

Meetings 2014-15

- * 06.01.15
Lecture by RWPPGM
(Ayrshire) Bro Archie
Chalmers
- * 20.01.15
Raising
- * 03.02.15
No Meeting – Inverclyde
Music Festival
- * 17.02.15
Raising
- * Saturday 28.02.15
Annual Charity Burns
Supper
- 03.03.15
Passing and PGL
Renfrewshire West
Annual Visitation
- * 17.03.15
Raising
- * 07.04.15
Passing
- * 21.04.15
Mark
- * Thursday 04.06.15
Entering by Lodge Past
Masters



Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII
The Saloon of the Town Hall, Greenock
Regular Meetings – 7.30pm 1st and 3rd Tuesdays – September to April
Special Meeting – 1st Thursday in June

RWM Bro Capt. Allan I. MacFeate 40 The Esplanade Greenock PA16 7RY (07855332738)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

‘A Guid New Year’

We look forward to 2015 in Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII with confidence. The new calendar year runs parallel to the first year in the Chair for our new RWM, Bro Allan I. MacFeate. Bro Allan has been busy already with visiting, making speeches at Installations, taking part in a Past Masters’ Degree, representing the Lodge at a thank you function for Charity donors held by Provost Moran in the Town Hall and, of course, taking the Chair at our meeting earlier in the month which was our Annual Divine Service. Our Lodge is in good spirits and this mirrors the situation to be found across the Province with many signs of the pendulum swinging upwards for Freemasonry once more. Bro Allan has many ideas in place to keep up the momentum and an enthusiastic team of office bearers and brethren behind him to support his work. As we redouble our efforts in the New Year, do you know anyone who has been missing from our ranks for a few years that you could encourage back among us? If so, please ‘Go for it!’

Our Previous Meeting Tuesday 2nd December The Annual Divine Service



Bro Jack Glenny PM conducted the Annual Divine Service. Jack is, of course, a Church of Scotland lay reader and a former Moderator of the local Presbytery. Jack’s sermon theme was ‘All is well, the Master is here.’ He skillfully guided us through the various meanings of the term ‘Master’ – the expert in his field, the person in charge of a ship (like our new ‘Master Mariner’ RWM), the Master of the Lodge and finally the Great Architect of the Universe, our Lord and Master, who leads us in all that we do.

The scripture readings were delivered by Bro Allan I. MacFeate RWM and Bro Derek A. MacFeate DM.

No XII Charity Burns Supper 2015

No XII's 5th Charity Burns Supper will be held in the Town Hall on Saturday 28th February 2015. The Immortal Memory will be delivered by Bro Iain White PM No XII and the Toast to the Lassies will be by Bro Iain Gordon of The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 and The Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle Lodge No 275. The Readings will be by Bro David Vennard PM (Lodge Glasgow Kilwinning No 4) and our own Honorary Member Bro Sandy Reddy (Lodge Greenock St John's No 175). Musical entertainment will be provided by Bro Alan D Beck IPM, Craig Dunsmore and Jamie Stables.

It will be a most enjoyable evening and will be a great contributor to our drive to assist those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Tickets, priced £20, or tables of 10, priced £200, may be reserved by contacting Bro Iain White PM (07575752570) or Bro Alan D Beck IPM (07739514242).

Feedback from a Candidate

When Bro Alan Beck IPM was in the Chair, he received the following feedback from a Candidate by email just after he had received his First Degree. I am publishing this anonymised version because I think it is important that we hear what our one of our Initiates thought about his first experience at No XII and it throws up some really positive things about No XII that maybe we tend to take for granted!

It's been a bit of a crazy week for me, travel-wise, but I have been thinking about Tuesday night and wanted to drop you a note to thank you. I was feeling quite relaxed about the Initiation until I was sitting with my proposer outside and he was nervous which then made me feel quite nervous!

I had to run quite quickly at the end, but having reflected for a few days I wanted to say that I really enjoyed the whole experience and was left with the feeling of being part of something that has an amazing history spanning centuries – quite humbling actually. All the participants on the evening were exceptional – their knowledge and memory were all impressive.

The atmosphere in the room and throughout the whole experience was one of being welcomed by a group of like-minded people who seemed genuinely happy to welcome me into the fold. It came across from lots of people who I had met for the first time. It left me feeling eager to progress and looking forward to whatever the future brings as part of the lodge.

