

# Touch Not – Magazine of the Clan Chattan Association



## Chairman's welcome

Dear Clansfolk

I extend a warm welcome to you all in this the 4th edition of Touch Not. With so many tragedies happening around the world, I sincerely hope this publication brings a little extra joy to you wherever you are.

We have a very enjoyable magazine for you again and thank you to all who have contributed to this edition. Please remember, we want to hear from you, our members, on what you have been doing, perhaps a trip you have taken or a hobby that keeps you occupied in something other than work.

Since our AGM last year, four new members have been elected to Council to assist in organisational matters of the Association. They are: Anne Fraser from Inverness, Rob Macintosh from Boston, David Mackintosh from Essex and Augusta Maclean of Dochgarroch from Edinburgh and Nigel Mac-Fall has also been elected Honorary Vice President. You will see their profiles within the pages of the magazine. I am sure all members will wish them well and I look forward to their support and knowledge which they will bring to the Association.

I want to thank Nigel Mac-Fall for his continued support and contribution. His design changes to the imagery of how the Association will be acknowledged in the future, were presented and adopted by Council towards the end of last year. The results of these changes are detailed within these pages and I am confident that members will agree that the changes made can only enhance the way in which the Association is perceived and recognised.

Our Gathering in August. We are planning to have a 2 course meal and some entertainment afterwards. Denise and I are very much looking forward to seeing as many members that can make it to Inverness this year. Already we have attendance notification from the USA and Canada. Please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to attend.

**Donald McIntosh**

## The Clan Tent

Relax and enjoy some Highland hospitality in the Clan Tent. Browse through some of the past journals and visit the museum or take a walk up to the Lachlan Mackintosh memorial and enjoy the view. Council members will be on duty throughout the day, and refreshments will be available.

**The Clan Tent will be open Friday 7 August 10am - 5pm and  
Saturday 8 August 10 am - 2pm**

Please note that there is an entry fee for the Field Sports (cash only)  
There is no charge for car parking.



**COOL**

## THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE CLAN CHATTAN ASSOCIATION

**6-8 August 2015**

**The Annual General Meeting of  
The Clan Chattan Association  
will take place in the Lochardil  
House Hotel**

**Thursday 6 August**

**4pm: Gather together.  
5pm: The AGM of the Clan  
Chattan Association**

**The Clan Chattan  
Association Dinner -  
Thursday 6 August**

**6pm: Join us for the pre-  
dinner gathering  
7pm: The Dinner –  
2 courses and coffee**

**8.30pm: Entertainment.**

**£30 per person**

**Book online or email:**

clanchattanassociation  
@btinternet.com

**for more information**

**Friday 7 and  
Saturday 8 August**

**THE HIGHLAND FIELD SPORTS  
FAIR AT MOY**

## Greeting from McBain

From the Desert Southwest in the USA comes greetings for the New Year!

This month I have been chosen to deliver the Eulogy to Robert Burns at the Celtic Festival near Tucson Arizona. This is not my first attempt to memorialize the Man. I guess because of my position on the Standing Council they think I should know all about him. Each year for the past 25 I have tried to come up with "new" information about Burns, I had all but given up hope for something new this year when I found an article about Burns in a newspaper called the Scottish Banner which gave me some new bits. After Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus Robert Burns has more statues dedicated to him around the world than any other non-religious figure. Also the Soviet Union was the first Country in the world to honour Burns with a postage stamp. Other unique Burns items are that the song Auld Lang Syne is listed as one of the three most popular songs in the English language the other two are For He's a Jolly Good Fellow and Happy Birthday. Lastly Burns was the first person ever to appear on a commemorative bottle of Coca Cola (This happened in 2009).

James McBain of McBain

## What have you been up to.....?

Through Facebook and even by e-mail I hear about all sorts of events that are happening throughout the world. Gatherings and competitions, stalls and marches all sorts of Clan related things. It would be fantastic to be able to report on these events. So if you attend one of these spectacles please take photos add a few words and send them to us so that we can all join the fun through these pages of 'Touch Not'.

Don't forget to post your event on the Facebook page too. Basically, what I am saying is keep in touch we love to hear from you.

This year was somewhat quieter than last – no fabulous weddings to attend. However we did have fun. We attended the Culloden ceremony in April – the attendance is growing and it is really quite a powerful spectacle to see all the flags and banners march their way across the moor.

Our AGM/Dinner went well and we had the Inverness Scottish Country dance team give us a short demonstration. Great to see just how it is supposed to look!

We then attended the Torchlight parade in Inverness in September – that was great fun and there were quite a few of us – We were alongside the Heavyweights who were in Inverness for the World competitions. Phew some of these guys are 'big'.

We followed that by having a Clan Promotion table in the Townhouse the following day and on the Sunday we joined the 'Kirking of the Council' in the High Kirk in Inverness. A little more pomp than on the Friday night!

So that was a busy Summer. Donald and I took the opportunity to pop along to The Kincaig Highland Wildlife Park to check on the wildcats they have there. Well worth a visit. When you are visiting the Highlands it is a must. For more info go to

[www.highlandwildlifepark.org.uk](http://www.highlandwildlifepark.org.uk)

The other display that is well worth a visit is the Scottish Tapestry. I went to see it when it was on display in the Parliament and spent hours looking at all the work. For more info go to

[www.scotlandstapestry.com](http://www.scotlandstapestry.com)

**Have a wonderful year – Tell us all about the amazing things you do**

## New Members

Lisa Frett, Vermont, USA

Evan Ellis, Louisiana, USA

Teresa Colombo, Florida, USA

Bill McWood, California, USA

Connie McBee, Ohio, USA

Elizabeth Sadler, California, USA

Helena Stelk, Florida, USA

Lindsay MacDonald, Berkshire, UK

Ryan McIntosh, Florida, USA

Kathleen Scott, Texas, USA

David Shaw, Ontario, Canada

Lauraleen O'Connor, Maryland, USA

Iain Davidson, Cambridgeshire, UK

Daniel Gray, Victoria, Australia

Tracy Elder, Georgia, USA

Kevin Shaw, Aberdeen, UK

## Professor Stuart Cross



We are delighted to announce that Stuart Cross has now been promoted to a Personal Chair at Dundee University. He is now Professor of Law.

## Council Member Profiles

Five new members of Council were elected in August – Rob Macintosh, Boston; David Mackintosh, Augusta Maclean of Dochgarroch, Anne Fraser and Nigel Mac-Fall. We welcome our newest Council members and are already very much enjoying working with them all.

### Rob Macintosh



Truly a native Bostonian, Rob was born, educated, worked all his professional life and raised his family within the city limits of Boston. His great, great, grandfather John McIntosh emigrated from Scotland in the early 1800s relocating in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. Rob's grandfather Alexander Duncan brought his family, including his father James Lloyd, to Cambridge, Massachusetts in the mid-1920s.

Rob and Anna have two sons: Scott and Jamison. Scott and his wife Alison Bell have a son Ian.

Rob received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 1969. In 1980 in recognition of his work as Alumni president and Chairman of the MassArt Foundation the governor of Massachusetts appointed Rob to the college's Board of Trustees where he was elected Chairman for the last two years of his term.

