

Twelve Talk

30.10.20

Issue 136

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 TBC

*01.12.20

Lecture TBC

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 Dungleary 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 (6)

Hard to believe though it may be, things still get worse with the pandemic crisis. They have gone into a 4 week lockdown in England. The Scottish Government website tells us

“From Monday 2 November each area of Scotland will be assigned to a COVID protection level. There are 5 protection levels, sometimes called 'tiers'. Find out what you can and cannot do based on the local area that you live, work or travel in. We will shortly have a postcode checker here to help you confirm your local area.”

The grim nature of our situation is perhaps best summed up in the sentence that says, ‘what you can and cannot do’.

As the Craft deals with all of this in a responsible way, No XII soldiers on as the Lodge has done through other National Crises like the 2 World Wars, the Cuban Missile crisis, the Great Depression, the more recent economic crash of 2007 -08, swine flu in 2009 and the 1918 flu pandemic. The Spanish flu, also known as the 1918 flu pandemic, lasted from February 1918 to April 1920 and it infected 500 million people – about a third of the world's population at the time – in four successive waves. The death toll is typically estimated to have death toll is typically estimated

to have been somewhere between 17 million and 50 million, and possibly as high as 100 million, making it one of the deadliest pandemics in human history.

The internet tells me that as of yesterday, COVID-19 has claimed the following numbers of lives: 1,187,176 worldwide: 45,955 in the UK; 4,482 in Scotland. Tragic enough and God forbid that these figures get anywhere near to those of 1918.

We carry on in No XII in whatever ways we can relying heavily on the wonders of modern technology to help us: we communicate by mobile phone, text, WhatsApp and email; we meet online for informal gatherings that focus on communication, friendship and education using Zoom software; we make payments using Internet banking. I see a great craft-based irony in all of this, when I look back a couple of decades to the hoo-hah caused when a local Lodge (which in the interests of protecting the innocent shall remain nameless) sought to keep its ‘books’ and report upon its financial affairs using software and a computer! What a stramash! Who else can remember this situation which now seems just plain crazy and akin to seeking membership of the Flat Earth Society? Where will the Craft be, in the months ahead, without embracing and promoting the use of technology? Answers in a plain brown envelope please!

We live in a rapidly changing world. To survive, I believe that the Craft needs to modernise and embrace change really quickly – i.e. now - or ultimately face disintegration.

Just saying ...

Iain White PM



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.

Our Next Meeting using Zoom Technology

Tuesday 3rd November 2020
Remembering the No XII Fallen and
Lecture by Bro Jim Gardiner, Lodge Barns o'Clyde No. 1018
A Scotsman in an Irish Lodge in England



In 2018, after the Great War Armistice Centenary, the decision was made in the Lodge that we would have a short Act of Remembrance to commemorate the No XII fallen at the first meeting of November each year. We did not envisage that we would be doing this online, but we shall honour our commitment on Tuesday before the Lecture.

Owing to the continuing COVID-19 and Grand Lodge of Scotland restrictions on Lodge meetings, Bro. Brian McFadyen WSW has lined up Guest Speakers for our forthcoming Regular Meeting nights on a number of diverse topics which may/may not have a Masonic theme. These meetings are open to all No. XII brethren and any visitor(s) who would like to join us.

The following message was sent out by RWM Bro Bob Crossan as an invitation to Tuesday's meeting.

No XII next zoom meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd November 2020

Meeting will open at 7:15pm and start at 7:30pm

We welcome Bro Jim Gardiner to give his talk entitled A Scotsman in an Irish Lodge in England

Look forward to seeing you there, especially ALL office bearers, as always click on the invitation link below to participate

Kind regards

Bob

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/5966868516>

Meeting ID: 596 686 8516

It's sure to be interesting! All are welcome!

Previous Meeting using Zoom Technology

Tuesday 20th October 2020

Lecture by Bro A. Campbell Snoddy WJW No XII *AIDS, witch doctors and crocodiles*

It would be fair to say that Bro Campbell's intriguing title for his talk grabbed everyone's imagination. We were not disappointed. Campbell's tale of a journey to Venda, in the heartlands



of South Africa was fascinating, humbling and left an impression on all of us fortunate enough to hear him. In 2015, he was visiting a school that is sponsored by The Church of Scotland with a group (photo left where Campbell is back row left) of Greenock folk from Westburn Church. The very existence of Vhutshilo Mountain School is largely due to Fraser McNeill of that church who studied in South Africa and now lives and works there as a Professor at the University of Pretoria. He met the school's founder and principal, the late Sue Anne Cook, and facilitated links with home that led to the funding and sponsorship that exists today. Westburn Church has had, and continues to have, a significant role.

