



Association of Highland Clans & Societies

Newsletter/Magazine: March 2024



The Chairman ready to welcome visitors to the clan tent at Inverness in 2023

Highland Clans to parade at Opening Ceremony of Inverness Games

As we look forward to meeting each other again for the first event of 2024—the Friday evening talk (this year on tartan) that precedes the Annual Battle of Culloden Remembrance Service on Saturday 13 April – we can announce that Highland Council have agreed to the suggestion of our Secretary, Ross MacEwen, that the clans be invited to parade behind the Pipes and Drums at the Opening Ceremony of this year's Inverness Highland Games. Please look out your largest and most colourful clan banners.

This year is shaping up to be a particularly busy one, with at least six of our member clans planning International Gatherings in the months of June and July: The MacDougalls, MacEwens, MacGregors, Mackinnons, MacLennans, and Mathesons. STOP PRESS: Make that seven. The Camerons have just announced theirs in August.

We also plan this year finally to make it to Castle Menzies—as we had hoped to do last year—to visit the Menzies Clan Centre and the Clan Gregor Museum (both housed in the one castle). According to their website, Castle Menzies was declared 3rd best castle in Scotland by The Times Newspaper in August 2023.

During The '45, the Castle hosted Bonnie Prince Charlie, who rested there on his way north in 1746. Then, just four days later, the Duke of Cumberland arrived, on his march north—which was to culminate in the two Princes confronting each other at Culloden.

Rescued as a ruin in 1957 by the then recently re-formed Menzies Clan Society, the Castle has been lovingly restored by generations of Society members and was placed into a charitable trust in 1993.

Editorial Column

Welcome to the first AHCS Newsletter/Magazine since September 2020 when the headline said: “Empty Highlands as Clan Gatherings, Games and Festivals Cancelled”. A sub-headline read “Welcome Back Fergus”, referring to the fact that Highland MSP Fergus Ewing had resumed the Tourism portfolio in the Scottish Government, alongside his then existing job as Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy (we’ll return to Fergus – and indeed, to the surname Ewing – in due course).

By 2022 life and tourists were returning to the Highlands; but, as I discovered when guiding a tour that July, things had changed, especially in relation to buses, hotels, and catering establishments; i.e. all the most important things when it comes to planning and running clan gatherings and tours. Brexit, the pandemic, and inflation, had combined to close bus companies, drain the Highlands of hotel & restaurant staff, and to make some of the services we used to take for granted vanishingly rare or prohibitively expensive (notably the ferries, which have since been going from bad to worse). When isolated at home, we all learnt to live online; ordering food, consulting a doctor, attending meetings, and – for those of us lucky enough to be working in digitised arenas – earning a living. Covid may have gone away (for now at least), but many of these pandemic practices have not. The NHS still prefer online consultations; high-class restaurants rely in part on selling takeaways (though that’s not a term they like since, to them, it smells of greasy chips and cheap Chinese concoctions); rail travellers and concert-goers struggle to find ticket offices and are almost obliged to have smartphones with the right “app” to exhibit their QR codes; and newspaper publishers all want us to become digital subscribers while their actual papers rocket in price and shrink in size.

When it comes to clan societies, the pandemic meant that our business – membership applications/renewals, newsletters/magazines, and meetings – also had to be conducted online. It’s apparent from members’ websites and calendars that many still seem to be conducting much of their business virtually, even though the pandemic is long-gone. While Zoom is a great way to add value to any clan society – informing and talking directly with members elsewhere in the UK or the world, and getting their feedback – it’s no substitute for social get-togethers and in-person meetings; and can, indeed, be a way for those individuals who control the technology to control the discussion. It’s perfectly possible of course to have the best of both worlds – an in-person AGM with a Zoom link for those that can’t actually be there – just as it’s possible to have digital newsletters (to save money on printing and postage) while at the same time offering hard copies for those prepared to pay a premium to receive them. At this point I’d better say that this journal is only being sent out digitally; but, though it will arrive initially in a form that is easy to read online (i.e. as single pages) it is created in booklet form, and if you want a copy that can be printed-out in that way (i.e. in double pages), just let me know and I’ll email you a copy in that format.

The AHCS Membership and Events Form went out with an email asking for responses from members about their plans to attend the Culloden weekend tartan talk (so we could tell the hotel how many to cater for – which is how many they will charge us for). It went to previously designated or known contacts of 39 clans – in many cases to two such contacts per clan – and seven of them bounced back (in some cases leaving us not knowing how to contact any representative of those clans). We asked for the completed forms to be sent to our Treasurer, Rossie Macrae, with your membership fees for 2024. At the time of writing she has had just five forms and payments. I had responses from a similar number with material I could use in this journal (plus another couple of replies copying their forms to me). I have been able, by trawling through members’ websites (a lengthy and often interesting, but sometimes frustrating, process), to find some sort of material to include in the journal for most of our past members; but not all. In order to include at least something for as many of our clans as possible, I have had to edit down some of the longer contributions that we were sent (for which we thank you); and I’m sure those of you that took the trouble to respond will understand the necessity for that. In all cases I have tried to include the URL for your current website so that people can see all that you have to say about your clan, if they so wish.

One unwelcome way in which some clans feature in this journal is due to the death of some of their leading members, including, sadly, a trio of chiefs. Donald Cameron of Lochiel, who died unexpectedly on the 22nd of October 2023 at the age of 77 was well-known to many of us since he often led his clan at the annual commemoration of the battle of Culloden, and he always tried to make himself available to visitors at Achnacarry who had connections with his clan (like the Lochaber Macmillans he welcomed there on our tour in 2022). His son Donald’s eulogy – which we print in full – is a moving tribute to a true Highland chief. James Strathspey, the Chief of Clan Grant, died on the 26th May 2023 at the age of 79, and we all remember with affection his frequent presence at the Inverness Games with his beloved dog.

Donald MacLaren of MacLaren died suddenly on the 22nd of July 2023 at the age of 71 after taking ill at the Balquhider Highland Games. As the then Convener of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs his loss was sorely felt not only by his own clan, but also by his fellow chiefs amongst whom he had a high reputation for the strength of his views and the brilliance of his oratory. His strongest views were however sometimes controversial, especially when it came to status and role of clan chiefs. For him a clan was the chief and the chief and his proven relations were the clan; i.e. the chief’s authority was all that mattered when it came to tartans, history, septs, etc. He was thus somewhat sceptical about grass-roots organisations such as the AHCS and preferred, whenever possible, to bypass consultations with clan societies and deal directly with the other powers that be; i.e. the Lyon Court and the Scottish Government. That said he was always prepared to debate when he had to – which he did very well – and always enjoyed mixing with his and other clans at games, gatherings, and conferences. Indeed, my last memory of him was when he came to one of my annual Scottish genealogy lectures at Stone Mountain in the USA – the only chief who has ever bothered to do that – and then joined in an enjoyable and often amusing discussion about clans and septs. Needless to say the audience loved having a chief amongst them, and I appreciated him taking the trouble to be there. Following his death, Sir Malcolm MacGregor has stepped back into the role of SCSC Convener.

The first time that I ever talked to Donald MacLaren was when he rang me out of the blue to try and exercise his diplomatic charms in relation to the Edinburgh Homecoming Gathering of 2009, about which I had written a piece in *The Scotsman* stating the hostile position of so many of the clans in the Highlands. Most of the clans in the Highlands were hostile to it because we had never been consulted about it; indeed, Clan MacKenzie in Scotland only learnt about it when the leadership of our New Zealand branch told us they were coming, and asked us what we were planning for them! I’ve written more about that and the consequent founding and purposes of the AHCS later in this issue.

Graeme Mackenzie.

The Chairman Abroad

Ewen Macpherson of Cluny 1706-1764

Ewen Macpherson of Cluny, the Chief of the Macphersons, was a fugitive in the Highlands for nine years, following the battle of Culloden. He was one of those responsible for distributing the 'Jacobite Gold' [aka The Loch Arkaig Treasure] and in 1755 Prince Charles Edward asked him to come to France, to account to him for the remaining funds. Cluny made a dangerous journey through London to France, only to find that the Prince was in Basel, where in the event Charles gave him the cold shoulder. Ewen settled in Dunkirk, with his wife [a daughter of Lord Lovat of the '45] and died there in 1764.



It is known that, being refused interment in a Catholic graveyard, he was buried in the garden of the Dominican Convent, in a night-time funeral taken by the Rev. John Maitland, a Scottish Episcopalian clergyman. The convent was destroyed in the Revolution, and the site obliterated in 20th century bombing.

Clan Macpherson Association member, Anthony Rocquet, a land agent from Rennes, by comparing maps and archaeological evidence, has established the site of the garden. Dunkirk Council has erected a magnificent 8 foot high monument to remember Ewen, which was unveiled by the present Cluny on 28 January 2024, following a civic reception for the Macphersons given by the mayor in the town hall.

At the ceremony, the eleven verses of the remarkable poem 'A Lament for the Laird of Cluny', by Lachlan Macpherson of Strathmashie, was read by Angus Macpherson of Biallid, in the scholarly translation by Ronald Black. The monument was dedicated [sprinkled with water from Badenoch] by a present day Scottish Episcopalian clergyman (your Chairman); white roses were laid and a pipe tune played. Afterwards a feast was held in celebration in a chateau in Dunkirk

The previous day a group of Macphersons visited the grave of the Gentle Lochiel, a cousin of Ewen Macpherson of Cluny, who was buried at Bergues, a few miles from Dunkirk.

Allan Maclean



Anthony Rocquet (left) and James Macpherson of Cluny at the monument in Dunkirk

Lochiel.net/archives/arch054.html

Scot Finds the Last Resting Place of Gentle Lochiel [Unknown newspaper 1998]

A Scot's detective work has led to the rediscovery of the long-forgotten final resting-place in France of a major hero of the 1745 Jacobite Rising.

