

# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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

ISSUE NO 83

MAY 2015



## What's in the February Edition?

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*Cover picture: Lodge Angoni No 1404 in Lilongwe, Malawi*

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## Editorial

Welcome to the 83<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Patter.

It has been quite a busy time since the last edition of the "Patter" was circulated but a very rewarding time in many ways.

Last Sunday one of the readings in church was 1John 3and I have to admit that verses 17 and 18 set me thinking – *"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."*

Since February I have been blessed to witness the love of God being practised by Freemasons here in this Province, the Province of Fife and Kinross, in the Superintendency of Malawi and in the District Grand Lodge of East Africa. We had a very successful sojourn to Malawi and to East Africa and in both countries we observed Freemasonry at work. Not with words but very much with actions. Since we returned the Brethren of this Province have once again put that love into action by raising over £4000 to help provide much needed assistance at Mountain View School for Deaf Children in Blantyre, Malawi.

In the same period there have been further countless demonstrations of Freemasonry at work in the Community here in our own Province and throughout the Scottish Craft.

This is surely the true essence of our Freemasonry – helping those less fortunate than ourselves in a quiet but very effective way. Loving, not with words but with actions and in truth.

*Ramsay McGhee*, Editor

## Grand Lodge of Scotland

Grand Committee met last Thursday in Edinburgh. The meeting started with the Brethren standing in silent tribute to the memory of Bro John Lamb, PGM of Roxburgh, Peebles and Selkirkshire's who sadly passed away last week.

The remainder of the business was dealt with in just over 20 minutes.

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May the Grand Master Mason will lead a Deputation to Lodge of St Nathalan of Tullich in Mar No 259 to celebrate their 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May I will have the honour to attend a meeting in the Province of Renfrewshire East for new members into the Craft.

The following Saturday, I will have the honour to head a Deputation to Lodge Richmond No 1137 in Port Gordon to celebrate their Centenary.

Into June and I am looking forward to representing the Grand Master Mason at a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland in Dublin on the 4<sup>th</sup> June.

The June meeting of Grand Lodge will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 2.00 pm. The following day a small Deputation will once again head to the Grand Master Masons' Mother Lodge – Ythan No 892 in Ellon to witness Brother Harry Wolrige Gordon receive his MM Degree.

On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June the Grand Master Mason will be in Stirling to install the new Provincial Grand Master while I will be representing the Grand Master Mason at the Grand Lodge of Romania to celebrate 135 years since its foundation.

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July the Grand Master Mason will head a Deputation to Lodge St Ternan in Banchory to celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

It is an "overseas" visit the following Saturday when we head to the beautiful Island of Orkney to install the new Provincial Grand Master of Orkney and Zetland.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July the Grand Master Mason will again head a Deputation to install the new Provincial Grand Master of Perthshire.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August is a trip south to install the new Provincial Grand Lodge of Roxburgh, Peebles and Selkirkshire's – this will be a meeting very much tinged with sadness due to the fact that the current PGM, Brother Joe Lamb passed to the Grand Lodge Above only this past week.

From Galashiels in the south we head north the following Saturday to Lairg to install the new Provincial Grand Master of Sutherland.

The remaining Grand Lodge visitations will appear in the August edition of the newsletter.

*Ed*

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## Provincial Grand Lodge:

In the last edition of the Provincial Patter our editor made reference to the forthcoming trip to Malawi by himself and Brethren from this Province and who were being accompanied by Brother Andrew E. Paterson, Provincial Grand Master of Fife and Kinross.

They all returned fit and well after an enjoyable and eventful journey and of course they were all so pleased to visit Mountain View School for the Deaf near Blantyre, where they handed over many items which had been donated, such as football strips, stationery and medicines and which were greatly appreciated. Because of the deteriorating situation in Malawi, due to flooding and a poor maize crop, the effect on the school has been devastating and with the financial circumstances badly affected.

On his return home, Bro. Ramsay McGhee and with the overwhelming support of the Brethren and Daughter Lodges in the Province, proceeded to organize fund raising and with a Race Night held within the Victoria Suite at Energy Stadium in Dingwall.

Ramsay's initial target was to be £2,000 but at the last count the monies raised was nearing the £4,000 mark. An outstanding result, which will greatly assist the on-goings at Mountain View School.

May I convey my sincere and grateful thanks to each and every one who helped in any way and in particular to Brother Ramsay McGhee.

At the beginning of February we were all deeply saddened to learn of the passing to the "Grand Lodge Above" of Brother David William Oag, Past Substitute Provincial Grand Master and Past Master of Lodge Averon No 866. Brother Oag was initiated in Lodge Averon No 866 on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1951 and became Master of the Lodge in 1964. David Oag was a greatly talented individual and an outstanding Masonic Ritualist and it was just reward when the Grand Master Mason conferred on him the Honorary Grand Rank of Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. His passing leaves a void within our fraternity and he will be sadly missed, especially by his dear wife Joy, daughter Carolyn and the extended family.

The Provincial Visitations to the Daughter Lodges are coming to an end, and they have been most encouraging and well attended and with the degree work of a very high standard.

This week end I have been honoured with the invitation to attend the Installation of Brother Bill Beardmore as Grand Master of British Freemasonry in Germany and I am certainly looking forward to meeting with the fraternity in that area and will be meeting up with Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Ian Fraser and his wife Joan.

I would remind the Brethren that the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sorrow is scheduled to be held within Robertson's Lodge No 134 in Cromarty on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 3.00 pm.

A good attendance of Brethren from the Provincial and Daughter Lodges would be appreciated in order that we may remember those who have departed during this past year.

Sincerely and fraternally,

*William Ross*

Provincial Grand Master

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## From The Provincial Almoner

Sadly once again I have to start on a sad note and record the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Past Master David Oag, Lodge Averon and Bro Donald Jack of Lodge Rosehaugh. Both Brethren, over many years, were prominent Freemasons in Ross and Cromarty and they will be very much missed in Masonic circles. A card was sent to each family conveying the condolences and deepest sympathies of the Provincial Grand Master and the Brethren of the Province.

As reported in the February edition, Past Master Sandy Rose, Lodge Rosehaugh, Avoch has not been so well. He is still not back to good health but is making progress.

Past Master Iain MacLaren, also of Lodge Rosehaugh, is recovering well from his stroke and is now allowed to drive again. He is undergoing treatment regarding another ongoing medical issue and is due back to see the consultant at Raigmore in June.

Past Master Victor Shepherd, Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty is now home from hospital. I have visited him a number of times there, as have a number of other brethren

Past Master Cochrane Donald, Lodge Seaforth, is not keeping at all well at the moment and has been re-admitted to hospital. As we go to print he has been moved to Ward 7C in Raigmore.

Our best wishes are extended to them all.

I would just like to remind you all that should you require my services or know of anyone who does please do not hesitate to contact me.

*David MacMaster,*

Provincial Grand Almoner

Tel: 01997 421306 email: [david@strathpeffer.net](mailto:david@strathpeffer.net)

## PROVINCIAL QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION AND LODGE of SORROW

The Quarterly Communication (AGM) will be held in the Masonic Hall, Dingwall on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2015. All Master Masons in good standing are cordially invited to attend. All reigning Masters and Wardens should be present to represent their respective Lodges.

