



Reviresco
We will rise again

Contacts

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Society Officers

Non-Executive Chair: Sir John
McEwen

Chair: Sean McCuin

Vice Chair: Achim Fuchs

**Vice Chair/Communications/
Constitution:** Ross McEwen

Treasurer: Rachel McEwen

Secretary: Sandra McCuin

Membership Secretary: Carol
Owens

Country Convenors:

Australia: Chris and Marilee
McEwan

USA: Bob and Carol Owens

Canada: Maggie McEwan

Committee Members:

Duncan McEwan

Herma Goosens

Clan MacEwen Society Newsletter

Commander's Message



Greetings from
Berwickshire!
Thanks largely to
Sean and Sandra
our Clan is on the
move, on the up
and going places.

With such a dynamic Clan Society
Chair and such a brilliant Secretary
now domiciled in the very heart of
our ancient territory, we are blessed
indeed, efficient and reaching out to
Clansfolk everywhere. Please tell
all MacEwen relatives, affiliates
and sympathisers to get in touch,
join the society and become part of
an ever-growing and merry band at
the heart of our noble and ancient
Clan, "The Clan That Plants Trees".
REVIRESCO!

Chairman's Message



To all kinsmen and women, I would
like to thank you all for an extremely
prosperous year thus far. We have
been able to attend Highland Games
all over the world with outstanding
results and more on the way. Our
facebook membership is well over
400 with more being added every day. Every
member of the Clan is out there promoting our
cause with great effect. The Gathering held
earlier this year was a great success with kin-
ship and laughter all over Kilfinan Glen. Our
campaign to have a Chief of the Name is moving
at a grand pace and I feel we will reap the fruits
of our labour in due time. Again Thank you all
for all of your dedication and hard work, our
Clan will stand amongst the other Great Clans
as we once did. Reviresco!

New Name! New Warrant!

After the best attended Gathering in recorded history in June, it was decided to
change the name of the Society to the Clan MacEwen Society. This will also be in line
with the warrant from the Lord Lyon that we will be known as Clan MacEwen. Whilst
we still encompass all the variations of the name as before, we hope that this will help
to unify the Clan and help with our clear direction. We have also changed the website
name to www.clanmacewen.com to aid people searching for us for the first time. New
email contacts will be available soon. Thanks to everyone and your amazing support,
coupled with The Honourable Adam Bruce's presence at the Annual General Meeting
and Chiefship Ceremony being able to physically see the support, The Lord Lyon has
approved Sir John's Commandership for a further 5 years. We are now working on
getting undifferentiated Arms matriculated, then it is party time! Thank you all so very
much—you made this happen! A special thank you also to Duncan who took some
amazing photos for us all and the Spessart Highlanders Pipe Band who made the
weekend so special.



New Committee Members!

We are thrilled to be welcoming aboard some fantastically enthusiastic and creative people on to the committee:



Joining the Executive Committee and Clan Leadership is Ross Manson McEwen. Born and raised in Inverness, Capital of the Scottish Highlands, Ross has a profound interest in Scottish history, constitution and Clan culture and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. A graduate of Northumbria School of Law his work experience includes the UK House of Commons and HM Civil Service. Ross' role will include managing comms, advising on constitutional and governance matters as well as supporting Sir John and Sean on strategic and operational aspects of the Clan and Society. Ross' 18th and 19th century McEwen ancestors hailed from Balfron, less than an hour from the Clan's ancient ancestral homeland of Kilfinan. Ross has a wealth of experience, knowledge and endless enthusiasm and passion, Ross will be an amazing driving force for the Clan. (rossmm@mail.com)

Bob and Carol Owens from North Carolina, USA will be the Country Convenors for USA and Carol will be the Membership Secretary. Bob and Carol have been involved in promoting and looking after Clan MacEwen for many years with Bing Ewen, running Clan Ewen USA and have a stand at the Stone Mountain and Grandfather Mountain Games. We hope to work closely together to provide a unified and consistent message. We are thrilled that they are able to be an integral part of the executive committee. They will be taking care of all those in the USA who are and who want to convene at events, and will be the country point of contact for our USA members and those interested. Carol will be taking care of all membership matters. (owens@rebelscreek.com)



Chris and Marilee McEwen are the Australian Convenors and will be taking care of members in Australia whilst with the help of Greg and Jen, attending as many events as they can and helping others to become convenors. They have hit the road running since becoming members and they have an unbridled passion for the Clan that is infectious. We are so proud of all they have accomplished so far. Chris has also redesigned our colour logo for printing and media, thanks Chris. (chrismcewan91@gmail.com)

