

Twelve Talk

04.10.20

Issue 134

Meetings 2020-21

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Lecture by Bro. Brian McFadyen
WSW PM 1566
Pitcairn Island

* 15.09.20

Lecture by Bro. Iain White PM
Guess who's coming to dinner?

* 06.10.20

Lecture by Bro. Ian Wood PM The
Lodge of Erskine No. 1566
*A Life below the Ocean Wave – My
Submarine Memories*

* 20.10.20

Lecture TBC

* 03.11.20

Lecture TBC

* 17.11.20

Lecture TBC

*01.12.20

Lecture TBC

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 (4)

If anything, the situation with the pandemic is worsening with numbers infected, hospitalisations and, sadly, deaths on the increase again. Even the American President Donald Trump and his wife have contracted the virus, following in the footsteps of our own Prime Minister Boris Johnson. We have seen a tightening of restrictions on us all. On a lighter note, Gail and I were out for a wee celebratory meal for our anniversary yesterday evening in Gourrock and at 945pm we had last orders at the bar. 10 minutes later all the lights came on and we were asked to drink up and leave. I was taken back to the dim, distant past and the days of my youth and ten o'clock closing!

It is difficult to see when we shall gather again in the Saloon for our Meetings. It is getting ever more important that we understand that Freemasonry is so much more than this. At least nowadays we have the electronic wizardry that allows us to keep in touch and carry on with important facets of our Craft. Of course, in No XII we are using Zoom software to continue with our Regular 'Meetings'. As time goes on, these are becoming vitally important.

Our next Zoom meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th October 2020 to which all No. XII Brethren and any visitors are welcome.

As this is our first guest speaker from outside our own Lodge, please can you join us and show support Bro Ian Wood in what will be a very interesting lecture.

Please feel free to forward this email to any Brethren that you think would be interested in joining.

Our Lecture for the evening is entitled "A Life below the Ocean Wave - My Submarine Memories" and will be delivered by Ian Wood, PM, The Lodge of Erskine 1566.

I hope to see as many of you as possible.

Bob Crossan RWM

Visiting Brethren are most welcome, and the Zoom link is below

Please join us and help to keep the Craft thriving.

Time: Oct 6, 2020 07:15 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96516171562?pwd=ZFRIZDlrdXJBWGRuVm5UQTZUUFN5QT09>

Meeting ID: 965 1617 1562

Passcode: 750128

The following message was sent out by RWM Bro Bob Crossan.



Bro. Captain Allan Ian MacFeate 1946 - 2020

It was a beautiful, sunny day when *The Captain's* funeral cortege left his home on the Greenock Esplanade on Thursday 17th September at 1230. Going via the RWSABC, Greenock Wanderers RFC and Greenock Cricket Club to the Crematorium, many of Allan's friends gathered at these places as a token of respect.

Circumstances having dictated that the funeral had to be private, members of No XII and the Sister Lodges formed a socially distanced Guard of Honour at the entrance to the South Street Cemetery. It was a fitting act of commemoration and respect and almost 40 brethren stood in the bright sunshine and lined either side of the driveway. We were led by RW Master Bro Bob

Crossan and Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master Bro Robin McIntyre. No XII dress was worn, including Past Masters' Jewels where appropriate. *The Captain* would have approved!

The tribute opposite was carried in *The Greenock Telegraph* of 19th September. Allan will be sadly missed by us all.

Saturday September 19, 2020 Greenock Telegraph
editorial@greenocktelegraph.co.uk www.greenocktelegraph.co.uk



Tributes paid to sea-faring dad who travelled the globe

By Claire Amber Young
Greenock Telegraph

He was such a well-travelled and hugely intellectual man and someone that people loved to listen to

TRIBUTES have been paid to a much-loved Greenock man whose sea-faring career took him all over the world.

Allan Ian MacFeate, who was affectionately known as 'the Captain', passed away peacefully at Ardgowan Hospice on September 4 at the age of 74.

