Twelve Talk

Issue No. 190
17.01.26

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 (07958158628)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 6 Stirling Drive Gourock PA19 1AH (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

Our Next Meeting
Tuesday 20th January 2026
Entering by Lodge St. Munn Ardnadam No. 496

The front page goes to a very special event that is coming around at our next regular meeting on Tuesday. For the very first time in the history of the two lodges, Lodge St Munn Ardnadam No 496 will cross the Clyde to work a degree in No. XII. The deputation will confer an Entering on our candidate, Mr Iain Crighton. The reason for all this happening is that the Master of Lodge St. Munn, Bro. Kevin Barton, of course, has his Mother Lodge as No. XII and indeed sat in the Warden's Chairs before work and travel commitments led him to demit Office. We were delighted when he affiliated to Lodge St. Munn to continue his Masonic journey and even more pleased when he took the Chair in 2024 and again in 2025. I had the great pleasure of being at both his Installations.

Of course, Bro Kevin's grandfather, the late Bro. Arthur Young was a distinguished member of No. XII, taking the Chair between 2005 and 2007 and again between 2009 and 2011. A man of great generosity, Bro. Arthur gifted the keyboard that is used in No. XII to this day. In the photos below, we see Bro. Kevin Barton at his 2025 Installation on the left and on the right with his grandfather, Arthur Young, and his brother, Andrew, at Bro. Arthur's Installation at No. XII in 2009.

Our Previous Meeting
Tuesday 6th January 2026
50th Diploma Presentation to Bro. Hector Macphail PM and Annual Divine Service

There was a good attendance of brethren and a fine deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. The Master called Bro Hector Macphail PM to the centre of the floor for the purpose of presenting his 50-year Jubilee Certificate from Grand Lodge. He paid tribute to Bro Hector for his contribution to the lodge, holding 7 offices over that period of time, including the office of Master from 1991 to 1993. Bro Hector is also the current Director of Ceremonies in Provincial Grand Lodge and has international masonic connections in Germany and Azerbaijan. He is in regular contact with these countries and indeed, visited both in 2025!

The Master and the RWPGM Bro. John W. Black came from the East to congratulate Bro Hector on his milestone achievement and to present his Jubilee Certificate (shown left), the wording of which was read out by the RWPGM.

Brother Hector thanked the RWM and brethren for the presentation of the certificate and commented that it did not seem like 50 years to the day since he was initiated. Bro Hector's advice for younger brethren was to turn up, support your lodge and read your ritual.

The brethren wholeheartedly showed their appreciation of Bro Hector's 50-year contribution and support for the lodge, the Province and Freemasonry in general. Bro. Hector is an example to us all.

The Lodge was then put into recess for the purpose of conducting the Annual Divine Service. IPM Bro James Livingstone presided, and his sermon theme was 'Trust in God'. Scripture Readings were by WSW Brother Paul Branchfield and WJW Bro Colin Reddy. At the conclusion, RWM Bro Robert Marshall sincerely thanked IPM Bro. James P. Livingstone for a most uplifting and thought-provoking service, which was enjoyed by all in attendance.

. 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 this 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**.

We have 2 excellent speakers. Bro. Archie Chalmers will propose The Immortal Memory. He is a Past Master of Lodge Thistle 127 in Stewarton and Lodge The Kings Park No. 1386, which

meets in Busby. Bro. Archie is also a Past Provincial Grand Master of Ayrshire and is presently Senior Grand Warden in the Grand Lodge of Scotland. In addition to being a highly esteemed Freemason, he is a renowned Burnsian and Past President of the Irvine Burns Club. (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). Duncan has been speaking at dinners for over 40 years. He tells me that he was born in Coatbridge over 60 years ago, but was deported to Glasgow at the age of 3. Duncan still lives in Glasgow with his wife and children. Glasgow has given him his dry sense of humour, but he believes that his family has shaped his views on life. He is a very amusing speaker. His motto is, as WC Fields once said, *"When you wake up in the morning, smile – and get it over with."*

Archie (left)
and
Duncan (right)

It is going to be a great night. To book a place, contact either Bro. Iain White (07533 112242) or Alan Beck (07739 514242).

