

# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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

ISSUE NO 118

FEBRUARY 2024

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



*The launch of the Grand Lodge of Scotland “Prospack” initiative at Maggie’s Centre, Raigmore Hospital, Inverness with Adam Gaines from Prostate Scotland and the PGM’s from the Highland Provinces.*

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## Editorial

Welcome to the 118<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Patter.

One of the main issues arising from the 2019 Survey was “Recruitment and Retention”.

This will be addressed by the new Governance and Strategy Committee but given that it is a problem for virtually all Lodges, it would make sense if all Lodges started to address the issue individually to ascertain what the true position is in each Lodge.

Much can be done in the Lodge to identify the issues that may be contributory factors in the Lodge to the lack of suitable recruits or why they do not stay.

A “swot analysis” might be a good place to start with members giving open and frank views on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats that exist within the Lodge. Have a discussion night instead of a degree.

That could be followed up with a friendly letter to those who no longer attend asking them why they have stopped coming to the Lodge.

By carrying out those two functions, the Lodge should hopefully get to the cause of the problem and, once the cause is established, positive steps can be taken to remedy the cause.

Let’s start the new year therefore with having a good look at ourselves and taking a fresh approach to the problems that beset not just us but all organisations.

*Ramsay McGhee*, Editor

## Grand Lodge of Scotland



Grand Lodge has produced a new Quarterly magazine which can be accessed from the Grand Lodge website. It is well worth a read with articles from the Grand Master Mason, Grand Secretary, Grand Almoner, and others.

There is also an article regarding the new Governance and Strategy Committee –

### Governance and Strategy Board Strategic Aims & Goals

We will expand the global presence of Scottish Freemasonry by inspiring our members to enjoy their involvement and attracting new members to strengthen our capabilities and reach. This will be achieved by cultivating a positive culture of inclusivity and meaningful impact in our communities.

- Placing **membership** at the heart of Scottish Freemasonry.
- **Growing** Scottish Freemasonry internationally.
- Creating inspiring communication and **engagement**.

It is a good read – please take time to access the newsletter and get up to date with all the latest news and views

*Ed*

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## Provincial Grand Lodge:

As this is the first edition of the Patter of 2024, can I on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty wish all our readers a happy, healthy, and successful 2024.

The excitement of the Installation Season, and the Christmas and New Year Festivities are now feeling like a distant memory, and I look forward to getting back to normal lodge meetings and catching up with the new Masters and their Office-bearers.

Last year turned out to be a busy year particularly as the year ended. In November we had our first Provincial Grand Lodge supported Ladies Night Dinner Dance, at the Ben Wyvis Hotel in Strathpeffer, and I was delighted to see so many in attendance and enjoy a great night out, being well catered for by the staff of the hotel and dancing to the fantastic band, Impact. I am already looking forward to another night out later this year.

There was an active feel to the end of the masonic year with most lodges hosting their installation meetings, and half of the lodges installing new Masters in the chair and many new Office-bearers taking up office for the first time. I wish them all every success for the rest for the rest of our season.

The start of this year feels like it will be one of change in Scottish Freemasonry.

On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, I attended the installation of the new Grand Master Mason, Bro. Dr Joseph J. Morrow CVO, CBE, KC, FRSE, and his Grand Lodge Office-bearers. An attendance of some 600 Brethren witnessed Bro. Morrow being re-installed into the office of Grand Master Mason for the second time.

It shall be an interesting period as the new Grand Master Mason and his team establish their characteristic on how they will steer Scottish Freemasonry over the following few years.

With the recent changes in Grand Lodge administration, with new the Strategy and Governance Board in place, and the subordinate Standing Committees now well established and starting to function as planned, we look forward to seeing how Scottish Freemasonry develops to meet the future needs of the membership.

It was also announced at the Installation Meeting that the Grand Master Mason was pleased to confer the Honorary Grand Rank of Grand Senior Deacon on Bro. Robert Sutherland, Past PG Senior Warden, Past Master of Lodge Averon No. 866. This award is well deserved and recognises Brother Sutherland's tireless work for his lodge and Freemasonry in general, and his support of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty, always in attendance and willing to stand into any vacant office. I was delighted to surprise Past Master Sutherland with the presentation of his Honorary Grand Rank Certificate and Jewel at the Installation Meeting at Lodge Averon on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

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Shortly the annual visits by the Provincial Grand Lodge, to each of the daughter lodges in the Province shall commence.

The dates for the Provincial Grand Lodge visits are as follows: Please note the changes to previously advertised visits to Robertsons Lodge No. 134 and Lodge Loch Ewe No.1551

- Lodge Averon No 866 - Thursday 8th February 2024
- Lodge Ness No. 888 - Tuesday 27th February 2024
- Lodge St. Duthus No 82 - Monday 4th March 2024
- Lodge Fingal No.318 - Tuesday 12th March 2024
- Lodge Seaforth No. 854 - Monday 18th March 2024
- Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216 - Friday 5th April 2024
- Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551 - Thursday 13th April 2024
- Lodge St. Martin No. 1217 - Tuesday 18th April 2024

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- Roberston's Lodge No. 134 - Wednesday 17th April 2024
- Lodge Kyle No. 1117 - Monday 1st May 2024
- Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551 - Thursday 9th May 2024
- Lodge Fortrose No.108 - Friday 19th May 2024
- Lodge Allan Wilson No. 851 - Tuesday 11th July 2024 (11.30 am)

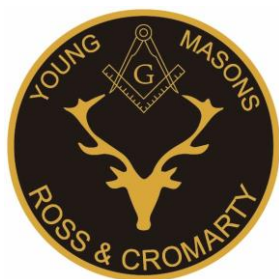
The next **Provincial Grand Lodge Communication** shall be on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024** at Lodge Fingal, Dingwall at 7:30pm. A good attendance of Provincial Office-bearers and Daughter Lodge Masters and Wardens will be appreciated. The meeting is open to all brethren in good standing.

