

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 96

AUGUST 2018

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



Issue No 96 - August 2018

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Cover Picture: *The Provincial Grand Lodge Wreath*

Editorial

Welcome to the 96th edition of the “Provincial Patter”.

This year, 2018, is going to be quite a special year as we commemorate the end of the First World War and remember with gratitude the sacrifice made by so many that enables us to enjoy the freedom we have – the freedom that means so many things but especially for those of us in Freemasonry, the freedom we have to attend our meetings.

Grand Lodge are currently making final arrangements to have a special service in Edinburgh on Sunday 4th November to which all Brethren will receive an invite.

But the Scottish Masonic Materials Group are also hard at work finalising all the details we have gathered concerning Masonic War Memorials. The Grand Lodge Information and Communications Committee will thereafter decide how best the material that has been collated can be used, but it has been an interesting exercise and truly brings home just how many Brethren paid the supreme sacrifice.

Hopefully, by the Brethren throughout Scotland supporting the Commemoration Service in large numbers and by the best use of the information gathered by the SMMG, we can, in some small measure publicly demonstrate our gratitude to those of whom it was said on the Kohima war memorial in Nagaland after the 2nd World War –

“When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today.”

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



Our outgoing Grand Secretary, Brother David Begg ceased work somewhat quicker than was expected. He suffered a serious fall at home a few weeks ago which has resulted in his hospitalisation since then.

I am sure that all in this Province will join with me in wishing him a speedy recovery and a long and enjoyable retirement.

As Brother Begg left earlier than expected, our new Grand Secretary, Brother Euan Edment, took over earlier than expected. It is fair to say that he has had a baptism of fire but is now settling into office. We wish him well in his new appointment.

August has been a quiet month but on 25th, we are heading south to Hawick to perform the Rededication Ceremony.

On 15th September it's off to St Clement No 202 in Kilmarnock for their 250th anniversary followed by a trip to Oban the following week for the Installation of Brother Douglas Philand as PGM of Argyll and the Isles.

The 29th September is a trip to Grangemouth where Lodge St John Slamanan 484 celebrate their 150th anniversary.

October is even busier on the 6th – Lodge of Fort William, celebrate their 275th; on 13th – Lodge Tay & Lyon 276 celebrate their 200th anniversary in Aberfeldy; then on Thursday 25th we have the Regular Meeting of Grand Lodge

Ed

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Brethren,

Could I take this opportunity to thank ALL the Provincial Brethren who supported me on the visits to the lodges for Installations and Visitations over the past year. We were very lucky to have had such great numbers attending ALL the meetings and some visitors along with us.

We had an executive meeting on Sunday 29th July to set out a programme for 2018--2019 thanks to Lodge Fingal for use of premises and Donnie Gunn for coffee etc. A lot of things to arrange with Divine service to start with and trying to give all the lodges a turn for Provincial meetings ending up with our lodge of sorrow where we remember all the Brethren who have passed through the veil in our Province.

Many thanks to PDGM Ramsay McGhee for organizing the wreath laying ceremony on Saturday 18th August at Mitchell Hill Cemetery at 9am prompt where the Widows Sons motor bikers' are to be present for the service on their way past to Orkney. See the article on page 3.

Provincial Grand Treasurer informed us that the Malawi fund is in good health again. Many thanks to ALL who have donated money and goods for the Mountain view school for deaf children. This has been a great success for the Province.

On that note, we are having a visit from our friends from Trinidad and Tobago and Granada after the Grand Lodge Installation on Thursday 29th November (it would be nice to see some Brethren from the north Provinces at that). They will travel to Inverness on the Friday and we need transport from the Brethren to get them to Dingwall - all 27 Brethren and wives and their luggage. We then have a Past Masters third degree in Fingal on Sat 1st December at 3pm. Organised by Provincial Grand D of C, Steven Smith, we would like a good support from all the Lodges. A dinner will take place after the meeting. All proceeds from the day are to go to the Malawi fund.

We have a few Provincial Installations to go to in the months ahead. It is nice to support these functions as they supported us at our one. There are a few changes in admin terms in the Province so check in the Provincial diary.

Barry Whitwell, our Substitute Provincial Grand Master, has resigned and moved to the deep south. I would take this opportunity to thank him for his service to freemasonry in the north and wish him well for the future.

