



# Association of Highland Clans & Societies

*Newsletter: April 2019*



**Clan Chattan Group at Culloden Commemoration 2018**

## Culloden Commemoration Weekend begins busy year for the Highland Clans in 2019

The Annual Culloden Commemoration, organised by the Gaelic Society of Inverness, will take place at 11am on Saturday 13th April. The AHCS will be gathering on the eve of the commemoration in the Glen Mhor Hotel, Inverness, for a social evening featuring a talk at 7.30 by Jenn Scott entitled "The Jacobite Army Revealed: What They Really Looked Like".

This year will also see a commemoration of the Battle of Glenshiel, the main event during the 1719 Jacobite Rising. The AHCS, The Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland & the UK, and The 1745 Association, have organised a weekend of events 7-9 June in Inverness & Kintail. For details see [www.highlandclans.org/Glenshiel.htm](http://www.highlandclans.org/Glenshiel.htm).

The Inverness Highland Games will take place this year on the 20th July, and the usual high turnout of AHCS members is expected in the "Clan Village" kindly provided for us by Highland Council. In addition to the regular appearances by our members at local games throughout the Highlands, five of our member clans will be holding International Gatherings this year. They are listed on the back page.

Support for many of these events has been provided by EventScotland through the Scottish Clan Event Fund [SCEF]. Such funding in the future may be in doubt due to a review of the SCEF ordered by the Scottish Government. See pages 4-9 for more about this worrying news.

# The Chairman's Column/Editorial

Firstly I must apologise for the late arrival of the newsletter, and for the fact that it is missing the usual detailed round-up of news from member clans and features about our various activities. This is because I have only recently returned from a six week lecture tour in New Zealand and Australia, and have not had time to contact members and request news and features from you all, or to do my usual comprehensive trawl of your websites to gather further items of interest (though, as you'll see, I have found a few items of interest). If time permits I may produce another edition in the summer to include such material, along with updates on the serious issues that have had to take up most of this edition.

Before getting on to these issues, let me briefly review another successful year for the AHCS.

Last April a good number of us gathered at the Waterside Hotel in Inverness on the eve of the Annual Battle of Culloden Commemoration to hear a fascinating talk by Gregor Ewing entitled "Charlie, Meg and me - Following in Prince Charlie's footsteps after the battle of Culloden". The next day we joined a huge crowd on the battlefield for the service of commemoration organised by the Gaelic Society of Inverness, after which many wreaths were laid by clans and others in memory of those that had fallen on that fateful day. The Committee of the AHCS were particularly pleased that Tom Urquhart (pictured below) agreed to lay the Association's wreath on behalf of those of our member clans that were not separately represented.

Most of us, plus others, gathered again in July for the Inverness Highland Games, which was followed later the same day by our AGM in Eden Court. Since it had been agreed when the Association was set up that



*Tom Urquhart with the AHCS wreath at Culloden*



*AHCS Info Table at the Inverness Highland Games*

it should initially run just for five years to see if it was a useful and viable entity, the most important business at this year's meeting was our decision about whether to carry on. The vote to do so was unanimous.

There was vigorous discussion about the "Splash of Tartan" event held the previous year as part of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in which twelve of our member clans had participated. Almost everyone who had taken part agreed it was a special and very memorable event; but strong reservations were expressed by a number of members regarding the way that the clans were treated by the organisers of the Tattoo. Exception was taken by some to the way the Sergeant-Major dismissed the traditional arrangement used by some clans who march each year at their own events - particularly regarding the placement of clan banners. It was suggested that since the clans were part of the entertainment, our members should have paid less than the normal ticket price to be present. There was also considerable anger at the fact that clans taking part on the nights when the Tattoo was being filmed for television - which had been used as an incentive for clanspeople to attend - did not in the end appear in any of the broadcast TV coverage.

Hopes were expressed that if a similar event were to happen again, there should be better representation of the clans in the planning process.

When it came to the election of the Association's officers and committee, there were no changes except for the election of Fiona Grant as Deputy Chairman.

One of the highlights of the year for many members was the Association's autumn visit to the Clan Cameron Museum at Achnacarry. Lochiel joined the group for lunch at the nearby Moorings Hotel, in the course of which a birthday cake was presented to veteran member of many clan societies, Sonia Cameron Jacks. The Camerons are one of a number of member clans who will be holding International Gatherings in 2020. Others include the Stewarts, Grants and MacKenzies. This year the MacDougalls, Munros, Urquharts, MacAulays and Macraes will be holding such gatherings.



*Sonia Cameron-Jacks and her birthday cake*

The MacKenzies attended both the Aboyne and Braemar Games for the first time in 2018. Tradition has it that the hunting incident when a MacKenzie ancestor killed a rampaging stag to save the king - thus gaining the right to carry the *cabarfeidh* as the chief's arms - happened in Aberdeenshire; and in the 17th century the MacKenzies of Dalmore were one of the leading families in Upper Deeside alongside neighbours and rivals the Farquharsons.

