

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 90

FEBRUARY 2017



In the February Issue –

Grand Lodge / Provincial Grand Lodge / Lodge News

Bits and Pieces from all over the place!

Picture:

Stained glass window in St Michael and All Saints Church, Blantyre, Malawi

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Editorial

Welcome to the 90th edition of the Patter.

Isn't it amazing that we have reached the 90th edition of the humble Patter – something that started out as two A4 pages when I was seconded to the Home Office in 1994 so that, as the Grand Steward from this Province, I could keep in touch with all our Lodges while based in London during the week. Over the years, it has grown considerably and its circulation has gone from the Lodges in the Province to over 300 copies being sent out, literally all over the world, by electronic means every quarter.

But the success of the Patter is very much down to all the regular contributors – those representing their various Lodges who conscientiously send me all the snippets from the Lodge which are so useful to many Brethren in planning where they will visit; those who contribute through their role as, for example, PGM or Provincial Almoner; those who simply contribute with articles of great interest to everyone. Articles that they have come across, articles that they have researched but articles that they appreciate will have a much wider interest; those from out-with the Province who send me articles – it is so gratifying that Brethren from other Provinces and Districts see fit to contribute to our modest publication. My grateful thanks are extended all of them – without them the Patter could not exist.

Over the past 23 years we have of course lost some great contributors who have passed to the *Grand Lodge Above*. Two of those Brethren, for whom I had the greatest respect, were Brother Roddy Cade and Brother Sinclair Bruce. They were stalwarts of the Patter and both continued to send me articles right up until they passed away. Others have taken up the challenge and are doing a tremendous job.

Everything being well, we will reach the Centenary edition, if my arithmetic is correct, in August 2018 – I'll reprint the first edition with that one! Many thanks for taking the time to read the Patter. Please continue to enjoy it.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



A busy time ahead during February and March. On Thursday 2nd February, the February Communication of Grand Lodge. After the Grand Lodge meeting, the Grand Master Mason and Grand Secretary will be heading off to carry out District Grand Lodge Installations throughout the Caribbean. Meanwhile, back at home, on Saturday, 4th February, I will have the privilege of installing the new Provincial Grand Master of Edinburgh, the following week I'll be in Coupar Angus to carry out the Rededication of Lodge St John Operative No 105 on their 250th anniversary. On Saturday 25th February I will be heading north to Wick to Rededicate Lodge St Fergus No 466 as they celebrate 150 years of Freemasonry. On Thursday 2nd March, I will be visiting St David (University Lodge) No 36 and the following night will be in the Province of Lanarkshire Middle Ward at their Annual Installation.

On 18th March Brother Neil Fraser of Lodge Seaforth 854 and St Barchan 156 will be installed as the new Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East and the following Saturday it is back down the A9 to Dumbarton for the Provincial Installation there.

On 1st April, it will be the A96 instead of the A9 as we head east to Aberdeen City for their Provincial Installation.

Saturday 8th April it's off to Perth for the PGM's bi-annual meeting. Two weeks later, the Substitute Grand Master, Brother Hugh Clelland will install the new PGM of Galloway. The following day, Sunday 23rd April we will be in Brother Clelland's own Province of Fife and Kinross for their Divine Service.

Ed

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Brethren, season's greetings to you all, I hope you had a nice time with family and friends.

Well that's all the Installations in the Province over and my best regards to all the new RWM's and other office bearers. I managed to get to all but two in the Province, Stornoway and Dingwall, but the Depute Grand Master covered them, thanks Raymond for that.

There are very good reports from most Lodges on candidates going through the four Degree's. I hope they will attend the Lodge meetings and get a few visits to other meetings as well. Next on the Provincial agenda are the Annual Lodge visits. I am looking for a good turn out of Office-bearers and the new Masters and Wardens. The Provincial Grand Secretary and Treasurer need to check the Lodge books before the visit so please make sure to forward your lodge Books to them.

Dates for visits are as follows – Lodge Averon, Alness - 9th.Feb; Lodge Ness, Invergordon - 28th Feb; St Duthus, Tain - 6th March; Lodge Fingal, Dingwall - 14th March; Robertson's, Cromarty - 15th March; Seaforth, Fortrose - 20th March; Rosehaugh, Avoch – 7th April; Loch Ewe, Aultbea - 13th April; St. Martin, Ullapool - 18th April; Lodge Kyle in Kyle – 1st May; Fortrose, Stornoway - 19th May and Allan Wilson - 11th July at 11am.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Sorrow will be held in Lodge St Duthus on Sunday 7th May at 3pm. A good turn-out of Brethren to remember our Past Brethren would be much appreciated. On 24th May, the Provincial AGM and Installation of Office Bearers (some new Office-bearers will be required to fill junior Offices) will take place in Dingwall at 8.00 pm.

On Saturday 5th June, Lodge Fortrose No108 are to celebrate 250years of Freemasonry in Lewis. The Provincial Grand Secretary has reserved 10 tickets for Provincial Grand Lodge members if you require a ticket get in touch QUICKLY.

As some of you will know my nominated charity is the Mountain View school for deaf children. There is a letter going to be read out in the Lodges explaining what is required. Ramsay has been very busy giving slide shows and a talk on the school in some Lodges already and has had a great response. Thanks Ramsay. He is leading a small Deputation from our Province on GL business and they are visiting the school so we will get an update on his return in March. Our kind regards to Gordon Shepherd on his reinstatement (our contact person in Malawi).

Our Depute Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Secretary are going to visit Trinidad and Tobago and Granada for the Installation of Brother Rajin Bhagwat as District Grand Master. We wish Rajin all best wishes from the Province and safe travel to our Diplomats.

Fraternal greetings and good wishes

Robin Cattanach.

Provincial Grand Master

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From the Provincial Almoner

I am delighted to start my report by informing you that since the last edition of the Newsletter I have not been informed of any brother having passed to the Grand Lodge Above.

