

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 81

NOVEMBER 2014



What's in the November Edition?

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Grand Lodge News

Provincial Grand Lodge News

News from the Lodges

Bits and Pieces including news from Jordan & Gibraltar

The Sinclair Bruce Diary

Cover picture: Town Hall, Stornoway

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Editorial

Welcome to the 81st edition of the Patter.

Since the last edition I have had the privilege of visiting Jordan and the two Scottish Constitution Lodges there – Lodge Jordan No 1339 and the new Lodge Wisdom No 1840. I have reported on the visit in the newsletter but one issue which has arisen as a result of the visit is that of Proxy representation.

A significant number of Brethren in this Province are either Proxy Masters or Proxy Wardens for Lodges in our Districts. I am aware that many of our Brethren who hold proxy rank take their duties seriously and are in touch with their Lodges in the Districts but it has come to light that a significant number of Brethren throughout Scotland apply for proxy offices for no reason other than giving them a vote in Grand Lodge and they never ever contact the Lodge they are supposed to be representing. This state of affairs is fundamentally wrong and it can lead to those lodges in the Districts either being misrepresented or having no representation at all in Grand Lodge.

As a result of raising the matter at the Overseas Committee, it has been agreed that Proxy District Grand Masters will be availed upon to personally contact all Proxy Office-bearers for their District and encourage them to make contact with their respective Lodges and enter into regular communication with them.

Apart from the fact that such action will lead to the basic function of a Proxy Master or Warden being fulfilled, it opens the door to making new friendships, it can lead to visits to the District or meeting up with Brethren from the Lodge or District if they, for example, attend the Grand Lodge Installation. I know of situations where entire families have struck up long lasting friendships through the medium of Proxy Master-ship.

I encourage Brethren to apply for Proxy Membership but only if they appreciate the benefits that can materialise from them doing so. It is a tremendous way to become involved in the more universal aspect of our Craft and, if carried out properly, can make significant differences to all of our Lodges in each District and to ourselves as individuals.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland

The next Grand Lodge Communication will be the Grand Lodge Installation followed by the Festival of St Andrew on Thursday 27th November. The Festival of St Andrew will once again be held in the Corn Exchange.



November is proving a busy month for Grand Lodge – starting on Sat 8th we are heading to the Province of Fife and Kinross to conduct the Centenary Meeting of Lodge Torrie No 1141 in Cairneyhill, Dunfermline. On Sat 15th it will be a big day for the Brethren of Lodge St Ninian No 66 in Brechin as we join them to celebrate 300 years of Masonry in that Lodge. The following week it's a trip down to the PGL of Lanarkshire Middle Ward to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Lodge Robert Burns No 440 in Baillieston. On Wednesday 26th November I head back down the A9 to Edinburgh to prepare for the Grand Lodge Installation and Festival of St Andrew on Thursday 27th November. Two days later it is back to Glasgow for the Installation of the new PGM of Glasgow. With the exception of Sat 13th December – the Installation of the new PGM of Banffshire – December is a quiet month for Grand Lodge, the only other meeting being Grand Committee on 11th December.



Provincial Grand Lodge Race Night

Can I thank all who supported the race night in the Seaforth Club in any way whatsoever for their involvement. The numbers attending, given it was a Provincial event, were, to say the least disappointing, but those who did attend had a cracker of a night. Through pre-event sponsorship and monies raised on the night I was able to hand over a sum in excess of £800 to the Provincial Treasurer and there is still some sponsorship money to come in. Congratulations to all the winners and grateful thanks to all the sponsors and all who attended on the night.

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

The next meeting of the Province will take place in Cromarty on Tuesday 4th November at 8.00 pm.

A good turn-out of Brethren would be greatly appreciated

William Ross
Provincial Grand Master

From The Provincial Almoner

In recent reports to the Provincial Patter I have always had to start my report by recording the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of some of our members but fortunately on this occasion this is not the case.

Past Master Malcolm McGougan, Lodge St. Duthus, Tain, is unfortunately far from well. He is currently at home and is shortly to be attended to there by MacMillan Nurses.

Past Master Sandy Rose, Lodge Rosehaugh, Avoch, spent some time recently in Raigmore Hospital having suffered a stroke. Sandy is now home and recovering slowly. He is due to attend at Ross Memorial Hospital, Dingwall on Monday 3rd November for an assessment as to his physiotherapy needs. I spoke to him recently and he is in very good form.

Brother Ian MacLeod, Lodge Fingal, Dingwall, who recently had major surgery, is now home from hospital and such is his progress that he was able to attend the October meeting of his lodge.

Past Master Victor Shepherd, Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty, is still not in the best of health and some days he is better than others and is able to get out and about on occasions with his wife.

Mrs Maureen Cameron, wife of the Past Master Henry Cameron, Lodge Fingal, Dingwall, our Provincial Grand Secretary, was recently in Raigmore Hospital, but is now recovering at home.

Our best wishes are extended to them all.

