PROVINCIAL PATTER

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 128 **AUGUST 2026**

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty



Lodge Fingal No 318

Charter issued 6th February 1826

Bicentenary celebrated in February 2026 - Centenary of building August 2026

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Editorial

Welcome to the 128th Edition of the Patter.

I was saddened and annoyed to read a Facebook article by a woman resident in Cromarty that Freemasons were essentially responsible for the decision made by male Councillors in Highland Council to allow a convicted rapist to retain his taxi licence. We were all appalled by the decision, but I have no idea where she got the notion that such a decision was influenced by the Freemasons. She accompanied the article with an interview I gave to journalists in Nairobi – can't recall ever giving her permission to use it!

I was tempted to respond to the article she wrote but when I read many comments supporting her, I decided, once I had calmed down, to totally ignore it – the comments comprised of misinformation and unfounded prejudice against Freemasonry in general. It is difficult to convince such people of the genuine purpose of Freemasonry and all that it stands for.

The best way to counteract such nonsense is for those of us who are Freemasons to demonstrate, by our own conduct and example what kind of men we are and what kind of men we look to join us.

This year, we are again having a stand at the Black Isle Show where we can positively demonstrate the good that Freemasonry does within our communities, throughout the country and indeed throughout the world. If you and your family are attending the show, please drop in and see us.

I hope and trust that you will enjoy reading this the 128th edition of the "Patter" and I look forward to meeting up with you during the new Masonic season.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland

We are delighted to welcome a Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, headed by the Grand Master Mason, into the Province on Saturday 29th August to carry out the Installation of our new Provincial Grand Master and his Commissioned Office-bearers.

It will be a memorable occasion and an opportunity for all the Lodges in the Province to be present to demonstrate their support for the new Provincial Grand Master.

Behind the scenes in Grand Lodge much work is being carried out by the Committees now working under the new strategic approach agreed by Grand Lodge.

The Province is represented on several of the Committees some of which have new Chairmen. The full list of Committees and their Chairmen is –

Governance & Strategy Committee – Bro Ramsay McGhee
Administration – Bro Andrew Mushet
Disciplinary – Bro Stewart Quigley
Discipline Review – Bro Archie Chalmers
Information & Communications – Bro Peter Taylor
Overseas, External Affairs & Special Purposes – Bro Gordon MacKay
District Grand Master's – Bro Kalpesh Shah
Provincial Grand Masters's – Bro Alan Cuthill

Editor

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The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty

It is a great privilege for me to present my first Report for the Provincial Patter as Provincial Grand Master.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who supported my appointment to the Office and assure you all that I will to my utmost to carry on the good work of my predecessors. I know I have a very hard act to follow in my Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master, Brother MacKeddie.

On the day I officially took over the post, Thursday 11th June, I attended the Communication at Grand Lodge. A very interesting and enlightening experience from a different vantage point from where I had usually sat on my previous visits to Grand Lodge.

My first visit as Provincial Grand Master, although not an official visit, was on Tuesday 7th July when I attended a special meeting at Lodge St. Martin in Ullapool where I witnessed an excellent Third Degree. My sincere congratulations to all who took part.

On Friday 10th July, along with Past Provincial Grand Master Ramsay McGhee, Substitute Provincial Grand Master Andrew MacIvor and Provincial Grand Secretary Mike Longley, I attended the Installation of Brother Alex Craib, Past Master of Lodge Fingal and current Master of Lodge Allan Wilson, as Master of Lodge Randolph No. 1434 in Barrhead in the Province of Renfrewshire. The ceremony was conducted by the Past Depute Grand Master Brother Bud Gauld. An excellent occasion where we were all made so very welcome. We wish Brother Craib a very happy and successful year in office.

On Tuesday 14th July I carried out my first official visit as Provincial Grand Master when I attended Lodge Allan Wilson No. 851. As well as the official Provincial Grand Lodge business we listened to a very interesting and informative talk from the Archivist at Grand Lodge. This meeting was very well attended.

Recently I visited both Past Provincial Grand Masters Robin Cattanach and Billy Ross and presented them with Past Provincial Grand Master's Jewels. They were both in good form.



Provincial Grand Master Bro David MacMaster presenting Past PGM jewels to Brothers Robin Cattanach and William Ross



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Even although most Lodges are currently in recess the work goes on apace, particularly with the TLC Teddies initiated by my predecessor in collaboration with the Provinces of Caithness, Sutherland and Inverness-shire. The Teddies are being distributed, as you know to all A & E departments in the Highlands along with ambulances in Sutherland and have been very well received by the NHS staff in these areas. Also, those involved in promoting the work of Prostate Scotland have a very busy schedule of events coming up throughout the summer and I congratulate you in your efforts and hope that they are successful.

In connection with the Grand Master Mason's Challenge a defibrillator has now been installed at Lodge St Martin, and the Electronic Display Board has been purchased and will get its first outing at the Provincial Grand Lodge stand at this year's Black Isle Show on Wednesday5th and Thursday 6th August. Unfortunately, for number of reasons the First Aid Courses, planned for some of the funding have not yet taken place. It is hoped that they will happen in the autumn.

The next event in our Calendar will be the Installation of myself and other Commissioned Office-Bearers at the Spa Pavilion, Strathpeffer on Saturday 29th August. The ceremony will be conducted by the Grand Master Mason and his team from Grand Lodge. Proceedings will commence at 12 o'clock for photographs with the meeting starting at 1 o'clock. The dinner to which brethren, wives and partners may attend will commence about half past three. After the dinner there will be entertainment with a live band. Please make sure you have your tickets which are priced at £ 40.00p each.

Saturday 3rd October will see the 100th year Re-dedication of the Lodge Fingal building in Dingwall. The ceremony will be conducted by Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Ramsay McGhee and a team from the Provincial Grand Lodge.

The following day, Sunday 4th October, the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Divine Service will be held, again in Lodge Fingal, and will be conducted by Past Provincial Grand Master McGhee. A very busy man.

On Friday 13th November the Provincial Grand Lodge Ladies Night will be held in the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer.

I look forward to seeing you at these various events and at meetings throughout the coming season.

Fraternal Regards

David A MacMaster Provincial Grand Master

Provincial Grand Lodge Installation

The Provincial Grand Lodge Installation will take place in the Spa Pavillion on Saturday 29th August 2026. The Ben Wyvis Hotel are offering a limited number of rooms - £120 twin or double, £80 single per night – but they will not be available for long. If you want to book for the Friday and or Saturday, contact the Ben Wyvis Hotel on 01997 423 387 and give the reference – ***Masonic Installation***. The Ladies will be welcome at the dinner but need to be included in reservations for the Installation dinner.

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Young Masons Group

The group has continued to meet on a regular basis, for over six years, and following an earlier proposal they continue to meet informally as a group at various lodge meetings in the Province.

