

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

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



*Lodge Polynesia No 562 on the Island of Fiji – prepared for their 150th anniversary –
the Consecration Vessels and table covering are traditional Fijian design*

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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AUGUST 2022

Editorial

Welcome to the 112th edition of the “Provincial Patter”.

I am absolutely delighted with the way that the “Make it a Million” appeal is going both within the Province and literally throughout the world. The generosity of the brethren and their families is outstanding.

The creative and imaginative initiatives going on throughout the Scottish Constitution to raise funds for the vitally important work of Prostate Cancer Scotland is impressive.

At the last count, just prior to leaving for Australia and Fiji, we had reached £926,000. Day by day we are creeping closer – over the weekend just passed I received a cheque for £4000 from the PGM of Midlothian who has completed a virtual John O’ Groat to Land’s End walk. The new Master of Lodge St Andrew in Pitlochry gave me a cheque for £500.

We still have 25 places to take up on the zip-slide which I hope will realise at least £50k. Most Provinces have some initiative going and we have received generous donations from many of our Lodges abroad.

It must be stressed that the £1,000,000 given to Prostate Scotland will ultimately help men the world over and not just in Scotland.

The Ross and Cromarty Donation will be substantial and for that I convey my sincere thanks to you all.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



Since August last year when the Covid restrictions started to reduce and Lodge meetings were back on the agenda, Grand Lodge has attempted to pull three years of Provincial, District and Superintendency Installations and Lodge Rededications into one year.

We are succeeding and I hope that in terms of Installations, we will be fully up to date by the end of October. There are still several Lodge Rededications to be completed including one in this Province. However, with the co-operation of the Lodges, we hope to complete that programme early in the New Year.

During the period of the “Masonic Lockdown” over 2000 Scottish Freemasons have died – some from Covid, many from other causes. Irrespective of the cause, the families and the Brethren of the Lodges were unable to have proper fully attended funeral services.

Given that situation, Grand Lodge are holding a Service of Remembrance in Glasgow Cathedral on Sunday 4th September to remember all who have died at home and abroad during that period. Numbers in the Cathedral will be limited but each Province, in addition to the PGM, will be offered six places. The service will be televised live so that our Brethren around the world can join the service. The link to the service will be circulated to Lodge secretaries prior to the service.

I would encourage our Province of Ross and Cromarty to take up their allocated places for this historic and important service.

Ed

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

Provincial Grand Lodge:

It should now be holiday season, and we should be sitting relaxing with our feet up enjoying a nice cool.....

Dream on, it has continued to be a busy period, despite most of the lodges now closed for the summer period.

Since I last wrote, at the start of May, we held our Lodge of Sorrow, the first to be held after a three-year break due to the Covid Lockdown restrictions. The service, compassionately officiated by Rev. Iain Ramsden, Past Senior Grand Chaplain, was a very poignant and emotional event, due, firstly, to increased number of Brethren that passed to Grand Lodge above in the extended commemorative period, some 94 brethren failed to answer the call, and secondly, we admitted widows and families to the ceremony for the first time. It was also encouraging to see such a good representation from all the lodges in the Province present at the Lodge of Sorrow.

We have now completed all the Provincial Grand Lodge Annual Visits to the lodges in the Province. At the beginning May we travelled west to Lodge Kyle 1117 where we witnessed an excellent Master Mason Degree for Brother Whittle.

We returned to the west a couple of weeks later in the month to Lodge Loch Ewe 1551 and witnessed the tremendous work which the members have carried out on the building improvements, with a lowered ceiling in the lodge and more space created in the entrance area.

Towards the end of the month, with a good deputation of Provincial Office-bearers, we made the annual crossing of the Minch to Lodge Fortrose 108. We witnessed a very well worked Entered Apprentice Degree for Rhuaridh McLellan, the son of the well-known Bro. Graham McLellan.

The Brethren of the Province have responded magnificently to the Grand Lodge of Scotland appeal to assist in the Make it a Million, to support the Grand Lodge of Scotland's target to raise one million pounds for Prostate Scotland by November this year.

After a slight health scare during my first attempt at cycling around the Province which the medical experts assure had nothing to do with the cycling, I have now completed my cycle around the Province and visited each of the lodges en route, completing some 260 miles on the way.

It was very enjoyable to cycle around our Province and view such beautiful scenery that we have on our doorstep, and I can confirm the west coast hills are easier tackled in a car than they are on a bike.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



On Lewis, setting off from Lodge Fortrose 108, I was joined by PM Tom Paton who led me on a route around the standing stones at Callanish and returned by Achmore, another stunning day of scenery.



At Robertson' Lodge, Cromarty



At Lodge St Duthus, Tain



At Lodge, Averon, Alness

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

On the final day, a beautiful sunny day on the last Saturday of July, five cyclists set off from Lodge Rosehaugh 1216 with the target to visit Lodges Seaforth 854, Robertsons 134, St Duthus 82, Ness 888, Averon 866 and Fingal 318.

