

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 123

MAY 2025

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



Lodges of the Province – Lodge Ness 888

Chartered 4th May 1899

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Editorial

Welcome to the 123rd Edition of the Patter.

On Thursday 24th April, I once again had the privilege of attending the Yom HaShoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day in the Giffnock Synagogue in Glasgow. It is a day observed by Jews worldwide to commemorate the six million Jewish people who perished in the Holocaust. It is a day of solemn remembrance, reflection, and education, observed annually on the 27th of the Hebrew month of Nisan. The Grand Lodge of Scotland and the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow are always invited as the Jewish Community recognise that we too suffered a similar fate but not in the numbers they experienced. Accounts vary but probably between 80,000 and 200,000 Freemasons suffered, especially German Freemasons, in the holocaust.

The speaker this year was Jonathan Schonfield who spoke of his father, Rabbi Dr Solomon Schonfield and his many rescue missions to bring children to safety during the second world war. It was an incredible story of bravery and sacrifice but a story which also portrayed hope and faith in the future.

While listening to him, it brought to mind the story of the forget-me-not – a story which has featured in this newsletter in the past. The most traditional symbolic meaning for these flowers (as the name suggests), is remembrance. This is about remembering those whom we have lost but also remembering and cherishing special moments with loved ones.

On Sunday 8th June we will once again be given the opportunity to remember those in this Province whom we have lost in the past year. Please make it a priority to attend the service.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



THE GRAND LODGE
OF ANTIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF SCOTLAND

Lots going on in Grand Lodge during the summer months.

On 28th June the Young Masons from some 15 Provinces and 3 Districts are going to be working an EA Degree in Grand Lodge. This will be an excellent day with one of our own, Brother Jordan Hossack from Lodge Rosehaugh in the role of Senior Deacon. These Brethren are the future of Scottish Freemasonry – let's support them.

On 19th – 20th June Grand Lodge will have a presence at the Royal Highland Show and hopefully, if we can get a spot, at the Black Isle Show in August. If we are successful in obtaining a site, we will need some volunteers from the Province to join the Grand Lodge Team.

On 12th July Grand Lodge are holding a Burns Supper in Grand Hall – an opportunity to make it a family night out in Edinburgh.

Between now and the August edition I and my Commissioned Office-bearers have a busy schedule – personally, I'll be in West Kilbride, Nairobi, Gaborone, Livingston (Zambia), Edinburgh, Stirlingshire, Dublin, Comrie, Amman, Freetown and Glasgow.

On 26th April, Grand Lodge held the first Leadership Day for Provincial Grand Masters. The Initial feedback has been good so we will now tweak the content in line with the feedback and the content will be next presented to District Grand Masters and Proxy District Grand Masters before being made available to Lodge Masters and prospective Masters.

How that will be rolled out has still to be decided but I envisage that it will be done through the Provinces.

Editor

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The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty

This time of year, usually feels quite busy, trying to fit in lodge meetings along with all the other chores that the brighter nights seem to bring.

The past three months have been particularly busy Masonically, with the Provincial Grand Lodge Annual Visitations to each of the Lodges in the Province, with only Lodge Kyle No. 1117, Lodge Fortrose No. 108, and Lodge Allan Wilson No. 851 remaining to visit to complete the round.

All the lodges visited have been doing well, attendances are generally sustaining in number, all lodges appear to be managing to maintain financial stability, and many are seeing an increase in the number of new initiates wishing to join the Craft.

It was also pleasing to note that the standard of the ritual work witnessed was of a good standard throughout all the lodges visited. I must also remark on the impressive way many of the new Initiates have responded with the answers to their Test Questions, which is encouraging for the future of our craft in the province. I look forward to seeing some of these new candidates taking part in degree work and taking up offices in their respective lodges.

This all adds to a positive future for Freemasonry in the Province of Ross and Cromarty.

I would also like to thank all the Provincial Grand Lodge Members who have supported the deputations on the various visits to the Lodges.

The dates for the remaining lodges to be visited are,
Monday 5th May 2025 - Lodge Kyle No.1117
Friday 16th May 2025 - Lodge Fortrose No. 108
Tuesday 8th July 2025 - Lodge Allan Wilson No. 851

Charity

As I am soon to start on my final year of office, and as discussed at Provincial Grand Lodge Communications, my nominated charity this year is to be MND Scotland, a charity that is particularly pertinent to this Province at the moment.

I was delighted that the Lodges are supporting the appeal, and I was humbled to receive over £460 so far from Lodge St Martin No.1217 and Lodge Averoyn No. 866, and the four Black Isles Lodges who are holding a joint Special Meeting this summer are pledging the monies raised from that meeting shall be donated to the cause.

I hope shortly to announce details of a fundraising event that will be staged to raise money for the charity, details will be announced when dates and venue have been arranged.

Grand Lodge

Grand Lodge, and the Governance and Strategy Committee, along with the various sub committees are working hard to make improvements to our masonic experience and action the necessary actions to meet the Strategic Priorities, which we should have at the forefront of our masonic actions and behaviours: -

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- Placing Membership at the Heart of Scottish Freemasonry
- Growing Scottish Freemasonry Internationally and
- Creating Inspiring Communication and Engagement

To help publicise and promote the good work that Freemasons in Scotland are doing, this year will see Grand Lodge taking a stand at various large events, including the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh and more locally, the Black Isle Show in Muir of Ord. It will be good to see a local presence at the Black Isle Show event, to help support this very worthwhile initiative, and which also should help with attracting new members.

I would also encourage any of our Lodges in the Province to participate in an open doors event to show the public what good work we do, and I pledge that Provincial Grand Lodge will gladly support any event planned.

Apprentice Pillars Degree

This summer, The Grand Lodge of Scotland will host a Special Communication on Saturday 28th June 2025, at which a team of Young Masons from around Scotland will confer an exemplification of the Entered Apprentice Degree.

The response from the Brethren to take part in this degree was apparently overwhelming, and I am delighted to confirm that Bro. Jordan Hossack from Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216, secured a place in team, in the office of Senior Deacon. This is a great honour for his Lodge and the Province of Ross and Cromarty, and I hope that there is support on the day from the Province for Bro. Jordan.

If any Brethren are wishing to book tickets for the harmony following the degree meeting, they can be found here: <https://www.grandlodgescotland.com/events/apprentice-pillars-young-and-new-masons-degree-harmony/>

Provincial Grand Lodge

Wednesday 28th May 2025 shall be the next Provincial Grand Lodge Communication, which will be the AGM and Election and Installation of PGL Office-bearers, to be held at Lodge Fingal, Dingwall, and I also look forward to updating all on what is going on in the Province and relaying any news from the Grand Lodge.

It will be appreciated to see a good turnout of Masters and Wardens from our Daughter Lodges, as by virtue of their office, they are all members of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The communications of Provincial Grand Lodge are also open to any lodge members, and any brethren wishing to attend will be made most welcome.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Sorrow shall be on Sunday 8th June 2025 at Lodge Fingal, Dingwall at 3:00pm, and officiated by Bro. The Rev Iain Ramsden B Th MStJ. This is a very important meeting to mark those Brethren who have passed to the Grand Lodge above in the past year. Following on from previous years, the families and friends of those passed will be invited to attend this meeting.

The Ladies Night Dinner Dance is to be held on Friday 14th November 2025 at the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer. This event has been a great success in previous years and is open to any lodge members and their friends, who will be made most welcome.

Details of tickets, etc. will be sent out to all lodges in the Province shortly.

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As most of the lodges in the Province are going into recess as the masonic season ends, can I thank all the Brethren for making it such a successful year, and I hope you all enjoyed your Freemasonry as much as I did, and I am looking forward to meeting up again soon.

Key PGL Dates for Future Meetings

Provincial Grand Lodge AGM and Installation of Office-bearers - Wednesday 28th May 2025

Dates of Provincial Grand Lodge Visits

Kyle 1117 - 5th May 2025

Fortrose 108 - 16th May 2025

Allan Wilson 851 - 8th July 2025

PGL Lodge of Sorrow - Sunday 8th June 2025

Grand Lodge Communication - Thursday 12th June 2025

Ladies Night / Dinner Dance - Friday 14th November.