Since the success of the outstanding Fellowcraft Degree delivered at Lodge Fingal No. 318 back in April, and since most of the Lodges in the Province are in recession, the group has been fairly quiet, but monitoring the banter on the YM What's App Group suggests that a few of the group will be heading to support the Lodge Averon No. 866 Charity Golf Competition on Saturday 5th September.
Let's hope the golf played is as good as the bragging on the chat forum.

Along with Bro James McDougall, PG Director of Ceremonies, we went on a reconnaissance mission to Aberlour in the Province of Banffshire, to witness their Young Masons deliver a degree. The Master of Lodge St John No. 1021, Bro Willie MacDougall, bravely handed over the Master's Chair to the young team to initiate a new member to the Lodge. I must say the Entered Apprentice Degree was well delivered to a high standard by every member of the team and certainly left a great impression on the new candidate.

Speaking to some of the team members after the meeting, it was interesting to hear that they had also to overcome the difficulties of bringing several different lodge rituals to work together, which they seemed to do effortlessly.

It is very pleasing to see that other Provinces are working to involve their younger members, and from the high standard of work and commitment displayed, the future of Freemasonry throughout Scotland is certainly proving to be in good and safe hands.

Raymond MacKeddie, PPGM

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2006

An extract from "Sinclair Bruce Column" August 2006

Today Tuesday 16th May, I was on top of the Grampians, and you might ask how on earth did you manage that on a wheelchair. The answer of course is quite simple - I used the Funicular railway. For me it was a wonderful experience and a most enjoyable outing that I fully recommend to all readers. The courtesy and help given to me was exceptional. Nothing was a bother to the staff both on the train and in the restaurant. For me, a day to remember plus a view that was just out of this world.

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From the Provincial Almoner

The following have sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above:

On Monday 27 April 2026, Brother Derek Malcolm Rodway, PM of Lodge Averon No. 866, passed away peacefully at Raigmore Hospital. Brother Derek is a big miss to the Province and other Lodges which he attended.

On Monday 16 March 2026, Brother George Young, MM of Lodge Seaforth No. 854, in the care of Redwood Care Home, Alness, passed away peacefully. Brother George was in his 93rd year. He joined Lodge Seaforth in 1973.

On an unknown date in May 2026, Brother Norman Fawcett, MM of Lodge Seaforth No. 854, passed away. Former owner of Riverbank Nursery, Conon Bridge. He was a highly skilled wood carver. Some of his work is at the entrance within Lodge Seaforth. Sadly, missed and fondly remembered.

A report on the following:

On Thursday 18 June 2026, Rhona Patulla, beloved and loving wife of Brother Robert (Bob), PM of Lodge St Duthus No. 82, passed away peacefully at home after a long illness. Sadly, missed by all.

Brother Robin Cattanach, PM of Lodge St Duthus No. 82 and Past Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty has now recovered and managing to move about again.

Brother Derek Cronie, MM of Lodge Fingal No. 318, has been in hospital but is now back home and recovering.

A week ago, our Past Provincial Grand Master Brother Raymond MacKeddie, PM of Lodge Seaforth No. 854, came off his bicycle on a mountainous track and broke his collar bone and some ribs. He is unable to drive currently. He is slowly recovering. We all wish him well.

I now close by asking once again that should any Brother require my assistance, please get in touch with me. I would also ask that Lodge Almoners and any other Lodge member to please keep me updated on any health issues.

Fred T Fraser PM
Provincial Grand Almoner fraserft@yahoo.com or **01463 870307**

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The Province continues to support our participation in the TLC Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) scheme, aims to donate teddies to the A&E Departments in the Highland A&E Departments, to help assist children who find themselves in traumatic circumstances.

We are working with our neighbouring Provinces in Caithness, Sutherland and Inverness-shire, to support the five A&E Departments in the Highlands and Western Isles.

We continue to be busy over the last few months topping up supplies to each of the hospitals, and it is great to hear from the nurses that the teddies have been very much appreciated by the children who received them. We note from comments from the nurses and doctors at Raigmore A&E Dept. that demand is starting to increase, as the nurses realise the assistance that the teddies provide when they dealing with children in difficult situations.
Going forward, we shall be continuing to look to providing TLC teddies to other organisations including remote ambulance services, women's refuges and other children's support groups.



It was interesting to read in the Grand Almoners Message in the Grand Lodge Quarterly Newsletter *"Documentation is in the final stages of being produced and will come out to provinces before the summer. The project has been successfully operating in Ayrshire and the Northern Highlands for a time now. Hopefully, other provinces will see this as a project they would seek to join and give support to children undergoing treatment in A&E departments of hospitals in their province."*

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Provincial Grand Lodge Prostate Champions

The Provincial Grand Lodge Prostate Champions will be in attendance at the Provincial Stall at the Black Isle Show – come and visit us on Stand NG2.



In addition to the foregoing, our Prostate Champion, Steven O'Donnell has been very busy this summer, getting out and about, raising awareness of prostate issues in men, particularly those over 50 years of age, and generally letting the public know what symptoms to look out for and where help can be found.

Steven's impressive Summer Programme includes the following events.

13th June - Info Stall, Tesco's Tain (Prostate Scotland)

20th June - Rose Garden, Tain (Summer Charity Initiative/Prostate Scotland)

21st June - Victorian Car Rally, Tain (Summer Charity Initiative/Prostate Scotland)

4th July - Tain Gala (Summer Charity Initiative/Prostate Scotland)

11th July - Inverness Highland Games (St John's Scotland/Prostate Scotland)

18th July - Rose Garden, Tain (Summer Charity Initiative/Prostate Scotland)

25th July - Info Stall, Tesco's Dingwall (Prostate Scotland)

Still to come -

6th August - Black Isle Show (Province of Ross & Cromarty/Prostate Scotland)

7th-8th August - Moy Country Show (St John's Scotland/Prostate Scotland)

9th August - Glenmorangie Highland Gathering (Summer Charity Initiative/ Prostate Scotland)

13th August - Nairn Highland Show (St John's Scotland/Prostate Scotland)

• TBC - Info Stall, Morrisons, Alness (Prostate Scotland)

Steven, assisted by Bro. Tommy Gordon, kicked off the Summer Roadshow at Tesco, Tain, and were quoted,



"It was encouraging to hear that so many men have been for their PSA tests, so many young men...

