



The Lion's Face

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

Games Edition



In this edition:

- **The 2008 & 2009 plans**
- **A message from the Chief and our President**
- **Tribute to Iain Farquharson**



The Lion's Face

What's happening in 2008 & 2009

The 2008 Clan Farquharson UK Gathering

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

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

On **Tuesday August 12** the Formal Dinner takes place at the Albert Hall, Ballater. This is a pre-booked event.

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 Cairn and a visit to Braemar Castle.

And do not forget, all week there is a chance to renew your membership, or join the Clan association.

2009 Events

As mentioned by our President, Andrew Farquharson, 2009 will be very special. Arrangements are in hand to try and coordinate with the overseas Clan Farquharson associations.

The outline plans are as follows:

Saturday 25th to Sunday 26th July

International Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh – Royal Mile Parade, Pageant at the Castle and Games at Holyrood.

Tuesday 28th to Sunday 2nd August

Finzean 400th Anniversary at Finzean & Aboyne.

Concert at Finzean, Aboyne Games, Garden Party at Finzean.

Thursday 13th August

Ballater Games with Clan Farquharson tent and attendance. Celebrate the Chief's 90th Birthday

Keep an eye of the Website to get the latest information !

www.farquharson-clan.co.uk



The Lion's Face

Chiefs Chatter

Greetings to all.

As I write this the economic scene is anything but encouraging, with the price of fuel oil doubling as we stand by empty pumps in filling stations, counting the small change left in our pockets. Let us pray that the price of barley, the corner stone of Uisge Beatha our national drink, does not follow suit, for our misery would be complete were its solace put beyond reach!

Surely, however, we may look forward with some confidence to sampling a welcome dram of this nectar as we meet at GlenFiddich on our outing in August.

My main item of news for you is that my nephew and heir, Jamie Compton, has made the decision to take the name of Farquharson of Invercauld, and due process is in course through the Court of Lord Lyon for his recognition as my nominated successor. Naturally this

gives me the greatest pleasure and I assume will be welcomed also by our clan both at home and overseas.

He will officially be styled by Dr James Alwyne Compton Farquharson of Invercauld, Younger. Those of you

who may not yet have met him will soon do so I hope at Clan functions.

Fingers crossed for a fine spell at our Ballater Gathering.

My wife and I look forward to meeting up again with many of you we know, and hopefully with some new faces too.



With our warmest best wishes.

Alwyne Farquharson of Invercauld.



The Lion's Face

President's Prattle

Greetings.

Another annual Clan Farquharson Gathering is here and it is a most welcome time to meet old friends and new both from within the Clan and around Deeside.

The Gathering is a mid week event this time and after a hesitation and fear of reduced attendance I am glad to be able to say that the number in Ballater is up by about 20% on last year. All this is very encouraging. Our Gathering contains all the usual elements of a well packed event other than the Clan Ceilidh. Unfortunately, the various Halls are let to the Horticultural Society for their annual show which once every four years falls into Victoria Week. We are sorry to disappoint any regulars.

2009 is going to be a big year for Clan Farquharson with a very busy and committing time from the end of July to early September.

Our Gathering will most likely be earlier from Tuesday 28 July to around Sunday 2 August 2009. This will be to allow our many overseas visitors including the Pipes and Drums of Clan Farquharson, Nova Scotia to attend

the International Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh the weekend before. We have been having a lot of correspondence and discussion on these events both from within the committee and from overseas and once we have gathered a response from our members then we will be in a position to fully plan 2009 with all views considered.

The 1st of May 2009 marks a very special occasion. Our Chief will celebrate his 90th

birthday and we will mark this event later at our Clan Gathering.

Our website continues to be read more and more and I am pleased to see that if you enter 'Farquharson' or 'Clan Farquharson' into Google then we are the first hit on each occasion. There is no need to tell you what the address is as it is now very easily found!

My best wishes to you all.

Andrew Farquharson – President
Clan Farquharson





The Lion's Face

A review the Gathering in 2007

Selecting highlights from a memorable few days is hard as there were so many cameos, *Writes Margaret Finlay.*

After Wednesday's convivial meeting and greeting at Glen Lui, Thursday dawned brightly and became a myriad of different memories.

Farquharson Clansmen marching in the procession led by the pipes and drums, The Chief & Madam

Farquharson being piped into The Games.

All sorts of interesting activities continuing in the arena with tossing the hammer, Scottish dancing, various competitions, the tug-of-war and finally the hill run.

A large variety of stalls, a very enthusiastic audience and the Farquharson hospitality tent, which



Anus Farquharson

was well patronised. Copies of Geoffrey's book on our Clan history were on sale, and it was during this time that we had the pleasure of meeting the Alaskan family who enjoyed other events with us. We were also delighted to have the company of during this time Roxanne from the United States and Raymond and Muriel from Australia.

The Finzean shop is a virtual Aladdin's cave of interesting goods, giftware, food and a cafe. We all found it impossible to resist the temptation of purchases.

Eventually we tore ourselves away and on arrival at Finzean House, we were

warmly welcomed not only by Alison and Angus with Donald and Catriona, but were piped in by their charming little grandsons, Rory and Archie who played extremely well.



Rory and Archie Farquharson



The Lion's Face

Following that surprise, we were served with tea and cake while we chatted and mingled, enjoying the lovely scenery in the warm sunshine.

What a wonderful day. The bagpipes were also out as we departed and we have lasting impressions of an absolutely wonderful day.

the castle, to show us the extent of the work which is in progress.

