

## Meetings 2020-21

• 05.01.21

Jack and Alistair Glenny  
Memorial Lecture by Bro. James  
P. Livingstone PPGM  
“Every picture tells a story.”

\* 19.01.21

Lecture by Bro. Canon Joseph J  
Morrow Past Grand Master  
*Masonic Heraldry*

\* 02.02.21

Lecture by Bro. Ronnie Armstrong  
PM The Lodge of Erskine No  
1566  
*John Witherspoon*

\* 16.02.21 Lecture by Bro Donald  
Finlayson PM Lodge The Gael  
No 609 HM XII

*Cowboy Masons*

\* 02.03.21

Lecture by Bro. Robert Geddes  
PM Lodge St John's Whiteinch  
No. 683

*The symbolism of The Magic Flute*

\* 16.03.21

Lecture by Bro. N Grant MacLeod  
PM Lodge Houston St.  
Johnstone No. 242 PPGSecy.  
(Renfrewshire East)

*Aprons through the Ages*

\* 06.04.21

Lecture by Bro. John NS Malcolm  
PM The Lodge of Erskine No  
1566

*The week before Kick Off*

\* 20.04.21

Lecture by Bro Kevin Pollock  
*The Holy Land*

\*03.06.21 SPECIAL MEETING

Lecture by Bro. Canon Joseph J  
Morrow Past Grand Master  
*The Ceremonial Year of The Lord  
Lyon King of Arms*



**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 (14)

The light at the end of the COVID tunnel is surely getting brighter. The R number (R is the number of people that one infected person will pass on a virus to, on average) is now reckoned to be between 0.6 and 0.8 in Scotland, taking us back to the sort of stats we had last summer. 1,844,636 people (33.76% of Scotland's population) have now received the first vaccination and, of course, this number rises day-on-day. Last week's message from Bro. Ramsay McGhee, The Grand Master Mason, told us that The Grand Lodge Strategy Working Party would meet on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March to take forward its work. The aim is twofold: to provide a short-term strategy to get us through and out of Covid-19 and a long-term strategy to take Scottish Freemasonry forward through the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Grand Secretary will circulate the short-term information to all Lodges at home and abroad when there is a clearer indication of when we will be allowed to reopen and what conditions and/or restrictions will be imposed. This is a positive trend. In the meantime, pending the issue of the information, I believe that Lodges need to be focusing on their communication with their brethren, keeping them up-to-date and, above all, being positive. We need to be in a position to plan

for re-opening as soon as we get the advisory documentation. We should be starting to prepare now.

Last month, the Grand Master reported that, the total identifiable monetary value of contributions recorded within the group has now risen to a magnificent £843,386. What an effort by Scottish Freemasons throughout the world – in excess of £20,000 per week to assist those less fortunate. Now we are involved in another donation of foodstuffs which is being distributed throughout Scotland, taking that total identifiable monetary value of contributions by the Scottish Craft to well over £1,000,000. This, along with over another £500,000 donated to Prostate Scotland over the past few years demonstrates an outstanding contribution into our local communities at home and abroad.

Yet how much publicity has the Craft received for this? How much of this is known to the general public? This is an important area for the Craft to consider coming out of the crisis. We must make our positive contributions to society known far and wide – especially beyond the Craft. This would be a significant move to make membership of the Craft more attractive. We cannot be completely altruistic and hide our light under a bushel. It's not the way life is in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and we need to catch up. Just saying...

Iain White PM

## Sad and doleful tidings

### **W. Bro. Peter Niven**

We were saddened in No. XII to hear of the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Worshipful Brother Peter Niven, a Past Master and Past Secretary of The Scots Lodge No. 2319 (EC) in London. Bro Peter was known to many of the older brethren of No. XII from his visits to Greenock and our trips to London. Peter had been in failing health and was ultimately taken by COVID-19.

Peter was made an Honorary Member of No. XII on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

### **Bro Colin Bonar PM**

Bro. Colin was taken from us suddenly at Inverclyde Royal Hospital last week following sustaining head injuries in a freak and tragic accident. A Past Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No. 1121, he was well known to us all. Colin was a kind, sincere and friendly man whom you always 'found the same way'. He was a hard worker for his Lodge and also the 175 Masonic Club.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of these two friends of No. XII in these saddest of times. The Grand Lodge Above is enhanced by their presence.

