

Twelve Talk

01.04.18

Issue 109

Meetings 2017-18

*16.01.18

Business meeting

* 06.02.18

Installation of remaining Office
Bearers and Illustrated Lecture:
From No XII to the King
Emperor by way of the Scotts and
the Cairds

* 20.02.18

Raising and Annual Visitation of
the Provincial Grand Lodge (at
715)

* Saturday 24.02.18

Annual Burns Supper at 630 for
7pm Immortal Memory – Bro
David Vennard PM
Lassies – Bro Kenny Wilson

* 06.03.18

Entering

* 20.03.18

Raising

* 03.04.18

Passing by Lodge Renfrew County
Kilwinning No 370

* 17.04.18

No Meeting owing to new floor
being laid in Saloon

* 24.04.18

Visit to The Scots Lodge No 2319
(EC) in London

* Thursday 07.06.18

Summer Meeting – Entering by
Past Masters of the Lodge

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

RWM Bro Allan T. Glen 41 Morris Crescent Blantyre Glasgow G72 0DA (07736060280)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

Archives Installation Programmes

As I said in the last edition, as well as researching the huge amount of archive material that we have in the Lodge, I am starting to make a serious attempt at organizing and cataloguing it all. Some brethren have already been very helpful in providing some of the missing links in the archives. We have started with the Installation Programmes. Past Masters Peter Sinclair, Hector Macphail and Ken MacDougall gave me a variety of programmes. At the last meeting, Bro Bob Crossan WSW gave me a couple of gems – the Installation Programme from 1943 when Bro Donald Stewart took the Chair and a menu from the 250th Anniversary Dinner in 1978 signed by the Grand Master Mason at the time, Bro Robert Wolridge Gordon of Esslemont who, of course was the father of the present incumbent, Bro Charles Iain Robert Wolridge Gordon of Esslemont.

I am now looking for programmes from the following years: anything before, and including 1955, 1957, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1993, 2008 and 2010. So, brethren, look in the loft, that foostie old case or the cupboards and presses in the house and see what you are able to come up with.

Our Next Meeting

Tuesday 3rd April Passing by Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No 370

Tuesday's meeting is a Passing, and the Degree will be conferred by our old friends from Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning in Paisley. The Candidate is Bro Jamie Samuel McEwan. When I was a young Mason in the mid-1970s No XII and Lodge 370 inter-visited at the Lodges' respective Mark Degrees in April each year. This had been going on for many years and continued till about 20 years ago when the Lodges drifted apart a bit. Largely because of the efforts of our IPM Bro Allan I MacFeate and Bro Alan D Beck PM, aided and abetted by Bro Hector Macphail PM, contact was re-established and now we have regular visits with a reciprocal working of degrees. All of this is very pleasant.

It is not known how the association between the Lodges started despite various spurious theories put forward in the past by folk in the Lodge who should have known better!

What I can say, with certainty, is that the friendship goes back to, at least, 7th May 1912 when the Mark Degree was worked in No XII by Bro WD McLennan PM and a deputation from 370. The Lodge minutes tell us so (see below).



Monthly Draw 2018

We are off and running with the 2018 Draw. The January winner was Bro Tony Buckley and in February we had Bro Hector Macphail PM. Please remember the prize is £25 each month in 2018.

The numbers have come up to a healthier level now. We currently have 49 issued which is up 5 from last year, so many thanks to all who have contributed.

Please remember the surplus is going to our Tercentenary 'pot' so if you do not currently contribute please see our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson, who get you sorted out with a number or two.

Also remember – you need to be in it to win it!

Members, Partners and Friends Dinner at Gourock Golf Club Saturday 24th March



17 members, friends and partners had a wonderful evening in the Gourock Golf Club. We enjoyed a gorgeous meal prepared by Chef Adrian Magnano and served very efficiently by the staff. Our needs at the bar were looked after with skill and panache by Stephen Mackie. Had the weather been more favourable, we would have been treated to unrivalled panoramic views over the Firth of Clyde through the Clubhouse windows. It really is a wonderful venue for a celebration or just a quiet bite to eat with your partner. More information about the Club catering and facilities can be found on the website at <https://www.gourockgolfclub.com> or by contacting Carol Anderson (Secretary) at 01475- 631001 or secretary@gourockgolfclub.com

Non-members are made most welcome.

The only down side was that our Treasurer David Stevenson was unable to be there owing to severe toothache – all of this despite (I am led to believe) his son being a Professor of Dentistry and his daughter-in-law a dentist too. We are all glad that David is now making a full recovery!

No XII and Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 (1) Exemplification of Passing Tuesday 27th March

The strong relationship between the two Lodges stretches back to the consecration of Lodge Crawfordsburn in 1913. This was further cemented at the 175 Masonic Club on Tuesday 27th March, when RWM Bro Allan T Glen took a deputation of 14 brethren of No XII, and our good friend, Bro Stewart M Aitken PM of the Glasgow Star Lodge No. 219, to exemplify a Passing. The Degree Team was **Obligation** RWM Bro Allan T Glen **Secrets** Bro Iain White PM **Apron** Bro J Robert Crossan WSW **Working Tools** Bro Robert J Bain PM **Tracing Board** Bro Kenneth C MacDougall PM and **Charge** Bro Brian McFadyen WJW. The 'candidate' for the evening was Bro Campbell McDiarmid JD of Lodge Crawfordsburn.

