

The Centenary Celebration of Lodge Kildrummie 906.

We gather here today to celebrate a milestone in the history of Lodge Kildrummie. The centenary of any Lodge is a special occasion and today is no different. One Hundred years in existence is a great achievement. A person celebrating their 100th birthday would receive a telegram from Her Majesty the Queen, a visit from a local politician, a cake and he or she would be surrounded by family and visited by someone from the Royal Mail. Well today we are no different, we are represented by our Royal Family, Grand Lodge, our Local politicians, Provincial Grand Lodge, we are all Brothers so that makes us family and we have had our cake. The only thing missing Brethren is the Royal Mail. Well I do believe that if someone looks back at my families history someone in Clan Forbes would have sat himself down on a stone, similar to the stone of destiny, and proclaimed himself King, so being a descendant that makes me a Royal Male.

Brethren it is my honour and I deem it a great privilege to present to you a shortened history of Lodge Kildrummie and if you will bear with me it should only take an hour or two. 100 years is some considerable time to cover and I have tried to gather as much information about Kildrummie that I have felt is interesting. However what is interesting to me may not be to everyone's liking so please bear with me.

This centenary celebration could have taken place 82 years ago, because there was a Lodge in Methven, called Methven Union Lodge and I feel that this Lodge should be mentioned because as you will hear later, it has a great deal to do with Kildrummie.

Methven Union Lodge was formed because a number of Masons living in and around the village of Methven, were members of Lodges in Perth, for example, Scoon & Perth No. 3. These Brethren met on the 25 November, 1817 to consider "*The want of a Masonic Lodge in this village has long been peculiarly felt, by the Brethren residing in this neighbourhood being at such a distance from any established Lodge*" Remember Brethren this was 1817 and Perth was 6 miles and Crieff 11 miles. The Brethren resolved to unite together and try to obtain a charter. Four Brethren were tasked with the job of drawing up an

outline and judge what grounds were necessary to obtain a charter. They had to report back in seven days.

At a 2nd meeting 22 Brethren were present. They discussed the report from the committee of four, which was unanimously approved. The committee however informed the meeting that they did not know the cost of obtaining a charter, but thought that initially 10 shillings should be charged from those wishing to join the Lodge in Methven, but a brother could give as much more as he thought proper. The Brethren then approached Lodges Scoon & Perth and Perth Royal Arch seeking their recommendations. It was decided to call the new Lodge "Methven Union Lodge". A petition was then drawn up in the names of Richard WILSON (Master), David Cuthbert(W.S.W.), Matthew Moncrieffe (W.J.W.) And 9 others requesting Grand Lodge grant a Charter.

It would appear that Lodge Scoon & Perth did not give their recommendation and the Brethren then approached Lodge St Andrew, Perth and on the 5 January, 1818, Bro. William BAIN proceeded to Edinburgh with the petition, the recommendations and the fee to present the same to Grand Lodge.

The Lodge discovered that the fee for obtaining a charter was £21 and it would appear that they were £9 short. Grand Lodge did however authorise, by way of a letter, the Lodge to start to work until the charter was granted. Bro Richard WILSON then advanced the sum of £9 and insisted that the petition and the money were returned to Edinburgh the next day.

On the 4 February, 1818 a letter is read from Alex LAWRIE, Grand Secretary stating that at a meeting of Grand Lodge on the 2nd, the charter had been granted, and the letter immediately authorised the Lodge to commence working, until the charter arrived. The Lodge took the letter to heart and the following night the 5th February, 1818 Methven Union Lodge held their first meeting within Methven School, seven Brethren were raised to Master Masons and two were made Entered Apprentices. Brethren two things stuck in my mind at this point (1) the date, February and (2) how good the post was in those days.

The clothing of the Lodge was decided and the colour was to be a shade or two lighter than dark blue.

On the 22 April, 1818 the Lodge was consecrated by Grand Lodge, the Grand Master Mason and his two wardens presiding over the ceremony. Lodges represented that day were Scoon & Perth, St Michaels Crieff, Perth Royal

Arch and 40 Brethren of Methven Union Lodge. Following the meeting the Brethren formed a procession and walked through the village, visiting the Manse before marching to Methven Castle to pay respect to the owner.

