

Twelve Talk

16.11.19

Issue 125

Meetings 2019-20

- *17.09.19
Nomination and Election of Office Bearers
Passing
- * 01.10.19
Entering
- * 15.10.19
Raising
- * 05.11.19
No XII Burns Club AGM
No XII Annual Meeting
Notice of Motion
- * 19.11.19
Annual Installation (615pm)
- * 03.12.19
Annual Divine Service
Bro Alistair Glenny PM
- *17.12.19
No Meeting



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 J Robert Crossan 22 Dungleary Drive Greenock PA16 7UW (07788923074)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay PA18 6DX (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

Our Next Meeting Tuesday 19th November Annual Installation

On Tuesday coming, we shall have the Annual Installation. The meeting will start earlier at 615pm. Bro. James Robert Crossan will be Re-Installed as RW Master.

The Installing Masters will be Bro Iain White, Bro Kenneth C MacDougall and Bro Alan D Beck, all Past Masters of No XII. Bro Alistair Glenny PM will assist. Bro Alan was Bob's Proposer into No XII and Bro Iain his Secunder. This year, at the Master's request, the whole Installation will be done in the Lodge; there will be no Installing Board.

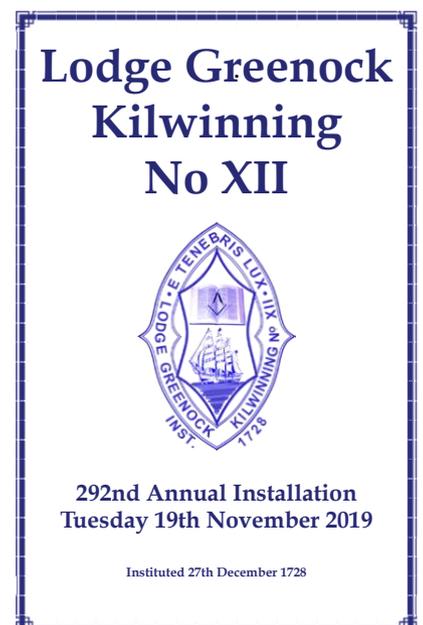
After the Installation there will be a complimentary dinner in the Town Hall. The purvey will be supplied by ICE Scotland, the Town Hall caterers, in the shape of our own President of Stewards Bro Tony Buckley who is its proprietor. The meal is guaranteed to be superb.

The usual No XII Loyal and Masonic Toasts will be observed. Provost Brennan will address us. The artistes entertaining us will be Joanna Crossan accompanied by Polly Beck on piano, so it will be very much a family affair at the Harmony.

Test Fees now Due

If you do not pay your Test Fees by standing order, they are now due to be paid to our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson. Similarly, those Brethren who are Life Members and support the Lodge by covering the Annual Capitation Fee to the Grand Lodge of Scotland should also speak to Bro David about payment as soon as possible. It is important that we all meet our financial obligations to the Lodge.

Test Fees are now £45, and the Annual Capitation Fee is £35.



Our Previous Meeting Tuesday 5th November Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was for members of No XII only. The turn-out was disappointing. The agenda consisted of the usual items like the financial statement, the inventory and the like. The inventory noted that that Bros. Iain White and Alistair Glenly could not lay hands on the crystal decanter presented to No. XII by The Scots Lodge No 2319 EC in 1981. Following a search after the meeting, RWM Bro. Bob Crossan found it in a box of old decanters in rather a sad and doleful state. It has now been restored to gleaming, pristine condition.

Act of Remembrance

For the first time an Act of Remembrance was held, as proposed after the Great War commemoration evening of November 2018. It was conducted in a very solemn, evocative and sincere manner by our Lodge Almoner, Bro. Alistair Glenly PM. Bro. Alistair's Act of Remembrance was ...

LODGE GREENOCK KILWINNING No. XII - THE FALLEN



“A memorial to the members of the lodge who fell in the great war was unveiled and dedicated on Friday 31st March 1922. It took the form of an altar in gothic design, made of Scottish oak, has been greatly preserved and is central to our ritual and assemblies for just short of 100 years

Brethren, who feel comfortable in doing so, please stand

The names inscribed by sinking the background are as follows: -

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

*They shall grow not 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.*

That well-known verse from a poem written by Laurence Binyon in 1914 following the battle at Mons ensures that their names liveth with us for evermore.