The Farquharsons are one of the latest clans to join the AHCS, and this year we have also welcomed the MacGillivrays and the Mackays into the fold.

One body we will not be welcoming into membership of AHCS is Clan Outlander! Following the Outlanders' appearance in the clan tent during the 2017 Inverness Games, AHCS was asked if we would accept them as members of the Association. Our answer was no, though we were happy to welcome them again into the clan tent in 2018 where they enjoyed their position between the Frasers and MacKenzies—the two clans featured in Diana Gabaldon's fictional romances. It was fun to have them there, and both of these clans have benefitted from increased numbers of visitors to Scotland doing "Outlander Tours"; but sorting fact from fiction in clan histories is difficult enough without having the distinction further distorted in this way. However, having attempted to make this point in Scotland, what did we hear at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in the United States, but the announcement that "Clan Outlander" were in attendance.



*Dilys Hudson with Donald & Margot MacKenzie at Aboyne*

#### **SATG, SCFF, SCAF, and SCEF**

Institutions and acronyms come and go with alarming alacrity at the whim of the SG [Scottish Government]. For many years I did research in the SRO [Scottish Record Office]. Then one day in 1999 I found I was working instead in the NAS [National Archives of Scotland], and before very long - in 2011 - it had merged with the GROS [General Register Office for Scotland] to become the NRS [National Records of Scotland].

The GROS and the Lyon Court were based in New Register House, while the SRO/NAS inhabited Register House; both buildings—or parts of them—now form the *Scotlands People Centre* which administers our world-beating online genealogy resource, [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk).

A few years ago the SG called into being the SATG [Scottish Ancestral Tourism Group] in an effort to boost and bring together the resources for visitors coming to Scotland in search of their ancestral roots. I was invited to join the group both as a professional genealogist and as the representative of the Highland clans. One of the issues SATG grappled with was how to get online researchers and potential visitors past the commercial behemoths like *Ancestry.com* and *FamilySearch.com* and on to ScotlandsPeople. At that time, when I was lecturing abroad about tracing Scottish ancestry, I would ask how many of those present (almost all genealogists of Scots descent) knew about or had used ScotlandsPeople—and rarely more than 25% even knew about it, let alone used it.



*Association members with Donald Cameron of Lochiel at The Moorings after the visit to Achnacarry*



*Inside the Scottish Hall in Invercargill, New Zealand*

That was the case in 2014 when I did my first lecture tour down-under. It was very heartening therefore to discover on the tour I have just returned from that things have changed. This time I delivered 28 lectures in 14 different towns and cities—from the north of the North Island to the south of the South Island in New Zealand, and from Brisbane in Queensland (the most easterly Australian state) to Perth in Western Australia—and everywhere I went most of those present (the average attendance was about 50) had heard of and used Scotland’s People.

At about the same time that SATG came into being, the then Minister for Tourism, Fergus Ewing, convened what has been called “... the largest gathering of clans at Drumossie since the battle of Culloden ...” to discuss how the SG might help support clan events that promoted tourism in the Highlands. The result was the creation of the HCPG [Highland Clans Partnership Group], and then of the SCFF [Scottish Clans and Families Forum]. Members drawn from both bodies were asked to help administer the practical assistance that the SG then offered clans throughout Scotland; i.e. the SCEF [Scottish Clan Event Fund].

In the five years of its existence to date, the SCEF has supported events put on by eleven of our member clans, and a further three will be benefitting from it this year. The SG has hitherto trumpeted it as a great success, with the new Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Fiona Hyslop, happy to promote it in person whenever she can.

Nothing is ever perfect of course, and those clans that have taken advantage of the SCEF have had their complaints—especially about the bureaucratic application process. It’s also been suggested the criteria for grants may be too restrictive, and that the maximum amounts offered might be increased to meet the needs of more ambitious clans.

In the meantime, Ms Hyslop decided there is no need for separate advisory bodies on Ancestral Tourism and Clans, and therefore abolished SATG and SCFF and proposed instead a new slimmed-down body: The Scottish Clans & Ancestry Forum [SCAF].

News about this proposed change and discussions about the remit and the membership of the new body were initially confined, so far as the clans were concerned, to the SCSC [Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs]; i.e. the AHCS was neither informed nor

consulted, either by the SG or the SCSC. When I heard, quite by chance, what was going on in Edinburgh, I wrote to the Cabinet Secretary, reminding her about the results of our exclusion from the planning of the financially disastrous “Gathering 2009” —which was one reason the AHCS had been called into existence in the first place. I was subsequently invited to join these planning discussions.

The first, and so far only full meeting of SCAF took place in November, and the SCEF was one of the main items on the agenda. A review by Event Scotland of the first five years of its operation confirmed its success [see excerpts from it on the next two pages], and it was followed by some discussion about how it might be further improved—with tweaks to the criteria and the maximum amounts being mooted as possible changes.

