

Aims and Objectives of AHCS

Extract from the Constitution adopted on 12 April 2013:

2. OBJECTIVES

To provide a means whereby the Societies, Associations, or Individuals (Chiefs or Commanders) representing the members of Highland Clans can get together to pursue joint aims, such as:

- (i). Sharing experience and expertise relating to the running of clans and clan societies.*
- (ii). Organising joint clan-related events in the Highlands.*
- (iii). Representing the Highland Clans in discussions with bodies organising joint clan events outwith the Highlands – subject to the rules laid down in Clause 5(viii).*
- (iv). Receiving reports from, stimulating discussion about, and requesting action by the representatives of the Highland Clans sitting on other bodies.*
- (v). Promoting projects that will benefit all Highland Clans.*
- (vi). Supporting research into and the spread of knowledge about the nature and history of clans in the Highlands, and of the society they were and are a part of.*

What this might mean in practice:

(i). Sharing experience and expertise relating to the running of clans and clan societies.

Self-explanatory.

(ii). Organising joint clan-related events in the Highlands.

- a. AHCS will run the “Clan Village” at the Inverness Highland Games (replacing the “Hall of the Clans” in Eden Court) which is being provided for us by the Inverness Highland Games Committee.
- b. AHCS will take the lead in organising an annual reception and exhibition at the Highland Archive & Registration Centre during the Culloden Weekend, in association with the Highland Archive & Registration Services, and the HFHS – along the lines of the successful 12 April 2013 event.
- c. AHCS will aim in future years to organise an annual social event in the autumn (September or October) in the course of which we can hold our AGMs. It’s envisaged this would be part of Highland Council’s “Inverness Highland Meeting” weekend in 2014 – the opening event of “The Highland Homecoming” month – and might be linked with smaller-scale similar events in the years thereafter.
- d. AHCS may take a tent or table to Highland Games and suitable events in other parts of Scotland in order to publicise the existence of its members’ clans and societies with leaflets and displays.
- e. Special one-off events might be organised or participated in from time to time; e.g. a “Clan Roots” Conference during the Highland Homecoming month in September of 2014.

(iii). Representing the Highland Clans in discussions with bodies organising clan events outwith the Highlands .

AHCS will work with the Highland Clans Partnership Group wherever appropriate in this area – as it is already doing with regard to the Bannockburn Anniversary (with Norman McPherson representing both bodies on the NTS working group). AHCS’s role will always be to ensure that all the clans are properly informed and consulted in advance about these matters.

(iv). Receiving reports from, stimulating discussion about, and requesting action by the representatives of the Highland Clans sitting on other bodies.

This relates to the previous point, but is likely to involve more bodies (as they proliferate) rather than just the HCPG.

(v). Promoting projects that will benefit all Highland Clans.

Possible projects that have been mooted so far include:

- a. Organising the funding for, and then the content of, display cases featuring clans for a permanent rolling exhibition in the Foyer of the Highland Archive Centre.
- b. Helping research, and possibly fund the display of, information about the “forgotten clans” at Culloden (i.e. the small clans that fought under the banners of larger clans).
- c. Maybe doing something similar for other battles – notably Bannockburn (were there any “clans” as such there at all?).
- d. Commissioning research and articles about the clans in the Highlands, past and present, that might go into an AHCS magazine, or that might be offered to individual clan societies to help with the content of their own magazines. Possibly also selling adverts to go in the individual magazines and newsletters of member clans and societies, since the larger the number of publications the adverts would go in, the easier it should be to sell the advertising.

(vi). Supporting research into and the spread of knowledge about the nature and history of clans in the Highlands, and of the society they were and are a part of.

There’s a whole lot that might come under such a wide heading.