Rob held three different positions during his 43-year professional career. These included: communications director for the Greater Boston and National Council of YMCAs for 4 years, principal and creative director of Rob MacIntosh Communications, Inc. for 16 years and international manager of Visual Communications for WilmerHale, a corporate law firm with headquarters in Boston & Washington DC, for 23 years until retiring in July 2013.

He first learned of Clan Chattan in 1999 during a family trip to Scotland. While seeking historical information about Clan Mackintosh he was told to find a place called "Moy Hall". Not understanding it wasn't a public building they failed to find it in two attempts. Only

during the last minute try, before they had to head off to a B&B in Skye, did they chance across two men working on the grounds of an estate. They asked them about this place Moy Hall. At which time Alastair Fraser and his son responded "this is Moy Hall" and sent them up the road to wait at the house while they headed off to announce their arrival. A wonderful lady and her Jack Russell "Robbie" shortly emerged from the house and warmly greeted Rob and his family. She welcomed them to Moy Hall and invited them to visit a Mackintosh museum right there on the estate. Rob couldn't believe it. While in the background his embarrassed sons kept saying "Dad let's get out of here, this is a private home" Rob told them Skye could wait and then politely reminded them who was paying for the trip.

During the museum tour Rob was presented with a membership application for a "Clan Chattan Association". Rob responded, "Why would I want to join the Clan Chattan? I'm a Mackintosh!" After instructing Rob on the correct pronunciation (that is with the "C" silent) Celia Mackintosh of Mackintosh gave a brief history of the connection between Mackintosh and Chattan. Rob has been a life member since 2001.

Since then Rob and Anna have been repeat visitors to Moy attending the CCA AGM, the Field Sports Fair and the Macpherson festivities in Kingussie. He participated in the 400th anniversary of the Band of Union and most recently the wedding of John and Vanessa sharing his many photographs for the CCA website and Facebook. Anna and Rob hold the Mackintosh family and the many CCA Council members and Moy regulars as being amongst their closest and dearest friends.

After returning from the 1999 visit to Moy Rob eagerly sought out the Clan Mackintosh of North America. He soon began representing the CMNA at various Scottish events throughout New England as a convener. For the past 5 years he has hosted hospitality tents for both CMNA and CCA at Scottish games in Vermont and New Hampshire. Anna and Rob accepted a request by the CMNA council to revive the Northeast Regional Heritage Brunch after it had been dormant for a couple of years. This fall event, which is currently led by CMNA president Ray McHatton, is now the 2nd largest annual CMNA event, second only to the annual Loon gathering hosted by Rob and Anna at their home during the New Hampshire Highland Games at Loon Mountain.

Both Anna and Rob have served as officers of CMNA. Anna served as treasurer and worked with Rob to computerize all membership/dues records. Rob served as both Treasurer and for the past 4 years as president. He is now serving a 3 year term as councillor at large.

### David Mackintosh



David Mackintosh comes from Romford on the East London/ Essex borders, though his father was born in Inverness. He has a considerable interest in history with a Masters degree from Birkbeck College in Commonwealth History. A follower of West Ham United FC he is no stranger to sporting tribulations, this compounded by supporting the Scottish national team. He has inflicted all of the former and a considerable amount of the latter on to his three daughters in the belief that defeat and occasional ridicule are character forming. His daughters; Caitlin, Eleanor and Eva along with their mum Jill have joined him in being regular attendees at the Moy Highland Field Sports Fair. He is a trustee of two charities involved with substance misuse and a member of the HMS Dasher (1943) committee.

Currently he works for the City of London and the Greater London Authority on areas related to community safety, drugs and alcohol misuse. Prior to this he worked for the Cabinet Office, the Department for Education and somewhere in the distant past Bass Brewers and the Post Office.

### Augusta Maclean



Hello, I am Augusta Maclean of Dochgarroch, and my father made me a life member of the Clan Chattan Association soon after I was born in 1993. I have been to the Moy Highland Sports Fair every year since then, except for the year we all went to Canada for a holiday, and the year that

I went with a friend, inter-railing around the capitals of Europe. I also hardly ever miss the annual dinner at the Lochardil Hotel. A highlight for me was the re-signing of the Clan Chattan Bond in 2009, when the Clan Chattan all marched through the centre of Inverness, and the chiefs' names were read out in Gaelic, describing their descent from those who signed in 1609.

The last two summers I have been working in the café at Urquhart Castle; long tiring days, with too few staff, but at least it brought in some cash to help with the costs at Oxford Brookes - where I am studying Fine Art, now half way through my three year course. I specialise in depicting a free form of paintings, especially landscapes, but also try my hand at sculpture.

I am very fond of my pony, Grigor, who is a Highland, and lives in a field near Edinburgh, with my mother's pony and some others. However in the summer, when I am at Hazelbrae, our family home at Glen Urquhart, they come too; and I love waking up and looking out of my bedroom window, seeing the two of them in the field behind the house!

My name Augusta comes from a mouldy old great aunt in Ireland, my father says that she was very kind and sweet, not that he knew her as she died in the 1890s! Strangely enough there is another Augusta at Oxford Brookes, and I think there is another coming next year, so I am ahead of the game. Anyway someone pointed out that the four of us in our family all have names with different origins: David [Jewish], Hector [Greek], Augusta [Roman] and Lochie [Norse]!

## Anne Fraser



## Who am I?

I am probably the most recent addition to the Clan Chattan Council and have now attended my first council meeting with a bit of trepidation. Why was I invited, I asked myself? What can I bring to Clan Chattan? How can I contribute? And, I am a 'Fraser'! These fears were all totally unfounded as I was made extremely welcome and actually enjoyed the experience.

## Where have I come from?

I was brought up on my parents' farm at Borlum, Scaniport on the outskirts of Inverness - yes, this is the 'Borlum' of the well-known Brigadier William Macintosh of the 1715 uprising. It was a privilege to be brought up in such wonderful surroundings which I took completely for granted at the time. My grandfather, Hugh Fraser, took over the tenancy of Borlum over 100 years ago. His mother was a Flora Macgillivray whose father, John, was innkeeper at Dores Inn for a number of years before opening an Inn and Shop at Scaniport. Through this Macgillivray family line, I can trace my ancestry back through Angus Mackintosh of Termit to Robert the Bruce and Duncan I of Scotland but I have no direct family connections to the Borlum Mackintoshes!

## What have I done?

I have brought up three beautiful children; married them all off to wonderful partners; welcomed seven charming grand-children into the world; worked in several schools; managed a guest house overlooking Loch Ness; am actively involved in my church; volunteered for many years as a Girls' Brigade Officer, spending the last five years as Commissioner for the Highlands; qualified as a genealogist through Dundee University; signed the Clan Chattan Bond of Union in 2009; finally published my book 'Lessons by Loch Ness' after many years of research; and said 'yes' to a surprise marriage proposal from the lovely John on Christmas Eve!

