



Twelve Talk

Issue No. 183
29.08.25

Meetings 2025-26

- *02.09.25
Entering
- 16.09.25
Passing
- 07.10.25
Mark Ceremonial
- 21.10.25
Annual Meeting and Election of Office Bearers – Members Only
- 04.11.25
Raising
- 18.11.25
Annual Installation
- 02.12.25
Annual Divine Service
- 16.12.25
No Meeting as per Bye Laws
- 06.01.26
The Jack and Alistair Glenny Memorial Lecture



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 Robert Marshall 3 Victoria Road Gourock PA7 5BY (078958158628)
 Secretary Bro Ken McDougall PM 6 Stirling Drive Gourock PA19 1AH (07810270787)
 Treasurer Bro David Stevenson 5 Broomberry Drive Gourock PA19 1JY (07887904910)

Laying public misconceptions to rest

As you are aware, I am serving on the Information and Communications Committee of Grand Lodge. One of the areas being developed by brethren in the group is a Social Media Policy. This has been fascinating, bringing up several interesting facets of the Craft that the use of Social Media may impact upon. Amongst these, and of particular interest to me, is: Public Misconceptions, in other words, persistent myths and misunderstandings about Freemasonry that we need to address so that potential members are not discouraged.

The author of the draft paper put forward this list of very positive things about the craft that we really should be highlighting

1. Brotherhood in Action

- Showcase charitable initiatives, community volunteering, and lodge-led social projects
- Highlight lodges making a difference locally and globally
- Share testimonials from community beneficiaries and event participants
- Recruitment focus: Appeals to civic-minded individuals looking to serve their communities

2. History & Heritage

- Promote the rich legacy of Scottish Freemasonry
- Share important dates, historical moments, regalia, and traditions
- Use storytelling and archival content to build a sense of pride
- Retention focus: Reinforces members' connection to the institution's legacy

3. Modern Masonic Life

- Illustrate the contemporary experience of being a Freemason today
- Feature "a day in the life" stories, member perspectives, and social camaraderie
- Demystify lodge life and correct stereotypes with real-life examples
- Recruitment focus: Resonates with modern, working-age men seeking meaning and community.

Continued over

We need to be better at getting these positive facets ‘out there’ and make it easier for all brethren to be comfortable with their craft membership being public knowledge. How do we do that? My answer is by whatever means we can and have at our disposal. This might involve the use of traditional media or social media. A complementary action might be simpler than that.

Since my son Cameron joined No, XII, we often go visiting together and frequently travel by public transport so that we are both able to ‘enjoy’ dinners and harmonies without any thought of driving. When making our way around we are quite conspicuous as the No. XII uniform is a short morning jacket and stripy trousers. Such attire would be camouflage only at an undertakers’ convention!

I shall illustrate just a few examples of our approach to our Craft membership.

On our way home from a meeting at The Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle Lodge No. 275, we got on a jam-packed train at Cardonald Station, just up the road from the Lodge Room. The train resembled one of those seen on YouTube, where people are being pushed through the doors by railway employees. We found ourselves in the midst of a group of young women going home to Paisley after a day out in Glasgow. They commented on our smart appearance and asked why we were dressed that way and where we had been. There was no beating about the bush - at a masonic meeting was our reply. Whereupon two or three of the group showed interest, commenting, “My Dad’s a mason.” We then spent the next few minutes discussing the good works we were involved in through the Craft, and they bid us a cheery goodbye at Paisley.

Another time, Cameron and I had been at the famous Pipers’ Degree at Lodge The Gael No. 609. Bro. Jamie McEwan was with us, as was Bro Donald McRae of Lodge Crawfurdsburn Greenock No. 1121. Bro. Donald and I had taken part (with our pipes) in the ceremony. I took a photo of the boys on the train home, and when I looked at it, they had been photo-bombed by a young woman behind them on the train. Anyway, a conversation ensued with her in which she asked where we had been. When we mentioned that we had attended a Masonic meeting, she informed us that her Father was a Mason, and we spoke briefly with her about the Craft.

The Young and New Masons exemplification at Grand Lodge was a terrific afternoon out. On our way home, Cameron and I popped into the Balmoral Hotel and sat at the next table to a couple who engaged us in conversation. Again, they observed that we were very well-dressed and inquired as to the reason. Immediately, Cameron said that we had attended a large Masonic meeting in the Grand Lodge, located on George Street. They were interested. The husband, originally from Johnstone, shared that he had never joined the Craft more from reason of circumstance, never putting him in the way of it rather than anything else. When they asked about what we carried in the cases, I opened mine and talked them through the contents – regalia, programmes, ritual book, etc. Our conversation subsequently shifted away from the topic of Freemasonry, but we are confident that we did a significant amount of PR work for the Craft.

