

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 79

MAY 2014



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The Sinclair Bruce Diary

And much more

Cover picture: War Memorial at Munloch in this the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of WW1

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Editorial

Welcome to the 79th edition of the Patter.

Since the last edition it has been quite an exciting time in Scottish Freemasonry both at home and abroad.

I had the privilege of attending the first ever all Africa and Asia Scottish Freemasonry Conference which was held in Mombasa under the auspices of the District Grand Lodge of East Africa. This was a most inspiring and encouraging conference dealing with day to day issues that affect Freemasons' throughout the world such as recruitment and retention of members, charity, the image of Freemasonry and so on. I'll go into greater detail later in the newsletter, suffice to say at this juncture, the DGM, Bro Mike Craig, the DG Secretary, Brother Kalpesh Shah and their entire Conference Team deserve a tremendous vote of thanks for organising such a fantastic conference where no detail was overlooked. The District is indeed a shining example in the Scottish Craft.

Not only did we have the Conference, the District are supporting a School for Girls in Mombasa and on the first day of the Conference we visited the School during which time the Grand Master Mason and the District Grand Master officially opened a new science classroom which has been fully kitted out by the District.

On the last day in Mombasa the Seventh Bi-annual District Grand Lodge Communication was held. This was a very fitting end to the week coupled with the formal Harmony at night.

The District Grand Lodge of the Middle East has agreed to host the second conference in February 2016.

Following on from the Mombasa Conference, Grand Lodge hosted a Seminar on 29th March at which the PGL of Renfrewshire East presented their work on Masonic Education. The Province have done a superb job and there is much to learn from their presentation.

The Province have produced some very helpful literature and I am delighted to report that the PGM, Brother John Miller will travel north to present a summary of their work to Lodge Allan Wilson in July. This is a meeting that all Lodges in the Province should try and have representation at – it will be well worth attending.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland

Grand Lodge continue with a busy programme.

During May they will visit Dalmellington where Lodge St Thomas Kilwinning No 433 will celebrate their 150th Anniversary. The following week we see Grand Lodge heading north – first on Friday 9th to install Brother William MacLeod as the new PGM of Caithness and the following day install Bro Vincent Geddes as PGM of Inverness-shire. On Saturday 17th May the destination is Dundee and on the 24th May, Cellardyke in the Kingdom of Fife.

June starts off with the Installation of Grand Almoner, Brother Thomas Constable Smith, as PGM of Midlothian. The following week it's down to Dumfries for the Provincial Installation there.

The next meeting of Grand Lodge will be held on Thursday 12th June in Edinburgh.

This should be an interesting meeting with a number of very topical issues to be decided upon.

One of those issues will be the possibility of restoring recognition to the Grande Loge Nationale Française. Much progress has been made in restoring the GLNF back to where it should be – it has been an immensely difficult time for the French Brethren but I am delighted to report that there is now much light at the end of the tunnel

An update will also be available on the University Lodge Project in Edinburgh. There have been a few teething problems due mainly to misunderstanding exactly what is happening but, again, great progress has been made in this the pilot project and I am confident that it will continue to gain momentum.

The project in England which our version is based upon has gone from two University Lodges in 2005 to sixty at the current time. From all accounts the English system is working incredibly well – we will hopefully attain the same success north of the Border.

WRM

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

The Annual Provincial Grand Lodge of Sorrow will take place on Sunday 11th May 2014 within Lodge Seaforth No 854 at 3.00 pm and will be conducted by Senior Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro Rev Ivan Warwick. This service gives all Brethren in the Province, the opportunity to remember all those who have passed to the Grand Lodge Above during the past year.

The Provincial Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication will be held within Lodge Fingal No 318 on Wednesday 28th May 2014 at 8.00 pm. This will be the AGM and Installation of Office-bearers and therefore a good attendance of Brethren would be appreciated.

I recently attended a Meeting of Lodge Ness No 888, when I had the pleasure to welcome into our Province, Worshipful Brethren Jeremy Shaw and Gerald Ridge from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dorset. It was indeed a special occasion in that Brother Shaw's Great Uncle, Brother Philip W. McCormick, who was serving in the Royal Navy, was initiated into Lodge Ness No 888 in May 1914 (almost 100 years ago). Brother Shaw had his Great Uncle's Masonic Regalia and Certificates and which were handed over to the Lodge. Brother Raymond Morrison, Lodge Secretary was also able to show Brother Shaw the appropriate entry in the Lodge Petition Book. A most interesting and enjoyable evening for all.

It was also my recent pleasure to welcome into the Province, Brother Hogg from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Northumberland who was visiting Lodge St. Martin No 1217 in Ullapool.

Accompanied by Brother Henry Cameron, Provincial Grand Secretary, I was pleased to attend the Installation of Brother Andrew Lawrie as Provincial Grand Master of Aberdeenshire West. It was a most enjoyable day with an excellent Installation Ceremony.

I am also looking forward to the forthcoming Installations of the Provincial Grand Masters of Caithness and Inverness-shire on the 9th and 10th of May respectively.

William Ross
Provincial Grand Master

Provincial Installations

The details for the two Installations referred to by the PGM are as follows:

Provincial Grand Lodge of Caithness to be held in the Assembly Rooms, Wick at 7.00 pm sharp on Friday 9th May with dinner thereafter in MacKay's Hotel, Wick.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness-shire to be held in the Masonic Temple, 5 Gordon Terrace, Inverness at 1.00 pm on Saturday 10th May with dinner thereafter in the Temple.

The Grand Master Mason will conduct both Ceremonies.

Tickets for the two Installations are available from the respective Provincial Grand Secretaries.

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From The Provincial Almoner

Once again I have to open my report on a sad note and record the recent passing of Past Master Danny Forbes, Lodge Loch Ewe, Aultbea. Danny was a stalwart member of his Lodge over many years and his contribution to the Lodge will be hugely missed by his fellow members. Danny's funeral service was very largely attended including representatives from many of the Lodges in the Province. An appropriate card was sent to the family on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master and brethren of the Province.

