CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY
UK BRANCH

An Cirean
Cean Cinnidh

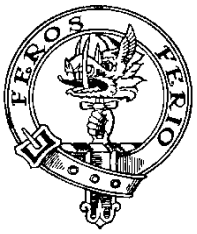


NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 83

FEBRUARY 2026

Welcome to Issue No 83 - UK Branch Newsletter



Chisholm

Dear UK Branch members.

Wishing good health and happiness to our members in 2026. Thank you to all who sent me letters and cards at Christmas time – it is greatly appreciated and heartwarming to hear from you.
I have been contacted by a few members regarding renewing their subscriptions which is very pleasing. Our membership does continue to drop each year, often with longstanding members moving into care or dying. We also have some members who join up briefly to be able to access our genealogy database and our experts around the world who can support family history research. Often these members do not continue their membership after their initial enthusiasm. Compared with some of our other branches the UK branch is reasonably healthy but the changes in our membership seem to reflect a different perhaps more busy society from years ago when certainly a lot of research was done but the strength of clanship was more evident. Our 2024 gathering was however extremely successful although we made a financial loss and the feeling of clanship was very strong. I still get emails from people who attended saying how much they enjoyed the week. I also get asked when we in the UK would host another gathering but we do not have plans to do this. Historically our Society would have an International Gathering every three to five years and this has been held in Canada and the USA as well as in Scotland. I have great memories of some of these gatherings but it may be that we will not see such large get-togethers for a while.
Your UK branch committee hopes to be able to host a luncheon or high tea in early July either in the week before the City of Inverness Highland Games or just after it. I will of course inform our members of the date and time as soon as possible if we proceed with this plan.

Back to the subscription renewals for our branch. In the November newsletter we notified our members of a small increase in the subscription levels. As of January 2026 these are now set at:-

Annual -	£15.00
Annual Over 65 -	£12.00
10 Year -	£75.00
10 Year family -	£80.00

Bank transfers can be made as follows:-
Natwest, Bury St Edmunds, sort code 60-04-16 30250633. (IBAN GB55 NWBK 6004 1630 2506 33)
please advise hon. secretary when making payment and identify the payment with your name.
Alternatively I am happy to continue to receive cheques – these should be made out to Clan Chisholm Society UK Branch and posted to my address shown on the last page of this newsletter.

I will try to send reminders if your subscription has run out but if you have any queries please do contact me.

Your 2026 Clan Chisholm Journal created by Martin Chisholm of the UK branch for the International Clan Chisholm Society will be published soon and I will mail this out to our members.

Clan Council continues to oversee the running of your Society with volunteers from each branch making a contribution. In the UK branch we are very lucky to have Alastair Chisholm in Belgium who ably manages our clan website. We are also lucky to have Alastair Chisholm of Minstead in Hampshire who oversees the genealogy database; Robert Chisholm in New Zealand the Society President also supports this activity. Martin Chisholm of Darlington is our excellent journal editor and we have Dr Margaret Collin helping with Borders Chisholm research. Of course we also have Ben and Juliette, stalwarts of the Society together with Duncan Chisholm and Norman Chisholm as vice chairmen. See the last page of this newsletter for the list of all our branch volunteers, we are grateful for what help they can give and appreciate we all have many other demands on our time.
You will have recently been sent the latest 'colonial' newsletter – this is mainly produced by Kim Polley in Australia and Robert Chisholm in New Zealand with some input from US and Canada. It is hoped that this joint effort will help revitalise the north American branches to some extent.

The clan council has recently held a meeting to discuss the management of your society. These meetings are held electronically and take the form of a series of email discussions within the group. A topic under discussion at present is the cost of producing and distributing the quality annual clan Chisholm Journal.
The date of the AGM of the Society has been agreed for Saturday 25th April 2026.
Again this will be held electronically as last year.
The Annual Report of the Society for the year ended 31st December 2025 will be circulated shortly. This document shows the minutes of last years AGM and the audited Financial accounts for the Society which will require approval at AGM.
See the agenda for the meeting on the next page which comprises the usual formalities.
Ben as our branch representative in the International Society will hold proxy votes for our branch members.
Please let me know if you have any comments or questions you would like put forward on your behalf.

NB. The date for our own Branch AGM has not been determined yet and I will advise as soon as it have been agreed. I will also circulate the audited accounts for our branch and any other relevant documents ahead of the branch meeting.
Currently we do not know if it will be an in person physical meeting or will be held electronically.

