



Lodge Fortrose No 108

# THE PROVINCIAL PATTER

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

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

ISSUE NO 91

MAY 2017

## Cover Picture

*Lodge Fortrose, 108, Stornoway who on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 will be celebrating their 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

## Editorial

Welcome to the 91<sup>st</sup> edition of the Patter.

The period since the last edition of the Patter has been extremely busy both within and out-with the Province.

There have been all sorts of Installations, Re-dedications and of course the annual Provincial Visitations have started which, for me, mark an important part of our Masonic Calendar. It is always good to get out and about, round the Province, and see what is happening in the Lodges, catch up with old friends and make new ones. By the time the newsletter goes to press we will only have two visits left to Lodge Kyle and to Lodge Fortrose.

But, equally important for our Province is the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sorrow. This year the Lodge of Sorrow will be held in Tain in Lodge St Duthus at 15.00 hours on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May. If there is one meeting in the year that I would really appeal to the Brethren to come along and support, it is this one. It gives us a tremendous opportunity to remember all the Brethren of all the Lodges in the Province who have passed to the Grand Lodge Above.

It is a very poignant service and this year we will be remembering several Brethren whose commitment to Freemasonry was outstanding. So, let us commemorate their lives by turning out in large numbers to remember them and to give thanks for all they did for our beloved Craft during their time on earth.

Another highlight for me over the past three months was to head a Deputation from Grand Lodge to Lodge Union and Crown No 307 in Barrhead to work a Master Mason Degree for four candidates. What a privilege to have been involved in such a unique occasion. I have included a photograph on page 23

As we go into the summer recess, may I wish all our readers at home and abroad a very relaxing and enjoyable summer and convey my sincere thanks to all who contribute to the patter on a regular basis. If it wasn't for your commitment there would be no newsletter.

*Ramsay McGhee*, Editor

## Grand Lodge of Scotland



There used to be a summer recess but it seems to be shrinking quickly.

On 13<sup>th</sup> May I will be in Fife at a Reigning Masters' Degree which is being organised by the Reigning Masters to acknowledge the completion of a truly outstanding Provincial Master-ship by Brother Rev Andrew Eadie Paterson. All 49 Reigning Masters are keen to be involved to some extent or another simply to thank Brother Andrew for all he has done during his term in Office.

On 20<sup>th</sup> May I will have the privilege and pleasure of presenting a 70-year Diploma in Lodge Fingal.

The following week is a return visit to Fife to Lodge Lindores who are celebrating their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. One week later, another 250<sup>th</sup> celebration but this time in our own Province over in Lewis when Lodge Fortrose No 108 are in the limelight. It's in the air, on 10<sup>th</sup> June I am heading a Deputation to Lodge Union and Crown No 103 to celebrate their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A slight change of ceremony on 17<sup>th</sup> June when we return once again to Fife to witness the Installation of the new PGM, Stewart Quigley. On 24<sup>th</sup> June, in slightly warmer climes, I will have the pleasure of re-installing Bro Mike Craig as DGM of East Africa and one week later we are having what the Grand Superintendent calls a Festival of Freemasonry in Blantyre, Malawi when I will re-install the Grand Superintendent, Gordon Sheppard, re-dedicate Lodge David Livingstone in their centenary year and finally, install their Master and senior Office-bearers.

*Ed*

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## Provincial Grand Lodge:

Hi Brethren

The May edition already - where has the time gone?

We are well into our Provincial visits to our Lodges and could I take this opportunity to thank the Provincial Office-bearers for attending so many meetings. It has been great to have the numbers in the Deputations. We have two visits left - Lodge Kyle on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May (tyle at 8pm) and Lodge Fortrose on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Next is the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sorrow to be held in mother St Duthus, Queen Street, Tain on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm. This service will be conducted by Brother Rev Ivan Warwick, PM and it would be nice to have as many members from ALL the lodges in the Province in attendance. This is especially important when the roll call for members from **your** lodge who have passed through the veil to grand lodge above is called.

The great overseas trip to Stornoway Royal Arch is on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> May, Lodge and Council on Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> May and, as mentioned above, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty annual visit to Lodge Fortrose 108 on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May. All visitors are very welcome to join with us on any night. Next, a very important date for Lodge Fortrose 108 is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 when they celebrate their centenary. There is already a big number of Masons booked to attend (very few beds available now if any).

Our Provincial Grand Lodge AGM and Installation of office bearers by PPSM Jim Tait will be held in Lodge Fingal in Dingwall on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm. We are looking for some **new** office bearers to join with us to fill all the offices. Please come along and support **your** Provincial Grand Lodge

I must thank all the members and Lodges who have supported the Malawi Mountain View School for Deaf Children project - our chosen Charity. The total now stands around £3,000 - what a great effort. Some of you will be aware of Ramsay's pending visit to the school in late June early July and he is going to assess the situation out there and we will get an update on any requirements that are needed on his return. We wish him, Henry, Ann and Ian a very safe journey and to pass on our kind regards to the children and teachers for the great job they do. Likewise, Fraternal greetings to the Grand Superintendent of Malawi, Brother Gordon Shepherd for all his help.

Lastly, we are going to get a PHOTO of the PROVINCIAL members at the AGM, so if you want a mug-shot, be there.

Fraternal greetings to all who read the PATTERN and thanks to the Editor.

*Robin Cattanach.*

Provincial Grand Master

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## From the Provincial Almoner

Sadly, I have once again to start my report by recording the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of well-known brethren.