Past Master Alistair Taylor, Robertson's Lodge and Lodge Seaforth, is now out of hospital and is again attending to his Masonic duties.

RWM Gibbie Hassell, Lodge Loch Ewe spent some time recently in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary having sustained serious injury in a fall. I'm glad to report that he is now out of hospital and on the mend.

Past Master Victor Shepherd, Robertson's Lodge, is still not in very good health but is currently at home.

Bro Ian MacLeod, Lodge Fingal is currently undergoing a course of chemotherapy.

We recently learned that on 29th April Bro. Brian Carmichael, Lodge Rosehaugh underwent major surgery in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for a ruptured aneurysm and is still in High Dependency.

Past Master David Smith, Lodge Seaforth recently sustained a heart attack and on 1st May he was also admitted to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for heart by-pass surgery.

Cards have been sent where appropriate and our thoughts are with them all and our best wishes are extended to them.

I 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



Lodge St Duthus No 82 has now entered its closed season after holding its final meeting for the season on the 21st April when we worked a Master Masons Degree carried out by the Past Masters of Lodge St Duthus.

This year it was the turn of PM Tom Anderson to return to the Chair of King Solomon and preside over the working of the degree. He was ably assisted during the evening by R Patullo PM as WSW, D J Patience PM as WJW, H Fraser PM as SD, D Macrae PM as JD, H Patience PM as IG, and R Cattanach as SM with A Waugh PM as Chaplain. Due to a lack of candidates the Third degree was conferred upon Bro Henry Cameron PM Lodge Fingal No 318. The first lecture was given by Bro I Sinclair DM, the Emblems by RWM A Pett, the Signs by PM H Patience, the Apron was presented by PM R Patullo, the tools by PM D McMaster, the 2nd Lecture by PM D Macrae and the charge by PM A Waugh.

Lodge St Duthus No 82 during the past session held a very successful Annual Divine Service once again carried out By the Rev. Derek Brown who gave a very interesting sermon on his work with the Crocus Group. Sadly attendance on this night was down but all who attended agreed that this as a very interesting evening. Lodge St Duthus agreed to donate £200 to the Crocus Group for all the work they do with bereaved children.

Whilst Lodge St Duthus may have been quiet due to a lack of candidates, on the social front the Lodge has been extremely busy. The building has been used by Perfect Paws for a quiz night, Tesco's for a Diabetes UK fundraising quiz night, Craighill School quiz night raising funds for a P7 trip to Craggan, and a Breast Cancer Care quiz night. The Lodge also held a Coffee morning and quiz night to raise funds for Tain & Ross Royal Arch Chapter No 63.

During the summer recess we hope to continue with quiz nights the first being on 17th May and been run by Past Master McGougan's wife Sadie, to raise funds for a defibrillator for the new Health Centre in Tain. This is followed on the 31st May by a quiz night to raise funds for Clic Sargent this has been organised by my wife Karen. On 14th June Depute Master Ian Sinclair has organised a quiz night in aid of his granddaughter who hoping to travel to Fuji with VESA to do charity work there with the locals, helping with a building and education programme. A further quiz is being organised by our Janitor Bro Ross Campbell for the local Scout group to raise funds for a summer camp in Austria. Why not come along with your family on one or all of these nights and enjoy a good night whilst testing your general knowledge.

As you can see the social side of the Lodge is going extremely well, however a lack of candidates has meant that we have needed to look again at the number of meetings that we currently hold and a decision has been reached to reduce them to once per month. This will take effect from the new season in October when we will have meetings on the first Monday in the month. Please check your diaries nearer the time. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly but in the current climate is one that has been forced upon us.

I hope you all have a happy and enjoyable break.

David Macrae PM (Secretary)

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FORTROSE LODGE No. 108

At this time of year we are normally looking forward to our summer recess but it looks like we in 108 may be looking forward to a wee bit of a busy time. We have 5 or 6 forms waiting to be read from new candidates.

On 23 May we are planning to make a trip to Lodge 1379 Macdonald of Sleat and the following day make the AGM of the Provincial Royal Arch Chapter of Ross & Cromarty.

On 27th June we expect a visit from St John, Whiteinch No 683, on 1st August Lodge Thistle No 270 will be visiting and on 5th September Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 are arriving with a contingent of about 70 to work a 1st degree.

I've attached a few pictures of recent events and visits:

Visit to Ullapool on 1st February 2014



Stephen Smith RWM Lodge St Martin No. 1217 (l) and Donnie Graham RWM Fortrose Lodge No. 108 (r).

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Alex McLeish (Rangers) wished to see the lodge on a recent visit to Stornoway, the brethren duly obliged.



We hosted about 20 brethren from Finland who spent 3 days on Lewis in March and we held a special meeting of the lodge on 25 March when 108 worked a 1st degree. The candidate, Gary Macleod is the one with the red tie in the front row. The Finnish brethren really enjoyed their visit during which they visited various well known landmarks as well as visiting a salmon processing factory, a Harris tweed mill and of course a distillery.

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi Brethren

Well that is our session now at an end until September 2014. Previous articles in this magazine will show it has been quite an eventful year and we have kept busy under RWM Neil Cooper's reign. It would have been nice to see some absent brethren back in the fold to give him their support but there is always the remainder of this year from September onwards to come back among us.

I like to report on what is going to be happening rather than what has happened, but I felt I had to report on our last meeting of the session in April 2014.

Our regular meeting of Wednesday 16 April 2014 was a visitation from Lodge Seaforth No 854 under the leadership of their RWM Brother Gwyn Phillips to work a 3rd Degree with their own candidate, Bro Andrew Morrison. The deputation duly arrived and after being welcomed into the Lodge they commenced the degree work. About 8.30 p.m., however, during the obligation, there was a total power failure, plunging the lodge into darkness. There was still a little bit of daylight at this time. A quick check revealed that yes we had paid our "lecky" bill and the problem affected the whole of Cromarty. We later learned that it was throughout the north of Scotland. As the degree work continued candles were dug out resulting in several Brethren running about like "*wee Willie Winkies*" but the 6 candles gave sufficient light to proceed and the degree was completed in an excellent manner. At the completion the other business of the evening was completed, still in candlelight. The lodge was closed and an excellent Harmony took place with tea being made by heating the water on a Calor gas stove. At the conclusion about 10.40 p.m. and while in the process of washing the dishes, wonder of wonders, the power came back on.