Once again my apologies for the lateness of this newsletter which is dated February although we are now well into March. I often make a start in good time and then other things take up my time!

Yours in clanship,

Susan

THE CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY

75th Annual General Meeting to be held by Electronic means

10:00 NZT, April 28th, 2026, Auckland, New Zealand

AGENDA

Approval of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting – 3rd May 2025

President's Annual Report 2025

Approval of Treasurer's Report for year ending 31st December 2025

Approval - Election of Officers

Nominations are: -
President – Robert Chisholm
Vice President – David Holmes
Vice President – Kim Polley
Secretary/Treasurer - Susan Chisholm of Chisholm

NB. Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield remains on clan council as Immediate Past President.

Honorary Appointments:

Standing Appointments.

Webmaster - Alastair Chisholm (Belgium)

Editor of The Clan Chisholm Journal - Martin Chisholm (UK)

Genealogy Co-ordinator - Alastair Chisholm (Hampshire, UK)

Honorary Counsel - Marc Chisholm (Canada)

Hon Clan Historian - Dr Jean Munro (UK)

Co-opted member of clan council – Duncan Chisholm (UK)

Honorary Auditor – Katrina Smith (UK)

Clan Council Projects

New History/Chisholm Researches, Dr Margaret Collin (UK)
Artefacts Register – Chairman, Fay Chisholm (NZ)
Clan Chisholm DNA project Chairman – Robert Chisholm (NZ)
Database Admin/CGI Forum admin – Alastair Chisholm (Hampshire UK)

Any New Business –

OBITUARIES

GRAEME J I CHISHOLM

We received the sad news that Graeme had died on 17th January 2026.
Graeme was one of three sons from the first marriage (dissolved) of the late Grant Chisholm to Jose (Jo) who died in 2021 aged 97.
Sheila Chisholm, Grants widow still lives in Bunchrew, Inverness and keeps in touch via email.
Sheila and Grant married in 1969 and they had son Robert in 1972 a fourth boy for Grant.
Graeme attended gatherings in Inverness with Grant and Sheila particularly enjoying the one in 2006 two years before Grant died. Grant a Life member of the Society himself took out Life membership in 1996 for each of the four brothers – John, Michael, Graeme and Robert. The family home for Graeme and John has been in Bilton, near Harrogate, Michael has lived in Rhode island for many years and Robert currently lives in Lincolnshire having spent many years in the RAF in various places.
Graeme had suffered from ill health for some time and all his brothers were able to spend time with him in his last days in hospital. The funeral is to be held on 4th March which would have been Graeme's 63rd birthday.
Ben and Juliette have sent condolences on behalf of the Society to the family.





Above left –
Grant with Graeme in the clans village marquee during the 2006 International Gathering in Inverness.
Right - Grant at an earlier clan event.

NB. We published an obituary of Grant in Newsletter No. 19 August 2008 which was also featured in the Old Fettesian. Grant had finished his education at Fettes College, Edinburgh.

PETER ALEXANDER CHISHOLM

The announcement of Peter's death was published in the Inverness Courier.

CHISHOLM Peacefully, at home on Wednesday, 21st January, 2026, Peter Alexander Chisholm, aged 95 years, R.I.P., Muirfield Road, Inverness. Beloved husband of Rosa, also a dear brother, uncle, step-father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral mass on Friday, 6th February, 2026, at 12 noon, in St Ninian's Catholic Church, Culduthel Road, Inverness; thereafter to Kilvean Cemetery. All welcome to attend. No flowers please. Donations in memory of Peter towards Elsie Normington Foundation may be given at the door. Funeral arrangements by D. Chisholm & Sons.

The announcement was accompanied by the lovely picture of Peter shown below.



Duncan Chisholm, Inverness knew Peter and attended the funeral on behalf of the Clan Chisholm Society. He reported a good attendance at St Ninian's.

Peter joined the Society in 2006 with his sister Beatrice Ingram and they came along to many of our events together with Peter's wife Rosa.

He was from a large family and his introduction to his eldest sister Mary Louisa (Lulie) Chisholm's letters home from Allbiethe in 1938-39 also mentions several other sisters. Lulie's letters were featured in our branch newsletters numbers 21 & 22 August and December 2009. Peter contributed these four surviving letters after seeing mention of his aunt Isabella (Ishbel) in My Yester Years in Glen Affaric by Duncan Maclennan (Head Stalker – Glen Affaric 1942 – 1989).

