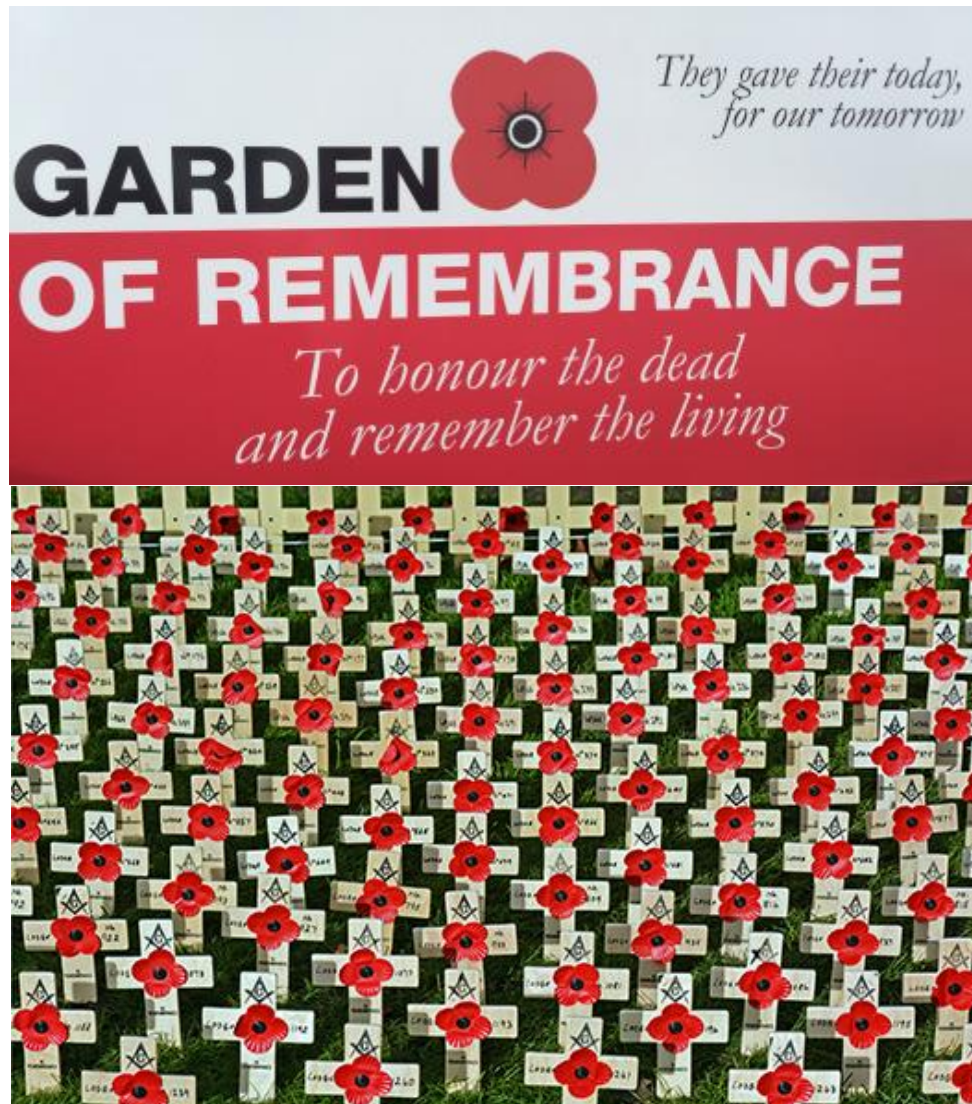


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In the November Issue –

Grand Lodge / Provincial Grand Lodge / Lodge News

Bits and Pieces from all over the place!

Cover photo – the Masonic Poppy Crosses on display in Edinburgh

Photo courtesy of Robert Cooper

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Editorial

Welcome to the 89th edition of the Patter.

As most of you will be aware, the PGM, Bro Robin Cattanach has decided that he wishes to continue the link we have had with the Mountain View School for Deaf Children since 2008. That is good news indeed and I have an article on page 13, and page 15 /16 that gives an update on the next proposed visit to the school in July 2017. Hopefully we will be able to take a wee group of Brethren back out at that time as there will be Masonic duties to attend to as well as visiting and supporting the school.

While I am personally delighted that the Province is going to continue the tremendous work it has done over the past 9 years, there are Brethren who have indicated to me that we should be supporting charities closer to home. I have absolutely no argument with that but I'm sure that those who have visited Malawi with me in the past would agree that we have the resource in this Province to do both.

