

# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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

**ISSUE NO 126**

**FEBRUARY 2026**

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



**Lodge Fortrose No 108**

*Lodges of the Province – Lodge Fortrose No 108*

*Chartered 10<sup>th</sup> November 1767*

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## Editorial

Welcome to the 126<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Patter.

New year – new beginnings and hopefully a new and exciting future for the Province. A happy, healthy and enjoyable 2026 to you all.

Things will kick off with the Lodge Open Doors day in February when all Scottish Lodges at home and overseas are being asked to open their doors to the public. Some of our Lodges in the Province have already been doing this, normally in September, when the national Open Doors day takes place.

However, this is different – this will be almost 1000 Lodges opening their doors throughout the world. It has already attracted media attention and STV are going to do a piece on it. That is something we could be doing in Ross-shire – getting positive media coverage throughout the month.

It is important that we get plenty good quality pictures and information available to show the public what we do within our communities. I think that is one of the lessons we learned when we had the Grand Lodge gazebo at the Black Isle Show – we needed far more information on what we do in communities – pictures are a good medium for that.

Here on the Black Isle, we hope to create a Masonic Trail so that people will get the opportunity to see all our Lodges and experience the different interiors.

Whatever you decide to do, please get plenty photos so that we can demonstrate in the May edition just what took place throughout the Province and let Edinburgh see that we are very much on the ball in this Province.

*Ramsay McGhee*, Editor

## Grand Lodge of Scotland



THE GRAND LODGE  
OF ANTIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF SCOTLAND

Between now and the May edition coming to life, Grand Lodge will be kept pretty busy both at home and overseas.

On 7<sup>th</sup> February there are three celebrations taking place. The GMM will be heading a GL Deputation to the Bicentenary of the PGL of Renfrewshire West, I'll be heading a Deputation to Lodge Fingal 318 Bicentenary and the DGM will be in Lodge St John Royal Arch No 320 for their Bicentenary.

The following week there will be another two Bicentenaries – Lodge Bonhill and Alexandria St Andrews Royal Arch No 321 and Lodge Camperdown No 317 in Dundee.

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February, the GMM will be celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Operative Lodge of Dumfries No 140 while I will be heading a Deputation to Lodge St Bryde No 579 for their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I am very much looking forward to being in Uddingston – my Grandfather was Master of the Lodge in 1934, and my father was Senior Warden before getting called up for military service at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> world war.

The Installation of the District Grand Master of Western Australia is on 28<sup>th</sup> February.

On 14<sup>th</sup> March Lodge St Leonard No 580 celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Installation of the new PGM for Moray and Nairn takes place on 4<sup>th</sup> April and the Installation of the new PGM for Linlithgowshire takes place on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

*Editor*

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## The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty

As this is the first edition of the Patter of 2026, can I, on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty wish all our readers a very happy, healthy and successful year ahead.

### Closing the Year

As year came to an end, it was very pleasing to reflect on what was a very successful year for the Province.

On the charity front, we started year setting a challenge to support MND Scotland, and the responses from the lodges was speedy and willing, and I was delighted to lead a group of representative Masters at a cheque handover event to the CEO of MND Scotland, Dr Jane Haley MBE, at Ross County Stadium where we ceremonially handed over a cheque to the value of £5,000.



The Province was also instrumental in adopting participation in the TLC Teddy Bears for Loving Care (TLC) scheme, aiming to donate teddies to the A&E Departments in local hospitals to help assist children who find themselves in traumatic circumstances.

It was pleasing to gain the support of the neighbouring Provinces, with Caithness, Sutherland and Inverness-shire, collaborating with us to support the five A&E Departments in the Highlands and

Western Isles. It is very gratifying to witness the support from many lodges in raising necessary funding to support this worthy scheme, which I have no doubt will help to raise the profile of Freemasonry in the community.



Going forward we shall be looking at providing TLC teddies to other organisations including remote ambulance services, women's refuges and other children's support groups.





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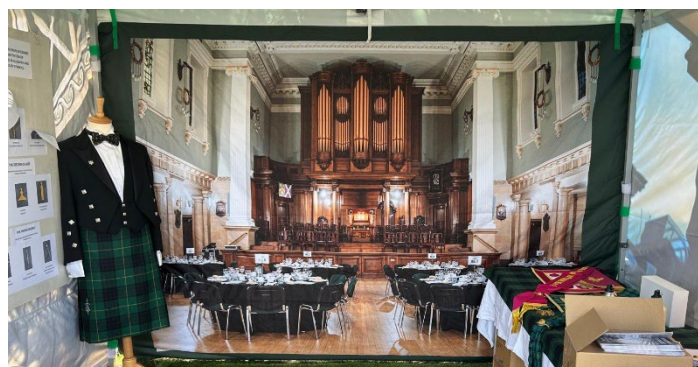
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*Provincial Grand Master of Caithness, Bro James Moodie with staff in Caithness General*

The Province also hosted the inaugural Grand Lodge Stand at the Black Isle Show. The very professional looking gazebo with a striking resemblance of the Grand Lodge building in Edinburgh, proved to be eye-catching feature and a great focal point for craft members and inquisitive enquiries from the public at large. This first event provided useful learning points for future presentations at further planned events.



*The Grand Lodge Gazebo*



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Many lodges in the Province also arranged their own public events in their respective communities, which highlighted the good work that they are doing locally and helped increase positive public perception of Freemasonry in general. There is no doubt that events like these, showcasing what Freemasonry does for local communities, demonstrating what it provides for likeminded men, helps raises the profile of our lodges and may encourage inquisitive gentlemen to think about joining such a worthwhile organisation.

It was very gratifying at the close of year, at each of the lodge installation meetings that I attended, to witness the Masters and Office-bearers cheerfully accepting their offices, affirming their respective responsibilities, and each enthusiastically pledging to work hard to further the development and standing of their respective lodges. I wish all the Masters and the Office-bearers of each of the Lodges in the Province every success, fulfilment and enjoyment in their respective terms of office for the coming term and I look forward to working with them and receiving their support in our joint endeavours.

## **Happy New Year**

As we start a new year, we also saw a new Grand Master Mason installed at the end of November, with Bro. Alexander Moncrieff, taking over the reins to lead the Grand Lodge of Scotland forward.

He is well known in the Province, having attended many events, and we look forward to his leadership and support in taking the Craft forward, and we take the opportunity to wish him every success and enjoyment in his time as Master.

He is not letting the grass grow below his feet and has already announced the launch of the Grand Master's Challenge, an offer of matched funding for approved projects to support activities benefitting local Brethren or local communities.

This scheme is something we should embrace, and I look forward to discussing with the lodges where we can assist local projects and make the appropriate application for the funding available.

The change of leadership of Grand Lodge will hopefully allow our own Bro. Ramsay McGhee to ease back on his commitments to Freemasonry. He has been a tremendous ambassador to Freemasonry in general, and despite continually travelling all over Scotland and overseas, he has never forgotten his association with this Province. We are very proud to support him in all his endeavours and wish him every success and fulfilment in his continuing roles as Immediate Past Grand Master Mason and First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Chapter of Scotland.