About a fortnight ago Brother Tommy Houston, Lodge Fingal passed away in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Although he had not been in the best of health recently his passing was sudden. Tommy had been a regular attender at his lodge until a few years ago when his wife's health deteriorated. She had eyesight problems.

In the early hours of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April Bro. Johnnie Ross, Lodge St Duthus passed away very suddenly at his home in Inver. Johnnie had been on British Legion duties in Tain the previous day and appeared to be his usual cheerful self.

Both these brethren will be very much missed by members of their respective lodges.

Past Master Victor Shepherd is still resident at Strathallan Care Home, Strathpeffer. He is always in good form during visits but is still, on occasions very confused. He is still able to go out for runs with his family.

Past Master Fraser MacKay, Lodge St Duthus is still in care in Invergordon and not making much progress.

Bro. Dougie MacDougall, Lodge Fingal is still resident at Redwoods Care Home in Alness but has mobility problems and now uses a wheelchair most of the time. He has been somewhat less confused of late but is very frail. He always enjoys visits from brethren.

Past Master Cochrane Donald, Lodge Seaforth, was admitted to Raigmore Hospital on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April and is currently in Ward 6c there on intravenous antibiotics re an infection on one of his legs. He also has some kidney problems. He is likely to be there for several days.

Past Master John Patience, Lodge Rosehaugh is also not in the best of health and has been attending Raigmore recently. He is due to meet with an oncologist this coming week.

Past Master Angus Ross, Lodge Ness recently had surgery but is now, I understand, on the go again. I only learned of his hospitalisation last Friday and at time of writing have not yet been in touch with him.

Bro. Freddie Reid, Lodge Fingal, was also recently in Raigmore Hospital but is now recovering at home.

Cards have been sent and visits made to brethren both at home and in hospital where and when appropriate.

I'm sure you will join me in conveying best wishes for their future health to those I have mentioned. I'll end as usual and ask that should any brother require my services or assistance, or know of anyone who does, please get in touch with me.

*David A. MacMaster, PM*

**Provincial Grand Almoner**

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## FROM THE LODGES

### Lodge St Duthus No 82



Lodge Seaforth 854 will be travelling to Tain on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May to work a MM Degree. The Master, Brother James Morrison would appreciate a good turnout to welcome the Black Isler's to the Lodge.

*Iain Sinclair*

Brethren

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the phone calls, texts and get well letters I have received since my road traffic accident on March first. I'd particularly like to thank the Masters and Brethren of Lodge Averon, Robertson Lodge, Cromarty and my mother Lodge, St Duthus No 82.

Getting cards gives one a great boost when you have been told you are off work for at least twelve weeks. I have received visits from our Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Almoner which was very nice. A big thank you to both.

It's embarrassing when you must call on a brother to change your lights bulbs. Thank you, Brother David Johnstone. We had a laugh about it.

I attended Raigmore after six weeks where x-rays were taken and I thought the way things were going that I was going to be released from the body brace. The spinal fracture appeared to be healing but unfortunately consultant requires me to wear the brace until end of May. After that, I will attend physiotherapy to build up back muscles.

I am back on the road again driving but not very far as nervous system still a bit twitchy. My intentions are to attend the lodge of sorrow and a meeting at the end of May. So, see you all soon and again many thanks for keeping in touch.

*John Mackenzie*

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## FORTROSE LODGE No. 108



*Quiz Winners*

*Quiz Runners Up*

Greetings from Fortrose Lodge where we are in the middle of preparing for our 250<sup>th</sup> celebrations which take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. More about that later.

This year has been very slow as regards candidates, indeed our only Degree with a "live" candidate was at our second meeting in April when Craig MacLeod received his MMM Degree. We have had a good few practice Degrees. On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February, we had our annual Burns Supper (later this year) and it was a very enjoyable evening. On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April, we had a presentation from Bro Ramsay McGhee DGM PPGM about the Mountain View School in Malawi. This was well received by the Brethren and non-masons who attended and took part in a quiz afterwards. The quiz raised £360:00 for the Malawi appeal which will be presented to PGM Bro Robin Cattanach. We will be welcoming PGM Bro Robin Cattanach and his deputation on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May. This is his first visit as PGM and we look forward to it.

Our 250<sup>th</sup> Celebrations (officially) start on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June with a talk from PM Bro Sandy Matheson CVO. This will be in the Town Hall Stornoway (I feel a song coming on) at 7:30pm. This is an open evening and anyone is welcome to come along and listen to what will be an excellent oration by Sandy. There will be an historic display as well. On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, we have our rededication ceremony in the Nicolson Institute. All Brethren are expected to be seated by 2:40pm. The PGM of Ross and Cromarty, Bro Robin Cattanach and his deputation, which I expect will have visiting Provincial members accompanying will enter the Lodge at 2:45pm. Grand Lodge will be admitted at 3pm. After the ceremony and the Lodge is closed we will retire to Lews Castle for our dinner. There is transport laid on from the school to the castle.

This being an important milestone in our history we have had a new look tie produced with our crest and the burgh of Stornoway crest on it as well. The ties along with jewels, pennies, cuff links will be on sale soon. Please look up our website and have a look at them.

