

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

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



Lodges of the Province – Robertson's Lodge No 134 - Cromarty

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

Editorial

Welcome to the 120th Edition of the Patter.

The Province of Ross and Cromarty can be proud that they have been at the forefront of the Young Masons initiative since its inception thanks to the commitment and enthusiasm of our Provincial Master, Brother Raymond MacKeddie.

Similar groups are now well established in Ayrshire, Perthshire, Edinburgh, the Borders and Glasgow to name but a few.

It is essential that we, the members of the Craft, give the Young Masons Groups throughout the country and in our Districts every encouragement and support – these young brethren are the future of Scottish Freemasonry.

Another initiative to look to the future will be the 5th International Scottish Masonic Conference – I have copied a letter from Douglas Ironside in the Grand Lodge column and have put all the contact information below.

I hope to be in attendance as I have attended all previous four conferences – I think Bro Kalpesh Shah and I will be two of the few who will have attended all five. The Conference, as well as some good debating issues offers the chance to meet with Brethren from around the globe, to meet old friends and establish new ones – a worthwhile experience.

You will find the full conference and registration details as well as information on Zambia and Livingstone on the ISMC 2025 website: <https://ismczambia2025.org/>. Should you require any assistance or further information, please feel free to contact the District Grand Secretary through the contact details stated below.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF ZAMBIA

c/o The District Grand Secretary Bro. Mark Lüring
Plot 5163 Washama Road, PO Box 31776, 10101 Lusaka,
Zambia

Phone/Whatsapp +260 976665265
Email districtgrandsecsc@gmail.com

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



Dear Brethren across the Globe!

It is my great privilege to invite you and your family to the **5th International Scottish Masonic Conference**, to be held in Livingstone, Zambia, from the 28th to 31st of May 2025.

The District Grand Lodge of Zambia is extremely excited to host you in **Zambia: “The Real Africa”**, and offers a unique, exclusive, and memorable conference and holiday experience. The town of Livingstone is situated at Victoria Falls, the “Mosi-Oa-Tunya,” and one of the seven natural wonders of the world. Livingstone boasts a wide range of exciting and unique activities for all ages. The conference venue at the recently opened **Radisson Blu Mosi-Oa-Tunya Resort**, is situated on the mighty Zambezi River, adjacent to the Victoria Falls, and we encourage Brethren to come with their partners and families for a memorable and special African experience.

The conference theme, **Enlightened Horizons: Chartering the Future of Freemasonry** gives delegates a unique platform to engage with brethren from around the world and influence the direction of Freemasonry for decades to come. As an example, in our District we have noticed a significant increase in interest in Freemasonry from younger generations but continue to face public stigma for perceived contradictions with local traditions.

Keeping the Craft relevant, and attractive to new generations on the one hand, whilst upholding our Masonic values and traditions on the other, will be one of many interesting and challenging topics in the programme.

Douglas Ironside

District Grand Master - Zambia

Editor

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

Provincial Grand Lodge:

I trust all our brethren in the Province are enjoying their summer break with most of the lodges in the Province in recess.

Since my last report, at the end of April, we completed the Provincial Grand Lodge visits to Lodge Kyle No. 1117, Lodge Fortrose No. 108, and Lodge Loch Ewe No.1551 in May and completed the round at Lodge Allan Wilson No.851 at their July meeting.

It was pleasing to note, that in general, all of the lodges in the Province are continuing to meet and carrying out work to a high standard, with many of the lodges seeing a welcome increase in membership, and all lodges reasonable financially stable.

Let us hope that the influx of new members continues, and the lodges reap the benefit from fresh new membership.

Also, in May we held our AGM and Re-Installation of Office-bearers Meeting. Most of the Office-bearers remained in the same Office, except for the office of PG Bible Bearer, which became vacant, and it was pleasing to see Bro David MacRae PM elected and installed into the post and taking up a PGL Office for the first time.

I very much look forward to working with all the team in the upcoming season.

Visit to the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada

The AGM was held a week earlier than usual to accommodate a deputation from the Province to make a visit to the District of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada to attend the Fifty-Year Anniversary of Lodge Felicity No 681 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and the Installation of the Master of Lodge St. Andrew No.1794 in St Georges, Grenada.

On this trip I was accompanied by seven PGL Office-bearers and we also had the pleasure of being accompanied by four of our wives.



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

We landed in Port of Spain, Trinidad, and were welcomed by the Master Bro. Nicholas Maraj, Master of Lodge Felicity No.1681, and some of the Lodge Felicity Brethren. The highlight of this leg of the trip was to attend the 50th Anniversary Rededication Ceremony of Lodge Felicity No.1681. A well-attended rededication meeting was conducted by the District Grand Master, Bro. Louis Baptiste, and the members of the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada. Afterwards the brethren assembled for sumptuous harmony and raised toasts to the future health of the Lodge.

The second leg of our trip was on the invitation of the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada, to accompany them on their visit to the island of Grenada to attend the Installation of the Master, Bro Nigel Roberts, into the chair of Lodge St. Andrew No 1794.

We were met at the airport by Bro Roberts and members of Lodge St Andrew and were whisked off to a very nice hotel situated on a lovely Caribbean beach.

There was very full itinerary of events, with the highlight being the Installation of Bro Nigel Roberts as Master of Lodge St Andrew No.1794.

A well-attended meeting, which was held in the hotel we were residing in, was well worked, and excellently conducted by the Immediate Past Master, Bro David Holokoff, assisted by Brethren from the District Grand Lodge and Lodge St. Andrew No.1794.

Later that evening we re-assembled in the hotel ballroom for a formal banquet, which commenced with



a beautifully presented buffet, followed by excellently presented toasts and appropriate replies, rounded off by a very entertaining evening of music and interesting dancing.

Throughout the whole of the trip, we were very well entertained and looked after, and the warmest of Caribbean hospitality extended to us, which made this such a memorable and enjoyable trip.

There is an extended report of the events of this trip later in this edition of the Patter, and I thank Bro Alex Craib for his assistance in recording the events.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

Lodge of Sorrow

In June we held our Lodge of Sorrow, which was again conducted in an exemplary manner by the Rev Iain Ramsden, who brings such compassion and comfort to the ceremony, as we remember all of those who passed to the Grand Lodge Above in the past year. This year saw another well-attended event, which was also open to friends and families to attend.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Caithness

On Saturday 15th June 2024, a good number of Brethren from the Province headed north to attend the Installation Ceremony for Bro James Cormack Moodie as Provincial Grand Master of Caithness. An excellent Installation Ceremony was conducted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland headed by Bro Dr Joseph J Morrow, Grand Master Mason, and witnessed by a large attendance at St Peters Operative Lodge No 284 in Thurso.

The Brethren retired to the Pentland Hotel and enjoyed a fantastic meal and were entertained by excellent toasts and replies.

We extend congratulations to Bro. Moodie and wish him and his Office-bearers every success and pleasure in their respective terms of office.

Dates For Your Diaries

The next Provincial Grand Lodge Communication shall be on Wednesday 28th August 2024 at Lodge Fingal, Dingwall at 7:30pm. A good attendance of Provincial Grand Lodge Office-bearers and Daughter Lodge Masters and Wardens will be appreciated. The meeting is also open to all brethren in good standing.

The Provincial Grand Lodge Divine Service is to be held on Sunday 29th September 2024 at Lodge St Martin, Ullapool at 3:00pm. Again, a good attendance of Provincial Grand Lodge Office-bearers and Daughter Lodge Masters and Wardens will be appreciated.

The Divine Service is also open to all brethren, Spouses and Partners, and as it arranged to be at the start of a new masonic season, it is intended to reassure our devotional perspective as we recommence our sojourn in Freemasonry.

A Provincial Grand Lodge Ladies Night is to be held on Friday 8th November 2024 at the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer. Details will be sent out to all lodges in the Province shortly.

As the new season is about to restart, I very much look forward to going out to visit the lodges and catching up with you all.

Fraternal Regards

Raymond Mackeddie

Provincial Grand Master

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



To help increase public awareness of prostate disease, and to advertise the work that Scottish Freemasonry has been doing with Prostate Scotland, Lodge Fingal No 318 kindly allocated space at their stand at the recent Dingwall Gala to allow Steven O'Donnell, one of our Prostate Champions, to set up a display with banners and leaflets with information about prostate issues.

It was great effort by Bro Steven to get out and advertise the issues that men may face with prostate disease and to promote the hard work and fundraising that was carried out by Lodges in Scotland.

