

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 97

NOVEMBER 2018

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



Cover Picture: Deputation from the United Grand Lodge of Victoria headed by their Grand Master, Brother Keith Murray, when they attended the Installation Ceremony in Lodge Allan Wilson No 851 in June this year.

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Editorial

Welcome to the 97th edition of the “Provincial Patter”.

I’m starting with an apology. For reasons that I fail to understand, two articles that I wrote for the August edition – one for Lodge Allan Wilson and one for Lodge Seaforth – have disappeared into the ether. Haven’t a clue what I did but they no longer exist. Hopefully, I can make amends in this issue.

Can I take this opportunity to thank sincerely all those who have been in touch by phone, email, letter, card and personally for all the good wishes received in respect of my nomination to take over from Brother Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon as Grand Master Mason! It will be an extremely hard act to follow – Brother Charles has been dedicated to the task for the past ten years and has done an amazing amount for Scottish Freemasonry in that time.

I can only undertake to promise that, as the 111th Grand Master Mason, I will do all in my power to advance our beloved Craft in a positive and constructive way to take us forward in this the 21st Century. While I will protect and maintain the basic tenets of our Order and ensure that they are preserved as they ought to be, there will undoubtedly be changes to our procedures and systems. We need to accept that change is needed in many ways, we need to adapt to changing technology and make it work for us instead of being resistant to it, we need to become more family orientated – the most successful Lodges in the Scottish Craft are those that embrace the family and equally importantly, the Community.

My sincere thanks to each and everyone for your good wishes and support.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



Grand Lodge have a busy few months ahead of them starting on Saturday 3rd November with a visit to the Bridgeton and Glasgow Shamrock and Thistle Lodge No 275 who will be celebrating their 200th Anniversary. The following day in Edinburgh, Grand Lodge are holding a Commemorative Service to mark the Centenary of the cessation of hostilities in the 1st World War. Saturday 10th November will see a trip to Lodge Canmore No 1175 who will be celebrating their Centenary. The following Saturday, we head east to Lodge Broughty Castle No 486 to mark their 150th Anniversary. On Wednesday 28th November the Grand Master Mason will be hosting the Overseas Dinner in Edinburgh and the following day is the Grand lodge Installation and the Festival of St Andrew at the Corn Exchange.

On Friday 30th November, Grand Secretary and I will be attending the Installation of the Grand Master of the Grande Loge Nationale Française. On Friday 7th December we will be heading to Washington to attend the Installation there and to meet with the Grand Lodge of New York Grand Master and Grand Secretary. On Thursday 13th December we have the first meeting of Grand Committee after the Installation.

I intend, as far as possible to be in Grand Lodge every Thursday between 10.30 and 15.30 where I’ll be available to anyone who wishes to meet with me or raise any issues.

Ed

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The Grand Lodge of Scotland

Since my nomination as Grand Master Mason, I have been asked by many folk – Masons and non-Masons alike – what the Grand Lodge of Scotland includes, so I have jotted down a few bits and pieces to try and illustrate the universality of the Scottish Craft.

In Scotland there are 32 Provincial Grand Lodges including our own Province of Ross and Cromarty.

There are 639 Lodges in Scotland.

We have 26 District Grand Lodges (at home in Scotland we have Provinces, abroad we have Districts).

We have 343 Lodges in over 40 countries around the world.

Some Districts – e.g. the District Grand Lodge of East Africa are responsible for Scottish Lodges in more than one country – East Africa includes Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

The five Standing Committees of Grand Lodge appointed by Grand Committee are –

Administration chaired by Brother James Bell, Grand Treasurer

Information & Communications chaired by Brother Thomas F Jessop, PSGM

Disciplinary chaired by Brother David Wishart, PSGM

Disciplinary Review chaired by John F Herrick, Senior Grand Warden

Overseas, External Affairs and Special Purposes chaired by W Ramsay McGhee, PDGM

The **Benevolence and Care Committee** chaired by J M Marcus Humphrey of Dinnet, Past Grand Master

The Trustees of Grand Lodge and of both the Scottish Masonic Benevolent Fund and the Scottish Masonic Homes Fund are – the Grand Master Mason, the Grand Wardens and Grand Secretary.

The current Grand Master Mason is Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont. There are four living Past Grand Masters:

The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, KT, CD, LLD (1961 - 65)

James Malcolm Marcus Humphrey of Dinnet, CBE, O St J, MA, FRICS, DL (1983 – 88)

Sir Archibald Donald Orr Ewing, Bart., MA (1999 – 2004 and 2005 - 2008)

Rev Canon Joseph John Morrow, CBE, QC, K St J, DL, LLD, Rt Hon Lord Lyon King of Arms

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Hi Brethren

Another season started 2018-19 the Brethren of our Province have been to a few installations, Raymond represented us at Tommy Stirling's installation as Grand Superintendent of Ross + Cromarty in Alness 8th Sep.

Mike Turner and I went to Dornoch to witness their 125th centenary on 15th September. Myself, Raymond, Ian McLaren, Mike Turner and Ramsay went to Oban to Dougie Philand's installation as PGM of Argyll and the Isles on 22nd September.

On September 24th I was able to keep a promise I made a year ago to Ernest Yong from Malaysia, to do the North Coast 500 on motor bikes. We had a great time, three days of pure enjoyment.

Then I took a virus and was in Raigmore and was treated like a Royal. Great treatment, but it took four weeks to shake that off (they say I am nearly back to normal great news, some say I was never normal). Because of my hospitalisation, I was sorry to have missed the P.G.M.'s meeting in Perth on the 20th Sep but I was not up to it.

