



Twelve Talk

Issue No. 177
27.11.24

Meetings 2024-25

- 03.09.24
Raising
- * 17.09.24
Mark by Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68
- * 06.10.24
Lecture by Bro. Jim Gardiner PM
- * 20.10.24
Passing
- 05.11.24
Entering by the brethren of No XII
- * 19.11.24
Annual Installation of Office Bearers
- *02.12.24
Annual Divine Service
- *16.12.24
No Meeting
- *07.01.25
The Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture
The local (1st/5th) Argylls in Gallipoli
Alan Cumming and Iain White
- 21.01.25
No Meetin – Inverclyde Music Festival
- Saturday 22.02.2
Burns Supper (630 for 7pm)
Held in 626 Masonic Hall, John Street, Gourock
Immortal Memory by Bro. Alex Shuttleworth Senior Grand Chaplain
- Thursday 06.06.25 (TBC)
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 Jim Livingstone 60 Stuart Road Bishopton PA7 5BY (07800629999)
 Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 6 Stirling Drive Gourock PA19 1AH (07810270787)
 Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

No. XII's New Master Installed



Bro. Robert Marshall
Tuesday 19th November 2024

Installing Masters
Bro Hector Macphail PM
Bro Allan T. Glen PM
Bro Brian McFadyen PM

A New Era Dawns

‘The King is dead; long live the King’. Thus runs the old saying. It does seem a bit contradictory, but it simply indicates that as one King departs, he is followed by another. There is a moral in this wee story. It is that the king is mortal, but the kingdom is not. In our case, one Master departs the Chair and he is succeeded, immediately, by another. In this case, it is Bro. Jim Livingstone who is now IPM after an incredibly successful year as Master and he has been succeeded by Bro. Robert Marshall. The brethren have entrusted No. XII to Robert’s care and, as the ritual says, he ‘cannot be insensible to the importance of the charge, nor to the necessity of a faithful discharge of the duties pertaining to that office’.

Becoming a Lodge Master is a huge responsibility and none more so than in an antient one like No. XII. It not only reaches back to 1728 but is, in fact, the oldest organisation in Inverclyde. The good news for Robert is that he has the support of the experienced Past Masters and his enthusiastic office bearers, many of whom are ‘young’ masons and raring to go. We extend every good wish to Robert for the ensuing twelve months as he works to fill the big shoes that Jim has left for him and look forward to seeing him grow and blossom in the office.

*Postscript – regarding the phrase - Wikipedia tells me that:
 The original phrase was translated from French (Le roi est mort, vive le roi !), which was first declared upon the accession to the French throne of Charles VII after the death of his father Charles VI in 1422.*

Annual Installation Tuesday 19th November 2024

Whilst the evening was very special for our new Master, and all of us who attended, it was much 'more of the same' as the Ceremony was carried out by three stalwart Past Masters of No. XII in keeping with the overall format of our Installation. It was also 'more of the same' in that the Installing team, led by Bro. Hector Macphail PM, did a very good quality job in keeping with our expectations and the traditions in the Lodge. He was ably assisted by Bros. Allan T. Glen PM and Brian McFadyen PM



**From Left: Bros Allan T. Glen (Installing Master) John W. Black (RWPGM) Robert Marshall RWM
Hector Macphail (Principal Installing Master) Brian McFadyen (Installing Master)**



**Bro. Alan D, Beck
PM entertains us
with a song at the
Dinner**

The Office Bearers installed were:

- Right Worshipful Master – Bro. Robert Marshall
- Depute Master – Bro. Brian McFadyen PM
- Substitute Master – Brother Alan D. Beck PM
- Worshipful Senior Warden – Brother Paul J. Branchfield
- Worshipful Junior Warden – Brother Colin B. Reddy
- Secretary – Brother Kenneth C. MacDougall PM
- Treasurer – Brother David D. Stevenson
- Almoner – Brother Alexander Gray
- Director of Ceremonies – Brother Hector Macphail PM
- Chaplain – Brother Robert J. Bain PM
- Senior Deacon – Brother Iain White PM
- Junior Deacon – Brother Cameron White
- Architect – Brother Craig S. McFadyen
- Jeweller – Brother John W. Dyer
- Sword Bearer – Brother James McGregor Jnr
- Director of Music – Brother Ndukwe Ibe
- Marshal – Brother Ian Moffat
- Inner Guard – Brother Jordan Kincaid
- President of Stewards – Brother Anthony Buckley
- 1st Assistant Steward – Brother Blair D. Fisher
- 2nd Assistant Steward – Brother Edward Molloy
- 3rd Assistant Steward – Brother Alexander Easdale
- 4th Assistant Steward – Brother Alexander McCoist
- Tyler – Brother Bryan G. A. Campbell-Black

