

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 99

MAY 2019

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Pupils at Mountain View School, Malawi opening the parcels containing books and educational toys organised by Brother David Kinloch and his associates.

On the left of the picture is Grand Superintendent, Gordon Sheppard and on the right, headmistress Modester Gere

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Editorial

Welcome to the 99th edition of the “Provincial Patter”.

During the last quarter it has been a relatively busy time as you will see from my report on page 2 but, during the three months since my last report I have concluded that despite the doom and gloom merchants, Scottish Freemasonry is alive and well. I have been greatly privileged to witness first hand much that is positive about the state of the Craft in the Scottish Constitution.

This edition is tinged with sadness. Over the past few weeks we have lost two well-known and active Brethren.

Brother John Stirling, Conon Bridge. John was active in many Masonic Orders and for many years was Secretary General of the Societas Rosicruciana in Scotia (SRIS). He will be greatly missed, and our condolences go to his widow Josie and the family.

Brother Andrew Miller Henderson, Past Master of Lodge Fingal and Past Master of Lodge Loch Ewe and for a long time he has been a very efficient and reliable “Patter Correspondent” for Lodge Loch Ewe 1551. His articles and photographs will be sadly missed. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his widow Irene and the family.

The Annual Provincial Lodge of Sorrow will be held in Lodge Rosehaugh at 3.00 pm on Sunday 5th May when we will remember John and Andy along with all other Brethren from the Province who have passed to the Grand Lodge Above. This is a very poignant service and I would urge all Lodges in the Province to support it.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



Between now and the August edition I will be attending the following –

1st May – Yom Hashoa in Giffnock Synagogue. This is Glasgow Jewish Community’s Annual Holocaust Memorial Event.

2nd – Farewell Dinner in Crossford, Fife for visiting Brethren from Ohio.

4th – Centenary celebrations at Lodge St John 1186 in Stoneymuir, West Lothian

5th – Lodge of Sorrow in Avoch

10th – PGL of Fife and Kinross Dinner

11th – Centenary Celebrations at Lodge Ballingry, 1183, Glencairn

14 -20 – Attending the 3rd International Scottish Masonic Conference - Bahamas

25th – Consecration of Cairn in Barrhead

28/29 – Attending Tripartite meeting in London

1 June – Centenary Celebrations at Lodge St Margaret’s Hope 1184 – Rosyth

8th June – PGL Midlothian – Installation of PGM 11th Lodge Allan Wilson - Fortrose

13th – June Communication at Grand Lodge and thereafter Lodge Sir Robt Murray

15th – PGL Dumfries Installation of new PGM

20th – Administration Committee

22nd – Glasgow Star Lodge 219

24th – 150th Anniversary Wallace Memorial – Stirling

27th June – 15th July Far East - Consecration of Lodge Trident.

Visit Lodges Star in the East, Yokohama and Lodge Hiogo and Osaka in Kobe

Visit Lodge Perla del Oriente in Manila

Visit Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation

Attend Lodge Tullibardine in the East

Present the annual Jack Field Lecture

Visit Lodge Sarawak.

Ed

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Grand Master Masons Diary

On 7th February I chaired my first Grand Lodge Communication which was somewhat daunting but, once we got under way, things went well, and we got through the business without incident. Grand Lodge was almost full which was most encouraging.

The following evening, I attended the Provincial Grand Lodge of Midlothian where the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Thomas Constable Smith, did a first-class job installing his elected Office-bearers. It was a tremendous evening with great fellowship, hospitality and generosity.

On Saturday 9th February I travelled from Midlothian through to Lanarkshire Middle Ward where I had the privilege and pleasure of carrying out the 250th Anniversary celebrations in Lodge Cambuslang Royal Arch No 114 – an excellent day meeting many old friends from the Province and enjoying 114's tremendous hospitality.

The following Saturday involved a lengthy drive down to the Borders where I witnessed the Installation of the elected Office-bearers in our new Province of the Scottish Borders. The ceremony was carried out to the highest standard and the Harmony was well worth travelling for alone. The journey was broken in Edinburgh thanks to the good offices of Bro Garry Duff who picked Ian MacLaren and I up at Sheriffhall and drove the remainder of the way down to Lodge St Ronan's 856 in Innerleithen.

On a purely selfish note, the highlight of the Quarter was a visit to my Mother Lodge, St Barchan 156, on 19th February at which I was presented with my 50-year diploma and jewel. The evening was made more special with a Deputation from Grand Lodge, a Deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East and a Deputation from Lodge Seaforth being present. I must record my sincere thanks to all at Kilbarchan and to the Master of Seaforth, Graham Law who drove us all down and back.

On 22nd February I headed a Deputation to Lodge St Andrews No 25 on the occasion of it receiving University Lodge status. We witnessed a superb EA Degree for three young gentlemen, all students at St Andrews University.

My first Provincial Installation took place on Saturday 2nd March Ft William when I had the honour of Installing Brother David Crilley as Provincial Grand Master of Inverness-shire. The ceremony took place in the palatial setting of Lochaber High School, the Ceremony in the

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assembly theatre complex and the Dinner in the spacious dining area – a wonderful day with the Lochaber weather living up to its monsoon reputation.

Later that week on 5th March, I along with the PGM of Edinburgh, visited Lodge Edinburgh Defensive Band No 151 where, as well as witnessing first-class degree work, I had the privilege of presenting a 50-year Diploma to Brother Tom Woolard PM.

The following two days were spent with the Grand Master and Grand Secretary of New York in a bid to resolve the difficulties that have existed for the past three years. Progress has been made and I'm reasonably confident that we will reach a conclusion soon.

From Edinburgh it was all the way up the A9 to Thurso where on 9th March I installed Brother James Beattie as Provincial Grand Master of Caithness. What a wonderful day we all had – ceremonially all went well and thereafter we experienced good Caithness hospitality at the Dinner – a truly blessed day in the north.

From Caithness, it was the red eye flight four days later down to London to attend the Regular Communication of the United Grand Lodge of England. An excellent well-disciplined meeting followed by a delightful lunch and then a flight back to Edinburgh where, the following morning I attended the Administration Committee. That afternoon I was delighted to welcome several Brethren from 2 Scots, the Royal Regiment of Scotland before attending a Dinner hosted by ME Companion Rev Canon Joseph J Morrow, CBE, First Grand Principal of the Supreme Royal Arch Chapter. The following day I represented the Grand Lodge of Scotland at ME Companion Morrow's re-installation which was carried out by ME Companion Ian Fraser – everyone present was delighted to see Ian perform after his recent spate of ill health.

