



# Association of Highland Clans & Societies

*Newsletter: July 2014*

## Five more clans join the Association

Clans Munro, Matheson, Stewart, MacFarlane & Currie/MacMhuirich sign up in response to AHCS activities at the annual Culloden Weekend in April and at Bannockburn Live in June

The decision of the AHCS Committee to take up Clan Grant's offer of their pitch at Bannockburn Live was more than justified by the steady stream of visitors in search of information about their names and clans, and the picture (above right) was snatched during an unusual lull in what was often a very crowded two days. The fact that the AHCS was second in the alphabetical line-up of pitches meant we were the first port of call for many, in what was a very well thought-out Clan Village (shown in the picture below).

Allan and Anne MacLean had dressed the AHCS pitch very colourfully, making full use of the Association's new banner (and the flag flown outside the tent - and therefore not in this photo). They also brought along maps of clan lands (one of which is being consulted by two visitors in the photo above right) and a number of reference books about names and clans which were constantly in use.



*Nick Hide of Clan Davidson (left) and Alex MacLean at the AHCS pitch in the Clan Village at Bannockburn Live*

Thanks go to all those members of AHCS clans who had their own pitches at Bannockburn but who nevertheless spared time to help staff ours, most notably Nick Hide of Clan Chattan, Alex MacLean, and Norman & Mary McPherson. Great credit too goes to Norman for acting as the representative of the Highland Clans on the NTS's consultative committee organising what turned out to be a very successful and enjoyable event. The only serious drawback was the under provision of catering, which left the field often divided by the most enormous queue for food; that however was a problem of success, and caused by the perpetual issue (which we all know as event organisers) of people only deciding to attend at the last moment.



# Recent Events

## CULLODEN WEEKEND

More clans and chiefs than ever attended the battlefield service organised on Saturday 19 April by the Gaelic Society of Inverness, and about 40 members of AHCS clans went on to have lunch together at the Drumossie Hotel - where Clan Donald also held their usual post service lunch. The Camerons held their annual Culloden Day lunch at the Cawdor Inn.

At the AHCS lunch Graeme Mackenzie told members something about his trip to speak at the Tartan Day Symposium in Washington DC, and Gerry Reynolds briefed us on the latest news about the Highland Homecoming Inverness Meeting Weekend in September (for which see below).

## CLAN AND FAMILIES FORUM

On Monday 30 June, the day after Bannockburn Live, a number of clan representatives were invited to Stirling to meet with Fergus Ewing, the Minister of Tourism, and representatives of other interested bodies (i.e. VisitScotland) to discuss issues surrounding clan events. We were joined by Sue McIntosh, President of the *American Council of Scottish Clans and Associations*, and by Malcolm Buchanan, President of the *Scottish Australian Heritage Council* who had come to Scotland to attend Bannockburn Live. The meeting discussed what such a Forum might achieve, and it was resolved to meet again in November, hopefully with a wider membership, to take some issues forward.

# Future Events

## INVERNESS HIGHLAND GAMES - 19 July

The arrangements for this will be the same as last year (i.e. 2 tables, 4 chairs, and 4 passes per clan) and the Secretary will notify participating clans about incidental details during the week before it. As things stand, we already have the maximum of 16 clans signed up for the tent, and the HFHS will have one of Clan MacMillan's two tables. Though we don't know of any other clans wanting to attend at the moment, if any participating clans feel they also would only need one table, and could offer the second to another clan, please let the Chairman know, just in case.

## INVERNESS HIGHLAND MEETING

### Friday 12 Sep. - March of the Highland Clans:

8.00pm: Marchers assemble at Crown Primary School for 9.00pm kick-off, while VIPs gather in the Town House. Parade will go down into High Street, past Town House for salute, and over bridge to disperse at Northern Meeting Park.

### Saturday 13 Sep. - Clans in the Town House:

10.00am (TBC): "Meet the Clans" exhibition in the Town House. A chance for people in town for Saturday shopping to pop in and find out about the clans. Displays will probably have to be restricted to one table each, but this also TBC.

4.00pm: End of "Meet the Clans"

4.15pm: Tea in the Town House for AHCS members (cost and ticketing for tea TBA).

5.00pm: AGM of the AHCS in the Town House.

7.30pm: Blas Festival Finale in Eden Court - info & tickets from theatre ([www.eden-court.co.uk/](http://www.eden-court.co.uk/)).

### Sunday 14 Sep. - Kirking of the Council:

Clan Chief, Head of Clan Society, or other nominated person, and a banner bearer to join parade from Town House to High Kirk, and to attend service there—then parade back to Town House for lunch

with the Provost, Councillors etc. Timings to be announced in due course.

Masters World Championship Highland Games, which begin Friday, will climax at Bught Park early on Sunday evening with an attempt at the Word Record Mass Caber Toss.

