

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 70

FEBRUARY 2012

Editorial

There are some pretty important developments taking place at the moment in respect of the Scottish Masonic Materials Group. First is a project designed to collect information regarding all Masonic War Memorial's. This project aims to be complete to coincide with the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1 in 2014. I am in the process of recording the Memorials in Lodge Ness, Lodge Rosehaugh and Lodge Averon. The Lodge Fortrose Brethren have sent details of their memorial. If anyone in the Province is aware of the existence of any other Masonic Memorials please let me know and I'll be happy to assist in recording the relevant details.

Second, is the Masonic Research Seminar being held in Perth on Saturday 20th October commencing at 10.00 am. It would be ideal if we could have representation from every Lodge in the Province as the main topic of the morning session will be the SMMG Oral History project. In the afternoon there will be a wider discussion on the future of Masonic Research in Scotland.

The cost of the seminar is a very moderate £6 which will include morning coffee and a buffet lunch. I commend the Seminar to you.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland

The Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland takes place on Thursday 2nd February at 2.00pm in Freemasons' Hall, 96 George Street, Edinburgh.

Two days later on Saturday 4th February, Grand Lodge will once again convene in Edinburgh to install the new Provincial Grand Master of Edinburgh, Bro Ewan Rutherford, a member of The Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel) No 1

As many of you will know by now, Past Grand Master, Bro the Lord Burton, was involved in a car accident and underwent major surgery in Aberdeen. He has now been moved back to Raigmore. I have been in to see him on a number of occasions but he is still seriously ill. However, last week he was sitting up in a chair beside the bed and was a bit better than the week before but still far from well.

From the Provincial Grand Master:

With the Installation season duly passed I trust that all the Right Worshipful Masters and Brethren are settled in to their new offices or continuing with the offices previously held and I wish you all every success in the year ahead.

It was my pleasure to attend the majority of the Daughter Lodge Installations and where I witnessed most excellent ceremonies by the various Installing Teams. In my absence I was ably represented by either my Depute Provincial Grand Master, Bro Robin Cattanach or Substitute Provincial Grand Master, Bro Jim Tait and I thank them for their assistance in these duties.

On 24th November 2011, I attended Grand Lodge Installation to see Brother Charles I.R. Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont being re-installed as Grand Master Mason. The Installing Master was Bro the RT Hon Earl of Elgin & Kincardine, Past Grand Master, a worthy and highly respected member of our fraternity, who was installed as Grand Master Mason in November 1961. It was also very pleasing to see Bro Ramsay McGhee, re-installed as Grand Director of Ceremonies and Bro Rev Iain Ramsden, re-installed as Senior Grand Chaplain. Two worthy Brethren from our own Province.

Brother Murdo Mackenzie, PM Lodge St. Martin No 1216 was honoured by the Grand Master Mason when the Honorary Grand Rank of Senior Grand Deacon was conferred on him. It was my pleasure to visit Lodge St. Martin No 1217 and present him with his Jewel and Diploma.

Many Brethren from within our Province were highly delighted to learn that Brother Donald John MacKay of Lodge St. Clement's No 1353 in the neighbouring Province of Inverness – shire was honoured in Her Majesty's New Year List by becoming an MBE for services to the Tweed Industry. A worthy recognition for all the work he does for that industry in the Western Isles. We send him all our heartiest congratulations.

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We will soon be commencing our Provincial Visitations to the Daughter Lodges and I look forward to meeting the many Brethren on these occasions and also seek the support of the Provincial Office Bearers.

The next Quarterly Communication is scheduled to be held within Lodge Seaforth No. 854 on **TUESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2011 AT 8.00 pm**. A good attendance of Brethren would be greatly appreciated.

William Ross

Provincial Grand Master



From PG Treasurer – to all Lodge Treasurers

To all Lodge Treasurers or Secretaries – it would be of enormous help to me if your Treasurer's books could be delivered to me at the Provincial Quarterly Communication in Fortrose on Tuesday 7th February 2012. This then gives me the opportunity to deal with them in one fell swoop and get them back to you as soon as possible, and keeps my domestic authority happier in not having a dining room full of carrier bags, etc for weeks on end! Thanks in anticipation.

Roger Cundiff,

Provincial Grand Treasurer.

From The Provincial Almoner

Fortunately, on this occasion, I have very little to report.

Gordon Holroyd, I understand, continues to make progress and we wish him well on his road to recovery.