Maggie McEwen is the Canadian Convenor and has already hosted her first Clan Stand at the Fergus Highland Games. Maggie is past president of the Canadian Scottish Historical Society and has recently hosted Lord Lyon at one of her events. Maggie is committed to promoting the Clan in Canada and would love to hear from fellow Canadian MacEwens. Look out for her at Scottish Events. (magmacewan@gmail.com)



Falls of Clyde Update



The ship Falls of Clyde was 140 years old this past December, built in Port Glasgow, brought to Hawaii, saved in 1963, restored and used as a museum ship. It was closed and left in dry dock. It is the only remaining 4 masted iron hold sailing tanker in the world. The non-profit organisation bought and restored it as national and historic landmark and are trying to get it back to Glasgow. They are under a tight time deadline to remove it from the harbour and finding it difficult to get a company to remove it within the timeframe. The idea is to change the use to a training ship or tourist attraction with an eco-friendly non carbon footprint. All donations needed to make this happen, find out more at www.friendsoffallsofcl Clyde.org. The Falls of Clyde is linked to the MacEwen name as Bruce (a long time member of the MacEwen Society) has been involved with the project as the chairman of the friends of the Falls of Clyde, and is also president of the Caledonia Society so his name is linked to many things Scottish in Hawaii.

New Life!

Welcome to our new MacEwens, Torin is Chris and Marilee's son who was a huge hit at the Gathering this year and Charlie is Chris and Shona Ewen's wee'un and baby Finn Ryder is the latest MacEwan Barnard Bairn. We are so excited at how we are growing and we sure have had a massive growth this last year. We are meeting new MacEwens each time we attend an Event and fostering relations with other Clans. We are also involved in organising an Ancient Cowal Clans Gathering which we hope will be a regular event. Well done all! We Will Rise Again!

Property For Sale

If anyone has wanted to own a bit of property in the ancestral homeland, there are a few opportunities available:

Kilfinan Hotel is for sale. We as a Clan would like to purchase it for a heritage centre and hotel. We are applying for grants but this may take some time. If anyone is interested in a crowdfunding opportunity, or indeed would like to purchase it outright, please get in contact. The purchase price is £535,000.

Newlands is a 4 bedroom home overlooking Loch Fyne, also great for a holiday home or holiday rental, £250,000

The Oystercatcher restaurant and bar business is for sale in Otter Ferry £75,000

USA

Greetings from Clan MacEwen Society's U.S. Region! Since our AGM in June, it's been exciting to watch membership continue to grow and to see and participate in the excitement of "meeting" these folks on our Society Facebook page...welcome all!

July saw Clan MacEwen represented at the 64th annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games on Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina. The great-looking Clan tent was convened by Bing Ewen, who along with his late father and brother, made their first appearance at these Games in the 1980's ensuring an ongoing MacEwen presence on the mountain for nearly 40 years. Well represented by Clan members and friends ranging in age from 5 years old to 80 years young, it was a grand opportunity to share our heritage and rekindle our bonds of family.



In **August** our illustrious Chairman, Sean McCuin, traveled to the Carolinas and had a chance to visit at length with Susan and Justin MacEwen and Bob and Carol Owens. Much of the conversation revolved around expanding our MacEwen presence at Games in the Southeastern United States, including the Loch Norman Games outside Charlotte, North Carolina, Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia.

September finds Barbara and John McCuan convening a terrific Clan MacEwen tent at the 40th annual Scotfest, Oklahoma's Celtic Music Festival and Highland Games in Broken Arrow, OK. Despite the heat, they wore the tartan proudly and represented the Clan in high style. Check out the awesome pictures on Clan MacEwen Society's Facebook page!



On **October** 18-20th Bing Ewen celebrates his "umpteenth" year again convening a Clan tent on the meadows of Stone Mountain Park at the 47th annual Stone Mountain Highland Games in Stone Mountain, Georgia. One of the Southeast's premier Highland Games, the presence of the Clans, skirling of the pipes, beat of the drums, and unique setting for this event encourage all in attendance to be Scottish during this special weekend.

It's really rewarding to see the excitement, fun and fellowship as our members represent Clan MacEwen across the U.S. In addition to the Games mentioned above, advance planning for 2020 includes the possibility of expanded Clan MacEwen representation at Games and/or Festivals in Georgia, Florida, Maine and Missouri. If you are interested in becoming an IGC (Individual Games Convener) or assisting a Clan MacEwen IGC at a particular Games or festival, please contact Bob Owens, Clan MacEwen Society U.S. Convener, at owens@rebelscreek.com for more information and materials to help you get started. Reviresco!

