

Gatherings

International Clan Gathering 2015 Oban

The 2015 International Clan Gathering was held at the [Royal Hotel, Oban](#) on 14th and 15th August 2015.



Many of our Gatherers arrived on Thursday evening and we all enjoyed dinner and drinks and a lot of catching up with old friends.

On Friday lunchtime, the Clan was welcomed by a piper and dignitaries from the town of Oban.



Welcoming us in the [Olive Garden Restaurant](#) were Councillor Roddy McCuish, Chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee, Graham McQueen, Depute Lord Lieutenant, Argyll and Isles, and Neil Mackay, Events and Marketing Manager Bid4Oban. We had a delicious lunch celebrating the best of local Argyll produce; venison, lamb and salmon.

After lunch we held the Clan Association AGM in the Royal Hotel which was well attended.



We hastily changed into more formal attire for the Drinks reception. A photographer took the formal and not so formal photographs of the Gatherers. Then we sat down for the formal banquet, before the top table were piped in. The ir-reverend Iain Galloway gave the Selkirk Grace and we enjoyed a four course dinner. After dinner, there was much merriment and singing 'til the wee small hours.

Six hundred years ago, the Clan Maclean stole the Isle of Coll from the MacAulays, so on Saturday, we invaded Duart Castle on Mull to invite the Macleans sign a peace treaty. After the 45 minute ferry crossing in the sun with a short but heavy storm, we took a 12 minute bus trip from Craignure to Duart, with a very eloquent driver.

We were welcomed by [Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morven](#), the Chief of the Clan Maclean and owner of Duart. Sir Lachlan gave us a guided tour of the castle, telling us personal accounts of his childhood in the castle.

In the Dining Room, Sir Lachlan signed the Treaty making the Macleans and the MacAulays friends and allies inperpetuity. Outside the castle the re-enactors fought.

After the bus and ferry journey back to Oban in the sun, we got ready for the ceilidh.



To start with, we had a whisky tasting hosted by Ronnie Galloway with 5 different malt whiskies. After a buffet supper, we had a ceilidh with about 150 people dancing. We had an excellent band, The Sequins Choir, and a dancing piper.

The apres Ceilidh party continued in the downstairs bar with Barry on the penny whistle.

On Sunday morning we said our goodbyes with many of our overseas Clansfolk heading off to enjoy Scotland's Highlands and Islands.

Cameron Harris of Highland Photos took [these pictures](#).

The Clan at Bannockburn 700 2014

Over the weekend of 27th to 29th June 2014, the Clan joined the Bannockburn 700 celebrations. The weekend started on Friday, 27th at Pipefest at Stirling Castle. The Clan mustered in a nearby hostelry before marching with all the pipebands and other clans through the City of Stirling from the Castle to the King's Knot.



We had an excellent turnout of clansfolk marching. We marched behind a pipeband from Scunthorpe in England.

After the march, the Clan retired to Mr Singh's India Cottage for a late supper.



On Saturday and Sunday the Clan had a Clan Tent in the Clan Village beside the newly opened state of the art Bannockburn Visitor Centre.

Bannockburn 700 comprised a group of "villages" built around

and an arena in which the largest re-enactment ever seen in Scotland marking the 700th Anniversary of this most significant of battles in Scotland's history.

Alongside the battle re-enactment, a themed villages presented the sights, sounds and atmosphere of medieval and modern Scotland. There was a music stage starring many contemporary musicians, such as Julie Fowlis, King Creosote, and Dougie Maclean.

The Scottish food & drinks suffered the embarrassment of running out of many items due to the number of visitors. The bar didn't run out even though a few Clan members helped! The queues were incredible and the rain added to the misery, except we just walked in just before the performance!

On Saturday evening, the Clan had a delicious Clan Dinner at the Brea Restaurant in Stirling. On Sunday morning, we held the AGM at the Allan Park Hotel in Stirling. Then Sunday at Bannockburn offered a bit of sunshine and larger crowds. The tent welcomed a few MacAulays, who we hope will become members.

