

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 69

NOVEMBER 2011

Editorial

As we go to print with this the 69th edition of the Patter, we have also gone live with our new updated Provincial Website which can be accessed at - <http://www.pglrossandcromarty.org.uk> – it is really looking good and our thanks to RWM of Lodge Kyle, Bro Ronnie Miller of Calco UK for bringing us up to date. It may be of interest to some of our readers that Calco (sales@lochals.com) would be more than happy to give a very competitive quote to any Province, District or Lodge who are considering a web-site – just let me know and I'll put you in touch with Bro Miller or use the email address above – the company are very professional and of course, well versed in matters Masonic.

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of one of the most popular contributors to the Patter over many years, PM Bro Roddy Cade. Bro Roddy, a PM of Lodge Rosehaugh and equally proud member of Lodge St John No 618 in Hong Kong has been a tremendous supporter of the Patter as his many contributions testify. PM John Patience of Lodge Rosehaugh has kindly allowed me to publish, in this edition, the eulogy he gave at PM Cade's funeral – I hope, on reading it, many happy memories will be evoked by the many Brethren who knew him.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland

The Annual Installation and Festival of St Andrew will take place on Thursday 24th November 2011. This year, the Festival will move from its normal venue to the Corn Exchange. Lodge Secretaries are now in possession of the booking forms – get your tickets booked sooner rather than later for what looks to be an excellent day and evening. The cost has been kept at £50 and the other good news – the bar prices at the Corn Exchange are much better than the Sheraton!!!

* * * *

On Sunday, 11th December Freemasons' Hall will be the venue for a Christmas Concert by the Glasgow Phoenix Choir. Those of you who have heard this choir before will know that they have a huge repertoire and always deliver a great performance. The concert commences at 2.00 PM in the Grand Hall. Tickets cost £10.00 each and are available from Freemasons' Hall, 96 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3DH. Please make cheques out to The Grand Lodge of Scotland. Or call 0131 225 5577. Credit and Debit cards (not American Express) are accepted. Please note that these are sold on a first come first served basis and are already being snapped up so don't delay.

Provincial Grand Lodge

From the Provincial Grand Master:

The Reigning Masters Forum was held within Lodge Fingal No. 318 and with a good attendance of Lodge Representatives.

Reports were received on the Provincial Masters Forum and from Lodge Representatives on the current situations in their Lodges with interesting discussions following on.

Mrs Maureen Cameron served a most enjoyable lunch for which the Brethren were most grateful.

Continuing with our usual tradition, we started our season with the Annual Divine Service which was held within Lodge Averon No. 866 and so ably conducted by our Provincial Grand Chaplains, Brother Rev Ivan Warwick and Brother Henry MacInnes and supported by Brother Ramsay McGhee as organ accompanist.

A good attendance of Brethren and Families were present and complimented Brother Rev. Ivan Warwick on his thoughtful sermon.

I am also greatly indebted to the Right Worshipful Master and Brethren of Lodge Averon for making the Lodge available for the service and for their assistance in providing a most welcome and refreshing tea with lots of goodies supplied by our many friends.

The collection at the Divine Service amounted to £112.00 and has been donated to my proposed charity for this year, namely Blythswood Highland Food-bank. In my opinion a most worthy cause in supporting the "needy" families in the Highlands. Leaflets will be issued to the Daughter Lodges in the near future.

The Installation season is fast approaching and it is my intention to attend as many of the Meetings as possible. Otherwise the Provincial Grand Lodge will be represented by my Depute or Substitute Provincial Grand Masters.

May I also wish all Brethren who will be taking on new offices in our Lodges a very happy and successful year in office.

I attended /

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I attended the October Communication of Grand Lodge with Brothers Jim Tait, Andrew MacIvor from Robertson's Lodge also present. Brother Ronnie Cooper was in attendance as Grand Steward and Brother Ramsay McGhee as Grand Director of Ceremonies.

During the business discussed was a recommendation from the Administration Committee that the Capitation Fee be increased to £25.00. After debate and a proposed amendment to leave the fee unchanged, it was voted to accept the recommendation from the Administration Committee.

The November Quarterly Communication will take place on 9th November within Lodge St. Duthus No 82, Tain. A good attendance of Brethren would be much appreciated.

At this perhaps early time, may I take this opportunity to wish all the Brethren and their families a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous and Healthy 2012.

William Ross

Provincial Grand Master

From The Provincial Almoner

Sadly, since the last edition of the Provincial Patter, and our last Provincial Quarterly Communication, my job has become busier.

Since then PM George Sutherland and PM Colin MacRae, both of Lodge Fingal, have passed to the Grand Lodge above. Those two gentlemen both gave sterling service to Lodge Fingal and the Craft in general and will be greatly missed. Mention should also be made at this time of the late PM Roddie Caid, Lodge Rosehaugh as it was omitted from the last edition. He also served his Lodge to the highest standard and will be very sadly missed, particularly by the Brethren of Rosehaugh. They will all be fondly remembered for their service to Freemasonry. Cards from the Provincial Grand Master and Brethren of the Province have been sent to their respective families.

Today, 27th October, we also learned of the passing, after a long illness, of Kerry Ross, daughter of WPPG Senior Warden Donald George Ross and his wife Maria. Kerry put up very brave fight over many years and our sympathies and condolences go to Donald and Maria and their family.

George Robinson, Master of Lodge Averon continues to make progress and is now again regularly attending to his Masonic duties. Welcome back George.

Past Master Angus Ross, Lodge Ness and Rev Gordon Holroyd have been in hospital recently. Angus has recovered well from his operation while Gordon, is now also out of hospital but has to have further medical attention in the near future.

On a recent trip to Malaysia with Grand Lodge our IPPGM, Bro Ramsay was hospitalised out there for four days but is now home and recovering well.

And, most recently, PPGM Morris Downie had heart surgery in Aberdeen and is also now home and recovering well.

We learned too that Mrs Lesley Anne Cundiff, wife of PG Treasurer, Roger, recently had a hip operation and hopes to get out of hospital soon.

The best wishes of the PGM and brethren of the Province have been sent to all those who were in hospital wishing them a speedy recovery.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should there be any matter that you think may require my attention

David MacMaster,

Provincial Grand Almoner

Tel: 01997 421306 email: david@strathpeffer.net

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District Grand Lodge of the Middle East Installation

The Province of Ross and Cromarty was well represented at the Installation of Bro Dunstan Fernandez as District Grand Master of the Middle East in Kuala Lumpur. Brothers Morris Downie, Ian Fraser, David Pringle and I were in attendance. The link between the Province and the District goes back many years and it was a real pleasure to be able to witness Bro Dunstan being installed by the Grand Master Mason.

The “Installation Weekend” started on the Thursday with a golf outing during the day and a ‘Welcome Fellowship Dinner’ for Brethren and their ladies in the Oriental Pavilion in Petaling Jaya at night.

On the Friday morning we made our way to Freemasons’ Hall in Taman Kanagapuram where we attended the Annual Convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter which was presided over by the District Grand Superintendent, MEC Dr Kang Tee Yong. It was a full house for the Convocation during which Dr Kang Tee Yong installed his elected Office-bearers in a very relaxed and personal manner. In the afternoon, at the same venue, we attended another well attended meeting – this time the Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge of the Middle East at which the District Grand Master Elect, Bro Dr Dunstan Sixtus Fernandez officiated. He carried out a very impressive installation ceremony at the conclusion of which we were once again joined by the Ladies for another Fellowship Dinner, this time in Freemasons’ Hall.

Saturday 17th September and the Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre was buzzing. The main hall was being set up as a Lodge, the adjacent room was being set up for the Banquet and registration of Brethren had commenced in the massive foyer of the Centre. At 10.00 a.m. I ran a rehearsal for all the main participants, which was good – we were all able to meet each other and make sure everyone was relaxed and happy with the Ceremony.

Over 600 Brethren were in attendance in the afternoon to witness Bro Dr Dunstan Sixtus Fernandez being installed into Office by the MW Grand Master Mason, Bro Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont who thereafter duly installed the Commissioned Office-bearers in a most impressive manner. Everyone was very impressed by the fact that he had a personal word for every Office-bearer and that the entire Installation was carried out by him in a relaxed yet most dignified manner. At the conclusion of the Installation, the staff of the Centre rolled back a massive partition and all of a sudden we had the “Lodge” transformed into a massive Banquet Hall – 840 Brethren and Ladies enjoyed a sumptuous Chinese Banquet interspersed with the normal Toasts and Responses. The Harmony was provided by the popular Australian Tenor – Mr Paul Gulinello – who added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening.

On the Sunday morning Bro Ian Fraser and I joined the Grand Master Mason on a trip to Kuantan along with the newly installed DGM, Bro Fernandez. I had the privilege of sitting beside the Immediate Past DGM, Bro Dr Daljit Singh Nagreh who provided a wonderful commentary on the trip. The purpose of the trip was to visit Lodge Royal Pahang No 1589 and view the newly erected Lodge Building. The Foundation Stone had been laid by the Grand Master Mason a few years ago along with Bro Fraser in his role as 1st Grand Principle.