## How can I help?

It has been splendid getting to know many of the Clan Chattan members over the years, being involved with the Highland Field Sports Fair since its inception. I am employed by High Life Highland as Family Historian at the Highland Archive Centre in Inverness where I help folks from all over the world to find out their family history. Last year, I and my work colleague, Fiona MacLeod the Senior Archivist, were invited to have a small stand in the Clan Chattan tent at Moy and managed to answer many ancestral and archival questions. We hope to continue to be a presence there in future years to help you. I look forward to getting to know so many more members this year and the years to come.

C. Anne Fraser

## Nigel James Mac-Fall

In 1973, Nigel was visiting his brother Angus, who was living and working on the Black Isle. He didn't know anything about the CCA then, but he knew Moy wasn't far away and he was determined to meet the Chief. He turned up at Moy Hall completely unannounced. The Chief, who was suffering from severe laryngitis greeted him like a long lost friend, opened up the museum and even proposed him on the CCA application form - he's been an enthusiastic life member ever since.



During the 2009 "Band of Union" celebrations, Nigel was given the honour of carrying the clan banner and leading the various processions. In 2014 Nigel was made an Honorary Vice President of the Association.

Nigel has been a practicing 3D designer since graduating from the Royal College of Art in 1972. In 1997, with his wife Andrea, Nigel set up the London based design consultancy, Red Studio Ltd. The studio produces an astonishing range of innovative, conceptual and applied 3D design for UK, European and global clients. Nigel was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 2005 and Life Fellow in 2014.

Nigel has a passion for making things, music, foreign travel and family. He has four grown up children with his late wife, Shirley, four school age children with Andrea and four grandchildren.

Nigel James Mac-Fall

## Clan Chattan Association AGM & The Moy Field Sports Event, 2014

### ...a visitor's appreciation.

The Clan Chattan held their AGM and Dinner at the Lochardil Hotel on 31 July, followed by the Field Sports Event held on the next two days out at Moy Hall, the home of the Mackintosh family.

The AGM and Dinner event was once again very well organised by Denise MacIntosh. During the AGM, we heard reports from officers of the Council and from members based around the world. We soon completed all formal business, and Cluny wrapped up the proceeding with humorous anecdotes of his youth. After a fine dinner, we were entertained by two local teams of dancers, and a team of musicians and pipers who all demonstrated their impressive skills.



Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks



Sandy Macpherson



Dancing display



Audrey McIntosh



Celia Mackintosh of Mackintosh Cluny Macpherson, Lady Hilary Burnham and Audrey McIntosh



Sheila and Gerald Chisholm-Mackintosh



Peter Yardley



John Macpherson and accordionist

The Moy event is a unique Highland event, which involves every variety of Highland Field Sports... including terrier racing! It is held at a wonderful setting at Moy Hall beside Loch Moy, and it is a good place to meet all sorts of people. Often wet but everyone comes prepared. As well as the wide variety of trade stands, food & drink, and field sports activities, the Mackintosh family hosted the Clan Chattan Tent including a buffet lunch.



**Lachie Mackintosh and Anne Maclean of Dochgarroch**



**Bill and Martha Trousdale at Archives stand**



**Anne Fraser and an enquirer at the Archives stand**



**Anne Fraser and Highland Archives stand**



**Louisa officially opening the Games**



**Michael Brod, Donald McIntosh, Gavin and Allan Maclean**

This year the Clan Chattan tent was busier than usual, with staff from the Highland Archives, Inverness also present in the Clan Chattan Tent. Anne Fraser, [now a member of the CCA Council], and her colleague set up an informative table display and were kept busy with many enquiries. Much interest was created. As always, this was a memorable weekend which owes much to the Mackintosh family who have hosted this event for many years.

**Jill Newton, Australia**



**wellies and tired dog**



**Sonia Cameron Jacks and Graeme Mackenzie**

Particular thanks to Teddy Moseley who has prepared the clan lunch for many years and is now retiring. We wish her and Gavin well in the future.

## Remembrance Corner 2015

### Members who have passed away:

**Mrs J Hilton**, from Basingstoke, Hants, UK. Mrs Hilton had been a longstanding Life member who enjoyed over 50 years of membership having joined in 1960.

**Mr J McBain** from Claydon, Suffolk, UK. Mr McBain was another longstanding life member who joined the Association in 1967.

**Mr Stuart MacPherson**, Stuart was not only a member of the Clan Chattan Association but a hard working membership secretary of the Clan Macpherson Association, United States Branch. He was a 32nd degree Master Freemason, and a Knights Templar of the Scottish Military Order. He was a delightful, friendly man whom we had the pleasure of meeting at our AGM in 2013.

**Col. Sir Thomas Macpherson** from Newtonmore, Scotland. A charismatic gentlemen who delighted in attending the CCA gatherings at the tent at Moy, he will be greatly missed. In his Military life he was awarded three Military Crosses, three Croix de Guerre (two Palms and Star), and several Papal and Italian medals during the Second World War. He was a member of the Royal Company of Archers. He was knighted in 1992. There will be a fuller article about Sir Thomas in our Clan Chattan Journal.

**Mr Alister G Davidson** of Davidston, from Auckland, New Zealand. Chief of the Clan Davidson. He was affectionately known as 'Jock'. As Chief of Clan Davidson he was one of our Vice Presidents. There will be a fuller article about Jock in our Clan Chattan Journal.

## Donald McIntosh Citizen of the year, Penicuik 2014

Since moving to Penicuik from Edinburgh in 1980, Donald and Denise have been involved in the local community. In 1984 Donald and Denise were elected Penicuik Hunter and Lass and represented the town throughout the borders for a year. Both are still involved with this association and participate each year in the week long festival in May. In 1985 Donald, with others, reinstated and organised a street Parade to showcase local organisations, businesses and individuals. The parade was made up of pipe bands, brass bands and floats (fancy dressed Lorries) and as many outrageously colourfully dressed individuals as possible. This event built up to regularly attract 600 participants and became a major event in the Penicuik calendar and brought thousands of people onto the streets to watch it go by.