As we always do, we invited Inverclyde's Provost to nominate a Charity of his choice for No. XII to support in 2026. Provost McKenzie has nominated Ardgowan Hospice in Greenock. We shall also support Children in Poverty Inverclyde and a veterans' charity. The usual raffles and auctions will take place at the Charity Burns Supper, and items are sought for these.

Grand Lodge of Scotland – Strategic Vision and Priorities

Early in the change process, the Grand Lodge issued the Strategic Vision and Priorities for the Scottish Craft through the Governance and Strategy Board. 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?

Lodge Mosspark Glasgow No. 1329
Burns Supper
Saturday 10th January 2026

Brethren of No. XII and Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626 provided the entertainment at the Annual Burns Supper of Lodge Mosspark. Held in the temple on Shieldhall Road, there was a good turnout of brethren and friends, and the Supper was chaired by the Master of Mosspark, Bro. William H. Marshall. Bro Iain White, PM of No. XII gave the Immortal Memory, Bro. David Stevenson of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626 delivered the Toast to the Lassies and Bro. Cameron White SD of No. XII gave the Selkirk Grace and Toasted the Haggis. A good night was had by all.

From Left (above), Bros Davie Stevenson, William H Marshall RWM Cameron White and Iain White

An interesting feature of the evening was the efficiency with which the Master ran it and the absence of 'Masonic footering'. This led to the formal part of the evening being over by 945 pm, from a 7 pm start. It meant that the company had ample time for a wee blether and to enjoy a wee dram or two after the ongoings. It was a refreshing change from the midnight finishes!

Men's Health Awareness
PGL Renfrewshire East
Brian McFadyen PM at Work
The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566

I am grateful to Bro Scott Branchfield, who forwarded this information based on the PGLRE Facebook.

A while ago, there was an excellent evening at The Lodge of Erskine, themed around Men's Health Awareness. An attendance of 50, including a good number of visitors, heard the Prostate Awareness input from Bos. John Malcolm and Brian McFadyen (Past Masters of TLoE and Brian

additionally of No. XII) and the Mental Health input from Renfrewshire East Mental Health first aider Alan Graham, PM of Lodge Craigends No. 1042. Both talks were well received, and much constructive discussion took place. In line with the usual trend, those present openly discussed their Prostate journey but were not so open about Mental Health.

In the photo below, from the left are Bros John Malcolm PM, Kenny McCance RWM and Brian McFadyen PM, all of TLoE. Missing from the photo is Bro. Alan Graham, PM Lodge Craigends.

Reports on Visits

- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 4th December 2025 (Talk) – attended by RWM Bro Robert Marshall and WSW Bro Paul Branchfield
- Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 on 5th December 2025 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Robert Marshall, WSW Bro Paul Branchfield, IPM Bro James Livingstone (Installing Master), Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM and Bro Craig McFadyen
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 8th December 2025 (Entering) – attended by RWM Bro Robert Marshall, WJW Bro Colin Reddy, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Cameron White, Bro Bryan Campbell-Black and Bro Tom Phillips
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 12th December 2025 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Robert Marshall, IPM Bro James Livingstone, WSW Bro Paul Branchfield, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Cameron White and Bro Iain D MacLeod HM
- Lodge Paisley St Mirin's No 129 on 15th December 2025 (Entering) – attended by WJW Bro Colin Reddy

Dumbarton Kilwinning Lodge No. 18
300th Anniversary
Saturday 10th January 2026

Our Master and Senior Warden, Bros. Robert Marshall and Paul Branchfield, attended the Tercentenary Rededication of Dumbarton Kilwinning Lodge No. 18. This was conducted by the MWGMM Bro. Alexander Moncrieff and a deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Although not particularly of late, there have been connections between DKL 18 and No. XII. If we go back to the 1920s especially, some interesting stuff emerges, as may be seen from the extract from the Minute Book, below:

Tuesday 2nd February 1926

Bro. John Rae, IPM in the Chair

Visit of Deputation from Lodge Dumbarton Kilwinning No 18

The RW Master, Past Masters and certain Office Bearers of Provincial Grand Lodge - who received the Deputation from lodge Dumbarton Kilwinning No 18 in the Provost's Room – were admitted to the Lodge and the Chair was taken over by Bro. Owen Dewar.

Thereafter, the Brethren from Lodge Dumbarton Kilwinning were welcomed, and the Chair vacated to Bro. Sir Iain Colquhoun Bart. DSO and Bar, the RW Master, who, with his Office Bearers, took over the working of the Lodge.

Passed RM Shearer RE Bennett

The Lodge was then Passed to Fellowcraft, and the Degree was conferred in a very efficient manner upon Bros. Robt. M Shearer and Reginald E Bennett, who had served a regular apprenticeship.

Old Greenock Kilwinning Diploma handed to RWM

After the ceremony, Bro Sir Iain Colquhoun (left) asked our Office Bearers to resume their duties and thereafter handed to Bro Dewar an old Greenock Kilwinning Diploma which had come into the possession of his Lodge many years ago. It bears the name of Bro. Peter McNicol and is dated 15th September in the year of Masonry 5796 (i.e., 1812). The number of the Lodge was then 14, and the Diploma with seal has been wonderfully preserved.

Bro Sir Iain explained steps had been taken to trace its history, but without avail, and how it was acquired by his Lodge would likely remain a mystery.

Hon. Membership of Lodge conferred upon Sir Iain Colquhoun.

Bro. Dewar accepted custody on behalf of the Lodge and, thereafter, conferred Honorary Membership of Greenock Kilwinning upon Sir Iain, who thanked the Brethren for the honour which had been conferred upon him.

Sir Iain Colquhoun was, of course, the Laird of Luss with his family home at Rossdhu House. This is now the clubhouse of the world-famous Loch Lomond Golf Club, built on some of the Colquhoun lands and designed by Tom Weiskopf. Colquhoun was Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason in 1935-36, giving way for the Duke of York (later King George VI) to assume the role.

NB, I wonder at the year 1812 given above (in the Lodge Minute) for the Year of Masonry 5796. My online researches compute this to be 1796.

Masters Both

Bros. Donald M. Cunningham (Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68) and Robert Marshall (No. XII) pictured at the rededication ceremony in Dumbarton.

LDK 68 have an ongoing relationship with DKL 18.

American Pedal Organ

Mention is made in the old Lodge Minutes of Bro. RL Scott PM buying an American pedal organ for the Lodge. Indeed, I remember when I joined in 1974, Bro. Roy Drainer PM, pedalling like mad on such an instrument, providing music to accompany the ceremonies. I was in the Salvation Army shop at the Waterfront just before Christmas and saw this fantastic example in the window. Unfortunately, the window reflection and Christmas decorations obscure the view, but it is one of these old instruments.

I remember too that there was great anguish in the Lodge when our American organ broke down and was found to be irreparable. However, Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 came to the rescue and gave us a spare that they had. If I

concentrate hard, I can still hear the wheezing that accompanied the music. Now, of course, we have an electronic keyboard… Happy days!

Christmas Hampers 2025

No. XII again gave Christmas Hampers to our older brethren and widows this year. The hampers were most gratefully received by the recipients, which has been reflected in the messages of thanks received by the Lodge.

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 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

The Monthly Draw provides your Lodge with an important source of income. 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 -

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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 names publicised, but their contribution is very much appreciated. ***DS Treasurer No. XII***

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!

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 18.01.26