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On the return journey which was beset with road works, we returned via the Dragon Head Pub where we were regally entertained and fed eventually returning to the hotel about midnight. The entire day was superbly organised by Bro Felix Perera, a Past Master of Lodge Royal Pahang, assisted by his charming wife Gwen.



On Monday morning it was a parting of the ways – the Grand Master was heading to a meeting of Lodge St John in Bangkok, Bro Ian Fraser was heading home after an arduous trip to New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Manila and Malaysia, Bro Morris Downie and Bro David Pringle were staying in Kuala Lumpur while the Depute Grand Master, Bro Hugh Bryson and I were heading to Singapore – Hugh was attending a meeting of Lodge Ailsa and I was attending a meeting of Lodge St Andrew. The Lodge St Andrew meeting was superb – an excellent Degree and the opportunity to meet up with many old friends.

Back in KL, Brothers Downie and Pringle attended firstly, Lodge Sentosa No7661 (EC), where they witnessed a well worked second degree for Bro Sivalingam Sinniah and on Wednesday 21st September attended Lodge Emerald in the East No. 830 (IC) who worked a very interesting second degree. By the end of the week everyone was heading home but I managed to contract viral bronchitis as well as a dose of the highly contagious 'influenza A' bug. This resulted in my spending three days in an isolation ward in Assunta Hospital. I must take this opportunity to thank in the sincerest of terms, Bro Dunstan for all his care and attention – it was way beyond the call of duty. PM Bro Felix Perera was also first class. The ready assistance he gave in so many ways was also way beyond the call of duty. I am indebted to both of them.

All in all it was a great trip and we extend our sincerest and best wishes to Bro Dr Dunstan Fernandez for a very happy and fulfilling term of office.

Black Isle Cycle Challenge

Next year's event will take place on Saturday 28th April 2012 – so please get the date into your diaries and support this major event for Highland Hospice. We need as many Stewards as possible.



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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Well Brethren, time for the Patter again. I hope that you are all well and getting on with this session.

Our closed season this year has been pretty quiet. Our SD has had two Quiz nights for various charities within the Ross-shire area. This raised £700 and £400. They have been very successful. They take outsiders in who would not usually come into the Lodge and there could be a spin off - if we are lucky. He is hoping to hold one for ourselves soon, so with that in mind we hope that some of you may be able to come through to see us.

We had an application read out, so that will keep us busy for a few meetings. They are getting few and far between, not only with us, but as I was having a quick look over the new communication booklet, from Grand Lodge, it was stated, that there had been 293 less new members last year, than the year before, so we are all suffering.

Our first meeting on 3rd October was a business meeting and also a presentation by PM RC Cattenach of the regalia of PM Sheriff T Mackenzie who was the 16th Master of Lodge St Duthus from 1888 to 1890. A separate article about the link between the two Lodges has been submitted below by PM Cattenach.

The Master had welcomed our newly installed PGM Brother W Ross and our own DPGM Brother RC Cattenach, at the start of the meeting. Bro Ross spoke of his installation in June and also mentioned that in the event of any visitors entering our harmony room to consume any alcohol, it is essential to have them signed in ,in our visitors book , as the Police can enter at any time.

Our East has been altered slightly so as to accommodate a few more Masters or PM's and our Organist has been moved to a more convenient place down beside the Junior Wardens station. On 17th October we had our AGM and we have been fortunate to have a full house of Office bearers. PM M McGougan informed us that he had had a 70th birthday party and £ 500 had been raised and this was donated to the Highland Hospice.

5th November	Sale of work at 11am
7th November	3rd degree
21st November	Re- Installation of RWM R Patullo
3rd December ?	Old folks party
5th December	1st Degree
19th December	2nd degree

The RWM will attend as many Installations as possible during the Installation period as will some of the other Brethren - we hope to see you soon

Iain Sinclair
Secretary

We can forgive a child who is afraid of the dark. The real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.
– Plato

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LODGE ST.DUTHUS No 82 APRON SASH + CASE RETURNED AFTER 123YEARS

About a year ago, our Grand Director of Ceremonies in Grand Lodge, Bro Ramsay McGhee, told me that Bro Robert Tait (a former Grand Director of Ceremonies) from Lodge Trinity had come across regalia belonging to a Sheriff MacKenzie of Tain and was going to return the regalia to Lodge St Duthus when he was next in Inverness visiting his sister.

Bro Tait is the editor of the Grand Lodge Year Book and is very interested in Masonic history. He is also a Past Master of Lodge Trinity No 885 in Edinburgh of which three of the Founder Members belonged to Lodge St Duthus, hence the interest in the Apron. The regalia was purchased from an antique shop in Edinburgh by Bro John Gowans of Lodge Trinity, who was always willing to purchase items of interest. Sadly, John has passed to the Grand Lodge Above, but, on clearing out his home his sister and her husband, Angela and David Stroud, (Bro David is also a member of Lodge Trinity) gave the regalia to Bro Bob Tait and asked if he could get it north to be put on display in Lodge St Duthus where it belonged. Ramsay asked me to reply to Bro Tait and to Angela and David Stroud which I did on behalf of the Master and Brethren of Lodge St Duthus as it was the close season and it was important to acknowledge the gift quickly.

The regalia belonged to Sheriff T MacKenzie, the 16th Master of St Duthus who was in the Chair from 1888 until 1890. The regalia is in very good condition for its age given that the Apron is folded in six to fit into the "improved" Masonic case.

What a long round about way to be returned to Tain but the Brethren were delighted to receive the regalia and it will be on display in the show case in the ante-room. It was formally presented to the Lodge during the first meeting of the season.

I now return to the link between the Brethren of Lodge Trinity and Lodge St Duthus. Bro Bob Tait kindly sent a history of the Lodge which he had written and I read with great interest that no less than three Brethren from Lodge St Duthus were Founder Members of Lodge Trinity along with a member of Lodge Fortrose No 108 in Stornoway. The three Tain Brethren were Dr Colin MacKenzie, Bro Henry Forsythe Tait and Bro Fred Charles Pentland while the Stornoway member was Bro Malcolm Graham-Yooll. It was quite something that four of the founding Brethren were from the Province of Ross and Cromarty.

Dr Colin MacKenzie was the 18th Master of Lodge St Duthus from 1893 until 1896 and it was at this time that the foundation stone of the building now occupied by Lodge St Duthus was laid. He was also the first Master of Lodge Trinity and by all accounts was the major driving force in encouraging the Edinburgh Brethren to build their own Lodge in Wardie Road. Obviously the excitement he had experienced in Tain was to be repeated in Edinburgh.

Many thanks to the Strouds, to Bro Bob Tait and to Bro Ramsay McGhee for taking the great care to get the regalia back to Tain and we now look forward to a visit from Bro Tait when he is next in Inverness.

Kind regards

Robin Cattenach, PM Lodge St Duthus No 108

He who establishes his argument by noise and command shows that his reason is weak.
—Michel de Montaigne

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

A large deputation from Lodge The Gael 609 arrived by bus on Friday 30th September and they worked a dummy third degree on Saturday afternoon on 1st October on one of their own members who has lived up in Lewis for a number of years now. It was pretty obvious he didn't remember what he was going to go through. One of our own brethren was meant to be the candidate but his boss, Abramovitch, sent him to Italy so he missed out on what turned out to be a first class degree and also a great couple of days with these guys. Nine of their own brethren piped them into the lodge.



We're not doing too badly for candidates at the moment with two waiting for their 1st degree.

The Social club did well last week when the national mod, or as it's sometimes called "The Whisky Olympics," was held in Stornoway. Our own new malt dram "Abhainn Dearg" was launched at the beginning of that week. We have some for sale in the bar, a wee bitty pricey at the moment but well worth it.

Donnie MacLeod
PSPGM

Learning, if rightly applied, makes a young man thinking, attentive, industrious, confident, and wary; and an old man cheerful and useful. It is an ornament in prosperity, a refuge in adversity, and entertainment at all times; it cheers in solitude, and gives moderation and wisdom in all circumstances.

—Ray Palmer

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi Brethren all.

Once again with the season started we are coming up to our A.G.M. and Nomination of Office Bearers on Wednesday 16 November 2011 and the resultant elected Office Bearers will be installed on Wednesday 21 December 2011.

Our Lodge has much to be proud of and has a long history with many well known Cromarty and area families having been in its membership. The Lodge received its Charter on 14 January 1774. The founder members paid 5 shillings and 3 pence admission fee (unfortunately the fee has gone up a bit since then) and by the end of that year they had 23 members in regular attendance. In the nineteenth century the Lodge played a prominent roll in the community and much of this was recorded by Hugh Miller. During the First World War many sailors were initiated into the Lodge and enquiries are still received from abroad to this day of folk trying to trace their forefathers.

My point is that being part of this Lodge is something to be proud of. I know there are reasons why some brethren are unable to attend, but remember without membership attendance there is no Lodge. This is no longer an idle threat, but a reality and affects many lodges throughout Scotland and the Craft in general.

I would therefore urge every Brother to think with pride of the organisation he has joined and of our own Lodge in particular. It needs your support financially but more so in act and deed. If you have been away for a bit it is very easy to fall by the wayside after missing a few meetings but please make every effort to come back among us. If you feel there is a problem preventing you from coming back, please let us know and hopefully we can sort it out.

