

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 110

FEBRUARY 2022

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Province of Ross and Cromarty*



Grand Hall – Grand Lodge of Scotland

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Editorial

Welcome to the 110th edition of the “Provincial Patter”.

The “Make it a Million” campaign in respect of Prostate Cancer Scotland is now under way with Brethren in many Provinces rising to the challenge. Brother James Fraser, Lodge Seaforth, has suggested that each Province do a sponsored Cycle ride round the Lodges in their respective Provinces – Caithness have already taken up the challenge and PGM Jim Beattie has raised a magnificent £1700 cycling round the four Lodges scattered throughout Caithness. This could be done by one individual or by teams of cyclists in each Province. If all Provinces participate, it would be arranged that one cyclist from each Province would take part in a procession of cyclists into George Street to present their cheques.

The working party organising events are just awaiting the thumbs up from the Benevolence & Care Committee to activate events ranging from tandem skydiving to white water rafting, from zip slides to coffee mornings.

There will be a new Facebook page which will be available to Brethren to publicise their events and to bring back pictures and stories of successful events to inspire others to get involved.

As well as events being organised by the working party, individuals, Lodges, Provinces will be encouraged to “do their own thing” to raise the remaining £200,000 to “Make it a Million”. Together, we’ll do it.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



As we go to print with this February edition, things are beginning to happen in Grand Lodge. The Regular Communication will take place on Thursday 3rd February and at the end of February, all being well with Covid regulations, I will be heading off to Bermuda to install the new Grand Superintendent, Brother Martin Paul Weekes. From Bermuda, it will be back to Miami and then on to the Bahamas to install the new DGM, Brother Anthony Bostwick. After the Bahamas I will be in Jamaica not only to install the new DGM, Brother Courtney King Palmer, but to carry out two rededication ceremonies. From Jamaica I’ll be travelling via St Lucia to Trinidad where I’m delighted that I’ll be supported by Brethren from this Province when we install the new DGM, Brother Louis Jean Baptiste. From Trinidad the last stop will be Guyana to install the new DGM there, Brother Sean Ronald Noel.

In each District there will be a comprehensive list of events before I move on to the next venue. So far, we have received the programme from Jamaica which is comprehensive. I arrive in Kingston late afternoon and attend a reception in the evening. Day 2 Rededicating Lodge Glenlyon at 11.00 am followed by a lunch then another reception at night. Day 3 is the Rededication of the District – 250 years old. In the evening I will be holding a rehearsal for the Installation which will happen on Day 4 followed by a Banquet at night. Day 5 – an 07.30 Church Service followed by Brunch. Day 6 I have a courtesy call to His Excellency the Governor General then a meeting in the evening at Lodge Caledonian. Day 7 a visit to the Military in the morning and the Installation in Lodge St Andrew at night.

It’s good to be back.

Ed

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Hi Brethren, and a Happy and Healthy New Year to each and every one of you.

Activity in the lodges has now started to pick up pace and the Covid lockdown restrictions are being managed, and hopefully are easing as we go forward.

It is gratifying to see the lodges adapting their ways of working and putting in place the necessary protocols to keep the brethren safe, to beat the threats from the Covid virus, and to keep the lodges working. It is important to a lot of Brethren to meet and socialise, particularly after such a long spell of restrictions and isolation from friends.

It has been a busy period recently in the Province with eight of our twelve lodges having held their Installation Meetings, with four newly installed Masters taking up office in the chair of their lodges for the first time. It was pleasing to see good attendances of Brethren at each of these Installation Meetings, with each of the Installing Ceremonies carried out to a high standard. I wish all of the Masters, and their Office-bearers, every success and enjoyment in their terms of office.

At the end of November, a small deputation of Provincial Members headed down the A9 to attend the Installation Meeting at the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh. On the way south we attended a meeting of Lodge Oak 877, in Keltie, in the Province of Fife & Kinross, where we were warmly welcomed by many well-known Brethren, including the RWM Gordon Keatings, Substitute PGM Craig Thompson and Lodge Secretary Andrew Paterson.

The following day we attended Grand Lodge and witnessed the Re-installation ceremony of the Grand Master Mason, Bro Ramsay McGhee, and his Office-bearers. We would wish Ramsay every success and fulfilment in this, his fourth term as Grand Master Mason.

It was also very pleasing to hear the name of Jim Tait PM being read out in Grand Lodge, in the list of those Brethren receiving justly earned Honorary Grand Rank.

At the Robertsons Lodge 134 Installation Meeting in December, I had the honour and privilege to present Bro. Jim Tait, PM, with his Honorary Grand Rank Certificate and Jewel, as Honorary Assistant Grand Secretary, a well-deserved award for many years of loyal support to both his Mother Lodge, Robertsons Lodge 134, and to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross & Cromarty.



