



Clan MacKenzie International Gathering

3 ~ 9 August 2015

Strathpeffer and
Castle Leod ~ Scotland



Supported by



Organised by The Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland & the UK
Lynemore Cottage, Moy, By Tomatin, Inverness-shire, IV13 7YE.



Every five years Cabarfeidh invites his cousins from around the world to come home to the Highlands of Scotland to enjoy a week of special events organised by the Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland & The UK. The 2015 Gathering will take place 3rd - 9th August, and thanks to the support of **Visit Scotland's Scottish Clan Event Fund** this years' gathering promises be the most spectacular ever.

Events will kick off in Strathpeffer Village Square on Monday evening with a performance by the local pipe band and the lighting of the Gathering Flame, which will be taken by a runner to Castle Leod to inform Cabarfeidh that his clan are gathered and awaiting his welcome.



The Pavilion, Strathpeffer

On Tuesday the Clan MacKenzie Parliament will convene in The Pavilion, where lunch will also be served. Afternoon workshops in the Strathpeffer Community Centre will be followed by an early evening visit to the Highland Archives. The Provost of Inverness will then host a Civic Reception for the clan in Inverness's historic Town House.



The Town House, Inverness

On Wednesday morning, Andrew G. McKenzie, the NTS's Property Manager at Culloden, will give the clan a special tour of the battlefield and visitor centre. The afternoon will be spent at Fort George, where many relics of the Seaforth Highlanders (the 19th & early 20th century regiment embodying the original 18th century Mackenzie regiments) are beautifully displayed in the recently refurbished "Highlanders Museum". In the evening Whyte & Mackay are kindly laying on a whisky tasting and buffet supper at their Dalmore Distillery – which was once owned by Mackenzies – on the shores of the Cromarty Firth.



Plockton

Thursday will be taken up by a bus trip to the west coast, visiting Plockton (home of TV's Hamish Macbeth), the Museum of the Isles at the Clan Donald Centre on Skye, and the ancient Clan MacKenzie stronghold of *Eilean Donan* (pictured below) which is now the seat of the MacKenzies' allies the MacRaes.



The Museum of the Isles

It's hoped that Thursday evening will see a very special event. A Fashion Show, at which award-winning young designer Siobhan Mackenzie, will feature her "Clan MacKenzie Collection" at The Pavilion [TBC].





*A Golden Eagle
one of the heraldic symbols
of the MacDonalds*

Friday will be “Battle of Pairc Day”, investigating and marking a seminal event in the clan’s history – when the MacKenzies repudiated the Lords of the Isles and, with their allies, defeated the MacDonalds and their allies near Loch Kinellan, to the west of Strathpeffer. The MacKenzies have invited the MacDonalds to join them in walking the battlefield in the morning, examining the historical context of the conflict in a seminar in the afternoon, staging a fun face-off in the village square in the evening, and all marching together to Castle Leod to enjoy a buffet supper with BBQ and the “Reconciliation Ceilidh”.



*A Stag's head & antlers
are the heraldic symbol
of the MacKenzies*

Saturday is the day for the Strathpeffer Highland Games in the grounds of Castle Leod, with a Clan MacKenzie march-past in the afternoon. This will be followed in the evening by the traditional formal dinner, or “Grand Clan Banquet”, in the marquee by the castle.



Cabarfeidh takes the salute at the Strathpeffer Highland Games marchpast.

Sunday, the last day of the gathering, will start with an ecumenical religious service and “Kirking of the Tartan” in the Strathpeffer Parish Church, after which the parishioners will host the clan for refreshments. That will be followed by the AGM of the Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland & the UK, and then a carvery lunch in The Pavilion. In the afternoon there will be tours of Castle Leod, afternoon tea, group photos in front of the castle (examples from the 2005 gathering are shown below), the planting of the Gathering Tree, and the “Farewell Supper” with entertainment in the marquee.



As darkness falls the band of the Queens Own Highlanders Association will “Beat the Retreat” on the castle lawn, the Gathering Flame will be quenched, the Lone Piper will play on the battlements, and what we hope will be a truly memorable gathering will close with the singing of “Auld Lang Syne”.