After refreshments at Robertsons Lodge in Cromarty, Donald Ferguson and myself were getting ready to board the Cromarty to Nigg Ferry when PM Arthur MacArthur announced that he had nothing on for the rest of day and was going to join us for the rest of the cycle. Well done to Arthur, what an effort. It was a beautiful cycle over the Black Isle and Easter Ross, but it was an even more pleasing sight to see such a large gathering to welcome us over the finishing line at Lodge Fingal.

We were also honoured to have the Grand Master Mason's good lady to greet us at the finish in Dingwall.



I was delighted in the response and support received at each of the lodges, and the many Brethren who turned out to support me on my travels. Many thanks for all the hospitality received and the words of encouragement received.

I would also thank all the Brethren who turned out and cycled with me on parts of the route, and to those who provided back up along the way and to Mike Longley who has video-ed many parts of the cycle for a video diary.

I was also delighted at the innovative approach adopted by some of the other Lodges to raise funds for this cause, including the Lodge Fingal 318 Brethren for their brilliant idea, spotting that the PGM wouldn't be able to cycle across water, they decided to Row the Minch, and covered the distance between Ullapool and Stornoway on an exercise rowing machine, situated outside the Dingwall Tesco Supermarket, collecting money, and distributing Prostate Scotland literature, from the Saturday morning shoppers.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



PM Ian MacLaren also not wanting to be left out of the Ride Round Ross challenge came up with an innovative solution, and despite attending Raigmore Hospital three days a week for dialysis treatment, Ian decided to cycle on an exercise bike whilst he received treatment.

Not only has he completed over 100km on the bike, but his efforts have not gone unnoticed by hospital staff, and they have posted his story on the NHS Highland Facebook page, which has helped to promote the good charity work carried by Scottish Freemasons.



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

Provincial Grand Lodge (cont.)

Also, to raise funds for Make It a Million, Lodge Averon 866 are hosting a Fire-walk in October - an opportunity to walk across hot coals, a life changing experience for many. This promises to be fun night, so hopefully it will be well supported.

It is also your last chance to purchase a ticket in the raffle for the Grand Master Mason's Choice Whisky, Vodka and Gin. These bottles are exclusively autographed by the Grand Master Mason and will become very collectable items in the future. There are many other prizes of fine bottles of Scottish spirits in the draw.

PPGM Morris Downie has carried out a tremendous effort collecting prizes and selling tickets over the past months and will be officiating at the draw of the prizes at our next Provincial Quarterly Communication on Wednesday 17th August 2022.

All proceeds will be donated to the Make it a Million appeal.

The August Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross & Cromarty is planned for Wednesday 17th August 2022, to be held at Lodge Seaforth No. 854, Fortrose at 7:30pm. A good turnout will be appreciated.

Fraternal Regards

Raymond MacKeddie

Provincial Grand Master

Young Masons Group

Although most lodges are in summer recess the young Masons group continue to meet on Zoom. We still have members joining from Germany, Glasgow, and the Western Isles, which just would not be possible by normal face to face meetings.

Recent topics have included a Walk Through of the Second Degree and a presentation on Masonic Etiquette.

If any recently joined masons, or if you know any recently joined masons, wish to join the meeting please contact Raymond MacKeddie at raymond@mackeddie.co.uk

Raymond MacKeddie, PGM

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

From the Provincial Almoner

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

On Sunday 12th June 2022, Brother Thomas Edward Stirling, Past Master of Lodge Ness No. 888, passed away in his own home after a short hospital stay. A great loss to Lodge Ness No. 888 and many other organisations.

On Tuesday 19th July 2022, Brother Andrew Farquhar, MM of Lodge St Duthus No. 82, passed away in Innis Mhor Care Home, Tain. Brother Andy was in Invergordon Hospital for quite some time and was moved into the Care Home recently. He will be greatly missed in Lodge St Duthus No 82.

I also report on the following: -

Brother Duncan Munro, PM of Lodge Averon No. 866 has been in hospital recently but is now taking it easy at home.

Brother Alan Stankie, MM of Lodge St Duthus No. 82 has been hospitalised with a suspected heart-attack, but it would appear to have been associated with vertigo and he is now on the way to recovery.

Brother Grant Stacey, MM of Lodge St Duthus No. 82 is now in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh with a second heart attack which occurred on 30th July. No further report at this 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

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PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Brethren,

Welcome to Lodge St Duthus No 82. Whilst in recess Lodge St Duthus has had a busy summer. Just after the break we held a very successful quiz night organised by Easter Ross Musical Theatre, ERMT, to try to raise funds for the group prior to their show "Sunshine on Leith" which was held in the Duthac Centre. Like all voluntary groups ERMT had suffered during Covid by not being able to raise funds for their shows and approached Lodge St Duthus to see if we would hold a quiz night for them.

This was a very successful night with 15 teams of four taking part on the night and raising approximately £400 for the group. This was an extremely busy night in the bar and thanks must be given to our Junior Warden Bro David Johnstone who kept the participants well lubricated during the evening.

