



Clan Macfie News

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The 2009 Clan Macfie Parliament & International Gathering



Nethybridge

Heavy rains in the region forced our new clan commander, Iain McFie, and his wife, Fiona, into doing double duty as they managed the 10th Clan Parliament and coped with flooding in their home neighbourhood. However, it takes more than a few, wee drops of rain to dampen the spirits of any Clan gathering, and the September gathering in the quaint village of Nethybridge was certainly no exception.

The parliament sessions were relaxing, fun and informative, and as we met in various committees we had the chance to chat and get to know other clansmen from far corners of the globe. Clan members had come from Sweden, New Zealand,



Australia, The Netherlands, Ireland, Canada, the U.S.A, England and, of course, beautiful Scotland. Coach trips after the morning Parliament sessions were adjourned included tours to Culloden Battlefield, the Scotch Whiskey Trail, and the world famous Braemar Games. (Note: the last two are recommended in the book, *1000 Places to See Before You Die*, by Patricia



Schultz.) And, while the locals swear that there are many bigger and better Highland games in Scotland than the Braemar Games, the pageantry of the marching bands, the sound of the bagpipes, and presence of the British Royal Family were a special thrill.

And, while this gathering was somewhat smaller than those in the past, what it lacked in numbers was made up in energy and enthusiasm. There were sixty-four at the Clan dinner to hear guest speaker, Iain Brodie of Falsyde, give an interesting talk on the early development of the Scottish clans and the migration from surrounding areas to Scotland and the Highlands. It was a grand evening and a fitting end to a delightful Gathering!



Colonsay



The clan's beautiful home Isle of Colonsay was the next destination for 35 of the Macfies who attended the Parliament. Located in the Inner Hebrides, the Isle's small population is served by a ferry, which lands only every three days – and a wonder-filled three days it was for those who made the voyage. Visiting the Standing Stone that marks the site of Chief Malcolm's memorial, hiking to the Isle of Oransay, attended a fascinating talk given by Kevin Byrne, the unofficial island historian, and nightly Ceilidhs added to the special time spent on our charmed Isle of Colonsay.



From the Journal of Proceedings of the Clan Gathering

The following committees were established at the parliament, and chairs were elected at that time. If you have contributions or questions, feel free to contact any of the following chairs. (*Don't have their contact info? Just let the editor know and she'll forward their email address to you.*)

International Gathering and 11th Parliament – 2013: Andrew and Vanessa Duffy
Genealogy: Nancyanne Carkeek (USA)

Music, Dance and Arts: Bob McFie (Scotland)
Vision: John Rosser (USA)
Memorials and Special Projects: note, may combine with Vision
Nomenclature: Andrew Duffy (Scotland)
Tartans: Keith McAfee (USA)
Legal: Ian McPhee (Australia)
Internet: Glen Cathey (USA)

Homecoming: The Gathering of the Clans

By Iain McFie

The year of the Homecoming came to an end on November 30, Saint Andrew's Day. And though there were doomsayers who wrote off the final events, saying that the whole exercise was a waste of time and effort, and I, myself had my doubts, I was won over when I attended the actual games.

Holyrood Park looked magnificent. It was like something out of Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Ivanhoe*. A very large quadrangle had tents arranged along three sides of the perimeter. In the central area, similar tents were arranged in groups of four. Each tent was dedicated to a particular Clan, and draped on the tents or flagpoles were the Banner of the Clan Chiefs. Tartans were also on display, and the whole scene was very colourful. There was a large arena where demonstrations of piping, heavy events and other forms of Scottish culture were showcased. Other areas were set-aside for exhibitors, and there was a large open-air food court and musical entertainment.

HRH Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, were the guests of honour. It was my privilege to be introduced to the Prince. In the VIP Group were Scotland's First

Minister, Alex Salmond, and his wife, Moira. There was also the Lord Provost of Edinburgh accompanied by his wife. I was delighted to speak with both of these gentlemen and their wives.

