



The Lion's Face

Newsletter of Clan Farquharson in the United Kingdom

www.farquharson-clan.co.uk

Winter/Spring Edition 2012



Sir Angus and Lady Alison with Archie and Rory



The ARTE Film Crew at the Dinner

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Great sadness.....We remember Val and Paul

Dear Members and Friends of Clan Farquharson,

December has brought the very sad news of the deaths of two most respected members of our Clan.

Paul Farquharson



On December 9th 2011 Paul Farquharson of Glasgow died. Those who were at Ballater this year will remember Paul as a delightful man, witty, a great sense of fun and a most loyal clansman who thoroughly enjoyed the Gathering and entered fully into the activities.

Paul endeared himself to us all with his lovely personality and ready smile and there are various photos taken at Ballater which show his enjoyment of events. To his brother Ian, sister-in-law Jane and their children, we send our very sincere condolences as we share their grief at the passing of a good friend. Paul will be most sadly missed and we shall each treasure our personal cameos of him. Ian has said how much the Clan meant to Paul and created a new dimension in his life helping him through some of his more difficult times when feeling unwell.

Valerie Lilian Farquharson 14th January 1932 – 16th December 2011.

Just one week later, on 16th December 2011, came the awful news of Valerie Farquharson's sudden death. Perhaps not all clansmen will be aware that Val had a stroke earlier in the year and won everyone's admiration for her positive attitude as she learned to walk again. It wasn't long before she was taking steps on her own without her walking aid. The Worthing lunch in early May was Val's first 'public' outing and she was so thrilled to be there, amongst her Clan friends. President Alistair presented her with a bouquet as a token of pleasure at her steady recovery. Thanks to the exceptional kindness of Ansgar Boehmer, who drove from Germany to Worthing and then transported Val and John to Ballater, they were able to enjoy our annual highland gathering. Again, there are many photos of Val and John really enjoying themselves and catching up with all their friends. She was so happy to be there and to see her long-standing friend in Aboyne.



Sadly, in October, Val was admitted to hospital for an operation. As this coincided with the Worthing lunch, it was unanimously decided, to postpone it as it wouldn't have been the same without Val and John. She was in hospital for nearly 3 weeks but again, she was so positive, relating little anecdotes of life on the 10th floor of Brighton Hospital and making new friends. John and her family were a tower of strength to Val and even a couple of days before her death, she was chatting on the phone and sounding bright. However, she was taken into Worthing Hospital, on Friday 16th December, where we understand from her family, she passed away very peacefully with John beside her.

To John, their sons David and Martin, daughters-in-law Catherine and Helen and all their grandchildren, we send deepest sympathy on the loss of such a much-loved Wife, Mum and Grandmother. Val would have been celebrating a special birthday this January which makes her loss even more poignant for her family.

Val has been clan membership secretary since its re-convening in 2001, giving 10 years of loyal service. As the first point of contact, her friendly voice on the telephone welcomed prospective members, she knew everyone by name and became everybody's friend.

She was a remarkable lady with excellent communication skills, who gave unstinting loyalty and service to Clan Farquharson, doing a job she loved and she certainly helped in promoting the spirit of kinship. Val also worked very hard in the background, dealing with membership subscriptions and banking, organizing the printing and mailing of The Lion's Face, dealing with various letters and enquiries and many other tasks including the organisation of bi-annual lunches in Worthing, open to any clan members and friends who were able to participate.

Val's funeral took place on Friday 13th January at 12.30pm at Randall's Park Crematorium in Leatherhead , Surrey, and afterwards at Martin and Helen's home in Chessington, Surrey. A floral tribute from the Clan was arranged.

Margaret Finlay,
Biggin Hill, Kent. docfinlay@supanet.com.

Vals's last Worthing Gathering (May 2011)



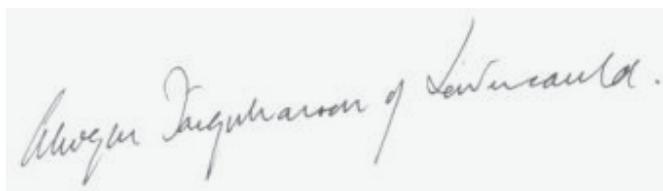
President Alistair with his wife Joan, John Farquharson, and Deirdre Farquharson.



