

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 78

FEBRUARY 2014



What's in the February Edition?

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Grand Lodge News

Provincial Grand Lodge News

News from the Lodges

Bits and Pieces including:

Update on Malawi

Report on Lodge United Brothers 200th Anniversary

The Sinclair Bruce Diary

And much more

Cover picture: Robertson's Lodge No 134

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Editorial

Welcome to the 78th edition of the Patter.

Having had the privilege of being at the Consecration of the District Grand Lodge of Lebanon only seven months ago in Beirut, I was dismayed during the Christmas festivities to learn of a bomb blast in the centre of Beirut which killed quite a number of people. It was a great relief to learn from the Brethren in that city that no members of the Scottish Craft had been killed or injured albeit one Brother was only 30 yards away but was protected by a building.

That incident brought home to me the fact that we have many Scottish Constitution Lodges in countries throughout the world where Brethren regularly face issues such as terrorism, warfare, poverty, hardship and natural disasters but they display such commitment in the face of adversity that Scottish Freemasonry continues to flourish despite the problems faced.

As we enter another new year, perhaps it is a good time to reflect on the breadth of Scottish Freemasonry throughout the world and to give grateful thanks to the many Brethren who display the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth despite the prevailing problems and resolve to play our part in supporting our Scottish Brethren wherever they may be.

This Province can hold its head high in that we are actively involved, either through the Province or through individuals within the Province, with many overseas Districts and Lodges. Such involvement over the past 15 – 20 years has brought about tremendous opportunities for the Province and we should be eternally grateful for them.

Let us therefore, while maintaining support for our local Lodges and local charities, determine to continue our involvement with the District Grand Lodges and pledge our support for them and, in so doing, continue to provide a shining example for the other Provinces at home.

May Brotherly Love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us – irrespective of wherever we may be.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland

The February Communication of Grand Lodge will take place in Freemasons' Hall, George Street, Edinburgh at 2.00 pm on Thursday 6th February.

Grand Lodge continues with its busy schedule. During February they will conduct the 275th Rededication Ceremony for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dunbartonshire and attend the first ever all Africa Masonic Conference being held in Mombasa and being organised by our own District Grand Lodge of East Africa.

On 15th March they will conduct the 150th Anniversary Celebrations in Lodge St Clair No 427 in Wishaw and the following Saturday, 22nd March sees a return to Lanarkshire to install the new Provincial Grand Master of Lanarkshire Upper Ward in Carluke.

On 5th April it is a change of direction to Aberdeen to install the new Provincial Master of Aberdeenshire West.

On Saturday 12th April, it is back down the A9 again to Douglas in Lanarkshire where Lodge St Bride will be celebrating their 300th Anniversary.

May will be extremely busy and I'll list all the events in the May edition but Grand Lodge will be visiting our neighbouring Provinces of Caithness and Inverness-shire on the 9th and 10th May.

On Friday 9th May, Bro William MacLeod will be installed as the new Provincial Grand Master of Caithness in Wick and the following day, Saturday 10th May, Bro Vince Geddes will be installed as Provincial Grand Master of Inverness-shire.

Fuller details of the latter two events will doubt be forthcoming from the two Provinces but get the dates in to your diaries now.

The next meeting of Grand Committee will take place in Edinburgh on Thursday 24th April.

WRM

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

As we proceed into another year may I wish all Brethren a successful and enjoyable time in their Lodges and I would congratulate all the Daughter Lodges on well supported Installation Meetings with Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216 being the last on 14th January 2014.

The next meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held on Wednesday 12th February within Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216, Avoch at 20.00 hrs.

All Masters and Wardens have a duty to represent their respective Lodges at Quarterly Communications and I look forward to meeting you all at this meeting. In addition all Master Masons in good standing are welcome to attend the meetings

Our Lodge Secretaries have busy schedules and are currently deeply involved in completing the Database Return for Grand Lodge.

Many concerns have been voiced but as Provincial Grand Secretary has advised we have every confidence in the Data Protection assured by Grand Secretary. Any further enquiries should be addressed to Provincial Grand Secretary who is only too willing to assist.

Our Provincial Visitations to the Daughter Lodges will be commencing on 13th February with our first visit to Lodge Averon No 866 in Alness and I look forward to meeting the many Brethren on these occasions and also seek the support of the Provincial Office – bearers.

William Ross
Provincial Grand Master

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF ROSS & CROMARTY VISITATIONS 2014

AVERON ALNESS THURS.FEB.13TH.
NESS INVERGORDON TUES.FEB 25TH.
ST.DUTHUS TAIN MON.MAR.3RD.
FINGAL DINGWALL TUES.MAR.11TH.
SEAFORTH FORTROSE MON MAR.17TH.
ROBERTSON CROMARTY WED MAR 19TH.
LOCH EWE AULTBEA THUR.APRIL 10TH.
ST MARTIN ULLAPOOL TUES.APRIL 15TH.
ROSEHAUGH AVOCH FRI.MAY 2ND.
KYLE LODGE MON.MAY 5TH.
FORTROSE STORNOWAY FRI. MAY 16TH.
ALLAN WILSON FORTROSE TUES JULY 8TH 11.30.AM.

MEMBERS AND MASTER'S & WARDENS OF LODGES IN THE PROVINCE ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS

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From The Provincial Almoner

Sadly for the Brethren of the Province, and their families, my report once again has to start with the recording of the passing of some of our members to the Grand Lodge Above.