Returning to the Clan tent after this, I was feeling a bit pleased and thinking things could not get much better, but they did. Visiting the tent was the Lyon Clerk (pronounced "Clark"), Mrs. Elizabeth Roads. She had dropped in to see how I was settling into the post of Commander, which I thought was quite nice since she was not attending the Homecoming in her role of Lyon Clerk.

The Macfie tent was busy on both days, and we had some other notable visitors. The Chief of Clan MacPhearson called in for a chat, as did the commander of Clan Gunn. There were many other visitors from all over the globe, and all seemed pleased that Clan Macfie was present.

The weather was very kind to us, particularly on the Saturday. Sunday started off wet, but it soon dried up and the sun was out once more. I am glad to be able to say that the whole event was worthwhile.

The Homecoming

By Lorraine McFee

It all began in Inverness, October 2008. “We need volunteers to man the tent at the Homecoming next July in Edinburgh,” they said. Then they added, “Book your accommodation now before all the rooms are full.” Obviously this was expected to be a “Big Event.”

Friday, 24th July dawned, and we set off for Edinburgh with our two-day Highland Games tickets and our packed bags. On arriving, we checked into our hotel and took a walk in the afternoon, but there did not seem to be many crowds, and there were no signs of a “Big Event.”

That evening we met with the other volunteers at Shiona’s house nearby. This became known as Mission Control. All had a great evening of food, wine and laughter.

Holyrood Park was our destination the next morning, and as we made our way, a great variety of tartan was in evidence. A cry of “Hey, Macfies!” was heard, and we were joined by MacDuffies from Atlanta. All around us was a feeling of friendliness and jollity.

The Clan Village was amazing to behold with a multitude of tents displaying flags and banners, clan representatives in full regalia, pipers and smiling faces everywhere. Clan Macfie was no exception. We were met by a beaming Ceann Cath who was off to meet Prince Charles, Bobby tuning up his pipes, and Fiona and Shiona chatting with visitors. The Macfie Clan tent was filled with people from all corners of the globe, and the site became the “mini gathering place” with

Macfies, McFies, MacPhees, McFees, MacDuffies, McAfees, Duffys, etc., etc., popping in and out between other activities. There were pipe bands, Highland games, lectures, a music stage with traditional and modern bands, craft stalls, food stalls, whisky tasting (very popular!), the Harris Tweed Authority, and much more.

At the end of the day, many Macfies joined the Clan March up the Royal Mile, while the rest of us headed back to Mission Control for a fish supper and another evening of good company and laughter.

Sunday dawned an overcast, rainy day. There were fewer crowds and many closed tents. But, the Macfies are made of sterner stuff, and we welcomed many more visitors to our cheery tent. We stayed till the end and packed up our tent while Bobby was still playing the pipes to a gathered crowd.

Tired and weary, we left Holyrood Park and headed back to Mission Control. There was no time to rest, however – it was Ceilidh time again. And, by now, our numbers were swelled by many of the new Macfie family friends we had made over the last two days.

Summing up the Homecoming, it was a surreal and memorable occasion with friendships renewed and new ones forged to last a lifetime. It’s still a question if there’ll be another Homecoming in four years, but it’s a fact that our clan made the most of this one.

Burns' Night: Clan Macfie Society's Annual Burns' Supper

By Iain McFie

Fiona and I have just returned from a very happy weekend spent in the deep South, near London, where we had been attending the Clan Macfie Society's Annual Burns' Supper.

We travelled down to Glasgow on the Friday and stayed overnight with Bob McFie, my

brother. Unfortunately Bob was not able to join us in the flight to London. He was sorely missed at the Dinner and Ceilidh.

Pearse House, the Hotel where we have held our homage to Robert Burns for a number of years, is situated north of London close to Stanstead Airport. An imposing house, on its own grounds, it is also used as a conference centre.

A short business meeting was scheduled for late afternoon, and while waiting for it to begin we had gathered in the bar talking about the Gathering, showing photos and having a general chat. At that point, Keith Matthews, who attended the Gathering, announced that he had been asked to make a short ceremonial presentation.