On a sad note we learned last week of the sudden passing to the Grand Lodge above of Ben Clunie, a reponing member of Lodge Allan Wilson. Ben's funeral took place on Saturday 26th January and was attended by a large number of Masonic Brethren, including several from the north, and also a large number of his former police colleagues. Our sympathies and condolences are extended to Ben's family.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should the need arise.

David MacMaster,

Provincial Grand Almoner

Tel: 01997 421306 email: david@strathpeffer.net

Before giving orders learn to submit yourself.

– [Romanian proverb](#)

Opportunity makes desire.

- [Dutch proverb](#)

Better long little, than soon nothing.

–[Scottish proverb](#)

The unwed matchmaker looks for himself.

– [Greek proverb](#)

The just path is always the right one.

– [Yiddish proverb](#)

PROVINCIAL PATTEN

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PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE WEBSITE

For up to the Minute information and back copies of the Provincial Patten – access the Provincial Website on - <http://www.pglrossandcromarty.org.uk/>

Black Isle Cycle Challenge

Next year's event will take place on Saturday 28th April 2012 – so please get the date into your diaries and support this major event for Highland Hospice. We need as many Stewards as possible.

Another major fund raising event in the Hospice Calendar is the “**Brain Game**” which, this year, will take place on Friday 9th November in the Iron Works, Inverness. It would be great if we could see a Provincial Team taking part for the first time or indeed if any of the Lodges wished to take part that would be tremendous. Entry forms can be had from Linda MacDonald or Amanda MacKay at the Hospice on 01463 243 132



Caption Competition –

There will be a nice wee bottle up for grabs for the winner of the Caption Competition – to be judged by the Provincial Grand Master

(Printable) Results will appear in the May edition of the Patten

So, get those entries winging into – w.r.mcgee@btinternet.com

Every man wants a woman to appeal to his better side, his nobler instincts, and his higher nature – and another woman to help him forget them.

–*Helen Rowland*

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Well Brethren that is the parties over for the time being now and we are getting on with the business of the Lodges. On the 3rd of October we held our first meeting which was just to discuss the business from the preceding months. On the 17th of October we had our AGM

We in Lodge St Duthus have had only one new candidate since the present session started, but it has not put the brethren off from visiting as on 7th November we had visitors from 7 different Lodges for which we are very grateful, to witness a 3rd Degree

We have had to raise the Annual fees, as Grand Lodge has raised theirs and it is impossible for us to absorb the increase ourselves. Our Sale of Work which had been held on the previous Saturday raised £620.00 which will help in keeping our funds afloat.

21st November was the Re-Installation of our Master Brother Bob Patullo which went very well. Again the visitors made us proud with visitors from 6 Lodges. The weather not being too good it was a very good turn-out. One of the visitors was PM Robert Tait from Lodge Trinity in Edinburgh. Bro Tait was instrumental in helping to return the Regalia of PM Mackenzie as reported in the November edition. He also filled us in with a bit of the history of PM Mackenzie who had been one of the founder members of Lodge Trinity and had been a Master of that Lodge as well.

On the 5th of December we had a first degree and we had visitors from 3 Lodges which was still pretty good owing to the weather.

On the 2nd of December we had a 2nd degree, with visitors from 4 Lodges

On the 2nd of January we had a talk from Past PPGM Brother Ian Fraser on Lodge Allan Wilson which was very interesting indeed.

On the 16th of January we had another talk this time by PM I Ramsden, Senior Grand Chaplain and once more this was a very enlightening talk about "The Key". No doubt quite a number of brethren have heard it in the past and that they all enjoyed it as did we.

On the 6th of February we are having a third Degree worked by the Past Masters of Lodge St Duthus.

We have a few dates which we are not at present sure what we will be doing, but a couple of dates for your diaries are the 5th of March which will be the Provincial Visitation, then on 16th of April which is our regular meeting night, we will have our Divine Service, which again will be conducted by The Reverend Susan Brown who is one of the Royal Chaplains, to Her Majesty.

All our meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month from October through to 3rd Monday in April.

Iain Sinclair
Secretary

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

Sorry but the Tax Return deadline is fast looming, this report will be very brief.

Stewart Macleod was re-installed in December and we are well off for candidates, working degrees at every meeting and a number waiting to be initiated.



The RWM, Stewart Macleod, and his office bearers on Installation night, 2nd December 2011.

A large number of us will heading for South Lewis (sometimes called Isle of Harris) on Saturday 11th February to work a third degree.



