

# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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

ISSUE NO 114

FEBRUARY 2023

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## Editorial

Welcome to the 114<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Provincial Patter” and a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year to all our readers at home and overseas.

We ended the year on a high with the presentation of the cheque to Prostate Scotland – not for a Million – but for £1.125 million. And the Brethren of this Province can be justifiably proud of the tremendous contribution they made to the total – over £11,000 from a small Highland Province – brilliant achievement. Well done to PGM, Raymond MacKeddie who led from the front and to all Brethren, wives, partners, families, work colleagues and others who helped to raise such a magnificent total.

I am hopeful that the Province will have a good reason to celebrate in May. Lodge Fortrose No 108 in Stornoway will mark the fact that their building is now two hundred years old this year and I look forward to taking a healthy Deputation across the Minch to rededicate the Lodge building. Watch this space for further details.

Congratulations to Past Provincial Grand Master, Brother Morris M Downie on his appointment as Grand Superintendent of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Ross and Cromarty. Another date for the diary when the First Grand Principal, Rev Canon Dr Joseph J. Morrow will travel north to Tain to install MEC Downie into Office.

*Ramsay McGhee*, Editor

## Grand Lodge of Scotland



It has been a busy but good start to the year in Grand Lodge. Much work has been done to progress the changes to the Governance Structure and hopefully they will be agreed in Grand Lodge in June.

The Young Masons Network is now under way with a planning committee in place which is exciting news.

I will be starting an extensive programme of various ceremonials immediately after the Tripartite Meeting due to take place this year in Edinburgh. First on the list is India where I will be visiting a Royal Arch Chapter, and then Lodge Heather Installation before reinstalling Brother Kersi Limathwalla as DGM prior to moving on to Sri Lanka where I will Consecrate a new Superintendency and install the new Grand Superintendent, Bro Dharmin Perera. From Colombo it is the long trip to Kalgoorlie where I will be rededicating one of the Lodges and installing Bro Arthur Anderson as the new DGM in Goldfields. From Kalgoorlie to Cape Town to install Bro Frank Winter as DGM of Western Cape, Port Elizabeth to install Bro Craig Jessop as DGM of Eastern Cape, Johannesburg to install Bro Julian Apfel as DGM of Central South Africa then Zambia to install Bro Douglas Ironside as DGM before heading back to Greenock to install Bro John Black as PGM of Renfrewshire West. The following Saturday off to Troon to install Bro Jim Bell as PGM of Ayrshire.

*Ed*

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## Provincial Grand Lodge:

As this is the first edition of the Patter this year, can I on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty wish everybody a happy and healthy New Year.

The excitement of the Installation Season, and the Christmas and New Year Festivities is now feeling like a distant memory, and I look forward to getting back to normal lodge meetings and catching up with the new Masters, and their Office-bearers.

Last year turned out to be a very busy year in the Province, culminating with the visit from the Brethren and family members from the District of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada at the end of November.

A very successful 4th International Masonic Conference took place in Edinburgh at the end of November, held mainly within Grand Lodge, and attended by over three hundred delegates from all over the world.



The three-day event had a full programme of seminars and talks by eminent masonic speakers, and many open discussion sessions held on various masonic topics.

The discussion /

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The discussion forums opened up some lively debate and some interesting views on the future of Scottish Freemasonry in the modern world. This is an exciting time in Scottish Freemasonry as we move to a time when we need to take cognisance of changing attitudes, both within and outwith Freemasonry, a recognition of the role of technology to improve communications and social media and the involvement of the overseas Brethren, who now make up around 34% of the membership of Scottish Freemasonry.

On Thursday 24th November 2022, I attended the Installation of the Grand Master Mason and Grand Lodge Office-bearers, held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, due to the number of Brethren attending. An attendance of some 600 Brethren witnessed Bro. Ramsay McGhee being installed into the office of Grand Master Mason for the fifth year. Congratulations are extended to Ramsay for all his hard work during a difficult period in office, with the pandemic lockdown severely impacting the programme of planned events over his period of tenure. It was pleasing to see Bro. Bud Gauld being installed into the office of Depute Grand Master, as recognition of his hard work as Grand Director of Ceremonies for many years.

It was also announced at that meeting that the Grand Master Mason has conferred the Honorary Grand Rank of Grand Senior Deacon on Bro. Donald MacLeod, Past Substitute PGM. This award recognises Brother MacLeod's tireless work for his Lodge and Freemasonry in general, and in particular his assistance and support in the Young Masons Zoom Meetings that we have held within the Province since April 2020.

Following the very successful 4th International Masonic Conference held in Edinburgh, and Re-installation of Bro. Ramsay McGhee to the office of Grand Master Mason for the fifth term, a party of around sixty-five Brethren and family members made their way north to Ross & Cromarty to visit the Brethren of the Province. This was by far the largest ever overseas deputation to visit any of the Highland Provinces.

The weekend visit got underway on the Friday Evening with a Scottish Themed Dinner held in the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer. Around one hundred and thirty guests sat down to an excellent dinner, entertained throughout the evening by, Bro Jim Tait with his superb address to the haggis, Bro James Fraser and his enthralling rendition of Robert Burns' Tam O' Shanter, and beautiful Scottish music played by Bro. Alistair MacKenzie on the accordion, Bro. Sandy MacKenzie on the bagpipes and Marsaili Henderson on the fiddle.

As this visit was the twenty fifth anniversary of the first visit to Ross & Cromarty by Brethren from the District of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, I had the honour to mark this occasion by presenting Bro. Louis Baptiste, the District Grand Master of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada with a suitably inscribed and framed plaque.

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The following day the Brethren travelled to Lodge Averon No.866, where they witnessed an excellent Entered Apprentice Degree mainly delivered by the Brethren of Lodge Averon No.866. A very entertaining rendition of the First Degree Tracing Board was passionately expressed by Bro Damian Lyder, the Master of Lodge United Brothers No.251, in manner that left a lasting impression on all who witnessed such a polished performance.



It was very fitting that the visit was to Lodge Averon No.866, as it was this lodge that the deputation from Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada first visited twenty-five years ago, an event that is marked by plaque presented to the lodge in 1997 and hangs on the North wall of the lodge.

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To mark the anniversary of that visit, the Master of Lodge Averon No. 866, Bro. Iain Duxbury arranged “payment of wages to the subcontractors from the Caribbean” with a suitably inscribed masonic token.

I had the honour of presenting Bro. Warren Sookdar, Substitute DGM Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada with the Honorary Rank of Provincial Grand Assistant Secretary of the Province of Ross & Cromarty, in recognition of the hard work that Warren has put in over the last number of years in arranging visits to various masonic events, both within, and from Trinidad and Tobago.



