



# Twelve Talk

Issue No. 182  
13.07.25

## Meetings 2025-26

- \*02.09.25  
Entering
- 16.09.25  
TBC
- 07.10.25  
TBC
- 21.10.25  
TBC
- 04.11.25  
Raising
- 18.11.25  
Annual Installation
- 02.12.25  
Annual Divine Service
- 16.12.25  
No Meeting



**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 Robert Marshall 3 Victoria Road Gourock PA7 5BY (078958158628)  
 Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 6 Stirling Drive Gourock PA19 1AH (07810270787)  
 Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

## Grand Lodge and its impact

As some of you will be aware, I have spent the past couple of years as a member of the Information and Communications Committee (ICC) of the Grand Lodge of Scotland. It is one of a number of Committees that operate under the umbrella of the Governance and Strategy Board. This all came about with the restructuring of Grand Lodge’s operational structures and processes aimed at modernising the Craft, making it more relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and reducing bureaucracy.

The ICC works within these parameters and has a number of Subcommittees to help it deliver. These are

- Education
- Events
- History and Heritage
- IT and Social Media
- Publications
- Young and New Masons

I am privileged and honoured to have recently accepted the Chair of the History and Heritage Subcommittee. We have submitted proposals to change its role in light of prevailing circumstances. I’ll keep you up to date with developments.

The Young and New Masons (YNM) development has been significant, both nationally and locally.

### A Superb Second Degree by Renfrewshire West Young and New Masons – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025

On Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> May, the Renfrewshire West YNM branch exemplified a Fellowcraft Degree in the premises of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626 using the 626 Charter. It was a brilliant afternoon! The Chair was taken by Bo. Graeme Wallace, PM of 626 and Chair of the local YNM group. The degree was of the highest quality with excellent floorwork and precise perambulations. It was so good that PPGM Bro. James P. Livingstone was prompted to observe that he had not seen a Passing that was as good for a long, long time. The brethren present were of a similar belief, and the wages of appreciation paid to the Degree Team were much deserved. **Continued over**





In addition to all of this, the afternoon was run as a Charity Fundraiser and £765 was raised for 2 local charities: *The Anchor* (a mental health support group, one of whose main aims is suicide prevention) received £500 and Caterer Alex Black's granddaughter, Freya, was having her long hair cut with sponsorship to aid The Little Princess Trust (left). This charity provides wigs for children and young people suffering from cancer. It benefited to the tune of £265 from the YNM. It also received £250 from Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626 and £300 from the Ayr Shed of the Squaremen.

No XII was well represented in the degree team: Bro. Paul Branchfield was WSW; Bro. Cameron White was Junior Deacon; Bro. Jordan Kincaid was Inner Guard. In terms of the degree work, Bro. White delivered *The Charge* and Bro. Kincaid illustrated *The Working Tools*.

All in all, it was a great afternoon. Those of us who attended were privileged.



**Renfrewshire West Young and New Masons**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**The Degree Team with  
Bro. Paul Docherty PGMD**

RENEWSEMENT OF A FELLOWSHIP DEGREE

Candidate	Bro. Peter Proby PM 626
Worshipful Master	Bro. Graeme Wallace PM 626
Worshipful Senior Warden	Bro. Paul Branchfield WSW XII
Worshipful Junior Warden	Bro. Graeme Mitchell PM 125
Chaplain	Bro. Rev. Jonathan Fleming PM 175
Worshipful Senior Deacon	Bro. Donald Stirling PM 1425
Worshipful Junior Deacon	Bro. Cameron White PM XII
Inner Guard	Bro. Jordan Kincaid PM 626
Honorary Director of Music	Bro. Jim Livingston PM 525

O GOD OF BETHLEH, BY WHOSE AID - SALUBRIS

O GOD OF BETHLEH, BY WHOSE HAND THY PEOPLE STILL ARE FEED,  
WIND THROUGH THIS WEARY FLOODED MIST ALL OUR FATHERS LEED;  
OUR VOYS, OUR PRAYERS, WE NOW PRESENT BEFORE THY THRONS OF GRACE;  
GOD OF OUR FATHERS, BE THE GOD OF THEIR SUCCESSING RACE.

PRINCES AND KINGS - DURE STREET

ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT PRINCES AND KINGS, AND CLOWNS THAT CAPER IN SEWARDIST RINGS,  
AND COMMON PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME, ARE BUILDERS FOR ETERNITY?

EACH MAN IS GIVEN A BAG OF TOOLS, A SHARPLESS MARK, A BOOK OF RULES;  
AND EACH MUST MAKE, HIS LIFE IS FLOWIN, A STUMBLING BLOCK OR STEPPINGSTONE.

Obligation	Bro. Ian Wallace WSW 626
Secrets	Bro. Graeme Drums PM 1125
Arms	Bro. David Docherty PM 626
Tools	Bro. Jordan Kincaid PM XII
Tracing Board	Bro. Nicholas Sneyd PM 1814
Charge	Bro. Cameron White PM XII

THE DAY THOU GAVEST LORD HAS ENDED - S1 CLEMENT

THE DAY THOU GAVEST, LORD, IS ENDED; THE DARKNESS FALLS AT THY BEHEST;  
FO THOSE OUR MORNING HYMNS ASCENDED, THY PRAISE SHALL SANCTIFY OUR REST.

