

Twelve Talk

06.02.23

Issue 157

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)

Education, Education, Education

Away back on 23rd May 2001, whilst seeking a second term in office, Rt Hon Tony Blair, The Prime Minister, was launching Labour's election manifesto at the University of Southampton. In his speech he said, "Our top priority was, is and always will be education, education, education." More recently, on 18th August 2015, Scotland's First Minister told education leaders in a keynote speech that education would be her priority during her next term in office. She said, "Let me be clear – I want to be judged on this. If you are not, as First Minister, prepared to put your neck on the line on the education of our young people then what are you prepared to do? It really matters."

It really matters. The leaders in our country put a great emphasis on the value of, and need for, education. So where do we stand in the craft? Where are we as far as masonic education is concerned? I really do wonder.

At No. XII's last meeting we had the annual Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture. RWM Bro. Brian McFadyen and I delivered 2 short lectures on colourful characters who were members of No. XII in the second half of the 19th Century viz. Bros.

Joseph George Shanks and John Cony Sicklemore. It should have been an interesting evening and the 31 brethren who attended (21 from No. XII and 10 visitors) seemed to find it so. However, this attendance was very much smaller than usual. Many of our regular attenders were noticeable by their absence. And why? Personally, I think it was because it WAS a Lecture and NOT a degree. However, I believe that there is much more to Freemasonry than working degrees and churning out Master Masons from a production line. Back in the 1920s and 30s it was relatively common in No. XII for lectures to be part of the proceedings. They were not exclusively on Masonic topics either.

I also question the validity, indeed the whole point, of Exemplifications, unless they are by a Lodge visiting from another Constitution. In my view, they are a pointless exercise. There is no atmosphere generated, ritual presentation suffers consequently and often the poor 'candidate' is embarrassed when he cannot remember the answers to questions that he is asked!

I have heard it said that Exemplifications are 'good practice' for the degree workers. Such training works far better when coaching and advice can be given at the time during a rehearsal session.

Several years ago, we vowed in No. XII that never again would we hold an exemplification. Even at the last minute, most Past Masters could give an interesting, impromptu talk about their experiences over their years in the Lodge. A contribution to masonic education beats the exemplification every time. Just saying...

Our Previous Meeting
Tuesday 17th January 2023
The Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture

It was a time of great sadness a couple of years ago when our Past Masters, the Brothers Glenny – Jack and Alistair- passed to the Grand Lodge Above within weeks of each other. The Lodge determined that their memory would be commemorated by the naming the annual January lecture after them. This was felt to be appropriate because between them they had a great interest in historical matters and consummate skills in communication.

This year we had 2 mini-lectures, based on 2 brethren of No. XII who had been active in the second half of the 19th Century, Bros. Joseph George Shanks (1831-1911) and John Cony Sicklemore (1801-67). Both served their country – Shanks as a Major in the Royal Marines and Sicklemore as a Captain in the Royal Navy - and almost certainly a services' posting to the Greenock area led to each becoming a member of No. XII.

Bro. Sicklemore was present in the Lodge when Joseph George Shanks was Initiated as may be seen in the Minute extract below.

At a meeting of the Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No 11/12 held in the Royal Hotel Greenock on the evening of Thursday the ninth of December 1858 at eight o'clock

Present *Brother John Scott Jr PM acting*
 John F McKay Senr Warden
 Robert Grieve Junr Warden
 John Scott Yst Senr Deacon
 James Newton Junr Deacon
 John Sicklemore Inner Guard
 Adam Leitch Steward
 Wm. Newton Steward

A number of Brothers from The Lodge Greenock Kilwinning

The Lodge having been opened in due Masonic form proceeded to the Initiation after being proposed by Brother Herriot and seconded by Brother McKay of Capt. Peter Maxton and Lieut Joseph Shanks RM of HMS Hogue who were duly entered apprentices and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Masons. It was then proposed by Brother John Scott Jnr, seconded Br McKay and unanimously carried that as the period had now arrived for the election of office Bearers for next year that a meeting of this Lodge shall be called by circular for that purpose for the evening of Tuesday 14th inst. At eight o'clock in the Royal Hotel after the usual Loyal and Brotherly toasts, the Lodge was closed in due Masonic Form.