As we come up to our AGM it would be nice to see the Lodge full. Your vote is important and your participation would be appreciated but not essential.

On behalf of the RWM and his Office Bearers we look forward to seeing you on the date.

Yours fraternally

Jim

James A Tait PM
Secretary

James A Tait PM
Secretary.

Over the years I have learned that the forces that shape a pot are the same forces that shape a person's life. Unless it is centered, clay flies off the wheel. Unless it is disciplined, a life has no focus. My goal it so be centered like these pots.

—Scott Goewey

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Lodge Fingal No 318



October: Tuesday 11th, first regular meeting of the season, Business Meeting. There was a minute silence for the passing of P.M. Bro. George Sutherland.

Tuesday 25th Special Meeting working a MM^o for Brothers David Brett and John MacKenzie. The meeting was well attended, there with 17 Fingalians and 23 visitors, representing 10 Lodges, 2 out with the Province, one from Moray & Nairn, second from Inverness-shire.

There was a minute silence for the passing of PM Bro Colin McRae. The representative from each of the visiting lodge's, congratulated the Master and Brethren on the working of the degree and congratulated the 2 candidates on taking their third regular step in freemasonry. The RWM of Lodge St. John Operative No 37, commented on seeing Bro Henry Cameron lying flat on his back, never before had he seen Henry like this, [Henry was acting as the Benjamin during the degree]. The PM of Robertson's Lodge Bro Jim Tait who was accompanied by 5 brethren, said that the deputation was about the same number as at their last Lodge meeting.

The business of the meeting being completed, the Lodge was closed in due and ancient form at 10.20pm after which the Brethren retired to the Logie Lounge for a harmony.

November: AGM and Nomination of Office Bearers to be followed by a lecture from our RWM on the MM^o and the Acacia.

December: Tuesday 13th could be a MMM^o.

Tuesday 27th Special Meeting - annual Installation for 3pm. Festival of St. John to follow in the Logie Lounge then to let your hair down, a wee dance to the popular pair, Jill & George, to finish off the day.

Events in the Logie Lounge: Saturday October 29th there was a Curry Night, with the catering carried out by Bro David Ross whose idea it was to have the event, just something different as was David's comment, with a shin dig, to our very own Bro Charlie Wilson.

Saturday November 26th there is to be a St Andrews Night, with the handing over of a cheque to Marie Curie for the sum of £3,679 at 7.30 followed by a dance too Mike Samms, buffet served at half time.

Some useless information: on Saturday October 1st, 6 Brethren from the Province attended the Re-Dedication Meeting of Lodge Kirkwall Kilwinning No 38² Brother's Iain Sinclair, Brian Moran, Steven Keith from Lodge St. Duthus, myself, Roy MacIver from Lodge Fingal and Ackie Green from Lodge Seaforth. The Lodge was tyled at 4.30, with some 152 brethren signing the book. The Master handed over the Gavel to PGM of Orkney & Zetland Bro R. Fullerton to carry out the Ceremony. The Chaplain for the day was PM Bro. David Bain, which was very appropriate as he sat in the Master's Chair some 25 years previous when the Lodge was Re-Dedicated by Grand Lodge. The collection which was excellent amounted too £535. The harmony was in the hall, adjacent to the bar. 145 brethren sat down for an excellent 3 course meal. After the speeches, two2 presentations were made to the Master Bro Martin Kerr, one of which was from Bro. Iain Sinclair, a plate from Tain Pottery which he presented from Lodge St. Duthus with an inscription to mark the occasion.

As the year is drawing to a nigh, on behalf of the RWM Bro Andy Henderson, Office Bearers and the Brethren of the Lodge, may we take this opportunity of wishing you all a happy festive time, and a healthy year for 2012.

*D. Gunn P.M.
Secretary.*

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Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

The Lodge has enjoyed another very successful season with excellent speakers and good numbers attending both the meetings and the lunches.

The installation of Bro Jonathan Hill as Master of the Lodge will take place on the 12th June. At the July meeting the Depute PGM, Bro Robin Cattenach, will give a lecture on the very interesting link between Lodge St Duthus in Tain and Lodge Trinity in Edinburgh. In August we will be privileged to receive a lecture from one of the most eminent Masonic scholars, Bro Trevor Stewart, a former Prestonian lecturer and currently Master of Lodge Sir Robert Moray.

Lodge Seaforth No 854

Hello once again to the Seaforth contribution to the Patter. It hardly seem like 3 months since the last one and the time seems to fly past ever faster with the Installation Season and the Festive Season coming up fast.

We have started the Masonic Year off well with a successful Master Mason Degree followed by an equally successful Mark Degree. Our next Meeting on 21st November will be our AGM and Election of Office Bearers with our Installation taking place on Saturday 10th December when we look forward to seeing a good turnout of both Seaforth Members and Visitors.

We are glad to have the safe return of our Secretary PM Ramsay McGhee from his trip to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia where he landed up in hospital while on Grand Lodge duties – good to see you on the mend Ramsay. Work on the repairs to the Clubrooms is coming on a pace and we are grateful that fundraising so far has been a success. Thanks must go to Ann McGhee for organising a very successful Ladies Pamper Evening which, along with our Grand Raffle raised a healthy sum. One of the Brethren from Lodge Alan Wilson, Bro. Tommy Docherty has donated some beautiful Gavels to the lodge to be used to raise funds for the repairs and these will be raffled at the coming meetings to raise funds for this and special thanks to Tommy for this.

On closing we would just like to wish everyone all the best for the coming Installation Season, and to wish you all a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cochrane Donald P.M.

Lodge Averon No 866

The Annual Installation will take place on Saturday 17th December at 3.00 pm

Lodge Ness No 888

The Annual Installation will take place on Tuesday 13th December.

Raymond Morrison P.M.

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Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

The Lodge resumed after the summer recess with our October meeting which was a first degree with the candidate being Garry Patience from Avoch. Garry's father George and his two brothers Darren and Craig are already members of 1216. A good turnout of members and visitors including the Provincial Grand Master Bro Willie Ross witnessed a very good first degree. Following the degree work Bro Don Patience received his jubilee certificate. Don was one of the team of brethren who worked intensively to build our present lodge. Bros Darren and Craig Patience also received their Mark Master Certificates.

Earlier in the meeting the RWM's first duty was to announce the passing of three Brethren. Bro Andrew Patience, Bro George Buchan and Bro Roddie Cade PM. Bro Andy Patience joined the lodge in 1953. Bro George Buchan was not a member of 1216 but stayed in Avoch and attended the lodge on a regular basis when in good health. Bro Roddie Cade PM joined the lodge in 1946 and became RWM in 1988. His good friend Bro John Patience PM who delivered the eulogy at Bro Roddie's funeral spoke about his influence in the lodge over many years introducing parts which continue to be part of the degree work in the lodge.

Our next meeting will be on Friday 4th November. This evening is normally set aside for our business meeting and lecture. However with another candidate patiently waiting we have decided on a 1st degree. The lodge will start earlier to get through the business and will be ready for the degree work at normal start time of 8.00pm. The December meeting will be our Installation evening with the re installation of Bro Duncan Macleman for a second term. We also have senior citizens parties planned for the 6th and 8th December.

I am delighted to end with some good news. We extend congratulations to Bro Duncan MacLeman and his wife Susan on the birth of a son, David Robert, a brother for George, on the 12th September. Also news filtered back from a recent visit to Vegas that Bro Scott Patience got engaged to Lesley- no confirmation of which knee was used! Congratulations to all.

Keith Patience, PM
Secretary

Past Master Brother Roderick Joseph Cade 1914 / 2011 – Eulogy given by PM John Patience

"I have been asked by the close relatives of the late Roddie Cade to say a few words about my friend of more than half a century and I am pleased to do so.

Many of you will have fond memories of Roddie as an excellent player of the 'squeeze box' and for many years an active member of the Avoch Moothies (along with such alumni as Neil Wilson, Donnie MacIntosh and the late David Webster). Many a time Roddie said – "I've been along to the Marine playing for the old folks" – when he was in his late eighties and indeed, early nineties but he didn't consider himself one of the old folks.

I think that epitomises Roddie; his outlook was always on the bright side. He little thought then that he would end his very full life in the Marine Care Home, Rosemarkie, where the staff looked after him so well and indeed admired him.

He was a faithful member and staunch supporter of this Church. He was a man of many talents – a keen golfer, bowler and curler in his day. I can also add that he was past chairman of the Community Council (13 years), President of the Bowling Club, the Curling Club and the Avoch Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland. As a keen golfer he was also match convenor for all of the Golf Weeks in the 1970's and early 80's.

Indeed a man of many parts, of whom it could be said that he spent his whole life in the service of his Country in general and in the service of his Community in particular.

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He was of course a keen Freemason who was a Past Master of Lodge Rosehaugh and attained the highest degrees in the Craft. Indeed I look around here and see in the congregation a goodly number of his fraternal Brethren. He would have been pleased to know that.



But, for the factual, chronological story of his life I will now read from his autobiography – *My Story* by Roddie Cade”.