Test Fees and Life Member Contributions

Annual Subscriptions or Test Fees are now due for 2014-15. These are set at the very reasonable level of £30 in No XII. Also, the Lodge has to pay a Capitation Levy for all Life Members to The Grand Lodge of Scotland. This amounts to £25. Over the last few years we have been grateful to all of the Life Members who have made a donation to cover this. Fees and contributions are payable to the Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson.

Reception with the Provost



One of our Charity Drive recipients in 2014 was the local group Children in Poverty Inverclyde which gives assistance to families in a number of ways. Our own donation helped some children get a holiday break with their families that otherwise would have been impossible. This Charity was nominated to us by Provost Robert Moran. At the end of November No XII was invited to a reception in the Town Hall where the work of local groups who work to help others less fortunate than themselves was recognised. Our new RWM Bro Allan I. MacFeate represented No XII and he is shown on the left pictured with Provost Moran and, below, with the others who were in attendance.

No XII was given a beautiful cut glass memento in recognition of its work. It is now displayed at our regular meetings and may be seen in the photos.

Through its Chairman Pat Burke, Children in Poverty Inverclyde has been very appreciative of No XII's efforts.



Lodge The Prince's No 607 Annual Installation 2014

The Installation at The Prince's was a big night for No XII as well as for The Prince's. Bro Bobby Shaw was installed into the Chair of King Solomon by Installing Master Bro Iain White (PM No XII) who was assisted by Bro Ian A. Macpherson (PM 607). Bobby, of course, has been in the Chair twice in his Mother Lodge The Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle Lodge No 275. On the same evening three No XII brethren were installed into office – Bro Iain White PM as Worshipful Senior Warden, Bro Alan D Beck IPM as Worshipful Junior Warden and Bro Tony Stewart, Honorary Member, as Junior Deacon. After the Ceremonial, there was the usual high quality Prince's dinner and harmony.



**RWM Bro Bobby Shaw with Installing Masters
Bro Iain White PM (left) and Bro Ian A. Macpherson PM (right)**



RWM and Wardens Bros - White, Shaw and Beck



**The Entertainers – Bros Ian Macpherson PM
and Jim Gray PM Lodge Pollok Pollokshields No 772**

The Govan High School Holocaust Project

Our regular readers will be aware that I was Head Teacher at Govan High School until May 2014. A group of young people had been involved in a cross curricular project involving Religious and Moral Education, English and Geography. Its focus was on equality and the aspect that greatly engaged the interest of the pupils was learning about the Holocaust. They were so affected by what they learned that they determined to visit Auschwitz and the work to gather the necessary thousands of pounds began.

Ultimately, after some three years' work, they got there with a visit to Poland and Germany taking place in the autumn. I am grateful to the Lodges and individual brethren who assisted with cash sponsorship. They helped provide the experience of a lifetime for these young people.

Depute Head Kevin Sweeney wrote this for the school website before the visit:

The work done by the pupils during the project has heightened their knowledge base about the Holocaust and it has also been character building, making them think carefully about the importance of values in human societies. They have learned a lot and developed further skills during their fund raising activities. Their goal of a visit to Auschwitz is still in the distance but is getting nearer by their efforts. The road to Auschwitz is difficult for the pupils who are involved. The reality for them will be that when they reach their destination, the experience will be more difficult still. I know this to be true because I have visited Auschwitz myself.

The difficult journey and the emotional difficulties at the destination will be worthwhile for all concerned. It will be life changing as, indeed, it should be. The prize is that the participants' potential for a meaningful contribution to society is increased and they become more rounded, aware and tolerant human beings. The prize is worth the effort for as the school motto has it 'Nihil sine labore'.

Pupil participant Amy Collie wrote the following piece upon her return from the study visit to Auschwitz and Berlin.

Auschwitz by Amy Collie

In October this year my English class and I went on a once in a lifetime trip to Krakow to visit Auschwitz. We also visited Berlin. After two years of bake sales, jewellery sales, car washes and race nights, all the fundraising and help of supporters finally paid off.

The idea of this trip came around when The Anne Frank exhibition came to our school and we were trained to be tour guides by Paula Fraser who was the creator of the exhibition. We showed and told the horrendous story of Anne Frank to groups of people of all different ages. This was followed by studying pieces on the holocaust and novels with the theme of discrimination in our English and RE classes. After that we felt the only thing we could then do was go and see the horrific camp for ourselves and so the hard work began. Even after studying the holocaust and being in the camp I still cannot imagine the pain and heart-breaking times these people went through.