There was little indication, so far as I recall, of any major changes being planned. Yet, when a final draft of the minutes were recently sent out (four months after the meeting), they told us that we had discussed not only increasing the percentage of an event’s costs that might be granted, but also whether money from the fund might be utilised to support clan chiefs who had been invited to events overseas and who saw themselves therefore as ambassadors for Scotland. The latter was a question that had indeed been raised—though not really discussed—by Donald MacLaren (a former professional diplomat, who had once been HM’s Ambassador in Georgia).

The minutes went on to say a review had been called for by the Cabinet Secretary that would re-examine the criteria of the fund and whether it should be expanded to more events, and that would look at issues including thresholds, types of events, and bodies to be supported. The process of review appears to have been started by the sending out to some (but not to all members of SCAF) of a draft document—dated the day after the minutes went out—entitled *Scottish Clan Event Fund: Request For Re-Examination*. As the summary from it that is given on the following pages show, the word “clan” may be removed, and the whole nature of the fund changed. It will no doubt be argued that this is only a draft, but that is no reason for the clans not to see it—now, before the powers that be in Edinburgh present us with a *fait accompli*.



*Graeme lecturing in Perth, Western Australia*

## **SCOTTISH CLAN EVENT FUND 2014 – 2018 REVIEW**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In response to a request from the Highland Clan Partnership Group, the Scottish Government asked EventScotland to design and implement an event funding programme available to support clans and clan societies organising gatherings and events across Scotland.

The Scottish Clan Event Fund (SCEF) was launched on 23 October 2013 and has since been run by EventScotland. The fund opens for one round each year awarding support to eligible events taking place across the subsequent two years. The fund provides legally constituted clans, clan societies and recognised families as well as other organisations (i.e community interest groups, youth and other organisations) with financial support ranging from £1,000 to £5,000 for individual events. Applications submitted in 2018, which are endorsed by joint or multiple clans, will also be considered and will have the opportunity to apply for a maximum of £10,000 support.

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the activity and performance of The Scottish Clan Event Fund to date in order to inform the Scottish Government, EventScotland and their partners around communications and future decision making.

The Scottish Clan Event Fund supports activity which:

- ✓ Generates economic benefits for specific regions of Scotland (supported activity must take place outside Edinburgh and Glasgow)
- ✓ Attracts visitors from out with Scotland to clan events
- ✓ Involves local communities by offering opportunities for public engagement and community participation
- ✓ Has measurable outcomes that confirm additional net spend in Scotland
- ✓ Benefits the clans and clan societies with increased visitor numbers and increased membership

It was agreed that applicants would be able to apply for funding two years in advance of the event taking place due to the required lead time to attract international audiences to Scotland. Scottish Government confirmed up to £70K support for the first three financial years of the fund up to 2016/17 after which the outcomes of the fund will be reviewed on an annual basis to assess its future sustainability.



*Clan MacLeod Parliament 2018 - One of the events supported by the Scottish Clan Event Fund*

## OVERVIEW

The first 5 years of funding committed through the SCEF have proven to be a success for the Scottish clans, in total the fund has supported 33 individual clans and heritage organisations to host a total of 51 events approved for funding since the fund's inception, with an overall award total of £171,975\*. (\*Breakdown: **2014** £21,320, **2015** £26,555, **2016** £19,150, **2017** £47,550 (including additional round to support **Splash of Tartan**), **2018** £48,050 and **2019** £9,350.

## IMPACT OF SUPPORTED EVENTS

Clan events are an important consideration in driving international ancestral tourism to Scotland. A total of £47,550 was invested by the fund to support events taking place in 2017, this included additional support through the Splash of Tartan programme. This can be assumed at £1.76 million net direct economic impact – new money – in Scotland's economy.

Overall Fund Statistics (2014-2017 inclusive*)	
Total number of events	51
Overall number of attendees	34,990
Average number of overnight stays	5.5
% of international visitors to Scotland	50.75%

## CONCLUSION

The clans benefited hugely from increased support and publicity gained through 2017, Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, and generated notable results. With this momentum the years to come are set to be successful for the clans. The fund continues to support the development of clans to attract international visitors through ancestral tourism as well as enhancing the benefits clans can generate for local communities across Scotland.

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Any enquiries related to the Scottish Clan Event Fund may be forwarded to:

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## FEEDBACK FROM THE CLANS

The Clans have reported that the SCEF has made a huge difference to their events and what they can do and have appreciated both the funding and the support from VisitScotland and the Events Directorate. Previously supported clans have offered positive feedback about their engagement with the fund:

*"Clan Macnab gathered for an international reunion last summer. There were over 130 total clan members who attended the gathering and who marched in the Edinburgh Tattoo. These guests came from at least six countries. The magnitude of the event would not have been possible without a grant from EventScotland which helped us pay for catering and a ceilidh band among other things. There is no doubt that the experiences of those who travelled from far away were made much richer because of the support and assistance of EventScotland.*

