

Twelve Talk

23.08.18

Issue 111

Meetings 2018-19

*04.09.18

Raising

* 18.09.18

Nomination and Election of Office
Bearers

Passing by Greenock High School
Former Pupils of No XII

* 02.10.18

Entering

* 16.10.18

Entering

* 06.11.18

Annual Meeting and Great War
Commemoration

** 20.11.18

Annual Installation at 615

*04.12.18

Divine Service

* Saturday 23 .02.19

Annual Burns Supper at 630 for
7pm

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

Reflections on Antiquity

It seems no time since the Summer Meeting at the beginning of June yet, here we are, on the brink of another session for No XII. I open Twelve Talk this time with a very personal analysis of where we stand. It is humbling to think that on 27th December, No XII will be 290 years old. We are the custodians of a tremendous history and of traditions stretching back across all these years. It is worthwhile reminding ourselves that we, the members today, are just that; custodians who, in the fulness of time will pass to greater service in the Grand Lodge Above, leaving the Lodge to continue. In relative terms, the individuals are unimportant for they are transitory; the Lodge is the enduring feature and is the constant. As Alfred, Lord Tennyson put it in his poem *The Brook*, written about the stream running from the hills to the sea “*For men may come and men may go but I go on forever.*” Thus, it should be with No XII.

For me, the important thing is to realise that we live in times where the rate of change is rapidly accelerating and is almost exponential. A quick reflection over changes in our own lifetimes vividly illustrates that. The march of technology is relentless. All of this being true, it necessarily follows that No XII must change. It must change to remain relevant and keep its place of significance in our local community and in the world of Freemasonry. However, we must at the same time be careful that as we change we do not lose sight of the genuine traditions of the Lodge, the things, sometimes quirky and eccentric, that mark our antiquity and make us unique. Changes that are made should be by ourselves and in the interests of the Lodge. We must guard against the forces of uniformity and conformity because inevitably their combined effect is to usher in sterility and boredom.

There’s an old adage about getting too much of a good thing. As we grapple in the Craft with the issue of retaining members perhaps we need to acknowledge that the endless hurdy gurdy of working degrees meeting after meeting in the same way – no matter how well done – can become sterile and may I be brave enough to say boring? Same old, same old – or too much of a good thing!

We have had a great deal of success in No XII of late and that has been marked by the Lodge evolving. The Lodge has changed over the last 9 years. Sometimes the changes have actually been backward looking into our history and traditions. Our *Back to the Future* initiative where the Lodge has re-introduced some of our customs and practices that had been forgotten and almost lost is an example. Brethren have warmed to this.

In the new session we shall get into new territory in the first few meetings. In September a Passing, worked by No XII members who are Greenock High School Former Pupils – the High School Degree we are calling it – will take place. In November we shall have an evening of history, music and poetry when we have the Great War Commemoration which will, in particular, trace the contribution of this Lodge to the First World War effort. We hope that these evenings will, in addition to their own purpose, stimulate interest, bring brethren along and contribute to the growth of the Lodge and, indeed, Freemasonry

Most importantly, over my 44 years of membership and attendance at our meetings in the atmospheric Lodge Room created for us by our partners in Greenock Corporation, and opened in 1878, I have been constantly struck by the quality, dignity and decorum that surrounds the principles and practices that characterise No XII. Let us evolve and develop as we carry these on towards the 290th anniversary this December and the tercentenary in 2028.

Iain White PM



Summer Meeting Tuesday 7th June 2018

This year, the Past Masters' team for the Entering at the Summer Meeting was led by Bro Hector Macphail PM and it was **WSW** Bro KK Morrison **WJW** Bro Alistair Glenly **SD** Bro Iain White **JD** Bro Kenneth C MacDougall **IG** Bro Robert J Bain. The floor workers were **Obligation** Bro Hector Macphail PM **Secrets** Bro Alan D Beck PM **Apron** Bro KK Morrison PM **NEC** Bro Bob Bain PM Working **Tools** Bro Allan I. MacFeate IPM **Charge** Bro Kenneth C MacDougall PM.

The evening went off well even if the attendance was a little lower than we've come to expect at this meeting. Maybe the heat wave we were having (Do you remember that) at the time had an impact?

We were very sorry that our Right Worshipful Master Bro Allan T Glen was not able to be with us because of injuries sustained in a road traffic accident. Fortunately, Allan made a good recovery, but we all missed him on the evening.