As part of the Platinum Jubilee ceremony Lodge St Duthus No 82 was asked to take part in a tree planting ceremony to commemorate the 70 years of her majesties reign. This was a particularly poignant ceremony as the trees planted were to replace trees that had recently died but that had been planted by members of Lodge St Duthus during the construction of Council housing on St Andrews Road just after the war.

The following day members of the lodge were invited to attend, along with other groups and dignitaries, a church service in Tain Parish Church. This service was conducted the Reverend James Curral of St Andrews Episcopal Church of Scotland.

Dates for your diary –

Lodge St Duthus are again delighted to be the venue for two events as part of the St Duthac Book & Arts Festival. This is the second year of this Festival following on from a very successful event last year. The two events that we are hosting this year are – 11.00 am on 22nd September - a talk on Tales & Legends of Tain to be given by Jason Ubych from Tain Museum.

The following day, 23rd September, a workshop on memoir writing to be hosted by prize-winning author and consultant, Vee Walker. Vee's clients include national and international heritage sites and museums. She has recently been running the *Write Enough* programme, a creative writing workshop

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

series for Highland Connecting Carers. Her first genealogy fiction novel, *Major Tom's War*, was a prize-winner at the SAHR Military History Fiction Awards in 2019.

Both events will be extremely interesting, and we are looking forward to once again being part of this exciting festival in Tain.

Sadly, brethren I must inform you of the passing of two of Lodge St Duthus' s most respected and well-known brethren - Brothers Andy Sutherland and Andy Farquhar.

Bro Andy Sutherland was the Lodge Organist for Lodge St Duthus and his musical talent at our ceremonies was second to none. Music in a Lodge adds an extra something that helps to add to the solemnity of the occasion and helps to make the ceremonies more memorable for those taking part. Bro Andy also added a lighter touch by accompanying the stewards, when retiring to prepare the Teas for the harmonies, to the tune of Heigh, Ho, Heigh, Ho it's off to work we go!! As sung by the seven dwarfs.

Bro Andy Farquhar was one of those stewards, but his main role was that of Outside Guard. In this role Bro Andy was usually the first face that people would see when entering the building, his cheery disposition and wit helped to settle many a nerve whilst candidates were waiting in the harmony room. Visitations and visitors will long remember Andy for his hospitality by ensuring that all were suitably refreshed before and after a meeting. Our thoughts and condolences are with both families. Both will be sadly missed and hard to replace.

Bro Dave Macrae PM

Secy.



The members of Lodge St Duthus at the tree planting ceremony

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



Lodge Fortrose No 108

Since the last Patter we had our first Provincial visitation since the lockdown so it's good to be getting back to some kind of normality.

We have more candidates on the horizon, Ruaraidh McLellan went through his first degree in June, and we've also balloted on Kenny Murray so he'll now on the waiting list for his initiation.



*Picture taken after Ruaraidh McLellan's first degree,
Note the trees that were planted in honour of the Queen's platinum Jubilee.*

PROVINCIAL PATTEN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



On their recent visit to the Western Isles Widows Sons Scotland West kindly donated £120 to Past Master Iain Campbell for him to pass on to a charity of his choice. Iain chose the Stornoway Scouts who are planning a trip to the jamboree in South Korea later this year. The donation was topped up to £150 by Lodge Fortrose. Iain is pictured handing over the cash to Ryan Maclellan scout leader. Raymond Mackeddie PGM carried out his provincial cycle visit to Lodge Fortrose on Thursday 21st July where he was presented with a Lodge donation of £200 towards his chosen charity Prostate Scotland.



RWM Robertson handing £200 to the PGM



Ready to go



On yer bikes

Donnie Macleod
Donald Macleod PM

PROVINCIAL PATTEN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



Robertson's Lodge No 134

Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

Like many Lodges, Robertson's Lodge No 134 are closed during the Summer. The final meeting of the season was held on 20th April 2022. Since the Pandemic restrictions lifted in August 2021, we have been meeting in Lodge Seaforth where there is much more space. However, from 21st September we will resume meetings in our own Lodge at 12 Duke Street, Cromarty.

On Sunday 1st May the Brethren attended the Provincial Grand Lodge Annual Lodge of Sorrow, held in Lodge Fingal No 318. This year it was a sadder event because it was covering a longer period than usual due to the Pandemic. Brethren also attended Lodge Kyle No 1117 for the Provincial Visitation on 2nd May and the following day attended the joint 125th Anniversary celebrations of Lodge Alan Wilson, No 851 and Lodge Seaforth No 854 which was an excellent ceremony and well attended meeting. Robertson's Lodge members also attended the Provincial Visitation held at Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551, on 12th May, and the final Provincial Visitation at Lodge Fortrose No. 108 over in Stornoway.

Brethren of the Lodge are continuing to visit those Lodges that are open, with Special Meetings, or Summer Lodges such as Lodge Alan Wilson 851, which had their Annual Provincial Visitation on 12th July 2022. Past Master Andrew MacIvor, along with others, is also carrying on with visits to Installations and Ceremonies in other Provinces as a visitor and in one of his roles with Grand Lodge.