Looking forward, this year is looking very exciting for the Province, starting off in February with the Bicentenary Rededication Meeting of Lodge Fingal No.318, which promises to be a very interesting and sociable event. I extend my grateful thanks to the Lodge Fingal Brethren, as I was profoundly honoured to be made an Honorary Member of this very historic and renowned lodge in December 2025.

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Also in February, the lodges in the Province shall be opening their doors to the public as part of the Grand Lodge of Scotland sponsored, “This is Our Story”, a month-long open doors event which will culminate with a national event at Grand Lodge on Saturday, 28th February 2026. The lodges in the Province should embrace the opportunity to tell the story of our rich heritage and proud traditions of Freemasonry within our communities. Each lodge has a great story to tell, grandfathers, fathers, and sons all contributing to the rich fabric of our fraternity.

In March, I shall be heading a PGL Deputation to Trinidad, to attend the Installation Meeting for the new District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad and Tobago & Grenada, Bro. Warren Sookdar. Many of us will fondly know Bro. Warren, who has been a regular visitor to our Province, and is an Honorary Provincial Grand Lodge member, and we wish him every success and fulfilment in his tenure of office and look forward to our continuing friendship with the District.

We, in the Provincial Grand Lodge, look forward as the new year commences to commencing our Annual Lodge visits. It is always pleasing to meet up with the Brethren in their Lodges, particularly the new Masters and recently promoted Office-bearers, and to see them developing into their new roles.

We continue to witness a good number of new candidates joining Lodges in the Province, and I remain very impressed by the quality of the new members, many answering their Test Questions in an exemplary manner, and some taking parts on the floor at an early stage of their progress.

Again, as the new year commences, I urge all the senior members of the lodges in this Province to think proactively how we can support Grand Lodge in its endeavours to keep Freemasonry relevant in this modern changing world, and in particular the Governance and Strategy Board, who are striving, along with the various committees, with activities and ideas to satisfy the demands of the Strategic Priorities, which we should have at the forefront of our masonic actions and behaviours:-

- Placing Membership at the Heart of Scottish Freemasonry
- Growing Scottish Freemasonry Internationally and
- Creating Inspiring Communication and Engagement

I look forward to catching up with you all soon, and the dates of the annual visits to lodges are appended below.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 shall be the next Provincial Grand Lodge Communication, which will be held at Lodge Fingal, Dingwall, and I look forward to updating all on what is going on, and planned, in the Province.

It will be pleasing 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.

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## Key PGL Dates

**Grand Lodge Communication - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Provincial Grand Lodge Communication - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

## Dates of Provincial Grand Lodge Visits

<b>Averon 866 -</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>
<b>Ness 888 -</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>
<b>St Duthus 82 -</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Fingal 318 -</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Seaforth 854 -</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Robertsons 134 -</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>
<b>Rosehaugh 1216 -</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026</b>
<b>Loch Ewe 1551 -</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>
<b>St Martin 1217 -</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> April 2026</b>
<b>Kyle 1117 -</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>
<b>Fortrose 108 -</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>
<b>Allan Wilson 851 -</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b>

**PGL AGM and Installation of Office-bearers - Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**PGL Lodge of Sorrow - Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

Fraternal Regards

***Raymond Mackeddie***

Provincial Grand Master

### **Provincial Grand Lodge Installation**

The Provincial Grand Lodge Installation will take place in the Spa Pavillion on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2026. The Ben Wyvis Hotel are offering a limited number of rooms - £120 twin or double, £80 single per night – but they will not be available for long. If you want to book for the Friday and or Saturday, contact the Ben Wyvis Hotel on 01997 423 387 and give the reference – ***Masonic Installation***. The Ladies will be welcome at the dinner but need to be included in reservations for the Installation dinner.



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## Young Masons Group

The group has continued to meet on a regular basis, for nearly six years, and following an earlier proposal they continue to meet informally as a group at various lodge meetings in the Province. In January a small group met at Lodge Seaforth No.854 to make some plans for the year ahead.

### Fellowcraft Degree - Lodge Fingal No. 318 - Tuesday 14th April 2026

The group are very keen to work a degree, entirely delivered by young masons, and the Master of Lodge Fingal No. 318 has very kindly agreed to host the Young Masons Group who shall work a Fellowcraft Degree for one of the Fingal candidates on Tuesday 14th February 2026 at 7:30pm.

The group continues to expand in numbers, and with the recent influx of new members, boasts a membership of around 75 members, which must bode well for the future of the Craft in our Province.

*Raymond MacKeddie*, PGM

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

#### It's a small world

I was having a crack with Past Master Alick MacRae one night at Avoch and he promised to give me another contribution which I'm delighted to include in this edition.

"While I was a Very Ordinary Seaman, I was drafted to an OBV KORAB I - a very *modern* Polish drifter/factory ship. Among the crew was a big, well built, black-haired, beetle-browed fisherman from Avoch. Naturally we became good friends and many a long yarn we spun each other.

He was the first person who mentioned The Craft to me and although I had not, at that time, joined, I listened to him extolling the virtues of the Craft. Is it not interesting that, after a chance meeting so many years ago, I am now an Affiliate Member of his Mother Lodge."

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## From the Provincial Almoner

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

On Saturday 8th: November 2025, Brother Ronald (Ronnie) Cooper, Past Master of Robertson's Lodge No. 134, passed away peacefully in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Brother Ronnie was a well-known visitor to many Lodges in the Highlands and further afield and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

I also report on the following:

Brother Donnie Graham, Past Master of Lodge Fortrose, No. 108, managed to attend his son, Brother Alex Graham's installation as Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Fortrose No 108, on the 5th of December 2025.

Brother Ally Waugh, Past Master of Lodge Duthus, No. 82, has now received his licence to drive again after his medical condition and is enjoying his freedom.

Brother Brian Poloczec, of Robertson's Lodge, no. 134, is awaiting an appointment for some health checks.

Brother Les Ross, Past Master of Lodge Ness, No. 888 is on the go although still a bit short of breath.

Brother Tug Wilson, Past Master of Lodge Ness, No. 888 is to receive some treatment this coming week.

Brother Morris Downie, Past Master of Lodge St Martin, No. 1217, has now recovered enough to enable him to take time out in a foreign land.

I also received the sad news regarding the passing of Brother Donald Riggs, Master Mason, of Lodge Seaforth, No. 854, his wife Carole, sadly passed away on Saturday 24th January 2026.

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](mailto:fraserft@yahoo.com) or 01463 870307

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The Prostate Champions have been reasonably quiet over the winter – so far. If you have a Lodge meeting or a community event that you would like them to attend in the year ahead, contact either the PGM or Brother Steven O'Donnell and I'm sure they would be delighted to attend.

