

Meetings 2023-24

• 05.09.23

Mark

* 19.09.23

Entering

* 03.10.23

Mark

*17.10.23

Annual Meeting and Nomination
and Election of Office Bearers
Members only

* 07.11.23

Entering

*21.11.23

Annual Installation of Office
Bearers

*05.12.23

Annual Divine Service

*19.12.23

No meeting as per Bye Laws

TBC 02.24

Burns Supper (630 for 7pm)

Thursday TBC.06.24

Special Summer Meeting

Entering by PMs of the Lodge



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 Brian McFadyen 47 Renshaw Road Bishopton PA7 8HL (07810008075)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 6 Stirling Drive Gourrock PA19 1AH (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

The Old and the Young

This Wednesday I was at my Alma Mater, The University of Glasgow, for the day. The occasion was the open day for prospective students and Gail and I were accompanying our daughter Kirsty who aspires to enrol at The University next September after she finishes school in June. The day was busy, vibrant; there were talks to attend, a piper was playing outside the main door of the original Gothic-style Gilbert Scott building (and very good the young man was too); there were information stalls for all the faculties, associations, clubs and support services: there was a great deal of joy and expectation in the air. We got freebies, including a bag that boldly stated, “*The University welcomes world changers*”. World changers were amongst the visiting young people, of that there is no doubt and nobody can tell how society and humankind will benefit from the work of these young people in the future once they have Graduated.

Amongst all this happiness and excitement there was time for reflection and as I did just that I felt sad, not for the future of these aspiring undergraduates but that I wasn’t one of them! It was all behind me. Some 51 years ago, I was one of them and now... I felt old; very old. However, these youngsters are our hope for the future and that must cheer us all.

Since then, I have been thinking about No. XII a bit because it was whilst I was a student at The University that I took my first tentative steps into the Craft, here at No. XII. Almost immediately, I fell in love with the Craft and this Lodge in particular. The rest, I suppose, is history now and here we are today. We have seen the Lodge 250th and 275th Anniversaries and we are on the brink of the 300th Anniversary on 27th December 2028.

Back when I joined, I guess I was part of No XII’s hope for the future, along with others who joined around me like Bros. Peter R. Sinclair, Hector Macphail, Ian M. Ross, James S. Adams and Murray Thomson. We all, by accident or design, found ourselves taking the Chair and contributing to the future of the Lodge as we worked hard for it. So too did many others who had no desire to progress through the offices but rather to support those of us who did, and consequently, support the Lodge. Many still do.

Recently, we have seen some promising young men become Masons here in No. XII. As we did, they have their lives to live beyond the Lodge but, like we were, they are now its future. Are they world changers? For all we know they may be. They had the entrance qualifications for the Lodge and successfully overcame the challenges they faced. They are now our Graduates. We look forward to seeing their positive impact on the Lodge, the Craft and Society. You know who you are...

Our Previous Meeting Tuesday 18th April 2023 Mark Degree

RWM Bro Brian McFadyen welcomed all the brethren to the meeting, especially all the visiting brethren. A special welcome was given to visitor Bro Bill Baxter of Lodge St John Tulliallan No 598 who was on a mission to visit meetings of all masonic lodges in Scotland. His visit to No XII this evening was his 404th visit in total with only a handful to go.

RWM Bro Brian McFadyen invited all reigning Masters and Past Masters to the East. Bro William Mooney, RWM of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 accepted the invitation.

The candidates were Brother Bryan Campbell-Black and Brother Jordan Kincaid, Master Masons of No XII, and Brother Ndukwe Ibe, a Master Mason of Lodge Benevolence No 100 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of Ghana, who came to the centre of the floor with their Conductor before retiring from the Lodge.

