

1. Meetings 2015-16

* 01.09.15
Raising

* 15.09.15
Nomination and Election of
Office Bearers
Passing by Lodge Renfrew
County Kilwinning No
370

* 06.10.15
Raising

* 20.10.15
Entering

* 03.11.15
Annual Meeting 715pm and
Passing by Lodge Firth of
Clyde Gourock No 626

17.11.15
Annual Installation of
Office Bearers (615pm)

* 01.12.15
Annual Divine Service



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

RWM Bro Capt. Allan I. MacFeate 40 The Esplanade Greenock PA16 7RY (07855332738)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

Next Meeting
Tuesday 17th November
2015

Re-installation of Bro.
Capt. Allan I. MacFeate

Instituted in 1728, No XII was represented at Mary's Chapel, Edinburgh at the institution of The Grand Lodge of Scotland on November 30th 1736. It is, in fact, the oldest organisation in Inverclyde. Since 1765, No XII has had a very close association with Greenock Corporation and now Inverclyde Council. The Lodge made an agreement at that time with the Magistrates and Council to purchase a share in the property of the new Town House then being built. In recognition of this, Depute Provost Bro David Wilson will attend to represent Inverclyde Council. Bro Wilson was made an Honorary Member of No XII in 2014 in recognition of the partnership between No XII and Inverclyde Council. Sir Ludovic Shaw Stewart Bart. will also attend the Dinner.

In being re-elected to this Office, Bro MacFeate follows in a long line of distinguished citizens who have also held this Office and he is looking very much forward to building on the successes of his first term. During his first year, Bro MacFeate continued the growth of the Lodge, further enhanced its involvement in the community, continued its significant charitable work and supported Sister Lodges in Scotland and beyond.

He and his Office Bearers will be installed by Bros Iain White, Hector Macphail and Kenneth C. MacDougall, all Past Masters of No.XII. Bro. White was Bro MacFeate's Proposer in 1987.

Captain MacFeate, a retired Master Mariner, has lived most of his life in Inverclyde and was educated at Gourock and Greenock High Schools. His nautical career commenced with his pre-sea Cadet Officer training at the James Watt Memorial College, William Street, Greenock, where he later studied for his 2nd Mates and 1st Mates Certificates. He then attended College in Glasgow for his Masters Certificate. His earlier years were spent on cargo passenger liners as a Cadet Officer rising to the rank of Chief Officer trading to and from the UK and Europe to the Far East. He then transferred to the Offshore Industry, spending sixteen years on the Scott-Lithgow built Drill Ship Ben Ocean Lancer, where he was promoted to Master.

He has a keen interest in local sports and is a member of Greenock Wanderers Rugby Club, Greenock Cricket Club and Gourock Golf Club. Bro MacFeate is also a member of The Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) and a social member of the Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club. Most of all, he especially enjoys being a Granddad.



Our Previous Meeting – Tuesday 20th October 2015

Passing Conferred by Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626

We had a huge attendance at the meeting on Tuesday 3rd November. A big home support was swelled by the travelling brethren from within and out with the province. Our Principal guests, Lodge Firth of Clyde, brought a Deputation of over two dozen brethren, led by Bro Nicky Stetz RWM. I was personally delighted to see this support for Bro Nicky, and No XII, as I was able to identify members of the deputation who had been weel kent figures in the Province when I joined the Craft in 1974 – like Past Masters Murdo Munro, Rudy Stetz and Raymond Bruce – my contemporaries like Past Masters Bro Robert Wilson and Jim Livingstone (who was actually sitting at the organ in his role as an affiliate member of No XII) – our Honorary Member Bro Kenny McCrae PM and, of course, all the current, up-and-coming- office bearers and brethren whom we know so well from their visits to No XII and No XII brethren going to John Street.

As we rightly expected the degree had the hallmark of excellence written all over it and our candidate, Bro Alex Gray, was privileged to receive such a fine Passing. This was Bro Nicky's first degree conferred 'on the road'. He did a magnificent job himself and he was justifiably proud of his team.