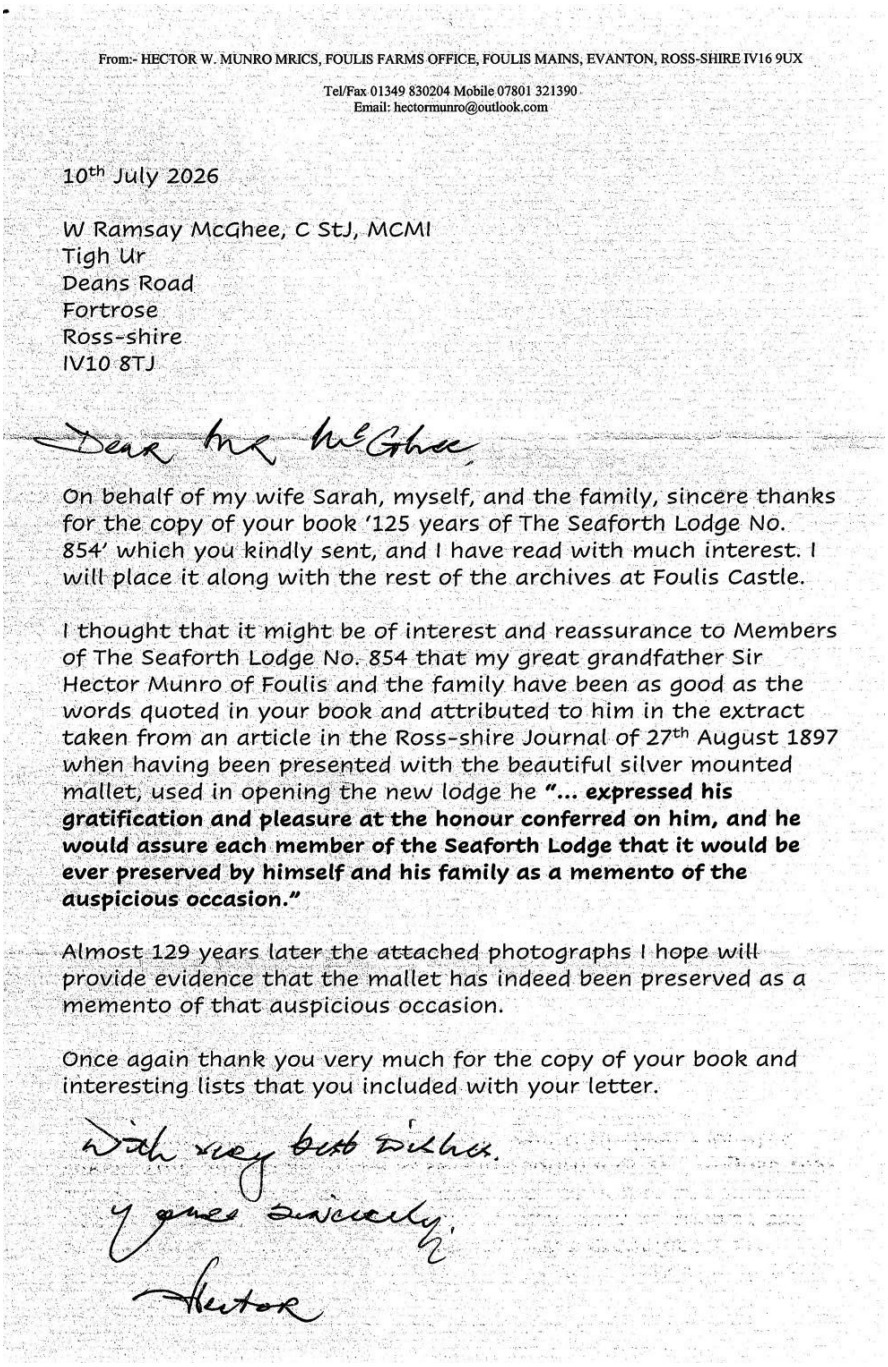
Encouraging that those at risk have been seen at very short notice for investigatory procedures, have had treatments and are recovering well.

Many, many women also came to the stall for info leaflets, to share stories of success and sadly, the brave battles lost by loved ones."

The event also raised £307.69 in donations for Prostate Scotland's much needed funds.

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A couple of weeks ago, Ann and I were at Foulis Castle when they were opened for Scotland's Garden Scheme raising money for MacMillan Cancer - while there I had a wee chat with Mrs Sarah Munro, wife of the present Clan Chief, as a result of which I sent her a copy of the History of Lodge Seaforth. I was delighted to receive the following from her husband – how wonderful that the Munro family are continuing to preserve the silver mounted mallet – presented to our first PGM, Sir Hector Munro of Foulis.



From:- HECTOR W. MUNRO MRICS, FOULIS FARMS OFFICE, FOULIS MAINS, EVANTON, ROSS-SHIRE IV16 9UX

Tel/Fax 01349 830204 Mobile 07801 321390
Email: hectormunro@outlook.com

10th July 2026

W Ramsay McGhee, C StJ, MCMI
Tigh Ur
Deans Road
Fortrose
Ross-shire
IV10 8TJ

Dear Mr McGhee,

On behalf of my wife Sarah, myself, and the family, sincere thanks for the copy of your book '125 years of The Seaforth Lodge No. 854' which you kindly sent, and I have read with much interest. I will place it along with the rest of the archives at Foulis Castle.

I thought that it might be of interest and reassurance to Members of The Seaforth Lodge No. 854 that my great grandfather Sir Hector Munro of Foulis and the family have been as good as the words quoted in your book and attributed to him in the extract taken from an article in the Ross-shire Journal of 27th August 1897 when having been presented with the beautiful silver mounted mallet, used in opening the new lodge he **"... expressed his gratification and pleasure at the honour conferred on him, and he would assure each member of the Seaforth Lodge that it would be ever preserved by himself and his family as a memento of the auspicious occasion."**

Almost 129 years later the attached photographs I hope will provide evidence that the mallet has indeed been preserved as a memento of that auspicious occasion.

Once again thank you very much for the copy of your book and interesting lists that you included with your letter.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Hector

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Around the Lodges

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Brethren, like most of the Lodges at this time Lodge St Duthus No82 is enjoying its summer recess.

Once again, this year during the recess Lodge St Duthus is hosting the St Duthac Book & Arts Festival which is now becoming a regular attraction in the Tain area for locals and tourists alike.

The Festival takes place on the 8th - 13th September and holds over 20 events in the Tain & Seaboard area. Once again, the Festivals pop-up Bookshop is being held within the Lodge building. Amongst the headliners this year are James Naughty, Henry Mcleish and Helen Lederer.

This is an eagerly anticipated event in Tains Calander with visitors coming from far and wide to attend and it is great to see Lodge St Duthus at the heart of the festival.

Should Brethren wish to find out more about this festival then have a look at the book festival website or contact myself Dave Macrae for more information.

Lodge St Duthus' s fund raising team have been busy attending the local Vintage Car Rally, Car boot sales Community Markets the Tain Gala and will be attending Tain Highland Games raising funds for this year's chosen charity Kats Second Edition and promoting awareness for Prostate Scotland. Thanks must go to the Young Masons of the Lodge who are coordinating these events.

Well Brethren that is all for just now enjoy the break and hopefully see you in the new season.



