

# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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

ISSUE NO 117

NOVEMBER 2023

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Province of Ross and Cromarty*



*The Lord Lyon, King of Arms, Past Grand Master, The GMM and  
Brother Marcus Humphrey of Dinnet, Past Grand Master at the  
Edinburgh Celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III*

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## Editorial

Welcome to the 117<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Patter.

This edition will be the last that I will write as Grand Master Mason. It has been a great honour to lead our beloved organisation for the past five years. I only hope and trust that I have lived up to expectations and that the progress that has been made, despite the efforts of Covid, will take the Craft forward into the future.

It would be remiss of me at this time not to thank the Brethren of this Province who have given me much support over the past five years – I can assure you Brethren; it has been truly appreciated.

At the August Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge, the turnout was, to say the least, disappointing. Our PGM and his Commission are working hard on our behalf, and they deserve our support in all that they strive to do. In theory there should be 36 Brethren in attendance before we start – the Master and the Wardens of each Lodge have a duty to represent their respective Lodges at every Communication. We then have approximately 30 Provincial Office-bearers and with a sprinkling of brethren from the 12 Lodges and a few visitors, we should be looking at around 75 Brethren at every Communication. We didn't have a third of that number in August.

Let us all make a concerted effort to support the Province – we can make a start by taking our wives to the Ben Wyvis Hotel on 10<sup>th</sup> November – I look forward to seeing you there.

*Ramsay McGhee*, Editor

## Grand Lodge of Scotland



The Grand Lodge programme is still busy – this week I will be in Malta with Past DGM, Thomas Constable Smith visiting Lodge St Andrew and attending to other Masonic business on while there.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November I will be in Bellshill celebrating 200 years of Lodge Woodhall.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November, I will be in Lodge Mallaig 1056.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November – home game – I will be in Golspie for Lodge St Andrew celebrations.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – launch of “Prospack” at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

23 – 26 Nov – European Grand Masters Conference in Dublin.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Grand Lodge Installation and Festival of St Andrew. I will have the honour and privilege to Install Brother Dr Joesph John Morrow into Office as our new Grand Master Mason.

*Ed*

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## Provincial Grand Lodge:

The long summer nights seem like a distant memory, as we all start to head out to our lodge meetings and the start of the new masonic season is well underway.

All the Lodges in the Province have now recommenced work again, many getting the important Business Meetings out of the way and all starting to prepare for the Installation season ahead.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September we held our Provincial Grand Lodge Divine Service in the Clubrooms at Lodge Seaforth No. 854 and what an uplifting and competently delivered ceremony we witnessed by the Grand Master Mason, Bro. Ramsay McGhee. It was a truly inspiring ceremony, and an uplifting start to our new masonic season.

The next Provincial Grand Lodge Communication will be on Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7.30pm, to be held at Lodge Fingal, Dingwall. A good turnout of Provincial and Daughter Lodge members will be appreciated.

On the 10th of November we will be hosting our Provincial Grand Lodge sponsored Dinner Dance/Ladies Night in the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer, which will be a great opportunity to meet socially with our good ladies present. This event is open to all masons and their friends, with an excellent three course dinner provided by the Ben Wyvis hotel, music, and dancing by the fantastic band The Impact, it promises to be an excellent fun night. Tickets are still available at £35 per person and available from PG Secretary or PG Master.

Training is now getting underway, by Prostate Scotland training staff, for those who have volunteered to take on the role of Prostate Champions. Some courses have taken place in the Central Belt area, with other courses being rolled out throughout the country. I am pleased that Raymond Abringe from Lodge Kyle will be our Prostate Champion for the West Coast area of our Province, Steven O'Donnell, and myself, will cover the East Coast area.

Many thanks to the Brethren who have volunteered to help promote awareness of prostate disease, and we shall keep you all posted when the train has been completed.

I am also delighted to report that donations are still being received for the NC500 Cycle Challenge that the four North Provincial Grand Lodges took part in earlier this year. We recently received a cheque from Bro. Simon Reagan whose mother lodge, Progress Lodge No. 4584 EC brought the total now raised to £5,099.

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It doesn't feel like five years ago since a distinguished contingent of Brethren from Ross and Cromarty travelled to Edinburgh to witness the first the installation of our own Bro. Ramsay McGhee into the office of Grand Master Mason.

Little did we, or he, know what was ahead of us all at that time, and despite the restrictions imposed on us by the various Covid-19 lockdowns, Brother Ramsay certainly rose to the challenge. He continued to work and travel tirelessly for the good of Scottish Freemasonry, not only at home here in Scotland, but travelling countless air miles around the world catching up with the Districts. There was a monumental effort, and plan of action, required to catch up on the installation of the Provincial and District Grand Masters, which was compounded by an almost two-year moratorium due to the Covid restrictions and the uncertainty on home and overseas travel.

We must also note his tremendous drive and leadership, which pushed all our efforts to raise well over a million pounds for Prostate Scotland during the Make It A Million appeal, which will go on to help educate awareness of prostate disease and improve the success rate of early diagnosis and treatment in beating this terrible disease which affects so many men of a certain age group.

