



CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

Secretary to The Clan Society

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Dear Clans Folk

WHAT A WONDERFUL YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS 2018

I hope this second Newsletter of mine finds you all good and well and those of you who attended the 2018 Clan gathering still basking in the magnificent memories.

Since I composed my last Newsletter I had hoped / thought work would slow down slightly at the Clan Centre.....proved wrong! Different but not quieter.

The beginning of 2018 we announced the date and venue for the EGM for approval of the Society's contribution to the funding of the purchase of Struan Kirk, Saturday March 3rd in the Holiday Inn, Edinburgh. Due to adverse weather, mainly heavy snow, we had to cancel the venue and hold the EGM by Skype as no one could travel. This was successful and the rest you know is 'history' in the making.

Very soon after the EGM we opened an appeal for contributions from all our Members Worldwide to help the Clan Donnachaidh Society to reach its promised 25% share of the funding of the purchase of the Kirk. It has been emphasised that the funding was not only to purchase Struan Kirk but to have funds for the share the Society has agreed to pay for any work and maintenance in the near and long-term future of Struan Kirk.

In the first quarter of 2018 I made an application to Event Scotland for funding to allow the Society to put on a rather splendid Clan Gathering to mark the occasion of our Chief's 80th Birthday and 35 years as Chief. The celebration was first proposed by Scott Duncan of the Northeast Branch. The initial organising committee got underway with leadership from IVC Christy Lange who proposed a programme of events.

I spent much of the first half of 2018 with help from my good colleague Stephanie Robertson, finalising the activities for this special Gathering. We had a lot of fun and laughter putting the details of the programme together and more will surely unfold in the 2019 Clan Annual.

Dates for the 2019 Clan Gathering

Wednesday	11 th September	DNA meeting Dancing Practice
Thursday	12 th September	Excursion
Friday	13 th September	AGM Chief's Dinner in the evening
Saturday	14 th September	Pitlochry Highland Games
Sunday	15 th September	Service at Struan Kirk Lunch at Struan Inn

More details of events will be uploaded onto the Website in the near future.

In November I had the pleasure of spending time with the Clan Donnachaidh Youth Award winner Calum Ryder when he spent 3 days at the Clan Centre on work experience. More information will be given in the 2019 Clan Annual.

I have recently been tidying up the Clan Society Database and contacting all past Members who have Memberships that have lapsed. As part of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) which came in to force in the UK in May this year we are no longer allowed to hold electronic Data on Members who have Memberships dormant for 6 months or longer. The Database holds Member's names, addresses, email and telephone details in order that we can process their Membership/Renewals, send informative emails, Newsletters and Clan Annuals. Members who have their Data removed will no longer receive communication from the Clan Centre. If you have any queries regarding your Membership please contact me at the Clan Centre on my email address.

This Year 2018 saw many wonderful Members and New Members cross the threshold of the Clan Donnachaidh Centre. The enthusiasm of these and other Members rally makes the whole of the Clan Donnachaidh Society so worthwhile. I urge any member who has any skill or ideas for the future of the Clan Donnachaidh Society to contact me at the Clan Centre on my new email secretary@clandonnachaidh.net

If there is anything I can do to help please do not hesitate to contact me.

In the meantime I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you

Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr

(Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year)

Peace, Joy and Happiness in 2019

Catriona



Whilst investigating the Gathering funding I became aware that 2018 had been designated by the Scottish Government as the Year of Young People, with many special celebrations and events being held. With this knowledge I put some thought into what the Clan Donnachaidh Society could do, not only to celebrate this special year but to create a lasting legacy that will keep the Society's name alive and circulating among young people. The Clan Donnachaidh youth Award was launched. I attended many school and education meetings to see how this could best be done and to give us the widest coverage. All school pupils in Highland Perthshire were eligible and could be voted for by teachers, classroom assistants, parents, family, neighbours and friends. All nominees were to be described in no more than 500 words explaining why the nominating person was proposing them. The person who received the most nominations was to be invited to the Chief's Dinner, receive a Trophy and a monetary cash prize. More about the Award will be detailed in the 2019 Clan Annual.

The Museum area of our Clan Centre (which once housed Blair Antiques), which is being shared with the House of Bruar under a three-year arrangement and which House of Bruar started off as a Bookshop, was to change its stock and become a Knitting Shop. The agreement that House of Bruar staff would maintain, clean and take enquiries for the Museum would continue as first agreed. In these six months our friendly neighbours, House of Bruar, extended the paving area in front of the buildings, yet again enhancing the appearance.

In April I attended the London and Southern Counties Branch's Annual dinner at the Caledonian Club in London as a guest of Jean Robertson of Struan, sister of The Chief, and was delighted to meet many of the members from the Branch. I sat with Donald Reid the Chair of this Branch and was lucky enough to be seated beside the guest speaker Sir Hugh Robertson, Chair of the Olympic Committee. With my love of sport and the involvement also of my children we were not short of conversation. Sir Hugh went on to speak to Kirsty, my younger daughter who attended with me and who is a keen and competitive rower and told her about the story of Dame Katherine Grainger.

The summer saw the launch of Donald Reid's book, 'Scotland's Clan Donnachaidh Country', which has proved extremely popular and I have added to my office skills by becoming his Mail Order Agent! The book is available to order through the Clan Centre for £6.99 plus postage.

August 10th saw the beginning of our 2018 Clan Gathering with a wide and varied programme which I hope all attendees enjoyed and that they took back home many happy memories and new lasting friends. I have asked that Attendees share some of their moments and photos with us in the 2019 Annual.

August was a truly memorable month for Clan Donnachaidh. As well as our Clan Gathering it saw the completion of the purchase of the Kirk from Church of Scotland by the Struan Kirk Trust on Tuesday August 14th, and the following day the Clan Society was given the proud ownership of the 51st Highland Division Piper Statue in a wonderful historic ceremony witnessed by many of our Members. On that same day we had the unveiling of the new signage for the Clan Donnachaidh Centre. Progress is being made for further signage to be erected in the coming months.

Could have danced all night!

