



Clan Macfie News

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No 54

Welcome to 2009

Jan 2009

Hello everyone. This is my first attempt at producing the Clan News letter so I hope you will forgive any mistakes that may occur.

Rather belatedly may I wish you all a Happy New Year. Lang may your lums reek

Change is always unsettling for everyone involved whether it is in business, politics or in our case the Clan. I hope the adjustment to the new management will be quick. If the letters of support I have received are any indication then assimilation should be reasonably easy and fast. Nevertheless I will need everyone's backing and support if we are to keep advancing the Clan both here and around the world. I have replied to everyone who sent a letter, e-mail or card, but in case I missed anyone thank you for your congratulations.

A (Sandy) C McPhie Esq.

Our retiring Commander, Sandy while hoping for an easy life is not getting off too easily. I have asked him to be my Commissioner for Australia.

From my first meeting with Sandy, in 1985, at the Glasgow International Gathering I was struck by his passion for all things relating to the Clan. His nineteen years of dedication and service as Commander has added greatly to the esteem of the Clan. He was an excellent ambassador; a typical example is when he represented the Clan as The Chief of the

Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta, Georgia. Over the four/five day period of the Games he carried off the duties of Chief of the Games with élan.

On the Job Training

The year ahead will be a busy one for Fiona and myself. My appointment as Ceann Cath puts me on a steep learning curve and is going to mean a lot of work. On top of that Fiona and I are arranging the Clan Gathering in September of this year and we also have the big Homecoming event at the end of July.

Along with some others, Fiona and I represent the Clan at a number of Highland Games, but I think we will have to ca' canny this year.

Fame at Last

Our local newspaper, reported on my appointment, which had the headline "Park visitors could meet a real Clan Chief." I work, two days a week, at the Highland Wild Life Park, which is only a five-minute walk from our home. As a member of the visitor centre staff, if I am on duty, most folk will meet me. I have spoken to a number of people bearing one form or another of the Clan name and encouraged them to join their local Society.

The reporter was being a bit mischievous, saying I was a real Clan Chief. Only two weeks before, the paper had an article about the Clan MacAuley and its chief, who is also local. He had been appointed, not by the Lord Lyon, but by acclamation from MacAuley Clan societies. Their previous Commander, duly appointed by the Clan Armigers and approved by the Lord Lyon, died a few years ago.



World Travel

I have already received four informal invitations to visit America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. There has also been one very definite invitation, to visit Heidelberg in Germany. The invitation has come via Donald McPhee, who lives there and runs a business called Kilts and Things. He is also a piper in a pipe band, which he sponsors.

Can you imagine what tartan the band wears? Of course, it is Macfie.

The reason for the invitation, for the 7th of February, is to attend, as guest of Honour, the band's annual Burn's Supper. Unfortunately Fiona and I will not be able to attend.

The band has the splendid name of The Heidelberg and District Pipes and Drums. It is progressing, steadily, through its grade and has won one or two open competitions, in part due to tuition by Bob McFie, President of the Clan Macfie Society, itinerant bagpipe tutor and my brother.

This year is already too busy for me to consider travelling very far from home soil, but who knows God willing and a friendly Bank Manager may see me somewhere over the rainbow.

Flowers of the forest

It is with regret that we have heard of the passing of four members of the Canadian Society. Ken McPhee, Ken G. McPhee, Peter MacPhee and John McPhee. Ken McPhee was the last member of Dr Earle's family. John attended the 1985 International Gathering in Glasgow and Colonsay. On the Colonsay he was mistaken for the author who had written the book 'The Crofter and the Laird' and did not receive the usual warm island welcome. If I remember correctly Peter attended the big Clan Gathering on Colonsay in 1993 and he had the honour of partaking in the ceremony at the standing stone.

The Clan Macfie Society has lost a very valuable member. David Thornley, had a fine voice, he and Shiona his wife, sang in two Edinburgh Gaelic choirs. The two choirs attended the funeral service and sang a beautiful Gaelic Hymn. David was always willing to sing a song or two at a Ceilidh.

Clan Diary

2009 24th Jan Clan Macfie Society Burns Supper

25 Jan **Worldwide.** 250th Anniversary of the birth of Rabbie Burns (1759 – 1796). Up to 50,000 Burns Dinners/Suppers expected to be held on or near that date!

