

Perthshire Freemason



Dear Sir and Brother,

Here we are at issue 2 already; I would to thank everybody for the fantastic response to the inaugural issue last autumn. With the support of the Brethren of Perthshire East and West the newsletter will continue to grow and I hope represent what is happening in our Lodges and Provincial Grand Lodges. Once again I must take a moment to stay a special thank you to our Provincial Grand Masters, Brothers Ronnie Forbes and Harold Ingram, their continued support is greatly appreciated.

As many of you will know The Provincial Grand Master of Perthshire West, Bro. Harold J Ingram is retiring this year after 10 years as Provincial Grand Master. On a personal note I would like to take this opportunity to wish him all the best for the future, I hope he and his wife enjoy his retirement but I am quite sure we will continue to see him for many years to come, least of all as SD in 1484!

I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter; its continued success can only be achieved by the input it receives from you, the Brethren of Perthshire.

Please feel free to send any submissions to me at:

martyn.greene@ukmason.co.uk

Yours Sincerely and Fraternally

Martyn W Greene

The Lodge of Dunblane No. IX

RWM, Lodge Bailie Nicol Jarvie, No. 1036

MESSAGE FROM GRAND MASTER MASON

RE HAITI EARTHQUAKE



Brethren, we have all been horrified by the devastating earthquake that has struck the Republic of Haiti and the scenes of suffering and desolation on our television screens. Many Brethren have been enquiring

how we, as Scottish Freemasons, can best assist in aiding the suffering of the people of that land.

Whilst the natural reaction of many is to contribute immediately to the International Aid Agencies seeking funding I have today consulted with the heads of all Masonic Bodies in Scotland with whom we are in Amity as well as with Grand Almoner and Grand Secretary and we are unanimous in our opinion that this may not be the long term best use of Masonic generated funds. In our opinion, considering that the funds generated by appeals to our Brethren are liable to be insignificant to the total of the International Appeals, any Masonic generated monies should be retained centrally and used for specific reconstruction or social projects once the country has achieved a measure of stability.

Whilst Provinces, Districts and Lodges are of course at liberty to contribute to disaster relief in any manner they wish all should be aware that the Grand Lodge of Scotland will co-ordinate the receipt of contributions from Scottish Freemasons worldwide. Any funds received will be retained in a designated account for Haiti Earthquake Relief and will be utilised entirely for identifiable projects in Haiti.

Brethren, Scottish Freemasons have always prided themselves in their generosity to those less fortunate than themselves. Charity is one of the foundations of our Craft and I do not need to emphasise the terrible situation in Haiti. I would urge all Scottish Freemasons to support this initiative and contribute as your circumstances allow to this most worthy cause.

All cheques, money orders etc should be payable to the 'Grand Lodge of Scotland' and clearly marked on the back or by accompanying letter -Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund.

By necessity, this is an urgent appeal and further information as to how funds will be ultimately utilised and controlled will be given later, but I can assure you that every penny / cent received will go directly to those in need.

Charles Iain Wolrige Gordon of Esslemont Grand Master Mason January 2010



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE NEWS

With the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master of Perthshire West retiring we noted in the previous issue that three well known Brethren had come forward offering themselves as candidates to fill the role. After the Lodges voted including Provincial Grand Lodge Provincial Grand Secretary Brother John S Brockie, PM of The lodge of Dunblane No. IX was declared the winner. This has now passed through both Grand Committee and Grand Lodge and Brother Brockie will become the next Provincial Grand Master of Perthshire West. Brother Brockies installation will be held on August 28th at the Victoria Hall in Dunblane. Further details to follow.

Two well known Perthshire West Brethren were honoured this year by the Grand Master Mason and received Honorary Grand Rank. Brother Arthur Denholm of Bailie Nicol Jarvie, 1036 and Brother Ron Castle of Tullibardine, 1484 both were conferred with the Honorary Grand Rank Of Senior Grand Deacon. Congratulations to two very well deserving Brethren.

