



The Lion's Face

Winter/Spring Edition

Newsletter of Clan Farquharson UK
www.farquharson-clan.co.uk



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Braemar Castle's future

Braemar Castle has been closed to the public while the Invercauld Estate seeks a way of leasing it to Braemar Community Ltd.

Clan Farquharson is currently considering how they may be involved with the Castle in the future.

Below is a letter from President Andrew Farquharson to Braemar Community Ltd.

Sir,

Angus Farquharson and myself were both very conscious that at the moment Clan Farquharson was not able to offer any monetary support or anything very tangible other than our moral support.

We wanted your group to know that we are in keen support of your plans for Braemar Castle and wish you well in your application.

We were very pleased to hear that a room in the Castle might be considered for the history of the Clan and we would certainly be keen to help find items etc through our members if this would be interest nearer the time.

The members I have spoken to all feel the same about the Castle. It is building with such strong Farquharson history attached and we feel proud that it has been open to share that with it's visitors over the years.

We also feel it would be a tragedy if the Castle were to close its doors to the public as we can see what a great benefit it is to the Village. Braemar is a long way in the middle of nowhere and I see it as a good catalyst to draw visitors into the Highlands. Its closure would be a tremendous blow to the community as a whole.

It just remains for me to wish you luck on Behalf of all Clan Farquharson with this very worthwhile project and we hope that you are successful.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Farquharson - President of Clan Farquharson



Clan Farquharson at the castle in 2004

**What would you like to see happen to the castle?
Let us know at www.farquharson-clan.co.uk or
by writing to Hannah Farquharson 6 Stonecrop
Road, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7XS.**



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Farquharson Clan Gathering August 2006



Arthur talks Gaelic



Douglas has his hands full



Talking shop: Chief and new president



Clan Farquharson UK at the 2006 gathering



Fun at the Ceilidh





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Welcoming Her Majesty

Angus Farquharson and his wife Alison agreed to become vice presidents of the Clan association at last year's summer gathering.

For Angus such a position is taken in his stride, having welcomed the Queen on her numerous visits to Aberdeenshire as Lord Lieutenant since 1998.

At the time of his appointment Angus had spent 14 years as the Deputy Lieutenant and 11 as the Vice Lord-Lieutenant, working with his predecessor Capt Colin Farquharson (Lord Lieutenant from 1987 to 1998).

"It is the Queen's appointment," explained 71-year-old Angus. "The Queen is advised who to appoint by the Prime Minister. I am her representative after that.

Angus and Alison were away on holiday when the letter from 10 Downing Street dropped on their door mat. And that was where it lay, unopened until their return.

"Un-replied to for over a fortnight," said Angus. "The Queen was about to arrive and was anxious to know.

"It was a rather historic occasion for the Clan in 1998. Colin Farquharson retired on August 12 and I took over after that. We welcomed the Queen at the gates of Balmoral, Colin, the chief and myself. Three Farquharson's waiting to welcome the Queen; three Farquharson's all under the age of 80. I suppose it was rather unusual for the family."

Angus has been appointed deputy by Colin allowing him to be involved in a number of public events. And with experience as a council member of the Scottish Landowner's Federation he wasn't daunted by his new responsibilities.

"I am responsible for all Royal visits, and we get quite a lot. I welcome the Queen to the Braemar Games and when she arrives in the county.



Angus and his family

"Prince Charles and the Princess Royal visit a lot too. "I must have been to over 50 different occasions during the last few years.

"After a royal visit there is a great feeling of elation. It is something that is hard to explain.

"Once I went to a home for drug addicts and alcoholics with Prince Charles and these people were pretty demoralised and uninterested. He went in and spoke to every member of staff and person in the place as if they were the most important people in the world."

Angus refused to name his favourite member of the Royal family saying: "All members of the Royal family are different. One's got a huge respect for the Queen, not that I have done a lot with her, except in the jubilee year when I was asked to pick 100 names for a garden party at Balmoral. It was a friendly occasion, very relaxed. Prince Philip and Charles were there. I think that was the big event for us."



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Welcoming Her Majesty cont...

And what about Prince Charles since he married Camilla?

"They came up for their first public engagement in Ballater. It was a small visit but all the world's press were there. One worried how they would be received. The people of Ballater were brilliant. They gave them both a huge welcome. I felt so happy for them both. I didn't know how it would go."

Angus' other responsibilities include supporting army cadets, air cadets, sea, cadets, scouts and guides.

Last year he also became involved with citizenship ceremonies, welcoming new citizens to the UK.

Each job is carried out with the help of Alison.

"She does all my secretarial work," explained Angus. "Before a royal visit there is a lot of work to do like liaising with the Royal household police.

"My big problem is that I have never been that good with facts and figures.

"Another thing Alison is good at is kicking me under the table if I am about to make a

terrible faux pas. It is nice having her sharing this with me.

"I also organise royal garden parties and recommendations for honours in the county."