However, a number of brethren have been unwell, some of whom have been hospitalised. Bro. Dougie MacDougall, Lodge Fingal, is at present resident in Redwoods Nursing Home in Alness. He has recently spent a few days in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, having lost the power of his legs. He is back in the Home but, although most of the time quite confused, he always knows me when I visit.

Past Master Cochrane Donald, Lodge Seaforth, recently spent two weeks in Raigmore Hospital. There does not appear to be any significant improvement in his health and recently he has not made much use of the mobility scooter which I mentioned in my last report. Let's hope things will improve with the coming summer months and he will get out and about and be able to use the scooter.

Past Master Victor Shepherd, Robertson's Lodge, is still resident in Strathallan Care Home, Strathpeffer. He is usually quite confused although on a recent visit he was initially less so. His mobility is still not very good and he continues to use a zimmer frame to aid his walking. He is still getting runs out with friends and family members. He is usually in good form and happy to have visitors.

Past Master Andrew MacIvor, Robertson's Lodge, has now recovered from his accident and is driving again and back attending to his masonic duties.

Brother Jim Low, Lodge Averon, was recently admitted to Raigmore Hospital having suffered a serious heart attack. He is due to be fitted with a pacemaker.

I omitted to include in my last report mention of Past Master Les Ross, Lodge Ness, who was off work for several weeks due a respiratory complaint, and Bro. Jim Muir, Lodge Averon, who is receiving treatment for leukemia. Les was allowed to return to work part-time a fortnight ago, for three days a week, and Jim is out and about again, and driving. My sincere apologies to Les and Jim for this omission.

Cards have been sent and visits made to brethren both at home and in hospital where appropriate. I'm sure you'll all join me in conveying best wishes for their future health to all those I've mentioned.

I'll end as I usually do and ask that should any brother require my services or assistance, or know of anyone who does, please get in touch with me.

David A. MacMaster, PM

Provincial Grand Almoner

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



The next meeting will be on Monday 6th February – all welcome.

Iain Sinclair

Blast from the Past – February 2008

The Brethren of Lodge Fortrose were delighted to learn that the PGM will be accompanied, on his annual visit in May, by the Grand Master Mason, Bro Sir Archibald Donald Orr Ewing and Grand Secretary, Bro David M Begg. Everyone is looking forward to the visit and it is hoped that a significant number of visiting Brethren will join us that evening.

Donnie MacLeod, PSPGM



Blast from the Past – February 2009

The **Burns' Supper** held on 23 Jan was not so well attended but was a tremendously enjoyable night with a first class 4 course dinner prepared by Bro. Donald McKee, a hilarious immortal memory rendered by Norman Graham and Donnie Lowdy's very funny toast to the lassies was responded to by an equally funny reply by Kay Graham who had no buffet to serve up this time. As you can see from the picture Bro. Donnie (Video) Macdonald toasted the haggis and cut it up watched over carefully by Donnie Graham RWM.

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FORTROSE LODGE No. 108

A happy new year and best wishes for 2017 to all brethren from Fortrose Lodge 108 Stornoway.

On Friday 2nd December Bro Derek Mackay was re-installed as RWM for 2017. Following the ceremony, the Festival of St John took place. The following day RWM Mackay led a deputation of 19 Brethren, including a few visitors from the Kingdom of Fife, to Lodge St Clements 1353 for the reinstallation of RWM Bro Innes Morrison. As usual the Harris hospitality was exceptional.

I don't have a picture of the recent visit to Lodge St Clements in Tarbert but this one from 1985 or 86 during my time as master turned up recently courtesy of Bro Phil Smith. Only 5 of the 14 brethren from Lodge Fortrose who are in this picture are still with us today and these brethren still actively support the lodge.



Fortrose Lodge Brethren l. to r.: Calum Crockett (deceased), Calum Maciver (deceased), Calum (Oscar) Macleod (deceased), Norman Macleod (deceased), John Young (deceased), Willie Macleod (deceased), Ian A Morrison, Donnie Macleod RWM, Phil Smith, George Mackay IPM (deceased), George N Macleod, Alastair Mackinnon, Ian Roddy Mackenzie (deceased) and John (Eoin) Macleod (deceased).

The first meeting of the year saw a detailed discussion on progress with the arrangements for the 250th anniversary on 3 June 2017. Due to the numbers attending it is planned that the rededication will take place in the Nicolson Institute as the Lodge Building will not be able to accommodate all those attending. Lewis Castle has been booked for the dinner following the rededication and the list of those attending the dinner is now fully subscribed. On the previous evening, Friday 2 June 2017, Sandy Matheson PM CVO OBE will give a talk on the history of Lodge Fortrose 108.

The lodge distributed £2766 in benevolence last month to various local charities, recently bereaved widows, Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge.

Members of the Lodge are heading south to Midlothian to visit Lodge Thistle No 270 on Friday 24th February. On the same day, Brethren from a Welsh Lodge will also be in attendance. On the Saturday 25th Feb Scotland play Wales at Murrayfield – we are all going to be in attendance – Brotherly love will prevail!

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Some of the beneficiaries of the Fortrose Lodge charity distribution after being presented with their cheques by the Master, Brother Derek Mackay.



The Annual Burns Supper has been postponed until 17th February – get the date into the diaries – **everyone** welcome – no need to be a card-carrying Mason to be there – all welcome.

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Brethren we have had most of the Installations in the Province and now we must look forward to the Provincial visitations. It is always a busy time of year but we must give thanks for the health to be able to get about. I am sure it turns our thoughts to those Brethren who because of illness or disability are unable to get out and about, and our best wishes go out to them.

Our Installation was on 21 December 2016, when PM Andrew MacIvor went back into the chair following RWM Peter Foster Snr who completed two years in office. Other Brethren were installed into their various offices. It must be mentioned that our most recent affiliate, Br. Derek Rodway, who is still RWM of Lodge No 888, was installed as Senior Deacon. We do not waste time at "134" but we do give thanks for his support. I hope this does not deter any other Brother from affiliating, you will always be welcomed with open arms.

Many are asking after PM Victor Shepherd. He is still in care in Strathallan Nursing Home in Strathpeffer. I visited him prior to the festive season. He was looking well but movement is restricted and he needs care, ably supported by his wife Jessie and his family. He does appreciate visits.