Perthshire East was also honoured by the Grand Master Mason in the person of Past Master Iain Smith of St John's Lodge No.46 at Auchterareder. Iain received the honorary Grand Rank of Honorary Grand Treasurer. Congratulations Iain.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF PERTHSHIRE EAST

Date	Committee	Communication	Lodge
09/04/2010	7-00pm	7-45pm	1524

Whilst all the Installations may be over there is still the business of visiting the Lodges and a number of these still remain:

St John	174	09/02/2010
St John	46	15/02/2010
St Andrew	74	18/02/2010
Kildrummie	906	24/02/2010
Meigle	1122	01/03/2010
Auchtergaven	1123	11/03/2010
The Carse of Gowrie	871	17/03/2010
Strathardle	1507	18/03/2010
St Ninian	732	06/04/2010
Stormont	1524	14/04/2010

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire East recently elected new Office Bearers:

W.S.W.	1122	I. Cameron
W.J.W.	174	J. Smith
Treasurer	3	D. Mee
Almoner	3	A. Murray
Director of C.	871	H. Moon
Senior Deacon	174	S. Allan
Junior Deacon	3	J. Thomas
Inner Guard	192	A. Lauder
Architect	46	R. Easton
Jeweller	46	G. King
Bible Bearer	137	P. Heys
Bard	137	A. Lipp
Sword Bearer	137	D. Lipp
Director of Music	3	M. Dennis
Organist	174	R. Crowe
Steward	906	A. MacDonald
Tyler	871	C. Moon

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PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF PERTHSHIRE WEST

The installation sin Perthshire West are almost finished with just one remaining, Lodge St James 171 in Doune will hold their annual Installation on the 20th February.

There are however still a number of visitations:

Callander	614	23/02/10
Dunblane	IX	01/03/10
Aberfeldy	657	17/03/10
Dunkeld	14	25/03/10
Kenmore	276	31/03/10
Killin	815	05/04/10
Aberfoyle	1036	13/04/10

W.S.W.	IX	A.J. Pogson
W.J.W.	IX	R.J. McPhee
Treasurer	1484	P. Watson
Almoner	IX	M.J. Cockburn
D of C.	IX	R.H. Bullard
Assistant D of C	614	J.A. Macdonald
Senior Deacon	1036	W.C. McAllister
Junior Deacon	276	D.S. Wright
Architect	792	D. Burns
Jeweller	171	S.T. Campbell
Bible Bearer	38	R.P. McGlashan
Sword Bearer	614	P. Nietto
Director of Music	814	J.C. Condie
Piper	269	P. Gill
Marshall	815	G.L. Thompson
Standard Bearer	269	T.S. Anderson
Inner Guard	14	R.J. Oliver
Pres. of Stewards	269	J.K. Bryce
Tyler	657	J.N.F. Jamieson

Date	Communication	Lodge	Business
09/04/2010	3pm	#14, Dunkeld	AGM

North East Corner Fundraisers

The North East Corner Group are busy as always:

1. 6th March Northumbrian Ceremonial Degree Team, 1st degree from 1800, in period dress, plus guest speaker.
2. 3rd April Lecture Evening to be held in Lodge Ancient No 49 Dundee.
3. 11th April Raft Race.
4. 8th May Cabaret Evening/Buffer/Dance.

Details from Stephen Campbell 01383 850956 or stephencampbellcarnock@hotmail.com



This 'bookplate' is a scan of one found in a book from from the turn of the 20th century and is part of the collection of Bro. David Naughton-Shires

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Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter Of Perthshire



Companion Andrew C. Brown then delighted the assembled throng with his recitation of 'Tam O' Shanter'- dressed in suitable attire. Andrew delivered the famous poem in an energetic and entertaining fashion and had the Companions and their bemused partners rolling in the aisles. The lengthy poem was delivered by Andrew in typical word-perfect fashion, and in his own inimitable style. This was a marvellous achievement and a tribute to Andrew's remarkable memory- given that this was the first time he has delivered the poem. Rumour has it - he is already taking bookings for next year!

Companion John G. McMillan gave an excellent rendering of his well -practiced 'Holy Willie's Prayer - and Companion Mike McGregor proposed the toast to the lassies in his usual urbane and humorous manner. Companion David Macallum further enhanced the evening with a couple of musical interludes on his guitar. Overall- an extremely enjoyable and successful night and the Companions look forward to a similar event next year.

Strathearn Royal Arch Chapter No 34 have changed their meeting nights from the second Thursday to the second Friday of the month at 7.30pm and are holding events after the meetings:

Feb 12th – Exaltation followed by a karaoke friends and partners welcome

Mar 12th - EM Degree followed by a Scottish quiz night friends and partners welcome

Why Join the Royal Arch?

I waited 3 years after being raised before joining the Royal Arch, just like joining the craft I wish I had done it sooner! I really enjoy my Royal Arch Masonry and do not to understand why so few of our Lodge members do not join.