*Henry W. MacInnes* PM (secretary)

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## Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi Brethren

Our 2016/17 session ended with our meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017. We are now in recess until the start of the new session which will be our next meeting on Wednesday, 20 September 2017. It has been quite an eventful session for us with a lot of hard work to keep our Lodge going and more help would always be appreciated. If you have been absent for whatever reason, why not make the September meeting your target for getting back among us. You will be most welcome. Remember it is your mother lodge.

During the session, PM Ronald Cooper and I went to Shoremills care home and presented Bro George (Dod) MacLeman with his certificate for 50 years' service. We held 8 meetings i.e. 1 business meeting, our AGM, our installation when Past Master Andrew MacIvor was installed back into the chair, and worked 4 degrees with substitute candidates (one of these meetings was our Provincial Visitation) and we finished with our meeting of 19 April 2017, when Lodge St. Duthus No 82 visited us with a deputation and their own candidate, Bro Bruce MacIvor and worked an excellent 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree. The deputation was headed by PM Ian Sinclair who chaired the meeting. It should be noted that the candidate was a full cousin of our Master and he has roots in our Lodge, his father and other family members, being members. This was an excellent night with visitors from many lodges. There were over 40 in the lodge, and our usual harmony followed. We hope to reciprocate by going to Tain to work a degree next session. Maybe for the same candidate. (Watch this space). This meeting culminated with a prize draw, with prizes we had collected during the session. Thanks to all who contributed.

The winners were as follows:

1 <sup>st</sup> .	£100 voucher (Slater's men's ware)	PM Gwyn Phillips	Lodge 854
2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Bottle malt whisky	RWM James Morrison	Lodge 82
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Teddy-bear scarf	Bro David Williams	Lodge 82
4 <sup>th</sup>	Free MOT at Riverford Autos.	Bro David Johnston	Lodge 82
5 <sup>th</sup>	Bottle Rum	Bro Douglas Cooper	Lodge 134
6 <sup>th</sup>	Bottle Malt whisky	PM John Stirling	Lodge 6
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sweets	Bro Hugh Grove	Lodge 82
8 <sup>th</sup>	Masonic Tankard	PM Neil Cooper	Lodge 134
9 <sup>th</sup>	Toiletries	RWM Alex Craib	Lodge 6
10 <sup>th</sup>	Bottle wine	PM Ronald Cooper	Lodge 134

During the session, our Brethren visited many lodges far and wide and got many visitors in return. It is these visitors who keep our lodge going and our thanks go out to them. We also had 2 affiliates from Lodge No 888 in the persons of RWM Derek Rodway and Bro Jimmy Gregg. They almost went straight into office and have been great stalwarts, as have been all the brethren who stepped into offices or acted as candidates at our meetings. Thanks to all. Derek and Jimmy still work hard in their own lodge but came to us to give support in the true sense of Freemasonry and we really appreciate Jimmy passing round his box O' sweeties.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of visiting my home town of Paisley on 18.3.17 with PM's Alasdair Taylor and Jonathan Hill, to witness the installation of Brother Neil Fraser as the new Provincial Grand Master of Renfrewshire East. It was a grand day and good to be among the Paisley Buddies again for a wee while. Neil most of you will know. He is from Lodge 854 and is the son of our own Past Provincial Grand Master, Ian Fraser. I am sure it was a proud moment for both. On the 4.4.17 again with PM Taylor and with PM Ramsay McGhee in his capacity as Depute Grand Master Mason, PM Ian McLaren, and PM Alex Craib, Inverness-shire Grand Steward, we travelled down to my old lodge in Barrhead (Union and Crown No. 307) to witness quite a unique occasion when the Grand Lodge of Scotland, under the Leadership of Ramsay McGhee, worked a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree on 4 candidates. Ramsay was in the chair and we witnessed an excellent degree which could not have been easy with brethren working from various rituals. It was great to be back in Union and Crown and to see a lodge really thriving. They meet twice a month and can average 60 or 70 brethren at every meeting. They have an excellent facility downstairs and sat over 120 to a meal after the meeting. It shows what hard work and dedication of the brethren can achieve.

As lodge Almoner It is sometimes hard to keep in touch with brethren who you do not meet with, so I would ask if any brother knows of a brother who is unwell or in need of help in any way please let me know so we can offer help or support.

I hope you all enjoy the recess and come back fully charged for the September meeting.

*James A Tait*, Secretary

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## Lodge Fingal No 318

### INSTALLATION

I had the honour of being installed as the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Fingal on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> December 2016. It being a day in my life which I will always remember. The installation was carried out by P.M. Rory Mackenzie assisted by P.M. Donnie Gunn. Several other Past Masters of the Lodge also took part. All being most smartly dressed in the lodge regalia they looked and played their respective parts in a most excellent manner. With all the other brethren sitting and looking on I found the ambience of the occasion to be most sincere. Needless to say, I felt humble at being the main figure of attention.

On conclusion of the installation the ceremony of events moved to the Logie Lounge for the Festival of St. John. At this stage I was most grateful for my first rum and coke of the day. The second one also helped to calm my nerves. An excellent meal was enjoyed by all who attended the function. The normal formal toasts thereby followed and the craic was most enjoyable.

At the end of the festival of St John several member's wives joined the company that was remaining. Some entertainment was then provided courtesy of that famous two brothers Ramsay and Jim. The wee dance and bit of craic brought a good day to a close.

### FIRST REGULAR MEETING – 2017

On Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017, the lodge had its first regular meeting of the year. The team of new office bearers working a first degree for the first time did a magnificent job. The candidate being our new brother, John Robertson. A small harmony was held thereafter.