Brother George (Dod) MacLeman who last year celebrated his 90th birthday is in care in Shoremills nursing home near Cromarty. In December, he achieved 50 years in Freemasonry. Too many around him causes some confusion so it was agreed that PM s Ronnie Cooper and Jim Tait would go in and present him with his certificate. This was arranged at short notice at the end of November, so that his wife could be present (hence the reason for the casual dress of the two Past masters). Dod was in great fettle and even gave us a song. The photographs show Dod getting his certificate which he accepted with pride. The other photograph shows Dod with his wife Jean and friends who had come along on the day. Our thanks go out to the staff at Shoremills for their cooperation and for taking the photos. It should be noted that at a Seniors X-mas party in Cromarty which was attended by Brothers Ramsay McGhee and Jim Tait (As entertainers – Honest!!!) Dod managed along in his wheelchair, with his wife Jean. He was again in good spirits and in his usual fashion entertained all present with a wee song.

At our meeting on 15 February 2017, we will be working a 2nd Deg. Our meeting on 15 March 2016 will be our Provincial Visit when we will again be working a 2nd Deg. Visitors will be made most welcome at both these meetings.

It would be good to see a good number of our own brethren managing along to these meetings.

Regards to all

James A Tait, PM

Secretary



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Lodge Fingal No 318

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

December meeting: Opened in the EA° by the RWM Bro Angus Beaton with 17 brethren and 1 visiting brother present from Lodge St John Operative No 37 in Forres. The main business was a Lodge of Instruction for the forthcoming Installation.

Special meeting: On Tuesday 27th December, it was the Installation of the RWM Elect Bro Colin Mackintosh and his Office-bearers at 5:00pm. The Lodge was opened in the EA° by the Master, Bro Angus Beaton who extended a warm welcome to all. There was a total of 20 Fingal Brethren and 26 visiting Brethren present. Reigning Masters & Past Masters were invited to their rightful seat in the East. The Master especially welcomed the DPGM of Ross & Cromarty Bro Raymond MacKeddie into the Lodge. Bro MacKeddie gave apologies from the PGM of Ross & Cromarty, Bro Robin Cattanach who had been called away on business. The Master, Brother Beaton, congratulated Bro Ramsay McGhee on being re-installed into his high office in Grand Lodge as Depute Grand Master and thanked him for playing the organ at the Installation. Before the business got under way, the RWM thanked the Brethren of the Lodge for their support over the last two years, especially his DM and SM for their support. The Gavel, the emblem of power and authority, was then handed to the IM Bro Rory Mackenzie PM. the IM thanked the RWM for allowing him the honour to carry out the installing ceremony and went then on to say how well he had done in his 2 years in the chair and his charitable work.

Then on with the Installation, some 33 Masters formed the Installing Board. The business of the meeting being completed, the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form at 7:25pm. The company then retired to the Logie Lounge for the Festival of St. John with the catering by Catherine Morrison of the Station Tea Room, Strathpeffer. Thirty-Five Brethren enjoyed the meal and the speeches which followed finishing off with the Tylers Toast, given by Bro Richard MacDonald IG. The proceedings came to an end at 9:20pm.

To finish the night off, there was a duo, of Brothers McGhee and Tait, playing their next releases - the dance floor was never empty.

January meeting: The Lodge was opened in the EA° by the Master, Bro Colin Mackintosh who welcomed the 20 Fingal Brethren and 9 visiting Brethren into the Lodge. The visitors represented Lodge St John Operative, No 37, Robertson's Lodge 134, Lodge Seaforth 854, Lodge Stepps 1213, Lodge Rosehaugh 1216 and The Trades House Lodge of Glasgow, No 1241.

The main business of the evening was the initiation of Mr John Robertson.

February meeting: 14th FC°, for Bro Joe Newlands.

March meeting: 14th FC°, for Bro John Robertson, also our annual Provincial visit. Lodge will Tyle at 7:30pm, to do the minutes, etc.

April meeting: 11th M.M°.

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Special meeting: Saturday 20th May, visitation of Lodge St. Peter`s No 284 who will be working a MMM Degree. The Lodge will tyle at 6:00pm. At the conclusion of the meeting Brother John Noble will be presented with a Diploma to mark his 70th year in the Craft. Brother John Noble, PM was the brains in setting up the Fingal Ritual, which we are still using to this very day. This presentation will be carried by our Master Bro Colin Mackintosh accompanied by the Depute Grand Master Bro Ramsay McGhee, who is also an Honorary Member of Lodge Fingal.

To finish the day off, Wee Jig in the Logie Lounge after. Music to be supplied by St. Peter`s, DJ`s James Moodie and Willie Durrand.



Events Logie Lounge

February 4th Saturday} **Quiz Night.** Quiz Master to be Mr Howard Russell, when his daughter Kiera May Russell will receive a Cheque of £100 for her Malawi Project. Her father offered to help with organising a Quiz. 7:00 for 7:30pm / usual £20 per team / refreshments at half time. Those who are not driving, Bro. Henry Cameron will be on Bar Duty.

February 18th Saturday} **Valentines Dance.** Music by Sterling Silver. [7:30 for 8:00pm].

March 25th Saturday} **Ladies Night.** Music by Mike Samms. [7:00 for 7:30pm].

April 22nd Saturday} **Easter Bonnet Dance**-prize for the best bonnet. Music to be provided by TWO good looking MEN, who are Tea Total.

May 27th Saturday} **Day out to Plockton** by train-full day-then back to the Logie Lounge.

June 10th Saturday} **Sponsored walk**-easy one-Strathpeffer to Dingwall via Cats
Back then BBQ and Dance. Music by Mike Samms.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn PM
Secretary.*

The Sunday School teacher asked the children if they said their prayers before eating.

Simon replied – “No, I don`t have to. My mum`s a good cook.”

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Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

The first meeting of the Lodge will be on Tuesday 13th June when Bro Cochrane Donald will be installed as Master of the Lodge.