Firstly I joined because I felt it would complete some of the unanswered questions left after the Third Degree, we all know Free-masonry is a journey of self discovery and I felt that to achieve this then all the steps are necessary. The Royal Arch provides many of the spiritual answers whereas the three craft degrees deal with practical ones.

The degrees themselves are worth joining to see, both are quite amazing and if understood properly reveal a great deal to the candidate.



Callander Royal Arch Chapter #277 held a special meeting in November where several high ranking companions from the Italian constitution attended, we were especially pleased to receive the 3rd Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Italy, MEC Andrea Bonechi. Another special meeting is planned for April 24th.

The Companions of Strathearn Royal Arch Chapter No. 34 recently enjoyed a Burns Supper within their Chapter Rooms at Comrie Street, Crieff. The January Supper coincided with the annual visitation by a Deputation from the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Perthshire- headed by the Provincial Grand Superintendent John (Ian) Laing; and a grand night was had by all.

The Chapter was opened, and following a most favourable report by the Provincial Grand Superintendent- was then adjourned, and a company of 50 - including a dozen ladies- sat down to enjoy traditional Burns- night fare. The haggis was piped in by Companion Phil Gill and was thereafter addressed in skilful fashion by Companion Richard McGlashan.

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Joining a Chapter also provides further social opportunities, companionship and enjoyment. Our Chapters take their membership from more than one Lodge. By joining a Chapter you will increase your Masonic acquaintance beyond the membership of your own Lodge, which, in turn, can lead to an increase in your Masonic experience and knowledge.

But, above all, joining the Royal Arch should increase your enjoyment of Freemasonry. It brings with it new experiences, new insights and new Companions, all of which add to our pleasure and our enjoyment of Freemasonry.

If you are interested in joining the Royal Arch then please contact the Provincial Scribe E and he will put you in touch with your local Chapter: Perthshire has seven Chapters.

LODGE OF DUNBLANE NO. IX

Following on from the last Newsletter where we looked at Lodge Scoon and Perth No.3 we will now take a look at the Lodge of Dunblane No. IX



The first Legible Minute is signed by William, Viscount Strathallan in January 1696 and it has been carefully restored and preserved.

The brethren met in various house and hotels for a number of years until Colonel Patrick Stirling of Kippendavie became Master in December 1885. He took an active interest in securing permanent premises for the lodge and in June 1886 the foundation stone was laid for the Masonic Temple in which the Lodge still meets and the consecration was made in June 1887. There is a beautiful ornate ceiling which was paid for by Sir John Stirling Maxwell, Past Master, minute data a meeting in 1892 as follows-

"The Lodge accepted an offer by Sir John Stirling Maxwell of Pollock, Past Master, to bear the cost of having the Lodge painted and embellished in appropriate Masonic manner"



There are also two stained glass memorial windows, the first being installed in the new lodge at its consecration in 1887 in memory

of Past Amster John Stirling of Kippendavie who was Master three times for a total of twenty four years from 1842-48, 1858-61 and 1866-81. It is a double window situated in the West of the Lodge, on one window is the figure of St



Window in the West depicting Hiram Abiff at Dunblane IX

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John and on the other Hiram Abiff, both surrounded by Masonic Symbolism. On the North wall is the other glass window which was gifted by the Brethren of the Province in memory of Colonel J.P. Stirling, Past Provincial Grand Master and Past Master of No.IX. It is situated near the North East corner and is illuminated from the rear during part of the third degree.

At the Bi-centenary celebrations in 1895 the bi-centennial stone was laid by Brother Sir Charles Dalrymple, Grand Master Mason. A jar was placed below it containing a short history of the Lodge, a list of Past Masters, a copy of the Dundee Advertiser and an Order of service for the day.



The tercentenary celebrations took place in 1995 when the rededication ceremony was carried out by the Immediate Past Grand Master Mason, Brother Brigadier Sir Gregor McGregor of McGregor, Bart, ably assisted by a deputation of Grand Lodge Office Bearers. The ceremony took place in the Dunblane Hydro Hotel as the number far exceeded the capacity of the Lodge. The reply on behalf of the visiting Brethren was given by Brother John Muir, a native of

Dunblane and a Past Master of Lodge Dunblane Australis No. 966. Twenty one Brethren and their ladies from Lodge Dunblane Australis attended the Tercentenary celebrations. These were completed by a procession in full regalia to Dunblane Cathedral on the Sunday following for

a divine Service to celebrate 300 years of service to the craft.