Lulie taught the Henderson family at the remote Allbeithe, 12 miles from Cannich and 50 from Inverness. For the trip to Inverness she had a bicycle and could break her journey in Cannich with her aunt Ishbel. There is an account of a dance evening in the village which went on very late when Lulie did not get home until 3 am. The letters give an account of daily life in the very remote place and are full of fascinating stories of Highland Life at a time with few motor vehicles. There are accounts of listening to the wireless and hearing about Hitler in the year before the start of WWII.

The letters represent a fascinating snap-shot of that time.

My thanks again for help with our newsletter in particular to Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield and to Norman and Christina Chisholm for sending me various items relating to Inverness and the Highlands.

I also have a subscription to the Inverness Courier and the Press & Journal and I try make time to look through those in search of articles of interest.

HIGHLAND HEROES 2026

featured in several newspapers and online platforms

Highland Heroes celebrates the unsung people and organisations who dedicate themselves to helping others; who are there in our hour of need; who contribute to society in a quiet and unselfish way; and who knit our communities together.
It will highlight teachers who go above and beyond, volunteers who dedicate their lives to service, young people who are a shining example to us all, and many other exceptional people and organisations who we simply couldn't do without.
Shortlisted Heroes will be invited to a night of celebration at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness on Friday 27th March 2026.

We note that a nominee in the Secondary Teacher of the Year category is a Chisholm. **Jane Chisholm** is at Inverness Royal Academy and has worked there for 18 years. According to one nomination, PE teacher Jane should be cloned so every school could have one. She has worked to develop a bike trail at the school, and has gone well beyond her day job to champion cycling and outdoor activity.

A nominee in the Healthcare Hero of the Year is **Rod Chisholm**. Rod is senior charge nurse at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness and has been highlighted due to his dedication and patience. Previously a chef for 20 years Rod switched to nursing and qualified in 2012 and has been a charge nurse for four years. The job has many challenges and Rod loves the role caring for patients and supporting his team. He has been known to go out to the shops for patients who have nobody else and get clothes for them for when they leave the hospital. Rod says ‘everyone deserves care’.

We wish good luck to the nominees in all the categories.

IPSWICH SPEEDWAY

seen in the East Anglian Daily Times February 2026.

Ipswich Witches speedway club has been taken over by Silverstone-based company Mayfield.
Directors of Mayfield Richard Coleman and Andrew Chisholm become Promoters of Ipswich witches with Andrew Chisholm being General Manager.



Above – Andrew Chisholm, left, and Richard Coleman on the right

JEAN DUNLOP MUNRO – CLAN HISTORIAN

from the Daily Express and other newspapers

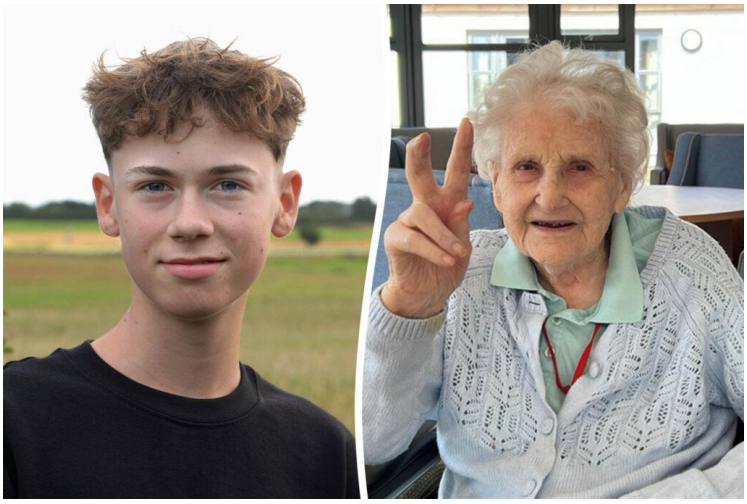
Danish Teen thanks Jean 102, for her war heroics.

A 102-year-old wartime codebreaker in Britain has received a heartfelt letter of thanks for her service – from a teen in Denmark.

Dr. Jean Munro worked at Bletchley Park during World War Two helping to decipher German Army and Air Force Enigma messages.

