

# PROVINCIAL PATTERN

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

ISSUE NO 73

NOVEMBER 2012

## Editorial

Welcome to the 73<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Patter.

What a shock to the system – after enjoying the heat of Nigeria for 5 days, to come back to the cold in Scotland. However, it was not only the temperature that was hot – the welcome we received from the Nigerian Brethren couldn't have been warmer, their food was hot but we thoroughly enjoyed it and their hospitality knew no bounds.

There is a full report on the trip within the Newsletter but apart from the welcome and the hospitality, the other thing you couldn't help but notice was their enthusiasm – I have every confidence that the new Grand Lodge of Nigeria will prosper given the pride and enthusiasm they displayed. I had the honour and privilege of making the proclamation which declared the new Grand Lodge to be fully consecrated – the manner in which that proclamation was received was truly unbelievable.

The new Grand Lodge and indeed the Lodges within the new Grand Lodge will not be shackled with the “*you can't do that – we've never done it that way in the past syndrome*” They have the freedom, the spirit and the enthusiasm to do whatever they feel is right and pertinent in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to fully promote the virtues of truth, relief and Brotherly Love.

*Ramsay McGhee*, Editor

## Grand Lodge of Scotland

The Installation of the Grand Master Mason will take place in Grand Hall at 12.30 prompt on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

The Installation will be followed by the Festival of St Andrew which will take place in the same venue as last year – The Corn Exchange - The Edinburgh Corn Exchange is situated approximately 2 miles to the south west of Edinburgh city centre, within the moat area of the capital. It is recommended that, if driving to Edinburgh on the day, you should park at the Corn Exchange and take public transport into Grand Lodge. You will then be transported back to the Corn Exchange on the free busses from Grand Lodge. Full information about public transport can be found on the following website:

<http://www.edinburghcornexchange.com>

## Provincial Grand Lodge:

Our new Masonic Season has got under way with all the Lodges in the Province in full swing and I wish them every success in the times ahead and hopefully we will see new candidates coming forward.

The Reigning Master's Forum was held within Lodge Fingal No 318 on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012 and I was most disappointed by the poor representation from the Daughter Lodges.

The Province is being greatly honoured by a visit from the District Grand Master and Brethren of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada. After attending the Grand Lodge Installation on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November, they will journey North and attend a meeting of St. Clement RAC No 244 on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November and this will be followed by a visit to the Installation Meeting of Lodge Seaforth No. 854 on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012. A good attendance of Companions and Brethren at these meetings would be much appreciated.

We are now approaching the time of the Daughter Lodges Installations and I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the outgoing Masters for their time and effort in promoting their Lodges in a variety of ways. To their successors, I would offer my congratulations on being elected as Masters of their Lodges and wish them every success and an enjoyable time.

Likewise I offer my congratulations to all the Office – bearers who will be Installed into office and wish them every success.

Hopefully I can attend the majority of the Daughter Lodge Installations or otherwise will be represented by the Depute or Substitute Provincial Grand Masters. The Installation Ceremony at Lodge Fortrose No 108 on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012 will be carried out by a Provincial Installing Team led by Immediate Past Provincial Grand Master Brother W Ramsay McGhee.

Continued /

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I would also advise that I wish to continue with Blythswood Highland Foodbank as my chosen Charity and again donations will be gratefully received through the Daughter Lodges. These donations have been much appreciated by the Highland Foodbank co-coordinators and should you have any items for collection, then please advise me accordingly.

Having attended the Grand Lodge Communication of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012, it was heart warming to hear of Brother Charles I.R. Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont being re – elected for a further term as Grand Master Mason. I was also delighted that Brother W. Ramsay McGhee will be continuing as Grand Director of Ceremonies, an office which he fulfils with great dignity and efficiency.

May I also express my thanks to all the Brethren and Families who attended the Provincial Grand Lodge Annual Divine Service held within Lodge Fingal No 318. Thanks also to Brother Rev. Iain Ramsden for conducting the service and with an inspiring address. Further thanks also to all the Brethren who attended the Provincial Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication held within Lodge Ness No, 888 on 6<sup>th</sup>. November 2012. Your support is much appreciated.

As we also approach the Festive Season, may I wish all Brethren, Wives, Partners and Families a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.

*William Ross*  
Provincial Grand Master

## From The Provincial Almoner

Fortunately there is not too much to report this month but sadly I must again start with recording the passing to the Grand Lodge Above of three of our Brethren. The Brethren are - Bro Rev. Gordon Holroyd, Past Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro. Basil Lee of Lodge Rosehaugh and Past Master Murray Harper, Lodge Fingal. They all passed away during October and will be greatly missed by us all both personally and for their work and interest in freemasonry. Our deepest and most sincere sympathies go out to their respective families.

All the brethren mentioned in my last report in August are now home but some are still receiving treatment and attending hospital clinics. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing them all the best during their recovery process.

I would close by re-iterating what I have said in the past. If you require my services or you know of any brother who does please do not hesitate to get in contact with me.

