



Association of Highland Clans & Societies

Newsletter: March 2014

Clans on the march the world over

Foundation of AHCS in Scotland to be followed by a *Scottish-American Clan and Family Center* in the USA, while the SCSC seeks to build on links with all-clan bodies in Canada, New Zealand and Australia, as well as America.

Whatever is thought about *The Gathering 2009* and *Bannockburn Live 2014*, there's no doubt the Years of Homecoming are creating a great worldwide interest in clan events in Scotland. Sir Malcolm MacGregor, the Convener of the SCSC (Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs) is doing a valiant job talking to all the interested bodies at home and abroad, and since proper consultation was a key demand of the Highland Clans, AHCS has particular reason to be grateful for all his efforts.

The Minister of Tourism, Fergus Ewing, and government agencies such as VisitScotland, are also now putting a lot of time and money into clan-connected projects; a process encouraged up here by the establishment of the HCPG (Highland Clans Partnership Group) with John Graham and the Earl of Cromartie leading in it for the clans.



The Camerons lead the way at the annual Culloden Commemoration in April 2013

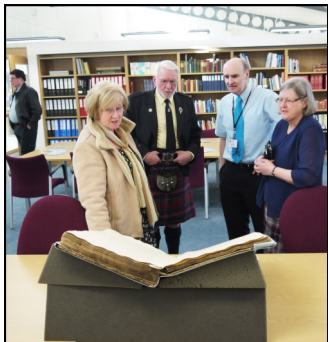
Highland Council have also discovered a new enthusiasm for the clans, and their Events Officer Gerry Reynolds was most helpful in setting up the *Clans, Culloden and Ancestors* event last April at which the AHCS formally came into being. He's also worked closely with the AHCS to return the clans to their proper place on the field of the Inverness Highland Games, and has come up with innovative plans for this year's *Highland Homecoming* in September, with what should be a spectacular march of the clans through Inverness,

Since the annual Culloden Commemoration Weekend coincides with Easter this year, there will be no AHCS event on the Friday evening; instead there will be a lunch at the Drumossie Hotel on the Saturday (19 April) following the Battlefield Service. The NTS are keen to see more clan involvement at the Culloden service, and the AHCS will also welcome non-member clans to our lunch (for details please see the last page).

It's the AHCS's hope of course that the benefits outlined above of working together will encourage more Highland Clans to join the Association, and Application Forms are being sent out with this newsletter.

Left: Clansmen wait to lay wreaths at Culloden.

The Clans, Culloden, and Ancestors Weekend: 12-14 April 2013



The Macphersons examine a document in the exhibition



Graeme Mackenzie and Allan Maclean with Ben and Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield before the clans' meeting



Tom Urquhart examines the draft constitution

The Highland Archive Centre mounted an exhibition about the battle of Culloden and kindly hosted the Friday evening meeting - at which the Association of Highland Clans & Societies [AHCS] was founded - followed by music, supper, and presentations by Andrew McKenzie of the NTS Culloden and Gerry Reynolds of Highland Council.



Alexander Brodie of Brodie (left) and Walter MacAulay



Gerry Reynolds (left) and Andrew McKenzie who both gave presentations during the evening



Celia Mackintosh of Mackintosh

The Saturday Memorial Service on the Battlefield



Clanspeople (below left) marched to the cairn to join a large gathering (above) for the service conducted by the officers of the Gaelic Society of Inverness (below right). Jacobite white cockades were much in evidence (below centre).



From the Chairman:

Welcome to the first newsletter of the AHCS which finally came into being at the *Clans, Culloden, and Ancestors* event reported elsewhere. The representatives of thirteen clans (including two chiefs) were there in person, with two further clans who were unable to be present giving us their blessing in advance. Some of those present signed up on the spot, while others had to consult their executives before their clans could be committed. The net result however was a membership by July of some twenty three clans (ten of them as component members of the Clan Chattan Association), which has since risen to twenty four; i.e. Cameron, Chisholm, Davidson, Fraser of Lovat, Grant, MacAulay, MacDonald, Macfie, MacKenzie, MacLean, MacMillan, Macpherson, Macrae, Urquhart, and Clan Chattan for Farquharson, MacBean, MacGillivray, Mackintosh, Macintyre, MacPhail, MacQueen, MacThomas, Shaw. The small clans that followed Lochiel (e.g. MacGillonies, MacMartins, MacSorlies of Glen Nevis), like the members of Clan Chattan that followed Mackintosh, might be said to take the membership closer to thirty.

