

Twelve Talk

05.01.20

Issue 127

Meetings 2019-20

*07.01.20

Lecture by Bro. Alan D. Beck PM
(Mozart, Freemasonry and the
Magic Flute)

* 21.01.20

No meeting – Inverclyde Music
Festival

* 04.02.20

Passing

* 18.02.20

Entering and PGLRW Annual
Visitation

* Saturday 29.02.20

Annual Charity Burns Supper (630
for 7pm)

* 03.03.20

Raising

*17.03.20

Passing

*07.04.20

Raising

*21.04.20

Mark

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)

Our Previous Meeting Tuesday 3rd December Annual Divine Service

The attendance of the brethren of No XII was swelled by 17 visiting brethren including the following Masters: Bro Grieg Mitchell, RWM of Lodge Greenock St John's No 175, Bro Eric Sweeney, RWM of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217, Bro Graeme Wallace, RWM of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626, Bro James Watson, RWM of Lodge Sir Michael No 989, and Bro Adam McKenzie, RWM of Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 who all accepted an invitation to the East. A deputation of 10 brethren from The Provincial Grand lodge of Renfrewshire West then entered led by RWPGM Bro Robin McIntyre. The Lodge was chaired on the evening by Bro. Captain Allan I. MacFeate PM because of the sad and sudden death of the RW Master's mother-in-law. A silent tribute was observed.

The service was conducted by Bro. Alistair Glenny PM. The Scripture Lessons read were St Luke Chapter 10 Verses 25 – 29 by Bro. Robert J. Bain PM and St Luke Chapter 10 Verses 30 – 37 by Bro Brian McFadyen WSW. The theme for

Bro. Alistair's address was "*The Almoner and the Samaritan*".

Annual Charity Burns Supper Saturday 29th February

The Annual Charity Burns Supper now held under the auspices of the Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII Burns Club will be held in the Town Hall on the last day of February. The Immortal Memory will be proposed by the President of The Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) who just happens to be our own Past Master Bro. Alan D. Beck. Tickets are £25 and may be obtained from Bro. Alan at 07739 514242 or Bro. Iain White at 07533 112242.

We would also be grateful for raffle and auction prizes.

Test Fees now Due

If you do not pay your Test Fees by standing order, they are now due to be paid to our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson. Similarly, those Brethren who are Life Members and support the Lodge by covering the Annual Capitation Fee to the Grand Lodge of Scotland should also speak to Bro David about payment as soon as possible. It is important that we all meet our financial obligations to the Lodge.

Test Fees are now £45, and the Annual Capitation Fee is £35.

Happy New Year!



Bro John Clarke Glenny PM
28th November 1941 – 15th December 2019



We were all saddened when Past Master John Clarke Glenny – or Jack as he was known to us all – passed to his rest and reward in the early hours of Sunday 15th December 2019, aged 78. Jack had been steadfastly battling ill health since last January. Indeed, it was at the Annual Celebration of The Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) that Jack first spoke to some of us in the Lodge to let us know of his diagnosis and what lay ahead of him. The battle ended when Jack slipped peacefully over to The Grand Lodge Above.

Jack was brought up with his brother Alistair in the family home in Greenock's Bow Road. He attended Lady Alice Primary School at Barr's Cottage and, being a clever boy, passed his 'Quali' and went to Greenock High School in Dunlop Street. He left school to become a banker with the Clydesdale Bank. Despite successfully negotiating the hurdles of his banking exams it was a career that was never for Jack. He found true

happiness at work when he joined HM Customs and Excise. Jack worked all over the country for the Customs.

