

Meetings 2015-16

- * 01.09.15
Raising

- * 15.09.15
Nomination and Election of
Office Bearers
Passing by Lodge Renfrew
County Kilwinning No
370

- * 06.10.15
Raising

- * 20.10.15
Entering

- * 03.11.15
Annual Meeting 715pm and
Passing by Lodge Firth of
Clyde Gourock No 626

- 17.11.15
Annual Installation of
Office Bearers (615pm)

- * 01.12.15
Annual Divine Service



Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII
The Saloon of the Town Hall, Greenock
Regular Meetings – 7.30pm 1st and 3rd Tuesdays – September to April
Special Meeting – 1st Thursday in June

RWM Bro Capt. Allan I. MacFeate 40 The Esplanade Greenock PA16 7RY (07855332738)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

Next Meeting
Tuesday 2nd November
2015

Passing by Lodge Firth of Clyde No 626

On Tuesday coming we have a Passing and there will be 1 candidate. The degree will be worked by the Office Bearers and brethren of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626.

A number of brethren of 626 have been terrific supporters of No XII in recent times. Amongst these is the new RWM Bro Nicky Stetz who will lead the Deputation.

Nicky had an amazing day at his Installation last month (pictured right). There was a fantastic turnout – well deserved considering all the hard work that Nicky has done over the years, both in 626 and in visiting the Sister Lodges. There was even a power cut to be overcome with the Lodge in darkness for hours. However, just as Principal Installing Master Bro Brian Hopkins placed Bro Nicky in the Chair back in the Lodge all the lights came on as if by magic. All was darkness until Bro Nicky was placed in the Chair! What a story

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Test and Capitation Fees

Test Fees are now due and £40 should be paid either by standing order or direct to Bro David Stevenson, Treasurer. Capitation Fees are £30 for Life Members (at their discretion) and again these may be paid by standing order or direct. For details either see the recent email from Bro Stevenson or speak to him.



Our Previous Meeting – Tuesday 20th October 2015

There was a good crowd in the Lodge again with over 40 brethren in attendance.

The RWM gave a special welcome to Bro Ivan Scott who was back in the Lodge after a period of illness and also to Bro Murray Thomson PM who was attending this evening having travelled through from his home in Fife. The RWM also thanked Bro David Wilson HM for his efforts as Depute Provost in having the stained glass windows re-installed in the Saloon. The Brethren showed their appreciation.

RWM Bro Allan MacFeate invited all reigning Masters and Past Masters to the East. Bro William Lawson, RWM of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68, Bro Clive Taulbut, RWM of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217, Bro Nicholas Stetz, the new RWM of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 and Bro Hugh Docherty, RWM of Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No 1121 accepted the invitation.

Mr Alan Iain Jess was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of antient freemasonry by the brethren of No XII. The degree team was **Prayer:** Chaplain Bro Bob Bain PM **Obligation:** RWM Bro Allan MacFeate **Secrets:** IPM Bro Alan Beck **NEC:** Chaplain Bro Bob Bain PM **Apron:** WSW Bro Allan Glen **Working Tools:** WJW Bro Bob Crossan **The Charge:** Secretary Bro Ken MacDougall PM

Alan D Beck IPM is honoured by Lodge The Prince's No 607

This Monday (2nd November), our IPM, Bro Alan D Beck, will be installed into the Chair of King Solomon in his affiliate lodge, The Prince's No 607 at their home in the Masonic Temple, 3 Mafeking St, Glasgow (off Copeland Rd, just behind Ibrox Stadium). The meeting starts at 530pm.

Bro Alan was already an honorary member of The Prince's when he affiliated to the lodge just over a year ago to "help out". As we understand it, Bro Alan is the third member of No XII to affiliate to 607, following in the footsteps of Bro Robert Lyons Scott PM in the early 20th Century and Bro Iain White PM in 2013. Bro Alan will be installed into the Chair by Bro Iain, assisted by Bro Bobby Shaw PM. On the evening of installation, our own RWPGM, Bro James P Livingstone, will deliver the Toast to the Lodge and RWM Bro Allan I MacFeate will lead the deputation of the visiting brethren. It is hoped that as many brethren as possible will support Bros, Alan, Iain, Jim and Allan on the evening.

Brethren willing to drive, or wishing a lift, should contact Bro Bob Crossan WJW on 07788923074.



Lodge The Prince's No 607 Installation 2014

Bro Iain White WSW Bro Bobby Shaw
RWM and Bro Alan D Beck WJW
This year when Bro Alan takes the
Chair, Bros Iain and Bobby will be his
Installing Masters

The Charity Drive

£1500 presented to Sir Gabriel Wood's Mariners' Home



The photograph above is of RWM Bro Allan I MacFeate with Stephen Bradley, the General Manager of the Mariners' Home, as he accepts the cheque from the No XII Charity Drive. The photo appeared in a recent *Greenock Telegraph* along with the short article below.