Past Master Roddie MacBeath, Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty and Past Master Jackie Forsyth, Lodge Fingal, Dingwall passed away a number weeks ago. In fact both funerals were on the same day and both were largely attended by Masonic Brethren. Although health did not permit them recently, both of them took a very active part in the running of their respective Lodges over the years and will be very much missed.

On 15th January it was with great sadness that we learned of the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Bro David Forsyth, Junior Deacon of Lodge Ness, Invergordon, as a result of injuries sustained some days earlier in a road traffic accident. David was only 23 years of age and a very keen Freemason, and was the son of Past Master Gavin Forsyth, also of Lodge Ness, and his wife, Michelle. David's funeral was also largely attended.

The sympathies of the Provincial Grand Master and Brethren of the Province have been extended to all the families.

Just before New Year Past Master Cochrane Donald, Lodge Seaforth was in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, for surgery but was released shortly afterwards and I'm glad to report that he is making progress. He is out and about and has attended recent Lodge meetings.

Past Master Danny Forbes, Lodge Loch Ewe, Aultbea, and Past Master Alasdair Taylor, Robertson's Lodge and Lodge Seaforth, are both currently in Raigmore Hospital.

Past Master Victor Shepherd, Robertson's Lodge is also not in very good health at present.

Our thoughts are with them all and our best wishes are extended to them

I would like to end as usual and ask that should any of you require my services or know of anyone who does please do not hesitate to contact me.

David MacMaster,

Provincial Grand Almoner

Tel: 01997 421306 email: david@strathpeffer.net

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE WEBSITE

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

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Brethren a warm welcome and season's greetings from all at Lodge St Duthus No 82. During the Christmas season we held a very successful Senior Citizens party in conjunction with the Bowling Club. This once again was very enjoyable and was spoken about in glowing terms by all who attended. Our thanks go to the committee of bowling club members and Masonic members who organise this event and to the volunteers will help to make it the success that it is.

Lodge St Duthus No 82 like a lot of other Lodges is suffering from a lack of candidates and has had to carry out a lot of mock degrees but this is interspersed with a variety of lecture or discussion nights. The topics on these nights are usually along Masonic lines but not always, I recently gave one during a Royal Arch meeting about my recent trip to Peru which I hope the companions enjoyed. It may be that we have to have more diverse speakers attend Lodge meetings to maintain the interest of the Brethren that attend regularly and who knows we may get some brethren returning.

Lodge St Duthus's calendar for the remainder of the 2013 – 2014 session reflects this.

03/2/14 Mark Degree

17/2/14 Lecture

03/3/14 Mark Degree & Provincial visitation

17/3/14 2nd Degree 01/4/13 2nd Degree

22/3/14 Ladies Night Dinner Dance to be held in Tain Golf Club with music being provided by Wood & Stone. (Tickets can be obtained from WJW J. Mackenzie or by contacting the Lodge Secretary)

07/4/14 Divine Service to be conducted once again by the Rev Susan Brown, this will be a family service open to all.

21/04/14 3rd Degree to be worked by Past Masters of Lodge St Duthus, with Past Master Tom Anderson in the Chair.

We also have some quiz nights organised by our own inimitable quizmaster Brother John Mackenzie Worshipful Junior Warden dates for these are 8th February for "Perfect Paws" 22nd February a Coffee Morning followed by a quiz at night for Royal Arch Funds and 11th March for "Diabetes Scotland" sponsored by Tesco. Why not come along to these fun evenings and we can maybe get some friendly rivalry between Lodges and get a Lodge Quiz Champion team. Other quiz night have also been organised and these will be published later.

Regards

David Macrae, PM (Secretary).

On Sunday 22nd Dec at 1700hrs Santa Claus arrived at Tain Golf Club in the form of PM Dan Patience. Rudolph found a girlfriend in Aviemore so the rest of the journey had to be done by fire engine to the delight of the kids (thanks to Tain fire brigade). That was Santa's story. This is the second year that Dan has ably filled the red suit for the club. He was assisted by John Mackenzie Jnr Warden to distribute presents to 38 delighted youngsters.

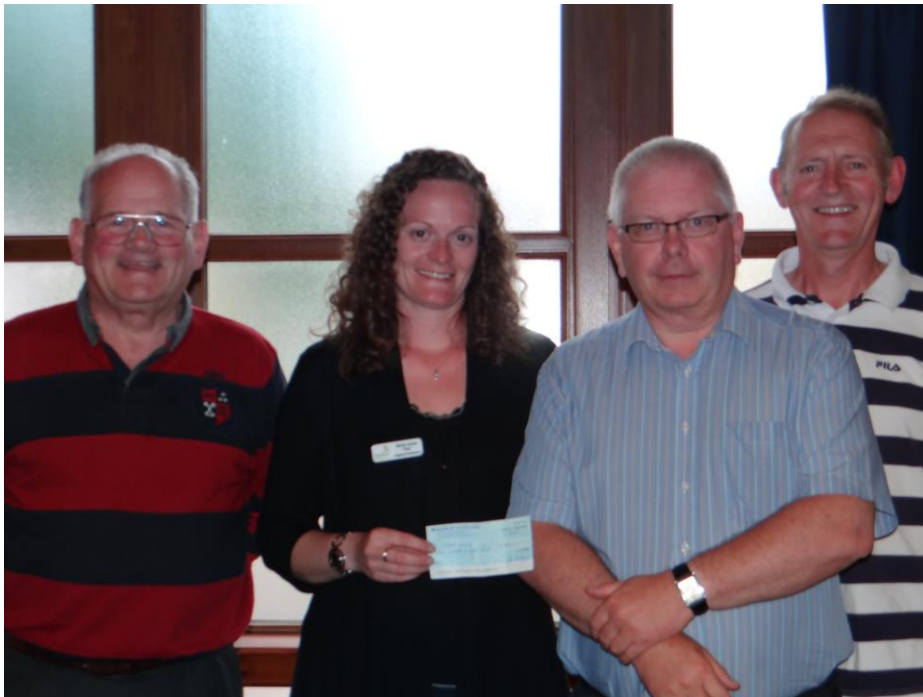
On behalf of Tain Golf Club a big thank you to Dan for his help.

