

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 88

AUGUST 2016



Left to Right – Brothers George Kelly, SGM, Charles Iain Wolridge Gordon, GMM, Robin Cattanach, PGM, Ramsay McGhee, DGM, Adrian Franklin, DGM Trinidad & Tobago & Grenada

In the August Issue –

Grand Lodge / Provincial Grand Lodge / Lodge News

Reports from Lebanon and Brussels

A Matter of Interest from Bro Donnie Mathieson

Address by Bro Jim Dunlop

Bits and Pieces from all over the place!

Picture – Installation of Brother Robin Cattanach

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Editorial

Welcome to the 88th edition of the Pattern.

On Saturday 25th June yet another chapter in the history of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty began when Brother Robin Cattanach was installed as Provincial Grand Master.

We were honoured to have the Grand Master Mason attend to carry out the Installation which he did in his usual capable and efficient manner.

Brother Cattanach has brought together a new team of Commissioned Office-bearers who, I have no doubt, will lead the Province in a sound and innovative manner – we need to give the new team every support in their endeavour.

One of the first initiatives will be the Seminar for Lodge Secretaries and Treasurers to be held on Saturday 17th September. This will be a very informative exercise to make sure that all those of us who undertake secretarial and financial duties are doing it properly – I would ask all admin office-bearers to give this event the support that it deserves.

I want to mention again the issue of losing the exemption from payment of Water Rates. And believe me, it is a serious issue – Lodge Seaforth has just received a bill for over £900, Robertson's Lodge – over £600, St Martin's - £400 and so it goes. Lodge St Duthus were handed a bill for almost £1k but after much effort discovered that the meter attachment was to blame – the fault of those claiming the money. I have had an offer from David Wedgeworth from the company – Kinex – in which he maintains he can significantly reduce the bills. I don't know anything about the company but if any of the Lodges wish to contact him, his number is 0161 871 1097 or he can be contacted at – sales@kinex.co.uk

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



The Dennis Townhill Concert was an outstanding success greatly enjoyed by all who attended. The combination of the organ with the sound of Kingdom Brass was tremendous.

After two hectic months – May and June, things have quietened down a bit in July and likewise in August. That said, I have had the privilege and honour of Reponing Lodge King Hiram No 1351 in Beirut and thereafter Installing their Master and Office-bearers. There is a report on page 21.

Eight days after returning from Beirut it was off again, this time to visit our two Lodges in Belgium – Lodge Wellington and Lodge Allegiance.

Come September we have the Autumn meeting of Provincial Grand Masters in Perth followed on 8th September with Grand Committee. The big event in September is the Installation of Bro Bill Perry as PGM of Lanarkshire Middle Ward coupled with the 200th Anniversary Celebrations of the Province.

October involves trips to Galashiels where I'll have the privilege of carrying out the 200th Anniversary celebrations at the Galashiels Lodge No 262; Millport where Bro Kelly will conduct a 150th and Peebles where the GMM and I will conduct a 300th anniversary at Lodge Peebles Kilwinning No 24 then the Grand Lodge Communication on 27th October.

November 5th I will be heading a Deputation north to Lodge Mercantile Marine in Orkney for their 150th Anniversary.

Ed

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Brethren

The first thing I would like to do is thank all the Brethren who supported me in becoming Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty, and for all the help in organising the Installation on the 25th of June, a lot of effort went into it but what a day and great support.

It was nice to have the Grand Master Mason and his Depute doing the ceremony and another 15 Grand Lodge Office Bearers present. Likewise, the District Grand Master of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, Bro Adrian Franklin with 12 Brethren and 4 ladies in his company. We also had the Grand Master of British Freemasonry in Germany, Bro Arthur Bill Beardmore and his wife Ellie. There were guests from Orkney to the Borders and a few from England, it was nice to see them all. On Thursday 23rd June after a bit of worry about trains departing from Edinburgh to Inverness, we finally picked up the guests from Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada and took them to the Royal and Morangie hotels in Tain and thereafter to a Provincial Royal Arch meeting in Tain Lodge at night. The meeting was very well attended. Friday morning at 10am a visit to Glenmorangie distillery then on to the Royal burgh of Dornoch for a wander around and a lunch. We then went up to Dunrobin castle for a visit and witnessed a great birds of prey display. It was then back to Carnegie lodge hotel for an early supper joined by some of Provincial Office-bearers wives. A Master Mason meeting was organised in lodge Ness in Invergordon at night and a big turnout of Brethren witnessed a very well worked degree and a harmony afterwards. Saturday was installation day and entertainment at the Morangie after the meeting by Ramsay and Jim Tait. Everyone enjoyed the day. Sunday morning saw us loading luggage and bodies at the Hotel's to go to the train station at Inverness to see our visitors away south. Could I say a BIG thank you to all the drivers for all the transporting back and forth and to everyone who helped to make the weekend such an enjoyable time. I have copied below a very nice note received from Brother Adrian Franklin.

Kind regards and Fraternal greetings

Robin Cattanaach PGM

Dear Robin,

I want to sincerely thank you for all your very kind gestures during my stay in your Province. There is no doubt that this trip surpassed all the other previous visits. I hope by now you have totally recovered from what must have been an extremely tiring experience. The entire party has been singing your praises on every occasion that we meet one another. It was wonderful. All the events were enjoyed by all. We recall the very fine luncheon after our very fulfilling trip to the castle and of course the falcon displays. Best Regards to Rosemary and all the other brethren and their ladies who took time off to join us at the Luncheon. I will have Sam Martin give a report at our Communication on the 14th July. I will also take time to highlight the graciousness of the Depute Grand Master, Brother Ramsay taking time to drive us around and supplying us with entertainment along with Jim Tait when we returned to the Hotel after the Installation and Banquet.

It is with all humility that I also accept that very signal honour of Honorary Membership of your Province. It is surely one of the highlights of my Masonic career. You seem to have a good team around you and I do wish you a very successful, healthy and happy term as Provincial Grand Master. Best Regards to Bill Ross and Raymond.

*Yours fraternally,
Adrian C. Franklin*

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Photographs from the Provincial Installation courtesy of Bro Henry MacInnes

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From The Provincial Almoner

Once again I have to start my report by recording the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of brethren from the Province.

