

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 124

AUGUST 2025

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



Lodges of the Province – Lodge Ness 888

Chartered 4th May 1899

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Editorial

Welcome to the 124th Edition of the Patter.

I note in the PGM's column that he is once again appealing to the Lodge Masters and Wardens to attend the Provincial Meetings.

It is not so long ago that I made a similar appeal in this column.

The Master and Wardens of each Lodge are not only the legal trustees of the Lodge – they are the official representatives of that Lodge at both the Provincial Grand Lodge and in Grand Lodge.

Those three Offices carry with them much responsibility – a responsibility that should be taken seriously.

At every Communication of this Province, there should be thirty-six brethren present before we start counting the Provincial Office-bearers and those brethren who make a point of being there to support the Province.

Brother Raymond MacKeddie has been an outstanding leader of this Province. His tenure will end next year so let us show our appreciation for all he has done by giving him our support at all Communications and social events throughout the Province.

I am delighted to hear that the Minister of Dornoch Cathedral has agreed to take the Divine Service in October. There have been too many reports lately of churches not welcoming Lodges, so this is good news indeed.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



THE GRAND LODGE
OF ANTIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF SCOTLAND

The Grand Office-bearers are being kept busy right through the summer months.

In August we will be carrying out Provincial Installations down in the Borders on 16th then Dornoch on 23rd followed by Orkney on 30th August.

In September, Grand Secretary and I will be in St Johns, Newfoundland for the District Installation. The following week I have two Royal Arch Installations – one in Nassau in the Bahamas and one in Barbados.

At the end of the month, it will be Hong Kong for their Installation.

11th October, we will be in Maybole to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Lodge St John No 11. The following Saturday St John 137 250th anniversary in Blairgowrie.

On 25th October we will be in Ipoh to attend various Lodge and Chapter events.

30th October the Grand Lodge Communication.

On 15th November we will be in Nairn at Lodge St Ninian 575.

On 22nd November I will be representing Grand Lodge at the European Grand Masters Conference in Istanbul.

Finally, we have the Grand Lodge Installation and the Festival of St Andrew on Thursday 27th November and the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter Convocation the following day.

Editor

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The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty

I trust all our Brethren in the Province are enjoying their summer break with most of the lodges in the Province having a well-earned break after a busy end to last season's masonic calendar.

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

As I stated in my last report, and the trend continued in the remaining visits that we completed, that all of the lodges visited have been doing well, attendances are generally sustaining in number, all lodges appear to be managing to maintain financial stability, and many are seeing an increase in the number of new initiates wishing to join the Craft.

Let us hope that the influx of new members continues, and the lodges reap the benefit from fresh new faces joining their membership. This all adds to a positive future for Freemasonry in the Province of Ross and Cromarty.

Again, I would also like to thank all the Provincial Grand Lodge Members who have supported the deputations on the various visits to the Lodges.

Charity

As I have now commenced my final year of office, and as discussed at recent Provincial Grand Lodge Communications, my nominated charity this year is to be MND Scotland, a charity that is particularly pertinent to this Province at the moment.

I was delighted that the Lodges are supporting the appeal, and I been humbled to receive over £1,300 so far from Lodge St Martin No.1217, Lodge Averon No. 866 and the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross and Cromarty.

I am looking forward to the Special Meeting being held by the four Black Isles Lodges who are jointly hosting a Special Meeting this August and are pledging the monies raised from that meeting to be donated to the cause. I would encourage Brethren to support this unique initiative by the four lodges and at the same time support a very worthy cause.

I hope shortly to announce details of a fundraising event that will staged to raise money for the charity, details will be announced when dates and venue have been arranged.

Grand Lodge

Grand Lodge, and the Governance and Strategy Committee, along with the various sub committees are working hard to make improvements to our masonic experience and action the necessary actions to meet the Strategic Priorities.

To help publicise and promote the good work that Freemasons in Scotland are carrying out, to try to publicise freemasonry in general and to support a recruitment drive objective, Grand Lodge are taking a stand at the Black Isle Show on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th August. It will be great to see a Freemasonry presence at the Black Isle Show in particular, to help support this very worthwhile initiative, which should also help with attracting new members in our Province. If any Brethren are attending the show, please come along and support the Grand Lodge team with their efforts.

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I would also encourage any of our Lodges in the Province to participate in any open door's events, or to open social events to the public, to show the public what good work we do, and I pledge that Provincial Grand Lodge will gladly support any event planned.

Apprentice Pillars Degree

This summer, The Grand Lodge of Scotland held a very historic meeting, hosting a Special Communication on Saturday 28th June 2025, at which a team of Young Masons from around Scotland took over control of the meeting and conferred an exemplification of the Entered Apprentice Degree with Bro Alexander Moncrieff, the Depute Grand Master Mason, as the acting candidate.

It was very pleasing to see Bro. Jordan Hossack from Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216, taking his place in the team, in the office of Senior Deacon.

This was a great honour for his Lodge and the Province of Ross and Cromarty, and it was particularly pleasing to see five Brethren from the Province supporting Bro. Jordan on the day.

The degree work carried out, by the young Brethren from many parts of Scotland, and including three of the overseas Districts, was of the highest standard, and witnessed by a capacity audience in Grand Lodge.

I do hope that we will see a follow up to this event to help showcase the talent we have in Scottish Freemasonry and encourage others to take part in this unique experience.

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 remembered all of those who passed to the Grand Lodge Above in the past year. This year we commemorated several distinguished masonic characters at another well attended event, which was also open to friends and families to attend.

