

# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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

ISSUE NO 121

NOVEMBER 2024

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Province of Ross and Cromarty*



*Lodges of the Province – Lodge Lochewe No 1551 - Aultbea*

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## Editorial

Welcome to the 121<sup>st</sup> Edition of the Patter.

I hope as you read through this 121<sup>st</sup> edition of the Patter that you will get the sense that contrary to the doom and gloom merchants, there is indeed a feeling of vibrancy throughout this Province.

Under the inspirational leadership of our PGM, Brother Raymond MacKeddie, all Lodges are responding in a very positive way.

Not only are the Lodges working well on all fronts but the Young Masons, the Prostate Champions, and the architects of our social life throughout the Province are all working hard and achieving great results.

Apart from Regular and Special Meetings, we have had barbeques, Divine Services, Ladies Nights, Inter Lodge visits, charity presentations, to name but a few and, by all accounts, there is much more in the pipeline which augurs well for the future.

However, can I, once again in this column, remind all Masters and Wardens of your responsibilities within the Province. Our Provincial Grand Master works tirelessly for the good of the Province – it is only but right that the Lodges in the Province support him. One effective way is for all twelve Masters and their Wardens to attend the Quarterly Communications. If they do, we will have thirty-six in attendance before we start adding on the Provincial Office-bearers. If the Masters and Wardens attend, then there is a fair chance that they will be supported by other Brethren in the Lodge – if we have a full house at Quarterly Meetings and other Provincial events, how productive would that be. The side-effect of such full attendances is that all the Masters and Wardens get together, exchange ideas, enjoy social intercourse and really get to know each other. A New Year resolution – fulfil your duties and attend the Provincial Quarterlies.

*Ramsay McGhee*, Editor

## Grand Lodge of Scotland



The October Communication of Grand Lodge was well attended, the highlight of which was the first annual report of the Governance and Strategy Board which has been circulated to all Secretaries.

Between now and the February issue, I have a full diary.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November I will be heading a Deputation to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lodge Bannockburn Bruce and Thistle No 312, The following Saturday – Lodge Marnoch 1325 in Aberchirder. On 17<sup>th</sup> speaking to the Insight Group in Renfrewshire East and on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> – the Consecration of a brand-new lodge in Peterhead – Lodge St Columban No 1858. At the end of the month, we have the Grand Lodge Installation followed by the Festival of St Andrew. The following day will be the half yearly Convocation of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

At the beginning of December, it will be a long trek to Campbeltown to celebrate the Centenary of St Kieran RAC No 158 and back to Edinburgh the following day for the Christmas Concert.

The following weekend, I'll be accompanied by Grand Secretary and Grand Scribe E when we head to Paris for two major masonic events in their calendar.

January will see a visit to Dufftown to install the new PGM of Banffshire and the following week, a trip down to Annan to Lodge St Andrew 1448

*Editor*

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## **The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty**

With all our lodges now returned to Masonic activity, it has been very interesting to see so many of them busy conferring degrees on new candidates. It is very refreshing to see so many of the lodges in the Province with several candidates waiting to get through their next step in Freemasonry.

The number of new candidates joining in the Province hopefully bodes well for the future of Freemasonry in our Province, and long may it continue.

We commenced the new masonic season with our annual Divine Service, which was hosted this year by Lodge St Martin No.1217.

The service was ably conducted by the Immediate Past Grand Master, Bro Ramsay McGhee, who gave an uplifting and inspiring sermon enjoyed by all present.

It is disappointing that, in such beautiful surroundings as Lodge St Martin situated in the picturesque village of Ullapool, with such an eloquent devotional presentation by our eminent Grand Master Mason, that we have such a poor turnout of our Brethren and partners.

It was in mid-September that we received the unanticipated correspondence from Grand Lodge confirming the resignation of the Grand Master Mason, Bro. Joseph J. Morrow, from Scottish Freemasonry. We were graced with his attendance in the Province earlier this year, when Robertsons Lodge No.134 celebrated their 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, where the Brethren enjoyed a memorable and jubilant day in his company.

The sudden departure of Bro Morrow has thrust our Bro Ramsay McGhee back into the hot seat, to reassume the position of Grand Master Mason until the end of this masonic term, and to chair the next Grand Lodge Communication on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024, which will also be the Nomination and Election of Grand Master Mason and the Grand Lodge Office-bearers. It looks very likely that Bro McGhee will be returning to the role of Grand Master Mason for the next year, and we take this opportunity to wish him all the best for his term of office.

It certainly looks like he is going to have a very busy year ahead of him, and as he is a member of this Province, we are proud to see him in that role and hopefully we can support him with his endeavours.

As I stated at our August Communication, I would encourage the Lodges to look at inter lodge visits, both within the Province and outwith.

I am firmly of the opinion that, inter lodge visits will allow the cross fertilisation of some of the excellent ritual work that lodges in our Province are renowned for, rewarding the superior performing lodge members with pride in delivering good work, and encouraging others to raise the standard their work. There is no doubt that work spent on our ritual will increase knowledge and self confidence in our members.

It will also be a benefit to younger inexperienced masons to get out visiting and observe and experience different rituals being delivered. It can help progressive candidates who will benefit of experiencing part of their masonic progression in another setting, or delivered by another lodge in their own lodge, which will leave them with a memorable experience which will remain with them for a long time.

It can only assist with increasing lodge attendances, with not only the visiting lodge members increasing numbers, but will create a meeting with a unique quality, which will attract other interested Brethren to attend.

Looking forward, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November, will be our second Ladies Night Dinner Dance at the Ben Wyvis Hotel in Strathpeffer. Last year's event was a great success, and with a similar line up this year, we are

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looking forward to a great social evening and chance to entertain our ladies in style. There are tickets available, and all are most welcome.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November is the next Provincial Grand Lodge Communication, which will be held at Lodge Fingal, Dingwall, and I look forward to updating all on what is going on in the Province. It will be pleasing to see a good turnout of Master's and Wardens from our Daughter Lodges, as by virtue of their office, they are all members of the Provincial Grand Lodge.

Fraternal Regards

*Raymond Mackeddie*

Provincial Grand Master

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

Bro Rev Bill Niven mentioned in his sermon at the Provincial Divine Service that we all enjoy the change that occurs when we go on holiday. That type of change apart, very few of us relish any other form of change. We are all too comfortable with what we know and with what we are used to. Any departure from the norm is resisted vigorously.