The next morning, Saturday 16th, I headed north from Edinburgh driven by Past Substitute Grand Master, Morris Wilson, up to Inverurie where I had the privilege of carrying out the rededication ceremony for Lodge Royal Ancient No 1179 on their Centenary.

The following Wednesday I attended my first meeting of the Benevolent and Care Committee and what an eye-opener that was. I was totally unaware of just how much work Mrs Dawn Oliff and her team carry out – they do a fantastic job both at home and abroad and everyone in the Scottish Craft should be eternally grateful for the expertise and professionalism that they display daily.

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Two days later, accompanied by Grand Secretary I flew to Nice and then on to Monaco to attend the Conference of European Grand Masters. It was an interesting two days during which time we saw little of Monaco, but we covered several high-profile topics during conference. These included – The Era of Conspiracy, The Captivation and The Social Media.

From Monaco it was back to Partick where on 30th March I had great pleasure indeed in carrying out the re-dedication ceremony for Partick St Mary's Lodge 117 on their 250th anniversary.

While all those events were joyful, to say the least, on 4th April I had the sad but privileged duty to present the Masonic Eulogy at the funeral of Brother Arthur Hazel. Brother Hazel was Assistant Grand Secretary and then Grand Secretary for a total of twenty-three years.

The following night I was in Larkhall to witness Reigning Masters from the Province of Lanarkshire Upper Ward work an excellent rendition of the MM Degree in the premises of Lodge St Thomas 306 in the Province of Lanarkshire Middle Ward.

On Saturday 6th April I chaired my first meeting of Provincial Grand Masters in Perth. It was a well-attended meeting with representation from all but two Provinces during which we worked our way through a very full and demanding agenda. There was some excellent debate resulting in Grand Secretary compiling a robust action plan.

On 11th April I attended the Overseas and Special Purpose Committee in Grand Lodge before heading north east to the Province of Aberdeen West where, in the Culter Village Hall, I installed Brother James Scott Anderson as the new PGM of Aberdeenshire West. A splendid day and we were joined by the Ladies at night for the Dinner and Dance.

On Saturday 27th it was back to Lanarkshire Upper Ward to install Brother John Stewart Drummond as Provincial Grand Master. Another great day down in Douglas.

Throughout the Quarter, I have been in residence in Grand Lodge every Thursday which has proved to be most beneficial with a reasonably steady stream of visitors each week. I am keen to have it known that there is an open door invite to anyone who may wish to see me about any particular issue or if they just want to pop in and say hello. However, there will be Thursday's when I'll be elsewhere – for example one Thursday in May and again a couple in July when I'll be out of the country – so please phone and check first.

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Brethren,

I hope you enjoyed EASTER, how time passes, nice to see the good long days again.

Provincial members have been very busy on the visits to the Lodges in the Province to date, many thanks for the great support. We still have a few visits to do in Kyle, Stornoway and Allan Wilson in July.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Sorrow is on Sunday the 5th May at 3pm in Lodge Rosehaugh in Avoch. This is when we remember all the Brethren who have passed through the veil in the last year. The Lodges and names of the Brethren are announced in turn; it is important that some of the members from each Lodge are present at that time.

We have supported Inverness-shire, Caithness and some other Installations for their PGM and Commissioned officers with some more to come.

I attended the Provincial Grand Masters meeting in Perth on Saturday 6th April which was chaired by the Grand Master Mason for his first time. A big agenda in front of us when we got started but Ramsay made short work of it. A lot of very interesting things were discussed well done MWGMM.

A call for help from Ramsay to help out in the Black Isle Charity Cycle run on 11th May at 9am at Resolis Hall. Since the inception of the Cycle Challenge, the Masons assisted by a few others steward on the route. Please come along and help - it is a great morning.

Again, can I thank all who pledged money for the Mountain view school for Deaf children in Malawi, the weather again has not been very kind for them.

Robin Cattanach.

Provincial Grand Master

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF SORROW

Sunday 5th May 2019 in Lodge Rosehaugh 1216 at 15.00 – please ensure that all Lodges in the Province are represented for this poignant service of remembrance.

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From the Provincial Almoner

It is with sadness and deep regret that once again I have to start my report by recording the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of well-known and well-loved brethren.

Past Master Dave Franklin, Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty passed away in the Highland Hospice after a long illness. Despite his illness Dave maintained his interest in Freemasonry and attended his own Lodge as well as other Lodges when his health and treatment allowed. Masonic brethren were very evident at Dave's funeral.

Past Master Andy Henderson, Lodge Fingal, Dingwall and Lodge Loch Ewe, Aultbea, passed away in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, also after a long illness. Andy's illness did not deter him from attending to his Masonic duties, until the last two or three weeks of his life. As we are all aware Andy was a very keen visitor and excellent ritualist. Apart from his own mother Lodge Andy was a member and office-bearer in several other Lodges. At the February meeting of Lodge Fingal, the last he was able to attend, Andy flawlessly delivered the Second Part of the Traditional History in the Third Degree. Andy's funeral was attended by a large number of Masonic Brethren.

Past Master Billy Brown, Lodge Loch Ewe passed away recently after a long illness. Due to failing health he was unable to attend Lodge meetings. Masonic brethren were also evident at Billy's funeral.

Just a few days ago we learned of the passing of Bro. Freddie Reid, Lodge Fingal in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness after a long illness. Due to failing health Freddie was not able to attend Lodge meetings in recent times. Freddie had held a number of offices in Lodge Fingal and a few years ago held the office of Substitute Master. Freddie's funeral will take place on Monday 29th April. Brother Charles Munro, a member of Lodge Allan Wilson 851, passed to the Grand Lodge Above at the end of March

Cards have been sent to the families of the above-mentioned deceased brethren conveying the condolences of the Provincial Grand Master and brethren of the Province.

Past Provincial Grand Master Ian Fraser continues to make progress after his knee surgery and has been able to attend some of his Masonic duties including the installation of the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter in Edinburgh.

Past Substitute Provincial Grand Master Jim Tait has recently had cataract surgery and is able to drive again.

Past Master Angus Ross, Lodge Ness, Invergordon has been in Raigmore Hospital, where he had further surgery, but has now been transferred to the County and Community Hospital, Invergordon. When I recently visited him, he was in fairly good form and happy to be nearer home.

Past Master Victor Shepherd Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty is currently in Ward 6C in Raigmore Hospital and not very well.

Past Master Tommy Stirling, Lodge Ness has recently suffered a slight stroke but is on the go again attending to Masonic duties.

