

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 67

MAY 2011

Editorial

Hello everyone and welcome to this the 67th issue of "The Patter".

What a lot has been happening since the February issue – all the official Provincial Visits have taken place, Grand Lodge has celebrated its 175th anniversary and a century of residence in 96 George Street, the Province once again very successfully provided the stewarding for the Black Isle Cycle Challenge, we've had a census, many of us crossed to the other side of the Moray Firth to witness Alan Lawrence being installed as PGM of Moray and Nairn and a Deputation from the Province has just returned from another successful trip to Malawi.

The next few weeks look just as busy as the past 3 months with our AGM on Wednesday 25th May, our annual Lodge of Sorrow on Sunday 29th May and of course the Installation of Bro Billy Ross as PGM on Saturday 11th June.

The past five years seem to have passed very quickly – it seems no time at all since arrangements were being made for my installation at Strathpeffer - and here we are right in the midst of making similar arrangements for Billy's installation at Alness.

It has been a tremendous honour and privilege to lead the Province over the past five years and I take this opportunity to thank the Commissioned Office-bearers, Elected Office-bearers and indeed the Masters, Office-bearers and Brethren of our 12 Lodges for the tremendous support I've been given in all that I've strived to do for the Province. Without the encouragement, backing and assistance you have given nothing would have been achieved – my sincere thanks to each and every one of you – your loyal support has been greatly appreciated. I hope and trust that Billy Ross will receive the same support, as he assumes the leadership of the Province.

I like to think that, together, we have achieved a significant amount over the past five years, but it is not for me to judge – I only hope that I have, to some extent, fulfilled your expectations of me and that the trust you placed in me five years ago has not been totally misplaced.

Once again, my sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your support, for your friendship and companionship which I have greatly cherished and appreciated over the past five years and your extremely kind generosity toward me over the past three months in particular.

With kindest regards to all.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland

The next meeting of Grand Lodge will take place on Thursday 9th June at 1400 hours in Freemasons' Hall, 96 George Street Edinburgh

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Provincial Grand Lodge

The Quarterly Communication and Installation of Elected Office-bearer's will be held in Lodge Fingal at 20.00 hours on Wednesday 25th May. The Installation will be carried out by the PGM of Inverness-shire, Bro David Munro. A good turnout of Brethren would be appreciated.

The Annual Provincial Lodge of Sorrow will take place on Sunday 29th May in Lodge Seaforth, Fortrose.

The Installation of Bro William Ross as PGM will take place in the Averon Centre, Alness on Saturday 11th June. Tickets are available from the PG Secretary.

Black Isle Cycle Challenge

May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who turned out to assist in the stewarding of this year's cycle challenge.

This year has probably been the most challenging year as far as stewarding was concerned given that there were four different routes available to competitors. However, we all coped and the feedback from the Hospice and from those participating has been very complimentary.

Next year's event will take place on Saturday 28th April – so please get the date into your diaries and support this major event for Highland Hospice.



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From The Provincial Almoner

Since the last edition of the "Patter" one or two of our Brethren have been down with seasonal type illnesses but from what I hear they are getting over their problems and well on the mend.

It was with great sadness that we learned on the 18 March 2011 of the passing of Past Provincial Grand Master, Ken Bissett. Ken was a well loved character in the Province and beyond and will be sadly missed by all. He will be a great loss to the craft in general. He had his own quiet unassuming way of getting things done without fuss and had a sound knowledge of our rituals and laws. Ken had not been too well for some time but he bore his illness with dignity and in his own style did not make a big thing out of it. I know our sympathy goes out to all his family both in and out of the craft at this time of their sad loss.

It was also with sadness that in April we learned of the passing of Brother Clayton Hudson of Lodge Fingal. Clayton was one of nature's characters and although he had not managed to attend many meetings of late because of family illness I am assured his interest never lacked. He will be sadly missed by his lodge in particular and to all he knew him and once again our sympathy goes out to his family.

In April I learned that PM Billy Brown of Lodge Loch Ewe had been in hospital but he is home now and I am told well on the mend. PM Louis MacKenzie of Lodge Seaforth and who lives in Muir of Ord had also been in Raigmore and recovery for a time seemed a bit slow but I have seen Louis recently. He is also home and says he is feeling a lot better. At the beginning of May I found out that RWM of Lodge Ness, Brother Colin Thomson had been taken into Raigmore with a severe leg infection. While he was in Raigmore his mother passed away and our sympathies went out to Colin and the family. I spoke to Colin recently. He is now home and his leg is improving. At the same time I found out that the RWM of Lodge Averon, Brother George Robinson had been admitted to Raigmore after a road accident involving the car he was driving in which he received severe injuries. George is still in Ward 3c of Raigmore getting treatment and allowed little movement at present. I visited him on 16.5.11 to find him receiving physiotherapy from two attractive nurses. The nature of his injuries mean that he has a bit to go yet with the treatment. He is in good spirits. He says the staff there have been wonderful, although he admits he gives them a bit of a hard time (That's always a good sign, George). To all these brethren we pass on our best wishes and to George we wish a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you all in our midst in the very near future.

Once again my thanks goes out to all the Brethren who keep me posted about illness etc. and please keep the information coming.

With every best wish to all.

James A Tait,

Provincial Grand Almoner
(Tel. No. 01463 871919)

PROVINCIAL DEPUTATION TO MALAWI

Squeezed in between the Provincial visits to Lodge Rosehaugh and to Lodge Fortrose, the Provincial Grand Lodge created a wee bit of Masonic history by opening the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty within Freemasons' Hall in Namiwawa, Blantyre, for the purpose of re-installing Brother Gordon A Sheppard as Grand Superintendent of Malawi.

Most of the "Malawi Team" left Lodge Rosehaugh round about midnight on Friday 6th May after a very enjoyable night to face the reality that with bags still to pack and an early rise to catch the 7.10 coach to Edinburgh, there would not be much time left for sleeping. However everyone managed to be at Farraline Park bus station on time and we set off on the first lap of a tiring 36 hour journey.

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The first leg was down to Edinburgh Airport – we met up with the tenth member of the Team, Bro the Rev Andrew E Paterson, Past Grand Chaplain and current Depute PGM of Fife and Kinross at Ferry Toll – and onward to Heathrow. We had an overnight flight to Nairobi in Kenya before flying to Lilongwe via a touch down in Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia. The Brethren of Lodge Angoni formed a very convivial welcoming party along with our companions and drivers for the rest of the week – Bro Gordon Sheppard, Grand Superintendent of Malawi, Bro Viphya No 1571 and PM Bro lap of the journey was an almost Beach on the shores of Lake three years ago. We received a and Donni our hosts for the next spend the Monday doing than relax and catch up on sleep. Mangochi and on the serious work of rehearsing for Saturday. We constructed a very room – it was very pleasant rehearsing in the African warmth cooled down with the odd bottle of beer.



Phil Pile, D of C in Lodge Christos Scapetis. The last four hour drive to Palm Malawi where we stayed great welcome from Rita few days. It was good to absolutely nothing other Tuesday we re-visited Wednesday got down to the the three ceremonies on the practical outdoor lodge

On the Thursday we drove down to Blantyre where, that evening, we witnessed a superb working of the Fellow Craft Degree by the Brethren of Lodge Nyasa No 956. The welcome and hospitality extended to us by RWM Bro Scordis and his Office-bearers was nothing short of outstanding. On the road south, prior to going to the meeting, we had a very interesting trip on the River Shire. We were able to get really close to herds of elephants and hippos and also had a few close encounters with crocodiles. Other species included impala, water hogs, a wide range of birds and the odd member of the monkey family.

On Friday we returned to the Mountain View School for Deaf Children, the prime reason for returning to Malawi. We were greeted by the children with great enthusiasm – they crowded round the cars and the older ones very politely shook hands with us all while the younger ones looked for a wee cuddle. They soon had all the cases of assorted presents out of the cars and transported over to the main hall. As we toured the school, a lot more informally than we had in the past, we were delighted to notice the great improvement in the standard of the children's work – especially in the sowing class and in the woodwork class. On our visit three years ago the woodwork class consisted of making very rough footstools using very basic tools in the process. Hence the reason we spent a



significant sum of money on tools and more particularly on paying the wages of a woodwork instructor. The result was so very encouraging – they are now making quality garden furniture and picture frames which are more likely to sell than the old footstools. But equally important, their skill levels have risen dramatically which is great to see. However, the down side is that the tools that the Province purchased three years ago, through constant use, are showing signs of wear and tear. There is therefore an urgency to find how we can replace those tools quickly – hopefully with a higher spec. We will look at the possibility of accessing quality second hand tools through the medium of the Scotland / Malawi partnership. Bro Billy Ross has given a very positive indication that as he enters his term of office he will continue to support the project which is good news all round.



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We were likewise impressed by the standard of husbandry being attained in relation to the chickens and the cattle. The chicken house built by the Provincial Grand Lodge is now in full production and is currently housing about 300 broilers all of which will make their way to market in the not too distant future.



Back in the assembly hall we were again regally entertained by the dancers. It is difficult to comprehend that each one of the dancers is profoundly deaf – their timing and sense of rhythm is first class. Their performance was very humbling and a testimony not just to the children who danced but also to those who have the patience and ability to teach the youngsters. Some things don't change – almost half the children are orphans and a significant number have aids – but when we went outside to have a game of football with them you'd never know that there was anything wrong with them. They were in sparkling form – we were only sorry that we hadn't taken more balls over with us, especially for the smaller children who tend to miss out to the older, stronger children.

The school has now secured a number of VSO youngsters, mainly from Australia, who are proving to be a great asset to the teaching staff but money is still not coming forth the way it should from the authorities and it is not uncommon for a member of staff to go without wages which, in this day and age is unacceptable.

It was really great to be back with the children and see first hand how they are progressing. However, the ten Brethren who were greatly privileged to be back in Africa were ever mindful of the fact that what has been achieved by the Provincial Grand Lodge in the school is very much down to the tremendous effort shown by all Brethren, their wives and families and indeed the general public who have supported many of the fund raising events from every corner of the Province.