Canada



The Clan MacEwen Society branch in Canada had a tent at Fergus Highland Games in August joining 50 other clans on Clan Alley. The first time the Canadian Branch of our Clan attended any Highland Games and it was organized very quickly. Dina-Lee Ford and Steve drove up from Maine and Sean



McCuin flew in for 2 days to help four locals. The weather was perfect and the MacEwen tent received much attention, including that of The Lord Lyon who was the Honoured Chief this year.

The Highland Games season is over in Canada for this year so life has returned to normal after the excitement of Fergus Games. We anticipate attending several smaller Games as well as Fergus next year. The main activity until then is publicizing that Clan MacEwen has a presence in Canada. We joined The Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC) and I am scheduled to give two informal talks, one to my local Burns Club and to Oor Club – a monthly lunch time meeting of Scots and wannabe Scots in support of the Scottish Studies Foundation. Maggie McEwan

Australia



Since the Derbhfine at the start of June we have been in a

slightly quieter period for the Society in Australia. It has been our Winter and so the number of festivals have dropped dramatically (not that most of you would consider it particularly wintery with our days still reaching around 20C if not higher). Up in Townsville (Queensland) we celebrated Tartan Day by attending the Scottish community Ceilidh as well as marching in the Tartan Day Parade. In Melbourne (Victoria) we attended the Melbourne Tartan Festival Gala Ball as well as participating in the march through the city. With the coming of Spring the festival circuit has started to pick up momentum again and we attended the Clans on the Coast Festival in Port Stephens (New South Wales) at the end of September. Next weekend (12/10/19) we have the Canberra Burns Club Highland Gathering (Australian Capital Territory) which will be a great event as all of us who were at the Derbhfine will once again be together. We are also very much looking forward to the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo when it arrives in Sydney later this month and we are excited to have the chance to march as part of the opening of the concert on the Saturday night. It truly does feel that we are living up to our Commander's motto as we grow stronger again! If you are in Australia, or New Zealand, and would like to get involved please get in contact with us as we would love to have a larger Clan presence at games and events in the states mentioned above but also in the other States and Territories and even across the ditch! Regards, Chris McEwan

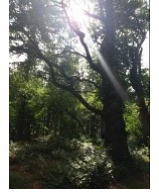


Netherlands

I want to share an important story about **75 years of freedom** and the price which was paid for it!



The **Battle of Arnhem (A bridge too far)** the biggest airborne landing operation of the Second World War, took place in and around Arnhem in September 1944. It formed part of **Operation Market Garden**.



The goal of the Operation was for Polish, British and American airborne forces to capture the important bridges across the Dutch rivers so that ground troops could advance via these bridges. All the inhabitants of Arnhem and the surrounding areas were forced to leave their homes because of the heavy combat around Arnhem. The failure of the Battle of Arnhem caused the Dutch area above the Rhine (West- and North-Holland) to remain occupied until



after the winter of 1944. 20.000 Dutch citizens died that winter because of the shortages. This period is referred to as 'The Dutch famine'. The allied forces were not able to beat the Germans until May 1945, when the Germans in the Netherlands also surrendered. Peace negotiations took place in hotel 'De Wereld' at Wageningen on the 5th of May. War is a painful process on both



sides. There are no winners, it involves a lot of loss and trauma. (www.airbornemuseum.nl/battle-of-arnhem)



The Airborne Walk (www.airbornewandeltocht.nl)

The Police Sports Association Renkum organized in 1947 for the first time the "Airborne walk" to honour those who fought for the freedom of our country during the September days in 1944, in and around Oosterbeek. The net revenues of the Airborne March are used to enable veterans, who became disabled due to acts of war during the Battle of Arnhem and next of kin with poor means, to come over to The Netherlands and attend in September the annual Airborne-commemorations in and around Arnhem.

On the 7th September, approximately 30.000 walkers national and international, participated in the world's largest one-day commemorative march and I was one of them. We honour the visiting veterans in front of Museum Hartenstein, former British army's headquarters. Four routes leading you to prominent places and one of them is the Airborne Cemetery in Oosterbeek, where over 1,700 British and Polish soldiers were given their final resting place. The participants stop at the cemetery to pay respect to all those who fought for our freedom. This cemetery is also the last resting place of **Norman Sutherland McEwen**, Flying Officer (Air bomber), Age 37 and **James Lamond**, Private, Age 32.



