



CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2017



The Chief standing on Creag an Tuirc

Photograph © Angus Blackburn, courtesy of Scots Heritage Magazine

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF AND CHAIRMAN

Kinsmen

Over the last year we have seen a great coming together of our Clan members. In the 50 years since I succeeded my father as Chief, I have been constantly reminded of the strength of spirit and cohesion within our Clan network; and I am personally grateful to all of you for your support to me as head of our kindred.

There have been several anniversary celebrations. Each was memorable – and hugely enjoyable. In July, Maida and I were the guests of the CMSNA and I was honoured to be Chieftain of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. At a splendid Clan dinner, among several generous gifts our North American kinsmen made a presentation of a very fine silver Quaich inscribed with the opening lines of our Clan history, recalling our descent from the mermaid in Loch Voil. Just two weeks later it was the Lochearnhead Games; and in the evening we had a terrific ceilidh at the Balquhiddel hall. Catherine Crawford and Iain MacLaren each delivered a moving – and very humbling – tribute; and then on behalf of the Clan, our former Chairman presented a beautiful silver coaster and also a stirring, specially-commissioned 4/4 March, composed by Pipe Major Angus Lawrie.

Perhaps slightly less stirring was Iain's and my joint rendition of all ten verses of the great bothy ballad, the "Bonnie Lass o' Fyvie". (Fiona rolled her eyes and said "Thank goodness that only comes around every fifty years".) Fortunately, despite our artistic contribution, the Glenfinnan Ceilidh Band were on hand to rescue the evening. I am grateful to all for the planning, generosity and hard work, not least from Kay and Doug Lothian, that went into making it such a success.

In August, we were the guests of the Friends of Clan MacLaren in Germany. The occasion was the Wuppertal Highland Games, organised by Ralf and Marion Berger and Mik and Helga Rüttger, who showed us great hospitality. I am glad to report that the MacLaren tent was both well-attended and well-stocked; and it was there that the Friends presented us with many special gifts, the centrepiece of which was a 2/4 March composed by P/M Eoin Ashford from Glasgow, entitled "The MacLarens of Wuppertal Welcome Their Clan Chief". The whole event was captured by German television, including my speech (in German) to several hundred bemused burgers from Nord-Rhein Westphalen. The name of our Clan is thus, in one way or another, growing in renown in the heart of Europe (even if the next tune, perhaps a lament, will have to be called "The MacLaren Chief's Massacre of the German Language").

We now look forward, after this year's Games at Lochearnhead, to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, where, at the prestigious last performance on the 26th August, we will be in the company of the Camerons and the MacDonalds of Clanranald. To paraphrase R. L. Stevenson: "Troth, these are not names to be ashamed of." I am delighted that so many of

you have stepped forward to march with me on to the castle esplanade under our Clan banner. The organisational details are still being worked on and I do not envy the Tattoo staff with their task of “herding Jacobites”. The one rule of the night is that there must be plenty of tartan on parade.

Earlier that week, on the afternoon of the 24th August, we meet at the McLaren High School in Callander for a “Cultural Seminar and Masterclass”. This rather formal title is what I put to Clan Event Scotland (part of Visit Scotland) when applying for help with the funding. I am glad to say that they have agreed to contribute (including towards bus transport, if needed, e.g. from and to Edinburgh). I am aiming to have a top piper and an exponent of Scottish fiddle music both to demonstrate and to explain some of the history of their art. This event will also form part of this year’s celebrations of the McLaren High School’s 125th anniversary so I hope that a good number of us will be there. Afterwards, Maida and I invite Clan members to drinks at home in Balquhiddy.

And in Balquhiddy, there is positive news to report about the kirk. Thanks to donations from members of all our Societies, including a record \$5000 this year from the CMSNA membership, it has been possible for urgently needed external repairs and internal re-decoration to be carried out, together with woodworm treatment to the pews. The latter item is particularly timely given the success of the new Minister, the Rev. Dr. Russel Moffat, in filling them again.

Finally, two important changes to report among our office bearers. Bridget Stevens is our new Editor and I wish to congratulate her on the high quality of this, her first Newsletter. Less good news is that our Treasurer, Kay Lothian, is stepping down after many years of excellent, diligent service to the Society. Without in any way wanting to alarm the auditors, let me say that we all owe her a great debt. I now appeal to you to help me find a successor. The position is, of course, a highly responsible one and is essential to the running of the Society. The books are in good order. Please, we need a volunteer.

This letter is already long. I will close by saying, simply, thank you again to all of you who helped make the events of last year so special. And thank you, in particular, to those who found themselves travelling great distances to join their kin: from the “near abroad”, England; from Germany and other parts of Europe; from North America; and, furthest of all, though in terms of the spirit of our Clan, as close as any, from Australia and New Zealand.

I was a child when I became Chief. We are all children of the name. A great name: *Clann ‘ic Labhruinn*.

Donald McLaren of McLaren and Achleskine



A brooch presented to Maida MacLaren of MacLaren, of which Maida says:
“... splendid brooch presented to me by a group of ladies from the CMSNA on the field at the Grandfather Mountain Games of 2016. It was made by a jeweller friend of Sylvia Quillin.”

FROM YOUR NEW EDITOR

I must confess to feeling more than a little nervous at the prospect of stepping into the shoes worn with such distinction for the past ten years by previous Newsletter Editor Nick Law. My own connection with the Clan MacLaren Society is that my late grandfather, John McLaren, a marine engineer from Argyllshire, was a proud founder member of the Society and followed closely the news of his kinsmen even after moving to Edinburgh in his later years.

I myself live in Edinburgh, having retired from the University of Edinburgh some fifteen years ago, and am kept very busy in various areas of voluntary and charitable work.

Even in a short period such as the past six months or so I am constantly (and happily) reminded of my Clan. Re-reading Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*, a wonderful

adventure novel set in Scotland just after the Jacobite risings, I particularly enjoyed Chapter 25 which takes Alan Breck Stewart and David Balfour to the Braes of Balquhiddy and a warm welcome from “a household of MacLarens”. This chapter also provides an outline of some of the other clans and septs which have been associated with Balquhiddy.

As many of you may be aware, the Scotsman newspaper celebrated its 200th anniversary in January 2017. A special commemorative issue contained an article about a duel fought in 1829 between founding co-editor Charles MacLaren and Dr James Browne, editor of rival title the Caledonian Mercury. The outcome appears to have been a draw!

<https://www.pressreader.com/uk/the-scotsman/20170125/282587377691609>

Then in February a BBC TV programme, Escape to the Country, featured the MacLaren Memorial in Exmoor National Park and the story of how, during World War Two, Exmoor was under military control and used as a weapons testing and training area. In May 1941, when a prototype rocket malfunctioned during a demonstration to military and government personnel, Colonel R H MacLaren of the Royal Engineers threw himself on the device and was killed instantly. Remarkably, due to his swift and selfless action, nobody else was injured. The memorial was erected in his honour by his brother officers.

On a brighter note, Chieftain James MacLaren and Edna Brizolla are very happy to announce their engagement. They plan to get married in December and hope to see many kinsmen at the Edinburgh Tattoo in August.

To be asked to take on the editorship of your Newsletter is a great honour and I hope you will enjoy reading this, my first attempt. I must acknowledge my gratitude to fellow CMS Council Member Malcolm MacLaren for his vital help on the technical side. You will find a number of pictures contained within this Newsletter; if you would like to see more, please go to the CMS website <http://www.clanmaclarensociety.com/> and click on Gallery.