Looking forward to meeting up with old friends and making new ones in the coming months

Fraternal greetings and very best wishes.

Robin Cattanaach.

Provincial Grand Master

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FAREWELL – Brother Barrie Whitwell – Substitute Provincial Grand Master

Brethren,

Due to Family pressure it has been necessary for me to move south to England. It is with great reluctance therefore, I have had to resign from the position of Substitute Provincial Grand Master.

May I take this opportunity through the columns of the “Patter” to thank Brother Robin Cattanach PGM and Brother Morris Downie PPGM for giving Lodge Loch Ewe and myself the chance to serve the Province over the last 2 years.

Brother Mike Turner PG Secretary has done a sterling job in his guidance. Many thanks Mike.

Also, my sincere thanks all the Brethren of the Lodges I have visited for the warmth and friendship offered. It has been greatly appreciated.

I have not lost touch completely as I remain a member of Lodge Loch Ewe and trust I will be able to visit once or twice a year.

Kind thoughts to you all.

Sincerely & Fraternally

Barrie Whitwell.

Editor's Note:

On behalf of all the Brethren of the Province we wish Brother Barrie and his family good health and happiness in their new home.



Commemoration of the Great War 2014 – 18

Grand Lodge and Poppy Scotland have entered into a joint venture to commemorate the end of the Great War in 1918. The visit to the Province of Ross and Cromarty will take place on Saturday 18th August when a wreath laying ceremony will take place at the Sir Hector MacDonald Memorial on Mitchell Hill, Dingwall.

The motor cyclists will be given refreshments at Lodge Fingal and we will then proceed to Mitchell Hill where the PGM, Brother Robin Cattanach, will lay a wreath on behalf of the Lodges of the Province. Regalia is to be worn and any members or former members of the armed forces should wear any military medals or uniform if they wish to do so. All Brethren in the Province are welcome to attend this unique event in the Province. The motor cyclists will arrive in Dingwall around 09.00 hours and the wreath laying ceremony will take place at approx. 09.30 before the motor cyclists head north to Orkney. All participating motor cyclists are part of the Widow's Sons Masonic Motorcycle Group.

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From the Provincial Almoner

I am pleased to inform you that since my last report in the May edition of the Patter I have not been notified of any of our brethren having passed to the Grand Lodge Above. I was, however, recently informed that Mrs Morag MacLean, widow of the late Past Provincial Grand Master Iain MacLean, Stornoway, had passed away. I have sent a card to Mrs MacLean's family conveying the condolences of the Provincial Grand Master and Brethren of the Province.

Past Provincial Grand Master Ian Fraser is currently in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness having fallen at his home in Fortrose. I visited him there and he is in good form.

Bro. George MacIvor, Robertson's Lodge, is also in Raigmore Hospital because of two recent falls. George is not very well and only family are presently permitted to visit him. George is very confused. His son Andrew keeps me posted as to his situation.

Past Provincial Grand Master Morris Downie recently had a knee replacement operation, also at Raigmore Hospital, but is home and making progress.

Past Master, Angus Ross, Lodge Ness continues to progress after his leg amputation.

Past Master Victor Shepherd, Robertson's Lodge is still in Urray House Care Home in Muir of Ord. His condition remains the same. He is very confused most of the time. His wife Jessie recently suffered a stroke but is at home and recovering

Bro. Dougie MacDougall, Lodge Fingal is still resident at Redwoods Care Home, Alness. He remains the same and is usually in good form but sometimes confused.

Past Master Fraser MacKay, Lodge St Duthus is still in care Innis Mhor Care Home, Tain and his condition remains unchanged.

Past Master Andy Henderson, Lodge Fingal is still receiving treatment and has some days better than others. He is however able to attend to most of his masonic duties.

Bro. Colin MacPhee, Lodge Fingal is still not very well. He is now on Kidney Dialysis five days a week. He is due to travel to Edinburgh in August to have surgery to have his failed transplanted kidney removed.

Past Master Dave Franklin, Robertson's Lodge has recently had changes to his medication which he is able to take at home.

Bro. Alex. Ross, Lodge Fingal is progressing after his leg amputation. He can get out and about in his wheelchair. I recently met him while he was out shopping with his wife. He was in very good form.