On Saturday 30th July the Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty, Brother Raymond A. MacKeddie, and his team completed the Round Ross Cycling Run, during which he visited all the Lodges in the Province, by cycling. This was as a Fund-Raising Appeal for Prostate Scotland, part of the GMM's "Make it a Million Campaign."

After leaving Lodge Seaforth the cyclists, Brothers Raymond MacKeddie, Keith Patience, Donald MacLennan, and Donald Ferguson, travelled to Robertson's Lodge, Cromarty. They were welcomed at the Lodge by Past Master Jim Tait and well-known visitors and after receiving refreshments from Brother Jim, the Lodge Almoner, they crossed the firth using the Cromarty to Nigg Ferry and onwards to Tain where the brethren of Lodge St. Duthus 82 No met them

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



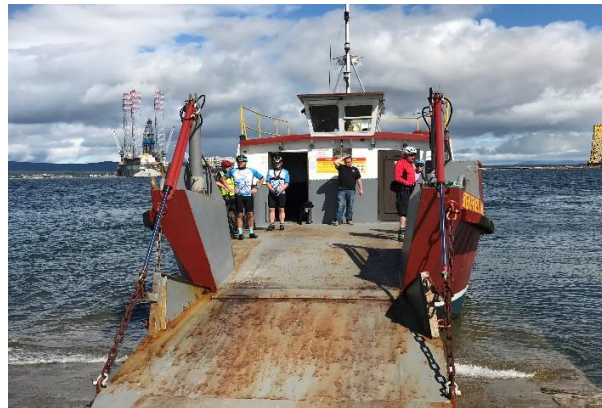
Just Arrived at Robertson's Lodge in Cromarty.



Receiving refreshments from Bro. Jim Tait.



Waiting for the ferry.



On the ferry now -



Off - Team sailing over to Nigg and then to Tain

Another keen cyclist who came to cheer the cyclists on was Flora Thomson, whose father-in-law was a member of Robertson's Lodge and whose own father is a member of Lodge Seaforth 854.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

In the meantime, Robertson's Lodge 134 continue to assist locally, with Cromarty Care Project by storing provisions and assisting with the local Community Larders. This will continue over the summer. A maintenance crew will be arranged among members for preparing the Lodge for September.

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.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1996

The Lodge Secretary, Brother Rev Bill Niven informs me that while the summer period is usually looked upon as a period of rest, activities in and around the Lodge since March would belie that fact. Anyone who could wield a hammer, screwdriver or paintbrush has been "volunteered" to help to refit the kitchen and toilets. It was a task well worth doing and will enable catering to be less of a hassle and the queue for the toilets to be greatly diminished.

An anonymous member of Lodge Averon also posted the following advert –

Wanted: A good women, must be able to cook, clean, sew, iron, dig worms and clean fish. Must have own boat and outboard motor. Please send photo of boat and outboard motor, genuine replies only to Box No 866.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1996

Freemasonry is ...

Kindness in the home - Honesty in business - Courtesy in society
Fairness in work - Pity and concern for the unfortunate
Resistance towards the wicked - Help for the weak - Trust in the strong
Forgiveness for the penitent - Love for one another and above all, reverence, and love for God

Freemasonry is many things - but most of all, Freemasonry is a way of life.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



Lodge Fingal No 318

Rowing Challenge as set up by Brother Angus Beaton PM.



An energetic group of brethren met on Saturday 21st May at Tesco Supermarket, Dingwall. Their aim - to finish the task which was started at the Lodge on Saturday 16th April. That exercise raised £1,182. What an achievement.

The collection buckets were never ignored, by the shoppers, all of whom were so kind. In fact, Mrs Janet Bowen, former Lord Lieutenant's, husband, went out to his car, to get paper-money. This is just one instance of people's generosity.

To-date there is a figure of £3,180 in the coffers, from donations, etc, to go forward for Prostrate Scotland, as per Brother Henry Cameron PM, calculations, our Treasurer of the Lodge.



Here are the rowers.

- H. Cameron
- R. Sutherland
- S. Bain
- A. Beaton
- Gareth Phillips
- Gwyn Phillips
- C. Mackintosh
- A. Craib
- N. Mackenzie who was camera shy.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

Photo taken at Pefferside Park, Dingwall, on the 23rd of May by Hector MacKenzie of the Ross-shire Journal to mark the occasion of the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Delighted to say that there was good publicity in the Ross-shire Journal.



*Brothers A. MacIvor, R. Sutherland, R. MacKeddie, S. Bain,
D. Gunn, D. MacMaster, Councillor S. Kennedy and A. Craib*

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



Photo taken at the Square, Strathpeffer, again to mark the occasion of the Queens Platinum Jubilee. In the photo we have

Ron MacAulay [chairman of Strathpeffer Community].

Mrs Janet Bowen [Former Lord Lieutenant of Ross-shire].

David MacMaster and the photographer was Henry Cameron.

The tree was donated by a very generous member of Lodge Fingal.