As much as it was a disturbing experience, when we were walking through Auschwitz I couldn't help but feel a sense of exploitation and disrespect as if it had been turned into a money making tourist attraction. From the gift shop outside to the price to get into the camp – there was even a confectionery shop, where the prices were higher than normal shops. This did take away a little of the respectful quiet feel for me, personally. Of course it was still a horrible, gut wrenching experience seeing where prisoners were abused, tortured and lots of innocent lives

were lost. I don't think I will ever forget the feeling of standing paying respect in front of the concrete 'wall of death' where they were shot or seeing the pictures of teenagers like myself with 'died on' or - what affected me more - 'fate unknown'. There was a corridor filled with pictures of just some prisoners who made it into the camp but the average life span was only 3 months. Most of these deaths were caused by diseases, starvation or again Nazi evilness. The second part of the tour was a visit to another camp, Birkenau. This was a much more chilling. This is where most of the prisoners lived and died. Walking to the end of the train track where they would come in, in their hundreds, and most straight to their death, was a sad chilling moment that you could just feel in the atmosphere.

From Krakow we also made the journey to Berlin to see where it all began and where the Nazis gained power from. We visited the Topography of Terror which tells the story of Hitler in pictures and stories; this did tell the story of Hitler but was still based around what he had done to millions of innocents as I don't think you can get away from the reality of what he caused. We also visited Checkpoint Charlie which was the crossing point between East and West Berlin. Even this had two 'American soldiers' who stood and charged money for a picture. Walking through Berlin we also saw the Berlin wall that once split the city in two and also split family and friends apart.

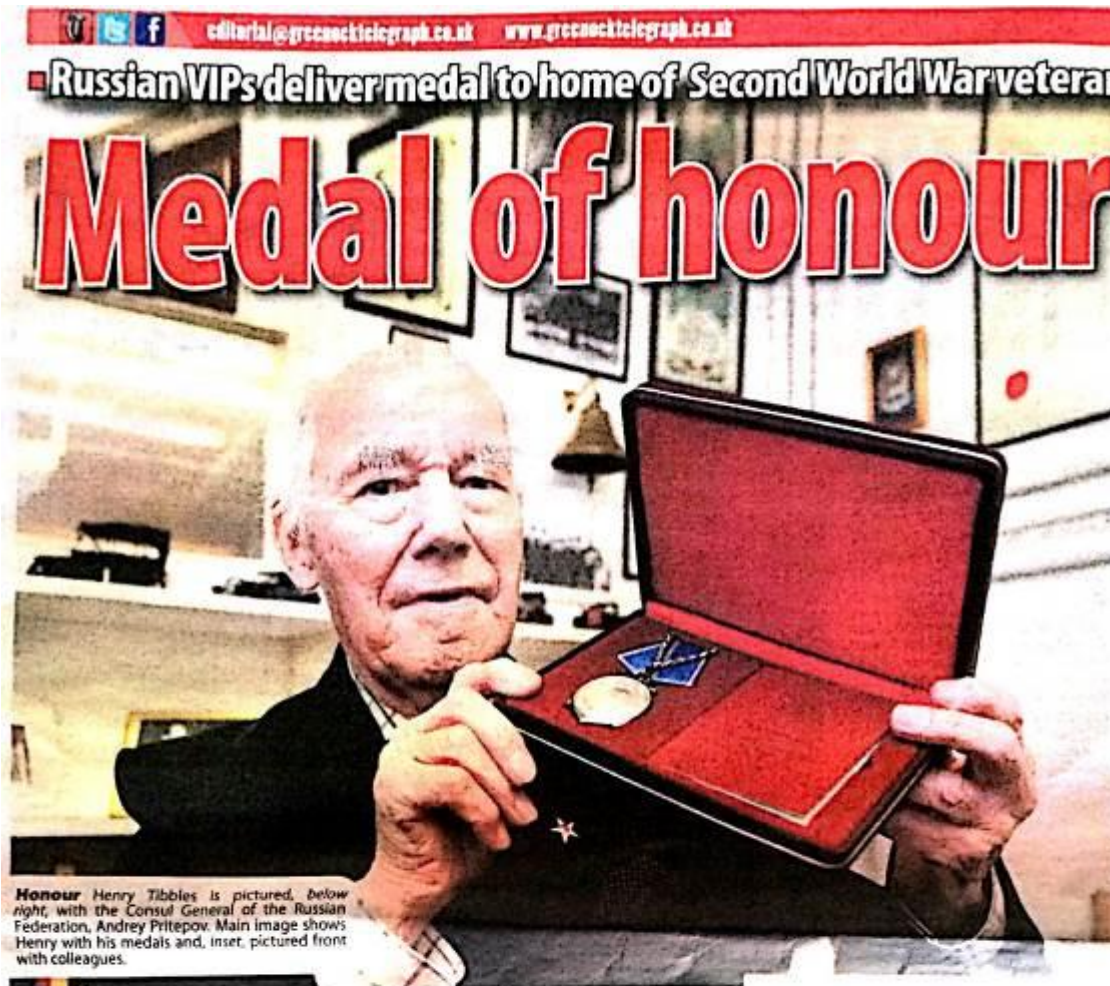
This trip was once in a lifetime and we are so lucky we had the chance to do the two parts of Krakow and Berlin. I think everyone should see this at least once in their life so that something as horrible as the Nazi genocide never happens again. As a quote says in camp Auschwitz "The one who does not remember history is bound to live through it again". We have to keep this tragic story alive so it is not repeated. I am very grateful for this opportunity. Being so young, I think I may go back to Auschwitz in the future when I have my own children to see it from an adult's perspective. I am also very grateful to all helpers, donors and also to my English teacher and Religious Studies teacher for making this experience happen. Our tour guide called it the 'factory of death' and to anyone who went through this "factory" may their soul rest in peace.

