The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2029

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty



Lodges of the Province – Lodge Kyle No 1117 Chartered 1st May 1913

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125

NOVEMBER 2025

Editorial

Welcome to the 125th Edition of the Patter.

As I approach the end of my second term as Grand Master Mason, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our Province who has supported me throughout the past eighteen months. It has been a non-stop year and a half, but it has highlighted for me several impressive qualities that have come to the fore both at home and abroad to secure the future of Scottish Freemasonry.

Resilience – the recovery process from the devastating effects of covid has required brethren to resist the temptation to abandon their Lodges – almost everywhere I go there are signs of revival.

Pragmatism – the recovery process, and we can never lose sight of the fact that we lost 2300 brethren during the covid years, continues, and many lodges are taking sensible, practical steps to ensure the sustainability of our craft.

Creativity – I am seeing many signs of innovative ways to tackle some of the ongoing problems we all face – recruitment, retention of members and bringing back those who have gone from the fold for various reasons.

As we move into our traditional Installation Season, and then into the New Year, it would augur well if we all pledged ourselves to adopt those qualities and work hard to ensure that each of our Lodges is given the opportunity to grow in the years ahead. We are living in a world that is slowly losing all the values and standards that we all hold with high regard. Through Freemasonry, we can play our part in restoring and promoting the essential moral values society so badly needs.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland



A date for everyone's diary is the Grand Lodge Divine Service to be held in Dunblane Cathedral at 3.00 pm on Sunday 16th November. This will be a truly family day, so I hope that we will see many brethren from the Province heading south with their families and friends to join in the service, touch base with old friends from around Scotland and make some new ones too. The Service will be conducted by our two Grand Chaplains.

The day before, we will be heading east to Nairn to celebrate 250 years of Freemasonry in Lodge St Ninian, No 575.

The following weekend I will be in Istanbul to attend the annual meeting of the European Grand Masters.

Thursday 27th November will be the Installation of the new Grand Master Mason, Brother Alexander Charles Graham Moncrieff followed by the Festival of St Andrew.

The following day, the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter will hold its half yearly Convocation in Grand Lodge.

I will be finishing off the year in Jamaica to first install the new District Grand Superintendent on Saturday 13th Dec followed on Wednesday 17th with the Consecration of a new Lodge — Lodge Ambrose No 1860 and finally on Sat 27th I will have the honour to install in 318.

Editor



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty

With all our Lodges now returned to Masonic activity, it is great to see the lodges being well supported and all busy conferring degrees on progressive candidates. It is also encouraging to hear of so many new candidates waiting to be initiated and waiting to progress to their next step in Freemasonry.

As in former years, we commenced the new masonic season with our annual Divine Service, which this year was hosted this year by Lodge St Duthus No.82.

The service was adeptly conducted by the Reverend Carole Anne Porter, the minister from Dornoch Cathedral, who presented a reflective and inspiring sermon, reminding us to be mindful of the importance of respecting those in higher position and assisting those in less fortunate circumstances. Many thanks to the Brethren of Lodge St Duthus No.82 for their hospitality and making the arrangements for a successful afternoon, and to all those who attended the service.

This year the Grand Lodge will be hosting a Divine Service at the historic Dunblane Cathedral on Sunday 16th November 2025 at 3:00pm. It has been some considerable time since the Grand Lodge have hosted such an event and it will be great to see a good representation from our Province in attendance to support the Grand Master Mason, Bro. Ramsay McGhee, at this special occasion. The event is open to all Masons, friends, and families.

Very soon we will be commencing the Installation of Masters and Office-bearers at our various lodges, and I look forward to attending as many of these events as possible and personally congratulating our newly installed Masters and their Office-bearers.

Ladies Night Dinner Dance

Looking forward, Friday 14th November, will be our annual Ladies Night Dinner Dance at the Ben Wyvis Hotel in 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.

With a similar line up this year, we are looking forward to a great social evening and the opportunity to entertain our ladies in style.

There are still tickets available, and donations of raffle prizes are much appreciated.

Charity

As I have now commenced my final year of office, my nominated charity this year is MND Scotland, a charity that is particularly pertinent to this Province at the moment.

I was delighted by support we received from the Lodges to this appeal, and I am delighted to report that we will be donating the sum of £5,000 to MND Scotland for this cause.

Many thanks are extended to the Lodges who came up with fantastic fundraising events, which brought Brethren together to raise funds, and to the events that involved the public, which also highlighted the value Freemasonry brings to our communities.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

TLC Teddies

I am also delighted to report that the Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) Teddies initiative has been adopted by the four Highland Provinces, Caithness, Inverness-shire, Ross & Cromarty and Inverness-shire who have agreed to work together to donate teddies for children receiving emergency medical assistance at the five A&E departments in the Highland and Western Isles area covered by our Provinces. TLC is locally managed by Freemasons who also volunteer their time to run the scheme. Since its inception in 2001, 4 million teddies have





distributed to hospitals

throughout England and Wales.

Funding has now been received from several lodges, including the Widows Sons, Lodge Drummossie No.1438 and Robertsons Lodge No.134, and so far over two hundred teddies have been purchased and are being distributed to the A&E departments in our area.

Over the next few months, we shall be arranging a launch day and further advertising the initiative,

which I believe press and will get us some valuable recognition in our communities.

Information on the TLC scheme can be found at https://teddiesforlovingcare.org.uk/

Provincial Grand Lodge

Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7:30pm 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.

District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada

I am delighted that Grand Lodge have recently approved the appointment of Bro. Warren Sookdar as the next District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada.

This Province has a longstanding and close relation with the District Grand Lodge, and we look forward to working in the future with Bro. Warren, who has been a very hardworking member of the District and is well known to many of us.

We take this opportunity to wish him every success and fulfilment during his term of office, and hopefully we will be able to send a deputation to his Installation in early 2026.



