

## CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY - UK BRANCH

### Annual General Meeting. 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Report

Saturday, 23rd May, 2015 - 2:30pm.

The Royal York Hotel, Station Road, York YO24 1AA

Present : -

**Chairman** Ben Chisholm-Broomfield

**Secretary/Treasurer** Susan Chisholm

Mairi-Angela Foster, Lorna Sayers, Michael Sayers, Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield, Dr Margaret Collin, John Collin, Sheila Jones, Jan Chisholm, Pamela Baronnet, François Baronnet, Christine Chisholm, Dr Janet Eldred, Val Chisholm Brown, Keith Chisholm Brown, Carole Bond, Gavin Coulthard, Virginie Harrison and Philip Harrison.

Chairman Ben Chisholm-Broomfield opened the meeting at 2:30pm. He welcomed everyone to the Royal Hotel in York. When considering where to hold the 2015 meeting he had thought that York would be fairly easy to get to and that a visit to the Railway Museum beforehand would be interesting. All agreed it had been a good idea.

Before the business of the meeting Susan asked everyone to sign the visitor book as a record of their attendance.

Susan then read out the list of apologies as follows:-

Chief & Madam Chisholm	Beck Row, Suffolk
Duncan and Mary Chisholm	Inverness, Scotland
Bob and Muriel Chisholm	Worthing, West Sussex
Alastair Chisholm	Minstead, Hampshire
Matthew Chisholm	Rhu, Argyll & Bute
Alastair Chisholm	Lasne, Belgium
Malcolm Waller	Scarborough, North Yorkshire
Paul Keane	Weston Super Mare, Somerset
Angela Bramwell	Guildford, Surrey
Margaret D Chisholm	Bearsden, Glasgow
Margaret Chisholm	Dundee, Scotland
Murray J Chisholm	Storrington, West Sussex
Frances Chisholm	Uckfield, East Sussex
Myrtle Campbell	Purley-on-Thames, Reading, Berkshire
Norman and Christina Chisholm	Kindeace, by Invergordon, Ross-shire
Gerald and Sheila Chisholm-Mackintosh	Chichester, West Sussex
Sheila Chisholm	Bunchrew, Inverness-shire
Christina Morrison	Inverness, Scotland
Lucy & Bobby Greenfield	Co Kerry, Ireland
Danu Stratton-Kent	Exeter, Devon
Martin Chisholm	Darlington, Co. Durham
Ruari Chisholm	Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire
Sir John & Kitty Chisholm	Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire

Susan went on to explain that each person present had a wallet containing the documentation for the meeting and this was in the order in which we would come to them and with the Agenda on top. A copy of our constitution was included as well as a pen and pad.

### **Agenda item 1 - MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Being of the 13th AGM of the UK Branch Clan Chisholm Society held on Saturday 27th September, 11 Croyard Drive, Beaulieu - Electronically

The minutes had previously been published in our branch newsletter No. 39 in November 2014. A copy was included in the pack of documents for the meeting.

Susan explained that as the meeting last year had been held electronically there were only a few in the room who had actually 'attended', and had been involved in the discussions at the time.

She asked for a proposer and seconder to accept the minutes from among those persons.

There were no questions or matters arising. Acceptance of the minutes was therefore

Proposed - Dr Margaret Collin

Seconded - Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield

### **Agenda item 2 - HON. TREASURERS REPORT**

UK Branch Financial reports were presented for the year ended 31 December 2014.

The accounts had been audited by Mr Michael Sayers on 20th January 2015.

The financial report had previously been circulated to members in Newsletter No40 in February 2015 and a copy of the profit and loss and balance sheets was included in the members document wallets for the meeting.

The cost of the annual Clan Chisholm Journal is the largest routine expenditure at £425.00.

Susan explained that although numbers attending the 2014 International Gathering were low and there had been concerns that we would make a loss, we had actually broken even.

A number of items had been purchased for the gathering including pens, pads, flashlights, bags etc. The whole cost of this had not been included in the separate costing for the gathering just the numbers used, even though the materials had been purchased with the gathering in mind. The remainder was included in the cost of stock for the branch. The International Clan Chisholm Society gave a donation of £500.00 to the gathering costs and this had enabled us to stay within budget.

A couple of generous donations from members had helped the accounts to end the year with an excess of £62.93. The bank balance at end of 2014 was £ *information available to members*

Michael Sayers and Ben Chisholm-Broomfield had pointed out that the right hand column of the balance sheet had the wrong year printed and this should read 2014. Susan apologised for the transcription error on the meeting documents and noted that the financial report circulated in the newsletter in February had the correct year as had the documents audited on 20th January. There were no further questions and acceptance of the accounts as amended was invited.