Ex Smith's Shoe-shop parliament guys who now meet upstairs in the Lodge were treated to a meal on Saturday 21st January to thank them for all the cash they raised (in excess of £5,000) for the Chernobyl kids, their way of thanking the lodge for providing a place for them to get together. On the right at the top table is Ronnie Mackinnon ex Glasgow Rangers who very humorously answered questions put to him by the attendees.

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The Social club did well recently when the national mod, or as it's sometimes called "The Whisky Olympics," was held in Stornoway. Our own new malt dram "Abhainn Dearg" was launched at the beginning of that week. We have some for sale in the bar, a wee bitty pricey at the moment but well worth it.



Angus McCormack of the Men's Cancer Group accepting a cheque presented to him by RWM Stewart Macleod on behalf of the Lodge.

Donnie MacLeod
PSPGM

I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.

-Rudyard Kipling



When I am abroad, I always make it a rule never to criticize or attack the government of my own country. I make up for lost time when I come home.

-Winston Churchill



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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi Brethren

Once again into the breach. We had our Installation on 22 December, 2012 when P.M. David Franklin went into the chair for a second time. Dave has some fresh ideas and I am sure his term in office will benefit the lodge. In our list of Office Bearers we had two of our newer Brethren take up office which I hope will be a good sign for the future. Other Offices were filled with the same old faces (and getting older all the time) but I know we are not alone in struggling with members. We have, however, been well supported by visitors and all here are very appreciative of that fact. In turn we try to visit other lodges as much as possible. Our Senior Warden, brother Neil Cooper is gearing up to go into the chair in the future and this should be another leap forward. Our immediate Past, Bro Brian McGroarty was a bit restricted because of work commitments but missed very few meetings and in many other ways was and is a great asset to the Lodge. He is one of the core who strive to keep our Lodge going and our thanks goes out to him for his 2 years in office.

I think that all in Freemasonry realise that we must look for ways to bring new blood into the Craft, but maybe more important to find the way to bring back our lapsed members. Efforts have been made but we are open to suggestions or to hear of the reasons that keep them away from the craft and try to rectify the problems.

On a lighter note PM Jonathan Hill got married in December last year in Cromarty. He will be living mainly in Glasgow area but I am sure he will have many offers of a bed for the night and knowing Jonathan he will be at as many meetings as possible and will continue to support his mother lodge. I take this opportunity once again of wishing him and his good lady on behalf of all, a very happy future for many years to come.

At present we are trying to fix a date for another visit from our Cousins across the Minch. We are looking forward to the Brethren of Lodge Fortrose, Stornoway coming over to work a degree. This will be a special meeting and as and when arrangements can be made, prior notification will be given to all.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 14 February, when we will be working a practice 3rd Deg. All are cordially invited to attend.

With every best wish to all for the year ahead.

Yours fraternally

James A Tait PM
Secretary.

Some people drift through their entire lives. They do it one day at a time, one week at a time, one month at a time. The months run into years and span a life. It happens so gradually that they are unaware of how their lives are slipping by them until it's too late.

Mary Kay Ash

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Lodge Fingal No 318



Regular meeting dated Tuesday November 8th, which was our annual AGM and election of Office Bearers. The meeting was followed by a lecture from our RWM on the MM^o and the Acacia, which was well received by the brethren.

Regular meeting dated Tuesday December 13th, a MMM^o was worked. This was a first for Fingal, as the SD Bro Colin Mackintosh requested that he and the candidate wear yellow reflective jackets and hard hats!! The degree work was well received at the risings.

Special meeting dated Tuesday December 27th, with the Installation of Bro A Henderson, RWM Elect and Office Bearers. Installation was carried out by PM Rory Mackenzie and assisted by P.M. Colin Matheson, with an installing team of Past Master's :- S. Bain, H. Cameron, D. MacMaster and R. Sutherland. The meeting was well attended. The installation was carried out with great dignity. The Ceremonial was followed by the Festival of St John, with the Brethren retiring to the Logie Lounge for an excellent meal prepared by the staff of the National Hotel. To finish off the day a dance was laid on with the ladies in attendance, music by Jill & George Davidson.

Regular meeting dated Tuesday January 10th, as there was no candidate, worked a Mock FC^o.

Future dates for your diary:- February 14th a lecture will be given by PM John Noble, with the subject being Masonic Stamps / March 13th degree work to be decided, this is also our annual Provincial visit [**Take note Brethren the Lodge will Tyle @ 7.30 sharp**]. / April 10th work to be decided.