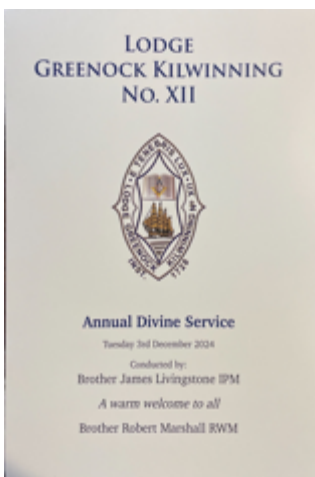
For the first time in the history of No. XII, the Deacons are a father and son team – Bros. Iain and Cameron White



At the dinner which followed the ceremony, the customary Loyal and Masonic toasts were observed. We were particularly pleased that Provost Bro. Drew McKenzie PM (1121) joined us for the ceremonial and the dinner and entertained the new Master and his Installing Team in the Provost's Room after the meeting, in keeping with tradition. I believe they may have had a dram...

Speaking of tradition, the Master of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68, Bro. Gilbert Burns Hill led the deputation of visiting brethren as is customary and he replied to the Toast to the Visiting Brethren. Provost Bro. McKenzie in his speech alluded to the historical links between the Lodge and the town of Greenock and how they have developed and cemented over the years.

Bro. James P. Livingstone IPM, is now proudly wearing the regalia and Past Master's Jewel that were worn, previously, by one of our most eminent Past Masters, Bro. Henry Sebbon Tibbles.



Our Next Meeting Annual Divine Service`` Tuesday 3rd December 2025

The Brethren will join together in worship on Tuesday coming (5th) for the Annual Divine Service. The service will be conducted by our Immediate Past Master, Bro Jim Livingstone and the theme for his sermon is '*A step in the right direction*'. Scripture readings will be delivered by RWM Bro. Robert Marshall and Bro. Paul Branchfield WSW. There will be a Charity collection.

As the Lodge will be in recess for worship, family and friends are very welcome to join us. The service itself should start around 7.45pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available after the service for all who attend.

Remembrance Revisited

Bro. James Lever PM Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624 Honorary Member No. XII



Bro. Jim Lever recently indicated that coming out in the evening to meetings was proving to be a bit much for him. He is over 90 years old, so that is very understandable. On Remembrance Sunday at the Well Park, I assumed, as reported in the last edition of *Twelve Talk*, that Bro. Jim would not be in attendance this year. I did not see him and reported along these lines.

Just how wrong can you be? He was there alright, proudly wearing his medal awarded for his active service in the army in Cyprus. He was wearing his late brother's medal too as may be seen in the photograph. Bro. Jim's daughter Alison had taken him along and they were spotted by or Senior Deacon, Bro. Colin Reddy. Colin was in school in Cowdenknowes High with Alison and they have kept in touch. Strange to say, I was their science teacher! I am grateful to Colin for the photo.

Anyway, *Twelve Talk*, like all publications is anxious to correct errors in reporting and this we now do with a sincere apology. As if Bro. Jim would have missed Remembrance Sunday!



Bro. Captain John Cony Sicklemore

A Victorian Character and Member of No. XII

Bro. Captain John Cony Sicklemore has been featured before in *Twelve Talk* on a number of occasions. He was obviously a real character from what we know of him and from his sartorial elegance (left). We are indebted to Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) for the photo from its archives which are stored in the Greenock Custom House.

HMS Princess Royal (below on next page) was a 91-gun ship of the Royal Navy. Bro. John Cony Sicklemore was made her Captain in 1854. Completed in 1853, she was disposed of in 1872. JCS



commanded her when she took part in the bombarding of Sevastopol in the Crimean War. While Bro. Sicklemore is handsomely kitted out in the photo (above) it is not, I think, as a Captain in the Royal Navy!