D Macrae - Secretary

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BLAST FROM THE PAST – FROM – AUGUST 2003

On Tuesday 17th June, PM Bro Victor Shepherd, PM Bro Ronnie Cooper (Robertson's Lodge No 134) and I had the pleasure of attending a FC Degree in the Mother Lodge of Scotland - Mother Kilwinning No 0. While there, we were delighted to see, amid the 130 Brethren present, the St Duthus regalia being proudly worn by Brother Colin Robb. Bro Colin is currently working in Lanarkshire and has contacted my late father's Lodge - St Bryde No 579 where he has been made most welcome. On the 17th he was part of a Deputation from St Bryde who were also visiting Mother Kilwinning that evening. It is always encouraging to see young Brethren taking an active interest in the Craft - especially when they have had to move from their home area. Colin is certainly flying the St Duthus flag in Lanarkshire and, in so doing, rekindling a link that has existed between St Duthus and St Bryde for a considerable number of years. Colin sends his kind regards to everyone in St Duthus

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

It's been a quiet quarter with no degree work having been carried out but at the provincial visitation several diplomas were presented. Bro Henry Macinnes PM and Bro John Steven both received their 50 years diplomas while John Steven was also presented with his Royal Arch 50 years diploma at this meeting as he had been unable to attend the RA meeting having been off the island.

Provincial Grand Master, Raymond MacKeddie had presented George N Macleod with his 70 years diploma earlier in the afternoon at Seaforth House where he is a resident. A landmark award was given to Bro Andrew Macivor PM who was awarded Honorary Membership of Lodge Fortrose for his 40 years regular attendance at our Lodge and was duly presented with his certificate.



Andrew Macivor with his Honorary Membership diploma

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George N Macleod received his Platinum (70th) diploma

We're now looking forward to visiting Lodge St Clement's in Harris to help them celebrate their 100th anniversary on 15th August. (As if a Harris man ever needed any help celebrating).

Donnie Macleod
Donald Macleod PM

BLAST FROM THE PAST – FROM – AUGUST 1996

Virtually ten years to the day before the Dunblane tragedy, the Stornoway Brethren enjoyed a joint meeting with the Brethren of the Lodge of Dunblane IX. On becoming aware of the tragedy, the Brethren from 108 wrote to Dunblane expressing their sympathy and invited them to cross the Minch whenever they felt disposed.

As a result, the Brethren from the Lodge of Dunblane IX will visit Stornoway on Friday 20th September when the Stornoway Brethren will be working a FC Degree.

A deputation from Lodge Fauldhouse 374 will also attend that evening. The Brethren of Lodge Fortrose extend a warm welcome to Brethren throughout the Province to travel to Stornoway on that occasion to meet with the Dunblane Brethren and enjoy harmony and fellowship in their company.

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

With Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren, I hope you are all well.

Since our last report some members of the Lodge have also been going through some health scares and illnesses. Very sadly, our well respected and liked Past Master, Brother Derek Rodway, laid down his working tools and passed to the Grand Lodge above. His funeral was well attended by Members of the Lodge and many Masons from the Province and others. With the approval of the Family, the Masons carried out the Marking of the Grave Ceremony.

Past Master Brother Brian J. Poloczek is working through with his health problems. Brother Derrick Cronie has returned to home after his operation and recovering. Our other Members are looking after themselves and following up with their treatment regimes. Senior Warden, Brother Kenny MacFarlane is looking after himself. Our Lodge Treasurer, Past Master Alasdair Taylor is his stalwart self. Our Lodge Secretary, Brother Ratcliffe, is following up with treatment. Brother Morris Downie is getting about more now.

The Lodge is at rest as this is the closed season. However, the Lodge building is attended for premise check-ups and the Members are planning and getting ready to work on the usual seasonal tidy up and completion of necessary renovations.

Following the recent Meeting at Lodge Allan Wilson No. 851, we are all looking forward to the next big meeting in the Province, the Grand Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master, Brother David A. MacMaster, with his new Office bearers on the 29th of August 2026. The Meeting will be held in Strathpeffer, at the Pavillion, and we hope to send a good group of our members to represent the Lodge, especially to be supporting Brother Andrew J. MacIvor, PM of Robertson's Lodge, as the next Substitute Provincial Grand Master. The Installation Ceremony will be carried out by the Grand Master Mason and his Deputation from Grand Lodge.

Robertson's Lodge are hoping and preparing for a brighter future as the new Season will be starting in September.

Stay Safe and Well Brothers.

Peter K. Ratcliffe, Secretary

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Lodge Fingal No 318

On Saturday the 2nd of May 2026 Lodge Fingal hosted a large deputation of brethren from Lodge Buchan St John No. 636 who worked a MM Degree for Bro Michael Nicolson.



There were 60 brethren present to witness the Degree work.

On Saturday the 6th of June three members of Fingal along with family and friends completed the short Wade Walk from Blackmuir Wood, Strathpeffer via Knockfarrel to Dingwall. All money raised for Maggie's Highlands Expert Cancer Care. A fantastic amount of **£2524.00** was raised from 'Team Fingal'



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Cheque presentation to the Rotary Club from representatives of 'Team Fingal'

Dingwall Gala – 27th June



A fantastic amount of £635 was raised for St. Clements School in Dingwall. A handover cheque will be presented to the school later in the year.

Lodge Fingal will be raffling their **very last** bottle of Malt Whisky which was bottled for their bi-centenary celebrations earlier this year. This also comes in a specially marked case. Tickets are available @ £5 per entry. The winner will be announced at our Installation meeting in December. Contact the Lodge Secretary for further details. There will also be a chance to add you name to the list at the next few meetings right up until the draw.



Stewart presenting a prize to Vlad from Ukraine.



Upcoming Events.

Saturday 22nd August 2026 - Lodge BBQ – Entertainment by 'Edwins Music' email Secretary for more information and to register your name.

Saturday 29th August 2026 – PGM Installation – Strathpeffer Spa Pavilion.

Saturday 3rd of October 2026 – Lodge Fingal's Building 100-year Rededication Ceremony.

Angus Beaton

Lodge Fingal No. 318 Secretary

Email - secretary@fingallodge318.org.uk

Mobile 07775 837998

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LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851

At the July meeting, the Master, Bro Alex Craib, warmly welcomed Liza Giffen, Heritage Collections Manager at the Grand Lodge of Scotland into the Lodge. Liza gave a very interesting talk on her work in Grand Lodge. During her talk she alluded to many highlights during her first year in post that she found immensely interesting. Among those highlights were stories about Brother George Meikle Kemp, architect of the Scott Monument in Edinburgh who tragically drowned in the Union Canal in 1844 never seeing his creation completed in 1846. The Grand Lodge art collection including one painting by Sir Henry Raeburn the renowned 18th Century portrait painter but went on to explain how the mass of Masonic Jewels and Aprons held not only by Grand Lodge but by every Lodge represents important Masonic Art of the common working-class Freemasons throughout the ages.

Historically important documentation held by Grand Lodge includes the Schaw Statutes dating back to 1598 and Lodge Aitchison's Haven foundational minute books and the renowned Aitchison's Haven Manuscript from around the same time are safely preserved and cared for by the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Liza went on to inform that she has found letters in the archives from Brother Arthur Conan Doyle, records from Robert Moray, one of the early 17th century Freemasons, the apron belonging to Brother Robert Burns, letters from Lodge Dunfermline Kilwinning dated three days before Grand Lodge was consecrated in 1736 stating that William St Clair of Roslyn should be the first Grand Master Mason.