Could I also mention on behalf of our WJW Bro Angus Beaton that Fingal's Ladies Dance will be held on Friday March 16th 7.30 for 8.00, venue National Hotel, music by Schieallion, tickets from Bro Angus for £25. Phone him to book 07775 837998. The National Hotel proprietor is allowing patrons to climb the winding staircase at the National for £35 BB / person, to save driving home.

Events Logie Lounge: Unfortunately as the Patter is going to press, over the weekend, this Saturday January 28th is the annual Quiz Night, the quiz master being our very own R.W.M.

February 18th Valentines Dance 7.30 for 8.00. Music provided by Mike Sams. Here is your chance Brethren, to give your good lady some roses etc.

That's all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn P.M.
Secretary.*

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Lodge Allan Wilson No 851



Bro Kenneth Jack, a member of Lodge Allan Wilson No 851, was installed in the Chair of Lodge St Andrew's No 814, Pitlochry on Friday 6th January. Three members of Lodge Allan Wilson had the privilege of assisting in his Installation – PM's David MacMaster, Ian MacLaren and Ramsay McGhee. The Installation took place in the lesser Town Hall, Pitlochry. The hall was full to overflowing – a fitting testimony to Kenneth Jack's popularity. The above photo taken at the conclusion of the meeting shows the Installing Team – from left to right – PM David MacMaster, Inner Guard, PM Alan Duff, Senior Warden, Ramsay McGhee, Installing Master, RWM Kenneth Jack, PM Andrew Brown, Junior Warden who also installed the Office-bearers and Ian MacLaren, Chaplain.

It is with deep regret that I have to announce the sudden passing of Reponing Member of Lodge Allan Wilson, Bro Ben Clunie. Brother Ben was a popular and well liked member of the Lodge who travelled north on a regular basis with the Edinburgh members. His Mother Lodge was Edinburgh St Andrew No 48 but he was also a Founder Member of Lodge Edinburgh Castle and was Treasurer in the Lodge for a long number of years.

He will be greatly missed by the travelling Brethren, especially Brothers Roderick MacCormick and George McQuillan and to them and to Ben's daughters, Linda, Pamela and Stephanie, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Lodge Allan Wilson and Lodge Edinburgh Castle were both well represented at the funeral service in Edinburgh. Indeed the Crematorium was full to overflowing – which was no more than a testimony of the high regard in which Ben was held not only in Masonic circles but also in the bowling fraternity and in Lothian & Borders Police where he served for over thirty years.

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Lodge Seaforth No 854

Hello and welcome to the New Year – although it doesn't seem so new now. It's hard to believe that the first month is gone.

We started our meetings with our new Master, Iain Sutherland with an unusual meeting in December. After opening the Lodge and quickly going over any urgent business, the Master then closed the Lodge in due form. We were then joined in the Lodge by our Ladies where we had an enjoyable Service of Carols interspersed with relevant Bible readings. At the conclusion of this our Ladies then joined us in the Clubrooms for Tea and Mince Pies. This unusual evening was enjoyed by all who attended and it is hoped this can be repeated next year.

Our first meeting of the New Year was a Lecture by our Senior Warden Gwyn Phillips on the collection and transportation of the new Cromarty Ferry from Southampton. This was a very interesting and informative evening as Gwyn regaled us with the story of how they sailed up the Channel, through the North Sea and into the Moray Firth and then to Cromarty where the Ferry arrived at its new home and was eventually named by the actress Penelope Keith.

Our next meeting on Monday February 20th will be a Mark Master Degree to which all Mark Masters are cordially invited.

Looking to the coming months we are hoping that we will have visits from Lodge Averon, Lodge St Barchan and Lodge John O Groats, and I also look forward to the upcoming Provincial Visitations.

Cochrane Donald P.M.

PM Robert MacLean has kindly submitted the following contribution.

The Faithful Few

1 When the Master calls to order
And you look about the room
You're sure to see some faces
That from out the shadow loom;
They are always at the meetings
And stay till they are through;
The ones that I would mention
Are the always faithful few.

2 They fill the vacant offices
As they're always on the spot,
No matter what the weather,
Though it may be awful hot.
It may be dark and rainy,
But they are tried and true;
The ones that you rely on
Are the always faithful few.

3 There are many worthy members
Who will come when in the mood,
When everything is convenient
They can do the Craft much good.
They have knelt around our Altar
And are necessary, too;
But the ones who never fail us
Are the always faithful few.

