

Twelve Talk

Issue No. 187
16.11.25

Meetings 2025-26

2025

*02.09.25

Entering

16.09.25

Passing

07.10.25

Mark Ceremonial

21.10.25

Annual Meeting and Election of Office Bearers – Members Only

04.11.25

Raising

18.11.25

Annual Installation (630 pm)

02.12.25

The Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture

Bro. Finlay Campbell: "Working in the community for its benefit"

16.12.25

No Meeting as per Bye Laws

2026

06.01.26

Annual Divine Service

20.01.26

Entering by Lodge St. Munn Ardnadam No. 496

03.02.26

No meeting owing to Music Festival.

17.02.26

TBC

Saturday 28.02.26

Annual Charity Burns Supper (630 for 7 pm) in Lodge FoC Gourock No. 626



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)

Annual Installation of Office Bearers Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 630 pm


On Tuesday, Bro. Robert Marshall will be reinstated in the Chair. His installation team will be the same as last year, viz. Bro. Hector Macphail, Allan T. Glen and Brian McFadyen, all Past Masters of No. XII. Bro. Brian is, of course, a Past Master of The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566 too. No. XII is Bro. Brian's Mother Lodge.

It will be a full ceremonial, including an Installing Board.



Robert Marshall was initiated into Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII on the 4th of November 2014 and since that time, he has filled a variety of offices, starting at Director of Music, then into progressive offices at Inner Guard, working up through each office until most recently Worshipful Senior Warden. He was delighted to be elected to the Office of Right Worshipful Master again and looks forward to the year ahead.

Robert, who is from Gourock, is a devoted family man. He has been proudly married to his wife Gillian since 2008, and they have two daughters, Evie and Abbie.

Robert completed an apprenticeship as a mechanical engineer before earning an Honours Degree in Engineering from Glasgow Caledonian University. He later obtained a postgraduate teaching qualification in Further Education from Dundee University. **Continued over** 

Currently employed as a Lecturer at West College Scotland, he is integral to the support and rebuilding of the apprenticeship program in Inverclyde and is also involved in various industrial training initiatives.

Outside of work, Robert is a passionate golfer and has been a member of Gourock Golf Club for over 35 years.

Bro. Robert's team of Office Bearers is

Immediate Past Master	Brother James P. Livingstone
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 Cameron White
Junior Deacon	Brother Jordan Kincaid
Architect	Brother Craig S. McFadyen
Jeweller	Brother John W. Dyer
Sword Bearer	Brother James McGregor Jnr
Director of Music	Brother Ndukwe Ibe
Inner Guard	Brother Scott Branchfield
President of Stewards	Brother Anthony Buckley
1 st Assistant Steward	Brother Edward Molloy
2 nd Assistant Steward	Brother Alexander Easdale
3 rd Assistant Steward	Brother Alexander McCoist
Tyler	Brother Bryan G. A. Campbell-Black

Bro. Robert will name the Depute Master in the Lodge on the evening of Installation.

Grand Lodge of Scotland – Strategic Vision and Priorities

As a wee reminder, these are:

We will expand the global presence of Scottish Freemasonry by inspiring our members to enjoy their involvement and attracting new members to strengthen our capabilities and reach. This will be achieved by cultivating a positive culture of inclusivity and meaningful impact in our communities.

- **Placing membership at the heart of Scottish Freemasonry**
- **Growing Scottish Freemasonry**
- **Creating inspiring communication and engagement**

These are the parameters within which all Lodges should be working. Are we?

No. XII Remembers November 2025

1. Regular Meeting of 4th November



In recent years, No. XII has placed a greater emphasis on remembrance than in the past. Part of this has been the inception of an annual Act of Remembrance in the Regular Meeting closest to Remembrance Sunday. This year, it was conducted by Bro. Brian McFadyen, PM, who quoted the Ode of Remembrance from Lawrence Binyon's poem, *For the Fallen*.

