



The Lion's Face

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

Winter Edition 2009



*The Chief, Desmond Quaitte, and President Andrew Farquharson
remember at the Cairn beside the River Dee in August 2008*

In this edition:

- **The 2009 Gathering plans**
- **Messages from the Chief and our President**
- **The story of Lieutenant Francis Edward Henry Farquharson VC**
- **News from the Farquharsons of Finzean**



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2009 Events

As already announced in the last Lion's Face 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 (see details later).

Tuesday 28th to Sunday 2nd August

Finzean 400th Anniversary at Finzean & Aboyne.

On Saturday 1st August the Aboyne Games will be held as usual. This year it included a Clan march.

A Concert will be held at Finzean, and a Garden Party will be held on Sunday 2nd August. More details of these events will follow. If you need more information earlier, please contact Angus or Alison Farquharson.

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Alison@Finzean.com

Thursday 13th August

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

Keep an eye on our Website to get the latest information ! www.farquharson-clan.co.uk and the Gathering Web Site www.clangathering.org

GATHERING OF THE CLANS IN EDINBURGH IN July 2009

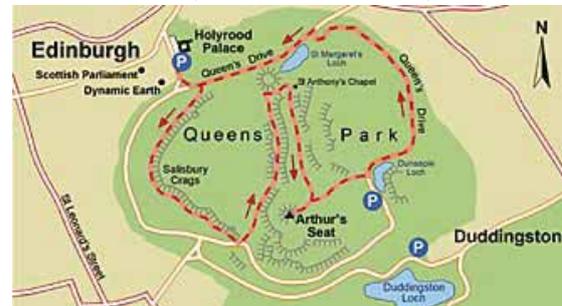
A. GENERAL

On 25 and 26 July 2009 the Clans will gather in Edinburgh. This is the first such gathering since Sir Walter Scott brought King George IV to Edinburgh in 1822. So far there are about 120 clans having registered their interest in attending.

B. HIGHLAND GAMES

(i) General

These will be held in Holyrood Park, which is adjacent to the Palace of Holyrood House at the foot of the Royal Mile, over Saturday 25th July 2009 and Sunday 26th July 2009.



Entry is by payment at the gate and is anticipated to be approximately £8 for each day. If you have a gathering "passport" (see below) entry to the games for the two days is included. We have booked a clan tent and this will serve as a rallying point for our members throughout each day. We are looking for volunteers to man the tent for about one hour at a time, to ensure that all visitors will have a person to speak to, hand out leaflets and generally socialize.

(ii) Food & Drink

We understand that nobody will be allowed to bring food or drink into the games field, which means that you will have to purchase these from vendors on



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the field. We are expecting to be supplied with a complimentary dram for our members and visitors.

(iii) Meeting

There may be the possibility of Clan Farquharson UK organising a social event for clan members, including our overseas members, on the Friday evening. This would be a dinner (depending on numbers) or meeting for a drink in a local pub. We would appreciate member's views about this in order that final arrangements can be made. Information about the arrangements will be made available in due course.

We have also booked a Clan meeting tent slot at the highland games. This will last for 50 minutes on the Saturday, and will provide a great chance for a general meeting for all clan members, and to allow our Clan Chief to address all of his clansmen. We do not know yet what time our slot is. Watch the Clan Website for more information.

C. PAGEANT AND PARADE

(i) General

This is two activities run into one. First of all, there will be a parade of Clans from the Palace of Holyrood House, up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle, where Clan members will take their seats on the castle esplanade for a Scottish pageant.



(ii) Entry

In order to take part in either the parade or the pageant (or both) Clan members must be in possession of a "passport" which may be purchased from the organizers and which are priced at £88.00 upwards. There are 8500 passports in all of which 4500 have been sold so far. We would suggest that any clan members who have not yet purchased a passport do so at the earliest time.

(iii) Marching

Later time we will be given details of the rallying place for the start of the parade which will be approximately 5.30pm near the Palace of Holyrood House at the bottom of the Royal Mile. Clan members should bear in mind that the Royal Mile is actually over a mile in length, is uphill and has cobblestones in parts. Members will need to be reasonably fit and wear stout shoes in order to enjoy this parade. Clan members may still attend the pageant even if they do not wish to participate in the parade.

Clans will march in the parade in alphabetical order, in groups of clans, each clan headed by the Clan Chief. Each group will have a pipe band. The whole parade will take approximately two hours.