THE SUN THAT BIDS US REST IS MAKING OUR BROTHEREN 'NEATH THE WESTERN SKY,  
AND HOUR BY HOUR FRESH LIPS ARE MAKING THY WONDEROUS DONKEY HEARD ON HIGH.

SO BE IT, LORD! THY THRONE SHALL NEVER, LIKE EARTH'S PROUD EMPYRES, PASS AWAY;  
THY KINGDOM STANDS, AND GROWS FOR EVER, TILL ALL THY CREATURES OWN THY SWAY.



## A Grand Afternoon on George Street - A Distinguished First Degree by Young and New Masons – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2025

The Grand Lodge lead on the Young and New Masons (YNM) initiative is Bro. Will Rowan. Will has been in the vanguard of the organisation of the exemplification of the First Degree by YNM at Grand Lodge on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> June.



On a stately afternoon in the heart of Edinburgh, George Street bore witness to a memorable and uplifting Masonic occasion that echoed the timeless traditions of the Craft. Within the solemn and dignified chambers of Grand Lodge, a capacity audience assembled to observe a ceremonial delivery of the First Degree — not by seasoned brethren, but by a cohort of young and new Freemasons whose dedication, precision, and reverence gave profound meaning to the afternoon.

The event marked a notable moment in the continuing life of Freemasonry in Scotland and beyond. There was a quiet yet palpable anticipation among the brethren gathered. Senior Masons, visiting dignitaries, and guests alike were present in full regalia, reflecting both the heritage and the enduring strength of the fraternity. It was, in every sense, a grand afternoon on George Street.

Apprentice Pillars Young & New Masons Degree Team		Apprentice Pillars Young & New Masons Degree Team	
DEGREE PART	NAME	DEGREE PART	NAME
Conferring Master	Brother William J. Rowan <i>Senior Warden, No. 433</i>	Signs of Entered Apprentice	Brother Alastair Reid <i>Senior Deacon, No. 117</i>
Senior Warden	Brother Nicholas Mauro <i>Master, No. 934</i>	Secrets of Entered Apprentice	Brother Jordan J. McCluskey <i>Junior Deacon, No. 1359</i>
Junior Warden	Brother Glenn Macfarlane <i>Junior Warden, No. 122</i>	Apron Charge	Brother Calum Gray <i>Master, No. 39</i>
Director of Ceremonies	Brother Liam Stewart <i>Past Master, No. 331 &amp; 1705</i>	Northeast Corner	Brother Jarmarie Hypolite <i>Junior Warden, No. 1794</i>
Assistant Director of Ceremonies	Brother Andrew McMenamin <i>Director of Ceremonies, No. 32</i>	Working Tools	Brother Robert Buchanan <i>Junior Deacon, No. 391</i>
Chaplain	Brother Andrew Gillespie <i>Tyler, No. 62</i>	Documents	Brother Liam Stewart <i>Past Master, No. 331 &amp; 1705</i>
Senior Deacon	Brother Jordan Hossack <i>Senior Deacon, No. 1216</i>	Mode of Preparation	Brother Andrew Currie <i>Senior Deacon, No. 270</i>
Junior Deacon	Brother Craig W. Stewart <i>Senior Deacon, No. 392</i>	First Degree Tracing Board	Brother Eden P. Cooper <i>Senior Warden, No. 256</i>
Inner Guard	Brother Gary Morrison <i>Inner Guard, No. 292</i>	Precious Jewels of an Entered Apprentice	Brother Ryan S. Hunter <i>Junior Deacon, No. 1456</i>
Prompter	Brother Josh O.W. Drayton <i>Master, No. 596</i>	Charge After Initiation	Brother Scott Wilson <i>Senior Deacon, No. 62</i>
Obligation	Brother Donald D. Crear <i>Master, No. 269</i>	The Address to the Initiate	Brother William J. Rowan <i>Senior Warden, No. 433</i>
Restoration	Brother Andrew McMenamin <i>Director of Ceremonies, No. 32</i>		

What made this ceremony especially remarkable was not merely the flawless execution of ritual, but the spirit with which it was undertaken. The First Degree — the foundation of Masonic life, representing initiation, awakening, and commitment — was rendered with uncommon clarity and earnestness by a team composed entirely of Young and New Masons. Their performance, marked by solemnity, dignity, and a genuine understanding of the degree’s symbolism, earned the admiration of even the most senior brethren in attendance. The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Bro. W Ramsay McGhee himself was fulsome in his praise of what we had all witnessed.