**They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them**

and also, the *Kohima Epitaph*

**When you go home, tell them of us, and say
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.**

Bro. Brian also read the names of the Fallen, the brethren of No. XII, who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War:

**Private Archibald Lindsay Barr 2nd Battalion Scots Guards
Engine Room Artificer. George William Campbell Royal Naval Reserve
Lieutenant James Hannah Royal Garrison Artillery
Pioneer Henry Hay Royal Engineers
1st Engineer Arthur Johnston Mercantile Marine
Private John Duncan Macfarlane 2nd Battalion Argyll and Sutherland
Highlanders
Engineer Sub Lieutenant David Rankin Fleming MacKail Royal Navy
Lance Corporal Alexander Niven Russell 6th Battalion Queen's Own
Cameron Highlanders
2nd Lieutenant Joseph Henry Sanders 10th Battalion Cameronians
(Scottish Rifles)
Serjeant James Ritchie Smith 1st/5th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders**



We also observed the silence, had a recording of the Last Post and a lament on the Great Highland Bagpipe played by Bro. Iain White PM.

We will remember them...

2. Remembrance Sunday – 9th November 2025



**Bro. Robert Marshall RWM
with the No. XII wreath**

As has also become the custom recently, No. XII took part in the Service of Remembrance at Greenock's Well Park Cenotaph. Our Master, Bro. Robert Marshall laid a wreath and was accompanied by Bros. Thomas Porteous of Lodge Greenock St John's No. 175 and Malcolm Sinclair of Lodge



Crawfurdsburn Greenock No. 1121. Several other No. XII brethren attended the service – Bros. Iain White PM, Hector Macphail PM. Robert J. Bain, PM, Alex Gray, Cameron White and James McGregor Sr. Others may have attended that we did not see in the crowds. The Provost of Inverclyde, Bro. Drew McKenzie, himself a Past Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No. 1121, led the mourners who were laying wreaths.



**3 Greenock Masters – Bros. Thomas Porteous
(Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175), Malcolm
Sinclair (Crawfurdsburn Greenock No. 1121) and
Robert Marshall (Greenock Kilwinning No. XII)**

It was a matter of some pride to the Masonic brethren in attendance that the 3 Greenock Masters approached the Cenotaph and laid their respective wreaths together



Gourock Cenotaph

Wreaths were laid in Gourock too, and when I was out walking on Monday morning, I passed the Cenotaph there and saw the wreaths laid by Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626 and the Young and New Masons of the Province of Renfrewshire West.



XII



175



1121



626



Young or
New Masons

The Wreaths

3. Bro. James Lever HM



Bro. Jim Lever (seen left with 2 of his daughters) is a Past Master of Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624. An expert floor worker and faithful servant to his Mother Lodge for many years, he was made an Honorary Member of No. XII, some years ago, in recognition of his regular attendance and support for the Lodge. Jim will be 93 at his next birthday in December. While his health does not allow him to attend Lodges now, he never misses the Remembrance Service in Well Park, proudly wearing his General Service Medal from the Suez Canal Zone and that of his late brother George from his service in Cyprus.

4. Bro. 2nd Lieutenant James Hannah



Bro. James Hannah of No. XII lost his life in the Great War in Nairn and was buried in Greenock Cemetery. Some years ago, the Lodge discovered that his memorial stone had been vandalised and broken into 3 parts. The Lodge paid for its restoration, and it now serves as a magnificent memorial at his resting place.

On Armistice Day, Bro. Iain White, PM, braved the torrential rain and visited Bro. James's grave, observed the silence at 1100 am, ended the silence by reciting the *Kohima Epitaph* and playing a lament on the pipes.



5. Poppy Crosses

Again, this year, brethren of the Lodge sponsored Poppy Crosses in the names of each of our 10 Great War fallen brethren. Our Bro. Secretary, Ken Macdougall PM, inscribes the crosses and they are sent off to the Garden of Remembrance.

Annual Charity Burns Supper Saturday 28th February 2026

The attendance at the 2025 Burns Supper was disappointing, so let us see if we can do better next year! For the avoidance of all confusion, the date is **Saturday, 28th February** and the venue, following consultation with the brethren, is Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. **626 in John Street**. Please put that in your diaries now. The usual raffles and auctions will take place, and items are sought for these.

We have 2 excellent speakers. The Immortal Memory will be proposed by The Reverend Canon Dr. Joseph J. Morrow CVO CBE KC DL FRSE, The Right Honourable the Lord Lyon King of Arms and Past Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason (photo left below). Bro. Duncan McGregor, a self-employed painter and decorator and Past Master of Lodge Nitshill No. 1478, will Toast the Lassies (right below).



