

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 72

AUGUST 2012

Editorial

Welcome to the 72nd edition of the Patter.

Have just returned from the District Grand Lodge of East Africa where the Grand Master Mason installed the new District Grand Master, Bro Michael A Craig into office (full report on page of this edition). While I was sitting at Heathrow waiting on my connecting flight, I was catching up with the newspapers and how depressing it was – conflict everywhere between differing religions, sects and creeds resulting in death, injury and tremendous hardship for people throughout the world, especially in areas not far from where I was like Somalia.

How refreshing it was to be in the Masonic Temple in Nairobi where, sitting together in love and unity, we had Sikhs, Hindu's, Muslims, Christians both Protestant and Catholic with a fair number from the Churches of the Anglican Communion, and probably some others I was not aware of.

From the Temple we retired to the Refectory where once again that coming together of Brethren irrespective of creed, colour or religion was abundantly evident.

Maybe, just maybe, it's about time all those who decry Freemasonry, all those who promote discord and violence in this world and all those who cannot find any tolerance in their being should start taking a leaf out of our book. If the world behaved in the same manner as those who belong to our beloved Institution of Freemasonry then surely the world would be a far better place to be.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland

A Dinner to celebrate the enormous contribution Lord Elgin has made to Freemasonry will be held in Grand Lodge on 6th September. Tickets priced at £50 are available from Grand Lodge. At the time of going to print there are very few left – if you want to be there, please contact Grand Lodge immediately.

The next meeting of Grand Lodge – Thursday 25th October with the Grand Lodge Installation and Festival of St Andrew taking place on Thursday 29th November.

Provincial Grand Lodge:

The big event for the Province since the last edition has undoubtedly been the presentation of monies to various charities throughout the Province. Various reports and photographs of the event appear throughout the reports from the Lodges. Immediately below is the group photo of all the recipients along with representatives from the Lodges. A sum in excess of £14,000 was distributed, the monies having been received from the Grand Lodge of Scotland as part of the 275th Anniversary celebrations.



The next Quarterly Communication will be held in the premises of Lodge Loch Ewe, Aultbea, on Wednesday 29th August.



The Province is looking forward to a return visit by the Brethren from Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada in November after the Grand Lodge Installation and Festival of St Andrew. More information on the visit will appear in the November edition.

Scottish Masonic Materials Group



Seminar

Saturday 20th October 2012

All Lodges should be represented at this important research seminar in Perth

Only £6 per person which includes lunch

The main item in the morning will be Oral History with a forum after lunch on

Masonic Research

Full details from Ramsay McGhee

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From The Provincial Almoner

It is with sadness that I once again commence my report with information re the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of two well known brethren. In the middle of June we learned of the passing of Bro. John Cameron, Lodge Ness and early in July we learned of the very sudden passing of Bro. Gordon MacRae, Lodge St. Duthus while on holiday in Spain. I'm sure you'll all join me in expressing sincere sympathy to the families of those brethren, and to the brethren of their respective Lodges, in their losses. Appropriate cards have been forwarded to both families.

Since my last report for the May Edition of the Patter a number of brethren have been unwell or have received medical treatment and some of those mentioned are now home from hospital.

PM Rev. Bill Niven is now home and progressing although he expects to return to hospital for further treatment. Similarly PM Malcolm McGougan, Lodge St. Duthus, is home but he also has to return to Raigmore for further treatment. PM Donald George Ross, also Lodge St. Duthus, recently spent a week in the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank for tests but is home again on medication and is due to meet with the Clydebank specialist again in October. PM Donnie Gunn, Lodge Fingal, recently spent a few days in Raigmore having sustained a leg injury while involved in a clear up of the Lodge grounds. He is now home and back at work. Bro. Jimmy Walmsley, Lodge Fingal was also in Raigmore recently and such was his condition that he was transferred to the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank where he remains. Appropriate cards were sent to those in hospital and I try to keep regular contact with those who are at home now but still not returned to full health. As in previous reports I would ask that any brother who requires my services as almoner please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

David MacMaster,

Provincial Grand Almoner

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PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE WEBSITE

For up to the Minute information and back copies of the Provincial Pattern – access the Provincial Website on - <http://www.pglossandcromarty.org.uk/>

Highland Hospice

The next major fund raising event in the Hospice Calendar is the “**Brain Game**” which, this year, will take place on Friday 9th November in the Iron Works, Inverness. It would be great if we could see a Provincial Team taking part for the first time or indeed if any of the Lodges wished to take part that would be tremendous. Entry forms can be had from Linda MacDonald or Amanda Burt at the Hospice on 01463 243 132 or through myself.

FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



We had St Peters 284 from Thurso down to St Duthus on the 5th May for their return trip. As we cannot entertain any visitors with a proper meal we invited them to the Royal Hotel and they enjoyed a very nice meal there after which they returned to the Lodge. The RWM Brother Robert Thomson and his deputation were escorted into the Lodge and were introduced to our RWM. RWM Thomson accepted the Gavel from our RWM and the officer-bearers changed positions and worked a very good 1st Degree. As we did not have a new candidate Brother Ross Campbell stood in as substitute candidate. After the degree both Masters went to the floor of the Lodge to congratulate Brother Campbell who received a Lodge tie from RWM Thomson.

After the Lodge was closed there was a short harmony and everyone went home happy after a very pleasant day.

As all the Lodges know, we had a very interesting and enjoyable evening in Lodge Fingal for the presentation of the cheques from Grand Lodge and I think that everyone there enjoyed themselves and hopefully we will have had some good public relations from it

Iain Sinclair

Secretary

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

It's with great sadness that I have to report the passing of my blood brother Calum Ian, better known to everyone as Oscar. He passed away peacefully early on Friday evening 20th July after having spent most of the previous week in the Western Isles Hospital. He was buried on Monday 23rd in Aignish cemetery with full Masonic honours.

Oscar never became master of the lodge but held the chairs of the Royal Arch, Ark Mariner, Cryptic Council and Preceptory.



£1,000 cheque from Grand Lodge presented to Donald Crichton, Chairman of the Ui Church Trust by Billy Ross PGM on 18th May the day of the provincial visit to Fortrose Lodge. A few well kent faces from the east are making sure Billy does this properly.