The Lodge of Dunblane has been responsible for forming two daughter Lodges, Lodge St James No.171, Doune was constituted in 1789 and Lodge Abercromby No. 531, Bridge of Allan was constituted in 1873, both by members of No.IX. In addition a member of No.IX was a founder member of Lodge Dunblane Australis No.966.

The Lodge has been honoured by having four Past Masters rising to the rank of Provincial Grand Master – Brother Colonel Patrick Stirling 1891 – 1900, Brother Major Charles Murray Stewart 1905-1913, Brother Peter Ian McIntosh,JP, 1983-1988 and Brother David Henderson Cramb 1995-2000. And of course No.IX is also honoured that the Provincial Grand Master Elect is also a Past Master, Brother John Scott Brockie.



This History was taken from :
" A Short History of the Provincial Grand Lodge and Daughter Lodges"
Compiled by the Provincial Grand Secretary Brother John S Brockie and is available from the Provincial Grand Treasurer Peter Watson.

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In the last year (2009) I visited Lodge Apollo-King Solomon No 13 in the state of New York three times, but before I go into those visits I would like to just give you a short history of that lodge.



Apollo-King Solomon Lodge No 13 was formed by a merger of Apollo Lodge No 13 and King Solomon's Primitive Lodge No 91 in 1997. The lodge meets in the Troy Masonic Community Centre on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, from September to June.

Apollo Lodge was chartered in 1796 and was originally given number 49. The charter was issued by Robert Livingston as Grand Master, and Dewitt Clinton as Grand Junior Warden. Both Livingston and Clinton were distinguished figures in American history.



Livingston administered the oath of office to George Washington, and Clinton would eventually become the Governor of New York and provided the leadership for the building of the Erie Canal.

Members of Apollo were also leaders in the community during the 1800's. This was the time of great growth in the city of Troy, and it became the most prosperous in the country. It's location on the Hudson River helped it become an important shipment point and it later became an industrial centre, many members of the lodge were leaders in Industry, Banking and Law.

Apollo Lodge was renumbered as No 13 and grew rapidly through the 1800's. In 1842 King Solomon Primitive Lodge No 91 was formed from members of Apollo, eleven years later in 1853 Mt Zion Lodge No 311 was formed, also by members originally from Apollo. For many years these three lodges plus two more in north Troy worked in the city.



The Masonic building where they meet was originally a farm house, but when it was purchased by the lodge it was extended and improved to become what it is today, every year the local re-enactment society stages

civil war battles in the grounds of the lodge.

Built under the building is a tunnel leading from the building to a near by creek, this was originally part of the **underground**



railway for the assistance and hiding of escaped slaves from the south. From there they would find their way into Canada.

Now to my visits this last year. On the 19th February I attended and to my great surprise I was made an Honorary Member, in June I attended the installation of Bro Frank Burek, these installations are very different to what we do, most of them are open! On 4th December I witnessed a 3rd degree, that also very different to the 3rd degree's that we do.

Roger H Bullard PM

Dunblane No IX PGSD

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Dates for your Diary:

16th February: Special Meeting at Kenmore 276, The PGLPW are conferring the degree

20th February, Lodge St James 171, Doune. Installation

22nd February: MMM degree to be worked by St John 192 at St Kessacs

8th March: PM 3rd Degree at Lodge St Kessacs chaired by PM C.Roy Degree to be worked by a team of Past Masters.

13th March: Dunkeld No.14, 275th anniversary with a rededication ceremony worked by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire West. Ceremony at 5pm and followed by a dinner at the Birnam Hotel. Cost of the meal will be £10.50. All brethren welcome and Lodge secretaries are requested to notify Bro. Shaun McKillop with details of those attending : themckillops@aol.com

15th March: The Scottish Masonic Curling competition at Perth. On the Ice for 3pm. Contact Bro. David Taylor, Lodge Perth Royal Arch No.122 on : (Perth) 628128

20th March: Special Meeting at Kenmore No. 276. 7.30pm. MM

27th March: Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire West Curling Competition in Perth, 8 for 8.30pm

31st March: SPECIAL 5th Wednesday, EA Meeting of four lodges at Stanley. 3,137,871,1262

3rd April: Lodge Breadalbane St. Fillans No. 815 will be holding the annual Fund Raising Auction in the McLaren Hall Killin. Proceeds are shared between the Lodge and local organisations. Anything is accepted within reason. Viewing from 3.00pm followed by sale at 5.00pm.