I think we were all glad to have previously seen the castle in its former glory as it was very bare while awaiting each phase of the huge programme.

Following this, we had time for a cup of tea in Braemar before heading back to



The official clan photograph

Saturday was a busy day starting with our AGM which was accomplished within its time slot and followed by a committee meeting.

Then it was a quick lunch, followed by a visit to Braemar Castle where Alasdair Colquhoun, chairman of the Braemar Trust, kindly took us around

Ballater for our formal dinner at The Albert Hall where Martin piped in our special guests, Our Chief and Madame Farquharson together with Alison and Angus.

After drinks and the formal clan photo, we had a delicious meal followed by speeches and then informality.



The Lion's Face

Sunday brought the opportunity of attending the service at Crathie Church, watching the Royals leaving Balmoral or whatever we pleased.

Our final and significant closing event, was a visit to the Clan cairn, for a short service. No highland cattle this year, but Martin piped the Chief, President and clansmen round a field of wet rape seed before Desmond offered prayers

in remembrance of those clansmen who had died in battle and for the loved ones they had left behind. Our Chief, as always, gave a most thoughtful and befitting address. It was a moving occasion at the close of our gathering.

We left Ballater with a kaleidoscope of memories of friendship, fun, tradition, kindness, hospitality and a firm wish to return next year.



Members enjoying the Ceilidh



Martin, The Chief and President Andrew



The Lion's Face

Our Culloden Stone

The new Culloden Visitor Centre opened in December 2007.

The Clan Farquharson 2007 appeal raised the £1,500 required for a "Culloden Stone" in record time.

The stone has been placed on the "Culloden Walk" which has been developed as part of the new visitor's centre.

This is a battlefield museum located on Drumossie Moor.

Norah Farquharson has submitted a photograph of her visit there in April.



Norah Farquharson at Culloden



A letter from the National Trust for Scotland regarding Culloden.

Thank you very much for your support of the National Trust for Scotland through sponsoring a stone at Culloden.

The Culloden Walk is a striking feature leading up to the main entrance of the brand new, world class Culloden Visitor Centre. The project has proved to be a great success in Scotland and further afield.

There are more than 1,000 individual stones which have been placed in the walkway so far including your Culloden Insignia stone with the following message:

Carn-na-Cuimhne Clan Farquharson

Work is still in progress to lay many more Culloden stones but we hope to see the walkway completed by September 2008.

Melinda Denes, Culloden Walk Administrator.

For more information on the Walk go to www.nts.org.uk



The Lion's Face

Worthing Gathering

MORE than a dozen of us enjoyed a delightful Sunday get-together at The Beach Hotel.

Two new members were welcomed to the event on April 27th 2008. Beverley and Malcolm Jarvis from Ashford have recently joined the Clan association and together with one of Beverley's sisters and her husband, are experiencing their first Clan Gathering in Scotland this summer.

Beverley is one of four Farquharson sisters and they have been researching their family history.

Val's John Farquharson, who is a fount of knowledge in this area, was able to help Beverley and Martin to take their ancestry further.

Lunch was a jolly meal with conversation flowing, as well as the wine and it centred on clan history and the coming Gathering, among other topics.

Margaret Finlay said: "As usual, the lunch was delicious and we were made to feel so welcome at 'The Beach'.

"We did miss some of our 'regulars' and hope that they may be able to come to the October lunch."

After lunch members adjourned to the lounge for coffee, photos and general chat and discovered everybody present intends to be in Scotland in August. That must be a record.

Margaret added: "As usual, we wish to express our sincere thanks to Val Farquharson for organising the lunch and enabling us to have such a convivial day."





The Lion's Face

Iain Farquharson

For the Farquharsons, Gordon and Maureen from Portpatrick and Stuart and Betty from Glasgow. 2008 is and will be extremely mixed.

It started happily with Stuart and Betty celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on March 8, and Gordon and Maureen theirs on June 20. Both couples joined together for a 14 day cruise in the Caribbean on the P&O Liner Oceana flying to Barbados from Glasgow.

On returning home it was learned that Gordon's twin brother Iain, a founder member, had a recurrence of the Oesophagus cancer of 3 ½ years ago and it was now inoperable in any form.

As most of you know Iain never married and lived alone on the south side of Glasgow. He had many friends who visited regularly including a special lady Robbie who lived next door and looked after his cat whenever Iain went on holiday or to Braemar.

A great many thanks must go to Stuart and Betty for the sterling work they did in looking after all Iain's needs, whether at home or in hospital for the ten weeks prior to him being taken into the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice, where he died some 10 days later on June 16.

Iain was cremated on June 20.

The Humanist Service was well received by all who attended.

When one goes another takes his place and Gordon and Maureen are delighted to announce that their older son Neil and his wife are expecting a baby in October.

Some of you may remember seeing Neil and Juliet with US Clan President Sharon

Farley on the front page of the 2004 issue of USA Cairn newsletter. And then there is Jennifer's Wedding on October 18. Jennifer is Stuart and Betty's granddaughter and will marry Craig in the Dalmeny Park Hotel, Barrhead, Glasgow.

Two days later Maureen and Gordon will be going out to Texas on October 20 for a four week period to be with Neil and Juliet during their happy and exciting time.

It remains an unusual year.



The late Iain Farquharson



The Lion's Face

Clan Matters

E-mail 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

Website

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

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



The Australian contingent for the Edinburgh Gathering of the Clans in 2009

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