

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 (4)

Another pal got in touch regarding this topic in the following terms:

Thanks, Iain. A very interesting read, and I agree with the sentiments expressed regarding the promotion of the Craft.

This was from Bro. Alistair Hughes PM Lodge Mosspark No. 1329

Laying public misconceptions to rest (5)

I try to make a point of reading my local paper, *The Greenock Telegraph*, daily. It keeps me up to date with what is happening locally. Recently, the Saturday edition has been expanded to include fascinating insights into the area's past. Last weekend, this photo was featured from 1969. It was on the front page. The retiree is John McKinnon, the Chief Sanitary Inspector for Greenock. In the legend with the photo, it mentions his interests thus: "A keen sportsman, he is also a member of Lodge Kilwinning No. 12". This is obviously a brother who didn't mind sharing his membership of the Craft with tens of thousands of Telegraph readers. Incidentally, John is being presented with his retirement gift by his Deputy James M. Sinclair, who was also a No. XII member whom I remember particularly from the 175 Masoic Club!



Continued over 

Laying public misconceptions to rest (5)



Another *Greenock Telegraph* feature is on the right. This time it is from Friday, October 10th 2025, and features Bro. Eddie Lapsley of Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 and his daughter, Tracy. Bro. Eddie is described as a “community champ” and rightly so, as his commitment, assisted by Tracy, has led to more than £40,000 being raised for charity over the years. In the article, prominent mention is made of Eddie’s membership of 68 and the support he has received from the Lodge for his charitable work. He is taking a step back from his charity fundraising but will continue to support the Lodge. Well done, Eddie!

Laying public misconceptions to rest (6)

I have never made any secret (pardon the pun) of my membership of the Craft.

Nearly 40 years ago, I started a new job as Assistant Rector of Rothesay Academy on the Isle of Bute. My new boss, the Rector, was not a Mason, but his Dad had been Master of a Lodge in the East End of Glasgow, where his family lived. He took great pleasure in telling me that in a conversation with a member of the Education Directorate when he was on a visit to HQ in Dunoon, he had been asked how ‘*Brother White*’ was settling into the school. The Directorate member was not a Mason either. My boss detected a note of sarcasm, so he delighted in naming the other handful of members of staff who were also in the Craft, saying that they too, were doing just fine. None of us hid our membership; we were proud of it. The next year, when I took the Chair in No. XII, a Deputation of about a dozen brethren from Lodge Rothesay St. John No. 292 came across to Greenock to support me. 3 of them were colleagues from the school. Happy days!

In Conclusion

The concept of promoting the benefits of Craft membership on a personal level has been featured in three editions of *Twelve Talk* now. Not wishing to over-egg the pudding, I’ll draw a line under this. However, like Eddie, John, Alex, Cameron and me, please do not hide your Masonic light under a bushel; 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 will share that pride with the world.

No. XII's Previous Meeting Tuesday 7th October 2025 Mark Ceremonial

A deputation of 18 brethren from Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68, headed by its RWM Brother Gilbert Hill, visited to confer the Mark Ceremonial. No. XII's candidate withdrew owing to work commitments at the 11th hour. Undaunted by this potential setback, 68 quickly contacted one of its members, Bro. David Henderson, who was due his Mark. He dropped everything and made his way to the Saloon to be the candidate for the evening. Sincere thanks were due and given by No. XII.

Bro. George Freeburn PM was RW Mark Master, and he and his team did a splendid job, as one would have expected from 68. After the Lodge was closed, the brethren assembled for Lodge hospitality and further fellowship.

No. XII's Next Meeting Tuesday 21st October 2025 Annual Meeting and Election of Office Bearers

Tuesday's meeting, because of its nature, is for No. XII members only as we head towards the Annual Installation of Office Bearers on Tuesday, 18th November. We hope to see a good attendance of our members.

