

Twelve Talk

04.03.21

Issue 145

Meetings 2020-21

• 05.01.21

Jack and Alistair Glenney
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 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 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 (15)

I sit at my desk writing this on the most beautiful of Spring mornings, with a cloudless blue sky to look out on and a magnificent view across the Firth of Clyde to Kilcreggan, Blairmore and Loch Long. The daffodils are in flower in the garden, the apple trees are in bud and the bluebell shoots have forced their way through the surface of the soil. It won't be long till we see their characteristic blooms to cheer us. I even managed to have my morning tea and toast out on the balcony today for the first time this year, albeit with the aid of a blanket!

We do have other things to cheer us too. This weekend we have the celebration of Easter with its message of our Saviour's resurrection, another rebirth just as nature is reawakening

Yesterday saw another easing of the lockdown restrictions. 2,930,288 vaccinations have been administered in Scotland, and 28,828,879 in England, and the statisticians are able to tell us that their figures demonstrate that the vaccines are working. I believe we are heading to a situation where we can manage this dreadful virus, even if we cannot eradicate it completely. We shall learn to live with it.

There are many questions to be answered as the Craft begins to bud and bloom soon, just like the spring flowers in the garden. Are we talking about what these questions are and looking for the answers? Just saying ...

Iain White PM

A Mystery Solved

The other day a visitor came to our door. Well, not really a visitor in the traditional Scottish sense because I didn't invite him in and get the kettle on. Of course, I wasn't able to do that. We had our socially distanced conversation at the front door. That visitor was Bro. Calum Grant, son of the late Bro. Ian S. Grant and part of the No XII Grant family that I have written so much about over the past couple of years. His Mum Marjorie is still doing well, and he was up from his home in Newcastle to see her in Greenock. I'm sure it must have been about 35 years since I last saw Calum, but in that way that you always seem to find with Brethren of the Craft, we didn't have any shortage of things to talk about.

He had come to see me with a real treasure trove of Craft-related items that had belonged to his Dad. His Mum had passed them on to him. I'll feature them in the next edition but, amongst other things, at last, the mystery of Ian's Mother Lodge in Malta is solved!



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 Grant family that I received last week have enabled me to identify the Mother Lodge of the late Bro. Ian S. Grant in Malta.

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 16th 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

As we expected, Grant gave us a fascinating lecture on the topic of Masonic Aprons through the Ages. It was really amazing to see how they have changed in nature and character between times past and the present day. In general terms, they have become smaller and infinitely less ornate and detailed. Some of the early aprons were so detailed in character that they were in danger of revealing some of the secrets of the Craft!

Bro. Grant was thanked on behalf of the 40 brethren who attended and commended for his wealth of knowledge on the subject, and the many illustrations he had provided. In his own self-effacing way, he commented that there had been some benefits to the lockdown!



**Apron given to Robert Burns
(Dumfries and Galloway
Museums)**



Apron USA Circa 1820

No XII Catch Up

A message from RW Master Brio. Bob Crossan:

If you have missed any of the last 5 meetings, I have 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.

Aprons Through the Ages by Bro N Grant MacLeod - https://youtu.be/3_v0WWjKQtw

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

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

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

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

The short video I created for the website - 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.

Next Meeting using Zoom Technology Tuesday 6th April 2021 *'The Week before Kick Off'* by Bro. John NS Malcolm PM The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566

Many of you will know Tuesday's presenter Bro. John Malcolm. If not directly from his enthusiastic involvement in the Craft, you may have been entertained by him at a Burns Supper or dinner because John is a much sought after and accomplished speaker. You may have played golf with him. Hopefully you didn't come across him in his professional context, because he was a senior polis with Strathclyde's Finest!!

More recently, John has applied his professional skill set behind the scenes with both The Rangers Football Club and Greenock Morton Football Club in security. He will tell us about the preparations that are made in the run up to a major football match and give us insight into the goings on behind the scenes. Should be fascinating...

Here is your invitation!