I look forward to catching up with you all at the Annual Visitations to each of the Lodge's in the Province, if not before.

Stay safe, Brethren.

*Raymond Mackeddie*

Provincial Grand Master



## Young Masons Group

The group has continued to meet on a regular basis, monthly by Zoom and following an earlier proposal they have met as a group at lodges in the Province. They have met up to support new initiates at several Lodges, including Averon No. 866 and St Duthus No. 82.

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

The group has welcomed many new members in the past few months as lodges are seeing an increase in applications from new initiates.

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The group also now communicate using a What's App Group Chat, which makes it easier to share what is happening at lodges, arrange meets to attend lodges, witness the degree work, and welcome new candidates as they join.

Over the last few months, the Zoom Meetings have enjoyed lectures from Bro David MacRae on the history of Lodge St Duthus No. 82, which highlighted three very colourful characters in the lodge's history.

In December, Bro Dickon Sandbach presented an interesting "Four Seasonal Tales" which reminded us about the four cardinal virtues, Prudence, Temperance, Fortitude and Justice with a topical Christmas theme.

In January we enjoyed a very interesting presentation from the recently retired Grand Master Mason, Bro Ramsay McGhee, on his experiences during his five years in high office. It was a very interesting night as Ramsay regaled the group with many interesting insights to the hard work of representing Grand Lodge and he also candidly responded to the many intriguing questions from the group.

If any lodge has any Young Masons who have not already attended these meetings, and would wish to join them, please get in touch with Raymond Mackeddie.

*Raymond MacKeddie*, PGM

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2000**

A few words of wisdom from the late Bro Roddy Cade, PM, Lodge Rosehaugh:

When a junior Brother makes rather a mess  
Of some work he's been detailed to do.  
The elders may murmur in tones of distress -  
"Is there nothing those youngsters can do?"

When a senior Brother mishandles his work  
He's likely to be less forlorn.  
"We do it that way," he says with a smirk -  
And a new Lodge tradition is born.

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## From the Provincial Almoner

Sadly, since my last report:

On Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2024, Brother Donald (Banger) Munro, MM of Robertsons Lodge No 134 passed to the Grand Lodge Above in Raigmore Hospital after a short illness. Being an undertaker, he was well known around the area.

From Lodge Fortrose No 108 Stornoway, the following passed away to the Grand Lodge above:  
Brother Calum Gillies MM, a retired Sea Captain originally from Ness.  
Brother Norman MacLeod MM, who lived in Borve and was retired.

I also report on the following:

Brother Donnie Graham, PM of Lodge Fortrose No. 108 passes on his kindest regards and thanks to all for their kind wishes. He has been keeping up with all Masonic news.

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

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

I will close by asking once again, should any Brother require my assistance please get in touch with me. I would also ask that Lodge Almoners to please keep me updated on any Brother with health issues.

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

## BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2016

Seen on a fortune teller's caravan:

*Closed due to unforeseen circumstances.*

## Around the Lodges

### Lodge St Duthus No 82



Lodge St Duthus No 82 has had a busy start to the new masonic season. Although only three meetings into the season we have held our AGM, our Installation Ceremony at which Brother James Morrison was once again installed as Master along with his elected office bearers and held an Entered Apprentice degree for Mr Jonathan Murphy who we are delighted to welcome into Freemasonry.

The initiation of Jonathan saw a deputation of brethren from Lodge Ness attend the meeting to support Jonathan as he is well known by the brethren there. Indeed, the presentation of the Apron was given by Bro Kirk Channer from Lodge Ness. It is good to see candidates coming forward for Initiation once again and Lodge St Duthus are pleased to have two other candidates for ballot.

On a sadder note, we also saw the passing of PM Iain Sinclair to the Grand Lodge above. PM Iain passed away on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October after a short illness he was a much loved and respected member of Lodge St Duthus and will be sadly missed by all. Iain's standing in Freemasonry was demonstrated by the large turnout of Masonic Brethren from all over the Province and out with who attended at his funeral service.

As an interesting aside I have been approached by a member of the public through our Provincial Secretary who is looking to research for a book about the history of Peter Fraser who was the Prime Minister of New Zealand during the second world war. Peter Fraser was born in Fearn and there is some evidence to suggest that the family had connections with Lodge St Duthus. I will keep you informed as to how I get on.

The dates for our up-and-coming meetings are as follows Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February Fellowcraft Degree & ballot, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March Degree to be confirmed depending on outcome of Ballot & Provincial Visitation, Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April to be confirmed.

*Yours Faithfully & Fraternally*

D Macrae - Bro. D Macrae PM Secy



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## Lodge Fortrose No 108

At a meeting of our benevolent committee in November we agreed to distribute more than £2,000 to various charities, recent widows, and a couple of older brethren.

