

Meetings 2022-23

- 03.01.23
No meeting

- * 17.01.23
Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial
Lecture
Victorian Characters of No. XII by
RWM Bro. Brian McFadyen
and Bro. Iain White PM

- * 07.02.23
Raising

- *21.02.23
Passing

- * 07.03.23
Raising

- *21.03.23
Raising

- *04.04.23
Raising

- *18.04.23
Mark

- Saturday 25.02.23
Burns Supper (630 for 7pm)

- Thursday 01.06.23
Special Summer Meeting
Entering by PMs of the Lodge



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 Brian McFadyen 47 Renshaw Road Bishopton PA7 8HL (07810008075)
Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 6 Stirling Drive Gourock PA19 1AH (07810270787)
Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

The Importance of History

The book Jurassic Park was written by Michael Crichton. A very successful author, many of Crichton's novels were written in the science fiction genre. Yet Crichton was a man who had a keen interest in the past. Attributed to him is the quotation, "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."

I came across this by chance the other day. Having spent my Saturday afternoon last weekend at the 75th Anniversary rededication of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425, history was very much in my mind. I was led to think about the importance of history to Masonic Lodges. Most Lodges were formed for a reason, chose their names for a reason and have survived till today for a reason. Of course, all these reasons are held within the history of the Lodge, as is much more information. This information in the Minutes may relate directly to the Lodge itself (when a particular piece of the furnishings was donated and by whom), to Sister Lodges (their significant anniversaries or brethren being honoured) or to the wider community (fund raising and cheque presentation or work done in support of local groups).

However, the information is only as good as the Lodge Secretary and his perception

of the requirements of the role that he is discharging.

It is fascinating to look through the Minute Books of No. XII and see how the historical value of the information therein changes as the Secretary changes.

In some cases, the information does not go beyond the very basic; sometimes the floor workers are not even mentioned! In other cases, we have a very full description of what went on at the meeting, up to, and including, a detailed synopsis of the Sermon at a Divine Service.

The Minute Book should be part of the social history of the town and detail the impact of events on the Lodge and the wider community. The weight of responsibility for that is on the Secretary's shoulders.

The Minutes are also very useful when questions of "tradition" arise in Lodges. They are much more reliable than word of mouth or the recollections of an old Past Master who, perhaps, has an axe to grind. The written records can prove, or disprove, questions about things "that have been always done that way in this Lodge." Sometimes a wee look at the old Minutes shows that they haven't!

Even with the most comprehensive minutes a problem arises when they are mislaid or, even worse, destroyed in some calamity like a fire. We have seen this happen in our own Province. Bro. Robert Harron's task of producing a history of Lodge Ardgowan for the 75th was made even more challenging because a significant portion of the records was/

(continued overleaf on page 2)

The Importance of History (continued)

was destroyed in the fire at 626 (along with that Lodge's own records). I was happy to help when Bro. Robert asked me if I could and I did a bit of reverse engineering from No. XII records. While it took many hours, it was a task that I really enjoyed.

My belief is that every Lodge should do everything that it can to make sure the historically important information that it possesses is made safe. With that in mind, a few years ago, No. XII purchased a big fireproof safe in which all our important records are now stored. Furthermore, the records are, bit by bit, being digitised and stored electronically on disc with copies stored both in the fireproof safe and away from the Lodge. The process of digitising the records is also being carried out by Lodge Crawfurdsburn. Other Lodges in the Province may be doing the same; if not I respectfully suggest that they consider it. RWPGM of Glasgow, Bro. Andy Mushet is the man to contact about digitising. His company, Anderson Printers, is doing the work for No. XII and Lodge Crawfurdsburn.

In conclusion, I return to where I started viz. the quote from Michael Crichton. He refers to the notion of belonging and of being part of something as being conditional on knowing the history of the organisation. This takes me back to where I was in the last *Twelve Talk* when I was lamenting the apparent lack of interest in Masonic Education amongst the brethren. In short, awareness of the past consolidates the present and prepares us for the future. Then we all know the tree that our wee leaf belongs to! Just saying...