Past Master Fraser MacKay, Lodge St. Duthus, Tain is still in care in the Innis Mhor Care Home in Tain. His condition remains unchanged and Bro. George MacIvor, Robertson's Lodge is still in care, along with his wife, in Wyvis House Care Home in Dingwall.

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From the Provincial Almoner (cont.)

Past Master John Noble, Lodge Fingal is resident in Redwoods Care Home in Alness. Physically John is in fairly good health but is somewhat confused at times and has difficulty remembering faces and names.

Bro. Dougie MacDougall, Lodge Fingal is still resident at Redwoods Care Home, Alness. His condition remains unchanged. He is very confused and not able to have a coherent conversation.

Bro. Colin MacPhee, Lodge Fingal is home from hospital and able to administer his own dialysis treatment.

Bro. Alex Ross, Lodge Fingal continues to progress and able to get about using a mobility scooter. Brethren have been visited at home and in hospital where and when possible and cards have been sent, as appropriate, conveying the best wishes of the Provincial Grand Master and brethren of the Province.

Should any brother require my assistance, or should any brother know of a brother who does, please get in touch.

David A. MacMaster, PM

Provincial Grand Almoner

BLAST FROM THE PAST - THE EDITORIAL - MAY 1999

Well doesn't time fly when you're enjoying yourself. It seems no time at all since we sat down to plan something to celebrate the Millennium - there was no great rush - it was two years away. All of a sudden it seems to be on us. It's only 28 weeks till the Celebration and Dinner and there is still a fair bit of work to do. However, things are moving along. The jewels have been a great success. To date we have sold almost 400 and there's more on order. The book is progressing. I have only two Lodges left to pin down for their potted history, the adverts are complete, the photographs have all been taken by Brother John MacKay - another few weeks and I'll be able to take the first draft to the printers. Likewise, with the Dinner - over 200 have reserved a place so far and we have still quite a few more to come. The Toast List is not yet complete but is progressing well as is the entertainment. But most of all, the whole ethos of the celebration is to raise money for local charities and isn't that going beautifully. The Jewels will make at least £2,500, the dinner will hopefully make a modest profit, the books have great potential and we hope to raise a minimum of £3,000 from the sale of books - then the magnificent effort from the Lodges and from Provincial Grand Lodge. So far that source has netted almost £3,500 and there's more to come. We are quietly confident that we will be able to disperse £10,000 to local charities throughout Ross-shire and the Isle of Lewis and, in so doing positively raise the profile of Freemasonry in the Highlands and Islands. I have no doubt that the entire celebration will be an outstanding success as will the publicity emanating from it. Just make sure you will be part of it. It will be the social event of the year in Ross-shire.

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Since the installation of Bro John Mackenzie as Master last November the lodge has been extremely busy. His first meeting was an EA in December followed in January with a double FC. In February and in March we held EA degrees. Finally, in April a double MM degree which was carried out by Past Masters with PM David Macrae taking on the role of Master. We also have two candidates in the pipeline for which a date is to be set for their initiation.

The lodge has held three quiz nights so far this year with Macmillan Nurses having a night and a local dog agility training group also holding a quiz in the lodge.

On the 23rd March a special quiz night was held by the lodge so that we could present several groups with cheques. This was from the proceeds of a charity night held in the Duthac Centre in October. We hope to attend the community market in Tain on the 18th May for fund raising activities.

Regards

PM David Macrae
Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - MAY 1999

The Stornoway Brethren have been enjoying something a wee bit different at the last two meetings. They have been indulging in Lodges of Instruction and I am reliably informed by Lodge Secretary, Brother Donald MacLean, that Past Master, Brother Donald MacLeod (Donnie Oscar) did a splendid job on the history behind Hiram Abiff much to the delight of the Brethren while Brother Norman Graham, a native of Stornoway but an Initiate of a Lodge in Renfrew, did a tremendous mock Entered Apprentice Degree based on the ritual used in Renfrew. His candidate for the evening was Bro Ian MacAulay, the Substitute Master. On the same evening the Brethren were pleased to welcome Brother B Gilmour into the Lodge. Brother Gilmour hails from Utah in the USA but his great-great grandfather was apparently initiated into a Lodge in Kilsyth.

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

Here at Fortrose Lodge we've been fortunate to have had a steady flow of candidates over the last few months. At our last two meetings we initiated a new candidate at each one and at the previous two we worked fellowcraft degrees.

This picture which was taken on Friday 19th April after Mark Macaulay's first degree, he's 3rd from the left. On the left is Patrick Fraser and on the right is Murray Macleod both fellows of craft and both of whom have regularly attended the lodge since their initiations. Of course, 2nd left is D J Smith (Binnie) RWM. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, our next newest initiate, Bro Chris Marrow was unable to attend this last meeting and so is missing from this picture.



Our next meeting on 3rd May will be our regular meeting for May and we will work a fellowcraft degree on another EA, Donald Smith, who is also missing from the above picture as he was working off the island. On 17th May the PGM will be visiting with his deputation and we intend to work a master mason degree that evening.

Donnie Macleod
Donald Macleod PM

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Robertson's Lodge No 134



Greetings Brethren,

More sad news, the members of the Lodge share the sadness of the recent passing of two well-known Freemasons from Lodges in the locality; Bro. John Stirling P.M. and Bro. Andrew (Andy) Henderson, P.M. Both have been well known visitors to our Lodge.

P.M. Victor Shepherd and Bro. George MacIvor continue to be looked after in their nursing homes. PM Jim Tait continues with his achievements as Lodge Almoner, attending Lodge Meetings along with visiting other Lodges and other orders. Bro. Douglas Cooper, D.M., has recovered from his recent bout of pneumonia.

RWM Neil Cooper and his office bearers carried out an F.C. degree for Bro. David Cooper, who took his second regular step in Freemasonry and Bro. Simon Grech who took his first regular step in Freemasonry. This was also the Provincial Grand Lodge Visitation Meeting for Robertson's Lodge. On the 17th April a MM degree was carried out and Bro. David Cooper took his third regular step in Freemasonry.

Lodge Brethren will be attending the Annual P.G.L Lodge of Sorrow which is planned to be held in Lodge Rosehaugh on Sunday 5th May and Lodge Representatives will be attending the PGL Annual Business Meeting on 22 May within Lodge Seaforth. Lodge Representatives will also be attending the Grand Lodge Members Database User Group Workshop to be held in Inverness.

The year 2024 will be the year of the 250th Anniversary of Robertson's Lodge No. 134, discussions are ongoing regarding the plans for the Rededication Ceremonies.