The evening concluded with a harmony in the Averon Centre, where the guests were entertained by the young dancers from the local DNA Dance Group and the Ross and Cromarty Pipes and Drum School (RACPADS).

The weekend visit further promoted the established relationships, and it is hoped that it allowed many new acquaintances to be made, which will strengthen the future bond between the Province and the District.

We very much look forward to the next occasion when we can meet again and celebrate our unique and long-lasting friendship.

Shortly the annual visitations, by the Provincial Grand Lodge, to each of the daughter lodges in the Province shall commence.

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The dates for the Provincial Grand Lodge visits are as follows:

Lodge Averon No. 866	-	Thursday 9th February 2023
Lodge Ness No. 888	-	Tuesday 28th February 2023
Lodge St. Duthus No. 82	-	Monday 6th March 2023
Lodge Fingal No.318	-	Tuesday 14th March 2023
Lodge Seaforth No. 854	-	Monday 20th March 2023
Robertsons Lodge No. 134	-	Wednesday 15th March 2023
Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216	-	Friday 7th April 2023
Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551	-	Thursday 13th April 2023
Lodge St. Martin No. 1217	-	Tuesday 18th April 2023
Lodge Kyle No. 1117	-	Monday 1st May 2023
Lodge Fortrose No.108	-	Friday 19th May 2023
Lodge Allan Wilson No. 851	-	Tuesday 11th July 2023

The next Provincial Grand Lodge Communication shall be on Wednesday 8th February 2023 at Lodge Fingal, Dingwall at 7:30pm. A good attendance of Provincial Office-bearers and Daughter Lodge Masters and Wardens will be appreciated. The meeting is open to all Brethren in good standing.

I look forward to catching up with you all at the Annual Visitations to each of the Lodge's in the Province, if not before.

Stay safe Brethren.

Fraternal Regards

*Raymond MacKeddie* Provincial Grand Master

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2007**

‘Truth and service then are our objects – service to our Fellow Masons to aid strengthen and support one another; service to our institution, service to our country – service in its best interests by standing firmly for the principles which our illustrious forefathers laid down for us; service to our fellow man for we are enjoined to display charity to all mankind.

Though we as freemasons be the fewest among the chosen, we shall ever fulfil the deeper need of man for that journey in the right direction, by providing a sound sense of values to make the highway along the road to those essential qualities of life which ensure encouragement of the spirit and freedom of the mind.’ Surely that offers us something to think about.

*Excerpt from Jim Tait's Almoners report*

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## Young Masons Group

The young Masons continues to meet by Zoom on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

Grand Lodge have also conducted a couple of Zoom Meetings with young masons throughout Scotland, to brief them on the Ayrshire Young Masons initiative, and the work underway to establish a global network of Scottish Constitution Young Masons.

Grand Lodge also recently held a Zoom meeting for the Provincial and District Grand Masters, to update them on the proposed roll out of the Young Masons initiative, which is proposed to establish a Young Masons Group/Association in each Province or District, working under the guidance of a Grand Lodge working committee to regularise constitutions and governance of groups/associations, and also establishing networking links to other Provinces/Districts.

This will be a very interesting initiative, which will help the current groups to participate in a wider scope of Freemasonry and enable all young masons to meet in organised events which will help to build a positive future for our beloved craft.



We will keep you posted as the proposals are rolled out over the coming months.

New members continue to join our group as they are initiated into their respective lodges, and recently we have had new members join us from Lodge Ness No. 888 and Robertsons Lodge No. 134.

We still have members joining us from Germany, Glasgow and the Western Isles, which just would not be possible with normal face to face meetings.

Recent topics have included a discussions on the Structure and History of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and Masonic Cypher.

If any recently joined masons, or if you know any recently joined masons, wish to join the Zoom meeting and discuss any masonic topics with the group, please contact Raymond MacKeddie at [raymond@mackeddie.co.uk](mailto:raymond@mackeddie.co.uk)

*Raymond MacKeddie*, PGM

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## From the Provincial Almoner

The following have sadly passed away to the Grand Lodge above.

On Monday 21st November 2022, Brother William Macleod MM of Lodge Averon No. 866 passed away after spending some time in Kintyre Home, Invergordon.

On 30th November 2022 Brother Duncan MacLennan PM of Lodge Loch Ewe, No 1551 passed away. Brother Duncan was Lodge Secretary for many years and will be a great loss to his Lodge and the community. His wife Bella passed away very recently.

On Monday 2nd January 2023 Brother John Murdo Macdonald PM of Lodge Fortrose No. 108 passed away at home in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. He was recently Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Fortrose No. 108.

Very recently Brother Norman Macfarlane MM of Lodge Fortrose No. 108, Tong, Isle of Lewis, passed away in a Care Home. He was in care for many years.

On Thursday 22nd December 2022 Mary (Mamie) Wood beloved partner of Lewis MacKenzie PM of Lodge Seaforth No. 854 passed away after a short illness.

I also report on the following:

Brother Duncan Munro PM of Lodge Averon No 866 is at home but has not managed to attend any meetings yet.

Brother George Robinson PM of Lodge Averon No. 866 has now returned to full force and is involved in installations once again.

Brother Bill Niven PM of Lodge St Kilda No. 881 Portree is in Raigmore Hospital but is on the road to recovery.

Brother Ian MacLaren PM of Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216 is attending Raigmore Hospital for dialysis three days per week, normally starting at 07.30 am till 12.30 pm. He is in good form.

Brother Les Warne PM of Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216 has had a couple of days in Raigmore but is continuing to get better.

I will close by asking that should any Brother require my assistance or know of any Brother who does, please get in touch with me.

I would also ask Lodge Almoners to keep me updated regarding any Brother with health issues. Thank you.

**Fred T Fraser** PM      Prov. Grand Almoner      [fraserft@yahoo.com](mailto:fraserft@yahoo.com)      01463 870307

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## From the Provincial Grand Secretary

Brethren, I am well aware that the PGM has submitted a report on the visitation of the District Grand Master of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, Brother Louis J. Baptiste to the Province. but I think it only right that we give due recognition to the PGM, Brother Raymond MacKeddie for the amount of work he carried out in respect of the visit along with his team, and Brother Warren Sookdar, the Substitute District Grand Master and his team. The trip was indeed a successful one, eventful and very memorable. Judged so by all, with brotherly friendship between the members from both Ross and Cromarty and Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada, and some others from Jamaica. Friendship in many cases was carried on from their previous visit to Ross and Cromarty and the attendance by the PGM and Members of R&C PGL at the recent Installation of the District Grand Master Brother Louis J. Baptiste over in Trinidad.