We usually take a collection for the Charity Drive at this meeting and this year, £149 was raised.



The Past Masters at the Summer Meeting

From Left: Bros. Allan D Beck (2012 – 14) Kenneth C MacDougall (2007 – 09) KK Morrison (1979 – 81 and 2002 – 03) Allan I MacFeate (2014 – 16) Hector Macphail (1991 – 93) Alistair Glenly (1983 – 85) Iain White (1989 -91) Robert J Bain (2003 – 05 and 2011 – 12) John C Glenly (1981 – 83)

No XII's 1918 Poppy Pledge

At the Summer Meeting, in the previously mentioned unfortunate and unavoidable absence of our Right Worshipful Master, Immediate Past Master Bro Capt. Allan I. MacFeate presented a cheque for £1918 to Gordon Michie of PoppyScotland. RWM Bro MacFeate said, "The forces' charities

are very close to the hearts of all freemasons because of the great respect that we have for the service and sacrifices of British servicemen and women on behalf of us all. Each year, No XII includes a services' charity amongst the beneficiaries from the Charity Drive. This year, we are proud to support the 1918 Poppy Pledge in memory of the 10 members of No XII who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War and to make the donation also in the names of the Earl and Countess of Dumbarton who asked that people make charitable donations rather than give presents on the occasion of their recent wedding. Given Prince Harry's distinguished and active service with the Blues and Royals and the Army Air Corps we feel that this is peculiarly appropriate." Of course, Allan himself served in the Merchant Navy for many years.

No XII's Great War fallen - Bros Archibald L Barr, George W Campbell, James Hannah, Henry Hay, Arthur Johnston, Duncan Macfarlane, David RF Mackail, Alexander N Russell, Joseph H Sanders and James R Smith - are commemorated on the Lodge Memorial Altar which was paid

for by subscription from the members and dedicated on 31st March 1922.



In receiving the cheque, Gordon Michie of PoppyScotland spoke of the wonderful support coming from across the country and that, already, over 50% of the target sum had been realised. He gave examples of how the funds are, and will be, put to good use in supporting ex-service personnel.

**Bro Gordon Michie
of PoppyScotland receives the
cheque from Bro Allan I MacFeate
IPM**

Dedication of the new Lodge Hymn Books to the Memory of Bro Wilson James McCulloch

Thursday 7th June 2018

Bro John C Glenly PM

Also, at the Summer Meeting, the new Lodge Hymn Books were dedicated by Bro Jack Glenly PM. Jack is, of course, a Church of Scotland Reader as was Wilson in years gone by. Jack kindly agreed that I could reproduce the words and prayer that he used, and these are below.

When Bro Wilson was Right Worshipful Master in 1977-79, Bro Jack served as his Worshipful Junior Warden. They are shown in the photo below, taken at Wilson's installation.

In recognition of Bro Wilson's distinguished service as Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro Robin McIntyre headed a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West to mark the occasion.

Words of Dedication

As a young man growing up in Greenock, I began to frequent the various cafes in my locality. During this time, I met many new friends. I learned from each one of them. Some made a bigger impact on me than others, but all had something new to offer.

Among the cafes, two stood out – the Orangefield at the end of Holmscroft Street and Joe's on Nelson Street. In these cafes I met some folk who, even to this day, are considered friends. I will speak specifically tonight on one particular man that I met with his and my friends in both of these places.

This fellow was a very immaculate dresser, knife edge crease on his trousers. He was a very distinctive speaker and someone whom I was to hear a lot more about, and see a great deal of, over the ensuing years. I think you will know him too or, at the very least, know of him. His name was Wilson James McCulloch.

Some years on I wanted to become a mason and made the necessary enquiries of someone whom I knew was himself a mason – my father-in-law Bro Andrew Oliver. In the fulness of time, and after the usual tests, I was called to appear at a lodge meeting for my Initiation and when I looked at the assembled brethren, who did I see smiling and nodding but Wilson James McCulloch. There then began a different friendship as brother masons.

Over the years, I watched Wilson as he progressed in rank in the lodge. Soon I was to follow him but, like so many others, I was to learn from him too.

In 1977, Wilson was Installed as Right Worshipful Master of No XII by three well known Masters – Bros Roy Drainer, Archie Miller and Alex More.