Further information will be included in the May edition of the Patter but, in the meantime, get the date into your diary – Tuesday 13th June – 11.00 am for coffee tiling at 11.30 am.

Since the last edition of the Patter I have received an old ritual book and a certificate from Zimbabwe. It is believed that they were recovered from the body of one of the soldiers killed alongside Major Allan Wilson in the Shangani Patrol on 4 December 1893. The material is in very poor condition. I have therefore passed it on to Brother Andrew Mushet who is an expert in the restoration of books and manuscripts but it would appear from his initial examination of the material that it deteriorated to such an extent that nothing can be done with it.

I got sufficient information out of the book to confirm that it was an English ritual but the Certificate was issued in the name of Lodge Dalkeith Kilwinning No 10 but it was impossible to get a name. Brother Mushet is going to try and find a name using latest technology but is not overly optimistic given the state of the document. No 10 is the Mother Lodge of our Grand Almoner, Brother Thomas Constable Smith who assures me that if we can get a name, Lodge Dalkeith Kilwinning will be able to trace that name within their records. That would be tremendous but I'm not getting too hopeful.

WRM
Secretary

Lodge Seaforth 854

During the recess our IPM, Brother Alasdair Taylor has been heading up a couple of working groups – one concentrating on the outside of the building to ensure that its appearance reflects well on Freemasonry with the second group redecorating the entrance hall and toilet areas. Many thanks to Alasdair and his team for a job well done.

Our February meeting on the 20th will be an Entered Apprentice Degree on behalf of Mr Thomas L Thomas from Maryburgh.

The Lodge will tyle at 19.30 hours and the Master, Brother Fred Fraser would appreciate a good turnout of members and would be delighted to receive visiting Brethren.

Customer: I've been ringing 0700 2300 for two days and can't get through to enquiries – can you help?

Operator: Where did you get that number from, sir?

Customer: It was on the door of the travel centre.

Operator: Sir, they are our opening hours.

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Lodge Averon No 866

The Brethren of lodge Averon hope you had a great Christmas and a very prosperous new year going forward. Lodge Averon continue to be very busy beginning with Bro George Robertson, once again being installed into the chair. This will be his fourth sitting and he seems to be holding together quite well. However, we have noticed that the twitching is a little bit worse and we have upped his dosage. It was an excellent installation carried out once again by Deputy Grand Master Bro Ramsay McGhee with an excellent harmony to follow.

We have carried out our first 1st degree of the season for Bro Andrew Gulek with plans for his 2nd on Thursday the 9th, which also coincides with a provincial visitation. We also have a few 2nd and 3rd Degree's in the wings and would hope to arrange something soon.

Our Next meeting on Thursday the 26th Jan will be a lecture by Bro Ramsay McGhee on Malawi. This will be an interesting lecture, so please if you can make it along, you will be made most welcome.

We also have our old folks Party planned for the 11th Fed in the bowling club and a "play you card's" night in aid of Hutchinson's disease on Sat 4th of March followed by our Lady's Night on Sat 28th March. All Brethren are more than welcome to any of these events.

Bro Donnie Mathieson

Brother Douglas Duncan sent me this poem which is attributed to a Don Crawford who had the poem published in the Perth Courier, Canada, in the early 1960's.

Why wear a Poppy?

The small boy turned as if to go,
Then said "Thanks lady, I'm glad to know.
That sure did sound like an awful fight
But your son – did he come back all right?
A tear rolled down each faded cheek;
She shook her head, but didn't speak.

I slink away in a sort of shame.
And if you were me, you'd have done the same;
For our thanks, in giving, is oft delayed,
Though our freedom was bought and thousands paid.

And so, when we see a poppy worn,
Let us reflect on the burden borne
By those who gave their very all
When asked to answer, their country's call
That we at home in peace might live.
Then wear a Poppy! Remember – and give.

Don Crawford

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Lodge Ness No 888

Despite the sad loss of Past Master Raymond Morrison, which made us realise how much he did for our Lodge in particular and Highland Freemasonry in general, Lodge Ness has had a successful start to the year. We have put three candidates through their first degree (including the late Past Master Morrison's son Raymond Junior) and followed this up with two Fellowcraft degrees and a Mark Degree for our new secretary Bro Dean Roberts. Bro Roberts took over from Bro Mark Webster, who is at present in Stornoway. It is fair to say that both these young men have impressed the whole Lodge with their ability and enthusiasm, and I would take this opportunity to thank the other lodge secretaries for the help and advice when called upon.

We held a quiz night which though poorly attended, was fairly successful financially. Our next function will be our Ladies Night, and I will send out a billet with the details when they are finalised.

It remains for me to wish all the other lodges in the Province, a successful and prosperous season

Derek Rodway

RWM Lodge Ness 888



Highland Hospice

BLACK ISLE CYCLE CHALLENGE – Saturday 22nd April

Brethren, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty (along with quite a few family members) has proudly provided all the stewards for this annual event since its inception. This year, the Challenge will be held on 22nd April and I require as many Stewards as I can possibly muster. Once again there will be four challenges which means we need a minimum of 30 Stewards. It's a great day out in the fresh air of the Black Isle and the way our stewards have conducted themselves over the years always brings lots of very kind and appreciative comments from the competitors.

If you can spare 4 or 5 hours on the 22nd April, please let me know – I'd be delighted to add you to the team.

WRM - editor

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

Installations over and we all have new Masters in the Lodges. Our installation went particularly well this year as we had a visiting Installation team headed by PM Mike Turner and ably assisted by many more; the main protagonists being the RWPGM Brother Robin Cattanach and from MacDonald of Sleat, PM Ewan Smith. It was noted by more than one person we had a lot of Past Masters attending installation; in fact, 22 of the Brethren had been Master of their Lodge. Bro Rob Wilson placed in the Chair and his first duty as RWM was to thank the Brethren who came from far and wide, especially those who carried out his Installation, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and the very best for the coming year.

