

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 98

FEBRUARY 2019

*The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Province of Ross and Cromarty*



On Sunday 4th November 2018 a large turnout of Brethren from across the country paraded in Edinburgh prior to attending a Service of Remembrance in Grand Lodge conducted by Past Grand Master, Brother Rev Canon Joseph J Morrow, CBE

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Editorial

Welcome to the 98th edition of the “Provincial Patter”.

It has been a somewhat eventful quarter since the last edition of the Patter was circulated.

Can I start this edition by thanking all those from the Province who travelled down to Edinburgh to witness my Installation as Grand Master Mason! I was really delighted by the numbers present on the day and it was so heartening to know that there was a healthy deputation in the midst of the 800 from Ross and Cromarty.

In the first “Blast from the Past” on page 5 you can read about a survey I carried out almost 15 years ago. While numbers attending our Lodges, in general terms, are showing a slight improvement, we still have issues with recruitment but more especially with retention. That is why I think it appropriate to have that article as the first “Blast from the Past” this time round.

Whether we like it or not, the time is ripe for change. None of us likes change, but we must face up to the fact that if we don’t indulge in a bit of inward examination and move with the times, our beloved Freemasonry will die. When I talk about change, I do not refer to any of our principles or ancient tenets or landmarks – I mean processes – how we conduct our meetings, the content of our meetings, the frequency of our meetings, the impact our meetings have on those attending. It is time for Grand Lodge, Provincial and District Grand Lodges and each Lodge in our Constitution to stop and examine what we do and how we do it and thereafter take a long-term strategic approach to how we can all best move forward to the benefit of all

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



Immediately after the Grand Lodge Installation, on Friday 30th November, I travelled to Paris to witness the Installation of the new Grand Master of the Grande Loge Nationale Française. Bro Jean-Pierre Rollet. That was followed by a visit to the Grand Lodge of Columbia in Washington DC to witness their annual Installation Ceremony. On 13th December we had Grand Committee in Edinburgh and on 15th I had the pleasure of attending the Installation meeting in Lodge Averon. On 27th December I attended the Joint Festival of St John in Inverness and on 5th January attended the Ordenens Nyarsfest (New Year Festival) in the Grand Lodge of Denmark. On 9th January I chaired the annual Head of Orders meeting and on 19th January attended the annual Installation of Lodge Edinburgh Castle. On 23rd I had the privilege of attending a Burns and Hogg Dinner in Lodge Canongate Kilwinning No 2 and on 30th January, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Edinburgh Reigning Masters Dinner. Finally, on 1st Feb I had the honour to present Jubilee Diplomas to PM Arthur MacArthur and Brother Dennis Hossack in Lodge Rosehaugh 1216. As we move into February, the diary continues to blossom, and I have listed the Grand Lodge commitments that I have between February and the next edition of the Patter in May on the next page.

Every Thursday I am in Grand Lodge should anyone wish to meet with me for whatever reason.

Ed

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Grand Master Masons Diary

- 6th February Dinner with visiting Grand Masters
- 7th February Grand Lodge Communication
- 8th February Provincial Grand Lodge of Midlothian – Installation of Office-bearers
- 9th February 250th Anniversary Rededication – Lodge Cambuslang Royal Arch No 114
- 16th February Provincial Grand Lodge of the Borders – Installation of Office-bearers
- 19th February Visitation to Lodge St Barchan No 156, Kilbarchan
- 22nd February Visitation to Lodge St Andrew No 25, St Andrews
- 2nd March Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness-shire – Installation in Fort William
- 5th March Visitation to Lodge Edinburgh Defensive Band No 151
- 9th March Provincial Grand Lodge of Caithness – Installation in Thurso
- 13th March Visit to the United Grand Lodge of England
- 14th March Grand Lodge Administration Committee
- 15th March Attending the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter Installation in Edinburgh
- 16th March Centenary Rededication – Lodge Royal Ancient No 1179 in Inverurie
- 20th March Benevolent and Care Committee – Edinburgh
- 23rd March European Grand Masters Conference in Monaco
- 30th March 250th Anniversary Rededication – Lodge Partick St Mary No 117, Glasgow
- 6th April Provincial Grand Masters Meeting – Perth
- 13th April Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeen West – Installation
- 25th April Grand Committee in Edinburgh
- 27th April Provincial Grand Lodge of Lanarkshire Upper Ward – Installation

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Brethren - A good new year to every one of you!

As most of the Installations are past, we now again have the Provincial visitations to look forward to in our Province of Ross and Cromarty. Over the past years we have had a good turnout on visits from the Office-bearers and other Brethren which I thank you for. It is very hearting to lead a good big deputation into a lodge and witness the workings of the members of the lodge concerned.