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

Provincial Grand Lodge Communication - Wednesday 12th November 2025

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

Fraternal Regards

Raymond Mackeddie Provincial Grand Master



Young Masons Group

The regular meetings of the Ross and Cromarty Young Masons group will continue throughout the winter months. All new or young Masons are encouraged to attend the meetings, most of which are conducted on Teams.

Raymond MacKeddie, PGM

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2000

On Saturday 11th November, Brother Neil Fraser, son of the DPGM and a member of Lodge Seaforth will be installed as RWM of Lodge St Barchan No 156 in the Province of Renfrewshire East. Heartiest congratulations are extended to Brother Fraser along with best wishes for a successful and happy year in the Chair.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125

NOVEMBER 2025

From the Provincial Almoner

The following have sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above:

On Saturday 30th August 2025, Brother Keith Sinclair Carrison (Kayto), Master Mason of Lodge Averon No 866, passed away suddenly at home. He was the son of Charlie Carrison PM of Lodge Averon No 866. He will be sadly missed by all.

On Monday 13th October 2025, Brother William George Hossack, (Billy) Master Mason, of Lodge Seaforth No 854, passed away peacefully in Raigmore Hospital. Brother Billy was well known in the community and had a kind word for everyone.

Recently Brother Joe Williamson, Master Mason of Lodge St Duthus, No. 82 passed away in Canada. He emigrated there in his youth. This information came via local press announcement.

I report on the following:

Brother Morris M Downie, PM of Lodge St Martin, No. 1217 and Past Provincial Grand Master, who has had broken bones in his leg, is improving and now able to move about with the help of appliances.

Brother Tug Wilson, Past Master of Lodge Ness No. 888, has received better news and that he is now in remission.

Brother Ally Waugh, Past Master of Lodge St Duthus No. 82, is still having slight problems with his balance.

Brother Bob Patullo, Past Master of Lodge St Duthus, No. 82, is still recuperating after his knee operation.

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

BLAST FROM THE PAST – FROM – NOVEMBER 1998

Bro Kenneth Sutherland, Secretary of Lodge Averon tells me that they raised almost £200 at a wee Sale of Work held in the Lodge on 24th October. Grateful thanks are extended to all who helped in any way.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025









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 in Tain, the Rotary Street Fair in Dingwall and at Tesco in Dingwall and Tain.

In the 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.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125

NOVEMBER 2025

Around the Lodges

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Brethren,

The summer recess saw Lodge St Duthus host several events and attend local markets as part of our fundraising activities.

The St Duthac Book and Arts pop-up shop held in the Lodge was a clear success. Over the event period the shop attracted steady local footfall, sold a wide selection of donated books and arts items. The Festival committee are recommending repeating the pop-up next season in the Lodge to build on this year's momentum.

The Lodge welcomed the public for Doors Open Day with an open, well-attended event showcasing the building, history, and community work of Lodge St Duthus No 82.

A steady stream of residents and visitors attended throughout the weekend, including residents, families and tourists. It is hoped that this event will be run again in future years.

At the first meeting of the new season, Lodge St Duthus No 82 had the pleasure of welcoming parents, teachers, and pupils from Craighill Primary School, Knockbreck Primary School, and St Duthus Special School for the presentation of donation cheques.

The funds were raised over the past year by Lodge members through their dedicated efforts at local markets and community events. The presentations were made by Bros S O'Donnell, T Gordon, and J Murphy, who expressed the Lodge's continued commitment to supporting local education and community wellbeing. This presentation was the final donation following a yearlong fundraising campaign for the three Primary Schools. The total amount raised over the year was £2,200.00 an excellent effort all round.

The Lodge extends sincere thanks to all who contributed to the fundraising efforts and congratulates the schools on their well-deserved support.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Trovince of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



Following the presentations the brethren were given a talk by Katrina Macleod of Kats 2^{nd} Edition Charity this year's chosen charity by Lodge St Duthus No 82

KATs 2nd Editions collects new and gently used clothing for families and young children, making sure kids have warm, appropriate clothes for school, play, and everyday life. We focus on dignity, practicality, and quick turnaround — getting items to families who need them now, not later.

Over the past 4 years KATs 2nd editions has helped hundreds of local families by supplying school uniforms, winter coats, shoes, and baby essentials. Every donation does double duty: it reduces waste and directly improves a child's confidence, attendance, and comfort. When a child has the right coat or school jumper, they're more likely to participate, focus, and feel included.

As part of this fundraising this year Lodge St Duthus No 82 are asking brethren to take a toiletry item suitable for teenagers/young adults to each meeting, these will be given out as part of a Christmas gift for the young people.

The Calander for this year will be

- Monday 3rd November Installation
- Monday 1st December Master Mason Degree for Bro Terry Fraser
- Monday 5th January 2026 Master Mason Degree for Bro Tommy Gordon
- Monday 2nd February Mark Master Mason Degree for Bro Terry Fraser

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125

NOVEMBER 2025

- Monday 2nd March Mark Master Mason Degree for Tommy Gordon & Provincial Visitation
- Monday 6th April Lecture Evening Prostate Cancer lecture to be open to the public.

Well brethren that's all for just now and we at Lodge St Duthus No 82 look forward to seeing you over the season either in Lodge St Duthus or in your own mother Lodge when we visit.

Yours Faithfully & Fraternally

Bro. D Macrae PM Secy

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 1995

Saturday 21st October 1995 saw many Brethren from around the Province, and beyond, gather at Tain to celebrate the re-Dedication of their magnificent building in Queen Street, having occupied the premises for 100 years. Provincial Grand Master, Brother Ken Bisset, headed a large Provincial Deputation and he was ably assisted in the re-Dedication Service by Provincial Grand Chaplain, Brother Bill Niven and Provincial Grand Secretary, Brother Ian Fraser. At the conclusion of the Service, the Brethren made their way to the Royal Hotel where an excellent meal was served followed by the Loyal and other Masonic Toasts and Responses. The main Toast of the evening - to Lodge St Duthus - was given by Depute Provincial Grand Master, Brother Morris Downie. His oration included a parody of the song 'Deck of Cards' with Masonic connotations which was well received by all present. The night was hailed a tremendous success by all in attendance and congratulations must be given to the Brethren of St Duthus on attaining this memorable milestone in their history and for the excellent way the whole day was organised.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



Lodge Fortrose No 108

Since our last report we have had 2 meetings. Our September meeting was our election meeting at which Bro Alec Graham (son of Donnie Graham PM) was nominated RWM Elect, he will be installed at our meeting on December 5th.



