

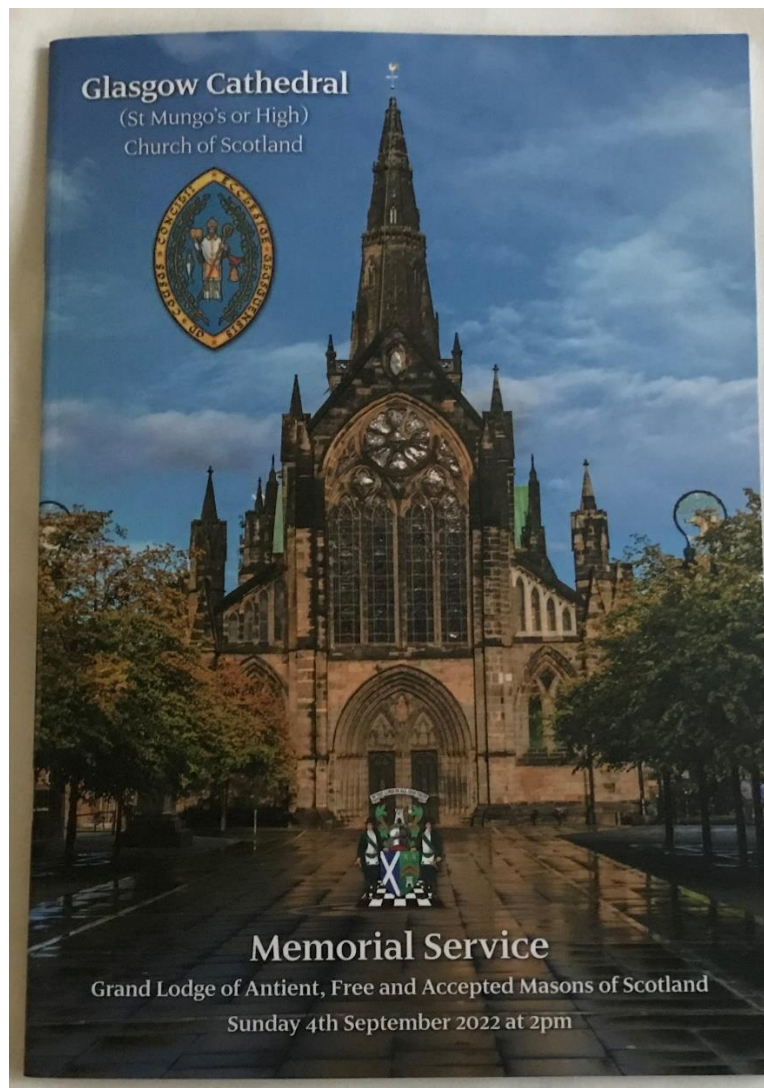
PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 113

NOVEMBER 2022

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



At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them

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Editorial

Welcome to the 113th edition of the “Provincial Patter”.

We start this edition recording our sadness at the passing of Her Majesty the Queen. Her record of service to the country and the Commonwealth has been outstanding over her 70-year reign. May she rest in peace.

At the Grand Lodge Memorial Service held in Glasgow Cathedral for all those Brethren who passed to the Grand Lodge Above during the two-year lockdown period, the Province was well represented with a Deputation headed by the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Raymond MacKeddie.

Eight of our twelve Lodges in the Province have entries in the Order of Service which includes the names of over two thousand Brethren who passed to the Grand Lodge Above during that two-year period when we couldn't grieve properly, couldn't attend funerals because of the restrictions. The service can still be viewed via the Grand Lodge website.

Each Lodge will receive a copy of the Order of Service to retain in their archives.

My sincere thanks to the Province for their tremendous effort in respect of the Grand Master Mason's “Make it a Million” – you certainly did make it a million – in fact, £1.1 million. The final cheque will be presented to Prostate Scotland at the Festival of St Andrew on 24th November.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



Since the May edition it has been a busy time for Grand Lodge in many ways but in terms of catching up with all the Provincial and District Grand Lodge Installations, I'm delighted to report that we will have caught up by Monday 21st November.

As we go to print all Provincial Grand Masters have been installed and we only have one District Grand Master left to install. Brother Chris Wong, DGM of the Far East, will be installed in Grand Lodge during the evening of the first day of the Conference – Monday, 21st November.

All Brethren attending the Conference are welcome to attend the Installation.

At the Grand Lodge Communication on 27th October, it was confirmed that the following Brethren from the north will be among those being installed into office.

Mike Kinnaird – Aberdeenshire West – Grand Jeweller

Alex Craib – Inverness-shire – Grand Marshall

Ronald Simpson – Aberdeenshire East – Grand Inner Guard

Ed

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Provincial Grand Lodge:

Hi Brethren

With the shorter days, and long dark nights, and most Lodges having restarted meetings, it feels like the masonic season is well underway.

All the Lodges in the Province have recommenced work, and soon we will be looking forward to the Installation season again.

Hopefully, with the roll out of the winter vaccination programme, the risk from the Covid virus will remain low and allow us to continue to meet as normal throughout the winter period.

On the 17th of August at the Provincial Grand Lodge Communication held at Lodge Seaforth, I was delighted to announce that, through the combined effort of the various fundraising initiatives held with the Province, we were able to present the Grand Master Mason with a



cheque totalling over £11, 000 towards his Make it a Million appeal for Prostate Scotland. This was a tremendous joint effort by many Brethren who took part in the various events, supported by all the Lodges in the Province.

We should all be very proud what we, as a small Province in the Highlands achieved.

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It was very pleasing to hear, during the October Communication at Grand Lodge, the Grand Master Mason announce that the Make it a Million Appeal for Prostate Scotland had reached, and indeed far exceeded the target of One Million Pounds.

The donated total at time of writing has exceeded £1.1 million and is likely to continue to rise for some yet as events and donations are still in progress.

This is the first time that Scottish Freemasonry has donated over one million pounds to a single charity.



The first Friday of September involved a trip across the Minch, accompanied by the PG Director of Ceremonies, Brother Andrew MacIvor, to deliver the winning prize in the Provincial Grand Lodge Raffle for Make it a Million.



