

PROVINCIAL PATTTER

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 100

AUGUST 2019

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The new Quarterly Newsletter
for the
Province of Ross & Cromarty

Worthy Brethren,

The reason behind the quarterly newsletter is quite simple - to provide a medium to keep Brethren throughout the Province up to date with events, information and snippets of news.

As the Provincial representative on the Board of Grand Stewards, I feel strongly that I should be keeping the Lodges in the Province up to date with the on-goings at the Grand Lodge Quarterly Communications. Unfortunately, due to the fact that I am currently resident in London from Monday to Friday, it is very difficult to visit the Lodges in the Province as often as I would like. I thought therefore, that if I produced a quarterly newsletter, it would provide me with a platform to communicate the happenings at Grand Lodge and also provide the Lodges with a similar platform to intimate any snippets of news such as inter Lodge visitations, dates of special meetings, births, deaths and marriages, short reports from Brethren who have perhaps visited Lodges outwith the Province, a wee word about Brethren who have moved, been promoted at work or whatever.

As this is the first newsletter, it will revolve round information that I have to hand but hopefully the next issue in February 1995 will be full of your news.

At the November meeting of Grand Lodge, there was a full agenda which was capably handled by the Most Worshipful Grand Master, the Lord Burton. However, for the third Quarterly Communication in a row, a number of Brethren were expelled from the Craft. The offences committed by these Brethren were all of a serious nature. The Grand Master commented that their respective expulsions served to remind each and every one of us that we must use the utmost caution when recommending anyone to membership of the Craft - a message which merits repetition at every opportunity.

Three weeks after the Quarterly Communication, Lord Burton was once again installed as Most Worshipful Grand Master. The Installation was carried out in a most diligent and dignified manner by his predecessor, Brother Brigadier Sir Gregor MacGregor of MacGregor who was complimented on his endeavour especially as he had suffered a recurrence of his recent illness earlier in the week.

There was a sad note during the Installation when it was intimated that Brother Captain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont was seriously ill and that the prognosis was not good at all. I'm sure our thoughts and best wishes go out to Brother Wolrige Gordon and his family at this unhappy time.

Front page of the first – two-page edition of the “Patter” 1994

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Editorial

Welcome to the Centenary Edition of the “Provincial Patter”.

Never did I think when I penned the first issue in November 1994 that 25 years later, I would still be compiling the “Provincial Patter”. It has certainly grown over the years to an average 25-page per issue compared with two pages first time round. That is down to a succession of Brethren who ensure that their Lodge is represented in the pages each quarter, very often the Lodge Secretaries and I thank them all for their contribution.

Over the years other individuals proved to be excellent contributors – the late Brothers Rev Gordon Holroyd, Roddy Cade, Sinclair Bruce, John Patience and Andrew Henderson. Others who have been regular contributors – Past PGM’s Morris Downie and Ian Fraser, Brother Robert Scott, Jim Tait and of course the PGM and PG Almoner both provide regular columns in the Patter along with members of other Orders which is greatly appreciated by all.

Another pleasing aspect of the Patter has been the fact that other Provinces and Districts have been so impressed by it that they have started their own local versions. Quite a compliment! At the end of the day, it’s all down to communication – as you will read later, the main message to come out of the Bahamas Conference was that better communication is required between Grand Lodge, the Provinces, Districts and Lodges and I would encourage every Lodge in the Scottish Constitution to take up the challenge and use whatever medium necessary to keep everyone informed of their activities, ideas and news.

Many thanks to you all for your support over the past 25 years -I greatly appreciate it.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



Between now and the November edition I will be attending the following –

10th Aug – Lodge St Conal 1193 Centenary – Kirkconnel, Dumfries.
11th Aug - Masonic Homes Fete – Edinburgh
15th Aug – Administration Committee
17th Aug – Provincial Installation – Aberdeenshire East
22nd Aug – History & Heritage Committee
29th Aug – Overseas Committee
31st Aug – Lodge St John 119 - 250th – Johnshaven

7th Sept – Lodge Ubique 1192 Centenary – Dundee
9th Sept – PM’s Dinner – Trades House, Glasgow
10th Sept – Lodge Meridian, Hamilton
10th Sept – Lodge Major Ness, Hamilton
12th Sept – Grand Committee – Edinburgh
14th Sept – Lodge Royal Braemar 1195 Centenary – Fintray
16th Sept – Lodge of Dunblane 9 – presentation.
21st Sept – PGM’s Meeting, Perth
23rd Sept – Lodge Canongate & Leith No 5 – Portobello
27th Sept – Amalgamation – Lodge Scotia & Lodge Trinity, Edinburgh
28th Sept – Celtic Lodge 291 – Installation – Edinburgh

Oct 5 – PGL of Glasgow Dinner
Oct 12th – Lodge St John 497 – 150th – Catrine
16th Oct – Supreme Council Dinner, Edinburgh
17th – 20th Oct - Lodge Wellington 1385 Antwerp / Lodge Allegiance 1465 Brussels and Grand Lodge of Belgium Communication
26th Oct – Lodge Charleston of Aboyne 281 – 200th Anniversary – Aboyne
31st Oct – Grand Lodge Communication

2nd Nov – Lodge Tollcross 1194 – Centenary – Glasgow

Ed

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Grand Master Masons Diary

Since the May edition of the Patter, I have been kept reasonably busy and have had the honour and pleasure of meeting many Brethren at home and abroad.

One of the most poignant moments I have had was on the day the last "Patter" was published. I was joined by Grand Secretary, the PGM and Depute PGM of Glasgow at the Synagogue in Giffnock for the Yom HaShoah event. This was a very moving remembrance of the 600,000 Jews who were exterminated by the Nazi's. Our presence as Freemasons was acknowledged by the Chairwoman who alluded to the fact that we too had suffered greatly at the hands of the Nazi regime. I was very impressed by the prominent role that young people played in the event and have since written to the Chairwoman thanking her and her committee for their kind invitation to participate in the evening.

The following Saturday was a trip down the A9 to Stoneyburn in West Lothian where I had the pleasure of presiding over the Centenary Celebrations of Lodge St John 1186. We had an excellent day during which the Brethren pulled out all the stops to ensure that it would be a Centenary to remember.

On the Sunday, it was back up the A9 for the Provincial Divine Service held this year in Lodge Rosehaugh. On the Monday night I had the pleasure of accompanying the PGM on his annual visit to Lodge Kyle where we witnessed an excellent degree and enjoyed the Kyle hospitality.



The following weekend, Brother Rev Dr Joseph J Morrow, CBE and I were the two guest speakers at a dinner hosted by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Fife and Kinross on Friday 10th May. We were both regally looked after and I think the Brethren enjoyed our input to the evening.

On the Saturday, I remained in Fife to carry out the Centenary Celebrations of Lodge Ballingry 1183. The Lodge was packed to capacity and we had an excellent day with the Fife Brethren.

It was then a flight to the Bahamas on Tuesday 14th May for the 3rd International Scottish Masonic Conference. There is a report on the conference on page 10

I arrived back in Scotland just in time to attend the AGM of the Province held in Lodge Seaforth, Fortrose before heading down the A9 once again to Barrhead to participate in a somewhat unique

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event – the dedication of a Cairn in memory of one of the Brethren of Lodge Union and Crown No 307. Apart from the weather playing up, it was a very moving and emotional day for many, and the Lodge was packed to capacity for the dedication ceremony.



On the Saturday, it was back to Fife – this time to Lodge St Margaret's Hope No 1184 to celebrate their centenary.



Centenary of Lodge St Margaret's Hope No 1184 in Rosyth, Fife

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The following Tuesday, I flew down to London with Grand Secretary to attend my first tri-partite meeting of the Home Grand Lodges. It was a very productive meeting and I learned much from the experience.



On Saturday 8th June, I had the honour and privilege to Install Brother Stephen John Humphries as Provincial Grand Master of Midlothian in the Masonic Temple in Portobello.

We all enjoyed a wonderful day of celebration giving thanks for the five-year commission of Brother Thomas Constable Smith and looking forward to the new commission carrying on the good work.

On Wednesday 12th June I met and took our guests for the Communication to dinner – Brother Jean Pierre Rollet, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Nationale de Française, his Grand Secretary and a representative from the Grand Lodge of Portugal.

On Thursday 13th June I presided over my second Grand Lodge Communication and was delighted to see a good representation from the Province of Ross and Cromarty. That evening I attended the Installation of Brother Bruce in Lodge Sir Robert Moray.

I seemed to be constantly on the A9, so I was delighted when on Saturday 15th June my journey to Dumfries was split and our Junior Grand Warden, Brother Alexander Moncrieff drove from Perth to Dumfries where I had the honour to Install Brother Robert Jess as PGM of Dumfriesshire.

The Administration Committee met on 20th June and I was pleased to attend as one of the Grand Lodge Trustees. Two days later, it was off to Glasgow to the Installation meeting of The Glasgow Star Lodge No 219 where the new Master, Brother William Hastie Gow, was going into the Chair for the second time – nothing too dramatic about that, it happens all the time – on this occasion, it was 50 years to the day from his first Installation – a remarkable achievement. That was the last engagement before heading off to the District Grand Lodge of the Far East and that report is on page 51

In between the meetings I have commissioned a couple of pilot projects which, if successful will greatly assist in securing the way forward when we eventually get the new streamlined Grand Committee up

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and running. First, I was acutely aware that we have an administration system that emanated from Grand Lodge which we expect Lodge Secretaries to populate and keep up to date yet, no one asked Lodge Secretaries what they wanted from the system or if it was fit for purpose from their perspective. I therefore asked Brother Jimmy Young, who has much experience in change management to organise a series of workshops in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness and Glasgow with both Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge Secretaries. Brethren, I am delighted to report that over 80 secretaries took advantage of the workshops and we have now received feed-back which we will work our way through and hopefully make necessary changes to the system which, at the end of the day, will benefit everyone involved in the process. My sincere thanks to all the Secretaries who participated and to Brother Young, who facilitated the exercise. Building on the success of this exercise, I will ask Grand Committee to give some thought as to how we can best continue to promote dialogue between Lodge and Provincial and District Secretaries at home and abroad.

Secondly, I am acutely aware that in order to portray the best possible image of Scottish Freemasonry, one of the areas we need to improve on is promotion, marketing and profiling. Three Brethren who have proven expertise in those fields have been asked to submit reports outlining the way forward as they perceive it to be. We have received two reports so far which Brother Tom Jessop's committee will study and report back. I am confident that we can make early progress in this area.

Thirdly, I am arranging that a presentation will be given to the PGM's conference in September and hopefully to our DGM's by video conference regarding a potential survey on age profiles across the Scottish Constitution to assess how we can best adapt our recruitment and retention strategies to take account of different age groups. This is an exciting piece of work that could greatly assist us in identifying target groups, how to convince them that Freemasonry can only make the world a better place and therefore – come and join us.

As I mentioned in the May edition, I have been in residence in Grand Lodge every Thursday which has proved to be most beneficial with a reasonably steady stream of visitors each week. I am keen to have it known that there is an open door invite to anyone who may wish to see me about any issue or if they just want to pop in and say hello. However, there will be Thursday's when I'll be elsewhere – so please phone and check first.



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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Brethren,

Congratulations to Ramsay on the 100th edition of the Patter, a great service to freemasonry, lots of information to keep us up to date with what's going on.

Things are quiet in the Province now not much to report because the lodges are in recess. However, I was at Grand Lodge on the 13th June along with Depute PGM Raymond MacKeddie and Provincial Grand Almoner David MacMaster. I attended Grand Committee and then the Communication meeting. There was a good attendance at both meetings conducted by the GMM who is a very busy person attending to Masonic duties for Grand Lodge at home and abroad.

The Provincial visits have been very well attended by office bearers and visitors including the Lodge of Sorrow, the visit to the Hebrides and to Lodge Allan Wilson. Thanks to everyone who attended, and a SPECIAL thank you to Provincial Grand Secretary Mike Turner and Provincial Grand Treasurer Roger Cundiff for the sterling work they both do checking the books and ledgers of the 12 lodges in the Province. Thanks for the support from the Past Provincial Masters – Morris Downie, Ian Fraser and Ramsay McGhee over the past three years and for kind advice given. Thanks to Depute Provincial Grand Master Raymond for his loyal service and for covering for me at meetings when I could not attend and leading Deputations; to Past Substitute Master, Jim Tait for his support and doing the installations over the past three years, to Provincial Grand Almoner David Mac Master for all the effort he puts into his office, a great comfort to families when needed.