In early June we learned of the passing of Past Master Roddy MacLennan, Lodge Seaforth, Fortrose. Roddy had been ill for a relatively short time and had been a patient in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness before being transferred to the County Community Hospital, Invergordon where he died. Roddy had been a faithful attender at his Lodge over many years. In early July we learned of the passing Bro. Hector Ross, Lodge Ness, Invergordon. Hector hadn't been a regular attender in recent times. He had been ill for some years with Alzheimer's disease. He had been resident for some time in Castle Gardens Care Home, Invergordon. Appropriate cards have been sent to the families conveying the sympathies of the Provincial Grand Master and the brethren of the Province.

Bro. Dougie MacDougall, Lodge Fingal, Dingwall has now been transferred from Raigmore Hospital, Inverness to the County Community Hospital, Invergordon. I visited him recently and he was in very good form and hoping to get out of hospital in the not too distant future and return to his sheltered accommodation in Muir of Ord.

Past Master Cochrane Donald, Lodge Seaforth although not fully recovered, was able to attend the June meeting of Lodge Allan Wilson, where he was installed as Depute Master.

Past Master Bob MacLean, Lodge Seaforth is still waiting a date for his long awaited hip replacement operation.

Past Master Victor Shepherd, Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty is still resident in Strathallan Care Home, Strathpeffer. He is still much the same health-wise. He has been out of the Home quite a lot recently and taken for runs locally, to the Black Isle and Wester Ross. I always get a great welcome when I call and he asks about freemasonry and the brethren, although sometimes he does get a bit confused.

Past Master Sandy Rose, Lodge Rosehaugh continues to progress and hopes to return to some masonic duties when the season starts. He attends clinics frequently at Raigmore Hospital and so far, has had good reports from the staff there. He is always in good form when I visit.

Past Master Hamish Keir, Lodge Seaforth has not been so well recently but is improving and getting out and about.

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

I realise that this report is shorter than has been the case recently. I hope I haven't missed out on visiting or contacting any brother who may need my services. With it being the summer recess and not being in contact with brethren to the same extent it could well be that I haven't been made aware of some brother who has been ill.

David MacMaster, Provincial Grand Almoner Tel: 01997 421306 email: david@strathpeffer.net

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Provincial Grand Lodge of Midlothian



On Friday 29th July I had the privilege and honour of attending the Reigning Masters Dinner in the Province of Midlothian which was held in the wonderful surrounds of the Portobello Lodge.

This was a formal occasion but in essence very relaxed and really enjoyable. After an excellent meal there were a few speeches and some Harmony – really brought all the Reigning Masters together in a superb social way under the chairmanship of the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Thomas Constable Smith.

This is something that could maybe be considered by our own Province or even combining with our neighbouring Provinces to give all Reigning Masters the opportunity to meet and socialise in a very acceptable way.

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



The first meeting of the new season will be on Monday 3rd October at 7.45 pm

FORTROSE LODGE No. 108

We're now into the quiet time of the masonic year but in the last 3 months we've been fairly busy.

In the middle of May, we had our annual provincial visits for the various degrees, a very popular annual 3-day event. We worked a 2nd degree and got a clean bill of health from our then PGM Willie Ross.

On June 3rd we were visited by Lodge Thistle No. 270. A 3rd degree was worked that evening when the candidate was John Norman Murray who had no recollection of having previously gone through the degree some years previously in his mother lodge in Edinburgh, so it was like a new experience for him. The following afternoon a deputation from Lodge Fortrose and Lodge Thistle went to Lodge St Clement's in Tarbert where lodges from Inverness-shire had formed a team to work a Mark degree, this proved very interesting as 3 different rituals were being used.

In July we had our regular annual visit by the Chernobyl children, unfortunately this may be their last visit as the Inverness group are disbanding because the current chairman is retiring and a successor could not be found. Our sincere thanks to the various organisations and businesses who contributed to making the visit a success.



*The Chernobyl children
after learning some
highland dancing.*

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A visit to the coastguard helicopter.

250th Anniversary

Work is still progressing on the organisation for our 250th anniversary which will be celebrated on Saturday 3rd June 2017. There are now almost 150 names of those planning to attend next year's event a large proportion of whom have already paid signifying their commitment to attending what we hope will be a grand event. The celebration dinner will be held in the newly refurbished Lews Castle. Tickets, which are limited to 200, are on sale at £35 each. Unfortunately, due to the limited space we cannot include wives at the dinner.

A Scottish tradesman, a painter called Jack, was very interested in making extra money where he could. So he often would thin down his paint to make it go a wee bit further. As it happened, he got away with this for some time. Eventually the Presbyterian Church decided to do a big restoration job on one of their biggest churches.

Jack put in a painting bid, and because his price was so competitive, he got the job. And so he set to, with a right good will, erecting the trestles and putting up the planks and buying the paint and thinning it down with the turpentine.

Well, Jack was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly done, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder. The sky opened, and rain poured down, washing the thin paint from all over the church and knocking Jack fair off the scaffold to land on the lawn.

Now, Jack was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he fell on his knees and cried, "Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?"

From the thunder, a mighty voice spoke: "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi Brethren

I am just back from holiday and feeling refreshed. I hope you are the same and enjoying the benefits of our recess.

I recently enjoyed a visit to "Burns Country" in Ayrshire with a small deputation from Strathpeffer Burns Club where we enjoyed visits to the various Burns Memorials. The group consisted of Brothers Ramsay McGhee (organiser) of Lodge Seaforth, Andrew Henderson and Brian Crawford from Lodge Fingal (Andy of course also RWM of Lodge Loch Ewe at present) and me, accompanied by two non-masons, i.e. Hugh McKay and John Lunn. The highlight of the trip for me, was a visit to Lodge Tarbolton in Ayrshire where Robert Burns was Depute Master. We were all well received and the memorabilia on display was incredible. It was like a step back in time and a memorable occasion which I would recommend to anyone who is visiting the area. I am sure the Lodge Secretary would be glad to arrange for you.