The winning ticket for the Grand Master Masons Choice bottles of Malt Whisky, Gin and Vodka was bought by Brother Lewis Steven, who chose to donate the prize to his Mother Lodge, Lodge Fortrose 108. We attended the Regular Meeting and witnessed an excellently worked Master Mason Degree for Brother James MacLeod, who, it must be noted, answered his test questions in an exemplary manner.

On the 4th of September a small deputation from the Province attended the Memorial Service at Glasgow Cathedral, arranged by the Grand Lodge of Scotland to remember all the Brethren who passed to the Grand Lodge above during the period of the Covid restrictions. It was a very moving and meaningful service ably conducted by Brother Rev Mark Johnstone and assisted by the Senior Grand Chaplain, Brother Rev Dr Angus Kerr. The setting was magnificent within the Cathedral, with stirring and heartening singing, enhanced by the Cathedral Choir.

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It was only days later, on the 8th of September, that the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was announced, which commenced a period of national mourning and all Masonic activity ceased until after the funeral service on Monday 19th September.

On the 22nd of October, I attended the many times delayed Centenary Rededication Ceremony at Lodge Rosehaugh No.1216. The Rededication ceremony was conducted by a team from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, headed by the Grand Master Mason, Brother Ramsay McGhee, in his usual accomplished and inspiring manner, appreciated by a well filled Lodge and concluded with a magnificent harmony board, with an eclectic mix of well-known speakers making up the Toast List.

In November we are looking forward to welcoming our friends from the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada. It is anticipated that around 60 Brethren and partners will be arriving in Ross and Cromarty following their attendance at the 4th International Masonic Conference, and Installation of the Grand Master Mason, Brother Ramsay McGhee, in Edinburgh near the end of November.

The Brethren of the Province have been busy planning events for the visit, and we are looking forward to a welcome evening with a Scottish Themed Ball in the Ben Wyvis Hotel on Friday 25th November and Special Meeting at Lodge Averon on Saturday 26th November.

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From the enthusiastic response that we have had at the various meetings and events in the Province at this early stage in the season, I am looking forward with some optimism that the issues we have faced due to the Covid pandemic are now firmly behind us, and the Lodges are quickly starting to regain momentum, with attendances starting to recover to pre-pandemic levels, new members joining, and progressing through their Degrees.

As we progress quickly through the season, with the lodge installations starting shortly, I would urge all our members in the Province to get out visiting and encourage friends to think about coming back to lodge meetings, and soon we will be re-established as the progressive Province that we were before the Covid restrictions slowed every down.

The November Communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross & Cromarty is planned for Wednesday 9th November 2022, 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

Young Masons Group

The young Masons continues to meet by Zoom on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

During the last few months, we welcomed three new members from Lodge Fortrose No. 108, and due to convenience of the internet-based Zoom platform, gives them a great chance to interact with other recently joined masons from the mainland, and share their evolving masonic experience.

We still have members joining us from Germany, Glasgow, and the Western Isles, which just would not be possible with normal face to face meetings.

Recent topics have included a discussion on Masonic Cypher and the symbolic and esoteric significances of "Wisdom, Strength and Beauty".

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

Raymond MacKeddie, PGM

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From the Provincial Almoner

The following have sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above:

On Tuesday 19th July 2022, Brother Murdo "Biodan" MacLeod, MM of Lodge Fortrose No 108, in Point, Isle of Lewis. A well-known character in that area and sadly missed by all.

On Monday May 5th September 2022, Brother Cliff G Sim, MM and affiliate member of Lodge St Duthus No.82 and Lodge Fortrose No.108 passed away in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. He was the Provincial Grand Secretary of Ross and Cromarty quite some time ago.

On Saturday 8th October 2022, Brother Farquhar MacManus, Past Master of Lodge Fingal No. 318 passed away at his home after a long illness. He worked for a long time with the Local Authority in The Street Lighting Department.

On Tuesday 25th October 2022, Brother Donald MacLeod, Past Master of Lodge Seaforth No. 854 passed away suddenly at his home. Brother Donald has been struggling for quite some time with his health. He will be greatly missed in Lodge Seaforth No. 854 as he was a great ritualist and a very active member in various other Masonic Orders.

I also report on the following:

Brother Duncan Munro, PM of Lodge Averon No. 866 Is now at home recuperating and hopes to resume his Masonic visits soon.

Brother Robert Sutherland, Past Master of Lodge Averon No.866 has had a short stay in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness and has had a pacemaker fitted. He is now back to his old self.

Brother George Robinson PM of Lodge Averon No.866 has now managed to return to his Lodge and improving all the 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.

I would also ask Lodge Almoners to keep me updated regarding any Brother with health issues. Thank you.

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

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FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Brethren,

Welcome to another masonic year from Lodge St Duthus No82. As with all Lodges, I suspect that we will face challenges in the coming year, getting back into the routine of having regular meetings in the comfort of the Lodge Rooms rather than in front of the fire with a device on your lap for a zoom meeting and encouraging brethren to attend again after such a long break.

Our first regular meeting of the season was held on the 3rd of October which was our AGM and election of Office Bearers. At this meeting the treasurer's report was presented by Bro Steven O'Donnell, this earmarked a milestone in our Lodge as it saw PM Dan Patience retire from the office of treasurer for health reasons. Dan has been a long serving brother of Lodge St Duthus and in December 2020 was presented with a gift from the Lodge to mark his 50 years of service.

Lodge St Duthus have set out a programme up until February which will be as follows -

- * Monday 7th November Installation of the RWM and his Office Bearers
- * Monday 5th December Mark Master Mason degree for Bro D McGhee
- * 19th/20th December a special meeting for a Master Mason Degree on Bro S Mackenzie. This date is dependent on when Bro Mackenzie can return from Germany where he lives. Confirmation of this date will be given as soon as possible
- * 2nd January it is anticipated that there will be no meeting on this date.
- * 6th February there will be a Lecture given on the History of Lodge St Duthus No 82 by PM D Macrae.