By Herma Goosens

Netherlands

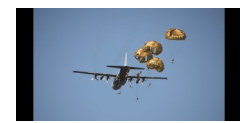
Part II

The battle of Arnhem a bridge to the future

The commemorations have come to an end and it has been an amazing experience. Even today we are very grateful they came and tried to liberate us. It's time to forgive but not to forget because freedom is a very precious thing and you cannot take it for granted. (www.airborne-herdenkingen.nl/en/). The Dutch had their official



75 years commemoration Operation Market Garden weekend at Arnhem and surroundings. A small impression of this special program. Friday 20th September 2019 Commemoration at Airborneplein at Arnhem, followed by the Bridge of liberation Experience. This year's theme: Many faces. Dance, music, special effects and personal stories on a big movie screen.



Saturday 21st of September 2019

Air landings and commemoration at Ginkel Heath and Driel.

Over 1,500 parachutists from eight nations, including serving paratroopers from Britain's 16 Air Assault Brigade attended by Prince Charles and Princess Beatrix.



Sunday 22nd of September 2019

Official memorial service and wreath laying ceremony at the Airborne War Cemetery Oosterbeek. Flowers in front of every grave were placed during the ceremony "*laying the flowers*" by the flower children. Local children started to do this for the first time in 1945, it became a tradition. The names on the graves are whispered by the children, just before laying the flowers.



The day after the full weekend of commemoration activities I had the privilege to shake hands with former paratrooper Sandy Cortmann, age 97, from Aberdeen at the War Cemetery at Oosterbeek.

Mr. Cortmann made an emotional return to Arnhem in the Netherlands to take part in the 75th commemoration of Operation Market Garden. He even joined a mass parachute jump over Arnhem, recreating the scene of 75 years ago. He was in very good spirits and enjoyed it all very much.



***Freedom isn't free it has been paid for!
Lest we forget!***

By Herma Goosens



Germany



The Spessart Highlanders have been very busy promoting Scottish culture and Piping in Aschaffenburg and their local area. They have also exchanged gifts with their twin town of Perth, Scotland where they visit each year to attend the Piping Celebrations. This year they were at Pitlochry for their 50th anniversary. The Spessarts are

quite well known in Germany as one of the few German Pipe Bands and have made the newspapers numerous times. As the piping community in Scotland is small, we were surprised to meet Germans at the Highland Games in Scotland who saw a picture of Achim and the band and said "I know him!", it turned out they were fellow German pipers!

It was so lovely to meet 16 members of the band who were able to make the journey to the Gathering this year. As you can imagine, making the trip and the cost involved in being in a pipe band is huge, we were truly honoured that so many could join us to make the Gathering so special. They provided some great piping workshops, their music was the soundtrack for the weekend and one of the most memorable moments for many, being piped along the walk to the Cairn, just magical. Peter, a band member also hand knits all the amazing traditional bonnets for the band which are also available for sale at the Clan store online and all proceeds go back to the band to help with some of their costs. They even adopted a local young piper for the weekend!



Scotland



We have had a stand at the Luss, Balloch, Oban, and Cowal Games this year. It has wonderful meeting new MacEwens like Iain, a runner who has been racking up first place wins in Highland Games all season! A special thank you to Ewan and Pauline Rowland who came to help out at the Luss Games and to Dina Lee and Steve who came from the USA to help us with the Oban and Cowal Games—you guys are amazing! We even found a MacEwen shield for Dancing dating back to the 1920's at the Cowal Games, the shield has been withdrawn now but wouldn't it be nice to start sponsoring an event again, and having a MacEwen shield again!

Sean has been out and about on his travels, trying to coincide work with meeting as many MacEwens as possible! So far this year he has had a fantastic time with the Australian Pipe Band (who are absolutely amazing!), the Spessart Highland Pipe Band in Germany (who are getting quite well known here too—people at the Games have been telling us that they know who they are!), Bob and Carol Owens in North Carolina (catching the Stone Mountain Games too!), Susan and Justin in Atlanta GA, Maggie McEwen in Canada (and attending the Fergus Highland Games and hanging out with Lord Lyon!), Herma Goosens in the Netherlands, Ross McEwen in London, Chris and Shona meeting in Inverness, delivering shop orders to Clitheroe, to name just a few! Watch out—he may just stop by your house as he is passing!!