*There was a very memorable token struck, there are photos shown here.*

*The design team was led by Brother Mike Longley of Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551*



After such a successful group of events we are looking forward to the next meeting with our Brothers from Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada.

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## FROM THE LODGES

### Lodge St Duthus No 82



Brethren welcome to another to another year from Lodge St Duthus No 82.

It seems like a long time ago but can I on behalf of Lodge St Duthus wish you all a Happy and Prosperous new year.

Our first meeting of the year was due to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January however it was felt that members would wish to be celebrating the festivities at this time of year with their families and it was agreed not to meet on this date.

During December Lodge St Duthus No 82 held two meetings. A regular meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December when a Mark Master Degree was conferred on Bro David MacGhee. We then held a special meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> December when a Master Mason Degree was conferred upon Bro Scott Mackenzie. This degree was carried out by the Past Masters of the Lodge with PM Mackenzie returning to the chair to confer the degree on his son. This meeting saw a large number of visitors attending the Lodge to see degree work carried out to an extremely high standard.

The first meeting of the new year is to be held on 6<sup>th</sup> February when PM Macrae will be giving a Lecture on the history of Lodge St Duthus. All brethren are invited to attend this meeting on what it is hoped will be an interesting night on the history of our Mother Lodge.

The program for the remainder of the session is to be discussed at General Committee meeting to be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Yours Faithfully & Fraternaly

*Bro Dave Macrae* PM

Secy.

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## Lodge Fortrose No 108

The last 3 months has been quite a busy one in Lodge Fortrose. Ramsay McGhee GMM attended our installation on 2<sup>nd</sup> December during which he presented several diplomas assisted by our PGM Raymond Mackeddie. It might be easier for me to let the pictures tell the story.



*100-year-old Donald John Morrison receiving his Diamond Certificate.*

*He's just bought himself a new van, some guy!*

*John Steven being presented with his Jubilee Certificate.*



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*A very proud me being handed my honorary grand rank certificate and collar jewel.*



*Attendees at the installation including the GMM with some Grand Lodge members, PGM Raymond Mackeddie with an excellent provincial deputation and David Crilley PGM of Inverness-shire. The installing master on the evening was Davie Thomas.*

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On the Saturday following most of us attended the installation at St Clements in Tarbert when Davie Thomas once again carried out the duties of installing master. The harmony following the installation was at the usual extremely generous level of our Harris brethren.



Our annual charity distribution this year totalled more than £3,000 which was shared over 10 groups and a few needy individuals. The photo shows RWM John Robertson handing over a £500 cheque to Tom Paton PM as the representative of Cycling Without Age Scotland.



*The Trinidad & Tobago and Grenada visitors to Ross and Cromarty last November.*

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We carried out a fellowcraft degree at our meeting in January when Kenny Murray was passed to that degree. It's our intention to carry out a MMM degree on 5 brethren on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

*Donnie Macleod*

Donald Macleod PM

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2005**

### **Lodge Fortrose 108**

December also saw the final Quiz & Curry Night of the year, the proceeds from which are put towards the annual visit to the islands of the children from Chernobyl. The Lodge has been associated with these visits for some 5 years now and it is not only a pleasure but also a privilege to be involved. In fact, on December 30 and 31 we saw a practical example of the worth of the project when the Lodge played host to a family from the area.

The start to the New Year has been horrendous with one of the worst storms in living memory. Fortunately, the Lodge itself escaped with only minor structural damage, but the impact of any material loss pales into insignificance when set against the terrible human tragedy of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster and our own terrible tragedy in South Uist. When faced with the terrible force of nature, our human efforts seem puny indeed. We have been informed that the "Aquaboxes" which we purchase from Rotary International and fill with supplies were delivered to Sri Lanka. We know this as a unique reference number can trace each box.

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## Robertson's Lodge No 134

The Main Business at the November meeting was our AGM, at which the new Master and Office-bearers were selected and proposed. Brother Derek M Rodway PM was selected as the Master Elect with a team of office bearers, including some new ones.

This was followed by working a First Degree at which Mr. Ryan McManus was initiated into the mysteries and interest of Freemasonry. An excellent Degree was conducted by our Degree Team led by Brother Jonathan Hill, RWM.

In December we had our Installation Meeting when Brother Derek M Rodway, PM, was installed as Master with an excellent Installation Ceremony led by Brother Brian J. Poloczek, PM, as Installing Master and his experienced Team which included the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Raymond A. MacKeddie and members of Provincial Grand Lodge. Past Master Jim Tait carried out the Installation of the Office Bearers in his own inimitable way. The Lodge are very grateful to all who attended for the support for our Installation Meeting.

The January Meeting was to be a Fellowcraft Degree for Brother Ryan McManus, but unfortunately the meeting was cancelled due to the inclement weather at that time, and the candidate calling off due to illness. This means that the Fellowcraft degree was postponed, but is rescheduled for the Regular Meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> February.

Members of the Lodge continue to visit other Lodges and take part in Provincial Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge responsibilities.

Currently, we have received some membership enquires which are being acted upon and it is hoped that these will be followed through.

Thank you and Best Wishes.

*Peter K. Ratcliffe.*

Lodge Secretary.

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## Lodge Fingal No 318

On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November we held our AGM and nomination of Office Bearers.

On Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December we had hoped to work a Master Mason Degree for Brother David John Noble but due to unforeseen circumstances the Degree was cancelled. As the Installation meeting was taking place in Lodge Ness that night, we decided to simply Open and Close the Lodge and thereafter make our way to Lodge Ness No. 888 for the Re-Installation of Brother Tug Wilson. The Installing Master was Brother George Robinson PM 866, and his team. The ceremony was carried out to a high standard.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December marked our Installation meeting when I was re-Installed once again for the fifth time. The Installation was carried out by Brother Ramsay McGhee GMM, while Brother Stewart Bain PM, installed the Office Bearers, assisted by other members of Lodge Fingal. The degree was witnessed by 17 members and 43 visitors, collection amounted to £290, it was proposed that this figure be made up to £350, which goes to the Benevolent Fund of Grand Lodge. Before closing, I asked Brother Martin MacLean RWM of Lodge Priory No 1235, to say a few words on behalf of the Brethren out-with the Province, and Brother Charlie Carrison RWM of Lodge Averon No 866, to say a few words on behalf of the Brethren with-in the Province. They both thanked the Fingal Brethren for the warmth of the welcome all visitors had received and went on to remark how well the Installation ceremony was carried out, and with such dignity. Both mentioned Bro Morris Downie PPGM's, Presentation of the VSL and the GMM's delivery, of the Master's Apron, some had never heard either lecture previously. They both congratulated Brother Gunn on being installed into the Chair of King Solomon for the fifth time. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Brethren retired to the Logie Lounge for a short Harmony.

