

# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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

**ISSUE NO 86**

**FEBRUARY 2016**



**GMM's Tree**



**Grand Secretary's Tree**



**Depute GM's Tree**

Four or Five Years ago the GMM, along with Brother David Begg and Bro Ramsay McGhee were given the honour of planting trees in the grounds of Lodge Mount Longanot in Naivasha, Kenya. Would appear the GMM's tree has had a wee bit of a run in with the Hippo's???

## **In the February Issue –**

Grand Lodge / Provincial Grand Lodge / Lodge News

Obituary – Brother Sinclair George Bruce

A Matter of Interest from Bro Donnie Mathieson

The National Memorial Arboretum by Bro Jim Dunlop

Bits and Pieces from all over the place!

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## Editorial

Welcome to the 86<sup>th</sup> edition of the Patter.

I had the privilege of attending the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lodge of Glamis No 99 recently. The Lodge room, situated in the centre of the village of Glamis, is a beautiful stone built building, well maintained and well-presented inside. One of the features of the anniversary was the opening of their museum within the building and among the artefacts displayed is the attendance book signed by Prince Albert (the future King George VI) when he affiliated to the Lodge in June 1936. What really appealed to me was the fact that the future King was obligated by the then Master of the Lodge, the Glamis postman, James Beattie. It doesn't matter what your station is in life, within the Lodge we are all on the level.

Having viewed the new museum, it highlighted for me the issues that we have been debating at the Scottish Masonic Materials Group – the preservation of Lodge Records.

In general terms, it is essential that Lodge records are properly preserved – they are important historical documents both masonically and from a local community perspective. Such documents can be safely deposited either in Grand Lodge or in local archive centres. Expert assistance can be sought from the SMMG if you require it. The Secretary of SMMG, Bro Charles Winston, can be contacted at [mail@winston.plus.com](mailto:mail@winston.plus.com) or give me a ring locally.

In a few weeks I will have the pleasure of attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of Scottish Freemasons in Africa and Asia. This year it will be held in Penang in Malaysia. If it is half as good as the first one which was held in East Africa – it will be good. At the moment there are over 200 Brethren attending which is excellent news.

*Ramsay McGhee*, Editor

## Grand Lodge of Scotland

The next meeting of Grand Lodge will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 2.00 pm in 96 George Street, Edinburgh.

On the following Saturday – 6<sup>th</sup> February, I will have the honour of heading a Deputation to Lodge Torphichen No 13 to carry out their 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

The Grand Master Mason and Grand secretary will be away most of February in Australia and New Zealand where they will carry out a number of District Grand Lodge Installations.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February the Grand Master Mason will head a Deputation from Grand Lodge to the second International Scottish Masonic Conference in Penang, Malaysia. While there, we will also carry out a rededication ceremony to celebrate the Centenary of the District Grand Lodge of the Middle East.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, we will travel to East Lothian to install the new Provincial Grand Master and his Commissioned Office-bearers.

The following Saturday we head for Perth for the bi-annual meeting of Provincial Grand Masters.

Nearer to home for me, we have the Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master and Commissioned Office-bearers in the Province of Morayshire.

Advance notice – the Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty will take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Further details will be published in due course.

*Ed*

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## Provincial Grand Lodge:

With the Installation season duly passed, I trust that all the Right Worshipful Masters and Brethren are settled in their new offices or continuing as before and I wish them every success in the year ahead. It was my pleasure to attend the majority of the Daughter Lodge Installations where I witnessed excellent ceremonies by the various Installing Teams.

Brother David A. MacMaster, PM of Lodge Fingal No 318 was honoured by the Grand Master Mason when the Honorary Grand Rank of Grand Almoner was conferred on him. I had the honour to visit Lodge Fingal No 318 and present him with his Jewel and Diploma.

On that same evening I had the pleasure to present Brother Hamish Robertson of Lodge Fingal No 318 with his Diamond Certificate for 60 years in Freemasonry.

On a similar vein I had the honour and pleasure to visit Robertson's Lodge No 134 and to present Brother George MacIvor with his Diamond Certificate and Jewel for 60 years in Freemasonry. Such recognition is thoroughly deserved by those worthy brethren.

Continuing on the honours theme, all the Brethren within our Province were greatly delighted to learn that Brother Alexander Matheson, PM of Lodge Fortrose No 108 and a Past Substitute Provincial Grand Master was honoured in Her Majesty's New Year List by becoming a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order for his services as Lord Lieutenant of the Western Isles for many years. Brother Matheson is a highly respected member of our fraternity and of the Western Isles in general.

On a sadder note our Province was deeply saddened when on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>. December 2015, Brother Sinclair George Bruce, Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Allan Wilson No 851 and PM of Lodge Seaforth No 854 passed to the Grand Lodge Above. Brother Sinclair Bruce was a most highly respected member of our fraternity both within our Province and in the wider areas of the Highlands and this was evident by the very large attendance of Brethren at his funeral service. Condolences were warmly conveyed to his beloved wife Margaret and sons Ronald and Ian in their sad loss.

I look forward to meeting the Brethren of all the Lodges in the Province as I begin my final round of visitations as Provincial Grand Master commencing with Lodge Averon No 866 on Thursday 11th. February 2016.

The next Provincial Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication is scheduled to be held within Lodge St. Duthus No 82 Tain on Thursday 18th. February 2016 commencing at 8.00 pm. A good attendance of Brethren, Masters and Wardens of Lodges would be appreciated.

Sincerely and fraternally,

*William Ross*  
Provincial Grand Master

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## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF ROSS AND CROMARTY VISITATIONS 2016

Lodge Averon No 866	Alness	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> . February
Lodge Ness No 888	Invergordon	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> . February
Lodge St. Duthus No 82	Tain	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> . March
Lodge Fingal No 318	Dingwall	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> . March
Robertson's Lodge No 134	Cromarty	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> . March
Lodge Seaforth No 854	Fortrose	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> . March
Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551	Aultbea	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> . April
Lodge St. Martin No 1217	Ullapool	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> . April
Lodge Kyle No 1117	Kyle	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> . May
Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216	Avoch	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> . May
Lodge Fortrose No 108	Stornoway	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> . May
Lodge Allan Wilson No 851	Fortrose	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> . July (11.00 am)

A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, "How heavy is this glass of water?" Answers called out ranged from 8oz. to 20oz. The lecturer replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long you try to hold it. "If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance."

"In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes. " He continued, "And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. " "As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden. "

"So, before you return home tonight, put the burden of work/life down. Don't carry it home. You can pick it up tomorrow."

"Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment if you can. Relax; pick them up later after you've rested. Life is short. Enjoy! "

And then he shared some ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

- 1 Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
- 2 Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- 3 Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- 4 Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
- 5 If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- 6 If you lend someone £20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- 7 It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- 8 Never buy a car you can't push.
- 9 When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- 10 Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

**Have an awesome day and know that someone has thought about you today .**

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## From The Provincial Almoner

Sadly, once again, I have to start my report by recording the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of a number of our Brethren.

Since my last report in November we have lost Brother Sinclair Bruce, Past Master of Lodge Seaforth and current Master of Lodge Allan Wilson. Sinclair, who was a very dedicated and highly respected freemason, had suffered poor health over many years, and will be greatly missed. Over the same period, we have also lost Past Master Willie Skinner, Past Master Iain Munro and Bro. David Haynes, all of Lodge Rosehaugh, along with Bro. Miller MacRae, Lodge Fingal.

It is also with great sadness and regret that I have to record the tragic passing of Mrs Peggy MacLaren, North Kessock, wife of Past Master Ian MacLaren, Lodge Rosehaugh, as a result of injuries sustained in a road traffic accident near her home.

I'm sure you will join me in expressing our sincere condolences to their respective families.

As I write this, Past Master Hugh Patience, Lodge St Duthus is undergoing tests at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. I understand that he will shortly be returning home and will thereafter have to undergo treatment at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

Past Master Cochrane Donald, Lodge Seaforth is now out of hospital and according to himself is making slow progress and is able to walk further. He has regular visits from community nurses to change dressings etc.

Past Master Bob MacLean, Lodge Seaforth is still waiting word as to a date for his proposed hip replacement. However, he is in good spirits and is able to attend to his masonic duties.