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Provincial Grand Lodge (cont.)

In December I chaired a unique meeting in Lodge St Duthus 82, in Tain, where the Young Masons Group, who have been meeting regularly online throughout the lockdown period, conferred the Fellowcraft Degree on one of their fellow young masons. A report on this meeting is included below.

Shortly the annual visitations, by the Provincial Grand Lodge, to each of the lodges in the Province shall commence.

The dates for the Provincial Grand Lodge visits are as follows:

10 th February -	Lodge Averon 866 at 7:45pm.
22 nd February -	Lodge Ness 888 at 8pm.
7 th March -	Lodge St Duthus 82 at 7:45pm.
8 th March -	Lodge Fingal 318 at 8pm.
16 th March -	Robertsons Lodge 134 at 7:30pm.
21 st March -	Lodge Seaforth 854 at 7:30pm.
1 st April -	Lodge Rosehaugh 1216 at 8pm.
14 th April -	Lodge Loch Ewe 1551 at 8pm.
19 th April -	Lodge St Martin 1217 at 8pm.
2 nd May -	Lodge Kyle 1117 at 8pm.
20 th May -	Lodge Fortrose 108 at 8pm.
12 th July -	Lodge Allan Wilson 851 at 11:30am.

The Provincial Grand Lodge is looking forward to sending a Deputation to the Installation of District Grand Master of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, Bro Louis J Baptiste, on the 26th March. We are very much looking forward to meeting up with the Brethren of the District and growing our fraternal relationship with them.

As the lockdown restrictions appear to be easing, and slowly, there is a feeling of getting back to some sort of normality, it is pleasing to see more of our lodges opening and attendances starting to recover to pre-covid levels.

It is important that we can get back to some sort of normality soon, for the social and well-being aspects that our organisation promotes within our members.

I look forward to catching up with you all at the Annual Visitations to each of the Lodges in the Province, if not before.

Stay safe Brethren.

Raymond A MacKeddie

PGM Ross and Cromarty

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From the Provincial Almoner

The following have sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above:-

On Sunday 9th November 2021, Brother David Reid MM of Fingal Lodge 318, passed away. Brother David had been unwell for some time.

On Monday 20th December 2021, Brother William Forsyth MM of Lodge Ness No 888 at Mull Hall Care Home, Barbaraville. He was the father of Brother Gavin Forsyth PM of Lodge Ness No. 888.

On Friday 24th December 2021, Brother Patrick Parsley (Fortrose) MM of Robertsons Lodge No 134. Brother Patrick passed away in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness after a short illness.

On Wednesday 29th December 2021, Brother John MacColl MacDougall, MM of Lodge Kyle No. 1117. Brother John passed away at Bessie Care Home, Laurencekirk. He was for many years Treasurer of Lodge Kyle No. 1117.

On Thursday 20th January 2022, Brother Angus Michael Ross, PM of Lodge Ness No. 888. Brother Angus passed away in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness and had been in poor health for quite some time. He will be sadly missed in Invergordon and in Lodge Ness No 888.

On Wednesday 26th January 2022, Bro Robert Hanna MM of Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551 passed away at home in Ayrshire.

Mr Greg MacLennan, son of PM Duncan MacLennan of Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551 who passed away on 9th December 2021.

Mr Michael Stirling, brother of Thomas Stirling PM of Lodge Ness No. 888 who passed away on Friday 28th January 2022.

I also report on the following: PM Donald MacLeod of Lodge Seaforth No 854 has managed to return to the Lodge on light duties while PM Brian McGroarty of Robertson Lodge No. 134 has received a favourable medical report and is now returning to work. Bro Andy Farquhar MM of Lodge St. Duthus No. 82 has now been transferred to Kintyre Nursing Home, Invergordon.

And finally, RWM Ian "Tug" Wilson who was installed into the Chair of Lodge Ness No. 888 on the evening of Tuesday 26th January 2022. We are delighted to see him able to pick up his duties there and wish him all the very best.

I will close by asking that, should any Brother require my assistance or know of any Brother who does, to please get in touch with me.

Fred T Fraser PM Prov. Grand Almoner fraserft@yahoo.com

01463 870307

Young Masons Group - Fellowcraft Degree

On Wednesday 22nd December 2021 a unique masonic event took place at Lodge St Duthus No. 82, in Tain, Ross-shire, when a group of young masons carried out the ceremony of passing one of their colleagues to the Second or Fellowcraft Degree.

The group of young masons, generally brethren with a membership of less than two years in the Craft, met during the Covid Lockdown period, at Zoom meetings arranged by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross & Cromarty, formed to help maintain Masonic interest and discovery, and provide a social platform for the recent intrants to the Craft.