On 27 January 1974, the Greek registered sugar boat *Captayannis* was waiting at the Tail of the Bank to deliver sugar to the James Watt Dock in Greenock. Jack was in charge of a Customs team doing a routine inspection when the weather worsened, and he made the decision to return to shore. It was a wise one as it turned out, because later that evening a severe storm caused the vessel to drag her anchor. Her Captain ordered the engines to be started with the intention of running for the more sheltered waters of the Gareloch but before she could be brought to power she drifted onto the taut anchor chains of the BP tanker *British Light*. The tanker suffered no damage, but her anchor chains holed the sugar boat below the waterline, allowing water to pour in. *Captayannis's* Captain, realising that water was flowing in so fast that she was in imminent danger of sinking, opted to beach her in the shallow waters over the sandbank and steered to the desired spot where she stuck fast. As she rolled over all of the crew, and finally the Captain, were

rescued. The ship ultimately succumbed the next morning, rolling onto her side. She has lain there ever since. Professionally, Jack also had the harrowing experience of being involved in the aftermath of the Lockerbie bombing of 21st December 1988, when 243 passengers, 16 crew members and 11 people on the ground lost their lives.

Jack was proposed into No. XII by his wife Elizabeth's father and he was Initiated on 2nd April 1963. Being an expert communicator, the ceremonial work of the Craft came readily to Jack and he progressed through the offices until he was Installed in the Chair on 17th November 1981. He was re-installed in 1982. Uniquely, his brother Alistair was following Jack through the ranks. They served as Deacons and Wardens together and Alistair followed Jack into the Chair in 1983. Jack received his 50 Year Diploma from Bro. Alan D. Beck RWM on 2nd April 2013, 50 years to the day from his Initiation. After leaving the Chair, Jack served the Lodge as a Past Master,



Installing Master and conducted the Annual Divine Service on numerous occasions. He also presided at dedication and re-dedication ceremonies in the Lodge, for example the new Masters' Boards and Lodge Hymn Books. In November 2018, he conducted the Act of Remembrance at the Lodge's Great War Commemoration meeting. He proposed the Immortal Memory at the Lodge Charity Burns Supper in 2014 and was the inaugural Honorary President of the Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII Burns Club when it was formed in February 2019.

Jack with his brother Alistair at his Installation into the Chair in November 1981. This is Alistair's favourite photo with Jack.

A lifelong member of St Margaret's Church, Jack served as an elder for over 50 years and was a Reader of The Church of Scotland. He conducted services around the country, often spending time in remote communities, the Isle of Colonsay being an example. In 2009, Jack was invited to address the Scottish Parliament at their "Time for Reflection" which is held at the beginning of each new session. Jack was Moderator of the Greenock and Paisley Presbytery in 2006, the first lay person to fulfil this role.

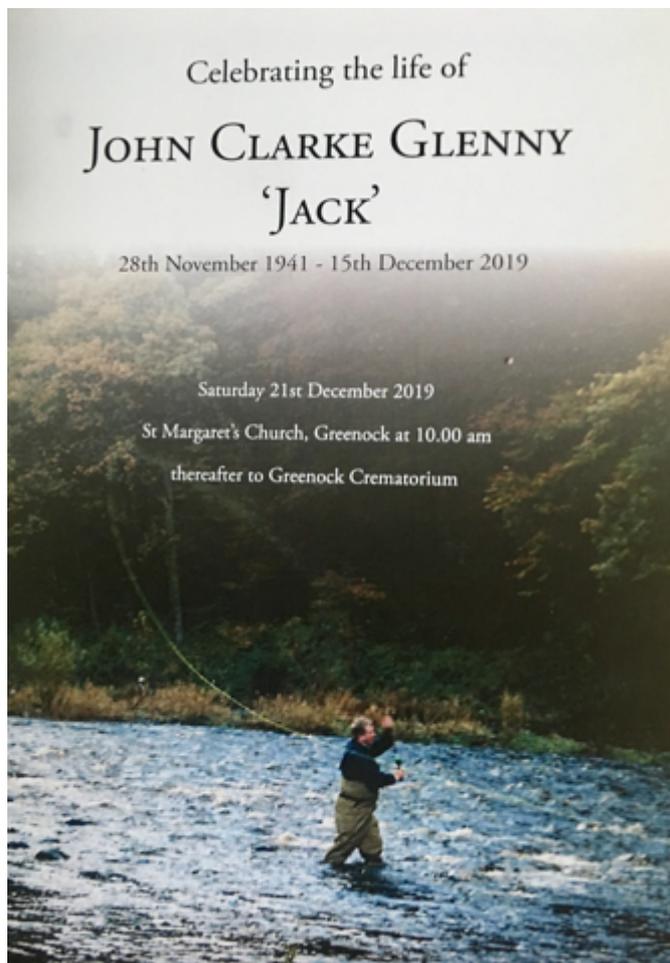
Jack is third from left in this *Greenock Telegraph* piece. His 53 years' service as an elder in St Margaret's was being recognised in 1918. Incidentally, fellow St Margaret's stalwart, Bro Campbell McDiarmid (Almoner of Lodge Crawfordsburn) is also in the photo on the left, with his wife Mabel beside him