I'll end as usual and ask that should any of you require my assistance, or know of anyone who does, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Lodge St Duthus No 82 has entered its 2014 – 2015 season with healthier start than previous seasons. We are pleased to say that we have an applicant for Initiation, applications waiting for an Enquiry Committee meeting and applications with prospective candidates for completion.

This has had a positive effect on our calendar with Lodge St Duthus this season being able to carry out 'live' degree work.

Our calendar for the session up until Christmas is:

- Monday 3rd November Entered Apprentice Degree
- Monday 17th November Installation meeting starting at 7.00pm & Festival of St John
- Monday 1st December Fellowcraft Degree
- Saturday 13th December Senior Citizens Party in Bowling Club
- Monday 8th December General Committee Meeting
- Monday 15th Entered Apprentice Degree or Master mason Degree

This year sees Bro Ian Sinclair being installed into the Masters Chair as Right Worshipful Master of Lodge St Duthus No 82. The Brethren of St Duthus would like to wish him every success in this esteemed office. Bro Ian would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to his Installation meeting, which is being carried out by our own PM Hugh Patience and his Installation Team. Unfortunately some of the Office Bearers are unable to continue or progress in office due to work or personal commitments and this has left some gaps in the offices which this year are being filled by Past Masters.

As usual the social side of Lodge St Duthus continues with a charity Christmas card sale (yes, it's that time of year again!) on the 7th November and a Quiz night for Perfect Paws on the 15th November. This is followed by our Senior Citizens Christmas Party being held on the 13th December in Tain Bowling Club.

That is all brethren for this issue and we hope to see you at some point over the session whether on a meeting night or at a social night. It will be a pleasure to welcome you into Lodge St Duthus No 82.

David Macrae, PM
Secretary

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FORTROSE LODGE No. 108

It certainly has been a busy last 3 months for us in Stornoway with a steady flow of candidates and as you can see from the pictures young candidates too, indeed Donnie Graham RWM's son Alick joined as a Lewis as soon as he could after his 18th birthday.



John Mackenzie being congratulated by his father Donald after his initiation.



John Robertson JD and Donnie Graham RWM congratulating their sons Paul & Alick respectively on their initiation.

The installation of our RWM Elect Iain Campbell will take place on Friday 5th December at 6pm and, for the information of any visitor who may be planning on coming to Stornoway, Innes Morrison will be re-installed

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the following day in Lodge St Clement's in Tarbert. A bus is being laid on to transport the brethren to and from Tarbert on the Saturday.

Our new RWM has a full programme ahead of him for his first year, we have 2 candidates waiting for initiation and a number of 2nd and 3rd degrees as well as a mark to be carried out.

As many Brethren are aware, I have the honour of being Proxy Grand Master of the District of East Africa.

It is with immense sadness that I have to report that the lovely wife of our District Grand Master, Bro Mike Craig, has died suddenly and unexpectedly while in London.

I have had the privilege of meeting Christine and stayed with her and Mike in their home in Nairobi. I found her to be a very supportive, fun loving woman who had a great love of animals – especially her dogs. She will be a great loss to Mike and her family.

Christine will be cremated on Wednesday 5th November in Trowbridge and her ashes will return to Nairobi with Mike in due course for a Service of Thanksgiving in Africa.

Many readers of the Patter will remember the excellent reply to the Toast to the Provinces and Districts that Mike made at the Festival of St Andrew a couple of years ago – I have no doubt that you will all join with me in sending our deepest condolences to Mike and the family. I hope to attend the Cremation in Trowbridge on Wednesday and will assure Mike that our thoughts and prayers are with him at this sad and trying time.

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Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi All

I do not often report on what has happened, but felt that this was worth mentioning.

At our October meeting, being without a candidate, and a shortage of members due to holidays etc. we decided to have a guest speaker give us a talk. We invited PPGM Brother Ramsay McGhee to give us a presentation of his choice. He readily agreed.

We duly opened our Lodge and although numbers were few, we had enough to open. We carried out our normal business, then it was decided to close the official proceedings, so the Lodge was closed at 8.30 p.m. Brother McGhee then set up his screen and slides. Tea and sandwiches were brought into the Lodge and were enjoyed by all present while Ramsay gave an excellent presentation on the workings of Grand Lodge and the work done and visits carried out throughout the world with suitable slides showing some interesting people, places and Masonic Properties. This was enjoyed by all and showed the hard work and time given up by Grand Lodge members with Ramsay himself taking part in many of the duties, to promote our Craft throughout the world.

It was agreed by all that this was an interesting way to go at a time when candidates are scarce and such events on meeting nights may be the way forward and encourage absent members to come back into our lodges. We reckoned that those who were unable to attend, were the losers, in missing the presentation. Certainly food for thought.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 November 2014 at 7.45 p.m. This will be our AGM and nomination of Office Bearers for 2014/2015. A good turnout of members would be appreciated. Any visitor wishing to attend will be made welcome.

Our meeting of Wednesday 17 December 2014 at 7.45 p.m. will be our INSTALLATION when Bro Peter Foster Snr will be installed into the chair as RWM and other nominated Brethren installed into the various Offices. Once again a good turnout of brethren and visitors would be appreciated.