I am asked to remind readers that, if they would be willing to receive the Newsletter electronically, this would save the Society significant printing and postage costs. Thank you to those who have already indicated their willingness to do so.

As always, any reader who has an article or an image for publication in a future issue is warmly invited to get in touch (contact details at the end).

Bridget Stevens

NEWS FROM KINSMEN

Sue & Alec McLaren of Devon, England, write with justifiable pride about their son James who in May 2016 flew to the easternmost point of Europe, Ufa in Russia, with his bicycle,

tent and sleeping bag, and cycled 4000 miles to the westernmost point of Europe, Cabo Da Roca, nr Lisbon, Portugal in a World Record time of 29 days, 18 hrs, 25 minutes! He broke the existing record by over 7 days!! This means he cycled an average of 130 miles a day, without a rest day, totally on his own, with only the support from family and friends back home. He funded the epic trip totally on his own with no corporate sponsorship. The previous record was 37 days, held by a student who had a support team with him all the way. James was so determined to complete the trip in under 30 days, that he cycled 244 miles on the last day! Mother Sue writes “Our older son (Alastair) and I were able to meet him with his girlfriend when he reached his destination in Portugal to see him break the record. Sadly his Dad Alec had to work and couldn't fly out to see him, which was a great pity, as he gets his strength, endurance and determination from the McLaren side. Alec has run several marathons in his time, but has done nothing to this extreme.” Well done James!

Our membership Secretary Catherine Crawford has sent this photo of three generations of CMS members – baby Holly, her Mum Jane and grandmother Catherine.



And from Mark Paterson:

“I am a long term resident of Budapest, Hungary and I am planning to take my children (Jazmin 16yrs & Denis 13 yrs) to Scotland this year for our summer vacation. I thought it would be a good opportunity to coincide this with the Clan games.

We may also be joined by my father, John and his wife Beryl if they are well enough to travel. They are both 89 years old and my father suffers from COPD and a mild form of motor neuron disease. Last year he was awarded the highest French military medal, the legion d'honneur, for his participation in the D-Day landings. I attach a local newspaper report (he lives in Tamworth) which you may find interesting."

6 THURSDAY, January 7, 2016

TH060152 (110)

Humble John gets highest French medal

A Tamworth war veteran has been presented with France's highest decoration after he served in the Merchant Navy on D-Day, during the Second World War, reports NICK REID

INDIANA Jones blared from the television as I chatted with a recipient of the Legion of Honour, but not even his quest to find the Temple of Doom matched the tales of John Paterson, who served in the Merchant Navy during the Second World War.

Had Doctor Jones been in the same room, he would have been awestruck as John spoke to the Herald about joining the navy at 15, saving the world, battling the weather, fighting U-boats and delivering much needed supplies like fuel, beer and underpants to the frontline troops.

The 87-year-old former junior ordinary seaman was totally surprised to get the medal.

He said: "I did not expect to receive this being in the Merchant Navy, I didn't think we would be entitled to these things."

"We didn't have it as rough as the guys in the Royal Navy, we were far away from the frontline action."

"As we headed for D-Day I had turned 16 and I thought I was invincible, you just kept going and to be honest, I had quite a lot of fun as well."

John, originally from Aberdeen, joined the Merchant Navy in 1943 as a galley boy, loading supplies on and off the ships at the Navy's hub in Scapa Flow, Scotland.

He was taught to sail by an old hand and was promoted to seaman and was whisked onto a ship heading for America to pick up a new merchant ship.

"It was amazing setting foot in New York, I had hardly been out of Aberdeen so it was a very exciting time."

"I got in more fights there than anywhere else, as the American merchant seamen were tough, but so were the British."

"Also, I almost got married! I had only been there a few days and how was I supposed to know she was 25?"

After returning from America, John also made trips to Yugoslavia and Italy before reaching D-Day.

"D-Day was an easy run."

"It was much easier than the Atlantic which was, at times, quite frightening as U-boats were everywhere and we would often take a detour into the Arctic to avoid them."

"But at D-Day there were so many ships heading across the Channel, you could have walked to France. Even my own dad who had enlisted was also taking part in the convey."

"By this time there were very few Germans to worry about. As most of their aircraft had been destroyed, it was our job to take the supplies including machinery and even underpants to the troops on the shore."

Despite being away from the fighting, there was one instance where John went on land, to bag himself a German souvenir.

He ended getting shot at, not by the Germans, but the French.

"We got a bit of spare time and once we had control of the beaches and Caen, we got the chance to go ashore."

"Me and a couple of my mates went ahead to try and bag a couple of Jerry souvenirs, we bagged a couple of Lagers and some daggers and we even got chance to go to café in Caen. Then we got shot at, not by a German, but a Frenchman, I don't know what we had done but he wasn't happy with us for some reason."

"The worst part of the trip was when we got back and the captain made us throw all our souvenirs into the sea."

"As merchant seamen we weren't allowed to carry arms and so we had to throw them in the Channel."

After the war John joined the Army, the Gordon Highlanders, and spent a lot of time in Germany.

He was demobbed in 1949 to spend time with his wife.

John came to Tamworth after getting a job in Birmingham. He then went on to work for British Leyland.

He has two children, four grandchildren and a great grandchild.

John was pleased to hear he had got the medal but believed there were others more deserving.

He said: "It is great to get the medal but I think those who fought on the frontline are more deserving than me as they saw much more than I did."

"Those who served in the Navy and the other forces had a hard time of it fighting the Germans and going on the frontline."

"Compared to me, I did nothing and I felt quite safe, there are others far more deserving than me."

John feels that others are more deserving of the medal than he is.

READ MORE ABOUT TAMWORTH AT tamworthherald.co.uk





DUNCAN McLAREN “THE MEMBER FOR SCOTLAND”

by Willis Pickard

I embarked on a biography of Duncan McLaren because he was forgotten. I knew he had been a towering figure in the politics of Victorian Scotland. Indeed, as MP for Edinburgh he acquired the soubriquet “Member for Scotland” so assiduous was he in pursuing causes and concerns about the whole country. But although he attracted a biography after his death in 1886 at the age of 86, he soon slipped from public memory. I wondered why. I knew there was a large repository of McLaren papers in the National Library of Scotland, so I began digging into them.

Duncan McLaren was a Highlander, born to crofters near Dalmally in Argyll. The family soon moved, driven to the factories of lowland Scotland where opportunity hopefully replaced hardship. He lived in Renton in Dunbartonshire, a centre for calico printing and dyeing. Aged 12 he was sent across Scotland to Dunbar to begin an apprenticeship as a grocer. He had further training in Haddington, where he may have run across another ambitious young man, Samuel Smiles - future author of a best-selling guide to the self-reliance which was also a mark of McLaren’s character. Moving to a wholesale merchants in Edinburgh, he was soon advanced the funds to buy his own business. This was the beginning of McLaren’s department store on the High Street, across from St Giles’ Cathedral. It was to continue selling everything from ladies’ dresses to hardware even after McLaren’s death in 1886. The premises were eventually absorbed into the expanded Edinburgh City Chambers.

City politics soon absorbed the successful young businessman. He was elected democratically to the council whereas previously councillors simply re-nominated themselves. McLaren had a natural politician’s knack of latching onto a newsworthy cause, in his case the peculiar arrangement by which Edinburgh ministers of the Established Church were supported through an annuity tax, from payment of which lawyers were specifically excluded. McLaren would fight the remnants of this derided tax for over 30 years. Adept at handling statistics and reading a balance sheet, he confronted the city’s bankruptcy and was soon appointed its treasurer. That involved negotiating with Government ministers. He had often travelled to London as a merchant and it was natural to add on haggling at Westminster. Not for the last time in public life he gained respect while raising animosities.