The charitable work of the Lodge, which was all that we could really do during the time when all Lodges were closed, has continued with Lodge St Duthus having this month donated to the Bradbury Centre in Bonar Bridge and a donation of dried goods and food to the Tain & District Rotary Club as part of their Christmas Hamper appeal.

Yours Faithfully & Fraternally

Bro Dave Macrae PM

Secy.

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

It's been quite a busy last 3 months masonically, in August Ruairidh McLellan was passed to the second degree. In September James Macleod was raised to MM and Nigel Jones of Lodge Aeron affiliated to Lodge Fortrose. In October, at the regular meeting Ruairidh was raised and on the third Friday Kenneth Murray was initiated, we also held our annual election of office bearers at that meeting. On the 4th a deputation from Stornoway attended the Provincial visit to Lodge St Clements in Tarbert. We also sent a small delegation to the centenary celebrations at Lodge Rosehaugh.



Fortrose Lodge members enjoying the harmony in Rosehaugh

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The first prize of 3 bottles of spirits signed by the Grand Master Mason was won by Lewis Steven who in turn handed them over to Lodge Fortrose.



The Stornoway rugby club are holding their after-match hospitality dinners in the lodge social club, these get togethers are a great boost to the till. The above picture includes some members of the team

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from Kinloss who substantially beat the locals. The Kinloss team are from the army base and include several Fijians who you can see in the picture.

We had a visit from Finnish brethren in the middle of September, unfortunately we were unable to hold a meeting with them as it coincided with the mourning period for Queen Elizabeth 11. The Finns all belonged to “The Ballantynes Lodge Number Nothing” which is not affiliated to any Grand Lodge, but you must be a mason to belong to it, similar to the shed etc.



Finns at the Iolaire memorial



Finns at Callanish Stones

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Finns at Red River distillery



Finnish brother checking out the local seafood



Reciprocating gifts with Finnish RWM

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It was Mod week last week, this year the mod was held in Perth, and I thought you might like to see Henry Macinnes PM in action at the shinty:



The Shinty Referee

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod PM

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2005

From Lodge Fortrose, Stornoway –
That's Mod Week over and what a week it was in Stornoway! We had a band playing in the Lodge on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday nights, Ian Joseph & Friends, and it did a power of good for our turnover with the licence allowing us to carry on until 6 a.m. on Saturday morning, not that we were able to last that long.



Robertson's Lodge No 134

Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

During the summer break Robertson's Lodge continued to assist Cromarty Care Project with storing and transferring Provisions for the Cromarty Community Larder. The Provisions have since been relocated.

After the summer break, in September, Robertson's Lodge members held their first Regular Meeting in their own Lodge, at Duke Street, Cromarty, this was after the long duration of the Covid Pandemic. Members had been using the Masonic Temple at Lodge Seaforth after the generous offer having been made by the Master of Lodge Seaforth at that time, Brother Graham Law, and his members.

On preparing the Duke Street building Robertson's Lodge members carried out a good clean up, thank you to all who assisted. There are more renovations to be required and they are under further review and discussion, but are scheduled to be completed, including the review of the heating system, bearing in mind the oncoming winter season and the current economic situation.

During the quiet period, a new candidate had been proposed by two local members, a welcome sign for the future we hope.

The first Meeting in September was a business Meeting with a good number of topics discussed, including the new candidate. A follow up enquiry meeting was held. The Lodge Secretary, Brother Ratcliffe, gratefully received his 50 years certificate, in a lovely frame too, my thanks to Brother Jim Tait, PM, for arranging all that, and to the Master, Jonathan Hill, PM, for presenting it.

Our second meeting, in October welcomed back our distinguished Past Master Brother Ronnie Cooper, PM, it was good to see him back in the Lodge and passing on his knowledge again. Thank you again to the visitors who had come along, and from out-with the Province. There was a positive ballot held, followed by a demonstration First Degree conducted by the Lodge Members. Following the meeting we held a short harmony

The next Meeting in November will be the AGM and followed by an E.A. degree for our new candidate.

Now that all Lodges are re-opened, Members of the Lodge continue to visit other Lodges when possible, including catching up with the Re-dedications of Lodges. Members were over in Lodge Rosehaugh last Saturday for a very hospitable and enjoyable Centenary Celebration.

Thank you and Best Wishes.

Peter K. Ratcliffe.

Lodge Secretary.

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Lodge Fingal No 318



Photo shoot at Lodge Seaforth No. 854, where the Provincial Quarterly Communication was held Wednesday 17th August.

The Lodge returned from the summer recess on Tuesday 11th October. After the Business had been completed, a mock Master Mason Degree was worked. Brother Andrew MacIvor was the press-ganged candidate. The Lodge Tyled at 7:30pm, which went down well. Our Byelaws have been changed to this new time.

Future events in the Lodge are: -

- November meeting: 8th Will be our annual AGM and nomination of Office Bearers.
- December meeting: 13th - a M.M. Degree for Brother David John Noble.
- Special meeting: Tuesday 27th December Re-Installation for Bro Donald Gunn PM and Office Bearers at 6:30pm. With a small harmony, in the Logie Lounge, to follow.
- January meeting: 10th January - a M.M. Degree for Brother Martin James Robertson.

Events in the Logie Lounge:

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The B-B-Q on 27th August was a great success. The weather was kind to us. Brothers Colin Mackintosh and Allan (Storn) MacKenzie did the cooking - nothing got burnt. Mrs Margaret-Anne Mackintosh supplied the salad etc, Mrs Maureen MacKenzie supplied the wine. Some 48 attendees supported the Lodge. The music by Brother Mike Samms ensured that the floor was never empty.

On Saturday 24th September we held a Quiz Night, at which PM David MacMaster excelled himself as Quiz Master. There were 14 tables occupied. As usual the Fingal Ladies rose to the occasion with baking and helping with the teas etc. at half time.

On Saturday 22nd October, another fund raiser – this time a Race Night. Race convenor was Brother Ali Matheson. Apart from his organising each race, there was some banter and jokes, which the 29 number who turned up, appreciated, between each race.

