



# **CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY**

## **ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2018**



**Ventura, California Highland Games, October 2017. The Chieftain of the Games.**

## LETTER FROM THE CHIEF AND CHAIRMAN

### *Kinsmen*

As we gathered on a coolish August evening at the top of the Royal Mile waiting to march into the castle, and making light work of a dram or two, we saw the Camerons stream past us. I wondered whether we would find ourselves outnumbered. Not a bit of it. Once assembled in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle, and now joined by the Clanranald MacDonalds, the three clans were formed into two columns by the Garrison Sergeant-Major. He lost no time in seeing who were the more numerous: “You, MacLarens, form your own column here. The rest, fall in over there.” And that was how we marched, with great swagger, on to the Esplanade to open the final night of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

I was pleased that we were in the company of such good Jacobite friends. It was not accidental. As the Tattoo programme was being drawn up, I had already rejected various inappropriate “suitors”. I was especially proud to lead out such a fine body of our clansfolk – and in a greater number, I believe, than at any time since 1746.

I am grateful to all of you who made the effort to turn out for this special occasion, many travelling great distances – from different parts of Britain; from Belgium, Germany and Switzerland; from Canada, Australia and the United States.

As part of that week’s gathering, we also held an event at the McLaren High School in Callander, in the context of the school’s 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding by Donald McLaren, banker and philanthropist (two words rarely used in conjunction these days). Duncan MacGillivray and Ian Laing, counted as among Scotland’s best pipers and fiddlers respectively, played for us and described the history of their art and their instruments. We are grateful to them for their superb performances; to Moyra McLaren, the school’s Resources Officer, who helped us organise the day; and to the Scottish Government’s Clan Event Fund who gave financial support to our gathering.

It was great fun but also thirsty work. After light refreshments kindly provided by the school, we all returned to the Kirkton in Balquhiddy where Maida and I were pleased to offer less light refreshments.

The Clan McLaren Society’s connection with the High School has grown strongly over the years and we have been glad to make an annual contribution towards the cost of the pupils’ homework diaries. Last year, the School’s flagship project was STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). I am very pleased to say that we agreed to make a special contribution of £1000. On behalf of the Clan’s Balquhiddy Educational Trust, I made a presentation in November to the Head Teacher, Marc Fleming, and his colleagues in the Science Department, who introduced me to some of the pupils and gave me a tour of the science area. (Very impressive but it brought back awful memories.)

In the autumn, Maida and I were invited as guests of the Clan McLaren Society of North America to the Ventura Highland Games on the Central California coast. These Games have been run successfully for many years by our kinsmen, John and Nellie Lowry, and are held in a great spirit. The occasion was particularly important because the AGM of the CMSNA

elected Mark McLaren, former Treasurer, as new President to succeed Chuck Lawson. Our congratulations to Chuck on his distinguished Presidency over two very active terms; and to Mark as his worthy successor, together with our best wishes for his future tenure.

The CMSNA and its individual members continue to be committed and valued supporters of our kirk in Balquhider. This year their contribution amounted to nearly £1800; and to this has been added a personal donation of £250 from one of our Council members, George Borthwick. George, I would add, has also generously donated a similar amount to the Music Department of the McLaren High School.

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Despite the highlights, this last year has been overshadowed by loss. Bruce McLaren, Secretary of the Clan MacLaren Society of Australia and Editor of their Newsletter, *Clan Labhran*, died last summer. He made a great contribution to the Clan through his work in the Australian Society from its earliest years and through his historical articles and research, especially on the Jacobite movement and the involvement of Clan MacLaren. Bruce maintained close links with kin in this country and was much respected. Maida and I have happy memories of our visit to Australia in 2010 and the generous hospitality we received from Bruce and his family. His work and role are continued by his daughters, Linda (Chairman of the Society) and Angela (Editor).

We also remember Geraldine Lawson, wife of Mike Lawson – himself a valued contributor to our Newsletters and our activities at the Lochearnhead Games.

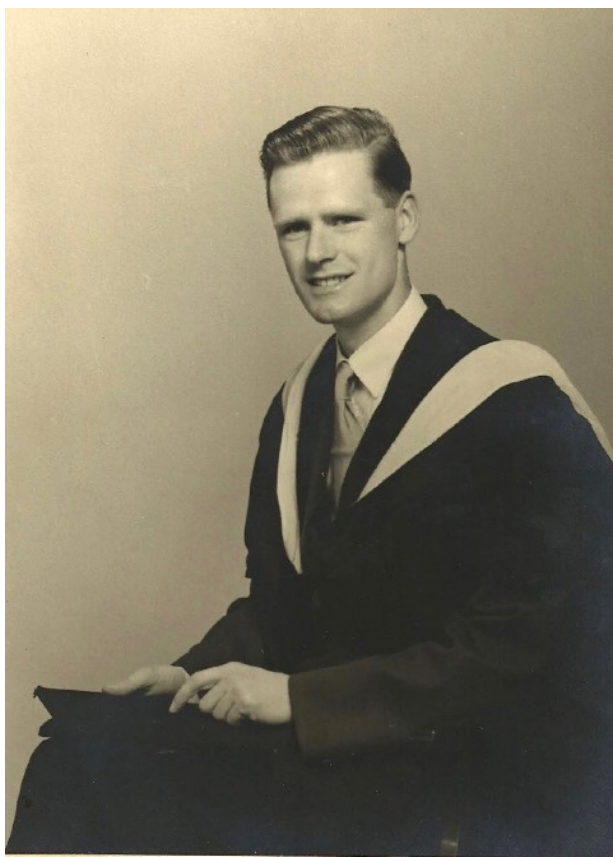
Finally, we have been rocked by the recent death of Hugh MacLaren. We send our condolences to Renate and to the family. A leading figure in the Society for over 30 years, Hugh was held in great respect and affection by his kinsmen from all over the world. On another page in this Newsletter are the tributes that bear testimony to this.

Saddened though we are, we will pick ourselves up and, as Mike Lawson says: ‘keep strong’. Bruce, Geraldine and Hugh would expect no less.

***Donald MacLaren of MacLaren and Achleskine***

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## TRIBUTES TO HUGH MCCALLUM MACLAREN (1930–2018)



Hugh died of a heart attack on 1 March. His funeral was held in Edinburgh on 9 March. The Chief spoke afterwards:

“I am honoured to be asked to speak by Renate and the family, in the name of the Clan.

Hugh was descended from a distinguished branch of the Clan, the MacLarens of East Haugh. Proud of his ancestry, he gave much of his considerable energies and talents to the work of the Clan Society. He was elected to the Council in 1987. Thereafter, he served outstandingly as Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor and in 2007 was made an Honorary Life Member of the Council. But behind these offices was the man and, notably, the gentleman. In many ways, he was the face of the Society: welcoming new members, keeping in personal touch and expanding our Clan network. As grandson, Callum, put it: “There never was a more caring member of the MacLaren Clan”. These human attributes were a natural feature of our forebears when they were living in the same glen. Hugh made them central to our far-flung Clan today.

His recent major undertaking was to write a history of the Society over its first 50 years. This is an important and valuable record; but when it came to a discussion of its title, Hugh was typically modest and said it was just a “story”. I said “no, it should be called a History for that is what it is”. He then said that it should simply be produced as a small booklet or pamphlet. Again, I said “no” and, already with the backing of the Council, “it will be properly bound”. And so it will be when published this year. It will stand as just one of Hugh’s legacies.

In our memory and respect, Hugh will continue among us, his kindred. For your achievements, Hugh, for what you have given your clansmen and for the example you set, thank you.”

The Chief then read out the following tributes.

From Steve Quillin, on behalf of the Clan MacLaren Society of North America:

“Hugh MacLaren was truly an incredible workhorse for the CMS; but he was also the first person many of us encountered when we made contact with the Society. We found Hugh immediately warm, friendly and efficient and he made us all feel at home: that we were part of the same Clan, simply separated by location. In his world, we were all family. He gave full voice to the MacLaren motto *Ab Origine Fidus*. He was Faithful from the Beginning.

Hugh also held a deep affection for the CMSNA. He was quick to help us find projects on which we could cooperate with the CMS, including work at the McLaren High School, the Trusts and Culloden membership rolls, and even asking us for information for the Clan MacLaren Society History.

