

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Editorial

Welcome to the 74th edition of the Patter.

This Quarter I'd like to use the editorial to bring everyone up to date with the work of the Scottish Masonic Materials Group who are working hard on two main projects at the present time. First, is the Masonic War Memorial project - please ensure that if you have a Masonic War Memorial in or near your Lodge that the details are passed on via the following web-site: -

www.grand-lodge.net/asp/mwmform.asp

There is a facility on the web page to check whether or not your own Lodge information has been submitted. A comprehensive list and an accompanying article will appear in the 2014 Grand Lodge Year Book.

The second project is the Oral History project. It is hoped to secure Lottery Funding to enable equipments and training to be put in place in order that this important aspect of Masonic history can progress. In addition, a letter will be going out to all Provincial Grand Lodges in the not too far distant future seeking their support for the project. I'm sure all of you would be able to name at least one suitable candidate within your own Lodge to be interviewed as part of the project which has tremendous potential in capturing a great deal of information, otherwise never recorded, of life in Scotland over the past 90 plus years – in terms of individuals, their families, their communities, workplaces and of course their Lodges and their Masonic experiences.

Ramsay McGhee, Editor

Grand Lodge of Scotland

The next regular Grand Lodge Communication will take place on **Thursday 7th February** at 2.00 pm in Freemasons' Hall, 96 George Street, Edinburgh.

The next four months will be particularly busy for the Grand Master Mason and his Office-bearers with three Provincial Installations in Renfrewshire West, Ayrshire and Argyll and the Isles along with various 100 year, 200 year, 250 year and even one 300 year celebrations all over Scotland including one in our own Province on Saturday 25th May when Lodge Kyle No 1117 celebrate their centenary. The Grand Master Mason and Grand Secretary are visiting the District Grand Lodge of India in February and in May they are heading to the Lebanon to consecrate the new District Grand Lodge of Lebanon.

Provincial Grand Lodge:

Our next meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge will be held within Robertson's Lodge No 134 in Cromarty on Wednesday 13th February 2013, commencing at 8.00pm. All Masters and Wardens have a duty to represent their respective Lodges at these Quarterly Communications and likewise a good attendance of Provincial Office-bearers would be appreciated. All Master Masons in good standing are also welcome to attend these meetings.

It was my pleasure to attend the Installation of the Grand Master Mason in Grand Hall followed by the Festival of St Andrew in the Edinburgh Corn Exchange where the "star performance" was the Address to the Haggis superbly narrated by Brother Ramsay McGhee. I was also delighted to meet with Brother Adrian Franklin, District Grand Master of Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada and his Deputation prior to their visit our Province. It was also pleasing that I was able to travel with some of the Brethren on their journey north.

From all reports and despite the touch of wintry weather, they certainly enjoyed their short visit to our Province and were most grateful for all the kindness and hospitality afforded to them and the ladies who accompanied them. They thoroughly appreciated the welcome to St. Clement RAC No 244 and more particularly the Installation Meeting of Lodge Seaforth No 854. At that meeting, it was also my pleasure to confer on Past District Grand Master, Brother Peter E. Salvary, Honorary Membership of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty. I would express my sincere thanks to all the Brethren and Ladies who assisted in organising the activities and travel arrangements for the visitors.

Brother Michael Turner, PM Lodge St Martin No 1217 was honoured by the Grand Master Mason, when Honorary Grand Rank of Senior Grand Deacon was conferred on him. It was my pleasure to visit Lodge St. Martin No 1217 and present him with his Jewel and Diploma.

With /

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

With the Installation season duly passed, I trust that all the Right Worshipful Masters and Brethren are settled in to their new offices and I wish you all every success in the year ahead.

Many Brethren from within the Province and outwith were sorry to learn of the retirement of Brother Rev Iain Ramsden, Past Senior Grand Chaplain from the ministry and of his departure to Sussex. Brother Iain has given many years of diligent service to the Craft and I would thank him for his contribution to our Province in particular.

The Provincial Visitations are due to commence shortly and I look forward to witnessing the work of the Daughter Lodges and to meeting the many Brethren on these occasions.

William Ross

Provincial Grand Master

To all Lodge Treasurers or Secretaries

It would, once again, be of enormous help to me if your Treasurer's Books could be delivered to me at the Provincial Quarterly Communication in Cromarty on Wednesday 13 February 2013. This then gives me the opportunity to deal with them in one fell swoop and get them back to you as soon as possible, and keeps my domestic authority happier in not having a room full of carrier bags, etc for weeks! Many thanks in anticipation.

Roger Cundiff

Provincial Grand Treasurer.

From The Provincial Almoner

Brethren – as you are all probably aware by now, Bro MacMaster, PG Almoner, has himself been quite ill since the beginning of December. I had the privilege of his company and assistance when I re-installed Bro Kenny Jack into the Chair of Lodge St Andrew in Pitlochry on the 14th December and it was just shortly after that he was struck down with pneumonia and was hospitalised. Since then he has really been through the mill – in and out of hospital until a couple of weeks ago when he was allowed home. He is coping well but still not 100% although he informs me that he hopes to get back in harness in time for the Provincial Visitations starting. Ill or otherwise, David was still in touch with those who required his services and his report follows.

I'm sure you will all wish to join me in wishing David a full and speedy recovery – if you have a spare minute I'm equally sure that he'd love to hear from you.

Editor

I have spoken to Duncan Munro and while he has been discharged from hospital he is still far from regaining full health. The nurse calls each day to continue his treatment.

Donald George Ross has been back in Aberdeen for further tests and is now going to Gartnavel Hospital in Glasgow for a course of treatment.

We wish both Brethren a speedy return to full health.

David MacMaster,

Provincial Grand Almoner

Tel: 01997 421306 email: david@strathpeffer.net

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Seaforth Highlanders

Robert (Bob) Shanks, a member of St Johns No VI and currently Chairman of the Seaforth Highlanders Association (Ross-shire Branch) has written to the PGM, Billy Ross in the following terms. As the PGM intends to raise the matter at the February Quarterly Communication he thought that it would be prudent to give the Lodges prior notification in order that meaningful discussion can take place on the 13th February.

“As the Anniversary of the start of the First World War approaches the Committee Members of the Branch have been thinking of ways we can honour/commemorate those who were members of the 1/4th Seaforth's and the Ross Mountain Battery in WW1.

You may/may not be aware that in 1915 a publication was issued and sold entitled the "Ross-shire Roll of Honour". This was rather unique in the many publications of this type because:

1. It was published so early in the war - 1915.
2. As far as the 1/4th Seaforth's are concerned it gave details of the Company, No, Rank, Name, Address and Occupation of those involved. It also listed details of the early casualties incurred during the first battles in which the 1/4th were involved.

The Committee felt it would be a fitting tribute if this long out of print book could be re-printed and a couple of specialist printers of military book were approached. One did not respond but the other has proved to be very helpful and has provided a quote for high quality photocopying.

We are now at the stage of trying to raise the funds to place the printing order and it is with that in mind that I am making this approach for the assistance of both Provincial and the Lodges in the Ross-shire Province.

The Branch has agreed to put some of its limited funds towards the total costs and at least one Local Member of Highland Council has confirmed that every consideration will be given to making a contribution from the discretionary local budget.

As it is likely that a number of those who served would also have been a member of the Craft the Committee felt that the Province of Ross-shire and its Lodges should be approached to see if they would join with us to ensure that this project happens.

The current total amount to be raised to ensure that 500 copies are printed is circa £1750. Therefore any donations towards that total would be most welcome.

It is likely that we will be making approaches to other organisations like the Rotary Clubs in Ross-shire just to see if they also wish to be associated with this landmark Ross-shire project”.



