



The Association of Highland Clans & Societies

Chairman: The Very Rev. Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch
Vice-Chair: Graeme Mackenzie

To: Members of the Association of Highland Clans & Societies

BY EMAIL

20 July 2025

2025 INVERNESS WEEKEND REVIEW

A Chàirdean, Dear Friends,

Firstly, a hefty and heartfelt highland thank you to everyone who had a part in making the Inverness Games weekend the great success it was. Despite the heat it certainly appeared to be a smooth, enjoyable and productive weekend, which garnered an enormous amount of positive feedback and praise from attendees, well done everyone!



(photo by Donald McIntosh)

1. AGM & LECTURE – 11 July 2025



The weekend commenced with the AGM, and Association met at the very comfortable Ness Walk hotel to host the meeting and the subsequent lecture. The meeting discussed several matters of importance including archiving of Society materials, and the circulation of Clan activities. The meeting minutes will be circulated in early course, however it was a productive meeting, lasting 90 minutes in total.

Thank you to those who attended, and especially those who travelled some way to be there.

Following the meeting teas and coffees were served before everyone again took their seats for what would be a fantastic, interesting and captivating lecture by **Roddy Young of Clan Crest Silver**.

Mr Young spoke about his training and introduction to the craft of silversmithing and sculpting, some of the notable commissions he has worked on over the years (from Rod Stewart to the Prince of Wales, to the Chief of Buchanan and many more). Mr Young took us through the step-by-step process in bringing designs to life by hand, the sheer amount of skill and precision which goes into each piece and showed examples of his extensive work producing Clan cap badges, as well as Armiger badges and Chief's cap badges over the years. Mr Young took questions from the audience and rounded off a productive and enjoyable evening, and we thank Mr Young for his time and for speaking to us about his work.



Visit Roddy's website here: [Clan Crest Silver Website](#)

2. INVERNESS HIGHLAND GAMES – 12 July 2025

It was a hot day, and we knew it would be; however everyone did a terrific first-rate job of setting up bonny and engaging table displays, assisting one another where needed and providing a generally positive and collaborative feeling to the morning. The Games this year experienced a **138% increase** in advance ticket sales, and the site had reached capacity (9,000-11,000) before the Opening Ceremony had even taken place.

The Parking arrangements thankfully prove to be perfect for our needs, and I hope everyone will agree they were far and away, more appropriate and easier than last year's arrangements.

This year we had 15 Clans join us and provide engaging and colourful displays, the Clans represented this year were: Cameron, Chattan, Currie, Davidson, Fraser of Lovat, Grant, Gunn, Logan, MacEwen, Mackenzie, MacLeod, MacMillan, Macpherson, Stewart and Urquhart, as well as our friends in the Heraldry Society of Scotland, the Highland Archive Centre and Clan Crest Silver.



Of those who came by the welcome table (ably and nobly manned by Allan and Anne Maclean) which we reckon represented perhaps less than one in four visitors to the Clans Tent overall, nevertheless included visitors from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Guernsey, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, South Africa, Scotland, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United States.

...and those visitors were carrying / researching / claiming allegiance to the following names:

Bruce, Buchan, Cameron, Campbell, Carruthers, Clan Chattan, Crawford, Currie, Davidson, Douglas, Duncan, Dunnet, Farquharson, Ferguson, Forbes, Forsyth, Fraser, Gordon, Graham, Gray, Johnston, Kinnaird, Logan, MacBain, McClymont, Macdonald, MacEwan, Macfarlane, Macfie, MacGillivray, MacGregor, Macintyre, Mackay, Mackenzie, Mackinnon, Mackintosh, MacLachlan, Maclean, Maclellan, Macleod, Macmillan, Macpherson, Macquarie, MacRitchie, Maxwell, Morrison, Munro, Riddell, Robertson, Rose, Stewart, Sutherland, Urquhart and Wallace.



*Left: John Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Chief of Mackintosh
and
Sir John McEwen of Marchmont and Bardrochat, Chief of MacEwen*



Above: The Stewart Society



Left: The Heraldry Society of Scotland

3. OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony again included the heraldic banners of the Clans in attendance marching behind the pipe bands. The procession was led by Graeme Mackenzie carrying the banner of AHCS, followed by the four Representatives present:

- **John Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Chief of Clan Mackintosh**
Banner carried by Donald McIntosh
- **The Very Rev. Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch, Chief of the Macleans of the North**
Carrying his own banner
- **Sir John McEwen of Marchmont and Bardrochat, Chief of Clan MacEwen**
Banner carried by Colin J. McEwen
- **Dr Robert Currie, Commander of Currie**
Banner carried by Alan Currie

Followed by the Pinsel of the Chief of Gunn, and the banners of the Chief of Grant, the Chief of Urquhart, the Clan Chattan Association, the Clan Macpherson Association, the Clan Macleod Societies, the Heraldry Society of Scotland, Clan Logan, Kevin Tolmie's personal banner and my own personal banner.

The parade took place in front of circa 9,000 attendees, in the blistering heat (by our Highland standards!) and thankfully with a mild breeze enabling many of the banners to catch the wind.



Thankfully the exit arrangements for leaving the site at the end of the day could not have been simpler and everyone appeared to be able to exit the site without any difficulty, and certainly not the difficulty which we experienced last year.

While it was over 30c in the Clans Tent itself, everyone appeared to enjoy their day, support one another and the tent certainly prove to be a jewel in the crown of the Games yet again, thanks entirely to the efforts of everyone involved.

4. FEEDBACK

For those who were part of the Clans Tent, or merely have any observations, we would warmly welcome any words of feedback, suggestions, comments etc. to try and make the Clans Tent even better for next year. Please write to me via ross@ClanMacEwen.com

If you have not yet hosted a table at the Clans Tent and would wish to, please do write to me at any time, the principal aim is for the Clan Tent to be as accessible as possible for all our Member Clans, and showcase Highland Clan culture.

To finish, a reminder that the Clans Tent and all the provisions (tables, chairs, the tent itself etc) are funded by the Inverness Common Good Fund, and I will be writing on behalf of the Association to the Common Good Fund in a few days to express our continued gratitude for enabling what was again, the largest annual inter-clan gathering in Scotland to take place in the heart of the Highland Capital.



I will circulate the draft AGM minutes and an update of the next Association in early course, however in the meantime, on behalf of the Association, thank you for what was another successful and memorable weekend.

Yours Aye,

Ross M. McEwen
Secretary