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 1999**

### **Being Old!**

Being old is not an age thing - it's a state of mind: you are only old if: -

- you sit on a rocking chair but can't make it go.
- you turn out the light for economy, not romance.
- you feel like the morning after, but you haven't been anywhere the night before.
- your back goes out oftener than you do.
- everything hurts - what doesn't hurt, doesn't work.
- a dripping tap causes an uncontrollable urge.
- you know all the answers, but nobody is asking the questions.
- you look forward to a dull evening.
- you forget to remember.



## Around the Lodges

### Lodge St Duthus No 82



At the installation meeting held on 4th November, Lodge St Duthus No. 82 witnessed Bro James Morrison being installed once again as Right Worshipful Master (RWM). The brethren expressed their confidence in his leadership and commitment to the Lodge, marking the occasion with the usual ceremonial dignity.

The December meeting was notable for several significant moments. Bro Steven O'Donnel was presented with a jewel in recognition of being granted the rank of Grand Lodge Honorary Treasurer. This honour was bestowed upon him in appreciation of his outstanding services to the community during the Covid pandemic, his instrumental role in establishing the Young Masons Group, and his dedicated work as a Prostate Champion. The brethren warmly congratulated Bro O'Donnel for his achievements and his commitment to service. The December meeting also saw two brethren from Trinidad & Tobago attend the Lodge with one, Brother Tim Ghariandry giving the Lecture on the Second Tracing Board.



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The Lodge also extends hearty congratulations to our Junior Deacon for his spirited participation in the Tain Pantomime, where he took to the stage as the Dame in "Treasure Island."

His involvement in local theatre is a source of pride for the Lodge and is a testament to the diverse talents among our members.

Continuing the Lodge's tradition of charitable giving, toiletries and sanitary products were presented to Kats 2nd Edition as part of their Christmas appeal. This gesture supports those in need within the local community during the festive season and reflects the Lodge's ongoing commitment to charitable causes.



The recent activities at Lodge St Duthus No. 82 highlight both the strong leadership within the Lodge and the commitment of its members to supporting the local community, celebrating individual achievements, and upholding the values of Freemasonry.

*Bro. D Macrae PM Secy*

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## Lodge Fortrose No 108

On 5<sup>th</sup> December Bro Alick Graham was installed as Right Worshipful Master, this installation was expertly carried out by David Thomas PM of St Michael's Kilwinning No. 63. Alick appointed his father, PM Donnie Graham, as his Deputy Master, his choice received the full approbation of the lodge brethren. The meeting was followed by the Festival of St John.



*RWM Alick A Graham*

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> a large contingent of brethren (about 40 of us) sojourned to the Isle of Harris to attend their installation, don't know how everyone fitted into the lodge room that afternoon. Donald John Mackay was installed as RWM for the second time. As usual, the Harris hospitality was second to none.

The Lodge agreed to distribute £2,600 from benevolence to various charities. The Lodge also laid wreaths on remembrance Sunday and on 1st January at the Iolaire memorial.



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*Office-bearers, Brethren and Visiting Brethren*



*The Master, Bro Alick Graham along with his Father, Brother Donnie Graham, PM & brother Roddy*

A very successful and well attended Burns Supper was held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Jim Sawers toasted the haggis, Bro Robert Doig made a tremendous toast to the immortal memory of Robert Burns, some of which he sang, and Bro Alex Scott toasted the lassies, he also responded on behalf of the lassies!

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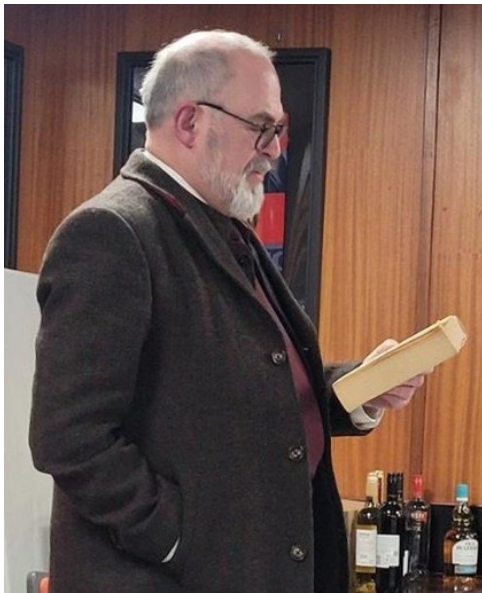
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*Jim Sawers wielding the weapon he used on the defenceless haggis*



*Bro Robert Doig – Immortal Memory*



*Bro Alex Scott toasting the lassies*

Now looking forward to the Provincial visit to Trinidad & Tobago in March.

*Donnie Macleod*  
Donald Macleod PM

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## Robertson's Lodge No 134



With Sincere and Fraternal Greetings Brethren, I hope you are all well.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025 the late, well known, liked, respected and distinguished Brother Ronald Gregory Cooper, laid down his tools and passed to the Grand Lodge Above. As can be expected, this event greatly affected members, with many attending a solemn and memorable funeral at Cromarty Churchyard where the laying of the acacia marking the grave was carried out. Brother Cooper was known to all as Brother Ronnie.

The memory of Brother Ronnie Cooper and the ceremony was in our thoughts when the AGM meeting was carried out that night. The Lodge held the AGM and Nomination of RWM and Lodge Office Bearers, with Brother Peter Foster Snr, being elected as Master of the Lodge for the coming year, with his team of Office Bearers.

At the next Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Brother Peter Foster Snr, was installed as Master, with an excellent ceremony carried out by Installing Master Brother Brian J. Poloczek, PM, and his very distinguished Team, which included our PGM Brother Raymond A Mackeddie and his Substitute, Brother David A MacMaster, also Past Masters Alasdair Taylor, George Robinson, Alex J Craig, Henry Cameron, Donald Gunn, and Andrew J MacIvor.

Lodge Brothers laid the Remembrance Wreath on behalf of Robertson's Lodge 134 at the Cromarty War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Brothers have enjoyed the Christmas and New Year period without illness we hope, Brother Morris A. Downie, member of Robertson's Lodge, is better managing to get around with his mending leg.

However, today, our RWM, Brother Peter Foster Senior, has suffered a heart attack we understand and is currently in Raigmore Hospital for treatment. Brother Peter Foster Snr. is currently able to use the group chat we use, so we hope he is on the road to recovery. We all wish him good health and pray for him.

The next Meeting for Robertson's Lodge planned for on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, is to be a business meeting where members will discuss recent matters and planned events, such as the Open Lodges event planned by Grand Lodge.

*Peter K. Ratcliffe, Secretary*



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## Lodge Fingal No 318

Since the last Patter publication.

Following a successful ballot for five new Initiates, Lodge Fingal held an EA Degree on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 for Mr. Jordon Fraser MacKenzie & Mr. Michael Iain Nicolson.

### **December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Installation Meeting.**

Presentation of a Platinum 70 Year Certificate to Bro. Hamish MacDonald Robertson, by the RWM Bro A Craib, RWM Elect Bro. S Bain and the RWIM Bro R McGhee.

Bro. Hamish was Initiated into Lodge Fingal on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December 1955. An outstanding achievement!