Records indicate that Colin may have been the first Farquharson to take on the role of Lord Lieutenant and followed in his footsteps Angus said: "I think it is a great honour for Colin and me. He was the first in his branch of the family and I was the first in the Finzean branch."

Angus has been busy creating a scheme for young

apprentices to look after inherited building.

"We are hoping to start up a school for traditional skills," Angus explained. "We are training young people in the arts of looking after heritage properties. Prince Charles has taken great interest; it is very much up his street. I helped to organise a royal visit."

Angus' position means he is always attending happy occasions. "There are never many jobs in life like that.

"I have something on nearly every week."



Well practiced: Angus addressing Clan Farquharson at the stones of Corsedardar



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This notice appeared on the front page of the Clan Farquharson Association of Canada.

The Cairngorm Echo

The Newsletter of the Clan Farquharson Association of Canada

Clan Chief - Captain Alwyne A.C. Farquharson of Invercauld. M.C.

Volume 20

No. 2 Summer/Autumn 2006

Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Edited By David R. Porter

Ciad Mille Failte.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our Chief, Captain Alwyne A. C. Farquharson of Invercauld, has called a gathering of Clan Farquharson to take place next summer, as part of the 2007 International Gathering of the Clans in Nova Scotia, Canada. The Clan Farquharson Association of Canada will be the official host and a committee has been struck that has been working tirelessly to put together a superb program of events (see details on later pages).

I wish to encourage all clan members, but in particular those of the Clan Farquharson Association of Canada to strongly consider a trip to Nova Scotia to partake in what I am sure will be one of the best gatherings that we have had.

I look forward to seeing you in 2007. Cheers.

Sean Christie, President
Clan Farquharson Association of Canada.

Nova Scotia Gathering of the Clans 2007, the programme:

4th July Meet and Greet Day in the Royal Artillery Park

5th July Opening Ceremonies of the Nova Scotia International Gathering of the Clans

6th July Visit HMCS Sackville, CGS Acadia and the Maritime Museum.

7th July (Saturday) Halifax Highland Games and Festival

8th July "Kirkin' O' the Tartan" Church Service.

9th July Day at the Fort George Citadel and Kilted Golf Tournament

If you are interested in attending contact Sean Christies, President, 6941 Flinn Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3L 1J3. Tel: (902) 453-0920. Email: smchristie@eastlink.ca



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Clan Farquharson pilgrimage to Culloden August 2006



Everyone took a moment to reflect on those lost

This was possibly the greatest gathering of Farquharsons and Septs at Culloden since that fateful day on 16th April 1746.

We arrived at the visitors' centre and met the Chief and Madam Farquharson before watching the video and visiting the Culloden exhibition.

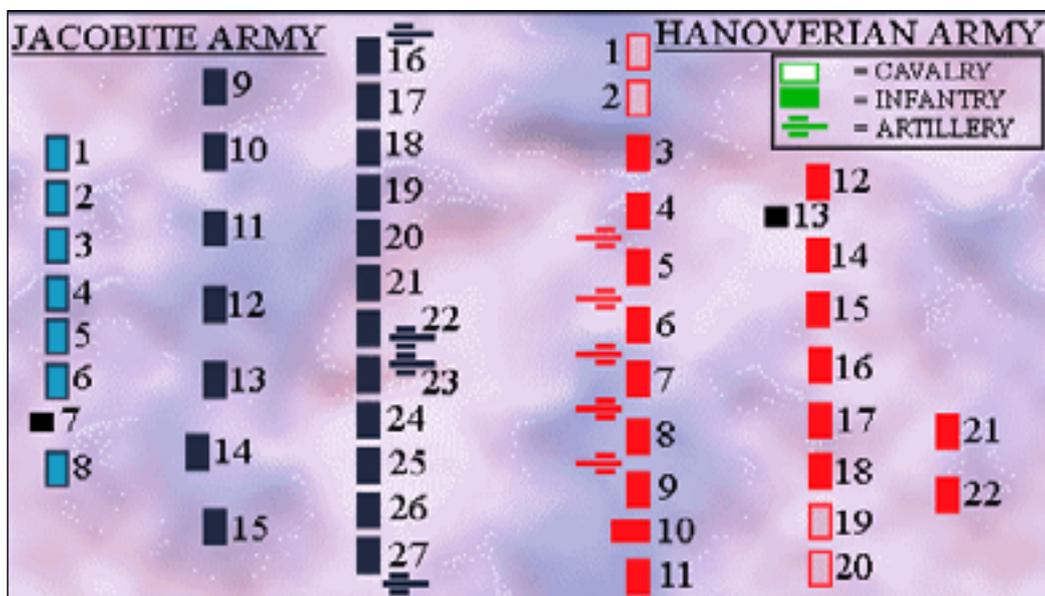
In beautiful weather, we all walked to the Battlefield site, stopping for a photo-call at the

Culloden monument, then on to the Farquharson PEG (22).

Standing there, you soon realise what a poor physical position the Jacobites had.

A time for thought, what might have been?

