

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 101

NOVEMBER 2019

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



The Masonic Section of the Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street, Edinburgh

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Editorial

Welcome to the 101st edition of the “Provincial Patter”.

Now that the excitement of the Centenary Edition is over, can I thank the many readers who sent some much-appreciated words of congratulation and inspiration – they were all truly appreciated.

I recently responded to an article in the magazine – *A Different Level*, the magazine of Lodge Randolph 1434. A question was asked – *Is it time for change?*

I believe the short answer is yes. I would argue however that it is not just a question of changing the number of meetings. I think we need to question the number of meetings, the day of the week that they meet, when they meet on that day and so on. In Inverness we have four Rotary Clubs. One meets for breakfast at 07.30 in the morning, two of the clubs meet for lunch and one meets at 18.30 in the evening. All four clubs are doing fine but the point is that Rotarians have a choice as to which time of day suits them best. We need that flexibility in our Lodges. One of the most successful Lodges in this Province meets at 11.30 on a Tuesday morning during the summer months. We also need to look at the length of our meetings – we need to look at the structure of the meetings. I have been to a few meetings lately where the business and the Degree working went on until after 10 at night by which time the Brethren were getting restless and didn't wait for harmony – they had work in the morning!

Let's be daring, imaginative and creative – let's dare to be different.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



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

2nd Nov. - Centenary of Lodge Tollcross No 1194
6th Nov. – Benevolence & Care Committee
9th Nov – Bi-centenary Lodge St John 280
13th Nov – Reigning Master's Degree – East Kilbride
14th Nov – Admin Committee
16th Nov – Centenary of Lodge Liberton 1201
21st Nov – Lodge Newton Mearns
23rd Nov – Moises Gomez Lecture – Edinburgh
25th Nov – Moises Gomez Lecture – Glasgow
27th Nov – Meeting with District G M's
27th Nov – Overseas Dinner
28th Nov – Installation & Festival of St Andrew
29th Nov – Meeting with Jordanian Brethren
30th Nov – PGL Glasgow Installation
2nd Dec – Lodge St Patrick 1309
7th Dec – PGL Banffshire Installation
12th Dec – Grand Committee
12th Dec – Lodge Barns o' Clyde
13th – 15th – Grand Lodge of Italy
20th – Grand Lodge Staff Christmas Lunch
30th Dec – Lodge Installation in Grand Lodge
17th Jan – Burns Supper – PGL Midlothian
25th Jan – Burns Supper – St James Tarbolton

Ed

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Grand Master Masons Diary

Since the Centenary edition of the Patter in August, I have been kept reasonably busy and have had the honour and pleasure of meeting many Brethren at home and abroad.

On 3rd August a small Deputation from Grand Lodge attended the Irvine Burns Club where we spent a most memorable and educational afternoon in the company of the current President of the Club, Bro Archie Chalmers, Past PGM of Ayrshire



The Club is well worth a visit and contains many Burns artefacts including a copy of the “Kilmarnock Edition” of his poems.

The Centenary Celebrations in Lodge St Conal 1193 provided an excuse to go back to Dumfriesshire where the Deputation from Grand Lodge received a very warm welcome from the Master of the Lodge, Bro Martin Grassom, and from the Provincial Grand Master, Bro Bobby Jess. All went well and a great day was enjoyed by all.

On Tuesday 13th August it was good to get back to Lodge Allan Wilson where I had the privilege to present a paper that I previously prepared for the Frank Field Lecture in Kuala Lumpur. There was a splendid turn-out, despite the speaker, and it was good to catch up with the Brethren once again.

On Thursday 15th I attended a meeting of the Administration Committee – it was lively and covered a multitude of issues – but was well chaired by the Convenor, Bro Jim Bell.

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On the Saturday a large Deputation from Grand Lodge headed north east to Peterhead where I had the privilege of installing Brother Dr Douglas R H Nicol as Provincial Grand Master of Aberdeenshire East. He will have a hard act to follow. Brother Ronnie Simpson has been an inspirational PGM, but I have no doubt that Doctor Nicol will rise to the challenges and prove to be equally successful.



Brother Dr Douglas Nicol – both looking a bit wind-swept in breezy Lossiemouth

During the following week, I took a wee trip up to Kyle for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty Communication. The attendance was poor, but the Kyle welcome was as warm and cordial as ever.

On 22nd August I attended a meeting of the History and Heritage Group (formerly SMMG) now chaired by Brother John Miller, Past PGM from Renfrewshire East. They have several very worthwhile projects planned which you will all hear about in due course.