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December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Installation of the new RWM, Bro. Stewart Alexander Bain and his Office Bearers



*Members of Lodge Fingal with the Installing Team*



The SPGM, Bro. David MacMaster PM, the new RWM Bro. Stewart Alexander Bain PM, and the IPM Bro Alexander John Craib PM, following the Installation ceremony.



On Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 2025, the RWPGM, Bro. Raymond MacKeddie was presented Honorary membership of Lodge Fingal by the RWM Bro Stewart Bain PM.

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To mark Lodge Fingal's Bicentenary, they have purchased a specially crafted cask of Single Malt Whisky from the Glen Wyvis Distillery in Dingwall. This will be initially sold to Lodge Fingal members; however limited bottles will be made available for the 200<sup>th</sup> event in February 2026 @ £40.00.

**Dates for your diaries.**

**Lodge Fingal No. 318**

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

The Bicentenary Rededication starts at the Dingwall Town Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:event@fingallodge318.org.uk) or [acraib@btinternet.com](mailto:acraib@btinternet.com) or telephone the secretary on 07775 837998

*Angus Beaton* - Lodge Fingal No. 318 Secretary, Email - [secretary@fingallodge318.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fingallodge318.org.uk) -  
Mobile 07775 837998



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## *LODGE ALLAN WILSON 851*

Lodge Allan Wilson had another excellent year with tremendous speakers, great attendances and first class catering. It all augurs well for 2026. The Installation Meeting takes place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00 am (for coffee and shortbread), tiling at 11.30 with lunch about 13.00 hours. Taking over from Brother John Stott, who has been out and about waving the Allan Wilson colours, will be Brother Alexander John Craib – a weel kent face not only in Ross and Cromarty but throughout Scotland and further afield. A Past Master of Lodge Old Inverness Kilwinning St John No 6, (twice over), a Past Master of Lodge Fingal No 318, Depute Master in Lodge Randolph No 1434 and currently Grand Librarian in Grand Lodge and Proxy District Grand Master for all Lodges throughout the world who report directly to Grand Lodge along with our four Superintendencies. He comes to the Office with a wealth of experience and will no doubt lead the Lodge into another successful year.

*Ramsay McGhee* - Secretary

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

Since the last issue of the Newsletter, Brother Morris Downie and I have been on our travels again. Two of those visits especially, are worthy of note. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of December we headed for the Central Belt and witnessed an excellent third at St Barchan 156 on the Tuesday night followed on the Wednesday night by what must have been the Installation of the year. Brother Norman M T M MacLeod, Assistant Grand Secretary, was Installed as Master of his Mother Lodge, Glasgow Kilwinning No 4. There would have been in excess of two hundred Brethren present with an Installing Board of well over one hundred - in fact it was standing room only. It was an excellent evening all round and well worth the sojourn south. During January we travelled down to the Province of West Lancashire where we had the pleasure of witnessing Brother Barry Ainsworth being installed in the Chair of his Mother Lodge, New Hall No 5940 in Leyland. We received a tremendous welcome and Morris was especially grateful to find that Assistant Provincial Grand Master Brother William S Huck was present to officially welcome him into the Province.



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## **LODGE SEAFORTH 854**

### **Installation Meeting**



The lodge members were delighted that Bro. Ronald Bruce agreed to continue as Master of the Lodge for a third session. He has been a great leader of the lodge, working hard to deliver impressive ritual work, been a busy visitor, brought innovative ideas to the lodge such as collaborating with the Black Isle lodges to deliver joint degrees and has introduced the popular Bingo Nights.

He is a hard worker for many charitable causes and was instrumental in recently raising over £1,000 for the Provincial Grand Masters Charity Appeal for MND Scotland.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead with Bro. Ronald at the helm.

### **Carol and Reading Service**

Following the December Regular Meeting, the lodge held its annual Carol and Reading Service. The night was well attended, and with the regular organist busy on other masonic duties, Bro. Andrew MacIvor generously assisted with electronic musical equipment which greatly enhanced the devotional ambience of the evening.

### **Doors Open Day**

The Lodge will be taking part in the Grand Lodge sponsored Open Doors Days, with a joint event with the Black Isle based lodges.

It is currently planned to promote a “Masonic Journey” around the Black Isle lodges, each promoting the work they carry out in their respective communities.

The event is planned for Saturday 14th February 2026.



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## January Regular Meeting

At the January Regular Meeting, the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Raymond Mackeddie, presented a paper on "Masonic Etiquette" which was well received and greatly appreciated by the Lodge members and visiting brethren alike. The presentation engendered many questions from the floor all of which were handled efficiently by the PGM.

## February Regular Meeting

At the Regular Meeting on Monday 16th February 2026 at 7:30pm it is planned to work a Fellowcraft Degree.



## Bingo Nights

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

The next Bingo will be on Friday 20th February 2026 at 7:30pm, and Friday 20th March 2026, £1 per entry, great raffle with loads of fantastic prizes, and good craic guaranteed.

Everyone most welcome

*Raymond Mackeddie*

Lodge Secretary

## A thought for the New Year

Just health enough to banish care,  
Just wealth enough to give and spare,  
Just friends enough sincere and true  
May this New Year – bring to you.

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## LODGE AVERON No 866

Hi there brethren,

I can scarcely believe it is time for the 'Patter' again, my dad when delivering his father of the bride speech at my sister's wedding said 'you know you're getting old when your monthly magazines start 'arriving weekly' .....well the older I get I am now understanding what he meant.

I usually start with a weather report, winter so far has had it all, very mild then a cold spell back to mild, no white Christmas then the new year started with the most snow we've seen in years and for a prolonged period, Dad also told me behind every cloud there is blue sky.....that tells me spring is just around the corner.

Our Lodge continues with a mix of degree work and lectures which have been greatly received especially the one from Brother Steven O'Donnell from Lodge St Duthus No 82 on The Gavel, The Mallet and The Maul. After Brother Steven delivered his lecture there was a fantastic question and answer session which left the assembled brethren plenty to think about.

The third Saturday in December was our annual installation which saw Master Elect Brother Frazer McBeath Jnr reinstalled into the chair of King Solomon for his second year along with the office bearers who moved round to new offices, we wish everyone well for the ensuing year. Following the installation ceremony, the Festival of St John was held, where we were treated to a fantastic meal prepared by Mrs McBeath, Mrs Mathieson, Mrs Millar and Jennifer for which we are greatly appreciative to them for giving up their time to look after us all. Again, we had a fantastic raffle and an auction after the speeches were completed, great effort brethren.



*Lodge Master, Brother  
Frazer McBeath with  
his Installing Master,  
Brother George  
Robertson, PM*



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Our fundraising and community engagement activities continued on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November when we held a quiz night in the lodge, compere and question setter for the night was Past Master John MacKenzie of Lodge St Duthus No82 who did his usual laid back half comedic performance which went down brilliant.



