

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 80

AUGUST 2014

Editorial

Welcome to the 80th edition of the Patter.

I hope and trust Brethren that you have all had an enjoyable time over the summer, are feeling refreshed and are full of enthusiasm for the year ahead.

Of course, the annual recess hasn't been that quiet – the Squaremen have been on the go all over the place, Lodge Alan Wilson has been going full tilt, we've had two Provincial Installations in close proximity to our own Province – one in Wick and one in Inverness and I'm sure you would all wish to join with me in wishing Brothers William MacLeod and Vince Geddes, along with their respective Office-bearers, every good wish for the five years that lie ahead of them. With Grand Lodge there have been further trips for Provincial Installations to Midlothian, Dumfries and shortly we'll be heading to Peterhead for the Installation in Aberdeenshire East. All in all in has been quite an eventful and very enjoyable recess. However, it has also been tinged with sadness – it came as a great shock to learn of the sudden and untimely passing of Past Master Donnie Ross of Lodge Ness. Of course Donnie was heavily involved not only in Lodge Ness but in Royal Arch and many other side degrees. We all pass on to Val and the extended family our sincere condolences at this sad time but rejoice at having so many happy memories of Donnie that will remain with us all for many years to come.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge

Possibly one of the more important issues to come from Grand Lodge since the last edition of the "Patter" was the news that all restrictions that had been placed in respect of The **Grande Loge Nationale Française** (GLNF) have been removed and that GLNF is once again recognized by the three Home Grand Lodges.

Over the next few months Grand Lodge Deputations will visit Lodge Ythan 892 on 8th Aug, Lodge St James 256 on 9th Aug, Provincial Grand Lodge of Aberdeenshire East on 23rd Aug, Grand Committee on 11th Sept followed by a visit to Sir Robert Moray 1641, Grand Lodge on 30th Oct, Lodge Torrie 1141 on 8th Nov, Lodge St Ninian, Brechin on 15th Nov, Lodge Robert Burns No 440 on 22nd Nov and the Grand Lodge Installation followed by the Festival of St Andrew on Thursday 27th November.

WRM

Provincial Grand Lodge:

Whilst, we are in our close season, there is always much to be done and planned for the future.

Once again, it will be our pleasure to welcome into our Province, later in the year, the District Grand Master and Brethren from Trinidad, Tobago and Grenada and suitable arrangements are in hand.

As a Province, we were all deeply saddened on the sudden passing of Brother Donald M. Ross, Past Master of Lodge Ness No 888 and Honorary Senior Provincial Grand Warden and also Scribe E of Cromarty Firth Royal Arch Chapter No 310.

A most respected and popular member of our fraternity and also the local communities. This respect was most evident in the very large attendance at his funeral service in Invergordon Church of Scotland.

The Seaforth Highlanders Regimental Association (Ross – shire Branch) recently arranged for a 2014 Centenary reprint of The Ross-shire Roll of Honour and it was pleasing that the Provincial Grand Lodge and many of the Daughter Lodges were able to make monetary donations to assist in this publication.

I was honoured to attend the presentation ceremony of this reprint edition within Dingwall Town Hall on Saturday 2nd. August 2014, which was chaired by Robert Shanks and presentation of complimentary editions was made by Mrs Janet Bowen, Lord Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty.

The next Provincial Quarterly Communication is scheduled to be held within Lodge St. Martin No 1217, Ullapool on Wednesday 27th. August 2014 at 8.00 pm. And a good attendance of Brethren would be appreciated.

William Ross

Provincial Grand Master

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From The Provincial Almoner

Fortunately on this occasion I haven't got so much to report as I have had in the recent past, but regrettably, once again, I have to start on a sad note and record the recent passing of Past Master Donnie Ross, Lodge Ness, Invergordon.

Donnie was one of the mainstays of Lodge Ness and was also a Past Provincial Grand Senior Warden. He was also a Past Z of Cromarty Firth Royal Arch Chapter and 2nd Grand Principal of the Provincial Royal Arch Chapter. His funeral service in Invergordon Parish Church was very largely attended and included many brethren from all parts of the Province. An appropriate card was sent to his wife and family conveying the sympathies of the Provincial Grand Master and brethren of the Province.

Brother Ian MacLeod, Lodge Fingal, Dingwall recently went through major surgery in Raigmore Hospital and is likely to be there for some time. He is currently in Ward 4C.