Fraternal greetings to all.

James A Tait, PM
Secretary

Highland Hospice

The annual Brain Game takes place in the Ironworks on Friday 14th November.

Ed

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Lodge Fingal No 318



August 30th: Visit to St. Peter's Operative No 284, to work a FC° for Bro Allan MacKenzie (Storn). There was a good deputation of 13 Brethren accompanied by 8 Wives. We were treated to a 3 course meal in the Lounge of the Lodge at 4pm. The Lodge tyled upstairs at 6pm and the Ladies remained in the Lounge. The deputation was presented into the body of the Lodge by the D of C, Bro Rory MacKenzie PM, with our Acting RWM Bro Andy Henderson being presented to the East and was acknowledged by the Acting RWM Bro Robert Thompson of Lodge St. Peter's. The Gavel was presented to the RWM of Lodge Fingal and the Work was under way. Offices vacated for Fingal Office bearers.

Bro MacKenzie was presented in front of the Chair by the Deacons; to save time Test Questions were asked of Bro MacKenzie in the ante-room of the Lodge. The Lodge was then passed to the FC° and Bro MacKenzie re-entered the Lodge where he received the benefit of prayer. After perambulating the Lodge, he was obligated by the RWM who was thereafter assisted by Bro Henry Cameron PM, Bro Stewart Bain PM, Bro D Gunn PM, Bro Ronnie Sutherland PM and Bro Rory Mackenzie PM. The RWM came down onto the floor of the Lodge accompanied by the RWM of St. Peter's and greeted Bro MacKenzie, congratulated him on taking his Second Regular Step in Freemasonry. RWM asked the brethren to show their appreciation on his advancement, was then shown to a seat in the SE corner of the Lodge and was explained by the Master that if he visited a Lodge working a FC°, this is where you would sit. The Lodge was then reduced to the EA°. Offices now returned to St. Peter's, and the Gavel handed back. Collection uplifted and amounted to £196.60, which was very good, as there was about 30 Brethren all told. The Lodge was closed in Due and Ancient form.

Harmony followed downstairs, then the shin-dig, with a disco, DJ's being Brothers Durrand and Moodie, too thane time, during the night there was a raffle which took in £184, the bar took in £670.70, departed for the Pentland Hotel whenever, for some sleep.

October meeting: Opened in the EA° by the RWM Bro Rev Ivan Warwick with 17 brethren and 4 visiting brethren present. With Lodges represented from No's 134,854, 1216 and the RWPGM Bro William Ross, who is also an Honorary member of Fingal, were charged to convey the fraternal greetings of Lodge Fingal on return to their respective Mother Lodge.

The main business of the evening was a Paper by Bro Rory Mackenzie PM on "Women in Freemasonry", which lasted for some 33 minutes and was well received by the Brethren, which was clearly indicated at the Risings. Collection uplifted and amounted to £70.

November meeting: 11th. Will be our annual A.G.M. and nomination of Office Bearers. Along with a Ballot.

December meeting: 9th. Will be a M.M. degree for Bro. Allan MacKenzie [Storn].

Special meeting: On Saturday 27th December, where it will be the Installation for the RWM Elect Bro. Angus Beaton and Office Bearers at 5 p.m.

January meeting: 13th. To be arranged.

February meeting: 10th. Mock MMM°

March meeting: 10th. MMM° for Bro. Allan MacKenzie, also our annual Provincial visit. Lodge will Tyle at 7.30 p.m. to do the minutes, etc.

April meeting: 14th. To be arranged

Events Logie Lounge: Festival of St John, in the Logie Lounge, after the meeting 27th December.
Saturday 17th January, Quiz Night, Quiz Master to be Bro. John Hanson.
Friday 6th February, Burns Night, compared by Bro Andy Henderson.
Friday 20th March will be our annual Ladies Night.
Saturday 18th April, will be a Social Night.

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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? That's all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn P.M.
Secretary*

Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

At the August meeting of Lodge Allan Wilson the Brethren enjoyed a very entertaining talk from PM Bro John Patience, Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216 on the theme of "Time". The brethren thoroughly enjoyed the topic and showed their appreciation in the customary manner.

The June meeting will take place at 11.30 am on Tuesday 9th June 2015 when Brother Sinclair Bruce will be installed as Master.

The Reigning Master of Lodge Allan Wilson, Bro James A Tait, extends a warm welcome to all Brethren from throughout the Province and beyond, especially those who have retired and have the ability to come along to a day time Lodge, to come along and enjoy the fellowship of Lodge Allan Wilson. Lunch is served after the meeting at a very modest cost.

A warm welcome awaits you at 851.

Lodge Seaforth No 854

It hardly seems possible that the time has come for the new edition of the Patter. The year has gone by very quickly and now here we are approaching the new-year yet again.

Our next meeting is on 17th November and is our AGM & Election of Office Bearers. As usual we have an 8pm start.

The Club AGM is on Monday 1st December at 7.30pm and we are looking for a good turnout of Members.