The last week in August was a busy one – Administration Committee on Tuesday, working party looking at dormancy issues on Wednesday, Overseas Committee on Thursday and another trip east on the Saturday. This time to Lodge St John No 119 from Johnshaven who were celebrating 250 years. The celebrations took place a few miles along the road in Stonehaven where there was a bit more space in the Lodge to accommodate everyone. Brother George Bissett and his Office-bearers had done a splendid job in organising the event and my thanks goes to the committee for their warm welcome.

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On 7th September, Dundee was the destination where we celebrated the Centenary of Lodge Ubique No 1192. This was the start of another busy week.

On Monday 9th, I was delighted to join with the Master, Brother Dr Robert Holmes Henderson and Past Masters of the Trades House of Glasgow Lodge No 1241 at their Annual Dinner in Trades House, Glasgow.

The following day I was able to witness an excellent Installation in Uddingston at Lodge Meridian, No. 1779 where two well kent faces carried out the Installation – Brothers George and Alex Kelly. That night, I met up with them both again at Lodge Major Ness No 948 where Alex Kelly and another stalwart of Freemasonry in Lanarkshire Middle Ward, Pipe Major David Stark, BEM both received well merited Distinguished Service Memberships.

From Lanarkshire, it was back to Edinburgh on the Thursday to Chair Grand Committee then on Saturday 14th it was back east again, this time to Dyce where, in the palatial setting of the Marriott Hotel, we celebrated the Centenary of Lodge Royal Braemar in right royal fashion. Brother Murray Smith and his Office-bearers left no stone unturned to ensure every little detail had been thought of.



Centenary Celebrations – Lodge Royal Braemar No 1195

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On Monday 16th September it was a real pleasure to travel down to The Lodge of Dunblane No 9 where I had great delight in presenting my own proposer into the Craft, Brother Andrew Muir, with his Jubilee Diploma (only four years late). What a great night it was meeting up again with Drew and his brother John rekindling stories of the 1st Johnstone Boys' Brigade Company and our time together in Lodge St Barchan. We will hopefully catch up again soon.

On Friday 20th September I was once again back in Trades House, Glasgow; this time to attend the Incorporation of Masons Dinner. Another splendid affair where tradition and custom were the order of the day.

The following day, it was the Fair City of Perth, venue for the PGM's twice yearly meeting. As usual, there was an excellent turnout with plenty debate and the opportunity to cover much subject material. Included in the meeting was a presentation by Brother Kenneth Miller during which he explained the purpose of the on-line survey we will be launching in February to help form a more strategic view of where we are going to be developed. Information will be circulated to all Lodges at home and abroad in due course.

Monday 23rd September and another trip down the A9 this time to Portobello where I attended a meeting of Lodge Canongate and Leith, Leith and Canongate No 5. Another superb night and I thank the Brethren for their welcome and hospitality.

On Friday 27th September I attended something of an historic evening in Edinburgh – the amalgamation of two Lodges. Lodge Trinity 885, formed in 1899 and Lodge Scotia Regia 1345, formed in 1926 have merged to form Lodge Scotia Trinity No 885. It was a night of mixed emotions – sad to see two fine old Lodges disappear but exciting and encouraging that together they will go from strength to strength.

The following day I remained in Edinburgh to attend the Installation of Brother James Bathgate who once again took the Chair of the Celtic Lodge of Edinburgh and Leith No 291. Jim is one of our much-respected tour guides in Grand Lodge and I was delighted to be able to attend his Installation.

From the East to the West. Saturday 5th October, I attended the Annual Dinner Dance of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow at which I was afforded the honour of proposing the Toast to the Ladies. It was a tremendous night and to me, proved that we really need to put a bit more effort into the organisation of social events that can be enjoyed by our wives, relatives and friends.

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On Thursday 10th October, I attended a meeting of Proxy District Grand Masters in Edinburgh. The meeting was well attended and productive and I'm delighted to report that proxy membership is, at last, beginning to get back into shape.

Brother Ian MacPherson, Master of Lodge St John Catrine No 497 welcomed a large Deputation from Grand Lodge on the occasion of the Lodge's 150th Anniversary held in the Railway Hotel Auchinleck on Saturday 12th October. We enjoyed great harmony with the Ayrshire Brethren during what was an excellent day.

Wednesday 16th October – I was delighted to accept an invitation to the Annual Dinner of the Supreme Council. The dinner was held in the very comfortable surrounds of the Royal Scot Club. Another delightful night with great food and company.