The team's Conferring Master, Bro. Will Rowan of Lodge St. Thomas Kilwinning Dalmellington No. 433 presided with calm assurance and composure, setting the tone for a ceremony that exemplified both tradition and renewal. The Working Tools were presented with elegance and meaning, the Charge delivered with heartfelt sincerity, the seldom heard Tracing Board with precision and the Candidate — poised yet clearly moved — embodied the transformative essence of the Masonic journey, even to an experienced Mason like himself. The Candidate was, in fact, Bro. Alexander Moncrieff, our Depute Grand Master.

For me, the most impactful part of the Degree was the *Address to the Initiate* delivered by the Conferring Master Bro. Will Rowan at the very end of the Ceremony. I had never heard or seen this before, and it was brimming over with wisdom about the nature of the Craft and what it means to be a Freemason. Amongst many pearls of wisdom, Bro. Will had this to say: *“Another and most fatal delusion we would guard you against is that of entertaining the idea that the information imparted to you today has made you a Mason. After the efforts to impress you with the importance of the ceremony, such a warning from me may create some astonishment in your mind, but what I would refer to, is that Masonry is not a mere matter of secret ceremonies, it is something far higher and holier than these! A man may have attained to the highest honours the craft can bestow, be well up in all its lore and working - and yet be as far from being a Freemason as he was before his initiation, and, unfortunately, there are too many who may be classed in this category’*. Masonry is a way of life and is about how one lives that life according to the values, principles and teachings of the Craft. It is not about ticking boxes, gathering degrees and climbing some notional hierarchical ladder. What a profound observation in this Lecture and, in my belief and experience, one that is devastatingly accurate.

The presence of a capacity audience further emphasised the significance of the occasion. The Lodge room was filled, a testament to the enthusiasm and unity that such events inspire within the Craft. Applause was measured and respectful, but the sense of pride among all attendees was unmistakable. Many commented afterwards that it had been years since they had witnessed a ceremony so vibrant, so faithful to the ritual, and so full of promise for the future of the fraternity.



Following the ceremony, the festive board provided an opportunity for fellowship, reflection, and encouragement for those lucky enough to have secured a ticket! Toasts were made, bonds were strengthened, and more than one visiting brother remarked on the rare privilege of seeing the torch of



Freemasonry carried with such integrity by the next generation. In all, the afternoon represented more than just the exemplification of a Degree. It stood as a symbol of continuity and growth, of reverence for tradition married to the vitality of youth. On George Street, beneath the storied walls of the Grand Lodge, a new chapter was written — one that bodes well for the future of the Craft.



Our Province was well represented by brethren, as may be seen in the photo taken with the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. John W Black (above and left). No XII brethren in attendance were Bro. Iain White PM, Bro Alan D Beck PM, Bro. Cameron White, JD, and Bro. Tony Stewart, PM HM. The Brothers White are also pictured above.

It was, indeed, a grand afternoon.



## Grand Lodge of Scotland – Strategic Vision and Priorities

Early in the change process, the Grand Lodge issued the Strategic Vision and Priorities for the Scottish Craft through the Governance and Strategy Board. As a wee reminder, these are:

**We will expand the global presence of Scottish Freemasonry by inspiring our members to enjoy their involvement and attracting new members to strengthen our capabilities and reach. This will be achieved by cultivating a positive culture of inclusivity and meaningful impact in our communities.**

- **Placing membership at the heart of Scottish Freemasonry**
- **Growing Scottish Freemasonry**
- **Creating inspiring communication and engagement**

These are the parameters within which all Lodges should be working. Are we?

## No XII Monthly Draw

The winners for the summer months were drawn at the recent General Committee Meeting. They are:

May	Bro. Crawford Kirkpatrick
June	Bro. Iain White
July	Bro. Paul Stevenson
August	Bro. Jordan Kincaid

## Tercentenary Rededication – Date Confirmed

Grand Secretary has confirmed in an email that the date we requested for the Tercentenary Rededication has been confirmed as Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> December 2028. The Feast of St John the Evangelist will also be celebrated as it was at the Bicentenary on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1928 and, in 2018. 27<sup>th</sup> December is the exact 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Rededications are normally done on Saturdays only, but our Wednesday date is confirmed because No. XII is considered a special case by the Grand Lodge.

# Bro. Roderick William Brown

9 January 1949 – 2 May 2025

Master Mason of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII



*I am grateful to Bro. Stewart Peterson, Roddy's best friend, for this obituary. Strangely, the 2 pals both suffered ill health over a long period that prevented them from getting to the Lodge meetings.*

ROD Brown, as he was known to everyone, was Roddy to me for the 70 years we had been friends.

Knowing each other was inevitable, although I was almost a year older, we were both in the same year at Gourock Central School in Binnie Street, and although living in different streets, our homes almost backed on to each other, so we played together as youngsters.

We went through Gourock High School and only separated as we started work, Roddy joining the Civil Service and ending up in the 'Buroo' at Terrace Road, albeit on the right side of the counter serving the many customers in times of fairly high unemployment.

Outside work, we remained together, enjoying a few beers in the town's many watering holes and visiting local cafes as was the habit of the day.

