

Twelve Talk

17.03.19

Issue 120

Meetings 2018-19

*15.01.19

Lecture: "The Mission of Freemasonry" by Bro John Miller IPPGM (Renfrewshire East)

* 05.02.19

Raising

* 19.02.19

Passing

Annual Visitation by PGLRW

Note: Lodge opens at 715pm

* 05.03.19

Passing

* 19.03.19

Raising

*Thursday 28.03.19

Deputation to Lodge The Gael No 609: talk by Bro Iain White PM
HM 609 "No XII and Lodge The Gael – 35 years of friendship"

*02.04.19

Raising

*19.04.19

Mark

* Tuesday 30.04.19

Deputation to Lodge Burns Dundonald No NNNN to confer NNNN

* Thursday 06.06.19

Summer Meeting: Entering by No XII PMs – Bro Kenneth C. MacDougall PM in the Chair

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
Burns Supper – Last Saturday in February

RWM Bro J Robert Crossan 22 Dungourney Drive Greenock PA16 7UW (07788923074)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay PA18 6DX (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

Our Previous Meeting Tuesday 5th March Passing

Again, there was a good attendance of brethren from No. XII and visitors, amongst whom were Bro James Hamilton, RWM of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68, and Bro Eric Sweeney, RWM of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217. They joined the RW Master in the East

This created a good atmosphere in the Lodge for the ceremonial. Candidate Bro. Scott Archie Branchfield was Passed to the Second Degree. The work was carried out by the brethren of No XII. The Degree Team was
Prayer: BB Bro Alex Gray;
Obligation: RWM Bro Robert Crossan; **Secrets:** Almoner Bro Alistair Glenney PM; **Apron:** WSW Bro Brian McFadyen
Working Tools: Treasurer Bro David Stevenson; **Tracing Board:** WJW Bro Bob Bain PM; **The Charge:** SM Bro Alan Beck PM

Our Next Meeting Tuesday 19th March Raising

We have a Raising on Tuesday and the Candidate is Bro Calum Robert Price. The Degree will be worked by the brethren of No XII.

The Summer Meeting Thursday 6th June Entering by the Past Masters

In recent times, the special Summer Meetings have been very popular and successful. The last few have involved the Past Masters of the Lodge conferring an Entering and thus it will be in 2019. RWM Bro Bob Crossan asked Bro Kenneth C. MacDougall PM, our Lodge Secretary, to take the Chair this year and put the team together. He was delighted to do this and is now involved in the preparatory work. Bro Ken has begun assembling his team, so Past Masters - beware if you see Ken's number coming up on your phone! Bro Ken was RW Master between 2007 and 2009.

Monthly Draw

I have this from our Treasurer, Bro. David Stevenson.

Already there are now 51 numbers taken up for the 2019 Draw. Bro David would be pleased to receive further enquiries about taking part. It all helps towards making the Lodge Tercentenary special in 2028. In particular, it would be great to see more of our newer members involved. You can set up a standing order and the £1 a month from your account wouldn't be noticed! Bro David will help with details.



Annual Charity Burns Supper Saturday 23rd February 2019

Over 120 guests were the Greenock Town Hall for the Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII Burns Supper recently. The evening was greatly enjoyed by those who attended and almost £3000 was raised for the 2019 charities, Royal Navy and Marines, The Samaritans and Ardgowan Hospice. RWM Bro J Robert Crossan nominated the first two charities, whilst the third was the choice of Provost Martin Brennan. Bro Cllr David Wilson, Deputy Provost of Inverclyde and Honorary Member of No XII, represented the Provost at the Burns Supper. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West, Bro Robin McIntyre, attended.