Husband to Catherine, 73, and sister to Anne Torrey, Allan also leaves behind son Derek and grandchildren Freddie, 12, and Lexi, 10.

Allan and Catherine married at George Square Congregational Church in Greenock in August 1970 and they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary just a couple of weeks before his passing.

Derek spoke to the *Tele* about his dad's life on the ocean waves and his everlasting love for his family.

He added: "My dad was a very warm and engaging man who loved his family."

"He adored my mum and was absolutely besotted with Freddie and Lexi. "My dad was so well turned-out and very dapper."

"He was such a well-travelled and hugely intellectual man and someone that people loved to listen to."

Born in Dunoon but brought up in Greenock, Allan was a pupil at both Gourrock High and Greenock High, before leaving to study at James Watt Nautical College.

After taking the title of top cadet at the college, he went on to work for Scottish shipping company Ben Line, where he completed his second mate, first mate and master mariner qualifications.

Allan was one of the youngest ever



masters to be made captain of a fleet and was at the helm of the Ben Ocean Lancer — a self-propelled drillship which was built in Scott's shipyard — for 15 years.

He started out working on ships carrying freight and moved into vessels working in the oil industry.

By the time he was in his twenties, Allan was travelling all over the world, visiting places including the Far East, Singapore, Hong Kong, USA and Mexico, Brazil, Africa and Antarctica.

Derek added: "When he travelled, he took an interest in the places he visited and tried to educate himself on different cultures and traditions."

"When he came back from voyages, people were always so interested in finding out where he had



been."

Allan continued as a mariner for many years and progressed with a whole range of interests on dry land.

He was a past master of Greenock and Kilmanning Lodge No.12 and fundraised tirelessly for charities including Children in Poverty Inverclyde.

Mr MacFeate was also a member of the Innerkip Society, Greenock Burns Club and the Cotters.

A keen sports fan — who loved that his grandchildren Lexi and Freddie are sporty — was also a member of Gourrock Golf Club, Greenock Wanderers Rugby Club, Greenock Cricket Club and the Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club.

Allan also played the cornet in the 3rd Gourrock Boys' Brigade band — and to pay tribute to that, and to his sailing career, Will Your Anchor Hold was played at his funeral on Thursday.

The procession left from the family home on the Esplanade via the Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club, the Greenock Wanderers ground at Fort Matilda and Greenock Cricket Club's Glenpark home, before heading to Greenock Crematorium.

Derek says he feels very sad that his dad will miss out on seeing Freddie and Lexi growing up but knows that his love of sport will inspire them on to great success.

He added: "My dad loved his sport."

"He would sit and watch the cricket at Glenpark from the Fox Street side."

"He was really involved in what Freddie and Lexi were doing."

"He will be much-missed and very well remembered."

Previous Meetings using Zoom Technology

Tuesday 1st September 2020
Lecture by Bro Brian McFadyen WSW PM 1566

Pitcairn Island - an Island with a troubled past but an extremely bright future



Our inaugural Greenock Kilwinning No. XII Zoom Lecture was delivered on 1st September 2020 by Bro. Brian McFadyen, WSW, on a subject very close to his heart.

As many of you know Bro. Brian was detached on a Community Policing role by the Ministry of Defence Police to Pitcairn Island in the South Pacific for 3 months during 2003 in support of “Operation Unique“, a Kent Constabulary investigation into Child Sexual abuse.

Bro. Brian delivered an informative lecture in which he explained the location of Pitcairn Island (above), the mammoth journey to get there, the history of the *Mutiny on the Bounty* leading to Pitcairn Island becoming what is now a British Overseas Territory. Brian also explained the reason for “Operation Unique” being set up and the trials and sentencing that resulted from them. Brian also went on to explain the restructuring plans now in place in an effort to regenerate the island which will hopefully ensure it has a bright future in the years to come.

Brian’s lecture was very well received by those who attended the meeting and resulted in an interesting discussion period at the end with Brian answering the many questions posed. Brian also informed us that he is still in regular contact with many of the Islanders to this date. His love of the island, its inhabitants and his enthusiasm for his topic was evident throughout.