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The cheque PM Hugh Patience is seen presenting was for the sum of £207 which was half of the profits made at the bar on the occasion of my son's wedding in April 2013. I organised the bar and needed two trained bar staff to look after it for me. Past Masters Hugh Patience and David Macrae offered their services as my son asked for proceeds to go to charities. PM Macrae represented Clic Sargent and was given a cheque for £207 pounds.



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Lodge Fortrose No 108

FORTROSE LODGE No. 108

Donnie Graham was installed as RWM in December. Thanks to ‘American Mike’ Turner PM and the past masters of Lodge Fortrose who assisted me with the installation. This is of course his second term as Master and we know that he will do just as good a job as he did the last time and he has an excellent team supporting him.



Excerpts from the Past – February 2005 – Lodge Fortrose 108

On a lighter note, the Lodge has just staged its third Snooker Championship Final and, for the third time, Bro Ian McCulloch won the trophy. Suggestions are invited for a suitable handicap for Bro McCulloch for the next tournament. Jane Clark cooked up a first class paella that was much enjoyed by the snooker audience. The profits from this will also go towards the Chernobyl kids visit.

The Lodge's annual Burns Supper was held last week and was the best attended and enjoyable for some time. Our thanks to the caterers and all the speakers, in particular to Bro Ian Macleod of Lodge 68 Port Glasgow who returned to his native Stornoway to deliver a truly memorable Immortal Memory.

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Our annual Burns' supper was held in the masonic hall on Friday 24th January and we all had a great time. The speeches were first class and witty with several of the brethren getting the fun poked out of them.



Donald J Smith (Binnie) addressing the haggis watched over by RWM Donnie Graham

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Highland dancers entertained us with Larry Ferguson on the bagpipes.



We had a visit in January from two famous Rangers Brethren, Derek Parlane (left) and Derek Johnstone, (right) they had asked to visit the Lodge and were truly struck by its magnificence.

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Our Lodge recently mourned the passing to Grand Lodge Above of one of our well known Past Masters, Brother Roderick MacBeath who died on 25 December 2013 and was buried in The Cemetery in Cromarty on 31 December 2013.

RODDY was born on 7 December 1920. He joined the Royal Navy in 1941 and after the War continued in the Merchant Navy. He moved to Cromarty and settled there with his wife Jean in 1966, where he set up in business and raised his family.

He was initiated into our Lodge on 17 April 1968, passed on the 2 October 1968 and raised on 16 October 1968. He held various Offices as well as doing many of the jobs about the building as they needed done. He was an excellent Handyman and showed many talents. He was installed as Master on 3 December 1975 and held the Office for 2 years. He then proceeded on and held the Office of Director of Ceremonies for 13 years. He was also in many other Orders. Age and health prevented him from getting to the Lodge of late but he still showed a keen interest. His words of advice and wisdom are still quoted by many.

His passing was marked by an excellent turnout of Freemasons from throughout the Province and further afield. He will be a sad loss to the Craft in general, but very much so to our Lodge in particular. Our sympathies go out to his wife Jean and family.

In recent articles in the "Patter" we told how our Master Neil Cooper had encouraged his father, Douglas, into the craft. Since his success Douglas has gone through his 1st, 2nd and 3rd and Mark Degrees. In all the ceremonials Neil was ably assisted by his uncle Ronnie, Douglas's brother and our own Past Master. At our last meeting after successfully nailing them down we were able to get this photograph of them together. Douglas's son in law, Calum MacKenzie, Master of Lodge Averon also took part but was not in attendance when the photograph was taken, but all was very much family occasions.



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Robertson's Lodge No 134 - continued

On the family theme again, PGM William Ross presented our PM Andrew MacIvor with Honorary Grand Lodge Rank as Honorary Grand Marshall at our Installation meeting. This was in recognition for his work as Provincial Grand Tyler for a period of 19 years. What made this more special was that Andrew's father, Brother George MacIvor had been Provincial Grand Tyler for a period of 15 years, prior to Andrew and had received the Honorary Grand Rank of Tyler, for his service. Is this a first for our Province? We got a photograph of them together with their Diplomas. I know they are very proud and so is our Lodge.



While the camera was out we thought we would complete the family hat trick. Our other photograph shows Brothers Peter Foster Senior and Peter Foster Junior, both affiliates to our Lodge from Lodge Spey No 527.

They now hold office in the lodge and have been involved in much of the renovation work we are carrying out. They are and I am sure, will be, in the future a great asset to "134".

It should be noted that we are going over to Lodge Seaforth, No 854, in Fortrose on Monday 17 February, 2014, to work a Fellow Craft Degree.