Bob Shanks is well known to many Brethren as a stalwart member of the Rosicrucian Order where he regularly gives excellent lectures on military memorabilia and medals. The above project is one very close to his heart and I am well aware that any assistance that this Province can give will be truly appreciated.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

FROM THE LODGES

Lodge St Duthus No 82



Brethren, may I extend a warm welcome and season's greetings from all of St Duthus No 82. During the Christmas season we held a very successful Senior Citizens party in conjunction with the Bowling Club. This was very enjoyable and was spoken about in glowing terms by all who attended. Our thanks go to the committee of bowling club members and Masonic members who organise this event and to the volunteers will help to make it a success that it is.

This is the first issue of the Provincial Patter for 2013 and is the first issue that I have been asked to write as secretary for Lodge St Duthus No 82. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brother Ian Sinclair for all his hard work and for the effort he has put in over the years for the benefit of St Duthus and wish him well in his new office as Depute Master. I would also like to wish all our new officers well for the coming season; we have a new Master in Brother Alan Pett who was installed on 19 November 2012 by Past Master Brother Hugh Patience, who carried out the installation ceremony in his usual exemplary fashion.

Lodge St Duthus No 82 has had quite a busy start to the session having initiated one candidate, Brother Robert Ross, who I would like to take the opportunity of welcoming into Lodge St Duthus No 82 and wish him well in his Masonic career. We also have one candidate for a ballot and one application due to be returned. This should keep us busy until the end of this session and into the start of next. Our calendar for the remainder of this season is as follows -

04/2/13 2nd Degree & Ballot

18/2/13 3rd Degree to be worked by Past Masters

04/3/13 1st Degree Provincial visitation

18/3/13 Divine Service to be conducted once again by the Rev Susan Brown, this will be a family service open to all.

01/4/13 2nd Degree

15/4/13 3rd Degree

We also have some quiz nights organised by our own inimitable quizmaster Brother John Mackenzie, Junior Warden these fun nights are raising funds for Alzheimer's, Perfect Paws, Support for Learning and ClicSargant. Why not come along some night and enjoy the fun. We have also booked a date for Annual Ladies Night dance which is to be held on 16 March venue has yet to be finalised but please keep in touch should you and you good lady wish to attend.

Visiting is always a joy to Masonic circles and for this reason I would ask visitors to Lodge St Duthus No 82 to fill out a visitor's sheet as well as enter their name into the attendance book. This visitor's sheet asks for your email address and I hope to keep in regular contact with all visitors through email and keep them updated with the business of Lodge St Duthus No 82.

That is all brethren for this issue and we hope to see you at some point over the session and be able to welcome you into Lodge St Duthus number 82.

David Macrae, PM
Secretary

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013



The newly Installed Office-bearers – Lodge St Duthus No 82



The new Master
of Lodge St Duthus, No 82,
Brother Alan Pett

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Lodge Fortrose No 108



John Murdo Macdonald was installed as RWM on 7th December 2012 by IPPGM Ramsay McGhee and his team.

The evening was rounded off with an excellent dinner and speeches and a few refreshments.



The following afternoon Bro Donnie Graham PM and his team accompanied by a very numerous retinue, (including some of our visitors who decided to stay for a further night), installed Bro Innes Morrison into the chair of St Clements 1353 in Tarbert. The day was completed by the excellent hospitality of our Harris brethren.

The Burns' Supper at 108 on Friday 25th January 2013 was very well attended and proved to be an evening with excellent toasts. Calum Macleod, MM addressed the haggis as well proposing the Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns.



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013



Lodge Fortrose 108

Handing out our benevolence cheques at Christmas time to:
Bethesda,
Stornoway Lifeboat,
Stornoway Big Band,
the Running Club
and Macmillan Nurses

Robertson's Lodge No 134

At our meeting of December 2012 Brother Neil Cooper was installed as Right Worshipful Master and his new team of Office Bearers are follows:

Im. Past Master	PM David Franklin		
Dep. Master	PM Jonathan Hill	Sub. Master	Br. George MacIver
Sen. Warden	Br. Peter Foster	Jun. Warden	PM Andrew MacIver
Secretary	PM Jim Tait	Treasurer	PM Alasdair Taylor
Dir. Of Cer.	PM Ronald Cooper	Chaplain	PM Victor Shepherd
Sen. Deacon	PM Brian McGroarty	Jun. Deacon	Br. Colin Keith

This is all the offices we could fill so visitors are more than welcome particularly if they are willing to take a wee job although this is not compulsory.

Since going into the chair our new Master has been getting out and about and visiting other Lodges accompanied by the usual suspects and I know he intends to continue in this practice. He also went with Initiation form in hand and got us our first applicant for 2013. Guess who? No other than his father, Douglas Cooper, who is also the brother of PM Ronald Cooper. Douglas will be balloted at our meeting of 20 February, after the Enquiry Committee and all going well he will be our candidate for a First Degree at our meeting of 20 March 2013, which incidentally, is our Provincial Visitation.

If everything goes as planned we feel that this will be a bit of a first with a son putting his father through his first regular step in the craft and I am sure both will be very proud.

Due notice will be given for both these meetings and it is our intention to work a mock 1st Degree for the February meeting.

I hope all had a great Festive season and to those Brethren in the Province who were ill or hospitalised over the holidays, we take this opportunity to wish you well and a steady recovery.

I have been asked by many about the health of Brother George MacIver's wife who had a fall just over a week ago and was hospitalised in Raigmore. The update is that Hilda has now been transferred to Invergordon Hospital and is making satisfactory progress. I almost feel that she is a member of our lodge and if she was a male she would be a Past Master of many years. If you are in the vicinity pop in and say hello. I know she would love to see you and be assured you will come out cheerier than when you went in.

James A Tait, PM
Secretary

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Lodge Fingal No 318



January meeting: 8th - Ballot for a Mr David Robertson which proved clear. The main item of business was a Lecture given by PPGM Bro Ian Fraser on Lodge Allan Wilson No. 851. The lecture lasted some 50 minutes, the content being, how the Lodge was formed and where it is today. It was well received by the 24 brethren present.

February meeting: 12th - F.C. degree for Bro Robert Cassie.

March meeting: 12th - E.A. degree for Mr David Robertson. As this is our annual Provincial Visitation, the Lodge will tyle at 7.30pm, to put forward the minutes and correspondence.

April meeting: 9th - F.C. degree for Bro David Robertson.

On a sadder note, the Lodge has seen the passing of Bro Joe Yates 6/01/2013 to the Grand Lodge above. Our thoughts and prayers are with his widow Rosemary.

Events Logie Lounge:

Proposed by the WJW Bro Colin Mackintosh that on Saturday 16th February we will have a "Mr and Mrs" competition.

Friday 22nd March - our annual Ladies Night.

That`s all Folks, watch this Space

*D. Gunn P.M.
Secretary.*

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/>

Highland Hospice

The 2013 Black Isle Cycle Challenge on behalf of the Hospice will take place on Saturday 27th April and, as usual, it will be stewarded by Brethren and their families from throughout the Province. Every year the numbers grow and we constantly need more Stewards – if 27th April is free in your diary please seriously consider coming along to help on the day – it would be greatly appreciated and it is for a cause which has no doubt touched on all of our lives at some point.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Lodge Allan Wilson No 851

Lodge Allan Wilson meetings resume on Tuesday 11th June when Bro Robin Cattenach, DPGM, will be installed as Master.

Lodge Seaforth No 854

At my installation at the beginning of December, we were very fortunate to have a visitation from the District Grand Lodge of Trinidad, Tobago and Grenada, together with a good few Brethren from our own Province, who were accompanying them. There were over fifty in the board of installed masters and a fine time was had afterwards, at the Festival of St John. Many Brethren made new friends and contacts with our guests from the Caribbean.