One problem lay in religion. McLaren had been brought up in one of the sects that had broken away from the Church of Scotland in the 18th century. He became a leader of Dissenting ministers and laymen fighting privileges given to the Established Church alone. So when he left the town council to concentrate on his business and young family he was still

mired in controversies which he was happy to stoke, not least through articles in the press. But he had to face the death of his first wife, daughter of a Dunbar merchant, and soon after, the death of one of their three children. He remarried into a leading family of Dissenters, whose connections and commitment cemented his own beliefs. Christina Renton gave him three more children but she was often ill and died in 1841.

The widower worked long hours in an increasingly prosperous business. But the politics of church and state were heading to crisis. In the Disruption of 1843 one third of the Established Church left to form the Free Church. Meanwhile, the Dissenters came together as a third block of United Presbyterians, with McLaren a leading lay spokesman. Embittered religious faction dominated elections. Thomas Macaulay, the historian, who was one of Edinburgh's MPs and regarded McLaren as a troublemaker, said he could never visit his constituency on a Sunday because whichever his choice of church would make him an enemy of all the other churches. McLaren stood again for the town council and became Lord Provost, but in 1850 he challenged Macaulay for one of the two parliamentary seats and lost.

Meanwhile, his third marriage broadened his horizons as well as bringing lifelong happiness. He had been singled out by the anti-Corn Law reformers, John Bright and Richard Cobden, to garner support in Scotland. Business trips to Manchester brought him into regular contact with Bright's family, and John's sister Priscilla agreed to McLaren's proposal, and thereby found herself expelled from the Quaker community for marrying "out". Three more children were to be added to McLaren's responsibilities, while his business interests expanded. New railway companies welcomed his management expertise. He founded a bank - and soon disposed of it without serious loss. In Edinburgh not only did the burgeoning family move into a large property in the suburb of Newington, but McLaren became an entrepreneur, feuing land for housing. He gave his name and those of colleagues to streets whose construction he closely supervised.

New interests and responsibilities did not make him less controversial. In a high profile case he successfully sued The Scotsman newspaper for libel. His support for working-class housing and for public buildings and spaces to be open to ordinary people won him devoted supporters. Eventually at the age of 65 he was persuaded to stand for Parliament as an advanced Liberal. He proved assiduous in harrying ministers and digging in official documents for evidence that Scotland was ill dealt with by comparison with England and Ireland. Physical stamina for late-night sittings even as he neared 80 won him admiration and even affection. He spoke up for workers and in his own shop he introduced the Saturday half-day.

His eldest son John - an advocate despite his father's distaste for the profession - was his political campaign manager in Edinburgh. Together they paved the way for the Liberal leader, William Gladstone, to capitalise on popular working-class support to win the Midlothian seat and become Prime Minister. John McLaren had an eye on a legal post in the new administration but he was adept at losing elections. So in 1881 Gladstone leant on the ageing John Bright to persuade his reluctant brother-in-law to retire and let John succeed him. The plan worked except that John proved a hapless Lord Advocate, resigning to become a judge, a role for which he proved much better suited.

In retirement McLaren, supported by the indefatigable Priscilla, had new campaigns to fight - about the governance of Edinburgh schools, the role of local councils in Scottish devolution and, above all, against Gladstone's sudden conversion to Irish Home Rule. His death in 1886 was marked by a huge funeral procession from Newington to St Cuthbert's churchyard off Princes Street, where his monument lies close to a railway that he championed.

Of his ten children, several made a public mark. As well as John, two became MPs: Charles, who married into a rich Welsh family and became chairman of John Brown shipbuilding, was created Lord Aberconway by Prime Minister Herbert Asquith. Walter was MP for Crewe. However, it is the eldest daughter Agnes who most deserves mention. Supported in early feminism by her stepmother Priscilla, she aspired to be one of the first women medical students in Edinburgh. Disappointed, she trained in Montpelier and became a Roman Catholic nun. She later pressurised the Vatican to allow nuns to become doctors. Success in that came after her death.

"The Member for Scotland" was published by Birlinn in 2011. Copies at £20 are available from willis.pickard@btinternet.com

QUEEN VICTORIA'S VISIT TO BALQUHIDDER

Account of a family connection provided by Mrs Lynn Shaw (nee Cameron):

'As far as I know my grandfather, William Cameron, was born in Dornoch in 1839 and died in Carstairs in 1874 from TB.

He was schoolmaster in Balquhiddar from 1861 but resigned in 1870 because of his ill health. While in Balquhiddar living, of course, in the school house, he was also Session Clerk of the church and Registrar and Heritor's Clerk. He spoke Gaelic and English.

In 1869 Queen Victoria, accompanied by Lord Ponsonby and Princess Louise, visited Balquhiddy Church and was shown around by my grandfather. The Queen had obviously requested more information about the graveyard. A few days after her visit my grandfather received a letter from Inverrossachs House (where the Queen was staying at this time). The letter said:-

“I have received your letter enclosing the lines copied by you, according to the Queen's desire, from the tombstones at Balquhiddy as well as your drawing of the slabs of the graves of Rob Roy and his family. I have laid these before the Queen and at the same time acquainted Her Majesty with the loyal expression contained in your letter. I am your obedient servant”

At some stage my grandfather was also sent a copy of the Queen's *Leaves from the journal of life in the Highlands from 1848-1861*. That book is now in the possession of my niece Moira, my father's oldest grandchild by his second wife, my mother.

My grandfather also left two notebooks entitled *Lectures of School Management* and *On Teaching of History*. He also seems to have been a keen botanist.

He is buried in Balquhiddy but there doesn't appear to be a gravestone.

In the church today there is an old black and white drawing said to be Queen Victoria's visit. The figures on the bottom left hand corner are supposedly the Queen with my grandfather, William Cameron.’

DONALD MACLAREN OF MACLAREN VISITS THE 1745 ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GATHERING AS PATRON

By John Macfarlane

The delightful Falls of Lora Hotel in Connel Ferry, Argyll, was the location of the 2015 Annual Gathering of The 1745 Association <http://www.1745association.org.uk>. Situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty, it provided members with superb accommodation and fine dining.

The 3-day Gathering was organised by the Association President, Brigadier John Macfarlane. The aim was to study the cruel aftermath of the 1745 Uprising on Ballachulish, Appin and Barcaldine. The central theme was “The Appin Murder,” an event that has always fascinated those interested in the history of Scotland.

The social and political history of 18th century Argyll was varied and complex. There had always existed a certain amount of antipathy between the Stewarts of Appin and the Clan

Campbell, and this was exacerbated by the 1745 Rising. The Stewarts of Appin sided with the Jacobites and fielded an organised regiment, *The Appin Regiment*, which took a very active part in Prince Charles Edward Stuart's campaign, particularly at Culloden where their onslaught took them into the third rank of Barrell's Regiment, nearly turning the Hanoverian left flank. On that day, the Regiment suffered 92 killed and 65 wounded out of a fighting force of approximately 300.

MacLarens were members of the Regiment, providing two officers, Captain Donald MacLaren of Invernentie, Balquhiddy who was wounded at Culloden, taken but escaped and the Regimental Surgeon, Doctor Lachlan MacLaren, Appin. At least twelve MacLarens are known to have served in the ranks.