Methven Union Lodge were present at a number of important events, some of these being: -

[1] 10 May, 1819 Consecration of the new Lodge of Perth Royal Arch.

[2] March 1821 Lodge invited to send a deputation to Bridge of Earn to join Lodge St Andrews lay the foundation stone of the new bridge over the River Earn

[3] Lodge sent a deputation to join Lodge Scoon & Perth at the laying of the foundation stone of Kinnoull Parish Church.

On the 14 September, 1826 Methven Union Lodge lay the foundation stone of the Steeple at Methven Parish Church, they had donated £10 to the cost of this erection. The Lodge met with deputations from Lodges Scoon & Perth, St Andrews and Royal Arch, Perth. They then marched to the west and east ends of the village before proceeding to the spot where the stone was to be laid. The foundation stone was laid by the RWM James YOUNG.

Sadly Brethren in December, 1839 things were not well with the Lodge and on the 11 February, 1840, a little over 23 years since it first started, the last recorded minutes were written. They were basically to reimburse Brethren who had paid into a funeral scheme. At the closing there were 187 members of the Lodge who had monies returned to them.

As you will later hear, Methven Union Lodge were gone but not forgotten.

On the 27 December, 1899 a meeting took place within the Star Hotel, Methven where “*A meeting of gentlemen interested in the formation of a Masonic Lodge was held this evening*”. James WILSON of Drumtochty House chaired the meeting and they appointed T.W.REID to take a note of the business. It was agreed that a Masonic Lodge should be formed in Methven and that the name should be “Lodge KILDRUMMIE”.

Why the name Kildrummie was chosen is not clear, we know that there is a Kildrummie Terrace in Methven, but did this come before or after the Lodge. The only other Kildrummy known to me is in Aberdeenshire. Perhaps some of the founder members come from that area.

The first office bearers of the Lodge were appointed and they were RWM

James Wilson, Sub Master Robert Donaldson, WSW Dr W.S. Souter, WJW John Keay, Secretary T.W. Reid, Treasurer Peter Keay, S.D. David Crearer, J.D. James Jackson, I.G. Robert Whannell and Tyler R.W. McFarlane. .

These first officer bearers signed their names on a petition form and agreed to send it to Grand Lodge after obtaining the signatures of the Master and Wardens of three neighbouring Lodges in Perth and also to obtain the signature of the P.G.M. and the P.G. Secretary. As you will hear some of these names are prominent in the early history of the Lodge.

At a preliminary meeting seven candidates were announced and it was agreed that the initiation fee would be two guineas and the affiliation fee 10 shillings and 6d.

At a subsequent meeting on the 5th February, 1900, (remember I told you about February being a date to bear in mind) held within Drumtochty House, James Wilson was in the chair. The Secretary Bro Reid read correspondence from the P.G.L. regarding the petition, especially a letter from G.L. which stated that the Charter had been granted and that the Lodge could prepare to work immediately.

I noted from the minutes that everything had been conducted within five weeks. It was agreed that the Lodge should meet on the 1st Thursday of the month. Three dress aprons, for the RWM and two Wardens, were to be provided, and the secretary was to order the necessary books. The colour of the Lodge Aprons was to be dark blue.

Bro James Wilson had offered to make available, the Recreation Room at Drumtochty House for meetings and on the 14 February, 1900 the first meeting was held. P.G.L. was represented by Thomas Chalmers the P.G.L. Depute Master and six other members of P.G.L. The P.G.L.D.M. then "*worked the Lodge*", presented the charter and affiliated 5 Brethren into the Lodge. That night 12 applications were read and approved, and they were then instructed and obligated in the 1st Degree by the P.G.L.D.M.

It was agreed that the Lodge be consecrated on the 9th May, 1900. Discussion took place about a regular meeting place, one option was the Girls school which had been offered by Colonel Smythe the other was a room in the late Mrs Wrights property. It was agreed to accept the offer of the Girls School.

On the 9th May, 1900, Lodge Kildrummie was consecrated within Drumtochty House. The P.G.L. performed the ceremony headed by the P.G.M. Bro.

Colonel Campbell. It was minuted that the ceremony was of a very impressive nature. Following the meeting 40 Brethren sat down to dinner.