Norman Smith was installed as RWM on 1<sup>st</sup> December, David Thomas PM from Dumfries acted as Installing Master once again and the ceremony was carried out in an exemplary manner and with great dignity. No less than 34 past masters made up the board of installed masters.



*Norman Smith RWM along with his new office bearers and members*



*Master of Lodge  
Fortrose*

*Bro Norman Smith*

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On 1<sup>st</sup> January the Lodge laid a wreath at the Iolaire memorial which commemorates those who lost their lives on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1919, on their approach to Stornoway Harbour.



*Laying wreath at  
Iolaire Memorial 1<sup>st</sup>  
January 2024*

Our Burns' Supper was held on 19<sup>th</sup> January, our first one since before the covid pandemic, the toast to the haggis was ably carried out by Bro Alex Scott, Bro Jim Sawyer gave a well-researched toast to the immortal memory of Robbie Burns and later, dressed in nightclothes, he gave a first-class rendition of Holy Willie's Prayer.



*Alex Scott attacking the  
haggis.*

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*Fiona Mackay replying on behalf of the lassies*



*Jim Sawyer toasting the Immortal Memory*

*Donnie Macleod*

Donald Macleod PM

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2000**

As always, December was an extremely busy month in the Lodge. At the AGM on 3 December SPGM Donald Macleod installed our new RWM George M Macleod together with his team of Office Bearers. In addition to the deputation from PGL led by DPGM Ramsay McGhee, the Lodge was honoured to welcome the District Grand Master of the Eastern Cape District of South Africa Bro Donald Dye and his DGD of C Alastair Wilson to the meeting & installation. Bro McGhee presented Bro Calum I Macleod (Oscar) with his 50-year diploma from Grand Lodge. The Festival of St John was then celebrated, and this proved to be a memorable occasion, both masonically & socially.

December also saw the final Quiz & Curry Night of the year, the proceeds from which are put towards the annual visit to the islands of the children from Chernobyl. The Lodge has been associated with these visits for some 5 years now and it is not only a pleasure but also a privilege to be involved. In fact, on December 30 and 31 we saw a practical example of the worth of the project when the Lodge played host to a family from the area.

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## Robertson's Lodge No 134

Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

Robertson's Lodge members held their AGM and Election of RWM and Office Bearers at the November meeting. Then at the December Meeting we had the Re-installation of Brother Derek M Rodway and his Office Bearers for 2023 to 2024. With an excellent ceremony conducted by RWIM Brother Brian J. Poloczec and his well-known supporting team.

Unfortunately, our January Meeting was cancelled due to adverse and inclement weather, but safety and welfare of our Brothers comes first.

We are having a Committee meeting this week to discuss further planning for the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lodge on 27<sup>th</sup> April this year.

There are a few Life Members recorded in our Lodge, Brother Farquhar (Fred) MacIvor is one of them. He lives down in Leicestershire and is a highly regarded member of the Roundhill Lodge No. 8639 where he was Master from 1993 to 1995. He is also a Past Provincial Grand Registrar of the Grand Lodge of Leicestershire & Rutland and other offices.

He was initiated on 21st November 1973, in Robertson's Lodge, his Mother Lodge, his Lodge Number is 729. Then, after some time he moved South, and joined a Lodge in the English Constitution.

His brother was the late George MacIvor, a well-known Brother to GL and PGL, and one of his nephews is our own Brother Andrew J. MacIvor, PM. He is the fourth member of the MacIvor Family in Robertson's Lodge.

Brother Farquhar was presented with his 50-year certificate at his Affiliate Lodge on 21st December 2023. Look for the Brother in the kilt, with the certificate.



Our February meeting business will be a MMM Degree.

Please stay safe and well Brethren. *Peter K. Ratcliffe*. - Lodge Secretary.

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## Lodge Fingal No 318

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November was our Annual Meeting and nomination of Office Bearers. A month later Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December we were delighted to initiate Brother Shaun Taylor. The Degree was witnessed by 17 brethren and 13 visitors, and the Collection raised £155.

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December the Lodge tyled at 6:30pm for the Installation of Brother Alexander John Craib. The Installation was carried out by Brother Ramsay McGhee PPGM, (Honorary Member of Lodge Fingal) while Brother Stewart Bain PM, installed the Office Bearers. The Ceremony was witnessed by 20 brethren and 98 visiting brethren – a truly memorable evening. The collection was uplifted and amounted to £530 which we made up to £600, for the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund.

At the close of the meeting, Brother Willie Innes, PM of Lodge Caledonian (Edinburgh) No 392, spoke on behalf of all the visitors. He thanked the Master for the honour and privilege to say a few words and spoke of the warmth of the welcome and how well the Installation ceremony was carried out with such dignity mentioning, in particular, Bro Morris Downie PPGM's, Presentation of the VSL.

The Master thanked Brother Ramsay McGhee PPGM for installing him and Brother Stewart Bain for installing the Office Bearers. It was pleasing that three of the Reigning Masters from Lodges on the Black Isle acted as Installing Office-bearers, namely Brothers David MacMaster, Master of Lodge Allan Wilson No 851, Ronald Bruce, Master of Lodge Seaforth 854 and Donald McLennan, Master of Lodge Rosehaugh 1216. In addition, the following Brethren assisted in the ceremony - Ronnie Sutherland, PM, Henry Cameron, PM, Angus Beaton, PM, Mike Longley, PM 1551, and Morris Downie, PPGM [an Honorary Member of Fingal] and our organist for the evening, Brother Stewart Robertson. Music makes all the difference to a meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting, the new Master stated that he was overwhelmed by the numbers present and thanked everyone for their support.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January:** Was an EA Degree, for Mr Kai McAuley. Delighted to say that Brother Kai, shortly after his Initiation, attended the Young Masons Group – very encouraging. The Degree was witnessed by 16 members and 22 visitors as per Attendance Book. Collection amounted to £180.