Brother David Bennett, Lodge Allan Wilson, has been in and out of hospital over the past few months but delighted to say he's back home again where, last Tuesday, he took delivery of a mobility scooter which means he can get out and about on his own.

I have visited brethren at home or in hospital where and when possible and have sent cards where appropriate conveying the best wishes of the Provincial Grand Master and Brethren. If any brother requires my assistance, or knows of any brother 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



Lodge St Duthus held a family open day on Saturday 21st July. Lots of games were set up for kids and we had a hotdog stand along with teas and coffees. Unfortunately, support was lacking for this event as response beforehand was promising.

On 27th of October we are hosting a charity dinner in Tain town hall where our guest for the evening is Frank McAvennie, MC and comedian is Rab Mulheron. Tickets are £45 per person and this includes a welcome drink and three course meal. There will be a raffle and an auction taking place.

John MacKenzie
Acting Secretary

BLAST from the PAST – from the August edition - 2004

With no Grand Lodge Quarterly meeting in August it doesn't just mean that Grand Lodge can rent out Freemasons' Hall for the duration of the Edinburgh Festival – it means that we can attend the Black Isle Show.

There is (believe it or not) a similarity between Grand Lodge and the Black Isle Show! Attendance at either affords one the opportunity to meet up with friends not seen since the last Communication or the last Show. And there is no doubt at all that meeting those we haven't seen for a while is a very pleasurable event.

As we look forward to the start of the new Masonic season, how nice it would be to meet up with Brethren who, for whatever reason, have drifted away from the Craft. I've said it before in this column and make no apologies for repeating again – if every Brother who attends regularly brought along just one Brother who has lapsed, attendances would immediately double. Why not give it a try? – There can be no losers!

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

Things have been fairly quiet in Lodge Fortrose since the visitation in May, but we now have 3 candidates waiting for their 1st degree, one of these works for Glenmorangie, which is a well-known brand of malt whisky, and he has been able to bring us samples of "expressions" so that he can bring feedback to his bosses.



The Cadbol was particularly nice, I would highly recommend it.

Donnie Macleod



Donnie Graham PM won the raffle

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Brethren,

I hope you are enjoying this great spell of weather and have enjoyed or are looking forward to a holiday. It is nice to get a break but let us not lose sight of our masonic season ahead.

Our Lodge starts up again in September and our first meeting will be on Wednesday 19 September 2018 at 7.45 p.m. when it is our intention to work a First Degree, due notice of which will be circulated. Parts were allocated at our April meeting, but if anyone is in doubt please contact me. All are reminded that we planned a rehearsal to take place on 5 September 2018. Again, notice will be given. In September we will decide what we will do at the meeting of 17 October 2018. The meeting of 20 November 2018 will be our A.G.M. and nomination of office bearers. A good turnout of members would be appreciated. This is your opportunity to nominate who you want for the various offices. The meeting of 19 December 2018 will of course be our Installation when the nominated office bearers will be installed into office.

The following is an update of our brethren whose health has not been at its best. P.M. Victor Shepherd is still in care in Urray House, Muir of Ord. He has good days and bad days, but still appreciates visitors, so if you are passing, drop in for a short visit and say hello. His wife Jessie had also been in Raigmore for 6 weeks, but she is now back home and although not fully recovered, she says herself she is coming at it. PM David Franklin is now at home, but still attends Raigmore as an outpatient. I spoke to him this week and he was in good spirits. He is about to start new medication which he hopes will improve things.

As you will be aware Brother George MacIvor, our most senior member is in Raigmore Hospital after suffering two falls at the weekend. He is being detained at present for medical care and assessment. I know we wish him well and I have passed on our best wishes to Andrew (our RWM) and the rest of the family. I have also passed on our best wishes to the others mentioned.

I hope you will all enjoy the rest of our recess and be back refreshed when we meet up in September.

James A Tait, Secretary



Lodge Fingal No 318

Since our last meeting in April, 2018, the Lodge, like many others, has been in recession for the summer. However, several events have taken place which are worthy of note and they are as follows: -

On Tuesday, 15th May and Wednesday, 16th May 2018, an excellent bit of outside work was done outside the Lodge by Brother Joe Newlands and his Mini Digger, Haggis 1. Joe, levelled some of the ground to the south side of the lodge, laid a weed barrier and thereafter spread approximately 40 tonnes of stone chips along the entire south side. This included part of the front and rear area. The work has greatly enhanced the appearance of the outside and provided good clean parking. Many thanks to Brother Joe for a job well done.