“As freemasons, the brethren of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning 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. Recently Right Worshipful Master Bro Capt. Allan I. MacFeate presented a cheque for £1500 to Stephen Bradley of Sir Gabriel Wood's Mariners' Home. Each year, No XII's Master has the opportunity to nominate the good causes that will be supported by the Charity Drive. Naturally enough, the choices made reflect his interests and connections. It was no surprise when Bro Capt. MacFeate, as a retired master mariner, nominated the Mariners' Home.

The widow of Sir Gabriel Wood founded the home as the result of a bequest left by her husband on his death. He had been Commissary General of Accounts for Canada. The son of a Greenock merchant, he was born in Gourrock in 1757.

The foundation stone of the Mariners' was laid in October 1850, with full Masonic Honours, by Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart, 7th Baronet of Greenock and Blackhall who was a member of No XII and, at that time, Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire West. Opened in 1854, the Mariners' has been extended and refurbished over the years and is now held in trust by the British Sailors' Society and administered by a local volunteer committee. The Committee was

delighted to receive the handsome donation for the benefit of the residents and to assist with its good work.

This year the brethren of No XII will distribute over £7000 and more presentations are yet to be made.

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII is Inverclyde's oldest organisation having been instituted on 27th December 1728."

Recently our own Bro Ivan Scott PM moved to live at the Mariners' and he tells me that he is settling in well and enjoying his new surroundings.

XII Annual Installation Tuesday 17th November 2015 at 615pm

Bro Capt. Allan I MacFeate has been nominated and elected into the office of RWM for 2015-16. His Installing Masters will be Bros Iain White, Kenneth C MacDougall and Hector Macphail, all Past Masters of No XII. The Installation will have the full ceremonial and an Installing Board will be constituted in an adjacent apartment. Dinner in the Town Hall will follow the meeting and, as is the tradition in No XII, the Deputation of Visiting Brethren will be led by the RWM of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 who will also reply to the Toast at the Dinner. This year, the RWM of 68 is Bro William Lawson a 'weel kent face' in No XII being such a regular visitor.

Freemasonry in Washington DC – Part 2

After the piece by Bro James McGregor (the Elder) in the last edition, I received the following from Bro Alex Galbraith. "The article from James McGregor was most interesting. Perhaps the brethren would be interested to know that I have attended many meetings in the House of the Temple in Washington DC over the years representing Scotland - especially on Saturday, 22nd August 2015 when I was a guest of the Southern Jurisdiction USA at the Centennial rededication ceremony of the House of the Temple which is their headquarters.

It is a wonderful building and also houses the second largest Robert Burns library in the world after the Mitchell library in Glasgow.

The rededication was a spectacular event with over 600 present. It was a beautiful sunny day and following the rededication the guests enjoyed a garden party in the gardens at the rear of the building. I have enclosed a couple of photographs if you wish to use them. The first photograph is in the Executive Director's Office and is the framed flag Jim McGregor refers to - the one taken to the moon. This is seldom seen and was part of a special exhibition as shown in the second photograph."



The flag that went to the moon and back with Bro Edwin 'Buzz' Aldrin



The special Centenary Exhibition



The Robert Burns Library – photo by Bro James McGregor

Charity Burns Supper – Speakers Confirmed!

The 2016 Charity Burns Supper will be in the Town Hall on Saturday 27th February. Bro Alasdair Hendry of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 will propose the Immortal Memory. The Toast to the Lassies will be from Bro Duncan McFadyen PM of Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning No 4.

The 2015 event was a huge success and over £6,000 was raised on the evening for local charities. We are grateful to all of our supporters and look forward to seeing you again next year.

Details of tickets will be announced soon and they will be available from Bros Alan Beck IPM and Iain White PM.



**The Top Table
2015 Burns Supper**

Masonry Universal

So there I was, minding my own business. It was the October school holiday week. I was standing on the beach –Praia Santa Eulalia - just outside Olhos D’Agua on the Algarve. The sun was shining. Most of the family was relaxing on the hired sunbeds and Kirsty and I were down at the waterside. She was strengthening the seaward defences of a hole in the sand and trying to keep the tide at bay. I was splitting my time between watching the waves roll in and listening to the wonderful, therapeutic sound that they were making and supervising Kirsty’s efforts.