### **Future events in the Lodge are: -**

**February meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup>. F.C. Degree for Brothers Shaun Taylor and Kai McAuley.

**March meeting:** 12<sup>th</sup>. To be decided. Also, our annual Provincial Visit.

**April meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup>. To be decided.

At this juncture would like to mention to Fingal Brethren, those awful two words Test Fees are now due, for £70. Our Treasurer, Brother Henry Cameron PM will accept payments by cheque or by BACs The Bank of Scotland, sort code 80-06-35 a/c 00301643.

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Would also like to mention that the 50 / 50 Club comes to an end this February. Now then, Brother Henry Cameron PM, will thankfully carry on for another Year. The cost will still be the same, £60. The Club has been running since 2004, this helps tremendously with the running of the Lodge, otherwise we would be in dire consequence. A lot of thanks go to Brother Henry Cameron PM, for his commitment to this venture. Bank details remain the same, as was previously mentioned.

## Forth Coming Event, Logie Lounge:



**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March.** Our Ladies Night, in the Logie Lounge, 6:30 for 7:00pm; Dram on arrival; Sit down, three course meal, supplied by Storehouse, glass of wine during the meal; Music supplied by Edwin's Music; All this for £30 per head.

Tickets available from Myself, 07903 618323 / email [donald@fingal318.co.uk](mailto:donald@fingal318.co.uk). or any Fingal Brother.

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

*D. Gunn RWM*

*Secretary.*

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2000**

The Dingwall Brethren are beginning to reap the benefit of all their extremely hard work over the past 12 - 18 months with increased attendances and a few candidates in the pipeline. They are also busy arranging visits from other Lodges - negotiations are ongoing with three Lodges now however, one of those, Lodge Robert King Stewart No 919 from Ayrshire has been confirmed. The Brethren from New Stevenston, accompanied by their wives, are travelling north on 29<sup>th</sup> April. They will work a MM Degree in the afternoon followed by a social at night. A warm welcome is extended to all Brethren to attend.

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## *LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851*

The next meeting of the Lodge will be the Installation meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 11.30 am. This will be the Installation meeting.

However, it is hoped to invite the brethren of Lodge Union and Crown No 307 from Barrhead to travel north and perform their dramatized Prisoner of War Degree.

This will take place before the first regular meeting of the Lodge and will be advertised through the normal channels.

*Ramsay McGhee* - Secretary

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



*Reponing of Lodge Allan Wilson No 851*

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## LODGE SEAFORTH 854

In December, the brethren of the lodge celebrated the installation a new Master, Bro. Ronald Bruce, who was installed into the chair by an Installing Team led Bro. Ramsay McGhee, Past Master of Lodge Seaforth No. 854, Past Provincial Master of Ross and Cromarty and Immediate Past Grand Master Mason.

The installation was conducted to an excellent standard by Bro. McGhee and his team, and all the brethren present enjoyed the work witnessed, in particular the lecture on the Master's Apron.

Bro. Raymond Mackeddie, Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty conducted the installation of the Office-bearers.

The Bruce family have a very strong connection with Lodge Seaforth, and Master's late father, Bro. Sinclair Bruce, was the Master of the lodge from 1988 - 1990.

In his address to Brethren, the new Master, Bro. Bruce, spoke fondly of the great influences that several Past Masters who are no longer with us had on his early masonic career, Bro. Bob MacLean, Bro. Roddy MacLennan, Bro. David Smith, Bro. Donald MacLeod PM and of course his father Bro. Sinclair Bruce, and called the Brethren to observe a short period of silent reflection to the memory of those Past Masters mentioned above.



Bro. Bruce is an excellent ritualist, and we look forward to his leadership and working with him during his term of office.



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The first meeting for the new Master was the Lodge's Annual Carol and Readings Service where the lodge members and visitors are joined by their Ladies to listen to readings by the Past Masters of the lodge on the Christmas story and to join to sing Carols.

A very enjoyable seasonal night was enjoyed by all, topped off with a lovely tea, accompanied by warm mince pies.

At our January Meeting it was planned to raise Bro Steven Campbell to the Master Mason Degree, but unfortunately, he was unable to attend on the day, but happily a willing volunteer was conscripted to fill the absentee part to allow the team to work the degree as a practise on the night. Many thanks to Fraser MacBeath for helping on the night.

At the next meeting of the Lodge, on Monday 19th February 2024, it is planned to carry out the Master Mason Degree for Bro Campbell, and all Brethren are most welcome.

*Raymond MacKeddie* PM - Secretary

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 1998**

The Lodge held its Annual Burns Supper on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January in the Lodge Social Club. Almost 50 Brethren, wives and friends enjoyed the traditional fare which was, once again, excellently prepared by Mrs Ann Fiddes.

Among the speakers were Bro Cochrane Donald, Inner Guard, who gave a very amusing and well-presented Toast to the Lassies. The Reply to his Toast was given in a very able and competent manner by Mrs Heather MacRae who didn't miss him on a couple of points bringing home, in her own forthright style, just how much the men rely on the women folk.