The Lodge of Sorrow will be held next Sunday – 10<sup>th</sup> May in Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty at 3.00 pm. This is a very poignant service and all Master Masons are cordially invited to attend.

Could Lodge Secretaries please remember to send details of those who have passed away to Provincial Grand Secretary immediately?

## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE WEBSITE

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

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## FROM THE LODGES

### Lodge St Duthus No 82



The Lodge is now in recess until Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

*David Macrae*, PM  
Secretary



SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST – Lodge Kyle – circa 1950

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## **FORTROSE LODGE No. 108**

We've been quite fortunate here in Stornoway with a fairly steady flow of candidates and another couple of applications read at the regular meeting last Friday, indeed at the regular meeting in April 3 Brethren were raised to the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, 2 of them Lewis's. Here's a picture of them:



*Paul Robertson, Alick Graham (Lewis), and Calum J Macdonald (Lewis)*

We plan to work the Mark degree for the visitation this month and we're looking forward to a visit from Lodge Aeron in Wales at the regular meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June. These Welsh brethren are regular visitors to Lodge Thistle in West Calder.

### **SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST**

#### **Fortrose Lodge – 1998**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January was the date of this year's Burns Supper. An excellent turnout of over 80 Brethren, wives and friends enjoyed what could only be described as an outstanding evening with first rate entertainment and food. The Immortal Memory was proposed by Brother Roddy John MacLeod who joined the Lodge only a year ago. A maths teacher by profession, he gave a most interesting and informative insight into the life of Robert Burns. He brought a subtle sense of humour into his oration which was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all present.

Brother Norman Graham gave an outstanding and very humorous Toast to the Lassies which had the company in stitches. His Toast was very ably responded to by Helen Porter who works in the Stornoway Hospital. The whole occasion was made all the more enjoyable by the excellent standard of the meal which was prepared and served by Brother Dodo MacDonald.

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## Robertson's Lodge No 134

H i Brethren,

Once again we are into our recess. This used to mean a total break, but there are so many orders now that go on through the summer months or indeed meet in the summer. This is not a moan, because we choose to be in these orders, and we should be thankful that we are fit and able to attend them.

Our last meeting in April, was a talk and presentation by P.P.G.M. Ramsay McGhee on Mountain View School in Malawi. Some of our Brethren of Provincial had gone over there this year. Although many things had improved, the elements and other influences had brought about much hardship, but thanks to fund raising and donations from this Province, Ramsay is hopeful that they will soon be back on track. Slides showed the happiness brought to these kids by our efforts and I am sure inspired all to continue in support of this worthwhile cause.

Our own Lodge is managing to keep its head above water, although it would be good to see some of our absent brethren returning to the fold. If there is a problem then let us discuss it and hopefully resolve it, so that we can get our lodge back to the thriving state it once was in.

On the News front, P.M. Ronald Cooper and his wife Jean recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Well done to you both, and I am sure I speak for all when I pass on congratulations, and wish you many more to come. Brother George MacIvor (Our Senior Statesman) went into Raigmore for an operation this week. The good news is that the procedure was carried out and he was allowed home later the same day. I am told he is feeling the benefits already. I spoke on the telephone today to P.M. Victor Shepherd. He is at home and still undergoing treatment. He is still not driving which is quite restrictive, but he was in good form. Our best wishes go out to them both.

Just a reminder, the "Lodge of Sorrow" to pay respect to all Brethren in the Province, who have passed to the Grand Lodge above over the past year will be held in our lodge in Cromarty on Sunday 10 May, 2015, at 3 p.m. and conducted by Provincial Grand Lodge. A good attendance of our Brethren would be appreciated.

With best wishes to all.

*James A Tait, PM*

Secretary

## The 135th Anniversary since the Foundation of the National Grand Lodge of Romania – 2015

In 2015 the National Grand Lodge of Romania will celebrate the 135th Anniversary since its foundation. The Anniversary shall be connected with the Annual Communication of the National Grand Lodge of Romania, the National Grand Lodge of Romania Awards Gala and many other events, which will take place in June 2015. All the Grand Lodges in fraternal relations with the National Grand Lodge of Romania will be invited to participate at the Grand Lodge Assembly, at the special anniversary ceremonies and at the other events that will take place on this occasion

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## Lodge Fingal No 318



**February meeting:** Mock EA° - Bro Jim Murray stood in as the candidate for the Degree Work. There were 22 Brethren and 6 visiting Brethren present. The RWM came down onto the floor of the Lodge after the degree work and greeted Bro. Murray and thanked him for standing in as the candidate.

**March meeting:** Mock EA° - Bro Allan MacKenzie [Storn], was the pressurised candidate, also our annual Provincial visit. Lodge Tyled at 7.30 pm to do the minutes, etc. There were 15 Brethren and 8 visiting Brethren present. The Provincial Deputation was introduced into the Lodge. Presentations were then conveyed by the Provincial D of C Bro Rory Mackenzie - RWPGM Bro. William Ross / IPPGM Bro. Ramsay McGhee / PPGM Bro. Ian Fraser / DPGM Bro. Robin Cattenach / SPGM Bro. Jim Tait, all took their rightful seat in the East. The remaining 11 office bearers took their seats in the body of the Lodge. The Gavel the emblem of power and authority was then presented to the RWPGM by the RWM / the RWPGM thanked for the welcome he and his deputation had received on entry to the Lodge and also for the harmony which was laid on for them in the Committee Room. To the visiting Brethren on their presence here tonight, and also the Brethren out with the Province, and on return to their respective Mother Lodge to take the fraternal greetings of the Province of Ross & Cromarty as charged. After the degree work, RWPGM congratulated Bro. MacKenzie, second time that he had seen him go through the 1<sup>st</sup> degree, as he saw him last year at the previous Provincial visit.

**12<sup>th</sup> March:** Myself, RWM Bro. Angus Beaton of Fingal and WSW Bro. Freddy Fraser of Lodge Seaforth visited Bro. Tom Stewart and presented him with his 60<sup>th</sup> year certificate from Grand Lodge, to accompany his 50<sup>th</sup> year certificate. Bro. Tom and his wife Jenny have been in Southside Care Home, Inverness just over a year now and Bro. Freddy has been doing Almoner duties. Tom will be 92 years young come October. He and Jenny have settled well in the Home. Tom Affiliated to Fingal on 28<sup>th</sup> October 1986, he was the Provincial Grand Secretary 1986—1991 in the reign of PGM Bro. George MacLeod who was a PM of Fingal. Tom was the Lodge Secretary 1987—1999.





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**April meeting:** Mark<sup>o</sup> for Bro. Allan MacKenzie [Storn]. The Lodge was well attended as this being the last meeting off the season, there was 22 Brethren and 18 visiting Brethren present. Also there was a Deputation from Lodge Ness, comprising off 12 Brethren, who carried out the degree work. The deputation entered the Lodge after the business was completed, PM Bro. Alex Dowie was the acting RWM for the degree work and was presented to the East.

**Special meeting:** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May. The business of the evening will be a M.M. degree to be worked by a Visitation from Lodge St. Peter's No. 284, Thurso. The Lodge will Tyle @ 6.00pm.