This period has also witnessed the transformation of the structure of Grand Lodge into a slimmer, fitter and more professional organisation to lead us all forward in this rapidly changing world, with a leadership team equipped with skills and the vision to guide and lead Scottish Freemasonry.

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At the October Communication of Grand Lodge, which was Brother Ramsay's last communication meeting which he chaired, in his final Grand Masters report to the assembled audience, he summarised his term of office, where he relayed to the Brethren about the many challenges and difficulties he had to deal with, but he also reflected on the many good and happy times, the pleasing aspects of the role, the great support from colleagues and the many happy friendships made. As he closed his report, it was a fitting tribute that he received a standing ovation from all in Grand Lodge who wished to show their support and admiration of a job well done.

At the end of this month Brother Ramsay will relinquish the office of Grand Master Mason, and we wish him well in his retirement, but knowing him, it will not be a full cessation of his masonic duties, and therefore on behalf of all the masonic fraternity in Ross and Cromarty, we thank him for all of the tireless work he has carried out, not only for Scottish Freemasonry as a whole, but never losing sight of his own Province here in Highlands.



He has certainly kept the Province of Ross and Cromarty in the spotlight during his tenure of high office in the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

*Raymond Mackenzie*

Provincial Grand Master

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## Young Masons Group

After a summer recess the Young Masons Zoom Meetings resumed in October with a discussion on how the group would like to see them evolve as a group and a presentation on the Kirkwall Scroll, one of the oldest documents in Freemasonry in the World.

One proposal which was discussed at the Zoom meeting, and which was widely favoured, was to arrange to visit different lodges in the Province throughout the year and have a short social meet after each meeting closes.

It was thought that this proposal would not necessitate a separate meeting for the Young Masons, and it would also help boost lodge numbers. It would also mean that the group members would be introduced to potential new members at these lodge meetings and help to grow the group and encourage those who have not yet attended the Zoom Meetings to join in.

The first lodge meeting that the group attended was at Lodge Averon No. 866 on Thursday 25th October, where the Master and Office-bearers worked an Entered Apprentice Degree. It was an excellent night with one of the group, Brother Jaye Sinclair, standing in as candidate. The group witnessed a well worked degree with some young masons from Lodge Averon competently carrying out their parts.

The group also agreed that they would continue with the Zoom Meetings in the usual format, with a social discussion followed with a masonic presentation, which will also enable those living and working further afield to continue to meet.

*Raymond MacKeddie*, PGM

**Cycling for support.**

Northern Provincial Grand Lodges, a supporter group of Freemasons from across the North of Scotland, saddled up for a cycling relay fundraiser around the North Coast 500.

Cyclist Jim Beattie said, "As long-term supporters of Poppyscotland, we felt this was a fun way we could raise funds and say thank you to those who make sacrifices every day to keep us safe."

Hitting the road during weekends throughout May the Northern Provincial Grand Lodges raised over £4,900, smashing their target by nearly 1,000%!

If you feel inspired to undertake your own challenge, get in touch with your local fundraiser at [fundrasieforum@poppyscotland.org.uk](mailto:fundrasieforum@poppyscotland.org.uk) or call 0131 557 2782.

*Article that appeared in the poppy Scotland publication.*

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## From the Provincial Almoner

Sadly, since my last report:

On Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2023, Brother Iain Sinclair, PM of Lodge St Duthus No. 82 passed on at home to the Grand Lodge Above, after a short illness. Iain was a highly respected member of many orders and is a big loss to the Masonic fraternity.

I also report on the following:

Brother Donnie Graham, PM of Lodge Fortrose No. 108 is now at home. He passes on his kindest regards and thanks to all for their kind wishes.

Brother Duncan Munro, PM of Lodge Averon No. 866 is just the same with no real change.

Brother Finlay Mackenzie, PM of Lodge Averon No 866, is in good form, out and about and taking it easy.

Brother Ross Campbell, MM of Lodge St Duthus, No 82 is now at home and getting out occasionally.

I will close by asking once again, should any Brother require my assistance please get in touch with me.

I would also ask that Lodge Almoners please keep me updated on any Brother with health issues.

**Fred T Fraser** PM      Prov. Grand Almoner      [fraserft@yahoo.com](mailto:fraserft@yahoo.com)      01463 870307

## BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2005

There was an excellent turnout at the Annual Divine Service in Fearn Abbey on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October conducted jointly by Bro Rev Bill Niven and Bro Rev John MacGregor. The ladies of the congregation very kindly provided an excellent buffet at the close of the service and our grateful thanks is extended to them.

## *Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty*

# Dinner - Dance

in the **Ben Wyvis Hotel** in Strathpeffer

on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**6:30pm for 7:00pm**

Three course dinner followed by dancing to the band "**Impact**".

Tickets at **£35.00** per person from the PGM or PG Secretary.

The dress code will be **Black Tie and Formal**.

There will be a **Raffle**.