## 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! 😊

## **Previous Meeting using Zoom Technology**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021**

***"The symbolism of the Magic Flute"* by Bro. Robert Geddes PM**

**Lodge St. John's Whiteinch No. 683**

Bro Robert Geddes PM St John's Whiteinch No 683 gave us a fascinating insight into Austrian society in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, Freemasonry in Austria at that time and how it influenced the composer Mozart and impacted on his writing *The Magic Flute* (German: *Die Zauberflöte*). It is an opera in two acts by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to German words by Emanuel Schikaneder. The work premiered on 30 September 1791 in Vienna, just two months before the composer's premature death. Mozart was, of course, a Freemason.

We heard from Robert that the first Masonic Lodge was established in Austria on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1742 and that Mozart joined the Craft in December 1784 at the age of 28. The Master of his Mother Lodge was a family acquaintance. Robert said that the Craft was popular with the intellectual elite in Austria at that time and that the distinguished company he found in the Masonic Lodge gave Mozart great pleasure.

Masonic symbolism is seen throughout the opera. The story is packed with themes related to the hero Tamino's journey, liberalism, the enlightenment and, generally, the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. The Queen of the Night represents darkness in general and likely the Austrian Empress Maria Teresa who was an opponent of the Craft. Sarastro, the King of the Sun represents enlightenment and the enlightened liberals of late 18<sup>th</sup> Century Austria particularly. Masonry. Assigning meaning to the number 3 is widely reflected. The opera begins with a triad of chords with 3 notes, and there are 3 child spirits, 3 ladies, 3 slaves and 3 priests who act as a Greek chorus. Tamino's fellow hero Papageno counts to 3 in the main theme played throughout the piece.

A description of the Masonic themes may be seen in this *TedEd* video on YouTube recommended to us by Bro. Robert,

### [Magic Flute Symbolism](#)

All in all, Bro Robert provided us with a fascinating insight into the topic for the 35 brethren who attended. Grateful thanks were extended to him by our RW Master, Bro. Bob Crossan.

## **No XII Catch Up**

If you have missed any of the last 4 meetings, RWM Bro. Bob has created videos on our No XII YouTube channel and you can view them by selecting the following links, please leave a comment and be sure to subscribe and this will inform you of further videos.

**'The Masonic Symbolism of the Magic Flute' by Bro Robert Geddes** - <https://youtu.be/9ycmfipCIMQ>

**Masonic Heraldry by Bro Joe Morrow** - <https://youtu.be/j4UHDukBkoQ>

**John Witherspoon by Bro Ronnie Armstrong** - <https://youtu.be/rMbZUpXLvXU>

**Masonic Cowboys by Bro Donnie Finlayson** - <https://youtu.be/EQsSKngIJo4>

**The short video created for the No. XII website** - [https://youtu.be/RB\\_SXM9XWH4](https://youtu.be/RB_SXM9XWH4)

PS - If you haven't yet visited us in the Saloon of the Town Hall, have a look at the last video to see the magnificence of our Lodge Room.

## **No. XII and Lodge St. John's Whiteinch No. 683**

No. XII has links with Lodge St. John's Whiteinch that go back to the year 1990 when your author was in the Chair. I discovered that No. XII had, in its possession, a wonderful Past Master's jewel from the early 1920s that had been presented to a Past Master of No. 683. It had apparently been in our safe for some years, having been given by the widow of its owner to a Past Master of No. XII. It immediately occurred to me that there was just one place that the jewel should be and that

wasn't lying in our safe! I proposed to the General Committee that we return the jewel to St. John's Whiteinch. This was unanimously agreed. No. 683 was contacted to ask if the Lodge would like the jewel back. To say that we received an enthusiastic response would be an understatement!

I took a Deputation to Whiteinch in due course and presented the jewel to Bro. Thomas Diamond who was RW Master at the time. It was enthusiastically received, and the Lodges have had a kind of 'on and off' relationship ever since. Bro. Diamond is shown in the photo below.



**Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII  
Visit by Lodge The Gael and Sister Lodges  
6<sup>th</sup> November 1990  
The 8 Masters**

**Back Row: RWM Bro Alex Fraser (Lodge The Highland Light Infantry No. 1459) RWM Bro. Sammy Hunter (Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No. 1121)  
Front Row: RWM Bro. Jim Cowan (Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217) RWM Bro. Thos. Diamond (Lodge St. John's Whiteinch No. 683) RWM Bro Iain White (Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII) RWM Bro. John G. MacLennan (Lodge The Gael No. 609) RWM Bro. William McIntosh (Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No. 624) RWM Bro. Robert Dallas (Lodge Clyde No. 408)**

There will be more about No. XII and 683 in the next edition of Twelve Talk.

**Next Meeting using Zoom Technology  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021  
'Aprons through the ages' by Bro. N. Grant Macleod PM  
Lodge Houston St. Johnstone No. 242  
The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814**

Next up, on Tuesday coming, we shall have Bro. Grant MacLeod to tell us about Aprons through the ages. Bro. Grant is a Past Master (and past Secretary) of Lodge Houston St. Johnstone No.

242 up the road in Johnstone, his hometown, and a Past Master of The Anchor Lodge of Research in Greenock. He is a Past Provincial Grand Secretary of the Province of Renfrewshire East. Grant is active in many Masonic Orders and it is said that he has had more chairs than the Albert Hall.

As well as being a very knowledgeable Mason, Grant is a clever boy and is Principal Teacher of Mathematics at Lomond School in Helensburgh. He has spoken before for No. XII, on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2009, when he gave us a lecture on the Masonic Life of Lord Kitchener.

We look forward greatly to his presentation on Tuesday.

Here is your invitation!

Bob Crossan RWM No XII is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Aprons through the Ages by Bro. N Grant MacLeod PM Lodge Houston St. Johnstone No. 242 PPGSecy (Renfrewshire East) PM Anchor Lodge of Research No 1814  
Time: Mar 16, 2021 07:15 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95460921721?pwd=YVljRytXeVpoT3FXVFhNTm5PT1lUQT09>

Meeting ID: 954 6092 1721

Passcode: 298166

## **More about Cowboy Masons The Aztlan Lodge No. 1 (Arizona, USA)**



After Bro. Donnie Finlayson gave us the interesting talk on Cowboy Masons, Bro. Jim Dunlop of Lodge Douglas No. 1557 (Renfrewshire East), who had attended, sent me the photo on the left. He told me that The Aztlan Lodge No 1 every year holds an outdoor degree every year held on The Fain Ranch. The Grand Master Mason of Arizona also takes part in the degree. Before and during the meeting the Tylers on horseback check the boundaries. Each horse wears an apron.

Only in America ...

There will be more on Cowboy Masons in the next edition.

**Masters of No. XII He does it again!!**  
**The Missing Years – STILL ANOTHER Important Discovery by Bro Brian**  
**McFadyen**

**Bro. James Kippen – RW Master in 1819 - 20**

**1820.**

**January 4.—Advertisement : To His Royal Highness George, Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and Patron of the Masonic Order in Scotland ; the loyal and dutiful address of the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of the Lodge of Free Masons, Greenock Kilwinning, No. 11. May it please your Royal Highness, we, His Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of the Ancient Lodge Greenock Kilwinning, No. 11, being impressed with the importance of the circumstances which distinguish the present times, humbly beg leave to approach the throne, and to express at once our firm and unalterable regard to the constitution of the country, and our warm attachment to the person and family of your Royal Highness. If we may employ the words which, on a memorable occasion, were used by our revered sovereign, we glory in the name of Britons, and we will ever oppose the designs of those virtueless and daring demagogues who would displace the master and break down the venerable fabric which forms the bulwark of our lives and liberties, and the palladium of all the blessings of society. We sincerely lament the distress that unfortunately exists in the manufacturing districts, and in the nation generally ; but we have every confidence in the wisdom of your Royal Highness, and justly consider that the Prince who so admirably conducted the war which terminated in the overthrow of the tyranny that threatened to erase Britain from the list of nations, will never be forgetful of the best interests of his people. We beg leave to repeat the as-**

The missing Minute Books in No XII are a constant source of frustration when seeking information about the years between 1796 and 1854 and 1867 and 1873. Apart from anything else, we do not know who the Lodge Masters were during most of these years – well, not at least, from that source. Over the past few years various Lodge members have been digging into other sources of information to find the elusive names. Gradually pieces of the jigsaw are being put in place.