At our regular December meeting, we had a service of nine carols and readings for Brethren and guests, which, as in the previous year, was well attended and enjoyed by all who were there. This was a nice, easy introduction to opening and closing the Lodge for the new boy in the chair.

In January, a first degree was worked for my son, a very proud moment. I would like to thank again, firstly, all the visitors, for supporting me and making the night especially memorable and, secondly, the Office-bearers and Brethren who helped me with the degree work, for such a fine job.

Weather permitting, we are planning to work a second in February and a third in March. At the moment my son stays in West Calder, because of his work, and in order to let him get home at a reasonable hour, we have omitted the tracing boards from our regular work, for this time only. The RWM and Brethren from Lodge Averon have kindly agreed to give these explanations at our April meeting.

We are hoping to continue our good relationship with Lodge John O'Groat by visiting them early in June to work a degree and we will be visiting them for the installation of Bro Jimmy Johnson on the 26th of April.

Gwyn Phillips
Master

TOOLS for MALAWI

As I reported previously, it was hoped that the nine boxes of tools we collected for the Mountain View School for Deaf Children would have been safely delivered in November. Unfortunately, they were not put on the container we expected them to be put on but I have been informed that they are now in transit and are currently on a container ship somewhere off the coast of South Africa having left the UK on 17th December. They still have a somewhat circuitous route to travel before they arrive in Ekwendeni from where they will be collect by Bro Gordon Sheppard's team and delivered to the school.

I still have one or two larger tools that we couldn't get in to the last batch and I have received a few more since the previous nine boxes departed. I am hopeful that we can repeat the exercise possibly in late summer in order that we can augment what has already been sent.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Lodge Averon 866

A (slightly belated) Happy New Year to all. We have been kept busy in Averon, on Thursday 8th Nov Bro Keith Bauer was passed to the FC degree. On Dec 13th Mr Kris Bauer and Mr Oliver Jackson were initiated. On December 15th we had the installation of Bro Calum MacKenzie who was installed by his father Bro Finlay MacKenzie. At the conclusion of the Installation the Brethren enjoyed the Festival of St John. On Saturday 22nd December Lodge Averon held a Christmas Party for children up to 12 years old. It was the brainchild of Bro Henry McCartney along with Del Gray, Donnie Matheson and John Macrae. It was a very good and well attended event with all the 32 children receiving a gift from Bro Santa. There were the usual party games which were enjoyed; some of the adults enjoyed them too. The Lodge would like to thank Henry McCartney for the effort he put in to make the event the success that it was. We would also like to thank Mrs. Melanie Bauer for the face painting during the day; all of the designs were really top class. It will now be an annual event on our calendar. Thanks to all who made donations of whatever kind and we hope that Santa got back home safely so he can visit again this year. On Saturday 9th February we will have our annual Senior Citizens party. We had a lecture from Bro David Anderson about the black plague. It was a very informative talk and enjoyed by all. It is hoped to have a few "exchange visits" this coming term, Bro MacKenzie, RWM is keen to re-establish our connections with Lodge Stormont. Lodge Ness 888 are going to visit us to work a MMM degree, also Robertson's 134 are coming to work a MMM degree sometime whilst Averon are going to Seaforth 854 to do the tracing board lectures.

We will be holding a quiz night shortly as well as a horse racing night. Your secretary will be advised about them shortly. We welcome Bro Munro PM back home from hospital and he is recovering well from surgery. On a sadder note Bro R. (Bobby) Lowe passed on to the Grand Lodge above during the festive season. Our sympathy goes to his widow and family.

Henry MacInnes
Secretary



This needs a Caption !!!!

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Lodge Ness 888

On 19th November I had a rather interesting trip to Inverness with RWM, G Forsyth and JW, J Young, where we met up with Bro Ian Lamont from Lodge St. Servannus No 771 in Clackmannanshire. He travelled up to present the Master with Lodge Ness regalia which had belonged to his Grandfather who had passed to the Grand Lodge above in 1926. Since then, the apron has been to Canada and back.

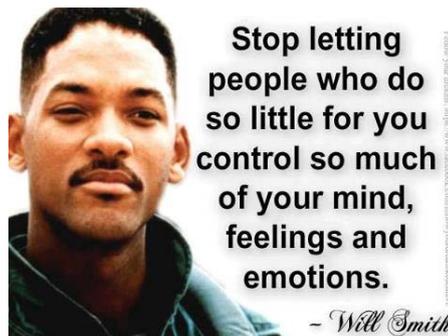
Grandfather, Bro Captain John Lamont, was initiated into Lodge Ness on the 16th June 1915, passed on the 7th July 1915 and raised on the 22nd July 1915. Captain Lamont owned a Puffer (SS Tiree) which at that time would have been used in some way to support the naval services in the 1914 / 18 war.

We are indebted to Bro Lamont for his kind gesture.



R. W. Morrison.

PM - Secretary.



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

LODGE KYLE No 1117

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF MASONIC LODGE KYLE No.1117

Date 25th May 2013

Time 2.00pm prompt (seated by 1.45pm)

Location : Kyle Masonic Hall

Lodge Kyle is entering a celebratory year on May 5th when the Lodge becomes 100 years old. The Lodge was founded in May 1913. Centenary Celebrations will culminate with Freemasons from all over Scotland and a Deputation from The Grand Lodge of Scotland making the journey north to Kyle of Lochalsh in what will be a once in a lifetime event for this small but active Lodge.



In 1913 the founding 19 Brethren stood proudly in front of the newly consecrated hall, their new Charter from Grand Lodge safely tucked away in the Master's Desk. A year later The Great War would take many of them away to France and beyond; some came home, sadly some did not. The 20s, 30s show an increase in brethren and regular meetings and then in 1939 once again a world War took the brethren of Kyle to all parts of the globe. However during the war the Lodge was actually busy as Brethren stationed in Kyle attended the meetings in what was now their "local" lodge. And in fact as a mark of appreciation the Brethren of HMS Menestheus 1943 presented a pair of Wand Stands which still take pride of place in the Lodge today.

Those who returned from war saw the beginning of busiest years of the Lodge from the 50s though to the 80s. Although the last ten years have shown a decrease in numbers the brethren are all loyal and active freemasons giving of their best to help the local community and those further afield.

And so we journey through a century from 19 brethren of Lodge Kyle in 1913 to an almost identical number of regular members in 2013. However we are seeing new (younger) men interested in joining the Craft and some brethren returning after years away from the Craft. So it is with hope and good cheer we look forward to the next 100 years of Scottish Freemasonry in Kyle of Lochalsh.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

TO celebrate these last 100 years The Brethren of Lodge Kyle extend the warmest of welcomes to all Brethren wishing to attend our Ceremony of Rededication* in Kyle Masonic Lodge which will be conducted by a deputation from The Grand Lodge of Scotland. The ceremony will begin at 2pm and Brethren are asked to be seated 15 minutes prior to this time (at 1.45 pm). After this we will proceed to the Lochalsh Hotel to a Dinner for which Tickets are available at 25 pounds per person. The address and details of the Lodge Secretary can be found below.

There will also be souvenirs to "mark" the occasion in the form of Jewel, Pennies and other high quality items. These can be purchased on or after the occasion.

All enquiries for the Re-dedication Ceremony, Tickets for the Dinner or Souvenirs should be directed to the Lodge Secretary Donnie Gordon:

Email : info@lodgekyle.co.uk

Postal Address: Mr D Gordon, Ashgrove, Balmacara Square, By Kyle, Ross-shire, IV40 8DJ

*It would be very helpful (for refreshments, seating etc.) if you could contact the Lodge Secretary if you simply intend to come to the Ceremony of Re-dedication.