Reports on Visits

- □ Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 7th November 2014 (Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Allan MacFeate, Bro Bob Crossan, IPM Bro Robert Bain, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro James Livingstone, HM Bro Tony Stewart, HM Bro Kenneth McCrae, HM Bro James Miller, HM Bro James Lever and HM Bro James Strachan
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 10th November 2014 (Raising) - attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Allan MacFeate, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Joseph Fogarty, Bro James Livingstone, HM Bro James Strachan and HM Bro Kenneth McCrae
- Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 11th November 2014 (Entering) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill, HM Bro Tony Stewart, HM Bro James Miller, HM Bro James Strachan, HM Bro Neil Forbes and HM Bro Kenneth McCrae
- The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 on 13th November 2014 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick and Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 14th November 2014 (Raising) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Eddie McGill and HM Bro Kenneth McCrae
- ^ Lodge The Gael No 609 on 13th November 2014 (Mark) – attended by Bro Iain White PM
- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 20th November 2014 (Passing) – attended by Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Eddie McGill and HM Bro James Strachan
- Lodge Sir Michael No 989 on 21st November 2014 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Allan MacFeate, IPM Bro Alan Beck, WJW Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Alistair Glenny PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro James Livingstone, HM Bro Tony Stewart, HM Bro Kenneth McCrae, HM Bro David Wilson and HM Bro James Miller
- Lodge Ugie No 939 on 22nd November 2014 (Entering) – attended by Bro Ken MacDougall PM and Bro David Stevenson in the company of Brethren from Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 and RWPGM Bro James Livingstone
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 17th November 2014 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro Alan Beck, IPM Bro Robert Bain, Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Ewen Maclean, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro James Livingstone, HM Bro Tony Stewart, HM Bro Kenneth McCrae and HM Bro Iain MacLeod

Henry is honoured by the Russian Government

Our esteemed Past Master, Bro Henry S Tibbles was recently presented with a medal, in a rather splendid fashion by the Russian government to mark his service on the Arctic Convoys in World War 2. The *Greenock Telegraph* article of Wednesday 17th December 2014 is below.



Honour Henry Tibbles is pictured, below right, with the Consul General of the Russian Federation, Andrey Pritepov. Main image shows Henry with his medals and, inset, pictured front with colleagues.

A NINETY-SIX-YEAR-OLD Royal Navy war hero told today how he struggled to keep on an even keel after a fleet of diplomatic cars rolled up outside his home with an extra special delivery.

Shipspace Henry Tibbles was taken aback when Russian dignitaries emerged from the shiny black vehicles to award him a medal in appreciation of his service to their country 70 years ago.

Mr Tibbles — a petty officer during the Second World War — was involved in helping escort supply convoys into the ports of Britain's former ally against Nazi Germany.