Tuesday 11th October: Sees the Lodge return from Refreshment to Labour. After the Business has been completed from the correspondence gathered, during the summer recess. Brother Neil MacKenzie will receive his Master Mason Degree.

Forth Coming Events, Logie Lounge:

Saturday 27th August } B-B-Q. 6pm for 6:30pm. Admission cost £10 per person. As the Logie Lounge will only hold a maximum of 60 people, tickets will be sold on first come, first served basis, and can be purchased from Donnie Gunn on 07903 618323 or E-mail donald@fingal318.co.uk.

Music by Mike Samms.

There will be a Licenced Bar. Unfortunately, due to licensing laws no children under the age of 18 years, will be allowed at this function.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

Saturday 24th September} Quiz Night. 7pm for 7:30pm. Bro. David MacMaster being the Quiz Master. Teams of four at a cost of £20 / team. Maximum no of tables, 16. David will take names by phone on 01997 421306 or E-mail dmacmaster@btinternet.com

Saturday 22nd October} Race Night. 7pm for 7:30pm. Organised by the Master; Race convenor to be Bro. Ali Matheson. Eight races @ £50 /race; 64 horses @ £5 / head; Each race sponsor winner will get a bottle. **(All have been organised).**

As we go through these strange times. Take care and stay safe.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

D. Gunn RWM



LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851

At long last we are back to live meetings.

On Tuesday 3rd May the brethren of Lodge Allan Wilson No. 851 joined with the brethren from Lodge Seaforth No. 854 in a memorable Re-Dedication Ceremony to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of both Lodges. The ceremony, which was held in the Masonic Hall, Fortrose, was conducted by the Grand Master Mason, Bro Ramsay McGhee, along with Past Senior Grand Chaplain, Bro the Rev Iain Ramsden, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, Bro. Ronnie Forbes, and Junior Grand Standard Bearer, Bro Alex Craib, in an excellent manner. It was most fitting that Bro McGhee conducted the Ceremony as he is a Past Master of both Lodges. The occasion was attended by brethren of both Lodges along with a deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty headed by the Provincial Grand Master, Bro Raymond A. MacKeddie, and several visitors. After the ceremony the company sat down to lunch where all the normal Toasts were proposed and responded to. A very enjoyable occasion.

On Tuesday 14th June our first Regular Meeting since August 2019 was held. This was our Annual Installation Meeting and, in the absence of the Right Worshipful Master, Bro Allan Baker, whose wife Pat, had recently sadly passed away, the Lodge was opened by Past Master, Bro Ramsay McGhee. Bro McGhee then installed Bro Ian Russell as Master following which the other elected Office-Bearers were installed by Past Master Jim Tait.

At our Regular Meeting on Tuesday 12th July, we had our annual visit from the Provincial Grand Master, Bro Raymond A. MacKeddie, and his Office-Bearers from whom the Lodge received a very favourable Report. Thereafter, we received a very interesting and informative talk from the Master, Bro Russell, about Masonic Tokens.

Our final Meeting of the year will be on Tuesday 9th August when the talk will be given by Past Master J. Brash about Lodge Aitchison`s Haven. It should be another interesting occasion.

David MacMaster - Secretary

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



LODGE SEAFORTH 854



The RWM of Lodge Seaforth No.854 had a pleasant duty recently when he called at the home of Bro. David Brooke's in Fortrose and presented him with his 50-year certificate.

The lodge closed the season in celebratory style with a 125-year Centenary Re-dedication Ceremony held jointly with Lodge Allan Wilson 851, both lodges being granted their charters on 6th May 1897.

We witnessed an excellent Re-dedication Ceremony carried out a deputation from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, headed by the Grand Master Mason, Bro William Ramsay McGhee, who is fittingly is a Past Master of both lodges, and was one of leading figures in reponing of Lodge Allan Wilson 851 to its present location.

Raymond MacKeddie PM - Secretary

PROVINCIAL PATTTER

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

LODGE AVERON No 866

Hello Brethren,

I hope we find you all fit and well and enjoying this great weather we are having. Since the last addition of the patter, Lodge Averon have been busy raising funds for our local community and having some well-earned social events.

On the 25th of June we held our golf day which raised £1750. This will be making its way into the community soon. Val and the staff at Invergordon Golf Club did a great job in accommodating us all on the day it certainly must not have been easy keeping all of us fed and watered so a special thanks must go to them. Also, George Reid Photography who took all our pictures on the day and not forgetting our hole sponsors. A great day out arranged by brother Frazer McBeath Jnr and Gary Miller.

Hole Sponsors

1. Goodtread Auto Group
2. Iain Mcghee 854
3. Marmaris family Kebab House
4. The Eating Plaice
5. Nicolson Accounting
6. G Force Cleaning Solutions
7. RWJ Haulage
8. The Baltie Cottage Alness / Invergordon
9. Goodtread Auto Group
10. Marmaris family Kebab House
11. Fraser Brothers Building Supplies
12. Commercial Hotel Alness
13. McDougall plant hire
14. Howdens Invergordon
15. G Force Cleaning Solutions
16. The Eating place
17. Goodtread Auto Group
18. Willie pew 866

Closest to the pin sponsored by Denny Morrison

Longest Drive sponsored by Sunny's Alness



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



The winning team was Mark Reid and the Saltburn boys.