The evening, I think was enhanced by being carried out by candlelight. Thanks go out to members of Lodge Seaforth, and to our visitors for their tolerance. It shows that Freemasonry can go ahead without too much technology as it did throughout at least two centuries, as the "Craft" is the power generated by our members and not by technology.

I wish all a good break and look forward to us all being back fully refreshed in September.

Fraternal greetings to all.

James A Tait, PM
Secretary

Highland Hospice -

Could I express my grateful thanks to all the Brethren, wives and family who braved the elements on Saturday 26th for the Black Isle Cycle Challenge. The Stewarding, once again drew very favourable remarks from many of the competitors – so many thanks for that. This year, 460 entries were recorded – a record for the event and somewhat challenging for the Stewards. Unfortunately due to call offs we ended up a bit short on the ground so I had to rejig things a bit – that went reasonably well but I didn't put anyone on the Smiddy Junction at Balblair thinking that everyone would know that they were almost there – however, a couple apparently ended up in Culbokie as they turned right instead of left – guess which junction will be the first on the list next year. With the 4 routes I now need a bare minimum of 20 stewards – I'll publish the date as soon as it is known and you will all hopefully rise to the call again.

WRM

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Lodge Fingal No 318



February meeting: 11th Mock EA°. PM Roy MacIver stood in as the candidate for the Degree Work. There was 15 Brethren and 4 visiting Brethren present. The RWM came down onto the floor of the Lodge, after the degree work and greeted PM MacIver and thanked him for standing in as the candidate. The RWM then went on to say that when he came into Freemasonry that PM MacIver was in the Chair, and the roles were tonight, reversed.

March meeting: 11th EA° for Mr Allan Alexander MacKenzie, also our annual Provincial visit. Lodge Tyled at 7.30 p.m. to do the minutes, etc. There was 17 Brethren and 21 visiting Brethren present. The Provincial Deputation was introduced into the Lodge. Presentations were then conveyed by the Provincial D of C Bro Rory Mackenzie, RWPGM Bro William Ross / IPPGM Bro Ramsay McGhee / PPGM Bro Ian Fraser / PPGM Bro Morris Downie / DPGM Bro Robin Cattenach / SPGM Bro Jim Tait, all took their rightful seat in the East. The remaining 12 Office-bearers took their seat in the body of the Lodge. The Gavel the emblem of power and authority was then presented to the RWPGM by the RWM. The RWPGM thanked for the welcome he and his deputation had received on entry to the Lodge and also for the harmony which was laid on for them in the Committee Room. To the visiting Brethren on their presence here tonight, and also the Brethren out with the Province, and on return to their respective Mother Lodge to take the fraternal greetings of the Province of Ross & Cromarty as charged.

April meeting: 8th Mark° for Brothers Robert Cassie and David Robertson. The Lodge was well attended as this being the last meeting off the season, there was 19 Brethren and 16 visiting Brethren present.

Special meeting: Monday 28th April, Fingal were invited to Lodge Kyle No 1117 to work a Mark°. There was a good deputation of 15 Brethren who accompanied the RWM Bro Rev Ivan Warwick. There was 4 Kyle Brethren who were put through their paces. At the conclusion there was the usual fine harmony which we have been accustomed from Lodge Kyle.

On behalf of the RWM and Brethren of the Lodge, may we wish all Brethren, Wives, Partners and Families a very relaxing summer recess. Fingal return to work on Tuesday 14th October, where we will be treated to a Paper by PM Bro Rory MacKenzie.

Events Logie Lounge: On Saturday 19th April surprise birthday party for Bro Ali Gault, who has reached the milestone of 3score and 10.

That's all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn P.M.
Secretary*

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Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

As promised at the last meeting in August 2013, I have represented Lodge Allan Wilson at a Communication of Grand Lodge in Edinburgh, a Provincial Grand Lodge Communication and have visited all of the other eleven Lodges in the Province. Accordingly, I have been charged to convey the respective Greetings at our first Regular Meeting on 10th June 2014. The June Meeting will be the Installation Meeting and I have much pleasure in extending a very warm welcome to Brethren of all Lodges in our Province, and beyond, to come along at 11.30 am and witness Brother James A Tait, Substitute Provincial Grand Master being installed into the Chair. All visitors will be made most welcome. Tea and Coffee will be available from 11.00 am The Lodge is well supported by Brethren resident in the Central Belt and by local Brethren – why not join all of us after the meeting for lunch and enjoy the craik.

Fraternal Greetings from –

Robin Cattenach, RWM

Early notification:

The July meeting will be a presentation by the PGM of Renfrewshire East on the Education Programme the Province launched at Grand Lodge a few weeks ago. This is an exciting and valuable project and it would be of benefit to members of all Lodges in the Province to come along and hear what is involved.

The August meeting will hopefully be a presentation by the Chairman of one of the Grand Lodge Committees.

Lodge Seaforth No 854

It's hard to believe that another year has passed us by and we only have 1 Lodge Meeting left in our calendar along with the Provincial Lodge of Sorrow.

The Lodge of Sorrow takes place on Sunday 11th May at 3.00pm in Lodge Seaforth and we look forward to a good turnout for this annual meeting.

Our final meeting is on Saturday 21st June when Lodge John O Groat come down for their bi-annual visit. This is always a good day and we would be delighted to see as many visitors as possible come to watch a 3rd degree.

We hope everyone has a great summer and the weather is as good as promised.

Our first meeting of next season is on the 3rd Monday in September when we will be working a 3rd Degree.

Cochrane Donald PM.