Our Previous Meeting Tuesday 7th February 2023 Raising by The Lodge of Erskine No. 1566



We had high expectations of The Lodge of Erskine and we were not disappointed. A Raising was conferred that was enjoyable, interesting, precise, clear and efficient. Bro. Dr. Iain McPhee PM was the Conferring Master and, as we would expect from Iain, his work was immaculate, including a fine rendition of the Tracing Board which is so rarely heard. Several brethren who were in attendance have said to me that it was a wonderful evening and so it was.

We were further honoured by the presence of the new team of Provincial Commissioned Office Bearers being with us. Unfortunately, the new RWPGM Bro. John W Black was indisposed and unable to attend.

RWM Bro. Ian Wood must have been very proud of his team. A very strong relationship has built up between No. XII and The Lodge of Erskine since our RW Master Bro. Brian McFadyen took the Chair in 1566 (his affiliate Lodge) in 2014-15. This was certainly cemented.

Our Candidates, Bro Jordan Kincaid and Bro Bryan Campbell-Black were very fortunate to receive such a fine degree.

Our Next Meeting Tuesday 7th February 2023 Raising

Again, the degree will be a Raising, but this time conferred by our own Office Bearers. The team is **Prayer** Bro. Robert J. Bain PM; **Obligation** Bro. Brian McFadyen RWM; **Retrospect** Bro. Robert Marshall WJW; **Raising** Bro H. Macphail PM; **Secrets** Bro. Iain White PM; **Apron** Bro. Alex Johnson WSW; **Working Tools** Bro. Colin B. Reddy JD; **Traditional History** Bro Kenneth C. MacDougall PM; **Charge** Bro. Paul Branchfield SD.

The Candidate is Bro. Finlay Campbell

Honour for Bro. J. Robert Crossan IPM



Bro. Bob Crossan IPM (left) has just become District Grand Deputy Steward in the District Grand Priory of Strathclyde. He is presently in the Chair at the Preceptory of Ardgowan. He took up that position on 2nd November 2022. Many congratulations, Bob!

Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII Burns Club - Annual Burns Supper 2023

The Burns Supper will be held on Saturday 25th February 2023 in The Saloon of the Town Hall, Greenock. As ever, a great night is in store. Bro. Bobby Kane, PM Lodge Polkemmet No. 927, Past President of The Robert Burns World Federation will propose The Immortal Memory. The Toast to the Lasses will be given by Bro. Willie Dick PM Lodge Sanquhar Kilwinning No. 194. Alan Beck will sing accompanied by Craig Dunsmore and Jamie Stables. Sandy Reddy will recite for us and the piper is Iain White.

It will, as usual, be a fund raiser for our Charity Drive. Book a place (£25 with Bro. Alan D. Beck PM). Provost Drew McKenzie PM has chosen Ardgowan Hospice as his nomination this year.

**Out and About on the Burns Circuit
Friday 11th February 2023
Burns Supper – Barrhead Bowling Club**



Barrhead Bowling Club Burns Supper - Friday 17th February 2023

From left: Bro Iain White (PM XII) Bro Cameron White (XII) Bro Iain Gordon (PM 275 and 607) Ian Ross Bro Bobby Shaw (PM 275 and 607) Bro John Hutchison (PM 275) Bro Colin B. Reddy (175 and JD XII) Bro Sandy Reddy (175 and HM XII)

Our Junior Deacon, Bro. Colin B. Reddy is a keen bowler and Past President and Past Champion of Barrhead Bowling Club. This year, he took on the task of resurrecting the Bowling Club's Burns supper after around 20 years. He did so very successfully and Bro. Sandy Reddy (Colin's Dad), Bro. Cameron White and I all journeyed to Barrhead for the ongoings. There was a very Masonic flavour to those performing as may be seen from the photo above. Only Bro. Cameron made it to the tabletop during the *Star o' Rabbie Burns!*

**From Bygone Days
The Lodge Artefacts (2)
Photographed by Bro. Derek A. Kirkpatrick PM**

We return to the photos of Bro Derek Kirkpatrick PM to display some of the historical artefacts of the Lodge. Derek is a wonderful photographer and we are grateful to him for his work

We are lucky as a Lodge to have so many links to the past through our artefacts and whilst few are of any monetary value, they mean a lot to the Lodge and to Freemasonry in general terms.