Thankfully the Supreme Council Dinner was not a late affair as I had a 3.30 am rise to head out to Edinburgh Airport to catch an early flight to Brussels. Having arrived in Brussels and checked into the hotel, Grand Secretary and I then enjoyed lunch hosted by Brother Pierre Noël, PM, Hon. Grand Bard. We were joined by several Brethren including Brother Daniel Bauwens, Grand Master of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium. Later in the afternoon we met up with the Grand Lodge Deputation consisting of Brother William (Bud) Gauld, Grand D of C, his son, Johnny Gauld who was our piper, Brother Tom McCrone, Grand Steward and Bro John Muir, Proxy Master of Lodge Allegiance 1465. That night, Lodge Allegiance 1465 along with Lodge Wellington No 1385 worked an excellent EA Degree on behalf of Mr Kian Bayat who looks as if he will be a first-class member of the Lodge

The following day Brother Bauwens gave us a guided tour of Brussels which proved to be most interesting and informative – it is a marvellous city with much to see.

On Saturday 19th October, I had the honour of addressing the members of the Grand Lodge of Belgium giving them a presentation on the Grand Lodge of Scotland after which we had a first-class lunch in one of Brussels top sea food restaurants. Grand Secretary and I were thereafter entertained at the home of Brother Daniel Bauwens and his charming wife Helen – a splendid end to a wonderful day.

As I had to leave the hotel at 04.00 am, it was not a late Saturday night. On the Sunday morning, I was on the first flight out to Heathrow then a connecting flight to Inverness. I was sitting at the organ in St Andrew's Church at 11.20 with 10 minutes to spare.

My sincere thanks to all who made the Belgian trip so enjoyable.

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GMM with MW Bro Daniel Bauwens



The Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland



GMM and the Candidate



Father and Son



Belgian Piping Lesson

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A week after attending the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium, a large Deputation accompanied me to Aboyne where we celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the Lodge in fine style. The day was made even more pleasurable having Brother Marcus Humphrey of Dinnet in the Chair of the Lodge on this historic occasion.

The month of October ended with a visit to the Province of Linlithgowshire to witness the Reigning Masters in the Province work an excellent EA Degree.

The following day, 31st October, I chaired a somewhat troublesome Grand Committee in the morning followed by a lengthy meeting of Grand Lodge in the afternoon.

We were honoured to have as our Guest at the Communication, MW Brother Jean Schiltz, Grand Master of Luxembourg.

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



BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM NOVEMBER 2010 - LODGE

ROSEHAUGH



Over the last couple of months, the lodge has hosted several charitable events. The first was held on the 14th August when we hosted a fun-day in the lodge grounds. We had a bouncy castle to keep the youngsters entertained, teas and raffles in the lodge and over a dozen stalls including the RNLi and Macmillan Nurses. We had a reasonable crowd throughout the afternoon, and we raised over £500 during the day most of which was passed onto 4 local charities. It was also an opportunity for another charitable organisation Avoch Gentlemen's Golf Society (AGGS) to hand over a cheque to PLAY which is an organisation raising funds for new equipment for the Avoch swing park. The other events hosted were a coffee morning for Macmillan's and a soup and sweet lunch for Maggie's both which were a great success.

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Hi Brethren

Not a lot to report this time, things have been quiet in the Province. All the lodges have had a meeting to start the new season off to a good start.

The Installations are starting with Tain St Duthus on Monday the 4th November at 7.00pm for business 7.45 Installation.

Provincial Divine service in Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty, was very well attended on Sunday 27th October. The service was conducted by the Very Rev Dr Susan Brown assisted by her husband Dr Derek Brown. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all and I extend my thanks to the Brethren of Robertson's for the lovely tea afterwards and allowing us to use the Lodge. The collection was £175.00 which was handed to the Very Rev Dr Susan Brown to give to a charity of her choice. Thanks to all

The next Provincial event is the November Communication to be held in Lodge Fingal on the 13th November at 8pm. A good turn out of office bearers is expected and any master mason is entitled to come along to this meeting .

Brethren, the next Installations are Rosehaugh and Fortrose in Stornoway to be held on Wednesday 6th.Nov both starting 8pm.

Lodge Loch Ewe in Aultbea Installation is on Thursday 14th.November a good support would be nice for all these meetings

The Grand Lodge communication was held on Thursday 31st October. There was a good number down from our Province. I was lucky to get a lift in car from Raymond MacKeddie, DPGM along with Past PGM, Brother Morris Downie and PG Almoner, Brother David MacMaster. Brother Mike Turner PG Secretary was down in Edinburgh on other business. This was quite a long meeting. There was a lot of business on the agenda to get through, very ably controlled by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason.