On 10th February 1874, Bro. Shanks presented the set of Tracing Boards to the Lodge that are still in use today. Unfortunately, the Minutes of that year are not to hand but our RW Master Bro. Brian McFadyen found a letter in the periodical *The Freemason* relevant to the Tracing Boards whilst browsing on the internet. It is reproduced below.

GREENOCK.—*Kilwinning Lodge* (No. 12.)—A special meeting of this old and very flourishing lodge took place on the 10th inst., when a large number of the brethren assembled to do honour to the occasion, the business of the evening being the presentation to the lodge of a beautiful and costly set of tracing boards by Bro. Captain Shanks, Knight of the Imperial Order of the Medjidie, P. Prov. Grand Warden of Devon, &c. When the lodge had been opened in the first degree, the W.M. called on Bro. Shanks, who then addressed the meeting as follows:—Worshipful Master, Wardens, and brethren, a little more than fifteen years ago I had the honour and privilege of being initiated into Freemasonry in the body of this lodge, and although I have been separated from it for some time in consequence of being in Her Majesty's Service, although I have met with a truly fraternal welcome in every lodge I have visited or belonged to; although elsewhere I have attained a high position in all the degrees; yet I have

present in his mind, "What can I do for the lodge which has done so much for me?" He must be constantly saying to himself—

"I never enough can honour her

"Who, past all bounds, has honoured me."

Some few, indeed, there may be who will say "we pay for what we get, and there is no need to do more than that;" but, brethren, I hold that if the sum demanded from candidates for admission to our mysteries was a hundred fold more than it is, that amount even would be no equivalent for the inestimable advantage of being Freemasons; and I therefore, think we all ought to do as much as possible for our lodge. With these views in my mind, and after long consideration, I came to the conclusion that a set of tracing boards was most urgently needed in this lodge for the instruction of the brethren, and I now beg to offer these for your acceptance. [The boards were here unveiled and their splendid appearance drew forth long and loud plaudits from the brethren]. Bro. Shanks continued—I trust these tracing boards may be considered worthy of this lodge, and that their presence here will induce some of the brethren to study the science of Freemasonry more than they have hitherto done, and to search more deeply into the beautiful mysteries of its esoteric teachings, for we should ever remember that one may be thoroughly well versed in the ritual, may be well-informed in our secret means of communication, and yet be only on the very threshold of the science. All the beauty, all the knowledge being within, but still freely open to that Master who would search for them properly, aided by the light of the sacred volume; and it has ever been found that the more we know of Freemasonry, the better we understand its wonderful power for good, the more do we appreciate and love it. In the hope then that these tracing boards may conduce (even in a small degree) to the welfare of this lodge, I now ask your acceptance of them. A hearty and cordial vote of thanks was given to Bro. Shanks for his handsome present; and he then, by request of the W.M., delivered the lecture on the first tracing board in a manner highly gratifying to his audience, and was listened to with that close and interested attention which the Masonic lectures always command when ably delivered. This is the first time a lecture of this kind has ever been given in this lodge; the task being by no means an easy one, very few are willing to undertake it. At the close of the lecture Bro. Shanks was greeted with prolonged and rapturous applause. On one of the tracing boards is fixed an elegant silver plate, bearing the following inscription: "Presented to his Mother Lodge, Greenock Kilwinning, No. 12, by Bro. Captain Shanks, K.M., Royal Marines Light Infantry, Past Master of 139, E.R., Past Prov. Grand Warden of Devon, 1874."

Article in The Freemason referring to Bro JG Shanks and his presentation of the Tracing Boards to No. XII



Instituted in 1851, the Order of the Medjidie was issued in considerable numbers by Sultan Abdülmecid as a reward for distinguished service to members of the British Army and the Royal Navy and the French Army who came to the aid of the Ottoman Empire during the Crimean War against Russia. Bro. Shanks received this Order.