On the 17 May, 1900 the first meeting took place within the Girls Schoolroom. It was agreed that Brethren attending the meetings should contribute one penny towards the cost of Cleaning, Gas and Coal. It was also agreed to hold the first Church service on the 24 June at six o'clock which would be conducted by the Rev Snaddon of Redgorton.

That first church service is described, in the minute book, as follows *“that the weather was of the most miserable description and entirely marred the pleasure of the evening”*.

During that first year many gifts were donated to the Lodge by the Brethren, items like tables, ballot box, candelabra, Wardens' columns, mark furniture and Sterling Silver Jewels for the RWM, WSW, WJW, S.D. & J.D. many of the gifts were made anonymously and some were bought by the Lodge. One of the strangest purchases must have been six spittoons, to be used on harmony nights and this meant that from then on, spitting on the floor was prohibited.

On the 7 November, 1901 Bro Dr. Johnston was installed as RWM and one of his first duties was to present P.M. Wilson with his Jewel which was inscribed *“Presented to Bro. James Wilson, first RWM, by the Brethren of Lodge Kildrummie 906, as an appreciation of his valuable services”*.

Brethren I am amazed at how history has a habit of repeating itself, in a circular from G.L. regarding the Licensing (Scotland) Act, 1903 which was due to come into effect. It transpired that the word 'club' in the act embraced Masonic Lodges. A copy of that circular is in the minute book and it makes for good reading.

In May 1904 Lodge Kildrummie hears that a move has been made to purchase the Old Chapel at Mansion Nook. The cost would be £100 plus legal expenses. The Lodge agrees to offer £100 plus £10 legal fees for a clear and free title right of entrance, secured for the Old Chapel and ten yards of the width of the park North of and adjacent to the building. A letter from the Rev. Watson - Hull is read agreeing to the sale. Donations are required from the Brethren and a committee is formed. They obtain the services of a solicitor Bro J.W.Wylie and on the 27 May make him an affiliate member (smart move).

The purchase of the building is completed in October 1904.

A Hall committee is formed and plans are drawn up regarding reconstruction work to the building. The hall committee hears of various plans to raise money including a concert which is to be held by a Mr. McGlynn.

Although everything was not rosy, at a meeting on the 27 December, 1904, the Lodge hears about a slanderous letter which appeared in the Peoples Journal on the 24 December. It was decided that an action against the paper should be raised. In February the following year the Lodge is informed by Bro. Wyllie that following talks with the paper, where he had informed them of the action to be raised against them, they informed him that following investigation it was discovered that the letter bore a fictitious name and address. The paper offered the Lodge the sum of ten guineas and a written apology which was to be published. The Lodge agreed to accept this course of action.

On the 2 November, 1905 the monthly meeting of the Lodge took place in the ante room of the New Hall. Various committees were formed and a scale of charges for the use of the hall was agreed. For example if you wanted to hold a ball from 8pm to 3am (they knew how to party in those days) it would cost you 30 shillings, you got the use of the Hall, Ante Room, the piano, fire and light. If you didn't use the ante room deduct five shillings. A concert would cost 15 shillings. If you wanted use of the ante room only then that would cost five shillings. To hire the piano would cost seven shillings and 6d.

It would appear from the minutes that the hall was in demand, and the first tenants would appear to have been the local Good Templars, who hired the hall for 55 shillings per year. The local Womans Guild were allowed to use the Hall free of charge. (Who said girl power only started recently).

After only 18 months the Lodge is informed that it is free from any debt regarding the purchase of the hall and a small profit had been made (_14.8sh.3d). It was decided to disband all committees with the exception of the hall committee.

For a short period it would appear to have been the trend to gift the Lodge with portraits, they were from PM Bro. Colonel Smythe, PM James Wilson (the first master) and a portrait of the King.

I read with interest about a meeting of the Lodge on the 1 December, 1910 where the Lodge was asked to lay the foundation stone of the new public school at Methven, with Masonic Honours. The ceremony was to take place on

the 17 December, 1910 and PM Bro. Dr Alex Johnston was appointed by the Lodge to lay the stone. The ceremony took place and a deputation from 906, accompanied by Brethren from Lodge's No. 3, 74 & 122 marched to the new school and carried out the ceremony.