However, if we want our beloved Freemasonry to flourish in future, we are going to have to change or we will fail to leave a legacy, such as most of us received, for those coming after us. What we must accept is that everything around us is changing and we cannot afford to stand still, or we will be left behind. Nobody, for one minute, would advocate that we change our treasured tenets or principals. What we must change is our attitude, our outlook and our way of operating – we must promote an organisation that is dynamic, that meets the expectations and needs of not only the younger men whom we seek to take Freemasonry forward, but also their families.

The argument that the Craft has had its ups and downs in the past and will sort itself out in future is not a valid one. We have a duty to change the Craft to meet the changing demands – let's bite the bullet and face up to our responsibilities.

Editor

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## Young Masons Group

The group has continued to meet on a regular basis, monthly by Zoom and following an earlier proposal they have met as a group at lodges in the Province. They have met up to support new initiates and progressive candidates.

The group continues to communicate using a What's App Group Chat, which makes it easier to share what is happening at lodges, arrange meets to attend lodges, witness degree work and welcome and support new and progressive candidates.



It was pleasing to see a good turnout at Lodge Kyle No. 1117 to support Bro. Cameron MacKenzie being passed to the Fellowcraft Degree.

Over the last few months, the Brethren on the Zoom Meetings have enjoyed various presentations, including Bro. Michael Stanley, from Boston, Maine, USA, who gave a splendid recollection of his travels and experiences in Freemasonry whilst travelling the world.

They also enjoyed an interesting presentation on the First-Degree Tracing Board by our own Depute Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Mike Turner, who gave a very enlightening talk on the First-Degree Tracing Board.

Last month they had another presentation by Bro Alan Deans, a very experienced mason with a collection of interesting masonic presentations. Bro. Alan delivered a well-received presentation titled "The Two Pillars", which resulted in a healthy discussion to follow.

Being very geographically spread, last month we had members logging in from; Bristol, Oban, Edinburgh, Stornoway, Ardgay, Kyle, Alness and two in the middle of the North Sea, one on a ship and one on a rig, and our guest speaker was in Glasgow!!!

If any lodge has any Young Masons who have not already attended these meetings, and would wish to join them, please get in touch with Raymond Mackeddie.

*Raymond MacKeddie*, PGM

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## From the Provincial Almoner

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

On Saturday 17th August 2024, Brother Alexander (Sandy Taylor), MM of Lodge Seaforth No. 854, passed away at his home in Munloch. Brother Taylor was not able to attend the Lodge for some time. He reached the grand old age of 92.

On Thursday 22nd August 2024, Brother Ian MacLeod, MM, of Lodge St Duthus No. 82, passed away. Brother MacLeod did not manage to attend Lodge meetings for quite some time.

On Saturday 7th October 2024, Brother Abb Saville, MM, of Lodge St Duthus also passed away. Brother Saville did not manage to attend Lodge meetings for some time.

On Sunday 29th September 2024, Brother David Patience, PM of Lodge Rosehaugh, No. 1216 and Robertsons Lodge No. 134, passed away at his home. Brother Patience was a very active member and will be sadly missed by all.

Very recently Brother Leslie Morgan, MM, of Lodge Fortrose No. 108, passed away.

I also report on the following:

On Wednesday 9th October 2024, Mrs Christine MacKenzie, beloved wife of Brother Sandy MacKenzie MM of Lodge Kyle No. 1117, passed away after a short illness. She will be sadly missed by all.

Brother Ian McLaren, PM of Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216, has had a few days stay in Raigmore Hospital. He is now back home.

Brother Donald Graham, PM of Lodge Fortrose No. 108 has managed to attend the last 3 Lodge meetings and was a spectator at a local rugby match last weekend.

Brother Duncan Munro PM of Lodge Avern, No. 866, is much about the same.

Brother Ian Fraser, PM of Lodge Avern, No. 866 is still in Raigmore Hospital and there is little change, but he is comfortable.

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

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

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## Prostate Scotland Update

Since our last update, two of our Prostate Champions, Steven O'Donnell and Raymond Mackeddie visited two local Tesco Supermarkets and set up a stall distributing awareness literature to the public. In September they visited Tesco in Dingwall, and in October they set up Tesco in Tain.

Both events were well received with many people interested in the information on display, many sharing heartbreaking and distressing experiences that they, or their friends, have had with prostate disease.

It was surprisingly pertinent, and consistent with the message on awareness about how commonplace the incidents of prostate disease can be in men of a certain age group, and how many of the public were willingly coming forward and sharing their experiences.

An added bonus was that they also raised over £600 for Prostate Scotland during the events.



Steven and Raymond, joined by Master of Lodge Seaforth No. 854, Ronald Bruce, at Tesco Dingwall and Tesco Tain. Many thanks to the many Brethren who turned up and showed their support during the two days.

On Saturday 14th October, Steven O'Donnell also supported the well-known fiddle player Roddy Matthews with his book launch, "Bow to the Fiddle", and fundraising efforts in aid of Prostate Scotland at the Sutherland Fiddle and Accordion Club in Rogart.

Roddy has been playing at venues all over Scotland, and all proceeds from his book sales and fundraising efforts, which so far total around £5,000, are directed to Prostate Scotland.



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Recently, the well-known Director of Prostate Scotland, Adam Gaines, retired from his position at the helm of Prostate Scotland. Adam was well known to many of the Brethren due to his hard work and close relationship with the Craft over the past twelve years.

Adam was personally responsible for many of the initiatives that that has helped to raise the awareness of prostate disease and for the PROSPACK, which provides patients with surgical, radiotherapy/brachytherapy and chemotherapy packs.



Adam has been succeeded with new CEO, Alison Wright, who has introduced herself through “meet and greet” calls to Champions to help facilitate a smooth transition in the continuing partnership between Prostate Scotland and The Craft.

The Past Grand Master, Bro. Dr Joseph J Morrow, bade farewell to Adam Gaines at a recent retirement presentation ceremony at Grand Lodge, and welcomed his successor, Alison Wright.

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

The Provincial Grand Lodge participated in a new and innovative venture held in Fortrose Academy on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October. The event was called “**BIG**” (Black Isle Gathering) and was an opportunity for organisations to show what activities they provided by way of leisure time pursuits. Over 40 groups and organisations took part. The Provincial Grand Lodge stall attracted a fair bit of interest during the day and the PGM and I enjoyed some fascinating conversations with some of the visitors. We may not have enlisted any new members on the day, but we did give out a few pamphlets on Masonry and, I’m sure that our very presence at such an event will have provoked a fair bit of favourable comment on the Black Isle and beyond.

