

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 111

MAY 2022

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty



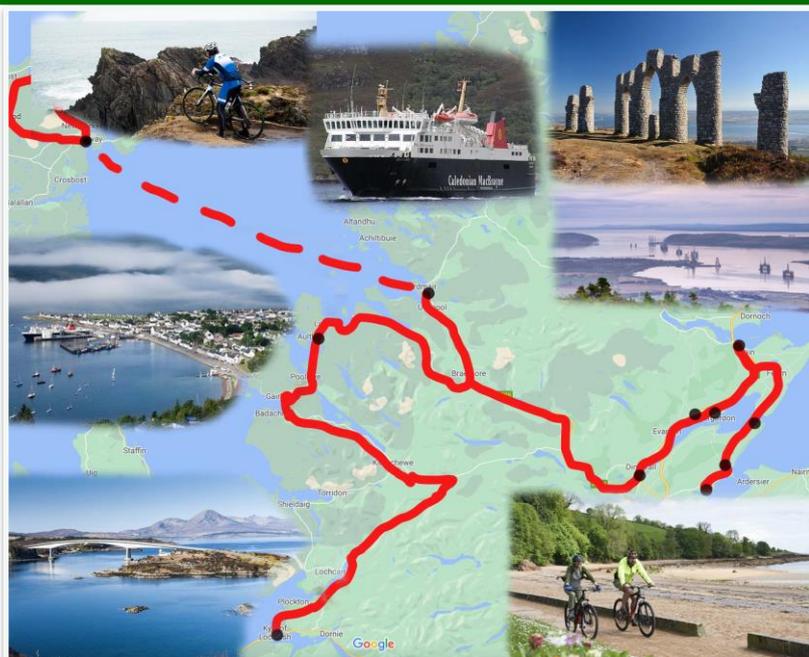
ROUND ROSS CYCLE

Come and support the Provincial Grand Master cycle to visit each lodge in the Province. If you do not wish to cycle, please donate to this event, and help get to the **£1 million target funding for Prostrate Cancer Scotland**.

Raymond MacKeddie and James Fraser shall be cycling the route from Kyle to Aultbea and Ullapool, crossing the Minch to Stornoway, returning to Dingwall, and visiting the lodges in Alness, Invergordon, Tain, Cromarty, Fortrose and finishing in Avoch, a **distance of around 250 miles**.

Each lodge is encouraged to enter representatives to support and encourage our cyclists along the way, either to join them approaching a lodge or leaving a lodge. Cyclists can ride as far as they feel comfortable, and the main thing is to have some fun and raise funds for this very worthy cause.

To donate use Just Giving Page or to PG Treasurer, Gwyn Phillips



Friday 13th May, Day 1 Start at Lodge Kyle 1117 to Kinlochewe.

Saturday 14th May, Day 2 Kinlochewe to Lodge Lochewe 1551 and St. Martin 1217.

Friday 20th May, Ferry to Lodge Fortrose 108, Stornoway, cycle in Isle of Lewis.

Saturday 21st May, Ullapool to Lodge Fingal 318

Sunday 22nd May, Lodges Fingal 318, Avoch 866, Ness 888,

St Duthus 82, Robertson's 134, Seaforth 854, Allan Wilson 851 & Rosehaugh 1216.



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Editorial

Welcome to the 111th edition of the “Provincial Patter”.

Much progress has been made since the February issue with almost all the Lodges in the Province operational once again which is great news. But in saying that we cannot lose sight of the fact that Covid is still very much with us and is likely to remain with us for the foreseeable future. However, by getting the vaccinations and taking sensible precautions we can once again enjoy our Freemasonry in as safe an environment as is possible.

The PGM makes mention of it in his column, but I was delighted to see the Deputation from Ross and Cromarty in Trinidad when I arrived there from Barbados. I have put an abridged version of my report for the 2023 Yearbook at the end of this issue.

I am very much looking forward to the Joint Meeting with Lodge Allan Wilson 851 and Lodge Seaforth 854. I will be joined by Past Senior Grand Chaplain, Brother Rev Iain Ramsden, Assistant Grand D of C, Brother Ronnie Forbes and Junior Grand Standard-bearer, Brother Alex Craib all of whom will assist in the Ceremony of Rededication. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the day when we can enjoy not only Masonic Ceremonial but enjoy fellowship over lunch.

The annual Lodge of Sorrow this year takes on a special poignancy as it is the first to invite relatives of the deceased to join with us in remembering their loved ones. Please support the PGM and come along to the service on Sunday 1st May in Dingwall.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



As we go to print with this February edition, I am about to leave these shores once again, this time for Africa where I'll be installing the new District Grand Master of East Africa, Brother Kalpesh Shah, in Nairobi, followed by a flight to Harare to install Brother Robert M Fisher as the new DGM of Zimbabwe. From Zimbabwe I will travel to Malawi to install the new Grand Superintendent, Brother Peter Curtis in Blantyre and hopefully fit in a trip to the Mountain View School at the same time. Finally, to Namibia to install

Since our return from the Caribbean, the Depute Grand Master, Brother Jim Bell has conducted the 250th Anniversary celebrations at Paisley St Mirren's No 129 and attended the Reigning Masters Meeting I Stirling. I conducted a 100th Anniversary at Lodge Hopetoun St John, the Provincial Installation in Aberdeen City and the 350th Anniversary of The Lodge of Aberdeen No 1 ter. Jim Bell, Jim Peddie, and I along with Grand secretary attended the zoom meetings with both the District and provincial Grand Masters. I also had the privilege of witnessing an excellent MM Degree in Lodge Scoon & Perth No 3

On 30th April, I installed the new Provincial Grand Master of Galloway followed by a 275th Rededication.

As we go to print, I look forward to the Joint Rededication Ceremony with Lodge Allan Wilson No 851 and Lodge Seaforth No 854

Ed

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

It has been a busy three months since I last wrote a piece to the Patter, with Provincial Grand Lodge visitations to seven of the lodges in the Province, an overseas trip to Port of Spain, Trinidad, and attending various fundraising events taking place.

It is good to see that most of the Lodges in the Province are now open for meetings and many have new initiates joining them. I have managed to visit all the lodges that have opened to visitors, and it is good to witness the camaraderie and support that our lodges provide to the members.

Since February, the Provincial Grand Lodge has visited seven daughter lodges in the Province and at each visit the degree work has been of a high standard, which is to be applauded as some of the lodges visited had just recently opened from lockdown.

From the PGL visits, it is encouraging to note that most lodges, despite the imposed lockdown have managed to continue to function administratively, maintained communication with members and continued their good charity work. At every visit, I am pleased to note that each lodge has continued its support to local causes, particularly local charities that are carrying out vital work in our communities.

I look forward to catching up with the Brethren of the remaining lodges to be visited,

2 May 2022 - Lodge Kyle No. 1117

6 May 2022 – Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216

12 May 2022 – Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551

20 May 2022 – Lodge Fortrose No. 108

12 July 2022 – Lodge Allan Wilson No. 851.

At the end of March, I led a small deputation from the Province to Port of Spain in Trinidad to attend several meetings in the District of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada, the main event of the visit being the installation of the new District Grand Master of the District of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada, Brother Louis J. Baptiste.

Unfortunately, two of our brethren were unable to complete the journey to Trinidad due to the strict Covid testing requirements of the Ministry of Health in Trinidad and Tobago.

However, we were warmly welcomed on arrival, and immediately whisked away to an evening reception and dinner party at one of the local brethren's home. There, we met up with many well-known friends, and the Grand Master Mason, Bro Ramsay McGhee, and Grand Secretary, Bro William Semple, who were on a five-week tour of the Caribbean Islands installing District Grand Masters and Grand Superintendents.

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Provincial Grand Lodge (cont.)



The Provincial Deputation – left to right, Brothers David Pringle, David Kinloch, Charlie Carrison, Raymond MacKeddie (PGM), Donnie (Oscar) MacLeod and Morris Downie (PPGM)

On Thursday 24th March, I had the pleasure to lead a Ross & Cromarty Deputation (Morris Downie, Donald Oscar Macleod, Charlie Carrison, David Pringle & David Kinloch) to a Fellowcraft Degree at Lodge Arima 966.

Interestingly, we travelled with the Grand Master Mason and many District Grand Lodge visitors on a couple of buses, escorted to the venue by two police motorcycles, which diverted us around traffic hold ups and through red lights.

We witnessed an excellent Fellowcraft for two candidates, Brothers Previn Reid, and Michael Buckmire, led by the Master Dante Selman-Carrington. An excellent harmony followed, where I presented a suitably inscribed charger made by Tain Pottery.

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Provincial Grand Lodge (cont.)



*Provincial Grand Master,
Brother Raymond
MacKeddie with the
Master of Lodge Arima,
Brother Dante Selman-
Carrington*

On Friday 25th March, we visited the second oldest overseas lodge in the Scottish Constitution, which was originally warranted by the Grand Orient of France on the 27th of June 1787. In 1798 it was inaugurated under the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and in 1813 was granted a charter from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

The lodge is renowned for its unique Entered Apprentice Degree, which includes the Three Symbolic Voyages. Something which is not practised by any other Scottish Lodge, or possibly any other lodge, in the world.



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Provincial Grand Lodge (cont.)

The three candidates, Bros. Rahul Ampersand, Roshan Jadoonanan and Richard Ramrekha, were led through a tortuous ceremony which lasted almost three hours. They were rigorously interrogated throughout the voyages and given the opportunity to retire from the proceedings.

The ceremony culminated by an excellent and animated rendition of the Entered Apprentice Tracing Board by the Master Bro. Damian Lyder.

An excellent harmony commenced at 11:00pm, and after many eloquent speeches and replies, the proceedings eventually finished around 1:30am.



Provincial Grand Master, Brother Raymond MacKeddie with the Master of Lodge United Brothers, Brother Damian Lyder

On Saturday 26th March we attended the Installation ceremony for Bro. Louis Jean Baptiste as District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada by the Grand Master Mason Bro. Ramsay McGhee.