Most AHCS members were present at the Inverness Games in July which, for the first time since its move from Bught Park back to the Inverness Meeting Ground three years ago, welcomed the clans with a large tent on the games field. Highland Council's generosity in this respect was presumably prompted in part by the determination shown the year before by the Highland Clans to have a presence in the vicinity of the games (albeit somewhat off-stage in Eden Court's MacLean Room). It was an informal meeting then that re-booted our efforts to form a body that could work with Highland Council, and other interested parties, to provide a clan presence at games and other events. The imminence of this year's "Homecoming" events also provided a spur to bring the clans together so we could speak jointly about how best to benefit from it and future Homecoming Years.

A parallel development has been the formation of the HCPG, which brings together representatives of some Highland Clans and of government and its agencies to discuss practical measures for supporting clan organisations, assisting the promotion of clan gatherings, and encouraging clan-based tourism in the Highlands. Both the AHCS and the HCPG came into being following an unprecedented meeting at Castle Leod between clan representatives and Fergus Ewing, the Scottish Government's



Minister of Tourism (the picture of it above shows, from the left: Hamish Mackenzie, President of the Clan Mackenzie Society; The Earl of Cromartie, who hosted the meeting; Mr Ewing; Rossie MacRae; Hector Munro of Fowlis; Graeme Mackenzie; and John Graham). Though both came into being to address related issues, they are fundamentally different bodies that should complement rather than compete with each other.

The HCPG is a top-down body, with an appointed clan membership chosen with a view to delivering the Highland element of national policies for the promotion of ancestral tourism and the economic development of the region and its communities. The AHCS is a bottom-up body, with an elected executive, attempting to represent the views of all its member societies, commanders and chiefs, in discussions with other national and overseas bodies (such as the SCSC and COSCA), as well as with government and its agencies—where appropriately, through our representatives on the HCPG.

Above all, the AHCS exists to help its members by sharing experience and expertise, raising their profiles by arranging for clan representation at events in the Highlands, and occasionally outwith our own area as well, and organising new events at which we can celebrate clanship and enjoy each other's company.

The organisers of all clans know how difficult it is to recruit willing helpers, and then to get them all to work together in the one body. How much greater therefore is the challenge posed by trying to get such bodies to work together—sometimes indeed with clans that were once their deadly enemies—but how rewarding it is when it works. So far the AHCS is working, and we hope other Highland Clans will soon join to enjoy the events listed on the back page and to reap the same rewards.

Graeme Mackenzie.

Inverness Highland Games: 20 July 2013



The sun shone from a cloudless sky on the large tent (above left) hosted by the AHCS where 12 clans and the HFHS had two tables each and lots of space to set up their displays. There were a steady stream of visitors throughout the day, and all concerned expressed themselves delighted with the facilities so generously provided by the Games Committee.



Above: Clan Macfie



Above: Provost Alex Graham (left) is welcomed on behalf of AHCS by Deputy Chairman, Allan Maclean



Above: The Frasers of Lovat



Above: Clan Davidson

Below: Clan Donald



Above: Clan Grant with chief Lord Strathspey

Below: Clan Cameron



Above: Clan Chattan

Below: Clan MacMillan



Clan & Scottish Associations Around the World

Not a definitive list - corrections & additions welcomed



The massed bands at the Geelong Highland Games 2014 in Victoria, Australia

AUSTRALIA:

Scottish Australia Heritage Council (Canberra/Sydney): www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au
Scots of Victoria Co-ordinating Group (Melbourne): www.scotsofaus.org.au

CANADA:

Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada [CASSOC]: www.cassoc.ca
Federation For Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia: www.scotsns.ca/culture/clans-societies.asp
Scottish Clans of Canada Education Fund (aims limited as name indicates): www.scocef.ca

NEW ZEALAND:

Combined Council of Scottish Societies (Auckland): www.scottish.org.nz/Clans.html
Scottish Clans Association, Auckland District: www.scottishclans.co.nz

SCOTLAND:

Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs: www.clanchiefs.org.uk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

American Scottish Foundation: www.americanscottishfoundation.com
Council of Scottish Clans and Associations [COSCA]: www.cosca.net
Scottish District Families Association: <http://web.comporium.net/~jmcclaris/sdfa/sdfa.htm>

2014 Clan Caucuses, Seminars, Symposiums, and Special Gatherings

9 April: Washington DC, USA: National Tartan Day
Symposium & Reception at the Capitol Visitors Center:

*Homecoming 2014; Ancestral Tourism to Scotland;
Bannockburn and Beyond: Homecoming 2014 and the
Future of International Clan Gatherings in Scotland.*
To include a Special Announcement by COSCA about
the projected Scottish-American Clan & Family Center
[SCFC] planned for Banner Elk in North Carolina

27 June (Evening): Pipefest & March of the Clans
through the streets of Stirling, Scotland.

28-29 June: Bannockburn Live near Stirling, Scotland

7 July: Scottish North American Leadership
Conference International, to be held at the University
of Edinburgh in Scotland.