As you know our recess ends in September, with our meetings being as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 21 September 2016 @ 7.45 p.m. | Business meeting to discuss programme for 2016/2017. |
| 19 October 2016 @ 7.45p.m. | Workings will be decided at September meeting. |
| 16 November 2016 @ 7.45 p.m. | A.G.M. & Nomination of R.W.M. and Off. Bearers for 2016/17 |
| 21 December 2016 @ 7.45 p.m. | Installation of R.W.M. and Office bearers. |

These meetings will be notified in due course by Billet and please note visitors will be made welcome at all meetings.

I would urge all members to attend these meetings as there are important matters to discuss and decisions to be made which affect us all.

I visited P.M. Victor Shepherd who is still resident in Strathallan Nursing Home in Strathpeffer. He does not have great mobility but was still in relatively good form, and visits from family and friends seems to brighten his day. If you are in the area pop in and say hello.

Regards to all

James A Taft, PM
Secretary



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Lodge Fingal No 318

Trip to Thurso, Saturday 14th May.

Lodge St. Peter's Operative No. 284, to work an E.A.° for a Mr Darren Gunn

There was a good deputation, consisting of eleven Brethren who travelled north on 14th May. On our arrival we were treated to a 3 course meal in the Lounge of the Lodge before heading upstairs to the Lodge-room at 6:00pm.

The deputation, headed by the Master, Brother Angus Beaton, was presented by the acting D of C, Bro D Gunn PM. The Master of Lodge St Peter's, Bro Paul Cowan, warmly welcomed the Deputation and extended an invitation to Bro Beaton along with Bro Andy Henderson, PM and Bro Colin Mackintosh SM to join him in the East where they were joined by the PGM of Caithness Bro William MacLeod and the IPPGM Bro Jimmy Chambers.

The Gavel was presented to the RWM of Lodge Fingal and the work was under way. The Lodge Fingal Office-bearers assumed the various offices and the Candidate, Mr Darren Gunn was formally presented to the Lodge. The following Brethren participated in the working of the Degree - Bro Richard MacDonald BB, Bro David Robertson JD, Bro D Gunn PM, Bro Colin MacPhee IG, Bro Stewart Bain PM, Bro John Hanson WJW Bro Ronnie Sutherland PM and Bro Andy Henderson PM.

At the completion of the Degree, both Masters came down onto the floor of the Lodge and greeted Bro Gunn, and congratulated him for taking his first regular step in Freemasonry. The RWM of Fingal presented Bro Gunn with a Fingal tie and asked the Brethren to show their appreciation. Bro. Gunn was then shown to a seat in the N.E. corner of the Lodge.

Harmony followed downstairs, then the bus home for those who can remember.



Tuesday 11th October: First meeting off the season, we will be working an F.C. Degree for Bro. Michael Stewart.

Events Logie Lounge:

Saturday 18th June: Bar-b-que



The Bar opened at 5:00pm and food served from 6:00pm. The barbecuing was to be by the Two Hairy Bikers` as they were to be calling in at the Lodge on their tour of the North. But they had an accident coming down the famous Berriedale Brae, Caithness.

As you can see our very own Bro Colin Mackintosh stepped into the breech, and laid on a fabulous B-B-Q, his apprentice was Bro Allan MacKenzie [Storn].

Followed by a wee shindig @ 8`ish, music was by Stirling Silver. The floor was never empty.



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Here you can see our very own Bro Henry Cameron and his wife Maureen attending to the bar.

Saturday 24th September: This is your chance to show your dancing skills that you learnt while on holiday. At the interval, to let the Hosts catch their breath, there will be a figure buffet and a raffle drawn.

That's all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn PM
Secretary.*



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Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

The July meeting was a most enlightening meeting when Mrs Margaret Stevens, former Procurator Fiscal from Dunfermline gave a first class lecture on the work of the Courts. Her talk was liberally sprinkled with humour which was greatly appreciated by the Brethren present. Twenty-seven Brethren enjoyed lunch and Harmony after the meeting.

The August meeting will be an illustrated presentation by Brother Charles Winston, PM one of the most well respected Masonic historians and researchers.

A warm welcome is extended to all Brethren to come along and hear Brother Winston and enjoy lunch at the conclusion of the meeting.

WRM
Secretary

Lodge Seaforth No 854

During the summer recess we had a visit from the Brethren of Lodge John O' Groat who worked an excellent MM Degree for us followed by a very enjoyable Harmony.

A few of us have kept busy during the summer cutting hedges, tidying up the grounds and cleaning moss of the roof. There is still much work to be done and we may look at a work party early in the new session.

Our first meeting will be on Monday 19th September when we will

A Taylor, RWM

BLAST FROM THE PAST - 1998

On Monday 19th January, the Brethren of Lodge St Mary's No 339, Inverness, headed by their RWM, Brother Donald Gray, worked an excellent Fellow-craft Degree in Lodge Seaforth. The link between the two Lodges goes back a long way - just over 100 years - when Bro Alex F MacKenzie, a Past Master of St Mary's chose to erect a new Lodge in Fortrose. Bro MacKenzie was in fact the first Master of Seaforth.

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Lodge Averon

Hi Brethren

Lodge Averon has been trying to keep busy during the closed season with continued support for our chosen charity this year - the Anne Noble Dance School proposed by our RWM George Robinson. We held a very well attended quiz night hosted by the now famous masonic quiz master PM Duncan Munro and his good lady Maureen raising £400 for the kids. What a fantastic achievement! We are now getting on with organising a "Play Your Cards Night" on the 13th Aug Which will be hosted by Bro Gavin Wheelan and of course our annual Golf Scramble at Alness Golf Club in Oct 22nd. Everyone welcome.

PM Charlie Carrison has been busy with a lot of maintenance in and around the lodge, new flooring in the kitchen, some new wooden panelling on the upstairs bar gallery windows to make them safer and some work in the anti-room plus loads more. He's a one-man Bob the builder! All this effort is greatly appreciated by the lodge and I must say it is absolutely fantastic to see our younger brethren getting involved in organising a lot of the events this year. The enthusiasm and the freshness they are bringing is very enlightening indeed and I for one will be encouraging them for some more of the same.

RWM George Robinson, Our Secretary Brother Keith Bauer and PM Charlie Carrison also attended the installation of our new provincial Grand Master in Tain. Unfortunately, I had to miss this year. However, I am told it was a great day and evening had by all.