Brother Keith Patience, RWM of Lodge Rosehaugh gave a very witty yet informative Toast to Lodge Seaforth which was replied to with equal wit by the RWM of Lodge Seaforth, Brother Donald MacLeod.

One of the highlights of the evening were the musical interludes by two well-known faces from Dingwall Gaelic Choir - Kirsteen Menzies and Roddy MacKenzie. They both sang beautifully to the great enjoyment and pleasure of all present.

Brother Ian Cameron brought the proceedings to a very apt finish with a comprehensive vote of thanks to all who had contributed to the success of the evening.

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## LODGE AVERON No 866

Hi there, Brethren,

Lodge Averon continues with regular meetings since the last patter, with good numbers of members and visiting Brethren attending.

On the 16th of December 2023 saw our annual installation where Brother Charlie Carrison was re-installed into the Chair of King Solomon at the hand of installing master Brother George Robinson PM, with Brother Frazer McBeath PM installing the office bearers. This was followed by the festival of St. John, consisting of a sit down three course meal, which was organised by Mrs Carrison and her team, to whom we are grateful.



Friday 22nd December 2023 was a busy day for the Lodge, which saw in the afternoon the draw for our annual Hamper Raffle, the results of which were announced live on Facebook. Thanks to Brother McBeath Jnr. for organising the entries and Brother Ian Duxbury for arranging the Hampers.

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Later in the early evening Santa and his helpers including Rudolph (with four wheels) embarked on their annual sojourn round the various areas of Alness spreading Christmas cheer and sweets for the children and adults alike, who came out in their droves to see this annual spectacle which is growing year on year.

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With the festive period now behind us, work continues with February fast approaching, the office bearers are settling into their respective positions and are preparing for our annual provincial visit on the 8th of February 2024. Followed by our Annual Senior Citizens party on Saturday 10th.

With kind regards

*Brother James MacDougall* — Senior Warden

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 1997**

At the Regular Meeting on 9th January, the Past Masters of the Lodge, under the direction of Past Master Willie Dunbar, worked a splendid MM Degree. It was well worth the visit to see the veterans in action, and they must be congratulated on an excellent and dignified degree.

About a week before the Ladies Night the Lodge Averon Brethren will be travelling to Lodge Stormont No 1524 at New Scone where they will be working the Degree. Again, any Brethren who would like to accompany them, will be made most welcome.

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## LODGE NESS No 888

Here are some photos of my installation in December. It was a very proud moment and a first in Lodge Ness where a son takes the chair from his father - a very humbling and a very proud night. I look forward to continuing the proud position of the Chair of King Solomon from my dad who did a fantastic job.



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*Owen Wilson*

Master – Lodge Ness 888

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## LODGE KYLE No 1117

It has been a mixed few month in Lodge Kyle. As you know Brother Paul Newton resigned after a stellar career in Freemasonry after being the Master of Lodges in Scotland, Ireland, and England. Also, Brother Donnie Gordon resigned with a similarly dedicated Masonic career which include 37 years as Secretary of Lodge Kyle! A presentation was made to them at a social gathering in Lodge Kyle when a delegation of 10 travelling Brethren from Lodge Ancient were having lunch with us in Lodge Kyle. After a sit-down meal of Scotch Broth (with a whole leg of lamb in it), we feasted on mince, tatties and two veg. Followed by a pudding of biscuits. Refreshments were served and the two retirees toasted. Then the RWM Bro Steve Whittaker presented them with a bottle each of some well-aged single malt whisky. It was a very pleasant event enjoyed by everyone. As a postscript, I received yesterday a letter from Lodge Ancient asking if they could come again this year with an increase in their number to 16 Brethren. Of course, they can!



*Some visitors enjoying the chicken curry in Lodge Kyle.*

We had a second degree for Brother Stevie Barclay after which Brother Callum Mackenzie supplied us all with chicken curry and rice – very nice, and a trend we hope to keep going as it would seem to encourage attendance.

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Coincidentally we have been offered some crockery from the wife of one our number. A very generous offer which would help enormously and save Paul from bringing in his best bone China!

Sadly, I received another resignation at Christmas time from PM Brother Roger Lowe. His advancing years have precluded him making the arduous journey from his home in Yorkshire and he felt it time to formally tender his resignation. He is a superb worker of the Ritual and a boon to the Lodge. He will be missed as a friend and a Brother. On the other hand, Brother Raymond Abringe, in the Lodge now for his second season, is getting involved in the Prostate Initiative as a Prostate Champion and is available to anyone in the province who needs information on this terrible affliction which affects 50% of men. Confidentiality is assured. We also have newly admitted Brother Steve Barclay joining us. He is currently a Fellow of Craft and in March (hopefully) he will get his Master Mason's Apron. We also have an Application for another local man to join shortly.

Lastly, we are changing the time of our Meetings to 7:30 pm. Although this is in the process of being ratified by Grand Lodge, our future Meetings will be at this new time. You can always check our website at <http://www.lodgekyle.co.uk> for anything you need to know before setting out. Our February Meeting was scheduled to be a MM Degree but has had to be postponed as the Candidate had to go offshore. The Degree is tentatively re-scheduled for the March Meeting.

*Ronnie Miller*, PM - Secretary

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 1998**

There are 56 words in the Lord's Prayer.  
297 words in the Ten Commandments.  
300 words in the American Declaration of independence.  
and 29,911 words in the EEC Directive on the export of eggs.