Due to the continuing COVID-19 and Grand Lodge of Scotland restrictions on Lodge meetings, Bro. Brian has lined up Guest Speakers for our forthcoming Regular Meeting nights on a number of diverse topics which may/may not have a Masonic theme. These meetings are open to all No. XII brethren and any visitor(s) who would like to join us.

Tuesday 15th September 2020
Lecture by Bro. Iain White PM PPSGW Lodge Librarian

Guess who’s coming to dinner

The evening started with a tribute to the Late Past Master Bro Captain Allan Ian MacFeate who had recently passed to the Grand Lodge Above, and a moment’s silence for him.

In the second Zoom Lecture Meeting, Bro. Iain White described 4 historical figures that he would like to invite to have dinner with him. As Iain is no cook, he would have Bros. Tony Buckley and Gary Lewis preparing the meal! In his talk he named the guests, explained why he would invite them and said a little about their lives and contribution to society. The guests are shown below and, of course, are George Washington, Robert Burns, King George VI and Sir Winston Churchill.



In his talk Iain explained that these were all heroes of his, particularly because they were men of principles and beliefs. Also, he had chosen them for this dinner because they had all been members of the Craft and he sketched what he had found out about their Masonic involvement.

Iain took some questions amongst which was "Who else would you have asked given more time?" His list included Sir Alex Ferguson, Emmeline Pankhurst, Dame Vera Lynn and his Mum and Dad!

The numbers for this second talk had risen to 19 and it is hoped that, as time goes on, more Brethren will join us.

Bro Thomas P McIntyre PM and the Big No XII Square and Compasses

Thomas Pryde McIntyre was Initiated into Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII 20th September 1927. His occupation was given as Manager for Funeral and Motor Carriage Proprietors. He was 26 at the time and his place of birth was Greenock as was his residence at the time of his joining. Bro Thomas was passed on 18th October 1927 and Raised on 13th December. Bro Owen Dewar was RW Master. He was RW Master for one year, taking the Chair in 1939.



Many years later, when Bro Alan D. Beck left the Chair in 2014, he was presented with a Past Master's Jewel by the Lodge. It is shown in the photograph here. It was originally the Jewel of Bro Thomas P. McIntyre. The Jewel sadly had not come back from Bro McIntyre's family, and we might have lost it altogether, had it not been for the vigilance of Past Master Bro Peter R. Sinclair who found it for sale online on eBay. He bid for it and won the auction. Then Peter very generously presented it back to the Lodge in 2016 when he was up from England for one of our meetings.



Bro Thomas P. McIntyre had another claim to fame. On Tuesday 13th December 1938, at the Annual Installation, he presented the big illuminated Square and Compasses to the Lodge that is used in the Town Hall at Installations and Burns Suppers to this day. The extract from the minute is below.

Meeting on Tuesday 13th December 1938

RWM Bro William W Buchanan in the Chair

(The Annual Meeting and Installation)

The number of members in good standing is 632 and of this number 618 are Life Members.

Illuminated Square and Compasses

The decoration of the Saloon was enhanced by the illuminated Square and Compass which was gifted to the Lodge by Bro Thos. P McIntyre SW. Although there was no formal presentation, the brethren nevertheless appreciate that this Square and Compass is our own property.

We are fortunate that we know what Bro Thos. P McIntyre looked like! In the Office Bearers photo below (1936-37), where the RW Master is Bro Arthur FR Caird, Bro Thos is 8th from left in the middle row. He is Junior Warden. The photo is probably taken at the Annual Installation.