Bro Steven shall also be attending the Moy Game Fair on Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd August 2024, and shall be carrying out a similar role, advertising the issues associated with prostate disease and promoting the work that Scottish Freemasonry is supporting Prostate Scotland with. Grateful thanks to the Order of St John, for providing space at their stand.

At the July meeting of Lodge Allan Wilson No.851, there was a very interesting presentation given by the Grand Almoner, Bro Tom Davidson, on the work of Grand Almoner. In part of his presentation, he gave an update on the work that the Grand Lodge are continuing to do with Prostate Scotland, the work that Prostate Champions are doing throughout Scotland to promote the importance of recognising any symptoms of prostate issues and where to get help to deal with any issues at an early stage.

Bro Davidson also manages a "What's App Group" for the Prostate Champions enrolled throughout Scotland and is a fantastic forum for the Champions to share experiences when giving presentations, to get responses to questions raised at presentations, getting notifications of updates from Prostate Scotland and generally being a support to all involved.

In our Province we have three Prostate Champions, Steven O'Donnell, Raymond Abringe and Raymond MacKeddie, who have each been trained by Prostate Scotland, and can be called upon to discuss issues, or provide information, or where to get help in anybody is concerned that may be experiencing any prostate issues. See also page 47.

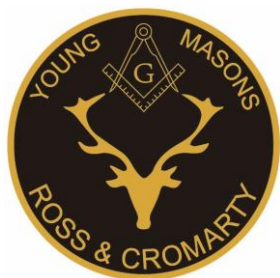


PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



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 Lodge Ness No. 888 and Lodge Rosehaugh No.1216.

The group continues to 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 and support new candidates as they join.

Over the last few months, the Zoom Meetings have enjoyed presentations, including one from Bro Kevin Pollock, Secretary of the PGL Renfrewshire East Insight Group, who gave a very interesting presentation on the Entered Degree Tracing Board titled "First Degree Tracing Board: Unveiling Symbolism and Meaning."

We also enjoyed an interesting presentation on the History and Structure of Scottish Freemasonry.

Last month we had another presentation by Bro Steven O'Donnell on literature and links to masonic information available, which always proves to be a popular subject for discussion.

The Young Masons are keen to help promote Freemasonry in the Community and are willing to help at Community Events. In June they assisted with providing support for the Car Parking at the Tain Vintage Car Rally and a group from Lodge Fingal and Loch Ewe manned the highly successful Car Wash at the Dingwall Gala, which raised an impressive sum for the St Clements School in Dingwall.

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

Raymond MacKeddie, PGM

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2005

The following Sunday, 12th June, PM Alasdair Taylor, Robertson's Lodge, PM Ian MacLaren, Lodge Rosehaugh and I accompanied Past Grand Master, Bro the Lord Burton to the Grand Lodge Divine Service held in the magnificent Dunblane Cathedral. It was an excellent service conducted by Past Grand Chaplain, Bro Rev John Jenkinson. Over 500 Brethren, wives and guests enjoyed the thought-provoking sermon delivered by Bro Rev John Jenkinson and likewise the singing, which was superb. Hopefully this will now become an annual event. *Editor*

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

From the Provincial Almoner

The following has sadly passed away to the Grand Lodge above:

On Wednesday 8th May 2024, Brother Alan Britten, an affiliate Master Mason of Lodge St Martin No. 2117 passed away. Brother Alan was a great supporter of the Lodge and Freemasonry in general. He reached the grand old age of 91 and will be sadly missed in the Lodge.

On Friday 7th June 2024, Brother Graham M Law, Past Master of Lodge Seaforth No. 854, passed away suddenly in Aberdeen. Brother Law was a very active member of the Lodge and a regular visitor of the many Lodges in the Province and beyond. A great miss to us all here and afar.

On Monday 8th July 2024, Brother Norman Kelman, Master Mason of Lodge Seaforth No. 854, passed away.

On Sunday 15th July 2024, Brother Roderick (Rod) MacIver, of Lodge Seaforth No. 854, passed away in Redwood Care Home, Alness. He was not able to attend the Lodge for quite some time.

I also report on the following:

Brother David MacMaster, Substitute Provincial Grand Master, is awaiting word for further hospital tests.

Brother Donald Graham, Past Master of Lodge Fortrose No. 108 is now getting about in a customised vehicle which enables him to get about much easier.

Mrs Rosemary Sutherland, wife of Robert Sutherland, Past Master of Lodge Averon, No. 866 has had a recent stay in hospital but is now home and fully recovered.

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

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

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2006

Today Tuesday 16th May, I was on top of the Grampians, and you might ask how on earth did you manage that on a wheelchair. The answer of course is quite simple - I used the Funicular railway. For me it was a wonderful experience and a most enjoyable outing that I fully recommend to all readers. The courtesy and help given to me was exceptional. Nothing was a bother to the staff both on the train and in the restaurant. For me, a day to remember plus a view that was just out of this world.

Sinclair Bruce

Around the Lodges

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Brethren, like most of the Lodges currently Lodge St Duthus No82 is enjoying its summer recess. However, some work still goes on and the Lodge are grateful to Bro David Johnstone who has been busy maintaining the building during this period, the high standard of maintenance in the building and the number of compliments from members of the public at functions are testament to Davids' dedication to the Lodge.

Once again, this year during the recess Lodge St Duthus is hosting three events for the St Duthac Book & Arts Festival which is now becoming a regular attraction in the Tain area for locals and tourists alike.

The Festival takes place on the 10th - 15th September and holds over 20 events in the Tain & Seaboard area. The events that the Lodge are hosting are on Thursday 12th September which sees Claire Askew hold a Writing Workshop in the Lodge, Friday 13th September has Fiona Cameron & Carole Grant tell the story of their fathers experiences during WW2 when he served with the 51st Highland Division and Sunday the 15th September has Philip Paris who has spent many years researching the Scottish witchcraft trials for his latest historical novel, *The Last Witch of Scotland*, inspired by the true story of Janet Horne, the last person in Britain to be executed for witchcraft (Dornoch, 1727). Philip will be talking about these trials.

Should Brethren wish to find out more about this festival then have a look at the website or contact myself Dave Macrae for more information

[Home | St Duthac Book & Arts Festival Tain Easter Ross Peninsula \(stduthacbookfest.com\)](http://stduthacbookfest.com)

The Lodge has also helped at the local Vintage Car Rally by providing Young Masons who helped with the car parking on a very miserable (weather wise!) day, have attended a Car boot sale and will be attending Tain Highland Games with a fundraising stall. Thanks must go to the Young Masons of the Lodge who are coordinating these events.

Well Brethren that is all for just now enjoy the break.

Yours Faithfully & Fraternally

D Macrae - Bro. D Macrae PM Secy

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



Lodge Fortrose No 108

On the third Friday in May we welcomed PGM Raymond Mackeddie and his deputation on their annual visit to Lodge Fortrose. An exemplification fellow craft was worked that evening when Bro Andy Ferrier kindly stood as the candidate.

During his visit our PGM took great delight in presenting a 70-year diploma to Bro Ian Macleannan who was thrilled to be receiving this amazing honour.



No other degrees have been worked so far this quarter, but Bro John Styles was affiliated during our July meeting.

We have an application for initiation to read at our August regular meeting so that's a small step in the right direction.

No. 8 Lodge of Journeymen Masons have intimated that they intend to bring a deputation to visit us on 18th October.

Donnie Macleod
Donald Macleod PM

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



Robertson's Lodge No 134

Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

Robertson's Lodge held the final meeting of the Season 2023 to 2024 in April past. Since then, the Lodge has been on Summer Break. However, Members have been visiting other Lodges in the meantime. The Lodge premises are also visited and maintained, and the utilities are to be checked and paid for. Planning and other activities continue.

The Lodge carried out a donation to Cromarty School children funds as had been decided at the last Regular Meeting. Photos of the occasion had been part of the post on the Facebook pages. With one here showing our Master Bro. Derek M. Rodway presenting the two cheques to the Cromarty School Headmistress, Mrs. Julie Dinwoodie; -



The Master, Brother Derek M. Rodway, his office bearers and the members are looking forward to the start of the new season, 2024 to 2025, with the first meeting planned for 18th September 2024. While the first meeting is planned to be a Business Meeting, the coming season will be a busy one it is to be hoped. There are expected Degree Meetings to be held as well as ongoing business matters.