2nd place was Kenny Kennedy, Andrew Ripley, Graham Bertram, and Abner MacPherson.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

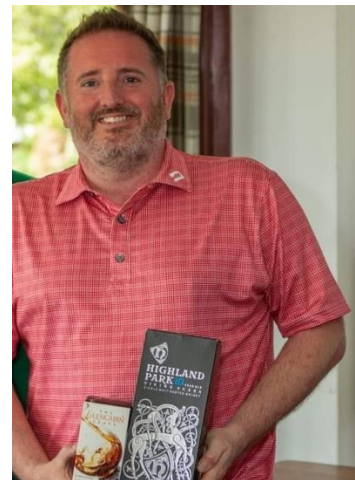
AUGUST 2022



3rd place was James MacIver, Gaz MacLean, Scott Stirling, and Robert Patullo.



Longest drive Daniel Cormack.



Closest to the pin was PM Munro's son Paul.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

On the 16th of July we held a comedy night in the lodge which was well attended. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we all left with sore sides with laughter. Our PM Peter Hermitage was dragged up on stage to help them out with one of the acts. He fitted in nicely and you would have thought he had done it before.



On the 23rd of July a deputation from the Highlands made its way down to Musselburgh for a visit to Lodge St. John Fisherrow No 122 who were working a 3rd degree. A very warm welcome was extended to us all by the RWM Tom Edgar and the brethren of the lodge.

The degree was carried out in an exceptional manner and was very different from what a lot of us had seen before.

After the meeting we were treated to a harmony with lots of music and singing. They had lots of visitors from all over the British Isles which was great to see. The lodges that represented the Highland division were Lodge Old Inverness Kilwinning St John No 6, Robertson's Lodge No 134, Lodge Fingal No 318, Lodge Allan Wilson No 851, Lodge Averon No 866, Lodge Ness No 888, Lodge St Donan No 933, and Lodge St Martin No 1217. We would like to thank the RWM and the brethren for their hospitality.

There are some well kent faces in the photos below.

The second photo is of brethren who regularly meet together on the Province Of Fife and Kinross Zoom meeting.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

The RWPGM along with brother Donald Ferguson and Arthur Macarthur stopped off at Lodge Averon for a cup of tea and a biscuit before their final cycle of the day to Lodge Fingal. They were met by IPM Donnie Mathieson, JW James McDougall and JD Gary Miller. Donald has been with Raymond every step of the way on this epic journey and of course we can't miss the wonderful support team they have following them. A very well done from everyone at Averon.



On Saturday the 13th of August we are having a lodge Bar-be-que for the brethren and their families and friends. Brother Serhat Yavuz has very kindly offered to cook for us all and has promised to knock up some Turkish treats. If any other brethren would like to come along, they will be received with a warm welcome.

On a final note, on Friday the 9th of September will see a night of mediumship at Lodge Averon which has been organised by the RWM Charlie Carrison. Tickets can be purchased for this event by getting in contact with the RWM Charlie Carrison or any of the brethren of Lodge Averon. See the poster below.

Yours Fraternally

Gary Miller JD

PSYCHIC READING BY JAN MAYFAIR

LODGE AVERON
9TH OF SEPTEMBER
7pm

£12.50 a ticket with free drink on arrival
contact Charlie on 07496916743 or any
lodge member

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

LODGE NESS No 888

LODGE KYLE No 1117

Lodge Kyle continues to work through the options for fixing the roof and have received some very good quotes. However, the Lodge being in recess makes decision-making difficult and so we have decided to (hopefully) have an informal gathering at the Hall to get the details “nailed down” before our Meeting in September. Brethren will bring some food and if weather permits, we shall dine al fresco on the Lodge patio, a few refreshments also being brought along to wash down freshly BBQed burgers and other assorted goodies.

Despite being a chance to discuss the bids and way forward for roof repairs we may invite family and friends as this is a good opportunity to open the Lodge to the public and make them aware of what we do and why we do it.

The garden continues to look good, most thanks going to Paul and Steve, who have also worked on the cracks in the forward-facing wall. They are now almost invisible. Lastly our hundred-year plus, Volume of the Sacred Law is being repaired, as the leaky roof and damp conditions in the Lodge caused it to separate from its binding. It was presented to Lodge Kyle 1117 by George Mackintosh (Brother and local plumber) 20th June 1913. How the world can change in a single year ...

Our next formal Meeting will be Monday 5th September, and may be held slightly earlier than usual to give us time to fully discuss our finances and roof. As everyone is welcome; if you are coming over the hill, it might be a good idea to give the Secretary a call/email to confirm time of Tying.

