

Meetings 2024-25

*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 Meeting – Inverclyde Music Festival

04.02.25

Passing

18.02.25

Entering

Saturday 22.02.24

Burns Supper (630 for 7pm)
Held in 626 Masonic Hall, John Street,
Gourock
Immortal Memory by Bro. Alex
Shuttleworth Senior Grand Chaplain
Toast to the Lassies by Bro. Graham Hill

04.03.25

Raising

18.03.25

Passing

01.04.25

Raising

15.04.25

Mark Ceremonial

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 Robert Marshall 3 Victoria Road Gourock PA7 5BY (078958158628)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 6 Stirling Drive Gourock PA19 1AH (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

Festive Cheer



So, the Festive Season is upon us and the Craft will go into a mini recess for a couple of weeks. It is said, in an old song, to be *'the most wonderful time of the year'* and so it can be with families uniting, people enjoying the company of their family and friends and, of course, eating and drinking a little too much. However, we should, at this time, remember those who are lonely and alone, those who are challenged financially and barely able to keep warm never mind eating like kings and exchanging expensive presents. Not everyone has the means to indulge themselves in these ways.

I remember my dad talking about Christmas when he was a boy in the 1920s in the east end of Greenock. He used to say that the only reason that he wasn't deprived was that he did not have a Social Worker to tell him! He was one of a family of 5, the son of a widow. Times were tough for Granny White and her family. Dad had a Christmas stocking with, maybe, an orange or an apple in the bottom and little else. He used to shake his head at modern day excesses. Sadly, some 30 years after he passed to The Grand Lodge Above, we find ourselves in a situation where too many people in our society find themselves in conditions of poverty like my dad knew.

That's why the supportive work that No. XII does, along with the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West – i.e., all the local Lodges – in partnership with Children in Poverty Inverclyde (CiPI) is so very important; similarly is, Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68's recent large donation to the Church Angels Foodbank. Finance provided by us will, through CiPI, allow children to get a present, see Santa, go to a party and their carers to provide a meal on Christmas Day. This is so very important. No. XII has been working with Pat Burke and his team at CiPI for many years now. I'm sure that will continue as faces are given a smile at Christmas that would otherwise be glum.

Time and the modern man

The following are the personal observations of your Editor which are respectfully offered for your consideration. This is the first part of a mini-series!

Time is our most precious commodity and something that can be wasted but not manufactured. Things are changing fast nowadays and faster than ever because the rate of change is rapidly accelerating. When studying at The University, a lecturer told my class that if you lived in Britain before the Industrial Revolution you could go through the whole of your life and be unable to notice anything changing - not so nowadays. Today the rate of change is rapidly accelerating.

Remember: when you had to watch a TV programme when it was on live or not at all; when the first photocopier was set loose in your work; when the world was black and white before coloured TVs came in; there was no such thing as a PC, MacBook, iPad or iPod; when the brick sized mobile phones came in? Yes, things are changing fast now.

In a sense that is reflected in society. Despite all the changes, many of them timesaving, ironically we seem to have less time than ever. Society has also changed dramatically in terms of the expectations placed upon the male component of the nuclear family. The 'must have' demands of all the gadgets mentioned earlier, and more; the aspiration to be homeowners rather than renters, the cost of holidays in the sun – all of these things have led to the perceived necessity of both partners working. The consequence is that both partners are expected to pitch in to chores around the house, looking after babies, toddlers and young school-age children. What is the end result? There is less disposable time.

Today this shortage of time impacts upon the interests that men are able to follow compared to their what they could do 30 or 40 years ago. Some examples of pursuits that are time constrained would be: a whole day spent fishing; 5 hours golfing with a couple of beers thereafter; a couple of hours at the wapenschaw at the boolin' green. These activities are all suffering diminishing numbers, clubs are struggling to maintain memberships and are under threat of closure. Golf clubs are closing and so too are bowling clubs. The lack of time is a contributory factor and may be very significant indeed.