Hugh was a real gentleman. He took a man at his word; and measured a man’s worth as he saw it. We will miss Hugh terribly. I will miss him terribly. The golf, the stories, the hard work. I truly appreciate all the help he gave me in particular. He put a great face on this thing we call the Clan MacLaren and the Societies in which we channel our support. What more appropriate time than now to say: *Creag an Tuirc*.”

From Linda McLaren, Chairman of the Clan MacLaren Society of Australia:

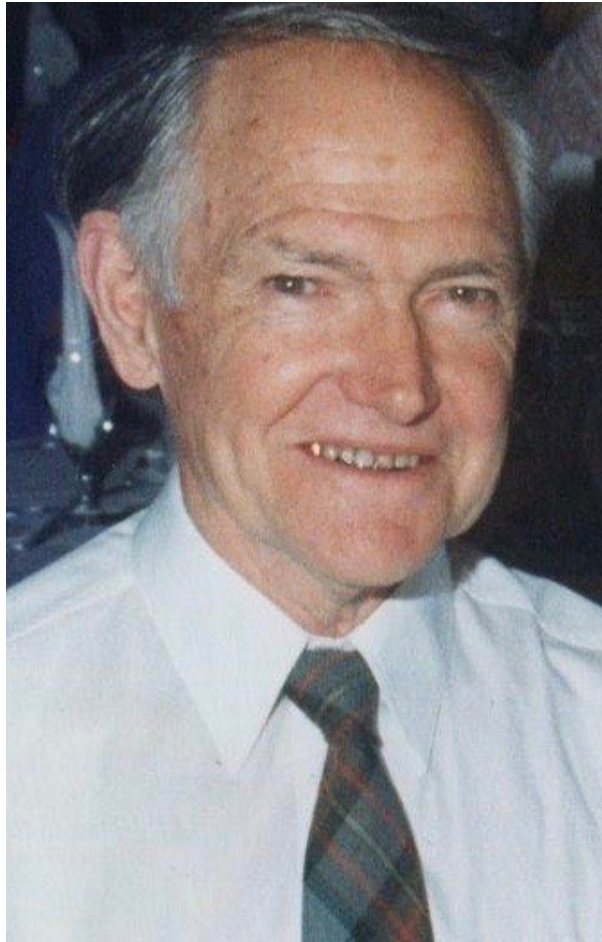
“On behalf of the Executive and members of the CMSA, I express our heartfelt sympathy at the very sad loss of our kinsman, Hugh. A warm person with a welcoming smile is my memory of our first meeting at Edinburgh airport in 1993 when he very kindly came to collect me and drive me to the Lochearnhead Games. Even CMSA members who had not met Hugh personally have benefitted from his long service and significant contribution to the Clan Societies. His legacy lives on.

He was in frequent communication with our then Secretary, my late father Bruce McLaren. I know he respected Hugh for being reliable and hard-working for the Societies. But he also considered him a good friend.

My last trip to Scotland in 2016 was necessarily brief; but when asked what else I was doing after the Lochearnhead Games, I remember replying “I am going to Edinburgh to visit Hugh and Renate: my family and I are very fond of them”. I will treasure the memories of that visit and of Hugh and Renate as a loving couple, well and happy.

Rest in Peace, Hugh. You will be long remembered.”

**Bruce David McLaren**  
**21 May 1925 – 23 August 2017**



Bruce was aware of his Scottish ancestry from birth as he grew up in Glen Alvie, Victoria, the local postmistress having named the district after her hometown of Alvie in Scotland. Many other local place names and neighbouring families were of Scottish lineage. The first McLaren property in Glen Alvie had been and still is, named Balquhiddy and all were aware of the origin of the name.

Bruce had been researching his family history for some years and the first family holiday to UK in August/September 1969 also afforded an opportunity to meet the then 15 year old Chief, Donald MacLaren of MacLaren and his mother Margaret, the widow of our first modern day chief, Donald. This meeting began a life-long association and friendship with the Chief and Clan Society by Bruce and family. Bruce was a Life Member of the Clan MacLaren Society (Scotland).

Bruce gave active support to the beginnings of a Society Branch in Australia in 1978, which came to fruition in 1984 with the inaugural General Meeting and Bruce attending as a Life Member. Bruce was a regular contributor to the CMSA newsletter which had started in 1984. He took over editorship in 1991. His talent for writing had been noted by his Glen Alvie

school master and his well-researched articles for the CMSA newsletter were very popular and became the mainstay of the organisation for some years. His carefully researched topics for the newsletters include: McLaren F1 racing; notable MacLarens; notable Scots in Australia; places of Scottish and McLaren association in Australia; Scottish Heritage and history events in Australia. However, his most popular topic was a series of articles on the Battle of Culloden and the lead up and aftermath. He took on the role of Secretary CMSA formally in 1994.

Bruce was the CMS contact in Australia for membership and for several years was the recipient of the master copy of the annual CMS newsletter which he had copied and posted from Sydney to Australian and New Zealand members so as to keep down CMS costs. Bruce and his wife, Heather, (who was Deputy Chairman CMSA from 1991 until her death in 2002) made several trips to Scotland, the last in 1999. They thoroughly enjoyed meeting up with Bruce's distant cousins from Scotland and the USA and renewing firm kinship bonds. Bruce's limited mobility in recent years prevented him from participating in many Scottish celebratory activities himself but his contribution as Clan liaison, encouraging new memberships and keeping the members informed as well as financial contributions, was invaluable. He was mentally alert until the end and was dictating and clarifying issues and salient points relating to his 6 filing cabinets full of research material, to be completed after his passing.

Bruce was a 'quiet achiever' for the Clan, in many ways. An introspective, spiritual person and a committed Christian.

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### ***Report from The Stirling Observer:***

#### **Clan MacLaren Donation to McLaren High School**

On Wednesday 15 November, representatives of the McLaren High School STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) group welcomed Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, the Chief of the Clan MacLaren, to the School. The school's original benefactor and founder 125 years ago was Donald McLaren, a Callander banker. In recent times the School has forged close links with the Clan MacLaren Society and has also hosted visits by its overseas societies in North America, Australia and Germany.

The Chief was visiting the school to present a cheque for £1000 from the Scottish Society to support the STEM project.

"The Clan MacLaren are proud of our historical association with such an outstanding school as the McLaren High School" he told staff and pupils. "The STEM project is a strong example of how you are leading the way in providing opportunity for the next generation. And I am delighted to present our own contribution from the Clan MacLaren Society towards such an important and inspiring project."



The STEM project aims to:

- provide 50 pupils with the opportunity to develop a STEM project working with industry representatives
- host a STEM festival in 2018 showcasing these projects
- provide 40 pupils with the opportunity to visit the San Francisco area in 2019

The donation from the Clan MacLaren will be used to purchase equipment and to showcase projects at the STEM Festival in 2018.

## FROM THE EDITOR

**Bridget Stevens**

Welcome to the 2018 edition of the Clan MacLaren Society Members' Newsletter! Thank you to everyone who wrote saying they enjoyed last year's Newsletter – a lovely compliment which I am happy to share with my CMS Council colleague, Malcolm MacLaren, who takes care of the technical/ production side. Malcolm and I will continue to work together on the Annual Newsletter and our aim will be to have it ready for distribution in the springtime each year.

Members will appreciate that they will receive their Newsletter much more quickly if we can send it to them by email. This also saves the Society a significant amount of money so, if you have not yet given us a note of your email address, or if the details have changed, do please be in touch. If, however, having a paper copy posted out to you is what you prefer, then that is of course perfectly fine. Please let us know.

In May 2018 a new General Data Protection Regulation came into force. Please rest assured that the information retained on file about members is only that which is pertinent to the business of the Clan MacLaren Society. Members' information is never shared with third parties.

We would love to hear from you if you have a suggested item for the next Newsletter! With digital photos if possible please.

## NEWS FROM KINSMEN

Chieftain **James MacLaren** and **Edna Brizolla** were married on 16 December 2017 at St Mary's Episcopal Church in Bridge of Weir.