She concluded by saying that there is much evidence linking Scottish Freemasonry with the Enlightenment and that records show the influence of Scottish Freemasons worldwide. There is much to be inspired by in Scottish Masonic history.

At the conclusion of her presentation, Liza was sincerely thanked by the Master who gave her a small memento of her visit to Lodge Alan Wilson.

The July meeting was also the official visit of Provincial Grand Lodge, and we were delighted to welcome our new PGM, Brother David A MacMaster to carry out what was his first official duty as PGM.

The August meeting will feature Miss Morven May MacCallum, one of our new MSP's who is coming along to talk about Lyme's Disease. She is an acknowledged expert on the subject having suffered from it since her school days in Fortrose Academy. This is a subject which we should all take an active interest in – it can affect any of us because of a simple tick bite.

All Brethren warmly invited to come along on Tuesday 11th August at 11.00 am for tea and coffee with the Lodge tyling at 11.30 am followed by lunch at 1.00 pm.

Ramsay McGhee - Secretary

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LODGE SEAFORTH 854

The lodge activities have been very quiet since our recess after the April Regular Meeting.

Lodge meetings will restart with our Regular Meeting on Monday 21st September 2026 at 7:30pm. Degree planned for the meeting to be confirmed.

We look forward to welcoming all to the first meeting of the new season.

Bingo Nights

The lodge was successful in hosting Community Bingo Nights throughout the winter months last year.

There will now be a break over the summer months, and it is planned to host the Community Bingo Nights from October to April, ***on the third Friday of each month***, £1 per entry, great raffle with loads of fantastic prizes, and good craic guaranteed.

All members and visitors most welcome.

Raymond Mackeddie
Lodge Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST – FROM – AUGUST 2006

Extract from the Lodge Seaforth Report by the then Master, the late Brother Cochrane Donald.

The next occasion to happen over the summer came about as the result of an initiative proposed and executed by the Brethren of Lodge Fingal, the attempt to collect a Mile of Pound Coins for the Highland Hospice. While the potential of over £72k was not realised, the sum of over £20k was – a truly splendid effort. I can only say that I am happy and proud to be associated with the occasion which was not only an object of co-operation between Lodges, but showed what co-operation between Provinces can also do. Congratulations to Lodge Fingal, as well as the Provincial Grand Master for this occasion.

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Lodge Seaforth Race Night



Friday 11th September 2026 at 7:30pm

Open to all to come for a bit of craic and a chance to make your fortune $$$$

Race Night

A race night is planned for Friday 11th September 2026 at 7:30pm.

We are looking to enlist race sponsors and horse owners prior to the event, please see the Master or Secretary for details. Both race sponsorship and horses are selling fast.
Normal betting and bar facilities will be available on the night, and there will be a raffle which should give the less fortunate a chance of winning a prize.

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LODGE AVERON No 866

Hi there, Brethren, hope you are all well.

At the start of the last edition of the 'patter' I mentioned the time between editions and my findings were not very long and getting quicker……how true this is because this edition is here in record time!!

As we head into the later end of summer you might ask when was that? Well, it was a day here a week there and a couple of heatwaves according to the met office.

As I sit writing this, I am currently at the side of a hill road, looking at the hill that has been my working life for the past three years, totally devastated by the fire that has engulfed the Cairngorms. As I try to take in the enormity of the events over the past two weeks, like any disaster there is always positives to take. Like the support from the local communities feeding the masses whilst there was a threat to their homes. To the countless volunteers out risking their lives if it goes wrong. I wondered how many of the volunteers were masons but quickly moved on with the thought that they were all using masonic values whether they were or not. As daylight comes in, I saw a glint of green grass glinting with the now welcome rain, then a covey of grouse that survived and I smiled and thought how lucky I am still having the best office in the world……. the wallpaper and decorations may have changed but it's still my office…….



Now for the business,

Our lodge was proud to assist with another quiz in aid of Highland Hospice for Elaine MacKenzie on the 19th of June, another great night with Past Master Mackenzie 82 (lodge) not age in great form. As usual a great raffle, buffet and £500 raised for the Hospice.



The winning Team

Lodge Averon will recommence after the summer recces on Thursday the 10th of September with a regular meeting, business to be advised, keep an eye on the socials. But before that we have some dates for your diaries below.

Saturday 22nd August between 12 and 4 see's the annual community Barbeque in the lodge grounds with a bouncy castle for the youngsters and the older dafties, the lodge will also be ready for business for the inquisitive out there, tour guides available on the day, licenced bar, food and entertainment.

Friday night 28th August we will be working a Master Mason degree for Brother Fraser McDougall, expect a few surprises with this.

Saturday the 5th of September is the Charity golf scramble, which this year returns to Alness Golf Club, monies raised will go to Redwoods resident's fund.

As I always try to take a positive out of any bad situation and get a laugh, if possible, I am currently in my pickup on an internet hotspot from my phone, I am now heading for the digger to go and dig out hotspots from the fire ……. oh, the irony.

Another 'patter' contribution I thought there was nothing to write about……. till the next time which hopefully will take longer to come round.

Kind regards and all the best.

Brother James McDougall SM.

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LODGE NESS No 888

Throughout the year, Lodge Ness No. 888 hosts and supports a wide range of events, from community gatherings and charity fundraisers to private functions and social occasions. Every event we organise is driven by one simple purpose — to help make good men better, while creating opportunities to give back to local communities across the Highlands. Through fellowship, charity and community involvement, we aim to provide a welcoming environment where members can support one another, build lasting friendships and make a positive difference to the people and places around them.

On 11th July, we had a fantastic day with brilliant live music from Andy Bannerman, a great BBQ by Kenny & Alex from Caledonian Catering, plenty of fun on the bouncy castle, and a few memorable dance moves on the patio!

It was wonderful to see so many friends, families and visitors come together to enjoy great food, music and company.







Cheers for now, *Robert Donaldson* - Lodge Ness 888

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

Firstly, on behalf of the Brethren of Lodge Kyle 1117 I would like to thank Brother Raymond Mackeddie for his superlative service as The Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Ross and Cromarty for the last 5 years, and welcome into the post by congratulating Brother David Macmaster as the forthcoming Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Ross and Cromarty. We wish him an enjoyable term in office and wonderful day at his and his Office-bearers Installation Meeting on Saturday 29th August, at the Spa Pavilion in Strathpeffer.

Lodge Kyle is looking forward to a good season in 2026-2027 with three Brethren (deservedly) being made Master Masons, probably in September, October and November. This will be followed by our Annual Installation on Monday 14th December 2026. All these dates will be posted ahead of time on our website homepage at : http://lodgekyle.co.uk/ QR Code below.

During summer recess we hope to hold an Open Day where visitors can ask questions of the Brethren and have a tour of the Lodge.