The Old Jewels of the Lodge

These old jewels will have considerable financial value, being solid silver. They were presented to the Lodge by RWM Bro. Alexander Govan in 1737. They were lost for some time but returned in the manner described in the Minute excerpt below

Council Chambers Greenock Thursday evening 23rd February 1882

William Allison RWM, in the Chair

Discovery of Old Jewels for some time supposed lost

Thereafter, DM Edward Blackmore read to the meeting a correspondence which had taken place between the Secretary of the Lodge and Brother John Fleming of Edinburgh relative to the discovery of the ancient and long lost jewels of the Lodge by John Kerr Gray Esq. late Town Clerk of Greenock and having referred in appropriate language to the interesting discovery which had been made Brother Blackmore presented the Jewels to the RWM on the Lodge's behalf amid the acclamations of the assembled brethren. The Secretary was instructed to write letters to Brother John Fleming of Edinburgh thanking him for the kind interest he had taken in the matter and to Mr. John Kerr Gray thanking him cordially





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.

The Monthly Draw

A note from the Treasurer, Bro David D Stevenson

As we are now in January it is time to renew the subscriptions to the Monthly Draw.

Usual format - £12 per annum per number, payable between Jan and Dec. - so £12, £24, £36 etc

- For those of you paying by standing order - thank you and no need to do anything
- For those of you wishing to renew your subscription or start a subscription please send me the appropriate amount by one of the following ways -

by cash, when I see you, or cheque, to 5 Broomberry Drive Gourrock PA19 1JY, or

by bank transfer to – RBS Sort Code 83 22 20 Account No. 10000509 Payment Ref - your name and 'Draw'

Where I can and appropriate, I will allocate the same numbers as previous years

Any questions please drop me a mail.

DDS Treasurer

Reports on Visits

- The Funeral Service for Bro. Alistair J. Barlas of Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No. 1425 on Thursday 19th January 2023 attended by Bro. Iain White PM and Bro James P. Livingstone PM 1425
- Lodge Toryglen No. 1551 on 20th January 2023 (Passing exemplification conferred by The Glasgow Star Lodge No. 219) – attended by Bro Paul Branchfield SD and Bro. Craig McFadyen
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 on 23rd January 2023 (Entering Exemplification) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Hector MacPhail PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro David Stevenson, Bro James Livingstone and Bro Bryan Campbell-Black
- Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No 1121 on 24th January 2023 (Annual Divine Service) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, WJW Bro Robert Marshall, Bro Hector MacPhail PM and Bro Kenneth Morrison PM
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 27th January 2023 (Harmony after Meeting Cancelled – attended by WSW Bro Alex Johnson and WJW Bro Robert Marshall
- PGL Renfrewshire West on 29th January 2023 (Divine Service) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Hector MacPhail PM, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, WSW Bro Alex Johnson and Bro James Livingstone
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 30th January 2023 (Raising) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Hector MacPhail PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM and Bro Cameron White
- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 2nd February 2023 (Passing) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen and Bro James Livingstone
- PGL Renfrewshire West on 3rd February 2023 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, IPM Bro Robert Crossan, WJW Bro Robert Marshall, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Hector MacPhail PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro James Livingstone and Bro Bryan Campbell-Black
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourrock No 626 and Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 on 5th February 2023 (Joint Annual Divine Service) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, WJW Bro Robert Marshall, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM and Bro James Livingstone who delivered the Divine Service

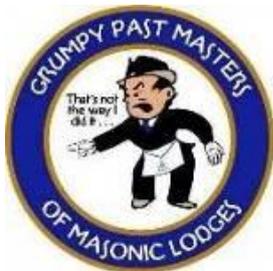
On all occasions, Fraternal Greetings were exchanged. The RWM thanked those brethren for their support.

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. He passed the mantle on to our Treasurer, Bro David Stevenson. Bro David asked me to start to publicise the badge availability through *Twelve Talk*. It has been, and remains, 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
20.02.23

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.