Rooms are available at the Ben Wyvis Hotel at **£80.00 per couple**

Rooms can be reserved by contacting the Ben Wyvis Hotel by  
telephone, at **01997 423387**.



## Around the Lodges

### Lodge St Duthus No 82



It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Brother Iain Sinclair, PM, member of Lodge St. Duthus No. 82 and many other Side Orders of Freemasonry. It was pleasing to note the large attendance of Brethren at the funeral.

Our thoughts and prayers at this time are with Sheena and the family.

The programme at St Duthus is as follows.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November Installation & possible ballot depending on the outcome of an Enquiry Meeting

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December Entered Apprentice Degree for Mr Jonathan Murphy

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January no meeting (this needs to be ratified by PGM)

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February Fellowcraft Degree or an Entered Apprentice Degree

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March to be confirmed.

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April to be confirmed.

Ed

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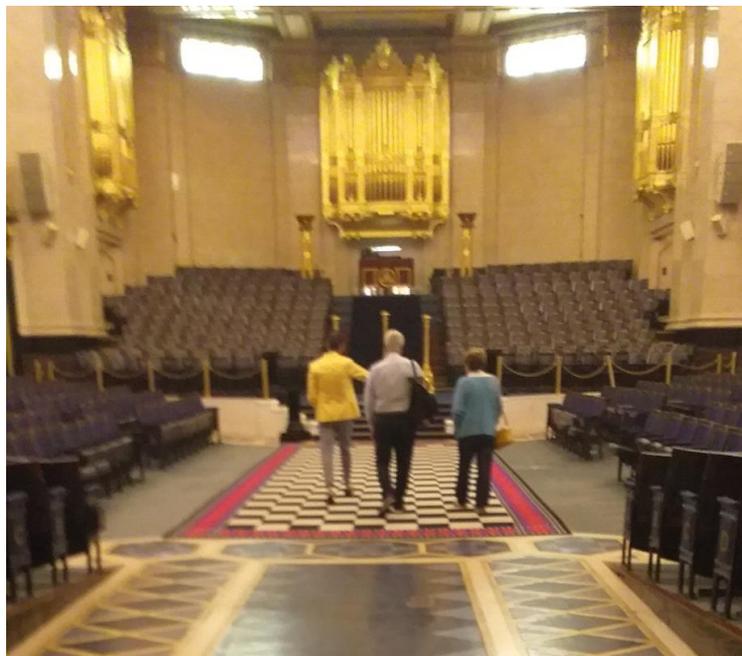
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## Lodge Fortrose No 108

At our August regular meeting PM Bro Ian Macaulay gave a presentation on his recent visit to Freemasons Hall in London and encouraged brethren to visit if they had the chance. PM Macaulay read an interesting article from the UGLE magazine on the initiation of a brother who was accompanied by his hearing dog who is now also a master mason.



*A view of the east in the Grand Lodge of England*

We must congratulate PM Sandy Matheson, CVO, OBE on being granted the Freedom of the Western Isles by Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

At our September regular meeting which was the nomination and Election of Office Bearers Bro Norman Smith was elected Right Worshipful Master for 2024. Our installation meeting will be on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December to which all are welcome. On the following afternoon we intend to hire a coach and attend the installation at St Clement in Harris, happy days!

As we have no candidates waiting in the wings an emulation 2<sup>nd</sup> degree was worked at our October meeting.

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Our sincere best wishes must go out to PM Donnie Graham who was recently diagnosed with motor neuron disease. We hope with the work that's being carried out at this time into MND that some kind of cure can be found for this debilitating disease soon.

During this last quarter we had to record the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Iain "Clendy" MacLennan and David C Watson.

*Donnie Macleod*

Donald Macleod PM

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2005**

Bro Rev Bill Niven mentioned in his sermon at the Provincial Divine Service that we all enjoy the change that occurs when we go on holiday. That type of change apart, very few of us relish any other form of change. We are all too comfortable with what we know and with what we are used to. Any departure from the norm is resisted vigorously.

However, if we want our beloved Freemasonry to flourish in future, we are going to have to change or we will fail to leave a legacy, such as most of us received, for those coming after us. What we must accept is that everything around us is changing and we cannot afford to stand still or we will be left behind. Nobody, for one minute, would advocate that we change our treasured tenets or principals. What we must change is our attitude, our outlook, and our way of operating – we must promote an organisation that is dynamic, that meets the expectations and needs of not only the younger men whom we seek to take Freemasonry forward, but also their families.

The argument that the Craft has had its ups and downs in the past and will sort itself out in future is not a valid one. We have a duty to change the Craft to meet the changing demands – let's bite the bullet and face up to our responsibilities.

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## Robertson's Lodge No 134

Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

Robertson's Lodge members held their first meeting of the season 2023 to 2024 on 20<sup>th</sup> September. This meeting was a Business Meeting where the members met again and discussed events for the new Season. The main business discussed was the planning for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lodge on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the Lodge has arranged for the Grand Lodge Visitation and have also booked the Victoria Hall in Cromarty for the function.