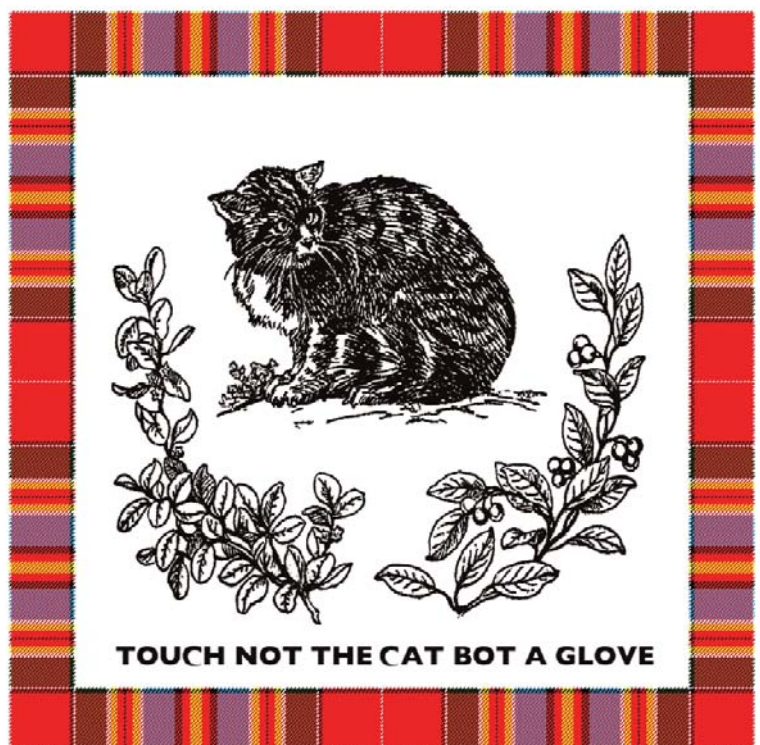
Volunteers over the years joined and left but Donald with the help of 3 or 4 dedicated people persevered and then, after 30 years' service he decided that enough was enough and someone else should take on the organisational helm to take the Parade forward. New blood was required. A neighbour on hearing about his 'retirement' contacted the Community Council and put Donald forward for Citizen of the Year. In May 2014 he was honoured with this title and has since then attended some civic functions, including switching on the Christmas lights in the Town centre. This year in May, when the parade takes to the streets for the 31st time, Donald will at last get an opportunity to watch it.

## That Darn Cat!

It was all quiet on the CCA front, I knew it was too good to last. The Chairman's call came soon after the AGM, always a treat to hear his warm Edinburgh brogue, "Oi! you're some sort of designer aren't you? Give me proposals for a re design of the CCA stationery – I want colour, I want pizzazz, I want action – get on with it, I haven't got all day." (They hadn't made me Honorary Vice President for nothing)

Seriously, it's a great honour to be asked and quite a challenge. The main problem being the much loved, whortleberry garlanded, little moggie – 'that darn cat!' - replace it and risk inter-clan warfare.

I toyed with the idea of transforming the cat into a dynamic silhouette like the Batman symbol, by filling it in, no deal, it just ended up an amorphous blob with eyes. I went on a trip down the minimalist route and bent a 'C' shaped cat logo out of a paperclip, clever but no cigar. Then I remembered our tartan.



We are blessed with one of the 'campest' tartans in the book – Finzean's Fancy – the name alone promises lots of good clean fun and it doesn't disappoint. Our plaid is a positive kaleidoscope - gin bottle green, sunshine yellow, blood orange and baby blue with after a heavy session black and sober as a judge white, keeping it all under control.

I made a tartan frame and popped the cat inside – job done!

**Nigel James Mac-Fall**

Many of us like to pick up a souvenir or two when we are on our travels. Those of us fortunate enough to visit the Highlands are not short of choice, from woollens to fine foods, edible treats to bottled wonders and of course any number of cuddly Nessies and tartan teddies. Over the years I have acquired a wide range of these products indeed a Nessie proudly sits on my work desk, but sometimes I know people like something that is more unusual, something hand crafted, which is produced locally and has a “wow” factor about it.

This kind of impulse has led me to meeting some incredibly skilled individuals living and working in the Highlands and acquiring some truly striking items which are great conversation pieces. My collection, which is perhaps a rather grand name for it, was really initiated by the National Trust for Scotland. In 1996 I visited the Sword and the Sorrows exhibition at Culloden, commemorating the 250th anniversary of that tragic event. Amongst the historic artefacts there was also a targe, for sale in the shop. Not from the 18th century but the 20th. It looked fantastic, was clearly made with great attention to detail and I decided I wanted one! Unable to afford the price at the time I tracked down the maker, discovered he lived and worked just over the bridge on the Black Isle and that he produced a fantastic range of targes, with an “entry” model aimed at the historic re-enactment market which was within my reach. My next visit to Inverness saw me visit North Kessock, meet Joe the Targemaker and purchase my first targe. It may have been the cheapest model but the skill involved in its manufacture was clear. Bringing it back on the plane did pose a minor challenge but its broader appeal was confirmed by the interest of the x ray scanner at the airport and the air stewardess who looked after it on the flight for me, showing it off to the other passengers. It remains the only item I have ever purchased which came with a guarantee against bayonet thrusts.

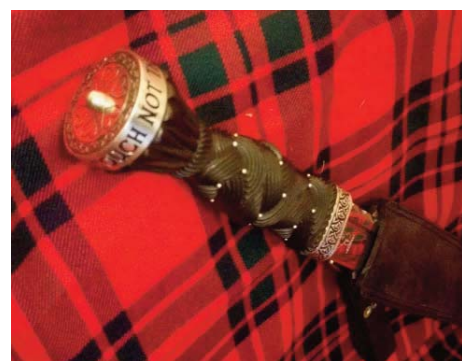
My appetite was far from sated. The more decorative targes called, friends and family expressed their appreciation, and the daughters suggested they would like one each! So now I own three. I have yet to seek to put the guarantee to the test, as damaging the fine work would reduce me to tears and they look just terrific on the wall (although I have thought they might be handy in aiding me to navigate the commute to work!). Joe has now hung up his tools, but others are providing their own interpretations of the targe. What is certain is that Joe’s work will be admired for many, many years to come.



Of course a targe suggests the desirability of an accompanying sword. Well it did to me. This interest led me to Isle of Skye and Castle Keep swords. Rob Miller established the business in 1991 and is now internationally recognised for the quality of his work. Placing an order by email for a basket hilted

broadsword, with a wildcat etched into the blade –naturally, I was somewhat apprehensive about whether I would think it was money well spent. On arriving to collect it my fears evaporated instantly. The finished article was outstanding. The pride Rob takes in his work is evident in his workshop and the enthusiasm he displays for his work. It is, in my opinion, a work of art as well as an example and reminder of the weapon of choice of a Highlander in the 17th and 18th century.

So what next? Well a dirk of course. I fancied something rather ornate, and I do like good silver work. Trawling the internet, and speaking to Rob and others I came across a business I had previously purchased a Sgian Dubh from. While pleased with this item I hadn’t really appreciated the skill Rab Gordon (of the Rainna Studio) had of working with silver. I think the photo says more than my words can. I had some basic idea of what I wanted (and yes a wildcat is on the blade) but Rab translated it into something beyond my expectation. It not only deals with a haggis efficiently but also looks amazing. A bonus for those who find themselves in the Inverness region is that Rab is to be found near Loch Ness, and the drive up to his family’s home was a treat and adventure itself. Rab also does a tremendous range of jewellery and unique gifts, The Sgian Brews are a great idea (look them up).



Of course there is another item on order currently. I felt a strong compulsion to add in a claymore to the mix, expected soon, this will have some bespoke decoration (no prizes for guessing what is going on the blade) and will be displayed in pride of place.

Not everyone would be drawn to the items I have but I think it’s wonderful to be able to support individuals, working in Scotland and producing wonderful items that help link the past to the future. Targemakers, sword and silversmiths, based in the Highlands, using modern technology to promote and sell their products across the world. That’s got to be something to consider next time you are thinking of a present for family, a friend or perhaps, as in my case, yourself.