Fraternal greetings to all.

James A Tait, PM
Secretary



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Lodge Fingal No 318



November meeting: Was our annual AGM and nomination of Office Bearers.

December meeting: Opened by the RWM Bro Rev Ivan Warwick with 20 Brethren and 12 visiting Brethren present representing Lodge No's 37/1213/1217/1235 and 1551. The business of the meeting to work a MM° for Bro David Robertson. At the second rising Honorary Member, PPGM Bro Morris Downie, spoke on behalf of the RWPGM Bro William Ross, who could not be present. He congratulated Bro Robertson on taking his 3rd regular step in Freemasonry. At the third rising there were three speakers who stood up. All mentioned how much they enjoyed the Degree work.

Special meeting: On Saturday 28th December, the Master, Bro Rev Ivan Warwick and his Office Bearers were re-installed into Office by PM Rory MacKenzie and his Installing Team. There were 16 Brethren and 14 visiting Brethren present. Reigning Masters and Past Masters were invited to their rightful seat in the East. The RWM also welcomed RWPGM of Ross & Cromarty Bro William Ross / IPPGM of Ross & Cromarty Bro Ramsay McGhee / PPGM of Ross & Cromarty Bro Morris Downie / SPGM of Ross & Cromarty Bro Jim Tait.

At the second rising RWPGM of Ross & Cromarty Bro William Ross gave a glowing report on the installation ceremony. At the third rising there were six speakers who stood up on behalf of their respective Lodges and spoke how much they enjoyed the installation.

The business of the meeting being completed, the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form at 8.30pm. The Brethren then retired to the Logie Lounge for the Festival of St John where excellent catering was provided by the wives of a few of the Brethren., Twenty five Brethren enjoyed the meal at the conclusion of which the formal speeches were carried out finishing off with the Tyler's Toast proposed by Bro Ian MacLeod.

January meeting: The Lodge was opened, with 12 Brethren and 4 visiting Brethren present. A Ballot was taken for Mr Allan Alexander MacKenzie (Storn), which proved clear. The remaining business was concluded after which the Lodge was closed. The business of the meeting was a Paper given by Honorary Member, IPPGM Bro Ramsay McGhee on Malawi, which was given in the Logie Lounge so that Ladies could attend. Bro Ramsay started at 9.20pm after the cup of tea, etc. and lasted for some 50 minutes. Our RWM thanked Ramsay for his work in setting up the Paper and the very fine discussion, which included an interesting slide show of the Team in 2008 and 2011 then followed some questions about the Paper. The RWM, John Fosker of Priory No.1235 said that he had worked in Malawi for some 6years and had attended the 4 Lodges there. Also on display were gifts that Ramsay had received on his various sojourning in Africa with Grand Lodge, which proved interesting with Brethren. The ladies were intrigued with the various smock gowns, they said, was this too compensate when the waist line gets bigger, this comment brought a laughter with the brethren. At the conclusion our RWM thanked Ramsay again for giving up his time and the manner of his presentation.

February meeting: 11th Mock EA°.

March meeting: 11th EA° for Mr Allan Alexander MacKenzie, also our annual Provincial visit. Lodge will Tyle at 7.30 p.m. to do the minutes, etc.

April meeting: 8th MMM° for Brothers Robert Cassie and David Robertson.

Events Logie Lounge:

On Friday 21st March our annual Ladies Night will be held 7.00 for 7.30pm with a complimentary drink being provided on arrival. The meal will be a spectacular buffet, and to finish the night off, wonderful entertainment



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To get you in the mood by Jacquie and Ian. Now to stop the scamper and to make sure you get a seat, tickets are to be available from our very own JW Bro Colin Mackintosh who can be contacted on his hot-line 01349 866138. You'll have noticed that there has been no mention what the cost will be,

Colin was keeping this as a SECRET, but after some deliberation, ALAS! ALAS! Cost to be a mere £15. There will be the usual humungous RAFFLE, with proceeds going to Local Charities.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

D. Gunn P.M.
Secretary

Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

Hi Members / Brethren,

It is with delight that I report to you that I have been out visiting, as promised, at our last meeting in August.

I paid a visit to the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh on Thursday 31st October and was treated like Royalty by the Grand Director of Ceremonies. We had lunch then I was shown to a special seat at the front in Grand Hall where I could see everything. Thanks Ramsay for a great day.

My visit to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty was on 28th August in Kyle of Lochalsh.

Visits to other Lodges were as follows: Lodge Seaforth in Fortrose, Robertson's Lodge in Cromarty, St Duthus in Tain, St Martin in Ullapool, Lodge Ness in Invergordon and Lodge Loch Ewe in Aultbea. I was booked to go to Stornoway on 6th September but decided that, due to the inclement weather, it would be imprudent to travel!

I have still to visit Lodges Fingal in Dingwall, Averon in Alness, Rosehaugh in Avoch and Fortrose in Stornoway before our Installation on Tuesday 10th June at 11.30 am. It would be nice to get a good turnout for our Master Elect, Brother James A Tait, SPGM and PM of Robertson's Lodge.

Brethren, we welcome all Master Masons in good standing to our meetings. They are very relaxed and we have had some very good lectures in the past. Before parting, we have a sit down lunch with all Brethren and Visiting Brethren.