Every year the Brethren of this Province give support to Highland Hospice by giving of their time to act as stewards for the Black Isle Cycle Challenge. All the Lodges have been supporting and continue to support the Blythswood Food Bank Appeal; only a week or so ago Lodge Averon Brethren handed over a substantial cheque to a local dance group for children; the Brethren of St Martin's support local children at Christmas every year, the Brethren of Lodge Loch Ewe hold Quiz Nights to help local causes, every Lodge in the Province has contributed toward Prostate Cancer Scotland and so it goes on with other Lodges in the Province doing similar activities.

This doesn't take into consideration the numerous local, national and international causes that our individual Brethren support.

Brethren, this Province continually punches above its weight in terms of Brotherly Love and Benevolence to our communities at home and abroad – we should be proud of what we have done and what we continue to do.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



As we go to publication I'll be crossing the Pentland Firth, heading for Stromness where Lodge Mercantile Marine No 453 will be celebrating their 150th Anniversary. Looking forward to a good weekend in Orkney.

On 9th November, I'll be heading a Deputation to Lodge St Bryde No 579 to witness the unveiling of their new War Memorial.

Thursday 24th November – the Grand Lodge Installation followed by the Festival of St Andrew in the Corn Exchange, Edinburgh. Over 500 tickets have been sold but it is not too late to book a place – contact your Lodge Secretary.

Two weeks later, on Thursday 8th December, Grand Committee will be in Freemasons' Hall at 1.45 pm.

In between the last two dates we have a very welcome return of the Glasgow Phoenix Choir to Grand Lodge on Sunday 4th December at 2.30 pm. This year they will be accompanied by members of the Co-op Funeral Care Brass Band. Tickets, costing £10, are available from Grand Lodge. The Glasgow Phoenix Choir are outstanding – this concert is well worth a visit.

That takes us into the New Year and it's down the A9 again on Saturday 14th January to Lodge Union and Crown No 103 in Riddrie to celebrate their 250th Anniversary.

Ed

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Hi Brethren

Since the last issue of the Patter things are getting busy, with regular meetings and Installations about to start, the first Installation is on –

Mon 7th November St Duthus, Tain 7.30 pm

Thursday 10th November, Loch Ewe, Aultbea 8pm.

Tuesday 15th November, St. Martin, Ullapool 8pm.

Thursday 24th November, Grand Lodge of Scotland Edinburgh 12noon for 12.30 start

Friday 2nd December, Lodge Fortrose, Stornoway 8pm.+ Rosehaugh, Avoch 8pm. on same night.

Saturday 10th December, Seaforth, Fortrose 3pm.

Monday 12th December, Kyle 8pm.

Tuesday 13th December, Ness Invergordon 8pm.

Saturday 17th December Averon Alness 3pm.

Wednesday 21st December, Robertson's Cromarty 7.45pm.

Saturday 27th December, Fingal Dingwall 5pm.

Tuesday 13th June, Lodge Allan Wilson, Fortrose at 11.30 am

All Lodges are looking for a good support, please go and visit.

The Provincial Visits will be listed in the next issue to keep you informed.

Provincial Grand Lodge is still trying to encourage the Masters and Wardens to attend quarterly meetings, and a report from each lodge at the May AGM is required to be given by someone from each lodge as to what progress has been made over the past year.

There are still some minor offices vacant in PGL and it would be a good chance for some master masons in good standing to take up an office, please contact Mike Turner P.G.S. or myself if you would like to take office and be part of the team.

Due to the passing of PM Raymond Morrison of Ness Lodge Invergordon Brother Derek Rodway is going to carry on with the monthly calendar that Raymond sent out for many years. He has left a great legacy to remind us of what he did for Freemasonry, he will be sorely missed in the Highlands. Derek's contact details for entries (derek@demalro.plus.com).

Good reports from some lodges, with prospective candidates in the pipeline. But sadly, as in all walks of life we are losing some of our older wiser members.

This Provincial Divine Service on 30th.Oct was very well attended It was conducted by PM Rev Ivan Warwick with organ playing by Ramsay McGhee. Many thanks to everyone.

Kind regards and Fraternal greetings

Robin Cattanaich.

Provincial Grand Master

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The Master of Lodge Seaforth No 854, Brother Alasdair Taylor, is delighted to be able to invite you to a lecture in Lodge Seaforth on Monday 21st November 2016 entitled –

Remembrance: My 9/11 Experience

The Spirit of America Volunteerism.



The lecture will be presented by Brother Moises I Gomez, Past Master of Lodge Atlas Pythagoras No 10, Westfield, New Jersey in which he will deal with his personal experience with the terrorist's attacks on the World Trade Centre, in 1993 & 2001.