The social club benefited greatly from the Hebridean Celtic Festival fringe, we had two really busy nights on the Friday & Saturday when a very popular local band entertained the crowd until the wee small hours. The council had granted very late licences for that week.

We had our annual visit from the Chernobyl kids from Wednesday 11th July until Saturday 14th. There was the usual full itinerary for them and our thanks must go out to everyone who helped over that period.

Below we have a photograph showing them in full flight at their "Christmas Party".

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Donnie MacLeod
PSPGM

What we anticipate seldom occurs; what we least expected generally happens.

– *Benjamin Disraeli*

It is a great education to try and put yourself into the circumstances of others before passing judgment on them.

– *Oswald Chambers*

Ninety-nine percent of failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses.

– *George Washington Carver*

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Like most Lodges at present we are in summer recess but a lot seems to have been happening.

On Friday 22 June 2012 Representatives from all lodges in our Province met at a Social gathering in Lodge Fingal in Dingwall. The purpose of this meeting was to hand over cheques to various nominated charities from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty. This money had been put out to the various Provincial Lodges from Grand Lodge of Scotland. Each Lodge in our Province had nominated a charity to receive a cheque for £1,000. As a result of a Regular Meeting on 18 April 2012 our Lodge had nominated the ARCHIE FOUNDATION, a children's charity based at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, but benefiting all sick children in the Ross-shire area. Representatives of the various charities had been invited along to receive the cheques and Alana MacKay of the ARCHIE FOUNDATION was in attendance to receive our nominated cheque.



The evening was chaired by PGM, William Ross, and each recipient was presented with their cheque by a representative from the Lodges. Our lodge was represented and the cheque presented by PM Andrew MacIvor. It should also be noted that PM Jonathan Hill of our Lodge did a similar presentation on behalf of Lodge Allan Wilson, of which he is at present the RWM, to the Children 1st Charity at Killen.

After the formal presentations a social evening took place with entertainment and an excellent buffet.

On Saturday 7 July 2012 our Lodge premises were used as the venue for the "Squaremen" when the Heilen Shed No. 6 held one of its regular meetings under the leadership of Worthy Deacon Andrew Fraser. This was a very well worked degree with the usual social part and meal. At the conclusion Bro Andrew handed over a cheque for £85 from the Hielen Shed to Bro Secretary PM Jim Tait, to be put to any charity of our lodge's choosing. This sum was made up to £100 by one of the Shed Brethren. present, who wished to remain anonymous, but our thanks go out to him and all the "Shed" members. present.

I feel that the "Squaremen" organisation do not receive enough recognition for the excellent charity work they do and at a time when there is so much 'Crisis' in the World their light hearted approach yet contribution to worthwhile causes should receive the highest praise. Similar cheques are presented to the areas of the venues and at our first regular meeting after recess we will discuss what charity to put this donation to. Keep up the good work boys.

Our first regular meeting will be on Wednesday 19 September 2012. This is scheduled to be a Business Meeting but Billet will be issued in due course.

James A Tait ,PM
Secretary

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Lodge Fingal No 318



Events Logie Lounge:

*September 15th Barbecue at Fingal with music by Brian Nairne.

** November 24th St Andrews Night Theme Night by David Ross and entertainment to be advised.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn P.M.
Secretary.*

“A Day of Activities”

Saturday 26 May, 2012 was a real day of activity at Lodge Fingal. The first event of the day commenced at 12.45 pm. This was a walk up Fyrish led by PM Rory Mackenzie. Seven walkers accompanied him to the monument at the summit. The walkers comprised of members, wives of same and a son of one member. It took just over an hour to reach the summit. Being a hot sunny day the views at the top of the, “Bonnie Black Isle”, and surrounding countryside were fantastic and well worth the effort of getting there. The story of how the monument came to being was also given by PM Mackenzie. (This man knows his stuff). After a short break to take photographs, have a drink of water, (in one case a feed of a big banana), we set off down the hill towards the car park below by a different route and arrived at our respective vehicles just after 3 pm. The walk was enjoyed by all who took part.



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Everyone headed home for a shower, change of clothing and maybe something else!!!

At 7 pm it was back to the Lodge and into the Logie Lounge for a night of entertainment. The format for the evening was a "Mr and Mrs" competition, a feed of Italian Cuisine, followed by Music and Dance.

The evening got underway with the "Mr and Mrs" competition organised by Brother John Hanson who was ably assisted by his wife Margaret. The competition took sometime as the competitors assisted by members of the audience were being very selective about their answers to some of the questions. After all, there was a lot at stake apart from a prize at the end of the competition.

At half time a fantastic meal of Italian Cuisine was provided by Brother David Ross who was assisted by his lovely mother and sister, Astra and Lorraine. A serving of garlic bread accompanied the meal in an effort to beat the bag. (breathalyser). After the licking of lips and recharging of glasses it was back to the serious business of the competition.

On completion of a further tense period of questions the winners of the competition were declared as Angus and June Beaton who played a blinder in the second half. (see photo). The star prize was a night in a holiday caravan at Applecross. One of the losing female competitors is considering divorce. She claims she is no longer living with the person she married.



A dance then followed to music supplied by Brother Brian Nairne. This consisting of a combination of CD's and Brain playing the drums. His choice of music was very warmly received by those present and the dance floor area was soon full of loving couples, one or two of them having sore legs and feet after the walk. A fantastic day then came to an end.

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A very special thanks to Rory Mackenzie, John Hanson, Margaret Hanson, David Ross, Astra Ross, Lorraine Kellow, Angus Beaton and Brian Nairne for them making it an enjoyable day for the rest of us. Brotherly love does prevail.

Colin Mackintosh SD.

Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

The June and July meetings were both well attended with Bro Jonathan Hill being installed as Master at the June meeting and a very interesting talk on the link between Lodge St Duthus in Tain and Lodge Trinity in Edinburgh by DPGM Robin Cattenach at the July meeting.

Bro Hill, extends a warm welcome to all Brethren to attend the next meeting on Tuesday 14th August when a lecture will be given by one of the foremost Masonic Historians in the country, Bro Trevor Stewart. Bro Stewart is a Past Master of both the Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 in London and Lodge Sir Robert Moray, No 1641 in Edinburgh. Lodge Allan Wilson is indeed fortunate to secure the services of such an illustrious speaker and all Brethren who would like to hear Bro Stewart will be made most welcome.