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

Topic: The Week Before Kick Off by Bro John NS Malcolm PM The Lodge of Erskine No 1566
Time: Apr 6, 2021 07:15 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99865444058?pwd=OEF1VXJTVHJDWVNjUERYRVJWTElaQT09>

Meeting ID: 998 6544 4058
Passcode: 618878

No. XII and Lodge St. John Whiteinch No. 683

We go back to March 2012 for another link between No. XII and St John Whiteinch. Bro Robert J. Bain was RW Master of No. XII at the time. He took a deputation to Ardery Street on an occasion when our other friends at Lodge The Gael were conferring a degree for 683. As one might expect, the hospitality of St. John Whiteinch, coupled with the enthusiasm of the brethren of The Gael, ensured a most enjoyable harmony. You'll get the feel from the photos taken on the evening.



The RWMs or 'The Roberts' – Bain and McLachlan



A tune from Bro. Calum Beaton of Lodge The Gael. An excellent player, he is a member of the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band



RWM Bob Bain in full voice – or is it James Last?

**Past Master Ken
MacDougall appreciating (I
think) WSW Bro Alan
Beck's singing (right)**



**Past Master of The Gael, and Honorary
Member of No. XII and St John
Whiteinch, Donnie Finlayson gives us
his party piece – *Cailin mo Ruinsa* (left)**



**From Left: Bros. Alan D. Beck Iain White PM, Donnie Finlayson PM HM and Captain Allan I. MacFeate.
Sadly, 'The Captain' ascended to The Grand Lodge Above last year.
The tie tells us that Bro. White is in his Govan Heidie days and came straight from work – well almost but
via the Fish Restaurant at Partick Cross and the Rosevale!**

Another photo from Jim Dunlop

This time the photo is of a house in Brazil which has a pretty unique design. A careful look at the photo below and you'll find it. It is shown closer up in the second photo (below)



Well, I thought I had met some pretty fanatical Masons over the years in Scotland, but they pale into insignificance compared to the owner of this house!

Masters of No. XII

The Missing Years –ANOTHER Important Discovery Announcement imminent!

Watch this space – we are close to another dramatic revelation from the 19th Century! The hunt goes on...

Lord Inverclyde (1897 – 1957) A Brother of No XII Part 6



Ian McCracken has been busy behind the scenes researching the life of Lord Inverclyde extensively in the British Newspaper Archive and other sources. Seeking more information about Inverclyde's service career, Ian turned to the website 'Find my Past' and turned up his service records. His record card is shown below. It tells us that he served in France with the 1st Battalion Scots Guards as a lieutenant from 12th May 1917 till 30th November 1917 and was registered as being wounded on 1st December 1917.



Interestingly, we are able to fill a gap in his education from the card because it tells us that he attended Rev. Pratt's Preparatory School in Westgate-on-Sea in Kent. Prep. Schools typically cater for children of 3-11 years old and, as their name suggests, prepare these children for enrolment in independent secondary schools. Westgate-on-Sea is just a few miles along the coast from Margate. Imagine being a child of Primary School age and being sent away to the south of England to go to school!

INVERCLYDE, LORD

Army Form R. 106.

388

RECORD OF SERVICES

2nd Lieut. Hon^{ble} John Alan Thomas *(Lord Inverclyde)*
(born, Christian Name and Surname in full, printed)

Employment: Scots Guards.

PERSONAL PARTICULARS.

1. Date and Place of Birth: December 12th 1897 Wemyss House
Wemyss Bay
Perthshire N.B.
(If printed from the cards, sign as given in original, and date of completion should be noted in "Date of Issue of Card".)
2. Religious persuasion: Church of England.
3. Where educated, specifying schools: Elton College (Preparatory School - Westgate-on-Sea Kent)
4. Date of last Commission: October 26th 1916.
5. Height: 5 feet 8 inches
6. Married or Single: Single
7. Married date of marriage: _____
8. Name and Address of next of kin (including relationship, position, as given in original in case of change):
The Right Hon^{ble} Lord Inverclyde (Mother)
Castle Wemyss
Wemyss Bay
Perthshire - Scotland.
Colonel Reginald Thomas (Uncle)
Spetham Castle
Kiln - Street
Wemyss - Scotland.

I warrant same to be as above.

WAR SERVICES.

(Giving full particulars of campaigns, engagements, wounds, mentions in despatches, medals, awards, decorations, etc.)

European War, 1914.
Served with 1st Bn. Scots Gds. in France from
12.5.17 to 30.11.17.
Wounded 1.12.17.

In the next issue we shall take a further look into his military records and also his involvement in World War II.

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. 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
04.04.21

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.