

Meetings 2022-23

- 03.01.23
No meeting

- * 17.01.23
Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial
Lecture
Victorian Characters of No. XII by
RWM Bro. Brian McFadyen
and Bro. Iain White PM

- * 07.02.23
Raising

- * 21.02.23
Passing

- * 07.03.23
Raising

- * 21.03.23
Raising

- * 04.04.23
Raising

- * 18.04.23
Mark

- Saturday 25.02.23
Burns Supper (630 for 7pm)

- Thursday 01.06.23
Special Summer Meeting
Entering by PMs 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
Burns Supper – Last Saturday in February

RWM Bro Brian McFadyen 47 Renshaw Road Bishopton PA7 8HL (07810008075)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 6 Stirling Drive Gourrock PA19 1AH (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

Getting the Message out

The MWGMM, Bro Ramsey McGhee, is making great efforts to modernise the Craft. A small, but very important, innovation have been the weekly reports that he issues. These are the short Newsletters that he sends out to keep us informed of what he has been doing on behalf of the Craft. This week, I was particularly taken by something he had done, his report on it and the conclusions he drew. I couldn't put it better than he did so I quote

"... on Tuesday night I was invited to give a talk on the work that Scottish Freemasonry, and in particular the Province of Ross and Cromarty, has been doing in Malawi. On this occasion, the audience was not Masonic but consisted of ladies of the Scottish Women's Institute from Ross-shire, Sutherland and Inverness-shire.

I always enjoy telling non-masonic audiences about the values of Scottish Freemasonry and what we do to try and make the world a better place. Without fail, and it happened again on Tuesday, the comment was made – "I didn't realise what the Freemasons do".

There has to be a lesson there for us all, to take every opportunity to expel the myths that surround the Craft and make the public aware of our principles, values and standards. You never know, some of those women present on Tuesday night might just have gone home and suggested to their menfolk that they should consider joining the Craft!"

The point is so well made. In these days of dropping numbers at meetings, a

shortage of candidates and Lodges going into darkness we must be proactive and get the positive message of Freemasonry out into the communities we serve. We must recognise and acknowledge that we do serve our communities – and if we don't at present then we should be doing just that. Things must change. To quote Albert Einstein, a man of true intellect and wisdom, "the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result." The Craft will not arrest its numerical decline by continuing to do what we have been doing over the last 100 years and more. The evidence is there that it is not working! Society has changed, the world has changed and we must change too.

A necessary step is to increase our visibility in the community by publicising the work that we do on behalf of people who need support, viz. our Charity work. We must use every avenue that we can find – local newspapers and radio and of increasing importance, social media. Get the message out there! In No. XII we have been using the Charity Drives that sit alongside our Charity Burns Suppers to do just that. The Lodge now has a partnership with *Children in Poverty Inverclyde* which has been forged over some 10 years or more. Our donations help support needy children, make their Christmases and Easters happier and provide family holidays that otherwise could not be dreamt of. Pat Burke, its Chairman, recognises this and recently he invited our RW Master to a celebratory event in the Town Hall where No XII's support was recognised (report later in this edition). It isn't just about doing good things. It's about letting the world know that this is "what Freemasons do." Thereby, the Craft benefits too.

Our Previous Meeting Tuesday 4th April 2023 Raising

The Candidate was Bro. Blair Fisher and the Degree was carried out by the brethren of No. XII. Just over 40 brethren were in the Lodge and Bro. Brian McClure, RW Master of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No. 626 joined our RW Master in the East and spoke on behalf of the visitors. The Degree Team was **Prayer:** Bro Robert Bain PM **Obligation:** RWM Bro Brian McFadyen **Retrospect:** WJW Bro Robert Marshall **Raising:** IPM Bro Robert Crossan **Secrets:** Bro Iain White PM **Apron:** WSW Bro Alex Johnson **Working Tools:** Bro Colin Reddy **Traditional History:** Bro Ken MacDougall PM **The Charge:** Bro Paul Branchfield

Bro Kevin Barton, WSW of Lodge St Munn Ardnadam No 496, thanked the RWM and brethren for the welcome and said it was good to be back in his Mother Lodge after a few years away. He was accompanied by 2 of his brethren. Fraternal greetings were exchanged.

Bro. Kevin is due to take the Chair of Lodge St Munn in March 2024. It will be a big day for Bro. Kevin and his grandfather, Bro. Arthur Young, twice RW Master of No. XII (2005-2007 and 2009-2011) will be a proud man in the Grand Lodge Above that day. I'm sure several of us from No. XII will make the journey across the water to be there for Bro. Kevin on this big occasion.

Our Next Meeting Tuesday 18th April 2023 Mark Degree

The Mark Degree will be conferred by our own Brethren, with Bro. J. Robert Crossan IPM taking the Chair for the occasion. Bro. Bob is presently First Principal of Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. XVII.