### QUIZ NIGHT

On Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017, a quiz night was held within the lodge. A total of ten teams of four took part. A raffle was also held, with all prizes being donated. At half time an excellent tea was served by member's wives. A cheque for £500 was also presented to a member of the Puffin Pool committee. The night being a great success, thanks is extended to all those that took part, donated prizes, and assisted in any manner.



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## SECOND REGULAR MEETING -2017

On Tuesday, 14th February 2017, a second degree was worked for brother Joe Newlands. Again, the office bearers carried out their respective duties in a most excellent manner. A small harmony followed.

## VALENTINES DANCE

On the evening of Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017, a Valentines dance was held within the Logie Lounge of the Lodge, music for the evening being provided by Sterling Silver. A small buffet was also provided. The dance floor was never unoccupied and a good night was had by all who attended. Thanks again to all those that assisted in any way or provided for the buffet.

## THIRD REGULAR MEETING – 2017- PROVINCIAL VISIT

On Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017, the lodge had its annual visitation from Provincial Grand Lodge. It was planned to work a fellow craft degree for one of our members on this grand occasion, but like a lot of plans, a change to a mock degree had to be made when the candidate was unable to make the meeting due to work commitments.

The degree was worked to an excellent standard. A very favourable report was received from the Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Master also thanked the lodge members for the generous donation made to his chosen charity of £440. This being the children's school for the deaf in Malawi. At the end of the meeting a harmony was held within the Logie Lounge of the Lodge.

## LADIES NIGHT

A ladies' night was held within the Logie lounge of the lodge on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Music for the evening was provided by Mike Samms and a three-course meal served by Mrs Catherine Morrison, The Railway Station, Strathpeffer. An enjoyable evening was had by all that attended. Again, it's a big thank you to those that gave donations and raffle prizes.

## DONATION to HIGHLAND HOSPICE

On Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017, I attended at the Highland Hospice, Inverness, accompanied by P.M. H. Cameron and presented a cheque for £500. The presentation was received by a Ms Katie Gibb who is a member of the Hospice fund raising team. While there we had a coffee and bun in the newly furnished cafe. Very good and worth a visit.



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## FORTH REGULAR MEETING – 2017.

On Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, a third degree was worked for brother Joe Newlands. Again, this was a first for the new team of office bearers. The degree was well worked by all that took part. A harmony was thereafter held in the Logie lounge.

## LODGE CHARITY DONATIONS.

To date the following donations have been made to charities by the lodge -

- (a) £500 to the Puffin Pool, Dingwall.
- (b) £500 to the Highland Hospice, Inverness.
- (c) £440 to the School for Deaf Children, Malawi via P.G.L.

Thanks to all who have given support.

## EVENTS STILL TO COME.

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2017. Visitation from Lodge St. Peters, Thurso, who are to work a Mark Degree for brother Joe Newlands. Lodge to tyle at 6 pm. Disco thereafter at 8 pm.

Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2017. Day out to Plockton by train.

Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Wee sponsored walk from Strathpeffer to Dingwall via cats back, followed by BBQ and dancing to Mike Samms.

All are welcome to join us.

From us all at Lodge Fingal I wish you all a happy summer break.

*Colin Mackintosh*

R.W.M

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn PM*

*Secretary.*

Share your smile with the world. It's a symbol of friendship and peace.

*Christie Brinkley*

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## Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

The first meeting of the Lodge will soon be upon us and it will be the Installation of the RWM Elect, Bro Cochrane Donald. The meeting takes place at 11.30 am (11.00 am for coffee) on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June within the Lodge Seaforth Masonic Hall, Station Square, Fortrose. A very warm welcome is extended to all.

The July meeting was supposed to be the presentation of papers by Brethren from Lebanon but it looks like this will have to be put back till next year. The alternative paper will be announced in due course.

However, I am delighted to announce that Brother Charles Winston has agreed to attend the August meeting to present the second part of his lecture. Last August the Brethren present were totally engrossed in his paper on the state visit of HM Queen Victoria to the Glasgow International Exhibition of 1888 based on the painting by the renowned 19<sup>th</sup> century artist, Sir John Lavery, one of "The Glasgow Boys".

WRM  
Secretary

## Lodge Seaforth 854

During the recess, Lodge Seaforth are looking forward to visiting Lodge St Duthus on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May to work a MM Degree and to travelling up to Caithness to work a FC Degree on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Any Brethren who would like to accompany the RWM on those trips would be most welcome.



# THANK YOU

## BLACK ISLE CYCLE CHALLENGE – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Brethren, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty (along with quite a few family members) has proudly provided all the stewards for this annual event since its inception. This year, was no different and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the Stewarding Team for another great effort. The Hospice Team greatly appreciate the efforts of the Province and we receive many well-earned plaudits from the participants.

Well done again – see you all at Resolis in 2018.

*WRM - editor*

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## Lodge Averon No 866

Hello Brethren

Lodge Averon 866 is now in summer recess after another very busy season. Bro Andrew Gulak was conferred with all 3 very well attended degrees and a 2<sup>nd</sup> for Bro Gary Miller. Even if I do say so myself the standard of these workings were excellent and the team involved are a credit to Lodge Averon. The Malawi Lecture delivered by Bro Ramsay McGhee was superb and as a result has encouraged a unit of RAF cadets, who attended the lecture, to begin their own fund raising efforts for the project, with some very good advice from Bro Ramsay. (Still feel awful sorry the chickens!).