Past Master Victor Shepherd, Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty is still not in the best of health and has good days and bad days. He is always in good form when visited.

I will 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 Patten – access the Provincial Website on - <http://www.pgrossandcromarty.org.uk/>



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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



The first meeting of the season will be on Monday 6th October.

It should be noted that the Lodge will now only meet on the first Monday of each month and not on two Mondays per month. The schedule from now onwards will be the first Monday from October to April inclusive.

The RWM, Brother Alan Pett looks forward to welcoming visiting Brethren to Tain throughout the coming season.

David MacRae
Secretary



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Lodge Fortrose No 108

Most Patter readers will know that we don't go into recess in Fortrose Lodge we just cut our meetings down to 1 a month during June, July and August but this year we did have an extra meeting in June when Lodge St John, Whiteinch No 63 visited us and worked an exemplification 2nd degree. After over 40 years in the lodge the variations in working a degree still surprise me. We really enjoyed their working.

Although No 63 had to work an exemplification we still have a steady stream of candidates looking forward to joining the lodge.

Waiting in the wings to be initiated are RWM Donnie Graham's son Alex and John Robertson JD's son Paul who will be joining his brother John who was initiated in March.

On 23 May we visited Lodge 1379 Macdonald of Sleat in Broadford where we worked a 2nd degree with RWM Donnie Graham in charge.

On 4th July I had the privilege of acting as RWM and initiated 18 year old C J Macdonald. I really enjoyed being in the chair after so many years

On 1st August Lodge Thistle No 270 will be visiting and we will be working a 2nd degree. In fact as I write this (Thursday) they have already arrived and will be staying with us till Sunday.

On 5th September a group of 59 brethren from Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68 are arriving and they will be working a 1st degree. Included in this group are 7 Morrison brothers (blood brothers) who intend visiting Ness to trace their ancestry.

On 23rd July we had our annual 3day visit from the Chernobyl kids and I've appended a couple of pictures, one just after having their faces painted and another visiting the coastguard helicopter. While we are at the airport they had a call out when a young lad got trapped in sand in Harris after the hole he was digging collapsed around him. With the help of all the emergency services they eventually dug him out before the tide came in (unfortunately he was within a cable tow's length of high water mark).



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Robertson's Lodge No 134

The first meeting of the season will be on Wednesday 17th September when we look forward to welcoming you all to our Regular Meeting.

The Installation meeting this year will be held on Wednesday 17th December – a few months away yet but please put the date in your diary.

Everyone in Cromarty looks forward to welcoming you all to our meetings throughout the coming season.

I trust that you all had a welcome break over the summer and are now refreshed ready for the meetings throughout the Province.

James A Tait, PM
Secretary

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Lodge Fingal No 318



Fingal are to have a Visitation to Lodge St. Peter's Operative No. 284. Thurso, on Saturday, August 30th. Business to be a FC Degree for Bro Allan MacKenzie (Storn). Lodge to Tyle at 6pm, followed by a shindig for the ladies. If anybody wishes to stay the night, accommodation can be arranged for the Pentland Hotel @ £35 / head B&B.

Our programme from now until the end of the year is –

14th October – Paper to be delivered by PM Rory MacKenzie.

11th November – Annual General Meeting

9th December – MM Degree for Bro Allan MacKenzie (Storn).

27th December – Installation of Bro Angus Beaton (RWM Elect). The installation will start at 3.00 pm

D. Gunn P.M.
Secretary.

WADE WALK - SATURDAY, 07 JUNE 2014

The above walk, which commences at Silverbridge, near Garve, and finishes at Dingwall, is organised and run by Dingwall Rotary Club on an annual basis to raise funds for charity. The distance of the walk is approximately 15 miles. This year, it was in support of The Highland Hospice, Maggie Centre and local vulnerable members of society. Runners and walkers are invited to take part either as individuals or part of a team. Needless to say, Fingal rose to the challenge and a team took part in the walk.

This team consisted of PM Henry Cameron, a tall thin athlete, PM Rory Mackenzie, a keen walker known as the Fyrish Stag, PM Andy Henderson, an individual who supports all events, SW Angus Beaton, the Applecross man, accompanied by his lovely wife June and JW Colin MacKintosh, who is near as big as Mr Blobbie.

The weather on the day was dry and warm and the going firm. Within the first few miles the team separated and as a result arrived back at the finish at different times. At the rear was Mr Blobbie with a sore foot, however, all made it back to the finish point which was the Royal British Legion, Dingwall, where competitors were awarded with a certificate, along with tea and sandwiches? A magnificent sum of £1,070 has been raised by the team in sponsorship.