It was then that I heard the words, ‘Is that Mr. White there?’ I turned to the direction from



which they had come, not knowing what to expect. The Special Branch come to arrest me from my sunshine retreat or a beach guard anxious to collect the rental money for the sunbeds? It was neither of these. In fact it was something far more unlikely. It was my old friend and fellow Past Master from Renfrewshire West, Bro Ian McPherson of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68, holidaying in the same area. It’s a small world if not a sight for sore eyes

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Reports on Visits

- ✠ Lodge Greenock St. John’s No 175 on 25th September 2015 (Passing) – attended by IPM Bro Alan Beck, WJW Bro Bob Crossan and Bro Paul Stevenson
- ✠ Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West on 7th October 2015 (Regular Communication) – attended by RWM Bro Allan MacFeate, WJW Bro Bob Crossan, IPM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Paul Stevenson, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Alexander Galbraith, Bro James Miller HM, Bro Kenneth McCrae HM and Bro David Wilson HM
- ✠ Children in Poverty Inverclyde on 12th October 2015 in the Tontine Hotel (Seminar) – attended by RWM Bro Allan MacFeate
- ✠ Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 12th October 2015 (Raising) – attended by RWM Bro Allan MacFeate, IPM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Kenneth McCrae HM and Bro James Strachan HM
- ✠ Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 17th October 2015 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Allan MacFeate, WSW Bro Allan Glen, WJW Bro Bob Crossan, IPM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Tony Buckley, Bro Alexander Galbraith, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Paul Galbraith, Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Kenneth McCrae HM, Bro Tony Stewart HM, Bro James Miller HM, Bro James Strachan HM, Bro James Lever HM and Bro Hamish MacLachlan HM
- ✠ Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 19th October 2015 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro Allan MacFeate, WJW Bro Bob Crossan, IPM Bro Alan Beck, Bro James Livingstone,

On all occasions fraternal greetings were exchanged

From the Old Minute Books of No XII

Over the years, social events in No XII have waxed and waned. In the early years of my membership of No XII, I can remember very grand dinner dances being held in venues like the Tontine Hotel in Ardgowan Square, the Queen's Hotel in Gourrock and the Co-operative Hall in Roxburgh Street. The latter two venues are now long gone and some of our younger members may not even remember them!

With the introduction of the Masonic Ball by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West held in the Town Hall, we have seen the welcome return of such functions. The Ball has been well supported by the brethren of the Province in the 2 years that it has run. No XII has played its part with the Lodge having 4 tables on each occasion.

In the early part of the 20th Century, No XII held a number of 'At Home' functions. I am altogether unsure of the precise nature and format of these but there was certainly food, refreshment and music involved! One such was held in the Town Hall saloon on Wednesday 20th March 1912. It was an event that involved a great deal of planning and the involvement of many brethren in sub-committees. In the end, 70 people attended £27.12/- was spent and there was a deficit of 11/-. With the true class and style that is characteristic in the traditions of No XII, this deficit was wiped out by the Committee members contributing 6d each!! Details are below

Wednesday 23rd January 1912

Bro John J Park, RW Master, in the Chair

Regarding 'At Home' fixed for 20th March

In connection with the 'At Home', the RW Master stated that the date suggested at the Executive meeting was 12th March, but as the Saloon was engaged for that date, it was agreed to fix Wednesday 20th March.

Monday 12th Feby. 1912

At a meeting of the 'At Home' Committee held in the Ladies Room on Monday 12th Feby. 1912 at the Close of Lodge Meeting

Bro John J Park, RW Master, presided

... the following Sub Committees were agreed to :- Programme, Music and General arrangements; Buffet and Refreshments; Decorations; Floor Committee ...

It was agreed that Bro Hamilton Young should get quotations for the purveying of the Buffet from Messrs. Jas. Service and Sons, Arch Brown and Son and HW Miller to report.

The purveying of the licensed Refreshment Bar was offered to, and accepted by, Bro. John Lyle on the understanding that the Committee have no responsibility other than 7/6, being one half of cost of special licence.

In connection with the Decorations, it was agreed that Messrs. M Hodge and Sons and Robt Blair and Son should be asked to offer. That Bros Ritchie and McCowat give an idea of what was required. The sum not to exceed £4.10/-.

Bro HW Jones and the Secretary were instructed to make inquiry regarding the supply of Music, the number of musicians and cost to be on similar lines to last year.

It was agreed that complimentary invitations be sent to Provost WB McMillan; the Masters of the Sister Lodges in the Province; Bros W Munro Denholm, Glasgow, John Miller No 437 and Wm. Falconer of 'Glasgow News'.

Tuesday 14th May 1912

Bro John J Park, RW Master, in the Chair

The 'At Home' Committee met at the Close of foregoing Meeting when the following statement was submitted of 'At Home' held on Wednesday 20th March '12

There is a detailed statement, the summary of which is that expenditure was £27.12/-, income was £27.1/-, leaving a deficit of 11/-. The deficit was covered by a levy of 6d on 22 members of Committee. 70 tickets were sold.

Lapel Badges

For many years, 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. 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
31.10.15

Views expressed by individuals within XII 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.