Visiting Brethren are encouraged to remain for lunch (£12), but it would be most helpful if visiting Brethren who wish to do so could contact the Secretary (01381 620110) in advance in order that the caterer can be informed accordingly.

Lodge Seaforth No 854

It is hard to believe once again that the summer has almost gone and autumn is slowly creeping up on us. It is my sad duty to inform you of the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Brother George Milligan, who died suddenly on Wednesday 18th July. Since affiliating to Seaforth, George has been a regular attender when health permitted and he will be greatly missed. The condolences of the Lodge go out to his wife Sheila. Our last couple of Meetings went well with a visitation from Lodge Averon to our last ever regular May meeting as moves are afoot to remove this meeting from our calendar and in future hold our last meeting of the season in April.

We also had our Bi-Annual visitation from Lodge John O' Groats which also went well.

We then had a very successful Coffee Morning & Sale.

We now have a few more dates for your Diary. We are holding a Cheese and Wine Night in the Lodge on Friday 17th August at 7.00pm. We then throw our doors open for the Doors Open Day on Saturday 18th August.

On Sunday 19th August the Lodge are again helping out with the stewarding at the Annual Poppy run in Ardersier. This should make for an interesting weekend.

Our first meeting of the season will be a Lecture by PM Ramsay McGhee on Malawi and we hope our ladies will join us for this lecture. We look forward to as many visitors as possible – also with your wives.

Last but by no means least, Lodge Allan Wilson is hoping to hold a Quiz Night in The Seaforth Club in October (date to be arranged). They are looking for teams of 4 the cost of which will be £5 per head or £20 per team. Why not come along even if you can't make a full team and I am sure there will be 'spares' there to make up a full team.

Cochrane Donald P.M.

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Lodge Averon 866

There is not a lot happening just now as we are at rest for a few months. On Monday 21st May we went to Seaforth 854 and carried out a Fellowcraft Degree. The candidate was one of our own Entered Apprentices, Bro Kyle Gordon. Bro Duncan Munro PM has passed his "drinks test". I am not going to elaborate. A few of our Brethren attended the PGL evening in Logie Lounge, Fingal where cheques were handed out to very good and worthy causes. Our charity was MacMillan Nurses as can be seen below. It was a good evening and the "musical Masons" had our toes tapping.



PM Ian Duxbury, Ann McGhee (MacMillan Nurses) and PM Fraser MacBeath

(PS – just for the record – Duncan Munro gained his City & Guilds – Personal Licence Certificate)

Experience is the worst teacher. It always gives the test first and the instruction afterward.

– *Benjamin Franklin*

The nicest thing about egotists is that they don't talk about other people.

– *Lucille S. Harper*

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Lodge Ness 888

As with almost all other Lodges we're very quiet at present and due to unforeseen circumstances had to cancel our summer barbeque. Hopefully we will make up for that on the 18th with an open BBQ (to which all are invited, with friends and or families) which will follow our run up Fyrish (sponsorship forms, still available).

A very enjoyable evening was held in Lodge Fingal by Provincial Grand Lodge for the distribution of charity cheques. We were able to get our donation split, with half going to Special Care Baby Unit, who was a tremendous help to the daughter of one of our past masters and the other half went to help a lady with an autistic child to purchase a special wheel chair.



The Lodge will reopen on the 9th October, with us carrying out a Mark degree.

The Lodge web-site is now complete and can be accessed by simply searching on Lodge Ness 888

R.W. Morrison.

PM - Secretary.

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LODGE KYLE No 1117



Photo: Donnie Gordon presenting the cheques to
(left) MacMillan Nurse Marie Finlayson
(right) Kyleakin Connections Billy Reid and Charlene MacLeod

A beautiful summer's day saw RWM Ronnie Miller and Secretary Donnie Gordon head off into the countryside to present two cheques to recipients of Lodge Kyle's share of the Grand Lodge's recent 275,000 pounds disbursement; namely MacMillan Nurses and Kyleakin Connections Day Care Centre.

Due to the unceasing good work these two charities perform in the local community, The Brethren of Lodge Kyle had no hesitation in nominating them as worthy recipients of this windfall and it was a great honour and privilege to be intermediaries in this act of generosity.

Macmillan Nurses' good work is renowned throughout the country, but since 1981 The Kyleakin Day Centre have been going quietly about their business of enriching the lives of young people with learning and physical disabilities. They have a computer room, a library full of books and a Café which they run and is open to the public. The guys and girls of the centre put on regular pantomimes and last year the show featured Snow White and seven Fender Strat'-playing dwarves! (pictures on their facebook page)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kyleakin-Connections/208096482561871>

In other news Lodge Kyle's fund raising and preparations are well underway for their First Centenary in May 2013. A date for your calendar is Saturday 25th May 2013.

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Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

Our final meeting before the summer recess was held on Friday 5th May when we had a new candidate Andrew Hickey from Avoch. Andy works at Raigmore Hospital having moved to Avoch a few years back and he stays at Roddie's Cade's old house in Dock Street. He was an excellent candidate and hopefully he can aspire to reach some of the success Roddie enjoyed in his Masonic career. The meeting was also the PGL visitation and Bro Willie Ross was well supported by a good turn out of PGL office-bearers.

The next morning we were off early down to Paisley for the annual meeting of the chartered lodges 1212-1219 held this year at Lodge Stepps No1213. (see article below)

We did hope that Bro Eoin Munro PM would have been able to come along to our May meeting but due to ill health he was unable to be there. We rescheduled this for Friday 25th May and with a good number of Brethren in attendance the RWM presented Eoin with his Jubilee Certificate. Eoin joined Lodge Rosehaugh on 5th January 1962 being proposed by Bro Alex Duncan and his seconder being Bro William Lodge. He served as RWM in 1972/73.

Right – Bro Eoin Munro receiving his Jubilee Certificate from RWM, Bro Duncan MacLeman.



Below – Anna Patience enjoying herself at the soup and sweet lunch.