Jonathan Halvarsson, 16, read about the top-secret work – and was so inspired that he decided to write her a letter.

He had read a book about the Nazi occupation of Denmark and wanted to show the ”deepest respect and appreciation”.



Pix via Parklands Care Home / SWNS)

The teen also wanted to express how ”the younger generations have not forgotten your efforts”.

Jonathan, who lives in Zealand in Denmark, discovered her story through a Facebook post by the Veterans’ Foundation.

His letter read:

“I recently read about your service during the war, and I was deeply moved. “I felt a strong need to express my heartfelt gratitude for everything you and your comrades did.

“Even though we are separated by hundreds of kilometres and several generations, I want you to know that a young person far away holds the deepest respect and appreciation for you.

“Please know that the younger generations have not forgotten your efforts, and we never will.”

Dr. Munro, a resident at Lynemore Care Home in Grantown-on-Spey in Scotland, was a member of Hut 6 at Bletchley Park. Historians believe their codebreaking work may have shortened the war by two to four years, potentially saving hundreds of thousands of lives.

But she was unable to tell her family and friends about her work until the 1980s.

Jonathan says he became interested in researching World War Two at 12 years old after reading about the German occupation of Denmark.

After learning about Dr. Munro’s work through a Facebook post, he felt it was his “duty” to reach out and say thank you.

Jonathan said: “When I was around 12 years old, I started writing letters to Danish veterans from the resistance movement during WWII.

“I believe many older people who participated in the war feel overlooked and saddened by seeing so many in the younger generation take their freedom for granted.

“It was important for me to send my letter to Dr. Munro because she directly participated in the resistance and in fighting against the power that held my country occupied for five long years.”

Jonathan added that it was “a great honour” to know that Dr. Munro appreciated his letter, but believes more should be done to remember the work of veterans and codebreakers.

He added: “I am deeply honoured by the attention and recognition my letter has received – but at the same time I find it a bit sad that writing a letter to a woman who fought for all of our freedom is seen as something extraordinary. “I hope people focus on Dr. Munro and her generation’s efforts and not the fact that I sent her a letter – this is the least one can do!”

Pamela Cummings, manager of Lynemore said: “Jean was deeply touched to receive Jonathan’s letter. “She is incredibly modest about her wartime service, but we are all very proud of her. “It’s lovely to see her contribution, and that of her generation, recognised by someone so much younger.
“The letter was a wonderful surprise and meant a great deal to her, especially knowing a young man so far away took the time to write and thank her for her service.”
In December, Dr Munro was awarded the Freedom of Bletchley Park, a rare honour conferred by the Bletchley Park Trust, as she celebrated her 102nd birthday.
She was also presented with a specially made Veteran’s pin badge.
Born in 1923 to Scottish parents, Dr Munro went on to become a distinguished historian and author after the war, holding senior roles with several heritage organisations including the National Trust for Scotland and serving as President of The Grantown Society.

The website of the care home Jean now lives in has posted the article below.

World War 2 veteran honoured on her 102nd birthday
A World War Two veteran who played a supporting role in Britain’s wartime intelligence efforts has been honoured as she marked her 102nd birthday.
Doctor Jean Munro, a resident at Lynemore Care Home in Grantown on Spey, was a member of Hut 6 at Bletchley Park, the team responsible for deciphering German Army and Air Force Enigma messages.
Earlier this year, Dr Munro took part in a podcast to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day. In it, she revealed that she was unable to share details of her top-secret work with family and friends until the 1980s. Historians believe that breaking the Enigma code may have shortened the war by two to four years, potentially saving hundreds of thousands of lives. “I never thought of it that way, but if I think about it now, I think I’m really glad,” she says.
In recognition of her service, Dr Munro has been awarded the Freedom of Bletchley Park, a rare honour conferred by the Bletchley Park Trust, and presented with a specially made Veteran’s pin badge.
Pamela Cummings, manager of Lynemore Care Home, said: “We feel deeply honoured to have celebrated not only this milestone birthday, but also the presentation of such an incredible honour in recognition of Jean’s vital work as a codebreaker at Bletchley Park. It was an emotional occasion to share this double celebration with Jean and her loved ones. She is a remarkable lady and a much-loved part of the Lynemore family.”
Dr Jean Munro was born in 1923 and raised in London by Scottish parents. She studied at university in London and later completed a PhD at Edinburgh University. A distinguished historian and author, she held senior roles with several leading heritage organisations, among them the Scottish History Society, the Scottish Local History Forum, the Scottish Genealogy Society, the National Trust for Scotland and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. She also served as President of The Grantown Society.
Among her published titles are Tain Through the Centuries, co-authored with her late husband R W Munro, and The Founding of Tobermory.
Relative David Dean said: “Jean has always shown a quiet but exceptional kindness to the younger generations of our family. Although she had no children of her own, she never forgot her late cousin Elizabeth’s children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, marking every Christmas with generous book tokens and a warm encouragement to choose something they would truly enjoy. Her gentle interest in what the youngest generation are reading reflects the lifelong thoughtfulness and commitment to education that has shaped her whole life.”
Jean and Elizabeth were first cousins, born one week apart and shared many close times together, latterly living three doors apart in Nethy, and a passion for golf and scrabble.