We have, as always, been very busy with events. Raising over £800 from our Play your cards right charity event for Huntington's Disease. The event was a full house and a fantastic night was had by all. Our old Folks party in the bowling club, was again a roaring success, with the kids from Anne Nolan highland dance school putting a superb performance and music provide by Bro Tug Wilson and Bro Tommy Stirling with piping from Bro Calum Mckenzie.

Our Ladies night was bursting at the seams with one of the best buffets we have ever had, provided by one of our regular visitors to our events and our grateful thanks must go to Eddie Crawford, so much so we had queues forming at the end to take stuff home. The evening itself was superb with the dancing and singing going on from start to finish.

The Entire Lodge Averon team who contributed their time and effort to these events, once again excelled themselves this year and should be very proud of what they do. They are an example of Masonry at its best and provide an exemplary example to our younger and future brethren. Thank you to every single one of you.

I would also like to mention the support that Lodge Averon extends to the other orders which Lodge Averon hosts. With brethren from lodge Averon attending a poker night to help raise some funds for the KT. Although not members of the KT themselves, came along and extended their support and money. This night was very well organised and hosted by Bro Fraser McBeath Snr. We also had some visitors and possible future candidates, who were well impressed by our efforts.

*Bro Donnie Mathieson*

### **Blast from the Past – from the February 1998 edition of *The Patter***

The following was submitted by the late PM Dougie Mcleod from an article which he discovered in a South African Masonic publication –

“Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day that must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and forced to do your best will breed in you, temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and content and a hundred virtues which the idle never know.”

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## Lodge Ness No 888

The Lodge is now in recess until Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

*Derek Rodway*

RWM Lodge Ness 888

## LODGE KYLE No 1117

Lodge Kyle will be meeting for the last time before the Summer Recess on Monday 1st May when there will be a Provincial Visit and a Demonstration of the Second Degree. We will reconvene on the first Monday in September with the possibility of a Third Degree. Once this is confirmed with the Candidate we will publish the event on our website at [www.lodgekyle1117.co.uk](http://www.lodgekyle1117.co.uk) along with any other news.

*Ronnie Miller*, PM

Secretary

## Some ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

- Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
- Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
- If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- If you lend someone £20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- Never buy a car you can't push.
- Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- The second mouse gets the cheese.
- When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
- You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
- We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colours, but they all have to live in the same box.
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

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## LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

Not a great deal to report on over the last few months on lodge business. The hopes of our candidate available for our February and March meetings failed to materialise due to business and personal difficulties and by April we were informed that work commitments were taking him away from the area altogether. So, a bit disappointing for all especially one or two Brethren trying to make their mark on the floor. We did just run through the degree in February with a stand in candidate. Our April meeting was the PGL visitation and we hastily agreed to Bro David Patience giving his Ark of the Covenant lecture which was well received by all in attendance.

We have received correspondence from Lodge Stepps No 1213 regarding the charter meetings which were held regularly over a good number years. Nothing got organised last year but Lodge Stepps aim to hold a meeting in May 2018 to restore these specials meetings for the future.

Finally, I wish to pass on my sincere thanks to all the Brethren from many Lodges who sponsored Amy and myself in our recent Highland Hospice Black Isle Cycle Challenge. At present, we have raised just over £1100 so we are very pleased with this amount.

*Keith Patience, PM*



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## Lodge St Martin 1217

The Lodge has been kept busy with degree work and supporting the British legion Village Memorial to the fallen and the Provincial Grand Lodge Malawi Appeal. Plans are also being made for the upcoming Rotary Fun Day on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

The Lodge has one meeting left of the season on the 16<sup>th</sup> May, we are hoping to work a third degree for brother Norman Gillies, however that is subject to him being available.

The Lodge also celebrated one of its members reaching his 60<sup>th</sup> year in freemasonry. Brother Angus Mackenzie joined Lodge St Martin on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1957, the photo shows Brother Angus with the Provincial Grand master brother Robin Cattanach and the RWM Brother Michael Peterson.



*Charles MacAulay, PM  
Secretary*

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## Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551

During the quarter the lodge had the PGL visitation on 13<sup>th</sup> April when lodge Office Bearers Mike Longley RWM, Allan MacCrimmon Treasurer and Andrew Henderson IPM gave interpretations on the MM, FC and EA degree Tracing Boards respectively – something which had been done a few years ago but a little updated on this occasion. Following the meeting the brethren, PGL members and visitors travelled to the Old Inn in Gairloch for a harmony of pheasant soup, sandwiches and a slice of cheesecake. Among the cask brews available was an innovative one engineered by the RWM in his ‘brewery shed’ on the premises named ‘The Blind Piper’ attributed to an Iain MacLeod MacCrimmon of yesteryear. For the background, you will have to catch Mike’s ear some evening.

The lodge secretary Barrie Whitwell, at an earlier meeting in March, gave an interesting insight into Rudyard Kipling’s poetry with examples aplenty to whet the appetite of the brethren present. This presentation was originally scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> February but had to be cancelled due to the very wintry conditions prevailing west of Achnasheen that evening – Brother Mike Macleod SD, home from work on the west coast offshore along with the IPM took the opportunity of nipping along from their respective homes in the less stormy localities of Alness and Dingwall to Lodge Averon No. 866 in Alness and their MM degree work.