He has presided over five different Masonic bodies, and has membership to over twenty-five Masonic organizations, research groups and societies such as SRICF, AASR, York Rite, Red Cross of Constantine, AMD, Athelstan, Acon, National Sojourners and Operatives. He is the chairman of the annual Allied Masonic Degree week in Virginia, and is the current Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. He works for The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey - for twenty-six years as a member of the Emergency Service Unit stationed at the George Washington Bridge. He was working and responded to both terrorist attacks on American soil in 1993 & 2001.

The Lodge will tyle at 7.00 pm to deal with the business – and adjourn to the Clubrooms to hear Bro Gomez.

This is a unique opportunity to hear Bro Gomez speak and an invitation is extended to all Lodges throughout the Highlands and Islands to attend. As numbers, will require to be limited to 100, it would be appreciated if you could let the Lodge Secretary know in advance how many will attend from your Lodge in order that you can be accommodated. He can be contacted on –

01381 620 110 or 07770 37 37 72 or at w.r.mcgee@btinternet.com

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From the Provincial Almoner

I'm afraid, once again, I must start my report on a sad note by recording the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of several of our beloved Brethren.

In September, we lost Past Master Bob Maclean, Lodge Seaforth, Fortrose. Bob passed away suddenly in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, a few days after a long-awaited hip replacement operation. Bob had been in some considerable pain for several years and was so looking forward to the operation and being without pain. As well as being a Past Master of Lodge Seaforth, Bob was also a Past Z of St Clement Royal Arch Chapter and a member of many other Masonic orders. He was highly respected throughout freemasonry and this was evidenced by the huge number of brethren, from far and wide, in attendance at his funeral.

In October Past Master Sandy Rose, Lodge Rosehaugh, Avoch passed away at his home, surrounded by his family, after a long illness. Until ill health prevented him Sandy was a regular attender at his Lodge and very supportive of all that was happening within it. The esteem in which he was held was also very evident by the huge attendance of brethren at his funeral.

Last week we learned of the passing of Past Master Bill Thomson, Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty. Bill had been Master of his Lodge in 1970 but had not been in the Lodge for several years.

A few days ago, we learned of the passing of Past Master Raymond Morrison, Lodge Ness, Invergordon. Raymond passed away in the Highland Hospice after a long illness. As well as being a Past Master of his Lodge Raymond was a Past Z of Cromarty Firth Royal Arch Chapter. At the time of writing Raymond's funeral has not yet taken place.

All these brethren will be greatly missed and our sympathies go out to their families. Cards have been sent, where possible, to the families conveying the condolences of the Provincial Grand Master and brethren of the Province.

Bro Dougie MacDougall, Lodge Fingal, Dingwall has now been moved to Redwoods Nursing Home in Alness. I haven't yet visited him there but I have spoken to him on the telephone and he seemed to be in good form. My thanks to Past Master Angus Ross, Lodge Ness for letting me know that Dougie had moved there.

Past Master Cochrane Donald, Lodge Seaforth, Fortrose has still not fully recovered and doesn't go out much. He is shortly to start making use of the mobility scooter which had previously been used by the late Past Master Sinclair Bruce. It's to be hoped that he will make full use of it.

Past Master Victor Shepherd is still resident in Strathallan Care Home, Strathpeffer. He is very often confused and his mobility is not very good and he falls quite a lot. He uses a zimmer frame for walking. However, he is still being taken out of the home by friends and family for runs locally.

Past Master Andrew MacIvor, Robertson's Lodge, recently sustained a broken shoulder after having fallen from a work bench while removing curtain rods during his flitting to a new house. He is recovering well and hopes to have his sling removed in ten days to a fortnight's time. Rumour has it that in fact, having heard of the recent retirement of the Olympic athlete, Jessica Ennis, he was limbering up in the hope getting a place in the team for the 2020 Games!

Past Master Ronnie Sutherland, Lodge Fingal was recently in Raigmore Hospital with heart problems but I'm glad to say that he is now out of hospital and recovering well. He is able to attend masonic meetings.

I have visited brethren both at home and in hospital where possible and sent or delivered cards where appropriate conveying the best wishes of the Provincial Grand Master and brethren of the Province.

I'll end /

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I'll end as usual and ask that should any brother require my assistance or know of anyone who does, please get in touch with me.

David MacMaster, Provincial Grand Almoner Tel: 01997 421306 email: david@strathpeffer.net

FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



The Installation of Brother James M Morrison will take place at 7.30 pm on Monday 7th November. All St Duthus Brethren should note that the business part of the meeting will start at 7.00 pm.

Iain Sinclair

FORTROSE LODGE No. 108

This last quarter has been fairly quiet masonically with only the one degree having been carried out.



That was a 3rd degree in September when Peter Macleod was raised and in October John Norman Murray was affiliated to Lodge Fortrose.