The Man Himself – Bro Thomas P. McIntyre

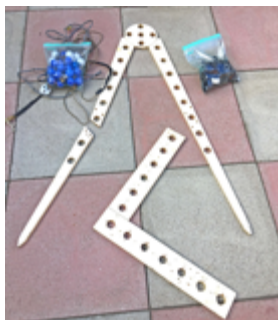
Bro Bob Crossan RWM and the Refurbishment of the Big No XII Square and Compasses

RWM Bro Bob did a sterling job in refurbishing the 82-year-old Square and Compasses presented by Bro. Thomas P McIntyre. Bob was good enough to write up a description of the process which is below. We are all grateful to Bob for the work undertaken, the write up and the photos.

It has been apparent for a long time that the Square and Compasses used at events in the Town Hall was in need of some TLC.

At our last meeting before the Lockdown I took it home and placed it in my garage, where it remained for a few weeks before I had the urge to get on with it.

The following is a list of each of the stages I went through to arrive at the required outcome.



Stage 1
Remove all light bulb holders and old wiring – 29th March 2020



Stage 2
Sanded the Square and Compasses to remove all the old paint – 13th April 2020

Stage 3
Repair the damaged leg by inserting metal plates to connect securely back to the main body – mid July 2020

Stage 4
Trawl through the internet to search for and order new Festoon lamp holders, new Festoon cable, new LED golf ball light bulbs, Undercoat paint, topcoat paint.
This stage probably took the longest time as the bulb holders etc were difficult to find and came in different sizes, so had to order 4 No different single ones until I found one that fitted all the holes

Stage 5
Make sure the Square and Compasses were properly sanded, surface filled and ready for painting

Stage 6
Apply Grey undercoat spray paint and let dry

Stage 7
Lightly sanded the Square and Compasses ready for topcoat Gold metallic paint



Stage 8

Apply spray topcoat and let dry, apply second coat

I then decided the Square and Compasses might benefit from having a G in the centre



Stage 9

Cut-out a letter G from old piece of plywood, sanded it and applied undercoat paint and then Gold Metallic paint

Stage 10

Order flat plates to mount the G into the Square and Compasses and then connect it in place. The Letter G is mounted using a few screws on the back and can be easily dismantled if need be

At this stage I decided I would try to enhance the look of the Square and Compasses by covering with Gold Leaf



Stage 11

Trawl internet again, this time for gold leaf and the size (glue), varnish (shellac) and brushes

Stage 12

Apply Gold leaf and seal with shellac. The Square and Compasses now look really good covered in Genuine 24 Carat (*imitation*) gold leaf, well the real gold leaf would have cost me almost £400 – beginning of Aug 2020



Stage 13

Install all the new lightbulb holders and the new wiring and test, working well with 1-watt LED blue bulbs

As a final touch I decided to have LED tape lighting around the outside to give the Square and Compasses a 'glow'

Stage 14

Back to the internet, source lights and transformer etc.

Stage 15

Mount the LED tape lighting in place and test. We have three LED tape zones, one around the Compasses, one around the Square and one around the G. These can be controlled with a remote and the zones can be controlled together for same colour, brightness etc or have individual colours and brightness. – near end August 2020



Stage 16

Create a lifting/hanging handle near the top at the back using 2 metal hooks and pictures hanging wire.

The project was almost complete and just needed a little tidying up, so I inserted a connection plug near the top of the Square and Compasses

This means we don't have a huge trailing wiring loom, but we have a separate wiring loom, these can be connected together, as per instructions on connector and power can be switched on.

As the final touch I was looking for a way to control the blue LED lights, which can either be on or off. Back again on the internet and found a 4-bar extension which you can switch on/off each of the sockets via a small remote.

Job Done...

Phewwwwwww !!! Did I do all that

Last but not least I have taken the Square and Compasses into the Town Hall and placed them in the Master's Room. – 22nd September 2020

Please be careful when setting it up, when needed, please also ask for instructions and also be careful when packing it back up again into storage, in the Master's Room

My final word on this is that I have really enjoyed this wee project and it helped pass the time during lockdown.

As you can imagine as well as the cost of materials etc, it did take up quite a bit of my time. I truly hope everyone enjoys the upgraded, luxury model and would like to think it will serve the Lodge well for the foreseeable future.