So, mote it be! “



Sunday 10th November 2018

Greenock Cenotaph

Most years, I am at the Cenotaph in the Well Park for the Service of Remembrance. In years gone by, it was with my Dad and my Uncle both of whom served in World War II. Sadly, they are now in the Grand Lodge Above. Often, in the past, it has been as a piper in a band. I was interested to see Inverclyde Pipes and Drums on parade this year, many of them being members of the Craft. I joined the brethren of No XII who were paying their respects. The wreath was laid by Bro. Captain Allan I. MacFeate PM who served for many years in our Merchant Navy. It was been a beautiful sunny day. Rev Alan Sorenson led the worship, and his words were poignant and moving. 3 of the Greenock Masonic Lodges laid wreaths: Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII, Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 and Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No 1121. It has been

good to see this development since No XII led the way in 2012 when Bro Alan D Beck was RWM. It is appropriate that our Lodges are present, being, as they are, inexorably linked to the fabric of the community and its social history and their brethren having contributed so much.



The photos show, from the left and clockwise, the No. XII wreath; the wreaths being laid by RW Master Adam McKenzie (1121) and Bro Captain Allan I MacFeate PM (XII); Bros. MacFeate and McKenzie waiting to lay the wreaths.



Joining Past Master MacFeate in the No XII 'deputation' were Bros. Iain White PM, Alan D. Beck PM, David Stevenson and James Lever (left) HM (PM 624).

Bro. Jimmy was resplendent in his medals. One was his own, awarded for his being on active service in the Canal Zone when he served in the Royal Artillery. Although earned in the early 1950s, Bro Jimmy told me that this was the first time that he had worn it, although he is an ever present at the Cenotaph for the Services of Remembrance. The other was earned by his brother on active service in Cyprus.

Lodge Memorabilia

In his role as Lodge Librarian, Bro Iain White PM is still very keen to have any documentary or other links to the past – photographs, installation programmes, Orders of Service, postcards, flyers etc. etc. If they are lying in a cupboard at home, please bring them in to enhance our understanding of No XII's past.

Deputation to The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566 Thursday 14th November 2019

A fine deputation of 14 brethren accompanied RWM Bro. Bob Crossan to the Masonic Temple in Inchinnan to confer a Passing at The Lodge of Erskine. As ever, the Brethren were well received and made most welcome. The Degree Team was - **Prayer** Bro Alex Gray BB **Obligation**

Bro Bob Crossan RWM **Secrets** Bro Alan D Beck PM **Apron** Bro Brian McFadyen WSW **Working Tools** Bro Allan I MacFeate PM **Tracing Board** Bro. James P Livingstone PM **Charge** Bro Robert J. Bain PM. The Deputation is shown in the photograph below.



From Left: Bros. Scott Branchfield Edward Molloy Paul Branchfield Brian McFadyen WSW James P Livingstone PM Allan I. MacFeate PM David Stevenson Bob Crossan RWM Alex Gray Ian Shirley RWM (1566) Fraser Cameron Robert J. Bain PM Alan D. Beck PM KK Morrison PM Alistair Glenny PM

The degree was carried out to a high standard on Bro Stephen Armstrong grandson of their IPM Ronnie Armstrong. RWM Bro. Bob was grateful to our stand-ins for the evening viz. Bro Jim Livingstone for a wonderful Tracing Board, Bro Alistair Glenny PM as Inner Guard, Bro Kenny Morrison PM as Junior Deacon and to Bro Scott Branchfield who carried out the floorwork of Senior Deacon for the very first time ahead of his installation as Senior Deacon on Tuesday 19th November.

After the meeting there was excellent hospitality and No. XII had a few winners in the raffle.

Lodge The Gael No. 609 Thursday 14th November 2019 Commemoration of the Fallen Brethren

On the same evening that the Deputation was at The Lodge of Erskine, I visited Lodge the Gael No. 609 in Glasgow. Bro Keith A. Bowes PM is, of course, an Honorary Member of No XII. Bro Keith helped out last year at the No. XII Great War evening when he provided a most insightful contribution on the role of the piper in the Great War. Like No XII, Lodge The Gael had a Service of Remembrance which was accompanied by a lovely last post and reveille from Bro. Robin