After a late finish the previous evening we had an early start as we had to be present at 9:00am for photographs. I was accompanied by PPGM Morris Downie, PSPGM Donald Oscar Macleod, PG Tyler Charlie Carrison, Hon PG Marshall David Pringle & DG Marshall David Kinloch.

We witnessed an excellent ceremony, ably carried out by the Grand Master Mason, Bro. Ramsay McGhee, assisted by the Grand Secretary Bro. William Semple.

The following Commissioned Office-bearers were also installed:

Depute District Grand Master	Bro. Umesh Ampersand
Substitute District Grand Master	Bro. Avinash Ampersand
Substitute District Grand Master	Bro. Clyde A. James
District Grand Secretary	Bro. Warren Sookdar
Senior District Grand Chaplain	Bro. Martin Hatem
Junior District Grand Chaplain	Bro. Patrick E. Taylor

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Provincial Grand Lodge (cont.)



Installation of Brother Louis Baptiste

The evening Banquet commenced at 6:30pm, with an excellent dinner followed by a very entertaining evening, with speeches from distinguished brethren, interspersed with song.

On a sad note, we learned that a few days after the installation meeting Brother Martin Hatem, Senior District Grand Chaplain, was killed in a tragic accident. I'm sure you would all wish to join with me in sending our deepest condolences to Brother Hatem's family and to the District Grand Master and Brethren of the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada.

Returning home, I had the pleasure of assisting the Lodge Averon Brethren in presenting a cheque for £2,600 to Emily Stokes from Mikeysline. The funds were raised by raffling a very fine tapestry which was created by the hard work of PM George Robinson of Lodge Averon No.866. Most of the fundraising effort and publicity on social media was also steered by George, and it was pleasing to see that the fundraising effort was recognised in the local Press.

Also on the charity front, to help with the Grand Lodge of Scotland Make it a Million Appeal, to try to raise one million pounds for Prostrate Scotland, I will be attempting to cycle around all the lodges in the Province towards the end of May. I hope that lodge members will join me on part of the route, get some sponsorship, or support the cause by donating to the Just Giving page that has been set up. Many thanks James Fraser, WJW at Lodge Seaforth No.854, for support in cycling with me and setting up the Just Giving page. An advertising flyer, sponsor forms and Just Giving page details have been sent out to Lodge Secretaries

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Provincial Grand Lodge (cont.)



The Lodge Fingal No.318 Brethren have also supported my journey by attempting to Row the Minch, the section of the route which I could not cycle. They have carried out a practise run outside the lodge and have completed almost half of the crossing. They will be completing the crossing outside Dingwall Tesco on Saturday 21st May, to coincide with my cycle from Ullapool to Dingwall.

On Sunday 1st May 2022 we will hold our Lodge of Sorrow, the first since May 2019 due to the lockdown restrictions imposed over the last two years. The Rev. Iain Ramsden will officiate at the service, which will also be the first Lodge of Sorrow where widows and families of the passed Brethren have been invited.

The Annual Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross & Cromarty is planned for Wednesday 25th May, to be held at Lodge Fingal No. 318, Dingwall at 7:30pm. A good turnout will be appreciated.

Fraternal Regards

Raymond MacKeddie

Provincial Grand Master

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From the Provincial Almoner

The following have sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above: -

On Tuesday 11th January 2022, Brother Niven McRobb, MM of Lodge St Martin No. 1217 passed away after being ill for some time. (omitted from last report).

On Monday 31st January 2022, Brother John Ian Bremner, MM of Lodge Seaforth No. 854 passed away suddenly at his home in Muir of Ord.

On Tuesday 8th February 2022, Brother Eric Vass Morrison, MM of Lodge St Duthus No. 82 passed away suddenly at his home.

On 8th March 2022, Brother William Gillespie, Past Master of Lodge Kyle No. 1117, passed away at home after recent ill-health. A great loss to Lodge Kyle No. 1117.

On Wednesday 16th March 2022, Brother Andrew (Andy) Sutherland, MM of Lodge St Duthus, No 82 passed away in Raigmore Hospital. Brother Andy supplied the music on his keyboard at many Lodge meetings where he will be sadly missed.

On Sunday 10th April 2022, Brother (William) Ian Noble, MM of Lodge Seaforth No. 854, passed away in Raigmore Hospital. Brother Ian was in his 88th year.

On Friday 22nd April 2022, Brother Ian Hunter MM of Lodge Fingal 318 passed away. Further information will be advised when available.

Passed away sometime in March, Brother Angie (Florida) Morrison, MM of Lodge Fortrose No. 108. He made his home in America many years ago but visited his home back in Lewis quite often. He joined into many of the Zoom meetings of Lodge Fortrose No. 108 during the lockdown.

We also have obituaries for: -

Mrs Nellie Gunn, mother of Brother Donald Gunn, RWM of Lodge Fingal No. 318, who passed away on Monday March 28th 2022 at Mull Hall Care Home, Barbaraville, Invergordon.

Mrs Chrissie Craib, mother of Brother Alec Craib, Junior Deacon of Lodge Fingal No 318 and Past Master of Lodge Old Inverness Kilwinning St John's No. 6 who passed away on Sunday 17th April 2022 in Ross Memorial Hospital, Dingwall.

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From the Provincial Almoner – cont.

I also report on the following: -

Brother Brian McGroarty, PM of Robertson's Lodge No. 134, is now back to work and is attending Lodge meetings again.

Brother Andy Farquhar, MM of Lodge St Duthus No. 82 is now resident in Kintyre Nursing Home, Invergordon.

Brother Les Warne, MM of Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216 is now home and is in good spirit. He has now had a prosthetic limb fitted and is receiving physiotherapy.

Brother Charlie Carrison, RWM of Lodge Averon No. 866 is now home from Raigmore Hospital but requires further treatment in 4 weeks' time.

I will close by asking that should any Brother require my assistance or know of any Brother who does, to please get in touch with me.

Fred T Fraser PM Prov. Grand Almoner fraserft@yahoo.com 01463 870307

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2008

Wednesday 19th March 2008 marked the end of an era for the Lodge with the passing of PM Sandy Logie in his 77th year. Sandy joined Fingal in 1971, aged 39 years, was Passed, Raised, and gained his Mark, all in the same year. He became a Life Member in 1991. However, not only was he an active member of his Lodge, but he was also actively involved in many other Orders including – St Clement Royal Arch Chapter (1971), Prince Rose Croix - Inverness Sovereign Chapter 55, (1986), Royal Order of Scotland, (1991), Highland Sovereign Council No 44 – Inverness (1992), the Inverness College of the Rosicrucian Society of Freemasons in Scotland (where he was known as Sine Odio). In 2003 he was granted the Honorary Grand Rank of Grand Bible Bearer by the Grand Master Mason and in 1981 he became a Founder member of the Preceptory of which he became the Preceptor in 1984.

Young Masons Group - Fellowcraft Degree

The Young Masons Group continue to meet by Zoom on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

With most lodges now re-opened and many initiating new candidates, these new candidates are most welcome to join us. Please email Raymond MacKeddie, raymond@mackeddie.co.uk for joining details.

Recent meetings included a very interesting presentation from Bro. Dickon Sandbach of Lodge St Columba No.1295 titled “Veiled Aspiration, within the First-Degree Tracing Board” and we also had a couple of Brethren from Trinidad and Tobago who are involved in a Young Masons Group there and were keen to talk to the group to share ideas on how to keep these young masons’ groups interesting and relevant to the younger brethren.

Raymond MacKeddie, PGM

VISIT TO ZETLAND and HONG KONG LODGE – London

On Monday 26 April 2022, at the invitation of Brother David Kinloch, three noble troubadours, PGM Raymond MacKeddie, JGSB Alex Craib and DPGM Mike Turner, ventured south of the border to attend a meeting of Zetland and Hong Kong Lodge No 7665 EC in a temple at the United Grand Lodge of England, Greater Queen Street, London. This lodge’s mother lodge is Zetland Lodge No 525(EC), meeting in Hong Kong, from which many members of Zetland and Hong Kong Lodge come. The occasion was a first degree for Michel Brown, whose father, Paul, and grandfather Tony were in attendance. Paul is lodge secretary and took the chair for the installation ceremony. Tony is the Father of the Lodge (oldest Member). Michael’s great grandfather was a founder member and Lodge Primus of 7665, and Tony presented Michael with breast jewels belonging to him. It was a lovely meeting, very similar to our own ritual, with David giving the lecture on the mode of preparation. Dinner afterwards saw the usual toasts carried out with great success. There were visitors from the Metropolitan District London, Northumberland and Cumbria, Hong Kong, and of course, Ross and Cromarty (we’ll count Alex as R&C!). We have been very warmly welcomed and encouraged to make additional visits in the future, so watch this space.

Mike Turner DPGM



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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing to the Grand Lodge above of two of our brethren. Brother Eric Morrison and of our Lodge organist Brother Andrew (Andy) Sutherland. Brother Andy's family have kindly donated the organ to the Lodge.

Our final meeting for the season was on Monday 4th of April and was the Provincial Visit by PGM Bro Raymond MacKeddie and his Deputation. The degree for the evening was a Mark Master for Brother Alistair Mackintosh. It was a great delight to see so many brethren getting together again after having been away from visiting for so long.

On the charitable side, the Lodge has donated £100 to the following. The Ukraine appeal, Provincial Grand lodge of Ross and Cromarty for the Prostate Cancer Appeal with the three bottles of spirits as prizes. The Friends of Alan Ross (who passed away due to Cancer) are organising a golf competition in his memory and the Lodge is sponsoring either the longest drive at the par 5 or nearest the pin at a par 3. We are getting involved with the Tain Task Force and will be replacing the damaged trees on Manse Street.

A note for the future is a golf competition which we held last year in aid of the Highland Hospice will again be held in Tain on the seventeenth of July.