At all these nights in the Logie Lounge, Brother Henry Cameron, carried out the Bar Duties in fine style and never got flustered with some drink requests!

As we approach the Festive Season, on behalf of the Brethren of the Lodge, may we wish all Brethren, Wives, Partners, and Families a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year ahead.

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

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

D. Gunn RWM

Secretary.

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 1998

The Festival of St John

As we approach that time of the year when we once again Install our new Masters' and celebrate the Festival of St John, the thought occurred to me that many Brethren may be unaware of why we celebrate the Festival of St John.

St John the Evangelist is one of the Patron Saints of Freemasonry whose festival is traditionally celebrated on the 27th of December. His constant admonition, in his Epistles, to the cultivation of brotherly love, and the mystical nature of his Apocalyptic visions, have been, perhaps, the principal reasons for the veneration paid to him by the Craft. All documentary evidence shows that the connection of the name of the Evangelist with the Masonic Order is to be dated long after the sixteenth century, before which time St John the Baptist was exclusively the Patron Saint of Freemasonry.

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LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851

As we are currently in recess until June 2023 there is not a great deal to report.

However, since the last edition of the 'Provincial Patter' we held the last meeting of our season on Tuesday 9th August when we received a talk from Bro. John Brash, Past Master of both The Caledonian Lodge No. 392 and Lodge Dramatic and Arts No.757 and Master Elect of The Celtic Lodge of Edinburgh & Leith No. 291, about Lodge Aitchison's Haven. Bro. John's talk was very interesting and informative and covered the fascinating history of the Lodge. We are greatly indebted to Bro. John for taking the time to travel north. We hope he enjoyed his visit as much as the brethren of the Lodge did.

Recently two of our members, Bro. Ramsay McGhee and Bro. Alex Craib were on hand to receive another delivery of foodstuffs etc from another of our members Bro. Kevin Taggart, which have been distributed in the Black Isle and Easter Ross areas.

Our next meeting is scheduled to take place 11.30am on Tuesday 13th June 2023 within the Masonic Hall, Fortrose. This will be our annual Installation Meeting.

David MacMaster - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2005

We thank thee Lord for vulgar food, for trotters, tripe, pig's cheek
For steak and onions, with their crude but appetising reek.
Potatoes in their jackets make us plain folk honour Thee,
And Thou art with us when we bake fresh shrimps for Sunday tea.
Thy people's praise is overdue but see, dear Lord, we kneel
To offer thanks for Irish stew and tasty, cheap cow heel.
Now wait a minute, Lord don't miss the last word on our lips,
We thank thee most of all for this, Thy gift of fish and chips.

Another classic from the Late Bro Roddy Cade

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LODGE SEAFORTH 854

The Lodge activity was fairly quiet during the summer recess, and therefore the Brethren were particularly disappointed when the much-anticipated start to the new season was put on hold due to the period of national mourning, observed following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The first meeting back in the new season was on the third Monday of October, when the Lodge planned to work a Mark Mason Degree. Due to work commitments, neither of the three available candidates were able to attend.

A well-known senior member of the Lodge bravely volunteered to be the candidate for the evening's work and was expertly guided through the Quarries and Advanced to the Degree of Mark Master Mason by several well-known Past Masters.

The Brethren were saddened to note the passing to the Grand Lodge above of Brother Donald MacLeod, Past Master.

Brother MacLeod joined the Lodge in 1979, was installed as Master of the Lodge in 1996, and reigned as Master during the Centenary Celebrations in 1997.

He was always a great supporter of the Lodge and a tremendous ritualist, with an extensive knowledge of most of the lectures in Freemasonry, often filling in vacant positions at very short notice.

He was a respected member and Office-bearer in many Orders in our area and will be greatly missed in Freemasonry.

Our next Regular Meeting will be on Monday 21st November 2022, which be the AGM and Election of the Master and Office-bearers for the forthcoming season.

The Installation of the Master and Office-bearers will be on Saturday 10th December 2022 at 3:00pm.

Our Regular December Meeting, on Monday 19th December, will be our Christmas Readings and Carols service, to which all Brethren and their partners are most welcome.

Raymond MacKeddie PM - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2012

Our evening of Carols & Readings was started last year with a great success, enjoyed by all who attended. The Lodge will be opened & closed, after which our Wives & families will join us for the occasion.

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LODGE AVERON No 866

Hello Brethren,

I hope we find you all fit and well. The weather has fairly changed since the last edition of the patter. The nights are drawing in earlier and the days getting colder. Many people deal with **low mood** during the winter months or holiday season. Whether brought on by unrealistic expectations, excessive stress, or family drama, anxious or depressive thoughts can come on without warning. If you know someone living alone or a bit down give them a call over the next few months a wee 5-minute phone call can make all the difference.

During the closed season we had a few events that went very well. Firstly, we had our BBQ and what a glorious day it was with lots of brethren and their families in attendance, along with a few of the neighbours of the lodge. The sunshine certainly made a difference. The chef of the day was Serhat, and he did not disappoint with his promise of a few Turkish treats with all the food being outstanding. A big thank you must go to Marmiris Family Kebab House on the High Street who let Serhat do all the prep work on the premises



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Bouncy Castle



Family time.



Enjoying the Barbie



Sporting activity



Chef on duty



Is it a bird or a plane?

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Secondly, we had our night of mediumship with Jan Mayfair which was organized by the RWM Charlie Carrison. This was well attended, and everyone had a great time with a couple people getting a private reading followed by a few tunes and a bit of dancing afterwards.

Lastly, we had the privilege of offering the use of the lodge along with PM Frazer McBeath's music equipment to Susan Mackie for her fund-raising event for a local family. Susan fairly transformed the lodge, and it looked spectacular. The Topsy Tea Party was attended by 60 women who all dug deep and raised a fantastic amount. Susan followed this event with a horse racing night (Peaky Blinders themed) at the Bowling Club. Between the two events she raised a staggering amount of £3800. The two local strongman brothers Luke and Tom from Invergordon donated another two hundred pound and rounded it off to £4000.