During the “**BIG**” event, the PGM and I spent a fair bit of time conversing with fellow stallholders, none more so than that well known character from Avoch – Willie Forsyth – who, during the course of the day disappeared and returned with a Masonic programme of events that took place in Hong Kong in 1946. One particularly poignant entry that caught our attention was the following announcement of a Funeral Service:

### **FUNERAL SERVICE**

All Freemasons in the Colony are invited to attend the re-interment of the remains of the late W Bro Henry E Budden who died in the POW’s Camp on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1943 and his son, the late Gilbert E Budden who died in the POW’s Camp on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1942, to take place in the Old Resident’s Section of the Protestant Cemetery, Happy Valley, on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 1946. No regalia will be worn by the Brethren attending.



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## Around the Lodges

### Lodge St Duthus No 82



Well brethren now that the dark nights are upon us again it must be the start of a new Masonic season. Lodge St Duthus No 82 started the season in October with a business meeting and the election of Office Bearers. Our next meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November will be our Installation meeting which will start at an earlier time of 7.30pm. this will be followed by a Master Mason degree on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December and then a Fellowcraft Degree on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January.

Recently the family of a departed brother handed back some regalia and certificates and whilst going through the items I found a copy of “The Young Mason’s Catechism” which I thought I would copy here. I’m not sure of the date of this booklet but the price was 3d!!

“The Young Masons Catechism”.

Brother....., As you have now been duly initiated into the secrets and mysteries of the First or Entered Apprentice degree, you are now entitled to be passed to the Second or F.C. degree at any time after 14 clear days, but that is necessary before you be further advanced in Freemasonry you should first be more fully instructed as an E.A.

Q. To whom shall I apply for such instruction?

A. To any true and trusted brother who is well-skilled in the use and meaning of the working-tools of instruction.

Q. As I am unfamiliar with any who are so qualified, will you help me to a selection?

A. I will, right gladly, But I must first premise for your earnest and careful consideration that every youthful brother who seeks instructions is bound at every meeting with his instructor to present to him the working tools of an uninstructed E.A.

Q. What are these working tools?

A. A bottle of Beer and a bap.

Q. Why are they so called?

A. Because ever since the feast at the dedication of King Solomon's Temple, it has been the custom to instruct an E.A. in the use and meaning of harmony, and without these tools that the fabric of social life could not be duly and truly erected.

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Q. What is Harmony?

A. A system of good-fellowship promulgated by Freemasons and illustrated by certain friendly signs and tokens.

Q. What are signs?

A. There are many, but the circle made by a Corkscrew and the raising of a glass to the mouth are the most familiar amongst harmonious Freemasons.

Q. What are tokens?

A. Standard measures, commonly known as halves, gills, and pints are all tokens by which to know a brother of the craft.

Q. May I compound for these tools of instruction?

A. You may not; but since the day when a brilliant young F.C., anxious to prove his skill as a marksman, hit Hiram a Biff with a bap as he was accidentally passing the mouth of a Tavern, it has been the usual practise to omit the bread, but the bottle of beer you must not omit, under any pretence whatsoever.

Q. How often must I meet for instruction?

A. As often as your instructor may require. On any odd number of nights, more than one - namely three, five, seven or fourteen.

Q. But fourteen is not an odd number?

A. It is so-called in Masonry when baps and beer are under consideration, being, as you will instantly perceive, seven once repeated.

Q. How shall I know that I am fully instructed to pass to the Second Degree?

A. As soon as the working tools produce an impediment in the speech of your instructor, who, anxious to tell you that he has had "Plenty" will say Shi-Shi-shibboleth.

Q. In view of the necessity for secrecy at all times, which has been emphasised during the ceremony, I presume that my instructor and I shall be alone when this instruction is given.

A. Not necessarily. You may invite me. It only means a third bottle of beer.

Q. Are you willing to accept an invitation?

A. I am, since three is one of the Perfect numbers in Masonry, and since the first three Grand Masters used frequently to meet to discuss a bottle of beer and a bap when the sun is at its Meridian.

Below is a photo taken at a Bingo night held within Lodge St Duthus to help raise funds for Tain Gala Association, where an excellent evening was had by all and approximately £300 was raised.



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During the recess Lodge St Duthus was the venue for several events as part of the St Duthac Book & Arts Festival. The picture below shows a packed Lodge listening to Philip Paris talking about his book “The Last Witch in Scotland”



*Yours Faithfully & Fraternally*

*D Macrae* - Bro. D Macrae PM Secy

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## Lodge Fortrose No 108

Ewan Smith was initiated into freemasonry at our September regular meeting and received his fellowcraft degree at our emergency meeting a fortnight later, both these meetings were held downstairs in the function room in order that PM Donnie Graham would be able to attend. Lodge St Clement's in Tarbert kindly lent us their carpet for these occasions.

Our regular meeting in September was also our annual election and RWM Norman Smith was unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year.



At our October meeting, which was business only, an application to join the Lodge was read and will be considered by the Enquiry Committee at their next meeting. Two of our brethren have passed to the Grand Lodge above in the persons of the lodge organist Bro Leslie and Bro Douglas MacLeman, a sense of our loss will be noted in our November meeting.

Arrangements for the installation and Festival of St John which will be on 6<sup>th</sup> December are progressing together with arrangements for the Burns Supper to held on 24<sup>th</sup> January. We look forward to seeing you at these events.

There will be our usual visit to Lodge St Clement's for their installation on 7<sup>th</sup> December, this is always a very popular and well attended meeting.

*Donnie Macleod*  
Donald Macleod PM

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## Robertson's Lodge No 134

Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

During the Summer Break the Lodge Administration activities continued with the Lodge Premises inspected and maintained. All matters continue to be communicated to Members during these days, especially by email, such as Grand Lodge messages and letters. This is of course as part of the Grand Lodge use of Social Media, Facebook and X (Twitter)

After the Summer Break, Robertson's Lodge held their first Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024, which was a business meeting, where the plans and workings for the Season were discussed by the Brethren. An Obituary was read out for Brother John Henry Shepherd, who was the son of Past Master Kenneth Cameron Shepherd.

The October Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 was to be an Emulation of the Entered Apprentice Degree, however several Brothers were unable to attend resulting in the Master postponing the Degree working. Brethren held a discussion on the current Lodge Business along with usual Lodge Business. An Obituary was read out for Past Master David Patience, who was also a Past Master of Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216. He had been Master of Robertson's Lodge in 1987 and 1988.