We look forward to welcoming visiting brethren back at our Meeting on Tuesday, 4th November. This will be a Raising and the candidate will be Bro. Jonathan Contreras Gonzales.

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 (photo left below). Bro. Duncan McGregor, a self-employed painter and decorator and Past Master of Lodge Nitshill No. 1478, will Toast the Lassies (right below).



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

No. XII members have received 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. There is still time to take part!

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

- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 18th September 2025 (Passing) – attended by Bro Alex Gray and Bro Alexander Easdale
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 26th September 2025 (Raising) – attended by WJW Bro Colin Reddy
- PGL Regular Communication on 1st October 2025 – attended by RWM Bro Robert Marshall, WJW Bro Colin Reddy, IPM Bro James Livingstone, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Bob Crossan PM and Bro Brian McFadyen PM
- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 2nd October 2025 (Raising) – attended by Bro Alex Gray
- The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 on 4th October 2025 (Annual Installation) – attended by Bro Brian McFadyen PM and Bro Alex Gray

The Dukes of Atholl Bro. Stewart Peterson's Tale

As indicated previously, Bro. Stewart Peterson has given me a lot of information on his grandfather, some of it related to the Duke of Atholl, who spent 4 years as Grand Master Mason. Owing to pressures of space and time, publication in this edition has been postponed till next time. Lucky, I hadn't made a pinkie promise, Stewart!

Presentation to our Senior Past Master Bro. Alexander More – Master from 1973 to 1975

I am indebted to Bro. Hector Macphail PM for this item. Hector keeps in touch with 'Big Alex' and his son regularly.



Hector writes, “*Elaine and I travelled to the far North of Scotland to present a 65-year Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. XII Membership Certificate to Past Master Alex More, our Senior Past Master, who is in his 100th year. It was a 3-day trip, using hotels, but it was nice to see the joy and happiness brought to our elderly brother and worthwhile making the effort. We based ourselves in Inverness, and after 2 nights, and our drive up to Golspie to make the presentation, we headed down to Pitlochry for a night before driving home. The weather was nice, so it was no hardship.*”

Alex was in good form, asking about the Lodge and showing an interest. He also spoke of the happy memories he had of the times he spent in the Lodge and asked that his good wishes be conveyed to the Master and brethren, along with his heartfelt thanks for the Certificate, which he was thrilled to receive”. **H Macphail**

The beautiful certificate for Alex was designed and printed by our own Past Master, Bro. Bob Crossan. We are very grateful to Bob (again) for his hard work and IT skills.

Alex is a Past Senior Provincial Grand Warden of Renfrewshire West. Coincidentally, Alex vacated the Chair 50 years ago next month. That’s a good innings for a Past Master!

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 2025. 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*

Looking Back Robert J. Drainer Master of No. XII from 1951 to 1953

Robert J Drainer, or Bob as he was known, was a much respected Master and Past Master of No. XII. By profession, he was a schoolteacher of Latin and Greek, rising through the ranks to become Headmaster of Gourock High School and then Rector of Camphill High School in Paisley, the post he held at his retirement.



Bob Drainer (left) in his 'working clothes' as Rector of Camphill High and the school itself (right)



When I was a young Mason in the mid-1970s, I remember Bob well. He had a rich, gravelly voice and was a superb floor worker who was always ready to give support and encouragement to the youngsters in the Lodge. Maybe, that was a carryover from his teaching career?

He was a very keen golfer and a member at Gourock Golf Club for many years. Typical of the man, he took his turn at sharing responsibility of the running of the Club and served as Captain for 3 years in a row from 1946 to 1948.

Gourock Golf Club Trophy Winners



The happy group, above, was taken at the annual smoker of the Gourock Golf Club. From left to right—W. E. Turner (representing the S.G.U.), G. McIlraith (Vice-Captain), W. B. McInlyre, F. Hathaway, S. Robertson, R. J. Drainer, J. M. Gunn (Club Captain). Back row—A. Ritchie (Hon. Secretary), and H. Gillen.