## Arrangements for the March of the Clans:

All members of AHCS are invited to nominate up to 20 members to carry flaming torches in the parade. It is understood that not many clans will be able to muster 20 regular members, but if any have over 20 nominees they might get more torches from under-represented clans. You are advised to try and get your nominations in before the Inverness Games, since there will be a pre-games press release inviting members of the public to come to the games and sign up to carry torches for their clan (though the availability of torches for those who are not members of our societies will be dependent on how many members have been nominated by the societies).

Clans that are not members of the AHCS are also invited to participate in the parade, but must register their wish to do so with AHCS in advance, and nominate their members who would wish to carry any available torches (if no torches are left, they will be welcome to join the march without them).

Participation in the Clan March, entry to "Meet the Clans" at the Town House, and entry to the Masters World Championship Games at Bught Park, will all be free of charge; but other events happening over the weekend, such as the Camanachd Cup Final (Shinty), the Blas Festival etc., will require paid tickets for entry.

## CULLODEN HOMECOMING EVENT

The National Trust for Scotland are organising an event at Culloden Battlefield on 6 & 7 September which they hope clans might participate in. For further details contact Kathleen Boal: [kboal@nts.org.uk](mailto:kboal@nts.org.uk)

## 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. Non-clan Highland bodies may also (like the Highland Family History Society) be 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, current Membership Fees, and contact details for our officers, and a list of all member clans can be found on our website: [www.highlandclans.org](http://www.highlandclans.org)

### **Events in 2014 to be attended by AHCS or a Member Clan (on the basis of last year's attendances):**

**19 April: Battle of Culloden Commemoration** organised by the Gaelic Society of Inverness at 11.00am; followed by **AHCS Lunch at Drumossie Hotel** (soup & sandwiches £12 a head).

**28 – 29 June: Bannockburn Live.** List of clans attending given at [www.bannockburnlive.com/events/klan-family-village](http://www.bannockburnlive.com/events/klan-family-village)

**5 July: Gairloch Highland Games.** Clan MacKenzie.

**19 July: Inverness Highland Games:** 16 pitches in AHCS tent available (sharing may be possible). Please register your interest in having a tent place as soon as possible with the Secretary at address below.

**24 July: Mull Highland Games at Tobermory.** Clan MacLean.

**30 July: Arisaig Highland Games.** Clan Donald.

**1-2 Aug: Moy Game Fair.** Clan Chattan.

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

**2 Aug: Aboyne Highland Games.** Clan Cameron.

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

**9 Aug: Strathpeffer Highland Games.** Clan MacKenzie.

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

**16 Aug: Glenfinnan Highland Games.** Clans Cameron & Donald.

**12 Sep: First day of the Inverness Highland Meeting featuring the Masters World Championship Games at Bught Park.**

Evening: Torchlit March of the Clans and Games Competitors through the centre of Inverness with salute taken at the Town House by the Provost and the Earl of Cromartie (as Patron of the event).

**Saturday 13th September: 2nd day of Games, and Camanachd Cup Final in afternoon at Bught Park.**

Daytime: "Meet the Clans" event in the Inverness Townhouse, followed there by AGM of the AHCS at 5.00pm.

Evening: Finale of *Blas Festival of Highland Music and Gaelic Language* in Eden Court Theatre.

**Sunday 14th September: Final session of games in the afternoon at the Northern Meeting Park.**

AM: Kirking of the Council in Inverness's historic High Kirk: Clan Chiefs, Commanders, or Society Heads, with one banner-bearer each, parade and join service, followed by lunch in the Townhouse.

*Highland Council hope to have a Highland Meeting Weekend with games each year to coincide with the Kirking of the Council - and propose that the chief or head of each clan in AHCS takes it in turn to be the event's Patron. This coincides with the idea that in future years we might have an annual AHCS dinner or lunch in aid of charity when we have our AGM, with a different clan each year providing the guest speaker and nominating the charity it is to be in aid of. The Mackenzies have nominated "Project Mackenzie" to be this year's cause. It's a programme run by the Aragon Housing Association in Bedfordshire intended to inspire and encourage disadvantaged young people into the work place and to give them hope and faith in their futures. The project is jointly led by the retired Olympic athlete Kris Akabusi, who named it after his mentor in the army, Sgt Ian Mackenzie. In recognition of this charitable work, Kris Akabusi will be made an honorary member of Clan MacKenzie in a ceremony on the evening of Friday 12 September, before the March of the Clans, in which he will lead the MacKenzie contingent. For info on the Aragon Housing Association and Project Mackenzie, please go to [www.aragon-housing.co.uk/about-us/news/aragon-picks-up-the-baton/](http://www.aragon-housing.co.uk/about-us/news/aragon-picks-up-the-baton/)*

### **Association of Highland Clans & Societies**

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