

# Twelve Talk

17.10.20

Issue 135

## Meetings 2020-21

\*01.09.20

Lecture by Bro. Brian McFadyen  
WSW PM 1566

*Pitcairn Island*

\* 15.09.20

Lecture by Bro. Iain White PM  
*Guess who's coming to dinner?*

\* 06.10.20

Lecture by Bro. Ian Wood PM The  
Lodge of Erskine No. 1566

*A Life below the Ocean Wave – My  
Submarine Memories*

\* 20.10.20

Lecture by Bro A. Campbell  
Snoddy WJW No XII

*AIDS, witch doctors and crocodiles*

\* 03.11.20

Lecture TBC

\* 17.11.20

Lecture TBC

\*01.12.20

Lecture TBC

**Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII**  
**The Saloon of the Town Hall, Greenock**  
**Regular Meetings – 7.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays – September to April**  
**Summer Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> 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)**

## COVID-19/Corona Virus Pandemic (5)

The pandemic crisis continues and worsens again. We are now subject to yet more restrictions in Scotland, and across the UK, to try to stem the tide. We hear of 'circuit breakers, tiered approaches and mini lockdowns'. Some of the measures being introduced, or reintroduced, seem quite sensible to me; others I cannot understand. Increasingly I wonder, when, if ever, we shall see this under control. I notice talk of the post-pandemic 'new normal' has petered out in the media in this increasingly dystopian world that we inhabit. What is the implication here?

As I have said before, difficult and tough it may be, but if we believe that Freemasonry is an intrinsic force for good in society, we must strive with all our energy to keep the Craft alive. In No XII, we are continuing with the support for others within and beyond the Craft and the Lodge; our Charitable efforts; our Zoom meetings which are promoting education and knowledge and building an ever-growing rate of participation.

At such times effective leadership at all levels is crucial. How much of that are we seeing in society in general or in the Craft in particular? I make no comment. I simply pose the question. Were you to ask a historian what the reasons were for Britain's success in World War 2, somewhere near the top

would be leadership, particularly that of Churchill who gave direction and hope in the darkest of hours. In the last few days our Grand Master Mason, Bro Ramsay McGhee sent out a message which contained the following words that echo our approach in No XII and are a beacon for the Craft in these most difficult times.

*I attended a meeting of European Grand Masters last night and while the news on the spread of coronavirus throughout Europe was of great concern to us all, it was evident that we are all committed to doing all that we can to keep Brethren in our respective Constitutions involved and active in whatever ways we can. While we accept that zoom meetings are no substitute for the real thing, there was universal agreement that we use zoom and all other similar platforms to the best of our ability to ensure the safety and welfare of Brethren and their families. I am extremely proud that Scottish Freemasons throughout the world have displayed Brotherly Love and Relief in abundance not only within our fraternity but in local communities as well. As we face further restrictions and see the covid-19 statistics rising once more, let us all commit to putting the basic tenets of our Brotherhood into practice – let us be constantly mindful of our Brethren and the families of our Brethren who are struggling physically, financially or mentally – let's all be there for them. Let us continue to meet by Zoom or similar means whereby we can assure that we take care of the business and administrative issues facing the Lodges and do everything that we can to enable as many Brethren to use the available technology to join in the meetings. Keep positive, keep safe and keep your sense of humour well honed.*

Wise and inspiring words from The Grand Master.  
**Iain White PM**



## Lodge Memorabilia

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.

### Our Next Meeting using Zoom Technology

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
**Lecture by Bro A. Campbell Snoddy WJW**  
***AIDS, witch doctors and crocodiles***

Due to the continuing COVID-19 and Grand Lodge of Scotland restrictions on Lodge meetings, Bro. Brian McFadyen WSW has lined up Guest Speakers for our forthcoming Regular Meeting nights on a number of diverse topics which may/may not have a Masonic theme. These meetings are open to all No. XII brethren and any visitor(s) who would like to join us.

The following message was sent out by RWM Bro Bob Crossan as an invitation to Tuesday's meeting.

*No XII next zoom meeting will be on Tuesday 20th October 2020*

*Meeting will open at 7:15pm and start at 7:30pm*

*Should be an interesting chat if the title is anything to go by.*

*Look forward to seeing you there, as always click on the invitation link below to participate*

*Kind regards*  
*Bob*

*Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.*

*Topic: AIDS, Witch Doctors and Crocodiles*  
*Time: Oct 20, 2020 07:30 PM Greenwich Mean Time*

*Join Zoom Meeting*

<https://zoom.us/j/97865087290?pwd=MmthUEd2LzN0ZjdXZ2dNc3p6dytvUT09>

*Meeting ID: 978 6508 7290*  
*Passcode: 228233*

It's sure to be interesting!