In the photo above, again from the Greenock Telegraph, Bob may be seen second from the right in the front row. It was taken at the annual smoker, and it looks like it served as the presentation of prizes from the silverware on display. This photo would have been taken between 1956 and 1958, as these were the years when JM Gunn (pictured above) was Captain.

Bob's son, also Robert J but known as Roy, was also the Master of No. XII and, like his dad, a superb floor worker. He was in the Chair between 1970 and 1972.

Both Drainers were Past Senior Provincial Grand Wardens of Renfrewshire West.

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!

Our Affiliate Member Bro. Robert Grundmann An Update

(Again, I am grateful to Bro. Hector Macphail for an update about a Brother of No. XII).



Our Affiliate member of No.XII, Brother Robert R. Grundmann (Past Assistant G.M. in Germany) has ongoing serious health challenges. He was recently hospitalised with quite a serious complaint. Thankfully, he has now improved sufficiently to return to his home but is now reliant on oxygen.

He was visited recently by Bro. Jochen Wawzyrnkowski, the W.J.W. of Lodge Kurt Tucholsky 1060 in Munster, where Robert is a Past Master. Jochen sent me the photograph. H Macphail

We all hope that Bro. Robert's health continues to improve.

Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 Annual Installation Saturday 19th October 2021



It was a wonderful Installation at Firth of Clyde, and those of us who attended were indeed privileged to see Bro. Stewart McFadyen reinstated into the Chair by his Dad, Bro. Ian McFadyen, PM and his team of Bro. Andrew Piggott PM and Kenneth M McCrae PM. Bro. James P Livingstone, PM, assisted at the Board of Installed Masters.

The work of these 4 brethren was exemplary and a joy to see. 92 brethren signed the Sederunt Book; 8 of the 9 Lodge Masters in the Province were present. However, arguably more impressive than all of this was the presence, at the Installation, of every single one of the Lodge's 17 living Past Masters. Now there's support for your Lodge! I am sure that in my 51 years in the Craft, I haven't seen this before.

Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626 is a Lodge that is thriving, and we saw ample evidence of that on Saturday afternoon.

**Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West
Citizenship Award 2025
Successful Nominees – The Ardgowan Hospice Singers**

The nominations for this year's citizenship award were considered at the Communication on Wednesday, 1st October. The award went to *The Ardgowan Hospice Singers*. This compassionate



group of Inverclyde women have raised their voices to generate an incredible £20,000+. The Hospice Singers started in 2006, and in the almost 20 years that have followed, they have dedicated every one of their performances to charity.

No. XII nominated the group.

**The Alamo (and More)
Bro. Eddie Lapsley
Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68**



(I am grateful to Bro. Eddie of LDK No. 68 for allowing me to serialise and publish his research into The Alamo and its Masonic connections. It was previously published in 'The Ashlar' some time ago. I am sure you will find this fascinating, as I did. IW).

I realise this might be a somewhat odd title. However, I originally just started to write about Freemasons at the Alamo, but as I was investigating this, the story I was writing seemed to change somewhat, as there was a long chain of events which led to Santa Anna's rise to power. Anyway, that explains the title!

Part I The French Influence

Scotsman Andrew Michael Ramsay. In 1723, Ramsay was knighted into the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, which originated as a Crusader military order based in France for the protection of pilgrims. In 1724, he entered the Jacobite household in Rome. Court intrigue and the

impracticality of his educational task as Bonnie Prince Charlie was only three-and-a-half years old, caused him to return to Paris. In the same year, he put forward his interpretation of the beginning of Freemasonry.

He contended that it began during the Crusades and was founded by the Christian knights in the Holy Land, and that only those of noble birth were able to join the order, and it was later, when they joined with the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, that they included members of the building craft.