*David MacMaster,*  
Provincial Grand Almoner  
Tel: 01997 421306 email: [david@strathpeffer.net](mailto:david@strathpeffer.net)

Brethren – our Almoner, Bro David MacMaster is not keeping in the best of health himself and was due to have been operated on in Aberdeen over a week ago. Unfortunately, due to an emergency operation, David's op was cancelled and he is now awaiting another date. I'm sure you will all wish to join with me in passing on our best regards to him and that we hope the new date will be sooner rather than later and that he will have a speedy return to good health. *Editor*

## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE WEBSITE

For up to the Minute information and back copies of the Provincial Patter – access the Provincial Website on - <http://www.pgrossandcromarty.org.uk/>

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## FROM THE LODGES

### Lodge St Duthus No 82



Well Brethren, the session started off pretty slow with us here in Tain - we had our committee meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> September and made a good job of chewing the fat. We were able to get a full house of Office-bearers which was very pleasing and, as we had not met for some time, the craic was pretty good.

The programme for the session will be as follows:

5 <sup>th</sup> November	1st Degree
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Installation of Alan Pett and Office-bearers
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	2nd Degree
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas Party for the over 60s
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1st Degree

Next year will be set out at a later date.

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov we are to present a 50 year Jubilee Diploma to Brother Alex Ross, who is flying up from the south of England before both he and his wife leave for Australia. On Monday the 19<sup>th</sup> November Bro Tom Anderson, PM will also be presented with his 50 year Diploma

As we had no candidate for our meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> October we had a mock candidate which went very well.

We had only one visitor that evening PPGM Brother Morris Downie. As we had the diplomas for two new candidates he presented them in the way only Morris can do it.

On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October the Meeting was our AGM and nomination and election of Office Bearers - again we had only the one visitor who was the WJW from Lodge 827. There was a good turnout for the Provincial Grand Lodge Divine service in Lodge Fingal on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

SIX Quizzes's held in Lodge St Duthus between December 2011 and June 2012 resulting in the magnificent sum of £3644.00 being raised for various Charities namely: Riding for the Disabled - Alzheimer's Scotland - The British Legion and CLIC Sargent. We are thinking of running one for ourselves some time in the near future.

Well Brethren, that seems to be all for this time - I will have to say cheerio to you all now as PM David Macrae is to take over from me shortly. It has been a pleasure to be able to communicate with you all in this way. I am not running away so you will have to put up with me else where!!

*Iain Sinclair*

Secretary

Choose the life that is most useful, and habit will make it the most agreeable. – *Francis Bacon*

He who has overcome his fears will truly be free. – *Aristotle*

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## Lodge Fortrose No 108

At our regular meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> August we welcomed into our lodge Past Master Bro Robert Smith along with 7 other brethren from Lodge Thistle No. 270 from West Calder paying a return visit. The connection with this lodge was made through one of their past masters, Tom Paton. Tom, who now lives and works in Lewis, has affiliated to 108 and is a very regular attendee at all the orders that meet here in Stornoway. That evening a second degree was worked by our own brethren and at the conclusion of all the business PM Sandy Matheson unveiled a plaque to commemorate all of the brethren of 108 who fell during the second world war and all other conflicts since 1918. As you would expect from PM Matheson he gave a very fitting talk in which he mentioned that our oldest past master Bro Kenny Nicolson worked at Bletchley Park during World War 11. Kenny had kept this secret from us for a long time.



The unveiling of War Memorial plaque by Past Master Sandy Matheson OBE, Lord Lieutenant.

Last Saturday afternoon, i.e. 3<sup>rd</sup> November, we welcomed 11 brethren from Skye led by Bro Brian Smith RWM of Lodge St Kilda No. 881. They worked an excellent 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, very different from ours, unfortunately it was on a stand in candidate as we had no “live” ones available.

As you can imagine, this meeting was followed by a very harmonious evening. The Skye men had to leave Stornoway very early on Sunday morning as their ferry was leaving Tarbert at 7am. We are now looking forward to St John’s when members of The Provincial Grand Lodge of R&C will be carrying out the installation of our new RWM. On the following day we will be making our way as a deputation to Lodge St Clement’s No. 1353 in Tarbert, accompanied, I believe, by 1 or 2 provincial members to carry out the installation of their new RWM.

Just as a matter of interest, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September five former Rangers players visited the lodge after attending a function at the Lewis and Harris Rangers Supporters Club. All five are members of various lodges in the Glasgow area, Willie Henderson, Davie Wilson, Colin Jackson, John Macdonald, and Bobby Russell all were very impressed with the lodge room and so impressed with the snooker table that they nearly missed their plane back to Glasgow.

# PROVINCIAL PATTEN

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## Robertson's Lodge No 134

Hi Brethren

Just a brief update on what's been happening in Cromarty.

Our RWM David Franklin is back in his rightful chair after a well deserved prolonged holiday and in fact chaired our last meeting. This was a well attended meeting at which a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree was worked by Lodge Allan Wilson in conjunction with Lodge Rosehaugh. It was a well worked degree and the Deputation was led by our own PM Jonathan Hill, currently the RWM of Lodge Allan Wilson. The candidate was Jonathan's son Ciaran, a member of our Lodge. This had been in the planning and it was great to see it come into effect. Our thanks go out to all who made it a success.