So, it's really simple. Do not hide your Masonic light under a bushel. Tell anyone who asks what you are and what we do. After all, this world would be a much better place if it were run according to the principles of the Craft. Be proud of being a Mason and share that pride with the world. Do not think you are too small or insignificant to make a difference. Remember that every journey, even the longest, starts with one small step...

No. XII's Next Meeting
Tuesday 2nd September 2025
Entering

On Tuesday, there will be an Entered Apprentice degree conferred by the brethren of the Lodge. The candidate is Mr Jonathan Contreras Gonzales

The Master extends a warm invitation to all members of No XII to attend the Lodge on Tuesday and over the forthcoming session and would be especially pleased to welcome those members who have, for whatever reasons, not attended for some time.

This welcome extends to potential visiting brethren in equal measure.

No. XII's Previous Meeting
Tuesday 16th April 2025
Mark Ceremonial

No. XII's very good friends from Lodge Doric Kilwinning No. 68 carried out the Mark Ceremonial. As one would expect, it was very well delivered. Bro. Gilbert B. Hill led a fine Deputation of 18 brethren and Bro. George Freeburn, PM, subsequently acted as Mark Master for the evening. The candidate was Bro. Julien Allee.

After the Lodge was closed, the brethren assembled for Lodge hospitality and further fellowship.

Tercentenary Rededication
Wednesday 27th December 2028
It won't be long...

Grand Secretary has confirmed in an email that the date we requested for the Tercentenary Rededication has been confirmed as Wednesday, 27th December 2028. The Feast of St John the Evangelist will also be celebrated as it was at the Bicentenary on 27th December 1928 and in 2018. 27th December is the exact 300th Anniversary. Rededications are normally done on Saturdays only, but our Wednesday date is confirmed because No. XII is considered a special case by the Grand Lodge.

Our preparations have begun. A subcommittee has been set up to oversee developments. It consists of Bros. Iain White PM (Chair), Ken MacDougall PM Secy., David Stevenson Treas, Robert Marshall RWM, Paul Branchfield WSW and Colin Reddy WJW.

On the day, there will be a ceremony in the Saloon in the afternoon, conducted by the MWGMM and the Grand Lodge Deputation, and thereafter a Dinner in the Main Town Hall. We aim to make this a very special day. Entry to the rededication ceremony will be free. The dinner is likely to cost about £45 per person. Tercentenary Jewels are already available from the Bro. Treasurer, priced £12,

I plan to write a history of the Lodge to mark the occasion. This will be no mean task but an interesting, satisfying and worthwhile one.

Grand Lodge of Scotland – Strategic Vision and Priorities

As a wee reminder, these are:

We will expand the global presence of Scottish Freemasonry by inspiring our members to enjoy their involvement and attracting new members to strengthen our capabilities and reach. This will be achieved by cultivating a positive culture of inclusivity and meaningful impact in our communities.

- **Placing membership at the heart of Scottish Freemasonry**
- **Growing Scottish Freemasonry**
- **Creating inspiring communication and engagement**

These are the parameters within which all Lodges should be working. Are we?

No XII Monthly Draw

The winners for the summer months were:

May	Bro. Crawford Kirkpatrick
June	Bro. Iain White
July	Bro. Paul Stevenson
August	Bro. Jordan Kincaid

The September Draw is now due – be in it to win it!

Bro. Kevin Barton RWM Lodge St. Munn Ardnadam No. 496



I was delighted to be at the reinstatement of Brother Kevin Barton as Right Worshipful Master of Lodge St. Munn Ardnadam No. 496 (photo left, Kevin and me) in the Sandbank Village Hall. His Mother Lodge is, of course, No. XII with his grandfather, Bro. Arthur Young, having served 4 terms as Master.

Discussions are underway with Bro. Kevin and 496 in the hope that, before he vacates the Chair in March 2026, we can have an intervisitation of the Lodges with each working a degree for the other. More details will follow.

. Bringing in the Crowds Another Great Example

I have been waxing on in *Twelve Talks* about the importance of creativity in our approach to Freemasonry to bring interest and motivation, and as a result, have big meeting attendances. Everyone knows the difference in atmosphere that a well-filled Lodge creates. It spurs on the Degree team and makes us all want more! I turn again to the Province of Glasgow for another great example.