I would like this renovation to be my gift to the Lodge for allowing me with the honour of being Right Worshipful Mater.

Bob Crossan RWM September 2020

Financial Matters

All No XII members will have received 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 speedy attention.

The Monthly Draw pay-outs were suspended from March to August and the monies donated to Inverclyde Royal Hospital Staff Fund. David has re-started the draw from September and the winner is Tony Buckley -£25 is on its way to you, Tony.

From the Old Minute Books

I was in Bournemouth last week and 5 cruise liners were anchored off the beach, their engines silent because of the travel and holiday restrictions. No such problems for the No XII brethren of 1933 which may be seen in the Minute Book extract below! I remember, some years ago now, the late Bro James Sinclair Snr reporting on a similar sort of meeting that he had attended whilst on a cruise.

Monday 4th September 1933

Bro John Waddell, RW Master, in the Chair

Bro PR Jacobs SW referred to an interesting meeting he was present at on board the CPR liner 'Melita' on a trip to Spain in July which was attended by over thirty brethren, four of whom were members of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning.

My interest was aroused, and I decided to see what I could find about this ship that Bro PR Jacobs, one of No XII's most eminent masons, sailed and holidayed on. It's amazing the way that the internet draws you in and how the searches bring you leads, dead ends and sometimes information that seems contradictory. Such was my experience in researching the ss "Melita". Her story is both interesting and sad. In the end, I cannot be absolutely sure that I have got the story exactly right but here we go ...



Above is a photograph of the ship, in her CPR livery. She was built by Barclay Curle in Glasgow and her story is summarised in the table below, taken from <http://www.norwayheritage.com/> Hands across the Sea

S/S Melita, Canadian Pacific Line

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Burden	Built	Shipowner or operator	Dimensions
13,967 gross	1913 at Glasgow by <u>Barclay, Curle & Co. Ltd.</u>	<u>Canadian Pacific Line</u>	520ft x 67.2ft
Year	Remarks		
1913	Keel laid, originally ordered by HAPAG		
1917	Apr. 21, launched		
1918	Jan. 25, maiden voyage Liverpool - St John		
1918	Aug. 20, first voyage Liverpool - New York		
1925	Fitted with superheaters and rebuilt to 15,183 gross tons by Palmers Shipbuilding & Iron Co. Ltd.		
1932	Converted to cruise ship		
1935	Sold for scrapping		
1935	Became Italian transport ship Liguria		
1950	Scrapped		

The information listed above is not the complete record of the ship. The information was collected from a multitude of sources, and new information will be added as it emerges.

Initially, she seems to have been an emigrant ship taking people to North America. We can see that in 1925 she was enlarged by Palmers Shipbuilding (in Jarrow, NE England) and then in 1932, converted to a cruise ship. This ties in with Bro Jacobs being on her going to Spain in 1933.