Brian McFadyen is definitely the league's top scorer!

This time, Brian has sourced information from *The Greenock Advertiser* of 31<sup>st</sup> December 1867. There is a letter (left and below) published in a

section of the newspaper that looks back to January 1820. The letter is written by No. XII to the Prince of Wales and signed by the Master, Bro. James Kippen. Its content is very interesting as you will see, focusing on the loyalty of the Brethren of No. 11 (as it was at the time) to the Monarchy. There is a reply from Viscount Sidmouth on behalf of the Prince of Wales (below on the next page). The letter is clearly signed by James Kippen, Master in the transcript in *The Greenock Advertiser*.

assurances of our duty and loyalty, and we pray that the  
 great Architect of the Universe may always bless your  
 Royal Highness with health, peace and prosperity. Signed  
 and sealed in our home, and by our appointment, in  
 Lodge assembled, this twenty-second day of December,  
 1819, and of light 5819, by (Signed) JAMES KIPPEN,  
 master.  
 Whitehall, 30th Dec. 1819. Sir,—I have had the hon-  
 our to lay before his Royal Highness the Prince Regent  
 the very loyal and dutiful address of the Master War-  
 dens, and Brethren of the ancient Mason Lodge, Green-  
 ock Kilwinning, No. 11; and I have the satisfaction to  
 inform you that his Royal Highness was pleased to re-  
 ceive the same in the most gracious manner. I have the  
 honour to be, Sir, etc. (Signed) SIDMOUTH.  
 Jas. Kippen, Esq., Master of the Ancient Mason Lodge,  
 Greenock.  
 Advertisement: The Greenock...

The hunt goes on...

## Lord Inverclyde (1897 – 1957) A Brother of No XII Part 5



In the last edition, we looked at Lord Inverclyde  
 family lineage. This time we have a focus on his  
 education and involvement in the Great War. As the  
 son of one of the most wealthy people in Britain,  
 perhaps it was not surprising that Lord Inverclyde  
 was educated at Eton College.



Eton College is a 13–18 independent boarding  
 school for boys in the town of Eton, near  
 Windsor, in Berkshire, England. It was founded in  
 1440 by King Henry VI as "Kynge's College of Our  
 Ladye of Eton besyde Windesore", as a sister institution to King's College,  
 Cambridge, making it the 18th-oldest Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference (HMC)  
 school. Eton's history, wealth, and notable alumni have combined to make it one of the most



Eton College

prestigious institutions in the world. Following the public school tradition, Eton is a full boarding school, which means pupils live at the school seven days a week, Eton has educated prime ministers, world leaders, Nobel laureates, Academy Award – and BAFTA award-winning actors, and generations of the aristocracy, having been referred to as "the chief nurse of England's statesmen."

It also educated Hon. James Alan Burns, who would later become 4<sup>th</sup> Baron Inverclyde.

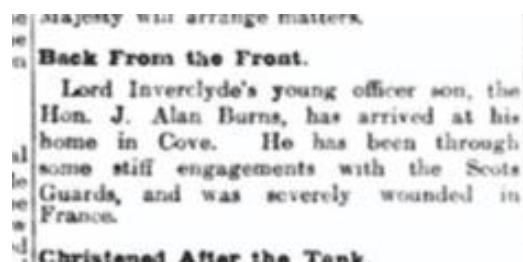
After leaving Eton, he enrolled at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS or RMA Sandhurst), commonly known simply as Sandhurst (left), is one of several military academies of the United Kingdom and is the British Army's initial officer training centre. It is located in the town of Sandhurst, Berkshire, though its ceremonial entrance is in Camberley, southwest of London. The Academy's stated aim is to be "the national centre of excellence for leadership". All British Army officers, including late-entry officers who were previously Warrant Officers, as well as other men and women from overseas, are trained at The Academy. Sandhurst is the British Army equivalent of the Britannia Royal Naval College and the Royal Air Force College Cranwell.