Fraternal Regards

Raymond Mackeddie Provincial Grand Master

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2011

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

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

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Bro Jack Drummond, PPGM of Lanarkshire Upper Ward popped into Lodge Seaforth during his epic walk from Lands' End to John O' Groats.

PPGM Jack Drummond at Culbokie Inn after walking across the Black Isle. He was accompanied by our own PGM, Raymond MacKeddie and his wife Susan, Mrs Sharon Longley and Bro Jim Alexander, PM from Killin in Perthshire who walked from Alness this morning to meet them at Culbokie. Jim will walk back to Alness before driving home to Killin, where he left at 5am this morning! Such support from the Masonic fraternity!





Young Masons Group

The group has continued to meet on a regular basis, monthly by Zoom and following an earlier proposal they continue to meet informally as a group at lodges in the Province. They regularly advertise lodge meetings on their WhatsApp Group which allows them to attend lodges to support new initiates and progressive candidates.

Monthly Zoom Meetings - Five Years and Counting!!!!

This month's Zoom Meeting reached a remarkable milestone, as it was five years ago, on 23rd April 2020, during lockdown, that we sat together to conduct our first Zoom Meeting, with little idea what we would talk about, or for how long we would continue to meet like this. Since then, we have held 70 meetings, and the group has around 65 members, and we would thank all those who contributed with presentations which allowed us to continue to provide some support to new members.

Over the last few months, the Brethren on the Zoom Meetings have enjoyed various presentations, including Bro. Steven O' Donnell, who gave an interesting presentation on "The Maul, the Gavel and the Mallet".

In February, they also enjoyed an interesting presentation on "The Origins of Freemasonry and Roslyn Chapel" by Bro. Alan Deans.

Last month they had a presentation on Royal Arch Freemasonry by MEC Morris Downie, the Grand Superintendent of the Province of Ross & Cromarty. This gave a very interesting insight into the history and background of Royal Arch Freemasonry, which is a very important step in a Freemasons masonic career.

Apprentice Pillars Degree - Grand Lodge

Congratulations are extended to Bro. Jordan Hossack, Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216, who has earned himself a place as Senior Deacon in the Apprentice Pillars Degree Team who are working an Entered Apprentice Degree at a Special Communication of The Grand Lodge of Scotland on Saturday 28th June 2025.

This is great honour for his Lodge and the Province of Ross & Cromarty, and we wish him every success on the day, and urge the Brethren to support Bro. Jordan in his endeavours.

Roslyn Chapel Visit

This month the group enjoyed a very interesting visit to Roslyn Chapel near Edinburgh.

Many thanks to Steven O'Donnell for the following report:

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“On Saturday the 26th of April, members of the Young Masons of Ross & Cromarty hired a minibus and travelled South for their much-anticipated Masonic guided tour of Rosslyn Chapel.

Picking up eight of the Young Masons at three pre-arranged pick up points in Invergordon, Tore Filling Station and Matalan Car Park in Inverness and being Young Masons with unpredictable Friday nights viz celebratory nights, Installation Harmonies, family get-togethers and childcare duties to attend, naturally the majority of us were in various states of repair, but by 9am our minibus, kindly driven by Bro Donald Elliot of Lodge Ness, was on its merry way down the A9.

Accompanying us on the Rosslyn road trip were two fine young

Masons from Inverness-shire and the jokes, (which i am certainly not sharing as the pages of this quarter's Provincial Patter would indeed curl), were flowing a plenty.

Stopping of at Dalwhinnie for a short bite to eat, Bro Tommy Gordon set his sights on the Dalwhinnie Lifting Stone and being the nephew of the man who famously carried a piano up Ben Nevis, certainly fancied his chances... Stone lifted and a sure sign of a great day ahead, we set back off on our way to Rosslyn.

Arriving at Rosslyn Chapel a little after 1pm, we awaited Bro Geoff Spencer and Bro James Coughlan who were to be our pre-arranged tour guides for the day; and what can I say other than our minds were truly blown... The level of insight by our two very experienced Masonic guides was outstanding. The many levels of interpretation offered by these two fine gentlemen was truly unique and by the time we were finished with the outside of the Chapel it felt like we had all been through our E.A degrees once over and the reboot our brains required. Overwhelmed with what we had just experienced, it was time to enter the Chapel.



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The first thing that hits you is the fragrant aroma of burning candles and aside from the resonance of entering such an ancient holy site, as the mound that the Chapel rests upon has been used as a sacred site for many thousands of years, the visual stimulation of that which is before your eyes is staggering.

Bro James (Alec) and Bro Geoff with laser pointers in hand were directing our attention to all the points of Masonic interest with the refined skill and attention such a site deserves. They were leading us through the three degrees portrayed in the many chapel carvings, had us whispering to each other at the Tylers door and were whispering enlightening wisdom in our ears so as the general public couldn't eaves drop upon our conversations. It was indeed such a privilege to experience and the many different history lessons on different aspects of the carvings

that accompanied the tour were remarkable.

After our over 2 hour plus guided tour had finished, we headed to the onsite cafe and shop, some of the brethren bought souvenirs from the shop, others took the chance to recharge with a quick beverage, I say quick for our tour had over run over its 1 1/2 hour time slot by some 45 mins and the centre was waiting to close. But our guides weren't finished, outside the visitors centre they were showing us many photographs of the Chapel and Bro James's new book that is awaiting to be published. Having had the honour of proof-reading Bro James's new book it was a delight to see the final cut in book format. Bro James now has the Young Masons eagerly awaiting its publication...

We gave thanks, took some group photographs, said our good-byes, and with a pledge to return again to be given more personalised guided tours from these two fine upstanding gentlemen in the near future, we boarded our bus and happily made our way home.

To close this report of the Young Masons trip to Rosslyn Chapel, may I take the opportunity to thank Bro Donald Ferguson for arranging the day trip in such an impressive manner, Bro Donald Elliot for taking the time out to drive the minibus and a huge thank you to Bro James Coghlan and Bro Geoff Spence for the superb guided tour. “



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Being a very geographically spread Province, the Zoom meetings work very well for the group and last month we had many members logging in from the Isle of Lewis, Isle of Skye, Germany, Paisley, Oban and even an oil rig in the middle of the North Sea.

If any lodge has any Young Masons who have not already attended these meetings, and would wish to join them, please get in touch with Raymond MacKeddie

Raymond MacKeddie, PGM

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 1996

The Ullapool Brethren were saddened by the death of their oldest and longest serving member, Brother Alexander MacKenzie who died on the 2nd of April 1996 in the MacKinnon Memorial Hospital in Skye. The sympathy of the Brethren is extended to the family of Brother MacKenzie.

On a happier note, congratulations are due to three Brethren who were made Honorary Members of St Martin on Tuesday 21st May 1996, namely:

Brother George Sutherland, Past Master of Lodge Fingal No 318 who received the honour for his long-standing connection with St Martin culminating with his superb Toast to Lodge St Martin at the 75th Anniversary celebrations.

Brother Kenneth Victor Shepherd, Past Master of Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty, for his regular attendance and excellent support to the Lodge over many years and

Pipe Major, Brother Norman Gillies for the outstanding way he has carried out the duties of Lodge Piper throughout a period of over twenty years.

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From the Provincial Almoner

On a happier note, no Brethren have been reported to have passed to the Grand Lodge above since February 2025 Provincial Patter.

I report on the following:

On Monday 24th March 2025, Mrs Katie Mary Sutherland, dearly beloved wife of Donald Sutherland, Past Master of Lodge Seaforth No. 854, passed away. She will be sadly missed in the community by all.

Brother Ally Waugh, PM of Lodge St Duthus No. 82, has been in hospital in Aberdeen but is now at home recuperating. He is out and about again.

Brother Charlie Carrison, PM of Lodge Averon No. 866, is now awaiting word to go to Edinburgh for a procedure to be carried out.

Brother Donnie Mathieson, PM of Lodge Averon No. 866, has now returned to his employment delivering prescriptions and is improving all the time.

Brother Duncan Munro, PM of Lodge Averon No. 866, is much about the same.

Brother Donnie Graham, PM of Lodge Fortrose No. 108 is in good form.

I will now close by asking once again that should any Brother require my assistance, please get in touch with me. I would also ask that Lodge Almoners and any other Lodge member to please keep me updated on any other members with health issues.