And – still in Kyle



Can anyone recognise anyone at the Kyle Ball circ 1950?

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Lodge Rosehaugh No 1216

The Installation meeting went very well with Bro Scott Patience taking over as RWM.

Bro Allan Carmichael once again was the Installing master and did an excellent job along with our previous Master Bro Duncan Macleman who also excelled taking part in the Installation ceremony for the first time. We also had PM Arthur Macarthur installing the other Office Bearers which he has of course done a few times now but nevertheless still an enjoyment to witness.

Our January meeting was a Mark Degree worked by the Past Master's. By popular demand Bro Duggie Macleod was nominated as Mark Master and he once again gave a masterly performance. It was a very good degree and we were also assisted by Bro Henry Cameron and Bro Alistair Taylor.

Our February meeting was a third degree with Bro Andy Hickie the candidate. Andy has been an excellent candidate and once again answered his test questions in an exemplary fashion. The degree went very well with the RWM Scott Patience giving a masterly performance throughout the evening's work with both Bro Ramsay McGhee and Bro John Patience PM giving a glowing report on his endeavours. Unfortunately Scott is back off-shore soon and it looks like he will miss our next meeting.

Scott also had the pleasure of presenting of presenting Distinguished Members Certificates to Bro Robert Jack PM and Bro Donald McLennan PM who had been very deserving of this award. Both were a bit stunned to receive the award but nevertheless it was richly deserved for the power of work they both have contributed to 1216.

We had hoped to do this presentation last year but for two brethren who rarely miss a meeting this the first meeting since the summer recess they have both been present at.

Bro Robert Jack joined this Lodge on 6 June 1969 having been proposed by the Past Master Bro Hugh Macintosh and PM John Patience who was at the meeting. He was installed as Master in 7th December 1979 by Bro Donnie Sutherland of Lodge Seaforth No 854. His first duty as Installation Master was in 1988 when he installed Bro David Patience PM. In all eleven brethren have been installed by Robert including his son PM John in Dec 1998. Robert has assisted in Installations ceremonies in several other lodges also. You volunteered yourself as Secretary in Dec 1986 and held this position for 9 years. He also served 5 years as Provincial Grand Lodge Substitute Master in the term of PGL Master Bro Morris Downie from 1996 to 2001. When the Brethren decided on the building of the social room Robert was at the forefront along with his son John in the block work which took up much of your own time and the Brethren will always be grateful for your efforts here. Bro Jack has given valuable support to this lodge and to the Brethren in the last 43 years making him very worthy of this award.

Bro Donald McLennan joined the lodge in 2 May 1986 when Pm Arthur Macarthur was RWM. He was proposed by the late Bro Alick Macrae PM and the late Bro Donald MacFarquhar. He was installed as RWM on 6th December 2002 by PM Robert Jack. He has also been an Office Bearer for many years with Provincial Grand Lodge. Donald has served in a number of posts in the lodge and is currently doing an excellent job as almoner. As all the recent Past master's will endorse Donald has given invaluable assistance both in and out-with the lodge and always willing to help out on the floor and all the ongoing work on the lodge. The recent work in renewing to the fencing has greatly enhanced the look of the building. His recent duties also include the uplifting and return home of a number of our senior Brethren! The Brethren also have endorsed this special award to Bro McLennan.

Forthcoming events:

- 1 March 2013: F/craft degree with Bro Allan Carmichael in the chair.
- 30 March 2013: Soup and sweet lunch: In aid of Lodge seating and local charity(to be nominated)
- 5 April 2013 : E A Degree
- 20 April 2013 : Ladies night (to be confirmed).

Keith Patience, PM
Secretary

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

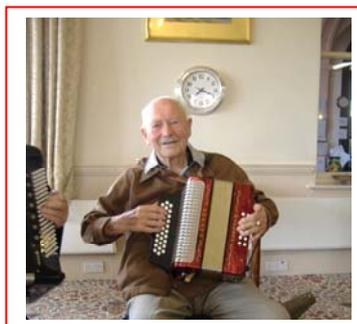
FEBRUARY 2013



Brothers Robert Jack PM and Donald Mclennan PM who were both awarded Distinguished Members Diplomas for their endeavour over a total of 70 years service to Lodge Rosehaugh.

On Friday night I had the privilege of attending the MM Degree in Lodge Rosehaugh. I was talking to PM's Jackie Morrison and Jimmy Grant who just happened to be sitting under a photo of the late PM Roddie Cade who, all regular readers will remember, was a great contributor to the "Patter". It prompted me, when I got home, to dig out an old file in which I have kept much of Roddie's material – some of which had typical Cade humour, some of which could be deeply profound. Here is one of Roddy's many "graces" –

O, Lord who blessed the loaves and fishes
Look down upon those porcelain dishes;
And if the potatoes are very small,
Lord make them plenty for us all.
Should we decide to quench our thirst
With "Famous Grouse" or "Fifty First"
Lord make us all that little wiser
And save us from the breathalyser.



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Lodge St Martin 1217

The Brethren of the Lodge once again erected and decorated the village Christmas tree at the beginning of December. On our Regular meeting in December we were honoured with the appearance of the PGM Bro William Ross who had attended to present Brother Michael Scott Turner PM with Grand Lodge Honours. Brother Mike was presented with the Honorary Grand Rank of Senior Deacon. Brother Mike has been a stalwart member of St Martin over many, many years and there is not a more deserving Member of St Martin. Congratulations Mike.



On the following evening the Lodge escorted Santa round the village on his annual tour with the Santa Float where the Brethren and collecting Elves realised in excess of £900. All these monies are used by the Lodge for any needs of the Children within the Ullapool area.

Charles MacAulay, PM
Secretary



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Lodge Loch Ewe 1551

As we look forward to a new session following the installation of RWM Gibby Hassell and his Office-Bearers in Lodge Loch Ewe No 1551 in December 2012 our focus already is primarily on two dates relatively early on in Bro Gibby's tenure these being Friday 22nd February (the week before our second meeting during the month) and Thursday 11th April 2013.

Friday 22nd February 2013 is the date of our Annual Grand Quiz Night with the event under the able stewardship of Depute Master / Organist Bro. Ken McMorran and it is being held in the Aultbea Hotel commencing 7.30 pm. Entry fee is £10 per team (1 to 4 players in a team – it would be great to see at least one team from each of the 12 lodges – with a prize for the furthest travelled team up for grabs!).

This is the lodge's major fundraising event and proceeds this year will go to the swimming pool in Poolewe. To enter a team please feel free to ring IPM Bro Barrie Whitwell on 01445 731 628 and early notification would be appreciated as refreshments will be provided; there will also be a Raffle which is being contributed to by Lodge members and always proves very successful and entertaining (we await to see if lightning strikes twice and Bro Danny Forbes' relations will enjoy another bottle of MacAllan malt being again donated – or will it and other prizes wing their way throughout teams of the Province).

The second date of 11th April 2013 is the evening when the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ross and Cromarty pays their annual visitation to the Lodge and, on this occasion, Lodge Loch Ewe Brethren are carrying out an E A degree working for our hierarchical brethren – so we look forward to a goodly number of brethren from throughout the Province making their way west on this auspicious occasion – and another fine raffle at the harmony in the Aultbea Hotel afterwards!.

It goes without saying that, at any time throughout the Masonic season visitors are always very welcome to Lodge Loch Ewe and, during the latter end of last season we were very grateful for the visit of the RWPGM Billy Ross and PPGM Morris Downie to the lodge to share an evening of constructive discussion and harmony with us.