The Installation of RWM Elect Alasdair Taylor takes place on Saturday 13th December at 3.00pm. All are welcome but it would help catering if those who intend staying for the meal let Ramsay know ASAP please.

Our final meeting of the year is on Monday 15th December at 8.00pm when we will be holding our Annual Service of Carols & Readings. All are welcome and we also welcome our Wives & Families to this meeting.

Finally I would like to wish everyone the compliments of the season and hope to make it to some other meetings over the next couple of months.

Cochrane Donald
Past Master

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PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE WEBSITE

For up to the Minute information and back copies of the Provincial Patter – access the Provincial Website on - <http://www.pglrossandcromarty.org.uk/>

Lodge Averon 866

We opened our season with a business meeting on Thursday 9th October. On Thursday 23rd October we had a practice first degree. We have a few candidates waiting in the wings, to give the next RWM a good start. Thursday 13th November will be nominations and on 27th it will be election of office bearers. The third Saturday in December (20th) is our installation day. It will start at 3pm. The installation team will be headed by Bro Donald Graham P.M. of Fortrose Lodge No 108. We are also presenting the RWPGM with his 50 years certificate on that day. Ross County better have a free day!!!

- On the social front we are doing well. We raised a good sum of money for the local Air Cadets, who, although they go under the banner of the RAF are not funded by them. On behalf of Bro Mackenzie RWM and the office bearers and members I wish you all a good installation season and all the best for the festivities when they arrive. Nollaig Chridheal agus Bliadhna Mhath ur.

I saw this, I don't know the author:-

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly: and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant: they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others you may become vain and bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is, many persons strive for high ideals and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself, especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love, for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. Do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born out of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here, and whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful and strive to be happy.

Henry W. MacInnes

Lodge Secretary

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Lodge Ness No 888

Not the best of starts to the season after the loss of PM Donnie Ross so soon after the loss of PM Duggie Macleod, without doubt two of the members who kept the Lodge members in place and the Lodge working in all degrees, as well as it did. They will be impossible to replace but some of the other past masters are pulling together well to ensure that we shall continue to work good degrees.

Our first meeting in October was a business meeting, so that we could maybe get others to try and do the work they did. Our second meeting was an EA degree for Lewis Kerr, whose father has been a Lodge member since many years, although not particularly active. This degree was carried out by Lodge St. Columba from Inverness. It was carried out in an excellent manner and different in many ways from our usual working, led by their RWM Jimmy Skinner whom I think is well known to most of us, maybe as a PM of Lodge priority.

Also attending the meeting was John Wood, secretary of the River Lodges association who, after the meeting, congratulated the Master and Lodge St. Columba on the working of the degree. As Lodge Ness and Lodge Averon are members of this group he presented our RWM of the evening, PM Gavin Forsyth, and the RWM of Lodge Averon with Plaques showing the River Lodges Association Logo. Our Lodge Certificate of membership and a collection of lodge logos of the 12 founding Lodges who are at present members of the association.

For November we hope to carry out a first Degree for Mr Michael Miller on the 11th and on the 25th it will be our AGM and nomination and election of office bearers. Then on December 9th we will have our reinstallation and on the 23rd we will have a business meeting. January meetings as of yet undecided.

R.W. Morrison.

PM - Secretary.

Editors' Note: For anyone unfamiliar with the term "River Lodges" it is a group whose aim is to link regular lodges, world-wide, named after or connected to rivers to promote the ideals of Freemasonry and inter lodge visiting.



Talking of Rivers - - Brother Rev Andrew Paterson dunking his feet in the River Jordan close to the spot where Jesus was baptised.

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

The following article by PM Ronnie Miller is well worth reading and implementing. It takes the Grand Lodge ruling on web-sites to an easy to implement level.

PURPOSE:

In the wake of the guidelines provided by The Grand Lodge of Scotland – this article aims to simplify and focus on “The use of photographs on Masonic Websites”, which while not a legal document, it is SHORT and should keep ordinary Freemasons publishing Newsletters, Websites, Facebook and Press Releases ... on the right side of the law. The original Grand Lodge Guidelines can be downloaded from Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty’s website at <http://www.pglrossandcromarty.org.uk/links.html>

The legal aspects of website content are primarily common sense and decency, so we will skip most of the obvious stuff and concentrate on the practical aspects of obtaining permission to photograph and the subsequent use of photograph(s).

INTRODUCTION:

In the spirit of Masonic openness it is probable that good photographs can promote The Craft to a wider audience including the general public who will perceive Freemasonry as a positive community activity and also to potential new members who are thirsty for knowledge of what Freemasons do. With younger people being more visually orientated than perhaps 50 years ago it is therefore essential we take every opportunity to regularly commemorate Masonic events with a photo, especially on Masonic Websites which will be one of the first points of contact for potential new members whose family is not already in the Craft.

It should also be noted that without regular photographic records, we and those who will come after us, will have nothing to look back on in the centuries to come.

When making use of photographs in Masonic publications you MUST have obtained the express permission of all the individuals represented in the image for their image to be used in said publication(s). If you did not take the photo yourself then you must have the permission of the owner for its use. You cannot just “lift” an image from the web and hope no one will notice. There is software called TinEye.com that constantly scans the web for duplicate photo usage.

A SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

If your Lodge decides to take regular photos...

We suggest putting a printed notice with Lodge Protocol on the wall beside the Lodge Visitors Book, so that when brethren sign the book they will see the basic lodge operating procedures.

The content of said notice could run along the lines of ... “LODGE PHOTOS - We will usually take a photo if we have visitors, which will be published on the Lodge (Kyle) website which is accessible to Freemasons and the general public. Photos are usually taken at the end of meetings before the Harmony and it is up to you if you wish to be in the photo or not. There is no pressure either way and all photos and their purpose(s) will be clearly announced beforehand”

At this juncture I should point out that as the Law stands it appears that you are obliged to obtain WRITTEN permission from EVERY person in a photo for public transmission.

At a Lodge Kyle discussion on the matter it was felt that it just wasn’t in our nature to force people into a legally binding contract, i.e. by signing the book you agree to read and abide by the following etc., in effect “terms and conditions”. Far better to shepherd brethren into a formal photo where everyone is free to choose whether they want to be in or out of the photo.

We found over the years that most people in our lodge actually opt in – basically because we take a picture at almost every meeting and now we are used to the idea; the website being all the better for it.

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Finally, if for whatever reason, a person represented in an image wishes their image removed, you should do so in a timely manner. If this is one person in a group photo it's a simple enough procedure to edit the photo in Photoshop (or online e.g. picmonkey.com) to comply with their wishes.

COPYRIGHT

It is advisable to place a copyright notice on your website to dissuade people from copying images and using in places or contexts where you would not wish them to be displayed. The notice can be at the top of your gallery page, the Lodge Terms and Conditions or under the image as follows: - Copyright © 2014 Lodge Kyle. All rights reserved. The copyright symbol is made by holding down hold down the 'Alt' key and typing the numbers 0169 (on a mac its option + G).

This is our first attempt at rationalising the procedures for use of photos; so please feel free to contribute with comments and suggestions. Please remember that our purpose here is to SIMPLIFY what is a complex subject. Contact: FAO Ronnie - sales@lochals.com

Ronnie Miller, PM Lodge Kyle No. 1117

Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

The Lodge resumed following the summer recess on 3rd October. The plan was to work an F/craft degree for Bro Kirkwood. He was however unavailable to attend. We went ahead with the degree in any case with Bro Henry Cameron volunteering as the candidate. The degree went very well and we were assisted by Bro Andy Henderson who gave the Tracing Board lecture. Many thanks to the Brethren of Fingal for their assistance on the evening.

Our next meeting will be held on 7th November - we will have a business meeting and lecture and our Installation meeting will be held on Friday 5th December. We did hope that Scott Patience would take the chair for a third term but his off-shore work would mean him missing 6 of our 8 meetings and with this in mind Bro Allan Carmichael PM volunteered to take the chair next term.

The lodge will once again host the village Senior Citizens Christmas party on 10th December. We have been fortunate enough to receive a donation from Mr & Mrs Martin of Inverleod following the passing of her Father Jerry Carolan earlier in the year. Jerry wished this to be passed to the lodge for the kindness passed to him during his time in Avoch and in particular how welcome he had been received at the Annual party.

Our RWM Scott Patience has announced the final tally for his Land's End to John o' Groats cycle run and came in at an amazing £14,688. Well done to Scott and company - a brilliant effort.

Bro Sandy Rose is now home after a few weeks in hospital after taking a stroke. At present Sandy is making good progress he is mobile, but tottering along but it will be well into next year before he will be fit to return to the Lodge.

Finally locals will be aware of the passing of Bro Alec Reid on the 10th October 2014. Alec had not been in the best of health in the recent months. He joined the lodge on 16th May 1950 and was a very accomplished organist which always adds to any degree work in any lodge.

Keith Patience, PM
Secretary

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Lodge St Martin 1217

PM Bro. Iain Boyd will be re-installed by Brother Rory Mackenzie PM of Lodge Fingal on Tuesday 18th November, the Lodge will Tyle at 7.30pm for general business and will admit visitors for the Installation at 8pm.

Our Regular meeting on Tuesday 16th December will be a Mark Degree and all Mark Master Masons are invited to attend the Lodge will Tyle at 8pm.

Our Regular meeting on Tuesday 20th January 2015 will be a 1st Degree (subject to a clear ballot), the Lodge will Tyle at 8pm.

All the very best wishes for the festive season from The RWM and Brethren of Lodge St Martin.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary



With our guide at the Baptismal Site on the River Jordan

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Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

As we approach the end of autumn with the onset of winter and its climate related attributes reflected in the beautifully changing landscape which envelops our Province from Cromarty to Stornoway it is comforting to reflect on the inner warmth which prevails within all twelve daughter lodges working during the next six months to Spring/Summer 2015.

