CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY
UK BRANCH

An Cirean
Cean Cinnidh

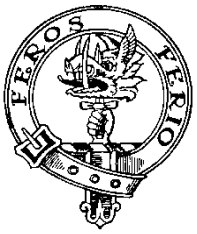


NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 84

MAY 2026

Welcome to Issue No 84 - UK Branch Newsletter



Chisholm

Dear UK Branch members.

The last newsletter gave notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Clan Chisholm Society. As last year this was held electronically. We are only able to have a physical meeting when there is an International Gathering as in 2024 as it is important that all branches are represented. The electronic meeting was held on Saturday 25th April and the usual formalities were dealt with. Other business raised was concern over the cost of production and distribution of the Annual Clan Chisholm Journal. Print costs in the UK have risen a little but the cost of bulk despatch to 'overseas' branches has gone up quite a lot over the last few years. This means that the £3.50 per copy levied to all branches does not cover the cost of production and despatch. Your Clan Council is continuing to discuss this matter.

Another item of new business at the AGM was the Photograph Archive project headed up by Fay Chisholm of New Zealand who looks after the Artefact project. Your Society is appealing to members to send in historical photographs of family members. Each branch will appoint a contact for the collection of these images and information. I expect as Secretary of the UK branch I am likely to be the best person to take on that task and liaise with Fay on the collection. I will confirm this later but in the meantime it would be great if our branch members could give thought to photographs they would like to have added to the Chisholm collection. Minutes of the Society's AGM are sent with this newsletter.

Regarding the AGM of the UK branch we have not yet agreed a date either for an in-person meeting or electronic one.
The UK branch financial statements for 2025 are included in this newsletter (Next page). When the AGM date is decided approval of these by our members will be sought. The minutes of last years UK branch AGM has already been circulated.
If any member has a query or wishes to raise a topic please do let me know.

As always, I thank our UK committee members for giving me ideas for material to include in our branch newsletters. It would be great if some of our members sent in family news or small articles for inclusion – I am sure there is lots of interest to all our members.
I have less material this time so the newsletter is perhaps not so full as usual. The next issue will be due in August when I hope to have more to write about.

Yours in clanship,

Susan

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – UK BRANCH

1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

PROFIT & LOSS

Income		**Expenditure**	
Membership subscriptions	341.00	UK Branch – International Assessment	64.29
Life Member Journal Contributions	14.00	UK Branch – Clan Chisholm Journals	420.00
Donations	861.00	Postage & Stationery	491.54
		Gardening services	112.50
	£1,216.00	Membership AHCS /Table Highland Games	00.00
			£1,088.33

Income less Expenditure - £127.67

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OBITUARIES

From Inverness Courier.

CHISHOLM Peacefully, at home surrounded by her family on Monday, 30th March, 2026, Patricia (Pat) Frances Chisholm, (nee Meade), aged 81 years, Dunain Road, Inverness. Dearly loved wife of Hugh, also a deeply devoted mother and grandmother. Funeral service on Thursday, 16th April, 2026 at 12.15pm in Trinity Life Church, Huntly Place, Inverness; thereafter to Tomnahurich Cemetery. All welcome to attend. Family flowers only please. Donations in memory of Pat towards UK Kidney Association may be given at the door. Funeral arrangements by D. Chisholm & Sons.

From The Scotsman

CHISHOLM Sandra
On April 2, 2026, suddenly,
at home, Sandra Ramsay Chisholm of Moss Side, Hightae.
A much-loved wife of the late Dennis, loving mother to Ian and Andrew and a dear grandmother.
Service to be held at Roucan Loch Crematorium, on Thursday, May 14, at 12 noon, to which all friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired, to Waverley Care.

From Press & Journal

PORTER (Forres) Peacefully, at her home, with her family by her side, on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, Joan Porter **(nee Chisholm**), of Fraser Street, Forres, aged 79 years. A much-loved mother of Steff, Julie and Garry, a dear mother-in-law, a devoted gran and great-gran, a sadly missed sister and friend to many. Funeral service at Tom Ross & Sons' Chapel, Orchard Road, Forres, on Thursday, April 23, at 1pm, thereafter to Clovenside Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only, please. Donations in lieu, if desired, may be given at the service to the Forres Neighbourhood Care Team and Mikeysline.