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**LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216**

**FEBRUARY 2024**

We were able to hold a Fellowcraft degree at our November meeting for Steven Bassindale. During the meeting Bro Arthur Macarthur verified that the British Legion had requested that the Lodge be used for storing the British Legion flags. We were proud to accept this offer.



We started off our December meeting with an Obituary for Bro Brian Carmichael who had passed to the Grand Lodge above peacefully on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Bro Allan Carmichael led the tribute to his Dad. Due to difficult circumstances, we asked Bro George Robinson PM 866 to take on the mantle as Installing Master which he and his team did in an excellent fashion. Our own Bro William Macleman PM assisted in the degree and did an excellent job installing the Office Bearers. Also, during December, we were able to deliver over 60 parcels to local senior citizens.



*Right - Bro Roderick Macleman on delivery duties,*

*Left -Parcels in lodge ready for delivery.*

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We opted for a Business meeting in January with several Office Bearers missing including our RWM with Bro Allan Carmichael PM taking the chair. We started with an Obituary for Bro Donald Reid originally from Avoch and latterly of Kilmarnock. Danny (as he was known) was our oldest member and died on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 aged 99, he would have been 100 on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024. His father Bro Alexander Reid was RWM from 1953-1956. Danny's brother David is also a member of 1216. Bro Scott Patience PM was his great nephew attended the funeral in Kilmarnock and gave the brethren some of his history and thereafter the normal minutes silence was observed. The only business was a re-ballot for Michael Graham.

## **Brian Carmichael:**

As mentioned earlier we had an obituary for Brian at our December meeting. Brian had been a bit poorly for a few weeks and ended up in Raigmore Hospital where he passed away on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. Brian joined our lodge in 1992 a couple of years after he arrived in Avoch. He was a regular attender, rarely missed a meeting often turning up at practices to help fill any office and did this at our own meetings too. He preferred not to take a main office in the lodge but attended to the upkeep and ensured the teas were ready for us all at the conclusion of our meetings. He was a great asset to the Lodge and a minute's silence was observed in his memory. The funeral was well attended with a good number of masons present. The Brethren of the Lodge pass on their condolences to his wife Maureen and Allan and all the family. A sad loss.

*Keith Patience*, PM

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2000**

The last Lodge Rosehaugh meeting of the Millennium was the Installation Meeting held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1999. Prior to the Installation, RWM John Jack invited Bro John (Toorie) Patience to join him on the floor of the Lodge to receive his Jubilee Certificate. The presentation was carried out by Past Master Robert Jack who congratulated Bro Patience on his achievement and commended him for turning out on such a miserable night given his health problems and counselled younger Brethren to follow John's example. Bro John was born and bred in Avoch and is well known throughout the Province and beyond through his prowess on the football field with Ross County and Arbroath FC. Prior to his debilitating illness John was a regular attender at the Lodge and willingly helped wherever and whenever he could. The best wishes of all Brethren were extended to Bro John.

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## Lodge St Martin 1217

We would like to wish all readers “A Very Happy and Prosperous New Year”.

The lodge ended 2023 with a very successful Santa Float raising more than £1100 on a very wild and wet night, the entire team worked very hard in atrocious conditions, very well done to all!! 100% of all proceeds are used to benefit the children in the village and surrounding area.

As the new year begins our next meeting on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> degree ceremony for Bro. Jon Stranix, the lodge tiling at 20.00hrs. There are several possible candidates in the pipeline so hopefully we will have a busy time in the coming months.

A note for your diaries, The Squaremen are scheduled to visit Ullapool on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 12.00 noon.

*Charles MacAulay, PM*  
Secretary



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## Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

As reported in the previous issue of the Patter, prior to the re-Installation of our Master, Bro Richard MacDonald, we were able to affiliate Bro Martin Robertson of Lodge Fingal No 318 and a resident of Gairloch. I am pleased to announce that we have now received an application for affiliation from another 'local' Brother, Duncan McNiven. A resident of Aultbea and Captain of the cruise ship Lord of the Highlands, Bro McNiven was originally a member of Lodge Kyle No 1117 before his postings as a Merchant Navy Officer took him south of the border and overseas for several years.

As many of the Brethren in the Province will be aware, we have supported Mikeys Line on several occasions. Last December the charity's founder, Ron Williamson, passed away after a long illness. Ron had asked that, as few of his family and friends in his hometown of Southampton, knew anything about his setting up of Mikeys Line, he would like to have a video telling them about it at his funeral. Following a call from Garry 'Duck' Miller of Lodge Averon No 866, we set about producing the video, and even though we had only a few days to complete it, managed to do so and have it forwarded to the crematorium in time. We have since heard it was very well received and are glad that we were able to help in paying this last tribute to departed merit.

*Michael Longley*, PM – Lodge Loch Ewe

### Footnote:

The video *Ron's Farewell* will be available to view on the Highland Masonic News website from the beginning of February.

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

Lodge Loch Ewe is once again this year holding their annual Championship Quiz. This is to be held at the Aultbea Hotel at 7.30 pm on Friday the 8th, February. We welcome other Lodges in the Province to compete, and Indeed, WE CHALLENGE any Lodge to beat us. Both Lodge meetings this year have been bedevilled by bad weather, which has rather hit attendance. We have, however welcomed a new member - Bro Barry Whitwell has moved to Aultbea, a Past Master of Ardwick Lodge 2185 Province of Lancashire EC. Barry has already fully entered the activities of the Lodge and has already applied for affiliation. The RWM Colin Forbes is already planning affiliation and Mark Degree ceremonies for Bro Barry, and Bro Innes MacIver respectively.