There are NEW style Provincial ties which will be at Fingal meeting for sale.

Fraternal greetings to all

Robin Cattanach

PGM Ross and Cromarty

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From the Provincial Almoner

Sadly, since my last report in August Past Master Bruce Ross, Lodge St Duthus, has passed to the Grand Lodge Above. He had been ill for a relatively short period. Bruce's funeral at Portmahomack Church of Scotland was attended by many Masonic Brethren. A card was sent his family conveying the condolences of the Provincial Grand Master and the Brethren of the Province.

Past Master Angus Ross, Lodge Ness, is now at home having spent many months in hospital in Inverness and Invergordon. Angus is delighted to be home with his wife Kay. He has carers coming in four times a day to attend to his needs and to assist him where required.

Past Master Fraser Ross, Lodge St. Duthus is still resident in Innis Mhor Care Home, Tain. His condition remains unchanged.

Brother George MacIvor, Robertson's Lodge is still resident in Wyvis House Care Home, Dingwall.

Past Master John Noble, Lodge Fingal is still resident in Redwoods Care Home in AIness. John's condition remains the same. His physical health is very good, but his memory is not so good.

Brother Alex. Ross, Lodge Fingal is in good health and able to get out and about on his mobility scooter.

Brother Jimmy Smith, Lodge Fortrose recently had surgery in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness but is now out of hospital and home in Stornoway.

Brother George Crawford, Lodge Averon has had a leg removed and is now at home. Lodge Averon Brethren are in regular contact with him.

I have visited brethren at home and in hospital where and when possible and cards have been sent, as appropriate, conveying the good wishes of the Provincial grand Master and Brethren of the Province.

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

David A. MacMaster, PM

Provincial Grand Almoner

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



On Monday 7th October Lodge St Duthus were delighted to welcome an unexpected group of brethren from Germany and Austria. The group from Germany were members of a Lodge in Hamburg (No 888) and the other solo member was from a lodge in Vienna. The RWM introduced them to our Provincial Grand Master Bro Robin Cattanach. Fortunately, as well as our AGM, we were working a FC degree. They certainly enjoyed their evening with us. Small gifts were exchanged at the end of the evening as a mark of their visit to Lodge St. Duthus.



On Saturday night 26th October, Lodge St. Duthus held a quiz night hosted by RWM John Mackenzie for Perfect Paws Canine Club.

This is an Easter Ross based group who assist owners train their dogs to a high standard. They also give agility demonstrations at certain events.

The lodge was set up with ten tables and all were fully occupied. The buffet was outstanding and was laid on by members of the group.

A total of three hundred and ten pounds was raised on the night. They have already booked another night for early 2020. Congratulations and well done to all.

John MacKenzie, RWM

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

Looking forward it looks like we'll be having a busy couple of months in Stornoway starting with the past masters working a MM degree on Donald Greig Smith on 1st November when we will also have our AGM. Friday 15th November will be preparatory night when we will be electing a new batch of office bearers.

Friday 6th December will be our installation night when our new RWM will be installed along with his office bearers. On the following day we will be heading for Tarbert to visit Lodge St Clements No 1353 for their installation meeting. A coach has been ordered for that day as it has become a popular day (or 2 or 3 days) out for the lodge and all our visitors. All brethren are welcome.

Looking back, we have lost 4 brethren over the last quarter including a couple of well-known ones; Calum (Gas) Maciver and Jimmy Steen.

Louis Macdonald was our only initiate in the last 3 months during which time we also worked 3 MM degrees, 1 FC and our last meeting was a Mark degree.

Donald J Smith RWM received donations amounting to £455 from Lodge Thistle and our Fife visitors. He was asked to donate this to a charity of his choice, he chose the local Alzheimer's branch and the picture below shows him handing over the cheque.



Day Care Organiser Christine receiving a cheque presentation from Donald Smith (Binnie) a kind donation from the Masonic lodge of £455 and thanks to Donald for choosing to donate to Alzheimer Scotland Western Isles

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On Tuesday 1st October we visited Lodge St Clements in Tarbert on the evening of their Provincial visitation which was headed by their PGM David Crilley. A demonstration FC degree was worked in true Harris style with past master Donald J Mackay acting as the candidate. As usual a harmony followed the meeting with enough food to feed a small army!

Below: Donald John Mackay PM with can of Guinness and Ian Mackay SD



MM degree worked by past masters of Lodge Fortrose with our new MM Bro Donald G Smith along with the past masters and our visitors from Lodge Camelon 1456, Lodge Zetland 391, Lodge Callander 588 and Lodge Polmont 793.