Jessie Wood **Chisholm** (nee Flett)
Peacefully with her family by her side, at Peterhead Community Hospital, on Tuesday 20th January 2026, Jessie Wood Chisholm (nee Flett) aged 91 years. Beloved wife of the late Gavin Chisholm, a much loved and loving mum of Lesley and Janice, a proud and loving nana to Darren, Gary and Valleri, an adored great-nana to Tyler, Adam and Charleigh, a dear aunt and great-aunt. Very sadly missed. Funeral private at Jessie's own request. Family flowers only.

Published in: funeral-notices.co.uk.

Elsie **CHISHOLM** (Holmes) Gateshead, 19/02/1938 - 25/03/2026 (Age 88)
Elsie Chisholm sadly passed away on 25th March 2026, after a short stay in Craigielea Care Home.
Loving wife of the late George Chisholm, Mam of Gillian, Grandma of Christopher and his wife Wahn, and Great Grandma to Daniel. Cremation on 15th April 2026 via a Direct Cremation courtesy of the Co-op Funeral services (no service). Her ashes will be placed in a burial plot with her parents and sister at East Gateshead Cemetery.

Evelyn NICHOLSON **nee Chisholm** (Dudley and Wideopen). Peacefully in hospital on 11th March, aged 90 years, former nurse at the RVI.
Beloved Wife of Alan, dearly loved Mam of Janet, also, a dear Mother-in-Law of Christopher and a treasured Grandma of Ryan. Evelyn will be very dearly missed.
Cremation at the West Road Crematorium on Tuesday 7th April at 2.45pm. Friends, please meet at the crematorium. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu of flowers to Dementia UK. R.I.P.
R W Barrett & Son Funeral Services, 379 West Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE15

From Dumfries and Galloway Standard

Jennifer COOPER **(née Chisholm)** On 30th December 2025, aged 79.
Beloved wife of Peter, much-loved mother of Gillian and Joanne and treasured grandma of Abigail.
Private funeral service.

75 YEARS OF THE CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY

You will note from the minutes of this years AGM of our Society that is the 75th. We have not marked this anniversary in any particular way as we did for the 50th in 2001. That year we held a huge and very successful international gathering in and around Inverness, Scotland.

In that year our Society became truly international – the then 'parent' branch became the UK branch to sit alongside the other branches Australia, New Zealand, USA and the then Western Canada. We elected the first president of the new umbrella organisation, the Clan Chisholm Society - Forbes Merritt Chisholm of Western Canada. Merritt was instrumental in transforming our Society into what you see today together with support and advice from many including past presidents Duncan Chisholm, Ruari Chisholm and Roger Chisholm-Batten.

The Society was founded in 1951 by Miss Mairi Chisholm of Chisholm and her nephew chief Alastair.

Following the Gathering of the Clans at Murrayfield, Edinburgh in August 1951 Miss Mairi determined on reviving the Clan Chisholm Society. Her grandfather chief James Chisholm Gooden Chisholm (29.09.1816 – 31.12.1899) had been widely known in Scottish circles, a keen member and supporter of The Highland Society of London, The Royal Scottish Hospital and the Royal Caledonian Schools. He had 'ever been ready to befriend and assist young men and others from the Highlands, and to promote and support every object and movement which he considered conducive to the best interests of the Highland people.'

The inaugural meeting of our Society was held In Glasgow in November 1951 with Miss Mairi taking the role of honorary secretary.



Some of the Highland chiefs at Murrayfield –

The Chisholm in this picture seated second from the right between Mr A R MacGillivray, OBE representing the chief of Clan Chattan and McNeil of Barra.

NOSAS – North of Scotland Archaeological Society

NOSAS was founded in 1998 by a group of archaeology students studying at Aberdeen for the Certificate n Archaeology. It became a charity in 2014 registered SC044585 with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. Membership is focused on the Highlands, but extends across Scotland and into all parts of the British Isles and beyond.

The Society organises field-walking trips, site prospection, recording and surveying weekends, participation in digs, and meetings on archaeological topics. Members regularly make contributions to the annual Highland Archaeology Festival run by the Highland Council, and to other Scottish archaeology events. NOSAS events throughout the year - indoors and outdoors - provide a great opportunity to meet like-minded people and to share ideas, enthusiasm and information.

A comprehensive range of equipment for surveying, recording and excavation is available for members to use. Additionally books may be borrowed from The Highland Council library at Dingwall Academy.

See www.nosas.co.uk for fascinating information on the work done by the society as well as events and instructions on how to join. Subscription is currently a modest £15.00 per annum.