RWM Bro Brian McFadyen then presented the gavel to IPM Bro Robert Crossan who was the RWMM for the Mark Degree this evening

The Lodge proceeded to carry out the Mark Degree ritual. The Degree Team was:

Conductor: Bro. Alan D. Beck PM **Junior Overseer:** Bro Ken MacDougall PM **Senior Overseer:** Bro Brian McFadyen RWM **Master Overseer:** Bro Robert Bain PM **Prayer:** Bro Brian McFadyen RWM **Obligation:** Bro J Robert Crossan RWMM **Secrets & Lecture:** Bro James Livingstone DM **Working Tools & Badge:** Bro Kenneth K. Morrison PM **The Charge:** Bro Brian McFadyen RWM

Our Next Meeting Tuesday 5th September 2023 Mark Degree

Again, the meeting is a Mark Degree conferred by our own Brethren, with Bro. J. Robert Crossan IPM taking the Chair for the occasion. Bro. Bob is presently First Principal of Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII.

This time around, the degree team is **Conductor:** Bro. Alan D. Beck PM **Junior Overseer:** Bro Ken MacDougall PM **Senior Overseer:** Bro Brian McFadyen RWM **Master Overseer:** Bro Robert Bain PM **Prayer:** Bro Brian McFadyen RWM **Obligation:** Bro. J Robert Crossan RWMM **Secrets & Lecture:** Bro James Livingstone DM **Working Tools & Badge:** Bro Colin Reddy JD **The Charge:** Bro J Robert Crossan RWMM

Annual Bowling Challenge Match No. XII vs Lodge Crawfordsburn Saturday 20th May 2023

The annual bowling challenge match between No XII and No 1121 took place on Saturday 20th May 2023 at 10.00am at Ardgowan Bowling Club. Team Captain Bro. David Stevenson obviously did a great job as No. XII was victorious, an unusual occurrence in the 30-odd years



of this annual social event. A jubilant Immediate Past Master, Bro. Bob Crossan, is seen in the photo receiving the Trophy from the RW Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn, Bro Ian Hair.

We are again grateful to the Ardgowan Club for extending the courtesy of its greens to the Lodges.

Annual Past Masters' Dinner The Tontine Hotel Friday 2nd June 2023

A smallish, but nonetheless very influential group of Past Masters gathered for the Annual Dinner, accompanied by the specially invited guest, the RW Master. I was not able to attend but my sources tell me that a very enjoyable and convivial evening was spent, in food, refreshment and sorting out the woes and ills of The Lodge, Freemasonry in general and, indeed, the world as we know it.

The esteemed brethren in attendance are shown on the left:
Back Bros. Alan Beck, Ken MacDougall and Derek Kirkpatrick; **Middle** Bros. Allan Glen and Hector Macphail;
Front Bros. Brian McFadyen and Bob Crossan

A fine Band of Brothers indeed!



Bro 2nd Lieutenant James Hannah No. XII Great War Casualty Gravestone Repair and Reinstatement

Our regular readers will remember that it was reported that the gravestone in Greenock Cemetery for Bro. James had been badly vandalised and that the Lodge determined to have it fixed. We have had the go ahead from the Cemetery authorities and the process has begun.

Fraser Downie (Stokes Memorials of Dunoon) has begun the job of restoring the stone to its former glory as may be seen from the photos below.

The bottom part has had new holes bored; the middle part has been freed from the ground and new stainless steel screwed rods fitted; the top part has been freed from the ground.



I shall provide regular updates on progress as the process goes on.



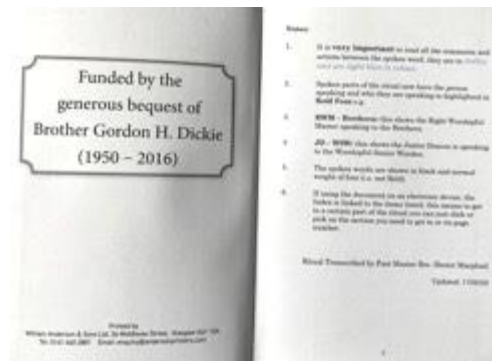
The details below the photo are: "*Lieut. James Hannah, Ross Battery, RGA was accidentally killed at Nairn. He was a native of Greenock, and prior to joining the colours last May, was master of the Supplementary Classes in Finnart School, Greenock. He was a son of Mr James Hannah, 99 Dempster Street, Greenock. Deceased was to be married on Friday first.*"

The Definitive No. XII Ritual

It was away back in 2009 that Bro. Hector Macphail PM first circulated the initial part of the first draft of what he hoped would become a definitive No. XII Ritual. Just 30 pages long back then, it has since grown to the final product which is now available in book form.