Three forms have been issued to prospective candidates so let's hope that this might be the start of a fresh flow of candidates for the lodge.

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod PM

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Robertson's Lodge No 134



Greetings Brethren,

Brother Jim Tait P.M. continues as Lodge Almoner, reporting that Bro George MacIvor continues to be looked after in his nursing home.

After the close season the Lodge started with a very entertaining and interesting Masonic Talk related by PPGM Morris Downie, a member of the Lodge, and well-known local and international raconteur. There was also a business meeting with an Enquiry Committee meeting before the Regular Meeting.

On the 27th October the Lodge was the venue for the Ross and Cromarty Provincial Grand Lodge Annual Divine Service which was led and officiated by the Very Rev Dr Susan Brown and the Rev Dr Derek Brown. The most interesting Service was well attended and enjoyed with refreshments afterwards provided by Lodge members. The closing speech of thanks was given by the RWPGM. of Ross and Cromarty, Brother Robin Cattanach.

The Lodge is looking forward to the next Meeting in November with a F.C. Degree, Ballot for a prospective member, and the yearly A.G.M. with nomination of Office-bearers. The December meeting will be for the Installation of the R.W.M. and Office-bearers.

Around this time, there are several Lodges in the Region, and nearby Regions, celebrating Anniversaries which reminds us that the year 2024 will be the year of the 250th Anniversary of Robertson's Lodge No. 134. It is the intention to reach out to all members of the Lodge, in all locations, for interest and assistance regarding the plans for the Rededication Ceremonies. We look forward to being contacted by "out of touch" members.

Lodge members continue to carry out the visiting of other Lodges where they receive the customary warm welcome and kindness of brotherhood.

Fraternal Best Regards to All.

Peter K. Ratcliffe., Lodge Secretary. 1st November 2019.

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Lodge Fingal No 318

On the evening of Saturday, 24th August, the Lodge held its annual B.B.Q., with 54 persons in attendance. Once again, the catering was undertaken by Brother Sean Kennedy, the Mallard Bar, Dingwall, who was assisted by his number one chef, John. A most delicious meal was provided with not a scrap left to go in the bin. Entertainment was provided by that most popular Brother Mike Samms who had the Logie Lounge “rocking” most of the evening. A fantastic raffle was held which raised a magnificent sum of £300. All prizes being donated. My thanks to all that attended; donated raffle prizes; Sean, John and Mike for the wonderful scoff and entertainment; and finally, the bar staff for making the evening a great success. THANK YOU.

On Tuesday, 8th October, the Lodge held its first regular meeting since going into recess in April 2019. This was a business meeting with 15 Brethren present and 4 visitors. Part of the meeting was taken up by a ballot for three prospective candidates, namely a Mr. Neil Mackenzie, Mr. Graeme Reid both for Initiation, and that well known Brother Alexander Craib PM of Lodge St. John No. 6 for affiliation. The ballot being clear for all applicants. Brother Craib was thereafter affiliated into Lodge Fingal in true and ancient form. He was given a warm welcome into the Lodge by all members present.

C. Mackintosh.
R.W.M.

Future events in the Lodge are: -

12 th Nov meeting:	Annual A.G.M. and nomination of Office Bearers.
10 th Dec meeting:	E.A. Degree for Mr Graeme Reid. [The Late Freddy Reid`s Son].
28 th Dec meeting	Installation of Brother Donald Gunn P.M. and Office Bearers at 6:30pm. With a small harmony, in the Logie Lounge, to follow.
14 th Jan meeting:	E.A. Degree for Mr Neil MacKenzie.

As we approach the Festive Season, on behalf of the RWM and Brethren of the Lodge, may we wish all Brethren, Wives, Partners and Families a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year ahead.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

D. Gunn PM
Secretary.

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LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851

The Allan Wilson meetings have now ceased for the winter after another very successful season.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th June when Brother Ian Russell will be installed in the Chair of the Lodge.

Editor

LODGE SEAFORTH 854

At the opening meeting of the season, in September, the Right Worshipful Master had the pleasant duty of presenting Brother Tommy MacGregor with his Jubilee Certificate for 50 years' service to Freemasonry.

In October the Brethren were saddened by the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Brother Billy Mackay, who had recently passed 60 years as a member of our fraternity.

At our first two meetings of the season, the RWM and his team conferred the Master Mason Degree on two new Master Masons. We wish them well in their future masonic careers.

Our future meetings include –

AGM and Nomination of Office-bearers on Monday 18th November.

Re-installation of RWM and Office-bearers on Saturday 14th December.

