

# Twelve Talk

18.11.18

Issue 115

## Meetings 2018-19

\*04.09.18

Raising

\* 18.09.18

Nomination and Election of Office Bearers

Passing by Greenock High School  
Former Pupils of No XII

\* 02.10.18

Entering

\* 16.10.18

Entering

\* 06.11.18

Annual Meeting and Great War  
Commemoration

\* 20.11.18

Annual Installation at 615

\*04.12.18

Divine Service

\*Thursday 27.12.18

290<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Festival of  
St John The Evangelist

\* Saturday 23 .02.19

Annual Burns Supper at 630 for  
7pm

**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**

**RWM Bro Allan T. Glen 41 Morris Crescent Blantyre Glasgow G72 0DA (07736060280)**  
**Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay (07810270787)**  
**Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)**

## Our Next Meeting Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November Annual Installation

Bro James Robert Crossan, or Bob as we know him, will be placed in the Chair of King Solomon on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November. The Installing Masters will be Bro Iain White, Bro Kenneth C MacDougall and Bro Alan D Beck, all Past Masters of No XII. Bro Alistair Glenney PM and Bro Allan T Glen (by that time IPM) will assist at the Board of Installed Masters. Bro Alan was Bob's Proposer into No XII and Bro Iain his Second.

After the Installation there will be a complimentary dinner in the Town Hall. The purvey will be supplied by ICE Scotland, the Town Hall caterers, in the shape of our own President of Stewards Bro Tony Buckley who is its proprietor. The meal is guaranteed to be superb. The menu is a main course of steak pie followed by cheese, biscuits and coffee/tea. The meal is "smaller" than usual to try to move things along on the evening.

The usual No XII Loyal and Masonic Toasts will be observed. The artistes entertaining us will be Joanna Crossan and Rueben Beck accompanied by Polly Beck on piano, so it will be very much a family affair.

During his term in of office Bro Crossan aims to continue the growth of the Lodge, further enhance its involvement in the community, continue its significant charitable work and support Sister Lodges in Scotland and beyond. In being elected Right Worshipful Master, Bro Bob will follow in a long line of distinguished citizens who have held this position.

Originally from Lanarkshire, Bro Bob studied at Bell College of Technology and Glasgow College of Building and Printing where he qualified as a full Member of the Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (MCIAT). Thereafter, he worked for several different architectural practices in various sectors of the industry. He won a prestigious worldwide prize for his 3D CAD architectural illustration of a retail project in London.

Since retiring from an international firm of architects, where he held the position of IT Systems Manager and Associate Director, he has designed and created the current Lodge website, which he continues to update, along with its Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Bro Bob moved to the area after meeting his wife, Fiona, who is a native of Greenock. Together they have a daughter, Joanna, who is currently studying Musical Theatre. Brethren who are lucky enough to attend the dinner after the installation will hear her perform as she will be entertaining us with some well-known songs. Bro Bob also has another daughter and two grandchildren.



**Our Previous Meeting**  
**No XII and The Great War**  
**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November**  
**An evening of remembrance and commemoration**



Very often, I like to have roving reporters, in other words people rather than myself, provide material for Twelve Talk. Unusually, this time, it does not come from a No XII member but from Bro Paul Docherty PM PGBB of Lodge Sir Michael No 989. Bro Paul attended the meeting and put a report on the 989 Facebook page the next day. Also, he sent it to Bro Alan Beck and me. He kindly agreed that it could be used in *Twelve Talk* as a report on the evening.

*Last night, myself and WSW James Watson attended Lodge XII for a special meeting "Greenock Kilwinning No XII and the Great War - A Very Special Meeting." Whilst we were light in 989 numbers, can I assure you it didn't diminish our enjoyment of a very special and frankly unique evening. Bro Jack Glenny PM led the assembled in worship, Bro Iain White PM then gave his lecture on the XII Roll of Honour. PM White had clearly done months and months of research to present a truly wonderful piece of work. He mapped out the Roll of Honour and those decorated for gallantry, Masonic support for returning brethren and, to conclude, "We that are left". This was absolutely worthy of the solemnity of the evening. He talked of perhaps giving a lecture in the future, revealing more of what he and his friend, librarian Ian McCracken had uncovered about these brethren and their perhaps brief, but historic, lives. I for one will certainly make a point of going along if it ever comes to fruition.*