Back Row: Bros Sandy Reddy Alan D Beck PM David Docherty David Wilson Iain White PM
Front Row: Bros. Robin McIntyre RWPGM Angus Middleton PM Bob Crossan RWM Paul Docherty PM and Rev Owen Derrick

It was an evening filled with fun and laughter and there was a great community spirit in the magnificent old hall. After the haggis had been piped in by Bro Iain White PM, and addressed by Bro David Docherty, Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626, Rev Owen Derrick sought grace. The Chair for the evening, RWM Bro Bob Crossan proposed the Loyal Toast. Bro Angus Middleton PM of Lodge Royal Arch No 314 (West Kilbride) delivered an amusing and thought-provoking Immortal Memory and Bro Paul Docherty, PM of Lodge Sir Michael No 989, proposed the Toast to the Lasses. There was an energetic recitation of *Tam o' Shanter* by Bro David Docherty. Bro Sandy Reddy (HM No XII) recited *Kilcreggan* by the late Davie Bowie. The accompanist for the evening was Craig Dunsmore. He was joined on trumpet by Jamie Stables and Bro Alan Beck PM sang.

The success of the fund-raising was undoubtedly due to the persuasive powers of No XII's auctioneer, Bro Alan Beck PM. The Lodge was delighted with support given by other local organisations. Of course, numerous other Lodges within and out with the area were represented and many friends of No XII attended.



Bro Angus Middleton – The Immortal Memory



Bro Tony Buckley being ‘threatened’ by Bro Davie Docherty as he Addresses the Haggis



Bro David Wilson, Deputy Provost

**Bro Paul Docherty
– The Lassies**



**Bro Sandy Reddy
- Kilcreggan**



Rev Owen Derrick RWPGM Bro Robin McIntyre Bro Angus Middleton PM RWM Bro J Robert Crossan Bro Paul Docherty PM Bro David Docherty Bro David Wilson Bro Sandy Reddy

Thanks to Bro Paul Stevenson for the photographs!

Deputation to Lodge The Gael No. 609
Thursday 28th March
Talk by Bro Iain White PM
“No. XII and Lodge the Gael – 35 years of friendship.”

RWM Bro. Bob Crossan is taking a Deputation to Lodge the Gael on 28th March. On that evening Bro Iain White PM, an Honorary Member of Lodge The Gael, will do a short talk where he will feature the 35 years of friendship that have existed between the two Lodges and highlight some of the memorable occasions there have been. Hopefully, his talk will not last 35 years!

Also, on that evening, Past Master Donnie Finlayson of Lodge The Gael, who is an Honorary member of No XII, will receive his 50 year Diploma.

Lodge The Gael has been very supportive of No. XII over the years, particularly on 4th October 2011 when we needed a bit of a boost. Lodge The Gael brought its Pipers' Degree to No. XII and well over 100 brethren from the district joined us for a great night.

The RW Master hopes that a good number of Office Bearers and brethren will accompany him to the Blackie Street hall. A special treat at the Harmony will be Bro Donnie Finlayson's special chilli mince!

Deputation to Lodge Burns Dundonald No. 1759
Tuesday 30th April
Mark Degree

No XII heads to Dundonald again on 30th April, this time to confer a Mark Degree. The relationship between the two Lodges goes back to 2011 just before Bro. Alan D. Beck was in the Chair. Alan was singing in New York and met No XII member, Bro. Barry Banks, and they visited the Grand Lodge of New York building. As they waited for the tour to begin, they overheard a Scottish accent and they began talking to the owner of that voice - it was Bro. Steven Mack PM of Lodge Burns Dundonald. Alan invited Stevie to visit No XII and he attended with a Deputation of Brethren from Lodge 1759. Within a year, Bro Alan was in the Chair and No. XII and 1759 were exchanging Degrees.

Sadly, Bro Steven Mack has since passed to The Grand Lodge Above.

The Way We Were

A wee while ago, the late Past Master Bro. Wilson J. McCulloch's sister Anita gave me some papers and memorabilia covering Bro. Wilson's time in the Craft. I am sorting them out just now and putting together a presentation file in which they can be stored and readily accessed. I have plans to do this with the effects of a number of other brethren too that are presently just 'kicking around' in the cupboards.

In amongst the diplomas, letters, booklets and documents were a number of photos. These are presented below. They feature a number of No. XII's big hitters from the 70s and 80s. Happy days!