On behalf of the RWM Bro. Angus Beaton and Brethren of the Lodge, may we wish all Brethren, Wives, Partners and Families a very relaxing summer recess. Fingal return to work on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October, when we will be treated to a Paper by Honorary Member Bro. Ramsay McGhee.

*D. Gunn P.M.  
Secretary*

## **Burns Supper in Logie Lounge, Fingal Lodge of Freemasons held on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015.**

A company of 33 sat down to the Burns Supper at 7.30 pm with the soup, followed by traditional fare of haggis, neeps and tatties and oatcakes and cheese being provided by the culinary skills of Cath Morrison from the Tearooms at Strathpeffer Railway Station Square. Opening proceedings were amply handled by Colin Mackintosh who called for grace after the 'Great Chieftain' was superbly piped in by Craig Dyer a young product of the re-formed Dingwall Royal British Legion Pipe Band.

The guests then proceeded through the beautifully presented menu offered up for consumption by Cath and her staff which, eagerly awaited, was dispensed with adequate gusto. With Jim Murray of Dignity Funeral Directors very kindly providing the top table drinks and Henry Cameron looking after the licensed bar the necessary toasts were at the ready during the programme of events following the meal.

Andy Henderson, the 'Bard of Balliechaul' for the evening, first introduced to the company Hugh Aberach Mackay, the principal speaker who was to give the Immortal Memory to our National Bard.

Hugh is no stranger to performing such a toast, he being no less a local dignitary than President of the Strathpeffer Burns Club and past President of the Dingwall Rotary Club. With his work experience in the good old days of Northern Constabulary and his rising through the ranks of that fine body of men it should have come as no surprise when Hugh brought his 6' plus stature up from the soles of his feet and then brought the place down with taking us through a most hilariously entertaining and whimsical account of how Burns could have, had he not ventured into the Customs & Excise of the era, progressed through the ranks of the Ayrshire polis (and all which that entailed via the dance halls and other various public places of the time) and then on to the hypothetical altercations with the bench of the day; his 'apprenticeship' in his trying to win over Jean's father would have been fair testament to preparing his briefs of a legal nature.

To say, at the end of twenty or so minutes, the ribs were sore would be an understatement! Great stuff and one of the reasons why it is good practice to get much sought after speakers as early as possible when planning a really good Supper - Burns himself must have been having a really good chuckle looking down at the 'the nicht's ongauns'.

Following the Immortal Memory we then totally relaxed to some musical interludes by Maryburgh's Norman MacKillop on fiddle and banjo - Norman performed three times during the evening and each rendition was impeccable in its execution; which says a lot for one who, until recently, was recuperating from a badly shattered/dislocated shoulder injury sustained in quite a serious car accident!

John Hanson then gave the Toast to the Lassies and John, well versed in poetic licence from his roles in conducting (ably assisted by Margaret) successful quiz and Mr. & Mrs. Nights in the Logie Lounge, gave his usual polished performance (this time not assisted by Margaret) in extolling the virtues and other attributes of the female form for inward digestion by all!

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The writer then gave his recitation of that loved and well known poem 'Tam O' Shanter'.

In reply to John Hanson our own loved and well known Sandra Mackenzie suitably replied to the Toast to the Lassies. Sandra, a stalwart of the Ladies sections of the Royal British Legion at both local and national level and one known not to mince her words, coped with her subject (and John) in the only way she knows – to the point and very good humouredly which keeps her having a youthful and hearty outlook on life. Haste ye back Sandra.

Rounding off the night we had a very gracious vote of thanks from the Master of the Lodge Angus G. Beaton who, in his summing up, covered the sterling efforts of Colin, Henry, Craig, Hugh Aberach, Norman, John, Sandra and Jim Murray in making the night so memorable.

The generously donated raffle (thanks to all who contributed and bought tickets) was then drawn before all headed home, well fed, humoured and fortified.

*Andrew M. Henderson* (Lodge Almoner).

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March; we held our annual Ladies Night Dinner Dance. The musical entertainment was by Mike Samms and the catering by Catherine Morrison from Strathpeffer. Despite having a few late cancellations we had around 34 people in attendance. Everyone had a great time with fantastic comments regarding the meal. As usual at Fingal we had a tremendous raffle, coupled with a generous donation allowed us to donate £300.00 towards Ramsay's Race Night to go towards the Mountain View School in Malawi.



*Guess who could not find his tie?*

Lodge Fingal would like to thank the very kind donation of several mixed wine cases to accompany our meal from Bro. Jim Murray [Manager] off Dignity Undertakers (Dingwall).

A few pictures taken by Bro. Colin MacPhee on the night.



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*"Found It"*

Many thanks to all who helped to organise the Ladies Night. Angus Beaton RWM.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May; At 8.00pm, Wee Jig in the Logie Lounge. Music by, a Disco supplied by St. Peter`s, D.J. `s James Moodie and Willie Durrand.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn PM  
Secretary.*

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## Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

The next meeting of the Lodge will take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 11.30 am when Brother Sinclair Bruce will be installed as Master. We would be delighted to see as many Brethren as possible for what will be a memorable occasion.

We are delighted to make contact with another member of Allan Wilson. Brother Neil Shelton was initiated into Lodge Allan Wilson on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1987 by his father, Brother Henry Arthur Shelton, who was Master of the Lodge at that time. Brother Shelton Snr passed to the Grand Lodge above in December last year aged 96



Brother Neil who went on to become a Past Master of another Scottish Lodge – this time in South Africa – Lodge Trafalgar No 1009 in Durban. Brother Neil is now living in London and hopes that he will be able to arrange a visit to his Mother Lodge in the not too distant future. We will be delighted to see him.

*Left: Brother Henry Arthur Shelton in the Chair of Lodge Allan Wilson while it was still operating in Bulawayo.*

## Lodge Seaforth No 854

The final Regular Meeting took place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April when Malcolm MacLennan received the EA Degree and was welcomed into the Craft.

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May a Deputation from the Lodge, headed by the Master, Brother Alasdair Taylor headed south to confer the FC Degree at a Special Meeting of Lodge St Barchan 156. The Deputation worked a first class Degree much to the delight of the St Barchan Brethren and a good number of visiting Brethren including a distinguished Deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East headed by their PGM, Bro John S Miller and which included the Depute PGM, Brother Neil Fraser whose Mother Lodge is Lodge Seaforth.

During the afternoon, Past Master Andrew Letham of Lodge St Barchan received his Jubilee Certificate from the PGM on attaining not just 50 years' service in the Craft but 50 very active years in the Craft.

Brother Ramsay McGhee thereafter received two beautifully engraved glasses and a bottle of a very exclusive whisky from the Brethren of his Mother Lodge to mark his appointment as Depute Grand Master. For once in his life he was rendered speechless but managed to show his appreciation to the Brethren.

There will be a General Committee meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 and a 17-seater minibus has been organised for the trip to Caithness on 6<sup>th</sup> June. It will leave from the Lodge at 11.30 am and pick up on the way.