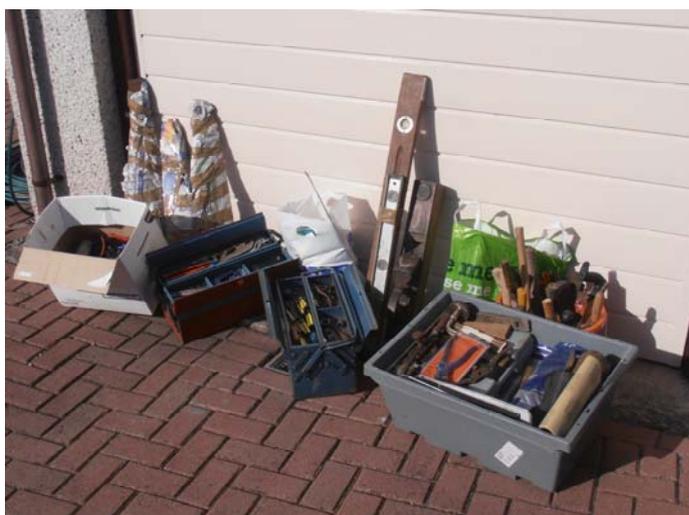
Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 21 November, 2012 at 7.45 p.m. and this will be our Annual General Meeting and nomination of office bearers. A good attendance of Members would be appreciated. If any do not want to take office, this is not a problem but your attendance and opinions would be very much appreciated for the good harmony and running of the lodge. Visitors will be made welcome but the business will be as stated.

The next meeting of 19 December, 2012 at 7.45 p.m. will be our Installation and, resulting in the AGM of November 2012, it is hoped that our Senior Warden, Bro Neil Cooper will be going into the Chair. Due notification will be given after the AGM. All visitors will be very welcome and this will be a full installation with the usual Harmony to follow.

With the festive season looming upon us and all the various installations coming up may we take this opportunity from all at '134' to pass on our fraternal greetings and look forward to meeting up at the meetings ahead.

*James A Tait, PM*

Secretary



Some of the tools that have been sent to Mountain View School in Malawi.

The latest update that we have is that the container should reach Malawi mid-November.

Let's hope that Christmas at Mountain View will be a good one this year with the arrival of the tools.

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## Highland Hospice

The next major fund raising event in the Hospice Calendar is the “**Brain Game**” which, this year, will take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November (THIS FRIDAY) in the Iron Works, Inverness. It would be great if we could see a Provincial Team taking part for the first time or indeed if any of the Lodges wished to take part that would be tremendous. Entry forms can be had from Linda MacDonald or Amanda Burt at the Hospice on 01463 243 132 or through myself.

If you take care of the small things, the big things take care of themselves. You can gain more control over your life by paying closer attention to the little things.

—Emily Dickinson

## Lodge Fingal No 318



**October:** seen us back at work, with a business meeting, which was followed by a lecture given by PM John Patience of Lodge Rosehaugh, on the hidden mysteries related to the Templar Knights. John managed to talk for some 20 minutes, this was well received by the brethren on the night.

**November meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> is our annual A.G.M. and nomination of Office Bearers, with an affiliation for Bro. Alastair Fraser Gault and Bro. Stephen Richard Gair.

**December meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> with an E.A. degree for a Mr Robert Donald Cassie, whose late father was a member of Fingal.

**Special meeting:** 29<sup>th</sup> December, is our annual Installation of our RWM Elect Bro Ivan Warwick and election of Office Bearers at 3p.m., followed by the Festival of St. John in the Logie Lounge, there after the Ladies are welcome to come along, with a wee dance to Mike Samms, to finish the day off.

On a sadder note, the Lodge has seen the passing of 3 Brethren to the Grand Lodge above:

Donald (Donnie Ettaches) MacKenzie 25/08/2012

Rev Gordon Holroyd 11/10/2012

PM Murray Harper 12/10/2012

Our thoughts and wishes are with their widows.

## Events Logie Lounge:

November 24<sup>th</sup>: St Andrews Theme Night by David Ross – with entertainment by Mike Samms.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space.

*D. Gunn P.M.  
Secretary.*

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## Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

One of the foremost Masonic Historians in the country, Bro Trevor Stewart, a Past Master of both the Quatuor Coronati Lodge No 2076 in London and Lodge Sir Robert Moray, No 1641 in Edinburgh was the guest speaker at Lodge Allan Wilson in August.

There was an excellent turnout of Brethren present to listen to Bro Stewart who took as his subject – Oral History – a subject that is gathering momentum in the Craft at the current time through the auspices of the Scottish Masonic Materials Group.

Bro Stewart had everyone involved and, through his innovative presentation, managed to elicit from the Brethren a significant number of pertinent questions that could be gainfully used in any Oral History Project.

Once equipment has been sourced and training completed, it is hoped that Lodge Allan Wilson members will take a lead on Oral History within the Province given the number of worthy and respected Brethren whose experiences go back over 80 plus years throughout the Province.

The Master, Bro Jonathan Hill thanked Bro Stewart for a most enlightening and thought provoking presentation to which the Brethren responded in the traditional manner.

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, the Brethren of Lodge Allan Wilson led by their Master, Bro Jonathan Hill and well augmented by the Brethren of Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216, travelled to Cromarty to work a MM Degree. The candidate on the evening was Brother Hill's son Kiernan. The Degree went well and the large turnout of Brethren demonstrated their acknowledgement of a job well done in the customary manner.

## Lodge Seaforth No 854

It's said that as we get older time seems to pass quicker and I must say that seems to be true. It feels like no time at all that I was typing up the entry for the August Patter and here we are now into November.

Our season has got off to a good start with a lecture in September & a business meeting in October. The meetings we have organised for the rest of the year are as follows:-

November 19 <sup>th</sup>	AGM & Election of Office Bearers
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Installation
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Evening of Readings and Carols (Wives and Partners cordially invited to join us for this followed by a cup of tea.