15th April: Special Meeting at Dunkeld No.14. 7.15pm. MM

24th April: Callander Royal Arch Chapter 277, Special Meeting with Companions from Italy.

8th May: SPECIAL MEETING, FC at 1262. Combined meeting of lodges consecrated on May 5th 1921. Lodges 1258,1259, 1260,1262, 1263, 1265, 1267 and 1269

15th May: Perthshire East Annual Dance at the Civil Service Club, Perth. All Masonic and non-Masonic guests welcome.

20th May: Special Meeting at Dunkeld No.14. 7:15pm. FC

23rd May: St John's Lodge No. 46 Golf Day at Auchterarder Golf Club, all proceeds to charity. Details from Bob Easton 01764 663 963

29th May: an evening of Gilbert and Sullivan in the Temple of Lodge Scone and Perth No. 3

6th June: The Thomson Golf Trophy for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire West hosted by St Kessacs 269 and played at Comrie Golf Club, 10am

18th June: PGLPW Angling Competition, Lake of Menteith, BBQ at 5pm, Angling 6-10pm, Campbell_mcallister@hotmail.com

3rd July: Crabbie Bowling, Crieff, 2/2.30pm

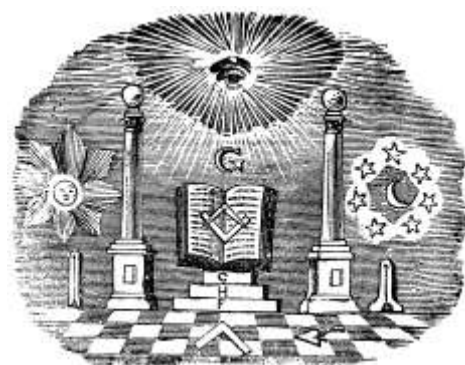
8th August: Frame Trophy between Perthshire East and West, Dunblane, 2/2.30pm

14th August: Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire East Golf Day at Auchterarder Golf Club, entry forms from Bob Easton 01764 663 963 (Entries close 31st March)

28th August: Installation of Provincial Grand Master Bro. John S. Brockie, Victoria Hall, Dunblane. Full Details in the next issue.

29th August: The Reay memorial Golf Trophy hosted by St Kessacs at Comrie Golf Club, Bacon Rolls at 10, T-Off at 11.

15th November: The United Lodge of Dunkeld 14 and Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire West will be travelling to San Francisco to work a FC Degree on Bro. Christopher Anderson. Anyone interested in coming to contact RWM William Semple wsemple@supanet.com 01738 827571 or Sect Bro. Shaun McKillop themckillops@aol.com 01738 828417.



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PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

MICHAEL BAIGENT AND BOB COOPER

To Speak at Masonic Society Symposium

London Friday 28th and Saturday 29th May 2010



To celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Royal Society in 2010, The Masonic Society, in conjunction with Library and Museum of Freemasonry, will hold their 1st Annual UK –Ireland Symposium in London on Friday and Saturday 28th/29th May.

On November 28th 1660, just months after the restoration of King Charles II, a select group of eminent scientist met to form 'The Royal Society'. Their intention was to remove such limitations as language barriers in the scientific community and awaken the world to a new form of forward thinking science. This was meant to encourage the young men of the time to search for answers to many questions they had previously been afraid to ask. Now, nearly 350 years later, another group of men met to form an organisation with the aim of researching Freemasonry: The Masonic Society.

The name, deliberately chosen, alludes to the Royal Society and the visionary men, many of whom were Freemasons, who were at the forefront of the Age of Enlightenment. The Masonic Society has plans to be at the forefront of a new age of Freemasonry.

This first Symposium being held in England will have as its theme 'The Royal Society'. The two selected speakers are well known historians: Michael Baigent (The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail, The Dead Sea Scrolls Deception) will present 'Aspects of the Royal Society' followed by questions and answers and a complimentary lunch. The second speaker Robert L D Cooper (The Masonic Magician: The Life and Death of Count Cagliostro and His Egyptian Rite, The Rosslyn Hoax) will talk on 'A Scottish View of the Foundation of the Royal Society'. The afternoon will end with a second session of questions and answers.

The whole day symposium will be preceded on the Friday by a private guided tour of their exhibition 'Freemasons and the Royal Society' (meet in the first floor lounge Freemasons Hall 4:00pm). This will be the last date of the exhibition which is being held between January 11th and

May 28th 2010. The evening will end with an informal dinner and drinks at the popular Prince of Wales tavern on the corner of Great Queen Street.