The next regular Meeting, scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2024, is for the nomination of the Master and his Office Bearers for the following year.

The following Regular Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 is scheduled for the Installation of the Master and his Office Bearers.

The Brethren of the Lodge are looking forward to an upcoming affiliation, and to following up with the progressive Degree Workings.

The Master, Brother Derek Malcolm Rodway, his Office Bearers and Brethren continue to welcome all visitors in good standing to their meets where they are guaranteed a hearty Highland Welcome.

Please stay safe and well Brethren.

*Peter K. Ratcliffe, Secretary*

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## Lodge Fingal No 318

The first meeting after the summer recess took place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October when we worked a FC Degree, for Brother Andrew Morrison. The Degree was witnessed by 18 members and 38 visitors, [which included 4 Brethren from Canada]. Collection amounted to £290.

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, in response to an appeal from Brother Gavin Kelt from St Mary's Operative Lodge, several Fingal Brethren turned out to act as Marshals for The Snowman Rally which started from Dingwall High Street. As usual, the Fingal Brethren did the organisers proud.



Here is the Crew left to right} Alex Craib; Colin Mackintosh; Ivor Munro; Shaun Taylor; Henry Cameron; William Campbell, missing from the photo is David MacMaster [must have been getting the Bacon Rolls]. D. Gunn was skiving.

At a Special Meeting on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October we worked an EA Degree for Mr Mykel James Mackenzie. The Degree was witnessed by 17 members and 24 visitors. Collection amounted to £230.

Forthcoming events in the Lodge –

November 12<sup>th</sup>: AGM and nomination of Office Bearers. Plus, Brother Raymond MacKeddie PGM will be giving us a talk on Prostate Scotland.

November 26<sup>th</sup>: Special Meeting, working a M.M. Degree for Brother Shaun Taylor.

November 30<sup>th</sup>: Special Meeting, working a M.M. Degree for Brother Kai McAuley. Change in usual time, tyle @ 5:00pm. There is a Deputation coming over from Trinidad. Harmony @ 7:30pm, with soup / mince & taties, costing a mere £12.

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December 10<sup>th</sup>: Working a M.M. Degree for Brother Andrew MacNeil.

December 28<sup>th</sup>: Special Meeting, Installation for Brother Alexander John Craib (Elect), and Office Bearers. Tyle at 3:00pm. With a small harmony, in the Logie Lounge, to follow.

January 14<sup>th</sup>: Working a F.C. Degree for Brother Mykel Mackenzie.

February 11<sup>th</sup>: To be decided.

March 11<sup>th</sup>: Provincial Visitation.

April 8<sup>th</sup>: To be decided.

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

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February** } Quiz Night. 7:00pm for 7:30pm. Brother David Macmaster PM, will be the Quiz Master, ably assisted by Brother Angus Beaton PM, teams of four at a cost of £20 / team. Tickets available from any Fingal Brother.



**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March.** There is to be a Ladies Night, in the Logie Lounge, 6:30 for 7:00pm; Dram on arrival; Sit down, three course meal, supplied by Storehouse, glass of wine during the meal; Music supplied by Edwin's Music; All this for £30 per head. Tickets available from any Fingal Brother.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August** } Our Annual B-B-Q, details nearer the time.

As we go through these strange times. Take care and stay safe.  
That's all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn*

*Secretary*

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

I was in Lodge Fingal's building on Friday night at the Royal Arch meeting and couldn't help but notice the improvements that have taken place during the close season. New double-glazed windows, the downstairs area completely re-decorated and obviously much sprucing up throughout. Well done to RWM David MacMaster and his team for a job well done indeed.

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## *LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851*

The past season at the Lodge has been a very rewarding and enjoyable one under the leadership of our Master, Brother John Stott. As we move into 2025, our season will be extended as we have received invitations to work degrees for other Lodges in the Province. The dates and venues for the degrees will be announced in due course and we look forward to the support of the other Lodges for those events.

We are also looking to welcome the Brethren from Lodge Union and Crown in Barrhead to the Lodge to work their dramatized Prisoner of War Degree. To help with this initiative, we are holding a sponsored Duck Race – only a fiver per duck with the chance to win the first prize of £100, second prize of £50 and two third prizes of £25 each. If you haven't already purchased a duck, please get in touch with me or any of the 851 Brethren and we will be delighted to get your name on a duck.

The Brethren of the lodge send their best wishes to the Master's wife Christine who has had a spell in hospital. We wish her a full and speedy return to good health.

*Ramsay McGhee* - Secretary

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

*Can you say tonight in parting with the day that's slipping past,  
that you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?*

*Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did and said?*

*Does the man whose hopes were fading, Now with courage look ahead?*

*Did you waste the day or lose it, was it well or poorly spent?*

*Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?*

*As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think God will say,  
you have earned one more tomorrow, by the work you did today.*



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## LODGE SEAFORTH 854

It was a welcome return to work for our September Regular Meeting.

Unfortunately, the Master commenced the meeting by announcing obituary notices for four Brethren who passed to the Grand Lodge Above, Bro Graham Law PM, Bro Norman Kelman, Bro Rod MacIver and Bro Sandy Taylor. The Brethren marked the passing of these Brethren by standing in silent tribute.

The main work of the meeting was an Entered Apprentice Degree for Dr Matthew Ross, who was warmly welcomed into the Lodge by all the Brethren present.

It was planned to Pass Bro Matthew to the Fellowcraft Degree at our October Regular Meeting, but due to health issues, the candidate could not attend. A very worthy experienced member in the person of Bro Stewart Hiddleston freely volunteered himself to be the stand in candidate for the night. His attendance certainly gave the Deacons a worthwhile practise and experience.

The next Regular Meeting of the Lodge will be on Monday 18th November 2024, which will be our AGM and Election of Office-bearers. It is also planned to carry out a Fellowcraft Degree on that evening, and all Brethren are most welcome.

### Summer Bingo Nights

During the Summer months the Seaforth Club has hosted several summer bingo nights, which has proved popular, very entertaining and surprisingly competitive. The bingo nights have been expertly run by Bro James Fraser SW and his friends, with a well-supported raffle, which utilised the new Raffle Spinning Drum, and each of the events proved very popular.

Due to the success of the summer bingo nights, it was decided to extend them into the winter months. Bingo nights will be held on the third Friday of the months of November, January, February and March.