This warmth certainly glowed on 28th October when three Aultbea members visited Lodge Ness No. 888 in Invergordon where Lodge St Columba No. 1295 (Inverness-shire) graced the carpet to perform an excellent EA degree for Bro. Kerr whose father was also present; I say 'glowed' in this instance since one of the Loch Ewe contingent was Bro Richard Macdonald, an EA himself and this was his 3rd occasion since his initiation in April sitting in the NE corner, the previous two being mock degrees during the close season in the Province of Moray and Nairn at Lodge Pitgaveny No. 681. We were not disappointed seeing 'The real McCoy' enacted – the standard was superb and of great comfort to the RWM Bro. James Skinner assisted by an array of equally great degree orators much enjoyed by all present.

This month of November sees the **Loch Ewe brethren carrying out the FC degree for Bro. Macdonald on Thursday, 13th November 2014**; in the last paragraph I mentioned that 'The standard was superb' by Lodge St Columba No. 1295 and, from visiting lodges in Inverness-shire, it is noticeable that there is quite some diversification (thankfully) among the work executed by their lodges which makes the art of visiting south of the Kessock Bridge that much more pleasant.

In Ross and Cromarty we have our own interpretation of this diversification and none more so than here in Aultbea where The Modern Ritual is employed with what the brethren consider some passages unique to these western shores – the FC Tracing Board by Bro. Allan MacCrimmon PM is a case in point and only enhances the degree work which we are all enthusiastically looking forward to – and only too happy to see the columns swelled by visitors; indeed, at our latest meeting which was a rehearsal for 13th November WJW Bro. Mike Peterson from St. Martin No. 1217 of Ullapool was a willing volunteer as the mock candidate (or did I see a friendly push from his passenger PM Mike Turner?). Whatever, it was great to have both of them along on such a stormy night! In the Preface of Lodge Loch Ewe's 'The Modern Ritual' handbook it is stated that 'one of the attractions of lodges working under the Scottish Constitution is that there is no official ritual and much is left to the actual lodge itself.' Wouldn't it make for a boring evening otherwise?

Thursday 11th December 2014 is the date of our Annual Installation for those Office Bearers who will be donning their new mantles for the ensuing two years.

The remainder of this session will be taken up by further degrees for Bro. Macdonald and the initiation of Mr Macleod who moved from Easter Ross to work in Wester Ross which is a bit of an equalising exercise since the emigration of PM Ken McMorran, the previous scribe of this column, from the principality of Gairloch to Portmahomack.

Travelling back from Killin in Perthshire at the end of the Ross-shire 'tattie holidays' during some heavy downpours I couldn't help looking at the mesh pinned along the rock face between Fort William and Ballachullish and thinking how precarious it (like that en-route to Kyle at Strome) looked and what has subsequently happened in the last couple of weeks! This then followed by the land slip on the main road to Ullapool! I'm sure these mishaps should not deter any brother desirous to see us in Lodge Loch Ewe.

At the beginning I mentioned the 'approach of the end of autumn' and take this opportunity, on behalf of the RWM of Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551 Gibby Hassell and his Office Bearers of wishing all brethren and their families a safe and enjoyable time over the forthcoming festive period at end of December 2014 / beginning of January 2015.

Andrew M. Henderson

Depute Master

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The Sinclair Bruce Diary

Well here we are into August and only another few weeks to go until our meetings commence and Lodge Seaforth will be working a Fellow Craft degree at which my son Ronald will be the candidate. I impress on him how fortunate he is as all the signs point to him receiving his third and maybe his Mark before the installation month begins. Ronald, if he so wishes, will be qualified to attend any of the Installations if they fit in with his work schedule

At the present time the news is all concentrating on the upcoming Referendum, and our present Chancellor stated very firmly that if the answer is yes, in no way can Scotland use the pound as our currency. Does that mean the notes with Bank of Scotland printed on them will be useless? I can well remember the first time I crossed the border, I was paid only 19/6 to cash my money! However, do you think these comments are fair in the 21st century?

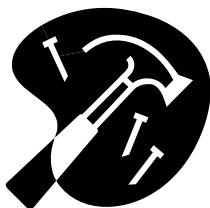
As far as the weather goes we should have no complaints. The month of September must go down on record as we really have a summer climate. Is this the Indian summer we often hear about? If so, let's enjoy it while it lasts. I think there must be some truth in the Indian summer scenario and that climate change is certainly with us now.

Our October meeting was a third for Ronald and all went well with the degree. I know Ronald is very interested in the Craft and will attend as much as he can when his work schedule permits and where he can change his work times to fit in our meetings

The MOD is now finished for another year and by all reports it has been a great success. I did not miss any of the broadcasts this year from Inverness. It's grand that this entertainment gives the capital of the Highlands a chance to enjoy our ancient tongue.

Sinclair Bruce

BITS AND PIECES



TOOLS FOR MALAWI

We are reasonably confident that the last batch of tools has reached Africa and should now be travelling overland to Ekwandeni. We are awaiting confirmation of their arrival there after which Brother Gordon Sheppard and his team will arrange to have them transported down to Blantyre. Watch this space.