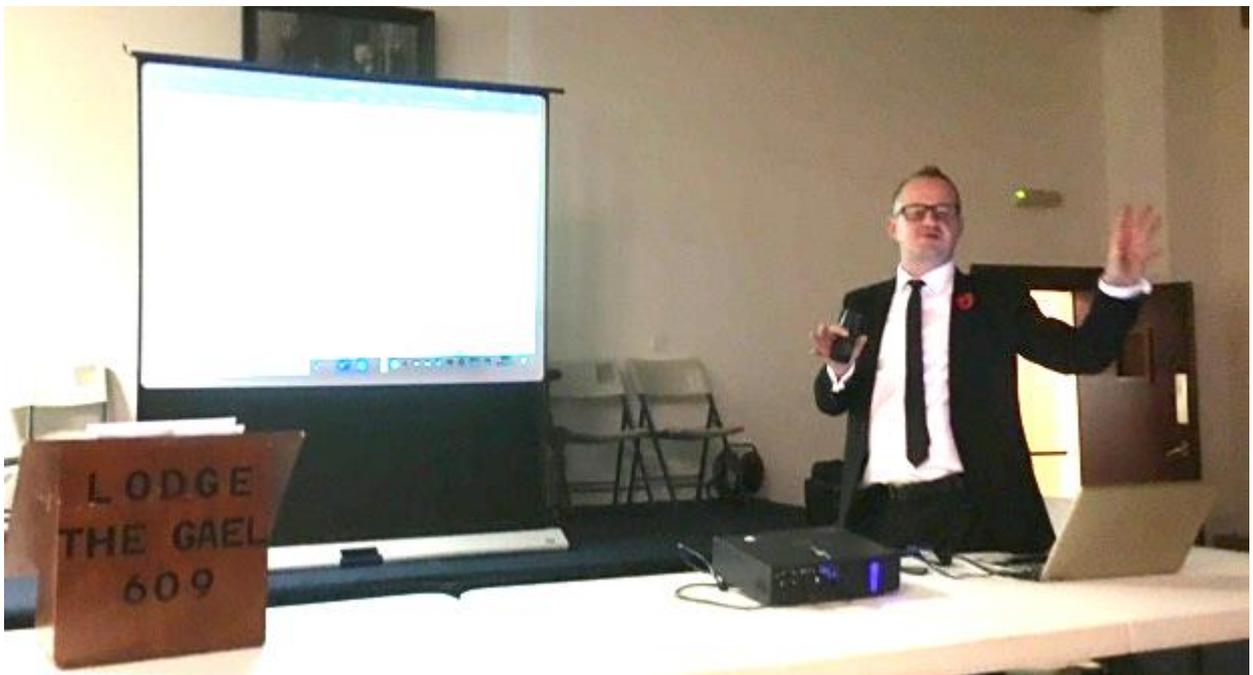
Shields PM of Lodge St. Vincent Sandyford No. 553 and the lament “The Flowers of the Forest” on the Great Highland Bagpipe from Bro. Keith J. Bowes PM. Prior to the Act of Remembrance, Bro Keith A. Bowes PM, himself a former Scots Guardsman, explained that the Roll Call was important after the regiment had been in action so that the Officers would know the availability for the next action. Thereafter, a very poignant Roll Call was held where the Master and the 2 Wardens responded “Present” to their names and there was silence as the names of the 21 Fallen Brethren of Lodge the Gael were then called.



After the Lodge was closed, we had a wonderful lecture where Bro. Keith A. Bowes, assisted by Bro. Robin Shields PM (553), told the stories of the Fallen of Lodge the Gael. It was testimony to the many hours of research put in by Bros. Bowes and Shields. The latter was created an Honorary Member for his efforts and support for the Lodge.

