

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 102

FEBRUARY 2020

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Province of Ross and Cromarty*



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Editorial

Welcome to the 102nd edition of the “Provincial Patter”.

Those readers who were at the Installation and Festival of St Andrew in November will already have seen the Coat of Arms displayed on the front of this edition of the “Patter”.

It has been traditional at the Grand Lodge Installation that the Grand Lodge Coat of Arms is displayed on the front cover and that the Coat of Arms of the Grand Master Mason is displayed on the rear of the programme.

At my first Installation in 2018 I didn't have a Coat of Arms which, in a way, was fortunate as we displayed a Remembrance Tribute on the Centenary of the cessation of the first world war.

However, this time round it was back to tradition and I am delighted to be able to show those who were not at the Installation my new Coat of Arms.

It was designed with much advice from and thereafter approved by the Lord Lyon King of Arms.

We later made history with the Lord Lyon King of Arms presenting the Coat of Arms to the Grand Master Mason in Grand Lodge – something that has never happened before in the history of Grand Lodge. I have put the photo taken at the presentation of the back page of the Patter.

It was an extremely interesting procedure to get the Coat of Arms – another new experience.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



Between now and the May edition I or one of my Commission will be attending the following

Grand Lodge Communication - Edinburgh
St John's Lodge 275th – Auchterarder

Ayrshire PGL

PGL Stirlingshire 275th – Stirling

Lodge Kelvin Partick 100th – Glasgow

DGL Botswana – Installation
Meetings in Zimbabwe and Malawi
DGL KwaZulu Natal Installation

Recent Members Degree – Armadale

Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter

PGM's meeting – Perth

Lodge St Munn 150th – Dunoon

Reigning Master's Degree – Liberton

Visit to PGL of Argyll & the Isles – Islay
The Lodge of Aberdeen 350th anniversary
Lodge St George – 150th

Grand Committee

Lodge Rosehaugh Centenary – Avoch

Ed

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Grand Master Masons Diary

Since the last edition of the Patter there has been a steady stream of engagements all of which have been thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding.

The first was a visit to Lodge Tollcross 1194 to celebrate their Centenary. Brother Allan McCall, Master of the Lodge made us very welcome and the ceremony was carried out without any great problem. The ensuing Harmony was well attended, we were well fed, and we enjoyed some excellent speeches.

One week later it was a longer trip all the way down to Coldstream where I had the privilege of carrying out their Bi-centenary Celebrations. I was indebted to Brother Garry Duff who drove from the outskirts of Edinburgh down to Coldstream giving me a welcome break. The Master of the Lodge, Brother Stewart Clark and his Office-bearers had really gone to town with the arrangements and we had a great day in the Borders. It was particularly pleasing to see a goodly number of Brethren from neighbouring Northumberland at the meeting, all of whom appeared to have enjoyed the experience. I am wearing with great pride the Coldstream Tartan scarf so graciously presented to me.

On Wednesday 13th November I attended a packed meeting in Lodge McLaren No 1688 in East Kilbride. It was the Ian Bell Memorial Degree which is a Reigning Master's Degree held annually in memory of the late PM Ian Bell. The whole evening went like clockwork – it was a joy to be part of it and I was over the moon to see that the Degree Team was led by Brother Eddie Finlay – Master of my Mother Lodge, St Barchan 156.

From East Kilbride it was a journey eastward's to Lodge Liberton No 1201. Again, it was my privilege to carry out the Centenary Re-dedication ceremony which was followed by an excellent Harmony in their Lodge Room. Brother William Bridges, Master of the Lodge was the perfect host making this visit into the Province of Midlothian another very memorable one.

As part of the fund-raising process for Prostate Cancer Scotland, I attended the two main presentations given by Brother Moises Gomez in Grand Lodge and the other in the City Chambers in Glasgow. They were both well supported and made a significant difference to the overall total which now stands at £551,000. We are indebted to Brother Gomez for his efforts in respect of the charity.

On Wednesday 27th November I hosted the first ever District Grand Master's meeting in Edinburgh. It was very well attended and well received. I have no doubt that it will be a permanent feature in the Grand Lodge Calendar in future.

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I really don't know where the time has gone. On Thursday 28th November I was reinstalled as Grand Master Mason for my second term. I was delighted to see so many Brethren from Ross and Cromarty at both the meeting and at the Festival of St Andrew.

On the Friday I had a very productive meeting with our Jordanian Brethren – we now have three Lodges in Jordan.

Friday afternoon was a wee bit of a rest before the Installation of Brother Andrew Mushet as the new PGM of Glasgow. The Partick Burgh Halls were bursting at the seams with representatives from all the 77 Lodges in the Province, a large turnout of visiting Provinces and an excellent Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. It was a tremendous day from the moment we were piped into the Lodge by a mini Pipe Band made up mostly of Brethren from Lodge the Gael until we sang Auld Lang Syne at the end of the night.

It was back down the A9 on Monday 2nd December, this time to Lodge St Patrick 1309 in Old Kilpatrick where I had the honour to present Brother Angus Neil MacInnes, Past PGM of Dunbartonshire and Past Substitute Grand Master with his 70-year Diploma and Jewel. The Brethren of the Lodge and their Ladies had a spread fit for a King which was greatly enjoyed by the large number of Brethren present. During the evening we had a "This is you Life" type presentation of Angus's 70 years in the Craft after which he regaled the company with many of his own stories.

A trip along the coast was on the cards on Saturday 7th December when I had the pleasure of Installing Brother Eric MacGregor as PGM of Banffshire in Aberchirder. The Harmony was held in the spacious premises of Aberchirder Bowling Club and a great night was enjoyed by all. I was presented with a lovely set of cufflinks that go well with my Coldstream Tartan scarf.