Ready to rock



The rocking has started

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Time for tea

Through the closed season the lodge repairs have been getting done this been spearheaded by the Master, Charlie Carrison, and his Office-bearers. The external pointing has now been completed and a few stones of the building have been replaced. Internally the window in the East has been repointed giving the old girl a new lease of life for generations to come.

The lodge is open again and we have a very busy season ahead of us. Our first meeting was a business meeting and affiliation of Brother Angus Rhodes from Athelstan Lodge No. 9033 UGLE. Angus is the son of the late Terry Rhodes who affiliated to Lodge Averon many years ago and was a regular attender and all-round gentlemen. Friend and brother of Angus's, Roderick Barker from Bundle of Sticks Lodge No 9033 UGLE also attended Angus's affiliation. Our Fellowcraft, Serhat Yavuz, will be advancing to a Master Mason and our Entered Apprentice, Jamie Little passing onto Fellow Craft as well as a few possible candidates looking to join the craft at Lodge Averon.

A large deputation from Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada shall be gracing the doors of the lodge once again after 25 years. We will be working a first degree followed by a meal and entertainment at the Averon Leisure Centre. Places in the lodge will be limited so please let the RWM or the Secretary know if you wish to attend likewise with the meal afterwards. The meal is capped at 150 people including partners. Tickets are priced at £17.50 per person.

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To finish things off for this addition of the Patter we will be doing our Christmas hampers again this year and tickets will be priced at £5 a ticket. This will consist of 3 prizes the Masters' Savoury Hamper, a Chocolate Hamper, and a Drinks Hamper. Tickets will be on sale at the start of November and ticket sales will run till the 13th of December with the winners being announced on the 14th of December. If you would like to buy any tickets, please get in contact with Gary Miller on 07858533877 or email garym1983@hotmail.co.uk or ask any Lodge Averon member who will sort this out for you.

From all at Lodge Averon 866, may we wish you a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year when the time comes.

Yours Fraternally
Gary Miller JD

LODGE NESS No 888



Donation from Lodge Ness No 888 to Park Primary School

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

Our Lodge opened this month's Meeting with 2 minutes silence for HM Queen Elizabeth II; may she rest in peace.

With the wet and colder weather, the creatures of the hill seek shelter and so Lodge Kyle had a couple of unexpected visitors this month. We offered them lodgings and a snack of peanut butter, an offer of which they availed themselves ... a last supper for the mice. We also had two separate out of hours, visitors from the USA who enjoyed a tour of the Lodge. On hearing about our woes with the roof, one left a hundred dollars!

It was also decided at the September Meeting to acquire LED Lighting for all fittings in the Lodge. Brother Steve Whittaker acquired and fitted all the LED lights – We are now cost effectively illuminated. Lastly, we are acquiring new regalia for Office Bearers, thanks to a generous donation by Brother Roger Cundiff. We will also be refurbishing some of the existing Regalia using masking tape and gentle cleaning with a well-known metal polish.

WARNING: The IT industry are seeing an increased level of malevolence in the form of large-scale Server Attacks and Hacking. While not immediately apparent, this affects almost everyone in the community. Email Passwords, Websites and emails designed to infect your computer or phone, are all seen daily. It would therefore seem prudent, if you are not already doing so, to make back-ups of important files on your computer, or if you have online services (like websites), back them up too. If you have Microsoft Office or just Windows, its likely you have One Cloud. This is a reasonable place to securely store back-ups. (see Google for how to do this) Also ... Remember to change passwords regularly and DON'T use the same one for everything. Hackers use Dictionaries so don't use real words, similarly they ALWAYS try variations of 3 for E and Zero for the letter O. Lastly with Christmas coming; fake emails from Amazon and other online shops will be almost as frequent as the real ones. The Golden Rule, if there must be just one, is Never, NEVER, Click A Link In An Email. Instead, take the time to open a web browser and manually type in the web address of Amazon or Bank or whatever, and enter your password manually.

Ronnie Miller, PM - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2012

The big news from Kyle of course is that they celebrate their Centenary on the 25th of May next year. Arrangements are already being made for the event and it is in the Grand Lodge calendar. So, watch this space for more news about the Kyle Centenary.

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

The Lodge resumed meetings in October with the AGM. There were nine Brethren in attendance. The Annual accounts were approved with the Treasurer advising the Brethren that the lodge was still in a healthy financial position even allowing for the lack of meetings during the pandemic. However, we are also out of contract with SSE and the have raised the standing charge from 31p per day to 1.2321 per day. Daily charge from 16p per unit to 97p per unit and the weekend tariff from 14p to 63p per unit. So, a very severe increase in prospect going forward.

We have Dixon Kerr awaiting his fellow craft since March 2020 and we will be able to pass him at our next meeting which will be on 4 November with a 7.45pm start time.

Our December meeting will be our Installation, and this will be held on 2 December 2022.

We also pass on our congratulations to PGL Master Raymond on the conclusion of his cycle run. Donald and I joined Raymond and Donald Ferguson on the run to Cromarty, but we were outdone by Arthur Macarthur who not only made the Cromarty run but then crossed the ferry to Nigg and made the cycle to Tain and then to Dingwall. No bad for an old un. But great stuff Arthur.

Not so good news from Tommy Macallister. We mentioned in the last patter that Tommy was going into Raigmore for Surgery. Unfortunately, the operation was not a complete success and Tommy returns to Raigmore on 8th November for further procedure. We wish him all the best.

Centenary Meeting

The Centenary meeting was originally set for May 2020 but almost two a half years later, thanks to Covid, we were finally able to host the celebration. We had guests from Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge, and visitors from within and out-with the Province (including four from Peterborough) and sixteen of the Rosehaugh Brethren. Guest started to arrive before 11.00 and at near 12.00 The Grand Lodge Director of Ceremonies Bro Ronnie Forbes started organising the photos which were taken by Brother Peter Ratcliff, Provincial Grand Secretary.