Deirdre Farquharson, Margaret Finlay, and Val Farquharson

Chief's Message

Greeting to you all. So much has happened since we were last together. As I write this, Lent is upon us and spring hopefully around the corner. Our saddest news is the loss of our splendid and dearly valued membership secretary Val Farquharson. Tributes to her appear in this newsletter. They come with our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to John and her family. Her enthusiasm and lively contributions will be sadly missed by us all. The year ahead is destined to be exceptionally memorable because of the forthcoming diamond jubilee celebrations, closely followed by the London Olympics. After these we shall barely have time to draw breath before our own clan gathering is upon us. Plans for this are in hand and an outline programme is published here and on our website. We have made our own plans to be with you for as much of this as possible, and greatly look forward to welcoming you again, and to seeing as many of you as can join with us. Hopefully we will have a good turn out. Till then - Ceud mile failte and God. Bless



Alwyne Farquharson of Invercauld

Reversal of the Jacobite Attainders



Three hundred years have passed since the actual rebellions but the failed Jacobite uprisings of 1689, 1715 and 1745 still cast a shadow on a number of Scottish families, a stain that many of them are now keen to eradicate once and for all.

A series of Acts of Parliament in the wake of the Jacobite rebellions in the 17th and 18th centuries "attainted" a large number of Stuart-supporting families.

The legislation formally stripped them of their titles, it disinherited their descendants and – most importantly for those coming after them – their families were declared as having 'corrupted blood' in perpetuity. It is this smear on their family lineage that their modern-day successors want to get rid of.

Those who were punished in this way included cattle thief and fabled Scottish hero Rob Roy McGregor and Flora Macdonald, who helped Bonnie Prince Charlie escape capture in the wake of Culloden in 1746. Some have since managed have individual attainders wiped from the record but others – as many as 30 families – are still waiting, both for a pardon and to have their titles restored.

Those of you who were present at our AGM held on 12th August last during our 2011 Annual Gathering may recall that I raised this matter rather briefly. Following this, I was then requested to submit an article about it in somewhat fuller detail for this winter newsletter, "The Lion's Face". The general background is as follows. Last July (2011) I received a letter circulated to all Scottish Chiefs seeking my support for a petition which is to be submitted to Her Majesty The Queen asking her to reverse all attainders.. The introductory part of the letter was as follows:

“We hope you will not mind us writing to you like this but we would like to ask you to support a petition asking H.M. The Queen to reverse all remaining Jacobite attainders. At the moment there are hundreds of Scots who are still affected by the attainders and have their blood tainted and we feel strongly that it is time all Jacobite attainders were reversed.

The Revolution of 1688 - the replacement of James II of England and VII of Scotland by his daughter Mary II and her husband William of Orange - was very far from glorious for some, especially those whose loyalty to the anointed King prevented them from recognising the new monarchs. These included numerous clergy of the Established church who refused to swear allegiance to William and Mary and many other staunch Stuart supporters.

Many were tried for treason, executed and "attainted". Many more went into hiding or into exile, and were punished without trial by Parliament passing Acts of Attainder, severe punishment which condemned them without trial. They lost all civil rights; their property; and, because their blood was held to be "corrupted", their descendants were disinherited. This applied to all ranks from peers and lairds to clerks in government offices. Many were transported or fled into exile in the American colonies.

The intention had been that all of this would be relaxed on the death of the sons of the "Old Pretender" - when Bonnie Prince Charlie's younger brother and heir, Henry, Cardinal Duke of York, died in 1807 and every British citizen could acknowledge the House of Hanover, the attainders passed on Stuart supporters would be reversed, but it, never happened. King George IV came to Edinburgh in 1822 and undertook to have the attainders reversed for anyone who so petitioned, but only a handful of peers could afford the procedure of a Private Bill in Parliament to achieve this. Certainly none of the hundreds of commoners could afford this! Their descendants are still affected by this stigma. New attainders were abolished by the Forfeiture Act in 1870, but this did not remove the stigma of corrupted or tainted blood and dishonour which remains on the descendants of those who fought for the Stuarts. Many of these descendants have since then fought in several wars for King/Queen and country and many have died serving their Monarch and country. Surely it is now time for this anachronistic stigma to be removed?"

And it also said that surely it was inequitable that some should have been pardoned and some not on what appears to be an arbitrary basis. It further went on to say that a motion has been tabled in the Scottish Parliament that welcomes the forthcoming petition to permit legislation to be introduced in the Westminster Parliament repealing forfeitures and attainders still in existence affecting those whose ancestors supported the Royal Stuarts. This motion received wide cross party support. It has also received wide support from Scots overseas, receiving mention in the press not only in this country but as far afield as Canada and Brazil. In addition it pointed out that, under contemporary legislation the one or two peerages that might be restored would not affect the composition of the House of Lords, nor would it affect anybody today in terms of heritable property.

