

# **CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY**

# **ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2019**



Lochearnhead Games 2018. The Chief delegates.

## LETTER FROM THE CHIEF AND CHAIRMAN

#### Kinsmen

I am sorry to start on a sad note. With the death at the end of last summer of Hamish McLaren, we lost one of our leading figures. Hamish was always active in furthering the interests of the Clan Society. He was characterised by both modesty and determination: modest in that he never sought the Chairmanship; and determined, in just one of many ways, that he should never hold the position for long. It turned out, to the benefit of the Society, that he was at the helm for sixteen years.

During his tenure, he oversaw an expansion of our membership and did much to foster the links with our overseas kindred, particularly with the CMSNA. He was a diligent steward of the A.R.&K.M. McLaren Trust. Neil McLaurin has written a more substantive obituary, which you will read below. I would just single out two achievements which are lasting elements of Hamish's legacy. The first, was his seeing-through of an initiative by his predecessor, Douglas Law, to secure ownership for the Clan of the Old Kirk in Balquhidder. The second, on which he and I worked closely together, was to ensure the preservation – in fact, setting in stone – of the MacLaren name on the battlefield marker at Culloden.

Many of us will remember his father, Dr. Alistair C. McLaren, himself Chairman of the Society from 1964 to 1969. Alistair would be proud, as we all should be, of Hamish's enduring work and commitment on our behalf.

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The Clan continues to be active in many fields. We could not be so without having a strong Council. There are several changes to report. We regret that due to other commitments Jack McLaren has decided to stand down and thank him for his service. His position on Council has been filled by Edna Brizolla, wife of Chieftain James MacLaren of Struthill, and we are delighted that she has stepped forward.

There has also been an important change in the position of Membership Secretary. Catherine Crawford not only held the role for an admirable ten years – for much of which she combined this with being an excellent Trading Manager – but she also increased our membership to a record level. We owe her a terrific debt and, on behalf of the Society, I wish to pay tribute to her great people skills and for playing such a pivotal role in consolidating the strength of our Society: both at home and in our active contacts with MacLarens overseas.

Our new Membership Secretary is Sheena Maclaren. Her husband is Andrew, son of the late Rev. William B. Maclaren who was a founding member of the Society. Sheena comes with experience from the civil service and as former Registration Secretary and County Membership Support co-ordinator for Girlguiding in East Lothian. We are fortunate to have such a capable successor to Catherine and we welcome her to her new position. The Society continues to benefit from the loyalty and generosity of our overseas kinsmen. In addition to individual contributions from members worldwide, the CMSNA have made a further superb donation of over £2300 to our kirk in Balquhidder. As in previous years, such donations make a real difference to the continued viability of the kirk. This year, the funds will also allow for a much-needed replacement of the altar carpet. Separately, a major bequest, of £28,000, has been received from Betsy Bell, daughter of Olive Bell of Albuquerqe, New Mexico. As you will see from the report of last year's AGM, Council agreed that part of this should be put to supplementing the Balquhidder Educational Trust, which makes regular contributions to the McLaren High School in Callander; and part reserved for future significant projects for the Clan.

One of my duties as Chief, which I think is important but which I also greatly enjoy, is to maintain personal contact with our overseas Societies and to meet new members of the Clan abroad. Last autumn, Maida and I were kindly invited by the CMSNA to attend their AGM in Atlanta and the Stone Mountain Highland Games. As always, we were shown great hospitality and we wish to thank in particular our local hosts, Ken and Holly McLaren and Tim and Rhonda Lowery, who arranged a brilliant dinner and ceilidh enjoyed by all; and Steve and Sylvia Quillin who hosted us before and after in the mountains of North Carolina. This August, we travel in the opposite direction, to Europe, at the invitation of the Friends of Clan MacLaren in Germany to attend the Wuppertal Highland Games. We much look forward to celebrating with them the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of these Games and local championships. Then in October, still (roughly) in the same direction but a bit further, I will be going to Australia. The headline reason is to attend the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo which is being staged in Sydney, in my capacity as Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. But this will give me a great opportunity to renew contact with members of the CMSA, whose Chairman, Linda McLaren, is putting together an extensive programme.

In the meantime, we have our own Games at Lochearnhead to look forward to. I am informed by the Games Committee that this year we will joined by some 70 French MacLaren girl scouts. Once again, the arena will reverberate to cries of *Creag an Tuirc* intermingled with the Marseillaise. A great Celtic fusion! I have been invited to be Chieftain of the Games so I hope that we will have a strong turnout of the Clan and a tent bursting at the seams.

# Donald MacLaren of MacLaren and Achleskine

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## Hamish McLaren 1943 – 2018



Hamish did sterling service for the clan and was Chairman of the Council of the Clan MacLaren Society from 1998 for sixteen years. Those of us who attended the Lochearnhead Highland Games during his term will remember him gathering the clan members together before the march to the games field and his cry of *Creag an Tuirc* as we entered the field, loud enough to make any MacGregor tremble.

Proud of his roots, and descended from an Edinburgh GP, Hamish was a man of many parts. He graduated from Edinburgh University in 1967 with a MB ChB, having picked up a BSc in Pathology on the way through. He became a consultant Endocrinologist, for 30 years at Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow. He was a member of the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society, and a keen and elegant skier. He enjoyed sailing on the West Coast and he took up golf late in life.

He was a 'really good egg', hugely entertaining company and delightfully argumentative and a very good Council Chairman running very brisk meetings. He was a great family man, devoted to his wife Sue and their four fine children. He died suddenly on 22 August 2018 in Oban, the night before he was due to judge the Highland Dancing at the Argyllshire Gathering.

He is greatly missed by the many friends that he made within the clan.

Obituary contributed by Neil McLaurin

#### FROM THE EDITOR

Once again I am grateful to everyone who has written in appreciation of the Newsletter. And once again I must thank my Clan MacLaren Society Council colleague, Malcolm MacLaren, who does all the tricky layout work. We hope you enjoy this 2019 issue and we will look forward to your feedback.

It has been another busy year for the Society: your Council met in March and July (AGM) 2018, and January 2019 to discuss and organise the Society's work, much of which is reflected in what you will read in the following pages.

I would like, if I may, to highlight one event from 2018 which I particularly enjoyed, our Highland Games, held as usual in Lochearnhead in July. Until I became involved with the Society ten years ago, the only Highland Games I had ever attended had been in the US. These major international gatherings, of which there are over one hundred, sixteen in California alone, tend to take place over three or four days and to be huge, with up to ten thousand participants representing numerous clans. I remember in particular The Calling of the Clans at the Edinboro (Pennsylvania) Games, where tartan-clad enthusiasts from all round the world lined up behind their chosen chiefs and marched in a huge Drum Circle round a blazing bonfire on the University of Edinboro's Gazebo Lawns. The Balquhidder, Lochearnhead & Strathyre Highland Games and Gathering, to give them their full name, are a bit different, involving just four clans, and having a really strong local focus with many people from the surrounding areas regarding them as the high point of their social calendar. People do of course also come from beyond the Loch Earn area and everyone is made to feel very welcome. In addition to the traditional competitions - shot putting, throwing the hammer, tossing the caber, track and field events, piping, dancing etc - there is a hill race in which competitors have to run or walk or climb to the top of a nearby 500m high hill and back down again. This always attracts some serious athletes and the competition is fierce. Perhaps the most keenly fought of the competitions, however, is the tug o'war in which Clan MacLaren and others compete for modest cash prizes but more importantly, in our case, for the honour of the Clan. We also enjoy several Stones of Strength competitions generously sponsored by CMS Life Member Mike Lawson (see his article on pages 25-26). The Clan MacLaren Society has its own tent at the Games where Council members offer hospitality to kinsmen from a' the airts. Our Visitors Book is an impressive record of their names and addresses. The CMS 2019 AGM will take place in this tent on Saturday 20 July and that evening we will hold our annual Games Dinner in nearby St Fillans. On Sunday, in the beautiful old Balquhidder Church, there is morning service at which Chief Donald MacLaren will read the lesson in Scots from the Lorimer Bible. This is also the occasion chosen by US members, Rod and Sherry McLaren from Oklahoma, and their daughter and son-in-law, Monica and Lee, to renew their wedding vows on, respectively, their 40th and 10th anniversaries. They have very kindly offered refreshments afterwards to members of the Clan attending the service. The final event of the weekend is an opportunity to climb to the top of Creag an Tuirc, the Boar's Rock, which is the ancient rallying place of Clan MacLaren and has superb views over the village of Balquhidder and along Loch Voil.

At the service held in Balquhidder Church, on the morning after the 2018 Games, the sermon was preached by long-standing CMS member, Willie McLaren, who took his text not from the Bible but from the works of Robert Burns.

# *"From scenes like these auld Scotia's grandeur springs that makes her loved at home, rever'd abroad Princes and Lords are but the breath of kings, an honest man's the noblest work of man"*

He told us how so many Scots families living in poverty always put their faith in God, believing that He would lead them to green pastures. We had read from Joshua where Moses had led the people to a land of milk and honey and Willie suggested that there were many similarities in the history of Clan MacLaren where they had moved from Balquhidder into the rich farmlands of Strathearn, Strathyre and Strathmore. He asked the congregation how many of them knew how to pray and said that we had lost the traditional family values as described in the text. He also pointed out that the high cost of caring for the sick and the elderly was possibly unsustainable, meaning that we would have to go back to where the young and able looked after their elderly relatives as in the old clan system.

