

Twelve Talk

14.11.20

Issue 137

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 by Bro. Derek A.
Kirkpatrick PM XII
Beyond the Craft

*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 (7)

In the last Edition, 2 short weeks ago, I wrote of the introduction of 5 tiers in Scotland – from 0 to 4. All locales were placed in a tier depending upon the severity of the virus. Inverclyde was placed in tier 3 – the second highest level of severity – and there was complaint amongst some local politicians and business folk. They were making the case that since Inverclyde was ‘just in 3’, it should have been placed in tier 2 to help ease the economic and business challenges locally.

I opened *The Greenock Telegraph* on Thursday past to be met with the sub-headline “DISTRICT BLIGHTED BY HIGHEST CORONAVIRUS INCREASE IN SCOTLAND”. Well, well, well ... Apparently, the infection rate had increased rapidly over the previous 7 days - it “surged” from 85 per 100,000 to 166. It was the largest increase in infection rate in the country and by some distance. Sadly, the local death toll has now risen to 122, including one of our Honorary Members Bro. Jim Strachan.

This thing isn't going away, but, on the brighter side, the search for a vaccine continues. One developer has preliminary findings that show a vaccine, in the advanced stages of testing, that can prevent more than 90% of people from getting Covid-19.

Apparently, the UK should get 10 million doses by the end of 2020, with a further 30 million doses already ordered. Other vaccines are in the advanced stages of development around the world. There is hope!

In the meantime, No. XII continues to have ‘Zoom sessions’ on its Regular Meeting dates. Keeping together is important and we are encouraged by the numbers joining in and by the support of members of Sister Lodges, particularly The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566. Thank you, Brethren,

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! 😊

Our Next Meeting using Zoom Technology Tuesday 17th November 2020 *Beyond the Craft* by Bro Derek A. Kirkpatrick PM No. XII

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.

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

Topic: Beyond the Craft - Bro Derek Kirkpatrick PM

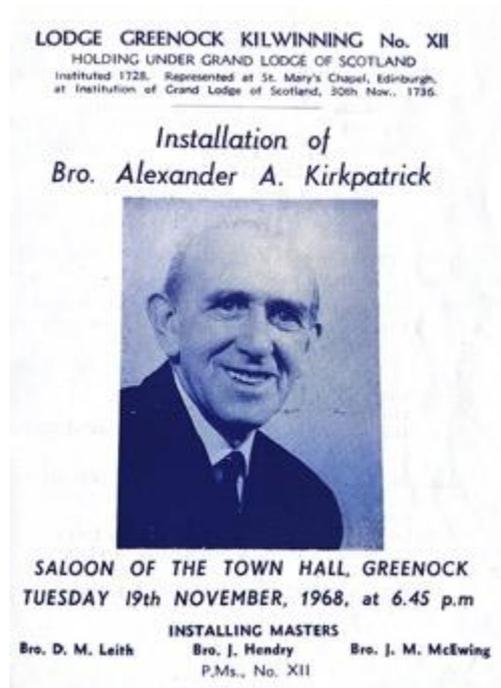
Time: Nov 17, 2020 07:15 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94863785085?pwd=ODlNK0xyb0Z5RFRhZncwL3BSbTZwZz09>

Meeting ID: 948 6378 5085

Passcode: 211925



Bro Derek Kirkpatrick comes from a long line of Kirkpatricks in No XII. His Dad, Crawford, is one of our best-known members having visited far and wide and regularly over the years. He has Honorary Memberships of several Lodges and Honorary Provincial Grand Rank. His contribution to the Lodge is considerable and significant, having served as Almoner for many years, as Depute and Substitute Master and as a member of the General Committee. He received his 50 Year Jubilee Diploma in Tuesday 6th December 2016, 50 years to the day after his Initiation.

Crawford's father (and Derek's Grandfather), Alistair (left) served as Lodge Secretary in the late 1950s/early 1960s and as RW Master between 1968 and 1970 Derek proudly wears the Past Master's jewel that his Grandfather wore.