Mr. Julian Hutchings, who lives and works in France, made it a personal quest to trace the grave of the Cameron clan chief known as Gentle Lochiel, who tried to talk Charles Edward Stuart out of the ill-fated venture. Various French towns had been put forward as the place where Donald Cameron, younger of Lochiel, died in October 1748. By then, he was colonel of a French army regiment, the Regiment d'Albanie, which included many Culloden survivors.

Now Mr. Hutchings has come up with documentary proof that the nineteenth chief of the clan must have died in Bergues, a small town near Dunkirk. With the aid of a local historian, Pierre Bonduelle, he has uncovered receipts for goods supplied to the regiment by tradesmen, showing it was based in Bergues, a walled fortress town, at the time of Lochiel's death at 53. He has also located a surviving part of the chief's private lodgings. The unmarked cemetery in which he would have been buried has been pinpointed on the town's outskirts. The grassy, untended area has become a 'lover's walk' and an unofficial play area.

Mr. Hutchings, president of the Orleans-based *Alliance France-Ecosse*, said at the weekend: "We have the agreement of the provost of Bergues for a plaque to be erected. There is a strong possibility that it will be on the building where Lochiel stayed."

Edinburgh writer John S. Gibson, author of *Lochiel of the Forty-Five*, is delighted with the outcome. He said the findings has been accepted officially by the inspector-general of the French archives.

The detective work was finished in time for inclusion in a book by Mr. Gibson about Lochiel He said "For 100 years or so, a town with a similar name - Bourges - was thought to be the place where Lochiel died but I have always felt that was not right and that it was Bergues."

Ed: John S. Gibson's outstanding "Lochiel of The '45" was first published in 1994.



News from our Members: Past & Future Events

Clan Chattan Association: www.clanchattan.org.uk



Clan Chattan Association Annual Gathering 2024

THE KINGSMILLS HOTEL, INVERNESS

Thursday 1st August

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner

4pm Gather together. Light refreshments

5pm The AGM of the Clan Chattan Association.

6pm Pre-dinner welcome drink.

7pm Clan Chattan Association Annual Dinner. Two course Dinner and coffee.

Moy Country Fair: Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd August

Left: John Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Vanessa, and Kyla

Clan Chisholm Society: www.clanchisholmsociety.org

A New Chisholm Tartan

Chisholm's Kiltmakers is now stocking a new Chisholm tartan – the Chisholm Colonial Tartan – to add to the traditional Chisholm Dress Tartan and Chisholm Hunting Tartans. Kat Moore (Lenexa, Kansas, USA) designed the tartan, and explained its origins:

“I wanted to create a tartan that honored all those Chisholms who left Scotland to start a new life in the various 'Colonies' around the world. My original inspiration for this project came from the desire to honor my ancestor, James Chism of Virginia (1657- 1698). He was one of the many first generation American born Scots of our Clan. I am of the twelfth generation of this American-Scots line. ...

At our Clan Gathering in Canada this past August 2008, our Chief Hamish Chisholm of Chisholm viewed the new design and approved it officially! Duncan Chisholm of Inverness, Scotland, has been extremely good about having the initial cloth woven, doing all the important paperwork and other labors as well, that were required to make this project a reality (Thank you Duncan).”



Clan Davidson Association: www.clandavidson.org.uk



The Clan Davidson Room at Tulloch Castle, which continues to attract many visitors.

It has been another busy year for the Clan Davidson Association. We have continued to publish three Newsletters a year and our annual journal, The Pheon. This coming year will be the 33rd year that we have published our annual journal. We try to include a wide range of stories about the different families who have left their mark on history.

We continue to research widely and try to help our members undertaking their own projects, as well as responding to the many enquiries received via our website. We maintain very extensive (and growing) historical archives which include details about many different Davidson families and sept names. We try to share as much as possible.

During April and May, membership secretary Nick Hyde enjoyed a long trip down under to catch up with his brother in Canberra, Australia as well as taking part in the AGM events of the Clan Davidson Societies in Australia and New Zealand. Nick was made very welcome by everyone he met, and everywhere he visited. There is a wealth of Davidson history in both countries. He is already planning to return down in this coming year.

The UK Association held its AGM/Gathering at the Balgeddie House Hotel in Glenrothes, Fife, during the last weekend of September. We had a good number of members and guests taking part including families from Australia, Belgium, Canada, and France. We were fortunate with the weather throughout the weekend which also allowed members and guests to get out and explore the many attractions within easy reach of the hotel.

Editor's Note: Nick Hyde also gave an excellent talk in March 2023 to the Highland Family History Society on "Some Davidson Connections in the Highlands and Northern Scotland". He followed this up with an article in the February 2024 HFHS Journal on James Davidson, merchant & shipowner, from Golspie. The HFHS welcomes talks and articles about any Highland clans.

Clan Donald Society of Highlands & Islands: www.clandonald.org

Last Year's Events:

Sat. 2 March - Annual Academic Lecture by Eddie Stewart, Glasgow University archaeologist, and Lucy Ankers, on the further findings at Maclain's summer house.

Tue. 13 February - Massacre of Glencoe remembrance in St Mary's Episcopal Church and lunch at the Glencoe Inn.

Fri. 8 December - Annual Ceilidh in the Seaforth Lodge, Fortrose.

Sat. 19 August - Glenfinnan Highland Games - shared a tent with 1745 Association.

This Year's Events:

Sat. 13 April - Clan Donald Culloden Lunch at the Drumossie Hotel. Special Guest Speaker is Maestro Paul Macdonald, sword-maker, fencing master and storyteller.

Sat. 27 April - Day outing to Kinloch Rannoch.

Sat. 18 May - Clan Donald Society AGM, via Zoom.

Sat. 17 August - Glenfinnan Highland Games.

Tue. 1 October - Outing to the Uists, 4 nights at Orasay Inn, Lochcarnan. Touring at local areas of interest.



At the Ceilidh in Fortrose

Clan Donnachaidh/Robertson Society: www.donnachaidh.com



2023 Gathering - one for the ages.

What a wonderful gathering this year. Thanks so much to those that worked so hard to organise it again and make it such a success. It was really good to see so many from Scotland and from abroad who were able to come and renew friendships and make new ones.

Real highlights included the younger members go-karting and gorge walking in the Bruar. They also completed at the Kinloch Rannoch games hill race but Heather stood out again as our clan athlete in the heavy events. Unfortunately we lost the tug of war to the village team but in truth I think they deserved the win. Thank you to the organisers for letting us be there.

The dinner was again excellent and really pleased to see Stephanie Robertson receive the Honoured Clansperson award for all her hard work that she does for us. It was a privilege to have Lord Robertson with us again as our Honorary President. The 2024 Gathering & AGM will be held between 11 and 15 September 2024 in Bruar, Pitlochry and the surrounding clan lands. In particular, please note that the AGM will take place on Friday 13 September at The Tryst, Pitlochry.

Clan Farquharson UK: www.clanfarquharsonuk.com

GATHERING 2024

Tuesday 6 August

7.00 pm onwards. Farquharsons Bar and Grill in Braemar. Informal Meet and Greet.

Wednesday 7 August

2.00 pm Visit Cairn. Afterwards at the cafe in the Duke of Rothesay Highland Games Centre, Braemar.

7.00 pm onwards. Informal meet and Greet at Farquharsons Bar and Grill.

Thursday 8 August

11.00 am onwards. Ballater Highland Games. Lunch can be pre-booked.

Friday 9 August

10.30 am AGM in Victoria & Albert Halls, Ballater.

7.00 pm Dinner at Ballater Golf Club. Black tie or lounge suit.



Philip Farquharson of Invercauld

Clan Fraser of Lovat: www.clanfraser.org



Beaufort Castle, the old seat of the Lovat Frasers

Beaufort Castle was put up for sale in June 2023.

After years of trying to sell off market, Mrs Gloag finally put the castle up for sale via Rightmove.com.

The castle, which dates back to the 11th century, comes complete with six reception rooms, and boasts its own chapel with an organ and a biomass heating system.

The estate has six residential cottages with additional land available for 'further potential residential and recreational development opportunities'.

Dame Ann has also owned Kinfauns Castle near her birthplace of Perth since 2004, where locals were outraged by her attempting to bar the public's right to roam in woodland in the grounds in court.

Clan Grant Society: www.clangrant.org



*Michael Strathspey
Chief of Clan Grant*

Our aim is to cultivate a spirit of kinship among members of the Clan Grant both here and abroad. Over the centuries Grants have left their native Scotland and dispersed all over the World.

Whether in Scotland, England, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, USA or Canada, in fact wherever there is a Grant, our goal is for The Clan Grant Society to bring Grants together to share in our common ancestry, traditions and history. We include all those who have an interest in Grants or have a Grant bloodline, welcoming them to our extended family.

The Clan Grant Society hosts its annual Clan Gathering over a weekend in August to coincide with the Abernethy Highland Games which is held on the Saturday.

The Weekend begins on the Friday before the Games with the AGM at the Clan Grant Centre at Duthil at 4:30pm.

On Saturday the games commence with the Clan March, where members of the Society march to the opening ceremony of the Games in traditional dress, led by our Parade Marshal and following the band of massed pipes and drums. The procession begins at the Nethybridge Hotel, where many Clan members stay overnight, and ends in the Games Field for the opening ceremony.

Following an eventful day at the Games on Saturday, a formal kilt and black tie evening meal and ceilidh is hosted at a local hotel.

Clan Gregor Society: www.clangregor.com

Clan Gregor have recently completed the Dalmally carved (Loch Awe School) gravestones conservation and display project. The idea of displaying what are believed to be the gravestones of the earliest MacGregor chiefs—who were the lairds of Glenorchy, Glenstrae, and Glenlochy—was first proposed 27 years ago. It has cost about £81,000, raised from members mostly in America, plus grants from Historic Environment Scotland, the Pilgrim Trust and the Strathmartine Trust.



*The ancient carved gravestones displayed
inside the Glenorchy parish church at Dalmally*

The Clan Gregor Society has 140 members coming in July of this year for an International Gathering/Tour based at the Loch Awe Hotel, followed by a much smaller extension tour based in Stirling. As well as seeing the display in Dalmally, the tour will also visit the Clan Gregor Museum in Castle Menzies at Weem.