All are welcome!

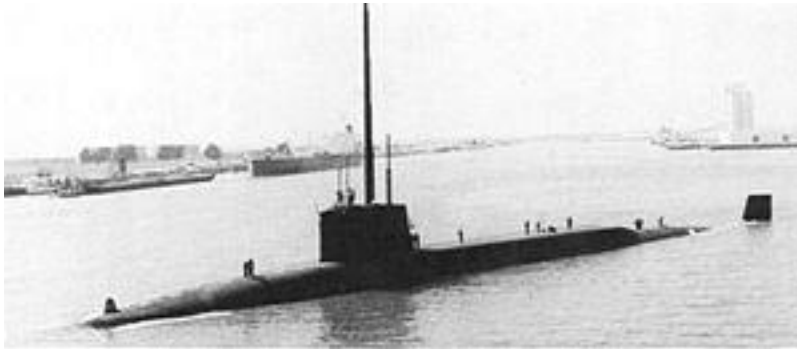
## Previous Meeting using Zoom Technology

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Lecture by Bro Ian Wood PM The Lodge of Erskine No 1566

*A life under the ocean wave – my submarine memories*

No XII's good friend Bro Ian Wood provided the lecture for our meeting when he spoke of the twelve years he spent as a submariner. He joined when he was 18 and left the Royal Navy when the demands of home life and his family had to take precedence over being away for months on end.



Ian told us a fascinating story of his career, joining as a Marine Engineering Mechanic and of the training and experiences that led him to leave with the rank of Petty Officer, Marine engineer Artificer. Initially he served on a Polaris submarine, so called because of the missiles it carried

and could deliver. HMS Resolution was 425 feet long and had a displacement of 8400 tons. Crewed by 143 men (2 crews), she cost £40.2 Million. Laid down at Vickers in Barrow-in-Furness in 1964 she conducted the longest patrol of a Polaris submarine in 1991 – 108 days!

Ian explained that joining the Navy to see the world doesn't really apply when you serve on submarines as you are under water for literally months on end. He did manage to get twice to Florida and once to the Bahamas for specific training and spent time ashore in the UK.

Of course, the Polaris submarines were phased out to be replaced by the larger and much more



powerful Trident submarines. HMS Resolution was laid up in Rosyth Dockyard in 1994 where she still lies. After Resolution, Ian served on HMS Vanguard, the lead boat of her class of Trident submarines. Much larger than the Polaris class, Vanguard was launched at Vickers in 1992 and commissioned in 1993. 491 feet long, her displacement is 15900 tons. She cost £1.15 Billion!! Although twice the size of her Polaris predecessors, the photos that Ian showed us told me that she is still pretty cramped for the crew!

What I found most interesting in Ian's talk was hearing of the complexity of the systems on board the boats. We have to marvel at the skills and expertise of the crew members like Ian and be grateful for all that they do, and what they sacrifice, on our behalf.

Numbers of brethren joining the Zoom meeting again increased up to 29.