Thursday 25th October was a big day at Grand Lodge when it was proposed that our own Ramsay McGhee is to be The Most Worshipful Grand Mason for Scottish Freemasons. Congratulations Ramsay, you have worked hard for that and it is a great honour for our Province as well.

The Provincial Divine service was held in St Martin's in Ullapool on Sunday with we had a nice turn out conducted by the local C of S Minister Hydie assisted by Ramsay with music.

Brethren, it is now the time for Installations. Keep your eye on the dates, it is important to support other lodges in the Province when their turn comes.

Kinds regards and fraternal greetings.

Robin Cattanach.

Provincial Grand Master

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From the Provincial Almoner

Sadly, I must start my report on this occasion with recording the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Bro David Bennett, a member of Lodge Barns O' Clyde No. 1018 and Past Master of Lodge Clydebank 1234, who had affiliated to Lodge Allan Wilson No. 851 in June 2010. Bro Bennett had been a very keen member of Lodge Allan Wilson and until recently had served as the Lodge Treasurer. He will be greatly missed.

Our Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Robin Cattanach, recently had a spell in Raigmore Hospital due to a viral infection. However, he is now out of hospital, recovering well and has returned to his Masonic Duties.

Past Provincial Grand Master Bro Ian Fraser recently had his long-awaited knee surgery. Unfortunately, after the operation he had a set-back but is now on the road to recovery and last week was transferred from Raigmore Hospital to the Ross Memorial Hospital in Dingwall.

Past Provincial Grand Master Morris Downie is recovering well from his knee surgery and is also able to attend to his Masonic Duties.

Past Master Angus Ross, Lodge Ness continues to make progress. His wound has now healed and when I spoke to him last week he informed me that he was due to attend a clinic at Raigmore Hospital later in the week.

Past Master Victor Shepherd, Robertson's Lodge remains in care at Urray House, Muir of Ord. His condition is unchanged.

Bro Dougie MacDougall, Lodge Fingal is still resident at Redwoods Care Home in Alness. When I visited him recently he was very confused although he did know me.

Bro Colin MacPhee, Lodge Fingal has now had the operation to remove his failed transplanted kidney. He is administering his own dialysis treatment at home and hopes to be able to return to work.

Past Master Dave Franklin, Robertson's Lodge continues to make progress and can attend to his Masonic duties.

Bro Alex Ross, Lodge Fingal continues to progress after his leg amputation.

Bro George MacIvor, Robertson's Lodge is now in care at Wyvis House Care Home in Dingwall.

I have visited Brethren at home and in hospital where and when possible and cards have been sent as appropriate conveying the best wishes of the Provincial Grand Master and Brethren of the Province.

I would ask that any brother requiring my assistance, or who knows of any brother who does, please get in touch with me.

David A. MacMaster, PM

Provincial Grand Almoner

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



The Installation of Brother John MacKenzie as Master of Lodge St Duthus will take place at 7.45 pm on Monday 5th November 2018.

John is well known in the Province and, despite a serious accident last year, he has soldiered on and will take over the reins from James Morrison next Monday night.

I am sure John would appreciate a good turn-out on the night – I have no doubt all visitors will receive the usual St Duthus welcome along with their customary hospitality.

Congratulations to Gary Ross for organising such a successful Sportsman's Dinner on Saturday night – after a 5 – 0 win at Victoria Park for County, it was a perfect end to the day. Well done Gary and all who assisted on the night.

Blast from the Past – from the November 2003 issue

The pig and hen were walking,
They saw outside the hall
A notice saying - *Come Inside*
We welcome one and all.

2 We're serving breakfast free today,
So, if you feel forsaken
We'll try to cheer you up again
With lots of eggs and bacon.

3 "Now that is nice and generous"
The hen is heard to say;
"That's what I call true charity
It's really made my day."

4 "It's charity", the pig replied
"But please don't call it nice -
for you it's a donation
For me it's sacrifice!"

From the Late Bro Roddy Cade Collection

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A wee story from Tain

Last year I had the privilege of presenting the Malawi Lecture to the Tain and District Arthritic Group. One of those present was Anthony MacKenzie. Anthony is disabled and resides with his mother, but he was so taken by the presentation that he started to save all his small change and when I was back at the club playing for them a week or two ago, he presented me with the magnificent sum of £230 for the children at Mountain View School – a truly marvellous effort.



On behalf of the Province, many thanks to Anthony for undertaking this tremendous project, which will go a long way to providing much needed support for the children at Mountain View

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

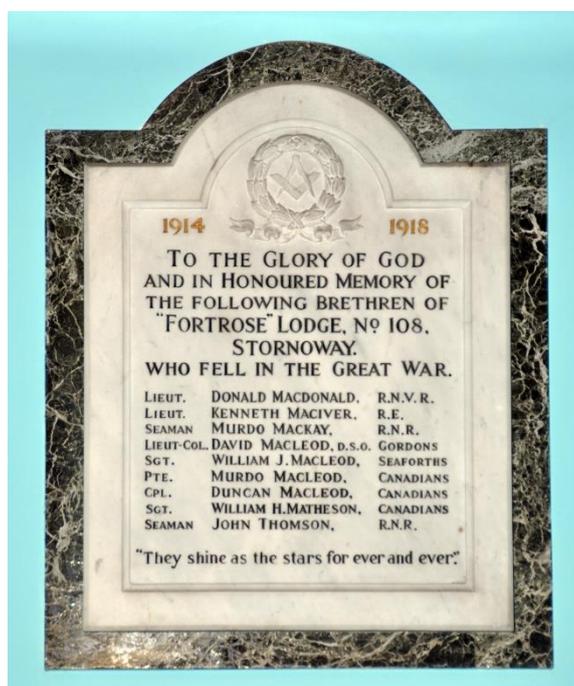
On 2nd October fourteen of our brethren made a visit to Lodge St Clements' No. 1353 in Tarbert, Harris on their provincial visit. The St Clements' brethren worked an excellent demonstration FC degree which was followed by the usual generous Harris style harmony.