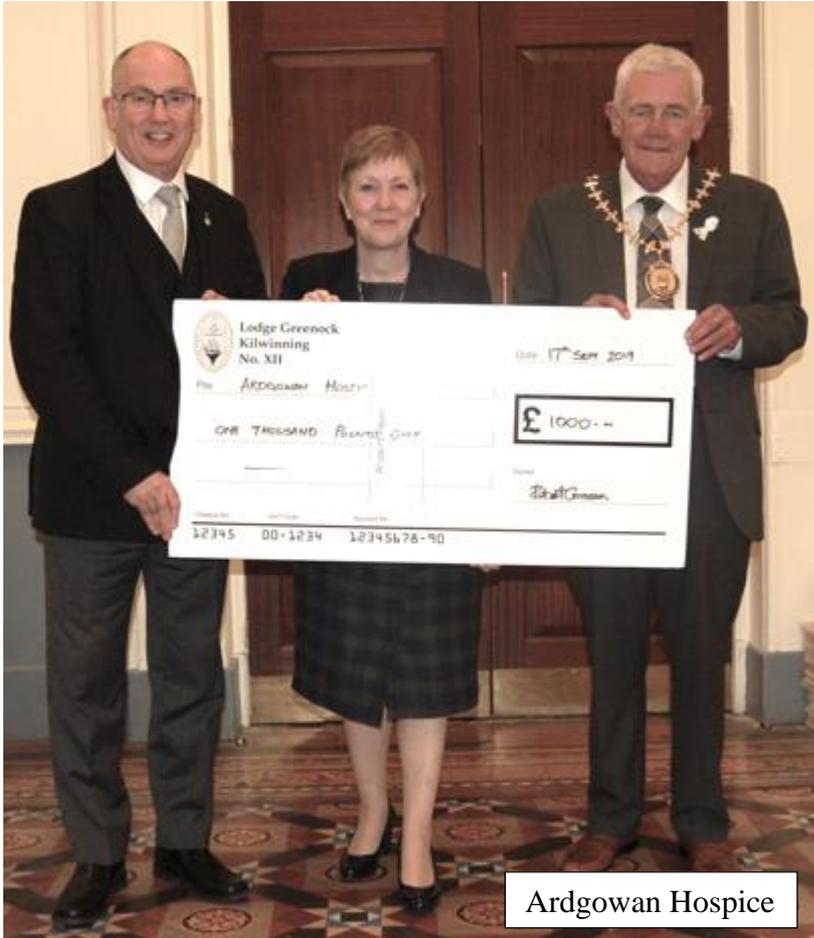
Perhaps the most moving part of the evening was hearing about Mrs McIntyre, the mother, whose two sons were members of Lodge The Gael and Merchant Seamen. They were both killed on the same ship

The photos show Bro. Keith A. Bowes and Bro. Robin Shields in “full flow”



The Charity Drive 2018-19 Cheque Presentations September 2019

The following report was submitted to the Greenock Telegraph which subsequently published a piece on No XII's charitable donations.



Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII is Inverclyde's oldest organisation having been instituted in 1728. As freemasons, the brethren of No XII have the concept of helping those in need at the heart of all that they do. This is reflected in the importance placed on the annual charity drives. Various fundraising activities support these charity drives with the most significant being the annual Charity Burns Supper in the Town Hall.

RWM Bro. J. Robert Crossan recently presented a cheque for £1000 to Ardgowan Hospice. Bro Crossan said, "In No XII we are anxious to make a difference in our community. We are very happy to pass this cheque over to help Ardgowan Hospice for it was the charity that Provost Brennan nominated for us to help and we are delighted that he is here to assist with this presentation to Linda McEnhill, the Chief Executive of the Hospice." The close links between No XII and the Corporation of Greenock and now Inverclyde Council stretch back to 1765.

Each year the Provost is asked by the Lodge to nominate a charity in recognition of this special relationship. Provost Brennan said, "I am very grateful for the work that Lodge No XII does for the community and for the Lodge's generosity."

Also, a cheque for £500 was presented to Chief Petty Officer Jimmy Cairns RN, who received it on behalf of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity. Bro Crossan said, "We are very proud in No XII of the work done on behalf of us all by the men and women of the Armed Forces and always acknowledge this in our Charity Drives."

The third charity to benefit from the generosity of the Lodge was the Samaritans. Branch Director Alexandra Southee and Hazel O'Brien were on hand to receive a cheque for £1000. Alexandra and Hazel said, "We have great pleasure in accepting this very generous cheque. Each branch is self-financing and fund raising takes up a lot of time. At present, Inverclyde Samaritans continues to thrive with 24 volunteers and 7 more to be trained. We are there for everyone who needs us."

This year No XII will also support Poppy Scotland acts as an ongoing sponsor for the Greenock Cricket Club and the Greenock Wanderers Rugby Football Club.



The Royal Navy and Royal Marines



The Samaritans

An Interesting Find in an Edinburgh Street

In May past, my work took me to St George’s School for Girls in Edinburgh. The event I was attending was the annual seminar dinner of SELMAS (The Scottish Educational Leadership Management and Administration Society). I had taken the train to Haymarket and it was a lovely evening, so I decided to walk, something that I had done to get to St George’s many times before. Turning left as you come out of Haymarket Railway Station the route takes you straight along the road heading for Corstorphine. As I crossed the bridge that takes the road over the Water of Leith, I noticed a bench.