Reports on Visits

- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 25th October 2025 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Robert Marshall, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM and Bro Eddie McGill
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 27th October 2025 (Entering) – attended by Bro David Stevenson
- The Prince's Lodge No 607 on 3rd November 2025 (Annual Installation) – attended by Bro Iain White PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM and Bro Alan Beck PM. Bro. Beck was one of the 3 Installing Masters.

The Dukes of Atholl Bro. Stewart Peterson's Tale

As indicated previously, Bro. Stewart Peterson has given me a lot of information on his grandfather, some of it related to the Duke of Atholl, who spent 4 years as Grand Master Mason. Stewart writes:

In your latest excellent *Twelve Talk*, I was stunned when I started reading about the Duke of Atholl, especially of his second son, John George Stewart-Murray, who later became the Grand Master Mason of Scotland. Now I can't be totally certain of my accuracy without checking through more paperwork, but my grandfather served under said second son in the army.

My Granddad, Andrew Umphray Peterson, was born 22 April 1875 at Renwick, Sandsting, Zetland, and died 8 Feb 1929 at Nigg, Aberdeen. Granddad was in the Scottish Horse Regiment under Hon Brig-Gen John George Stewart-Murray, 8th Duke of Atholl, KT, PC, GCVO, CB, DSO, TD. In 1917, he was Sgt-Major 4th Battalion Gordon Highlanders attached to the Royal Defence Corps.

However, I digress, John George Stewart-Murray (always with the hyphen) must have made an impression on my grandfather, as he named one of his sons after that Duke, and I am proud to say he was called John George Stewart-Murray Peterson. This was my late father, born in Aberdeen, and a member of Lodge Firth of Clyde No 626.



Stewart's Grandad
Andrew Umphray
Peterson



In 1920, Granddad appears on the Valuation Roll for the County of Argyll, South Knapdale Parish, Glenfyne Distillery Co Ltd. He was listed as manager with what looks like an annual payment of £10 - the workers received £5! Granddad was also the manager of a distillery around, or possibly in, Elgin, and that would tie in with his masonic connections up there.

I can't find any more records at the moment, but I think he served in the Boer War at some stage, and I know my own father was also a member of the Scottish Horse T.A. in Aberdeenshire as a teenager.

The name Umphray is very common in Shetland, according to Census records I have and is even a middle name in women. My family connection there can be traced back to 1725 so far. As an aside, Iain, my youngest grandson, is called Murrough, Gaelic for Murray, after his great-grandfather.

That's a potted history, Iain, as much as I can find, although I know there is more lurking in paperwork somewhere. Immediately below (left) is Stewart's Granddad's 33rd Degree Diploma and (right) his Dad's Mark Diploma from 626.



Information from the Treasurer

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

40th and 50th Anniversary Badges. These are £7 and are also available from the Bro. Treasurer. There are badges for various years' anniversaries, 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 due for 2025-26. 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

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. 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 2025. Good luck to all participants,,,,,

Recent winners: September JP Livingstone, October Alex Johnson, November KK Morrison, December RJ Bain

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*

Tercentenary Jewels and No. XII Rituals

The Tercentenary Jewel 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!

The Alamo (and More) Bro. Eddie Lapsley Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68



(I am grateful to Bro. Eddie of LDK No. 68 for allowing me to serialise and publish his research into The Alamo and its Masonic connections. It was previously published in 'The Ashlar' some time ago. I am sure you will find this fascinating, as I did. IW).

I realise this might be a somewhat odd title. However, I originally just started to write about Freemasons at the Alamo, but as I was investigating this, the story I was writing seemed to change somewhat, as there was a long chain of events which led to Santa Anna's rise to power. Anyway, that explains the title!

Part III: The Alamo

Alamo is Spanish for Cottonwood

General Santa Anna crossed the Mexican desert with a force of 6,000 in the worst weather ever recorded for that region, which caused hundreds of casualties, but meant he arrived in Texas months earlier than expected. As the taking of San Antonio de Bexar was his first objective, he arrived there on 23rd Feb. 1836

The Defenders

Lt Colonel of Artillery James C Neill, of whom James Bowie wrote, "No other man in the army could have kept men at this post under the neglect they have experienced." Lt Col Neill was given 21 days leave on 11th Feb to seek supplies, recruits and attend to family business. He only reached Gonzales on what was the last day of the siege of the Alamo.