The Lodge is now being used by outside groups which is a sign of getting back to some form of normality.

On Wednesday the thirteenth of April I visited Lodge St. Bryde No 579 in Uddingston. I was introduced to the RWM Bro Iain Cowan by PM Duncan Mulholland. This is the Mother Lodge of our GMM's father and grandfather and of the late father-in-law of our RWM John Mackenzie. The degree was an exemplification of the second and was well worked by the PM in charge. I conveyed fraternal greetings from the PGM of Ross and Cromarty and from Lodge St. Duthus No. 82. The harmony was produced from a well-known factory in the town namely Tunnocks.

John MacKenzie – Master

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

This year is starting well for our recently installed RWM John Robertson who now has a first and second degree under his belt. Bro James Macleod was initiated in February and passed in April. Ruaridh Maclellan, son of Bro Graham (Beef) McLellan was successfully balloted on in April. There are a further two applications to process so looking good for applicants.

A few of us travelled to Fortrose where Lodge Robertson raised Bro Alasdair Morrison to MM with the obligation being delivered in Gaelic by IPM Henry Macinnes which was very well received although very few of the brethren understood a word of what Henry said but the important person who was having to repeat it certainly understood it. I was pleased to be allowed to deliver the second part of the traditional history

We have also balloted on the application for affiliation of PM Nigel Jones of Aeron Lodge who has been a regular visitor to our Lodge and our zoom meetings.

PM Donnie Graham recently retired from SSE and held a retirement party in the Lodge function room. Some of his colleagues commented that he had retired a couple of years ago, but it only became official this month. PM Graham even received a special retirement video message from legendary Welsh referee Nigel Owen.

The first of the mental health training courses was held earlier this year and ten people representing eight organisations were trained. The courses are being delivered by Western Isles Association for Mental Health, in partnership with the Western Isles Voluntary Centre and are being funded by Lodge Fortrose and the Grand Lodge Grant Fund. Three further courses will be held throughout the year. It is hoped that by the end of the courses over 40 Mental Health First Aiders from local voluntary organisations will have been trained.



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Organisers Hillary Sludden & Rebecca Mahoney of the mental health training courses

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada along with our PGM Raymond Mackeddie and others from PGL of R&C who were supporting GMM Ramsay McGhee on this leg of his Caribbean tour. We received first class hospitality from our hosts even to the point of police escorts on our travels on the island. Here's a couple of pictures taken during our trip:



Suckling pig for supper on our arrival



Sherwin in shiny blue suit taking a selfie

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Continue to stay safe brethren.

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod PM



Robertson's Lodge No 134

Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

Robertson's Lodge are moving on and continue to use the Masonic Hall of Lodge Seaforth No 854, for which we are grateful for the Fraternal offer. Covid Guidelines and Protocol are being followed to protect all Brethren using the facilities.

We held a business meeting on 16th February, and then on Saturday 19th February we held a Special Meeting for a unique and special MM Degree for a well-known Brother. Members of Lodge Fortrose No 108, in Stornoway, came over and parts of the degree were conducted in Gaelic, the mother tongue of the candidate. The Meeting was attended by many visitors from all over Scotland and all were pleased and intrigued by the ceremony, something not before experienced by many there.

A good harmony was enjoyed by all after the meeting, before the visitors were on their way for their journey back home. Thank you to everyone who made that day so special for us all.

Our March Meeting, on the 16th was the occasion of the Annual Visitation of the Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty, Brother Raymond A. MacKeddie, and his Deputation. A well-known Past Master, Brother Brian McGroarty PM, was welcomed back in the Lodge after his recent illness, looking good, and was installed as Depute Master by Brother Jim Tait, PM. The Brethren of the Lodge conducted an excellent sample Fellowcraft Degree with a stand in candidate from Lodge St. Duthus, Brother David Johnstone.

For the April Meeting on the 20th, the Lodge Brethren conducted an excellent MMM Degree, for the fourth regular step for our well-known Brother from North Uist.

Robertson's Lodge Brethren wish to thank all the recent visitors we have welcomed following the closed period of the Covid Pandemic and wish to pass on that their presence has been gratefully received and very welcome. Thank you for visiting us in Lodge Seaforth. The Robertson's Lodge Members hope to be back in their Mother Lodge for the next Season, after the summer recess.

In the meantime, Robertson's Lodge continue to assist locally, with Cromarty Care Project and with the local Community Larders. This will continue over the summer.

Most Lodges are now closed for the summer recess, however there are still some Meetings such as The Lodge of Sorrow on Sunday the 1st of May, and the remaining Provincial Grand Lodge Visitations to be enjoyed. We send our Fraternal Best Wishes to all for the summer and hope to see all after the recess, hopefully in greatly improved circumstances.

Peter K. Ratcliffe.

Lodge Secretary.

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Lodge Fingal No 318

At the meeting in February, the Brethren of the lodge worked an excellent a Fellow Craft Degree for Brother David John Noble. The Degree was witnessed by 15 members and 20 visitors. The collection amounted to £195.

The March meeting was our annual Provincial Visit. The deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge was led by the Provincial Grand Master of Ross & Cromarty, Brother Raymond MacKeddie, accompanied by PSGM Brother David Macmaster and 10 other Provincial Grand Lodge Office-bearers. During the visit by Provincial, an Entered Apprentice Degree was worked for Mr Martin James Robertson. At the conclusion of the meeting, Bro Robertson was congratulated on taking his first step in Freemasonry by both the Master and Provincial Grand Master. The Degree was witnessed by 14 members and 9 visitors, collection amounted to £165.

At the Regular meeting in April, a Fellow Craft Degree was worked for Brother Martin James Robertson. The Degree was witnessed by 14 members and 20 visitors.

After the Degree work was concluded, Brother David Kinloch was presented with his Affiliation Certificate from Grand Lodge by the Provincial Grand Master of Ross & Cromarty, Brother Raymond MacKeddie. This was the first time I have ever seen Brother Kinloch speechless. The Collection amounted to £195.

As this Season comes to an end, on behalf of the Brethren of the Lodge, may we wish all Brethren, Wives, Partners, and Families a relaxed summer recess.

Rowing Challenge set up by Brother Angus Beaton PM.

The Lodge members will be undertaking a rowing challenge with funds going towards Prostate Scotland and the Grand Lodge "Make it a Million" initiative. We at Lodge Fingal have decided to row the leg between Ullapool and Stornoway. We have decided to row this distance on a rowing machine, a distance of 43 miles. Our intention is to break this challenge into two days. Saturday 16th April at the Lodge, Saturday 21st May at Tesco Supermarket, Dingwall.

The first day was on Saturday 16th April from 10am until 2pm at the Front of the Lodge, as the sun had come out, so it was decided to do the business outside. Distance of 23 miles rowed. Money contributed amounted to £265.

Hopefully, with the footfall at Tesco, we will raise considerably more on the 21st of May.

Bit of practice taking place on the next page.

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On Tuesday 19th April, to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee the Brethren planted a tree [an Amelanchier which flowers in April, grows to a height of 10 metres].

Here is a photo of the worthy Brethren, who participated.

Forth Coming Events, Logie Lounge:

Saturday 27th August } B-B-Q.

Saturday 24th September } Quiz Night.

Saturday 22nd October } Race Night

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

D. Gunn RWM

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LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851

The members of Lodge Allan Wilson are looking forward to the Joint Meeting & Lunch with the Brethren of Lodge Seaforth. The meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd May at 11.00 hours (for coffee) and tyle at 11.30.

The Lodge will be opened by Lodge Seaforth after which the Deputations will be received, and the Joint Rededication Ceremony will take place.

At the conclusion of the Ceremony, Lodge Allan Wilson will close the Lodge but prior to doing so will Affiliate a new member to the Lodge

A warm welcome is extended to all Brethren to attend this Special Meeting.

David MacMaster - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2010

The Roaring Revs

Our intrepid motorcycling ministers – Rev Iain Ramsden and Rev Ivan Warwick (otherwise known as “Heavens Angels”) are off on their travels once again – this time to Northern Ireland. They are doing another sponsored event which will be split between two charities – the Provincial Appeal (on behalf of Lodge Allan Wilson) and the Priory of St John which offers eye care in Jerusalem as well as supporting local charities. They would be delighted to receive sponsorship from any Lodge or from individual Brethren.

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LODGE SEAFORTH 854

The lodge continues to meet regularly under the stewardship of the Master Bro. Tom Richards, and it has been pleasing to welcome the increasing numbers of visiting Brethren.

As the weather improves, the comfort level in the lodge has thankfully got warmer but maintaining the ventilation and the safety of the attending Brethren remains our priority.

Over the past months, we have welcomed a new initiate, Brother Alan Mackay, who has now been passed and raised to the Master Mason Degree.

Due to the closing of the Black Isle Lapidary Club, the lodge acquired some additional land at the rear of the property and a small building for future storage.

Lodge Seaforth and Lodge Allan Wilson were both granted their charters from the Grand Lodge of Scotland on 6th May 1897, so both will be 125 years in existence this year. To celebrate the milestone, the Lodges are going to celebrate the event with a Rededication Meeting on Tuesday 3rd May, with the rededication ceremony carried out by the Grand Master Mason, supported by a team from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. This event will be followed by a lunch on the Seaforth Clubrooms.

A specially minted token with the two lodges designs on either side will be available to purchase on the day.

A revised version of the previous "100 Years of Lodge Seaforth No.854" book has been updated by Bro. Ramsay McGhee, to reflect the history of the last twenty-five years and will be available to purchase at this Special Meeting

Recently a lady from Idaho, in the United States of America, returned a Lodge Seaforth Apron and some documents from a former member who had passed away some years ago.

The items belonged to Roderick Patience, who lived at 11 James Street, Avoch, and joined Lodge Seaforth on 25th December 1919, aged 24 years. He was a Sailmaker to trade, and worked for George Noble, a Sailmaker from Avoch, and moved to Canada in 1929 to help the pioneers heading west by making and mending canvas tents. Little else is known about his travels in Canada, but he eventually settled in Coeur d'alene, Idaho, USA, and married a lady called Nancy.