(iv) Flags

Only one flag per clan will be allowed on the parade. We are having made a flag bearing the name "Clan Farquharson" and with the Clan Chief's Crest and it is suggested that this would be the appropriate flag to be carried in the parade. We have not appointed a flag-carrier, so if there are members who wish to put their names forward, they may do so and we will devise a fair way of selecting the member.



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(v) Dress

The Gathering has not so far issued any guidance on dress. It is suggested that the appropriate dress for clan members will be as follows:-

Gentlemen

Farquharson kilt, belt, day jacket, shirt and long tie, long hose with flashes, sgian dubh, black polished shoes, Balmoral or Glengarry. It is suggested that dirks, plaids and other accoutrements would not be appropriate.

Ladies

Farquharson skirt or dress, black shoes, white blouse, jacket, hat.

I should like to stress that this will be a very public event, with thousands of tourists lining the Royal Mile, and is likely to be televised. It is anticipated that the Duke of Rothesay will be in attendance. Accordingly, it is important that we give the best possible impression.

D. CONTACT DETAILS



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Braemar Castle Appeal

Watch out for our forthcoming "Braemar Castle Appeal".



We are planning to support the Braemar Community Trust (BCL) efforts to restore Braemar Castle. There is a short report on progress after our president's message.

You will see we are planning a Farquharson Genealogy room at the top of the Castle. The first stage is to prepare the room and ensure it is secure from the ravages of the Deeside weather.

Our initial challenge is to raise £20,000 . Watch out for details of the appeal in due course.





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Chief's Message

Greetings to all. I hope you had a Happy Christmas and that I will meet many of you at the 2009 Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh.

I received an unexpected letter from the United States and thought it should be shared with the Clan. I also suggest that it prompt a look back in time. I have written to Colonel David Farquharson and extended the Clan's congratulations for becoming a centenarian.

I also invite anyone with knowledge of honoured Farquharson's past or present and those celebrating notable birthdays to share their stories through the Lion's Face.

If you have a story, write to Hannah Farquharson, 6 Stonecrop Road, Merrow, Guildford, Surrey, GU4 7XS or email hfargy@hotmail.com

The letter was from a Lieutenant Colonel David Farquharson OBE, TD, living in New York, who in March celebrated his 100th birthday, and talked about the only Farquharson with a VC.

David Farquharson wrote: "The only Farquharson VC is buried in Haberton Church, Devonshire, beside the grave of my grandparents. My grandfather Farquharson was born in 1810 and there is a memorial window in the church to Francis Farquharson VC."

Prompted by this Hannah Farquharson (Lion's Face Editor) did some research on the internet and discovered led some interesting facts:

Lieutenant Francis Edward Henry Farquharson was born in Glasgow on 25th March 1837, and was a member of the 42nd Regiment of the Black Watch.

On June 16 1859 a citation in the London Gazette read: "On March 9 1858 at Lucknow, India, Lieutenant Farquharson led a portion of his company and stormed a bastion mounting two guns and then spiked them.

"This meant that the advance positions held in during the night were rendered secure from artillery fire.

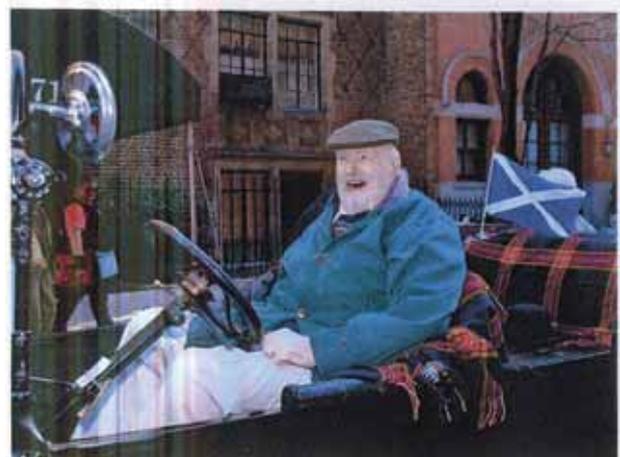
"Lieutenant Farquharson was severely wounded while holding an advanced position the following morning."

Lieutenant Farquharson died on September 12th 1875 in Haberton, Devon and was buried in St Andrew's Churchyard.

His medal is held by The Black Watch Museum, housed in Balhousie Castle, Hay Street, Perth, which hopes to display it if it gets the go ahead for ambitious expansion plans.

P.S. Since writing this message I should like to add as a postscript that I have received a Christmas card from Col. David Farquharson, on the front of which is a photograph reproduced here for the newsletter. On the back, the caption said "This picture was taken on my 100th

birthday 12th March 2008 at the wheel of a 100 year old Model T Ford. Good going indeed!