The next meeting of the Lodge will be on 2nd November and will be an EA degree when all the offices will be filled by past masters. As the candidate is to be his cousin Donnie Graham PM will be chairing the degree.

Our St John's night will be on 7th December when the lodge will be tyled at the earlier time of 7.00 pm.

There is now 100 years since the end of World War 1 and I thought I would post a couple of pictures of the plaques we have in the lodge room.

This one honours the memory of the brethren of 108 who fell during WW1.



This next one was taken at the unveiling of a later plaque honouring those who died in WW11 and all other conflicts since 1918.

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One of this country's greatest peace time marine tragedies took place early in the morning of 1st January 1919 when *HMY Iolaire* hit the rocks known as the Beasts of Holm near the entrance to Stornoway harbour. The armistice had been signed about 6 weeks earlier and this yacht was loaded with Royal Navy personnel who were returning home from the war. Over 200 were drowned very close to home after having survived the great war. Very few if any homes were untouched by this loss of life, my family lost an uncle, my mother's older brother.

In remembrance of this great loss of life and as it will be 100 years since the tragedy on 1st January 2019, Poppy Scotland have struck a special metal pin badge depicting the bell from *HMY Iolaire* which are now on sale.



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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi Brethren

We have now had our September meeting when we worked an EA Degree and our October meeting when we worked a 2nd Degree. Both were well attended and were supported by visitors. We also had returns from absent brethren i.e. Brothers Kenny MacFarlane and Frank McKellar. It was great to have them back among us and hopefully we will have more in the future.

Our meeting of 21 November 2018 will be our AGM and nomination of office bearers for 2018/19 and a good turnout of members would be appreciated. On that date we will have a ballot for the following:

Bro Brian Poloczek for affiliation and Mr. David Neil Cooper for initiation. Both are well suited and recommended.

Our meeting of 19 December 2018 will of course be our Installation when a new master and office bearers will be installed. They will be decided at our November meeting. Billets for both meetings will be sent out in due course and visitors to both will be made most welcome.

The following is a message from our reigning Right Worshipful Master, Bro Andrew MacIvor:

As my time as RWM of my mother lodge is shortly to come to an end for the second time, I would like to thank all the office bearers and brethren for allowing me the honour and pleasure of being master for the last 2 years. We have managed to work degrees at most of our meetings with stand in candidates. We have enjoyed visitations from other lodges with St. Duthus working a degree for us and we in turn working a degree in their lodge with a well-supported visitation of our members.

During my time we have lost well known and loved brethren to the Grand Lodge above. Our condolences went out to the relatives and these brethren will be sadly missed. Sickness and ill health have also taken its toll and we wish all still suffering a speedy recovery.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all who took time to phone or contact me regarding my dad, Brother George MacIvor. As most of you know he had two falls in July this year and spent some time in Raigmore Hospital, being well looked after by the staff there. He was moved to Wyvis House Nursing home, Dingwall, where my mother is resident. They are together again, which is brilliant, and he has settled in well.

We have a ballot coming up for an affiliation and initiation so hopefully we are going from strength to strength. I take this opportunity to wish the new R.W.M. and his office bearers every success for the year ahead. With best wishes to all

Yours faithfully and fraternally,

Andrew J. MacIvor R.W.M.

Thanks for that Andrew.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible at our future meetings.

Regards to all

James A Tait, Secretary

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Lodge Fingal No 318

Saturday, 18th August, was a busy day at Lodge Fingal.

In the morning a visit was received from the “Widows Son’s”, motor cycle group who laid a poppy wreath at the Hector MacDonald Monument, Dingwall, on behalf of Poppy Scotland. This being to mark the centenary of the first world war. The service being conducted by our very own, Brother Rev. Ivan Warwick, at 9:00am. Prior to the service all those attending assembled at Lodge Fingal. This being P.G.M. Brother Robin Cattanach, IPDGM Brother Ramsay McGhee, members of PGL and members of other Lodges within the province. Tea/coffee and a bacon roll was cooked and supplied to the motor cyclists by PMs Cameron and Gunn who were assisted by Brother Brian Crawford, who was on holiday in the region, and Brother A. Gault. A donation of £100 was made to poppy Scotland from Lodge Fingal. On completion of the wreath laying ceremony the motor cyclists left to catch the ferry to Orkney.

In the evening the Lodge B.B.Q., was held. The catering this year was carried out by Brother Sean Kennedy of the Mallard, Dingwall who was assisted by his chef John. A plentiful supply of meats and chicken was on offer along with a beautiful choice of side salad. This was followed by lovely strawberries and cream supplied by Brother Andy Henderson. All was devoured by the 45 persons present. Music and entertainment were by Brother Mike Samms and the dance floor was never empty. A large raffle was also held. Another great night was had by all. Thanks to all those that attended and donated raffle prizes. Special thanks to Sean, John, Andy and Donnie & Mary on bar duties.

On the morning of Friday, 28th September, Miss Annabel Brown, granddaughter of Brother Henry Cameron, held a coffee morning within the Logie Lounge of the Lodge to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer. Annabel, who was assisted by her mother, grandmother and others, raised the fantastic sum of £630. Well done Annabel.