Provincial Grand Lodge

Wednesday 27th August 2025 shall be the next Provincial Grand Lodge Communication, to be held at Lodge Fingal, Dingwall, and I look forward to updating all on what is going on in the Province and relaying any news from the Grand Lodge as we prepare to commence our next Masonic season.

It will be appreciated to see a good turnout of Masters and Wardens from our Daughter Lodges, as by virtue of their office, they are all members of the Provincial Grand Lodge. The communications of Provincial Grand Lodge are also open to any lodge members, and any brethren wishing to attend will be made most welcome.

Deputations from the Provincial Grand Lodge will be attending the Provincial Grand Master Installations coming up shortly, firstly on Saturday 23rd August will be the installation ceremony for Bro. David Williams to the post of Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Sutherland, which will be held in Dornoch.

The following week, on Saturday 30th August, we shall travel across the Pentland Firth to Stromness in Orkney for the installation of Bro. Colin MacLeod to the post of Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Orkney and Zetland.

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We congratulate both these Brethren on their commissions and wish them every success and fulfilment in their respective terms of office.

The Provincial Grand Lodge Divine Service this year shall be held on Sunday 5th October 2025 at Lodge St Duthus, Tain at 3:00pm, and officiated by Rev. Carol Anne Porter, Minister at Dornoch Cathedral.

This is a very important meeting to mark the start of our new masonic season with devotional stimulation. As previous years, it is encouraged to bring along wives, partners and family members to this inspirational service.

The Ladies Night Dinner Dance is to be held on Friday 14th November 2025 at the Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer. This event has been a great success in previous years and is open to any lodge members and their friends, who will be made most welcome. Details of tickets, etc. will be sent out to all lodges in the Province shortly.

As most of the lodges in the Province are in recess, can I thank all the Brethren for making it such a successful year, and I hope you all enjoyed your Freemasonry as much as I did, and I am looking forward to meeting up again soon as the new season gets underway.

Key PGL Dates for Future Meetings

Special Meeting of the Four Black Isle Lodges - Friday 15th August 2025

Provincial Grand Lodge Communication - Wednesday 27th August 2025

PGL Divine Service - Sunday 5th October 2025, Lodge St Duthus

Ladies Night / Dinner Dance - Friday 14th November 2025.

Fraternal Regards

Raymond Mackeddie Provincial Grand Master

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1998

From Lodge Rosehaugh

Our annual lady's night took a somewhat different approach this year when a cruise on Loch Ness was organised as a change to our normal Dinner Dance. A total of 64 attended this event and everybody was very happy with the result. A calm evening (no rain) made sailing very pleasant, and we trust this will be an event which can be repeated soon. Bro Ian MacLaren must be congratulated on his excellent organisation of the evening.



Young Masons Group

The group has continued to meet on a regular basis, monthly by Zoom and following an earlier proposal they continue to meet informally as a group at lodges in the Province. They regularly advertise lodge meetings on their WhatsApp Group which allows them to attend lodges to support new initiates and progressive candidates.

Monthly Zoom Meetings - Five Years and Counting!!!!

In May the group enjoyed an interesting presentation by Bro. Steven O'Donnell entitled "The Square and Compasses," a deep dive into the history and symbolism of our enigmatic working tools.

The June meeting had enlightened the group with a talk about the Societas Rosicruciana in Scotia (Rosicrucian Society in Scotland), presented by Bro. Donald Prentice, a past Very Worthy Celebrant of the Rosicrucian College based in Inverness.

Bro. Prentice is a former military padre and a very experienced Freemason, with a particular knowledge of the workings of Rosicrucianism in Scotland, which proved to be a very interesting subject, and expanded the masonic awareness for our younger members.

The Rosicrucian Society aims to assist its members to extend their research into the hidden mysteries of nature, science, and truth.

The Rosicrucian Society based in Inverness is very keen to welcome new members, so if you wish to expand your masonic knowledge, please contact any member of the society.

The group is having a break from Zoom meetings through the summer months of July and August, with a return planned in September as the new masonic season starts.

Apprentice Pillars Degree - Grand Lodge

Congratulations are extended to Bro. Jordan Hossack, Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216, who took part in a unique and historic event hosted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland on Saturday 28th June 2025.

Young masons from all over Scotland, and several overseas Districts took part in an exemplification of the Entered Apprentice Degree. To add to the apprehension on the day, the team conferred the degree on none other than the Depute Grand Master Mason, Bro. Alexander Moncrieff.

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All the team acquitted themselves extremely well, and each delivered, despite being taught in many differing versions of our ritual, a degree of the highest standard, which was well received by a capacity turnout in Grand Lodge.

It was particularly pleasing to see a deputation from the Province travelling to support Bro. Jordan at this prestigious occasion, and a day in their masonic journey that I am sure they will remember for a long time to come.



Raymond MacKeddie, PGM

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From the Provincial Almoner

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

On Tuesday 24th of June 2025, Brother David Barrie Whitwell, Past Master Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551 and Past Substitute Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty passed away South of the Border where he moved to some time ago.

Brother Barrie had remained a member of Lodge Loch Ewe No. 1551.

On Tuesday 8th July 2025, Brother Hamish Keir, Past Master of Lodge Seaforth No. 854, passed away peacefully at home. Brother Hamish has not had the best of health for some time but kept up his cheerful manner. He will be sadly missed by all.

On Tuesday 8th July 2025, Brother Arthur MacArthur, Past Master of Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216, passed away suddenly at home. Brother Arthur recently retired and was enjoying his newfound leisure time. He will be sadly missed by all.

