

Twelve Talk

27.09.19

Issue 124

Meetings 2019-20

- *17.09.19
Nomination and Election of Office Bearers
Passing
- * 01.10.19
Entering
- * 15.10.19
Raising
- * 05.11.19
No XII Burns Club AGM
No XII Annual Meeting
Notice of Motion
- * 19.11.19
Annual Installation (615pm)
- * 03.12.19
Annual Divine Service
Bro Alistair Glenny PM
- *17.12.19
No Meeting

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 Dungleary 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 17th September Nomination and Election of Office Bearers and Passing

As it was the nomination and election of Office Bearers, the visitors were not admitted till a little later and when they were, the 'usual suspects' RW Masters Bros James Hamilton of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 and Eric Sweeney of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 were at the head of the deputation. They were welcomed and invited to the East by our RW Master Bro. J. Robert Crossan.

The Degree was conferred upon Bro. Paul James Branchfield by the brethren of No. XII. The floor workers were: -
Prayer Bro Alistair Glenny PM
Obligation Bro Bob Crossan RWM
Secrets Bro Alistair Glenny PM
Apron Bro Brian McFadyen WSW
Working Tools Bro Allan I MacFeate PM
Tracing Board Bro Iain White PM
Charge Bro Alan D Beck PM

Our Next Meeting Tuesday 1st October Entering

On Tuesday coming, we shall be having an Entering worked by the brethren of No. XII. The Candidate is Mr. Innes Nelson and the brethren working the degree are: -

Prayer Bro Alex Gray BB
Obligation Bro Bob Crossan RWM
Secrets Bro Alan D Beck PM
Apron Bro Brian McFadyen WSW
North East Corner Bro Robert Marshall JD
Working Tools Bro Allan I MacFeate PM
Charge Bro Kenneth C MacDougall PM

Test Fees now Due

If you do not pay your Test Fees by standing order, they are now due to be paid to our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson. Similarly, those Brethren who are Life Members and support the Lodge by covering the Annual Capitation Fee to the Grand Lodge of Scotland should also speak to Bro David about payment as soon as possible. It is important that we all meet our financial obligations to the Lodge.

Test Fees are now £45, and the Annual Capitation Fee is £35.

Lodge Memorabilia

In his role as Lodge Librarian, Bro Iain White PM is still very keen to have any documentary or other links to the past – installation programmes, Orders of Service, postcards, flyers etc. etc. If they are lying in a cupboard at home, please bring them in to enhance our understanding of No XII's past.



Refurbishing the Lodge Artifacts The Wardens' Columns

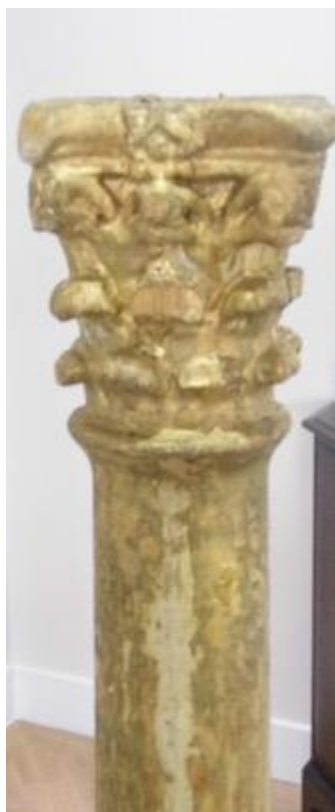
Sad and lonely, gathering dust in one of the upper cupboards in the Lodge Room were the old Wardens' Columns; the ones that I remember from when I joined in 1974 and that I carried when I served as a Warden between 1985 and 1989. The paintwork was chipped and damaged; the spheres at the top were loose and the columns didn't even fit into their bases properly. Thus, they were when Bro Alan Beck PM and I had a conversation about them. After that conversation, I approached Bro Alistair Glenny PM to see if anything could be done? Could he apply his considerable practical skills to refurbish them as he had done with the war memorial Altar, the Altar of the 3rd degree and many other Lodge Artefacts. As they say, the rest is history. The story is told by Alistair in the photos below.



Before beginning



Chips away!!



Stripping Begins reveals damage to column decor



The bases are stripped ready for coating



Nearly ready for primer



Just some more cleaning and TLC



Here we see the finished article and Bro Alistair has done a truly magnificent job with the refurbishment. It was wonderful to see the 'old' columns back in use at the meeting on 17th September past.