On Tuesday, 9th October, the Lodge held its first regular meeting since the recess. This was a Business Meeting with twelve Brethren present and one visitor.

C. Mackintosh.
R.W.M.

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November meeting: 13th. Will be our annual A.G.M. and nomination of Office Bearers.

December meeting: 11th. To be a Master Mason Degree.

Special meeting: On Saturday 29th December, where it will be the Re-Installation for RWM Bro. Colin Mackintosh and Office Bearers at 6:30pm. With the Festival of St. John, in the Logie Lounge, to follow.

January meeting: 8th. Lecture by Bro. Robert Scott PM, on Divining or Dowsing.

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

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

D. Gunn PM
Secretary.

Blast from the Past – from the November 2003 issue

On Friday 5th September, PM Bro Victor Shepherd and I (*Ramsay McGhee*) headed south to the Province of Ayrshire to visit the Lodge where our National Bard, Robert Burns, was Depute Master. We arrived in Tarbolton mid-afternoon and headed for the Bachelors' Club, Sandgate Street, Tarbolton where, in this 17th-century thatched house, Robert Burns and friends formed a debating club in 1780. He also attended dancing lessons in the building, but, more interestingly for us, he was initiated into Freemasonry in 1781 in the very room in which the two of us sat chatting with the Curator. The Curator was excellent - he regaled us with many facts, anecdotes and stories all of which made the visit to the Club more interesting.

On leaving the Bachelors' Club, we went for a wander round Tarbolton. It boasts three licensed premises all of which claim that Burns drank therein - so in the name of education, culture and information gathering for the "Patter", we visited two out of the three establishments before heading for the Lodge.

We received a very warm welcome from the Master, Bro Daniel Baird and the Brethren prior to witnessing an excellent rendition of the EA Degree worked by the Junior Warden, Bro James McCurdie. My first visit to Lodge Tarbolton was over 30 years ago with Lodge St Barchan. It was good to return along with Bro Shepherd who very much enjoyed his first visit to the Lodge where Brother Robert Burns presided over the Brethren some 200 plus years ago.

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LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851



Lodge Allan Wilson No 851 has had a very successful summer season. At the Installation meeting in June the Lodge was full, boosted by a splendid Deputation from the United Grand Lodge of Victoria, for the Installation meeting which was carried out by the Rev Andrew E Paterson, JP, Past Provincial Grand Master of Fife and Kinross.

At the July meeting, I gave an update on the situation in the Mountain View School for Deaf Children which was well received and resulted in a number of donations to the cause and a magnificent offer of £1000 worth of educational toys and books from Bro David Kinloch, a regular visitor to the Lodge but whom I am delighted to say, will become an affiliated member of the Lodge next season.

At the third and final meeting of the season we welcomed back PM Brother Charles Winston who delivered the third part of his trilogy on the state visit of HM Queen Victoria to the Glasgow International Exhibition of 1888 based on the painting by the renowned 19th century artist, Sir John Lavery, one of "The Glasgow Boys". The presentation, like its two predecessors, was full of interesting historical material all of which had great relevance to both the social and masonic history of Scotland. Brother Winston's contribution to the Lodge over the past three years has been outstanding and the high standard of his presentations has ensured excellent attendances at all three meetings.

LODGE SEAFORTH 854

As we approach the Installation season, it is good to be able to report that Lodge Seaforth continues to go from strength to strength. At the October meeting we welcomed a new Initiate into the fold – RSM James Fraser who is serving with 2 Scots but whose permanent home is now in Fortrose. We have a further two candidates through their enquiry stage and another form has been issued for a prospective candidate.

The Installation of Brother Graham Law as RWM will take place at 3.00 pm on Saturday 8th December in the Lodgeroom, Station Square, Fortrose.

The Regular Meeting on Monday 17th December, after the business of the evening has been concluded, will be our annual Festival of 9 Readings and Carols to which all Brethren and their families will be made most welcome. Do come along and bring your friends, relatives and neighbours. After the service, there will be mince pies and shortbread in the clubrooms and the bar will be open as well.

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A copy of the painting from which PM Winston's trilogy emerged.

Lodge Averon No 866

Lodge Averon have a candidate in waiting to go through his 1st Degree, a Mr Carrison, PM Charlie Carrison's son. Unfortunately, he is working overseas now and will go through his installation when he returns.

We have a couple of forms out for new candidates and we hope to have the process gone through before the end of the season.

On Saturday the 15th of December, Brother Donnie Mathieson will be installed into the chair. For the work he has put into the lodge over the years and effort in all the fundraising and events, this is something he really deserves.

On Saturday the 8th of December the Lodge will be holding its annual Christmas party being arranged by Brother Harry McCartney, who is expecting the normal good turn-out of elves from the Brethren of Lodge Averon.

Brother Harry McCartney

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Lodge Ness 888



Lodge Ness had a successful closed season with two very well attended barbeques and an equally successful Quiz Night, all of which have gone a long way to boost Lodge funds. We continue to make repairs to the fabric of the building and I am happy to report that we are now wind and watertight.

We start this season with one, possibly two, new candidates, and are planning the first initiation for early in the New Year.

The younger members in the Lodge are all showing enthusiasm in their respective roles which augurs well for the future.

May I take this opportunity to extend fraternal greetings to all Brethren and we hope to visit as many lodges as possible over the season, and indeed hope that this is reciprocated!