It was great to get these photos to add to our growing collection of archival material. Nowadays, photos of Lodge activities are plentiful owing to our increasing awareness of the importance of visual images in the archives. They mark significant events in the life of the Lodge and also will enable people in years to come to 'put faces to the names' when we are all practising our Freemasonry in the Grand Lodge Above. The advent of smart phones with cameras has helped! However, back in the old days of the 20th Century things were different so any Lodge photos from back then (like these) are always most welcome.



The man himself looking serious in his RWM's regalia



The No. XII Big Hitters in 1978. This probably would have been taken at the Re-installation of Bro. Wilson J. McCulloch in November 1978.

Back Row: Bro William Watson Irving IPM Bro John Adamson PM
Front Row: Bro Alexander More PM Bro Robert John Drainer Jr. PM Bro Wilson James McCulloch RWM Bro David McKenzie Leith PM and RWPGM Renfrewshire West



Installation of Bro Wilson J. McCulloch 1977
Bros KK Morrison WSW Wilson J. McCulloch RWM John C. Glennly WJW

Installation of Bro Wilson J. McCulloch RWM and Installing Masters 1977

Bro. Robert J. Drainer Jr. PM
Bro Wilson J. McCulloch RWM
Bro Archie Miller PM Ro.
Alexander More PM





Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII

Office Bearers at the Re-installation of Bro. Wilson J. McCulloch in November 1978

Back Row: Bros. David Tanner (Jeweller) Ian M. Ross (Asst. Steward) Geoffrey M. Love (Chief Steward) Iain White (Architect) Jack Ritchie (Marshal)
 Middle Row: Bros. Dugald M. Rankin (Tyler) Hector Macphail (Bible Bearer) Peter R. Sinclair (Inner Guard) Alistair Glenly (Senior Deacon) John McFadyen (Depute Master) Cyril A. Sanders (Substitute Master) Stewart M. Airth (Secy.) Robert Paterick (Sword Bearer) H. Campbell Barr (Junior Deacon)
 Front Row: Bro RJ Drainer PM Rev. Donald Morrison MA Chap David M. Leith PM RWPGM KK Morrison (WSW) Wilson J. McCulloch RWM John C. Glenly (WJW) William W. Irving IPM John Stirrat (Treasurer) John Adamson PM Alexander More PM

It is interesting to look at the brethren in the Office Bearers photo and think about where their Masonic journeys took them. Of the 24 in the photo, there are 4 Past Masters. Another 8 took the Chair of No. XII in the years to come. Sadly, 9 of the total are now in the Grand Lodge Above. Of the 15 still with us, 9 still attend the Lodge with some degree of regularity.

Bro. Thomas Murray Gray **1924 - 2016**

It was back almost a year ago on 14th May 2018 that this story started. Grand Secretary received an email from a Mr Robin Gray saying, "I am sorry to bother you, but I would like some advice, please. I was recently clearing out my late father's house, when I discovered, I assume, his apron. It looks in very good condition and I was wondering what to do with it?" Having described his Father's apron to Grand Secretary and sent a photo of it, our Lodge Secretary Bro Ken MacDougall was advised of the situation in the following email: "I attach an email from Mr. Robin Gray. You will observe from the previous emails that his Father, was a member of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning, No. 12 and I have suggested that he wish to return his Father's Regalia to his Mother Lodge. I should be most grateful if you would contact Mr. Gray with a view to being of assistance. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated."

Bro Ken made an initial acknowledgement to Robin who advised us that his Father's date of birth was 27th March 1924. This fitted with information in the Roll Book. Ken also passed the correspondence to me. In turn, I contacted Robin saying, "As the Lodge Archivist, I have been passed your email by the Lodge Secretary. In the Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII Roll Book, Thomas Murray Gray Jr, a library assistant, joined on December 23rd, 1947 at the age of 23. His birthplace is recorded at Greenock and his place of residence Greenock too when he joined. He got his second degree on 16th March 1948 and his third degree on 20th April 1948. He was proposed by Bro. William B Wilson and seconded by Bro. John McNicol, (who it turns out) was

Thomas's cousin. Actually, when he joined, two of the other 4 candidates on that evening were people that I knew personally viz. Hugh Fullarton who was my Mum's insurance agent for many years and Tommy Ferguson whom I know through attending the Old West Kirk as he did. Both passed away some years ago - they would be 100+ now if still alive!!"