Wilson was to make a significant impression on No XII and his precise, and yet spirited delivery, both on the floor and in the chair, is remembered by a great number of masons, not only of No XII but of many lodges throughout Freemasonry.

Wilson's religious faith and his association with the practice of religious worship was clearly demonstrated to all who knew him. Who can forget his rendering of the verses of *The Touch of the Master's Hand*? His voice was to be the most audible when the lodge sang hymns and it is so fitting that No XII, when it acquired new Hymn Books, should wish to dedicate them in his name.

Prayer

Almighty Father and Great Architect of the Universe, as we gather here in Masonic worship, we bring before you now these Hymn Books which will be used to sing Your praises and to enhance the beauty of worship in our Lodge.

We dedicate these hymn books to Your service and seek Your blessing on their use.



Installation 1977
From Left: Bros. KK Morrison WSW,
Wilson J McCulloch RWM and John C
Glenny WJW

Dedication of New Hymn
Books
7th June 2018

Bros. John C Glenny PM
Allan I MacFeate IPM
(holding one of the Hymn
Books) Robin McIntyre
RWPGM



Our Next Meeting Tuesday 4th September 2018 Raising

There will be one candidate for the Raising on Tuesday and that is Bro Jamie S McEwan. The Degree will be conferred by the brethren of No XII and the team is: **Prayer** Bro Alex Johnson BB **Obligation** Bro Allan T Glen RWM **Retrospect** Bro Brian McFadyen WJW **Raising** Bro Alan D Beck PM **Reading** Bro Alex Johnson BB **Secrets** Bro KK Morrison PM **Apron** Bro Bob Crossan WSW **Working Tools** Bro Allan I MacFeate IPM **Traditional History** Bro Robert J Bain PM **Charge** Bro David Stevenson Treas.

No XII and Greenock Cricket Club



Our work in support of the community continues in many ways. For the past few years, this has led No XII to be a match sponsor for Greenock Cricket Club. Our involvement is recognised on the Match Day in the clubhouse screen and the match programme as the images show. Thanks to Bro Allan I MacFeate IPM (a regular at the Cricket Club) for this information.



No XII and Greenock Wanderers RFC



The Lodge has had links with Greenock Wanderers over the years, with coaches, players and former players often being members of No XII. Bro John Adamson, who joined No XII in 1951 aged 34 and a Detective Constable, and was Right Worshipful Master in 1966 – 68, was an enthusiastic Wanderer. He passed to the Grand Lodge Above in April 2004 and No XII donated a Trophy to Greenock Wanderers in John's memory to be competed for on an annual basis. The photo below shows the presentation with the RWM at the time, Bro Robert J Bain and John's great friend Bro Henry S Tibbles PM, presenting the Quaich to the Wanderers' President, Willie Gardiner.

(Left) Bro John Adamson PM as Installing Master for Bro Ian M Ross in 1994



Back Row (from left): Bros Ivan Scott Kenny MacLeod Arthur Young Eddie McGill Crawford Kirkpatrick (all No XII)

Front Row: Bros KK Morrison PM Henry S Tibbles RWM Bob Bain (all No XII) President Willie Gardiner John Dyer Jim Adamson Trevor Pack (all Greenock Wanderers)

Bro Donnie Cunningham, our friend, and regular attender, from Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 provided me with some names and information about the Wanderers folk in the photo. Jim Adamson is, of course John's son and a member himself of No XII having been initiated on 6th December 1966 when his Dad was in the Chair. John Dyer is a Wanderers' Past President and well-known local sportsman. I had the honour of speaking at the Wanderers' Annual Dinner for John when he was President. In the best traditions of Rugby Club Dinners, it was a "lively and memorable" evening. John's Dad, John Cowley Dyer, a local Insurance Agent and celebrated fitba' referee, was a member of No XII, joining on 18th February 1958 at the age of 41.