On our way back from the school we were privileged to have a meeting with the British Consulate – Krishna Savjani – at which the current situation with the British High Commissioner was briefly alluded to. In general terms, the Malawians were less than impressed by the fact that the British High Commissioner was banished.

While Friday was the big day for us in respect of the school, Saturday was undoubtedly the big day in a Masonic sense. Some may think that we were lacking in grey matter by attempting to perform three major ceremonies on the one day but, for many practical reasons – especially the difficulties encountered in travelling – it was decided that the most pragmatic way forward was to carry out the three ceremonies with a short break in between each.

Almost ninety Brethren were present in the temple when I had the enormous privilege to open the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty in Freemasons' Hall in Blantyre. I was assisted by Bro Raymond MacKeddie (SW), Bro Donald Gunn (JW), Bro Henry Cameron (D of C), Bro Rev Andrew E Paterson (Chaplain), Bro Angus Ross (SD), Bro Victor Shepherd (JD), Bro Duncan Munro (IG), Bro David MacMaster, (BB) and Bro James Hunter (Steward). Our first duty was to re-install Bro Gordon Sheppard as Grand Superintendent of Malawi. This was an absolute pleasure as Gordon continues to be the mainstay in respect of

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getting all the arrangements made for our visit. He has endeared himself to all members of the Ross-shire Team and we all gratefully acknowledge what he has done for us.

Having been duly obligated, invested and re-installed, Bro Sheppard was thereafter invited to take the Chair of Provincial Grand Lodge so that, assisted by Bro Rev Andrew Paterson, they could carry out the ceremony of Rededicating Lodge Viphya No 1571 to celebrate their 50th anniversary – a task they both carried out with great solemnity and dignity. Finally, it was the turn of the Provincial Grand Lodge once again when every member of the Deputation participated in the installation of the RWM of Lodge Viphya, Bro Athol Winston Estment and his Office-bearers. Every single member of the Deputation acquitted himself well throughout the three ceremonies and I am very proud to say that the entire Deputation was a credit to the Scottish Craft and to our Province in particular. I thank you Brethren.

On Sunday morning we were supposed to be attending morning service at St Michael's and All Angels Church but it is currently being given a makeover as they approach the 120th anniversary of its completion. Instead, we joined the Lodge Angoni Brethren and headed north with them in their coach. The hospitality and generosity of the Lodge Angoni Brethren was unbelievable. Having transported us from Blantyre back to Lilongwe, they then gave us a guided tour of Lilongwe on the Monday morning including a tour of Hastings Banda's final resting place and a local rose farm culminating with the most splendid barbecue that you can imagine.



That night we attended a meeting at Lodge Angoni where we witnessed the working of an excellent EA Degree. The RWM, Bro Kumar made us all feel very welcome and at the conclusion of the meeting invited us to join the Brethren in Harmony. There was enough food laid out to feed the 5000 – it was a thoroughly enjoyable night and our sincere thanks go to the RWM, his Office-bearers and Brethren. It was particularly pleasing to note the amount of reconstruction and new building work taking place in and around the Masonic Hall under the direction of the Lodge Secretary, Bro Bahadur. He is doing a splendid job and when finished the premises will be really superb. There will be a new, larger Harmony room, new bar and kitchen, the construction of committee rooms and outside, the construction of two flats that will generate a steady income for the Lodge. On the Tuesday morning, the Lodge Angoni Brethren once again came to the fore and transported us back to the airport for our flight home.

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All in all, the trip was excellent – thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated. There will be a fuller report available soon with far greater detail than is present in this article. I would finish by simply thanking everyone for their generosity, friendliness and hospitality – I can assure you – it was greatly appreciated.



Left: The Provincial Office-bearers just before we started the three ceremonies

Right: Some of the children at Mountain View School.



Below: Some of the inhabitants along the banks of the River Shire



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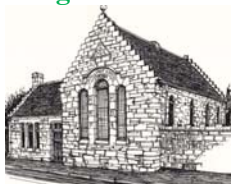
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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Well Brethren, here we are again into our summer recess. I hope you are all well and have had an encouraging session. Things have been going quite well in Tain although we have had only one candidate this session, we have had a number of mark degrees so the team are well versed in that respect .

We had our 250th celebration in February and you had the report on that however, I understand that this edition of the Patter will also reproduce an article that appeared in our local paper in Tain.

On 7th February we had our PGM Brother Ramsay McGhee along to give us a very illuminating talk on the Disciplinary Regulations and I think that we were all made aware of the finer points of those regulations.

On the 21st of February we worked a 1st degree and on the 7th March we held a second degree which was also the official visit of the PGM Brother Ramsay McGhee who was accompanied by a large deputation of PGL Office bearers.

On 21st March, Past Master David Macrae took us on a journey through 174 years of St Duthus History in about 45 minutes. Again this was a very interesting talk and kept us awake with all that had happened to the Masons in Tain over a great many years. It was very well presented and David must have had a lot of late nights and early mornings compiling the history.

On 4th April we had our Divine Service led by The Reverend Susan Brown, who is now Chaplain to the Queen, and her husband Doctor the Reverend Derek Brown who is Chaplain to the (NHS Highland). The Lodge was full to capacity and more chairs had to be brought in from the harmony room as we had over 40 friends, family and children present. It was a very gratifying sight as at one point a few years ago it was spoken about not having the service at all. So the change to having it on a meeting night has paid off in a big way. Hopefully it will continue to be a success. Well, what can I say about Susan and Derek? They were a class act and if that is the way they conduct their meetings in the Cathedral in Dornoch it is little wonder they have a good attendance. The portion of Scripture that was read was out of Matthews Gospel about the Sheep and the Goats. The reference that they made was that we, as humans, were likened unto sheep as we do things collectively whereas Goats wander about by themselves and do their own thing.

On the 18th of April we had a 3rd Degree worked by the Past Masters. It was well attended even though it was only a stand in candidate as our candidate was not able to attend.

We are now in recess but we are going up to St Peters No 284 in Thurso on 18th May which is not too far away where we will be working a second degree. We should have been up last year in the autumn but with the run up to our 250th we felt that we should put it off until later.

Well Brethren, that is about all for now but hope to have more news later on to give you.

Iain Sinclair
Secretary

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

It's a wet Saturday in Stornoway and it's the day our visitors from the Province left after a 3 day sojourn to inspect the various orders that meet here. Last night our PGM together with our PGM Elect and a large deputation witnessed a second degree worked by RWM Stewart Macleod and his office bearers. After the meeting we had a harmony and I think the picture below will tell you more about it than words, note how sensible Donnie Ross is with his cup of tea!!! Believe what you like!



In Uig, on our way back from a visit to the Abhainn Dearg distillery, we had to take a picture of this statue raised to the honour of Ramsay in very familiar pose:



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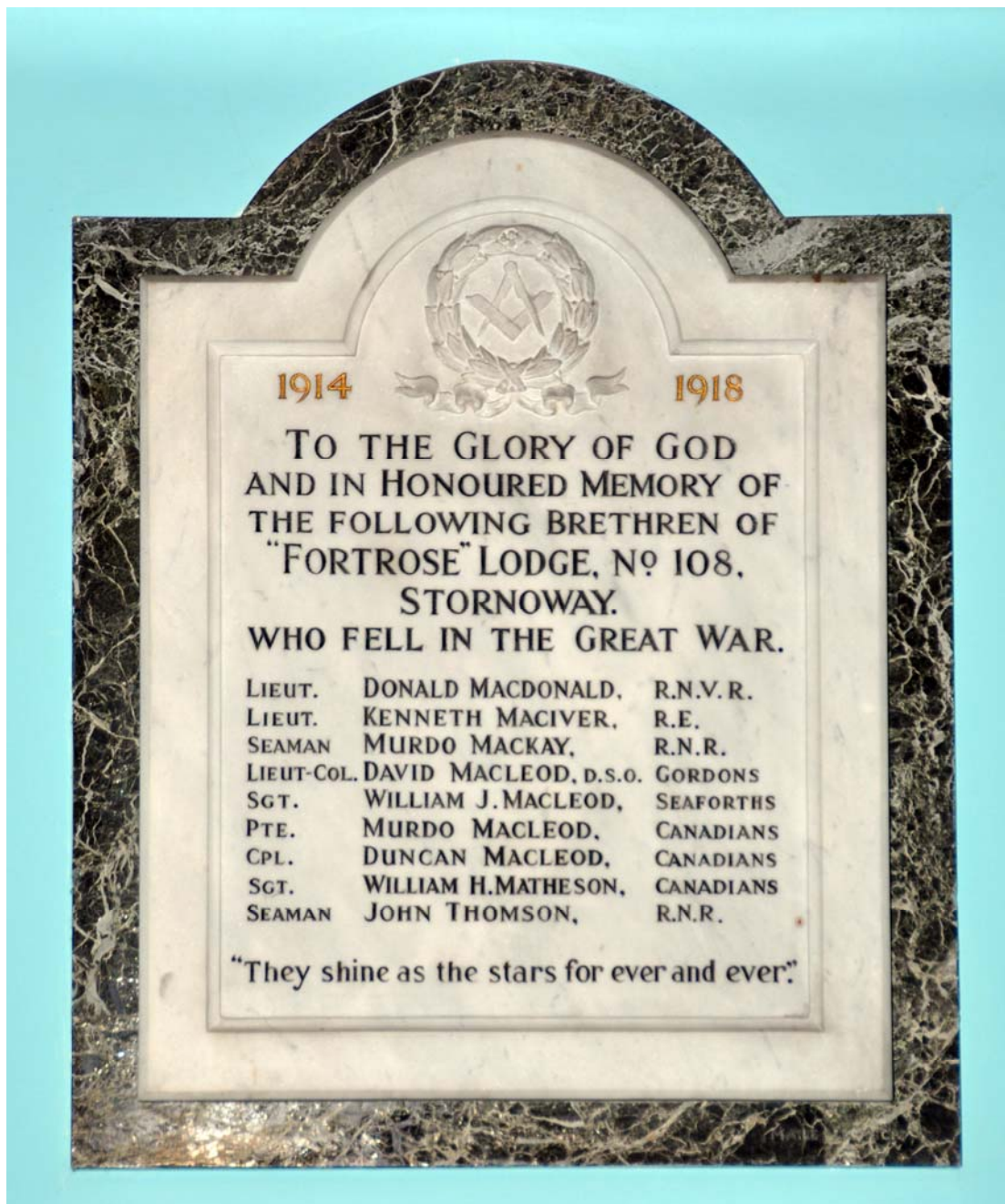
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In March Robertson's Lodge also visited us and worked an excellent mark degree at which there were 4 candidates including Christopher Morrison a grandson of Alan MacRitchie PM of Robertson's Lodge.