I hope to see many of you at the 2019 Games weekend on 20/21 July. You can be assured of a warm MacLaren welcome!

Bridget M Stevens

## **NEWS FROM KINSMEN**

Professor James Law who lives in Bridge of Allan and is a Life Member of the Society was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in January 2019 for services to Speech and Language Therapy. Professor Law's brother, Nick Law, is a former Editor of the CMS Newsletter.





Alec McLaurin, son of CMS Secretary Neil McLaurin, graduated MBA from Oxford University in March 2019.

Willie McLaren of award-winning Netherton Farm in Auchterarder, Perthshire writes that his son, also William, has been invited to judge the First World Angus Show to be held in Sydney Australia in April 2020. Veterinary regulations have until now prevented the judging of cattle from all over the world but nowadays embryo transfer makes this possible. William's family is thrilled that he should have been chosen for this important role. He



always wears his McLaren Kilt when judging abroad.

California-based historian, genealogist and Life Member of the Society (she is also a member of CMSNA) Peggi Rodgers was the author of a very interesting article which appeared in our 2018 Newsletter. When we invited Peggi to write another article for our 2019 issue, she emailed back with the following awful news.

"Unfortunately my home was one that was completely destroyed in the Camp Fire in Northern California. Not sure if you heard about it but it wiped out the entire town of Paradise and 14,000 homes. A lot more structures were also destroyed. So at the moment I'm trying to rebuild my life as I lost everything but my cat and my guitars in the fire." She also sent some graphic Before and After photographs.

We sent Peggi our deepest sympathy and are glad to report that she has now written "*Things* are moving along fairly slowly in terms of the clean up. It will be years before it's all done. They are projecting 10 years before the community is really back to some semblance of what it was. Paradise is a forested community up in the Sierra foothills. Sadly, most all of the trees in the area are dead so there is a lot of clear cutting going on. I had trouble finding the turn to my house on my last visit - I didn't even recognize the area without the trees! On the up note, I've put an offer on a home in town and it's been accepted by the sellers. So hopefully we'll complete the sale next month and I'll have a comfortable new home."

David Mclaren of Braintree, Essex, England writes that he and his family are anxious to trace a lost family bible so that they can complete a family tree. Here is what he has sent us: *Mclaren (Maclaren) family bible. Last known whereabouts Inverness in the 1990s. The bible will contain a list of our ancestors, possibly the last known possessor Gladys Mclaren. If anybody can shed light on its whereabouts, please contact David Mclaren, phone 01376 347504.* 

#### **OLIM CIVES**

Margaret Grace Carmichael Smith *nee McLaren* was born in 1923 in Martinborough, New Zealand and died in Masterton, New Zealand on 6 June 2018, her brother Donald and sister Elizabeth having predeceased her. Their parents were both Scottish, Ellen Douglas Gibson from Stirling and Peter Charles McLaren who owned a plumbing company in Dunblane. Peter and Ellen met and married in Scotland then moved to NZ around 1920, buying a small dairy farm on the outskirts of Martinborough, an agricultural town in the South Wairarapa District of North Island. Although the farm was successful (it still stands today), Peter and particularly Ellen missed Scotland so much that they decided to sell up and move back. The sale fell through, WW2 intervened and they never did leave NZ. Their two sons, Andrew and Donald, still live on the North Island. For years after Peter and Ellen's move to NZ, a large Victorian villa in Bridge of Allan remained in the McLaren family and to this day there are M(a)cLarens in the area running plumbing, electrical and heating companies.

#### McLarens in the 1715 Jacobite uprising

by Neil McLaurin

The battle of Sheriffmuir took place on 13 November 1715. Before the battle the Earl of Mar detached a small force of 1,500 to 2,000 Highlanders (sources give conflicting information as to the actual numbers) led by William Mackintosh, laird of Borlum, from the main army. Borlum brought his men across on fishing boats to the south side of the Firth of Forth on 13 October, 1715 and moved his forces to Edinburgh where he almost captured the castle.

After leaving Edinburgh Borlum linked up with some English and Lowland Jacobites at Kelso in the Scottish borders, then marched south as far as Preston where the Jacobite forces were defeated at the battle of Preston and surrendered to government forces on 14 November 1715. Borlum was charged with treason, but escaped with his son from Newgate prison on the night before his trial, and made his way to France.

Borlum appears to have lost ninety-two of his highlanders, either due to desertion or because of capture, as he left Edinburgh, and these men were imprisoned in Edinburgh castle. The names of some of these prisoners and where they came from is known and confirms that men from Balquhidder, and district, were loyal to the cause. The list<sup>1</sup> that is dated at Edinburgh Castle on 23 June 1716, includes three McLarens. The abbreviated list is given below:

James Stewart, Lord Drummond's tenant in Auchtow, Balquhidder Duncan Carmichael, Lord Drummond's tenant in Auchtow, Balquhidder Finlay McClean, Lord Drummond's tenant in Wester Auchtow, Balquhidder Patrick Stewart, Lord Drummond's tenant in Kirkton, Balquhidder **Robert McLaren, Lord Drummond's tenant in Kirkton, Balquhidder Donald McLaren, Lord Drummond's tenant in Auchleskine, Balquhidder**  John Ferguson, Lord Drummond's tenant in Leckine, Balquhidder John Malcome, tenant to Duke of Atholl in Inverloch, Balquhidder Donald Ferguson, tenant to Duke of Atholl in Craigruie, Balquhidder **Donald McLaren, tenant to Lady Weem crofter in Dull** James Ferguson, Lord Drummond's tenant in Claish, Callender John Ferguson, Lord Drummond's tenant in Claish, Callender Alexander Smith, Lord Drummond's tenant in Claish, Callender Patrick McNeath, Lord Drummond's tenant in Balland, Callender John McLachlan, Lord Drummond's tenant in Auchlenlaich, Callender Patrick Mitchell, Lord Drummond's tenant in Kirkton of Callender Patrick Mitchell, Lord Drummond's tenant in Kirkton of Callender Donald Ferguson, Lord Drummond's tenant in Gart, Callender

1. Bruce Bishop: *Some of the Prisoners in Edinburgh Castle following the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion.* The Scottish Genealogist March 2015.



# The Scottish Register of Tartans

by Rebecca Martin, National Records of Scotland

Many readers may not be aware that people can officially register their tartan on the Scottish Register of Tartans at **www.tartanregister.gov.uk**. You can search the database for free and view all the tartans that have already been registered, which amount to over 8,000. The register includes official Clan tartans, including 3 official tartans for the MacLaren Clan, personal tartans and official military or company tartans. It is an Aladdin's Cave for tartan design and if you click on the tartan name you can read about the history of the tartan or the rationale behind the design.

Thus anyone, from anywhere in the world, can apply to register their tartan. In fact there are currently customers from 101 different countries with user accounts. The free user account will allow you to apply to register a tartan, sign up for email updates when new tartans are registered and view some thread count information.

The Scottish Register of Tartans is administered by the National Records of Scotland (NRS), a Scottish Government organisation, on behalf of the Keeper of the Scottish Register of Tartans.

The Scottish Parliament passed the Scottish Register of Tartans Act (2008) and thereafter the Register commenced on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009. The first tartan that was registered was the

'Scottish Register of Tartans' Tartan', (ref 10,000, pictured right) that was inspired by the volumes of the Register of Sasines stored in the Matheson Dome in General Register House: brown for the leather bindings, red and gold for the labels, and black for the shelving.



NRS looks after the records created by Scottish kings and queens, businesses,



families, churches and the courts which make up the written history of Scotland. Amongst these medieval charters, wills, letters, diaries, records of crime, photographs, maps and plans, there are interesting sources for tartan history. Included in our collection is a piece of tartan, believed to be from the plaid of Bonnie Prince Charlie, given to Lady Mackintosh at Moy Hall, Inverness-shire, where he rested before the Battle of Culloden in April 1746. Tests have been carried out on the dyes, which suggest the tartan is of the correct period. (Pictured left)

If you have a tartan design that you would like to register then you need to complete an online application form through your user account on our website. Guidance is available and the team here are happy to help with any queries you may have. All application forms are checked by the team and reviewed by tartan industry representatives to make sure they fit with the requirements of the act and ensure the tartan is unique by comparing with tartans already on our website. When this is completed the tartan will be registered and displayed on our website.

As mentioned earlier, there are over 8000 tartans included on the register and in the last 10 years we have registered over 2000 unique designs.

Once a design is registered, customers have the option of sending the team a woven sample of their tartan. An accredited conservationist ensures that the physical textile samples that we receive are preserved and permanently stored in the national archives to the correct standards (pictured below). Since February 2009, we have received almost 1000 tartan samples that have been professionally conserved in our archive and are preserved for future generations to enjoy. Samples can be viewed in our historical search room in General Register House.