Born 30th September 1914 in Brandon, Manitoba. Parents – Mary and Joseph. Came home to Grandparents’ Farm, Winewells, Knockbain (mother’s home) in 1916. Attended Knockbain Primary School from 1919 – 1926. Passed Qualifying Exam and attended Munlochy Public School 1926 – 1929. I obtained a bursary to attend Fortrose Academy 1929 – 1932. Secured digs in Fortrose 9 shillings per week Monday – Friday – bursary, 11 shillings per week. Decided to cycle and forego digs – last 3 months in Academy – 9 miles each way – hard going – wind always seemed to be blowing wrong way. I managed to get my Highers before leaving Academy in 1932. I joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1932. At the Depot, Catterick Camp, Yorkshire, spent first 3 months learning to be a soldier and the next 9 months learning a trade, in my case, Wireless Operator. At the end of the Training Course, myself and a lad from Southern Ireland were awarded a 3 week motor transport driving course so, got my first driving licence in 1933. That same month I was posted to Northern Ireland District Signals. Headquarters was in Belfast where I served for a few months before being sent to Ballykinler

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where one of the dear old ladies in 'Sands Soldiers Home' taught me to play chess. Went into Belfast for a trade test at the end of 1934 – succeeded in obtaining a higher grade and was posted to Kilroot. My next move was to India in 1936. The troopship took 6 weeks from Portsmouth to Karachi which included a diversion to Basra at the head of the Persian Gulf. From Karachi we spent 5 days in a troop train to Meerut. This was where the Indian Mutiny started in 1857. I spent June, July and August at a Hill Station near Murree. From Murree, I was posted with some 100 others to Quetta in October 1936 to relieve some of the men who had been through the Quetta earthquake. 32,000 dead – what a mess. I was only in Quetta a couple of months when trouble started on the northwest frontier. I was posted to NWF headquarters in December and from there to Bannu Signals where we spent the next 11 months being shot at by the Wazir, Mahsud and Afghan 'Tribes'. I have never been so fit before or since. Transferred to the Wireless Experimental Station, Cherat (25 miles north west of Peshawar), February 1938 and really enjoyed my 2 years there. Early in 1940 transferred to Secunderabad to help prepare 5th Indian Division for overseas. 10th Indian Division formed after 5th Division departed and followed them overseas. After a short stay in Bombay – three boat loads left Bombay for Singapore but luckily the ship I was on was redirected to Basra where we landed to sort out a minor problem in Iraq. Our Headquarters was at Lake Habbanyia about 40 miles from Baghdad. The sand in Iraq is so fine that you seem to be living in a continuous sand storm. Unlucky enough to get jaundice and hospitalised in Mosul. I went for baths to the Roman Baths in Erbil – probably the oldest city in the world. Next stop was Syria where we got rid of the Vichy French! Then off to Iran where we sorted out another problem. I got to Kermanshah and Hamadan. Passed close to Qum where a huge golden dome was visible for miles. Then back to Habbanyia for a fortnight before setting off on the long trip across Palestine and Jordan to Mena Camp near the Pyramids. Two weeks at Mena where our OC, Col Dutchy Holland, thought that climbing the pyramid every morning was excellent physical training, then up the desert. Enough has already been written about this war – suffice to say that we eventually finished at El Alamein after getting a bit of a hiding on the last 'Benghazi Handicap' and being surrounded in Mersa Matruth. Breaking out of Mersa was probably one of the most memorable nights of the war. No sooner back to Alamein than off to join an armoured car squadron. At the south end of the Alamein Line the Qatara Depression – a sea of sand supposed to be un-crossable. We crossed it and spent the next three weeks doing raids behind enemy lines, then back to rejoin the 10th Indian Division. Surely stopping the Hun and forming the Alamein Line was one of the great achievements of the war? 10th Indian Division was then posted to Cyprus but 3 hours out of Port Said we were torpedoed by an Italian submarine and lost 120 men. Picked up by HMS Eagle while the Hesperus dropped death charges without success but I had to go in to hospital for 10 days.

Then I rejoined the unit at the Bitter Lakes and helped to form the Royal Signals Paratroopers and completed my Para training there. Then off to Sicily and after chasing the Hun out of Sicily crossed into Italy 3rd September 1943 then 6 weeks later back to Sicily to await repatriation to the UK in preparation for the Second Front.

Back in the UK I joined a team of four Wireless Wagons moving to Dundee, Ayrshire and then Folkstone pretending to be a Brigade HQ. Maps captured later in Italy proved we had done a good job.

D Day, my lot landed at Dieppe, hard going at times and we even came back to help the Yanks at the Battle of the Bulge. Winter was the coldest I have ever experienced so was lucky to be billeted with a family in Maastrich. The man of the house was a Customs Officer and joyfully produced a bottle of wine for New Year's Day 1945. Got going again and crossed the Rhine at Wesel and then celebrated V E Day in Hamburg and was repatriated in February 1946.

Having been a Class 1 Radio operator in the Royal Signals I applied for a Radio Operator's job with the Post Office. I was successful and had spent only 6 weeks training when they asked me where I would like to be posted. They were so surprised when I said Brora that within a fortnight I was on my way north. I enjoyed working at Brora Radio Station and life got even better when I managed to rent a house and Sarah and I got married on 3rd December 1946.

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In 1950 I was posted to the Embassy in Stockholm and in Sweden the living conditions were much better than the UK as Sweden had been neutral during the war. Sarah soon mastered the art of shopping with lots of help from 'Uncle' George Urquhart as he was known in the Embassy.

We made lots of friends at the Canadian Legation and went to the 1952 Olympic games in Oslo. We both sang in the choir at the Swedish King's funeral and our own Queen's Coronation was celebrated with more champagne than I have ever drunk before or since!

In 1959 we were posted to the Bangkok Embassy. This is surely one of our finest embassies and during the annual reception for the Queen's birthday we had 4000 visitors. Whilst there, we did a trip to the River Kwai and the Kan Chanaburi Cemetery.

In 1961 we boarded a Dutch Liner for a 6 week cruise from Singapore to Southampton and were able to disembark at Melbourne where Sarah and her sister met for the first time in 34 years. Home via New Zealand, Pitcairn islands, Panama Canal, Caribbean, Miami, Bermuda and finally Southampton.

Next was a posting to Turkey, and after 5 months, in 1964, off to Hong Kong which is approximately the same size as the Black Isle but with a population of over 5 million and, as expected, full of shops and markets. We managed to visit Japan and to have a ride on the Bullet train to Nagoya – 125 miles per hour and the smoothest ride ever.

Then in 1969 we left for Lesotho, South Africa where we lived in Maseru, the capital, 8000 feet up, very healthy! Four Scots Professors from the local university and I decided to resurrect the Caledonian Society and our first function was a Saturday evening Dinner Dance. On the Thursday before I received a message from the Palace to say that the Queen would like to attend the dance but would like to be able to do the Eightsome Reel and that she would call at our house that evening for instructions! The result was that the Queen and Roddie led the Grand march on a very enjoyable evening.

Our final 3 years were in Hong Kong and pretty uneventful, some might say for a change! We returned to the UK on the Windsor Castle enjoying a 12 day cruise via Tokyo, Hawaii, Vancouver and Montreal.

We retired to Avoch to Sarah's old family home which had been reconstructed for us. Then began our happy life in Avoch.

Lodge St Martin 1217

RWM-Elect Brother Iain Boyd will be installed in the Chair of King Solomon on Tuesday 15th November 2011, the Lodge will open at 7.30pm to conduct regular business and visitors will be admitted at 8.00pm.

Brother Iain would like to extend a cordial invitation to all Brethren to visit Ullapool on that evening.

On Tuesday 20th December 2011 there will be a first degree ceremony, the Lodge tiling at 8.00pm. On Wednesday 21st December 2011 the Brethren will once again be accompanying Santa on his annual tour around Ullapool raising funds for the children of the village.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

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Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

The re-installation of Brother Barry Whitwell will take place on Thursday 8th December.

A warm welcome is extended to all Brethren.

The Sinclair Bruce Diary

Where better to commence my column in this edition but by giving a report on the final meeting of Lodge Allan Wilson for this year held as always, within the premises of Lodge Seaforth. It was a well attended meeting and all business quickly and efficiently disposed of concluding with a paper delivered by the Substitute Grand Master Bro Thomas F Jessop. This was followed by a three course meal and the usual after dinner speeches. Our secretary put on display a notice board that will eventually contain the names of all Past Masters, and I know all members are happy with the progressive manner in which the Lodge is pointing.

Was Alex Salmond correct in contradicting the media statement when he referred to the comments made that the trouble with rioting youths in London and Manchester was a UK problem and if it happened in Scotland it would be referred to as a Scottish problem? Now then that surely gives fruit for thought!

If you watched the Dragons Den on the telly tonight I trust you were of the same opinion as me from a business point of view. The borrowers turned down a loan of £160,000 at equity of 30% as they were sticking out for 25%. If they reached their target, the dragon concerned would give them back 5% - therefore, that would give them the 25% they were setting their limits at. Not much business acumen shown there!