I report on the following:

Brother Charlie Carrison, Past Master of Lodge Averon No. 866, is keeping fine and is being monitored for the time being.

Brother George Robinson, Past Master of Lodge Averon No. 866, is awaiting an appointment for a scan.

Brother Tug Wilson, Master of Lodge Ness No888, has completed his treatment and is keeping fine and will have a further scan in September to see that all is well.

Brother Morris Downie, Past Master of St Martin Lodge No1217 and Past Provincial Grand Master has returned from Granada after having a fall there with broken bones in his left leg. He is now recuperating at home.

Brother Duncan Munro Past Master of Lodge Averon No. 866 is much about the same.

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

Fred T Fraser PM
Provincial Grand Almoner

fraserft@yahoo.com or 01463 870307

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Throughout Scotland, the Prostate Champions continue to be busy spreading the message about prostate disease, and the importance of early testing and detection. As well as arranging presentations, there has been a multitude of fundraising events, from sponsored walks, baking stalls, football fit sessions to men's shed sessions.

In our own Province, the Prostate Champions have also been busy attending various events, including the Rose Garden and Vintage Car Rally in Tain, the Community Market Fair at Tesco in Dingwall and a stall at Morrisons in Alness.



On a glorious sunny day on Saturday 17th May we attended the Lodge St Martin No. 1217 Open Day and BBQ. It was a well-attended event and there was a lot of interest from the motorcycling community who were visiting the village to attend the Far Norse Custom and Classic Motorcycle Show.

It was a fantastic day with many tourists and locals visiting the lodge and our stall.

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Further events that are planned for this summer are:

Moy Country Fair - Friday 8th & Saturday 9th August

Glenmorangie Highland Games - Sun 11th August

Rose Garden Tain - Sat 16th August

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 presentations and/or information, or where to get help in anybody is concerned that may be experiencing any prostate issues.



BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1998

During the close season, the Ullapool Brethren held a very successful barbecue in the grounds of the Lodge. Almost forty Brethren and wives enjoyed the occasion.

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Around the Lodges

Lodge St Duthus No 82



The first meeting of the new season will take place in the Masonic Hall, Queen Street, Tain on Monday 6th October 2025

Bro. D Macrae PM Secy

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1998

For those of you who use the latest in word processing packages on your computers, you will be well aware of the convenience of the built-in spelling checker - however, too much reliance upon it can cause all sorts of problems !!!!!!!

I have a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marks four my revue
Miss steaks eye cannot sea
Each thyme when eye have
struck the quays
I weight for it two say
If watt eye rote is wrong or rite
It shows me strait a weigh
As soon as mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two late
And eye can put the error rite
No, I shall find it grate
I've run this poem threw it
I'm shore yore policed to no
It's letter perfect in its weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

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Lodge Fortrose No 108

This last quarter has been fairly active Masonically starting with our annual visit by our Provincial Grand Master on 16th May, at this meeting David Morrison Maciver was initiated into the craft during an excellent degree carried out by RWM Norman Smith. Bro David was passed to the Fellowcraft degree at our meeting on 6th June.

On 4th July Bro Zsolt Szalay was raised and on 1st August Bro David Morrison was raised, don't know which of them was larger, I'm sorry I don't have a picture of Zsolt but here's a picture of David, one with our RWM and the other being congratulated by his father Ian Don.



We are now finalising our arrangements for our visit to Helsinki on 12 September when we will witness a fellowcraft degree in Lodge Tellus No. 81 and arrangements are also being made for us to visit the Grand Lodge of Finland

Our Lodge doesn't close during the summer months and our next meeting will be on Friday 4th September when we hope to initiate David Morrison who was successful in his ballot on 1st August.

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod PM

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Robertson's Lodge No 134



With Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

Robertson's Lodge No. 134 can report some good news, Brother Morris A. Downie, Past Provincial Grand Master, and member of Robertson's Lodge, was finally at home after having had a serious accident while visiting Grenada on Masonic Business, breaking a leg. Brother Downie had a series of traumatic experiences following the accident, which has left him with many memories, good and bad, culminating in his flight home to Scotland. But it is expected that these should continue to provide him many stories for years to come. Best wishes for good health to him and his dear lady, Wilma.

And more good news, Brother Ronnie Cooper, well known and respected Past Master of Robertson's Lodge, returned to his home recently following another spell of time in Raigmore Hospital. We wish him and his dear lady, Jean, better health. Hope you feel better Ronnie.

We are now in the Closed Season for most Lodges, over the summer, with the next Regular Meeting of Robertson's Lodge to be held on Wednesday 17th September 2025, to start the next season 2025 to 2026. Members of the Lodge continue with their Masonic activities, work carries on, Brother Alasdair Taylor, Past Master of Robertson's Lodge, has been continuing to organise work on the Lodge Premises, with roof works, and internal joinery works with Brother Graeme Brindle, Master of Lodge Rosehaugh 1216.

Regarding Masonic Meetings, Robertson's Lodge 134 Master and Wardens are taking part in the Mark Master Mason Degree Meeting for Black Isle Lodges to be held in Lodge Seaforth on the 15th of August 2025, along with other Black Isle Lodge Members, with proceeds going to the Provincial Grand Master's Charity MND.

The administration of the Lodge continues over the Summer Period. Correspondence is transmitted as is required, to Lodge Members.

Wishing all continuing relaxing, enjoyable Summer season, with good Scottish Weather, or elsewhere if being enjoyed.

Please stay safe and well Brethren.

Peter K. Ratcliffe, Secretary

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Lodge Fingal No 318

Since the last edition of the Patter, we had a very successful day at the Dingwall Gala on Saturday the 28th of June.