I must also thank our Secretary, Bro Ramsay McGhee and our Treasurer, Bro Sinclair Bruce for the sterling work they both do to keep things running well. Likewise, my thanks to the dedicated Brethren from the Central Belt for their continued attendance – well done.

Fraternal Greetings and Kindest Regards

Robin Cattenach, RWM

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Lodge Seaforth No 854

This year seems to be gaining in momentum as we go through it and we have a busy programme planned for the rest of the year, which I hope will gain approval at committee this Monday evening.

For the meeting on the 17th February, we will be welcoming the Brethren of Robertson's Lodge to work a second degree, returning the favour on the 16th April when we should be working a third in their lodge, followed closely, on the 21st April by a first in our own. Our Provincial visit will be in March where we are hoping to work a second and finally, for this season, we have invited Lodge John O'Groat to visit us, the suggested date is 31st May, to work a degree for one of our candidates.

Fraternal Greetings

Gwyn Phillips

RWM

Lodge Averon 866

RWM Bro MacKenzie cordially invites your RWM, Office Bearers and Lodge members to our next Regular meeting. The meeting will be held within the Masonic Temple, Dalmore Road, Alness on Thursday 13th February at 7:45PM. The main business of the evening will be a MM Degree for Bro Wheelan. This meeting is also the annual visitation of the Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty, his Office Bearers and members of PGL.

Kindest Regards,

Henry W MacInnes

Secretary

Excerpts from the Past – November 2004 – Lodge Averon 866

On 5th October I visited the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire and in particular the Lodge of St. Giles No. 8736 in Corby where I presented a 60 year Certificate to Brother Ivor Parker, who was initiated into Freemasonry in Lodge Averon No 866 in March 1944 during his service in the Royal Air Force at Dalmore House, Alness. I also presented Bro Parker with a Bottle of Dalmore 12- year old Whisky. The W Master and Brethren, many of whom had connections with Scotland, warmly welcomed me. Indeed, the W Master's father had been initiated into a Lodge in the Fraserburgh area. To the W Master of Lodge of St. Giles No. 8736, I presented a small gavel that had been beautifully turned by PM Brother Robert Scott of Lodge Fingal No.318 along with a Lodge Averon Centenary Jewel.

At the Festive Board following the Meeting, I was kindly presented with a small decanter and a Provincial Lodge Tie.

The following evening the W Master, Brother Mark Hillyer-Smith kindly took me to a Meeting in Lodge Wellbrook in Kettering, where I witnessed an excellent Fellowcraft Degree. On both occasions fraternal greetings were exchanged. Prior to my journey to Kettering, Brother Wayne Williams, Provincial Grand Secretary of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire afforded me a warm and cordial welcome into the Province

Brother Dave Nixon, Secretary of Lodge of St. Giles No. 8736 and his partner Sue, looked after me wonderfully well and their hospitality was first class. *Billy Ross, PM Lodge Averon*

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Lodge Ness No 888

Brethren, I will start this piece, wishing all readers a happy prosperous year.

We started this session with a third degree which was very well attended, this was followed by our election and then on the 10th December our newly elected RWM Graeme Hunter and his office bearers were installed in the usual manner, as you can imagine, by PM D Ross and his motley crew, which was appreciated by all. Towards the end of the meeting PM Leslie Ross was called to the floor and to his surprise the Provincial Grand Master came on to the floor to present him with a diploma from Grand Lodge making him an honorary Junior Grand Deacon which he truly appreciated. Our Christmas Eve meeting, was cancelled, (think too many Santa's were out). We held a special meeting on the 30th December. For the initiation of Calum Davidson, grandson of recently deceased PM Dougie Macleod, which again was very well attended.



New RWM - Graeme Hunter

We started this year on a very sad note, when our Junior Deacon, Bro David Forsyth, son of our IPM, Gavin Forsyth was involved in a serious car accident, from which, regrettably, he did not survive. He was very well liked within the Lodge and his interest in freemasonry would have taken him a long way, within the craft. The large turn-out of Brethren and his former military colleagues at the funeral were testimony to his popularity.

Our meeting on the 14th January was a FC degree, unfortunately, due to weather conditions, our candidate got stuck on an oil rig and a substitute had to be used. On the 28th we carried out a mark degree with our new mark team, (two candidates). It went very well. Our next meeting will be Lodge business followed by our Provincial Grand Lodge visit and our candidate this time, has three days before the meeting to get off the rig.

R. W. Morrison. PM - Secretary.

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Newly installed Lodge Ness Office-bearers with Installing Master, Bro Donald Ross



PM Bro Leslie A Ross receiving his Honorary Grand Rank from PGM, Bro Billy Ross

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

Firstly, may we take the opportunity to welcome PM Callum MacKenzie to his new office of Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Kyle. Callum is no stranger to the office as he has been through The Chair on a former occasion. At his Installation he informed us of his intention to go out visiting as a Lodge in the Province and similarly to invite Lodges to visit Kyle. However as can be seen below we may have a somewhat busy start to 2014.

Lodge Kyle starts the New Year favourably with three new (potential) candidates.

Our first candidate (a younger fellow in his 20's) will be going through his First Degree on the first Monday of February (3/2/14); all brethren in good standing are of course welcome. Lodge Tyled 8pm prompt.

This is good news for the Brethren in our small community as it demonstrates there is still a willingness for younger men of good character in our area to commit time and energy to The Craft.

Finally our warmest regards to all the Brethren in the Province and we hope to see you all again soon.