The game of rugby between Scotland and Italy in a warm up to the world rugby cup title was well worth a mention as it gave us an insight of what to expect when the world cup starts. Scotland certainly looked good so lets hope they at last have a winning team, and hopefully will go into the quarter or semi finals or shall I stick my neck out and say lift the cup! The final score was Scotland 23 Italy 13.

The game this evening between Arsenal and Udinese was a very evenly matched game and if the Italian side did not miss the awarded penalty the scores would have been even, however that did not happen as the final score was 2 -1 for Arsenal. A nice game to watch

It's now Saturday 27th August and I watched the Challenge Cup in rugby between Wigan Warriors and Leeds Rhinos. The game was great to watch but unfortunately the ref was biased and gave at least two decisions that definitely were wrongly in favour of Wigan. There was also a foul that might have helped Leeds however, at half time the score was Wigan 16 Leeds 0 and shortly into the second half it was Wigan 18 Leeds 16 so it was gradually going Leeds way. However, the ref made errors and it went finally to a very controversial score Wigan 28 Leeds 18. May I conclude by saying my condemnation of the ref was also the conclusion of reporters on the telly.

When watching 'Flog It' on the TV, does it make you think on the valuables people possibly hoard in their attics not aware of the value? As a point of interest I noted some of the items from one household sold today, one bottle of Irish whisky over one hundred years old £80, one silver snuff box £120, one Dunhill Lighter - an old name in the smokers world - £1,000 and finally a silver cigarette case £1,050. Does that give you an itch to get into your attic?

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Our meetings for year 2011/2012 have got off to a busy start commencing with Sat 3rd Sept - the Secret Monitors, Friday 9th Highland Guild, Sat 10th Royal Order, Monday 12th a general committee of the Rosicrucian. I am happy to say that I managed three out of the four. The one I missed was Sat 10th as it clashed with our church coffee afternoon that I always try to support when possible.

And now it's back to rugby and the world cup. Firstly I watched the game of interest to all faithful Scots namely Scotland v Georgia. A very hard fought game with end to end play for the entire match and happily Scotland came out the winners by 15 – 6. The next game between New Zealand and Japan was terribly one sided - the Japanese players were very slightly built consequently lacking in power. The final score was 83 -7 to New Zealand. The world cup rugby match I watched this morning was possibly one of the best games we will see in the world cup between Ireland and Australia. By all reports it should have been a walk over for the Ausies but it really was a surprise result as although Australia played their hearts out they just could not get the better of Ireland. The final score was 15 – 6 for Ireland.

Its usually only the finals that are televised in the shinty world and yesterday was no exception. The game between two of the most famous or well recognised teams in Scotland gave us all a final to remember namely Newtonmore V Kingussie. It was a hard fought game with the score at full time three each. It had to go into extra time and in the closing minutes of the second 15minutes, Newtonmore scored to lift the Camanach Cup 4 - 3.

And now back to rugby and the world cup another excellent game between France and Canada and although France expected to have an easy game it was nothing but. Ten each at half time, France went on to win 46 – 19. The next game I watched was firstly Australia v America which was very one sided with Australia winning 67 – 15. I then watched New Zealand beat France 37 - 17 and England's easy game against Romania which they won 65-3. Tomorrow, Scotland play Argentina and that for them will be a very tough game. I have now watched the Scotland game and same was a great disappointment for all rugby enthusiasts. Although the Scots played the better rugby, they lost by one point score Argentina 13 Scotland 12. Today it was Wales v Namibia and although the score at half time was 22 - 0 for Wales, they didn't have it all their own way. However, in the second Wales were in full flow winning by 81- 7.

The long awaited game in the world cup between Scotland and England was a disappointment and although Scotland played well and at one stage were winning 12-3 they went on to loose 16 -12. A similar score line spelt the death knell for England in their game against France, the final score - France19 England 12.

The football on the telly tonight was Scotland v Spain. It was indeed a one sided game with Spain giving us a lesson on how to keep the ball and then pass with accurate precision. Scotland were awarded a penalty in the second half that in a way made things look a little better - final score Scotland 1 Spain 3

On Monday the 10th it was our Rosicrucian meeting. There was a good turn out and although we were not doing a grade we got through all the business quite quickly and then an interesting paper delivered by our Worthy Celebrant, Ramsay McGhee on the way of life in Malawi. Before the business was conducted we stood in remembrance of four Brethren who sadly had passed away since our last meeting namely George Mackay, Len Philips, Roddy Cade and Roger Jagger. They were all active members of the society.

How the year is slipping by it's now the 14th Oct and I have just returned from the Guild Lodge held within Averon Lodge, this being our last meeting until 10th January 2012. Not a well attended meeting but the cream were there and a well worked fourth Grade proves my conclusions. We had two candidates who were suitably impressed by the evenings work and after a cup of tea with a well furnished table I was home by 9.30pm - an evening well spent.

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The semi final game in the rugby world cup was Wales v France and although Wales played an excellent game they lost by one point - final score Wales 8 France 9. Wales looked the better side but as always the score tells the story. The ref made a very harsh decision about ten minutes into the game when he ordered off the Welsh Captain for what was an innocent foul. Quite frankly Wales never really recovered from that incident.

It's now Monday 17th and Lodge Seaforth worked a mark degree for Bro Iain MacKenzie. It was a well worked Mark with as always all office bearers and floor workers giving of their best. An excellent evening well spent.

My prediction that Wales would go through in the rugby cup final was wrong as the final will be France v New Zealand.

I have just returned from the secret monitors and witnessed our own Brother Freddie Fraser installing his successor Brother Cathol S McGill into the Chair. Fred carried out his duties in an admirable manner and we all wish Cathol a happy and successful year in the chair.

I arrived home in time to listen to our first minister for Scotland speaking from the SNP Conference in Inverness. Although I don't always agree with their policies I felt Alex Salmond made a very interesting and convincing speech that could quite easily swing people to voting SNP at future elections.

And so the world rugby cup final - the honours go to New Zealand who beat France 8 – 7. The last time New Zealand won the cup was 24 years ago.

Sinclair Bruce

BITS AND PIECES

I know quite a number of Brethren in the Province and beyond have taken advantage in the past of the offer by the Ramada Jarvis Hotel in Princes Street, Edinburgh of very reasonable prices while attending Masonic events in the capital. Well, the good news is that the reduced prices are on offer again this year however, the hotel has changed hands – second piece of good news – James Fraser is still running the show. I append below a letter received from James that explains the changes

Dear All

I need to let you know that the hotel has been bought over by Jupiter Hotels which is a new company and will operate under the Mercure brand which is part of the Accor Group. The hotel will now be known as Mercure Edinburgh Princes Street and the website is www.mercure.com. This is good news for the hotel as the new Chief Executive seems to have a war chest to spend on the hotels.

We are still able to take voice reservations via the original number but web bookings previously done through Ramadajarvis.co.uk will be redirected to the sales office telephone number. The Grand Lodge of Scotland rate still stands and should still be bookable by telephone but not on the Mercure website and all rooms already booked are secure.

If you receive any enquiries I am happy for you to send them directly to me to deal with.

*Kind regards
James Fraser
General Manager*

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Bro John Teh Kok Seng

While we were in the District Grand Lodge of the Middle East, Ann and I had the opportunity to travel to Penang to meet up with one of the real characters in the District, Bro John Teh Kok Seng and his charming sister Phaik See. Bro John is well known to many Brethren both in this Province and throughout Scotland due to his active participation in Craft Masonry, Royal Arch Masonry and innumerable other degrees. He is a fascinating individual and I had the opportunity to get a hold of his Masonic autobiography which I'm delighted to reproduce here in the "Patter". In so doing, may I say that, as you will read about his having had Lord Burton, Sir Archibald D Orr Ewing and Bro Martin McGibbon all initiated into the "snake tie party" at the famous Penang Snake Temple, I became his latest initiate –



Bro McGhee at the Penang Snake Temple with the pit python wrapped round his shoulders and an arrow head snake on his head.

He now joins Lord Burton, Sir Archibald D Orr Ewing and Bro Martin McGibbon as a member of the "snake tie party"

In the early 1930's, a woman's designated place was in the kitchen preparing the meals, or looking after the children in the home. But here was this young lady, in her early thirties setting up a lawyers' office in 1932, in the small market town of Bukit Mertajam, in what was then known as Province Wellesley and now part of the State of Penang. A local businessman, Mr Teh Cheok Sah befriended the lady lawyer and became one of her first clients, and introduced many of his friends who later also became her clients. That lady lawyer was the famous Mrs B H Oon, an icon in the legal world of Malaya/Malaysia, being the first Chinese woman to be called to the English Bar as a barrister in 1926, and only lost out by a few months of being the first Asian woman to be so called, beaten to it by a sister of Pandit Nehru, the former Prime Minister of India. Mrs Oon, in gratitude to Mr Teh, took his then twelve year old grandson to England for further education and put him in the same Public School in Leatherhead, Surrey as her younger son, while an older son was reading law at the Inner Temple in London. The two boys were allowed out from their boarding school every Sunday and alternate weekends, and long schools holidays which were spent with the older son.