Alick Graham RWM Elect

At our October meeting David Kenneth Morrison was initiated as an Entered Apprentice Freemason. PGM Raymond Mackeddie attended this meeting at which he promoted his Teddy initiative.

The highlight of the quarter was the visit of some of our brethren to the Grand of Finland in Helsinki where they witnessed a fellowcraft degree carried out by Lodge Tellus No 81. Report from Norman Smith RWM:

LODGE FORTROSE VISIT TO HELSINKI

Prior to setting off from Edinburgh we received the sad news of the passing of Pauline, wife of PM Donnie Macleod, and as a result only seven brethren were able to travel.

The meeting was hosted by Lodge Tellus and took place in the Grand Lodge of Finland building which was only a few minutes from the Hotel.

We were met at the hotel by one of their brethren called Henry (from now on called Finnish Henry so as not to confuse him with DM Macinnes) who took us to the Lodge and introduced us. The meeting was a FC Degree and was conducted in Finnish. We were given English copies of the ritual, so we were able to follow proceedings. The degree was quite different to the way we carry out FC degrees. While

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Trovince of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

the content was similar the degree was much more elaborate and involved the candidate leaving the Lodge Room on a couple of occasions. There were no separate tracing board, secrets or final charge lectures and the content of these was incorporated into the perambulations. Special mention must go to the SD who carried out most of the work without a single prompt. The meeting itself was three hours in duration.

The meeting was followed by a three-course meal and plenty of refreshments and I made a speech at the dinner congratulating our hosts on the excellent degree work and thanking them for their hospitality. I handed a gift of a Lodge tie and a bottle of Abhainn Dearg to the RWM.

The next morning, we were given a guided tour of the museum and a history of freemasonry in Finland which was very interesting. Lodge Tellus, along with 37 other Lodges meets in the Grand Lodge building so there are meetings on most weekdays.

Helsinki itself was a fantastic city and easy to get around. There is plenty to see and the people are extremely friendly. As for the rest of the weekend, as three of the party are members of Stornoway Rugby Club, I will adopt the club motto – what goes on tour stays on tour.





Looking forward to meeting up at Alick's installation on December 5th which will probably be followed by our regular trip to Lodge St Clements for their installation.

Donnie Macleod
Donald Macleod PM

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

Robertson's Lodge No 134



With Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren, I hope you are all well - the Master, Brother Peter Foster Snr, welcomed all to the New Season of Masonic Works in Robertson's Lodge No. 134.

During the close season some internal repair works and modifications took place. Past Master Brother Alasdair Taylor again arranged and carried on with the rectification works to the water damaged ceilings in the kitchen and ante room with some painting works, which is awaiting final completion.

Brother Morris A. Downie, Past Provincial Grand Master, and member of Robertson's Lodge, is managing to get around with his broken leg. He can be seen doing his regular physio trip round Fortrose. Best wishes for good health to him and his dear lady, Wilma.

Our Past Master Brother Ronnie Cooper, well known and respected Past Master of Robertson's Lodge, is recovering and resting back in his home after his last time in Raigmore Hospital. We wish him and his dear lady, Jean, better health.

The Lodge has held two meetings leading us into the new season of 2025 to 2026. The second meeting of the Season in October saw the working of an emulation of a First Degree with the well-known Brother Simon Regan visiting from up North and assisting by being our candidate. It was noted and commented on that the candidate appeared to very aware of what was happening and assisted in the progress of the Degree. The Master thanked all who took part in the Degree.

The Brethren welcomed Brother Derrick Cronie being affiliated as a member of Robertson's Lodge. Brother Derrick Cronie is a well-known member of Lodges in the Province, and it is good to have him as a member of our Lodge also. The Master and Brethren welcomed him as a member of Robertson's Lodge.

Brother Lodge Secretary raised the matter of Poppy Crosses and Poppy Wreath for the Annual Remembrance Day laying of the wreath at the Cromarty Memorial. It was agreed to purchase and lay the Lodge wreath along with the other Remembrance groups on Remembrance Sunday as is usually done.

The next Meeting for Robertson's Lodge is for the AGM and Nomination of Office Bearers in November. The following Meeting in December will be the Installation Meeting.

Peter K. Ratcliffe, Secretary

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



Lodge Fingal No 318

Since the last Patter publication.

On Friday the 15th of August, Brother Shaun Taylor received his Mark Degree in Lodge Seaforth. The degree was very well worked by the four Black Isle Lodges. Again, a large turnout of brethren from Lodge Fingal were present to witness the degree.

Annual BBQ – Saturday 16th August 2025.

A great turnout was enjoyed by all who attended. Following the BBQ we all enjoyed an evening's entertainment by 'The Travelling Siblings'. The amount of £1100.00 was raised which goes towards MND Scotland, which is this year's nominated charity for the Provincial Lodge of Ross & Cromarty.





The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



Bro Joe Thain winning the special raffle prize of a bottle of Glen Wyvis Malt Whisky



Cheque presentation to the value of £1100.00 to the RWPGM for MND Scotland from the RWM and brethren of Lodge Fingal following their successful BBQ fund raising event.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Trovince of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

The Great Feil Maree Fair on Saturday 6th September 2025.



Lodge Fingal also helped Dingwall Rotary Club by assembling and the taking down of all the gazebos for the fair. At our stall we managed to raise the fantastic amount of £530.00 for the Dingwall Hydrotherapy Pool. Many thanks to Bro. Steven O'Donnell from Lodge St. Duthus for his assistance on the day.