Refurbishment carries on apace, although we had another issue with the floor which collapsed and promptly repaired by our Right Worshipful Master Brother Steve Whittaker.

RWM Brother Steve Whittaker – floor fixer extraordinaire! (See photo below)

As the refurbishment of the kitchen is taking longer than expected any catering for the Open Day would be either an outside BBQ or an indoors buffet. Despite the weather in the rest of Scotland being sunny and hot, Kyle has been blessed with mist and rain. If the weather looks like improving, we will notify the PG Sec. of the date and time of our Open Day.

MODERN PROBLEMS

The media has been full of AI scandal of late, the worst being a recent rogue agent where an AI application (agent) escaped from an Open AI laboratory despite heavy security. While this is terrible, the agent was stopped by the Open AI security team.

Now consider this. Wordpress is the software that runs 40% of the internet's websites and has just been compromised by an exploit called wp2shell. Within minutes of this news reaching the IT community hackers began releasing software to break into the back end of wordpress websites using the wp2shell exploit. Unfortunately for us, hackers do not shut down their activities because they are dangerous or morally questionable. We therefore have to be vigilant and pro-active. In this instance the solution to the Wordpress exploit is relatively simple: Update Wordpress to the latest version immediately. You can do this yourself or your website provider may do this automatically; equally they may not. You should find out ASAP and get that Wordpress updated.

With warmest regards, Ronnie.

Ronnie Miller, PM - Secretary

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QR code for Lodge Kyle's new webpage



Master of Lodge Kyle No 1117, Brother Steve Whittaker

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

We decided at our AGM not to hold a May meeting this term due to lack of numbers in the last few years. However, we did go ahead with the whisky tasting evening which was organised by Bro Calum Mackenzie. We also had Cathel Robertson a local photographer in attendance who took some portraits. Good night all round!





The Avoch Gentlemen's Golf Society meet annually at Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club, and we normally raise money for mainly local charities. The year one of the projects we supported was a seat at the golf club in memory of Arthur Macarthur PM. The Lodge donated to this event and recently a donation to cash for kids which will go to the Avoch Primary school.





Sandy Grant from Inverness has been in discussions with the Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf club to hold a golf day for the purpose of raising funds for the Arthur Macarthur Foundation. The funds will be

used to pay the fees of under 17's who are currently members of the club. This competition is an invitational Texas Scramble and will be held on the 14th of August. Sandy is looking for sponsors for the event if anyone is interested, please get in touch with me. Lodge Rosehaugh will be represented by Bros Graeme Brindle, Jordan Hossack, Steven Bassindale and Calum Mackenzie.

Our next meeting will be in October further details will follow.

We have also been approached by Brother Alastair Macdonald of Peterborough (former Avochie) who comes to visit us from time to time. He is keen to have some brethren from Northampton and Huntingdonshire come to visit Lodge Rosehaugh to work an English first degree. This is aimed at late summer 2027.

Finally Lodge Rosehaugh have appealed their recent rates bill of £1972. We did receive acknowledgment of our online appeal but no further info yet. Lodges who previously got relief MUST re-apply by 31 July 2026.

Keith Patience, PM

BLAST from the PAST – from – August 1999

I am indebted to Lodge Rosehaugh for this version of the 23rd Psalm.

Wha is my Shepherd, weel I ken,
The Lord Himsel' is He;
He leads me whaur the girse is green,
An' burnies quaet that be.

Aft times I fain astray wad gang,
An' wann'r far awa'.
He fin's me oot, He pits me richt,
An' brings me hame an' a'.

Tho' I pass through the gruesome cleugh,
Fin' I ken He is near;
His muckle crook will me defen',
Sae I hae nocht to fear.

Ilk comfort whilk a sheep could need,
His thoctfu' care provides.
Tho' wolves an' dogs may prowl aboot,
In safety me He hides.

His guidness an' His mercy baith,
Nae doot will bide wi' me.
While faulded on the fields o' time,
Or o' eternity.

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Lodge St Martin 1217

During the closed season the brethren have been busy tidying up the surrounds and garden of the lodge. We have now initiated a QR Code parking scheme for campers/vans etc for them to be able to pay donations for parking in the lodge car park.

On the 31st of August the lodge will be hosting The Widows Sons who are doing a charity walk in the area that day.

The season restarts on Tuesday 20th October when we will be holding our AGM and election of office-bearers.

Tuesday 17th November will be our Installation meeting tyling at 19.30 for general business and installation commencing at 20.00.

All the best

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2015



The Brethren of Lodge St Martin once again had a stall at the annual Rotary Club Pier Day in Ullapool. The monies raised at the stall go to local Charities.

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Lodge Loch Ewe

I am pleased to report that our two spring meetings were both well attended, with us working 2nd Degree ceremonies for two candidates from Lodge Fingal, and the venison stovies served at the harmony following the May meeting proving a great success!

We have had some interest in the sale of Aultbea building but nothing concrete yet. One such interest came from a Mason from south of the border. Lodges in his East Anglian province donate considerably to the sea cadets, and other youth initiatives. He is trying to put together a plan for several Lodges to jointly buy the building with a view to using it both as a bunk house for the sea cadets, who could, for instance, make use of the canoeing facilities on Loch Ewe but also for the likes of youngsters on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme on trips to the Northwest Highlands. It would certainly be good to have the building used in that way and we would love to see his plans come to fruition.

As to our next meeting in Dingwall, that will be on Saturday 8th September, tyling at 11:30. This will be our AGM and Installation Meeting, and we look forward to welcoming all suitably qualified Brethren – and see what we can come up with at the harmony to match the stovies!

Michael Longley, PM – Lodge Loch Ewe

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2006

The Lodge will be holding a Social Evening on Friday, 17th, November. This will take the form of Dinner followed by a Cabaret. The Provincial Grand Master has agreed to attend, and the Lodge sincerely hopes that Members of Lodges in the Province, and their ladies will come along to the Aultbea Hotel and enjoy what promises to be an enjoyable evening. Tickets will be £20.

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Ye Corporation O' Squaremen

Hielan Shed

On 25th April we attended the AGM and Installation of the Grand Shed in Ochil Shed where Bri Neil Cooper handed over the Mallet to the new Grand Worthy Deacon Bri David MacLay – Bri Boxie John G Mackay had the honour of Installing David and his Grand Shed Office Bearers.

On 2nd May we visited Lodge Ness and initiated one new Brither into the Shed.

On 16th May Bri John G and Bri Stevie Fraser, G Almoner attended the Grand Shed visit to Buchan Shed in Insch where we were made very welcome and where we saw one new Brither put through his paces in the way that only Buchan Shed can carry out the Ritual.

On 6th of June the Grand Shed paid their annual visit to Heilan Shed at the Club in Inverness – regrettably we had no Candidates, but Grand Shed were happy with the fact that we had donated £1,800 to local charities over the last year and the way Shed was being run.

On the 18th of July, Bri's Neil Cooper IPGD, Steven Fraser and John G attended a Grand Shed visit to Kingdom of Fife Shed in Burntisland where they witnessed two new Brithers being initiated, followed by a good bit of a blether and harmony.

