

Twelve Talk

30.01.21

Issue 141

Meetings 2020-21

• 05.01.21

Jack and Alistair Glenney
Memorial Lecture by Bro. James
P. Livingstone PPGM
“Every picture tells a story.”

* 19.01.21

Lecture by Bro. Canon Joseph J
Morrow Past Grand Master
Masonic Heraldry

* 02.02.21

Lecture by Bro. Ronnie Armstrong
PM The Lodge of Erskine No
1566
John Witherspoon

* 16.02.21

Quiz

* 02.03.21

Lecture by Bro. Robert Geddes
PM Lodge St John's Whiteinch
No. 683
The symbolism of The Magic Flute

* 16.03.21

TBC

* 06.04.21

Lecture by Bro. John NS Malcolm
PM The Lodge of Erskine No
1566
The week before Kick Off

* 20.04.21

Lecture by Bro Kevin Pollock
The Holy Land

*03.06.21 SPECIAL MEETING

Lecture by Bro. Canon Joseph J
Morrow Past Grand Master
*The Ceremonial Year of The Lord
Lyon*

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 J Robert Crossan 22 Dungourney Drive Greenock PA16 7UW (07788923074)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 8 Mount Stuart Drive Wemyss Bay PA18 6DX (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

COVID-19/Corona Virus Pandemic (11)

I am glad to say that the members of the White family all got through our period of self-isolation unscathed. However, we did so just in time for the new lockdown measures coming into force.

Normally, in common with many members of the Craft, I'd have had a busy time through the Burns Season but that has mostly gone by the board this year. However, as with the Craft, all is not lost. I recorded a piece for the Annual Celebration of the Mother Club released on 25th January. It went out on YouTube and has had over 1800 views. I was also involved with a Zoom Burns event for the Glasgow Business Club along with Bro Drew McKenzie PM of Lodge Crawfordsburn and another with Drew for Lodge Crawfordsburn on the same day (details below). I was Zoomed to Darlington, in Co. Durham, with other Members of the Mother Club to do a Charity Burns Supper. So, using modern technology, the Burns world continues, just like the Craft.

We are changing our approaches because the situation demands it, but I think there are very valid questions to be asked. If, and when, the crisis is over do we just go back to what we did before? Are we learning anything from our experiences just now? Is there room for some of our present, creative approaches to remain or do we just throw the baby out with the bath water?

I, for one, believe that the Zoom approach does have something to offer.

I have been involved in Zoom lectures, both in the Burns and Masonic worlds and have been joined by people from all round the world: Canada, Eastern and Western USA; Gozo (by Malta); Russia; the former Soviet Republics; Portugal; Belgium; Germany. Of course, with traditional meetings this is not possible. Is there not something to be said for continuing with 1 or 2 meetings a year that can be done by Zoom and involve people from around the world? It would be easy to keep in touch with distant Lodges that we associate with in this way – for No. XII a good example would be the Scots Lodge No. 2319 in London. Whilst visits could continue every couple of years, we could meet in between and not have to spend hundreds of pounds to do so. We could even devote some of the money saved to joint charitable efforts. The possibilities are endless. Might we open some of these lecture meetings, dependent on content, to gentlemen from the outside world in the way that we do with our Burns Suppers? God forbid, but could the female of the species join us on occasion?

I can imagine the response that such suggestions will get from some of our brethren but as Bob Dylan said nearly 60 years ago now, “The times they are a’ changin’...” We need to change now to reflect changes in the world; we need to be more creative; we need to be more outward looking. Otherwise, the future for the Craft looks bleak to me. These changes will require inspiration and strong, effective leadership. Where are these leaders in our midst? These are my personal thoughts but from conversations I have had with brethren from other Lodges there are kindred spirits out there. Do we have the will to change or shall we “ultimately face disintegration”? Just saying ...

Iain White PM



Financial Matters

All No XII members will have just received a resend of a communication from our Treasurer Bro. David Stevenson. We cannot meet just now, but our financial obligations continue e.g., Test and Capitation Fees, Charitable work, Insurance etc. Please give Bro David's request your careful consideration

The Monthly Draw restarts this month. This is a very important fund raiser, so please contact David to renew your subscription or leave your standing order running. December's winner was Bro. KK Morrison PM.