It won't be long before the recess will be past and installations resume again; it's very heartening to see most lodges with candidates going through the degree's - remember Brethren to help these new Brethren along and support them along the way - they are our future in freemasonry. Could I encourage visiting lodges in the Province and inter working of degree's between lodges remembering the first step must be taken in the mother lodge of the candidate.

The outer world is becoming more aware of Freemasons activities, but more is needing to be done and the GMM would like all records of charity given to be recorded and forwarded to Grand Lodge with the returns each year. More lodges are opening their doors to the public and letting clubs use the buildings - this can only be a good thing and a service to the community.

Provincial office bearers keep an eye out for a new diary for 2019 -2020 From Mike shortly, our first communication is on Wed. 21st Aug at 8.pm. in Kyle. Grand Lodge communication is Thurs. 31st.Oct the rest to follow.

Fraternal greetings

Robin Cattanach.

Provincial Grand Master

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It is now just over three years since the present Provincial Grand Lodge team have been in office, with two more years to go. It doesn't seem like that much time has passed and working with the Lodges in Ross and Cromarty has been an absolute pleasure. The work of the Provincial Grand Lodge has been very much helped by the publishing of the Provincial Patter, allowing information to be circulated from all the lodges and from further afield. Ramsay must have a certain amount of pride in publishing this, the 100th edition of the Patter, and long may it continue.

The work of the Provincial Grand Lodge over the last three years has involved several revisions of lodge byelaws, advising on and facilitating certain procedural issues involving Grand Lodge, paying annual visitations to all the daughter lodges, and carrying on the fundraising efforts for the Mountain View School for Deaf Children. From a personal perspective, I cannot praise more highly the lodge secretaries and treasurers for their efforts in record keeping and maintaining financial control, both of which are so important for the wellbeing of a lodge.

Once more, a heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Ramsay for this the 100th edition of the Provincial Patter. I hope to be around for the 200th edition and look forward to all the editions in between.

Michael Scot Turner

Provincial Grand Secretary

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From the Provincial Almoner

Sadly, once again I have to start my report by recording the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of a number of our well loved and respected brethren.

Past Master Rory MacKenzie, Lodge Fingal, passed away in the County and Community Hospital, Invergordon after a long illness. Rory had first taken ill over five years ago and after major surgery and several chemotherapy treatments made a remarkable recovery and was virtually free of problems for three years before again being struck with ill health. This time he had more treatment but, sadly, without success. Rory will be forever remembered for his flawless delivery of ritual and the manner in which he conducted the annual installation ceremonies in his Mother Lodge. Rory had served for a five-year period as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. There was a large turnout of masonic brethren at his funeral service in Inverness Crematorium.

Past Master Victor Shepherd, Robertson's Lodge passed away in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Victor had been in poor health for several years and spent the last number of years in care. He had been a stalwart of his mother Lodge and was a Past Provincial Junior Grand Chaplain. There was also a huge turnout of masonic brethren at his funeral service at Contin Parish Church.

Brother Norman Brett and Brother Lawrence Waldie, both of Lodge Fingal also recently passed away. These brethren had not been in the best of health and did not attend the Lodge very much in recent years.

Last week Brother Dougie MacDougall, Lodge Fingal passed away last week. His funeral is due to take place on Tuesday 6th August. Prior to experiencing poor health over the last number of years Dougie had been very much a stalwart of Lodge Fingal. He had been a Past Substitute Master of the Lodge. As well as his masonic interests Dougie was a very keen member of the Royal British Legion and was a Standard Bearer of some repute. He was a keen historian and had on occasions delivered a lecture of the history of freemasonry in Dingwall.

Brother Bob Fullerton, Lodge Allan Wilson, who was also a Past Master of Lodge Old Inverness Kilwinning No. VI, recently passed away. Bob had been ill for a number of months. Bob, who had only been a member of Lodge Allan Wilson for a relatively short time was a regular attender at the Lodge and had been due to be installed as Inner Guard in June but sadly his health did not allow him to attend. Although not present myself at his funeral service I understand that there was a large attendance of masonic brethren.

All these brethren will be greatly missed in their respective Lodges and beyond. Visits have been made and cards sent to bereaved families, as appropriate, conveying the condolences of the Provincial Grand Master and brethren of the Province.

Past Master Angus, Lodge Ness, who had been in the County and Community Hospital, Invergordon, recently had a spell in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. However, last week he was returned to the hospital in Invergordon. He will remain there until a suitable care package can be arranged which will allow him to return to his home at Saltburn, Invergordon

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From the Provincial Almoner (cont.)

Past Master Bruce Ross, Lodge St. Duthus has also been in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness recently. He did have some treatment there but is currently at home awaiting further treatment.

Past Master Fraser MacKay, Lodge St. Duthus is still resident in the Innis Mhor Care Home, Tain. His condition remains unchanged.

Brother George MacIvor, Robertson's Lodge is still resident in Wyvis House Care Home, Dingwall along with his wife.

Past Master John Noble, Lodge Fingal is still resident in Redwoods Care Home in Alness. John's physical health is very good, but he does have difficulty remembering people and faces.

Past Provincial Grand Master Ian Fraser, although not too mobile, is getting out and about and attended the recent meetings of Lodge Allan Wilson.

Bro. Alex. Ross is keen to get an artificial leg but gets out and about using his mobility scooter.

Brethren have been visited at home and in hospital, where and when possible, and cards have been sent, as appropriate, conveying the good wishes of the Provincial Grand Master and brethren of the Province.

Should any brother require my assistance, or should any brother know of a brother who does, please get in touch with me.

David A. MacMaster, PM

Provincial Grand Almoner

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FEBRUARY 2002

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those timid souls who know neither victory or defeat."

- Theodore Roosevelt

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3rd International Scottish Masonic Conference.

When we left Fortrose at 05.00 on Tuesday 14th May, it was three degrees. When we arrived in Nassau some 19 hours later at 19.00 Bahamas time, an extra zero could be added to the temperature – it was 30 degrees.

And what a welcome we received from the Bahamian Brethren. The District Grand Master, Brother Joe Curry and the Chairman of the Conference Committee, Brother Charles Johnson were at the airport along with a large Deputation from the District to give us the warmest of Nassau welcomes.

After a good night's sleep, and an excellent breakfast, we set off on the first duty of the day – to meet the Governor General, the Most Hon. Her Excellency Dame Marguerite Pindling. She was a most gracious lady and it was a real pleasure to meet her. Her late husband and former Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Lynden Pindling was a Prince Hall Mason. Accompanying her was Past District Grand Master of Bahamas, Brother Idris Reid, who is her Special Assistant and Advisor.

After leaving the Governor General, we made our way to the Office of the Prime Minister where we were delighted to meet the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, the Hon. K. Peter Turnquest. He is a Past Substitute District Grand Master of the Bahamas and is an Honorary Grand Librarian of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.



We returned to the hotel early afternoon and spent a very relaxing couple of hours in the extensive grounds of the hotel before having a briefing meeting with Grand Secretary, the DGM and Brother Kalpesh Shah who was to be my acting Grand D of C throughout the conference.

During the remainder of the evening we spent a very pleasant time meeting with the delegates who were attending conference.

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On Thursday 16th May, after a plentiful breakfast, we headed for the enormous conference facility in the Atlantis Hotel ready for the Official Opening of conference. The District Grand Master, Brother Joseph R Curry, the Conference Chairman, Past DGM, Brother Charles Johnson, the Hon. Ellsworth Johnson MP, Minister of State for Legal Affairs in the Attorney General Office (and a member of the Irish Constitution) and I were ceremoniously paraded in to a magnificent room bedecked with the flags of all countries attending the Conference. Brother Rev Dr Godfrey Bethell led us in prayer after which young David Cox Jr, a primary school boy, accompanied by the Mystique Band, sang the National Anthem. After initial contributions from the DGM, the Chairman and the Minister of State, I had the pleasure of addressing conference before officially declaring it open.



During the opening ceremony we were well entertained by children from Gerald Cash School Drum assembly – their enthusiasm and energy was fantastic, and they produced some very entertaining music.

All 350 delegates and wives then assembled for a group photo after which the Ladies departed to enjoy their programme while I was whisked off for an interview with the local TV station. Thereafter, Conference started in earnest.

The first session chaired by Brother Tom Davidson involved Grand Secretary and I talking about Grand Lodge administrative and financial procedures and future policy direction and Brother James Jack talking about the Proxy Master system after which we indulged in a very active question and answer session.

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After an ample lunch we split up into three breakout sessions. I was with the DGM's and Past DGM's in what turned out to be an extremely lively session in which we discussed the proposed annual meeting with DGM's on the Wednesday prior to the Grand Lodge Installation, Overseas Regional Summits, Grand Lodge representatives in Foreign Jurisdictions and Honorary Grand Rank Appointments.

Meanwhile, Grand Secretary was with Group B where he was part of a panel discussing administrative and financial procedures.

Brother Tom Davidson was an observer in Group C where Lodge Management and preparation of Office-bearers was discussed. Brother Jim Jack was an observer in Group A.

The outcomes of all the discussions will be published in the post Conference wind up papers.

Thursday night was a very pleasant evening of dining and culture. It was supposed to be in the Botanic Gardens but due to the inclement weather (while it was warm, we never saw the sunshine – it was raining most of our time in the Bahamas) the function was held instead in the Commissioner's Hall at Police HQ in Nassau. The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the Bahamas National Youth Choir – their colourful, dynamic routines were brilliant. And so, came to an end another very successful day.



Friday was a very full but rewarding day with some excellent debate and equally wonderful presentations. Brother Errol Albergo, DGM of Jamaica highlighted wonderfully the need for greater family involvement in the Craft of the 21st Century. He was followed by Brother Rabih Nassar Jarmakani, DGM of Lebanon, who gave a very inspirational presentation pushing us all to be courageous in the field of technology. One of our younger Brethren, Mitchell Thurston from the Bahamas, (who was due to graduate from university at the end of the week) opened our eyes as to how we could encourage young men into Freemasonry. He was followed by Brother Pravin Sharma from

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Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, who further dissected the issues around young candidates and gave us food for thought not only on recruitment but also on retention.

Mike Craig, DGM of East Africa then took the stage and gave us a lot to think about in terms of maintaining standards. It was fitting that he was followed by a panel who debated the issue of Masonic Decorum, Etiquette and protocol. The panel comprised four very experienced Masons – Tee Yong Kang, DGM of the Middle East, Martin Thomas, DGM of the Far East, Frank McCully, DGM of Zambia and Brother Leslie Nichols from Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

After lunch, we welcomed another panel of Depute or Past Depute DGM's – Brothers Lindell Nurse, (Barbados), Lloyd Barnett (Jamaica), Charles Farquharson (Bahamas) and Seyi Roberts (Nigeria). They tackled the thorny issue of Money. It was concluded that while there's no easy answer, it is something that must be tackled head on.

Brother Jim Jack brought everyone up to date on the progress of the University scheme after which Brother Faizal Sharizad from the Middle East gave a very refreshing presentation, in his own inimitable style, on the tools and implements in the information age. Grand Lodge seriously needs to involve Brother Sharizad and Brother Jarmakani in our quest to take Scottish Freemasonry into the 21st century in terms of technology.

The final session was conducted by three Substitute DGM's – Anthony Bostwick (Bahamas), Emmanuel Taylor (Sierra Leone and the Gambia) and Mark Minott (Jamaica). They did a marvellous job encouraging everyone to embrace the excitement of Scottish Freemasonry and in the process, showing us how we can breathe new life into our beloved Craft.

After the closing session, the Conference Chairman, Brother Charles Johnson and the DGM Brother Joseph R Curry made their closing remarks after which I had the pleasure to do a final wrap-up, announce that the 2022 Conference will be jointly hosted by our District Grand Lodges of Zambia and Zimbabwe at Victoria Falls and formally close the Conference.

The moderators during the Conference were Brothers Idris Reid, Past DGM of the Bahamas, Brother Tom Davidson, Grand Lodge, Brother Joseph R Curry, DGM of the Bahamas, Brother Kalpesh Shah, East Africa, Arthur Chase, Past DGM of the Bahamas, Scott Bartlett, Newfoundland and Labrador, Brother Edgar Moxey, Past DGM of the Bahamas, Brother Trevor Campbell, DGM Barbados, Brother Rajin Bhagwat, DGM Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, and Brother Brian Alberga, SW Jamaica all of whom carried out their duties in a very professional manner.