Trevor Pack, the Wanderers' secretary at the time was a real character according to Bro Donnie and was in post when Donnie was Wanderers' president in 2006-08, Trevor was actually a freemason, but the tale of his freemasonry was a bit more exciting than would be the case with most of us. A lifelong Wanderer, Bro Pack was a tenacious first team scrum half during the

1960's but work commitments took him away from the area and he and wife Anne spent a large part of their married life in Kampala in Uganda where Trevor was a school teacher. His love of sport continued, and he became president of Kampala Rugby Club and also of the Ugandan Rugby Football Union and enjoyed patronage of many ex-pat clubs and communities including the Caledonian Society and the Rotary Club. On returning to his native land Mr Pack worked as Senior House Master at Keil School in Dumbarton from 1982. On retirement Trevor and his wife Anne returned to Greenock and Trevor renewed his involvement with the local rugby club and became a senior office bearer of Wanderers in 2002. Past President Bro Donnie Cunningham said in an obituary, "It was a privilege and pleasure to have known and worked with Trevor Pack. His appetite for work was insatiable. In particular, he was heavily involved in all the arrangements concerning the opening of the new clubhouse in 2008 by HRH The Princess Royal and, true to form, all the coordination and plans he put in place passed off smoothly and without a hitch."

So back to Trevor Pack the mason. He joined The Caledonian Lodge of Uganda No 1389 whilst domiciled there. The Lodge had been consecrated on 22nd June 1935 and continued till the early 1970s. However, with the emergence to power of Idi Amin in early 1971, meetings continued to be held but under increasingly difficult conditions. The final meeting in the Kampala Lodge rooms took place on 28th July 1972. The last meeting in Africa was held on 19th July 1973 in Nairobi, Kenya. Thereafter meetings were suspended. It was after the Lodge had re-emerged in Edinburgh on 25th November 1977 the Bro Trevor Pack reconnected upon his return to Scotland in 1981. He became Right Worshipful Master in 1990. I have the photograph of a napkin from the evening (below) courtesy of Bro Donnie Cunningham. It is quite a story, that Bro Trevor follows the Lodge to Scotland, gets involved again and takes the Chair! That's a bit of perseverance and commitment from all concerned.



Bro Donnie said, "Knowing Trevor that would have been one 'helluva' installation dinner !!!! ..."

Moving forward to the present day, the John Adamson Quaich for 2018 was presented, at Fort Matilda, to the Young Team of the Year at Greenock Wanderers Family Day on 27th May. Bro Allan I MacFeate IPM (Left of photo) was on hand. Can you see a pattern developing here?



Wanderers Family Day 2018

No XII is also a financial sponsor at the Wanderers. A few No XII Brethren attended Greenock Wanderers lunch and Second XV match at Bro Allan MacFeate's table (below - and the pattern continues) on Saturday 21st April. The No XII guys were accompanied by another couple of well-known Brethren on the day. Again, I am grateful to Bro Allan for the information.



From Left Front clockwise: Bros John Sneddon Eric Dickson (The 'Visitors') Fraser Cameron Robert Marshall Paul Stevenson Bob Crossan Allan MacFeate Derek MacFeate (No XII)

Monthly Draw 2018

You can still get into the 2018 Draw. Please remember the prize is now £25 each month. The numbers have come up to a healthier level now, so many thanks to all who have contributed. Also, please remember the surplus is going to our Tercentenary 'pot' so if you do not currently contribute please see our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson, who will get you sorted out with a number or two.

Also— you need to be in it to win it!

Bro Jack Goldie Ritchie 1941 - 2018

We were greatly saddened to hear that Bro Jack Goldie Ritchie had passed to the Grand Lodge Above at the end of July. Bro Jack was Initiated on 18th March 1975, Passed on 2nd September 1975 and Raised on 4th November 1975. Bro Jack and I had our Third Degree on the same evening. Bro Jack was born in Paisley and was 34 at the time of his Initiation. A Town Chamberlain by profession, he was resident in Gourock at the time and employed by the old Gourock Town Council. In years gone by when his health permitted, Jack was a keen member of No XII being an Office Bearer and serving as Lodge Treasurer in the mid-1980s after the indomitable and irascible Bro John C Stirrat. Both were extremely effective Treasurers, but the contrast between them was striking.

Bro Jack was a devoted family man, an enthusiastic golfer, an Albert Hotel 'Bothy Boy', a car nut and a keen fixer of things, apparently whether they were broken or not. His son Stewart gave a poignant and amusing appreciation of his Dad's life at the funeral service. Bro Jack must have been a man of great faith because he was a lifelong St Mirren fan!

At the Crematorium, No XII was represented by Bros KK Morrison PM, Jack Glenney PM, Alistair Glenney PM, Iain White PM, Alan Beck PM, Robert Paterick, David Tanner and James Burns.