*Clan Macnab extends a tremendous thank you to EventScotland for all of their work in supporting clans and Scottish ancestral tourism. We look forward to working closely with EventScotland in the future."*

*(Rebecca McNabb, Treasurer of Clan Macnab Society of North America, March 2018)*

*“VisitScotland funding gave us the necessary confidence to enable the provision of a more ambitious, extensive and well-staffed events programme of which the popularity clearly attracted more visitors than otherwise would have attended. The material provided to promote The Year of History, Heritage & Archaeology added further interest to the experience.*

*This success, together with the benefits of digital communication and an active society, The House of Burnett, has spawned further interest in visiting Crathes and future Burnett Gatherings. This will benefit both Scotland and Burnetts everywhere.”*

(James C.A. Burnett of Leys, Clan Chief of Clan Burnett, April 2018)

*“The Clan Grant Society UK were fortunate to secure an award from the Scottish Clan Event Fund for 2016. We are convinced that Scotland has much to offer with clan tourism; particularly the ever growing interest in*

*family history. However, we need to make sure that it is an enjoyable and interesting experience for our visitors. This means providing a friendly and easily accessible service for them and the Scottish Clan Event Fund has helped us to achieve this. The Clan Event Fund and its helpful and patient staff have helped to focus our minds on the wider picture of visitors to Scotland as a whole and our potential part in encouraging those visitors to come over and love their time here. It has been a very worthwhile experience.”*

(Fiona Grant, Chairman of Clan Grant Society UK, October 2016).

*“The Scottish Clan Event Fund was vital to the success of the International Clan Mackenzie Gathering. It made our programme wider and enabled us to incorporate community involvement in a hugely fun way. I believe it is a vital component for any future success of clan gatherings especially in areas that rely on tourism.”*

(The Earl of Cromartie, Chief of Clan Mackenzie, October 2016).

*“On behalf of Clan Hay I would like to offer our thanks to yourself and to Visit Scotland for the Clan Funding which we received. Having the funding has enabled us to produce events which we otherwise could not have done. These events have attracted visitors to Scotland, supported local service providers, musicians and manufacturers... It is my firm belief that, in order to attract visitors to Scotland, we must first have something special to offer them. The funding from Visit Scotland has enabled us to provide just such attractions and we hope to continue to do so in the future, building on this excellent foundation. Our Clan membership has increased with over 100 new applications in the last 12 months. This is a reflection of the interest which has been created by these events.”*

(Pamela Rotheroe-Hay, Treasurer of Clan Hay Society, November 2015).

*“The Gathering was a huge success and without the assistance of the Clan Event Fund we would not have been able to give the participants anything like the experience they had...So the recognition by the Minister and the assistance of EventScotland is a huge breakthrough for us all...”*

(Hector W. Munro of Foulis, Chief of Clan Munro, October 2014).

## Events supported by grants from the SCEF in 2018

<b>Name</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Local Authorities</b>
Hawick Reivers Festival	23/03/2018	25/03/2018	£4,950	Scottish Borders Council;
Clan MacLennan International Gathering	03/07/2018	08/07/2018	£4,350	Highland Council;
Clan Gregor International Gathering	14/07/2018	22/07/2018	£5,000	Argyll and Bute Council; Stirling Council;
World Gathering of MacIntyres	17/07/2018	22/07/2018	£5,000	Argyll and Bute Council;
Clan Macleod Parliament	21/07/2018	28/07/2018	£5,000	Highland Council;
The 19 <sup>th</sup> Clan Gunn Society International Gathering	21/07/2018	29/07/2018	£5,000	Orkney Islands Council;
Tartan Ties, Clan Hay Gathering	03/08/2018	05/08/2018	£3,850	Aberdeenshire Council;
Clan Stewart Gathering	03/08/2018	05/08/2018	£2,700	Fife Council;
Clan Oliphant Gathering	05/08/2018	18/08/2018	£2,500	Perth and Kinross Council;
Clan Donnachaidh Gathering	10/08/2018	19/08/2018	£4,700	Perth and Kinross Council;
Dedication of Prestonpans 1745 Memorial Tables	15/09/2018	15/09/2018	£5,000	East Lothian Council;

## From the Event Scotland Website

[www.eventscotland.org/funding/scottish-clan-event-fund/](http://www.eventscotland.org/funding/scottish-clan-event-fund/)

*"With up to 50 million people globally claiming Scottish ancestry, and many more with a strong connection to our country, the market for ancestral tourism in Scotland is considerable and creates opportunities for communities to benefit."*

Through the Scottish Clan Event Fund, EventScotland is pleased to support clans, family associations and organisations holding events which celebrate Scotland's ancestral history. Each year, hundreds of thousands of visitors from across the globe choose to visit Scotland to explore their ancestry and the homelands of their ancestors and The Scottish Clan Event Fund directly supports such activity.