A big THANK YOU is extended to the team for taking part and to the generosity of the sponsors.

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FINGAL - BBQ - SATURDAY 28 JUNE 2014

On the evening of Saturday 28 June 2014, a BBQ was held at the Lodge. Approximately 42 persons attended and were entertained by the wonderful Mike Samms. All appear to have enjoyed the fine food and drink on offer. A raffle was held during the course of the evening. This resulted in a donation of £300 to The Highland Hospice and £100 to the Blythswood Foodbank appeal.

Once again, it is a big THANK YOU to all who attended the event, donated raffle prizes, food and assisted in any fashion.

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Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

At the June meeting of the Lodge Bro James A Tait was installed into the Chair of Lodge Allan Wilson and, to date, has enjoyed an excellent turn out of Brethren at both his Installation and at the July meeting when the Lodge was delighted to welcome the Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, Bro John Miller and his Substitute PGM, Bro William Fleming. They gave an excellent presentation on the work the Province is doing in relation to recruitment, retention and education of Brethren which generated much interest from the sixty plus Brethren present on the day. Hopefully the Lodges in our Province can learn from the work carried out by Brother Miller and his team and we might see the initiative taken by 851 in inviting Renfrewshire East to come north paying dividends for many years to come.

The August meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th August when we will be delighted to welcome Past Master John Patience of Lodge Rosehaugh to give a presentation on one of his many research subjects. PM Patience is a very experienced Mason and we would welcome Brethren from within and out with the Province to come along and listen to him and join in harmony after the meeting with a mouth-watering lunch provided by the award winning Eilean Dubh restaurant for a very modest £13.

Come along at eleven and have a coffee before the meeting – the Lodge tiles at 11.30 am.

Highland Hospice

The next major fund raising event in the Hospice Calendar is the “**Brain Game**” which, this year, will take place on Friday 14th November in the Iron Works, Inverness. It would be great if we could see a Provincial Team taking part for the first time or indeed if any of the Lodges wished to take part that would be tremendous. Entry forms can be had from Amanda Burt at the Hospice on 01463 243 132 or through myself. Let’s get the Province involved this year – let’s get at least one team entered.

Lodge Seaforth No 854

It’s hard to believe the year is so far through already, but it certainly is a good one with some decent weather for a change.

This was a special summer for my wife and myself as our younger daughter and her husband presented us with our first Grandchild. Although only 2 months old she has got a strong set of lungs as she constantly shows us.

Coming to the start of the new season our first meeting on 15th September will be a Fellow Craft Degree for Bro Bruce and our Installation date is Saturday 13th December. This will be an afternoon meeting – details to follow.

I look forward to meeting one and all again and hope to manage more meetings than I did last season.

Cochrane Donald P.M.

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Lodge Averon 866

Along with other Lodges we are in recess and enjoying the glorious weather. We are due to have a special meeting on Saturday 13th September at 3pm when Lodge Hozier Douglas Water 912 are due to visit us and demonstrate an initiation ceremony when the candidate will be Mr James McDougall. I will send out a billet in good time. Our regular meetings are on the second and fourth Thursday of the month starting on the second Thursday of October which is always a business meeting. We have a number of candidates already balloted so Calum has plenty to keep him going till he hands over in December. The third Saturday in December is our Installation day and starts at 3pm.

We would like to extend our condolences to Val Ross, Lodge Ness, Cromarty Firth RAC and Ross Conclave on the untimely death of PM Donnie Ross. Indeed there is not a part of the community that he did not touch in some way or another.

Henry MacInnes

Lodge Ness 888

Hello Brethren, I hope you are all enjoying the quite part of the season and your holidays.

Sadly on 4th July, PM Donald (Donnie) Ross, passed on to the Grand Lodge above. Donnie will be a massive loss to the Lodge and the other orders that he belonged to as he took Masonry to his heart. Not only being involved in every meeting, by organising and doing large parts on the floor, he made sure at practices that we all knew our parts and how to present them. After the meetings he always was the life and soul of the harmony. Our thoughts at this time are with his wife Valerie and their family. Valerie would like to thank all for the respect shown by attending the funeral and the donations made to the Clan Haven (Cancer Support Centre).