Our Installation this year will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in December rather than the second Saturday due to us having a deputation from Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada. This will start at 3.00pm and all are welcome. If you intend to stay for the meal afterwards please let our Secretary Ramsay McGhee know as numbers are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Our evening of Carols & Readings was started last year with a great success, enjoyed by all who attended. The Lodge will be opened & closed, after which our Wives & families will join us for the occasion.

The first 3 meetings of 2013 will be a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree respectively.

I would like to end by wishing you all a Happy Festive Season and a Successful Installation Season and all the best for 2013.

*Cochrane Donald P.M.*

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## Lodge Averon 866

We started our session on Thursday 11th October. Our first meeting is usually a business meeting, but, on this occasion Bro George Robinson RWM had invited Bro Iain Sutherland RWM of Lodge Seaforth to give us an explanation of the three tracing boards. This would be Seaforth returning our earlier visit. The Seaforth deputation was headed by Bro Iain Sutherland RWM. After the usual pleasantries were concluded Bro Iain took over the chair from Bro George. The first tracing board was explained by Bro Iain Sutherland RWM, the second by Bro Gwyn Phillips WSW and the third by Bro Alasdair Taylor WJW. After accepting the gavel back Bro George thanked and congratulated the Brothers for the fine explanations, the lodge showed their appreciation in the usual fashion.

On Thursday 25th we had an entered apprentice degree with Mr. Keith Baur being the candidate. He will have his FC degree on Thursday 8th Nov.

Our fund raising committee are actively pursuing ways of doing exactly that!!

A few of us attended the Divine service in Fingal which was delivered by Rev Bro Iain Ramsden Grand Chaplain and was enjoyed by all. The wee boy Jim was so cute.

Lodge Averon would like to congratulate Rev Bro William Wallace Niven on receiving his 60 year certificate from Grand Lodge and the gifts he received from Inverness and Ross and Cromarty Provincial Grand Lodges. Keep going Gunga Din.

Bro Calum MacKenzie RWM elect will be installed on Saturday 15th December. The Installation Ceremony will commence at 15:00. (3pm in old money).

*Henry MacInnes*



While the tools may not have arrived yet, a collection of hand made dolls from the residents of the Marine Nursing Home in Rosemarkie have arrived at the Mountain View School.

Rumour has it that when the residents saw the pictures they decided to start another batch – watch this space!!!!

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## Lodge Ness 888

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of August we had our fun run up Fyrish, taking part was our RWM, his son David, S McCaughey and A Webster from Ness and RWM and D Mathieson from Averon, although this was a fun run a prize of £100 was up for the first MM past the post which was won by D. Forsyth. This was followed by a very successful BBQ in the Macleod gardens which was well attended.



Since the re-launch of our web site [www.lodgeness888](http://www.lodgeness888) I have received two enquiries from individuals regarding their respective grand-fathers, both of whom were initiated into 888 during the 1st World War while stationed in the Cromarty Firth. As soon as I can glean further information, I will do a wee update for the next edition of the Patter.

We opened this session with a double Mark degree followed by a double First degree and it looks as if we are having a double Mark degree on the 13<sup>th</sup> and our AGM on the 27<sup>th</sup> and Re-installation on the 11<sup>th</sup> December. So it appears that all is going well at present.

Looking forward to meeting brethren in coming months,

*R.W. Morrison.*

PM - Secretary.

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## **LODGE KYLE No 1117**

The Master, Bro Ronnie Miller, is convinced that good web-sites create interest in what Lodges are up to and involved in. They had evidence of that in Kyle during the summer and likewise as is mentioned in the Ness contribution, they too have had enquiries from their web-site. Bro Miller has an IT company that can design and implement web-sites for Lodges, individuals or businesses and he would be pleased to quote for that but he also very kindly offers to assist Lodges who do not have web-sites to up load information about meetings etc onto the Provincial web-site. Feel free to contact Bro Miller at any time for advice or guidance.

The big news from Kyle of course is that they celebrate their Centenary on the 25<sup>th</sup> May next year. Arrangements are already being made for the event and it is in the Grand Lodge calendar. So, watch this space for more news about the Kyle Centenary.

## **Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216**

We reconvened after the summer recess on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October with a fellow craft degree and Bro Hickey who joined in May was the candidate. There was a few other events going on this evening and this did not help the attendance but it did not deter from an excellent evening. Our November meeting was our AGM and Bro John Patience gave a lecture on Austrian Freemasonry which was very interesting and well received by the Brethren.

Our next meeting will be our Installation with Bro Scott Patience taking over as RWM. Scott is getting married on 10<sup>th</sup> November to Leslie and is managing to fit in his honeymoon prior to taking on his high office. The Brethren wish to pass on the good wishes to the happy couple.

The Lodge are once again holding the Annual Christmas parties and they will be held in the Function room on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

We have also had a couple of Brethren who passed onto the Grand Lodge above in recent weeks. Bro Basil Lee (Bogallan) died on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in Raigmore after a short illness. Basil was a member of Orion in the West Lodge No 415 EC and an Affiliate member of The Lodge No 3334EC. He did affiliate to Lodge Rosehaugh in May 1991 and was a regular member for many years. We have also heard of the passing of Bro Donald Main Jack Patience originally from Avoch who lived in Inverness and this was on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

*Keith Patience*, PM  
Secretary

## **Lodge St Martin 1217**

The Installation of Bro. Stephen Smith and his Office-bearers will be held in the Masonic Hall, Argyle Street, Ullapool, on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012. It is intended to open the Lodge at 7.30pm to conduct the Regular business and admit visiting Brethren for the Installation ceremony at 8.00pm.