Past Master Victor Shepherd is still in very much the same condition as he has been for some time. Some good days and some not so good. He is still managing to get by without a wheelchair and on a recent visit to him he was able to come to the door with me with only the use of a walking stick and not the normal zimmer frame. He still attends Strathallan Care Home, Strathpeffer as a day patient on two days a week.

Provincial Director of Ceremonies, Past Master Rory MacKenzie, Lodge Fingal continues to make good progress. He has completed his chemotherapy treatment and is again attending masonic meetings. His progress has been such that he was able to carry out the recent Installation Ceremony at Lodge Fingal.

Past Master Ian MacLaren, Lodge Rosehaugh is still awaiting a date for his proposed surgery but after his appointment with a plastic surgeon in November he was told that his surgery would take place within the following three months. He hopes that it will take place some-time in March.

Past Master Sandy Rose, Lodge Rosehaugh, also continues to make progress slowly. He hasn't been able to attend any meetings yet but hopes to do so in the not too distant future.

Past Master Fraser MacKay, Lodge St Duthus, is not really making much progress.

Past Master Raymond Morrison, Lodge Ness continues to progress and is regularly attending meetings. He says that both he, and his doctors, are amazed at his progress.

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

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

*David MacMaster*, Provincial Grand Almoner Tel: 01997 421306 email: [david@strathpeffer.net](mailto:david@strathpeffer.net)

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## FROM THE LODGES

### Lodge St Duthus No 82



The next meeting will be on Monday Night – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016.



*Donnie 'Video' Macdonald toasting the haggis.*

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## FORTROSE LODGE No. 108

At our meeting on 4 December 2015 Bro Derek Mackay, son of the late PM George Mackay, was installed as RWM. The following day the RWM led a deputation of 20 Brethren to the installation of the new RWM of Lodge St Clements where everyone enjoyed the usual excellent Harris hospitality.



*Bro D Mackay RWM*

The first meeting of the year took place on 1 January and the Brethren toasted in the New Year in traditional island style. The Emergency meeting on 15 January saw the new RWM and his team undertake an FC degree for Bro Kevin Read Macdonald. There was a good turnout of Brethren including a large number of our younger Members. The next meeting on 5 February will see Bro Macdonald raised to the H and S degree of MM.

The annual Burns Supper was held on 22 January when 50 members and guests enjoyed a fine meal and speeches from Bro's Donald Macleod, William Macleod, PM Henry Macinnes, PM George M Macleod and the reply from the lasses was given by Fiona Macleod, daughter of PM George Mackay.

We are hopeful that the coming year will be a busy one as a number of applications have been given out, including three at the Burns Supper.

*Donald MacLeod, PM*



*Newly installed office bearers and visitors.*

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## Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi Brethren. Let me start by wishing all a Happy New Year. I hope all had a very Merry X-mas and that Hogmanay was enjoyable and without incident. (Hangovers minimal).

There is little to report because everything seems to wind down at this time of year, although there have been many sad incidents over the period and I know all our thoughts go out to all who are suffering from flooding because of the heavy rainfall we have had to endure.

Our last meeting of Wednesday 16 December 2015 was our Installation meeting, when Bro Peter Foster Snr was re installed into the chair for a second year. His Office bearers were also installed. The installation was ably carried out by our own Past Master Ronald Cooper, with the Office Bearers being installed by PM Jim Tait and the addresses given by PM Morris Downie. Our own Brethren were a bit thin on the ground and once again we are thankful to the large number of visitors in attendance.

Prior to the ceremony of installation Bro George MacIvor was presented on to the floor. The Master, Bro Peter Foster came down to the level accompanied by Provincial Grand Master, William Ross, and they presented George with his 60-year certificate in Freemasonry, congratulating him on this achievement. George made suitable reply. A photograph is attached.

For 60 years George has been a stalwart of our lodge. He has never let us down or brought any disgrace on us and has served in various offices. He is regular in his attendance, rarely missing a meeting. He is regularly seen throughout the Province visiting other lodges. I am sure we could all learn a lesson from his example.

He also held office in Provincial Grand Lodge serving as Tyler for 15 years before being succeeded by his son Andrew, in the post. In 1996 he received Honorary Rank to Grand Lodge for his services to the craft. George I know I speak for all at '134' and indeed the Province when I say congratulations and wish you well for the future and many years of Freemasonry to come.

Just a wee health update. P.M. Victor Shepherd is still not at his best and is not able to get to our meetings but I know he still keeps an interest in the Craft and we look forward to the time when he can get back among us and wish him well. P.M. David Franklin had a health problem and had to miss the installation (although he did send his pot of soup and pancakes which were very much appreciated). We have met up since and he is on the mend. I also saw on another media that P.M. Brian McGroarty had broken a leg. (Not the way to get plastered at New Year). Brian I hope it is healing well and you will be out of plaster soon.

With every best wish to all.

*James A Tait, PM*  
Secretary

On a fortune teller's caravan: *Closed due to unforeseen circumstances.*



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*Brother George MacIvor receiving his 60- year certificate from the PGM, Bro Billy Ross*

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## **Lodge Fingal No 318**

The November meeting was our AGM and nomination of Office Bearers. We also had a Ballot for Bro Richard Young MacDonald. As the Ballot proved clear, Bro. Richard was Obligated as an Affiliate member of Fingal, his mother Lodge being Loch Ewe No. 1551.

In December, the meeting was opened in the EA° by the RWM Bro Angus Beaton with 18 Brethren and 4 visiting Brethren present. We had visitors from the following Lodges - St John Operative No 37, St Fergus 466, Steps 1213 and Loch Ewe 1551. All Brethren were charged to convey the fraternal greetings of Lodge Fingal on return to their respective Lodges. The main business was a mock FC degree; Bro Richard Young MacDonald was the press ganged candidate. At the Risings, various Brethren had mentioned how well the degree was worked.

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December, we held the Installation Meeting at which RWM Bro Angus Beaton and Office Bearers were re-installed into office. at 5:00pm. The Lodge was opened in the EA° by the RWM Bro Angus Beaton with 16 Brethren and 33 visiting Brethren present. Reigning Masters and Past Masters were invited to their rightful seat in the East. The RWM welcomed RWPGM of Ross & Cromarty, Bro William Ross along with the DPGM of Ross and Cromarty Bro Robin Cattanach and SPGM of Ross and Cromarty Bro Jim Tait into the Lodge. The Gavel was handed to the PGM to say a few words, he congratulated the RWM on his first year in the chair and for keeping the Lodge in good order. The Gavel was returned. RWM thanked PPGM Bro Ramsay McGhee of Ross and Cromarty for playing the organ today. He then welcomed visitors from 13 Lodges before welcoming Bro Rory MacKenzie PM on taking on the role of Installing Master after his illness which had lasted some 7 months. All were delighted to see him here today.

Prior to the Installation, the deacons presented Bro Richard MacDonald and Bro Hamish Robertson onto the floor of the Lodge. The RWM assisted by the PGM presented Bro MacDonald with his Affiliate Certificate and Bro Robertson with his 60-year Diploma. Bro David Allan MacMaster, PM was then escorted to the west. The PGM announced that PM MacMaster had been awarded the Honorary Grand Rank of Grand Almoner for his service as Provincial Almoner for the past 5 years and invited the DGM to read the content of the Diploma from Grand Lodge. The PGM then invested PM MacMaster with his jewel, saying that he was initiated to this Lodge in 1977 and was also an Affiliate member of Lodge St Duthus and a Reponing member of Lodge Allan Wilson. Bro MacMaster went on to say that he was very humbled on receiving such an award from Grand Lodge.

Then on with the Installation. The ceremony, carried out by PM MacKenzie and his team was performed to the usual high standard expected from PM MacKenzie.

The business of the meeting being completed, the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form at 7:15pm. The Brethren retired to the Logie Lounge for the Festival of St. John. A total of 30 Brethren sat down to an excellent meal purveyed by Catherine Morrison of the Station Tea Room, Strathpeffer. At the conclusion the formal speeches, the Tylers Toast was given by Bro Colin MacPhee IG which brought proceedings to an end at 9:10pm.

