

Twelve Talk

13.02.22

Issue 147

Meetings 2020-21

• 15.02.22
Passing

* 01.03.22
Passing

* 15.03.22
Entering

* 05.04.22
Raising

* 19.04.22
Raising

*12.05.22
Mark

Saturday 19.02.22
Burns Supper

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 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay PA18 6DX (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

We are back!

Twelve Talk is back for the first time in quite a while. The great news is that Lodges are opening again with business meetings, lectures and degrees being worked. I have been at degree meetings in Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 and Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 as well as No XII. The good news is that on all occasions the attendances have been tremendous bringing a smashing atmosphere to the meetings. This must be a great encouragement for the Lodges and provide the best possible environment for the Candidates who are taking their first steps in Freemasonry.

It seems that (in Renfrewshire West at least) brethren are keen to get back in the swing of things and are enjoying getting into Freemasonry again. As far as all this goes, I am delighted to admit that I was wrong during the lockdown. I was one of those who held the view that we might struggle to get folk back again – not so! Obviously, I was being unnecessarily negative. Long may this upsurge continue.

We have a busy week next week in No XII with a Passing on Tuesday and the Lodge Burns Supper on Saturday. It is great that the Burns

Supper can go ahead with so many having fallen by the wayside again this year. I am sure that we shall have a great evening and give a boost to the Charity Drive in the process. Tickets are still available from Bro Alan Beck PM on 07739 514242.

Monthly Draw

Bro David Stevenson, our Treasurer, tells me that the uptake for the Monthly Draw is quite good but we can always do with more participants. It is £1 per number per month, ideally by Standing Order to

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII
Royal Bank of Scotland
Sort Code: 83 22 20
Account Number 10000509

Failing that, cash or cheque is quite acceptable and £12 per number may be given to David.



Bro. William John Gibson
1967 - 2022

Bro William John Gibson, or Billy as we knew him, was born on 16th January 1967 and sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above on 5th January 2022 at 54 years of age. Billy was a victim of COVID-19. He contracted the virus in November last year, was hospitalised and then in a coma on a ventilator for 6 weeks. The crematorium was filled beyond capacity for his funeral, with mourners standing outside. Our RW Master Brian McFadyen observed that brethren from many Lodges were present as well as Companions from several Royal Arch Chapters.

Billy was Initiated into Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII on December 18th, 2001, Passed on 15th January 2002 and Raised on 19th March 2002 and took his Mark on 16th April 2001 His proposer was Bro. David Miller.

Billy joined the Royal Navy as a boy and then transferred to the Royal Engineers where he was very proud of his active service, at home and abroad. Having left the Forces, Billy joined the Scottish Prison Service in 1988, serving in Shotts, during the riots, and then later transferring to Greenock Prison. In the prisons he was known as “The Gibster”.

His work pattern and family commitments prevented Billy from attending the lodge as much as he would have liked. In 2005 he married his wife, Anne and was always a devoted Dad to his daughters Amanda, Eve & Isla, a loving brother to Gwen and Carol and a devoted uncle and friend.

Apart from freemasonry Billy’s other hobbies were gardening, archaeology, collecting Roman artefacts and fly fishing. He was always full of fun and had a very quick wit. A man for pranks and impersonations, some brethren will recall when No. XII organised a bus trip to Roslyn Chapel with all the sister lodges. Billy had the full coachload of brethren in tears of laughter from start to finish. If you ever had time to spend with Billy, even for 1 hour only, he would tell you all about the history of wolves in Canada, his Roman coin collection and the difference between oose and fluff! He was a font of all knowledge and a well-loved Masonic brother. As Billy would always say, “Je m'appelle Le Gibster.... you may have heard of me?”

Billy has joined The Grand Lodge Above far too soon, but it will certainly be enhanced (and cheerier) with him amongst the brethren. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sad time.

Alan D Beck PM

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.

Annual Installation 16th November 2021



This report appeared in the *Greenock Telegraph* (left).

Instituted on 27th December 1728, Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII is the oldest and longest surviving organisation in Inverclyde. Recently, No XII held its Installation Ceremony. Bro Brian McFadyen was installed into the Chair as Right Worshipful Master in the Saloon of the Town Hall. The RWM of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 led the deputation of visiting brethren, as is the tradition. In this case the man at the head was Bro James Hamilton. The Installing Masters were Bro Iain White PM, Bro Kenneth K Morrison PM and Bro Hector Macphail PM, all Past Masters of No XII. This was the first Installation in the Province of Renfrewshire West for nearly 2 years because of the COVID pandemic and attracted a huge number of brethren from within and beyond the Province.

At the Harmony in the Saloon around 100 brethren enjoyed dinner and the usual Loyal and Masonic Toasts were observed. Bro Brian McFadyen RWM toasted Her Majesty the Queen. His Toasts to The Grand Lodge of Scotland and The Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West were replied to by Bro Robin McIntyre, Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master. Past Master Bro Robert J Bain PSGW, himself an army veteran, delivered a heartfelt toast to Her Majesty's Forces. The Right Worshipful Master, Bro McFadyen toasted the Installing Masters. The reply to these came from Principal Installing Master Bro. Iain White PM PPSGW. Bro A. Campbell Snoddy WSW toasted the Visiting Brethren and, as is traditional in No XII, the reply was given by Bro James Hamilton RWM of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68. The stewards were toasted by Bro Alexander R Johnson WJW.