Sadly on Christmas day, 1912 the Lodge meet at 1.30pm for the Masonic Funeral of PM James Wilson. The Lodge marched to his home where the service was held and then marched to the church yard for the burial.

If you recall I did say that Methven Union Lodge were not forgotten, well on two occasions artefacts from the Union Lodge were presented, one was a seal which I have recently had the pleasure of looking at and the other was a gift of the minute book which had been in the possession of Bro James Wyllie. This book was gifted to the Lodge under certain conditions, and as far as I can ascertain these conditions probably still exist.

At a monthly meeting a circular is read from Grand Lodge relating to the first world war, which informed Lodges that Brethren of alien enemy birth or nationality should abstain from attending Lodges during the war. At a meeting on the 19 April, 1917, mention is made of a Roll of Honour to the 16 Brethren who fell during the Great War. A great deal of discussion took place regarding certificates to be handed to the Brethren who fought during the war, several illustrations of certificates were examined for example from Lodge Ancient Stirling No. 30 and Scoon and Perth No. 3. The Lodge secretary was instructed to obtain a supply of the latter.

In July, 1917 the Lodge becomes the first country Lodge to win the Walter Stuart Bowling Trophy, a trophy presented by Bro Walter Stuart, when he was P.G.M. of P.E. (That trophy is still played for every year)

At a meeting of the Lodge on the 21 November, 1919 a request is read from a Bro. Corstorphine, Stanley, craving Lodge Kildrummie to sign a petition on behalf of 18 Brethren, who wished to obtain a Charter from G.L. to form a Lodge in Stanley. I don't know what happened, but on the 6 May, 1920 another letter was read from Bro. Smith, King Street, Stanley, asking Kildrummie for their support regarding a petition to G.L. The Lodge agrees and the office bearers sign the petition.

Brethren you may have noticed, and if you didn't, have a look the next time you are in the Lodge rooms, there are two items on the South wall, and reference to them is made in the minute book during the year 1920/21. The

first is a plague to John Graham regarding his generosity. He wrote off a loan to the Lodge which in those days was a considerable sum of money (£30). The second is the War Memorial, the Marble Tablet was purchased at a cost of £29 and two shillings and it was unveiled during the annual visit from the P.G.L. of P.E. on the 28 April, 1921.

In drawing to a close the first 25 years of the Lodge I feel that I should mention a few Brethren. A Lodge cannot survive without a Secretary and for the first twelve years Kildrummie was well represented in this office. From the beginning until 1906 Bro T.W. Reid and from 1906 to 1912 by Bro. A Zimmerman. But I think someone who deserves a mention is the Bro Tyler. On the 1 November, 1923 Bro MacFarlane informed the Lodge that he wished to resign his office as Tyler, due to bad health. Bro MacFarlane had been Lodge Tyler since the inception of the Lodge. On the 27 December, 1923 the Lodge rewarded him with a "Wallet of Treasury Notes".

In bringing to the close the first 25 years of Lodge Kildrummie may I draw your attention to Methven Lodge No. 51, New Zealand. On the 14 September, 1924, P.M. Bro Goodwin is welcomed into the Lodge and he gave a talk on the work of the Craft in New Zealand. This is the very first mention of Methven Lodge No. 51 but not the last.

It never fails to amaze me how history has the habit of repeating itself, during my researches for next 25 years, I came across minutes relating to the installation of Gas Heaters into the Lodge, that was in March, 1932.

[And as you are aware Gas Central Heating was installed last year 1999]

During this period the country was in the grips of a general depression and it can be of no surprise that candidates were scarce and this was commented upon at the annual visit of P.G.L. At a meeting on the 7 September, 1939 the Lodges hears that the RWM Bro. Smith has had to resign from office due to moving out of the area, since the announcement of the national emergency that had arisen since the last meeting.[2nd World War] At this time the Lodge took under serious consideration abandoning meetings.

During the war the Brethren of the Lodge held dances and organise gifts for the members of HM Forces. Letters are received thanking Kildrummie for the parcels of comforts (cigarettes etc). In 1941 the Lodge premises are taken over by Military Authorities and the Lodge find it very difficult to find alternative suitable accommodation, however they still manage to obtain 3 initiates for the season. There is mention of the Lodge meeting in emergency

accommodation in the village but it's not clear exactly where.