*Charles MacAulay*, PM  
Secretary

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## Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

We commenced our season in September and, to date, have been conducting business meetings twice a month.

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2012 we will be holding the Installation Ceremony for our RWM - Elect Gibby Hassell and his team of Office Bearers and it goes without saying that we look forward to seeing as many of you who enjoy the hospitality of the Lodge Loch Ewe Brethren and Office Bearers on this auspicious occasion. As usual it is an evening kick-off at 8 pm (business meeting at 7.30 pm) with the harmony taking place in the Aultbea Hotel directly afterwards.

It is no secret that these are difficult times in all spheres of society and our fraternity is no exception and this phenomenon has not been lost on the RWM and Office Bearers in this picturesque pocket of Wester Ross who have been active in determining how best to harness interest and enthusiasm for our beloved Craft and the part it plays in our everyday lives.

A colloquialism such as 'there's gold in them thar hills' springs to mind and in the 50+ years of Freemasonry in Lodge Loch Ewe it cannot be denied that some real gems of Brethren have sprung from around the shores of Loch Ewe and its catchment areas of Poolewe (only 7 miles away from Aultbea) and Gairloch (a further 7 miles away heading east); so why the apparent current lack of candidates? – Open Days have been tried in Aultbea itself with interest always being shown by the public but no recent fruit borne from the hard efforts and industry of the lodge stalwarts which, although a bit disconcerting, does not lessen the input from the regular masons in the community on meeting nights! In the last few years we have had a couple of candidates which is encouraging and those visiting brethren who come to our Annual Lodge Installations and PGL Visitations cannot be anything but in awe of what we can conjure up on these occasions ( a bit of music ensemble and the odd theatrical turn have been witnessed!) and it will be of no great surprise to learn that this 'thinking' is ongoing throughout and beyond the Masonic season in this jewel in the much bedecked crown of Ross-shire – a jewel which burns bright internally but perhaps requires polishing via some other new initiatives?

At the recent Reigning Masters forum held by PGL on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October I was heartened to hear from RWM Ronnie Miller of Lodge Kyle No. 1117 of a Brother who had been absent for around 8 years returning to the lodge and giving a virtuoso performance on ritual, as if he had never been away. The Office Bearers of 1551 have never been short of endeavour in trying to bring brethren back to the lodge (for they are still brethren) be it by way of amnesty or other enticement (what could be better than a meeting night and a bit of 'craic' afterwards at harmony?). The proof of the pudding, unfortunately, has not seen many, apart from an odd affiliation, coming through the portals.

Lodge Loch Ewe is my affiliated Lodge and, at the first meeting of the season of my Mother Lodge Fingal No. 318 on 9<sup>th</sup> October I spoke with Brother Ally Gault, from Lodge St. Andrew No. 601 who has accompanied me on several lodge visits, mentioning that I was heading to Aultbea two nights later when PPGM Morris Downie offered to give me a lift and that he was being accompanied by the RWPGM Billy Ross. The presence, and the awareness, of these well experienced representatives of the Ross-shire hierarchy on the meeting night itself led to an exchange of ideas which we hope and trust will help to ignite a welcome spark in some quarter(s).

Readers of the 'Patter' will, I hope, always welcome and share ideas through its column inches and I also hope that this contribution hits a nerve or two in illustrating the challenges which are out there.

*Andrew M. Henderson*

Almoner

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## The Sinclair Bruce Diary

The first meeting for Lodge Seaforth for the coming season was held on Monday the 17th September. It took the form of a business meeting with many items on the agenda, all given time and scrutiny and passed or rejected on the majority vote. We had five visiting Lodges including two Canadian Lodges, all of whom received a warm, friendly and cordial welcome from all present. After closing the Lodge we retired to the club rooms where we listened intently to a lecture delivered by the PPGM Brother Ramsay McGhee that captivated his audience and received well earned praise. The lecture was supported by a film where Ramsay pointed out all areas etc relative to his lecture. After questions and answers we all enjoyed the usual tea/coffee cakes and sandwiches. This was another evening in our Masonic journey well worth remembering.

I must conclude now as the time has come to go to press. It is understandable that my Diary is short as June July and August are months of little or no activity within our beloved Craft.

## *Sinclair Bruce*

### THE SENIOR WARDEN

*By J. Werge  
Glasgow, Scotland.*

Of a' the seats within our ha'  
I dearly lo'e the West;  
For here the brethren, great and sma'  
At parting hae been blest;  
And memory lends her ready aid  
Recalling all the past;  
The many times we've met and prayed  
It might not be the last.

Assembled in our Sacred ha'  
We're with our Order blest,  
For by the great unerring law,  
We're lowly in the West,  
Before us we have wisdom's light  
And beauty shining there,  
Here strength to keep the work aright  
By acting on the Square.

Each time we're Brothers, Brothers a',  
And every worthy guest,  
For here we to the Level fa'  
E'en Kings are like the rest;  
They may be great in Church and State,  
Or any other sphere;-  
The poor, the rich, the low, the great,  
Are on a level here.

This symbol tells us once and a'  
Who with the light are blest,  
How grand and mighty structures fa'  
And mingle in the West.  
When faith must be our password on  
To the celestial goal,  
Where Kings and peasants stand as one  
On the GRAND MASTER'S roll.