He is also keen to point out we have a candidate going through his Second on the First Monday in February (6/2/17 at 8pm), and is now busy getting his Installation Team into shape so everything goes smoothly. Rob was very pleased that we have a Candidate and is a very promising start to the year.

Our new Master is younger than the typical Kyle RWM and we, the Brethren, are all looking to an exciting year energised and led by Rob and offer him every support.



Our Master, Brother Rob Wilson with the Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Secretary

Ronnie Miller, PM
Secretary

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

Our November meeting was once again a lecture prepared by Bro David Patience. David's lecture was a very interesting one on the Ark of the Covenant. Our December meeting was the Installation meeting with Bro Donald McLennan being re-installed as RWM. Once again Bro Allan Carmichael was Installation Master ably assisted by Bros Scott Patience and Bro William Macleman who also installed the remaining office-bearers. We were delighted to have Bro Rhuaridh Mackenzie of Lodge Fingal to come along to Avoch for our January meeting and gave an excellent lecture on The First Lady Freemason and Women in Freemasonry. Our February meeting will be held on Friday 3rd February at 8.00pm where we will be working a First Degree.

The Lodge hosted the Senior Citizens party in December once again. Another excellent evening enjoyed by all. Special thanks to Mike Keavey who again provided the entertainment.

Finally, the lodge also hosted the re-launch of book Rosehaugh-A House Of its Time. Originally written 20 years the book has been updated for this Anniversary. A very busy night with loads of books sold. The book can be purchased in the Avoch Fishermen's Coop costing £15 and is an excellent read.

Keith Patience, PM

Blast from the Past – February edition of the Patter – 2006 – from the Late Bro Roddy Cade, PM

Send me Brother, a sample of Masonic word,
Something new that I've not heard,
Something fresh to grace these pages,
Then I'll not need to search for ages.

This journal is here for your delight,
So, Brother, please will you write.
I care not if you cannot spell,
And punctuation is quite gone to ... well!

These pages are for us all to scan,
Makes every reader a happier man,
In deepest thought or flippant span,
Please write. I know you can.

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Lodge St Martin 1217

I would like to wish all the brethren in the province a Good New Year.

The brethren of the Lodge were delighted that one of its members had reached 50 years of membership in Freemasonry, Brother Alan Alfred Britten joined Lodge Pitgaveny No 681 on 27/12/1966 when he was based in RNAS Fulmar (RAF Lossiemouth).

The photograph shows RWM Bro. Michael Peterson Presenting Brother Britten with his Jubilee Certificate.

On the January meeting the Lodge affiliated Brother Hassan Hadeed to the Lodge, Brother Hadeed an affiliate member of Lodge St Andrew No 1794 in Grenada is hoping to be a regular attender at the Lodge. We are hoping at our next meeting on Tuesday 21st February 2017 to initiate Mr Norman Gillies, Mr Gillies is the son and grandson of the late Brother PM Alastair Gillies and the late Brother PM Norman Gillies respectively.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

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Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551

Following the Installation on Thursday 10th November 2016 of RWM Michael Longley and the Office Bearers for the next 12 months the lodge had its first real business at the 26th January 2017 meeting (12th January meeting cancelled due to bad weather forecast).

This was a lecture entitled 'The Lost History of Freemasons' presented by Mike and was well received by the brethren and St Martins No. 1217 visitor in attendance.

The question of whatever other initiatives can be implemented to harness the interests of members, of which Lodge Loch Ewe members are only too aware, was discussed at length and will continue to be reviewed during the coming months

One of the problems facing 1551 brethren is the fact that over the last 15 years or so recruitment of new members has been restricted to a handful of fresh younger members complemented by a fair number of affiliated members – this has resulted in the bulk of Office Bearers being of the 'pensionable' age group variety and is going to herald an headache or few in the not too distant future.

With the recent successes of Quiz nights in the village it could be hoped that 'potential' members would have been forthcoming from the beneficiaries of the proceeds of these events e.g. the Poolewe swimming pool and to a lesser extent the youth organisations in Gairloch. The latter, apart from those looking after the youngsters, could materialise in time but, sadly, not in the time scale which we would ideally like! Those looking after the youngsters currently, to be fair, have their hands full during the week and weekend evenings.

It would be interesting to know what other lodges would ponder in doing to overcome a similar scenario – I am a great believer in the adage 'in this world there are not problems, only opportunities and solutions' but my grey matter, and that of a few of the rest of us in Aultbea, is being sorely stretched.

Andrew M. Henderson IPM

BITS AND PIECES

I mentioned in the editorial how good it is to receive articles from out with the Province. The Past Depute Grand Master, Brother Douglas Duncan can now join that illustrious band. He has given me a couple of pieces which I have included throughout this issue – some comical and one very poignant piece about the Poppy. Grateful thanks to Brother Duncan for taking the time to contribute – it is much appreciated.

VISIT TO KENYA and MALAWI

Flights are booked and the itinerary is being worked upon but, basically, Brothers Henry Cameron, Mike Turner and Ian MacLaren along with Ann and I, will be heading for Nairobi, capital of Kenya on Tuesday 20th June 2017 where, on Friday 23rd June, we will have the honour and privilege of rededicating Lodge Mackinon No 1531 to celebrate 60 years of Scottish Freemasonry in Mombasa albeit the ceremony will take place in Nairobi. The following day I will have the privilege, on behalf of

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the Grand Master Mason, of reinstalling Brother Michael Craig as District Grand Master of East Africa. We hope to partake of a short safari from Sunday to Tuesday before flying to Blantyre in Malawi on the Wednesday. We will spend Thursday and Friday at Mountain View School for Deaf Children and on the Saturday, we will have a full day Masonically. First, I will be reinstalling Brother Gordon Sheppard as Grand Superintendent of Malawi. That will be followed by the rededication of Lodge David Livingstone No 1162 who this year celebrate their Centenary both ceremonies will be done on behalf of the Grand Master Mason. Finally, as the Provincial Grand Lodge team, we will Install the Master and Office-bearers of Lodge David Livingstone. A busy day. Thereafter we will start to make our way to Lilongwe via Lake Malawi to start the journey home. A full report will be given in the August edition of the Patter.