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Following this the lodge commenced proceedings and admitted the deputation from Provincial Grand Lodge headed by Bro Raymond Mackeddie PGL Grand Master and thereafter the deputation from Grand Lodge of Scotland headed by our Grand Master Mason Bro William Ramsay McGhee. The Grand Lodge team took over the meeting and then proceeded with the Ceremony of Rededication. This was carried out by the team in an exemplary fashion with each member doing their part with great decorum and execution. Bro Donald McLennan IPM said it was a very moving experience being on the floor with the Grand Lodge Office Bearers for the Dedication of Regalia.

Following on, Bro David Patience PM (our most senior member) then delivered the History of the Lodge prepared and presented by himself. Then the address by the Grand Master Mason was given and concluded the main part of the business. At this point it would be fitting to thank our organist for the day Bro Stuart Robertson, Lodge Ardersier 601 for his excellent work during the day and to Peter Ratcliffe for taking on the Photography duties.



After the formal thanks and collection for Grand Lodge Benevolence the Brethren then retired for the harmony in the social room. We were treated to a first-class meal of soup, haggis pie, and sandwiches served up by No 19 High Street Avoch followed by a massive portion of trifle supplied by Morag Henderson, Munloch. It was then speech time – all of which were well received by the Brethren.

Grand Lodge – Bro Ian Maclaren PM	Reply Bro W Ramsay McGhee GMM.
Prov. Grand Lodge Bro Keith Patience PM	Reply Bro Raymond Mackeddie PGM.
Lodge Rosehaugh - Bro Graham Law IPM No 854	Reply Bro Donald McLennan IPM.
Visiting Brethren – Bro Arthur Macarthur	Reply Bro Donnie Gunn RWM No 318.

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Bro McLennan then presented two cheques to GMM one for Grand Lodge Benevolence and another for the Grand Master's make it a million appeal and congratulations to our GMM on this now being achieved. A further presentation to the lodge was made by Bro Alasdair Macdonald, Lodge Pro Música No 2547 in the English Constitution.

This then concluded the afternoon festivities, and we trust everyone attending had an enjoyable day. Thanks all who attended and enjoyed our memorable occasion.

POTTED HISTORY OF LODGE ROSEHAUGH NO 1216

The first meeting was held on 7th December 1919 at 8.00pm. In the chair was Bro the Rev E J Brechin MA, BD, OBE. The business was steps to establish a Masonic Lodge in Avoch. The Lodge Chapter was granted on the 6th of May 1920 and the first regular meeting was on Friday 4th March 1921. The cost to of leach founder member was 30/- shillings- a lot of money at that time not long after the Great War. Finding Lodge premises had its ups and downs and after using the church hall secured the rooms in Avoch Public School and on the 25th of February the new Lodge was by form erected by Provincial Grand Lodge and consecrated by the Very Rev. Dean Wilson, Past Grand Chaplain then Bro George M Cameron was installed as the first Right Worshipful Master.

The Building Committee and members finally approached the Local Laird-the late James Douglas Fletcher of Rosehaugh who gifted the Rosehaugh Hall and Property in George Street, Avoch. The Disposition dated 9th August 1927.



James Douglas Fletcher of Rosehaugh

On the 6th June 1928 the RWM Bro John Smith outlined proposals to construct a new lodge, but it was not until 5th April 1929 that the new Temple had premises in Factory Lane. The new Lodge was formally opened by the then Provincial Grand Master Sir Alexander Gibb GBE, CB - and this was the meeting place until it was demolished in 1963. From 1964 Lodge Rosehaugh held its meetings in Lodge Seaforth who had the use of the old Chapter House in the grounds of Fortrose Cathedral.

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Lodge Rosehaugh was now being rebuilt from part of the Rosehaugh Hall with the new entrance from George Street. The lodge was erected and completed by a very small band of Brethren and on the 23 June 1967 the first meeting which was a General Committee was held.

Regular Meetings began again on 4th October 1968 and on the 23rd of May 1969 a Dedication Ceremony was carried out by Bro the Rev. A S Russell MA Provincial Grand Chaplain. It would however be quite remiss not to mention those members who strived for this Lodge of Rosehaugh Freemasons.

E J Brechin MA, BD, OBE, John Mann, Alex Munro, Donald Macleman, John Smith, G J Ramsay, Wm Robertson, George Macleman, D A Macintosh, Thomas Macdonald, Danny Ralph, James Patience, Donald Patience, George Macleman, Donald Skinner, Daniel Patience, James Patience, Simon Patience, John Steele Nairne, John Patience, John Patience (S), Alex Skinner, Thomas Allison, My Father John Patience and John Patience Senior who are Great and Great Grandfathers of Calum Bassindale our Junior Deacon.

Finally, I must mention my brother the late John Patience who did so much for Lodge Rosehaugh, from lining the roof to laying the mosaic floor with the tasselled borders and various other work. He was truly a Freemason of Dedication to the Craft and to this Lodge. Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland Bro Ramsay McGhee that is a shortened version of the History of Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216.

D Patience PM.

Footnote: Bro John Patience's Apron remains in Lodge and is worn by the RWM. This was the apron used in the ceremony today.

Keith Patience, PM



Bro Donald MacLennan – Master



Bro MacLennan and PGM, Bro Raymond MacKeddie

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Lodge St Martin 1217

On 4th November the lodge will be selling mulled wine at the village fireworks display and bonfire, it is a great fund-raiser for the lodge and raises the profile within the village.

The Lodge will hold its annual installation meeting on Tuesday 15th November when the lodge will tyle at 19.30 hrs for normal admin and then 20.00hrs for the Installation, all brethren are cordially invited to attend.

Wednesday 21st December will see the brethren assisting Santa tour the village on the annual Santa float, all monies go back to the children of the village and surrounding area.

Our oldest member of the lodge Bro. Alan Britten has just celebrated his 90th birthday, we all wish him a very happy birthday.

The festive period is fast approaching, and we would like to wish all the brethren and families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2017

The Brethren of the Lodge are back fund-raising on Friday 3rd November when they will be selling mulled wine at the Ullapool village bonfire, hopefully the forecast will be good (cold) to assist sales!!