On Tuesday the 14th of October, Lodge Fingal members presented a cheque for £530 to a representative of the Puffin Hydrotherapy Pool in Dingwall.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125

NOVEMBER 2025

Our first meeting of the new session was a FC degree for Bro. Nicholas Pokerniecki. During the meeting the Secretary had the great duty of reading out **five** new initiation applications plus one new affiliate. This should keep the Lodge busy for the foreseeable future!

Dates for your diaries.

11th November 2025 – AGM & Nomination of Office Bearers @ 7.30pm

25th November 2025 – Special Meeting – MM Degree for Bro. Nicholas Pokerniecki @ 7.30pm

9th December 2025 – MMM Degree @ 7.30pm

27th December 2025 – Installation of RWM & Office Bearers @ 6pm



Lodge Fingal No. 318

200th Anniversary on Saturday 7th February 2026.

The Bicentenary Rededication starts at the Dingwall Town Hall on the 7th of February 2026 @ 1pm. The bicentenary dinner will be at the British Legion Club (Ross Hall) @ 3.30pm.

The cost per ticket for the dinner will be £35.00 with optional specially crafted bicentenary tokens available @ £10.00.

We hope to have the Logie Lounge open after the event from around 7pm, which is open to wives and partners, to finish of the special day.

Enquiries to book for the bicentenary event to either event@fingallodge318.org.uk or acraib@btinternet.com or telephone the secretary on 07775 837998

Please note that we will be closing bookings for the bicentenary event on the 31st of December 2025. There will be no payments accepted for dinner or tokens on the day.

Bank details are as follows: -

Bank Details – Lodge Fingal - Bank of Scotland – 80-06-35 - Account No. 00137298

Use name as reference

If paying for more than 1 person, please send email to henry-cameron@outlook.com with details of whom payment is for.

Fingus Beaton - Lodge Fingal No. 318 Secretary, Email - secretary@fingallodge318.org.uk -

Mobile 07775 837998

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



At the August meeting, Brother Archie Chalmers, Senior Grand Deacon and Past PGM of Ayrshire, presented a very interesting and informative talk on the origins of the Victoria Cross alluding to the history of the Cross since its inception in 1856. He highlighted the number of Freemasons who had been recipients of the award.

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

At a Special Meeting on Saturday 1st November, the Lodge was delighted to receive a large Deputation from Lodge Union and Crown No 307, who presented their dramatized "Prisoner of War" Degree. It was superbly carried out by some very talented brethren. The presentation was at times hilarious but, especially at this time of the year as we enter Remembrance Week, there was a very poignant message for us all to continue to give thanks to those who gave their all.

It was a real pleasure to have the 307 Brethren visit Lodge Allan Wilson. Haste ye Back.

Ramsay McGhee - Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2000

Another gem from the late Brother Roddy Cade -

There are Toasts in the Craft among others you may well be able to dodge.

But now you must speak to your Brothers -

Proposing the Toast to the Lodge.

But spare us the platitudes glowing,

The compliments sugary sweet,

And don't keep on going and going -

Oh, please make it simple and neat.

Master, Brethren, we are taught

Masonic speeches should be short -

So, if one evening, you can't dodge

But have to give a speech at Lodge,

Never try to chance your arm

The more you say, the less you charm.

So, before your audience starts to frown,

Just shut up, say thanks, sit down!

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



LODGE SEAFORTH 854

Special Meeting of the Black Isle Lodges

Lodge Seaforth's masonic season got underway with the lodge taking part in 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, who jointly conferred a Mark Mason Degree on Bro. Shaun Taylor of Lodge Fingal No. 318.



This historic and unique event brought together the elite Office-bearers of the four lodges, led by the reigning Masters of each of the four lodges, who came together to conduct the Mark Mason Degree.

This special event enjoyed a great turnout of Brethren, was a very entertaining evening of Freemasonry, and the proceeds of the evening, which amounted to just over £1,000, were donated to the Provincial Grand Master's Charity

Appeal for MND Scotland.

Building Roof Repairs

Over the summer months, the roofing contractors have been busy clearing the roof of the lodge building of moss and overgrowth, with over eighty bags of material removed off site.

The roof has had specialist paint applied and looks as if has had a new roof installed.



September Regular Meeting

At the September Regular Meeting of the Lodge, the Brethren were entertained to a very informative presentation by Bro. Steven O'Donnell of Lodge St Duthus No.82, entitled "The origins of the Square and Compass".

It was very interesting to learn that the square and compass frequently appeared in many ancient cultures, including Chinese Confucianism which was many thousands of years earlier than the origins of Freemasonry.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

October Regular Meeting

Unfortunately, the candidate was unable to attend, but Bro. Farquhar Laing kindly volunteered to stand-in as candidate for the night. The Brethren worked an excellent Fellowcraft Degree.

Passing of Bro. William George Hossack

The Brethren of the Lodge were saddened to hear the news of the passing of Bro. William (Billy) George Hossack, who passed away peacefully after several years of poor health, on Monday 13th October 2025.

Bro. Billy was one of the oldest members of the lodge, and had a long and distinguished masonic career, having joined the lodge in April 1960, and being presented with his 60 Year Jubilee Certificate in 2020

He had been a good attender of the lodge until a couple of years ago when ill health forestalled his ability to attend.

Bro. Billy was a well-respected member of the local community and will be sadly missed.

Bingo Nights

The lodge will again be hosting Community Bingo Nights throughout the winter months.

The next Bingo will on Friday 21st November at 7:30pm, £1 per entry, great raffle, and good craic. All most welcome.

