

## 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 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 Gourrock PA7 5BY (078958158628)  
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 6 Stirling Drive Gourrock PA19 1AH (07810270787)  
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

## No XII Worldwide

*When reading the Minutes and looking at memorabilia from around the time of the Lodge Bicentenary in 1928, there is much mention of, and connection with, brethren who are domiciled overseas. At that time, they would have been drawn forth into the countries of the Empire seeking work and an improved lifestyle.*

*Nowadays, many fewer brethren are involved, but working overseas is still a feature. One such brother is Hector Macphail, one of our Past Masters. In the last issue, we gave some news of Bro. Ralph Grundmann, an affiliate member of number XII, who Bro. Hector met whilst working in Germany. Hector has made many visits to Lodge Kurt Tucholsky 1060 in Munster over the years.*

*Amongst the variety of countries that Hector has worked in, one of the more 'interesting' was Azerbaijan. Hector returned there recently for a Masonic visit, and he has been kind enough to provide some information about it.*

## REPORT ON VISIT TO THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE OF AZERBAIJAN'S ANNUAL COMMUNICATION ON 27th JUNE 2025, BY BRO. HECTOR MACPHAIL P.M.

In 2010 (writes Hector), I became involved, for several years, in some Oil & Gas Projects in Azerbaijan. Soon after arriving, I started to enquire if Masonry existed within Baku City. I was pleasantly surprised to discover (with difficulty) that although not 'Recognised' by The Grand Lodge of Scotland, Freemasonry was slowly establishing itself, with Azeri Brethren travelling to Turkey, Russia and even the USA to receive their Degrees.

Although being a member of a Lodge under the Scottish Constitution, I couldn't officially attend meetings, I met and got to know these Brethren very well socially, and they were always keen for me to share with them whatever little experience or ideas that I could, to assist them on their journey.

M.W. Bro. Robert Heyatt, Charter Grand Master *Ad Vitam*, was their foundation Grand Master, and it was very much his vision and energy, as well as that of succeeding Grand Masters, including the current Grand Master, M.W. Brother Emil Hasanov, that eventually succeeded in having

Continued over 

The National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan was recognised by the Grand Lodge of Scotland last year.



M.W. Bro. Robert Hyatt, Grand Master, and Bro. Hector Macphail



M.W. Bro Emil Hasanov, current Grand Master, and Bro. Hector Macphail. Bro Hector presenting Friendship Gift from No. XII

I was honoured, therefore, to receive from The National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan’s Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Rufat Naghiyev, a personal Invitation to attend their Annual Communication on 27<sup>th</sup> June this year; their first Communication since enjoying Amity with the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The visit was quite a special, and at times, surreal experience. The day after my wife Elaine and I arrived in our Hotel in Baku, M.W. Grand Master Hasanov had arranged for us to be welcomed by His Excellency the British Ambassador, Fergus Auld.

Although not a Freemason, Fergus is a fellow Scot, and we spent a pleasant hour in his company, with me extolling the virtues of freemasonry and promoting the idea to him.

Elaine and I then got ready to accept our invitation to travel to the M.W. Grand Master’s weekend country residence for a garden party.

Two private buses arrived to take around fifty guests on the hour-long trip out to M.W. Brother Hasanov’s splendid villa, where I renewed my acquaintance with his wife, Lala and their family. We were all then very generously entertained to a fabulous banquet washed down with excellent Savalan wine.

Continued over 

The following evening, we attended an informal Reception with all the attending Brethren and their spouses in the Gardens of the Hyatt Hotel, where we were staying, and I enjoyed renewing old friendships and meeting new Brethren and their wives.

The next day, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, was the National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan's Communication, and while Elaine and the other women were entertained to lunch and a bus tour of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Old City and Maiden Tower, by Lala Hasanov, I attended the Annual Communication.

There was a very large international attendance, with Order leaders from at least sixteen countries and constitutions, including the Grand Master of Russia, Grand Master of Washington D.C., and the Grand Master of Turkey, who were sponsoring Grand Lodges for the National Grand Lodge of Azerbaijan. And get special recognition.