This one was the brainchild of Bro. Andy Grainger, IPM of Lodge St. Vincent, Sandyford No. 553. He thought it would be a good idea to organise a visit ‘doon the watter’ to Lodge Rothesay St. John No. 292, and this he duly did. The Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow was very supportive of his idea. To cut a long story short, it was an outstanding success. 118 brethren signed the book for the Degree, with over 80 from the Province of Glasgow, some of whom were in the Degree team.



In front of the magnificent West Wall in Lodge Rothesay St John No. 292's magnificent Temple

It goes to show (again) that with the correct product on offer, Brethren will respond. Same old, same old doesn't cut it. Einstein said that the definition of madness was to keep doing the same thing and expect a different result. Of course, not every meeting can be a creative masterpiece, but we need more of them. It only works!

Reports on Visits

- Lodge Cumberland Kilwinning No 217 on 3rd April 2025 (Entering Exemplification and 50-year Jubilee Certificate presentation to Bro Ross Nugent PM) – attended by Bro Kenneth Morrison PM, Bro Hector Macphail PM, Bro Alan Beck PM and Bro Ken MacDougall PM
- The Anchor Lodge of Research No 1814 on 4th April 2025 (Lecture) – attended by IPM Bro James Livingstone, Bro Bob Bain PM, Bro Alan Beck PM, Bro Ken MacDougall PM and Bro Bryan Campbell-Black
- Lodge Kyles of Bute No 1120 on 4th April 2025 (Raising) – attended by Bro Brian McFadyen PM

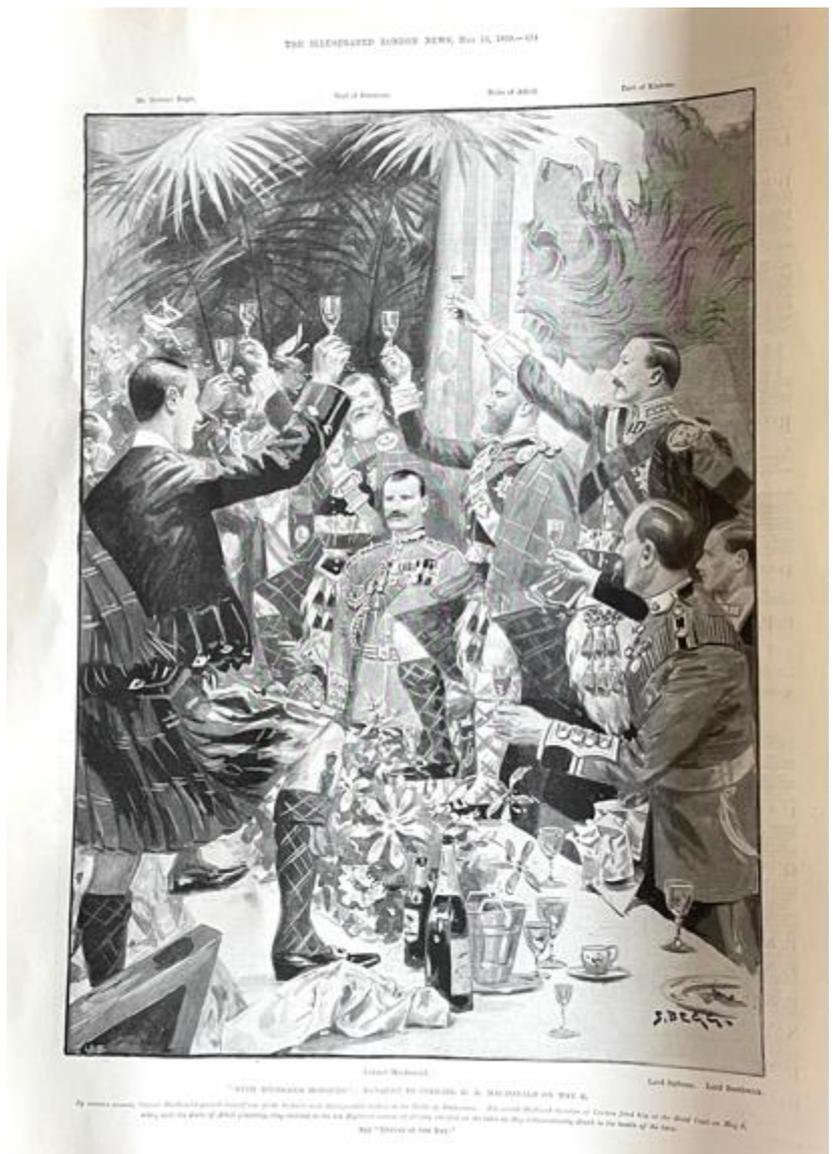
- The Prince's Lodge No 607 On 7th April 2025 (Annual Visitation by PGL of Glasgow) – attended by Bro Iain White PM and Bro Alan Beck PM
- Lodge Prince of Wales No 426 on 8th April 2025 (Raising by Lodge Firth of Clyde Gourock No 626 and Honorary Membership conferred on IPM Bro James P. Livingstone) – attended by IPM Bro James Livingstone and Bro Brian McFadyen PM

