



*Reviresco*  
*We will rise again*

### Contacts

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## Society Officers

**Non-Executive Chair:** Sir John McEwen

**Honorary President:** Eleanor Williamson

**Chair:** Sean McCuin

**Vice Chair:** Achim Fuchs

**Treasurer:** Rachel McEwen

**Secretary:** Sandra McCuin

**Committee Members:** Duncan McEwan, Herma Goosens

## Vacancies

Committee members always needed and very welcome. Please contact us at the above email or address for more info, or come along to one of our Annual General Meetings the first Saturday in June.

# Clan Ewen Society Newsletter



## Autumn is Here!



Happy Autumn! The time for Samhain, Harvest festivals, trick or treaters, darker nights, slow cooked comfort food, brisk morning walks amongst the changing coloured leaves, apple and blackberry picking and baking. We take a moment to be thankful and remember our loved ones who have passed including noted MacEwens from history, like Elspeth, and those who fought for our freedom in World War 1. Enjoy this bounteous season, take time to enjoy family, friends past and present, the simple pleasures in life like a warm fire, an apple straight from the tree, a beautiful sunset. Be thankful for we are truly blessed.

## A Poem for Elspeth

By Cubbox, close by River Ken  
Stood Bogra years ago,  
And there within a witches den  
Lived harmless Elspeth, old and slow

She was suspected of witchcraft,  
The poor old bag of rattling bones,  
The devil-fearing locals laughed,  
Then armed themselves with sticks and stones.

The case against her was most tragic,  
She had a 'witching' tool no less,  
And with this tool she mustered magic;  
Folks hounded her: Confess! Confess!

Poor old Elspeth, wicked witch  
Stopped Cubbox hens from laying,  
Folks saw her squatting in a ditch  
Unto Satan praying.

She stole the milk from Cubbox cows  
With her nine inch dowl;  
No-one asked the why's and how's  
Of why she dug with rusty trowel.

Beadle M'Lambroch, pious fool  
Set forth to do God's will,  
Arrested Elspeth, Satan's tool,  
And sent her up the hill.

The half-starved nag that carried her  
To stand before the Session  
Sweated blood and lost its hair  
Which added to the tension.

So it's up the Bloody Brae we go  
From Bogra, past Knocklae  
To stand condemned in biting snow,  
'Dear Brothers, let us pray!'

The witches hovel had to go,  
Bogra's walls were rotten,  
They roasted Elspeth, hot and slow  
But she is not forgotten

(Poem courtesy of Peter Jeevar)

## Chairman's Message

A warm greeting to you all from the UK. Firstly I would like to thank you all for your continued support to the Society and the Clan. We have been able to get out and meet many of you during our events at the various Highland Games this year and I am personally looking forward to the scheduled games we are attending next year. I want to also take a moment to welcome all of our newest members to the society. Our family keeps growing and growing. The Derbhfine next year is going to be a grand event, with members from across the world. I look forward to greeting each and everyone of you. Concerning the Chiefship, I have placed some information on the website, which explains the Lord Lyons position and the required steps we as a clan must take to have Sir John recognized as Chief of the Name. We will rise again!

The Society is always looking for additional talent, so if you have some extra time and would like to get involved at a higher level, please contact us.

Yours in  
Service  
Reviresco!



## From the Archives

As we take time to look back and remember, let's look back at the first bulletin from the society, and give thanks to the founders of the society for all their hard work over the years and their foresight which has gotten us where we are today. We are very fortunate to have a few of those founding members still active with the society including Duncan McEwan and Eleanor Williamson. Here's an excerpt talking about the inaugural meeting of the society 7th May 1977:

"At one o'clock, the party, led by the treasurer, set out for Ballimore House where permission had been obtained for us to leave our cars in front of the mansion. We are grateful to Mr. Alan Hood of Largiemore for granting us this facility. A short walk took the party to Dun Mhic Eoghan, the ancient burial place of the chiefs of the Clan. The Dun is more overgrown and difficult of access except to the young and active. A number of our members scrambled to the top of the Dun, where outside the walled enclosures where the Campbells are interred, two of our young pipers gave a fine rendering of the lament "Sunset". The party returned to the Ferry where picnic lunches were eaten. The rain had eased a little by now and the cars set out for Kilfinan to visit the Parish Kirk, Kirkyard and the Lamont Vault. The Rev. Ellis O. Shaw, of Kilfinan and Tighnabruach, received our party. Many of our company, while disappointed with the weather conditions expressed the hope that another Gathering be held next year when it is hoped conditions would be suitable for a visit to the remains of the old Castle on Kilfinan Bay. This year it was a case of dodging the rain and hoping for a break in the clouds."