At the twice monthly meetings, the Young Masons group enjoyed presentations on various masonic subjects, some of the presentations given by the members themselves, and many others from invited guests, from many parts of Scotland, and throughout the World, with interesting topics to be shared.

The forum maintained masonic interest within the members, and their enthusiasm and zeal for the Craft motivated them to enquire if they could get together as a team to work a degree as a Young Masons Team.

Following the lifting of the restrictions, and when one of the group's regular attending members, Bro. Scott MacKenzie, an Entered Apprentice, who lives in Germany, announced he was coming home for Christmas to visit his family, the group made a request to the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge St Duthus No. 82 to carry out the ceremony of passing him to the Fellowcraft Degree.

Bro Scott MacKenzie also happened to be the son of the Right Worshipful Master, Bro John MacKenzie, agreed to the request, and a date for a Special Meeting to accommodate Bro. Scott's visit was arranged.

The Young Masons Team, under the supervision of the Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Ross and Cromarty, Bro. Raymond MacKeddie, who assumed the role of Right Worshipful Master for the ceremony, shared out the various offices and parts between themselves, and delivered the ceremony



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To add to the tension on the night, a deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, led by the Grand Master Mason, Bro. Ramsay McGhee, was present at the meeting.

The Degree work was delivered to a very high standard by all who took part, and received much praise from all present, including very appreciative and commendable remarks from the Grand Master Mason. The Young Masons Team enjoyed the experience and are now considering their next masonic challenge.

The Young Masons Group continue to meet monthly, by online Zoom meetings, and welcome any new members to the group.

Raymond MacKeddie, PGM

A Tyler's Toast

In the midst of our mirth, we drink to poor masons all over the world,
On every shore our flag of love is gloriously unfurled.
We prize each Brother fair or dark, who bears no moral stain,
Happy to meet, sorry to part, and happy to meet again.

Freemasons feel the noble truth that Robert Burns told,
The rank is but the guinea stamp, the man himself the gold.
With us, the rich and poor unite, and equal rights maintain,
Happy to meet, sorry to part, happy to meet again.

Dear Brethren of the mystic tie, the night is waning fast,
Our duties done, our feast is o'er, this Toast must be the last.
Goodnight, Goodnight again repeat, that well known refrain,
Happy to meet, sorry to part and happy to meet again.

Brethren:

To all poor and distressed Masons scattered over land, sea and in the air. May God Bless them and grant them a speedy return to their native land if they should so desire.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2014

The Rev Canon Dr Joseph Morrow, Chancellor of the Diocese of Brechin, Honorary Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee and Chaplain, Glamis Castle has been appointed as the new Lord Lyon King of Arms. The Lord Lyon office dates from the 14th Century. Duties include the granting of armorial bearings and judicial rulings on who has the right to bear an existing coat of arms.

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



On Wednesday 22nd December 2021 a unique event for Lodge St Duthus took place when a group of young masons carried out the ceremony of passing one of their colleagues to the Second or Fellowcraft Degree.

A full description of the event has been given in the Young Masons column – suffice to say it was greatly appreciated by all present and the young masons' performance augurs well for the future.

January's meeting saw Bro. Steven O'Donnell present an enthralling paper on the Volume of the Sacred Law, an educational piece tyled at EA. Although there were no EA's present at January's meeting, those that were present were delighted to receive such an excellently prepared piece of Lodge education.

Bro. O'Donnell has been asked by PM's of other Lodges within the Province if he would be so kind as to present his work to those Lodges who would appreciate such an evening of education. Bro Steven O'Donnell has kindly agreed to do so.

John MacKenzie – Master

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2013



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Lodge Fortrose No 108



Brother John Robertson was installed as Right Worshipful Master on Friday 3rd December along with his new team of office bearers in an excellent ceremony led by Past Master Donnie Graham.

We're now looking forward to a busy year ahead as there are several application forms waiting to be read. Our first new candidate is due to be initiated on Friday 4th February.

The wreath laying ceremony at the Iolaire memorial which was due to take place on 1st January had to be cancelled that day due to the weather, so it was left to the individual organisations to make their own arrangements. RWM John Robertson, Derek Mackay PM and I laid the wreath on behalf the Lodge.

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RWM John Robertson handed over two of our charity cheques of £400 each last week to the local Lifeboat and the Laxdale scout troop.



Continue to stay safe brethren.

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod PM

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren and Best New Year Wishes to all from Robertson's Lodge No. 134.

Robertson's Lodge is very pleased to advise that we have had five physical Meetings after the Covid 19 Pandemic.

In November we had the AGM, followed by a Fellowcraft Degree for one of our Brethren whose Masonic Path had been interrupted by the Coronavirus Pandemic.