We in our Province are very lucky that most Lodges have candidates coming through the different degrees, that is great news. Could I encourage some interaction on the visiting front to invite another lodge to come along to your lodge and work a degree for you, this makes a good interesting night for a candidate and gets the members mixing. There are some masons who do not go out to other meetings. Brethren, it would be nice to have a good attendance at each meeting thank you.

MEETINGS FOR 2019 and PROVINCIAL VISITS

Grand Lodge of Scotland Edinburgh Thursday 7th. February 2pm.seated 1.30pm.

Averon Alness Thursday 14th Feb at 8pm.

Ness Invergordon Tuesday 26th Feb. 8pm.

St. Duthus Tain Monday 4th March. 7.45 pm.

Fingal Dingwall Tuesday 12th March 8pm.

Seaforth Fortrose Monday 18th March 7.30 pm.

Robertson's Cromarty Wednesday 20th March 8pm.

Rosehaugh Avoch Friday 5th April 8pm.

Loch Ewe Aultbea Thursday 11th April 8pm.

St. Martin Ullapool Tuesday 16th April 8pm.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SORROW Rosehaugh Sunday 5th. May 3pm.

Lodge Kyle Kyle Monday 6th May 8pm.

Fortrose Stornoway Friday 17th May 8pm.

Allan Wilson Fortrose Tuesday 9th July 11.30 am. (Day time lodge .)

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE A.G.M. Seaforth 22nd.May 8pm.

PGL of Inverness-shire – Installation of PGM – Lochaber High School, Fort William – Saturday 2nd March 2019 at 1.00 pm.

PGL of Caithness – Installation of PGM – Masonic Hall, Thurso – Saturday 9th March at 1.00 pm.

Provincial Grand Masters Bi-annual Meeting in Perth – Saturday 6th April 12.30.

Wishing you all good health to enjoy our Masonic meetings for 2019

Fraternal greetings and kind regards.

Robin Cattanach.

Provincial Grand Master

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From the Provincial Almoner

Sadly, I must start my report by recording the passing of Bro Finlay MacLean, Lodge Kyle. Finlay had not been a regular attender in recent years. Finlay was the brother-in-law of the late Substitute Provincial Grand Master Bro Donald MacLennan. He will be very much missed by the Brethren. A card was sent to his sister, Mrs Lexy MacLennan, Lochcarron conveying the condolences of the Provincial Grand Master and Brethren of the Province.

I would also like to mention at this time Bro Tommy Stirling, Lodge Ness, whose wife recently passed away. A card was also sent to Tommy and his family conveying the condolences of the Provincial Grand Master and Brethren of the Province.

Past Provincial Grand Master Ian Fraser is now recovering at home after his knee surgery. Although still not very mobile Ian was able to attend the Installation of Brother Donnie Matheson in Lodge Averon in December.

Past Substitute Provincial Grand Master Jim Tait is doing not too badly now but is awaiting an appointment to have cataracts attended to. He is able to attend Masonic meetings.

Past Master Angus Ross, Lodge Ness recently had a scan at Raigmore and is hoping to have an appointment with his consultant at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, with a view to having treatment re a circulation problem.

Past Master Fraser MacKay, Lodge St. Duthus is still in care in the Innis Mhor Home in Tain. and Past Master Victor Shepherd, Robertson's Lodge is still in care at Urray House, Muir of Ord. Both their conditions remain unchanged.

Past Master Dave Franklin, Robertson's Lodge was recently in Raigmore Hospital but is now home. Bro. George MacIvor is in care alongside his wife at Wyvis House Care Home in Dingwall.

Past Master Andy Henderson, Lodge Fingal is still recovering and making progress. He is able to attend to some of his Masonic duties although at times he is very tired.

Past Master John Noble, Lodge Fingal is now resident in Redwoods Care Home in Alness. On a recent visit he was in good form but somewhat confused at times.

Bro. Dougie MacDougall, Lodge Fingal is still resident at Redwoods Care Home. His condition remains the same. He was also in good form on a recent visit but very confused and not able to have a coherent conversation.

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From the Provincial Almoner (cont.)

Bro. Colin MacPhee, Lodge Fingal is now home from hospital and able to administer his own dialysis treatment. He is able to attend to his Masonic duties.

Bro. Freddie Reid, Lodge Fingal is currently in Raigmore Hospital due to respiratory problems.

Bro. Alex Ross, Lodge Fingal continues to make progress. He is able to get about using his mobility scooter and is keen to get an artificial leg.