The grave of Bro. John Cony Sicklemore is in Greenock Cemetery The inscription on the stone reads

**John Cony Sicklemore Captain R.N.
Born 28th November 1801
Died 20th December 1867
Erected by a few brother officers and friends Greenock 1869**



When I first found it, with the help of the Cemetery staff, the stone was in a bit of a sad state (right). This seemed a shame to me for such an eminent member of the Lodge. After discussion, an estimate from Fraser Downie of Stokes Memorials in Dunoon was accepted to clean it up. If JCS's fellow officers were good enough to collect a subscription to erect the stone surely, we can see to its upkeep?

A tremendous improvement has been made as may be seen from the photos which follow.



The contrast, now, between JCS's stone and its 'unclean' neighbours is marked.



No. XII in the Community

Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) and the Robert Burns World Federation Annual Schools' Competition



In the past 4 years, Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) has been working very hard to stimulate growth and raise its profile in the community by partnership with The Beacon Arts Centre, Inverclyde Council, Inverclyde schools, local businesses and the Dementia Centre in Nicol Street. There has been an increase in: membership, visits to the Club premises in the Custom House by schools, members going into schools to help with the teaching of Burns and the Scots language, readings in local libraries and regular sessions with the Dementia Centre members where Scots songs and poems are performed and activities undertaken.

As a result of the Mother Club's activities, numbers of children participating in our annual schools' competitions have increased dramatically. Consequently, the Mother Club requires more trophies and approached the Lodge to sponsor one. The Lodge agreed to the request.

As well as the intrinsic benefits of supporting local children, there will be benefit to the Lodge in having its name broadcast annually in the programme, at the prizegiving and to the many relatives, young people, Burnsians and members of the public who attend the competitions. There will also be publicity through the Club's social media activity and in the local press.

The Trophy will be formally presented to The Mother Club in the New Year. There has been a significant link between the Lodge and The Mother Club over the years with at least 9 Mother Club Presidents having been members of No. XII with 5 of these brethren/Presidents being Past Masters. This warrants a little more research for a wee article in the future. Perhaps Bro. AD Beck PM and Past President of The Mother Club, with his extensive knowledge of Mother Club history acquired during his current PhD studies, could assist??



The Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture

The 1st/5th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders In Gallipoli

Tuesday 7th January 2025

The 5th Argylls was the local Territorial Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. It was based in the Drill Hall that used to stand between Finnart Street and Newton Street behind the old Greenock Academy building. When the Great War came, its members were called up to serve King Country and Empire. Many more volunteered.



The battalion was sent to Gallipoli in 1915 and took part in the Battle of Achi Baba on 12th July. Over 100 officers and men were lost in the charge on the Turkish trenches.

The lecture will be delivered by local historian and Gallipoli expert Alan Cumming. His presentation will be followed by a complementary one from Bro Iain White PM which will focus on local freemasons, from No. XII and Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175, who served with the 1st/5th in Gallipoli including Bros. Duncan C Kerr MC, James Reid Kerr and Robert Alan Clapperton-Stewart.

It is planned that the Lodge will open and close and then the Lecture will be open to members of the public. Relevant local societies and individuals will be invited. We hope for a decent turnout to cement our involvement in the local community. Bro. Provost McKenzie will be in attendance.

Next year, 2025, will mark the 110th anniversary of the Argylls' Charge at Achi Baba.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII Burns Club Annual Charity Burns Supper Saturday 22nd February 2025



Following the success of last year's Burns Supper, held in the premises of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626 in John Street, the 2025 Burns Supper will be held there again at 630 for 7pm.

The toast to the Immortal Memory will be delivered by Bro. Rev. Alex Shuttleworth (left) who is an eminent Burns Speaker and is Senior Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

More details will be contained in future issues.

Tercentenary Jewels and No. XII rituals



The Tercentenary Jewel (left) commemorating the Lodge's 300th birthday on 27th December 2028 is available to ALL brethren from the Bro. Treasurer and the price is £12 per jewel.

The new rituals are available to all qualified brethren of No. XII at the price of £15 from Treasurer Bro. David Stevenson. Over half the Rituals have been sold already!

