

# Twelve Talk

29.11.20

Issue 138

## 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 by Bro. Dr. Iain McPhee  
PM The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566  
and PPGMS  
*"The Victorian Serial Killer of  
Whitechapel and the Masonic  
Conspiracy that concealed his  
Identity"*



**Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII**  
**The Saloon of the Town Hall, Greenock**  
**Regular Meetings – 7.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays – September to April**  
**Summer Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (8)

So Covid-19 rolls on although we might have some reason now to hope for better things. We shall see a relaxation of the rules for Christmas and hopefully that will decrease the blight of loneliness in society. The reallocation of tiers saw Inverclyde remain in Tier 3 with a hope that Tier 2 is on the horizon. There is much talk of vaccines becoming available soon. I was looking on the BBC website and apparently the UK government has ordered 100 million doses of the Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine and 40 million of the Pfizer/BioNtech vaccine with 10 million of these due by Christmas. In the meantime, in No XII, we continue to stay in touch with our zoom meetings. The Grand Master Mason said in his most recent communication *"As I mentioned last week, there is a wee light at the end of the tunnel for all of us at home and abroad with the announcement that there may be a vaccine available by Christmas time. Let's hope and pray that this may be the start of a return to something resembling normality. In the meantime, please stay safe, look after yourselves and each other.*

*Just health enough to banish care,  
Just wealth enough to give and spare,  
Just friends enough sincere and true  
May this glad season bring to you."*



## 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 Previous Meeting using Zoom Technology**  
**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020**  
***Beyond the Craft* by Bro Derek A. Kirkpatrick PM No. XII**



As I said in the last edition Past Master Bro. Derek has been down south for a long time, so it was really good to see him present our most recent lecture, albeit, sporting his new beard, he was looking a bit like the old actor James Robertson Justice! Mind you, you'd still recognise him from the photo on the left!!

Derek gave us a fascinating insight into the myriad of Orders in masonry, many of which I had never heard of before! I marvel at those who hold offices in multiple orders and remember the different rituals. My admiration goes out to them! Derek told us of their history, who is eligible to join and a little of what they are about.

There was a good attendance at the Zoom again, with 27 logged in; there was a similar number (29) at the previous meeting. Derek recommended a book where he had gained some of the information for his presentation. It is called *"Beyond the Craft"* by Keith B. Jackson and may be found for purchase at this link

[Beyond the Craft](#)

**Our Next Meeting using Zoom Technology**  
**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020**  
***'The Victorian Serial Killer of Whitechapel and the Masonic Conspiracy that Concealed his Identity'* by Bro Dr Iain McPhee PM**  
**The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 & PPGMS of Renfrewshire East.**

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.



Our next zoom meeting is entitled 'The Victorian Serial Killer of Whitechapel and the Masonic Conspiracy that Concealed his Identity' by Bro Dr Iain McPhee PM The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 & Past Provincial Grand Master Substitute of Renfrewshire East. Iain is well known to us and has been in the Saloon talking to us at No. XII before, giving us a really interesting presentation on the history and development of The Lodge of Erskine.

The talk on Tuesday promises to be equally interesting. The link to join us is

<https://zoom.us/j/99618371320?pwd=MTQzYUdmekV5NVF5SRkNZaVBNS0gvUT09>

Meeting ID: 996 1837 1320

Passcode: 557883

## 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.

## Bro Ian Stewart Grant

The late Bro. Ian Grant was well known to us in No XII. I have featured pieces on his family and No. XII in a series of previous editions. Whilst at sea, Ian joined the Craft in Malta – either the Scottish Constitution Lodge - St Andrew No 966, or the English Constitution Lodge - Lodge of St John and St Paul No 349. No XII records are unclear on his Mother Lodge. He affiliated to No XII in later years. On his return from sea he was a Refrigeration Engineer visiting shops and industrial premises maintaining freezers.



