

June 2024



Reviresco

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Society Officers

Commander of Clan MacEwen: Sir John McEwen.

Chair: Sean McCuin.

Vice Chair: Ross McEwen.

Acting Treasurer: Virginia MacEwan.

Secretary: Sandra McCuin.

Editors: Ewan and Pauline Rowland.

Membership Secretary: Carol Owens.

Country Commissioners:

Oceania: Chris and Marilee McEwan.

USA: Bob and Carol Owens.

Canada: Maggie McEwan.

Herma Goosens.

Society Genealogist: James McEwen.

Clan Liaison Officer: Dina Lee McEwen.



www.instagram.com/clanmacewen



www.Twitter.com/Clan_MacEwen

Clan MacEwen Society Special Bulletin Edition Otter Ferry 2024

Commander's Message Sir John McEwen

"As the hour approaches when Clan MacEwen will once again be entitled to call itself "Chiefly" (we hope), among the feelings of jubilation and excitement there is a strain of melancholy. We are an important Clan, we should have been Chiefly for all these years. Things went wrong and for nearly 600 years we have been "Children of the Mist", lurking in the shadows, improvising, making the best of an unsatisfactory situation. I think of my brother James, our father Robin, his father Jock, his father Robert, his father John, his father Robert, his father James, his father James and his father John. (That's as far back as I go: I assume that John's father was called either John, James or Robert!) I think of all our Clansfolk who have missed out on the joy and healthy pride which I hope we are all feeling as our Clan takes its place once more in the front rank. We are lucky to be alive at this moment but we shall never forget those who have gone before us, led the way, cleared the path for this moment of emergence out of the forest, into the light. Thank you, ancestors. While we strive to make Clan MacEwen a helpful and relevant presence in the 21st-century life of Scotland and the Scottish diaspora, we will always honour our origins - dear Clansfolk of past times, with pride in our hearts, and souls filled with gratitude, we salute you!"



Chairman's Message Sean McCuin GySgt. USMC Ret.

Greetings from Kilfinan!

Hello to all!

The Great 2024 Gathering is upon us!

From the first Clan MacEwen Family Convention that I attended almost 10 years ago,

To the 2019 Family Convention, We are now seeing the fruits of our labor!!!! This could not have been possible without each and every one of you and your kin. The Clan and Society has seen its share of ups and downs over the years, but our Motto "Reviresco!" has truly been seen, especially over these last 10 years.

In 2019 we adopted the Battle Cry of Co'mhla! which means Together!, and we MacEwens are proving this everyday. From our Clan Society AGM's here in Scotland to the multitude of attendances of Highland Games and Gatherings around the Globe, Clan MacEwen is Here!

It is always an honor to serve you and the Clan.

Your Humble Servant,

Reviresco!

Co'mhla!



From The Editors Ewan and Pauline

Like the majority of members in the Clan Society, we share a 'common' ancestry even though they may have taken diverse routes over time. Each story is fascinating and unique. Mine starts in Lanarkshire, Scotland, where my mother was born into a large family of 12 siblings. She was a proud McEwan and Scot. Researching her family brought us to the MacEwen Society, where we have, via the clan gatherings, met and made friends with some great people. We have learnt so much through attending such events and expect that to continue, as we look forward to the Family Convention in June. We are relative newcomers to the Society and are aware of the hard work back in the late 1970s and early 80s by a small group of dedicated and enthusiastic people whose aim was to



bring MacEwens together and reinstate the Clan's Chief. In the 1980 Bulletin No4, an article talked about bringing together Clan Ewen Societies from around the world in order to make one Society. Well, I firmly believe that has been successfully achieved. Today's committee proudly carries on that tradition. Testimony to that goal will be on display, as we again gather in person or are joined on-line by those who can't be with us at Otter Ferry. We are looking forward to meeting up with old friends and hopefully making new ones, but more importantly, we will all be there to give support to our Commander in his endeavour to become our clan chief .

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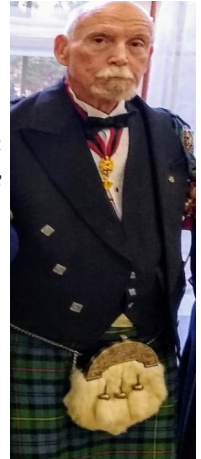
Meet More of the Executive Committee

Behind the MacEwen Society, there is a dedicated team of people who give of their time, experience, knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm to help members enjoy the benefits of being part of its growing international family. They would like to share a few thoughts with you.



"This Gathering and Family Convention is particularly meaningful for us. As MacEwens from around the world gather, both virtually and in person from our ancient homeland, it is a long-awaited step in our collective journey toward having our first Chief of the Name in nearly 600 years. We do indeed "grow strong again." REVIRESCO!"

Carol Owens is our Membership Secretary



Bob Owens is the Clan Commissioner for the USA.



"My involvement with the Executive Committee is based on my husband Iain's attachment to his homeland and my wish to support him.

Iain was born in Scotland; his father was from Isle of Islay and his mother was from Glasgow. Although he has lived in New Zealand for most of his life, his heart continues to be in Scotland, and we return there as often as possible; ten times so far.