At a meeting on the 6 November, 1941 the Lodge hears of an invitation from Lodge St Andrew No. 74 to Kildrummie to use their premises to hold meetings. This was agreed and the first meeting of Lodge Kildrummie to be held in Perth took place on the 24 November, 1941 a Monday night. I'm not sure how long they met at Perth, but the minute dated 4 May, 1942 was written in Perth but the next minute of 2 December, 1942 was written at Methven.

In the minute of 4 May, it is written that as it was the last meeting of the season some recompense should be made to Lodge St Andrew No. 74 and in the minute of the meeting in 2 December, there is mention of repairs to the grates in the temporary Lodge. So I can only assume that during the summer recess Lodge Kildrummie moved from Perth back to temporary accommodation in the village. I did find a mention of accounts for repairs to the place of meeting at Main Street, Methven from a George Wilson.

During these times it would appear that the R.A.F. moved into the village as there is mention of RAF, Methven. This would appear to have been beneficial to the Lodge as a number of candidates were c/o RAF Methven.

At the annual visitation from the P.G.L. in May 1943 further mentioned is made of the temporary accommodation, which was not quite suitable for Lodge premises but the I.P.P.G.M. hoped that during the close season "a home more in keeping with the dignity of Lodge Kildrummie could be found". At the next visit from P.G.L. in April 1945, the minutes show that "the Lodge is back home".

During this period it cannot be denied that times were hard, and despite a struggle to get candidates, Lodge Kildrummie's benevolence could not be faulted, they supplied parcels to the forces, organised dances for Perth Royal Infirmary and held a combined dance with the RAF. They did not forget the local community and raised money for the Sunday School.

During this period there was not much opportunity for any Lodges to hold special functions, such as the laying of foundation stones etc, but on the 16

September, 1948 a letter inviting Lodge Kildrummie to attend the erection and consecration of Lodge Abernethy Round Tower, 1429, was read. Lodge Kildrummie also started to plan their own jubilee celebrations which took place on the 10 May, 1950 a Deputation from Grand Lodge, headed by the

R.W.G. Almoner Bro A Morris (who was also the P.G.M. of P.W.) Plus 6 other Grand Lodge Office Bearers and from the P.G.L. of P.E. headed by the P.G.M. Bro. Archibold were received into the Lodge. Other Lodges represented that day were Scoon & Perth No. 3, United Lodge of Dunkeld No.14, St Johns Lodge No.46, Perth Royal Arch No.122 and Auchtergaven No.1123. A deputation was also received from the P.G.L. of P.W.

Another wee bit of history that I found was an invitation from Peace Lodge No. 908, Beirut, Lebanon, inviting the Brethren of Kildrummie to attend their 50th Anniversary (I wonder if anyone accepted the invitation).

Once again in bringing to the close the 50 years of the Lodge I think it would be very remiss of me not to mention a Brother, who I found prominent in the minutes. Bro. Peter Paton, took over the office of Secretary in 1912 until 1932, twenty years as Lodge secretary, such dedication deserves a mention.

In entering the next phase in the History of Lodge Kildrummie, I have to be very careful, because we have some Brethren among us today, who belong to that era. So I have had to be very selective in choosing what I say as they could easily contradict me. However I hope that by mentioning one or two things that I feel important will refresh their memories and perhaps bring back happy thoughts.

I will state at this time that the third quarter of the History of the Lodge, was quite uneventful, I do not mean that in a derogatory manner, but the Lodge just got on with it. During this time I cannot recall any meeting whereby they did not work a Degree of some kind, they always seemed to be having Inquiry Committee Meetings and a considerable amount of Freemasons were made at the hands of the Office Bearers. So please indulge with me as I take you on a whistle stop tour of Lodge Kildrummie between 1950 and 1975.

On 4 October 1951 a Letter was read from Grand Lodge inviting the RWM, or his representative and good lady to the opening of the Scottish Masonic Home at Aultwharrie, Dunblane by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal. I could find no reference in subsequent minutes whether or not someone did attend.