Ian was an enthusiastic Scout and served in the 32<sup>nd</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> Troops as a Scout Master. He used to be a big noise in the Greenock and District Scout Gang Shows. The photo above is from the programme of the Greenock and District schout Gang Show of 1964 which I came across the other week whilst looking for something else. Amongst the cast, fourth row from the front, and 6<sup>th</sup> person in from the right (beside Producer Arthur Ferguson) is the same Ian Stewart Grant. The cheery smile is unmistakable. I think the neckerchief he is wearing is of the 70<sup>th</sup>. This was some time before he joined No. XII.

Ian was a regular at the Lodge and used to sit in the centre of the front row on the North Side beside his sidekick Jimmy Nelson. Indeed, they both took office as Stewards at the Installation

in November 1998 and Ian continued in that role for 4 years until November 2002 when he became President of Stewards. He served in that capacity for one year.

Also, in the photo is a very young me - Iain White - the Cub in the front row, second in from the right. I went on to become RW Master of No. XII between 1989 and 1991. Further, the Scout on the extreme left in the back row is the late Alistair Glenny. Alistair was RW Master of No. XII between 1983 and 1985.

Just to complete the Masonic connection, the Cub beside me, and third in from the right in the front row, is Malcolm Sinclair who was RW Master of Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No. 1121 between 2016 and 2018. One sketch that the pair were in was about trades and occupations. I was 'The Butcher' and Malcolm was 'The Doctor with the Little Black Bag.'



It was the custom to get the programmes signed. Funnily enough, Ian Grant and Alistair Glenny signed my programme beside one another (left). They had been near neighbours in Bow Road, of course.

## The James Stirrat Adams PM Memorial Gavel Its History

**MASONIC GIFTS.**—We understand that previous to the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of Garvel Park Dock with Masonic honours, Brother James York presented the **Greenock Kilwinning Lodge** with a mallet, mounted with silver and bearing an appropriate inscription, for the use of the Master. The mallet is constructed of oak taken from one of the old piers of Stockwell Bridge (now replaced by the new Albert Bridge). It has been under water for upwards of 300 years, has become quite black, but is as firm as iron, and has taken a fine and lustrous polish. Brother George Galbreath presented two handsome mallets, ornamented with silver and bearing inscriptions, to be used by the wardens of **Greenock St John's (No. 175)**. These voluntary gifts show an excellent spirit in both lodges.

As most will remember, the Lodge Master's Gavel was rededicated as the James S Adams Memorial Gavel back in 2013 in memory of our dearly loved Past Master (below) who was taken so suddenly, and unexpectedly, to The Grand Lodge Above.



My intrepid sidekick in trawling the internet in search of information relating to the history of No XII, Bro Brian McFadyen WSW, has now come up with a cutting from The Greenock Advertiser of 11<sup>th</sup> July 1871, (above) which tells us a bit about the Master's Gavel's history. (Part of the article should be of particular interest to the brethren of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175).

This comes from part of a period (1867 – 1873) where the No. XII Minute Books are missing, although we do have the Roll Book that tells us a little of what was happening in the Lodge during these years.

A quick search brought just a little information about Bro. James York who presented the gavel. A contractor by occupation, he affiliated to No. XII on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1865, his Mother Lodge being Lodge St. John Glasgow No. 3bis. His affiliation was recorded in the Minute (which we do have) as follows: "*Brother York having signified his desire to be admitted as an affiliated Brother his election was carried unanimously.*" RWM Bro. John Fleming was in the Chair.

For the life of me, I cannot quite remember what the inscription on the gavel's silver band says. That is something else to check when access to the Town Hall saloon is possible!



The Master's Gavel is shown on the left, the photo taken from the Bicentenary Sketch published by the Lodge in 1928. Of course, it isn't really a gavel! Technically it is a maul. However, tradition in No. XII has us describe it as a gavel so that is what it is!!

Maybe, before 1871, an actual gavel was used. We'll never know ...

## 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](mailto: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**  
29.11.20

**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.**