On the evening we had other RWMs with us. Bro Clive Taulbut of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 was too shy to join in the photo but below we can see (from the left) RWMs Bro Willie Lawson (Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68), RWM Bro Capt. Allan I MacFeate (No XII), RWM Bro Nicky Stetz (626) and Bro Gary Muircroft Lodge Robert King Stewart No 919 from New Stevenston by Motherwell



Alan D Beck IPM takes the Chair at Lodge The Prince's No 607

Monday 2nd December 2015 was a historic night for No XII when IPM Bro Alan D Beck was installed into the Chair of Lodge The Prince's, at their meeting place in the Masonic Temple in Mafeking Street in the shadow of Ibrox Stadium. As far as I am aware from my meanderings through the history of No XII, it is the first time that a Past Master who has No XII as his Mother Lodge has taken the Chair elsewhere, aside, of course, from those who have been Provincial Grand Masters in Renfrewshire West – Bros James Hendry and David M Leith.

Lodge The Prince's is, itself, a Lodge of great distinction. Founded in 1877, its first initiate was Sir William Pearce Bart., the Govan shipbuilder. He came Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow in 1880 and a further SIX members of Lodge The Prince's have occupied that office. As far as we are aware, four members of No XII have affiliated to Lodge The Prince's viz. Bro Beck, Bro Iain White PM and Bro Tony Stewart (HM) in the last few years and one of No XII's most celebrated members Bro Robert Lyons Scott PM who affiliated in the early 1900s.

Bro Alan was supported on the evening by a great number of brethren from No XII, other lodges in the Province and members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. Bro Bob Crossan WJW did a great job as transport coordinator getting everyone there and home again in one piece. When I had a wee look at the Sederunt Book, I counted 23 members of No XII in attendance. There may have been more! Bro Alan was installed into the Chair by me (Bro Iain White), assisted by Bro Bobby Shaw who was vacating the Chair at Lodge The Prince's. Bobby has twice been Master of his Mother Lodge, The Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle Lodge No 275. On the evening of installation, our own RWPGM, Bro James P Livingstone, delivered the Toast to the Lodge and PPGM and past Substitute Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Bro Alexander Galbraith, was at the Top Table. Bros. Jim and Alex are, of course, affiliate members of No XII. Our RWM Bro Capt. Allan I MacFeate led the deputation of the visiting brethren and replied to the Toast to the Visiting Brethren. Bro Alan was further honoured by the attendance, in person, of Bro James Peddie RWPGM of Glasgow and a number of his Office Bearers.

After the ceremony, the dinner was of the usual Prince's high standard and the entertainment from Past Masters Ian A Macpherson MBE of Lodge the Prince's, Jim Gray of Lodge Pollok and David Vennard of The Glasgow Kilwinning Lodge No 4 was par excellence.



**Lodge The Prince's
Installation
Distinguished
Brethren in
Attendance
2nd December 2015**



RWM Bro Alan D Beck with Installing Masters Bros Iain White (left) and Bobby Shaw (right)



The bells are ringing for me and my gal
Bros Ian Macpherson and Jim Gray



The Music Man
Bro David Vennard

The Charity Drive

£150 presented to Local Athlete Jonny Glen



The photo (above) and this piece appeared in the Greenock Telegraph of Thursday 12th November 2015.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII aims to support a wide range of worthy causes in our community in its charitable work. This was reflected in the individuals and groups nominated by RWM Bro Capt. Alan I MacFeate for assistance this year. Jonny Glen of Inverclyde Athletic Club is one of Scotland's most successful athletes. He is ranked number 1 in Scotland for 10,000m, 5,000m and 3,000m, being Scottish champion at these distances. Jonny is also the Scottish, UK International and UK Cross Country Challenge champion. A regular in Scottish international teams, Jonny has represented Team GB at the Edinburgh International, the European Cross Country Championships in Bulgaria and the World Cross Country Championships in China.