The Master, Brother Derek M. Rodway, his office-bearers, and the members continue to arrange for the remainder of the plans and the finer details.

The second meeting was also a business meeting, one of the matters discussed was the application for two new candidates and an affiliation which is to be welcomed for the Lodge. However, one of the main events was the presentation to Brother Brian J. Poloczec PM, current Depute Master, of his Jubilee Certificate for 50 Years of excellent and exemplary Service to Freemasonry by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Brother Raymond A. MacKeddie.



*Brothers Rodway, Poloczec and MacKeddie.*

Our November meeting will be the AGM, with the Installation Meeting in December.

Please stay safe and well Brethren.

*Peter K. Ratcliffe.*  
Lodge Secretary.

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## Lodge Fingal No 318

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, the Lodge returned from Refreshment to Labour. After the business of the evening was concluded, the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Raymond Alexander MacKeddie gave us a Lecture on Masonic Etiquette. The PGM must have spent a lot of time in setting up his Lecture, which lasted for some 50 minutes. The content ranged from how to address the Master, why we set off with our left foot, to squaring the Carpet. Mention was also made about Regalia and the difference between English and Scottish. The Brethren who attended the meeting, seemed to be very inspired, which gave rise to many questions being asked at the conclusion of the presentation.

### Forthcoming events in the Lodge}

<b>November 14<sup>th</sup>:</b>	AGM and nomination of Office Bearers.
<b>December 12<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Hopefully an EA Degree.
<b>December 29<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Installation for Brother Alexander John Craib (Elect), and Office Bearers. Tyle at 6:30pm. With a small harmony, in the Logie Lounge, to follow.
<b>January 9<sup>th</sup>:</b>	To be decided.
<b>February 13<sup>th</sup>:</b>	To be decided.
<b>March 12<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Provincial Visitation.
<b>April 9<sup>th</sup>:</b>	To be decided.

### Event in the Logie Lounge:

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November}** Race Night, 7:00 for 7:30. Race convenor to be Brother Ali Matheson.

As we approach the Festive Season, on behalf of the 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 RWM*

*Secretary.*

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## *LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851*

The third meeting in August was an illustrated presentation on Roslyn Chapel by Brother James Coghlan. The presentation was well received by the fifty plus Brethren in attendance. James was able to show aspects of the Chapel that most of us would walk past. He also illustrated the links between the icons and carvings to freemasonry. It was a most interesting and informative lecture. Such was the success of the presentation that he has now been invited to make the same presentation at other Lodges including one in Iceland.

The next meeting in June will be our Installation Meeting at which Brother John Stott will be installed. John will be the first Master who is not already a Past Master so, in addition to the normal Allan Wilson duties, local Lodges will be inviting Lodge Allan Wilson to work Degrees for them so that he can, at the end of his tenure, properly qualify as a Past Master. We all look forward to working with him during his year in office.

*Ramsay McGhee* - Secretary



*Our speaker, Brother James Coghlan, on the left, with the GMM centre and Brother Geoff Spence, another expert on Roslyn pictured outside Roslyn Chapel.*

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## **LODGE SEAFORTH 854**

Since our last report, the Master, Bro. David Roska, and his Office-bearers have kicked off the new season with a Fellowcraft Degree for Bro. Steven Campbell at our September Meeting.

It was planned to raise Bro. Steven to the Master Mason Degree at our October Meeting, but unfortunately, he wasn't feeling well on the day and later tested positive for Covid and had to give the meeting a miss. Fortunately, a willing volunteer was conscripted to fill the absentee part to allow the team to work the degree as a practise on the night. Many thanks to PM Henry Cameron for helping on the night.

Our next meeting, on Monday 20th November shall be our Annual General Meeting and Election of Office-bearers for the forthcoming season.

The Installation Meeting of the Master and his Office-bearers shall be on Saturday 9th December at 15.00hrs, followed by the Festival of St John in the Clubrooms.

The Installing Masters shall be Brother Ramsay McGhee PM and Brother Raymond MacKeddie PGM and all Brethren are most welcome to attend.

*Raymond MacKeddie* PM - Secretary

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 1996**

Congratulations are due to Past Substitute Master, Brother Harry Rodger, one of the Seaforth octogenarian club who was made an Honorary Member of the Chanonry Sailing Club at the beginning of October.

The Lodge annual sale realised the sum of £580.

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## LODGE AVERON No 866

Hi there, Brethren,

I hope you are all well and rested after the summer recess. Lodge Averon re-commenced work for the new season on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October with a business meeting, then on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October we carried out an Exemplification of a 1st Degree which was attended by the PGM and members of the Province's Young Masons Group and a good number of visiting Brethren.

During the summer recess the Lodge ran various events beginning with a Quiz night on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May. Although not terribly well attended, the folks present had a great laugh and hopefully learned a few things which might improve scores for the next time.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of June, we had a race night which proved a great success although some of the donkeys are probably still running.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> of July was a cracking day of wall-to-wall sunshine, this was ordered specially for our Family Barbeque, which was open to friends and family and the wider community. It was also the first time we used our new marquee (how many masons does it take to put this together? The answer - 'lots'). The day was magic, there was also an inflatable with duelling bashers to entertain the children who had a great time as well as the grownups cracking away with the background music giving it laldy. We all went home a few pounds heavier after the ample food and refreshments provided.