We had our midsummer BBQ on mid-summers day. This was very well attended in ideal weather and with Brothers Mike Devine and Tug Wilson providing the entertainment, we added a little bit of horse racing, with Tommy Stirling as the promoter, to the fun, it was a very enjoyable day.



Our first meeting will be a business meeting and a ballot for Lewis Kerr, on the 14th October and a first degree on the 28th.

That is all that I have for present brethren, other than to wish all a happy successful forthcoming season.

R. W. Morrison.
PM - Secretary.

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Lodge Kyle No 1117

After a good summer the Brethren will gather again at Lodge Kyle on the first Monday of the month which is 1st September 2014 for a series of busy meetings.

Lodge Kyle has three Entered Apprentices going forward for their third in rapid succession, the wish being to give each man a degree to themselves. We of course welcome any visitors to attend what is always an enjoyable Degree.

The Degree work will be followed very shortly thereafter by our Installation where a new Master of Lodge Kyle will be Elected and thereafter installed in the Chair. Almost certainly this event will occur on the SECOND Monday of December which works out at 8th December 2014.

All the above will be ratified on or before our September Meeting and the dates posted on our website on the Meetings page which is at <http://lodgekyle.co.uk/meetings.html>

The Junior Deacon

There is this lodge located in the backwoods of Scotland where the brethren are faithful masons but lack knowledge of receiving brothers from other jurisdictions.

During one of the meetings, the JD informs the RWM that there was an alarm at the door where upon the RWM replied "Attend the alarm and report your findings".

The JD opens the door and see's to his amazement, a brother impeccably dressed with an elaborate apron and jewels about his chest. The Tyler being somewhat slow to answer for the visiting brother, the visitor states; My name is John Smith, PM of my lodge, Past District Deputy of my district, Past Grand Master of my Grand Lodge, Past Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite, York Rite Legion of Honour, Past Imperial Potentate of the Shrine of North America, who humbly requests an audience with the RWM.

The JD upon hearing these words from the visiting brother and the elaborate apron and jewels upon his chest, immediately closes the door, returns to his post and informs the RWM: "Right Worshipful Master, The Grand Architect of the Universe is at the door" !!!

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Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

Not too much to report from 1216 within the lodge during the summer recess we will reconvene meetings on 3rd October with a second degree. We will have a business meeting and lecture in November 7th and our Installation meeting will be held on Friday 5th December.

Both Scott Patience and William Macleman have completed their fund raising events and both have done great work for their chosen charities. We wonder if Scott is the only reigning master to have cycled from Land's End to John o' Groats.

Keith Patience, PM

Secretary

At the time of the last Patter Bro. Brian Carmichael was in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary undergoing major surgery to repair an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA). This was a planned operation but was complicated by previous surgery and the position of the AAA cutting off blood to his only working kidney - kidney failure was a real possibility. Thanks to the skill of the surgeons - and Brian's remarkable fight - he came through the op. and after a few days R & R he was able to come home - in the same patient transport as PM David Smith of Seaforth! He recently received his 12 week check-up and everything seems to be in working order, hopefully putting more than 5 years of operations, treatment, tests and check-ups behind him.

Alan Carmichael, PM

The GASBing cycle team consisting of Alan Paterson, Gary Catto, Scott Patience & Billy Patience would just like to say a thank all lodges and brethren who sponsored the Lands' End to John O Groats charity cycle.

We started on July 12th and finished at John O Groats on the 19th, with stops along the way at Exeter, Swindon, Tibshelf, Hartlepool, Lauder, Pitlochry, Kildary and finally John O' Groats. Covering approximately 920 miles and climbing over 43000 feet over the eight days. The longest cycle was on day 4 where we covered a distance 131 miles.

With no punctures and only some minor maintenance required the team were fortunate and able to proceed up the UK with no delays. We were also very well supported by family and friends keeping us going with messages of good luck. The total raised thus far is approximately £13,700 which has far exceeded expectations. It's great to see so many people contributing to such a worthwhile cause.



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Lodge St Martin 1217

The first meeting of the season will be on Tuesday 21st October.

The Installation meeting will be on Tuesday 18th November at 7.30 pm.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

During this year's Roll Call at the PG Lodge of Sorrow it became quite poignant how many of our communities had been affected by departed brethren; this has been further aggravated in Aultbea with the devastatingly tragic news that young Gary Forbes drowned while at his work. Gary's dad Danny had, as already recorded in Issue 79 of the 'Patter', passed to the G.L. above on 6th March this year which means with the earlier demise of Danny's late wife, a whole family has been taken from the area in recent years.