Lodge Averon will be back to work 2nd Week Oct.

Donnie Mathieson

Lodge Ness No 888

As usual, during the close season, not a lot to talk about but we were not completely at rest. We held our midsummer barbeque on Saturday the 18th June, (sorry no photographs), this was an excellent day, with a good turnout with the entertainment supplied by the Stirling's and Tug Wilson. The only people disappointed, seems to be those who were not able to attend.

On the following Friday, the 24th, we worked a Third degree for the Caribbean friends, who were in the area at this time. This was an excellent evening, the Lodge was crowded and the degree went down well, with Harry McCartney, from Lodge Averon as the substitute candidate. (did the part so well, looked like his first time). This was followed by an excellent harmony, enjoyed by all, including the visitors, who certainly were in no hurry to leave.

On the following day, the 25th, a number of members, attended and some took part in the installation of Brother Robin Cattanaich as Provincial Grand Master. This was an excellent ceremony and day.

Our Lodge will resume for the 16/17 season on Tuesday the 11th October, this is normally a Business meeting but our RWM may find something to add to that.

Raymond Morrison, PM

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

PM Ronnie Miller is an acknowledged expert when it comes to technology – here are some more very useful tips from him –

IMAGE RE-SIZING

One of the questions I am often asked is how to re-size images taken with modern cameras or phones.

First of all, why does it matter what size a photo is? The answer is simple. When transmitting images across the internet it takes time. The larger the image or “file” transferring, the larger the amount of time it takes to send or receive. A typical image file is around 4 megabytes which is 4 million bytes. The internet is not symmetrical so upload speeds and download speeds differ. Although my home internet speed is 8 megabytes; this is the DOWNLOAD speed. My upload speed is between an eighth and a quarter of a megabyte per second, which means that by using simple arithmetic, and in a perfect world when the internet is quiet, it should take at most 32 seconds to send an image either as an email attachment or uploading to a website. However, the world isn’t perfect and pictures can take so long to send that you might think your email is broken or stalled; especially true and inconvenient on a phone where internet speeds are typically slower.

The good news is that you can make your files or images MUCH FASTER to send and download using TWO methods: compression and scale.

Scaling the image just makes the physical size smaller. The same typical image mentioned before is around 4000 pixels wide which is around 4 screens wide, so realistically you could divide the size by 4 making it 1000 pixels wide. My rule of thumb is to make important or impressive images 1200 wide, pictures of general stuff 600 wide and head and shoulders people around 400 wide. You do this by using a programme like Photoshop on your computer OR by uploading the original image to a website and following the instructions. e.g. <http://picesize.com/edit>

The second method of reducing the image size is to use compression. This is where images are samples and mathematically reduced in size using special formulae which preserve detail but delete useless “stuff” or repeated “stuff”. Generally, the process is referred to as “ZIPPING”. You CAN use Windows or OSX but it’s probably simpler to upload your original image to <http://picesize.com/edit> as before and select the “QUALITY” or by how much compression you wish to apply. The more compression you apply the smaller the final file will be, BUT compression reduces the quality of the image if you choose too much compression; it’s the price you pay for smaller file sizes. I use 80% quality for really important images, 60% for images that need the details to show through and 35% for unimportant images. It’s confusing at first but the Higher the compression the less quality you get in the final image.

By applying the correct scaling and a little compression you SHOULD be able to reduce the typical image above from 4mb to 85kb. If you use the <http://picesize.com/edit> website this result was obtained by applying a scaling of 4mb to 1mb and a compression of 75%. which I think you will agree is almost magic.

If your website is of the WordPress kind, you can use the plugin called WP SMUSH which does the above automatically!

NOTES: I chose the “picesize” website as its SIMPLE to use and has explanations about the processed involved. They also go into the process in more detail with more options on file types etc. However, there are many more websites that do the same thing – just make sure that using Google, the website is well reviewed e.g. “virus picesize.com” I tend to use Google like this for ALL websites I use where the website is downloading “stuff” to your computer.

The next meeting of Lodge Kyle is at 8pm on the first Monday of September (5th September 2016).

Ronnie Miller, PM Lodge Kyle No. 1117

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Lodge Rosehaugh 1216

Just the one meeting to report on since the last patter and this was the final meeting of the session on Friday 6th May. This was the PGL visitation evening and this year we had a Lecture by PM John Patience. The numbers of brethren from Rosehaugh were somewhat limited due to a Charity Golf Event held at the Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club on the same day. Although not a masonic event quite a few lodge members were involved and a very healthy sum of over £14k was raised for Cancer Research UK Pancreatic Portfolio in memory of Lewis Macleman. There was a distinct lack of communication from the Brethren down south which resulted in no meeting this year of the Lodges 1212-1219. These meetings have been on the go for 10 years so a bit disappointing if this results in the conclusion of this annual get-together.

Over the last few "Patters" we have had to report on Brethren from the Lodge passing on to the Grand Lodge above and once again the Lodge has lost another younger member of the Craft. Bro James Macleman passed away on Friday 6th May peacefully after a short illness. The funeral service was held on Monday 16th May at 10.30 at Congregational Church Avoch. James initiated into Lodge Rosehaugh in 1985 at a time when there was an abundance of young members joining. Good days with Arthur in the chair and taking us around the lodges and with us all vying for parts on the floor, James included. There was no doubt he had a special gift in the delivery of the masonic ritual and was soon elevated to the position of Junior Deacon. However, a couple of years later his work commitments took him south to the Channel Tunnel where he worked for a number of years. He would have been an excellent RWM if the situation had presented itself. A great loss to his wife Caroline, and family. On the 18th May Roslyn Macarthur (wife of Arthur) passed away following a hard fought battle with cancer over 2 years. A celebration of Roz's life was held in Rosemarkie Church on 30th May and was attended by a vast crowd with many having to take in the service from out-with the church. Also in May George Reid from Avoch passed away and although not a member of the craft he was the Father in Law of PM John Jack. John had the duty at the funeral service to read out a poem composed by George and we are pleased the family were willing to share this with us.