The January meeting saw 20 Brethren and 1 visiting Brother from Lodge St John Operative No 37 in attendance. After a ballot for Mr Michael Kennedy Stewart, which proved to be clear, the main business of the evening was a Lodge-of-Instruction. The format being that three Brethren would give a talk on their chosen subject in each Degree. First, Bro Ian Macleod WSW gave a talk on Cowan's and Eavesdroppers. The Lodge was then Passed to

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the FC Degree when Bro Colin MacPhee IG spoke about The Winding Staircase and finally the Lodge was Raised to the Sublime Degree of MM when Bro Stewart Bain PM explained Squaring the Grave and Acacia. The talk lasted some 20 minutes and was well received by the Brethren.

The February meeting will be on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> when we will work a practice EA°.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> March meeting there will be an EA° for Mr Michael Kennedy Stewart. This will also be our annual Provincial visit. Lodge will Tyle at 7:30pm.

On 12<sup>th</sup> April we will work a FC° for Bro Stewart.

## **Events Logie Lounge:**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, Lodge Charity Quiz Night.

Quiz Master John Hanson. (WJW). During the Interval, there will be three cheques handed over. To Ross-shire Voluntary Action £1,000 / Ross-shire Woman`s Aid £400 and a cheque of £100 to Miss Kiera Mae Russel, The Old Smiddy, Conon-Bridge; she is to be traveling to Malawi for a project, but has to raise a sum of £6,200. (Maybe some Lodges could support her also).

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March will be our annual Ladies Night.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April, will be a Social Night.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn PM*  
*Secretary.*

## **Blast from the Past**

The following article appeared in the August 1999 edition of "The Patter"

I mentioned in the May edition that the Dingwall Brethren were working hard to raise funds for a Defibrillator for the Dingwall Health Centre. Having raised over £400 at the Quiz Night, they have since excelled themselves in raising almost £4,000 on their Coast to Coast walk which was held at the end of June. Brothers Robert Scott, Roy MacKenzie, Roy MacIver, Rory MacKenzie, Colin Mathieson, Sandy Logie, Donnie Gunn and John Miller supported by the back-up team of Dougie MacDougall, Charlie MacKay, Clayton Hudson and Jimmy Walmsley walked from the Peffrey to Loch Broom with an overnight stop at Aultguish Inn. This was a tremendous effort by the Brethren of Lodge Fingal. Congratulations to all those involved and a big thank you to the many friends who donated to the venture by way of sponsorship.

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## **Lodge Fingal Burns Supper January 2016.**

After the initial Fingal Burns Supper of early February 2015 it was followed up by this one at the end of January 2016.

Such was the enjoyment of listening to young Adam Dyer a year ago, a product of the Dingwall Royal British Legion Junior Band, that we were fortunate to engage him again for piping in the haggis carried in by David MacMaster PM and addressed by John Hanson WJW who also gave the Selkirk Grace before we tucked in to the Cock-a-Leekie soup, followed by the traditional Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, cheese and oatcakes and finished off with tea/coffee and shortbread (must have been home made such was its mouth-watering properties). The meal was produced by Cath Morrison from the Railway Tea Room at Station Square, Strathpeffer and served by her fine team of waitresses.

Onto the entertainment introduced by Bro. Henderson PM and the choice of Alasdair MacNab, Kildun to give the Immortal memory was indeed a popular one among the gathering with the customary asides at matters local and general in keeping with the traditional homage being paid to our National Bard.

Just to ensure that Alasdair didn't get too carried away his wife Gill kept 'time' on him.

Complementing Adam on the musical front we were also blessed with virtuoso accordion selections from Hamish Polson, Strathpeffer throughout the evening; in the case of Adam his stirring finale of reels was in danger of breaking the curfew constraints of the Occasional Licence hours applied for. At fourteen years of age we can, hopefully, acquire his services in future events such as this.

The Toast to the Lassies was ably given by Colin MacPhee IG who must have been listening to a few examples in preparation – his introduction by way of telling a joke certainly was a cracker of an 'ice breaker' in his subsequent delivery of an eloquent appreciation / critique of the fairer sex!

Prior to Councillor Angela MacLean giving the Reply to Colin's Toast Andrew Henderson gave his recitation of Tam O' Shanter, that much loved and popular work of Burns. Angela's reply had the audience captivated with the wealth of her experience in affairs local and her ability to apply this wealth to the wider world both at home and further afield – as well as addressing Bro. MacPhee's earlier observations and comments; it was probably a good job that we took the precaution of having her husband David sitting to her left.

All in all, a very pleasant evening with the licensed side of things being nursed along by the Lodge administration team of Henry Cameron and Donnie Gunn.

The RWM Angus Beaton wrapped things up in good old traditional fashion with his Vote of Thanks to all who had attended and supported the evening's 'Ongauns'.

£ 180 was raised from the proceeds of the Raffle held on the evening and we trust everyone enjoyed themselves.

*Andrew Miller Henderson*, Lodge Almoner

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## **Blast from the Past**

The following poem was submitted for the May 2004 issue by the late Past Master Roddie Cade

D'ye ever think o' Scotland and the days when we were young,  
O pantomime and music halls, the songs that we all sung.  
O' fish an' chips an' tupenny pies, oatcakes an' tattie scones,  
The fitba match on Saturdays, the cheerin' an' the groans.  
D'ye mind the summer picnics on the bonnie Cathkin Braes,  
We grumbled about the weather, but that was just our ways,  
Or sailin' doon the bonnie Clyde tae Rothesay or Dunoon,  
An' comin' back to Glesca' wi' our faces burnt an' broon.  
Or walkin' doon Argyle Street, each lassie wi' her fella,  
The folks that used to gather 'neath the Hielanman's umbrella,  
The times we went first footin' wi' our friends on Hogmanay,  
An' makin' resolutions we broke on New Year's Day.  
D'ye mind when we went dancin' the Lancers and Quadrilles,  
Oor feet were light as feathers as we danced the eightsome reels,  
We didnae seem tae mind at a' it was nae fancy ball,  
For we were quite contented we were the best set in the hall.  
O' happy days, O carefree days, O days of long ago,  
Days that seem more golden now the candle's burnin' low.  
So drink a cup to Scotland now, and days o' lang lang syne  
When you and I were young my dear, an' the world was yours an' mine.

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## Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

It was with the greatest of regret that we learned of the death of our Master, Brother Sinclair George Bruce, on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015. See obituary on page ....

The first meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June will be the Installation meeting when Bro Rev Ivan Warwick will be installed as Master. A warm welcome will be extended to all.

At the July meeting which will be the Provincial Visit we are hoping to have a presentation from a retired Procurator Fiscal who has been involved in some high profile cases during her time with the Fiscal Service.

The Lodge is delighted that two of its Brethren received Hon Grand Rank from the Grand Master Mason at the Grand Lodge Installation in November. Congratulations to Brother David MacMaster who received Hon Grand Almoner and Brother David Bennett who received Hon Grand Marshall.



*Bro Bennett, centre, with Bro Rev Andrew Paterson and Bro Ramsay McGhee*



*Bro David MacMaster pictured when he handed over cheque as a result of the Mile of Pennies*

## Lodge Seaforth No 854

Happy birthday – Bob MacLean. As we go to press, we are only a couple of weeks away from Brother Bob MacLean's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. I'm sure I speak for everyone in the Province when I wish Bob a very happy and enjoyable birthday – have taken plenty "Isle of Skye" into the Club for the birthday celebration.

A date for the Diary – there will be a "Race Night" in the Lodge Clubroom on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May. We'll be looking for sponsors and participants on the night – get the date in the diary now.

Our Regular meeting in February (15<sup>th</sup>) will be a MMM Degree for Bro Paul McNaught.

*A Taylor, RWM*

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## Lodge Averon 866

We have had a busy start to our new term with a MMM degree for Bro McDougall, a double Entered Apprentice degree for Bro Thomas Wilson and Keith Carrison (son of Charlie Carrison PM), also RWM Henry Macinnes moving to a new home on Stornoway and Bro George Robinson being re-installed as RWM at our December installation meeting, We have since then worked a MM degree for Bro Lewis Sinclair. Our annual OAP party is to be on 13th Feb. We will be working a MMM degree on 24th March for Bro Wheelan. Our ladies' night is on 2nd April this year and the theme is 50's/60's with tickets priced at £10 per person.