Roderick and Nancy did not have any children, and they designated a Shriners Children Hospital as the recipient of their estate. Roderick passed away in 1983.

On the following pages are some interesting photographs that accompanied the returned apron.

Raymond MacKeddie PM - Secretary

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Roderick Patience, who lived at 11 James Street, Avoch, and joined Lodge Seaforth on 25th December 1919, aged 24 years

Avoch pictures /

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LODGE AVERON No 866

Hello all,

I hope we are all fit and well and are enjoying this better weather we are having. Not long now, and the summer months will be upon us.

Since the last addition we have welcomed a couple of new candidates into the lodge. Brother Serhat Yavuz was initiated into the lodge on the 10th of February and raised to fellow craft on the 24th of February. Serhat is our first Muslim brother in Lodge Averon in its 125-year history and proudly his name shall be in the history books of Lodge Averon for ever more. Our second candidate was brother Jamie Little who was initiated into the Lodge on the 10th of March. Jamie's cousin Chris McMath made the journey North from Lodge Royal Thistle – The Royal Scots 1338 in Edinburgh for Jamie's first degree.

Our last meeting of the season was held on the 28th of March which was a double Mark degree for Brother's Lewis Sinclair and Brian Jay which as we all know is a very enjoyable degree with brother Sinclair jumping the height of himself at one point.

Past Master Robinson's tapestry raffle came to an end and a staggering amount of £2600 including gift aid was raised for his chosen charity Mikeysline. The winner was Helen Cole from Scunthorpe who was up this way on her holidays and was delighted to have won it and much more to George's delight he didn't have to fork out for postage.



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Emily Stokes from Mikeysline came down to Lodge Averon for the cheque presentation and expressed her thanks to everyone who made this donation possible. The cheque was handed over on George's behalf by PGM of Ross and Cromarty Raymond Mackeddie, RWM Charlie Carrison and a few brethren from Lodge Averon.



A few brethren who made it to the cork this year took back £200 for the Coulhill school p7 trip to Alltnacriche Activity Centre in Aviemore. P7 teacher Sam Simco and the parent council usually fund-raise for this trip but unfortunately due to covid this has not been possible, and it was feared the trip would have to be cancelled. 29 of the 33 pupils in Primary 7 are in categories 2 or below on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation scale (SIMD), where the lowest two levels are the most deprived. This indicates that these pupils are living with high levels of deprivation across the seven indicators, these being: income, employment, education, health, access to services, housing, and crime. The families of these children would find it difficult to pay for the residential visit to Alltnacriche without financial assistance. At our committee meeting we decided to match the cork donation and a cheque for £400 was handed over by Brother Gary Miller to Sam Simco and a few pupils from P7.

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Brother Gary Miller presenting the cheque to Sam Simco and a few pupils from P7

We received a letter from DNA Dance studio in Alness who are fund-raising for a summer show they have coming up. DNA Dance classes are held every Saturday at Grounded Cafe in Alness. They are an inclusive dance school and have children and young people of all abilities attending. They try to run the classes as cheap as possible (£3 per class) as they want as many children as possible to be able to experience dance. With children attending the classes from between Muir of Ord and Dornoch. In June they will be hosting the first DNA Dance Show. With 150 children/young people from age 3+ attending the dance classes. They would like to have no charge for the children & young people to take part in the show as they will be charging parents, carers, family, and community members to see the show.



RWM Charlie Carrison and a couple brethren were delighted to hand a cheque over for £150 to help towards this event.

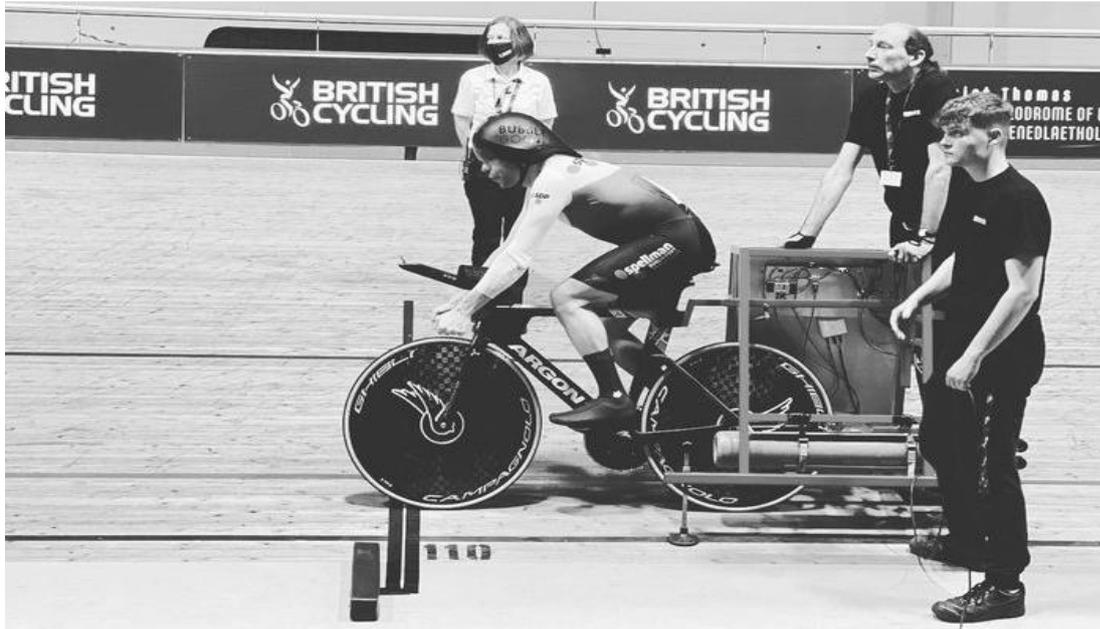
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Brother Kyle Gordon has been burning some rubber since the last addition of the patter. At the Wales National Velodrome, he picked up bronze medal on the national track championship along with a new personal best time. A silver was lifted in the team pursuit. The last weekend of April Kyle is taking part in the Tissot UCI Track Nations Cup at the Chris Hoy Velodrome in Glasgow which we wish him the best of luck for.



With the closed season now upon us, we have a couple of rib-tickling events coming up. On the 16th of July we have some comedians coming down from the comedy circuit in Inverness to put a show on for us and if its anything like the last time there won't be a dry eye in the house through laughter. Tickets are still available for this event if you would like to attend this night of comedy contact Brother Gary Miller or any of the brethren from Lodge Averon.



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We are hosting a Charity Texas Scramble again this year on the 25th of July so bring the shades. The location of this one will be Invergordon Golf Course. All monies raised on the day will be split and donated to local Charities. A few team or single spaces are still available. If you don't play why not just pop along for the craic.



**25
JUNE**

LODGE AVERON 866

TEXAS SCRAMBLE

INVERGORDON GOLF COURSE.
TEE OFF TIME 10AM PLEASE ARRIVE BY
9AM.
£30 PER PERSON.
TEAMS OF 4, SINGLE PLAYERS WELCOME.
BACON ROLL ON ARRIVAL.
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT
THE DAY.

CONTACT
GARY 07858533877
FRAZER 07711683664

ALL MONIES RAISED ON THE DAY
WILL BE GOING TOWARDS LOCAL
CHARITIES AND WORTHY CAUSES.

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With the Grand Masters “*Make It a Million*” campaign well under way Lodge Averon have decided to do something a bit different than our usual fund-raising efforts. Within the Lodge grounds we will host a Fire-walk (Yes that is walking on fire). Fire-walk UK are coming up to set the place on fire. There will be a seminar before the event for participants then straight out to walk on fire. The first two to lead the way will be the PGM of Ross and Cromarty, Raymond MacKeddie, and the Master of Lodge Averon Charlie Carrison. If you come along on the night and do smell cooked sausages don’t worry about it, this may well be PM Donnie Mathieson on the grill. Brother Keith Bauer has very kindly offered to set up some lighting and if its anything like his previous displays it will be spectacular. Places have filled up fast for this event so if you would like to take part, we can put your name on the waiting list.



Yours Fraternally

Gary Miller JD

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LODGE NESS No 888

Brethren,

A little update on my health situation. Since returning home from hospital I have made steady progress I'm feeling a lot better but still have a way to go to return to full health, I was fortunate to be well enough to take the chair at Lodge Ness at the start of the year determined to make the lodge a great place to be after the horrendous pandemic, so I have been busy trying to arrange the summer BBQ's and other events which are important to our lodge. We also had a special MM degree for Bro R Alexander this month who was on 2 weeks leave from the army and done the degree in full uniform which was a nice touch.

I'd just like to say a huge thank you for all the support from all lodges regarding my illness especially so quickly after losing my darling wife Lydia so suddenly. I really do appreciate everyone and the good wishes and especially to my friend PM Alex Dowie and his wife Kate who have been an incredible support to me in every way possible.

I hope everyone is well and I hope to welcome you all to Lodge Ness 888 when you can attend or if you attend our BBQ's and hopefully, I'll be able to attend some of your lodges in due course too.

Fraternally

IAN CARLTON WILSON, Master



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Brother Ian Carlton Wilson – Master of Lodge Ness No 888

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

Recently there has been a flurry of malevolence in social media, with the hands of mischief massaging users' weaknesses and taking advantage of their good will. A typical example would be on Facebook, where you might receive a FRIEND REQUEST from someone you know but, it's not them but a stranger who has "cloned" your relative or friend's Facebook page. If you do receive a friend request from someone you know, do NOT rely on checking the page from whence the request came, as photos, comments, and personal details all be cloned in a single keystroke (CTRL+C). To be sure a Friend Request is genuine and from someone you wish to communicate with, it's worth contacting the person concerned directly (phone or by the email address and then only the number or email you always use to contact them). If you are unlucky enough to receive a bogus request, you should contact Facebook, who are actively trying to shut down this activity. Info and links here: - <https://www.facebook.com/help/174210519303259>

The reasons for cloning a page range from simple marketing, advertising, and Search Engine work, through identity theft and of course ultimately getting money or robbing your home. Making someone a Facebook Friend gives that person access to your posts and the list of your friends and of course the opportunity to gain personal data like your date of birth. They will also probably know when you are on holiday, thanks to that pic of you and the missus sipping cocktails on the beach captioned "We are loving it here in Benidorm"

In this modern world, data is a commodity and is worth significant amounts of money; and like money your data should be protected!