RWM Bro Malcom Sinclair of Lodge Crawfordsburn paid compliments to the quality of the work done by the degree team and we enjoyed some Lodge hospitality after the meeting was over. The pie and beans were very tasty.

The No XII deputation



Back Row: Bros Eddie McGill Stewart M Aitken PM (219) Campbell Snoddy JD Alex Gray Alistair Glennie PM Jim Livingstone DM Paul Stevenson Alan D Beck PM Iain White PM
Front Row: Bros Ken MacDougall PM Bob Crossan WSW Allan T Glen RWM Brian McFadyen WJW Bob Bain PM KK Morrison PM



At the end of the meeting there seemed to be a little confusion in our RWM's mind about the circumstances in which he had first met RWM Bro Malcolm Sinclair of Lodge Crawfurdsburn, but the confusion is now over. They say that the camera never lies so here it is (left)!

The date was Tuesday 24th September 2013 and, again No XII was at Crawfurdsburn to confer a Passing. Again, it was an exemplification and, on that occasion, the 'candidate' for that evening was none other than Bro Malcolm Sinclair, pictured here, on the left. with Bro Alan D Beck, RWM of No XII at the time.

No XII and Lodge Crawfordsburn (2) Bowling Challenge Match Saturday 5th May

The annual bowling challenge will be held on the greens of the Ardgowan Club on Saturday 5th May at 1000. We are grateful to the Club for its support again. Our Team Manager, Bro KK Morrison PM is happy to take names for the team as is his partner in crime Bro David Stevenson. No XII came a close second in 2017. Maybe we can go one better this year – for a wee change!

The Way We Were

I am grateful to Bro Alistair Glenney PM for this piece about one of our late brethren, Bro Andrew Cockle who passed to the grand Lodge Above on Saturday 24th March 2012.

Continuing Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII links with HM Services and the Royal Navy in particular (The ill-fated ship Aircraft Carrier HMS DASHER)

Every time I witness our Lodge Archivist, Past Master Iain White, scanning over old Lodge Minute Books and Memorabilia, my nose gets the better of me, and I often ask “Whit’s goin’ on noo?”

Recently, that very question prompted a conversation about the late Bro Andrew Cockle who was a well known Music Teacher, celebrated organist, and indeed was responsible for leading the praise at our 250th Anniverary Celebrations back in 1978, when the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, who was the current MWGMM’s father, attended, with Office Bearers and Brethren from The Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The conversation continued with me saying “Yes, Jack (my brother) knew Andrew extremely well, as both shared a common love for the gentle art of angling travelling to many large and small lochs throughout Scotland in each others company.” I reminded Iain also, that Andrew was an Officer in the Royal Navy and had served on Aircraft Carrier – HMS Dasher.



HMS Dasher

Early in the Second World War it became evident to our Admiralty of the urgent need for more Aircraft Carriers, and the thought was that Merchant Ships could be converted into fighting Aircraft Carriers in six months. Our Merchant Fleet was already fully committed and so six carriers were ordered which would be converted from Merchant Ships built in America. HMS Dasher which started out as Rio de Janeiro, was duly converted. During the work many of the

future crew were posted to New York to familiarise themselves with the vessel and among them was Coder Andrew Cockle from Greenock.

Andrew was to have a very lucky escape from that ill-fated ship. After serving as part of Operation Torch (The Landings on North Africa) and heavy activities off Oran, Dasher returned home via Gibraltar to Liverpool and, before leaving Liverpool for The Clyde, Coder Andrew Cockle left the ship to attend a training course.

Dasher arrived in Greenock (minus Andrew) on January 29th 1943, and from there encountered the severe weather conditions with those convoys heading to Murmansk, following which she spent weeks in the Caledon Yard in Dundee for repairs. It was in March 1943 that she re-entered the Clyde and at twenty minutes to five on March 27th 1943 the Dasher blew up and sank within eight minutes in the river between Ardrossan and Arran resulting in the loss of 379 lives.



Casualties being brought to Greenock

The loss of these lives was second only, in home waters, to that of the Royal Oak and thankfully Brother Cockle not only survived but was able to continue until his passing to The Grand Lodge above, to teach and perform his musical talents to the benefit of many townsfolk.

72% of the crew of HMS DASHER were recorded dead or missing and six are buried in Greenock Cemetery. Such was the mystery surrounding the cause of the disaster that signals were put out saying

“THIS INCIDENT IS NOT, REPEAT, NOT TO BE SPOKEN ABOUT”



HMS Dasher lost off Arran 75 years ago this year

Photographs and some facts gathered after reading the Book “The Secrets of HMS Dasher” by John & Noreen Steele.