On Friday evening, the Grand Lodge representatives along with the District Grand Masters and their wives enjoyed a private dinner hosted by the DGM, Brother Joseph R Curry and his charming wife,

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Terez. The event gave the opportunity, not only to enjoy a wonderful meal in the wonderful surrounds of the Sapodilla West Bay Restaurant, but it also allowed another networking event – a very important aspect of the entire Conference.

At 08.30 on Saturday morning, along with Grand Secretary and Brother Jim Jack, Chair of the Overseas Committee, I attended a meeting of District Grand Masters of the Caribbean. This was supposed to be an hour, but it extended to almost two hours during which we discussed a diverse range of issues ranging from Discipline Procedures to Proxy Masters. After the official meeting closed, I spent time with a keen group discussing the differences between the Scottish Constitution and other Constitutions and how easy it could be in the Districts for them to become Anglified in their ritual and their procedures. It was a very worthwhile session.

After a welcome coffee, it was into Regalia to attend the Regular Communication of the District Grand Lodge of the Bahamas. Brother Kalpesh Shah, District Grand Secretary of East Africa assumed the role of Grand D of C and did a splendid job. I had the honour of leading a Deputation of some eighteen Brethren into the Communication. Again, I was afforded the honour of addressing the Communication, and was delighted to have had the opportunity to so do.

When the Communication ended, we had a photo shoot with visiting Delegates, with the Commissioned Office-bearers of the Bahamas, with the Brethren of the District, but I think history was made when we managed to get a photo of the current DGM along with his five predecessors. (see next page)

We just had time to change, grab a quick bite of lunch before heading off to the site of the new Scottish Masonic Centre where I was afforded the honour of planting a tree to mark the occasion.

Saturday night was a formal night when we all attended the Masonic Ball in the Imperial Ballroom – a magnificent setting which had been used for the Conference, transformed into a Lodge Room for the Communication and transformed again for the Masonic Ball. The music for the evening was provided by the Band of the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

However, during the night we were also greatly entertained by a “Junkanoo Band” – their music and dress complimented the “Junkanoo Art” which was on display during the Conference.

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What then did we achieve during Conference? I think my overwhelming lesson was that our Brethren in the Districts are desperately keen for better communication – they want to be kept up to date with what is happening, they want to have greater involvement in the running of the Scottish Craft, they want to see better use of technology in achieving those aims, they want to be an integral part of the focus groups or committees in future and amply demonstrated how that could be achieved through technology.

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Grand Lodge needs to sit up and take cognisance of the issues that emanated from Conference – they are equally important across the Provinces as they are across the Districts. We are living in what is a very exciting time for Scottish Freemasonry, but that excitement will die a death if we don't grab the opportunities that exist for us to move our beloved Craft into the 21st Century.

W Ramsay McGhee
Grand Master Mason

BLAST FROM THE PAST - AUGUST 1997

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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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



During a quiz night we held, we were able to issue cheques to various charities/clubs in the local area. Holding the cheque in the main photo is Bro John Mackenzie, Master of Lodge St Duthus No. 82. The recipients were the British Heart Foundation, Mikey's Line, Youth Soccer, Guides, Scouts, Tain Youth Cafe, Tain Tennis Club and Malawi Appeal. The money for providing the cheques came from a charity night that was held in Tain town hall last October which was organised by SD Bro G. Ross.



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St Duthus cont.



The Malawi cheque being presented to the Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty Bro. Robin Cattanaach by the Master of Lodge St. Duthus No 82

In May and June, we have joined in at the Tain Community market in the rose garden where we set up a couple of tables. One had tin-can alley for the kids on it and the other home baking, tablet etc. The June one was a huge success where we raised £100. A big thank you to all who donated for the table. What was left over on the day was given to the British Legion for their stall the following day at the vintage car rally. The idea to be seen out in the community raising funds was a suggestion of PM D. Macrae.

Part of our building, the store area which has been damp and cold has been given a spring clean and the inner walls getting a new lease of life with timber framing, insulation and plasterboard. All this work has been carried by Bro. D. Johnstone our SD who is doing a fantastic job of it.

The new season will soon be upon us and we are fortunate to have EAs waiting for their next degrees and a couple of brethren going for their Mark degrees.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Lodges in the Province a successful year ahead.

John Mackenzie RWM

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

We're having a bit of a resurgence and it's great to say that we have had six initiates this year and at least one Lewis in that number who is showing a real interest, so here's hoping that that there is an interest out there for freemasonry.



Last night (2nd August) we had the annual visit from the brethren of Lodge Thistle in West Calder who worked a first class 3rd degree on Bro Chris Marrow, a wee bit different our 3rd. Here's the visitors with our Master and right in front our new master mason.

I paid a visit to Luskentyre yesterday where I met up with past master Donald John Mackay OBE and this is a wee picture of his neighbourhood:

Donnie Macleod
Donald Macleod PM



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Robertson's Lodge No 134



Greetings Brethren,

The members of Robertson's Lodge were saddened by the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Brother Victor Shepherd, twice P.M. of the Lodge. Sincere condolences were and are passed to Victor's Family; members of the Lodge attended the funeral and interment in Contin.

Bro. George MacIvor continues to be looked after in his nursing home. Brother Jim Tait P.M. continues with his achievements as Lodge Almoner, attending Lodge Meetings along with visiting other Lodges and other orders.

The Lodge is currently on recess for the Summer Period, however there was a brief business meeting and an enquiry meeting held recently for a new affiliate, a very well-known and respected local Brother. The members of Lodge Robertson 134 again wish to thank all the Brothers who have visited our Lodge from all directions and have hopes and expectations that when the Lodge Meetings restart in September 18th to hold a business meeting, they will be as well attended as before.

The year 2024 will be the year of the 250th Anniversary of Robertson's Lodge No. 134, we are hoping to reach out to all members of the Lodge, in all locations, for interest and assistance regarding the plans for the Rededication Ceremonies.

Fraternal regards to All.

Peter K. Ratcliffe.

Lodge Secretary.

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Lodge Fingal No 318

With the Lodge currently in summer recess there has been little activity taking place since the last edition of the Patter.



Colin said to go back further for the photo.



Colin did not tell them the seat was painted yesterday.

Saturday, 1st June 2019, members, friends and family associated with the Lodge had a day out to Plockton by train from Dingwall. Fourteen hardy souls made the trip this year. On arrival a small refreshment was had followed by a beautiful lunch within the Plockton Inn. After lunch all went for a leisurely walk about the village visiting the local shops and places of local interest. It was then time to head back to the railway station to catch the train back to Dingwall. A wee sing song being held on the train as it wined its way back to Dingwall. A good day being had by all.



Those having reason to visit the Lodge in the future will notice that the entrance has been tarred. This bit of excellent work being carried out by Brother Grant McNeill and his employees towards the end of June. This should prevent the stone chippings within the car park being projected onto the roadway. It also makes the entrance look a lot neater. Our thanks to Brother McNeill and his employees for a job well done.

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On behalf of all at Lodge Fingal I wish to extend my very sincere congratulations to the editor of the PATTERN on it reaching its 100th edition. Its invaluable content has become a MUST read to all local masons and those further afield. It now being as popular a read as the local P & J or the Ross-shire. Well done Sir.

It is with great regret that I must mention that the following Brethren of the Lodge have passed to the Grand Lodge above during this past few months. They are Brothers Andrew Henderson; Alfred Reid; Rory Mackenzie; Norman Brett; Lawrence Waldie and Dougie McDougall. All were valuable members of the Lodge and will be fondly remembered and sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to all their families at this sad time.



The next event to be held at the lodge is the B.B.Q. on Saturday, 24th August, Bar open 6 pm. Food supplied and prepared by Brother Sean Kennedy. And entertainment by the famous Mike Samms. Come and join us for a good scoff and night out. Mind and take the Wife.



Colin Mackintosh.
R.W.M.

October meeting: Tuesday 8th see`s us back.

Ballot for Bro Alex Craib to Affiliate.

Ballot for Mr Neil MacKenzie and Mr Graeme Reid for Initiation.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

D. Gunn PM
Secretary.

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LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851

Lodge Allan Wilson got off to an excellent start with a full house for the Installation of Brother Alan Baker. Fifty eight Brethren remained for lunch.

The July meeting saw guest speaker Bro Gordon Michie give an excellent presentation on the work of Poppy Scotland and the link with Scottish Freemasonry. His talk was very well received.

The August meeting will be the second presentation of the year when I'll repeat the presentation I did in Kuala Lumpur – "The Saintly Lodges of Scotland"

I'm aware that he wants no trumpet blowing but our latest affiliate, David Kinloch, has very generously, along with colleagues sent a substantial number of learning toys and books out to the Mountain View School – Lodge Allan Wilson and the Province I'm sure will be delighted with the response from the school –

"I would like to thank you very much for the tremendous support you have rendered to this school. The teaching and learning resources you donated to this school, will help our learners in the following:

- 1. Develop fluency, comprehension and vocabulary skills in English*
- 2. Develop reading such as connecting letters to sound, combining letters into words and reading with fluency.*
- 3. Recognise likeness and unlikeness of letters because this is a good opportunity to introduce writing exercises for hand to eye coordination.*
- 4. Develop letters, syllables and word recognition.*
- 5. Learners are also able to read words accurately.*
- 6. Read the text at a reasonable speed which allows their listeners to follow when reading aloud.*
- 7. They understand more of what they are reading and be able to communicate effectively when reading aloud. In addition to that, other materials received will be used during assessment for instance, matching letters, sorting cards.*

Once again, thank you very much. Continue to support the school.

Yours,

Head teacher, Modester Jere.

What an achievement – for those who haven't been privileged to visit the school, this represents a significant step forward.

Editor

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LODGE SEAFORTH 854

On the 1st June, a delegation of 14 members from Lodge Seaforth went to John O'Groats to re-establish the relationship between both lodges' that had been diluted slightly over the last few years. This delegation worked a FC Degree on our very own Bro Lumsden. The journey for the brethren started at 0800 hrs for some i.e. the drivers of the minibus (RWM Law and Bro Fraser). On arrival at the lodge the brethren were met with open arms and a handshake. The RWM from John O'Groats, was awaiting our arrival and laid on a nice selection of sandwiches which were devoured by all after the long journey north. The degree was worked with Accuracy, Brevity and Clarity (A, B, C) and the members from Lodge John O'Groats thanked us for a well worked degree. After the meeting all members of Lodge Seaforth were invited to stay for dinner and some harmony. The Brethren accepted this invitation and made the most of the whisky that was on offer, "needless to say" the journey home have quite a few toilet breaks. At 2100 hrs we started our bus ride home, after an hour the bus broke down and we had to drive south in 3rd gear with the hazards on. For the Brothers of Lodge Seaforth, it was frustrating as they didn't make it home until 0300 hrs in the morning of the 2nd Jun. Because of the re-established ties and an excellent day, we hope that Lodge John O'Groats will accept or warm invitation to join us next year at Fortrose.



Brother James John Fraser

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LODGE AVERON 866

First, may all at Lodge Averon No 866 congratulate the patter on its 100th edition! And a very well done indeed to GM Ramsay McGhee for keeping it there.

Lodge Averon is still in summer recess, however we still seem to be very busy! On the 15th of June we hosted a comedy night organised in the main by Bro Gary Miller and his wife Kim with help from the brethren of Lodge Averon on behalf Inverness based charity Mikey's line. This is a support service via phone and text offering a vital lifeline to people with mental illness or feeling of self-harm. They also offer face to face support at their Hive project drop in centre based in Inverness. We raised £1600 for the charity and £250 towards our new Lodge Averon Alness Community Charity fund.

Five local Inverness stand-up comedians Gary Aye, Mike Hendry, Renald Fettes, Jenny Johnstone and Zander McNally, offered their service for free to what was an excellent night enjoyed by all who attended and totally different to anything we have put on before very funny indeed and there was something for everyone of the 60 odd members of the audience.



Above – the Comedians

Right – the Cheque presentation

We transformed the East into a stage for the evening thanks to Bro Keith Bauer for providing backdrop and stage lighting. Bro Miller also drummed up a lot of support from local and national business alike, including Rangers, Celtic and Ross County football clubs, Global service, Grant of Dalvey just to name but few.

We then invited Mikey's Line Founder Roy Williamson and The Hive project outreach worker Donna Smith to lodge Averon and members of Lodge Averon benevolent and charity sub-committee presented a bumper cheque.