In response to a request from the Highland Clans Partnership Group, The Scottish Clan Event Fund was launched in 2014 by the Scottish Government in recognition of the importance of clan tourism to the Scottish Economy. Since its inception the fund has supported over fifty events which have welcomed tens of thousands of visitors across Scotland. The fund provides support to clans, clan societies and other eligible organisations by supporting the growth and development of their events.



*Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism & External Affairs, with military re-enactors, publicising the SCEF*

It's a busy year ahead for the clans with 14 events taking place across 9 local authorities inviting visitors from across Scotland and beyond to celebrate Scotland's clan histories and to connect with their ancestral roots. A total of 14 clan events are being supported through the fund in 2019.

### Events to be supported by grants from the SCEF in 2018

Event Name	Areas Involved	Dates
<a href="#">Hawick Reivers Festival</a>	Borders	22/03/2019 - 24/03/2019
<a href="#">Clan MacRae International Gathering</a>	Edinburgh/Highlands/Stirling;	08/05/2019 - 12/05/2019
<a href="#">Clan Paisley Society Spring &amp; Summer Gathering 2019</a>	Argyll/Falkirk/Renfrew/Stirling	19/05/2019 - 08/06/2019
<a href="#">Clan Donald Gaelic Arts Week</a>	Highlands	01/06/2019 - 09/06/2019
<a href="#">Tricentenary Commemoration of the Battle of Glenshiel</a>	Highlands	07/06/2019 - 10/06/2019
<a href="#">Clan Urquhart International Gathering</a>	Highlands	20/06/2019 - 25/06/2019
<a href="#">Clan Colquhoun International Gathering</a>	Argyll and Bute	03/07/2019 - 07/07/2019
<a href="#">Tour of the Innes Land 2019</a>	Moray	25/07/2019 - 30/07/2019
<a href="#">The International Clan MacDougall Gathering 2019</a>	Argyll	30/07/2019 - 04/08/2019
<a href="#">Tartan on the Green</a>	Aberdeenshire	06/08/2019 - 06/08/2019
<a href="#">International Clan Munro Gathering 2019</a>	Highlands	09/08/2019 - 11/08/2019
<a href="#">Clan Ewing Gathering 2019</a>	Argyll and Bute	29/08/2019 - 31/08/2019
<a href="#">Clan MacAulay International Gathering 2019</a>	Highlands	05/09/2019 - 08/09/2019
<a href="#">Clan Stewart Gathering 2019</a>	Moray	06/09/2019 - 09/09/2019

# Re-Examination of the Scottish Clan Event Fund

*A summary of the draft sent to the HCPG dated 26th March 2019*

The Cabinet Secretary's request highlights six specific areas for re-examination:

- Exploring a new name for the fund
- Updating/loosening the funding criteria
- Removing the condition that all events must be affiliated with a constituted clan
- Reviewing the funding threshold
- Reviewing the cap on the total award available
- Reviewing the number of year events can be awarded funding.

Since the re-examination has to be undertaken while the fund is still in operation - with applications for Round 7 open between May and September of this year - it is proposed that there be a three stage review.

Stage 1 will "... build on recent updates to the fund which have included widening the funding threshold for multi-clan events and loosening the criteria so that non-clan societies hosting events on behalf of clans or celebrating clan histories can apply". It will look to re-examine the current criteria, update how the fund is presented externally and promote opportunities to wider non-clan networks.

The specific "opportunities" quoted include the following

1. "... to make it more explicit that the fund is open to non-clan organisations".
2. "Remove obstacles that currently put-off non-clan organisations from applying ..." - for example the criteria that "applications must be fully endorsed by an appropriate clan body".
3. Add case studies and testimonials that spotlight non-clan events already supported through the fund.
4. Update guidelines document and website to make the fund more attractive to wider events.
5. Feature non-clan events in press and media opportunities.
6. Promote the fund across non-clan networks.

Stage 2 will review the situation when Round 7 has closed - examining the impact of updates and how they have influenced the types of events applying through the fund, comparing the number of non-clan applications from previous rounds, and asking non-clan enquirers for feedback on how accessible they found the fund.

Stage 3: "If the Round 7 review shows that there are still barriers for applying and there remains limited uptake from non-clan organisations, then in advance of Round 8 a wider expansion is recommended, updating the fund to become the **Scottish Ancestral Event Fund**."

Further actions quoted that could be made in advance of Round 8 include:

1. Updating the criteria "... so that specific references to clan societies are removed ...."
2. Adding case studies and testimonials that spotlight wider ancestral events already supported by the fund.
3. Promoting the fund across ancestral networks to raise awareness with new audiences.
4. Inviting new panel members with new insight and expertise on wider historical events - for example, representatives from Historic Environment Scotland or National Trust for Scotland.