Crawford's Grandfather William Crawford Kirkpatrick (and Derek's Great Grandfather) came from Forfar and was the first to join No. XII, being Initiated in 1911. The Kirkpatrick family

chronology is

Family Member	Date of Initiation	Age at Initiation
William Crawford Kirkpatrick	14 th December 1911	33
Alexander Anderson Kirkpatrick	29 th September 1953	46
William Crawford Kirkpatrick	6 th December 1966	27
Derek Alexander Kirkpatrick	19 th April 1983	18

Derek took to the craft like a fish to water and moved through the progressive offices of the Lodge. He has always been admired as a floor worker of quality and precision, particularly with big lectures like the First Degree Charge and the Second Degree Tracing Board. Derek was RW Master of No. XII from 1999 to 2001 Unfortunately for the Lodge, work took Derek down South, where he still resides, after his time in the Chair.

Derek is also a Past First Principal of Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No- 17.

We look forward greatly to hearing from Derek on Tuesday.



Bros Derek A Kirkpatrick, W Crawford Kirkpatrick and Allan T Glen RWM on the occasion of Crawford's 50th Jubilee, 6th December 2016

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 re-started the draw from September.

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

The Act of Remembrance



The meeting began with a welcome from RW Master Bro Bob Crossan and then a short Act of Remembrance to commemorate the No XII fallen. We did not envisage that we would be doing this online, nor did we think last year that our dearly loved and departed Past Master Bro Alistair Glennie would be conducting the ceremony for the first, and only time. This year, Bro Iain White PM was privileged to follow in his footsteps. The exact

wording used for the whole ceremony was as written, and delivered, by Bro Alistair in 2019.

The Roll of Honour read out by Bro. Iain was:

Pte. Archibald Lindsay Barr *2nd Battalion Scots Guards*
Engine Room Artificer. George William Campbell *Royal Naval Reserve*
Lt. James Hannah *Royal Garrison Artillery*
Pioneer. Henry Hay *Royal Engineers*
1st Eng. Arthur Johnston *Mercantile Marine*
Pte. John Duncan Macfarlane *2nd Battalion Argyll and Sutherland*
Highlanders
Engineer. Sub Lt. David Rankin Fleming MacKail *Royal Navy*
L.Cpl. Alexander Niven Russell *6th Battalion Queen's Own Cameron*
Highlanders
2nd Lt. Joseph Henry Sanders *10th Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)*
Sjt. James Ritchie Smith *1st/5th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders*

Lest we forget ...

Lecture by Bro Jim Gardiner PM, Lodge Barns o' Clyde No. 1018 *A Scotsman in an Irish Lodge in England*



We were then treated to an absolutely fascinating talk by Bro Jim Gardiner PM. It was based upon St Patrick's Lodge No. 295, Irish Constitution. This is the oldest Travelling Military Lodge in the World. In 1758, it was warranted as a travelling lodge in The Royal Dragoon Guards previously styled The 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, previously styled The 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, previously styled The First Regiment of Horse (1st Irish Horse) Blue Horse in 1758. Bro Jim told us that this is the only true travelling lodge left in existence and is under the direct jurisdiction of The Grand Lodge of Ireland.

He treated us to a journey through history. It took me back to the days when I was studying Higher History in Greenock High School and hearing about the War of the Austrian Succession, The Seven Years War, The Peninsular War etc. from Mr Marshall in Room 8.

The Lodge had 112 Members registered by 'Grand Lodge up to 19th June 1830 and on 6th May 1835 the Grand Lodge minutes record that the remaining members of the Lodge had sent in the Warrant to be laid up 'with a donation of one guinea to the Orphan School. The Warrant was re-issued in 1878 and the only remaining member was Lt General Sir Edward Hodge who had fought at Balaclava in the Crimean War.



Arguably, the most famous officer of the regiment is Captain Lawrence Edward Grace Oates who saw active service during the Second Boer War as a junior officer in the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons, having been transferred to that cavalry regiment as a second lieutenant in May 1900. He took part in operations in the Transvaal, the Orange River Colony, and Cape Colony. In March 1901 a gunshot wound shattered his left thigh bone, leaving it an inch shorter than the right. Twice called upon to surrender in that engagement, he replied, "We came to fight, not to surrender." He was recommended for the Victoria Cross for his actions and was brought to public attention.