Dr Brian and Mrs Christiana Caswell are pleased to announce the wedding of their daughter, **Dr Fiona Caswell to Mr Iain Currie** at Crathie Kirk on 16th September 2017 followed by a reception and ceilidh at Mar Lodge near Braemar. Fiona's great, great, great grandmother was a Christina Maclaren and Iain is a member of Clan Macdonald of Clanranald. Iain is a Software Engineer in the Oil Industry in Aberdeen and Fiona is a Consultant Radiologist also in Aberdeen.



Another happy occasion in 2017 marked the Diamond Wedding of **Willie McLaren** of Netherton Farm in Blackford and his wife **Cathie**. The McLaren family have been breeding Aberdeen Angus cattle for many years and have had countless successes in both the show and sale rings. A celebration lunch was held in the Winnock Hotel, Drymen which had been the location for Willie and Cathie's original wedding feast in 1957 and also for their subsequent Silver and Golden Wedding anniversaries.

Willie McLaren has been a regular Angus Breed champion and also served as President of the World Angus Forum. His branch of the McLaren clan also contributes the Forum's Youth Development Programme, the latest finals of which took place at Willie's Netherton Farm and involved 10 groups each consisting of four young people who had to demonstrate their skills at preparing animals for showing and their knowledge of the Angus breed worldwide. This was followed by dinner (no prizes for guessing main menu item!) for 500, plus entertainment, also sponsored by Willie. Every year he produces a new version of a song in praise of the breed, sung to the tune of *A Gordon For Me*. Even Willie would admit that these

songs, clever as they are, are probably not destined for the top 20 but we congratulate him on his professional and other successes.



**John Laws**, a member of the CMS Council and Registrar of the Laws Family Register, draws readers' attention to his blogspot, Putting Flesh on the Bones of History, at <https://lawsandlawes.blogspot.co.uk/> John, who is registered with The Guild of One-Name Studies, tells us that he updates his blog on a daily basis.

And **Peggi Rodgers**, a life member of the Scottish branch of the Clan MacLaren Society as well as an annual member of the North American branch, writes from Sonoma County in California (to where she moved from Wales seven years ago):

“I maintain the Perthshire and Argyll pages for the GENUKI organisation and would love to be able to enlist the aid of other members in the Perthshire area who might have some local genealogical resources that I don't have on my pages. Do please have a look at the three sites which I manage:



Perthshire - <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/PER>  
Argyllshire - <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/ARL>  
Inverness-shire - <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/INV>

and contact me via the link at the top of each of those pages which reads: "Open a form to report problems or contribute information" - the message will come directly to me. GENUKI is a non-profit organisation based in the UK which offers resources to people researching their genealogy. We don't provide any research services nor do we list individual family records. We collect links to resources where people can, hopefully, find more information about their family histories."



Reflecting their many years of Scottish Country Dancing in Berlin, Germany, **Angelika and Christopher McLarren** were asked by the British Ambassador to Germany, Sir Sebastian Wood, to lead the dancing at the Embassy's Burns Supper at The Residency.

After having done the same with several military attaches previously, the McLarrens led the Ambassador's guests through Reels and Jigs and the Gay Gordons to the music of a live band.

CMS Council Member **Catherine Crawford** continues to have a busy musical life in addition to being our Membership Secretary. One of the music groups of which Catherine is a playing member is The Edinburgh Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra, who have recently played at St Conan's Church on Lochaweside and then to a full house in Iona Abbey. The photo is of Catherine with another CMS member, Andrew Burnside.





CMS Council Minutes Secretary, **Mrs Iona Mchedliani** (nee MacLaren), was born in 1987. The daughter of the Chief, Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, she spent her childhood both abroad as well as in the family home in Balquhiddy, Scotland. While on her gap year in Georgia in 2006 she met and married her husband, Mr Ilia Mchedliani, and they went on to have two children, a girl and a boy. After living in Georgia for several years the family moved back to Balquhiddy for Iona to pursue an academic degree. Last June she graduated from the University of Stirling with a First Class Honours degree in journalism and Spanish. She is currently doing a Master's postgraduate degree at the same university, while also carrying out her role as Minutes Secretary for the Clan Council.

**Marilyn (MacInnis) Huber** writes to us from Nova Scotia, Canada:

“Congratulations on the success of your Society and the reach of your website. Perhaps it can help me.

In January of 1977 my husband and I met a Neil Law at the Officers Mess in Greenwood, Nova Scotia. He was a British/Scottish naval officer attending the staff College in Toronto (for international military study) at the time (1976-1977) and Lorne and I were hosting the British officer contingent that evening. Neil was an excellent representative for the U.K. and subsequently as we visited Scotland on several occasions we hoped to be able to connect with

him and his family. We were unsuccessful at reaching him although we learned that he did visit Nova Scotia in 1989 and that he attempted to contact us on that occasion.

After so many years we still would like to contact Neil if possible, prior to what is likely the last trip to Scotland. I am a MacInnis, and my father was very active here in Nova Scotia as an officer of our Scottish Society. We have established the village of Iona in memory of our own Scottish family and I think I will always cherish my heritage. I personally have spent much time in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Inverness and environs, and Ayr.

I appreciate that your primary obligations are not related to searching for people but if there is any way, perhaps through the virtues of the internet, that you could contact Neil we would be very pleased indeed. Perhaps you can publish this letter. I appreciate that privacy considerations are paramount so will simply ask that you publish this letter and include the email address I am sending. With any luck we will get a response.

Best regards and wishes”, Dr. Marilyn (MacInnis) Huber [mhuber@bellaliant.net](mailto:mhuber@bellaliant.net)



CMS members who have in recent years attended our annual Lochearnhead Games Dinner in the Four Seasons Hotel, St Fillans, cannot fail to have noticed the very striking statue, ‘**Still**’ (known to locals as Mirror Man because it is made from hundreds of mirrored tiles) which used to rear up from the waters of Loch Earn just opposite the hotel. The statue drowned in the loch following a huge storm in 2015 but was recovered and repaired until being removed when the Four Seasons changed hands in 2017. The sculptor Rob Mulholland hopes for local approval so that the statue can be re-installed at a new location before too long. [rob.mulholland@btinternet.com](mailto:rob.mulholland@btinternet.com)

The Centenary Commemorations of **Dr Elsie Inglis and of the Scottish Women's Hospitals Movement** took place in Edinburgh on 29 November 2017, in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal. A commemorative booklet produced by [www.WWW100Scotland.com](http://www.WWW100Scotland.com) introduces us to Jessie MacLaren MacGregor who had studied medicine with Elsie Inglis in Edinburgh and Glasgow. A student of Sophia Jex-Blake at the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women, Jessie was one of the first women to undertake a medical degree at the University of Edinburgh, after the barriers to women qualifying as doctors were removed by the University. She was an exceptionally bright student, passing all her professional examinations in the shortest time possible, and being awarded the coveted Arthur Scholarship. Three years later, she took her MD (Doctor of Medicine), winning a gold medal for her thesis on the comparative anatomy of the auditory nerve.

In 1894 Jessie set up a medical practice with Elsie Inglis at 8 Walker Street, Edinburgh. After gaining her M.D. in 1899 she was appointed as Junior Physician to the Edinburgh Hospital for Women and Children, and was also a Registrar and Assistant to the Extra Physicians at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh. In 1901, along with Elsie Inglis, she was involved in setting up The Hospice on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, a maternity hospital specifically for the care of working class women. She was also elected as a member of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society in 1901, and was an active member, presenting samples and reading papers at meetings.

As reported above, your Society maintains close links with the McLaren High School in Callander. **Sheena Guz**, who was a pupil at the school in the 1960s, reminisces about her schooldays: "I have vivid memories performing in school musicals at McLaren High. Everyone in the senior school seemed to be involved, either performing, or helping out backstage. The head of the Music department, Mr Milligan, known affectionately as 'Spike' was the driving force, inspiring everyone with his enthusiasm and energy.

*Pirates of Penzance* was a great success followed by *The Mikado* the following year. Valerie, our soprano, had an outstanding voice but we also had Janet, a great alto. For one show she dressed as the older character, Katisha, and I remember the puff of grey powder from her hair as she swirled round in pretended rage on stage.