I am not sure how many may have heard about the Avoch Skiffities. They are a recent formed organisation in Avoch which are involved in rowing. They are currently out in Ireland competing in the World Championships and appear to have finished 5th in the world- excellent effort. Bro Scott Patience held a soup and sweet day in Lodge Rosehaugh a couple of weeks back to assist the Skiffities expense and Lodge Rosehaugh funds and just short of £600 was raised. Well done Scott.

Finally, we restart in First Friday in October (7th) at 8.00pm and this will be our AGM along with a lecture.

Keith Patience, PM

On the 14th September I will be flying out to Phoenix, Arizona to start the first leg of my trek in the Grand Canyon. I will form part of a 40 plus group of people from all walks of life who have signed up to raise money (minimum of £4000) for the Highland Hospice Build Appeal. From a base camp near the Havasu Falls, over 4 days we will trek a total of 64km through different parts of the Grand Canyon under the guidance of the Havasu "Baaja" Native American tribe. I would like to thank my Family, friends and the Brethren of Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216 for their support and generosity in helping me raise the amount needed for the Highland Hospice. Special thanks to the ladies from Avoch who organised two soup and sweets which raised between them over £1700! Also thanks to the Lodge for the generous donation. I will update the Provincial Patter with my tales from the Grand Canyon on my return!

William Craig MacLennan, PM

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Our Highland Home - Reproduced by kind permission of the family of the late George Reid

Though the west coast of Scotland is rugged and bare
Here's a place one can feel really free.
There's the hills and the heather, the rivers and lochs
And the wonderful tang of the sea.

There's wildlife abundant in each lonely glen
Just listen, you'll hear all their cries.
The stag like a monarch commanding the hills
While the eagle soars high in the skies.

The trout and the salmon come into the burns
The wild geese come down on the bay.
The seabirds so varied all have their own song
And the seals on the rocks are at play.

No place in a city could give one such peace
This is truly a haven of rest;
Surpassing the wonders of science and man
Here nature is seen at its best.

So here as we lift up our eyes to the hills
Let's remember the God who had planned
Those wonders of nature, the mountains, the seas
The birds and the beasts of our land.

The one who is caring for each lonely heart
The one who once gave us his son;
Just give him the glory, the honour, the praise
And thank him for all he has done.

Lodge St Martin 1217

On Saturday 9th July, Lodge St Martin had a successful fundraising day at the Rotary Club – “Fun on the Pier Day”. As well as raising money, the event also serves to raise the profile of the Lodge in the local community.

The Lodge looks forward to welcoming the Provincial Grand Lodge to Ullapool on Wednesday 24th August for its Quarterly Communication which will take place at 8.00 pm.

Our Lodge business begins again with the AGM and Election of Office-bearers on Tuesday 18th October with our Installation taking place on Tuesday 15th November.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

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Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551

At the end of April, under the direction of WSW Allan MacCrimmon assisted by the local members, modifications to the Lodge external walls, floor area in the anteroom and toilet were undertaken by an Aultbea tradesman.

With the Lodge hosting the PG Lodge of Sorrow on Sunday 8th May the building works were completed timeously and complemented by new carpeting sourced by SD Richard Macdonald and installed during a day visit from Dingwall by Richard and WJW Ally Gault.

Such up rated surroundings deserve tangible as well as personal satisfaction for those involved so it was fitting that the lodge initiative of summer meetings heralded the initiation of David Orr on 12th May with a follow up meeting on 23rd June given over to the explanation of the 1st degree TB and an interesting lecture by WJW Ally Gault incorporating research Ally had done on WW1 memorials touching upon Ross-shire servicemen which he had painstakingly followed, not only within Ross-shire itself, but also driving to Southern England and Northern France!

Lodge Loch Ewe will be reverting to the winter programme of conventional twice monthly Thursday meetings in September 2016 until April 2017 and we are looking at a permanent heating system to enhance our surroundings. Thursday 8th September 2016 will be a business meeting followed by a FC degree for Bro. Orr on Thursday 22nd September 2016.

Such was the enjoyment of the fare at the Shielling Restaurant, Gairloch in July 2015 the brethren and their ladies revisited it again on Friday, 23rd July; in 2015 I referred to the scenic beauty surrounding the venue and this year, albeit a fortnight later, the evening sunshine once again delighted us with its presence during the excellently served 3 course meal. Our thanks for the organisation of the evening to Bro. Barrie Whitwell, Lodge Secretary and more recently installed Substitute PGM at the PGL Installation of the PGM and commissioned Office-Bearers in Tain on 25th June.

Andrew Miller Henderson, RWM.



Lodge Wellington

On Wednesday 27th July as part of an official visit to our two Scottish Lodges in Belgium I had the opportunity along with Brother Rev Andrew Paterson, Junior Grand Warden, to attend an EA Degree by Lodge Wellington No 1385.

The Degree was well worked by all who participated and was done very much in the tradition of Scottish Freemasonry.

My sincere thanks to Brother Gudron Geuze, Master of the Lodge, the Office-bearers and the Brethren of the Lodge for making us so welcome and affording us such generous hospitality and transportation.

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BITS AND PIECES

Here is a photo of Bro David Pringle and me with the RWM of Lodge St Andrew No 1794 Bro Trevor Renwick, St George's, Grenada. The photo was taken after the meeting at which we were made Honorary Members while visiting on the occasion of the annual Lodge Installation meeting.

The District Grand Master and Dep DGM Brother Rajin Bagwat were also given Honorary Membership of the Lodge.



Bro Morris M Downie, PPGM

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents were at their wits end as to what to do. The mother had heard that a new Minister in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with him. The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The eight-year-old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?' The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?' At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the bedroom. His older brother followed him into the room and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it.'

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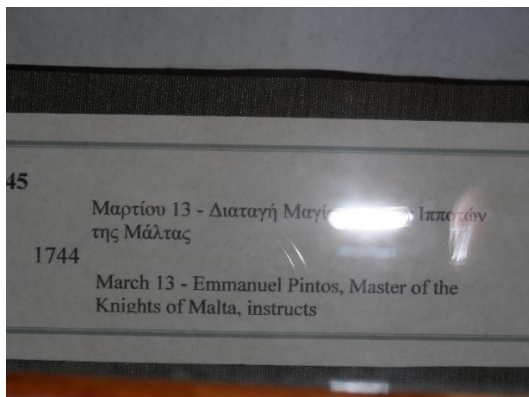
As A Matter of Interest.