We exchanged another couple of emails and I asked Robin for some details about his Father's life. Ken had promised that we would do a feature in *Twelve Talk* about Bro Thomas and Robin sent us this brief biography of his Dad: "My Dad attended Ladyburn Public School until 1938. Then, Greenock High School till 1940. From 1947-1948, he attended the Scottish School of Librarianship in Glasgow. He lived in Fintry Road and Burnhead Street. He had a sister, Flora and brother, Daniel who lived in Bridgend Road area.

His career in Libraries began in 1940 when he worked at the Central Library, Wallace Square in Greenock. This was interrupted for his National Service. He was a Sergeant Navigator in the



Bro Thomas Murray Gray

RAF and was on his way to active service when the War finished. He returned to Greenock Library as Branch Librarian, then took up a position with the Mobile Library Service in the Morpeth area of Northumberland from 1950-52. It was here he met his wife, Marjorie. In 1952, my Dad took up a position at the Carnegie Library in Coatbridge. He spent several years in Coatbridge and started a family. During the early 60s, he moved to Maryburgh to take up the post of County Librarian at Dingwall Library. His final position before retiring was Highland Regional Librarian.

His interests out of work were gardening, model railways and his family. Our home in Maryburgh had a large garden in which he spent a lot of his spare time growing various vegetables and flowers. His potting shed was where he had his model railway layout.

As far as his Freemasonry activity goes, I'm afraid the first I knew was when I found the apron and other memorabilia. I am aware of a lodge in Dingwall. Perhaps, he attended there. The attached photo was taken at my wedding in 1997."

In amongst these emails, Robin sent us his father's apron and other bits and pieces of memorabilia. These were Catalogued by Bro.

Alistair Glenney PM as follows:

- A well-kept copy of Bethune's Ritual
- GLOS Laws & Constitution
- 1951 Version of "The Scottish Freemasons' Calendar"
- Booklet relating to Royal Arch Chapter No 15 ("Land o' Cakes) Eyemouth
- Annual Installation of No XII held on 7th December 1948
- A "Funeral Lodge" Order of Service from Renfrew County Kilwinning No 370 of 12-01-1950

- Detail of Divine Service at 217 dated 12-02-1950
- A well-preserved No12 Apron
- Consecration Service and By-Laws relating to Librarius Lodge No. 6966 which came into being on 22nd September 1950

Amongst the memorabilia a couple of things stand out. The Land o' Cakes Royal Arch booklet may have originated from the time when Thomas worked in Morpeth which is just less than an hour's drive from Eyemouth. I checked with Bro. Sandy Reddy, and Bro Thomas did not become a member of Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. 17. So maybe he joined in Eyemouth?

This Royal Arch Chapter has an interesting history. In company with his good friend Robert Ainslie, Robert Burns received the Royal Arch Degree from the 'Land of Cakes' Royal Arch Chapter No.15 at a meeting held within the temple of Lodge St. Ebbe No.70, on 19th May 1787, at Eyemouth. Burns met Ainslie in early 1787 and Ainslie accompanied the poet on the first part of his Border tour in May of that year.

As to the Lodge Librarius, we can only assume (from its name) that it had some professional connection for Bro. Thomas. It still meets and has 4 meetings scheduled for Mumbai Square in London for 2019. I made an online enquiry of the United Grand Lodge of England for information about the Lodge but, unfortunately, received no response.



One look at the photo of Bro Thomas's masonic memorabilia (above) will cause the eyebrows to raise. Firstly, the Lodge number is given as 12 and not XII although, in the past, this was very common. More so is the colour of the apron being light blue rather than royal blue. I have never seen this before. I have no explanation!