In December we had an excellent Installation Meeting at which Bro Jonathan Hill was installed again into the Chair as RWM, by the Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty, Brother Raymond MacKeddie and his Installing Team. The Office-bearers were installed by Brother Jim Tait, PM, and the Team.

In January, a Business Meeting was held. The next Meeting is on Wednesday 16th February 2022. We are moving on and plan to hold an MM Degree at a Special Meeting next month, on 19th February 2022.

Robertson's Lodge continue to use the Masonic Hall of Lodge Seaforth No 854, for which we are grateful for the Fraternal offer. All Covid Guidelines and Protocol are followed to protect all Brethren using the facilities.

Our Lodge Almoner, Bro. Jim Tait PM, carries on advising on all and communicating with the Members. We did however lose a local Brother to the Grand Lodge Above, Brother Patrick Parsley, a Brother who had been strongly involved in the Lodge previously, having made and donated Masonic Tools to the Lodge.

We are keen to continue with face-to-face meetings and continue to plan the ongoing meeting schedule for this Season. However, utmost is the safety and well-being of all of our Brethren and visitors, so it is understood that all must protect themselves by keeping safe.

A number of Lodge Members are also out and about, visiting other Lodge Meetings in the area.

All Brethren who are unsure and self-isolating are reminded to please send in apologies and transmit so they can be recorded.

Peter K. Ratcliffe.

Lodge Secretary.

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Lodge Fingal No 318

Tuesday 9th November was our Annual General Meeting and election of Office Bearers. The meeting was reasonably well attended. At the conclusion of the business part of the meeting Brother Alex Craib JD, gave a short but interesting history of Brother Lt. Col. Sir Hector Munro of Foulis the first Provincial Grand Master of the Province. Brother Craib covered all aspects of his life including both his Military and Masonic careers through to his passing at the age of 85 in 1935.

**Bro. Lt. Col. Sir Hector Munro of Foulis 11th Baronet and 29th Baron of Foulis,
Evanton, Ross and Cromarty**



Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty 1890 – 1911.

The Master thanked Alex for his well-presented paper. It was evident that he put a lot of research into the paper. The Brethren were well pleased with the paper and showed their appreciation in the customary manner.

Tuesday 14th December: At the Regular Meeting on 14th December, it was a real pleasure to be able to work an EA Degree once again, on this occasion for Mr David John Noble. At the conclusion of the Degree, Brother Raymond MacKeddie PGM of Ross and Cromarty, congratulated Brother Noble on taking his first regular step in Freemasonry stating that he proved to be a first-class candidate. The degree was witnessed by 13 members and 13 visitors, and the collection amounted to £150.

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On Saturday 28th December, the Lodge tyled at 6:30pm for a Special meeting for my Re-Installation, for the fourth time. The Installation was carried out by Brother Ramsay McGhee PPGM of Ross and Cromarty, who was ably assisted by Brother Raymond MacKeddie, our current PGM and other PMs of Lodges within the Province. The degree was witnessed by 12 members and 19 visitors, collection amounted to £185, it was proposed that this figure be made up to £250, which goes to the Benevolent Fund of Grand Lodge.

At the Third rising I asked Brother Kevin Taggart IPM of Lodge Buchan St. John No. 636, to say a few words on behalf of the brethren out-with the Province and Brother Charlie Carrison RWM of Lodge Averon No. 866, to say a few words on behalf of the brethren with-in the Province. They both gave thanks for the honour and privilege of saying a few words and remarked favourably on the warmth of the welcome they received on entering the Lodge and the high standard of the Installation mentioning, Bro Morris Downie PPGM's, presentation of the Volume of the Sacred Law. Brother Gunn was warmly congratulated on being installed into the Chair of King Solomon for the fourth time. The business of the meeting being completed, the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form at 8:20pm.

On Tuesday 11th January the Lecture was given by Brother David Kinloch, our newly made Affiliate Member, on the subject of - "Brother Give Me Your Shoe". Well, David got going and soon got his own back for the Master press-ganging him to do a paper! He related the following stories before moving into the subject matter of his talk.

During the late 18th and 19th centuries, many attempts were made by captains of His Majesty's navy to enlist recruits for their sea-going warships to go to fight against the armadas of The Enemy. The notorious 'Press gangs' of the navy were the terrors of many seaside ports for often their methods were not as genteel and professional as they might be and many an unfortunate soul would wake up in the morning with a screaming hangover and or a badly bruised body to find himself far away from his friends, relations and home-land for an indefinite period.