*Bro Keith Bauer*, Secretary, Lodge Averon 866

Brethren. As this is the first "Patter" edition of the New Year, I thought that I would re-cap on all the good work Lodge Averon has done during the closed season.

We closed last March with what was a superb Ladies night, for which we had a country night theme with music from Bro (Tug) Wilson and Bro Tommy Stirling from Lodge Ness, who put on a great show. We also held regular monthly social evenings to allow the Brethren to catch up and raise funds for the Lodge which in turn allows us to put on our charity events and maintain our lodge and keep her healthy. This can be clearly seen by the work carried out in the closed session in around the lodge mainly driven by Bro Carrison P.M. The Lodge is looking very tidy indeed with more plans in making to improve and maintain even more. We also spent a fair bit of time collecting money in various ways for our local kids. Our mantra being, "supporting our kids in whatever they do". This involves the Brethren selling football cards, raffles and raising money with all sorts of little events. This accumulates in Oct with our annual charity Golf scramble at Alness Golf Course. This year the Brethren of Lodge Averon raised around £2000.00 for our Local School Rock Challenge kids, an absolutely superb effort. This year we will be raising funds for a local kids dance group. The Anne Nolan Highland Dance School.

No sooner were we back and the planning of the re-installation of Bro G Robinson P.M and our annual kids Christmas party driven by Bro H. McCartney, began.

Bro Robinson's re-installation was a great day. Carried out by Depute Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Bro Ramsay McGhee, who along with his installation team delivered a superb installation which was very well attended indeed, followed a very memorable meal and very long harmony. This is Bro Robinson's 2<sup>nd</sup> stint in the chair and so far he seems to have settled in nicely. We have discovered that a wee dram now and then seems to control the twitching so you barely notice.

Our Annual Kids Christmas party once again went down a storm with a special visitation of Minions lead by Olaf who were greatly received by the kids and the adults! Santa and his Elves delivered all the presents to the usual high standard and our kids left tired and happy loaded with a pile of goodies.

However, no rest for the Brethren of Lodge Averon as we move into the new session, with planning of our old folk's party this February well advanced driven by Bro J McRae.

We have also initiated 2 new Brethren to the craft, Bro Carrison Jnr and Bro Wilson who I am sure you will get to meet and greet in the near future. Two canny lads and keen as mustard. Lodge Averon seems to be buzzing with loads of enthusiasm and ideas from our younger brothers shining through - lets encourage them! I am certainly looking forward to 2016 and what we will, as a Lodge, achieve. If you wish to know more about Lodge Averon and what we are up or what we have been up to you can get more detailed information from our website [www.lodgeaveron.co.uk](http://www.lodgeaveron.co.uk)

*Bro Donnie Mathieson*

# PROVINCIAL PATTEN

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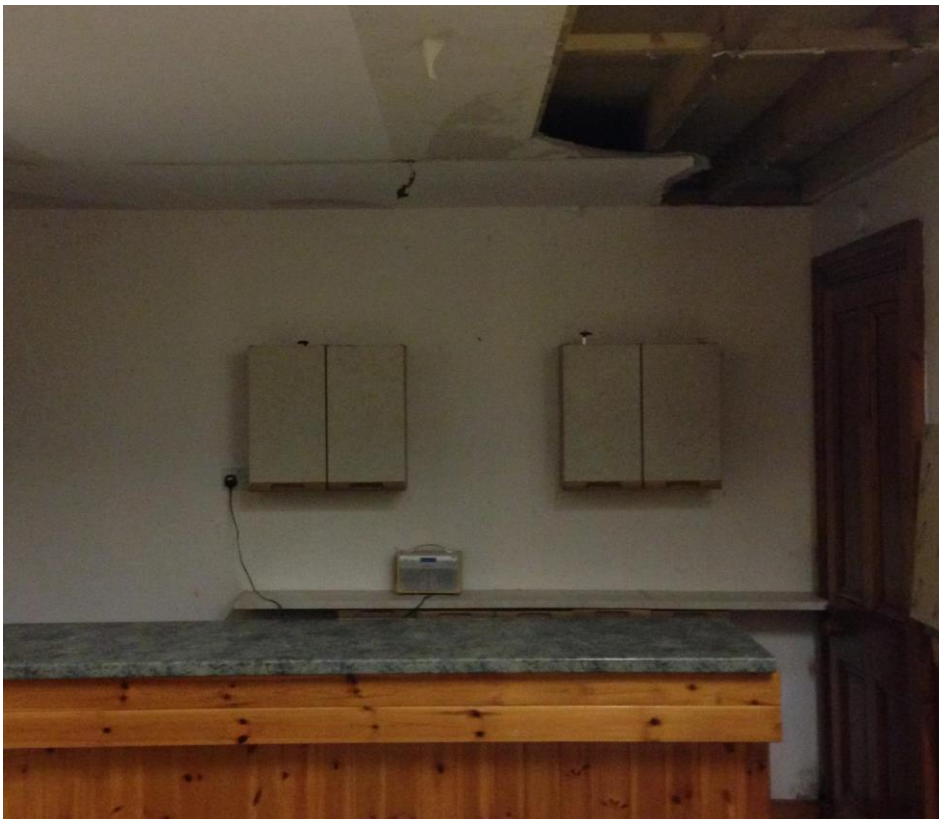
## Lodge Ness No 888

November, didn't start as well as it could have. PZ T. Stirling and myself went to the Lodge to set it up for a Chapter meeting on the 4th and when we opened the door, we heard water running and when we stepped inside, we stepped into water and when we went into the ante room, we saw the plasterboard of the roof on the counter and water cascading down from the upper floor. Thomas went upstairs and turned the water supply to the central heating system off and found that the valve in the header tank had failed and a full stream of water was flowing out of the tank and the water had soaked the walls of the ante room and the entire floor of the Lodge. The roof, lights and decoration of the ante room and carpets throughout Lodge had to be replaced. This was done and now we are back in full swing.

We had our meetings re-arranged and thanks to Lodge Averon for helping us and allowing the use of their Premises for our meeting on the 10th. On the 24th we had our AGM and nominations in our Lodge on bare floorboards. Our installation on the 8th December was held in our own Lodge, although it was not completely back together. Bro. Derek Rodway and his team were installed by PM Ronnie Cooper and his team. On the 12th of January we held an EA degree and on the 26th a second EA degree. It will be a FC degree on February the 9th, followed by a M M M degree on the 23rd for our Provincial visit. March degrees, yet to be decided.

On Saturday the 20th we will be holding a quiz night, back in our Lodge, and on the 27th we will be holding our Ladies night at the British Legion Club in Invergordon , all are welcome to these events.

*Raymond Morrison*, PM





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## **LODGE KYLE No 1117**

With a good number of visitors in attendance Lodge Kyle had its Installation which went very smoothly with Brother Paul Newton installed as Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Kyle for the ensuing 12 months. Brother Newton has been RWM previously in Kyle and also a Past Master in the English and Irish constitutions he is therefore no stranger to The Chair and we look forward to his leadership and tutelage.

Installing Master William Gillespie performed superbly as did his team with special emphasis on the younger brethren who despite lack of experience (and nerves) delivered their part of the ritual perfectly.

The Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty, Brother William Ross said that all those participating did very well.

However, before the meeting proceeded a very special and probably unique presentation in the history of the Lodge took place.

The installation saw two elders of the Lodge retiring their offices. Donnie Gordon has been our Secretary for an astounding 37 years and John MacDougall our Treasurer for an equally impressive 32 years. Both brethren have served Lodge Kyle faithfully with superb attendance and unflinching dedication throughout their long tenures. We will miss the regularity of them stationed on the platform at "their" desk to the left of The Master.

They were presented with Certificates of Distinguished Service and inscribed boxed sets of miniature working tools by the PGM William Ross and IPM Mickey Moore. Both recipients were understandably pleased with this small token of their fellow brethren's appreciation of their long dedication to Masonic duties and made a short speech to this effect further stating their pleasure at serving their Lodge (and to be retiring).