I have attended several field-walking trips and lectures of the Society since joining two years ago. Most recently I attended a talk on The Battle of Littleferry held in St Ninians Church hall, Inverness on 16th April (the 280th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden).

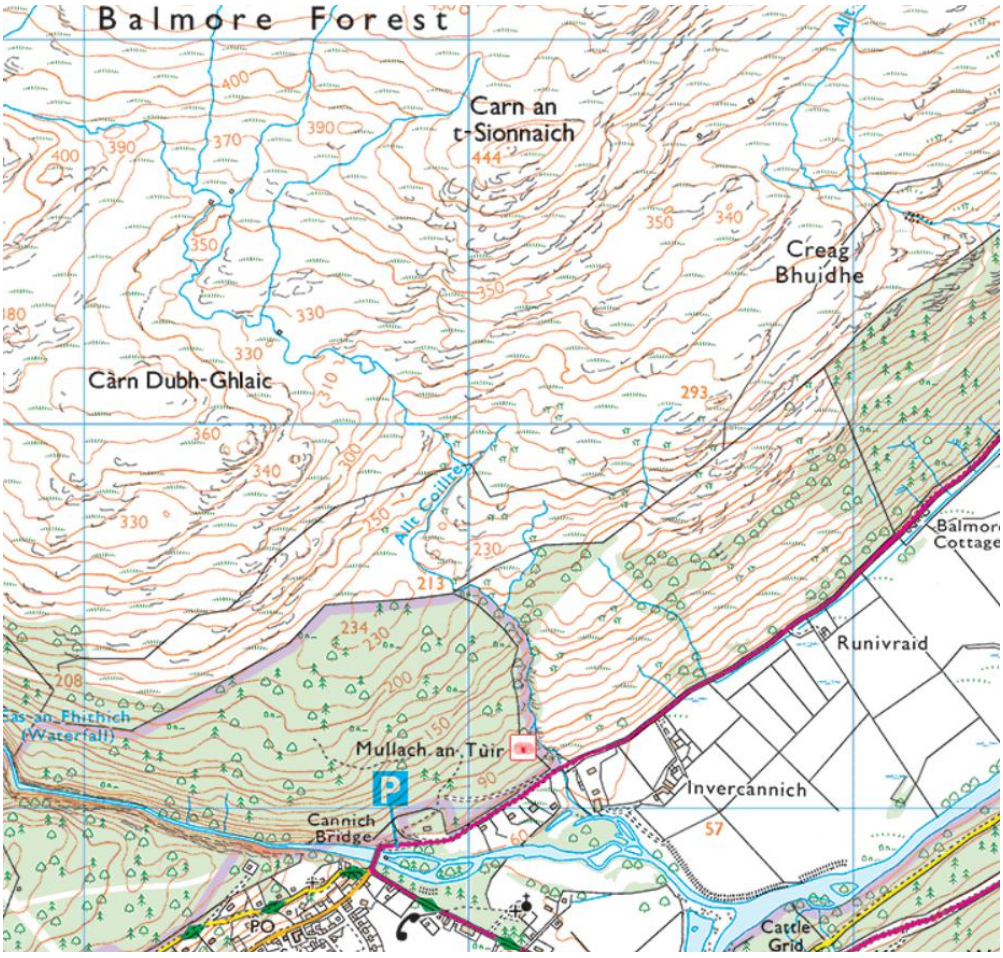


The Battle of Littleferry involved skirmishes between Jacobites and local militia on the day before the Battle of Culloden.

The Earl of Cromartie had set up his headquarters at Dunrobin castle – his regiment something between 300 and 500 men. About one fifth of the number were from clan Mackenzie and nearly all the officers Mackenzies. They were lacking weapons and had no artillery or cavalry. The Government militia were around 200 men. Both forces would have been a mix of Scottish volunteers and pressed men.

Major General P C Marriott CB CBE, HM Lord-Lieutenant for Scotland described the progress of the day and each 'skirmish' site. His sources are wide and varied from 'eye witness' accounts, diaries and other reports. Of course many accounts are written by the victors – the Government forces.