And the efforts of the Skelmorlie man — who lives with his wife of 73 years, Muriel — have never been forgotten by the grateful Russians, who dispatched consulate staff directly to his front door.

Mr Tibbles said: "There were six of them in total, including the ambassador gentleman who had a note-taker and a photographer beside him.

"Every one had a special job to do and they didn't put a foot wrong. I was taken aback by it all but I was very impressed.

"There was a whole host of cars outside our house — including a chauffeur-driven one for the ambassador.

"Muriel even got a kiss from him."

Mr Tibbles — who was awarded with the Ushakov Medal, named after Russia's most acclaimed navy commander Fyodor Ushakov — added: "We hear so much about the Russians to their detriment these days but the people who visited me were thorough gentlemen — every one of them."

Henry was a crew member onboard HMS Obedient, below, based in Scapa Flow, and helped make sure convoys of food, fuel and

David Goodwin

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supplies reached the former Soviet Union amid treacherous u-boat infested waters.

The medal honour was personally bestowed on Mr Tibbles because he was unable to attend a major presentation ceremony for fellow veterans in Glasgow around the time of Remembrance Sunday last month.

Wiping a tear from one of his eyes, he said: "I am very proud to receive this medal but at the same time many other things come to mind as well.

Mr Tibbles added: "On every trip you always dreaded the u-boat and there was the added hazard of aircraft as well.

"The u-boats just seemed to know as soon as we left Scapa Flow. We were in constant contact with them."

Mr Tibbles — who also visited Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, India, Ceylon, Botavia and western Africa during his Navy career — told of one occasion when a Nazi sub fired on his ship.

He said: "The torpedo was coming directly for Obedient. It was when we were in the Atlantic on patrol duties.

"It was almost a very hazardous contact, but it was just by good luck or the grace of God that we weren't hit.

"The torpedo reaches its target so quickly that you hardly have any time to take evasive action.

"It was either the inaccuracy of its firing or the skill of our skipper in taking the avoiding action which kept us safe.

"Looking back now you realise just how hazardous it all was, but we were young men at the time and we didn't recognise the danger.

"We were more concerned about it being a rough sea



maybe tip over our hot soup!"

The war hero told how he met his Wren sweetheart Muriel, now 95, at Cragburn in Gourrock, saying: "I think there have been more romances there than anywhere else in the world!

"We have been married for 73 years now."

The couple — whose daughter Wendy lives in Portsmouth — had two sons, Colin and Adrian, who have pre-deceased them.

Mr Tibbles — who went into the printing industry after the war — only has one regret about his time in the Navy.

He said: "I always wanted to go to America but I never got there in the end.

"But I have to say that getting this medal, and the way it happened, is very special to me."



From the old No XII Minute Books

The focus is again on gifts – this time from the Lodge. The generosity of the Brethren back in 1911 was fantastic! In addition to the gifts below, the brethren gave a modern day equivalent of £1300 to local charities. The total in 1911 was just over £14,000 in present day terms.

Tuesday 18th April 1911

Bro John J Park, RW Master, in the Chair

Lodge to be represented at Memorial Stone Ceremony

At the meeting on 4th April it was agreed that at the Memorial Stone Ceremony of New Freemasons' Hall on 28th inst. The Lodge should be represented by the RW Master IP master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden and members who intend being resent on that occasion were requested to hand their names to the Secretary.

The Lodge had previously, in February 1911 donated £50 to the building fund for the New Freemasons' Hall. Nowadays this would be around £5100.

Tuesday 18th April 1911

Bro John J Park, RW Master, in the Chair

Donation of £75 to centenary Fund of Greenock Infirmary

After opinions had been expressed on behalf of the motion and amendment, it was agreed to take the vote by ballot which resulted in 27 voting for £75 and 17 for £100.

The Treasurer was accordingly instructed to send a cheque for £75 to the Treasurer of Greenock Infirmary.

Nowadays this would be around £7700.

Tuesday 19th September 1911

Bro John J Park, RW Master, in the Chair

Acknowledgement of contribution to the Infirmary Centenary Fund

The RW Master read a letter which he had received from Provost McMillan acknowledging his thanks for the manner in which the Lodge had responded to his appeal on behalf of the Infirmary Centenary Fund and with it was a copy of the letter sent by the Infirmary Directors expressing their appreciation of the support given.

Iain White PM
02.01.15

Views expressed by individuals within XII 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.