Robertson's Lodge Meetings continue to be honoured by many distinguished visitors from other Lodges, within and out-with our Province. Member of our Lodge continue to visit other Lodges both inside and outside the Province.

The Lodge is now in the summer recess, with the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 18 September 2019. But there will be special meetings for business meetings and an enquiry for a prospective new affiliate.

Lodge Robertson 134 again wishes to thank all the Brethren who have visited our Lodge from all directions. Billets will continue to be sent out to all concerned parties to pass on information by email, and we look forward to seeing as many visitors as possible at our future meetings.

Fraternal regards to All.

Peter K. Ratcliffe.

Lodge Secretary.

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Lodge Fingal No 318

The Lodge held a regular meeting on Tuesday, 12th February. The Lodge tyled at 8:00pm. On completion of the formal business an emulation of the third degree was worked. The Lodge was thereafter closed, and a short harmony followed.

On Saturday, 23rd February, the annual Lodge Quiz was held within the Logie Lounge. The quiz master being our very own P.M. David Macmaster who set the questions. A total of 11 teams took part. At half time tea and sandwiches were served. A raffle took place and a presentation of £500 was made to the Puffin Pool. A very enjoyable evening was had by all that attended. Thanks, are extended to David for preparing and presenting the quiz, the ladies of the lodge for supplying baking, sandwiches and serving the tea, all those that donated prizes for the raffle and to the teams that took part.

On Tuesday, 12th March, the Lodge tyled at 7:30pm. This being the evening of our Lodge Provincial visitation. An emulation of the third degree being worked. At the conclusion of the Degree and visitation a harmony was held within the Logie Lounge. A most satisfactory report being received from the Provincial Grand Master.

On Saturday, 23rd March, the Lodge Ladies night was held within the Logie Lounge. An excellent three course meal was provided by Brother Sean Kennedy, of the Mallard Bar, Dingwall followed by fantastic dance music provided by Brother Mike Samms. At half time a presentation of £500 was made to the Highland and Islands Kidney Association. A raffle was held thereafter. Once again, all prizes being donated. A great night was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Sean, Mike and to all those that donated raffle prizes.

Tuesday, 9th April, the Lodge tyled at 8:00pm as normal. Once the formal business was concluded an emulation of the second degree was worked followed by a short harmony held within the Logie Lounge.

At the meeting we were delighted to receive as a guest, Brother Riku Rantakari from Finland, who was touring Britain and visited Fingal. In the photo on the following page, Colin is seen receiving a gift of a paper knife from Brother Rantakari.

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On Tuesday, 23rd April, the Lodge tyled at 11:00am, for the Funeral of our late departed Brother Andrew Miller Henderson who passed away on Friday 12th April, aged 72 years. Many Brethren were in attendance within the Lodge and at the church service held at St. Clement`s Church, Dingwall. The very many Brethren in attendance from the north, east, south and west proving the very high esteem in which Brother Henderson was held. He will be sadly missed by all that knew him. Within the Funeral Lodge, the passing of another well-known Brother was also intimated. This being Brother Alfred Reid, (Freddy), who passed away on Saturday, 20th April. His funeral being held at Ferintosh Parish Church, Conon-Bridge, at 12 noon on Monday, 29th April. He too will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers being with both families at this sad time.

On Saturday, 27th April, the Lodge played host to a visitation from Lodge St. Peters (Operative) No.284. The Lodge tyled at 6:00pm. It was opened in the first degree. The deputation from St. Peters were then admitted led by the R.W.M. Brother William Durrand. The Gavel of authority was shortly thereafter passed to the R.W.M. Durrand and an exchange of office bearers took place.

A most excellent working of the Fellow Craft Degree was worked by the R.W.M. Durrand and his Office Bearers. The candidate being Brother Ramsay Henderson a member of St. Peters, who answered his test questions in an exemplary manner. The Lodge was then reduced to the first degree and after the risings duly closed. A disco then followed in the Logie lounge. Members being joined by their wife`s and invited guests. Tea and sandwiches provided by the wife`s were served along with other refreshments. A raffle also took place with all prizes being donated. The disco being provided by the R.W.M. Brother William Durrand. Sadly, our guest artist Elvis could not make an appearance as he was suffering from Gout. A good night being had by all. Thanks to all who donated raffle prizes, provided eats and assisted in making the day such a success.

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Events proposed to take place in the future months are: -

Saturday 1st June, Lodge day out – train trip to Plockton.

Saturday 24th August, B-B-Q, - food by Brother Sean Kennedy - entertainment by Mike Samms – bar open 6:00pm.

From us all at Lodge Fingal, we wish you all, a happy summer break.

Colin Mackintosh
R.W.M

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

D. Gunn PM
Secretary.

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LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851

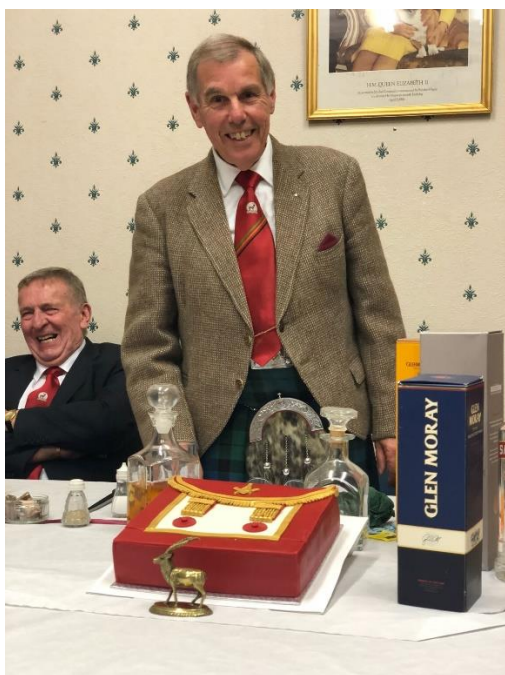


The Master Elect, Brother Alan Baker extends a very warm welcome to all Brethren to attend his Installation on Tuesday 11th June in the premises of Lodge Seaforth in Fortrose.

Tea and Coffee will be available from 11.00 am and the Lodge will tyle at 11.30 prompt.

After the meeting lunch will be served in the Club-rooms. It would be appreciated, for catering purposes, if you could let the Lodge Secretary, David MacMaster, know if you intend staying for lunch. His contact email is - david@strathpeffer.net

Editor



Birthday Celebrations at Lodge Allan Wilson – celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Lodge being Reponed.

Until 2008 the Lodge met in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe but due to the troubles there, the Charter was handed back to Edinburgh but, given the link with Major Allan Wilson who was born in Ross-shire and after whom the Lodge was named, it was decided to Repon the Lodge in 2008.