Now let us turn to The Masonic Craft. A typical Masonic Meeting, if in your locale, will take about 4 hours of your time; half an hour to travel and change; two and a half hours or so at the meeting; 30 minutes to change and get a quick cuppa; half an hour to get home. So, you leave (say) Port Glasgow at 700 pm for a meeting in Gourock, and get back to the Port at 11pm. Even if you go straight away after the meeting it will be over 3 hours. This is a fair chunk of time to be devoting and get the support for from your partner. Now that's just 1 meeting and one that is based near to home. Any aspiring Senior Office Bearer is out more than that – in some cases 3 or 4 times a week. The implication of that is up to 15 hours per week. That's a lot of time when it is a diminishing resource.

Why do Masonic Meetings take so long? Let's accept the ritual as it stands in your Lodge. It is what is round about the ritual that takes so much additional time. Is this all desirable or necessary? I'll return to this question in subsequent editions.

Our Next Meeting
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 hopes to be in attendance.

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

For Masonic Brethren in attendance, regalia should be worn.

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 – A Message from our Treasurer Bro. David Stevenson

The last two winners of the 2024 Draw were:

November – Bro. Crawford Kirkpatrick

December – Bro. Jim Livingstone

It restarts in the New Year. Contact the Bro. Treasurer to take part. Tickets are £1 per month and multiples may be purchased.

The Monthly Draw provides your Lodge with an important source of income and this year I have been able to transfer £420 to the Tercentenary Fund. As we leave December 2024, it is time to renew your subscription. If you pay by Standing Order then you have nothing to do and thank you for your continued support.

To renew or join the Monthly Draw please send £1 per number per month - i.e., £12/£24/£36 etc as you wish -

RBS

Sort code 83 22 20

account 10000509

Name - Greenock Kilwinning No X11 Social

Ref - your name /draw

Alternatively, set up a Standing Order for the required monthly amount - same bank info

Where I can, I shall use the same numbers you had for 2024. Good luck to all participants,,,,,

I would like to thank various Brethren who, upon being told of their monthly win, very kindly donate the money back to the Lodge. Typically, these Brethren do not want their name publicised but their contribution is very much appreciated. *DS Treasurer No. XII*

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.



The Toast to the Lassies will be given by Bro. Graham Hill, a member of The Prince's Lodge No. 607 in the Province of Glasgow. Like Bro Alex, Graham is also a well-known Burns Speaker. He sent me this biography: *Graham was born privately and educated publicly. He came into the world in the quaint fishing village of Govan and was brought up on the mean streets of Helensburgh, where the wheelie bins have Bluetooth and alloys. Growing up, he represented Scotland at badminton but his career was cut short owing to a horrendous lack of ability. He continues to live in Helensburgh with his first wife Kirsty and their 2 young children. He works in a Primary School in the Vale of Leven where he teaches English as a foreign language. A Past President of 3 Burns Clubs, he has spoken about the Bard widely including San Francisco, Seattle, Clydebank, London, Dublin – but mainly Clydebank!*

Tercentenary Rededication – Date Confirmed

Grand Secretary has confirmed in an email that the date we requested for the Tercentenary Rededication has been confirmed as Wednesday 27th December 2028. The Feast of St John the Evangelist will also be celebrated as it was at the Bicentenary on 27th December 1928 and, in 2018. 27th January is the exact 300th Anniversary.

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 (1) Bro Hector Macphail PM Visit to Bro. Robert R. Grundmann, December 2024

Bo. Hector Macphail PM has been on his travels to Germany again. He visited his friend, and our Affiliate Member, Bro. Robert Grundmann and has been kind enough to write the piece which follows for us.

Most years, Elaine and I visit various German Cities to enjoy their Christmas Markets. This year we decided to return to Dortmund. We are very familiar with this City, as I worked there twenty years ago.



Whilst in the City, we took the opportunity of meeting up with Bro. Jochen Wawzrynkowski who is currently WJW of Lodge Kurt Tucholsky No. 1060, who meet in Munster, and whose Installation I attended earlier in the year.