Highland Honours

In the last *Twelve Talk*, I reported extensively on the annual Pipers' Degree at Lodge The Gael No. 609 on Saturday, 19th April. We had *Highland Honours* in the Gaelic from Bro. Donnie Finlayson, PM, accompanied by Bro. Keith J Bowes PM playing the hornpipe called *Lodge The Gael* at the Harmony. This time around, we shall delve a little deeper into *Highland Honours*.



The photo above (above) shows Past Master Donnie Finlayson of Lodge The Gael (and Honorary Member of No. XII) delivering *Highland Honours*. On the right, it's *Highland Honours* again, but this time in London on 6th May 1899. The image is from the Illustrated London News of May 13th, 1899. *Highland Honours* are being given to Colonel H. A. Macdonald at a banquet given for him to mark his distinguished leadership at the Battle of Omdurman. The description says that the United Highland Societies of London feted Colonel Macdonald at the Hotel Cecil. With the Duke of Atholl presiding, they reverted to the old Highland custom of placing one foot on the table as they enthusiastically drank to the health of the hero. Also in attendance were Mr. Stewart Bogle, The Earl of Dunmore, the



Earl of Kintore, Lord Saltoun and Lord Borthwick. Bro. Donnie has some distinguished predecessors!

The description of this image goes on further to say, "The captivating litho print titled 'With Highland Honours, Banquet to Colonel H A MacDonald on 6 May' captures a grand feast in all its glory. The scene is set in a magnificent banqueting room at the Hotel Cecil, adorned with elegant buffets and exquisite decorations. This momentous occasion was held to honour Colonel H A MacDonald for his remarkable achievements. Distinguished guests from various highland societies of London gathered to pay tribute to the esteemed colonel. Among them were Lord Borthwick, Lord Saltoun, the Earl of Dunmore, Mr. Stewart Bogle, and many others who had come together to celebrate this extraordinary individual. As they dined and indulged in sumptuous delicacies, the atmosphere was filled with joy and camaraderie. Toasts were raised in honour of Colonel MacDonald's bravery during the Battle of Omdurman and his unwavering dedication to military service. Every detail captured by Samuel Begg's masterful lithograph brings this banquet scene to life. From the opulent setting to the expressions of admiration on each guest's face, it is evident that this event was truly special. This enchanting artwork serves as a testament not only to Colonel H.A. MacDonald's accomplishments but also highlights the importance placed on tradition and recognition within highland society. It reminds us of how feasts like these bring people together in celebration while honouring those who have made significant contributions."

I was prompted to look into who the people were who were said to be honouring Col. MacDonald.

The Duke of Atholl



This was John James Hugh Henry Stewart-Murray, 7th Duke of Atholl, KT (6 August 1840 – 20 January 1917). He was educated at Eton and owned 201,000 acres in Perthshire. In 1863, a few months before he succeeded his father, he married Louisa Moncreiffe, daughter of Sir Thomas Moncreiffe of that Ilk, 7th Baronet.

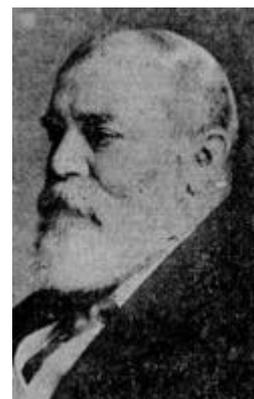
The couple had four sons (of whom the eldest died in infancy) and three daughters (all of whom survived to adulthood). His second son, John George Stewart-Murray, was born in 1871 and was Grand Master Mason of Scotland when he was the Marquess of Tullibardine between 1909 and 1913. He succeeded his father and became the 8th Duke of Atholl in 1917.