He was promoted to lieutenant in 1902, and left Cape Town for England after peace was signed in South Africa. He was mentioned in despatches by Lord Kitchener in his final despatch dated 23 June 1902 and was promoted to captain in 1906, serving in Ireland, Egypt, and India.

Oates died during the *Terra Nova* Expedition of Captain Robert Falcon Scott when he walked from his tent into a blizzard. His death is seen as an act of self-sacrifice when, aware that the gangrene and frostbite from which he was suffering was compromising his three companions' chances of survival, he chose certain death for himself in order to relieve them of the burden of caring for him. Scott wrote in his diary: "We knew that poor Oates was walking to his death, but though we tried to dissuade him, we knew it was the act of a brave man and an English gentleman." According to Scott's diary, as Oates left the tent he said, "I am just going outside and may be some time." Oates' body was never found.

Of course, Greenockian Henry Robertson "Birdie" Bowers was one of the three companions Oates left in the tent. They all perished too some days later.



In recent times, the Lodge has met in various places in England and also, interestingly, in Iraq in 2008. The meeting had representatives from the German, Austrian, English and Scottish constitutions in attendance. Army uniform was worn with white cooks' aprons.

Since 2008, the Regiment has been based in Catterick in Yorkshire. Bro Jim has visited the Lodge on many occasions. He has helped out by filling offices and on the floor. In July 2012 he was made an Honorary Member for services rendered. There have been inter-visitations between St Patrick's and Barns o' Clyde with Degrees exemplified.

Bro Jim concluded by extending a hearty invitation to brethren to visit St Patrick with him when circumstances allow us to do so.

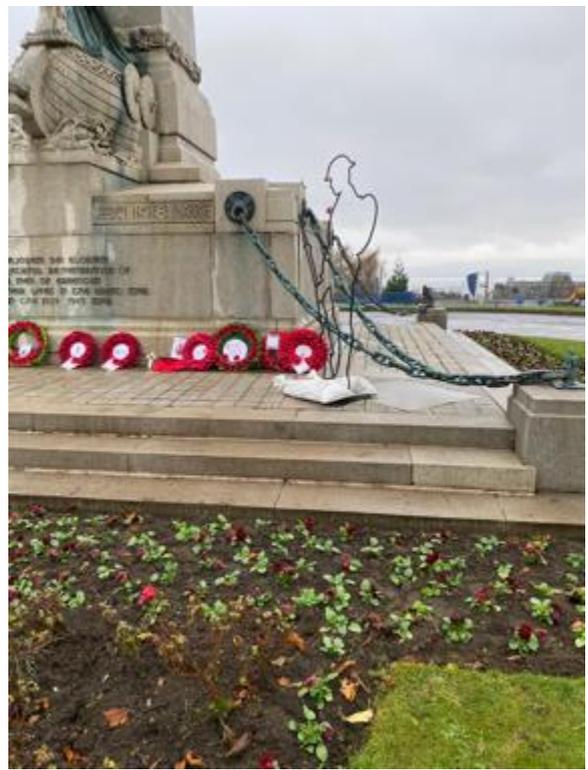
Remembrance Sunday



The usual services at War Memorials around the country may not have been possible because of the pandemic, but RWM Bro Bob Crossan and his wife, Fiona, laid a wreath at the Greenock Memorial in Wellpark. I have this report from Bob.

Good afternoon Brethren, for those of you not on Facebook or don't follow the Lodge or myself: This morning I had the personal privilege of laying a wreath in memory of all those who gave up so much for all of us, on behalf of all the Brethren of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII at the Greenock Cenotaph in Wellpark. Before leaving, Fiona and I observed two minutes of silence outside our front door with the wreath proudly displayed on the wall. Bob





Support for Poppyscotland

A week past on Thursday, I received a WhatsApp message from WSW Bro. Brian McFadyen with an accompanying photograph asking – Do you know this Brother?

The Brother in question was none other than my very good friend, Brother Robin Shields



a Past Master of Lodge St Vincent Sandyford No. 553 and an Honorary Member of our good friends at Lodge The Gael No. 609.