In the meantime, The Lodge Premises must be prepared and arranged. Also, a General Committee Meeting will need to be held to discuss existing matters, Lodge Premises maintenance, and to arrange for the upcoming season of meetings so we can discuss what we need to do for the coming season.

All matters continue to be communicated to Members during these days, especially by email, such as Grand Lodge messages and letters. This is of course as part of the Grand Lodge use of social media, Facebook and X (Twitter)

Please stay safe and well Brethren.

Peter K. Ratcliffe, Secretary

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



Lodge Fingal No 318

Brother Andrew MacIvor, Chairman of the Dingwall Gala Committee, requested a helping hand from the Fingal Brethren to erect the perimeter fence round the Cromartie Car Park where the Gala would be taking place on Saturday 6th July. As usual, the Fingal brethren responded without hesitation - here is the motley crew.



On the Saturday there was a similar format to last year's gala, with Lodge Fingal acquiring two stalls. This year the money raised, as you will see below, was to support St Clement's School. Again, the brethren turned out in force wearing their Fingal Polo Shirts along with Bro Stephen O`Donnell, wearing a Prostrate Scotland T Shirt as he is one of the Province's three Prostrate Champions who was on hand to give advice, if required. The morning started dry, but the inclement weather crept in, as we are used to this summer, but this did not deter the atmosphere. The stalls were well attended.



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

The public responded well to the activities in the Fingall stall - Tombola, 30 tickets per round, with each winner receiving a bottle of whisky or an alternative alcohol beverage if they so desired. Along from the Tombola there was the chance to win a bottle of Malt Whisky if you chose the right key to open the cabinet. Next to that there was a suit of hearts large playing cards, with a bottle on each, if the participant picked the matching card from a deck of cards, they won the prize. Finally, making a welcome return was the human fruit machine – a brilliant idea that fairly attracts the bairns and if they come into the stall, the adults follow. The stalls raised a staggering amount of £1,125.

Meanwhile, round at St Clement's School's car park, there was a Car Wash which was the brainchild, of our newly made EA Bro Andrew MacNeil. He and his team washed some 50 cars, so between donations and sponsors, which Andrew worked tirelessly at for weeks, raised a tremendous figure of £4,500. Therefore, the total raised was £5,625 at the Gala, this figure was rounded to £6,000, by the Lodge.



Andrew, (with his back to us) and his team. Andrew's son and Bro Richard MacDonald's daughter helping also.



The Lord Lieutenant of Ross, Cromarty, Skye and Lochalsh, Mrs Joanie Whiteford, gracing our stand where she won a prize, which was presented by Bro Henry Cameron.

PROVINCIAL PATTER

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



This framed Ross County signed shirt, was given by Ross County Manager, Don Cowie to Bro Ronnie Sutherland.

The lucky ticket was drawn by The Lord Lieutenant and was won by Eilish Campbell who plays for the Ross County Girls team.

Her late Grandmother worked at St Clement`s School for many years.



On Monday 15th July we gathered at the Lodge to present the Cheque to Mrs Avril Robertson, Chair, St Clement`s Parents Council, she was accompanied with Ceri Junor. Both were grateful for the very generous donation.

Prior to presenting the cheque the brethren met in the Lodge for a wee photographic reminder of the tremendous effort they had put into the Gala Day events. Not only did they raise a magnificent amount of money for the school, but they raised the profile of Scottish Freemasonry in general and the significant part that Lodge Fingal continually plays in the community, in particular.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



*Bro. Andrew MacNeil and Bro. Richard MacDonald in the middle of the photo.
They were the masterminds behind the very successful car wash*

On Saturday 20th July, the Fingal brethren travelled north to visit Lodge St Peter`s Operative No 284, where Bro Andrew MacNeil, was passed to the Fellow Craft Degree. Fourteen Brethren and five Ladies made the journey north to Thurso. On arrival, we were treated to soup and sandwiches. The Lodge Tyled at 3:00pm, and while the brethren carried out the degree, the Ladies were escorted to nearby Scrabster by the Masters Mother, Mrs Jane MacKay, for some cocktails.

The collection amounted to £240, and, as is the custom, gifts were exchanged between Fingal and St Peter`s.

Thereafter, we were once again joined by the ladies and enjoyed a very fine Harmony. The raffle was drawn and raised £290. Now on with the dancing, music by Brothers Moodie and Durrand, the result was the bar made £630. Good day all round.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



Lodge Fingal's season starts on Tuesday 8th October to work a FC Degree for Bro Andrew Morrison.

Forth Coming Events in the Logie Lounge:

B-B-Q, for Saturday 10th August. Bro. Allan Mackenzie [Storn] will do the business, accompanied by Bro. Ivor Munro. Same as last year, 6:00 for 6:30, cost £10. Music by Brother Mike Samms. Tickets available from any Fingal Brother.

D. Gunn

Secretary

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851

The Installation of Brother John Lynn Stott on Tuesday was a most enjoyable occasion with brethren from far and near in attendance. John is the first Reponing Member to be installed for the first time into the Chair of the Lodge. Previously, all our Masters' have been Past Masters of other Lodges, so this was a momentous occasion. During the forthcoming season John will lead Deputations to other local Lodges where he will work a degree for them given that Lodge Allan Wilson, as a Lodge of Enlightenment only accepts affiliates. We all look forward to supporting John in his endeavour and wish him a very happy and enjoyable term in office.

At the July meeting, we had a most enjoyable and informative session with Grand Almoner, Brother Tom Davidson. He gave an insight into many aspects of the work of Grand Almoner that many of the brethren were unaware of. His presentation was well received by the brethren.

The Master, Brother John Stott obligated and welcomed Brother James MacAulay as our newest affiliate to the Lodge.

The August meeting – on Tuesday 13th August – will be a presentation by the Lodge Junior Warden and Depute Provincial Grand Master, Brother Michael Scott Turner entitled “Euclid to the Fore”

All brethren will be made most welcome.

Ramsay McGhee - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1996

Freemasonry is ...

Kindness in the home
Honesty in business
Courtesy in society
Fairness in work
Pity and concern for the unfortunate
Resistance towards the wicked
Help for the weak
Trust in the strong
Forgiveness for the penitent
Love for one another and above all
Reverence and love for God
Freemasonry is many things -
but most of all
Freemasonry is a way of life.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



LODGE SEAFORTH 854

Although the lodge has been in recess since the April Regular Meeting, the members have been busy with tidying up around the lodge premises, cutting hedges, weedkilling, levelling out the area behind the lodge and spreading a tidy gravel surface.

Bro. Graham Law PM

On a sadder note, it came as a great shock to the brethren of the lodge, when they learned of the passing of Past Master Graham Law.

On the week of his passing, Bro. Law had attended a concert his favourite band, the rock legends ACDC, in Amsterdam, which he enthusiastically touted on social media how much he enjoyed the event. On his return home, he attended a reunion with former college students in Aberdeen, when he suffered a heart attack which unfortunately ended his life all too soon.

Bro Law was a great supporter of Lodge Seaforth, a regular visitor to many lodges in the Province, always ready and willing to step in to fill any vacant office at a lodge meeting and always the life and soul of any harmony.

He worked his way around all of the progressive offices of Lodge Seaforth, carrying out his duties in an exemplary manner, but in 2010 he had to step down from taking up the office of Master at his first attempt due to an earlier health scare that year, but as his health issues receded and his fitness improved, he returned to lodge duties and was installed into the chair of the lodge in 2018.

A large turnout of Brethren was present at his funeral on Thursday 20th June 2024, and witnessed a very fitting funeral ceremony, and tribute of his life conducted by Bro Ramsay McGhee PM.

His exuberant and vivacious character will be sadly missed by all those who made friends with Bro Graham Law during his far too short masonic journey.

Visit to Lodge John O’Groat No 1333

On Saturday 22nd June 2024, the Master, Bro Ronald Bruce, led a deputation from Lodge Seaforth north up the A9, on the much-anticipated biennial visit to Lodge John O’Groat No 1333.

The deputation was warmly welcomed into the Lodge John O’Groat by the Master, Bro Denny Morrison, and after the usual formal masonic greetings were exchanged, the Master marked the passing of Bro Graham Law PM, and following a eulogy presented by the Master of Lodge Seaforth, Bro Ronald Bruce, the assembled Brethren stood in silent tribute.

