual Installation on Tuesday coming (November 18th), it will come as no surprise that I have been thinking back on my two years in office and comparing the highs and lows of what really has been a roller-coaster journey.

I shall begin with the highs. I think that the most memorable moment of my two years was the entrance of the Visiting Deputation at my first Installation. Led by Bro Iain McPherson of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68. There were over 80 brethren (not including members of No XII and PGL) in his Deputation and it seemed to take an age for them to parade into the Lodge. I must admit to having had a lump in my throat as the brethren entered and the deadly sin of pride did creep in for a moment.

Being presented with the Gavel of another Lodge to confer a degree on one of their candidates is also a very special moment and the following Lodges bestowed upon me during my time in the Chair 175, 275, 609, 1600, 1566, 624, 1121, 217 and 4566 (EC) and on top of this I received the Gavel of 989 when I led the Deputation of reigning Masters of Renfrewshire West at the Homes Degree. I also presented the No XII Gavel to the RWMs of the

following when they visited: 175, 275, 609, 1814, 217, 1566 and 1121. Indeed, history was made when 1814, for the first time since its foundation, visited a sister lodge to deliver a lecture.

The two Summer Meetings have been great successes with attendances on both occasions around the 130 mark. The Past Masters Degrees have been most enjoyable and have seen the PMs of the Lodge dig out the ritual books to confer Enterings – the second of these meetings having seen the Initiation of 5 candidates for the first time in No XII since 1984.

It is, of course, very pleasing to initiate new candidates into the Lodge and there has been no shortage of them of late in No XII – 14 in my 2 years but I receive even greater pleasure from welcoming a member back to the Lodge who, for whatever reason, has not attended for some time. We have been very fortunate to have welcomed back a good number of members and long may this continue.

I am also very pleased with how our own attendances have increased dramatically over the past two years with an average of 60-plus per meeting. This shows the benefits to be gained by No XII visiting other Lodges. Come tomorrow (Monday 17th November) at Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68, I will have visited on exactly 250 occasions in my two years and on virtually all of these visitations I have led in a healthy number of my own brethren and that, in itself, is a great honour.

Only last weekend, I had the privilege, for the second time, of laying a wreath in memory of No XII's fallen brethren at Greenock's magnificent Cenotaph and this was even more special by the fact that the Masters of 175 and 1121 accompanied me as they laid wreaths to remember their own brethren who made the supreme sacrifice.

Of course, with the highs come the lows and there can be no greater sadness for a Master than to read the obituary of one of his brethren. Unfortunately, I had this burden to bear on seven occasions and I certainly shall not miss having to perform this particular duty, although with the sadness comes a feeling of honour at being permitted to lead the Lodge in paying its silent respects to a deceased brother.

Also, on a couple of occasions I was called upon to make difficult decisions which may have seemed harsh at the time but were necessary at the time to preserve the harmony of the Lodge. At times like this it is a comfort to know that all the Lodges in the Province have the support of the Provincial Grand Master who is always on hand to offer advice for which I am grateful.

When I assumed the Chair of King Solomon, I did so in the knowledge that my Immediate Past Master, Bro Robert J. Bain had led by his example of hard work and dedication to the task in hand. I promised to do the same. In the end, you can only do your best and hope that it is good enough. Having been a performer for many years I am not one for false modesty and I can clearly see that the Lodge has advanced in increasingly good health. Whilst I am happy to

receive some of the credit, I cannot take it all. It is really a team effort. I offer my sincerest gratitude to all the brethren who have contributed to that team effort by supporting me through the last two years, the visitors and their RWMs, my own brethren in No XII, my office bearers, the Secretary and Treasurers, my IPM Bro Bob Bain for his support and always being on hand to help, my Installing Masters - Hector Macphail and Ken MacDougall – my Principal Installing Master, proposer and sometime Masonic Mentor Iain White and, of course, my own family, Polly, Adam and Reuben, without whose love and understanding much of this would not have been possible.

I now pledge my support to the new RWM Bro Allan Ian MacFeate and I enjoin you all to proffer him the same support which I have received. I wish Allan and his Office Bearers much health and success over the coming twelve months.