The redoubtable Mrs B H Oon was the mother of our own Bro Peter Oon Peh Tchin, Past Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Middle East, and Mr Teh's grandson is **Bro John Teh Kok Seng**. Thus it was that Bro John Teh was literally brought up by Bro Peter Oon in real life, and still to this day John calls Peter, "Koko" (the Hokkien word for "Big Brother"). Not surprisingly Bro Peter proposed him as a candidate for joining Lodge Scotia No 1003 S C in Penang.

Born in Bukit Mertajam on 1st September 1940, Bro John Teh was duly initiated into Lodge Scotia on 27th July 1978 and Master thereof on 16th May 1987. During his stint as RWM, he was constantly on the move, and the

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number of occasions when he visited Scottish Lodges, Lodges of Sister Constitutions and overseas Lodges, including Grand Lodges, stands as a record which is unlikely to be surpassed.

In 1986, Bro John accompanied Bro Dato' Dr Peter C Vanniasingham, who was then Substitute District Grand Master of the Middle East, to Edinburgh to attend the 250th Anniversary of Grand Lodge of Scotland. That momentous event was so well subscribed that the Re-dedication Ceremony, held on Thursday 18th September 1986, was moved from the Grand Lodge building in George Street, Edinburgh, which could seat only 700 plus Brethren, to the Royal Highland Exhibition Centre, Ingliston in the suburbs of Edinburgh, which accommodated more than 2,500 brethren attending. Half of the exhibition hall was set up as Grand Lodge for the Ceremony, and the other half laid out as the Banquet Hall to serve those 2,500 plus present, all seated according to plan. Haggis was served piping hot, the only way to have haggis (so say the Scots, and who is to argue with them!), to all present. The Re-dedication Ceremony was attended by over forty Grand Masters of Grand Lodges from all over the world, including HRH the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, and the Marquis of Donegal, then Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ireland.

A whole series of events were organized for the days following the main event, including Lodge meetings held in and around Edinburgh, so that visiting brethren could experience degree workings in their original and authentic settings. On Saturday, 20th September, a garden party was held at Hamilton Racecourse where the Grand Master Mason, Bro Marcus Humphrey of Dinnet and his wife Sabrina could meet and mingle with the Brethren, visitors and their families. On Sunday, a divine service was held at Glasgow Cathedral, followed by a Civic Reception in the City Chambers, Glasgow. It was, all in all, a truly memorable few days, with all the events so meticulously organized, it was truly awe inspiring, and which Bro John could count himself lucky to have attended..

Having gone to the 250th Anniversary of Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1986, Bro John thought he should make the 275th, as the chances of him attending the 300th Anniversary in the year 2036 are rather slim! Grand Secretary Bro David Begg mentioned that Grand Lodge does not celebrate the 25th or 75th Anniversaries, but only the 50th and 100th. The 275th was held in April 2011, only as an adjunct to the main event, the Centenary of the Laying of the Foundation Stone at Freemasons' Hall in George Street Edinburgh. Another momentous occasion it was, starting with a Dinner Dance in Grand Lodge itself on Friday 8th April 2011; then the Centenary Rededication Ceremony of Grand Lodge Building at Grand Lodge the next day with about 700 Brethren in attendance, followed by a buffet lunch with their ladies in the executive hospitality lounge at Murrayfield Rugby Stadium. Finally, an All Faith Ceremony of Thanksgiving was held at Grand Lodge on Sunday 10th April morning. Yet again, another superb and memorable event organized by Grand Secretary and his staff.

Bro John Teh also attended the "Centenary Grand Installation of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria", so called because it was the Installation of the new Grand Master at the Centenary Celebrations of the Grand Lodge which took place in Melbourne on 15th March 1989. The numbers wishing to attend the Installation of the incoming Grand Master, The Hon. Mr. Justice Williams, was so overwhelming that it was held at the National Tennis Centre, in what is now known as the Rod Laver Arena (the Centre Court where finals of the Australian Open Tennis Championships are played every year), in Flinders Park, Melbourne. Its capacity seating of 16,000 was not sufficient to cater for all the Brethren, and their guests who wanted to attend, as the Installation Ceremony was opened to non-Masons and families. In fact, the keynote speaker at the International Masonic Conference, held as part of the Centenary Celebrations, was Sir Zelman Cowen, a former Governor-General of Australia, who gave a fascinating view of Freemasonry from one who is a non-Mason.

The spill over from those who could not get seats at the stadium were some 4,000 local Brethren who had to follow the proceedings on closed circuit television beamed to them at the Dallas Brooks Hall in East Melbourne. The Australian Grand Lodges are renowned for their precision and synchronization in their movements in their Grand Lodge ceremonies, and the United Grand Lodge of Victoria is probably the most precise of them all. That evening in the stadium, Grand Lodge was opened in full with the *dots* spoken out loud, which of course horrified some of the visiting Brethren. When the non-Masons were later asked what they thought of the Ceremony, they replied that they didn't notice anything particularly unusual, while some recognized the biblical names used in the ceremony, and thought nothing more of it! The ladies however did

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think that the whole ceremony was too long, over 4 hours, which dragged on till way past 11 pm, having started at 7 pm, and were getting quite restless in the latter part of the proceedings.

Some years ago, prior to going up to Edinburgh for Grand Lodge, Bro John joined Bro Dato' Dr Peter Vanniasingham in visiting a London lodge, the Ferrier's' Lodge, where they witnessed an Initiation Ceremony. Their working was of a very high standard, and so was their festive board, an excellent three course dinner with premium wines! Bro John could not help thinking of the harmony shared with the Brethren of lodges in Scotland, where tea, sandwiches and pies were the order of the day!

Bro John has attended Lodge meetings in Hong Kong, Taiwan (installation of a new Grand Master, M W Bro Martin Teng in October 2010), Lodge Perla del Oriente No 1034 S C in Manila Philippines, both Scottish Districts in Perth and the Gold Fields in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia, apart from lodges in our own District, and lodges of the English and Irish Constitutions in the same area. John has found all these visits not only instructive but also very enjoyable, meeting fellow Masons and making new friends.

In December 1995, Lodge Scotia No 1003 S C, Bro John's Mother Lodge, was honoured by a visit from the then M W Grand Master Bro The Lord Burton and his wife Lady Bunty, accompanied by Bro Martin McGibbon, Grand Secretary. Bro John was "volunteered" into looking after the distinguished visitors, and John "volunteered" his sister Phaik See to help to keep Lady Bunty company. The distinguished visitors were shown the usual sights in Penang, the highlight of which was of course the famous Snake Temple. Lord Burton was very game, and had no qualms whatever of having the "snake tie" party, having some of the Wrangler pit vipers draped around his neck. Bro Martin McGibbon was then similarly adorned. Bro John hastened to add that these vipers though poisonous were de-fanged! We are delighted to report that both Lord Burton and Bro Martin survived! Lady Bunty, on the other hand, was none too impressed, and in fact declined to get down from the car at the temple. She told Phaik See that as a young child, she was brought up in South Africa, and was taught to shake out her slippers in the morning before putting them on, just in case any snakes had coiled up in them during the night!

Eleven years later, Bro Sir Archie Orr Ewing, then M W Grand Master Mason, and Lady Nicola, accompanied by Bro David Begg, Grand Secretary came out to Penang for the Centenary Celebrations of Lodge Scotia in May 2006. Phaik See and Bro John were again "volunteered" into looking after them, and among the usual sightseeing activities, the obligatory Snake Temple visit beckoned, and sure enough, Sir Archie gamely had his snake tie party. He also survived!

Luckily for Bro John, both survived the ordeal, the Grand Master Masons as well as the vipers! Perhaps, because of both Lord Burton's and Sir Archie's survival, Bro John has been allowed to attend Grand Lodge of Scotland Installation and Festival of St. Andrew in Edinburgh for seven years in the last ten!

One of the most unforgettable Masonic moments for Bro John Teh was at the Re-Installation of Sir Archie Orr Ewing as Grand Master Mason for the year 2007 by Lord Elgin, the Installing Grand Master, when Lord Elgin welcomed the guest of honour, Most Worshipful Brother Fabio Venzi, Grand Master of the Regular Grand Lodge of Italy with the words, "Most Worshipful Grand Master, we in Scotland owe a great debt of gratitude to Italy, as over 2000 years ago you sent over a team of *Italian Masons to build a wall to keep out our troublesome neighbours to the South.*"

Bro John Teh was honoured with the Grand Rank of Hon Grand Bible-bearer by the Grand Master Mason in 2003, and is also active in the side degrees. He was appointed Depute Grand Superintendent in-Charge of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the Middle East from July 2009, when the then Grand Superintendent, M E Comp Clifford Standley, was ill, until 14th August 2010, when the new Grand Superintendent, M E Comp Dr Kang Tee Yong, was installed by the First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, Most Excellent Companion Ian Fraser conferred the Grand Rank of Honorary Grand Superintendent on M E Comp John Teh.

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He is also a member of Malaysia Utara Council No 96 E C, was Thrice Illustrious Master thereof for three years in 1990, 2000 and 2001, and was conferred Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (PAGDC) of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of England and Wales.

