



The Pippings

Clan MacLean Association in the United States Quarterly Newsletter

Sir Lachlan Hector Charles Maclean

CVO, 28th Chief and 12th Baronet of Duart and Morvern



Clan Chief, Sir Lachlan Maclean, welcoming MacLeans at the gates of Duart Castle, 2023 International Clan Maclean Gathering

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MacLeans Flock to Gathering on Isle of Mull for Once in a Lifetime Experience

By Jennifer McLean and Anne Redding

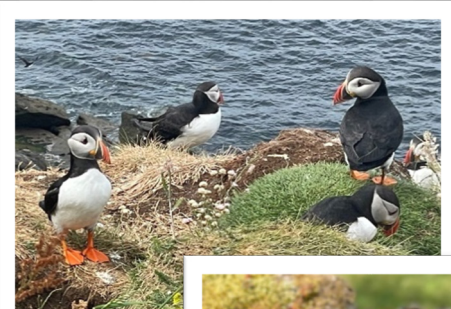
The 2023 International Gathering on the Isle of Mull, Scotland was held June 19-25 and attended by about 700 MacLeans from all over the world, the largest number being from the United States.

The Planning Committee, led by Association President, Anne Maclean of Dochgarroch, organized a full agenda of daily activities including tours, whisky tastings, evening lectures and films. Most attendees stayed in and around Tobermory, a quaint harbor town 40 minutes from Duart Castle, the seat of Clan MacLean and home to Sir Lachlan Maclean, the 28th Chief of Clan MacLean. Others stayed across the island and tested their driving skills along the majestic but often single-lane roads of Mull – with one eye on the road and another on the lookout for rogue sheep, highland coos and the elusive Isle of Mull otters.

The week kicked off with a welcome reception on Monday night followed by a celebration and dinner at Macgochan's Pub.



The Three Ladies, Salen Beach, Isle of Mull
Landmark, located on the road to Tobermory.



Lunching with puffins on Lunga, Treshnish Isles; Afternoon Tea hosted by Sir Robin and Lady Fiona Maclean of Ardgour.



The week was filled with adventures as MacLeans toured across Mull, Iona, Ardnamurchan, Staffa and Treshnish Isles, sampled whiskys and even had tea with the Laird and Lady of Ardgour. On Thursday, the Chief welcomed all Guardian-level (and above) donors to Duart Castle for a special reception and tour of the restoration progress.

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International Clan Gathering (from page 1)



Top: MacLeans march to Castle Duart; Middle: Chief's welcome; Bottom: Tobermory Harbor

On Friday, The Clan Maclean International Clan Congress took place with an overview of the restoration project as well as a discussion of issues facing Clan MacLean. In the evening, local performers entertained at the Chief's Grand Ceilidh Concert. Those present were lucky enough to hear the Isle of Mull Gaelic Choir and Sorren Maclean/Hannah Fisher.

Saturday was the main event - the Clan Maclean International Gathering at Duart Castle. This was a full day with singers, dancers, historical re-enactors, bagpipers, and lots of MacLean tartan. The march to the castle was quite spectacular; Sir Lachlan Maclean was at the front door of the castle, flanked by the clan chieftains and welcomed all to Duart. He thanked everyone for making the long trip to the Gathering. The castle and grounds were open for tours throughout the day, including Lady Maclean's garden. MacLeans had the opportunity to speak to the Chief and his family and many got photos. The tea room and gift shop were well packed as people stocked up on MacLean essentials and a large tent housed a variety of local vendors and artists.



CMAUS Executive Committee members and their families attend The Grand Dance

Saturday evening back in Tobermory, the Grand Dance took place. All dressed in their best MacLean tartan, and watched locals dance to Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band (some of us even joined in). Sunday ended the Gathering with the Kirkin o' the Tartan, a lovely service with both bagpiper and tartan, held at the Tobermory Parish Church followed by many farewells on the ferry back to Oban.

By the end of the week, MacLeans were already anticipating attending the next Gathering. You can count on MacLeans from all over the world to return once again to the Isle of Mull for the next International Gathering.

Clan MacLean Announcements & Events

- **(Rescheduled) CMAUS Annual General Meeting (AGM)** – Wednesday, September 13th at 8:00 PM Eastern. Zoom link will be posted on the website and emailed to all current members.
- **UPCOMING GAMES & EVENTS:**
 - August 26, 2023 – Quechee Scottish Games, Hartford, VT (quecheegames.org)
 - August 26, 2023 – Long Island Scottish Festival and Highland Games, Old Westbury, NY (www.liscots.org)
 - September 2-3, 2023 – Virginia Scottish Games, The Plains, VA (vascottishgames.org)
 - September 8-10, 2023 – Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival, Estes Park, CO (scotfest.com)
 - September 9-10, 2023 – Middle Tennessee Highland Games, Hendersonville, TN (midtenngames.com)
 - September 15-17, 2023 – NH Highland Games & Festival, Loon Mountain Resort, Lincoln, NH (nhscot.org)

