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## Meetings 2016-17

- \* 17.01.17  
Visitation by The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 and Lecture by Bro Iain McPhee PM
  
- \* 07.02.17  
Entering
  
- \* 21.02.17  
Raising
  
- \* 07.03.17  
Passing and Provincial Visitation
  
- \* 21.03.17  
Raising
  
- \* 04.04.16  
Passing
  
- \*18.04.17  
Mark
  
- \*Thursday 01.06.17  
Summer Meeting  
Entering by Past Masters



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

RWM Bro Allan T. Glen 41 Morris Crescent Blantyre Glasgow G72 0DA (07736060280)  
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay (07810270787)  
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

### **Bro Wilson James McCulloch PM Past Provincial Grand Chaplain**

**1934 – 2017**

On the day of our last meeting we heard that Past Master Bro Wilson McCulloch had passed to his rest and reward at the age of 82 years. Bro Wilson had not been at the Lodge for some time and although his health had failed somewhat he was comfortable in Alt-na-Craig and was sharp and alert, taking part in trips and activities and enjoying visits from family and friends. We were all saddened to hear of his passing and the Lodge was very well represented at the service at Greenock Crematorium on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Rev Sorenson, Wilson's Minister at the Wellpark Mid Kirk, spoke of Wilson in very fond terms and described him as a 'refiner' because, as well as working in the sugar industry, Rev Sorenson pointed out how in so many aspects of his life he refined the people who were around him – in Sunday School, in Church and in the Masonic order.

Bro Wilson was a pattern maker to trade, serving his apprenticeship in

Scotts' Foundry. He served in the Royal Artillery between 1953 and 1955 when he did his National Service. He was always proud to wear the regimental tie with its distinctive maroon zigzag stripe motif on navy blue. The majority of his working life was spent in the sugar industry, firstly in Walkers and then in the Westburn Refinery where he was buyer. In his youth he trained in elocution and won many prizes and awards and in later years put this training to good use in various aspects of his life. A committed Christian, Wilson was Sunday School Superintendent and then Session Clerk in the Mid Kirk and qualified as a Church of Scotland lay reader. He was a popular preacher in local churches. Of course, we knew him best in the Lodge and he was immensely proud to be a member of No XII. RWM in 1977-79, he presided at the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations when we had the rededication ceremony in the Town Hall Saloon and then adjourned to the Tontine for Dinner. His talents in speech and communication made him the consummate floor worker and we benefitted from his expertise and coaching, in rehearsals in the big front room at 22 Bank Street. Wilson served with distinction as Lodge Chaplain and Provincial Grand Chaplain. Many of us have Wilson to thank for being the Masons that we are today and the Grand Lodge Above benefits from his presence

Iain White PM



**Bro Wilson James McCulloch  
RWM at his Installation in  
November 1977**



**With his Installing  
Masters, No XII  
stalwarts all. From  
the left: Bro Roy J  
Drainer PM, Bro  
Wilson J McCulloch  
RWM, Bro Archie  
Miller PM, Bro Alex  
More PM.**

**Of the 4, Bro Alex More  
survives and lives in  
Luncarty, Perthshire. He  
celebrated his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday  
on 4<sup>th</sup> March**



**Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rededication  
November 1978  
Office Bearers and Guests**

**RWM Bro Wilson J McCulloch is centre front flanked on his right by Bro. Capt. Robert Wolridge Gordon of Hallhead and Esslemont, Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, and on his left by Bro. David M Leith, Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West**

**A Tribute from Bro Hector Macphail PM**

One of my everlasting memories, was Wilson performing “The Touch of the Master’s Hand”, at a 175 Harmony. It was at a time when the Harmonies there could be a bit wild and raucous (4am finish EVERY! Friday night). I remember, among the cacophony and melee, Wilson slowly, deliberately, mounting the Stage to perform this. I felt embarrassed for him in advance, as given the environment, the noise and the rowdy songs that were in full flow, I was sure he would not get the “hearing” he deserved.