There was a great raffle which was well supported by the attendees from the community and as a bit of an afterthought we auctioned off a big teddy supplied to Past Master Carrison by the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Raymond MacKeddie, as part of his TLC Teddy initiative. This was won by our 'now' newest Entered Apprentice, Brother Fraser McDougall, well done Fraser and thanks for donating the teddy back to the Lodge for a future auction. This is a great example of introducing prospective new members to a lodge in the informal setting of a social night.

*Brother Fraser McDougall with his winning Teddy which he generously donated back to the Lodge – he has all the makings of being a great asset to Lodge Averon in future years. Well done, Fraser!*





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Friday night the 18<sup>th</sup> of December saw our now infamous 'Santa Run' take place round the various housing estates of Alness, the support for this event is overwhelming and the joy and happiness on the faces of the children (and their parents) would bring a tear to a glass eye. This year it was decided to mix it up a bit and get Santa and his helpers to visit the bars of the Commercial and Station Hotels with their special collection buckets, can we thank Roslyn at the Comm and Jill at the Station and their very generous patrons for the support given to our Lodge Averon In the Community fundraising activities.



*Santa and his Team*



*The Salveson Crescent Grinch - who is it?*



*Mickey helping out*



*Santa in relaxed mode*

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*Negotiations ongoing in the Station Hotel*

*Santa and an elf at an advanced stage of negotiations in Lounge 23 at the Comm*





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Christmas Eve saw our two of our young brethren Brother Brannan and Brother Gordon, draw the Christmas hamper raffle live on face book, it's amazing the technology available to us nowadays.

Winners were Substitute Master James McDougall, Brother Jaye Sinclair from Lodge St Duthus No82 and Depute Master Pete Hermitage, well done guys and thanks to all for entering. Special thanks must go to Brother Brannan for taking all the names and the money for this, it's no mean task, you did great Phil.



*Above left - Brother Jay Sinclair, Lodge St Duthus and his son receiving their hamper from PM Mathieson. Right - one of the fabulous Averon Hampers*

Brother David MacKinnon assisted by Past Master Sutherland and Brother Gary Millar, presented cheques, with monies raised on our Golf Day, to Redwoods Nursing Home Residents Fund, this makes sure that all residents receive a gift at Christmas and they are so grateful, Fox and Friends which is based in the Perrins Centre just along the road from Lodge Averon, they are a small charity who's aim is to build stronger communities through clubs and events, to reduce social isolation and loneliness and boost health and wellbeing for every generation, The Sharing Shed, Evanton which is a fantastic facility which supports those not so well off in their community, and to the Place at the Field for a contribution to their fundraising for a replacement stretch tent, which was destroyed during a storm, they provide a fantastic support service for our young people. To top this off we agreed to fund two months of an initiative by Caroline and Mo from Dalmore Aromas delivering much needed classes, to promote mental health wellness in our community for children and adults alike. Caroline is the wife of our Brother Piper Gavin Sutherland. Over the years she has been a great supporter of our lodge so it's particularly nice to give a little back. Brethren I'm sure you will agree that these are very worthy causes to support, and we thank you all for your efforts over the year assisting in raising funds by donating and attending events.

Our next event will be the annual senior citizens party on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, which I'm sure will be a great success as usual.

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*Redwoods residents with the "presentation team"*



*The Place receiving much needed funds*



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*Senior Warden, Brother MacKinnon at Evanton Sharing Shed*

Past Master Brother Frazer McBeath Snr was out with his disco gear at Fairburn nursing home where his daughter works entertaining the residents at their Christmas party, one of the residents is our late Tyler Jimmy Lowe's daughter Morven. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year Frazer has done this, well done Brother 'DJ'.



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I think an absolutely super way to end the Avern report for the February edition of the Patter is to report something we believe to be unique in the Province – four fathers and sons in the lodge at the same time. The picture was taken on the night Brother Fraser MacDougall was Initiated, the Obligation being administered by his father, Substitute Master, Brother James MacDougall.

In the picture below we have the Carrison's, the McBeath's, the MacDougall's and the Gordon's.



*Brother Carrison/PM Carrison, PM McBeath/The Master McBeath, Sub Master McDougall/Newest EA Brother McDougall, Brother Gordon JW / Brother Gordon*

Well, that's all our winter news so far, and as usual there was far more than I imagined, so thanks again to everyone who helped in any way big or small and to the brethren of other lodges who helped with lectures and quizzes our lodge appreciates it greatly.

I wonder how long it will be till it's time for the May contribution!!!

Kind regards and all the best.

*Brother James MacDougall S.M.*

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

Last May a very successful Seminar was held in Coull House Hotel for Secretaries and Treasurers. This year, I propose to hold a mini seminar for the new Secretaries in the Province and for those Secretaries and Treasurers who could not attend last May.



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## LODGE NESS No 888

We have had a busy and encouraging period within Lodge Ness 888, highlighted by our Installation held on the 9th of December. The ceremony was well attended, with IPGMM Ramsey McGhee installing Brother George Robinson into the Chair in a dignified and memorable manner.



*WRM with the new Master*



*Presentation of clock to the Installing Master*

It was heartening to see such strong support from the brethren, and we look forward with confidence to Lodge Ness continuing to grow and flourish. We were also pleased to see Brother Martin Morrison and Alex McClymont step into their first office, marking an important milestone in their Masonic journey. We thank all involved for their efforts and support.

Brothers Alec Dowie, Ian Wilson, Rob Donaldson and Kenneth McDermott donated three £100 cheques to Sutherland Rugby Club, South Lodge Dance Group and Newmore Primary.



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The Invergordon Christmas Jingle & Mingle Street Fair was a resounding success, raising £2,423 to support future events and be distributed within the local community.



## **Important dates:**

### **28th Feb 2026: Ladies Night at the Lodge.**

Brethren, friends, and family are warmly invited to join Lodge Ness 888, Invergordon, on 28th February 2026 for a memorable Ladies' Night. Expect an evening filled with compliments welcome drink for the ladies, with a fun-filled magic, disco, and karaoke, guaranteed to bring plenty of laughs and great company. A relaxed and entertaining night for all to enjoy.

### **16th May 2026: Lodge Ness Cars and Country.**

Plans are well advanced for the Lodge Ness Invergordon Cars & Country Fair, with all key elements in place to support a successful event. Subject to final confirmations, we anticipate confirming the go-ahead by mid-February. Once confirmed, the fair will include live music, a wide selection of vehicles, local traders, and attractions for all ages, offering a fantastic day out for the community in Invergordon and beyond. Brethren wishing to be involved are encouraged to contact the Lodge.

### **October to March: Regular meetings of Lodge Ness 888, Invergordon.**

Regular meetings of Lodge Ness 888 are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays, from the beginning of October to the end of March, assembling at 19:45 for 20:00 Tyle.

Lodge Ness 888 contact details: E-Mail: [LodgeNess888@outlook.com](mailto:LodgeNess888@outlook.com) | Website: [www.LodgeNess888.co.uk](http://www.LodgeNess888.co.uk)

Cheers for now, *Robert Donaldson* - Lodge Ness 888



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## LODGE KYLE No 1117

A lot has happened in Lodge Kyle in the past few months. We have three new members who all now have their EA degree and the first of them getting their FC degree in February 2026. It's good to see younger men in the Lodge as they literally breathe new life into our old and dusty ways.