At the time of writing I was in touch with RWPGM Billy Ross and it is heart-warming to hear that his good lady Mina is getting on a little better than she has been of late; here's hoping that the improving weather will help to put a further 'spring' into her step!

Andrew M. Henderson

Almoner



As we say farewell to the "Burns Season", it is appropriate to include this picture of Tam O' Shanter just making it across the "keystone o' the brig".

The picture was unearthed by Bro Andy Henderson who has a knack for finding such gems.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

The Sinclair Bruce Diary

As I have not been active in the meeting area for the past while, I commence this Edition with a report on the installation of the Master and Office-bearers in my Mother Lodge, held within the Lodge on Saturday 1st December. It was so heartening to see the Lodge at almost full capacity which could only impress our visitors, as apart from a deputation from Trinidad and Tobago we also had some from the Provincial Lodge of Ross & Cromarty and sister lodges. All went well and our new Master and his Office-bearers firmly and conscientiously installed. The Harmony afterwards saw over sixty Brethren enjoying an excellent three course meal plus tea/coffee before retiring to our respective homes.

On Friday the 7th December I made my usual visit to Lodge Rosehaugh and witnessed their installation ceremony that was worked by a very young team to a standard that only can be described as exceptional and was really a credit to them and to our Province. Youth on the floor is always nice to watch as they have the art of showing little or no signs of nerves and the ritual work delivered in their own casual manner and for me can only present a bright future for their Lodge.

And now we all have the Christmas activities behind us and I trust all readers had a happy time and a good festive dinner, Margaret, Ronald and I joined the rest of the family in Culbokie and we really let our hair down with the young ones keeping us all lively and at least for the day forgetting the usual aches and pains.

We now look forward to Hogmanay and I suppose it will be as always take in the New Year with a dram. The dram was good and the TV programme Alba was excellent just like the old days maybe not as good as Duncan MacRae but certainly a close second. Consequently did not go to bed until the programme was finished at 2am.

My first visit for 2013 was to Lodge Rosehaugh on Friday 11th Jan this being the first meeting for the newly installed Master Bro Scott Patience and as it was a Past Masters degree Scott's duties were limited to opening /closing and the business before handing the Gavel to PM Douglas Macleod who chaired a very well worked and interesting Mark Degree. He was supported by Wardens - Brother's John and David Patience Senior and Junior respectively plus other offices. The work was executed in a light hearted and amusing manner that made the evening a happy start to us all for 2013.

It's now 16th January and although I was not at Robertson Lodge for their regular meeting I received a report on the evenings work as always from PM Alastair Taylor. They had a good turn out with five visiting Lodges. The agenda was a business meeting thus bringing them up to date. The main part was the reading of an Application for another candidate that will keep them busy for the rest of this session. Candidates are very short on the ground with most Lodge's, the days of multiple candidates are no longer with us but of course all institutions have their good and bad times.

Lodge Seaforth's first meeting on Monday 21st with our new Master and Office-bearer's, saw the working of a first degree for the Masters son. All went very well with prompting a limited commodity and it was heartening to note that our Past Masters have lost none of their total command of the ritual but it would be nice, if in the future, we revert back to master masons on the floor thus assuring all of a progressive future for Freemasonry.

Sinclair Bruce

BITS AND PIECES

VISITATION to TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

On Sunday 4th November 2012, I left Inverness for London, Gatwick. After the usual overnight stay there, embarked on BA Flight to Tobago the following morning, with the intention of attending the Installation

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

meeting of Lodge Tobago Kilwinning No. 1643, on Saturday 17th November in the company of Hon Member of the Province Bro David Pringle PM.

The following Wednesday we set off from Tobago to Trinidad to attend the Annual General Meeting of Lodge United Brothers No. 251, being met at the airport by Bro. Robin Rajcomar PM, who was to be our guide and host for our stay in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

We were transported to a restaurant and met up with the District Grand Master, Bro. Adrian C Franklin and the District Grand Director of Ceremonies Bro. Ronald Hadeed, when I had the opportunity to discuss the District's forthcoming visit to Scotland and in particular the Province of Ross and Cromarty. We were kindly put up for the night in Bro Rajcomar's ancestral home.

The meeting was well attended and the usual business discussed. At the end of the business I was able to give the Brethren present a short talk on my views on the Value of Masonic visiting. I had the great honour at end to close the Volume of the Sacred Law, Quoran and Bhagwat and call the evening to a close. A harmony was held afterwards in the Lodge premises. Bro David Pringle replied to the toast to the visitors in a very able and humorous manner, which was enjoyed by all present.

It was pleasing to meet up with many old acquaintances of the Lodge, including my old friend Bro Peter E. Salvary, Past District Grand Master. The fraternal friendship extended to us by Brother Robin Rajcomar and members of LUB was truly remarkable and much appreciated.

During the week I managed to seek out an old friend, Bro Reg de la Rosa. Reg was one of the first masons I met on my first trip to Tobago many years ago. He is a sprightly 91 year old; a founder member of Lodge Tobago Kilwinning and a mason of over 50 years standing. We spent a wonderfully pleasant afternoon, putting the world to rights in his home and found him to be in reasonably good health and still practising the tenets of Freemasonry he himself was taught, those many years ago. I reported on my visit to the Lodge Almoner Bro Charles Elias PM and to the Lodge at the Harmony after the Installation.

On Saturday 17th November both David and I attended the Installation of Brother Glen Earl Dillon at Lodge Tobago Kilwinning No1643. The Lodge was well attended and the installation ceremony carried out very well by the outgoing Master Bro Anthony Rasheed Elias. The inner workings were delivered by the secretary Bro Thomas Elias P.M. in an easy going, excellent, manner. The various tools were clearly and audibly presented by Brothers James Sinanan, RWM of Lodge United Brothers No 251, Dane Philips, RWM of Lodge Arima No 899 and Gary Pamassar, RWM Lodge Felicity No 1681. The Office Bearers were obligated and invested by the newly installed RWM, in a perfect ritualistic manner.

The four corners were delivered by the District Director of Ceremonies, Bro Ronald Hadeed most impressively. The Master was addressed by the District Grand Master; Wardens by Bro Dr I A Hosein, District Grand Master of the English Constitution, while the Brethren were addressed by Bro George Charles, Depute District Master.

At the conclusion, a wonderfully presented meal, prepared by the Brethren of the Lodge was enjoyed by all. The usual speeches and toasts were delivered and an excellent evening was enjoyed by all present.

On the Sunday, we managed to team up with some of the members of the District and later teamed up, after a short search of the island, with Bro Robin Rajcomar and spent an enjoyable afternoon in his company, with his partner Nadia, on Store Bay Beach, before they embarked on their flight home to Port of Spain, Trinidad.

One can only thank, once again the members of the fraternity, from Trinidad and Tobago for their wonderful hospitality and friendship extended to us.

Morris M Downie

Past Provincial Grand Master
Ross and Cromarty
Proxy District Grand Master
Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

MY HIGHLAND LASSIE, O

TUNE: MacLauchlin's Scots-Measure

CHORUS

*Within the glen sae bushy, O,
Aboon the plain sae rashy, O,
I set me down wi right guid will,
To sing my Highland lassie, O!*

Nae gentle dames, tho ne'er sae fair,
Shall ever be my Muse's care:
Their titles a' are empty show;
Gie me my Highland lassie, O!

3 But fickle Fortune frowns on me,
And I maun cross the raging sea;
But while my crimson currents flow,
I'll love my Highland lassie, O!

5 For her I'll dare the billow's roar,
For her I'll trace a distant shore,
That Indian wealth may lustre throw
Around my highland lassie, O!

