

Meetings 2020-21

• 05.01.21

Jack and Alistair Glenny
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 PM
Lodge Craighends No. 1042
Lodge Randolph No. 1434
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 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 (16)

The vaccination programme moves onwards and upwards. By Friday past, the data for Scotland was First dose: 2,733,387. Second dose: 715,714; England was First dose: 27,447,286. Second dose: 7,863,747. These are encouraging numbers. There was much rejoicing in the White household on Friday when my second blue envelope arrived. On Friday coming I shall make the journey to Port Glasgow Town Hall again, this time to receive my second dose of the vaccine. I'll be fit for (almost) anything then!!

Yesterday, I had my first game of golf at Western Gailes since before Christmas, travel into Ayrshire, from Inverclyde, having been prohibited by the regulations. The weather and company were very enjoyable even if the golf could have been better!

Travelling through Largs and past Lunderston Bay, it was obvious that many families were out enjoying their freedom in the sun. The light at the end of the tunnel is getting as bright as the sun was on the Coast yesterday. So, what of the Craft? Are we ready? Are we nearly ready?? Are we beginning to get ready??? Or what???? Just saying...

Monthly Draw

The Monthly Draw continues, and Bro. Paul Stevenson was the lucky winner in March. You need to be 'in it to win it' and if you are not in it, please contact Treasurer David Stevenson.

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.

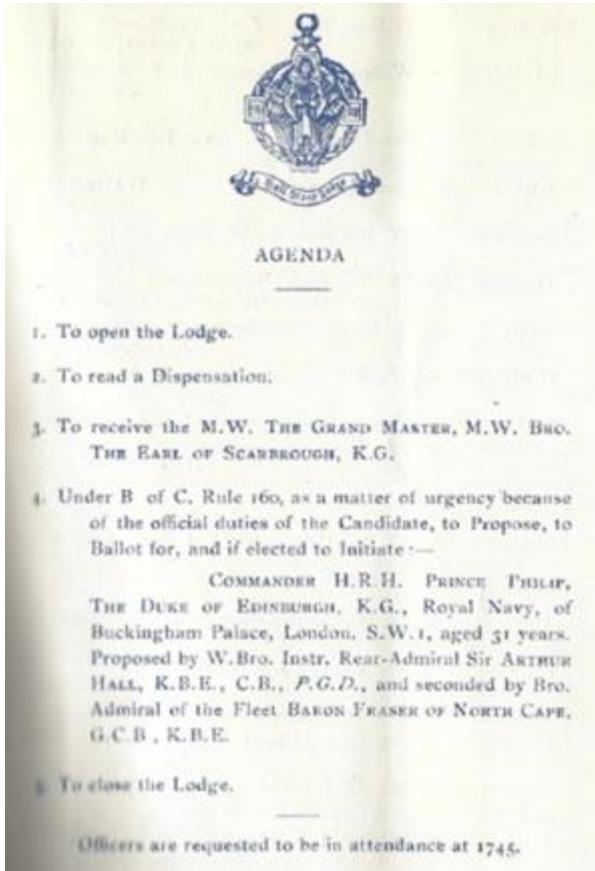
I put this in *Twelve Talk* in each edition, but I don't get as many responses as I would like. I know there is 'stuff' out there! Things that seem, on the face of it, to be trivial can play a vital part in piecing together the history of the Lodge and filling gaps in the Minutes. For example, artifacts from the Grant family that I received have enabled me to identify the Mother Lodge of the late Bro. Ian S. Grant in Malta (see next issue). If you call me, I am happy to collect items from you.

Iain White PM



**Bro. HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
1921 - 2021**

The nation was united in grief when it was announced that Prince Philip had passed to The Grand Lodge Above on Friday 9th April. Of course, he had been in failing health for some time, but he appears to have faced the end with characteristic courage, indicating that he did not wish to return to hospital. Much has been said and written about the man and his life. To us in the Craft, we were proud that he was a Mason and part of (sadly) an increasingly rare breed, namely a member of the Royal family who is in the Craft.



I am indebted to Past Master Bro Alan D. Beck for the copy of the Billet for the meeting in which he was Initiated (left) and for the information below.