The offices of Secretary and Treasurer will be taken up by PM Ronnie Miller and PM Mickey Moore respectively. They have a lot to live up to!

After the meeting there was a warm and active Harmony at which there was a table literally heaving with home-made goodies to eat. The new Master proposed the usual toasts and recited some poetry as did PM Gillespie; all of which was appreciated wholeheartedly by the Brethren.

Our newly installed Master, PM Paul Newton wishes everyone in the Province and beyond a very prosperous year

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*Brothers John MacDougall and Donnie Gordon with their diplomas and presentation working tools.*

*Ronnie Miller, PM Lodge Kyle No. 1117*

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## Lodge Rosehaugh 1216

We had to change our Installation to January so we scheduled a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree for the December meeting. Unfortunately, we were unable to provide a candidate for the evening but having 5 Brethren on a visit from Peterborough we suggested one to take the mantle for the degree. Bro Alisdair Macdonald was the volunteer and very much enjoyed the experience. (see following article). It was Bro Macdonald's second visit to the Lodge as his Grand-Father was a member of 1216.

Our Installation was held on 15<sup>th</sup> January with Bro Donald McLennan being re-installed in the chair. Bro Allan Carmichael was the Installing Master and Bro William Macleman installed the Office-Bearers. This was William's first go at the Office Bearers and his efforts were very well received by the Brethren.

Our next meeting will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> February and will be a business meeting along with the Installation of remaining Office-Bearers. We will try and organise a short lecture also.

Our Senior Citizens Christmas party was held in the lodge on 10 December 2015 with just short of 40 in attendance. We do ask the local businesses to support the event and we had an excellent response this year and enough to keep us going for a number of years. Thanks to all who assisted on the evening especially our local entertainer Mike Keavey.

Unfortunately, since the last edition several members of the Lodge have passed to the Grand Lodge above. But first it would be remiss of us not to allude to the sudden and tragic passing of Peggy Maclaren on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015. The funeral service at Inverness Crematorium was packed with many unable to get into the main chamber. Bro John Gordon Munro better known to us all as Eoin passed to the Grand Lodge above on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015 (day of our December meeting). Born in Forres Eoin moved to Easter Suddie and joined the lodge on 5 Jan 1962. He was proposed by Bro Alex Duncan and Bro William Lodge. He went through his FC Degree two weeks later on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan and his MM degree was held on 16 Feb 1962. He is a Past Master of the Lodge and received his 50<sup>th</sup> certificate in 2012. His photo is on the Past master's board having been in the chair in 1972/3.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> December David William Haynes passed to the Grand Lodge above. Bro David joined the Lodge on 2 Feb 1979 his FC degree was held on 6 Apr 1979 and his MM degree on 12 May 1979. He was proposed by Bro Norman Macdonald PM and Bro Donny MacFarquar.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> December the well-respected Bro Sinclair Bruce the RWM of Lodge Allan Wilson, PM of Lodge Seaforth No 854 and Life member of Lodge Rosehaugh since May 2005 passed to The Grand Lodge above.

Bro Willie Skinner passed away on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January after a long fight against cancer which he bore with great courage. A hard working skipper of his boat "The Primrose" Willie Joined Lodge Rosehaugh 20 November 1971 having being proposed by Bros Alec Duncan PM and Bro George Forsyth PM. He was passed on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1972 and raised on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1972. Marked on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1972. Bro Jackie Morrison went through all these degrees on same evening. Willie served as RWM from 1982/84. Both Willie's sons Grant and Ross are members of 1216 and both spoke fondly of their Dad at the funeral service. Ross concluded his tribute to his father with a poem which I understand was written by Bishop Brent of the Falkland Islands.

*I am standing at the seashore - A ship by her side spreads her white sail to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength and I stand and wait until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down and mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says: 'There! She's gone.' Gone where? Gone from my sight, that is all.*

*She is just at large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and just as able to bear her load to the place of destination.*

*Her diminished size is in me, not in her; and just at the moment when someone at my side says: 'There! She is gone.'*

*There are others watching her coming, and voices ready to take up the glad shout 'There she comes!'*

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## 5 Wise Men Visit Rosehaugh !!!!

After my first visit to my Grandfather's Lodge in 2012, I was not sure when my return trip would be. After a few drinks one night I mentioned it to a brother who thought it was about time I/we returned. This soon expanded to 5 brethren from the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire deciding to attend the 2015 December meeting in Avoch.

Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2015

We left Peterborough on Thursday morning and made our way to Luton airport. We took a flight to Inverness which all went well. Picked up a car at the airport and acted as tourists visiting Loch Ness, Urquhart Castle and the bright lights and vibrant atmosphere of Inverness's nightlife.

Fri 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015

What a day!

On the off chance, we popped into Inverness Caledonian Thistle Football Club to see if we could have a look round. The Club was most welcoming and we were given a full tour of the Club, which ended with the Brothers holding the Scottish Cup. Many young boy's dreams were fulfilled, getting our hands on a cup with such history. We then had a great experience at the Black Isle brewery followed by a light lunch in Rosemarkie. After feeling the wind in our hair at the lighthouse by the golf Club, we checked into the hotel.

At our pre lodge meeting supper, RW Master Allan Carmichael advised us that it would be nice if one of the brethren from the South could act as a candidate for the ceremony. After a vote, I lost and decided to take on this role for the evening. On entering the Lodge building, we were all made most welcome with a smile and an expected Highland welcome. The ceremony was first class but the candidate was a bit "iffy". The atmosphere all evening was a joy to see and the Lodge was in good heart.

As it was the festive season of good will, we wanted to make a few points clear. We were not 3 Kings from the East bearing gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Following a star in the sky, which would lead us to a manger. No.....we were 5 bothers from the South (not wise men) following Easyjet and flight control at Dalcross. We did bring gifts of Northants and Hunts Masonic cufflinks (presented by WB Ady Woolley, Worshipful Master of Scola Regia Lodge 9105) to the Rosehaugh Master, along with a Northants & Hunts Provincial tie and a Grand Lodge of England tie to other distinguished brethren. It came to light, there was no room at the Inn, and so we stayed at the Station Hotel who made us very welcome. After the ceremony was completed we retired to the side room for light refreshments and a tiple of our choice.

Overall it was an experience we will never forget (for the right reasons) and goes to show what a wonderful organisation we are members of. At this stage I am unable to say when my next trip to the Lodge will be OR when we will see a visit from Rosehaugh members and their friends to our Province in England.

Can I take this opportunity to wish all the members and their families in the Province of Ross and Cromarty a Happy and Healthy 2016.

Worshipful Brother Alisdair MacDonald  
(Grandson of James Sutherland, past member of Rosehaugh Lodge)

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## Lodge St Martin 1217

The Brethren have been busy during the end of the year with a few items for the community.

The Brethren were selling/serving mulled wine and hot chocolate at the village fireworks display and was a welcome sight on the night for many. The Lodge also erected and decorated the village Christmas tree at the pier, although a smaller tree this year it was beautifully shaped.

The Lodge also assisted Santa tour the village and raised over £840 for the children of Ullapool.

The Lodge will be doing a third degree at the next regular meeting on 16th February and they will be assisting the Loch Ewe brethren with their mark degree on 25th February. The Aultbea brethren will be visiting Ullapool on 15th March to work a mark degree. At all these meetings it would be a delight to see as many visitors as possible and can be assured of a warm welcome in the west.

*Charles MacAulay, PM*  
Secretary

## Visit to South Africa

On the evening of Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, I visited Lodge De Goede Hoop No 1 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Being the “Christmas Meeting”, it was attended by The Grand Master of South Africa, the Provincial Grand Master, Southern Division, and over seventy Brethren from all over South Africa.

After the Lodge was opened I was, together with the other visitors, invited to enter the Lodge, formally announced and cordially and fraternally greeted by the Worshipful Master.

The principal business of the evening was an Initiation – a ceremony totally different from any other I have witnessed.