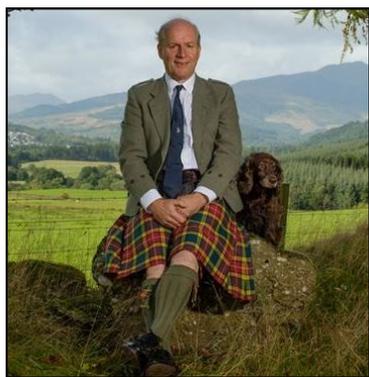
*COMMENT: It is pretty clear from the draft that what is being "re-examined" is not what should happen to the SCEF, but how the expansion and alteration that has already been decided upon can be gradually introduced and sold over the heads of the clans. Increased grants for larger events means greater glory for those with the resources and expertise to organise and promote them – and inevitably that will mean the rewards go to the big cities with the accommodation and the services to support such events. It doesn't matter that the relative rewards for small communities so dependent on tourism are that much greater, and therefore that the small sums currently granted through SCEF have a disproportionately greater effect on the local economy of the Highlands – or indeed of the Borders and other rural areas.*

*The political clout of the high population areas in the Central Lowlands makes it difficult for Highlanders and Borderers to stand against the Edinburgh establishment and the Glasgow electorate. However, the media would not be unsympathetic if the Highland clans (and maybe the Border families too) rose up against this threat to the progress we have made since the great gathering at the Drumossie Hotel which inspired the creation of the SCEF; especially if – as one of our number has already suggested – the transformation of the SCEF portends plans for another great gathering of clans in Edinburgh (and 2022 will be the anniversary of the royal jaunt that inspired "The Gathering 2009").*

*The AHCS will do what it can if it turns out we need to fight to defend the clans' fund; but inevitably we are going to be dependent to a large extent on the chiefs in our midst to be aware of what's going on in the Standing Council and to find out what is being negotiated behind closed doors between its leading figures and representatives of the Scottish Government and the NGOs involved in ancestral activities.*

*It doesn't of course have to be a fight. If the SG wants to support larger ancestral activities – which of course would be great – then it could set up another fund, and let the clans continue to draw the relatively small sums from the SCEF that make so much difference to us. We've been told time and again by the SG that we must use the SCEF or lose it. Well we've used it (this year's round was the first to be over-subscribed) and yet it appears we may still lose it. Not if we can help it!*

# A Chief for Clan Buchanan



Clan Buchanan, are celebrating the acquisition of their first chief since 1681. John Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan, henceforth to be known as “The Buchanan”, has been recognised as chief by the Lord Lyon after decades of research by Hugh Peskett who

became a genealogist 50 years ago after his grandmother (a Buchanan clanswoman) urged him to find the rightful chief of the Buchanans.

Mr John Michael Buchanan-Baillie-Hamilton, as he was registered at birth in 1958, is the great-grandson of John Baillie-Hamilton and Catherine Elizabeth Grace Buchanan, the daughter of Alexander the last Buchanan of Arnprior & Strathyre who died in 1848. In

order to claim the chiefship of Clan Buchanan Mr. Baillie-Hamilton had to re-arrange his names so that Buchanan became his sole surname.

*History Scotland* reports that “Clan Buchanan can be traced back to 1010 AD in Scotland .... Over five million people bear one of the recognized clan names, although not all will be clan members. As well as those with the surname Buchanan, clansmen and women also include those with Scottish roots and surnames such as Bohannon, Coleman, Colman, Cormack, Dewar, Dove, Dow, Gibb, Gibbon, Gibb, Gibson, Gilbert, Gilbertson, Harper, Masters, Masterson, Morris, Morrison (some only), Richardson, Rush, Rusk, Walter, Walters, Wasson, Waters, Watson, Watt, Watters and Weir. These are known as septs.

They are represented by the world’s oldest clan society, the Buchanan Society which was established in 1725 to support members of the clan in times of hardship, and the worldwide Clan Buchanan Society International.”

## Septs, Sept-napping, and Septnames

The above news item is of interest for a number of reasons—including the list of “septs” of Clan Buchanan given in the report by *History Scotland*. The question of septs and septnames is one that is currently coming to the fore, not least because of Donald MacLaren’s request to his fellow chiefs that they list the names they recognise as “authorised” septs of their clans. It’ll be interesting to see what sort of list the new Buchanan comes up with, since his two main clan societies seem to have taken diametrically different views on this somewhat vexed subject.

The Clan Buchanan Society in the UK say on their website [[www.buchanansociety.com](http://www.buchanansociety.com)] that the recognised septs are just MacAuslan (all spellings), MacWattie, and Risk. Clan Buchanan International list on their website [[www.theclanbuchanan.com](http://www.theclanbuchanan.com)] no less than 103 names—including two (as in the list given above by *History Scotland*) that are now recognised as clans in their own right; i.e. Dewar and Morrison.

Most of these names were originally claimed for the Buchanans by the man who wrote the history of the clan, and inspired the original society, in the 1720s: William Buchanan of Auchmar. His claims even extended to Clans MacMillan and MacCallum/Malcolm—and amazingly enough many leading MacMillans in the 18th century believed him and joined the Clan Buchanan Society.