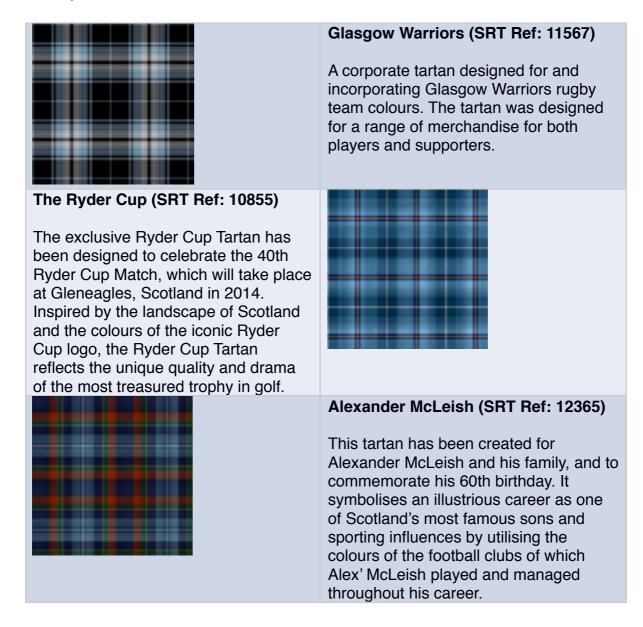
Included in our sample collection is the 'Berger-Maclaren' tartan (SRT reference: 10058) which was designed by Senator David Berger FSA Scot. The tartan is based and inspired by the style of the tartan of Clan MacLaren. Senator Berger is a member of Clan MacLaren and has researched tartan for many years. The colours and style are taken from inspiration found through that research. Sample pictured below.



Over the past decade we have had many interesting tartans registered, including:

#### **Sporting clubs/events**

We have had many sporting tartans registered including football clubs, rugby clubs, golf clubs and many for sporting events such as Commonwealth Games and The Ryder Cup. We even recently had one for Scotland football manager Alex McLeish to celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.



## **Commemorative**

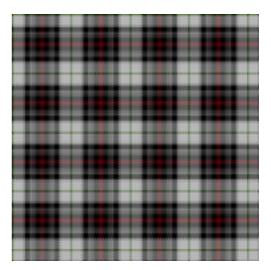
We have had several commemorative tartans registered celebrating historical events and famous figures. Here are just a few (including one for the famous Edinburgh Pandas!):

	The Battle of Bannockburn (SRT Ref: 10788) The Battle of Bannockburn tartan has been designed on behalf of the National Trust for Scotland by Christine MacLeod, property manager of Weaver's Cottage in Kilbarchan. The first piece of this tartan was woven in Weaver's Cottage by Christine on the 200 year old loom. Johnstons of Elgin will weave the tartan to produce scarves and blankets to be sold at The Battle of Bannockburn from its opening date in 2014.
Clementine Churchill Commemorative (SRT Ref: 12309)	
Designed to honour and commemorate Clementine Churchill.	
	Benny Lynch Commemorative (SRT Ref: 12208)
	This tartan commemorates the life and achievements of Scottish, British, European and World flyweight boxing champion Benny Lynch. The main background colours of blue and white represent the Scottish Saltire Flag with other colours representing the Coat of Arms for the City of Glasgow, his place of birth.

# The Edinburgh Zoo Panda (SRT Ref: 10505)

Created to celebrate the arrival of a breeding pair of pandas at Edinburgh Zoo. The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland was formally established on the 18th of March 1909, by Edinburgh lawyer, Thomas Gillespie. In order to give the design a direct link to The Edinburgh Zoo's heritage, the Gillespie Tartan was the starting point for this new design. The main colours of the tartan are black and white, directly representing the Panda's. Grey shades

have been added to soften the tartan as well as to convey the gradation of colour from black to white, as seen on the Panda's fur. The red represents China as the pandas are their gift. The number 3 signifies luck because it sounds similar to the Chinese character for birth. Where possible therefore, three red overchecks have been inserted into the heart of the design. This shows China, as well as the pandas, in the hearts and minds of Scotland and its people. Green has also been included to represent the pandas' favourite food, bamboo.





You can look through the tartans registered on our website (<u>https://www.tartanregister.gov.uk/</u> <u>search</u>) using a variety of search options such as colours, name, category, key word or designer and with over 8000 tartans registered you are sure to find some interesting and colourful entries. If you have any questions please feel free to get in touch with the team at the Scottish Register of Tartans via email at <u>enquiries@tartanregister.gov.uk</u>.

#### Serendipity - And A Mystery!

This is a tale of McLaren serendipity. It starts when Edinburgh-based Devin Scobie, who has an interest in political history, received an invitation from a dealer in Brighton to acquire a letter from 1838 written by Duncan McLaren, later MP and Lord Provost of the city. Scobie, himself a Liberal Democrat and former Edinburgh Councillor, immediately realised that this was the McLaren whose biography had recently by written by his friend Willis Pickard under the title *The Member for Scotland*.

The letter offered is dated 6 July 1838 and was sent by McLaren from London to his wife Christina at home in Edinburgh. Not for the first time McLaren as city treasurer had been dispatched to London to help resolve Edinburgh's chronic financial problems which amounted to bankruptcy. Through his increasingly profitable retail business in the High Street he was used to striking good bargains, and he was happy to put the city's case to MPs and peers.

This visit coincided with the coronation of the young Queen Victoria and he recounts in letters to Christina his luck in obtaining a ticket for Westminster Abbey. Two days later in the letter that has come to light he tells her of his success in winning the city's case and that he was not daunted by dealing with officials like the Attorney General and the Speaker of the Commons. Flushed with success he warns her to keep the good news to herself until the Bill implementing the outcome is published.

The question remains: how did this letter disappear from the collection of McLaren's lifelong correspondence, which is lodged at the National Library of Scotland along with that of his three wives and ten children?

The answer is given indirectly in Pickard's biography of McLaren. He quotes from the only previous account of McLaren's life. It was written shortly after McLaren died in 1886 at the age of 86. The family had hired a freelance journalist, John Beveridge Mackie, to whom it was made clear that hagiography was the name of the game. Mackie fulfilled his brief in two volumes. With access to McLaren's papers he was expected to praise a famous man. Mackie quotes the letter that has now come to light. It showed McLaren successfully dealing with the great and good of London, and thereby saving the northern capital. With evidence like that, his brief would be fulfilled. As indeed it was. The hero was remembered almost unblemished, though McLaren's brother-in-law, John Bright of anti-corn law fame, grumbled "not one quarter of the praise due to McLaren has been given him."

It appears that Mackie forgot to restore to the family archive a prime piece of evidence for his hero's greatness. Where it got to for well over a century we have no idea.

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

# **Duncan McLaren and the Feuing of the Lands of Newlands and Mayfield, Edinburgh** by Patricia Jones

In 1508, King James IV of Scotland allowed the city magistrates to feu the Burgh Muir, historically an area to the south of the old city of Edinburgh, and by 1586 there were 8 feus in the block which constituted the extreme south-eastern corner of the Muir. Gradually the feus merged, and by 1704 the 4 central feus became the property of a surgeon-apothecary, Dr Walter Porterfield<sup>1</sup> and were known as the lands of Newlands or Mayfield. The 4 outer feus were owned by a coachmaker, John Home, who lived at Rosebank House, at the corner of what is now called West Mayfield and Dalkeith Road. Home bought Porterfield's lands in 1739<sup>2</sup>, and eventually Home's surviving descendants sold the whole feu to Mr. Duncan McLaren, around 1860 for £16,000.

At a time when Edinburgh was overcrowded, and expansion within the city area was limited by the influx of railways, Duncan McLaren embarked on his project of establishing Waverley Park, a 21-acre subdivision in Newington, an area of woodland south of the central city.

McLaren had been born in Dunbartonshire, the youngest of 10 children, and apart from two years schooling, was self-taught. After being apprenticed to a merchant in Dunbar, he set up as a draper in Edinburgh in 1824. He joined the town council in about 1834, becoming City Treasurer in 1837. He is well known as the Lord Provost of Edinburgh between 1851-54, and a Liberal Party M.P. from 1865-80, but this is another aspect of his life. After his 3<sup>rd</sup> marriage in 1848, he and his wife Priscilla Bright and family lived at 24 Rutland Street<sup>3</sup>, and then in 1852 he bought Newington House, in Blacket Avenue.



Newington House, in Blacket Avenue, with Duncan McLaren and his large family. Sadly the house no longer stands, and has been replaced by modern University of Edinburgh Halls of Residence.

The Blacket Estate was developed after 1805 (when Newington House was built) just north of what is now known as Waverley Park, so it is easy to understand how he became interested in the neighbouring area, where there were only a few scattered houses, including those mentioned above.

He engaged David Cousin, the City Architect (1847-78) to

draw up the first set of plans in 1862, for a fairly standard development based on rectangular feus, set along 2 straight streets, between Dalkeith Road and Mayfield Gardens, with one smaller curved street to the south.

This layout was not used, and two years later, by 1864, Cousins had prepared a dramatically altered plan. There are a number of theories as to why the 1864 layout plans were so different.