Not so well known were the recruiting sergeants of the Scottish, and particularly, the Highland regiments, whose tactics often made the Navy seem like big 'Jessies'. One such was the Senior Recruiting sergeant of the Seaforth Highlanders, one Fergus Gunn. Whilst not possessed of great physical stature, Gunn was blessed with a silver tongue and a creative nature, and he had no difficulty in resorting to subterfuge, cunning and, when necessary, a wee chap on the heid with a night stick to maintain his position as the Regiment's leading and most prolific recruiter. Sergeant Fergus Gunn, recruiter and, where necessary, press gang leader extraordinaire was roundly admired by both his fellow recruiters and Officers of the Regiment alike for his undoubted and nefarious abilities. In due course and time, he retired gracefully to the Town of Dingwall where he went on to lead a blameless and quiet life with no reference to his previous, colourful, military career.

It is often said that his descendants have inherited his powers of silver-tongued persuasion supplemented, when necessary, by the ability to summon the ghosts of Fergus Gunn's press gang.

"Now this was the manner in former time concerning redeeming and concerning changing, for to confirm all things, a man plucked off his shoe and gave it to his neighbour".

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Brethren, I'm a travelling mason. Due to the nature of my job, I have tended to move from place to place and country to country every few years. I was initiated, passed, and raised into Lodge Lusaka 1386 SC in 1975 in Zambia, I joined the English in Malta through The Lodge of St. John & St Paul No 349 EC in 1991 and the Irish via Songkhla Lodge in Thailand (now reopened to Kuala Lumpur as a travelling Lodge) in 2009.

Whilst I lived and worked in all these places, I have visited many Lodges in other countries and, just as I have been since I retired back to the UK 5 years ago, I have been greeted with the kindest and most hospitable welcome. Brother Kinloch went on to mention his different visits to the above Lodges and their customs, which makes Masonry and their customs at harmonies, even more interesting.

The Master thanked David for his well-presented and well-researched paper and the brethren assembled reacted accordingly.

Future events in the Lodge are: -

February meeting: 8th. F.C. Degree for Brother David John Noble.

March meeting: 8th. Hopefully to be an E.A. Degree, dependant on a Ballot which is to be held at our February meeting. Also, our annual Provincial Visit, Lodge will Tyle at 7:30pm, to put forward the minutes, etc.

April meeting: 12th. M.M. Degree for Brother Neil MacKenzie.

At this juncture would like to mention to Fingal Brethren, those awful two words Test Fees are now due, for the amount off £55. Now in turn we must pay Grand Lodge £33, for them to survive, with all their overheads. By paying Grand Lodge, we receive a certificate, enabling us to make Freemasons and Collect Fees. To get this certificate for Season 2021-22, Grand Lodge charged us for 40 members, so you can see that FEES have to be paid for Fingal to survive. Our Treasurer Brother Henry Cameron PM will accept payments by cheque or by Bacs, here are the details, Henry Cameron, 7 Kinettas Square, Strathpeffer, Ross-shire, IV14 9BD. Or direct to Bank of Scotland, sort code 80-06-35 a/c 00301643.

Would also like to mention that the 50 / 50 Club comes to an end this February. Now then! hopefully, Brother Henry will agree to carry on for another Year, the cost will still be the same, £60. The Club has been running since 2004, this helps tremendously with the running of the Lodge, otherwise we would be in dire consequence. A lot of thanks go to Brother Henry Cameron PM for his commitment to this venture. Bank details remain the same, as was previously mentioned. As we go through these strange times. Take care and stay safe.

That's all Folks, watch this Space.

D. Gunn RWM

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LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851

The Brethren of the Lodge are looking forward to joining the Brethren of Lodge Seaforth for a joint celebratory lunch and meeting to celebrate our 125th Anniversaries.

If all goes according to plan the Meeting and Lunch will take place on Tuesday 3rd May. Members will be circulated with details in due course.

David MacMaster - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 1996

The Stornoway Brethren are proud to announce that they have a new Lodge Piper. Pipe Major Ian Morrison, formerly of the Queens Own, was installed last week into his new position. Brother Ian has, over the years, won every major piping award worth mentioning and is now teaching his craft to the children in Lewis.

His first official engagement as Lodge Piper was at the Annual Burns Supper. An audience of over sixty enjoyed a first- class evening, made all the better by the attendance of six Brethren and their wives from Lodge St Clement's No 1353, Tarbert, Harris.

The Brethren from Lodge Fortrose are joining forces with the St Clement's Brethren in May to travel to Lochmaddy to work a Mark degree for the Brethren of Lodge Eval No 1464, who are experiencing a wee rough patch at the moment. Hopefully the joint visit will boost the morale of the Uist Brethren and provide that spark to give them the impetus to keep things going. Any Brethren who fancy a trip to Uist in May would be made very welcome. I'll publish the exact date in the May issue of the newsletter.

At the beginning of April, the Stornoway Brethren are making their way south to Fauldhouse to work a Degree at Lodge St John 374. This will be a reciprocal visit, the Linlithgowshire Brethren having visited Stornoway last year.