The Buchanans are not alone in claiming such a long list of sept-names. The MacNaughtons claim 244 on their website <http://clanmacnaughton.net/>, three of which are now recognised as separate clans; and Clan Donald have a staggering 440 “Names & Families of Clan Donald” on <https://clandonaldusa.org/>, at least twenty of which are also the names of separate clans.

Most of these lists fail to make the distinction between the surname used by a sept (i.e. a differently-named branch of the parent clan, or a separate subordinate family) and alternate versions of the surname of the parent clan—or indeed of the surname used by a sept. So, many of the names on these long lists are just variations on the same surnames.

The appearance on these lists of names that are elsewhere considered to be the names of clans in their own right complicates matters. This is especially so when these “clans” are Lowland families whose heads have been declared “chiefs of the name of...” and are therefore now claiming chiefship of names historically associated, as septs, with Highland clans.

A further complication is the fact that many names are claimed, for one reason or another, by more than one clan. In a list I’ve recently compiled of over 1,700 names traditionally linked with Highland clans, over thirty are claimed by four clans, three are claimed by five clans, and one by six clans. The list has been compiled from the two main reference works for clans (Frank Adam’s, “Clans, Septs and Regiments ...” and Way & Squire’s “Clan & Family Encyclopaedia”), plus all the lists to be found on individual clan’s websites.

The project was started as a first step to providing VisitScotland with an alternative to their use of *ScotClans* as their source for information about septnames on their website—though how to turn it into a form they can use remains to be worked out. In the meantime I’ve included the list as a new appendix in the second edition of my book, “Genealogy in the Gaidhealtachd”, and I plan also to publish it as a stand-alone booklet once I have completed a detailed analysis of the list to be included as an introduction.



## Association of Highland Clans and Societies

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For info about the AHCS please go to: [www.highlandclans.org](http://www.highlandclans.org)

Dear Clan Member,

### Tercentenary Commemoration of the Battle of Glenshiel - Weekend, 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

The AHCS, in conjunction with the Clan MacKenzie Society and the 1745 Association, has been working towards a commemoration of the Battle of Glenshiel on the above dates.

The programme is to foster the Kinship, Friendship and Fellowship of the Clan system.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Day.** Under the auspices of the 1745 Association you have the opportunity to visit Moy and Culloden by coach to visit the Moy lands and see the site of the Battle of Moy, and to tour Culloden. You will have a knowledgeable guide on your coach who will be with you throughout the day. All expenses are included apart from the cost of lunch which can be purchased at the Culloden centre.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> Evening.** A short programme of talks and lectures at the Craigmorie Hotel to set the scene for your visit to the Battle site at Kintail on the following day.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Day.** You will leave Inverness by coach from the Mercure Hotel for Kintail where a guided tour of Eilean Donan Castle is booked for you, you will have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful setting, tea room and shop at the Castle and also to take time to view the exclusive exhibition by the NTS archaeologist in the nearby Dornie Hall where there will also be rolling talks on the history of the Battle. Your coach will again be accompanied by a knowledgeable guide for the journey.

In the afternoon you will be taken by coach to the Battle Site where you will commemorate the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Glenshiel, after which you will return to Inverness by coach. All expenses are included apart from lunch which can be purchased in the Castle tea rooms.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> Evening.** Come to socialise at the Clan MacKenzie ceilidh in the Mercure Hotel where you can catch up with friends old and new.

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Day.** Kirkin o' the Tartans service and a chance to say your farewells.

*(Book with Jenn Scott at [glenshiel1719@gmail.com](mailto:glenshiel1719@gmail.com) and tell her if you have paid by BACS - Or send the booking form with your cheque to- Jenn Scott, The Stewart Society, 53, George St., Edinburgh, EH2 2HT)*

**PLEASE NOTE:** It will not be possible to take part in our event without travelling with us from Inverness to Kintail by our organised coaches. At the Battle Site we have obtained special parking permission for the coaches. The National Trust and authorities have indicated that there **WILL BE NO** other parking opportunities available in the area. Also as attendance numbers will be limited **YOU MUST BOOK** if you intend to come to the ceremony. We cannot guarantee your attendance or safety otherwise. We have the responsibility for a maximum of 200 people attending, the site is on a very busy road with no on-site parking and as your safety is of paramount importance we do need to know who is attending and the only way to do that is for you to book a place.

We are very pleased to have been successful in receiving a grant from Visit Scotland under their Clan Event Fund to help allay costs. Our thanks to the National Trust for Scotland for access to the site.

*The Booking Form for this event can be downloaded at <http://www.highlandclans.org/Glenshiel.htm>*

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## Final Note from the Chairman/Editor

Please make sure the above invitation – which is available, with the booking form, on the website – is circulated to all individual members of your clans. This is the first time the Association has attempted an event on this scale, and we need an attendance that justifies all the work and funding that has gone into organising it – especially in light of the threat to the SCEF that is discussed on the foregoing pages.