Carol and Readings Service on Monday 16th December.

An Entered Apprentice Degree for a new candidate on Monday 20th January.

Raymond MacKeddie PM
Secretary

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LODGE AVERON 866

Lodge Averon have had a busy start to the season on Thursday the 24th of October we had a new candidate Brian Jay who has now gone through his 1st Degree.

A special meeting was arranged for a visitation from Lodge Hozier Douglas Water 912 on Saturday the 26th to work a 1st Degree for Mr David Gray whose brother is a Master Mason in Lodge Averon and also their father who live in Alness, a regular visitor of the lodge is a Past Master of Lodge Hozier. A large deputation arrived to support the RWM William Steel, whose team worked an exemplary degree. The harmony followed and our newly made Brother Jay, who also works at being a magician, entertained us all with his tricks and good humour.



Our next regular meeting will be on Thursday the 14th of November where we will be having another 1st Degree for Mr Carrison, whose father is the lodge treasurer PM Charlie Carrison.

For December we will be having our annual kids party on the 7th. On Thursday the 12th the lodge will be conferring a Mark Degree, for possibly 3 of our brethren if they are all available. And finally, the re-installation of the RWM Donnie Mathieson, will be held on Saturday the 21st of December.

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

This year's installation will be on 9th December this year. Visitors are of course advised to check with the Lodge website at <http://www.lodgekyle.co.uk> to confirm this date nearer the time. In other news we are trying to rationalise the method of contacting Brethren both immediately and in the short term. By this I mean The Same Day (e.g. \ a cancelled meeting) or A Few Days (e.g. Parts for a forthcoming Degree).

We are finding that Brethren are using more and more DIFFERENT methods to contact each other, and this presents the Secretary and Brethren with a problem; Do we send emails, or use What's App, Tweets, phone calls, texts or Facebook post or instant message. To cut a very long story short (see link below for explanation why we chose EMAIL as the "standard" for Masonic Communications) <http://www.ahiddensecret.co.uk/> Also consider this : How do companies verify sign-ups? They generally send you AN EMAIL and ask you to confirm its receipt. Quickly moving on ...

Email Definitions: To be clear, In EMAIL, the person sending the message is THE SENDER. The person receiving the message is THE RECIPIENT.

The most important aspect though is DELIVERABILITY. This is whether the recipient actually GETS your message.

A. First... the RECIPIENT must have the correct software and device. They must have a reliable method of SENDING and RECEIVING email.

This means that each member of the Lodge (and any other Brethren) must be aware that email is the de facto standard that will be used for communication. Fortunately, there is only one kind of email – the kind that works! However, setting up your email is NOT easy. For example, it's quite common for a person to get email flawlessly from one sender but be completely unaware that they are not able to receive email from another. We suggest you delegate one member of the Lodge who is familiar with email and mail programmes as the support person, who will help Brethren who are having problems with their email. It is essential that Brethren don't feel isolated or don't feel stupid because they are the only person in the Lodge who can't get their email to work. Which brings us on to item B.

B. Next, everyone must test the email service and know that every email sent will be seen by the recipient.

It is the responsibility each of the Brethren to ensure they can receive messages from the Secretary and any other sender. This can be as simple as adding the Secretary's email address to your FRIENDS or WHITELIST, which will ensure the messages don't go straight to SPAM or is DELETED. We recommend that every member test his ability to receive email from his Lodge ONCE A YEAR.

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C. You must CHECK your email regularly for new emails AND answer them promptly.

Once the email “circuit” is working for both SEND and RECEIVE, it’s important to test it regularly, say once a year. We have also found that “habit” is an excellent method of spotting email problem. For example, if the Secretary always sends out the Minute or Agenda on a certain day, and you find that one month the Agenda hasn’t come as expected, it’s likely there is a problem with your or the secretary’s email.

D. Mailchimp at <https://mailchimp.com/> is a great way of maintaining a mailing list. Not only does it protect your email address from being blacklisted, it teaches you how to “do” and organise email properly. It also has professional looking templates and built in error checking. So, if you are sending out emails to multiple recipients (a mailing list) on a regular basis you can use MailChimp. Even better its completely FREE for mailing lists with under 2000 members and supports seven marketing channels; 1-click automations, Basic templates, Marketing CRM (customer database), behavioural targeting.