17-19th Jul **New Zealand.** 25th Anniversary Meeting of the McPhee Clan Society of New Zealand

TBA Jul **U.S.A.** AGM of The MacDuffee Clan Society of

- America Inc., of Clan Macfie. To be held in conjunction with the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, NC. (Contact John Rosser, 611 Blair Street, Greensboro, NC, 27408. Tel: 336 275 8819)
- TBA Jul **U.S.A.** AGM of Coffey/Coffee Reunion Association. (Contact Ilah Coffee Merriman, 7721 Yamini Drive, Dallas, Texas 75230-3230)
- 25/26 Jul **Scotland.** International Clan Gathering and Highland Games, Edinburgh the Year of the Homecoming. See website www.thegathering2009.com for further details. Expect a Clan Macfie presence. See separate item in this Clan News.
- Aug **U.S.A.** Biennial General Meeting of the Cathey Reunion Association. Date and venue to be decided. (Contact Charles Edwards, 11604 Georgetowne Drive, Knoxville, TN 37934. Tel: 865 675 5056).
- 02 – 09 Sep **Scotland.** 17th International Gathering and 10th Parliament of Clan Macfie Societies. To be held at the Nethybridge Hotel, Nethy Bridge, Scotland. See separate items in this Clan News for further details.
- 2010** TBA **Sweden.** Triennial General Meeting of the Thorburn-Macfie Family Society. Details to be notified in due course.
- TBA **Australia.** Biennial General Meeting of the Macfie Clan Society of Australia. Details to be notified in due course.

2009 – HOMECOMING SCOTLAND

Homecoming Scotland 2009 will commence with Burns Night (25th January) and end on St. Andrews Day (30th November). The key event of the nationwide celebration is the Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh on 25th and 26th July, centred on Holyrood Park and concluding with a Clans' march up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle for a pageant on the Castle esplanade celebrating the contribution the Clans have made to the history and culture of Scotland.

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Clan Commander Iain McFie and Clan Macfie Society President in Scotland, Bob McFie, will assist Clan Macfie visitors wherever possible. Contact Bob McFie of 26 Verona Avenue, Glasgow G14 9EB, email bob@becsystems.co.uk for further information go to info@thegathring2009.com

17th INTERNATIONAL GATHERING
AND
10th CLAN MACFIE PARLIAMENT
Nethybridge and Colonsay
2nd to 9th

10th Parliament of Clan Macfie is to be held at Nethy Bridge, south east of Inverness, and on the Island of Colonsay, from 6th to 9th September 2009.

The Clan Gathering and Parliament will be centred on the Nethybridge Hotel, Nethy Bridge PH25 3DP, Scotland. Tel: 44 (0) 1479 821 203, Email salesnethybridge@strathmorehotels.com.

Members attending will be responsible for their own accommodation reservations. The Commander and his wife, Fiona, of Coulintyre, Kincaig, Kingussie PH21 1LX, Scotland will, in due course, issue attendance pro formas to those wishing to attend and will assist with travel arrangements in Scotland. If you are a likely starter please let them know at Email: iain@mcfie.org.uk or telephone/fax: 44 (0) 1540 651 391.

Economics

Distribution of the Clan News by surface or Airmail is very slow and costly. In order to conserve the very small treasury that the Clan has I would ask if you have an email address please let me know. Sending my e-mail is as you know faster and extremely cost friendly. If you do not have an e-mail account please let me know if you wish to remain on the mailing list

Fashion Spot

Attending Highland games and other prestigious events is always exciting, but for our lovely Macfie Ladies the big attraction will be the Highland Ball where they are able to show off their finery.

How to wear a sash correctly can be a problem, however.

Below is the definitive word on how a sash should be worn, as approved by the Lord Lyon.

Hints on wearing Tartan

Wearing of sashes by Ladies in evening dress

The manner of wearing tartan sashes or light scarves had custom and significance even two centuries ago, and whilst wearing of sashes in any particular manner has so far no legal significance, a due respect for tradition suggests that uniform practice and implication consistent with custom is desirable. The different methods under-mentioned to wearing such are appropriate to Ladies in different circumstances. All these suggestions are based upon a careful study of old portraits, prints and traditional practice and bear the authoritative approval of the Lord Lyon King of Arms.



Style worn by clanswoman

The sash is worn over the right shoulder across the breast and is secured by a pin or small brooch on the right shoulder.

Style worn by Chieftness

Wives of the Clan Chiefs or of a Colonel of a Scottish Regiment. The sash which may be rather fuller in size is worn over the left shoulder and secured with a brooch on the left shoulder



Style for ladies who marry out of their Clan

Such ladies who still wish to use their original clan tartan may use the following style. The sash usually longer than the No 1 style is worn over the right shoulder secured there with a pin and fastened in a large bow on the left hip



Style worn by country dancers

Or where the lady desires to keep the front of her dress clear of the sash (as for example when wearing the ribband of a chivalric order or any orders or decoration). This style is similar to the belted plaid and is really a small arisaid. It is buttoned on at the back of the waist or is held on by a small belt and is secured at the right shoulder by a pin or brooch, so that the ends of it fall backwards from the right shoulder and swing at the back of the right arm

