

Twelve Talk

03.01.21

Issue 140

Meetings 2020-21

*01.09.20

Lecture by Bro. Brian McFadyen
WSW PM 1566

Pitcairn Island

* 15.09.20

Lecture by Bro. Iain White PM
Guess who's coming to dinner?

* 06.10.20

Lecture by Bro. Ian Wood PM The
Lodge of Erskine No. 1566

*A Life below the Ocean Wave – My
Submarine Memories*

* 20.10.20

Lecture by Bro A. Campbell
Snoddy WJW No XII

AIDS, witch doctors and crocodiles

* 03.11.20

Lecture by Bro. Jim Gardiner
Lodge Barns o'Clyde No. 1008

*A Scotsman in an Irish Lodge in
England*

* 17.11.20

Lecture by Bro. Derek A.
Kirkpatrick PM XII

Beyond the Craft

*01.12.20

Lecture by Bro. Dr. Iain McPhee
PM The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566
and PPGMS

*"The Victorian Serial Killer of
Whitechapel and the Masonic
Conspiracy that concealed his
Identity"*

*05.01.21

Lecture by Bro. James P.
Livingstone PPGM

"Every picture tells a story."

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)

COVID-19/Corona Virus Pandemic (10)

For once in my life, I am finding myself short of words – well, at least in the context of the pandemic. As the days go by, things seem to go from bad to worse. In my own family, we have been self-isolating because of a positive COVID test from beyond the family. I must say that I have viewed this with a degree of resignation – if we have to, that's what we do and we carry on within the limitations of the Government rules.

There is an irony that struck me just yesterday. By the time we come to the end of January, No XII will have held 2 more Zoom meetings that we would have had face-to-face meetings in the Saloon had things been normal. We would not have held meetings on 15th December or 5th January because of the proximity of these dates to the Festive Season. The different circumstances this year have brought a different response from No. XII. By such creativity, we survive.

Bro. Brian McFadyen our WSW has been busy arranging speakers for the Zoom meetings and the jigsaw puzzle that is his programme is falling into place, almost till the end of April. We are all grateful for his hard work, for the input of our contributors and for the Brethren – especially those from beyond No XII – who are supporting our Regular Zoom meetings. With no immediate end to this situation, until the vaccine wins the day, we must strengthen our resolve. Please support our efforts. The virus is evolving to try to ensure its survival. So too must we!



Financial Matters

All No XII members will have just received a resend of a communication from our Treasurer Bro. David Stevenson. We cannot meet just now, but our financial obligations continue e.g., Test and Capitation Fees, Charitable work, Insurance etc. Please give Bro David's request your careful consideration

The Monthly Draw restarts in January. This is a very important fund raiser, so please contact David to renew your subscription or leave your standing order running. December's winner was Bro. KK Morrison PM.



Lodge Memorabilia

In my role as Lodge Librarian, I am 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 or drawer at home, please get them to me to enhance our understanding of No XII's past.

I put this in *Twelve Talk* in each edition, but I don't get as many responses as I would like. If you have a bit of spare time, please dig around in the house and see what you can find. Things that seem, on the face of it, to be trivial can play a vital part in piecing together the history of the Lodge and filling gaps in the Minutes. For example, artifacts from the Conn family that we received recently have enabled me to identify Bro. James Conn, (RWM 1930-32) in the Installation photo of 1936.

Anything at all will be worthwhile – and if you happen to come across the Minute Books for 1796 – 1854 or 1867 - 1873, they would be particularly welcome! 😊

The Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture

Our Next Meeting using Zoom Technology

Tuesday 5th January 2021

'Every picture tells a story' by Bro James P. Livingstone PPGM (Renfrewshire West)

Remembering Jack and Alistair Glenny



Jack and Alistair at Jack's Installation into the Chair in November 1981. This was Alistair's favourite photo with Jack.