It was indeed an experience – and a privilege – to have been a part of it, not only from the solemnity and sincerity of the occasion but also from the splendour of the surroundings.

The magnificent temple, pictured below, was consecrated on 7 July 1803 by Advocate JH de Mist, Commissioner of the Cape, who was also Deputy Grand Master National of the Netherlands. During the 1840s a banqueting hall was added next to the Lodge and this housed the Cape Parliament from 1854 to 1884 when the present House of Assembly was completed. In February 1892 the Lodge, together with its banqueting hall, was gutted by fire and only a small section was not destroyed. The building was rebuilt, and was consecrated in April 1893

Needless to say, at the dinner following the meeting, as a visitor from the UK I was suddenly asked to say a few words which, with the help of a few glasses of South African pinotage, came quite readily – and were indeed warmly received!!

Altogether a Masonic evening I shall never forget.

Bro. Michael Longley  
Treasurer  
Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551, Aultbea.



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## Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551

In conjunction with many of the activities undertaken by the late Brother Sinclair Bruce we, at Aultbea, will miss his entertaining contributions, sporting and fraternally, to the Quarterly Provincial Newsletter.

Sinclair was an Honorary member of Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551 and members will well recall the evenings spent in the lodge when he was on his work travels all over the West and we wish Margaret and the family well in the future. Over the years the writer enjoyed giving Sinclair the opportunity of metaphorically consuming / devouring many books on the Craft at his home in Station Road from his stock in Blackwells and, until it was no longer available to subscribers in Scotland, we both enjoyed the contents of the publication 'Freemasonry' and its many varied articles; ironically I espied a recent copy of 'Freemasonry' only this week on Wednesday night in the ante room of Lodge Craigellachie No. 241 in Grantown-on-Spey so someone with connections southwards is still able to obtain and enjoy it!

As mentioned in edition No. 85 of the 'Patter' in November this session of the lodge will be involved in the working of Mark degrees both in Aultbea (Thursdays 25<sup>th</sup> February for Richard Macdonald and 14<sup>th</sup> April for Mike Macleod at the PGL annual visitation with Harmony in Aultbea Hotel and "that Raffle") and, following informal discussions with Lodge St Martin No. 1217, in Ullapool (Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March). The PGL annual visitation on 14<sup>th</sup> April looks like it will be even more largely attended this time round with anticipated participation from lodges in the Moray and Nairn, Banffshire, Sutherland and Inverness-shire provinces – this being in no small measure from the support of the incumbent office bearers WJW Ally Gault, Senior Deacon Richard Macdonald and Junior Deacon Mike Macleod on visiting lodges in these areas on a regular basis. The brethren are chewing over the concept of Summer pioneering meetings – roll on the utopian ideal of holding as many special meetings as we have regular meetings during the whole of the year as may be afforded by the GL of Scotland Constitutions and Rules if we could only muster the necessary applications from potential candidates.

Another date of note is the Lodge of Sorrow to be held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May commencing 3 pm when attendees will have the opportunity to take in the scenery in and around the area en route to Aultbea.

There will be another Quiz Night on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March and it is looking like these are going to be twice a year so successful are they proving with the local population and the downstream benefits to both local organisations and the hotel. Like everything else these days such events take a good deal of planning / preparation and we are grateful for the time spent by the Secretary and Treasurer in this direction and the support of the brethren on the night itself. Disbursements of the £ 350 proceeds from the 13<sup>th</sup> November QN resulted in £ 175 each to the Gairloch Air Cadets and Gairloch Air Scouts which have been gratefully acknowledged. The roads west that Friday night were awash with the result of the rains of the preceding day/night which, although slightly abating to allow travel to the Quiz, had prevented the Dingwall office bearers attending the regular meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> November – a first in the 14 years of affiliation that I can remember Lodge Loch Ewe not opening due to adverse conditions; even the snows never had that effect on the 140 mile round trip!

I mentioned above the support of the incumbent WJW Ally Gault, Senior Deacon Richard Macdonald and Junior Deacon Mike Macleod on visiting lodges but this has been eclipsed somewhat by the efforts of the Administration team in the N.E. in December and January. Elsewhere readers will read the account of Treasurer Mike Longley's sojourn in South Africa around Christmas to Lodge De Goede Hoop No 1 in Cape Town.

Closer to home Secretary Barrie Whitwell took a wee jaunt off to the Isle of Man in January and on successive meeting nights visited lodges operating under the United Grand Lodge of England in Douglas and Ramsey.

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Barrie visited Lodge Spencer Walpole No. 2197 in Douglas and this was followed the following evening with visit to St Trinians Lodge, No. 2050 in Douglas.

To round off his trip Barrie went along to St Maughold Lodge of Freemasons No. 1075 in Ramsey on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> where celebrations were being held in honour of the Lodge's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which was attended by GL and PGL GLs in the area. At conclusion of the evening our Secretary received a set of commemorative cuff links

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to present to myself which I'll take pride in wearing at prestigious Masonic events in and around Ross-shire and further afield starting next Thursday at the Regular Communication of GL in Edinburgh.

Once again I take the opportunity of extending a cordial welcome to all brethren who take the road west to our humble surroundings.

*Andrew Miller Henderson, RWM*

## **Blast from the Past – this article first appeared in February 2000 – 16 years ago.**

I am obliged to the RWM, Bro David Whitehouse for the following article:

### QUOTE UNQUOTE

*Or it might be alright on the night*

“It must be acknowledged that for most of us, working ritual ‘on the floor’ carries some degree of stress and this is true not only for those who are new at it. The mind works overtime, not just to remember the words but the physical moves involved. At times like these it is all too easy to misquote or mispronounce the odd word or phrase and often not realise what one has said ..... until afterwards.

In the hope that other Lodges in the Province might record for ‘the Patter’ some of their classic boo boos, I offer some of those heard in or around 108.

One cannot but feel sorry for the poor candidate who in his EA test questions purported that *‘it necessarily follows that the sun must always be at the Mediterranean’*.

Perhaps less sympathy could be extended to the Master who, before a ballot, cited the criteria for those who were *‘illegible to vote’*. Or the Past Master who, in delivering the traditional history in the 3<sup>rd</sup> under some pressure, substituted for ‘beads of perspiration’ - *‘blobs of sweat’*.

Maybe it was a genuine understanding (or maybe not) on the part of the candidate who, having taken his EA obligation, was naturally asked what was, in his present situation, the predominant wish of his heart. On being prompted by the JD to answer light, he replied - *‘a pint of heavy’*.

At a second degree outside the Province (but not too far) the candidate was, among other matters, obligated to *‘maintain the principles inoculated in the former degree.’*

It would be unfair to put too much blame on the Past Master called in at very short notice to preside over a degree when he completed a candidate’s obligation *‘being that of an Entered Apprentice technician’*, and gave an encore by closing the Lodge with the wish that *‘every moral and social cement, the cement that cements us’*. He was later admonished by Brother Architect for using too much cement in his Masonry.

Finally, a case of the mumbling Deacon who prompted the candidate on the location of a certain pillar. The poor candidate, having misheard, reported to the Junior warden - *‘at the poachers entrance to King Solomon’s Temple’*.

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## *The Sinclair Bruce Diary*

It is with the greatest regret that I inform all readers of the Passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Past Master, Brother Sinclair George Bruce on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Brother Sinclair George Bruce was initiated into Lodge Seaforth No 854 in April 1977 and served as Master of the Lodge from December 1988 until December 1990. He was a Reponing Member and Lodge Treasurer of Lodge Allan Wilson No 851 – at the time of his Passing, he was Master of Lodge Allan Wilson.

I remember well when Sinclair was initiated into Lodge Seaforth – I was Junior Deacon and the late Brother Andrew Shaw was in the Chair. We were all delighted when we learned that Sinclair was becoming a member as everyone knew him and had great respect for him as the local Draper in the village of Munloch. But of course Sinclair served a far wider public than the Black Isle; with his big imposing van, Sinclair regularly toured the west coast taking his smiling personal service to those who had great difficulty in getting to Dingwall or Inverness a service that was greatly appreciated. It always fascinated me that whenever we were visiting the Lodges in places like Aultbea or Sleat, everyone knew Sinclair – he was a very popular individual.