No XII on the Road With the Lodge The Gael No. 609 Deputation to the Channel Islands 17th – 20th November 2024

Lodge The Gael has many traditions, as would be expected of a Lodge that is nearly 150 years old. Amongst these is that of visiting an island during each Master's term of Office. Over the years, many have been visited from Lewis and Harris to Majorca and Tenerife. There are close association between Lodge The Gael and No. XII with myself (Bro. Iain White PM) and Bro. Alan D. Beck PM being Honorary Members of Lodge The Gael and Bro. Keith A. Bowes PM, Donnie Finlayson PM and Bill Bryce PM being Honorary Members of No. XII. So too was the late Bro. Hamish MacLachlan PM (609)

In 2023, I had the pleasure of going to the Isle of Mull to Lodge Tobermory St. Mary's No. 1013 for its Installation. It was a 'Gael man' who was going into the Chair (Bro. Calum McDougall). Bro. Donnie Finlayson and I were honoured to be the Installing Masters.

This year the visit was to the Channel Islands, to Jersey in particular, and to The Duke of Normandy Lodge No. 245 (EC). It was more restful this time, in that we had no work to do but, rather, just observing a Raising by the brethren of 245.

We flew down from Glasgow and arrived, just in time for a quick change and a brisk walk through St. Helier to the magnificent Jersey Masonic Temple (below).



All of the Masonic Lodges and Orders in Jersey meet in this Temple which is run as a business. It seems to be doing very well when you see the grandeur of its various apartments and how well it is kept. It has a main temple, a practice room, Board Room, a bar and function room and a museum. Remarkably, it survived the German occupation in World War II. After ransacking, it was used as a store for wine and wireless sets/radios amongst other things. It was restored after the War.

The meeting of the Duke of Normandy Lodge was in the main Temple (below) with a good attendance of members and visitors. The Degree was a Raising and was almost identical, in ritual terms, to that which we work in No. XII. I was talking to Bro. Hector Macphail PM about this and he had a similar experience when visiting Lodges in Plymouth.

After the Degree, we moved to the function room for a marvellous Fillet Steak dinner and a variety of typical Loyal and Masonic Toasts were drunk and a generous raffle raised a fair amount of money for Charities. We heard that, over the last 10 years, the Jersey masons have raised £1 million for good causes. That is a really amazing effort.



The next day (Friday 18th) we returned to the building to be shown round and, in particular, to see the museum and its fascinating contents. The Museum was bursting at the seams with exhibits and, of particular interest to, photos of the inside of the building during the German occupation.



The Temple anteroom, where regalia is stored, after being ransacked by the Germans in 1941



The Temple anteroom today, where regalia is still stored, after restoration



Jersey Masonic Temple Function Room – set out for a small dinner



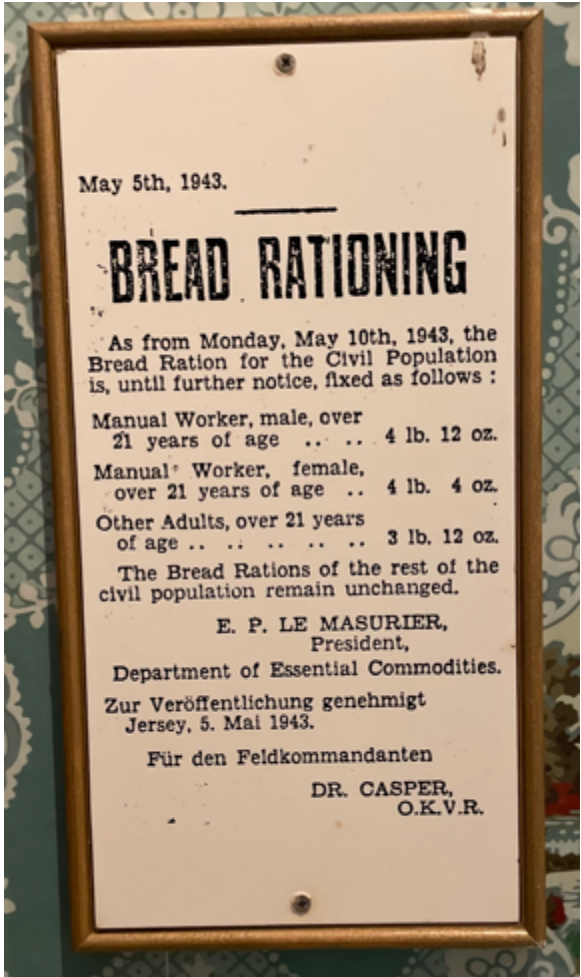
The magnificent practice room which probably has a capacity of around 30 and is occasionally used for small meetings.