Jonny is shown in the photo (centre) receiving a sponsorship cheque for £150 from RWM Bro Allan I MacFeate (left). They are accompanied by Jonny's coach and mentor, Mark Pollard (right), who is also Scottish Athletics Development Coach of the year.

In its support for local sports, No XII also sponsors Greenock Wanderers RFC.

Bro Alex More Our Senior Past Master

It was with a great deal of expectation that a small, but nonetheless extremely distinguished, delegation of No XII Past Masters – Bros Kenny Morrison, Alistair Glenly and me (Iain White) - travelled from South to North on Monday 9th November. The destination was Luncarty in deepest Perthshire. The journey of exploration was to visit No XII's Senior Past Master Bro Alex More at his home in Luncarty.

Bro More was in the Chair of No XII when I joined in 1974. I can recall few things about my Entering but I so remember Bro Alex's imposing figure in the East, his voice still characterized by his Caithness upbringing and him saying at the end that he was sure that No XII's new Entered Apprentice would be pleased that 'His Father is now his Brother.' You see my Dad, Bro Harry White of Lodge Greenock St John's No 175, was there on the evening and he and Alex knew one another very well as teachers of Technical Education. My Dad finished his career as Assistant Rector of Castlehead High School in Paisley and Alex as a lecturer at Strathclyde University in the Faculty of Education.



From left Bros KK Morrison PM Alex More PM Iain White PM and then Alistair Glenny PM

We were indebted to Bro Alistair whose consummate motoring and navigational skills got us to the previously unknown streets of Luncarty and, after a wee bit of footering, to big Alex's monobloc drive. We were strangers in town. I had flashbacks to the Clint Eastwood films of my favourite genre – the spaghetti Western – as we approached Alex's door with neighbours' curtains twitching and the hombre next door giving us a quizzical look. However, all was well as the door opened and we were met by big Alex, just as we remembered him and giving us the warmest of welcomes.

It was 4 hours that flew by as we ranged through a discussion that took us back to No XII and Greenock in the 1960s and 70s, Alex's many interests beyond freemasonry and the sad period of ill health and recent passing of his wife Mary. We helped Alex get up to date with local 'worthies' of our mutual acquaintance and heard many amusing tales of Alex's escapades as a part-time house builder of some distinction and expertise. In amongst all of this he cooked us a delicious 3 course lunch which we all enjoyed.

Alex is a fit and active 89 year old (90 in three months) who would put shame to many who are twenty or thirty years his junior. We left him around 5pm sharing the hope that he will be able to visit us in the Saloon at a Lodge meeting sometime soon.

Test and Capitation Fees

Test Fees are now due and £40 should be paid either by standing order or direct to Bro David Stevenson, Treasurer. Capitation Fees are £30 for Life Members (at their discretion) and again these may be paid by standing order or direct. For details either see the recent email from Bro Stevenson or speak to him directly.

Remembrance Sunday



No XII was represented by the RWM and brethren at the Remembrance Service at Greenock Cenotaph in the Wellpark on Sunday 8th November. RWM Bro Allan laid a wreath on our behalf and joined RWM Bro Eddie Ross of Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on a very miserable day.

Charity Burns Supper – Speakers Confirmed!

The 2016 Charity Burns Supper will be in the Town Hall on Saturday 27th February. Bro Alasdair Hendry of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 will propose the Immortal Memory. The Toast to the Lassies will be from Bro Duncan McFadyen PM of Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning No 4.

The 2015 event was a huge success and over £6,000 was raised on the evening for local charities. We are grateful to all of our supporters and look forward to seeing you again next year.

Details of tickets will be announced soon and they will be available from Bros Alan Beck IPM and Iain White PM.