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Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2008

It doesn't seem 15 years since we celebrated in Aultbea -

On Saturday, the 1st of November, there was not a spare seat in the Lodge, as we celebrated our 50th Anniversary. We were honoured with the presence of not only the PGM of Ross and Cromarty, along with a large Deputation from Provincial, but also with the PGM of Inverness shire, Brother Robert Watt, and a likewise large Deputation. The Lodge was also honoured by the presence of Bro Iain Ramsden VW Junior Grand Chaplain. The Lodge was opened and raised to the third degree by the RWM Bro K.D. Forbes. The Provincial Deputations, led by the PGM of Ross and Cromarty then entered the Lodge with due ceremony accompanied by the Provincial Grand Piper of Inverness-shire Bro Colin Sidley. The Ceremony of Rededication was then carried out by the PGM, Bro W Ramsay McGhee assisted by Bro the Rev Iain Ramsden and Bro Robin Cattnach, Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. PM, Bro Duncan MacLennan, in his own inimitable style, brought a little humour into his presentation on the history of the Lodge – a presentation greatly enjoyed by those present.

The afternoon's proceedings were by no measure completed - the RWM asked that PM Bro Sinclair Bruce, Lodge Seaforth and Lodge Allan Wilson, be presented in the West. To the great delight of all he then conferred Honorary Membership of the Lodge on Bro Bruce. The RWM reminded the Lodge that, in dark days past, it was only the arrival of Bro Sinclair that enabled sufficient numbers to be present to open the Lodge. Bro Sinclair replied that he was greatly honoured to receive the Honorary membership of the Lodge, and that his many visits to Loch Ewe evoked great pleasure and happy memories. However, the surprises were not over, Bro Alastair MacRae of Lodge Rosehaugh presented the Lodge with the regalia of his late father PM Alec John Macrae, who had been a founder member of Lodge Loch Ewe. The Regalia had been beautifully mounted in a display that will greatly enhance the Lodge room. The RWM thanked Bro Macrae for the gift and said that it would be exhibited with pride in the Lodge. The beautiful organ playing of Lodge organist Bro Hanna, who travelled from his home in Ayrshire for the occasion, accompanied the whole ceremony.

A Harmony was held in the Aultbea Hotel, where a most appetising spread of curry and rice, cold chicken, and other dishes, awaited the visitors and Lodge members. After Bro McMorran, proposed the toast to Grand Lodge and the Provincial Grand Lodges of Ross and Cromarty and Inverness-shire. Bro Ramsay McGhee replied to this toast, bringing the audience up to date with events at Grand Lodge and Province. Bro William Dickson of Lodge Priory proposed the toast to Lodge Loch Ewe, reminding the audience that the late Bro Alexander Forbes, the Founding Master of Lodge Loch Ewe had been a member of Lodge Priory. The RWM Bro Danny Forbes replied to the Toast stating that it was with great pride he was Master of the Lodge at this time, but it was also tinged with sadness due to the untimely death of the RWM, his own brother the late Colin A Forbes. Absent Brethren was proposed by Bro Duncan MacLennan, who spoke very movingly of the late Colin. They had been friends all their lives, with both of their fathers being founder members of the Lodge. PM Bro Kenneth McMorran gave the Tylers toast, and the Harmony ended with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

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BITS AND PIECES



Ye Corporation O' Squaremen Hielan Shed

At our Nairn Meeting which was very well attended we had one new Member join the Corporation – At the end of the Meeting the WD Douglas McDonald present a cheque to Bro Frank Michie (Lodge Secretary) for a charity of the Lodges choosing

On 13th August our team of Auld Deacon Morris Downie, AD Neil Cooper, David Cooper and AD John G Mackay managed to turn their fortunes around (usually Wooden Spoon winners) and came in Second in the Inverness-shire Provincial Bowls – The winners were Lodge Lochiel No 1200, third were St Kearan No 1155 – The “Wooden Spoon” went to Lodge St John No 6



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In September the Shed visited St Peters Operative in Thurso, on the way we stopped to lay a wreath and have a wee dram with Bri Bob Sutherland in the graveyard at Latheron, this is a custom that the Squaremen have been re-enacting every time we have a Meeting where we pass by Latheron – we had four new Members join the Corporation on the day – The WD Douglas handed over a cheque to be used for a Charity of the Lodges choosing and Douglas thanked the RWM Bri Willie Durrand for the Mince and Tatties they had supplied with a further thanks for the Donation of the monies that was collected for the Fare which the Lodge put towards the John Ballie wonderful effort to row the Atlantic (5.5 million metres or 3000 Miles) that he is doing for Erskine Veterans Hospital – John has been rowing at various Tesco Stores over the summer and reached his target on Sunday 16th October at Tesco's Inshes store.



If anyone would like to donate to John's efforts, there is a "Just Giving" page on Google which if you search for John Ballie, you will find him.

Over the season we visited 5 Lodges and managed to disperse £600 to local good causes plus a donation to Erskine and were delighted to win a bottle of Grouse in AD Morris Downie's Ross-shire "Raffle" for Prostate Cancer

As the Squaremen only work the summer months we are now closed until our AGM in March 2023, but Br Boxie will be writing to some Lodges over the winter requesting permission to visit next year.

We would also like to thank Fraser's Coaches for the excellent service they have given us over the year

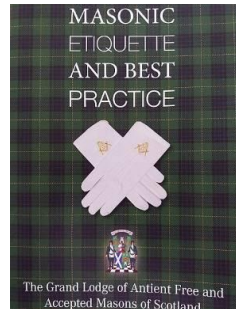
*John & Mackay
Boxie*

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This booklet from the Grand Lodge of Scotland will be helpful to all but especially to those making their way up through the offices towards the chair of their Lodge. The new publication is available from Grand Lodge and priced at a very reasonable £3.00 per copy, £1.00 of which is going to Masonic Charities. The booklet is the work of the Information and Communications Committee and is 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 Installation of David MacRae as 1st Principal along with his Office-bearers was expertly carried out by MEC Alasdair Taylor on Tuesday 11th October

St Clement RAC 244

On Friday the 28th of October EC Andrew MacIvor received Honorary Membership of the Supreme Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland. The award, presented by ME companion Allan James Waugh, Depute Grand Superintendent of Ross & Cromarty, marked EC MacIvor's service to the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross & Cromarty for 32 years' service as Provincial Grand Janitor.