The Campbells stayed loyal to the Hanoverian Government. Following the disaster at Culloden in 1746, the Stewart lands were forfeited and were an opportunity for an expansion of Campbell land. The two principal players in this unfolding drama were James Stewart of the Glen (*Seumas a 'Ghlinne*) and Colin Campbell of Glenure (*Cailean Ruadh* a.k.a. The Red Fox of Glenure). While it is certain they were acquainted with each other and may even have been friends, the time came for Colin, who was Factor (Manager) for the Campbell estates, to challenge the influence of James who was a natural brother of Charles Stewart of Ardshiel, who had commanded the Regiment. Charles had fled to France, leaving his step-brother James, a former officer in the Appin Regiment, to look after Stewart interests in the area. James was therefore a focus for potential rebellion against Campbell and Hanoverian interests.

What happened next has always been open for debate and remains a contentious issue to this day. Colin was murdered, by whom no one really knows, on his way to seize land. The authorities charged James with the crime. What followed the arrest resulted in one of the biggest miscarriages of justice in Scotland's legal history. Everyone knew, even the Campbells who provided the jury, that the evidence of James' guilt was weak, yet he was convicted and sentenced to hang in November 1752, for 'art and part' in a crime he almost certainly did not commit. Those who wish to have a better understanding of The Appin Murder would be well advised to read James Hunter's "[Culloden and the Last Clansman](#)," and Mary McGrigor's "[Grass will not grow on my Grave](#)." Both books are informative and a delight to read.

At the annual formal dinner, which that year ran to a splendid seven courses, our principal guest was Clan Chief Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, who, as one of the Association's Patrons, was made most welcome. During the evening, our members had the pleasure of deepening their acquaintance with him.

At the conclusion of the dinner, our Gentleman Piper, Archie Macintyre, gave us advice on how we should perhaps listen to the *piobaireachd* "The Massacre of Glen Coe." so as to gain full appreciation of the piece. He played it superbly and listening to that haunting music we could well imagine those tragic events of 1692.

The guest speaker was Professor Allan MacInnes, Emeritus Professor of Early Modern History at Strathclyde University, who gave us a fascinating insight into current research into

the Appin murder, with a theory that it may have been an “inside job,” with Mungo Campbell the prime suspect.

As we toasted our guests, it was an honour for the Association to be able to include Chief Donald in our midst as we remembered Culloden and the events in which members of his Clan MacLaren took such an active part.

THE OLD KIRK, BALQUHIDDER

Repair and Consolidation Works, with guidance and grant support from Historic Environment Scotland

Since the time of the report given at the AGM, there has been a further inspection of the building and its environment.

Intrusive vegetation has been cut down and cut back as necessary

There has been further dialogue with Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Mr Allan Rutherford. The officer appointed to process the submissions from the CMS is Simon Stronach.

The Grant support is being sought through the Ancient Monuments Grants Scheme and should produce a higher level of grant funding than the earlier submission made. Gail Williamson at HES has been seeking approval within the Grants scheme for the funds to carry out the work this year, as has been expected.

In early April we will have an idea of how much that amount will be, so that will know what needs to be set aside from the Society. There will be a formal offer of Grant from HES, and to take advantage of that, the work and the payments will have to be carried out in a regulated procedure of certification and submission, through the stages of the work I assess the start date for the works will be later Spring 2017 and may be carried out over a period of around 5 to 7 weeks, depending on the contractor.

I acknowledge the input and tangible contribution made by Florian in carrying out the enabling work around the structure, earlier this year and the provision of the documentation for submission to HES, for approval.

Hugh W J Crawford, Architect



CLAN MACLAREN EXCURSION

by Neil McLaurin

On the morning of 22 July some 39 people assembled in the Lochearnhead carpark to join the Clan MacLaren excursion around sites of interest to the clan in the district. Kingshouse Travel provided a 28-seater bus but such was the interest in the event that it was necessary for other people to follow in their own cars. Overseas visitors who joined the excursion included 6 from Australia, 10 from the USA, 2 from Belgium, 1 from Germany and 1 from France. The excursion was open to local residents and it was pleasing that a small number decided to come along. The excursion was ably guided by Charlie Hunter from Balquhiddar.

Our first stop was to visit Briar Cottage, a short stop down the road from the carpark. Briar Cottage, formerly known as Easter Achraw, had been home to MacLarens from the 1790s until 1991. Kim and Fraser Proven welcomed us and guided us into their house where we saw the original cruck frame ceiling in the east gable of the original cottage.

The next stop was the MacLaren burial ground at Leckine (Earnknowe) that lies below Leckine House. There is a picturesque tale about why the burial ground is situated here. The story goes that a corpse, possibly of a MacLaren Chief or Chieftain, was being taken to the burial ground at Killin during the winter, but due to a storm was left at Leckine and was later buried there. Today the oldest identifiable MacLaren memorial dates from 1773. It is likely that the burial ground was in use well before this date. The Clan MacLaren Society is grateful to the Alexander and Martyn families for their assistance with maintaining this ancient site.

Further around Loch Earn we visited the old clachan or farm town of Glentarken which was inhabited by McLaren tenants from the 1600s until the 1850s. Many of us walked up the hill to see the remains of their houses.



Visiting Glentarken.

Many McLaren tenant farmers lived along farms along Loch Tay and there are several McLaren monuments in the Killin churchyard marking the spot where they were buried. Gordon McLaren is descended from one of the Loch Tay families and we were fortunate to have him on the excursion and he provided us with more information about these families. Some people viewed McLaren Hall, the village hall, which was built from funds bequeathed to the village by Archibald McLaren who was a Loch Tay farmer. We all enjoyed a most welcome soup and sandwich lunch at the Killin Hotel.

Then it was back in the buses (and cars) for the return trip to Balquhiddy. The Braes of Balquhiddy were farmed by the MacLarens since medieval times. The Clan MacLaren Society now owns and looks after the “old kirk” in the burial ground. This church was built in 1631. Near the Old Kirk is a burial stone that was erected by Daniel MacLaurin in 1868 and on its inscription gives a version of the history of the clan.

The more able members of the Group took the short walk up the hill to Creag an Tuirc. This was the traditional rallying point of the clan in former times and it is now where the Clan MacLaren meets following the Lochearnhead Highland Games. From Creag an Tuirc we had a magnificent view of Loch Voil and we saw the field, near Kirkton, where Rob Roy was defeated in a duel in 1734 after a dispute with the MacLarens.



Participants crying “Creag an Tuirc” the war cry of the MacLarens at Creag an Tuirc.

For the final stop we drove up the valley along Lochs Voil and Doine to Monnachyle Mhor where some of the participants took afternoon tea. A small hardy group walked across boggy ground to see the ruins of Invernenty Cottage built on a knoll on the southern side of the valley alongside Invernenty Burn. This was the former home to Donald McLaren, a drover, farmer and Captain in the Appin Regiment at the battle of Culloden. In 1803 Donald’s son, James, accompanied by his family and other emigrants went to Prince Edward Island in Canada and settled along the Brudenell River and helped to establish a new settlement from which there were many McLaren descendants.

THE 2016 CLAN MACLAREN STONES OF STRENGTH CHALLENGE RESULTS

By Mike Lawson

The 2016 Challenge had a definite international flavour with competitors taking part from America, Brazil and Germany, as well as representatives from England and Scotland.