We were lucky to have a proper stage. The gym changing rooms nearby were stacked with costumes. I remember sewing many hooks and eyes onto belts worn by the girl chorus. The Home Economics department had a small 'apartment' with kitchen and washing machine, comfy chairs and coffee table where we would go on our free periods making tiny blanket stitches around the fastenings on the costumes.

The hall in front of the stage was where the whole school gathered in 1969. Television sets on stands were wheeled in so that we could watch flickering grey and white images of man's first walk on the moon. We kids were so excited!"

Readers of our 2017 CMS Newsletter will recall the reference to **Charles MacLaren** who in 1817 was founding Co-editor of The Scotsman newspaper. Well, he's back in the news. A recent article in The Scotsman by Allan McLean states that, contrary to what many people believe, MacLaren was actually the discoverer of Homeric Troy rather than Heinrich Schliemann as many people believe. MacLaren was also a scientist of note, with a particular interest in predicting the future of railways both in the UK and around the world. The full article can be found at <https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/allan-mclean-the-scot-who-found-troy-and-predicted-railways-1-4639915>

We should feel very proud that the name of our Clan is rarely out of the news.

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## OLIM CIVES

**Mark McLaren** of London, England has notified us that, just one year after the death of his father Dr R J H McLaren (reported in the 2017 CMS Newsletter), his mother Christine McLaren (nee Watson) passed away in February 2017. He writes "They met in Edinburgh in 1956 and moved to Bridlington in 1966 with 3 children where my father became a GP in the practice run by my mother's father and his brother and his son.

"It has been very hard year for the Bridlington branch of the McLarens. However looking forward positively my parents have left nine grandchildren whose last name is McLaren. And some of them may in time become more interested in their Clan. Three live in France (one in Germany at the moment), three in London and three in Fife (though all studying at Edinburgh University at the moment). We are more than happy for you to mention our dear late parents in the 2018 newsletter. They are now buried together in the graveyard of the magnificent Priory Church Bridlington with my father's favourite saying engraved on the granite headstone: 'The past is history, the future a mystery but the present is a gift'.

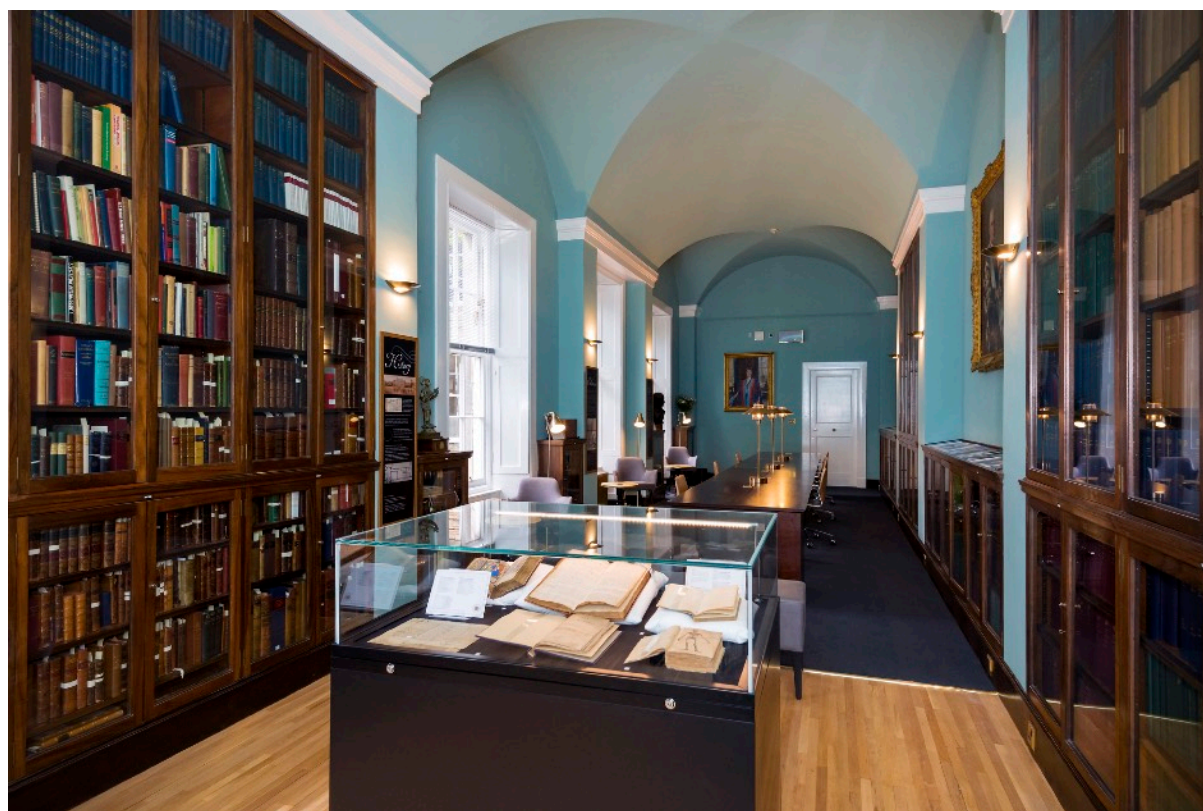
"I know my parents did meet various Clan McLaren kinsmen on trips to Edinburgh. Those who knew my father may recall that his father (my grandfather) Gordon McLaren was a merchant seaman who perished at sea in 1959 when his fishery protection ship foundered (and that is the reason my older brother is named Gordon as he was born 2 months later and it was also the catalyst for my father to change direction from farming to becoming a doctor like his father-in-law and maternal uncle). My father's grandfather (my great grandfather) was the Minister in Kennethmont near Alford, Aberdeenshire, and we still have family in that area (in Clatt) though they are the Hendersons, not McLarens."

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mark and his family.

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## THE IAIN MACLAREN RESEARCH CENTRE

by Dr Catriona MacLaren



My father trained as a doctor in Edinburgh. He settled on surgery as a career and in 1955 became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He was always heavily involved in the administration of the College and in the late 1970s served a term as Vice President. That involvement brought him into contact with surgical students, many of whom came from overseas to qualify in Edinburgh. One of these students was Andrew Chan. My dad got to know him and, whilst he was in the city, Andrew was often a guest at my parents' house in Minto Street. Once qualified, he returned to Hong Kong and became a very eminent urologist. Both before and after his retirement, my dad would travel overseas with the College to examine surgical students in their home countries. He and my mum made regular visits to Hong Kong where they continued to meet up with Andrew and his wife, Lorita.

A couple of years ago, Andrew announced that he wished to make a donation to the College. He was insistent that it should be named after my father and the MacLaren Research Centre is the result. It is intended to provide space for the study of surgical history, a subject close to my father's heart. He had been involved in the setting up of the College's surgical museum - the Jules Thorn Museum - which displays a small selection of the College's vast collection of material, including scientific texts (some of great antiquity), surgical tools from the primitive to the high-tech, specimens and curios. The museum is open to the public and inevitably focuses on the most visually arresting items. Website <https://museum.rcsed.ac.uk/>



The MacLaren Research Centre is intended for more serious, academic research. It is situated in a spacious, high-ceilinged room within the College's elegant main building on Nicholson Street in Edinburgh. Surgeons' Hall was designed by William Playfair in the 1830s. The College itself is much older: founded in 1505 as the Barber Surgeons of Edinburgh, it is the oldest and largest of the three British surgical colleges (the other two being Glasgow and the English College). The Centre has been beautifully laid out and decorated and the hope is that it will provide a useful facility where students can take full advantage of the wealth of material kept by the College and have an inspiring place in which to work.

The Centre was formally opened on 9 June 2017 with a small drinks reception. The President of the College, Professor Michael Lavelle-Jones, gave a speech detailing my father's long association with the College and offering thanks to Andrew Chan. My brother, Patrick, spoke on behalf of my father to add his thanks, both to the College and to Andrew.

My father was at first a bit surprised by Andrew's wish to make a donation in his name. Having had time to get used to it, he is now both touched and incredibly proud to be associated with the Centre which, he hopes, will be of use and interest to generations of surgeons and historians to come.