Clan MacAulay Association: www.clanmacaulay.org.uk



*Joan McAulay
from Saskatoon, Canada,
is Clan MacAulays'
elected chief*

The Clan MacAulay Association exists:

To celebrate our traditions and connect with culture, heritage, and history; to discover our Scottish or Irish MacAulay roots; to engage in the world-wide community of Clan MacAulay; to have an open international Clan Gathering every two years, where practical, attracting interested parties to celebrate traditions and connect with our culture, heritage, and history; to promote Clan MacAulay and its place in the history and heritage of Scotland, Ireland, and its overseas diaspora; to use promotional initiatives and form partnerships to encourage an interest in the history and heritage of Scotland and Ireland; to offer genealogical guidance and signposting to the MacAulay DNA projects; to connect with MacAulays through the positive use of the Clan MacAulay Association website and social media, and to be strictly apolitical and non-sectarian.

Our Clan is based on Democracy & Meritocracy not Aristocracy & Patronage.

MacAmhlaidh gu Brath! MacAulay Forever!

Announcing the 2024 International Clan Gathering!

Escape to the Cape!

August 7-10, 2024 Baddeck, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada

Clan MacDougall: www.macdougall.org



Highlights of the Gathering:

Visits to/Tours of: Isle of Lismore; Kirk of Kilbride; Oban Distillery; the Castles of Dunollie and Dunstaffanage.

Talks:

"Dunollie's Rent Book" by Jennifer Shaw, volunteer archivist

"Finding Dugald" by museum curator Catherine Gillies.

"Thoughts on the MacDougalls in the later Middle Ages" by Dr Martin MacGregor of Glasgow University

"Genetic Roots and Branch of Clan MacDougall" by DNA expert Edward Sweeney

Workshop Sessions on Speaking Gaelic, Photography, Ceilidh Dancing, Genealogy

Opening Ceremony, Ceilidh Dance & Dinner, Farewell Clan March through Oban

Further details, registration and booking at www.dunollie.org

Clan MacEwen: www.clanmacewen.com



Thursday 06 Jun 2024, 10:00 – Sunday 09 Jun 2024, 17:00. Otter Ferry, Tighnabruaich PA21 2DH, UK

Highlights of proposed schedule – which can be found on the society's website – include:

Friday 7th of June

15:00 Heraldry Presentation by Ross McEwen

19:30 History of MacEwen Play by Sir John McEwen

Sir John R. H. McEwen, 5th Bt of Marchmont & Bardrochat, is at present the Commander of the Clan

Saturday 8th of June

11:00 Clan MacEwen Society AGM in Main Tent

15:00 MacEwen Family Convention in Main Tent

Clan MacFarlane International Society: www.macfarlane.org

We just missed



Clan MacKay Society: www.clanmackaysociety.co.uk



Inauguration of Lord Reay as Chief of Clan Mackay – 19 August 2023

Aeneas Simon Mackay, Lord Reay, was inaugurated as the 29th chief of Clan Mackay at a ceremony at Strathnaver Museum in Bettyhill, north Sutherland. A pipe band played as clan members showed their fealty to their leader, who inherited the title after the death of his father in 2013, and presented the 58-year-old with his dirk, staff and seal.

More than 200 people from Clan Mackay societies around the world, as well as representatives of other clans, braved some typical Highland weather to attend. But when the driving wind and rain abated, the ceremony went ahead. Led by the Seanchaidh – Gaelic for storyteller – it featured a religious blessing centred on the Farr Stone, an ancient standing stone with Celtic carvings dating to the 9th century, poetry, readings from ancient documents relating to the clan and a recitation of the new chief's lineage.

Lord Reay observed that "The Chief, as I see it, is responsible for ensuring that the next generation understands the importance of their ancestral history."

Left: Lord Reay.

Clan MacKenzie Society: www.clanmackenziesociety.co.uk

The Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland and the UK have been catering for the needs of new generations by embracing technology. We have made good use of Zoom, holding events at 7pm on a Saturday evening, which has allowed for attendance from around the world. Last March we had a discussion on the topic 'What does the CMSUK mean to you?'. While members did express an interest in history and heritage, they also wanted to feel a sense of belonging, of being part of a 'family'.

We held a number of other events in 2023 including talks giving an insight into rare Mackenzie related books and artefacts and we've had a virtual 'Dingwalk' to look at Mackenzie connections to Dingwall. We met Douglas Watt the author of the John MacKenzie, Investigative Advocate Novels and "The Price of Scotland" and we've enjoyed some interactive quizzing.

This year we will hold more online talks but the committee will be concentrating on our preparations for our International Gathering in 2025. Sadly our plans to visit the Outer Hebrides and explore the Mackenzie connection to Lewis had to be shelved because of transport and accommodation issues, together with rising costs; but we are delighted to have a full programme planned for the week 2-9 August 2025 and members are already booking their places.



Photo from Ross MacEwen

Cabarfeidh was the guest speaker at the Royal Oak Dinner in 2023 presented by the Royal Stuart Society and The 1745 Association, to commemorate the birth of Prince Charles Edward Stuart in 1720

Clan Mackinnon Society: www.themackinnon.com



Join Clan MacKinnon Society in **Edinburgh**
June 18-21, 2024

We are finalizing our itinerary now but you can look forward to local tours, workshops, sightseeing, social time, a banquet, and more... not to mention reconnecting with old friends and making new ones from near and far!

Highlights will include: Workshops by esteemed presenters including Lord Lyon King of Arms Dr. Joseph J. Morrow who will present on heraldry; a representative from Drambuie who will describe Clan MacKinnon's connection with this delicious elixir; and folklorist Eileen Budd who will share her fascinating Travelling Folk Museum. There will also be a semi-formal banquet with piping in the haggis and "Address to a Haggis".

Clan Maclean: www.maclean.org

In June last year, the Clan Maclean had their week-long International Gathering on the Isle of Mull. These gatherings are usually held every five years, but this time it was postponed from 2022 due to uncertainty of travel following the pandemic. Under the chairmanship of Anne Maclean of Dochgarroch, about 650 people attended the event this time.

In 2021 as a taster, the Association had arranged a week-long virtual gathering, with different events each day. This experiment involved a great deal of hard work, but was a great success. It was well placed, at the time when we were coming out of lock-down, not least for people's interest in recording the items [70 in all, ranging from Gaelic, heraldry, to piping & singing, and tours of Mull]. There had been a lot of picking and choosing, reaching a daily peak of 620, and overall there had been 8500 different hits on the website over the week. It undoubtedly gave participants a feel for the clan and the clan lands, which encouraged people to come for the actual gathering in 2023.



An interesting event during the gathering in June was the unveiling of a cairn at Kilbrennan, on the west side of Mull, in honour of the Rankin family, who had a school of piping there [the cairn is pictured left]. Second only to the MacCrimmon school on Skye, many pipers were taught there before it was disbanded in the late eighteenth century. The Rankins were hereditary pipers to the Chiefs of Clan Maclean, and later to the Macleans of Coll. The last of the Rankin hereditary pipers emigrated to Prince Edward Island. However, the piping tradition has remained strong among the Macleans, and the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust sponsors bursaries for young pipers at the Piping College, as well as supporting the Tobermory High School pipe band, and its tutor Calum Maclean. He is also the personal piper to Sir Lachlan Maclean, the current chief of Clan Maclean.

Clan MacLennan: www.clanmaclelland-worldwide.com



Chief's photo
by Gael Colliquet.

Following on from the success of the 2014 and 2018 Gatherings in Inverness we are now planning another Gathering to promote our Clan and to bring our global family together to celebrate our fine customs and traditions. We invite all MacLennans, and MacLennan descendants, wherever you live, to start thinking about joining us for fun, family and friendship – in early July 2024.

The 2024 Gathering will be a multi-day event to take place Wednesday afternoon July 3rd (best to arrive a day or two before) – Tuesday (Fringe event) July 9th mostly in and around the Highland spa town of Strathpeffer, a short distance west of Inverness with many connections to MacLennan history. A draft of the programme: You can expect the main Gathering to take place over Wednesday to Tuesday including the traditional “meet and greet” on Wednesday July 3rd, Genealogy Day starting 09:00 Thursday, a Clan Parliament, formal dinner on the Saturday, a ceilidh and a range of other tours and events – and, on Monday walk in the footsteps of our ancestors, an all-day ramble over the “MacLennan Way” finishing at a baronial Lodge. For further details, see the website.

Clan MacLeod Associated Societies: www.clanmacleod.org

On Saturday, 9th March, Scotland played Italy in a Six Nations Rugby Union International at the Olimpico Stadium in Rome and in a thrilling match, Italy came from behind to emerge as winners 31-29.

Before the match, five musicians from our friends at the Veneto Piping School proudly wearing MacLeod of Harris Tartan joined a massed band of Italian and Scottish Pipers to play ‘Flower of Scotland’. Silvia, one of the five pipers said: “It was a huge thrill to play one of my favourite songs, ‘Flower of Scotland’, for 70,000 people at the Olimpico stadium in Rome on Saturday.



Clan MacMillan International: www.clanmacmillan.org



Above: Jim McMillan of Ontario (left) presents the clan chief George with a copy of his family history in the Finlaystone tearoom



One of the new trees at the old clan seat of Murlagan.

The resumption of international travel has brought many MacMillans to the Clan Centre at Finlaystone, and to the three Scottish homelands of the clan: The Glenkens of Galloway; Knapdale & Kintyre; and Loch Arkaigside in Lochaber. Though the name McMillan remains common in Dumfries & Galloway, and in Kintyre (where there were more MacMillans in 1841 than either Campbells or MacDonalds), it's now a relatively rare surname in Lochaber; and especially along the largely deserted shores of Loch Arkaig from whence *Clann 'ic 'illemhaoil Abrach* migrated en masse in 1802 to Canada.