The following day the symposium will move to the Kensal Community Centre (177 Kensal Road London W10 5BJ) where our talks for the day will be presented, each session followed by questions and answers. Delegates will be invited to a complimentary lunch. The total registration cost for the Saturday event is £ 10.00 inclusive of lunch. The organising committee consists of Yasha Beresiner (Chairman) David Naughton-Shires (Secretary) and Martyn Greene (Treasurer.)

A place at the symposium can be booked by downloading the application form at:

<http://masonic-ae.com/tms>

Brethren,

In December 2009 I was once again handed the stewardship of looking after 174 for another season, a lodge that was founded in Dunning 1789.

But I am faced with a dilemma after hearing that we had to find £17000 to repair the roof. It is not my intention to leave the next Master Elect this project.

Having been a professional singer for 34 years singing for major Companies both in the UK and abroad I have decided to run a series of concerts starting on Saturday 29th May 2010 with an evening of Gilbert and Sullivan in the Temple of Lodge Scone and Perth NO 3, 5 Atholl Crescent Perth, Perthshire.

The singers are all friends I have sung with over the years from D'Oyly Carte at Saddler's Wells, Scottish Opera and Opera Ireland . We would like to make this a night to remember, all we need is an audience.

{ Black ties and Evening Dresses for the Ladies !

Just a suggestion to give them a chance to dress up for the night. } See if you can remember and join in some of the most enjoyable tunes written by two members of the craft.

Tickets £10

These can be obtained from the 25th January 2010 from our Secretary

The Concert will start at 7.30 pm

Bro Peter Duncan PM

7 Hanover Gardens

Auchterarder

Perthshire

PH3 1DJ

Bro Robert W Crowe RWM 174



Around the Provinces

The artistes and top table guests for the No.3 Burns supper held at the Refectory of the Lodge on Saturday 16th Jan.



At the front are Henry Neil MBE the pianist, Nicola Cowmeadow soprano, Craig Dennis baritone, who provided the entertainment; Half way up the stair with the big beard is Laurence Blair Oliphant of Ardblair who addressed the Haggis and gave us Tam o Shanter; Bro Roy Smith PM of St John 46 who gave us Holy Willies prayer, Wattie Morrison PM No.3 who gave the toast to the Lassies and his wife Gill who gave the reply; Harry Turner WJW No.3 who gave the toast to the artistes and stewards; and young 15 year old Arran Sheach our piper for the night. Chaired by myself.

An excellent night enjoyed by around 70 of the Brn, wives, partners and friends

Russell Logan, RWM Scoon and Perth No.3.



Brother Peter Niettos Installation at Ben Ledi 614, 21st Nov 2009

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Brother Graham Downies Installation at St Michaels 38, 28th Dec 2009



Lodge Scoon and Perth Past Masters dinner was held in the refectory at 5 Atholl Crescent Perth on Friday 6th February 2010.



Brother William Semples Installation, Dunkeld 14, 12th Dec 2009



Installation at 192 St John Muthill Alister Macrea and Ronnie Forbes (PGM Perthshire East)

The top table guests included :

Jim Thomas PM Scoon and Perth No.3 Chairman of the PMs Council; Duncan McFadyen, PM Glasgow Kilwinning No.4, the main speaker Russell Logan RWM Lodge Scoon and Perth No.3 to give the reply to the main speaker, Ronnie Forbes RWPGM Perthshire east and PM of Auchtergaven 1123 John Murray, Chairman of Motherwell PMs council and PM of Livingstone St Andrew 573 Stewart Swan, IPM of Glasgow Kilwinning No.4 Jim Weir, Representing Motherwell PMs Council and PM of Livingstone St Andrew 573 Grahame Campbell PM Glasgow Kilwinning No.4 Fred Bain, PM Lodge St Andrew at Perth 74 Peter Simpson, IPM Lodge St Andrew at Perth 74.

An excellent meal prepared by Francis Bain, excellent harmony by Bro Alex McIntyre.

There was a great representation from many Lodges including: EC Lodge 7532, Lodge 7666; Lodge 6558; Lodge 7165; Lodge 2011, SC Lodges 1429, 14, 123; 283; 1524; 74; 1175, 906; 106; 871; 8; 1332; 788; 1283; 137; 1121, 46.

Very Well chaired by Bro Jim Thomas and everyone is looking forward to next year's event.