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Lodge Averon 866

We initiated Gavin Wheelan on 12th December. Our Installation meeting was held on Saturday 21st December and, as usual was well attended. Bro Calum MacKenzie was installed as Master for his second term by Past Master Finlay "Dad" MacKenzie. Bro Wheelan was passed to the Second Degree on 9th January. On Thursday 23rd January we had two lectures from yours truly. Our first meeting in February was the annual Provincial Grand Lodge visitation when we had a Master Mason Degree for Bro Wheelan. It was also a landmark meeting for PM Iain Fraser PPGM when he was presented with his 50years Jubilee certificate By RWM Calum MacKenzie and PGM Bro William Ross. Bro Ross spoke about Bro Fraser's years as a member of Lodge Averon. Bro Fraser replied in his usual fashion. At the moment we have three gentlemen who have been successfully balloted and will be our next initiates. We hope to have Lodge Hozier Douglas Water 912 visiting us on Saturday 13th September when they will initiate one of them.

On the social side Bro Harry McCartney arranged a great St Andrews night on Saturday 30th November. It was enjoyed by all who attended. On Saturday 14th December Bro Harry held the childrens' Christmas party; again enjoyed by the adults as well as the children. On Saturday 8th Feb we had our Senior Citizens' Party which is always a hit. We have had a successful quiz night and a race night. We will be having our golf competition in the beginning of October, Texas Scramble same as last year. We are having a social evening on the last Saturday of each month during the recess. This will help to keep up with the news and allow prospective candidates to mix with those that they may want to join.

Kindest regards, Henry W. MacInnes...

Kindest Regards,

Henry W MacInnes
Secretary

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Lodge Ness No 888

The Lodge has gone to rest for a few months again and we ended the session with a practice second degree with PM Dowie as the candidate. This was an interesting evening, highlighted by the visit of two members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dorset who were introduced to the Lodge by our own Provincial Master and other office bearers. The visitors, Jeremy Shaw and Gerald Ridge, Grand Officers were here to visit the Lodge where Jeremy Shaw's great uncle was initiated into Freemasonry, on the 1st of May 1914. The visiting date was chosen as this was our nearest meeting date to 100 years from the initiation. Brother Philip Wayman McCormick was at this time serving in the Royal Navy and his address at the time was, HMS Shannon, a Battleship which was based here at that time. Bro. Shaw presented us with his great uncle's regalia, which was well worn and shows to us that although he returned to England after the war, he made sure that Lodge Ness was represented all over.



RWM - Graeme Hunter

Left to Right- Sub PGM, James Tait, PGM, William Ross, PAGDC, Jeremy Shaw, RWM, Graeme Hunter, PAGDC, Gerald Ridge, IPPGM, William Ramsay McGhee, PG D of C, Rory MacKenzie.

On Friday the 30th May, we will be holding a race night within the Lodge at 7.30 and all are welcome. On Saturday the 21st June, we will be holding our Summer BBQ, again all are welcome, with their wives/partners and children, fun starts at 1.30.

That is about all I have to say and wish everyone and their families a pleasant holiday season.

R. W. Morrison. PM - Secretary.

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

With our Centenary year coming to a close the Brethren of Lodge Kyle can report a very event filled and successful year. I believe I speak for most if not all the Brethren that perhaps the most fulfilling aspect of the year is a new vigour brought into the Lodge. A sense of purpose, re-evaluating our places within the Craft, the recognition of opportunities to help others and the support not only of Brethren within our own Lodge, but also those throughout the Province; no matter how far flung that might be from Kyle.

With this in mind we welcome the visitation of Lodge Fingal to our humble abode, where they will be putting three Kyle candidates through the Mark Degree. It would be easy to overlook the effort and dedication required on the parts of the team from Dingwall; however in this instance we are all very appreciative of their commitment in making this event come to fruition.

We also recognise that three more new brethren have entered the craft in 2014 and all of a “younger demographic”. It is a great reflection on Freemasonry that the younger generation still wish to join, learn and participate in our traditions.

We should not forget that there is much to distract young persons in this modern age and that we need to make sure the young generation know three things:- where we are, what we do and how to join. I was recently asked ... “what is that funny old building next to the village hall and what do they do in there?” In my opinion that is a question that should never have been asked - after our Centenary celebrations I am sure a lot less folk will need to ask this question and possibly they will feel more confident about approaching The Craft for information or help.

Ronnie Miller, PM, Lodge Kyle No. 1117



Cartoon – courtesy of Bro Kalpesh Shah, District Grand Secretary of East Africa – definitely reminds me of someone – just can't think who?

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Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

Brother Brian Carmichael, Lodge Rosehaugh 1216, is currently at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. On Tuesday 29th April he went through a 10 hour operation to repair a ruptured aneurysm in his chest/abdomen and early indications are that the operation has been successful. He will be in high dependency/intensive care for a few days before moving to ward 105. Hopefully his stay will be no more than 10-14 days but that all depends on recovery. He is very annoyed at missing the Lodge Rosehaugh/Provincial visitation meeting on Friday 2nd May but sends his apologies. I shall be visiting this weekend so will pass on any brotherly greetings.

PM *Allan Carmichael* - Rosehaugh 1216.

Due to unforeseen circumstances we were unable to submit our article in time for the last edition so we do have a bit of catch up this time. We have been busy both in lodge business and in other masonic interests.

On the business side we had an alteration to our normal Installation in December due to Scott's off shore work. So this gave us an opportunity to get Kevin Kelman through his master mason degree. Kevin is also a shift worker whose has been unable to get to many meetings recently due to the work commitments. Allan Carmichael took over the chair again for the evening. Our January meeting was held on the 10th (2nd Friday in January) and this was Installation evening. We had a very good attendance almost 50 in the lodge and once again Allan Carmichael took on the role of Installing Master well assisted by a few lieutenants. We were also honoured once again to call on our PGL Substitute Master Jim Tate who installed the Office Bearers.

Scott was away for the February meeting and this time we had Donald McLennan in the chair. It has been a few years since Donald took over the Master's mantle but he handled the role very well indeed. Graham Brindle was our candidate and we were ably assisted by Derek Rodway of Lodge Ness who delivered an excellent lecture.