At the end of March the IPM had a break, complete with full highland dress and Lodge Loch Ewe regalia, in the Caribbean when he met up with the Office-bearers and Brethren of Lodge Tobago Kilwinning No. 1643 in that sun-drenched island paradise – a location first visited by the writer with the PGL deputation in March last year. When comparing this 2017 break with over 16 years of sampling the culture on periodic leave after work stints in West and Central Africa there are no prizes for guessing, even after a couple of visits, which location will be on the radar in future years, health permitting, where Masonic friendship abroad is so bountiful today.

While staying at the Bon Accord apartments I also had the pleasure to meet up with Bro. Keith Wainwright who kindly took the group photo before the PGL deputation visited Lodge Tobago Kilwinning No. 1643 on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

The last meeting of the current session was given over to some forward planning on the social and local fundraising fronts over the recess and subsequent year end.

To end this report from the West the following is an excerpt which made me chuckle and is from one of a raft of humorous booklets written by the Very Rev Dr James A Simpson, a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland and minister at Dornoch Cathedral whom our editor persuaded to give ‘The Immortal Memory’ at the Strathpeffer Burns Club’s Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Dinner in the Strathpeffer Hotel on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2005:

One day when a minister and his wife were entertaining friends, their son John came in from playing, to join them for a meal. He was immediately despatched to the bathroom to wash his hands. ‘You know what I keep saying about germs, Johnnie’ said his mother. From outside the dining room door, a little voice was clearly heard to mutter ‘Germs and Jesus. It’s all I hear about in this house and I’ve never seen either.’

Enjoy the coming summer months during the recess,

*Andrew M. Henderson* IPM

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Brother Keith Wainwright whom I've referred to in my submission from Loch Ewe above - he's the Brother who took the photo of the deputation of 10 who travelled to Trinidad and Tobago in March last year and whom I met up with again this March at the same apartments we stayed in.

*Andrew M. Henderson*  
IPM - 1553

Brother Kenneth Urquhart was initiated into Lodge Seaforth in 1951 but after National Service in the RAF, spent his working life in the south of England.

Unfortunately, Kenneth's health has taken a turn for the worse but he was keen to return to his home town and visit his Lodge once again.

I had the privilege of welcoming him and his immediate family into the Lodge where we spent time reminiscing and looking at the photographic records of the Lodge.

**WRM**



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## BITS AND PIECES

### GRENADA - LODGE SAINT ANDREW No. 1794

After a most enjoyable sojourn to Trinidad both Bro Pringle and Downie travelled to Grenada with a view to visiting Lodge Saint Andrew No. 1794 on Wednesday 15th February, where they met up with the Grand Master Mason and Grand Secretary and the newly installed District Grand Master once again, at a cocktail reception the evening before. Both the Cocktail Reception and Lodge meeting were held in the Radisson Hotel, Grand Anse Beach Resort, St Georges. The food supplied by the hotel management was beautiful and excellently prepared and served.

The Lodge, on the occasion of their 25th birthday, worked a most excellent 1st Degree for the son of Past Master/Secretary Bro D Roberts, now Bro Nigel Roberts. Brother D Robert's took the chair for the evening.

The lectures were of a very high standard, admired and enjoyed by all and it's unfair to pick out something so well worked as this was, but the North-East Corner, delivered by Bro Michael Kirkton, Past Master and Historian was above average in delivery and expressive content. The Lodge is finding its feet now after the ordeal of hurricane "Ivan" several years ago, and four names were read out for admission to the Lodge with another one waiting to be initiated.

In the absence of Bro. Hassan Hadeed, affiliate member of Lodge St Martin No. 1217, Bro. Downie had the enjoyable task of presenting a plaque to Lodge Saint Andrew No. 1794 from the members of Lodge St Martin No. 1217 which was originally presented to Bro. Hadeed on his affiliation in January in Ullapool with the express invitation to the members his Lodge(s) and in fact members of the District to join in the 100th year celebrations in Ullapool early in May 2020.

In a reciprocal manner, the RWM Bro Trevor Renwick, presented Bro. Downie with a plaque for Lodge St Martin No. 1217, requesting that it be presented and delivered at the next available opportunity.

*Morris M Downie*  
PPGM



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## VISIT TO KENYA and MALAWI

All arrangements are now in hand for the visit to Kenya and Malawi – just visas to order and we are ready to go. In Kenya, we are looking forward to rededicating Lodge MacKinnon 1531 and re-installing Brother Mike Craig as District Grand Master.

In Malawi, as well as spending time at the Mountain View School for Deaf Children, we will, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July, be re-installing Bro Gordon Sheppard as Grand Superintendent of Malawi, re-dedicating Lodge David Livingstone, 1162 on this their Centenary Year and thereafter installing the Master of the Lodge.



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

Hello Brethren.

Whilst I was researching history of the building of Lodge Averon, I came across an interesting bit of history around Alness dating back to 1715, which made me chuckle a bit. It's as if nothing much has changed. So, I thought I would have a bit of fun with it and relate the story. Just as a matter of interest. Now remember this is based on historical fact!

**Skirmish of Alness** *October 1715 (AKA 2 weeks last Saturday) on and around the land at Alness Golf club.*

**Big Wullie McKenzie, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Seaforth Chief** of Clan McKenzie and his best buddie **John Erskine, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Mar** were having one of their regular catch ups around Elgin. Now keeping in mind that John of Erskine at the time was the main man of the Jacobite army. Whereupon they decided that it would be of important strategic advantage to take the town of Inverness from pro government forces, which, along with Big Wullie's cousin John McKenzie of Coul and his clan they successfully took and held sometime in Sept 1715.