A copy of the Petition was enclosed with considerable supporting legal and historical detail, amongst which the following deserves mention. "That Your Majesty may consider that it may be appropriate to show Your Majesty's Royal clemency before the Three Hundredth anniversary of the 1715 rebellion to pardon and repeal the effects of the judgements of the courts, the said Acts of Attainder and any decret of the forfeiture of the pre-Union Scottish Parliament to relieve those families still disadvantaged by the said decreets of forfeiture and attainders". Also enclosed was a form of authorisation seeking my support for the Petition. I had no hesitation in giving this both willingly and with a sense of dutiful satisfaction.

Alwyne Farquharson of Invercauld

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alwyne Farquharson of Invercauld". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

President's Message

It is strange that, despite experience to the contrary, we tend to welcome in the New Year as a harbinger of future joys and happiness – but that is written by an optimist! A pessimist might say that as far as the weather goes it, hopefully, cannot be worse than this year.

However, despite the generally poor weather, the annual Clan Gathering 2011 was generally enjoyed by all. On Saturday 8th August, Joan and I hosted a marquee at the Aboyne games to which our friends, including the Clan were invited. It was a good 'do' the indomitable Val, with husband John attended. Unable to drive due to illness earlier in the year Val and John were conveyed from Worthing by the great Ansgar "on my way," from Germany to Ballater! Val even managed to enlist some new members. Since those days Val was again in hospital, but seemed to be getting better. Then so sadly came the shock of Val's death on the 12th December 2011. I attended and represented the Chief at the funeral of our membership secretary Valerie Farquharson. To write that 'Val' will be greatly missed by the clan as well as John and the family, is a gross understatement. 'Val', was membership secretary of Clan Farquharson UK since 2001, a task that she tackled with great energy and sometimes with less credit than was deserved. I well remember the day in August 2003, when Joan and I happened upon the Clan tent at the Ballater games. Not only was Val the first to greet us, but also immediately enrolled us as members of the Clan Farquharson UK. The world will be a poorer place now dear Val has gone.

Also in December, another sad event was the death of Paul Farquharson, who passed away at a relatively young age after a long illness. Throughout Paul remained remarkably cheerful and very brave. Deep sympathy is due to his brother Ian and sister in law Jane.

And so back to my review. The visit to the Cairn was damp, but enlivened by the pipe music provided by Archie of the Finzean Farquharson family and Ansgar . The Chief was at his brilliant best at the tour of Invercauld house and the presentation of the Pipe banner at Braemar castle. Geoffrey entertained the Clan with a clear account of the route to be taken and the problems to be overcome when we seek to find our ancestors.



The next day was very damp and foggy, so much so that the Games almost had to be cancelled the following morning, and the enjoyment of the trip to Loch Callater, despite the hard work of Gordon Farquharson and Simon Blackett, was much diminished.

However the Games were held, and were their usual success, filmed as was all our Gathering this year by Heiko de Groot and his merry crew from ARTE . The finished film has been seen on-line, and our DVD copy is eagerly awaited. After the Games much gratitude is due to the Clan members who made light work of striking the

marquee – mostly the same folk who had helped with the pitching!

The following day the AGM and the Committee meetings were held, and the well-attended and enjoyable Clan dinner in the evening. Many thanks to Joan and Angela and her team for their hard work. There followed an impromptu party at the 'GlenAden' of which I have but an indistinct recollection.

The news from Braemar Castle is good insofar as they have been granted £144,000 by 'Historic Scotland, for much needed repairs, but only on condition a matching sum is raised by the community association. My view is that the Clan – worldwide – should try to make a substantial contribution, and I propose writing to our kinsfolk in Australia, Canada and the USA, asking for help with this project. Next year the Chief hopes to present some historic books to the castle, and I propose to present the photo of the Chief and Seton Gordon taken on the Invercauld estate in 1976, at the same time.

Shortly after our gathering Margaret Finlay, to whom many thanks are due not only for being a most efficient minutes secretary, but also for shouldering most of Val's work during the latter's incapacity

The programme for next year's gathering is being organised for 4th to 10th August 2012 in Ballater. Any suggestions for events to be included or excluded would be most gratefully received, apart from the weather!

The ARTE Film is titled "Schottland - Kampf, Clan und Koenigin" (Scotland – Fight, Clan and Queen), and has a German commentary of the interviews. We hope to get a copy to share in the future. There is some unique footage of the Chief that we shall cherish.

Alistair Farquharson – President



This photo of Alwyne and Seton Gordon was taken in 1976, by Tom Weir, a pioneer of climbing and walking in the hills (the Cairngorms in particular). The photo' was shot on Craig an Tuire near Glen Callater. At the time Seton was 90 years old, and was staying as a guest, as he regularly did, at Invercauld.