A few years ago, my good lady Donna and myself found ourselves visiting one of the most stunning places we have ever seen. The Greek Island of Santorini in the southern Aegean Sea.



I am afraid the above photos do not do this island a single bit of justice, it is a stunning place and almost shimmers with very bright white and blue painted houses and views to and from the island to die for.

We just happened to be pottering around the maze of little streets and alleys as you do, visiting the shops and testing out the local refreshments and food, when we literally stumbled across the Islands museum, so in went hoping to find out and digest some of the Islands local history, when boom! I saw below.....



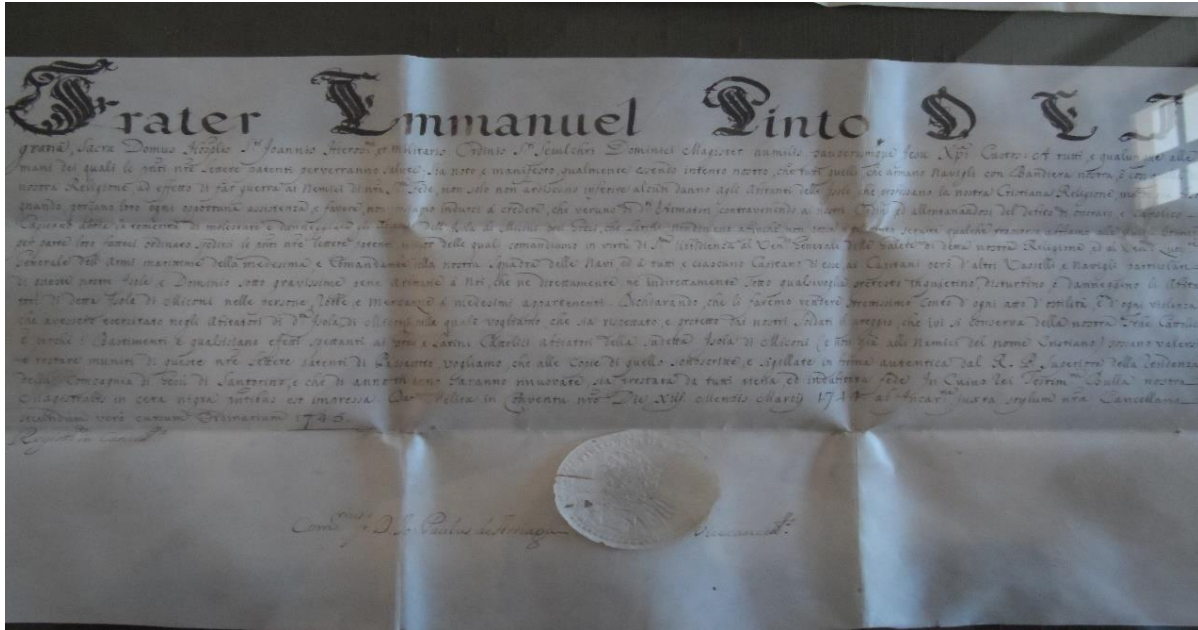
And just above this was a letter to from the Grand Master of Malta of the time to the Islands Knights Templar Preceptor.

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I have tried to get this translated, without much success. So if any of our brethren can help it would be very interesting to see what the letter actually says. The photo can be expanded and you can see the writing quite clearly.

Now my Story does not end here. I thought well here, wait a mo! if there were knights on the Island then there must be a temple somewhere? So, much to the wife's annoyance that she might miss a shop somewhere and a good couple of hours or so of hunting up and down alleys - I found it!!!



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Unfortunately, we were not permitted to explore the whole building however I am told that there are quarters, an inner temple and underground tunnels and dungeons which are pretty much the same as they were back then in the 17th and 18th century's just beyond the door you can see to the right of the altar. I was itching to carry on exploring but unfortunately we had to re-join our boat, but I can't help thinking what other gems of masonic history this little Island holds. Maybe one day we will visit the Island again. Just as a matter of interest.

Donnie Mathieson

Lodge Averon NO 866

VISITATION TO LEBANON

On Wednesday 13th July, accompanied by the Junior Grand Warden, Bro Rev Andrew E Paterson, I travelled to Beirut with the purpose of (a) meeting with Brethren from the District, (b) attending two meetings and finally, (c) Reponing Lodge King Hiram No 1351 and thereafter installing their Master and Office-bearers.

Things got off to a bad start when the flight from Istanbul to Beirut was delayed by five hours as a result of which, it was a case of having a shower on arrival at the hotel at 08.30 before meeting with a number of Brethren from Lodge El Mizab who are desirous of opening a new Lodge in an area of Lebanon that has no lodge. At the conclusion of the meeting with the Lodge El Mizab Brethren, we enjoyed lunch with them before travelling to Zahlé to attend the Installation meeting of Lodge Zahlé No 1047. We were warmly welcomed by the Master and Brethren. Brother Hassan Bahij Rahal was installed by Brother Joseph Saab Maalouf. The entire ceremony was conducted in Arabic but we were able to follow the proceedings. At the end of the meeting we repaired to the Domaine Restaurant where we enjoyed an excellent meal and I had the privilege of presenting commemorative plaques to all the Brethren who served with the outgoing Master, Brother Michel Zaki Saab Maalouf.



We arrived back in Beirut at 00.30 hours absolutely shattered – the hotel room was a most welcome sight.

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On Friday 15th July, I held a rehearsal for the Reponing Ceremony and Installation meeting. After the rehearsal we had lunch with some of the Reigning Masters from the Lebanese Lodges – a very enjoyable experience – both the food and the company were excellent. That afternoon we met a bit more formally with the Reigning Masters when I had the opportunity and privilege of making a presentation on various aspects of Scottish Freemasonry.



After the meeting with the Reigning Masters we changed and were taken to Fanar Freemasons' Hall where we were very warmly welcomed by the Master of Lodge Kadisha, Brother Garo Manjerian, and his Office-bearers. After the normal introductions, the Brethren carried out an exemplary FC Degree in English. This was the first time that the Brethren had worked in English and it was abundantly clear that they had put a tremendous amount of effort into the Degree during which two Brethren received their FC Degree. Everyone present was well impressed and congratulated Brother Manjerian and his team on a job well done.