Raymond Mackeddie
Lodge Secretary



BLAST from the PAST - from - November 1999

As a result of their sponsored walk, quiz night and bottle stall at Dingwall Rotary Street Fayre, the Brethren of Lodge Fingal have presented the sum of £2,800 to Dingwall Health Centre for the purchase of a defibrillator and £3,000 to Highland Hospice for a much-needed pressure relieving mattress.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

LODGE AVERON No 866

. тт

Hi there Brethren,

I hope everyone is doing fine and keeping well. I opened our last 'Patter' contribution with a weather report regarding the fantastic summer we had, we are now firmly in the back end and whilst it has been mostly settled, there has been two big storms that have passed through our province causing damage and electrical outages, some for several days, however as I ponder here writing, the news on the wireless, reminds me of our brethren in the Caribbean where the worst hurricane in there modern history passed through causing devastation beyond belief, this makes me think that our weather events albeit inconvenient could have been worse, at least our houses are still standing. The leaves still on the trees in wonderful backend colours should give us hope and comfort of resilience.

Saturday the 16^{th of} August was the date of our outstanding community family barbeque and lodge open day. The day as usual started with a hard-core team of volunteers assemble and set up for the day. We had 50+ visitors on the day, children were entertained with a bouncy castle and slide which was used consistently all day. To all our volunteers who assisted on the day, supplied food, raffles, music, your lodge is hugely indebted to you for giving your time freely. Again, this year there was quite a few tours of the lodge which was set out ready for working and the explanation boards very kindly supplied by Lodge St Martin 1217 over in Ullapool were a great hit, thanks to them, and to the brethren showing guests round, answering questions and explaining our charity works.











The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

Saturday 20th September saw our annual charity 'Texas' scramble take place at Invergordon Golf Course, organised by WJW Dave MacKinnon and his merry men. 10am saw the usual shotgun start after bacon rolls and coffee, with 12 teams teeing off for a day of fierce competition on the challenging course, luckily the weather stayed kind to the players. The day concluded with the raffle draw and prize giving for first, second and third place along with closest to the pin and longest drive. A fantastic amount of £1600.00 was raised for our three nominated charities, namely Redwoods Care Home residents fund, Fox and Friends Alness and The Sharing Shed Evanton. Arrangements are in progress to get the recipients along to the Lodge for presentation of cheques and photos. Thanks so mush again to all who assisted, contributed and competed in what has reestablished as a major fundraiser in our year. To Val and her team at Invergordon Golf Club thanks again for allowing us use of your fantastic course and facilities.



The mobile bar in full operating mode







Concentration – the name of the game

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025













The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025





In September Our Inner Guard Brother Kyle Gordon was part of the 8-person core team taking on the NC500 cycle challenge in aid of local charity Heathers Hero's.

Across the course of the week, the team climbed an incredible 34,144 feet, greater than the height of Everest!! The physical and mental demands were relentless, yet every test was met with resilience, determination and teamwork. This achievement stands not only as a testament to the strength of the core riders, but also to the many people who stood (and pedalled) alongside them throughout the journey.

They raised over £250 thousand pounds for Heathers Hero's which will support 15 other local charity's including Highland Hospice, Maggie's, Mikeysline, HALO and Kayleigh's Wee Stars.

At the time of writing our RWM Brother Frazer McBeath Jnr is traveling to Paris to compete in the World Veterans Judo Championships.... RWM, we wish you well and hope you enjoy your time away and it reaps the rewards of your hard work and commitment to your sport.

The next Fundraising event on Saturday 8th November will be a quiz night with the compere extraordinary Past Master Brother John MacKenzie from Lodge St Duthus No 82, the bar will be open with a buffet and raffle. Teams of four £20.00 or just turn up pay a fiver and we'll find you a team.

Well Brethren that's all our back-end news and as usual I didn't think we did much but as usual, a lot of small things fairly add up!

Kind regards and all the best.

Brother James MacDougall — Senior Warden

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



LODGE NESS No 888

It is good to have the lodge back up and running again after the Summer break.

The outside of the Lodge was painted and a lot of tidying up done which helps to create a good impression with the public – an excellent job by the Brethren.

We had the Annual Lodge Barbecue, a quiz and karaoke night during the recess, which all went well. We even had a bucking bronco at the BBQ (Some fun was had on that by the Brethren and their partners).



 ${\it Quizmaster-Bro~Kenny~McDermitt}$



Brothers Ross and Webster at South Lodge Primary

A cheque was presented to South Lodge Primary School by Bro Les Ross and the Lodge Secretary Bro Allan Webster.

Lodge Ness will be facilitating a Christmas Fair "Jingle and Mingle Street Fair" on Saturday 13th December (11 am to 4 pm) along Invergordon High Street, and we are hopeful of a good turnout. This is another example of good community integration which is an integral part of the Grand Lodge Strategy.

It is encouraging that more and more Lodges in the Province are now embracing this concept which will help in recruitment in future.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



Brothers Wilson & Dowie at the BBQ with the winner of the Fancy Dress



The BBQ and the dreaded Bucking Bronco

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

I am looking forward to the Installations this year as I will be officiating at several and am taking the chair at Ness on Tuesday 9th December with the installing Master being Bro Ramsay McGhee PM and his team.

I hope all Lodges have a successful season

George Robinson, PM

Lodge Ness 888

BLAST FROM THE DAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 1995

Past Master Dougie MacLeod has just returned from a trip to South Africa where he was visiting his sister. While in South Africa he took the opportunity to visit four Lodges one Scottish Constitution, one Irish Constitution and two English Constitution. He also managed a visit to a Royal Arch Chapter. Before returning home, PM MacLeod travelled to Knysna, the acknowledged wood capital of the world, where he purchased three gavels which he has since presented to the Lodge.

On his last trip to South Africa, he was taken to a Lodge Meeting in Durban where he was met by an elderly Past Master who asked him if he intended going to the Meeting. Dougie replied that he was going but that he had not been tested. The old boy disappeared and returned with an equally aged colleague, both of whom confessed that they had never tested anyone in their life - so Dougie offered to test them to show that he knew what he was talking about. The old boys agreed and later in the evening, the Master commented during the Harmony "only the Scots could come over here and test us before they come into our Lodge".