Owing to the continuing COVID-19 restrictions on Lodge meetings, the inaugural *Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture* will be held online at 715 for 730pm on Tuesday 5th January 2021. It will be delivered by a member of No XII, Bro. James P. Livingstone. Bro Jim is an affiliate member of No. XII. His Mother Lodge is Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626, of which he was RW Master in 1988-90. He has also been RW Master of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 and is presently its Secretary. Bro Jim served as Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West between 2013 and 2018. His topic will be 'Every picture tells a story' and relates, I believe, to a certain well known



Bro JP Livingstone as RWPGM

Scottish poet and his involvement with a certain Masonic Lodge in Edinburgh. Both the speaker,

and the topic, are peculiarly appropriate for this inaugural lecture and Bro Jim will certainly do justice to the memory of Jack and Alistair. Here is your invitation:

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Every Picture Tells a Story by Bro Jim Livingstone

Time: Jan 5, 2021 07:15 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99099042448?pwd=cStNU0Q2QmVQbXYvTHBQbDFIOFUzUT09>

Meeting ID: 990 9904 2448

Passcode: 530291

60 Years and Counting Bro Alex More PM

I was on the phone to our Senior Past Master, Bro Alex More on 6th December for a wee chat. He was in his usual great form. Alex lives in Helmsdale now, the part of the country where he was born and brought up before coming to Greenock. The reason that I chose that particular day to give him a call was that it marked the 60th Anniversary of him joining No. XII on 6th December 1960.



Now 94, Bro Alex was a stalwart of No. XII before he moved out of the district, firstly to Killin, then Luncarty and now Helmsdale. He is shown



in the photo on the far left, at the Installation of Bro. Wilson J McCulloch into the Chair in November 1977. Alex was one of the Installing Masters. The others were Bros RJ Drainer Jr and Archie Miller. He is also shown (centre) in the photo (near left) in 2016 with me (Iain White) and the late Bro.

Alistair Glenly PM when we, and Bro. KK Morrison PM, visited Alex at his house in Luncarty to present him with his 50th Anniversary Diploma.

We shall be arranging to get Alex's Diamond Jubilee Diploma to him. He was RW Master of No XII between 1973 and 1975 and is a Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden (Renfrewshire West). I am pleased to say that he was in the Chair when I joined.

Lord Inverclyde (1897 – 1957) A Brother of No XII

Described in the No. XII Roll Book as The Right Honourable John Alan, Baron Inverclyde, occupation Peer of the Realm, Regular Army Reserve of Officers, born and resident in Wemyss Bay, Lord Inverclyde affiliated to No XII on 27th May 1947 and the Lodge from which he affiliated is given as The Trades House of Glasgow Lodge No. 1241. His Mother Lodge was The Household Brigade Lodge in London. He was 4th Baron Inverclyde. I came across his name in the course of something else I was looking into regarding the Lodge and thought I would take a wee diversionary look into this Peer of the Realm who was a member of No. XII.

His home in Wemyss Bay was Castle Wemyss, shown in the photographs below. As may be seen, it sat just off the main A 78 Coast Road and was pretty impressive. When Lord Inverclyde affiliated, James Reid Kerr was RW Master.



The Arms of Lord Inverclyde



Castle Wemyss was built around 1850 for Charles Wilson Brown, a property developer who had plans to develop the land around Wemyss Bay, and who by 1855 had increased the number of villas from four to thirty-six. These villas earned the nickname 'Little Glasgow' because they were let to wealthy Glasgow merchants.

Wilson Brown sold the mansion to Sir John Burns (later Baron Inverclyde) in 1860. Burns commissioned the architect Robert William Billings to remodel the house in the Scottish baronial style, expanding the original structure by adding a new floor, new wings and a clock tower to the south-east corner.

The pier and the shell of Castle Wemyss late 1970s/early 80s



The house remained in the Burns family until Lord Inverclyde's death in 1957. He had no offspring, and the estate was sold to a developer. The castle fell into ruins and the land was eventually developed into a housing estate in the late 90's. All that was left after the demolition in 1984 was a flagpole and some rubble – a sad end! Inverkip Power Station was built on the northern part of the estate grounds in 1970-71. The rise of oil prices during its construction meant that it was used

to generate for the grid only during the miners' strike of the mid-80s. The Power Station was demolished between 2010 and 2014. Housing is planned for the site.



Lord Inverclyde also had a mansion across the water, called Inverclyde at Cove (pictured left around 1913). It too was left to him by his father. Also known as Hartfield House, it became a Holiday Home run by the YMCA. The mansion was demolished in the 1960s.

He also had a house in Mayfair, London!

The New York Times began a report on Lord Inverclyde's death as follows: *LONDON, June 18 – Lord Inverclyde, one of the wealthiest men in Britain, dies yesterday at his home, castle Wemyss, Wemyss Bay, Scotland. He was 59 years old...*

So, what about this Brother of No. XII?? What did he do? What was his occupation? What was his lifestyle? How did he spend his time? What was his involvement with the Craft?

Join us in the next edition of *Twelve Talk* to find out something about the life and times of Bro. Lord Inverclyde!

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
03.01.21

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.