Join us

90 10

93 21 42 62 16 9 33 15 7

**COMMUNITY BINGO**

**SEAFOORTH CLUB**  
Station Square  
Fortrose

Friday 15th November  
Friday 17th January  
Friday 21st February  
Friday 21st March

STARTS AT 7.30PM

**DOORS OPEN AT 7PM**

FREE PARKING / £1 ENTRY / MUSIC / LET FATE WIN

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# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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

ISSUE NO 121

NOVEMBER 2024

## LODGE AVERON No 866

Hi Brethren,

I hope you are all well, refreshed and invigorated after the summer recces.

The annual Lodge Averon Family Community Barbecue was a fantastic success once again, despite the attempts of the wild wind in the morning while the gazebos were being erected to disrupt us!! This year was a changing of the guard on the cooking front with two of our younger masons stepping up to the mark and feeding every one present. IPM Bro Mathieson manned the bar and PM McBeath Snr kept the music going all afternoon. The bouncy castle was a great hit with the youngsters attending. A new initiative was inviting any visitors attending, for a tour of the lodge and explaining our purpose regarding our charity work. This was greatly received with lots of questions asked. Thanks to the brethren who volunteered giving up their time to assist.



*Left – Averon's Young Chefs – Brothers Gordon and Sinclair*

*Below – Averon's older Barman – Past Master Donnie Mathieson*

*All doing a sterling job!*



*Left – the older generation enjoying themselves - Right – the younger generation having a ball.*

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Our lodge resumed labour on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September with, primarily a business meeting, with a further bit of very important business to attend to. Our Brother Alister Ross was presented to the floor of the lodge, where he was awarded with his 50-year jubilee certificate. Brother Alister served our lodge as Tyler for many years, and we are indebted to him for his service.



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Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September saw us converge on Invergordon Golf Club for the Annual Charity Texas Scramble organised this year by our Junior Warden Bro Davie MacKinnon and his band of helpers. Whilst the weather was not the best with a thick harr all day, this didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the ten teams of four competing. All in all, it was a great day out with craic abound and our roving barmen Bro's Gordon and Miller kept everyone hydrated.



*Above – Assembled brethren and guests ready for a shotgun start*

*Right Bro Tom Edgar, Master of Lodge St John Fisherrow No 112 – winner of the longest drive.*



At this time, we are getting organised to present our nominated charities with their donations, Redwoods Nursing Home, Alness, The Sharing Shed, Evanton and Fox and Friends, Alness. (Pictures of presentations to follow in a future edition).

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Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October saw a small deputation consisting of the RWM Bro Charlie Carrison, PM Bro Robert Sutherland, SW Bro James McDougall and Bro Howard Bell, accompanied by the PGM Bro Raymond MacKeddie and PPGM Bro Ramsay McGhee head up to Raigmore Hospital Inverness to visit Past Master Ian Fraser and present him with his 60-year Diamond certificate; wow 60 years what an achievement. Bro Ian was in fine form and asked that his best wishes were conveyed to the Lodge.



Since we have changed our meeting times to once a month, our next regular meeting was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October when we initiated one new brother, it was a great night with a lovely harmony up the winding staircase.

That's all our news brethren, now we are getting into the planning of our installation which will take place as usual on the third Saturday in December the 21<sup>st</sup>, where a new young master elect, Bro Frazer McBeath Jnr will follow in his father's footsteps and be installed into the chair of King Solomon. We hope to see you there.

Till the next edition....

Fraternally

*Brother James MacDougall* — Senior Warden

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## LODGE NESS No 888

The Installation meeting will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

*Owen Wilson*

Master – Lodge Ness 888

### Farewell To The Brethren Of St. James Lodge, Tarbolton

By Brother Robert Burns

Adieu! a heart-warm fond adieu;  
Dear brothers of the mystic tie!  
Ye favoured, enlighten'd few,  
Companions of my social joy;  
Tho' I to foreign lands must hie,  
Pursuing Fortune's slidd'ry ba';  
With melting heart, and brimful eye,  
I'll mind you still, tho' far awa.

May Freedom, Harmony, and Love,  
Unite you in the grand Design,  
Beneath th' Omniscient Eye above,  
The glorious Architect Divine,  
That you may keep th' unerring line,  
Still rising by the plummet's law,  
Till Order bright completely shine,  
Shall be my pray'r when far awa.

Oft have I met your social band,  
And spent the cheerful, festive night;  
Oft, honour'd with supreme command,  
Presided o'er the sons of light:  
And by that hieroglyphic bright,  
Which none but Craftsmen ever saw  
Strong Mem'ry on my heart shall write  
Those happy scenes, when far awa.

And you, farewell! whose merits claim  
Justly that highest badge to wear:  
Heav'n bless your honour'd noble name,  
To Masonry and Scotia dear!  
A last request permit me here, -  
When yearly ye assemble a',  
One round, I ask it with a tear,  
To him, the Bard that's far awa.

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## **LODGE KYLE No 1117**

### **PAT TEST**

As part of the annual insurance review, we were informed by the insurance company that we require a PAT (Portable appliance Testing) in the Lodge. This was duly carried out and we passed with flying colours.

### **THIRD DEGREE**

On Monday 4th November we will be conferring a Third Degree on Cameron Mackenzie. This will mean we have THREE generations of his family in the Lodge to witness this special event in his masonic career.

### **VISITORS FROM DUNDEE**

After a very successful visit last year, we are delighted to confirm we have 14 Brethren from The Ancient Mason Lodge of Dundee No. 49 once again visiting The Isle of Skye, arriving in Portree for a Meeting at St Kilda on Friday 1st November and thence to Kyle of Lochalsh and Lodge Kyle 1117 on Saturday 2nd November at 11am for a social afternoon. The Brethren return to Dundee on Monday morning.

### **INSTALLATION**

Our Installation this year will be the second Monday in December which is 9th December 2024

### **NEW YEAR**

Our first Meeting of the new year will be the Second Monday in January, which is 13th January 2024

These dates are / will be on our website at: <http://www.lodgekyle.co.uk>

### **SEASONAL SCAMS**

In our business which deals with data and web... we are seeing a LOT of scams in the run up to Christmas, including more targeted attacks. The attacks are researched using sources such as social media. The number one scam takes the form of Amazon Emails (everyone buys from Amazon at Christmas), so the emails seem plausible. E.g. An email about a mysterious Amazon purchases you never made. It's probably a scam!