4 If it were not for those Brethren
Who put their shoulders to the wheel,
Keep our Lodges moving forward
So their light they may reveal;
This Craft could never flourish,
Its work it could not do,
It would sink and slowly perish,
But for these faithful few.

Henry Negus, Maywood, California

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Lodge Ness No 888



We would like to wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

After the installations, we now have to look forward to the provincial visitations. Our own installation went very well, organised by the Installing Master PM Donald Ross, assisted by PM Tommy Stirling and PM Donald Macleod and as usual PM Ross had a few appropriate comments to pass to all. It was a well attended evening, with visitors from north and south of Scotland. Gavin Forsyth was installed as RWM and his team of office bearers installed with him and we are looking forward to a good term, working with him for his period in the chair.

Gavin and his team have carried out an EA degree, in excellent form, with a second EA Degree being carried out before this edition goes to print. This will be followed by two FC degrees in February and two MM degrees in March this gives him a busy first three months in the chair.

We look forward to our joint ladies night with Lodge Averon on the 16th March which is held in Alness bowling club and this has always been a very enjoyable night. Tickets are now available from Averon or Ness.

Gavin is also organising a charity fun run up Firish for the summer season. This will be open to all lodges, sponsorship will be for their own Lodges and forms for this will be available from us and Gavin is putting up £100 for the winner to be donated to their Lodge.

Raymond Morrison P.M.

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Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

Our November meeting was held on Friday 4th November when an Entered Apprentice degree was worked, the candidate being Graeme Brindle. It was good to see Graeme's Father in Law and Uncle along to see the Degree.

The December meeting was our Installation evening with the re-installation of Bro Duncan Macleman for a second term. Bro Allan Carmichael PM once again took up the mantle of Installing Master and we were delighted to have Bro Jim Tait PM there to install the remaining office-bearers.

Our first meeting of the New Year was held on the 13th January when we worked a Master Mason degree for Bro Michael Stevenson (our local postie). It was a bit of a wait for Mike but it was a very good meeting enjoyed by all in attendance.

The next meeting will be on the 3rd February at 8.00pm when we will be working a Fellowcraft degree. Finally we held our usual senior citizens parties were held on the 6th and 8th December. Once again a good attendance at both evening events with the second one memorable with a power cut for a couple of hours. However, with a few strategically placed candles to the rescue, the evening was soon back on track and enjoyed by all.

Keith Patience, PM
Secretary

Lodge St Martin 1217

The Brethren of the Lodge were delighted with the news that Past Master Murdo MacKenzie had been awarded the Honorary Grand Rank of Senior Grand Deacon by the MW Grand Master Mason. I'm sure that all who know Bro Murdo would wish to join with the Brethren of Lodge St Martin in offering him our congratulations.

On Tuesday 21st February, the Lodge will be working the MM Degree and a warm welcome is extended to all.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary



Grand Lodge
looking west

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Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

RWM Barrie Whitwell extends a cordial welcome to all Brethren to any of their meetings in Aultbea but he will be delighted to welcome a large number of Brethren on the occasion of the Provincial Grand Lodge visitation on Thursday 12th April.

The Sinclair Bruce Diary

As sports appear to play a big part of my contribution's to the Patter this edition could be no exception as my first reports will be on Bowls. The first three games went as follows Foster 3 Jackson 2 Harlow 3 Arkley 2 and finally Gillet 2 Veale 0 and then Weale knocked Foster out to go through to the Semi-final. Other games I watched were Mervin King 2 Ian Bond 0 and David Gourley was up one Against Harlow at the end of play, but Harlow went on to win and play against Robert Paxton in the final. And so we arrive at the final and an evenly matched pair however there has to be a winner and the honours go to Robert Paxton who took the cup and cheque for this year

Last night was our regular meeting of the Rosicrucian as always held within the premises of the Inverness Masonic Lodge. The protocol was changed for what I would call the better - we finished the Zelator Grade and then had a break with tea or coffee plus an abundance of sandwiches, before returning to the Lodge room for the lecture delivered by Bro the Rev Donald Prentice. The whole evening was greatly enjoyed by all present, all business etc complete and I was back home by 10.15pm.