On 12th December I headed a Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland to the Installation of Brother John Macdonald as Master of Lodge Barns O' Clyde No 1018. Another superb evening that did nothing for my waistline.

GMM with Brother John MacDonald, Master of Lodge Barns O' Clyde.

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Two days later and another Installation. This time Past Grand Master, Brother Charles Iain Wolrige Gordon of Esslement and I attended the reInstallation of Brother Fabio Venzi as Grand Master of the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy in Rome. It was a truly splendid occasion and the Italian hospitality was exceptional.

Back home and a trip down to Edinburgh to take part in the Installation of our Grand Tyler, Brother Clark Wilson, as Master of St Jame's Operative Lodge no 97. It was an excellent night with the Installation taking place in the lower Hall and the Harmony in Grand Hall at Grand Lodge.

The start of the year has been fairly calm with the Heads of Orders annual meeting taking place in Perth on the 8th January. This was followed on Sunday 12th January when I had the privilege of participating in the Joint Annual Divine Service of the four Inverness Lodges held in the Temple in Inverness. It was pleasing to see som many family members present in the seventy strong congregation. At the conclusion of the service there was an excellent spread laid on in the Club.

On 17th January it was a delight to attend the Burns Supper in Lodge Dalkeith Kilwinning No X. We had a first class night and enjoyed excellent hospitality from my Depute, Brother Thomas Constable Smith and his wife Susan.

First thing next morning, it was a drive from Midlothian to Strathaven in Lanarkshire Middle Ward where I Consecrated a new Masonic Lodge building. The building, the Old Grannery, part of the Strathaven Town Mill complex became available but was in a very poor condition. However, the Brethren of Lodge St Andrew 215 rose to the occasion and have worked extremely hard to turn the room into a magnificent wee Lodge Room. They should be exceedingly proud of their achievement.



*The Brethren of
Lodge St Andrew
in their new
home.*

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On 22nd January, I attended the annual Festival of Burns and Hogg, the first two Poets Laureat of Lodge Canongate Kilwinning No 2. The Oration was given by PM, Brother Iain Glennie of Lodge Union and Crown No 103. He did an excellent job and received a standing ovation for his effort.

It was back to Canongate and Kilwinning No 2 on Thursday 30th January to attend the Province of Edinburgh's Reigning Master's Dinner. Once again, the hospitality was exceptional and a good night was had by all.



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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Brethren - a good new year to each and every one of you.

Everything is quiet in our Province at the moment, looking ahead to the Provincial visits to each one of the Lodges in our area of Ross and Cromarty. We are holding an Executive meeting on Sunday the 2nd Feb to discuss the forward plan for the rest of the season and to get things in place for our AGM in May.

The dates for the Provincial visits are as follows:

Grand Lodge Communication - Thursday 6th Feb - any Master Mason may attend.

13th Feb – Lodge Averon, Alness at 7.45pm

26th Feb – Lodge Ness, Invergordon at 8pm.

2nd March – Lodge St Duthus Tain at 7.45 pm

10th March - Lodge Fingal, Dingwall at 8pm.

16th March – Lodge Seaforth, Fortrose at 7.30pm.

18th March - Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty at 7.45pm.

3rd April - Lodge Rosehaugh, Avoch at 8pm.

21st April – Lodge St. Martin, Ullapool at 8pm.

23rd April – Lodge Loch Ewe, Aultbea at 8pm.

4th May - Lodge Kyle in Kyle at 8pm.

15th May - Lodge Fortrose in Stornoway at 8pm.

14th July - Lodge Allan Wilson, Fortrose at 11.30.am.

PROVINCIAL LODGE OF SORROW TO BE HELD IN SEAFORTH LODGE
ON SUNDAY MAY 3RD. AT 3PM. REGAILIA to be worn (every Lodge should be represented)

Provincial Grand Lodge AGM and Installation of Office bearers to be held in Lodge St Duthus, Tain on Wednesday 20th May at 8pm. A good attendance is expected at all these meetings - it is your Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty.

Fraternal regards

Robin Cattanach

PGM Ross and Cromarty

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Report from Provincial Grand Masters Meeting By Depute PGM – Raymond Mackeddie

Last September, due to our Provincial Grand Master being otherwise engaged, I had the honour to attend the Provincial Grand Master's Meeting in Perth. This is a bi-annual event hosted by the Grand Master Mason, Ramsay McGhee. The GMM ably conducted the meeting, which had an extensive agenda, with nearly thirty items up for discussion.

Amongst the items which I thought may have been of interest to the brethren included:

Bahamas Appeal - after the devastating hurricanes that hit the Bahamas, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in conjunction with the English and Irish Constitutions, donated £10,000 to the appeal. The Province of Lanarkshire Middle ward, who have a close relationship with the Bahamas, donated a further £5,000.

Prostrate Scotland, at the time of the meeting the fundraising stood at £464, 000, and the GMM was hoping to increase this figure by £500,000 by the end of the appeal. We now know that figure has been far surpassed and stands currently around £551,000. The GMM charged us all to pass on his thanks to all the Provincial and Daughter Lodges who contributed to the appeal.

Easy Fundraising – Amazon Smile by registering with Amazon Smile, brethren can automatically get 0.5% of purchase made on Amazon contributed to the Grand of Scotland Annuity Benevolent and Charity Account. This does cost the purchaser and is a donation made by Amazon. Brethren need to ensure they are using the Amazon Smile account, not just the usual Amazon website.