Scott was back for our March meeting and we had again a good attendance for an expected first degree. Unfortunately due to illness the candidate was unable to attend.

We were however very fortunate to be able to call on Andy Henderson to deliver his lecture on the ballot. Andy is a great attender to 1216 and always available to assist. Many thanks to Andy.

For our April meeting we asked St Duthus along for a Mark degree. This seemed a good chance with Scott once again at work to have local lodges working together. Bro Alan Pett led large delegation from No.82 into Lodge Rosehaugh and worked an excellent degree for our candidate Bro Hickey.

As you can see this being the fourth meeting in succession that Brethren from other lodges have been on the floor of Lodge Rosehaugh.

Our final meeting before the summer recess was held on the 2nd May and this was our PGL visitation evening. We had an excellent attendance to the meeting and they witnessed a very good first degree for Davy Kirkwood with Shaun Kerr and Graeme Brindle on the floor for the first time.

During these meetings we have presented two Brethren with their Jubilee Certificates celebrating 50 years of loyal membership to the Craft. In January Willie Skinner was presented with his certificate by our PG Master Bro Willie Ross.

Bro William Skinner joined Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216 on 17th January 1963 having been proposed by Bro John Patience who was RWM and Bro Hugh Macintosh who was IPM. Two other Brethren were initiated on the same evening: Bro William Macleman Patience and Bro Sandy Macleman father of Bros Roderick William and Duncan. Willie received his F/craft degree on 6th March 1964 and his MM degree on 3rd April 1964. He waited a while for his mark (11 years) and received this on 12th April 1975. Bro William has been a great supporter of this Lodge over the 50 Years and thoroughly deserves this honour.

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David Patience received his certificate at our March meeting and again Bro Ross was in attendance to present it to him. PM David Patience joined Lodge Rosehaugh on 7th Feb 1964 along with Neil Mowat, passed on 6 Mar 1964 and raised on 1st May 1964. He was proposed by John Patience and seconded by H J Macintosh. He was installed by Bro Duggie Macleod as RWM on 5th Dec 1975. The obligation and badge of Office was carried out by his Brother PM John Patience. David has been an excellent ritualist over the years and was on the floor recently doing the Emblems of Mortality in our last third degree. David has been heavily involved in the construction of the lodge in the 60's the extension in the 80's and the renovation of the kitchen a few years back.

Along with H J Macintosh David affiliated to Robertson's Lodge no. 134 on 15 April 1979 to assist the Brethren in difficult times. He was installed as RWM on 16 December 1987 and re installed 21 December 1988.

David has been an excellent mason to both lodges for many years and very much merits the reward. Bro Neil Mowat was unable to be present but his certificate was forwarded to him.

Back in December two functions were held in the lodge room. On the 12th we held our annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party. This was well attended and a good night enjoyed by all. Just after Christmas we held a Quiz night which well supported. Although the RWM opted out of taking part his family came out as winners beating the fancied Carmichael team into second place.

We decided to support a local Charity for this event and the Local Brownie group was the benefactors and received £230.

We had planned two events in April but due to circumstances they ended up on the 19th April. We started off at midday with a soup and sweet lunch which was well supported by locals and fellow Brethren. It was back to the Lodge at 7.00pm for another quiz night and again a good turnout with the Carmichael team coming out on top. This success allowed us to support two charities involving both Scott Patience and William Macleman. Scott is a member of a team of four who are undertaking a charity cycle challenge from Land's End to John O' Groats starting on 11 July 2014.

William is part of a team abseiling from the Forth Road Bridge on 8 June. The lodge have been able to give a donation of £155 to each charity.

Keith Patience, PM

Secretary



PM Alan Carmichael and daughter Leona presenting a cheque to Avoch Brownies

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*The Lodge Rosehaugh Senior Citizens
Christmas Party*



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Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

The review this quarter begins, sadly, with the news that one of our brethren in the Lodge, whose health status was reported on in the last edition, died on Thursday 6th March 2014. Brother Danny Forbes, a Past Master and son of a founding member of the Lodge, did not have the good fortune to recover from the cancer that claimed him. Danny, at the time of his death was our WJW and carried out that duty with the aplomb he exercised in all his Lodge duties. Like his brother Colin, also a PM, who was back in the chair but died so suddenly before he could lead our Centenary celebrations in 2008, Danny was an ever present attendee on lodge nights and both family members had an exceptional grasp of the ritual which was apparent to all with their clarity and lucidity of the subject in hand. Both have left an enormous gap in our resources at Aultbea. However, with their passing, some adages come to mind which, when one thinks about it, sums up the resilience of the remainder of the serving office bearers and members in Lodge Loch Ewe:

Hope springs eternal - A Phoenix rising anew from the ashes and in this world we do not have problems, only solutions or opportunities.

Since my affiliation to Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551 on 24th January 2002 it has been both a pleasure and privilege to be working with such a dedicated group of Brethren who cause these sayings to bear fruit and actually happen.

The Provincial Grand Lodge annual visitation on 10th April is a case in point when an EA degree was worked for our most recent initiate Mr Richard Y Macdonald without the services of our RWM Gibby Hassell who had been admitted to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary following a quite harrowing fall while on a break in Morayshire with Helen. Gibby is now recuperating back in Ross-shire but will need all of the recess and possibly some more before he can tackle the twice monthly round trip of 140 miles to attend meetings from his home in Strathpeffer.

Richard lives in Dingwall and when speaking to Gibby at work about an interest in Freemasonry specifically requested to apply for membership of 1551 as he knew both Gibby and myself and would prefer travelling with us as a primary reason, if successful, for fulfilling his interest.

As to the degree itself it was a case of 'all hands on deck' and a reshuffle of manpower was expertly and quickly manipulated thanks to IPM Barrie Whitwell and Secretary Duncan MacLennan in taking the bull by the horns at a local level. All parts were excellently executed on the night with particular mention to tasks undertaken such as the obligation by Ken McMorran PM who travelled from Portmahomack in East Ross, WSW duties by Allan MacCrimmon PM/Treasurer and WJW by Duncan MacLennan PM/Secretary. These adopted tasks on the evening were not lost on RWPGM Billy Ross in his summing up and, in particular, referring to Duncan's rejuvenated role as WJW – very few of us know Duncan other than Secretary during his 50 years unstinting service to Lodge Loch Ewe and he maintains there is no chance of taking the WJW post on a regular basis!