Roddy taught himself guitar and soon after brought a few other local musicians together to form the group Shade, and as I didn't play but could drive, he

brought me in as driver-come-roadie and shortly after manager to get the band venues and remuneration such as it was then,

His group was popular and others soon wanted to join so the traditional four piece brought in a keyboard player, two sax players and a vocalist and was renamed Juste Emily and playing much further afield to the east coast and down as far as Dumfries now requiring two vans.

Inevitably internal politics reared an ugly head leading to a split with Roddy and I going our own way together with some of the equipment we had acquired and one of the two vans.

Shortly after, at about 1970, Roddy took a promoted post in the Service, but it was in the unfamiliar deep dark city of Wolverhampton where he worked diligently until December the following year when his wife-to-be Margaret travelled down to visit him and look at the possibility of a home there. It was not to be and when he came back up to Greenock for a few days Margaret spotted an advert in the paper indicating IBM were interviewing so off he went and the rest is history, he was recruited and remained at Spango Valley – except for a few years with the company in America – until he took retirement.

However, when he returned to Greenock and married Margaret, he and I were reunited and mid 70s we made our first steps into Freemasonry by taking our Entered Apprentice degrees together at No XII. Thereafter we took our steps through to Mark Masons together and for a number of years being regular attendees until work and health caused some interruptions.

Roddy was not only a talented guitar man and loving father to son Grant, he was a gadget man and knew the Amazon delivery men by their first names he was such a regular purchaser. He had any new phone that came out, additions to laptops, printers, and anything to do with his musical speakers and amps et al.

And anyone who entered a political argument with him on line could easily fall foul of his sharp wit and great knowledge of many subjects and talk of the day.

Sadly illness was to hit us both in latter years, but it was Roddy who had to spend lengthy times in hospital and about 10 or 11 years ago his future was not too promising. However, an unexpected reprieve came when a surgeon decided to operate and after years of hospitalisation and being confined to a wheelchair he was able not only to walk but once again drive.

He was not only able to get back to his guitar playing but even started to teach me and increasing his guitar numbers to 18! However, a few months ago his health began to once again and he was back and fore to hospitals for tests until towards the end of April he was admitted to Inverclyde Royal Hospital and son Grant was summoned from his California home to arrive just in time to be with his mum as they sat with Roddy as he passed at midday on Friday 2 May. A well-attended funeral of friends, family, former workmates and musicians gave him a worthy send-off conducted by Rev David Burt on Monday, 19 May.

### Goodbye, my friend, by Andrew Oxspring

*And who knows when we're old and grey,  
We'll raise a glass to yesterday  
We'll talk of characters long gone  
And wonder how they're getting on  
And I hope that our paths will cross again another day,  
'Cause right here, right now, will always be special to me.  
And so, it's . . .  
Goodbye, my friend, it's not the end  
How could it be when we've got  
Such memories to set us free  
When we find being grown up  
Isn't all that it's cracked up to be!*

👉👈👉

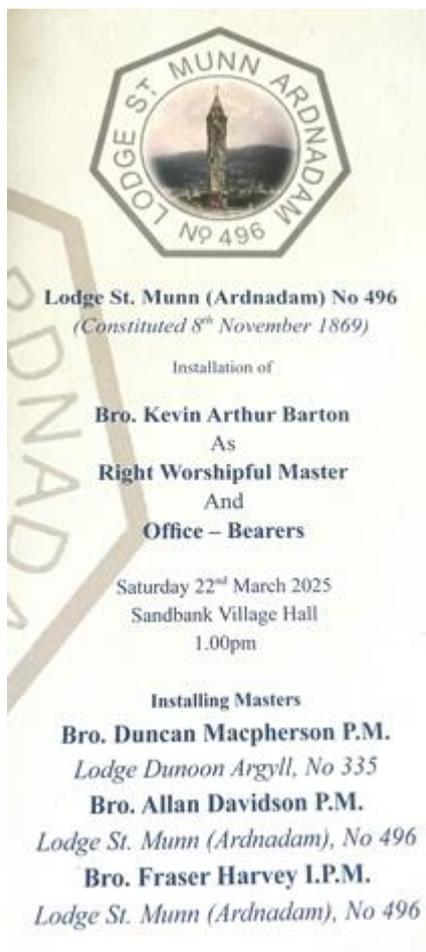
Bro. Stewart Peterson

## Re-Installation of Bro. Kevin Barton RWM Lodge St. Munn Ardnadam No. 496 Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025



I am delighted to report that I attended the successful reinstallation of Brother Kevin Barton as Right Worshipful Master of Lodge St. Munn Ardnadam No. 496 (photo left, Kevin and me). The ceremony, held in the presence of a large and distinguished assembly of Brethren in the Sandbank Village Hall, was a dignified and heart-warming reaffirmation of Brother Barton's leadership and service to the Craft. His Mother Lodge is, of course, No. XII with his grandfather, Bro. Arthur Young, having served 4 terms as Master.