VISIT TO HONG KONG AND MALAYSIA 2016.

Saturday, October 8th.

I am extremely grateful to the senior Office Bearers of Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter who volunteered to accompany me on this visit to Hong Kong and Malaysia. This large deputation consisted of my Depute, ME Companion William McEwan, ME Companion Douglas Philand, Second Grand Principal, ME Companion James Turnbull, Third Grand Principal, ME Companion Grahame Smith, Grand Scribe E, ME Companion Hugh Edmond, MBE, Grand Scribe N and ME Companion William Annand, Grand Sword Bearer. Four ladies, Sheila McEwan, Libby Philand, Agnes Turnbull and my own wife Joan also undertook the journey.

Accepting a personal invitation from the District Grand. Master Designate of the Middle East, Brother Kang Tee Yong, to be present at his installation in Kuala Lumpur, the Depute Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East, Brother Neil Fraser availed himself of the opportunity to accompany my Deputation.

As previously arranged we assembled about 6 pm at the Emirates Desk at Glasgow Airport. Usual formalities were quickly completed and we were soon boarding the flight to the ever-expanding Dubai International Airport– the first leg of a long journey

Sunday, 9th October.

An early morning arrival followed by a comparatively short stop-over and we departed on our eight-hour flight to Malaysia arriving at Kuala Lumpur Airport on schedule. After a considerable delay, all our luggage was duly collected. Having been previously booked into the “Sama” hotel, which is conveniently located adjacent to the Airport, we all relished the prospect of an early night.

Monday, 10th October.

Most of the party slept very well and following a leisurely breakfast we assembled at the Malaysian Airways desk to check in for the final leg of our journey to Hong Kong. While waiting at the airport we

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were delighted to be joined by M.E. Companion Ernest Yong, Grand Superintendent of the Middle East District. Confident that we are now in “good hands” we all relaxed.

After an uneventful four-hour flight, it was an absolute joy to be met by Past Grand Superintendent Martin Thomas and a host of senior District Grand Chapter Office -Bearers who extended a very warm welcome. Introductions completed we journeyed by coach to the Charterhouse Hotel where a further warm welcome was extended by our Grand Superintendent Designate, ME Companion Robert Ho and more senior Office Bearers. Once check in procedures had been completed we spent an hour or so in social fellowship. Time to reflect on a lengthy journey from Glasgow and relax in the company of our welcoming party.

Tuesday, 12th October.

A free morning when most members of my group took the opportunity of a city tour. As a meeting of Lodge St John, No. 618 (SC) had been scheduled for this evening we all attended and witnessed a very well worked initiation ceremony. A most enjoyable harmony proved to be a fitting conclusion to our first full day in Hong Kong.

Wednesday, 13th October.

Another free morning and in mid-afternoon we assembled once again at Zetland Hall. In the presence of many Companions, we conducted the installation of our new Grand Superintendent of the Far East, ME Companion Robert KT Ho and his commissioned Office Bearers. It was a great pleasure to be accompanied by representatives from the English and Irish Constitutions illustrating the close relationships which exists in this District between the different Constitutions and Orders. The customary Scottish Constitution style harmony, enhanced by the expertise of the in-house catering staff who provided a superb meal, brought another memorable day to an end. While the male members of my Deputation were involved in our Masonic activities the ladies who had travelled from Scotland were handsomely entertained several of the local ladies

Thursday, 13th October.

A mid-morning departure by coach from the Charterhouse Hotel ensured an early arrival at Hong Kong International Airport in ample time for our departure to Kuala Lumpur. Shortly after arriving there we were met and escorted to a waiting coach. During the journey to the Genting Highlands we were surprised to encounter thick fog and these conditions prevailed throughout the whole area for the duration of our visit. The weather was more akin to our Scottish climate rather than the anticipated warmth and humidity of Malaysia. The Genting Grand forms part of an extensive resort complex which is most impressive in every respect and a fitting location for an Installation Ceremony.

Friday, 14th October.

Much of the morning was spent in respect of registration procedures and exploring part of the complex. Early afternoon we assembled at the Genting International Convention Centre where the Annual Convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Middle East was being held. It proved to be a very well attended Meeting with all proceedings completed in a most dignified and impressive

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manner. Towards the end of the meeting ME Companion Yong intimated that his District had decided to donate another £500 towards the Iris Murdoch Dementia Appeal. A most generous gesture.

During the evening, we attended the Octoberfest Fellowship Dinner held within the luxuriously appointed Genting Club.

Saturday, 15th October.

By 9 am we were all seated in the spacious Genting International Showroom for today's installation of Brother Dr Kang Tee Yong as District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of the Middle East. A most impressive ceremony was duly conducted by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Brother Ian Charles Robert Wolridge Gordon of Esslemont ably assisted by Brother David Begg, Grand Secretary and supported by local Grand Lodge Office Bearers. After the formal Installation Ceremony, the brethren then attended the District Annual Communication.

A Banquet held in the Genting Grand Hotel proved to be a memorable and fitting conclusion to the foregoing well organised events. Brethren, several accompanied by their ladies, from all local Constitutions and many from overseas countries, including Australia, New Zealand, China, India, Italy, Sri Lanka and the Bahamas were also present.

Obviously, Freemasonry in the Middle East District is strong and the support from outwith this area is most encouraging. Long may those strong ties continue.

Sunday, 17th October.

Mid-morning departure from the Genting Highlands, with improved weather conditions, gave us an opportunity to view the spectacular countryside. On arrival in Kuala Lumpur ME Companion Yong directed our driver to stop at the Royal Selangor Club where he very kindly hosted an enjoyable and relaxing lunch. While the remainder of the Scottish contingent enjoyed a city tour, accompanied by Grand Scribe E and ME Companion Yong, I had the pleasure of visiting Past District Grand Superintendent Clifford Stanley who is currently resident in a very comfortable care home. It was an absolute delight to meet up with my old friend once again. He appeared in reasonable health and was looking forward to celebrating his ninetieth birthday within a few days of our visit.

Monday, 18th October.