Next up was our Charity Golf outing to Invergordon Golf Club on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of August, which was run as a Texas scramble with a 'shotgun start'. The day started with coffee/tea and a bacon roll which was greatly received. Some great golf and some not-so-great golf was played throughout the day followed by a prize giving. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd were recognised as well as nearest to the pin and longest drive.

Our final event of the summer was a night of mediumship with Jan Mayfair on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> of August. This was truly a great night which was open to our brethren, their families, and the community which we support in our charity efforts. There were lots of enquires as to when we would run a night like this again, hopefully someone will send us a sign!!

Before I finish, the Master Bro Charlie Carrison PM would like to thank greatly all the Brethren and their ladies who gave up their time to organise and run these events. All who attended and supported the events, and finally, all the local businesses who sponsored races, horses, and golf holes, we are indebted to you.

*Brother James MacDougall*

## LODGE NESS No 888

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## LODGE KYLE No 1117

It should also be noted that most mail apps don't shrink the file size of an image you add, it only shrinks the way it is displayed. An image that is made to look the size of a postage stamp can be larger than A4! It's the truth that we all get older and at some point, in time we settle into retirement. Sadly, after many years of retirement Lodge Kyle was handed two letters of resignation in a very short period. Both letters provided were very well written with logical reasons why these two Past Masters were unable to return to the Lodge. The Lodge respects their wishes.

Kyle will also be welcoming a group of 10 travelling Brethren from Lodge Ancient, to Lodge Kyle. After visiting St Kilda 881 in Portree, they will be coming to Kyle for an informal visit (no regalia), a good lunch and some light refreshment. As this is not a formal Meeting, there will also be two very special retired guests and a presentation for their combined 110 years of service to The Craft! There will be a small presentation in recognition of their work in Freemasonry.

In other news ... The Lodge's fabric continues to be worked upon thanks the seemingly limitless skills of our RWM, Brother Steve Whittaker. We also now have an informal caretaker, who makes the fire(s) and ensures the Lodge is sparkingly clean. He also keeps the garden in trim. We are indeed fortunate to have such members and past members.

Corporate Identity in Electronic Communications: As Lodge Secretary, I have the privilege of coordinating information received from the various Lodges and from this position, have an overview of how information is distributed. Most communications come in the form of an email. Emails invariably also contain a variety of attachments such as images of documents, MS Word, or Adobe PDF. However, people in general are increasingly using phones to view email. As I am involved in the IT industry, I am happy to receive information in almost any format; I am sure many Brethren wish things might be made simpler, and in the case of mobile phone users; simpler means smaller documents that are easy to access and process (archive etc).

The single item affecting the size of a document is imagery (photos, logos, and graphics). As an exercise I opened one of the logos from an email in a basic image editor from Adobe, halved the height and width, saved the file as a .png and the file is now 72.6KB, whereas the original image weighed in at 1,160kb (The file size could also be shrunk using FREE on-line software to 285kb at [pixlr.com](http://pixlr.com) - not quite as efficient as Adobe, but cost effective and a quarter of the original size!). The test document was originally 1.3mb and is now under 200kb and looks identical to the original – it's just more efficient to transmit and archive.

It should also be noted that there are security issues of attaching files to emails. MS Word and Adobe PDF can both harbour viruses. While most senders are conscientious and have antivirus software installed on their desktop PCs and Laptops; is your/their phone similarly protected?

Why not send run of the mill communications by simply typing a message into an email, after all that's what email apps were designed for?

*Ronnie Miller*, PM - Secretary

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## LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

We commenced the new session on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October which was our AGM and Business meeting. Although not well advertised we had 3 visitors PPGM Bro Downie and Brothers MacDougall and Carrison from Lodge Averon. Thanks for attending gents. We had some Obituaries to commence the evening for Lodge members Brothers William Jack, Les Warne and Alexander Mowat (Alistair). Along with Martin Maclean (Lodge Priory) and Angus John Sinclair (St. Duthus). The Brethren observed a minute's silence in their memory.

Not much to report from the AGM – accounts looking healthy and little change to the Office Bearers for coming season. Test Fees were set for £60 and £50 for over 65's.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday 3 November at 7.45pm when we will be working a Fellowcraft degree for Bro Steven Bassindale. On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December we will hold our Installation meeting at 7.45pm with Bro Donald McLennan RWM being reinstated for the ensuing 12 months. Our January meeting is normally held on the second Friday, but this may be subject to change depending on availability of Office-Bearers.