Fred T Fraser PM

Provincial Grand Almoner

fraserft@yahoo.com or 01463 870307

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2009

On the same night we handed over the "Buckets of Love" which most Lodges in the Province had been putting together and they were accepted by Mr Danny Muschate, Head of Fundraising for 'BLYTHSWOOD CARE'. The buckets incidentally were filled with some of the everyday things that we take so much for granted although a lot of thought must have gone into the contents, we were asked to put into them. For anyone who did fill a bucket to be presented you will know that some of the items had become so out of touch with what we see as the modern world that they were in fact quite difficult to get. The practical things were plastic plates and mugs, plastic razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, face clothes, towels, soap, and large bars of washing soap for clothes, combs duct tape, string, scissors, sewing kit, calculator (solar), pencils, pens, writing pad, and Elastoplast.

Around the Lodges

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Lodge St Duthus No 82 is currently in its summer recess but is none the less busy. Our fundraising activities will continue over the summer break. With brethren taking part in 3 local Community Markets on the 21st of June 19th July and 16th August when brethren will be raising awareness of the work we do within the community whilst trying to raise funds for local charities, We will also be attending Tain Vintage Car Rally where last year the Young Masons were involved in Car Parking duties. This year we will be manning a stall, again trying to raise funds, following this we will be attending Tain Gala and Tain Highland Games. As you can see it is going to be a very busy recess, and our thanks must go to Bro Steven O'Donnal & Bro Jonathan Murphy who have taken on the task of organising and manning the stalls and raising donations.

Before we broke up for the recess Lodge St Duthus No 82 had the usual meetings with degrees being worked and Provincial visitations. Our last meeting of the season saw Bro Steven O'Donnal give a very interesting Lecture to a large audience on the Square and the Compass. This lecture was very well received and the knowledge displayed was testament to the amount of research that Bro O'Donnal has done on the subject.

The annual Provincial visit saw yours truly having the privilege of being presented by PGM Raymond MacKeddie with a 50-year Jubilee Certificate. Can I take this opportunity to thank everybody for their good wishes and congratulations.



PGM Raymond MacKeddie, PM David Macrae & RWM James Morrison

Bro. D Macrae PM Secy

Finally, brethren I could not finish this report without mentioning PM Ally Waugh who was recently admitted to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary for a procedure. I am glad to report that Bro Ally is now at home and recovering well. Our thoughts and good wishes are with him as he continues to recover.

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

Our annual Burns supper was held on Saturday 1st February, Bro Robert Doig addressed the haggis and Bro Alex Scott delivered the Immortal Memory



Robert addressing the haggis, Bro Danny Maciver piped it in.

At our February meeting we initiated Bro Zsolt Szalay who originated from Hungary, he was passed to the fellowcraft degree in March. Bro Ewan Smith was raised to master mason at our mid-month meeting in February. On Friday 2nd May we will have a ballot for a prospective candidate so not looking too dismal for the future.

A group of 15 of us sojourned to Lodge St Martin 1217 in Ullapool on 19th April where we carried out a Mark degree when we advanced 5 brethren to it. At this meeting PPGM Morris Downie read an extract of a minute of Lodge Fortrose which mentioned the rough sea crossing a number of Stornoway brethren had on the “Drizzle” to attend the setting up of Lodge 1217, one of those brethren was Bro R Steven who I believe was secretary at the time and as it happened his grandson, Bro Lewis Steven, was in attendance with us at this MMM degree.

Donnie Macleod
Donald Macleod PM

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

With Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

Robertson's Lodge No. 134 held their final meeting of the Season 2024 to 2025 on April 19th, which was a Business Meeting to discuss Lodge Matters and planning for the following Season. We heard that our distinguished Past Master Ronnie Cooper was recovering from an operation and that his dear wife, Jean, was not well. We were also advised that our IPM Derek Rodway was feeling better. Past Master Jim Tait is sorely missed as our super attentive Lodge Almoner.

We are now in the Closed Season, over the summer, with the next Regular Meeting to be held on Wednesday 17th September 2025. Members of the Lodge will continue to visit other Lodges in the Province and Masonic Activities further afield, also regarding Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty responsibilities.

The administration of the Lodge will of course continue over the Summer Period. However, the Brethren of Robertson's Lodge have matters to consider before the start of the next Season, 2025-2026. Partly, this concerns the fabric of the Lodge building and further schedules. We will be communicating with our members.

We will also be communicating regarding further Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge activities, and of course Sister Lodges and elsewhere of note. Our Provincial Grand Master, Brother Raymond Mackeddie, has advised of the Provincial Charity works to be followed up, MND in particular. But another big one to work on is the "Open Doors" Project for Lodges initiated by Grand Lodge. For instance, back in the 1960s this Lodge was used by Cromarty Whist Club for Meetings.

Wishing all a relaxing, enjoyable Summer season, with good Scottish Weather to come.

Please stay safe and well Brethren.

Peter K. Ratcliffe, Secretary

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Lodge Fingal No 318

Our first meeting since the last edition of the Patter was on the 11th of February when we raised Bro. Andrew Morrison. Andrew is 82 years of age and is the uncle of the current RWM Bro. James Morrison of Lodge St. Duthus No. 82.

On the 15th Of February we held our Quiz Night with 15 teams taking part. A very successful evening. A big thanks you to Quizmaster Bro. David MacMaster, assisted by Bro Angus Beaton and Bro Donnie Smith who wrote a programme to keep a track of the scores. Everything went so smoothly until the quizmaster decided to award a half point on a particular question which sent Bro Donnie into a bit of a meltdown, but he quickly amended the software and carried on to a successful conclusion. Also, many thanks to June and Sheila who kept us well fed and Bro. Henry Cameron and Bro. Colin Mackintosh for undertaking the bar duties. Bro. Andrew MacIvor and Son kindly supplied the PA system.



Two well-known Brothers came a close second winning bottles of wine, along with James's wife Anita. And hoping to do better next year, picking up 4 packets of smarties were Bro. Johnny Russell SD with his wife Nicky and Bro Ronnie McCuaig with Sonja Fiskin.



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Our next meeting was on Tuesday 11th of March which was the annual visitation from the Provincial Grand Lodge. This was a MM degree for Bro. Mykel MacKenzie. There were over 40 brethren in attendance, which made for a great atmosphere for the candidate.

Saturday the 15th of March was our annual Ladies Night Dinner Dance which was a sell-out.



Around 50 people enjoyed a wonderful 3 course meal provided by the Storehouse. The entertainment was by Edwin's Music. Many thanks to Bro. Richard MacDonald WJW and one of our newest recruits Bro. Andrew MacNeil for organising the event. Every lady received a beautiful individual rose with one lucky lady receiving an additional bouquet of flowers on a random draw. The raffle was a great success raising a fantastic £400. The whisky board was drawn twice, with Bro. Mike Longley's wife Sharon winning a bottle of Old Pulteney and the other winner was Bro. Andrew MacNeil who won a bottle of Talisker.



On Thursday 20th of March on behalf of Lodge Fingal, Bros R Sutherland PM and D Cronie presented 56 Easter Eggs to the children of St. Clements School, Dingwall.

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On Thursday 27th March Lodge Fingal hosted a defibrillator training session which was provided by St.



John Scotland. There were 16 people attending with a mixture of Lodge members and local neighbours who were keen to learn how to use the defibrillator unit. Pictured on the left was RWM Alex Craib, Mike MacDonald, CPR Lead at St. John Scotland Highland Area and Bro. John Russell SD. On the right were two members of the public with Bro. Joe Thain JD



Our final regular meeting of the season was on Tuesday 8th of April which was a ballot for Mr. Nicholas Pokorniecki and a lecture by Bro. Jimmy Bat Young, a Past Master of Lodge St. Leonard, Loanhead and Lasswade No. 580 who delivered his talk on Freemasonry in the 21st Century.

On Tuesday 22nd April we held a special 1st Degree meeting for Nicholas Pokorniecki.

Dates for your diary.

Saturday 28th June - Dingwall Gala – Lodge Fingal will have a couple of stalls, raising funds for local charities.

Saturday 12th July – Special Meeting - St Peter's Operative Lodge of Freemasons No.284 will make their biennial visit to Lodge Fingal and will hopefully be working a second degree for Bro Pokorniecki.