Nothing too unusual about that. However, being an inquisitive sort of chap, I had a wee look at the plaque on the bench. Expecting it to be in memory of a person with an inscription like “He loved this place,” I was very surprised to see the following:



The Caledonian Lodge No. 392 seems to be very active, as a look at its website will tell you. Thereon, I found the photo below which is of the Past Masters alive at the time of the Centenary in 1959, with the Centenary Master, Bro. Thomas Liddle Leckie Lindsay. Its premises are close to where the bench is situated.



(Front Row L to R) Andrew Robertson, David Law, John Duff, James Espie Symington, Thomas Liddle Leckie Lindsay, Thomas Linkie, George Harkess, Robert Moore, Christopher Webster

(Second Row) Stewart Logan, Stanley Duncan, James Cowe, George Scott Mackay, William Armstrong Sinclair, William Scott McDermid, John Frew, Cyril Burrows, Arthur George Symington, George Cowan

(Back Row) Alexander Andersson Foulis, James MacNaughton Gray, Alexander Harkess, Frank Moss, Thomas Honey Bennett, James Symington Jnr, Frederick Dundas

Maybe one of these serious looking brethren was the inspiration for that bench, still in great condition, and used by weary travellers like me some 60 years later!

Reports on Visits

The visits by the brethren were:

- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 19th October 2019 (Annual Installation) - attended by RWM Bro Robert Crossan, WSW Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Kenny Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Scott Branchfield, Bro Edward Molloy and Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 21st October 2019 (Passing by Lodge Wilson Town Ironworks No 236) - attended by RWM Bro Robert Crossan, WSW Bro Brian McFadyen and Bro Alex Johnson
- Lodge Firth of Clyde No 626 on 14th October 2019 (Passing by No 175) - attended by RWM Bro Robert Crossan and Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick
- Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No 1121 on 22nd October 2019 (Passing Ex.) – attended by WJW Bro Bob Bain PM
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 25th October 2019 (Annual Installation) - attended by RWM Bro Robert Crossan, Bro Allan MacFeate PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Kenny Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Sandy Reddy HM, Bro James Strachan HM, Bro Kenneth McCrae HM and Bro James Lever HM
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 27th October 2019 (Divine Service) - attended by RWM Bro Robert Crossan, Bro Kenny Morrison PM and Bro Alistair Glenny PM
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 28th October 2019 (Raising) – attended by Bro Scott Branchfield and Bro Paul Branchfield
- Lodge Crawfurdsburn No 1121 on 1st November 2019 (Annual Installation) attended by RWM Bro Bob Crossan and WSW Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Kenny Morrison PM, Bro Bob Bain PM and Bro Alistair Glenny PM (as Provincial)

On all occasions, Fraternal Greetings were exchanged.

The Way We Were – The Grants (Continued)

I am still working on the feature on the late Bros. Grant (Stewart and Ian) who were members of No. XII and lived in the Bow Road opposite our Bros. Glenny. As I said in the last 4 editions, it all began some time ago when Stewart's son Keith contacted Lodge Secretary Bro. Ken MacDougall PM and I am now involved in a flurry of emails with the Grant family. I am now in contact with another Grant – Euan – who is a cousin of Keith, Calum and Ian (The latter two are Ian's sons and Calum is a member of No XII). Just to keep your curiosity going on this one, I am publishing a little more information.

Bro Stewart Grant, Initiated into Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII on 18th April 1944. This photo was taken after he had moved to Hong Kong. He worked there as a joiner in the Taikoo Dockyard. He became Worshipful Master of Cathay Lodge No. 4373 E.C. in 1962/63





In the last edition, I published this photo of Bro Stewart Grant as Worshipful Master of the Cathay Lodge in Hong Kong. I was wondering who the distinguished looking brother is, seen with WM Bro Stewart. I received this email from Bro. Keith Grant

I am afraid that I cannot be of much help. The Secretary of Cathay Lodge passed on the photos to their oldest member and he was unable to put any names to faces. The only thing I would out was that the IPM was a W E Davis who must be the man next to Dad.

Regards,
Keith

So, we are a little further forward.

On left: Worshipful Master Stewart Grant with Worshipful Brother W.E. Davis.

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. Recently, he passed the mantle on to our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson. Bro David asked me to start to publicise the badge availability through *XII Talk*. This will now be 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 treasurno12@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
17.11.19

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.