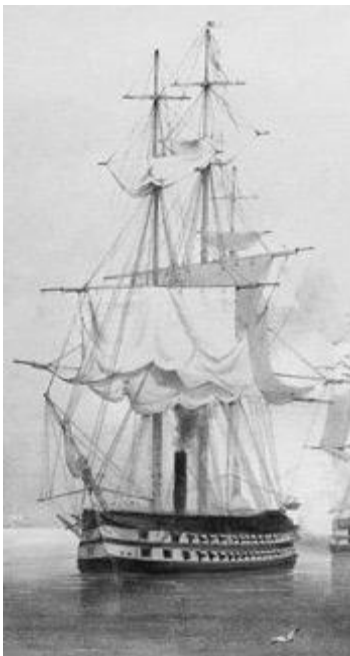
JG Shanks



HMS La Hogue

HMS La Hogue was a 74-gun third-rate ship of the line of the Royal Navy, launched on 3 October 1811 at Deptford. She was named after the 1692 Battle of La Hogue and was converted into a screw-propelled steamship frigate in 1850. From 1852 she acted as a guard-ship at Devonport under the command of Captain William Ramsay and saw her final service, still under Ramsay, on duties in the Baltic Sea during the Crimean War. On 18 September 1855, she ran aground off Renskär, Sweden and was severely damaged. She was refloated with the assistance of three gunboats after her lower deck guns were taken out.

She was eventually broken up in 1865. JG Shanks was serving on La Hogue when he joined No XII.



HMS *Princess Royal* (left) was a 91-gun ship of the Royal Navy. JCS (right) was made her Captain in 1854. Completed in 1853, she was disposed of in 1872. JCS commanded her when she took part in the bombarding of Sevastopol in the Crimean War.

Bro. Shanks is hadsomey kitted out in the photo but not, I think, as a Captain in the Royal Navy!





**The grave of Bro. John Cony Sicklemore in
Greenock Cemetery
The inscription on the stone reads**

**John Cony Sicklemore
Captain R.N.
Born 28th November 1801
Died 20th December 1867**

**Erected
by a few brother officers and friends
Greenock 1869**

They both had a big impact on the Lodge and the community although neither sat in the Chair. Bro. Shanks is buried in Edinburgh and Bro. Sicklemore in Greenock (above).

**Bro. Robin McIntyre PM RWPGM
Honorary Membership of No. XII
Tuesday 17th January 2023**



It was a very happy occasion when our Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Robin McIntyre, PM of Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626, was made an Honorary Member of No. XII in recognition for his many years of support in his present role and previously as Provincial Grand Secretary. He may be seen (left), being congratulated by RW Master Bro. Brian McFadyen

HM King Charles III Tuesday 17th January 2023

The sad loss of HM Queen Elizabeth II meant that the Lodge was without a picture of the Reigning Monarch to hang on the East wall. On his own and his Dad's behalf, Bro. Cameron White presented a print of HM King Charles III to the Lodge at the meeting on 17th January. Bro. Cameron, RW Master Bro. Brian and me (his Dad) are seen on the left with the print after the meeting.

It will have its first outing in the East on Tuesday coming.



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



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. Brian is shown on the left with RW Master Bro. Ian Wood on our visit up the road in December. We are looking forward very much to welcoming Bro. Ian and his brethren into the Saloon on Tuesday.

The Candidate will be Bro. Jordan Kincaid.

Annual Installation Lodge St Vincent Sandyford No. 553 Saturday 15th January 2023

Bo. Cameron White and I visited Lodge 553 for its Installation in the Temple in Ardery Street in Partick. We met up with Bro. Donnie Finlayson PM HM beforehand. We saw the Office Bearers installed and RW Master Bro. Andrew M. Grainger return to the Chair. The Ceremonial was carried out very proficiently. The cement of brotherly love was spread liberally at the ensuing harmony.



A few words from the Master

RWM Bro. Andrew M. Grainger, his guests and Ardery Street's magnificent East Wall

From Bygone Days (1) Bro. Jack Glenny PM

The Lodge Members were greatly saddened when Bro. Jack Glenny passed to the Grad Lodge Above a couple of years ago. He was a skilled after dinner speaker and, I was looking for something else entirely on the internet when I came across the photo, below, from the *Largs and Millport News* of January 1979. Jack was speaking for Largs Round Table and is the kilted one!



From Bygone Days (2) Bro. Ian Grant

I have written a great deal in previous issues about the late Bro. Ian Grant and his family connections with No. XII. Amongst other things, Bro. Ian was a great character and had a very outgoing personality. I knew him in the Royal West of Scotland Amateur Boat Club in the Esplanade and it is there (below) that he is in the limelight at a fund-raising fete running the Wheel of Fortune stall in September 1983. Ian's gift of the gab ensured that the tickets were sold rapidly! The photo comes from an issue of the *Greenock Telegraph* that I found (again) entirely randomly.