As previously mentioned, Bro Lesley Warne passed away in Raigmore Hospital on 21 August 2023 following lengthy health problems starting with removal of a foot due to diabetes and thereafter cancer. Les moved to Avoch in the late 1980's and settled in George Street with wife Sue. We found out at his funeral he was a fisherman but when he arrived in Avoch he worked as a crisp salesman. He also worked for our RWM Donald in his fencing business. Les joined the Lodge in 1989 and although mainly happy as tyler, he also did some parts on the floor and was accomplished at these. He was a very regular attender pre covid period. Les was also proud to see his son David join Lodge Rosehaugh in 1991. Quite a few Brethren attended the funeral with a number placing a sprig of acacia on Les's coffin.

*Keith Patience, PM*

### **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2007**

On Saturday May 19th, 2007, the following Brethren - led by RWM Allan Carmichael - attended Lodge St. Martin 1217 for the annual meeting of the Lodges chartered on the same day in 1920; PM Donald McLennan, PM Sandy Rose, SD Duncan Macleman, JD Scott Patience and Bro. Raymond Owens. The trip went smoothly and allowed us to have a couple of quick drams while we renewed old acquaintances. Next year's meeting will be held in Paisley at Lodge Gleniffer 1219.

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## Lodge St Martin 1217

The lodge has resumed business in October with our AGM and Election of Office-bearers. Our November meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> will see Past Master Bro. Gordon Mackenzie being installed with his Office-bearers by Installing Master Bro. Mike Turner. The meeting will tyle at 19.30 for normal business with visitors being admitted at 20.00hrs for the Installation.

The December (19<sup>th</sup>) meeting will be a third degree for Brother Simon Mackenzie and a third degree in January (16<sup>th</sup>) for Brother Jon Stranix.

The fireworks display and associated mulled wine this year has been postponed due to a recent tragic accident in the village. The Santa float is scheduled to tour Ullapool on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December with the proceeds going back to the children of the village and surrounding areas.

The RWM, Office-bearers and Brethren of the lodge would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful 2024.

*Charles MacAulay, PM*  
Secretary

## BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2010

Members of Lodge St Martin No. 1217 had the pleasure, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2010 to witness the presentation of a Jubilee Certificate to 87-year-old Bro Murdoch Maclean Macleod by the Past Provincial Grand Master Bro Morris M Downie, assisted by the Provincial Grand Secretary Bro Charles J F Macaulay. Bro Macleod joined the Lodge on 2nd May 1947 before immigrating to America where he made his home in Delaware. He is a renowned piping judge and most enthusiastic about all things Scottish. Piping being his main hobby, he helped the establishment of the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association. He was the Vice President to the first two Presidents and became its third President. In 1987 he helped form the U S Piping Foundation and still serves as President. He was also a founding member of the Colonial Highland Gathering and retired this year as President in its 50<sup>th</sup> year. The EUSPBA is the largest organisation of piping world-wide. He was accompanied in Ullapool by his daughter Catriona. To mark the occasion a very pleasant evening was had by all in the Lodge anti-room and sincere congratulations are extended to the recipient, who was born and brought up on the shores of Lochbroom in Ullapool.

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## Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

The resumption following the summer recess did not get off to a good start. As reported in the August issue of the Patter, a Committee of Enquiry was held on August 5<sup>th</sup> for a Mr Philip Callin, a resident of Lochcarron. Having been unanimously approved, we proposed to formally announce his application at the September meeting, with a view to initiating him in October. Sadly, a couple of weeks later he suddenly passed away. He was 58.

As to the September meeting itself, that had to be cancelled due to an insufficient number of Brethren able to attend.

However, and, thankfully, on a brighter note, at our October meeting we were able to affiliate Bro Niven Patten. We also received an Application for Affiliation from Bro Martin Robertson, a member of Lodge Fingal and, most importantly, a resident of Gairloch, meaning we will once again have a member of the Lodge living locally – not 40 miles away!

*Michael Longley*, PM – Lodge Loch Ewe

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2005**

Lodge Loch Ewe had recently been presented with a superb picture of Depute Master Robert Burns. This has now been hung in a prominent place in the West.

The Lodge will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November 2008. Lodge Secretary, Brother Duncan MacLennan reminded the Lodge of this, and ways of raising funds to celebrate this occasion in due style are already under discussion.

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## Ye Corporation O' Squaremen Hielan Shed



On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August we visited Lodge Averon where we had one Candidate and a very successful day.

*Left: WD Douglas McDonald handing over a Cheque to Gary Millar for a Charity of Lodge Averon's choosing.*

*Below Left: Provincial Bowls Winners Lodge St Kearan 1155.*

*Below Right: The Runners-up – Lodge Drumossie 1438 "B" Team*

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of August our gallant team of Mike Beattie, Dougie Treasurer (from Thurso) John G Mackay and Skip Neil Cooper didn't manage to hold on to the Shield they won last year, however a good day out was had by all – The winners were St Kearnan, Runners up Lodge Drumossie B team, third Lodge Drumossie A team and the Wooden Spoon went to Lodge St Mary's who hosted the event.