Our nominated charity for the Gala Day was The Highland Deaf Children's Society. We raised a fantastic amount of £1745.00. The Lodge decided to add to this figure to make the grand total £2000.00.



On Saturday 21st of June, Brother Andrew MacNeil received his Mark Degree in Lodge Seaforth. The degree was very well worked by the team from Lodge John O'Groat No. 1333. There was a great turnout from the brethren of Lodge Fingal.

Shown on the next page, is the presentation to the Highland Deaf Children's Society to the value of £2000.00, by the RWM. Alex Craib and 14 other Fingal brethren.

Left - Angus Beaton's wife June kindly volunteered to be 'Bluey' for the

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Fingal Brethren – US Navy – 1918/1919



We recently received a letter from Mr. Arthur Scott who is in the process of writing a book on Strathpeffer. He asked if we had in our possession a portrait of US Navy personnel who passed through Lodge Fingal during the period 1918 to 1919. He found out this information in the Ross shire Journal archives and wondered if we still had this picture. Following a search up the loft area in the Lodge we found the actual portrait. Listed above is a copy of the portrait which has been partially restored as it was in a terrible state being up in the loft for many decades! According to our records a total of around 39 US military personnel were initiated, passed and raised in Lodge Fingal during this period. A further

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28 received their Mark Degrees. One evening on the 31st of May 1918, **EIGHT** Naval brothers were initiated. I am sure the RWM at the time had his work cut out with the obligation!

On Friday the 15th of August we hope that Bro. Shaun Taylor will receive his Mark at the Four Black Isle Lodges Mark Degree at Lodge Seaforth.

On Saturday the 16th of August we hope to have our annual BBQ with musical entertainment by “The Travelling Siblings” Start time of 6pm. We still have a limited number of tickets available. Please contact the Lodge Secretary if you are interested in attending.

We look forward to starting a new season on **Tuesday 14th of October 2025**, where we hope to work a FC Degree for Brother Nicholas Pokerniecki.

Angus Beaton

Lodge Fingal No. 318 Secretary

Email - secretary@fingallodge318.org.uk

Mobile 07775 837998

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1998

Heartiest congratulations are extended to the Dingwall Brethren, particularly Brother Dougie MacDougall, for an excellently run Quiz night which saw no less than 15 local teams battling it out for top honours and, in the process, raising almost £600 towards the Millennium project.

In addition to the Quiz night, the Dingwall Brethren received good press coverage when they presented two cheques for a total of £600 to St Clements School in Dingwall and to the Tiffany Ross Heart Scanner Appeal.

A further fund-raising venture to raise money for the fabric fund will take place on Saturday 29th August when a Sale of Work will be held at the Lodge.

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LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851

It was with great regret that just after the July meeting of the Lodge, we learned of the passing of one of our Reponing Members, Brother Hamish Keir. The sympathy and condolences of the Lodge are passed onto Brother Keir's family at this sad time. Brother Raymond MacKeddie has posted a full tribute to Brother Keir in the Lodge Seaforth column.

At the July meeting we were delighted to welcome Senior Grand Chaplain, Brother Rev Alec Shuttleworth to our meeting. He took us all on a journey of personal reflection starting with his early days in Annan, Dumfriesshire, through his Masonic career, all laced with great humour, but, at the same time raising many serious questions about the future of Freemasonry.

One of the first questions he asked of himself and urged us all to do was – “Why do I keep going back to the Lodge?” He suggested that the answer may lie in a focus on kindness, a desire to be part of a society that offers fellowship and friendship; a society that can improve well-being and reduce loneliness but, are we doing enough to care for members, are we adapting to change in order to address the need of members in future.

His talk was interesting, pertinent and thought provoking and was well received by the brethren assembled.

Brother Shuttleworth was thanked by the Master, Brother John Stott, for a stimulating, inspiring and humorous presentation. The brethren responded in the traditional manner.

The August meeting on Tuesday 12th - we will welcome Bro Archie Chalmers, Senior Grand Deacon, and Past PGM of Ayrshire to talk on Masonic Victoria Cross holders – Bro Archie is a well-respected speaker, and this will be a rare opportunity to hear him in the Highlands.

Ramsay McGhee - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1998

Words of wisdom from Ghana -

There is something unique in Masonry: a tie unlike any other, uniting men of all ranks, types and temperaments into a closely knit fellowship. Deep and tender which all of us feel, but which none of us can analyse.

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LODGE SEAFORTH 854

Lodge John O’Groat No.1333 Special Meeting

On the 21st of June 2025, Lodge Seaforth held a Special Meeting and were delighted to have the company of Lodge John O’Groat No.1333, maintaining the special relationship that has continued between our two lodges for many years.

This year we were entertained by the Lodge John O’Groat Brethren very ably advancing Bro. Andrew MacNeil from Lodge Fingal No. 318 to the Degree of Mark Master Mason.

The Caithness team were impressively led by the Master, Bro. Denny Morrison, who was quite inspiring with his imperious lectures to the candidate, interlaced with the jocularity associated with the various parts of the Mark Master Degree.

The degree team certainly provided a memorable day for the young candidate from Lodge Fingal. The Brethren retired after the meeting to an excellent harmony with the appropriate toasts, and the opportunity to relax, rekindle old acquaintances and make new friendships.

An excellent day was enjoyed by all, and we look forward to making the reciprocal trip to Caithness in 2026.

Passing of Past Master Hamish Keir PM

The Brethren of the Lodge were saddened to hear the news of the passing of Bro. Hamish Keir PM, who passed away peacefully at home on 8th July 2025.