On 4th October RWM Derek Mackay headed a visitation from Lodge Fortrose to Lodge St Clement's in Tarbert on the occasion of their Provincial visitation which was headed by Bro Dave Crilley DPGM of Inverness-shire.

The arrangements for our 250th anniversary are moving ahead and the list of those wishing to buy tickets for the dinner which will be in the Lews Castle is filling up quickly. The dinner tickets are on sale for £35 each and will be limited to 200.

Two of the choirs attending the Royal National Mod last month used our premises for their practices and had their lunch in the lodge function room on the Friday, Henry Macinnes was the cook for this feast of soup and sandwiches.

The front door at Kenneth Street has been repainted a nice shade of Ross County blue

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi Brethren

It is with sadness that I start this article with an Obituary. I learned that PM William (Bill) Thomson passed to the Grand Lodge above on Saturday 22 October 2016. Bill had been in Shoremill Nursing Home for some time. He was born on 9 October 1931 in Aberdeenshire. He was initiated into our lodge on 3 November 1965. He went through various offices before being installed as RWM on 16 December 1970. He served in this office for 1 year. Bill worked with the farming community around Cromarty for much of his life. He had not been in the lodge for many years but was a well-liked and well known character in Cromarty. If you met up with him he always asked how the Lodge was doing. He will be sadly missed in Cromarty and our sympathies go out to his family and friends.

In our first meeting in September 2016 we discussed the business of the lodge and worked out a programme for the session 2016/17. In our October meeting we worked a second degree. The plan for the rest of the session is as follows:

Wednesday 16.11.16 @ 7.45 pm AGM and nomination of RWM and Office-bearers. On this date RWM Peter Foster Snr. is due to stand down from Office and a new master will be nominated on that date, as will his new Office-bearers. A good turnout of our own Brethren would be appreciated but if you cannot attend but would like an office or to continue in office, please let me know.

Wednesday 21.12.16 @ 7.45 pm Installation of RWM and office bearers.

Wednesday 18.1.16 @ 7.45 pm Working a first degree.

Wednesday 15.2.16 @ 7.45 pm Working second degree.

Wednesday 15.3.16 @ 7.45 pm Working a second degree. (Provincial visit).

Wednesday 19.4.16 @ 7.45 pm Working a third degree.

Visitors will be welcome at all these meetings.

For information PM Victor Shepherd is still in Strathallan Care Home in Strathpeffer. He will probably be there for some time but appreciates visits and would be delighted to see you.

PM Andrew MacIvor as many of you will know from "Facebook" was in the process of moving house a week ago when he had an altercation with a workbench which broke in pieces under him, causing him to fall and break a bone in his shoulder. He ended up in Raigmore and his shoulder was strapped up. He is not allowed to drive for 5 to 6 weeks and could do very little regarding the removal. After an appeal, some Brethren rallied around and he is now successfully moved into his new house. He is feeling a bit better, but no doubt looking for a new workbench. The following is a message from Andrew. "I would like to thank all the brethren who helped in my hour of need after my fall last Monday night, in the middle of moving house."

I am sure this goes out to his wife Rachael as well, as she had to do much of the lifting and driving. Get well soon Andrew.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of all at "134" to pass Festive greetings to all when the season comes.

Regards to all

James A Tait, PM
Secretary

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Lodge Fingal No 318

At Dingwall and within the Lodge Room of the Masonic Building, a regular meeting of Lodge Fingal No 318 was held on Tuesday 11th October 2016 at 8pm. Opened in the EA° by the RWM Bro Angus Beaton with 16 Brethren and 4 visiting Brethren present. Our Master welcomed the SPGM of R&C Bro Barry Whitewell and Brethren from Lodge St John No 37, St Martin 1217 and Loch Ewe 1551.

The Master called upon the Brethren of Lodge Fingal to afford the visitors the usual hearty Fingalian welcome and that he looked forward to their company in the Logie Lounge for the Harmony, after the meeting.

The main business of the evening was a Mock F.C. Degree, as our two candidates, could not attend due to work commitments, which unfortunately seems to be a sign of the times. The press-ganged candidate was Bro. Richard MacDonald. At the 2nd Rising the SPGM congratulated the Master and his team on the Degree work and to Bro MacDonald for being the candidate, he also went on to mention that if it was not for the three Fingal Brethren - Brothers A. Henderson, A. Gault and R. MacDonald, Lodge Loch Ewe would not exist.

The Lodge was closed in due and ancient form at 9:40pm.

November meeting: 8th. Will be our annual AGM and nomination of Office-bearers.

December meeting: 13th. Will hopefully be a FC degree.