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## Lodge Averon 866

Once again we are in the close season, doesn't take long coming round. We, at Lodge Averon, have enjoyed a good session since the New Year. We have had 3 F.C. Degrees and a M.M Degree. On the second meeting of January we had a wee Burns Supper which was enjoyed by all. Our last meeting in March was a business meeting and then we had a very interesting talk and power point presentation by Bro Ramsay McGhee IPPGM. The presentation involved the Mountain View school in Malawi. They are under pressure due to floods and other natural occurrences. The Lodge appreciated the presentation and presented Ramsay with a nice cheque for the school. We are heading for the "deep South" on Saturday 2nd May. We are going to visit Lodge Hozier Douglas Water 912 in Lanarkshire Upper Province. We will be conferring the M.M. Degree on Bro Martin Scorgie, son of the Master of Lodge Hozier. We are looking forward to the day(s) out.

*Henry W. MacInnes* RWM

### The Touch of the Master's Hand.

'Twas battered and scarred and the auctioneer thought  
It scarcely worth his while  
To waste time on the old violin,  
But held it up with a smile.  
"What am I bidden, good folks?" he cried,  
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"  
"A pound, a pound," then, "Two!" "Only two?"  
Two pounds, and who'll make it three?  
Three pounds once; three pounds twice;  
Going for three-". But no,  
From the room, far back, a grey haired man  
Came forward and picked up the bow,  
Then, wiping the dust from the old violin  
And tightening the loose strings  
He played a melody pure and sweet  
As a carolling angel sings.

2.The music ceased, and the auctioneer  
With a voice that was quiet and low,  
Said, "What am I bid for the old violin?"  
And he held it up with the bow.  
"A thousand pounds, and who'll make it two?"  
Two thousand! And who'll make it three?  
Three thousand once, three thousand twice,  
And going and gone", he said  
The people cheered, but some of them cried  
"We do not understand,  
What changed its worth?"  
Swift came the reply.  
"The touch of a master's hand.

3. And many a man with life out of tune,  
And battered and scarred with sin,  
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,-  
Much like the old violin.  
A "mess of potage", a glass of wine,  
A game- and he travels on.  
He is "going" once, and "going" twice,  
He's "going" and almost "gone".  
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd  
Never can quite understand  
The worth of a Soul and the change that's wrought  
By the touch of the Master's hand.

By Myra Brooks Welch...

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## Lodge Ness No 888

The Lodge is now in recess until Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015

## LODGE KYLE No 1117

Lodge Kyle has been busy this month with new heating installed in the Lodge replacing somewhat ancient “floor-pole” heaters. While a lovely blazing coal fire is welcoming and drying to the old rooms – it means someone has to come in early, lay the fire and of course make safe and clean afterwards. While this is not a problem on evenings where the weather is agreeable, on stormy or blizzard condition evenings ... maybe it’s more problematic. Electric heaters are quick to warm up and don’t need cleaning and certainly a welcome adjunct to our real fire.

We have also instigated a programme of study where Brethren can choose from a series of interesting masonic studies and subsequently present a short lecture on his chosen subject for the benefit of the other Brethren. This should re-vitalise interest in longer term members, pique interest in new members and educate and entertain everyone on nights when there is no official degree work. Some of the subjects are also designed to refresh the Brethren’s knowledge of Scottish Masonic Protocol; things they should know, have forgotten and for whatever reason don’t want to ask their fellow brethren about. Topics for study are on the website and are “scored off” as they are taken up.  
[http://lodgekyle.co.uk/masonic\\_research.html](http://lodgekyle.co.uk/masonic_research.html)

We are all looking forward to the “Provincial Visit” on the first Monday of May and have been preparing a Second Degree for the Meeting with, recently affiliated from the English Constitution, Brother Whittaker as the Candidate. All welcome.

*Ronnie Miller*, PM Lodge Kyle No. 1117

### SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

#### Lodge Kyle – February 1998

While things are a bit quiet on the Candidate front, The Kyle Brethren are looking forward to affiliating two Brethren in the near future. The freshness of affiliates coming into the Lodge often sparks off a bit of renewed interest which, in the case of Kyle, will hopefully lead to new Brethren being brought into the Lodge.

A most innovative fund raiser will come to fruition on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February when the draw is made for a splendid mountain bike. I hope that the enthusiasm generated by the Kyle Brethren is matched in hard cash when the lucky winner rides off into the horizon on his new mountain bike.

## Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

Having lost the January meeting to the turbulent weather we decided to hold a Fellowcraft degree in February although we did not have a candidate in attendance. With a few new office bearers in place it was an opportunity to test themselves on the floor. It was a good exercise but not a very good attendance. We did hope to have Ramsay along in March but as he was unavailable we decided on a business meeting to see if we could generate up some support of the local brethren. However this did not work out and we ended up having our poorest attendance in years. Despite this the Brethren felt we should make contact with missing Brethren in an effort to boost attendances. We did get Ramsay along for our April meeting and he gave us his lecture and current update on the Malawi situation. It was fascinating to hear and see all the good work being done by the PGL of Ross and Cromarty over the years and we were pleased to be able to give PGL a financial contribution to their fund raising efforts.

At this meeting the RWM announced the passing of Bro Donald Jack to the Grand Lodge above on Sunday 22 March 2015. Donald joined 1216 in 1963 and held the position of Almoner for many years after he had left the fishing following serious illness. He received his 50<sup>th</sup> Certificate a couple of years back and his Grandson Bro Shaun Kerr has returned this to the Lodge where it now hangs in the South West Corner of the Lodge where Donald always sat. The funeral was well attended with the Church almost full and a large number of Freemasons from far and wide attending. The family wish to pass on their thanks to all the Brethren for their support at this time.

Our final meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May was the last before the summer recess. This was also our PGL visitation and a mark degree was worked by the Brethren for the occasion.

Finally an update on Sandy Rose following his stroke last year. Progress has been slow but there are signs of improvement he is taking an interest in the greenhouse again so we are hoping he will be fit for a return to the Lodge in October.

*Keith Patience*, PM  
Secretary

### Brother Donald Jack

It has been suggested that I write a few words about my late, very good friend, Bro Donald Jack, sometime Almoner of Lodge Rosehaugh - a duty he carried out with the best aplomb, accompanied by a winning smile and gales of laughter. Indeed, as very many visitors to Lodge Rosehaugh will attest, the top table, left hand side in the Harmony Room usually rocked with laughter (aided by a few G&T's, of course) on every occasion. A seat at that table was the most sought after, and the centre of attention was always Big Dan! He regaled all with tales of the fishing (Avoch Boats), jokes and homilies. He acquired many friends among the visiting Brethren and they too will mourn his passing. He was my best friend for very many years and I can scarce take it in that he is away! He always seemed indestructible. He served Lodge Rosehaugh very well and rarely missed a meeting.

However, he did leave us with a lasting legacy in the form of our current Senior Deacon, Bro Shaun Kerr, who is, of course the big man's grandson. Sadly we shall not see the likes of Big Donald again but we are grateful that he brought Shaun to us.

The sincere sympathy of the Lodge has already been given to both Bro Shaun and his brother Michael.

*John Patience*, PM

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## Lodge St Martin 1217

Before the end of the Masonic Season the Lodge dispensed a significant amount of money to charity –

£400 was donated to the purchase of football strips for BUNDAS FC, in Sachaba, Kololi, in the Gambia – a charity being supported by PPGM Morris Downie.

£400 donated to the Provincial Grand Lodge Malawi Project.

£200 donated to the Ullapool Primary School Library Fund.

£300 donated to the local branch of the Air Training Corps.