The work of the afternoon was to work a Fellowcraft Degree for Bro Andrew Morrison, the second son of the Master, Bro Denny Morrison. The candidate presented himself and answered the test questions in an exemplary manner. The Master, assisted by his lodge office-bearers, then obligated and passed Bro Morrison through the degree.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

During the closing exchange of greetings, Bro John Bremner SW, made a very impressive presentation of a gift to the Master of Lodge Seaforth. The very observant Brother from Lodge John O'Groat, who had noticed on earlier visits that, Lodge Seaforth at best were using an old biscuit tin to draw raffle tickets from. This poor working practise prompted Bro John Bremner to dedicate his spare time to manufacture an ornate spinning drum machine for the Lodge Seaforth brethren to use to draw their future raffles.

The machine is a work of art, finely polished and decorated with various masonic symbols, the name of the lodge worked into the stand and tokens from each lodge embossed into working parts of the drum. The Brethren of the lodge are most grateful and appreciative of this excellent gift and have already put it to good use.

The Brethren retired to enjoy an excellent harmony and enjoy some truly outstanding Caithness hospitality. After a waist busting three course dinner, the after-dinner toasts were kept to economic level, and after a fantastic raffle time was available to catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances.

Summer Bingo Nights

During the Sumer months the Seaforth Club has hosted several summer bingo nights, which has proved popular, very entertaining and surprisingly competitive. The bingo nights have been expertly run by Bro James Fraser SW and his friends, with a well-supported raffle, which utilised the new Raffle Spinning Drum, and each of the events proved very popular.

The next Regular Meeting of the Lodge will be on Monday 16th September 2024, it is planned to carry out an Entered Apprentice Degree for a new initiate, and all brethren are most welcome.

Raymond MacKeddie PM - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1995

On Monday 22nd May I had the privilege of visiting Mitre Lodge No 7732 in Windsor in the Province of Berkshire. The Lodge sits in the shadow of Windsor Castle, built originally as a school for the poor in 1705. The building was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and became a Masonic Temple in 1864 when Lodge Windsor Castle No 771 bought the premises. The Temple is used by several Lodges, among them Mitre Lodge. The interior of the Lodge is well worth seeing. It is oblong, approximately twenty feet wide by about sixty feet long. The walls are panelled in oak at the top of which is a decorative frieze running into an ornate coping. The ceiling is painted olive green and is segmented by wooden squares. The lower edge of the wooden squares is red, ornamented by gold rivets.

The meeting commenced at three thirty in the afternoon with a Master Mason Degree. Most of the Degree was worked in an Inner Temple, access to which was through one of the wall panels in the main Lodge. At the conclusion of the Degree, we adjourned for a cup of tea before returning to the Lodge to witness an Entered Apprentice Degree. The reason for two Degrees on the same evening was due to the large number of candidates presently waiting to be initiated.

Editor

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



There has been a lot happening in the grounds of the Lodge over the past two months or so. It is important that all Lodges keep the external appearance of their property in good order as it presents a good impression on the public.

The photo on the left is the piece of ground we recently purchased to give us ownership of the entire area behind the Lodge and the car park. Our grateful thanks to PM's Donald MacLennan and Ian MacLaren for clearing the ground – now awaiting 10 tons of stone to complete the job.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

LODGE AVERON No 866

Hi there, Brethren,

‘Just because we are in our summer recess the work of the lodge simply doesn’t stop because the sun came out’

This is a quote I have heard a few times on my travels this summer, the sun coming out means the grass grows quicker and the dreaded weeds!!!! We are indebted to the brethren giving up their time to keep our lodge grounds looking fine.

We are just about to start our summer activities with our Family Community Barbecue on the 17th of August the first, plans are progressing and the request for good weather is in!

Our next event on the 21st of September is the hugely popular Texas Scramble at Invergordon Golf Club. This has proved a great success in the past, with some great golf, some very questionable golf... but always a fantastic amount of brotherly love and craic in abundance, which will be aided by the mobile bar doing the rounds. Teams of four, but don’t be shy, if you fancy coming along on your own, I’m sure there will be others looking to make up a team on the day. After the golf there will be a prizegiving and the raffle draw in the club house. This event is a great way to introduce non-members to the craft so they can see what were about, and it raises a bit of revenue to enable us to continue our charitable works.

Brother Frazer McBeath Jnr is pictured handing over a cheque to Juile Clarkson from ‘Centred’ a Mental Health Charity with a base in Invergordon. This was used to carry out repairs to their minibus.



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

All this talk of summer also means that we are fast approaching the start of the new season which will be very new for Lodge Averon. After an awful lot of soul searching and vigorous debate (which we should all be very proud of) it was decided that for the long term good and longevity of our lodge we should consider reducing our meetings from two per month to one per month and also to change our start time from 7.45pm to 8.00pm to allow brethren working till 7.00pm more of a chance to attend. I am happy to report that compromise was reached, and our 'By-Laws' have been changed and approved by Grand Lodge. This change will also bring us into line with most lodges within our province. Thanks must go to Provincial and Grand Lodge for their assistance with this major change.

Lodge Averon will now meet on the second Thursday of the month September to April, starting on the 12th of September. Our Installation meeting shall still be taking place on the third Saturday in December as before.

Brethren I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer break and look forward to seeing you at an event or failing that in our lodge or your lodge when work resumes.

Kind and fraternal greetings.

Brother James MacDougall — Senior Warden



My brother-in-law Stuart and I had a fantastic 6 days in Munich for the start of the opening game, Germany v Scotland. We did not have tickets for the game but went to the Olympic Park to watch the game in the Fan Zone. Although the result was bitterly disappointing the welcome we got from the Munich people was fantastic. They couldn't do enough to help. We met loads of different fans and got photos taken with Gary McAllister and Rab Douglas. We had a whale of a time. An experience I will never forget.

George Robinson PM - Averon 866 Almoner

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



LODGE AVERON 866 COMMUNITY FAMILY BBQ SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST 2024 1pm—4pm



Tunes from our resident DJ



All welcome to our family BBQ Day. Come along and relax and learn more about the "Craft"

Licensed Bar



Food

Bouncy Castle for kids

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2011

There is not a lot happening just now as we are at rest for a few months. On Monday 21st May we went to Seaforth 854 and carried out a Fellowcraft Degree. The candidate was one of our own Entered Apprentices, Bro Kyle Gordon. Bro Duncan Munro PM has passed his "drinks test". I am not going to elaborate. A few of our brethren attended the PGL evening in Logie Lounge, Fingal where cheques were handed out to very good and worthy causes. Our charity was MacMillan Nurses. It was a good evening, and the "musical Masons" had our toes tapping.

(PS – just for the record – Duncan Munro gained his City & Guilds – Personal Licence Certificate)

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

Swing on by Fore
ΣWIND ON PL FOLF



LODGE AVERON 866

TEXAS SCRAMBLE

SATURDAY

21ST SEPTEMBER 2024



Invergordon Golf Club

£20 per person

Teams of 4

Trophies and Prizes for 1st 2nd & 3rd
placed teams.

Nearest the Pin & Longest Drive Prizes

10am Shotgun start please arrive by 9am,
bacon rolls and hot drinks will be served

Contact: David MacKinnon -

07845 561869



BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2014

Along with other Lodges we are in recess and enjoying the glorious weather. We are due to have a special meeting on Saturday 13th September at 3pm when Lodge Hozier Douglas Water 912 are due to visit us and demonstrate an initiation ceremony when the candidate will be Mr James McDougall. I will send out a billet in good time. Our regular meetings are on the second and fourth Thursday of the month starting on the second Thursday of October which is always a business meeting. We have several candidates already balloted, so Calum has plenty to keep him going till he hands over in December. The third Saturday in December is our Installation Day and starts at 3pm.

Henry MacInnes

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

LODGE NESS No 888

We had our Ness 888 BBQ last month and it was very successful. We even had some visitors from a cruise ship that was in Invergordon – so good to see them and welcome them into Lodge Ness.

We are currently awaiting the front of the lodge to be painted which will greatly enhance the whole area and give a good impression of Freemasonry. There will also be some work getting done in the garden. All positive stuff.

The Lodge donated to Ross County boys' football, and we have some further donations about to be dispersed to some other local charities in the area. There will be an update on that in the November issue.



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



Owen Wilson

Master – Lodge Ness 888

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

LODGE KYLE No 1117

Lodge Kyle is in recess but the work on the building and garden continues. We are hoping to have a summer BBQ in August, assuming all the brethren are not on holiday as they were last year. Our next Meeting will be Monday September 2nd at 7:30 pm when, all things being well, we will be conferring a Second Degree on Brother Cameron Mackenzie.