Scammers are upping their game with fake order alerts. They'll try to trick you into thinking there's a problem with a phantom order, then pressure you to fix it with a credit card payment. Here's how to spot the phish and keep your info safe:

**RULE NUMBER ONE:** Never click a link in an email.

**Check Your Amazon Account First:** Genuine orders will always show up in your order history on Amazon.com or the app. Don't trust the email - go straight to the source!

**Don't Click, Verify Directly:** Don't fall for suspicious links in the email. Instead, visit Amazon's Message Centre to see a list of legitimate communication from them.

By staying vigilant, we can all keep these scammers at bay and have a Happy Christmas!

*Ronnie Miller*, PM - Secretary

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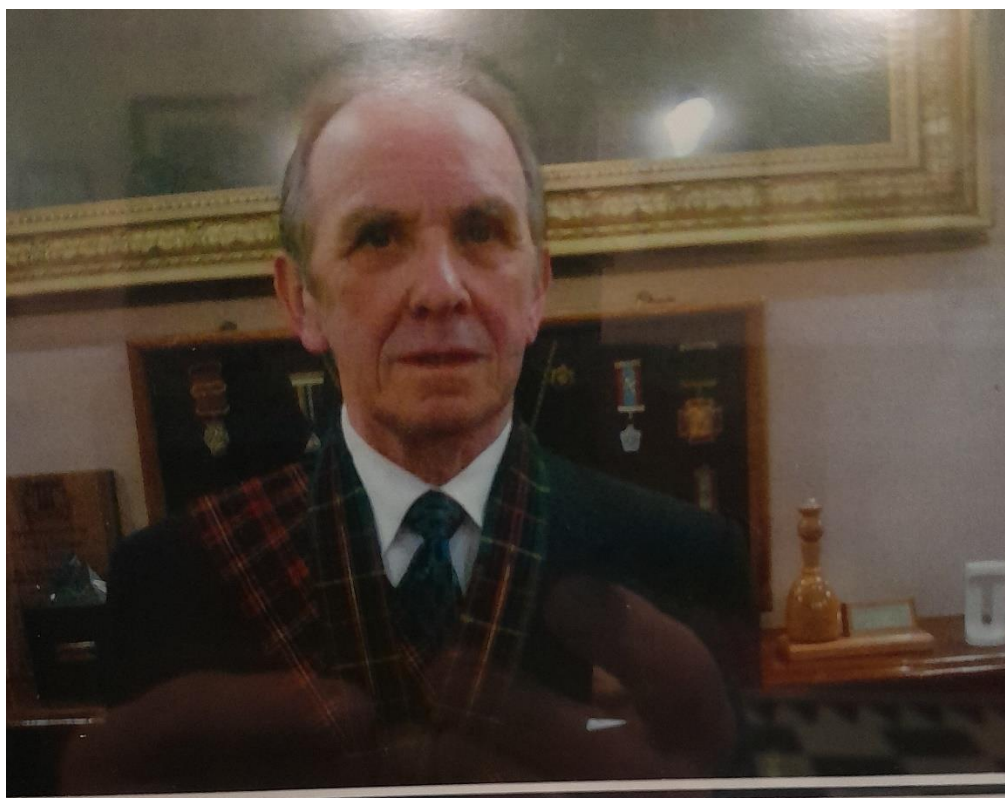
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## **LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216**

We resumed our meetings on 3 October when we had a business meeting with annual accounts and nomination of Office-bearers, and it is good to see Bro Graeme Brindle accepting the nomination of RWM and this will be our first new master since 2017. This meeting will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.45. The Installation team will be led by Bro George Robinson PM Averon No 866. Before this we have our November meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> when we will be working a Fellow Craft Degree for Bro. Calum Mackenzie. We will also have an Obituary for Bro William Skinner, Rosemarkie who passed away on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

We were requested the use of the Lodge by Bro Ross Skinner on behalf of his daughter Grace Stewart-Skinner. Grace used the lodge for herself and her band to rehearse their forthcoming album which they hope in to release in 2025 which will include the Avochie dialect. A full article was featured in the Ross-shire Journal on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

Bro David Patience PM Lodge Rosehaugh 1216 and Robertson's Lodge No 134.



The Brethren were shocked to hear of the passing of Bro David to the Grand Lodge above on 29 September after a short illness aged 86 years. David joined the Lodge in February 1964 following in the steps of his Father John (founder member) and Brothers John (Jackie) and Alec George. He was Master from 1975-1977. He affiliated to Robertson Lodge in 1979 and was RWM from 1987-1988. David was a great asset to both Lodges and was still taking part in the Lodge work up until 2023. He took great pride in seeing his Grandson Calum join our Lodge in 2019.



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*The magnificent display of poppies at Avoch War Memorial*

*Keith Patience, PM*

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## Lodge St Martin 1217

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November when we will hold our Installation of Office-bearers carried out by Bro Mike Turner PM and his installing team. Please note the lodge will tyle at 7.30pm for general business and admit visitors at 8.00pm for the installation.

The following is the plans for future meetings all tiling at 8.00pm. 17<sup>th</sup> of December - 2nd degree ceremony, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2nd degree ceremony. 18<sup>th</sup> of February 3<sup>rd</sup> degree ceremony, 18<sup>th</sup> March, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree ceremony, 15<sup>th</sup> April (Provincial Visit) 3<sup>rd</sup> degree ceremony.

On the fund-raising side of things, the lodge will be serving Mulled wine and shortbread on the annual village bonfire and fireworks display. On 18<sup>th</sup> December the lodge members and “Willing Elf’s” will be assisting Santa tour the village.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!!!!

*Charles MacAulay, PM*  
Secretary



The season has got off to a good start, with our two Entered Apprentices being passed to the Fellowcraft Degree.

However, for Bro Liam Fraser, it was yet again another Lodge hosting his ceremony. At our May meeting we had to move his Initiation to Dingwall due to the power supply outage in Aultbea. Then, come our October meeting, when he was to have his 2<sup>nd</sup>, an accident on the A832 closed the road, preventing brethren coming from Braemore Junction from getting through. So, once again we had to put a hasty call in to the RWM of Lodge Fingal, Bro Alex Craib, for us to hold our meeting there, to which, of course, he readily agreed.

As for Bro Liam, he still hasn't seen the inside of Lodge Loch Ewe. Hopefully he will be able to attend our next meeting, which will be the Installation of Bro Phil Ellis into the Chair of King Solomon on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November – assuming, of course, it will be held in Aultbea!