Saturday 16th August 2025 - Our Annual B-B-Q at the Lodge.

secretary@fingallodge318.org.uk

Mobile 07775 837998

Angus Beaton - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2007

On Saturday 31st March, the RWM, Bro Donnie Gunn accompanied by the PGM, Bro Ramsay McGhee and Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro Iain MacLaren, had the pleasure of visiting Bro Huisdean Matheson at the home of his son in Bearsden. Bro Matheson was initiated into Lodge Fingal in 1931 and the reason for our visit was to present him with his 75th Anniversary Diploma – the day before his 100th birthday. Bro Matheson was looking extremely fresh and had been out on the practice tee at the local golf club the day before we visited him. A truly remarkable man and we wish him the best of health to enjoy his golf for many years to come.

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LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851

Lodge Allan Wilson's season starts on Tuesday 10th June when Brother John Stott will be reinstalled for the coming year.

On 8th July we welcome the Provincial Grand Lodge on their annual visit and the third meeting of the season will take place on 12th August.

Later in the year, on Saturday 1st November, we will welcome Lodge Union and Crown No 307 who will carry out their dramatized "Prisoner of War" Degree. This will be a great occasion for the Lodge – one that we are really looking forward to.

The Lodge look forward to participating in the Degree to be worked by the four Black Isle Lodges to raise funds and awareness of the PGM's charity this year – MND.

Finally, we are having a Duck Race in the Autumn to raise money for our special meeting – Ducks are only a fiver each – every duck is numbered, and the winner will receive £100, second prize £50 and two third prizes of £25. Ducks can be purchased by contacting any member of the Lodge or sending a fiver to the Lodge Treasurer by BACS. Lodge Allan Wilson – Sort Code 80 06 83 and account 06000956. Put your surname followed by DUCKS!

Ramsay McGhee - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2013

At the July meeting of Lodge Allan Wilson, the Brethren enjoyed a very informative talk from Bro Mike Turner on an innovative piece of equipment which his company have designed and built to save lives at sea called "Watch-mate". The brethren were extremely interested in the topic and asked many questions at the end of the demonstration after which they showed their appreciation in the customary manner.

The August meeting will take place at 11.30 am on Tuesday 13th when PM John Noble of Lodge Fingal will give a presentation on Masonic Stamp Collecting. I have had the privilege of hearing the lecture before and PM Noble gives a very interesting insight into this aspect of Masonry.

The Master of Lodge Allan Wilson, Bro Robin Cattenach, extends a warm welcome to all Brethren from throughout the Province and beyond, especially those who have retired and could come along to a daytime Lodge, to come along and enjoy the fellowship of Lodge Allan Wilson.

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LODGE SEAFORTH 854

And all so quickly another season has passed.

Since our last report the Lodge has continued to be busy working degrees, albeit slightly frustrating as our candidates work schedule interfered with our planned schedule.

At our March Meeting, which was the annual visit by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross & Cromarty, a well-known Lodge Fingal member made a guest appearance as the stand in candidate and proved a suitable challenge for the Lodge Seaforth Office-bearers.

The lodge members made the short journey to Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216, where a well-attended meeting witnessed the two lodges working together to advance Bro. Stephen Bassendale to the Mark Mason Degree.

In April, the Brethren enjoyed an interesting and enlightening presentation by Past Master Tom Richards entitled "Why Deacons Carry Wands", which gave them much food for thought and contemplation.

50 Year Jubilee Certificate



In April the Master had the honour of presenting PM Fred Fraser with his 50 Year jubilee certificate and jewel.

Fred joined Lodge Seaforth on 21st April 1975, when, as the Master reminded us, a pint of milk cost 6p, a dozen eggs cost 35p, pint of beer 6p and a fish supper cost a whopping 35p!!!, and the Bay City Rollers were at Number One in the charts. How times have changed!!!!

Fred moved south with work and was unable to make many meetings in his early days, but after returning north about thirty years ago he has served the lodge well and has been an

excellent attender and supporter of the lodge, the club and the building maintenance.

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He worked through the Offices of the Lodge, and became Master thereof in December 2016, serving as Master for two years.

Also, in April we enjoyed the company of Bro. Farquhar Laing, a Lodge Seaforth member, who had returned to the Lodge after an absence of many years.



Bro. Laing's late father, Gerald, a well-known and popular artist, was a great supporter of the Lodge, and was responsible for the much-admired mural that adorns the East wall of the Lodge. He also created the two brass pillars which located in the East of the Lodge. Using his skills as a bronze sculptor, he designed and cast them using the traditional methods as the early builders did, in the clay grounds of the Jordan, between Succoth and Zeredathah.

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Summer Recess Special Meetings

During the summer recess. Lodge Seaforth will host a Special Meeting Saturday 21st June at 3:00pm, in which a deputation from Lodge John O’Groat No. 1333 shall carry out the degree work. This meeting will be our annual reciprocal visit with Lodge John O’Groat, which we have enjoyed for many years, and all visiting Brethren will be made most welcome.

The Lodge will also host a Special Meeting on Saturday, in which the four Black Isle based Lodges, (Lodges’ Robertsons No. 134, Allan Wilson No. 851, Seaforth No. 854 & Rosehaugh No. 1216) will come together and jointly carry out a Mark Mason Degree.

The meeting shall be held at Lodge Seaforth, Fortrose. It is hoped this innovative idea will generate a good attendance, and all monies raised on the day will be donated to the PGM Charity Appeal, MND Scotland. The next Regular Meeting of the lodge will be Monday 5th September 2025.

Summer Bingo Nights

Last year, during the Winter months, the Seaforth Club continued to host several bingo nights, which has proved popular, very entertaining and surprisingly competitive.

The bingo competitions have been ably hosted by the Master, Ronald Bruce, assisted by Gwyn Phillips who expertly calls the numbers and organises the prize funds. There is also a well-supported raffle drawn on the night.

Bingo nights will be continued this summer season, and it is hoped we shall see some new faces and holiday makers make their way to join us.

They will be held on the third Friday in the months of July, August and September.

All welcome, best of luck

Raymond Mackeddie

Lodge Secretary

Join us

90 10

BINGO BINGO BINGO

21 93 62 16 15 42 9 33 7

COMMUNITY BINGO

SEAFOORTH CLUB
Station Square
Fortrose

Friday 20th June
Friday 18th July
Friday 15th August

STARTS AT 7.30PM

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

FREE PARKING / £1 ENTRY / MUSIC / LET FATE WIN

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LODGE AVERON No 866

Hi there brethren,

I hope you are all fine and enjoying spring after another winter. This year I really noticed the change in the length of days in the month of January it was amazing the difference a month makes.

February saw Lodge Averon start its activities for the year with our annual senior citizens party held on the 8th in the Bowling Club in Alness. The food for the day was provided by the brethren and their Ladies and was widely commented upon how grateful they were. Music was provided by our resident 'DJ' Past Master Brother Frazer McBeath Snr, Adi Harper Jnr from Wick on the box and Pipe Major Brother Callum Mackenzie on the pipes, completed with the dancers from Anne Nobles School of Dance. Each year it amazes me more how talented these artistes are, and our guests absolutely loved it as can be seen from the attached pictures 'well done the dancers'. The day was finished off with a raffle where you can't lose, and everyone went home with a prize.



Top left – Addie Harper Jnr on the box. Above – Members of the Anne Noble School of Dance. Left – Brothers Gordon & Brannan, two young Masons dispensing the drinks. Below – Master Magician, Bro Brian Jay entertaining the guests.



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Members of the Anne Noble School of Dance



Pipe Major Brother Callum Mackenzie

As with all the events that our lodge puts on it can't be done without the help of our willing band of volunteers whom give up their time freely, from the musicians to Anita and Kimberly in the kitchen keeping things flowing smoothly, Mrs McBeath for the soup, the boys serving the food after they picked up our guests (who says masons can't multitask) Jenny, Kyle and Phillip with the 'famous' trolley keeping everyone watered, finally our own Magician Brother Brian Jay keeping the guests mesmerised with his unique and quiet way of making £20 notes disappear!! Events like this are a fantastic way to get potential new recruits involved to see what we do in our community, our newest Entered Apprentice Brother Brannan assisted on the day and was fair taken with his new role. Thank you all once again.