Finally, we all appreciate what our Provincial Grand Master Brother Raymond is doing for charity with his Bike Ride round all the Lodges in the Province. His efforts are appreciated by all of us here in Kyle, and I'm sure throughout the Province. It is indeed a worthy cause and we all should know more about Prostate Cancer.

Let us all have a wonderful Masonic season this year.

Ronnie Miller, PM - Secretary

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



The garden at Lodge Kyle – looking good - thanks to Paul & Steve

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1996

At the August (1995) Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in Edinburgh, the District Grand Master of Trinidad and Tobago, Brother Thomas Ambrose Cross, was invited by Lord Burton to address Grand Lodge. During his speech, Brother Cross mentioned that they were about to celebrate 200 years of Masonry in Trinidad and Tobago and that he was disappointed that there would be no representation from Grand Lodge during the year of their celebrations.

At the close of the Quarterly Communication, Brother Morris Downie made a point of seeing one of the Brethren who formed the Deputation from Trinidad and Tobago, Brother Peter Salvary, Substitute District Grand Master, and duly informed him that if Grand Lodge wouldn't visit them, Ramsay and Morris would.

And so it was decided that during July 1996, the two of us, accompanied of course by Wilma and Ann, would visit the Brethren of Trinidad and Tobago.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

Following the cancellation of our April meeting due to covid we had hoped for better luck in May and hold our PGL visitation meeting. However, we did message 16 office bearers and only two felt comfortable to attend. We also had a tragic death of Lynne Patience only 34 years old. Lynne's Uncle is our RWM Gary Munro and with her late Dad and Grandads and another Uncle members of 1216 we felt it would be very inappropriate to hold our meeting on the day of her funeral. Apologies to PGL but I trust they understand our reasons for cancelling the meeting.

As May has been one of our poorest attended meetings, we are considering amending our constitution to start meeting in September and concluding in April. This will be considered by Committee if we meet in September. This will probably be dictated if we have a candidate or not. If not, our next scheduled meeting will be on the 7th of October with a 19.45 start.

Our belated 100th anniversary meeting is scheduled for the 22nd of October with the Lodge Priory Celebration taking place the evening before. Both ceremonies will be conducted by Grand Lodge so hopefully we will be able to boost attendances and support each other over the weekend.

Two of our Brethren have passed to the Lodge above in recent months. Bro Donald Patience passed away on 3rd March 2022. Don was born in Avoch in 1938 in a long line of fishing family. It was not an occupation he took up but decided to be a joiner - something which aided the Lodge over the years. He joined Lodge Rosehaugh on 6th October 1961 and was a very regular attender. He chose not to get involved too much in Lodge work but preferred the role of Tiler. Not the most popular job in the Lodge but what Don preferred. He did receive his 50th certificate in 2011. Don's skill as a joiner was important in the building of the lodge in the late 60's, the extension in the late 80's and our kitchen upgrade a few years back. However, it must be said that Don's main recreational love was Scouting. He was involved with the Avoch Scouts and thereafter as Camp Warden at the Tollie Brahan Scout Group. He received an award in 1982 for services to scouting at Windsor Castle in April 1982 and a beautiful bowl (see photo) for his 25 years-service at Brahan Scout Camp.



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

The other who passed was Bro. Paul Campbell. His son James contacted PGS Bro Ratcliffe in June and Peter replied to him and advised us of the situation. James has mentioned they had a masonic coin and watch they wish to return to the Lodge. Paul was a good friend of Sandy Rose PM who introduced him to the lodge where he joined in 2005. He held office as Inner Guard and then Junior Deacon when he left Bennetsfield just outside Avoch and I believe he moved to Inverness at that point. He passed away on the 13th of March this year in Wishaw South Lanarkshire.

On a brighter note you may well have come across on social media an article on Ian Maclaren who is doing a cycle challenge when having his kidney dialysis treatment. Ian tells me he is closing in on his 200 km challenge. Great effort Ian thanks to the Brethren of 1216 and others for their donations including the Avoch Golfers (AGGS) who have put their contribution to Prostate cancer into Ian's pot.

Had a word today with Les Warne. You will recall Les had his foot removed recently. He is getting on well with prosthetic foot however a change in his chemo has not gone as good as expected. Still, he is in good from and thanking all for their support.

Finally, I understand that Bro Tommy Macallister is due into Raigmore for surgery next week. We wish Tommy our best wishes.

Keith Patience, PM

Lodge St Martin 1217

The lodge has almost completed the new fire exit within the lodge room, and it is just the exterior ramp and redecoration to have the project completed. The lodge has also been having the lodge Roll Book rebound and the Petition Book and Mark book all renovated, after more than 100 years the Roll Book had been in quite a poor state but is now looking spectacular, the work was all carried out by local artisan Rebekah Lewin and what a wonderful job she has made of them.

The lodge has also welcomed the Squaremen from Inverness on Saturday 2nd July when a great day was had by all. The lodge also had a visit from the "Widows Sons" who were also passing through Ullapool.

The lodge is having an "Open Day" on Saturday 20th August with the lodge open for visitors to see what we all get up to and learn a little about Freemasonry, there will also be burgers and refreshments available supplied by the lodge.