The following Friday we were back again this time to present a cheque for £1030 to Anna Patience the Granddaughter of Bro David Patience. Anna will make use of these funds helping her on going costs travelling and staying in London where she undergoes her therapy for cerebral palsy. The Brethren are very pleased to be able to assist Anna and her mother Marina.

Keith Patience, PM
Secretary

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Lodge Rosehaugh visit to Riddrie

Lodge Stepps 1213, Glasgow, was the destination for the 2012 meeting of the lodges that share the same charter date. A fine delegation from Rosehaugh led by the RWM Bro Duncan Macleman - PM's Keith Patience and Allan Carmichael and Brothers Gordon Macleman, Neil Crawford, Brian Carmichael and Raymond Owens - left Avoch at 8.30 on Saturday 5th May and made good time in getting to Ballinluig for a hearty breakfast. Further refreshments were supplied by "Keo" and "Dotz" who performed as a double act all weekend. We soon arrived at our Hotel on the outskirts of Glasgow where we met up with the Ullapool delegation and made our way to Lodge Stepps where their pre-meeting hospitality was superb. After the usual introductions and opening the Degree team carried out an excellent 3rd degree on a very good candidate. The harmony was again first class with plenty of food and drink supplied by the Lodge and club members - it was very much appreciated. No harmony in Glasgow is complete without a sing-song and various jokes and stories were refreshed and in some cases made up on the spot! The only negative was the lack of representation from a couple of Lodges - here's hoping they make an effort to attend Ullapool in 2013. However, the hospitality and friendship shown from Lodge Stepps and others more than made up for this and thanks again to them all. An evening libation back at our hotel rounded off an excellent day, although several members of the delegation found themselves tired and in need of an early night! The following day was very relaxing and a pleasant drive home by Neil who avoided injuring himself this year. Well done Neil. As mentioned earlier the 2013 meeting will be in Ullapool and the Avochie's are looking for accommodation already!

Bro. Allan Carmichael PM Lodge Rosehaugh 1216

Lodge St Martin 1217

During the summer recess Lodge St Martin have been busy fundraising at the 10th Annual Rotary Club Fun Day where an excellent day was had by all. The Brethren are planning a Special Meeting in September where it is hoped to work a first degree ceremony.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

The man who goes alone can start today; but he who travels with another must wait till that other is ready.

— *Henry David Thoreau*

Don't let life discourage you; everyone who got where he is had to begin where he was.

— *Richard Louis Evans*

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Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

In conjunction with the other daughter lodges within the Province of Ross and Cromarty, Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551 was represented on 22nd June 2012 in the Logie Lounge, Fingal Lodge of Freemasons, Dingwall and gratefully received a cheque for £ 1,000 as part of the monies disbursed by Grand Lodge in Edinburgh to celebrate 275 years of Freemasonry in Scotland and in recognition of the charitable work continually done by lodges throughout Scotland in helping others.

The Lodge beneficiary was the Aultbea Regeneration Committee which is actively engaged, as the name implies, in the community of this part of Wester Ross. Their representative Mr Murdo MacRae received the cheque from Lodge Loch Ewe Bro Mike Longley WJW on behalf of PGL. (see below)

Accompanying Bro Longley and Murdo on the evening were Lodge Administrators Bro Duncan MacLennan, Secretary and Bro Allan MacCrimmon, Treasurer.

Following the presentation there was a social evening for representatives and their wives / partners which was complemented with music provided by the Provincial Quartet comprising Donnie Ross, Jim Tait, Jonathan Hill and Ramsay McGhee who freely gave up of their time to entertain after buffet nourishment very kindly furnished by the Fingal and Provincial ladies and friends.

Wednesday, 29th August 2012 will see the Lodge host the next Quarterly Communication of PGL and the RWM and Office Bearers look forward to seeing the new tranche of PGL representatives at 8 pm.

Lodge meetings for the 2012 – 2013 Season commence on Thursday, 13th September 2012.

Andrew M. Henderson

Almoner



Mr Murdo MacRae (right) received the cheque from Lodge Loch Ewe Bro Mike Longley WJW

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The Sinclair Bruce Diary

How better to commence my contribution to the 72nd edition but by giving a report on our annual Divine Service held within the club room of Lodge Seaforth, on Sunday 29th April conducted by Bro The Reverend Ian Ramsden. As always it took the form of a family service but unfortunately only one child present however, Ian delivered a children's address followed by an uplifting text enjoyed by all, after which we enjoyed the usual cup of tea and blether around a well furnished table of cakes and biscuits.

I have now returned from Lodge Rosehaugh who were working a first degree with the Provincial Lodge in attendance on their annual visit. There was a good turn out and the degree was perfection personified and I am more than convinced that the candidate was equally impressed as he said to me at the harmony how much he looked forward to progressing in the craft

It's now Friday 18th May and I have just returned from our first meeting of the season for this year of The Guild, held as always in Lodge Averon in Alness. Another well attended meeting with two candidates for their first. The degree was well worked and for an order in its infancy all taking part are well worthy of congratulations. As always the harmony was excellent. I always admire the members from Caithness who are great attendee's of many orders - travelling does not bother them. Our next meeting will be a fourth as there are members who have been waiting for over a year for same.

And now Saturday 19th I attended the King Brude conclave held within the temple in Inverness with an 11am start. Another well attended meeting with visitors from other conclaves. We had one candidate taking his second step in the order. He was very attentive and showed a great interest in all lectures etc, the members taking part excelled themselves thus concluding a very interesting morning.

Last night was our final meeting in Lodge Seaforth. For this session there was a good turn out with six visiting Lodges to witness a second degree which was worked by Lodge Averon. A very young team who delivered an efficient and well disciplined degree which was greatly appreciated by all present, so now we can all relax from regular meetings until September.

This week was a busy one for those who follow Golf it was a very interesting tournament televised under heading BMW PGA Championship from Wentworth unfortunately the usual names were missing like Faldo etc however the final was well worth watching. In first place with 15 under was Luke Donald then second equal Paul Laurie and Justin Rose at 11 under so now we can all look forward to the Scottish Championship from Castle Stuart I think some time in July.

Our first meeting of "The Allan Wilson Lodge" was once again very successful. A good turn out and all installed in their various offices by Installing Master Ramsay McGhee followed by the as always four course meal and the usual toasts. This being a morning meeting we were all ready to do the meal justice thus concluding another excellent day.