Incidentally, Lodge Allan Wilson received its Charter in 1897 on the same day that Lodge Seaforth (where it now meets) received its Charter.

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LODGE SEAFORTH 854

The Lodge Office-bearers have now settled in well and have had a busy time conferring various degrees on candidates and carrying out visits to other Lodges.

The February meeting saw Kevin Lumsden take his first regular step in Freemasonry, with a well worked Entered Apprentice Degree by RWM Graham Law and his team.

The March Meeting was our Provincial Visitation, and a well-attended meeting witnessed Bro. James Fraser being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

On April 12th the Lodge held a Race Night, expertly hosted by RWM Graham Law, assisted by PM Gwyn Phillips and his good lady Anne, who adeptly ran the bookmaking table. The event was well attended, with many lucky punters going home with small fortunes, and at the same time raising much needed funds.

At our April meeting Bro. Donald Ferguson took his Second Regular Step, being passed to the Second Degree in well worked degree.

The Lodge is now in abeyance until our next Regular Meeting on 16th September 2019.

On Saturday 1st June 2019, the Lodge will travel to Castletown, Caithness for our annual visit to Lodge John O' Groat No. 1333, where Lodge Seaforth will work a Second Degree on one of its own candidates.

On the 16th February 2019, a team from the Lodge, led by the RWM, and accompanied by some Brethren from the Province, enjoyed a pleasant trip to Lodge St Barchan No. 156, in Renfrewshire, where we witnessed the MW GMM Bro Ramsay McGhee being presented with his 50 Year Jubilee Certificate and Jewel. The Lodge was packed to capacity, as distinguished Grand Lodge Office-bearers, a large Deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge of Renfrewshire East and many visiting Brethren witnessed the presentation of Ramsay's Certificate, by the RWM Bro Eddie Findlay, who also delivered an entertaining appreciation of Ramsay's Masonic Career.

Also, at that meeting, we witnessed PM Jonathon Hill, a Past Master of Robertson Lodge No. 134, being affiliated to Lodge St Barchan No. 156.

The Lodge St Barchan Office Bearers completed the meeting with an excellent Master Mason Degree, followed by an entertaining Harmony with musical accompaniment including PM Hill on his guitar.

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MW GMM Bro. Ramsay McGhee being presented with his Jubilee Certificate by RWM Eddie Findlay

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Since the last publication of the Patter we have had an eventful time. Brother Pew has now been raised to MM degree and has been keen to visit a few of the local lodges. Brother Ken Rodgers was raised to the high and sublime degree of Master Mason on Saturday April the 27th. The degree was carried out by our visiting Lodge Stormont 1524 from Scone. The deputation was headed by the RWM Philip Loban. The visitors worked an excellent degree it was good to see how they worked the degree. We also had several visitors from Lodge Ness which was great to see, and our local yodeller PM Davie Gray of Lodge Hozier 912.



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Lodge Averon No 866

Since the last publication of the Patter we have had an eventful time. Brother Pew has now been raised to MM degree and has been keen to visit a few of the local lodges. Brother Ken Rodgers at this moment has been passed to his 2nd degree and on Saturday April the 27th will be raised to the degree of MM. The degree will be carried out by our visiting Lodge Stormont 1524 from Scone.

On Saturday the 16th of February we hosted our annual senior's party in Ardross and Alness Bowling club, and thanks go out to them for giving us use of their venue free of charge. Brother John Macrae has made an outstanding job of arranging this event once again. A big thanks to all the ladies who gave up their time to help with fulfilling all the kitchen duties, all done a grand job and kept us men on our toes. We had a couple of brothers from Lodge Ness, Tug and Tommy assisting in entertaining our guests with music and thanks to them for that, along with two pipers this year, and our local highland dance group performed a few routines.



We handed out a cheque for £200 to the Ann Nobel Dance group who perform at the senior's party and have done for many years now. The dancers do several routines to entertain the seniors and by the round of applause the got from everyone it was well received.

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Lodge Averon (continued)



A cheque for £200 was also presented to the 5th Alness Brownies on the day of our senior's party. Brother Grey is planning a future event to raise some much-needed funds for the Brownies later this year.



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It was brought to the attention of the Lodge that a Brother George McGovern had passed away within the lodge back in 1960. No one seemed to know of this but after some investigation, we found this to be true. We invited one of his daughters, Patty Davis, to the Lodge along with some of her local family and presented them with a plate and flowers, and had a plaque made in his memory.

Poignant tribute to former mason

By Hector Mackenzie
h.mackenzie@spp-group.com

A COMMUNITY-minded stalwart in Easter Ross was the focus of a poignant memorial event at a freemasons' lodge.

Patricia Davis, better known to many as Patty, was invited to Lodge Averon in Alness after members there learned of the sad circumstances surrounding the death of her father almost 60 years ago.

Harry McCartney of the lodge explained: "It was brought to Lodge Averon's attention that a fellow Brother, George McGovern, had passed away many years ago within the lodge building.

"This was back in 1960 and after some investigation we found this to be correct.

"A well-known lady in our community Patricia Davis, known locally as Patty, brought it to our attention as this person was her



Patty Davis (centre) was given a special presentation by Donnie Mathieson, master of Lodge Averon in Alness during a gathering there.

father." Mr McGovern died following a heart attack within the premises.

A plaque has been placed in the hall in his memory. A plate was made and a certificate of joining

the lodge framed and passed to Patty. Terry Rhodes, who is a member of the lodge and a neighbour of Patty, paid the costs for the plate, made by Tain Pottery.

Patty and some of her relatives

who lived locally were invited to be presented with these items and shown around the lodge and taken to see the plaque.

Mr McCartney added: "Patty told us her mum said that she was glad that he was able to pass away with his friends at the lodge.

"This was an emotional visit and now Patty's father will be remembered forever within the lodge.

"Patty was a great member of the community and well known for her works in various areas in the community including the Averon Leisure centre and the Alness Community Council, having been on it on for seven years.

"Patty had done so much work for the community that one of the streets was named after her, Davis Drive in Alness.

"She also fostered 19 teenagers, in her time as being a foster carer, some whom were able to come along to the lodge."

The lodge contacted The North Star and our local Alness and District times to let them know what we have been doing in the community. Subsequently, the story line was printed in the North Star, Ross shire Journal and the Alness and District Times. Some good publicity received. (There might have been bigger smiles if we would have known we were making a page three debut lol)

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Alness party time goes with a swing

By Hector Mackenzie
h.mackenzie@spp-group.com

MEMBERS of an Easter Ross dance group were left jumping for joy after entertaining senior citizens at an eagerly anticipated annual event.