It transpired that Robin and Brian found themselves at The Garden of Remembrance in George Square, Glasgow, fundraising on behalf of Poppy Scotland by selling Poppies and Remembrance Crosses to visitors to the garden and to passers-by.

Robin was at the Garden of Remembrance in a voluntary capacity as he has done for the past 4 years and Brian was there in his capacity as a Driver/Coordinator for Poppyscotland, a role that, coincidentally, Robin had previously filled.

Through chatting to one another they found that they were both Freemasons and when Brian said he was a member of Greenock Kilwinning No. XII Robin immediately asked

if he knew me. Many's a cold and wet hour were whiled away chatting about our great fraternity.

Robin was last present in the Saloon of the Town Hall when my son Cameron was initiated into No. XII on Tuesday 3rd March 2020, our last meeting before the lockdown

Brian has invited Bro. Robin to join us at our next Zoom meeting on 3rd November and to carry out a lecture of his choice sometime in the New Year.

Bro Gordon Michie Head of Fundraising at Poppyscotland was also in attendance. Gordon, of course, came to No. XII in 2018 to accept the cheque during 100-year commemorations of the Great War. No XII had met the 2018 Challenge by donating £1918. Of course, we supported the Garden of Remembrance again this year by placing 10 crosses in memory of our Great War fallen



Bros Brian McFadyen WSW PM 1566 and Robin Shields PM 553 at George Square, Glasgow

Honour for Bro Alan D. Beck PM

Our Past Master, Bro. Alan, has just been elected to the post of Junior Vice President of the Robert Burns World Federation. We congratulate him on this achievement and wish him all the best for his year in office. Alan is, of course, Immediate Past President of The Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club).

Alan is shown in the photo (far left) with the President and Senior Vice President through the wonders of modern technology.



Return to Venda



Last month, at our meeting on 20th October, our WSW Bro. Campbell Snoddy gave us an fascinating insight into Vhutshilo Mountain School in Venda, South Africa, In 2015, he visited a school that is sponsored by The Church of Scotland with a group of Greenock folk from Westburn Church. We heard that the very existence of Vhutshilo Mountain School is largely due to Fraser McNeill (himself in the Craft) of that church who studied in South Africa and now lives and works there as a Professor at the University of Pretoria.



Campbell updated us the other day with some current photos and it would seem that the school is still doing a great job for the children. Bro Fraser sent him the photos. He is presently in Venda writing some course work for his students at the

University of Pretoria. It is a 6-hour drive from Pretoria to Venda and Fraser does this once a month showing great commitment to supporting the school and its work. Here we can see Covid masks to the fore!

News from The Scots Lodge No. 2319 (EC)

I was in touch with W Bro. Ian Rainford of the Scots Lodge getting some information on how things are treating the Brethren in London. In April 2018, Bro Edward Molloy and I visited Scots in London and then Bro Hector Macphail PM met them when they were up at Lodge Scoon and Perth No. 3.

Unfortunately, Ian was saying that W Bro. Alan Berry and W Bro. Peter Niven, secretary for many years are both being looked after in care facilities now because of failing health. On the positive side, W Bro. Jimmy Anderson is doing well and thriving at 98 years young and he asked W Bro Ian to pass good wishes to all at No. XII. We made Jimmy an Honorary Member on 15th November 2005. He and Ian Rainford may be seen in the back row on the right in a visit North in 2012.



W Bro Peter Niven (on right) with Bro Peter R Sinclair
WSW of No XII on 20th March 1984.

... and finally

We should spare a thought on Tuesday evening for our Worshipful Senior Warden Bro. Brian McFadyen. In normal circumstances he would have been Installed into the Chair of his Mother Lodge. However, we do not live in normal times and Brian is having to wait until things improve and we are all able to meet again.

Brian has already been RW Master of The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566.

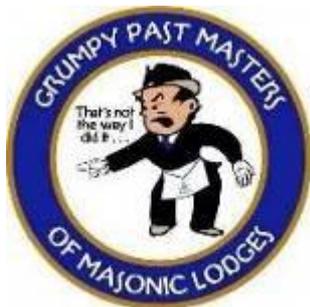
Lapel Badges

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 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
15.11.20

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.