Now while this was going on, **Robbie Munro, 6<sup>th</sup> Baronet and Chief of Clan Munro** had caught wind of this and being pro government and an ongoing feud with the McKenzie clan, had started to raise an army with the intention of taking Inverness back. After all he quite fancied some of the land around the banks of the river Ness there, some nice wee river islands and that, might be good for a few but and bens in the future maybe a few manses for the better off... after all Inverness is a growing town.

However, /

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However, Big Wullie knew he was on his way and sent a messenger to meet him at Dingwall and he was told in no uncertain terms, “off you trot back to Foulis”, unless he was here to support the Jacobite army. Robbie gave this a bit of consideration and off he went back to his Seat at Foulis Castle, thinking to himself, there was no way Big Wullie Mckenzie is getting the land back he had gained around Alness and Ross-shire as part of the pro government deal, so he got in touch with **John Gordon 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Sutherland Chief of Clan Sutherland** and **George Mackay 3rd Lord Reay and Clan Chief of Clan MacKay** along with a force of **Clan Ross**, for a bit of backup. After all, where do you think McKenzie will go next? He stirred. All being Pro government and all with a vested interest, agreed. They gathered around Alness on the 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 1715, making up an army of around 1800 men. Now the story goes that Clan Ross were only armed with some sharp sticks or poles, since they had agreed to give up their weapons to the government as part of the deal and were now too poor to buy new ones because of all the tax they had to pay and too thick to notice, the other Clans fared little better in that respect. However, by contrast the Munro Clan, who were worth a bob or two, did have 6 pieces of canon. They formed up in order of battle facing Dingwall around Alness golf club, with MacKay’s and Ross on the right Sutherland in the middle and Munro on the left and waited heehawing what they were going to do to these Jacobite’s.

The very next day Big Wullie who had been joined by **Sir Donald McDonald chief of Clan McDonald of Sleat** and few other clans. An Army of almost 3000 men, made out to Alness leaving his cousin John to look after Inverness to make sure there was no sneaky attacks from the South by Pro government forces. With the intention of giving the Munro and Sutherland a good going over and scattering them back to where they came and protecting his Northern flanks.

Now on seeing this much larger force coming over the hill toward Alness, the Earl of Sutherland and Lord Reay took off with 40 of their best pals, including Robbie Munro’s cousin, Patrick over the Struie to Bonar Bridge, leaving the rest behind. According to records of the time. The resulting conflict included one dead, 200 black eyes, a lot of broken noses, a multitude of skelfs and a family feud within the Munro Clan. McKenzie headed back to Inverness thinking he had taught Munro’s a lesson or two. After all he had bigger fish to fry in the shape of the **Duke of Argyle**.

The Munros eventually retreated to Foulis castle and shut the doors and after a bit of a sulk called council with the other Clans. Lord Reay decided it might not be such a good idea after all and went home. However, the Clan Munro’s, Sutherland and Rosses wanted revenge after Alness along with the Rosses who had previously bitterly complained to the local government magistrate sheriff Muir about these upstarts plundering their land, Sheriff Muir informed he was awfully sorry but the Duke of Argyle was awful busy with the Siege of Inverness and he had no polis to spare, due to cutbacks he had to close the local office and relocate in the central belt and two men to a horse. As it would happen around November of that year the siege of Inverness was broken with the Jacobite Clans breaking out South and as MacKenzie and the other Jacobite Clans went on to rally at Sheriffmuir to give the Duke of Argyle another hiding. Never one to miss an opportunity Clans Munro and Sutherland laid siege to Brahan Castle the seat of Clan McKenzie while they were attending the battle of Sheriffmuir that same day and laid the place to waste.

Now we all know where this ended on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1746 at Culloden.

However, what of Alness? Pat still does not speak to Robbie and they are still procuring land, building houses and we are heading for indy2.... Need I say more?

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I am once again indebted to Brother Jim Dunlop for keeping us up to date regarding the recently refurbished Masonic Memorial Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum.

At the entrance to the garden stands 2 columns each measuring 3.615 metres / 11ft 10ins / just over 9 Cubits high. The official opening was on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The photographs were taken by Brother Stewart Littlejohn MM 524.



The Arboretum is situated in the centre of England on Croxall Road, Alrewas in Staffordshire. It is easy to reach from any part of the country and is close to all the Midlands motorways. The National Memorial Arboretum is the UK's year-round centre of Remembrance; a spiritually uplifting place which honours the fallen, recognises service and sacrifice, and fosters pride in our country. It is a living and lasting memorial. It's not a cemetery. It's a place of life, represented by the 30,000 trees planted here, where older and younger generations alike can wander and wonder. If any of our readers get the opportunity to visit the Arboretum, it is well worth doing so.

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*MEC Ian Fraser, First Grand Principal and Bro W Ramsay McGhee, Depute Grand Master, pictured at the Vernal Equinox Celebrations in Edinburgh on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017.*

## **The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland**

Since the Grand Master Mason, in his role as Past First Grand Principal, was Installing Master at the Annual Convocation and Vernal Equinox Celebrations, I once again had the privilege of attending the Ceremony to represent the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The lower hall in Grand Lodge was packed to capacity to see MEC Fraser being presented for Installation by the outgoing D of C, MEC David Niven, for the ninth time. The ceremony of Installation

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got off to a rousing start with the Companions singing the one hundredth Psalm – *All people that on earth do dwell*, after which MEC Fraser was obligated, invested and installed in a most dignified and gracious manner by MEC Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont. Thereafter, MEC's Douglas Philand, Jim Turnbull and David Niven were installed as Depute First Grand Principal, Second and Third Grand Principal respectively.