Every year – bar those blighted by pandemic – descendants of these emigrants come to drive the difficult road along the loch's shore; and some of them, like Jim McMillan (who's pictured above left with George MacMillan at Finlaystone) go on to hike from the road's end into Glen Pean which was the home of the chief's son who led his clan to Culloden in 1746 with Lochiel's regiment. His father lived on the loch at Murlagan, and Keith MacMillan, from Alberta – with the late Lochiel's permission – has planted trees there to mark the site of the old clan burial ground.

Meanwhile in Belgium, a more recent and bloody war is remembered in October of each year, in and around Ypres, by representatives of the Scottish clans whose sons fought there in the First World War. In 2023 the lead clan was MacMillan (represented by the flourishing Clan MacMillan Society of France) and the soldier chosen to be honoured for his sacrifice was Lance Corporal Keith MacMillan from Manawatu in New Zealand.



Patrick Million, President of the French Society, at the Hooge Cemetery



Comann Rannsachaidh Eachdraidh na Gaidhealtachd

Society of Highland & Island Historical Research One-Day Conference

The Sixteenth Century in the Highlands

Friday 5th July 2024, UHI Inverness Campus

www.highlandhistoricalresearch.com/conference/



Clan Macpherson Association: www.clan-macpherson.org

Clan Macpherson Association Gathering, August 2nd - 5th 2024.

The Gathering this year will follow the traditional format. We shall be using the Duke of Gordon Hotel located in Kingussie for the Ball, the Supper, and the Ceilidh, which means there is a very firm limit on numbers attending these events. Surprisingly the Gathering takes quite a bit of time and effort to organize; please be kind to us and get your booking in early.

Saturday 3rd:

10.30: AGM of the Clan Macpherson Association - Village Hall, Newtonmore, followed by Newtonmore Highland Games at the Eilan.

Clan March from Old Ralia to The Eilan - Marchers to meet at Old Ralia at 13:45. The step off is 14:00.

Monday 5th:

9.30: Talk about Ewen Macpherson "Cluny" of the "45" at the Clan Macpherson Museum at Newtonmore.



The late Norman Macpherson leads a previous clan march

Clan Macrae Society of Scotland: www.clanmacraescot.org



Last years events included:

Sheriffmuir Memorial, Saturday, 18th November 2023

Jim Macrae was to give an informative, historical account of the battle where the Macraes played such a prominent role, followed by lunch in The Riverside Restaurant in Dunblane.

This year's events were to include:

Lunch and AGM at Eilean Donan Castle, Saturday 23rd March

Midday assembly outside the castle ready to march in for the buffet lunch, followed by the Society's Annual General Meeting.

A previous lunch in the castle is pictured left

Clan Matheson Society: www.clanmatheson.org

International Gathering 2024

Our eyes are now firmly on our next Clan Gathering which will be in Scotland between Saturday 20th and Tuesday 23rd July 2024. All members of the Clan Society are invited to attend with their families and other supporters. Because of the Covid pandemic, this will be our first gathering in Scotland since we took part in the Edinburgh Tattoo in 2017. The outline plan at this stage is to have the first two days (20 and 21 July) in Lochalsh, to include the Lochcarron Highland Games at Attadale on 20th July, and the second two days (22 and 23 July) on the Isle of Skye.

Featured events will include a boat trip on Loch Carron (Saturday); guided walks round Plockton (Sunday); Clan Parliament in Portree (Monday); visit to Dunvegan Castle (Tuesday).

Sir Alexander and Lady Matheson of Matheson are pictured right at Edinburgh Castle during the Tattoo in 2017.



Clan Munro: www.clanmunro.org



Hector Munro of Foulis

Jean Dunlop Munro – 100 years of age

Jean Dunlop was born in 1923 in England of Scottish parents; one of her grandfathers having been Registrar General of Scotland. She graduated BA at Bedford College, London; then gained a PhD at Edinburgh, and became a professional historical and genealogical researcher. In 1958 she married R.W. (Billy) Munro, a journalist and keen historian and genealogist who, in 1980, published "Scotland: Land of Kin and Clan". Together they wrote a number of clan and Highland histories and edited, for the Scottish History Society, the "Acts of the Lords of the Isles 1336-1493". Jean edited the Clan Chisholm Journal for many years and advised on clan centre displays for both the Munros and the Robertsons.

Daffodil Tea

at Foulis Castle

In aid of 

Entry Adult £15
Concessions Lower 66 and 8 to 15 year old £13
Under 8's Free

13 April 2024

2.30pm-4pm

Arts & Crafts • Baking • Stalls

- Live music
- Highland Dancers
- Face painting
- Highland Inflatables



Clan Rose International – UK: www.clanroseinternational.org

Clan Rose had their first table at the Inverness Highland Games in July 2023, hosted by Katharen Quirk, the daughter of the chief, David Rose of Kilravock.

In August it was announced that the ancient clan seat, Kilravock Castle – which had been gifted by the previous chief to a Christian Trust – was up for sale, with Galbraiths asking four million pounds for the 15th century castle and estate.

David Rose, Katharen, and her sister Genevieve Rose, announced they were working with a group of community leaders toward acquiring the funds to purchase the castle and reopen it for public use. To this end, Clan Rose International set up the Kilravock Heritage Fund for donations. Galbraiths now say the estate is “under offer”, though it’s not known from whom.



The Stewart Society: www.stewartociety.org



The Stewart Society had a Gathering in Edinburgh, 6th-8th October, which featured the President's reception at the Society's headquarters in George Street, a behind the scenes tour of Holyrood Palace, and a visit to the Magdalen Chapel in the Grassmarket – which is pictured left. The Saturday activities also included a whisky tasting and a walking tour of the Moray Feu led by the Society's President, the Earl of Moray. There was an enjoyable dinner on Saturday evening at the Royal Scots club. On Sunday morning Gathering attendees went to the High Kirk for the morning service, and then visited the Moray aisle. In the afternoon some members visited Craigmillar Castle.

The London Dinner of the Stewart Society is on Thursday May 16 at the Caledonian Club, London. Members of other clan societies and their guests are very welcome. Please contact Jenn Chamberlain for booking details.

The Stewart Society Gathering will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of the foundation of the Society in the Stirling area on the 27-29 September 2024. The Society warmly welcomes all Stewarts of any spelling with their friends and family to join us for the weekend. There will be a booking form on the website very soon.

Research into the DNA and genealogy of the Stewarts continues and the most recent edition of “The Stewarts” contained a very interesting article about the children of John Roy Stewart, and in particular in his son, Charles Stewart. This is part of the ongoing research of Graham Holton at Strathclyde University.

Clan Urquhart Association: www.clanurquhart.org

The Clan Urquhart Association is a worldwide organization founded, in May 1976 for the purpose of cultivating a spirit of kinship among Urquharts and descendants of Clan Urquhart; and to serve as the agency by which Urquharts throughout the world maintain contact with their Clan.

The Association is dedicated to preserving the heritage and promoting the interests of Clan Urquhart. National branches have been established in the United Kingdom, the United States & Canada, and Australia & New Zealand.

Each branch is self-supporting in finances and organization. The Chief of the Clan is Patron of all branches and maintains contact with branches through Clan Commissioners who are appointed by him.



The Clans at the Inverness Games in 2023

Clans, Names, and Spellings

by Graeme Mackenzie

MacKenzie/McKenny/McKinney

A few years ago I was contacted by a gentleman in the USA who was descended from a Thomas McKinney, and having found some sources that said McKinneys were MacKenzies, he joined the Clan MacKenzie Society. Then he discovered that Clan Mackinnon claimed McKinney as a version of its name; so he wrote to me, as the Seannchaidh of Clan MacKenzie, to ask if I had any historical/genealogical background on this question or any means of solving it.

Since it was not a question I had considered before, I went back to basics and looked at the Gaelic originals of the two clan names and recorded phonetic versions of them. So, as George Black tells us in "The Surnames of Scotland", MacKenzie comes from the Gaelic *MacCoinnich*, which would have been pronounced in English something like *Mackaingye*; and as he notes, many phonetic versions of it can be found going back to the 15th century; i.e. Mackennych in 1466; Makkingze 1513; Makkenye 1500; Mckinzie 1530; M'Kenny^t 1553. Indeed, our chief's direct ancestor is recorded in 1629 as Sir John McKanyee.

Mackinnon comes from the Gaelic *MacFhionghuin*, and while Black's entry for it includes amongst early phonetic forms, Makenone in 1536, there's not a single one that comes anywhere close to having an end that is "ey", "ie", etc. So I was able to tell my correspondent that it simply does not make sense for McKinney to be a version of MacKinnon.

While that appeared to be pretty conclusive; it was still rather theoretical, and of course, just referred to MacKenzies in Scotland. I was delighted therefore, after recently being commissioned to do research by a MacKenzie descendant in New York, to discover records of his ancestors in Virginia that quite clearly showed the equation of MacKenzie and McKinney in practice in America: Alexander Mackenney who first appears in 1683, when he petitioned to clear a road in Henrico County VA, later appears in the neighbouring Hanover Co. as Alexander McKenny in 1707, Alex^r Mckensy in 1711, Alex^r M^ckensie in 1712, Alex^r M^ckenzy in 1715, and later that same year as Alexander MacKenzie.

The variable spelling of all surnames – especially those of Gaelic origin – is commonplace before the 20th century, and it's sad that so many people get so exercised about what they regard as the proper spelling of their name; and, when they realise it was once spelt differently, go to great lengths to try and discover why somebody in their family decided to change the spelling – most often from a Mac version to a Mc version (or vice versa) – not appreciating that in most cases it was just a question of how the person writing the record at the time (the minister, priest, port official, census enumerator, etc.) thought it ought to be spelt, often on the basis of how it sounded (which of course varied from one part of the country to another).

It's one thing for individuals to imagine that different spellings of the same name mean more than they do; it's quite another for families to invent whole new clans on the same basis.