We had a successful quiz & curry night in April to help raise funds for the Royal Arch centenary.

Lodge Fortrose War Memorial and its setting:



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Donald MacLeod

PSPGM

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

On Friday 4th March 2011, six Brethren from Robertson's Lodge made a visit to Fortrose Lodge 108 in Stornoway. PM Murdo Mackenzie Lodge St Martin 1217 met us in Ullapool to complete our Deputation which was lead by RWM Brian McGroarty. We had a good sailing across the wild Minch to Stornoway where we were met by RWM Stewart Macleod and the Brethren of 108. We also met PPSGM Donnie MacLeod who was heading to Alness to attend a KT meeting that night. The Lodge laid on some wonderful hospitality which we all enjoyed after which we were then taken to the Caladh Hotel.

We met back at the Lodge at 7pm where RWM Stewart Macleod handed over the Gavel to RWM Brian McGroarty to work the Mark Master Degree for 4 of the Brethren of Lodge Fortrose 108. The Candidates were Bro Chris Morrison, Bro John Murdo Matheson, Bro Chris Adams and Bro Alisdair Macleod PM Ronnie Cooper assumed the role of Mark Master. He was assisted by SW - PM Dave Franklin, JW - PM Andrew John Macivor, SD - PM Alisdair Taylor, IG PM Murdo Mackenzie Lodge St Martin 1217 (Murdo did a great job for Robertson's on the day we can't thank him enough for all his hard work Well done Murdo) JO - RWM Brian McGroarty, SO - PM Jim A Tait and MO - PM Vic Shepherd (Vic showed no mercy to all the candidates and did his job very well). The Degree went very well and Bro Chris Morrison, grandson of the late PM Allan Macritchie of Robertson's Lodge went through the degree on behalf of the other candidates. At the end of the Degree PM Ronnie Cooper, RWM Brian McGroarty, RWM Stewart Macleod came to the floor to congratulate the candidates on going through there Mark Degree. Each of the candidates were presented with a mark token by PM Dave Franklin. After the Mark closed RWM Stewart Macleod presented our Lodge with a framed photo of the Lodge Fortrose, our Lodge presented them with a Quaich. After the Lodge was closed we had a great Harmony in the Club Rooms.

I would like to thank all the Brethren who made our trip possible and we hope that in the not to distant future we will see Lodge Fortrose back in Cromarty.

Andrew J Macivor, PM



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Lodge Fingal No 318

Regular meeting dated Tuesday February 8th, the working of which, was an EA° for Mr. David Brett. There were 47 brethren present, with 15 Lodges represented.

Regular meeting dated Tuesday March 8th, which was also our annual Provincial Visit. The working was an EA° for Mr John Mackenzie. There were 44 brethren present, with 11 Lodges represented. At the end of the meeting, the RW PGM Bro W Ramsay McGhee gave a glowing report on the degree work and also the running of the lodge over the past year, and praised the out going master Bro Henry Cameron. There was a fine harmony thereafter in the Logie Lounge to end the evening.

Regular meeting dated Tuesday April 12th, the working of which, was an FC° for Bro David Brett. There were 45 brethren present, with 10 Lodges represented.

On Saturday April 23rd, a Soup Lunch was held in the Logie Lounge, which raised £120 for Marie Curie, this being the charity body the RWM Bro Andy Henderson has chosen to support during his term in office.

SPECIAL MEETING - Saturday May 28th at 4 pm - Business: FC° for Bro John Mackenzie. To be worked by a Visitation from St. Peter's Operative Lodge No 284 Thurso. Afterwards, there will be Harmony in the Logie Lounge at 6.30pm which in turn will be followed by a wee jig at 8pm with Bro Charlie Wilson on the Guitar.

Future events in the Close Season.

Beat the Ben, which has been organised by Bro Colin Mackintosh. This kicks off at the Lodge on Saturday June 4th, gathering at 8a.m. where we will be bussed by Spa Coaches (who are giving this service free of charge, being a charity event) on our return there will be a barbecue, cooking by Bro Sean Kennedy. To finish off the day, entertainment will be laid on by Bro Ramsay McGhee (his services also, free of charge being a charity event). If anybody would like to participate, please get in touch with Bro Colin, ☎ 01349 866138, who is hoping for a good response for the charity Marie Curie.

Open Day on Saturday July 9th at 11a.m

I had the privilege of attending the Installation of Bro Robert S Fullerton as PGM of Orkney & Zetland, on June 26th 2010. At that time, Bob asked Bro Roy MacIver and me if we would accompany him on his Provincial Visit to Orkney thereby representing our respective Provinces – Roy, the Province of Sutherland and myself representing Ross and Cromarty. This is a unique occasion as from April 29th to May 1st when all 4 Lodges get a Provincial visit.

April 29th Stromness, Lodge Mercantile Marine No 453 worked an EA° - collection was £211

" 30th Island of Stronsay, Lodge Kildinguie No 1381 worked an EA° - collection was £260

" 31st Dounby, Lodge Odin No 917 worked an FC° - collection was again £260

May 1st Kirkwall, Lodge Kilwinning No 382 worked an EA° - collection was £319

At all these visitations, one thing that caught our eye was the amount of money at the collections. The harmonies were all sit down meals. At Lodge Kilwinning Bro MacIver was asked to say a few words at the harmony. His parting shot was to say, he was requested by PGM of Ross & Cromarty Bro W. Ramsay McGhee to keep an eye on Bro Gunn, that he would not let the Province down, this was met by an overwhelming rapture of laughter. Bro MacIver was fair delighted about the response.

Between May 7th and 18th May I felt very humble to be part of the 10 brethren that formed the team to visit Malawi. Won't say too much as this it will no doubt be reported elsewhere.

On Thursday 12th visited Lodge Nyasa No 956 worked an FC°

" Saturday 14th this was the big day, Re-installation / 50th Anniversary / Installation.

" Monday 16th visited Lodge Angoni No 1404 worked an EA°

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At all three meetings, there was a sit down harmony of a high standard. At Lodge Nyasa`s harmony Bro David MacMaster won a bottle of whisky at the raffle. He in turn broke the seal, to the delight of the brethren. At the harmony some 11 bottles of refreshment was consumed, which was reported on Saturday 14th.

D. Gunn
PM, Secretary.

A Master's Homily - May 2011.

Lodge Fingal has been made the welcome recipient of 26 bound volumes of numerous Lectures material under the auspices of the 'Correspondence Circle' (Ars Quatuor Coronati) which takes the form of Papers delivered by eminent Brethren, predominantly associated with E.C. orders but, as a taster, there are many subjects which will catch the eye of the Scottish Freemason e.g. Burns our national Bard and also aspects of the Scottish Rite. Bro John Noble PM of Fingal graciously donated the collection to the lodge at our April meeting and the contents span the 26 years from 1984 to 2009 (Vols 97 to 122 incl.).

Their frontispiece and contents pages along with a tracking register have been scanned for easy reference into a couple of loose leaf folders next to the books themselves in Fingal.

Should any brother wish to avail themselves of any of the volumes to read then feel free to contact myself at andrewh1978@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01349 867 442 and the booking can be made via the tracking register.

On a completely different tack, but taking stock of local matters, I pondered recently (while undertaking research for a W.E.A. funded SQVA Level 4 course I undertook to arrest the grey thinking matter deteriorating during pending retirement!) to thinking how many of us who have moved to the area over the years (39 years in June in my own case) and have tried to integrate into local society/affairs, still muse over expressions of a different vein from those of our origins i.e. the local language or craic as it is colloquially known; to illustrate my point I have the following which have been collected over the years from observations of contributors who have been keen to retain the origin of words, Phrases and name-places in Ross-shire:

Patter	Usual line of talk, chat.
Fyrish	Ross-shire monument to past Youth Training Scheme trainees.
Black Isle	Kingdom ruled of old by the dukes and duchesses of Culbokie.
Midgies	Evil creatures capable of entering tents by osmosis and of biting through the thickest clothing; midgiebites will ensue unless protected by the most virulent midgiecream.
Royal	Ex Dingwall hotel where buses stop.
Balliechaul	Old (Gaelic) name for Dingwall.
English	Southern race running many things in the Highlands.
Kilt	The dress of the Highland clans, used at weddings.
Alness	Lively seaside town by the Cromarty Firth, in the past frequented by Covenanters, more recently by a sauce manufacturer called Perrins.
Fortrose	Black Isle village with Fortrose Academy, a ruined abbey & a view of Ardersier.
The Shunry	Corruption of Chanonry, the Avoch name for Fortrose.
Picts	Ancient people, responsible for carving stones, burial chambers, tools and jewellery. Celebrated by Ross-shire devotees in the <i>Pictish Free State</i> . Most Pictish creations are held in Edinburgh, a place they didn't go anywhere near!
Callanish	Neolithic stones in Western Isles. Important to hippy & pagan subcultures.
North Star	Dingwall-produced weekly paper, noted for raciness and high sales.
Low flier	Single measure of famous Grouse whisky.
Free Church	Protestants who broke away from Church of Scotland in 1843, and don't plan to go back.
Peedie	Orcadian term for little, small: will be heard in the Highlands, on account of the frequency with which Orkney people visit.
Anythink	Cromarty version of anything.
Radio Highland	Popular news and music station, likely to burst into Gaelic or news about the Western Isles.
Provost	Heid bumper at Inverness District Council, kept in chains.