The first Friday in August will be a night worth putting in the diary. On that night the Brethren of Lodge The Gael No 609, under the leadership of their RWM Brother Donald Finlayson, will travel across the Minch to work a Degree for the Lodge Fortrose Brethren.

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LODGE SEAFORTH 854

The Lodge continue to meet through the winter months, albeit at a slightly lower temperature due to ventilation requirements to comply with Covid risk mitigation measures.

The Lodge held its Annual General Meeting in November and elected the Right Worshipful Master and his Office-bearers for the forthcoming twelve months.

It was also pleasing at this meeting to have passed a clear ballot for a prospective candidate.

In early December, the Installation of the new Right Worshipful Master, Bro. Tom Richards and his Office-bearers took place. The Installation Ceremony was carried by the Provisional Grand Master, Bro. Raymond MacKeddie and Past Provincial Grand Master Bro. Ramsay McGhee, both Past Masters of Lodge Seaforth 854, assisted by Bro. Morris Downie PPGM, Bro. Jim Tait PM 134, Bro. Gwyn Phillips PM 854 and Bro. David Roska PM 854.



Seaforth Members at the December 2021 Installation Meeting

In January, the new team got straight to work, conferring a Third Degree Ceremony for Bro. Lewis Fraser. This meeting tested the metal of the new Master, not only one of his first meetings in chair, but with several last-minute call off's due to various reasons, with Bro. Tom managing to steer the team through the degree work.

The Lodge is looking forward to initiating a new member at our February Meeting on Monday 21st February and concluding plans to mark the Lodges 125 Year Anniversary in May 2022.

Raymond MacKeddie PM - Secretary

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LODGE AVERON No 866

Firstly, all at Lodge Averon 866 would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

A big congratulation to PM Donnie Mathieson and his wife Donna on the arrival of their latest addition to the family.



We have been out and about in the community over the festive season. A few lodge members went along and had a stall at "The Place" Christmas market to raise some funds towards the lodge. RWM Charlie Carrison, PM Donnie Mathieson, PM Frazer McBeath and WJW Frazer McBeath Jnr were there and sold mulled wine and a key for the Dalmore kirst. The kirst went down very well and a few bottles of whisky were won.

Lodge Averon held its installation on the 18th of December where PM Charlie Carrison took the chair of King Solomon. Once again, the Brethren of Lodge Averon would like to wish him and his office bearers all the very best for the coming year and a big thanks to PM Donnie Mathieson who took the Lodge through a very trying time we hope he enjoys his well-earned retirement from the chair.



Our very own Bro Kyle Gordon has been doing wonders in his cycling career. He took a gold medal in style at the Tissot Velodrome individual pursuit. A time of 4.13.667 which was over 5 seconds faster than his rival on the night. He has a very busy schedule ahead of him with many races in different countries, we wish him all the greatest success in his future endeavours.

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We also held our annual Christmas hamper raffle which raised a staggering amount for the lodge. The first prize was won by our own SD Gavin Wheelan. Bro Wheelan was more than delighted to win the drinks hamper. Second and Third prize which was a chocolate hamper, and a savoury hamper was won by Bro Andy Hunter from Lodge Oak 877. A massive thanks to all the Brethren who bought a ticket towards the raffle. We had ticket bought from as far west as Stornoway and down as far as Edinburgh. A special thanks must go to the WM Dariel Pereira and Brethren of Naparima Lodge 7018 EC of the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago who also bought some tickets.



A few of the brethren had the pleasure of been part of a large deputation that made its way over to Stornoway for the installation at Lodge Fortrose 108 which was held on Friday the 3rd of December where Brother John Robertson took the chair of King Solomon. We had the pleasure of being in the company of Past WM Jim McGuigan of Lodge Henery L Palmer Lodge 301 of Wisconsin. Our brother from across the pond stood in as the candidate on the Saturday for the brethren of Lodge Fortrose who worked a emulation of the second degree. I speak for all the travelling brethren in thanking you all for your hospitality it was an outstanding weekend.

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On the 22nd of December the Brethren donned their Santa and elves suits and made their way out onto the cold streets of Alness to do the annual Santa run. It was great to see the community out in force to support the lodge doing the Santa run. The brethren had loads of tubs of sweeties which they handed out to the kids big and small along the way. It was great to see some of the older ones giving us a wave from the window on our way past.