However, in the wake of this the Lodge is striving to look forward to the 2014 / 2015 season which will see both September meetings taken up with lodge business and candidate enquiry meetings as we have a potential two applications pending which, if successful, will see us with a pretty full order book for the foreseeable future; it was interesting to hear at the G.L. Education Seminar in Edinburgh on 29th March the views of Renfrewshire East Province in the benefit of, when introducing members to the Craft, of nurturing candidates through the degrees as opposed to rushing them through the process. We all, in the Province, pride ourselves on the calibre of brethren being interested in joining us and their patience during their progression.

With Bro. Richard Macdonald initiated over the last two meetings before the summer recess we envisage a really tangible thread being woven in tandem with those now waiting in the wings to join us.

For the past 14 years the Aultbea Hotel, venue for harmonies in respect of Lodge Installations, PGL annual visitations and the annual February quizzes has been under the very able ownership of Joyce who has now sold the business and we look forward to the years ahead under the new stewardship team / partnership.

The annual Installation will take place on Thursday 11th December 2014 with Gibby Hassell having completed a fulfilling two years at the helm as RWM – at time of writing I met Gibby in Dingwall and, although occasionally feeling giddy while still recuperating from his accident in Spring this year, he is on the mend but thinks a return to normal driving duties is some time off which will need the counsel of both his doctor and specialist in this direction.

Having started the submission on a rather gloomy note it is worth remembering the wonderful sunsets we experience in the West and, for those of us who have overnighted in Aultbea, the equally stunning sunrises accompanied by a hearty breakfast in the hotel. So, with the lodge looking forward to its workload here's also looking forward to some more of these photograph moments the morning after a meeting!

In finishing the article you all know how welcome you all are at any time of the Masonic season to our shores either via Braemore Junction or the Achnasheen routes.

Andrew M. Henderson
Depute Master

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The Sinclair Bruce Diary

I cannot think of a better way to commence my contribution to this milestone in the life of the “Patter” than expressing my most sincere and heartfelt congratulations to our PPGM Bro Ramsay McGhee on his appointment as Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the County of Ross, a well-deserved position that we all know will be given Ramsay’s expertise in all his duty requirements - keep the McGhee flag flying Ramsay.

As our meetings are nearing our recess period I will do my best to make further entries on any subject that comes my way.

And firstly I was pleased when my son Ronald got notice to appear for his first degree on our April meeting. Everything went well and I, along with PPGM Morris Downie, delivered and presented Ronald with his First Degree Apron. It was also great to have Past Master Mike Turner from Ullapool on the floor giving the charge plus the first tracing board. Mike also captivated all present with his sincerity and perfection on deliverance of those combined lectures.

Today Sunday the 11th May is The Provincial Lodge of sorrow that will be held within the premises of Lodge Seaforth. It was indeed very heartening to have a good turn out with around forty five Brethren present The Provincial Master did the opening and closing ceremony assisted by his deputy and substitute who also did the readings and the sermon was delivered by Bro The Rev Ivan Warwick who held all present in silence with his comparisons with The Craft and religion. An excellent afternoon concluded by a well-furnished table of tea coffee and sandwiches cakes etc.

We in Lodge Seaforth are now looking forward to the Caithness boys coming next month June and they are doing a third for our candidate in waiting Bro Paul MacNaught. Hopefully we will have a good turn-out for this meeting.

If you watched the football on telly last night - Scotland vs Nigeria I’m sure you were just as disappointed as me. Quite frankly although they played their hearts out until they were up 2-1 they then adopted total relaxation so much so that they let the Nigerians in and, with only minutes to go, they got the equaliser. When will Scotland see their errors?

Our first meeting of the Allan Wilson Lodge, held as always within the premises of Lodge Seaforth, was the Installation of the new master Bro Jim Tait and his Office- bearers. The ceremony was chaired by Bro Ramsay McGhee who after placing Jim in the chair presented him with the Gavel of Authority to enable Jim to install his Office-bearers - a somewhat an unusual procedure that added greatly to what can only be described as an excellent Degree enjoyed by all present. Lodge Allan Wilson attracts great turn out’s that reflects on the financial status of our Lodge.