The roof has now been repaired with the broken tiles replaced and generally made safe where necessary. We couldn't afford to replace the whole roof as this would be a serious undertaking costing well over what we could afford. We are very happy with the results and pleased the roofers were in The Craft.

In a separate unconnected incident, a month after the roof repairs, the floor collapsed at the entrance to the Lodge due to rotten timber effectively preventing access to the Lodge. More expense we thought but our RWM Brother Steve Whittaker stepped in to save the day. He replaced the timbers and re-floored the entrance. It now looks good as new, and we thank Steve for his hard work and diligence.

This leads nicely to our new initiative called Project '26. This is a major refurbishment of the hall with all Brethren being tasked with duties commensurate with their skill and fitness. There will be a reasonable budget available allowing us to paint the building, rebuild the kitchenette and a general sprucing up of the Hall. We also must do some fitting and installing work to keep our insurance up to date, but this is on-going.

Lastly a cautionary tale. As you know our Treasurer PM Brother Mick Moore passed to The Grand Lodge Above a few months ago, and we were fortunate indeed to have the very experienced Brother Roger Cundiff step into the breach. He contacted the bank (Bank of Scotland) to inform them that Mick Moore had died and that he was the replacement. A large form was filled in by Roger and myself, as I am the Secretary, and one of the two "Signatures" authorised to sign cheques and use the Bank Card. The form disappeared and Roger the Treasurer chased it up over the following weeks and months. As the forms contained personal information on us both, he posted them Recorded Delivery which means the delivery is photographed on arrival at its destination. However, the photo was not of the envelope Roger posted. He again contacted the bank to ask why this had happened and they said they would look into it. Finally, they located the forms but when Roger contacted them, they said as Roger was not a "signature", he would have to get an existing "signature" to verify him as being authorised to handle the Lodge's money. Fortunately, after several attempts I spoke to someone in the correct department who asked me many questions about the latest bank statement ... Suffice to say we managed to get Roger registered with the bank as a signature. In the future we will add a third signature to the account which in theory will allow for continuity in the event of someone dying. Their story however (sadly) does not end there. We still had no access to internet banking and so over the following weeks Roger diligently worked with the bank to gain access to our account's internet banking. We can now see who has paid what and more importantly deduce who has NOT paid their dues, without waiting for the monthly statement in the post. A few days ago, we got a letter of apology from the bank accompanied by reasonable financial compensation for the form filing debacle.

With warmest regards,

*Ronnie Miller*, PM - Secretary

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*Kyle floor before*



*Kyle floor after*

## **BLAST from the PAST – from – February 2000**

### **Another wee gem from the pen of the late Brother Roddy Cade**

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

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

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## **LODGE ROSEHAUGH No 1216**

Not a lot to report meeting wise. We were unable to get a degree worked in November and we had a similar situation in January due to bad weather and with a few office bearers unable to attend due to work commitments we decided just to cancel.

Our installation went ahead as planned in December with Bro George Robinson and his team carrying out an excellent installation.

Our next meeting is scheduled on 6<sup>th</sup> February where we will be holding an EA Degree. Hopefully we can attract a few up in the area for the Lodge Fingal anniversary the next day.

A large crowd attended the war memorial in Avoch in November including a good number of Lodge members where our RWM Graeme Brindle once again laid a wreath on behalf on the Lodge.



Finally, we had our latest winner in our monthly draw winning £85.00 was Margaret Hewat. Margaret (Maggie) is the daughter of our late PM Ian Maclaren, and she decided to continue to pay Ian's Lodge draw. Well done Maggie a very worthy winner.

*Keith Patience*, PM



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## Lodge St Martin 1217

The next regular meeting will be held on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January** when the lodge will tyle at **8.00pm**, the business of the evening will be a first degree. There will be a Special meeting on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January** tiling at **1.00pm**, this is the postponed installation meeting from November. Bro. M Turner PM and his installing team will be carrying out the installation. The lodge will be working a first-degree ceremony on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**, tiling at **8.00pm**.

On the fund-raising side of things, the lodge has been busy with the Mulled Wine stall at the village firework display raising in excess of £450 for lodge funds. The Santa float was another success with over £1200 raised for local children's good causes.

*Charles MacAulay, PM*  
Secretary



*St Martin Santa passing the Ullapool Creel Christmas Tree*

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*St Martin brethren serving up their famous mulled wine.*



*Lodge St Martin Installation*



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It's the beginning of a new epoch in the history of Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551. November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, saw the final Regular Meeting of the Lodge to be held in the Masonic Hall, Aultbea, its home since 1958. Our Regular Meetings for 2026 and onwards will be held in the Masonic Centre, Dingwall. We are currently scheduled to hold three such meetings annually, which are to be on the SECOND Saturdays in MARCH, MAY (PGL R&C Visitation) and SEPTEMBER (Installation). We will be tiling at 11:30am. Details of our March meeting will be given in due course.



Although it is with heavy hearts that we have said goodbye to Aultbea, we now look forward to the dawn of a bright new future for Lodge Loch Ewe.



*Michael Longley*, PM – Lodge Loch Ewe



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## Ye Corporation O' Squaremen Hielan Shed

### VISITS FOR 2026

7<sup>th</sup> MARCH - **INSTALLATION** – GORDON TERRACE – **INVERNESS**

4<sup>th</sup> APRIL – Lodge Fingal – **DINGWALL** – bus leaves Inverness 13:30

2<sup>nd</sup> MAY – Lodge Ness – **INVERGORDON** – bus leaves Inverness 13:30

6<sup>th</sup> JUNE – **GRAND SHED VISIT** – GORDON TERRACE – **INVERNESS 3:00 p.m. sharp**

4<sup>th</sup> JULY – YET TO BE CONFIRMED

1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST – Lodge St Johns (Operative) - **FORRES** - bus leaves Inverness 13:00

5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – Lodge St Clements – **TARBET, HARRIS - PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO Ullapool**

**Overnight stay in Stornoway**

### **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 1999**

Bro John MacKay (Seaforth 854) was then asked to the altar where he was presented with some gifts from the Lodge, followed by Bro Roddie Cade PM, presenting him with Honorary membership. Bro MacKay was afforded this honour for the excellent work he had done for the Lodge by photographing the Past Masters of Lodge Rosehaugh. The photos have been beautifully framed by John and have enhanced the decor of the Lodge.

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## **News from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland**

### **Jamaican Trip 2025**

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December, at the conclusion of the Governance and Strategy Board meeting, I headed south to Gatwick where, the following morning I got a direct flight to Kingston Jamaica.

I was met at the airport by our DGM, Bro Dr Courtney King Palmer and we headed to a small reception of Companions, and thereafter on to the Pegasus Hotel, my home for the next six days.