Ronnie Miller, PM, Lodge Kyle No. 1117

Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

Lodge Rosehaugh's next meeting is on Friday 7th February at 8.00pm and this time we are working a Mark degree.

Hopefully should be a good evening and a warm welcome is extended to anyone who wishes to come along.

Keith Patience, PM
Secretary

Past Grand Master Mason – appointed Lord Lyon King of Arms

The Rev Canon Dr Joseph Morrow, Chancellor of the Diocese of Brechin, Honorary Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee and Chaplain, Glamis Castle has been appointed as the new Lord Lyon King of Arms. The Lord Lyon office dates from the 14th Century. Duties include the granting of armorial bearings and judicial rulings on who has the right to bear an existing coat of arms.

The appointment was made by the Queen on the recommendation of the First Minister. Under section 3 of the Lyon King of Arms (Scotland) Act 1867, the part-time appointment is based at Edinburgh's New Register House. It was made following advertisement, interview of a short-list of candidates by a selection board followed by recommendation to the First Minister.

Dr Morrow has a special interest in ecclesiastical history and 35 years' experience of the practical application of ceremonial within a variety of settings including State, Civil, Military and Ecclesiastical areas of Scottish life.

I'm sure all of us within this Province would wish to congratulate Brother Morrow on attaining this high office.

Acknowledgement to the Scottish Episcopal Church website for the information

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Lodge St Martin 1217

The Brethren of the Lodge had a very successful visit from the RWM Bro. Donnie Graham and the Office-Bearers and Brethren of Lodge Fortrose No 108 on Saturday 1st February. On Tuesday 18th February the Lodge will be working a 2nd Degree ceremony and all Brethren are invited to attend.

Charles MacAulay, PM

Secretary



RWM Donnie Graham and his Brethren socialising in the upstairs bar at Lodge St Martin 1217

Rosicrucian College – Inverness

The meeting on 10th February will be a working of Grade 4

On 10th March there will be the Annual Peter Ross Lecture

And to bring the season to a close – the Installation of Peter Foster as Celebrant – this will take place in Lodge Seaforth, Fortrose.

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Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

The last quarter of 2013 heralded the Reinstallation of RWM Gibby Hassell and his Office Bearers on 12th December under the able stewardship of Installing Master Rory Mackenzie PM Lodge Fingal and his Installing Board.

As we look forward to 2014 it is gratifying to record that, during the December Reinstallation ceremony, most of the Lodge positions were filled. It was also very fitting that one of the Lodge stalwarts, PM Duncan MacLennan, Secretary was recognised by the Brethren of the Lodge for his unstinting 50 years' service to the Lodge and presented with a special jewel to mark the occasion by one of his many friends over such a distinctive time, namely Bro Bob MacLean, PM of Lodge Seaforth No 854. The jewel, was indeed a fitting accolade for its recipient. Seeing two venerable brethren on the floor separated by some 90 miles in distance demonstrated to us all what brotherhood and companionship is all about in this day and age.



PM, Bro Duncan MacLennan, on right with RWM Gibby Hassell

The New Year has also brought us the opportunity to revise our workload during this session and we are happy to record that we are full of anticipation at the prospect of initiating a new candidate for the annual visitation of PGL on Thursday 10th April – so make a note of the date bearing in mind the attendant buffet and raffle which accompanies this event.

At time of writing we are looking forward to the Annual Grand Challenge quiz (cue for refreshments and another raffle!) scheduled for Friday 7th February under the auspices of Quizmaster Ken McMorran Lodge Organist in the Aultbea Hotel at 7.30pm; teams of 4 @ £ 10 per team and, if you haven't already booked table booking can be made by calling 07885 515 760 – as last year the proceeds from the quiz will be going to the Poolewe Swimming Pool project.

On Wednesday 22nd January Bro. Danny Forbes WJW and PM of the lodge was admitted to Ward 11 in Raigmore hospital and the following day I popped through to see him. Danny was receiving oxygen and awaiting a scan and biopsy; a week later and the news is not good with his health giving serious concern.

Other lodge brethren recently not too well and now feeling much better are Billy Brown DOC and PM and Dennis Aldrich SM.

PM Kenny Charles Mackenzie has also been hospitalised on occasion over the last couple of months spending time in both Raigmore and Invergordon following a stroke from which he is recovering.

With these health issues a fair bit of juggling has been necessary to ensure adequate cover for lodge duties and we all hope the pressure eases in the weeks and months ahead.

Andrew M. Henderson

Depute Master

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The Sinclair Bruce Diary

Where better to commence my contribution to the 78th edition than by giving a report on the Bowls final between Norman Brett and Peter Foster. A very interesting and close game with first set to Foster and second to Brett with all ends closely finished and so to a final tie break where Brett was the winner. A worthy conclusion to an excellent week of Bowls on the Telly.

It's now Monday 18th November and our regular meeting of my Mother Lodge, Lodge Seaforth No 854. This is our annual General Meeting when we have nomination of Office-bearers etc. for the coming year. Unfortunately I did not manage to go but, as always, I am fortunate to get a report on same. The attendance was down slightly but a full agenda was presented and disposed of with good regularity, and to the satisfaction of all present.