Past Master Billy Brown, Lodge Lochewe is not very well at present and is currently in hospital.

Past Master Willie Mitchell, Lodge Lochewe is also unwell at present.

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 services or know of any brother who does please get in touch with me and I will give what assistance I can.

David A. MacMaster, PM

Provincial Grand Almoner

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FEBRUARY 2005

Working on the assumption that it is difficult to solve a problem until you know what the problem is, I have embarked upon a survey of members who are not attending Lodge Seaforth. The purpose of the survey is twofold – to hopefully persuade non-attending members to return to the fold and secondly, to ascertain the reasons for non-attendance. It is all fine and good trying the powers of persuasion, but I believe that if we can drill down to the reasons for non-attendance, we can then effectively tackle the problem at a more basic level. Why am I telling you this in the editorial? Well, I have no doubt that the results of the survey will reflect not only the reasons for non-attendance being experienced by Lodge Seaforth but that they will give a reasonable picture of the situation throughout the Province. So much so that the Provincial Grand Lodge is assisting with the survey as it will help with strategic planning at Provincial level.

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



The next meeting of the Lodge will take place on Monday 4th February in the Masonic Hall Tain at 7.45 pm

Lodge Fortrose No 108

Unfortunately, due to a bad weather forecast the installation team from the Province was unable to make it across to carry out RWM Donald John Smith's (Binnie's) re-installation on Friday 7th December. Fortunately, Davie Thomas PM of Lodge St Michael's Kilwinning No.63 who had arrived the previous evening accompanied by several other Brethren from Dumfriesshire and who had the installation ritual fresh in his mind, as he had very recently carried out the installation in his Mother Lodge, offered to help. His offer was gratefully accepted, and he made a first-class job of carrying out the duties of Installing Master.

On that evening we had quite a few visitors all of whom had arrived on the Thursday evening with the intention of attending our installation and the one in Tarbert the following day. Our visitors came from far and wide including Dumfries, Inverness, West Calder and Wales (hope I haven't missed any place).



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Late that week we got the very sad news of the death of the wife of Donald John Mackay PM of St Clements, The Brethren of St Clements decided that it would be best not to have their meeting on Saturday 8th December and so their installation has been postponed. We have no information yet as to when that meeting will take place.

On Friday 18th January we held our annual Burns' Supper. The toast to the haggis was carried out very professionally by Bro. Robert Doig, the immortal memory was excellently delivered by Bro. Calum Macleod and Bro. James Smith gave a humorous toast to the lasses which received an equally humorous response from Lynsey Macleod. Praise must be given to the caterers who presented us with an excellent repast.



Bro. Robert Doig addressing the haggis.

Bro. Donnie (Loudy) Macleod who is approaching 90 years old gave a first-class rendition of Tam O' Shanter and as you can see from the picture on page 8, enjoyed giving it just as much as we enjoyed listening to it.

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Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod PM

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FEBRUARY 2009

It seems a long way past, but it was only some 10 weeks ago that our new Grand Master Mason, Bro Charles Ian Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont, was installed into office. It was a wonderful day with Grand Lodge packed to capacity including an excellent representation from our own Province – we had a total of 9 Brethren in attendance, which was superb.

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Greetings Brethren,

Robertson's Lodge had their Installation Meeting on 19th December 2018, where P.M. Neil C. Cooper was reinstated into the chair and Peter Ratcliffe was installed as Secretary. P.M. Alasdair Taylor continues in his distinguished role as Treasurer. Well known Brothers Jonathan Hill and Derek Rodway were installed as S.W, and J.W. respectively. Bro. Brian Poloczek has now been affiliated and installed in office as S.D. and Bro. Frank Mackellar was installed as J.D. The Lodge was honoured by many distinguished visitors from other Lodges at our Installation Meeting.

P.M. Jim Tait has not retired completely, he continues with his "other job" and was installed as Lodge Almoner. We all wish him well with his own medical treatments.

The Lodge has had a meeting in January and Bro. David N. Cooper took his first regular step in Freemasonry, being initiated by R.W.M. Neil Cooper, his father. David was a Lewis and the first to come into the Lodge in many years. Furthermore, Neil in the chair of King Solomon has now initiated both his Father, Douglas Cooper (S.M.), and his Son to the Lodge and Freemasonry. The recent Installation Meeting had been conducted by P.M. Ronnie Cooper, as R.W.I.M., who is a stalwart of Robertson's Lodge and a well-known member in Scottish Masonic circles who is Neil's uncle. Truly a Masonic family.