Not surprisingly, the nobility and church hierarchy embraced the entire philosophy and although Ramsay never referred to or suggested the introduction of other degrees, a system of Freemasonry called the Ecosaise Degrees (Scottish Master) came into practice and years later, part of the Ecosaise came into use in the Scottish Rite Degree.

Pope Clement XII issued a Papal Bull in 1738 condemning Freemasonry. The main objection, according to Corsini, was that a lodge in Florence founded by Freemason Baron Von Stosch had become corrupt. Stosch, it should be noted, was employed by the Foreign Office in London and was possibly using Freemasonry as a cover to spy on the exiled Stuart cause in Rome, of whom Pope Clement was sympathetic. The ensuing ban caused widespread misunderstanding for centuries, with the assumption being that it was based purely on theological grounds. This caused a long period of activity against the craft in all the Catholic countries except France, where Masonry was not curtailed in the least.

Napoleon Bonaparte installed his eldest brother Joseph Bonaparte on the throne of Spain in 1801. Joseph had been the Grand Master of the French Grand Orient since 1806, having been initiated into Freemasonry in the Tuilleries in 1805, and so quickly acknowledged the right of Freemasons to meet and work in their Lodges in Spain. One of the decrees he issued was that Spaniards born in New Spain were no longer denied the right to hold high office. This policy now made it possible for Santa Anna to become an army officer and take his first step towards his future national prominence.

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was born in Jalapa in the State of Veracruz on 13th of June in, 1792. Having joined the Mexican Army against his family's wishes, his first military experience of any importance was gained fighting against a revolutionary priest, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Castillo, who was a Scottish Rite Mason who headed a move to topple the Spanish government and gain independence for Mexico. The movement lasted from 1810 to 1813 when Hidalgo was beheaded. Santa Anna was then ordered to San Antonio de Bexar for the next seven years, which is when he is thought to have become a Scottish Rite (Ecosaise) Mason.

Masonry had been practised in Mexico since the start of the 19th century, with the Grand Lodge of Louisiana founding lodge "Amigos Reunidos No. 8" in Vera Cruz in 1816 and "Reunidad La Virtud No. 9" in Campeche in 1817. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania followed with a lodge in Alvarado in 1824.

The American ambassador to Mexico, Joel R. Poinsett, who was a former Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of South Carolina, helped establish five Lodges in Mexico City under the Grand Lodge of New York, viz. Rosa Mexicana, Federalista and Independencia in 1825 and Tolerancia No. 450 and Luz Mexicana No. 451 in 1826. He is also credited with introducing Royal Arch Masonry to Mexico. Ironically, he's probably better remembered for a plant he brought back from Mexico and began to cultivate, which was later named the "Poinsettia" in his honour and became a popular Christmas plant.

Very quickly, Mexican Masons divided into two political factions: (a) the Ecosaise (Scottish Rite) whose membership included the nobility, conservatives and the Higher ranks of the Catholic

clergy who championed a monarchy and a central government controlled by the nobility. For the most part, these were natives of Spain (Gachupines) as opposed to (b) the Yorkinos (York Rite), who promoted liberal policies and a democratic government and whose ranks included the minor church officials and the Creoles, who were Mexican born of Spanish blood.

Although the Spanish suppressed the Hidalgo uprising, the flames of revolt had not been put out, and two hopeful rebels, Guadalupe Victoria and Nicolas Bravo, continued in the mountains until the arrival of a new champion in the form of General Augustine de Iturbide in 1821. who issued a proclamation on 12th Feb stating that a new provisional government was in place.

The Ecossaises supported Iturbide, and although still loyal to Spain, Santa Anna kept an eye on the developments, and when he concluded the tide had turned in favour of the rebels, he proclaimed his support for Iturbide. The rebels won the battle and gained their independence at the Treaty of Cordoba on 21st Aug 1821. Iturbide proclaimed himself Emperor Augustine I and promoted the turncoat Santa Anna to General.