Although I watch all the Rugby on the Telly, I only record the Scottish games and the one that held my attention was the Scotland v Australia game. It was a great game to watch and Scotland had only themselves to blame as their defence was very poor and only too easy for Australia to make tries and they went on to win by six - result Scotland 15 Australia 21. The next game was in world Rugby league cup - firstly Australia v New Zealand - an excellent game to watch with tries and scores top notch. In the first half the score was Australia 16 New Zealand 2 and the Australian's went on to win - final score - Australia 34 New Zealand 2. The next game was equally interesting namely Australia v Wales with a final score of 30-26.

And now over to the snooker world and it was a very interesting week with a number of the top players biting the dust. However we are now at the semi-final stage - the first between Stuart Bingham and Neil Robertson. It was a very close match with neither player gaining a wide lead. It was eight each and the tie break went to Robertson - score 9 - 8. The next semi was Selby v Warden - another good game but not so close final score - Selby 9 Warden 5. Consequently we will have the final between Robertson and Selby. We now arrive at the final and there is, as always one winner, and the honour this year goes to Robertson.

How time passes - we are now well through January and last night I attended my mother Lodge, Mon 20th where I witnessed a very well worked first degree with a young candidate who was very attentive throughout the degree. I am confident he will be a great asset to our Lodge in the future.

The bowls are now getting near a conclusion on the Telly so I will start reporting as we approach the Final. The first final today was the ladies and, as expected, another great game between Catherine Rednell and Rebecca Field. The final two sets went to Catherine my next report will be the Gents final. As promised I watched the gents' final of the bowls today and it was possibly the best game I ever saw and, to make it more interesting, it was a Scotland v England match - an excellent game with scores always close. The players were Scotland's Darren Burnet and England's Mervin King. At the end of the first set it was Scotland 5 England 7 - second set Scotland 8 England 6 and so to a tie break. Scotland really shone and Darren Burnet took the cup. A very close margin but at least a win. That concludes my contribution to this edition and I trust you will all enjoy the reading of this the seventy eighth edition of The Patter.

Sinclair Bruce

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BITS AND PIECES



"Brother David Pringle and I travelled to Port of Spain, Trinidad, for the purpose of visiting and celebrating with the brethren of Lodge United Brother No. 251, their 200th Anniversary of Scottish Freemasonry. I say that because they as a lodge are much older, being a member of the French Constitution prior to this.

The picture above shows Brothers Daniel Nicolas; Zead Face and Danny Roberts, all Past Masters of Lodge St Andrew's No. 1794, Grenada. They met us off the plane after our long flight from London to Grenada, where we were to make our base for the two week trip, staying at the Bougainvillea Apartments, Mount Toute, Saint Georges, Grenada.

We experienced a wonderful time of friendship, comradeship and brotherly spirit with these brethren during our time in Grenada.

We travelled from Maurice Bishop International Airport, Grenada to Port of Spain, Trinidad on Friday 1st November and were met at the airport by Bro. Robin Rajcoomar, Director of Ceremonies, of LUB, whom kindly transported us to the Lodge on Mount Moriah, Piccadilly, Port of Spain, where we met many well kent faces of the various Lodges and the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad & Tobago and Grenada, including, of course, our own newly made Honorary Member, Peter E. Salvary.

The Lodge was well attended and the Ceremony of Celebration was carried out by the District Grand Lodge, under the direction of the District Grand Master, Bro. Adrian Franklin, his Director of Ceremonies Bro. Ranald Hadeed and the District Grand Lodge Chaplains.

The ceremony was a most impressive affair and carried out without the aid of bibles or ritual books. Everyone really enjoyed the experience.

I presented the master of the Lodge Bro. Charles Hadeed with a small marble, inscribed plaque, marking the occasion, however not before I was taken completely by surprise and presented to the floor of the Lodge and obligated as an Honorary Member of Lodge United Brothers. Lodge United Brothers is the second oldest

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Lodge outside Scotland under the Scottish Constitution and I deemed it a great honour to be obligated into the Lodge.

The celebratory dinner was held in the adjacent anti-room and the usual toasts were given and replied to in a most interesting and enjoyable manner by all.

We stayed in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, during our visit there and had a most enjoyable Saturday with the brethren of the Lodge.

Unfortunately I suffered a heavy cold, sore throat and voice loss, which prompted Bro. Robin Rajcoomar and his good lady Nadia, on our way to the airport on the very early Sunday morning, to introduce me to the local remedy. i.e.:- 78% white rum and freshly squeezed lime. After a couple I think I felt a little better and continued the remedy on Magazine Beach, Grenada, where we attended a BBQ with the necessary drinks with brethren and friends of Lodge St Andrew's, Grenada.

In all a marvellous time was experienced and it was with sorry hearts that we left Grenada on Monday 11th November on route to the UK.

The DGM and Office Bearers of the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad & Tobago and Grenada requested I pass on their good wishes to the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross & Cromarty on my return."

Morris M Downie

Past Provincial Grand Master



Highland Hospice -

The Black Isle Cycle Challenge will take place on Saturday 26th April and I again appeal to all Brethren in the Province to consider volunteering to act as stewards on the day – the Province has an outstanding record of support for this annual event and it will be gratefully appreciated by the Hospice Fund-raising Team if we can continue to provide all necessary stewarding for the event. Please get in touch if you can assist – w.r.mcgee@btinternet.com

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TOOLS for MALAWI

The situation at Mountain View School is still extremely difficult, to say the least. The last report we received indicated that there was still an ongoing dispute between the Church and the Government over a number of issues. This situation does absolutely nothing for the stability of the school and, at the end of the day, the ones who are really suffering from the problems are the children themselves. We are deeply concerned as to what may happen to the children if the negotiations fail and the school is closed.