Derek Rodway
IPM Lodge Ness 888

Blast from the Past – from the November 1998 issue

I had a grand crack with Bro Donald MacLean, Secretary of Lodge Fortrose who reported, with great enthusiasm, on the trip to Lodge St Kilda No 881 in Portree on Friday 18th September where they worked a Fellow-craft Degree. They had an excellent time and greatly enjoyed the hospitality of the Skye Brethren - so much so that it looks likely that the exercise will be repeated in future.

The following week-end, the Brethren from Lodge Prince of Wales No 426, Province of Renfrew-shire East travelled across the Minch to work a FC Degree in Stornoway. Again, it was a tremendous success especially as the Renfrew Brethren worked a totally different degree to that normally worked by the Stornoway Brethren. As the Brethren and Ladies from Renfrew-shire were having a long weekend on the Island, they were taken on a conducted tour of the Long Island on the Sunday before heading back south on Monday 28th August.

Bro Donald also informed me that The Brethren of Lodge Fortrose had given a sizeable donation to Lewis Castle College students with learning difficulties to enable them to spend two weeks at Tri County Technical College, Pendleton, South Carolina. This is yet another excellent example of the high-profile image being adopted by the Brethren resulting in local groups benefiting from their generosity.

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Freemasonry and Quantum Physics by PM Ronnie Miller, Lodge Kyle

Freemasonry and Quantum Physics may initially seem like strange bedfellows but Natural Philosophy, which is the old name for Physics, deals with fundamentals and bonds, as does The Craft.

For those brethren who are not familiar with Quantum Physics, it considers what the universe is and how it works at its tiniest and most huge scales. It is a MODEL of everything, constructed to allow physicists to plug in numbers at one end and get results out at the other. It is then, the theory of everything. At this juncture it's important to state that it is JUST a model or system, and that the cleverest minds, Albert Einstein included, have spent lifetimes attempting to refine this model of "everything" with symbols and numbers: i.e. Mathematics.

Now Freemasonry is also a framework for life, the universe and everything therein guided by The Great Architect. The complexity of existence is such that we as Freemasons must use allegory and symbols to give a hint of what's going on, admitting that there are things and purposes outside our ken that are governed and not random.

At some point everyone asks the same question... Where do we come from and where are we going? Freemasonry teaches us that we are born, live and die, distinct stages. Physics says the Universe is born in a big bang, expands and ultimately the process finishes, and we are not sure what happens next, however it, the universe and all matter which energy is, does this governed by "relatively" simple rules.

Until recently these universal physical rules were imagined to be mindless, they worked under the principle of cause and effect, even interaction at the smallest scale little packets of energy (particles) bumped into each other, mated, bounced off each other or simply disintegrated "spontaneously". Amazingly scientists have developed the mathematics to quantify and predict accurately what will happen when particles collide or interact, discovering on the way that the floor on which this cosmic play takes place, is every bit as important as the characters. Further that we are only perceiving a shadow of what's really going on. A wise man once said ... Quantum Physics can be thought of as a description of how a watch works, given that all we can see is its shadow; i.e. we see 2 dimensions when in reality a watch exists in 3 or even 4 dimensions. (3D and 3D+time as the hands on the watch move around)

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The very latest model of life the universe and everything postulates that there are 8 dimensions and what we perceive is a projection. It is called Quantum Gravity Research (QDR). The differences between QDR and other Relativistic or Quantum models are many, but for our purposes there is one important difference. QDR is governed by something on a higher level that makes decisions and plans an Architect.

If you would like to learn more about QDR pop along to Google and type in Quantum Gravity Research and after watching a video and reading an article or two reconsider the ornaments and rites of Freemasonry, possibly concluding that perhaps those old timers were on to something after all.

LODGE KYLE No 1117

Lodge Kyle will be having the following Meetings at 8pm prompt (all Mondays): - November 5th, December 3rd and our Installation Meeting on December 10th.

January 10th, 2019 will be our first Meeting of the new year. All Brethren in good standing are of course welcome at any of our Meetings. Please note that due to road works the road between Strathcarron Station and Stromeferry (no ferry) station, will be closed at night for perhaps an additional two months than previously predicted. See our website for further details of closure and Meetings at <http://www.lodgekyle.co.uk> Feel free to call the Secretary if you are in any doubt of times and road closures etc.

I would also like to formally thank Brother Steve Whittaker, who of his own volition and single-handedly repaired the floor and substructure in our Lodge. The old building had taken a pounding in a storm midway through the year, causing cracks to appear in the walls. This was traced to a corner of the building where the timbers were rotten and had collapsed, causing the wall to drop slightly. Thanks to Steve's prompt action (and craftsmanship), the cracks are no longer increasing in size and the Lodge not in danger of collapse or further serious damage. We all appreciate what Steve has done and genuinely thankful for his expert efforts.

Ronnie Miller, PM
Secretary

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

The Lodge resumed business on 5th October with our AGM, however with a notable number of Brethren unavailable we will need to review accounts etc on November 2nd.

We also plan for a second degree on this evening.

Our Installation meeting will be on the 7th December when RWM Gary Munro will be re-installed after a successful first year in office. Our annual senior citizens party will be held during December and invitations for this will be forthcoming.

Keith Patience, PM

Lodge St Martin 1217

The RWM, Office-bearers and brethren would like to congratulate Bro. William Ramsay McGhee PM, Honorary Member of St Martin on his election as Grand Master-Elect in Grand Lodge, a worthy and much deserved accolade and a great honour both for Bro. Ramsay and for the Province. We are certain that Bro. Ramsay will be an excellent ambassador for the Province and Scottish Freemasonry. Well Done Ramsay!!