*Each presentation was superbly dove-tailed with firstly Bro Keith A. Bowes, PM Lodge the Gael 609, Honorary Member No XII and ex Scots Guards, giving the stories behind the pipers involved in the war, their importance to the troops, the tunes they wrote and also how they, as important motivators to the Scottish troops become important targets for the enemy (along with Officers of course). The lecture was interspersed with pipe tunes played by his own son, Bro Keith J Bowes also PM The Gael on a set of wonderful pipes, over 100 years old with a rich history, inexorably linked to wars before and after the Great War itself.*

*Between the other lectures, Bro Alan Beck PM firstly gave a reading entitled "The Red Retreat" by Robert W Service (a quick google/wiki search will throw up a mountain of information about this man with an interesting life indeed!) The rest were songs from the time, from "Is my team ploughing" a medley of Music hall songs (unfortunately most of which I recognised!) Land of Hope and Glory, Rule Britannia with a rousing version of the National Anthem to close. I*

*should also make special mention of the readings from Bro Beck PM "Dulce et decorum est" and "In Flanders field" both wonderfully apt and received in absolute silence.*

*The evening was Chaired by Master of Ceremonies for the evening (and in his last official capacity as RWM of XII) Bro Allan T Glen. Well done to Bro Glen.*

*This was a memorable evening that will certainly not be forgotten by anyone present.*

*I would also pay tribute to ALL the brethren of XII and the brethren who assisted in making it so. The hard work and dedication were there for all to see*

**Bro Paul Docherty PM**  
**Lodge Sir Michael No 989**  
**Lodge Secretary and PGBB**

One of the things that I observed at the meeting was that in my 44 years as a member of No XII, I had never heard the names of the 10 brethren who made the supreme sacrifice, and have their names on the War Memorial Altar, spoken in the Lodge. As we remembered their sacrifice, and commemorated the centenary of the Great War Armistice, this omission was put right. I intend to make a formal proposal to the Lodge, seconded by Bro Alan D Beck PM, that, from this year on, the Roll of Honour be read at the meeting nearest to Armistice Day and the silence observed, so that these brethren may be forever remembered in their Mother Lodge.



**Archibald Lindsay Barr**  
**George William Campbell**  
**James Hannah**  
**Henry Hay**  
**Arthur Johnston**  
**John Duncan Macfarlane**  
**David Rankin Fleming MacKail**  
**Alexander Niven Russell**  
**Joseph Henry Sanders**  
**James Ritchie Smith**

***Went the day well?***  
***We died and never knew.***  
***But, well or ill,***  
***Freedom, we died for you.***  
***Went the day well?***  
***When you go home,***  
***Tell them of us and say,***  
***"For your tomorrows,***  
***These gave their todays".***

*John Maxwell Edmonds (1875 -1958)*

Lest we forget ...



# **No XII and The Great War** **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November** **An evening of remembrance and commemoration** **The Aftermath**

In my presentation at the meeting, I showed a photo of Bro Arthur Johnston's name on the Merchant Navy War Memorial at Tower Hill, London. Bro Arthur is commemorated here because, having been lost on the ss Ardglass when she was sunk by the German Submarine UC-31, Bro Arthur has no grave but the sea. When Bro Edward Molloy and I left a Poppyscotland cross in April, this is the first occasion, to my knowledge, that Bro Arthur's loss has been formally marked by the No XII

After the meeting was over on Tuesday, Bro James Watson, WSW of Lodge Sir Michael No 989, approached me and said that he was just about to make a visit to the battlefields and graveyards of the Western Front. He said that if I sent him the details of the No XII brethren who made the supreme sacrifice, he would visit their graves and memorials. This I did.

Bro James has reported back to me on visits to the graves of Bro John Duncan McFarlane in Forest Communal Cemetery, Le Cateau, France and Bro Joseph Henry Sanders in Brandhoek Cemetery, Belgium; Bro Archibald Lindsay Barr on the Loos Memorial and Bro Archibald Lindsay Barr on the Arras Memorial in France. On each occasion, he left a Poppyscotland cross and put a suitable message in the visitors' book.



