



# Association of Highland Clans & Societies

*Newsletter: August 2014*



*The slightly soggy view from the AHCS tent during the closing ceremony*

## More clans represented at the Inverness games

Afternoon rain fails to dampen spirits in the AHCS “Clan Village”

The Inverness Highland Games were once again a great success, and the fifteen clans, who along with the Highland Family History Society, gathered in the AHCS tent, enjoyed a busy time – especially when people took shelter from the rain, which sadly came down quite heavily in the second half of the day.

Chisholms were much in evidence, since they'd been having their International Gathering in Inverness during the preceding week, and we were especially pleased to welcome the Stewart Society to the games, since they had only joined the Association at Bannockburn a couple of weeks previously. The Stewarts will be having their gathering at Ballone Castle, near Tain, over the weekend 22-24 August, with games on the Saturday including an inter-clan tug-of-war competition.

The Mackenzies made a welcome return to the fold this year too, joining founder-clans Cameron, Chattan, Davidson, Donald, Fraser of Lovat, Grant, Macfie, Maclean, MacMillan, Macpherson, Macrae, and Urquhart.

The AHCS's new flag and banner (shown below) were deployed to good effect outside the tent, and many visitors who belonged to non-member clans were able to get information about them at the AHCS's own tables.





*The Chisholms still going strong after a busy week of gathering events*

Three more members have recently joined AHCS - Buchanans, MacIvers, and Clann Donnachaidh (Robertsons).

Our latest members bring the number of clans in the AHCS to 23, and since some of our members represent a number of names in addition to their own – most notably of course the Clan Chattan Association (which includes nine other names) - we can now be said to represent at least 35 clans. See list on Members page of website: [www.highlandclans.org/Members.htm](http://www.highlandclans.org/Members.htm).

We've recently added a News page to the website, and it also now includes details of the Highland Clans' Homecoming 2014 weekend in Inverness in September, with the Programme and Registration details that we're forwarding to you with this newsletter. PLEASE complete and return the registration form if your clan is going to be with us for any part of this event in September – and if you're not, it would be helpful too if you could email Anne to say that, so we all know where we are – or indeed, are not!



*The MacKenzies who had their AGM in Inverness the next day*

Many Highland clans busy with International Gatherings in this Year of Homecoming

In addition to the Chisholm gathering which we've already mentioned, quite a few other clans have had International Gatherings this year. The MacMillans were at Finlaystone (the chief's home in Renfrewshire) and then on the Outer Hebrides (21-27 June); the Robertsons were in Perthshire and at Bannockburn 23-29 June; the Curries had a couple of days in Glasgow coinciding with Bannockburn Live; the Mathesons were in Ross-shire 18-23 July; the Munros were at Fowlis 25-27 July; and Clanranald hosted a Clan Donald gathering at the Arisaig Games on 30 July. Apologies to those we may have missed; tell us about your gathering, or other events, for inclusion in the next newsletter.

**The AGM of the AHCS will be at 11.00am on Sat. 13 Sept. in the Town House, Inverness.** An agenda will be circulated in the last week of August. Please tell us what you would like on it.



*Inside the AHCS tent at Inverness when still quiet early in the day*



*Later in the day when the rain came and it got busy inside the tent*

## 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](http://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; followed by **AHCS Lunch at Drumossie Hotel** (soup & sandwiches £12 a head).

**28 – 29 June: Bannockburn Live.** List of clans attending given at [www.bannockburnlive.com/events/klan-family-village](http://www.bannockburnlive.com/events/klan-family-village). AHCS representing member clans without individual presence.

**5 July: Gairloch Highland Games.** Clan MacKenzie.

**19 July: Inverness Highland Games:** 16 pitches in AHCS tent available (sharing may be possible).

**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.

**12-14 Sep: Highland Clans' Homecoming 2014, Inverness Highland Meeting Weekend (details via News page of website).**

*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 in future years we might have an annual AHCS dinner or lunch in aid of charity when we have our AGM, with a different clan each year providing the guest speaker and nominating the charity it is to be in aid of. The Mackenzies have nominated "Project Mackenzie" to be this year's cause. It's a programme run by the Aragon Housing Association in Bedfordshire intended to inspire and encourage disadvantaged young people into the workplace and to give them hope and faith in their futures. The project is jointly led by the retired Olympic athlete Kris Akabusi, who named it after his mentor in the army, Sgt Ian Mackenzie. In recognition of this charitable work, Kris Akabusi will be made an honorary member of Clan MacKenzie in a ceremony on the evening of Friday 12 September, before the March of the Clans, in which he will lead the MacKenzie contingent. For info on the Aragon Housing Association and Project Mackenzie, please go to [www.aragon-housing.co.uk/about-us/news/aragon-picks-up-the-baton/](http://www.aragon-housing.co.uk/about-us/news/aragon-picks-up-the-baton/)*

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### **Current Member Clans:**

***Buchanan, Cameron, Chattan, Chisholm, Currie/MacMhuirich, Davidson, Donnachaidh (Robertson), Donald/MacDonald, Fraser of Lovat, Grant, Iver/MacIver, MacAulay, MacFarlane, Macfie, MacKenzie, Maclean, MacMillan, Macpherson, MacRae, Matheson, Munro, Stewart, Urquhart.***

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