The brethren who were invited to the East



Moments later, I was further surprised when the Grand Director of Ceremonies. escorted me from my seat in the East behind the Grand Master and took me to the centre of the floor of their Grand Lodge. The M.W. Grand Master then came down, spoke of me at length to the assembled brethren, and presented me with

a very handsome Grand Lodge 'Certificate of Appreciation'; which I certainly wasn't expecting, and I felt very humbled to receive. Continued over →



After the Communication, Elaine and I attended their formal 'Black Tie' Dinner and spent a happy evening in the company of the Brethren and their spouses.

Elaine and I remained in Azerbaijan for two weeks and explored the desert area's mud volcanoes, ancient Zoroastrian Fire Temples, and prehistoric petroglyphs.

A couple of days before leaving Baku, we were invited by M.W. Bro. Emil Hasanov to join himself, his wife Lala,

W. Bro. Rufat Naghiyev (Grand Secy.) and his wife Seva, at La Quzu Restaurant in the Old City for dinner. He told me that he had picked that restaurant as that was the building where Baroness Thatcher attended the signing ceremony of the preliminary agreement, which launched the modern Oil & Gas era, in Azerbaijan, from which I benefited for several years.

We were again, generously entertained to a lovely dinner, and Lala gave Elaine an Azerbaijani handmade silk scarf, whilst M.W. Bro. Emil Hazanov gave me a very attractive, cultural book in a slip case, signed by him, entitled: 'Mysterious tales of Tabriz'. He said that the book had been presented to several world leaders, as well as the late Pope Francis, whom he described as a very nice gentleman. I intend to read this beautiful book. I wonder if the Pope and the world leaders ever read theirs?

*Obviously, Bro. Hector's visit was much appreciated, and he and Elaine had a wonderful time. We are indeed very grateful to him for all this information about their trip of a lifetime, and thanks also for his continuing efforts in flying the flag of No. XII far and wide.*

*In recent years, No XII has visited Lodges in London, Bologna and New York City.*

## **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?

## No. XII's Next Meeting Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 Raising

We look forward to welcoming everyone at our Meeting on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November. This will be a Raising and the candidate is Bro. Jonathan Contreras Gonzales.



It will be a special evening as it also includes No. XII's Annual Act of Remembrance for the 10 Brethren of the Lodge who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War. Their names are inscribed on the Lodge War Memorial Altar, and they were

Private Archibald Lindsay Barr *2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards*  
 Engine Room Artificer. George William Campbell *Royal Naval Reserve*  
 Lieutenant James Hannah *Royal Garrison Artillery*  
 Pioneer Henry Hay *Royal Engineers*  
 1<sup>st</sup> Engineer Arthur Johnston *Mercantile Marine*  
 Private John Duncan Macfarlane *2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Argyll and Sutherland  
 Highlanders*  
 Engineer Sub Lieutenant David Rankin Fleming MacKail *Royal Navy*  
 Lance Corporal Alexander Niven Russell *6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Queen's Own  
 Cameron Highlanders*  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Joseph Henry Sanders *10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cameronians  
 (Scottish Rifles)*  
 Serjeant James Ritchie Smith *1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders*



## No. XII's Previous Meeting Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 Annual Meeting and Election of Office Bearers

The Annual Meeting went smoothly, and congratulations were given to the Secretary and Treasurer for their hard work over the financial year.

Office Bearers were elected as follows:

Office
Master – Brother Robert Marshall
Substitute Master – Brother Alan D. Beck PM
Worshipful Senior Warden – Brother Paul J. Branchfield
Worshipful Junior Warden – Brother Colin B. Reddy
Secretary – Brother Kenneth C. MacDougall PM
Treasurer – Brother David D. Stevenson
Almoner – Brother Alexander Gray
Director of Ceremonies – Brother Hector Macphail PM
Chaplain – Brother Robert J. Bain PM
Senior Deacon – Brother Cameron White
Junior Deacon – Brother Jordan Kincaid
Architect – Brother Craig S. McFadyen

Jeweller – Brother John W. Dyer
Sword Bearer – Brother James McGregor Jnr
Director of Music – Brother Ndukwe Ibe
Inner Guard – Brother Scott Branchfield
President of Stewards – Brother Anthony Buckley
1 <sup>st</sup> Assistant Steward – Brother Edward Molloy
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Steward – Brother Alexander Easdale
3 <sup>rd</sup> Assistant Steward – Brother Alexander McCoist
Tyler – Brother Bryan G. A. Campbell-Black

The Depute Master will be named in the Lodge at the Installation, which is on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> November at 645pm.