The text was painstakingly typed, edited and re-edited by Bro Hector, helped by comments and suggestions from the Lodge Past Masters. It was surely a labour of love and monumental effort and goodness knows how many hours Bro. Hector spent on it. Latterly, Bro Bob Crossan IPM was heavily involved formatting the text and dealing wee errors that were found. He too did an

amazing job and we are very grateful to him also. At times, I'm sure both Hector and Bob could have seen the project far enough! They stuck with it to bring us to where we are today.



More recently, the final proof was sent to Bro. Andy Mushet, RWPGM of Glasgow and proprietor of Anderson Printers. The final product is a handsome hard back single volume of 200 pages and A6 in size, designed to slip easily into a jacket pocket. The development was supported by the generous bequest from Bro Gordon H. Dickie to the

Lodge when he passed to the Grand Lodge Above in 2016.

The ritual is available for purchase from Lodge Treasurer Bro. David Stevenson by bank transfer (preferred) or by cash or cheque. The cost is £15. Bro David has kindly agreed to look after the stock of rituals and their sale. Consequently, they are available from him only.

The ritual is available to Mark Master Masons of No. XII only.

Bro. David can be contacted by email to arrange purchase at treasurerno12@aol.co.uk

Bank details are

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII
Royal Bank of Scotland
Sort Code: 83 22 20
Account Number 10000509

Cheques should be made out to Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII (Social Fund).

No. XII Tercentenary Jewel Now Available



Lodge Greenock Kilwinning was established on 27th December 1728 when 8 Brethren met in Robert Moor's house. It is the oldest organisation in Inverclyde.

We shall celebrate the Tercentenary of the Lodge in 2028 and, to mark this great occasion a Tercentenary Jewel has been struck. Although the big day is still some 5 years away, the Tercentenary Jewels are now available for purchase by Lodge Members and brethren of the Sister Lodges.

The jewel is available from Lodge Treasurer Bro. David Stevenson. Payment may be by bank transfer (preferred) or by cash or cheque. The cost is £15. Bro David has kindly agreed to look after the stock of Jewels and their sale. Consequently, they are available from him only.

Bro. David can be contacted by email to arrange purchase at treasurerno12@aol.co.uk Bank details are the same as for the rituals.

Jewels may be purchased by all Freemasons.

**No. XII Night Out
Buckley's Small Plates
Saturday 10th June 2023**



This event could more accurately be described as a day out! The brethren assembled in Cleat's Bar in Gourock long before the sun was over the yardarm for pre-dinner aperitifs. After their palates were suitably stimulated, they headed across to Buckley's Small Plates (where else). Their appetites satisfied by the excellent purvey, they then headed back to Cleat's for further refreshments. Whilst unable to attend as Cameron and I were away golfing, my roving reporter fed back, 'It was a great night out and credit to our Social Convenor, Bro Robert Marshall for herding enough cats to make it possible.'

**From Bygone Days
The Lodge Artefacts (5)
Photographed by Bro. Derek A. Kirkpatrick PM**

We return to the photos of Bro Derek Kirkpatrick PM to display some of the historical artefacts of the Lodge. Derek is a wonderful photographer and we are grateful to him for his work.

We are lucky as a Lodge to have so many links to the past through our artefacts and whilst few are of any monetary value, they mean a lot to the Lodge and to Freemasonry in general terms.

