

Meetings 2025-26

2025

*02.09.25

Entering

16.09.25

Passing

07.10.25

Mark Ceremonial

21.10.25

Annual Meeting and Election of Office
Bearers – Members Only

04.11.25

Raising

18.11.25

Annual Installation (630 pm)

02.12.25

Annual Divine Service

16.12.25

No Meeting as per Bye Laws

2026

06.01.26

The Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial
Lecture

Bro. Finlay Campbell: "Working in the
community for its benefit"

03.02.26

No meeting owing to Music Festival.

17.02.26

TBC

Saturday 28.02.26

Annual Charity Burns Supper (630 for
7 pm)



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 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)

Laying public misconceptions to rest (2)

I was delighted that my piece in the last issue about laying public misconceptions to rest caused so much interest. Email responses from a couple of pals who are regular readers were very welcome. I am even more pleased that they both agreed that I can feature their responses to me in this edition.

One was from Bro. John Malcolm, Past Master of Lodge Inchinnan No. 1405, who wrote in the following terms: *"I really enjoyed your opening story about engaging with folks as regards the Craft. I've had similar experiences and, like you, I grab the opportunity to highlight many of our great community projects. The Prostate Awareness Initiative has created a great spin-off to raise awareness of who we are and what we do.*

I remember at an interview (polis, in-house) and being asked if I would sign a register to say I was a Mason. They expected the usual, "Why should I? I'm not doing anything wrong." I said that I'd sign with pleasure and was delighted to be known as being part of the organisation that, after the Lottery, was the biggest contributor to good causes in the UK. I support every effort to raise our profile and destroy popular myths.

The Education Subcommittee is to be commended for taking this forward. Being on the Benevolence and Care Committee has actually opened my eyes to the number of great community initiatives we are supporting."

The other was from Bro. Alex Ferguson, Past Master of Lodge Kelvin Partick No. 1207. Alex wrote: *You highlighted a couple of examples that you and Cameron have experienced on your travels. Here's a couple of examples that I have experienced, one as recent as Friday past'*

A couple of weeks ago, I had to attend Queen Elizabeth University Hospital to get what I thought was a stye in my eye examined. The nurse had to take a couple of pictures of my eye, and in conversation, she said, "Oh, I see you are in the Masons, looking at my swivel ring. I told her I was, and she said, "My partner's Grandpa is heavily involved, and I have taken photos of some of their ceremonies" The Grandpa was the one and only Bud Gauld, so we had a long chat!

Continued over 

As a follow-up to that, I was referred to Stobhill on Friday past. Speaking to the nurse before I went into the theatre, I told her I was on duty at the Cathedral on Saturday for a wedding. She mentioned Mark being the minister at her grandmother's church. She then highlighted that Gran was a member of some order that she didn't know, but it was the Order of the Eastern Star. The nurse said, "I kept asking her what it was about and she would reply, 'Och ahm no' telling ye." I said, "What about your Grandpa?" The nurse replied, "He was in the Masons but never spoke about it."

She did, however, remember a discussion that her Grandpa's Lodge paid for a funeral. I highlighted to her that every Lodge had a benevolent fund and each Province had a particular charity that they would sponsor, for example, Grand Lodge and Prostate Cancer and how we try to encourage members to be more open about membership, and it is not a secret society. Her parting shot was, "My partner has been talking about joining and has never made the first step." They stay in Kirkintilloch, so I have referred him to Jim Peddie. She also asked for a tour around the Cathedral.

So, I hope like John, Alex, Cameron and me, you do not hide your Masonic light under a bushel; that you tell anyone who asks what you are and what we do. I am sure that, like us, you are proud to be a Mason. I hope that you share that pride with the world.

No. XII's Previous Meeting Tuesday 2nd September 2025 Entering

An Entered Apprentice degree conferred by the brethren of the Lodge. The candidate was Mr Jonathan Contreras Gonzales. The Degree Team was - **Prayer:** Chaplain Bro Bob Bain PM **Obligation:** RWM Bro Robert Marshall **Secrets:** Bro Alan Beck PM **Apron:** WSW Bro Paul Branchfield **NEC:** JD Bro Cameron White **Working Tools:** WJW Bro Colin Reddy **The Charge:** Bro Ken MacDougall PM

The RWM invited Bro. Iain White, PM, to say a few words on the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Bro. Roderick William Brown, following which the brethren were upstanding for a period of silence.

IPM Bro. Brian McClure of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626 spoke about the Degree and brought fraternal greetings.

After the Lodge was closed, the brethren assembled for Lodge hospitality and further fellowship.

No. XII's Previous Meeting Tuesday 16th September 2025 Passing

Bro. Jonathan Contreras Gonzales will be passed to the Second, Square or Fellowcraft Degree on Tuesday. The degree team will be made up of Lodge Office Bearers.