## Annual Charity Burns Supper Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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, 28<sup>th</sup> February** and the venue, following consultation with the brethren, is Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No. 626 in John Street. 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.

## Reports on Visits

- Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624 on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 (Entering) – attended by Bro Bob Bain PM
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2025 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Robert Marshall, IPM Bro James Livingstone, Bro Brian McFadyen PM, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Cameron White and Bro Eddie McGill

## **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 **again** been postponed till next time. Lucky, I hadn't made a pinkie promise, Stewart!

### **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 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 -

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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,,,,,

**Recent winners:** September JP Livingstone, October Alex Johnson, November KK Morrison, December RJ Bain

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 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!

## 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 II: Rebellion in Texas

Stephen F Austin was released from prison in July of 1835 and was back in Texas by August. With his standing now severely damaged in Mexico City, and with the feeling running high after an attack by a Mexican soldier on a Texian settler, Jesse McCoy. Austin could see little option but revolution although until now Texians had been loyal to Santa Anna.

### Battle of Gonzales

As part of the disarming of militias Colonel Domingo Ugartechea stationed in San Antonio de Bexar ordered the Texians at Gonzales to return a cannon given to them by the Mexican army. The militia refused and a hundred Dragoons under Lieutenant Castaneda were dispatched to retrieve it.

When the dragoons arrived, they found the river swollen by the rains, so they camped on its banks until it could be crossed. At this time, there were only 18 Texians opposing them, so the Texians buried the cannon and sent out a call for assistance. Two militias answered this call, a vote was taken, and Colonel John Henry Moore was voted in as leader of the force, which now numbered 140 strong.

The Texian force moved out at 7pm on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct and reached the Mexican encampment at 3am the following morning. The first shots of the revolution were exchanged, but the only casualty was a Texian who received a bloody nose when he fell off his horse.

Negotiations were held, and Lieutenant Castaneda was urged to join the revolution, which he refused, although he stated he believed in their cause.

On the breakdown of negotiations, the Texians, now under a banner with a crude drawing of a cannon with the words "Come and take it" opened fire and charged. Lieutenant Castaneda did not engage but led his Dragoons back to San Antonio

### **Advance on San Antonio de Bexar (In present-day Texas)**

On 11<sup>th</sup> October, volunteers gathered at Gonzales and elected Stephen Austin General, the next day the force set out for San Antonio and arrived there on the 19<sup>th</sup> October.

James Bowie and James Fannin were sent out with a small force of 90 to scout for a suitable base of operations while the siege of San Antonio proceeded (San Antonio was only held by General Marin Perfecto de Cos with a small force of 647, made up mainly of convicts, as the bulk of the Mexican army had been diverted to Zacatecas under General Santa Anna).

James Bowie and his scouting force found Mission Conception as a suitable base of operation. Once General Cos found out that Austin had split his forces, he led a force of 300 Dragoons, 100 Infantry and 2 cannons against Bowie's force on the 28<sup>th</sup> Oct under a dense fog, and battle was met the following day.

The Mexicans had poor quality powder, which caused some of their rounds to fall short, and others just to cause bruising, also, their cannon, which was firing grapeshot, proved ineffective as Bowie's force was in the ravine below which was protected by trees and bushes.

The Mexicans had also been trained in the European method of fighting, which was in line and firing volleys with British Brown Bess muskets, whereas the Texians were sniping and moving. Using these tactics, Bowie's force was able to kill the cannon crews and turn the cannons on the Mexican forces. Once this happened, the Mexicans fled the field to be chased back to San Antonio by William Travis and his mounted company that had now come up with the remainder of the Army. The battle left 76 Mexicans dead & one Texian, Richard Andrews as the first Texian casualty of the revolution.

The siege continued with General Burleson taking command on 24<sup>th</sup> November real progress was made until 5<sup>th</sup> December, when a surprise attack was carried out, which led to street-by-street fighting and Col Cos retreating to the Alamo, where he was reinforced by Col Ugartechea with a force of 600 soldiers. This was too late and he sent out the white flag of surrender on the 9<sup>th</sup> to seek terms, which were finally settled, and the remaining Mexican force of 1,100 was paroled and allowed to leave the field with only enough arms to defend themselves. This retreat left no Mexican forces in Texas.

Many thought that this was the end of the war and left for home, and only a small garrison was left at San Antonio.

**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 02.11.25**