2 O, were yon hills and vallyies mine,
Yon palace and yon gardens fine,
The world then the love should know
I bear my highland lassie, O!

4 Altho thro foreign climes I range,
I know her heart will never change;
For her bosom burns with honour's glow,
My faithful highland lassie, O!

6 She has my heart, she has my hand,
By secret troth and honor's band!
'Till the mortal stroke shall lay me low,
I'm thine, my Highland lassie, O!

7 Farewell the glen sae bushy, O!
Farewell the plain sae rashy, O!
To other lands I must now go
To sing my Highland lassie, O!

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

Lodge Loch Ewe

**Grand Challenge
Quiz**

In Aultbea Hotel on

Friday 22nd Feb

Teams of Four - £10

To book a table –

01445 731 628

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Last Quarter I published a poem submitted by Past DPGM Douglas MacLeod all about the vagaries of the Breathalyser. In this issue I'm indebted once again to Dougie MacLeod for two versions of the song "Bonnie Black Isle" made famous by the late Don Dallas who regularly sang both versions at concerts. The poem was written circa 1920.

Version 1

Rare region of beauty
By nature thrice blest,
Where young ones may gambol
And weary ones rest!
Where the sun in its splendour
Ne'er ceases to smile,
Aye kindly and tender -
My Bonnie Black Isle.

Fair island of gardens
And villages trim,
Of children so bashful
And maidens so prim!
May thy silver sea guard thee
For many a mile;
And fortune reward thee,
My Bonnie Black Isle.

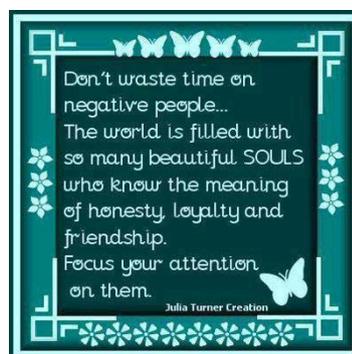
Oh sweet land of verdure
Cool wells and wild flowers,
Of heath purpled mountains
And quiet shady bowers -
Where freedom and pleasure
The fleet hours beguile,
A haven for leisure
My bonny Black Isle.

Version 2

Oh land where the Tinker
And poacher find grace,
Where cows drop their "spare stuff"
All over the place.
I've been in the "Maggot"
I've lived there awhile,
So now I can brag o't -
I've seen the Black Isle.

Oh land of the midden
And stinking sea shore,
Whins, thorns, weeds and dokens
And bastards galore!
Where the girls give the "glad eye"
Till they give you the bile;
And impudent kids cry,
Get off the Black Isle.

Oh great land of all sorts -
Honest, holy and queer;
Glum bearers of Bibles,
Rare swiggers of beer.
I've been in the "model"
I've been in the "Jile"
But none can come up to
The Blooming Black Isle.



PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013



*The lights are handed
over to
representatives from
the Scottish
Ambulance Service*

Interesting story from our neighbouring Province in the north

East Sutherland is to have its first night-time landing area for air ambulance helicopters, thanks to local Freemasons.

A car park in Golspie will be designated as a “helipad” with emergency lights being temporarily fitted prior to a landing and removed afterwards.

The £400 lights have been supplied and donated by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sutherland.

The need for such a landing area was recognised after the late Iain Murray of Dornoch needed to be taken at night by air ambulance from the Lawson Memorial Hospital in Golspie to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness. However, there are no landing lights at the Lawson and instead he had to be taken by road.

Mr Murray suggested to fellow freemasons in the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sutherland that members could donate emergency lights for the Lawson, which was agreed.

But after conferring with the Scottish Air Ambulance Service, it was discovered that helicopters would be unable to land at night within the grounds because of newly planted trees, although the operation would be possible during the day.

It was decided another site needed to be found and, after consultation with Highland Council, the car park in Church Street opposite the Free Church was chosen as being suitable. Apparatus will be installed designating where each of the lights can be attached.

Signs will be erected warning the public that this is an emergency helicopter landing area and no parking will be allowed after dark.

Members of the Golspie fire unit will be responsible for fixing the lights prior to a landing and removing them afterwards. They will be stored at the fire station and charged there.

Sixty years ago I knew everything; now I know nothing; education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.

—*Will Durant*

Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Walk beside me and be my friend.

—*Albert Camus*

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Royal Arch

St Clement RAC No 244 –

Due to the fact that the January meeting fell on Friday 25th January and the majority of Companions were enjoying Burns Suppers that night, it was decided to postpone the Provincial Visitation which will now take place at the Regular Meeting on Friday 22nd February.

Cromarty Firth RAC No 310.

After a successful installation of companion Colin Thomson as First Principal, our November meeting was a practice Excellent Masters degree, which was followed by an Excellent Masters degree for Bro John McRae from Lodge Averon and now after our winter break, we will be carrying out a Royal Arch degree for Bro. McRae on 6th of February. What follows that has not yet been decided.

Raymond Morrison, PZ.

Date	Chapter	Meeting	Time
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

The very purpose of existence is to reconcile the glowing opinion we have of ourselves with the appalling things that other people think about us.

–*Quentin Crisp*

Difficulties are meant to rouse, not discourage. The human spirit is to grow strong by conflict.

–*William Ellery Channing*

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Inverness- shire
Grand Superintendent
F. J. Mant

14 Millerton Avenue
Inverness
IV3 8RY
Tel: 01463 224261
Mob: 07780 862302
EMAIL: fred.mant@talk21.com

January 2012

Dear Provincial Grand Scribe E.

Installation of Grand Superintendent

I would at this time send compliments of the season and best wishes for 2013 to your Grand Superintendent and the Companions of your Province and extend a warm welcome and invitation to your Grand Superintendent and the Companions of your Province to attend the Installation our Grand Superintendent Designate, M.E.C. James John Robert Sutherland and his Commissioned Office Bearers.

The Ceremony will be held in the Masonic Hall, 5 Gordon Terrace Inverness on Saturday 9th March 2013 at 12.00 and the meal in the same location at 3.00pm. Car parking is available adjacent to the venue.

All members of your Province are cordially invited to the dinner following the Ceremonies. A complimentary ticket is reserved for your Grand Superintendent or his representative, and the others are available at the cost of £14.00 per head.

I would be obliged if you would indicate at your earliest convenience whether your Grand Superintendent or his representative will be attending and if there will be any other Companions accompanying him on the day. In order to assist with catering arrangements it would be helpful if you confirm the numbers and if possible names of the Companions who will require tickets to dine as soon as possible and if any Companions are vegetarian or have special dietary requirements

Yours Fraternally

Frederick J. Mant

Grand Superintendent of Inverness-Shire

VISITATION to TRINIDAD 2012.

Sunday, 28th October.

Having been able to attend the Unity Church Service in Kilmarnock, this year being held under the auspices of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire, I then undertook the relatively short journey to Erskine Bridge Hotel where I met up with ME Companion Tom Frost, Past Depute First Grand Principal and ME Companion Grahame Smith, Grand Scribe E in time to join them for dinner. Our rendezvous there on this occasion was to enable us to board an early flight from Glasgow to Gatwick.

Monday, 29th October,

The shrill of the alarm clock at 3.30 a.m. ensured that we did not miss the scheduled hotel bus to the Airport. With the flight to Gatwick on time we soon found ourselves on board the British Airways ten hour flight to Trinidad. After a short stop in St Lucia we arrived in Port of Spain at 4.30 p.m. local time.