[Mac]Ewen/[Mac]Ewing

Just as McKinney is a form of MacKenzie, so McEwing is a form of MacEwen, from the Gaelic *MacEòghainn*, and from these two forms of the same name come the two Mac-less forms, Ewen/Ewan and Ewing. That's why we find in the OPRs the marriage in 1717 in Edinburgh of Andrew McEwing and Margaret Ronald, and the birth three years later of a child Alexander to them as Andrew McEwen and Margaret Ronald. A parallel equivalence can be found with the names Ewen and Ewing, illustrated by the birth in 1692 in St Ninians, Stirlingshire, of Andrew to James Ewing and Janet Hardy, and then in 1695 of John to James Ewen and Janet Hardie. Similarly in Kilmadock, Perthshire, Janet was born in 1678 to David Ewin and Jean Lothian, to be followed two years later by an un-named child to David Ewan and Jean Lothian. In 1683 and 1686, Margaret and Isobel were born there to David Ewing and Jean Lothian.

So far so good; but one of the most intriguing things to emerge in the Calendar of Clan Events for 2024 is that both Clan MacEwen and the so-called Clan Ewing are holding a "Family Convention" at which they hope to have their Commanders promoted to be Chiefs. Most members of the AHCS will know of the MacEwens – not least because a distinguished member of that clan is currently our Secretary – but what about the Ewings?

During the 19th and 20th centuries, the MacEwens, Ewans, Ewings etc. were all listed together in books like Frank Adams "Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands" as a sept of Clan MacLachlan. In the 1990s, representations were made to the Lyon Court – by the Clan Ewen Society, which was chaired at the time by Lt. Col. Alan Ewing – pointing out that the MacEwens were once an independent clan, with their seat at Otter, on the eastern shore of Loch Fyne, and a pedigree in the collection of medieval Highland genealogies now known as MS1467. The Lord Lyon eventually agreed that they should be recognised as a separate clan with the right to have appointed a Commander, unless or until they could find a hereditary chief. However, by 2014, when they held a Family Convention to elect a Commander, the Ewing Family Association (founded in 2008 in the USA) had decided it wanted to be a separate clan and, according to their website: "As the leading voice in historical research and in the campaign to restore our ancient clanship, writer and historian Thor Ewing was chosen as Commander of Clan Ewing." Thor Ewing – who is, according to his own publicity, a renowned story-teller who delves "deep into the realms of myth and legend" – has published various online accounts of the Ewings:

"Who were the Ewings" at https://www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/documents/Ewing_Thor/Ewing_Thor_WhoWere.html

"Clan Ewing History" at <http://clanewing.uk/history/>

"Clan Ewing: Ewings, MacEwens and MacLachlans" at <http://clanewing.uk/macewens-maclachlans/>

According to him, the Ewings have been a separate clan since at least 1566 when we are told a William Ewin/Ewing had been summoned to attend the court of Mary Queen of Scots who had granted him the lands of Ladytoun (in the parish of Bonhill in Dunbartonshire) and a coat of arms that included, atop an embattled chevron, a red ensign [these arms, as they appear in the Foreman Armorial of c.1566 are shown right]. The appearance of that ensign on his arms, we are led to believe, confirms the tradition (reported in a North American book about the "Legends and Traditions of Clan MacLachlan") that William Ewing had carried "one of Queen Mary's banners" at the battle of Langside in 1568, where Mr Ewing tells us Mary was defeated by Matthew Stuart, Earl of Lennox (in fact Mary was defeated by





The arms of Ewing of Craigtoun as depicted in Alexander Nesbit's "A System of Heraldry"

her half-brother James Stuart, Earl of Moray, and I've not seen any evidence that Lennox was even at the battle). Mr Ewing goes on to suggest that William Ewing may actually have been the "Bearer of the Ensign of Scotland" which he asserts, was in this case the red ensign later used by the Scottish Navy, rather than the normal lion rampant royal standard.

The suggestion that William Ewing carried the royal standard serves to inflate the importance of a man whose very existence seems to be based mostly on tradition, and Mr Ewing then says that the only reason for him to be performing the duty normally carried out by the monarch's hereditary standard-bearer (Scrymgeour) is because he was a clan chief. Mr Ewing cites in support of this assertion the MacEwen tradition that a sept of their clan "under a chieftain of their own" had, after the loss of the lands of Otter, sought the protection of the Earls of Lennox, and that "... they are said to have joined the standard of Mary, under Lennox, and to have fought at Langside in 1568, where they received a banner ..." [Clan Ewen: Some Records of its History, page 12]. He then says: "A new clan banner is dependent on a heraldic grant of arms to the clan chief. The only possible candidate for such a grant of arms is the shield recorded in the Workman Armorial in the name of 'Ewing'." The report that the MacEwens/Ewings received a new banner at the battle in 1568 hardly accords with Mr Ewing's previous assertion, that the Ewing arms recorded in the Workman Armorial were granted to William Ewing in 1566.

While a William Ewing may have been summoned to court in 1566 – though I have yet to see a source given for that assertion – there's no actual evidence cited by Mr Ewing or available online that he lived at Ladytoun, let alone that he was the laird of those lands. The latter in fact looks unlikely, since the man said to have been his son and successor (and again, I'm not sure there is any proof of that relationship) appears only to have been a tenant in Ladytoun when he made his will in 1589 [it's available on the Ewing website]. Similarly, while the coat of arms borne in 1722 by John Ewing of Craigtoun is recorded as belonging to a Ewing in 1566, its individual owner at that time is not recorded in the armorial (and the arms could have been adopted long before they were first recorded in the 1566 armorial). Nisbet's account of those arms in 1722 says that the John Ewing WS who bore them had inherited the lands of Craigtoun through his mother, and that through his father Walter, he was the heir of Ewing of Keppoch (in the parish of Cardross, between Dumbarton and Helensburgh).

According to Thor Ewing, Robert Ewing of Craigtoun, who is believed to have died in 1776, was "the last known Chief of Clan Ewing". He may have been the last known male descendant of the Ewings of Keppoch who, in the late 17th and early 18th century bore the Ewing arms recorded in 1566, but the possession of an ancient coat of arms does not make a gentleman the chief of a clan; particularly of a clan which appears to have been invented in America in the 1920s and of which there appears to be no record as such in Scotland before its story was told by Thor Ewing in the early 2000s. He tells us the clan was in existence in the 1560s; but it does not appear in either of the government's late 16th century (1587 & 1594) rolls of clans, nor is it mentioned by William Buchanan of Auchmar in his 1775 "Inquiry into the genealogy and present state of ancient Scottish surnames" even though the author came from Dunbartonshire (it does include an account of the "MacLauchlans"). As late as 1994 the name Ewing was associated with Clan MacLachlan in the Collins "Scottish Clan & Family Encyclopedia" (while the MacEwens were included separately amongst "The Armigerous Clans and Families of Scotland").

When Elbert W. R. Ewing of Virginia wrote about the Ewings in the 1920s ["Clan Ewing of Scotland: Early History and Contribution to America"] he said they were a Lowland "clan", descended from the Cymric or Brythonic kings who ruled the old province of Strathclyde from Dumbarton. That is why, he said, there was no previous record of the Ewings as a clan; because all the rolls and lists of clans up to that date only included the Highland clans (and a Highlander might say that was because only Highland kindreds truly qualify as "clans"). That however is not strictly true. The 1587 roll "of the clans that have captains, chiefs and chieftains whom on they depend ..." goes on to say "as well on the borders as highlands ..." (which is a quote often used by Lowland families to justify their modern identification as "clans"), and the Ewings do not appear in it. It's ironic therefore that Thor Ewing, far from accepting that the Ewings are a Lowland kindred with their own distinguished (albeit, equally unproven) descent from the old rulers of the area in which they later dwelt, is so determined to have his "Clan Ewing" identified as a Highland kindred; and indeed, as descendants of Clan MacEwen of Otter. One of the incidental pieces of circumstantial evidence supposed to support this contention is the description in a Ewing inventory of 1610 of "sax ellis of reid & blak cullerit claith" [in Scotland an ell was a measurement of 37 inches]. This is taken by "Clan Ewing" to be "a rare description of a seventeenth-century tartan ..." which it is assumed the John Ewing in question wore, and we are told it "shows that seventeenth-century Ewings still thought of themselves as Highlanders". Apart from the fact that cloth could have two colours without being a tartan, red and black are the colours of the MacLachlan tartan.

Time and space does not permit us to repeat all that is asserted by Thor Ewing in his bid to become a clan chief (let alone check it against contemporary records and other reliable offline sources); but two final points need to be made:

Firstly, while it is not unknown for two clans to exist with different spellings of the same name (e.g. Maclean/Maclaine, MacDonald/MacDonnell, and maybe Thom[p]son/MacTavish) they do not exist as separate clans solely on the basis of the way their names are spelt; i.e. they have documented histories which show that, even if they derive from the same ancestry, they came to operate as independent, and sometimes opposed, kindreds.

Secondly, and perhaps most importantly in this case, if the Ewings are descended from the MacEwens of Otter and had chiefs who – as Thor Ewing implies – were the senior representatives of that clan, then the Lord Lyon is in danger of recognising two chiefs of the same clan. More seriously than that however, he's in danger of allowing any family with a distinctive name to claim they are a clan, and any storyteller with the determination to push that claim to be recognised as the chief of a clan that historically never appears to have existed. As we've said before, it's one thing to recognise as "clans" the descendants of Lowland families that despised the Gaels, their dress, and their language – from which comes the word itself – with their heads afforded the right to strut their stuff with eagle feathers in their bonnets. Though that ignores all the cultural, social, and political characteristics that made the clans of the Highlanders so different from the bastard feudal followings of the Lowland nobles; we can take that as a belated compliment. This however might be seen as just taking the Michael!

Please note this is the personal view of the author and does not purport to represent the position of the AHCS.

The Eagle and its Feathers

This article comes from Clan Chattan's "Touch Not" magazine of March 2023, and refers to the Golden Eagle on the cover of that edition

The majestic Golden Eagle soaring over the straths, glens and mountains of Scotland and particularly Clan Chattan territory. These incredible raptors have wingspans of over 2 metres, can reach speeds of 120mph and dive at speeds of 150mph as they catch their prey with their talons.