You can protect most of your data on Facebook by going to SETTINGS, PRIVACY and EDIT and choosing who sees what.

MACRO VIRUSES: We are also seeing a lot of viruses in Word and Excel documents. Stay safe by not allowing these files from executing their "macros". You can search Google for "disable and enable macros". It's unlikely a secretary is going to send something with a macro in it – so be aware.

LODGE KYLE ROOF: As many of you may know the Lodge in Kyle has a chimney and roof that needs urgent attention. Sadly, to re-roof the building is startlingly expensive and even with enthusiastic fund raising, the amounts involved are probably unattainable in the time available. We also looked into asking for money from various agencies and associations, however for one reason or another they can't help. While this avenue of revenue is far from exhausted, we may take the more pragmatic approach of "fixing up" the Lodge in the interim, using our existing funds, and with a tradesman utilising the labour and skills provided by members of the Lodge as well as kind offers of assistance from Brethren across the country. Another solution is to re-roof with a less expensive material (box section galvanised steel) than slate or tiles and use the existing "good" roof timbers. We had a special Meeting this month to find ways forward with the project which was very productive as well as highlighting the need for simple things like scaffolding and more complex issues that require legal services. We are meeting again this month (April) before our next Regular Meeting which will be the Provincial Visit in May, at which time we should know how to move forward with the work in the summer recess. Meanwhile the labours of the Brethren in the Lodge garden are coming to fruition, with all the brambles, weeds and rhododendrons gone, and replaced with grass and daffodils.

Ronnie Miller, PM - Secretary

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

As we mentioned in last Patter, we opted out of a meeting in February but went ahead with our March one which was a Business Meeting with Rosehaugh brethren only. Very interesting meeting where we got updated with minutes and 2 years correspondence and accounts. The treasurer also mentioned that the SSE electricity contract ended in January and that the company would not commit to a contract going forward leaving us on an open rate. We have now had confirmation that our day rate will rise from 16.04p per unit to 53.64p a rise of about 330%. We are looking into several different options going forward. It would be interesting to know if any other lodges are looking into other options or have any different ideas going forward.

Unfortunately, a blast of covid hit the village early in April and this also some office bearers got the virus also. We therefore opted to go for a safety-first policy and decided to cancel our April meeting which was also our PGL meeting.

Our May meeting was due to be on 6th May and had been scheduled to be our re-arranged PGL visitation. However due to mitigating circumstances we have asked the PGL Grand Master for permission to postpone this meeting. We hope to arrange a special in September to replace.

Finally, just an update on Bro Les Warne. As we mentioned last meeting Les had to get a foot removed. He is now back home and making some progress. He has now had the prosthetic foot fitted and hopefully can make some progress from a horrendous situation.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - MAY 2007

During our April meeting John Patience PM was presented with his 50th Certificate by Robert Jack PM. John has been a stalwart to the Lodge for many years twice serving as Master from 1961-1964 and then 1969-1970. He was one of the Brethren who presided over and rebuilt our Lodge room, which had been demolished in 1963 and rebuilt and then reopened for business in 1968. Recent attendees to the Lodge would still have seen John on the floor especially providing his excellent rendition of the Emblems of Mortality, assisting on Installation evenings and the Lectures, which he has prepared and presented over the years. He has always been readily available to assist any of the Brethren and especially the RWM's of recent years have benefited from his knowledge and advice.

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Lodge St Martin 1217

The lodge has recovered from the Covid problems causing the cancellation of the March meeting. It was excellent to receive the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross & Cromarty on their annual visitation for our April meeting and it was almost a feeling of normality although we are all still aware how careful we all must be.

Work is still ongoing to install a new fire exit in the lodge room, we are now just waiting for the contractors to arrive as the door has been delivered from the manufacturers.

For the final meeting of the season the lodge will meet on Tuesday 17th May for an EA degree ceremony (possibly a new candidate if available, if not a mock will be worked).

The Squaremen are programmed to visit the lodge on Saturday 2nd July at 12.00 noon, all those brethren who have done their mark are eligible to join and all Squaremen are cordially invited to attend.

All the best wishes and keep safe to all the brethren.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2004

Brother Scott's (*Lodge Fingal*) secretarial duties have taken on an international dimension over the past few months. Assisted by Brother Keith Watson at Grand Lodge, Bro Scott has been busy planning for the presentation of a Jubilee Certificate to Brother James Ashley Aylmer Cummins who was initiated into Lodge Fingal on the 9th of February 1954. At the time of his initiation, Brother Cummins lived at Aultguish and later at Vaich Dam before going to Australia in 1956.

After all the necessary administrative work was completed, Brother Anthony E Eden, Regional Grand Counsellor for Region 5 of the United Grand Lodge of New South Wales, presented the Jubilee Certificate to Brother Cummins on 26th April. The presentation was kept secret from Bro Cummins, so it came as a great surprise to him when he was presented with the Certificate after he had carried out an Installation Ceremony at Lodge Trial Bay Daylight No 1018.

Brother Cummins has subsequently written to Bro Scott thanking him for the presentation and wishing to be remembered to any of the older Brethren in the Province who may remember him.

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Lodge Loch Ewe 1551



Work to the building itself is still ongoing and the reflooring of the anteroom is now complete. As you can see from the photo, we were also finally able to take advantage of a clement spell of West Coast weather and put a fresh coat of paint onto the outside walls.

At our last Regular Meeting on April 14th, the Lodge had the privilege and pleasure of affiliating three members of Lodge St Martin into Lodge Loch Ewe with another two to follow soon. To Brothers Mike Turner, Phil Ellis and Mike Peterson, our grateful thanks for your help and assistance in running the Lodge

I think the action of the St Martin Brethren epitomises all that is good in Freemasonry. They came, they saw, and they stepped up to the mark and we in Lodge Loch Ewe will be eternally grateful for their assistance.

To finish on a bright note, the Brethren of the Lodge extend all good wishes to Richard and Nikki on the birth of their beautiful daughter, Mirren. *(And I'm sure all readers will also add their best wishes – Ed)*

Ally Gault, RWM – Lodge Loch Ewe



Ye Corporation O' Squaremen

Hielan Shed

On 5th March the Shed held a Committee Meeting where it was decided that due to the lessening of the Covid19 restrictions we would restart our Regular Meetings and the first one was held in Lodge Seaforth on 7th April – due to other commitments there was a small turnout but enough Members did turn up to enable us to hold the Meeting where one Candidate was duly admitted to the Corporation – At the start of the Meeting the Secretary had the very sad duty of announcing the Passing to the Grand Shed above of 16 Members who had Passed between 2020 and 2022 during the time the Shed was closed – 14 Member of Heilan Shed plus 2 Grand Worthy Deacons - The Worthy Deacon brought the Shed to Order for a moments reflection and dedication for these Brithers - the next Meeting will be in Lodge Ness, Invergordon on Saturday 7th May the bus will leave the Club in Inverness at 13:00 hrs.

List of Obituaries

Edwin H Sutherland, 7 Ord Place, Lairg who joined on 5th May 2001 and was No 974 on the Roll – Edwin passed in June 2020

Robert Jack, 8 Almond Terrace, Avoch who passed away on 10th May 2020 due to the Covid19 Virus – Robert joined on 30th May 1981 and was No 167 on the Roll

John Watt Noble, 4 Caberfeidh Terrace, Dingwall who passed away on 2nd June 2020 – John joined on 18th August 1979 and was one of our longest Members at No 32 on the Roll

Samuel Conner Warden 53 Cradlehall Park, Westhill who passed away on 6th November 2020 – Sammy joined on 27th April 1985 and was No 406 on the Roll

Dennis Walker, 11 Boath Terrace, Nairn who passed away on 22nd December 2020 – Dennis joined on 2nd July 1086 and was No 488 on the Roll

John (Jock) McGechie, 4 Burtisland Street, Nairn who passed away on 11th January 2021 – Jock joined on 4th August 2018 and was No 1340 on the Roll

Fredrick John Mant, 14 Millerton Avenue, Inverness formally of 1 Grange Cottages, Leys castle who passed away on 13th February 2021, Fred joined on 16th April 1988 and was No 603 on the Roll

Angus (Angie Allan) MacKenzie Fyffe House, Polteney Street, Ullapool who passed away on 5th July 2021 at the ripe old age of 80 years old – Angus joined on 3rd April 2010 and was No 1220 on the Roll

Angus Ross, PM Lodge Ness 888 – Kimberly Cottage, Saltburn who passed away in the early hours of 20th January 2022 – Angus was 76 years of age and joined the Shed On 25th September 1981 and was No 185 on the Roll

William Proudfoot, formally of 22 Scorguie Terrace. Inverness who passed away on 23rd January 2022 – William was 68 years old and joined the Shed on 15th October 1983 and was No 326 on the Roll

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Angus Morrison -1006 Southern Park Lane, Sarasota, Florida, USA who passed to the Grand Shed above on 2nd March 2022 – Angus was a Member of Lodge Fortrose No 108 and joined in Ullapool on 7th July 2018, he was No 1338 on the Roll

Andrew Sutherland -6 Burrage Court, Tain who passed to Grand Shed above on 16th March 2022 at the great old age of 83 – Andrew joined on 7th May 2016 and was No 1306 on the Roll

Sinclair Sutherland Wares 39 Towerhill Road Thurso, Sinclair joined on 3 May 2003 and was No 1052 on the Roll – Sinclair will always be remembered for making our Mince and Tattie when we visited Thurso.