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We also managed once again to raise the profile of Lodge Averon in the local press with articles in the Ross-Shire Journal and local Alness and District Times due in the Aug edition.

This was a very well organised event by Bro Miller especially given that he is relatively new to masonry. So much so I felt that some sort of recognition was due here for both himself and his wife for all the efforts made. I presented Bro Miller with a small token and reminder of the event of a masonic extendable drinking cup and his wife Kim with some flowers.



Having said that this does not take away the efforts extended by all the brothers who helped and supported this event. It is a testament to what can be done working together.

Going forward apart from some Lodge maintenance planned in the coming weeks, members of Lodge Averon are having a well-earned rest until September 14th when Lodge Averon are hosting an event in support of Lodge Ness, who are organising a musical extravaganza. Going forward into the new season we resume business on Thursday Oct 10th. We are also hosting a visitation from Lodge Hozier on Sat 26th Oct which will be a first for Mr David Gray. More details will be sent out in the usual manner in due course.

I would also like to add, if I may, the summer recess at Lodge Averon does not mean we stop! There are still things to be done in the general upkeep and running of the lodge which we all tend to forget about. "Others do that" and "It just happens" are comments I have heard when enquiring as a new RWM. Well no, it means effort by individuals and I would like to mention and extend my sincere thanks to some of those. To PM Charlie Carrison our Treasurer who's support and efforts I find invaluable in sorting out all manner of tasks in and around the Lodge as well as the seamlessly endless and unseen tasks of Lodge administration. Also, to the brothers that make the effort over and above to get stuck in with things like helping at events, grass cutting, cleaning, fixing, improving, covering administrative stuff in absence of a lodge secretary and generally make themselves available. Bro H McCartney, Bro D Gray, PM F McBeth, Bro L Sinclair, Bro J McDougal and Bro J MacRae, PM I Duxbury, Bro D Pike, Bro A Gulik to name a few. Thank you, you have gone that extra mile. The support given over this summer recess is greatly appreciated.

D J Mathieson

RWM

Lodge Ness No 888

The next meeting of the Lodge will be on Tuesday 8th October 2019.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM THE 1ST EDITION

I was delighted to meet up with Brother Ian Fraser's son Neil, a MM of Lodge Seaforth when I visited Lodge St Barchan last month. Neil is now working in Renfrewshire and has affiliated to Lodge St Barchan where he is progressing well and has been given a Junior Office.

When Neil was initiated into Lodge Seaforth, he was one of two candidates, the other being my own son Iain. Iain has also moved from the area and is regularly attending Hauley Lodge No 797 in Dartmouth. It's good to see the young Brethren keeping up their Masonic careers although they have had to move from the Province.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - AUGUST 2004 - The following is a poem written by the well-known poet, Robert Service. I am indebted to Bro Robert Scott for passing the poem on.

I Believe

It's my belief that every man
Should do his share of work,
And in our economic plan
No citizen should shirk.
That in return each one should get
His meed of fold and food,
And feel that all his toil and sweat
Is for the common good.

3. It's my belief that people should
Be neither rich nor poor;
That none should suffer servitude,
And all should be secure.
That wealth is loot, and rank is rot,
And foul is class and clan;
That to succeed a man may not
Exploit his brother man.

2. It's my belief that every chap
Should have an equal start'
And there should be no handicap
To hinder his depart;
That there be fairness in the fight,
And justice in the race,
And every lad should have the right
To win his proper place

4. It's my belief that heritage
And usury are wrong;
That each should win a worthy wage
And sing an honest song ...
Not one like this – for though I rue
The wrong of life, I flout it.
Alas! I'm not prepared to do
A goddam thing about it.

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

First, congratulations to Brother Ramsay McGhee for achieving 100 issues of the Provincial Patter. Not only is it read throughout the Province and globally, but the contributions from such a variety of Brethren is inspiring and cohesive. The “Patter” has gone through a variety of transformations as it has kept up with the times, even in the relatively short time I have been in The Craft. We, as a Lodge hope that the “Patter” continues to provide us with regional and international contact at all levels of Freemasonry. Thank You Ramsay.

As most Brethren in the Province know, Lodge Kyle’s building is old and in need of constant repair. This is not solely due to its age, but also a particularly wet location. I am happy to report that continual upgrades have been made not just to the inside of the premises, but also on the outside which has improved the facility to a standard that it’s now a joy to attend meetings therein. It’s safe to say that every Brother in Lodge Kyle has played a part in this renovation which is very heartening. Even the front garden has been tamed; well, for the time being at least.

At our last meeting we were privileged to have a visitor from Germany, Brother René, who now lives in Vienna and is just taking his first steps in Freemasonry. He brought with him a little book to have signed or stamped by the Lodges he visited. Brother Ramsay, who was part of the Provincial Delegation that evening signed his wee book as GMM of Scotland, which I am sure resulted in some interesting comments and questions when René presented his book for inspection back home. (There were)

On Wednesday August 21st, 2019 we will be welcoming the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty to our Lodge as it is their Quarterly Communication. The Meeting will Tyle at 8pm and refreshments and snacks will be available. Suitable Brethren from any Lodge in the Province can attend and will be made welcome, especially Secretaries and Brethren who wish to represent their Lodges at a more regional level.

Our Next Meeting of Lodge Kyle Brethren will be on Monday 2nd September at 8pm. All Brethren are welcome!

For latest Meeting times and news go to the LODGE KYLE WEBSITE at www.lodgekyle.co.uk.

Ronnie Miller, PM
Secretary

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The following article from PM Ronnie Miller, Lodge Kyle, is very prevalent to us all

FREEMASONRY AND SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE 2020's

A man once wrote, "The times they are a-changin'"; they are indeed and always will be. But it is important to remember that it's not the times that are changing, but people and their actions that make changes in the world. It's also important to realise that we can be left behind if we do not take advantage of new technologies as they come along whilst not simply embracing new for the sake of new. We must apply Masonic principles, particularly those of the Senior Deacon and its jewel, the Mallet.

The issue at hand is Masonic Membership and maintaining it at a level that will keep our Lodges open and financially viable. This means recruiting new and possibly younger members. Here then are some notes I have made over the years in less than perfect order to help see the benefit of Social Media and the pitfalls that can occur if we are not careful and establish "rules".

There are many avenues open to us such as work, family and recreation; all warm contacts, i.e. we know the people we approach, but there are also cold contacts, eligible persons whom we do not know but can be reached through Social media and the Internet in general. I highlight the fact we DO NOT KNOW these men because if we are going to recruit good and true Brethren, then we must be selective and build in a process with achievable high standards.

There is a temptation to consider Social Media as something new, and it is, but the principles when operating Social Media are not all new. In fact, clues to good operating procedures are already embedded in Freemasonry.

So, what is Social Media and how can Freemasonry safely and effectively leverage it?

It's probably best to list websites which we can use to broadcast the Masonic Message and discuss Masonic Topics: -

- 1) **Facebook** - speedy and two directional. Facebook will inform you if someone "posts" a message or a topic that interests you is available for viewing.
- 2) **Twitter** - Concise messaging or short "tweets"
- 3) **Instagram** - visual messaging
- 4) **WhatsApp** - cheap communication / with Social media aspects
- 5) **Reddit** - "traditional" discussion group

In this article we will look only at Facebook as its FREE, easy to use and currently the most popular Social Media App (application) in the "West", however it's important to realise Facebook is not the only SM network and that sometimes other ones like Twitter are more valuable due to their brevity or speed of operation. We also need to consider that our Asian Brethren use popular systems hardly used at all in the "West", e.g. WeChat (like Facebook) and Weibo (like Twitter)

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

When creating Social Media Content, the advantage Freemasonry has over single individuals is that we have a membership. Also, this membership whilst singularly male, is varied in outlook and skills. This makes for interesting content in the required quantity. It is important to recognise that when "posting"

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one's ideas, we 100% represent The Craft, and as such content should be wholesome and adhere to Masonic principles of "no Religion and Politics". We must also remember the purpose of our Social Media effort and focus on content that would be attractive to potential members. Note here that this presupposes that the Social Media Group or Pages are OPEN and not LOCKED to members only. In this way everyone can see the positive work Masons do, and hopefully be inspired.

What is Viral Content? This is simply leveraging the Facebook "like and share" feature. It works like this: - When a post is created you as the reader can choose to LIKE it or SHARE it with "friends". The more "friends" you have on Facebook, the more people that will see the same post you liked or shared. They in turn may also choose to LIKE and SHARE and so the number of views rise exponentially, assuming the content is interesting or fun. From this we glean the necessity of LIKING and SHARING to stimulate growth. You should also be explicit and write things like "Please like and share this post if you like it" etc. While it seems crass, it works and reminds Brethren and others to comment and post; which gives you feedback on Your content or Their interest.

PICTURES

If you are using pictures your images should be 500 pixels across the top to 1600 pixels along the top. The rule is that all pics will be re-scaled to 500 (approx.) along the top and only when they are clicked will the scale up to their original size.

Please do not use terrible pictures, pictures of children unless you have express permission to do so and any pictures that have "signs" in in them (or rude gestures). Similarly, if using video; no signs or forbidden words or swearing. Please be aware that Facebook (FB) is GLOBAL, so signs that are rude in one country may be perfectly acceptable in another. Also, NO "biased" religion or Political content. The picture at the top of your Fan Page (Cover Photo) should be 820 x 360 or it will be fuzzy-blurry or take a long time to load on mobile devices (phones ad tablets). NOTE that Facebook imposes a margin left and right of 90 pixels so don't put important stuff left / right in the first 90 pixels. Slow load times are crucial if you use a video! Try to avoid video "headers" at the very top of the FB page.

Here is a RECENT, 2019 link to the header image in lots of detail.
<https://louisem.com/120414/facebook-image-dimensions>

PROFESSIONAL HELP & ADVICE

It's important to make this FUN! It shouldn't be a chore. While Facebook is easy to use, setting up a "fan page" or "business page" (same thing) you should find expert advice or read Facebook's own help sections. The one piece of information you need is that a Fan Page can only be created if you are already a member of Facebook. To be clear you are not permitted to set up a fan page if you don't have an existing account. There are many, many videos on you tube and articles via Google. Just search for "How to Set up a fan page in Facebook." Here is the link in Facebook itself.
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/creation/>

Next just click the button which says, "create page" and follow the links and buttons for creating a page for clubs and Community things (as opposed to "for Businesses")

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PERSONAL, REGIONAL OR GLOBAL.

Next you need to consider "Scope", i.e. is your page at Lodge, Provincial or Grand Lodge. You should probably start with creating a "page" (actually it's more like a whole website) for your local Lodge. Or ... if you are the Provincial Grand Secretary, you may consider a page for the Province if appropriate. Here is where the difficulties arise. You will need when considering scope, if ANYONE can comment or just members of the Group. My suggestion is that with a local Lodge, everyone can comment, even people who are NOT in the Craft. After all the purpose of this article is to reach potential new members without harassment. Provincial sites are a more complex issue. After all, you wouldn't put an EA straight into Provincial. I would suggest a closed group for this situation, where the target is MMs in Daughter Lodges.

Grand Lodge? Perhaps an informational style page. i.e. a page where only The Grand Secretary, Almoner and Master post, is all that is required.

EXAMPLES OF EXISTING OPEN SITES

Widows Sons have some very enjoyable pages. Just go to Facebook and search for Widows Sons and view the Masonic Sites therein. There are of course many more out with the scope of this article.

NEGATIVITY

People in general are good and smart. They may however have an idea of Freemasons that is somewhat negative. For example: - "They [Freemasons] are a secret society that control the world and only in it to enhance each other's wealth and status." It is our job to educate by example and openness so that what we are and do become self-evident. Note that Facebook can and will deal with extreme opinions and threatening posts, so to a certain extent we don't need to be drawn into battle with "trolls". It is my opinion that one should not engage with any negative posts, and simply continue with the good work. You can of course block people who habitually "troll".

COSTS

Nil? Yes, nothing but your own time and knowledge.

MOVING FORWARD

Let's ask the question: "What happens if we don't leverage the power of social media?"

The answer is that someone else will grab that audience, shape it, commanding their attention, leaving no space for Freemasonry or anything else. Large organisations are desperately looking to garner a younger audience and "influence" them for profit and control. By creating Masonic Facebook Pages, we are simply offering CHOICE and OPTIONS, we are not trying to force opinions on people; simply inform if they choose to seek out our message.