The lodge will once again be supplying the mulled wine at the village bonfire and fireworks display on Friday 2nd November, proceeds being split between the "Village Fire and Light Fund" and "Lodge Funds"

The next meeting of St Martin will be our Installation where Bro. Phil Ellis will be installed in the Chair, PM Mike Turner will be the Installing Master for the evening. The Lodge will be tyled at 19.30 for normal business and will admit visitors at 20.00hrs for the installation, a warm invite is extended to all the brethren.

The Lodge will also meet on Tuesday 18th December at 20.00hrs, the business is yet to be decided. The following evening the Lodge will be assisting Santa tour the village with all the proceeds going to be used for the children of the village and surrounding area.

The RWM, Office-bearers and Members would like to wish all the brethren and families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

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Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551

The November meetings of Loch Ewe will be on the 8th and 22nd November.

A warm welcome awaits all visiting Brethren.

Blast from the Past – from the November 1998 issue

THE MASTER'S APRON

For those of you heading to Burns Suppers in January, here's one of the Bard's lesser known works:

There's mony a badge that's unco braw;
Wi' ribbon, lace and tape on;
Let kings and princes wear them a'
Gie me the Master's Apron!

The honest craftsman's apron,
The jolly Freemason's apron,
Be he at hame, or roam afar,
Before his touch fa's bolt and bar
The gates of fortune fly ajar,
'Gin he but wears the apron!

For wealth and honour, pride and power
Are crumbling stanes to base on;
Fraternity suld rule the hour,
And ilka worthy Mason!
Each Free Accepted Mason,
Each Ancient Crafted Mason.

Then, brithers, let a haesome sang
Arise your friendly ranks along!
Guidwives and bairnies blithely sing
To the ancient badge wi' the apron string
That is worn by the Master Mason!

Robert Burns

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BITS AND PIECES

OUR BRETHERN AT THE FRONT - (From *Brotherhood*, New York City, July 1918)

God of our Fathers, at Whose call,
We now before Thine altar fall;
Whose grace can make our Order strong,
Through love of right, and hate of wrong,
We pray Thee in Thy pity shield
Our Brethren on the battlefield.

Asleep, beneath Thine ample dome,
With many a tender dream of home;
Or charging, in the dust and glare,
With bullets hurtling through the air,
We pray Thee in Thy pity shield
Our Brethren on the battlefield.

O soon, Thou Blessed Prince of Peace,
Bring in the days when war shall cease,
And men and brothers shall unite
To fill the world with love and light,
We pray Thee in Thy pity shield
Our Brethren on the battlefield.

REMEMBRANCE

A few weeks ago, I had coffee with Peter MacAulay the well-known broadcaster and journalist. He has very kindly given me the following as we approach Remembrance Sunday.

It's a self-composed Gaelic inscription on the Edinburgh gravestone (Greyfriars Churchyard) of Duncan Bàn MacIntyre, probably the most famous of all Gaelic poets, who died in 1812, aged 88. He was born and raised in what is now a deserted village in Glen Orchy, Argyll, and spent time as a soldier and gamekeeper. He moved to Edinburgh when he became a Constable in the City Guard. He was reputedly illiterate all his life and got others to write down his poems and songs, mainly about nature and hunting (and sometimes drinking).

The translation is my own:

You now standing on my tombstone
I was once as you are now
My eternal bed is now the grave
With no vigour or sap in my bones
Although you are young and strong
Your earthly departure is only delayed
Heed my counsel and be wise
Often remember that death will come

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Peter also sent me a timely reminder that Freemason's also suffered at the hands of the Nazi occupation of France. The following picture depicts a French Lodge trashed by the Nazi occupation forces –



Temple maçonnique dévasté sous l'Occupation.

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As a Matter in interest - by Brother Donnie Mathieson - 866

Hello Brethren. In this article I would like to try and invoke a bit thought. You have heard me bang on in previous articles about the evolution of the computer and Quantum computing and how they have enabled and in the future promise to enable humans to do some astounding things to a point where they may even surpass us in term of intelligence and how this tied in with my daily life and my beliefs in masonry.

I have in the last while been reading a book called *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow* by Israeli author Yuval Noah Harari, Professor of History at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

He speculates that humans will make or are making a very significant attempt to gain happiness, immortality and God like powers via the advancement of technology.

The book is basically split in to 3 sections:

Homo Sapiens Conquers the world: This explores how life began from the prodromal soup of life and the human eventual evolution and relationships with other species and how humans evolved to become the dominate species due to our larger brain power and our dexterous ability's. Humans become the dominant force on earth not always to the earths or other species benefit it must be said. However, it is interesting to note our evolution from a simple prodromal soup and our knowledge of what elements that soup needs to spark simple life, man has attempted to mix it but has never been able to spark life from it. Only divine intervention can do that.

Home Sapiens Give meaning the world. The author argues that since the evolution over 70,000 years or so of our masterly of language from the basic verbal utterings to complex meanings of well. "Things". Social integration, countries, borders, money. He suggests humans now live within an intersubjective reality, as he terms it. He points out that even though humans have rational thought and ability to work things out. We still created Gods or Deities for things we could not understand. He believes that today that humanism is a form of religion that worships humankind instead of God. One by one we have realised that there is no God of volcanos of the sea, Sun or even Love. Humans now believe Humanity is the top of the chain. We have framed ourselves as dominant. He believes that during the 21st century humanism will push humans to search for immortality, happiness and power. Are we seeing this happen now do you think?

Homo sapiens losses control. Technology as we know has changed so much of our lives in such a short space of time that is fact it is here and now. The author suggests that this very advancements in technology will replace humankind with a super –human or Homo deus (Human god) integration, AI and Quantum technology, leads him to suggest that big data will become the paradigm taking over humans in terms of dominance in the universe. We as humans will merely be algorithms giving us internal life.