Photos taken at Brandhoek cemetery, where Bro Lieutenant Joseph Henry Sanders Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) rests are on the left and below.

We are very grateful to Bro James Watson for taking all this trouble and visiting these brethren. They are now being remembered in the Craft in a way that has not been the case for almost a century.

Bro James further said by email, "It's great work you are doing, we at 989 don't seem to have or have lost records of our roll of honour, it is our intention to try and rectify this."

Photo of Lieutenant  
Joseph Henry Sanders  
*Greenock Telegraph*  
June 1918



Nov 18	Shona Paton	Dumfries New Zealand	
8 Nov 18	James Watson	JAMES WATSON 26 EDINBURGH GREENOCK PARK THE	NOTE TO REMEMBER JAMES SANDERS A BROTHER OF LODGE XII GREENOCK. FELL THE BATTLE OF BATTLEFIELD 1918

## **The Centenary of The Armistice Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Greenock Cenotaph**



Most years, I am at the Cenotaph in the Well Park for the Service of Remembrance. In years gone by, it was with my Dad and my Uncle both of whom served in World War II. Sadly, they are now in the Grand Lodge Above. Often, in the past, it has been as a piper in a band and when I met Bro Hector Macphail PM, a piper too, at Well Park, we were reminiscing about these days. This year I was accompanied by my son, Cameron and we went to join the brethren of No XII who were paying their respects.

Bro Hector and I were talking about being there in all kinds of weathers. Bro Allan Glen our RWM reminded me that, in 2017, it had been a beautiful sunny day. But not for the Centenary. It was cold, wet and windy; dreich would be a good description for the weather. Yet, despite this the gathering was bigger than I can remember it and the number of wreaths laid by local organisations more numerous. People wanted and needed to be there, and they were.

Rev Alan Sorenson led the worship, and his words were poignant and moving. 3 of the Greenock Masonic Lodges laid wreaths: Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII, Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 and Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121. It has been good to see this development since No XII led the way in 2012 when Bro Alan D Beck was RWM. It is appropriate that our Lodges are present, being, as they are, inexorably linked to the fabric of the community and its social history and their brethren having contributed so much.



The No XII Wreath is  
laid by RWM Bro  
Allan T Glen






**Masonic Brethren at the Cenotaph despite the inclement weather**

**Bro Allan T Glen RWM (XII) Bro Malcolm Sinclair IPM (1121) Bro Robert J Bain PM (XII) Bro Thomas Porteous RWM (175) Bro Allan I MacFeate IPM (XII) Bro John Laird RWM (1121) Bro David Stevenson (XII)**

The No XII 'Deputation' was made up of Bro Allan T Glen RWM, Bro Allan I MacFeate IPM, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Robert J Bain PM, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Alex Gray and Bro Edward Molloy – a fine turn out.

### **The Battle's Over National Tribute**

**BATTLE'S**  
OVER




A NATION'S TRIBUTE

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11TH NOVEMBER 2018

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100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE



There were many aspects to this National Tribute. One facet involved pipers, all over the world, playing Pipe Major William Robb's  $\frac{3}{4}$  Retreat March "When the Battle's Over" in different locations at 0600 on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – 100 years to the minute after the Armistice was signed. The advertising poster above clearly shows soldiers of the Great War from a Scottish regiment, 2 of whom are pipers and one is playing. We heard at the commemoration evening from Pipe Major Bro Keith A. Bowes PM about all the roles fulfilled by pipers during the Great War.

Pipers were free to choose where they played. It is reckoned that some 1,000 pipers took part. Some global locations include mountains (including Ayres Rock, Australia), the Menin Gate, Westminster Abbey and Arlington Cemetery. We had at least 4 freemasons involved in Inverclyde:

**Bro Iain White PM playing at The Esplanade**



Bro Donald McRae Secretary Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No 1121 at the Gourock War Memorial  
Bro Billy McCready Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No 1121 at the Free French Memorial on Lyle Hill, Greenock  
Bro Billy Mooney WJW Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 at the Port Glasgow War Memorial  
Bro Iain White PM Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII at Greenock Esplanade.