The Lodge was opened in due and antient form, and the Master-Elect was presented and obligated in accordance with the Constitution of the Grand



Lodge of Scotland. With grace and confidence, Brother Barton accepted the honour and responsibilities of leading the Lodge for another Masonic year.

Following the reinstatement of the Master, the Office Bearers were invested into their offices for the ensuing year. Each officer was invested with the appropriate collar and jewel, symbolising their dedication to duty and support of the Master.

The traditional charges to the Master, Wardens, and Brethren were delivered with clarity and reverence, reminding all present of the moral duties and high standards expected of Masons. The messages were a stirring call to unity, commitment, and fraternity.

We were honoured by a large number of visiting Brethren from sister Lodges, whose warm congratulations added greatly to the spirit of the afternoon. The formalities concluded with a well-attended dinner, where fine fellowship, speeches, and Loyal and Masonic toasts were enjoyed by all.

Under the continued stewardship of Brother Kevin Barton, the Lodge is set for a productive and vibrant Masonic year. Informal discussions have already begun regarding the possibility of XII/496 reciprocal visits to confer degrees. Bro. Kevin believes that it would be a great honour to bring his

Affiliate Lodge to confer a degree in his Mother Lodge and to receive us across the water.

## . Lodge St. Munn Ardnadam No. 496 Installation A happy aside!



One thing about installations is that you are never at all sure of who you will bump into at the event. In this case, it was No. XII's old friend Bro. Stewart Aitken PM, at one time an extremely regular visitor to the Saloon. (photo with IW on right).

Stewart is, of course, now resident in Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae and is Master of Lodge St. Thomas Muirkirk No. 201 in the Province of Ayrshire. Maybe we should try to get down to see him? Forthcoming meetings are on the last Wednesday of August and September.

## Lodge the Gael No. 609 Annual Pipers' Degree Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025

The Blackie Street Hall in Partick was filled with the melodious tones of the Great Highland Bagpipe as Lodge the Gael held its annual Pipers' Degree. Although the event has been running for about 60 years, this was the first time it was held on a Saturday afternoon, rather than the usual Thursday evening. What a great innovation this was. Often, I say in these pages that doing things a little bit differently creates interest, raises motivation and encourages brethren to come along to the meeting. We saw this exemplified – again – at Lodge The Gael. Over 80 brethren signed to Sederunt Book, and 16 pipers played. There was an electric atmosphere in the Lodge Room, and the Degree work was of an exceptionally high standard.



**Bro. Donald J. McRae (Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No. 1121) and  
Bros.. Jamie McEwan, Cameron White and Iain White  
(Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII)**

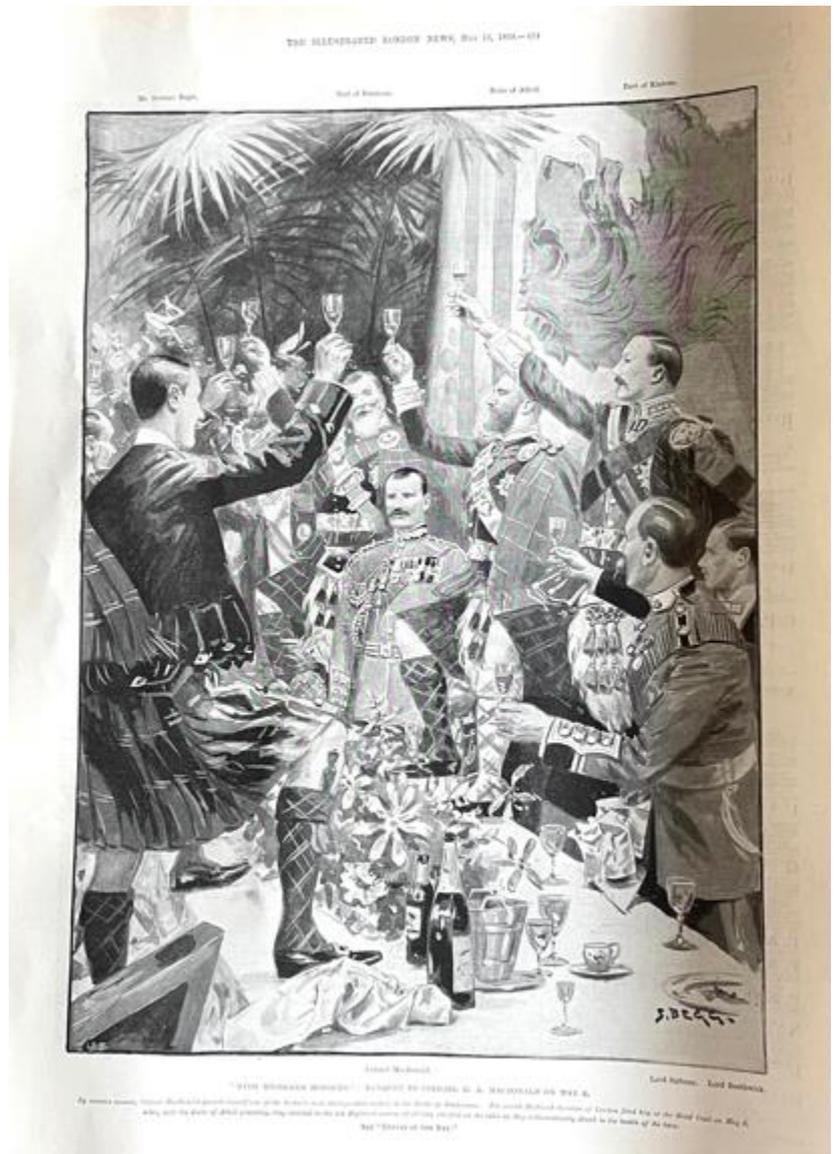
Of course, the traditional Lodge The Gael Harmony followed the meeting, and all 16 pipers treated the brethren to a wee tune or two. We also had *Highland Honours* in the Gaelic from Bro. Donnie Finlayson, PM, accompanied by Bro. Keith J Bowes PM playing the hornpipe called *Lodge The Gael*. The whole experience was summed up by a Past Master who has been in the Craft for over 30 years, who said, “This is the best day I have had in Freemasonry.” That kind of sums it up.