Derek has taken a legion of photos of our artefacts and I am sharing them with you a few at a time. He did another session in June of this year when many more photos were taken.



A Master's jewel dating from the time that the Lodge was No. XI. It is ornate and solid silver

Another solid silver jewel, this time looking like that of the Depute Master. Again, this dates to when the Lodge was No. XI but close inspection will let you see that some 'amateur jeweller' has tried to add an additional Roman I to the right of the XI. What on earth possesses people to do things like this?





Another ornate, solid silver Master's jewel. Close inspection will show that a central part is missing (the 4 eyes/rings to which it would have been attached)



A square and compasses set that would be possibly used on top of the Volume of the Sacred Law. This was presented to the Lodge by "JRA" I have an idea who JRA was, but more research is required. It is interesting to note that the Lodge is described as 12 rather than XII. This happened on and off, for lengthy periods of our history. It is only in the last 50 or 60 years that the use of the Roman Numerals has been strictly adhered to

Morton Hospitality Saturday 26th August 2023



Bro Cameron White bid successfully at the Burns Supper Auction for one of the Morton Hospitality packages donated by Bro. Tony Buckley. In the photo on the left, Cameron and I are flanking Morton Legend, Andy Ritchie, who played in Benny Rooney's iconic team in the late 1970s. Great company he was too and we had a very interesting conversation with him.

Bro. Cameron and I were joined at Cappielow by Bro. Provost Drew McKenzie, Past Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No. 1121 and Bro. Frank Molloy of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

A pleasant happenstance was that Bro. Norman, Past Master of Lodge Stonehaven No. 65 was also enjoying the hospitality. Norrie was in my class in the High School and I hadn't seen him for years. It was great to re-unite. It was even better that the 3 gentlemen accompanying him were all from that class and we had a wee quick reunion with a promise of more to come. Happy days.

Bro. Norman is the son of the late Past Master Bro. Jimmy Hart of Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No. 1121 whom many of you remember. I certainly remember him very well and always held him in the greatest esteem for his floorwork, his commitment to the Craft and for his involvement in the Mount Pleasant Church and as a Church of Scotland Lay Preacher.

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.

The Monthly Draw A note from the Treasurer, Bro David D Stevenson

Usual format - £12 per annum per number, payable between Jan and Dec. - so £12, £24, £36 etc. You can join at any time.

- For those of you paying by standing order - thank you and no need to do anything
- For those of you wishing to renew your subscription or start a subscription please send me the appropriate amount by one of the following ways -

by cash, when I see you, or cheque, to 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY, or

by bank transfer to – RBS Sort Code 83 22 20 Account No. 10000509 Payment Ref - your name and 'Draw'

Where I can and appropriate, I will allocate the same numbers as previous years

Any questions please drop me a mail. DDS Treasurer

Reports on Visits

- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 6th April 2023 (Entering Exemplification) – attended by Bro Alex Gray and Bro Blair Fisher
- Lodge Kyles of Bute No 1120 on 7th April 2023 (Lecture) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen and Bro James Livingstone
- The Anchor Lodge of Research No 1814 on 7th April 2023 (Lecture) – attended by IPM Bro Robert Crossan, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Alex Gray and Bro Blair Fisher
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 10th April 2023 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Alex Gray, Bro Blair Fisher, Bro James Livingstone and Bro Eddie McGill
- Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 11th April 2023 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, IPM Bro Robert Crossan, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Alex Gray, Bro Blair Fisher, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Eddie McGill and Bro Bryan Campbell-Black
- The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 on 13th April 2023 (Raising) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Alex Gray and Bro Blair Fisher
- Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 on 13th April 2023 (Raising) – attended by Bro Ken MacDougall PM
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 14th April 2023 (Entering Exemplification) – attended by Bro Colin Reddy

On all occasions, Fraternal Greetings were exchanged.

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. He passed the mantle on to our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson. Bro David asked me to start to publicise the badge availability through *Twelve Talk*. It has been, and remains, 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
05.09.23

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.