Seton was a prominent writer on the Cairngorms and their natural history, much of the preservation of both has its origins in Seton's work and, not least, by the enlightened interest of landowners such as the Chief.

Seton was an enthusiastic if not very gifted bagpiper, although he died in 1977, folk say he is still walking and playing his pipes in the hills of upper Deeside.

Seton Gordon (1886 - 1977). Gordon began exploring the Highlands of Scotland as a boy, particularly the Cairngorms. He later became a world famous naturalist, photographer and folklorist, describing the wildlife and scenery of Scotland. His books are still widely available, and a recent anthology has been published. Their appeal is based upon the knowledge of natural history displayed, together with his ability as a writer.

He was born in Aberdeen on the 11th of April 1886, but lived on Deeside and was educated at Oxford. His books were illustrated with photographs taken by himself and his wife, Audrey Gordon, who was for many years his constant companion and helper in the field.

His services to natural history were recognised by the award of the C.B.E. in 1939.

Roxana Vuskalns enjoyed the 2011 10th Anniversary Gathering

The Gathering for 2011 commenced with the Aboyne Games on the 6th August. Unfortunately Andris and I didn't arrive until the 8th, so missed those games, the walk to the Cairn, and the presentation of the pipers banner to Braemar Castle for safe keeping.

We were staying at Invercauld Lodges, and arrived there late Monday afternoon, settled in, bought provisions, and prepared for the visit to Invercauld House the following day. The weather was perfect for this experience, and shortly after we arrived, the Chief and Madame Farquharson arrived.....tracked



by the efficient



but unobtrusive ARTE film crew. We entered the house for refreshments, and the Chief regaled us with some experiences and stories from the past. The one about hauling buckets of water up the stairs to the one functioning toilet during a particularly harsh winter was a good one.

We started looking at the house with the lovely drawing room, followed by the impressive dining room. We heard more from the Chief at each stop. He then left, and we were at liberty to roam through this magnificent house for the next two hours. Andris and I wandered from the cellars, the oldest part of the structure, to the



attics. I even went out on to the roof....fantastic views!! We saw each of the 14 bedrooms and 16 bathrooms. I felt privileged to be associated with this gem of a house.

One Tuesday afternoon Geoffrey Farquharson gave an interesting and informative talk and presentation on the route map and pitfalls awaiting those undertaking genealogical research. Geoffrey gave illustrations with examples from his own extensive work. He also suggested sources of information and answered questions from the audience.

In the evening, Andris and I walked the path along the Dee from the golf course to the bridge. On the way back through town we stopped to watch an exhibition of highland dancing presented on the green by girls from a local dance studio.....a perfect end to a special day.

Wednesday was raining sadly, the day of our 4x4 excursion to Loch Callater with a BBQ lunch at the hunting bothy. Taking photos proved to be a real challenge, and when we arrived at the far end of the loch, few were

tempted out of the vehicles for more than a few minutes. Use of imagination was necessary to appreciate the view. Neil Bain and Simon Blackett were there to talk to us about the history of the area and the building.

Back in Ballater by 3 pm we went to the games field to erect the Clan tent, still in the pouring rain. By the end of the day, we were all thoroughly wet. Some of us met up that evening at the Glenaden for a meal.

Everyone feared the Ballater Highland Games might be cancelled due to the rain, but fortunately this didn't happen, although the ground was extremely wet under foot. Many gathered in our Clan tent and enjoyed the conviviality, the excellent buffet including local strawberries, and a wee dram for those who wished. David Irvine of Drum was present with his Lady, a guest of our President Alistair Farquharson. Our Chief and Madame Farquharson arrived later in the afternoon after completing his duties as Chieftain of the Games. We were very proud to see our German friend Ansgar Boehmer march and play his pipes in the massed band. After most had left, we helped clear the tent away after a most satisfactory day.



On Friday we held the AGM, a somewhat heated affair at times. Then we were able to prepare for our formal dinner in the Albert Hall, Ballater (see formal photograph on the front of this edition of the Lion's Face).

Sir Angus and Lady Alison's grandsons, Archie and Rory, played the pipes outside the venue, and piped in the Chief and Madame Farquharson. I first heard them play at Finzean House in 2007, I think. What fine pipers these young men have become!

The delight of the formal dinner is the company. The group photo was taken, including the Laird of Drum and his Lady. It is always sad to say farewell,

but we can always look forward to next time.