Of course, Jack was a multi-talented individual. In his younger days, he served as an assistant Scout Leader with the 45th and 80th Troops. He was a good footballer in his youth playing for the famous Port Glasgow Rangers. A keen freshwater angler, he was a Past President of Dunrod Angling Club and also could invariably be found at Cappielow Park for the home games, as he was an avid Morton supporter.

Perhaps it was in the world of poetry, particularly that of Robert Burns where Jack's greatest hobby lay. A Burns Speaker of international renown, he spoke at Burns Suppers and gatherings all over the world, particularly in Canada where he was a freeman of several cities. Jack was an engaging speaker with his ready, sharp sense of humour and ability to maintain the interest of his audience ensuring success and acclamation wherever he performed. His interest in Burns led him to the Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) and he served as President in 1993. He was, for many years, the Club's Bard using his talent to pen a few verses for important Club occasions.



Jack had the unique honour of being invited to propose the Toast to the Immortal Memory at the Mother Club's Annual Celebration in 2010 thereby becoming the Club's Honorary President for a year. The honour is unique because it is not customary for a club member to propose this Toast; it certainly was the first time in living memory.



Jack's life was celebrated at a service in St Margaret's Church and then at the Greenock Crematorium on Saturday 21st December 2019. St Margaret's having no minister at present, the services were conducted by the Interim Moderator, Rev. Teri Peterson of St. John's, Gourock. Both services were uplifting as she highlighted the positive impact that Jack had on so many during his life. There was laughter too, which was very appropriate. I for one, never met Jack in the 50 years or so that I knew him but that he had me laughing at some point in the conversation! Jack's brother Alistair poignantly read the poem *A Scots Farewell* at the Church. It seemed to sum everything up as did Robert Burns's *Epitaph on a Friend* which was also printed in the Order of Service.

*Few hearts like his with virtue warm'd
Few heads with knowledge so informed:
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.*

Jack is survived and dearly missed by his wife Elizabeth, his sons Calum and Andrew, their wives and the grandchildren. Jack will also be dearly missed by his brother Alistair and his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all in this time of sadness.

Iain White PM

Our Next Meeting Tuesday 7th January 2020 Lecture by Bro. Alan D. Beck PM

The meeting will seek the approval of the Notice of Motion submitted to open Lodge on 5th November 2019 concerning alterations to the No XII Bye Laws. The main part of the evening is a lecture delivered by Brother Alan D. Beck PM entitled 'Mozart, Freemasonry and The Magic Flute'.

Lodge Memorabilia

In his role as Lodge Librarian, Bro Iain White PM is 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 at home, please bring them in to enhance our understanding of No XII's past.