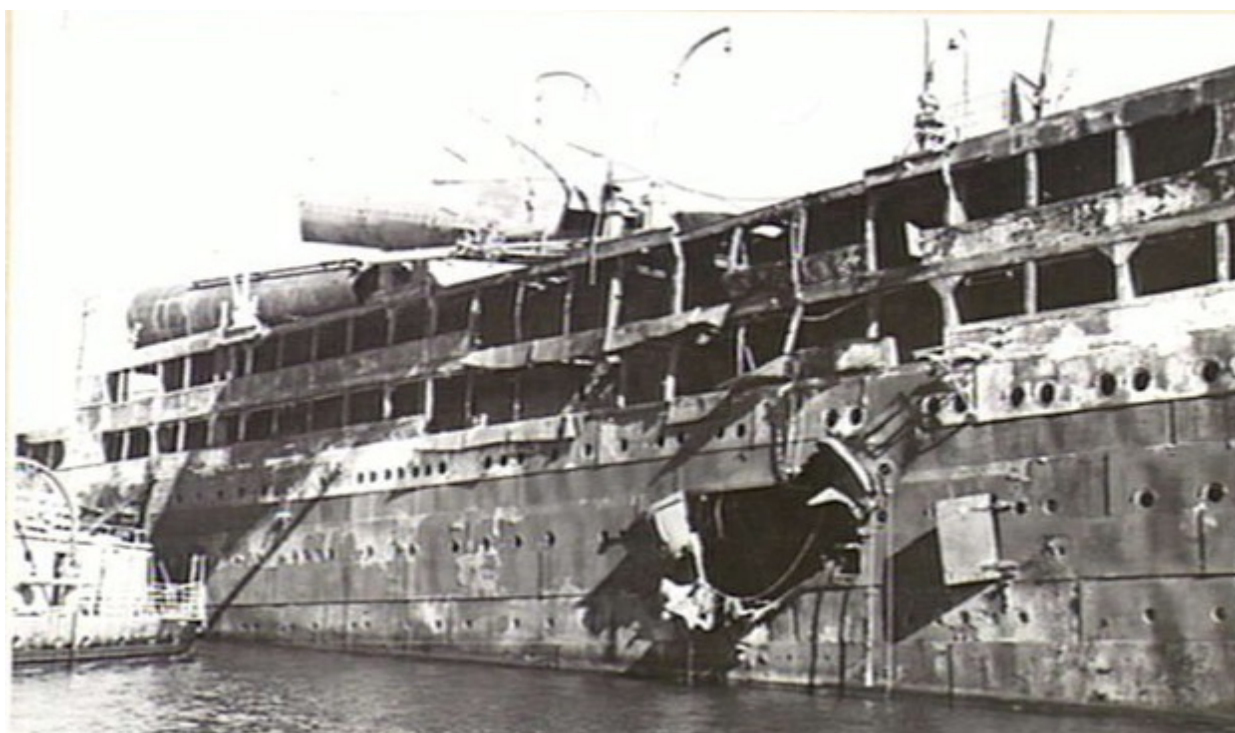
Just 3 years after her conversion she was sold for scrapping but became the Italian transport ship 'Liguria'. It seems that she ended her life being scrapped in 1950. However, the plot

thickened when I looked at a lead on the Australian War Memorial site
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/021071/>

There I found the photograph below with the legend "Tobruk, Libya. 1941-09-05. two of the wrecks in the harbour. the larger vessel is the Italian troopship Liguria and the small the Bankura, a NAAFI supply ship."



This site is showing 'Liguria' as a shell in Tobruk Harbour in 1941, and further in the next photo this seems to be confirmed. The legend states, Tobruk, Libya. 1941-10-05. a close view showing a gaping hole in the big Italian troopship, "Liguria". The toppled funnel and twisted ironwork can also be seen on this ship which was bombed and burnt out.



This end seems to be confirmed in <https://www.military-quotes.com/forum/day-military-history-page187-t15506.html> the website 'International Military Forums' – This day in History for July 5th 1940 where it says

“1940 Italian Troopship ‘Liguria’ and Destroyer ‘Zeffiro’ torpedoed by Swordfish from HMS Eagle off Tobruk, ‘Zeffiro’ sunk and Liguria beached.”

What of the scrapping in 1950 ten years after this? A further, and deeper, dig took me to <http://www.oulton.org/cwa/newsships.nsf/pages/47FC5AB3A423B4A585256A22002F9F71> where I found the following about ss ‘Melita’

Used on cruises until Sep. 1934 and sold in Apr.1935 when she was towed to Genoa for scrapping but was bought by Italia Line, renamed LIGURIA and used as a military transport.

In Jul. 1940 she was damaged by an air attack on Tobruk and on 22nd Jan.1941 was scuttled in Tobruk roads. Later raised and seized by the British, she was towed to Savona in Aug.1950 and scrapped.

This would seem to tie it all together.

I wonder if Bro. Peter R Jacobs ever knew of the sad fate of the CPR Liner on which he cruised to Spain.

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.

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 treasurno12@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
04.10.20

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.