On Saturday 16th July I had the honour to Repon Lodge King Hiram No 1351 with the assistance of Bro Rev Andrew Paterson who carried out the duties of Grand Chaplain in his usual efficient and capable manner. There was approximately 60 + Brethren in attendance. After a short break, I had the further honour of Installing Bro Rev Andrew Paterson into the Chair of King Hiram and thereafter Installing his Office-bearers. We then enjoyed Harmony with the Brethren of the newly Reponed Lodge before making our way to the airport for the return flight. We were not sure what to expect in the aftermath of the Military Coup in Turkey as we were flying back via Istanbul.

Contrary to the BBC news bulletins that showed the airport basically under siege, we flew into Istanbul, made our way through the transit security area and spent three hours in the lounge before flying back out again on the Edinburgh flight. There was no sign of trouble anywhere.

All in all, we had a full and somewhat eventful visit but it was good to meet up again with the Lebanese Brethren. I wish the newly Reponed Lodge every success for the future.

WRM

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AN ADDRESS TO AN INITIATE – an article received from Brother Jim Dunlop

The following address was delivered to an initiate in the Tranquillity Lodge, No. 185, by Bro. John Goulston, P.M. This lodge, which is composed mainly of brethren of the Jewish faith, is one of the most renowned in England for its support of Masonic and Jewish charitable institutions.

Having been admitted to the privileges of Freemasonry, you would surely wish to be made acquainted with its principles and purposes, its meaning and significance. Let me, therefore, tell you, in a few words, something of what it stands for and what it seeks to carry out.

First, let me assure you that Freemasonry is not merely a masked pretence for empty self-glorification, as some of the uninitiated believe; nor even an opportunity for frivolous boon-companionship or business opportunities, as others may think. Freemasonry is a serious business of life, which, if conducted in a proper spirit and directed to the purpose which is its manifest object, cannot but prove a source of infinite good and benefit to mankind, bound up, as it is with some of the highest hopes and interests of humanity.

According to the authorized definition of the term, Freemasonry is an art, founded on the principles of Geometry and directed to the service and convenience of mankind. Its purpose is to knit together, in one common bond, all humanity by appealing to that charity and sympathy which are innate in every healthy-minded man.

If the ancient dictum be accepted, that religion is the discharge of our duty to God and man, then Freemasonry, though not actually a religion, is certainly a very important adjunct to it, proclaiming, as it does, the law of universal love and inculcating the hatred of strife, contention and dispute. In Freemasonry, as in religion, the sentiment is all; the ritual or ceremony, merely symbolical.

It is not only a service, but a discipline. Its teachings are not to be put off with the apron at the close of the Masonic business, but must be brought into all departments of life, to ennoble and adorn it; for Freemasonry lays down rules of conduct for the working portions of our lives, as well as for the devotional periods. It embraces equally as brethren men of every race, religion, and language and speaks to each man in his own tongue. It teaches us to have reverence for the highest, to have pity for the lowest and to be charitable in our thoughts as well as in our actions. It exhorts us never to judge harshly or rashly, nor to attribute an evil motive to the actions of our fellow-man; to listen patiently to the cry of the unhappy, pity their infirmities, aid them in their weakness, and to succour their distress, even though we may know that their distress is the result of their own errors or folly, for such charity is the very touchstone of our true Masonic fellowship.

As a chain is no stronger than its weakest link and the slightest flaw in the metal may jeopardize the safety of the whole, so may your individual conduct reflect on the whole of the Craft. We, therefore, trust that by the practice of those virtues which we have adopted as our Masonic emblem, you may become a source of strength to the chain, in which this evening you have forged the newest link.

Tonight, Brother Initiate, you have been admitted to a great inheritance: some of the greatest, the wisest, and the best of mankind have laboured for you. You have been permitted to enter into their harvest. You have witnessed the rites which they once performed and you are now able to undertake the sublime task which they undertook – the task of making our common brotherhood wiser and happier. You can build forward where they were forced to leave off and so help to bring nearer to perfection the great edifice which they left uncompleted.

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REFLECTIONS – an article received from Brother Andrew Henderson, PM

In past contributions to the 'Patter' I've referred to a 'time for reflection' so, in early July when I turned the ripe 'young age of 70', I thought it's time for some more of the same.

At Blackwell's I have a number of Bibles accumulated over the years since childhood into the present three score and ten and among them are two which give me a bit more pleasure than the rest.

These particular editions are a) the New Living Translation Illustrated Study Bible which I purchased in the Christian Bookshop in Castle Street, Inverness late last year and b) La Sainte Bible which, to the erudite minds among readers, is the Bible written in French.

During my time in West and Central Africa with my places of work being in the former French colonies of Gabon and Chad I always put La Sainte Bible in my briefcase since, if anything untoward should crop up at airports, officialdom in these places might start conversing with me more meaningfully than just the normal salutations necessary in getting to my agent on the other side of the glass en route to the office. Fortunately, in my 10 years in the two former colonies the occasion never arose to exchange more than the necessary pleasantries after spending around 6 ½ hours on an overnight flight to the Dark Continent to get to work.

However, La Sainte Bible did come in handy on a few occasions due to my requirement in the French language while at work as will be reinforced by one of my U.K. colleagues in Gabon resident in the Manchester area who receives the 'Patter' every quarter – these few occasions occurred, sadly when an ex-pat French national died while at work more noticeably in Chad where we had a greater number of French engineers working. Knowing I had my bible with me my bosses would ask me to read our 3rd degree passage of Ecclesiastes Chapter 12, verses 1 to 7 while the remains were being loaded onto the aircraft at site preparatory to the departed employee being sent home to his family in France. It was always humbling to be given this duty and, in the staff bar at night, we would reminisce over it.

In Gabon where we had quite a strong Scottish contingent of engineers alongside the Shell/Dutch bosses I was probably remembered more each November and January along with the load of Cockburn's haggis for the enjoyment of all the ex-pats there!