The Regular meeting on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January was to be a MM Degree, for Brother Martin James Robertson, but unfortunately, he contacted flu symptoms and was unable to be present. Our Provincial Grand Master, Brother Raymond MacKeddie, stepped into the breach and gave us an excellent Lecture on Masonic Cypher after which he participated in a Q & A session. The entire lecture was both interesting and thought provoking and he was warmly thanked by the Brethren in attendance. For those who have not heard the lecture, it is well worth going to – watch the social media for the next presentation.

**Future events in the Lodge are: -**

**February meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> M.M. Degree for Brother Martin James Robertson.

**March meeting:** 14<sup>th</sup> M.M. Degree for Brother David John Noble. Also, our annual Provincial Visit.

**April meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> Hopefully to be a MMM Degree.

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At this juncture I would like to mention to Fingal Brethren, that Test Fees are now due for £55. It is essential that we get Test Fees paid promptly so that we can meet the fees due to Provincial and Grand lodge. By paying Grand Lodge, we receive a certificate, enabling us to make Freemasons and Collect Fees. Our Treasurer Brother Henry Cameron PM will accept payments by cheque or by Bacs, here are the details,

Henry Cameron, 7 Kinettas Square, Strathpeffer, Ross-shire, IV14 9BD.  
Or direct to Bank of Scotland, sort code 80-06-35 a/c 00301643.

Would also like to mention that the current 50 / 50 Club comes to an end this February. Thankfully, Brother Henry Cameron PM, has agreed to carry on for another Year. The cost will still be the same, £60. The Club has been running since 2004, this helps tremendously with the running of the Lodge, otherwise we would be in dire consequence. A lot of thanks go to Brother Henry Cameron PM, for his commitment to this venture. Bank details remain the same, as was previously mentioned.

## **Forthcoming Events, Logie Lounge:**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February** Valentines Dance, 7.00 for 7.30pm, costing £10 per person, with a Buffet, Dancing to Edwin`s Music. Tickets available from myself, 07903 618323 or email [donald@fingal318.co.uk](mailto:donald@fingal318.co.uk). Or any Fingal Brother.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March** Ladies Night, 7.00 for 7.30pm, Dinner / Dance costing £20 per person, Dancing to Edwin`s Music. Tickets available from myself, 07903 618323 or email [donald@fingal318.co.uk](mailto:donald@fingal318.co.uk). Or any Fingal Brother.

As we go through these strange times. Take care and stay safe.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn RWM*

*Secretary.*

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2006**

The big news from Lodge Fingal is intimation of an exciting initiative that has the potential to raise not only a substantial amount of money for Highland Hospice but also to raise the profile of Freemasonry throughout the Highlands. The brainwave of the current RWM, Bro David MacMaster, it is intended to invite the 50 plus Lodges in all the neighbouring Provinces (all of whom are in the Hospice service area) to join together on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July to complete a mile of pounds through the centre of Inverness finishing at the gates of the Hospice.

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## *LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851*

The first meeting of Lodge Allan Wilson will take place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June when Brother David MacMaster will be installed into the Chair of the Lodge.

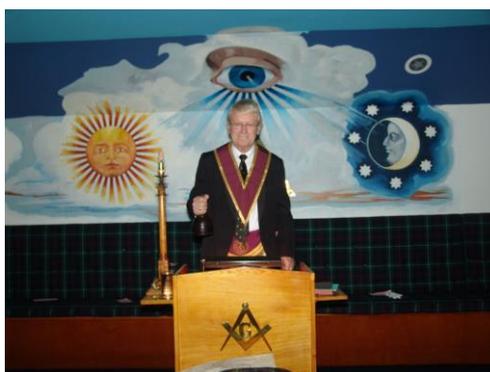
In the meantime, the Lodge is looking to launch a new Facebook page to enable better communication to be made between members of the Lodge, but equally importantly, those Brethren who are not members but who would enjoy attending the day-time meetings.

Work is ongoing behind the scenes to secure two interesting speakers for the July and August meetings. The full programme will be intimated in the May edition of the Patter.

*David MacMaster* - Secretary

### **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2008**

The first Regular Meeting of Lodge Allan Wilson was given over to the IPPGM, Bro Ian Fraser who gave an excellent presentation on the history of both Major Allan Wilson and the Lodge named after him. Almost forty Brethren thoroughly enjoyed the lecture to such an extent that it has been agreed that the lecture will be converted into book form and sold in aid of Lodge funds.



*Bro Malcolm S R Smith, RWM of Lodge Allan Wilson*

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## LODGE SEAFORTH 854

The Lodge was disappointed to hear that the Master, Bro. Tom Richards, who was just completing his first year in office, felt unable due to health reasons to continue for a further season as Master of the lodge.

Bro. David Roska PM, who served as Master of the lodge from 1998-2000, picked up reins and was installed to the office of Master at the Installation Meeting on 10th December. Most of the remaining Office-bearers remained in office for the succeeding term.



*The Master Bro David Roska and Immediate Past Master Bro Tom Richards presenting a cheque to Allana Stables from MFR Cash For Kids.*

Our December meeting was our traditional Carol and Readings Service, but unfortunately due to inclement weather the attendance was low. The Brethren and Ladies present appreciated a shortened service and retired to the clubrooms to enjoy a festive gathering with mince pies and refreshments.

On the run up to Christmas, the lodge Brethren donated to the MFR Cash For Kids appeal, to help some local children get a welcome gift at this special time of year.

In our January meeting Bro Alan MacKay was advanced to the Degree of Mark Mason by a degree team augmented by several lodge Past Masters.

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At this meeting Bro. Keith Patience, PM1216, presented several old masonic documents he received from a gentleman in Jersey, who had connections to Lodge Rosehaugh No.1216 and to Lodge Seaforth No.854.

From research into the Avoch Census's from yesteryear, Bro Keith put together a very interesting and informative presentation (see the report from Lodge Rosehaugh).

The oldest certificate belonged to Bro. Charles Reid, who was born in Avoch in 1838, moved to the Argyll area for a while, working as a ships carpenter, and while working in Greenock joined Lodge Doric Kilwinning No.68, Port Glasgow, in 1869. Later records show Charles returned to Avoch and was living there when his father, James Reid, died in 1871.

Charles Reid was recorded as one of the seven Brethren who met in 1897 to resolve to make application to the Grand Lodge of Scotland for a charter to start a new lodge in Fortrose to be known as The Seaforth Lodge. He was one of the ten founding members when the Lodge Seaforth was granted a charter in May 1897.