Reports on Visits

- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 22nd November 2019 (Passing) - attended by WSW Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 25th November 2019 (Raising) - attended by WSW Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 29th November 2019 (Annual Installation) – attended by WSW Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Allan MacFeate PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Innes Nelson, Bro Kenneth McCrae HM, Bro James Strachan HM and Bro James Watson HM
- The Prince's Lodge No 607 on 2nd December 2019 (Passing) – attended by Bro Alan Beck PM

From the Old Minute Books

I am currently involved in some research regarding the Lodge in the 1850s for a contribution to another journal, and, as part of the task, I have been reading, and transcribing, the minutes for all 6 meetings of the Lodge that were held in 1859. The first of these is below in transcription. It is exactly as in the Minute Book. I have not added any punctuation, altered any spellings etc. It does make an interesting read.

Amongst those attending are Bo. Wm. Macclure (or McClure – spelled both ways in the Minute) the RW Master and Bros. John Scott Jnr. who had been Master in 1855 and FR Reid, Master in 1856. John Scott Yst (presumably youngest) was also there as was John F McKay who would be Master in 1860. The Scotts were of the shipbuilding family and presumably father and son. John Scott Yst never took the Chair. The next, and final, Scott in the Chair was Bro. RL Scott in 1906.

At a meeting of the Lodge Greenock Kilwinning held within the Royal Hotel Greenock on the evening of 4th Jany 1859 at eight O'clock

Present Bro FR Reid PM
 Bro Wm. Macclure RWM
 Bro John F Mackay Senr. Warden
 Bro D Macintyre Jnr Warden
 Bro John Scott Yst. Junr. Deacon
 Bro John Scott Jnr Secretary
 Bro John C Sicklemore Steward
 Bro Wm. Newton Inner Guard
 Bros DM Latham Adam Leitch Peter Maxton

The Lodge having been duly opened the minutes of the last meeting¹ were read and approved. Bro Latham then proposed that Bro John M Johnson be received as an affiliated brother of the Lodge and Bro Sicklemore proposed Bro Albert Law Bro Cuthbert Le Mesurier Bro AA Albert-anson in a similar manner which was carried unanimously. Bro Sicklemore then proposed Mr Edwards, acting Paymaster to HMS Hogue, seconded by Bro Johnson as a fit and proper candidate for admission to the Lodge. The Office Bearers elected at the last meeting were then duly installed by Bro RF (sic) Reid. Bro FR Reid then presented the Lodge with the Star of his jewel. Bro Latham proposed and Bro Sicklemore seconded that the state of our account with the Grand Lodge of Scotland be looked into and put on a satisfactory footing which the RWM agreed to have done by consulting with our late Secy. and report. Bro Ironson brought under the notice of the Lodge that some brothers made many months ago had not yet received their diplomas. Bro Latham proposed, seconded by Bro Scott and carried unanimously that Bro Mackay be authorised to arrange to 150 copies of Lodge diplomas on Vellum similar to the old plate to be thrown off. (The plate to be the property of the Lodge) Bro Maxton in a very handsome manner intimated his intention to present the Lodge with an old and honourable emblem that had done duty at Waterloo as our future state sword after partaking of refreshments

and the usual Loyal and Brotherly toasts having been drunk the Lodge closed in all harmony and due Masonic order.

Signed by Bro Wm. McClure RWM

I Held the Royal Hotel Greenock at 8pm on Friday 17th December 1858

It was a busy evening, with 4 affiliations and a proposal for admission/initiation. The Office Bearers were installed. Bro. Bro FR Reid then presented the Lodge with the Star of his jewel – and if anyone can tell me what this means, I would be delighted to hear!! There was obviously something amiss with the Grand Lodge and our payments which was discussed. The need for diplomas was dealt with to the first stage and finally a promise of a sword that had ‘served’ at Waterloo. All of this was achieved before the Harmony was embarked upon. The brethren obviously worked hard back then!

More of interest to follow in subsequent editions.

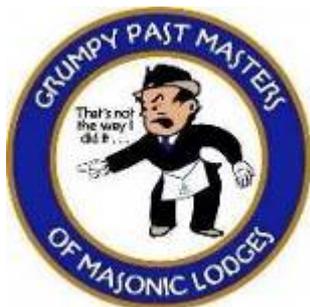
Lapel Badges

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
05.01.20

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.