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Single track	A road in the Highlands and Islands ensuring friendly gestures from drivers, and adequate room for sheep.
Cromarty Firth	Oil rig reserve.
Tore	Attractive village, noted for important roundabout and A9 running through the middle (<i>literally</i> , judging by the number of tyre marks on the grass!).
Horizontal rain	West Coast weather phenomenon.
Rosemarkie	BlackIsle village noted for beach, and being opposite Ardersier.
Strath	Strathpeffer/any glen.
Farraline Park	Central Inverness location where it is possible to return your library book, play a game of pool, have a chip buttie, get married and catch a bus to Kiltarlity in the course of an hour.
County Bldgs.	Fancy Dingwall offices of Ross and Cromarty District Council, all taken up with bright, clean and prestigious departments. Art, Writing, Dance etc. are somewhere else.

I hope readers find them enlightening as well as interesting.

*Andrew Henderson
RWM Lodge Fingal.*

Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

The next regular meeting of the Lodge will be held on Tuesday 14th June at 11.30 a.m. when the new Master, Bro Charles MacAulay, Provincial Grand Secretary, will be installed into the Chair of the Lodge.

A warm invitation is extended to all Brethren to attend the Installation and lunch thereafter in the Seaforth Clubrooms.

Lunch is a modest £12 payable on the day but it would be appreciated if visitors could let me know in advance if they intend to have lunch in order that accurate numbers can be passed to the caterer.

Ramsay McGhee
Secretary



Pictured left is the award winning lorry restored by Bro Charlie Munro, Lodge Averon.

The mechanical side of the lorry, which was totally in-operative was brought back to life by Bro Ian MacLaren, PG Chaplain.

The lorry has been restored with its original livery. Top speed is about 43 mph

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Lodge Seaforth No 854

Well it seems like no time since the start of the Masonic Year and here we are already at the end. The following statement from our Master, Peter McLaughlin sums up things nicely:-

Someone said to me before I was installed as Master that the time, when in the 'Chair', just flies, isn't this true, here we are the normal season just over, and we have managed two firsts two seconds and a third, with a second third coming up soon. Well all I say is - *thank you* -, because I could never have managed to do all this without your help, I could single out individuals, but I cannot think of any time that someone refused to help, other than personal and private business which prevented from participation.

Everyone seemed pleased with our 'work' last night, and it was pleasing to see so many visitors, so late in the season, they certainly were full of praise, so well done to those who took part. A special late thank you to Louis for standing in as steward, 'sir' that was very kind of you and much appreciated. It was also good to see PM Sinclair Bruce and Bro George Milligan back in the Lodge.

We have the following upcoming events:-

20th May Prize BINGO in the Lodge at 7.30 pm

25th May Provincial AGM at Fingal

27th May RACE NIGHT.... please attend and please bring friends and families.

29th May - Lodge Seaforth Provincial Lodge of Sorrow

4th June at 4pm Visit to Lodge John O Groats, Castletown to work a Master Mason Degree.

11th June PGM Installation in Alness at 2pm

21st August Poppy Run volunteers for stewards please 1 to 4pm...

26th August in the Seaforth ClubPAMPERING NIGHT.....for ladies

Raffle Books for sale. This raffle has some excellent prizes and will be drawn on the Ladies Pamper Night in August. Proceeds are for much needed repairs to the fabric of the Lodge. Tickets are available from any member of Lodge Seaforth.

Finally, congratulations to PM Donnie MacKenzie who has just been appointed as the new Rector of Fortrose Academy. We wish Donnie all the best in his new role.

Best wishes to all.

Cochrane Donald P.M.

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Lodge Averon No 866

Well that is us shut down for the summer break. It seems like a lifetime ago since the Installation in December. You will all recall the disaster that befell us, (nine days after the Festival of St John), when the Lodge was flooded after a burst pipe in the bar upstairs. Since then we have slowly got back on our feet with much of the credit going to our Secretary PM Bro Kenny Sutherland, who did a mountain of work with insurance companies and tradesmen to get the building dried out and operational again. There is still much to do, and hopefully most of it can be done in the recess.

Since then we have worked four degrees, EA, FC and MM degrees for Bro George Crawford and Lodge Ness 888 worked an excellent MMM degree for Bro George and Bro John MacRae.

When Provincial Grand Lodge came on their annual visitation, I was delighted to see PM Bro Ian Fraser back in the body of the Lodge after his visit to Raigmore Hospital, It was a delight to see him present PM David Oag with his Diamond Certificate.

On the same night I, along with PM Iain Duxbury and PM Kenny Sutherland, called in to see PM Kenny MacInnes, and it was an honour to present him with his Jubilee Certificate.

Back with us that same evening was PM Rev Bill Niven after his spell in hospital. It was great to see him on the mend.

This was Provincial Grand Master Bro Ramsay McGhee's last annual visitation as PGM and our best wishes go to him along with my personal thanks for stepping in at very short notice to be my Installing Master in December when PM Fraser had to go into hospital.

Our Senior Citizen party went very well again this year, with well over 70 attending the Alness Bowling Club. A great afternoon was had by all. Special thanks to Bro Calum Mackenzie of Lodge Ness who turned up and wowed them with his piping prowess. Also our band proved as popular as ever, we had to re-name them as Ramsay was off on Masonic duty. (Tait and the Tremeloes was the new name)

Ladies Night was a tremendous success with loads of credit going to Bro Gavin Forsyth of Ness and our own Bro Calum MacKenzie for all the effort they put in. Having a joint Ladies night with Lodge Ness has proved very popular, and we all look forward to the next one. No complaints this year about the band Bedhead. (Bro Donnie Mathieson's brother was singer) They have already been booked for next year.

I hope you all have a relaxing summer and come back fighting fit for the new season ahead

Bro George Robinson RWM

EDITOR'S NOTE

Since Bro Robinson submitted the above article he has been involved in a serious road accident. He is currently in Ward 3C of Raigmore and I'm sure that you'd all want me to extend the warmest best wishes of the Province to him for a speedy and full return to full health.

A paraprosookian sentence consists of two parts where the first is a figure of speech and the second an intriguing variation of the first. They're used typically for humorous or dramatic effect. Enjoy these!

- Never argue with an idiot, he'll drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
- Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on the list.
- If I agreed with you we'd both be wrong.
- We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

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Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

Saturday 14th May 2011 was the date for the annual meeting of lodges 1212-1219 with Lodge Wallace St Hugh 1212, Crosshill, Ayrshire hosting this year's event. Six members of Lodge Rosehaugh - Keith Patience, Gordon McLeman, Allan Carmichael, Brian Carmichael, Neil Crawford and the RWM Duncan McLeman along with 3 members of Lodge St Martin, Ullapool - Murdo Mackenzie, Gordon Mackenzie and Neil Slider - left the Black Isle at 8am on Saturday morning with Ballinluig the first pit stop. Good time was made and we were soon in Ayrshire and at our lodgings for the night. The meeting tyled at 3 pm and after making another pit stop in a local hostelry we arrived at the lodge to meet old friends and some new faces. Lodge Wallace St Hugh performed an MM degree with reigning masters from various lodges in Ayrshire all taking part. There was also over 70 brethren in attendance. A fine spread was laid out for us after the meeting before various songs, stories and jokes were exchanged. An excellent day was had. Before long we headed back to our hotel where Lodge Rosehaugh easily won the local karaoke contest.

The next day being "Helicopter Sunday", several brethren were desirous of watching the football and we headed for Alexandria and Lodge St Andrews Royal Arch No 321 to watch Rangers deservedly lift the trophy. The brethren of 321 showed us around their superb temple and harmony room before depositing a crate of beer on our bus for the journey home - a big thank you to the brethren of 321. The A9 was soon eaten up and we were back on the Black Isle before 7 pm. Our thanks is extended to Frasers Coaches and Dee-Dee for his excellent driving. Next year the event will be hosted by Lodge Stepps No 1213. Big George promises something special!!!

Allan Carmichael - PM

The February meeting was the first since the last edition and it was also the chance for our new master Bro Duncan Macleman and his team to work a fellow craft degree. The candidate was Bro Shaun Kerr who has been patiently waiting to for his second since May last year. This was a good start from the new team. Shaun did not have such a long wait for his 3rd degree and received this on at our March meeting. PM David Patience assisted the master at short notice with the lecture on the second part of the traditional history which he last delivered 30 years ago!

We had a new candidate for our April meeting Michael Stevenson from Munloch who is the local postman. Michael went through his second degree at our May meeting which was also our Provincial visitation evening. There was a very good attendance at the meeting especially from the PGL deputation at Bro Ramsay's last official visit to 1216 as PGL Master. Bro Duncan passed over some tokens of our appreciation of Ramsay's 5 year term and especially for the help and guidance he offered 1216 in this period.

Our annual ladies night was held on 19th March organised this year by Bro Roderick Macleman. This was a most enjoyable evening for all who attended. A quiz evening was held on the 23rd April which was organised by Duncan who also took on the roll of quiz master. Despite some strong home teams the winners were the Tavern, Fortrose. The evening was held to raise funds for the Annual meeting of Lodges 1212-1219 held on 14th May at Crosshill in Ayrshire.

Keith Patience, PM

Secretary

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Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

During the quarter the PGL made their annual visitation to the lodge on 14th April when stalwarts of the lodge participated in lecture work and special mention must go to the latest lodge member Bulgarian, Brother Vladimar Vladivaros, who gave the lecture on the EA Degree Working Tools in presence of our esteemed guests; this says volumes for one who has come into our community, made the effort to befriend brethren and then proceed to take a very active part in the proceedings of the lodge – little wonder the hierarchy, to a man on their retrieval from the lodge, shook Vlad's hand in appreciation of his endeavours. It was also heartening to see Bro Robert Hanna, in the area from Muirkirk, Ayrshire on the organ which enhanced the evening's proceedings; as was the presence of Bro Ken McMorran PM from Portmahomack who is also known to 'tinkle the ivories' in no mean fashion.

In May it was great to see Bro. Vlad installed as Inner Guard.