Best wishes to all and keep safe.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



While in Perth (Australian version) to carry out the Installation of Brother Clive Lynn as DGM of the District Grand Lodge of Western Australia, I was delighted to meet Brother Anthony Wayne, a member of Lodge St Martin No 1217.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 1997

As reported in the August 1996 edition, Brother Downie and I visited Trinidad and Tobago and made many friends in the process.

In August this year, I received a letter from Brother Stanley Marcus saying that members of the District were planning a visit to Scotland in November and would like to visit the Province. By sheer luck their visit coincided with the Centenary Celebrations at Lodge Averon (7th November 1997). In addition, the Brethren of Lodge St Duthus volunteered to work a special FC Degree on the Saturday.

Add to the recipe a visit to Lord and Lady Burton at Dochfour and a visit to the Lodge Seaforth social club and the result was that the Trinidad Brethren met a great number of Brethren from throughout the Province.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

On a sunny Monday afternoon in July, it was a pleasure to welcome the Provincial Grand Master of Ross & Cromarty, Brother Raymond MacKeddie, and his support team on the second phase of his *Make it a Million* cycle ride around the Province in aid of Prostate Scotland.

It was even more memorable an occasion for the RWM, Brother Ally Gault, as he was able to share the event with Past Master and long-time Secretary of the Lodge, Brother Duncan MacLennan, who had been unable to attend the Lodge for several years. This year, Brother MacLennan was Distinguished Service Membership of the Lodge and, not only was he able to personally greet the PGM but also see for himself the refurbishment work undertaken in the Lodge, work which met with his full approval!



Michael Longley, PM – Lodge Loch Ewe

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

BITS AND PIECES



Ye Corporation O' Squaremen

Heilan Shed

The first Saturday in July saw the members of Heilan Shed No.6 in the Jewel by the Sea village of Ullapool, the home of Lodge St Martin No 1217. The weather was kind, and the Shed was well attended.

One member of the Lodge joined the Shed along with a Mason, a member of the Widows Sons Motor-Cycle Club who were on a tour of the area stopping of for the night in Ullapool.

The Master of lodge St Martin is pictured, flabbergasted, by the value of the cheque handed over to the Lodge by the Worthy Deacon Bro Callum Macdonald.

The next Shed meeting is scheduled for Nairn where a good attendance is anticipated. *Morris Downie*



Since our last report for the May edition, we have held Meetings in Invergordon, Inverness and Ullapool and are to hold one in Nairn on 6th August and our last one of the Season will be in Thurso on Saturday 3rd September both Meeting will commence at 15:00 hours.

Obituaries – Sadly we must report the Passing of two well-loved Brithers, **Auld Deacon Peter Somerville** 10 Carse Road, Inverness who Passed on 21st June who was our Deacon from 2004 to 2006 and **Bri Tommy Stirling** who joined the Squaremen in Mither Shed in Edinburgh and was a regular

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

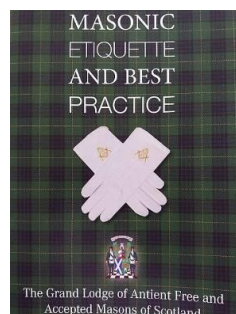
ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

attender to Heilan Shed. Tommy was a very well-known Brother in many Orders – both will be sadly missed

On a happier note, at our Invergordon Meeting, we got 6 new Members and at Ullapool another 2 – it should be noted that the new made Brithers in Ullapool were both Members of the Widows Sons and they gave us a great insight into what they do and how the Order has expanded over the years to various Countries.

*John & Mackay
Boxie*



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.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022

PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

It was with great sadness that Companions throughout the Province learned of the untimely death of our Provincial Grand Superintendent, MEC Tommy Stirling.

The sincere condolences of all Companions in the Province are tendered to the extended Stirling family.

Tommy has been a long-standing and energetic member of Royal Arch Masonry and his zeal and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. It can be truly said that he lived respected and died regretted.

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 for the RA on the horizon. I wonder if the one year wait after becoming a master mason has contributed to the lack of candidates. However, we did work a Cryptic degree during the provincial visit on Thursday 17th May when we exalted 3 candidates. Getting office bearers and poor attendance has become a problem.

We were very sad and shocked to hear of the passing of Grand Superintendent Tommy Stirling so soon after his visit to us in May our condolences go out to his family.

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 Masters Visit to Western Australia and Fiji

There will be a full report of my visit in the 2023 Grand Lodge yearbook but just to give you a flavour of the visit, I have included a few photographs.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



Installation of Brother Clive Lynn – DGM of Western Australia



With the Brethren of Western Australia Goldfields



To give some perspective – Grand Secretary is 6' 7" and is seen here standing in one of the buckets used in the Kalgoorlie Diamond Mines. Each bucket weighs 68 tonnes and costs \$1.1 million.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 112

AUGUST 2022



Traditional Fiji welcome ceremony – very impressive.



Traditional dancers



The ladies of the Lodge who made my ceremonial garland