Mrs MacDougall, Mrs Miller and Mrs Hermitage on kitchen duty



Brother Gordon, Entertainment Convenor

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On the 13th of February we had a different kind of entertaining to carry out, when the annual visitation of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty took place. We worked a Fellowcraft degree for Brother George Hunter in front of a full lodge which was lovely to see, thereafter our Provincial Grand Master carried out his business and presented a very favourable report on our lodge activities over the past year. Afterwards up the winding staircase we were treated to a fantastic buffet, well done Brother Millar, along with great harmony.

Before our provincial visit we raffled a gallon bottle of the 'Famous Grouse' or if you're like me and from the west 'Low Flier'. This bottle was gifted to Bro McDougall by a friend who regularly supports the lodge and is very taken with our fundraising efforts. The draw took place the week before and the worthy winner was Past Master Brother Ally Waugh of Lodge St Duthus No82. Brother Ally has very kindly donated it to St Duthus to be raffled again, the true spirit of freemasonry if you'll pardon the pun!!



Brothers MacDougall, Waugh and MacBeth Jnr

An appeal from Bro McGhee on behalf of Highland Hospice to supply some stewards for 'Cammies Connections' a country music fundraising event held at the Field in Alness was answered promptly and four Lodge Averon quickly volunteered their time freely. This event is organised by local lady Gem Dunnett in memory of her parents, last year the event raised more than fifteen thousand pounds, and this year the last I heard it was well over ten thousand pounds; this money goes direct to the hospice to support the fantastic staff in looking after our loved ones and giving comfort to their families. Also in attendance at this event was the famous Dalmore Kist and its one hundred keys, sources tell me that the keys were sold three times, I'll let you do the math.....It just shows how it's not just our masonic activities we can support but the wider communities can reach out and ask for our assistance, but firstly they must know we are here.

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Thursday the 24th of April saw us bring our season to a close with a special meeting, conferring the third degree to Bro Charlie Carrison Jnr, what a great night we had and even more special for IPM Charlie Carrison Snr carrying out his bits.

This is the end of a year of change for Lodge Averon since we changed from two meetings per month tiling at 7.45pm October till march, to one meeting per month September to April tiling at 8.00pm. I hope you will agree that this has worked well and has helped with visiting brethren also.

Now that we are in recess for the summer period our events start with Cromarty Firth RAC hosting a Mr & Mrs/Magic night, hosted by Bro Brian Jay, on the tenth of May. At a date to be confirmed in July we will hold a quiz night with St Duthus' s PM Mackenzie and his wit... Our Community Family Barbeque which will incorporate an open doors day will be held on the sixteenth of August, last year was fantastic and there has been a request for the same sunny weather minus the wind when putting up the gazebos.

Congratulations must go to our RWM Bro Frazer McBeath Jnr, on his winning a gold medal in the veteran class at the British Judo Championships in London. This achievement means that Bro McBeath qualifies to compete at the European championships in Riga, Latvia later this year, all the very best of luck RWM we are all rooting for you.

All the very best wishes for the summer recess Brethren and I'm sure we will meet hopefully at the various special meetings throughout the summer.

Kind Regards

Fraternally

Brother James MacDougall — Senior Warden

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2011

You will all recall the disaster that befell us, (nine days after the Festival of St John), when the Lodge was flooded after a burst pipe in the bar upstairs. Since then, we have slowly got back on our feet with much of the credit going to our Secretary PM Bro Kenny Sutherland, who did a mountain of work with insurance companies and tradesmen to get the building dried out and operational again.

When Provincial Grand Lodge came on their annual visitation, I was delighted to see PM Bro Ian Fraser back in the body of the Lodge after his visit to Raigmore Hospital, It was a delight to see him present PM David Oag with his Diamond Certificate. On the same night I, along with PM Iain Duxbury and PM Kenny Sutherland, called in to see PM Kenny MacInnes, and it was an honour to present him with his Jubilee Certificate.

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

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

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LODGE NESS No 888

The Lodge is now in recess until 14th October.

Owen Wilson

Master – Lodge Ness 888

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM -

A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, "How heavy is this glass of water?"

Answers called out ranged from 8oz. to 20oz. The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden. So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work/life down. Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow. Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can. Relax; pick them up later after you've rested. Life is short. Enjoy! "

And then he shared some ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

- 1 Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
 - 2 Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
 - 3 Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
 - 4 Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
 - 5 If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
 - 6 If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
 - 7 It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
 - 8 Never buy a car you can't push.
 - 9 Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
 - 10 Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
 - 11 Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
 - 12 The second mouse gets the cheese.
 - 13 When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
 - 14 Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
 - 15 You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
 - 16 Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once
 - 17 We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box.
 - 18 A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today.

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Brother Ronnie Miller, Secretary of Lodge Kyle and our Provincial Website guru, is always ensuring that we are kept up to date, through the Patter, of issues that affect us all in terms of technology. Here he gives us some advice on **Digital Hygiene**. Many thanks Ronnie for your continued support.

Over the last year or so we have seen an increase in targeted cyber-attacks on companies and groups like Freemasonry. Only this week we have seen a few high street supermarkets successfully attacked. The reality is that these attacks can start with individual citizens and can be automated using Artificial Intelligence (AI) software that will pick out useful people. AI research their web presence on platforms such as X (previously Twitter), Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram to name a few. With this information “bad actors” can contact friends and associates of the target, mimicking them and thus glean further personal information. More frighteningly, if you are someone in the media and appear on YouTube or TV, there is now software that can use your image to make videos and put faked words in your mouth, using a facsimile of your real voice. The long and short of this is that it is rapidly becoming impossible to tell what is genuine and what is not. Good digital hygiene is therefore essential if we are to survive in the modern age.

How can we harden our defences against these threats?

It’s important to note that victims are not always the source of a security breach, it can be an online service that has been hacked revealing thousands of users’ usernames and passwords. This indicates that we must not use the same username and password over and over. We should also use Two Factor Authentication or 2FA where available. See Google for a definition of 2FA and how to use it.

Phones, tablets, laptops and computers should all be secured with a good password, that does not include ANY recognisable words. Fingerprint and face recognition are also good adjuncts. All these devices should be secured with good anti-virus software.

Beware of online shops that say there has been a mistake and ask for your cooperation. Most people use Amazon, so receiving an email message is not unexpected. NEVER click a link in an email unless you are certain it’s necessary. Rather you should open a browser and manually sign into your service or shopping website.

If something looks odd online, trust your instincts and verify the situation manually. Use websites with SSL – it’s not perfect, but its good.

SMS Messages can be intercepted.

If there is a choice to encrypt communications “end to end”, use it.

Be aware of QR codes, they may take you somewhere that looks innocuous, but a website might be maliciously accessing your device.

Lastly be aware when using public wi-fi. it’s a gift to hackers and for little money the bad guys can buy a small device that gathers data from everyone using public wi-fi in the locality.

These are just the basics and most people break at least a couple of these “rules” daily. Digital hygiene is a learning curve, so don’t worry if you don’t understand all the rules immediately. Persevere and stay safe out there.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2010

But it was not all about this Province visiting – we also had the privilege and pleasure to welcome into the Province, the Substitute District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of East Africa, Bro Harish Somaia and his delightful wife, Leila. I was delighted to have him on the official Deputation to Lodge St Martin and was equally delighted that he also had the opportunity to witness a Mark Degree in Robertson's Lodge the following evening.

It is good for the Province to have yet another firm link with another of the District Grand Lodges. It was Bro Harish's first visit to Scotland, and he was very impressed by the warm welcome he received from the Brethren of the Province.

LODGE KYLE No 1117

It's been an interesting start to the year in Lodge Kyle. We have a new MM in the ranks and a Candidate Initiation in September. However, we are losing Brother Rob Wilson who leaves Kyle soon for Troon. Possibly Lodge No 86 will be gaining an active and solid new member soon. We wish Rob and his family all the very best in their new home.

The Lodge garden pushed up a host of golden daffodils, and the back of the garden is now cleared of brambles and other weeds, due to the continued efforts of our Caretaker Brother Paul Newton (ret.) I recently came across a photo of the garden before it was cleared and the difference is impressive, and we thank Paul for his continued efforts.

The Lodge kitchen is currently being renovated and the aged cooker disposed of due to its PAT failure, so we currently have no way of heating food or cooking. This should change in the Autumn.

The Young Masons continue to flourish, and they report back to the Lodge after Zoom Meetings.