Sean and Sandra have had the pleasure to meet so many passing MacEwens in Kilfinan, some lost and looking for the Cairn, some just stopped into the hotel or met us whilst walking the dogs, and others who spent a few days or weeks with us. If you are ever passing through, you are always welcome at Jocks Lodge, the MacEwens roast is always on hand, we would love to meet you and Sean loves being your guide out to the Cairn—he knows all the boggy spots! The Heritage Centre at Jocks Lodge is now scheduled to get started this winter, we will let you know when it is open. Sir John and Rachel have their holiday cottage complete and ready for your holiday. They have done a beautiful job. You could get lost for days in their MacEwen library! Check out The Cottage, Polwarth Crofts in Duns, Scottish Borders at www.sykescottages.co.uk We are working with the University of Glasgow on research and help with filling in the gaps in our history, and also getting access to the archaeological dig finds from the MacEwen Castle. We hope to be able to collaborate and even have a special trip or workshop during the Gathering next year.



Clan Store

We thank all of you who have supported the Society by purchasing items through the clan store online or in person at Jocks Lodge or at the Gathering or Games. Your purchases help fund the costs involved in running the society. If there is anything MacEwen related you would like to see in the store, please let us know as we will



make every effort to get it. Our new items include our clan crest embroidered polo

shirts, hoodies, fleeces and caps. As always, we try to support local small businesses wherever possible and these items come from a wonderful chap in Dunoon who has not only done us proud with the quality of products and embroidery, but even hand delivered our first order on a dreich night as they say in these parts.

If anyone would like any of the MacEwens roast coffee that we were serving at the gathering, we can ship this as a special order item, please contact us for a quote for shipping, 250g bags £6.50, 1kg bags £24 for whole bean coffee. This coffee is locally roasted by Eve at Argyll Coffee Roasters in Tighnabruach. Eve has a passion for coffee and sources ethically grown coffee, with some great single origins with a strong focus on provenance. Eve loves to share her passion at special cupping sessions and would be happy to explain her special blends including ours, a bit nutty, a bit fruity and a bit sweet—just like us!

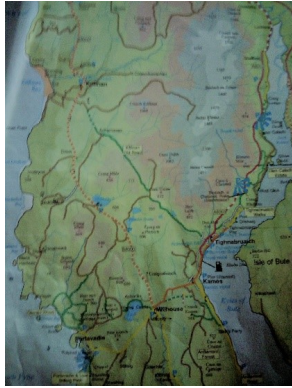


Please use your membership password to receive 10% off at the checkout.

Walking the Old Road

Old Kilfinan road walk

A tribute to our MacEwen ancestors, by Herma Goosens



On the third of July 2019, after the weekend of the big gathering, Sean and I went for a special walk in the hills. And what a walk it was....

I learned about the Old Kilfinan road in 2018. When I stayed at the Kilfinan hotel that year, I asked Madelon, my local Dutch friend at Kilfinan Hotel, if she knew more about it. And as always, she did! She handed me a map and told me she tried to walk the walk once, but had to stop because it was hardly accessible, due to fallen and cut down trees. It seemed Mother Nature had her way with the first part of this old road. Back in the Netherlands, I did some research and learned this road used to be a drove road and was also used in medieval times by our ancestors to go from Kilfinan to Tighnabruaich and vice versa. Until the 19th century this route was still in use and for years maintained by the Scottish forestry. Nowadays only the part near Tighnabruaich is maintained by the Kilfinan Community Forest. The part near Kilfinan has become more or less impassable. Not deterred by that message, I planned to ask my good friend

and our chairman, Sean McCuin to accompany me. He, as a former Marine, would be able to get us safely through the rough woodland. On the third of June, I went to pick up Sean. He was suffering a severe cold, but he was still willing to come along. After a nice strong, MacEwen roast, cup of coffee with a marvellous view on loch Fyne, we headed off to walk the walk. We did not know how long the walk would take, but we would go with the flow. We started at the height of Otter House, a bit more northerly because of the impassable old road. Passing the fence the world changed immediately. A nice path was in front of us which we could easily follow, enjoying the marvellous scenery. At one point we took a turn to the right and followed the direction towards Acharossan, the direction that would lead us to Tighnabruaich. I knew we had to follow the old stone wall on the left side with the lovely Acharossan estate in the middle, but the remains of an old house on top of a hill on the right took our attention. A beautiful slope came in view. Covered with trees, a little cave and some big moss-covered rocks in front of it and on top the remains of a little house. Wondering who once lived there, in this beautiful environment.