PM George Robinson is at it again and is making a tapestry which he will raffle off in aid of Mikeysline which is a mental health charity based in Inverness. They run a drop-in centre called The Hive and a textline which offers free and impartial advice to anyone suffering from mental health issues. The kit was kindly paid for and supplied by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty. At the time of writing this he has spent 173 hours making the tapestry and is half-way through. Another three or four weeks and it should be complete. If anyone would like to donate to this, they can get in touch with George by email. Georger866@yahoo.co.uk



Gary Miller

Junior Deacon, Lodge Avero

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LODGE NESS No 888

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

It's been a tough couple of months here in Skye and Lochalsh with Covid cancelling one of our Meetings (January 2022), however we DID have a successful Meeting in December and another a week later for our Installation at which Brother Callum Mackenzie was re-installed in the Chair of King Solomon as RWM of Lodge Kyle 1117. We are now all looking forward to a First Degree at our February Meeting and to having a new Brother in our midst. Also looking good is our garden, thanks to the efforts of the brethren and especially Brother Paul Newton, who consistently braved the brutal breezes, brambles, and bugs only to find rhododendron roots underneath and that they in their own way, are even more pernicious than the brambles. The plan will be to grass over the newly vacant areas. We are also getting the old kitchen in the lodge replaced with a new one courtesy of Brothers Steve Whittaker and again Paul.

EMAIL - Over the past couple of years, we have seen an exponential increase in the use of email for Masonic communication. While this is an excellent way to save money and time, it brings its own attendant problems.

Firstly... the amount of email. As an IT professional I am regularly told... please keep your emails brief and only send me essential emails. In the past I have been accused of "bamboozling" customers by explaining in too much detail the nature of products and services, when they only want to know: What it is / How much it costs / When & Where can I get it.

Secondly... We see email arrive with attachments, typically Word documents and PDFs. While this is handy for printing, but do all emails really need to come in two parts with huge images depicting a simple logo and contact details that cannot be copied and pasted? Also ... PDF and Word documents can harbour viruses, so think twice when sending them to all your members and other Lodge Secretaries, and ask yourself, "Is this really necessary? or will a simple text email suffice?"

Third... Consistency. Emails should be instantly recognisable as genuine. By making part of the SUBJECT of the email the same every time, you are (literally) sending a message to your recipient that the email is from the usual source and not a forgery. For example, I send all lodge correspondence with the SUBJECT as follows: - "secretary lodge kyle 1117: then the brief content description". The lower case is deliberate as it makes the recipients instantly aware that it's from their Lodge Secretary as its quirky and unlikely to be faked. You of course will have your own methods but be sure to be consistent.

Fourth... Spoofing and phishing. We are seeing more and more fake emails, and recently some that purport to be Masonic in nature. These can be openly Anti-Masonic in nature e.g. "Please help me get my relative out of the clutches of the Masons etc. Click here!!!" Or seemingly simple requests for information on a Masonic relative. While the request might be genuine; we need to check the provenance of these requests thoroughly before giving out possibly sensitive data about our members. We are also seeing an increase in Facebook "friend requests" from "cloned" Facebook pages. These are Fake Facebook pages with images of the real person lifted from the real page. To avoid getting caught out or "phished", simply contact your Friend and ask if they sent you a Friend Request.

Email security is a vast subject; however, I hope these few observations help evolve our missives into a standard email methodology and the way we deal with this essential tool.

Ronnie Miller, PM - Secretary

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

No meetings so far to report from Lodge Rosehaugh however we are planning a short committee one to see if the Brethren are up for a restart for our March meeting. Whatever format we go for it is likely to be Lodge members only. We will update in the normal channels once we have confirmation. I think it fair to point out that a couple of our office bearers are NHS workers giving us a fair reflection of how they see things in their workplace. Along with quite a few with family members who are on the highest list risk so fair reason why we remain cautious.

We have however been able to keep active in the community. In October we were able to assist with a donation to the Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club Old Golfers section who were holding a fund-raising competition for Black Isle Men's Shed Trishaw Project which if you did not know are the bikes which take the senior citizens out for local trips.

The Lodge is always well represented on Armistice Sunday but the parade at Avoch was cancelled at very late notice with people actually at the monument. However, Allan Carmichael ensured the Lodge's wreath was placed at the monument. Wreath arranged by Scott Patience.



The same two were again active in December with our Senior Citizens parcels. As we were unable to host the party again this year, Scott, whilst at work in Angola, arranged all the goodies online and when back on dry land put them all together and made the deliveries assisted by Allan. I understand 48 parcels were delivered. See the photos on the next page.

The Lodge also donated to the Mackenzie Place Santa in December with Duncan Macleman assisting with arrangements for this event.

We also got a good tidy up around the lodge done in December and not a weed in site. Hopefully a spray in the springtime will keep things at bay during the summer months.

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216 cont.

Well done to the prize winners which includes two brethren from other lodges and 4 non- members so 50% of winners out-with the lodge. Great support.

October £85 Sheena Jack. £50 Henry Cameron. £25 Cammy Mackay
November £85 William Macleman £50 Allan Carmichael £25 Lesley Patience
December £85 Dotz £50 Billy Patience £25 Graham Law
January £85 Arthur Macarthur £50 Scott Patience £25 Laura Patience.