On the return ferry from Colonsay, Linda McFee Gilcrest, Vicki McFee and others organised a collection among the Clan folk to purchase a gift for the new Commander. Keith then handed me a box and said it was presented with the good wishes of the Clan folk.

I was taken completely by surprise. On opening the box it revealed a beautiful sealskin sporran. It also sports leather and gold metal. The belt and chain matches

perfectly. There is a small plaque on the reverse, which says "Presented to Iain Morris McFie, Ceann Cath, 2009."

Fiona remarked, "Look at him; he is speechless." I was. I was flabberghasted. As a comedian, now long dead, used to say: "My flabber has never been so ghasted." It is a wonderful gift which I treasure.

To all that contributed and plotted, I give my sincere thanks for such a wonderful surprise and for the friendship you have shown by providing this gift.

Official Clan Macfie Page on Facebook

By Glen Cathey

Macfies all over the world now have a central place to find and connect with other Macfies, share photos, news, events, videos, and much more with the establishment of the Official Clan Macfie page on Facebook.

At the 17th Clan Macfie gathering in Scotland, the idea was proposed to create a Facebook, and Glen Cathey was selected as the man to get the ball rolling. The Official Clan Macfie page was founded on September 22nd, and sanctioned by the Clan Commander of Clan Macfie, Ceann-Cath Iain Morris McFie. In less than two months, the Clan Macfie page has 103 “fans”!

To access the Clan Macfie page on Facebook, you’ll need to have a Facebook

profile. In case you don’t already have one – creating a Facebook account is quite simple (just visit www.facebook.com). If you didn’t know, Facebook is the single largest online social network with over 300,000,000 members worldwide – so if there ever was the perfect platform to bring Macfies together on the Internet, Facebook’s the place! Once you’re logged into Facebook, you can use this link/URL:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Official-Clan-Macfie-Page/177565770680>.

Alternatively, you can type in “Macfie” in the Facebook search bar:

Congratulations and A Huge Thank You!

By Iain McFie

The President of the Clan Macfie Society in Canada, Gary McPhee, recently achieved the Flags of his Arms through the Canadian Government’s Heraldic Office. Congratulations!

Gary and his wife and two girls are presently in China where he is headmaster of the American school in the City of Guangzhou. He attended the big Clan Gathering on Colonsay in 1993 and he would have been more active in Clan and Society, but for the itinerant nature, in the old McPhee tradition, of his work.

Iain McFie, our Clan Commander, also thanks Gary and the members of the Canadian Society for sourcing and providing

him with two pennons and Flags of His Arms. Arriving just before the Homecoming Gathering in Edinburgh, they were used to decorate the Macfie tent, receiving many compliments. They were also on display at the Clan Parliament. Those who attended the Gathering in Nethybridge could not have missed the large banner that decorated the wall behind the top table. Another Canadian, Douglas Macfie of Montreal, sent it to Iain. Douglas had it made for his Clan tent when attending Highland Games only to discover it was too large for the size of tent supplied.

So, here’s to the Canadians with many thanks for their generosity!

A word from your new editor. . . .

While on Colonsay, I volunteered to edit the newsletter, and Iain graciously gave me the job. However, on returning home I found I had some issues with my eyes that required

surgery. The problems were nothing modern medicine can’t handle, and now I’m seeing perfectly and doing great. But, the surgeries delayed my first issue, and for that I

apologize. There is a ton of information from and about clan members that came out of the busy summer and fall of 2009, and I'm delighted to be sending it to you now.

Also, I owe a huge thank you to my sister and brother-in-law, Linda (McFee) and Jim Gilcrest, who have served as assistant editors. Jim's an ace at formatting copy and photos, and Linda has a gift for proofing and adding expert details.

For future issues, please know that your contributions are encouraged. Send them to my email address or 1621 E. River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55414, USA.

Also, those of us who attended the Clan Gathering and Parliament began an email list so we could stay in contact. If any of you would like to add your name and receive a copy, please contact me. I'll add your info and redistribute the updated list periodically. This clan is all about having fun and sharing knowledge, but most of all, it's about bringing Macfies together in a spirit of family and camaraderie.

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