Earlier, in February, the annual Quiz Night under the guiding hand of Bro Ken McMorran PM took place when the handsome sum of £245 was raised and £ 125 was given to the Medical Practice and £ 125 to Aultbea Pre School Nursery.

Two brethren who have both undergone heart surgery of varying degrees are recovering well - Bro. Gibby Hassell, WSW (fitted with pacemaker) now back driving and Bro Billy Brown PM (triple heart bypass) who is enjoying the local air bringing him on leaps and bounds during his recuperation.

Andy Henderson
Almoner

The Sinclair Bruce Diary

Where better to start my contribution to this edition than some comments on the Daily Politics programme when today it was more like two children having an argument in the school playground. Ian Duncan Smith was once again uttering that same old and now tired quotation - "our problems all come from the terrible mess we inherited from the previous government". May I venture to say - when are they going to stop looking over their shoulder and start doing something constructive for the country?

The six nations Rugby has got off to a great start, the first game between Italy v Ireland was a corker with both teams giving of their best, but there has to be a loser and that was Ireland, final score Italy 13 Ireland 11. The next game was a disappointment for Scottish viewers as we lost - final score France 34 Scotland 21

I have just returned from Lodge Rosehaugh where the Provincial Grand Lodge held their quarterly communication meeting. Forty four Brethren were in attendance and a full agenda was quickly and efficiently disposed of. At the close of business two well known Brethren were called to the floor and presented with Honorary Rank. Bro Roger Cundiff, PG Treasurer received the rank of Honorary Grand Treasurer while Bro Charlie MacAulay received the rank of Honorary Depute Provincial Grand Master by our Provincial Grand Master Bro Ramsay McGhee.

It's now Friday 11th February and Jim Tait in his final meeting as First Master in the Guild worked a 6th Degree of Superintendent or Perfect Master when six Brethren were advanced, after the Degree all Masters and office bearers were installed. Jim is followed in the chair by another well known Brother from Lodge Robertson Bro Ronnie Cooper with Bro Malcolm Murray as his Deputy. The evening concluded with our usual cup of tea plus an abundance of food.

Today Sunday 13th Vince Cable was interviewed on morning TV by Andrew Marr and I could hardly believe my ears when once again an MP uttered that Tory slogan "it's because of the mess we inherited from the last Government" it appears to me that politicians have lost their way completely!!!

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The two games I watched in the six nations Rugby today were firstly Scotland v Wales a total disaster score Scots 6 Welsh 24 and England 59 Italy 13 lets hope the final will be much more interesting, with two equally matched teams.

The game last night between Arsenal and Barcelona was a well matched pair although the consensus of opinion was leaning towards Barcelona as the better team. However although they played well and scored first from then on the game could have swung either way, eventually it was one each and then Arsenal put on the pressure and scored their second to finish the game at 2-1

And so I arrive at another game well worthy of recognition - none other than Kenny Dalglish's Liverpool away game against Sparta Prague. This was an excellent game with end to end play and it's no surprise that the final result was 0-0. This also keeps up Kenny's record of never losing a game in Europe - not many managers can boast that distinction.

The congregation of Munloch Church were delighted when the session clerk ended the intimations with announcing that our minister Bro the Reverend Iain Ramsden has received notice that he has been awarded the honour of being admitted a Member of the Order of St John by the Queen. Consequently he will be invited to either Buckingham Palace or Holyrood House to receive this honour - in his own words Iain remarked how happy and surprised he was when opening the official letter announcing he was honoured by Her Majesty and I know all who know Iain will be happy that he has received this wonderful recognition from the head of our country. (*Iain's comments "I will tell the Queen you were asking for her"*)

The Six Nations Rugby today produced two of the best games so far. All four teams were equally matched. The first game between Italy and Wales was hard fought and the score says it all - Italy 16 Wales 24. The second game England v France was also a cracker - final score England 17 France 9. This was an afternoon of sport at its best.

The above mentioned games were followed by another very interesting game today played at Murrayfield - none other than Scotland v Ireland. Unfortunately Scotland lost although they certainly did not disgrace themselves as they lost by only one kick - final score Scotland 18 Italy 21

The so called the old firms game between Rangers and Celtic last night, was a good game to watch but the disgraceful carry on with the managers Neil Lennon and Ally McCoist, after the game was an insult to their profession. Men in their positions should control their tempers and be an example of good sportsmanship to all lovers of the sport.

The ongoing problems in Libya this morning appears to be pushing the Country into civil war when many innocent people will lose their lives. There are no signs of Gaddafi giving up. It seems to me that world opinion has got it wrong, as a large percentage of his own Country still support him and the rebels without support will be fighting a losing battle. I can only hope that my conclusions are wrong.

David Milliband was interviewed on the Andrew Marr show this morning and he certainly did not make a name for himself. That makes one wonder how Labour got the wrong man leading them up to the next election. If given a choice I felt that Milliband was a weak choice and a more constructive speaker with a wider range of knowledge would point this country hopefully in a more constructive direction.

Prime Ministers questions today was slightly better than previous weeks, the text of the questions were on Libya and police cuts, both sides held different views on both subjects, consequently the public were left in the dark as to who were delivering the strongest side of the argument for me today neither sides are worthy of their positions as leaders of their parties.

The weekend sport was very interesting and well worth watching, firstly the game between Tottenham Hotspur and Inter Milan was a well fought game and Tottenham went through by one goal on aggregate. The next game between St Mirren and Aberdeen equally good with St Mirren one goal up until the last minute when Aberdeen equalled to have the chance of a replay at home. Finally a disappointing day for Scotland in the rugby although they played excellent rugby in the first half when they held England to a nine all score and then in the second half they were hopeless until just minutes from the end with the score at 19-9 they got a try plus a kick to make the score 19-16 and they then went flat out but they could not score and unfortunately England got a kick to win the game final score England 22 Scotland 16.

I have just returned from The Rosicrucian Society in Inverness and although the agenda was quite comprehensive, all business was quickly disposed of. The eighth item on the agenda was the nomination of office bearers for year 2011-2012, and I am happy to print that our own PGM was proposed and seconded to the chair as our next RW Celebrant, and we all look forward to Ramsay's guidance in the years ahead.

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The return game between Chelsea and Copenhagen was an excellent game from beginning to end and it surprises me that they were so closely matched as Chelsea had beat them 2-0 at Copenhagen. The home game ended at 0-0

The Phil Cunningham accordion program from Spain last night was very good, and brought out the closeness that the Celtic area of Spain has with Scotland. Listening to the music was the nearest you would get to Jimmy Shand - it's a program well worth watching.

Last night Lodge Seaforth held a ceilidh in the club rooms for the older members of the community. The entertainment was all from local groups plus three members of our Lodge. It was an excellent evening enjoyed by all. At half time tea was served with an abundance of cakes biscuits and sandwiches - a night to remember.

First game in the six nations Rugby today was Scotland v Italy that at last showed the Scots in the first half slightly better, although trailing by 6-8 after Chris Paterson missing two kicks. However the second half was real hard fought Rugby and after ten minutes the score was 18-8, from then on Scotland defended very well and added another kick to the score to finish as the winners final score Scotland 21 Italy 8.

The second game was from Dublin Ireland v England. It was really a one sided game at half time it was 14-3 and the second half was similar England just could not get going consequently the final score was Ireland 24 England 8.

The final game this week was definitely one sided as France went on to win against Wales by 28-9. Wales were not in the game as they scored by being awarded three penalties.

The new office bearers of Lodge Seaforth worked their first third degree last night and all went very well and perfection for me was the operative word.

Last night I made my usual visit to Lodge Rosehaugh, and witnessed them working a first degree, the work was above average and I am confident their candidate Mike Stevenson was suitably impressed, when speaking to him after the degree he was already looking forward to making further progress in the craft, and I am sure he will prove an asset to his mother Lodge.

It's now Saturday the 9th April and I have spent five hours watching the Rugby Sevens, televised from Melrose on the borders. All competing teams played excellent Rugby and it was no surprise when the final was between Melrose the host team and Hamilton from South Africa. I was very happy to witness a Scottish team winning with a final score - Melrose 31 Hamilton 26. Congratulations to two well disciplined and organised teams.

The 2011 Masters Golf champion's Tournament went well and was great to watch - quite a number of the old names were missing but replaced by young and efficient players. It is not surprising that the top three scores were not familiar or tip of the tongue names. The man who uplifted the trophy was Charl Schwartzel who scored 14 under followed by Jason Day and Adam Scot at 12 under and next a very well known name, Tiger Woods at 10 under - a well spent 10 hours on the Telly.

It was installation of the chair and office bearers in the Rosicrucian last night, when we witnessed our PGM and editor of "The Patter" VW Fr Ramsay McGhee being expertly and conscientiously placed in the chair by Supreme Magus Frater Fred RR Lowrie IX who also installed all the office bearers after which we retired to the club rooms where stovies, oatcakes and tea or coffee were served and enjoyed by all.

It's now Sunday the 17th April and today Lodge Seaforth held their annual Divine Service. The lodge was opened at 2.45pm and we adjourned to the club rooms where we joined our families for the sermon conducted by Bro the Reverend Ian Ramsden. Iain as always delivered an excellent sermon that held all present captivated and I know we all retired from the meeting for a cup of tea refreshed in body and soul - an afternoon well spent.

And so we arrive at the third Monday in the month and Lodge Seaforth's regular meeting, we were working a entered Apprentice degree. As it was our Kirk Session plus our board meeting in Munloch Church it was a toss up where I went and as the church has the lesser number of meetings per year the church won. However I am reliably informed that the meeting went well and our new EA Bro Ken Hossack was well and truly initiated and we all look forward to Ken's progress through the degrees thus adding another respected Hossack to our ranks.

And now the world Championship snooker - the final was a win for John Higgins who beat Jud Trump by 18 frames to 15.

I visited Lodge Rosehaugh on Friday when they were working a fellow craft degree plus their annual visit of the Provincial. All went very well and as normal it was great to witness this young team of Brethren at work.