On Saturday, 19th May 2018, eleven Brethren travelled north, over the Ord, to Lodge St. Peters (Operative) No.284, Thurso, on a visitation.

On arrival at St. Peters an excellent three course meal was provided by Brother Sinclair Wares, his daughter Donna and son in-law Brother William Moodie.

The Lodge tyled at 6 p.m. there being 24 Brethren present. The deputation from Lodge Fingal being admitted a short time after. On conclusion of the formal formalities the Brethren of Lodge Fingal worked an emulated second degree. The candidate being Brother Sean Starbuck of St. Peters.

On closure all the Brethren retired to the Lounge of the Lodge for a harmony and raffle. After a few drams, and a blether it was time for the short journey home. Thanks to all the Brethren of St. Peters for their much-appreciated hospitality. A most enjoyable time was had by all.

On Saturday /

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On Saturday, 26th May 2018, a day out to Plockton by train was organised. Sixteen making the trip.



This consisted of members, family and friends. The weather being fine the scenery from the train was fantastic. The train being almost filled with passengers. On arrival at Plockton all alighted from the train and began to make their way into the village. At this point it was discovered that two of our party had failed to get off the train and were now heading for Kyle. With

no means of communication between either party a plan was being put into action to retrieve the two missing souls when they arrived in Plockton courtesy of a local couple who gave them a lift from Kyle. All then had lunch at the Plockton Inn, (well worth a visit), and then wandered about the village. A Gin and Beer festival was taking place on the Main Street and further along, at the end of the street, a Craft Fair, was taking place in the local hall.



The Local Pipe Band also played on the Main Street. Having sampled some of the strong drink and fine fare on offer it was time to head back to the railway station and the train home. (A check revealed all persons present). An excellent sing song was held.

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On Monday, 28th May 2018, on behalf of the Brethren of Lodge Fingal, P.M. Andrew Henderson presented a cheque for the sum of £500 to MacMillan Cancer, Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, via Chemotherapy Nurses Yvonne Wall, left, and Julie Johnstone, right. Both having been part of the medical team who have taken care of Brother Henderson since October 2017. It's thanks to Andy for taking care of the presentation on our behalf. (MacMillan Cancer being one of the Lodges favoured charities for 2017/18.) We pay tribute to all the wonderful medical staff that are there to help us. Thank you.



On Saturday, 18th August 2018, a B.B.Q., is to be held at Lodge Fingal starting about 6:30p.m. All members, family and friends will be most welcome. Catering this year being by Brother Sean Kennedy, (of the Mallard) and Brother Mike Samms providing the entertainment. If you want a good night out come and join us.

Colin Mackintosh. R.W.M.

October meeting: Tuesday 9th see`s us back, which will be a Business Meeting.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn PM
Secretary.*

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Lodge Averon No 866

Lodge Averon paid a visit to Lodge Stormont in Scone on the 30th of June. When we got there, we were made very welcome and there was many Brethren present from their Lodge and from Provincial Grand Lodge also.

We worked a second degree and all who took part did a grand job. Past Master George Robinson gave a special mention to WJW Brother Harry McCartney for his lecture on the Tracing Board.

The RWM of Stormont gave a special thanks to Lodge Averon regarding their last visit to our Lodge as they were not allowed to buy a dram or allowed to spend any money at the bar. The Brethren of Lodge Averon who attended our lodge on Stormont's last visit to Alness, should all be proud of the impression we left with our visiting brethren.



Since we returned, our Secretary has received a card from the Lodge Stormont Brethren who have never had anyone do anything like this for them and were amazed that so many people from our lodge made the effort to come out and speak to them and pass on personal thanks. Once again, the lodge has left a lasting impression with our visitors and other guests who turned up on the evening.

On the 16th of June we had a social night in the lodge to welcome Neil and Mandy Longhurst to the Highlands for their first visit. Brother Harry McCartney met these folks on holiday a few years ago and has kept in regular contact since. Neil has sent £100 in each of the previous two years to the lodge to go towards the kids Xmas party, and is hoping to continue with this in the future.

Our RWM Callum Mackenzie presented our guests with a couple of engraved gin glasses with thanks from the lodge etched on them.