Social Media, we were tasked to ensure Brethren only used closed forums for comments, not open forums which recently led to some difficult issues. Guidance will be available shortly and will be added to the Masonic Etiquette Booklet.

Shooting Competition, The Grand Lodge of Scotland Clay Pidgeon Shooting Competition will take place at the National Shooting Centre at Falkirk on 13th June 2020, with £100 prize money for the winners. Prize winners will get the chance to join the Scottish Team to take on the English and Irish Constitutions later in the year. Last year Scotland were runner up to England, who had fielded internationalists and former Olympic team members.

Membership Survey For the first time the Grand Lodge of Scotland are going to conduct a survey of the membership to find out their thoughts on Freemasonry. The survey is going to be an online survey, rolled out for all to take part. The GMM is keen to get a good response to the survey so that a meaningful analysis can be made from the results.

Survey Roll Out & Response	February –April 2020
Data Collection & Analysis	May – August 2020
Report Compilation	September 2020

Raymond MacKeddie DPGM

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From the Provincial Almoner

Sadly, since my last report in November Past Master Calum MacKenzie, Lodge Averon passed to the Grand Lodge Above. Calum had been reported missing from home for a number of days and on 15th November 2019, two days after the last PGL Regular Communication, he was traced, but had sadly passed away. His funeral service was held within Rosskeen Free Church of Scotland, Alness and was attended by a huge crowd of people which included a large number of Masonic Brethren. Calum was later laid to rest at Rosskeen Cemetery. Calum who was a real stalwart of his Lodge will be greatly missed by his family, members of Lodge Averon and Masonic Brethren throughout the Province and beyond. A card was delivered to the family conveying the condolences of the Provincial Grand Master and the brethren of the Province.

Past Master Angus Ross, Lodge Ness is still at home being cared for by his wife and family and a number of carers. He is usually in good form when I visit but he has good days and bad days. He is always happy to see visitors.

Past Master Fraser MacKay, Lodge St. Duthus is still in care at Innis Mhor Care Home in Tain. His condition remains unchanged.

Bro. George MacIvor, Robertson's Lodge, remains in Care at Wyvis House Care Home in Dingwall. He recently had a spell in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

Past Master John Noble, Lodge Fingal is still resident at Redwoods Nursing Home in Alness. He has not been too well recently after a fall and is confused. He doesn't always know people.

Bro. Alex Ross, Lodge Fingal is in quite good health and manages to get about on his mobility scooter. Bro. Colin MacPhee, Lodge Fingal is still able to have his dialysis treatment at home and is able to work from home.

Bro. George Crawford, Lodge Averon is still at home after his leg amputation. Brethren of Lodge Averon are in regular contact with him.

Brother Andy Farquhar, Lodge St Duthus has not been in the best of health lately and his mobility is badly affected and he has been unable to the Lodge since some time.

Bro. Andy Sutherland, Lodge St Duthus is currently in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness and has not been very well. He is improving.

I have visited brethren at home and in hospital where and when possible and cards have been sent, as appropriate, conveying the best wishes of the Provincial Grand Master and brethren of the Province.

Should any brother require my assistance, or know of a brother who does, please get in touch with me.

David A. MacMaster, PM

Provincial Grand Almoner

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New Provincial Grand Lodge Ties



I have a large supply of the new Provincial Grand Lodge ties which are taking up a fair amount of my limited storage space. And knowing how the Brethren are proud of both the Province and their own sartorial elegance, I am happy to supply ties by mail order as well as bringing them to some of our meetings.

The basic cost is £12 per tie plus post and packaging - a very modest £1.50 – if you send me your cheque for £13.50, (made payable to Provincial Grand Lodge General Account) to – Roger Cundiff, Sealladh-an-loch, Lochcarron, Strathcarron, IV54 8YD – together with a note of your name and address, I will send your tie by return.

Roger Cundiff – Provincial Grand Treasurer

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Since the November reinstatement of RWM John Mackenzie, the lodge has been busy with a first, second and a third degree. The first meeting of 2020 was a very interesting talk by PPGM Morrice Downie on the 6th of January on freemasonry and about people he met in different parts of the world on his travels.

On the 30th of December the RWM initiated his son Scott into freemasonry. Attendance to all of our meetings has been tremendous with visiting brethren from as far afield as Elgin.

The lodge continues to support local groups by holding quiz nights to boost their funds, the most recent one for Tain football club. Forthcoming quizzes are for Macmillan Cancer, Tain Football Club, Perfect Paws (dog agility training group).

Monthly indoor markets have been held over the winter months which have been well organised by Bro. Snr. Deacon David Johnstone and his team of helpers.

All being well we will be having an event that has not been on the agenda for some years and that is a Ladies night held within the Lodge. Once more organised by Bro. Johnstone Monday, February the 3rd we will be putting two candidates through their MMM degree.

*PGM, Robin Cattanach,
the candidate Scott
MacKenzie and the
Master of St Duthus,
John MacKenzie*



John MacKenzie, RWM

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

Happy New Year from Stornoway.

On Friday 6th December Henry Macinnes past master of Lodge Averon together with his team of new office bearers were installed as RWM of Lodge Fortrose in a first-class ceremony ably headed by Donnie Graham PM. It was a well-attended meeting with visitors from England and Wales. There was also a deputation from the PGL of Inverness-shire headed by DPGM Colin Sidley who was accompanied by PPGM Vince Geddes. In total there were 37 Past Masters in attendance at the Bord of Installed Masters. The following day we all went by coach for the installation at St Clements Lodge in Harris where we received the first-class hospitality that is typical of the Harris men and their wives (must not forget them).



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Henry Macinnes RWM handing over the cheques to the various charities who benefited from our benevolent fund distribution this year.