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On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September after a calm Ferry crossing over the Minch and a Bus from Stornoway we visited Lodge St Clements 1353 in Tarbert Harris – this proved to be probably the best Meeting we have had for a long while – We only had 3 Candidates but they really got into the spirit of the Degree carrying out their requirements with concentration and enthusiasm - as a change from the norm I enclose a copy of a WhatsApp message we received from PM Donald John Mackay MBE – after the Meeting we returned to Lodge Fortrose 108 in Stornoway to finish off the evening and a worthwhile visit to the Western Isles

Donald Johns message -

*What a fantastic afternoon we had at St., Clements this afternoon, must have been one of the most joyous, harmonious meetings I have attended in my mother Lodge and raised so much for charity. Slainte to all in the craft, a lot of brothers would have loved to be there today, but prior commitments prevented that, anyway we will all meet again and rejoice in the spirit of Freemasonry! Onwards and upwards Brethren, Slainte.*

It is with sadness that we must report the Passing to the Grand Shed above of Past Grand Auld Deacon Bri Hammy McGlone – Hammy was GWD in 1986 and was a regular attender in Heilan Shed and attended Ochil Shed until the week before he passed at the age of 93 years – a great Mason who will be sadly missed.

Further we have just been notified that The Mither Shed which was based in Edinburgh has closed due to the lack of Brither's wanting to take Office and learn Ritual – they have struggled for a while now and after much soul searching, they decided they cannot carry on.

On 18<sup>th</sup> November we will be visiting Grand Shed in Dundee for the Deacon's Court and Grand Shed visit to Angus Shed

*John & Mackay  
Boxie*

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2007**

There was a meeting of the Shed in Fingal Lodge on Saturday 4 August 2007, which was well attended. Four Fingal Brethren went through. There was a magnificent collection of which £350 was donated to Lodge Fingal to allocate to a local charity.

At the September meeting in Stornoway, another magnificent effort saw the sum of £1400 being raised, half of which was left with the Lodge Fortrose Brethren for use in Lewis.

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## PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

The Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross and Cromarty met to hold its 100th Anniversary on Saturday 14th October in Lodge St Duthus No. 82, the home of the oldest Chapter in the Province, Tain And Ross Royal Arch Chapter No. 63. Although there were several call offs in attendees the members experienced a day to remember. All Chapters in the Province of Ross and Cromarty were represented.

The Chapter was blessed with the attendance of the 1st Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, Dr Joseph John Morrow, C.V.O., C.B.E., K.C., L.L.D., F.R.S.E and a deputation of Office Bearers from Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter, to carry out the Rededication ceremony of the Chapter.

The Rededication Ceremony was carried out in a most efficient and dignified manner to everybody's interest, delight, and enjoyment.

100 years in existence of Royal Arch Freemasonry is a long time and Comp. Steven O'Donnel, acting Scribe E for the function, read a very interesting resume on its history.

At the close of the meeting the companions retired to the Royal Hotel Tain for the gastronomical delights on offer there to celebrate the milestone of Royal Arch Freemasonry in Ross and Cromarty.

The invited guest of local dignitary Cllr Alastair Rhind, after the toast to "The King" Welcomed all present into the Royal and Ancient Burch of Tain, who stated that although not a Freemason was honoured and delighted to have been asked to attend. This was followed by a stirring speech by the principal Guest, Companion Dr Joseph J. Morrow.

The usual Speeches and replies were also of a high standard, enjoyed by all present.

I was privileged, honoured, and delighted to lead the Organisation at this imported milestone and would thank most sincerely all who contributed, in any way, to make the day the success that it was.

The next Quarterly Convocation of the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross and Cromarty will be held in Lodge Fingal, Dingwall on Saturday 20th January 2024 at 12 noon where, hopefully, an interesting Agenda should ensue.

*Morris M Downie*  
Grand Superintendent

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*Seated left to right – Donald Gunn; James A Tait; Morris M Downie.  
1st Grand Principal Dr Joseph J Morrow; Derek Rodway and David Niven.*

The following photo identifies James MacDougal, proprietor of “**MacDougal Plant Hire**”, receiving the donation to Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross and Cromarty of a night’s stay in the prestigious Lochcarron Hotel by owner Bro Niven Patton as the result of an auction on Saturday 14th October, held in the Royal Hotel, Tain, to mark 100 years.

Bro MacDougal is flanked by the Grand 1st Principal of Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland and Ross and Cromarty’s Grand Superintendent Morris M Downie.



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## **Tain & Ross RAC 63**

Please note - The Tain and Ross RAC have changed their meeting night to the fourth Monday. This will alleviate clashes with Lodge Fingal and Lodge Ness.

The next meeting will be Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

## **ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.**

Companion Lesley Morgan was installed as 1<sup>st</sup> Principal and past 1<sup>st</sup> Principal Alan McPhee was re-installed as 2<sup>nd</sup> Principal all other office bearers remained in their respective offices.

After a long period of no candidates, we had one this year when Comp Lachie Fraser joined our ranks.

Bros Henry Macinnes & Archie Macdonald were reinstalled as Father Noah and Thrice Illustrious Master respectively at the October meeting of the Ark Mariner and Cryptic Council, their office bearers were all also reinstalled on the same evening.