General Data Protection Regulations

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) are upon us. These regulations have been a focus for me in my professional life and I thought it best to say a word about GDPR in the context of *Twelve Talk*. If you are reading this edition having received it by email from me, obviously it is because I have your email address. This is the only piece of data that I hold for you and, unless you are a member, it is not held by No XII because *Twelve Talk* is not formally an official communication from the Lodge. It more my own personal musings designed to keep members and friends up to date. As is always stated, the views expressed are not necessarily those of No XII. They belong solely to the author. That is mostly me, but I am assisted by others from time to time. The source of all material is always acknowledged.

Your email address is kept from other subscribers because I email all editions to myself and they get to you via the BCC function. I would not share your email address, if asked for it, without your permission.

I shall only keep your email address for as long as you wish to keep receiving *Twelve Talk*. Should you, now or at any future time, wish to cease being a subscriber, simply email me and I shall remove you from the list. I trust that this information is useful

Bro Ross Gourdie – `Coaching in California



Bro Ross Gourdie was an office Bearer in No XII, serving as President of Stewards in 2011 – 13. An engineer by profession, he also is a skilled football coach and worked with the youth players of Greenock Morton as Head of the Children's Academy. In July, he left his job at LoganAir and moved with his wife Pauline and son Rhys to California and he is now Under14/15s Head Coach at San Diego Surf Soccer. In a recent email message, he said to me, "Loving the Californian fitba lifestyle so far brother - a lot different to the cold wet evenings at the Battery Park! ☐ "

We wish Bro Ross and his family all the very best for success, happiness and enjoyment in the USA as he follows in the tradition of many No XII brethren in the past who went to make their mark in far flung parts of the world.

From the Old Minute Books

In a previous edition of Twelve Talk, it was reported that the Lodge Treasurer, Bro George Allan, had been called up to Military Service in September 1918. At that time the country was still embroiled in the Great War. The Minute extracts below show that there was a happy ending and Bro Allan was installed back into his office in January 1919, a civilian once more. He was one of the lucky ones who came home safely.

Tuesday 10th September 1918

Bro John D MacFarlane, RW Master, in the Chair

Bro George Allan Treasurer to join Army

As Bro George Allan, Treasurer, has been called up for Military Service, and may have joined up before the Lodge again meets, The RW Master took advantage of the occasion to wish him God Speed.

Monday 30th September 1918

Bro John D MacFarlane, RW Master, in the Chair

General Committee

It was reported that Bro George Allan, Treasurer, was now serving with the Army in the south of England, and it was agreed to recommend to the Lodge that he should be retained in the Office of Treasurer and that Bro Robt Smith, secy., should carry out the duties of Treasurer during the absence of Bro Allan.

Tuesday 8th October 1918

Bro John D MacFarlane, RW Master, in the Chair

Bro George Allan, Treasurer, in Military Service

The RW Master intimated that owing to the absence of Bro George Allan, Treasurer, on Military service in the south of England, the Committee recommend that he be retained in the Office of Treasurer and that during his absence the duties of Treasurer be carried out by the Secy.

On the motion of Bro J Grieve Graham IPM, seconded by Bro Robert Thexton SW it was agreed to adopt this course.

Tuesday 12th November 1918

Bro John D MacFarlane, RW Master, in the Chair

Fraternal Greetings from Bro Captain Percy Dale and Bro Geo Allan Treas

The RW Master gave expression to fraternal greetings from Bro Captain Percy Dale and Geo Allan Treas.

Along with Bro Dale's letter he very kindly enclosed a cheque for £1 which the RW Master handed over for the Benevolent Fund. It was sent to Bro MacFarlane as a donation to any fund he might choose.

Tuesday 7th January 1919

Bro Robt. Thexton RW Master, in the Chair

Bro Allan Treasurer installed in Office

Bro George Allan, who was re-elected Treasurer of the Lodge in November, but at that time absent on military service, took the obligation pertaining to the Office and received a hearty welcome on his return to civil life.

I wonder if Bro Captain Percy Dale was on military service too? His donation of £1 was generous – the modern-day value would be £46.30

Old Installation Programmes

To further build our archives, I am looking for Installation programmes from the following years: anything before, and including 1955, 1957, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1993, 2008 and 2010. So, brethren, look in the loft, that foostie old case or the cupboards and presses in the house and see what you are able to come up with.

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
01.09.18

Views expressed by individuals within Twelve 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.