Behind the next hill was Loch Fyne, we decided to make a loop and walk the hill, direction Drum to see the loch in its full glory. The soil was one big bog, with little streams. But when the loch came into view, it was again a spectacular view!



Glad we made the detour and headed for the old wall on the left again. Walking on moorland took a lot of concentration. Up- and Downhill again, Sean took the lead by following a wired fence to get us more easily in the right direction. At one point the fence stopped and we had to do some hilarious crawling over and through bushes. Even crossing a little brook to get on track again.

Sean made the remark, I was not a real light footed hill walker. He was right! A few years ago during a skiing trip, I had been able to study a ravine, involuntarily up close. I injured my legs at the time and as a result long and too steep walks are a bit of a tricky thing to do for me, but it does not put me off in any way to do some walking. He would notice that day, that there was nothing wrong with my so called trademark, *endurance and stubbornness*. That day I seemed to live by the Dutch expression "*De dood of de Gladiolen!*" (To death before dishonour!)

Followed by two butterflies we approached the old stone wall. I love these walls, breathing the past. Sean's coughing was warning the wild life, we were entering their space and for real! Wow, what a beauty! The weather was nice, not too welcoming us as well. We followed the stone wall and could see the Acharossan house in its full glory. I still wonder about the fact, that in Scotland you are allowed to trespass on private property. Following the old wall, we noticed a beautiful gorge with a big tree and a stream. A real hidden gem! To get into the gorge we had to move down on a very steep and narrow slope. A very big old tree was standing proudly next to the waterline, one of the branches was dressed with a tire swing. A place still breathing the past and a wonderful place where children could roam free. A bit further on, the stream became wider and water by stepping on big slip-selves steady. Rescuing me from falling into the fast moving water, Sean got wet feet. He waved my apologies away and continued to get us out of this gorge again. A steep climb uphill and we entered a flat piece of land with a shed in front of us. We took a little break and discussed which way to go next. We could see the road in the distance on top of a steep hill. We decided we would go around the shed to continue our walk. I can tell you, before we could put our feet on that road, we had to conquer a real battlefield! We turned the corner and saw one big battlefield



of wooden debris and tree trunks in front of us. We voiced our thoughts almost at the same time and came to the same conclusion, it looked like the MacEwen coat of arms but then multiplied. This was once a place where our ancestors fought real battles to protect our lands. You still could feel the sadness in the air. By climbing this hill, we would in some way, honour the warriors of bygone times.

Walking the Old Road (cont.)

Climbing this steep hill became a hazardous thing to do. You could not walk in a straight line but had to watch every step you take. We came across deep ditches, trenches, rocks, big logs, trunks and even little springs. Backtracking and trying to move on again became a routine. We were pawns in a chess game of nature, trying to get to the safety of the road. I was glad Sean was there to get us out. At one point we sat down on a big tree trunk to overlook our situation and have a little rest. We noticed nature always finds her way to revive. Little pine trees were growing between the off cuts of the woods. This big tree cemetery was growing strong again. At one moment a beautiful deer calf came from behind the only flourishing tree on the hill, like a statement to keep going on. I think we were on that battlefield for at least 3 hours. When we finally made it to the road, I was so glad I could walk on a flat surface again, I could kiss the ground. But I did not.

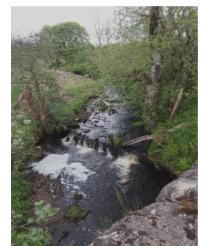
We continued to follow the road and saw a tramp living in his caravan next to the road. He had created a little sanctuary, with little flowerbeds around his caravan. At the next crossroad we saw the sign for Tighnabruaich. Yes, our destination ahead! I run out of water in the meantime, but Sean showed me how to look for it. A little survival lesson for a habitually urban dweller. Telling him with a laugh, when the water should poison me and I should die, he would pay for my grand funeral! He shook his head and laughed at me. We turned another corner and saw the loch again between the trees. I was in awe by the sight of it. We followed the road and then we were stopped by a big sign **Road to Tighnabruaich closed/Loggers at work**. I felt very disappointed because I had been looking forward to walk this walk all the way to Tighnabruaich. But if you cannot change a fact, you have to adjust the plan.