As we were disembarking from the aircraft I was surprised to hear a tannoy announcement requesting Mr Fraser to make contact with a member of the ground staff. I was then approached by a very attractive and efficient young lady who indicated that we should follow her as she led us in the direction of the VIP/Diplomatic desk, where our passports were checked prior to being "fast tracked" through Immigration and escorted to a VIP

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

Lounge. There we were met by the Grand Superintendent Designate, M.E. Companion Stanford, and his two Depute Grand Superintendents, M.E. Companions Adrian Franklin and Darnley Campbell. This proved to be a meeting of "old friends" as these Companions are well known to me having enjoyed their company during previous visits to their District. This was nothing other than an extremely warm and genuine welcome to Trinidad.

After some refreshment it was time to collect our luggage and be driven to the Capita Plaza Hotel which is to be our accommodation for the next four nights. This was familiar territory to ME Companion Frost and me as we had stayed there on several previous occasions. On arrival we were met and greeted by the current Grand Superintendent, M.E. Companion Teasley Taitt and his District Scribe E. M.E. Companion Steven Anton. A relaxing hour spent in social pleasantries preceded a most enjoyable dinner hosted by these Companions, and in the knowledge that the 3.30 a.m. alarm call meant that we had been "on the go" for a longer period than usual, better judgement prevailed and we retired for the night.

Tuesday, 30th October.

Sitting at breakfast this morning I was delighted to be joined by ME Companion Bomi Metha, Past District Grand Superintendent of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of India and Ceylon, who had previously very kindly agreed to join my Deputation.

Arrangements having been made for us to visit the world renowned Pitch Lake we were collect at 8.30 a.m. and driven the hour long journey to Brighton La Brea where we had an opportunity to walk onto the surface of the lake which is the world's largest deposit of natural asphalt. Our return journey to Port of Spain was punctuated midway with a stop for an excellent lunch at one of the local restaurants..

A most memorable evening was spent in social fellowship when we attended the 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner in the Banquet and Conference Centre of the Movietowne Complex, Port of Spain. This event provided us with another marvellous opportunity to meet many of the local Brethren, Companions and their Ladies.

Wednesday, 31st October.

Collected from our hotel at 10 am and we were driven to The Temple, Mount Zion which is to be the venue for tonight's Ceremonies giving myself and my Deputation an opportunity to familiarise ourselves with the layout of the premises.

An invitation to visit the historic Lodge of United Brothers was readily accepted. A sojourn to this unique Lodge is really a "must" for all Brethren visiting Trinidad and Tobago and today was to prove no exception. We were met by the RWM and several senior Brethren who were more than willing to show us through their premises. (The oldest building in Trinidad still being used for the original purpose for which it was built) The Lodge will celebrate 200 years of existence in 2013. A leisurely lunch followed.

Early evening and we were once again driven back to The Temple, Mount Zion, where we conducted the Ceremony of Re-Dedication of the District Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Trinidad and Tobago. After a short adjournment we then duly installed the new District Grand Superintendent, ME Companion Garth Asquith Milton Stanford and his commissioned Office Bearers into their respective offices. Another unforgettable day concluded with a lavish banquet.

Thursday, 1st November.

A relaxing morning prior to being driven to one of the local Chinese restaurants to meet up with the new Grand Superintendent and his commissioned Office Bearers for lunch and an opportunity to discuss various matters pertaining to their new role as our District representatives. All the Companions present were most enthusiastic about the duties entrusted to them and I am confident this District continues to be under excellent stewardship.

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

No sooner had we finished lunch and we were driven to Arima where it was our pleasure to attend the Installation and Investiture of the new First Principal and Office Bearers of Unity Royal Arch Chapter No 610 S.C. This event proved to be a very well conducted Installation Ceremony with the outgoing First Principal installing his successor in a most dignified and sincere manner.

Once again the proceedings concluded with another sumptuous and enjoyable banquet.

Friday, November, 2nd.

The departure time of our flight necessitated a somewhat early check out from our hotel and once again ME Companions Stanford and Franklin provided the necessary transport and also arranged for the use of a VIP lounge where we were accommodated prior to our departure. Both Companions remained with us until we boarded our aircraft and no doubt when they returned home enjoyed a well earned rest.

Two days followed with a private visit to Barbados when we had the pleasure of meeting up once again with the Past Grand Superintendent, ME Companion Owen Springer and his good lady Monica. Once again I am grateful to them both for their kindness and generous hospitality.

Uneventful return flights to Scotland followed this private visit.

Ian Fraser.

First Grand Principal.

VISITATION to CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA 2012.

Tuesday, 13th November.

On this particular visit I was very fortunate to be accompanied by ME Companions, George Alexander, Second Grand Principal, William MacEwan, Third Grand Principal and his wife Sheila, Grahame Smith, Grand Scribe E and M.E. Companion Hugh Edmond, Grand Superintendent of the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Stirling and Clackmannan. Having previously arranged to rendezvous at Glasgow Airport no time was lost in being "checked in" through the Emirates desk and we were soon on board the evening flight to Dubai.

Wednesday, 14th November,

The early morning arrival in Dubai provided us with more than adequate time to admire the many temptations the Duty Free shopping areas of this magnificent modern airport has to offer as we made our way to the appropriate departure gate. An hours delay in leaving resulted in a somewhat late arrival at O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg where we were eventually met and warmly welcomed by our Grand Superintendent, ME Companion David Gardner, the Grand Superintendent Designate ME Companion Orlando Edwards and his Deputy M.E. Companion John Grant and his partner Jackie at whose excellent accommodation, we are to reside during this visit.

An hour or so to relax and we were then driven to ME Companion Edwards home where we were handsomely entertained. A typical South African meal, professionally prepared became the main focus of our attention and was thoroughly enjoyed.

Thursday, 15th November.

Most of today was spent being driven through a local Game Reserve where we were fortunate enough to see at close range several specimens of African wild life. This interesting and relaxing period was followed by an equally memorable evening spent at the well known and popular Monti Casino where we met up with our hosts, several senior Companions of the District and their Ladies. While carefully avoiding the ample gambling

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

opportunities, we found the menu at “Tubby’s” restaurant to be irresistible and did not require to be persuaded to sample several of the mouth-watering delicacies on offer.

Friday, 16th November.

Most of the morning and early afternoon was spent in Gold Reef City Theme Park where the opportunity to explore several locations of historical interest, including a well preserved disused gold mine which is the main tourist attraction within the park.

One of the main reasons for our visit to this District was to conduct the re-dedication Ceremony of Brixton Royal Arch Chapter, No 790 and our evening was spent in attending to this duty. An excellent meal was provided and a well attended harmony concluded another interesting day.

Saturday, 17th November.

Within the premises of the Central East Rand Temple, and in the presence of a large number of Companions, with all the Sister Constitutions being very well represented, we installed the new Grand Superintendent, ME Companion Orlando Edwards and his commissioned Office Bearers into their respective offices. Prior to the Installation Ceremony the three members of my Deputation visiting Central South Africa for the first time, namely ME Companions Alexander, MacEwan and Edmond, were made Honorary members of the District.

The Installation ceremony was followed by the customary harmony with, as is the custom in this District, ladies being present.

Sunday, 18th November.

Courtesy of ME Companion David Gardner, ME Smith and I were able to visit an old friend ME Companion Les Tucker, Past Grand Superintendent of the Cape Province of South Africa, Eastern Division, now residing in a truly delightful retirement village. It was a pleasure for us both to spend a few hours and have lunch with him while he emphasised and extolled the virtues of “The Lodge” accommodation. I was delighted to see that he and his wife are extremely happy in such a pleasant environment..

Having visited the District of Central South Africa on several previous occasions it gave me great pleasure to meet up, once again, with many old friends.

A short visit, but as usual, another memorable one. Soon we were on board the Emirates aircraft for another night flight to Dubai and from there home again.