On 6th December 1951 at a regular Meeting a letter was read from Bro William Davidson, a member of 906, now residing in Dunfermline. His letter stated that he would like to arrange a visit between his Mother Lodge and Lodge Union 250, Dunfermline, which Bro Davidson had been attending. Bro Davidson asked Lodge Kildrummie to consider allowing Lodge Union to come

to Methven and work a degree. This was agreed to and on the 26 January, 1952 at a special meeting, the very first visit between the two Lodges began, when the then RWM of Lodge Union, Bro. William McMillan brought a deputation to Methven and they worked a Mark Degree. The first mention of a Deputation from Lodge Kildrummie to Dunfermline was on the 5th March 1953 led by the then RWM Bro R. Dick. They worked a third degree.

On 1 May 1952 Lodge Kildrummie donated a sum of money towards a Plaque to be placed in St Johns Kirk, Perth in memory of all the Brethren of Perthshire East who fell during the 2nd World War.

On 25th June 1953 at a Regular Meeting discussions took place about what to do with the large hall, despite these discussions the large hall survived for many more years.

On 7th March, 1956 some of the Brethren attended the dedication of Lodge Stanley's new premises. And on the 7th February, 1957 a letter inviting the Brethren to the erection and consecration of Lodge Stormont 1524 was read.

On 2nd October 1958 I read that a motion was raised regarding the time of the meetings, some of the Brethren wished the Lodge to open at 7.30pm instead of 7.45pm the reason being was to allow the Brethren travelling to Perth *"to catch the last 'bus in comfort'"*. This motion obviously did not succeed as the meetings continued at 7.45pm.

During the early part of 1960's the Lodge held their first Burns Supper and in April, 1960, P.M. Bob Dick took over as Secretary.

On 6th October, 1960 P.M. Dick presented Bro McRobb of Lodge Methven, No. 51, New Zealand, who was on holiday, with a Gavel charging him to take it back to his Mother Lodge and to convey the Fraternal Greetings of Lodge Kildrummie. Bro McRobb must have left this tourist information leaflet with the Lodge and I must confess that having heard a great deal about Methven, New Zealand, it was very pleasing to see photographs of the actual place and to read about it, although I'm sure that after nearly forty years there will have been a few changes. [Page 363, Minute Book No.3]

Receiving and giving gifts occurred a lot during that time, for example a Bro Cook of Lodge No. 122 presented the Lodge with a Collection Box. But perhaps one of the strangest gifts that I noted was a wedding gift from the

Brethren to P.M. Bob Dick, it was an Electric Razor, I can just imagine the look on his brides face when he told her about that gift. P.M. Dick in thanking the Lodge for the gift replied that he would always find time to use it on meeting nights, so perhaps therein lies another tale. A Bro Cuthbert, of Lodge Glammis 99, who had moved into the area and attended Kildrummie on a regular basis, presented the Lodge with four dozen Ballot Balls. And at the A.G.M. of the Lodge in November, 1968 the then R.W.M. Donnie Summers presented to the Lodge a Bible, gifted from Lodge St Andrew No. 74, Perth.

Today we are graced by the presence of the Most Worshipful, The Grand Master Mason of Scotland, and I trust Sir that it will not be the last visit that you make to Gods Province, not however the first visit of someone of such a high eminence, for I did find in the minutes of the Management Committee Meeting of 18 May, 1972, and in the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Lodge on the 7 September, 1972, mention of a visit from the Grand Master Mason Bro David Liddell-Grainger the 101st Grand Master Mason of Scotland. The visit would appear to have been during the close season, for I could not find any details about it from the Minute Books, perhaps some of the Brethren who are here today could enlighten us at a later time. However the visit did cause a bit of a stir as a local joiner was employed to repair some of the furniture prior to the visit.

In bringing to a close the third quarter of the History of Lodge Kildrummie I would like to mention some thing which to me epitomises the meaning of Freemasonry. On the 5th May, 1973 to celebrate the 21 years of friendship between Lodge Kildrummie and Lodge Union P.M. Bro Richard Henderson, was made an Honorary Member of Lodge Kildrummie. In 1953 Bro. Henderson had been in the Chair of King Solomon when Kildrummie made their first visit to Dunfermline. Later in that year (1973) P.M. Robert Dick was made an Honorary Member of Lodge Union 250.

On checking the minutes in and around the 75th Anniversary of the Lodge I could not find any reference to that special occasion being celebrated.

