

European Masonic Association

Spring Meeting – Scotland



Thursday 18th May to Sunday 21st May 2023

At

**The Stirling Highland Hotel
Spittal Street
STIRLING**

Hosts Alexander and Mary Morton

Welcome to Scotland

Mary and I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and hope that you will enjoy your time with us in the City of Stirling.

We have chosen the Stirling Highland Hotel not only for its' excellent location and facilities but also to give you an opportunity to experience this historic city.

I trust that during your time here you will have the opportunity to experience some of what this beautiful city and the surrounding areas have to offer.

Mary and I wish you all an enjoyable few days please make the most of the weekend and enjoy the best in Scottish hospitality in the company of friends.

Alexander & Mary Morton

HOTEL

The **Stirling Highland Hotel** is conveniently located in the centre of the City of Stirling just a stroll from the City's famous landmark Castle and offers panoramic views across the Forth Valley.

It is renowned for excellent customer service and standard of food and also provides free car-parking.

The **Stirling Highland Hotel** is within an hour's drive of the key Scottish Airports of Glasgow and Edinburgh with good road and rail connections. It is an excellent location from which to explore some of the finest tourist attractions in Scotland and is known as the "Gateway to the Highlands".

The **Stirling Highland Hotel** is a 4-Star Hotel with leisure facilities, a gym, including a Spa offering various treatments.

The **Stirling Highland Hotel** is very close to the Town Centre where you can sample a variety of shops or if you wish to venture further afield there are excellent links from Stirling train station to either Glasgow or Edinburgh.

HISTORY of STIRLING

The historic City of Stirling is situated in the Heart of Scotland on the River Forth. It has played a major part in the military history of Scotland because of its strategic position, controlling access by land from the Lowlands to the Highlands, not least because until comparatively recently it was the lowest bridging point on the River Forth. Stirling is known as the 'gateway to the Highlands' or 'the buckle on the belt of Scotland'.

The City and surroundings are home to the sites of major battles in the History of Scotland, The Wars of Independence, and The Battle of Stirling Brig in 1297 when William Wallace routed the English nobility. Wallace was defeated a year later in 1298 at Falkirk by the English Army when Scottish Lords sided with the enemy.

The Battle of Bannockburn happened two miles from the City where Robert the Bruce raised his Standard at the Borestone in 1314.

Stirling Castle is sited on a steep volcanic rock forming a massive natural crag. The first record of the castle came from the 12th Century.

King Alexander I died there in 1124 and his successor King David I used the Castle as a Royal Administrative centre and Royal Residence. James IV, James V and James VI all made Stirling Castle a key Royal Centre. James VI/I of England grew up within the Castle walls and his first child Henry was born there.

When James VI of Scotland was crowned James I of England the Royal household relocated to London.

From 1800 to 1964 Stirling Castle was used as a barracks and it is still the home headquarters of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' museum.

Once a military town it is now predominately a University City with a population of over 46,000 people and in the wider Stirling area there is a population of approximately 90,000.

Places of interests within walking distance of the Hotel are the Castle, and the Church of the Holy Rude.

Located just outside Stirling City Centre is the Wallace Monument which has a new exhibition taking you on a journey through the life and times of Sir William Wallace.

There is also the new Bannockburn Heritage Centre which opened last this Year to mark the 700th Anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME

Thursday 18th May 2023

- 1200 – 1600 Registration of Brethren and Refreshments
(Lunch if required will be at own expense)
- 1500 Check-in to Hotel
- 1700 Dinner for Brethren (Single Course)
- 1830 Transport to Lodge Stirling Royal Arch Lodge No 76 where there will be the conferral of a 3rd Degree.
(Dress: Black Tie or Lounge Suits)
- 1900 Dinner for the Ladies followed by Entertainment
- 2300 Transport returns to Hotel where you will have time for a drink in the Headmaster's Study which boasts a wide selection of Scottish Whiskies.

Friday 19th May 2023

- 0730 – 0930 Breakfast in Scholars Restaurant
- 1030 – 1230 AGM of the Association with mid-morning refreshments
Ladies Free to relax and enjoy shopping, sightseeing or the Spa facilities within the Hotel
- 1800 Drinks Reception
- 1845 – 2100 Gala Dinner
(Dress: Black Tie or Lounge Suits)
- 2100- Entertainment and Dancing

Saturday 20th May 2023

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| 0730 – 0930 | Breakfast in Scholars Restaurant |
| 1100 - 1200 | Depart Hotel by Coach for the journey to Balloch Pier for a sail on picturesque Loch Lomond. |
| 1200 – 1300 | Free Time (coffee if required at own expense) |
| 1300 – 1400 | Loch Lomond is the largest expanse of fresh water in Great Britain, and the area is home to an abundance of wildlife and its history is as rich as the landscape that surrounds these mysterious waters. It is a place where kings have trod and outlaws have roamed, inspiring writers, musicians and artists for generations |
| 1415-1530 | Visit to the pretty conservation village of Luss Lunch if required will be at own expense. |
| 1530 | Coaches depart Luss for Hotel |
| 1900 | Dinner |
| 2100 | Entertainment |

Sunday 21st April 2023

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| 0800 – 1000 | Breakfast |
| 1100 | Check-out from Hotel (Following Check-Out should you wish to make use of the Spa facilities Reception can store any luggage). |

Guests Depart throughout the Day