Hamish was a great servant to Lodge Seaforth, having joined on 4th May 1962, worked his way through the various offices, and served as Master of the Lodge from 1984 to 1986.

On retiring as Master, Hamish took up the office of Treasurer and ably fulfilled this important role for over twenty-five years. Hamish was always a willing supporter of lodge activities and behind the scenes building maintenance.

In 2018, Hamish’s dedication and hard work for Freemasonry was recognised with the award of Grand Lodge Honours in the post of Assistant Grand Treasurer.

In May 2024 Bro. Hamish’s membership of 60 years in the craft was recognised with the presentation of his 60 Year Jubilee Certificate and Jewel.

A very popular member of Lodge Seaforth No. 854 who will be sadly missed but fondly remembered.

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Special Meeting of the Black Isle Lodges

A Special Meeting of the four Black Isle Lodges, Robertsons Lodge No. 134, Lodge Allan Wilson No. 851, Lodge Seaforth No. 854 and Lodge Rosehaugh No. 1216 is planned to be held at Lodge Seaforth on Friday 15th August 2025 at 7:30pm.

This historic and unique event will bring together the elite Office-bearers of the four lodges, led by the reigning Masters of each of the four lodges, who shall conduct a Mark Mason Degree for a progressive candidate.

The evening work shall conclude with a Harmony in the Seaforth Clubrooms.

This special event promises to be very entertaining evening of Freemasonry and all proceeds from the evening are to be donated to the Provincial Grand Masters Charity for this year which is MND Scotland. All Brethren are warmly invited to this very special evening of Freemasonry.

September Regular Meeting

The next Regular Meeting of the Lodge will be on Monday 15th September 2025 at 7:30pm. All brethren are warmly welcome.

Raymond Mackeddie

Lodge Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1998

At the end of July, Brother Ray Beikirch from Bavaria was on holiday in Gairloch with his wife and family.

Through the medium of the Grand Lodge Yearbook, he contacted the Depute Provincial Grand Master, Brother Ian Fraser, who planned to meet with him. They met in Ullapool where the IPM of Lodge St Martin, Brother George Napier took the party on a much-appreciated conducted tour of the Lodge.

The following week, Brother Beikirch and his family travelled down to Fortrose where they were wined and dined by the Depute Provincial Grand Master and enjoyed a night of Masonic conversation discussing the similarities and differences between Masonry in Bavaria and Scotland.

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LODGE AVERON No 866

Hi brethren,

I hope you are all fine and enjoying summer, boy what a summer it's been this year with a fantastic spell of sun with no rain, one night last week when I was organising labradors for bed and cleaning out kennels I looked at the time 9.45pm and it was nearly dark, I pondered on that old cliché, 'aye the nights are fair drawing in' and the very next morning to compound it the radio announces it's only twenty one weeks till Christmas!!!



RWM Fraser McBeth – Gold Winner – British Veterans Event



PM Donnie Mathieson installing security lights

But with that downer brings a bit of joy in the realisation that our lodges are about to spring up and bloom after the summer recess.... a time not to dwell on the passing of summer but to look forward to the awakening of another Masonic season, where we will compare news of the various activities,

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holidays and summer visits, we at Lodge Averon look forward greatly to welcoming you back when we open for business on Thursday the eleventh of September at 8.00pm.

This recess there is not an awful lot to report as the brethren of the lodge embarked on a big project up the winding staircase, where led by the ever-enthusiastic Past Master Charlie Carrison filled in the roof with insulation and covered with lining boards. This will hopefully keep some heat in, reduce our bills and make your visit to our harmony after meetings more pleasurable in the depths of winter. We cannot thank Brother Charlie enough and hope fully his drive and determination will rub off on the brethren coming after.

Another project was the installation of 4 x CC TV cameras in 4 corners of the lodge (see what I did there) unfortunately a sign of the times but necessary and hopefully a deterrent for any mischief. This was led by Past Master Donnie Mathieson, who still is in recovery from his medical issues, and I am delighted to report that he is doing great. He was assisted by some of the younger brethren on the day and some older ones. The cameras were donated by a brother who wishes to remain anonymous, what Masonic spirit we are indebted to you.



On the tenth of May, Brother Magician Brian Jay hosted his excellent magic show, which was well attended by brethren and guests alike, the evening was rounded off with music and song from Brother DJ PM Frazer McBeath Snr.

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Saturday the 16th of August will see the return of our hugely successful family community barbecue, last year we had an informal lodge open day which we hope to take to a much higher level and exposure to our guests and anyone who just fancies a look.

The annual golf Texas scramble will again take place at Invergordon golf club on Saturday the 20th of September organised by Brother Junior Warden David MacKinnon. There will be as usual various prizes throughout the day for nearest the pin, longest drive followed by the raffle, prize giving and

hospitality in the club house. For more information and to enter a team or as an individual please contact Brother David on 07845 561869 and he will look after you.

Wow after a prompting from Brother McGhee I am writing this from my vehicle in a car park waiting for my wife to come out from an appointment, and thinking not a lot happened over the summer and well lots happened it seems! Kind regards and all the best. Brother James McDougall SW



Brother MacDougall's mobile office

Kind Regards

Fraternally

Brother James MacDougall — Senior Warden

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LODGE NESS No 888

Lodge Ness brethren have been busy in the last month. The front of the building has been painted and looks very nice. The brethren have also been busy with other external works including the gardens. A great team effort.

We also had our annual bar-be-que which was a great day for all.