Photographs: Sally Taylor Photography  
[www.sallytaylorphotography.co.uk](http://www.sallytaylorphotography.co.uk)

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## **A Concise History of the Lochearnhead and District Highland Games**

**By Mike Lawson**

For the last 50 years, the Clan MacLaren Society Annual Gathering has been arranged to coincide with the Lochearnhead Highland Games. An ideal arrangement for Society Members to meet together in a beautiful Scottish setting, watching men in kilts throwing heavy hammers and tossing cabers, plus demonstrations of Highland dancing in colourful costume and listening to traditional bagpiping competitions. All in all, a great day out.

I think it would be true to say that Highland Games in Scotland go back for many hundreds of years. According to longstanding tradition, the popular Braemar Gathering – a favourite of Queen Victoria and still attended by members of our present day Royal Family - dates back to circa. 1060 - six years before the Battle of Hastings of 1066 And All That fame when Malcolm Canmore, King of Scots, organised a great gathering there in order for him to assess the strength, speed, stamina and agility of his loyal Highlanders. His queen awarded prizes to the best wrestlers, runners and strongest men taking part in lifting and throwing large stones for distance, tossing tree trunks known as cabers, throwing blacksmiths hammers and demonstrations of sword dancing (where a victorious highlander would place his sword on top of that of a vanquished foe before performing a victory dance between the crossed

blades). Apparently the hill race - organised by the king - up the nearby Creag Choinnich (Kenneth's Hill) was won by young MacGregor of Ballochbuie. Quite amazing to think that his name is still known many hundreds of years later.

The origin of our own Highland Games at Lochearnhead is very much lost in the mists of time. Suffice to say, other than being suspended for a few years during the First and Second World Wars, the Games have continued, growing from strength to strength up until the present day. The location of our own Games in a picturesque setting at the head of Loch Earn has, to the best of my knowledge, only been challenged by a rival Games near Loch Earn, back in the early 1820s by the village of St Fillans at the opposite end of the Loch.

Confirmation of this is to be found in a unique poster dating from 1826, advertising the St Fillans Highland Society Games, setting out the events and prizes (in the possession of the National Library of Scotland, Manuscripts Division, Edinburgh), which, to the best of my knowledge, is the oldest surviving Highland Games poster in existence. The event was sponsored by the Highland Society of London, and the Gentlemen of Perthshire, including members of the Drummond family from Drummond Castle near to Crieff.

One of the prizes mentioned for winning the shotput, using the 22 lb stone, was a silver mounted snuffbox with a Cairngorm stone set on top. A lovely prize in itself, but there was no mention of any cash prizes. Intriguingly, when Sir Walter Scott organised the proceedings for King George IV's visit to Scotland in 1822, the Strathfillan Society – which promoted St Fillan's Games – was invited to take part in an elaborate welcoming parade, including local Lochearn-side Chieftain, Stewart of Ardvorlich, together with a number of local clansmen in full Highland dress, carrying broadswords and shields. For reasons unknown, the St Fillans Highland Games was discontinued in the late 1820s or early 1830s.

A number of clans are still associated with our own Lochearnhead Highland Games, including that of the present Stewart of Ardvorlich, Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, the Chieftains of Clan MacGregor and MacNab, together with member of Clan Cameron, to name but a few, all of whom at various times have acted as Chieftain of the Games. The traditional method of beginning the Highland Games with the Chieftain beating a sword on a shield to the north, south, east and west is based on Malcolm Canmore's method of starting the first Braemar Gathering back in 1060.

In those distant times, at the end of the competition, the overall winner was required to take the sword and shield to the next game or gathering – something we no longer do because the modern-day Chieftains undoubtedly want to hang on to their own basket hilt broadswords!

Before concluding this short article, I would simply like to clarify for the benefit of some spectators that, contrary to general belief, the object in tossing the caber is not to see who can throw it the furthest, but rather, who can toss it the straightest. A 12 o'clock throw on an imaginary clock face would be a perfect throw. If you visualise the caber as the hour hand of

a clock, the object of the thrower is to get the 18 foot long caber, weighing anywhere between 90-140 lbs, to do a 360 degree turn in mid-air before landing in a perfectly straight line, at exactly 12 o' clock, with the Highland Games athlete having tossed the caber from the 6 o' clock position on the clock face.



The Highland Games is a glorious mix of tradition, strength and skill, and long may the Games continue.

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### **Stones of Strength Challenge Results - 2017**

**By Mike Lawson**

The above event was very kindly supervised - in my absence, due to personal circumstances - by four extremely able volunteers, namely Hugh and Catherine Crawford, Malcolm MacLaren and Bridget Stevens, to all of whom I extend a big thank you.

Twelve challengers from America, Australia, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom took part, and attempted to lift and hold the 200 plus kilo Clan MacLaren Stone of Strength, known as The Abbot – a granite boulder from the Braes of Balquhidder.

Five of the challengers, after several determined attempts, failed to lift the stone off the ground at all, whilst four managed to lift the stone for varying periods of time, ranging from 1 second to 4.2 seconds. The remaining three challengers took first and joint second places.

Details as follows:

First place and Winner of £50 prize money and a signed certificate from the Chief went to Bastien Marthouret, from Grenoble in France, with a lift and hold of 22 seconds.



Image: Catherine Crawford

Second place and £25 prize money went to Sebastian Clemens, from Solingen in Germany, with a lift and hold of 20 seconds.

Joint second place and winner of £25 in prize money was 39 year old David Nichol from Motherwell in Scotland, also with a lift and hold of 20 seconds.

There was no third place.

It is also noteworthy that the aforementioned Sebastien Clemens walked the greatest distance in the Farmer's Walk, carrying the 2 x 112 lb stones for a distance of 71 metres before having to put the stones down – a commendable achievement, and just 21 metres shy of the required 100 metres. A very good effort indeed.

Well done to all who took part, and looking forward to this year's challenge - where the prize money has been increased to £70 for first place, £50 second place, and £30 for third place, plus of course a signed certificate from the Chief.

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### **Samara MacLaren, Actress – One to Watch!**

Samara MacLaren was born in Edinburgh in 1982. Her grandfather, John MacLaren, had come from Jedburgh and Samara is very proud of the family name. Her interest in theatre was initially sparked by an inspiring teacher, Dr Iain Scott ('Doc Scott'), at Mary Erskine School, Edinburgh who adapted and directed plays and musicals in which his pupils could cut their dramatic teeth performing on real stages and in front of real audiences. Going on to St Andrews University, Samara's degree studies in Philosophy & Social Anthropology were happily complemented by shows at the Byre Theatre. LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) beckoned next and from there she emerged a trained actor.

Various roles followed in London, Scotland and abroad. She has worked for BBC radio and television, one of her most interesting roles being in BBC4's *Walter's War*, in which Samara played the girlfriend of Walter Tull, the first black commissioned officer to lead British troops during WW1. The range of plays in which she has appeared is very wide, from *Twelfth Night* at Perth Theatre through *Charley's Aunt* at Vienna's English Theatre to *Puellae (or The Truth About Chips and Other Things)* at Edinburgh Fringe venue Summerhall.

Samara has also dipped her toe into other streams of the performing arts; she has been commissioned to write scripts for BBC3 and for Stellar Quines, an award winning Scottish theatre company which celebrates the value and diversity of women and girls, and she has produced a couple of shows at the Edinburgh Fringe. One of her most interesting and successful recent acting roles has been as Marjory in a hilarious new play *The Fair Intellectual Club* by comedian Lucy Porter, loosely based on the story of a real club which was formed in Edinburgh in 1717 by three young ladies frustrated by their lack of education and who aspired to intellectual stimulation and moral improvement, wishing to discover "what we might attain unto if we were as industrious to cultivate our minds as we are to

adorn our bodies.” Saltier than Scots porridge, it brings eighteenth century Edinburgh to vibrant life.”



STOP PRESS – Samara will be appearing at this year’s Edinburgh Festival Fringe in a new play which she has written herself, *Ailsa Benson is Missing*, at the Assembly Rooms from 2 - 25 August.