Our second meeting of the Allan Wilson lodge was equally well attended with one affiliate going through the usual procedures and all business updated another very successful morning lodge.

May I conclude my contribution to this edition by giving a brief report on the 141st meeting of the Open Golf Championship. It was a well fought game from beginning to the end. I really expected Adam Scott to win as he was ahead at the 16th at eight under however by the 18th he dropped two to let Ernie Ells in and lift the cup at seven under. Perhaps some day we will produce a Scottish winner.

Sinclair Bruce

BITS AND PIECES

Trip to Grenada – by Morris Downie, PPGM

On Tuesday 8th May 2012 I set out from Fortrose to catch the afternoon flight from Dalcross to Gatwick where, after an overnight stay, embarked on a BA flight to Grenada, via Antigua, arriving there in the afternoon, to be met by Brother Daniel Nicholas and his partner Hannah, who drove me to the luxurious Grand Anse Beach Resort in St Georges, Grenada. Friday night saw me attending St George's Royal Arch Chapter No. 795.

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From left to right - First Principal, MEC T.I. Bain, flanked by Companions Nicholas and Fakre.

Friday saw the Brethren from the District arrive at the resort, led by the Right Worshipful District Grand Master, Bro Adrian C Franklin, who was installed into office in February.

On Saturday the Installation of Bro Nigel Fleming as RWM was to take place at the Masonic Temple Mt Zion, Upper Lucas Street, St George's, Grenada, at 1 p.m. precisely. There was an excellent turnout of Freemasons in attendance, in particular nine brethren from the Island of Tobago. I was honoured to be invited to join the deputation from the District Grand Lodge and entered the Lodge in usual form, headed by the District Grand Master.

The ceremony of Installation was carried out by the outgoing Master Bro Danny Roberts in a most excellent manner, while the four corners were delivered by Past Master Bro Daniel Nicholas. This was the first time that this particular Lodge carried out the four corner part of the ceremony and was done to a very high standard indeed. The Office Bearers for the forthcoming year were obligated and installed by the newly installed RWM, Bro Fleming. All the degree work and lectures were of a high standard, carried out extremely well by all participants.



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The evening was rounded off by a sumptuous meal provided by Island Caterers, after which the usual speeches were received with rapturous applause each time.

This was the last meeting to be held at this location as the Freemasons are being relocated to their previous Masonic Temple which was rebuilt after being destroyed several years ago by hurricane Ivan.



The Sunday was a most enjoyable day with the newly installed master hosting a brunch at the Grand Anse Beach Resort which was attended by many brethren, their wives, partners, girlfriends and children. The food was again of a very high standard and a most enjoyable and delightful time was had by one and all.

I was invited to attend the Installation meeting of Lodge Conception No. 8346, on Friday 18th May at 6 pm by Bro Juan Bailey, which I graciously accepted. I was invited by the RWM of Lodge St Andrew No 1794 to accompany his deputation into the Lodge, which I did. The Installation ceremony was conducted by Worshipful Bro Sheldon Keens-Douglas, the outgoing Worshipful Master in a most excellent and proficient manner, while the newly installed W Master Bro. Christopher Husbands, invested his appointed Officers for the ensuing year.

The festive board afterwards was blessed with excellent food by Island Catering and the usual lengthy toasts were delivered by the usual brethren. I was honoured, rather unexpectedly, to reply to the toast to the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad & Tobago and Grenada.

A brunch was provided for the brethren on the Saturday and excellent food and drink was again supplied for our consumption.

Sunday was a rather unusual day in so much I was invited to a beach party at Magazine Beach by the brethren of Lodge St Andrew, where I was initiated into Grenada's National Dish.

Oil Down

This is a dish best prepared outdoors in a large pot over an open fire. Bro Alan Roberts, blood brother of the IPM Danny Roberts busily prepared the meal, helped by many others. Ingredients include season chicken and lay in pot. Wash salted meat, cut into pieces and lay in pot. Cover meat with a layer of breadfruit, green banana, carrots and seasoning. Continue placing alternate layers of meat, salt fish, breadfruit, green banana, orka and carrots, mixed with seasonings. Place your dumplings on the top. Mix coconut milk and saffron and pour entire mixture over all the ingredients layered in the pot. Spread callaloo over the top of all the ingredients

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and cover tightly with a fitted lid. Simmer on low heat for approximately 1-2 hours or until all liquid has been absorbed and hey presto you get stuck in. What a feast was had by all present.



Of course the time in between was spent drinking beer, chatting, swimming in the beautiful water and generally enjoying oneself.

I was taken to Maurice Bishop International Airport on Wednesday afternoon, by Bro Daniel and Hannah, met up with Bro Zead Fakre and Bro Michael Kirkton and after a few rums, made my way across the road from the beer stall and flew home to Scotland.

What a memorable experience meeting again the brethren from the West Indies and experiencing at first hand the tremendous Grenadian hospitality and friendship extended by those brethren who I can proudly refer to as brothers.

Morris M Downie.

My thanks to Bro Bomi Mehta, PDGM of India, for the following poem -

The Lodge Where I Belong – by *Arthur R. Herrman*

Though my lodge may lack the splendour
Of a Temple or a Shrine,
Or possess the gaudy fixtures
that are classed as superfine,

3 The handclasp firm, the word of cheer,
Oh, such meanings they impart,
The mystic ties of brotherhood
that links us heart to heart!

5 All my earthly travels end,
And at last I'm borne to rest
Where mortal hands no longer toil
and I cease life's endless quest.

2 Yet the fellowship it offers
is in a price beyond compare.
And I wouldn't trade it ever
for life's treasures rich or bare!

4 You'd really have to travel far,
For the friendships quite so strong,
As those one always find right here
In the Lodge where I belong.

6 Why there's nothing I'd like better,
should I join the heavenly throng,
than to meet with all the Brothers
of the Lodge Where I Belong.