Special meeting: On Tuesday 27th December, when it will be the Installation of the RWM Elect Bro Colin Mackintosh and Office Bearers at 5pm. Installation ceremony to be carried out, by our very own Bro. Rory MacKenzie PM. With the Festival of St. John, in the Logie Lounge, to follow.



Events Logie Lounge: Saturday 24th September, there was a Social Night. Music by Jacquie & Ian, which seemed to go down well, as the floor was never empty.

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

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn PM
Secretary.*

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Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

The Lodge has recently acquired an historical ritual from the Brethren of Gwelo Lodge No 876 in Harare. The document is in poor condition but is believed to be a ritual recovered from the body of one of the soldiers killed alongside Major Allan Wilson in the massacre at Shangani.

It is proposed that the Lodge seeks professional advice on how best to restore / preserve the document and thereafter carry out further research to find out who the soldier was.

The Ritual is from the English Constitution and dates to 1769 although the certificate in which the ritual was wrapped appears to originate from Lodge Dalkeith. However, the writing is so faded that it will be difficult to get further information without technical support.

I have no doubt that there will be some interesting communication between the Lodge and Grand Almoner, a Past Master of Lodge Dalkeith Kilwinning No 10.

This is an exciting find for the Brethren of Lodge Allan Wilson and we are most grateful to the Brethren of Gwelo Lodge for presenting the documentation to us.

WRM
Secretary

Lodge Seaforth 854

It has been a sad start to the Masonic Year with six obituaries over the first two meetings.

In particular, we have lost two of our stalwart Past Masters in Roddy MacLennan and Bob MacLean. Both Brethren are legends within the Lodge and will be greatly missed.

Roddy, well known throughout the Black Isle and beyond as Roddy the Smiddy, served the Black Isle farming community above and beyond the call for decades and brought his sense of service into the Lodge with him. He was a quiet, unassuming man who just got on with things – if there was a job needing done, Roddy would do it.

Bob was a professional driver and was still driving the local school bus well into his eighties. A deep thinker, Bob enjoyed nothing more than a good debate with whoever was willing to take on the challenge. He was Secretary of the Lodge for over 25 years and kept the books and records in pristine condition. His quick wit and cheery craik was always welcome on the trips to the west and his story-telling prowess was renowned.

Both Brethren will be sadly missed and our heartfelt condolences go out to their respective families.

Our big news this time around is that we have been chosen to host one of Brother Moises Gomez's lectures – full details of the lecture can be found on page 4. The Master will be delighted to welcome all Brethren along to hear Brother Gomez on Monday 21st November.

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Lodge Averon No 866

Hi Brethren

Lodge Averon 866 got back to work on Oct the 13th with our usual business meeting and updates of things going on and what we are planning to do this season. We were very busy during the closed season with all sorts of events to raise funds for the lodge and for our chosen local group we supported over the last year. The Anne Noble Highland Dance Group. We held our final event for them with our annual charity Golf scramble on the 22nd Oct raising £1160. This was a fantastic day with a near full house on the golf course. We also hosted a visit from Lodge Stormont who did us the honour of carrying out a most excellent 2nd degree and some great singing afterwards. We now move into our new season with a 2nd of our own on the 27th and then a visit from Lodge Hozier on Sat 29th when we will Tyle at 3pm. All visiting brethren are most welcome.



Presentation of cheque to the Anne Noble Highland Dance Group by the Master, Bro George Robinson

Bro Donnie Mathieson

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Lodge Ness No 888

It is with deep regret that we record the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of the Lodge Ness correspondent, Past Master Brother Raymond Morrison.

For many years now, Raymond has faithfully submitted articles for both Lodge Ness and for Cromarty Firth RAC, never missing any vital information as to what was going to be happening in and around Invergordon.

I will personally miss Raymond's contributions and I extend to the Morrison family deepest condolences from the readership of the "Patter".

Ed

LODGE KYLE No 1117

Our Monday November 7th Meeting at 8pm will see the Election of Office Bearers for the Installation.

There will be two December Meetings; the first on Monday December 5th and then the Installation Meeting should be held on Monday December 12th

Would the Brethren please note that this second date is provisional but should be finalised at the November Meeting. Anyone requiring information should contact the Lodge Kyle Secretary.

All the Secretaries' contact details can be found on the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty website here: <http://www.pglrossandcromarty.org.uk/events.html> as can other useful information about other Orders.

The Lodge Kyle January 2017 Meeting will be held on the SECOND Monday of January which is the 9th.

I would also like to pass on a very brief tip ... I had the occasion to send out an email this month to The Brethren of Lodge Kyle. The recipient list now includes a new member of the Lodge, currently an E.A. This means it is important to check that the email is worded in simple terms so that new Brethren can understand what's going on at the local level and the wider Provincial and National levels. It is also a good idea to let them know if there is something in the Lodge emails they don't understand, they can approach their sponsor or the Lodge Secretary.