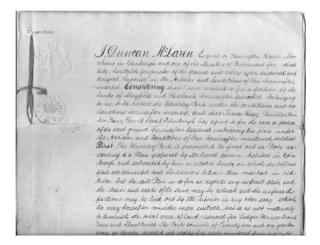
Historically Edinburgh's Old Town had narrow closes and overcrowded houses, and the New Town was still being extended and built along rectangular blocks and straight lines, on wide streets with terraced houses, with some communal gardens. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century stone-built villa suburbs were appearing, with streets of separate houses set in large gardens and separated by stone boundary walls, for example in Merchiston, Churchill, Grange and Blacket on the south side of Edinburgh, but following the 'straight street' pattern.



Feuing Plan dated 1870, but essentially the same as that drawn up by D. Cousin in 1864. (Copied with permission from HES, under Licence (Canmore).)

For what ever reason, the curved street was introduced into the plan of 1864, with stone built detached and semi-detached houses, set in their own gardens at front and back. The properties in the main curved crescents had access from their back garden to the communally-owned private open spaces. This was unique in Scotland at this time. The layout incorporated a bowling green in the design, as well as Porter's Lodges at the entrances to the estate. All the houses face towards the centre of the area, with their backs onto the main roads, like Dalkeith Rd and East Mayfield, making for a community atmosphere.

There had been a dreadful tenement collapse in the Old Town on 24 Nov 1861, and both McLaren and Cousin would have remembered an academic paper they had heard,<sup>4</sup> "on the housing conditions of the working classes by Dr Alexander Wood, vice president of the Royal College of Physicians, [which] was read to the Architectural Institute of Scotland on Jan 13, 1862". Both were in the audience and took part in the discussion. They were clearly keen to improve the housing conditions of ordinary people. Cousin lived in George Square in Edinburgh, which had communal open space; perhaps McLaren, as an M.P. may have been influenced by London, where a similar layout was being developed in Ladbroke Grove.



Extract from author's Title Deeds, of property built within the Waverley Park.

At that time, land transfer was an act of feuing, which preferred uses in perpetuity with ultimate ownership still remaining with the Crown. McLaren, as "heritable proprietor of the ground", and "Feu Superior" feued the subdivision with an elaborate set of covenants: he had

very clear ideas as to the quality of life and amenities that his feuars should enjoy. He stipulated that the villas should be built at a value of not less than £1300 each (a not inconsiderable sum – about £1.1m at todays value). Each villa was to be self-contained and could not be divided into flats or accommodation for more than 1 family (and staff), with strict occupancy restrictions. No villa could exceed more than 2 storeys in height (except with consent of the Feu Superior), although attics were allowed, and ornamental central or side towers could be erected, and sub-storeys where the land sloped.



Replacement cast iron railings in Queen's Crescent, made to the original design, with low stone wall and view through gardens.

Other Feu covenant conditions and restrictions included the following: if 2 villas were to be built on 1 plot, they had to be of equal size (measurements staked off by architect or Surveyor appointed by the Superior (at a cost of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ guineas for each plot); the back and sides of each villa "shall be enclosed by a wall averaging 14 inches thick, including a dressed stone coping or a railing not more than 7 feet high; the front enclosures along the roads shall be a parapet wall, having a neat hewn cope not exceeding an average of 2 feet 6 inches above the pavement with an iron railing 3 feet 6 inches high. This railing shall always be kept open so as to be able to see the 'flower plot' [i.e. the

front garden], from the carriage way". Unfortunately, in 1941 most of the railings were donated to the war effort, and only a few have been replaced with the original cast-iron design, although every fence was left with a residual large and small upright, and finial, to encourage eventual re-instatement.

Residents were restricted from cutting down trees and a Board of 5 Trustees were empowered to "uplift the sum of £20 or such other sum as may be due by each feuar and so apply the same to erect the gates and acquire the entrance lodges; to form and plant pleasure grounds, walks, bowling green, and trees, and to maintain the same". Originally the feuars were also responsible for the construction and maintenance of the roads, drains and footpaths. The 8th condition said that "Each feuar shall maintain a proper footpath 6 feet wide with stone kerb and water channel along the whole length of his frontage", and the 12th condition stated that "apart from approved stable coachhouse, greenhouse, or garden house, no other building was allowed". The flower plots at the front of each villa had to be 27 feet 6 inches wide and 25 feet deep. One of the more thought-provoking conditions (at least by today's standards) maintained that "No feuar or tenant may erect or form a cowhouse, pighouse, brewery, distillery, workshop, steam engine or yard for masons, wrights, smiths, coopers, weavers, candlemakers, or crackling houses, or slaughter houses. Feuars may not carry on any chemical operations, or manufacturing which causes any nuisance, disturbance or annoyance to neighbours. He may not keep a shop, or hotel or public house, or brothel or sell any exciseable liquors. He may not quarry stones (except for the purposes of building)."



When <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> the plots are securely feued, a meeting was established to appoint 5 Trustees with powers to form the Pleasure Gardens, and when 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the plots are feued, McLaren conveyed the communal land, according to the covenants, "and the Trustees shall be relieved of their duties, the management of the Park is to be vested in and belong to the whole body of feuars collectively as a common property to be preserved and upheld at their expense in all time coming for the use of the whole families residing within the park."<sup>5</sup> The Feu Charter still applies, with a General Committee of Management, elected by their fellow feuars, to collect annual dues so as to maintain the communally-owned pleasure gardens. The title deeds then proceed to detail the composition of the Committee, and instructions about an Annual General Meeting. McLaren was not leaving anything to chance!

While he was involved in politics, he must have been a rather dominating and formidable character. As the Chair of the Sanitary Committee on the Edinburgh town council, he controversially sacked the Police Surgeon over a dispute about the Water of Leith, and quarrelled with the editors of the newspapers. However, as a family man his house was apparently a "place of sunshine, and all-pervading affection...." <sup>3</sup>

Duncan McLaren named the streets within the Waverley Park Feu: hence McLaren Road after himself, and Burgess Terrace, as he was a Burgess of the city; Queen's Crescent in loyalty to Queen Victoria; Peel Terrace in tribute to Sir Robert Peel; and Cobden Crescent and Cobden



Road name sign at the corner of Queen's Crescent; looking northwards towards Queen's Crescent corner

Road after his friend, the Liberal statesman Richard Cobden, MP, who with John Bright, founded the Anti-Corn Law League. Ventnor Terrace was named after a holiday resort on the Isle of Wight, frequented by the McLarens', and apparently the Waverley Park was so named because of his fondness for literature. Interestingly, his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife, Priscilla Bright McLaren<sup>6</sup> was a sister of John Bright, and Bright's Crescent is adjacent to Waverley Park, on the west side of "Mayfield Street" (now called Mayfield Gardens), and was part of the Mayfield Estate, acquired by McLaren in 1863, and similarly feued and laid according to plans drawn up by Cousin. Our house deeds (shown above) were actually witnessed by Jacob Bright MP (brother of John and Priscilla Bright) and Charles McLaren, Barrister-at-Law, Chancery Lane, London (who was Duncan's oldest son, and who became 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Aberconway). In about 1887-8, the Feu Superiors began building tenement flats with shops beneath in Dalkeith Road, on a portion of the land designated to be Waverley Park, causing much consernation and consultations with lawyers. It was eventually settled amicably, but the Superiors had to agree that there would be no further development like this within the Park. Furthermore the Feuars were granted an additional piece of communal ground, extending the



Views across the Pleasure Gardens: Top images in Waverley Park, with the stone circle used for bonfires, originally held on Victoria Day, but since 1958 for Guy Fawkes Night; Lower images of Ventnor Gardens and Terrace.

Ventnor Park into a lower level, and "to be reserved as additional Pleasure Grounds for behalf of Feuars in all time coming". Ventnor Park was eventually laid out in 1891.

After the extension to Ventnor Gardens, a feuar (Robert Brown) who refused to pay for the maintenance of the enlarged garden on the premise that it was not shown on the original Feuing Plan, was taken to Court. Lord Kyllachy upheld the Committee's case. Brown appealed against the decision, but once again the case was dismissed, and "the whole body of Feuars" won, and Brown had to pay, and "his successor in the Feu are bound to pay along with the other feuars" the necessary amount to maintain the grounds<sup>7</sup>. It has not been challenged since!

Most of the properties in McLaren Road were completed between 1880-90. With so many restrictions placed on owners and tenants within the Feu, it is interesting to note the list of occupations of the first residents of McLaren Road. Among others, there was a leather merchant, a brewer, an insurance inspector, 2 ministers of the Church, a wine merchant, 2 grocers, a stationer, a secretary, 3 listed as "Traveller", and several female tenants.

The Feu was held by the McLarens until the last surviving heir died, when it was transferred to the Church of Scotland as Feu Superior. Ultimately, the "Abolition of the Feudal Tenure (Scotland) Act 2000" extinguished all superiority interests in land and transferred ownership outright. The area retains the majority of features and amenities established by McLaren, and is now part of a Conservation Area.