This was the first occasion in many years that I was not able to be there in person, but the event was well looked after in my absence by Dougie Lothian, kindly helped by his wife, Kay, and Catherine Crawford, who provided a pictorial display of the event for members of the public to see when visiting or passing the Clan tent, together of course with the Stones of Strength being on display, having been kindly brought there before the games started by local farmer Cameron Hendry, the 2015 Stones of Strength winner. Apparently Cameron collected the stones from the Chief's house in Balquhiddy and loaded them into the farm trailer single-handedly. Quite an amazing feat of strength in itself! My sincere thanks to all the aforementioned people for making the event the success that it turned out to be.

The winner of the competition was David Besley from Wisconsin in the USA, who lifted the 200 kilo Abbot and held it for a time of 34.75 seconds. A very impressive lift. David can be seen lifting the stone in the photo. It is also noteworthy that he kindly donated his prize money back to the Clan for charitable redistribution. The photograph was taken and reproduced courtesy of Gordon MacLaren.

The timings for lifting the Abbot were as follows:

- *David Besley, Wisconsin, USA – 34.75 seconds*
- *Ross Wilson, Grangemouth – 24.44 seconds*
- *Ernst Clauss, Brazil – 17.79 seconds*
- *Ian Strobel, Germany – 16.84 seconds*
- *Declan MacLaren, Glenrothes – 11.47 seconds*
- *Lutz Kyhne, Germany – 9.91 seconds*
- *Felix Strobel, Germany – 6.75 seconds*

It is also noteworthy that Ross Wilson carried Beltane and Samhain in the Farmer's Walk, completing the course in 38 seconds. A speedy performance considering that each stone weighs close on 8 stones (112 lbs) each.

Many clans have Stones of Strength, or Manhood Stones, and the origin of our own clan's Stones of Strength challenge, as recorded by the Chief's mother, Margaret, in her book about the history of the clan, says:

‘The Puidreac (or Putehierach) Stone near the shoe-maker’s house was a large stone placed on top of a flat rock like table. It was a test of manhood to lift it from the ground to its place and was devised for the purpose by a MacLaren of Achleskine, the champion of the glen. The MacLarens of Achleskine were all grand, strong men.’

It is noteworthy that our present Chief, Donald lifted the Abbot in 2012 , and that his son, Florian has lifted it on several occasions for times varying from 20-30 seconds. Following in the family tradition.

I am hoping to be present at the 2017 Clan Gathering and Lochearnhead Highland Games to see if I’m still able to lift the big stone at 77 years of age. As my good lady wife says, I never did grow up! Still a lad at heart. Let’s hope that the sun shines and we have a good turn out on the day.



A CATTLE-DROVER'S LIFE

By Mike Lawson

I was first made aware of the nature of the work undertaken by cattle-drovers as a boy listening to my grandfather - a First World War veteran and former farmer - describing the life and times of his own father and grandfather who had been the last of a long line of cattle men and drovers employed by the Townley family of Townley Hall, near Burnley, Lancashire.

In 1715 and 1745, the Townley family were very much involved in endeavouring to bring about the restoration of the exiled House of Stuart to the throne of Great Britain, being active Jacobites and supporters of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

In their capacity as drovers employed by the Townley family, members of my own family were responsible for taking large herds of cattle to various markets or Trysts, as they were called in Scotland, buying or selling cattle on behalf of their employers, at markets as far afield as Lancaster, Carlisle, Falkirk and Crieff.

By the very nature of their work, drovers had to be extremely robust and self-reliant, sometimes covering long distances on foot, assisted by their cattle dogs and maybe a couple of sturdy hill ponies for general use and a packhorse to carry supplies. Needless to say, the work could be dangerous, and drovers were a tempting target for ruthless gangs of robbers. In consequence, two or three (or even more) drovers would work together to move a large herd of several hundred head of cattle to market, each drover carrying a dirk, pistol and broad sword for his personal protection should this be needed.

In the time of the 1745 Jacobite Uprising, the Townleys were extremely active recruiting supporters for the Jacobite cause, and trusted drovers would be asked to deliver secret dispatches to Jacobite supporters in both the North of England and over the border into Scotland. According to a longstanding family tradition, on approaching Jacobite sympathisers' houses, they would look for a sign in the form of a large pebble with a small pebble on top, placed on a nearby stone wall, which would indicate that it was safe for them to call at the house, and they would accordingly start to whistle a popular tune like Lilliburlero to let the occupants know that they had arrived with a confidential correspondence. Such work was obviously extremely risky, and if caught, drovers could expect little mercy at the hands of the Hanoverians.

In the 1745 Jacobite Uprising, the MacLarens were loyal to the House of Stuart and supported Bonnie Prince Charlie – some in the ranks of Lord George Murray's Athol Highlanders, but by far the greater majority alongside their old allies, the Stewarts of Appin. The main MacLaren contingent was commanded in the Chief's absence, due to ill health, by

Donald MacLaren of Invernenty - a senior cadet of the Clan, and himself a cattle-drover by profession – who, following the Battle of Culloden on the 16th April 1746, had the misfortune to be wounded and taken prisoner following a skirmish with a Company of British Redcoats sent to search Balquhiddy and district for Jacobite sympathisers.

Whilst being taken under escort to Carlisle Castle to face trial for treason, Donald managed to escape from his captors when they stopped to rest their horses at the side of the Annandale Beef Tub – a large natural hollow near to Moffatt, a location well known to drovers like Donald, responsible for moving large herds of cattle to and from the markets in Crieff, Falkirk and Carlisle. Waiting for an opportune moment, and taking full advantage of the misty conditions prevailing at the time, Donald threw himself over the edge of the Beef Tub, bouncing and rolling several hundred feet down the steep embankment into the marshy hollow below, where he was able to hide until the pursuing soldiers decided that finding him was a lost cause. With a mixture of luck and local knowledge, Donald managed to make his way safely back to Balquhiddy where, at times disguised as a woman, he remained in hiding until safer times returned to Scotland. Donald's basket-hilt broadsword that he used in the Battle of Culloden is currently - courtesy of the Chief - on display in the Culloden Battlefield Tourist Information Centre near to Inverness.

Yet another capable, if highly controversial, cattle drover was the legendary Rob Roy MacGregor, whose life and times captured the imagination of the eminent Scottish writer, Sir Walter Scott. His novel, 'Rob Roy', first published in 1817, in which the real Rob's life undoubtedly improved in the telling, formed the basis of the relatively recent film, 'Rob Roy', featuring Liam Neeson. A great story and a great film, but where fact ends and fiction begins, is somewhat blurred.

The real Rob Roy first came to notice as a trustworthy cattle-drover in 1690 when he recovered a number of stolen cattle belonging to the Earl of Breadalbane, a prominent figure in the powerful Campbell clan, who lived in Finlarig Castle, now a ruin in the village of Killin at the Western end of Loch Tay. Seemingly, 15 prize cattle had been stolen by a marauding band of members of the Clan MacRae who had managed to steal the cattle away and escape on to the desolate Rannoch Moor before Rob Roy and his men were able to catch up with them, and after a bloody encounter, recover and return the stolen cattle to their lawful owner, winning the favour of the Earl of Breadalbane.

A concise summary of Rob Roy's life was penned by Sir Walter Scott in the introduction to his aforementioned book, and reads as follows:

'At the start of his career, in the latter years of the seventeenth century, Rob Roy appears to have carried on business as an honest cattle-dealer. During this period, he enjoyed the support of the Duke of Montrose, who made loans to him for speculations in cattle, but latterly, Rob fell on evil times, owing to bad markets and finally absconded with, it is said,

£1,000, belonging either to the Duke or other creditors. His estate was attached for the debt and thereafter, Rob lived the life of an outlaw, supporting himself by theft and the thinly disguised blackmail of a cattle 'protector'. Despite his mode of life, he avoided capture in the hill country west of Loch Earn, and died in his bed near Balquhiddy, about 1738.'