Ronnie Miller, PM
Secretary

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

The Lodge resumed our meetings on Friday 7 October with our AGM. We had 5 visitors in attendance from Kirkintilloch Lodge No28 so we persuaded at short notice to also hold a lecture which once again was given by John Patience PM. The lecture on TIME was well received by the Brethren. Bro Scott Patience PM took the chair for this meeting and his first duty was an obituary for Bro William Mackenzie from Muir of Ord who had passed away in September. We also included Bro Robert Maclean PM Lodge Seaforth who had also passed away in September. The RWM first duty in November will also be an obituary this time for Bro Sandy Rose PM a member of the Lodge for almost 40 years and RWM during 1990/92. Although Sandy had been ill for a few years it was still a shock to the Brethren to hear of his passing. Due to the care of his daughters, Donna and Andrea, he remained in his house to the end. The Brethren wish to pass on their condolences to the family and thank Bro Les Warne and wife Sue and PGL Almoner Bro David Macmaster PM of their long-term support to Sandy.

John Patience PM has kindly put together a tribute to Sandy. The Brethren of the Lodge and indeed many throughout the Province will be saddened to learn of the passing of PM Sandy Rose on Thursday 13th October at 8.00am. He was, and I think it would be agreed by all who know him, 'a man of rare excellence' skilled in the workings of the craft. A smooth operator on the floor of the lodge, he executed his parts without a stumble and was a specialist at the traditional history. Up until he took his stroke, about three years ago, he was an ever present at our meetings. Although he recovered enough (and he was not expected to recover) to come back to 1216, he was not physically able to compete with his former self. However, he maintained his interest in the lodge, never failing to contribute to charity, delivered by his good friend and Bro Les Warne-the latter attended to all his needs when he came out of hospital. Sandy's partial recovery, was in no short measure, due to the ministrations of Les and it can be safely said he did more for Sandy than any blood brother could. He is without doubt the finest example of a dedicated freemason and I am sure that Bro Sandy would readily endorse that statement.

Finally, we are unable to hold a 3rd degree as planned this Friday but we will have a lecture organised. The Installation will be held on Friday 2 December 2016.

Keith Patience, PM

ATTENTION ALL LODGE SECRETARIES

Provincial Grand Secretary would be indebted to you if you could respond to his request for feedback regarding the Visitation Questionnaires. Please contact Bro Turner directly.

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Lodge St Martin 1217

The Lodge will be serving mulled wine and shortbread at the village bonfire and fireworks display on Friday 4th November.

Tuesday 15th November will see Brother Michael Peterson Installed as RWM by Past Master Mike Turner and his Installing team, this will be a full installation and the meeting will tyle at 7.30pm for regular business and visitors will be admitted at 8.00pm for the installation ceremony.

The Lodge this year has decided to pass the sourcing of the village Christmas tree onto the trustees of Ullapool Harbour as they have funding available to provide a large artificial tree, the Lodge has been erecting the tree and supplying the lights for over thirty years.

On Wednesday 21st December, the Lodge will once again be assisting Santa to tour Ullapool raising funds for use with local children's activities.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

MALAWI PRESENTATION

During the discussion at the Quarterly Communication on continued support for the Mountain View School for Deaf Children, it was agreed that I would provide an hour long illustrated presentation on the Provincial involvement in Malawi to any of the Lodges who would like to receive such a presentation.

Some of the Lodges have already enjoyed the talk (or so they told me) but for those Lodges who have not seen the presentation and would like to, just drop me an email or give me a ring and suitable dates can be arranged.

The presentation is suitable for non-masons to come along – why not make it a family friendly social night and invite everyone along so that they can see what we as Masons are achieving in Malawi working alongside our Brethren in the Scottish Lodges in Blantyre and Lilongwe.

Ramsay McGhee

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Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551

This quarter's contribution begins with the news that community spirit is very much alive in and around the catchment area of the Lodge.

£ 500 accumulated on Friday 28th October following yet another very successful Quiz night is indeed testament to what is now becoming a biannual, popular and well supported evening function in the local hotel.

In recent years' the Poolewe swimming pool project, the Gairloch Air Cadets and the Air Scouts have been grateful recipients of the proceeds from these functions; now joining the throng of beneficiaries is the Community Car Care Scheme which, in an area such as Wester Ross, is a welcome addition.

The success of the quizzes itself is thanks to the input of the local lodge office bearers in ensuring a lively and convivial night out.

Mention has been made in the past to the participation by recent recruits to the Lodge and, on this occasion the skill of our newest recruit Davie Orr from along the road at Ardessie was not lost in his capacity of Quizmaster. An excellent night and the locals are already honing their skills in anticipation of Spring 2017 – whether it is the quiz itself or perhaps the hotel provided tea/coffee and biscuits at the interval!