He closes with a question which I will now put you guys.

"What will happen to society, politics and daily life when non –conscious but highly intelligent algorithms know us better than we know ourselves?"

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For me Gentleman. That will be the day we lose our belief in God and all things good. I believe God brings balance. In whatever form you believe. Ying Tang, Mother Nature, an entity we don't understand yes even karma. A force that binds everything within the universe a force that intervened with the prodromal soup to create life and time. Everything has a balance - matter, anti-matter everything affects everything else it's all around us and we should respect that, or I believe it will bite back.

Anyway, who wants to be married for 1000 years!!!! *However, I do suggest you read the book.*

The Stornoway Parliament



For a goodly number of years the "Parliament" – a group of older Stornoway residents, have been meeting upstairs in the Lodge once a week. They enjoy each other's company and regularly contribute to the Lodge for some of their charitable projects. This week saw one of their members - Willie "Bucach" Macleod celebrate his 95th birthday – Willie is sitting on the right as you look at the picture. Congratulations Willie – lang may yer lum reek.

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SUMMER SEMINAR – Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow

On Sunday 26th August I had the privilege of attending the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow's Summer Seminar in the Masonic Temple in Arderly Street, Glasgow. The Seminar can only be described as excellent. We were enlightened, entertained and educated with five totally diverse papers all of which were delivered with enthusiasm and commitment.

First on the podium was Brother Iain MacIntosh, Past Substitute PGM of Forfarshire. He presented a paper on how the Forfarshire Lodges were affected during the Great War 1914 – 18 and then the follow-up of unveiling of war memorials. It was particularly interesting to me when he referred to disasters such as HMS Natal blowing up with the loss of over 400 lives. Our own Province were directly involved given the tragedy happened in Invergordon. Lodge Seaforth has a plaque from the stricken ship on the wall in the South of the Lodge.

Brother Iain was followed by someone well known to us in Ross and Cromarty, Brother Kenneth Jack, who presented a paper on Archdeacon, the Rev James B Craven. I must admit I had never heard of Craven but found Kenny's paper intriguing. Craven was an Episcopal cleric based for much of his ministry in Orkney. During his life he wrote widely on ecclesiastical history and Freemasonry. As well as his membership of the Craft he was a prominent Rosicrucian. He was born in Aberdeen in 1850 and died in Kirkwall in 1924. I'm sure he must have known the Rev Canon Spence Ross, a founder member and subsequently a Past Master of Lodge Seaforth 854 and a member of the PGL of Ross and Cromarty.

Before the break for lunch, a great friend of this Province, Brother Charles Winston, gave an excellent paper on Oral History pointing out that the Scottish Masonic Oral History project was of immense importance and would provide future social historians with a wealth of invaluable material. I intend to get the project up and running in our own Province soon but will need a bit of assistance in so doing.

After lunch, Brother Alistair Henderson, Past PGM of Glasgow presented a very interesting paper on the Speirs Family. He took as the title of his talk – *The Speirs Family: a family from the east who made their mark in the west*. He did tremendous research on the subject matter demonstrating how members of the family contributed greatly to the community, to commerce and to Freemasonry. I have no doubt that the Speirs are only one of many families who have made similar contributions and I would look forward to Alistair presenting a similar paper in future.

Finally, Brother Grant MacLeod, Past Provincial Grand Secretary of Renfrewshire East, gave a fascinating talk on the laying of Foundation Stones by Grand Lodge or Provincial Grand Lodges. He gave an illustrated talk on many of the foundation stones of famous buildings in and around Glasgow that had been formally laid by the Masons. This is something that has gone out of fashion across the country which is a shame. I think one of the last to be done in this Province was St Anne's Church in Strathpeffer which is well recorded in the annals of the Ross-shire Journal. All in all it was an excellent day, well worth attending. The next one will be in 2020 and I would commend it to all.

Ed

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HIELAN' SHED No 6



Every year when I or Henry Macinnes attend The Cork Degree and the annual Installation of The Corporation of Squaremen we always ask for a donation for Dingwall Gaelic Playgroup and these donations have assisted with days out and this latest project - an outdoor play area.

Fraternally

Colin Thomson

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PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

On September 8th in the Masonic Temple Alness, the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross and Cromarty met for the Installation of MEC Thomas Edward Stirling as Grand Superintendent. Provincial Grand Chapter was opened by MEC Donald MacLeod P G S and his Office-bearers who then gave a warm and cordial welcome to all present. The Companions stood to receive visitors. M E C Donald Gunn, D of C for the Provincial introduced Brother Raymond MacKeddie, Depute Provincial Master of Ross and Cromarty. M E C Gunn then introduced sister Provincial Chapters from throughout Scotland, represented on this occasion by M E C John I MacKay Grand Superintendent of Inverness-Shire.

Thereafter Grand Director of Ceremonies, M E C John M Steel, introduced First Grand Principal M E C Joseph J Morrow CBE QC and his Grand Chapter office-bearers who received a very warm welcome. On assuming the chair M E C Morrow and his Companions worked an excellent installation ceremony for M E C Stirling and his commissioned office-bearers. At conclusion, thanks and congratulations were exchanged, the First Grand Principal and office-bearers retired followed by the Sister Chapters. Provincial Grand Chapter was closed in due form by M E C Stirling and his office-bearers who then retired to Ardross and Alness Bowling Club for the excellent installation dinner catered for by the Stirling family.