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod PM

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2007



The Senior Citizens party was thoroughly enjoyed by all and I must say a big thank you to all the Brethren and ladies who helped out to make it such a roaring success. I would also like to thank the band "The Past Masters Ceilidh Band" for giving up their time and entertaining the senior citizens so well, same again next year please.

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Robertson's Lodge No 134



Greetings Brethren,

Sadly, our well-known Brother Vic Shepherd, PM, and his dear lady have passed to the Grand Lodge above since the last version of The Patter. Brother James Watson, from a well-known Cromarty family, had also passed to the Grand Lodge above.

Brother Jim Tait PM continues as Lodge Almoner, reporting that Brothers George MacIvor, and Andy Young continue to be looked after in their nursing homes. Brother William Mackay (Buller) is recovering at home and our well-known PM Andrew MacIvor also had a spell of illness recently but has recovered and was seen visiting Lodges again.

Since the last edition The Lodge has completed the AGM and Installation meetings successfully with Brother Jonathan Hill being re-installed as Master of the Lodge. The Office bearers were also installed in due ceremony by the Lodge's eminent Past Masters, Alasdair Taylor and Jim Tait. The January Meeting was held to catch up on business and initiate Brother Alasdair Morrison on his first step in Freemasonry.

The Lodge is looking forward to the next Meeting on the 19th February with an MM Degree for Brother Simon Grech.

Around this time, there are a number of Lodges in the Province, and nearby Provinces, celebrating Anniversaries, with plans being made for Robertson's Lodge Members to attend. This again reminds us that the year 2024 will be the year of the 250th Anniversary of Robertson's Lodge No. 134. It is the intention to reach out to all members of the Lodge, in all locations, for interest and assistance regarding the plans for the Rededication Ceremonies. We look forward to being contacted by "out of touch" members.

Robertson's Lodge continues to be greatly appreciative of the good number of brethren who visit our small old Lodge on the tip of the Black Isle. Long may it continue. For all the brethren from within the Province and the Brethren from out with our Province, it is good to meet you and share Masonic fraternal friendships.

Robertson's Lodge members continue to visit other Lodges enjoying the customary warm welcomes received and the interesting content of the meetings, as part of our fraternal Brotherhood. To aid us we have the benefit of the Monthly Calendar, which is prepared by our member Brother Derek Rodway, and distributed to all members.

Fraternal regards to All.

Peter K. Ratcliffe.

Lodge Secretary.

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Lodge Fingal No 318

The past few months have been a busy time. I have endeavoured to attend as many installations and meetings as possible, both within and outside the Province, accompanied by other members of Lodge Fingal, however, I have not managed to attend all due to sickness and adverse weather conditions, and to these one or two lodges not visited, I apologise. I hope to visit you in the very near future.

During our travels to the various lodges, I have noticed a large increase in applicants applying to join Freemasonry and the number of EA degrees being worked, this I should say both within and outside the Province. In one lodge recently visited, I counted six newly appointed EA sitting in the NE of the lodge. I have never seen so many EA in one lodge before. I should add that these Brethren were from various lodges within and outside the province.

In most meetings attended of late, an E.A. degree has been worked. Those taking their first step are in the younger age bracket and appear to be enthusiastic about the craft. I wish them all the very best in the future. Is Freemasonry making a revival? I have also been fortunate to witness some fine ritual work by those working the degree.

The following meetings and events have taken place within Lodge Fingal over the period under review:

-

Tuesday, 12th November, the Lodge had its Annual General Meetings and election of office bearers, P.M. Bro. Donald Gunn being elected as R.W.M. elect. A short harmony was held at the end of the meeting.

Thursday 21st November, at the conclusion of the Lodge Committee meeting, a presentation of cheques was made towards the Local Senior Citizens Christmas parties held at Dingwall, Maryburgh, Conon Bridge and Strathpeffer. At the same venue, a presentation was also made towards the Local Military Veterans. Photographs of those receiving presentation cheques are attached.

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*Representatives
for the Senior
Citizens*

Tuesday 10 December, the Lodge held its regular meeting, and during the course of this meeting an E.A. Degree was worked for a new Initiate, namely Mr Graeme Reid, son of the late, well known Freddie Reid, of Lodge Fingal. Graeme was a most attentive candidate. A large number of members (16) and visitors (22) were present. At the end of the degree all congratulated Graeme on taking his first regular step in freemasonry. The collection amounted to £145. A harmony was thereafter held in the Logie



Bro. Jim Murray receiving a cheque for the Veterans

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Saturday 28th December, a Special Meeting was held within the Lodge for the re-installation of the new Master, Bro. Donald Gunn, PM, and his Office Bearers. This was a most excellent installation carried out in the main by Installing Masters Bro Donald Chambers P.M., who was assisted by Bro. James Moodie P.M., Lodge St Peters, No.284, Thurso. A number Lodge Fingal Past Master's also took part. This installation was witnessed by 19 members and 50 visitors from within and outside the province. The collection for the Grand almoner amounted to £295 and was made up to £350.

At the harmony in the Logie Lounge, Grace was said by Honorary Member Bro Ramsay McGhee. The Loyal Toast was proposed by the Master and the Tyler's Toast given by Bro Colin Mackintosh IPM.

At the conclusion a very large raffle was presented, generous gifts were received from the Master's travels over the last few weeks, at different Installations over the period. Proceeds of the raffle going to Dingwall Health Centre, which amounted to £500. This figure on the night was doubled by Bro. Jim Murray [Manager of D. Gunn Funeral Directors].

