

## 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 by Bro. Jim Gardiner  
Lodge Barns o' Clyde No. 1008

*A Scotsman in an Irish Lodge in  
England*

\* 17.11.20

Lecture by Bro. Derek A.  
Kirkpatrick PM XII

*Beyond the Craft*

\*01.12.20

Lecture by Bro. Dr. Iain McPhee  
PM The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566  
and PPGMS

*"The Victorian Serial Killer of  
Whitechapel and the Masonic  
Conspiracy that concealed his  
Identity"*

\*05.01.21

Lecture by Bro. James P.  
Livingstone PPGM

*"Every picture tells a story."*



**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 Dungourney 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 (9)

I don't usually prepare a *Twelve Talk* anywhere near as close to Christmas as this. However, it seemed that perhaps this year it would be worthwhile to do so, given the circumstances in which we find ourselves with COVID-19 or now 'son of COVID-19, aka the new variant'. It was hardly the news that we expected, wanted or needed. Just after I had been talking about light at the end of the tunnel with the arrival of the vaccines – and The Grand Master Mason was acknowledging this too – we get the new iteration of the virus appearing. Of course, this what we should have expected. It is what living organisms do. They adapt to survive and that is what this wee virus is up to – and now it is becoming more effective in its transmission, it would seem. It is the natural order of things, described by Charles Darwin in his book *On the Origin of the Species* in 1859. He called it natural selection, and that's what we are seeing here – the survival of the fittest and this new version is fitter than the original. So, now we have another lockdown to face, for at least 3 weeks.

All we can do is follow the Government guidance, stay within the law, stay safe and await developments. In the meantime, we have to redouble our efforts to support our brethren and wider society in these difficult times. Make that phone call, drop that email, stick that wee note through the door of those that you know who may be lonely or in need of a wee boost. The principles of the Craft – Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth – arm us well for dealing with this difficult situation; we just need to apply them.



We can also take positive steps, as many lodges are, to maintain some semblance of regular activity. I can speak only for those that I know of, for example in No. XII we are holding Lectures (and a quiz) on our Regular Meeting nights; Lodge Crawfordsburn is running its version of Desert Island Discs; Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan has a weekly message going out to members; The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566 has been quizzing. Of course, it is not the same as getting together in our regular surroundings, meeting our Brethren face to face and having a bite to eat and a wee blether, but it is something. I certainly look forward to our regular lectures and we have visitors joining us and also providing the subject matter and entertainment. In these ways, we continue to spread the cement of Brotherly Love.

In our Installations we hear this exhortation about the Craft: "*May Freemasonry flourish in every part of the globe and rise superior to all opposition!*" I don't think that any of us could ever have imagined that the opposition would be a microscopic organism!



### **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.

I put this in *Twelve Talk* in each edition, but I don't get as many responses as I would like. If you have a bit of spare time, please dig around in the house and see what you can find. Things that seem, on the face of it, to be trivial can play a vital part in piecing together the history of the Lodge and filling gaps in the Minutes. For example, artifacts from the Conn family that we received recently have enabled me to identify Bro. James Conn, (RWM 1930-32) in the Installation photo of 1936.

Anything at all will be worthwhile – and if you happen to come across the Minute Books for 1796 – 1854 or 1867 - 1873, they would be particularly welcome! 😊

### **Financial Matters**

All No XII members will have just received a resend of 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 careful consideration

The Monthly Draw restarts in January. This is a very important fund raiser, so please contact David to renew your subscription or leave your standing order running. December's winner was Bro. KK Morrison PM.

**Meeting using Zoom Technology  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020  
‘The Victorian Serial Killer of Whitechapel and the Masonic  
Conspiracy that Concealed his Identity’ by Bro Dr Iain McPhee PM  
The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 & PPGMS of Renfrewshire East.**



The PowerPoint presentation was entitled ‘The Victorian Serial Killer of Whitechapel and the Masonic Conspiracy that Concealed his Identity’ by Bro Dr Iain McPhee PM The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 & Past Provincial Grand Master Substitute of Renfrewshire East. 28 brethren were in attendance.

It was interesting to hear Iain tease out his hypothesis, identify his prime suspect and give us the reasons why he believes that Freemasonry was involved in concealing the identity of the murderer. This was done against an analysis of the socio economic conditions prevailing at the time and the divide that existed between the ‘haves’ and the ‘have nots’ in Victorian London. All-in-all we had an interesting and informative evening.