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

LODGE KYLE No 1117

The last quarter of 2025 is a busy time for Lodge Kyle. In our October Meeting we had a First Degree, on November 3rd we will have another First Degree and in December there will be two Meetings. On Monday 1st December we have yet another First Degree and on Monday 8th is our Re-Installation of our RWM Brother Steve Whittaker.

While in attendance we lost three Brethren in a year, (two moved away and sadly one Brother passed to the Grand Lodge Above), the new Masons are proving to be good attenders and are engaging in visiting Lodges. They are all what are termed Young Masons and bring with them hope and a breath of fresh air.

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that our friend and Brother Michael (Mick) Moore of Lodge Kyle passed to The Grand Lodge Above in the morning just after 7am on Wednesday 29th October 2025.

He is sorely missed by his wife and family and will also be greatly missed in Masonic circles far and wide, especially his Lodge, Lodge Kyle 1117, Lodge Macdonald of Sleat 1379, and the Isle of Skye Royal Arch Chapter.

Our thoughts are with his wife Sue and his family at this time. Mick was a regular attender and regular visitor to other Lodges especially in Portree and Broadford. He joined the Craft in 1980 at the age of 34 and latterly as Treasurer for almost 10 years, kept the Lodge finances in good order, especially over the Covid Epidemic when he secured badly needed funds from the government. I have received many emails since his passing from shipmates and friends telling stories of his younger days, but one email stands out... "Immensely grateful for Mickey's time with us. May he continue his masterpiece in work at The celestial Grand Lodge above"

The Funeral Service is at 11am on Wednesday 5th November at The Church of Scotland, Broadford; Cremation to follow at later date.

The roof and general fabric of the Lodge Building is due for a dramatic upgrade when a professional roofer (from within The Craft) will be coming to repair the roof assisted by our Master, Brother Steve Whittaker. The floor in the Entrance also needs work and that too will be undertaken in due course. There are also plans on renovating the kitchen facilities as the PAT (testing) called for most of the appliances to be scrapped (Cooker, Microwave, Kettle and some lighting) which is why they have been removed and must now be replaced.

Lastly, may I take this opportunity on behalf of Lodge Kyle to wish the Brethren of Ross and Cromarty a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2026.

With warmest regards,

Ronnie Miller, PM - Secretary

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125

NOVEMBER 2025

IT BYTES by PM Ronnie Miller, Lodge Kyle

I mentioned in the last issue of The Provincial Patter, that Microsoft were due to remove support for Windows 10 in October 2025; well, they have now done this. While many users are happy with their computer and Windows 10 but CANNOT do the free upgrade of their computer to Windows 11 due to their hardware being incompatible with Window 11 security features, they CAN and should avail themselves of the Extended Security Program for Windows 10. The ESU provides regular critical updates that keep your device from crashing, acquiring viruses or being hacked. This is usually a paid service, however most users of Window 10 in the UK should be able to get the ESU service for free!

Simply go to the "Settings" section (it's the little cog icon in the start menu), Select "Updates & Security" and select "Files Backup".

If you have already backed up your settings to your Microsoft Account using One Drive, then you are good to go for the Free Security Updates.

So now go to Windows Update and register for the new ESU Service which should now have the free option as well as the paid one. To be clear: - You must back up at least your Windows Settings to your Microsoft Account otherwise you will not be offered the free version of the ESU Service. You can of course simply opt to pay the annual fee if you don't want to back up your Computer's Windows settings to Microsoft's cloud (aka One Drive). But for companies with several computers, tablets and laptops this could be costly. The cost is between £22 - £66 +VAT per annum per device Consumer being cheaper than Commercial licenses.

Good luck and stay safe!

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2009

It was with deep regret however that Ian Fraser and I travelled to Kettering on 2nd October to attend the funeral of PM Bro Mark Smith who was the last Master in the Chair in Bulawayo. His father Malcolm was our first Master when the Lodge was Reponed in Fortrose.

It was hoped that Bro Mark and his family would have been back in the UK to allow him to be the first in the Chair here but that didn't quite work out and within a short period of settling in England Mark was diagnosed with cancer. To Mark's wife Angie and his two young sons aged eight and six and indeed to the extended family we convey our sincerest condolences.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Trovince of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125

NOVEMBER 2025

LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216

A couple of things I missed in previous patter. Bro Donald Mclennan was Installed as Provincial Grand Junior Chaplain at the PGL AGM in May. Also, Bro. Jordan Hossack was Senior Deacon at the special young masons meeting at Grand Lodge on 28th June 2025. A great honour for Lodge Rosehaugh in these respective honours.

The meeting of the 4 Black Isle Lodges was held on 15th August and Lodge Rosehaugh were pleased to have 3 Brethren assisting in the evening being our RWM Bro Graeme Brindle, WJW Bro Calum Bassindale and Senior Deacon Bro Jordan Hossack. All doing their part in this special evening.

The following day a few our brethren attended an 80th VJ ceremony at the War Memorial in Avoch. This was organised by Bro Ali Duff (aka The Hairy Piper) who also, compered and played the pipes at this poignant event.



We had hoped to hold an EA Degree in our October meeting however with Hurricane Amy due to arrive on the Friday evening we took the precaution to cancel the degree in the Thursday evening. We did however manage to run through an AGM and manged to process those items before we closed at 8.30pm

Going forward plans are Friday 7 November 7.45pm EA Degree. Friday 5th December 7.45pm Reinstallation of RWM Bro Graeme Brindle by Bro George Robinson PM 866. Friday 9th January 7.45pm F/C degree. Friday 6th February 7.45pm MM degree. With this being the evening before Lodge Fingal's 200th anniversary may be worth one for the diary for visitors coming to the province.

Keith Patience, PM

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

Lodge St Martin 1217

Over the summer recess the lodge has been sorting itself out after a serious problem with plumbing, it's all now looking better than it has been for many years. Bro. Tony Oulton and has been an absolute stalwart taking the lead with the repairs and upgrades and the other brethren assisting where they can. Tony's wife Bev putting the finishing touches and shampooing all the carpets. Our thanks to them both for all their hard work.