Our next Meeting is in Forres on 8th of August – this Meeting was put back a week as our original date clashed with the Installation of the Royal Arch Grand Superintendent in Dingwall and the Nairn Games – it is hoped we will get a good turnout

Our last Meeting of the year will be a visit to St Clements in Harris on 5th September and a bus will be going from Stornoway and as it will be three years since we were last across the Minch we are hoping for a few new Members

VISITS FOR 2026

8th AUGUST – Lodge St Johns (Operative) - **FORRES -** bus leaves Inverness 13:00

5th SEPTEMBER –Lodge St Clements – **TARBET, HARRIS - PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO Ullapool**

Overnight stay in Stornoway

John G MacKay
Boxie

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News from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland

At the Convocation on Friday 19th June the Companions agreed to adopt the new strategy, copies of which had been circulated to all Chapters. A small committee are now being given the remit of taking the strategy forward.

One aspect of the new strategy will be to replace the current Standing Committee structure with an updated, pragmatic structure utilising Companions, at home and overseas, who have the requisite skills, experience and knowledge to drive the strategy forward.

If you believe that your background and experience can help in any way whatsoever, please drop an email to Grand Scribe E with a brief description of your skill base and we will be delighted to get you onto the Register of Interests.

Supreme Grand Royal Arch Office-bearers are very much looking forward to heading north to install MEC Ian Wooley as the new Grand Superintendent of Inverness-shire and MEC Donald Gunn as the new Grand Superintendent of Ross and Cromarty. Later in the year, Saturday 24th October, we will be travelling to Glamis RAC to install the new Grand Superintendent of Angus and Mearns, MEC Ian Cruickshanks.

The following Friday, I will be in Kuala Lumpur accompanied by Depute First Grand Principal, MEC John Steel and 2nd Grand Principal MEC Ernest Yong Foo Yuen to install the new Grand Superintendent of the Middle East, MEC Ronald Hor Yew Kheong.

Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter Dates

15th August	Tri-Order Muster in Dundee
21st August	Grand Superintendent's Dinner – Lanarkshire Middle Ward
22nd August	Silver Trowel Degree in Lockerbie
23rd October	Supreme Committee
24th October	Installation – Angus & Mearns
30th October	Installation – Middle East

Arrangements for Provincial Grand Chapter of Inverness-shire Installation on Friday 31st July

MEC Ian Wooley will be installed within the Masonic Temple, 5 Gordon Terrace, Inverness, IV2 3HD. Photos will be taken at 18.30 with the Provincial Grand Chapter of Inverness-shire tyling at 19.30. The Inverness-shire Companions will join with the Ross and Cromarty Companions for a Joint Lunch after the Ross and Cromarty Installation on Saturday afternoon.

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PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of ROSS & CROMARTY

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS MESSAGE

It's been a great honour for me to be nominated as Grand Superintendent of the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross and Cromarty. Received my Commission, the 1st of July.

The five commissioned Office Bearers supporting me are: -

Depute Grand Superintendent	Donald Macdonald PZ Hebrides No 364
Provincial Grand Second Principal	Frazer McBeath Snr PZ Cromarty Firth No 310
Provincial Grand Third Principal	John Mackenzie PZ Tain & Ross No 63
Provincial Scribe E	David J Macrae PZ Tain & Ross No 63
Provincial Scribe N	Gwyn Phillips PZ St Clement No 244

The Installation Ceremony will take place on Saturday 1st August at 12:00 noon in St Clement Chapter No 244, Burn place, Dingwall, IV15 9NQ. A Deputation from Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland headed by the First Grand Principal will travel north to conduct the ceremony.

At the conclusion of the Ceremony, Companions will make their way to the British Legion Hall, Dingwall where a Joint Installation Dinner to celebrate the Installation of MEC Donald Gunn & MEC Ian Woolley M St J., (who will be installed on Friday evening in Inverness) as Grand Superintendents of both the Provinces of Ross & Cromarty and Inverness-shire.

After the dinner on Saturday evening, there will be entertainment back in the Logie Lounge, (Lodge Fingal), with music by Edwin, starting at 7:00pm. Girlfriends, wives, and partners are welcome to attend at this time.

Look forward to seeing you all and make this a memorable day.

Donald Gunn
Grand Superintendent

Tain & Ross Royal Arch Chapter No 63

The next meeting in Tain will take place on Monday 26th October. All Companions welcome.

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St Clement Royal Arch Chapter No 244

Future Meetings -

September 25th: R.A. Degree for EC Shaun Taylor and EC Kai McAuley.
October 30th: - Nomination of Office Bearers & Installation.
November 27th: - E.M. Degree for Brother Andrew MacNeil.

Yours fraternally
Donald Gunn
Scribe E

Royal Arch Chapter Hebrides No. 364.

Grand Superintendent Morris Downie was pleased to have to hand out more diplomas during the provincial annual visit to the chapter. Congratulations to Sandy Mackenzie PZ who was made an honorary member of the supreme Grand Royal Chapter of Scotland and George N Macleod received his 50 years diploma.



Past 1st Principal Alexander Mackenzie receiving his Supreme Grand RA Lodge Honour



Comp George N Macleod receiving his 50-year Royal Arch diploma

Hebrides Royal Ark Mariner Lodge and Cryptic Lodge & Council held a special meeting in Lodge Fingal, Dingwall on Saturday 23rd May to install Donald Gunn, Ian Woolley and Donald

Macdonald into the chairs of WCN, MEC & TIM. The degrees were carried out by me under the watchful eyes of the 1st Grand Principal of Scotland and 9 former past WCNs, MECs & TIMs.

Best wishes from the chapter go to companion Donnie Gunn for his installation as Grand Superintendent on Saturday 1st August.

Donnie Macleod
Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

ST ANDREW CRYPTIC COUNCIL AND LODGE AND COUNCIL NO 115. INVERNESS

Many Companions throughout the Province of Ross and Cromarty have, over many years joined the Cryptic Council and Lodge and Council in Inverness because it was easier to access than our own Hebrides Council in Stornoway.

Unfortunately, due to lack of support, St Andrew 115 has ceased to function but the new Grand Superintendent Elect for Inverness-shire, MEC Ian Woolley is keen to see it reinstated and flourishing once again.

This is an appeal to all Royal Arch Masons in Ross and Cromarty who, over the years, have been admitted to St Andrew Lodge and Council and St Andrew Cryptic Council – we need you to return and support the Council in the new Masonic Year – do not worry if you have no recollection of the signs and tokens, no recollection of the marvellous story portrayed in Cryptic and Ark Mariner Degrees – we will initially hold an informal get together of all former members and gently take you through the various stages. The important thing is that you return to the fold.

The intention is to hold only one or two meetings a year until we can build up the membership from lapsed and new members.