A 2 am departure from Kuala Lumpur, a short stop-over in Dubai and on schedule we arrived back in Glasgow. From there we all dispersed to our various homes where we could reflect on an inspiring and memorable visit. I am grateful to my fellow-travellers who supported me on this journey and once again I am greatly indebted to the Companions and Brethren of our overseas District for their kindness and generous hospitality

Ian Fraser

First Grand Principal.

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VISIT TO ST. KITTS 2016.

Thursday, 20th October. Two days after returning from Malaysia several of my “team” are once again at Edinburgh Airport to embark on a visit to St Kitts. I am joined on this occasion by my Depute, ME Companion McEwan, Grand Scribe E, ME Companion Smith, ME Companion Edmond MBE, Grand Scribe N and ME Companion Putrell, Past Grand Superintendent, Borders Province. As agreed we rendezvous at the British Airways check in desk, pass through the customary security procedures, and without delay board our early morning flight to Gatwick Airport. A couple of hours later we could relax on the next leg of our journey, the nine-hour flight to Antigua. On arrival, we were advised that we have a four hour wait for our final flight. No alternative but to remain patient. Departure time for our twenty minute LEAT Airways flight eventually arrived and on disembarking at St Kitts we were met and warmly welcomed by several senior members of St Olive Royal Arch Chapter, escorted to the VIP lounge, rapidly processed through immigration and customs, and driven to the Marriot Hotel. We were glad we could “freshen up”, enjoy a relaxing meal and retire for the night.

Friday, 21st October. During the morning, and feeling completely refreshed, we paid a courtesy visit to the Governor General, Sir Tapley Seaton, GCMG, CVO, QC, JP. It proved to be a most interesting meeting from our perspective and we all appreciated the information relayed in respect of a brief history of the island and his aspirations for its future.

Early evening and we are driven to the Masonic Lodge to witness the installation ceremony of Mount Olive Royal Arch Chapter No 830 (S.C.). It was indeed a pleasure to witness this ceremony, conducted in a flawless, dignified and sincere manner. It was particularly interesting to learn that during each of the two recent meetings five candidates were advanced to the Royal Arch degree and this evening nine of the newly exalted Companions were present. A most enjoyable harmony followed.

Saturday, 22nd October. The main reason for our journey to this Caribbean island was to conduct the erection and consecration ceremonies of Mount Olive Cryptic Council No 830 and Mount Olive Lodge and Council No 830. Two separate ceremonies were duly conducted in the presence of several local Companions supported by senior representatives of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapters of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, The Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago. Following on from these ceremonies all Council members joined many Brethren, Companions and ladies at a well-attended formal Banquet.

Sunday, 23rd October. After bidding farewell to our hosts by mid-morning we were en route to the airport for our short flight to Antigua. Adequate time to reflect on our short visit to St Kitts, as we had a scheduled six hour wait prior to boarding our British Airways flight to Gatwick. Early morning arrival there the following day preceded our connecting flights home.

I am most grateful to the Mount Olive Companions for the courtesy, kindness and generous hospitality extended to us. We all thoroughly enjoyed our brief visit and I am confident that due to the enthusiasm and commitment shown by the Office-bearers and members of the two new Councils they will undoubtedly become prosperous. I wish them success in their new undertaking.

Ian Fraser

First Grand Principal

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AS A MATTER OF INTEREST by Bro Donnie Mathieson, Lodge Averon 866

Quantum computing and its future Implications

Brethren, I have no idea if any of you have the slightest interest in the following subject. However, I do believe that we live in an age where we can now no longer escape "The Computer" in fact I was given a surprising Quote the other day "Christ, I am Computer Stressed" look at that statement closely, giving reference to our faith in Christ and the great architect of the universe and a science that seems in contention with it, on the surface of it and a new stress trigger. It made me think of the issues our very own Ramsay is having. (Sorry Ramsay)

So, Quantum Computing? How do I put this into context in a short paragraph? I guess Moore's Law might be the best way

Moore's law refers to an observation made by Intel co-founder Gordon **Moore** in 1965. He noticed that the number of transistors per square inch on integrated circuits had doubled every year since their invention. **Moore's law** predicts that this trend will continue into the foreseeable future. This is referring to the 5th paradigm of computation.

(1) Electromechanical; (2) Vacuum Tube; (3) Relay; (4) Transistors; and (5) Integrated Circuits. Quantum computing may well be the 6th paradigm

A classic computer, if I may call it that, performs operation in bits or "1" or "0" but no state in between. In contrast, a quantum computer uses "quantum bits," or "qubits." Thanks to a principle called quantum superposition, these qubits can have a value of "0", "1," or both "0 AND 1" at the same time.

Now to understand the power of this a 2 qubit machines allows you to do 4 calculations at the same time, a 4 qubit allow 16 calculations "at the same time" by the time you get to 300 qubits you have a computer that can do more calculations than there are atoms in the universe at the same time!!!! Now imagine that.

So where is the leading, what is the bottom line?

Well it has been stated, and I quote "When quantum computing pans out, we'll be able to control the very building blocks of the universe."

Really!!! Do we want too? Can this coupled with the discovery of the Higgs Boson particle be leading us into the unknown that we don't really want to know?

There is no doubt that this kind of computation can bring us great benefits in Engineering, Science and medical research. However, and the bit that worries me is Weaponry, **Biomimetic**, **Energy Systems & Photovoltaics** Processes like photosynthesis, for example, are likely dependent on quantum mechanical systems. We look to the natural world for inspiration to build better energy systems or stronger materials. With a 300 qubit Quantum super computer, how long until somebody says we don't need trees anymore or someone builds something they can't control. Science fiction?

Afraid not it's here and it's happening with 3 of the biggest players Google, IBM and Rigetti stating they believe they will reach quantum Supremacy in the next 12 to 18 months

The power of God? My beliefs as a mason allow my faith and my science to co-exist quite happily. I just can't help but wonder. Where do we draw the line?