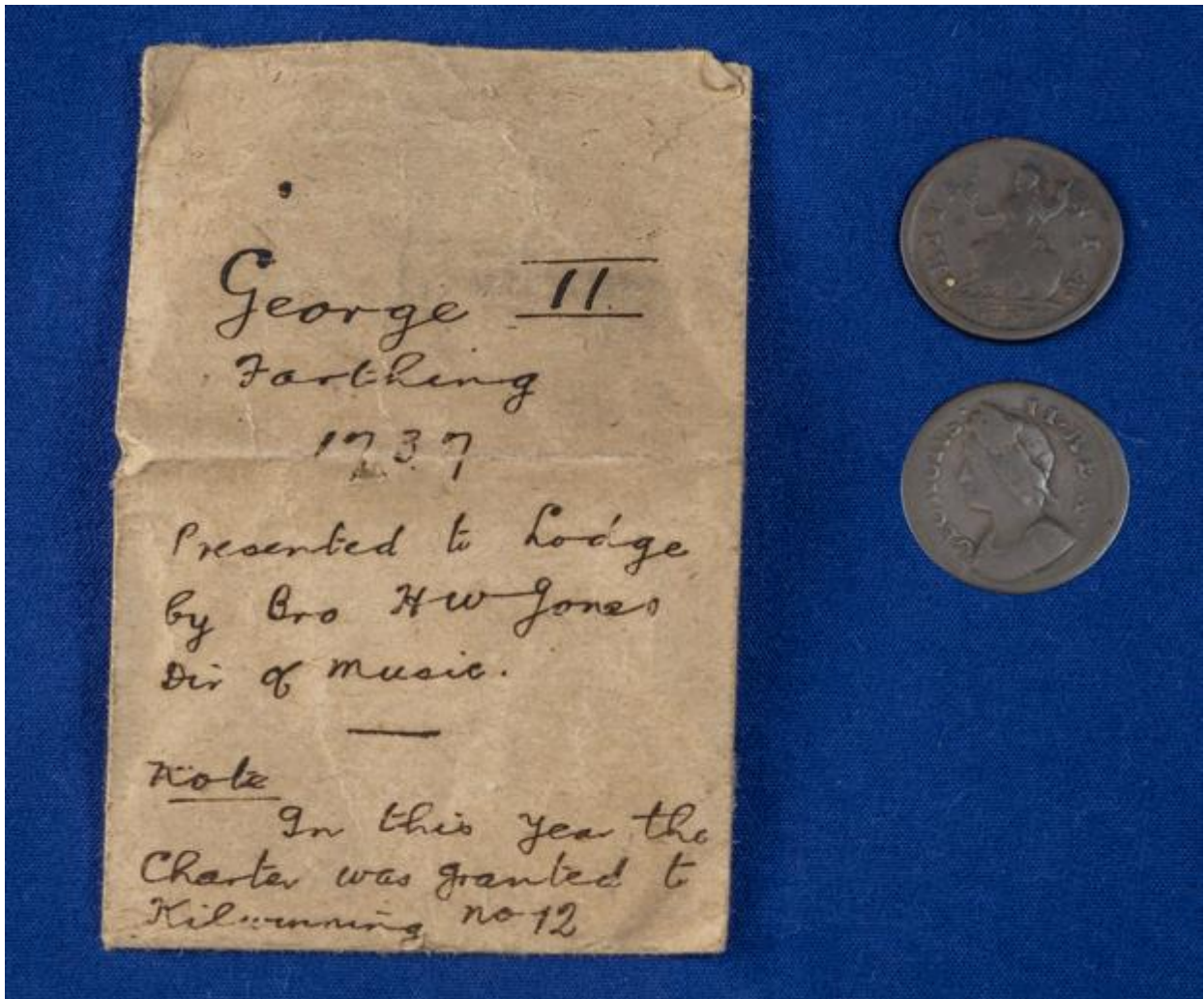


From Bygone Days (3) The Lodge Artefacts

Many readers will know that Bro. Derek Kirkpatrick PM, lives and works in the Southeast of England. He comes up to visit his Dad (Bro. Crawford) and the Lodge from time to time. He is also a very skilled photographer and, on a visit, last year, brought his gear up and photographed some of the Lodge artefacts in the Saloon. These are kept in our safes and cupboards and do not see the light of day as often as they might.

My plan is to feature Derek's photos over the next few issues and I hope that the items featured will be of interest. 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.