Lodge Memorabilia

In my role as Lodge Librarian, I am still very keen to have any documentary or other links to the past – installation programmes, Orders of Service, postcards, flyers etc. etc. If they are lying in a cupboard or drawer at home, please get them to me to enhance our understanding of No XII's past.

I put this in *Twelve Talk* in each edition, but I don't get as many responses as I would like. If you have a bit of spare time, please dig around in the house and see what you can find. Things that seem, on the face of it, to be trivial can play a vital part in piecing together the history of the Lodge and filling gaps in the Minutes. For example, artifacts from the Conn family that we received recently have enabled me to identify Bro. James Conn, (RWM 1930-32) in the Installation photo of 1936.

Anything at all will be worthwhile – and if you happen to come across the Minute Books for 1796 – 1854 or 1867 - 1873, they would be particularly welcome! ☺

The Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture

Previous Meeting using Zoom Technology
Tuesday 5th January 2021
***'Every picture tells a story'* by Bro James P. Livingstone PPGM**
(Renfrewshire West)

Remembering Jack and Alistair Glenny



Left: Jack and Alistair at Jack's Installation into the Chair in November 1981. This was Alistair's favourite photo with Jack.

We expected a treat at the inaugural Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture, and we were not disappointed. Bro Jim Livingstone PM (left) gave us a fascinating talk, illustrated by PowerPoint slides, on the time that Bro. Robert Burns spent in Edinburgh in 1786/87. When he arrived, he looked up Bro. James Dalrymple of Orangefield, Ayr, who took him to Lodge Canongate Kilwinning. There



he met many of the nobility and the great and the good in Scottish society. Amongst these was Bro. James, the Earl of Glencairn who became a great champion for Burns. He introduced him to Bro. William Creech, who ultimately published the Edinburgh edition of Burns's poetry.



Fig.6: The Inauguration of Robert Burns as Poet Laureate of The Lodge Canongate Kilwinning – Edinburgh, 1st March, 1787
By Stewart Watson 1846

(The Museum of the Grand Lodge of Scotland at Freemasons' Hall in Edinburgh)

The painting above hangs in Grand Lodge and shows Burns being created Poet Laureate of Canongate Kilwinning. The interesting thing is that there is no mention in the Lodge Minutes of this happening! Bro Jim looked into the pros and cons of whether it ever did happen and gave us his verdict. He also looked at a couple of interesting characters who were members of Lodge Canongate and entertained us with their life stories. All in all, it was a most interesting evening with 28 in attendance.

Previous Meeting using Zoom Technology
Tuesday 19th January 2021
‘Masonic Heraldry’ by Bro. Canon Joseph J Morrow
Past Grand Master Mason
ME First Grand Principal (Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of
Scotland)
Lord Lyon King of Arms



We had an extremely interesting talk from Bro Joe Morrow on Masonic Heraldry, drawing on his expertise and skills in that area from his position as The Lord Lyon King of Arms. He is shown on the left in his ceremonial dress. In that post he is the official with responsibility for regulating heraldry in Scotland, issuing new grants of arms, and serving as the judge of the Court of the Lord Lyon, the oldest heraldic court in the world that is still in daily operation.

He was telling us that the first recorded Lord Lyon was Henry Greve c 1399 but that The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine has a letter written by Robert Bruce to a Lord Lyon in 1313. Either way it is an ancient office.

Bro Joe explained how the symbols and colours on a coat of arms tell a story and that story will relate to the person or organisation holding the arms. Masonic coats of arms sometimes have Masonic symbols therein but sometimes do not e.g., the Trades House of Glasgow Lodge No. 1241 is an example of the latter.

When a coat of arms is awarded, a hand painted version which is done on vellum is presented. It costs anywhere from £1100 upwards. Recently, a Masonic Lodge Arms cost just over £2,000. Normally The Lord Lyon receives about 80 applications per year for arms but in 2020 that number increased to 110, perhaps as a result of the lockdown.

37 attended the meeting.

If you missed the talk live, you may view it here <https://youtu.be/j4UHDukBkoQ>

Next Meeting using Zoom Technology
Tuesday 2nd February 2021
***‘John Witherspoon’* by Bro. Ronnie Armstrong PM**
The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566



Our next zoom meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd February 2021 when we welcome Bro Ronnie Armstrong PM The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 (left with RWM Bro Bob Bain in 2012) who is doing a talk entitled ‘John Witherspoon’. John Witherspoon (February 5, 1723 – November 15, 1794) was a Scottish – American Presbyterian Minister and a Founding Father of the United States.