There is also a certificate confirming him being made a life member of the lodge, dated 30th April 1903, and Mark Mason Degree certificate dated 27th May 1911.



A Lodge Seaforth Apron was also presented, and its form suggests it was one of the original Lodge Seaforth aprons, designed by Bro Alex MacKenzie PM, the first Master of Lodge Seaforth, who designed a unique apron in Scottish Freemasonry, as the flap is cut in the shape of an equilateral triangle and the Stag's Head or Caberfeidh appears on the flap of the apron. There is little doubt that this apron was one of the original Lodge Seaforth aprons and would have belonged to Bro Charles Reid.

Bro. Keith also presented a certificate for a Bro Daniel Alexander McIntosh, who joined Lodge Seaforth No.854 on 10th April 1900.

Interestingly, research into Daniel's records proved him to be a nephew of Charles Reid above, Daniel being a son of Charles Reid's sister, Catherine, with the census of 1881 confirming they all shared a home at 28 Dock Street, Avoch. This address was also the home of well-known members Andy Hickey and Roddie Cade.

Daniel McIntosh is also listed as one of the nine founder members of Lodge Rosehaugh No.1216 in April 1920.

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There were further certificates and memorabilia relating to Forms of Ceremonial at the Erection of Lodge Seaforth No.854 in August 1897 and a similar Form of Ceremonial for the Erection of Lodge Rosehaugh No.1216 in February 1921.

The lodge is indebted to Bro. Keith for his hard work in researching these documents, his presentation to the lodge, and preserving the documents in a framed condition for the future benefit of those interested in the history of the lodge.

## **Future Meetings**

Our next regular Meeting shall be on Monday 20th February at 7:30pm when the business on the evening shall be a Mark Mason Degree.

The Regular Meeting on 20th March 2023 will be the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Visitation, and we will be working an Entered Apprentice Degree.

*Raymond MacKeddie* PM - Secretary

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEB 2010**

I have just returned from Lodge Mother St Duthus where I joined a large deputation from Lodge Allan Wilson who, for the first time, were working a Fellow Craft Degree out with their adopted venue. There were over eighty Brethren present and the comments afterwards were all very complimentary. I trust this will be an annual event for Allan Wilson held in a different Lodge each time. As a point of interest there were Brethren from as far apart as Wick and Thurso in the north and Edinburgh in the south. This can only prove positive for the future.

*Extract from the "Sinclair Bruce Column"*

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## LODGE AVERON No 866

Hello Brethren,

I hope we find you all fit and well. The past few months have been busy in respect of our of Masonic duties, in and out of the Lodge. Our community Facebook page is doing extremely well. We are using this page to inform the public of social events we hold at the lodge along with charitable events we do.

Our entered apprentice Jamie Little was passed to Fellow Craft on 27<sup>th</sup> of October which was a well-attended meeting.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> on November Robert Auld was initiated into the craft at Lodge Averon and at the time of writing this his son will be joining Lodge Averon also on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January.

Our visitation from Trinidad and Tobago witnessed a first degree of brother Kenneth Horsfield who is the stepson of brother Dennis Pike and brother in-law of (myself) brother Gary Miller. An incredibly special initiation into the craft for him with such a large number of brethren in the lodge to witness it.

Finally, our Fellow craft Serhat Yavuz was raised to master mason on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

All our meetings have been well attended by visiting brethren for this we can't thank you all enough. As we all know visiting lodges can be the lifeline for lodges and it is always good to see the differences in how they do the degrees.

Our Trinidad and Tobago visit went very well, and it was great to see the lodge packed to the rafters with so many people. After the meeting we made our way down to the Averon Centre to meet our partners for a meal and some entertainment. Our RWM wife Iris and her friend Anne Franklin along with everyone else involved had the hall looking great. A massive thank you must go to Anne Franklin for all her hard work getting the place ready, keeping the food hot till we arrived and organising people to serve the food up to us. We had entertainment from Ross and Cromarty Pipes and Drums (RACPADS) who are based in Alness along with DNA Dance who are a modern dance group who run dance classes for all ages and of course we cannot forget our in-house magician Brother Brian Jay.

Hope you enjoy the following photographs from all our activities.

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## The Averoan Photo Album



*The Brethren who attended the Special Meeting in Lodge Averoan*



*Getting the meal ready*

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The draw for our Christmas hampers was done and the lucky winners announced. Our very own Brother Alister Ross won the Masters' hamper.



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Cath McCloy won the chocolate hamper and at the time of delivery her grandchildren were there and were very happy to receive it on her behalf.

The main hamper, which was a drinks hamper, was won by Brother Alex Craib.



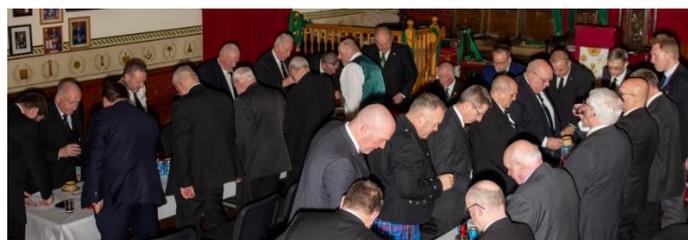
# PROVINCIAL PATTEN

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Our annual Installation of office bearers was held on the Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December where RWM Charlie Carrison took up the chair of King Solomon once again. Which again was well attended. A fantastic meal was prepared and served by the backbone of the lodge for these events the lodge women. This time it was Linda McBeath, Kimberley Miller and Janice pike who done the meal for us which was outstanding. The usual toasts pursued with or WJW James McDougall doing the toast to our visitors which was replied to by Denny Morrison of Lodge John O' Groat 1333. WSW Frazer McBeath did the toast to Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge where a reply was given by RWPGM Raymond MacKeddie.



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Finally, we did our annual Sant run around Alness and again it was great to see so many happy smiling faces around our town. This year, Santa, and his elves, were joined by Micky and Minnie Mouse.



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All our photos were taken By George Reid Photography.

Yours Fraternally  
*Gary Miller* JD

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## LODGE NESS No 888

### LODGE KYLE No 1117

Lodge Kyle continues into the new year with a new Master and a new candidate. Our new Master is Bro Steve Whittaker who has a range of new ideas for the Lodge. They include engaging more with the local community which will include open days when the weather improves, more interaction in Social Media, published links to our website, signage on the Lodge building, possibly including a QR code for ease of connecting to our on-line "Joining Literature" and contacts. Steve will also lead the building works on the roof in May and is working on a programme of works in the stormy winter days. The Brethren will undertake Builder's Mates positions or fundraising. We have already been promised funds from a variety of sources.