*The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games which are
held near Banner Elk, the site for the projected SCFC*

10 July: Scottish American Clan and Family Caucus at
Lees McRae College in Banner Elk, NC, USA.

The AHCS at Bannockburn Live 28-29 June 2014

Though the idea and the planning of the Battle of Bannockburn 700th Anniversary, and the clans' part in it, appear irredeemably besmirched by political meddling and a lack of co-ordination, what's left of it will host a gathering of thirty six clans or families (plus COSCA) some fifteen of which might be said to be of Highland origin, including eight of our members. A ninth of our member clans has had to withdraw, and have therefore offered the AHCS the use of their "pavilion", and the committee think it worthwhile taking it (assuming the organisers agree to the change) in order to represent the seven member clans who won't be there in their own right—and indeed to provide information about Highland clans in general, along with the other unrepresented clans. Anybody from a member clan who will be there who can be spared to help staff the AHCS tent will be very welcome, and perhaps they can let the Secretary know of their possible availability (contact details on last page).

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. Non-clan Highland bodies may also (like the Highland Family History Society) be 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. The full Constitution, current Membership Fees, and contact details for our officers, and a list of all member clans can be found on our website: www.highlandclans.org

Events in 2014 to be attended by AHCS or a Member Clan (on the basis of last year's attendances):

19 April: Battle of Culloden Commemoration organised by the Gaelic Society of Inverness at 11.00am; to be followed by AHCS Lunch at Drumossie Hotel (soup & sandwiches £12 a head). Book with Secretary at address shown below.

28 – 29 June: Bannockburn Live. List of clans attending given at www.bannockburnlive.com/events/clan-family-village

5 July: Gairloch Highland Games. Clan MacKenzie.

19 July: Inverness Highland Games: 16 pitches in AHCS tent available (sharing may be possible). Please register your interest in having a tent place as soon as possible with the Secretary at address below. Application Forms to follow in May.

24 July: Mull Highland Games at Tobermory. Clan MacLean.

30 July: Arisaig Highland Games. Clan Donald.

1-2 Aug: Moy Game Fair. Clan Chattan.

2 Aug: Newtonmore Highland Games. Clan Macpherson.

2 Aug: Aboyne Highland Games. Clan Cameron.

9 Aug: Abernethy Highland Games. Clan Grant.

9 Aug: Strathpeffer Highland Games. Clan MacKenzie.

14 Aug: Ballater Highland Games. Clan Farquharson.

16 Aug: Glenfinnan Highland Games. Clans Cameron & Donald.

12 Sep: First day of the Inverness Highland Meeting featuring the Masters World Championship Games at Bught Park.

Evening: Torchlit March of the Clans and Games Competitors through the centre of Inverness with salute taken at the Town House by the Provost and the Earl of Cromartie (as Patron of the event).

Saturday 13th September: 2nd day of games, and Camanachd Cup Final in afternoon at Bught Park.

Daytime: Clan Conference/Meeting in the Inverness Townhouse (details to follow separately).

Evening: Finale of *Blas Festival of Highland Music and Gaelic Language* in Eden Court Theatre.

Sunday 14th September: Final session of games in the afternoon at the Northern Meeting Park.

AM: Kirking of the Council in Inverness's historic High Kirk: Clan Chiefs, Commanders, or Society Heads, with one banner-bearer each, parade and join service, followed by lunch in the Townhouse.

Highland Council hope to have a Highland Meeting Weekend with games each year to coincide with the Kirking of the Council - and propose that the chief or head of each clan in AHCS takes it in turn to be the event's Patron. This coincides with the idea that we should have an annual AHCS dinner or lunch in aid of charity when we have our AGM, with a different member clan each year providing the guest speaker and nominating the charity it is to be in aid of. Since we have the use of the Town House during the day on the Saturday of this weekend, we might aim to have our AGM and such a lunch there this year.



The Kirking of the Council 2013

Association of Highland Clans & Societies

Hazel Brae, Balnain, Glenurquhart, IV63 6TJ. Tel: 01456-476267.

Chairman: Graeme Mackenzie
Email: graeme@highlandroots.org

Dep. Chair: Very Rev. Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch

Treasurer: Rossie Macrae

Secretary: Mrs Anne Maclean of Dochgarroch
Email: highlandclans@aol.com
Mobile Tel: 0778-946-3992

Committee: Duncan Cameron

Norman McPherson