After Sandhurst, Burns served in the Great War in the Scots Guards. As a Lieutenant, he fought in France until wounded by a bullet through the palm of one hand. Gangrene impeded swift healing, but at last he was ready to return to the front and confided in a friend that if he had to die for it, he would try to win a decoration for gallantry in action to make his father proud of him. His wounding was reported on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1917 in *The Daily Record and Mail* (left). His return home to Cove was featured in *The Post Sunday Special* on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1918 (below)



*The Daily Record and Mail* (left). His return home to Cove was featured in *The Post Sunday Special* on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1918 (below)





**Lord Inverclyde's Heir Engaged.**  
 The engagement is announced of the Hon. Alan Burns, only son of Lord and Lady Inverclyde, of Castle Weusys, Scotland, and Esther Mildred, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon, of 1, Hans-place, and granddaughter of Sir Herbert Leon, Bart., of Bletchley Park, Bucks.

In amongst his wounding and recuperation, Burns found the time to get himself engaged! This was mentioned in *The Pall Mall Gazette* of 19<sup>th</sup> March 1918.

He was obviously a man of society as *The Pall Mall Gazette* item was followed by this photo in *The Tatler*, no less, on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1918.



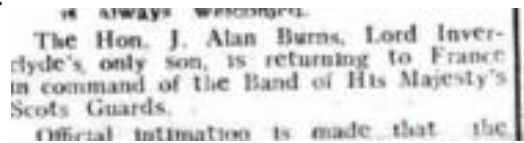
LIEUTENANT THE HON. ALAN BURNS, MISS LEON, MISS HOARE, AND THE HON. MURIEL BURNS

The Hon. Alan Burns is Lord Inverclyde's son and heir, and is engaged to be married to Miss Leon. He is a lieutenant in the Scots Guards. Lord Inverclyde is the great Cunard shipping magnate, his forebears having been the founders of that great line

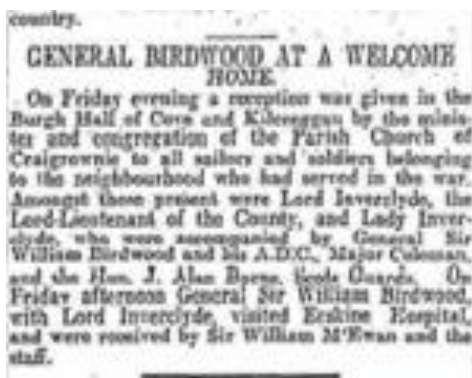
The Hon. Muriel Burns was one of his two sisters, the other, not in the photo, being Emily. His fiancée, Esther Mildred Leon walks beside him. It has not been possible to find out when, or why, but the engagement was obviously broken off as Alan and Esther never married.



Our man did not get his wish to return to the front. He was put in charge of The Scots Guards band after a spell at the War Office. The band appointment is in the cutting from the *Daily Record and Mail* of 11<sup>th</sup> December 1918 (left) and the *Kirkintilloch and Lenzie Gazette* of 30<sup>th</sup> November 1918 (below).



The band did play before King George V on his visit to France.



The cutting from *The Scotsman* of 19<sup>th</sup> May 1919 on the left gives a hint at the life of The Hon. Alan between the Wars. He is present at a Welcome Home for those who had served, in the Burgh Hall of Cove and Kilcreggan and then visits Erskine Hospital.

There will be more about Bro. Lord Inverclyde in the next edition of *Twelve Talk*.

(I am very grateful for assistance on the research into the life and times of Lord Inverclyde to my friend, and former colleague, Ian McCracken. Ian was Librarian at Govan High for many years and we worked together there. He is an absolute wizard on researching online and off. Ian has helped No. XII on a number of occasions, particularly with our work on the Brethren who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Great War and research into Bro. Ernest G. Bushell).

## 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. He passed the mantle on to our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson. Bro David asked me to start to publicise the badge availability through *Twelve Talk*. It has been, and remains, 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**  
**13.03.21**

**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.**