## **References and Footnotes:**

- Dr Porterfield apparently owned Newlands while living at Humbie, as the Land Tax Rolls list "Walter Porterfield of Humbie, for the lands Newlands, called Powburn and Mayfield, part of Grange. £53.0.0." He became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh in 1684, and an oval bust-length portrait of him, painted by Sir John Medina, still hangs there. Porterfield was involved with the setting up of "Collection of Curiosities" at RCSE, from 1699. Any persons with items to bestow, were to send them to Dr Walter Porterfield who was Treasurer of the Society, at his home at the Head of the Canongate, which was in the Royal Mile, Old Town. (<u>https://museum.rcsed.ac.uk/media/4361/museums\_history.pdf</u>) Ref: The Incorporation of Surgeons and Medical education and Practice in Edinburgh 1696-1755 PhD Rosalie Mary Stott 1984 downloaded as 'Core.ac.uk'
  From the Land Tax Rolls:
  - Heirs of John Home, coachmaker, Mayfield, as after stated, £53 for Powburn
- <sup>3</sup> at No. 54 in Archive,org. Full text of "Life and work of Duncan McLaren. by J.B. Mackie. Vol 1 Thomas Nelson and Sons. London, Edinburgh and New York. 1888.
- <sup>4</sup> Insanitary Edinburgh, R Rodgers et al. pp:83
- <sup>5</sup> The first meeting of all Feuars was held in April 1883, to elect a Committee of Management, and was held The Rosehall United Presbyterian Church (now called the Priestfield Parish Church, 2 Marchhall Place, (Dalkeith Road).
- <sup>6</sup> Priscilla bright kept house for her brother John, and when he remarried, she accepted Duncan McLaren's proposal (after twice turning him down). He was older than

Priscilla, and she became stepmother to his 5 children. They were a good match and worked on many campaigns together and described by contemporaries as "equal partners". She particularly campaigned for women's rights, and championed education for girls in Edinburgh.

<sup>7.</sup> Excerpts from the Waverley Park Feuars Minute Book No. 1.

#### **Other sources:**

Waverley Park 1883-1983. Reminiscences and History (October 1983)

Waverley Park Edinburgh. A Conservation Study, 1977. Report on behalf on the Waverley Park Amenity Association, by John Fullarton

The Waverley Park Conservation Area - Character Appraisal. Nov 2002. ISBN 1 85191 062 X

The Craigmillar Park Conservation Area - Character Appraisal. Nov 2003. ISBN 1 85191 062 X

The 1862 Layout Plan, on page 16, was originally provided in 1975 and reproduced with the consent of the Scottish Records Office. However the copyright holder is Brodies LLP and they have still not been able to trace it, so I am still awaiting permission.

The 1870 Plan was provided by, and reproduced with the consent of Historical Environment, Scotland, Canmore Section.

The Scotsman Newspaper. Wed 24th August 2011. Political achievements of McLaren.

#### The Road to Bannockburn

by Mike Lawson

In March 1314, King Edward II of England received a disconcerting dispatch from Sir Philip Moubray, Governor of the English Garrison, defending Stirling Castle against the besieging Scottish army of Sir Edward Bruce, younger brother of Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, stating that under the laws of chivalry, an agreement had been drawn up between himself and Sir Edward Bruce, to the effect that the castle would be surrendered to the King of Scots if the garrison was not relieved before the 24<sup>th</sup> June (midsummer's day) 1314. Very much aware of how the surrender of Stirling Castle would seriously set back England's prospects of ever conquering Scotland, as well as doing little to enhance his personal reputation, King Edward II decided to march to the relief of Stirling Castle at the head of one of the largest and best-equipped English armies ever to set foot upon Scottish soil; hoping thereby not only to relieve the beleaguered castle but also to confront and defeat the numerically smaller army of King Robert the Bruce at the same time.

Preparing to invade Scotland, Edward ordered that his army of an estimated 20,000 fighting men recruited from the Northern shires of England assemble at Wark-on-Tweed near Coldstream by 10th June 1314. In addition to the accompanying supply train of carts and wagons carrying food, water, tents, spare weapons and the money to pay the troops, Edward had also instructed that further supplies be brought up by boat to the Port of Leith by Edinburgh by 23<sup>rd</sup> June at the latest. Estimating how long that it would take to march his army from Wark to Edinburgh and then on via Falkirk to Stirling, the King crossed over the border into Scotland at the head of his army on the 17th June 1314 with drums beating and battle standards flying. The English advance was noted and reported back to the King of Scots as being of 'great strength and magnificence', headed by a 2,000 strong contingent of the King of England's formidable heavy cavalry: battle-hardened Knights in armour, mounted on specially trained war horses, in their red, blue and gold heraldic trappings, followed by 3,000 archers and over 10,000 spearmen. By the 21st June, Edward's army had reached Edinburgh unopposed where they collected additional supplies they had previously shipped up to the Port of Leith. On the 22nd June, Edward's army marched 22 and a half miles from Edinburgh to Falkirk, where news of his arrival reached Robert the Bruce, who immediately set about choosing a suitable battle site behind the banks of a fast-flowing stream known as the Bannockburn, some 3 miles to the south of Stirling Castle and effectively blocking King Edward of England's route to relieve the Castle.

On his left flank, King Robert the Bruce's army was anchored against the Carse (a large area of marshy, boggy ground) whilst to his right was Gillie's Hill, which at the time was extensively wooded. The Bruce set about strengthening this naturally defensive position by ordering his men to dig a series of deep pits with sharp, pointed wooden stakes hammered into the pits which he then covered over. Further to this, he scattered many 100s of calthrops (four sharp-pointed metal spikes as big as a man's hand) across the area where the English cavalry would have to charge. On the late afternoon of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, the English army came into view: an awe-inspiring sight to say the least. The King of England decided that it was too late to go into battle, deciding that dawn the following morning would be a better time.

One impetuous English knight, however, Sir Henry De Bohun, spotted Robert the Bruce riding on a pony inspecting some of his troops manning the frontline defences, and seeing his chance of glory by killing the King of Scots lowered his lance and galloped full-tilt at the Bruce, who at the time was not wearing any armour and only carrying a battle axe. Seeing the danger he was in, the King sidestepped his pony and, as De Bohun came thundering past, cleaved him a mighty blow with his battle-axe, killing the English knight immediately, and was greeted by a mighty cheer from his own army. In that army were the MacLarens, led by their Chief, Donald, fighting under the banner of his kinsman, Malise, 7th Earl of Strathearn.

As dawn broke on the morning of Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 1314, the Scottish army knelt in prayer and the King of England, until he was told otherwise, believed they were kneeling to beg for mercy. Initially, Edward sent a body of English archers forward without giving them necessary protective cover from other infantry or cavalry, and they were immediately cut to pieces by King Robert the Bruce's 500 strong contingent of cavalry. Seeing this, the King of England ordered a massive frontal attack by his heavy cavalry who ran straight into the concealed pits; horses and riders went down, some being impaled on the pointed stakes while others were struggling to get up due to their heavy armour. Complete carnage ensued, making them easy targets for the Scottish spearmen. The King of England then ordered a massive infantry assault which the Scottish troops repulsed. The Battle was at a pivotal point and not going well for the King of England when they observed, pouring down Gillie's Hill toward them, what appeared to be another army of Scots, and immediately began to fall back; hundreds of men struggling to get back across the Bannockburn, which in places was 50 feet wide. They did not realise that it was not another army but merely several thousand ordinary civilians and camp followers of the King of Scot's army, supported by the addition of some Scottish clans who had arrived to support the Bruce. Bannockburn was a complete disaster for the King of England who managed, with a small escort of Knights, to escape to the port of Dunbar where he was lucky to find a ship to take him back to Berwick-upon-Tweed and safety. Thousands of his men, however, were killed, captured, knights held to ransom, and the baggage train containing all the money to pay the English army, falling into Scottish hands.

Against all the odds, King Robert the Bruce had defeated a numerically superior English army, thus laying the foundations for future Scottish independence, conducting raids himself over the border into England even marching as far south as Lancaster and Preston. The Battle of Bannockburn is a classic example of people fighting to defend their homeland against an invader. It was in truth a volunteer army of patriots, prepared under the leadership of King Robert the Bruce, to defend Scotland with their lives. This patriotic spirit was reaffirmed six years later in 1320 in the immortal words of the Declaration of Arbroath, drawn up by Robert the Bruce and other Scottish leaders and sent to Pope John XXII to gain his support in recognising Scotland as an independent nation with its own King and, in part, read:

'For as long as a hundred of us are left alive, we will yield in no least way to English dominion.

We fight not for glory, not for wealth, nor honours ..

But only, and alone, we fight for freedom, which no good man surrenders but with his life.'

*Note:* Society members may be interested in visiting the battlefield of Bannockburn which is run by the National Trust for Scotland and is just off the main road from Stirling to Falkirk (the A80), where one can see a gigantic equestrian statue of Robert the Bruce (unveiled by the Queen in 1964) amongst many other interesting artefacts.



The Main Gate, Stirling Castle, Scotland. Pen and Ink Sketch by Mike Lawson.