Alan D. Beck RWM

Back to the Future at the Installation

We have had a back to the future focus at our Installations of late with an upgrade of office bearer dress, the giant square and compasses reappearing in the main Town Hall, the (welcome) return of the top table port decanter, and the Toast to H.M. Armed Forces being delivered again at the Dinner. On Tuesday, the theme continues as we reintroduce the Toast to the House of Ardgowan after a gap of many years. We are delighted and honoured that Sir Ludovic Shaw Stewart, 12th Baronet of Greenock and Blackhall, will reply to the Toast

From Nicky

Bro Nicky Stetz WSW of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 sent me this and it is reproduced with his kind permission.

ODE TO LODGE FIRTH OF CLYDE GOUROCK NO 626

The friendliest Lodge in the land is at a John Street door,
Where the Gourock Lodge has met for a century or more,
When o'er the Clyde the moon has cast her brightest beams,
The Brethren come from far and wide, in motor cars and teams.
And, oh what a hearty grasp of hand, and welcome, meets us there,
Mingling with the waiting groups, their greetings they air,
Exchanging bits of Provincial news, or prophesies of Ritual,
Until we reach the Tyler's door, when silence is essential,
Our thoughts are turned to Masonic themes we cherish and adore,
And which are heard on meeting nights on 626's floor.
While musing thus on what's to come, admission time draws near,
We catch a glimpse of Lodge procedure, by watchful eye and ear,
The altar, and the pedestals that mark the stations three,
The graceful pillars topped with globes, and the special letter "G"
There is no doubt that we will witness, as many have done before,
A Degree, and Ritual, perfect in all its parts, on 626's floor.

Jenny Lissen
Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. 333

Hi Iain

I meant to forward this to you but it escaped my attention. I was making to lock fast and secure some monies in our safe when I came across a rather scorched piece of paper. On closer examination I found it in fact to be a rather lovely poem given to 626 by Bro Henry Tibbles PM. I have restored it to good condition and find it a rather lovely touch of class from Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII and indeed the gentleman that is Henry Tibbles.

After presenting it to the committee last night I learned that Henry had in fact presented and indeed recited it to the Lodge during the installation of Bro. Kenneth McCrae PM HM XII. I have attached a copy.

Kind regards, Nicky

Attendances

Brethren, I took the Sederunt Book home to count the average attendance for my second year. I make it 62 (61.6) and the previous year it was 60 (although PG Secretary's calculation was 59). Anyway, I'm chuffed that the momentum has been maintained in my year 2.

Alan D. Beck RWM

Test Fees and Life Member Contributions

Annual subscriptions or Test Fees are now due for 2014-15. These are set at the very reasonable level of £30 in No XII. Also, the Lodge has to pay a Capitation Levy for all Life Members to The Grand Lodge of Scotland. This amounts to £25. Over the last few years we have been grateful to all of the Life Members who have made a donation to cover this. Fees and contributions are payable to the Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson. Office Bearers are reminded that they **must** pay before the Installation or they cannot be installed.

Charity Burns Supper 2015

No XII's 4th Charity Burns Supper will be held in the Town Hall on Saturday 28th February 2015. The Immortal Memory will be delivered by Bro Iain White PM No XII and the Toast to the Lassies will be by Bro Iain Gordon of The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 and The Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle Lodge No 275.

It will be a most enjoyable evening and will be a great contributor to our drive to assist those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

The Forget Me Not

I received this from Bro Alistair Glenny PM

THE TRUE STORY BEHIND THIS BELOVED EMBLEM OF THE CRAFT IN GERMANY.



As early as the year 1934, soon after Hitler's rise to power, it became apparent that Freemasonry was in danger in the same year, The German Grand Lodge of the Sun in Bayreuth (one of the pre-war German Grand Lodges), realised the imminent problems facing them and elected to wear a little blue flower, The Forget Me Not, in lieu of the traditional Square and Compasses, as a mark of identity for Masons.

It was felt the new symbol would not attract attention from the Nazis, who were in the process of confiscating and appropriating Masonic Lodges, and property, Masonry had gone underground and it was necessary that the Brethren have some readily recognisable means of identification.

Throughout the entire Nazi era, a little blue flower in a lapel marked a Brother, in the Concentration Camps and in the cities a little blue Forget Me Not distinguished the lapels of those who refused to allow the light of Freemasonry to be extinguished.