A Golden Eagle can live for 40 years and pairs for life. In Gaelic the Golden Eagle is commonly called *iolaire bhuidhe*, but older Gaelic names celebrated its beauty, power and supposed supernatural abilities and included *fireun*, 'the true bird'. The wild beauty, strength and courage of the Golden Eagle makes it an ideal choice to be the Scottish National Bird, and explain why it's the most popular candidate. In 2017 the French Army trained Golden Eagles to catch drones.



*Golden Eagle in Switzerland
Giles Laurent CC BY-SA 4.00*



**The late Donald MacLaren
of MacLaren with feathers**

There is a legend that in Scottish Highland culture, a chief was expected to prove his courage and strength by climbing to the top of a mountain to pluck a feather from the nest of a Golden Eagle. The feather would then be placed in the chief's cap as a symbol of his bravery and leadership.

The origin of the Scottish custom of displaying a Golden Eagle feather, or feathers, is not clear; however, the Court of the Lord Lyon provides guidelines for entitlement to display one or more Golden Eagle feather(s) and in Scotland this protocol is respected. Real Golden Eagle feathers are displayed with the feather's quill tucked behind the crest badge on a Balmoral or Glengarry cap. The long feather projects above the badge as a distinctive mark of rank in a clan.

The tradition for clan chiefs to wear 3 Golden Eagle feathers seems to date as early as circa 1660. Subsidiary chiefs, chieftains, heirs apparent or presumptive are entitled to wear 2 feathers. Scots armigers (those with a right to bear personal arms) may wear a single feather. This is traditional convention and not Scottish law.

Nigel James Mac-Fall.

Address by Donald Andrew Cameron of Lochiel, delivered at his father's funeral on 10 Nov 2023

We are hugely grateful to see so many people here today, many of whom have come so far, to say their farewells. Words cannot express how much solace that brings, as we mourn Dad's passing. His death was unexpected and the shock of it, combined with a sense that it came too early, has made it harder to bear. He was happy and well, and had lots of plans for the future. As one of his friends put it: "He was alive and vivid in this world".

After he died, we wondered if he had left any instructions for his funeral. Catherine and I searched high and low looking for a letter or an envelope with a detailed list of requirements, favourite hymns, readings etc. There was of course, nothing. This was a man who loved life, and never wanted to think about the end of it, let alone make plans. If Margi and others will forgive me, I think the only eyebrow he might have raised about his funeral arrangements, would be the number of Campbells involved in the service.

But here we are. I would like to start by taking the opportunity, on behalf of our family, to thank all those people who played a part in caring for our father. There are too many to mention by name. But you know who you are, and we know who you are. And our gratitude to you for looking after him so well is immense.

People loved Dad and he loved them back. Above all, he loved his family, his friends, his clan, and his community. Dad's family was everything to him. First and foremost, Mum. Their 49 year



**Donald Angus Cameron of
Lochiel, CVO, JP, DL
2 Aug 1946 - 20 Oct 2023.**



**A young Donald Angus
with his father,
Sir Donald Hamish
Cameron of Lochiel**

marriage was deep and loving and spirited, and full of understanding and compassion towards each other. Together, they provided the warmest of homes and safest of havens for Catherine, Lucy, Emily, and me. As a father, he gave the four of us his love, unconditionally. But he went beyond that. He never had any expectations or placed any demands on his children. There was never any pressure. He let us be. We knew he had our back, and his relentless optimism and wise counsel kept us going through the ups and downs of life. Later on, he absolutely loved his grandchildren who brought him so much happiness – from high fives with the toddlers, to competitive games of backgammon, and illicit toast and golden syrup with the teenagers.

Dad's wider family meant the world to him too. He had a happy, idyllic childhood with his sisters Anne and Caroline, and brother Johnny. As a clan chief, my father was very proud of his role and greatly enjoyed doing it. In his younger years, he had great fun traveling the world and meeting Cameron clans-folk in North America, Australia and New Zealand. And as chief, Dad would always love welcoming people to Achnacarry, realising that for clan members it was their home as much as ours. He would show people round and usually end the visit with an instruction to go and spend as much money as possible in the clan museum.

If anyone's heart was in the Highlands, it was his. Dad was blissful at Achnacarry and was proud of it too. Catherine recalls being in a car with him on the way to the church for her wedding, expecting sound advice and reassurance from Dad, but he was far more interested in commenting on how glorious Achnacarry looked in the sunshine. He was happiest there, in his own home, in his own country. And in dying peacefully at Achnacarry, we are comforted that he was in the place he loved more than anywhere else. When he turned 70 he held a birthday party there and I recall him saying how much pleasure he took from simply being with his local friends who came from all walks of life across Lochaber. His deep fondness for the community around him was self-evident.

With Dad, there was always a solution to any problem. And that was true throughout his life, even after his diagnosis with MS. Nothing was insurmountable. I don't want to dwell on his MS because Dad didn't dwell on it. But I do want to pay tribute to the bravery he showed in facing it and the example he set in enduring it. He was neither defeated nor defined by his condition. And he didn't let us, as a family, be defined by it either. It faded into the background. He never complained. In fact, he never even wanted to talk about it, always turning the conversation back on whoever was with him, wanting to talk about their life and how they were.

For someone who became less physically strong over time, he had an incredible inner strength. And if, at times, he became tired, he never tired of being positive. This was someone for whom the expression "glass half full" was their guiding principle. It's also important to remember him at all times of his life, not just his later years. The keen sportsman who excelled in football and rugby at school and loved fishing and shooting at home. One stalker said he was so "fleet-footed" on the hill, a natural rifle shot who knew exactly where to lie and shoot from.

One friend talked of the "dashing Donald", the elegant Highland dancer who would be the prize catch at reeling parties. Driving about in a TR6 in his twenties, he was a glamorous figure whose chat-up lines would invariably involve a reference to how he looked like Steve McQueen. He loved music too, especially singing. He always said he had a terrible voice but it never stopped him. Fun and laughter were never far away. He would laugh at jokes with tears running down his cheeks and clutching his chest in hysterics.

He was the master at putting people at ease with a warm smile and a little joke of his own. His cheeky sense of humour and friendly nature sometimes went too far for us children – Emily recalls her embarrassment at one start of term at her convent school, when he insisted on kissing every nun "hello", and even took the deputy head for a ride on his mobility scooter. He was genuinely interested in people and inquisitive about their lives. He would happily approach anyone, and was at ease with everyone, endlessly showing kindness to all, especially to people he had only just met.

Lucy says that when she thinks of him, it is with his arms wide open to us all. Whether it was at home, or in a crowded room, he was always there, arms spread open to everyone he cared for. And if we could wish for anything, it would be that is how he was greeted by God, arms wide open in love.

To bring this to a close, let me just say this. Dad achieved so much in his life. But he also understood there is a difference between achievement and fulfilment. And he was fulfilled. What lessons he taught us.

How you can strengthen others, but do so gently. How you can inspire others, but do so quietly. And how you can show courage to all, but do so softly.

The Bengali poet, Tagore, wrote that "Death is not extinguishing the light, it is putting out the lamp, because the dawn has come." And as this dawn breaks, we say farewell. Farewell to the kindest of friends. Farewell to a lion-hearted father. And, as so many have said, farewell to another gentle, gentle Lochiel.

John Macfarlane, 30 September 1930–8 May 2013.

Brigadier John Macfarlane, who has died aged 83, was during his service the only Gaelic-speaking officer of that rank in the British army, a fact of which he was immensely proud. He had been born to a bilingual family in Tobermory, his father Donald running an emporium in which you could buy everything from butter cut from large pats to clothing, while his mother Mary was a teacher. After Tobermory High School, John moved on to Oban High School where his older sister Anne had been joint Dux. He then studied modern languages at Glasgow University before joining the army and serving for more than 30 years, both at home and overseas.

He finished his army career as the Ministry of Defence Director of Education and Training Services. His work was primarily as a linguist and intelligence officer – John was fluent in Gaelic, French and German. He taught himself Malay and Cantonese. He studied Turkish at Istanbul University and studied Gurkhali before serving with the Brigade of Gurkhas in the Far East. He also had a Masters Degree in Linguistics.

After work in the Arab world, John finally retired to Taynuilt which had long been a second home to the Macfarlane family at Tighnambarr. His artist wife Val and John were wonderful hosts as Highland lore and legend were put in their proper context.

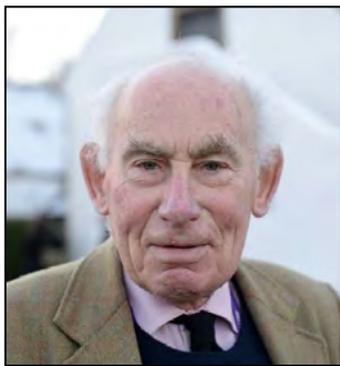
At Oban High School John had gone by the nickname of “Tob” and this was highly appropriate for a man who could later in life recount the meaning of and stories behind all the bizarre nicknames of residents of his native Tobermory when he was a boy. John had a particular interest in place names and a special project was to chronicle the Gaelic names of the pools on his beloved River Awe near his Taynuilt home where he was a keen walker.

He became an accomplished broadcaster for Gaelic radio and television, and his programme on Monte Cassino achieved great acclaim. John could safely be called one of the last true speakers of both Mull and Taynuilt Gaelic. Fittingly, he could have told you who of his illustrious Highland predecessors as brigadiers spoke Gaelic. He produced a booklet telling the stories of the fallen on the Taynuilt War Memorial and raised funds for a plaque for those from the Second World War. In speaking of past people, John never forgot his army background and would say he was “an ex-8th Argyll” or a “prisoner of the Japanese.”