*Donnie Macleod*

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

## **PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES**

Right Eminent District Grand Prior Eric Macgregor along with 6 of his officers visited on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October and carried out an exemplary re-installation of the preceptory's officers. This was Frater Eric's first official outing since being installed as DGP. It was their intention to return to the mainland on Sunday but unfortunately the ferry was cancelled due to the swell in the Minch however they got away safely on Monday morning. The ferry cancellation allowed them to enjoy the nice weather in Stornoway on Sunday as well as a brisk walk round the castle grounds.



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## Royal Order of Scotland

### Province Grand Lodge of Inverness and the Highlands

Following on from the Installation of the Provincial Grand Master on 10 June 2023 (August Patter, pp33-35), the Royal Order, under the organisation of Bro John Baillie, Provincial Grand Steward, raised the superb sum of £1000 from a raffle and auction, to be donated to Moray Firth Radio's Cash for Kids. The donation will be made in the first week of November, too late for photos for this edition of the Patter, so these will follow along.

The Royal Order of Scotland is one of the most historic Orders within Freemasonry and can trace its regal roots back 700 years. That royal connection originates with Robert the Bruce, who is said to have conferred knighthoods on a group of Freemasons who assisted him in his victory over the English at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Those knights are recognised as the first members of the Royal Order of Scotland.

Today, the Headquarters of the Royal Order of Scotland is in Edinburgh, as it has been for over 250 years. The Grand Lodge is unusual as it is the only Grand Lodge to work the ceremonials and to admit new members itself.

The Hereditary Grand Master of the Royal Order is the King of Scots, which position is at this time not filled. The Head of the Order and chairman of the Grand Lodge has the title of Deputy Grand Master and Governor. The honour is held today by Brother Ewan Rutherford. He presides over a network of 96 Provincial Grand Lodges around the world; five in Scotland and 33 in England, with the remaining spread across the rest of Europe, Canada, the US, Australasia, Africa, East Asia, and the Caribbean.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness and the Highlands was constituted in 1951, and meets at the Masonic Temple, Inverness, on the second Saturday of April, June, and September.

Provincial Grand Secretary: Bro. Michael Scott Turner

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## BITS AND PIECES

### **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2008**

On Saturday 23rd August a special meeting was held in Lodge St Martin Ullapool where the members of the Hebrides Cryptic council came across the Minch to work a degree for the other Ross-shire companions. This is the first time such an event has taken place, and hopefully it will not be the last.

The Hebrides Lodge and Council is the only one in our Province and it was good to see such a turnout of companions for them. We had many companions from Provincial Chapter along with the Grand Superintendent and a large deputation from our neighbouring province of Inverness-shire along with their Grand Superintendent. There were at least a dozen candidates for the Degree, which was quite exceptional, and, along with the office bearers of Hebrides Council, other members, and visitors the Lodge room was absolutely packed. The degree work was excellent and all of us enjoyed it including the candidates.

Another gem from the late Brother Roddy Cade –

I am rooted in the midst of great antiquity  
And I point to God and eternity.  
For I am the Past, the Present and indeed the Future.  
I belong to all ages; I circle the globe and stand at the very crossroads of the world.  
I am steeped in tradition and can be traced in the pages of history for I have rites and words that have beauty, symmetry and rhythm.  
I have knowledge, wisdom and secrets, which are locked in my bosom.  
I place on my altars, Holy Writ and turn to Deity in prayer.  
I hold a square and compass in my hands and I contemplate a line from earth to heaven.  
For I make builders of men,  
Of those who are willing  
And I give them tools that they may work.  
I stoop to raise the fallen Brethren and cast out the unworthy.  
I walk in the way of charity and I travel the road of peace and harmony.  
I render aid to the poor, the sick and distressed.  
I answer the cry of the orphan and sustain the widow and the aged.  
Finally, I commit to the earth Brethren who travel to that undiscovered country, and I ponder at the moment on the ravages of time as I stand at the door of eternity.  
For, Brethren, I am a way of life that teaches immortality.  
I raise men from darkness to light.

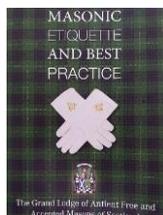
May God Bless our Lodges and all the Brethren.

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This booklet from the Grand Lodge of Scotland will be helpful to all but especially to those making their way up through the offices towards the chair of their Lodge. The new publication is available from Grand Lodge and priced at a very reasonable £3.00 per copy, £1.00 of which is going to Masonic Charities. The booklet is the work of the Information and Communications Committee and is an easy guide to Masonic Etiquette and Best Practice.

It covers the A to Z of decorum within the Lodges from the correct positioning of the Altar to correct forms of Address, to Visiting. The booklet also contains guidelines for the use of Masonic Websites, Email, and social media. One copy is currently being sent to each Master, free of charge and thereafter, the booklet will be available to all to purchase.

## *Grand Lodge of Scotland – On-line shopping*



Here is a small selection of items available from the Grand Lodge Shop