Saturday morning was warm and pleasant (30 degrees in the shade). We made our way to MacGregor Square, the home of Freemasonry in Kingston. It was good to be back again but so sad to hear the Companions talk of the utter carnage on the west side of the island because of Hurricane Melissa. Everything has been totally destroyed – nothing has been left standing, but the Companions and Brethren are working hard to bring whatever relief they can. It will take many years to get back to any semblance of normality.

The morning was spent in rehearsal for the installation of the new Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Chapter of Jamaica. I was to be assisted in the installation by MEC Col Lemuel Lindo, Acting Second Grand Principal, MEC Errol Wright, Acting Third Grand Principal, MEC Trevor Christian, Acting Grand Scribe E, MEC Horace Reid, Acting Grand D of C along with Jamaican Companions filling all other Offices.

At 15.00 hours on Saturday afternoon, the Installing Team were welcomed into a packed Chapter room by the outgoing Grand Superintendent, MEC Dr Marcel Anderson. After thanking MEC Anderson and his Commission for a tremendous term in Office, I had the great privilege of installing MEC Lt Col Keron Oliver Burrell into Office as Grand Superintendent after which I installed his Deputies, MEC Dr Courtney King Palmer and MEC Radley Reid. The Second and Third Grand Principals and the Scribes were installed by MEC Errol Wright, Acting Third Grand Principal.

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*The Installing Team – MEC's Horace Reid, Lemuel Lindo, FGP, Errol Wright*



*Office-bearers and guests*



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At the conclusion of the Ceremony, we assembled in the well-appointed Refectory for a splendid Banquet and the usual selection of Toasts and Responses, all of which were of the highest order.



*FGP & MEC Keron O Burrell*



*FGP with the Jamaican Companions*

At the Banquet following the Installation, I was completely taken by surprise when I was presented with a huge photo taken in Lodge Fingal in 2008 when the Jamaican Brethren / Companions and their wives visited Dingwall (Lodge Loch Shin and Lodge St Martin also featured while they were in the Highlands.) This photo was taken in Lodge Fingal – sadly, two of the band are no longer with us.



On the Sunday morning, despite a late night on the Saturday, a good number of the Companions attended St Andrew Parish Church. After the service, we had a photo session with the Rector, Very Rev Canon Sirrano Kitson, who is a Past Master of Lodge Caledonian No 544.



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*St Andrew's Church, Kingston*

After Church (Service started at 08.00 and finished at 10.30) we made our way to the HQ of the Jamaica Reserve Force at Up Park Camp where we enjoyed Brunch in the Officers Mess courtesy of Lt Col Keron Burrell, our new Grand Superintendent.



*Army HQ*



*Lodge Seville 530*



*Bro Rafiq Williams who entertained us*

On Monday, it was back to MacGregor Square for another rehearsal. This time it was for the Consecration and Installation of our newest Lodge in the Scottish Constitution – Lodge Ambrose No 1860. After the rehearsal, I enjoyed lunch with our DGM, Bro Dr Courtney King Palmer before heading back to the hotel to get changed for the two-hour drive to St Ann's Bay where we had a most enjoyable night with the Companions of Seville RAC No 823 and Elgin RAC No 835. We witnessed an excellent



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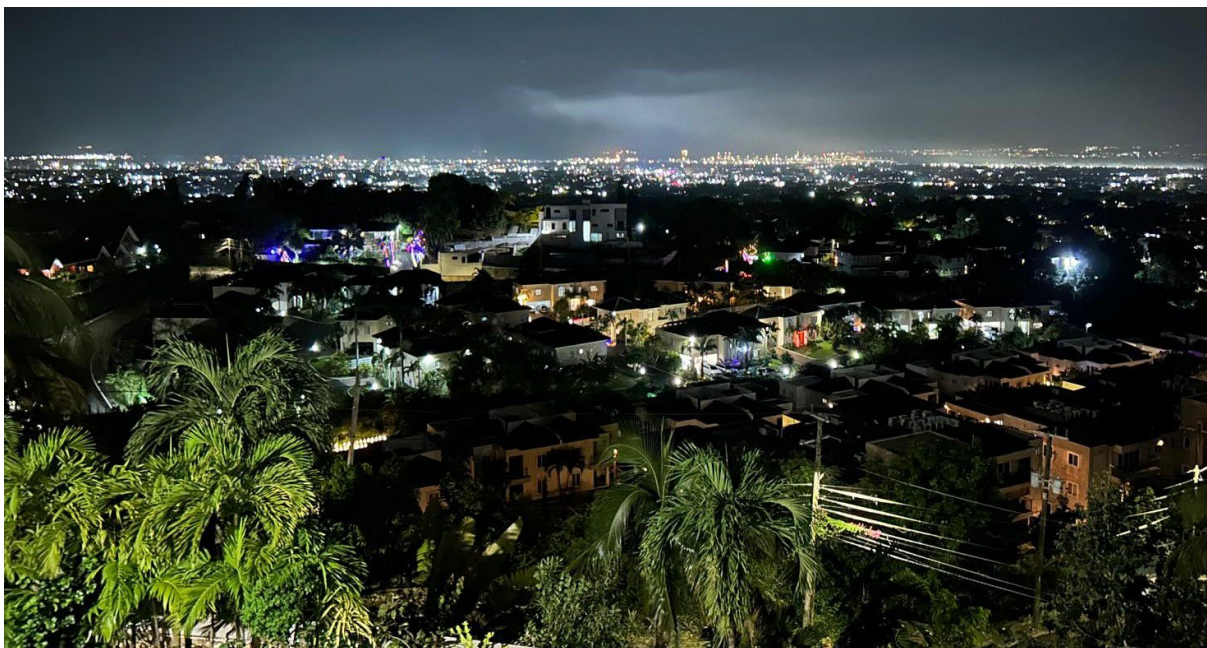
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Installed Mark Master Degree after which we joined the Companions in Harmony before heading back to Kingston.



*FGP and Grand Superintendent with Office-bearers of Seville RAC and Elgin RAC*

Tuesday was an interesting day. In the morning, I met with senior District Grand Lodge brethren for breakfast at 08.30 and thereafter a discussion which lasted until almost 13.00. We covered a multitude of issues before making our way to Up Park Camp again for lunch and another discussion group on Royal Arch issues which lasted all afternoon. In the evening, the DGM hosted a lovely evening at his hilltop home where we enjoyed tremendous hospitality and had the opportunity to meet up with Brethren from all three Constitutions.



*The nighttime view from Brother Courtney King Palmer's residence*



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Wednesday afternoon – 15.00 hours – MacGregor Square – saw a full house for the Consecration and Installation of Lodge Ambrose No1860. The Lodge is so called after the late Brother Alva Anthony

Ambrose Anderson. He is summed up in the Consecration programme as a phenomenal human being, unbelievably talented, gifted, with high intellect, integrity innovativeness with an unmatched passion to serve his fellow men. I had the privilege of meeting Alva some years ago and was very impressed by him. The esteem in which he was held was reflected in the turnout for the ceremony and the fact that there are over sixty founder members.