John was involved in many organisations, both local and national. He was president of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association charity (SSAFA), Argyll Branch, as well as the 1745 Association, and he was also Chieftain of the Gaelic Society of Inverness. As Gaelic tutor to Taynuilt Gaelic Choir, he also sang in the choir, as well as in that of St John’s Episcopal Cathedral, Oban, where he was a committed and enthusiastic member of the congregation. In 2018 Sabhal Mòr Ostaig honoured John with its Sàr Ghàidheal Fellowship, which is awarded to individuals in recognition of their tremendous contribution and dedication to the Gaelic language and culture. John Macfarlane was always willing to share his knowledge.

It is impossible to sum up such a rich life in a brief summary, but what we can say for sure is that John Macfarlane was a scholar, folklorist, linguist, story-teller, writer and broadcaster on the history and culture of his beloved Highlands and Islands of the highest calibre. But, more importantly, he wore his learning lightly and recounted his stories with a humility and humour learned from his parents and the old worthies of his youth on Tobermory Main Street.

Eric M. Macintyre, Oban Times



Roddy Balfour

**Solicitor, Territorial Army Officer, Highland Councillor,
Chairman Clan MacKenzie Society, Chieftain Gaelic Society of Inverness**

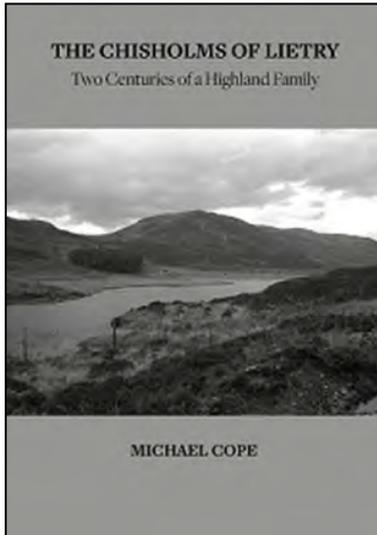
Major Roderick Anthony Christopher Balfour TD, MA, Mlitt, LLB, FSA(Scot), who died on the 11th of January 2024 at the age of 84, was elected to serve on The Highland Council for five consecutive terms from the 1999 to 2017 elections (serving until 2022) as an Independent Councillor. He served the Ardersier, Croy and Petty Ward during the 1999 and 2003 election terms and was elected in 2007, 2012 and 2017 to the Ward of Culloden and Ardersier.

Throughout his service he was a Member of many Council committees and boards including the Fire Board and was Vice Chairman of Education in 2001 and 2002 and Chairman of Education, Culture and Sport in 2003. He also served as the Council’s Armed Forces and Veterans’ Champion.

Provost of Inverness and Area, Glynis Campbell Sinclair said: “Roddy Balfour was one of a kind.... Born in Tasmania, Australia, Roddy returned to his mother’s birthplace, and made the Highlands of Scotland his home. He was passionate about the Gaelic language and was a very accomplished Bagpiper. He had a quick wit, and a wicked sense of humour – he really did love to laugh.” Highland Council, Convener Bill Lobban said: “He had one of the brightest minds of anyone I had the pleasure to meet and was a fierce and determined debater. He was also one of the nicest and most genuine people you could ever have met....The world is a much poorer place with his passing.”

Graeme Mackenzie adds: Roddy succeeded me as Chairman of the Clan MacKenzie Society in 2013 and served in that office until 2018. He was one of the most knowledgeable, helpful, and generous members of the society; and his kindness was particularly appreciated by his council constituents (he’d been known to turn up and personally shovel the snow out of elderly residents’ drives). Unlike many of us he “had the Gaelic”, but unlike some language purists he forbore to make a big deal of it. However he often said to me that it was time we sorted out the septs of the clan, since the MacKenzies, like so many other clans, had over the centuries developed a ridiculously long list of so-called “septnames”. With his encouragement and help, I’ve applied my monoglot skills to that task in recent years and look forward to dedicating my forthcoming booklet on the subject to his memory.

For Your Bookshelves



The Chisholms of Lietry by Michael Cope

The Chisholms of Lietry are a cadet family of Clan Chisholm that have their origin in in the early seventeenth century in Strathglass in the former county of Inverness-shire.

In the early 1700s Colin Chisholm (of the fourth generation) moved his family to Lietry in Glen Cannich and later generations would farm there until the late 1830s before moving to the Aird on the coast of the Beaully Firth and subsequently to Inverness itself and the wider world.

The lives of Colin's descendants can be traced against a background of immense social change in the Highlands of Scotland: upheavals of the Jacobite rebellions; the decline of the clan system and changes in land tenure; land clearances and waves of emigration to North America and Australia; and the emergence of a new mercantile and middle class before the First World War.

"Overall this work shows the dedication of the author to tell his family's history in a highly informative manner, and the use of family photographs adds so much more to the story throughout the book"

Angus Bethune, Chairman, Highland Family History Society

The Chisholms of Lietry is published by Thirsty Books of Edinburgh: www.thirstybooks.com

Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch writes:

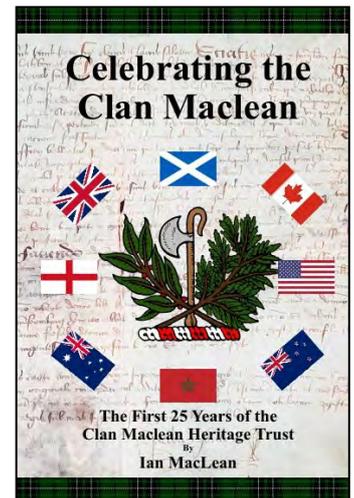
One highlight of the Clan Maclean International Gathering in June 2023 was the launch of a new book 'Celebrating the Clan Maclean' written by Ian MacLean from Nova Scotia, whose family came originally from Drumnadrochit.

The book charts the work of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust over its first 25 years, and details the 100 projects that it has inaugurated round the world, which makes it in effect a history of the clan right through to its diaspora overseas.

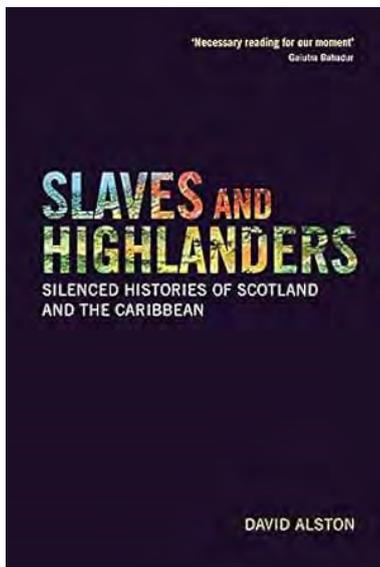
Ian has been responsible for identifying and promoting many projects in North America, including Fort Dewart in Pennsylvania. Built in 1758 by Captain Sir Allan Maclean of Montgomery's Highlanders, chief of Clan Maclean, he named it from his ancestral home in Mull, Duart Castle.

The book is available from the Duart Castle shop:

www.duartcastle.com/shop/.



W. Rex Davidson, FSA Scot writes (an extract from a longer review in Clan Chattan's "Touch Not"):



This is a mighty book, the product of twenty years of research by Cromarty-based historian David Alston. In recognition, his work has received the Saltire Society of Scotland's Book of the Year award for 2022.

Exploring the role of Highland Scots in the exploitation of enslaved Africans and their descendants in the production of cotton, sugar and coffee in the 18th and 19th centuries, it solidly places our history in an international context and is a major piece in the emerging jigsaw that shows the extent of Scottish involvement in the slavery-based economies of the Caribbean.

Alston has admirably divided his research and writing into four parts. In the first - 'The African Slave Trade, the English 'Sugar Islands' and Scots in the Expanding Empire', he explains the slave trade and the place of Jamaica and the ceded islands, including Granada.

The second part -- 'Northern Scots in Guyana on the Last Frontier of Empire', includes stories -- the voices -- of the enslaved and of the free coloured, but also discusses in detail the merchant houses and their important place in the economic puzzle that was slavery in the Caribbean.

See also David's website: www.spanglefish.com/slavesandhighlanders/

Editorial Note: Almost every chiefly family of a Highland clan that I have researched over the last thirty years had members owning plantations in the Caribbean or the slave-holding states on the North American mainland. Another useful website is the University College of London's "Legacies of British Slavery": www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs

The Founding, Aims, and Benefits of the AHCS

Graeme Mackenzie writes: One response to the Membership and Events Form that we sent out a few weeks ago was a question—from a clan society secretary who was not previously involved with clans—about the benefits to her members of the AHCS. Any such question has to go back to the reasons for the Association’s existence.

A long time ago (twelve years in fact), Allan Maclean and I were bewailing the fact that there was no longer a tent for the clans at the Inverness Highland Games in its then new home at the Northern Meeting Park; we having been used to seeing all our old friends from other clans in the tent that had been provided for years when the games were at the Bught Park. Added to that, we were still boiling with indignation at the way in which the Highland Clans at home in Scotland had been kept in ignorance about the plans made in Edinburgh—and then publicised around the world, but not here in the Highlands—for *The Gathering 2009 Ltd*.

The result of our yearning for getting the Highland Clans together again on games day was the convening in 2012 of the “Hall of the Clans” in Eden Court’s Maclean Room, where we managed to squeeze in eight or so clans—some sharing tables—who, with the aid of a vigorous leafleting campaign on the neighbouring games field, attracted a steady stream of visitors. The next year, Highland Council, who had clearly been impressed by our efforts, discovered that there was in fact room on the games field in the Northern Meeting Ground for the clans, and even before the AHCS came into formal existence, we had achieved what was our most important aim (the games have of course since returned to the wide open spaces of Bught Park).

Later in 2013 we formally inaugurated the Association during an event at the Highland Archive Centre, with a Constitution that, in Section 2, set out our aims in this way (the second item of which covers our running the tent at the Inverness Games, and other events such as the 2017 Battle of Glenshiel commemoration).