Stones of Strength Challenge Results - 2018

by Mike Lawson

## STONES OF STRENGTH CHALLENGE RESULTS 2018

The 2018 Challenge to lift and hold the 200 kilo Clan MacLaren Stone of Strength for the greatest length of time saw the previous record of 54 seconds, set by Scottish country Blacksmith and Clan MacLaren member Stan Pike in 2012, beaten by two of this year's 14 challengers, namely:

**1**. Riley Palmer, a 28-year-old school teacher from Utah in America, with a time of 62 seconds, beating Stan's previous record by 8 seconds. A very impressive lift indeed.

**2**. Second place went to 25-year-old Belgian powerlifter, Nick Wuyts, who lifted and held the stone for fractionally over 60seconds. Another outstanding lift, beating the old record by 6 seconds.

**3**. Third place was taken by local Scottish challenger, Martin Burke, from Blairgowrie in Perthshire, with a commendable lift of 49.84 seconds.

So high was the overall standard shown by the competitors in the 2018 event that last year's winner, Bastien Marthouret, from Grenoble in France - with a then winning time of 22 seconds - would only have finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place in this year's event. Well behind even my own demonstration lift at 78 years of age of 36.68 seconds! Surely a record for us over-65s and pensioners!

Following the competition, I was approached by a lady and gentleman from Austria who told me that Scottish Highland Games are very popular in Austria, some of which even include stone lifting competitions similar to our own.

The prizes remain the same for this year as last, namely £70 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, together with a special souvenir paperweight, Second Prize £50 cash and third prize £30 cash. All three being awarded a personal certificate, signed by the Chief, confirming their stone lifting achievements.

Looking forward to seeing you all again at Lochearnhead Highland Games in July of this year.

Be sure to stay strong!



First place winner Riley Palmer

Mike Lawson.

Petition from tenants and crofters in the Lochearnhead district for an additional place of worship

by Neil McLaurin

In May 1825 some 472 tenants of the Earl of Breadalbane and 93 tenants and crofters of Sir Evan Murray MacGregor of Edinchip petitioned Breadalbane for the erection of a church at Lochearnhead. The petitioners pointed out that many were aged and infirm and had no mode of conveyance to church but by travelling on foot and that they resided from five to seven miles from their existing parish church. They did not get their wish as a Presbyterian church was not built in Lochearnhead until 1844.

The list is of interest as it gives the distribution of McLarens around Lochearnhead at this time and the size of their families.

Name	Place	Number in family
Donald McLaren	Carnlia	8
Donald McLaren		2
Peter McLaren	Dalveich	5
Daniel McLaren		7
John McLaren	Quarries	5
Archibald McLaren	Achra	12
Douglas McLaren		5
Duncan McLaren		4
Peter McLaren		3
Alexander McLaren		7
John McLaren		7
Robert McLaren	Glenogle	4
John McLaren		4
Widow McLaren	Edinample	2
Donald McLaren	Edenchip	8
James McLaren		6
Duncan McLaren		9

Source: Breadalbane Papers National Records of Scotland GD112/16.

We are grateful to Alastair MacLaren for alerting us to this interesting document.

#### Vivienne MacLaren

by Bridget Stevens

Having spotted a newspaper article in which the Chair of Scottish Women's Football was quoted as saying that her organisation will never accept sponsorship from alcohol or gambling companies because she wants fans of the game to have "a cleaner view of life", my interest was piqued. I then read that she is a MacLaren and thus an obvious choice for a CMS

Newsletter feature. Our subsequent conversation on the phone kicked off with Vivienne MacLaren declaring that she is a "very proud MacLaren". And it quickly became clear that she is well informed about and interested in her clan antecedents, especially her great grandfather, Alexander Baird MacLaren, a wholesale pharmacist in Glasgow City Centre who moved from living in West end of Glasgow to Giffnock on the South side, where many of the MacLarens still reside. Her grandfather, also Alexander Baird MacLaren, played football for Scotland in a schoolboy international against England at Craven Cottage in Fulham before the 1st World war. Vivienne has, like many of her generation, been able to glean a great deal of information about names and dates from a family bible which remains one of her prized possessions. She has also accessed records in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow and found these a rewarding source of information about her family.



Under Vivienne's guidance, a new sponsor for women's football has recently been signed up - SHAAP (Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems) making this the first Scottish football sponsorship specifically aimed at tackling Scotland's alcohol problems.

She serves on a government advisory board for Women and Sport which provides independent advice to the Minister for Public Health and Sport on female participation and awareness raising in all areas of sport and physical activity. The Scotsman newspaper has just published a full-page article about Vivienne's initiative. <u>https://www.scotsman.com/health/healthy-result-for-girls-game-1-4915176</u>. In her day job, Vivienne is an award-winning

marketing and communications strategist with a propensity, as she puts it, for digital marketing. With 21 years' industry experience, she has cultivated significant perspective working across both client and agency sides in Scotland and London. Having held senior positions in leading UK communications and digital agencies, in 2007 Vivienne founded one of Scotland's first dedicated digital marketing agencies.

Well known for her passion for sport, Vivienne is often seen at sporting events and still plays hockey for her local club, Giffnock Tennis Squash and Hockey Club, in Glasgow's South Side. Perhaps she would like to set up a competition at the Lochearnhead Games?!

# Bridge of Weir Leather Company Limited Is Named Winner of Oueen's Award for International Trade for the Fifth Time

Bridge of Weir Leather Company has been honoured with one of the world's most prestigious awards for international trade. The company was named among the Queen's Award winners for 2018, as is tradition, on the 21st of April – the birthday of Her Majesty The Queen. The announcement marks the fifth time Bridge of Weir Leather Company has been named a Queen's Award winner, always in the International Trade category, with the previous award made in 2012. (Queen's Award for Enterprise honours were also received in 2000, 1996 and 1985).



Bridge of Weir Leather Company is the largest automotive leather supplier in the UK, competes in the top 10 globally, and has been at the forefront of innovation and quality for over a century. Starting with the Model T Ford in the early 20th century, the company now supplies the global automotive industry including McLaren Automotive (see photo, with Clan Chieftain James MacLaren of Struthill).

#### **Commemorative Plaque**

by Stewart McLaurin

The President of the White House Historical Association in Washington, DC, Stewart D. McLaurin, participated in the unveiling of a special plaque at 66 Queen Street in Edinburgh last fall. This commemorative plaque, created by Historic Environment Scotland, pays tribute to the members of Edinburgh Lodge Number 8 who crossed the Atlantic in 1794 to lend their stone carving skills to the embellishment of the walls of the White House as it was built. Shown here at the reveal of the plaque with President McLaurin is Donald MacLaren, Chief of Clan MacLaren. The plaque is located on one of the Edinburgh houses the stonemasons worked on upon their return to Scotland. The historic work of the Scots stonemasons on the White House is still in evidence today and is considered to be the finest example of eighteenth-century stone carving in America.



Photo: The White House Historical Association

<u>Editor's note:</u> Lodge Number 8 (part of the Grand Lodge of Edinburgh, the oldest Masonic institution in the world) was an operative chapter, restricted to working stonemasons. There were also two Pat(t)ersons present at the unveiling: Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of Historic Environment Scotland; and Chris Patterson, a young stonemason with HES, who carved the Double White Scottish Rose that formed part of the accompanying exhibition in Stirling, "The Scots who Built the White House".

<u>The Chief adds</u>: Stewart McLaurin was appointed President of the White House Historical Association in 2014, a position held by only five others since it was established in 1961 by Mrs J.Kennedy. Stewart gave me a fascinating "behind the scenes" tour of the White House when I was visiting Washington for Tartan Week in April last year.

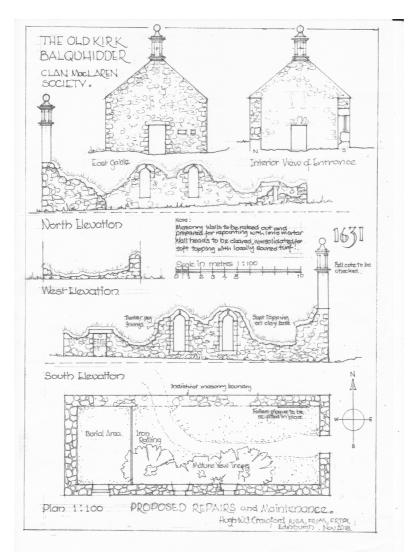
The Chief will be attending the **<u>Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Sydney</u>** as Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. On Thursday evening 17th October he will lead members of the MacLaren Clan and other participants marching onto the Esplanade to open the evening's programme.

Donald will be meeting with Clan MacLaren members and attending other events in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. For further information and at your earliest convenience, please contact Linda McLaren, Chairman, Clan MacLaren Society of Australia, preferably by email: <u>linda\_mclaren\_@hotmail.com</u> or 0409 529 778.

## The Old Kirk: Since 1631 - A Sense Of Place

As we negotiate the courtesies, obligations and intricacies of Historic Environment Scotland, and seek approvals for the works, we are going out to tender for the work through a progression of procedures where the scale of what is required is better suited to larger and more complex works but the boxes have to be ticked anyway.