My term as RWM came to an end on Saturday 28th December 2019. I had three exciting years in office and would like to take this opportunity to thank all those within Lodge Fingal and out with that assisted me during this time. Your advice and assistance were invaluable. THANK YOU.

Colin Mackintosh, I.P.M.

Tuesday 14th January. Regular Meeting, an E.A. degree was worked for Mr Neil Mackenzie, nephew of the well-known Bro. Stewart Bain PM, who on the night was the acting Senior Deacon. At the presentation of Bro Mackenzie, Bro Raymond MacKeddie DPGGB of R & C, came down onto the floor and on the level, congratulated Bro Mackenzie on taking his first regular step in Freemasonry, was a first-class candidate. This degree was witnessed by 15 members and 23 visitors, collection amounted to £170.

Wednesday 29th January. See us handing a cheque over to Dingwall Health Centre to the value of £1,500. This came about, due the Raffle at the Installation on the 28th December, donation from Bro. Jim Murray and made up by the Treasurer, as the monies will come in.

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At my Installation, I mentioned my Charity Event. Having spoken to Dr Moira McKenna of the Dingwall Health Centre, she indicated that they would be delighted to accept donations for the Health Centre but she would ask Pauline the Practise Manager, to give me an indication of what was needed in the centre at the present time. Pauline came up with the following list:

- ❖ 2 height adjustable examination couches - approx. £950 each. This will make it easier for older patients to get up onto the couch without the need for steps.
- ❖ pictures/art for the waiting room to enhance the space.
- ❖ Nebulisers - approx. £30-40 each. To help patients with asthma or COPD
- ❖ BP monitors - home reading ones - £30-40 each - to lend to patients
- ❖ 24-hour BP monitor -£900 approx. to monitor patients to help diagnose hypertension accurately in patients with labile BP.
- ❖ King of hearts cardiac event monitor - £1000 approx. To help diagnose cardiac arrhythmias in patient with intermittent palpitations.
- ❖ Hba1c near patient testing machine- this will mean that diabetic patients can have fewer visits to the health centre for routine checks and we can instantly check patients results. (£1.5 - £2k)

The Health Centre said – “Obviously, this is a big list and anything you feel you could help with, however small, would be very welcome.”



Bro. Jim Murray, Dr Miles Mack and Bro. Donnie Gunn, Master of Fingal.

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I must extend my sincere gratitude to the various Lodges, who gave gifts for the Raffle and to Jim Murray for his generosity. And, as you'll see we are planning several events over the next few months – the proceeds from all will go to Dingwall Health Centre.

February meeting: 11th. E. A. Degree.

March meeting: 10th. F. C. Degree, also our annual Provincial Visit. Lodge will Tyle at 7:30pm, to put forward the minutes, etc.

April meeting: 14th. F. C. Degree.

Donald Gunn RWM

Events Logie Lounge:

Saturday 15th February} Valentines Dance. [7:00 for 7:30pm]. Dancing to Edwin`s music, Buffet and Raffle, proceeds for Dingwall Health Centre. [Cost £5/head].

Saturday 21st March} Ladies Night. [7:00 for 7:30pm]. Bro. Sean Kennedy providing the Meal / **Starter** } Pattie-- Scotch Broth. **Main Course** } Chicken with Haggis—Salmon—Veggie Lasagne all with Green Beans / Carrots and Boiled potatoes. **Dessert** } Cheesecake—Trifle all complimented with cream. Tea/coffee and a glass of wine. Dancing to Edwin`s music. Raffle, proceeds for Dingwall Health Centre. [Cost £15/head].

[Be sure and book your tickets, as the Logie Lounge can only seat 56]. Raffle, proceeds for Dingwall Health Centre.

Saturday 11th April} Quiz Night. Quiz Master to be our very own Bro. David MacMaster, assisted by Bro. Colin Mackintosh. [7:00 for 7:30pm] / usual £20 per team / refreshments at half time. Those who are not driving, Bro. Henry Cameron will be on Bar Duty. Raffle, proceeds for Dingwall Health Centre.

Saturday 23rd May} Race Night. Race Convenor again to be our very own Bro. Ali Matheson assisted by his wife Anne. [7:00 for 7:30pm] 8 races @ £50 per race. 8 horses per race @ £5 ea. There will be a break after first 4 races, too catch your breath and winnings. Raffle, proceeds for Dingwall Health Centre. After the Fillies have been bedded down, Bro. Matheson is going to play some entertainment.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

D. Gunn - RWM

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LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th June when Brother Ian Russell will be installed in the Chair of the Lodge.

Editor

LODGE SEAFORTH 854

Bro. Graham Law was re-installed as Right Worshipful Master for his second term of office on 14th December 2019 by a team of Lodge Past Masters led by Raymond Mackeddie PM. PM's Alasdair Taylor and Jim Tait carried out the Installation of Office-bearers, and it was encouraging to have three new members taking up office for the first time in the working offices of the Lodge. At our December Regular Meeting, the Brethren were joined by their Ladies and Friends, in a very enjoyable Carol and Bible Readings Service, rounded off by a pleasant harmony with home baking and mince pies.

On the 10th January, a team of lodge members made the short journey to our near neighbour's at Lodge Rosehaugh, where they joined forces with the Rosehaugh Brethren, and worked an excellent Mark Master's Degree for three Brethren, including Bro. Donald Ferguson of Lodge Seaforth. The joint team was led by PM Alasdair Taylor, who conducted the Mark master's degree admirably, despite the differences in working practises between the two Lodges.

Our January Meeting included an Entered Apprentice Degree for Mr Lewis Fraser, a Lewis, son of Senior Deacon Bro. James Fraser. It was a well-attended meeting, with an excellent degree carried out by the Seaforth Brethren, assisted by the three newly installed office-bearers.