The next meeting of the lodge will be a F.C. degree for Bro. David Cooper and a ballot for Mr. Simon Grech for initiation.

The members of the Lodge give thanks to the I.P.M. Andrew MacIvor for all his efforts and good works for the past two years in office as R.W.M.

Members of the Lodge continue to visit other Lodges in and out with the Province, especially during the recent "Installation Season".

Lodge Robertson 134 wishes to thank all the brothers who have visited our Lodge overall. Billets will continue to be sent out to all affected parties and we look forward to seeing as many visitors as possible at our future meetings.

Fraternal regards to All.

Peter K. Ratcliffe.

Lodge Secretary.

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Lodge Fingal No 318

Tuesday 13th November: Lodge AGM and election of Office Bearers. The meeting was well attended. After discussion, it was the consensus of those present that most of the current office bearers would remain in-situ for another year, with only one or two changes. This being due to illness, work commitments, and the lack of suitable candidates. It is hoped to address the problem soon.

Thursday 15th November: At the conclusion of the Lodge Committee Meeting a presentation of cheques was made to some of the representatives who assist to organise the senior citizens Christmas parties within the area, that being Dingwall, Maryburgh, Conon Bridge and Strathpeffer. From reports received, those attending the parties had an enjoyable time.

Saturday 1st December: The Lodge was used by Provincial Grand Lodge who were hosts to a deputation from Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada. A Reigning Master's Degree was held, followed by a three-course meal, speeches and raffle. It was a busy day for those taking part and behind the scene.

Tuesday 11th December: Saw the Lodge tyle early at 7:00pm. It was opened and closed in the first degree. Members then travelled to Lodge Ness No. 888, to witness the re-installation of the RWM Brother James Gregg.

On Saturday 29th December: Special meeting was held for my re-installation, for the third time. The re-installation was carried out by PM Rory Mackenzie, who was assisted by PM Donald Gunn and other PM's of Lodge Fingal, it being Rory's tenth installation. I was also most honoured and privileged to have our newly installed Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Brother Ramsay McGhee, provide the music at the installation. At the conclusion of the installation, the festival of St John was held within the Logie Lounge of the Lodge. Thanks, are once again extended to all those that took part and attended my installation.

Tuesday 8 January: The Lodge was opened in the first degree. At the termination of Lodge business, a Lecture was given by PM Robert Scott. This was about Divining and Dowsing. The Lecture was well presented with several visual aids being used. It was most evident that this was a subject close to Robert's heart, and well researched. Well done Robert for a most informative and enjoyable Lecture. The Lodge was then closed in the first degree.

February meeting: 12th. M.M. Degree Emulation.

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March meeting: 12th. M.M. Degree, also our annual Provincial Visit. Lodge will Tyle at 7:30pm, to put forward the minutes, etc.

April meeting: 9th. To be arranged.

Special meeting: Saturday 27th April, visitation of Lodge St. Peter`s Operative No. 284. Degree work to be decided. Lodge will tyle at 6:00pm.

Saturday 4th May: Heilan Shed are to work a Squaremen`s Degree. [Initiation Fee £30]. Lodge to Tyle at 3:00pm

Colin Mackintosh.

R.W.M.

Events Logie Lounge which has been organised by our Master Colin Mackintosh:

February 23rd Saturday } **Quiz Night.** Quiz Master to be our very own David MacMaster. [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.

March 23rd Saturday } **Ladies Night.** [7:00 for 7:30pm]. Catering by Sean Kennedy [ex National Hotel]. Three course meal, glass of wine, raffle and good craic. Entertainment by the great Mike Samms. For just £12.50 per person. All most welcome. [Be sure and book your tickets, as the Logie Lounge can only seat 50].

April 27th Saturday } **7:30 for 8:00pm.** Music to be supplied by St. Peter`s, D.J.`s James Moodie and Willie Durrand [who will be doing his Elvis impersonation and dressed accordingly].

Day out to Plockton by train. **Plus, the B-B-Q,** dates for these events will be in the May edition of the Patter.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

D. Gunn PM
Secretary.

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LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851



The first meeting of Lodge Allan Wilson will be on Tuesday 11th June when Brother Allan Baker will be installed into the Chair of the Lodge.

Further details will appear in the May edition.

In the meantime, the books and educational toys for the Mountain View School have been despatched and should be with the school soon.

Editor

LODGE SEAFORTH 854

The Lodge has got off to a good start under the leadership of our new Master, Brother Graham Law. The January meeting saw a packed Lodge-room to witness Brother Donald Ferguson receive his EA Degree – a great night with the Degree team doing well for their first time working together.