We all had a chance to take some memorable photos and chat in the special environment so steeped in history.



How the battle field aligned



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Chief's Chatter

Greetings!

And may the forthcoming year bring peace, health, happiness and good fortune to all.

As I write this it is mid winter, though it is anything but a typical winter scene around me here in Norfolk.

A stark contrast indeed to winters I recall some sixty years ago when I first went to live in Invercauld.

Winters then were invariably white with frost and snow, and long and cold.

In those days Braemar had no electricity; for light it was oil lamps, for water a cold tap perhaps.

Transport was by bicycle, or if further afield by bus.

The main road down the valley of the Dee was in general kept open, though sometimes blocked.

But not the road south over the Cairnwell summit at 2,200ft, which led down the Devil's Elbow into Perthshire.

I remember once it was not until the month of April that this road was opened by men with hand shovels, a single line of traffic at the summit, with the snow piled six or eight feet high on either side.

It was to be another fifteen years before the development of skiing brought with it the necessity of access by road to that area in winter conditions.

The river Dee too would freeze over from side to side, and I have stood under the central arch of the auld Brig O'Dee gazing eastwards downstream with no sign of running water as far as the eye could see.

The coldest temperature ever recorded in the UK was at Braemar some 25 years ago - minus 27.3 degrees centigrade, or 49 degrees freezing on the Fahrenheit scale.

The frost penetrated two feet underground, with a deep covering of snow above.

There was no running water in the house at

Invercauld for over six weeks.

Fortunately, however, there was firewood and a sufficient supply of whisky to hand.

True to our motto we looked at the coming of spring with Faith and Fortitude.

Times indeed have changed.

But our clan spirit remains strong and constant as ever.

The Lion's Face keeps us in touch with each other, bringing news of past activities and of forthcoming events, and keeps contact with our clan overseas through the medium of their separate newsletters - for example the USA, Canada and Australia.

This year again looks like being another busy one.

And I shall hope in the course of it, as we gather, to meet as many of you as possible.

In the meantime I send my most sincere best wishes.

Alwyne Farquharson of Invercauld - Chief of Clan Farquharson





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President's Prattle

Greetings to all my fellow Clansmen around the world.

It was with great honour I was elected to the role of President of Clan Farquharson (UK) at the 2006 AGM which was held in August during our annual Clan Gathering in the Highlands.

It is a role that I am delighted and honoured to hold and I hope to help build the Clan connections and the network throughout the world.

It is a challenging role thanks to my predecessors Gordon Farquharson and Alan Caig who ran the ship so successfully for the previous six years

Alan was the first President from the reformation of the Clan organisation from 2001-2003 and is now vice-president.

Gordon took over from 2003-2006 and has now stepped in as Treasurer.

I am delighted to have a good and dedicated committee working with me and the support of our Chief is very assuring.

I was also delighted that you chose to invite Angus and Alison Farquharson from Finzean to be our first Honorary Vice-Presidents.

They have supported us well over the years and along with others in their family are kindly arranging a function for you at the Gathering this year.

My roots were very firmly in Scotland with my father being born in Bo'ness, outside Edinburgh and my many predecessors residing in the heart of the whisky country around Dufftown and Aberlour on the side of the Spey.

I am actively involved in tracing my family tree and at the moment the proven lines in 1705 go back to a farm at the base of Glen Rinnes just outside Glenlivet.

I am keeping the agricultural traditions running by farming on the South Downs of England where the milder climate ensures better cropping.



President Andrew with Partner Kate and Piper Martin at the Clan Cairn.

Clan Farquharson is there for all Farquharsons, their families and the Septs and I hope you will feel the urge to support the Clan and take a break in the Highlands and come and join us for a truly Scottish Clan Gathering one year.

Plans are well under way for the Gathering in Ballater from the 8th - 12th August 2007.

Halls are booked, lunch and dinner prices being confirmed, and times and schedules being tweaked.

We are also in the process of changing the website and hopefully you will be able to see the difference in February.

With best to you all,

Andrew Farquharson - President of Clan Farquharson



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Clan Matters

Email addresses

To keep our data-base of email addresses up to date please send an e mail (blank will suffice) to our Membership Secretary Val at valerie@farquharson6.wanadoo.co.uk

Website

The Clan Farquharson website has been updated so click on www.farquharson-clan.co.uk to see the revamped site.

All news for the website should be sent to andrewthefarmer@hotmail.com

TV appearance

Roy Farquharson-Eskell featured on a BBC4 programme about the pilot Alan Chobham.

Roy said he was on the show, at 10.30pm on December 5 for 7-8 minutes.

Beryl Hardy Nisbett

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Beryl Hardy Nisbett on Friday October 20.

Beryl was our Chief's Australia High Commissioner.

She had been very ill for some months following heart surgery and other complications.

She was a bright character and attended the 2004 gathering in Aboyne.

The Funeral was on Thursday October 26 and the Chief sent a personal wreath.

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See the website for the Clan Farquharson UK Committee.

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Clan Farquharson of Australia

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