Clan MacLean Executive Committee



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Presidential Ponderings

By Dr. Les McLean, CMAUS President

Early this morning, I seemed to be floating back and forth between consciousness and blissful sleep when our yellow Labrador, Seamus, leaped up on the bed and announced it was time to get up and feed him. This ritual is a daily occurrence without regard for how much sleep has been achieved. So, I stumbled out of bed, got dressed quickly, awkwardly stomp down the stairs. Seamus walked to his eating spot and patiently waited. I continued the ritual by mixing dry dog food, fresh green beans, and beef broth. As I placed the banquet down before him, Seamus devoured the good stuff in less than a minute. He then walked to the back door and signaled, with a whimper, to open the door, and let him outside for his morning constitution. I opened the door while glancing back at the clock on the oven.

WHAT? "My God, Seamus it's only four in the morning. "Now, what? So, I let Seamus back in, went upstairs, and fell back into bed to half dreams about climate change,

recent surgery (all good now), daily storms, getting another Scottish Terrier, the hottest summer ever, Grandfather mountain, and upcoming Scottish games. Finally, I got up because I couldn't sleep anymore.

Like this morning, there is a time and place for everything: At Grandfather, we had scheduled our annual general meeting on Saturday night. Unfortunately, an automobile accident (not us) on the road between the games and the Dan'l Boone Inn blocked traffic for hours.

We had to cancel the AGM portion of the evening, but we did get to eat and enjoy some country dancing. Better late than never, we have now scheduled our virtual AGM to be held September 13th at 8:00PM eastern. The invitation will be sent to all CMAUS members by email.

Now, I'm going to take a little nap. See you at the AGM. Don't be late.

Until next time. "Another for Hector!"

Clan MacLean Board of Directors

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International Clan Maclean Gathering, June 24, 2023, Castle Duart, Isle of Mull, Scotland.

The Piping Newsletter

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Gathering at Grandfather Mountain

By Jason Wamsley, Vice President, CMAUS

On July 7th and 8th at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games we celebrated Maclean history and heritage by hosting the largest number of members that I've seen attend since I've been involved.

Over the two days we scheduled talks centered around Maclean history or Scottish history in general. The story of Lady's Rock, where the Battle Cry "Another for Hector!" comes from, the wedding dress story by Connie Sutton, and the history of the Quaich were among the talks given at the Maclean tent. The presentation that was attended by the most people was popular Gaelic phrases. Scott Huling of the Clan Maclean Membership Committee put together a great presentation on how to pronounce popular Gaelic phrases and we learned that the Scots Gaelic alphabet only has 18 letters. After the presentation, Ian

McLean of Wales offered a comparison of Scots Gaelic to the Welsh language, it having 29 letters. All in attendance learned the most important phrase in each language, "Slainte mhath" (Slanja-va) and "Iechyd Da" (Yahk ee daa), 'cheers' in Gaelic and Welsh respectively.

All current and new members who came by the Maclean tent received a lapel pin designed for the event. Matching stickers were also handed out to all friends and interested passersby. To further help celebrate the occasion, Ian McLean brought with him Maclean whisky and Gin to share with any of those members who were old enough. All-in-all I would say a good time was had by all, we gained some new members, saw some familiar faces that we hadn't seen in a long while, and generally had a good old fashioned Maclean time.



MacLeans march in Parade of Clans, July 9, 2023, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games



CMAUS Clan Gathering, July 8, 2023, Grandfather Mountain Highland Games



Clan Maclean Association in the United States

ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

September 13, 2023 | 8PM EDT

Zoom link will be provided to dues paying members.
Not a dues paying member? Join at maclean.us.org/join/



Sir Lachlan Mclean with Norman Gibson

Peggy Hegerty (left), Sandy Britton (middle), and Shannon McLean Yost (right)



Fulfilling a Lifetime Dream at Duart

By Kathryn Howard, the bagpiper's daughter

Norman Gibson nee MacLean was born in Los Angeles, California into a childhood filled with stories rich in Scottish culture told from his grandparents who had immigrated from Glasgow and Tobermory in the early 1900's. In the 1970's, Norman learned to play the bagpipes and participated over his lifetime in four marching bands.

In 2006, he moved to Lairg, Scotland to live for a short time before becoming a full-time grandfather. While in Lairg, he explored many charming towns and one trip led him to the Isle of Mull and Duart Castle.

After much anticipation and a bit of a delay, Norman fulfilled several of his lifetime dreams in a few short days at the 2023 Maclean International Gathering.