On Friday 20th March at 7.20pm the Lodge is holding Race Night in the Seaforth Clubrooms, to which all visitors and friends are warmly invited. Race sponsorship and purchasing racehorses is encouraged, to get your name, and horse's name, highlighted on race-cards, collect prizes for winning horses, and adds to the fun on the night. These can be arranged by contacting any of the Seaforth Office-bearers.

Upcoming meetings include	17 th February '20,	Mark Master Mason Degree
	16 th March '20,	Fellow Craft Degree (PGL Visit)
	20 th April '20	Master Mason Degree
	20 th June '20	Visit from Lodge John O'Groat 1333

Raymond MacKeddie PM - Secretary

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LODGE AVERON 866

Sorry to start on a sad note, on Saturday 30th November the Lodge had a funeral for the passing to the Grand Lodge above for PM Bro Calum MacKenzie. This was well attended by the members of the Lodge and attendees from various other Lodges near and far. This was a very trying time for the Lodge, but everyone pulled together to look after each other, the real spirit of the brotherhood was evident.

Since the last publication of the Patter we have had a busy time. On the 7th of December we had our annual kid's party which went down a treat with the kids and adults. We catered for 35 kids on the day and many of the parents who turned up. The kids had many games with prizes and with sweets, gifts along with the ice cream and jelly also a Xmas visit from Olaf and Anna from the movie Frozen and a Minion, our newly made EA Brian Jay performed his magicians routine for the kids and a good laugh was had, they had a wonderful day. We never missed any of the thirty plus parents and elves as they all got ice cream and jelly. Not only did we have the kids dance but all Bro Santa's helpers and all the parents, a great time was had by all. Thanks goes to everyone who made the event again go ahead, from the many donations to assisting on the day, not just from the brethren of the lodge but to our good ladies who helped as well.



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On Thursday the 12th of December the Lodge had carried out a Mark degree for two candidates Ken Rodger and Gavin Sutherland.

On Saturday the 21st of December Lodge Averon had their annual installation and being re-installed into the chair was Brother Donnie Mathieson for his second time. It was a brilliant installation by the Installation team, we had many distinguished visitors and guests attending, and a good harmony followed. The photograph below is of our new team led by our RWM Donnie Mathieson.



On our first meeting back on the 9th of January was a business meeting.

On our second meeting on the 23rd of January we had a new candidate and worked an EA Degree for Mr Charlie Carrison, the son of PM Charlie Carrison. Our EA Brian Jay taken part in the degree in doing a bit on the apron and carried this out excellently and was given praise from all. When the degree was finished it was good to see all three of our EA's sitting in the NE corner.

On February the 13th the lodge will be having our Provincial where the lodge will be carrying out a 2nd degree ritual for Brother Brian Jay.

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On Saturday the 15th of February we will be hosting our annual senior's party in Ardross and Alness Bowling club. The arrangements are progressing well. We will have a few brothers from Lodge Ness assisting in entertaining our guests, along with possibly two pipers this year's and our local highland dance group to perform a few routines, and new this year the lodges magician Brian Jay will be going around the tables performing his tricks.

We have planned to have our ladies' night on Saturday the 4th of April, to be held within the Lodge, this is being arranged by our WJW Frazer MacBeath Jnr and arrangements are progressing well.

Our bro Inner Guard Gary Miller has arranged a 2nd Comedy night planned for the 20th of June to raise much needed funds for the lodge, and I am afraid this has already sold out, with people on a waiting list for tickets.

It has been good to see so many of our newer Brethren visiting various lodges and we shall continue to encourage this. We would like to thank all the visitors that have supported Lodge Averon over the season and we hope to support more of the lodges within the province and out with in the remainder of the season. All the brethren have commented on the many lodges visited in the province having EA's, which looks good for our collective future.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM MAY 2010

The Roaring Revs

Our intrepid motorcycling ministers – Rev Iain Ramsden and Rev Ivan Warwick (otherwise known as “Heavens Angels”) are off on their travels once again – this time to Northern Ireland. They are doing another sponsored event which will be split between two charities – the Provincial Appeal (on behalf of Lodge Allan Wilson) and the Priory of St John which offers eye care in Jerusalem as well as supporting local charities. They would be delighted to receive sponsorship from any Lodge or from individual Brethren.

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

AN SOP?

January is never a good month for attendance, and so as secretary I put round an email, reminding them that if they can't attend then they should let the secretary know *ahead* of time i.e. as soon as they know they can't attend. This means that in the event of a Meeting being cancelled, the Brethren from our own Lodge can be contacted and informed that there is no meeting. For those travelling a long way, it saves them a long-wasted journey, typically in bad weather.

However, this does not help visitors from within the province who may turn up and find the Lodge Door locked! For this reason, it's essential the Lodge Secretary *also* contacts the Provincial Secretary and he can then send an email to each of the local Secretaries on his Mailing List, who in turn can send an email to each of their Brethren.

In all, the Local secretary will have sent 2 emails: 1 telling his Brethren the Meeting is cancelled and 1 notifying the Provincial Secretary. The Provincial secretary will have sent 1 email to his Province's Secretaries letting them know that a Meeting has been cancelled. Lastly, notifying the rest. While the local Brethren are pro-actively notified, the responsibility of finding out if a Meeting is on ostensibly lies with the Visitor. It's simple enough for him (the national/international visitor) to email or telephone the Secretary of the Lodge he intends to visit; preferably on the same day as the Meeting. Mailing List: A mailing list enables you to send one email to hundreds of email addresses. You set the list up in advance and when you send the email, to the recipient it looks like it came from you to him. You can prevent the recipient from seeing all the addresses on the list by placing the mailing list name in the "BCC" box rather than the "TO" box. Here is a link of how to do it if you use Microsoft mail products, but most email apps work the same way as The Mailing List is an international standard.