To provide a means whereby the Societies, Associations, or Individuals (Chiefs or Commanders) representing the members of Highland Clans can get together to pursue joint aims, such as:

- (i). *Sharing experience and expertise relating to the running of clans and clan societies.*
- (ii). *Organising joint clan-related events in the Highlands.*
- (iii). *Representing the Highland Clans in discussions with bodies organising joint clan events outwith the Highlands – subject to the rules laid down in Clause 5(viii).*
- (iv). *Receiving reports from, stimulating discussion about, and requesting action by the representatives of the Highland Clans sitting on other bodies.*
- (v). *Promoting projects that will benefit all Highland Clans.*
- (vi). *Supporting research into and the spread of knowledge about the nature and history of clans in the Highlands, and of the society they were and are a part of.*



**The Hall of the Clans in 2012
in the Maclean Room at Eden Court**



**Fergus Ewing’s initial meeting with
clan representatives at Castle Leod**

In a parallel process, another group of representatives—the Highland Clans Partnership Group (HCPG)—had met at Castle Leod with the then Minister of Tourism, Fergus Ewing. As an MSP for the Highlands, he understood the need to support the clans up here in our efforts to promote ancestral tourism, especially through the provision of new heritage attractions, the organising of gatherings to attract visitors to them, and the co-ordination of genealogical and historical activities online and in person.

This led to the Minister organising a meeting at the Drumossie Hotel near Inverness with representatives of nearly all the Highland Clans—far more than ever joined the HCPG or the AHCS—to hear what was called our “Big Ask”; our list of ideal actions and sums needed to support the work of the clans in promoting ancestral tourism in the Highlands.

Since Fergus Ewing was the Minister of Tourism for the whole of Scotland, when he succeeded in persuading his colleagues to approve new structures and finance for these purposes, it had to be for the whole country. As a result, the local Highland Clans Partnership Group in effect morphed into the national Scottish Clans and Families Forum (SCFF), and the promised aid to help the Highland clans attract their overseas members back to the old country was made available nationwide via the Scottish Clan Event Fund (SCEF).

Those of our members who were willing and able to tackle the bureaucracy that went with it benefitted enormously from the money available through SCEF, and many memorable gatherings were held, in whole or in part, as a result of it. Things began to change however in the two or three years leading up to the pandemic, after Fergus Ewing had been promoted away from the Tourism brief, where he was succeeded, as part of a much wider brief, by Fiona Hyslop who, though not a Highland MSP expressed a strong interest in our affairs.

SCFF merged with the Scottish Ancestral Tourism Group to become the Scottish Clans and Ancestry Forum [SCAF]; a sensible move since much of the business and many of the members of these bodies had long been duplicated. SCEF then became the Scottish Clans and Historical Figures Event Fund; a much less desirable merger, since it indicated a preference for directing limited government funds to celebrations of individuals like Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott rather than to clans, Highland or Lowland.



**Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture,
Tourism & External Affairs, publicising the
Scottish Clan Event Fund in 2018**



Kirking of the Tartan in the Inverness High Kirk (now sadly closed) during the weekend commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Glenshiel in 2017. The late Brigadier John Macfarlane is shown far left.

As indicated in the headlines quoted in the Editorial Column from the September 2020 newsletter, by then things had changed again with Fergus Ewing's return to the Tourism brief; but unfortunately, the arrival of Covid meant that we never got a chance to see any results from that welcome development. Now of course, Fergus Ewing is fighting for the Highlands outside of the government—indeed, outside of the SNP parliamentary party—and the post-pandemic restraints on government spending mean there is little hope of anyone seeing any political capital in supporting the efforts of the clans to attract people back to the Highlands. When I enquired last year of the Civil Servant who had co-ordinated the meetings of SCAF whether it was likely to resurface, he had no knowledge of any such plans, and in any case had been moved to another department. Fergus Ewing however remains one of the Co-Chairs of the Inverness Castle Delivery Group. Though all the early promises that the revamped castle would include displays and an information hub about the clans of the Highlands seem to have sunk without trace, we assume that clans must feature in any displays about Highland heritage [you can see a very impressive video about the plans for the castle at https://youtu.be/3XC-hV_6PWE—but you'll struggle to find any mention of clans].

The AHCS generally had three or four representatives on SCFF/SCAF—along with two or three chiefs of Highland clans that were not always members of the AHCS—including myself as the then Chairman of the AHCS (though I also sat on these bodies as a professional genealogist). In this way we were also able to fulfil the third of the objectives of the Association, as laid out above in Section 2 of the Constitution: "Representing the Highland Clans in discussions with bodies organising joint clan events outwith the Highlands". Of course, whether we fulfilled it to any great effect is another matter!

A particular concern of both myself and Allan Maclean is the last of the objectives set out for the AHCS in the second section of its constitution: "Supporting research into and the spread of knowledge about the nature and history of clans in the Highlands, and of the society they were and are a part of." That's why we have both encouraged the inclusion of the Highland Family History Society and the Highland Archive Service in our activities. I now edit the HFHS Journal and Allan is a co-editor of *West Highland Notes and Queries* (the journal of the Society for Highlands & Islands Historical Research—whose forthcoming one-day conference on the Highlands in the 16th century is mentioned elsewhere). It's also why I regularly include in this publication lengthy articles about the nature of clans, septs, and Highland names; such as that in this issue on the pretensions of the Ewings—probably not including Fergus Ewing MSP (though I have no idea of his views on the subject)—to being not just a clan, but a Highland Clan as well. As I say in that piece, we may all feel it's a compliment that these days so many families want to be Highland Clans, but if the term is to mean anything, it must be limited to those kindreds that have a history as a clan, in the Highlands. "Clan" and "Highlands" are both of course debateable terms; and having a forum to debate them is another benefit of having the AHCS.

The first item in the above list of our purposes—"the sharing of experience and expertise relating to the running of clans and clan societies"—is in part achieved by this journal, though it depends on the representatives of member clans taking the trouble to write about what they think are useful experiences and bits of expertise for the benefit of others. It may well be that other means—in person or online lectures/seminars—could also be used to disseminate such experience and expertise; but again somebody has to be willing to organise such events and find the speakers who have something useful to say.

The AHCS came into being with serious intent to provide the Highland clans—usually through their societies, but where there was no society, through sympathetic chiefs—with a collective voice in relation to clan concerns that had hitherto been discussed and decided almost exclusively by "chiefs" (many of them the heads of Lowland families) in Edinburgh. Less seriously, but perhaps even more importantly, it came into being as a means of making possible the actual—rather than the virtual—meeting together of the members of Highland clans, to enjoy each others company and share each others experiences. Our autumn outings—like that shown below to the Clan Cameron Museum in 2018 (the late Lochiel is seated in the middle) have always been an important element of that, and we hope to reinstitute them this year with a visit to Castle Menzies.



Since all our members have their own clans to run, there are limits to what the AHCS can do. We've always recognised that every clan has its own way of doing things, and have always intended our way to be as informal and personal as possible. That, after all, is the Highland way.

About the AHCS

Full membership is open to all clans judged by their peers in the AHCS to be “Highland” – whether represented by a Society, Commander, or Chief. Non-Highland clans and families may become Associate Members, and thus enjoy preferable rates at our events and a voice, but no vote, in our Council. Highlanders with no clan organisation may become Individual Members, on the same terms as Associate Members. Our events are intended to be open to all clans and families, but where space is limited preference will be given firstly to Full Members, and secondly to Associate Members.

FULL MEMBERS (as of 2020):

Cameron (M’Gillonie, M’Martin, M’Sorlie of Glen Nevis, M’Lachlan of Coruanan, Cumming of Achdaliu).
Chattan (Mackintosh, Shaw, M’Bean/Bain, M’Phail, M’Queen, M’Thomas, Macintyre in Badenoch).
Chisholm
Currie/Mhuirrich
Davidson
Donald (representing Clanranald, MacDonell of Glengarry, MacDonald of Keppoch, MacDonald of Sleat, etc).
Donnachaidh (Robertson)
Farquharson
Fraser of Lovat
Grant
MacAulay
MacDougall
MacGillivray
MacGregor

Mackay
MacKenzie
Maclean
MacLeod
MacMillan
Macpherson
Macrae
Matheson
Munro
Stewart
Sutherland
Urquhart

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Clan Fraser Society of Scotland & the UK
Iain McIntyre-Younger of Culmullin
Clan Lindsay
Highland Family History Society
Highland Archive Centre

Events planned for 2024 to be attended by AHCS or a Member Clan

12 April: AHCS Social Evening at Glen Mhor Hotel, Inverness, with talk on recent discoveries in the history of tartan

13 April: Battle of Culloden Commemoration organised on battlefield by the Gaelic Society of Inverness at 11.00am.

6 - 9 June: Clan MacEwen International Gathering.

18 - 21 June: Clan Mackinnon International Gathering.

29 June: Gairloch Highland Gathering. Clan MacKenzie.

3 - 9 July: Clan MacLennan International Gathering.

20 July: Mull Highland Games at Tobermory. Clan Maclean.

13 July: Inverness Highland Games: 20 or more pitches in AHCS tent should be available (sharing may be possible).

To be followed by tea and AGM of the Association – probably in the Maclean Room at Eden Court [TBC].

14 - 28 July: Clan Gregor International Gathering.

20 July: Balquhiddier, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Highland Games. Clan Gregor.

20 - 23 July: Clan Matheson International Gathering.

30 July - 4 August: Clan MacDougall International Gathering.

31 July: Arisaig Highland Games. Clanranald (Clan Donald).

1 - 4 August: Clan Cameron International Gathering.

3 Aug: Aboyne Highland Games. Clans Farquharson & Fraser.

2 - 3 Aug: Moy Game Fair. Clan Chattan.

3 Aug: Newtonmore Highland Games. Clan Macpherson.

8 Aug: Ballater Highland Games. Clan Farquharson.

10 Aug: Abernethy Highland Games. Clan Grant.

10 Aug: Strathpeffer Highland Gathering. Clan MacKenzie.

17 Aug: Glenfinnan Gathering & Highland Games. Clans Cameron & Donald.

7 Sep: Braemar Gathering & Highland Games. Clan Chattan.

14 Sep: Pitlochry Highland Games. Clann Donnachaidh (Robertsons).

Additions/corrections to above listings should be communicated to the Secretary (listings will be put on new website when we have it up).

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