Dates for Diary Visitations

February 6th Cromarty Firth 310
February 22nd St Clement 244
March 12th Tain and Ross 63
May 15th Hebrides 364
May 16th Hebrides Cryptic 364
May 25th AGM Lodge Fingal 1.30pm

Yours Fraternally

Alasdair Taylor

Provincial Grand Scribe E

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Tain & Ross RAC 63

The next meeting of the Tain and Ross Chapter will be on Tuesday 13th November when we will be working a practice EM Degree.

St Clement RAC 244

At the November 30th meeting, the Companions will be welcoming a Deputation from Trinidad and Tobago and Granada to the meeting.

Cromarty Firth RAC 310

The Hebrides RAC 364.

On 9th October Alan McPhee was installed as First Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter.
On the 16th Archie Macdonald was installed as MEC & TIM of the Lodge & Council and George M Macleod as Father Noah of the Ark Mariner Lodge.

Donnie Macleod
Donald Macleod GS R&C

GUILD LODGES

Highland Guild Lodge

The next meeting of the Highland Guild Lodge will be the Installation Meeting on Friday 8th February 2019.

Alasdair Taylor
Kirkwarden/Scrivener
Highland Guild Lodge

Blast from the Past – from the November 2000 issue

On Saturday 11th November, Brother Neil Fraser, son of the DPGM and a member of Lodge Seaforth will be installed as RWM of Lodge St Barchan No 156 in the Province of Renfrewshire East. Heartiest congratulations are extended to Brother Fraser along with best wishes for a successful and happy year in the Chair

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PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

On Saturday 27th October James Smith was installed as Venerable Preceptor. Unfortunately, because of the weather the deputation, led by DGP Peter Foster Sen., was unable to cross the Minch



James Smith new VP of Preceptory of the Western Isles. Installed by Donald Macleod KCT

Donnie Macleod IPDGP

The Mother Lodge

Bro Bomi Mehta, Past DGM of our District Grand Lodge in India very kindly sent me a copy of one of my favourite poems – Rudyard Kipling’s “Mother Lodge”. I have reproduced it below as it very vividly reminds all of us of the equality which reigns among Freemasons without distinction of profession, rank, race or creed and the first two stanzas clearly reflect the diversity of his own Mother Lodge in Lahore, underscored by the refrain which contrasts the behaviour displayed in public with that shown inside the Lodge. The use of vernacular with the dropped ‘h’ highlights the wide social rankings of the members. If you know it – enjoy it again. If you haven’t read it before I’m sure you will enjoy it after reading it for the first time.

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1 - There was Rundle, Station Master,
An' Beazeley of the Rail,
An' 'Ackman, Commissariat,
An' Donkin' o' the Jail;
An' Blake, Conductor-Sergeant,
Our Master twice was 'e,
With im that kept the Europe-shop,
Old Framjee Edu1jee.

Chorus /

*Outside - " Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!
Inside - 'Brother," an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,
An' I was junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out there!*

2 - We'd Bola Nath, Accountant,
An' Saul the Aden Jew,
An' Din Mohammed, draughtsman
Of the Survey Office too;
There was Babu Chuckerbutty,
An' Amir Singh the Sikh,
An' Castro from the fittin'-sheds,
The Roman Catholick!

3 - We 'adn't good regalia,
An' our Lodge was old an' bare,
But we knew the Ancient Landmarks,
An' we kep' 'em to a hair;
An' lookin' on it backwards
It often strikes me thus,
There ain't such things as infidels,
Excep', per'aps, it's us.

4 - For monthly, after Labour,
We'd all sit down and smoke
(We dursn't give no banquets,
Lest a Brother's caste were broke),
An' man on man got talkin'
Religion an' the rest,
An' every man comparin'
Of the God 'e knew the best.

5 - So man on man got talkin',
An' not a Brother stirred
Till mornin' waked the parrots
An' that dam' brain-fever-bird.
We'd say 'twas 'ighly curious,
An' we'd all ride 'ome to bed,
With Mo'ammed, God, an' Shiva
Changin' pickets in our 'ead.

6 - Full oft on Guv'ment service
This rovin' foot 'ath pressed,
An' bore fraternal greetin's
To the Lodges east an' west,
Accordin' as commanded.
From Kohat to Singapore,
But I wish that I might see them
In my Mother-Lodge once more!

7 - I wish that I might see them,
My Brethren black an' brown,
With the trichies smellin' pleasant
An' the hog-darn passin' down;
An' the old khansamah snorin'
On the bottle-khana floor,
Like a Master in good standing
With my Mother-Lodge once more.

*Outside - Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!
Inside- Brother," an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the Square,
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge out there!*

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LOCAL BOOKS

As we go to press books by two local authors are hitting the news-stands. Well known author, Elizabeth Sutherland whose previous titles include “The Seer of Kintail”, “In Search of the Picts” and “Hannah Hereafter” to name but a few, is launching her new novel – “**Church Street**” at the Lodge Seaforth Clubrooms on Saturday 3rd November. Why not come along, enjoy a cup of coffee and get a signed copy of this, Elizabeth Sutherland’s latest work.

One of her books in the Highland History collection was – “Canon Spence Ross: His Life and Legacy” – Canon Spence Ross was a Founder Member and Past Master of Lodge Seaforth and Provincial Grand Chaplain of Ross & Cromarty – another excellent read.

New to the world of publishing is Verity Walker who has launched her new novel based on a true war-time story “**Major Tom’s War**”

Verity has offered to donate £1.50 to the RBLs for every copy which is sold through the “Patter”. Anyone wishing to purchase a copy should contact Verity direct on **077789 22407** and mention the Patter when ordering so that a donation can be made.