A few weeks after the funeral I was sitting having a blether with Sinclair's wife Margaret and she very aptly described Sinclair as a quiet man. He was indeed a quiet man but he had a very powerful voice. Both as a ritualist and a singer, you knew when Sinclair was about. He took great pride in his ritual work and it was always a joy to listen to him – everything he did was done with precision but equally important, with feeling. If there was no organist available, Sinclair would take the lead. He had a fine voice and he loved to sing.

In the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty, Sinclair was a very capable and caring Provincial Grand Almoner. It was in that role that Sinclair first started to pen an article for this newsletter. When his own health determined that he could no longer carry out that Office, I suggested to him that he should continue to write for the newsletter and so began the "Sinclair Bruce Diary" a feature that everyone loved to read. It reflected his love of sport, his love of all things Masonic and from time to time his no nonsense view of some of our politicians.

Knockbain Church in Munloch was packed on the day of the funeral. It was a short, simple service, just as Sinclair would have wanted. The tremendous singing of the two hymns – "How Great Thou Art" and "Abide with Me" was in itself a tribute to a man who loved singing the Psalms and Hymns.

For me, one of the most poignant parts of the service was the choice of the reading. The words of Paul to the Colossians – "*clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience and over all these virtues put on love which binds them all together in perfect unity*" – seemed to me to sum up the life and character of Sinclair George Bruce perfectly while the words of the final verse – "*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him*" – was surely a very profound message from Sinclair to each and every one of us.

Sinclair will be greatly missed by all of us but more so by his wife Margaret, sons Ronald and Ian and the extended family. To them we extend our deepest condolences.

*WRM, Editor*



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## BITS AND PIECES

**Just as a matter of interest** - German Renaissance master Albrecht Durer **Melencolia I** (1514) and Knight **Death and the devil** (1513). I have both these prints hanging on my office wall right in front of my desk for reasons I hope will become clear as you read this article. There have been many interpretations of these engravings which have become known as, **the old master prints**. There is a 3<sup>rd</sup> print called **Saint Jerome in his Study** which is equally interesting in masonic terms. In fact, the allegorical references to masonry for me are stark. However, there is no suggestion that Albrecht Durer was a freemason that I can find. I will leave it up to you to decide or maybe some of our more enlightened brethren might be able to, well, enlighten us.



### Melencolia I

Look closely Brethren. The angel is despondent she has lost her confidence on her journey back to God and she is surrounded by allegory of that path to him. Take a look at the dog, which at this time was a reference to a person's soul, it is lethargic and bald, not very healthy looking. The large rhomohedron or what is known as Druers solid (A key stone maybe?) if you look closely has a faint skull imprinted on it, the magic square as reference to the sciences, Jacobs ladder, the hour glass and King Solomon's temple. Feature high amongst masonic allegory from across a wide range of degrees and orders within the craft. Coincidence?

What do you think? A very interesting image altogether. In fact, I am sure some our more experienced brethren will recognise a lot more.

### Knight, Death and the Devil.

Again you need to look closely. This is a more complex image which is infused with complex symbolism and allegory which no one, it seems, can agree the meaning. However, for me the reference to freemasonry is clear. As we journey east toward Gods house, you can just see in the distance, a skull, and hourglass. Note the Knights dog (Sole) Look how shiny his coat is and how resolute they both are on continuing their journey. Also if you look real close (you may have to expand the image) you will see a lizard scuttling in the opposite direction. A clear reference it is not only Death and the Devil that might try and prevent you journeying east, there will always be someone trying to stand in your way. Death is in front of the knight holding the hourglass as a reminder that Death meets us all when that time is right and devil behind you for that entire journey.

In all, the reference to a host of degrees and orders for me is stark. What about you?



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So why do I have these prints hanging on my wall of my office right in front of me? Well if you stand back from **Melencolia** the whole image is of one who has lost her way or can't find a way. However, look at the little bat holding the banner top left corner, blind as a bat, but screaming "Look Melencolia! This is the way" Towards the arch maybe? I have, during not only my in working life, but personal life often been in a some very difficult situations with what seems to be no way forward and I look at this image which reminds there is always a way. We just have to find it.

**The Knight, Death and the Devil.** Reminds me that no matter who or what tries to prevent me on my journey East, I must remain resolute in my beliefs, as these are mine as an individual and as a freemason. My brethren have taken an obligation to respect that. However, there are lot of people and situations you find yourself in who have not and will try and prevent you continuing your journey or conspire to try force you into changing your path.

Both these images tie in with my masonic beliefs and what masonry endeavours to teach us. Sometimes we may need to call for help amongst our brethren and there should be no shame in that and together we will find a way and we will continue on our own individual journeys East together. Nor should we hide that fact. Maybe as Freemasons we should be shouting to others "look this is the way" maybe just maybe we can teach the world a lesson.

I hope you find the above interesting as I say. Just as a matter of interest.

*Bro Donnie Mathieson*

Lodge Averon 866

## **Blast from the Past**

This poem was first submitted for inclusion in the August 2003 issue by PM Bob MacLean of Lodge Seaforth.

Bob celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 27<sup>th</sup> February

### *The Cross in my Pocket*

I carry a cross in my pocket  
A simple reminder to me  
Of the fact that I am a Christian  
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic  
Nor is it a good luck charm.  
It isn't meant to protect me  
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification  
For all the world to see;  
It's simply an understanding  
Between my saviour and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket  
To bring out a can or a key  
The cross is there to remind me  
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds me too to be thankful  
For my blessings every day  
And to strive to serve Him better  
In all that I do and say.

# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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

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My sincere thanks to Bro Jim Dunlop, a member of Lodge Douglas, 1557, who is a regular reader of the “Patter” for submitting this interesting article about the National Memorial in Staffordshire. I’m sure that it may well prompt other readers to pay a visit if we are ever in the area

## **National Memorial.**

On Saturday 18th July 2015, I visited the National Memorial, Arboretum, Alrewas in Staffordshire.

There are over 300 memorials in an area covering 150 acres which tell a range of extraordinary stories through thought provoking symbolism. The memorials are set in an ever changing landscape.

Memorial Number 304 is The Freemasons Memorial Garden dedicated to the memory of all “Freemasons who served”. The garden has two large square stones, one a “rough” ashlar representing man in his prime and the other a polished “smooth” ashlar to represent man in his later year’s years having benefited from education and learning.

On top of the smooth ashlar are the words: The mind of man in his declining years after a regular life well spent in the acts of piety and virtue.