I chose to play at the end of the Esplanade adjacent to where the Navy Buildings, Fort Matilda and the Royal Naval Torpedo Factory (RNTF) once stood. No XII had many members who were based at Fort Matilda with the Royal Garrison Artillery and the Royal Engineers. Bro Captain Playfair (who presented the Lodge carpet with Bro RL Scott) was in the RGA there and Bro Colonel DFD Neill PM DSO was based there even in the days before there was a formal

Territorial Army. We had many engineers and other staff from the RNTF joined No XII.

## Monthly Draw

The 2018 Monthly Draw is well under way and payment is now being accepted for 2019!! Treasurer Bro David Stevenson is keen that we support this handy fund raiser that is a great help with the day- to-day running costs of the Lodge. Number(s) are available at £1 per number per month and there is no limit to the number and each entrant can have as many as they like! Payment can be made (1) by cash to Bro David (2) by cheque made payable to Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII - Social Fund (3) by internet banking to RBS Sort Code 83-22-20 Account Number 10000509 as a one-off payment in multiples of £12 with the entrant's name shown in the payment reference box or (4) by standing order to same bank details as above for your chosen monthly amount.

## Test and Capitation Fees

**Test Fees are now due** and £40 should be paid by any of the means above. **Capitation Fees** are £35 for Life Members (at their discretion). These may be paid by any of the means stated above for the Monthly Draw. Please note that the payment is to a different account if you are doing it online – 10000495. All other bank details are the same



**Bro Henry Sebbon Tibbles PM**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November**  
**A Happy 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday**



From left: Bros Alistair Glenney PM Iain White PM Allan T Glen RWM and Hector Macphail PM, with Bro Henry in front

The photo shows a 'deputation' of brethren of No XII who went to visit Bro Henry Sebbon Tibbles on the occasion of his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> November. We found Henry in good spirits and enjoying visits from ourselves, the church and his neighbours. We spent just under two hours with him. Armed with a suitable cake (1 candle) and soft drinks we sang Happy Birthday which Bro Henry enjoyed. Henry once or twice reminded his visitors that we were members of the best

Lodge in Scotland! Well, you can't disagree with a man celebrating his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday!! We also took greetings to him from W Bro Ian Rainford of The Scots Lodge No 2319 (EC), Bro Henry's Lodge in London and its Mark Lodge. Bro Henry appreciated this.

When Henry was Installed into the Chair of No XII, this biography was in the Installation Programme. *Henry Sebbon Tibbles is a remarkable character in many ways and a very special gentleman. Born on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1919 in Minster, by Sheerness (Kent), he assumes the chair of his Mother Lodge for the first time to-night, aged 82 years and 16 days. He took his first degree during the Second World War on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1942. At that time, he was in the Royal Navy and stationed locally. He spent all of the war years in the Navy, marrying Gourock girl Muriel along the way. When Henry returned to civvy street, the printing trade beckoned, and he rose to the position of Company Director. Unfortunately, for No XII promotion took Henry to London, but XII's loss was The Scots' Lodge's gain and he joined No 2319 (EC) on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1969. Henry's enthusiasm led him to be installed as Worshipful Master of The Scots' Lodge in 1980. At this time, he brought a deputation up to the Town Hall when KK Morrison was Master of No XII and very strong links between the two Lodges began to develop. These will be further cemented this evening, both by Henry's installation into the Chair of his Mother Lodge and the presence of the brethren of The Scots' Lodge, led by their WM, Ali MacLeod. Henry has held many senior positions in the craft and amongst these are the following: London Grand Rank (1989), WM of Scots' Mark Master Masons Lodge No 406 (EC) (1984), Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England (1987), President of the Board of Grand Stewards (1987), Commander of the Scots' Lodge Royal Ark Mariners No 406 (EC) (1994), Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank (1999) and membership of many other Masonic Orders. He is well respected*



*by the brethren of the Scottish and English constitutions, but by none more so than those here in his Mother Lodge. After Henry's retirement and return to Scotland, we were delighted to welcome him back to No XII on a regular basis. His great dedication to the Craft has led him to perform a number of duties to help No XII, for example filling the offices of Tyler, Treasurer, WJW and WSW. Henry was awarded Distinguished Service Membership by No XII in 1990 and received his 50 Year Jubilee Diploma in 1992. This evening, he receives the highest honour any Lodge is able to confer on one of its brethren. Nobody deserves it more.*