My very best wishes to all of you for the coming year.

Alwyne Farquharson of Invercauld.



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President's Prattle

Greetings everyone,

The invitations are now out for the 2009 Farquharson Gathering on Deeside and it is going to prove quite a celebration. We are going to welcome many of our Clansmen from around the world. The Canadian, American and Australian branches of Clan Farquharson are all sending major delegations over to support what will be a busy time. I hope the weather is kind to them and warm but if it is not then I know they will receive a very warm welcome from all of us.

This year has been a big administrative job but I hope that all of it will give you the Scottish experience that we try to achieve each year.

The Glenaden Hotel in Ballater is arranging both our Dinner and an end of week supper. This will be the third year and it is a great weight lifted to know that our events are in such capable hands.

We have arranged two coach rides this time enabling you to be chauffeured door to door to both the Culloden Battlefield and of course Balmoral Castle. This is the first time that Balmoral will have been open during our visit as it closes at the end of July.

It is the 400th Anniversary of the Finzean Estate this year and that is well included in our celebrations with the wonderful hospitality that Finzean to us has become renowned. We have also been invited to march into the Aboyne Games as part of their festivities. Our Clan tent will also be there as a central points for us to meet.

The 1st of May 2009 marks a very special occasion. Our Chief Alwyne C Farquharson of Invercauld will celebrate his 90th birthday and we will mark this event at our Clan Dinner on the Tuesday evening of the Gathering.

Please carry on clicking onto www.farquharson-clan.co.uk. It has all the events for this year and some photographs of the 2008 Gathering.

My best wishes to you all.

Andrew Farquharson – President Clan Farquharson

Braemar Castle News

Progress report January 2009

Since taking over the castle in February 2007 Braemar Community Ltd has through its own resources and donations done £249,000 worth of work. The Victorian extensions which were a source of many problems have been removed. Twelve rooms have been refurbished and the basics of the electrical supply system have been replaced.

Much of the original contents of the castle have been returned although some notable items have sadly been lost.

It is the intention of BCL to establish The Farquharson Genealogy Room next door to the Bryce Bogdan Room. This is an important development because it will help BCL to develop the educational aspects of the castle alongside the castle research facility. The ultimate aim being to make all the information about the castle and the Farquharson Clan available on line through the castle website.

To ensure that the contents of the castle are suitably housed and protected it is essential that the outer fabric of the castle is properly restored as a matter of urgency. The cost of repairing the roof and replacing the harling which is now seriously past its useable lifespan will be in excess of £500,000. A great deal of effort is going into raising this sum and so far £250,000 is guaranteed. The repairs to the roof which are essential to protect the educational facilities that are housed on the top floor means that each room on that floor needs £20,000 just to stop the rain getting in.

To comply with The Disability Discrimination Act BCL has to upgrade the footpath into the castle at a cost of £5,000, carry out repairs to the car park at a cost of £9,000 and provide a disabled toilet in the portacabin at a cost of £1,500.

At the same time the running costs of the castle are in the region of £7,000 per annum.

BCL is a registered charity and can reclaim income tax via Gift Aid for UK taxpayers.



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A review the Gathering in 2008





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Ballater Games Ceilidh August 2008

Happy Memories of our Clan Farquharson Gathering August 2008 by Jeanette Farquharson of Hertfordshire.



My husband Douglas and I have always looked forward to the Clan Farquharson Ceilidh at the Gathering, but this year there wasn't one so we decided to attend the Ballater Games Ceilidh, which was held in the Albert Hall on Thursday August 14.

There were two events going on that evening, the Highland Games Ceilidh and the Highland Games Disco which were held in adjoining halls.

We spent a long time queuing with what seemed like the whole of Scotland's teenage population. Eventually we were allowed in and as we passed through the door our hand was 'marked' so that we could come and go as we pleased. It was quite an eye-opener as we struggled to reach the staircase, which led to the Albert Hall where the Ceilidh was being held. We had to step over empty cans and beer bottles and then found our pathway blocked by revellers queuing at the bar for drinks.

Douglas and I along with other Clan Farquharson members, eventually battled our way through to the upstairs hall where the Ceilidh was taking place. It was well attended and once the band started playing and the dancing was in full swing it turned out to be a very enjoyable evening.



The Highland Games Ceilidh was not what we were use to but was more of a mixture of Scottish country dancing with a 'dashing' of jump, jive and boogie. As you can see in the pictures those Clan Farquharson members who did attend all had a wonderful time.