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INSTALLATION OF THE DISTRICT GRAND MASTER OF EAST AFRICA

On Wednesday 18th July I travelled down to Edinburgh and met up with Grand Secretary, Brother David Begg with whom I then travelled to Heathrow where we both met up with the Grand Master Mason before embarking on our flight to Nairobi. It was a full flight and fortunately we all got off fairly quickly and got close to the front of the queue for the immigration check which was just as well – there was only one person on duty – so for those at the back of the queue it must have been quite a long wait. However, it didn't really matter as we had to wait again for the luggage to appear – well most of it. One of Grand Secretary's cases got a wee holiday elsewhere courtesy of Virgin Atlantic.

We were met by Bro Michael Craig, the incoming DGM and Bro Mansur Asaria, the outgoing DGM who transported us to the Nairobi Club where we were going to be staying. After freshening up, we headed to the Carnivore Restaurant for an excellent lunch before returning to the Nairobi Club to get changed to attend a meeting of Lodge Unity No 1611.

We were warmly welcomed into the Lodge by the Substitute Master, Bro Ramesh Shah, PM who took the Chair in the unavoidable absence of the Master, Bro Prakash Chandarana. The Office-bearers of the Lodge, under the leadership of Bro Shah, worked an excellent EA Degree during which Bro Prinz Morgan was duly initiated into the Craft.



During the following Harmony at which all the requisite Toasts were given and responded to, the Substitute Master, Bro Shah very kindly presented each of us with a statuette of an African animal, a lion, an elephant and a rhino – very handsome gifts indeed.

I had the opportunity to speak to the newly made Entered Apprentice, Bro Morgan, during the Harmony and was most impressed by his attitude and commitment to his new Lodge. I got the distinct impression that he will do well in the Lodge and that he could attain the Chair in a reasonably

short period of time. All in all it was a most enjoyable night – a great welcome, excellent Degree, first class harmony and tremendous company.

The following morning we were collected at 0900 hours and drove to Naivasha. Unfortunately it was quite misty on the road and we were unable to see the fantastic views of the Rift Valley but having seen them previously, it wasn't too disappointing. We arrived in Naivasha in good time and were taken straight to one of the large rose farms – I have been to Rose Farms before in Kenya and in Malawi but this one was huge. The farm employs over 700 personnel which gives an indication of its size.

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On leaving the Farm we headed to Lodge Mount Longonot No 1813 where we enjoyed a superb lunch and where the three of us were asked to plant three new trees in the grounds of the Lodge. Given its remote location, the Lodge has built in accommodation in one of the most beautiful surrounds you could imagine. The only downside is that there are occasional visits from the Hippos – that precludes anyone walking about outside! Much credit must be given to the District Grand D of C, Bro Jilo Quraishy and his team who keep the premises in absolutely first class condition.



Left: Brethren enjoying lunch in the grounds of Lodge Mount Longonot.

Below: some of the wildlife we were able to see just at the foot of the Lodge grounds.

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After a very relaxing time at Naivasha, we headed back to Nairobi and the Masonic Temple there to conduct a rehearsal for the Installation meeting. After the rehearsal was over we were treated to a Karoga – a form of barbeque but uniquely different to what we would expect at a barbeque. The food was wonderful – quite spicy but not overly so – and cooked by the Brethren.



Bro Quraishy Jnr in charge of the Karoga with the Grand Master Mason looking on expectantly

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On the Saturday morning the three of us had a brand new experience. We were invited by Bro Timo, a PM in Lodge Longonot, to attend his daughter's wedding in the Ramhargia Sikh Temple in Nairobi. The Groom is the son of Bro Jatinder Metha. Our attendance necessitated in us being fitted with sort of mini turbans to witness first of all, the Milni Ceremony which as far as I could make out was all about receiving the groom and his having to pay his way to get through the arch to his wedding – it was very impressive with superb drummers and the car in which he arrived was just the job as well – an old Rolls Royce in tip top condition.



Left – one of the drummers and the Bride's father.

Right: The IPDGM, GMM, G D of C and G Secretary outside the Temple – suitable attired.



We then attended the actual wedding ceremony in the Temple which was totally different to what we were used to but most interesting. We were unable to stay for lunch (they were catering for over 1000) but before we left we each received beautifully carved statuettes from the Bride and Groom. We extend our grateful thanks for a wonderful experience.

It was then back to the Nairobi Club for a wee rest and change before heading off to the Lodge to carry out the Installation of the new District Grand Master, Brother Michael Anthony Craig and his Commissioned Office-bearers.

The Ceremony went without any hitches and appeared to be greatly enjoyed by all present. The Installation was followed by a truly magnificent Harmony in the Refectory which finished after 01.00 hours. We returned to the Club, had a wee night cap and slept soundly.

On the Sunday we had a very relaxed day with a lengthy lunch at Bro Michael Craig's restaurant. The Grand Master Mason and Grand Secretary prepared for an early start and return to the UK while I prepared to head to Uganda wearing my Proxy DGM hat to visit the Brethren in the two Scottish Lodges in Kampala.

Arriving in Entebbe, I was met by the Past Depute DGM, Bro Harish Somaia who immediately asked me to pass on his good wishes to "Team Malawi" Brethren whom he accompanied on last years trip to Malawi.

We then drove to Kampala where I had the opportunity to meet informally with Brethren from the Lodge Ruwenzori No 1652 and the Caledonian Lodge of Kampala No 1815. We enjoyed an excellent meal together and were able to engage in full debate regarding several issues that are pertinent to the Ugandan Brethren at present. I found the exercise most helpful and left the dinner with a number of actions in my diary.

On the Wednesday morning, Bro Harish Somaia and Bro Nelson Droruga, the new Substitute DGM picked me up at the hotel and we headed for the Kampala School for the Physically Handicapped where we were joined by W Bro Narendra Thakker from the English Constitution. Brethren from both Constitutions have been working tirelessly to make life that we bit more comfortable for the residents of the school and what a marvellous job they have done but there is still much to be done. The biggest project undertaken so far has been the completion of an accommodation block and medical examination room. This has made a tremendous difference to the school.

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Outside the new accommodation and medical block provided by the Ugandan Brethren of both the English and Scottish Constitutions. From left to right – Bro Harish Somaia, Bro Narendra Thakkar and Bro Nelson Droruga



Above is a view of the interior of the new accommodation block.