Log trucks started to pass at full speed. You almost preferred the battlefield we just conquered, above the passing of the *madman* trucks. We decided to walk to the first small reservoir and then make a turn to walk back to Kilfinan again. It was a nice path and the reservoir was a marvellous place indeed. Sean kept walking instead of turning, he had the plan to walk to the next reservoir and then walk to the main road and take the turn for Kilfinan. We had walked already for almost 6 hours on an end and I was getting

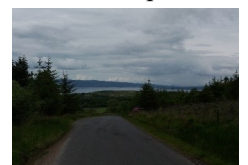
tired by now. I could feel my knees and ankles starting to protest. Sean kept going as well, but you could tell, his flu got worse. Sweating, coughing and snotting his way down to Kilfinan. Two people walking in second gear up- and downhill. Distracting our minds by learning each other to count in the different languages we knew. Then Loch Melldalloch came in view. I was in awe again by the beauty of it all. Normally I pass this place by car and cannot really take it all in. At this point still at least one hour to go. Cars came whizzing by and I wondered if somebody would stop for two creatures, one very ill and the second one starting to walk like an old lady in the meantime. Sean suggested to call his wife Sandra, to pick us up. But my stubborn streak got the better of me, I wanted to try to walk to the finish, The Kilfinan Hotel. I thought we still could do it! He gave in and there we went again...

Some friends came by in their car and waved at us. They looked back and asked themselves if we were okay. We looked a bit drained to them, we learned afterwards. We followed the road and crossed a little bridge with a little waterfall on the right. We stopped because I had to check my ankles and adjust my shoes. My biggest fear became reality, my ankles suffered of severe hematoma... Not a good sign at all! It seemed I paid the price. We had 1,6 miles left to go, about half an hour of walking. The question was, was it wise to continue?

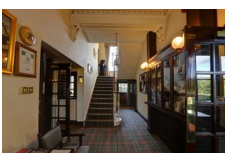


And then out of nowhere sounded the voice of our saving grace. "Are you two okay?" Geraldine McCormack calling out to us from her beautiful house at the loch. "No!" I yelled on the top of my lungs. I needed to use the bathroom a.s.a.p., I was in need of some real cold tap water and my body wanted to rest. In that order please.

She called us in and took really good care of us. She put the kettle on for a real nice mug of coffee and in the meantime I used the bathroom and drank a lot of cold water before I went to the Livingroom where a big couch was waiting for me. Sean was slumped on one couch looking very ill. I sprawled on the other couch and sipped my coffee. My feet were killing me, my body enjoyed the rest on the comfy couch and my brain was warning me, I had to get up again.... I was almost dead to the world, almost!



Then our saving grace announced, she would bring us home. She was heaven send, I thought! So glad with that offer, I took off my shoes immediately. My feet and ankles loved the fact they were free again! After finishing the big mug of coffee, we were ready to go. Sean and Geraldine were already buckled up in the car, patiently waiting for me, when I stumbled of the stairs on to the car on my socks! No way, I would put my hiking boots on again today! I saw Sean and Geraldine laughing about my hilarious walk to the car. I laughed about my own sorry condition as well. After a seven hours walk, my body wanted to rest, but I knew I had to do one more climb. I had to climb the stairs to my room, were I would indulge myself in a bath time bliss! The car stopped in front of the hotel and I said my thank yous and goodbyes and got myself ready for my last climb of this day. The climb of the *Mount Everest* on socks...



N.B.: A special thank you for Sean McCuin, my dear friend, who took really good care of me, on it seemed a rather treacherous walk. Saving grace, Geraldine McCormack for her hospitality, help and kindness! XXX

The Clan That Plants Trees



We would like to emphasise our identity as “The Clan That Plants Trees”, so we are launching a campaign to plant 500 trees worldwide. We have been without a Chief for over 500 years, so what better way to celebrate our journey to a new Chief, to show our connection with trees, and solidify our desire to unify our clan and provide a lasting legacy for future generations. We may be living in every area of the world, but we can all connect and do something amazing together as a clan, if each one of us planted one tree, what a difference that can make! Who knows, maybe we can even plant more than 500 trees! This picture shows our Commander with his two sons with an oak tree he planted to commemorate the birth of his daughter.

So here’s the challenge: Plant a tree, take a picture of you and your tree, send it to us with your name and location and we will put it in a digital and physical album for all to share. How amazing will it be to see how many trees we can plant, and where we all are throughout the world. You may have already planted a tree, or have a favourite tree that means a lot to you, send those pictures and stories too.

To help us with this challenge, we have partnered with the Woodland Trust who can help advise us on planting trees, even provide us with trees, and help take care of our living heritage. You can check out their website at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. If anyone would like to support the woodland trust by becoming a member, please contact Laura Dunn, membership development officer, lauradunn@woodlandtrust.org.uk. By contacting Laura directly, more of the membership dues go straight to the charity.