As part of the celebrations, on Monday we were given a special guided tour of the new visitors centre. A couple from Edinburgh with their grandsons, were refused entry as the centre was closed to the public - they were swiftly adopted as Clan members for the day and gained free entry and a free lunch!

Thanks to all members who travelled from near and far to support the Clan involvement at Bannockburn and who made it a memorable weekend.



International Clan Gathering 2013 Crieff

The Clan MacAulay had another very successful International Gathering in Crieff, Perthshire, on Thursday, 8th to Sunday 11th August. Clansmen and Clanswomen gathered from Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and from all over the United States. Hosted by Chief Hector, we welcomed our Clan Commissioners, Bill O'Reilly (Commissioner for the American Mid-West), Ruth Cooper (Commissioner for New Zealand) and Laurence McAuley (Commissioner for Northern Ireland).

On Friday morning, we walked to Glenturret Distillery, had lunch then a tour of the distillery with a couple of drams to finish! Some of us walked back with an extra spring in our step! There was a sumptuous banquet on Friday evening. The chefs of Crieff Hydro delighted us with a starter of either juniper berry cured salmon or crispy goat's cheese. Soup was a delicious leek and tattie with cheesy croutons. Main course was chicken stuffed with "cock-a-leekie" or a beautifully rare thick slice of roast sirloin of beef. To finish we had lemon tart or Eton Mess. Some of the more resilient Gatherers stayed up to the wee small hours slaking their thirst!

On Saturday we held a well attended AGM. Then we took a bus on a trip to Stirling Castle. That evening we had a buffet dinner of roast lamb, smoked salmon and an array of vegetables and salad. Puddings and cheese with home-made oatcakes finished off dinner before the superb "Gleuda" played at the ceilidh, making everyone dance. Laurence even was made to dress up as a wee weaver wifie from Harris! Very fetching! With very generous donations, the raffle made an excellent £530! As usual, the Gathering was over too quickly and we said our farewells after breakfast on Sunday. Special thanks to the O'Reilly McAuleys from all over the USA whose company made Crieff 2013 extra special.

It was also excellent to see so many young people of all ages enjoying themselves.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for the Homecoming 2014 in Stirling.

International Clan Gathering 2011 Carnlough, Northern Ireland



The 2011 Clan MacAulay International Gathering was held in Carnlough, County Antrim, Northern Ireland from Thursday evening the 4th August to Sunday morning the 7th August 2011.

More than 100 people attended and a GREAT time was had by all!!

The Chief's Summary:

What better place to have held our first ever International Clan Gathering outside of Scotland than in Carnlough, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. The event took place in the Londonderry Arms Hotel and was superbly organised and hosted by our Clan

Commissioner for Northern Ireland Laurence McAuley. The welcome we received from our Irish clansfolk and local people alike was overwhelming. This was our most successful and best attended clan gathering ever, with over one hundred participating in the action packed weekend. We welcomed 35 clansfolk from overseas as well as many MacAulays from NI. Among some notable MacAulays who attended, included local boxing hero Dave 'Boy' McAuley, Emmy award winning composer and record producer Matthew McCauley from Canada and local author Tony Macaulay. We all enjoyed the great company and the superb programme which was laid on for us. The folk singing sessions, the sightseeing trip to the Giant's Causeway, Dunluce Castle and the Layde cemetery were all highlights of the weekend as was our Banquet and the fine entertainment which followed. For those of us who attended the AGM we were enthralled to listen to the guest speaker Hector McDonnell a local historian who gave an insight into how the MacAulays settled in County Antrim. The weekend was completed with a most enjoyable ceilidh on the Saturday evening which included a group of young Irish dancers who deservedly stole the show. Thanks and appreciation must go to our Clan Commissioner for Northern Ireland Laurence McAuley for organising this event and I know he was ably assisted by his good lady Karen Montgomery. I would also like to thank all our clansfolk for their support and for creating the fantastic atmosphere which was evident throughout. This was us at our best. Welcoming each other, sharing our values, traditions, history and heritage. Bringing our people together. Hector MacAulay, Chief