Please get in touch with either Ian Woolley or me if you feel inclined to return and help us reinstate St Andrew 115 – likewise we welcome Companions from throughout the Highlands and Islands who can assist as Office-bearers or who would like to further their Masonic Knowledge

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PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

There have been no meetings since March so nothing to report other than that the next meeting will be on 24th October.

†‡ Donald Macleod KCT

DISTRICT GRAND PRIORY OF THE NORTH IN SCOTLAND.

District Programme for remainder of 2025 - 2026

Preceptory	**Installation Date**
Maison Dieu No.101	14h November 2026 Re-installation
St Fergus No.44	20st November 2026 Re-installation
Lochaber & Lorn No139	10th November 2026 Re-installation
Western Isles No.124	24th October 2026 Re-installation
Highland No. 39	17th October 2026 Installation
Ross No 138	Dormant

‡‡ Eric Macgregor DGP

†‡ Donald Macleod KCT

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUG 04

A Race Night was held on Friday 25th June in Lodge Seaforth Function Room in Fortrose hosted jointly by Lodges Seaforth and Rosehaugh to raise funds for a defibrillator for our Fortrose doctors' surgery.

Sponsors for each race, jockeys and horses were no bother to find and on the night everybody who had come along thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It's just a pity that we didn't get the support that the night merited.

During the break at half time a few games were played which added to the crack, and when the evening ended despite a lack of bums on seats, we raised just over £800.00 which was an excellent effort and a special thanks to all sponsors and people who turned up on the night to make it happen.

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Provincial Grand Secretary: Bro. Michael Scott Turner
20 Seaforth Road, Ullapool, Ross-shire IV26 2UY
Tel: 07721 515177
Email: rosinvernesshighlands@gmail.com

Royal Order of Scotland

Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness and the Highlands

Provincial Grand Secretary: Bro. Michael Scott Turner

On behalf of the Provincial grand Master, Bro George A MacKay, may I inform you all that the Province of Inverness and the Highlands is noting its 75th anniversary this year, having been established in July 1951. Royal Order provinces do not usually have a major celebration for 75 years, normally restricted to 50- and 100-year anniversaries. Our next meeting is 12 September 2026, and there will be a small toast and a wee celebration to mark the anniversary. At that meeting, we will be promoting and advancing our 700th member, which calls for another opportunity to enjoy the water of life.

May I ask that all members plan to attend the meeting on 12 September and remember that we are tyling at 13:00. Very much looking forward to seeing you there.

Michael Scott Turner
Provincial Grand Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST – FROM – AUGUST 1995

On Monday 22nd May I had the privilege of visiting Mitre Lodge No 7732 in Windsor in the Province of Berkshire. The Lodge sits in the shadow of Windsor Castle, built originally as a school for the poor in 1705. The building was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and became a Masonic Temple in 1864 when Lodge Windsor Castle No 771 bought the premises. The Temple is used by several Lodges, among them Mitre Lodge. The interior of the Lodge is well worth seeing. It is oblong, approximately twenty feet wide by about sixty feet long. The walls are panelled in oak at the top of which is a decorative frieze running into an ornate coping. The ceiling is painted olive green and is segmented by wooden squares. The lower edge of the wooden squares is red, ornamented by gold rivets.

The meeting commenced at three thirty in the afternoon with a Master Mason Degree. Most of the Degree was worked in an Inner Temple, access to which was through one of the wall panels in the main Lodge. At the conclusion of the Degree, we adjourned for a cup of tea before returning to the Lodge to witness an Entered Apprentice Degree. The reason for two Degrees on the same evening was due to the large number of candidates presently waiting to be initiated. *WRM*

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BITS AND PIECES

The Bumblebee

According to the laws of aerodynamics, the bumblebee cannot fly. Scientific tests in a wind tunnel show conclusively that the size, weight and shape of the bumblebee's body, in relation to its wingspan, make it impossible for him to even get off the ground.

But the bumblebee, not knowing this, flies away and manages to carry home a little honey every day.

This little story, old and true as it is, can well be the answer for many of us when we face some of the obstacles which confront us. So often we come to quick conclusions when we face problems, and we quickly attempt to rationalise with meaningless excuses.

In our Masonic work we are not exempt from this tendency. How often do we hear a Brother say he can't possibly find time to attend Lodge - even occasionally. Also, all too often, we hear that lack of attendance in Lodge is due to the television, the football game, the wife's shopping or just "too busy".

Success in an undertaking is first and foremost a state of mind. The people who accomplish things are usually those who think they can, and then use the will, grit and determination to overcome the obstacles they run into on the way.

Mahatma Gandhi said it well: *"Men often become what they believe themselves to be. If I believe I cannot do something, it makes me incapable of doing it. But when I believe I can, then I acquire the ability to do it, even if I didn't have at the beginning."*

In our Masonic work, isn't it a pity that more of us aren't as blissfully ignorant as the lowly bumblebee about what we can't do?

The Inn at Stein

The late Brother Sinclair Bruce, PM was a top contributor to the Patter in his day and it always gives me great pleasure to look back on some of the stories and poems he provided for our enjoyment. *Ed*

This is a poem by the Clydebank Bard, and it is about a Glasgow Lady who owned the 'Stein Inn' in Waternish at the time of composing and I had the privilege of staying there for many years.

Stranger with your lowland accent
Welcome to the inn at Stein
Look with reverence at the barmaid
Treat her gently she's a queen

2. A little jewel from darkest Glasgow
Shining in the Isle of Skye
If you notice that she's cheerful
Look around and you'll see why

3 Gaze with awe at Don McKinnon
Sinking drams and quaffing beer
Reciting Wordsworth, Byron, Shelly
Aren't you glad that you are here?

4 Far away from city turmoil
Listen to the Gaelic Bard
Ageless John of countless verses
Quoting poetry by the yard

5 Listen to Dougie talking nonsense
He's the boy to make things hum
If you want to keep him silent,
Tie his hands and he'll be dumb

6 Other men will come and join you
John Bain and Lachie are but two
They are people, warm and friendly
They're contented—What of you?

7 Can't you feel the peace and quiet?
The atmosphere that haunts the place
A quiet dram, a pint and stranger
The worried lines will leave your face

8 Stranger with your lowland accent
Stay in Skye where men are built
Don't go home to feed an ulcer
Sell your car—and buy a kilt

I was friendly with all the people mentioned in this poem. Worthies like these are hard to find and for me difficult to forget.

Sinclair G Bruce. *August 2004*

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1996

The Brethren of Trinidad and Tobago have produced a *Masonic Mission Statement*. It states:

The Mission of Freemasonry is to promote a way of life that binds like-minded men in a worldwide brotherhood that transcends all religious, ethnic, cultural, social and educational differences; by teaching the Great principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth; and by the outward expression of these through its fellowship, its compassion and its concern; to find ways in which to serve God, family, country, neighbour and self.

Some of the merchandise available to purchase on-line from the Grand Lodge shop.

















[Visit The Grand Lodge of Scotland shop at - https://www.grandlodgescotland.com](https://www.grandlodgescotland.com)