Gathering and AGM 2020

Date: June 3rd-7th 2020 **Where:** Kilfinan Hotel, Argyll and Bute

Get your family trees ready! We will be having workshops comparing family trees, cooking traditional Scottish food, writing, music, history, trees, genealogy to name a few. We will be having trips to view ancient documents at Inverary, foodie tour including our local coffee roastery, boat trip to Glen Caladh and the burnt islands (weather permitting), Ballimore and the MacEwen motte. There will be a formal dinner and ceilidh (45 tickets available for dinner and ceilidh, available on website). Annual General Meeting on Saturday 6th June. The detailed itinerary will be in the next newsletter.

Plant Badge

It was discussed at the AGM about adopting a plant badge for the Clan. A plant badge was used after tartan was banned in order for Clans to identify each other, friends or foe on the battlefield. As we were not an organized Clan with a Chief at this time, we did not adopt one. Not all Clans have a plant badge, but many do. It was discussed that many MacEwens would like to have a plant badge, a sprig that is worn at the side of a bonnet or hat. The obvious choices were Oak and Irish Yew, Oak as it is in our seal, and symbolizes strength and longevity and is found at the Castle ruins site, and Irish Yew as we descended from the sons of the Irish King, it symbolizes the ancestors, is evergreen and found in our ancestral homeland. As many other Clans use the Oak as their plant badge, and only a few use yew (those who do are our friends), we voted to use Irish Yew. There has been much discussion about this on the facebook groups in particular since. We will discuss the topic further at the next AGM. There is more information about the plant badge on our website www.clanmacewen.com

Cullen Skink

By popular demand, Margaret Sutherland has shared the recipe for her beautiful smoked haddock chowder (from Scottish Dishes book) known in these parts as Cullen Skink. For those fortunate enough to get a taste at the Gathering this year can attest, there is nothing better on a dreich day than a big bowl of Margaret's soup. Margaret is the wonderful lady who gave the history talk about Kilfinan and the church. Margaret and her husband run the Friends of Kilfinan Parish Church and have created the history rooms at the church and the Lamont Vaults to view the ancient stones and provide history boards about the area and the clans. We all enjoyed some wonderful Scottish home cooking as she and some of the local ladies looked after our clan by bringing us some traditional fare at the community hall. As with all good things, simplicity and good quality ingredients are key here, along with a lot of love. We certainly appreciated the love given to us during the weekend from the Kilfinan Community as they embraced us and welcomed us home for the weekend.



INGREDIENTS:

900g/2lb smoked haddock

1 medium onion finely chopped

1 bay leaf

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

900 ml/1 1/2 pints whole milk

225g/8oz mashed potato

2 tbsp butter

To serve: chopped parsley and triangles of toast

METHOD:

1. Cover smoked haddock with water in shallow pan skin side down, bring to boil and simmer for 4-5 minutes turning once
2. Take haddock from pan and remove skin and bones
3. Break up fish into flakes, return to stock and add chopped onion, bay leaf, salt and pepper, simmer for 15 minutes
4. Strain the mixture, removing the bay leaf but retaining the stock and the fish. Add the milk to the fish stock and bring back to boil
5. Add enough mashed potato to create the consistency you prefer: don't be afraid to make it rich and thick
6. Add the fish, reheat and check for seasoning
7. Just before serving, add the butter in small pieces so that it runs through the soup. Serve with chopped parsley on top accompanied by triangles of toast.

I find this is great the next day as well as the flavours intensify and it thickens up beautifully—of course I put loads more mash in too!!

Clan Cookbook

Calling all Cooks: we would like to produce a Clan MacEwen cookbook with chapters from around the world. Please share your favourite family recipes, either passed down from generations or your own creation, traditional Scottish or the one your family loves eating. If you can provide a little information about why the recipe is dear to you or where it came from, along with your location, if you have pictures, please send them too. Lets see what we as MacEwens are cooking up all over the world. Let's celebrate our culinary heritage.



Clan Song

Calling all musicians: we would like to celebrate our clan with a Clan Song. Is there a song been passed down in your family, or one you have been moved to write after your muddy, treacherous walk to the cairn? We want to hear from you. We are already planning some amazing things for the Chiefship celebrations where we would like to celebrate with our clan song that can be passed down for generations to come. We are a clan full of amazing artists, writers, and musicians, let's celebrate our musical prowess.



Calendar of Events