It’s now Saturday the 21st June and I have just returned from Lodge Seaforth who were hosting Lodge John O Groat on their Bi-annual visit to our Lodge, this year working a third for our candidate Bro Paul MacNaught. I must add that we all witnessed an excellent degree with the chairman Jim Johnston and his team excelling themselves in all aspects of the degree and I am confident that this meeting gained the praise of all who were present in what only be described as the best worked and disciplined degree one would ever expect to witness.

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And now I turn to world football and with an average of three games per day I will report only on the games I consider best.

And today I list Brazil vs Chile a great game with the score at half time one each and no goals in the second half and so to fifteen minutes each way extra that ended in no score and so to penalties when Chile missed one making Brazil the winners.

Today's FIFA world cup game that I feel is worthy of recognition is the Germany vs Algeria - once again there was no score in the first half, but minutes into the second Germany scored and although Algeria kept the Germans on their toes they somehow got a second goal and they now go into the next round.

Today was the final of the Gents world tennis and if you followed it I am sure you will agree that the best two reached this game final namely R Federer v D Jockovic really a great game that was played at record pace ending in a close score Federer 2 Jockovic 3

And now as expected Germany has won the FIFA world cup the game was really good and the winners well worthy of taking the cup.

Sinclair Bruce

My thanks to the Past District Grand Master of India, Brother Bomi Mehta, who kindly forwarded the following poem

I SEE YOU'VE TRAVELLED SOME.

Edgar Albert Guest

Wherever you may chance to be — wherever you may roam,
Far away in foreign lands; or just at home sweet home;
It always gives you pleasure, it makes your heart strings hum
Just to hear
The words of cheer,
'I see you've travelled some.'

When you get a brother's greeting, and he takes you by the hand,
It thrills you with a feeling that you cannot understand,
You feel that bond of brotherhood,
That tie that's sure to come
When you hear him say
In a friendly way
'I see you've travelled some.'

And if you are a stranger, in strange lands all alone
If fate has left you stranded, dead broke and far from home,
Oh, it's a grand and glorious feeling, it thrills you; makes you numb,
When he says with a grip
Of fellowship,
'I see you've travelled some.'

And when your final summons comes, to take a last long trip,
Adorned with Lambskin Apron White and gems of fellowship —
The Tyler at the Golden Gate, with Square and Level and Plumb
Will size up your pin
And say 'Walk In:
'I see you've travelled some.'

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BITS AND PIECES



The above photograph depicts Brothers Maniran Maraj; Errol Sooknanan and Winston Ramcharan Lodge Felicity No 1681, all well known to the Highlands of Scotland, contemplating a morning refreshment overlooking Grand Anse Beach at the Radisson Hotel Resort in St George's, Grenada, the morning after the Installation which was held on Saturday 10th May.

Brother David Pringle and Morris M Downie again visited the "Spice Isle" to support a good friend, Bro. Michael Kirkton, being installed into the chair of Lodge St Andrew No 1794, very well carried out by Brother Nigel Fleming, in the absence of the Master Bro Hassan Hadeed, who was unfortunately otherwise engaged, he being Grenada's Ambassador at Colombia.

The address to the Master was delivered by the District Grand Master Bro. Adrian C. Franklin; Wardens by the Proxy District Grand Master, Bro. Morris M Downie and the Brethren by the Substitute District Grand Master Bro. Rajin R. Bhagwat.

The District Grand Master, in his address to the Brethren, intimated that he is to lead a Deputation from the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada to Scotland at the end of November and intends to once again pay a visit to the Highlands of Scotland.

The Installation meeting was held in the comfort of the Radisson Hotel, Grand Anse Beach Resort, Grenada and after a short interlude all present and their guests enjoyed a meal with the usual toasts afterwards.

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The following Friday night an invitation was extended to Brothers Pringle and Downie to attend the Installation meeting of Lodge Conception No. 8346 EC, in 1 Hillsborough Street, St Georges.

The meeting was well attended and Bro. Colin Dowe was duly installed by W Bro Juan Bailey, the outgoing Worshipful Master.

The Scots were warmly welcomed into the District by the representative of the District Grand Master for Barbados & Eastern Caribbean (EC) W Bro D.G.Otway. Suitable replies were exchanged.

An excellent meal was supplied and enjoyed by all present, usual toasts delivered and a most enjoyable time was experienced by all.

Royal Arch

St Clement RAC No 244 –

The first meeting of St Clement will be at 7.45 on Friday 31st October in Dingwall. All Companions welcome.

Cromarty Firth RAC No 310.