It's now Saturday the 19th November and the football televised today was Burnley V Leeds united, a very interesting game with the first half showing Burnley as the stronger side, and at Half time Burnley were one up, however early in the second half Leeds scored and from then on Leeds took over and went on to win, final score Burnley 1 Leeds United 2

And now tennis will dominate this weeks sport, and I begin by rather sadly saying that Andy Murray lost his first game by loosing to Ferrer and has now withdrawn from the Tournament completely saying he has a Groin injury. That he prefers to play for Great Britain rather than Scotland says little for patriotism and rules out the proud Scots theory. However he's out so let's forget him. The Marty Fish V Joe Songa was a great game to watch and went to a tie break and Songa came out the winner. Today I watched the first Semi final between Federer v Ferrer another great game and although Federer goes through to the final he did not have it all his own way as both games finished close. Game one was 7-5 and game two 6-3. And so we arrive at the final and it is as expected between Federer and Songa, an excellent game to watch and again as expected it went to a tie break. A closely fought game and right up to the end it could have gone either way, however Federer came out on top and lifted the cup and the honours.

And now it will be snooker for the next week and the first game I watched today was John Higgins v Rory MacLeod a great game and at one stage Higgins was down at 4-2 however like all good professionals he got hold of himself and went on to win 6-5. The next game was Davis v Ding another good game and at 5 each it could go either way but Ding went on to win 6-5 and finally Robertson won by a great margin against Ford score 6-1.

There was only one game televised today Sunday 4th Dec and that was between Steve Davis the veteran and Ronnie O' Sullivan the rocket, a game well worth watching, wonderful snooker from both players and the score does not reflect the entertainment. The only problem- Davis could not find the pockets final score O' Sullivan 6 Davis 1. The snooker is now moving towards the final and we have a cracking final between Jud Trump and Mark Allen. An excellent game with scoring going in a catching up way until the fourth when Trump got into top gear, and the game results are as follows Trump 4 Allen 3 5/3 6/3 7/3 8/3 8/4 8/5 9/5 9/6 9/7 9/8 and at 10/8 the cup goes to the young 22 year old Trump, plus a £100,000 into his account not a bad weeks wages!

All appears very quiet in the meeting arena. That is normal at this time of the year. However, I have now received the calendar from Raymond, and January certainly has a full agenda with some days showing three meetings for choice, and indeed Tuesday the choice is seven Invergordon, Dingwall, Fort William, Inverness, Brora, Tain, and Stornoway. No excuse for lack of meetings

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My first meeting for year 2012 was Lodge Rosehaugh who worked an excellent Master Mason degree. There was a very good attendance with approximately thirty seven seated. At the third rising PPGM Morris Downie referred to a mention in the Ross-shire Journal under the 88 year ago column that the village of Avoch held a whist drive and dance in the local Hall that is now the Lodge and the proceedings for the function realised the princely sum of £22 that was donated to Lodge Rosehaugh to go towards their building fund. The same amount in present day values would be £240

The final of the world champion Darts was televised today. Although excellent darts were thrown, the entertainment value is a far cry from the days of Jockey Wilson and Co. However I enjoyed the final between Toni Oshea England and Christian Kist the Dutch man. At one point it was 6-2 to the Dutch man but then Oshea got into top gear and it went on to 6-5 and almost equalised however the final score was 7-5 and the Dutchman took the cup and one hundred thousand pounds.

It's now Monday 16th Jan and Lodge Seaforth's regular meeting. As we did not have a degree consequently the evening's business was a talk by our SW on his recent cruise around Great Britain the talk was well delivered and equally well received by all present. There were thirty seven Brethren in the Lodge including nine visiting Lodges, and after the normal Harmony in the club room we all made our way home rejoicing in our individual manner.

My report so far in the snooker is Jud Trump 6 Stuart Bingham 3 and John Higgins 6 Mathew Steven 2 any future reports on the snooker will be in the next edition as I am about to forward this one to the Editor for inclusion in the 70th edition. I will now update readers on the snooker as I was maybe a little premature with the previous paragraph! Mark Selby 6 Steven Lee 3, Ronnie O'Sullivan 2 Jud Trump 6

and Dot 6 Carter 3. The game between Higgins and Dot at close of play was one game each, so now the report on the final will be at the start of the next edition. I did not see the game between Higgins and Dot but I now know that Higgins goes through to play Murphy in the second Semi final tonight and this afternoon Neil Robertson knocked out the young Jud Trump to go through to the final the score was Robertson 6 Trump 3 so we now know that the final tomorrow will be Robertson v the winner in the Higgins v Murphy game consequently I will hold back my contribution to the patter until the result of the Final. And so we arrive at the final and, unfortunately, Higgins lost to Murphy so it's a Robertson v Murphy final tonight. The game appeared to be one sided as Robertson went into a clear lead at 8-1, then Murphy took the next 5 frames to make the score 8-6, but alas Robertson took the final frame to lift the PGC trophy plus £150,000 - a hard fought game but a rewarding conclusion for Neil Robertson.