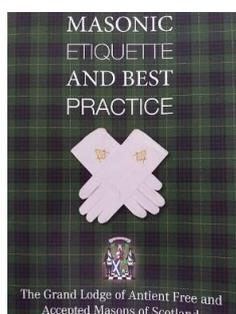
Past Grand Auld Deacon Bri Derek Milne -10 River Park, Nairn – who passed away peacefully on Saturday 28th August 2021 - Derek joined on 27th July 1985 and was No 427 on the Roll – Derek was a Past Worthy Deacon in Heilan Shed on two occasions 2002 to 2004 and again 2008 to 2009 – He eventually rose to the High Office of Grand Worthy Deacon in 2017 -while in the Chair he visited all the Sheds and fulfilled his duties to the utmost – Derek was always ready to stand in for any Office in Heilan Shed when we were short on the ground and he is very sadly missed

Past Grand Auld Deacon David S Millar also passed on 3rd September 2020 – David was a Member of Angus Shed but was a great attender of Heilan Shed and was always willing to stand in and carry out any part of the Lectures he also Installed several our Worthy Deacons over the years -

Past Grand Auld Deacon Lindsay McDade – Lindsay was a Member of Glasgow Shed and was a stalwart of the Order who attended most of the Grand Shed visits to Heilan Shed and was always willing to stand in and do parts of the Lecture

John G Mackay
Boxie

BITS AND PIECES



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 a very 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.

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PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

Tain & Ross RAC 63

The Tain and Ross Chapter is now closed until the second Tuesday in October when we will have our Installation Ceremony.

St Clement RAC 244

Cromarty Firth RAC 310

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.

We are continuing to meet regularly but still no candidates on the horizon. However, we will be working a Cryptic degree on Thursday 17th May when we expect maybe 5 candidates.

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

Since we held our Malta grade in January, we have no further candidates but are continuing to hold our regular meetings.

Donnie Macleod

†‡ Donald Macleod KCT

Grand Master Mason's Caribbean Tour 2022

The Caribbean Tour got off to a bad start when on the day of departure from Edinburgh, British Airways cancelled all flights – this meant losing two days of pre-planned activity plus an extra antigen test before leaving Edinburgh.

On arrival in Bermuda, I had another antigen test before meeting up with our new Grand Superintendent, Brother Martin Weekes.

Next morning, Tuesday 1st March, I headed to the Masonic Temple with Brother Weekes and Brother Erin Garret who was to be my acting D of C. At the Temple we were met by Brother Martin Brewer the acting Grand Secretary and Brother David Cook the outgoing Grand Superintendent. After the rehearsal I had a very pleasant lunch with Brother Cook along with Brother Allen Richardson, PGM of the Irish Constitution and Michael Smith, DGM of the English Constitution.

That evening the rain was torrential but despite the rain, there was an extremely healthy attendance of around sixty Brethren to witness the Installation of Brother Martin Paul Weekes as the new Grand Superintendent.

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I was assisted by a few local Brethren but primarily by Brother Martin Brewer and Brother Erin Garret. At the conclusion of the meeting, I had the pleasure of conferring the Honorary Grand Rank of Senior Warden on the outgoing Grand Superintendent, Brother David Cook and that of Junior Warden on Brother Weekes.

It was abundantly clear from the reaction of the Brethren that both Brother Cook and Brother Weekes are highly thought of and held in high esteem by Brethren of all Constitutions on the Island of Bermuda. The assembly then moved to the Refectory where we all enjoyed a tremendous Harmony.



Brother Martin Weekes on his Installation as Grand Superintendent of Bermuda

I was delighted, the following day to tour the Island with Brother Martin Weekes and had the opportunity to visit the three Lodges in the Superintendency.

It was time for another antigen test before we visited the oldest Scottish Lodge, Lodge St George No 200.

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Lodge St George 200

It was a fascinating tour, full of history and a great joy to be able to visit each Lodge on the Island. Finally, it was back to the hotel late afternoon to freshen up before making to the Bermuda Police Service Officers Mess where I was privileged to meet with several Brethren all of whom had some connection to the Police. When I got back to the hotel it was down to work, armed with the result of the antigen test to get a travel health visa for Bahamas.

Thursday 3rd March and another early start leaving the hotel at 05.30 to get to the airport armed with antigen test results, Bahama travel visa and a passport. I took off at 08.30 on the first leg of the flight from Bermuda to Miami. From Miami, it was a short thirty-minute flight to Nassau in the Bahamas. I was met at the airport VIP lounge by a Deputation from the District headed by the new DGM, Brother Anthony U Bostwick. By the time introductions had been carried out, airport staff arrived with my luggage, and we all headed to the Baha Mar hotel complex where I would be staying and where the Installation was to take place,



Red Carpet welcome in Nassau

That evening, I spent a lovely night at the home of Brother Bostwick along with several invited guests, including the Proxy DGM, Brother Tom Davidson, and his wife Joyce, at a cocktail reception.

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Friday 4th March, it was an 06.00 start to prepare for a television appearance on the Breakfast Sunrise TV show. It gave us the opportunity to portray Scottish Freemasonry on the Island in a very positive manner along with an explanation of our efforts to help eradicate prostate cancer. The feedback we received was good.

Next stop was the Office of the Governor General of the Bahamas, His Excellency Sir Cornelius Smith. He was a charming individual and displayed a real and sincere interest of all that the Scottish Freemasons were doing throughout the Bahamas.

Saturday 5th March started with a full-blown rehearsal for the Installation.



The District Grand Lodge Office-bearers

Over two hundred Brethren gathered on the lawn of the hotel for the group photo after which the Installation Ceremony for Brother Anthony Ulysees Bostwick and his Commissioned Office-bearers got under way. All went well with the Ceremony much to my relief. At the conclusion of the ceremony, I had the privilege and honour to present Past DGM, Brother Roderick Eugene Inniss with his 50-year Diploma. I also conferred the Honorary Grand Rank of Senior Warden on Brother Joseph Ricardo Curry, Immediate Past DGM and Honorary Junior Grand Warden on Brother Anthony Ulysees Bostwick. I was indebted to Brother Tom Davidson for his excellent work as D of C not only at the Installation but throughout my time in the Bahamas.

The Installation Ball took place in an adjacent room to that used for the Installation and what a tremendous effort the staff put into making the room look totally outstanding.

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The splendid meal was enjoyed by all and was followed by numerous Toasts and responses, but the highlight of the evening was the world-famous Valley Boys & Junkanoo participants. A spectacular extravaganza of Bahamian music and culture,



The Junkanoo and the DGM getting into the swing of things

After the excitement of Saturday, Sunday was far more relaxed. It started with a Church Service at St Agnes Anglican Church. The packed congregation was joined by a significant number of Brethren in full regalia all of whom received the warmest of welcomes from the Rector, Archdeacon Keith Cartwright who went on to preach a very powerful and inspiring sermon on temptation on what was the first Sunday of Lent.



Brethren with Archdeacon Keith Cartwright at the conclusion of Sunday Service

After Church, we joined together on the site where the new Masonic Centre is to be built for a barbeque and brunch. A great opportunity for meeting and networking.

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The celebration was cut a bit short for four of us who had to go for another antigen test before our departure on Monday to Freeport in Grand Bahama.

Monday 7th March and another 05.30 departure from the hotel, picked up this time by the DGM for the drive to the airport where we met up with Brother Joe Curry and a flight to Grand Bahama. We were met at Freeport airport by the Master of Lodge St Andrew No 1756 Brother Chovez Cedeno McBride and a large Deputation of Lodge members.



Arrival welcome in Freeport

We were driven to Pelican Bay resort where we got booked into our rooms and then congregated for a Bahama style breakfast before leaving for the Government buildings where we met the Minister for Greater Bahama, Ginger Moxey – a charming lady who has a large and diverse portfolio to deal with.



Meeting with Minister for Grand Bahama, the Honourable Ginger Moxey

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Lunch was provided at Banana Bay after which we returned to the hotel to prepare for a visit to Lodge St Andrew No 1756 where I witnessed a truly excellent working of the FC Degree by the Master, Brother McBride, and his Office-bearers.



Lodge St Andrew

A Harmony, complete with good food, toasts, responses, music, and wit was enjoyed by all. We left the Lodge at 23.30 and headed back to the hotel to prepare for another early start to catch the 08.00 flight back to Nassau.

Tuesday 8th March gave me a chance to catch up on emails, correspondence, another antigen test and packing but I had one more meeting to attend on Tuesday night at Lodge St David No 1741. And what a meeting it turned out to be – a superb working of the EA Degree by the Master, Brother Kwame Miles Parker, and his Office-bearers. At the conclusion of the meeting, we travelled to the home of Brother Sawyer where we enjoyed superb harmony. Another very enjoyable evening.



Lodge St David

On Wednesday 9th March I was taken to the home of the Depute DGM, Brother Brendan Watson where the Brethren who formed his Installation organising committee had assembled for breakfast. It was a

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great way to end a truly wonderful visit to our Brethren in the Bahamas. We thoroughly enjoyed each other's company before heading to the airport for the flight to Jamaica. Thankfully, I was not leaving the Bahamas totally - I was joined on the flight by the DGM and several Bahamian Brethren who were travelling to Jamaica to support the new DGM there, Brother Courtney King Palmer. In fact, the support I received from DGM, Brother Anthony Ulysees Bostwick was outstanding. He accompanied me for the remainder of the Caribbean tour along with his Depute, Brother Brendan Watson.

The first evening in Kingston was spent at the home of Brother Horace Reid who hosted a small welcome cocktail reception at which I met up with Proxy District Grand Master, Brother Jim Bell, who was to act as my D of C throughout our stay in Jamaica and Brother Billy Grant, Proxy Master of Lodge Elgin.