The Brethren are heading south on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May to a meeting of the six Lodges all of whom received their Charter on the 6th May 1920. This year the host Lodge will be Lodge Wallace St Hugh No 1212 in Maybole.

*Charles MacAulay, PM*

## SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST – May 1998

### The nine o' clock Toast

During our frequent trips south of the Border and when visiting English Constitution Lodges abroad, both the Provincial Grand Master and I are always impressed with the formality of the Festive Board and the different Toasts we are made aware of. One such Toast that we often hear is the “Nine o’ Clock” Toast (although in some Lodges it is proposed at ten o’ clock). However, I have come across a version of the Toast that I have never heard before and which I thought might be of interest to the many readers we now have in English Lodges throughout the world - here it is:

If at nine o'clock you listen when around the festive board,  
If you listen very closely with hearts tuned in accord,  
You'll hear from in the West and South,  
You're charged in fullest measure -  
Some distant voices calling - *“Brother may I have the pleasure”*.

For at nine o' clock we toast you wherever you may stand,  
At home or maybe out of town or in some distant land;  
With brimming hearts and tearful eyes,  
We steal a moment's leisure,  
To call our ancient challenge - *“Brother may I have the pleasure.”*

For we are bound together by a universal link,  
We drink of that masonic cup from which we all may drink,  
So to that far flung Brotherhood whose fellowship we treasure,  
The old Masonic greeting -  
*“Brother may I have the pleasure.”*



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## Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551

Lodge Loch Ewe has, thankfully, really enjoyed a productive session towards what is now the current summer recess which is down to a mixture of the enquiring minds of the young blood in candidates and the guidance of older heads via their Proposers and Seconders in attaining a common goal - success.

Much, it is to be hoped, will come from the 2014 Grand Lodge Masonic Education seminar emanating from the sterling work of the Province of Renfrewshire East but, until the mentoring process materialises and gains momentum, it is hoped that the small band of Office Bearers in Aultbea can continue to nurture the desire and thirst for knowledge which is very evident in Brothers Richard Macdonald and Michael Macleod. The 'old guard' will certainly need to be up for the challenge - see penultimate paragraph.

Bro Macleod was passed to the FC degree during the PGL visitation on 9 April and will be taking his MM degree on Thursday 23 September 2015. The PGL visitation was once again well attended and augmented by a number of brethren visiting from outside the Province. Thanks are due to Bro Macdonald for giving the writer a break from driving that night.

We will be looking at subsequent MMM degree meetings for the MMs Bros Macdonald, De Demenico and Macleod respectively between October and November/January notwithstanding the AGM and nominations for Office Bearers to take place before the re-Installation meeting on Thursday 10 December 2015. A pretty hectic schedule which may bear fruit in more 'enquiring minds' in 2016.

The Annual Quiz Night went ahead in the Aultbea Hotel on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February with Bro Barrie Whitwell stepping into the breach when we learned of Bro. Ken McMorran PM being admitted to Raigmore hospital. 16 tables were snapped up and everyone present enthused about both the quiz content (wonderful innovations i.e. a wife and the internet!) and the hotel friendliness in hosting the event. We were inundated at the end as to when the next one was being held; next February it appears is too long a time to wait so we have taken the comments on board but have to bear in mind that, until Autumn, the hotel is particularly busy with its new look interior bar & seating/eating layout very pleasing to the eye and a credit to Robin and Bilal who appeared to be equally pleased with the way the night went! Between the entries and raffle £450 was collected and this was increased to £500 from Lodge funds and donated, for the third year running, to the Poolewe Swimming Pool Fund.

Prior to the very successful Race Night held in the Victoria Suite at the GE Stadium the lodge decided to sponsor a "1551 Stakes" race but, due to early takers by sponsors, we instead settled for buying 5 horses and riders for the £50 and donated a further £ 40 via 'bums on seats' tickets in advance for this worthy cause.

Earlier I touched on visitors at the PGL visitation in April; prior to that event in our calendar Lodge Loch Ewe brethren had visited lodges in the provinces of Caithness, Sutherland, Inverness-shire and Moray and Nairn in addition to lodges in our own province of Ross and Cromarty which, hopefully, is cementing new bonds among/within the Fraternity. During the summer recess visits will continue to Inverness-shire (St Andrews No. 601, Ardersier) and Moray and Nairn (Pitgaveny No. 681, Lossiemouth).

There are also a couple of dates in Sutherland province viz. the Installation of PM Donnie Morrison of Lodge Shin No. 1352 as RWPGM on Saturday 8 August and before that a visit from Lodge Heart of Midlothian to Lodge St Andrew No. 1318 in Golspie on Saturday 30 May.

For all 'Old Guard' types here is an ancient proverb I gleaned from one of the works "Laughter Lines" of the speaker at the Strathpeffer Burns Club in January 2005 the Rev. James A. Simpson a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland and also a former minister at Dornoch Cathedral.

"The ancient proverb, 'Whom the gods love die young', did not mean what many think it means, that those whom the gods love are taken from this life in their youth. It meant that those whom the gods love retain the gift of essential youth even when well on in years. In other words, the great art of living is to die young as late as possible."

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Meantime all of us here in the Aultbea branch of the Province wish you a well-earned break until the Autumn when, as we are only too happy to remind you, there are two picturesque routes (via Braemore Junction and Achnasheen) to reach us during our Masonic season of September to April.

*Andrew Henderson*, RWM



## *The Sinclair Bruce Diary*

Once again I commence my contribution to the Patter with subject Sport and this time it is the Australian open Tennis and the final between Novak Djokovic and Scotland's Andy Murray. Rumour has it that Andy prefers to go under the title British and for that reason I was not at all sorry when he lost the game because I strongly believe that we Scots are a proud people that will always stick up for our heritage and as the song proudly says - 'there will always be a Scotland'

Yesterday those who watched what is now known as the Scottish Derby, the game between Rangers and Celtic, should not be disappointed with the game. Rangers did not play as they can do - they just could not find the net. However all credit must go to Celtic who scored the two winning goals in the first half. Consequently they richly deserved to win.

Another game of football I really enjoyed was Bolton vs Liverpool. I was backing the weaker team, Bolton and at half time they were up 1- 0 and appeared to be the better team. However, the second half showed them to be slowing down and they were on the defence most of the time. Eventually they lost two goals and the writing was on the wall. The game finished Bolton 1 Liverpool 2

Last night being the first Friday in the month was Lodge Rosehaugh's regular meeting and I went along to witness a Fellow Craft degree, once again worked in an efficient and ritual perfect manner they used a stand-in candidate as the entered apprentice nominated was not available because of work commitments. However, all present enjoyed as always the evenings work and hospitality.

The Rugby this weekend in the six nation contest went very well. The three I watched were all most entertaining the first being England vs Italy - a fast game with both teams playing their hearts out but off-course there can only be one winner and the score tells it all - England 24, Italy 17. The second game - Ireland vs France was another close game ending with Ireland 18, France 11 and finally the best game of all, Scotland at home to Wales. Both teams giving a true lesson on how the game should be played - maybe a bit rough but great to witness and although the home team lost it was no disgrace to them final score Scotland 23 Wales 26.