David Mackintosh





## A Dogs' Tail

I have been associated with the Clan Chattan Association for the last twenty five years always attending the gathering in Inverness in August and joining in the activities at Moy. One of the highlights of the Moy fair is the terrier racing which is always well attended and having the whole clan giving full support and cheering on Celia Mackintosh and her dogs in the race. As a tenuous link to this I was asked if I would contribute an article on my passion for showing Rhodesian Ridgebacks in championship competition in the UK.

I became involved in owning and showing Rhodesian Ridgebacks in 1995 with my other half John. We fell in love with our first Ridgeback puppy, "Tula" immediately and knew she was for us. She had been returned to the owner after the first buyer could not manage such a boisterous dog at only 14 weeks old. How could such a small defenceless little puppy with such a cute face be returned so quickly? Well we soon found out..... Once she got home the next week, she ran around making sure this was going to be her domain and if it was edible, it was eaten, if it was moveable it was moved and she soon found out that plants do come out of pots and if she could only get that stupid man in the house to play fight, his arm was hers. Tula did settle in very quickly and soon I began to train her obedience and took her to Ring classes to start her show career. Soon she was our best friend.

We then officially registered our very own kennel affix "Africaner" so that any dogs we showed in the future would all be under one kennel name. Tula's show career had a great start and she won many classes and did really well against other breeds. Sadly due to an accident Tula's show career ended at this point. Later in life she had a litter of puppies which she loved and was the best mother we have ever seen. Tula lived to the grand age of thirteen and a half, which is a very good age for a Ridgeback.



L-R Hamish, Breeze, Zara, Storm and Tula

We decided to get Tula a friend so we brought Hamish in to the family. Hamish is another Rhodesian Ridgeback from the same lines and breeder as Tula but not closely related. I trained Hamish in obedience and

ring craft as I had done with Tula some time before. He had a fantastic start to his show career at junior level and he even won a first place at Crufts on his first visit to that prestigious show.

When Hamish was about eight months old I was out walking him and Tula down a quiet country lane not far from our home when out of a neighbour's yard shot two Pointer dogs looking for trouble, and our Hamish was the obvious victim. I tried to protect Tula by pulling her close to me on her lead and I let Hamish go free, but they bit him many times and gave him quite a shock. I should have just let Tula go as she could defend herself quite well, but I tried to protect her instead of Hamish, which was most likely a mistake. For a show dog in training this is not a good thing to happen. They lose their confidence and become frightened and can become aggressive to other dogs. This is something that is not tolerated in the show ring and makes life nerve wracking when you are always on your guard at shows with other dogs so close by. This attack knocked him back so badly that I had to remove him from showing for over six months whilst I tried to train him again as he had become frightened of most things including people.

I built up his confidence by taking him everywhere with me, to the railway station to get used to noise and people and to markets and fairs. I also had him to a dog behaviourist to train me to do the right things to better understand the dog and help him regain confidence. Once I thought he was ready to re-enter the show ring, I tried him out on local open shows, where there are many different types of dogs and the pressure of showing is not as stressful as at the larger Championship shows.

At the age of two we dared to enter our first Championship show again, his first in a six months. I was very nervous and took him into the ring along with ten other Ridgebacks, he stood like a rock and when asked to do so ran beautifully. He won a second place at the show, and the pressure was off, we had done it.

The next year Hamish entered about thirteen Champs shows in all and within a very short time won his first breed show and a Championship Certificate (CC) then another and finally his third, which made him recognised as a Champion show dog. He now had CH attached to the front of his pedigree name, which was our first Champion Ridgeback and something I am very proud of. His last show was when he was ten and a half years old, he won Best Veteran in Show, he then retired from the show ring to a happy long retirement at home.



Hamish with his last trophies for Best Veteran in Show at aged 10 ½

Hamish was a "one off", known by everyone in the UK Ridgeback show world. He was a very good looking hound with a massive personality. At one Crufts Championship Show, we were walking with him through the crowds of shoppers, when a woman and her teenage daughter ran over to Hamish and shouted "It's Hamish, Hamish we love you". This was really strange as we had never seen them before and they did not know us at all. It seemed that Hamish had a fan club.

We went on to have four litters of Ridgebacks in total over the next ten years. Out of those litters we kept three girls: Breeze, the daughter of Tula and Hamish and then her pups, Zara and Storm. Breeze showed for about eighteen months but never really enjoyed it and regularly played up. There was nothing we could do to encourage her, as she came from such a parentage that nothing was ever going to change her mind once it was made up, something other Ridgeback owners will understand and sympathise with. She had simply worked out that she had done what we had asked of her and thought that running around a ring and standing still to be inspected was a pointless exercise for her. So we decided that the breed show was to be her last and what a success it was winning Reserve Best in Show.



Breeze showing off her awards from her last show

Storm also had a good show career. She also won many Best Puppy in Shows and later great success in championship shows and Reserve Best in Shows. Sadly she retired from showing after an accident while playing in the woods when her big sister ran into her injuring her leg.



**Storm with her cache of awards from her last show.**

Senator is our current show dog and is quite a character. From the minute he arrived at our home he became Hamish's best friend. Senator has excelled at shows, having already become a Champion. He also gained other titles such as Junior Warrant, Show Certificate, and a Gold award in a Good Citizen scheme.



**Senator with six months' worth of trophies**

Hamish passed away on 13th November 2014 at the great age of sixteen years and one month old, which makes him one of the oldest Ridgeback Champions to have ever lived, a great tribute to a great dog and our best friend.

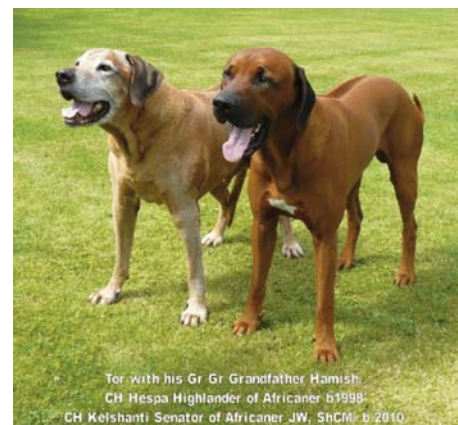
I have learned a lot about showing Ridgebacks over the past twenty years which I now put to good use, not only breeding good quality and good temperament dogs and showing them to a high standard but I am also trusted to handle other peoples' Ridgebacks at Championship shows and I have now won around 40 Championship Certificates in Ridgebacks.

Dog showing is a very frustrating and time consuming hobby, it is expensive and you must have an immense amount of patience to train and understand your dog and to be able to take defeat in the ring with grace.

You must be able to get the dogs to the fittest condition they can be in, which means plenty of exercise and the more time you spend training them and playing with them, the better the returns will be as they trust you more and want to please you. You also have to be quite fit as it is you who must walk, train and spend a lot of time running around show rings with the dog fully under control. On top of this you must know the rules of showing and the etiquette in the ring, as well as studying the breed standard for your particular breed of dog so that you know you have the right dog for showing.