*Brother Howard Lloyd Hamilton, Master of Lodge Ambrose 1860  
with the IPGM and Brother Courtney King Palmer, DGM of Jamaica*

I was assisted in the ceremony by Brothers Lemuel Lindo (SW), Hervin Ramagolam (JW), Trevor Christian (Secretary), Horace Reid (D of C), Robert Chin (Asst D of C), Rev Canon Peter Clarke (Chaplain), Radley Reid (SD), Michael Vacciana (JD), Winson Lawson (Organist), Raymond McFarlane (IG) and Norman Wright (Tyler). The Ceremony went to plan and after a wee break we resumed labour and I installed the Founder Master, Brother Howard Lloyd Hamilton after which the DGM installed the remaining Office-bearers.

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At the ensuing harmony, we were joined by Alva Anderson's family. His daughter Kerry gave a very moving response to the Toast to the Anderson family.



*IPGM  
with the  
extended  
Anderson  
family*

As is the tradition in Jamaica, each Toast is accompanied with a song – after the Toast to the Craft they sang Vive La Compagnie, after Grand Lodge of Scotland, they sang “Loch Lomond” and so on. A touch different from back home but most enjoyable.

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*IPGM with Professor Marlene Hamilton and Brother Howard L Hamilton – Master of Lodge Ambrose*

I got back to the hotel about midnight and started the case packing ritual ready to be taken to the airport by Brother Dr Courtney King Palmer at eight on the Thursday morning.

It was so good to be back in Jamaica and experience again the warmth of the Jamaican welcome, their hospitality, their love of the Scottish Craft but most of all, their friendship.

The journey home was, thankfully, uneventful and I arrived back in a cold and wet Black Isle at lunchtime on the Friday.

Ramsay McGhee

*My thanks to Brother Richard Gordon who provided the majority of the photographs.*

## **Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter Dates**

Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Grand Superintendents Meeting in Stirling
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Grand Superintendents Meeting – Overseas by Teams
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Installation of new Grand Superintendent – Linlithgowshire
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Installation of new Grand Superintendent – Fife & Kinross



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Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Installation of new Grand Superintendent – Ayrshire
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Installation of new Grand Superintendent – Lanarkshire Middle Ward
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter Installation – Edinburgh
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Installation of new Grand Superintendent – Lanarkshire Upper Ward
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Installation of new Grand Superintendent – Perthshire
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Installation of new Grand Superintendent – Banff, Moray and Nairn

## PROVINCIAL GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER of ROSS & CROMARTY

The Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ross & Cromarty is pleased to announce the schedule for its annual visitations in early 2026. The following dates have been confirmed for the respective chapters:

- Tain & Ross No. 63 – Monday, 23rd February 2026
- Cromarty Firth No. 310 – Wednesday, 4th March 2026
- St Clements No. 244 – Friday, 27th March 2026
- Hebrides No. 364 – Wednesday, 13th May 2026
- Cryptic & Ark Mariners – Thursday, 14th May 2026

All Companions are warmly welcomed to attend these visitations. We look forward to strengthening the bonds of fellowship and celebrating the achievements of our chapters during these important occasions.

For further information, please contact the Provincial Grand Scribe E

### **Tain & Ross Royal Arch Chapter No 63**

The February meeting of Tain & Ross Chapter will take place on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **St Clement Royal Arch Chapter No 244**

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

### **Royal Arch Chapter Hebrides No. 364.**

There have been no degrees carried out other than practice ones, however we did have an application read out at our last meeting so hopefully we'll have a real candidate at the visitation in May.

*Donnie Macleod*

Donald Macleod IPGS R&C

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**FEBRUARY 2026**

## PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

It's been a quiet quarter with only practice grades being carried out so we're on the lookout for new intrants.

†† 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, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 @ 7.30pm**

**(to follow, Maison Dieu working the second part of the grade work)**

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

†† Eric Macgregor DGP

†† Donald Macleod KCT

# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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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

The current row between the United Grand Lodge of England and the Metropolitan Police is history repeating itself as can be seen from this editorial I wrote in 2001. This is why the forthcoming Open Days are so important to the future of the Craft, but they will hopefully act as a worthwhile education programme for those who decry us. *Ed*

### **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2001**

In light of two recent “events”, I have been delighted to see the excellent press coverage we have had throughout the Province in relation to the Millennium Charity Appeal.

The two events I allude to are the Government’s latest onslaught against Police Officers in England and Wales who are in the Craft - they are now trying to make it *compulsory* that all Officers declare the fact that they are Freemasons. If it happens in the south, it will no doubt happen in the north as well - not that it bothers me personally, I have never had any problem in telling everyone who will listen that I am proud to be in the Craft - but there is a principle at stake. The second event is reported under the Lodge Averon News where you will read that teachers from local schools who were to receive donations from the Millennium Appeal were barred from attending by some faceless wonder in the Education Department who has a similar desire to discriminate against the Craft.

It is essential that we maximise any publicity that we can possibly get to positively display that Freemasonry is above all the adverse criticism and uninformed misrepresentation that is rife at the present time.

The stance we have taken in the Province over the past few months is certainly heading us in the right direction.



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## BITS AND PIECES



The 2008 picture, taken by the Jamaican Brethren on their visit to Lodge Fingal – duly returned to four of the Brethren who were present that night.

And now for something completely different – our Champion Installing Master.

Brother George Robinson has carried out almost half of the Installations in the Province – here he is in action -

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*PM George Robinson on his 2025 Installation Tour – left Installing Bro McBeath in 866 – right – installing Bro Brindle in 1216*



*Left – installing Bro Whittaker in 1117 and right installing Bro Bruce in 854*



Brother George Robinson has had a very busy but productive November / December. An expert ritualist, he is big demand throughout the Province.

Sincere thanks for all he does for the Province.

However, one last photo - he even looks the part when given a teddy by the PGM –





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



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



## **BLAST FROM THE PAST - FROM - FEBRUARY 2003**

### **Visit to Morpeth**

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January, Past Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro Victor Shepherd and I had the pleasure of travelling to Morpeth to meet up with Bro David Pringle. From the moment we arrived we were in receipt of David's hospitality.

We had the privilege of accompanying Bro David to Lodge Servavi No 6105. It was really great to see the Lodge full to capacity for the meeting. Among the many Brethren we were introduced to, I was delighted to meet W Brother Kenneth T H Jones who is Past District Grand Standard-bearer in the DG of Lodge Gibraltar and a Member of Lodge Sekondi No 3238 (EC) in Takoradi, Ghana. Given that the *Patter* reaches Ghana, Bro Jones has asked that I convey his greetings to all his friends in that wonderful country. At the conclusion of the meeting, we adjourned to the Banquet Hall where we enjoyed what can only be described as an all singing, all dancing Burns Ceilidh. It was a super night with first class entertainment including a mini pipe band. Bro Vicky and I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and extend our grateful thanks to Bro David Pringle for his excellent organisation and hospitality.