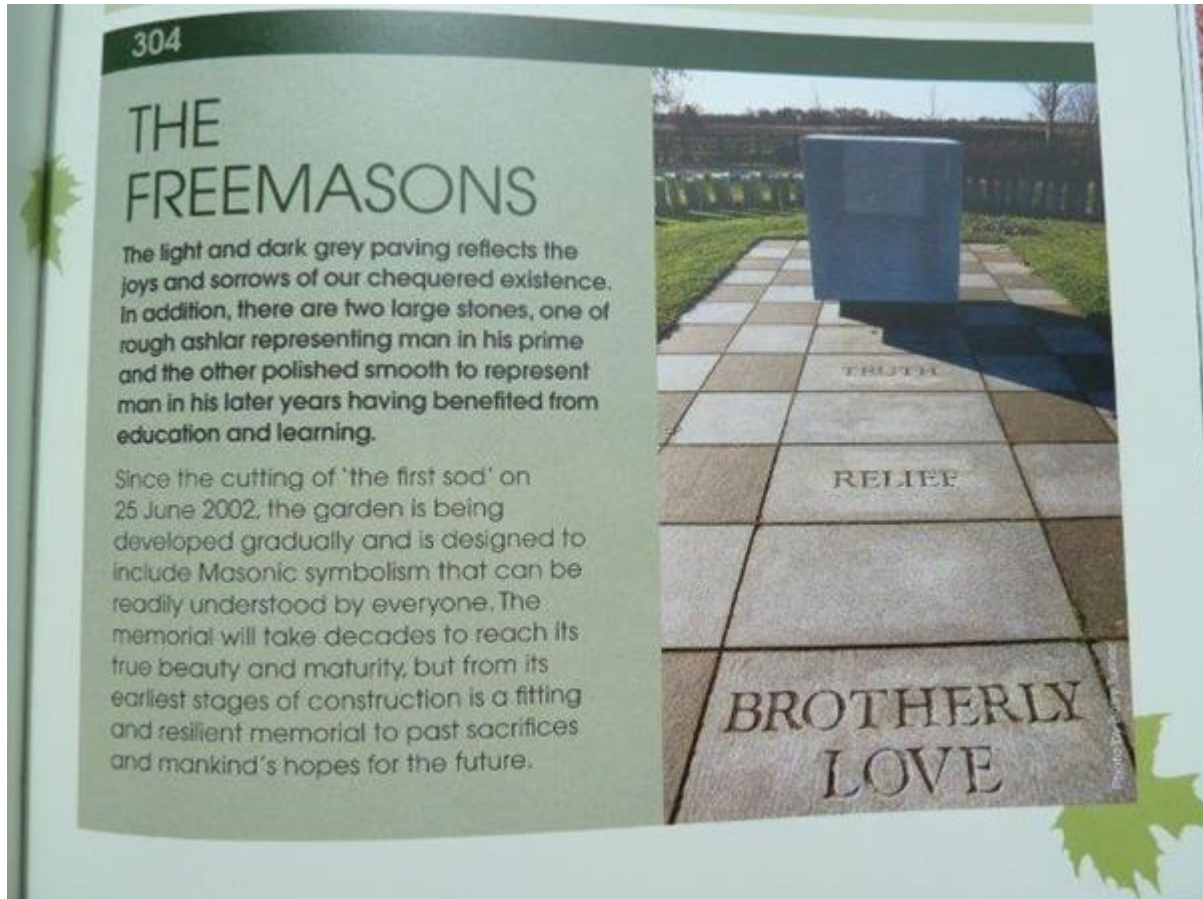
The light and dark grey paving reflects the joys and sorrows of our chequered existence. Engraved on the walkway are the words: Brotherly Love – Relief – Truth.

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The Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire have submitted proposals to upgrade the garden and recently received planning approval. The United Grand Lodge of England is underwriting a major part of the project costs and it is hoped this will be completed by 2017 to coincide with the tercentenary of the Grand Lodge of England.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire hopes to raise funds to meet the total overall cost and is sure that with the generosity of all Freemasons this will be achieved.

The new proposals are for a new entrance leading into the garden which will have two columns and a wall which will emphasise both the symbolism and historical base of Freemasonry.

The project will make the National Masonic Garden a memorial of which all Freemasons can be justly proud.

Brother Jim Dunlop.  
Lodge Douglas No 1557. East Kilbride.

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## Royal Arch

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

#### VISITATIONS 2016

Tain and Ross Chapter No 63	Tain	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> . February
Cromarty Firth Chapter No 310	Invergordon	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> . March
St Clement Chapter No 244	Dingwall	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> . April
The Hebrides Chapter No 364	Stornoway	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> . May

### PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>. May within Lodge St. Duthus No 82 Tain at 1.00 pm

Donald MacLeod  
PG Superintendent

### St Clement RAC No 244 –

Next meeting will be an Affiliation and the working of the RA Degree

WRM  
Scribe E

### Cromarty Firth RAC 310

Our November meeting had to be cancelled at very short notice because of the flooding of Lodge Ness (where we normally hold our meetings). Our December meeting, (a RA degree) was held in the Lodge, on bare Floorboards but was well attended and went very well. Our next meeting, a RA degree, will be held in Lodge Ness, (now restored), on February the 3rd, and it will be a RA degree. Visitors as usual, will be made most welcome. Our March should be a EM degree, depending on the shift work of our candidates. Our April meeting is normally the nomination of candidates for the next term.

*R.W. Morrison PZ*

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## Highland Guild Lodge

Next Regular Meeting will be on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016

## GUILD MASONRY OF SCOTLAND

On Saturday 20 June 2015 the Grand Sanhedrin of Guild Masonry for Scotland held its Grand Assembly within Lodge Scoon and Perth Number 3, in Perth. At this meeting the following members of Highland Guild Lodge, which works out of Lodge Averon, Alness, were appointed to the following Grand Offices. Two of these Brethren are members of the Province of Ross and Cromarty and all with the exception of Peter are members of Moray Firth Guild Lodge, Rothes, which was the founding lodge for Highland Guild lodge.

Imm. Past Grand First Master	-	Br. Kenneth Wilson
Grand Third Master	-	Br. Jim Tait (R&C)
Grand Scrivener	-	Br. James Williamson
Grand Chaplain	-	Br. Derek Milne
Grand Deacon	-	Br. Fred Fraser (R&C)
Grand Sentinel	-	Br. John G MacKay.
Grand Steward	-	Br. Peter Fannon.

At this meeting it was agreed, that as a donation had been made for jewels for the three Grand Masters then these jewels should be made and presented to the three Grand Masters at a later date.

First Grand Master	Br. Jim Pettigrew	Lanarkshire Guild Lodge
Second Grand Master	Br. Ian Duff	Scoon and St. John's Toune Guild Lodge
Third Grand Master	Br. Jim Tait	Highland Guild Lodge

On Friday 13 November 2015 at a regular meeting of Scoon and St. John's Toune Guild Lodge, in Perth and at the conclusion of their meeting the Grand First Master Jim Pettigrew took over the chair and stated the purpose of the extension of the meeting.

The three new jewels were laid on display on the Alter and were dedicated by Grand Chaplain, Br. Derek Milne, who thereafter presented the three Grand Masters with their respective jewels. These jewels have to be worn at all Guild Lodge meetings and handed on to all by their respective successors.

The First Grand Master thanked the Guild Lodge for allowing this part of the ceremony before the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form.

The photograph (next page) shows the jewels being worn with pride by the three Grand Masters. L. to R. Brothers Jim Tait, Jim Pettigrew and Ian Duff.

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Alasdair Taylor  
Kirkwarden/Scrivener, Highland Guild Lodge

Spotted on a dry cleaner's window:

*Anyone leaving their garments for more than 30 days will be disposed of.*

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## *Heilan Shed No. 6*



The members of Heilan Shed No. 6 extended the hand of benevolence to youngsters in West Africa.

The photo above shows Past Worthy Deacon Morris M Downie after the presentation of a full football strip to Sanchaba FC., Kololi, The Gambia, West Africa.

These youngsters are planning to enter a local football league. They train and play football every day on the sand, having no school to attend and no employment. The donation of the strip was received with great excitement and appreciated by the boys, who will in every possibility be accepted into the league now they are kitted out with a full strip.

The hand of benevolence was certainly very much to their liking and will, hopefully, spur them on to greater things.



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## Rosicrucian College – Inverness

The next meeting of the Inverness College will be on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February in the the small Lodge Room at the Masonic Hall, Inverness.

## PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES.

At Andrew Morrison District Grand Prior's visit on 23rd April it will be the 40th anniversary of our charter and it is our intention to celebrate this fairly special event while some of the charter members are still with us, 9 out of the original 17 signatories have passed on to the Great Priory above. The Grand Master, Jim Hodge, has kindly agreed to join us that Saturday afternoon and we hope that the surviving charter members will also make it along, my brother Colin who lives in the USA and who is a charter member along with myself and my two other brothers may not manage as he intends to come the Lodge's 250th anniversary next year. As at all our meetings, visitors will be made most welcome.

## DISTRICT GRAND PRIORY OF THE NORTH IN SCOTLAND.

### District Programme for -2016

<b>Preceptory</b>	<b>Installation Date</b>	<b>Visitation Date</b>
Highland No.39	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	15 <sup>th</sup> April (Third Friday)
Western Isles No.124	29 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2016 (Fourth Saturday)
Ross No.138	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2016 (First Friday)
Maison Dieu No.101	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2016 (Second Friday)
Lochaber & Lorne No.139	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2016	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2016 (Third Monday)
St Fergus No.44	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2016 (Third Thursday)

The District AGM will be held in the Masonic Temple, Inverness, on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 6.30 pm prompt.

*Donald MacLeod*