In November we will be having a visit from The Ancient Mason Lodge of Dundee No. 49. The Brethren are returning to us in increased numbers after a highly successful visit last year! They are also visiting Lodge St Kilda 881 in Portree the day before.

New Website.

There is to be a new website for The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty as the old website is showing its age (it is 13 years old).

Work is underway but we will shortly need at least 3 things from each Lodge in the Province: -

An exterior photo of your Lodge in LANDSCAPE* orientation and another photo of something that would interest visitors to your page within the website. Examples could be the surrounding area, a special past Masonic event, or a clear picture of the Lodge interior. Historical pics are also popular.

*Landscape (and portrait) orientation.



We will also need your date and START TIME for Meetings and any variation for Installation Meetings or January Meetings. E.g. First Monday of the month Tyle 7:45pm. January Meeting is second Monday in the month Tyle 7:45 pm. Installation – 1 week after the December Meeting, tyle 7:45pm.

The new website will be secured with an SSL Certificate and will be available to view by the public. The site will fit on screens of all sizes, from TVs to phones. There will be an application page where prospects can read the application procedure and ask questions. The library of The Provincial Patter magazine will be migrated to the new website.

Once the basic site has been laid out, we will add enhanced features such as secure editing for some pages for example: Young Masons and PGM Page.

There will be more news about the website in the next edition of The Provincial Patter or beforehand if we require information, narrative or imagery via The PG Secretary.

Ronnie Miller, PM - Secretary

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

With no candidate available our May meeting was a business one only (not advertised). We did have a ballot for Calum Mackenzie from Avoch and we decided to go ahead with a special meeting on 19th July due to Calum's work commitments. This turned out to be a good move with a large attendance and a dozen lodges represented along with PGL. The meeting commenced with an obituary to the late Bro Graham Law PM Lodge Seaforth which was given by Bro Ronald Bruce RWM (854) who gave a glowing account of Graham both as a gentleman and a freemason. Graham had also applied for affiliation to Lodge Rosehaugh so a big loss to us also as well to the craft in general. The Lodge passed their condolences to Anne and family.

The degree went very well, and we were assisted on the floor by Bro Bruce and Bro Jonathan Hill PM 134 who gave the tracing lecture (impeccably) at short notice.

Our WJW Gordon Killbourn recently retired, and Gordon and Elaine have decided that they will be moving back to Glasgow. Gordon was obviously in line to be RWM soon so a bit of a loss to the Lodge, but we wish them both all the best for the future.

We are planning a golf day on 23rd August as a farewell doo for Gordon. Bro Steven Bassindale looks as if he will miss most of our meetings in next session. Steven has been invited over to America as a golf caddie between October and April

Finally, just concluding our annual accounts and a bit of a loss this year mainly down to our electricity charge which at over £2000 for year is miles more costly than normal. This also included over £800 in standing charges which increased rapidly in the last few months. SSE are also charging us a higher amount 37p per unit for off peak than 32p for normal! Most strange. We did have a contract which ran out and they would not let us onto another contract. However, we did go through an online check and quote and were able to sign up with EDL. SSE were quoting £2.26 per day standing charge EDL were 67p. Potentially saving of almost £600. Well worth a look around Brethren.

Keith Patience, PM

Lodge St Martin 1217

The brethren of St Martin recently held a Quiz Night in aid of the local Dolphin Arts Project (Supporting people living with dementia). Ten brethren and friends supported the evening with the Quizmaster being Bro Phil Ellis PM doing a sterling job. Bro Calum Macrae and Michelle of the "Johnny Cash Duo" kept the proceedings furnished in music and banter during the evening. The fantastic sum of £1100 was raised on the night and the brethren presented the cheque to the Dolphin Project, who were absolutely delighted with the final total and some of whom participated in the quiz. A great night was had by all with the profile of the lodge being in the spotlight in the village. The photo shows the RWM and some of the brethren presenting the cheque with some of the group members.

The lodge resumes on 15th October with the business being the Annual General Meeting and the Election of Office-bearers. The Lodge will also be host to the PG Lodge of Ross & Cromarty when the Province will hold the PGL Annual Divine Service on 29th September at 3pm.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



Handover of the cheque for £1100 to the Dolphin Art Group – helping those with dementia

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2008

During the summer recess, the Lodge participated in the local Rotary Fun on the Pier Day as a result of which, they raised £400 for Lodge funds.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

As we were not able to hold our May meeting in Aultbea due to a power outage, the RWM of Lodge Fingal, Bro Alex Craib, very kindly allowed us to hold the meeting in Dingwall. As it was also the annual Provincial Visit, the meeting, an Initiation for Mr Liam Fraser, was extremely well attended.

Whilst he, now Bro Fraser, the second of our two Initiates this year, will be spending most the summer catering for passengers and crew aboard the cruise ship *Lord of the Hebrides*, I'm pleased to report that he has been able to join at least one of the Young Masons' Zoom meetings. As for his fellow Initiate, Bro Craig Simon, who has also joined the YM group; with his feet remaining firmly on dry land, Bro Craig has already been able to broaden his Masonic circle by taking part in Lodge Fingal's wonderfully successful charity event at the beginning of July, and, later in the month, accompanying our RWM on a visit to St Peter's Operative Lodge N^o 284 in Thurso. It is great to see these young members of the Lodge showing such enthusiasm.

On a personal note, the Masonic highlight of the summer recess for me was, together with my wife, Sharon, being part of the Provincial Visit to Trinidad & Tobago and Grenada. It will certainly live long in the memory.

The next Regular Meeting of Lodge Loch Ewe will be held at the Masonic Hall, Aultbea, on Thursday 12th September, tiling at 8pm (SSE permitting!). The planned business of the evening is a Fellowcraft Degree for Bro Craig Simon.

Michael Longley, PM – Lodge Loch Ewe

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1999

It was with great sadness that Brethren throughout the Province learned of the death of Past Master, Brother Alexander Forbes on 5th July 1999. Brother Forbes was not only a founder member of Lodge Loch Ewe but was the first Master of the Lodge. He had the onerous duty of guiding the Lodge through its early years, a duty he carried out with great success. The deepest sympathies of all Brethren in the Province are conveyed to the extended family at this time of sadness.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



Ye Corporation O' Squaremen Hielan Shed

REMAINING VISITS FOR 2024

3rd AUGUST – Lodge St Andrew – **ARDERSEIR** – bus leaves Inverness 13:30
7th SEPTEMBER – Lodge Mercantile Marine – **STROMNESS**

PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO SCRABSTER - This WILL be an overnight stay.

On 4th May we visited Lodge Ness which was a bit of a disappointment as there were no Candidates so the Shed just held a business Meeting – on 1st June the Worthy Deacon welcomed the Grand Worthy Deacon Bri Jim Turpie and the Grand Shed members there to inspect the Books – we were delighted to have two new Brithers join us – on 6th July we visited Lodge St Martin in Ullapool which again was a disappointment as there were no Candidates , however it was a very good Meeting as we had Brither's from Harris, Skye, Orkney, Caithness and the IPGWD Martin Kelly from Buchan Shed join us as well as the usual stalwarts.



Worthy Deacon handing over a cheque to AD Morris Downie for Lodge St Martin

PROVINCIAL PATTEN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



The Brithers from Ah the Airts at the Ullapool Meeting

Congratulations to our Limner Bri Chas Lawson on winning the Sutherland Provincial Bowls Competition - were hoping he will be available on 24th August at the Inverness Bowling Club to play for the Squarmen in the Inverness-shire Provincial Bowls Competition!!!!

Our next Meeting will be to St Andrew 601 on 3rd August where we hope to have a few Candidates – this is the last Meeting (on the mainland) this year as our September Meeting will be in on Saturday the 7th in Stromness, Orkney and Brithers are reminded that they must make their own arrangements for travel and accommodation

*John & Mackay
Boxie*

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1999

Four Lodge Fortrose Brethren were the sole representatives from the Province at the 400th Anniversary Celebrations of The Lodge of Edinburgh (St Mary's Chapel) No 1. Brothers George N MacLeod (Treasurer); John Young, PM; Donald MacLeod, PM and John MacLeod made the lengthy journey from Stornoway to Edinburgh but voted the trip an outstanding success.

Last week the Lodge hosted and sponsored a Ceilidh for the crews of some of the Tall Ships who put into Stornoway en route to Lerwick. All entertainment was provided by the Lodge members.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



News from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland



Tain & Ross Contingent



Down from Ross and Cromarty for the day – Raymond MacKeddie, WRM and Kevin Taggart

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS MESSAGE.