Programme queries to
graeme@highlandroots.org.
Tel: +44 (0)790-176-4329

Booking & payment queries to
treasurer@clanmackenziesociety.co.uk.
Tel: +44 (0)7914-588025.



Getting to the Gathering in Strathpeffer

The following airports served by international airlines have domestic flights to Inverness Airport (websites of the relevant domestic airlines are given in the brackets): **London Gatwick** (www.easyjet.com); **Manchester** (www.flybe.com); **Dublin** (www.flybe.com); **Amsterdam** (www.flybe.com).

Both Edinburgh and Glasgow airports are served by international flights, but there are no connecting flights to Inverness. Good shuttle buses connect Edinburgh and Glasgow airports with their bus stations from whence long distance buses run regularly to Inverness (www.citylink.co.uk).

The airport buses also stop outside the railway stations in Edinburgh and Glasgow from whence there are regular trains to Inverness (www.scotrail.co.uk). There is one train per day that runs from London Kings Cross station direct to Inverness (www.virgintrainseastcoast.com).

Frequent buses connect Inverness Airport and Inverness Bus Station (Stagecoach No. 11), from whence buses run regularly to Dingwall & Strathpeffer (Stagecoach No. 27: www.stagecoachbus.com).

Trains run from Inverness to Dingwall which is about 5 miles from Strathpeffer. Buses connect the two (see above) - and run on to Contin - and taxis are available in Dingwall (County Taxis 0800-0076450, and C&E Taxis 01349-862412).

Accommodation in the Strathpeffer area

This is just a list – no recommendations intended.

HOTELS

Highland Hotel, Strathpeffer: www.bayhotels.co.uk/our-hotels/bay-highland-hotel-strathpeffer.

Weekly package offered to those attending the Gathering – but believed to be fully booked up as of 1 March 2015

Ben Wyvis Hotel, Strathpeffer: www.crerarhotels.com/ben-wyvis-hotel. *Large hotel in centre of village.*

Strathpeffer Hotel, Strathpeffer: <http://strathpefferhotel.co.uk>. *In centre of village.*

Richmond Hotel, Strathpeffer: www.richmondhighlandhotel.co.uk. *In centre of village.*

Mackay's Hotel, Strathpeffer: www.mackaysstrathpeffer.com. *In centre of village.*

Tulloch Castle Hotel, Dingwall: www.bespokehotels.com/tullochcastlehotel. *Old seat of Davidson chiefs.*

National Hotel, Dingwall: www.nathotel.com. *In centre of Dingwall, about 5 miles from Strathpeffer.*

Coul House Hotel, Contin: www.coulhousehotel.com. *Old Mackenzie home about 3 miles away.*

Lovat Arms Hotel, Beauly: www.lovatarms.com. *About 10 miles from Strathpeffer in lovely little town.*

Priory Hotel, Beauly: www.priory-hotel.com. *By the priory in which a Mackenzie chief is buried.*

GUEST HOUSES AND B&Bs

Garden House Guest House, Strathpeffer: www.gardenhouseguesthouse.co.uk. *In centre of village.*

Linnmhor Guest House, Strathpeffer: www.linnmhor-house.co.uk. *In centre of village.*

Craigvar B&B, Strathpeffer: www.craigvar.com. *In centre of village.*

Birch Lodge B&B, Strathpeffer: www.birchlodge.co.uk.

Heatherlie B&B: www.heatherlie.co.uk.

Inver Lodge, Strathpeffer: No website, but email: derbyshire@inverlg.fsnet.co.uk. Phone: 01997-421392.

Wyvis View B&B, Ardival, Strathpeffer, IV14 9DJ. No website. Phone: 01997-421053.

An Darach B&B, Contin: www.continbedandbreakfast.com.

Achilty House B&B: www.achiltyhouse.co.uk. *About 7 miles from Strathpeffer – the other side of Contin.*

Fairburn Activity Centre B&B: www.fairburnactivitycentre.co.uk. *In the grounds of old Mackenzie home.*

B&Bs in Dingwall are not listed here but many may be found using one of these websites:

www.visitscotland.com/

www.welcometoscotland.com/

www.scotland-info.co.uk/

For general info about Strathpeffer see www.strathpeffer.org.