Has the political field gone stark raving mad or has all opposition parties lost the will to fight? Alex Salmond has had a landslide victory in Scotland and all three leaders Annabel Goldie, Tavish Scott and Iain Gray are resigning or is it because they are frightened to face Alex Salmond at first ministers questions ??? (now, that's fruit for thought).

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Today 11th May PM's question time was really a very lively half hour with the main subject being the reforming of the NHS.

My final report for this edition is last night we held our first meeting for this session of the Guild lodge, in our usual venue Lodge Averon the meeting went well with Bro Jim Tait in the chair in the absence of Bro Ronnie Cooper who was on holiday, we had two candidates one from Skye and one from Wick both remarked on how happy they were to join the Guild and we all look forward to see them through the various Grades.

Sinclair Bruce

BITS AND PIECES

Lodge Loch Shin – Province of Sutherland

It was good to hear from Bro Edwin Sutherland of Lodge Loch Shin in our neighbouring Province of Sutherland who informed me that at a recent meeting of the Lodge, they had no fewer than seven Entered Apprentices in attendance – and here they are



The 7 entered apprentices who attended an EA Degree in Lodge Loch Shin on Tuesday 22nd March 2011. They are from l to r Brothers Mackay (Golspie), Morrison and Stephenson (Durness), Brett (Dingwall) and Wales, Macleod and Mathieson from Lodge Loch Shin in Lairg.

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Brethren

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 I met a dear old man today
Who wore a Masonic pin
It was old and faded like the man,
It's edges worn and thin. | 2 I approached the park bench where he sat,
To give the old brother his due
I said " I see you've traveled East,"
He said, "I have, have you?" |
| 3. I said, I have and in my day
Before the all seeing sun
I played in the rubble
With Jubala, Jubelo, and Jubalum. | 4 He said don't laugh at the work my son
It's good and sweet and true.
And if you've travelled as you said
You should give these things their due. |
| 5. The word, the sign, the token,
The sweet Masonic prayer.
The vow that you have taken
You have climbed the inner stair. | 6 The wages of a Mason
are never paid in gold
But the gain comes from contentment
When you're weak and growing old. |
| 7. You see, I've carried my obligations
For almost 50 years
It has helped me through the hardships
And the failures full of tears. | 8 I'm losing my mind and body
Death is near, but I don't despair
I've lived my life upon the level
And I'm dying on the square. |
| 9. Sometimes the greatest lessons
Are those that are learned anew
And the old man in the park today
Has changed my point of view | 10 To all my Masonic brothers
The only secret is to care
May you live upon the level
And part upon the square. |

Brother Jim Hunter, Lodge Averon no 866 kindly contributed the above poem.

MASONIC ETIQUETTE

In the current edition of the year book, there is an article on Masonic Etiquette which first appeared in 1966. The original was written by Bro George Draffen and its content is as relevant today as it was then. The Grand Secretary has very kindly allowed me to print the article in the "Patter" – I hope you will find it interesting and that any areas in your Lodge that may be "lacking" can be rectified.

The word etiquette has been defined as the "established rule of procedure and ceremony in a court or in any official or other body". Perhaps for Masonic purposes it can be defined as "that set of conventions, rules, customs and traditions by which Masons are expected to govern themselves when engaged in the rites and ceremonies of the Craft". Etymologically, the word etiquette means 'a la carte', that is, 'according to the card'. It harks back to France when it was the custom to give each guest at Court or formal reception a card bearing his name, rank and precedence. While this suggestion of a more or less arbitrary convention and formal ceremoniousness continues, even in our own use of the word, etiquette is by no means wholly a matter of formality. It is born out of the necessity of social contacts and has its roots in social realities.

Every society or group of human beings has its own code of etiquette. There is etiquette of the street as well as of the home. There is etiquette of the Courts of Law, of clubs, of theatres, indeed of all manner of social and

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formal gatherings. In every form and degree of human intercourse there is this tacit reference to a code of manners without which human contact would become unbearable. In having its own code of manners, its etiquette, Freemasonry is but following the example of other social groups.

Decorum

By etiquette Freemasons acknowledge and express their respect for the Craft. It makes pleasant their contacts with their fellows, smoothes the path of duty, establishes an equality of treatment for all Brethren, protects the good name of the Craft and greatly assists in establishing that harmony and unity which should exist between all Freemasons. When Masons act as a unit, as in a Lodge meeting, or at a Regular Communication of Grand Lodge or Provincial Grand Lodge, etiquette takes the form of proper decorum. That means that all present act in a manner appropriate to the occasion. Loud talk, restless moving about, coughing, laughter and private conversations during ceremonial work, giving no attention to the work in hand – no Brother need consult a book on etiquette to discover that such behaviour is unseemly and irreverent. It disturbs the harmony of the Lodge and it is in such an atmosphere that hard feelings, not to mention the more serious menace of schism and feud, are most likely to take root. It is not too much to say that the Master of a Lodge who permits such things is unwise and not as faithful as he should be in discharging the duties of his office.

At the beginning of things, before Grand Lodges were in existence, Freemasons discovered the necessity of decorum. Among the Old Charges, to which every candidate was required to swear obedience, a prominent place was given to the portions dealing with 'Behaviour'. The oldest of our known records, the Regius Manuscript, written about 1390 – emphasises the necessity of paying due respect to the Craft. Anderson, in his Book of Constitutions, published by the Grand Lodge of England in 1723, says "You are not to hold private committees or separate conversation, without leave from the Master, nor to talk of anything impertinent or unseemly, nor interrupt the Master or Wardens, or any Brother speaking to the Master, nor behave yourself ludicrously or jestingly while the Lodge is engaged in what is serious or solemn; but to pay due reverence to your Master, Wardens, Fellows and put them to worship", that is, pay them the respect due to them.

Bearing this in mind, the Master of a Lodge must be particular to see that nothing boisterous creeps into the ceremonial work of his Lodge. The Degrees must be conferred not only in as perfect a ritualistic form as it is possible, but also with impressiveness. The impression made upon the candidate in his First Degree will remain with him throughout his life. Hums of conversation, restless moving about, have no place in the ceremonial work of any Lodge. Particularly in the conferring of the Master Mason Degree must all crudity and ruffianism be cut out. Neither has any place there.

While the points of etiquette and decorum which have just been mentioned are, perhaps, the direct responsibility of the Master, there are others which are the personal responsibility of every member of the Craft. Some of these are dealt with in the succeeding paragraphs.

Regalia

Scottish Freemasons, in common with the Irish, normally wear the Apron under the coat. Not so long ago this was actually the law on the matter, but with the advent of double breasted suits the law now reads – "Aprons shall be fastened preferably under the coat and worn so that the flap is visible". Every Freemason should be encouraged to have a dress Apron of his own. With constant uses an Apron naturally becomes soiled and it should be remembered that lambskin can easily be cleaned and kept in that condition for many years. Since the Apron is symbolically representative of the life and conduct of the wearer it is naturally a sad reflection on the wearer if it is not kept in a spotless condition. In many Scottish Lodges the Office-bearers wear sashes over the right shoulder and under the left arm. This is a relic of the days when all gentlemen wore swords suspended by a leather or cloth sash. On entering the Lodge the sword itself was removed but the sash was left in position. The sash is worn over the jacket, not, like the Apron, under it.

In some Constitutions it is common for a Brother to wear, at all times, the Apron and regalia appropriate to the highest Masonic rank he holds. This is not so in the Scottish Constitution. Even though a Brother holds Grand Lodge rank or Honorary Grand Lodge rank, he should, when attending his own Lodge, wear the regalia of his

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Lodge. On no account should two collars be worn at the same time. It has been customary in Scotland for an Honorary Grand Lodge Office-bearer to wear his jewel of his Honorary Office on a thistle green ribbon one and a half inches broad, with his Lodge regalia. The constitution also states that no regalia or jewels other than those appertaining to Craft Masonry shall be worn at meetings of Grand Lodge, Provincial or District Grand Lodges or Daughter Lodges.

Jewels

It is the custom in many Lodges to present to the retiring Master a Past Master's Jewel as a mark of appreciation for the work done by him while in the chair of the Lodge. It is but fitting that Past Masters should wear these jewels when attending meetings of the Lodge which has awarded them. It is not however, the Scottish custom to wear jewels when wearing Grand Lodge regalia. To this statement there are one or two exceptions. If a Grand Lodge Office-bearer is attending a Lodge in his official capacity he should wear the Past Master's Jewel or the Lodge jewel if he is entitled to either of them. It is a mark of respect to the Lodge.

There is nothing to prevent a Brother who is a Past Master of more than one Lodge wearing two or three Past Master's jewels at the same time. Indeed a Brother may also be a Past Master of a Lodge under another Constitution and be entitled to wear a Past Master's jewel of a Lodge under that Constitution. It too may be worn in a Scottish Lodge. It is entirely a matter for the Brother concerned, remembering that in the Lodge all are Brothers of equal standing and that as little distinction in regalia and jewels as is possible should be the case. It is not for example, the Scottish custom to wear Grand Lodge or Provincial or District Grand Lodge regalia except on official occasions.

Dress

The constitution stipulates that Brethren should when attending Lodge, where possible, wear dark clothes and dark ties. There is nothing sombre or funereal about this, for the colourful Scottish regalia – which is unique in the world of masonry – looks much better against a dark background. Attend your Lodge dressed soberly, for it is a sober business you are about. There is a philosophy in dress, as in so many other things, and the dress proper to Masonic meetings is no exception. Its principle is good taste, its practice is to wear such dress as shows respect to the Brotherhood and expresses the dignity of the Craft.