This evening I have been at a meeting in my mother lodge where the degree was being worked by the Brethren from Lodge St Duthus. I can say it was a very interesting evening. Lodge Seaforth were very thin on the ground but the deputation from St Duthus was excellent and the workings were somewhat different but never the less interesting for me. The highlight of the work was the lecture and the charge and Brother Allan Waugh must be congratulated on his deliverance which was perfection and a credit to his Lodge and indeed Freemasonry as a whole.

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The football today was another great game to watch between Manchester City and Barcelona. Although Barcelona appeared to be the better side they had to really fight for every ball. They won by one goal after losing a penalty. Final score - Manchester City 1, Barcelona 2. Man City played most of the second half with ten men as one was sent off for a fouling offence.

And now a report on that wonderful weekend of Rugby. The first game between Scotland and Italy was a disaster for the Scots. Minutes into the second half they were up at 19-15 only to throw away the game - final score Scotland 19 Italy 22. The second game, France v Wales was a very tight game throughout. At half time Wales were up by three points and went on to win - final score Wales 20 France 19.

Finally, Ireland v England and for England a game to forget. Final score Ireland 19 England 9 and England also lost the cricket to Sri Lanka.

The first team to go through to the Scottish cup Semi-final is Falkirk who scored the only goal in the game against Queen of the South. A good game to watch but as usual when a team scores they go into a defence situation consequently not so interesting. The English game between Aston Villa and West Brom also ended in a one nil result so the winner will go to Wembley to play in the final.

And now a report on the Davis cup competition. We witnessed Andy Murray taking Britain into the quarter finals in a very evenly matched game against Jim Isner but Andy was the winner in three straight sets and to show the closeness of the match two of the three games went to a tie break.

And now back to the six nations Rugby. For me, possibly the most important game between Scotland and England. It proved to be a disaster. Although the score at half time was thirteen ten they were down within 10 minutes of the second half to 13-17 then 13-20. The writing now on the wall as they went on to lose by eight points - final score Scotland 15 England 23

The Rugby six nations is coming to an end and no great surprises. The final three games were all very lively. Italy vs Wales ended in a great 61 – 20 win for Wales. The next game, Scotland vs Ireland was another close game with Ireland 17 – 10 up at half time. Things then went downhill with the final result being - Scotland 10 Ireland 40 and finally England vs France which ended in a 55 – 35 win for England. After all these games the six Nations cup was uplifted by Ireland - in fact they actually retained the cup as last year's winners.

Well now here we are into April and being the first Friday in the month I made my usual visit to Lodge Rosehaugh who were not working a degree. Consequently after the opening and updated business the Lodge was closed and we all retired to the club room where we all purchased our favoured tittle and settled down to a lecture on the present situation with masonry in Malawi delivered by Depute Grand Master of Scotland, Bro Ramsay McGhee. Ramsay gave a full and comprehensive description of life in the Lodges out there, and the silence within the Lodge during the lecture proved how interesting the speaker was and at the conclusion the master of the Lodge expressed the thoughts of all on Ramsay's wonderful deliverance on this subject.

It's now Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> April and I have just returned from Lodge Seaforth which was the venue for the installation ceremony for Master and office bearers of the Rosicrucian Society. All went very well and when the evenings work completed we all retired to the club rooms where the tables were set and we all tucked into beautiful soup and sandwiches.

It's now Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April and I have just returned from Lodge Seaforth's final meeting for this session and we were working a first degree. As always all went well and the candidate was very attentive - he must be material for the future progress of our lodge that is attracting a number of young members and that's where our or any Lodges future lies. We are now at rest until the 21<sup>st</sup> September when will be working a Second degree.

I trust all readers will enjoy their break and return in September fully refreshed and ready to face all future work. The world snooker championship is now well on its way to the final and at this stage it is very difficult to even guess a winner. One of the best games I watched so far was Barry Hawkins knocking out one of the potential winners Neil Robertson so by the time you read this we will all know.

Sinclair G Bruce

*Sinclair Bruce*

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## BITS AND PIECES

### Highland Hospice

My sincere thanks to all Brethren (and their wives) who once again assisted at the Black Isle Cycle Challenge on behalf of the Highland Hospice. The Brethren of this Province have been looking after the stewarding of the event since its inception in 2004 and their assistance to the participants has really been appreciated. Here are a few of the comments that appeared on the Hospice Facebook this year –

*“Thanks to the organisers and Marshals and tea providers! A great event. Less hail, wind and up-hills next time would be much appreciated”*

*“The bananas and mars bars up at the mast were the most welcome surprise, thank you to the stewards who stood out in the freezing cold to make my day”*

*“A great day, if a little more windy than strictly necessary! Thanks for the organisation and encouragement from a fab team of marshals, and the very welcome tea and cake to finish.”*

*“Thank you everyone who helped us today with our difficulties with my bike and sorry for keeping everyone out a little longer than I bet you all expected. Had a great day. Thank you!”*

*“Today was well organised as always. A huge thanks to the marshals & everyone involved in organising the event.”*

*“Thank you for a wonderfully organised event”*

*“A big thanks to the wonderful people involved to keep us on the right track...the weather was nasty at times!! It was a good route and the snack stops were a very welcomed surprise. Well done to everyone who took part, especially to all the brave children, they were fantastic!”*

Once again the Brethren of this Province demonstrate Freemasonry in Action in the Community.

Next year the BICC will take place on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – stick the date in your diary now and feel free to recruit new stewards – many thanks

*Ed*

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## Visit to Malawi and East Africa

The third visit to the Superintendency of Malawi took place in February this year.



We left Edinburgh with more luggage than people – laden with football strips, medicines and a whole range of other bits and pieces destined for the Mountain View School for Deaf Children.

The travel arrangements were almost identical to the last visit – flying from Edinburgh to Amsterdam, then Amsterdam to Nairobi and onwards to Lilongwe in Malawi.

We had a one night stop-over in Lilongwe which was great as it meant that we could catch up with the Brethren



of Lodge Angoni No 1404 and their wives. As is normal with the Lodge Angoni Brethren, their hospitality is second to none. They once again excelled and laid on a spread fit for royalty. It was also very heartening to see that the extension to the premises is virtually complete now which makes the whole complex a facility that all Lodges would love to have.

*Part of the spread laid on for the team at Lodge Angoni*

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The following day (Friday 13<sup>th</sup>) we headed south accompanied by the Grand Superintendent, Brother Gordon Sheppard and Brother Phil Pyle. It was during this journey south heading toward Salima that we had the tragic accident when a small eight year old boy ran from nowhere into the path of one of our vehicles. As there is no ambulance service in Malawi arrangements were quickly made to have the wee lad taken to hospital in Salima. We had an overnight stay not far from the hospital and the next morning while we were sorting out all the bits and pieces for the school we received a call to say the wee man had died. Our Province has assisted the family with funeral arrangements. This tragedy put a bit of a damper on proceedings but our thoughts and prayers remain with the family of the deceased.

The vast amount of kit we had with us took a fair bit of sorting out. Brother Rev Andrew Paterson, PGM of the Province of Fife and Kinross was once again in our party which was an added bonus. He and his Brethren had acquired a whole range of strips from Raith Rovers FC which we proceeded to sort out while at Salima –



We are greatly indebted to the management team at Raith Rovers for their most generous gesture.