**The Pipers and  
The Provincial  
Grand Lodge of  
Glasgow  
Deputation**



The photo above (left) shows Past Master Donnie Finlayson of Lodge The Gael (and Honorary Member of No. XII) delivering Highland Honours. On the right, it's Highland Honours again, but this time in London on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1899. The image is from the Illustrated London News of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1899. Highland Honours are being given to Colonel H. A. Macdonald at a banquet given for him to mark his distinguished leadership at the Battle of Omdurman. The description says that the United Highland Societies of London feted Colonel Macdonald at the Hotel Cecil. With the Duke of Atholl presiding, they reverted to the old Highland custom of placing one foot on the table as they enthusiastically drank to the health of the hero. Also in attendance were Mr. Stewart Bogle, the Earl of Dunmore, the Earl of Kintore, Lord Saltoun and Lord Borthwick. Bro. Donnie has some distinguished predecessors!



I have done some research on this lithograph from the Victorian era and have some more to do. There will be some interesting stuff in the next edition of *Twelve Talk* when I publish it!

### Annual Bowling Challenge Match No. XII vs Lodge Crawfurdsburn Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Difficult though it may be to believe, No. XII was successful in the bowling match against Lodge Crawfurdsburn. Such was the surprise and elation amongst the members of the No. XII team, following this most unusual result, they forgot to get a photo taken. There wasn't a circumstance in which Lodge Crawfurdsburn would remind them. The players were grateful to the Gourrock Bowling Club for the use of its greens and the Clubhouse Bar for celebratory drams. The raffle was also a big success for No. XII as far as winning prizes went.

## No. XII Annual Past Masters' Dinner Thursday 19.06.2025



The Past Masters' Dinner was held in the Georgian Restaurant of the Tontine Hotel, Greenock. Numbers were down owing to a difficulty with finding a suitable date, and eventually, 'best fits' was the order of the day. In the back of the photo are, from left, Bros. Derek Kirkpatrick, Bob Crossan, and Alan Beck, while KK Morrison, Ken MacDougall, and Hector Macphail are in the front. One great thing was that the date did suit Bro. Derek Kirkpatrick, who attended from way down in the South of England. Although taken there by his work some years ago, Derek keeps in touch faithfully and joins us when he can. I'm sure his contribution would have been most welcome as the PMs set to rights in the course of the evening.

I've always wondered what the appropriate collective noun for Past Masters is: a complaint, a snooze, a stage whisper, a grumpiness, a "not in my day", a snore? Further suggestions are most welcome

### Tercentenary Jewels and No. XII rituals



The Tercentenary Jewel (left) commemorating the Lodge's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2028 is available to ALL brethren from the Bro. Treasurer and the price is £12 per jewel.

The new rituals are available to all qualified brethren of No. XII at the price of £15 from Treasurer Bro. David Stevenson. Over half the Rituals have been sold already!

### Information from the Treasurer

**Lodge Ties** are back in stock and are available from the Bro. Treasurer priced £16 each

**40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Badges** These are £7 and are also available from the Bro. Treasurer. There are badges for various years' anniversaries, from 25 years to 70 years, plus the always popular Grumpy Past Master. £2 from each badge sale goes to Grand Lodge Benevolence

**Test Fees** are now overdue. Owing to increases levied by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the No. XII Test Fees are now £65. If you have not paid your Test Fees, you cannot take or hold office, visit other Lodges or vote in the Lodge.

**Capitation Fees** The Lodge has to pay Grand Lodge £45 for each Life Member. Life Members are encouraged to support the Lodge by covering this sum. They have no Test Fees to pay, but the Grand Lodge still requires payment for them.

## Monthly Draw

The Monthly Draw provides your Lodge with an important source of income and this year I have been able to transfer £420 to the Tercentenary Fund. It is time to renew your subscription. If you pay by Standing Order then you have nothing to do and thank you for your continued support.