I start my message this quarter by hoping everyone has enjoyed their summer break from masonry although I do notice that craft masonry's activities are flourishing with a tremendous effort for St Clements School in Dingwall by Fingal Lodge No 318. St Duthus No 82 and Tain & Ross Royal Arch Chapter No 63 flying the flag at a car boot sale in Tain.

The September Quarterly Convocation will be held in Lodge Fingal, Dingwall at 12 noon on Saturday 21st September. This time and day are to make Provincial Grand Royal Arch masonry more accessible to our Companions from the Hebrides Chapter.

A good attendance is requested. Tea/coffee and eats always available after the conclusion of the meeting.

The Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross and Cromarty will be making the following visits this coming season as follows:- viz

Tain & Ross, Tain - Monday 24th March

St Clement, Dingwall - Friday 28th March

Cromarty Firth, Invergordon - Wednesday 5th March

Hebrides, Stornoway - Wednesday 14th May.

The AGM will be held on Saturday 24th May.

All these dates will be up for discussion and to be approved at the September Convocation.

All Royal Arch Office Bearers and Members are invited to attend the Quarterly Convocation and I look forward to seeing you all, to be a part of whatever May be on the agenda on the day.

On Saturday 18th May the Inverness-shire Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter held their 100th Anniversary, conducted by Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter, of Scotland, headed by the 1st Grand Principal MEC W. Ramsay McGhee. Unfortunately, only the Grand Superintendent and Depute Grand Superintendent from Ross and Cromarty attended this momentous occasion.



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

A lovely meal was on offer in The Club after the meeting with the usual celebratory speeches afterwards.

DONALD WHERE'S YOUR TROUSERS.

The Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross and Cromarty members travelled by Cal Mac Ferries from Ullapool to Stornoway in excellent weather conditions on Wednesday 15th May for the purpose of carrying out their Annual Inspection of books etc. Everything was found to be in excellent order with all vouchers and documents thoroughly checked by Prov. Scribe E.

On arrival at the booked hotel accommodation the Depute Grand Superintendent MEC Donald Gunn discovered he hadn't packed his suit.



A few phone calls were made and Hebrides RA Chapter Scribe E MEC Henry MacInnes came to his rescue and clothed him with the missing items. This shows the brotherly co-operation which exists within the Royal Arch members in the Province of Ross & Cromarty - helping each other out in a positive and effective way. A progressive candidate was made a member of the Royal Arch Degree.

Morris M Downie
Grand Superintendent

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

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.

Companions from Tain & Ross Royal Arch Chapter No 63 had a very enjoyable day in Edinburgh on the 14th of June when we witnessed the Installation of our Past Z Ramsay McGhee being installed as First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland. Companions attending included Companion D Macrae, A Waugh, H Fraser, J Mackenzie, D Johnstone and S O' Donnel. All had a very enjoyable day joining the company of those from within our Province and throughout the world coming together to celebrate this auspicious event. Congratulations from all at Tain & Ross No 63 are extended to our new First Grand Principle and we wish him well in his term in Office.



Companions Waugh and Macrae on the floor in Grand Lodge.

St Clement Royal Arch Chapter No 244

On Friday 27th September 2024 the Companions will gather and work a MMM Affiliation and an EM Degree for Brother Graeme John Brindle. The First Principal, MEC Gwyn Phillips would be delighted to welcome all suitably qualified Companions.

Donald Gunn PZ

Scribe E.

PS - There was a sequel to the Donnie Gunn saga –

Ode to Donnie Gunn *or* The Man with no Suit (Designed to be read rap-style)

A Dingwall man, is young Donnie Gunn
He sailed to the west for some sun
His spirits were high as a kite in the sky
As he planned for a day full of fun

Alas, when he got there his suitcase was bare
All his clothes he had left behind
He got into a dither and cried for his Mither
In a suit of invisible kind

Oh, what to do in this hullabaloo
As he stood there in T shirt and shorts
He walked around town with a mighty big frown
As he searched for a suit of some sort.

His search was in vain, and it caused him great pain
To appear in his birthday suit
Then a little bell rang, and he burst into song
In his pocket he found a big thong!

“I’ll wear this tonight and that is my right”
Donnie Gunn, he said with a smile
“You will not” cried his boss looking suitable cross
As he chewed on the thought for a while.

His “rescuer” comes from the Isle of Skye
He’s not very big and not very shy
He gave Donnie a second-hand suit
A bit on the large side and not very cute.

Morris the boss of Cromarty and Ross
Shook his head at the sight of this man
There Donnie reposed in some ill-fitting clothes
In a suit that would fit Desperate Dan.

An eruption occurred in a certain private place
And Donnie’s little face turned white
He looked down towards the ground and there in a mound
Was a steaming little pile of chocolate

Well, they diddle, diddle with a piddle in the middle
All things went well in the end
In a pocket was a penny and that’s not many
For a man of Donnie’s calibre to spend

Donnie was pleased that the night went alright
As he sat there next to his boss
The “Man with no Suit” now looked very cute
Donnie Gunn from Dingwall and Ross.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

Cromarty Firth Royal Arch No 310

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER HEBRIDES NO. 364.

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

† Donald Macleod KCT

DISTRICT GRAND PRIORY OF THE NORTH IN SCOTLAND.

pp †† Eric Macgregor DGP

†† Donald Macleod KCT

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024



Royal Order
of Scotland

Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness and the Highlands

Provincial Grand Secretary: Bro. Michael Scott Turner

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness and the Highlands will hold its next meeting on Saturday, 14 September 2024, at 2pm at the Masonic Temple in Inverness. The meeting following will be 13 April 2025. Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland is holding its next meeting in Edinburgh on Saturday, 7 September 2024, a double meeting where the first will be at 11 am, followed by lunch, and the next meeting at 2:30 pm, followed by dinner. The afternoon meeting will employ the skills of several Provincial Grand Masters as office bearers.

All members of the Royal Order are very cordially invited to attend the meetings.

Michael Scott Turner

Provincial Grand Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2000

The findings of the ad hoc Committee dealing with Membership and Education matters has now been circulated to all Lodges - in addition every Master and Warden will have received a copy contained within the Minute of the May Communication of Grand Lodge (pages 58 - 67). The report is divided into seven parts dealing with - retention of members, encouragement and care of new members, lapsed members, family involvement, communication, masonic education and a conclusion. This is an important document which contains many thought-provoking suggestions to breathe new life into the Craft. It is important that the Lodges in the Province put time aside to study the content and act upon the recommendations relevant to each Lodge. I'm delighted to say that Lodge Fortrose have already started the process and have produced a very helpful summary of the report. If all Lodges treat the report with the same enthusiasm as Lodge Fortrose, the Province can only benefit from the exercise. Likewise, it is incumbent on Provincial Grand Lodge to go through the same process and lead from the front. Obviously there will be issues that will be contentious, issues that will be difficult, issues that have already been tackled, issues that could be easily implemented - irrespective of the grading, it is important that each Lodge grasps this opportunity to analyse itself against the content of the report and take whatever action it deems necessary to drive the Lodge through the first decade of the new millennium.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

BITS AND PIECES

Visit to the District of Trinidad, Tobago and Grenada – May 2024

On Tuesday the 28th of May 2024, a deputation of 8 brethren from the Province of Ross and Cromarty, accompanied by 4 wives, flew from Gatwick Airport, heading for Piarco International Airport in Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago.

This was the latest visit in a long and very close association, stretching back to the mid 90's, when PPGM Bro. Morris Downie from the Province of Ross and Cromarty met the then District Grand Master from Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada.