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RWM Neil Findlay at 269 Installation with
Prov GM Harold J Ingram

Scottish Connections

by Rabbi Dr Raymond Apple

The general view is that modern Freemasonry began on the European Continent, underwent a re-shaping in England, spread to Scotland and was re-exported to the Continent. The connections to European cathedral-building are examined in another article of mine. This present article argues that the re-shaping took place not in England but in Scotland, and in time the Scottish connection was deliberately pushed under the carpet, allowing John Theophilus Desaguliers, James Anderson and others to deflect attention from the truth by inventing a history that never happened.

Of course there were builders in England in the Middle Ages. There needed to be, especially after 1066 when there was a need for castles and cathedrals, but it is highly doubtful whether there were masons' guilds in England. ("There is no historical evidence whatever," says Wor Bro ET Rylands, "to support the theory of Operative Masonry existing in Medieval England.") Hence when speculative Lodges emerged, it was not at first in England. On the other hand, Rylands shows, "the development of Operative Masonry in Scotland is well documented". Edinburgh Masons were incorporated as a guild in 1475, and the Schaw Statutes in the 1590s regulated the operation of Scottish Masonry. There are minutes extant from Scottish Operative Lodges. From about 1620 a rudimentary ritual began to emerge.

The 18th century saw considerable intellectual ferment in Edinburgh, leading to the formation of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1783. Philosophical societies flourished. Some led into Freemasonry. For a time there were parallel Operative and Speculative groups until, after some tension, the Speculatives prevailed. Speculative Freemasonry, says Rylands, "filtered south by a kind of intellectual osmosis", moving from the north of England down to the capital. There even appears to be evidence of Masons from Scotland demonstrating the degrees of Freemasonry in York in the early 17th century.

English Freemasonry had more than one agenda. Some Freemasons, we cannot be certain how many, were involved in the religious and political changes that stabilised England in the early years of the 18th century, but with the Jacobite rebellion of 1715 the Freemasons were accused of being too Jacobite and anti-Hanoverian. It therefore became necessary to downplay the movement's ties with Scotland and to re-position English Freemasonry in a new, patriotic form. This meant creating a new, safe history independent of Scotland, linking it with the Continental building trade and claiming Biblical origins that antedated both the Greeks and the Romans.

Eventually the Duke of Sussex (who happened to be a Hebrew scholar) became the first Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge formed in 1813, removed any rituals that betrayed Stuart involvement, and led to the Masonic structure with which we are familiar. The Duke also became President of the Royal Society and disposed of Jacobite or Stuart material in the Society's library. Thereafter the Society restricted itself to science, the Duke retired, and Freemasonry was set on the course we know today.





STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

By holding a biennial conference open to the public, the main purpose of the ICHF is:

- to promote Freemasonry as a subject for academic study.
- to present and debate relevant contributions in this area of research.
- to create a forum for interactions between researchers, experts and a wider audience.
- to encourage individuals to take an interest and participate in an active exchange of knowledge in the area.

Looks like I need to get saving already checked the price of flights and it's actually looking good so far if you can make this I would recommend it the 2009 conference was brilliant, this event is one you definitely try to make and I know I will.

With some of the best speakers on the various aspects of freemasonry (both Masonic themselves and non-Masonic) 2009 saw such varied subjects as Military Lodge histories and Masons Marks, Lodge jewels and the growth of Prince Hall Masonry I am sure the 2011 conference will not be a disappointment and with the wonderfully historic location of Washington Dc and Alexandria on the conference doorstep I am really excited. Below is the public statement the organisers of the 2011 conference released at the beginning of the year.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY

The George Washington Masonic Memorial,
Alexandria, Virginia.

Public ANNOUNCEMENT



The International Conference on the History of Freemasonry (ICHF) promoted by Supersonic Events Ltd. is pleased to announce The George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria, Virginia, will host the event in 26 -30 MAY 2011.

The ICHF is a non-profit making, privately owned event and brand, sponsored by Supersonic Events Ltd. with no formal affiliation to any Masonic or academic body. On each occasion a leading academic is appointed to convene a specialist committee responsible for the selection of suitable presentations. Any surplus generated by the ICHF will go to support young researchers and academics pursuing research in the topic and other relevant Masonic projects.

The first conference was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 2007 and was judged so successful, as to merit a second conference. ICHF was again held in Edinburgh in May 2009 primarily because this was the 250th anniversary of the birth of Brother Robert Burns, thus allowing ICHF not only to celebrate Burns but also Freemasonry in all its diversity. However, the ICHF was never envisaged to remain in one place for all time.