*Michael Longley, PM* – Lodge Loch Ewe

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## Ye Corporation O' Squaremen Hielan Shed

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August we had a disappointment as we were due to visit Lodge St Andrew 601 in Ardersier but once again no-one actually turned up from the Lodge, so we held a business Meeting instead

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September we visited Lodge Mercantile Marine in Stromness – the trip over was nice and calm and when we arrived we were given a grand welcome by the Brithers – we had two new Members join the Corporation and we were very grateful to the Lodge for putting on a lovely meal and a bit of a Harmony for us after the Meeting - on the way home some of us stayed on board the boat on the Saturday night which proved to be the cheapest option – the accommodation was warm and the breakfast was excellent – although some Brithers did find that 4 in a cabin could be quite “noisy”

As we are now in closed session, I will be writing to various Lodges for permission to hold Meeting during 2025 and it is hoped that we will get our Itinerary together at the end of December

On 19<sup>th</sup> October Neil Cooper and I were part of a Grand Shed visit to Kingdom Of Fife - it is great to see the Shed back in Operation after being in abeyance since some time before Covid19 appeared in 2020 – hears oping they will go from strength to strength

On 16<sup>th</sup> November we are due to have a visit to Dundee and Angus Shed for a Grand Shed Deacons



Court and visit



*John & Mackay -  
Boxie*

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## News from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, I left Fortrose just before midnight to drive down to Edinburgh Airport where I met up with 2<sup>nd</sup> Grand Principal, John Steel, Grand D of C Ian Duncan, Grand Treasurer, Alan Buntain and Grand Scribe E, Douglas Duncan.

At 06.00 hours we took off on the first part of our flight to Amsterdam then the long haul of 12 hours to Quito in Ecuador where we were going to Consecrate the new Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ecuador and thereafter install the Principals.

On the Thursday morning, after breakfast, we were driven to a very interesting site right on the Equator – we were at latitude 0°. The guide was very good explaining the technicalities of the site.



*MEC Alan Buntain at the centre of the world.*

In the evening we enjoyed a walking tour in Quito but given that the city sits some 10,000 feet above sea level, breathing on the hills was a bit of a task. Nevertheless, it was a wonderful experience seeing downtown Quito by night.

We concluded the evening with a lovely meal in one of the beautiful downtown restarants

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*Quito by night*

Friday morning was very much rehearsal time at the Lodge rooms before making our way to the home of renowned Ecuadorian artist Voroshilov Basante – a member of the local Chapter. Voro as he is known, is 83 years of age but still paints every day. He and his wife very kindly laid on a beautiful lunch for us and gave us a guided tour of his studios. A remarkable man who is very well thought of in artistic circles.

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*MEC John Steel and me with MEC Voroshilov Basante, his chef and his daughter.*

In the evening, after negotiating horrendous traffic jams we attended a conference at which we participated in a lively Q & A session which concluded in yet another sumptuous dinner.

Saturday morning, straight after breakfast, we headed to the Lodge building where we got everything ready for the Consecration of the new Supreme Grand Royal Arch Ceremony which was attended by the Grand Master of Ecuador, Héctor Vanegas Y Cortázar.

At the conclusion of the Consecration Ceremony, I installed the 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Principal, Andrés Álvarez Moreira and his Depute - Juan Morejón Mariño. MEC John Steel thereafter installed the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grand Principals - Xavier Vázquez Domínguez and Byron Ojeda Oliva. MEC Ian Duncan did a superb job proclaiming all the foregoing Companions given the difficulty in pronouncing names.



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After the Royal Arch activities ceased, the Brethren opened one of their Lodges and we were all made Honorary Members of at least half a dozen Lodges as well as Grand Lodge Honours. In the evening, we attended the Gala Dinner in the hotel which was another success story.

We left the hotel at 11.00 am on the Sunday morning and I got back to Fortrose at 20.30 on Monday night – a long trip but well worth it.

## **PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C**

### **GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS MESSAGE.**

We are now well into the new session and all the Chapters are in the process of Installing their new 1st Principles and Office Bearers for 2024/25.

Unfortunately, on a very sad note, Hebrides RA Chapter lost their 1st Principal recently and condolences are extended to the Chapter and family of the late Comp. Les Morgan, who had been in Raigmore Hospital prior to his passing.

The Quarterly Convocation in September was attended by our newly appointed 1st Grand Principal Comp. W. Ramsay McGhee. I had the great honour in presenting Companion Alan Waugh with Honorary Grand 1st Sojourner of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. I took the opportunity of requesting the Grand 1st Principal to hand over the recipient with a framed copy of his diploma.



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The next Convocation will be held at 12 noon on Saturday 18th January 2025 in Lodge Fingal, Dingwall.

The Provincial RA Chapter visits this year are as follows –

Cromarty Firth, Invergordon	Wednesday 5th March 2025.
Tain and Ross, Tain	Monday 24th March 2025
St Clement, Dingwall	Friday 28th March 2025.
Hebrides, Stornoway	Wednesday 14th May 2025
	Thursday 15th. March - Cryptic Council/Ark Mariner

The Scribe E, Comp. Donald Gunn of St Clement RA Chapter handed over a cheque for £250 to St Clements School in Dingwall as a result of the Provincial Grand RA Chapter Summer Charity Initiative.

I look forward to witnessing the other Chapters in the Province taking the same initiative and disbursing the funds they raised/received to worthy causes, of which I am sure there are many.

The Past Prov. Grand Scribe E Comp Alastair Taylor has been busy this season as Installing Officer in the Chapters and because of his excellence has been invited to officiate at the Installation in Dornoch on THURSDAY 8th December at 8 pm. With his team in support.

I would respectfully suggest that the three mainland Chapters support Alastair in his efforts in promoting Royal Arch Masonry by attending. We in Ross and Cromarty will thereby be supporting our near neighbours in the Chapter in Dornoch.

Thanks all for your support in 2024 and look forward to 2025 with enthusiasm and zeal.

Compliments of the season. Have a very Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

*Morris M Downie*

Grand Superintendent

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

As we approach Remembrance Sunday, I reproduce this extract from an article written by the Rev Dr Dennis Duncan.

Remembrance Day is the day on which we shall share two minutes silence. The noisy, turbulent world will pause to remember with mingled gratitude and sadness, the sacrifices, suffering and pain of two world wars. At the same time, we know that wars are still with us. If we are going to be able to live in and cope with this troubled world, we must find inner peace. We must cultivate the quiet mind. "Wait on the Lord. Be of good courage and He shall strengthen thine heart", the Good Book says. He will do more. If you receive it, He will give you the quiet mind.