We arrived in Piarco on schedule, and eventually cleared Customs and Immigration to be met by a deputation of brethren from Trinidad, including the IPDGM Bro. Rajin Bhagwat, and the Reigning Master of Lodge Felicity No. 1681, Bro Nicholas N. Maraj, accompanied by several other brethren. Boarding the waiting minibus, we were whisked away into Port of Spain and following check in at the



Radisson Hotel, we quickly freshened up after the long flight, and met back in Reception, where we were picked up by brethren, and taken to the premises of the Temple Mount Zion which is used by several Lodges, both Scottish and English Constitutions.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

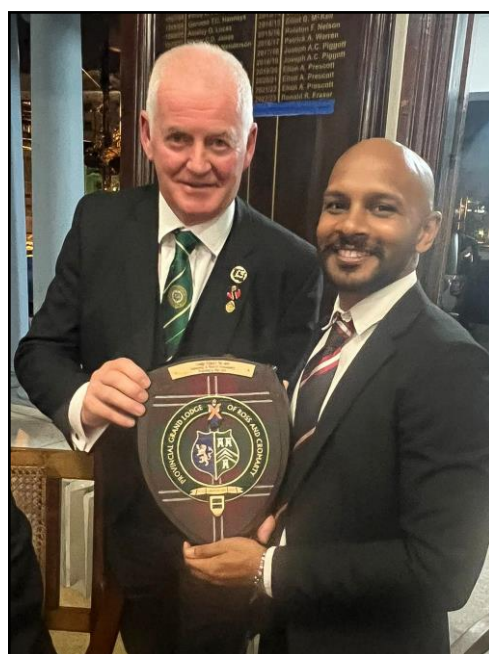
AUGUST 2024

Brethren of Lodge Felicity No. 1681 and other lodges, including the DGM Bro Louis Baptiste warmly welcomed us all and we were treated to a sumptuous meal and drinks, followed by music from a steel pan, played by an expert drummer.

We had some free time on Wednesday after a most interesting tour of the Angostura Rum factory on which we saw the barrels being made by a cooper using a very similar method to our own Speyside coopers. Indeed, some of the machinery in use was made in Aberdeen.



That evening, again we were picked up and taken to the Temple Mount Zion, where we witnessed a superb 50th Rededication ceremony carried out by the District Grand Master and his DGL Office-bearers. This was very similar to our own ceremony but had some small changes which added to the enjoyment. At the harmony which followed, commemorative plaques were exchanged by the Provincial Grand Master and Master of Lodge Felicity No. 1681.



On Thursday morning we were on the move to the holiday island of Grenada, along with many brethren and their families from Trinidad and Tobago.

Again, we were met by a welcoming party, and transported to our accommodation in the Radisson Hotel (both hotels owned by local brethren). Having checked in and unpacked, we relaxed in the bar area right on a typical Caribbean beach and met old friends and made new ones as guests were arriving for the installation ceremony. Friday morning saw us up bright and early, and on a bus to



St. George's marina, where we boarded a catamaran for a trip along the coast, which culminated in the anchor being dropped in a secluded bay, and those who wished having the opportunity to spend some time snorkelling in the clear blue waters of the Caribbean Sea, whilst those who chose not to, spent a couple of hours drinking cold Carib beer in the warm sunshine. 00

That evening, we attended a thoroughly enjoyable meeting of Grenada Kilwinning Sovereign Chapter No. 248, which was very similar to our own, followed by a quick change and then off to a family barbeque attended by local brethren and their families, including

brethren and their families from as far away as Jamaica. All masonic meetings in Grenada, both Scottish and English Constitutions, meet in the Conference Centre at the Radisson complex.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

On Saturday 1st June, we attended the Installation of Bro Nigel Roberts into the chair of King Solomon in his Mother Lodge, Lodge St. Andrew's No 1794. Bro Roberts is a young dynamic man who, I am sure, will lead his Lodge with distinction. He will undoubtedly receive good guidance from his father, Bro Daniel Roberts PM, a very experienced Freemason.

A banquet was held following the installation with an excellent buffet meal, followed by excellent formal toasts, and rounding off the evening with a live band who fair had the toes tapping. At one point a conga was bopping round the hall to a Bob Marley song. In the lead was the new Master, who is a harbour master responsible for the movement of luxury yachts and catamarans, the senior neurological surgeon in Trinidad, a barrister who is Kings's Counsel, and a hospital surgeon. Not to be outdone, at



the other end of the conga was one of our wife's! PPGM Morris Downie had asked the party to take along something Scottish and held a raffle which raised in excess of £800, which was donated to the Lodge to be used to support local charities.

Next morning, on the Sunday, we congregated at an open-air covered area for the Master's Brunch, filled with food, drink, and the customary music which continued late into the afternoon, and gave us the opportunity to bid adieu (but not goodbye) to those flying home early next morning to Trinidad and beyond.

On Monday morning, we took a bus tour of the island, known as Spice Island. A very knowledgeable bus driver took us on a fantastic tour of the island, which is volcanic and therefore quite hilly. It is 27 miles long by 12 miles wide. First stop was the cruise liner jetty, filled with the customary stalls of tourist tat, but we also had a history lesson on the island, being shown the castle where the revolution took place and was quelled some 50 years ago, just before President Reagan sent in the US forces as a peacekeeping force to establish a democracy which thrives to this day. In the same area, we saw the area where slaves were landed and kept prior to being taken to what is now the spice market, and subsequently sold. Back in the bus and deep into the hills, where we stopped at a small spice farm.

The bus driver and farm owner, who had a small bar there, explained the different spices including nutmeg, lemon grass, ginger and turmeric. We also tasted the flavoured local rum which was very tasty. Moving on, we stopped at a nature reserve and a Park Ranger had a Mona monkey leaping from shoulder to shoulder of our party and gently picking up slices of strategically placed banana. Lunch was calling, and we arrived at Belmont Estates where we had a tasty three course lunch which featured nutmeg in the starter and dessert. Following lunch, we had a tour of a cocoa and chocolate factory on the estate which we found very interesting. Back on the bus we travelled to an original rum distillery which was fascinating to say the least, being powered by a water wheel with water channelled off the river. The whole process was explained in depth by a very knowledgeable young lady who offered us all a taste

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

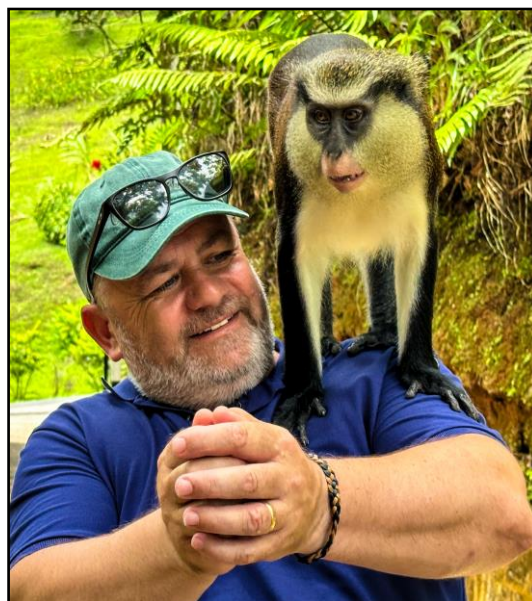
ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

of both strengths of rum distilled there – one at 75% ABV and the other at 69%! We then completed the round trip of the island back to our hotel.

Tuesday was spent at the poolside or beach by most, but one adventurous couple took off on a scuba diving adventure which they very much enjoyed. It was a lovely day to relax and prepare for the long flight home the following evening.

Wednesday morning dawned with the realisation that this memorable holiday among great friends was about to end, but it reminded me of the beauties of Freemasonry, and the great tenets of our craft – Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, all evident in great quantities over the preceding days. Mid-afternoon on Wednesday the brethren assembled yet again with transport to take us to the airport for the long journey to London, and then onward to Inverness.



Again, we had painful adieus to say, with promises to meet up again soon, and to maintain contact with each other. Until then, we have the very happy memories of friendships cemented, and new ones created.



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

The Grand Lodge of Scotland Clay Shooting Association (GLoSCSA)

On Sunday 16th June I had the privilege of representing the North of Scotland, shooting for the GLoSCSA against the staff of Cluny Activities. Sadly, I must report that we were “handed a lesson”. On a more positive note, we raised £675 for local charities.

GLoSCSA was formed around 3 years ago with the aim of promoting Freemasonry, raising money for charity and enjoying the sport of Clay Shooting. We shoot throughout the year, approximately monthly at various grounds throughout Scotland. There are a range of competitions in various types of Clay Shooting. We have our own Facebook page that gives details of forthcoming Shoots.

If any brother wishes to take part, or would like to try please get in touch and I can arrange a session at Highland Deephaven Clay ground near Evanton.

Derrick Cronie

Lodge Fingal No 318



The Rosicrucian Society in Scotland - Inverness College

On Saturday 28th September 2024, the annual Installation of the Inverness College will take place in Lodge Seaforth, Fortrose at 13.00 hours. The Supreme Magus and his principal Office-bearers will also be in attendance to celebrate the Centenary of the Inverness College.

The members of the College are delighted that the Centenary celebration will happen as it was very much in doubt due to the fall in attendees at Regular Meetings of the College.