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

Donnie M Macdonald Ven. Preceptor asked me to include the following notes:

Having, humbly, accepted the invitation of my fellow Knights to the illustrious Office of Preceptor, I was subsequently installed as such on Friday, 29 October 2016 by the Right Eminent Grand District
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Prior Andrew Morrison. It's always a pleasure to welcome Andrew and his Officers to Stornoway as they provide invaluable support. The day of their visit passes far too quickly for us all. We do appreciate that they gladly give up so much time in their busy lives to come to the Western Isles.

It hardly seems possible that the two years of my predecessor, Tom Paton have come and gone. During the last year of his office we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Preceptory. It was a well-attended and successful event.

A new, working year beckons and we hope to have Aspirants for both the KT and Malta Grades. With my fellow Officers I am looking forward with great enthusiasm to the next twelve months and a visitation from the Grand District Priory in April.

Donnie Macleod

PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

For the information of the companions I'm noting below the visitation dates for next spring.

Chapter	Visit
Tain & Ross 63	14 February 2017
St Clement 244	28 April 2017
Cromarty Firth 310	01 March 2017
Hebrides 364	17 May 2017
Hebrides Lodge & Council	18 May 2017

AGM in Cromarty Firth Chapter Invergordon on Saturday 27th May 2017.

Donnie Macleod

St Clement RAC 244

The February meeting will be held on Friday 24th in Dingwall. All Companions warmly welcome.

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.

MEC Phil Smith our recently installed 1st Principal commented that at the time of the chapter's 75th anniversary he was 1st Sojourner and 25 years later at the 100th anniversary he was once again 1st Sojourner. He also added the MEC Stewart Macleod PZ has been chapter secretary for the last 14 years and expressed the grateful thanks of the companions for the work he has done for the chapter over these years.

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GUILD LODGES

Highland Guild Lodge

The next Regular meeting of the Guild Lodge will be on Friday 10th February 2017 at 7.45pm in the Masonic Temple Alness

Alasdair Taylor
Kirkwarden/Scrivener
Highland Guild Lodge

The Moray Firth Guild Lodge.



Highland Shed No 6 – Grand Shed Installation



Heilan Shed No. 6 have the distinct honour of hosting GRAND SHED'S Annual meeting on Saturday May 13th when our own Old Deacon, Derek Milne will be installed as Grand Shed's, Grand Worthy Deacon. A great honour for the Shed and the North of Scotland.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 2p.m. with a meal afterwards in The Club, Inverness, consisting of Scotch Broth; Mince, Tatties and vegetables. A selection of cheese will follow.

A good turnout of members of Heilan Shed No. 6 would be appreciated, I am quite sure, by the new Grand Worthy Deacon and Office Bearers of Grand Shed.

St Andrew No. 1794 Grenada.

Bro. Hassan Hadeed, Past Master of Lodge Saint Andrew No. 1794 and the reigning Worshipful Master of Conception Lodge No. 8346 EC, embarked on a Masonic journey in January from St George's, in Grenada to the Highlands of Scotland.

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Based for the first three nights of his mammoth journey in The Priory Hotel in Beaulieu he travelled to visit Lodge Eval No. 1464 on Monday 16th. He was met by the Depute Provincial Grand Master of Inverness-shire Bro. Dave Crilley who invited him to join his deputation on this their annual visit to the lodge. He was welcomed into the Province and the Lodge. He responded by conveying fraternal greetings from the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada; Lodge Saint Andrew No. 1794 and Conception Lodge No. 8346. A very interesting evening ensued which culminated with lovely Scotch Broth, sandwiches and cakes.

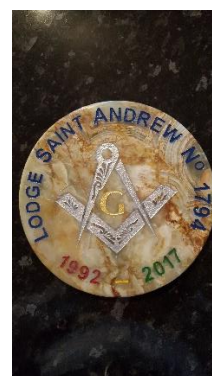
On the Tuesday afternoon, in lovely weather he travelled to Ullapool, in the Province of Ross and Cromarty, where he stayed in the Royal Hotel there. In the evening, he attended Lodge St Martin No. 1217, where he was welcomed by the new Master Bro. Mike Peterson and during the course of the meeting, affiliated to the Lodge (the purpose of his visit to the highlands).

He witnessed an excellent presentation on the Malawi Project, after which he was presented with a nicely inscribed marble plaque, for presenting to Lodge Saint Andrew No.1794, which is celebrating 25 years of Scottish masonry in Grenada with an invitation to his members in the Spice Isle to at some future time visit the Highlands and in particular Lodge St Martin's 100th Anniversary on 6th May 2020.

A harmony of fellowship followed the meeting and the members greatly enjoyed the gift of a brand new distilled bottle of Rum gifted to them by their new member.

On the Wednesday, he ventured on a trip from Ullapool to Robertson's Lodge in Cromarty, in a bitterly cold evening the likes of which had not been experienced before. He was warmly welcomed into Robertson's Lodge by the new Master Bro. Andrew McIver and after the working of an excellent first was presented with a Lodge tie in appreciation of his attendance, having travelled such a long journey.

A truly memorable journey full, I am quite sure of fond memories.



And finally

A man starts his new job at the zoo and is given three tasks. First is to clear the exotic fish pool of weeds. As he does so, a huge fish jumps out and bites him.

To show who is boss, he beats it to death with a spade. Realising that his employer won't be best pleased he disposes of the fish by feeding it to the lions as lions will eat anything.

Moving on to the second job of clearing out the chimp house, he is attacked by the chimps who pelt him with coconuts. He swipes at two chimps with his spade, killing them both.

What can he do? Feed them to the lions he says to himself because lions eat anything. He hurls the corpses into the lion enclosure.

He moves on to the last job which is to collect honey from the bees. As soon as he starts he is attacked by the bees. He grabs the spade and smashes the bees to a pulp. By now he knows what to do and shovels them into the lion's cage because lions eat anything.

Later that day, a new lion arrives at the zoo. He wanders up to another lion and says – “what's the food like here?” The lion says – “absolutely brilliant – today we had fish and chimps served with mushy bees!!!

(thanks Douglas)



Winning leeks at the Black Isle Show