Another highlight during the evening saw Past Master Donald Sutherland receive his 60-year Diploma and Jewel from the Master, Brother Graham Law. Congratulations are extended to Donnie on attaining this marvelous milestone in his Masonic career.

On 18th February the Lodge will be working another EA Degree to which the Master extends a warm welcome.

Editor

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

When you can't find the sunshine – be the sunshine!

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Lodge Averon No 866

Since the last publication of the Patter we have had a busy time. On the 8th of December we had our annual kids party which went down a treat with the kids and adults. We catered for 38 kids 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 Christmas visit from Minnie and Mickey Mouse and a Minion, they had a wonderful day. We never missed any of the thirty plus parents and elf's as they all got ice cream. We had a future candidate Willie Pew helping as an elf and received a gift from Santa.



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Lodge Averon – (cont.)

On Saturday the 15th Lodge Averon had their annual installation and being installed into the chair was Brother Donnie Mathieson for his first time. It was a brilliant installation and we had many distinguished visitors and guests attending. With the work our new RWM has put in over the years to the Lodge and local good causes he has certainly earned himself the honour and privilege of this position.

On our first meeting back, on the 10th of January, we had Mr Willie Pew as our candidate. We are glad he is now part of Lodge Averon and we are sure our newly made brother will be an asset to our lodge.

On our second meeting on the 24th of January we had a new candidate Kenny Rodger initiated to our lodge, again we are sure he can be an asset to the lodge

In the next quarter the Lodge will be having our Provincial visit on the 14th of February when we will be carrying out a 2nd degree ritual for Brother William Pew.

On Saturday the 16th of February we will be hosting our annual senior's party in Ardross and Ainess Bowling club. Brother John Macrae has been making an outstanding job of arranging this event once again. We will have a few Brethren from Lodge Ness assisting in entertaining our guests, along with possibly two pipers this year and our local highland dance group to perform a few routines.

We have planned to have our Ladies Night on the 30th of March, to be held within the Lodge, and already tickets are selling fast.

Brother Harry McCartney



LODGE NESS 888

The next meeting will be Tuesday 12th February 2019.

Derek Rodway
IPM Lodge Ness 888

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

A crisp and calm winter evening saw 26 or so Brethren from all over the Highlands and Islands arrive at Lodge Kyle to witness (PM) Brother Callum Mackenzie be installed into the Chair of King Solomon. It is very heartening when a multitude of Lodges come to visit; in this case: 1379, 1217, 1216, 134, 318, 851, 854, 881, 1464 and of course "R&C Provincial" including the current, past and deputy RWPGMs.

Somewhat short on numbers (on the night) Lodge Kyle invited an Installing Team of brethren from the Province of Inverness-shire namely Archie Nicholson, James McLeod, Ross MacDiarmid, Chris Revell and Ewan Smith who executed a full and flawless Installing of our Master; who was toasted with Uisge Beatha and water for the drivers. Lodge Kyle then presented "a wee dram" to each of the Installing Team and thanked them on behalf of Lodge Kyle for their superb effort.

We had mentioned in our minute, which is circulated amongst ALL Kyle Brethren (old and current) for their approval, that the Brethren were concerned about Brother MacDougall, who had not been heard from for a while. Brother MacDougall read the minute called the Secretary and intimated he was feeling better all things considered.

In similar vein and same month, Brother Lowe mentioned that it was great that he could keep in touch with Lodge activity via the Minute despite living far away in England and unable to attend every month for obvious reasons. We also had one Brother return after a long absence of many years who had kept abreast of Lodge Kyle matters via the Minute. I can therefore state that circulating the minute in this manner is an effective weapon in the battle of dwindling membership and recommend this strategy wholeheartedly to all Secretaries. Just bear in mind you must adhere to GDPR

Right Worshipful Master, Brother Callum Mackenzie would like to extend belated Season's Greetings to all Freemasons and would remind Brethren that, we will hold our second meeting of the new year on the first Monday of February. All Brethren in good standing are welcome.

Ronnie Miller, PM
Secretary

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

Our November meeting was both business and Degree work. Some outstanding business from the AGM had to be held-over until this meeting but once completed we were able to hold a fellow craft degree for Bro Hossack.

Our installation was due in December. However, work commitments prevented our RWM Gary Munro from attending. We decided, at short notice, to continue with the meeting and Installed the office-bearers only which worked out very well.

With the RWM on a family holiday to Florida we were unable to get his installation done in our January. Instead we held a business meeting which proved very constructive with a few ideas being discussed regarding our centenary celebrations which are to be held in May 2020.