Most readers of this article will be aware that Rob Roy, together with his wife and two sons, is buried in Balquhiddy churchyard, where his headstone carries the bold epitaph: 'MacGregor Despite Them.'

It is noteworthy that when Bonnie Prince Charlie's Highland Army set off from Edinburgh to march to London in order to reclaim the throne of his Stuart ancestors in the November of 1745, they followed the line of the old drove road to Carlisle. There is a fascinating eyewitness account by local man, Joseph Tiffin, of what the Highlanders looked like at that time in a letter written on the 11th November 1745 by the Postmaster of Penrith to Lord Irwin, who was Lord Lieutenant for the West Riding of Yorkshire, appraising him of the rebels' movements. It gives a fascinating picture of Bonnie Prince Charlie's army at the time. He writes:

'I left the rebel army yesterday morning and they have about nine field pieces (cannons) and there may be a thousand horse in the division that I saw. They talked very largely as to their numbers and from what I could gather, there was a second division. Their total amount could not exceed 10,000 men. They march with droves of black cattle and sheep, three wagons of biscuit and cheese which they sit down at noon to eat. At night and morning, they get a little oatmeal, which they constantly carry in a leathern bag for subsistence, Everyone has a sword, a target (round shield), a gun and a dirk. The rear always push forward to the front and they march in a very great hurry. They wish much to be in Lancashire and Wales. They march always at daybreak and sooner when they have the benefit of the moon. The main body encamps every night. The Officers go to towns or houses, the baggage guard is relieved every day and consists of about 300 men. By undoubted intelligence, the rebels appeared yesterday afternoon, facing Carlisle between the English and Irish gates.'

It is interesting to note that the Prince's army had cattle-drovers accompanying them, bringing along meat/food on the hoof to sustain the army on their long march to London. We now know that the Prince was persuaded, very much against his will, to turn back upon reaching Derby, and return to Scotland, thus creating one of the great 'What ifs?' of history.

Had he marched on, would he have captured London and regained the throne for the House of Stuart?

Or would he have been trapped and ultimately defeated by the approaching Hanoverian armies?

We will never know...

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD IN THE CLAN TENT AT THE LOCHEARNHEAD GAMES ON 23 JULY 2016

PRESENT

In the Chair Chief Donald MacLaren of MacLaren (DM)

Council

Catherine Crawford (CC), Hugh Crawford (HC), Kay Lothian (KL), Hamish McLaren (HM), Iain MacLaren (IM), James MacLaren (JM), Malcolm MacLaren (MM), Patrick MacLaren (PM), Neil McLaurin (NM), Bridget Stevens (BS) - Minute Taker

Society Members

Over 40 members were also present.

The Chief opened the AGM by welcoming all, especially kinsmen from overseas and notably Linda McLaren, Chair of the CMSA.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE had been received from:

Mairead Anderson, Gordon McLaren, Nick Law, John Laws, Mike Lawson, Iona Mchedliani, Hugh MacLaren, Ian McLaren, Jack McLaren, Steve & Sylvia Quillin, Alan & Sarah Robson, Mark Van Rompaey, Margaret Webster.

MINUTES OF 2015 AGM

These had been circulated with the Newsletter. They were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

DM reported on the recent highly enjoyable visit to the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina, where he and Maida had received great hospitality as guests of the CMSNA. They now looked forward to attending the highland games in Wuppertal, in August, to which they had been invited as guests of the Friends of Clan MacLaren in Germany. In addition to the international dimension of the Society's activities, it was important to remain involved in the life of the local community. To this end, the Society and its Trust funds had again donated £500 to the McLaren High School and had awarded four £500 bursaries to undergraduates at Scottish universities. DM also reminded the meeting that the Lorimer Bible in Balquhiddie Church, donated by the Society, would feature in the following day's morning service at which everyone would be made welcome.

TREASURER'S REPORT

KL circulated and spoke to a paper outlining the Society's financial activity during the year to 31 March 2016. This showed a small deficit of £33.89. Accumulated funds at the year end

totalled £29,154.47. Adoption of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by PM, seconded by David Low and approved by the meeting.

SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

IM had again organised a successful and enjoyable programme of social activities, notably the 2015 post-Games dinner in the Four Seasons Hotel and the Annual Dinner at the Royal Burgess Golf Club in Edinburgh. The social fund contained £664.54.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

CC circulated and spoke to a paper showing a current membership of 710 (including eight new members), covering a wide geographical spread around the world. She read out the names of four members whose deaths had been notified. A silence was observed.

TRADING REPORT

Trading figures were good, thanks largely to sales at the Games. The AGM noted with approval.

ELECTION OF EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

KL recommended the re-appointment of Douglas Kenney as Examiner of Accounts. This was proposed by HM, seconded by JM and approved by the meeting.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

DM reported that the Council had welcomed four new members: George Borthwick, Hugh Crawford, John Laws and Jack McLaren. Under the terms of the constitution, the Council office bearers needed to be appointed each year at the AGM, while non-office bearers served for three years, with a one year interval before being eligible again.

Catherine Crawford and Bridget Stevens were *ex officio* members, as Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor (with effect from autumn 2016) respectively.

The office bearers were as follows: Interim Chairman, Chief Donald McLaren; Vice-Chairman, Patrick McLaren; Secretary, Neil McLaurin; Treasurer, Kay Lothian. Their re-appointment was proposed by Sue McLaren, seconded by Rod McLaren and approved by the meeting.

AR & KM MCLAREN TRUST

HM circulated copies of his report, showing that the Trust was currently valued at £162,000. All the trustees, Hamish McLaren, Malcolm McLaren and Patrick McLaren, plus the Chief *ex officio*, were willing to continue in office and this was approved. As was the re-appointment of the Legal Adviser, Jim Baird from Urquharts, and of stockbrokers, Speirs & Jeffrey.

BALQUHIDDER EDUCATIONAL TRUST

KL spoke to her report which showed a deficit of £420.72 on the Trust's activities up to 31 March 2016. The bank balance at year end was £9,135.87. The Trustees were Rev. William McLaren, Steve Quillin and George Smail, with Kay Lothian and the Chief *ex officio*. Their re-election was proposed by JM, seconded by CC and approved by the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

DM expressed his thanks to his fellow office bearers, to all the Council members (especially CC and KL for their successful merchandise work) and to BS for agreeing to take the Minutes for this one last time. The AGM expressed warm appreciation.

DM then highlighted other major contributions to the work of the Society. Nick Law was stepping down after ten years as an excellent Newsletter Editor. Bridget Stevens would be taking over from him, with technical assistance from Malcolm MacLaren. DM hoped that as many members as possible would agree to receiving their copy of the newsletter electronically. Anyone with interesting news or photographs, for possible publication in the next newsletter, was encouraged to contact Bridget.

The Society was grateful to Neil McLaurin for his work as Secretary which this year had included organising the special tour around clan sites, the day prior to the Games. This had been greatly enjoyed by the 41 participants. A financial contribution from the Scottish Government's Clan Events Fund, negotiated by Neil, had been invaluable.