Brother Harry McCartney, JW

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Lodge Ness 888

During the closed season, Lodge Ness hosted a very successful and profitable Barbeque, which was well attended by many friends, Lodge neighbours and Brethren from other lodges. We intend to repeat this on the 18th of August and will extend a warm welcome to any brethren who come along. On a more serious note, we have had to spend a substantial amount on the fabric of the building to keep it wind and watertight, and there are still other jobs needing attention. To try to save some cash, we decided to change the company who bill us for water. We were being billed by Business Stream, a Scottish Water subsidiary. We went to Castle Water and halved our monthly bill. Lodge Ness will have its first regular meeting on Tuesday the 9th of October. This will be a business meeting; however, we are hoping to have a couple of candidates for the coming season



RWM James Gregg, in the stocks, being pounded with wet sponges, @ £1 a time. There is a nasty rumour circulating, that lodge members were seen queuing up with fivers in their hands!

Derek Rodway
IPM Lodge Ness 888

BLAST from the PAST from the August edition 2004 – from Lodge Fingal

Brother Scott's secretarial duties have taken on an international dimension over the past few months. Assisted by Brother Keith Watson at Grand Lodge, Bro Scott has been busy planning for the presentation of a Jubilee Certificate to Brother James Ashley Aylmer Cummins who was initiated into Lodge Fingal on the 9th February 1954. At the time of his initiation, Brother Cummins lived at Aultguish and later at Vaich Dam before going to Australia in 1956.

After all the necessary administrative work was completed, Brother Anthony E Eden, Regional Grand Counsellor for Region 5 of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, presented the Jubilee Certificate to Brother Cummins on 26th April. The presentation was kept secret from Bro Cummins, so it came as a great surprise to him when he was presented with the Certificate after he had carried out an Installation Ceremony at Lodge Trial Bay Daylight No 1018.

Brother Cummins has subsequently written to Bro Scott thanking him for the presentation and wishing to be remembered to any of the older Brethren in the Province who may remember him.

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

SUMMER SUNSHINE AND WATER STREAMS

The sun shines on the Lodge over Summer recess, but sadly this clement weather as well as encouraging us all outdoors to enjoy more active pursuits, also initiates growth of the garden weed variety. Thus, we have been hard at work ridding the Lodge "garden" of broom, gorse, bramble and rhododendrons, of which only broom is partly benign, the others being jaggy, persistent and tough customers.

With one lonely bush now left to remove, our thoughts turn to disposal of the now redundant vegetation and what to do with the remaining "war zone" of a garden. Planting seems the obvious answer as this will absorb the hill water run off which in the last hundred years has regularly formed a stream in wet weather. Slabbing is therefore out of the question without civic-scale works. However, its nearly August and we are shrubs cost money. Any ideas Brethren would be most welcome!

Bro Mick Moore, our Treasurer has rescued us from bankruptcy thanks to his gritty determination and unwillingness to give in when faced with phone carousels and hold music of umpteen minutes or more. The story begins when we had our first Water Bill after the new meter was installed a couple of years ago, the reading of which came under the auspices of Business Stream. The reading was taken and sent in. A bill came back for 1000 times the amount of water used. As the Lodge is joined to the Village Hall which is entitled to free water, we tested the water circuit with the assistance of a (wonderfully helpful and knowledgeable) Scottish Water engineer. The result was that the Hall was NOT using our water. The meter was re-read and the numbers submitted with photos of the digits and meter. A larger Bill arrived in due course. Thus, began the saga of the water bill which on occasion topped 500 pounds. Mick called them umpteen times, re-read the meter and submitted figures. In the end, and assuming the whole multiple year debacle was simply accidental, it was determined that we were being charged for CUBIC METRES of water and not LITRES. Another wrong bill arrived at the end of the quarter and was added to the large folder of bills and correspondence, the appearance of which added to Micks testimony of continuing errors, it was decided to change our Billing Agent.

Mick spoke to various brethren throughout the Province who almost unanimously recommended Castle Water. We contacted them and arranged transfer of the account forthwith and immediately received a discount. Mick is cautiously optimistic and now waiting to see if we can all relax again, knowing we can now afford a few litres of water, once per month September to May inclusive.

Our next Meeting is on Monday September 3rd, Lodge tyles at 8pm - all Brethren are welcome.