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## Ye Corporation O' Squaremen Hielan Shed

The Squaremen held a Committee Meeting on Saturday 6th January and our new Deacon Bri Robert Hannah and Office Bearers will be Installed in the Club at Inverness on the first Saturday in March - we also sorted out our itinerary for the year and a copy is attached - one problem we had regarding transport after Frasers Coaches closed down has now been resolved and Inverness Taxis are going to provide a 16 seat bus at a very competitive rate

### VISITS FOR 2024

- 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH - INSTALLATION – GORDON TERRACE – INVERNESS
- 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL - Robertson Lodge, - CROMARTY – bus leaves Inverness 13:00
- 4<sup>th</sup> MAY - Lodge Ness – INVERGORDON – bus leaves Inverness 13:30
- 1<sup>st</sup> JUNE – GRAND SHED VISIT – Gordon Terrace – INVERNESS 3:00 p.m.
- 6<sup>th</sup> JULY - Lodge St Martin - ULLAPOOL – bus leaves Inverness 10:30
- 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST – Lodge St Andrew – ARDERSEIR – bus leaves Inverness 13:30
- 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – Lodge Mercantile Marine –STROMNESS

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO SCRABSTER

This WILL be an overnight stay.

*John & Mackay  
Boxie*

### BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 1996

On Friday 2nd February, the Lodge Seaforth Annual Burns Supper, in aid of the Centenary Fund, was held in the Clubrooms. A large turnout of Brethren and Guests enjoyed a tremendous night of singing, oration and dancing and raised over £400 in the process.

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## **PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C**

This photo shows our 1st Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland MEC Joseph Morrow and I congratulating Companion Hugh Fraser on his being invested with his jewel of Honorary Grand Sojourner at the 100th Anniversary of the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross and Cromarty on 14th October 2023.



Can I take this opportunity of thanking all members who attended our first Quarterly Convocation of 2024 in Dingwall on Saturday 25th January.

A lengthy discussion ensued with the 2023 Summer Charity Initiative being well aired.

Cromarty Firth Royal Arch Chapter have an ambitious plan for an open fundraising in Easter Ross shortly to contribute towards the initiative. Please give our Companions your full support.

The AGM will take place on Saturday 25th May at 12 noon in Dingwall.

Provincial Visitation Dates: /

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Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Tain & Ross No 63
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Cromarty Firth No 310
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	St Clement No 244
15 <sup>th</sup> / 16 <sup>th</sup> May	The Hebrides No 364

*Morris M Downie*

Grand Superintendent

## **Tain & Ross RAC 63**

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

Tain & Ross Royal Arch Chapter No 63 has once again resumed business and have enjoyed being able to confer the Excellent Masters and an Exaltation upon Companion Alister Mackintosh. The start of the season was tinged by sadness with the passing of PZ Iain Sinclair. Iain was in office as Scribe E at the time of his passing and will be greatly missed by all. We are delighted that Companion S O Donnell has stepped into the role as Scribe E whilst Iain's Grandson Jaye has taken on the role of Treasurer for the Chapter. I congratulate them and all the Companions who have taken up an office in the Chapter.

Our meeting dates are Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February when we will see our Provincial Visitation and an Exaltation. Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March will be a business meeting.

## **Cromarty Firth Royal Arch No 310**

Cromarty Firth Royal Arch 310 will host an evening with Brian Jay Magic and Mystery followed by a wee dance to finish on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. The event will be held in Lodge Averon 866 starting at 07.30 pm. The cost is £10 per head. This evening is open to everyone – Brethren and Companions are encouraged to bring along friends who are not in our Masonic circle. This will be a superb night – don't miss out - payment required at booking of places – contact Scribe E, Fraser Mcbeath via email [f.mcbeath@sky.com](mailto:f.mcbeath@sky.com) or mobile 07752791743.

We look forward to welcoming you to the event.

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## ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.

The Chapter is in good health and meetings are well attended. I reported last quarter that after a long spell we finally had a new member and now I'm pleased to say that we have applications from at least 3 who are keen to continue with their Masonic education by joining the Royal Arch.

*Donnie Macleod*

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

## PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

I'm pleased to report that that our preceptory is in excellent health and is well attended, during the last quarter we created two new knights so hopefully we can continue this trend with members now joining the Royal Arch.

†† Donald Macleod KCT

## DISTRICT GRAND PRIORY OF THE NORTH IN SCOTLAND.

Right Eminent District Grand Prior Eric Macgregor has asked me to report that all the installations carried out in the district went very smoothly with pleasing pilgrims' fayre to follow although some of the journeys had been challenging (surely, he doesn't mean the Minch cruise).

It's disappointing to note that the Preceptory of the Highlands and the Preceptory of Ross are both currently dormant due to lack of attendees but their sister preceptories are faring well.

For the information of the fratres this season's visitation dates are as follows:

8<sup>th</sup> March Maison Dieu, Lossiemouth.

21<sup>st</sup> March St Fergus, Wick.

8<sup>th</sup> April Lochaber & Lorn, Oban.