Lastly, we will see the Brethren from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty on Monday 5th May, where no doubt we will be looking closely as to who our choice will be for the next PGM. The current PGM. Brother Raymond MacKeddie will be a hard act to follow as he has done a superb job of representing the Province and Freemasonry in general.

Ronnie Miller, PM - Secretary

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

As Bro Calum Mackenzie was unable to make the February meeting due to work commitments, we just held a business meeting. Bro Ronald Bruce attended and agreed to take a delegation from Lodge Seaforth along to our March meeting to work a MMM Degree. This went very well with a very good attendance with Bro Steven Bassindale being the candidate. Lodge Seaforth filled the offices with Lodge Rosehaugh supplying the overseers. We also had the pleasure to have Bro Gary Taylor PGM of Banff in attendance and he gave the lecture in the degree in excellent fashion. He did volunteer for this duty at an earlier meeting of Lodge Seaforth.

Our April meeting was the PGL visitation evening and again a very good attendance to witness Bro Calum's 3rd degree. Once again, a very good degree with good work from young and old! Bro Mackeddie then gave an update of future PGL events over the next few months. The meeting started with an obituary for Bro Hamish Munro from Avoch who had passed to the Grand Lodge above earlier that day. Hamish joined the Lodge as a Lewis in 1977 aged 18 and although he had not attended the lodge, he still retained an interest. A very large attendance at Hamish's funeral which was held at Inverness Crematorium on Friday 25th April.

Our Senior Deacon Bro Jordan Hossack had been on a keep fit regime late last year and when his Dad Johnny was diagnosed with Prostate Cancer Jordan decided to sign up for the Inverness Half Marathon in March. Some excellent support from local lodges gave Jordan an overall tally of over £3000 to the Prostate Cancer Appeal which Grand Lodge of Scotland has been great supporters of. Jordan wishes to thank all who supported him and wishes to let us know that his Dad has now had operation and prostate removed. He is in recovery and starting to get out and about walking. Need to wait to verify if cancer has gone completely.

Finally, further good news with Jordan is that he has been selected to be Senior Deacon at the Apprentice Pillars- Young and New Masons Degree Harmony on 28 June 2025. Well done Jordan a great honour.



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We held a 2nd degree for Bro Calum Mackenzie at our November meeting. Went very well and a good attendance also. Our installation evening was held on Friday 6th December with the Installation team led by Bro George Robinson PM Averon No 866. An excellent degree as normal with George at the helm. PM William Macleman installed the office bearers in equally good fashion. It was good to see Bro Graeme Brindle take the chair this being our first new master since 2017. An equally good harmony followed in social room following the evening's work. With Graeme heading off on holiday in January and now IPM Donald McLennan also away we decided not to hold a January meeting. Our next regular meeting will be held on Friday 7th February when we intend to work a 3rd degree for Bro Calum.

Keith Patience, PM

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2013

When the Lodge was left a legacy from the late PM Roddie Cade the Brethren decided to make use of this by getting proper covering for the seating. To progress this, we held a soup and sweet lunch in the lodge room on Saturday 30th March. £576 was raised at the event and 50% of this was passed to our chosen local charity which was the Sea Scouts. Along with some donations we are very close to reaching the funds required and the job will be done during the summer recess. Many thanks to all that helped and who came along to make this a success.

We also hosted a coffee morning organised by John and Catherine Patience who were raising funds for their Granddaughter Chloe Haynes who is heading to Tanzania in July to train the locals on first aid. Both John and Catherine wish to thank all who helped make the coffee morning such a success including virtually the same troops who assisted at the soup and sweet. £600 was raised at coffee morning and John has another £600 in sponsorship which helps enormously towards the overall cost of £2500. We also had a good turnout of Brethren from other lodges at both events and we wish also to thank them for their support. John has promised to keep us in touch on Chloe's progress over the next couple of editions of the Patten.

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Lodge St Martin 1217

The lodge presented a cheque for £300 to Ullapool High School Teacher, Gemma Middleton and students for the Duke of Edinburgh awards project in which the pupils are participating.



The lodge also had an evening out at the local Indian Restaurant where a raffle held on the night raised £160 for the Provincial Grand Lodge MND Charity.



Lodge Fortrose No 108 visited Ullapool and worked a Mark degree for five candidates, three from St Martin, One from Lodge Fortrose and one from Lodge Laxford, The collection realised the sum of £250 which both lodges agreed should be donated to the Provincial Grand Lodge MND Charity.

The lodge have also donated £1000 to install two recycled plastic benches in two of the play parks in Ullapool as part of the “Welcome Ullapool” bench replacement project.

Saturday 17th May will see The Widows Sons visit Ullapool and having a social afternoon with a BBQ etc. The final meeting of the season will be held on Tuesday 20th May where we will be working a third-degree ceremony for Bro. Tony Oulton, the lodge tying at 8.00pm.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

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Both our young brethren, Bros Fraser and Simon, have now been raised to the Degree Master Mason, and are now fully qualified members of this their Mother Lodge.

In the last couple months, we were fortunate to be able to acquire several items which had been disposed of by other Lodges, including Lodge Eval 1464. Notable among these were a splendid pair of Deacon's wands and a magnificent, cased set of printed and laminated Tracing Boards, speaking of which...

...at our next meeting, our last before the summer recess, which will be held in Aultbea on Thursday 8th May, tiling at 8:00pm, Bro Mike Turner and I will be jointly presenting all three Tracing Boards. This will not only be an excellent opportunity for those young Masons who may not have seen all three to do so but also promises to be a both interesting and entertaining evening.

Michael Longley, PM – Lodge Loch Ewe

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2005

At Seaforth's April meeting we enjoyed a lecture by the Rev Bill Niven on "The Church and the Craft". It was, as expected, a very interesting and informative lecture. I felt it gave us all a clear understanding on the relations that exists between both institutions and happily not as strained, as the minority would appear to see it.

Sinclair G Bruce.

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Ye Corporation O' Squaremen Heilan Shed

We held our AGM and Installation in Inverness on Saturday 1st March – Sadly we had to announce the Passing of 2 Brithers, Bri Hector Mackenzie from Kyle who passed on 13th November 2024 and Past Auld Deacon Bri Ian MacLaren who Passed on 3rd December 2024 – Ian was WD from 2006 to 2008

At the AGM Bri Robert Hannah was Installed for another year – The Installation was carried out in the usual excellent manner by Bri Boxie assisted by AD Bri Neil Cooper - we then donated £600 to various good causes

On 5th April we visited Lodge Seaforth where we were delighted to have another new Member join the Corporation and had a very enjoyable afternoon, we also donated a cheque to the Lodge for a worthy cause of the Lodges choosing

Our next visit was to Lodge St Andrew in Golspie on 3rd May. This was the first time that Heilan Shed visited there – this used to be part of Pentland Sheds area, but they closed a number of years ago.

The following week 10th May we will be having a visit from Grand Shed to The Club in Inverness for the Installation of the new Grand Worthy Deacon Elect Bri Neil Cooper followed by the Grand Shed visit to Heilan Shed – if there are any MMMs that wish to join the Corporation they will be made most welcome

VISITS FOR 2025

10th MAY – **GRAND SHED INSTALLATION – GORDON TERRACE – INVERNESS 2:00 p.m.**

Installation of GWD elect Bri Neil Cooper and his Office bearers

Followed by Grand Shed visit to Heilan Shed at 3:00 p.m.

5th JULY Lodge Averon – ALNESS – bus leaves Inverness 13:30

2nd AUGUST – Lodge St Ninian – NAIRN – bus leaves Inverness 13:30

6th SEPTEMBER – Lodge John O Groat - CASTLETOWN – bus leaves Inverness 11:00

John J Mackay – Boxie

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Throughout Scotland, the Prostate Champions continue to be busy spreading the message about prostate disease, and the importance of early testing and detection. As well as arranging presentations, there has been a multitude of fundraising events, from sponsored walks, baking stalls, football fit sessions to



men's shed sessions.

In our own Province the Prostate Champions have also been busy attending various events, including a successful fundraising dinner held recently at the Drummossie Hotel, Inverness, where local Ghillies and Gamekeepers let their hair down for a night and raised over £5,000 for charitable causes, and donated £3,000 to Prostate Scotland.

Steven O'Donnell attended the North Detectorists Charity Dig, a rare event located on farmland directly adjacent to Clava Cairns, just down the road from Culloden Battlefield. The Charity Dig was organised to raise the awareness of Prostate Disease and to raise funds for Prostate Scotland.