Richard's EA education was completed at the last meeting of the session with the Mode of Preparation and Tracing Board lectures being carried out by WSW Mike Longley and DM Andrew Henderson respectively.

With the recess now upon us we would like to thank all those who have helped to make our annual February quizzes such a success and last year's £ 230 for Poolewe Swimming Pool was surpassed this year, again for the Swimming Pool, with a total over the years of just short of £ 2,000 going to local causes. Well done! We cannot leave this part without grateful acknowledgement of the very regular raffle prizes and Joyce for the use of the Aultbea hotel for our bigger events.

Our visiting Brethren over the past period are very much appreciated and we look forward to the next session and more of you coming west to sample the hospitality.

Andrew M. Henderson

Depute Master



The Sinclair Bruce Diary

On Monday 3rd February Lodge Seaforth held an enquiry committee meeting for one candidate who was none other than my son Ronald. The enquiry was held within our club room and was conducted in a very serious and in depth manner with both proposer and seconder present who were put through the set questions on the statute book for a potential candidate for the Craft before inviting Ronald to go through the usual questions for a candidate which he answered in an acceptable manner. He was thereafter informed that he would go through the next pattern of the enquiry in his absence at our meeting on the 20th Feb.

In the meantime, I will commence reporting on the six nations Rugby beginning with the game between Scotland and England. All I can say without being biased is that Scotland played well but just could not get over the try line and the score does not in any way reflect on the quality of the game. Final score Scotland 0 England 20. The next game was slightly one sided with France scoring 30 and Italy 10.

And now I turn my attention to the Bowls final and at last Scotland has got into a cup winning position. It was none other than against the auld sport enemy, England and the result was close and went into a tie and at last Scotland came out on top with final score Scotland 2 sets to 1. Perhaps they will do the same when the world outdoor games come along.

There is an awful lot of talk these days on the media about climate change and I am beginning to think there is something in it, as we are now on the last day of February and quite frankly it is more like July, so we can only keep the fingers crossed that they are wrong.

I watched the Europa League game last night between Tottenham Hotspur and Duniprol. The first half was very slow and little or no action from either side, but the second half was really lively with both sides putting on a real game and eventually Tottenham went on to win - final score Tottenham 3 Duniprol 1.

I made my usual visit to Lodge Rosehaugh on Friday 7th and as the candidate for his First was hospitalised we received a lecture from Bro Andy Henderson from Lodge Fingal. It was well received by all present and the congratulations he received were well and truly deserved. There was a good turn-out which always gives a good feeling to speakers.

And now some reflections on the world cup Rugby. A slow to start game between Ireland and Italy but as it went on it became very interesting and the score does not justify the entertainment. Final score Ireland 46 Italy 7. The next game was fast and furious between Scotland and France - very entertaining as the score reflects Scotland 17 France 19 and finally football - Caley thistle 0 Dundee united 6!!! That's all on the sport meantime.

The Europa League game today was not over exciting between Tottenham Hotspur and Benfica - it was a one sided game from beginning to the end as the score concludes Benfica 3 Tottenham 0 and today we all await with

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bated breath the result of the Caley Thistle v Aberdeen game. Although Caley Thistle played their hearts out they just could not score and sadly when after playing thirty minutes extra time it went to penalties and the shoot-out result was Aberdeen 5 Caley Thistle 3. So, back to the six nations Rugby and some of the final scores Italy 11 England 52, Wales 51 Scotland 15, France 20 Ireland 22 and so the ABS six nations cup goes to Ireland with the narrowest of scores - a margin of only two.

I have just returned from my Mother Lodge who were working a Fellowcraft degree. We had a full house with six visiting Lodges, one a deputation of eight Brethren from Craigellachy which must be heartening for the Master and his Officer-bearers. It was a well worked meeting with all floor workers at the 100% level and this coupled with the Provincial annual visit proves that efficiency cancelled out all nerves.

It was very interesting to see on the TV that a cup turned up in China with beautiful printing on the exterior that was valued at wait for it - twenty million pounds - I don't think there will be a rush to purchase!!!

And now it's time to send my contribution to the 79th edition of the Patten. As always, we readers look forward to each edition and the various writers with their own individual remarks comments and conclusions. Each masonic year produces its own values for each member to accept or reject - that's all meantime but always remember - a smile costs nothing.

Sinclair Bruce

BITS AND PIECES

Have received the following poem from Bro Kenny Jack –

THE NEW NORTH BRIDGE CEREMONIALS

by William McGonagall

'Twas in the year 1896, and on the 25th of May,
Which was a very beautiful, sunshiny day,
That thousands of Free Masons came far from home
To be present at the laying of the foundation stone,
Of the new North Bridge of beautiful Edinburgh,
Which was laid without any one coming to sorrow.

And, as the procession passed along beautiful Princes Street,
The craftsmen in their attire looked tidy and neat,
While flags floated from the principal buildings and hotels,
And the stirring music of the bands on the air swells,
And bright sunshine prevailed lighting up Princes Street,
So warm that the spectators were almost burnt with heat.

The balconies were occupied by a number of lady sightseers,
And from them the craftsmen received hearty cheers,
As they viewed their beautiful banners, unfurled to the breeze,
And with their banners and regalia, they did them please,
While the sweet strains of the bagpipes made them feel gay,
And which will be remembered for many a day.

And, though the crowd was big, it was very orderly.
Which I'm sure was a pleasant sight to see,
Because the craftsmen were allowed to pass by easily,
And to step out with heads erect, right gallantly;

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And with their jewels and insignia, they made a grand show,
While marching to the music quick and slow.

About a quarter to two o'clock the civic dignitaries took their stand,
Behind the Grand Lodge, and looked very grand,
At the rear of the procession, which made it complete;
Then the march was continued to the end of the street,
Which was certainly a very grand display,
And which was the first part of the ceremony of the day.