Youngsters with the Anne Noble School of Highland Dancing proved to be a huge hit at an annual senior citizens' party at Ardross and Alness Bowling Club, organised by Lodge Averon, which is based in Alness.

Cheques for £200 were handed out to both the dance group and the 5th Alness Brownies during the event.

The event capped a busy few months for Lodge Averon which was also behind an annual children's party which attracted 38 young people and many of their parents.

Harry McCartney of Lodge



Harry McCartney of the Averon Lodge in Alness hands over the welcome cheque to Anne Noble for her School of Dancing.

Averon paid tribute to everyone who contributed to the success of both events, including the bowling club which gave use of its premises free of charge for the seniors' party.

He said fellow lodge member

John Macrae did "an outstanding job" organising the seniors event and thanked volunteers for fulfilling the kitchen duties.

In addition to the dancers, some musical members of Lodge Ness

entertained. Mr McCartney said: "The dancers did several routines to entertain the seniors and by the round of applause they got from everyone it was well received."

In addition to the funding boost for the local Brownies group, a lodge member is planning another event later this year to boost their kitty further.

Those attending the annual children's party enjoyed games with prizes, jelly and ice cream and a visit from Minnie and Mickey Mouse and a Minion.

Mr McCartney said: "They had a wonderful day. We never missed any of the 30-plus parents and elves as they all got ice cream as well."

The kids were also entertained by a well-received show by local magician Brian Jay, who also volunteered to perform free of charge.

Picture or story for us? Email newsdesk@spp-group.com

We held our annual Ladies' night on the 30th of March and again it was fully sold out and everyone had a great time. Music by Peter Johnson, buffet, good family friends and Brethren what more could you want.



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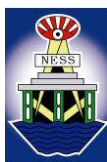
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The Lodge is holding a Comedy night on Saturday the 15th of June, and four comedians from Inverness are coming up to do their routine. This is been arranged by Brother Gary Miller and this is a fundraiser for the charity Mikey's Line. Gary has been doing a grand job with this in the last couple of months with many auctions via Facebook and with running a bonus ball.

The Lodge is planning a BBQ on Saturday the 20th of July, further details will be posted via Facebook and maybe in time for the next version of the Patter.

Brother Harry McCartney



LODGE NESS 888

Over the last few months the Lodge has worked an Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason's degrees for our newest member Brother Christopher Lockhart, as well as a Mark Master Mason degree for Brother Lewis Kerr. Both of these Brethren are extremely keen, and Brother Kerr is already filling in as Inner Guard, and doing so in a sterling manner

The Lodge is holding two barbeques over the closed season. One on June 15th, and the other on August 10th to which all Brethren, Friends and Family and Lodge Neighbours will be made most welcome. We hope to have live music at both of these events

The lodge is also holding a music night titled "Showtime" in Lodge Averon, on 14th September. The main act of the evening will be Stevi Ritchie, an X factor and Reality TV star (The spelling is correct!) He will be accompanied by supporting acts. Tickets for this event are £12.50 and are available from local newsagents in Alness and Invergordon, and the Lodge Secretary secretary@lodgeness.co.uk. We would take this opportunity to thank Lodge Averon for allowing us to use their premises for this event, and the offers of help on the night

Over the closed season we will be continuing to address structural and cosmetic improvements to the building and have already replaced and painted the entrance gates to the garden We were going to paint the supporting pillars on either side of the gates in the Masonic colours of green white and gold. However, it was pointed out that this might result in our RWM having a cardiac arrest. It seems he is a bit of a "Bluenose" - - - whatever that means!

Derek Rodway
IPM Lodge Ness 888

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

The winter this year has not been kind to the Lodge Building in Kyle, however the Brethren have kept on top of maintenance and thoroughly cleaned the Lodge Room Tiled Carpet which made a big difference and means we no longer need to buy a new one which would be an expensive item. It was very heartening to come to the Meeting this month and see the difference and know that the Brethren have been working quietly in the background. However, the source of our problem, the roof, needs looking at and despite asking local builders to investigate repairs and give an estimate, things are moving slowly despite our best efforts to obtain the estimates.

As we move into Spring, the garden again needs attention and so a gardening party will need to be organised, where we can tidy the areas around the Lodge one by one, the more local Brethren taking on the bulk of the duties.

On a more upbeat note ... We had a fabulous response to our Mark Degree, where FOUR Brethren went through the Ritual. Both the Candidates and the Brethren taking roles in the Degree all enjoyed themselves immensely as this tends to be a more "fun" Degree. We hope to give The Provincial Grand Master and his Deputation the benefit of our new found expertise on their Visit on Monday 6th May 2019 at 8pm. Our Right Worshipful Master Bro Callum Mackenzie also welcomes Visitors who have their Mark Degree to attend what promises to be a good night.

As yet we have nothing formal arranged for the Summer, but this could change and if it does, we will post our events on the LODGE KYLE WEBSITE at www.lodgekyle.co.uk where you can find the latest information.

Ronnie Miller, PM
Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - MAY 1999

A very successful and well attended car boot sale and barbeque was held in the Lodge Car Park on Saturday 8th May. While the final sum has still to materialise, Lodge Secretary Charlie MacAulay is confident that it will exceed £300. This was an excellent PR exercise enjoyed by Masons and non-Masons alike.