A fantastic day with an even more fantastic turnout and fantastic weather to boot. The £10 entry fee and all raffle ticket sales amounted to a massive £1,246.



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Further events that are planned for this summer are:

Tesco's Tain - Sat 17th May (9am - 4pm)

Tesco's Dingwall - Sat 7th June (unconfirmed)

Morrisons Alness - Sat 14th June (10am - 4pm)

Asda Tain - (date to be confirmed)

We'll be adding Prostate Scotland awareness stalls to our Summer Charity initiative at:

Rose Garden Tain - Sat 21st June

Vintage Car Rally Tain - Sun 22nd June

Tain Gala - Sat 5th July

Rose Garden Tain - Sat 19th July

Moy Country Fair - 1st & 2nd August

Glenmorangie Highland Games - Sun 11th August

Rose Garden Tain - Sat 16th August

and we have 2 requests from Lodge Loch Shin and Lodge St Martin for a Prostate Scotland Presentation - dates to be confirmed

In our Province we have three Prostate Champions, Steven O'Donnell, Raymond Abridge and Raymond MacKeddie, who have each been trained by Prostate Scotland, and can be called upon to discuss issues, or provide presentations and/or information, or where to get help in anybody is concerned that may be experiencing any prostate issues.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2005

Grieving residents of Beslan trudged through wind and rain for a second day of funerals for victims of the Russian school siege that killed at least 335.

Do you remember the above headline in September 2004? A headline that shocked the world. Seven months on and the Brethren of Lodge Fortrose No 108 welcomed a party of Beslan survivors to Stornoway. The youngsters, many of whom still visibly carried the physical and mental scars of that atrocity, were given the opportunity to forget for a short time and indulge in what many western youngsters take for granted. They spent the night in the accommodation area of the Lodge but during the afternoon before and the morning after they were taken out in the Lifeboat, tested their driving skills on go-karts, went swimming and had a great time on the fast ribs used by the sub-aqua club – even better when they got a chance to drive them. In addition, the Round Table members provided a bar-b-q for the children.

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News from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland

Two new working parties have been established in Supreme under the Chairmanships of Ian Duncan and Alan Buntain. One will be looking at Recruitment and Retention with the other looking at Education and how to bring back those members who have been absent for a while.

Work is also progressing to move the staff from St John Street up to Grand Lodge in George Street.



The Principals – John Steel (Depute) Ramsay McGhee (FGP) Ernest Yong (2nd GP) and Ian Duncan (3rd GP)

The Depute, ME Companion John Steel, represented Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter at the Enthronement of the new Grand Master of Great Priory in Grand Lodge on Saturday 3rd May.

The FGP is looking forward to attending the Grand Superintendents Dinner in the Provincial Grand Chapter of Dumfriesshire on Friday 9th May.

On Friday 16th May, the FGP will install the new Grand Superintendent of East Africa, M. E. Companion Jitesh Rajnikant Upadhyay in the Masonic Temple in Nairobi.

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PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS MESSAGE.

The following message has been received from the Scribe E of St. George Royal Arch 795 SC,
Companions,

Our Proxy First Principal, MEC Morris Downie, attended the Installation of the First Grand Principal on Friday. He is pictured here with the 1st Grand Principal and members of his Provincial Grand Chapter of Ross and Cromarty.

S&F,
Colin E.P. Dowe
Scribe E
SGRAC 795



The Grand Superintendent, Morris Downie is looking forward to heading a Deputation to the following meetings -

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Hebrides, Stornoway

Wednesday 14th May 2025

Thursday 15th. March - Cryptic Council/Ark Mariner

Morris M Downie

Grand Superintendent

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM -

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Tain & Ross Royal Arch Chapter No 63

St Clement Royal Arch Chapter No 244

Cromarty Firth Royal Arch No 310

Royal Arch Chapter Hebrides No. 364.

At long last we are seeing candidates coming through and we will be working the Royal Arch degree on a live candidate at our meeting on Tuesday 13th May and on another on the following evening which will be at the district visitation headed by Comp Morris Downie.

Hopefully this means we will have candidates for the Ark Mariner and Cryptic degrees very soon.

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

We've been continuing with our regular meetings but only able to work practice degrees as there are no candidates in the offing, however we had our regular spring visitation from the District Great Priory of the North in Scotland on 26th April at which we worked both the Esquire and Knight grades, Ronnie McCuig kindly stepped in as the candidate.



DGP deputation awaiting entrance to the temple.

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DISTRICT GRAND PRIORY OF THE NORTH IN SCOTLAND.

District Grand Prior Eric Macgregor has now visited all the preceptories in his district and is happy with quality of degree work, he is particularly happy that the Preceptory of the Highlands is up and running again and we attended their first working of a grade on 28th March when Neil Cooper and Ramsay McGhee GMM were admitted as Knights of the order.



At Preceptory of The Highlands

pp †† Eric Macgregor DGP

†† Donald Macleod KCT

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Royal Order of Scotland

Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness and the Highlands

Provincial Grand Secretary: Bro. Michael Scott Turner

The Province of Inverness and the Highlands has begun the Masonic season, with the Provincial Grand Master, Bro George Angus MacKay, presiding over his first meeting on 12 April 2025, a very successful meeting with the new office bearers performing to a very high standard. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 June 2025, and will be the installation of office bearers, the installation being done by the team from the Grand Lodge, headed by Ewan Rutherford, Deputy Grand Master and Governor. This meeting will start at 1pm, with the following installation dinner being held at the Beaufort Hotel. Advice of the meeting will be sent out in the next week or so. The Province would like to express its appreciation to the Immediate Past PGM, Bro Joshua John Ormand Anderson Gourlay, who has so ably led the Province for the past five years, guiding it through the difficult lock-down period.

Any brother who is a member of the Royal Order will be most welcome at the June meeting, and hope to see you there.

Michael Scott Turner

Provincial Grand Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2007

I hope this will be the saddest note I'll ever have to write from Stornoway.

On Sunday 8th April Brother Kenny (Fags) Macdonald one of life's richest characters passed on to the Grand Lodge above. On Wednesday 11th we attended the biggest funeral that any of us has ever witnessed. It was obvious from the attendance at the funeral service that Kenny had many friends throughout the world, the church deacons had to stop letting people in as there was no standing room left inside. The crowd waiting outside for the procession stretched from Francis Street back along Kenneth Street almost to James Street. One of the elders mentioned to me that for a guy who never went to church except for weddings and funerals, he packed more people in that day than anyone had ever seen before.

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BITS AND PIECES

New Zealand Trip 2025

On Monday 24th February I travelled down to London by train to meet up with Grand Secretary for the annual Tri Partite meeting at Grand Lodge in Great Queen Street. The meeting on the Tuesday went well and several topics of mutual interest were discussed.

That evening, Grand Secretary headed back to Edinburgh, and I made my way to Gatwick where I met up with Grand Director of Ceremonies, Brother Ronnie Forbes, for the first leg of our journey to New Zealand, an eight-and-a-half-hour flight to Dubai where we changed onto the flight to Christchurch via Sydney which would take some fourteen hours.

We were met in Christchurch by MEC Alan Raymond Stack whom I was to install that evening as Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Chapter of New Zealand South Island. We travelled to his home where a quick shower and change took place before heading to the Masonic Temple which had been completely renovated after the earthquake disasters a few years ago. It was an absolute privilege to work in such beautiful surroundings. I was assisted in the Ceremony by my Third Grand Principal, MEC Ernest Wong and by Past Grand Superintendent MEC Ronald J Sutherland who originally hailed from Caithness.



It was a grand night, and I was pleased that the Ceremony had gone well. After the Ceremony, we enjoyed an excellent harmony prepared by the wives. It was then straight back, into bed with the alarm set for 05.30 for an early morning flight to Dunedin where I was to conduct the installation of the new District Grand Master, Brother Glenn Reginald Summerhayes the following day.