*May I thank Bro Kenneth Jack for submitting the foregoing poem.*

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## BITS AND PIECES

### The Grand Lodge of Nigeria

#### Visit to Tinapa, Calabar to Consecrate the new Grand Lodge of Nigeria.

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012, I met up with the Grand Master Mason, Bro Charles Iain R Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont, Bro George Dunlop, Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Ireland and Bro Barry Lyons, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Ireland in the Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport from where we travelled to Abuja, Nigeria.

We were met at Abuja by the two District Grand Secretaries – Bro Reginald Abbey-Hart (SC) and Bro Frank-Igwe (IC) who, along with their colleagues arranged for all luggages to be safely transported to the hotel where we spent our first night in Nigeria.

After a welcome rest, the party returned to Abuja Airport on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October and flew to Calabar where the Grand Master Mason and the Grand Master of Ireland were officially welcomed to Calabar by the Grand Master of Nigeria (Elect), Bro His Majesty Nnaemeka Alfred Achebe, Obi of Ontisha. Accompanied by an armed escort from the Nigerian Police Force, we sped from the airport to the Tinapa Hotel and Conference Centre, Calabar where the majority of the weekend activities would take place.



*The welcome lunch at Calabar – left to right:*

*Bro George Dunlop, GM of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, Bro His Majesty Nnaemeka Alfred Achebe, the Grand Master Mason, Bro Charles Iain Robert Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont and Bro Barry Lyons, Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Ireland.*

Having enjoyed a very welcome lunch, everyone joined the convoy again and headed back into Calabar where first, was a visit to Lodge Hope No 1156 (SC). Lodge Hope was erected and consecrated in 1916 as the first Scottish Lodge in Calabar. From Lodge Hope, we travelled to Lodge MacDonald No 197 (IC) which was the first Irish Lodge to be consecrated in Nigeria in 1897. The visits were most enjoyable and informative. Indeed Lodge Hope was the only Lodge I've been in where they had their own cemetery in the grounds.

During the evening we enjoyed the hospitality of the Nigerian Brethren at a cocktail reception in the hotel.

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November – temperature just over 30 degrees – there was a mass exodus of Brethren to the Palace of a local king, Brother His Majesty Dr Etim Okon Edet and his Council of Traditional Rulers where we were well received and presented with traditional long tooth cleaning implements in decorative carrying cases.

From there we travelled to the HQ of the Nigerian Union of Journalists in Calabar where a press conference had been arranged. Journalists from both local and national papers were present along with colleagues from radio and television. Many of the questions fired at the panel were as expected, but one journalist came away with a

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totally unexpected question – what is the view of Freemasons on single sex marriages – a question that was very tactfully dealt with by the Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge of Ireland indicating that Freemasonry as a body had no political or religious views and that such a question was one for individuals to come to terms with. It should be noted that subsequent to the Press Conference, the Consecration of the new Grand Lodge received excellent positive coverage from all media disciplines.



Immediately after breakfast on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the Scottish and Irish Deputations accompanied by a goodly number of Nigerian Brethren were greatly privileged to travel to the Palace of the Obong of Calabar, His Eminence Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V, Obong of Calabar, Natural Ruler, Treaty King and the Grand Patriarch of the Efik Eburutu Kingdom. The entire party were given a very warm welcome by the King and his Council of Traditional Rulers. Speeches were made by the King, by the Grand Master of Ireland and by our own Grand Master Mason after which photographs were taken outside the Palace.

On the Friday afternoon, the Grand Master Mason and the Grand Master of Ireland paid a visit to the Governor of Cross River State, His Excellency, Liyel Imoke while I, along with the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ireland made arrangements to hold a rehearsal ahead of the Consecration on the Saturday. The Rehearsal lasted quite some time but proved its worth on the day.

About 7.00 pm on the Friday night, the convoy was on the move again – this time to the home of Bro Chief Charles Okon where we were treated once again to truly exceptional hospitality. On returning to the hotel, it was time for a reasonably early night before the big day dawned.

While it was my intention to start the Consecration of the new Grand Lodge of Nigeria on time, due to the fact that the conference centre ran out of chairs, the start was delayed by twenty minutes. Over 500 Brethren were packed into the room when the MW Grand Master Mason entered to open the Grand Lodge of Scotland. He was

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assisted by MW Bro Charles William Stanley-Pierre, GM of Ghana in the office of Acting Grand Senior Warden, Bro Charles Johnson, DGM of Bahamas in the office of Acting Junior Grand Warden and Bro Rev Canon Josephus Jaja, Acting Grand Chaplain.



The Ceremony of Consecration followed the normal procedure with a few new changes. After the Three-fold Blessing the Grand Master Mason dedicated the new Lodge Regalia in an exemplary manner much to the delight of those present while the Acting Grand Chaplain, Bro Rev Josephus Jaja made an equally fine job of dedicating the new VSL presented to the Grand Lodge of Nigeria by the Grand Lodge of Scotland. A further change was, instead of singing Psalm 22 to its usual tune, (which the majority of Brethren at home don't know anyway), the organist, Bro Amoniya G Festus, played Amazing Grace. The result was unbelievable with singing that was worthy of being recorded. At the conclusion of a very impressive Consecration Ceremony, the Grand Master handed over the emblem of authority to MW Bro George Dunlop, Grand Master of Ireland who, with his Office-bearers, installed the first Grand Master of Nigeria, Bro His Majesty Nnaemeka Alfred Achebe, Obi of Ontisha. Thereafter the new Grand Master installed all of his Office-bearers.