As is the custom in No XII, Inverclyde Council was represented at the Installation Dinner and Harmony. On this occasion, the brethren were delighted that Provost Martin Brennan attended. Provost Brennan addressed the assembled brethren and spoke of the long and close connection between No XII and the town of Greenock and he especially highlighted the charitable work carried out by the Lodge. He was very appreciative of being invited to nominate a charity to be one of the beneficiaries each year. In 2021-22, Provost Brennan's nomination is Children in Poverty Inverclyde whose founder Pat Burke is a great friend of the Lodge. Provost Brennan concluded as he extended his good wishes to the new RWM and to the Lodge for the forthcoming session and expressed thanks for its support for the community. He received an enthusiastic standing ovation from the assembled brethren.

Bro Brian McFadyen RWM spoke of his pleasure at taking the chair and how honoured he felt. It would be his intention to support the Lodges who had supported tonight's Installation with a visit in the year ahead. He also spoke of the plans that he had for the Lodge, although there is still a degree of uncertainty brought about by the pandemic. A major charity drive is again under way. The RWM's late father, Bro John McFadyen, was a Lodge stalwart for many years. Bro Brian is a Past Master of The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566 although his Mother Lodge is No. XII.

The extremely happy evening finished with the singing of Auld Lang Syne and three hearty cheers!

Office Bearers for 2021-22

Right Worshipful Master **Bro. Brian McFadyen** *Immediate Past Master* **Bro. J. Robert Crossan** *Depute Master* **Bro James P. Livingstone** PPGM *Substitute Master* **Bro. Iain White** PM *Worshipful Senior Warden* **Bro. A. Campbell Snoddy** *Worshipful Junior Warden* **Bro. Alexander R Johnson** *Secretary* **Bro. Kenneth C MacDougall** PM *Treasurer* **Bro. David D. Stevenson** *Director of Ceremonies* **Bro. Hector Macphail** PM *Chaplain* **Bro. Robert J. Bain** PM *Senior Deacon* **Bro. Robert Marshall** *Junior Deacon* **Bro. Paul Branchfield** *Architect* **Bro James McGregor** *Jeweller* **Bro John W. Dyer** *Bible Bearer* **Bro. Kenneth K Morrison** PM *Sword Bearer* **Bro James McGregor Jr** *Director of Music* **Bro Alan D Beck** PM *Marshal* **Bro Alexander Gray** *Inner Guard* **Bro. Scott A. Branchfield** *President of Stewards* **Bro. Anthony Buckley** *1st Assistant Steward* **Bro. Fraser N. Cameron** *2nd Assistant Steward* **Bro. Edward Molloy** *Tyler* **Bro. Ewen A. Maclea**



RW Master and The Installing Masters 2021

In the Town Hall from left: Bro. Iain White PM (Principal Installing Master) Bro Brian McFadyen RWM Bro Kenneth K Morrison PM (Installing Master) Bro. Hector Macphail PM (Installing Master)



The Office Bearers 2021-22

Back: Bros. J Robert Crossan **IPM Paul Branchfield JD** David Stevenson **Treasurer Alex Gray Marshall** Robert J Bain **PM Chaplain** Robert Marshall **SD Alex Johnson WJW** Scott A Branchfield **IG Ken MacDougall PM Secy.**
Front: Bros Robin McIntyre **RWPGM Iain White PM SM** Brian McFadyen **RWM KK Morrison PM BB** Hector Macphail **PM DoC Alan D Back PM DoM**

We were pleased to welcome Bro Derek A Kirkpatrick PM who travelled from his home in the South of England for the Installation and took these excellent photos.

Our Previous Meeting Tuesday 1st February 2022 Entering

Our previous meeting was an Entering, and the candidate was Mr Craig McFadyen, the RW Master's son. We had a fine turn out on the evening with many brethren in attendance, including 7 Masters from in and beyond the Province. They are pictured below with RW Master Bro Brian.



RWM and Visiting Masters

From Left: Bros. Graeme Wallace Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 Adam Mckenzie Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 Ross McLelland Prince of Wales Renfrew No 426 James P Livingstone IPPGM Brian McFadywn XII MMMM The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 James Watson Sir Michael No 989 Eric Sweeney Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 MMMMMM

It was the first time that the new Office Bearers' Team had worked a Degree and they acquitted themselves very well. Following the meeting, some time was spent in Harmony where we enjoyed a refreshment, a blether, and Bro. Tony Buckley's gourmet sausage rolls.

We were pleased to welcome a healthy number of visitors to the meeting.

Our Next Meeting Tuesday 15th February 2022 Passing

Tuesday's meeting is a Passing, and the Candidates are Bros Alan Hunter and Cameron White. The Degree Team is **Prayer** Bro Robert J Bain PM; **Obligation** Bro Brian McFadyen RWM; **Secrets** Bro J Robert Crossan IPM; **Apron** Bro Iain White WSW (Acting); **Working Tools** Bro David Stevenson; **Tracing Board** Bro Iain White PM; **Charge** Bro Robert J Bain PM.

The Lodge will open at 715PM because it is the Annual Visitation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

Test Fees

Further to a recent question regarding the current amnesty in relation to the payment of test fees, the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Robin McIntyre has confirmed that this will cease at the end of this month. Up until then, a defaulting member can bring himself into good standing by paying the current year's test fee only.

As from the 1st March, this will revert to the normal requirement of requiring to pay the current year plus two years.

As to Lodge Test Fees these are overdue and should be paid to Lodge Treasurer Bro David Stevenson asap.

Next Issue

Several items have been held over till the next issue.

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
13.02.22

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.