

Acting Secretary's Report
Association of Highland Clans and Societies
AGM July 15th 2017

I am very sorry indeed that I am unable to be with you this evening, but hope that the weather has been kind and that you have had a good day. Clan Grant are not doing so well this year, as my colleague Olga Grant is having to have a knee operation, the Chief is busy and I managed to double book myself this year to try and be in two places at once – not clever!

Having rashly stepped into Anne's very capable shoes last July, I can only express my heartfelt gratitude at the wonderful job that I now know that she does. Anne left me a very clear outline of tasks to be done and she has been a never failing source of encouragement at the other end of the phone, although with the Maclean Gathering in the last few weeks, I have done my best not to pester her; Graeme and Rossie have also helped me with various queries and problems. I would also like to extend my thanks to Kim Todd, here in the office at Monymusk Estate, who has done a great job of emailing, setting up Excel lists and generally helping me to keep on the straight and narrow.

I hope those of you who went, enjoyed your visit to the Clan McPherson Museum; this is a place that I really want to visit myself sometime. My dear husband Archie stood in for me at the Culloden Memorial Event in April, as I was struck down with a vicious cold at the time and the very cold weather on the day would not have been a good idea. However, I gather it was a good occasion in spite of it all.

I don't have any other particular news apart from the fact that we did indeed manage to get the Clan Grant visitors website up and running (www.clangrantvisitors.org) and because we finally included a PayPal system in it, we have been getting more members from overseas, which is excellent. Graeme has told me that having a members' only section is also well worth it, so I will be looking into this too. The Clan Events Fund were pleased that we got it done and were most encouraging about the fact that it has enabled us to contemplate working on making the clan centre at Duthil a bit more accessible. What I am saying is that the Events Fund gave me some excellent training in thinking about moving things forward for the clan, so do have a go if it fits with what you are trying to do.

We have continued to build our links with Grantown Museum, who are providing a great source of backing to visiting clan members which is a real bonus. As a bit of a PR push may I suggest that you think of visiting the Richard Waitt Exhibition