**Meeting using Zoom Technology  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
Quiz with Bro. Ian Wood PM Quizmaster  
(The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566)**

We had a wee change of impetus on 15<sup>th</sup> when our good friend Bo. Ian Wood acted as Quizmaster while the brethren pitted their wits. Thanks to him for his work. Nobody won a £Million but Bro Bob Bain PM triumphed and is due a bottle of whisky for his efforts. Unfortunately, Bob, your namesake the RW Master, tells me that said bottle of whisky is “locked in” the Town Hall.

It has been really gratifying over the past few years that our friendship with The Lodge of Erskine has grown in the way that it has with Bro. Brain McFadyen (their PM our WSW) as the catalyst. Paradoxically, if anything, this friendship has strengthened during the lockdown with the Brethren of 1566 being enthusiastic supporters of our Lectures and, indeed, two of them - Bro Ian himself and Bro Iain McPhee (above) presenting for us. Let freemasonry flourish!!

**The Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture  
Our Next Meeting using Zoom Technology  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
‘Every picture tells a story’ by Bro James P. Livingstone PPGM  
(Renfrewshire West)**

The following piece was published in Twelve Talk No 130 at the end of March 2020. It recounts the proposal, accepted by the Lodge, that an annual Lecture is held to be called *The Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture* to remember and celebrate the lives of our two stalwart Past masters who departed to the Grand Lodge Above within 8 weeks of one another in December 2019/February 2020.

## Remembering Jack and Alistair Glenny



**Jack and Alistair at Jack's Installation into the Chair in November 1981. This was Alistair's favourite photo with Jack.**

*Whilst we cannot begin to imagine the devastating impact on Jack and Alistair's families of their passing, No XII too has been greatly saddened by the loss of these two stalwart Past Masters within such a short time.*

*At our meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, a proposal was put to the Lodge by Past Master Bro Iain White. He said that both Alistair and Jack had been great communicators, and Alistair, in particular, had a deep interest in the history of the Lodge and Freemasonry. No XII has an Annual Lecture, usually held in January, which has a focus on the history and workings of the Craft. Bro. Iain's proposal was that, from 2021 on, this lecture be named the Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture. In this way, these two much loved, and well-respected, brethren would be formally remembered in the Lodge in all time to come. The proposal was seconded by Bro. Alan D Beck PM and received the unanimous approbation of the brethren.*

Owing to the continuing COVID-19 restrictions on Lodge meetings, the inaugural *Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture* will be held online at 715 for 730pm on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January



**Bro JP Livingstone as RWPGM**

2021. It will be delivered by a member of No XII, Bro. James P. Livingstone. Bro Jim is an affiliate member of No. XII. His Mother Lodge is Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626, of which he was RW Master in 1988-90. He has also been RW Master of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 and is presently its Secretary. Bro Jim served as Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West between 2013 and 2018.

His topic will be 'Every picture tells a story' and relates, I believe, to a certain well known Scottish poet and his involvement with a certain Masonic Lodge in Edinburgh. Both the speaker, and the topic, are peculiarly appropriate for this inaugural lecture and Bro Jim will certainly do justice to the memory of Jack and Alistair.

Details of the Lecture Log-In will be made available via our RW Master and in the next edition of Twelve Talk.

## Christmas Hampers



Santa was busy on behalf of No. XII delivering Christmas hampers to our brethren who are 75+ and in touch with the Lodge. These lovely gifts were put together and wrapped by Morag MacDougall, wife of our brother Secretary. We are grateful for Morag's time and creative talents.

## Christmas Again!

*Nowadays – and even this year – Christmas is very much different from what it was like in the past. New Year was a bigger event in Scotland. As a small boy, I can remember my uncle, Bro Joe Finlay (175) who was a slater, working on Christmas Day.*

*It was different in the Craft too. No XII had many meetings on Boxing Day, the Festival of St John the Evangelist was celebrated on 27<sup>th</sup> December and meetings on Christmas Eve were not uncommon. The Minute of one such meeting:*

**Council Chambers  
Greenock Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December 1881**

**A Meeting of the Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII was held here this evening at 800pm**

**Dunc Cunningham RWM in the Chair**

**Present as per Attendance Roll**

The Lodge having been opened in the Apprentice Degree in due masonic form, Adolphus Frederick Nicholl and Peter McLellan were duly proposed and seconded to be fit and proper persons to be admitted to the ranks of the brotherhood. There being no objection thereto, either in the South or the West, the Candidates, duly clothed and prepared, were admitted into the mysteries of the first degree being that of an Entered Apprentice Mason.

There being no further business, the JW at the RW Master's command, called the Brethren from labour to refreshment and, after a short interval harmonising in "the Light", the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form.

***Out of interest, another meeting was held 3 days' later on 27<sup>th</sup> December, to Celebrate the Festival of St. John the Evangelist. Changed days indeed!***

## 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](mailto: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**  
**24.12.20**

**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.**