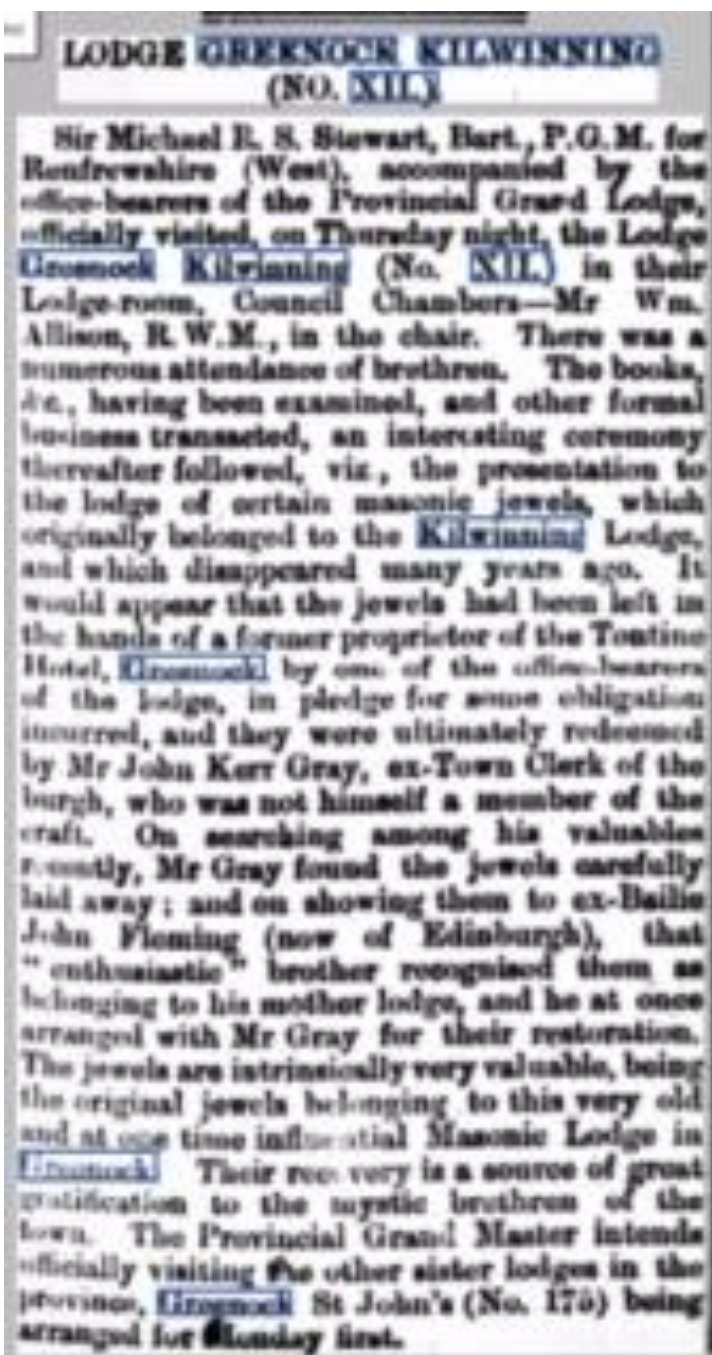


## Financial Matters

All No XII members will have received a communication from our Treasurer Bro. David Stevenson. We cannot meet just now, but our financial obligations continue e.g. Test and Capitation Fees, Charitable work, Insurance etc. Please give Bro David's request your speedy attention.

The Monthly Draw pay-outs were suspended from March to August and the monies donated to Inverclyde Royal Hospital Staff Fund. David has re-started the draw from September.

## Historical Matters The Old Lodge Jewels



Bro Brian McFadyen WSW and I often converse by email about matters relating to No XII's history. We seem to share a passion for the bygone days of the Lodge. Our latest conversation revolved around the Old Lodge Jewels and started with Bro Brian sending me a cutting from The Greenock Telegraph of 25<sup>th</sup> February 1882 that he had found online.

It can be seen from the cutting that these Old Lodge Jewels had been missing, seemingly for years, and had been rediscovered in Edinburgh. Their presence there is also explained. The occasion of their return coincided with the visit of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. Of course, the RWPGM at the time was Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart Bart., himself a member of No XII.

The Old Lodge Jewels had originally been presented to the Lodge in April 1737 by Archibald Govan, a writer in Edinburgh, who was RW Master at the time. Their return was considered important enough to warrant a mention in the Bicentenary Sketch accompanied by a photograph of them.

It is likely, given their age, that the Jewels will have some financial value, but this is far outweighed by their historical and sentimental importance

to the Lodge (and the Scottish Craft) giving, as they do, a connection back to the first decade of No XII's existence.

Of course, the return of the Old Lodge Jewels is noted in the Lodge Minutes.

### **Council Chambers Greenock Thursday evening 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1882**

William Allison RWM, in the Chair

Discovery of Old Jewels for some time supposed lost

Thereafter, DM Edward Blackmore read to the meeting a correspondence which had taken place between the Secretary of the Lodge and Brother John Fleming of Edinburgh relative to the discovery of the ancient and long lost jewels of the Lodge by John Kerr Gray Esq., late Town Clerk of Greenock, and ,having referred in appropriate language to the interesting discovery which had been made, Brother Blackmore presented the Jewels to the RWM on the Lodge's behalf amid the acclamations of the assembled brethren. The Secretary was instructed to write letters to Brother John Fleming of Edinburgh thanking him for the kind interest he had taken in the matter and to Mr. John Kerr Gray thanking him cordially for what had practically been a donation of £10 to the society as the correspondence above referred to will shew.

The Bicentenary Sketch also notes that Bro. James McNeil presented a case for the Jewels. This too is noted in the Minute Book. He was, himself, a watchmaker and jeweller by profession.

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 1908**

Bro RL Scott, RW Master, in the Chair

Presentation of Jewel case by Bro J McNeil

The RWM stated that he had received from Bro Jas McNeil, Jeweller, a handsome oak case in which are placed the 5 Old Jewels belonging to the Lodge and he proposed that a hearty Vote of Thanks be accorded to Bro McNeil for his extremely useful gift. The Brethren cordially responded.



**The Old Lodge Jewels in the box presented by Bro James McNeil are on display at our Regular Meetings**

## 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 [treasurerno12@aol.com](mailto:treasurerno12@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**  
**17.10.20**

**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.**