SOCIAL MEDIA HYGEINE

Technology is powerful, and as such must be handled with care. Be aware that when posting information about yourself you are filling up a dossier on your character and behaviour. I am not trying to put Brethren off posting anything at all, just "be aware" of what you are saying and about whom. For example, when referring to a colleague simply use their first name NOT the usual form of first and last

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names. I know Facebook will try to be helpful by supplying both and a link to their social account, but just "backspace" and keep typing. It is also common on ALL social Media Sites to post images. Just remember with a modern phone, the image will be very, very detailed, enough for someone to easily read that a "new" driver license or bus pass you just got. Surroundings too can provide nosey people with all your customer details or job contacts (remember that whiteboard in the background!)

SPECIAL OFFICE BEARER?

Implementing Social Media on just Facebook, Twitter and Instagram can be (initially) a lot of work, which may or may not be too much of a burden for the Lodge Secretary. Should a new post be created? Ask your secretary. If your secretary is of a certain age and not familiar with Blogs and Vlogging, it's probably too much work. Maybe a slightly younger Brother would be more suited to the task under the guidance of the aforementioned "old dog".

MOTIVATION & JOINING

99% of "candidates", join with little or the wrong knowledge of what Freemasonry is and how it directly benefits them as a human being. Freemasonry offers a decent way of living without the need for one specific religion, money or status. Most of all it isn't a Secret Organisation created to retain power or give unfair advantages to its members; quite the opposite. With that in mind, by creating a wee Facebook page for your Lodge you can gradually tell people what Masonic activities the Lodge are engaged in. E.g. how you gave money to local needy groups, highlighting local issues in which the Lodge assisted as a team, hold small events and "evenings" and report their successes. Like-minded people who want to be involved in such activities, will read this information on how best to help, and understand that there is a pre-existing infrastructure waiting for them in the form of Freemasonry.

Freemasonry also a relatively old and well documented organisation, so anyone interested in history and heritage will find themselves immediately at home in Freemasonry. We have a magnificent resource in the LIBRARY and ARCHIVE in the Edinburgh Grand Lodge is open to ANYONE by appointment; male, female, Christian, Islamic, atheist, mason and non-mason. This is something that generally comes as a surprise to those not in The Craft.

Fellowship is an underestimated feature of Freemasonry. There are few organisations where across the globe, you can walk into a meeting and be immediately accepted as a brother and equal.

AND FINALLY

In conclusion I would leave you, dear reader of long essays, a quote from my daughter, echoing one of the more mature top Social Media "stars" Casey Neistat... "Dad, no one watches TV or reads newspapers anymore. I watch Netflix and YouTube. I confer with friends on Facebook and Snapchat, I get my news from Reddit, and would prefer you don't call me on the "telephone app" unless in emergency.

Times certainly are - a - changin'.

AUTHOR: Ron is a Brother and Social Media Consultant and works on Social Media every day for a living. sales@calcouk.com

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

Our May meeting was the final one prior to our summer recess and we worked a 3rd degree for Bro Jordan Hossack. The Brethren were pleased the Lodge was selected to host the Annual PGL Lodge of Sorrow which was well attended. Our 100th anniversary will be held in May 2020 and we have already had a meeting to put the plans into action and get prepared for the event. We will keep all informed of how these are developing. Our point raised at Lodge of Sorrow was the organ was a bit goosed, so we are in the look-out for a reasonable second hand one if anyone knows of anything available. Things are fairly quite over the summer period and we will restart on 4th October 2019.

The Brethren were saddened to here of the passing of our oldest member Bro Neil Wilson PM passed away on 23rd May 2019 at the wonderful age of 98. Neil served in the Seaforth Highlanders in the famous 51st Highland Division who held back Rommel's Blitzkrieg force and when finally, on 12th June 1940 having run out of food and ammunition the division finally surrendered to the German force. Although wounded Neil was patched up by the Germans and sent to the POWs camp at Poznan in Poland having survived the death march to Germany and forced labour where many of his fellow servicemen perished. Neil survived the war and returned settle in Avoch getting married and having a family. It was in March 1946 that Neil joined Lodge Rosehaugh making his way through the ranks and served as RWM from 1951/53. A good attendance at the funeral service on the 31st May 2019 at the Church of Scotland Avoch. Condolences to the family at this time from all the brethren.

Keith Patience, PM - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FEBRUARY 2004

The Brethren of the Lodge were both surprised and delighted when, at the conclusion of the Installation Ceremony on 19th December, PM Bro Sandy Logie was escorted onto the floor of the Lodge and invested with the Jewel of Honorary Grand Bible-bearer - an accolade richly deserved by one of the Lodge's best loved Past Masters. Bro Sandy was visibly moved when the PGM, Bro Ian Fraser made the announcement and carried out the presentation. For once in his life Sandy was rendered speechless. Congratulations are extended to Bro Logie from across the Province on attaining this richly deserved award.

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Lodge St Martin 1217

The RWM, Office-bearers and Brethren would like to congratulate Bro. Ramsay on the 100th edition of "The Provincial Patter". It is a terrific newsletter spreading the news of Freemasonry to all parts of the globe.

The brethren of the lodge are busy with preparations for their Centenary Celebration next year (Note for the diary - Saturday 9th May 2020). Redecoration will be taking place shortly and the exterior is being worked on as this is being written. The letters for the Centenary will be sent out early in the new season and we are all looking forward to a great day of celebration in Ullapool.

The lodge resumes business on 15th October at 20.00Hrs when the lodge will hold the AGM and Election of Office-Bearers with the Installation of Office-bearers taking place on 19th November with the lodge tiling at 19.30hrs for normal business and visitors admitted at 20.00hrs for the Installation ceremony.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551

Reflecting its location and dependence on those Brethren travelling from the east of the Province, it is proposed that the schedule of the regular meetings of Lodge Loch Ewe N^o 1551 be amended.

At present the Lodge meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays from September to April, making a total of sixteen meetings. Inevitably, meetings are cancelled due to adverse weather and/or road conditions, particularly during the winter months.

It is therefore proposed that the number of meetings be reduced to six in total and that these are held on the 2nd Thursday in September, October, November and March, April, May. Not only will this assist travelling Brethren of the Lodge but also make it easier for visitors to attend.

It is hoped to be able to introduce these changes with effect from September of this year.

Michael Longley, PM

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BITS AND PIECES

My sincere thanks to Brother Robert Bruneau for the following article -

Charity

One of the virtues promoted by the Fraternity and by all the ancillary bodies of Masonry is Charity. It is considered, by some, to be the virtue by which the others are practiced. In order to explain charity, let us first define it.

Charity is understood to be the assistance of weakness, supply of wants and is extended for the desire of benefiting others and of pleasing God. Not every act of munificence should be dignified by the name of charity. If the motive for giving is the desire for esteem or the benefit in this life, it is not charity, but usury. Those who entertain the desire to increase their acquisitions and add one superfluity to another and receive nominal advantages and imaginary pleasures is not the practice of charity, but the act of self-promotion.

There are several ways in which charity can be extended. Unfortunately, the most common is the giving of alms or money to a charitable organization or someone or group which will, hopefully utilize the funds to lessen the burden of others. There are many other forms of charity on which we neglect to concentrate.

It is said that by the practice of charity man can lay up for himself treasures in heaven, where neither rust nor moth doth corrupt. Charity is also the alleviation of the sorrows of age, the pain of sickness and the agonies of death. This charity can only be performed by the giving of time, time to comfort the aged, time to relieve the pain of sickness, time to commensurate with the grieving widow and children.

The chief reason to practice charity is the shortness and uncertainty of life for we know not when the winds of fortune will cause a sudden rotation of affairs and the downfall of the affluent and it may be hoped that no man can avoid applying those conditions and experiences to himself.

Keeping in mind that the great advantage received from the practice of charity is the promotion of the virtue among those who may be blessed with abundance of either time and/or money while those things are in abundance. For we know not when fortune may shine on another.

The great rule of charity, by which we are directed to do to others whatever we would that they should do to us, may be extended to God himself: whatever we ask of God, we ought to be ready to bestow on our neighbour; if we pray to be forgiven, we must forgive those who have trespassed against us, and is it not reasonable that when we implore from God our daily bread, that we share our bread with the hungry?

Poverty produces ignorance; and ignorance facilitates temptation. How should man avoid the path of vice who was never directed to the way of virtue?

For this reason, charity that enlightens ignorance and relieves poverty and implants virtue is the charity by which those who would probably, without assistance be the burden of the community, can be more fruitful and glorify God by reasonable service.

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By the giving of charity we may lay up some treasures of happiness against that day which will come, make no mistake, the day of age, of sickness and of death, in which they shall be able to reflect with pleasure on part of their time passed in the giving of charity.

In closing let us remember that charity is an act of piety which can be practiced with such slight and transient attention as duty may allow. Remember now, more emphatically, the night comes in which no man can work; and therefore, do not say to him, "Go away now, and tomorrow I will give." Tomorrow? Tomorrow is uncertain, almost hopeless; today, to hear the voice of charity, make haste to do, because the last moment may be upon you.

They who have given food to the hungry, clothe to the naked and instruction to the ignorant, shall be numbered among the blessed of the Father.

My sincere thanks to Brother Kenneth Jack, PM of Lodge St Andrew, 814 in Pitlochry for the following poems -

MASONIC JEWELS – by Bro John George Gibson - (From *The Builder*, Anamosa, Iowa, April 1917)

Does the square that you wear mean the test by your God
Of the work that you do, and the word that you speak,
Of the will of your mind, the thought of your heart,
Of the past that is gone, of the Future you seek.

The Compass you wear, does it mean that you move
Within the true bound appointed and sure,
Restricted desire, pleasure defined,
A yielding of self to the bonds that endure.

The Triangle too- great emblem of Him
Who is Maker, and Master, Beginning and End, -
Do you wear it to show that He is to you?
The source and the Aim that all others transcend?

What means the gold trowel that hangs at your chain?
Does it tell of the mortar of Love that you spread?
Of the joint well cement with fine brotherly love?
Of the stones that now lie in the well-mortared bed.

If 'tis not so, then take the poor jewels away;
The meaningless bauble will only deceive
Yourself and the others you meet on your way
As meaningless lies which none ever believe.

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MY ASHLAR - by Bro. George H. Free

(From The Square & Compasses, New Orleans, USA, April, 1921)

O, Master Builder, here I bring
This Ashlar as my offering-
This block entrusted to my care-
O, try it by thy faultless square.
Prove Thou the stone which I have brought,
Judge thou the task my hands have wrought-
My hands unskilled! Ah, much I fear
Their work imperfect shall appear.

See Master, here were corners rough
Which marred the stone, so stubborn, tough,
They long withstood my gavel's blow;
What toil they cost Thou mayest know,
My zeal I own did often swoon
Ere from the ashlar they were hewn;
(Ah, vice and habit, conquered now,
With agony you wrung my brow).

Crushed by the load of guilt I bear,
O, Master, look on my despair,
For where was drawn Thy fair design
My plan appears in many a line.
Hot tears, alas, cannot efface
The flaws which speak of my disgrace;
Too late the mischief to undo,
My ashlar I submit to you.

O, Master, grant this boon to me;
Unworthy though my stone may be,
Cast it not utterly away,
But let it rest beside the way
Where its grave flaws may warning be
To him who follows after me,
If he thereby my faults may shun,
I'll feel some grain of worth I've won.

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GRENADA.



Brothers David Pringle and Morris M Downie, again travelled to Grenada, to attend the Installation meeting of Lodge Saint Andrew No. 1794, held within the St Andrew Room of the Radisson Hotel, Grand Anse Beach resort in Grenada, on Saturday 22nd June. The Installation of the new Master Bro. Kiran Lall, a Scotsman by birth, was conducted by the outgoing Master Bro. Dwight Horsford with the Office Bearers being obligated and addressed by the newly installed RWM. Both in a very able manner.

At the end of the meeting under AOCB a surprise ensued when Bro Tommy Elias, Secretary and Past Master of Lodge Tobago Kilwinning requested permission to make a presentation.