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## **Tain & Ross RAC 63**

Please note - The Tain and Ross RAC have changed their meeting night to the fourth Monday. This will alleviate clashes with Lodge Fingal and Lodge Ness.

Tain & Ross Royal Arch Chapter No 63 held its first meeting of the season on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October which was a business meeting Election and Installation of office bearers. The installation ceremony was carried out in his usual excellent manner by Companion Alasdair Taylor of St Clement Chapter No 244 and his team.

At the Provincial Quarterly Convocation held in September Companion Ally Waugh PDGS was presented with a diploma awarding him the rank of Honorary Grand 1st Sojourner for services to Royal Arch Freemasonry. This distinguished award was presented by Grand Superintendent Morris Downie who spoke fittingly on Companion Waugh's career in Royal Arch Freemasonry.

Tain & Ross Royal Arch Chapter No 63 would like to congratulate Companion Ally on receiving this award and are proud to have two Companions who have received this distinguished rank Companion Hugh Fraser and now Companion Ally Waugh. Congratulations to both.



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## **St Clement Royal Arch Chapter No 244**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September we were delighted to Affiliate Brother Graeme John Brindle into St Clement after which he received the EM Degree.

MEC Alasdair Taylor PZ, Treasurer, reported that two cheques, to the value of £250 each were to be presented to Dingwall Primary School and St. Clement's Parents Council. These monies were raised by the Grand Superintendent's initiative, in the summer of 2023. The cheques were handed over on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October -



On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October the Election and Installation of Office Bearers was carried out by MEC Alasdair Taylor PZ, and his team. MEC David Alan MacMaster was installed as Zerubbabel. MEC Gwyn Phillips was installed as Scribe E. MEC Donald Gunn PZ, stood down as Scribe E.

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November we will work a Royal Arch Degree for EC Graeme John Brindle.

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February we will work a MMM Affiliation and an EM Degree for Brother John Fraser Russell.

As we approach the Festive Season, on behalf of the Companions of the Chapter, may we wish all Companions, Wives, Partners and Families a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year ahead.

*Donald Gunn PZ. Scribe E.*

## **Cromarty Firth Royal Arch No 310**

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## ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.

It is with sadness we heard of the sudden death of our 1<sup>st</sup> Principal Leslie Morgan who passed away earlier this month after a short illness. Leslie was a good attender at all our meetings also holding offices in the Lodge, Ark Mariner, Cryptic council and was sub preceptor in the Preceptory.

At our May meeting we had two new candidates for the Cryptic Council in the persons of Patrick Fraser a member of Chapter No 364 and Calum Macrae from No 244.

At our October meeting Comp Archie Macdonald was re-installed in the chair of the Cryptic Council for the eighth consecutive year and Henry Macinnes re-installed in the Royal Ark Mariner chair for the third consecutive year.

*Donnie Macleod*

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

## PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October the District Grand Priory of the North in Scotland headed by DGP Rt Em Fr Eric W MacGregor visited us to carry out our installation. The installation was carried out in an excellent professional manner and V Fr Henry Macinnes was installed as Preceptor together with the new officers.

It was with sadness that we learned about the passing of Frater Leslie Morgan Sub Preceptor, a note of our loss was subscribed in our minutes and the Fratres held a minute's silence in remembrance.



*Installation of VP Henry Macinnes with RE Fr Eric Macgregor*

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†‡ Donald Macleod KCT

## **DISTRICT GRAND PRIORY OF THE NORTH IN SCOTLAND.**

Presentation at Maison Dieu for Logans Fund / Sunny Days Charity - 11 October 2024

This evening the District Grand Prior, Rt Em Fr Eric W MacGregor accompanied by the DG Mareschal V.E. Fr Willie Turner PP, DG Seneschal E. Fr Spence Braithwaite PP, DG Constable V. Fr Mark Bruce, DG Chamber-lain Fr Stephen Calder, 1st ADC Fr Donald Riggs and witnessed by Fraters of the Preceptory of Maison Dieu, the presenting of a cheque for the sum of One Thousand Pounds to the Representative of Logans Fund – Logans Sunny Days.

This donation was suggested at the Annual General Meeting 8 March 2024, seconded and recorded in the Minutes of that meeting.



pp †‡ Eric Macgregor DGP †‡ Donald Macleod KCT

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## Royal Order of Scotland

### Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness and the Highlands

Provincial Grand Secretary: Bro. Michael Scott Turner

In February 2025, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness and the Highlands' Provincial Grand Master, Brother Joshua JOA Gourlay, will relinquish his post, and Brother George Angus MacKay will take up the position. Josh was in the unfortunate position of being PGM during the Covid pandemic, and he very ably guided the Province during that difficult time. George will be in the chair for the next meeting, which will be held on 12 April 2025. A billet will be sent out closer to the date. It is proposed that a special meeting be held between now and April 2025, the date and venue to be decided. Information will be forwarded to all brethren when available.

*Michael Scott Turner*

Provincial Grand Secretary

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

What if all the trees were oaks  
How plain the world would seem.  
No maple syrup, banana splits,  
And how would orange juice be?  
Wouldn't it be a boring place  
If all the people were the same.  
Just one colour, just one language, just one family name!  
But –  
If the forest were the world,  
And all the people were trees.  
Palm and pine, bamboo and willow,  
Live and grow in harmony.  
Aren't you glad, my good friend?  
Different though we be.

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## BITS AND PIECES

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



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



### **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 1995**

Saturday 21st October 1995 saw many Brethren from around the Province, and beyond, gather at Tain to celebrate the re-Dedication of their magnificent building in Queen Street, having occupied the premises for 100 years. Provincial Grand Master, Brother Ken Bisset, headed a large Provincial Deputation and he was ably assisted in the re-Dedication Service by Provincial Grand Chaplain, Brother Bill Niven and Provincial Grand Secretary, Brother Ian Fraser. At the conclusion of the Service, the Brethren made their way to the Royal Hotel where an excellent meal was served followed by the Loyal and other Masonic Toasts and Responses. The main Toast of the evening - to Lodge St Duthus - was given by Depute Provincial Grand Master, Brother Morris Downie. His oration included a parody of the song 'Deck of Cards' with Masonic connotations which was well received by all present. The night was hailed a tremendous success by all in attendance and congratulations must be given to the Brethren of St Duthus on attaining this memorable milestone in their history and for the excellent way the whole day was organised.