For the latest news about the Gathering please go to www.clanmackenziesociety.co.uk



Package Costs

Two options - either for the whole week (Mon 3 to Sun 9 Aug.) or just the weekend (Fri 7 - Sun 9 Aug.)

Option 1: Whole week package at £265 (children aged 10 or under, £200) includes the following, in addition to a contribution to the general costs of the gathering:

Mon. 3 Aug: Evening Entertainment in Strathpeffer Village Square.

Tue. 4 Aug: Ticket for entrance to Parliament at The Pavilion; lunch at The Pavilion; afternoon workshops & seminars in Community Centre; early evening buses to Inverness (and back later); entrance to Highland Archive & Registration Centre; ticket to the Civic Reception and Buffet Supper hosted at the Town House by the Provost of the City & Royal Burgh of Inverness .

Wed. 5 Aug: Buses for visits to Culloden Battlefield & Visitor Centre, and Fort George & The Highlanders' Museum (but not entrance to these attractions, which will be paid for on the day).

Thu. 6 Aug: Buses for trip to Isle of Skye and Kintail (but not entrance to Clan Donald Centre and Eilean Donan Castle, which will be paid for on the day).

Fri. 7 Aug: Morning shuttle bus to Kinellan for those unable to walk there; soup & sandwich lunch at the Community Centre; tickets for afternoon seminar; "The MacDonald Encounter" in Strathpeffer Village square; shuttle buses to and from "The Reconciliation Ceilidh" (for those that can't march to the castle); BBQ & buffet supper with entertainment in the marquee.

Sat. 8 Aug: Shuttle buses to and from castle for Highland Games (entrance to games to be paid on the day), and again in the evening for Grand Clan Banquet; ticket for dinner and entertainment.

Sun. 9 Aug: Lunch at The Pavilion; shuttle buses to and from castle for afternoon and evening events; ticket for Farewell Supper with entertainment, and Closing Ceremony.

Option 2: Weekend package at £225 (children 10 or under, £170) includes the following, in addition to a contribution to the general costs of the gathering:

Fri. 7 Aug: Morning shuttle bus to Kinellan for those unable to walk there; soup & sandwich lunch at the Community Centre; tickets for afternoon seminar; "The MacDonald Encounter" in Strathpeffer Village square; shuttle buses to and from "The Reconciliation Ceilidh" (for those that can't march to the castle); BBQ & buffet supper with entertainment in the marquee.

Sat. 8 Aug: Shuttle buses to and from castle for Highland Games (entrance to games to be paid on the day), and again in the evening for Grand Clan Banquet; ticket for dinner and entertainment.

Sun. 9 Aug: Lunch at The Pavilion; shuttle buses to and from castle for afternoon and evening events; ticket for Farewell Supper with entertainment, and Closing Ceremony.

Please note that the above packages do not include the cost of the Whisky Tasting evening (with supper) at Dalmore Distillery on Wednesday 5th August. Numbers for this event are strictly limited to the first 100 people to book it - at £25 (which includes a seat on the bus there and back) - nor do they include the possible fashion show on the evening of Thursday 6th August, which if it happens, will be a PAYG event in aid of charity.

Please make your bookings ASAP using the attached separate Booking and Payment Forms.

Booking Form - Side 2: Registration for Individual Events.

It should be possible to attend individual gathering events - subject to sufficient places being available - though most will need to be booked in advance. Allocation of places for individual events will only begin after the deadline for booking packages (30 April 2015), and where numbers are restricted places will then be allocated to the first who have registered on the Waiting Lists using the form below.

Even where there is no Waiting List (i.e. the event will be open to all who wish to attend) it would help enormously if you indicated your intention to attend, and the likely number in your party, by filling in the last column below - which must be done for all events for which it says YES there is a Waiting List.

An Admin Charge of £10 per day - levied for each day that you attend a payable individual event (apart from the banquet on Saturday) - will be added to the cost(s) of the individual events that you attend.