Mr Stewart Bogle

Despite an exhaustive search, I could find nothing about this gentleman, who must have been a prominent member of London-Scottish society.

The Earl of Dunmore

This was Charles Adolphus Murray, 7th Earl of Dunmore VD DL (24 March 1841 – 27 August 1907), styled Viscount Fincastle from birth until 1845, who was a Scottish peer, Conservative politician, explorer, author, and artist. On 16 July 1845, four-year-old Charles succeeded his father as Earl of Dunmore. He received his education at Eton.



In 1875, he was made Lord Lieutenant of Stirlingshire, which he remained until 1885. He also served as Deputy Lieutenant of Inverness-shire. In 1882, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the 1st Inverness-shire Rifle Volunteers (later the 1st Volunteer Battalion, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders). He retired in 1896. He was awarded the Volunteer Officers Decoration on 6 February 1903. In 1883, the Canadian Pacific Railway named Dunmore, Alberta, in his honour.

The Earl of Kintore



This was the 9th Earl of Kintore (1852-1930), governor, who was born on 12 August 1852 at Sixmount House, near Edinburgh, the eldest son of Francis Alexander, 8th Earl of Kintore (1828-1880) and his wife, Louisa Madaleine, née Hawkins. He was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge (B.A., 1874; M.A., 1877). On 14 August 1873, he married Lady Sydney Charlotte Montagu, second daughter of George, 6th Duke of Manchester. He succeeded his father as Earl in 1880 and was appointed to court and other offices appropriate to a member of the nobility. In 1885-86 he was a lord-in-waiting to Queen Victoria and held minor appointments in the House of Lords. In 1886, he was made a privy councillor and captain of the Yeomen of the Guard. In 1889, he was appointed G.C.M.G. and governor of South Australia. He arrived with his family at Adelaide on 11 April in the *Orient* and was formally welcomed by the administrator, Chief Justice (Sir) Samuel Way; the

popular festivities lasted the whole day.

Kintore's appointment, with many others, indicated a change in British colonial policy; in place of military and naval officers and high civil officials, the government was appointing members of the nobility to governorships, an implied compliment and an attempt to develop cordial relations between Britain and the colonies. Kintore took a deep interest in the colony under his charge, travelling more extensively than any previous governor to make himself familiar with it.

Kintore resigned in 1895 and left Adelaide on 10 April. He resumed his post of lord-in-waiting at the court, serving Queen Victoria until her death and Edward VII until 1905. His court duties brought him the grand cordon of the Crown of Italy, the first class of the Prussian order of the Red Eagle and the Grand Cross of the Portuguese military order of Christ. In 1913, he was elected Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords.

Kintore was a prominent Mason; when he arrived in South Australia, the grand master of the United Grand Lodge of South Australia resigned in his favour, and he later became Provincial Grand Master of Kincardineshire. A fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, he was awarded an honorary doctorate of laws by each of the Universities of Aberdeen and Adelaide. He died on 3 March 1930, survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters. Kintore Avenue, adjoining the cultural precinct in the city of Adelaide, was named after him, as were several suburban thoroughfares.

Lord Saltoun



This was Alexander William Frederick Fraser, 19th Lord Saltoun CMG (8 August 1851 – 19 June 1933), a Scottish representative peer and military officer. He was the son of Alexander Fraser, 18th Lord Saltoun and served in the House of Lords as a Scottish representative peer.

He was educated at Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire, England. He was admitted to Captain, Royal Company of Archers. Saltoun gained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel between 1880 and 1886 in the Grenadier Guards. He married Mary Helena Grattan-Bellew, daughter of Thomas Arthur Grattan-Bellew and Pauline Grattan, on 7 July 1885.

A keen Freemason, he was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland between 1897 and 1900.

The 19th Lord Saltoun was, like his father, active in supporting the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and was instrumental in getting Fraserburgh its first motor lifeboat in 1915.

When his father died in 1886, and he became the 19th Lord Saltoun and took on some of the roles of his father, including President of Fraserburgh RNLI and a member of the RNLI national committee. He persuaded the Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners to agree to provide a boat house and slipway, and used this agreement to influence the RNLI committee at the national level to pass the motion which would see a new motor lifeboat arrive in the summer of 1915.

Lord Saltoun wasn't there to see it arrive in 1915, however. A lot had happened in the past few years. His lordship was detained in the service of his country elsewhere. A year earlier, in 1914, on the outbreak of the First World War, the old soldier (Lord Saltoun had been a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Guards) had busied himself speaking at recruiting rallies several times a week.