Our new candidate is scheduled to go through his "First" at the February Meeting and both he and the Brethren are keen to take up active roles within the Lodge. With an ageing membership garnering new Candidates is a priority which is of course part of the RWM's Local Marketing strategy.

Marketing in local newspapers is always problematic, but we must also realise that they are vehicles for paid advertising, and so any Masonic stories they carry should be genuinely newsworthy. The articles should be clearly written if not well written with some form of "hook" to interest a wide variety of readers. Editors and Reporters can tell if a story is of interest to their readership and will help Brethren craft the story into a palatable form if it really is interesting. For example we could say "we had a raffle at our installation and donated the money to the local hall" OR "Each year a new Master is chosen to lead the Kyle Masonic Lodge, and this year the new Master (Steve Whittaker) and our youngest member decided that the money raised at his Installation Ceremony would be donated to the Kyle Children's Christmas Party fund so that each child can receive a quality present from Santa. The event will be held next Saturday (Christmas Eve) in the Village Hall at 2pm. We have included a photo of Brother Michael with two of the "elfin" organisers receiving their cheque. We wish them every success."

This copy will give the reporter something on which they can craft into a news item, and the image will encourage people to buy the paper to see themselves and friends in print. The story if published will open the door to future stories seen in a positive light and offer a realistic chance of being published. The photo and story should also be re-purposed on Social Media, especially "open" groups that not only Freemasons can view but also the public at large. In our case we targeted Scottish Freemasons Showcase Facebook Group and other Social Media local groups, which local folk can view and see Freemasons openly at work.

We at Lodge Kyle 1117, wish everyone a Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous New Year in 2023!

*Ronnie Miller*, PM - Secretary

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*Lodge Kyle Installation*



*The "elfin" organisers receiving their cheque*

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## **LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216**

At our November meeting we were at last able to pass Bro Dixon Kerr with his fellow craft degree.

Our December meeting was our Installation with Bro Donald McLennan being re-installed as RWM. The plans were for Bro Allan Carmichael (family bereavement) and Bro William Macleman (illness) to take the installation, however we were able at short notice to get Bro Ronnie Cooper and Bro Jim Tait to takeover and they did a splendid job indeed.

January was once again a business meeting and Bro Keith Patience did a presentation on the Masonic papers and apron received by Lodge Rosehaugh.

Our February meeting will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> with a 7.45pm start. We will be working a MM Degree for Dixon. On March we will have a EA Degree hopefully with a live candidate, as the gentleman works off-shore. Here's hoping.

We would also like to pass on our thanks to Bro Graeme Brindle for his work in creating a new pedestal at the RWM chair. I am afraid wood worm took its toll on the old one. Also, to Calum Bassindale and Jordan Hossack who got our electric up to date including the PAT testing.



The latest on Tommy Macallister is that he is nearing the end of his first batch of therapy and thereafter will have a six- week break. He is in relatively good spirits despite the intensity of the treatment. Les Warne also ended up in hospital for a couple of weeks with nasty bout of flu. Now home but having problems with his leg now so back to the Doc again. Hard going for both at present.

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It was back In August when the lodge were passed possession on some old masonic memorabilia. This came from Angus Mackinnon in Jersey. Angus is a Past Master of Royal Sussex Lodge No 491. These artifacts had been passed to him by his neighbour Paul McIntosh, who incidentally is not a lodge member.

I passed these on to Jane Patience (PM Scott's Mother). Jane did some amazing detective work and delving into Avoch Census's from yesteryear.

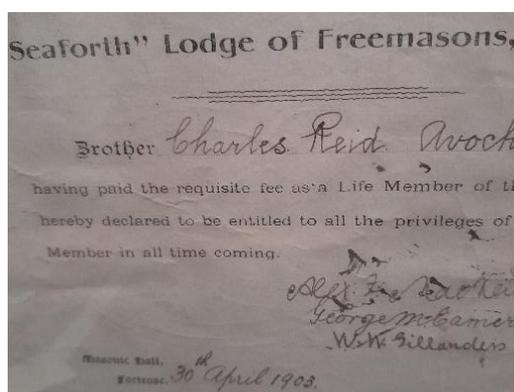
It was clear that some of the certificates had been framed previously so we thought best to get them framed again in case of possible damage.

The oldest certificate we have is Bro Charles Reid, who was born in Avoch 6/5/1838. The 1861 census does not list Charles in Avoch, but he is in the Ballachulish & Corran of Ardgour, Argyll Census and is listed as a ship carpenter. This certificate shows him joining Lodge Doric Kilwinning No 68, Port Glasgow and is dated 15<sup>th</sup> July 1869. Charles's father James died in 1871 and Charles is also shown in the Avoch census in 1871. This may well be the reason for his return to the village. Charles Reid died in Avoch 7/9/1912 aged 74 at 34 Dock.

Lodge Seaforth records show us that Charles Reid was one of the founding members of Lodge Seaforth and the 125 Year History of the Lodge lists him as one of the seven who attended the meeting that decided that they should form a lodge and seek a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Charles Reid from Avoch. Charles was a boat builder and ship's carpenter. He was initiated into Lodge Doric Kilwinning No.68, Port Glasgow at the age of thirty-one years, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 1869. On that same evening he was passed and raised to the Master Mason degree. At the time of joining, he was a resident in Greenock where he worked in the shipyards of the lower Clyde. When Lodge Seaforth was consecrated, Brother Reid worked locally as a sanitary inspector?

We have a certificate showing him being a life member this dated 30<sup>th</sup> April 1903. There is also a Mark degree certificate dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 1911.



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The next certificate is Daniel Alexander McIntosh joining Lodge Seaforth No 854 on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1900. The feeling was there would be a link here and Jane was able to find this here with Charles's sister Catherine Reid marrying Benjamin McIntosh in 16/10/1868. The census of 1881 shows Charles Reid his sister Catherine and Daniel (aged 4) staying at 28 Dock Street (where Andy Hickey and formerly Roddie Cade stayed). Daniel is also listed as a founder member (number 9 per the record's) of Lodge Rosehaugh on a certificate dated 23 April 2020. Signed by David Reid, Grand Secretary. Daniel died on 18 March 1930 and is buried in Avoch Old Cemetery, the Eastern Section.