Sinclair Bruce

BITS AND PIECES



The MW Grand Master addressing the Brethren and their wives at an informal lunch in Lodge Royal Pahang in Kuantan where they have just completed the build of a new purpose built Temple. It's a marvellous building and was well worth the coach run to see the facilities within the Lodge. On the Grand Masters immediate left is Brother Dunstan Fernandez, the new District Grand Master of the Middle East.

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My thanks to Bro Kenny Jack, Lodge Allan Wilson, for the following piece:

'The Scottish Freemasons' Magazine' (1863 - 1866): - Miscellany Extracted and transcribed; and with additional commentary by Bro. Kenneth C. Jack.

"Most of our readers will be aware from perusing our columns that some time ago, the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland was, on account of serious insubordination and un-Masonic conduct, necessitated to suspend several chapters and companions in Glasgow. The suspended companions thereupon formed themselves into an irregular and unrecognised society which they delight to style "The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Scotland & the Colonies". A formidable and pretentious title truly. We have not thought it necessary to pay much attention to the activities of these malcontents, nor would we do so now, had we not read in the 'Glasgow Herald' that Sir Archibald Alison has become their first Principal. Sir Archibald is the Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow and although there is no complete union between St. John's Masonry and the Royal Arch in Scotland, as there is in England, still, from the immediate relationship between the two, Sir Archibald by accepting office in this irregular body, is guilty of a grave breach of Masonic etiquette: of all societies the members of the Masonic fraternity should be most reticent in countenancing the proceedings of dissenters: and it may become a very nice question for the brethren to decide, whether in the circumstances, Sir Archibald can be permitted longer to hold the post of Provincial Grand Master of Glasgow, or whether he be superceded by some Brother more alive to the true interests of Masonry" (December 1st, 1863)

[This apparent schism was highlighted when the magazine also reported that on 27th November, 1863, one William Robert Carr Foster made application for membership of Ayr Priory No. 4 of the Order of the Temple. It transpired that Foster was a member of the renegade Royal Arch Chapter "Ayr Arnot" and the Prior (D. Murray Lyon) refused to accept the application. Foster quickly joined a recognised Chapter under The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland - Ayr Chapter No. 18 - and in time, duly became a member of the Ayr Priory. In any event, by 1866, it seems the renegade Companions had displayed sufficient contriteness to be allowed to return to the mainstream fold]

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"A Mason is said to be bright who is well-acquainted with the ritual, the forms of opening and closing, and the ceremonies of initiation. This expression does not however, in its technical sense, appear to include, the superior knowledge of the history and science of the institution, and many bright Masons are therefore not necessarily learned Masons, and on the contrary, some learned Masons are not well-versed in the ritual. The one knowledge depends on a retentive memory; the other is derived from deep research" (September 1st, 1864)

[Above was the response to an enquiry by a reader of the magazine as to what was meant by the term "Bright" Mason - blessed is he who is both "bright" and "learned"!]

Every man wants a woman to appeal to his better side, his nobler instincts, and his higher nature – and another woman to help him forget them.

–*Helen Rowland*

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 70

FEBRUARY 2012

Royal Arch

Tain & Ross RAC No 63

The Provincial Visit to Tain & Ross Chapter will take place on Tuesday 14th February 2012 at 7.30 pm. The Companions of the Chapter extend a very warm welcome to all Companions to join them on this important night in the Masonic Calendar. The Provincial Grand Superintendent, MEC Donald Sutherland would be delighted to see all Chapters represented during his visit to Tain.

St Clement RAC No 244 –

The February meeting of St Clement will be an Excellent Master Degree. MEC Fred Fraser extends a very warm welcome to all Companions to come along to Dingwall on Friday 24th February. There will be a short harmony at the conclusion of the meeting.

Cromarty Firth RAC No 310.

Since the last edition we carried out an EM degree for Paul Fraser of Lodge Ness and intend to carry out his RA degree on the 1st. Feb. when we will be having our Grand Superintendants visit and on the 7th. March we hope to carry out an EM degree.

Hebrides Royal Arch Chapter No 364

Not much to report other than that we have 3 candidates waiting to join, that can't be bad.

MALTA EXPERIENCE 2012

Monday, 16th January.