In reading my more recent purchase in the Highland city capital I was struck by the interpretation all through the 2,500 + pages of text beautifully complemented by the topographical support.

We are all aware of the text of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes Chapter 12, verses 1 to 7 but it is its interpretation in the New Living Translation Illustrated Study Bible which I would like to share with you here, viz.:

Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honour him in your youth before you grow old and say, "Life is not pleasant anymore."

Remember him before the light of the sun, moon, and stars is dim to your old eyes, and rain clouds continually darken your sky.

Remember him before your legs – the guards of your house – start to tremble; and before your shoulders – the strong men – stoop. Remember him before your teeth – your few remaining servants – stop grinding; and before your eyes – the women looking through the windows – seem dimly.

Remember him before the door to life's opportunities is closed and the sound of work fades. Now you rise at the first chirping of the birds, but then all their sounds will grow faint.

Remember him before you become fearful of falling and worry about the danger in the streets; before your hair turns white like an almond tree in bloom, and you drag along without energy like a dying grasshopper, and the caper berry no longer inspires passion. Remember him before you near the grave, your everlasting home, when the mourners will weep at your funeral.

Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken. Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well.

For then the dust will return to the earth and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

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This interpretation, after the number of times we have all heard it in Lodge ritual, is quite a poignant one I feel.

Quite recently at the end of May I was in Thurso at my mother-in-law's funeral and reference was made by the young local minister Rev. David Malcolm to her collection of bibles, her devotion to her Church serving as an Elder, the Women's Guild and as Representative at meetings in Edinburgh. This was a business woman who enjoyed a very full life and, although she would never shove religion down your throat she had her own quiet way of 'pointing her family in the right direction'.

I well remember the last occasion I was at a funeral in the same Thurso church almost 15 years to the day when my father passed away and I was speedily sent home during my last tour of duty in Gabon for the occasion. Then I recited the Authorised King James version of Ecclesiastes and, when I retook my seat, my mother-in-law who was seated in the family pew section directly behind me leaned forward and whispered 'you certainly know your bible son' – a fitting accolade from a real lady!

I would further advocate that it is the enjoyment from activities in the Craft which help in appreciating the seat of learning that is found in the Bible.

While in the Chair of King Solomon and when we refer to our dear departed brethren I, in asking the lodge to stand for a minute's reflection, recite in my head the 7 verses which (go on, work it out) last around 60 seconds before recalling the lodge to order – a fitting tribute to our departed brethren since, to my mind, a minute should mean a minute.

Andrew M. Henderson
RWM Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551.
PM Lodge Fingal No. 318.

ROSICRUCIANS

Care Fratres,

I would be obliged if the Fratres of Inverness College would confirm if they are able to attend the Lecture Day detailed below A.S.A.P. so that arrangements can be finalised. I would also appreciate a reply if you are unable to attend.

Yours aye,
Fred Mant VIII,9

Semper Discens College intend to hold a one-day Seminar comprising a series of lectures on "The Philosophers".

The Lectures will be delivered by Dr Nigel Dower, a former lecturer at the University of Aberdeen. Venue is at Semper Discens College, Masonic Temple, St Johns Road, Bucksburn, Aberdeen, AB21 9AL.

The two lectures will be on...

1. The Enlightenment philosophers...mainly those mentioned in the 4th Grade lecture.
2. Global Justice.... conflicts that arise today from the enlightenment values

The day will commence at 10.30 with a break for lunch at a local hotel, (just 5 minutes' walk from the Masonic Temple) and will end at 15.00hrs.

Semper Discens will make a donation to a charity of Dr Dower's choice for his labours and to accommodate this a charge of £15 for attendance will be required.

The lunch at the Britannia Hotel will be two courses with tea/coffee at a cost of £15.

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PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

St Clement RAC 244

The next meeting will be on Friday 28th October 2016

Cromarty Firth RAC 310

The chapter does not normally do much in the close season and this year is no different but will resume business on October 5th, with our AGM and election and re-installation of office bearers.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.



Ramsay McGhee, DGM, presenting Bro Alick Graham with the special bottle of Royal Arch Whisky which was raffled in aid of Supreme Grand RA Chapter's Iris Murdoch appeal. £210 was raised.

For the information of the companions I've put together the following diary dates, let me know if I've got any wrong.

Chapter	Installation	Visit
Tain & Ross 63	11 October 2016	14 February 2017
St Clement 244	28 October 2016	28 April 2017
Cromarty Firth 310	05 October 2016	01 March 2017
Hebrides 364	11 October 2016	17 May 2017
Hebrides Lodge & Council	18 October 2016	18 May 2017

AGM in Cromarty Firth Chapter Invergordon on Saturday 27th May 2017.

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On Thursday evening prior to the PGM's installation on the Saturday the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter was opened to welcome our brethren from Trinidad & Tobago into the province after which Raymond Mackeddie and a team from the various chapters in the province worked a first class RA degree.

Donnie Macleod

Highland Guild Lodge

The next meeting of the Highland Guild Lodge will be on Friday 9th September in the Masonic Hall, Alness.

Alasdair Taylor

Kirkswarden/Scrivener
Highland Guild Lodge

The Moray Firth Guild Lodge.

Next Regular Meeting, will be held in The Masonic Temple, Lodge St John No.193, Rothes on **Tuesday 9th August 2016** at 7.30pm.

Next meeting Tuesday 8th November 2016

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Highland Shed



Shona Bechie receiving a Cheque for £100 from The Worthy Deacon Colin Thomson on behalf of her daughter Zoe who is to carry out a Sponsored Sky Dive on behalf of Multiple Sclerosis - In addition to this Donation the Brithers of Heilan Shed also donated a further £600 to 6 deserving causes at the AGM and Installation

AND FINALLY

THEOLOGY AS EXPLAINED BY CHILDREN

Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.

Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.

Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

Unleavened bread is bread made without ingredients.

Moses went to the top of Mt. Cyanide to get the 10 commandments.

The 7th commandment is 'Thou shalt not admit adultery.'

Joshua let the Hebrew in the battle of Geritol.

David fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

Solomon has 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

The people who followed Jesus were called the 13 decibels.

The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.

Paul preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.

A Godly person should have only one wife. This is called monotony.