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Cromarty Firth RAC 310

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.

The office bearers were installed at our last meeting where we got an intimation that there may be a candidate in the offing so we're now waiting for the application form and looking forward to holding our first meeting with a new candidate for a long time

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES



DGP Peter Foster and his team carried out an excellent re-installation on 29th October.

Donnie Macleod

†† Donald Macleod KCT

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Grand Lodge Overseas Visitations

Since the August edition of the Patter, I have visited two Districts to install their respective District Grand Masters and Commissioned Office-bearers.

The first visit was to St John's in Newfoundland to install Brother Warren Dinham as DGM. We arrived in St John's late on Wednesday 21st September.

The following morning, we set off for Government House to meet with the Her Honour The Honourable Judy May Foote, P.C., O.N.L., Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador.



We spent a very enjoyable time with the Lieutenant Governor, a charming lady, who was well acquainted with Freemasonry as several members of her family were all in the Craft.

From Government House we made our way to Conception Bay South where we were entertained to lunch by the Brethren of Lodge Conception No 1679.

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During lunch, everyone's phone, including the Scottish contingent, started to screech loudly. This was an urgent Police message to go into instant lockdown as there was a gunman on the loose in the Conception Bay area. He had already shot three people. We did as we were told to do, and about 14.30, we got another message to say that he had been arrested. On the local TV news programme that evening we witnessed the result of the arrest with two Police cars written off when they wedged the gunman successfully.

The gunman incident meant that a portion of our afternoon itinerary had to be abandoned but that evening we had a meet and greet reception at Freemasons' Hall which gave us the opportunity to meet many of the Brethren and their wives.

On the Friday morning Grand Secretary and I had a breakfast meeting with the District Grand Master, District Grand Secretary, the Grand Master, and Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland before departing to visit Lodge MacKay No 1129 in Bay Roberts, Lodge Harbour Grace No 476 in Harbour Grace – which has been identified as being the oldest wooden Masonic building in Canada, Lodge Carbonear No 1043 and Lodge Hearts Content No 1275.



After visiting Lodge Hearts Content, we were taken to the historic Cable Station in Hearts Content. It served as the western terminus of the first permanent trans-oceanic submarine telegraph cable. The original cable was first brought ashore in Heart's Content on July 27, 1866, and the station remained in use until it was closed in 1965. It was then back to St John's for a dinner with the District Grand Master and guests.

On Saturday morning, we awoke with some trepidation as we had been warned that Hurricane Fiona was going to hit early Saturday morning. When I had a look out the window, it was raining heavily and the trees were well bent but thankfully, that was as bad as it got. The hurricane moved westwards and caused untold destruction through the west of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

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Grand Secretary and I held a rehearsal for the Installation Ceremony which took place at 14.00 hours and was followed in the evening with a magnificent Installation Banquet.



GMM with DGM Warren Dinham

On Sunday morning the Brethren and their wives gathered at the Wesley United Church in St Johns where we enjoyed the morning service.

After the service we travelled to Woodstock where we experienced one of the best buffet lunches ever before heading back to St John's where we spent the remainder of the day enjoying the company of some of the Newfoundland Brethren and their wives.

On Monday morning we left the hotel after breakfast and headed for the picturesque town of Brigus and after a walk through the smugglers cave and round the town we left and made our way to Cupids. This was another quaint township. After lunch we were taken to the Legacy Centre where we learned much about the history of Cupids before being taken to the archaeological site where the excavations are enabling those involved to tell the story of John Guy and the lives of Canada's first English settlers who arrived in 1610.

We drove back to St John's and, after a quick change, made our way to Freemasons' Hall where we joined with the ladies for dinner after which we attended a meeting of Lodge St Andrew No 1139 where we witnessed an excellent Fellowcraft Degree.

The following morning, we were taken to the airport where we said our farewells after a first class stay in Newfoundland.

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During the visit to Newfoundland, I was delighted to be accompanied by Grand Secretary, Brother Alex Craib, Junior Grand Standard Bearer and Brother Dr Douglas Nicol, Provincial Grand Master of Aberdeenshire East and who is also the Proxy DGM for Newfoundland and Labrador.

Three weeks later accompanied by Ann, we travelled to Gibraltar albeit arriving a day late thanks to British Airways.

The visit to Gibraltar was to install Brother Paul Douglas Villalta as District Grand Master. That delay obviously affected the planned programme but on the Friday afternoon accompanied by the DGM and District Grand Secretary, Bro Ivor Lopez, we toured the Rock and what a difference from my last visit to Gibraltar twenty years ago. Much land has been reclaimed and there are multi-storey buildings everywhere.



On Friday evening I made my way to the Lodge where we had a full-scale rehearsal given that local Brethren were filling all the Grand Lodge offices.

The rehearsal certainly paid off and, on the day, the Acting Grand Lodge team did a magnificent job – especially Brother Ivor Lopez as Acting Grand Secretary, Brother Rob Lomaz as Acting Grand D of C and Brother Steven Segui as Acting Grand Chaplain.

The Installation Banquet in the “Hall of Fame” was an excellent evening in the company of wives and partners.

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On Sunday, we had the pleasure of attending St Andrew's Church of Scotland where we were warmly welcomed by the Minister, Rev Ewen MacLean who hails from Lewis. I had a good craik with him and delighted that he knew several of my former police colleagues. Sadly, the Church of Scotland are going to close the Church at the end of the year after a presence dating back to the 19th century.

Later in the day, we were taken for a trip round the rock on Brother Steven Segui's boat. Brother Segui is the new Substitute DGM.

The shortened trip was nevertheless an outstanding success, and it was good to meet up with many old friends. The return journey home was also delayed because of which we arrived home on Tuesday afternoon instead of Monday night – but the good news – the luggage arrived in Inverness as well!

What better way to conclude this November edition but to say a massive thanks to each and every one of you who ensured that -