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Visitation to Jordan

On the evening of Monday 25th August, Bro Rev Andrew Paterson and I visited Lodge Jordan 1339 for an informal meeting with the Brethren. We were warmly greeted and made welcome in the courtyard of the Lodge building and taken into the refectory for the meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting we were given a tour of the building and the Lodge Room which is most impressive. As was pointed out to us, it is a relatively small Lodge Room but perfectly adequate for the Brethren of Lodge Jordan.

We then left the meeting and met with the Brethren of Lodge Wisdom and their ladies for a buffet supper.

On the morning of Tuesday 26th August, Bro Paterson and I made our way to the new Lodge which, I have to say, has been very tastefully and fully prepared. It is a credit to all Brethren concerned.

At 12 noon, with the assistance of Brethren from the District Grand Lodge of Lebanon, led by the DG Secretary, Bro Wahib Tatar, I had the privilege of opening Grand Lodge and thereafter Bro Paterson and I duly consecrated Lodge Wisdom No 1840 and, in the process, dedicated the Regalia, the working tools and emblems and the VSL. Grand Lodge was closed.

At approx. 1300 hours, I had the further privilege of opening Lodge Wisdom for the first time. The Lodge was constituted for the purpose of the Ceremony of Installation and again, with the assistance of the Deputation from the District Grand Lodge of Lebanon, the Installation of the Master and Office-bearers was carried out in due form.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the Brethren and some of the wives from Lodge Wisdom gave Brother Paterson, Ann and I a most enlightening and enjoyable tour to the Baptismal Site of Jesus Christ followed by a tour of Petra ending up in a very plush resort by the Dead Sea.

On the Thursday evening Ann and Bro Paterson were entertained back in Amman by the Brethren of Lodge Wisdom and their wives while I attended a small dinner party with seven Brethren from Lodge Jordan 1339 hosted by PM Brother Mashour Haddad. We had a very pleasant evening during which we discussed all manner of topics but ended the evening with the topic of proxy representation. There is undoubtedly a need to review the whole subject of proxy representation with a view to encouraging those who undertake such duties to become more involved with the Lodges they represent.

Ramsay McGhee



The first Master of Lodge Wisdom, Brother Farid Kawar along with Andrew and myself at the Amman Citadel in Jordan.

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Royal Arch

Thursday, 11th October. After a short afternoon flight from Edinburgh to Gatwick, an overnight in the Airport Premier Inn, along with Grand Scribe, and my wife Joan, I embarked on our visit to Gibraltar where we were to install our new Grand Supervisor.

Friday, 12th October. An early alarm call followed by a 7.15am departure on a direct Easy Jet flight resulted in us touching down at Gibraltar Airport at approximately 11.30 a.m. local time where we were met and warmly welcomed by our present Grand Supervisor M.E. Companion Douglas Lopez, his successor, M.E. Companion Paul Villalta, and other senior members of our Order. Also present in this welcoming party were our own Depute First Grand Principal, M. E. Companion George Alexander and his wife Pat who had combined a family holiday in Spain to coincide with this formal visit.

A short journey from the airport and we had soon booked into the Continental Hotel. Lunch over and we were collected by M.E. Lopez and M.E. Companion Torres who provided "taxi facilities" for the remainder of our visit and also proved to be excellent guides with an unsurpassed knowledge of the history of Gibraltar. In the afternoon we enjoyed a "Rock Tour" which was greatly enhanced by the fascinating commentary from M.E. Companion Torres.

During the course of the evening Joan and Pat Alexander were handsomely entertained to a meal by several Ladies of the local Companions while we were given a very warm welcome as guests at the Installation Ceremony of the Irish Masters Lodge No 915 I.C. While there we witnessed an excellent Installation Ceremony which was followed by a quite wonderful harmony. This visit gave us the opportunity to renew old friendships and reflect on many changes since our last visit to Gibraltar.

Saturday, 13th September. During the morning we arranged to hold a short rehearsal which was very well attended by local Companions. Having adjourned for lunch we were collected early afternoon and enjoyed a memorable boat trip around The Rock. My thanks to M.E. Companions Toni Casano and Stephen Sequi for hosting us on this trip and explaining the various points of interest viewed from off-shore.

Later in the evening we assembled once again at the Gibraltar Masonic Institute and in the presence of a large number of Companions conducted the Installation Ceremony of the new Grand Supervisor M.E. Companion Villalta and his Depute M.E. Companion Gonzalez. It was most encouraging to welcome M.E. Companion Chiara, K.St.J; Provincial Grand Superintendent of Gibraltar, Irish Constitution and E. Companion Ryan, District Grand Superintendent, English Constitution. Their presence, along with several of their own members reinforced the excellent relationship which exists between the three Constitutions which operate in this relatively small community.

Later we all adjourned to The Med Rowing Club which was the venue for the Installation Harmony which was extremely well attended with Ladies being present.

Sunday, 14th September. An 11 a.m. Flight to Gatwick, a few hours delay there awaiting our connection to Edinburgh which was followed by the usual drive up the A9 and we arrived home reflecting on a truly memorable "weekend".