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## **James MacLaren, Arts and Crafts Architect**

James Marjoribanks MacLaren was born on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1853 in Thornhill near Stirling, the sixth of eleven children, and was brought up on the family farm at Middleton of Boquapple where he learned traditional farming skills. He attended the local school until he was fifteen, then moved on to the High School of Stirling where he excelled at drawing and painting. He also showed a great interest in the buildings of the area, which led him to choose a career in architecture.

Growing up in Thornhill, MacLaren would have been aware of the many striking examples of Scottish rural architecture surrounding him: Doune Castle, Inverdarroch House, Blair Drummond, Leckie House, Dunblane Cathedral and Stirling Castle would all have been well known to the budding architect, and indeed his sketch books show many of these buildings had been studied in detail. His time in the historic town of Stirling exposed him to historically important town architecture: the Renaissance mansion Argyll Lodging, John Cowane's House and the 17<sup>th</sup> century Darnley House, to name a few. MacLaren absorbed these influences and would incorporate many of their various features into his own modern designs.

Glasgow was a rapidly expanding city when MacLaren moved into lodgings there with his three brothers who were already working in the city, and began his apprenticeship with Salmon Son and Ritchie. He was now able to experience city architecture; the medieval buildings, just as they were beginning to be demolished to make way for the coming railways, the new tenement blocks, churches, commercial buildings and classical villas which were all in great demand at that time. Glasgow buildings were eclectic and versatile.

In 1875 MacLaren, aged twenty-two, moved to London to study and to broaden his skills and gain experience. He had a great capacity for hard work, and his business-like attitude meant he was appreciated by those he worked with and for. In London too, he met and married Margaret MacColl, who was to be the mother of his five children.

In the mid 1880's, it was MacLaren's great good fortune to acquire the shipping magnate and politician, Sir Donald Currie, as a client. Currie had worked his way up from office clerk to shipowner, and had launched the Castle Line (whose ships all had names of Scottish castles). He was a collector and patron of the Arts, an enthusiastic sailor and a keen sportsman of the hunting, shooting, fishing variety. In 1885 he had bought Glenlyon estate in Perthshire, which included the village of Fortingall. The estate had suffered years of neglect and Currie planned to set things to rights. From many possible candidates he chose the young, gifted James MacLaren to improve existing buildings and design new ones. It was a dream commission for MacLaren.

In May 1886 he started work on the old Balnald threshing mill in Fortingall, remodelling it to form a sawmill on the ground floor and joiners' workshops on the upper level. This was followed by Balnald House and Steading, which he created using the same materials and

architectural aims as in the Sawmill. The design of these buildings sat well within the burgeoning Arts and Crafts movement.

Work was suspended in Fortingall for a time, which allowed MacLaren to concentrate on other projects, including a house and studio for the sculptor Henry Richard Pinker and houses for two of Currie's daughters in London. But his most important work of this time was the design, which he had won by competition, of a new wing at his alma mater, Stirling High School.

The finished work, which was larger than the original school, was linked at right angles to the main building, down a steep incline. Rising from the bottom of the incline was an eighty foot tower which housed a revolving astronomers' observatory – donated by the then MP for Stirling, and later Prime Minister, Henry Campbell Bannerman. The tower was crowned by a traditional Scottish turret and at its base was a salvaged 16<sup>th</sup> century stone doorway flanked by twelve carved panels depicting the signs of the zodiac. The archway above it was flanked by stone carvings of the Trees of Knowledge and Life.

Part of his work at Stirling was the refurbishment of the Art room in the existing school, and here he designed large studio windows framed by stone piers. A similar effect can be seen in windows at Glasgow School of Art, designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1897. Mackintosh also used some of MacLaren's school tower design in his extension to the Glasgow Herald premises, now The Lighthouse, in Mitchell Lane - his first big architectural commission.

In 1889 MacLaren recommenced work at Fortingall with the large Glenlyon farmsteading, a block of two cottages, one to house a policeman, and the L-shaped cottages at Kirkton, now at the centre of the village, and Glenlyon Farmhouse. His progressive designs, which revived medieval roughcast finishing and the craft of thatching, were bold and original, showing respect for the beautiful surroundings and forging a link between the Scottish vernacular and the Arts and Crafts movement.



Part of the L-shaped Kirkton Cottages



Fortingall Hotel

MacLaren became ill in 1888 and tuberculosis was diagnosed. He travelled to warmer climes in the hope his health would improve, but he seems not to have taken a break from work. He was asked by the London based Canary Islands Company to design a luxury hotel in Las Palmas, on the island of Gran Canaria. The port was visited by thousands of people every month, many arriving on Sir Donald Currie's cruise ships which sailed between England and South Africa. The Santa Catalina was built in 1889, close to the port and the main area of the town, in twenty acres of lush tropical gardens. Again, MacLaren captured the essence of the local vernacular style and combined this with his own original and imaginative ideas to produce an outstanding building that was in keeping with its surroundings.

Sadly, the outstanding architect with a brilliant future ahead died a year later, in 1890. In the obituaries there were warm and admiring tributes from the architectural press and colleagues. He had not survived long enough to finish the remaining work in Fortingall – the inn which would become Fortingall Hotel and Glenlyon House - but he had done preliminary work on these and the projects were taken forward by fellow Scots, William Dunn and Robert Watson, who had assisted him in his Practice.

James MacLaren deserves to be better known. He used his knowledge of existing vernacular styles to produce innovative modern buildings which echoed traditional designs and demonstrated particularly Scottish elements. He worked within the Arts and Crafts tradition, which promoted the idea that a building should be in harmony with its landscape, and visitors to the village today can well appreciate this vision of a successful relationship between architecture and the rural environment. Unfortunately, his genius has been overshadowed, if not obscured, by the attention given to Charles Rennie Mackintosh, who, as many of the books on him will attest, saw James MacLaren as one of his major influences.

The James M MacLaren society, appropriately based in Fortingall, is helping to keep his name alive.

Ann MacLaren

Ann MacLaren is MacLaren by marriage and lives in Glasgow. She is a freelance writer who contributes to a wide variety of magazines and anthologies. She enjoys researching the lives of interesting people. She has a PhD in Portuguese theatre translation and is working on a novel.

This article first appeared in iScot Magazine.

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## **The Old Kirk, Balquhiddar**

The preliminary works have been done and paid for and, with improving weather conditions, we hope soon to have tenders for consideration, for the picking, pointing and soft topping of the walls with turf.

There has had to be some research into the elements of this small, but very particular job, not least of all the type of lime mortar to use. The lime mortar mix has to be compatible with the building materials and approved by Historic Environment Scotland. The use of stone and lime in Scotland goes back to Roman times, but before that, clay and earth mortars were common.

The lime mortars provide for a continuous cycle of absorption and evaporation within the building fabric. The mortar joints which we will be renewing, protect the masonry by acting sacrificially, such that the mortar will weather at a faster rate than the adjacent masonry, and so needs periodic pointing.

In preparation for the works we have had to work out what should be done to the yew trees which are growing within the sum of the church. The widening girth of coppice growth was nodding against the fragile walls of the building in high winds and had to be cut back. The skilled arboricultural services of Florian MacLaren were employed to cut back the girth to contain the canopy spread, while keeping the rounded shape and mature appearance of the trees.

We did not embark on that exercise without a bit of research into yew trees. There are some disturbing revelations; yew protects against evil spirits, and can be carried for protection on long journeys. If you need a wand, make it of yew wood to banish malevolent forces, and to spiritually purify an area.

Yew was one of the "nine sacred woods" as used in the ritual fires of the Celts. Yew wood has been used to make relic boxes and make magic tools; and a sprig of yew is used in dowsing to find lost objects. Who would mess with a yew tree? Besides they provide a strong evergreen visual contrast to the enclosing walls of the Old Kirk, within which generations of MacLaren chiefs are laid to rest.

Hugh W J Crawford  
Architect



Images: Hugh Crawford/ Iona MacLaren

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### **Rob Roy and the Laird of Edinample by Neil McLaurin**

Visitors to the Lochearnhead Highland Games will surely notice Edinample Castle across the loch with its white painted walls shining when the sun is out. However you may not know that, when Rob Roy MacGregor was active in the area, the best inn in the valley was a solitary grey hut that stood not far from the head of the loch and near the Games field.