Why have SOP? Using Standard Operating Procedure or SOP lets everyone know what is going to happen and how they should respond. It speeds things up as you don't need to think about anything or create new methods; you simply follow the steps in the SOP. Please note the method above is not the SOP for all Freemasonry, it is simply the way we do things in Kyle. It is however your duty to inform the Provincial Secretary if you intend to cancel a Meeting.

If you have a website, Twitter or Facebook, make sure the information is coherent, in other words the SAME message is posted to ALL Social Medias, so there is no confusion as to what's happening. Lastly Lodge Kyle is meeting on Monday 3rd February at 8pm; all Brethren in good standing welcome!

Ronnie Miller, PM
Secretary

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

Our December meeting was our Installation one with RWM Gary Munro taking the helm for a third period of office. Well done to Brother Carmichael and Installation team for an excellent ceremony. Our January meeting was one with a difference where we welcomed the Brethren of Lodge Seaforth along to work a Past Master's Mark Degree for Brothers Bassindale and Hossack of 1216 and Brother Ferguson of 854. Alistair Taylor took the chair with the office bearers shared between both lodges. The degree, witnessed by a good crowd of visitors, went very well albeit unrehearsed.

We had hopes of working a first for our February meeting on 7th however as the prospective candidate works on the fishing boats this has not been possible. However, we are hopeful to be able to get a first degree for our March meeting. We have our PGL visitation in April and then a weekend of activity in May starting on the 1st where we will be opening the lodge for a brief meeting in preparation for our 100th Anniversary on the 2nd.

A letter has been forwarded to the secretaries of all lodges in the province requesting numbers and we have had responses from some but not all. If any secretary of the province has not received an email on this please get in touch with me (email is axer69@btinternet.com). Briefly, the doors will be open at 10.45am for refreshments, with photos at 12.00 and the meeting commencing at 1.00pm. At 3.30pm a dinner will be held at Avoch School. After consultation with the Grand Master Mason we have estimated we could seat about 100 Brethren into the lodge so we have decided to limit tickets to 100.

Apologies to lodges out-with the province whom we have not written to but please let me know if you wish to purchase tickets on behalf of your members. We will have special mark pennies struck for the event and engraved whisky glasses. Again, anyone with a desire to pre-book these please get in touch.

The annual Lodge Rosehaugh senior citizens Christmas party took place in the lodge on 10th December 2019 with about 30 attending including a couple of first-time attenders - it was great to see some new faces. A big thank you to Fortrose Cafe for supplying the soup and to Bob Massie for supplying the music at short notice after Mike Keavey was involved in a motorbike accident - thanks Bob and hopefully Mike will be fine for next year. Also, a big hand to the brethren who helped on the night, especially PM Scott Patience and Brother Brian Carmichael for doing most of the donkey work, and to Annie Owens for being her usual helpful self. Here's to the next one!

Keith Patience, PM – Secretary

Allan Carmichael, PM

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Lodge St Martin 1217

The general committee is extremely busy with the arrangements for the centenary celebrations on Saturday 9th May, tickets are now available and the hotel is available for booking for the Saturday night from PM Mike Turner on americanmike1217@gmail.com .

We have a ballot and a practice first degree on Tuesday 18th February and providing the ballot is clear the 17th March meeting will be a first degree.

On the fund-raising side of things, Santa and his elves raised in excess of £1000 during the Santa Float and this money is used for the children of Ullapool and surrounding area, with £200 being already given to the Primary School Gaelic P5-7 class for a trip to Edinburgh to visit the Castle and Museum and various other places of interest.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2007

This quarterly report starts with the installation of our RWM D Gunn by Installing Masters, A Logie and R S MacIver. Solemn, moving with a touch of humour I think would well describe the excellent and highly memorable event, and many of the attending Brethren have reflected such since then. All credit to the installing team.

Our new RWM, D Gunn presented a new set of magnificent silver working tools to the Lodge and Depute Master Bro Gordon Holroyd dedicated these.

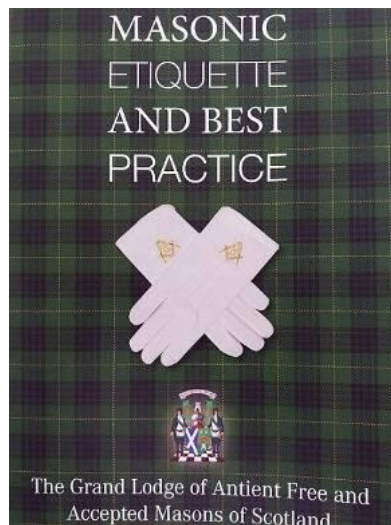
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BITS AND PIECES



This new booklet from the Grand Lodge of Scotland will be helpful to all but especially to those making their way up through the offices towards the chair of their Lodge. The new publication is available from Grand Lodge and priced at a very reasonable £3.00 per copy, £1.00 of which is going to Masonic Charities. The booklet is the work of the Information and Communications Committee and is a very easy guide to Masonic Etiquette and Best Practice.

It covers the A to Z of decorum within the Lodges from the correct positioning of the Altar to correct forms of Address, to Visiting. The booklet also contains guidelines for the use of Masonic Websites, Email and Social Media. One copy is currently being sent to each Master, free of charge and thereafter, the booklet will be available to all to purchase.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2006



I have been able to resurrect a photograph taken of Bro Donnie MacLeod, Lodge Fortrose, while on the big dipper – he's the petrified one in the middle

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My sincere thanks, once again, to Brother Kenny Jack for producing the following poems for our instruction and enjoyment.