Ridgebacks are strong willed, determined dogs demanding exercise and companionship, but they are good with adults and children and make the best family house members. It is also true that if you have lived with one, you will never move on to any other breed and it is also true that they tend to come in packs, so you can't just have one!

### **Cheryl Mackfall**



## **To all members of Clan Davidson of New Zealand.**

Most of you will by now know that our respected Chief Jock (Alastair) Davidson passed away peacefully but unexpectedly on 26th December 2014. Our ongoing thoughts are with Mary and the Davidson family.

Many of us were privileged to be able to attend his funeral on 30th December at St Peter's Church, Takapuna. Clan members and others from the extended Scottish community were there including Sue and Frank Davidson, Clan Davidson Australia to pay our respects. Grant read a very moving tribute from Dave Chagnon, Clan Davidson USA, and a message from Nick Hide, Clan Davidson UK.

The Court of Lyon in Edinburgh has confirmed that Grant Davidson of Davidston is noted as his father's heir in the recording of arms, and Grant succeeds to the arms and so became Chief immediately on his father's death. We wish Grant all our very best in his new role as Chief of Clan Davidson along with his wife Brenda.

It is now left to us to put together a suitable ceremony to mark the succession. We are going to take the opportunity to do this for Grant at our Annual Gathering/AGM which is to be held at Christchurch, New Zealand, on 8-12 May 2015.

We will be at the "Chateau on the Park" complex and rooms have been set aside for the gathering if you wish to book your accommodation.

Ph +64-3-3488999. 189 Dean's Ave, Riccarton.

We, of course, extend a very warm welcome to you and any other representatives from your clan association to attend the Gathering and Inauguration of the New Chief. If you think you might be able to attend, an RSVP would be appreciated and I can be contacted if there is any way Clan Davidson NZ can assist you with information regarding the Gathering.

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend this momentous event. More information on the weekend will be sent out as soon as it is finalised.

Kind regards

**Margaret Rawnsley**  
**Secretary**

Clan Davidson Society NZ  
Phone : 09 5769788  
E Mail: rawnsley.family@xtra.co.nz  
Address: 2/128 Bramley Dr, FarmCove, Auckland 2012

## Scotland Is

By Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks  
Copyright 2012

### Scotland Is

Not just the sheep on the hills,  
Not just a whisky by the warm peat fire, Not  
just men in kilts, Not just lush flower  
gardens, Not just golf, Not just the sticky  
toffee pudding, Not just the dramatic and  
ever-changing landscape, Not just white  
clouds against the darkened skies, Not just  
the falcon in flight, Not just the lone piper  
on the hill, Not just the heavy brogue (talk to  
me some more), Not just the rain, the misty  
rain, bucketing, Not just the lay-bys, and the  
winding, twisting roads, Not just the mossy  
stones, under the ancient trees, Not just  
haggis and black pudding, Not just  
pheasants and grouse, Not just driving on  
the left, and round the roundabouts, Not  
just the Highland lass dancing to the  
fiddler's bow, Not just the steep stone steps,  
up the ruined towers, Not just the ancient  
castles and cathedrals.

Not just this, but more.

It's the magic of the moment as the mist  
starts moving in.

It's the purple heather beckoning from the  
distant hills beyond.

It's the easy understanding you have with  
one who has been there, really been there.

It's the music of the fiddlers and the mood it  
sets upon you.

It's the darkening of the skies bringing the  
buckets of rain.

It's the moment the bald eagle lands on your  
gloved arm during the falconry lesson.

It's the clouds gathering over the mountains  
across the loch, still daylight at eleven pm.

It's the peacock on the gate post, about to  
dive into your car.

It's the open arms and happy smile of a  
fellow Clansman welcoming you home.

It's the chaos on the dance floor as we all get  
up to Strip the Willow.

It's the richness in our voices and the soulful  
look in our eyes as we cross arms, hold  
hands in a circle, and sing Auld Lang Syne.

It's the ache in your heart and the catch in  
your voice when you try to explain the land  
and the people and how you desperately  
must return soon and stay longer next time.

It's all this, and more.

**Donna "Dee McPherson" Rucks**

~live intensely~

~do something amazing~

~make a difference~

**Donna Rucks**

## Jean Davidson at the Davidson Legacy Cottage. Bikes, Beers, and an BBQ,.. & a Book Signing Event.



Photo of Jean and Jon Davidson at  
Netherton Cottage

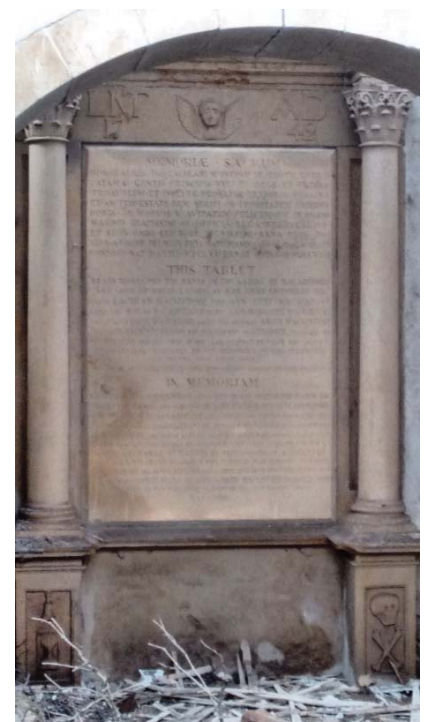
On a glorious summer day at the end of August 2014, Jean Davidson and her son Jon Davidson Oeflein visited the restored Davidson Legacy Cottage at Netherton near Aberlemno, Angus, and took part in a book signing event. Their new illustrated book [Harley-Davidson Family Memories] about the early years of Davidson family behind the Harley-Davidson motor cycle business has recently been published. Jean Davidson is the great, great granddaughter of Alexander Davidson, a blacksmith, who left the Netherton Cottage back in the 1850s with his family to find a new life at Milwaukee, USA.

This was a great day. It was a bit of Davidson history, as well as a chance to meet a very interesting lady. Jean Davidson has an extraordinary family story to tell and celebrate, quite separate from the big corporate business which is now Harley-Davidson. Of course there were bikes coming and going all day, but the family and its ancestral connections to this part of Scotland are what were really being celebrated.

The Davidson Cottage at Netherton has been restored in recent years by a locally based team who purchased what was a totally derelict butt and ben, two roomed cottage. With the support of many including the Clan Davidson Association, the Cottage has been fully restored by sheer hard graft by this team so that it can be used as place where interested visitors can stay overnight.

## Update on Petty Mausoleum

Thank you to all those who have contributed so far. We are delighted to report that Historic Scotland are conducting some initial work on the mausoleum at Petty to keep the site safe and stabilise the building to wall height. The picture below shows the initial scaffolding. More work will be required to restore the roof of the mausoleum.



# Clan Chattan activities 2014

## Culloden April 2014



On Saturday 19 April 2014, a group from Clan Chattan including Celia Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Louisa and Stuart Cross, Donald and Denise McIntosh and Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch attended the annual service of commemoration of the Battle of Culloden. There were around 400 attending the service, with a large turnout of clans and other societies including a large group of Harley Davidson enthusiasts for example. This year, Stuart Cross laid the wreath on behalf of Clan Chattan Association.