Scottish traditional and modern social structures and culture continue to be of interest and concern, leading to a strong commitment to reviving Clan MacEwen's place in contemporary social and political life.

Over the last five years we've seen Clan membership and the leadership group grow in strength and purpose and clarify its vision for the future. Our organisation wishes to play its part in the advancement of Scotland's future. To realise our potential in this role we need to confirm our Chiefship.

Although illness in our family means that we're now not able to attend the family convention in person, as we'd planned, we'll connect to it via remote access."

Virginia is our Acting Treasurer.

This year's gathering is an historic event and of great significance for the future of the clan. And above all a great opportunity to meet people from around the world with the same interest.



Herma Goosens



Clan Gatherings are always a fun coming together of Clan members from around the world and across Scotland, this year however holds extra special significance with the addition of the Family Convention. For me personally it symbolises our ancient name potentially being re-established to the greatest possible extent in Scotland, and a true democratic exercise by the Clan, the sort of meeting which likely will have taken place on the shores of Otter Ferry centuries ago. As a Scot I thoroughly enjoy the enthusiasm and participation of those from overseas, and the gathering provides the perfect excuse for us to say a loud and proud, WELCOME TO SCOTLAND!

Ross
Vice Chair

My experience of our Annual Clan Gatherings from attending a small group luncheon to helping to organise and welcome over a hundred MacEwens, I have always enjoyed the connections, conversations and relationships that have been fostered. Whilst we might not know each other at first, the instant kinship is quite remarkable and humbling which never ceases to amaze me whether we meet one new person or one hundred. The most memorable one for me was in 2019 with our largest gathering in the ancestral homeland in which I felt we were all encased in a bubble of friendship, with the sounds of bagpipes and laughter echoing throughout the tiny hamlet. Kilfinan was MacEwen again during that weekend, everyone chipped in and helped put on a truly wonderful gathering, everyone was welcome, everyone was equal, everyone was MacEwen. The village hall was alive, there was a beating heart and energy that was impalpable, it was truly magical. I really enjoy meeting old friends and new, seeing new people feel the energy of their ancestral homeland and feel a connection with each other and with the land that cannot be gained without experiencing it first hand, so many are taken aback at how they are unexpectedly overcome with emotion especially when they visit the site of MacEwen Castle. I love to see people learn about their heritage, share stories and knowledge with each other, sing, dance, play music, teach, share, and keep our heritage alive. I love the fact that many great friendships are made and rekindled and wherever you are in the world, there will be a MacEwen ready to welcome you. I love that we are a friendly and welcoming Clan, anyone who has been to a highland games and met one of our convenors can attest to this, come to a gathering and that is magnified, from the most intimate to the most populous. All MacEwen gatherings are special no matter where they are in the world, because MacEwens hold our heritage and identity within us and carry it wherever we go.



Sandra - Secretary



The AGM is a fantastic opportunity for all MacEwens to build stronger bonds with one another. I am very excited to be attending the AGM this year with my husband and youngest daughter. We are excited to be a part of this historic occasion and look forward to meeting all that are able to attend.

John and Tanya McCuen



Many years ago, I searched for information about Clan MacEwen. I was an immigrant to Canada from Britain, searching for some roots. The only information that I could find was that we were a scattered clan originally from the Cowal peninsular. I decided that the next time I returned to visit Britain I would try to get further information.



A friend and I drove along the beautiful coast of Loch Fyne, asking questions, and were directed to Kilfinan. To my astonishment I found out that there was a Clan MacEwen Society working towards installing a hereditary chief for the first time in over 500 years.

I attended the Society AGM in 2019 and learnt so much about our Clan. I was asked to be the first Canadian Commissioner and joined the group of hard working MacEwen friends in the long journey towards our goal.

I am honoured to be a member of this incredible group.

Maggie McEwan - Commissioner for Canada

I am very excited to be able to attend this year's gathering and Family Convention with my wife and all my children in tow. It is going to be a wonderful opportunity to connect with our language, our culture and our ancient homeland, as well as meet new friends and reconnect with old from within our global clan. We are all very excited to be part of this historic event as we look to reestablish our chiefship and my hope is that through involving my kids in the process they will see the importance of what we are doing and will carry the traditions of our Clan, as well as our modern mission into the future.

Tha mi air bhioran a bhith aig an cruinneachadh agus Derbhine am Bliadhna seo le mo bhean agus mo chlann còmhla rium. Bidh e cothrom mìorbhaileach a ceangail le an canan againn, an cultar againn, agus an duthaich againn a thuilleadh coinneachadh caraidean ùr agus seana-charaidean bhon Cinneadh Cruinne againn. Tha sinn a h-uile glè air bhioran a bhith pairt nan òcaide eachdraidheil seo mar an t-sùilean againn air a' stèidheadh Ceann Cinneadh againn a-rithist. Tha e an dochas agam gu bheil chì mo chloinne cia cudromach a tha seo agus bheir dhan teachdail tradaideanan nan Cinneadh agus misean nuadh againn

Chris McEwan - Commissioner for Oceania



A Message from Duncan McEwan.