Your invitation from RW Master Bro Bob Crossan is below:

Tuesday 2nd February 2021 – 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start

No XII is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: No XII's Zoom Meeting - John Witherspoon - Bro Ronnie Armstrong PM No 1566

Time: Feb 2, 2021 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94200608068?pwd=dXRGZXhabitFVG1sa2hya1NjQVl0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 942 0060 8068

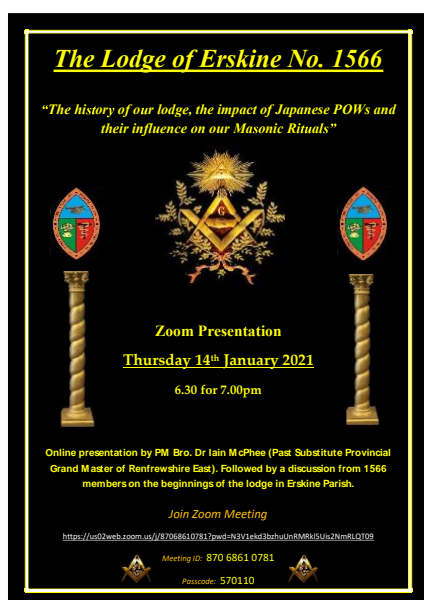
Passcode: 215528

Virtual Deputation to The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566
Talk - The History of The Lodge of Erskine
Bro. Dr. Iain McPhee PM PPGMS
Thursday 14th January 2021



McPhee (left above) on the origins and history of The Lodge of Erskine and its links to the brethren who had been prisoners of the Japanese Imperial Forces in the Far East during World War II.

A virtual Deputation from No. XII, made up of RW Master Bro Bob Crossan, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Robert J. Bain PM, Bro Ken McDougall PM Secy., Bro. Brian McFadyen WSW, Bro. Campbell Snoddy WJW, Bro. David Stevenson Treasurer and Bro. Alex Gray, joined The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566 for its Zoom meeting. It was a talk by Bro. Iain



It was a fascinating story – interesting, illuminating, horrifying, human and unhuman, moral, immoral and amoral; it charted the development of the Lodge and illustrated the ultimate triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. Most interesting was the way in which the experiences of the Far East PoWs had impacted on the workings of the Lodge and its very being.

Bro Iain weaved a fascinating tale and illustrated the merits of having an accurate understanding of the past as we move into the future. As he spoke, I was thinking about a quotation I had once heard. After the talk, the wonders of IT assisted again as I searched for it. It was from Michael Crichton (1942 -2008) the American author and screenwriter: “If you don’t know history, then you don’t know anything. You are a leaf that doesn’t know it is part of a tree.” How apposite to Bro. Iain’s message!

I believe that all members of The Lodge of Erskine should know this story as illustrated so expertly and sensitively by Bro. Iain. Perhaps all Masons should?

Virtual Deputation to Lodge Crawfordsburn Greenock No. 1121
Charity Burns Supper
Tuesday 26th January 2021

A virtual deputation, composed of Bro. Iain White PM, Bro. Alan D. Beck PM, Bro. Ken MacDougall PM Sec. Bro. David Stevenson Treas. and Bro Cameron White attended Lodge Crawfordsburn’s online Charity Burns Supper on Tuesday past

As an Honorary Member of Lodge Crawfordsburn, I was delighted to deliver the Immortal Memory. We had readings and craic from Bro. Drew McKenzie PM, pipes from Bro Donald McRae and songs from Bro. George Carson (all of Crawfordsburn) and his guitar. There was a memorable group rendition of the Star o’ Rabbie Burns. It was memorable because it was quite the worst that any of us had ever heard – more reminiscent of a pack of howling wolves!! Something to do with Zoom, I believe.

It was a most enjoyable evening. Apart from Crawfordsburn, Lodges represented were: XII, 68, 175, 217, 626, 1425, 1814, 195 and 607. Brethren from as far away as Aberdeen and Plymouth took part. As a result of its efforts, with over 40 brethren participating, Lodge Crawfordsburn will be able to donate £300 to the Inverclyde Dementia Resource Centre – a very worthy cause.