Accompanied by a large Deputation including all the principal Office Bearers of Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter and several senior Companions from the Provinces of Fife & Kinross, and Stirling & Clackmannan I left Edinburgh en route to Malta. We are privileged on this occasion to be accompanied by several Ladies. Ryanair lived up to their proud record of "arriving on time" and in less than four hours we landed at Malta International Airport. The reason for this particular visit is to repon Caledonian Royal Arch Chapter, No 325 which had been granted its Charter in 1906 but has been dormant since 1982. On arrival we were warmly welcomed by M.E. Companion David Proudfoot, the First Principal Designate, who is originally from Fife but now resident in Malta. We were taken to our hotel in Sleima where we found our accommodation to be of an excellent standard. A free evening and we took the opportunity to relax.

Tuesday, 17th January.

Arrangements having previously been made for us to tour the island the majority of my Deputation took advantage of this very kind offer and M.E. Companion Proudfoot proved to be a very interesting and competent "tour guide" and the many historical places of interest he showed us whetted an appetite in all of us for further exploration. Later in the day we were joined by our colleagues from the Border Province and their Ladies.

Wednesday, 18th January.

Having spent almost two years in Malta during my National Service days I was keen to renew and refresh my recollections of Valetta where I had been stationed. A short bus journey into the city and a few hours wandering about only confirmed that my memory has deteriorated quite markedly during the intervening years. However, the present day Valetta gives the impression of a "booming" economy with the main thoroughfare displaying a particularly "up market" appearance.

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Early evening and we assembled at the Masonic Temple where we conducted an Affiliation to the Mark, Excellent Master and Royal Arch ceremonies. Afterwards we enjoyed a very pleasant harmony during the course of which we were able to meet and make new friends.

Thursday 19th January.

Another relaxing morning and in late afternoon we were again conveyed to the Masonic Temple, where in the presence of a considerable number of Companions opened Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland and formally reconstituted and dedicated Chapter Caledonian No 325. At the conclusion of this ceremonial the new First Principal M.E. Companion David Proudfoot, very much the leading light in the revival of this Chapter, and his Office Bearers were duly installed into their respective offices.

Mrs Proudfoot very kindly undertook to provide dinner for all present and assisted by a few of her friends served a very enjoyable meal. I am most grateful to her for this most generous gesture.

From the short time spent in the company of the Companions of this Chapter I am confident that they will do their utmost to ensure its success and I look forward to another visit in the future.

Friday, 20th January.

A comparatively short drive to the Airport and by mid afternoon we had arrived back in Edinburgh. It was time to reflect, on a short but memorable and very worthwhile overseas visit.

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

The first meeting of the new session was held on 28th October and PP Iain Macaulay was re-installed as preceptor. The 50th anniversary of the District Great Priory of The North in Scotland will be held in the Masonic Hall in Stornoway on Saturday 10th March. The rededication ceremony will be carried out by M E & Rev Grand Master David Niven and his team.

And finally, again from Bro Kenneth Jack - **What It Means to Be Master . . .**

I found this in an old Illinois ritual, describing the Office of Worshipful Master. The language is about 100 years old --

The Office of Master is of great antiquity and respect, and is one of the highest dignities to which we may aspire. Its incumbent, to rule well, should possess and practice several important prerequisites.

As a MAN, he should be of proven integrity and irreproachable morals, freed from the dominion of hasty temper and ill-governed passions, of good repute in the world, and practicing, as an example to his Brethren, the cardinal virtues of Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence, and Justice. As a CITIZEN, he should be loyal to his government, obedient to its laws, prompt in the duties he owes to society; and, [should demonstrate] a pattern of fidelity in all social and domestic relations. As a MASON, he should cling to the old landmarks and be sternly opposed to their infringement; be desirous to learn and apt to teach; be prompt to aid and relieve, and be ever mindful that, though elevated for a time above his fellows, he is elevated by them, and should therefore cultivate, everywhere and at all times, the golden tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. As an OFFICER, he should remember, first of all, that he is an individual Mason, sharing in that respect a common lot with his Brethren, and therefore interested in the welfare of each and all; be devoid of undue ostentation and haughty overbearing; be accessible to all, cultivating the closest friendship and the most unlimited confidence with his associate Officers; be eager to take counsel with his Brethren and ready to give it; be ready to reward good; be devoid of favoritism; and, [be] wholly impartial.

Such are some of the most important qualifications the Master should possess and the errors he should avoid. It may be that most, if not all of us, have failed to reach this standard; but, it is attainable, and be it your purpose to reach it, and be a bright and shining example to those who shall come after you.