As we enter the home straight I'm sure that we have among us tonight many Brethren, like myself, who have very fond memories of Lodge Kildrummie and it is always difficult for someone like me to detail everything that has been noteworthy, these are some of the items which I have picked out, but I'm sure that from 1975 to the present time you all have your own particular fond memories.

It appears that Lodge Kildrummie's sporting achievements should be mentioned, for example they have competed in and are frequent winners of the Masonic Curling Competitions and I know that it is with some pride that the Lodge still enters a team for the Annual Competition. The Lodge Bowlers also also successful either winning or being runners up in The Walter Stuart and Harry Fraser Competitions. The Bowling section in the late 70's and early 80's played Host to the Port Glasgow Masonic Bowling Association and I'm sure that over the years Brethren from both areas enjoyed themselves, but sadly due to a lack of bowlers this association had to be discontinued. In February, 1982 a letter was received from my Mother Lodge, Auchtergaven No. 1123 inviting Kildrummie and the United Lodge of Dunkeld No. 14 to take part in a Darts and Dominoes Competition between the three Lodges. This competition is still competed for and if my memory serves me correct we are now on the third trophy. This trophy has been won on many occasions by Kildrummie, and I echo the sentiments that I have read in the Minute Books about this competition that it is played for in true Masonic Spirit, and has for many years, and I trust for many more to come, cemented the friendship of all three Lodges. I'm sure that there are many of us here today that can recall a tale or two about these nights.

In this era, as always, Gifts played quite a part in the History of the Lodge and examples are of Brethren being presented with personnel gifts of Aprons and Sashes, to mark their service to the Lodge. P.M. Donnie Summers on being granted the rank of Honorary Grand Bible Bearer was presented with his Jewel on the 4 March, 1982. A number of Brethren have received Distinguished Service Diplomas and have been presented with Jewels from the Lodge to mark the occasions, and I would cite P.M's Allen, Keay and Ritchie in this category. P.M. Archie Soutar was gifted a Masonic Watch on the 8 January, 1981 as a token of gratitude. On the 20 November, 1987 Bro Ivan Ford, from Lodge Methven No. 51 New Zealand presented 906 with a Gavel, Anvil and a Centenary Jewel, it was agreed that the Gavel would be used by the Wardens on Installation Nights and the Jewel would be worn by the R.W.M. during his Term of Office. P.M. Jim Wallace on the 3rd January, 1991 received a Jewel in the form of Crossed Keys as a recognition of all the hard work that he had done as Treasurer, Acting Secretary and Steward.

It would be very remiss of me at this stage not to mention Past Master Bob Dick. Throughout the annals of the History of the latter part of Kildrummie his name is very much to the fore, he rose through the ranks and became Master in 1952 to 1954 and then from 1960 to 1983 he was Secretary of the Lodge. He turned down the offer of an Apron from the Lodge stating that his

own was still in a good condition. The Brethren did however on the 1st December, 1983 present him with this Masonic Watch, which as some of the members of Kildrummie are aware came into my possession from Mrs Dick. I treasure this Gift as I'm sure Bob did, and I pledge this promise to Lodge Kildrummie that when the time is right, pardon the pun Brethren, this watch will return.

Looking back over the many years, Charity and Benevolence are two words that can justly be attributed to Lodge Kildrummie. They have contributed too many just causes within and out with the Craft. Until very recently they held a very successful Annual Divine Service where the collection went towards the Local Sunday School. Sadly due to dwindling numbers this event in the Calender of the Lodge had to be stopped. But I did read in the minutes that the occasion was very much enjoyed by the Brethren and their families and in its hey day was attended by over 130 Brethren with in excess of 25 Lodges being represented. I did note that for many years the Parade from the Lodge to the Church was always preceded by a Piper and I noted that on many occasions by the Pipes and Drums of the Provincial Pipe Band.