On a beautiful day in June, Norman played his bagpipes at Duart Castle. He performed "Flowers of the Forest," "Dark Isle," "Amazing Grace," "MacLean's Welcome to Duart," "Scotland the Brave," and "Auld Lang Syne" as well as a few others. He was over the moon when Sir Lachlan Maclean heard him playing and met him at the castle's front door. Sir Lachlan: (looking him up and down as Norm approached the castle door) "You look smart!" Norm: "why, thank you." Sir Lachlan: (looking down at Norm's Birkenstock boots) "Except for the shoes..." Norm: "Well you see, I need support for my ankles...(Sir Lachlan looking skeptical) ...but you know, I'm ready for a pub crawl!" Sir Lachlan: (cackles aloud) "Why yes! You are!" Sir Lachlan then invited Norm to play throughout the castle; Norm



Bagpiper Norman Gibson performs at Duart

was thrilled to play from the battlements of Duart Castle and for two tour buses of visitors. This was a day that "checked all his boxes" as Norm would say.

He was also invited to play at the Clan Maclean International Clan Congress and thrilled to end the week as the guest piper for the Kirkin o' the Tartan Church Service at Tobermory Parish Church. All of this was an amazing opportunity--a savored memory to be loved and relived in his dreams.

The International Gathering and a New Friend

By Sandy Britton, CMAUS Member

In the summer of 2021, I attended the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in N.C. and discovered my McLean roots. With excitement, I began to plan for the International Gathering in 2022 on the Isle of Mull; COVID would postpone the Gathering for another year. By the end of December 2022, I had my flights and registration complete. I had researched tours, but somehow did not think that was how I wanted to proceed.

On the CMAUS Facebook page, I saw a post from Shannon McLean Yost asking if another single woman was traveling alone to the Gathering. I replied and we began to get acquainted. Shannon had already done a great deal of research and had her accommodations and transportation booked. I had been pulling my hair out

doing the same kinds of things, so was excited to be added to Shannon's itinerary. We flew into Glasgow on the same morning -- Shannon from Toronto, and I from Boston. We met up and started our adventure.

The rental car and all accommodations were wonderful. In Tobermory, we stayed in The Strongarbh House, a very nice bed and breakfast. The owners, Jane and Adrian were delightful. I cannot say enough good things about this place!

After the Gathering, we took another week to travel around Scotland. We were like nomads with no agenda, deciding on the spur of the moment what we wanted to do. We took turns driving and used our phones to find accommodations and places to visit. One mishap did happen... when you see the sign "Weak Road," you should believe it!

During that week driving through the Scottish Highlands, we visited many historical places and beautiful castles. Our adventure continued all the way back to Glasgow.

My travels to the International Gathering resulted in finding a friend. For both of us, our trip to Scotland was a great time and an unforgettable experience.



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Visit us on the web: [https:// maclean.us.org](https://maclean.us.org) • www.facebook.com/groups/clanmaclean/

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Donor Levels:

Guardians: £200 GBP (\$244 USD) & above will receive a Duart Castle Guardian badge and certificate.

Life Guardians: £1,000 GBP (\$1,219 USD) & above will receive Guardians' gifts, a signed photograph of the chief and be granted lifetime access to the public areas of the Castle during opening hours.

Patrons: £5,000 GBP (\$6,096 USD) & above will receive all of the recognition of Life Guardians and a Clan Maclean Crest.

Chief's Circle: £25,000 GBP (\$30,480 USD) & above will receive all of the recognition of Life Guardians and an engraved Quaich.

Another for Hector!

Do you know a family member interested in joining the Clan? Invite them to visit:
<https://maclean.us.org/membership/application>

Need to renew your membership? Visit:

<https://maclean.us.org/membership/renew>

Thank you for your continued membership and commitment to keeping our Clan active!

The Duart Appeal

Guardians (and above) received a very special tour and update of the Castle Duart restoration on June 22nd, during the week-long Maclean Gathering on Mull. The Chief welcomed everyone to Duart at a reception on the grounds and thanked them for their support of the restoration. The tour included a walk around the perimeter of the castle to admire the newly revealed Sound of Mull elevation, a demonstration of the design for the new castle walk by Head Mason, Andy Bradley (pictured right) and a special look at the restoration of the castle interior. The tour was followed by champagne and tea sandwiches on the lawn.



Andrew Bradley, Head Mason, Duart Castle

How to Donate:

Visit duartappeal.org for details on donation and sponsorship levels. U.S. donors may make **tax-deductible donations** online using PayPal via the website or by check made payable to **Clan Maclean Association – California** (mail to: 748 South Meadows Parkway, Suite A9, P. M. Box 144, Reno, NV 89521), which is a non-profit Section 501 (c)(3) corporation supporting Scottish cultural outreach. On the check Memo line note "CMAUS Member - Duart Appeal".