To listen to the VE Day podcast featuring Jean Munro, visit **podfollow.com/parklands**

RARE FERN IN GLEN AFFRIC

from BBC News Scotland

A Highland glen is playing a key role in saving one of Britain's rarest ferns.

About 250 oblong woodsia have been planted on a stony slope in Glen Affric, a large area of woodlands and lochs near Cannich.

The small mountain fern was almost wiped out by commercial collectors in the late 1840s, following a Victorian craze for the plants.

Staff from Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RSGE) have carried out the conservation work.

The collaboration forms part of RSGE's Scottish plant recovery project, which aims to increase the numbers and distribution of 10 threatened native species.

FLS forester Sam Brown said: "It would be fantastic to see them establishing and self-regenerating and once more growing across Scotland after being on the brink of extinction."

The RSGE has propagated and bulked up thousands of ferns in its botanical garden's nursery, before planting them at selected sites across the country.

Glen Affric has already been chosen as a suitable location for other species, including wych elm around the Old Ent of Glen Affric, and wild apple.



Image source, Forestry and Land Scotland



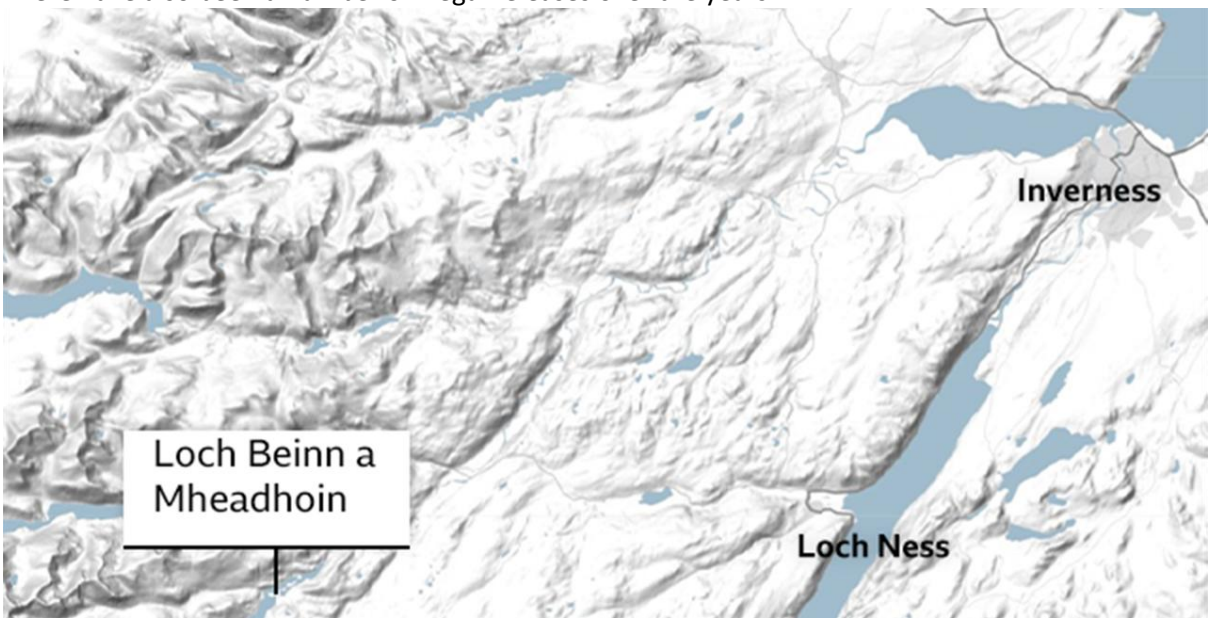
Several of our Clan Chisholm Journals and UK Branch Newsletters over the years have featured articles on the Chisholm fern. The fern image was also used quite a lot in the early years of the Clan Chisholm Society in place of the more commonly used belt and buckle featuring the boars head with the motto Feros Ferio.