The school itself has 120 pupils and the Church pays for its 4 teachers as well as educational resources, food and retroviral drugs to combat the high incidence of HIV/AIDS within the school population. As Campbell spoke, we were all struck by the impact of the work done in the school and the respect that the children had for it and for education in general. As a concept, it is highly valued. It is difficult to sum up in words how Campbell's description of the young people and their schooling led me to feel humbled and also grateful for all the advantages that I had in my own upbringing.

More information about Fraser McNeill and Vhutshilo Mountain School may be found by following this link and a subsequent link at the initial website

<http://www.greenockwestburn.org.uk/venda-plaque-dedication-soup-and-sandwich-lunch/>



The prevalence of HIV/AIDS on the African continent is one of the world's great tragedies. Combatting this can be severely hampered by the influence of witch doctors, whose treatments involve casting out evil spirits, as well as administering traditional potions. These treatments are unlikely to be as effective as the drugs that are available, yet Campbell says that they are very popular with the people.



The School Bus!



Pupils at break

It was amusing when Campbell spoke of his healthy aversion to the wildlife of the waters and pools, particularly crocodiles. It was easy for us to laugh being at a distance of a few thousand miles from these giant, powerful reptiles. The group also visited the Kruger National Park and saw the diversity of the African fauna.



Wildlife at the Kruger as seen by Campbell and the group

We were delighted that numbers of brethren joining the Zoom meeting held up at 29.

Cancellation of 2020 Remembrance Sunday Services and Wreath Laying



Sadly, the pandemic has led to a cancellation of wreath laying ceremonies on Remembrance Sunday – 8th November. However, as indicated above, No XII still remembers. RWM Bro Bob Crossan will lay a wreath in memory of all of the fallen – civilian and armed forces – in the 2 World Wars and since at the Greenock Cenotaph in the Well Park. However, he will do it at a suitable private time, as an individual, not as part of a group, and all the social distancing conventions will be adhered to.

In Inverclyde, wreaths will be laid at all our Memorials on behalf of all the citizens of the area by Local Councillors. I received a copy of the Press release below from the Council to explain the situation.

Community urged to mark Remembrance Sunday in a new way

In line with national guidance on staging events, there will be no official Remembrance services taking place in Inverclyde on Sunday 8 November 2020, and people are being advised not to gather at war memorials to support the guidance on social and physical distancing.

Instead residents and veterans are being encouraged to pay their respects at home by observing the national two-minute silence on their doorsteps.

On behalf of all residents and veterans, individual council representatives will attend each memorial to lay a wreath.

Provost Martin Brennan said: “Like so much of this year we have to do things differently. Our remembrance commemorations allow us to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. It is also an opportunity for our communities to show our support for the armed services of our country. It is disappointing and frustrating that we will not once again have the opportunity to come together in solidarity to stand shoulder to shoulder as we have done in years past to remember the fallen. I would ask everyone to take the time out of their day on Sunday 8 November to remember them in your own personal way at home or by joining the national two minute silence at 11am on your doorstep. By doing so we help to keep ourselves and others safe, to protect and save lives and help to ensure that more of us will be here in years to come to continue to mark Remembrance Sunday.”

I shall be taking Provost Brennan’s advice and be observing the 2-minute silence on Sunday 8th at 11 am on my doorstep. Immediately thereafter after, I plan to play *The Flowers of the Forest* on the pipes as a lament for the fallen.

No XII Support for 2020 Poppy Appeal

For a number of years now, Poppyscotland have had a Field of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens with the support of Edinburgh City Council. This year, permission was recently granted again and Bro. David Stevenson, our Treasurer was soon in touch to say “I will be donating £100



from our Lodge to this year's Appeal. It will be in the usual format of 10 x £10 crosses which will show the names of our Lodge Brethren, as shown on our War Memorial Altar, who made the ultimate sacrifice. Last year several hundred crosses sponsored by GLOS along with over 1000 personalised symbols meant £17,500 was raised in support of the Armed Forces community. I am writing tonight to ask if 10 of us will re-imburse the Lodge with a donation of £10." Of course, the Brethren

responded appropriately.

Our WSW, Bro. Brian McFadyen, has been helping Poppyscotland in Glasgow and bumped into my pal Bro. Robin Shields who is a Past Master of Lodge St Vincent Sandyford No 553 in Glasgow and a fellow Honorary Member of Lodge The Gael No 609. Robin is also helping. Brian has promised me a wee story about what they have been up to for our next edition.

Financial Matters

All No XII members will have received 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 speedy attention.

The Monthly Draw pay-outs were suspended from March to August and the monies donated to Inverclyde Royal Hospital Staff Fund. David has re-started the draw from September.

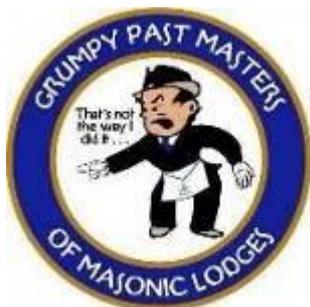
Lapel Badges

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 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
30.10.20

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.