In non-Masonic activities, Bro John Teh was appointed Municipal Councillor in the Integrated Town Councils of Seberang Perai in the State of Penang in 1975/77, and appointed as Adviser to the Juvenile Court in Bukit Mertajam, Penang State, in 1978/81.

My thanks to Bro Kenny Jack, Lodge Allan Wilson, for the following thought provoking piece:

PROFICIENCY

By, The Editor of the Scottish Freemasons' Magazine:
Bro. Anthony Oneal Haye
(1865).

“One of the requisite qualifications for advancement to a higher degree is, suitable proficiency in the preceding. Unfortunately, this qualification is not always sufficiently insisted on. Formerly, there was a regulation requiring that the candidate who desired to be passed or raised should be examined in open Lodge on his proficiency in the preceding degrees. This salutary regulation is even now adhered to by some Lodges, who look rather to the quality than to the quantity of their members, and who think that a Lodge had better consist of a few skilful than many ignorant members. Some Grand Lodges, viewing the necessity of due proficiency in its proper light, have strengthened the ancient regulations by express rules. *The proficiency of officers* is also an important requisite. No Brother should accept office in a Lodge unless fully qualified to perform his duties. An ignorant Master and unskilful Wardens reflect discredit not only on their own Lodge, but, by their incapacity to explain the peculiar tenets of the Order, on the whole fraternity. In February, 1844, the Grand Lodge of Ireland adopted, on this subject, resolutions, declaring that no Brother should be considered eligible for, or admissible to, the office of Junior or Senior Deacon, until, by strict examination in open Lodge, he shall have proved himself able to administer the mysteries of initiation to a candidate in the first degree; nor for the office of Junior or Senior Warden, until, by a like examination, he has proved that he is able to pass a candidate to a second degree; nor for the office of Master, until he has proven his ability to enter, pass, and raise a candidate through the three degrees. A regulation of this kind ought to be adopted by every Grand Lodge in the universe”.

Royal Arch

St Clement RAC No 244 –

By the time this edition goes to print, MEC Fred Fraser will have been installed in the Chair of St Clement No 244. Congratulations are extended to MEC Chris MacRae for his stewardship of the Chapter over the past two years and every best wish is extended to MEC Fraser for a very happy and enjoyable term in office.

The next meeting of St Clement will be on Friday 25th November.

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Royal Arch Chapter meetings in Ross & Cromarty

Date	Chapter	Meeting	Time
05/10/11	Cromarty Firth, Invergordon	Installation	08.00pm
11/10/11	Tain & Ross	Installation	07.30pm
11/10/10	Hebrides, Stornoway	Regular	08.00pm
28/10/10	St Clement, Dingwall	Installation	07.45pm
02/11/11	Cromarty Firth	Regular	08.00pm
08/11/11	Tain & Ross	Regular	07.30pm
08/11/11	Hebrides	Regular	08.00pm
25/11/11	St Clement	Regular	07.45pm
07/12/11	Cromarty Firth	Regular	08.00pm
13/12/11	Tain & Ross	Regular	07.30pm
13/12/11	Hebrides	Regular	08.00pm
10/01/12	Tain & Ross	Regular	07.30pm
10/01/12	Hebrides	Regular	08.00pm
27/01/12	St Clement	Grand Sup Visit	07.45pm
07/02/12	Cromarty Firth	Grand Sup Visit	08.00pm
14/02/12	Tain & Ross	Grand Sup Visit	07.30pm
14/02/12	Hebrides	Regular	08.00pm
24/02/12	St Clement	Regular	07.45pm
06/03/12	Cromarty Firth	Regular	08.00pm

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13/03/12	Tain & Ross	Regular	07.30pm
13/03/12	Hebrides	Regular	08.00pm
30/03/12	St Clement	Regular	07.45pm
04/04/12	Cromarty Firth	Regular	08.00pm
10/04/12	Hebrides	Regular	08.00pm
27/04/12	St Clement	Regular	07.45pm
17/05/12	Hebrides Lodge & Council	Grand Sup Visit	08.00pm
19/05/12	Provincial Grand R. A Chapter	AGM	03.00pm
19/05/12	Hebrides	Grand Sup Visit	08.00pm

NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, HONG KONG, MANILA & MALAYSIA.

Monday, 29th August.

As previously agreed I met up with M.E. Companion Tom Frost, Past Depute First Grand Principal and M.E. Companion Douglas Philland, our present Grand Treasurer and Past Grand Director of Ceremonies at the Hilton Hotel, Edinburgh, where we were to spend the night prior to our departure the following morning on our journey to New Zealand.

Tuesday 30th/Wednesday, 31st August.

By mid morning we were joined by ME Companion Grahame Smith, Grand Scribe E and following the short flight from Edinburgh to Heathrow and a few hours spent in one of the Airport Lounges we left on schedule, initially for Hong Kong and then onwards to Auckland.

Thursday, 1st September.

Two fairly lengthy but comfortable flights with Cathy Pacific Airways and we eventually landed at Auckland International Airport at approximately 6 a.m. After clearing Immigration and Customs we were met and warmly welcomed by M.E. Companion Ian Law, our Grand Superintendent, North Island and conveyed to our very comfortable accommodation at Dukes Midway Lodge. By midday we were joined by M.E. Companion Bomi Mehta, Past Grand Superintendent of India who had also very kindly agreed to accompany me on this overseas visit.

Friday, 2nd September.

At the agreed departure time of 9am a small number of local Companions and my Deputation assembled and set off on our six hours journey by road to Gisborne, where, after a very interesting journey, which included a couple of "comfort stops", we soon settled into the very pleasant Teal Motel which was to be our accommodation for the next two nights. Plans having already been formulated for the evening we were soon

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transported to the premises of Lodge Montrose, No 722 where we met a good number of Companions and their Ladies. Several are “old friends” whom I had met on previous visits and it was a great pleasure to be able to renew these friendships. Later we were guests of Past Grand Superintendent, M.E. Companion Mervyn Harding who very kindly entertained us to Dinner at a very special local restaurant.

Saturday, 3rd September.

An invitation to join the Companions for lunch prior to the commencement of the formal proceedings was readily accepted and this gave us another opportunity for discussion on a less formal basis.

A good number of Companions attended the Re-Dedication Ceremony of Zealandia Royal Arch Chapter No 197 which was enhanced by the presence of senior representatives and deputations from the other three constitutions. This ceremony was followed by the installation of the Office Bearers who all appeared to be most enthusiastic regarding their individual role in the future of the Chapter. Before the harmony which followed in the adjacent R.S. Club I visited the home of a much revered senior member, M.E. Companion Murray Burgess where I had the pleasure and privilege of presenting him with his sixty year Certificate and Honorary Recorder Diploma. M.E. Companion Burgess, an expert in ceremonial duties and always willing to give advice, has over many years, been a source of inspiration to other members of his Chapter.

Sunday 4th September.

Our return journey from Gisborne to Auckland was a most enjoyable one. A cloudless sky and warm sunshine helped us to appreciate the beauty of the New Zealand countryside and we felt envious of the Companions here as they approach their summer months while we will return to the onset of a Scottish winter.

Monday 5th September,

M.E. Companion Law very kindly took us on a brief tour of Auckland and in the afternoon embarked on a fascinating Harbour Cruise. The weather being extremely kind gave us the opportunity to view this large and beautiful city from an advantageous perspective and appreciate its size.

In the evening we were again entertained by M.E. Companion Law, accompanied by several senior District Office Bearers, to a most enjoyable dinner in the restaurant of the Sky Tower. A most fitting finale to our brief New Zealand sojourn which is virtually now over.

Tuesday, 6th September.

A mid morning departure from our Motel and after the short journey to the Airport it was time to bid farewell to M.E. Companion Ian Law and M.E. Companion Steedman, the highly efficient District Scribe E. M.E. Companion Law's kindness and hospitality was of the highest standard and truly appreciated.

Another comfortable and uneventful flight and we were on the ground in Perth, Australia shortly before 6 p.m. after a seven hour flight. Forced to endure painfully slow Immigration procedures, which tested the patience of most of the travellers, we eventually cleared Customs to be met and warmly welcomed by M.E. Companion Ian Mansfield, the outgoing District Grand Scribe E who drove us without delay to the rather splendid Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle. A good nights rest followed.

Wednesday, 7th September.

After a relatively short flight we arrive in the town of Kalgoorlie Boulder, made famous for its part in the original “gold rush” and now experiencing a large scale expansion of this precious metal industry due to modern mining methods. Clearly a total transformation from the original days and attendant hardships associated with the “pick and wheelbarrow”. We were quickly taken under the very capable guidance of M.E. Companions Doug Dawes and Dave Collins who proved to be truly wonderful “hosts” who initially took us on a visit to the Bullant gold mine. Those of us who wished were invited to undertake the experience of going underground.

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We all accepted the invitation and after a detailed and comprehensive safety briefing we were “kitted out” in the requisite miners clothing and conveyed down the mine remaining there for approximately thirty minutes. During this time we gained a brief insight into “underground working” We are indebted to the mine engineer, Clint Baker who not only gave us a detailed explanation of the methods of extraction but answered our many questions.