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From the school we then headed toward the town of Jinja where we first of all went to see the source of the Nile:



To the far end of the photo is Lake Victoria – the River Nile starts its journey to this side of the island in mid picture



Next stop was a visit to the Masonic Temple in Jinja –



We then went on to lunch in a marvellous restaurant with monkeys flying about in the trees overhead before returning to Kampala to prepare for a visit to Lodge Ruwenzori.

The Master of Lodge Ruwenzori, Bro Ashwin Patel extended a very warm welcome to the Lodge and I was privileged to address the Brethren assembled from both the Scottish Lodges who were present. The Lodge in Kampala (below) is a very imposing building.

At the conclusion of the meeting we spent a short spell in the Club rooms where we proposed the usual Toasts and I was presented with beautiful gifts from the Brethren which was most thoughtful and greatly appreciated. We then proceeded to a local restaurant where we enjoyed another Karoga held in an external part of the restaurant which was really enjoyable. And so my flying visit to Uganda was coming to an end. On the Thursday morning Bro Harish Somaia collected me from the hotel and we had a leisurely drive back to Entebbe where we enjoyed a few beers on the shore of Lake Victoria before heading back to the Airport.



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Back in Nairobi I joined Bro Michael Craig, DGM and his delightful wife Christine for dinner with some of their friends at the well appointed Muthaiga Country Club – after which we grabbed about 3 hours sleep before Michael drove me back to the airport to catch the morning flight back to London.

It was a truly memorable trip and so good to catch up with the East African Brethren once again.

Ramsay McGhee

Royal Arch

MALAYSIA VISIT 2012.

Tuesday, 17th July.

Having been tempted to undertake a “night” flight to Dubai as the first part of our somewhat lengthy journey to Borneo my wife Joan and I met up with Grand Scribe E. M.E. Companion Grahame Smith, Past Depute First Grand Principal, M.E. Companion Tom Frost and M.E. Companion Hugh Edmond, Grand Superintendent of Stirling & Clackmannan early evening at Glasgow Airport.

While about to join the queue at the Emirates “check in” desk we were approached by a member of staff who escorted us to an adjacent desk where we were quickly processed and offered an upgrade to business class. Considering it would be impolite to refuse we readily accepted this offer and enjoyed a most comfortable journey to Dubai.

Wednesday, 18th July.

After a slight delay we were once again airborne and the six and a half hour leg to Kuala Lumpur passed surprisingly quickly arriving at 10 p.m. local time. A completely full flight necessitated a slight delay in being re-united with our luggage. Emerging onto the airport concourse we were delighted to be met by M.E. Companion Seppo Ainamo, Past Grand Superintendent of our Zimbabwe District who had, early in the day flown in from Copenhagen to join my Deputation. Having been previously booked into the rather luxurious Pan Pacific Airport Hotel we wasted no time in retiring to bed.

Thursday, 19th July.

After a good nights sleep and an excellent breakfast we were soon “checking in” for our short flight to Kuching in Sarawak. On arrival there we were met by our Grand Superintendent, M.E. Companion Dr Kang Tee Yong, his wife Rosalind and several senior local Companions of the District. Once through Customs and Immigration we were taken to the Heritage Chinese restaurant for a leisurely and enjoyable lunch. Clearly an example of the hospitality which I anticipate will be liberally extended to us over the course of the next few days. While there we were joined by M.E. Companion Bomi Metha, Past Grand Superintendent of India and Ceylon who had very kindly accepted my invitation to join my Deputation on this visit.

A brief rest was followed by a very interesting two hour cruise on the Sarawak River prior to joining several of the Brethren, Companions and their Ladies at the Sarawak Lodge premises. This was a good chance to renew acquaintances with old friends and be introduced to new members of the Lodge prior to being invited to the refectory to sample several local dishes expertly prepared by one of the Companions whose hobby is cooking to “gourmet” standard during spare time from his profession as an ENT surgeon. Each visit to this Lodge brings back very pleasant memories of my first visit to Kuching when I was present at the laying of the foundation stone of the building. A truly memorable experience.

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Friday, 20th July.

Having spent a very comfortable night as house guests of Dr & Mrs Kang, Joan and I joined the remainder of my deputation at the Sarawak Club for “brunch” prior to embarking on our short flight to Sabah. On arrival at Kota Kinabula we were again met by a large deputation of local Companions and quickly driven to the opulent Hyatt Regency Hotel.

We had time to freshen up prior to meeting up with many of the Companions and distinguished visitors at Freemasons’ Hall where we were joined by M.E. Companion Hugh Bryson, Proxy Grand Superintendent of the Middle East District who had also kindly agreed to be a member of my Deputation. Another of those Fellowship Evenings where friendships were renewed and outstanding hospitality enjoyed by all Companions and Ladies present.

Saturday, 21st July.

We had a free morning when several of the Companions and partners took advantage of a selection of organised tours and early in the afternoon along with most of my Deputation I attended a Meeting of Borneo Preceptory and Priory No 657.

The main purpose of my visit to this District was to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Sabah Royal Arch Chapter No 789 SC and I was delighted to see so many Companions present, including representatives from Australia and New Zealand and our own Far East District being represented by M.E. Companion Cameron Sloan, Grand Superintendent.

The re-dedication of Sabah Royal Arch Chapter No 789 SC was duly conducted in accordance with Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter ceremonial, during the course of which all members of my Deputation participated.

The Golden Jubilee Banquet held within the Hyatt regency Kimanis Ballroom, enhanced by the presence of Ladies proved to be another memorable evening.

Sunday, 22nd July.

A 4.30 am early call from hotel reception ensured that no one had any excuse for “sleeping in” and a somewhat tired looking group of late night revellers assembled in the hotel foyer. A few of the local Companions who had also been awakened prematurely from their slumbers were waiting to drive us to the airport. The two and three quarter hour flight to Penang passed very quickly (possibly due to the fact that most of us caught up on our sleep) and we were soon emerging into the 31 degree heat to be met by a large contingent of Companions from the local Chapter.

Very detailed preparations had been made for our visit by M.E. Companion Khoo Soo Hay and a luxury coach was awaiting our arrival. Our first stop was at the fascinating Snake Temple, where those of us who were of either a brave or stupid disposition were persuaded to be photographed with snakes draped around our necks.