The policemen in the procession looked very gran',
And marched past steady to a man.
Although the sun was warm and strong,
Yet quite fearlessly they marched along,
With spirits light and gay along Princes Street,
And their stalwart appearance was very neat.

Near the bridge was erected a commodious platform,
And covered by a canopy which did it adorn,
And surmounted by the Royal Standard, unfurled to the breeze,
Also the Scottish Standard, which did Scottish hearts please;
And the Inniskilling Dragoon Band was also there,
And discoursed sweet, and thrilling music, I do declare.

And on the platform were lords and earls in a row,
And ladies in bright summer dresses, which made a grand show;
Likewise, city Councillors and Magistrates,
And a great number of big Magnates;
And all of them looked quite happy and gay,
The more that they had come from far away.

Besides, there was a great number of the craftsmen there,
Which helped to enhance the scene, I do declare;
And the police arrangements were admirably carried out,
By Chief Constable Henderson and Superintendent Bain without any doubt,

And, about half-past two o'clock, the Lord Provost took the chair.
And made a very eloquent speech to the bystanders there,
And the plaudits from the spectators rent the air,
Then the bands played "God Save the Queen,"
Which was most beautiful to hear - and to be seen
Near by Princes Street's flowery gardens and its shubberies green.

Then the Grand Master Mason delegated the Lord Provost to lay the stone,
Which he did most willingly, without a moan,
In accordance with the ancient rites of Freemasonry,
Which certainly was a most imposing sight to see;
And in the cavity of the stone coins and papers were laid,
By the Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer, who weren't afraid,
Because it's an honour to do so, be it said.

Then a prayer was said, and the hundredth psalm was played,
Then the stone was then lowered, and laid,
With three distinct stops during music by the band,
Then the Lord Provost stepped forward with a silver trowel and mallet in hand,

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And gave the stone three gentle knocks,
And the people, wishing to be nearer the platform, eagerly flocks.

Then the Provost asked God their present undertaking to bless,
Hoping that the bridge in course of time would prove a success;
And that God would protect the builders every day,
So that every stone would be laid secure, without delay.

Then the "Merry Masons" was played by the band,
And really the scene was inspiring and grand;
Then the ceremonial concluded with three hearty cheers,
While the loud music from the bands deafens the bystanders ears;
Then the people dispersed quietly with spirits light and gay,
Saying they would long remember 1896, and the 25th of May.

The following very colourful photo is of Bro David J Pringle and Bro Morris M Downie, on a shopping spree in the Island of Grenada, where on the 10th of May they intend to visit lodge St Andrew's No. 1794, on the occasion of their Installation meeting. There they will meet up with brethren who are well known to them and have been requested by the RWPGM of the Province of Ross & Cromarty Bro William Ross to pass on the fraternal greetings of the Province to Lodge St Andrew and the Brethren of the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, who are also well acquainted with the Highlands of Scotland.

Morris M. Downie



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TOOLS for MALAWI

Since the last edition it has been pretty busy on the Tools for Malawi front. First of all, Brother Robin Cattenach and I spent a full day sorting out all the tools collected by both our own Brethren and also the Brethren from Fife and Kinross.



Once we got them all sorted out we began the packing exercise – again we were indebted to Brother Andrew Paterson who was able to source excellent packing material. As before, we ended up with 9 boxes of tools – a fantastic result – and I'm sure that some of the boxes are bigger and heavier than the last batch that we sent.

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This was the end result (yep – only 8 boxes there – the ninth had still to appear!) – Once packed, they were loaded onto Robin’s trailer and we took off for Dundee on Saturday 19th April heading to the new Raven Trust storage depot there. It was certainly an easier drive than going all the way down to Strachur as we did the first time round.

We owe a massive thank you to all Brethren and friends in both Provinces for their generosity – we asked for used tools but many are brand new. It has been a very successful project – many, many thanks.



And here they are, safely deposited and properly labelled in Dundee ready, with lots of other boxes from a host of other organisations to be transported by container to Malawi. We are hopeful that they will leave Dundee in June. I will give an update in the August and/or November Newsletters.

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The First All Africa and Asia Scottish Freemasons Conference



The Girls' Choir welcoming us to the School



The DGM and the GMM opening the new science lab.



The conference venue looking onto the Indian Ocean



Grand Secretary & the GMM preparing for Conference



Coffee Time in the Conference Gardens



Conference Food was simply amazing

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All the delegates for conference arrived on the Wednesday and we all met up at night in the Diani Restaurant for Dinner after which some of us migrated to the “*Bricklayers Arms*” – the conference bar where we were able to network and even take part in the karaoke competition!! No further mention will be made of that.

The Conference proper started at 09.30 on the Thursday morning and after the introductions and formal photographs, the first input, from the Grand Master Mason, on “The Image of Freemasonry Today and Tomorrow” was well received by the 130 delegates present. This was followed by a paper presented by the Grand Secretary on “Membership Development and Retention” during which he alluded to the work done by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East. Both papers generated lively discussion which was good.

After lunch, the Grand Master Mason, Grand Secretary and I led three different break-out sessions. While there was no hard and fast rules about who attended which session, the idea was that the GMM would host DGM’s, DDGM’s, PDGM’s and SDGM’s while Lodge Secretaries, Treasurers and Almoners would go with Grand Secretary and I was to host D of C’s and basically all other Brethren. The break-out sessions were, for me, one of the highlights of the conference – they were lively, stimulating, refreshing and exhilarating. My own group covered a multitude of issues starting with duties and responsibilities of the D of C then digressing into issues such as prompting, the protocols of entry into Lodge, dress codes and regalia when visiting other Constitutions and District Grand Lodge protocols and procedures. An hour and a half was allocated for the break-out sessions – we broke up after two hours and could probably have gone on for another two hours. In fact, several topics were revisited later in the night in the Bricklayers Arms!! Dinner on the first full night of conference was a “Tropical Delights” themed dinner at which we had to dress in tropical attire. During dinner we were well entertained by both musical performances and an acrobatic fire eating show.