E. Lastly, what do we do if someone doesn’t have email? It’s probably best to have their wife, daughter, Masonic Brother or friend get the email on their behalf. Generally speaking, there isn’t anything DELINEATED in Masonic Emails that can be seen by a trusted friend or family member. So, if you don’t have email try to find someone you trust to receive email on your behalf. However, if you CAN’T get email, don’t feel isolated, your Brethren will help you. For example, you may be able to get a TEXT, in which case the Secretary can send a text that simply says, “Call the Secretary”. If it’s a long message like “Parts for The Installation Ritual”, the Secretary can print out the email and the Brother in question can pick it up when mutually convenient.

TIPS

Do not use ALL CAPITAL LETTERS in your emails. It’s considered rude, equivalent to SHOUTING. This is especially important in the SUBJECT of your email, as it could get you BLACKLISTED as a spammer. This is a good example of not knowing you are doing something wrong until a friend politely tells you its “bad form”.

When replying to a Masonic email, it may be useful to click REPLY TO ALL and not just REPLY. This means EVERYONE on the mailing list will see your reply and not just the Secretary or “Sender”. We find this especially useful when asking the Brethren which parts, they are prepared to learn for an upcoming Degree or Ritual

When REPLYING to emails that involve a lot of To-ing and Fro-ing. i.e. the same email is being sent between two of you with little new bits added each time, DO NOT include the original email after the first reply. This is seen as SPAM by many email servers. Read your email out loud once you have finished composing it. Does it make sense?

When sending an email “on” to a third person, make sure it doesn’t contain anything sensitive from the original email. For example, you may be discussing a brother in the Lodge with the Master, then

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informing this brother of the Masters' decision. You may not wish him to see what you and the Master discussed!

Double check your RECIPIENTS' email addresses. If it's an important email, make sure you ask the recipient to confirm he received it.

Make sure your computer or phone is free of Viruses or Malware. Similarly, don't send documents with Word, Excel, Access etc. Its preferred you send Adobe Acrobat (PDF documents). This is because not every recipient will be able to read Word docs ANY they often harbour (Macro) viruses. Email can be FREE! If you didn't already know GMAIL and YAHOO email (as well as others) is free.

SUMMARY

Check all the Lodge Members' email addresses regularly.

Don't send viruses to your Brethren

Keep emails brief and make sure they MAKE SENSE!

Don't make your Brethren feel isolated because they don't have email.

Delegate someone "email savvy" to act as the EMAIL HELP person.

Basic Google Mail or GMAIL is free and so is Basic MailChimp Mailshot Service

Check for new email REGULARLY (once daily) and answer promptly (within 24 hrs)

Ronnie Miller, PM

Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM NOVEMBER 2010 - LODGE ST DUTHUS

On Saturday 5th of February 2011, Mother St Duthus will be celebrating our 250-Year Anniversary. The Grand Lodge of Scotland will conduct the Rededication Ceremony, which will be held in the Duthac Centre Tain, starting at 2pm. All brethren are invited to attend the commemorative photographs prior to the meeting at the back of 1 o'clock and Brethren should be seated by 1.30pm. The Anniversary Dinner will follow at 4pm, also in the Duthac Centre. Tickets are now on sale for the Dinner at £20. The ticket price includes a four-course meal, a dram for the toasts, plus a commemorative gift of the new Mark Penny. Please note that as many Brethren are expected to attend the 250-Year Celebrations, the closing date for booking an Anniversary Dinner ticket is the 20th December! Please book through your Lodge secretaries.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported Lodge St Duthus throughout my two terms in office. Over the last twelve months alone we have had the honour and privilege of enjoying visitations from Lodge Allan Wilson No 851, Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216, Lodge Fortrose No 108, and Lodge Fingal No 318. I feel extremely fortunate not only to have been part of such a great team of Office-bearers, but also thankful for the support, guidance and encouragement I have received from the Past Masters and members of Lodge St Duthus. Thank you, Brethren.

Alan J Waugh - RWM

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

First, belated congratulations to Ramsay on the excellent achievement of the 100th patter last edition. We are also pleased that six of our Brethren are heading down to Edinburgh for the re-installation ceremony on 28th November 2019.

We resumed our meetings after the summer recess on 4th October but due to a fair number of Brethren on holiday and at a Sponsor's golf day a short business meeting was held. Thanks to the visitors who attended.

Our next meeting is on Friday 1st November at 8.00pm and again we are holding a business meeting with Annual accounts and 100th celebrations on the Agenda. If time allows, we will also have a short lecture.

Our December meeting will be our Installation and will be on the 6th December and we are pleased that our RWM Gary Munro has agreed to take on another year in the chair a great honour for our 100th year.

We are hopeful to hold a Mark Degree in January and with a candidate in the offing onto main degree work in February.