To renew or join the Monthly Draw please send £1 per number per month - i.e., £12/£24/£36 etc as you wish -

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RBS

Sort code 83 22 20

account 10000509

Name - Greenock Kilwinning No X11 Social

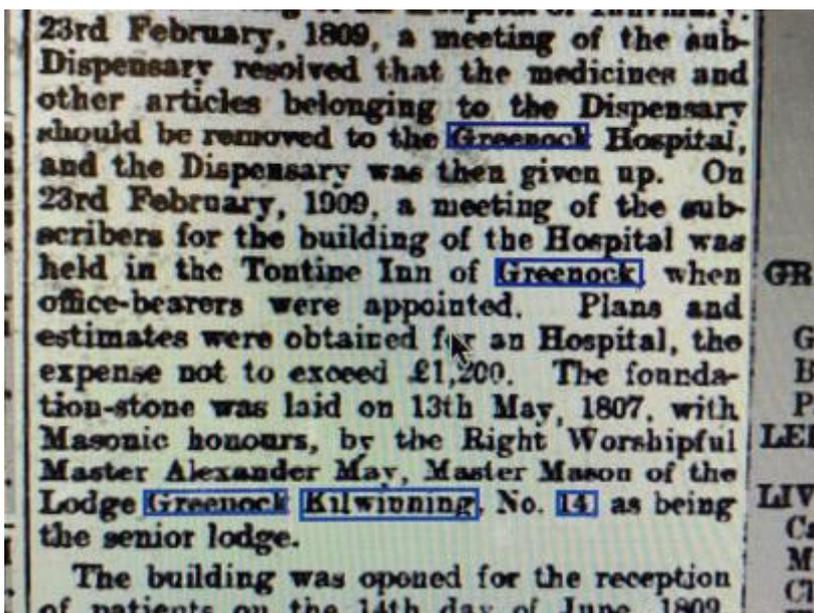
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Alternatively, set up a Standing Order for the required monthly amount - same bank info

Where I can, I shall use the same numbers you had for 2024. Good luck to all participants,,,,,

I would like to thank various Brethren who, upon being told of their monthly win, very kindly donate the money back to the Lodge. Typically, these Brethren do not want their name publicised but their contribution is very much appreciated. *DS Treasurer No. XII*

## No. XII – the Missing Years Another Master Discovered



The hunt goes on and with success. Bro. Alan Beck has found another Master from 'The Missing Years', i.e., those years for which Minute Books are missing and we have no records of who the Masters were.

This time it is Bro. Alexander May, who from the dates given would have been Master in 1806-1807. Interestingly, the Lodge was numbered 14 at the time.

The work is painstaking and ongoing. However, now and then we pan a nugget from the river.

Keep up the good work!

## No. XII and Greenock Rotary Club Connected through Speakers

I was browsing on X (formerly called Twitter) and came across the photo below, taken at the Greenock Rotary Club Dinner in 1973. The photo has a couple of connections with No. XII. The late Jack Glenny is on the left in the front row. In the centre of the front row in the then President,

Andy Bertram, who wasn't in No. XII, but was the father-in-law of Ian Dyer, who now is. Jack would have been Junior Deacon at the time of the dinner. He was in the chair of No. XII from 1981 to 1983.



As often happens in such circumstances, you are led down paths that you had not intended following and lo and behold, I came across another Greenock Rotary Club photo with a No. XII connection and this time the No. XII member concerned was me!

The photo (below) was taken at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Burns Supper of Greenock Rotary Club, held in the 175 Masonic Club in Kelly Street, Greenock. I do remember this one, although at first, my recollection was a bit hazy.



I was invited to propose the toast to The Immortal Memory. I am in the middle of the back row with my wife, Gail, immediately in front of me. The person who did the inviting was the late Bro. Kenny Melville of Lodge Greenock St. John's No.175. He is immediately on my left as you look at the photo. Alongside Bro. Kenny is Bro. Ross Nugent, Past Master of Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No. 217 at that time and since then, of The Anchor Lodge of Research No. 1814. Ross delivered *Tam o' Shanter* and *Holy Willie's Prayer*. So, we had a nice wee Masonic half-back line in this photo.

42 years after Bro. Jack's speech, No XII and the Greenock Rotary Club were linked again. Isn't it a small world? What'll be next, I wonder?

## **Back to Charity Fundraising again No. XII, PGLRW and the Beatson**

Bro. Scott Branchfield has made a magnificent recovery from lymphoma, helped by his treatment at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre. His gratitude led him to embark on a fundraising drive to purchase tabletop fridges for the patients in the ward in which he was treated. Scott did a sponsored walk from the Waterman's House at Overton along the Cut waterway to Inverkip. He was accompanied by his brother (our WSW), Paul and Bro. Brian McFadyen, PM.



From various sources, Scott raised the magnificent total of **£1769.20**

£500 from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West

£500 in sponsorship from No. XII members

£609.20 from sponsor sheets in his work (McGill's Buses), Kilblain Street Roll Shop and Greenock Royal Arch Chapter No. 17

£160 from Bro. Paul Branchfield

The cheque presentation will follow in due course.