Alistair Glenny PM

Having received Bro Alistair’s piece, I did a bit of further research and found that the Greenock Telegraph of 28th March 2003 carried the following story

Victims of wartime ship explosion remembered

AN EMOTIONAL remembrance service was taking place today for a wartime ship which blew up as it headed for Greenock.

Aircraft carrier HMS Dasher exploded and sank off Arran on 27 March, 1943 with the loss of 379 lives, some from the Greenock area. Seven of the dead are buried in Greenock cemetery. The 60th anniversary of the tragedy was being marked by a wreath-laying ceremony in Ardrossan's *Dasher* Memorial Garden.

Among those attending was Andrew Cockle of Greenock, who de-coded signals on the ship for several months but was transferred six weeks before she sank.

Mr. Cockle, a former head teacher at Greenock Highlanders" Academy and former president of Inverclyde and Renfrew Musical Festival, said: 'The service will be an emotional occasion.'

Bro Alistair also acquired this tremendous photo of Andrew Cockle (on the left) with his brother Jack (right) on a successful angling excursion.



Andrew is congratulating Jack on landing a 6.5lb salmon whilst they were both fishing on the River Ayr.

Thanks to Bro Jack Glenny PM for looking out this photo for us.

From the old Minute Books of No XII

The minute recording the Mark Degree conferred by Lodge Renfrew County Kilwinning No 370 in 1912 ...

Friday 23rd April 1912

Bro John J Park, RW Master, in the Chair

The RW Master intimated that a Lodge of Mark Master Masons would be held on 7th May and that the Degree would be conferred by Bro WD McLennan PM and Office Bearers of Lodge County Kilwinning No 370, Paisley

Tuesday 7th May 1912

Bro John J Park, RW Master, in the Chair

Mark Degree conferred by Bro WD McLennan PM and Office Bearers of Lodge County Kilwinning No 370, Paisley

Bro Park having vacated his Chair, the working of the Lodge was taken over by Bro WD McLennan PM and Office Bearers of Lodge County Kilwinning No 370, Paisley and constituted a Mark Masons Lodge

Forty-three candidates presented themselves for this degree

Mark Degree Plans presented by Bro Alf Flett SM.

In the course of the evening, the RW Master thanked Bro Alf Flett SM for the set of Mark Degree Plans presented to the Lodge.

The Mark Degree plans that Bro Flett donated are used to this day.

Reports on Visits

- Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan on 8th March 2018 (Raising) – attended by WSW Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Campbell Snoddy and Treasurer Bro David Stevenson. Brother David Stevenson was presented with Honorary Membership of No 1425 on that occasion.
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 9th March (Entering) – attended by Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Robert Bain PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Alistair Glenney PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM and Bro James Livingstone
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 12th March 2018 (Passing by Lodge Prince of Wales No 426) – attended by WSW Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro James Livingstone and Bro Eddie McGill
- Lodge Sir Michael No 989 on 14th March 2018 (Passing exemplified by Lodge Captain Speirs No 791) – attended by WSW Bro Bob Crossan, WJW Bro Brian McFadyen, IPM Bro Allan MacFeate, Bro Alan Beck PM and Bro David Wilson HM
- Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West on 17th March 2018 (Installation of Provincial Grand Master and his commissioned Office Bearers) – attended by RWM Bro Allan Glen, WSW Bro Bob Crossan, WJW Bro Brian McFadyen, SD Bro David Martin, JD Bro Campbell Snoddy, IPM Bro Allan MacFeate, Secretary Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Treasurer Bro David Stevenson, Bro Alan Beck PM (PGL Secretary), Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenney PM, Bro James Livingstone (IPPGM), Bro Alex Johnson, Bro Allan Jess, Bro Alex Gray, Bro Paul Stevenson, Bro Andrew Muir, Bro Mark Robertson, Bro Eddie McGill and Bro Ian Dyer.

- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 19th March 2018 (Entering & AV of PGLRW) – attended by IPM Bro Allan MacFeate, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Hector Macphail, Bro Alistair Glenney, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Alexander Galbraith HM and Bro Kenneth McCrae HM

At all meetings, Fraternal Greetings were exchanged. The RWM thanks the Brethren for their support.

Installation of Commissioned Office Bearers

The Installation of the new RWPGM, Bro Robin McIntyre, and his commissioned Office Bearers, was held in the Saloon of the Town Hall, Greenock on Saturday 17th March 2018. 22 brethren of No XII were in attendance. The photograph below shows the brethren of No XII who are in the Provincial team of Office Bearers viz., from left. Past Masters KK Morrison, Alistair Glenney, Bob Bain and Hector Macphail.



Of course, Bro Alan D Beck PM is Provincial Grand Secretary and Bro James P Livingstone DM is IPPGM. Two of No XII's Past Masters - Bros Alex More and Iain White – are Past Provincial Senior Grand Wardens.

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 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
01.04.18

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.