Tobago Kilwinning had celebrated their 50th Anniversary in January and Bro Issa Nicholas 33 Degree, (pictured) was unable to be present. Bro Elias gave a short history of his dedication and service to Freemasonry in general and to Lodge Tobago Kilwinning in particular. He is the only surviving Founder Member of the Lodge. The presentation culminated with an inscribed glass plaque being presented to Bro Nicholas to a very loud applause.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FEBRUARY 2004

Food for Thought

The man's no bigger than the way
He treats his fellow man
This standard has the measure been
Since time itself began

3. He's measured not by social rank
When character's the test
Nor by his earthly pomp or show
Displaying wealth possessed

These are his measures, ever near
To serve him when they can
or man's no bigger than the way
He treats his fellow man.

2. He's measured not by race or creed
High sounding though they be
Nor by the gold that's put aside
Nor by his sanctity

4. He's measured by his justice, right
His fairness at his play
His squareness in all dealings made
His honest upright way

When I read this poem, I ask myself
Could I measure up?
Could You?
That sure is food for thought

*Sinclair G Bruce*PM.

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FROM THE PROVINCIAL GRAND TREASURER

When I asked for a good response for contributions for this the 100th edition, I didn't expect to receive all that I have been delighted to receive. The following has been submitted by our Provincial Grand Treasurer, Brother Roger Cundiff whose wife's grandfather was Master of The Union Lodge No 127 (EC) in 1943. The Lodge is situated in the south east of England, in Margate, which is about as far away from our Province as is possible in the UK. It is interesting therefore to note the costs 227 years ago and to note some of the descriptions. Five Guineas for a Perfect Ashlar in 1794 – alteration in flannel draws 1/- (not sure if that should be drawers!) – but the St John's Day expenses in 1825 take a bit of beating.

A FEW INTERESTING EXTRACTS FROM THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS AS RECORDED IN THE EARLY MINUTE BOOKS OF THE LODGE

15th Aug. 1792	By R.W.M. Expenses Committee of Charity	3/6
26th Nov. 1792	Master's Expenses at Grand Lodge	3/6
21st Mar. 1793	Subscription to the Freemasons School	£1/1/0
18th Apr. 1793	Candles	9/-
17th July 1793	Expenses at Feast	£2/2/0
17th Oct. 1793	Hangings for Jewels	£3/3/0
16th Jan. 1794	Annual Subscription for Brother Pepperell's Daughter	£1/1/0
20th Feb. 1794	100 Printed Summons	3/6
17th July 1794	Coach for Furniture to Highbury	4/-
20th Nov. 1794	Master and Wardens attending Quarterly Communication	7/6
20th Nov. 1794	Sword	8/-
	Perfect Ashler	£5/5/0
21st Jan. 1795	Subscription to the Cumberland School	£1/1/0
19th Jan. 1797	A Set of Table Jewels	2/6
17th May 1798	Brother Drummond for four China Bowls	£4/4/0
15th Aug. 1799	Oath for Certificate and Register agreeable to Act of Parliament (See extract 18.3.1818)	2/-
4th Jan. 1802	Gave Tyler to deliver Summons	1/-
18th Feb. 1802	Wax Lights	11/3
	Expenses removing the Furniture of Lodge	£2/17/9
	Green Cloth to cover the Table	13/6
7th Apr. 1802	Brother Sharp for removing the chairs	7/-

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21st Apr. 1803	A Past Master Jewel	3/6
19th May 1803	Paid for a ticket for the Grand Feast for the R.W.M.	10/6
18th Feb. 1804	By Liquidation Fund (See Lodge Minute 15.3.1798)	£1/4/0
17th Dec. 1807	Apron	1/6
	2 Pots of Porter	1/-
17th Nov. 1809	Fireing	2/-
18th Mar. 1818	Relieving 2 Brs	12/-
6th May 1818	Br. Goody for repairing of key to a lock and assisting to put away furniture	2/6
21st Oct. 1818	Relieving two distressed Brothers by Brother Orpin during the close of the Lodge in the summer	6/-
11th Nov. 1818	For 2 Badges	5/-
21st Apr. 1819	A Pair of Compasses	1/6
5th Jan. 1820	Alteration in flannel draws	1/-
19th Apr. 1820	Tyler's expenses attending Provincial at Faversham	£1/18/6
20th Dec. 1820	Tyler for taking out letters for St. Johns Day	3/6
7th Feb. 1821	Repair step of Junior Warden's Chair	1/6
20th Mar. 1822	Dying Cushions and new binding to same	4/6
17th Apr. 1822	Warrant of Confirmation	£2/2/0
1st Jan. 1823	Tyler's expenses and dinner on St. Johns Day and broken glass etc.	8/6
2nd Apr. 1823	Bro. Castleden—his subscription to furniture	£1/1/0
10th Apr. 1823	Certificate for Bro. Neill	5/-
	Paid for parcel—Neill's Certificate	1/6
5th Nov. 1823	Superannuated Tyler Stokes	2/6
19th Nov. 1823	2nd Part of the Book of Constitution	£1/0/0
4th Feb. 1824	Christmas Box for taking out Notices	2/6
15th Dec. 1824	School Fund—Girls and Boys	£2/2/0

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19th Jan. 1825	Paid Bro. Knott's bill for regilding the ornaments of the Lodge	£1/6/0
6th Apr. 1825	Coach to Faversham (visit to Lodge of Harmony)	£2/14/6
20th Apr. 1825	2 Sets of wax lights	£1/6/0
2nd Nov. 1825	Funeral Bill—Late Brother Stokes (Tyler)	£8/6/0
27th Dec. 1825	St. Johns Day Expenses:— Bread & Cheese, Ale & Grog for Band Tobacco—Lodge Room Wine, Sec. & Grog, Tyler by order	12/- 2/- 8/6
1st Feb. 1826	Benevolence and Annual payments to Schools	£11/12/6
3rd May 1826	Widow Stokes	5/-
27th Dec. 1826	Paid for Medal for Bro. Orpin (Secretary) by order of the Lodge	£3/2/0
7th Feb. 1827	Bro. Cobb—Clerking for the address of Condolence to the Duke of Sussex	10/-
21st Mar. 1827	Expenses—Lodge of Instruction	3/6
3rd Oct. 1827	7 Distressed Brothers relieved during closed period of the Lodge	£1/4/0
27th Dec. 1827	Christmas Box to Ed. Orpin Junr. (for taking out summonses)	£1/0/0

Apart from the above type of expenditure there were, of course, items which occurred regularly, such as, the House Bill for refreshment consumed at each meeting, payments to Grand Lodge for annual dues, registration of members and certificates, and the expenses of the Secretary and Tyler.

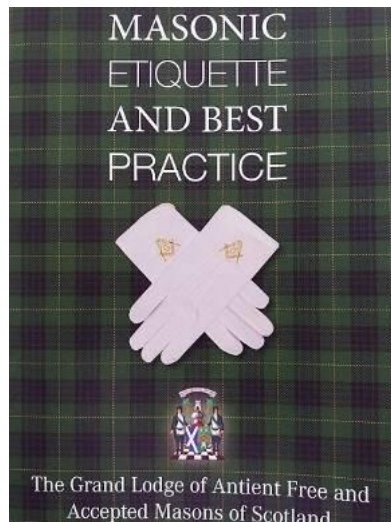
The income of the Lodge was derived from members' Quarterage dues (annual subscriptions paid quarterly), Making fees (initiation), and, at one period, fees paid by brethren for the privilege of visiting the Lodge. During the years from which the above extracts are taken there were frequent occasions when the Lodge was indebted to the Treasurer in so far as its funds were concerned, but, happily, this sad state of affairs did not long prevail.

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This new booklet from the Grand Lodge of Scotland will be helpful to all but especially to those making their way up through the offices towards the chair of their Lodge. The new publication is available from Grand Lodge and priced at a very reasonable £3.00 per copy, £1.00 of which is going to Masonic Charities. The booklet is the work of the Information and Communications Committee and is a very easy guide to Masonic Etiquette and Best Practice.

It covers the A to Z of decorum within the Lodges from the correct positioning of the Altar to correct forms of Address, to Visiting. The booklet also contains guidelines for the use of Masonic Websites, Email and Social Media. One copy is currently being sent to each Master, free of charge and thereafter, the booklet will be available to all to purchase.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM THE 1ST EDITION

The Grand Master Mason has seen fit to confer the Honorary Grand Rank of Marshall on Brother Malcolm Crockett, a Master Mason of Lodge Fortrose 108, Stornoway in acknowledgement of his tremendous contribution to Freemasonry. It is very pleasing to see such an honour coming to the Province and we send warmest congratulations to Brother Crockett on his just award.

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HEILAN SHED No 6



Heilan Shed No. 6 held its May meeting in The Logie Lounge of Lodge Fingal, Dingwall where a good number of Office Bearers and members of the Shed were in attendance. 3 candidates joined the Shed on the day and the reigning Master of Fingal No. 318 was presented with a cheque by the Worthy Deacon at the conclusion of the meeting for a children's Charity of the choosing of the Squaremen in Lodge Fingal No 318.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM THE THIRD EDITION

The PGM was in such a hurry to get into the Masonic Hall in Aultbea on the occasion of the Provincial visit, that he managed to lock his keys in the car. However, PM Colin Forbes, Lodge Loch Ewe came to the rescue with a nifty piece of breaking and entering thereby saving Brother Bisset the need to hitch hike back to Conon Bridge.

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Heilan Shed members who were supporting Bri John Baillie who is carrying out a 1,000,000 metre row (over 600 miles) on behalf of the Erskine Hospital, John is over halfway to his target and has been giving up his Saturdays to row at various Tesco supermarkets who are happily allowing the use of their premises - John is handing over a cheque for £200 from the Squaremen to Michael Parkes one of the Hospital fundraiser –

So far this session, which commenced in March, Heilan Shed has given £1300 to various Charities and have a few more Meeting to go before September

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Highland Guild Lodge

Left - Pictured at the Grand Sanhedrin meeting in their new roles (from left to right) John G MacKay – 3rd Grand Master, James A Tait – 1st Grand Master, Norman Carnegie – 3rd Grand Master

Below – Grand Sanhedrin and their Guests



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THE GRAND SANHEDRIN OF THE GUILD OF MASONS FOR SCOTLAND

The Grand Sanhedrin had its annual meeting in the Scoon and Perth Lodge, No. 3 in Perth on Saturday 15 June 2019. At 10 am prior to the main meeting a 7th degree was carried out when 5 Brethren of the Guild received the degree. Three of these Brethren were from our Highland Guild Lodge, in Alness. They were:

Br. Morris Downie, Ross and Cromarty,

Br. Tom Stirling, Ross and Cromarty,

Br. John Ingram MacKay, Inverness.

The other 2 Brethren were, Keith Moir, Glasgow and Auld West and Gary Smith, Perth.

Congratulations go to them all.

At 11 a.m. the Grand Sanhedrin meeting commenced. Regular business was carried out, but the main business of the day was the Installation of Office Bearers.

The ceremony resulted in the following being installed:

OFFICERS OF GRAND SANHEDRIN OF GUILD OF MASONRY SCOTLAND.

1 st Grand Master	James Tait	Highland Guild Lodge
2 nd Grand Master	Norman Carnegie	Lanarkshire Guild Lodge
3 rd Grand Master	John George MacKay	Highland Guild Lodge
Grand Chaplain	Fred Fraser	Highland Guild Lodge
Grand D of C	John Muir McAlpine	Glasgow and Auld West.
Asst. D of C	David Bannerman	Glasgow and Auld West
Grand Deacon	Ron Thomson	Perth
Grand 1 st Deacon	Alexander Brown	Perth
Grand 2 nd Deacon	George Stoddart	Glasgow and Auld West
Grand 3 rd Deacon	Ron Simpson	Aberdeen Guild Lodge

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Grand Kirkwarden (Treas.)	Ken Ward	Perth
Grand Scribe and Scrivener (Sec.)	James Williamson	Moray Firth Guild Lodge.
Grand Doorward Guard	Keir Brown	Lanarkshire
Grand Sentinel	Brian Dempster	Glasgow and Auld West

Grand Congress of Stewards – Colin Thomson (Highland Guild Lodge, R and C), David Thomson Mark Bruce and David Dingwall (Both Moray Firth Guild Lodge).

Congratulations go to all Brethren who were installed into office and a big thanks to all who agreed to take up these offices.

The meeting was honoured by visiting Brethren from the Worshipful Society of Operative Masons of the Guild of England. The Deputation was led by the 1st Grand Master, Most Worthy Br. Nigel Willows who was accompanied by 2nd G.M. Most Worthy Brother John Wickes, 3rd G.M. Most Worthy Br. George Haynes (From U.S.A.) Rt. Worthy Br. Jackie Matthews Dep. GMM and Sen. Past Master (U.S.A.) and Rt. Worthy Brother Paul Mycock, Grand Clerk.