**The Top Table
No XII Burns Supper 2015**

Reports on Visits

- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 23rd October 2015 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Allan MacFeate, WJW Bro Bob Crossan, IPM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Alistair Glenn PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Kenneth McCrae HM, Bro James Miller HM and Bro James Strachan HM
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 25th October 2015 (Annual Divine Service) – attended by RWM Bro Allan MacFeate, IPM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Alistair Glenn PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro James Livingstone, Bro James Miller HM and Bro Kenneth McCrae HM
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 26th October 2015 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro Allan MacFeate, WJW Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Paul Stevenson, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Kenneth McCrae HM and Bro James Strachan HM
- Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 27th October 2015 (Consecration of new temple) – attended by RWM Bro Allan MacFeate, WJW Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Alistair Glenn PM, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Fraser Cameron, Bro Paul Stevenson, Bro James Livingstone, Bro James Strachan HM, Bro Kenneth McCrae HM, Bro James Miller HM and Bro James Lever HM
- The Prince's Lodge No 607 on 2nd November 2015 (Annual Installation – IPM Bro Alan Beck installed as RWM of his affiliated Lodge) – attended by RWM Bro Allan MacFeate, WSW Bro Allan Glen, WJW Bro Bob Crossan, IPM Bro Alan Beck, SM Bro Alexander Galbraith, SD Bro Tony Buckley, JD Bro Paul Galbraith, IG Bro Alistair Glenn PM, Chaplain Bro Bob Bain PM, Almoner Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, DoC Bro Iain White PM (Principal Installing Master), SB Bro James McGregor Jnr, Architect Bro Brian McFadyen, Secretary Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Treasurer Bro David Stevenson, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Fraser Cameron, Bro Campbell Snoddy, Bro Paul Stevenson, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Tony Stewart HM, Bro James Strachan HM and Bro Donald Finlayson HM
- PGL Renfrewshire West on 31st October 2015 at Lodge Sir Michael No 989 (New Members Seminar) – attended by IPM Bro Alan Beck, WSW Bro Allan Glen, WJW Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Paul Stevenson, Bro Campbell Snoddy, Bro Gordon Nelson, Bro Norrie Frizzell and Bro Tony Stewart HM

From the old No XII Minute Books

Here is an interesting snippet where 4 brothers were initiated at the same time. This would have to be pretty unique. Also interesting is that they all have same occupation. They were all shipyard workers and as platers probably worked locally. They may even have worked for yards owned by No XII members Scott and Caird? Who knows? The shipyard connection may extend to their places of birth in that the 3 older siblings were born in Govan, an independent burgh at the time and a shipbuilding hub. The youngest brother was born in Greenock, also an independent burgh and another shipbuilding hub. Did the family move because the father too was a shipyard worker and came to work on the lower reaches of the Clyde? Who knows but interesting hypotheses here???

Thursday 26th September 1912

Bro John J Park, RW Master, in the Chair

Initiated Andrew McGregor Peter McGregor Gordon McGregor Norman McGregor

Andrew McGregor Plater Aged 30
Born in Govan

Peter McGregor Plater Aged 28
Born in Govan

Gordon McGregor Plater Aged 27
Born in Govan

Norman McGregor Plater Aged 22
Born in Greenock

The foregoing brothers were proposed and seconded by Bros. Jas. M Reid and Alex. E Casson. After preparation in the adjacent they were admitted to the Lodge and initiated into the mysteries of the EA Degree.

Lapel Badges

For many years, Bro Henry S Tibbles PM sold anniversary lapel badges in aid of the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund through the West Column, the monthly newsletter of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. Recently, he passed the mantle on to our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson. Bro David asked me to start to publicise the badge availability through *XII Talk*. This will now be a regular feature.

Lapel Badges for 25, 40, and 50 years service are available at a cost of £5.50 each. A special “gem” set badge for 60 years is also available at £10. **All prices are excluding postage.** For every badge sold, £2 will be donated to the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund. All cheques should be made out to *David Stevenson*



Badges, may be purchased individually by qualified Brethren, or in bulk by Lodges who may wish to make presentations to deserving Brethren, for meritorious service. All enquiries and orders to treasurerno12@aol.com. Please make cheques payable to *David Stevenson*.



Grumpy Past Masters badges are also now available from David at a cost of £5.50 each, excluding postage.

Iain White PM
14.11.15

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.