Bro. Thomas Murray Gray passed to The Grand Lodge Above on 3rd August 2016.

We are grateful to Bro Thomas's son Robin for sending the memorabilia to the Lodge and for all the information that he has provided about his Dad. The memorabilia will be filed and stored in the Lodge archives.

Bro Alistair Glenly PM Much deserved recognition from the Grand Master Mason



RWPGM Bro Robin McIntyre Bro Alistair Glenly PM Hon Grand Almoner
Bro J. Robert Crossan RWM

It is often said that the principles of the Craft dictate that one of the most important roles and offices in the Lodge is that of Almoner. It is a role that not everyone can fulfill. It demands a person who had a great deal of empathy, is capable of expressing sympathy and support as the situation demands, is conscientious and is held in high esteem by his brethren. One such is Bro Alistair Glenly PM and both No. XII, and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West, are fortunate to have Bro. Alistair as Almoner. His sterling work was recognised by the Grand Master Mason in November when he received the Honorary Grand Rank of Almoner.

At the meeting on 5th February, the Provincial Grand Master, Bro Robin McIntyre and our own RW Master, Bro Bob Crossan,

presented Bro Alistair with the Jewel and Certificate of Honorary Grand Almoner accompanied by suitable words of appreciation. Never has an honour been so well deserved.

Reports on Visits

- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 21st February 2019 (Passing & 60-year presentation to Bro Archie Hoey) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Campbell Snoddy and Bro Callum Price
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 22nd February 2019 (Raising by No 626) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, WJW Bro Bob Bain PM and Bro Eddie McGill
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 25th February 2019 (Raising) – attended by WJW Bro Bob Bain PM

On all occasions, fraternal greetings were exchanged.

From the Old Minute Books Gifts to Members in April and May 1920

In April and May 1920, No XII was involved in presenting gifts to a couple of members.

Tuesday 6th April 1920

Bro Robert Thexton, IP Master, in the Chair

Marriage of RW Master

Bro. Robert Thexton IPM referred to the marriage of the RW Master which took place on Saturday 3rd April and read a telegram which had been received from him in response to one sent conveying the good wishes of the Lodge.

It was suggested that in the absence of Bro. Macpherson, advantage could be taken for the Lodge to vote a sum of money for the purchase of a wedding gift and on the motion of Bro. Dan. W. Sinclair, seconded by Bro. James Currie, it was unanimously agreed to make a grant of £25.

The exact amount – more or less about that figure – and the arrangements for the presentation to be left with the Committee.

Presentation to Bro CJ Nancarrow BB

Owing to the transfer to London of Bro CJ Nancarrow BB, the Lodge presented him with a gold Lodge Jewel and a Lady's handbag for Mrs. Nancarrow.

Bro Thexton, in making the presentation, referred to the great interest Bro. Nancarrow had taken in the Lodge and, on behalf of the members congratulated him on his promotion.

Bro Nancarrow in accepting the gifts spoke of the regret it caused him to sever his connection with his Mother Lodge.

Tuesday 21st May 1920

Bro John D Macpherson, RW Master, in the Chair

The Mark Degree was conferred upon 85 Brethren, 81 of whom were members of this Lodge

Presentations

After the lodge was closed in due and ancient form, the Brethren adjourned to the Town Hall.

A toast list was submitted by the RW master, an interesting part of which was the presentation by the Lodge to Bro. Robert Thexton IPM of a divan easy chair, and a gold wristlet watch for Miss Barbara Thexton.

At a later part of the evening, Bro. RL Scott PM offered the congratulations of the Lodge to the RW master on his marriage and presented him with a Sheraton Clock together with fruit stands and a case of silver spoons for Mrs. Macpherson.

Test and Capitation Fees

Test Fees are now due and are £40; **Capitation Fees** are £35 for Life Members (at their discretion). These fees may both be paid by a number of means – please see our Treasurer Bro David Stevenson for details.

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
17.03.19

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.