King George II Farthing



A farthing was, of course, $\frac{1}{4}$ of an old penny and today would be worth 0.21p! The story behind this one may be easily read from the photo.

Mark Penny and Keystone Inlay



This No. XII Mark Token, inlaid with a keystone, was presented by Bro. Alex More, our senior Past Master who was in the Chair from 1973 to 1975. I was there at his house in Luncarty, Perthshire, when he gave it to Bros. KK Morrison and Alistair Glenly PM. Bro. Alex had, in turn, received it from Bro. Archie Miller PM who was Master of No. XII in 1955-57. Alex had no idea how Archie came by it.

Grand Lodge of Scotland Bicentenary Jewel 1736 - 1936

The Grand Lodge of Scotland was established in 1736 with representatives being present on behalf of No XII which had, of course, been Instituted on 27th December 1728. These jewels (right) were struck for the Grand Lodge Bicentenary in 1936.



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 Gourock 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

- No XII Deputation to The Lodge of Erskine No 1566 on 8th December 2022 (Conferring of a Master Mason degree) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, WSW Bro Alex Johnson, WJW Bro Robert Marshall, IPM Bro Robert Crossan, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM, Bro Paul Branchfield, Bro Colin Reddy, Bro Craig McFadyen, Bro David Stevenson, Bro Alex Gray, Bro Crawford Kirkpatrick, Bro Edward Molloy, Bro Cameron White, Bro Ian Dyer and Bro James Livingstone
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 on 9th December 2022 (Annual Installation) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Robert Crossan PM and Bro Ken MacDougall PM
- Lodge Greenock St John's No 175 on 9th December 2022 (Raising) – attended by Bro Colin Reddy and Bro Sandy Reddy HM
- Lodge Rothesay St John No. 292 on Saturday 10th December 2022 (Annual Installation) – attended by Bro Iain White PM
- Lodge Sir Michael No 989 on 14th December 2022 (Business Meeting and Harmony) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen and Bro Alan Beck PM
- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 15th December 2022 (Business Meeting and Carol Service) – attended by RWM Bro Brian McFadyen and Bro James Livingstone
- The Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle Lodge No. 275 on Saturday 17th December 2022 (Annual Installation) - attended by Bro Iain White PM and Bro Cameron White
- Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 on Monday 19th December 2022 (Raising) – attended by Bro Iain White PM and Bro Cameron White PM
- Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No. 626 on Monday 9th January 2023 (Raising) – attended by Bro Brian McFadyen RWM, Bro Iain White PM, Bro Alan D. Beck PM and Bro Cameron White
- The Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) No 1 on 10th January 2023 (Entering) – attended by Bro Allan Glen PM
- Lodge Montgomerie Kilwinning Skelmorlie No 624 on 11th January 2023 (Annual Installation) – attended by Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Colin Reddy and Bro Kenneth McCrae HM (Installing Master)
- Lodge Inverkip Ardgowan No.1425 on Thursday 12th January 2023 (Passing Exemplification) - attended by Bro Iain White PM, Bro. Cameron White, Bro James P Livingstone, Bro. Kenneth McCrae HM and, on PGLRW duty, Bro Alan D. Beck PM, Bro. Robert J. Bain PM and Bro. J. Robert Crossan PM.
- Lodge St Vincent Sandyford No. 553 on Saturday 15th January 2023 (Annual Installation) - attended by Bro Iain White PM, Bro Cameron White and Bro Donald Finlayson PM HM

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

Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68

266th Anniversary Meeting and Annual Burns Supper 2023

Friday 27th January 2023



RWM Bro. Billy Mooney (68) Bro. Bert Thomson (68 – Immortal Memory) Bro. Iain White (PM XII HM 68 – Lassies Reply) Bro. Boyd Thomson (SD 217 – Lassies)

I was privileged to attend the 266th Anniversary and the Burns Supper at 68. Initially, Bro. Alex Bloomfield Wilson PM had asked me to reply to the Toast to the Lassies which I did. Then RW Master Billy Mooney requested that I perform the piping duties. I did this also. It was a very happy and entertaining evening with a big crowd in attendance.



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.

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 will be 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 Lassies will be given by Bro. Willie Dick PM Lodge Sanquhar Kilwinning No. 194.

It will, as usual, be a fund raiser for our Charity Drive. Book a place (£25 with Bro. Alan D. Beck PM).

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
06.02.23

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.