THE LEVEL AND THE SQUARE

By Bro. Rob Morris (1854)

Said to be the most popular of the American Masonic laureate's works.

We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square;
What words of precious meaning those words Masonic are!
Come, let us contemplate them! They are worthy of a thought;
In the very walls of Masonry, the sentiment is wrought.

We meet upon the Level, though from every station come,
The rich man from his palace and the poor man from his home;
For the *rich* must leave his wealth and state outside the Mason's door,
And the *poor* man finds his best respect upon the Checkered Floor.

We act upon the Plumb- 'tis the orders of our Guide-
We walk upright in virtue's way and lean to neither side;
Th' All-Seeing Eye that reads our hearts doth bear us witness true,
That we still try to honour God and give each man his due.

We part upon the Square, for the world must have its due;
We mingle with the multitude, a faithful band and true;
But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green,
And we long upon the Level to renew the happy scene.

There's a world where all are equal- we are hurrying towards it fast,
We shall meet upon the Level there, when the gates of Death are passed;
We shall stand before the Orient, and our Master will be there,
To try the blocks, we offer with His own unerring Square.

We shall meet upon the Level there, but never thence depart;
There's a Mansion- 'tis all ready for each trusting, faithful heart-
There's a Mansion, and a Welcome, and a multitude is there
Who have met upon the Level, and been tried upon the Square.

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Let us meet upon the Level, then, while labouring patient here;
Let us meet and let us labour, though the labour be severe;
Already in the western sky the signs bid us prepare
To gather up our Working Tools and part upon the Square.

Hand round ye faithful Brotherhood, the bright fraternal chain,
We part upon the Square below, to meet in heaven again!
What words of precious meaning those words Masonic are-
We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

From 'The Freemason's Repository' (1797)

Let there be light! The Almighty spoke-
Refulgent streams from chaos broke,
 To illumine the rising earth!
Well pleased the Great Jehovah stood,
The Power Supreme pronounced it good,
 And gave the planets birth!
In choral numbers Masons join
To bless and praise this Light Divine.

Parent of light! Accept our praise,
Who shed'st on us thy brightest rays-
 The light that fills the mind!
By choice selected, lo! we stand,
By friendship joined, a mystic band,
 That love, that aid mankind!
In choral numbers Masons join
To bless and praise this Light Divine.

The Widow's tears we often dry,
The Orphan's wants our hands supply,
 As far as power is given;
The naked clothe, the prisoner free-
These are our works, sweet Charity!
 Reveal'd to us from Heaven!
In choral numbers Masons join
To bless and praise this light Divine.

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The Beehive by Brother Gary Chilton Vickers from Witbank, South Africa

In Waxen Dome, a templed hall of honeyed gold proves tyled.
The outer guard with barb'ed blade in striped regalia styled.
Within the hallowed chamber, they square six-sided floor,
And labour, as winged fellow craft, behind the guarded door.
Masters gavel, humming sounds, and wardens Knocks resound.
Deacons perambulate the air, in low turns above the ground.
Scattered sunlight, candle-bright, on hallowed altar falls,
Lights up the sacred volume of age old clarion calls.
From petalled quarries and apprenticed toil,
Pollen-ashlars come.
And polished gold in sweetened cells,
The fruit of labours done.
To be a brother's keeper,
Each one to his task,
To follow their example, is what the Master asks.
Our collars bear the gilded hive,
An echo of their trade,
Reminding all of us to strive,
To keep the oaths we made.

HEILAN SHED No 6

The Annual Heilan Shed No. 6 Committee meeting was held on the last Saturday of January 2020 when all the new Office Bearers were recommended for the forthcoming year.

The Installation meeting will be held on the first Saturday of March where it is hoped there will be a good turnout of members in The Club (Masonic) Inverness at 3pm.

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PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

Dates for Diary - 2020

Tain and Ross R A C No 63	February 11 th
Cromarty Firth R A C No 610	March 4 th
St Clement R A C No 244	April 24 th
Hebrides R A C No 364	May 13 th
Hebrides Lodge and Council 364	May 14 th
Cryptic council 364	May 14 th

A G M within Lodge Fingal Dingwall 24th May 2020 1.30pm

Yours Fraternally

Alasdair Taylor

Provincial Grand Scribe E

Tain & Ross RAC 63

The next meeting of the Tain and Ross Chapter will be on Tuesday 11th February. This will also be the Provincial visit.

St Clement RAC 244

The next meeting of St Clement will be Friday 31st January.

Cromarty Firth RAC 310

The next meeting of Cromarty Firth will be on Wednesday 5th February 2020

The Hebrides RAC 364.

Our next meeting on 11th February will be a Royal Arch degree. We read an application for admission at our last meeting and we can only hope that this might be the start of a flow of new candidates, they have been very thin on the ground in the last few years.

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

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PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES



John Norman Murray newly created Knight of the Temple encircled by the members of the preceptory and District Grand Priory.

I mentioned last month that our Venerable Preceptor James Smith had undergone a cancer operation in Raigmore. He is currently receiving chemo-therapy treatment at the hospital in Stornoway although he's at home every night.

Donnie Macleod

†‡ Donald Macleod KCT

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And finally –

The Lord Lyon King of Arms, the Rev Canon Dr Joseph John Morrow, CBE KStJ QC DL presenting the Grand Master Mason with his new Coat of Arms in November 2019.

The presentation took place in the Grand Master Mason's Office.