Finally, not the best of news to end with but Bro Les Warne has had a tough time over the last year or so with diabetes and cancer. He had to go and see a specialist a couple of weeks ago which ended with the bombshell he had to remain in and get a foot removed the next day. At present Les is still in Ward 4c. We will need to see how a house assessment will result to see how Sue and Les go forward from this, but we will offer as much support as we can.



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Lodge St Martin 1217

The lodge lost one of its members recently, Bro Niven McRobb. Niven had been ill for some time and passed away on 11th January. Our thoughts are with his wife Pauline and family at this difficult time.

St Martin is to hold its re-installation meeting on Tuesday 15th February, the lodge will tyle at 19.30 for normal business and will admit visiting brethren at 20.00. The following month the lodge will hold a 1st degree ceremony on Tuesday 15th March, the lodge will tyle at 20.00 hrs.

Work is still in progress with the new doorway at the side of the lodge and the new replacement window has just been delivered and hopefully will be fitted soon.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

"May I invite you to a Zoom presentation on Tuesday, 3 February, at 7:30pm GMT. It is a presentation called 'An Introduction to My Friend'. My Friend is an American revolutionary war personality and strong figure in history. More I will not say until the event. The presentation is about 35 minutes in duration. I hope you can join in, although there is a limit of 100 participants."

The zoom Meeting login details are –

American Mike is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: An Introduction to My Friend

Time: Wednesday, Feb 2, 2022 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84760047852>

Meeting ID: 847 6004 7852

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Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

It is with great sadness I open the February report with the sad news of the passing of Greg McLennan the son of PM Duncan and Bella MacLennan.

Also noted the passing to grand lodge above of brother Robert Hannah who in his time at Aultbea was a chef in the Aultbea hotel, he was also an accomplished musician who played the organ in the Lodge.

Sincere condolences from all lodge members to the immediate family and friends.

Work is ongoing with the Lodge upgrade with external painting next on the list, West Coast weather permitting. Hopefully all work will be completed for our opening meeting on March 10th.

Ally Gault, RWM – Lodge Loch Ewe



Ye Corporation O' Squaremen

As things seem to be getting near to normal the Squaremen of Heilan Shed are intending to visit Lodge Seaforth, Fortrose on Saturday 2nd of April ; Lodge Ness, Invergordon on Saturday 7th of May ; Lodge St Ninian, Nairn Saturday 6th August - at this time July and September are to be agreed - On Saturday 5th of March we will hold a Committee Meeting for Office Bearers and Auld Deacons **only** in the Club in Inverness - We do not know if there will be a Grand Shed visit in June as they have not started to operate this year as yet - Over the past two years it my sad duty in record that we have lost 11 Members to the Grand Shed above and we will give due deference to all our departed Brithers at our first Meeting in April.

Even though there were no Meetings for the past couple of years we did give £600 to our usual Charities in March 2021 after a Zoom Meeting.

John G Mackay
Boxie

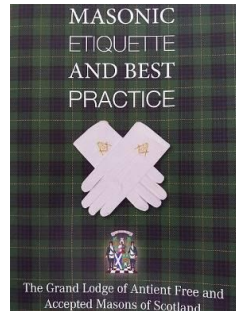
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BITS AND PIECES



This 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.

PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

Tain & Ross RAC 63

On Tuesday 8th February 2022, the Chapter will be working a Royal Arch Degree to which all Companions are cordially invited. This will be the Provincial Visit also.

St Clement RAC 244

Cromarty Firth RAC 310

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ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.

Although we continue to meet regularly there are at present no candidates on the horizon.

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

We held a Malta grade on Friday 28th January when Frater John Norman Murray was admitted as a Knight of St John. A great job was done by Ven Preceptor Alan McPhee and his new team.

Donnie Macleod

†‡ Donald Macleod KCT

How to deal with Stress.

One of the most common words in use today is stress. Never used to be an issue but it certainly appears to be so nowadays. Here is some advice on how to deal with it –

A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, "How heavy is this glass of water?"

Answers called out ranged from 8oz. to 20oz. The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it. "If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance."

"In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes. "

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. "

"As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden. "

"So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work/life down. Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow."

"Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can. Relax; pick them up later after you've rested. Life is short. Enjoy! "

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And then he shared some ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

- 1 Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
- 2 Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- 3 Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- 4 Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
- 5 If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- 6 If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- 7 It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- 8 Never buy a car you can't push.
- 9 Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, - you won't have a leg to stand on.
- 10 Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- 11 Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- 12 The second mouse gets the cheese.
- 13 When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 14 Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
- 15 You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- 16 Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once
- 17 We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty, and some are dull. Some have weird names, and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box.
- 18 A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.