Thanks were expressed to Mike Lawson who had initiated and continued to supervise and donate prize money for the annual Stones of Strength competition at the Games, and also to Cameron Hendry for transporting the stones to Lochearnhead. Cameron was congratulated on being a finalist in the national competition for Young Farmer of the Year.

For the evening of the Games, around 60 members and friends were looking forward to the supper and ceilidh organised by Kay Lothian, Catherine Crawford and Iona Mchedliani in the Balquhider village hall.

DM's final and very warm tribute was to Iain & Fiona MacLaren, for their extensive contributions to the work of the Society, including years of generous hospitality in their Minto Street home and at the Clan tent. Iain was stepping down after a successful tenure as Social Secretary, to be succeeded by Malcolm MacLaren.

The AGM concluded with a presentation to Fiona on behalf of the Society.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Clan MacLaren Society remains in good heart, with 675 Life and 52 Annual members. We send our condolences to the families of those members who have died over the past year. Unfortunately we are not always informed when members move house and so our records cannot be totally accurate, likewise with email addresses.

Postal charges have risen greatly and to keep postal expenses down we would urge members to contact the Membership Secretary of CMS, Catherine Crawford at

cmcrawford100@gmail.com so that email addresses are as accurate as possible. Unless otherwise informed, the newsletter will be sent out via email which allows it to be in colour.

NEW MEMBERS AND DEATHS

New Life Members:

Mr Michael Henry Bigbee, 2135 Meadowcreek Dr, Plano, TX 75074 USA
Ms Marina MacLaren, Kirkton Farm, Balquhidder, Lochearnhead, Perthshire FK19 8PA
Ms Iona Mchedliani, Kirkton Farm, Balquhidder, Lochearnhead, Perthshire FK19 8PA
Mr David Alexander Williamson, 53 March Road, Edinburgh EH4 3SU
Mr William M Bryk, 444 Clinton Road, Antrim, NH 03440-3510, USA
Mrs Janet MacLaren, 1 Inverleith Place, Edinburgh EH3 5QE
Mr Fred McClaren, 3704 Wakefield Drive, Columbia, MO 6523-4463
Miss Holly Alice Howarth, 12 Montague Road, Aylesbury HP21 8JT
Mr Chris and Mrs Jane Howarth, 12 Montague Road, Aylesbury HP21 8JT
Mr Burleigh Bernard Wood Jr, 3404 Attaway Circle, Corinth, TX 76208 USA

New Annual Members:

Mr Jason Rosenberg, 113 Knickerbocker Rd W, Plainview, NY 11803, USA
Ms Mary Cathryn Voltaggio, 5013 Dull Knife Road, Austin, TX 78759
Mrs Mary E Webb, 13 Bryn Glas, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend Mid Glamorgan, S Wales, CF3 0AA
Mr Ian R McLaren, 9 Morris Way, West Chiltington, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2RX
Mrs Donna Lynne McLaren Richardson, 48 Wedgewood St, Squantum, MA 02171-1068 USA
Mr Bruce Dobson Law, P O Box 69, Port Williams, Nova Scotia, B0P 1T0, Canada
Mr Brian Caswell, 45 Giantswood Lane, Congleton, Cheshire CW12 2HQ
Mr Larry McLerran, 2908 Lakeview Dr, Bullhead City, AZ 86429, USA

Deaths:

Dr Robert John Henderson McLaren, 97 Cardigan Road, Bridlington YO15 3JU, UK
Mr Ian Donald MacLaren, 23 Welwyndale Road, Sutton Coldfield, B72 1AW, UK
Mrs Bessie Lair McFadden Wetmore, Unit 164, 13320 Highway 99, Everett, WA 98204-5479 USA
Mr Richard Kehder, 1404 Ryan Court, West Frankfort, IL 62896 USA
Mr Robert H McLaren, Carlingnose Point, North Queensferry, Fife
Dr Freda Houston Lowry, 3322 Old Hwy. 68, Madisonville, TN 37354
Mr John McLaren, 23 Dunmail Manor, Dunmail Ave, Culter, Aberdeen AB15 9LW

CREAG AN TUIRC

Neil McLaurin

Neil's reference book is an essential guide to anyone interested in their MacLaren/MacLaurin family history.

It is available from the publishers Melrose Press in Ely, Cambridge. Telephone +44 (0) 1353 646608 or contact by e-mail: marketing@melrosebooks.com

Price £25 plus postage.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 2017

LOCHEARNHEAD GAMES WEEKEND 21-23 July

Golf competition: Friday 21st July. Tee off 11am at St. Fillans Golf Course.

Beginners are especially welcome. Spare equipment is available and also may be hired at the Clubhouse. The cost is £20 for 18 holes or £12 for 9 holes plus a small entrance fee towards the trophies. There are golf trophies to be played for and prizes to be won. If you wish to take part please contact Sue McLaren:

Email: handsmclaren@btinternet.com

Telephone: 01505 502944.

The Games: Saturday 22nd July

In the morning, members gather informally at the Clan Tent on the Games Field from about 11.30am onwards.

Articles of MacLaren ware are for sale as well as books and cards. Please make sure you sign the Visitors' Book.

12.45pm:

Members assemble in Lochearnhead Village for the March to the Field. Following the march there will be a bring and share lunch in the CMS tent for members and the Games will get underway. Most competitions are open to all. Competitors register at the Secretary's Tent.

AGM of CMS will be held in the tent after the March to the Field. Details are shown on the Agenda which is enclosed with this Newsletter. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME.

3.30pm:

Tug O' War competition.

4pm:

Lifting of the Stones of Strength competition (with monetary prizes). Both at Games field.

Games Dinner, The Four Seasons Hotel, St Filans: Saturday 22nd July 7pm for 7.30pm

Please see separate page for booking form.

Church service, Balquhiddar Sunday 23rd July at 12 noon, followed by picnic lunch at Creag an Tuirc (please bring your own).

ANNUAL DINNER

The annual dinner will be held on Friday 17th November at The Clubhouse, Royal Burgess Golfing Society, Edinburgh.

Please see separate page for booking form and please see the Society website nearer the time for further details of our guest speaker.

Take a look at www.clanmaclarensociety.com and send any news to The Secretary.

MCLAREN HIGH SCHOOL EVENT

A function is being planned at the McLaren High School before the Tattoo event in August. Please see the website nearer the time for more details.

DIRECTORY

CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY

THE CHIEF: Donald MacLaren of MacLaren

Kirkton Farm, Balquhidder, Lochearnhead, Perthshire FK19 8PA

Tel: 01877 384675. Email: themaclaren@hotmail.com

CHIEFTAINS: Iain F MacLaren, 3 Minto Street, Edinburgh EH9 1RG

Tel: 0131 667 3487. Email: fionamaclaren@fionamaclaren.entadsl.com

James W H MacLaren, Dunavon, Collace Avenue, Bridge of Weir, PA11 3DG

Tel: 07946 999 302. Email: tcs.jmaclaren@googlemail.com

CHAIRMAN: Donald MacLaren of MacLaren.