Friday morning started with a thought provoking paper entitled “Back to Basics” which was expertly presented by Brother Pradip Shah. This was followed by an illustrated presentation by Bro Dunstan Fernandez on “Charity”. Again, both papers promoted good discussion and this was continued when the GMM returned to the podium to talk about “Progressing in Freemasonry”. After lunch I presented a paper on “Oral History”. It must have been reasonably well received as the District have wasted no time at all in starting such a project. The day finished with another themed Dinner – “Karamu Ya Waswahili” at which we had to appear in Coastal or Swahili wear!!! Again we were well entertained by the Motherland Band and the Copa Cabana Dance Troupe before concluding the evening in the “Bricklayers Arms”.

On the Saturday morning many of the delegates and their wives went off shopping, going on a dolphin trip or playing golf while, back at the Conference Centre, we prepared for the District Grand Lodge Communication.

The Communication itself went very smoothly and, for me, the strong message coming from the Communication was that the District is in very good heart, working well across the three countries that comprise the District and are constantly employing innovative and creative projects to keep the interest of everyone.

A tremendously successful conference which should have ended on a high had, however, a shadow cast across it when we learned on the Sunday morning that Brother Kiran Nagin Kewada, Substitute Grand Master of our District in Zimbabwe had died in a taxi on his way to the airport. It was somewhat surreal as I had spent some time with him and the DGM discussing Lodge Allan Wilson. The heartfelt condolences of all were conveyed to Brother Kiran’s family.

As I mentioned in the Editorial, the District Grand Lodge of the Middle East have offered to host the second conference in February 2016. They will have an extremely hard act to follow but I have no doubt that Brother Dunstan Fernandez and his team will pull out the stops to give us another highly memorable Masonic Conference.

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Royal Arch

St Clement RAC No 244 –

The next meeting of St Clement will be the Installation meeting on 31st October 2014.

Guild Lodges

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

The Moray Firth Guild Lodge.

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Highland Guild Lodge

The next meeting of the Guild Lodge is Friday 9th May.

This unfortunately clashes with the Installation of the Provincial Grand Master of Caithness therefore attendance may be on the low side.

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PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES



Annual visit of Right Eminent Frater Andrew Morrison District Grand Prior of The North in Scotland to The Preceptory of the Western Isles on 26th April 2014.



Right Eminent Frater Donnie Macleod promoted to the rank of Knight Commander of the Temple on 18th March 2014.

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Squaremen

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

On Saturday 1st March 19 members of Heilan Shed No6 met in Inverness for their installation meeting. They were warmly welcomed by the Worthy Deacon Bro James Williamson. There were 6 obituaries and the Brethren were upstanding for a moment's silence in memory of Departed Merit. The Worthy Deacon was re-installed by Auld Deacon Derek Milne and the Office Bearers by Auld Deacon John G. MacKay. The year's meetings were discussed and agreed upon. The meeting closed and we all had a feed of mince an' tatties.

That's about what happened... Regards – *Henry MacInnes*



Saturday 5th April 2014 and Lodge Seaforth was the venue for the April meeting of Heilan Shed. A good number of members turned up but unfortunately a very poor turnout of “Black Islers”, more particularly Lodge Seaforth.

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The day's labours were carried out in the customary manner by all participants and although there was a poor turn-out of new members joining, the sole entrant received a cheque from the Worthy Deacon, Bri. James Williamson for £100. *Morris Downie*



(top) Master of Lodge Seaforth, Gwyn Phillips after being initiated into the Squaremen receiving the Charity Cheque which will go to a local worthy charity.

(bottom left) Boxie, John G MacKay overindulging on the tobacco and the mince and (bottom right) Boxie welcoming Gwyn Phillips into the fold along with Jim Tait, Ackie Green and Bill Brand.

The May meeting of Heilan Shed No. 6 was held on Saturday 3rd May 2014 at the Masonic Lodge, Rothes, where a good number of members were in attendance, having travelled by coach from Inverness. Although there was a shortage of Office Bearers, those who were there stood in at the last minute to perform their allotted tasks in an excellent manner.

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In the absence of the Worthy Deacon, Bri. Derek Milne, Past Worthy Deacon, multi-tasked on the day and opened the Shed and then carried out the duties of Sub-Deacon in the absence of Bri. Thomson. Bri. J. Dowie and Bri. Andrew Fraser, both past Worthy Deacons also multi-tasked and carried out various duties throughout the afternoons labours.

Three candidates joined the Shed and the usual financial donation will be left in Rothes for distribution.

The next meeting of Heilan Shed is on Saturday 7th June, at 3 p.m. when Grand Shed will be making their annual visit.

Blast from the Past

To finish off this quarter's newsletter, I have used an article that Sinclair Bruce used to finish off his column some ten years ago.

I'm sure you'll enjoy it as much today as you did ten years ago

I would like to conclude my column with a poem I cherish from my Skye journeys. Just imagine a Skye man sitting in Euston Station, London thinking of his homeland and noting addresses on luggage.

Stranger with the pile of luggage
Proudly labelled for Portree
How I wish this day of August
I were you and you were me

Think of all that lies before you
As the train goes steaming forth
And the line athwart the sunset
Leads you swiftly to the north

Think of breakfast at Kingussie
Think of wild Drumochter Pass
Think of Highland breezes blowing
Through the bracken and the grass

You will pass my golden roadway
Of the days of long ago
Will you realise the magic
Of those names I used to know?

Clachnaharry, Achnacarry
Achnasheen and Duirinish
Every moor alive with covey
Every pool alive with fish

Every well-remembered vista
More exciting mile by mile
Till the screaming gulls o'ertake us
Round the engine at the Kyle

Think of cloud on Ben-na-Caillich
Jagged Coslins soaring high
Scent of peat and all the glamour
Of the misty Isle of Skye
Rods and gun case in the baggage
Wise retriever in the van
Go and good luck travel with you
Wish I'd half your luck young man

Ian Ruag (the Clydebank Bard)

Sinclair G Bruce