Ronnie Miller, PM
Secretary

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

After three meetings with live candidates it was back to a business only for our May meeting. Although candidates were available there was a clash with a Cancer Charity Golf day at Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club which was supported by several of our Brethren. However, a few outstanding issues were brought up.

We resume our meetings on Friday 5th October with our AGM.

Not too much happening during the summer recess, but we do host a meeting of the Corporation of Squaremen on Saturday 4th August.

Finally, we were all saddened with the news that Bro Gordon Traill had passed away on the 20th June 2018. Gordon joined *The Lodge of Dunfermling No 26* in 1971. Along with his wife Nancie they relocated to Avoch in the early 1980s. Gordon affiliated to Lodge Rosehaugh on 6 May 1983 and was a regular attender particularly when his son David joined.

A good representation from the Lodge attended the funeral at the Crematorium in Inverness where David gave a great eulogy of his Father's life with some excellent stories thrown in. Indeed, many said it was the finest tribute they had ever heard. I can hear a PM now departed saying you would not expect anything else from a member of 1216!

The Brethren pass their condolences to Nancie, David, Rhonna and Rebecca and all the family at this sad time.

Keith Patience, PM

Lodge St Martin 1217

The Lodge during the summer recess has hosted the Corporation of Squaremen and had a visit from the Widows Sons Scotland who we have invited to work a degree at a convenient date to their members.

The Lodge starts the season on Tuesday 16th October when we have our AGM and Election of Office-bearers (Tying at 20.00Hrs). The 20th November is the Installation of Office-bearers (Tying at 19.30 for normal business and admission of visitors at 20.00 hrs).

*Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary*

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Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551

While Brother Andrew Henderson has ventured out to a couple of meetings, he is still far from fighting fit and suffered another wee setback last week after a CT scan.

He had hoped to submit an article but he's just not up to it at the moment.

I'm sure all readers will wish to join with me in wishing Andy a full and speedy return to good health and we look forward to an article from him in the November issue.

Editor

BLAST from the PAST – August 1998

As we approach the start of another Masonic Session, it is maybe an appropriate time to reflect on our commitment and contribution to the Craft.

Are we, as individuals, really doing all that we can for our Lodge? Are we doing all that we can to promote the basic tenets of our institution?

One regular comment that we hear is - "its always the same few who do everything". What an opportune time to make a difference.

If, at the start of this new session, each of us gave a commitment to take on board one small task in the Lodge that no one else can be bothered doing or which is always left to the willing few, what a difference it would make.

If, at the start of this new session, each of us gave a commitment to go out of our way to encourage just one missing Brother back into the fold of the Lodge what a difference it would make, not only to the attendance, but to the general morale of the Lodge.

Two such small actions by each one of us would have an incredible impact on the Lodges and would undoubtedly lead to an increase in acceptable candidates coming forward to join a vibrant and enthusiastic membership.

Let each one of us therefore, reflect and act positively on those reflections for our individual good and for the greater benefit of each Lodge in the Province.

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BITS AND PIECES



The Rev Canon
Dr Joseph John Morrow
CBE KStJ QC DL LLD
The Lord Lyon King of Arms

Has been appointed Chancellor of the
Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness

His Installation as Chancellor will take place at 5.30pm on Sunday 19th August in St Andrews Cathedral Inverness. It would be good to see a large attendance of Brethren from the Northern Provinces attend to welcome Dr Morrow to the Highlands.

Dr Morrow is a member of the Faculty of Advocates and took silk in September 2015. He is President of the Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland, has previously served as Her Majesty's Commissioner for the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland, as a First-tier Tribunal Judge (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) and was President of the Additional Support Needs Tribunals for Scotland until 2014.

In 2009 he was appointed as Vice Lord Lieutenant of the City of Dundee. He is incumbent of the Chapel of Glamis Castle, a former Chancellor of the Diocese of Brechin, and an Honorary Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, Dundee.

From 2004-2005 he served as the 108th Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and in March 2018 he was appointed as the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. In 2012, he was appointed Commander of the Venerable Order of St John. In December 2015 he was promoted to the rank of Knight and only a few weeks ago was appointed to the role of Chancellor of the Order.

I have no doubt whatsoever, that the Rev Canon Joe would be delighted to see as many Brethren as possible attend the Cathedral service on 19th August – everyone welcome.