Thursday 10th March at 11.00 we were at the MacGregor Centre to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Glenlyon Lodge. We were warmly received into the Lodge by the Master, Brother Charles A O'Connor. Brother Bell and I were privileged to have as our acting Grand Chaplain, Brother Rev Peter Clarke. He was superb – had the necessary ritual all in his head but most importantly he conducted the ceremony with a sincerity and commitment that was second to none. It was indeed a privilege to have him on the team. Past DGM, Brother Lloyd Moore volunteered to do the Regalia Lecture and again, was superb. The hymns we use at home were all used in Jamaica but with different tunes and I was indebted to the Organist, Brother Norman Perrin for his contribution to the proceedings.



The Grand Master Mason with Brother Very Rev Peter Douglas Clarke, the Senior District Grand Chaplain who greatly assisted at the rededication Ceremony of The Glenlyon Lodge and at the Rededication Ceremony to mark 250 years of the District Grand Lodge of Jamaica.

Brother Clarke was awarded the Honorary Grand Rank of Grand Chaplain.

That evening we attended the formal reception to Jamaica which was held in the grounds of the Pegasus Hotel where we were staying.

Friday 11th March, we were collected from the hotel and taken back to MacGregor Centre where, with the same team, we repeated the Rededication Ceremony – this time to celebrate 250 years of the District Grand Lodge of Jamaica.

At the conclusion of the meeting, another sumptuous lunch before heading back to the hotel to catch up on administration and prepare for the Installation – however, before that, we were transported to the home of the DGM, Brother Courtney King Palmer by one of his Substitute DGM's, Brother Michael Vacciana for an informal cocktail reception at which I was presented with a banner signed by many of the Brethren and their wives all of whom had been at the formal reception.

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Jamaica welcome poster signed by Brethren and Wives



*District Grand Lodge of Jamaica – Installation of District Grand Master
Brother Dr Courtney King Palmer*

Saturday 12th was the major event of the visit to Jamaica – the Installation of Brother Dr Courtney King Palmer as District Grand Master of Jamaica and his Commission.

The Installation was held in the spacious ballroom of the Pegasus Hotel in Kingston and was attended by over 300 Brethren. I was assisted in the ceremony by Brother Jim Bell who did a superb job as D of C and Brother Very Rev Peter Clarke as Chaplain. The Brethren in attendance certainly seemed pleased with the Installation Ceremony at the conclusion of which I conferred Honorary Grand Rank of Senior

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Grand Warden on Brother Errol Charles Alberga, the outgoing DGM who has done a sterling job in steering the District through the vagaries of the Coronavirus crisis. I was also pleased to confer the Hon Grand Rank of Junior Grand Warden of Brother Dr Palmer. I was equally pleased to announce that I intended to confer Honorary Grand Rank of Grand Chaplain on Brother Very Rev Peter Clarke. At the conclusion of the Ceremony, the Ballroom was transformed for the District Grand Lodge Banquet which was attended by 250 Brethren and wives.



The conclusion of the Banquet – looking at the picture, the DGM of Bahamas to my immediate right, the DGM of Guyana to his right and on my immediate left, Brother Dr Palmer, DGM of Jamaica

Sunday 13th March involved getting out of bed at 05.30 (after a late night banquet) ready to be picked up at 06.30 to attend the 07.30 service at St Margaret's Church. There was certainly no chance of sleeping during the sermon – the Rector, Rev Franklyn Jackson preached a very stirring Lenten sermon which was greatly appreciated by the Brethren present.



District Grand Lodge with Very Rev Peter Clarke and Rev Franklyn Jackson at St Margaret's Church

After Church, it was back to the hotel to get changed for the District Brunch. What an amazing function.

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We arrived about 11.00 and left after 18.00 and during that time enjoyed great company, great food, great entertainment, and there was no shortage of Jamaican wine and Jamaican rum either. Many Brethren and their wives attended the function held in the grounds of one of the members' homes – a very fitting end to a weekend of Masonic activity.



The new District Grand Master, Brother Courtney King Palmer with the Depute Grand Master, Brother Jim Bell who is also Proxy DGM in Jamaica and Brother Billy Grant, Proxy Master of Lodge Elgin, relaxing in one of the marquees at the Brunch



With the musicians who entertained all afternoon at the Brunch

After breakfast on Monday 14th March, Brother Bell and I joined the DGM, Brother Palmer, and others joined the Governor General of Jamaica, His Excellency the Most Hon **Sir Patrick Linton** Allen, ON, GCMG, CD, KSt.J. He was most interested in how we as visitors to Jamaica viewed the island and we spent an enjoyable half hour in his company discussing several relevant issues.

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Just after noon, we left the hotel with a Police escort to travel north to Port Maria where we were going to visit Lodge Caledonian No 554. There we witnessed a FC Degree for Brother Lincoln Dunkley, which was well executed by the IPM, Brother Hervin G Ramgolam, and his Office-bearers. Brother Ramgolam was my acting Grand Secretary at the District Grand Lodge Installation. At the following Harmony, the Master of the Lodge, Brother Joseph Britton assumed the Chair and led us through a beautiful meal prepared by the wives of the Brethren and a Toast list that was dealt with in a very slick and professional manner.



The Brethren of Lodge Caledonian

Tuesday 15th March – another sharp start leaving the Hotel at 08.30 to travel on a road that made the Bealach Na Ba look like a motorway. It was a steep, winding climb from Kingston City up to Newcastle Hill Military Training Unit in the Blue Mountains. I was guest of Officers of the Jamaica Defence Corps all of whom are members of the Craft.

We started off the visit with a very tasty Jamaican style breakfast followed by a photograph session from the hill-top post and then a very informative visit to the Military Museum.

View from the Officer's Mess



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From the Blue Mountains, it was back to the Pegasus Hotel for another antigen test to enable entry to Barbados next day.

In the evening, along with Brothers Jim Bell and Billy Grant, I attended the Installation Meeting of Lodge St Andrew No 1684. It was a well conducted ceremony by the outgoing Master that we all thoroughly enjoyed. At the conclusion of the meeting, we were privileged to be present at one of the best Harmony's I can remember in a long time. A total of 14 songs were sung as accompaniments to the Toasts. The singing was good, and traces of harmonisation could be heard with many of the refrains.



*The new Master of Lodge St Andrew, Brother Ainsley Whyte
who was installed by his predecessor, Brother Timothy Andrew Thwaites.*

By the time I got back to the hotel, got packed ready for the morning, it was after midnight before I got to bed and had to be back up at 04.00 to be transported to the airport for an early morning flight to Miami accompanied by Brothers Anthony Bostwick and Brendan Watson.

On Thursday 17th March, the DGM, of Barbados, Brother Andre Harding very kindly arranged to take Grand Secretary and I to the West Indies versus England Test Match at the Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados. It was a first for me – never ever been to a cricket match far less a Test Match.

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Kensington Oval, Barbados

What a lovely day we had, enjoyed the cricket, the company, the hospitality and was delighted when I was given the opportunity to be introduced to Sir Garry Sobers.

On Friday 18th March we were taken to what used to be the Lodge Rooms in Bridgetown but now hosts a Masonic Museum on the top floor and a more general museum on the lower floor dealing with the economy and business of Barbados. Before starting the tour, I was interviewed, along with the DGM, on CBC TV.

After the tour of the museum, we enjoyed an excellent lunch with the DGM, Brother Andre S F Harding, the Depute, Brother Leighton Finbar Waterman and Substitute, Brother Alfred A Taylor. Not only was it a very enjoyable lunch but a very productive one with a good deal of business conducted.

In the evening, we were collected at 18.45 and taken to a cocktail reception where we met many of the Brethren and their ladies.

Saturday 19th March got under way with an 08.00 Installation rehearsal at the magnificent Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Conference and Cultural Centre. Immediately after the rehearsal, the official photographs were taken, and we were ready to commence the Installation at 10.00.

The Installation ran very smoothly with Grand Secretary doubling as Grand D of C. The entire event was greatly enhanced by Brother Martin Graham who piped us in and out of the meeting and the delightful organ music of Brother Philip Forde

170 Brethren were present in the spacious conference venue and from all reports, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

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District Grand Lodge of Barbados

We had ample time after the Ceremony to return to the hotel, get changed and back again for the Banquet in the evening. A splendid affair with a buffet comprising excellent local dishes. Again, the Caribbean tradition of singing at each toast was carried out.

Sunday 20th March was the closest I came to having a day off. Grand Secretary and I enjoyed a late breakfast, after which there was some paperwork to do and then a swim in the sea. Later that evening Grand Secretary and I hosted a drinks reception and buffet for some of the senior Brethren from all Constitutions. A very enjoyable evening with plenty laughs and good humour.

Monday March 21st first stop was the military medical centre where we had a PCR test required for the trip to Trinidad. We were then taken to the Mount Gay Rum Distillery and enjoyed a tour of the establishment and a wee tasting at the conclusion of which we had a very enjoyable lunch. After lunch we were given a second tasting – this time as an experiment for future tastings. We discovered that drinking rum accompanied with selected chocolates, enhances the experience. Every day a school day.



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In the evening we attended the regular meeting of Lodge Scotia No 340 at which they held a Lodge of Sorrow in respect of one of their members, the late Hon Mr Justice Ethrine Garvey Husbands, PM. Brother Husbands was a retired High Court Judge of the Supreme Court of Barbados. It was a very moving ceremony after which we joined with the Brethren in Harmony.

Tuesday March 22nd – Grand Secretary and I met with the Barbados Cancer Society and three members of the District Grand Lodge to discuss how the District can be instrumental in delivering a programme that will heighten Prostate Cancer awareness. It was a very productive meeting and Dawn Oliff has already been in touch with them to assist and advise based on our experience with Prostate Cancer Scotland.



In the evening we had a farewell dinner on the west side of the island at the Beach House restaurant. A very enjoyable experience with the DGM and the members of his Installation Organising Committee.

