



## XII Talk

### *Special Edition No 6*

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#### **Bro Henry S Tibbles - Platinum Jubilee**

Henry's 70 years in No XII were celebrated at our regular meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2012. We prepared a little commemorative brochure and the text therein was, "Henry Sebbon Tibbles is a remarkable character in many ways and a very special gentleman. He was 70 years a member of Lodge Greenock Kilwinning No XII on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and receives his Platinum Jubilee Diploma at the Lodge Annual Divine Service in the Town Hall this evening.



Born on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1919 in Minster, by Sheerness (Kent), 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. They have now been together for over 70 years. 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 (English Constitution) 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 Bro Kenneth K Morrison was Master of No XII and very strong links between the two Lodges began to develop. These have been further cemented over the years by visitations to Greenock and London.

Henry has held many senior positions in the craft and amongst these are the following: London Grand Rank (1989), Worshipful Master 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), Honorary Provincial Grand Senior Warden of Renfrewshire West (2003) 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, No XII was delighted to welcome him back on a regular basis. His great dedication to the Craft led him to perform a number of duties to help No XII, for example filling the offices of Tyler, Treasurer, Worshipful Junior Warden and Worshipful Senior Warden. He assumed the chair of his Mother Lodge for the first time in 2001, aged 82 years and 16 days. Henry was awarded Distinguished Service Membership by No XII in 1990, received his 50 Year Jubilee Diploma in 1992 and his Diamond Jubilee Diploma 10 years later.

To-night we honour him for his 70 years' membership of No XII and extend to him our appreciation and sincere thanks for his immense contribution over the years."

**Iain White PM**  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2012

## **The Ongoings**

RWM Bro Alan Beck had the inspired idea of asking the Past Masters who were present to say a few words about Henry as they remember him contributing to No XII and the craft. A synopsis of their observations follows. These are just as I remember them. Given my advancing years, and the fact that I took no notes, I apologise in for any errors of omission.

### **RWM Bro Alan Beck**

Bro Alan began by saying that despite being in the Chair of XII for only two weeks he could be in the Chair of many lodges for many years and never have the honour of performing the pleasant duty he was about to perform. He was sure that a number of the Brethren will have been present when a brother was presented with a Golden Jubilee certificate; some may also have been present when a Brother was presented with a Diamond certificate but very few would have ever witnessed the presentation of a Platinum certificate for 70 years in the Craft. Alan spoke about how Bro Henry came to No XII, his Masonic activities in England and how it was Scots Lodge's loss and XII's gain when he returned to No XII upon his retirement. Alan mentioned his impressions of Bro Henry's 'Masonic Bat Cave' in the garage under his house and spoke warmly of the help that Henry had given him prior to his being installed as RWM.

### **Bro Iain White PM**

Bro Henry was summed up by Bro Iain in terms of some of his personal characteristics – commitment, dedication and generosity. When Henry returned to Scotland, and No XII, the Lodge was finding it difficult to recruit a Tyler for the forthcoming session. Henry immediately volunteered for the post to help out the Lodge. This was all the more remarkable because Bro Henry had been unable to attend meetings at his Mother Lodge for so many years, and when he did get the chance, he immediately offered to spend the meetings outside the Lodge! Thereafter, his commitment and dedication was reflected further in his years as Treasurer, Junior and Senior Warden and ultimately, as Right Worshipful Master in 2001. Bro Iain spoke of Henry's generosity in every sense of the word, much of it known only to a few of the brethren.

### **Bro Kenny Morrison PM**

It was when Kenny was in the Chair in 1981 that the first inter - visitation between the Scots Lodge No 2139 (EC) and No XII happened. Henry was in the Chair at Scots and brought the brethren up to the Town Hall. Kenny said that while this was a very enjoyable masonic occasion itself, more importantly the relationship between the Lodges had grown and grown and many visitations to Greenock and London had now taken place.

### **Bro Bob Bain IPM**

Bob first took the Chair in 2003 and, like so many Masters-elect, visited Henry at Water's Edge. Bob said that he became fully aware that day of why Henry was so fit and active and why even a man half of his age would do well to match him! When Bob arrived, Henry was in the 'Bat Cave', dressed in red bandana and singlet, pedalling furiously on his exercise bike. It is rumoured that the thought of it all tired Bob out so much that he had to have a wee seat!!

### **Bro Ken MacDougall PM**

The 'Masonic Bat Cave' features in Ken's story too! Ken said that he was honoured to have Henry as his seconder when he joined No XII. He told us of his vivid recollections of visiting Henry, along with his proposer, and being 'grilled' in great depth so that Henry could be absolutely sure that he was a fit and proper person to join No XII! Obviously Ken met the criteria applied by Henry and the rest, as we know, is history...

### **Bro Alex Galbraith SM RWGMS**

Bro Alex is, of course, Substitute Master in both No XII and the Grand Lodge of Scotland. While Alex is a Past Master of his Mother Lodge, Lodge Greenock St John's No 175, and of The Anchor Lodge of Research No 1814, we have been grateful for his service to No XII as an Honorary Member, and more recently an Affiliate Member and Office Bearer. Alex has visited London on several occasions with Henry over the years. Very often, these trips were done by sleeper and when the brethren arrived in London in the morning Henry would be intent on organising breakfast. Alex told us of the time that Henry was dismayed that his preferred venue of Fortnum and Masons was closed. Undeterred, he spied an Italian restaurant nearby, the brethren entered and the 4 of them enjoyed a cup of coffee and a chat. When the time came to move on, Henry asked for the bill and apparently, when it came, his face was a picture. The 4 coffees (no food) had cost Henry £28!!!

### **Bro James P Livingstone RWPGM (Designate)**

Bro Jim is a Past Master of his Mother Lodge (Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626) and Inverkip Ardgowan No 1425 and an affiliate member of No XII. He spoke on behalf of Provincial and summed up the feelings of all present very eloquently.

Bro Henry received his Platinum Diploma from RWM Bro Alan Beck and then responded to all the kind remarks that had been made. In saying that it was an honour to have served No XII, he observed that this was the proudest moment of all his time as a freemason. He received sustained applause from the brethren assembled.



**Bro Henry Tibbles PM and RWM Bro Alan D Beck with Henry's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Diploma**



**Bro Kenneth C MacDougall PM Bro Iain White PM RWM Bro Alan Beck Bro Henry S Tibbles PM  
Bro Robert J Bain IPM Bro Kenneth K Morrison PM**