Keith Patience, PM - Secretary

You can't get the best from employees today by lighting a fire beneath them; you need to find a way to light a fire within them.

Bob Nelson

(This might be good advice for all the new Masters in the Province!)

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Lodge St Martin 1217

Work is still on-going with the renovation of the Lodge in preparation for our centenary celebrations on 9th May 2020. Details will be coming out soon regarding the arrangements for the day.

The Lodge will be holding its Installation meeting on Tuesday 19th November when Brother Phil Ellis will be re-installed into the Chair. The Lodge will tyle at 19.30 hrs for normal business and visitors will be admitted at 20.00 hrs.

Tuesday 17th December will see the Lodge working a Mark Degree for Brother C Macrae, all brethren are cordially invited to attend both these meetings.

The Brethren of the Lodge served mulled wine and shortbread at the village fireworks on Friday 1st November (See photo of the stalwarts out on the night).



The Lodge will also be assisting with the village Christmas lights installation at the end of November and helping Santa tour the village on Wednesday 18th December where all the proceeds will be going back to children's good causes.

The RWM, Office-bearers and Brethren of St Martin would like to wish all a very Merry Christmas and a Good New Year.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

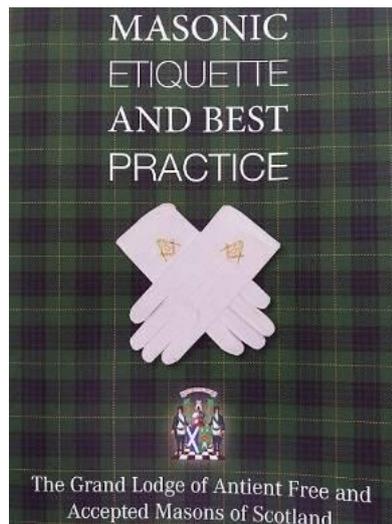
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BITS AND PIECES



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

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

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HEILAN SHED No 6



Recipients of cheques for a range of worthy causes



Worthy Deacon Bri. Neil Cooper presenting a cheque to the IPM Bri. Derek Rodway for a Charity to be the choice of Lodge Ness No 888 after a successful visit on Saturday 3rd August.

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Saturday 17th August saw the Inverness-shire Provincial Bowls Competition held in the Highland Bowling Club in Inverness - The winners were Lodge Drummosie B , runners up St Columba A , third place went to Lodge Ft William with the Wooden Spoon being won by the Squaremen - who were made up of Brithers from Robertson's Lodge Cromarty (2), Lodge St Marys (1) and Lodge St Clements, Harris (1) - the photographs shows the Worthy Deacon Bri Neil Cooper gleefully holding the Wooden Spoon which they hadn't won for a few years but had won more than any other team in the past

PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

Dates for Diary - 2020

Tain and Ross R A C No 63	February 11 th
Cromarty Firth R A C No 610	March 4 th
St Clement R A C No 244	April 24 th
Hebrides R A C No 364	May 13 th
Hebrides Lodge and Council 364	May 14 th
Cryptic council 364	May 14 th
A G M within Lodge Fingal Dingwall 24 th May 2020 1.30pm	

Yours Fraternally

Alasdair Taylor

Provincial Grand Scribe E

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Tain & Ross RAC 63

The next meeting of the Tain and Ross Chapter will be on Tuesday 12th November 2019 when the Companions will receive a presentation on Scottish Freemasonry

St Clement RAC 244

The next meeting of St Clement will be Friday 29th November

Cromarty Firth RAC 310

The next meeting of Cromarty Firth will be on Wednesday 6th November

The Hebrides RAC 364.

During the last month the office bearers of the Chapter, Ark Mariner Lodge and Lodge & Council were all re-installed in their respective offices ready for the next year.

We hope that we will be carrying out an EM degree at our next meeting on 12th November

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

Our Venerable Preceptor James Smith is back home recuperating after his cancer operation in Raigmore earlier this month, he is doing well and hopes to be fit enough to take our installation meeting on Saturday 23rd November when we're looking forward to a visit from DGP Peter Foster and his delegation. This visit was postponed from last week due to the VP's illness.

Donnie Macleod

†‡ Donald Macleod KCT

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And finally -

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Reigning Master's Dinner in the Province of Edinburgh. It was an excellent affair giving the Reigning Masters an opportunity to meet in a very relaxed atmosphere albeit with an air of formality given the dress code.



Maybe the PGM's of the northern Provinces might like to give some thought to a similar evening on a joint basis thereby giving the Reigning Masters of the northern Provinces the opportunity to meet and cement many of the friendships that already exist?