Lodge Kildrummie has given and many of its members have received Honorary Membership. This dates way back in the History of the Lodge but in more recent times many of the present members of the Lodge are also members of other Lodges, for example P.M.'s Allen, McKay and Keay but to mention a few, if fact within one week P.M. McKay received Hon Membership of Lodge Auchtergaven and Lodge Carse of Gowrie [Errol and Inchtute]. Members of the Lodge have been presented with Honorary Membership for their "ZEAL IN FREEMASONRY" and I'm sure that the other Lodges concerned are truly grateful for the work that these Brethren have done on their behalf. As I have stated Lodge Kildrummie have honoured many Brethren by making them Honorary Members, Past Provincial Grand Masters, Members of Lodge Union 250, Dunfermline, and Brethren from within and out with the Province of Perthshire East have all been rewarded, one Brother of this Province, even told me that he and the present RWM worked in the Lodge over the Christmas period one year.[Yes Past Master Ramsay I've had that sort of Christmas too]. I myself was made an Honorary Member of 906 in 1997 and I'm sure that I speak for every Honorary Member of Lodge Kildrummie that we are proud to be associated with the Lodge and will give the same support that we have pledged to our Mother Lodges.

Sadly one of the Landmarks of the Lodge had to go, I am of course referring to the Large Hall, for some time discussions had undergone about the future of

this Hall, and it would appear that it became a millstone around the neck of the Lodge and in May, 1988 the Lodge heard that it was estimated that the sum of _26,000 to _27,000 was required to renovate the Hall, this was too much and eventually the Hall was closed. However it had been decided that the Lodge should remain in their present location and the members set about improving the remainder of the facilities. Work has continued over the past eleven years and it is a tribute to the members that they have such a fine Lodge Room. You may recall that I said that History had a habit of repeating itself, well last year the members of the Lodge installed Gas Central Heating 67 years after the installation of the first gas heaters.

Your funds, R.W.M. are healthy; fund raising has played a major part in the Lodge for many years. You yourself organised a 100 Club, back in 1985, I think you told me that initially it was for today's proceedings, but these funds have been put to other uses, including the fitting of the heating. The Annual Lodge Dance has been held for a lot of years and it is very successful and very enjoyable. Throughout the Minute Books there are many instances when the Brethren have donated generously to the Lodge and for the sake of modesty I will not mention names, but Brethren you know who you are and you have done your Lodge proud. And as we are all too well aware the raising of funds for small country Lodges like ourselves is a necessity, as we could not survive otherwise.

Over many years Lodge Kildrummie have provided a number of Brethren as Office Bearers for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire East, names such as P. M.'s Dick, Summers, Soutar, Wallace, McKay, Jamieson, MacDonald, Ritchie and yourself R.W.M. You have now reached the Rank of Depute Provincial Grand Master. Knowing these Brethren as I do I know that they will have given the same commitment to Provincial Grand Lodge as they did to their Mother Lodge and Kildrummie are rightly proud of them.

This brings me onto the current members of Lodge Kildrummie. A lot of work has gone on behind the scenes, to make today successful. All the members of the Lodge have pulled together to help. I must give a mention to Bro Gordon Christie who has undertaken a lot of the organising on behalf of the Lodge, no mean task, but the right man for the job [after all he's a man of leisure these days]. And yourself RWM, what can we say about you, well you affiliated into this Lodge in 1979, [I am led to believe that at your enquiry meeting an interpreter was required because of your Dundee accent]. You rose through the ranks of the Lodge. You were part of that famous or infamous Wardens line up of Flannigan and Allen. You attained the Chair of King Solomon on

the 16 November, 1984 [the minute for that night records that 25 Lodges were represented], you did your two years as Master and I think you've been an Office Bearer every since. You took over the mantle of RWM again in 1997, and have been instrumental in organising today's proceedings, again the Brethren recognised the right man for the job. The members of Lodge Kildrummie are truly grateful.

Brethren History is always in the making. We, today, are part of the History of Lodge Kildrummie and at future celebrations of the Lodge we will be remembered for taking part in the 100th Anniversary of the Lodge. RMW I would ask you to accept this record of the first 100 years of Lodge Kildrummie and ask that it be put into the archives for future reference.

And finally I would like to express my thanks to the Brethren who assisted me in preparing this record. And before I ask you to be upstanding, let us spare a thought for those Absent Brethren, for they are a part of today's celebrations as well.

Brethren please be upstanding, raise your glasses and join with me in wishing Lodge Kildrummie a Happy 100th Birthday. Brethren the Toast is Lodge Kildrummie No. 906.

PM Bro Ronnie Forbes RWM Auchtergaven 1123