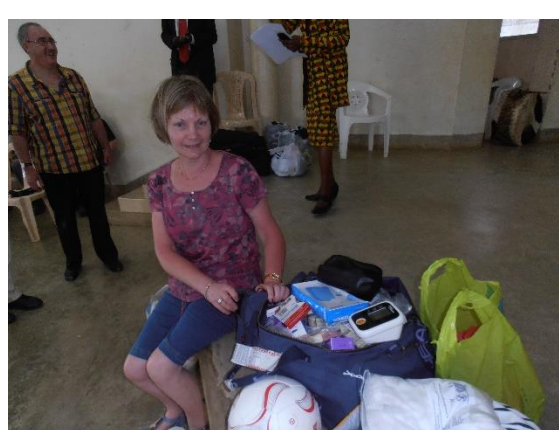
Next stop was the Mountain View School for Deaf Children. We were delighted to be back and what a welcome we received from the children and from the staff. I have documented part of the headmistress's speech at the end of this report just to let you all appreciate how much our efforts are appreciated by the school. The visit was undoubtedly one of mixed emotions. While our wood work project is making great progress with the children now making garden furniture, beds and repairs to school furniture, our tools for Malawi project has proved to be invaluable to them to enable such progress. The Brethren of Lodge Viphya have done a marvellous job getting all the tools categorised and properly stored and of course the instructor whose wages we cover is a real treasure. He works well with the children and there is a confidence about their work that was not evident before.

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*Top left – the boys making beds in the woodwork class:*

*Top right – the new tool store*

*Middle left & right – some of the girls netball team with their new Raith Rovers strips*

*Bottom left – the headmistress (left) addressing the assembly: Bottom right – Ann with the medical supplies*

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*Left – children playing in the grounds:*

*Right – the boys' football team resplendent in their new strips*

The good news from the school is that the football strips, the medicine and all the other bits and pieces we took out with us were greatly appreciated. The woodwork class is going well thanks to the input of tools but especially the instructor.

The bad news I'm afraid outstrips the good news. Over the first three months of this year Malawi in general, the south in particular have suffered greatly as a result of widespread flooding. The following news clip sums it all up –

*Nearly a quarter of a million people, more than originally thought, have been affected by the devastating floods that ripped through Malawi in the first three months of 2015, and with rains still falling, many of the 230,000 who were forced to flee their homes have been unable to return and rebuild their lives.*

*About 64,000 hectares (158,147 acres) of land were damaged, it added. The scale of the disaster has wreaked havoc on the densely populated country, where most people survive on subsistence farming. Crops of maize have been destroyed, villages obliterated, homes swept away and livestock killed.*

The foregoing has had an adverse effect on the school. Due to the floods the chicken project had to be abandoned and the chickens killed to feed the children during the floods. The school asks parents or guardians to pay 5000 kwacha per term toward the revenue costs of the school – at today's prices that equates to £7.45 per pupil per term. The headmistress, Modester Jere, confirmed to me that almost at the end of the first term only 2,500 kwacha had been received. Hence the reason we decided to have a Race Night when we returned – more about that later.

Before leaving Malawi we had the honour and privilege of attending a MM Degree in Lodge Nyasa No 956. What a great evening we had. The degree work was of the highest standard and I have no doubt that Bro Kamath will remember his 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree for a long time to come for all the right reasons. At the conclusion of the meeting we spent a very enjoyable night with the Brethren in Harmony. Again the welcome and generosity of the Brethren was outstanding.

We then headed back to Lilongwe courtesy of Brother David Grimes taking some of the team and his old company, Stansfield Motors, courtesy of the new GM, Bro Kelvin Windell, providing me with a beautiful Merc which I believe was used by the Vice President of Malawi – anyway, we really drove back in style.

We managed to meet up with many of the Lodge Angoni Brethren again and spent another memorable night in their company.

On the Wednesday we flew from Lilongwe back to Nairobi where we met up with the District Grand Master, Brother Mike Craig, District Grand Secretary, Brother Kalpesh Shah, District Grand D of C Jilo Quraishy and a number of other Brethren to have a rehearsal for the Rededication Ceremony for Lodge Unity.



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On the Thursday we travelled to Navaisha to Lodge Longanot No 1813 where we were regally entertained by the Brethren.



The food was delicious and I was delighted to see that the tree I planted about 4 years ago is really flourishing. I should also add that the tree planted by Grand Secretary is also doing well but I'm afraid the one planted by the Grand Master Mason is struggling a bit – think the animals that frequent the policies of the Lodge may have been indulging in some form of urinary ritual around the GMM's tree?



*A selection of roses seen at the Rose Farm we visited whilst at Navaisha*

When we returned to Nairobi that evening, it was a quick change and off to Lodge of the Highlands where I had the privilege of dedicating their new Regalia. The Brethren then worked a first class FC Degree for Brother Musa Ibrahim after which we enjoyed a superb Harmony.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February proved to be a very busy but very productive day. The highlight, masonically, was going to be the rededication of Lodge Unity No 1611 on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary but prior to that we were taken to the Sai Seva Primary School situated right in the centre of the slum area in Nairobi. As part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, the Brethren of Lodge Unity had built an additional classroom at the school which I was to have the honour of opening.

The School was founded in 1998 and currently has 150 pupils aged 4 – 15 and a total of eight teachers. The school operates Study Circles which allow students to discuss and understand the five human values of – Love, Truth, Peace, Non-violence and Right Conduct. We were all most impressed by the standards set by the children – whose motto is “Love all – Serve all”.

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*Top left – the Canteen at Sai Seva Primary  
Bottom left – inside the new classroom*

*Top right – the children at Assembly  
Bottom right – members of staff at Sai Seva*

At 17.00 we assembled at the Masonic Centre in Nairobi where I was to have the honour and privilege of Rededicating Lodge Unity. The District Grand Master, Bro Mike Craig assumed the role of Grand D of C and Brother Henry Cameron took on the role of Grand Chaplain – the two most onerous roles in the ceremony – but they both carried out their respective duties in a very capable, dignified and proficient manner much to the enjoyment of the Brethren who showed their appreciation in the traditional manner. We thereafter enjoyed a formal Harmony at which the normal Toasts were proposed and responded to in a first class manner.

On the final day in Kenya, I attended the District Grand Committee meeting in the morning while the remainder of the team went off to see the elephant sanctuary, become familiar with giraffes and tortoises.



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In the afternoon I facilitated a lively session based on the Province of Renfrewshire East Education Programme and in the evening we all attended the Eighth Biannual Communication of the District Grand Lodge of the Middle East very ably chaired by the District Grand Master, Brother Mike Craig. However, it would be totally remiss not to give a massive thanks to the District Grand Secretary, Brother Kalpesh Shah who ensured that the entire week ran like clockwork. His organisational skills know no bounds.

We arrived home to a cold and miserable Edinburgh after enjoying a very nice 25 – 30 degrees all week. The sincere thanks of the entire Deputation are extended to everyone in Malawi and Kenya for making our visit so rewarding, so enjoyable and so memorable.

*Ramsay McGhee*

## **Extract from the speech given by Modester Jere, Headmistress at Mountain View School:**

“On behalf of all learners, Sisters, my fellow teachers and indeed on my own behalf, I would like to welcome you to Mountain View School for Deaf Children.