Jersey Masonic Museum

On Saturday 19th we visited the Jersey War Tunnels about 4 miles outside St. Helier. The tunnel section that is open to visitors is a partially completed underground hospital complex in St. Lawrence, Jersey, built by German occupying forces using 5,000 slave labourers during the occupation of Jersey during World War II. Over 1 km (1,100 yd) of tunnels were completed, built in the foulest of conditions for the workers. After the liberation of the Channel Islands, the complex was converted into a museum detailing the occupation, and so it remains today.

There is a vast array of memorabilia, stories and features that tell of life in Jersey during the occupation. Photos follow.



The Deputation inside the Temple



The Deputation outside the Temple



Note: Bros. Iain White PM (XII) and John Le Brocq PM (Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175, 5th and 7th from the left. RWM Bro. Andrew McLean (Lodge The Gael No. 609), third from left is the son-in-law of Bro. John Le Brocq.

Information from the Treasurer

Lodge Ties are back in stock and are available from the Bro. Treasurer priced £16 each

Anniversary Badges These are £7 and are also available from the Bro. Treasurer. There are badges for various years' anniversary, from 25 years to 70 years plus the always popular Grumpy Past Master. £2 from each badge sale goes to Grand Lodge Benevolence

Test Fees are now overdue. Owing to increases levied by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the No. XII Test Fees are now £65. If you have not paid your Test Fees you cannot take or hold office, visit other Lodges or vote in the Lodge.

Capitation Fees The Lodge has to pay Grand Lodge £45 for each Life Member. Life Members are encouraged to support the Lodge by covering this sum. They have no Test Fees to pay, but the Grand Lodge still requires payment for them.

Monthly Draw Just the December draw to go and then it restarts in the New Year. Contact the Bro. Treasurer to take part. Tickets are £1 per month and multiples may be purchased. IUT's a great fund raiser for the Lodge.

Lodge Artefacts Gifted by Bro. KK Morrison PM November 2024



Jewels: (From left on top) Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 (250th Anniversary 1757 – 2007) Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175 (Bicentenary 1790-1990) Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII (Bicentenary 1728 – 1928) The Grand Lodge of Scotland (Bicentenary 1736 – 1936) Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII (275th Anniversary 1728 – 2003)

Mark Tokens: (From left on bottom) Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII, Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No. 626, Lodge Clydebank No., 1234 Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII

The commemorative jewels and mark tokens in the photo above, were given to me for the Lodge collection of memorabilia by Bro. KK Morrison PM. Further examples would be welcome of course. Also, 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.

Thank you, Kenny for your generosity.

Annual Hospitality Levy 2024-25

We all know that the hospitality at No. XII's post meeting harmonies is famed far and wide for its generosity and, of course, President of Stewards Tony Buckley's superb food. However, all the drams and suppers do not come without a cost. Accordingly, each Office Bearer should bring WJW Bro. Colin Reddy £10 in cash or a bottle of spirits as soon as possible. He is overseeing collection of the Levy. Of course, brethren of No. XII who wait behind who are not Office Bearers and enjoy the harmonies may wish to contribute too. What they give will be very welcome.

Bro. Colin is in Arran and will miss the Divine Service tomorrow. Donations should be given to WSE Bro. Paul in Bro. Colin's absence.

Bro. Colin would welcome raffle prize donations too.

Reports on Visits

- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 21st October 2024 (Raising) – attended by WSW Bro Robert Marshall and IPM Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge The Gael No. 609 on 4th November 2024 (Raising) – attended by Bros. Iain White PM, Donnie Finlayson PM HM and Keith A Bowes PM HM.
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 11th November 2024 (Entering) – attended by WSW Bro Robert Marshall Lodge
- Sir Michael No 989 on 15th November 2024 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro James Livingstone, WSW Bro Robert Marshall, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM and Bro Craig McFadyen
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 18th November 2024 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro James Livingstone, IPM Bro Brian McFadyen and WSW Bro Robert Marshall

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.

IW
02.12.24