Within a short time, General Santa Anna was supporting a movement to force Iturbide from office, and he was forced to abdicate in March 1823. The moderates began drafting a democratic constitution at a convention chaired by Lorenzo de Zavala, who was soon to ally himself with the Texas patriots. Having successfully changed sides again, General Santa Anna was loudly proclaiming his moderate beliefs and his concern for the common people of Mexico.

The new constitution, which in many ways emulated that of the United States, was eventually adopted in 1824. There were, however, some important differences. The constitution named the Catholic Church as the official religion of Mexico. It provided for the legislatures of their respective states to elect a President and Vice President by a majority vote, and if a majority was not achieved, Congress could elect one or both of the new candidates. Lastly, it provided for the President to temporarily resign, designate the Vice President as the head of government and return at a time of his choosing to take up his duties again. Guadalupe Victoria, a York Rite mason, was elected as the first President under the new constitution and Nicolas Bravo, a Scottish Rite mason, was elected Vice President. Knowing the ambitions of Santa Anna, President Victoria appointed him the governor of the state of Yucatan, far from the capital.

Vice President Bravo soon found the Yorkinos of Mexico City far too liberal and was fermenting a revolt. Santa Anna was keeping a calculating eye on how things were unfolding and returned to the capital to give his support to Nicolas Bravo and the Ecossaises. This was a major factor in splitting the two factions, and a “Masonic War “ erupted with Nicolas Bravo, the Grand Master of the Ecossaise, on one side and Vicente Guerrero, Grand Master of the Yorkinos, on the other.

A decisive battle was fought at Tulancingo, north-west of Mexico City, where Nicolas Bravo was captured and exiled to the United States, thus ending the “Masonic War”. Since the Yorkinos won, it was obvious that one of their own, Gomez Pedraza, became the leader of the government; however, this did not sit well with Santa Anna, and he soon led a revolt that saw Pedraza deposed and Vicente Guerrero succeed him.

In 1829, a great opportunity presented itself to Santa Anna. The Spanish government landed a force at Tampico as they thought that, because of the revolt and upheaval, the population would welcome them with open arms. The Spaniards had miscalculated. With Santa Anna at the head of the Mexican force, the Spanish troops were defeated and driven back to their ships. Santa Anna became a national hero, and from this time on referred to himself as “The Napoleon of the West”

Political unrest continued with Vice President Anastasio heading a revolt against President Guerrero, although both were masons, the outcome was deadly. In February 1832, President Guerrero was shot, and Bustamante took over as the head of the government. His time in office was short, as the moment had arrived and Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was elected President in February 1833 with Gomez Farias elected as Vice President, with the promises of returning the constitution of 1824, providing a moderate and liberal government.

As some unpopular decisions had to be taken over the reduction of the military and control of the financial affairs and policies of the Catholic Church, Santa Anna declined to be installed, claiming ill health, and Farias stood in as acting President.

Nobody was surprised when a revolt erupted, which Santa Anna quickly subdued. Abuse was heaped on Farias, and the General was hailed as the hero and elected President of Mexico. He then announced that Mexico was not ready for democracy and installed himself as Dictator.

At this time, Stephen F Austin, who had been a supporter of Santa Anna, visited him in Mexico City, and although worried at the way events were turning, he requested that Texas be given separate statehood from Coahuila, which was refused. The Mexican authorities intercepted an angry letter from Austin to a friend, which appeared to encourage rebellion, and Austin was put in prison for 18 months.

In 1835, Santa Anna proceeded to disarm all militias, and when the state of Zacatecas, the home of the disposed Vice President, refused, Santa Anna took personal charge of the brutal suppression of the rebellion and, on his return to the capital, abolished the constitution of 1824 and ordered all illegal immigrants out of Texas.

General Santa Anna could now turn his attention to Texas and ordered his brother-in-law, General Martin Perfecto De Cos, to march into Texas

To be continued...

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 19.10.25