At the start of our current session we had the FC degree for Bro. Orr.

Our next business will be the Installation of Bro. Michael Longley as R.W.M. and lodge Office Bearers at the hands of R.W. Depute Grand Master Bro. Ramsay McGhee and his team on Thursday evening 10th November 2016 followed by the harmony (and the raffle) in the hotel.

In common with every lodge in the area we lost a very dear colleague with the passing of Bro. Bob MacLean Lodge Seaforth No. 854 and I'll miss his 'craic', not only at harmonies in Lodge Loch Ewe after Installations and annual visitations but also further afield – particularly the 'annual pilgrimage to Stornoway' where, among other fraternal passengers, Bob's life stories were always welcome on the 2.5-hour ferry crossing!

The gateway to the mainland west, again, awaits all brotherly visitors.

The 'Lodge Loch Ewe Tourism Officer' has been at it again. I took the following photo of the view from the viewpoint at Kinlochewe on 19th July 2016 which Hector Mackenzie published in the Ross-shire Journal on 19th August 2016.

It was entitled 'The beautiful vista of Glen Docherty and Loch Maree beyond taken from the viewpoint above Kinlochewe' - another beautiful bit of scenery en route to Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551 which visitors to Aultbea can enjoy on the Achnasheen/ Gairloch road.

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Andrew Miller Henderson, RWM.

BITS AND PIECES

PROPOSED VISIT TO KENYA and MALAWI

The Installation of the District Grand Master of East Africa, Brother Mike Craig, will take place in the Masonic Temple, Nairobi on Saturday 24th June 2017. I will be travelling to Nairobi for the Installation and thereafter travelling on to Malawi to pay a return visit to the Mountain View School for Deaf Children and carry out the re-installation of the Grand Superintendent, Brother Gordon Sheppard, re-dedicate Lodge David Livingston No 1162 to celebrate their 100th anniversary and thereafter Install their Master and Office-bearers.

I am currently looking at costs and obviously the earlier the booking is made the cheaper it will be. Flights from Scotland to Nairobi and back are looking to come in around £700 (now) but it would appear that internal flights in Africa are going to be as expensive – we could be looking at travel costs

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of between £1000 and £1500 but I hope that the firm I normally use for flights will be able to reduce those costs. Hotel costs are similar to what we would pay here.

I will be seeking definitive prices as soon as I can. If any of the Brethren (and wives) would like to travel to Kenya and Malawi, please let me know as we can secure discount on group travel.

Those who have travelled out to Africa in the past have enjoyed the experience – the African welcome and hospitality is second to none.

During the trip, I'm happy to organise either a short safari in Kenya or a trip to Lake Malawi in Malawi.

Life at the school is not getting any easier and while our PGM is encouraging us to help cover the cost of term fees for those who cannot afford them other basics are also needed. I attach a blog from one of the young volunteers at the school which sums up the situation nicely –

Hello! My name is Charlotte and for 7 months, I volunteered in a Malawian primary school for deaf children. I taught English and (attempted to teach) maths to a beautiful class in standard 6. This was one of the best experiences of my life and I grew very close to the teachers and students, now calling many of them my family. The wonderful teachers at Mountain View care for the students immensely and invest copious time and energy into their futures.

However, a lack of basic materials makes this challenging on a daily basis, especially with no equipment for the hearing impaired. The quality of their education and wellbeing would be greatly improved by just a few items:

- A printer for the school: having no printer poses a significant obstacle during the examination period when papers must be written on the blackboards. For students with learning disabilities, this is an instant disadvantage.

- Sporting gear such as soccer balls and trainers: these would definitely be used! Shoes would also prevent injury from playing barefoot.

- Basic mathematical instruments like compasses and protractors.

*I'm extremely excited to be returning for 6 weeks and want to do my best to help Mountain View. The students are very lucky to be in such a nurturing environment, but I know it's not always easy for the school to provide what they do; **the passion is there, but the means are not.***

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AS A MATTER OF INTEREST *by Bro Donnie Mathieson, Lodge Averon 866*

In my last article, I had shared an interesting document I have stumbled on whilst on my holiday visiting the island of Santorini. Well it turns out we had a member of our very own Lodge, Bro Gary Miller who had friends in Malta and had the letter translated for me.

It transpires that it is not a Templar doc as the Templars ceased to exist in 1314. This letter is dated 1744. Fra Emanuel Pinto appears to be a Knight Hospitaller. The Maltese would have referred to him as is-Sultan which means king. None the less most interesting.

Translation below.