Proposed - Gavin Coulthard

Seconded - Mairi-Angela Foster

The Financial Report for 2014 was accepted

### Agenda item 3 - MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The membership report was included in the document wallet for the meeting. The report showed current subscription rates and numbers of branch members by type over the last few years. The report also showed the geographical spread of our branch membership with 39 members in Scotland, 16 in Northern England, 23 in the Midlands, 100 in Southern England & East Anglia and 19 members overseas.

2014 new members were listed also those who had sadly died. *see below for part of the report*

UK Branch	at end 2009	at end 2010	at end 2011	at end 2012	at end 2013	at end 2014
New members	10	5	2	3	6	4
Deceased	0	2	1	3	6	2
Life & Hon Members	53	53	53	52	49	48
Annual	159	162	157	153	156	149
Total individuals	212	215	210	205	207	197
Number of Households	141	144	143	140	140	133

Annual (includes annual, annual over 60, 10 year and 10 year family)

#### RIP 2014

Mrs Nellie Norton, Dingwall

Mrs Ann Chisholm, Lewes

#### New Members 2014

Miss Morag Jean Chisholm, Caste Douglas

Mr Rohan Chisholm, Ruislip

Mr Douglas John Smart, London

Mrs Christine Chisholm, Stanmore

Page 9 of the Clan Chisholm Society Annual Report for 2014 was also included in the document wallet to illustrate the large decline on other branches most notably Canada and the USA which had previously been the largest branches.

By comparison the UK branch was stable with a small reduction in members renewing their subscriptions.

Susan expressed concern that Society members from other branches had come to Scotland and the clan lands but had not made any contact with the UK branch or President of the Society Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield. A report of one such visit was included in a recent New Zealand branch newsletter. Susan went on to explain that members in the other branches may have little awareness of the International nature of the Society and may only have contact with their own branch. In NZ it seems members are kept well informed with regular high quality newsletters, Australia branch produces occasional newsletters but unfortunately USA and Canada have not done so for quite some time.

Gavin pointed out and it was generally felt that members in those countries who only receive the annual journal are likely to be less engaged with the Society.

Susan went on to explain that at the recent electronic AGM of the International Society it was found that only UK branch members were given a chance to comment on the agenda items. Electronic meeting procedure as laid out in our constitution allows for proxy votes and Ben usually holds these for the UK branch and will represent our branch members at the AGM. The other branches had now undertaken to provide members with the agenda in future and a copy would be posted on the Society website. It is hoped this will encourage better participation from around the world.

Margaret had noted that some branches such as Australia tended to keep their family history activities within the branch. We needed to find a way to help them to know about the wider Society and to share information. The website could help branches to share information. Of particular interest to Margaret are stories for inclusion in the proposed new history 'The Chisholm Chronicles'.

There was some discussion regarding the Facebook page set up by Alastair and it was thought not to be well used. There is an American FB page which is much more active. Margaret suggested that the website could have links to other sites of interest, also we should have information about the Society in places where people visit such as archive centres. Further discussion followed regarding the use of facebook to encourage interaction between members around the world.

#### **Agenda item 4 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Nominations for officers were as follows :-

Chairman - Ben Chisholm-Broomfield  
Hon Secretary / Treasurer - Susan Chisholm  
Vice Chairman 1 - Duncan Chisholm  
Vice Chairman 2 - Sheila Jones

All officers had agreed to be re-elected

Appointments as follows:-

Honorary Genealogist - Bob Chisholm  
Honorary Historian - Dr Jean Munro  
Honorary Historian - Dr Margaret Collin  
Hon Auditor - Mr Michael Sayers  
Hon Committee member - Norman Chisholm  
Hon Committee member - Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield  
Hon Committee member - Mairi-Angela Foster  
Hon Committee member - Alastair Chisholm (CGI administrator)

It was suggested the nominations for officers and the appointments as listed should be voted for en-bloc.

Proposed - Jan Chisholm  
Seconded - Janet Eldred

There were no objections and the nominations were accepted.

Ben thanked the meeting and wished to record special thanks to Michael Sayers for diligently auditing the account books for the branch and the Society every year.

#### **Agenda item 5 - Events and activities**

##### AHCS

The meeting packs included a copy of a recent newsletter of the Association of Highland Clans and Societies (AHCS). This organisation was set up after the first Scottish Year of Homecoming in response to concerns that the Highlands and Highland clans were not properly represented and all the activities centred around Edinburgh. The organisation now has many member clans including Chisholm and holds meetings and events in and around Inverness. Ben and Juliette often represent our interests at these meetings as does Duncan Chisholm in Inverness.

The Scottish Clan Event fund was discussed and Ben explained that genuine societies and organisations can apply for up to 25% funding to hold events.

##### DNA project, WWI Commemoration project.

Pages 12 to 16 of the Society's Annual report were provided and these show the reports for the genealogy initiatives and the Chisholm DNA project. Also included were pages from the recent branch newsletter outlining the Genealogy database and the Chisholm Genealogies International - The Forum. Minutes of the recent International AGM show discussion on these topics.