There is a story about Rob Roy and the Laird of Edinample that was told to Chauncy Hare Townsend by an old boatman and is described by him in his book *Descriptive Tour of Scotland* published in 1840.

Once when Rob Roy and a few of his men were feasting in the inn after a raid on the lowlands, the Laird of Edinample (John Campbell) heard about his doings, and called together some of his followers to capture Rob, and claim the reward that was set upon his head. So the Laird and his troupe came to the inn; but, having his reasons for doing the matter as cannily as might be (for the people all loved Rob), he entered in a quiet way, as if he was to do business with Rob. But Rob scented the trick, and begged the Laird to excuse him for the moment, while he made his followers comfortable in the adjoining barn. “For you see” said he, “the inn is not big enough to hold them.” The story continues “When the Edinample men had well drunken of the abundance of whisky set before them, and were all lying about

on the barn floor, the door was locked, and then they were as safe as a fox when its earth is stopped. Then Rob and his company took the Laird, and stripped of his shirt, made him walk through the snow (for it was winter time) over the pass of Stuc-a Chroin (well south of Edinample), where they left him to get home, as best he could by himself.”

Edinample castle was built by Sir Duncan Campbell (Black Duncan) in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century on lands said to have been owned by the MacGregors, so there was no love lost between the MacGregors and lairds of Edinample. At the time of the incident recounted by CHT, John Campbell junior would have been the occupant of Edinample. He was a feisty character and in August 1710 was charged with riot for having assembled an armed band of men who helped him free his father from the Crieff prison, where he had been imprisoned because of his debts. Rental and hearth tax records show that the Laird had a number of MacLaren tenants at the time these incidents took place, and it is likely that he called on these men for their assistance with trying to capture Rob Roy.

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### **(Bill) McLaren Whisky**

Edinburgh sports journalist, Robin Morris, who was a guest at our 2017 Annual Dinner at the Royal Burgess Golfing Society, sent us this picture of a rare bottle of whisky which had been presented to him by rugby broadcasting legend Bill McLaren.

Sadly, Robin died earlier this year. His widow, Roz, would be interested to know if anyone else has one of these collector's items and the story behind it; please contact the editor if you do.



MINUTES OF 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held in the Clan tent at the Lochearnhead Games at 1.30 pm on Saturday, 22 July

## PRESENT

*Chairman* The Chief, Donald MacLaren of MacLaren (DM)

*Council* James MacLaren (JM), Malcolm MacLaren (MM), Bridget Stevens (BS), Catherine Crawford (CC), Hugh Crawford (HC)

*Members of the Society* 42 members were present

DM opened the AGM by welcoming all, especially kinsmen from overseas (Australia, Europe and North America), including Bill Law, Deputy Chairman of the Clan MacLaren Society of Australia.

## APOLOGIES

Received from: Patrick MacLaren (Vice-Chairman), Neil and Jacqueline McLaurin (Hon. Secretary), Iain and Fiona MacLaren, Mairead Anderson, Willie and Cathie MacLaren, Kay and Douglas Lothian, Nick Law, Ralf and Marian Berger and Michael and Helga Ruetzger.

DM conveyed greetings and good wishes from the CMSNA and also read out the following warm message from Michael and Helga Ruetzger (Friends of Clan MacLaren, Germany):  
“Dear Clan MacLaren and good friends, Unfortunately, for the first time since our wedding blessing in Balquhiddie kirk in 2012, we cannot attend the Games this year. But we look forward to seeing you all in August and joining the Clan March at the Edinburgh Tattoo. Our thoughts are with you this Games week-end. Good luck for the Tug o’ War; and this evening we’ll enjoy a delicious Bowmore. Slainte Mhath! Creag an Tuirc! Mik and Helga”

## MINUTES OF 2016 AGM

As circulated with the annual Newsletter. They were accepted as a true record.

## MATTERS ARISING

None raised.

## CHAIRMAN’S REPORT

DM reported that the Society remained in good standing, with sound finances, profitable sales and increasing membership. Links with the Clan MacLaren Societies and Friends overseas remained strong; and the Society continued to make its mark locally: with the kirk in Balquhiddie, the McLaren High School and our bursary programme. August would see a week of important activities, comprising a Scottish music masterclass at the High School and

the Clan march at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We looked forward to a high attendance.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Copies circulated. Funds stood at over £29,000, slightly down on the previous f/y mainly due to a significant increase in activities and also reduced bank interest. The accounts had now been moved from Barclays, who were no longer paying interest, to Santander. The AGM approved the Report.

DM noted that KL had now stepped down as Honorary Treasurer and thanked her for her excellent service. This was warmly endorsed by the AGM.

#### SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

MM reported on last year's successful Games and Annual Dinners. These would again be held this year at, respectively, The Four Seasons and The Royal Burgess where Prof. David Purdie would be the principal guest.

#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Copies circulated. Total membership stood at 728, comprising 676 life members and 52 annual members. Subscription revenue over the 12 months was £915 and outgoings (postage and stationery) £134. The use of e-mail and PayPal significantly facilitated the process of subscription renewals. Life members were encouraged to supply or update their e-mail addresses.

CC noted that, over her 10 years as Membership Secretary, numbers had fluctuated slightly but had now been well over 700 for several years. She looked forward soon to being able to hand over to a successor. DM thanked her for her very successful role as the essential first point of contact for members; and for her achievement in steadily increasing our numbers. He urged the membership to step forward in helping the Society find a successor.

#### TRADING REPORT

Copies circulated. Sales showed a profit of some £400 over the year. CC was thanked especially for the time she gave in manning the tent at the Games, which was the key focal point for sales.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

The re-election of DM as Chairman, Patrick MacLaren as Vice-Chairman and Neil McLaurin as Honorary Secretary was approved by the AGM. It was expected that the position of Honorary Treasurer, temporarily vacant, would soon be filled.

## ELECTION OF EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

The AGM approved the re-appointment of Douglas Kenney as Examiner of Accounts.

## REPORT – AR & KM McLAREN TRUST

DM reported that the Trust remained valued at over £160,000 even with the disbursement in recent years of 3-4 annual bursaries at £500 each and £250 per student in continuation awards.

Continuation in office of the Trustees (the Chief *ex officio*, Hamish McLaren, Patrick MacLaren and Malcolm MacLaren) was approved by the AGM, as was the re-appointment of both the Legal Adviser, Urquharts, and stockbrokers, Speirs & Jeffrey.

HC circulated his report on the Old Kirk restoration work. The AGM noted with approval that Historic Environment Scotland had confirmed their agreement to the proposed restoration and consolidation work and would make a grant contribution of £6000. There would be a further inspection of the building before proceeding to tender.

## REPORT – MACLAREN (BALQUHIDDER) EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Copies of the Trustees' Annual Report circulated. With payment of the annual grant of £500 to the McLaren High School for the pupils' homework diaries, funds stood at £8,650.

Continuation in office of the Trustees (the Chief *ex officio*, Rev. William MacLaren, George Smail and Steve Quillin) was approved by the AGM.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Rod McLaren, CMSNA, asked to put on record his support for CC's call for members to provide and keep updated their e-mail addresses.

DM drew attention to the quality of the Newsletter and thanked BS as new Editor and MM for his technical assistance. This was warmly endorsed by the AGM.

## NOTICE

THE 2018 AGM WILL SIMILARLY BE HELD IN THE CLAN TENT AT THE LOCHEARNHEAD GAMES ON SATURDAY, 21 JULY, FOLLOWING THE MARCH TO THE FIELD. AGENDA AS PREVIOUSLY, SUBJECT TO ADDITIONS.

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## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **Membership Report**

This has been a good year for new members which is most encouraging. Interest in family history and roots draws people to join the society and to make contact with fellow members of the clan. The total number of members at March 2018 is 734, comprising 677 Life and 57 Annual. Listed below are the new members, those who have become life members and sadly, those who have died and we extend our condolences to their families.