How wrong I was. With his distinctive voice, delivery and “presence”. Wilson delivered his poem in the soft, expressive and dramatic way that only Wilson could. You could have heard a pin drop!! The conversations stopped, the glasses were lowered onto the tables, all heads turned towards the Stage and even the wildest of the “young bucks”, sat mesmerised as Wilson drew them into his drama.

*(Myra Welch, the poem’s author, would say that she heard a speaker address a group of students on the power of God to bring out the best in people. She said she herself became filled with light and that “Touch of the Master’s Hand” was written in 30 minutes! The finished poem was sent anonymously to the editor of her local church news bulletin. She felt it was a gift from God and didn’t need her name on it).*

'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer  
Thought it scarcely worth his while  
To waste much time on the old violin,  
But held it up with a smile.  
"What am I bidden, good folks," he cried,  
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"  
"A dollar, a dollar. Then two! Only two?  
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?"

"Three dollars, once; three dollars, twice;  
Going for three..." But no,  
From the room, far back, a grey-haired man  
Came forward and picked up the bow;  
Then wiping the dust from the old violin,  
And tightening the loosened strings,  
He played a melody pure and sweet,  
As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,  
With a voice that was quiet and low,  
Said: "What am I bid for the old violin?"  
And he held it up with the bow.  
"A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?  
Two thousand! And who'll make it three?  
Three thousand, once; three thousand, twice,  
And going and gone," said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,  
"We do not quite understand.  
What changed its worth?" Swift came the reply:  
"The touch of the Master's hand."  
And many a man with life out of tune,  
And battered and scarred with sin,  
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd  
Much like the old violin.

A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine,  
A game — and he travels on.  
He is "going" once, and "going" twice,  
He's "going" and almost "gone."  
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd  
Never can quite understand  
The worth of a soul and the change that is wrought  
By the touch of the Master's hand.

Wilson had the unique ability to stand on a Stage and quieten an entire room with a glance and a smile! Perhaps this poem is a fitting Epitaph to a truly great gentleman, a great friend and a great Brother.

**Hector Macphail PM**

## **Our Previous Meeting Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February - Raising**

There was a good turnout of No XII members and 10 visitors were welcomed into the Lodge.  
RWM Bro Allan Glen welcomed Bro Alexander Wilson, RWM of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 and Bro Malcolm Sinclair, RWM of Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No 1121, to the East.  
The degree team was as follows and Bro Barry Rodger was Raised to the Third Degree: **Prayer and Bible Reading** Bro Alistair Glenny PM **Obligation** RWM Bro Allan T Glen **Retrospect** Bro Brian McFadyen WJW **Raising** Bro Alan D Beck **Secrets** Bro Iain White PM **Apron** Bro J Robert Crossan WSW **Working Tools** Bro Allan I MacFeate IPM **Traditional History** Bro Robert J Bain PM **Charge** Bro Kenneth C MacDougall PM. In the absence of the deacons, Bros KK Morrison PM and Alex Johnstone substituted.

## **Our Next Meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Passing**

The next meeting is also the Annual Visitation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West and so the Lodge will open at 7.15pm. The Degree Team for the Passing is **Prayer** Bro Robert J Bain PM Chaplain **Obligation** RWM Bro Allan T Glen **Secrets** Bro Alan D Beck PM **Apron** Bro J Robert Crossan WSW **Working Tools** Bro David Stevenson Treas **Tracing Board** Bro Iain White **Charge** Bro Robert J Bain PM Chaplain.

## **Forthcoming Visit to Lodge Shalom No 1600 Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 Conferring The Raising**

No XII has been invited to take a deputation to the Neptune Masonic Centre, 101 Clifford St, Glasgow G51 1QP on Thursday coming to confer the Raising at Lodge Shalom. The Centre is just behind the Swallow Hotel in Ibrox. RWM Bro Allan T Glen would like as many brethren as possible to accompany him and renew old acquaintances

## **Celebrating Bro Robert Burns**

The No XII Burns Supper on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February was again a great success. Our speakers Bro Ian A Macpherson PM MBE and Ian M Ross PM (No XII) did a fantastic job and the evening raised nearly £5,000 for the Charity Drive. This year's charitable beneficiaries will be The Not Forgotten Association for Veterans, Sense Scotland, Children in Poverty Inverclyde, Ardgowan Hospice (*Nominated by Provost Robert Moran*), Greenock Wanderers RFC and Greenock Cricket Club

A more detailed report will follow.