Children in Poverty Inverclyde 22nd March 2023 Queen's Award Voluntary Service



We have been working to support the local charity, Children in Poverty Inverclyde (CiPI), for many years. The charity supports local children and families, providing them with gifts and experiences that would otherwise have been denied them by their financial circumstances. Along with another two local charities, CiPI was in receipt of the prestigious Queen's Award and it was presented at the Town Hall in March. The Lodge received an invitation to accompany the CiPI volunteers because of our supportive partnership that has been running for some 10 years now.

No. XII received a certificate, signed by CiPI Chair, Pat Burke. It was presented by Col. Peter McCarthy, Lord Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, and RW Master Bro. Brian McFadyen may be seen receiving it in the photo on the left.

No. XII is supporting CiPI again this year.

CiPI founder Pat Burke invited all those who support the charity day in day out through donations along to the reception.

The following is taken from a report in the *Greenock Telegraph*.

Every year the charity sends hundreds of children and their families on holiday breaks as well as organising activities throughout the year and running Christmas toy appeals.

Pat Burke said: "Without these people we would not be able to help hundreds of children and their families every year. "It was important they were in the limelight."

The Lord Lieutenant Colonel Peter McCarthy, the monarch's representative in Inverclyde, presented all three deserving good causes with their Queen's Award. At the event hosted by the Provost in the Municipal Buildings Grand Corridor they were congratulated on their achievements. The Lord Lieutenant said: "This is a recognition of what you all do, and continue to do to serve Inverclyde. You demonstrate everything that is good about it and makes it a great place to live."

Provost Drew McKenzie also paid tribute to the work of all three organisations. He added: "I am very aware of the very different work all three charities do. They deliver services that support the work of the council and we want to show our gratitude and appreciation."



The 3 Charities with Provost Drew McKenzie, the Lord Lieutenant and the guests (left). RWM Bro. Brian McFadyen is second from the left in the back row.

The Certificate presented to No. XII by Children in Poverty Inverclyde (right)



**Annual Bowling Challenge Match
No. XII vs Lodge Crawfordsburn
Saturday 20th May 2023**

The Bro Treasurer, David Stevenson, advised the brethren that the annual bowling challenge match between No XII and No 1121 will be held this year on Saturday 20th May 2023 at 10.00am at Ardgowan Bowling Club. This social event is always fun and enjoyable and the brethren are encouraged to attend. Names should be given to Bro. David.

**Bro 2nd Lieutenant James Hannah
No. XII Great War Casualty
Gravestone Repair and Reinstatement**

Our regular readers will remember that the gravestone in Greenock Cemetery for Bro. James had been badly vandalised and that the Lodge determined to have it fixed. We have had the go ahead from the Cemetery authorities and the process has begun.

However, something very strange happened around the good news being received by me. The story unfolds in the short email exchange between our friend Bro. Robin Shields PM of Lodge St Vincent Sandyford No. 553 and me.

From Robin to Iain Saturday 1st April 2023

Hello.

Hope this finds you in good form. Came across the attached the other day in the Mitchell, and thought 'that's a LGK XII man.' Don't know if you had a portrait of him, I couldn't find one in the material you sent. It's not the best quality.

Catch up soon.

Regards

Robin

Robin 553

From Iain to Robin Sunday, 2nd April 2023

Hi

That's brilliant Robin. I didn't have one.

You'll remember that his gravestone in Greenock Cemetery had been vandalised. I got an estimate for its repair from a top-quality monumental sculptor and the Lodge authorised payment. Good news. But the sculptor wanted the title deeds for the lair. Obviously, we don't have these. There's a guy works at Greenock Cemetery who's really into the sort of historical stuff that we are. I

called him and he did some research. The lair hadn't been used since 1960. He gave his boss the whole story on our behalf and, on Friday, they authorised the repair without the deeds. All systems go - and now I have a photo of him.

Over the moon here! Take care and many thanks again.

Iain

From Robin to Iain Sunday 2nd April 2023

Wow, the definition of serendipity! What's the chances?

Regards

Robin 553

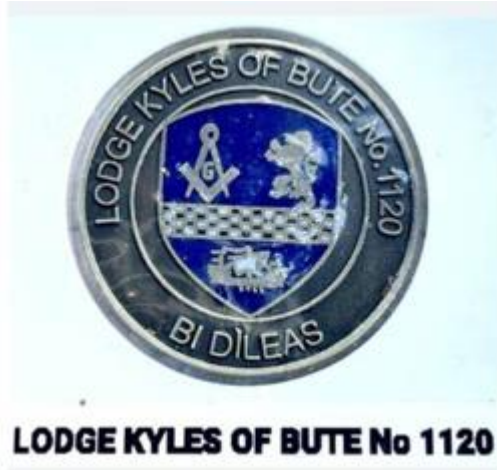
Yes, serendipity right enough, and the photo of Bro. James, sourced by Bro. Robin, is on the left.