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

Our February meeting was the Installation of the RWM who was unable to attend our normal installation meeting in December due to work commitments. The ceremony was conducted by Bro Allan Carmichael PM and Bro William Macleman PM. Following this we had a presentation of Jubilee Certificates to Bro Dennis Hossack and Bro Arthur Macarthur PM. It was a pleasure to welcome our MWGMM Bro Ramsay McGhee along to the meeting to present the certificates to both. March meeting saw the first of our young Brethren Calum Bassindale attain his Master Mason degree. A poignant part of the evening saw his Grandfather Bro David Patience invest Calum with the Apron of PM John Patience. The April meeting was also our PGL visitation and the planned 3rd degree got changed (candidate In Stag party business in Poland). Instead we worked the 3 tracing board lectures. Many thanks to Jonathan Hill for assisting again due to holiday commitments. Our final meeting of the session will be on Friday 3rd May with an 8.00pm start. We will be working a 3rd degree for Bro Jordan Hossack so hopefully we will have a good turnout for this meeting. I mentioned earlier about the jubilee certificates and as these were the first we presented for 5 years it seemed appropriate to investigate the reason for this. From our minute book we see an installation ceremony was held on 6 December 1963. On the 30th of December 1963 we read that the Property Committee held a meeting in the Station Hotel to discuss the lodge building which had been demolished. The Brethren agreed in January 1964 to make use of the Seaforth Lodge premises at the Chapter House in Fortrose and this was used until October 1966 when it was agreed to suspend meetings and a disposition was granted allowing this. Meetings resumed 2 years later in October 1968, but it was in January 1969 when the first candidates were initiated into the new building these being the Late Bro Donny Beaton who was the local policeman and father of Bro Angus Beaton PM of Lodge Fingal, Bro Dennis Hossack and Bro Arthur Macarthur PM. It was particularly pleasing to see Bro Macarthur being presented with this honour by Bro Ramsay McGhee. Arthur has put a lot into the lodge over the 50 years. He was installed as RWM of Lodge Rosehaugh in December 1985. The installing master that evening was Bro David Patience PM. Bro Macarthur took over as Treasurer in December 1989 and held this post until November 2005. He was rewarded for his service to Freemasonry and Lodge Rosehaugh in particular on the 30th November 2006 when he had the honour of Grand Lodge Honorary Treasurer bestowed on him. Finally, we would wish to pass on our condolences to the families of the late Bro John Stirling and Bro Andy Henderson. John was at our March meeting whilst Andy was a very regular attender for many years. An excellent tribute to both was given by Bro Ally Gault at Lodge Seaforth recently.

Keith Patience, PM - Secretary

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Lodge St Martin 1217

The Brethren of the Lodge will be hosting a BBQ on Saturday 4th May as they are having a visit from The Worcestershire Masonic Motoring Club. There will be 14 Brethren and partners including the PGM of Worcestershire, W Bro Robert Christopher Vaughan. Any Brother/Partners wishing to attend please inform the secretary Bro. Charlie Macaulay 07795420101.

Lodge St Martin will be working a 3rd degree ceremony for Bro. Calum Macrae on the last meeting of the season on Tuesday 21st May.

St Martin will also be participating in the annual Rotary “Fun on the Pier Day” which is being held on Saturday 13th July.

Charlie Macaulay PM
Secretary

Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551

Brethren

As you will all be well aware, the Loch Ewe column has, for many years, been submitted by Past Master Brother Andrew Miller Henderson. His contribution to the “Patter” like his contribution to Freemasonry has been immense. His lengthy fight against cancer ended two weeks ago and he is now at rest in the Grand Lodge above. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to his wife Irene and their extended family.

Indeed, the Brethren in Lodge Loch Ewe have suffered a double loss in the past two weeks with the passing of Past Master Billy Brown – another stalwart of 1551. I think my abiding memory of Billy will be the great enthusiasm he displayed when he organised a Degree Team made up of Brethren from all the Lodges in the Province and refused to reveal his “line-up” until just before the kick-off. That evening ended with a dinner dance for all the Brethren and their wives.

Our condolences are extended to the Brethren of Lodge Loch Ewe at this sad time.

Editor

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BITS AND PIECES

LET THERE BE LIGHT

From 'The Freemason's Repository' (1797)

Let there be light! The Almighty spoke-
Refulgent streams from chaos broke,
To illumine the rising earth!
Well pleased the Great Jehovah stood,
The Power Supreme pronounced it good,
And gave the planets birth!
In choral numbers Masons join
To bless and praise this Light Divine.

Parent of light! Accept our praise,
Who shed'st on us thy brightest rays-
The light that fills the mind!
By choice selected, lo! we stand,
By friendship joined, a mystic band,
That love, that aid mankind!
In choral numbers Masons join
To bless and praise this Light Divine.

The Widow's tears we often dry,
The Orphan's wants our hands supply,
As far as power is given;
The naked clothe, the prisoner free-
These are our works, sweet Charity!
Reveal'd to us from Heaven!
In choral numbers Masons join
To bless and praise this light Divine.

My thanks to Brother Kenneth Jack for this and the following Masonic Poem.

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THE LEVEL AND THE SQUARE - By Bro. Rob Morris (1854)

Said to be the most popular of the American Masonic laureate's works.

We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square;
What words of precious meaning those words Masonic are!
Come, let us contemplate them! They are worthy of a thought;
In the very walls of Masonry the sentiment is wrought.

We meet upon the Level, though from every station come,
The rich man from his palace and the poor man from his home;
For the *rich* must leave his wealth and state outside the Mason's door,
And the *poor* man finds his best respect upon the Checkered Floor.

We act upon the Plumb- 'tis the orders of our Guide-
We walk upright in virtue's way and lean to neither side;
Th' All-Seeing Eye that reads our hearts doth bear us witness true,
That we still try to honour God and give each man his due.

We part upon the Square, for the world must have its due;
We mingle with the multitude, a faithful band and true;
But the influence of our gatherings in memory is green,
And we long upon the Level to renew the happy scene.

There's a world where all are equal- we are hurrying towards it fast,
We shall meet upon the Level there, when the gates of Death are passed;
We shall stand before the Orient, and our Master will be there,
To try the blocks, we offer with His own unerring Square.

We shall meet upon the Level there, but never thence depart;
There's a Mansion- 'tis all ready for each trusting, faithful heart-
There's a Mansion, and a Welcome, and a multitude is there
Who have met upon the Level, and been tried upon the Square?

Let us meet upon the Level, then, while labouring patient here;
Let us meet and let us labour, though the labour be severe;
Already in the western sky the signs bid us prepare
To gather up our Working Tools and part upon the Square.

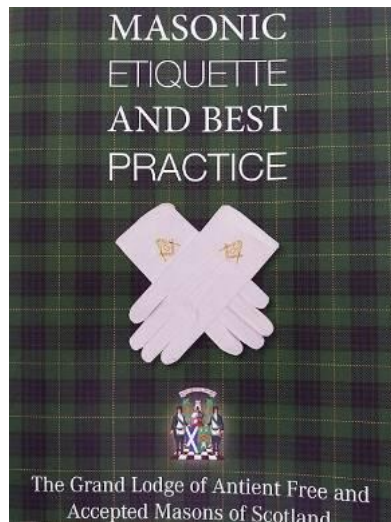
Hand round ye faithful Brotherhood, the bright fraternal chain,
We part upon the Square below, to meet in heaven again!
What words of precious meaning those words Masonic are-
We meet upon the Level and we part upon the Square.