'Brother' is a Title

In the usage of the Scottish Craft 'Brother' is neither a sentimental nor familiar form of address. It is a title – as much as Right Worshipful or Worshipful. A man does not attend his Lodge in his capacity as a private individual: he is not John Fraser or Robert Anderson. He is there in his capacity as a Master Mason – a Brother. For this reason he should always be addressed in open lodge as Brother Fraser or Brother Anderson. It cannot be too strongly stressed that all Scottish Freemasons are Brothers – irrespective of their rank in the Craft. The Scottish Craft knows no such form of address as Right Worshipful Brother or Worshipful Brother etc. In the Scottish Craft the appellations 'Right Worshipful' and 'Worshipful' are appropriate only to the office not the person. When addressing the Master of a Lodge it is correct to address him as Right Worshipful Master and to refer to him as 'Right Worshipful Master, Brother Anderson'. It is incorrect and not in accordance with Scottish Custom to address him as 'Right Worshipful Brother Anderson'. In the same way a Past Master is never, repeat never, addressed as Worshipful Brother John Brown. He is Brother John Brown, Past Master and on a Billet – again a Scottish term – his name would be written as Brother John Brown, PM.

In recent years a habit has grown for Brethren to address each other as Brother John or Brother David and, even worse, to address the Master or visiting Provincial or District Grand Office-bearers in this fashion. Formality in our Lodges and Ceremonials is important as it underlines the solemnity and dignity of our proceedings and therefore a Brother should always be addressed by his surname or family name.

The appellation Right Worshipful, Very Worshipful, Worshipful etc. is a form of address when addressing or referring to a Brother of the appropriate rank in the Lodge or at Harmony. There is no such office in the Scottish Craft as Right Worshipful Master or even Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, the respective offices are

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Master and Grand Master Mason. When the Office-bearers are listed in a billet or other written material they should be in the form of:

Master	Brother John Brown
Senior Warden	Brother David White
Junior Warden	Brother William Anderson etc.

It should be remembered that a Scottish Lodge does not have 'Officers' but 'Office-bearers'.

Entering and Leaving the Lodge

A Brother entering the Lodge after it has been opened should advance to a point about mid way between the Altar and the Senior Warden; salute the Master and quietly take his seat. If the Lodge is working in a degree other than the first, only the sign of the degree in which the Lodge is working should be given. 'Working-up' is a custom under the English Constitution but it is not Scottish usage. If you are entering your own Lodge, go quietly to a seat. Do not stop to exchange greetings on the way. Remember that the business of the Lodge has begun – and you are late. If you are a visitor, wait for the Director of Ceremonies to introduce you to the Master or conduct you to your seat. If you are a visiting Master or Past Master you will probably be invited to take a seat in the East. Accept this graciously if there is obviously room. If the East seems a little crowded, ask the Master for permission to take a seat on the floor of the Lodge. If you must leave the Lodge before it is closed you should wait until you have the opportunity of rising in your place and asking the Master's permission to retire. This given, you should go to the mid way point above referred to, salute the Master and retire quietly. In some Lodges it is customary to salute the Wardens in addition to the Master. In this case salute the Master first, then the Senior Warden and last the Junior Warden.

Visiting another Lodge

Visiting another Lodge is a privilege and not a right. A Brother may ask to be admitted to a Lodge as a visitor and he will always be welcome, but he cannot demand to be admitted. That right belongs only to the Grand Master Mason and, in his own Province or District, the Provincial or District Grand Master. The Master of a Lodge is entitled to refuse to admit, as a visitor, any Brother whose presence may, in his opinion, disturb the harmony of the Lodge. He may also ask any visitors to retire if he thinks the business before the Lodge is of a private nature.

As a visitor, either alone or with a member of the Lodge be sure to arrive in ample time before the Lodge is opened. It is very discourteous for a visitor to arrive late and if it is necessary to test him it will upset the Lodge business – for some Brother will have to be sent out of the Lodge to carry out this duty. No Brother should resent being tested at any time. Every Master has the duty of seeing that none but Freemasons are present in his Lodge when it is open. It is usual to ask a Past Master to undertake this duty and he should report to the Master that he is satisfied that the visitor is a member of the Craft, a member of a Regular Lodge and not under any Masonic suspension or prohibition. A visitor should be ready to produce his Grand Lodge diploma if it is asked for. A visitor can only be vouched for if the Brother vouching for him can truthfully say that he has sat with him in open Lodge. A visiting Brother should if possible, bring his own Regalia with him. Unfortunately it has been known for a Brother to visit a Lodge whilst not in good standing with his own Lodge. This is contrary to the Constitution. Indeed it is the responsibility of the Lodge receiving the Brother to ensure that he is in good standing. For this reason all visitor should carry with them their receipt for the payment of the current year's test fees or their Life Membership Cards. As Life Membership is unknown in many other Constitutions, a Brother visiting, say in England, should take with him (a) his Grand Lodge Diploma and (b) his current receipt for test fees or his Life Membership Card together with a letter from the Lodge Secretary stating that Life Membership means that he has commuted his annual Test Fees into one single payment. It is not in order for a Scottish Brother visiting a Lodge to convey the greetings of either Grand Lodge or of the Grand Master Mason unless he has been specifically invited to do so.

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Altar, Lights and Tracing Boards

The position of the Altar varies from Lodge to Lodge. Symbolically it should be cubical in shape, though in practice it is often made oblong. On it are placed the three great Lights of Freemasonry. Since the VSL with square and compasses thereon really constitute the 'point within a circle' it follows that the altar should be fairly centrally situated in the Lodge and ideally with the G over it. The altar may be suitably painted or carved provided this is done with good taste. It may be covered with a cloth of the Lodge colour or in the case of a funeral Lodge draped with black crepe. The three Great Lights of course on top of the cloth. It is interesting to observe in some of our overseas Lodges several different Volumes of the Sacred Law depending upon the religion of the Brethren concerned, placed side by side on the altar, the candidate being obligated on the one peculiar to his religion. There is rather a strange custom in some Lodges of placing the Ballot Box on top of the VSL. This is wrong symbolically as it may obscure part of the VSL and perhaps obscures completely the square and compasses. This may be overcome by placing a small table beside the altar or having a pull out slide attached to the altar.

Since the three Great Lights constitute the focal point of any degree, it is felt in Scotland that it is quite in order for a candidate and his conductor to perambulate round the Lodge passing between the Altar and the Master. This is mentioned because some Constitutions, for example the Irish, prohibit any Brother from passing between the altar and the Master, the reason possibly being that the Master in the East is in the Place of Light and his vision should not be obscured from the three Great Lights which are his responsibility.

The position of the three candles or lamps varies from Lodge to Lodge. In some Lodges they are placed in tall candlesticks situated at three of the corners of the square pavement; in others on a candelabra of three lights on the Master's dais whilst a third method is to see them displayed on the pedestals of the Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden. In some constitutions quite a feature is made of lighting the candles when the Lodge is being opened and indeed the act of lighting may be accompanied by the words Wisdom, Strength and Beauty. In the Scottish Constitution all three candles are lit in the first degree, one is extinguished on the second degree and two are extinguished, leaving only one alight, in the third degree. A symbolism which has been suggested is that as the candidate progresses from Degree to Degree he acquires more spiritual light and there is less necessity for material light.

In Scottish Lodges, the Tracing Board of the Degree does not lie on the floor. In some Lodges the Tracing Boards are placed on the wall, one being uncovered in each degree. Other Lodges place them in front of the pedestals of the Junior Warden, Senior Warden and Master respectively. Others place them on an easel in some convenient part of the Lodge. As some of the tracing board lectures are somewhat long, there is no objection to the candidate being seated during this lecture.

Signs, Salutations and Risings

Grand Lodge has never legislated regarding signs, but there are some signs, or manner of giving signs, which might be regarded as intrinsically Scottish. For example, a great number of Lodges made use of the D.. G.... sign. The Brethren stand in this position while the Lodge is being opened in the First Degree. Many regard this as being more fundamental than standing with the P.... sign which is also given. Within Scotland itself, every Mason will automatically adopt the sign of F..... when he stands in the Lodge. In other Constitutions, the Brethren only use this sign when a prayer is being offered or a candidate is taking his obligation. If at the business part of the meeting, a Brother addresses the chair, he should rise, give the sign of the degree, return to F..... make his address and before sitting down give again the sign of the degree. Finally, the Grand or Royal sign with which is associated Grand Honours is always given three times. The manner of doing this is absolutely uniform throughout Scotland and is always accompanied by the words – "All Glory to the Most High".

How many salutes should be given to the Grand Master Mason, Grand Secretary etc. when entering a Lodge? The answer is none. The only occasion when the Grand Master is saluted – and once only as a Master Mason – is on the occasion of his Installation when he is proclaimed by the Grand Director of Ceremonies. This point is stressed because in some Constitutions there is a specified number of salutes for a Brother with 'Most Worshipful', a lesser number for 'Right Worshipful' rank and so on.

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After the usual business of the Lodge has been transacted, it is not the custom in Scotland to have 'risings' at the first of which the Master asks – "I rise for the first time to ask if anyone in this Lodge has aught for the good of Freemasonry in general or this Lodge in particular?" The usual form in Scotland is:

RWM – Worshipful Junior Warden, have you any further business in the south?

WJW – No further business in the south, Right Worshipful Master (*or if he has, he states this first*)

RWM – Worshipful Senior Warden, have you any further business in the west?

WSW – No further business in the west, Right Worshipful Master.

RWM – Any further business in the East? (*If none, the IPM replies as above*)

RWM – Any further business on the floor of the Lodge? (*waits and may receive reports, greetings etc.*).

RWM – There being no further business, be upstanding Brethren and assist me to close the Lodge.

Work in the Lodge

It is essential that a candidate's name is mentioned as frequently as possible in a Ceremony. He is not simply a candidate or a number, but someone with his own name and personality. At the very outset the Inner Guard should report in these terms "At the door of the Lodge stands John Smith, a poor candidate etc". Even if there are three candidates for initiation, all their names should be given and not simply described as "three candidates". As the whole essence of our ritual is to impress upon the candidate that all Freemasons are on the level, all instruction should be carried out on the level – on the floor of the Lodge. If the Master has work to do such as giving the obligation or communicating secrets, he should leave his chair on the dais and come to the floor of the Lodge. If, when the candidate is being conducted round the Lodge, he has to salute the Master, the Deacon should see that he halts, turns to face the Master, salutes, turns again and proceeds with the perambulation. It is not Scottish usage to 'salute when passing' by which is meant to give the sign while still on the move, simply glancing sideways toward the Master when so doing. It has been noted that in some Lodges the Brethren slap the right knee at the conclusion of a given piece of ritual. This is a meaningless habit and should be discontinued.