My grateful thanks to all those Companions and Ladies who contributed so much to ensure that this visit was one to be fondly remembered.

Ian Fraser.

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St Clement RAC No 244 –

Our next meeting will be on Friday 28th November. We will be conducting the EM Degree.

Cromarty Firth RAC

Our first meeting of this session was our installation meeting. MEC Henry MacInnes was installed as First Principal along with his office bearers. As with the Lodge a lot of reorganisation has to be done as Donnie and Duggie were key members of the Chapter and a lot of the business was conducted by them. As Donnie was Scribe we are still trying to find a suitable replacement.

On the 5th of November we will be conducting an EM degree for Bro Kyle Gordon from Lodge Averon and as MEC MacInnes is at present in foreign lands with his work commitments I am unable to say what is planned for the future meetings.

Raymond Morrison
Treasurer

HEBRIDES ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES 364

The installation this year saw the 3 Principals and Scribe N with same surname and they weren't Macleod's. Donald J Smith Z. Phil Smith H, James Smith J and Norman Smith SN.

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

Andrew Morrison DGP is visiting on Saturday 1st November when he will install Tom Paton as the new Preceptor.



Tom Paton (Centre) after his Installation as the new Preceptor

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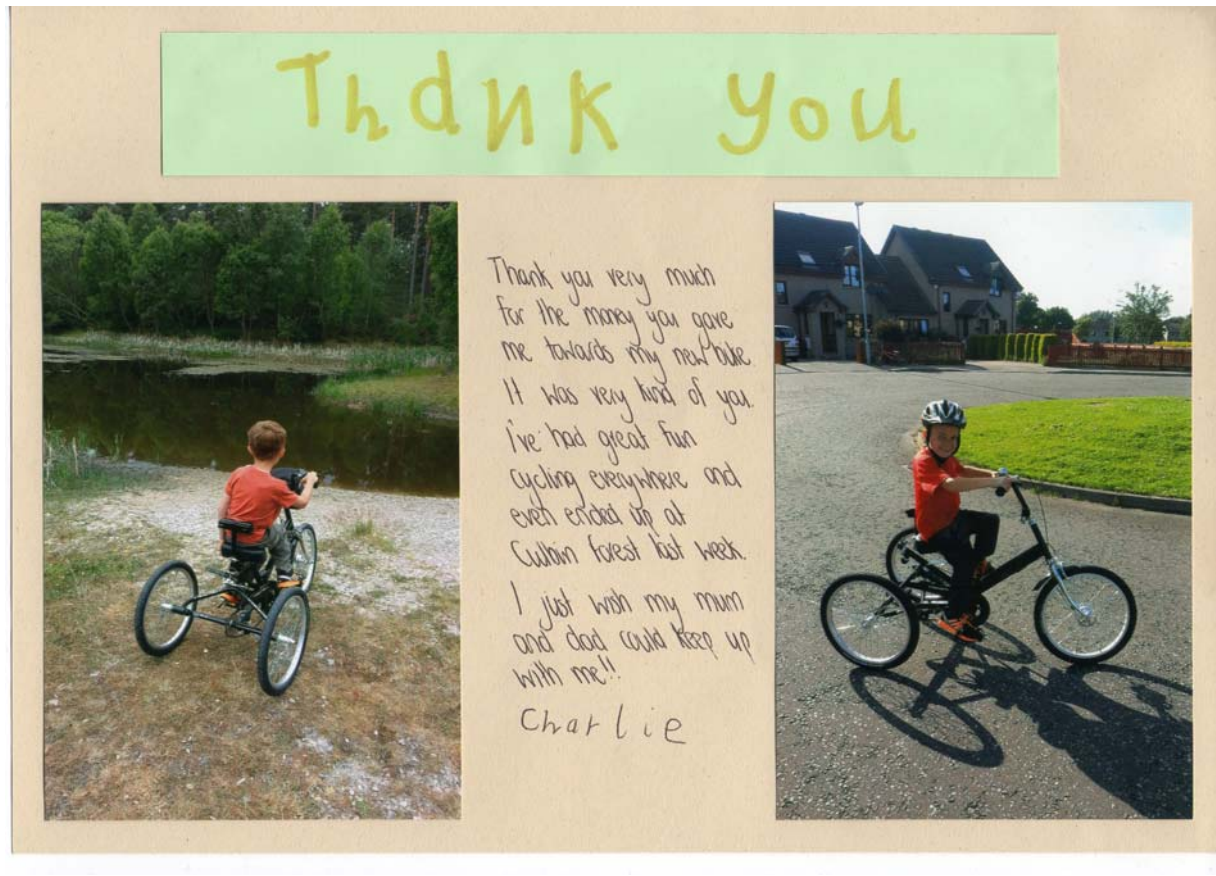
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The Squaremen – Hielan' Shed No 6

Many thanks to Bro Colin Thomson for the following photographs -



Guild Lodges

Highland Guild Lodge will meet in February

Rosicrucian College – Inverness

The next meeting of the Inverness College will take place on Monday 10th November.

Ramsay McGhee
Editor