Men at work



Invergordon girls taming the bronco



Enjoying the bar-be-que

Owen Wilson, PM
Lodge Ness 888

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1998

Some people make the world more special just by being in it

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LODGE KYLE No 1117

Lodge Kyle Summer Recap and Looking Ahead

The summer months at Lodge Kyle were a bustling time, filled with memorable events and exciting preparations for the future.

The highlight of our early summer was a heartfelt Farewell to Rob BBQ in May. This event was a fantastic gathering, with a great turnout that included not just our members but also their families and children. The atmosphere was one of warmth and fraternity, providing a fitting tribute to Rob as he embarks on his next chapter in Ayrshire. Rob was not only a pillar in Lodge Kyle, but also the community. It's less known outside the area but Rob travelled multiple times a week to Portree to act as postmaster simply to keep the Post Office open. We wish him and his family every success in his new career and life down south. The success of the BBQ was a testament to the strong sense of community we share, and it was a pleasure to see so many enjoying the day together.

A special note of gratitude goes to our esteemed visitors, David and Raymond. Their commitment was truly remarkable, as they made the long journey with their wives over the hill to join us in Kyle. Their presence and support was very much appreciated and added to the spirit of the event.

As we neared our summer break, we were delighted to receive three new applicant forms to Lodge Kyle. The enthusiasm and interest shown by these young men are a positive sign for the future of our Lodge. We are excited about the prospect of guiding them through their Masonic journey and watching them become integral members of our Masonic community. Their arrival will ensure that our Lodge will continue to thrive and grow. It's important to attract this younger demographic (25 – 55), and open days, benevolence and public events like the recent BBQ are tangible events which highlight Freemasonry in the local community.

Looking ahead... the autumn promises to be a very active time for us. When we reconvene after the summer break, our schedule is packed with significant events. We will kick things off in September with a Mark Degree, a key step in the Masonic path for three of our members. The Degree will be carried out by the Brethren of Ullapool's Lodge St Martin, and a Harmony thereafter which in the words of a younger Brother "should be epic".

This will be followed by a series of Degrees over the next few months for the new candidates, providing opportunities for both our new and existing members to deepen their understanding and progress in their Masonic journey. This period of learning and advancement will culminate in a very special occasion in December: the Installation of our new Right Worshipful Master, Brother Raymond Abringe. We are all eagerly anticipating this event and look forward to welcoming Brother Abringe into his new role, confident in his ability to lead Lodge Kyle with dedication and vision. Raymond is an active member in the Young Masons, One of our Prostate Champions and a quick and eager learner of Ritual. Our choice was unanimous for good reasons.

These summer memories and future plans highlight the vibrant and active nature of Lodge Kyle. We are a community that values fellowship, tradition, and growth, and we look forward to the many wonderful moments we will share in the coming months.

The Lodge opens for our first Meeting after Summer Recess on Monday 1st September at 7:30pm

With warmest regards,

Ronnie Miller, PM - Secretary

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LODGE KYLE TECHNICAL CORNER

I have been frequently asked at work about the retirement of Microsoft Windows and what it means to have no official support from Microsoft. Purchasing a new computer should come with Windows 11 which will solve the problem, however we, like many other people recently purchased two powerful PCs at substantial cost, so retiring the windows “servers” and storage arrays are not a financially viable option.

We intend to upgrade our security packages before October 14th, 2025, when official Microsoft support ends. This strategy will comprise of a good antivirus package (Bitdefender allows the software to run on 5 devices and has a VPN) and enrolment in the Microsoft Extended Security Updates (ESU) for a year at \$30 per machine).

In mid-October 2025, when the official update period ends you will find an Enrolment Wizard for ESU in Notifications and Settings. I am not advising you do the same thing as us, or recommending a specific Anti-Virus App, but you really should address the situation before October, as the bad guys, globally, will know how to take every advantage of unprotected computers.

Ronnie Miller, PM - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - AUGUST 1998

At the end of May we were privileged to welcome into the Province twelve Brethren from south of the Border, all of whom are members of the Masonic Caravan and Camping Club. They attended the Lodge of Sorrow and Lodge Rosehaugh worked an excellent MM Degree on their behalf within Lodge Fingal. In addition, they visited Lodge St Duthus and Lodge Averon.

After returning south, I received a phone call from Bro Roger Silk, Worshipful Master of Lodge Ashmole of Lichfield requesting that I pass on the thanks of all visiting Brethren for the welcome and hospitality they received and, in similar vein, I received a very kind and complimentary letter from Brother John Kenworthy, St George's Lodge No 3758 in Cheshire expressing similar sentiments.

Both Brethren have also extended an invitation to any of the Ross-shire Brethren who may find themselves in Cheshire or Staffordshire to make contact and they will be pleased to return the compliments.

It was indeed a pleasure to have the Brethren from the English Constitution in our midst on what was the inaugural trip for their caravan club, and we look forward to their return in hopefully the not-too-distant future

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LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

Been a quite summer at 1216. We had hoped to work a special degree in the summer, but our candidate had some family health issues, and we felt best to leave this aside. However, we do hope he will be available for our next meeting on Friday 2nd October with a 7.45pm start. There is a function in Avoch on 16th August and to coincide with this we are going to have an open door walk in for the public for tea and refreshments and see what this brings in. This will be from 2.00pm to 4.30pm if anyone reading this wishes to pop in.