Companions, this being our closed season, I can, sadly, only report on the passing to the Supreme Chapter above of our scribe Donald (Donnie) Ross. Donnie was not just the scribe, he kept us all on our toes by making sure everyone attended all meetings and knew what they had to do and when; he set up the chapter for every meeting and put the gear away after the meetings and was the life of every harmony. He will be sadly missed by all and our thoughts at this time are with his bereaved wife and family.

Our next meeting will be our installation and election of scribe.

Raymond Morrison, PZ.



Brian showing the average size of trout that he is in the way of regularly catching.

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The Squaremen



The above photograph explains how pleasurable it is to be a member of De Corporation o' Squaremen and in particular, Heilan Shed No 6 when one appreciates, the great benefit the organisation is to children like Charlie Skivington from Forres, seen here with his mother Mairi being handed a cheque by Shed members, Brian Fraser; Derek Milne and Andrew Fraser, to help with the costs for the tricycle purchased for his use. Charlie suffers from Cerebral Palsy and required a specially made cycle to aid his mobility.

The monetary presentation was possible by the members of Heilan Shed's visit to Lodge St Martin No. 1217, Ullapool on Saturday 5th July when two members of the Lodge joined the Corporation.

A passionate plea was made by the Steward, Bri. Brian Fraser about Charlie's requirements and with the full support of Lodge St Martin members present it was unanimously agreed to donate proceedings from the visit to aid this worthy cause. Well done Brian for bringing this to the attention of the Shed and Ullapool for their generosity in agreeing to the disbursement. This act surely exemplifies the meaning of Charity in Masonic circles.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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Tools for Malawi

In the May edition I reported that the latest batch of tools for the school in Malawi had been deposited in Dundee. I can now tell you that the container was loaded on 5th July and it set sail on 14th July and at this time is heading for Durban.

Just after Bro Cattenach and I headed down to Dundee I received an email from Bro Sheppard, Grand Superintendent of Malawi and reproduce part of it here –

Dear Ramsay and Andrew,

Hearty and fraternal greetings to you both and all your Brethren of the PG Lodges of Fife & Kinross and Ross & Cromarty from the Warm Heart of Africa and I trust you are enjoying the Commonwealth Games as much as we are. A "final play-off" between Malawi and Scotland in Netball would be quite something!

I am pleased to report that the carpentry and joinery classes recommenced at MVS last term and will start up again after the present long school holidays, in September. To add to the tools so generously sent by you and your Brethren and using the funds you kindly provided, Brother Mike Davis and Brother Graeme Swart, RWM and PM of Lodge Viphya No 1571 respectively, last month handed over new tools purchased locally. A couple of photos are attached to give you a flavour of that occasion.

Brother Graeme has been particularly helpful in arranging storage for the tools from Scotland and also drawing up an inventory for better control. The staff and pupils were absolutely delighted and express their sincere thanks and gratitude to which I add the appreciation of all the Brethren of the Grand Superintendency of Malawi.



I intend to return to Africa in February to attend several meetings in the District Grand Lodge of East Africa. However, while I am in East Africa, I hope to make a return visit to the School in Malawi. It would be tremendous if any of the "Team Malawi" Brethren would like to return with me (or any other Brethren).

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Brother Rev Andrew Paterson, PGM of Fife and Kinross has indicated that he would be happy to return. At the moment the plan would be to attend the following meetings –

Wednesday 18th Feb 2015 – Lodge of the Highlands 1439 S.C. Regalia dedication ceremony

Thursday 19th Feb 2015 – Lodge Unity 1611 S.C. Lodge rededication ceremony and Regalia dedication ceremony

Friday 20th Feb 2015 – Travel to Dar es Salaam

Saturday 21st Feb 2015 – District Grand Lodge of East Africa Biannual Communication

Sunday 22nd Feb 2015 – Travel back to Nairobi or travel back to Scotland directly.

The visit to Malawi could be worked in immediately before or immediately after the East Africa visit.

At the time of going to press I have not made any definitive arrangements but obviously the sooner flights are booked the cheaper they will be.

The cheapest flights to Nairobi I could find today were circa £500

The internal flights to Dar es Salaam back to Nairobi then to Blantyre and back to Nairobi would be at least the same again but probably more. On top of that we would have accommodation. As well as the above programme other activities would be organized in and around Nairobi.

If any Brother (and on this occasion would be happy to include wives) is interested, could you please contact me as soon as possible in order that I can make firmer arrangements.

Ramsay