Some time was spent discussing the different initiatives and the associated reports. Susan noted where the DNA project had helped to link up families where one had a formal paper trail back to Scotland and the other only had family stories. Margaret commented that DNA was now being used as a source of genealogical information. Ben pointed out that the test can give fascinating information into your own heritage and show where your ancestors came from. He had markers showing his ancestry comes from right across Europe. Questions were asked about testing of females as these do not directly assist genealogy although they can give an idea of the migration of peoples. Robert Chisholm NZ who heads up the project hopes to find a member with borders ancestry particularly if spelled Chisholme with the final e.

Much interest was shown in the WWI Commemoration project again being managed by Robert in New Zealand. Copies of his draft volume from December were circulated. This shows the layout of the proposed book with pages for each Chisholm who died in the 1914 - 1918 war. Regimental information is given together with any report concerning the individual. Family history information is also shown as well as newspaper reports from the time and pictures and final resting place or memorial.

Susan pointed out that as well as actual volumes the idea is to create the volumes as e- books, this has the benefit of being able to be added to as new information comes to light.

The meeting discussed the missing listed on the Menin Gate with Mairi-Angela noting that there are many Chisholm's from around the world listed. The final resting place for these may never be found. Keith noted that several bodies and sundry artefacts turn up each year in the fields which were the battlefields of Belgium and France.

Ben wished to highlight again the usefulness and interest of the 'Forum' and to encourage and promote its use. The Genealogy database was also an interesting repository of Chisholm information in general even if not members own families. Susan and Ben encouraged members to sign up to these key sites by following the instructions on our website.

Ben noted that many interesting facts or threads for research are first raised on the Forum. The recent query regarding the 'Chisholm' clock at Urray Church had been posted on the forum, other artefacts have also been discussed.

Questions arose around how the information posted on the forum is captured as it is likely to be a feed source for the genealogy database. The structure is such though that is not easy to take the information out of the various threads. Susan informed the meeting that this had been discussed at recent clan council meetings and the recent AGM of the Society. Ian Chisholm, Canada and the genealogy team were looking at devising a formal structure or procedure for capture of such information.

### International

Copies of the recent New Zealand branch newsletter were provided and our own Jan Chisholm was featured in it. Jan had visited family in Christchurch, daughter Caroline her husband Andrew and their little boy Daniel in February. Jan had also been able to meet again Glenise Chisholm from New Zealand who had attended our International gathering in Inverness last year.

## **Agenda item 6 - AOB**

### Next UK Branch AGM

Ben was interested to hear views on holding the next meeting in Glasgow.

He felt it might be quite easy for members to get to in the same way that York had been today. There were a lot of interesting places to visit in Glasgow and a venue for the meeting should be easy to find.

Margaret suggested that the Mitchell Library might set up a special display of Chisholm related items for us in much the same way as the Inverness Archive and the Hawick Hub had on previous gatherings. Susan thought this was a splendid idea if Margaret would be able to make contact with the Library to discuss it.

Ben added that in Glasgow there was also the Burrell Collection and the Kelvin Grove Museum.

Mairi-Angela mentioned the Rennie Mackintosh house and gallery.

Discussion then centred on any Chisholm connection in Glasgow. Mairi-Angela noted that a past President of the Society Roddy Chisholm had a connection; both Jan and Juliette are cousins of the late Roddy.

Margaret also noted that Sir Samuel Chisholm had been a Lord Provost of Glasgow.

Some discussion was had on the best time to hold the proposed meeting. It was decided not to try to link it with the City of Inverness Highland Games in July and June was deemed the best month.

### Artefacts

Margaret had recently scanned some Erchless estate letter books and a rent book which were currently in the possession of Duncan Chisholm. She was concerned that these artefacts should be properly looked after and perhaps they should be deposited in the Inverness Archive Centre if Duncan would be agreeable, alternatively the ledgers could be gifted to the Society who could lodge them. Depositing an archive retains ownership and the owner may withdraw the archive if they wished. Donating to the archive however changes ownership.

Susan asked Margaret if she would be able to digitally scan the Scott Chisholme Manuscript Index Book which the branch had purchased in 2013. Margaret was sure she could do that. She added that this important book should also be kept safely and not be handled too often as it could become damaged. Margaret suggested the Hawick Heritage Hub would be an appropriate archive centre to deposit this Border Chisholme artefact.

There being no further business Ben formally closed at 3:30pm.

He felt we had had a successful and lively meeting.

Mairi-Angela wished to record a vote of thanks to Susan, Ben and Juliette for their work in arranging the day and the meeting.

Susan noted that some display material had been placed on tables at the front of the room, including the aforementioned Chisholme Index and copies of Miss Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm's WW1 scrap book photographs and newspaper cuttings.

Tea and coffee with biscuits and cakes were available at the back of the room.