BRO. ARTHUR MACARTHUR PM

I recall the words of our PGL RWM Bro Raymond Mackeddie at the visitation to Lodge Rosehaugh in April when he mentioned the number of brethren from the Lodge who passed to the Grand Lodge above in the previous 12 months. Indeed, the last 24 months there has been quite a few brethren passing, most through old age or terminal illness. Therefore, the shock of the untimely passing of Arthur was widespread to all including his masonic friends. Although 78 years of age he seemed to be in remarkably good health, golfing regularly, out on his bike, following Avoch FC and Ross County and spending time around Avoch and Black Isle. Indeed, he was golfing with the FROGS (Fortrose and Rosemarkie old golfers) at Kings club Inverness on the afternoon of Monday 7th July. The golfers playing that day said he was in great form.



When our original Lodge in George Street Avoch was demolished in 1964 no meetings were held In Avoch until January 1969 when Arthur joined along with Dennis Hossack and Donny Beaton. Arthur was proposed by his Dad, Colin and Jackie Patience. He was installed as RWM in December 1985 and served for 2 years as Master. His garage had a minibus at the time and Arthur ferried us about the different lodges in the district and beyond. He was installed as Lodge Treasurer in December 1989 and remained in the role until December 2006. He was awarded for his services by being appointed to the Honorary Grand Rank of Assistant Grand Treasurer. This was a great honour for Arthur and Lodge Rosehaugh as only a handful of our Brethren have ever received Grand Lodge Rank. He was a good

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man on the floor and did many an installation with his late friend Bro Robert Jack. Arthur was in Portugal in October 2018 and on his return, he got in touch with me about the Grand

Lodge installation. We need to go he said. So, we quickly arranged the bus down on the Thursday to get to Ramsay's installation. Six of the Lodge returned in 2019, and they were excellent meetings. When our PGL Master Mason Bro Mackeddie was doing his cycle challenge Arthur insisted we accompany him to Cromarty. Bro Donald McLennan, Arthur and I, accompanied Raymond and Donald Ferguson on the run. We reached Cromarty and when the ferry arrived Arthur decided to continue with the guys across to Nigg, Tain and onto Dingwall. No bad for a man of his age! Donald McLennan took Arthur and bike home to Avoch from Dingwall.

Arthur's funeral at the Inverness Crematorium was packed with hundreds queuing in the foyer and outside. The service was conducted by Glynis Woodhead with heartfelt contributions from Bro David Patience PM and Alec Mann. The collection for Macmillan Suite (Raigmore Hospital) and Highland Hospice came to an astonishing £3750. This would have pleased Art as he was very much a charities doner.

Finally, the Brethren of Lodge Rosehaugh wish to pass on their heartfelt condolences to Lynn, Steven and Sarah and all the family at this very sad time and we know this will be reiterated by many of you reading this.

Arthur was one of life's good guys, a very good mason and we now hope he is at peace with his beloved late wife Roz.

On a happier note -



Congratulations to Brother Calum Bassindale and wife Eilidh.

Keith Patience, PM

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Lodge St Martin 1217

During the summer the lodge has had a problem with waste plumbing, this is in the process of being resolved and hopefully should be completed soon.

The season kicks off with our AGM and Election of office-bearers on Tuesday 21st October.

On the 18th of November the lodge has its Installation meeting, the lodge will tyle at 19.30 for this meeting only.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary



There is little to report just now, other than the sad news of the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of Bro Barrie Whitwell. Barrie, who affiliated to the Lodge in 2008, was a Past Master and Lodge Secretary. Bro Richard MacDonald and I attended the funeral in Lincoln Wednesday, July 30th.



On a brighter note, in June our RWM, Bro Phil Ellis, visited the Arctic Convoy Museum, Aultbea, where he presented a cheque for £150, which was most gratefully received.

Michael Longley, PM – Lodge Loch Ewe

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Ye Corporation O' Squaremen Hielan Shed

On 3rd May we visited Lodge St Andrew in Golspie and although we clashed with a large Meeting held in Lairg we were delighted to have two new Brithers join the Shed

The following week 10th May we hosted the Grand Shed AGM and Installation in The Club in Inverness and Heilan Shed were Honoured by the Installation of the new Grand Worthy Deacon of Scotland Bri Neil Cooper – the Installation was carried out by Boxie Bri John G Mackay assisted by Grand Boxie Bri Willie Brand who Installed the Office Bearers – this was followed by the Grand Shed's official annual visit to Heilan Shed where we had three new Brithers join the Corporation

On 12th July we visited Lodge Averon in Alness and again were delighted to have one new Brither join us – before the Meeting we had a face to face telephone call to Bri Morris Downie who was in Raigmore Hospital after having a horrendous time in Hospital in Granada and a horrible journey back to Inverness – Morris was delighted to see and chat to those at the Meeting who all wished him a speedy recovery – Morris is now back at home

On 2nd August we will visit Lodge St Ninian in Nairn, but our report will be in the next issue

Our last Meeting of the season will be On 6th September at Lodge John O Groat in Castletown – there will be a small bus from Inverness which will pick up some Brithers on the way

At all visits we left our usual donations to local charities of the various Lodges choosing



Grand Worthy Deacon Brither Neil Cooper receiving the "Mallet" from the IPGWD Brither Jim Turpie

John G Mackay - Boxie

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News from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland

We have moved. Janice, Pat and Grand Scribe E are now operating from their new offices within Grand Lodge. We have two newly decorated and carpeted rooms that are bright and airy, and which are being fitted out with new functional furniture. The new address is – SGRACS, 94 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3DF. The telephone number and email addresses remain the same.

Register of Interests

At the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Convocation in June, it was agreed that we look to compiling a “Register of Interests” in order that we can make effective use of the skills, experience and qualifications that our members have.