The Vernal Equinox celebrations in Grand Hall, at which the Companions were joined by wives, was a most enjoyable event where we celebrated together with an excellent meal, first rate speeches and superb company.

Congratulations are due to all who were responsible for the organising of the event – it was a most memorable day.

*WRM*

Editor

## PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

The two remaining visits for 2017

Chapter	Visit
Hebrides 364	17 May 2017
Hebrides Lodge & Council	18 May 2017

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

*Donnie Macleod*

### Tain & Ross RAC 63

The next meeting of the Chapter will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

### St Clement RAC 244

The next meeting of the Chapter will be on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

### Cromarty Firth RAC 310

The next meeting of the Chapter will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

### The Hebrides RAC 364.

The next meeting of the Chapter will be on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

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## Royal Arch Clay pigeon shoot at Esslemont

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April, the Immediate Past 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Principal, MEC Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont hosted a clay pigeon shoot to raise further funding for the Iris Murdoch Appeal which will culminate with the presentation of a substantial cheque at the bi-centenary celebrations in September. A sum of over £80,000 has been raised to date.



*Immediate Past 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Principal, MEC Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont, 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Principal Ian Fraser and MEC Gordon Ross at the shoot.*

*MEC Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon in "Chef Mode" at the barbeque set up during the shoot.*

The chosen charity of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter in this their bi-centenary year is the Iris Murdoch charity which deals with dementia. The Dementia Centre is an international centre of knowledge and expertise dedicated to improving the lives of people with dementia and is based in the Iris Murdoch Building at the University of Stirling.

The staff draw on research and practice, from across the world, to provide a comprehensive, up-to-date resource on all aspects of dementia.

For over 25 years they have worked with individuals and organisations to:

- ✚ improve the lives for people living with dementia through care and design.
- ✚ make communities dementia-friendly
- ✚ influence policy and to improve services for people with dementia



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## LODGE UNION and CROWN No 307, BARRHEAD



A total of five Brethren from the Provinces of Inverness-shire and Ross and Cromarty travelled down to Barrhead to witness this unique ceremony carried out by a Deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. On the night, over 140 Brethren crammed into the Lodge Room where, not one, but four candidates were raised to the Degree of Master Mason.

I just loved this wee quote from “*A Different Level*” – the magazine of Lodge Randolph No 1434 –

This came from an old Minute dated 1789. It states, “Brother Anderson was fined sixpence for kissing a waitress on the back stairs”

Brother Alex Irvine commented – “what would he have been fined if he kissed her on the lips?”

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## PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

Bro Les Morgan was the candidate for our last meeting of RAM and he was also the aspirant at the recent meeting of the Preceptory of the Western Isles. This was the visit of Andrew Morrison Grand Prior of the North in Scotland. This was Preceptor Donnie MacDonald's first "live" candidate and everyone did well.



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*Donnie Macleod*

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## GUILD LODGES

### Highland Guild Lodge

Friday 12th May 7.45pm Masonic Temple Alness. Working 4th and 6th Degrees

*Alasdair Taylor*

Kirkwarden/Scrivener  
Highland Guild Lodge

### The Moray Firth Guild Lodge.



Grand Lodge has produced two new Jewels for those Brethren who have attained 50 years and 60 years' service in the Craft. The Jewels are the perfect accompaniment to the respective Diplomas and can be purchased for £20.

The Jewels are available from the Grand Lodge shop.

There are innumerable other gifts in the shop all of which can be seen if you visit the shop in the reception area of Grand Lodge or can be viewed and purchased on line.

The Grand Master Mason's Choice Malt whisky and The Grand Master Mason's Choice Gin are both proving to be very popular items in the shop at present.

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## Highland Shed No 6 – Grand Shed Installation



Heilan Shed No. 6 have the distinct honour of hosting GRAND SHED'S Annual meeting on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> when our own Old Deacon, Derek Milne will be installed as Grand Shed's, Grand Worthy Deacon. A great honour for the Shed and the North of Scotland.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 2p.m. with a meal afterwards in The Club, Inverness, consisting of Scotch Broth; Mince, Tatties and vegetables. A selection of cheese will follow. Please contact Boxie and give him your name for catering purposes. A good turnout of members both past attendees and present would be appreciated.

A good turnout of members of Heilan Shed No. 6 would be appreciated, I am quite sure, by the new Grand Worthy Deacon and Office Bearers of Grand Shed.



Boxie of Heilan Shed No. 6, John G. Mackay, receives a certificate of thanks from CHAS per Bri. John Baillie, who not so long ago carried out a sponsored hike for the charity which raised a considerable amount of money, donated by the Shed and other Masonic orders.

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## **Blast from the Past – November 1999**

### **Lodge Fingal**

As a result of their sponsored walk, quiz night and bottle stall at Dingwall Rotary Street Fayre, the Brethren of Lodge Fingal have presented the sum of £2,800 to Dingwall Health Centre for the purchase of a defibrillator and £3,000 to Highland Hospice for a much-needed pressure relieving mattress.

*And finally, ....*