Our Installation of the RWM will be held on the Friday 1st February at 8.00pm. We will also have a couple of Brethren with 50 years' service to the craft and they will be receiving their certificates during the evening. Lodge Rosehaugh was in abeyance for several years and reopened in 1969 which resulted in a busy period for Lodge we can elaborate a bit more in next edition

Keith Patience, PM
Secretary

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday 12th December was the date for the annual Avoch & Killen Senior Citizens Christmas Party held at Lodge Rosehaugh once again.

Nearly 30 members of the community attended and were well looked after with soup from Fortrose Cafe and other treats and desserts.

A well supported raffle plus a goody bag meant nobody went home empty handed.

Mike Keavey provided the entertainment in his usual way and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

A big thank you to all the brethren who helped prepare the lodge and do the dishes etc and to the wives and partners for coming along to support the lodge.

Allan Carmichael, PM

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Brother Gary Munro, RWM, Bro. Dennis Hossack, the GMM and Past Master Arthur MacArthur

At the Regular Meeting of Lodge Rosehaugh on Friday 1st February, the Grand Master Mason had the honour to present Jubilee Diplomas to Brother Dennis Hossack and to Past Master, Brother Arthur MacArthur

A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity

An optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty

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Lodge St Martin 1217

The Lodge is now in full swing with RWM Phil Ellis in the Chair. We had a very successful Santa Float and raised £974 to be used for the children of the village and surrounding area.

We have a ballot and 1st degree practice planned for our February meeting(19th) tiling at 20.00hrs. Assuming a clear ballot at the February meeting we will be working a 1st degree on Tuesday 19th March and will tyle at 20.00hrs. We will be working a second degree for our Provincial visitation on 16th April and the lodge will tyle at 19.30 for the April meeting and admit visitors at 20.00Hrs.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551

Since the resumption of Lodge business in September 2018 the lodge membership has been augmented by two new members – Bro. Davie Orr who has now completed his ‘apprenticeship’ and, indeed, has taken office since the Installation ceremony on 8th November as Inner Guard.

The second recruit is Bro. Peter Davison who has retired to the area since several years and took his F.C. degree on Thursday, 24th January.

Peter’s latest step was quite unique in that a few willing volunteers travelled from the Black Isle / Conon Bridge / Dingwall hinterland to assist in the working of the Degree – rumours that they were press ganged have been denied. The truth of the matter is that our new RWM Bro. Alastair Fraser Gault has a very persuasive way of coercing competent ritualists onto the floor and his time spent visiting various lodges in and outside of Ross-shire viz. Inverness-shire (M.L. is St. Andrew No. 601, Ardersier where he has relinquished office to concentrate on his Aultbea duties), Moray and Nairn, Banff-shire, Sutherland and Caithness is paying off handsomely.

The participating visitors assisting 1551 stalwarts were Bro. Graham Law RWM Lodge Seaforth No. 854, Bro. Alasdair Taylor PM Lodge Seaforth No. 854, Bro. Colin Macintosh RWM Lodge Fingal No. 318, Bro. Mike Peterson IPM Lodge St. Martin No. 1217 and Bro. John Stirling PM Old Inverness Kilwinning St. John’s No. 6.

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Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551 (cont.)

These brethren were well supported within the columns by travelling companions David MacMaster PM 318, Mike Turner PM 1217 and Aultbea 1551 WSW Richard Macdonald (resident in Dingwall).

The grateful thanks of lodge office bearers were evidenced at the end of the degree. Resident office-bearers Ally Gault, Mike Longley and Duncan MacLennan completed the evening's line up.

On Thursday 17th January the lodge was made the welcome recipient of a beautiful musical addition in the shape of a Technics PCM Sound EX10L organ. This wonderful gift has been made by Bro. Ken A.S. McMorran (RWM 2005-06), now resident in Portmahomack, Easter Ross and the last time I saw a console on a piece of equipment like this was in Mission Control in the Johnson Space Centre, Houston, Texas in June 2001 while I was working in Kellogg Tower (near the Houston Astros Baseball ground)! – prior to going out to Chad, Central Africa.

The PGL visitation to the lodge is scheduled for Thursday 11th April 2019 when it is anticipated that Brethren from Aberlour, Banff-shire are contemplating a trip west when the M.M. degree will be conferred on Bro. Peter Davison.