#### **New Life Members:**

Mr James Steinbach, 8713 Oxwell Lane, Laurel, Maryland 20708, USA  
Mr Albert Edward May III, 101 Longwood Dr, Chapel Hill, NC 27514 USA  
Mr Clint Marvel McLaren, 28 bis Rue Gabriel Luneau, Nantes 44000 France  
Mr Stan Arkle Pike, Plane Tree Grove, Middlebie, Dumfriesshire, DG11 3JP (upgrade)

#### **New Annual Members**

Mr Andrew MacLaren, 100 Portsmouth Court, New Bern, NC 28562 USA  
Mr John McLaren, 16 Hawkmark End, Marks Tey, Colchester, Essex, CO6 1NF, England  
Mr Caryl Patterson, c/del Carrasqueres, 14 Gata Residencial, Gata de Gorgos, Alicante 03740, Spain  
Mr Robin Lawrance, 23 Kestrel Way, Perth, PH1 5FL, Scotland  
Ms L Grace Allen, 523 Blackhawk Drive, Newbury Park, CA 91320 USA  
Mr Roderick Craig Low, 14 Rhodfa Maes Hir, Rhyl, Denbighshire, LL18 4JF Wales  
Ms Billie Jeanne Giles Gailey, 3661 Perrysville Ave, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15214, USA  
Mr Gordon Alan Lowrey, 117 Mendenhall Drive, Madison, Alabama 35758, USA  
Mr Neil Patterson, am Finlowkanal 1, 16559 Liebenwalde, Germany

#### **Deaths:**

Mr Bruce L McLaren, 403 S. Railway, Mascoutah, IL 62258 USA  
Mrs Ann Harvey, Roman Way, Thirsk, YO7 4DR, England  
Mr Bruce D McLaren, 68 Hume Road, Cronulla, NSW 2230, Australia  
Mrs Christine McLaren, 97 Cardigan Road, Bridlington, England  
Mrs Sarah L Robson, 'Fairwinds', Beckfords, Upper Basildon, Reading, Berkshire RG8 8PB  
Mrs Geraldine Lawson, 4 Norris Green Road, West Derby, Liverpool L12 8QQ  
Mr Hugh M MacLaren, 6 Riding Park, Edinburgh, EH4 6ED

C M Crawford, Membership Secretary

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## 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](mailto:marketing@melrosebooks.com)

Price £25 plus postage.

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And from our former Newsletter Editor Nick Law:

**FOR SALE:** Pair of gent's trews in Ancient MacLaren set. 44 inch waist with 27 inch inside leg. Excellent condition. £50 plus postage. Net amount to CMS. Contact Nick Law on 07912648138 or [nicklaw1@hotmail.com](mailto:nicklaw1@hotmail.com).

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 2018

LOCHEARNHEAD GAMES WEEKEND 21-22 July

The Games: Saturday 21st July

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

Please make sure you sign the Visitors' Book.

12.45pm:

Members assemble in Lochearnhead Village for the March to the Field at 1pm. 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 at 2pm in the tent after the March to the Field.

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME.

3pm:

Lifting of the Stones of Strength competition (with monetary prizes).

3.45pm:

Tug O' War competition on the Games Field.

Games Dinner, The Four Seasons Hotel, St Fillans: Saturday 21st July 7pm for 7.30pm

Please see separate page for booking form.

Church service, Balquhiddar Sunday 22nd July at 12 noon, followed by picnic lunch at Creag an Tuirc (please bring your own).

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## ANNUAL DINNER 2018

The annual dinner will be held on Friday 16th 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 and musical entertainment.

Take a look at [www.clanmaclarensociety.com](http://www.clanmaclarensociety.com) and send any news to The Secretary.

A few comments from last year's diners:

*Thank you so much for inviting me to the Clan MacLaren dinner - a unique experience for me - never been to a clan do before!! And I really enjoyed it.*

*Thank you so much for giving Bert and myself the opportunity to join the MacLaren clan for dinner on Friday evening. We thoroughly enjoyed it - interesting company and lovely food and wine and, of-course, Professor David Purdie was extremely entertaining - an evening to remember.*

*Thank you for last night, it was very enjoyable. Lovely meal, good company and welcoming to outsiders!*

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## **DIRECTORY**

### **CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY**

THE CHIEF: **Donald MacLaren of MacLaren**  
Kirkton Farm, Balquhiddy, Lochearnhead, Perthshire FK19 8PA  
Tel: 01877 384675. Email: [themaclaren@hotmail.com](mailto:themaclaren@hotmail.com)

CHIEFTAINS: **Iain F MacLaren**, 3 Minto Street, Edinburgh EH9 1RG  
Tel: 0131 667 3487. Email: [fionamaclaren@fionamaclaren.entadsl.com](mailto:fionamaclaren@fionamaclaren.entadsl.com)  
**James W H MacLaren**, 9B Underwood Lane, Paisley, PA1 2SL  
Tel: 07946 999 302. Email: [tcs.jmaclaren@googlemail.com](mailto:tcs.jmaclaren@googlemail.com)

CHAIRMAN: **Donald MacLaren of MacLaren.**

VICE CHAIRMAN: **Dr. Patrick MacLaren**, 74 Whittingehame Drive, Glasgow G12 0YJ  
Tel: 0141 341 0370 email: [piesupper@yahoo.com](mailto:piesupper@yahoo.com)

#### MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

**2015-2018** **Iona Mchedliani**  
**2016-2019** **George Borthwick, Hugh Crawford, John Laws, Jack McLaren**

#### HONORARY LIFE MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL:

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

#### 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](mailto:azurite@tiscali.co.uk)

Honorary Treasurer: **James W H MacLaren**, 9B Underwood Lane, Paisley, PA1 2SL  
Tel: 07946 999 302. Email: [tcs.jmaclaren@googlemail.com](mailto:tcs.jmaclaren@googlemail.com)

Membership Secretary: **Catherine M Crawford**, 67 Ferry Gait Drive, Edinburgh EH4 4GJ  
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## **CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA**

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Deputy Chairman	<b>William (Bill) Law</b> , 26 Broughton Street, Rutherford, NSW 2320 Tel: (02) 4932 6491. Email: <a href="mailto:william.law2@bigpond.com">william.law2@bigpond.com</a>
Treasurer	<b>Cameron McWhinney</b> Email: <a href="mailto:cameron.mcwhinney1@bigpond.com">cameron.mcwhinney1@bigpond.com</a>
Secretary/Editor	<b>Linda N McLaren</b> , 68 Hume Road, Cronulla, NSW 2230 Email: <a href="mailto:linda_mclaren_@hotmail.com">linda_mclaren_@hotmail.com</a>

## **CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA**

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Vice President	<b>Cathy Botkin Galloway</b> , 5 Petersen Road, Brookline, NH 03033. Email: <a href="mailto:catmermaid@aol.com">catmermaid@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	<b>Donna Stalter</b> , contact through the CMSNA website: <a href="http://www.clanmaclarennna.org/contacts.htm">http://www.clanmaclarennna.org/contacts.htm</a>
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## **MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY BASED IN SCOTLAND**

### **Subscriptions**

**Life Membership**                    **£120.00 (US\$166)**

**Double Life Membership**       **£170.00 (US\$235)**

**Annual Membership**

**Joining Fee (one off)**            **£20.00 (US\$28)**

**Annual Membership**            **£12.00 (US\$17)**

**Annual Subscriptions fall due on 1<sup>st</sup> 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\$83) or in other currencies at the current exchange rate.**

**All questions concerning membership should be addressed to:**

<b>In North America</b>	Steven Lowry, 115 Smoky View Lane, Madisonville, TN37354 Email: <a href="mailto:cmsna2015@salsoft.com">cmsna2015@salsoft.com</a>
<b>In Australia</b>	Linda N McLaren, 68 Hume Road, Cronulla, NSW 2230 Email: <a href="mailto:linda_mclaren_@hotmail.com">linda_mclaren_@hotmail.com</a>
<b>In UK/ all other countries</b>	Catherine Crawford, 67 Ferry Gait Drive, Edinburgh, EH4 4GJ Email: <a href="mailto:c.crawford@btinternet.com">c.crawford@btinternet.com</a>

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**Clan MacLaren Society  
Games Dinner**

**Saturday 21st July 2018 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 Fillans 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/TBC**

The cost of the games dinner is £39.00 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 £39.00 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 16th November 2018 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 twelfth 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](http://www.clanmaclarensociety.com)

The cost of the annual dinner is £39.00 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 £39.00 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.



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