In 1947 when the Grand Lodge of the Sun was reopened by Past Grand Master Beyer, a little blue pin, in the shape of a Forget Me Not, was proposed and adopted as the official emblem of the first annual convention of those who survived the bitter years of semi-darkness, bringing the Light of Masonry once again into the Temples.

At the First Annual Convent of the United Grand Lodges of Germany, AF & AM, in 1948, the pin was adopted as an official Masonic emblem honouring those valiant Brethren who carried their work on under adverse conditions, at the Grand Masters Conference in the United States, Dr. Theodor Vogel, the Grand

Masters of the newly formed VGLvD, AF & AM, presented one of the pins to each of the representatives of the Grand Jurisdictions with which the VGLvD AF & AM enjoyed Fraternal relations.

Thus did a simple flower blossom forth into a meaningful emblem of the Fraternity and became perhaps the most widely worn pin among Freemasons in Germany, in most of our Lodges the Forget Me Not is presented to new Master Masons at which time its history is briefly explained.

VGLvD
AF & AM

Vereinigte Grosslogen von Deutschland
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

Reports on Visits

- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 24th October 2014 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, WJW Bro Allan Glen, Bro Allan MacFeate, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Paul Galbraith, Bro Joseph Fogarty, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Alexander Galbraith, HM Bro James Miller, HM Bro Tony Stewart, HM Bro Kenneth McCrae and HM Bro James Lever
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 26th October 2014 (Divine Service) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Alexander Galbraith and HM Bro Kenneth McCrae
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 27th October 2014 (Raising) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, IPM Bro Robert Bain, Bro Bob Crossan, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro James Livingstone, HM Bro Kenneth McCrae and HM Bro James Strachan
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 27th October 2014 (Mark) – attended by Bro Tony Buckley
- Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 28th October 2014 (Entering) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Paul Galbraith, HM Bro James Miller, HM Bro James Strachan and HM Bro Tony Stewart
- Lodge St John No 187 Carluke on 16th October 2014 (Passing) – attended by WJW Bro Allan Glen, Bro Bob Crossan and Bro Tam Hamilton
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 18th October 2014 (Installation) – attended by WJW Bro Allan Glen, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro Kenneth MacDougall PM, Bro Eddie McGill, HM Bro James Strachan, HM Bro Kenneth McCrae and HM Bro James Lever
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 20th October 2014 (Passing Exemplification) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Paul Galbraith, HM Bro Tony Stewart and HM Bro Iain Macleod
- Grand Lodge (Quarterly Communication) and The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 (Entering) on 30th October 2014 – attended by DM Bro Allan MacFeate accompanied by various other Brethren in the Province.
- PGL Glasgow on 2nd November 2014 (Divine Service) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro James Livingstone, HM Bro Donald Finlayson and HM Bro Hamish McLachlan
- The Prince's Lodge No 607 on 3rd November 2014 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Tam Hamilton, Bro Paul Galbraith and HM Bro Tony Stewart

From the old minute books of No XII

The focus this time is on gifts – to and from the Lodge.

Tuesday 14th March 1911

Bro John J Park, RW Master, in the Chair

Engraving presented by Bro R Harper

The RWM referred to the engraving presented to the Lodge by Bro Robt. Harper, one of our recently made members who is now in Panama and he asked his brother Bro Archd. Harper to convey the thanks of the Lodge when he joins his brother in the land of their adoption.

Friday 14th April 1911

Bro John J Park, RW Master, in the Chair

Presentation to Bro W.G. Buchanan

Thereafter the Lodge was reduced to the E.A. Degree and the Brethren called from Labour to Harmony. The RWM having resumed the Chair and after the usual Loyal and Masonic Toasts had been responded to he, in a very appropriate speech, referred to the esteem in which Bro. W.G..Buchanan IPM was held by members of the Lodge and in their name presented him with a purse of sovereigns and a silver tea set and salver for Mrs. Buchanan.

Bro. Buchanan acknowledged the gifts in suitable terms and spoke of the pleasure it always gave him to do any service for his Mother Lodge.

John Barbour PM supplemented the remarks made by the RW Master regarding Bro Buchanan and and, after some time had been spent in Harmony, the Lodge was recalled to Labour and closed in due and ancient form.

Iain White PM

15.11.14

Views expressed by individuals within XII 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.