The lodge members will be serving mulled wine and shortbread at the annual village bonfire night on Friday 7th November. The lodge will assist with seeing Santa round the village on Wednesday 17th December. The season started off with the AGM and Election of Office-bearers on Tuesday 21st October with Bro. Gordon Mackenzie PM and his office bearers being elected into office. The Installation meeting will be held on Tuesday 18th November with the lodge tyling at **7.30pm** for regular business and the installation thereafter. The meeting on 16th December is programmed for a Mark degree tyling at 8.00pm.

Here's wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful 2026.

Charles MacAulay, PM Secretary

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2001

The Masonic Snooker Table

For a start, what has a snooker table in common with Masonry? It must be on the level. The snooker cues remind me of the Deacons Wands, as the cues are the first contact with the snooker balls, so are the Deacons the first contact with the Candidates.

The white ball makes me think of the Initiates apron, the white lambskin. The red ball with a score value of one reminds me of the candidates first step into masonry.

The yellow ball reminds me of that great Luminary in the sky and, with a value of two, it draws my attention to the two great pillars of a Lodge in the persons of the Secretary and Treasurer who, with their expertise and dedication form the stability of the Lodge.

The green ball, the lush mantle that covers the earth, it's value of three draws my thoughts to the three ruffians who slew our Master. The brown ball, of Mother Earth which produces lives precious gifts. With a value of four it reminds me of the twenty-four-inch gauge - namely, labour, thanksgiving, refreshment and sleep.

The blue ball, of the canopy of heaven and, with a value of five, the five noble orders of architecture - Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite. The pink ball, of the start of life, a newborn babe, and, with a value of six, the fundamental principles of Freemasonry - Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth, Morality, Humility and Secrecy.

The black ball, of the darkness of the tomb, and, with a value of seven, the seven Brethren required for the Perfect Lodge - the Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Senior and Junior Deacons, Inner Guard and Tyler. There are fifteen red balls formed in an equilateral triangle - a reminder of the fifteen trusty Fellows of Craft who went in search of our Master. The triangle of the Masters Mark of approval.

That Brethren is my interpretation of the Masonic Snooker Table.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



After almost sixty years in Aultbea, the Lodge has come to the regrettable, but nonetheless inescapable, decision to vacate the Masonic Hall there. Given the problems with the building itself, most notably those of heating and damp, together with the fact that only one member now resides within a forty-mile radius of it, we simply had no choice. The last thing we wanted to do, however, was to put the Lodge into darkness and surrender our Charter. We therefore sought to relocate and, following a ballot of the Members, it was decided that having been granted the kind consent of Lodge Fingal, we would do so to the Masonic Centre, Dingwall, with effect from January 2026.

Our next Regular Meeting, our AGM and Installation, will take place on Thursday, November 13th. This will be our final meeting in Aultbea, and, whilst looking forward to a new beginning in the life of Lodge Loch Ewe, we will be giving the old place a joyous send-off!

Michael Longley, PM - Lodge Loch Ewe

BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - NOVEMBER 2001

I received the following poem from PM, Bro Robert Scott, Lodge Fingal - True Masonry by Edgar A Guest

Red roses for the living, and hand clasps warm and true, A heart that's tuned to giving, and strength to dare and do; The sound of honest laughter, the joy of honest toil; For those who follow after, to leave a finer soil. And this has been and ever shall be the Masonic plan, A man's sincere endeavour to serve his fellow man. A little less self-seeking, a little more for men, Less bitter in our speaking, more kindly with the pen; A little less swerving from paths of truth and right, A little more of serving and less of dollar might. More peaceful with our neighbours, and stauncher to our friends. For this, all Masonry labours, on this its hope depends. To smooth the way for others, to make of life the most. To make the phrase our brothers mean more than idle boast. To praise sincere endeavour, when praise will spur it on. Withholding kind words never until the friend is gone; This is the Masonic Spirit, this is the Craftsman's dream God grant that we may hear it, before we cross the stream.

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



Ye Corporation O' Squaremen Hielan Shed

On 2nd August we visited Lodge St Ninian in Nairn but once again we faced disappointment and had to hold a "business "Meeting as there were no Candidates – We did however leave our usual Donation for the Brithers in Nairn to give to a local Charity.

Our last Meeting of the season was on 6th September at Lodge John O Groat in Castletown and after arriving there by various means we had a very successful Meeting with two new Brithers joining Heilan Shed

Along with our usual Donation to the Lodge for a Charity of their choice we were very pleased to Donate a couple of cheques to two very good causes – one to a young girl in Caithness and the other to "Survivors of Fire International" to a lady that the Nairn lads met on the train on Friday on their way to the Meeting (they went up a day early)

On our way back south, we stopped off at Latheron Cemetery to leave a wreathe for Bob Sutherland – this has been a tradition each time we visit Caithness

Over this season we have had 9 new Members and have Donated £1,500 to local Good Causes and will probably donate our usual £300 to the Grand Worthy Deacon Neil Coopers Charity before his term is complete in May 2026.

G Wilson and D Morrison handing over donation To the lady that survived a fire as a child



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



G Wilson handing over donation to Letha's mum Kira

D Morrison handing over our donation to Castletown Primary School Headmistress

(Lodge John O Groat's choice of donation)



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Trovince of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



News from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland

The half year Convocation will take place in Grand Lodge on Friday 28th November. This is the day after the Grand Lodge Installation and Festival of St Andrew – come down for a couple of days and enjoy all the meetings.

The following day, Saturday 29th November I look forward to heading a Deputation to St Blane RAC on the island of Rothesay to celebrate their 250th anniversary.

Since the last edition of the Patter, accompanied by my Depute First Grand Principal, MEC John Steel, I installed the new Grand Superintendent of Bahamas, MEC Dr Julian Anthony Stewart and three days later re-installed the Grand Superintendent of Barbados, MEC Colonel Joseph Willoughby David Lloyd George Clarke. Both meetings were well attended.