On 27/12 /22 Daniel married Bella Helen Patience and they had two sons Charles Reid McIntosh (born 10/09/13) and William Patience McIntosh (born 08/09/17). Charles in our records as joining the Lodge on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1936, (No 111 on our members roll). The certificate also has him being made a Master Mason on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1945. His address is listed in our records as Bulford Wiltshire. It could have been he stayed in Wiltshire and travelled to Avoch to join, and this may also explain how there was a delay of almost 10 years between joining and receiving his 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. Only his joining date is shown on our records oddly enough. Charles's mother died on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1962 aged 77 and Charles is listed on death certificate as residing in Dudley Worcestershire.

Our records have William, residing at 34 Dock Street, joining on 5/2/45, F/C Degree on 6/6/45 and MM Degree on 11/7/45. This date agrees with certificate.



Also received were Form of ceremonial for the erection of Lodge Seaforth on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> August 1897. This was in two halves but joined together before framing.

Pertinent to Lodge Rosehaugh are the Form of Ceremonial at the Erection of Lodge Rosehaugh and installation of Office-Bearers on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 1921 by the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master Depute Brother Alexander Naughty, J.P. Also received were the Constitution and Laws and a letter and test fees receipt (with arrears due overall £1). The letter signed by George M Jack, Hon Secretary and the receipt by Kenneth J Maclean, Hon Treasurer.

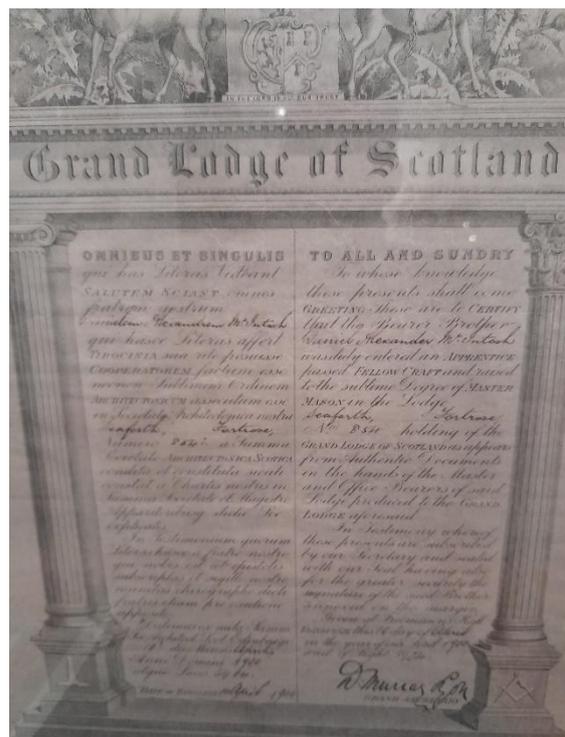
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The other items sent to us were a Lodge Seaforth Apron which is likely to have belonged to Daniel McIntosh. A notice of a regular meeting of Old Halesowen No. 7104 dated 1961. A notice of informal meeting this on M/S Black Watch which looks as if it was a cruise ship. There is a newspaper cutting from the Sunday Pictorial Jun2 1952. What is the truth about the FREEMASONS!! The final item appears to be a masonic funeral service for Edward Harold Richards at the Tabernacle Methodist Church old Hill.



Keith Patience, PM

And from Past Master Scott Patience .....

Some early Christmas cheer - just before Christmas a delivery of goody bags to Avoch Senior citizens. Organised and delivered by members of Lodge Rosehaugh, there were 60 goody bags delivered containing a variety of items.

We have increased the number of goody bags from 32 to 60 this year as we try and provide for most senior citizens in the village.

Every 3 years the Lodge asks for donations towards this event and the response from local business's has been phenomenal.

Over £2600 was raised in cash, as well as drink vouchers from the No19 café and food (Burgers and potatoes) from Rosehaugh estate.

This will fund Christmas 'goody bags' through 2022 to 2024.

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A special thanks to all that contributed below:

Boy John & Rose Bloom  
Avoch Harbour Chip Shop  
Barber Shop  
Dolphin Trips  
Heavenly Bliss  
Annette and Alastair Patience  
Scotmid

Avoch Sea Scouts  
Black Isle Osteopaths  
Jack and Patience Builders  
Norman Bremner  
Hair by Emma Paterson  
HEBE Highland First Aid  
No. 19 Café  
D McLennan, Fencing Contractor

Avoch Fisherman's Co-op  
Black Isle Osteopaths  
Harbour Trust  
Burnside Garage  
Avoch Amenities  
Lodge Rosehaugh  
Rosehaugh Estate



*Past Master Alan Carmichael delivering the Christmas parcels round the village of Avoch.*



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## Lodge St Martin 1217

The lodge had a successful Santa Float again this year with over £700 being raised for children's causes in and around the village. The lodge has just donated from the Santa Float £1500 to the Lochbroom Community Council Quay Street Play Park project - See photo on the next page.

The lodge will be doing a second degree on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, tiling at 20.00 hrs and there is a third degree planned for Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March again tiling at 20.00.

We also hope to have a first degree to be worked for the Provincial visit on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

It is heartening to see the lodge getting back to a healthy condition after all the problems over the last few years of turmoil.

All the best and keep safe.

*Charles MacAulay, PM*  
Secretary

## BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2010



The RWM Bro Murdo Mackenzie, (front centre) travelled from the west coast to Lodge Ben Ledi No. 614, Callander, with a large deputation of Lodge members to be at attendance at the installation of Bro Peter Nieto. Peter was a Master of Lodge St Martin in the past. The deputation included the reigning master of St Duthus No. 82 Bro Allan Waugh (bottom left) with the reigning master of Lodge St Andrew No 1794, Grenada, Bro Daniel Nicolas, (bottom right) who was adopted for the visit by the Brethren from the northwest. The Installation was well attended and conducted in a most proficient manner by the Installing Master Bro W Ramsay McGhee, Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Ross and Cromarty and his team of able assistants.

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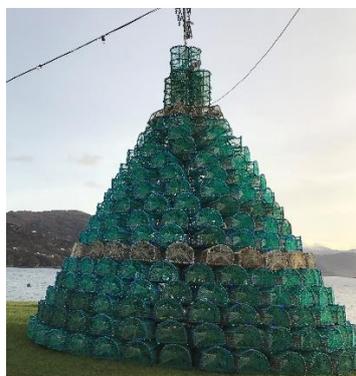
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*Lodge St Martin 1217 –  
Master, Phil Ellis (right) handing over cheque to the  
Lochbroom Community Council.*

17 January 2023 the Master, Brother Phil Ellis, presented a cheque for £1500 to the Lochbroom Community Council Chairman, Topher Dawson, with other members of the Council looking on. The presentation took place at the Quay Street Playpark. The play park refurbishment is being supported by SSE and Ullapool Harbour Trust among others, with an estimated cost at just below £40K.