Brother Emmanuel Pinto

By the Grace of God, Humble Master of the Holy house of the Hospital of St John, military and Jerusalemite order, poor guardian of the Holy Sepulchre of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*might not be exact but the sense is there*)

To all and to whomsoever's hands bear this our letters patent; greetings: Let it be noted and shown that it is our will that whoever arms ships and flies our flag or that of our Religion, for the purpose of waging war on the enemies of our Holy Faith, not only do they not endanger the inhabitants of the Islands who profess our Christian Religion but they also offer them all help and assistance; we cannot lead you to believe that all the said militants (armatori) have obeyed our orders and did not stray from the honourable and Catholic debt. If a captain has the audacity to molest and harm the inhabitants of the Island of Miconi (*modern day Mykonos*), whether Greek or Latin, there remains no other path for us but to order him to immediately return our letters-patent by virtue of the Holy Obedience to the Venerable General of the Galleys of this our Religion, and to the Venerable lieutenant of the maritime army of the same, and the commander of our ship squadron, and to all, to any captain of which, to captains of other vessels, and particular navies, of these our Islands and dominions, under the serious arbitrary punishments, to us, who neither directly nor indirectly under whatever pretext worry, disturb or harm the inhabitants of the Island of Miconi, in their person, abodes, or their merchandise. We declare that we will make him account for every act of hostility and violence he committed to the said inhabitants of this Island of Miconi, wherein we wish that the value of our Catholic Faith remains respected and protected by our soldiers; and therefore: ships and merchandise appertaining to Greeks and Latin Catholics, inhabitants of the Island of Miconi, if not in the hands of the enemies of the Christian name, and furnished with these letters patent as passport, we wish, that the copy of this undersigned and authentically sealed by the Reverend Prior Superior of the Residence of the Company of Jesus of Santorini, which will be yearly renewed, is given due and undoubted credit. In testimony of which is our princely seal in black wax, issued from our Convent in Malta on the 13 March 1744 executed in the appropriate manner of our Chancellery according to the Ordinary Corso 1745.

Commissarius D Jo. Paulus de Arriagum. Vice cancelliere.

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PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

On Saturday afternoon 29th October RE District Grand Prior Andrew Morrison installed Donnie Macdonald as preceptor, he was ably assisted by VE Senechal Michael Kidd who installed the officers. A very convivial harmony followed the muster.



V. Preceptor Donnie (Video) Macdonald with his officers and visiting fratres from the District Grand Priory of The North in Scotland.

Photo courtesy of Henry Macinnes.

Donnie Macleod

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PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

For the information of the companions I've put together the following diary dates, let me know if I've got any wrong.

Chapter	Visit
Tain & Ross 63	14 February 2017
St Clement 244	28 April 2017
Cromarty Firth 310	01 March 2017
Hebrides 364	17 May 2017
Hebrides Lodge & Council	18 May 2017

AGM in Cromarty Firth Chapter Invergordon on Saturday 27th May 2017.

Donnie Macleod

St Clement RAC 244

The next meeting of St Clement will be an Excellent Master Degree on Friday 25th November

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.

On 11th October at our installation Phil Smith was installed as 1st Principal & James Smith and Alan MacPhee as 2nd & 3rd Principals respectively.

GUILD LODGES

Highland Guild Lodge

The next meeting of the Highland Guild Lodge will be on Friday 10th February 2017.

Alasdair Taylor

Kirkwarden/Scrivener
Highland Guild Lodge

The Moray Firth Guild Lodge.

*The next Regular Meeting of Moray Firth Guild, will be held in The Masonic Temple, Lodge St John No.193, Rothes on **Tuesday 8th November 2016** at 7.30pm. They will be working both a second degree and a fifth degree. There will no further meetings till 14th February.*

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Picture of the Squaremen relaxing on the way back from a very successful trip to Stromness in Orkney on 1st October where they had 9 new Brithers join the Corporation.

Highland Shed

The members of Heilan Shed No. 6 were delighted to leave a cheque for £250 with Lodge Mercantile Marine No 453 to be disbursed to local children's charities of their choice.

The Shed members were very appreciative at the number that turned out for the Meeting including Brithers from Caithness, Kirkwall, Stromness and three from Lerwick in Shetland (Buchan Shed No 3) who managed to bring a Candidate with them. An excellent time of brotherly companionship was experienced by all in attendance.

The next meeting of Heilan Shed No. 6 will be the committee meeting on Saturday 28th January 2017 (yes another year has gone by) within The Club, Inverness, normally just prior to the Cork Degree.

In the meantime, the Worthy Deacon and Office Bearers of Heilan Shed No. 6 would like to wish all the brethren, their families and friends in the north of Scotland Lodges a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.