At the conclusion of both Ceremonies, the hall was cleared in preparation for the Banquet. Of necessity, the Banquet was a fairly lengthy evening by the time an excellent meal was enjoyed, speeches were given and responded to and a significant number of presentations were made.

After the excitement of the Consecration, it was expected that the Sunday would be a fairly quiet day but it proved to be nothing of the sort. After breakfast the Brethren returned to the Conference Centre where Bro the Rev Canon Josephus Jaja conducted a Thanksgiving Service which was well attended and inspirational to say the least. Again the singing was truly marvellous.

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The Service was followed by a post Consecration and Installation Banquet which lasted well into the Sunday afternoon. However, the Grand Master Mason and I along with the Grand Master and Grand Secretary of Ireland were driven to the private residence of His Eminence Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V where he entertained with drinks and an evening meal.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November marked the departure of the Scottish and Irish Deputations. The entire trip was exceptionally well managed by the Nigerian Brethren, especially by Grand Secretary, Brother Reginald Abbey-Hart whose attention to detail was outstanding.

Both the Grand Master Mason and I thank the Nigerian Brethren for their extraordinary hospitality and wish the new Grand Lodge of Nigeria every success in the years ahead.



- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Top left:     | At the Palace of His Eminence Edidem Ekpo Okon Abasi Otu V, Obong of Calabar |
| Top Right:    | Outside Lodge MacDonald in Calabar   |
| Bottom left:  | Part of Craft Village near to the Hotel complex                              |
| Bottom Right: | Part of our armed escort waiting outside Lodge MacDonald                     |

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## Royal Arch

Date	Chapter	Meeting	Time
07/11/12	Cromarty Firth	Regular	08.00pm
13/11/12	Tain & Ross	Regular	07.30pm
13/11/12	Hebrides	Regular	08.00pm
25/11/12	St Clement	Regular	07.45pm
05/12/12	Cromarty Firth	Regular	08.00pm
11/12/12	Tain & Ross	Regular	07.30pm
11/12/12	Hebrides	Regular	08.00pm
08/01/13	Tain & Ross	Regular	07.30pm
08/01/13	Hebrides	Regular	08.00pm
25/01/13	St Clement	Regular	07.45pm
06/02/13	Cromarty Firth	Grand Sup Visit	08.00pm
12/02/13	Tain & Ross	Grand Sup Visit	07.30pm
12/02/13	Hebrides	Regular	08.00pm
22/02/13	St Clement	Grand Sup Visit	07.45pm
06/03/13	Cromarty Firth	Regular	08.00pm
12/03/13	Tain & Ross	Regular	07.30pm
12/03/13	Hebrides	Regular	08.00pm
29/03/13	St Clement	Regular	07.45pm
03/04/13	Cromarty Firth	Regular	08.00pm
09/04/13	Hebrides	Regular	08.00pm
26/04/13	St Clement	Regular	07.45pm

### Supreme Grand Chapter Meetings – 2012

Half Yearly Convocation – 21<sup>st</sup> December 2012 in Freemasons Hall, 96 George Street, Edinburgh

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## **St Clement RAC No 244 –**

The Companions of St Clement RAC look forward to welcoming a large Deputation of Companions from the District Grand Chapter of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada to their Regular Meeting on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November. We will be working the Royal Arch Degree that evening and the 1<sup>st</sup> Principal, Fred Fraser would be delighted to welcome Companions from throughout the Province into the Chapter.

## **Cromarty Firth RAC No 310.**

Hello companions, as most of you know we started our season with the Installation of companion Thomson into the chair and his first duty will be conferring the RA degree on companion Steve Lyon on the 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. Our next meeting will be on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. and I look forward to meeting companions throughout the season.

*Raymond Morrison, PZ.*

## **Royal Arch Hebrides No 364**

The elections and installations of the RA, Ark Mariner and Cryptic Council have been carried out and all the offices have been filled. We wish all the new office bearers all the best for the next 2 years more particularly Ian McCulloch who was installed as 1<sup>st</sup> Principal and George M Macleod as TIM & MEC.

*D MacLeod*

## PRECEPTORY OF THE WESTERN ISLES

John Robertson was installed as the new preceptor at our October muster and we would render him all our best wishes for the next 2 years.

*Donnie Macleod*

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## The Squaremen

The last meeting of the present season of Heilan Shed No. 6 took place on Saturday 1st September, when the crew left Inverness in the morning heading for Durness in two mini buses.

The journey went well with only one mishap, a broken side window caused by the horrendous windy conditions which prevailed in the north west.

The meeting was late in starting owing to one candidate travelling from London to attend the meeting and another having to leave to attend to his sheepdogs.

The Worthy Deacon, Bri. Andrew Fraser couldn't have had a finer meeting to finish his term in office as there were 6 candidates who joined the Corporation. There was also a reasonably good attendance of Squaremen in attendance, from all over the north. The lectures were carried out in an exemplary manner by all presenters and the meeting was enjoyed by all present. At the conclusion the Heilan Shed members dined on stovies kindly donated by Frances and Hugh Morrison of the Smoo Cave, thereafter an auction was carried out to sell a Heilan Shed Clock, kindly donated by Bri. Duncan Munro, Alness, for disposal at this particular meeting.