Brethren this circulation goes far and wide, so if you are reading it thanks again for your company and I hope you all had a safe journey home.

Three of these Brethren were presented with honorary 7th Degree medals. They were Rt. Worthy Br. Jackie Matthews, and Most Worthy Brothers George Haynes and John Wickes, the other two having received them on a previous visit.

The day was a great success and I am sure Immediate Past Grand First Master, Ian Duff, breathed a sigh of relief at the end of it all, having carried out his duties in an exemplary manner over the past two years. A big thanks must also go to Past Grand 1st Master, Jim Pettigrew for standing into the vacant offices in the 7th Degree and during the installation and to James Williamson, Gr. Scribe and Scriviner and Ken Ward, Grand Kirkwarden, for all the hard work they put into the organisation that made the day possible.

It should be noted that Brother Derek Milne of Moray Firth Guild Lodge was due to take up the office of Grand 2nd Master, but due to ill health he had to stand down. Derek our thoughts are with you. Your presence was missed and here's to a speedy recovery.

The conclusion was an excellent meal provided by the catering staff of Lodge Scoon and Perth and a big thanks must go out to them from all.

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After a few speeches and light refreshments, it was a safe journey home for all, I hope.

Thanks to all who helped make the day a great success.

Jim Tait

Grand 1st Master of
Guild of Masonry for Scotland.

PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

Dates for Diary

Yours Fraternally

Alasdair Taylor
Provincial Grand Scribe E

Tain & Ross RAC 63

The next meeting of the Tain and Ross Chapter will be on Tuesday 8th October 2019

St Clement RAC 244

The next meeting of St Clement will be Friday 25th October

Cromarty Firth RAC 310

The next meeting of Cromarty Firth will be on Wednesday 2nd October

The Hebrides RAC 364.

The next meeting of Hebrides Chapter will be on 10th September

I attended the installation of Spencer Braithwaite as Grand Superintendent of Banff Moray and Nairn and here's a picture:

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PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

DGP Peter Foster and his deputation made his half yearly visit on Saturday 27th April. An esquire grade was worked that evening when John Norman Murray was admitted as an esquire.



Donnie Macleod

†† Donald Macleod KCT

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BLAST FROM THE PAST - MAY 2005

From Brother Roddy Cade, PM – May 2005

It was his dream to become a Mason,
Though he wasn't sure quite why.
So he made an application,
Then waited months for a reply.

3. Finally, a postcard in the mail,
Said – “come Monday night at six,
And bring the entry fee,
If you want to see our tricks.”

5. The degree was worked with care and skill,
No one could argue that.
But, the candidate was forgotten,
As they patted themselves on the back.

7. They scratched their heads and wondered,
As again they cried and moaned.
“Our time has all been wasted!
We should have stayed at home.”

9. Because you can only be a Mason,
When you're a Mason in your heart;
And along with his jacket seams,
They had burst his dream apart.

11. Answer all his questions,
Let him share your pride.
A Mason's work is honest work;
That's not a secret to hide.

13. Pick him up and take him home,
Isn't he worth the trip?
No candidate should come alone
Please, don't ignore this tip.

15. Now, armed with proper instruction,
Masonry's door will open wide,
Thanks to you, his best example,
Of what a Mason should be inside.

2. No committee came to pay a call,
To meet him or his wife,
No invitation to the Masonic Hall;
Nor offer of advice.

4. He made that solitary journey,
And entered by the door,
But not one hand was offered
As he slowly crossed the floor.

6. He came to Lodge just two more times,
And was raised to the third degree.
That was the last time they saw him
What could the trouble be?

8. It seems to me that they've missed the point,
But they need to understand,
It's not just how well you do the work,
It's how you treat the man.

10. So, if you get an application
Please call on that man at once.
Invite him and his family
To tour the hall and share some lunch.

12. And when its time to present him
With the gift of a degree,
Remember, genuine friendship is,
The true gift of masonry.

14. And remember your obligation,
As you lead him through the gate
It's up to you to guide him through –
Not to hurt or humiliate.

16. And – thank him sincerely for coming.
Invite him back to his new home.
For a Brother will not be a Brother
If he feels unwelcome and alone.

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Far East Tour - 2019

Thursday 27th June proved to be one of the better days in June and the sun was certainly shining as we made our way to Dalcross to catch the KLM flight to Amsterdam where we were to meet up with Grand Secretary and his wife Helen on the 11-hour flight to Hong Kong.

The flights were all uneventful and we arrived in Hong Kong on time at 10.30 am on Friday 28th June to be met by the District Grand Master, Brother Martin H Thomas who was accompanied by Brothers Christopher Wong and Raymond Teng.

We were taken direct to the Park Lane Hotel where we had a couple of hours to get ourselves organised before Brother Teng collected us to go to Zetland Hall for a rehearsal. The rehearsal was fine, and we left Zetland Hall and headed to the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club where we were joined by the ladies for a cocktail party followed by an informal dinner. It was a delightful evening in the company of many of the Hong Kong Brethren and their wives.

Saturday morning and the temperature was in the high thirties, but it was cloudy and showery when we left the hotel at 11.00 am to return to Zetland Hall.

We had another rehearsal before adjourning for a very welcome coffee and the opportunity to meet the Brethren who were arriving from Hong Kong, Korea, Malaysia, Japan and beyond representing, in the main, the Scottish, English and Irish Constitutions.

Brother Christopher Wong, District Grand Director of Ceremonies, well known to many Brethren in Scotland, had all arrangements well in hand for the Consecration Ceremony. He ensured that all was in place, and that everyone was aware of what they had to do.



The Consecration Ceremony of Lodge Trident No 1849 went well and I was indebted to the following Brethren who played pivotal roles in the ceremony – Brother Arjun Jhamatmal Hotwani, SW (photo); Brother John Leonard Morris, JW; Brother John Euan Edment, D of C and Brother Martin Howard Thomas, Chaplain. In addition, Jonathan Yip added greatly to the ceremony with his expert handling of the music while Brother David Armitage piped us out of Grand Lodge and into the Harmony. The spacious, well-appointed Lodge Room in Zetland Hall was full for the ceremony which was most gratifying.

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At the conclusion of the Consecration Ceremony, we adjourned for a coffee break before returning to the Lodge for the first Installation Ceremony of Lodge Trident which was carried out in exemplary fashion by the DGM, Brother Martin H Thomas. He and his team Installed Brother George Wing Chung Li into the Chair of the Lodge along with his experienced team of Office-bearers.

The entire afternoon appeared to be well appreciated by the many Brethren in attendance and their enthusiasm spilled over into the Consecration and Installation Banquet. We had a splendid meal followed by excellent speeches and a great opportunity to meet with the Brethren in attendance.

At the conclusion of the dinner, Grand Secretary and I were presented with very ornate sealing stamps in the fashion of our names translated into Cantonese. My name is pronounced as Mak Ka Hei in Cantonese and is illustrated by two Chinese characters which, when translated, mean “A beautiful dawn”. Grand Secretary’s name translates as active and something else – I prefer beautiful dawn!

The hospitality, kindness and friendliness of the Hong Kong Brethren was exceptional and likewise their ladies looked after Ann and Helen during the day and evening with great care and kindness.

Sunday dawned bright and very hot and humid. After breakfast, Ann and I went for a walk in Victoria Park while Grand Secretary and Helen went off to visit relatives in Hong Kong. All too soon it was time to leave. Brothers Raymond Teng and Henry Aun transported us to the airport for the next phase of our journey to Japan.

The flight to Tokyo Haneda Airport was fine albeit half an hour late but the problem that we faced when we reached Tokyo was that it was the last day of the G20 conference and security was heightened. It took over an hour to clear Immigration and then Customs. We were therefore delighted to see the Master of Lodge Star in the East No 640, Brother Lubor Jelinek and two of his Office-bearers, Brother Shin Nagatomo and Brother J-C Mayes all waiting to transport us from the Airport to the “Hotel New Grand” in Yokohama.



Meeting with Past Grand Master of Japan,

Brother Shinya Takeda.

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After a good night's sleep, we were ready to get started in the morning. We were taken to the Grand Lodge of Japan Masonic Centre where I was absolutely delighted to meet up with Past Grand Master of Japan, Brother Shinya Takeda. I first met Brother Takeda in Victoria, Australia a year and a half ago and found him to be a true gentleman and a first-class Freemason. He very graciously gave us a personal guided tour of their Grand Lodge building and offices. Very impressive indeed. We spent the entire morning in the centre before heading to a nearby restaurant for a traditional Japanese lunch which I can only describe as wonderful.

The ladies then went off on a sightseeing and shopping tour while Grand secretary and I headed back to the hotel to get changed for the meeting of Lodge Star in the East No 640.

We were very pleasantly surprised when we arrived at the Lodge-room. It is small but very well appointed as are the other facilities within the building.

I find it difficult to describe the warmth of the welcome we received in the Lodge. From what I was told, the last GMM to visit was Brother Brigadier Sir Gregor MacGregor of MacGregor so we are talking 1988 -93 – some 30 years ago. We were well and truly received by Brother Lubor Jelinek, his Office-bearers and Brethren and we were able to witness a first-class working of the FC Degree. The candidate, Brother Ken Sato will, I'm sure, remember his FC Degree for a long time to come. He was also first-class answering his test questions with clarity and confidence – he was a credit to his proposer and seconder. A truly memorable night all round.



Presentation of a beautiful plate representing Mount Fuji by the Master - Brother Lubor Jelinek

If the plate disappears from the GMM's Office in Edinburgh, there will be at least four suspects – the plate has been greatly admired by all who have seen it.

At the close of the meeting it was back to the hotel for a magnificent buffet followed by the usual obligatory speeches which were all proposed and responded to in an admirable fashion.

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Tuesday 2nd July and we were off first thing on the Shinkansen (the bullet train) to Kobe. Scotrail could learn a lot about time keeping and efficiency from the operators of Shinkansen!

The train was exactly on time on arrival at Kobe where we were met by the Master of Lodge Hiogo and Osako No 498, Brother Walter Raymond Palmer III. He escorted our party to the nearby hotel where we had time to get ourselves organised before heading to the Lodge in the grounds of the Kobe Club.



There, we witnessed an excellent rendition of the MM Degree – carried out with great dignity – during which Brother Riaz Hirahara was raised to the Master Mason Degree. Brother Hirahara is a young enthusiastic Mason. In business, he is the seventh generation to be running his family business dealing in eels. After the meeting we were joined by the ladies in the Kobe Club where we enjoyed excellent hospitality.

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Our two days in Japan were almost over – but what a two-days – we experienced nothing other than kindness and generosity from the Brethren of our two Lodges, both of which are proudly flying the flag of Scottish Freemasonry and doing so to the highest standard. It was a privilege and pleasure to meet with our Japanese Brethren.

At 05.30 on Wednesday morning we were driven to Kobe airport from where we flew back to Tokyo and then Tokyo to Ninoy Aquino Airport in Manilla in the Philippines. We arrived in Manilla just after lunch time and were met by old friend Brother Cameron Sloan, Brother Edwin Pineda, Master of our Lodge in the Philippines – Lodge Perla del Orient No 1034 – and Brother BK Tan and Brother Alfie Tan. We were driven into Manila and after time to get unpacked and changed we met with the Brethren for an informal dinner.

On Thursday 4th July, we assembled at 09.15, resplendent in our Barong Tagalogs to be transported to the Rizal Monument in Manila where I was to have the honour of laying a wreath in memory of Brother Dr Jose Rizal who was shot by firing squad on 30th December 1896. He was a Filipino nationalist and polymath during the tail end of the Spanish colonial period of the Philippines. An ophthalmologist by profession, Rizal became a writer and a key member of the Filipino Propaganda Movement which advocated political reforms for the colony under Spain.

He was executed by the Spanish colonial government for the crime of rebellion after the Philippine Revolution, inspired in part by his writings, broke out. Though he was not actively involved in its planning or conduct, he ultimately approved of its goals which eventually led to Philippine independence. He is widely considered one of the greatest heroes of the Philippines, especially by Freemasons.