## Bannockburn Celebrations, 2014



This year marked the 700th anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, near Stirling. The National Trust of Scotland opened a new multi-million pound visitor centre at the site, and there were battle re-enactment displays organised by Visit Scotland & Event Scotland held on site during the weekend of 28/29 June to mark the important anniversary. There were over 20 tents taken up by different Clan Societies. The Clan Chattan, the Clan Macpherson and the recently formed Association of Highland Clans & Societies all had tents with useful, informative, and colourful displays.

This weekend event formed a key part of Scotland's 2014 Year of Homecoming Project. Unfortunately Saturday was marred by wet weather and very long queues for the battle re-enactment and the limited catering facilities. However, the Clans Tents provided some cover, and we were kept busy making new friends and answering many enquiries from visitors who came from far and near. We also enjoyed the RAF Red Arrows aerobatic flying team who were putting on their spectacular display as part of their contribution to the National Armed Forces Day being held in nearby Stirling on the Saturday. Fortunately, the weather was much kinder on the Sunday.



## Inverness Highland Games event and the Highland Clans Tent, 2014



The Inverness Highland Games event took place in the historic Northern Meeting Ground at Inverness on 19th July. Through the good offices of the Association of Highland Clans & Societies [AHCS], and the Highland Council, a large tent was set up for the Highlands Clans to put on displays. The Clan Chattan Association display was alongside those of the AHCS, the Clan Davidson and the Clan Macpherson as well as other clans. The overall display with the different clans together inside the large tent made colourful scene, and we were soon busy with visitors. Possibly the majority of the visitors were from overseas, so much of our time was explaining clan history, and acting as unofficial tourist guides. Sadly the weather turned for the worse through the morning, and although we were under cover, the visitors soon left, and the Northern Meeting Ground rapidly emptied after midday.



## 2014 Year of Homecoming Events in the Highlands, Inverness

During the weekend of 12-14 September, the city of Inverness was host to a series of events to mark the 2014 Year of Homecoming in the Highlands organised by the Highland Council, and also in part by the Association of the Highland Clans and Societies [AHCS].

The Clan Chattan, Clan Maclean, Clan Macpherson, and Clan Davidson were represented amongst the several clans who took part in the two parades; the Torch Light parade through the centre of the city on the Friday night, and the Kirking of the Council parade from the Town House to the Old High Kirk, [ & back ] on Sunday morning. The Torch Light parade through night time Inverness was a first. It was a slightly chaotic affair, but great fun. Clans' representatives paraded with Flaming Torches, alongside the 'Heavies', the athletes who were attending the World Championships for their sporting events. Quite a mixture, with many bemused onlookers.



The Kirking of the Council parade to and from the Old High Kirk on the Sunday is an annual event, and the Clans were asked to take part this year. It was a lengthy parade in warm sunshine, followed by a service in the Kirk which celebrated the tradition of this event. After the packed Kirk Service and return parade, there was a reception held in the Town House.

These colourful parades supported by bands and banners were quite a spectacle. Fortunately both parades were blessed with fine warm weather which brought out the visitors, but there appeared to be little local awareness of the events apart from those actually taking part.

On the Saturday, the newly formed Association of Highland Clans and Societies [AHCS] held events in the historic Inverness Town House including the inaugural AGM meeting. There was much networking between clans' representatives, but there were misunderstandings at the entrance to the Town House which prevented some visitors being able to come in to meet us. The Clan Chattan, Clan Davidson, Clan Maclean, and Clan Macpherson all had displays.

It is worth noting that both the Town House, and the Old High Kirk hold many historic links with the clan names associated with the Clan Chattan and we hope to report on these links in the next edition of the CCA Journal.



## Clan MacThomas Society Diamond Jubilee Gathering



### 22nd – 26th August 2014

The Clan MacThomas Society was founded in 1954 with the current Chief's grandfather as its first President. Last year, the Clan celebrated its Diamond Jubilee Anniversary with a special four day Gathering in the Highlands. To mark this historic milestone, Touch Not is delighted to record the occasion."

### Friday 22nd August -.

We were among the first to arrive at the Gathering Hotel in Pitlochry. The reception area had been turned into a Clan MacThomas space ready to receive clansfolk as they arrived. I was struck by the very international flavour, more so than ever before I think, with the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, South America, Africa, various European countries, Japan and the Philippines, in addition to Scotland and England, being represented. I was also very impressed with the stamina and spirit of the oldest guest who was just 88 years young! In fact the age range - from 1 to 88 years old - made a positive contribution to the special atmosphere this year.

Once we had all settled ourselves into our rooms, dusted down our kilts, unpacked the sporrans and looked out the dancing shoes, it was time to meet our Chief, Andrew MacThomas of Finegand, in the specially named MacThomas Lounge. Then we were hushed to let Finegand welcome us formally and open the 2014 Clan Gathering. Let the festivities start! After a tasty supper in the hotel dining room those who had the energy and suitable footwear set off round the corner from the hotel to the Pitlochry Town Hall where we were ably and most patiently instructed in the intricacies of the Scottish country dances we would encounter at the ceilidh on Sunday evening.



### Saturday 23rd August - .

Upon arrival at the Cockstane (Clach na Coileach which is at the heart of the MacThomas clan lands in Glenshee, we passed through the McCombie gate and admired the sensitively landscaped gathering area. Groups of visitors were talking together, taking photographs, or just surveying the beautiful surroundings. Shortly before Finegand's arrival we were alerted by some evocative pipe music expertly played by the Clan pipers, led by Ron Thom. The official party, comprising Finegand, 19th Chief of the Clan, and his Vice-Presidents Robin Thoms, Tom MacThomas and Iain Thomson, was led into the grounds by the Clan pipers, Sword bearer, Fergus Thoms and Bannerman, James Pye, walking several times around the Clach na Coileach until Finegand, resplendent in his bonnet bearing the distinctive eagle feathers, climbed on to a lower ledge to welcome and address the assembled company. He spoke of the international nature of clanship nowadays and remembered the difficult conditions under which our forebears lived centuries ago. The fact that so many visitors had travelled great distances to attend the Gathering was testimony to the strength of our ties to Glenshee.

After appreciative applause had died down, Vice President Robin Thoms dramatically retold the story which gave the Cockstane its name and of the Clan's most famous historical figure, MacComie Mor. He told of far off and harsh times for clansfolk over 600 years ago. With our 21st century creature comforts it is difficult to imagine just how hard life was for our forebears in this unforgiving Highland environment. This was a moment for us all to reflect on how far we have all come in this time and what the Clan means to us. We were then able to enjoy a further demonstration of Ron Thom's piping skills as he played a soulful "pibroch" in memory of our forebears. Finally, to preserve such a special occasion, there were several photocall opportunities, with the representatives of each nationality being invited to come forward to join Finegand by the Cockstane. Then, gradually, the assembled company dispersed back into cars and coaches to head off for the next event - the Strathardle Highland Games.