We are happy that you are here because you are the ones who are sponsoring our carpentry project financially and materially. Therefore to see and observe the learners working is an encouragement to them as they feel that there are other people out there who love them most. The skills which they acquire will assist them in the future.

Your visit is an encouragement to the learners, the carpentry instructor, the teachers and parents. This is another big occasion for us to receive yet another donation of sports kits and medicines. We cannot take this for granted. This testifies how your organisation is committed towards the education of children with special educational needs in Malawi.

Once again, I say thanks to everybody for this wonderful time we have shared together. May God bless us all.”

## **The Race Night**

As a result of the situation prevailing at the school the team who visited the school approached the Provincial Grand Master to seek his permission to hold a Race Night.

Ross County FC very kindly agreed to give us the use of the magnificent Victoria Suite for the event and Billy Shanks and his team swung into action on the night at no cost to the Province.

The generosity of Brethren, family and friends both in and out with the Province has been absolutely stunning. The target we set was £2000 which would cover the student fees for two terms. As we go to print we are almost at £4000 – an incredible result and my heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone who supported the evening in any way whatsoever to enable such a fantastic result to ensue.

On behalf of the School I also extend my sincere thanks.

**Late News:** I have just received an email from Gordon Sheppard, Grand Superintendent in Malawi who reports that having received a report from his technical team things at the school are much worse than we first thought – basically, between flood damage and an inability through lack of resources in the past, the electrics, the plumbing and the water supply borehole are all in need of much work. Estimates are being sought as we go to press but hopefully the tremendous amount raised by this Province with some help from our neighbouring Province of Inverness and the Province of Fife and Kinross will ensure that the bulk of essential work will be completed.

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My thanks to Bro Kenneth Jack for the following – it epitomises what we are doing in Africa .....

"You are a Freemason, pray answer me why?

Because we attend to the lone orphans' cry!

Our Creed it is good, 'tis sound in its action, but found in the way of old crippled faction; our cordial Laws are with reverence drawn to bring forth our kindness at night and at morn; It ne'er slumbers nor sleeps, 'tis always awake, Like an Angel of Mercy for Charity's sake.

It knows no distinction of person or class, the world is its home, and the people en masse; neither colour nor caste, nor nation, nor land, is barred from belonging to this noble band.

You must be a man, recommended for good, before you can enter this famed brotherhood, of known moral habits, no flaw on your name, And he your proposer, must answer the same.

We ask not, nor seek, to proselyte any,

Although, it is true, our disciplines are many.

We question you not, 'bout your religion or creed, Be you Moslem, Christian, or Abramic seed; Be just, be true, and every inch of a man, Here is our foundation, our strength, and our plan.

We're known to be firm, to be loyal and just.

Without guile in our thoughts, our ambition, or lust; neither pride, nor display, nor venal desires, But evil to banish, our tenderness fires.

Undaunted we labour, life's troubles to brave, for our hallowed rites teach us others to save; from our garnered stores and household of treasures, we drive away want by our service of pleasures.

This mystic and noble and grand brotherhood, Whose Banner of Blue all abuse has withstood; For its high moral worth is founded on fact, By its holy lessons we're taught how to act, Such blessings we draw from the Fountain of Truth, With peace in our hearts, and mind buoyant as youth, In our temple of flight, free from toil, free from care, We think, and we work, sending aid here and there; Our labours are sweet, and the pathway we tread, To help those in distress with God's daily bread, Thus earnestly working, we do undertake, To be fervent in mind, for principle's sake, Then the Golden Rule is our watchword and law, It's behest we obey with reverent awe:

These are some of the reasons why Freemasons I love, for their generous deeds are blessed from above."

Bro. T. Burdett Yeoman.

January 19th 1875.

## SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST – November 1998

### The Festival of St John

As we approach that time of the year when we once again Install our new Masters and celebrate the Festival of St John, the thought occurred to me that many Brethren may be unaware of why we celebrate the Festival of St John.

St John the Evangelist is one of the Patron Saints of Freemasonry whose festival is traditionally celebrated on the 27<sup>th</sup> December. His constant admonition, in his Epistles, to the cultivation of brotherly love, and the mystical nature of his Apocalyptic visions, have been, perhaps, the principal reasons for the veneration paid to him by the Craft. All documentary evidence shows that the connection of the name of the Evangelist with the Masonic Order is to be dated long after the sixteenth century, before which time St John the Baptist was exclusively the Patron Saint of Freemasonry.

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## Royal Arch

The following photo was taken in the Iris Murdoch building at Stirling University. It was the occasion of the annual meeting of Grand Superintendents which was arranged to take place at the University so the Companions could hear from Professor June Andrews Professor Marshall who gave an excellent talk on dementia in general. Charge Nurse Paula Paton, who is a ward charge nurse in the accident and emergency department of Nine Wells hospital in Dundee, spoke of the training she had received from the dementia centre. The training is what the Supreme Grand Chapter is supporting for the 2015 celebrations.



This represented the handing over of a second cheque for £10,000 as part of the target for £100,000. The reason for handing it over in chunks is that Professor Andrews is already training staff to support those who have and care for dementia which means our donations are already helping people.

Douglas Philand.

### St Clement RAC No 244 –

The next meeting of St Clement will be on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

### ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.

After what we hope was a small hiatus because of the new rule about waiting a year after your 3<sup>rd</sup> before applying for membership of the RA we now have another application to be read and at the visitation this month we will be working an exaltation on a genuine candidate

We were pleased to be able to hand over a cheque for £200 to Provincial Grand RA Chapter for SGRA's dementia appeal.

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## PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

The remaining meetings this session are:

Hebrides RA on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm.

Hebrides Lodge & Council on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm.

AGM in Dingwall on Saturday 23 May at 1pm. This is to accommodate the companions from Stornoway who plan to get back home on the same day.

Can I take this opportunity to remind the chapters to forward any donations they have for SGRA's dementia appeal to PG Treasurer, W Ross so that we may be able to present this at the Supreme convocation in June.

### The Squaremen – Heilan' Shed No 6



The photograph shows Bri. James Williamson, IPWD of Heilan Shed No. 6 sharing a light refreshment with some of the office bearers at the annual installation meeting of the Shed in Inverness on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. The Installation of Bri. Colin Thomson and his Office Bearers for the ensuing year was carried out in a very competent manner by Bri. David Miller, a founder member of the Shed and presently the Grand Shed Director of Ceremonies.

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## **Guild Lodges**

**Highland Guild Lodge** will meet in the Masonic Hall, Alness on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**The Moray Firth Guild Lodge** will meet in the Masonic Temple, Rothes on 12<sup>th</sup> May

## **Rosicrucian College – Inverness**

The next meeting of the Inverness College will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015

## **PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES.**

Andrew Morrison DGP made his annual official visit to Stornoway on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April accompanied by the Peter Fosters (Sen & Jun) and the Fraser Macbeths (Sen & Jun). Here's a couple of pictures of them relaxing on Sunday morning with their host, Graham (Beef) McLellan, before catching the ferry home. They also had good time looking for and at the Masonic symbolism in the old Eye Church cemetery.



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## SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST

*Office-bearers of Lodge Allan Wilson No 851 in 1904 some 7 years after its inception while meeting in what is now Zimbabwe but what would then have been Southern Rhodesia.*