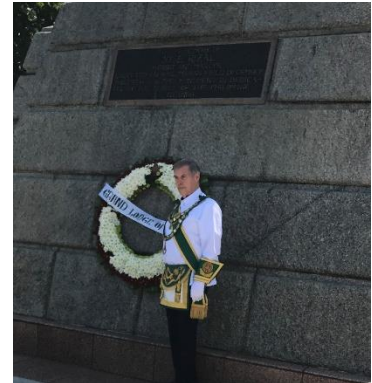
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It was a beautiful hot morning, temperatures in the 30's when we met up with the military commander for a briefing about the wreath laying. We were feeling the heat, but it must have been much worse for the one hundred plus Marines who were on parade along with the Philippine Navy Band.



The Ceremony was carried out with great military precision and in a most dignified manner. Many bystanders stopped to watch and many more stopped with a start when the twenty-one-gun salute was fired. We were indebted to Major General Andres Centino for his assistance in organising the military contingents.



The Master of Lodge Perla del Oriente, Brother Edwin Pineda and I with the DGM of the Far East, Brother Martin Thomas at the centre rear of the photo and members of the Lodge at the Rizal Memorial after the wreath laying ceremony.

At the conclusion of the ceremony I had the opportunity to thank the Marine Guard of Honour personally for their participation. There is a constant military presence at the Memorial.

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After leaving the Memorial, we walked round Paco Park where we viewed the Rizal Tomb, the exact place where Dr Jose Rizal was secretly buried after his execution. The remains of Rizal, after exhumation on August 17, 1898, were kept in the Rizal family house in Binondo until they were brought to their final resting place in Luneta. On December 30, 1912, a solemn ceremony was held to finally bury the remains in the base of the monument dedicated in memory of Rizal.

The Rizal Tomb where he was secretly buried after his execution



While in the Paco Park we also saw the Gomburza Tomb, the burial site of three Filipino martyr priests, namely Fathers Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos and Jacinto Zamora, collectively known as the Gomburza who were executed by garrotte on 17th February 1872 on charges of subversion. Their execution had a profound effect on Rizal.

The morning events finished with a visit to the magnificent Roman Catholic Manila Cathedral.

In the afternoon, we paid a courtesy visit to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines where we were greeted by the Depute Grand Master Brother Rolan Paulino. We spent a very enjoyable hour or so in their company before heading back to the hotel to get changed for the formal Banquet organised by the Brethren of Lodge Perla del Oriente No 1034 in honour of the Grand Lodge Deputation.

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At the Banquet with the Depute Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, Brother Rolan Paulino.

The Banquet was held in the beautiful surrounds of the Illustrado Restaurant. We were joined by Brother Rolan Paulino and enjoyed a splendid meal followed by well-presented Toasts and Responses.

Receiving my custom built Jeepney from The Master of Lodge Perla del Oriente, Brother Edwin Pineda



Some readers may remember Typhoon Haiyan, the strongest recorded tropical storm which devastated the Visayas Region of the Philippines. The Grand Lodge of Scotland responded immediately to the International Relief operation but were desirous of extending a more tangible and continuing assistance to the victims. Two of our Brethren in Lodge Perla del Oriente, Cameron Sloan and Benito Tan were charged to find a suitable project that the Grand Lodge of Scotland could assist with. The result was a joint operation with the Tzu Chi Buddhist Charity Foundation to build a multi-purpose building in Ormoc that would house clinics, welfare facilities, community facilities and a Police Station. The project has been an outstanding success and is now fully operational.

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*With Brother Alfredo T Li, Doctors and GL
Deputation in the Tzu Chi Great Love
Campus in Manila*

It was agreed that while in the Philippines, I should meet with representatives of the Tzu Chi Foundation. That being the case, the Deputation travelled to the Tzu Chi Great Love Campus in Manila on Friday 5th July to meet up with Brother Alfredo T Li whom I met at the Banquet the previous evening. We spent a very interesting and educational morning at the Campus which houses the Ophthalmic Unit where they provide free eye treatment to those who cannot afford it. They have state of the art clinics and operating theatres where specialist Doctors and staff give of their time freely to assist those requiring treatment. At the end of the tour, we were treated to a beautiful vegetarian lunch.

Given the success of our joint venture with Tzu Chi Foundation, I am sure that we can work with them again in the future.

During the afternoon we spent a very interesting and entertaining time visiting the National Museum of the Philippines courtesy of Brother Giovanni Bautista who is a cultural properties officer with the National Museum. Our time in the Philippines concluded with an informal dinner in the evening. We were indebted to Brothers Cameron Sloan and Edwin Pineda for making all the arrangements for what I can only describe as a memorable visit to our Lodge Perla del Oriente and all the activities that were so expertly arranged for us.

Saturday 6th July was memorable for various reasons – the first being that we had to leave our hotel in Manila at 04.00 to travel to the airport to get an early flight to Kuala Lumpur.

On arrival in Kuala Lumpur we were met by a fine Deputation of Brethren who escorted us to the Royale Chulan Damansara where we were met by the General Manager, Brother Julian Blaydes who ensured that our stay in the hotel was memorable for all the right reasons.

We got changed and made our way to the Read Masonic Centre for the Installation of Brother Gopi Nath Nair as Master of Lodge Tullibardine in the East which was carried out to the highest standard by Past DGM,
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Brother Dunstan Sixtus Fernandez and his Installing Team. The Grand Lodge Deputation was delightfully augmented by a few weel kent faces – Brother Scott Sneddon, Brother David Reid and Brother Mike Kinnaird – who along with Grand Secretary, Brother Dunstan S Fernandez and Brother Neoh Ho Keat completed the line-up. Over 200 Brethren were assembled for the Installation and the ensuing Installation Harmony. It was a truly memorable day and proved beyond doubt how active and relevant Scottish Freemasonry is in our District of the Middle East. During the evening Harmony, I was delighted to be able to present a silver mounted horn to the Lodge. The horn was originally presented by the Lodge to Brother Archibald the 17th Earl of Eglinton and 5th Earl of Winton who was GMM from 1957-61. The horn was returned to our Junior Grand Warden, Brother Alexander Moncrieff, by Marion, The Countess of Eglinton and Winton. Her late husband Archie had inherited it from his father. The Brethren of the Lodge were delighted with Brother Moncrieff's generous gift.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland were well represented at Tullibardine in the East with Brothers David Reid, Scott Sneddon and Mike Kinnaird joining Grand Secretary and I



The following morning, Sunday 7th July, Grand Secretary attended the District Grand Lodge Committee meeting at which all 21 Lodges gave a report of their activities. The reports were very interesting but all of them pointed to the fact that the District is in extremely good health.

On the Sunday afternoon, I was afforded the opportunity of presenting the 3rd Jack Field lecture. I took as my subject – “The Saintly Lodges of Scotland” – the comments after the lecture were all very complimentary which was a relief. It might be a different story when I repeat the lecture at Lodge Allan Wilson in August! After the lecture we enjoyed fellowship with the Brethren at the hotel.

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Installation of Brother Gopi Nath Nair, Lodge Tullibardine in the East

Monday 8th was a very enlightening experience when we visited Putrajaya, courtesy of Brother William Tan See Pin who is a facilitator to the Minister of Human Resources, Brother M. Kulasegaran.

Officially the city is known as the Federal Territory of Putrajaya – it is a planned city and is the federal administrative centre of Malaysia. We were privileged to meet with the Minister and after our audience with him, we were taken onto the man-made lake where we enjoyed lunch on board one of the official launches.

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On board one of the official launches for lunch on the man-made lake at Putrajaya



Left – GMM and the Minister for Human Resources - Brother M. Kulasegaran

Below – the GL Deputation in the Ministry of Human Resources Chambers



That evening we were taken to Subong Golf Club where we were dinner guests of our DGM, Brother Kang Tee Yong and his delightful wife Rosalyn.

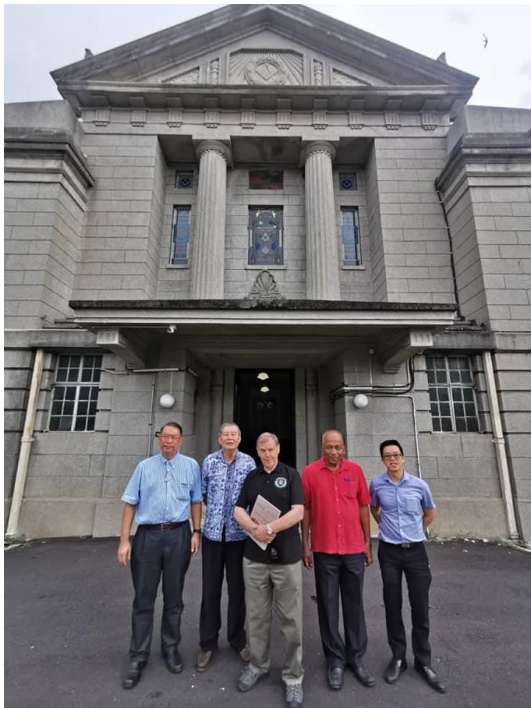
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On Tuesday 9th July, we made our way to Ipoh where we had lunch with the Brethren of Lodge Angus No 1529, hosted by their Master Brother Alan Lee after which we visited the Lodge before heading to the Cameron Highlands where we were to have a couple of days rest at the home of Brother Lim Oi Beng and his charming wife Doris.



Outside the Lodge in Ipoh with of Brother William Tan See Pin, Brother Neoh Ho Keat, GMM, Brother Dunstan Fernandez and Brother Alan Lee – Master of Lodge Angus No 1529

While there, we visited a tea plantation and were regally entertained by our host and hostess. In addition to OB and Doris, we were indebted to Brothers Dunstan Fernandez, Alan Lee, ST Choc, Gopi Nair and his wife, the incredible Sheila – she was the fount of all knowledge – especially local food and drink – we were all delighted that she was with us. Our time in Ipoh and in the Cameron Highlands was relaxing, entertaining and incredibly enjoyable.

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Tea Plantation in the Cameron Highlands

We were driven back to KL on Thursday 11th to catch the evening flight to Kuching where we were met by the DGM and his local Brethren.

After a good night's sleep, we were taken on the first of two cultural walking tours around Kuching. In the afternoon, Grand Secretary attended a meeting of the local KT's while I spent the afternoon in the gym trying to lose a bit of the weight put on courtesy of the generosity of our Brethren in the East.

Friday evening was a fellowship evening spent in the company of the Brethren of Lodge Sarawak, 1452 and Lodge Mulu 1821, along with their wives and partners. I was sitting next to Geraldine Morrison, wife of Peter Morrison who is currently a Fellow Craft in Lodge Sarawak. Geraldine is a lawyer attached to the Register of Societies in Sarawak. We had a very enjoyable discussion about her role and the aims and objectives of Freemasonry. It was a delight to be in her and Peter's company and hopefully we have both benefitted from our conversation over yet another excellent meal.

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Saturday 13th July, we were out bright and early for our second cultural walk around Kuching which culminated this time at Fort Marguerite. It was fascinating learning about the history and culture of Kuching from our well-informed Belgian guide, Paul.



On Saturday afternoon we made our way to the Masonic Hall in Kuching where we witnessed an excellent working of the Entered Apprentice degree by the Brethren of Lodge Sarawak No 1452 under the direction of their Master, Brother Chua Jiun Yih. The candidate was a local neurosurgeon, Mr. Ravindran Vashu who proved to be an excellent choice. I had the pleasure of speaking to him before and after the meeting and am convinced that he will be a real asset to the Lodge in years to come.

In the evening we were joined by the ladies of the Brethren of both Lodge Sarawak No 1452 and Lodge Mulu No 1821 for the annual “Ladies Festival”. A splendid evening – excellent company, excellent meal and excellent speeches.

Almost at the end of the tour, we met once again with the Brethren and families of the two Lodges for lunch on the Sunday before heading to the airport for the long journey home via Kuala Lumpur, Amsterdam and finally Inverness.

I have no hesitation in stating that the entire programme was an outstanding success – our Scottish Lodges in Hong Kong, Japan and Malaysia are all in good heart. The Brethren are all enthusiastic and rightly proud to be Scottish Freemasons. I extend my sincere thanks to our two District Grand Masters – Brother Martin Thomas in the Far East and Brother Dr Kang Tee Yong in the Middle East, to their Past DGM’s, Office-bearers and Brethren all of whom worked hard to ensure the success of the visit. And finally, a massive thanks to all for your generosity, kindness, hospitality and your friendship.

GMM

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And finally -

*The Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Grand Lodge of Ireland Deputations
at Lodge Tullibardine in the East*



*That man to man the world o'er shall Brothers be for a' that
Brother Robert Burns*