The Worthy Deacon Bri. Fraser presented to one of the candidates on the day, Bri. Hugh Morrison, also the RWM of Lodge Laxford, a handsome cheque for £300, to be donated to the children's Christmas Party and the Senior Citizens Christmas Party.

The Heilan Shed members were appreciative to the Smoo Cave Hotel and surrounding Bed and Breakfast establishments for accommodating the visitors for the night and Bri. Derek Milne and Andy Henderson for providing and driving the transport.

In his closing remarks Andrew Fraser, the Worthy Deacon for the last two sessions thanked all the members of the Shed for the terrific support rendered to him while in office, especially the administrative office bearers, conductor and lecturers for their continued support to Heilan Shed No. 6. It was indeed an honour to serve as Worthy Deacon of Heilan Shed No. 6.

The next meeting of Heilan Shed is on the last Saturday of January when a committee meeting will be held prior to the Cork Degree in Inverness



*The Worthy Deacon Bro Andrew Fraser, presenting a cheque to Bro Hugh Morrison, the RWM of Lodge Laxford.*

*The cheque for £300 will be donated to the local children's Christmas Party and the local Senior Citizens Christmas Party.*

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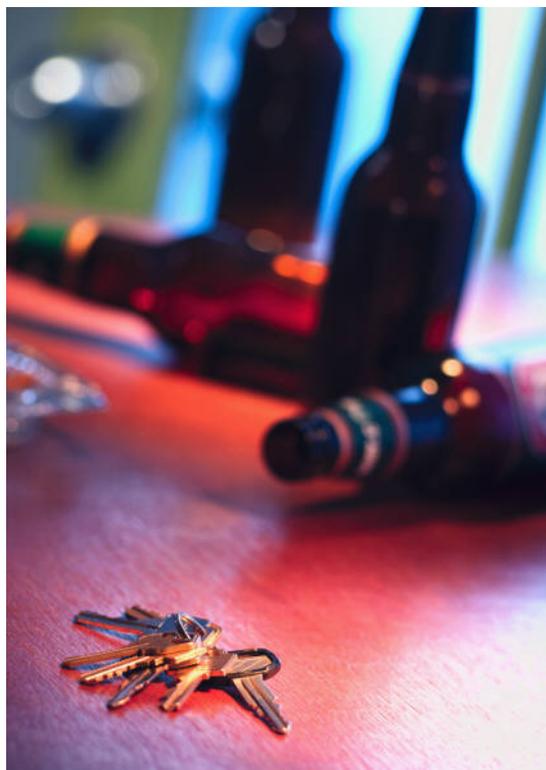
## BLESS THE WIFE

That truth fand honest Tam MacClyve  
As he frae Dingwall Mart did drive.  
His wife beside him in the cab  
Had been to Dr John MacNab,  
Wha tauld her – but o' that mair later;  
Let's return to Tam, the drunken craitur.

Just one half mile past Waterloo  
A Polis car wi' Polis crew  
Gart Tam step out o' his Land Rover  
To speir gin he was drunk or sober.  
The Sergeant Chiel cried oot – “Hi Tam!  
Yer rear licht's hardly worth a damn.  
To followin' caurs it's a tantaliser,  
So just blaw up this breathalyser”.  
“Ma gosh” says he in consternation,  
“Ye've turned it green! Come to the Station.”  
The Sergeant now pulled Tam near  
To whisper cooly in his ear.  
“Whit's that” cried Tam. “In tae a bottle”  
And blushed first red then puce, then crottle –  
“I've never ever heard the like,  
Why can't I dae it ahint the dyke?”

Now her, ere Tam took apoplexy,  
His wife, a cute we thing ca'd Lexy  
Jamp oot an catch the Sergeant's arm  
And said “Inspector, whit's the harm  
If your Police caur goes ahead  
And I drive Tam to where you said?”  
The Officer, to flattery open  
And aye, perhaps, in secret hopin'  
That some time soon the Law's lang arms  
Might test Tam's wifie's tender charms,  
Gave grudgingly a dour consent  
On strict condition that she went  
Ahead of him – “I want to see  
That you dinna stop at every tree.  
If Tam arrives, upon my word,  
Without his fluid, I'll hae his blood.

Imagine then this green Land Rover,  
Tam sittin' there, quite half seas over,  
An Lexy ahint the steerin wheel  
Briefin' her lovin' husband weel.  
“I've still got some o' that wee sample  
I took tae the clinic. It's mair than ample.  
Just hide this bottle on yer person,  
And when that Sergeant Jock MacPherson  
Asks ye to do what ye've to do  
Just make a noise like you know who!



Decant the contents, Tam ma beauty  
And mak them think ye've done yer duty.”

The thing was done, the Sergeant said  
“Awa hame Tam and get tae bed.  
Of the result, ye'll be advised  
As soon as the stuff's been analysed.”

Next mornin' then see PC Glenn  
Approachin Tam's wee but-an-ben.  
“I've gey bad news tae gie ye Tam.  
Ye'd better pour us baith a dram.”  
“I wisnae drunk”, shouts Tam, indignant  
“It's waur than that”, says Glen – “yer pregnant.”

Now wha this tale o' truth shall read,  
Ilk man and mithers son tak heed;  
Whene'er to drink ye are inclined,  
It's best tae leave yer car behind  
And if you do succumb to booze,  
Be sure to mind your P's and Q's.

*My sincere thanks to PM Dougie Mcleod, Lodge Ness for giving me the foregoing local poem. No doubt it will evoke some memories!!!!*