Immense thanks are due from us all to the group who have borne most of the burden of organising this event: Allan Maclean, Jenn Scott, Donald Mackenzie, and Fiona Grant for the AHCS, and Mike Nevin for The 1745 Association – but especially to our Secretary, Anne Maclean, who has shouldered the responsibility of leading the group with great dedication.

Anne has indicated her wish to step down as Secretary of the AHCS at the next AGM – as she looks forward to Clan Maclean's next major event. While we'll be lucky to find anyone else with Anne's knowledge of organising large events, we hope that one amongst the AHCS's many experienced clan chairs, secretaries, and committee members will be willing to step into her shoes in July.

## About the AHCS

Full membership is open to all clans judged by their peers in the AHCS to be "Highland" – whether represented by a Society, Commander, or Chief. Non-Highland clans and families may become Associate Members, and thus enjoy preferable rates at our events and a voice, but no vote, in our Council. Highlanders with no clan organisation may become Individual Members, on the same terms as Associate Members. Our events are intended to be open to all clans and families, but where space is limited preference will be given firstly to Full Members, and secondly to Associate Members. The full constitution, details of current membership fees, contact details for the clans, and for the Association's officers, can be found on our website: [www.highlandclans.org](http://www.highlandclans.org).

### FULL MEMBERS (subject to renewal for 2019-20):

**Cameron** (M'Gillonie, M'Martin, M'Sorlie of Glen Nevis, M'Lachlan of Coruanan, Cumming of Achdalieu).  
**Chattan** (Mackintosh, Shaw, M'Bean/Bain, M'Phail, M'Queen, M'Thomas, Macintyre in Badenoch).  
**Chisholm**  
**Davidson**  
**Donald** (representing Clanranald, MacDonell of Glengarry, MacDonald of Keppoch, MacDonald of Sleat, etc).  
**Donnachaidh (Robertson)**  
**Farquharson**  
**Fraser of Lovat**  
**Grant**  
**MacAulay**  
**MacDougall**  
**MacGillivray**

**Mackay**  
**MacKenzie**  
**Maclean**  
**MacLennan**  
**MacMillan**  
**Macpherson**  
**Macrae**  
**Matheson**  
**Munro**  
**Stewart**  
**Sutherland**  
**Urquhart**

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

**Clan Fraser Society of Scotland & the UK**  
**Iain McIntyre-Younger of Culmullin**  
**Clan Lindsay**  
**Highland Family History Society**  
**Highland Archive Centre**

### Events in 2019 to be attended by AHCS or a Member Clan (mostly on the basis of last year's attendances):

**12 April:** 7.00pm. AHCS Social Evening at Glen Mhor Hotel, Inverness, with talk:

Jenn Scott, "The Jacobite Army Revealed: What They Really Looked Like".

**13 April:** Battle of Culloden Commemoration organised on battlefield by the Gaelic Society of Inverness at 11.00am.

**8 - 12 May:** Clan Macrae International Gathering in Edinburgh, Dunblane, and Kintail.

**7 - 9 June:** Battle of Glenshiel Tercentenary Commemoration in Inverness and Kintail.

**21 - 24 June:** Clan Urquhart International Gathering in Banff, Craigston, Turriff & Meldrum.

**29 June:** Gairloch Highland Gathering. Clan MacKenzie.

**18 July:** Mull Highland Games at Tobermory. Clan Maclean.

**20 July:** Inverness Highland Games: 20 pitches in AHCS tent will probably be available (sharing may be possible).

To be followed by tea (5.00pm) and the Annual General Meeting of the AHCS (5.30pm) – Maclean Room at Eden Court.

**30 July - 4 Aug:** Clan MacDougall International Gathering at Dunollie, Oban

**31 July:** Arisaig Highland Games. Clanranald (Clan Donald).

**2 - 3 Aug:** Moy Game Fair. Clan Chattan.

**3 Aug:** Newtonmore Highland Games. Clan Macpherson.

**3 Aug:** Aboyne Highland Games. Clans Farquharson & Fraser

**8 Aug:** Ballater Highland Games. Clan Farquharson.

**9 - 11 Aug:** Clan Munro International Gathering in Dornie (Kintail), Inverness, Strathpeffer and Foulis.

**10 Aug:** Strathpeffer Highland Gathering. Clan MacKenzie.

**10 Aug:** Abernethy Highland Games. Clan Grant.

**17 Aug:** Glenfinnan Gathering & Highland Games. Clans Cameron & Donald.

**5 - 8 Sep:** Clan MacAulay International Gathering at Coylumbridge, Aviemore.

**6-8 Sep:** Stewart Society Annual Gathering in Elgin

**7 Sep:** Braemar Highland Games. Clan Chattan.

*Any additions or corrections to the above listings should be communicated to the Secretary (listings will also be available on our website).*

*Please also notify the Secretary of any special events – International Gatherings etc. – that your clan will be involved with.*

**Association of Highland Clans & Societies, 5/3 North Charlotte Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4HR.**

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