Don't forget to fill in your contact details overleaf so we can send you the booking and payment forms for individual events after the 30th April.

DAY & TIME	EVENT	COST PER PERSON	WAITING LIST	NUMBER TO REG.
Tue 4th - 10.00am	Parliament in The Pavilion (collection for coffee)	Free	NO	
Tue 4th - 12.30pm	Buffet Lunch in The Pavilion	£14.00	YES	
Tue 4th - 2.00pm	Workshops in the Community Centre - titles TBA	TBA	NO	
Tue 4th - 4.30pm	Bus to/from Inverness for evening activities	£5	YES	
Tue 4th - 5.30pm	Tour of Highland Archive Centre in Inverness	Free	NO	
Tue 4th - 7.00pm	Civic Reception at Inverness Town House	Free	YES	
Wed 5th - Daytime	Bus to Culloden and Fort George	£8	YES	
Wed 5th - 10.00am	Tour of Culloden Battlefield & Visitor Centre	£5 - PAYG	NO	
Wed 5th - 2.00pm	Tour of Fort George & Highlanders Museum	£10 - PAYG	NO	
Wed 5th - 7.00pm	Whisky Tasting & Supper at Dalmore - with bus	£25	YES	
Thu 6th - Daytime	Tour to Plockton, Clan Donald Centre, Eilean Donan (entrance to Clan Donald & Eilean Donan - PAYG)	£15 for Bus	YES	
Fri 7th - Daytime	Battle of Pairc walk, seminar, & MacDonald Encounter	Free	NO	
Fri 7th - 1.00pm	Soup & Sandwiches Lunch at Community Centre	£8	NO	
Fri 7th - 7.30pm	The Reconciliation BBQ & Ceilidh in the Marquee	£28	NO	
Sat 8th - 7.00pm	Grand Clan Banquet in the Marquee	£48	YES	
Sun 9th - 1.00pm	Lunch at The Pavilion (following AGM of CMSSUK)	£14	YES	
Sun 9th - 4.00pm	Afternoon Tea in the Marquee	£9	YES	
Sun 9th - 7.00pm	Farewell Supper and Entertainment in the Marquee	£28	YES	

N.B. Some of the above prices for individual events are subject to revision before 30 April. Final prices for all will be given on the individual event booking forms sent out after 30 April.

SPECIAL NEEDS AND DIETS: Please enter details of special needs or diets required for any members of your party here:



GATHERING NUMBER:
This box for Office Use Only

Payment Form

PLEASE COMPLETE USING CAPITAL LETTERS

Name of person booking & paying:.....

Postal Address:.....

Telephone number:.....

Email address:.....

Please complete the table below, leaving first column blank.

OFFICE USE ONLY	Name of each individual you have booked for and are paying for now (including yourself)	Amount in £ due for each individual

Total Amount in £ Sterling being paid for by the method indicated below:

Payment may be made by electronic transfer/wire direct to the CMS Gathering Account (see details below), by Credit/Debit Card, or by Cheque/Bank Draft in £ Sterling. Please tick box for your chosen method, and if using Credit/Debit Card by post, please complete the form below [*Required details].

DIRECT PAYMENT OR TRANSFER to Clan MacKenzie Society of Scotland & UK Gathering Account.
 Royal Bank of Scotland. Sort Code: 83-23-10. Account No: 10473252. *If paying by direct transfer, please inform Treasurer by email - as well as posting this form to her.*
 BIC Code: RBOS GB 2L. IBAN No: GB37 RBOS 8323 1010 4732 52.

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD: *Card Type:..... *Card No:.....

*Name of card holder as it appears on card and billing address.....

Issue No:..... Start Date: *Expiry Date:..... *Three digit security code:.....

Credit/Debit Card details to be provided by phone to the Treasurer on +44 (0)7914-588025.

CHEQUE / BANK DRAFT IN £ Sterling made out to Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland & the UK

Whichever way you pay, please send this **Payment Form** and your **Booking Form** to the Treasurer:
Jacqueline McKenzie, 12 Clarkson Court, Brierton Lane, Hartlepool, TS25 5HP, England.
 Email: treasurer@clanmackenziesociety.co.uk