*Andrew Miller Henderson
A/Secretary Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551*

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FEBRUARY 2009 FROM THE SINCLAIR BRUCE COLUMN

It was my intention to commence this edition with a report on Lodge Loch Ewe's 50th anniversary however they very cleverly got it into the 57th edition before me. Consequently, this is a scaled down report from me. Margaret and I motored up west to arrive at Duncan and Bella Laide's in good time for a snack lunch before the meeting. The meeting commenced at 2.30 pm with Danny Forbes in the chair and after the opening proceedings were placed in the hands of the PGM who carried on the ceremony up to the solemn part when he invited the DOC Robin Cattnach to present VW Junior Grand Chaplain Bro Rev Iain Ramsden who continued with the rededication of the Lodge. I can only say that the entire ceremony held all present captivated. Again, as reported in the 57th edition I was delighted when the Master invited Bro Duncan MacLennan to present me in front of the Altar and Danny conferred on me Honorary membership to which I responded in the appropriate manner. It was a day to remember.

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BITS AND PIECES

THE PALACE

Bro. Rudyard Kipling.

WHEN I was a King and a Mason - a Master proven and skilled
I cleared me ground for a Palace such as a King should build.
I decreed and dug down to my levels. Presently under the silt
I came on the wreck of a Palace such as a King had built.

There was no worth in the fashion - there was no wit in the plan -
Hither and thither, aimless, the ruined footings ran -
Masonry, brute, mishandled, but carven on every stone:
"After me cometh a Builder. Tell him I too have known."

Swift to my use in the trenches, where my well-planned ground-works grew,
I tumbled his quoins and his ashlar and cut and reset them anew.
Lime I milled of his marbles; burned it slacked it, and spread;
Taking and leaving at pleasure the gifts of the humble dead.

Yet I despised not nor gloried; yet, as we wrenched them apart,
I read in the razed foundations the heart of that builder's heart.
As he had written and pleaded, so did I understand
The form of the dream he had followed in the face of the thing he had planned.

When I was a King and a Mason, in the open noon of my pride,
They sent me a Word from the Darkness. They whispered and called me aside.
They said - "The end is forbidden." They said - "Thy use is fulfilled.
"Thy Palace shall stand as that other's - the spoil of a King who shall build."

I called my men from my trenches, my quarries my wharves and my sheers.
All I had wrought I abandoned to the faith of the faithless years.
Only I cut on the timber - only I carved on the stone:
"After me cometh a Builder. Tell him, I too have known."

My thanks to Brother Kenneth Jack for sending this poem.

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UPDATE ON THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE WEBSITE

A new, shorter domain name for our Provincial website: PGLORAC.UK

SCENARIO

Some time ago we discussed the use and effectiveness of our domain name <http://www.pgrossandcromarty.org.uk> and determined it was

1. a bit long;
2. it is half acronym, half whole words
3. an unusual suffix (.org.uk)

This makes the domain difficult to remember without writing it down. Time has passed, and more and more people are using their phones and “tap” devices to view websites. A smaller more concise domain name is therefore desirable as it's easier to type and less prone to mis-typing or mistakes.

The smallest logical name we could come up with is [pglorac.uk](http://www.pglorac.uk) which I suggest we pronounce as follows: PIH-GLOW-RACK -DOT-EWE-KAY

The domain name is formed from the first letter of the following words: -

Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty and the suffix .UK which is a reduced version of the old .co.uk regional name set. The simple suffix (.uk) is popular with phone users and a younger demographic. When telling people about the new domain name you should emphasise there is no “CO” at the end just the “UK” i.e. [pglorac.uk](http://www.pglorac.uk)

MIGRATION

All websites should ideally be listed in Google so that when someone looks up The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty our website should come up as the top listing. At present the top listing is <http://www.pgrossandcromarty.org.uk> with [pglorac.uk](http://www.pglorac.uk), although currently "live" not listed. This is because we want the approval of the Brethren before "swapping" the old for new in Google. This swapping is called Migration and comprises two parts: web and email. To migrate the website so that all web traffic goes to the new website, despite what domain is typed in is called a "301 re-direct". A small piece of code is inserted into the old website telling Google - "from now on go to the new website and list it just the same way you listed my old website. This change is permanent."

As for email addresses the situation is slightly more involved... we use EMAIL FORWARDING, so when an email with an old email address is used, it is REDIRECTED to its equivalent in the new domain name. so sales@pgrossandcromarty.org.uk would go to sales@pglorac.uk We can also add, if required, a little message in the form of an AUTORESPONDER to all the old email addresses that says "This email address is being phased out, henceforth please use this new email address sales@pglorac.uk Please replace your OLD existing email address with this NEW email address in your address book"

This helps "educate" people without having to continually tell them about the new email address.