Although Douglas and I enjoyed the



experience of The Ballater Games Ceilidh we feel that nothing can compare to the Clan Farquharson Ceilidh and we hope that these will continue for many years to come.

Look out for details of the Farquharson Ceilidh during the 2009 Gathering!

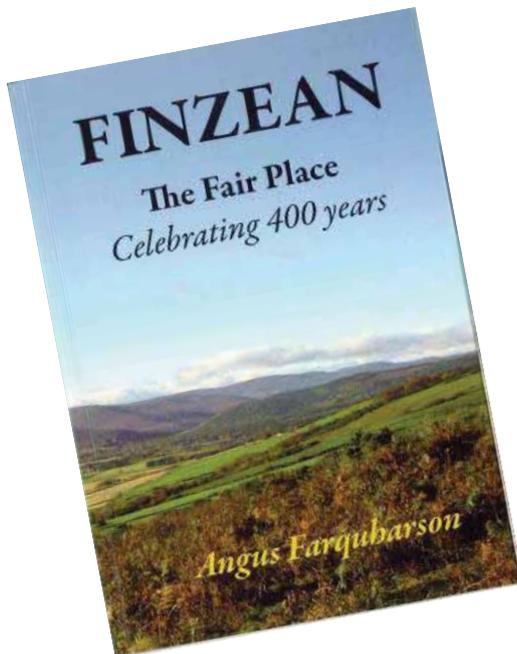


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News from Finzean

Angus Farquharson wrote with some and information of great interest to the Clan Association. Angus and Alison are Vice-Presidents of the Clan Farquharson UK Association.

and the Birse Community Trust.



A book about Finzean – “The Fair Place” Celebrating 400 years. Angus and Alison Farquharson have just published an 80 page book history of the Farquharsons of Finzean. Geoffrey Farquharson’s “Clan Farquharson – A History” written in 2005 is amongst the major credits given in this book. All profits from sales of the book will be divided to the following local charities: Birse & Feughside Church; The Ecumenical Trust for Birse Church; The Finzean Community Association;



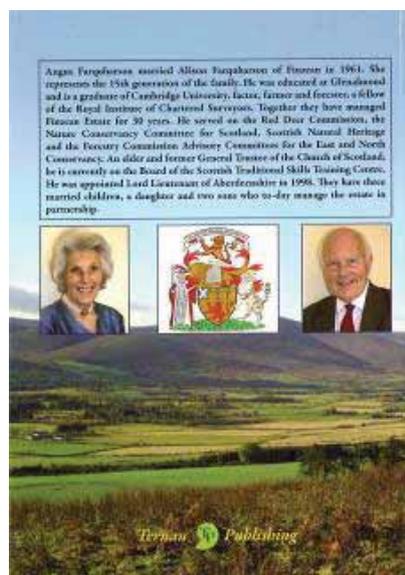
The book, complete with wonderful pictures and illustrations plots the history of the evolution and development of Finzean and its the early years

(1609) right up to date (2009). The artistry of Francis Farquharson is used to great effect bringing the story alive. A remarkable history lovingly shared by Alison and Angus, and maintained by their family in the modern age.

The book can be purchased directly from Angus Farquharson for £8.00 plus postage. Contact Angus if you are interested:

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Finzean, Banchory,
Aberdeenshire, AB31 6NG, UK.

tel +44 (0)1330 850 229



We also delighted to let you know that Alison and Angus also commissioned the manufacture of Farquharson Tartan on Indian silk fabric. Some is available for sale at £17.50 per metre and would be ideal for making ladies blouses, skirts or dresses. If you're interested, contact Alison Farquharson Alison@Finzean.com.



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Clan Matters

Family Additions

Jane & Gordon Farquharson (Treasurer-Guildford) were delighted to welcome their granddaughter Isla Pamela Jane MacAskill into the world on 19th September 2009. Isla is the first child born to Kirsty (eldest daughter and sister to Hannah, Lion's face Editor) and Daren MacAskill. Those interested in Clan history will be aware that the MacAskills were next to the Farquharsons at Culloden.



Douglas and Jeanette Farquharson sent us this photograph from the wedding of Lee (Farquharson) & Lucy on 18th September 2005.



The christening of Alfie Lee Farquharson on Sunday 6th July 2008 was another special occasion for the family !

E-mail addresses

To keep our data-base of email addresses up to date please send an email to our membership secretary Val at farquharson32@btinternet.com

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

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