His four sons were in the forces, and they were soon in the thick of the fighting. In the early weeks of the conflict, his eldest son and heir, the Master of Saltoun, was posted as missing for weeks before it was confirmed that he'd been captured and taken a prisoner of war. His second son, George, was an officer in the Royal Navy who was soon to take command of HMS Jonquil, which featured in the Gallipoli campaign in 1915. His third son, Lieutenant Hon. Simon Fraser, was tragically killed in action on the 29th of October 1914, and his youngest son, William, was wounded in the same action.

So, what did the old soldier do? Well, he didn't fade away, and he didn't stay at home and twiddle his thumbs either. At the age of 64, the 19th Lord Saltoun re-enlisted and re-joined the Army! On Monday, the 25th of January 1915, he left the family seat at Philorth to take up his new command as Colonel of the reserve battalion of the Highland Light Infantry at Glasgow. So, when the new lifeboat arrived in 1915, he was away doing his duty for King and Country.

He died on 19 June 1933 at age 81.

Lord Borthwick

This was Archibald Patrick Thomas Borthwick, 20th Lord Borthwick. Born on 3 September 1867 at 17 Queen Street, Mayfair, London, England, he was the son of Cunninghame Borthwick, 19th Lord Borthwick and Harriet Alice Day. He married Susanna Mary McTaggart-Stewart, daughter

of Sir Mark John McTaggart-Stewart, 1st Bt. and Marianne Susanna Ommaney, on 18 July 1901 at Ardwell, Wigtownshire, Scotland. He died on 4 October 1910, aged 43, at 2 Upper Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, London, England, after a long illness.

Borthwick was educated at Glenalmond College, Perthshire, Scotland. He succeeded as the 20th Lord Borthwick on 24 December 1885. Further educated at Christ Church, Oxford University, Oxford, Oxfordshire, England, he was a partner in Borthwick, Wark & Company, Stockbrokers. He held the office of Representative Peer [Scotland] between 1906 and 1910.

In Summary



The dinner to honour Col H.A. MacDonald (left) was certainly a grand occasion attended by the great and the good of Scottish society, with some having a significant connection to Freemasonry.

What of this Col. MacDonald, also known as *Fighting Mac* and *Hector the Hero* and commemorated by J. Scott Skinner in a waltz of that name? Well, that is another story, but a sad one. He became a Major General but died at his own hand in Paris in 1903, aged 53, just 4 years after the dinner, after accusations against his character.

Information from the Treasurer

Lodge Ties are back in stock and are available from the Bro. Treasurer priced £16 each

40th and 50th Anniversary Badges These are £7 and are also available from the Bro. Treasurer. There are badges for various years' anniversaries, from 25 years to 70 years, plus the always popular Grumpy Past Master. £2 from each badge sale goes to Grand Lodge Benevolence

Test Fees are now overdue. Owing to increases levied by the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the No. XII Test Fees are now £65. If you have not paid your Test Fees, you cannot take or hold office, visit other Lodges or vote in the Lodge.

Capitation Fees The Lodge has to pay Grand Lodge £45 for each Life Member. Life Members are encouraged to support the Lodge by covering this sum. They have no Test Fees to pay, but the Grand Lodge still requires payment for them.

Monthly Draw

The Monthly Draw provides your Lodge with an important source of income and this year I have been able to transfer £420 to the Tercentenary Fund. It is time to renew your subscription. If you pay by Standing Order then you have nothing to do and thank you for your continued support.

To renew or join the Monthly Draw please send £1 per number per month - i.e., £12/£24/£36 etc as you wish -

RBS

Sort code 83 22 20

account 10000509

Name - Greenock Kilwinning No X11 Social

Ref - your name /draw

Alternatively, set up a Standing Order for the required monthly amount - same bank info

Where I can, I shall use the same numbers you had for 2024. Good luck to all participants,,,,,

I would like to thank various Brethren who, upon being told of their monthly win, very kindly donate the money back to the Lodge. Typically, these Brethren do not want their name publicised but their contribution is very much appreciated. *DS Treasurer No. XII*

Tercentenary Jewels and No. XII Rituals



The Tercentenary Jewel (left) commemorating the Lodge's 300th birthday on 27th December 2028 is available to ALL brethren from the Bro. Treasurer and the price is £12 per jewel.

The new rituals are available to all qualified brethren of No. XII at the price of £15 from Treasurer Bro. David Stevenson. Over half the Rituals have been sold already!

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.

IW 31.08.25