The current Celebrant, Peter Foster Snr., has made an appeal to all members of the Inverness College to return to the fold and ensure its continuing existence. To help encourage members to support the College, the decision has been taken to reduce the number of meetings and to hold them in months when it is easier to travel at night.

The Installation this year will be held on Saturday 28th September but thereafter the annual round of meetings will be held on the second Monday of September (Installation), October, April and May. Please put those dates in your calendar and let's see the Inverness College flourish once again.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

The Caledonian Lodge No 134 – London



Earlier this year I was afforded the privilege of being given Honorary Membership of the Caledonian Lodge No 134 (EC) in London.

The Lodge is well attended, and their degree work is of the highest standard and there is a distinct feeling that you are welcome, the minute you walk in the door.

One of the objectives of the Lodge is to attract Scots working and living in London into their ranks. Can I ask that you pass this on to anyone you know who has moved south to London. I can vouch that they would be made most welcome whether they visit the Lodge, affiliate to the Lodge, or join the Lodge.

Following is an extract from “*The Arena Magazine*” which is the official magazine of the London Freemasons.

*On Saturday 2nd June at Freemasons’ Hall, Caledonian Lodge No 134 had its inaugural meeting as **London’s Scottish Lodge**. Caledonian’s Worshipful Master, W Bro Fred Bain PAGDC, and W. Bro Paul Tweedale PM report...*

*Two years ago, the members of Caledonian Lodge embraced the potential of becoming a ‘Special Interest Lodge’ under the Metropolitan Grand Lodge Scheme. With the assistance of its members and the guidance of VW Bro John Parry (now Met GL Special Interest Lodge Inspector) and W Bro Martin Vidler (Metropolitan Grand Inspector); alongside several distinguished and potential Joining Members, the Lodge began the journey which has led to Caledonian Lodge becoming ‘**The Spirit of Scotland’ Lodge** in London.*

On 2nd June 2023 at a regular Lodge meeting, held in Temple 17 at Freemasons Hall, we were honoured with the presence of RW Bro Christopher Hayward PJGW, Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master and 120 other distinguished Brethren. We were also proud to welcome the Grand Master Mason of Scotland, MW Bro Ramsay McGhee, along with other Scottish Masons who had also travelled down from Scotland to be present at the meeting, among them Brethren from Caledonian Lodge No 392 SC, Edinburgh Castle Lodge No 1764 SC, and The Caledonian Lodge of Uganda No 1389 SC. The order of the day was to Initiate Mr Mitchell Hedges, a South African living and working in London, a man with considerable Scottish Heritage.

The Lodge meets four times a year on the first Friday of February (Installation), April, June, October.

Why not visit their website at - <http://www.caledonian134.org/>

W Ramsay McGhee

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

25th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Estonia

Earlier this year, I was asked to represent Grand Lodge at the 25th Anniversary Conference and Communication of the Grand Lodge of Estonia in Tallin. It should be noted that Freemasonry has been working in Estonia for over 250 years, but the Grand Lodge was only formed and recognised 25 years ago.

Getting there proved to be problematic – I was to fly from Edinburgh to Munich and Munich onto Tallin. However, the flight from Edinburgh was delayed because of which I missed the connection. Lufthansa decided to fly me from Munich to Frankfurt and then onto Tallin. Just prior to boarding the Frankfurt flight, I was informed that the Frankfurt – Tallin flight had been cancelled. Back to the drawing board – Plan C involved a flight to Warsaw and a late-night flight to Tallin eventually arriving at the hotel at 02.30 in the morning.

At 09.00 on the Saturday morning, the delegates were transported to Tallin Museum Conference facility where the four Friday sessions were to take place. I was the first of four keynote speakers. I spoke on “**A perspective of Scottish Freemasonry**”.

I was followed by Bro Jim W Daniel, Past Grand Secretary of UGLE who spoke on “**The context and conditions of UGLE’s recognition of the Grand Lodge of Estonia.**”

After lunch we had two more subjects, this time on a more academic basis. Bro Andreas Önnersfors from Sweden spoke on “**Freemasonry as a Tool in European Diplomacy History**” while local brother, Ryan Jenkins from Estonia spoke on “**Freemasonry’s role in the History of Estonia.**”

On Friday night we all attended a reception in the historic Tallin Town Hall where, after an interesting talk on the history of the building we were entertained by a talented trio comprising, flautist, violinist, and pianist. An excellent buffet followed, after which we walked back to the hotel.



Saturday morning was spent on an interesting walking tour of Estonia with Brother Ryan Jenkins. It was then back to the hotel to prepare for the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Estonia followed by the Gala Dinner. During the Communication, I was surprised to be presented to the Grand

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

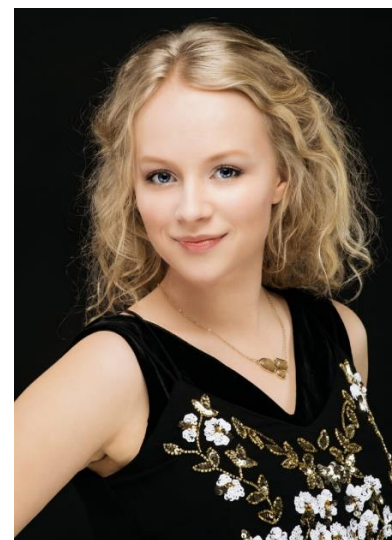
Master, Brother Kalle Küttis, along with Brother Daniel Bauwens, GM of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium, Bro Maris Gailis, GM of Latvia and Bro Rimantas Kevalas, GM of Lithuania. We were each decorated with the Grand Medal of Merits of the Grand Lodge of Estonia. A very special honour.



In the evening, we were joined by the ladies for an excellent Gala Dinner during which Elina Nechayeva, the Estonian soprano, gave a most impressive and enjoyable performance singing arias from both the Magic Flute and Rigoletto. She was accompanied by Auli Teppo, herself a very accomplished pianist.



Elina Nechayeva



Auli Teppo

Sunday morning was an early start to get to the airport for 05.30 and I'm delighted to say a much easier return journey.

W Ramsay McGhee

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

PROSTATE CHAMPION at MOY COUNTRY FAIR

Inform – Support – Advance is the motto of Prostate Scotland, and never was such a motto more prudent than at the Moy Country Fair this August bank holiday weekend, where Bro Steven O'Donnell, one of three Prostate Champions within the Province of Ross & Cromarty had set up stall.

Invited by St Johns Scotland to come along and share a marquee at the 2-day annual event seemed an opportunity not to be missed and proved an excellent pulpit to spread awareness of the risks of prostate disease affecting nearly 1 in 2 men in Scotland, with 1 in 10 men within Scotland at risk of developing prostate cancer, the most common cancer among men.

During the 2-day event a large slice of the public walked into the tent including Doctors, Community Macmillan nurses, wives, partners, but most importantly Men. Some men were there to collect information leaflets on prostate disease, others to share stories of past operations and show solidarity with the program, but there was a third category of men that nervously made their way into the tent. They were there to receive advice. Advice on what to do as they were experiencing the tell-tale symptoms that there may be a problem with their waterworks. Relieved at the sound advice they received, all that fell into the latter category pledged that they would call their GPs at the earliest convenient time to ask for a PSA test that may just save their lives...

Fulfilling the Prostate Scotland motto in a field, on an August bank holiday weekend, was worth all the bites a midge could muster.

If any brethren would like a Prostate Champion to come and give a talk to their Lodge, workplace or to any community groups that they attend, then please get in touch with one of the Prostate Champions, as we would be delighted to accommodate your request.



Moy Country Fair – 2nd and 3rd August 2024

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 120

AUGUST 2024

Grand Lodge of Scotland – On-line shopping



THE GRAND LODGE
OF ANTIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF SCOTLAND

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



BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 2000

I am indebted to Lodge Rosehaugh for this version of the 23rd Psalm.

Wha is my Shepherd, weel I ken,
The Lord Himsel' is He;
He leads me whaur the girse is green,
An' burnies quaet that be.

Tho' I pass through the gruesome cleugh,
Fin' I ken He is near;
His muckle crook will me defen',
Sae I hae nocht to fear.

Aft times I fain astray wad gang,
An' wann'r far awa'.
He fin's me oot, He pits me richt,
An' brings me hame an' a'.

Ilk comfort whilk a sheep could need,
His thoctfu' care provides.
Tho' wolves an' dogs may prowl about,
In safety me He hides.

His guidness an' His mercy baith,
Nae doot will bide wi' me.
While faulded on the fields o' time,
Or o' eternity.