The New Orleans Greys initially comprised 2 companies, but most had left on the expedition to Matamoros, leaving only 24 at the Alamo

James Bowie arrived at the Alamo on the 17th of January on orders from Sam Houston, with the suggestion that the artillery be removed and the Alamo be blown up, but Bowie was so impressed with Lt Col Neill's leadership and capabilities, he vowed that he would, "rather die in these ditches than surrender."

Major James B Bonham arrived with Jim Bowie's volunteer force and was twice sent out eluding Mexican cavalry during the siege with messages requesting assistance, returning on his final mission on 3rd March with a message from Robert McAlpin Williamson that relief was on its way

Lt Colonel William Barret Travis arrived on 3rd Feb with a force of 29 to supplement the garrison and was given temporary command by Lt Col Neill until his return, but there was constant fighting between Travis and Bowie until Bowie's ill health with consumption laid him low.

Colonel Davy Crockett arrived with 12 Tennessee volunteers on 8th February. Having been defeated in the 1835 elections he angrily told his Tennessee constituents, “You can go to hell, I’m going to Texas.”

The Immortal 32, these were 32 Texans from Gonzales led by Capt. George Kimbell and John W Smith, who arrived in the Alamo at about 1 am on the first of March, having made it through the Mexican lines and the only response to Travis’s pleas for help

The actual number of defenders varies between 187 & 250, depending on accounts read.

Richard Ballentine, John McGregor, Isaac Robinson and David L. Wilson were all Scottish, and there were also 12 English and 9 Irish defenders present. McGregor played the pipes during the siege, and there is a painting of him in the Alamo museum.

Known Masons were William B Travis, James Bowie, James B Bonham, Almeron Dickson and Davy Crockett.

Legend has it that with the possibility of further help failing, Col Travis drew a line in the ground and asked those who were willing to stay and fight to step over it. The exception to stepping over the line was Louise (Moses) Rose, who had served as a non-com in Napoleon’s army and was in the retreat from Russia, which saw thousands perish. He later testified for at least 6 families of Alamo defenders at the Land Commission to help them fight their cases and was well thought of with no blemish to his character.

The Final Attack

On the morning of the 6th March, after 13 days of siege, General Santa Anna is said to have ordered El Deguello be played, which signified no quarter before the final attack.

The final attack commenced just before daybreak when the Mexican forces scaled the walls and entered the compound. The desperate struggle continued until sunrise, and Santa Anna did not enter the compound until 8 am when he was satisfied it was safe to do so.

The defenders were killed to a man, and the only survivors within the Alamo were a handful of women, children and African slaves. As to the defenders, their bodies were burned on funeral pyres. No items of regalia, Jim Bowie’s famous knife or Davy Crockett’s famous musket appear to have survived, although Davy Crockett’s Masonic apron can be seen in the Masonic Centre in San Francisco, as it was left with the Sheriff of Weakley County, Tennessee, before he left for Texas.

After the Alamo

Another disaster struck the Texas volunteers when on March 27th, James W. Fannin (of Holland Lodge No. 36) surrendered a force of 400 men at Goliad to General Urrea, who, under orders from Santa Anna, had them shot and dumped in a common grave (a good number rather than surrender escaped and thus escaped the massacre)

The Mexican Army continued East, where they finally met Sam Houston at San Jacinto on April 21st. The battle only lasted 18 minutes, during which Santa Anna’s force was defeated with 530 Mexicans killed, 208 wounded, and 730 officers and men taken prisoner, while the Texan losses were minimal.

Santa Anna fled the field, changing his clothes to avoid recognition, but was captured the next day. In fear for his life, he gave a sign of distress to one of his captors, James Sylvester, who was himself a Mason. Santa Anna demanded to be taken to Sam Houston; this request was granted, and again Santa Anna greeted him with a Masonic sign, which is said by some to have been what saved his life.

In reality, his life was spared, as unlike Santa Anna, Sam Houston was an honourable man who would not shoot a captured prisoner who was the head of the Mexican army and Government out of hand.

Bro. Eddie Lapsley Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 – Port Glasgow

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 16.11.25