



# **The Lion's Face**

Newsletter of the Clan Farquharson UK  
[www.farquharson-clan.co.uk](http://www.farquharson-clan.co.uk)

## ***Spring Edition 2008***



Members at the 2007 Gathering in Ballater

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# The Lion's Face

## Summer 2008

### Clan Farquharson Gathering

The 2008 Clan Farquharson UK Gathering has a slightly different timing this year.

Instead of the usual weekend event the gathering will run from Tuesday to Friday from August 12 to 15 in Ballater.

On **Tuesday August 12** the Formal Dinner will take place at the Albert Hall, Ballater.

Guests will be greeted by wine on arrival and followed by dinner. Please complete Menu choice on the form included with this newsletter.

On **Wednesday August 13** there will be a Historical Farquharson Tour by coach with a visit to Glenfiddich Distillery which will include lunch.

On **Thursday August 14** enjoy the Highland Games in Ballater. Clan Farquharson marches with the Piped Band Parade at 12pm and highland dress is required.

On **Thursday August 14** there is another chance to enjoy a traditional Scottish past time with the Highland Games Ceilidh at the Albert Hall. This is not arranged by the Clan but is very good fun.

On **Friday August 15** the Clan Farquharson AGM takes place at the Glen Lui Hotel, Ballater.

This is followed by a visit to the Clan Farquharson Cair and a visit to Braemar Castle.

Included with this newsletter is an application form for the summer's gathering.

Don't forget to get your form in as soon as possible to ensure can attend the events of your choice.

### The Castle

Braemar Castle re-opened to visitors on Saturday May 3.

The early 17<sup>th</sup> century castle, which has been closed to the public since 2005, is now in the care of the village of Braemar. Local landowners as the Farquharsons of Invercauld, have handed the castle over to the community on a 50 year lease.

The re-opening was celebrated by a fete in the grounds and Steve Robertson of "Scotland the What" will turned the key to officially open the castle.



Since the village acquired the building in February last year, teams of volunteers have worked to get the castle into shape.

A leaky Victorian wing at the rear of the building has been demolished. Rooms have been re-painted and re-carpeted but still retain that "shabby chic" that is the essence of the Castle which is filled with the day-to-day furnishings and personal memorabilia of the Farquharson family.

An exhibition space has been created to house travelling exhibitions.

Robert Louis Stevenson wrote "Treasure Island" while on holiday in Braemar and the Castle has dedicated one of the upper turret rooms to celebrate his life and work.



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**The 2007 Farquharson gathering was held as usual in Ballater.**

**It included for the first time a formal dinner in The Albert Hall in the town.**

**Here is a selection of pictures from the event.**





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# President's Message

Greetings.

I was delighted to see so many of you at the Clan Gathering last August in Ballater. About fifty clansmen supported the event and all the feedback was very encouraging. The weather in the Highlands had been terrible and so we were blessed with a very welcome window of sunshine.

This year, the 2008 Gathering will be a little earlier in the week of August 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.

Booking the various halls a year in advance has been really tricky as I found the Victoria and Albert Halls already let on a long term historical booking to the Horticultural Society. This means that their show falls into Victoria Week every leap year. There is a lack of other halls or large rooms in the area and so we have been forced to start our proceedings with the Clan Dinner on the Tuesday evening.

It has also been impossible to find anywhere suitable for the Clan Ceilidh and so this will not take place this year. However we hope you will support the Ballater Games dance evening on the Thursday. It is always a very good evening.

Your committee had a long and successful meeting in Sussex the day after Burns's Night and much was thrashed out for the future. Val Farquharson had arranged a very successful Burns Night Supper.

It can difficult to meet up with the team being spread so far and wide around the Isles and so a good meeting is always very encouraging.



The Gathering for 2009 has presented us with some new options which are really exciting.

The International Gathering of the Clans is taking place in Edinburgh on July 25 and 26. We will have a representation there, but of course it won't have the same intimate Clan appeal as the City being so large.

Our Vice-Presidents, Angus and Alison Farquharson, have invited us to join them at the Finzean 400<sup>th</sup> celebrations on the weekend of August 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.

This will include the Aboyne Games. All this is in the early stages but please mark the dates in your 2009 diaries.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Clan Gathering in August which I am sure will promise to be a fun packed, social taste of the Highlands.

My best wishes to you all.

Andrew Farquharson – President Clan Farquharson



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### Beach gatherings in Worthing



The flag flown at Mary and George's wedding anniversary

2007 saw two successful gatherings at The Beach Hotel where members enjoyed coffee and drinks before a delicious lunch.

There is a good choice of menu and conversation is usually lively.

This informal gathering is much appreciated and in April, members had the added interest of not only meeting two new members, Mary and George Farquharson, but the excitement of seeing the beautiful flag which had been created in celebration of their golden wedding.

With The Chief's kind permission, the Farquharson crest was displayed and the flag flown in their garden.

The second gathering in October was again very convivial.

Somehow, Valerie always manages to ensure that the weatherman picks a sunny day and October 7 was so warm that all the balcony doors were open.