Masters of No. XII

The Missing Years – Important Discovery by Bro Brian McFadyen

GREENOCK INFIRMARY.
CENTENARY REPORT.

Our archives do not have the Minute Books for the years 1796 – 1854 or 1867-1873. We do know the names of the Lodge Masters in the 1867 – 1873 period. However, 1796 – 1854 is another story. By painstaking research in journals, periodicals and newspapers we are slowly filling the gaps. Sterling work by our Senior Warden, Bro. Brian McFadyen, has brought us another result. The clipping on the left, from the *Greenock Telegraph* of Monday 8th February 1909 has a Centenary Report on the Greenock Royal Infirmary in Duncan Street. It mentions the foundation stone being laid on 13th May 1807. Present at the Ceremony was the RW Master of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning Alexander May. It was No. 14 at the time.

So, it's well done to Brian as another piece of the jigsaw is put in place.

We now have

1806 Alexander May

1828 William Leitch

1831 JB Kirk

1832 JB Kirk

1833 JB Kirk

1834 JB Kirk

1836 JB Kirk

1847 Robert Ewing

1849 Robert Ewing

1850 Robert Ewing

1851 JG Lawrie

1852 JG Lawrie

1853 JG Lawrie

and the hunt goes on!

Lord Inverclyde (1897 – 1957) A Brother of No XII Part 2



In the last edition, some initial information about Lord Inverclyde was included. His coat of arms is shown on the left and, had I been thinking, I could have arranged for Bro. Joe Morrow to tell us something about the story behind the symbolism therein – maybe that may yet be done. We move on now to look at the Lodge Minutes where Lord Inverclyde's application and affiliation is recorded in 1947.



At a Meeting of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. 12, held in the Saloon of the Town Hall on Tuesday 29th April 1947 at 730 pm.

Brother J. Reid Kerr RW Master in the Chair

<p><i>Nomination for Affiliation by Lord Inverclyde</i></p>	<p><i>An application for membership by Affiliation was submitted from:— The Right Honourable John Alan, Baron Inverclyde Peer of the Realm, Regular Army Reserve of Officers. A member of the Household Brigade Lodge No 2614 EC and By Affiliation a member of The Trades House of Glasgow Lodge, No 1241 SC. The Application was remitted to the Inquiry Committee</i></p>
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At a Meeting of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. 12, held in the Saloon of the Town Hall on Tuesday 13th May 1947 at 730 pm.

Brother J. Reid Kerr RW Master in the Chair

In view of the amount of business to be dealt with, in connection with the March Degree, it was agreed to postpone the Ballot for Initiates until next meeting, and to take only the ballot for the affiliation of Bro Lord Inverclyde, which when taken was found Clear.

At a Meeting of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. 12, held in the Saloon of the Town Hall on Tuesday 27th May 1947 at 730 pm.

Brother J. Reid Kerr RW Master in the Chair

affiliation	The obligation as an Affiliate Member was administered to The Right Honourable John Alan, Baron Inverclyde, Peer of the Realm, Regular Army Reserve of Officers, who is a member of the Household Brigade Lodge No 2614 EC and The Trades House of Glasgow Lodge, No 1241
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At the Annual Meeting of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. 12, held in the Saloon of the Town Hall on Tuesday 9th December 1947 at 730 pm.

Brother J. Reid Kerr RW Master in the Chair

The prescribed charges having been assented to by Bro Charles McKinnon, he nominated as his Deputy, Bro Rt Hon., Lord Inverclyde. Thereafter the Master elect, accompanied by Installed Masters retired to a room adjoining the Lodge

At a Meeting of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No. 12, held in the Saloon of the Town Hall on Tuesday 23rd December 1947 at 730 pm.

Brother Charles McKinnon RW Master in the Chair

D.M. Bro Lord Inverclyde Installed	Bro The Rt. Hon., Lord Inverclyde, Deputy Master elect was conducted to the Altar by P.M. James Conn and presented for Installation. The duties of Installing Master were carried out by P.M. Bro Owen Stewart.
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Obviously, Bro. Lord Inverclyde must have been absent from the Installation Ceremony on 9th December (although no mention is made of this in the Installation Minute) as his Installation as Deputy Master was carried out at the next Regular Meeting, a fortnight later. Thus, did Lord Inverclyde's time as a No. XII Office Bearer begins...

Lapel Badges

For many years, the late 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. 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
31.01.21

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.