The Strathardle Games take place in the pretty little village of Kirkmichael, just a few miles from the Cockstane. The Clan MacThomas sponsored

the Scottish Dancing competition and a prominent Clan tent had been erected which was open to clan members and the general public alike. It was good to see so many interested visitors dropping in and we also managed to recruit some new members.

That evening, we gathered for the much anticipated formal dinner in the hotel bar, gentlemen looking very dashing in kilts and dress jackets (the kilt really is a most flattering item of attire and should be worn more often!) and ladies in their best frocks and tartan sashes. Then it was time to lead through to the dining room where tables had been laid for one hundred and ten hungry clansfolk. The hotel did us proud and served a delicious meal of smoked salmon, haggis, venison, cranachan ice cream and local cheeses. The guests of honour were Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Chief of Clan MacGregor, and Lady MacGregor. Sir Malcolm, in an entertaining speech, commented that relations between the two clans had improved greatly over the years, as MacGregors were now being invited to dinner with MacThomases, rather than being mortal enemies!

### Sunday 24th August -

A gentle start to the day fortunately, especially for those who had made a bit of a night of it! After a hearty Scottish breakfast, Clan members attended the Society's AGM which was hosted by Andrew MacThomas of Finegand and his vice-presidents, Robin Thoms and Tom MacThomas.

Essential business over, many clan members and their guests had decided to take the opportunity of a coach tour of the clan lands. This was led by Robin Thoms, Vice-President, who supplied a lively and informed commentary on board as well as supplying a tailor-made guide-book as a special memento of the day. The beautiful countryside had never looked better and key Clan locations such as Forter Castle, Glen Isla Kirk, Crandart Cottage, McCombies' Chair were visited during the four hour tour.

In the evening, we all entered the spacious dining room to sample a warming and filling plate of local haggis, "tatties and neeps". Definitely fuel for some serious exercise! But, before we were allowed on to the dance floor, we had to prove our general knowledge and expertise of Clan history when Finegand hosted the MacThomas Clan Quiz.

Finally the Bill Smith Band opened the Clan ceilidh. It was an excellent evening with young and old fully entering into the fun. The evening closed at midnight with a rousing rendition of Robert "Rabbie" Burns' world famous poem and song to friendship and kinship, "Auld Lang Syne".

Monday 25th August - For those who wanted to delve a bit further into their own family history, Clan Sennachie, Grahame Thom, gave a fascinating presentation of the Clan and its origins. The word "Sennachie", by the way, means from the Gaelic "Seanachaidh" "a professional recorder and reciter of family history and

genealogy” and in the past played a very important part in keeping Clan traditions going. His input is still invaluable today.

The afternoon was an opportunity to explore the local area, whether investigating the local distilleries, Edradour is the smallest in Scotland producing just twelve casks of whisky a week, going further afield to sample the magnificent views of Lochs Tay and Tummel or to visit imposing Blair Castle, the home to the Dukes of Atholl for over 500 years.

The final event of a very successful weekend was a visit to the Pitlochry Festival Theatre to see a lively and topical comedy set in Scotland called “Passing Places”. It was written by established Scottish playwright Stephen Greenhorn who also penned the screen play for the recent film “Sunshine on Leith”. The Gathering had been a great success and a lot of fun for old and young, locals and visitors alike. The standard has been set high but we have every confidence that with such goodwill and positive teamwork, our next Gathering in 2017 will prove to be another very special occasion.

#### **Mary Grundberg (nee Thoms)**

European Secretary, Clan MacThomas Secretary

### **Ella Shaw at Fife Folk Museum**

Imagine my delight in summer 2014 when I started work as a volunteer at Fife Folk Museum in the beautiful village of Ceres in North East Fife, to find an exhibition entitled the Ella Shaw collection. Ella was a dearly loved friend to all and former Secretary of Clan Chattan Association. Ella’s son Ford donated the collection of clothing to Fife Folk Museum.. There was Ella smiling at me in her endearing way amongst three glass cabinets of beautifully hand-stitched clothing in the Main Room of the museum. . The harlequin trousers depicted were handstitched by Ella for her grandson.

The following board was placed by the three cabinets of costume:



Ella Shaw (1915-2005) grew up in Edinburgh and lived there for many years, but she also lived in Glasgow, Dollar and St Andrews. She was very interested in the Arts, Craftwork, History and was an accomplished classical pianist. Her son Ford recalls a family story about her, as a young girl, when she performed a piano recital in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh. Ford describes his mother as a very gifted musician whose talent has been passed down through her family. Throughout her lifetime she made many friends within the Trefoil Guild and the Scottish Handcraft circle and no matter who knew her, or

whenever her name is mentioned today, everyone speaks very highly of this lovely lady. Ella is described by many as having a great sense of humour and it was lots of fun being in her company. She was always interested and generous in encouraging others to learn new skills, especially in craft work. She was a member of the Trefoil Guild and it was from an idea at a Guide Commissioners’ Conference that the Scottish Handcraft Circle was formed in 1945. Their motto being “Never an idle moment, never an angry word” was adopted. Ella was a very keen member of the SHC and attended many meetings in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and it was in 1974 that the St Andrews’ branch was formed. She also went to many of their Training Weekends where the aim was to provide activities which encouraged members to create articles of high standard and good design. Formerly these weekends took place at Netherard, the Scottish Guide Centre in Peebleshire, Carberry Towers in Musselburgh and today at Low Port in Linlithgow. Members of the SHC still attend these meetings as there are always new skills to learn and enjoy.

The Ella Shaw Collection which is now stored in the Museum contains a rich variety of many hand-made items. These were mostly made in the 20th Century and were worn by Ella and her siblings. The little vests had notes pinned to them recalling who wore the garment and who was next in line, in the family to wear them. Nothing was wasted and garments were adjusted to fit the next child or young lady. The style of the tunics and matching skirts is a joy to behold and would suggest that the style of the day was important to the dressmaker and the wearer of the garments. It is reported by Ella’s relatives that these garments were made by a Miss Gourlay, who lived in Henderson Row, Edinburgh and were all made for the children and members of Ella’s family. The stitching is mostly hand made and the items go from small under garments for babies, toddlers, petticoats to dresses for young ladies. We believe that Miss Gourlay was well known for her hand skills and dressmaking appears to have been her profession. It appears that Miss Gourlay made all the outfits, fitted tops with matching full length skirts. The decoration on these items can be seen to be hand stitched and all matching. Take note of the small waist lines! It must have taken hours and probably days to complete these garments but at this time, historically, it would have been her livelihood and source of income.

**Fife Folk Museum, Ceres**

# Council of the Clan Chattan Association

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## Stop Press.....

2016 Magazine items to be sent to [clanchattanassociation@btinternet.com](mailto:clanchattanassociation@btinternet.com) by 10 January 2016

Look out for the next issue of the Journal which is due to be published later in 2015...

This will be the first Journal since 2010 and we are very much looking forward to this!

**CCA ties £20 or £25 in presentation box plus postage and packing  
available at AGM and Moy or email: [clanchattanassociation@btinternet.com](mailto:clanchattanassociation@btinternet.com)**