I can hardly believe how long the proposed works of repair and consolidation have been on the way, but I wonder also about the reason and importance of identifying and activating the procedures which keep the Old Kirk, a roofless ruin, in good heart.



It is a place to go to, a place with the history of the Clan MacLaren in tangible form: Clan Chiefs are buried within its enclosure, presided over by ancient yew trees. For members of the Clan it is a focus of interest and expression of the Clan's presence in the glen. From that is derived a sense of belonging and a point of connection with the past.

Current planning policy promotes the creating of communities with a sense of place, to foster kinship, fellowship, common identity, and being part of something. The interest in the Clan from overseas, indeed throughout the world, keeps alive a strong sense of identity,

strengthened by annual gatherings at the Lochearnhead Games, a self refreshing process for clansmen to experience and participate. Clan members assemble and disperse again with a renewed sense of belonging. It is often said that it always helps in day-to-day living that you can best plan the way ahead, if you know where you have been. That's the value of history and place.

Hugh W J Crawford Architect

#### Minutes Of 2018 Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Society was held in the Clan tent at the Lochearnhead Games at 2.00 pm on Saturday 21st July, 2018.

#### PRESENT

Chairman The Chief, Donald MacLaren of MacLaren (DM)

*Council* George Borthwick (GB), Catherine Crawford (CC) (Membership and Trading Secretary), Hugh Crawford (HC), James MacLaren (JM) (Hon. Treasurer), Malcolm MacLaren (MM) (Social Secretary), Iona Mchedliani (IM) (Minutes Secretary), Neil McLaurin (NM) (Hon. Secretary), Bridget Stevens (BS) (Newsletter Editor)

*Members* Millie Borthwick, Edna Brizolla MacLaren, Catriona MacLaren, Douglas MacLaren, Florian MacLaren, Gary MacLaren, Janet MacLaren, Louis MacLaren, Rod McLaren, Tom MacLaren, Michael and Helga Rüttger, Felix Strobel

#### APOLOGIES

Patrick MacLaren (Vice Chairman), Iain and Fiona MacLaren, Mairead Anderson, Gordon McLaren, Hamish McLaren, Jack McLaren, Linda McLaren, William McLaren, Stephen Quillin

The AGM observed a silence in memory of and respect for Hugh MacLaren, Bruce McLaren and Geraldine Lawson.

MINUTES OF 2017 AGM Approval of the Minutes was proposed by GB and seconded by Janet MacLaren. Agreed by the AGM.

MATTERS ARISING None raised.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (DM)

The gathering of the Clan in 2017 had been particularly successful and popular. Highlights included the musical seminar and masterclass at the McLaren High School (generously

supported by a grant from the Scottish Government's Clan Events Fund) and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. The Clan MacLaren had made a great showing as they marched on the castle esplanade, proud to be in the company of the Camerons and the Clanranald MacDonalds and outnumbering both.

DM gave a vote of thanks to the Society's office bearers for their continuing dedicated work. He drew attention to CC's wish to stand down and the need to find as worthy a successor; and commended BS, with the valuable support of MM, on the latest newsletter. AGM applauded.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT (JM)

The balance had increased slightly, standing at £26,801.54 as of  $31^{st}$  March, 2018. Separate from this were the grant of £1500 from the Scottish Clan Events Fund and a bequest of £28,058 from Elizabeth (Betsy) Bell of the US.

Both the Balquhidder Educational Trust and current account were now with Santander and no longer Standard Life.

#### SOCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT (MM)

The 2017 Games dinner, with an attendance of 17 at £38 per head, had produced a small surplus of £8.50. The ticket price (reflecting higher costs charged) had increased this year to £39; but numbers attending had also increased, to 29. The annual dinner in The Royal Burgess, with Prof. David Purdie as guest speaker, was attended by 32 members and friends. A deficit of £112 had been met by the Society. Cost per head this November to be increased to £39.

AGM expressed thanks to MM for taking over from Iain MacLaren.

#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT (CC)

Total membership had now reached 738, having been above 700 for the last few years. Members were again encouraged to give their email addresses to the Membership secretary, especially to save on costs of paper copies of the newsletter.

AGM warmly welcomed all new members and endorsed call to find a replacement for CC.

#### TRADING REPORT (CC)

£288 taken in at last year's Games. DM had contacted Volunteer Scotland to find volunteers for the merchandise stand in place of CC but none had been forthcoming. MB, JM and NM offered to man the stand in 2019.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

IM proposed to continue as Minutes Secretary by NM, seconded by BS. Edna MacLaren proposed as new Council member by DM and JM, seconded by CC.

#### ELECTION OF EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

Douglas Kenney proposed to continue as Accounts Examiner by JM, seconded by NM.

#### AR & KM MACLAREN TRUST

MM read out Hamish McLaren's report. The Trust had provided this year for 6 bursars (3 new, 3 continuing), with a total expenditure of £2,250. The Trust's capital continued to grow.

# BALQUHIDDER EDUCATIONAL TRUST (BET)

DM reported that the Trust, established by Phil McLaren of Quincy, Massachusetts, who had earlier taught at the Balquhidder primary school, continued to make an annual contribution to the McLaren High School. Funds held were gradually diminishing and stood at £7600.

DM referred to the bequest of Betsy Bell and read out a letter from her executor and niece, Molly, recalling Betsy's links to the Clan through her mother Olive's ancestry. There was some ambiguity in the wording of the bequest, as being for the "Balquhidder Foundation", but the Society had been given discretion on use of the funds. The Council had agreed to allocate part to the BET and part to future significant projects. On the latter, he invited Society members to submit ideas and recommendations to the Council.

#### AOCB

HC reported on the repairs schedule for the Old Kirk. There had been delays with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) over the need for a revised works specification. He anticipated approval by the year's end.

DM extended thanks to HC for his continuing liaison with HES; and to Florian MacLaren for his tree and clearance works around the Old Kirk.

The AGM was concluded at 2:55 pm.

#### Notice of AGM 2019

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

The Annual General meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday 20th July in the Clan Tent at the Lochearnhead Highland Games starting at 1.30pm.

All members are most welcome. Please support your society. Refreshments are available

#### <u>AGENDA</u>

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Minutes of AGM 2018 (Published in the Annual Newsletter)
- 3. Matters Arising
- 4. Chairman's Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6. Social Secretary's Report
- 7. Membership Secretary's Report
- 8. Trading Report
- 9. Election of office bearers
- 10. Election of Examiner of Accounts.

11. Report - AR & KM MacLaren Trust.

12. Report - MacLaren (Balquhidder) Educational Trust

15. AOCB

Donald MacLaren of MacLaren Chairman

#### **Membership**

#### **Membership Report**

I am pleased to say that the membership of the Clan MacLaren Society has continued to increase this year and there are 682 Life and 63 Annual members, giving a total of 752, whereas last year it was 734. It has been a great pleasure to get to know Clan MacLaren Society members, whether through email when corresponding about membership or events, or at the events themselves where I have been able to put faces to names.

In 2009, the year of the Gathering in Edinburgh, I took on the role of Membership Secretary and it has been a truly rewarding position. During this time I have also had the chance to be Minute Secretary and Treasurer for short periods. While I am sad to relinquish the role, I am happy to be handing over to Mrs Sheena MacLaren and I look forward to continuing friendships.

The following is the list of new members, and sadly those who have died and we extend our sincere condolences to their families.

#### **New Annual Members:**

Mr Gordon Low, 1 East Blair Cottages, East Blair, Glenfarg PH2 9QL, Scotland Mr Mark Shimonkevitz, 22 Grandview DriveElkton, MD 21921, USA Mr Daniel John McLaurin, Stockleigh House, Stockleigh Pomeroy, EX17 4AT England Mr Malcolm J Lawson, 26 Warburton Street, Murrumba Downs, QLD 4503, Australia Mr John James Paterson, 52 Elgin Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY2 5HR Mr Sean Quinn, The Stables, Pipp's Ford, Needham Market, IP4 1AP Mr Markus Fischer, tulpenweg 18, Velbert, 42549 Germany Mr James Michael Lowry, 104 Davenport Road, Yarm, Yorkshire TS15 9TW Mr Karl Lowry, 104 Davenport Road, Yarm, Yorkshire T15 9TW Ms Jane W McLaren, 31 Lady Nairne Cresc, Edinburgh EH8 7PD Mr Henry Lawson, Barrow Hill Farm, Barrow Hill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9DN Ms Meghan Fenlock, 22/1 Chesterfield Gr., Lakeland, FL33813, USA Mr Jeffrey Flowerdew, 2158 Tower Court, Port Coquitlam, BC V3C5E3, Canada Mr Brett A. Lawrence, 10 Dunedin Park, Balmullo, St. Andrews, KY16 0BZ Mr Christopher Mclaren, 37 Glean Close, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire, LE9 6WY

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

Mr David J Law and Ms Birgit Piegeler, 68 High Street, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8RF Mr Douglas and Mrs Katrina McLaren, 7 Meadows Close, LLanharan.Pontyclun, Rhondda-Cycon- Taff,CF72 9QN