VICE CHAIRMAN: Dr. Patrick MacLaren, 74 Whittingehame Drive, Glasgow G12 0YJ

Phone: 0141 341 0370 email: piesupper@yahoo.com

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

2015-2018 Iona Mchedliani

2016-2019 George Borthwick, Hugh Crawford, John Laws, Jack McLaren

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

George R Smail, 66 Craiglockart Terrace, Edinburgh EH14 1XH

Hugh M MacLaren, 6 Riding Park, Edinburgh EH4 6ED

Tel: 0131 336 2407. Email: hughm.maclaren@blueyonder.co.uk

OFFICE BEARERS (co-opted if not already Council members):

Honorary Secretary: **Neil McLaurin**, Victoria House, Letcombe Regis, Wantage, Oxon

OX12 9JQ Tel: 01235 769624. Email: azurite@tiscali.co.uk

Honorary Treasurer: **Kay Lothian**, 12 Beechmount Park, Edinburgh, EH12 5YT

Tel: 0131 313 0582. Email: kaylothian@btinternet.com

Position vacant from end April 2017.

Membership Secretary: **Catherine M Crawford**, 67 Ferry Gait Drive, Edinburgh EH4 4GJ

Tel: 07951 084220. Email: cmcrawford100@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: **Bridget Stevens**, 10 Ettrick Road, Edinburgh EH10 5BJ

Tel: 0131 229 2658. Email: bridgetstevens@freeuk.com

Social Secretary: **Malcolm MacLaren**, 1 Inverleith Place, Edinburgh EH3 5QE

Tel: 07970 982 469. Email: malcolm.maclaren@gmail.com

Minutes Secretary: **Iona Mchedliani**, The Byre, Kirkton, Balquhidder, Perthshire, FK19 8PA

Tel: 07593 327 628. Email: ionamaclaren@hotmail.com

Website: www.clanmaclarensociety.com

CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Chairman | Linda N McLaren Email: linda_mclaren_@hotmail.com |
| Deputy Chairman | William (Bill) Law , 26 Broughton Street, Rutherford, NSW 2320 Tel: (02) 4932 6491. Email: william.law2@bigpond.com |
| Treasurer | Cameron McWhinney Email: cameronmcwhinney@yahoo.com.au |
| Secretary/Editor | Bruce D McLaren , 68 Hume Road, Cronulla, NSW 2230 Email: bruce_d_mclaren@hotmail.com. |

CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| President | Charles (Chuck) Lawson , 1211 Wilson Ave., Tullahoma, TN 37388. Email: cglawson@lighttube.net |
| Vice President | Cathy Botkin Galloway , 5 Petersen Road, Brookline, NH 03033. Email: catmermaid@aol.com |
| Treasurer | Mark A McLaren , 611 Indian Home Road, Danville, CA 94526. Tel: (925) 838 8175. Email: boarsrock@earthlink.net |
| Membership | Steven Lowry , 115 Smoky View Lane, Madisonville, TN 37354. Tel: (423) 442 6571. Email: cmsna2015@salsoft.com |
| Editor | Ruth McFadden , 12325 40 th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125-5730. Tel: (206) 364 6025. Email: rmcfadde@mindspring.com |
| Liaison Officer | Steve Quillin , 474 Continental Dr., Durham, NC 27712. Email : roryoge@aol.com |

Website: www.clanmaclarennna.org

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY BASED IN SCOTLAND

Subscriptions

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Life Membership | £120.00 (US\$160) |
| Double Life Membership | £170.00 (US\$225) |
| Annual Membership | |
| Joining Fee (one off) | £20.00 (US\$25) |
| Annual Membership | £12.00 (US\$15) |

Annual Subscriptions fall due on 1st January each year and are payable to the CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT.

Payments to the UK should be made in Sterling. Annual members are reminded that after seven annual payments Life Membership is offered at the reduced sum of £60 (US\$80) or in other currencies at the current exchange rate.

All questions concerning membership should be addressed to:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| In North America | Steven Lowry, 115 Smoky View Lane, Madisonville, TN37354 Email: cmsna2015@salsoft.com |
| In Australia | Bruce D McLaren, 68 Hume Road, Cronulla, NSW 2230 Email: bruce_d_mclaren@hotmail.com |
| In UK/ all other countries | Catherine Crawford, 67 Ferry Gait Drive, Edinburgh, EH4 4GJ Email: c.crawford@btinternet.com |

**Clan MacLaren Society
Games Dinner**

Saturday 22nd July 2017 at 7.00 for 7.30pm

**To be held in the The Four Seasons Hotel
Lochside, St Fillans, PH6 2NF**

Join other members and guests of the Clan MacLaren Society for dinner after the Lochearnhead Highland Games. Information about the games can be found here:

<http://lochearnheadhighlandgames.co.uk>

DIRECTIONS

The Four Seasons Hotel St Filans is situated at the eastern end of Loch Earn, on the A85. Directions to the hotel can be found on their website:

<http://www.thefourseasonshotel.co.uk/location/>

MENU

- Goat's Cheese Mousse
- Confit Leg of Gressingham Duck
- Apple & Hazelnut Crumble
- Fresh Columbian Filter Coffee

The cost of the games dinner is £38.00 per person for three courses and coffee and also includes a welcome glass of wine or a soft drink.

Dress: Informal

APPLICATION FORM

To: Mr Malcolm MacLaren, 1 Inverleith Place, Edinburgh, EH3 5QE
Tel: 0131 551 1863/ 07970982469 Email: malcolm.maclaren@gmail.com

I/ we wish to reserve places at the games dinner at a cost of £38 per person.

Total enclosed: £.....(cheque). Please make payments out to The Clan MacLaren Society.

NAME (CAPS PLEASE):.....

ADDRESS (CAPS PLEASE):.....

.....

NAME/S OF GUEST/S (CAPS PLEASE)

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

Please indicate if a vegetarian meal is required or if you have other dietary requirements. Applications must be received no later than 8th July. If you wish an acknowledgement please enclose an S.A.E.

**Clan MacLaren Society
Annual Dinner**

Friday 17th November 2017 at 7.00 for 7.30pm

**To be held in the Royal Burgess Golfing Society's Clubhouse
181 Whitehouse Road, Edinburgh, EH4 6BU**

The Royal Burgess Golfing Society, founded in 1735, is one of Scotland's most famous golf clubs and it was granted its royal distinction by H.M. King George V in 1929. H.R.H. The Duke of York is currently an Honorary Member.

This will be the eleventh consecutive annual dinner of our Clan Society to be held at the Royal Burgess Clubhouse.

DIRECTIONS

The Clubhouse is situated on Whitehouse Road about 150 yards from Barnton Junction, towards Cramond, and it has ample car parking spaces.

The No 41 bus from Princes Street and Frederick Street has a stop on Whitehouse Road opposite the Clubhouse.

GUEST SPEAKER

To Be Confirmed

Check the website nearer the time for more information:

www.clanmaclarensociety.com

The cost of the annual dinner is £35.00 per person for three courses including a welcome glass of wine or soft drink served in the upstairs lounge of the Clubhouse and two glasses of wine served at the table, followed by coffee and mints. Additional drinks are obtainable from the cash bar.

Dress: Kilt, trews, lounge suit, blazer, black tie optional. Jackets and ties must be worn.

APPLICATION FORM

To: Mr Malcolm MacLaren, 1 Inverleith Place, Edinburgh, EH3 5QE
Tel: 0131 551 1863/ 07970982469 Email: malcolm.maclaren@gmail.com

I/ we wish to reserve places at the annual dinner at a cost of £35 per person.

Total enclosed: £.....(cheque). Please make payments out to The Clan MacLaren Society.

NAME (CAPS PLEASE):.....

ADDRESS (CAPS PLEASE):.....

NAME/S OF GUEST/S (CAPS PLEASE)

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....

Please indicate if a vegetarian meal is required or if you have other dietary requirements. Applications must be received no later than 3rd November. If you wish an acknowledgement please enclose an S.A.E.