Refurbishing the Lodge Artefacts The Deacons' Rods and the Candlesticks

Not content with his work on the Columns over the summer, Bro Alistair has been busy with some other Lodge artefacts as can be seen. It's amazing the difference that a bit of TLC can make. Again, we are very grateful for Alistair's work on behalf of the Lodge. The refurbished rods and candlesticks also made their debut on 17th September.

Of course, this is all in addition to the committed and compassionate job that Bro. Alistair does as Lodge Almoner.



Reports on Visits

The visits are numerous because they span the months between April and September

- The Anchor Lodge of Research No 1814 on 5th April 2019 (Lecture) – attended by WSW Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge St George No 503 on 8th April 2019 (Passing) – attended by WSW Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 8th April 2019 (Entering) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill and Bro Alistair Glenny PM
- Lodge Sir Michael No 989 on 10th April 2019 (Passing & AV PGLRW) – attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, WSW Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Allan MacFeate PM, Bro Campbell Snoddy, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Fraser Cameron, Bro Scott Branchfield, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Kenny Morrison PM and Bro Alistair Glenny PM
- The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 on 10th April 2019 (Raising by Lodge Prince of Wales No 426) – attended by WSW Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 12th April 2019 (Raising) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Allan MacFeate PM, Bro Norrie Frizzell and Bro Alan Frizzell

- Lodge Kelvin Partick No 1207 on 16th April 2019 (Entering conferred by Lodge Toryglen No 1561) – attended by Bro Iain White PM
- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 18th April 2019 (Raising) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan and WSW Bro Brian McFadyen
Lodge Crawfordsburn No 1121 on 23rd April 2019 (Mark) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan
- Bro Henry Tibbles PM funeral on 25th April 2019 – attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Kenny Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Derek Kirkpatrick PM, WJW Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Allan MacFeate PM, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro James MacGregor and Bro James MacGregor Jnr
- Lodge Sir Michael No 989 on 25th April 2019 (Annual Homes Degree) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Derek Kirkpatrick PM, Bro Campbell Snoddy, Bro Allan MacFeate PM, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Fraser Cameron, Bro Kenny Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, WJW Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Alan Beck PM and Bro James Livingstone
- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 & Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 26th April 2019 (Joint Mark Degree) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan
- Lodge Burns Dundonald No 1759 on 30th April 2019 (Mark conferred by No XII) attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, WSW Bro Brian McFadyen, WJW Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Kenny Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Allan MacFeate PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Campbell Snoddy, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Alex Gray, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Edward Molloy and Bro Scott Branchfield
- PGLRW Communication on 1st May 2019 attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM and Bro Kenny Morrison PM
- The Anchor Lodge of Research No 1814 on 3rd May 2019 (Lecture and Affiliations – including Bro Bob Crossan and Bro Bob Bain) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, WJW Bro Bob Bain PM and Bro Alan Beck (1814)
- Lodge Glennifer No 1219 on 14th May 2019 (Mark) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, Bro James Livingstone and Bro Alan Beck PM
- Lodge St John Kilwinning Largs No 173 on 21st May 2019 (Lecture on the Victoria Cross) – attended by WJW Bro Bob Bain PM
- Brother Rudi Stetz funeral on 24th May 2019 – attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, WSW Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM and Bro Alex Johnson
- Lodge Neptune No 419 on 4th June 2019 (Raising) attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, WSW Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Campbell Snoddy, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick and Bro Robert Grundmann
- Dinner with Bro Robert Grundmann and his carer Yusif on 7th June 2019 (Tontine Hotel) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Campbell Snoddy and Bro Robert Grundmann
- Lodge Glasgow Star No 219 on 10th June 2019 (Passing by Lodge Nitshill No 1478) attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan and WSW Bro Brian McFadyen
- The Grand Lodge of Scotland on 13th June 2019 (Regular Communication) attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Alex Gray, Bro Tony Stewart HM and Bro Alistair Glenny PM
- Lodge Sir Robert Moray No 1641 on 13th June 2019 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan and Bro Tony Stewart HM
- No XII Past Masters Dinner on 14th June 2019 (Tontine Hotel) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Kenny Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro Derek Kirkpatrick PM, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Allan MacFeate PM and Bro Allan Glen IPM
- Lodge Kurt Tucholsky No. 1060 (G.C.) in the Ringhotel Katherinen Hof, in Unna, Germany on 29th June 2019 (Raising) – attended by Bro Hector Macphail PM who presented Bro Robert R. Grundmann with his Affiliation Diploma from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.
- PGLRW Masters' Dinner on 14th August 2019 (Lodge Firth of Clyde, Gourrock No 626) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan and Bro Alan Beck PM (PGL)
- Lodge Kelvin Partick No 1207 on 3rd September 2019 (Passing by Lodge Cadder Freestone No 1584) – attended by Bro Iain White PM and Donald Finlayson PM 609 HM
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 9th September 2019 (Passing) – attended by Bro Scott Branchfield

- Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No 1121 on 10th September 2019 (Entering) – attended by Bro Scott Branchfield, Bro Paul Branchfield and Bro Robert Thomson Lodge Sir Michael No 989 on 11th September 2019 (Raising conferred by No 68) – attended by Bro Scott Branchfield
- Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 on 12th September 2019 (Entering) – attended by Bro Scott Branchfield and Bro Paul Branchfield
- Lodge St John's No 175 on 13th September 2019 (Passing conferred by No 69) – attended by Bro Scott Branchfield
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 16th September 2019 (Raising Exemplification by No 626) - attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan and Bro Scott Branchfield

Recess Read

It's that man Glenny again! I am grateful to Bro. Alistair Glenny PM for the following piece

No! The title does not refer to reading in the set-in bed in the hoose, wi a big roarin' fire burning in the living room, but my experience reveals some interesting facts in a book I have been reading during our "Masonic" recess.



The book is entitled ALEPPO the Rise and Fall of Syria's Great Merchant City by Author Philip Mansel

Philip Mansel is considered our greatest authority on the civilisation of the Levant and has written a concise and elegant elegy to one of the oldest, grandest, and cosmopolitan cities of the region. One literary review states that, the book will stand as a eulogy for the city.

Aleppo is in ruins, a casualty of Civil War, once regarded as a vibrant world city where people of differing religions lived and traded together in peace. It was the third largest City in the Ottoman Empire to Constantinople and Cairo

Part 1 of the book considers the History from Ottoman rule through the French Mandate and on towards Syrian Independence.

Part 2 is a compendium of narratives entitled THROUGH TRAVELLERS' EYES and my attention was particularly drawn to a Chapter entitled "The Natural History of Aleppo" (1756) Alexander Russell.

Educated in Edinburgh, Alexander Russell qualified as a Doctor and became physician to the Merchants in Aleppo. His book, The Natural History of Aleppo, became a reference source detailing demographics, life and commerce, and the animals, birds and plants, of the area, supported with a large number of prints. A second larger edition was published by Alexander's brother Patrick. The first edition however was dedicated to the British Consul in Aleppo, at that time, our very own Past Master and Scotland's first Provincial Grand Master Mason, Alexander Drummond.

Each Year at the Installation of Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII reference is made to Alexander Drummond His Majesty's Consul in Aleppo, as the incoming Master is invested with what has become affectionately known as "The Drummond Medal" presented to the Lodge by Drummond, marking his Masonic achievements.

And so it was, that not only did Alexander Drummond propagate Freemasonry in that area, but with Russell's help established a Masonic lodge in Aleppo we know as Union Drummond no 59, on St. Andrews Day 1747, which according to the Author "may have contributed to the city's spirit of coexistence" There in Aleppo, Muslim, Christian, and Jew lived and worked in harmony for the benefit of the City - If only that was the case today!

The Way We Were – The Grants (Continued)

I am still working on the feature on the late Bros. Grant (Stewart and Ian) who were members of No. XII and lived in the Bow Road opposite our Bros. Glenly. As I said in the last 3 editions, it all began some time ago when Stewart's son Keith contacted Lodge Secretary Bro. Ken MacDougall PM and I am now involved in a flurry of emails with the Grant family. I am now in contact with another Grant – Euan – who is a cousin of Keith, Calum and Ian (The latter two are Ian's sons and Calum is a member of No XII). Just to keep your curiosity going on this one, I am publishing a little more information.

Bro Stewart Grant, Initiated into Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII on 18th April 1944. This photo was taken after he had moved to Hong Kong. He worked there as a joiner in the Taikoo Dockyard. He became Worshipful Master of Cathay Lodge No. 4373 E.C. in 1962/63.



The photo of Bro Stewart Grant as Worshipful Master of the Cathay Lodge in Hong Kong that we published in Issue 123 is shown again on the left. If you look at the brother sitting on the right-hand side of Bro. Grant, he looks very distinguished with his fine mop of silver hair.



In this photo, the distinguished looking brother is seen with WM Bro Stewart Grant. We can see that he is a past Worshipful Master and is wearing the jewel of Substitute Master of the Lodge.

Was the photo taken on the same occasion as the group photo? Was it the Installation? Was the distinguished looking brother an Installing Officer for Bro Stewart? Was he Stewart's friend as well as brother? Was he too an immigrant to Hong Kong?