## **The Kings Park Lodge No. 1386 Inaugural Burns Supper Wednesday 28th May 2025**

I thought that Bro. Archie Chalmers was kidding when, at Lodge The Prince's Burns Supper in March, he invited me to pipe at a Burns Supper for him on 28<sup>th</sup> May. He wasn't; he was deadly

serious. Lodge Kinning Park meets only in the summer, and so that is when the Burns Supper had to be. Bro. Archie had assembled some high-quality speakers and other performers for the inaugural event, viz. Chair Bro Iain T. Gordon PM Lodge Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle Lodge No. 275 and PM The Prince's Lodge No. 607; Immortal Memory; Bro. Bobby Shaw PM, Lodge Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle Lodge No. 275 and PM The Prince's Lodge No. 607 WPGMD; The Lassies Bro. Martin Cassidy IPM Lodge Craigends No. 1042; Songs Bro Alan D Beck PM Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII PM The Prince's Lodge No. 607; piper Bro. Iain White PM Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII



### **No. XII member saves Robert Burns's Lodge Memorabilia A story from 1879**

I am grateful (again) to Bro. Alan Beck, PM for historical information. During his PhD research, he uncovered the story that follows. The No. XII member concerned was not just any member of No. XII. It was Sir Michael Shaw Stewart who was Grand Master Mason at the time! The Shaw Stewarts are the local Lairds, and the family had a long association with No. XII and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West.

<sup>52</sup> See Beck, 'ANNOTATED LIST', (forthcoming, 2025) Vol. 134.2. Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart was aged 15 in 1841. On turning 21 he was initiated into Lodge Greenock Kilwinning and became Provincial Grand Master. He was Grand Master Mason of Scotland from 1873-1882. In 1879 he purchased Burns's Freemasonic regalia from the defunct Dumfries Lodge St. Andrew's and presented it to the Grand Lodge Museum. See R. T. Halliday, 'Burns and Freemasonry in Dumfriesshire', *B.C.*, (1948), pp. 29-33.

irregular at best, ceased altogether in 1804 and in 1816 it was finally deleted from the roll of Grand Lodge. In 1879 Grand Secretary Murray Lyon noticed that some of its effects were advertised for sale by public roup and he promptly secured them. When he reported his purchase to Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, then Grand Master Mason, Sir Michael paid the purchase price and presented the relics to Grand Lodge where they now repose. They include the minute-book with the record of Burns's affiliation and attendances and his signature to the byelaws; the lodge gavel and one of its anrons.

## Bro. Finlay Campbell A busy man in the Inverclyde Community



Bro. Finlay is one of our younger brethren. He teaches music at St. Columba's School in Kilmacolm. In the past couple of weeks, I have seen his name in several different contexts that impact on the community in which we live.

He writes a regular column on Education in our local newspaper, *The Greenock Telegraph*. This week is shown on the left, and he was featuring the importance of being supportive and encouraging to others for the benefit of the individuals concerned and the impact on the community in which we live.

Finlay is also an active member of the Management Committee of the Inverclyde Festival, a competitive fortnight in music and the spoken arts held each January in Greenock Town Hall. His role there has led him to be invited to speak at the British and International Federation of Festivals Development Day in September this year. This event serves as a platform for member

festivals to converge, share and enhance their skills and knowledge.

Finally, I saw on LinkedIn that, in his professional life, he completed GRJ Education's "Learning to Lead: Aspiring to Senior Leadership Programme".

Onwards and upwards, Finlay!

## To conclude - back to Grand Lodge Leadership Development Day for Provincial Grand Masters Saturday 26th April 2025



### *Leadership Development Day Success!*

*We are delighted to share the success of our recent Leadership Development Day for Provincial Grand Masters, hosted by The Grand Lodge of Scotland. The event was opened by our Grand Master Mason and facilitated by subject matter experts Iain White and Dr Kevin Pollock.*

*Participants provided overwhelmingly positive feedback, highlighting the value and impact of the sessions. We are excited to announce that District Grand Masters around the world will soon receive the same leadership development online.*

*Thank you to everyone who made this day a success!*

Thus, Grand Lodge reported the recent Leadership Development Day for Provincial Grand Masters on

Facebook. I was pleased and honoured to facilitate this inaugural event, the first of its kind hosted by Grand Lodge. It allowed me to give some of my professional expertise to the Craft to help in the quest to deliver the strategic aims and objectives. Bro Kevin Pollock assisted on the day by giving a session to support the completion of the new format of the Annual Report to Grand Lodge by the Provinces. 29 of the 32 Provinces were represented at George Street.

Initial follow-up will be with the District Grand Masters, which will be online, of course, and maybe even in the middle of the night for us to suit the respective time zones. It is also intended to have a session for Provincial Grand Masters designate. The PGMs recommended this approach on the day and GLoS was delighted to take it up.

The work goes on as we seek to develop and modernise the Craft.

**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.**

IW 13.07.25