Also a summary of the history of the clan: "That Clan or MacEwen was originally a western Clan descended from Siol Gillivray, one of the Celtic tribes of the Dalriada Scots. The Celtic race were Christian when they first settled in Scotland, had a literary language and a written literature in their own tongue. Higher stage civilisation than the Picts, Britons and the Saxons, Their religion was under the sway of Iona. They were successful—they came, they saw, they conquered. The MacEwans and the Lamonts seem to be pretty close together with the MacLauchlans, MacNeils (?) and kindred tribes. In the 12th century of the greater part of Cowal, Toward Point to Strachur; the Lamonts separated from the MacEwans by the river Kilfinnan, the MacEwans by a stream dividing the parishes of Kilfinnan and Strathlachlan from the MacLauchlans."

## Commemorative Book



We would like if possible to create a commemorative book to have available at the Derbhfine. We would like family stories, histories and pictures from all of you around the world to celebrate our wonderful clan. Let us know where you are from, what you have been up to, even just a postcard to say hi from your town, or a photo of you and your family. It would be great for other MacEwens to see where we all now live and what we are doing, maybe even find a few more family ties along the way, or get answers to missing parts of our family tree. We would like to make this book available for everyone even if you cannot attend the derbhfine. Please email [ClanEwenUK@live.co.uk](mailto:ClanEwenUK@live.co.uk), or post to 34 Croft Ave, Burscough, Lancashire, L40 5TB, UK. We would love to hear from you.

## Derbhfine

Thank you so much to all those who have RSVP'd so far, this really helps us in the planning process. Please RSVP at [www.clanewen.org](http://www.clanewen.org) before April 30th 2019 to receive your free commemorative derbhfine dram glass. There will be clansfolk from all over the world here so if you can make it, it will be a great weekend. Kilfinan hotel is now fully booked but details of other accommodation, please see website.



## Scottish Shortbread

Well, it might not be double, double toil and trouble and I know it is an easy one, but I am trying to get better at this cooking thing, and showing my 10 yr old daughter that she can make delicious goodies quickly and simply. So I thought I would share this super easy recipe which you can tweak and flavor as you like. We have tried adding chocolate drizzle, lemon zest or lavender, It is a lovely one to remember from the top of your head, as we have nicknamed it our 2,4,6 recipe as it uses 2oz sugar, 4oz butter and 6oz plain flour, pinch of salt, rub it all in, press it into an greased 8 inch tin, prick with a fork to make a nice design and bake at 150, or gas mark 2 for 45 mins-1hr, score into slices sprinkle with a little extra sugar, leave to cool and enjoy with a nice pot of tea! Lovely when it is raining outside!!!



Submitted by Sandra McCuin

## Clan Store

If you are looking for MacEwen merchandise, from clan badges to bonnets, necklaces to neck ties, sgian dubhs and gift sets (making great Christmas gifts!), check out the store at [www.clanewen.org](http://www.clanewen.org). The proceeds from the store go back into the society. New merchandise just been added: pocket watches, gift set, buckles, necklaces, cufflinks, sgian dubhs, plaid brooch, hip flask, tie pins, tie bars, bonnets, crest tie, sale section.

## News from around the World

**AUSTRALIA:** Clan Ewen Australia has a new facebook page: Clan Ewen Aus. It was lovely to meet Greg and Jennifer McEwan at the Oban Highland Games this year.

**USA:** Stone Mountain Games was well attended, thanks to Bing and the team for promoting the clan.

**GERMANY:** Sorting out how to get the whole Spessert Highlanders band over for the Derbhfine!

If you have any news—we want to hear from you!

## What's Your Story?

We would love to hear from our members. If you would like to share your family story, or you would like to submit a poem, writing, picture, family regional recipe or photo, please contact us at [clanewenuk@live.co.uk](mailto:clanewenuk@live.co.uk) or mail to the address above!