COSTS: There is no difference in cost.

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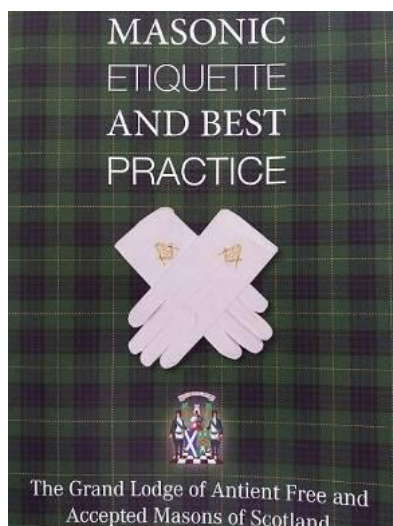
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TIMESCALES: Google can be told immediately of the change providing there is no objection. Both sites, old and new, can run side by side for a year if necessary, although for "canonical" reasons a short period of say 12 weeks is preferred.

CONTACT: The above method of site and email migration is standard and widely used by SEO professionals. If you have any questions, you are most welcome to contact me, Ron Miller at sales@calcouk.com



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.

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LODGE TOBAGO KILWINNING No. 1643

The 19th January 2019 was the date of Lodge Tobago Kilwinning's celebration of their 50th Anniversary in the Lodge Temple at Lambeau, Scarborough, Tobago.

The celebration commenced at 11am in the morning with a celebratory Church Service in Plymouth followed by a Lodge meeting in the late afternoon. All the seats in the Lodge were occupied by Brethren from Austria; Scotland; Trinidad and, of course, an excellent turnout of Lodge members.

The District Grand Master, Bro Rajendra R Bhagwat, headed a large deputation and carried out the ceremony of rededication along with his excellent team of office bearers to a very high Masonic standard.

The long-time Secretary of the Lodge Bro. Tommy Elias gave a very interesting resume of the Lodge's 50 years, concluded by informing all, that the Lodge members were in the process of seriously considering an extension to the building.



Before the Lodge was closed a surprise was in store when both the District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada Bro Rajendra R Bhagwat and Bro Morris M Downie, Proxy District Grand Master of the District and PM of Lodge St Martin No 1217 and Past Provincial

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Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty, were presented with Honorary Membership of the Lodge, by the RWM Bro Austin. Both suitably replied and the Master on behalf of the Lodge was presented with a bottle of "Grand Masters Choice" whisky by the latter.

The evening was concluded by a 50th Anniversary Dinner in the prestigious Coco Reef Hotel which was greatly enjoyed by all present under Bro Charles Elias who was the function's Director of Ceremonies.

In all, a very successful 50th Anniversary with grateful thanks from all present to the organisation committee headed by Bro Tommy Elias, Lodge Secretary.

PLYMOUTH'S KILTED BRETHREN.

Plymouth in the West Indies Island of Tobago saw two kilted Freemasons, Bro Morris M Downie, PM of Lodge St Martin No. 1217 in Ullapool meet up with Bro MacPherson, a Tobago resident whose mother Lodge is St Barchan No 156 in East Renfrewshire at Lodge Tobago Kilwinning's 50th Anniversary, on Saturday 19th January 2019. They enjoyed a Golden Anniversary Anglican Church Service, conducted by Reverend Arch Deacon Phil Issaac.



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PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

Dates for Diary Visitations

February 6th Cromarty Firth 310
February 22nd St Clement 244
March 12th Tain and Ross 63
May 15th Hebrides 364
May 16th Hebrides Cryptic 364
May 25th AGM Lodge Fingal 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 12th February

St Clement RAC 244

The next meeting of St Clement will be Friday 22nd February

Cromarty Firth RAC 310

The Hebrides RAC 364.

Our RA meetings have been well attended this season so far even although up till now we have only been carrying out mock degrees, however at our next meeting on 12th February we will have a real candidate and an EM degree will be worked.

Donnie Macleod
Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

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Highland Guild Lodge

The next meeting of the Highland Guild Lodge will be the Installation Meeting on Friday 8th February 2019.

Alasdair Taylor

Kirkswarden/Scrivener
Highland Guild Lodge

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

On Friday 25th January Venerable Preceptor James Smith carried out his first duty since being installed, it was a Malta grade carried out on Frater Joe Wilson. The next meeting of the Preceptory will be on Friday 22nd February.

Donnie Macleod IPDGP

And finally –

When things feel a bit dark and you're stuck in a bad patch



The sun is a daily reminder that
we too can rise again from
the darkness, that we too
can shine our own light.

-s. ajna