Our next stop was at the luxurious Penang Club where a lavish lunch hosted by M.E. Companion John Teh Kok Seng was thoroughly enjoyed. The selection of local dishes tempted us to over indulge but I think most resisted, albeit with difficulty. A tour of the historic Khoo Kongsi Clan House followed, prior to rejoining the coach and being taken to the appropriately named Rainbow Paradise Beach Resort. Our rooms on the 22nd floor, of spacious proportions and sea views, were extremely comfortable.

A couple of hours rest and it was once again onto the coach for our journey to the Masonic Hall where another Fellowship Evening had been arranged. Once more we were able to meet up with many Companions and there Ladies who joined us for another enjoyable dinner, on this occasion hosted by M.E. Companion Dato’ Dr. Santokh Singh.

Monday, 23rd July.

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A morning tour of the Kek Loksi Buddhist Temple at Ayer Ilam proved to be a most interesting and educational experience. Following the tour we adjourned for a sumptuous lunch at the home of M.E. Companion Dato' Dr Peter Vanniasingham where he and his good lady proved to be most charming hosts. All too soon it was time to return to our hotel to prepare for the next part of our programme which was the Installation Meetings of Scotia Lodge and Councils and Scotia Cryptic Council which was followed by harmony within the Temple to which the Ladies were invited.

Both Installation Ceremonies, conducted by M.E. Companion Dr Kang Tee Yong and his team were of the highest possible standard and once again the harmony provided a temptation to "over indulge" in a selection of delicious Chinese dishes.

Tuesday, 23rd July.

Time to check out from yet another hotel and onto the coach for our penultimate trip to the Penang Sports Club for lunch hosted by M.E. Companions Dato' Dr. R. Ratnalingam and Dato' Dr Bhupinder Singh. Once again we were entertained, in most pleasant surroundings, to a fabulous lunch which undoubtedly contributed to already expanding waistlines.

A final farewell to our hosts and following the short flight from Penang to Kuala Lumpur we finally negotiated our way to the Emirates Desk and checked in for our homeward journey via Dubai to Glasgow.

Once again I feel privileged to have been able to undertake the duties associated with this visit and I am grateful to all members of my Deputation who assisted. I am deeply indebted to our Grand Superintendent, M.E. Companion Dr. Kang Tee Yong and the many Companions of the Middle East District and their Ladies who, at considerable inconvenience to themselves, made this tour so memorable.

Ian Fraser

1st Grand Principal, Supreme Royal Arch Chapter

Supreme Grand Chapter Meetings – 2012

Half Yearly Convocation – 21st December 2012 in Freemasons Hall, 96 George Street, Edinburgh

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St Clement RAC No 244 –



Presentation of Distinguished Service Diploma to EC Sinclair G Bruce
Accompanying EC Sinclair in the photo are, from left to right, MEC Ian Fraser, 1st Grand Principle, Fred Fraser 1st Principle in St Clement and MEC Donald Sutherland, Provincial Grand Superintendent, Ross & Cromarty

Cromarty Firth RAC No 310.

We now look forward to the coming session with Companion Thomson taking the position of first principal at the first meeting on the 3rd of October.

Raymond Morrison.

A wet man does not fear rain.
–Russian proverb

If you believe everything you read, better not read.
–Japanese proverb

You don't satisfy your hunger by watching others work.
–Armenian proverb

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The Squaremen

4th August – Lodge St Andrew – ARDERSEIR – bus leaves Inverness 13:30

1st September – Lodge Laxford - DURNESSE, meeting 6:00 pm – bus leaves Inverness 13:00

This will be an overnight stay (all those wishing accommodation to notify the Boxie before Grand Shed visit in June)



New members of the Shed
when it visited Dingwall

On Saturday 2nd June Heilan Shed No. 6 held the monthly meeting in the upstairs room of The Club, Inverness, to host the Grand Worthy Deacon for Scotland and his Office Bearers on their annual visit and inspection of the Shed books and vouchers.

The newly installed Grand Worthy Deacon was escorted into the Shed with his Office Bearers in attendance by the Grand Director of Ceremonies Bri. David Miller and was warmly welcomed by the Worthy Deacon of the Shed Bri. Andrew Fraser.

One brother was admitted into the shed in an excellent ceremony carried out by the Office Bearers with great dignity. The lectures were of a high standard and everyone listened attentively to them.

Grand Boxie reported in glowing terms of the state of the Shed and announced that all the books and vouchers were in order, reflecting great credit to the Shed administrators, Bri. Mackay and Williamson. The Grand Worthy Deacon congratulated the Shed on the afternoons degree work, carried out to as very high standard and to the enjoyment of all present.

The Immediate Past Grand Worthy Deacon, installed the outstanding Grand Shed Office Bearers present on the instructions of the Grand Worthy Deacon.

The Shed was handed back to Heilan Shed's Worthy Deacon and Grand Shed Office Bearers retired from the Shed. Mince and Tatties were again supplied by the Worthy Deacon, which was enjoyed by all present.

The August meeting scheduled to take place the first Saturday of the month in Ardersier. (4th August). The Worthy Deacon would be pleased to welcome as many members into the Shed at any meeting. The September meeting this year is on Saturday 1st September 2012 in Lodge Laxford, Durness, Sutherland.

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Bro James Tait received a cheque from Heilan Shed No. 6 Worthy Deacon, Andrew Fraser, to the value of £85 on behalf of Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty, for a charity of their choice. The above presentation took place at the end of a very successful meeting in Cromarty on Saturday 7th July, when one candidate from Nairn was admitted a member of Heilan Shed No. 6.

A respectable number of Shed members attended but everyone was disappointed with the turn out from the local lodge, when only two turned up, bearing in mind, a percentage of the proceeds from the day was for a local charity.

The next meeting of the Shed will be held in Ardersier on Saturday 4th August at 3 p.m. when as many members as possible should attend and visitors made very welcome. The transport will depart from the Club in Inverness at 1.30 pm heading for Ardersier.

Morris M Downie

Life is like arriving late for a movie, having to figure out what was going on without bothering everybody with a lot of questions, and then being unexpectedly called away before you find out how it ends.

—*Joseph Campbell* (1904 - 1987)