Commander Prince Philip was duly initiated into the Navy Lodge on 5 December 1952 at an Emergency Meeting held in Freemasons' Hall, when no private guests were allowed. There were fifty-two lodge members present and just twelve official guests, including the MW Grand Master, The Earl of Scarborough. Following his rapid promotion, now Admiral-of-the-Fleet Prince Philip was passed on 6 March and raised on 4 May 1953 with the MW Grand Master (again) and MW Grand Master of Scotland in attendance. Twenty-one officers of Navy Lodge were joined by sixty-nine members, forty-two official guests and eighty-five other guests. Though he has not played an active role in the lodge, he has remained a member ever since and in 2002 was recognised as a 50-year mason.



Navy Lodge No. 2612

@NavyLodge2612

Bro Martin Anderson sent me this release from Prince Philip's Mother Lodge.

Navy Lodge mourn the passing of our beloved Brother, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, subscribing member of this lodge for the last 68 years. Our sincerest condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.



No XII also sent its condolences on 13th April, by letter, to HM The Queen.

In the last edition, I mentioned that I had a visit from Bro. Calum Grant, son of the late Bro Ian, latterly of No XII but originally a Mason in Malta. Calum was telling me that his dad had said that one of his claims to fame was that he had once sat in Open Lodge with Prince Philip and Lord Mountbatten who was, of course, Philip's uncle. Another No. XII connection comes from Bro. Alex Gray who said, "My uncle had the privilege of befriending him when they served together on HMS Ramillies during the War."

Remembering Prince Philip

Of course, Prince Philip is remembered by many for instituting The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. It is a life-changing experience, an opportunity for enjoyment with friends, an opportunity to discover new interests and talents and a tool to develop essential skills for life and work.

The DofE is many things to many people, supporting generations to successfully navigate adult life. It is a recognised mark of achievement and respected by employers.

Over the years, I have seen the benefits accruing to young people from participation in the award. Our own members have seen their sons and daughters gaining from the Award. From a personal point of view, the involvement with DofE and its benefits, were best illustrated when I was Principal at Newlands Junior College working with young people who had been failed by the education system and had subsequently disengaged from their local authority schools. One of the things we believed to be important in the process of re-engagement was that they participated in the DofE and it was a joy to see the benefits that these young people accrued from their involvement.

To remember Prince Philip and his work, Bro Alan D Beck suggested that we make a donation to DofE. An appeal was issued to members and very quickly, over £200 was raised. As a result, No. XII has donated £99 to the DofE locally in Inverclyde and £99 nationally. Hopefully, this will help to support more young people in this worthy activity.

Previous 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

'Big John' has a massive capacity to entertain as we know from hearing him speak on the after-dinner circuit. He was equally entertaining when he shared his experiences from behind the scenes at football clubs regarding the safety and security associated with each match. It was absolutely fascinating. I, for one, had no idea of the amount of preparation and planning that has to go into each opening of the stadium. Check, check and check again seems to be the mantra with no stone left unturned in the interests of public safety. John is now so well qualified in this field that he acts as a trainer for aspiring security officers.

Perhaps the most telling thing that he said was that bad things happen in football grounds because of a lack of preparation. I guess that's the old adage "Fail to prepare and prepare to fail". Sadly, in this case, it can lead to the most disastrous of situations developing and, ultimately, the loss of human life.

Thanks for an illuminating, entertaining and, at times, chilling session John.

No XII Catch Up

A message from RW Master Bro. Bob Crossan:

If you have missed any of the last 6 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.

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view them by selecting the following links, please leave a comment and be sure to subscribe and this will inform you of further videos.

The Week Before Kick Off by Bro John NS Malcolm - <https://youtu.be/7Jlqi363rT0>

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/9ycmfipCIMO>

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
'Freemasonry and the Holy Land' by Bro. Kevin Pollock PM
Lodge Craighends No. 1042
Lodge Randolph No. 1434

Tuesday's meeting is entitled "*Freemasonry and the Holy Land*" and will be delivered by Bro. Kevin Pollock. Kevin is a retired police officer, with a PhD in Crisis Management. He now has his own consultancy with clients including the UK and Scottish Governments. Kevin is also an Academic Fellow of the UK Cabinet Office Emergency Planning College.