Together we decided to visit No. XII's affiliate member Bro. Robert Grundmann who is not only a P.M. of Lodge K.T.1060 (and others) but a Past Assistant Grand Master in Germany.

Jochen kindly agreed to drive us the 2 hour journey to the village of Empfel Kamp, where Bro. Grundmann lives. Bro. Grundmann is an inspirational Brother, who, despite now being quadriplegic, still

contributes greatly to society in general and of course Freemasonry.

Bro. Grundmann was delighted to see us, and we were made very welcome. Knowing that we were coming, Robert had had his Chef prepare an excellent three course lunch which we enjoyed. Robert was keen to learn about how Lodge No. XII was progressing and asked that his fraternal good wishes were passed on

We spent a pleasant afternoon in Robert's company and admiring his large collection of contemporary art and sculptures within his house and in his garden (which I wish that I had photographed).



In the photograph at the top, on the wall behind us, you can see several small paintings by Bro. Otmar Alt, who is a very successful artist and sculptor. Many examples of Bro. Alt's sculptures can be seen throughout Germany beside autobahns etc. and are easily identified by their abstract design and brightly coloured appearance.

Twenty years ago, Bro. Grundmann and I visited Bro. Alt's Studio to view an exhibition, but unfortunately even the smallest example of his work, was beyond my price range.

I have also included a photograph of Robert's front door. This he had specially commissioned. To the uninitiated passersby, it would only elicit a passing glance as an abstract design, but Freemasons immediately recognise it as the 47th Proposition of Euclid, a well known symbol to German Freemasons (as well as brethren from several other Constitutions).

Only a Freemason would recognise the precise significance and know that a Past Master lived within.

A very brief mention of the 47th Proposition of Euclid.



The symbol of the 47th Proposition of Euclid is not so familiar to Scottish Freemasons but is used extensively in other Constitutions.

Many English Past Master's Jewels feature this symbol suspended from an inverted square.

Why?

It really is to remind Freemasons of the science of Geometry and its importance in life and science and to encourage study. This emblem is considered to represent the harmony of the universe.

It could be argued that this symbol, this proposition, is the foundation of all science. The 3, 4, 5 ratio was once considered almost magical.

Euclid was a mathematician living in Alexandria Egypt, around 300BC. He catalogued, rather than originated many geometrical and mathematical ideas.

The man who generally gets the credit of discovering this mathematical concept is Pythagoras, who lived around 580BC. I have to say, however, that the Egyptian Pyramid builders of 2500BC, were already well familiar with this mathematical principal.

Back in ancient history Priests were also mathematicians and architects with what was considered mystical knowledge. These ancient Priests were initiated into a secret society and were greatly revered for the knowledge that they possessed.

Just like a religion, these ancient mathematician priests had disciples, followers who belonged to their 'School'.

I remember hearing a story, that a disciple of Pythagoras was travelling within the Greek Empire, when he took ill. A kind innkeeper nursed him until he died. Before he died, however, the Pythagorean drew a certain symbol on a tablet and told the inn keeper to display it at the door of his inn.

The story goes that a long time later a Pythagorean was passing, recognised the symbol and stopped to speak to the inn keeper. Hearing of what the innkeeper had done for his brother Pythagorean, he rewarded the innkeeper generously.

It isn't related what the actual symbol was. It may have been a diagram of Pythagoras' Theorem (47th Proposition of Euclid), which would have been recognised only by a brother Pythagorean, but the Pythagoreans also used another symbol of recognition between them, which was the five pointed star. I doubt that we will ever know for sure which symbol was drawn on that door.

No XII on the Road (2) Lodge The Gael No. 609 Annual Installation Saturday 7th December 2024



The annual Glasgow Highlanders' extravaganza, sometimes known as the Installation of Lodge The Gael, took place on Saturday 7th December. There was much craic as the brethren assembled and finally, we slid into the opening in true Lodge the Gael fashion about 5.15 (ish). No need to be hurrying after all. The whole night was ahead of us. We were honoured by the presence of Glasgow's new Provincial Grand Master, Bro Alan Cuthill (left with RWM) and we were all delighted to see that he had come along to join us.