The details below the photo are: "*Lieut. James Hannah, Ross Battery, RGA was accidentally killed at Nairn. He was a native of Greenock, and prior to joining the colours last May, was master of the Supplementary Classes in Finnart School, Greenock. He was a son of Mr James Hannah, 99 Dempster Street, Greenock. Deceased was to be married on Friday first.*"



RW Master on the Road Visit to Lodge Kyles of Bute No. 1120

Our RW Master was at Tighnabruaich last Friday. Here is the story of his visit...



On 7th April 2023 accompanied by Bro. Jim Livingstone Depute Master, Bro. Murray Allan PM (designated driver), and Bro. Dougie Robertson PM of Lodge Sir Michael 989, I travelled to a meeting at Lodge Kyles of Bute 1120 in Tighnabruaich.

We left in plenty of time but, due to it being a Holiday Weekend, found the traffic extremely heavy. Almost immediately after exiting the Erskine Bridge we were caught up in slow moving traffic from the Bowling cut off all the way through Dumbarton to the roundabout at Balloch, in all we were delayed by almost an hour. The traffic cleared as we headed down Loch Lomond

and we had a good run over the Rest and Be Thankful and down through St Catherine's and Glendaruel taking in the beautiful scenery all the way to Tighnabruaich. After a short pit stop (I have said that correctly), we arrived at the Kames Hotel at 5:45pm looking forward to a hearty meal. Imagine our displeasure at being told that all the tables were booked!! We decided that we would finish our drinks and move on to the Tighnabruaich Hotel. On arrival at this hotel, it was also extremely busy and all hope of food was abandoned in favour of liquid sustenance.

On arrival at Lodge Kyles of Bute, and on opening the boot to get our cases out, a glass "Hand of Friendship" that was to be presented to the RWM of 1120 fell out and smashed into several pieces. What could we do but laugh and maybe present one the next time we are over. On entering the lodge, we received a warm welcome from the master and brethren and after the RWM completed his business we were treated to an excellent lecture on "Swedish Freemasonry in Finland" by Bro. Robert Mann RWM of Lodge Dunoon Argyll 335 who himself was a Freemason in Finland before moving to Dunoon. After the lecture I said a few words of thanks to the RWM and to our speaker on behalf of the visiting brethren and conveyed Fraternal greetings. Afterwards we were invited to a harmony with very welcome sandwiches and dumpling which we obviously availed ourselves of along with a few stiff drinks. As is always the case, it was time to leave, and we eventually got home in the wee small hours of Saturday morning.

Now this wee tale may sound like it was a bit of a disaster from start to finish - far from it!! It was a very enjoyable day spent in the company of guid people. I am looking forward to going again next year.

I would thoroughly recommend that you visit this very friendly wee lodge if you get the chance.
BMcF

From Bygone Days The Lodge Artefacts (4) Photographed by Bro. Derek A. Kirkpatrick PM

We return to the photos of Bro Derek Kirkpatrick PM to display some of the historical artefacts of the Lodge. Derek is a wonderful photographer and we are grateful to him for his work

We are lucky as a Lodge to have so many links to the past through our artefacts and whilst few are of any monetary value, they mean a lot to the Lodge and to Freemasonry in general terms.



**Silver Sugar
Tongs**



**Silver Punch
Ladles**



The brass 'key' above is a strange artifact. It came to the Lodge via our Depute Master, Bro. Jim Livingstone. When Bro. Richard S. Bain MWPPGM and PM of Lodge Ardgowan passed to the Grand Lodge Above, his widow passed his Masonic Memorabilia to Jim. This 'key' was amongst what he received. Obviously, it has a No. XII Mark Token but nothing else to connect it with the Lodge – or anything else for that matter. Of course, we have no way of finding out where it came from and what it signifies – unless any readers do? If so, please let us know.

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.

The Monthly Draw A note from the Treasurer, Bro David D Stevenson

As we are now in March it is past time to renew the subscriptions to the Monthly Draw. The March Draw was won by our RW Master who kindly re-donated his prize.

Usual format - £12 per annum per number, payable between Jan and Dec. - so £12, £24, £36 etc

- For those of you paying by standing order - thank you and no need to do anything
- For those of you wishing to renew your subscription or start a subscription please send me the appropriate amount by one of the following ways -

by cash, when I see you, or cheque, to 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY, or

by bank transfer to – RBS Sort Code 83 22 20 Account No. 10000509 Payment Ref - your name and 'Draw'

Where I can and appropriate, I will allocate the same numbers as previous years

Any questions please drop me a mail.

DDS Treasurer

Reports on Visits

- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 27th March 2023 (Mark Degree) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 27th March 2023 (Entering) – attended by WJW Bro Robert Marshall, IPM Bro Robert Crossan, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Colin Reddy and Bro James Livingstone
- Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 28th March 2023 (Entering) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, WJW Bro Robert Marshall, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Eddie McGill and Bro James Livingstone

On all occasions, Fraternal Greetings were exchanged. The RWM thanked those brethren for their support.

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 treasurer12@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
18.04.23

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.