The day before, we had an eight hour long Cryptic Council Session – two meetings on the same day to welcome over twenty candidates into Cryptic Council. The candidates came from several islands and from Guyana' They had all been waiting for a considerable length of time, hence the reason it was agreed that we would play catch up while we were both there.





Bahamas Barbados

On Saturday 25th October, MEC John Steel and I attended the half yearly Convocation of the District Grand Chapter of the Middle East in Ipoh. Again, this was a well-attended meeting

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



Left to right – 2nd Grand Principal, MEC Ernest Wong, First Grand Principal, MEC Ramsay McGhee, Grand Superintendent, MEC Daryl Sim Swee Kheng, Depute First Grand Principal, MEC Jon Nesbit Steel and Past Grand Superintendent MEC Kang Tee Yong

PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of R&C

The Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross & Cromarty held its Quarterly Convocation on Saturday, 27th September 2025 in St Clement Royal Arch Chapter.

Provincial Grand Superintendent Most Excellent Companion Morris Downie was unable to attend due to ill health following his recent accident whilst on holiday. All the Companions of Ross & Cromarty and beyond extend our warmest wishes for his swift recovery.

In his absence, the meeting was ably chaired by his Depute, DPGS Most Excellent Companion Frazer McBeath Snr, who conducted the proceedings with dignity and efficiency, ensuring the business of the Chapter was carried out smoothly and respectfully.

The Chapter expresses its gratitude to the Depute for stepping in and maintaining the high standards expected at our Convocations.

At the Quarterly Convocation, the following Installation and Visitation dates were

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

Installation Dates

- Cromarty Firth 310 Wednesday, 1st October
- Hebrides 364 Wednesday, 8th October
- St Clements 244 Friday, 31st October
- Tain & Ross 63 Monday, 27th October

Visitation Dates

- Tain & Ross 63 Monday, 23rd February 2026
- Cromarty Firth 310 Wednesday, 4th March 2026
- St Clements 244 Friday, 27th March 2026
- Hebrides 364 Wednesday, 13th May 2026
- Cryptic & Ark Mariners Thursday, 14th May 2026

Companions are encouraged to note these dates and attend in support of our Chapters.

Yours Faithfully & Fraternally

Companion D Macrae Provincial Scribe Ezra

Tain & Ross Royal Arch Chapter No 63

Next meeting of Tain & Ross Chapter will be Mondy 24th November at 7.30 pm. All Royal Arch Companions will be made welcome.

St Clement Royal Arch Chapter No 244

MEC Alasdair Taylor carried out the Reinstallation of MEC David MacMaster and his Office-bearers in his usual competent manner. He was assisted by MEC Fraser MacBeth and MEC John MacKenzie. The ME First Grand Principal was in attendance along with visiting Companions from Renfrewshire East.

Cromarty Firth Royal Arch Po 310

Royal Arch Chapter Hebrides No. 364.

Tuesday 11th September was our AGM and election of office bearers, Ian George Maciver and most of the companions were re-elected and were to be installed at our October meeting, unfortunately due to a lack of numbers caused by so many of companions being unable to attend the installation will be carried out at our November meeting.

Having obtained the permission of Grand Superintendent Morris Downie we are trialling a change in our meeting nights from the second Tuesday to the second Wednesday of the month. The reason for this is the fact that some of our companions are tied up with rugby or football training on a Tuesday.

Donnie Macleod

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

Saturday 25th October was our installation to which the District Grand Prior Eric Macgregor along with 8 fratres from the district were meant to visit and carry out the installation, unfortunately due to the inclement weather that day their visit was cancelled in case some wouldn't make back in time for work on Monday. I carried out the ceremony and VP Henry Macinnes together with his officers were reinstalled.

†‡ Donald Macleod KCT

DISTRICT GRAND PRIORY OF THE NORTH IN SCOTLAND.

District Programme for 2025 - 2026

The AGM will be held at Lodge Pitgaveny on Friday, 13th March 2026 @ 7.30pm (to follow, Masion Dieu working the second part of the grade work)

Preceptory	Installation Date	Visitation Date
Maison Dieu No.101	14 ^h November 2025 (2 nd Friday) Re-Installation	13 th March 2026 (2 nd Friday)
St Fergus No.44 20st No.	ovember 2025 (3 rd Thursday) Re-Installation	19 th March 2026 (3 rd Thursday)
Lochaber & Lorn No139 10	th November 2025 (2 nd Monday) Re-Installation	13 th April 2026 (2 nd Monday)
Western Isles No.124	25 th October 2025 (Last Saturday Re-Installation	y) 25 th April 2026 (4 th Sat)
Highland No.39	17 th October 2025 (3 rd Friday) Installation	17 th April 2026 (3 rd Friday)
Ross No 138	Dormant	Dormant

‡‡ Eric Macgregor DGP

†‡ Donald Macleod KCT



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Trovince of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025



Provincial Grand Lodge of Inverness and the Highlands

Provincial Grand Secretary: Bro. Michael Scott Turner

Michael Scott Turner

Provincial Grand Secretary

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125

NOVEMBER 2025

BITS AND PIECES

Received the following from Bro Ally Waugh – will bring back memories for many in the Province.

Eating in the 50s

- 1. Pasta was not eaten
- Curry was a surname.
- 3. A takeaway was a mathematical problem.
- 4. A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.
- Crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.
- 6. Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding.
- 7. A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.
- 8. Brown bread was something only poor people ate.
- 9. Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.
- 10. Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
- 11. Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
- 12. Fish didn't have fingers.
- 13. Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.
- 14. None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.
- Healthy food consisted of anything edible.
- 16. People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.
- 17. Indian restaurants were only found in India.
- 18. Cooking outside was called camping.
- 19. Seaweed was not a recognised food.
- 20. "Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.
- 21. Prunes were medicinal.
- Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.
- 23. Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock!
- 24. And the things that we never ever had on our table in the 50s and 60s: elbows or phones!

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 125 NOVEMBER 2025

Grand Lodge of Scotland - On-line shopping



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