Bro Andrew McLean was re-installed into the Chair in a full ceremony, including a Board of Installed Masters. It was done in the high-quality manner we expect from

Lodge the Gael by Past Masters Archie MacGilvray and Keith J. Bowes (right). Unfortunately, we were missing part of the installing team. Bro. John LeBrocq PM of Lodge Greenock St. John's No 175 is Bro McLean's father-in-law, and should have been taking part, but could not owing to a bad dose of 'flu.



After a fine steak pie dinner, the Harmony was a very special event too, with the usual Loyal and Masonic Toasts, Gaelic songs aplenty, Highland Honours and superb piping and many a laugh along the way. Drams were taken. No XII was represented by Bros. Iain White PM HM, Cameron White, Donnie Finlayson PM (HM XII) and Keith A. Bowes PM (HM XII).



Lodge The Gael Brethren Assembled



Bros. Cameron White, Donnie Finlayson PM (HM XII) and Iain White PM (HM 609)



Bro. Pipe Major Keith A. Bowes PM (HM XII)



The Company – a bit later on in the evening

Bro. Alexander Owen Cameron Dewar

Master of No. XII 1925-26 and 1926-27



Bro Owen Dewar was a name familiar to me from browsing around in the old No. XII Minute Books. I was on eBay one night and noticed the little soap dish on the left in the photo was up for sale. A quick look at the Roll Book confirmed that ‘our’ Owen Dewar was a Pharmacist and so this had come from his business. A few bids later and it was mine, and now is an addition to the Lodge artefacts.

Owen was a native of Cupar, in Fife. He joined No. XII on 12th February 1914 at the age of 35, was Passed on 19th March 1914 and Raised on 13th April 1914. Our eminent

Brother, RC Smith was Master at the time. Smith also had a business in Greenock Town centre, a shoemakers in Westburn Street, the fore runner of the big shop on West Blackhall street today.

The Greenock Directory shows Owen Dewar to be a Pharmacist with a business at 41 West Blackhall Street (a bit along the road from the one above). His home was in 7 Campbell Street which would be down at the River end near The Esplanade.

We are able to conclude that Owen was a proficient floor worker. In the 14 years between 1938 and 1941; Owen Dewar was one of the Installing Masters 11 times – 1 as Principal, 4 as number 2 and 7 as number 3.

Christmas Greetings from Germany 2024

Dear RW Master, W Wardens, Office Bearers and fellow brethren of No XII,

I wish you all and your loved ones Merry Christmas and all the very best for the forthcoming year. This I do also on behalf of all the brethren of Kurt Tucholsky Lodge No 1060 GC. We had a busy year and were happy to welcome new members – initiates as well as joining brethren.



In November 2023 we should have celebrated the 10th anniversary of KTL. Unfortunately, on the dates we had suggested the Lodge rooms were not available and, in the end, we found a date in January this year. We could welcome Officers of Grand Lodge, visitors and many of our members – we even had to open the doors to the anteroom to allow more chairs to be placed.

The meeting was followed by an informal get-together with families and potential candidates.

To commemorate this special occasion the founding Master surprised his fellow brethren with a present: A rough ashlar and a perfect ashlar all in one. The sculpture as well as the wooden box it is kept in when not on display was made by Brother Peter Kellner from Hanover, a retired radio journalist.



When turning it upside down one can see that the stone keeps a 'secret'. When turning the three pointed star into the required position a mechanism with a spring pushes up a casing made of brass showing an engraving.

The casing is big enough to hold a certificate if folded properly or e.g. an USB stick with the data of all members (to be updated regularly). It took Brother Peter an awful lot of time to form the stone and build the box. All present supported the WM with a round of applause

when he congratulated and thanked Brother Peter for his excellent work. I have attached a picture showing the front of the wooden box mentioned above.

Wishing you and yours all the best and looking forward to hearing from you. I greet you cordially and fraternally

Robert

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 would welcome raffle prize donations too from all members.

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
27.12.24