However, in a joint effort between our own Province and the Province of Fife and Kinross a second (even larger than the first) consignment of tools has been collected and are now being looked after by our Depute PGM, Bro Robin Cattenach, until such time as we get the nod to ship them out to the school.



The picture gives an indication of the amount of tools that have been gathered. From left to right – from Fife & Kinross, Craig Thomson, SPGM, Rev Andrew Paterson, PGM, Bill Rocks, SPGM and our own DPGM, Robin Cattenach.

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While we have been putting a lot of effort into the gathering of tools, we haven't totally forgotten the younger girls in the school. Last year, we sent out a selection of cuddly toys made by the late Babs MacKay who, at the time was resident in the Marine Nursing Home in Rosemarkie. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words.



We can only hope and pray that the problems surrounding the school will be satisfactorily resolved sooner rather than later and that Bro Gordon Sheppard and his team will be able to take delivery of the new tool collection.

Late News: On the advice of Bro Gordon Sheppard, Grand Superintendent of Malawi, we have forwarded the sum of £1000 to secure the services of the woodwork teacher for another year and enable materials to be purchased to resume the woodwork classes for the older children. A new head teacher, Miss Jere, has been appointed and, despite the ongoing uncertainty, she is keen to resume the woodworking classes.

The former head teacher, Cassidy Magreta, is now working on post graduate studies with a view to establishing a vocational training centre in Malawi for young people after leaving school – in his latest letter to me he asks – “*may I ask you to consider partnering with me to establish a vocational training centre in Malawi? Or would you mind sharing this idea to other friends and charitable groups in Scotland and elsewhere you can extend. That sort of project is very viable if we are to also promote the living standards of deaf people and this will be the first of its kind in our country, Malawi. I have managerial skills but lacking support in the form of capital.*”

This is something that I will take up with the Scotland- Malawi Project, which we as a Province are members of, and see if any progress can be made in this latest initiative.

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Royal Arch

The Provincial Grand Superintendent MEC Donald Macleod wishes to intimate the following dates for his annual visitation to your chapter.

These dates are:	St Clements Chapter No 244	31 st January 2014
	Tain & Ross Chapter No 63	11 th February 2014
	Cromarty Firth Chapter No 310	7 th March 2014
	The Hebrides Chapter No 364	14 th May 2014

St Clement RAC No 244 –

The March meeting will be held on Friday 28th February in the Masonic Hall, Dingwall. The Royal Arch Degree will be worked during the meeting.

Cromarty Firth RAC

Since the last Patter we carried out an EM degree and a RA degree for companion David Forsyth but regrettably Companion Forsyth was involved in a tragic road accident and has passed to the Grand Chapter above - he will be sadly missed by all.

On the 5th February we will be carrying out an EM degree, on the 5th March it will be a Chapter business meeting as on Friday the 7th March it will be our Supreme Chapter visitation, for which we intend to carry out a RA degree. On the 2nd of April, we will be selecting and nominating our office bearers for the coming new season.

Raymond Morrison

Guild Lodges

The Order of the Guild of Masons, Paviers, Tylers, Bricklayers, Plaisterers, Glaziers, Plombiers, and Wrights of Scotland.

The Moray Firth Guild Lodge.

The next meeting of Moray Firth Guild will be held in The Masonic Temple, Lodge St John No.193, Rothes on 11th February 2014 at 7.30pm.

Highland Guild Lodge

The Highland Guild Lodge Installation will take place in Alness on Friday 14th February 2014.

Squaremen

"The last meeting of the 2013 season took place on Saturday 7th September, when Heilan Shed travelled to Portree in Skye.

A poor turnout of members from that area certainly didn't dampen the spirits of the ones who did attend.

An excellent degree was worked by the participating Office Bearers, who were without the Worthy Deacon; Sub-Deacon and Captain of the Guard and gave the four entrants a most memorable occasion. Three came from the Island of Skye and one from Glasgow.

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All the lectures were delivered in an excellent manner, for everyone's enjoyment.

The days' activities resulted in a sum of £120 being donated to Lodge St Kilda for a local charitable cause, which they were to graciously match. A very worthwhile afternoon indeed.

The acting Worthy Deacon thanked all for their attendance and wished all a safe journey home and a pleasant winter break.

A full committee meeting of the Shed takes place on the last Saturday in January, just prior to the annual Cork meeting in The Club, Inverness, to discuss the forthcoming visits and confirm Office Bearers for the 2014 session.

The Worthy Deacon, in his absence, requested that everyone be thanked for their efforts during the visits this year and for those members who stood in at the last minute to cover those absent due to work and other commitments."

The following dates and venues have been agreed for the 2014 Hielan' shed programme –

1st MARCH - **INSTALLATION** – GORDON TERRACE – **INVERNESS**

5th APRIL – Lodge Seaforth, - **FORTROSE** – bus leaves Inverness 13:30

3rd MAY – Lodge St Johns Operative – **ROTHES** – bus leaves Inverness 13:00

7th JUNE – **GRAND SHED VISIT** – GORDON TERRACE – **INVERNESS 3:00 p.m. sharp**

5th JULY – Lodge St Martin – **ULLAPOOL** – bus leaves Inverness 12:30 noon

2nd AUGUST – Lodge Rosehaugh – **AVOCH** – bus leaves Inverness 13:30

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