NOSAS organised a field trip to a sheiling site above Invercannich on Saturday 18th April. A group of over a dozen gathered at the entrance to a Forestry Land Scotland track at 10:30 on a reasonably dry day. Many members of NOSAS, some members of Strathglass heritage Association and some of both the organisations. We walked a short way eastwards before striking off uphill alongside a rapidly flowing burn Allt Coillte which eventually flows into the River Glass. Our guide Roland Spencer-Jones of NOSAS directed us to the sites of various ruined dwelling houses of unknown age. There was much discussion regarding the layout of the buildings and what the purpose of some parts of them were. Heading uphill again and through a deer fence at the edge of a sparsely wooded area were further ruined dwellings. We stopped here for a while for something to eat and drink before setting off again and out onto the moor land. The sheilings we set out to see were by two waterways which we had to negotiate to get to the buildings. Sheilings are temporary summer dwellings where families (mainly the womenfolk) would camp while their livestock grazed the higher hills away from the crops down in the strath. Butter and cheese would be made at the sheilings. The buildings themselves were low stone built with probably turf roofing.



The map above shows the area we walked and some of the buildings seen. On our way down we discovered other buildings not thought to have been recorded as well as a mysterious site which may have been an illicit still. A very enjoyable day out with only a couple of very light showers and we arrived back down at the road outside Cannich just after 4pm. The area backs onto Glen Strathfarrar and would historically have been Chisholm and Fraser lands.

At the bottom of the map is seen Mullach an Tùir the site of a neolithic chambered cairn. This site has been uncovered and recorded by Strathglass Heritage Association. See https://www.strathglass-heritage-trail.co.uk/mullach-an-tuir/

STRATHGLASS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Events for the remainder of 2026 have been published. Most meetings start at 7:30 pm and are held at Marydale School Room, Cannich.

4th May	Jonathan McColl: Dingwall's 800th anniversary of its first Royal charter
1st June	Dr Andrew Newton (Marcus the Medicus): The Romans in Scotland
6th July	Anne Fraser: 175 – Highland Family Connections
10th August	Jill Harden: Finding ancient settlements: round houses in Strathfarrar & beyond
7th September	David Conner: Highland Police Museum
14th September	Jim Miller: The building of the hydro dams in Northern Scotland

For more information see https://www.strathglass-heritage.co.uk

HIGHLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society was established in September 1981 to promote the study of genealogy, family history and related subjects in the Highlands of Scotland. It is based in the Highland Archive Centre in Inverness where meetings and talks are held.
The Society produces several journals each year including scholarly articles and studies.
A very interesting talk was given recently on 19th March at 2:30pm 'The Heraldry of the Macleans' by The Very Rev Allan McLean of Dochgarroch.

For more information see https://highlandfhs.org

MARYDALE CHURCH

The Church of St. Mary and St. Bean at Marydale, Cannich.

In 2005 and 2006 we held gatherings and visited Marydale. Sister Petra Clare then in residence showed us around. We first walked round the outside of the Church, house and old school buildings. Sr Petra Clare told us of the building history on the land given by the Chisholm's. Marydale was completed in 1866, the original drainpipes still in place show this date. The architect was Joseph Hansom, associated with the Hansom cab. The priest, father Colin Grant lived at Glassburn during the building works and 'sold off his cows and some furniture, and all farm things' to meet the costs. He was later consecrated Bishop of Aberdeen in 1889 and died six years later. The school which opened a few years later was very successful and numbers reduced by the clearances were later boosted by the Irish immigrants working on the hydro-electric dams and power station in Glen Cannich and Glen Affric.

The church building was severely damaged by fire in 1928; the beautiful blue ceiling with its gold stars was added during the restoration. The latest restoration work was completed in 2004. The church is dedicated to Our Lady and St Bean, believed to have come from Iona and who had a connection to St Columba.
Mass is celebrated each Sunday at 09:00 except the second Sunday in the month when it is held at St Mary's Eskadale.

HIGHLAND CATTLE

taken from various newspapers and on-line posts

A craze for taking selfies with highland cattle has recently caused difficulties for farmers. People see them as cuddly and fluffy and put up images with the animals on their social media accounts. This has led to some visitors to the countryside needing rescue by the emergency services. Many farmers have had to move their livestock away from roads to keep their animals safe from being fed incorrect foodstuffs and to keep idiotic people safe from what are not pets – however 'cute' looking. They are noted as being relatively docile but it makes sense with any livestock to take care especially if they have calves with them. Some farmers have even considered breeding with less 'attractive' breeds to deal with the problem.

The beef from Highland cattle is highly rated – slow growing, lean, firm and very low in fat. They are very hardy and can live in the hardest conditions all year round and browse on rough, otherwise unproductive uplands.



See https://www.highlandcattlesociety.com for more information.

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Visit the clan society website at www.ClanChisholmSociety.org