If you feel that you have skills or abilities that you would be willing to share as and when required, could I ask you to drop an email to the Office Manager to include your name, Chapter and your particular field of expertise.

Your name and qualification will be entered into the “Register of Interests” and, in due course you may be invited to be a member of a standing committee, sub-committee or working party where your particular talent can be put to best use.

District Grand Chapter of Sierra Leone

From Amman in Jordan where I was rededicating Lodge Jordan No 1339, I travelled to Freetown in Sierra Leone, arriving there after two flights, a bus ride and a thirty-five-minute sail at 02.00 hours on the morning of Wednesday 23rd July. Eight hours later, Grand Secretary and I were at a meeting with the President of Sierra Leone, Julius Maada Wonie Bio after which we travelled to the British High Commission where we met with the new High Commissioner, Josephine Gauld, LVO. From there it was a short journey to the City Chambers to meet Yvonne Aki-Sawyer OBE, Mayor of Freetown.

On Thursday morning after a cultural tour of the markets and the Sierra Leone Museum we headed to the Georga Land Masonic Temple for a rehearsal for the installation of MEC Magnus Cassius Coker as Grand Superintendent.

Given that I did not have any of my usual Office-bearers in attendance, it was imperative that we had a rehearsal.

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The Installation took place at 3.00 pm on Friday 26th July. The Chapter room was full to capacity and among the other guests, I was delighted to welcome Grand Secretary, William Semple representing the Grand Lodge of Scotland and Brother Nicholas Colin Browne Marke whom I was to install the following day as the new District Grand Master of Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

I had a full Installing Team on the day, the main Office-bearers being MEC Jonathan Admire Thomas as 2nd Grand Principal, MEC Dunstan Spencer as 3rd Grand Principal, MEC Joseph Kanu as Grand Scribe E and MEC Victor Hastings-Spaine as Grand D of C. The Ancient Charges were read by MEC Chrispin Bishop Deigh. All the Acting Grand Office-bearers were superb.



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PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

GRAND SUPERINTENDENTS MESSAGE.

On their annual visit to Hebrides the PGRA Superintendent, Morris M Downie and Provincial Scribe E, David Macrae had the added pleasure in congratulating Donald (Video) Macdonald on his retirement after serving the Cryptic Council for 10 years as the Recorder.

A duty carried out faithfully and diligently to the benefit all members of the Council.

He has been replaced by Alick Scott, a recent addition to the membership of the Council, who is looking forward to serving the with fervency and zeal. They were both thanked by the Grand Superintendent.

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Grand Superintendents from Aberdeenshire, Linlithgow-shire and Dumfries-shire of the Scottish Constitution descended on Dingwall on Saturday 24th May to attend the Ross & Cromarty Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter AGM.

The meeting was full of surprises with the Grand Superintendent installing into office the newly appointed Grand Depute Superintendent MEC Frazer MacBeth and MEC Donald Gunn as 2nd Provincial Grand Principal, In his own inimitable style.

The AGM consisted of the election of Officers for the forthcoming session and installation by the IPP Grand Scribe E MEC Alastair Taylor.

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Two progressive candidates, one from St Clement RA Chapter No. 244 and the other from Tain & Ross RA Chapter No 63 were progressed in the Holy Royal Arch Degree in a very uplifting manner by the participating Provincial RA Office Bearers and other assistants.

The presiding Grand Superintendent was assisted in the working of the afternoon's labours by the Magical Wizardly of E Comp Brian Jaye, Cromarty Firth RA Chapter No. 310.

The photo shows the visiting Companions together with the 2 candidates. (Spot the mistake).

The presiding Grand Superintendent thanked all for their efforts, attendance and generosity and identified Royal Arch Masonry at its best with members of the Chapters within the Province of Ross & Cromarty working hard to promote Royal Arch Freemasonry.

The Provincial Grand Chapter agreed unanimously to donate the financial proceeds of the meeting to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty MND Charity Appeal.

The following photo depicts the PGM Raymond A MacKeddie (left) Provincial Grand Master of Ross and Cromarty receiving a cheque for £300 from the Grand Superintendent of the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross and Cromarty Morris M Downie.

This also reflects the strong connection between the two organisations of Freemasonry which exists in Ross and Cromarty, working together for the better good of society.

The Grand Superintendent wished his counterpart all the best in his endeavours In raising awareness of MND and hoped his endeavours would be widely supported by other Lodges in the Province.

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Morris M Downie
Grand Superintendent

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Tain & Ross Royal Arch Chapter No 63

St Clement Royal Arch Chapter No 244

Cromarty Firth Royal Arch No 310

Royal Arch Chapter Hebrides No. 364.

John (Mono) Mackenzie was advanced to the RA degree on 8th April and at the same meeting it was agreed to donate £125 each to the local scout troop and the men's cancer group.

On Tuesday 13th May Kenny Murray received his RA degree and on the following evening which was our Provincial Grand Superintendent visit Ruaraidh McLellan was also advanced to the RA degree.

Hopefully this means we will have candidates for the Ark Mariner and Cryptic degrees very soon.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 11th September.

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

There haven't been any meetings this last quarter and our next meeting will our installation on Saturday 25th October.

†† Donald Macleod KCT

DISTRICT GRAND PRIORY OF THE NORTH IN SCOTLAND.

All's quiet no meetings now until October.

‡‡ Eric Macgregor DGP

†† Donald Macleod KCT

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**Royal Order
of Scotland**

Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness and the Highlands

Provincial Grand Secretary: Bro. Michael Scott Turner

Michael Scott Turner

Provincial Grand Secretary

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BITS AND PIECES

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