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HEILAN' SHED No 6



The Master of Lodge St. John (op) No. 193, Rothes, receives a charitable donation for a local worthy cause, from the Worthy Deacon Bri. Neil Cooper of Heilan Shed No. 6 as a result of a visit by the Shed to Rothes on Saturday 5th May.

On Saturday 4th July members of Heilan Shed travelled, in an exceptionally lovely day, from Inverness to Ullapool and together with members from Stornoway enjoyed a successful meeting in Lodge St Martin No. 1217.

The meeting was scheduled purposely that Freemasons from Lewis could attend, allowing them to catch the late afternoon ferry home.

A good day was had by all and the Worthy Deacon Bri. Neil Cooper seen here handing over a cheque for £100 to Bri. Mike Turner, a Past Master of the Lodge and present Provincial Grand Secretary of the Province of Ross and Cromarty.

Heilan Shed are grateful to the members from the West for supporting a very charitable and worthy organisation.

Next meeting will be held in Avoch on the first Saturday in August with the final meeting of the season on the first Saturday in September. All members are requested to attend, and candidate petitions are accepted on the day.

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PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C



On 14th July I hosted a Grand Superintendent's dinner in Lodge Fortrose which was very well attended with companions who came from all over Scotland.

Dougie Philand Dep 1st Grand Principal of Scotland gave us a very enlightening talk about how the £200,000 raised by Supreme Grand Royal Arch is being spent on Alzheimer sufferers in Scotland and 94-year old Willie "Bucach" Macleod (photo) regaled us with 1st hand stories of his time helping to salvage the cargo of the SS Politician in 1941. He was hilarious.

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AUGUST 2018

The Installation of MEC Thomas Stirling as Grand Superintendent will take place in Alness on Saturday 8th September at 13.00 followed by Dinner in Alness Bowling Club.

Donnie Macleod

Tain & Ross RAC 63

The next meeting of the Chapter will be the Installation Meeting on Tuesday 9th October.

St Clement RAC 244

The next meeting of the Chapter will be on Friday 28th September. Please note that the St Clement Meetings are changing – they will be held on the last Friday of September, October, November, February, March and April.

Cromarty Firth RAC 310

The next meeting of the Chapter will be on Wednesday 3rd October

The Hebrides RAC 364.

No major news to report here other than new candidates are thin on the ground.

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

Peter Foster Sen. was installed as District Grand Prior at the end of May by a very professional team from Great Priory headed by ME & Rev. Grand Master Jim Hodge.

Donnie Macleod IPDGP

GUILD LODGES

Highland Guild Lodge

Regular meeting September 14th 7.45pm in Alness when we will be working the 2nd or Journeyman Degree.

Alasdair Taylor
Kirkwarden/Scrivener
Highland Guild Lodge

And finally: from Kenneth Jack

Apprentice Degree

The Travel

Through midnight dark I feebly grope my way oppressed with fear;
I dread to go, and yet I dare not stay with danger near;
Eternal father! Guide my feet aright,
And lead me, step by step, up to the Light.

I do not know the secret path I tread thro' scenes unknown,
I humbly wander whither I am led - Thy power I own;
Eternal Father! Guide me through this night,
And lead me, step by step, up to the Light.

The World, its pride and passions, wealth and power, all, all are gone;
Blind, poor, and weak I trust, in this dread hour, on thee alone;
Eternal Father! Guide me in Thy Might,
And lead me, step by step, up to the Light.

Fellowcraft Degree

The Travel

Onward moves the whole Creation, working out the eternal plan;
Sun and planet, stream and ocean, flower and forest, beast and man,
Never resting, ever going forward on their destined way;
Spring to Summer-glory growing, morn merging into Day.

Forward Brother, then be going, to the might of manhood move;
And thy going be 't in growing, and thy growing be 't in love.

The Master Degree

The Travel

Life's brief moments, swiftly flying, speed us near and nearer Death;
Earth and Time are quickly dying, passing like a vapour breath.
Earth and all its passions perish, time and all its duties cease;
Wealth and power, that mankind cherish, bring us here no joy and peace.

Swift, swifter still, at every breath, near, and more near, steals silent Death;
Help! Help us now, O Thou Most High! in this dread hour of mystery.