UK Branch Newsletter 33 of April 2013 showed the embroidery done by Jean Chisholm of Somerset as our contribution to the Plant Life Scotland project The Patchwork Meadow. Jean used the male plant Dryopteris filix-mas as it gave a clear image.

BEAVERS RELEASED IN GLEN AFFRIC

from BBC News Scotland

Seven beavers have been released at a loch in Glen Affric National Nature Reserve in the north-west Highlands.
The animals were relocated to Loch Beinn a Mheadhoin under licence from Tayside, where illegally-released beavers have been blamed for damaging farmland.
Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS), which manages the 43,500-acre reserve, has been working with Findhorn-headquartered Trees for Life on the initiative since 2022, supported by the Beaver Trust.
A family of five beavers and a beaver pair were released at two sites last week.
Beavers died out in the wild in Scotland 400 years ago.
Since a trial at Knapdale in Argyll began in 2009, external, the animals have been legally reintroduced to a number of locations including Loch Lomond and the Cairngorms.
There have also been a number of illegal releases over the years.



Glen Affric, near Cannich, is a large area of woodland, lochs, hills and mountains.
FLS said the release of the beavers had followed a "long and thorough" process.
North region manager Alex Mcleod added: "Fully engaging with the local Affric communities, including through a detailed consultation process, has been crucial in making sure that all voices were heard."
Trees for Life chief executive Steve Micklewright described the project as a "moment of wildlife history".
He said: "We're proud to have worked with FLS on this community-focused initiative.
"FLS has undertaken vital habitat restoration work in Glen Affric over many years and shown real leadership in nature restoration by reintroducing this important habitat-creating, biodiversity-boosting, flood-preventing animal."



Image source, Trees for Life

CAPERCAILLIE

from several newspapers including the Daily Express 13th February

RECOVERY HOPES FOR THE 'CRITICALLY' RARE CAPERCAILLIE

The critically threatened capercaillie has much less to grouse about after breeding numbers surged in Scotland. RSPB Abernethy recorded 30 mating-ready males in 2025 – a 50% increase since 2020.
The world's largest grouse was once common in the UK but is now confined to Scottish pinewood forests. But even there, numbers have been plummeting for decades, with just around 532 birds left. Decline of habitat quality and size, natural egg and chick predation, collision with deer fences and human disturbance mean the species is at serious risk of extinction.
The Scottish government's emergency plan, led by the Cairngorms National Park Authority and NatureScot, is helping to reverse decline in the burly birds, similar in size to a turkey, which are dubbed "the horse of the woods". A remote-controlled mower has been deployed to cut heather to allow their favourite bilberries to thrive while grazing cattle also helped to improve habitat at RSPB Abernethy, near Perth.
Its conservation manager, Richard Mason, said; 'We are seeing many chicks reaching full size. And while the future of capercaillie remains in the balance, we are hopeful these techniques can support their recovery in Scotland. There is still a lot of work to be done for capercaillie, not just at RSPB Abernethy, but across all sites in Scotland. We know their recovery is only possible by working in collaboration with others. By enhancing these native pinewood forests, we can work towards the recovery of this incredible bird.



The capercaillie, a large grouse is the largest member of the 'game bird' family. It was fairly widespread in Scotland and Ireland in the early 18th century but had been virtually exterminated by the 1750's. This was the result of the wholesale clearance of the pine forest where it lived and excessive shooting with the last individuals being shot in Aberdeenshire in 1785.
In the late 1830's a collection of 55 birds was brought from Sweden to the Marquis of Breadalbane's estate in Perthshire and the bird quickly re-established. Efforts to re-establish in other parts of the UK and Ireland have not been successful and it is found throughout the eastern Highlands and central Scotland.
The name meaning 'horse of the wood' is thought to come from Gaelic capall for horse (latin caballus) and coille for forest (probably Old Irish caill).

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Visit the clan society website at www.ClanChisholmSociety.org