We shall never know for sure, but it is interesting to ask the questions – well, it is for me as a sad old archivist at any rate! The unfortunate thing is that we shall never know the answers. If only Bro. Stewart had written some information on the back of the photo!!

(BTW this photo was taken at a different set of doors from the group photo. A closer look tells us that the panelling is different.)

Bro. Robert Leck (1936 – 14th July 2019)

Our RW Master, Bro Bob Crossan, received the email below from Bro Joseph Crumlish of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175. It concerns the passing to The Grand Lodge Above of Bro Robert Leck.

Dear Brother,

I write to inform you of the passing of one of you brethren, Robert Leck. He was initiated into Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No 12 in 1956 and served as a Steward and Inner Guard, before moving South in 1960. He was still an active freemason, most recently within Heritage Lodge No 5572 (Province of West Kent and United Grand Lodge of England, meeting at Oakley House, Bromley Common) up until his death on 14/7/2019. Robert was my late Father's cousin. I have recently joined Lodge Greenock St. John's No 175 and felt obliged to let Robert's Mother Lodge know this news. Please find attached a link to Robert's 60-year citation. <http://www.heritagelodge.org.uk/articles/60-year-citation-bob-leck>

Thanks.

Joseph Crumlish

Bro Robert Leck was, indeed, a member of No XII and here are his details from the Lodge Roll Book.

Occupation Gardener
Born in Greenock and resident in Greenock
Initiated October 7th, 1958
Passed October 21st, 1958
Raised November 4th, 1958
He was 22 at his Initiation

Bro. James L Black was RW Master at Bob's Degrees

Following the link brought this information: -

60 Year Citation - Bob Leck

December 10, 2018

Heritage Lodge No. 5572

Announce and read Citation

Notes on W.Bro. Bob Leck for 60 year citation (adapted from notes on his 50 year citation meeting 24.11.12.)

Bob was initiated into Freemasonry in 1956 joining Greenock Kilwinning Lodge no.12 under the Scottish Constitution.

Bob served as a Steward and I.G. before moving South in 1960 working for Camden Council as a Parks Superintendent.

As a National Serviceman Bob served his time in the R.A.F. Bomb Disposal unit but does not talk much about his time here.

As a long time P.I.G. Bob joined Elfrida Lodge no. 4497 in 2000 and rose through the ranks (2002 SD), (2003 JW) to become Master in 2005.

After vacating the chair Bob took up several stand - in roles including I.G. in 2006 and JW and Almoner in 2007.

When Elfrida Lodge unfortunately handed in their warrant in 2010 he and several of his buddies joined Heritage Lodge.

Bob was already a member of Heritage Chapter and here again he was always willing to step in especially as the Chapter was reasonable small and his dedication and enthusiasm was of great assistance.

Bob has long been a champion of Demelza House raising money holding 'open house' and garden parties. He has also been a keen supporter of local Scout Groups and upholds the Scout promise of 'always thinking of others before himself'.

Bob has been happily married to Maureen for 62 years and has a Son, David.

Bob has recently not been in good health and as such the presentation of his 60 year Citation would normally have been carried out by the PGM himself. At his request however Bob wanted as little fuss as possible and earlier today before the meeting his good friends and long term Masonic colleagues W.Bro Albert and Derek visited Bob at home and made this presentation on behalf of the PGM.

Throughout his adversities however Bob has always been, and still remains a keen supporter of Freemasonry and thoroughly deserves recognition for his long service.

We will all take wine with him at the Festive Board not only as an absent Brother but in celebration of this momentous occasion.

Tony Saunders
Secretary
Heritage Lodge no. 5572



W. Bro. Bob Leck (centre) receiving his 60-year citation diploma at home (by his own request).

It was great to hear about Bro. Bob Leck from Bro. Joe Crumlish and we are very grateful to him for letting us know. Bro Leck now joins an eminent band of No XII brethren who attained the Chair in other Lodges. Bro Bob is now in our history as well as the history of Elfreda and Heritage Lodges. What a pity that he didn't keep in touch or let us know about his progress. We could have congratulated him in his lifetime.

From the Old Minute Books

The refurbishment of the columns, candlesticks and Deacons' rods led me to this extract from the old minute Books.

Friday 14th December 1923

Bro Duncan C Kerr MC RWM in the Chair

Sword Bearer appointed (New office)

In addition to the Offices held in the Lodge, that of Sword Bearer has been added. The first holder of this Office is Bro. James Graham who, in recognition of the occasion, presented the Lodge with a handsome Claymore.

The jewel pertaining to this Office was presented by Bro. Robert Smith, secretary.

We still have this Claymore today some 96 years later.

Lapel Badges

For many years, the late 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
27.09.19

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.