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This new booklet from the Grand Lodge of Scotland will be helpful to all but especially to those making their way up through the offices towards the chair of their Lodge. The new publication is available from Grand Lodge and priced at a very reasonable £3.00 per copy, £1.00 of which is going to Masonic Charities. The booklet is the work of the Information and Communications Committee and is a very easy guide to Masonic Etiquette and Best Practice.

It covers the A to Z of decorum within the Lodges from the correct positioning of the Altar to correct forms of Address, to Visiting. The booklet also contains guidelines for the use of Masonic Websites, Email and Social Media. One copy is currently being sent to each Master, free of charge and thereafter, the booklet will be available to all to purchase.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - MAY 1999

The Provincial Grand Master was delighted to receive a cheque for £200 from the Lodge Kyle Brethren for the Millennium Charity Appeal with a distinct promise from the Master, Brother Hector Morrison, that there was more to come. This was another truly remarkable feat of fund raising and congratulations must be extended to all Brethren in Kyle.

THE COLOURING BOOK – a simple tale from Ronnie Miller

Children have enquiring minds and need to be stimulated or educated otherwise boredom and tantrums ensue. Such was the case for this little fellow who in the early 1960s was yet to experience the wonders of school and was "put to his granny's house" while mum and dad earned a living.

Entertainment consisted of rolling and knotting old newspapers to set the fire or playing outside at the recently defunct steamie, in the back court with a stick, some dirt and a puddle - happy as a grice in muck.

However, one day, after breakfast, and being scrubbed in the sink (two floors up and beside an open window), granny being a kindly and understanding soul decided to take me shopping to Woolworths or "Woolies" as it was known. To those who do not know, it was one of the first "department stores" which sold amongst its "boring" haberdashery and clothing... pick and mix sweets and cheap toys. A visit there was a sensation for a child who was nearer to its highly waxed floor than the towering counters filled with goodies.

We arrived at the toys section and I was hoisted up to see what was on offer and there was an array of books with simple gaily coloured pictures on their fronts and a selection of pencils, paints and crayons. Amazing! Book and pencils purchased, and sweets forgotten, I was hauled back to the hoose and set up at the kitchen table, the newly acquired prizes laid out for examination. At first, I was bewildered by the lack of colour within the book but almost immediately grasped the concept of "colouring in", perhaps with more than a little explanation from good old granny. Hours passed and a pencil sharpener added to the fun.

Thus, going to Woolies with Granny for a colouring book became the weekly ritual.

Mum on discovering that a child can be silent out with sleep and feeding, bought me a painting set that came with a canvas, blank save vague outlines and numbers to inform which colours were to be placed within the borders. This was certainly a step up from colouring books and I can still remember the joy at the full picture being revealed once all the boundaries had been filled with the appropriate shades of colour. Who knew there were 3 shades of green, 3 more of blue and that you could combine them to provide an infinite palette, and that the relationship of colours to each other evoke different sensations?

Well time flew by and I am full grown as they say. I have no artistic talent whatsoever, but I can appreciate the work of artists who do, thanks to genius of those who provide the guidelines and instructions in a simple colouring book.

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PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

Dates for Diary Visitations

May 15th Hebrides 364
May 16th Hebrides Cryptic 364
May 25th AGM Lodge Fingal 1.30pm

Yours Fraternally

Alasdair Taylor

Provincial Grand Scribe E

Tain & Ross RAC 63

The next meeting of the Tain and Ross Chapter will be on Tuesday 8th October 2019

St Clement RAC 244

The next meeting of St Clement will be Friday 25th October 2019

Cromarty Firth RAC 310

The Hebrides RAC 364.

In February one new member, Angus Allison, was received as an Excellent Master, our first new member for some time. Our next regular meeting will be on 7th May. On 15th May we are looking forward to the first visit by our new Grand Superintendent Tommy Stirling, at that meeting it is our intention to exalt Comp. Allison to the RA degree.

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

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Despite his recent bout of ill health, Companions from all over the world were delighted that ME Companion Ian Fraser was able to re-install his successor. MEC Rev Canon Joseph J Morrow, CBE, QC at the Annual Installation Ceremony held in Grand Lodge on the 15th March.

I was delighted to represent Grand Lodge at the Installation and witness Ian carry out his duties.

It was an excellent day rounded off with a first-class dinner in Grand Lodge in the evening.

Apart from Ian and myself, there was a good turnout of Companions from Ross-shire at the Ceremony.

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Highland Guild Lodge

The next meeting of the Highland Guild Lodge will be the Regular Meeting on 10th May at 7.45pm In Lodge Averon, Alness when we will be working an indentured apprentice degree.

Alasdair Taylor
Kirkswarden/Scrivener
Highland Guild Lodge

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

DGP Peter Foster and his deputation made his half yearly visit on Saturday 27th April. An esquire grade was worked that evening when John Norman Murray was admitted as an esquire.

Donnie Macleod
†† Donald Macleod KCT

BLAST FROM THE PAST - MAY 1999

Here's a wee gem courtesy of Bro Robert Scott, RWM of Lodge Fingal.

IF:

If I have sown the seeds of hope and gladness,
If I have caused sad lips to smile again,
If I have soothed another's grief or sadness,
I have not lived in vain.
If I have made one heavy heart the brighter,
If I have eased another's ache or pain,
If I have made a Brother's burden lighter,
I have not lived in vain.
If in a friend I have found a Brother;
If in the Brother I my friend retain,
That thus we God-speed one another,
I have not lived in vain.

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And finally – from the 1999 May edition -

I always enjoy a good crack with Bro Joe Falkner of Lodge Fingal. The last night we met, he gave me the following article which I'm sure many of you will easily relate to:

“We were born before television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen food, plastic, contact lens, videos, frisbees, and the pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball-point pens; before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, drip-dry clothes and, before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together. We thought fast food was what you ate in Lent. A Bic Mac was an oversized raincoat and crumpet we had for tea. We existed before house-husbands, computer dating, dual careers and when a meaningful relationship meant getting on well with your cousins. A partner was a business associate and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, yoghurt and young men wearing earrings. For us ‘time-sharing’ meant togetherness, a chip was a piece of wood or fried potato. Hardware meant nuts and bolts and software wasn't a word.

Before 1940 ‘Made in Japan’ meant junk; the term ‘making out’ referred to how you did in your exams, stud was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and ‘going all the way’ meant staying on the bus to the depot. Pizzas, MacDonald’s and instant coffee were unheard of. In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable; grass was mown, coke was kept in the coal house, a joint was a piece of meat you had on a Sunday and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a grandmother’s lullaby, Eldorado was an ice-cream, and a gay person was the life and soul of the party”.

We who were born before or round about 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap today - but - by the grace of God we have survived.