A Past Master of Lodge Craighends No. 1042 and Lodge Randolph No. 1434 he is a founder member and current Junior Warden of Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814. He served 8 years as a Substitute PGM of Renfrewshire East. He is also very active in other Orders.

Here is your invitation!

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

Topic: Freemasonry and the Holy Land by Bro Kevin Pollock

Time: Apr 20, 2021 07:15 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95693752892?pwd=d1hCczQzalhwcTBoNG5zT1o1ZzdPUT09>

Meeting ID: 956 9375 2892

Passcode: 893888

Masters of No. XII
The Missing Years –ANOTHER Important Discovery

The Minute of 3rd March 1858 mentions Past Master D MacNicoll. We do not have a date for him in the Chair (Photo 2 below) but, of course, we have no Minute books to span the years 1796 till 1854. The Minute of December 1855 (undated and first in the 'new' book), with Bro John Scott Jr. signing as RW Master states, "Bro. Crawford declined in present position of maters (sic) to undertake the duty of secretary when it was arranged that D MacNicoll retain the position of

At 13:50, during an air-raid, the nearby *Oronsay*, a 20,000-ton Orient Liner, was hit on the bridge by a German bomb. *Lancastria* (right) was free to depart and the captain of the British destroyer HMS *Havelock* advised her to do so; but, without a destroyer escort as defence against possible submarine attack, Sharp decided to wait for *Oronsay* before leaving.



A fresh air raid began at 15:50 by Junkers Ju 88 bomber aircraft. *Lancastria* was hit by three or possibly four bombs. A number of survivors reported that one bomb had gone down the ship's single funnel, which is most likely, given the speed with which the ship sank – about 15–20 minutes. As the ship began to list to starboard, orders were given for the men on deck to move to the port side in an effort to counteract it, but this caused a list to port which could not be corrected. The ship was equipped with sixteen lifeboats and 2,500 life jackets; but many of the boats could not be launched because they had been damaged in the bombing or because of the angle of the hull. The first boat away was filled with women and children but it capsized on landing in the water and a second had to be lowered for them. A third boat had its bottom stove in by landing too fast. A large number of men who jumped over the side were killed by hitting the side of the hull or had their necks broken by their life jackets on impact with the water. As *Lancastria* began to capsize, some of those who were still on board managed to scramble onto the ship's underside. The ship sank at 16:12, within twenty minutes of being hit, which gave little time for other vessels to respond. Many of those in the water drowned because there were insufficient life jackets, or died from hypothermia, or were choked by fuel oil. According to Jonathan Fenby in his book *The Sinking of the Lancastria*, the German aircraft strafed survivors in the water. Estimates of those who perished range from 3,000 to 5,500.

Survivors were taken aboard other British and Allied evacuation vessels, the trawler *HMT Cambridgeshire* rescuing 900. Lord Inverclyde was one of them. I have no information as to how he got there or what had horrors fo had transpired for him in between.

Cambridgeshire was a 443-ton anti-submarine trawler, which had been requisitioned by the navy in August 1939; she was then given a 4-inch gun, machine guns and depth charges. After returning to England, a grateful Inverclyde presented each of his rescuers with a round rosewood box full of cigarettes, each box with an engraved silver plaque, each individually named and then given the wording "... HMS *Cambridgeshire*, St Nazaire to Plymouth, 17 to 19 June 1940, from a grateful passenger, Inverclyde/Scots Guards"; an appreciative response to what must have been a terrifying experience.

The supreme irony was that *Lancastria*, prior to government requisition, had been a Cunard ship. Lord Inverclyde's father, had of course, been a director of Cunard.



Lancastria sinking off St. Nazaire
(Imperial War Museum photos)

In the next issue we shall take a further look into Lord Inverclyde's involvement in World War II on the Home Front, after his return from St. Nazaire.

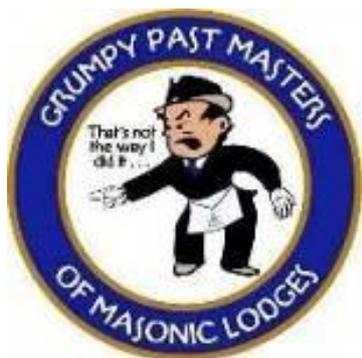
Lapel Badges

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
18.04.21

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.