An interesting and pleasant evening was spent attending a Quarterly Communication of the Scottish Constitution Western Australia Grand Lodge of the Goldfields District and I am grateful to the District Grand Master, Brother Brian Cattaway for the manner in which we were received.

Thursday, 8th September.

An early start and we were once more in the capable hands of M.E. Companion Dawes and Collins who took us to various places of both historical and modern day interests. The barely recognisable remains of one of the original mining towns, Kinawo, and occupied at the time by about 25000 residents, has returned to scrub and bush although wooden signs identifying the original street names are being maintained. Back to Kalgoorlie Boulder and an opportunity to view and marvel at the gigantic trucks and diggers operating in the Super Pit. All too soon it was time for our return flight to Perth.

After a few hours relaxation we attended a meeting of Inglewood Sovereign Chapter where we met up with several old friends from previous overseas visits.

Friday 9th September.

A visit to the Masonic Temple, Carrington Street, Inglewood, home to Sir Walter Scott, No 579 and Royal Stuart, No 646, Royal Arch Chapters, both Scottish Constitution, proved to be a most interesting experience where we met several of the Companions on an informal basis. Incorporated in this building is an excellent and unique “vault” which drew the admiration of all of my deputation.

An opportunity to visit the Masonic Hall, Freemantle, and make final preparations for tomorrows Installation Ceremony was our final duty of the day.

Saturday, 10th September.

In the presence of a large number of Companions, including senior representatives from each of the Australian Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapters and three of our own Scottish Constitution District Grand Royal Arch Chapters (New Zealand, Middle East and Tasmania) we conducted the Installation Ceremony of our new Grand Superintendent, M.E. Companion Arthur Barnes and his Commissioned Office Bearers. Thereafter we enjoyed a drinks reception and sumptuous banquet at the Esplanade Hotel.

Sunday, 11th September.

A 10 a.m. checkout and M.E. Companion Mansfield again made himself available with suitable transport to convey both my deputation and our luggage. Initially he took us on a short sight seeing tour which included an hour or so spent in the Kings Park area where we marvelled, not only at the spectacular views, but also the magnificent “in park” facilities enabling families and children to relax or exercise while enjoying the out door life.

The Swan Yacht Club proved to be a most suitable venue for the Annual Lunch of the Office Bearers of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Western Australia and we consider ourselves privileged to be guests at this social event.

The culmination of our Australian Visit was a few hours spent at the home of our Immediate Past Grand Superintendent, M.E. Companion Ken Taylor and his wife Cheryl who were magnanimous in their hospitality. All too soon it was time to leave for the airport.

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Monday 12th September.

The overnight seven and a half hour flight from Perth to Hong Kong passed relatively quickly and at 8 a.m., having quickly passed through Immigration and Customs, we were met by a large welcoming party which included the present Grand Superintendent, M.E. Companion Martin Thomas, the Immediate Past Grand Superintendent M.E. Companion Tom Davies and the Grand Superintendent Designate M.E. Companion Cameron Sloan. No time was spent in conveying us to the luxurious Park Lane Hotel where we enjoyed a few hours relaxation.

During the evening we attended a meeting of the Royal Order of Scotland where again it was a pleasure to meet up with several "old friends".

Tuesday, 13th September.

A free morning and several members of the deputation took advantage of the opportunity to go sightseeing. By mid afternoon we had all returned to Zetland Hall when, in the presence of a large number of Companions, including senior representatives from all the Constitutions, M.E. Companion Sloan was duly installed as Grand Superintendent of the Far East District.

A most enjoyable harmony followed the Installation Ceremony with traditional Scottish fare (haggis) playing a significant role on the menu.

Wednesday, 14th September.

An early start from our hotel, efficient processing at Hong Kong International Airport, and we arrived in Manila about midday. We were met and warmly welcomed by the First Principal and several senior members of the Chapter. After a short drive to another superb Chinese Restaurant (The Legend) we were entertained to a sumptuous and leisurely lunch thoroughly enjoyed by all present

The Heritage Hotel was to be our overnight accommodation. Luxurious in every respect. Time to "freshen up" and we were soon driven to the Scottish Rite Temple where we conducted, in the presence of a good number of local Companions and visitors, the Re-Dedication Ceremony to commemorate the centenary of Keystone Royal Arch Chapter No 354. The Ceremony was followed by the customary harmony.

Thursday, 15th September.

Another leisurely morning preceded our flight to Kuala Lumpur where we landed about 8pm. We were met by our Grand Superintendent M.E. Companion Dr. Kang Tee Yong and several senior District Grand Office Bearers. Luxury vehicles had been awaiting our arrival and quickly conveyed us to a spacious Chinese Restaurant where we dined and met up with many friends from Malaysia and surrounding Districts.

Friday 16th September.

During the course of the morning we were present at the Annual Convocation of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter and after lunch at the Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge of the Middle East. Both meetings were very well attended.

Saturday, 17th September.

One of the most memorable occasions in the long history of Scottish Constitution Freemasonry in the Middle East was the Installation of Brother Dr. Dunstan Sixtus Fernandez as District Grand Master at the Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre. It was a particular honour for me to represent the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland at his Installation Ceremony conducted by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Bro.

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Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont. An extremely well attended Gala Installation Banquet with Ladies present followed.

Sunday, 18th September.

Having been present at the laying of the foundation stone of the new Temple of Lodge Royal Pahang No 1589 S.C. three years ago I was delighted to learn that, along with the Grand Master Mason, his deputation, and members of several visiting deputations we were to undertake the three hour journey to Kuantan to view the new premises which, in addition to Lodge activities provide a home for Pahang Royal Arch Chapter No 800. A truly magnificent building and a credit to all involved.

The Brethren and Companions, many of whom were present with their Ladies, are justifiably proud of their new home and were keen to show us around. A lavish lunch followed and all too soon it was time to undertake our return journey.

Monday, 19th September.

A free day and in the evening we enjoyed a superb Indian meal hosted by M.E. Companions Chandran Singh and Dr Ernest Yong.

Tuesday, 20th September.

A midday departure from our hotel, a very pleasant lunch courtesy of M.E. Companion Dr Ernest Yong, who kindly drove us to the Airport and we were soon on board our four leg to Hong Kong. A slight delay to our onward Cathay Pacific flight to Heathrow resulted in a lost connection to Edinburgh but we were rescheduled onto a later flight and I finally arrived home about 8 pm on Wednesday 22nd.

Thousands of miles travelled, countless hours in the air, recollections of patiently waiting at gates for departures at ten airports, numerous Brethren and Companions met all contributed to a most memorable and enjoyable visit, reinforcing, in my view, the importance of visiting our Companions in those overseas Districts and acknowledging the support they display for Scottish Constitution Freemasonry. I am also indebted to my travelling Companions who comprised the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Deputation. They all participated in each of the Ceremonials we conducted throughout this visit and readily responded to my many requests for assistance.

Ian Fraser.
First Grand Principal.

Hebrides Royal Arch Chapter No 364

Not much to report other than that we have 3 candidates waiting to join, that can't be bad.

HEILAN SHED

Heilan Shed No. 6.

Saturday the 3rd of September 2011, saw the Heilan Shed set off from Ullapool to Stornoway on their last meeting of the season. A goodly number were in attendance to enjoy a fantastically pleasant journey to Lewis. A group were playing in the lounge for the duration of the trip - 2 pipers; 2 accordionists; 2 guitars and 1 organ, much to the enjoyment of all the passengers. The weather was good; skies blue and sea calm.

There was a good attendance at the meeting in Lodge Fortrose, Stornoway, which was held in the function room of the club. There were eight candidates entered into the Shed and the meeting went off excellently well. At the conclusion of the meeting the Worthy Deacon and Immediate Past Worthy Deacon held, as a special request from the Boxie, their usual hilariously executed "Dutch Auction", which raised the magnificent sum of £207.

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The customary mince and tatties were provided by members of Lodge Fortrose to end off the evening in true Heilan Shed style.

At the end of the day Heilan Shed left £500 in Stornoway to be donated to a worthy local cause.

The Worthy Deacon, Andrew Fraser, certainly finished a wonderfully successful first year in office in great style and looks forward to his second with renewed enthusiasm after the winter break. He wishes all in the north a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year and hopes to see as many Shed members at the Installation in 2012.



Tools for Malawi

When we visited Malawi earlier this year we were all impressed by the improvement in the woodworking skills of the pupils at the Mountain View School for Deaf Children, thanks in the main to the support given by the Province in paying the wage of a specialist woodwork teacher. However, the tools we purchased in 2008 are at the end of their useful life. In order to maintain the progress being made by pupils, the PGM, Bro William Ross, has sanctioned the launch of an appeal for good used tools. If any of our readers has any good quality tools (especially woodworking tools) that they no longer use or require, I would be delighted to take them from you. At the beginning of the year we hope to be able to get them on a container to Malawi. We may well hold some form of fund raising venture to pay for the container space but information on that will follow.

As far as the tools are concerned, the following are particularly required –

Plough planes, spoke shaves, sash cramps, wheel braces, wood chisels, G cramps, Ark saw blades, hand axes, oil stones, work suites and nail pushes.

Ramsay McGhee