Dr Joni M Paterson, 7 Cadwell Dr, MA 01095 USA Ms Isabel Zervos, Am Kellerberg 15, D90766 Furth, Germany Mr Kenny McLaren, 7 Buchanan Cresc, Livingston EH54 7EE Mr Gordon and Mrs Julie McLaren, 7 Buchanan Cresc, Livingston EH54 7EE Mr Gordon and Mrs Nikki Lowery, 117 Mendenhall Drive, Madison, AL 35758, USA Mrs Meriel Appleton, 123 Queensgate,Beverley, Yorkshire HU17 8NJ (upgrade) Mr Brian and Mrs Christina Caswell, 50 Thames Close, Congleton, CW12 3RL Justis and Charles McLaren, 34426 30th Ave SW, Federal Way, WA 998023, USA

#### **Deaths:**

Ms Elizabeth Bell, 6755 Silver Creek, Rio Rancho, NM 87144-5721, USA Mr William S Law, 3812 Fisher Drive, Smyrna, GA 30082 USA Revd Dr George W Lawrence Jr, 53 Alder Lane, Burlington, UT 05401 USA Mrs Janet Hewes, 4849 Cliff City Road, Chestertown, MD 21620-9522 USA Major Gen and Mrs W G MacLaren, 438 N. Park Drive, Arlington, VA 2203 USA Mrs Cathie McLaren, 11 Lynn Drive, Milngavie Glasgow, G62 8HL Dr Eon Hamish McLaren, Badmany House, Beith, N Ayrshire KA15 2JL Mr Peter Jardine McLaren, 30 Durham Drive, Bathgate, West Lothian, EH48 2BY

C M Crawford, Membership Secretary

#### Creag an Tuirc

by Neil McLaurin

CMS Secretary Neil McLaurin's 758-page reference book is an essential guide to anyone interested in their MacLaren/ McLaurin family history. It can be ordered directly from Neil, whose e-mail is <u>azurite@tiscali.co.uk</u> Price £25 plus postage.

#### A simple way to help the Society

If you want to buy anything from Amazon please sign up to <u>smile.amazon.co.uk</u> and select MacLaren Balquhidder Educational Trust. This will then be recorded and, by going first to this site, a percentage of all your purchases on Amazon will go to our charity.

#### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 2019**

#### LOCHEARNHEAD GAMES WEEKEND 20-21 July

The Games: Saturday 20th July

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

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 1.30pm in the tent after the March to the Field.

All members welcome. Please make sure you sign the Visitors' Book.

3pm: Lifting of the Stones of Strength competition (with monetary prizes).

3.45pm: Tug O' War competition on the Games Field.

Games Dinner: Achray House Hotel, Saturday 20th July 7pm for 7.30pm

Please see the separate page at the end of the newsletter, or the loose insert, for the booking form.

<u>Church service</u>, <u>Balquhidder Sunday 22nd July at 12 noon</u>, followed by picnic lunch at Creag an Tuirc (please bring your own for a 'bring-and-share').

#### ANNUAL DINNER 2019

The annual dinner will be held on Friday 29th November at The Clubhouse, Royal Burgess Golfing Society, Edinburgh.

Please see the separate page at the end of the newsletter, or the loose insert, for the booking form and please look at the Society website nearer the time for further details of our guest speaker.

As well as a guest speaker, there will also be musical entertainment; take a look at **www.clanmaclarensociety.com** nearer the time for more information.

Comments from previous 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 for last night, it was very enjoyable. Lovely meal, good company and welcoming to outsiders!* 

#### **DIRECTORY**

#### **CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY**

THE CHIEF:	Donald MacLaren of MacLaren
	Kirkton Farm, Balquhidder, Lochearnhead, Perthshire FK19 8PA
	Tel: 01877 384 675. Email: <u>themaclaren@hotmail.com</u>
CHIEFTAINS:	Iain F MacLaren, 3 Minto Street, Edinburgh EH9 1RG
	Tel: 0131 667 3487. Email: fionamaclaren@fionamaclaren.entadsl.com
	James W H MacLaren, 9B Underwood Lane, Paisley, PA1 2SL
	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 Tel: 0141 341 0370 email: <u>piesupper@yahoo.com</u>

#### MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:

2016-2019	George Borthwick, Hugh Crawford, John Laws
2018-2021	Iona Mchedliani, Edna Brizolla

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 769 624.
	Email: secretary@clanmaclarensociety.com
Honorary Treasurer:	James W H MacLaren, 9B Underwood Lane, Paisley, PA1 2SL
	Tel: 07946 999 302. Email: tcs.jmaclaren@googlemail.com
Membership Secretar	ry: Sheena Maclaren, 20 Dudley Terrace, Edinburgh, EH6 4QH
	Tel: 0131 554 3674.
	Email: membership.secretary@clanmaclarensociety.com
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	Tel: 0131 229 2658.Email: <u>newsletter.editor@clanmaclarensociety.com</u>
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	Tel: 07970 982 469. Email: social.secretary@clanmaclarensociety.com
Minutes Secretary:	Iona Mchedliani, The Byre, Kirkton, Balquhidder, Perthshire, FK19
	8PA. Tel: 07593 327 628. Email: ionamaclaren@hotmail.com
Wahaita	www.alanmaalarangagiatu.aam

Website: <u>www.clanmaclarensociety.com</u>

# **CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA**

Chairman	Linda N McLaren
	Tel: 0409 529 778. Email: linda_mclaren_@hotmail.com
Deputy Chairman	William (Bill) Law, 374 Borton Road, Tullera, NSW
	Tel: (02) 6628 2440. Email: william.law2@bigpond.com
Treasurer	Cameron McWhinney
	Email: cameronmcwhinney@yahoo.com.au
Secretary/ Editor	Angela M. McLaren
	Email: angela_mclaren@hotmail.com
Website:	www.clanmaclarenau.org

# **CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA**

President	<b>Mark A McLaren,</b> 611 Indian Home Road, Danville, CA 94526. Tel: (925) 838 8175. Email: boarsrock@earthlink.net
Vice President	Cathy Botkin Galloway, 5 Petersen Road, Brookline, NH 03033.
	Email: <u>catmermaid@aol.com</u>
Treasurer	Donna Stalter, contact through the CMSNA website:
	http://www.clanmaclarenna.org/contacts.htm
Membership	Steven Lowry, 115 Smoky View Lane, Madisonville, TN 37354.
	Tel: (423) 442 6571. Email: <u>cmsna2015@salsoft.com</u>
Editor	Ruth McFadden, 12325 40th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125-5730.
	Tel: (206) 364 6025. Email: <u>rmcfadde@mindspring.com</u>
Liaison Officer	Steve Quillin, 474 Continental Dr., Durham, NC 27712.
	Email : <u>roryoge@aol.com</u>
Website:	www.clanmaclarenna.org

#### MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLAN MACLAREN SOCIETY BASED IN SCOTLAND

#### **Subscriptions**

Life Membership	£120.00 (US\$166)
Double Life Membership	£170.00 (US\$220)
Annual Membership	
Joining Fee (one off)	£20.00 (US\$26)
Annual Membership	£12.00 (US\$16)

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 pound 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:

In North America	Steven Lowry, 115 Smoky View Lane, Madisonville, TN37354
	Email: <u>cmsna2015@salsoft.com</u>
In Australia	Linda N McLaren, 68 Hume Road, Cronulla, NSW 2230
	Email: <u>linda_mclaren_@hotmail.com</u>
In UK/ all other countries	Sheena Maclaren, 20 Dudley Terrace, Edinburgh, EH6 4QH
	Tel: 0131 554 3674.
	Email: membership.secretary@clanmaclarensociety.com



New Membership Secretary, Sheena Maclaren

#### Clan MacLaren Society Games Dinner

#### Saturday 20th July 2019 at 7.00 for 7.30pm

#### To be held in the Achray House Hotel On Loch Earn, St Fillans, Perthshire, 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**

Achray House Hotel is situated in St Fillans on the edge of Loch Earn, on the A85 separating St Fillans from the Loch. Easily accessed by road, approximately an hour's drive from Edinburgh (64 miles) or Glasgow (59 miles) airports. Directions to the hotel can be found on their website:

https://www.achrayhouse.com

#### MENU/ COST

The cost of the games dinner is £45.00 per person for three courses and a half-bottle of wine per person and also includes a welcome glass of wine, beer or a soft drink and coffee at the end of the meal.

Dress: Informal

#### APPLICATION FORM

To: Mr Malcolm MacLaren, 1 Inverleith Place, Edinburgh, EH3 5QE Tel: 0131 551 1863/ 07970982469 Email: social.secretary@clanmaclarensociety.com
I/ we wish to reserve places at the games dinner at a cost of £45.00 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

**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.

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#### Clan MacLaren Society Annual Dinner

#### Friday 29th November 2019 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 thirteenth 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/ MUSIC:

To Be Confirmed Check the website nearer the time for more information: www.clanmaclarensociety.com

The cost of the annual dinner is £45.00 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.

**Please indicate if a vegetarian meal is required or if you have other dietary requirements.** Applications must be received no later than 18th November. If you wish an acknowledgement please enclose an S.A.E.



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