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On arrival in Dunedin, we were collected by Brother Bruce Suszko and taken to our home for the next few days, the Dunedin Club a beautiful and charming nineteenth century building which was only a short walk from the Dunedin Masonic Centre. We were met at the Club by Past District Grand Master, Brother Merv Gilkinson. That night we had a rehearsal at which we explained that their programme bore no resemblance to the recognised ritual used by Grand Lodge today and that the Installation the following day would be quite a bit different. Perhaps the fact that there has not been a District Installation conducted by Grand Lodge in over sixty years has meant that a more localised ceremony has evolved. However, the scene was set for the Saturday afternoon and the Installation Ceremony was conducted as per the recognised Grand Lodge Ritual and the good news was that everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience. At the ceremony I was delighted to welcome into Grand Lodge Brother J G Soper, the District Grand Master South Island and Brother W Weir District Grand Master, North Island - English Constitution, Brother G Wrigley, Past Grand Master GL of New Zealand, Brother J N Southwick the Provincial Grand Master of the Irish Constitution South Island along with our own District Grand Master from the north island, Brother Gordon McMahon and other senior representatives from the Irish Constitution and the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. It was good to see all the Constitutions supporting each other.

I was pleased to be assisted in the ceremony by Brothers M Gilkinson, Senior Warden, W S Gardiner, Junior Warden, G W Parker, Grand Secretary, and R E Hudson, Grand Chaplain all well-orchestrated by our own Grand D of C, Brother Ronald Forbes.

At the harmony, we were delighted to witness a tremendous display by the Kapa Haka Group from Logan Park High School. Their precision was first class and how good it was to see so many young people carrying on the traditions of their country.



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Included in the menu for a superb dinner was haggis, made by ninety-year-old Brother Gordon Smart. It was delicious and greatly appreciated by all present.

On Sunday 2nd March, accompanied by Past DGM, Merv Gilkinson and our new DGM Glenn Summerhayes, Ronnie and I enjoyed a marvellous tour of Dunedin in glorious weather with the temperature in the mid-twenties.

We were taken to Larnach Castle where we had lunch followed by a walk round the beautiful gardens. From there we travelled to Harrington Point to visit the Royal Albatross Centre where everything possible to know about the birds and other sea life in the area is on display.

On the way back to Dunedin, we stopped off at a country Pub in Portobello to have a pint with Bruce Suszko and his wife, Donna. A truly wonderful day.

Monday morning – time to get the cases packed, off to the airport and a flight to Wellington.

On Monday night, we attended the re-installation of Brother Tony Mansfield in Lodge St John Kilwinning No 662. The Ceremony was conducted by the new DGM, Brother Gordon McMahon who was assisted in his endeavour by Brethren of all four Constitutions that meet in New Zealand. It was a most enjoyable ceremony and good to see all four Constitutions working together. The evening was rounded off with a lovely meal including locally made haggis. Another great night of Masonic harmony.



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Tuesday morning - time to get the cases packed, off to the airport and a flight to Auckland.

We arrived in Auckland early afternoon and were taken to the Cordis Hotel where we met up with the DGM, Brother Gordon McMahon and his wife Jacque and spent a most enjoyable evening in a waterside restaurant.

Wednesday morning, after breakfast, was taken up with administrative matters and catching up on ritual. We were collected in the early evening and driven to Lodge Ponsonby No 708 where we witnessed a very fine working of the EA Degree by the Master, Brother Brian Kidston, and his Office-bearers.

The candidate, Bro Nathan Rollings proved to be a very attentive young man and is the latest of a group of young men all joining the Lodge. The Harmony after the meeting was excellent and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.



GMM, Bro Nathan Rollings, Master – Bro Brian Kidston and DGM Gordon McMahon

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On Thursday, I was collected by Bro Bob Russell and driven to the home of Brother Mike Bro Mike Chopping (EC) who very kindly agreed to take us out on his boat, the Colombina, along with three other Brethren - Brian (EC), John (IC) and Charlie (SC). So, it was an international Constitution group that set sail on a bright, warm, and sunny morning.



We were only out less than an hour when we saw a boat homing in on us at speed - it was a Fishery Protection Vessel checking up on us - after some pleasantries with the crew they headed off into the horizon and left us to get on with it.

What a pleasant time we had - dropped anchor and enjoyed lunch and later in the afternoon a great sail back to port in order that I could get back to the hotel, changed and ready to be picked up by MEC Tony Mansfield to head to Ponsonby Kilwinning RAC.

Another great night - three very promising candidates and a degree worked to a very high standard under the expert eye of Past Grand Superintendent Ian Law. The night finished off in grand style with Harmony in the Refectory.



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On Friday 7th March the DGM and I had lunch with Bro Jim Watt, GM of New Zealand, his Depute, Bro Paul Chappel and Past GM, Bro Mark Winger. It was a very pleasant lunch at Sails Restaurant at Westhaven Marina during which we discussed a number of topics regarding freemasonry in New Zealand.

That evening we assembled at the Irish Lodge in Auckland, Ara Lodge No 348, the oldest Lodge in Auckland and the biggest. A magnificent building that was to play host to the Scottish District the following day for the Installation of the new DGM. The rehearsal went smoothly and Grand D of C and I joined the DGM and his wife Jacquie, for a lovely meal in one of the many Quay side restaurants.

On Saturday morning, we attended the District Grand Lodge Communication, had lunch and then prepared to install Bro Gordon McMahon as the new DGM for North Island New Zealand. The packed Lodge room with Brethren from all four Constitutions present created a great atmosphere for the ceremony which was well received.

It was good to have three Past DGM's present, Campbell MacFarlane, Bob Russell and Tony Ford.



Bob Russell, GMM, Gordon McMahon, Tony Ford, Grand D of C and Campbell MacFarlane

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At the following Harmony, we were well entertained by two excellent singers and their accompanist from NZOPERA which is sponsored by the Freemasons Foundation. Sarah Mileham, a soprano who is of Korean, British and New Zealand heritage, Alfred Fonoti-Fuimaono, a Samoan baritone, and David Kelly the principal repetiteur for New Zealand opera. Their programme consisted of pieces from Puccini, Gershwin and Mozart with Sarah rounding off the performance with Loch Lomond since it was a Scottish District. A tremendous evening.

Our final day in New Zealand started off at 09.15 when Bob Russell collected Ronnie and I to go to the morning service at Holy Trinity Cathedral where I had the honour to read the New Testament lesson. The sermon was in the very capable hands of the Very Rev Anne Mills, Dean of Auckland. The Cathedral is very bright and airy with tremendous stained glass – a beautiful building.



After the service we were taken to the Orbit Revolving Restaurant for lunch before heading to the airport for the long flight back home.

The entire visit ran smoothly, and we were both indebted to the Brethren and Companions, their wives and partners for their warm welcome, their hospitality, and their friendship. A truly memorable visit.

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Just a wee bit of nonsense -

It's No Oafen Ah Complain

Ma lavvy pan is broken,
Ma kitchen sink is choaked,
Ma ootside door's aye jammin'
Ah canny get it loaked.
Ah canny get hoat watter
Fur tae bath the wean,
Wull ye send a man tae sortit
It's no oafen Ah complain

Ye'll hae tae send a man oot
Tae sort ma lobby licht
Ah can't get near ma meter
Yon's a nawfy hicht.
Ma pulley rope is broken,
Thur's a bad smell aff the drain
Wull ye send a man tae sortit,
It's no oafen Ah complain,

The pipes aroon' the kitchenette
Are awfy badly bent
The windysills are rotten
Just for the want o' pent,
An' the paper neath the windy
S'gettin' washed wi' all the rain,
Wull ye send a man tae sortit,
It's no oafen Ah complain.

Ootside on the dryin' green,
Ah hivnae goat a pole,
Thur's nae boards in the cellar
So Ah canny store ma coal.
An' as fur ma blind rollers
Ah'd be as weel wi' nane,
Wull ye send a man tae sortit,
It's no oafen Ah complain ●

Ma windy coards are broken,
Thur's slates come aff the riff
Ah canny yase ma cooker,
The hingmy's faur ower stiff,
Thur's dry roat in the bedroom,
An the rent man's just ower sayin'
Ye'll hae tae get it sortit
It's no oafen Ah complain

The plesters comin' aff the frieze,
An' fa'in on the flair,
The watters comin' aff the walls
An' runnin' doon the stair
The men wha' built yon hooses
Didna' ken whit they were daein'
Ah'll hae tae get it sortit
It's no oafen Ah complain...

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Grand Lodge of Scotland – On-line shopping



Here is a small selection of items available from the Grand Lodge Shop