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Wednesday 23rd March, we left the hotel and headed to the airport for the short one-hour flight south to Trinidad. The bureaucracy in getting into Trinidad was extensive but we got through the process and were welcomed by the DGM, Brother Louis Jean Baptiste and some of his office-bearers before being taken to the hotel in a stretch limo. Quite an experience.



In the evening we were joined by a Deputation from the Province of Ross and Cromarty led by the PGM, Brother Raymond MacKeddie, at a cocktail reception at the home of Brother Douglas Lucky-Samaroo.

On Thursday morning many brethren attended a meeting in Chaguanas at which they were invited to question Grand Secretary and me. It was an interesting morning – two hours of good, intelligent questions and discussion after which we partook of a first-rate Indian lunch.

That afternoon we left with a Police escort heading to Arima to attend a meeting of Lodge Arima No 899. We were made very welcome by the Master of the Lodge, Brother Dante Selman-Carrington, who, along with his Office-bearers conferred an excellent FC Degree on behalf of two Candidates – Brothers Previn Reid and Michael Buckmire. A very enjoyable Harmony followed, and Grand Secretary and I then headed back to the hotel with District Grand Secretary Warren Sookdar. We arrived back about midnight.

Four and a half hours later, we were both up ready to head to the Television Studios where we were featuring on a Trinidad breakfast show. That first show went well but I was far from happy with the second interview which was done via zoom to another studio – technically it was a disaster with echoing, loss of signal, and general technical failure but it was live and there was little we could do to retrieve the situation. Two and a half hours later, it was a radio interview which went very well indeed.



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After all the media exposure, it was back to reality and we assisted in transforming the hotel ballroom into a Lodge Room before heading to the City Hall for a courtesy call on the Mayor of Port of Spain, Joel Martinez. We spent a very enjoyable hour in his company and learned much about the on-going development of the City under his leadership.

It was back to the hotel ballroom where we held a rehearsal for the Installation before heading out once again to a meeting of Lodge United Brothers No 251 to witness their unique EA Degree. I had witnessed it before, but it was good to see it once again conducted by Brother Damian A Lyder, Master of the Lodge. He and his Office-bearers did a fantastic job and those present who had not witnessed it before were very impressed by it.

The Candidates, Brothers Rahul Rampersad, Roshan Jadoonanan and Richard Ramrekha conducted themselves impeccably and I have no doubt that all three will prove to be valuable assets to Lodge United Brothers.



The three candidates who received their EA Degree in Lodge United Brothers

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Saturday 26th March saw 200 Brethren assemble in the Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel to witness the Installation of Brother Louis Jean Baptiste as District Grand Master of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada along with his Commissioned Office-bearers.

Immediately after the Installation, both Grand Secretary and I had to go for yet another antigen test in preparation for our visit to Guyana.



Installation of Brother Louis Jen Baptiste – with the District Office-bearers

Grand Secretary and I invited the District and Provincial Grand Masters present to come up to my room for a drink in the afternoon. We had splendid fellowship with not only the visiting DGM's, but most brought their Deputations along with them which enabled much networking to take place. It was particularly pleasing to have Brother Raymond MacKeddie and the Deputation from Ross and Cromarty in attendance.

In the evening, we were joined by the Ladies in the ballroom which had been transformed once again for the District Grand Lodge Banquet. The Banquet was a grand affair with excellent food, excellent company, and fine speeches. At the end of the evening, traditional music and dancing were the order of the day.

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The District Grand Lodge Banquet

After the activity of the Installation and Ball, we were transported with a Police escort to Blanchisseuse on the Sunday morning to the home of the Master of Lodge United Brothers, Senator Damian A Lyder, for a Brunch.



Brothers Lyder, MacKeddie & Carrison



Farewell speeches

It was a memorable end to our time in Trinidad – tremendous fellowship, great company, lots of laughter, far too much food – simply a great day, but for Grand Secretary and I, it was back to the hotel to start packing once more ready to leave for Guyana on Monday morning.

The short flight to Georgetown in Guyana was uneventful and we were met at the airport by a number of Brethren who organised our onward travel to the Pegasus Hotel.

In the evening we were joined by a large number of Brethren and wives for a welcome reception in the hotel. A lovely evening which allowed much networking.

On Tuesday we met with the DGM and members of Lodge Alpha No 1594 for lunch before returning to the hotel to prepare for a visit to Lodge Alpha in the evening.

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The Brethren, under the leadership of the Master, Brother Ronald K Thorne, worked an excellent MM Degree for no less than five candidates. It was a delight to witness the Degree after which we joined with the Brethren in Harmony.

I have to say that having witnessed Degrees being worked the whole way through the Caribbean, I am highly impressed by the excellent standard of ritual work in all the Caribbean Islands right into South America.

On Wednesday morning both Grand Secretary and I joined in the Zoom meeting with the Benevolence and Care Committee in Edinburgh (11.00 in Edinburgh – 06.00 in Georgetown) and thereafter travelled to the official residence of the British High Commissioner, Her Excellency Jane Miller, OBE, where we enjoyed almost an hour in her company talking about a whole range of issues but especially what our Brethren in Guyana are doing in their local communities.

The Installation Ceremony was held at 17.30 and I was delighted to install Brother Sean Ronald Noel as the new District Grand Master along with his Commissioned Office-bearers ably assisted by Grand Secretary who once again carried out a dual role of Grand Secretary and Grand D of C.



At the conclusion of the Ceremony we enjoyed the Installation Banquet.

Thursday 31st March – we joined with local Brethren and Brethren and their wives from Bahamas, Trinidad, Barbados and Jamaica on a tour to some of the Islands on the Essequibo River which is the longest and widest river in Guyana. The river flows north through forest and savanna, including one of the largest continuous tracts of relatively pristine lowland tropical rain forest in the world, before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean.

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Our boat for the day

First port of call was Fort Island, previously known as Flag Island or its Dutch translation Vlaggen Eiland. The island was at one time a Dutch trading outpost with an unsavoury history of slavery. Today, the island is inhabited by a small population but it has a nursery and primary school and a health centre.

The island is an important heritage-tourism destination which houses bird watching trails, Fort Zeelandia and the Dutch Heritage Museum. Unfortunately, the museum was not open but we did visit Fort Zeelandia.



Fort Zeelandia

We left Fort Island and headed to the Island of Bartica where we had a pleasant walk to the beach area for a refreshment. On our way we saw one of the River Ferries being loaded – makes Cal-Mac look mega-safe.

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Loading ramp for the car ferry

After an hour on the island, we made our way further up river to the island of Aruwai – home of a holiday resort where we had a very pleasant lunch.



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The return journey to Parika took one and a half hours at high speed by which time we were all relieved to get onto the soft seats in the bus.

That evening we entertained some of the visiting Brethren to a meal in the hotel. A very pleasant end to a very interesting and educational day.

Friday 1st April. After breakfast, it was time for our final antigen test after which we visited 96 year old Brother Ashton Chase at Bel Air Park Residence.

Brother Chase is a Past Senior District Grand Warden He is legendary in Guyana – a pioneer of the Trade Union Movement; in the 1950's he was instrumental in the rise of the PPP – the Peoples Progressive Party – and became Minister for labour, industry and commerce in the first PPP Government in 1953. Though viewed as a moderate by the governor, the British removed Brother Chase and the PPP government from office and suspended the constitution in October 1953. That same year, he moved to England where he read law and was called to the bar at Gray's Inn in 1957, the same year that he graduated with a bachelor-of-laws degree with honours from London University. Following his return to Guiana, Chase served as a member of Parliament from 1964 to 1968. He was appointed senior counsel in 1985 and as well as having a distinguished law career, and being known as an expert in Trade Union Law, he served on many committees and bodies giving freely of his time, expertise, and knowledge. Brother Ashton Chase - a lovely individual whom it was a pleasure to meet.



Brother Sean Noel, GMM, Bro Ashton Chase, Grand Secretary, Bro Teni Housty

We then made our way to the Government Buildings where we had an audience with the President of Guyana, His Excellency Mohamed Irfaan Ali. We spent time in discussion about several issues, one of which was the possibility of seeking Government aid to build the new Masonic Temple. The President was not averse to the idea and indicated that he felt Freemasons could contribute greatly to the communities through their volunteering capabilities. It was a very positive meeting.

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On Friday evening we returned to the Masonic Temple and attended the Quarterly Communication of the District. Grand Secretary and I had the opportunity to address the Brethren on the way forward which was followed by a short Q&A session before adjourning to the Georgetown Club for a light meal and a drink.

We returned to the hotel at 22.30, packed, grabbed a couple of hours sleep before getting down to the lobby for 02.30 to travel to Cheddi Jagan International Airport on the first leg of our return to Scotland. The flight to Miami was uneventful but the queuing at Miami International airport was horrendous – it took one hour fifty minutes just to get through Passport Control after which we had to queue again to get through Customs and through Security. We spent six hours in the airport before taking off for Heathrow. Unfortunately, we were two hours late arriving in Heathrow because of which we both missed our onward flights. I was fortunate since after a 10 hour wait, I got onto the evening flight to Inverness, but Grand Secretary had to wait until Monday morning before he could get a flight to Edinburgh.

This was one of the longest tours ever undertaken because of the backlog of Installations resulting from the Covid lockdown. It was very much a working tour with little downtime but a very satisfying tour. The enthusiasm, the desire to get up and running again, the hospitality, the warmth of the welcome and the friendliness wherever we went was outstanding. I was particularly indebted to Brother Anthony Ulysses Bostwick who, after his own Installation in the Bahamas, accompanied me to all other Districts.

The Degree work in all Districts was of the highest standard, the desire, thanks to technology, to become more involved in the operation of Grand Lodge was encouraging – we are blessed to have very many men in the Districts (and in the Provinces) whose skill base, expertise and knowledge would greatly enhance the Standing Committees – something we must look at seriously.

The full report on the tour will appear in the 2023 Yearbook.