The Master extends a warm invitation to all members of No XII to attend the Lodge on Tuesday and over the forthcoming session, and would be especially pleased to welcome those members who have, for whatever reasons, not attended for some time. This welcome extends to potential visiting brethren in equal measure.

Annual Charity Burns Supper Saturday 28th February 2026

The attendance at the 2025 Burns Supper was disappointing, so let us see if we can do better next year. For the avoidance of all confusion, the date is **Saturday, 28th February**. Please put that in your diaries **now**.

We have 2 excellent speakers. The Immortal Memory will be proposed by The Reverend Canon Dr. Joseph J. Morrow CVO CBE KC DL FRSE, The Right Honourable the Lord Lyon King of Arms and Past Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason. Bro. Duncan McGregor, Past Master of Lodge Nitshill No. 1478, will Toast the Lassies.

The usual raffles and auctions will take place, and items will be sought for these.

No. XII members will shortly be receiving a short questionnaire via *WhatsApp* relating to aspects of the event. The participation of all members is requested to enable us to meet your needs as best we can from what you tell us in the survey.

Laying public misconceptions to rest (3)



I was heartened to see that, in parallel with my appeals to Brethren to be open and honest about the craft and what it does – and totally independently - that Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 was throwing open its Brown Street premises in Port Glasgow for Inverclyde's Open Doors weekend. It was also featured in the *Greenock Telegraph*, which helped – even if the journalist's subheading didn't (left). This approach can only be of benefit to the craft. I know that other Lodges in the Province have done so in the past, and well done to all of you!

Grand Lodge of Scotland – Strategic Vision and Priorities

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?

Reports on Visits

- No XII vs No 1121 annual bowling challenge match held on 10th May 2025 at Ardgowan Bowling Club – attended by various No XII brethren who were victorious on the day.
- No XII Past Masters Dinner on 19th June 2025 at the Tontine Hotel – attended by Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Derek Kirkpatrick PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Alan Beck PM and Bro Robert Crossan PM
- The National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan on 26th June 2025 (Annual Communication) – attended by Bro Hector Macphail PM, who presented the MW Grand Master Bro Emil Hasanov with a friendship ornament from No XII. Bro Hector was then presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the NGLoAz for services to their Grand Lodge
- The Grand Lodge of Scotland on Saturday 28th June 2025 (Exemplification of Entering by the Apprentice Pillars - Scottish Constitution Young and New Masons) – attended by Bros. Iain White PM and Cameron White

A Unique Evening Lodge The Gael No. 609 Thursday 12th September 2025



There was a good turnout at the Blackie Street Hall to witness a unique event in Freemasonry and a proud one for Lodge The Gael and its Master, Andy McLean. This was the Entering of RWM Bro. Andy's older son, Bro. Adam Andrew McLean. As well as the Candidate's proud Dad in the Chair, his proud Granda Bro. John LeBrocq PM was present. (Andy is married to John's daughter). John, of course, is a Past Master of Lodge Greenock St. John's No. 175.

Bro. John invested his Grandson with his apron, and I was pleased to deliver the Lecture in the Northeast Corner as an Honorary Member of Lodge The Gael.

RWM Bro. Andy welcomed 8 Masters to the East on what was a very special occasion for him –

and his son who can now call his Dad his brother!.

The Dukes of Atholl

In the piece on *Highland Honours* for Colonel H.A. MacDonald, I looked into the people who were said to be honouring him at the dinner in the Hotel Cecil. Again, I was delighted to get an email response from a Brother of No. XII – Stewart Peterson – whose great-grandfather served in the Army under the second son of the Duke, who was at the dinner. This second son is mentioned below and spent 4 years as Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason.

Stewart's tale will be featured in the next *Twelve Talk*.

The Duke of Atholl



This was John James Hugh Henry Stewart-Murray, 7th Duke of Atholl, KT (6 August 1840 – 20 January 1917). He was educated at Eton and owned 201,000 acres in Perthshire. In 1863, a few months before he succeeded his father, he married Louisa Moncreiffe, daughter of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe of that Ilk, 7th Baronet.

The couple had four sons (of whom the eldest died in infancy) and three daughters (all of whom survived to adulthood). His second son, John George Stewart-Murray, was born in 1871 and was Grand Master Mason of Scotland when he was the Marquess of Tullibardine between 1909 and 1913. He succeeded his father and became the 8th Duke of Atholl in 1917.

Information from the Treasurer

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

40th and 50th 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 due for 2025-26. 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 -

RBS

Sort code 83 22 20

account 10000509

Name - Greenock Kilwinning No X11 Social

Ref - your name /draw

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*

Tercentenary Jewels and No. XII Rituals



The Tercentenary Jewel (left) commemorating the Lodge's 300th birthday on 27th 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!

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 14.09.25