At Harmony

Even at Harmony or as it is called elsewhere, 'The Festive Board' there are certain Masonic customs. When His Majesty King George VI was alive the first loyal toast within Scotland was 'The King and the Craft'. It is felt that it would now be appropriate to have two loyal toasts, firstly 'The Queen' and secondly 'The Craft'. As there are a great many Scottish Lodges overseas in different countries it is left to the individual Lodge to decide on the form of Loyal Toast most acceptable to the country concerned. In Scotland the third loyal Toast is to 'The Grand Lodge of Scotland'. It is noteworthy that the toast is to the corporate body and not to the Grand Master Mason. It naturally follows that as there is no specific toast to the Grand Master Mason there is likewise no toast to the Depute Grand Master, the Substitute Grand Master or to Grand Office-bearers. Throughout Scotland it is common to have 'Masonic Honours' following the proposal of a Toast. In other Constitutions this is called Masonic Fire. For example, following the toast to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, the Master of the Lodge would say:

Masonic Honours Brethren for Grand Lodge

Count Wardens count, one, two, three

Senior Warden says – Once, twice, thrice

Junior Wardens says – One, two three.

Thereupon the Brethren give one of the many three times three form of hand clapping, followed each time by three hurrahs. It should be noted that the phrase – 'Point left right' is not used in Scotland for Masonic honours. Of recent years a few Lodges in Scotland have adopted the custom of certain groups of Brethren in England and Ireland of 'drinking wine with the Master'. This is most certainly not Scottish usage and this practice is deprecated.

Finally, after the Tyler has given his toast – "Here's to all poor and distressed masons etc" Masonic honours are not accorded but the Master says – Happy to Meet (repeated by the Brethren) Sorry to part (repeated by the

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Brethren) Hoping to meet again (repeated by the Brethren) Sometimes the last phrase is altered to – Happy to meet again.

Brethren should also bear in mind that Harmony after a Lodge Meeting is a continuation of the meeting so although a relaxed and social atmosphere is appropriate, and indeed desirable, loud, coarse or intemperate behaviour is unacceptable.

Royal Arch

Hebrides Royal Arch Chapter No 364

Donnie Graham 1st Principal exalted his son Roddy at an excellent working of the RA degree on Wednesday this week and last month Donnie Mackenzie from Lewis, who lives in Durham, affiliated and went through the EM degree which of course is not worked in England. When the new session starts we will hopefully have candidates from the 4 who went through their Mark in March.

The arrangements for our centenary celebrations are about complete and 70 companions are expected to attend the meeting on the afternoon of 25th June. For the benefit of the companions the following is the timetable:

Friday 24th at 7.30pm Sandy Matheson PZ will be giving a talk in the lodge room about the history of the Royal Arch in Stornoway, companions together with their wives and guests are invited to attend. This will be followed by a finger buffet and refreshments.

Saturday 25th at 3pm re-dedication ceremony to be carried out by ME 1st Grand Principal Ian A Fraser followed by a formal meal at 5pm. Only companions may attend these events. However at 8pm there will be a ceilidh dance to which of course the ladies are invited.

In April in my capacity as Depute Provincial Grand Superintendent I was honoured to be able to stand in for Donnie Sutherland at the installation of David Gibb as Provincial Grand Superintendent of Linlithgowshire.

In the picture Provincial Grand Superintendent Donnie Sutherland is standing beside 1st Sojourner Phil Smith who he complemented on his work at the RA degree that evening. Also in the picture are the newest members of Hebrides Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, James Aitcheson Tait and Tom Welch. Tom had travelled up from London and before attending the meetings in Stornoway on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday had visited Lodge Seaforth on Monday and St Martin on Tuesday.



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St Clement RAC No 244 –

The next meeting will be the Installation meeting on Friday 28th October.

DISTRICT GRAND PRIORY OF THE NORTH IN SCOTLAND.

My official visits have now all been completed and in addition, with the assistance of District Grand Seneschal Andrew Morrison and District Grand Mareschall Jim Legge I carried out the re-dedication of the Preceptory of Maison Dieu on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

Donnie Macleod DGP

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES.

A Malta grade was the only grade worked this last quarter. Candidates are thin on the ground but that hopefully may change by the time we meet again in October.

I think this is the first time we have reached thirty pages – my sincere thanks to all who have contributed.



The Provincial Grand Lodge Deputation at Lodge Angoni where they witnessed an excellent EA Degree

Lodge St Duthus 250th Anniversary Celebrations

The following two pages have been scanned from an article that appeared in the local Tain and Dornoch Picture Post. The event received excellent coverage in the publication. All photographs used were taken by Bro Andrew Farquhar of Lodge St Duthus.

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Tain and Dornoch Picture Post

LODGE SAINT DUTHUS NO. 82 CELEBRATE THEIR 250TH ANNIVERSARY

On Saturday 5th February 2011 a large crowd of members and invited guests of Lodge St Duthus No 82 in Tain celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the granting of their charter. Over 300 Brethren took part in the celebrations which took place in the Duthac Centre in Shandwick Street. The main hall was transformed into a Lodge room for the purpose of the ceremony.

Brother Robert Patullo, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge St Duthus No 82 and the Brethren of the Lodge had the great honour of celebrating this prestigious and historic occasion with special guests including Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont, Grand Master Mason for Scotland and a Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, based in Edinburgh. He was joined by Brother William Ross, Depute Provincial Grand Master and a Deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty. Also in attendance were Brethren from Shetland, Orkney, Caithness, Sutherland, Inverness-Shire and further a field.

Lodge St Duthus No 82 also had the pleasure of welcoming back Brother Joe Williamson a member of Lodge St Duthus who had returned from Canada for the occasion. Bro Williamson was in attendance at the 200th Anniversary celebration held in 1961. During the ceremony he was presented by the Director of Ceremonies to the Grand Master Mason who stated that it was his great pleasure to present to Bro Williamson a diploma awarded to him for achieving fifty years of service to Freemasonry.

The first recorded meeting of Lodge Saint Duthus took place on 12th November 1761 although the Charter is dated 2nd February 1761. This meeting is recorded in its first minute book, which states that details of the application for a Charter are recorded in "the old book" unfortunately this book is no longer in existence.

The original Lodge St Duthus building was what is now The Royal Hotel on

Tains High Street; the foundation stone of which was laid in 1784. The total cost of this building was £601.12.04pence- £37,811.61 in today's money!

Funds donated, for the purpose of building a Lodge, included a gift by a Mr Andrew Ross then residing in Fort George in the East Indies. Mr Ross owned the Knights House in Tain and gifted it to the Lodge to sell and use the funds as they wished. Lodge St Duthus also received loans from Tain Guildry.

The Lodge continued to meet in this building until 1876 when it was sold, after this meetings were held in the new Public Hall in Tain (the old Picture House), which was built in grounds previously owned by Lodge St Duthus. Amongst other properties owned by Lodge St Duthus were Croft Mary, Thornhill, St. Duthus Park and the let of (the old) St Duthus Hotel. All of these properties were sold with ground kept for the building of the current lodge in Queen Street which was consecrated in December 1895.

Lodge St Duthus laid the foundations stones of many of the public buildings still in existence in Tain today including the Church of Tain, the Presbyterian Church, the Court House to name but a few. They also laid the foundation stones of many buildings as far away as Inverness and Wick. Vast distances when railways were in their infancy in the Highlands at that time.

On receiving their charter Lodge St Duthus became the Mother Lodge of the Province of Ross and Cromarty giving birth to twelve daughter lodges in the Province. Its members have come from all walks of life including Lords, Baronets, members of the Armed Forces, Doctors, Lawyers, Architects, Clergymen, Landowners, and Farmers to the humble Tradesmen. Members of Lodge St. Duthus No.82 have gone on to become Knights of the Realm, Professors in Education, Surgeons, MP's and MSP's. Within Freemasonry brethren have become Provincial Masters

and Honorary Members of Grand Lodge.

Freemasons practice the ethos of Brotherly Love showing tolerance and love to their fellow men; truth towards others in thought and deed; relief, providing charity and care to others and the surrounding community. Today these acts of kindness continue with many national and local charities benefiting.

The ceremony followed many of the traditions practised within Lodges in Scotland dating as far back as 1599. It included a Ceremony of Rededication, several blessings, benedictions and words of thanks from St Duthus Lodge Members and invited dignitaries. After a meal catered for by the National Hotel in Dingwall Toasts were made and received from The Grand Lodge of Scotland, The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross & Cromarty, Lodge St Duthus No 82 and Visiting Brethren all of which allude to the illustrious history of Freemasonry in Scotland in General and Lodge St Duthus No 82 in particular.

The brethren in attendance received a booklet Lodge St Duthus No 82 produced for the celebration which documents information about the activities of the Lodge over the past 250 years and a program of the day's celebrations. Each brother present also received a commemorative masonic token as a memento of the occasion.

From humble beginnings to an illustrious history the members of Lodge St. Duthus No. 82 are rightly proud of their own achievements and of those of their predecessors. It is obvious from the turnout at this historic ceremony that the light of Freemasonry shines brightly in Tain and it is hoped will continue to do so as Lodge St Duthus No 82 marches towards its next milestone.

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LODGE SAINT DUTHUS NO. 82 CELEBRATE THEIR 250TH ANNIVERSARY



Grand Master Mason for Scotland Charles Ian Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont address's the audience.



Joe Williamson (2nd Left) - Joe Williamson being presented to the Grand Master Mason on the occasion of receiving his 50 year certificate. Joe, a former resident of Tain, returned from Canada especially for the ceremony, he had the privilege of attending the 200 Anniversary in 1961 before leaving for Canada. With Joe are the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge St. Duthus No 82 Bro. Robert Patullo (Left), Grand Master Mason for Scotland Charles Ian Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont (2nd Right) and Grand Director of Ceremonies Ramsey McGhee (Right).



Attentive audience - speaks for itself. Brethren listening to the after dinner speeches and toasts.