Andris and I stayed in Ballater until Monday morning, and by dint of some begging, we prevailed on Neil Bain to meet us in Braemar and take us to the Linns of Dee and Quoich. Because of the recent rains, both rivers were flowing



impressively. It is difficult to capture on film or in words the beauty and power of these places as the Dee is compressed into so narrow a slot in the rock, roaring and frothing until it again finds room to assume its accustomed breadth. The Quoich, whilst no so broad has the even more fascinating "punch bowl" with the water pouring in, foaming around and exiting through a hole in the side. I was told the first time I saw it that members of the clan, to prove their bravery, would enter the bowl and exit through that hole. When we saw it, anyone entering would have had a small chance of getting out of the Quoich alive.

We returned to Braemar, settled up with Neil, had lunch at Gordon's Tea Room, caught up with Margaret Finlay, popped into Lamont Sporrans, and then back to Ballater to pack to go home.

One never knows what the ensuing 11 months will bring, but one ardently hopes to return for another gathering in 2012. Until the next time.....*Roxana.*

Pipe Banner installed in Braemar Castle



In the summer of 2010 the Clan bought a pipe banner at auction in Edinburgh. The cost at £270 seemed very low but on closer inspection it was found to be in a very poor condition with the silk being so brittle it was flaking off in parts!

Gordon Casely, a Lonach Highlander and very fine piper, who is also an expert on all things Heraldic was consulted on the origin of the banner and informed us that it was a marital banner celebrating the marriage of James 12th of Invercauld to Janet Hamilton Dundas in 1833. Janet certainly ensured the lineage of the Clan giving birth to 9 sons and 4 daughters!

Gordon also said it needed urgent attention because of its condition so we took it to the Scottish Conservation Studio at Hopetoun House near Edinburgh where they verified it was very weak and further damage or even complete loss would occur very quickly if it wasn't treated.

This banner being a very important part of Farquharson history, very few of have these survived, it was decided to go ahead with the costly restoration. The cost of this was nearly £2,500. To date £1,200 has been raised, and remaining costs have been underwritten pending further successful fund raising.

The renovation involved a very long and intricate process.

As the banner had not been properly mounted and had been hung, the whole thing was slipping down inside the frame causing cracks to appear in the very brittle silk. This had to be relaxed using controlled moisture and dried as flat as possible.

Heavy weight plain-weave silk was dyed a close match to the bright reds of the paintwork of the banner. Finest 20 denier nylon net was also dyed to match the beige and blue silks as close as possible. The worst of the damaged areas were set on support patches of see-through beige silk crepeline. Once dry the patches were adhered with heat from a small spatula iron to the back of the face layer of the banner.



A new supportive mount was made out of layers of un-buffered acid-free card. Two layers of chemically stable polypropylene board were sandwiched between the layers for extra support. A layer of soft washed unbleached cotton was laid over the face of the board, and that was covered with the dyed red silk.

Since the beige silk of the banner was too weak to withstand stitching through it without breaking up, the banner was mounted on to the support board by covering it with the dyed beige nylon net. The edges of the net

were folded under the banner and the banner was fixed to the board by stitching through the net rather than through the fragile silk.

The banner is as well fixed to the new mount board as it possibly can given its delicate condition. A simple frame was ordered and stained to match the colour of the cats' fur. The banner has been hermetically sealed inside the frame to prevent moisture or pest ingress.

Over time light makes textile dyes fade and fibres deteriorate, discolour and weaken. Light damage is cumulative and irreversible so it is very important to guard the banner against such further damage.

It should be hung on a North facing wall where the least amount of daylight and no sunlight can reach it. It should NOT be lit with a spotlight or a picture light and in general the room should be lit only occasionally.

It should not be placed above a fireplace, radiator or a window. Ideally it should be placed on an internal, not on the inside of an external wall.

Hopefully this important artefact of Farquharson history will be preserved for future generations to enjoy.



The Chief presents the restored Banner to Simon Blackett (factor to the Invercauld Estate) for safe keeping in the Farquharson room at Braemar Castle.

Joan Farquharson

Gathering 2012 Outline Programme (dates for your diary)

The gathering this year will take place between the 4th and 10th August 2012.

The main events planned are:

The Aboyne Games (Clan Marquee).

Visit to the Carn na Quhne(where the passing of Valerie Farquharson and

Paul Farquharson

will be commemorated.

Talk by Sheila Sedgewick on Clan history.

A trip to Upper Deeside including Inverey.

AGM and Committee Meeting.

Ballater Games (Clan Tent).

Annual Clan Dinner.

And, copyright permitting a showing of the film taken at last year's gathering by ARTE.

See our website for more details and a booking form.
www.-farquharson-clan.co.uk

Clan Matters

Website

Don't forget to visit the Clan Farquharson website www.farquharson-clan.co.uk

All news for the website should be sent to:

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