27<sup>th</sup> April Western Isles, Stornoway.

pp †† Eric Macgregor DGP

†† Donald Macleod KCT



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## Royal Order of Scotland

### Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness and the Highlands

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness and the Highlands begins the 2024 season with a visit by the Provincial Grand Master, Bro Joshua JOA Gourlay, to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow and the West of Scotland for their meeting on Monday, 29 January, where he will take part in a Burns Supper following the meeting. The first meeting of Inverness and the Highlands will be on 13 April 2024, and a billet will be sent out prior to the meeting.

During 2023, 7 Brethren were Advanced and Promoted into the Royal Order. The Provincial Grand Master was installed into office on 10 June 2023, after a prolonged delay due to the Covid crisis, and is looking forward to a full Royal Order year again this year. At the installation meeting in June 2023, a raffle and auction were held with the proceeds going to Cash for Kids. I am very pleased to report that the event raised £1000, which was presented to Lauren MacInnes, of Moray Firth Radio, pictured with John Baillie (left) and Josh Gourlay.

Provincial Grand Secretary: Bro. Michael Scott Turner



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## BITS AND PIECES

Bro Kinloch; Bro Donnie Oscar; Bro PGM Raymond Mackeddie; Bro David Pringle; DG Superintendent of Trinidad & Tobago (Garth) and yours truly. All enjoying a bite to eat in Trinidad's Raddison Hotel on a visit after the Installation of the DGM Louise Baptiste.



The Province is once again intending to visit Trinidad this year to attend the 50th Anniversary of Lodge Felicity and then onward to the beautiful Spice Isle, Grenada, for their Installation meeting. Brethren, you have never lived without visiting the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada. It's a Masonic Trip of a Lifetime.

Proxy District Grand Master  
Hon. Member of the District  
Morris M Downie

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## **Clothes appeal for Ross-shire community hospitals.**

Past Master Graham Law of Seaforth 854 was kindly allowed permission at the installation of Alex Craib, Master of Lodge Fingal 318 to put out an appeal for leisure style clothes for patients who are recuperating or undergoing long term care at the several community hospitals within the area.

This was as a result of 'finding' his own stock of clothes had been depleted by his wife who is a staff nurse at Invergordon community hospital.

Graham's wife Anne explained that many of the patients do not have regular visitors or family located close by who can bring them personal belongings or clothes to change into. This can be due to many reasons such as having had emergency treatment in Raigmore hospital then being transferred to one of the smaller ones like Dingwall or Invergordon. This leaves them recuperating in just the clothes they were admitted in. It is so important for good recovery that people can feel more normal and less like a patient in a hospital gown. Having clothes to wear around the ward allows patients to get up, walk about, exercise and socialise where otherwise they really are bed bound.

By donating any now unused items, we can give that person a better a feeling of dignity and self-worth.

She also pointed out that in general, but not always, it is the older gentlemen who are likely to be on their own and not so much the ladies.

Strangely, other items that the hospital finds hard to supply are decent style wet shaving gear such as non-bic style razors and small tubes of shaving gel.

There is also a feeling that a number of these gentlemen may have been or are practising Masons and it would be good to be able to support them in a small way.

Our thanks go to the lodges of the province. Indeed, several members have already indicated they have collections which Graham can undertake to do. If unable to get in touch, please contact the secretary of Lodge Seaforth who can get in touch with Graham and arrange suitable times.

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

Rumour has it that a new Provincial Office is about to be created - Provincial Grand Sock-maker. Past Master Tom Anderson from St Duthus has mastered the intricacies of the sewing machine and is now producing high quality kilt socks with a very distinctive design. Past Master Victor Shepherd from Robertson's is already sporting a pair and if my inside information is correct, Past Master Downie will soon be striding along in the next pair to come off the production line. Keep the needles clickin' Tom, there might be a big demand before the start of the Provincial visitations.

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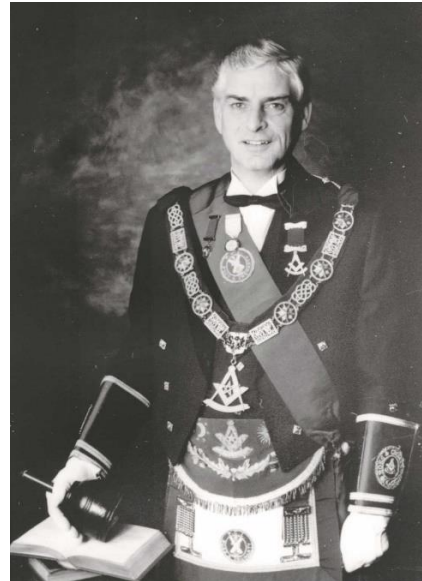
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## *Provincial Masters from Lodge Seaforth 854*



*Kenneth Bisset – 1991 - 1996*



*Morris M Downie – 1996 - 2001*



*W Ramsay McGhee – 2006 - 2011*



*Raymond A MacKeddie – 2021 - 2026*

Past Master Downie's Mother Lodge is St Martin 1217 – he is an Affiliate of Lodge Seaforth.

Past Master Ramsay McGhee's Mother Lodge is St Barchan 156 – he too is an Affiliate of Lodge Seaforth.

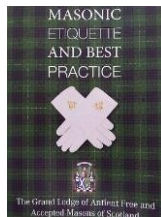
If any of my correspondents can do a similar exercise from their own Lodge, I'll happily feature a Past PGM's article in the issues to come.

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

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

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



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