Ian Fraser.

First Grand Principal.

DISTRICT GRAND PRIORY OF THE NORTH IN SCOTLAND

Diary date: Frater Andrew Morrison will be installed as District Grand Prior by the Grand Master on Saturday 25th May 2013.

Donnie Macleod

PROVINCIAL PATTERN

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Province of Ross and Cromarty

ISSUE NO 74

FEBRUARY 2013

The Squaremen

Heilan Shed No. 6.

A good turn out of Brithers were in attendance at the Annual Committee meeting to discuss this years Shed activities, on Saturday 26th January in The club, Gordon Terrace, Inverness.

The new Worthy Deacon for the ensuing year is to be James Williamson, Nairn, an honour bestowed on him to mark the excellence of his years as Skinner (treasurer) of the Shed. He will be assisted in his roll as Worthy Deacon by Colin Thomson, Sub-Deacon, Invergordon; Henry McInnes, Captain of the Guard, Alness; Andy Henderson, Limner, Dingwall, and the usual suspects in support. The administrators of the Shed will be John G. Mackay, Boxie, (Secretary) Inverness and Andrew Fraser, Nairn as Skinner (Treasurer).

It was also decided to hold Sheds in Inverness (Installation first Saturday in March); Moray; Ross and Cromarty and Skye among other locations to be announced by the Secretary to the Lodges concerned in due course.

The first meeting of the new team will be in Forres in April after the Installation meeting the first Saturday in March at 3 p.m.

CORK

The new Worthy Admiral of the Inverness Cork, Duncan Munro, Alness, was unable to be present on Saturday 26th January, due to a medical condition and a spell of incarceration in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. The members of the Cork wished him a speedy and complete recovery. The duties of Admiral fell to the newly installed Right Worshipful Master of Lodge St Andrew No. 601, Ardersier, John I. Mackay, known nowadays as the "Wild Owl Man", after his being attacked by a large owl in the car park outside The Club, Gordon Terrace, Inverness, recently.

There were no less than 13 candidates joining the Cork and an excellent afternoon was spent in good company. Congratulations must be extended to the Mackay's (John I. and John. G.) for their efforts in conducting the annual Auction, making monies for local charities. Thanks also to the many folk who donated prizes for the auction.

The next Cork Degree will take place on the last Saturday in January 2014 at 3 p.m. following the Committee meeting of the Heilan Shed No. 6 at 1 p.m. in The Club, Gordon Terrace, Inverness.

Bro Kenneth Jack, Lodge Allan Wilson No 851 has kindly submitted the following thought provoking article:

IN STRENGTH IS OUR INTELLIGENCE

BY Bro. Dudley WRIGHT (1924)

Brethren are reminded from time to time that they are expected to pursue their studies. This injunction is not unnecessary, for it will not be denied that there is really what is a painful lack of knowledge respecting the history, philosophy, and character of the Masonic Order. Many are content with the mere gaining of the rights and privileges of membership: they seem hardly to care whether or not they make themselves acquainted with the legends and technical information belonging to the various degrees. It is enough for them that they are called Freemasons- that they claim membership in the fraternity to which so many of their friends and acquaintances belong. Others are seeking with great zeal to acquire knowledge of the ritual working, but their ambition is fully satisfied when they have mastered the text and posted themselves as to the steps necessary to take in the initiation and advancement of a candidate. Both of these classes are quite indifferent to the fact that Freemasonry is a science, the principles of which need to be enquired for and understood; that it has a history which requires to be studied; a literature peculiarly its own which is worthy of diligent attention.

The same careless tendency is manifested on the part of many respecting the present movements and enterprises of the institution. They will not take the pains to inform themselves in regard to the condition of things; they have no anxiety concerning what is being done or attempted in the prosecution of Masonic work. They will not study the record which the past has made, nor do they care to read of the important enterprises which are now being prosecuted. A visible ignorance like this is one of the dangers which threatens the Masonic Order. The

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danger is not imminent, perhaps. It is hardly recognised in a time like the present, when so great prosperity attends the Craft, and the institution seems so firmly fixed in the popular regard. But let a wave of opposition sweep over the land, let the dark days which some of our fathers remember come again and we shall surely be in peril because of such indifference and ignorance. The intelligence of the craft is its best support. What is wanted are men who have been diligent enquirers at the altars of Masonic learning; men who have gone outside the limits of the Order, gaining knowledge and ideas and teachings which are signified by such a variety of beautiful forms and ceremonies. Fidelity to textual requirements is commendable, to know the work of the degrees is no small attainment; but a higher faithfulness is needed, and a knowledge that goes beyond those things, which at the best only constitute the alphabet of Masonic science. With a literature so abundant, with books and periodicals into which is put the thinking of some of the best minds, there is no excuse for an ignorance so greatly to be deplored. A thorough knowledge of the history, philosophy, and science of Freemasonry should and ought to be the ambition of every member of the Craft, and when he has studied and is well versed in these subjects, he can answer truthfully the question: "What came you here to do?"

Often we hear the brethren deplore their "rusty" state. Has it ever occurred to you that of all the associations and fraternities in the world, Masonry, the oldest, the best, and the mother of them all, has neglected more than many to place sufficient stress upon the reading of literature by its members? We have an abundance of the very best literature that was ever written, but it would seem that many of our Craftsmen do not know it, or, if they do know it, they say that they have not time to read it. This is more serious than may, on first thoughts, appear. The usefulness, development, and enjoyment of the Craft by the member depend very largely upon the time he devotes to reading and study. The active workers are the readers and students. They read the best books they can get and the shelves and tables in their dens and libraries are dotted here and there with Masonic books and periodicals. These books and papers are far - reaching in their influence. They influence the Freemason himself, then his family, and then his neighbours. Who can measure the results of good literature in the home? It is acknowledged to be one of the great silent forces in the world. We deplore the sad "lack of time" about which we hear so much in these days, as the cause of neglecting this important function of life, but, as Arnold Bennett has put it, we have all the time there is, and we cannot get more than twenty-four hours a day, however much we may crave for more. Not to read is suicide of mind and spirit. It not only starves these but it dries up and atrophies the nerves and joints of our bodies. Good reading is recreating to mind, body, and spirit.

Masonic research may be compared with an ocean, unfathomable in its delights and profit. Many who have hesitated to enter upon its depths and have stepped tremblingly from the shores of ignorance, have presently been found swimming in its deep waters and have, with reluctance, relinquished the delightful exercise, even for a short breathing space. Or it may be likened to an unexplored country, which the explorer finds not to be wild or overgrown with weeds, but well planted with luxurious trees, yielding fruits of varied description. The plants therein know nothing of seasonal changes, are not dependant for fructification upon weather or climate, only upon husbandry, and the more frequent the gathering the more fruitful the yield. There is no boredom in Masonic Research, and one never hears of the student who is "Fed up" with the exercise. The only danger, which, after all, is not a real danger, but only an additional attraction, is that a brother, having fixed upon a certain branch of study as his aim and goal, may be allured into pursuing many of the pleasing and seductive side-tracks and become enthralled with other beautiful landscapes unfolded to his vision. Instead of finding Masonic Research a cold, dry study, the neophyte finds it warm and energising to a high but pleasing and fascinating degree. At first it may tickle the fancy, but quickly it illumines the understanding: it may begin as a fascinating pastime; so it continues, but also it becomes a profitable study. It has many avenues, but, like the various paths through the Oxford meadows, they all lead to the waters- in the instance the waters of knowledge, unfathomable, but ever-satisfying, health-giving, and soul-inspiring. It is a food, the "food of the gods", the food of progress, because it has basis in solidity, not in the slops of sensationalism.