It was planned that ICHF would travel to different Masonic venues around the world. This would enable people in the host country and those nearby easier access to the conference and allow participants to visit new sites and cities.

The conference will be additionally attractive as several cultural and social events will be associated with the event. Both 2007 and 2009 conferences were held immediately after a major cultural event – the Young Musicians Of The Year Awards. This linkage between Freemasonry and culture, in this instance supporting the young rising stars of classical music, is an important aspect of ICHF. We are planning another major cultural event for ICHF 2011. In addition to the cultural dimension the social aspect ought not to be ignored. It has been seen that Gala Dinners, usually held on the Saturday night of the conference, have been very successful with delegates and often their wives attending.

The opportunity has also been taken to hold a special Masonic event specifically for the Freemasons who are in attendance at the conference. In 2009 this took the form of a special meeting when a candidate was initiated into The Lodge of Edinburgh (Mary's Chapel), No.1. This was an international Masonic gathering of the highest quality and attended by Freemasons from every continent.

Perthshire Freemason

It is anticipated that another 'one off' Masonic event will be held the day after the conference closes in 2011.

Please also be aware that there are numerous opportunities to visit other nearby sites and museums of Washington DC, including George Washington's Mount Vernon.

A timetable is in the course of preparation and will be made available in the near future.

Please do keep watching for further news about ICHF at the GWMM in 2011. Below are several web sites that you might wish to bookmark for future reference.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial web site:

www.gwmemorial.org

The ICHF web site:

www.ichfonline.org

The Grand Lodge of Scotland news pages:

www.grandlodgescotland.com

Circle Publications & The Ashlar



The Managing Editor and Founder, Brother Angus N. MacInnes, Past Provincial Grand Master of Dunbartonshire and Past Substitute Grand Master Mason of Scotland, decided to set up this charitable company, limited by guarantee, to promote Scottish Freemasonry. All surpluses generated by the company are donated to the Benevolent Funds of the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland.

Circle Publications provides a number of items for the interest and edification of Freemasons all over the world. Pride of place goes to the magazine, The Ashlar, first published in 1997. This idiosyncratic publication is produced thrice yearly, in January, March and September, this timing designed as the best fit for the Scottish Masonic calendar.

The Ashlar is produced as a high quality magazine, in colour, at the minimal cost of £3 per copy. It is not intended to be an academic journal; the main focus is on providing a platform where a Mason can express his opinions. However, the magazine is intended to provide information on Scottish Freemasonry for Freemasons around the world and therefore is a superb medium in promoting Masonic education.

The Ashlar is already enjoyed by many with subscribers in every continent. We trust this website will encourage you to become a regular reader and support Scottish Freemasonry.

Just release and available through the Circle Publications web site is The Ashlar Issue No. 39



Some of the contents of this issue includes:

Robert Burns and John Knox, Chaplains Chatter, The Kilmarnock Edition, Consecration and Installation of First Office-Bearers ST. Andrew's Lodge No.83 Basel, Letter from author Dan Brown, Freemasons Top National Poll, The Masonic and Orange Orders Bro. William Smith M.B.E. Master Mason of Journeymen Masons No.8, John Boswell of Auchinleck, A Diamond Occasion, Robert Burns, Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe and the Mystery of the Master's Apron, Commodore Walker, Province News, Lodge Andrew S. MacBride No. 237, The Master's Breastplate of the Formative Lodge, The Ben Stein Principle, Further Happenings, A Nicht wi' Burns.

www.circlepublications.com

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The Masonic Art Exchange was a group formed by Bro. David Naughton-Shires a Master Mason, member of Ormonde Lodge 201 of the Irish Constitution, the full aims of his group can be found at his web site which itself can be found at www.masonic-ae.com but the main aim to bring into the lives of all brethren and non-brethren the beauty of Masonic Art what started as a small group on Facebook has grown into a thriving online magazine which sees the publication of its sixth issue on the 26th of this month .

The next issue due out on the 26th can be found at www.masonic-ae.com/news.html



The Lodge of Dunblane No. IX Alister McFarlane

It is our sad duty to note the death of one of the most popular and long standing members of the Lodge of Dunblane. Whilst never going through the Chair Alister McFarlane was a stalwart behind the scenes and kept the social side of the lodge going for many many years. His cheery enthusiasm and dedication will be sorely missed.

A lodge of Sorrow was held in Dunblane on the 9th of January where a minutes silence was observed in his Memory.