## **From the Old Minute Books**

*I was saying during one of my presentations at the Great War commemoration meeting, that sometimes the work of the researcher is made more difficult when the minutes are not as clear as they might be. This can lead to frustration and also, more importantly, leave interesting and important questions unanswered. On such example follows from the summer of 1923.*

### **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 1923**

Bro Wm. Gray PM in the Chair

At a meeting of the General Committee

In the absence of the RW Master and the IP Master, the Chair was taken by Bro Wm Gray PM

It was explained that the Meeting was called to consider the advisability of opening the Lodge on the following Tuesday so that our Members might have the opportunity of welcoming Brethren in the US Fleet, presently lying off Greenock, a number of whom had expressed the desire to visit our Lodge.

The Chairman asked for a full expression of opinion and when the vote was taken it was decided that the meeting should not be held.

*So, the frustration for me is (a) What were the opinions? (b) Who expressed them (c) What was the vote numerically? (d) How had the request from the Americans been received? (e) Why did the Lodge General Committee come to such a decision? There must have been a reason, especially given the Lodge's commitment to supporting the War that had so recently ended. Sadly, we shall never know.*

## **Old Installation Programmes**

To further build our archives, I am looking for Installation programmes from the following years: anything before, and including 1955, 1957, 1958, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1993, 2008 and 2010. So, brethren, look in the loft, that foostie old case or the cupboards and presses in the house and see what you are able to come up with.

Just last week, I received 2 old programmes from Bro Peter R Sinclair PM. Bro Peter sent them from down South, where he is now domiciled. Although he is not able to get to our meetings all that often, he still takes a keen interest in the Lodge and follows what we are up to in Twelve Talk. They are from 1953 and 1956 and concern the Installations of Bro Ryrie J Erskine Orr OBE

and Bro Archie Miller. Bro RJ Erskine Orr was, of course, the proprietor of the *Greenock Telegraph* and Bro Archie Miller had a butcher's business at Charing Cross by the Victoria Harbour.

I shall be doing a feature on the Erskine Orr programme soon.

## Reports on Visits

- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 18th October 2018 (Entering) – attended by RWM Bro Allan Glen, WSW Bro Bob Crossan and WJW Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Georgetown No 1170 on 20th October 2018 (Annual Installation) – attended by WJW Bro Brian McFadyen
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 on 22nd October 2018 (Entering) – attended by WSW Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro James Livingstone, Bro Eddie McGill and Bro Scott Branchfield
- Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No 1121 on 23rd October 2018 (Passing) – attended by Bro James Livingstone
- Lodge Canongate Kilwinning No 2 on 24th October 2018 (Entering) – attended by RWM Bro Allan Glen
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 26th October 2018 (Annual Installation) – attended by WSW Bro Bob Crossan, IPM Bro Allan MacFeate, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Eddie McGill, Bro Fraser Cameron and Bro Scott Branchfield
- The Prince's Lodge No 607 on 5th November 2018 (Annual Installation) – attended by Bro Alan Beck PM

## Lapel Badges

For many years, Bro Henry S Tibbles PM sold anniversary lapel badges in aid of the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund through the West Column, the monthly newsletter of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire West. Recently, he passed the mantle on to our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson. Bro David asked me to start to publicise the badge availability through *XII Talk*. This will now be a regular feature.



Lapel Badges for 25, 40, and 50 years' service are available at a cost of £5.50 each. A special "gem" set badge for 60 years is also available at £10. **All prices are excluding postage.** For every badge sold, £2 will be donated to the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund. All cheques should be made out to *David Stevenson*

Badges, may be purchased individually by qualified Brethren, or in bulk by Lodges who may wish to make presentations to deserving Brethren, for meritorious service. All enquiries and orders to [treasurerno12@aol.com](mailto:treasurerno12@aol.com). Please make cheques payable to *David Stevenson*.





Grumpy Past Masters badges are also now available from David at a cost of £5.50 each, excluding postage.

**Iain White PM**  
**18.11.18**

**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.**