During coffee in the lounge after lunch, Andrew was able to update us on clan news.

All those who attend are immensely grateful to Valerie, who organises these events so efficiently and wish Val and John every happiness in their new home in Ferring.

These gatherings are not restricted to those who live in southern England and anyone wishing to join in would be very welcome with their family and friends.

In 2008 there was a meeting on Sunday April 27 and there will be one on Sunday October 12.

Accommodation is available at the hotel.

Do consider joining this friendly get-together. Scottish dress is optional but is always admired by the locals!



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## A taste of Scotland in Germany

Two new members of Clan Farquharson UK have taken the taste of Whisky back to their home country of Germany.

Ulf and Ada opened a House of Whisky on Stralsund in September.



Between 8pm and midnight on September 1 nearly 450 people descended on the shop for its official opening.

Ulf said: "All of the visitors loved it."



With the shop up and running on January 25 this year the people of the village enjoyed their first Burns Night celebration.



Ulf and Ada said: "The Robert Burns Night was a bit unusual for our people.

"With the help of such events we try to bring Scottish culture and traditions closer to our people.

"We had 20 guests. We started with the traditional Robert Burns Supper and ended up with Scottish dances.

As you can see on the photos everybody enjoyed it.

- Do you have a story you would like to share with other member's of the Clan? If so don't forget to contact the editor.

**House of Whisky**  
**Wasserstraße 25**  
**18439 Stralsund**  
**Germany**



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## Culloden & Our Culloden Stone

After what has been one of the most impassioned and high-profile projects undertaken by the Trust in recent years, the new Culloden Visitor Centre opened last December (2007).

The Clan Farquharson 2007 appeal raised the 1500 pounds required for a "Culloden Stone" in record time. We are delighted the members supported this so well. The stone has been placed on the "Culloden Walk" which has been developed as part of the new visitor's centre.



Driving on to Drumossie Moor today is not so very different from before, it has lost none of the unique atmosphere.

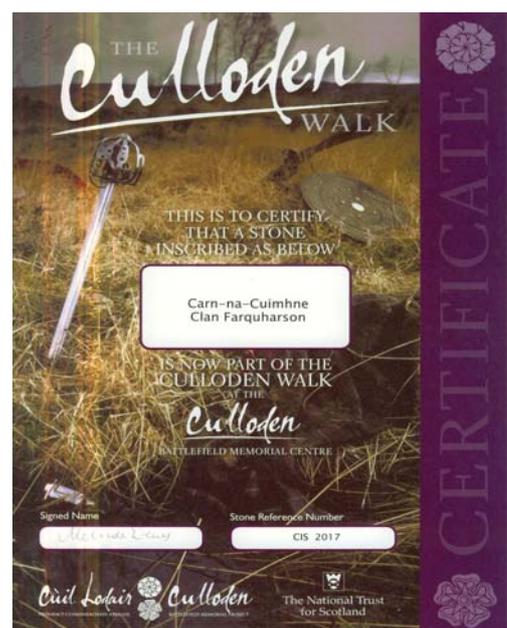
As you enter the reception area, you are aware that there is something utterly original about this battlefield museum, not merely in its understated architecture and use of fine local materials that blend in with the surroundings, but in the underlying concept. The first exhibit is a set of pipes, the Great Pipes of Baleshare, carried at Culloden. However, as the caption points out, no one knows whether they were carried by piper of the Jacobite or the Government forces.

This was a conflict that split families and at the centre lies the need to explain that it was not fought between Scotland and England, but two dynasties, two faiths and two polarised social systems: the Jacobite Highlanders with help from the French and Irish.

What is immediately noticeable is the way in which such state-of-the-art technology has been integrated with an equally sophisticated display of related original artefacts.

Nothing beats the sensation of visiting the field itself and here, while taking care to preserve the terrain, the Trust has been particularly inspired. A new viewing terrace, with full wheelchair access, sits neatly above the position of the Hanoverian lines, its simple unfinished wooden structure being no more obtrusive than the neighbouring spinneys. It affords an unparalleled view of the field and, once again, as with the model inside, it is possible as never before to unravel the battle's all-important geography.

There can be no better way of understanding that this last battle on British soil was not a military victory, but a massacre.



The certificate for the Clan Farquharson Culloden Stone.



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## Clan Matters

### Email addresses

To keep our data-base of email addresses up to date please send an email (blank will suffice) to our membership secretary Val at [Valerie@farquharson6.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:Valerie@farquharson6.wanadoo.co.uk)

### Website

Don't forget to visit the Clan Farquharson website [www.farquharson-clan.co.uk](http://www.farquharson-clan.co.uk)

All news for the website should be sent to [andrewthefarmer@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewthefarmer@hotmail.com)

### Events

During last year's Clan Gathering editor of the Lion's Face Hannah was otherwise occupied in Jersey tying the knot.

She married Mark Jones in Elizabeth Castle surrounded by friends and family on a gorgeous hot sunny day – nice for dad Gordon (Treasurer) who insisted on wearing full traditional dress.



But don't worry Hannah is still using her Farquharson surname in her profession as a journalist – as if Jones is unique enough

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