## **Monthly Draw**

The 2017 Monthly Draw has started and payment is now being accepted. Treasurer Bro David Stevenson is keen that we support this handy fund raiser that is a great help with the day-to-day running costs of the Lodge

Number(s) are available at £1 per number per month and there is no limit to the number and each entrant can have as many as they like! Payment can be made (1) by cash to Bro David (2) by cheque made payable to Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII - Social Fund (3) by internet banking to Bank RBS Sort Code 83-22-20 Account Number 10000509 as a one off payment in multiples of £12 with the entrants name shown in the payment reference box or (4) by standing order to same bank details as above for your chosen monthly amount.

Where possible Bro David will use the same numbers as in previous years unless asked otherwise.

January 2017 was won by Bro Iain White and the February draw will be done on Tuesday.

## Test and Capitation Fees

Test Fees are now due and £40 should be paid either by any of the means above. Capitation Fees are £30 for Life Members (at their discretion). These may be paid by any of the means stated above for the Monthly Draw. Please note that the payment is to a different account if you are doing it online – 10000495. All other bank details are the same.

## From the old Minute Books of No XII

*This edition's Minute Book extract takes us back to 1904-05 and relates to the connection of the Lodge with the Scott family, their shipyard and HMS Argyll, the Cruiser built there for the Royal Navy..*

### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1904

Bro John Barbour RWM, in the Chair

Tickets for Launch of HMS Argyll

The RWM intimated that Bro Chas C Scott had kindly presented the Lodge with 100 tickets to enable the Brethren to witness the launch of the Cruiser 'Argyll' on 3<sup>rd</sup> March next. The RWM mentioned thanks on behalf of the Lodge and expressed the hope that the event would be a successful and memorable one in the annals of Messrs. Scott and Co to be followed, he hoped, by many more such orders to the same firm.

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 1905

Bro John Barbour RWM, in the Chair

Presentation of Charter Case

Bro Barbour handed to the RWM a Charter Case for the Charter of the Lodge presented by Bros Chas C Scott and RL Scott and made from a piece of the Casemate Armour of HMS Argyll. The cordial thanks of the Brethren were accorded to the Bros. Scott and Bro RL Scott suitably replied.

*Of course, this Charter Case is still used by the Lodge today in proud memory of the Scotts, their huge contribution to No XII and to the town of Greenock.*

## Reports on Visits

- Lodge Montgomery Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624 on 8th February 2017 (Passing) – attended by WSW Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick and Bro Tony Stewart HM
- Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 on 9th February 2017 (Passing Exemplification and AV by PGLRW) – attended by WSW Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Alistair Glennie PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM and Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 10th February 2017 (Raising) – attended by WJW Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 13th February 2017 (Passing) – attended by WSW Bro Bob Crossan, SD Bro Paul Stevenson, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro David Stevenson and Bro Iain White PM
- Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 14th February 2017 (Entering) – attended by WJW Bro Brian McFadyen

- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 16th February 2017 (Walk-Through Entered Apprentice Degree) – attended by RWM Bro Allan Glen, WJW Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Iain White PM and Bro James Livingstone.
- Lodge Inchinnan No 1405 on 17th February 2017 (Passing conferred by The Lodge of Erskine No 1566) – attended by RWM Bro Allan Glen and WJW Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 20th February 2017 (Passing Exemplification and AV by PGLRW) – attended by WSW Bro Bob Crossan, IPM Bro Allan MacFeate, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Allan Jess, Bro James Miller HM, Bro Kenneth McCrae HM and Bro Iain Macleod HM

On all occasions Fraternal Greetings were exchanged.

## 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 [treasurno12@aol.com](mailto:treasurno12@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**  
**05.03.17**

**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.**