*Ullapool's  
famous Creel  
Christmas Tree*

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## Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

Whilst I am happy to report that last November saw the Installation into the Chair of King Solomon of Brother Richard MacDonald, it is with great sadness that we recall the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Brother Duncan MacLennan. Such are the ups and downs of life that, whilst heralding a new chapter in the life of our Lodge with a new RWM and affiliated Brethren from Lodge St Martin, we remain saddened at the loss of a Brother who guided us through so much of our Masonic journey.

On a lighter note, I, together with Past Master Ally Gault, are continuing to visit Lodges throughout the Province, weather permitting, and enjoying being able to meet once again after the rigours of the pandemic.

*Michael Longley*, PM – Lodge Loch Ewe

### **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2014**

As we look forward to 2014 it is gratifying to record that, during the December Reinstallation ceremony, most of the Lodge positions were filled. It was also very fitting that one of the Lodge stalwarts, PM Duncan MacLennan, Secretary was recognised by the Brethren of the Lodge for his unstinting 50 years' service to the Lodge and presented with a special jewel to mark the occasion by one of his many friends over such a distinctive time, namely Bro Bob MacLean, PM of Lodge Seaforth No 854. The jewel was indeed a fitting accolade for its recipient. Seeing two venerable brethren on the floor separated by some 90 miles in distance demonstrated to us all what brotherhood and companionship is all about in this day and age.



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## BITS AND PIECES



### Ye Corporation O' Squaremen

#### Hielan Shed

AS the Squaremen have been closed since our last Meeting in September some of the Brithers attended Grand Shed Meetings in Dundee in November and Edinburgh in December – Bri Boxie has been busy getting things organised for this year and several Lodges have kindly agreed for us to hold Meeting (list below) – should any Mark Master Masons fancy joining the Corporation they would be most welcome on the day at any of the Venues -

#### VISITS FOR 2023

**4th MARCH** - *INSTALLATION* - GORDON TERRACE - INVERNESS

**1st APRIL** - Lodge Fingal - DINGWALL - bus leaves Inverness 13:30

**13th MAY** - Lodge St Aethans - BRUGHEAD - bus leaves Inverness 12:30

**3rd JUNE** - GRAND SHED VISIT - GORDON TERRACE - INVERNESS 3:00 p.m. sharp

**1st JULY** - Lodge Latheron - LATHERON - bus leaves Inverness 11:30

**5th AUGUST** - Lodge Avero - ALNESS - bus leaves Inverness 13:30

**2nd SEPTEMBER** - Lodge Sy Clements - TARBET HARRIS - PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO Ullapool  
Overnight stay in Stormoway

Note anyone wishing to join us on the trip to the Western Isle should arrange their own accommodation.

*John & Mackay  
Boxie*

### BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 1996

The Tain Brethren got off to a very wet and depressing new year when the pipes in the Lodge burst causing a fair amount of damage. However, they seem to be over the worst of it and will be in full flight in February when they will work a Fellowcraft Degree

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## PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

### GRAND SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE.



The Past Provincial Grand Master of the Province, Bro Morris M Downie, was appointed the Grand Superintendent of the Province of Ross and Cromarty Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter on 1st January 2023 by Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland's First Grand Principal MEC Dr Joseph J. Morrow CBE QC LLD FRSE.

MEC Morrow, accompanied by a team of Office Bearers from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland will be travelling to Tain (Lodge St Duthus No. 82) on Saturday 8th April 2023 to carry out the Installation Ceremony. The appointed Commissioned Office Bearers, namely: Depute Grand Supt - EC Donald Gunn; 2nd Principal - EC James A Tait; 3rd Principal - EC Derek Rodway; N - EC Stewart Macleod and Scribe E- EC David Macrae will also be installed.

The Installation meeting is scheduled for 1pm (seated in the Chapter by 12.30) and the dinner within the Royal Hotel, Tain no later than 3pm thereafter. Companions are requested to notify their respective Chapter Scribe E and book the dinner. The meal costs £20 and should be paid when registering with your Scribe E. Attending Royal Arch Masons should book no later than Saturday 18th March together with their dinner fee. Do it NOW.

A special Ross and Cromarty Provincial Grand Royal Arch Meeting was held on Saturday 21st January to update all on the years upcoming Royal Arch events plus visitations planned by the new Grand Superintendent. Chapter Scribes are requested to communicate with their membership and advise them of the visits outlined by the Provincial Scribe E.

The Annual General Meeting of the Provincial Royal Arch Chapter will be held, as usual in Lodge Fingal 318 at a time to accommodate the members from the Hebrides Royal Arch Chapter in Stornoway on Saturday 27th May 2023. The new Provincial Scribe E will be communicating with all Chapters advising them of the Provincial Visitations and AGM in due course. In addition to his entry in this Provincial Patter.

An invitation has been received from Grand Supreme for attendance at the Vernal Equinox at Freemasons Hall, Edinburgh on Friday 17th March 2023. Again, should anyone wish to attend just get in touch with Provincial Scribe E - MEC David Macrae.

Please take care and stay safe.

*Morris M Downie*

Grand Superintendent

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## Provincial Visitation to Chapters dates:

Tain & Ross Royal Arch Chapter Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February.  
Cromarty Firth Royal Arch Chapter Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.  
St Clements Royal Arch Chapter Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April.  
The Hebrides Royal Arch Chapter 17<sup>th</sup> May.

*MEC Dave Macrae*  
Provincial Scribe E

## Tain & Ross RAC 63

The Tain Companions will be working a Royal Arch degree at their regular meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February. A request has been submitted to the Provincial Grand Chapter to allow Tain and Ross to change their meeting night to the fourth Monday. This will alleviate clashes with Lodge Fingal and Lodge Ness.

## St Clement RAC 244

The February meeting will take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

## Cromarty Firth RAC 310

### ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.

Things have been very quiet in the RA for quite some time but with a Mark degree due to be carried out by Lodge Fortrose it is hoped that we might arouse the interest of a few new candidates going forward.

We carried out an Ark Mariner degree earlier this month when Morris Downie and Alex Scott joined our number. On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February there will be a meeting of the Cryptic Council when it is hoped the same two will be going through.

*Donnie Macleod*  
Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

## PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

As we have no candidates waiting, we have just been carrying out exemplification workings of the grades, however the meetings are well attended.

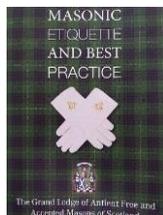
*Donnie Macleod*  
†‡ Donald Macleod KCT

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This 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 an 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.

## *Grand Lodge of Scotland – On-line shopping*



Here is a small selection of items available from the Grand Lodge Shop



# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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