Since the first Annual General Meeting of the Society in 1977 I have only missed around 5 of those that have followed - it is always a key date in my diary.

The format of the AGM has evolved over the years from the simple, but important, business orientated content to the multi-day gathering we have seen in recent times with a full programme of events on each day. Meeting fellow clansmen and clanswomen from home and abroad is always a key aspect that makes it such an enjoyable social event that I would not want to miss. Last year was a truly memorable experience in idyllic weather on the shores of Loch Fyne in the heart of our native homeland while in 2019 the march from KIlfinan to The Cairn, headed by our own pipe band, will forever be etched in my memory. The Derbh Fine gathering in 2014 was another great gathering which crucially set us on our present trajectory to have our Chief after centuries without one. I plan to continue every step of the way to achieve this goal.

Large events require months of dedicated preparation and hard work by the organising committee and the best way to show them the support they deserve is by trying to be present in person but If not, then joining online will send out a valuable signal of appreciation.

I look forward to the 2024 Gathering.



Unveiling of the McEwen
Cairn in 1988 with Col Alan
Ewing and Duncan McEwan

An Afternoon With Eleanor Williamson by Pauline Rowland—Co-Editor

It was a great pleasure and honour once again to spend some time with Eleanor, one of our Clan's founder members. On a previous visit we had shown her the Clan website and all its aspects and explained about the format and importance of the forthcoming gathering. Unfortunately, Eleanor will not be able to be with us this year as she has an important family event to attend that same weekend.

What follows are some of Eleanor's memories of the early days of the Clan and her thoughts on the Clan today. I have paraphrased some of our discussion and included some quotes from Eleanor.

Eleanor's first comment referred to her amazement at how much the Clan has grown since that very first meeting back in the mid-70s. She recalled there were only four people at that inaugural meeting.

"My mother was there as well as Dr Douglas McEwen – I think that was his name, Archie- that was Duncan's Dad and a Miss McEwen. This first informal meeting was held at Otter Ferry where they decided to hold the next proper meeting at Kilfinan, when a committee was appointed."

Eleanor attended that first Kilfinan meeting with her mother and continued to be a staunch member of the committee eventually taking on the roles of Vice Chair and later the Clan secretary.

From our discussion about the make up of the Clan membership today she commented

"it's a pity we don't have a few more British members and some more local MacEwens"

She explained that in the early days the membership consisted mainly of local MacEwens. I asked how the committee addressed the issue of attracting more members.

She explained that the committee held meetings in different places over the years e.g. Glasgow, Edinburgh, Sterling, Inverness, after advertising in their local newspapers. This attracted 1 or 2 new members to each meeting. She emphasised that,

"They always went back to Kilfinan and there was always a walk to the Cairn".

Eleanor recalled, with great clarity, the time when Sir John's mother brought John to a meeting – *"he was only a young lad at the time, and he became very interested in the Clan"*.

Eleanor explained that she and her mother went to Marchmont to meet Lady MacEwen. The Clan society, at that time, always hoped that the Clan would one day have a new chief and they were keen that the Marchmont MacEwens would support their cause.

Again, Eleanor commented on the growth of the Clan *"Looking back I never thought we would have these numbers and I would like to congratulate the committee for all their hard work and I'm hoping to meet some of the committee at the Helensburgh games this year. It's a great boost having the shop- in the early days we only had a scarf and a badge!"*

As our afternoon together came to a close, Eleanor mentioned she had a kilt in the MacEwen Modern Tartan, which she had not worn for many years. After her recollections, she was keen to see it again and we retrieved it from the depths of her wardrobe. She was surprised it still looked so good after so long and she suggested she might wear it. The photo was taken to mark this moment when Eleanor, now aged 91, proudly shows off her MacEwen kilt!



Before I left Eleanor, I reminded her of the importance of that very first meeting at Otter Ferry – the very beginning of the Clan MacEwen Society and its aims to bring the Clan back into the forefront of Sottish clan culture and the hope of a new chief. Now, here we are in 2024 and returning to Otter Ferry for this important global gathering, to show our support for each other and we hope much nearer to securing our new chief!

On behalf of the Clan Society, I would like to thank Eleanor for her service and dedication to the Clan MacEwen.

Reviresco!



Back Row Rt-Lt:
Walace McEwen
Rev Peter McEwan
Matty Ewen
Colin McEwen
Bottom Row: Lt-Rt
David McEwan
Charlie Ewen
Mima McEwen
Eleanor
Ella McEwan

Clan members at Bellcairn



After the Church Service at Kilfinan June 2001.

Eleanor standing behind the back row and Lady Rachel sitting next to Sir John McEwen.

More Good News!! by Ross McEwen

I am delighted to write today to say the Highland Council has, as of this morning, charged me / Clan MacEwen with the entire organisation of the 'Clan Tent' at the upcoming Inverness Highland Games, taking place 13 July 2024 at Bught Park on the banks of the River Ness, a few hundred yards from the Royal Northern Meeting Park, the first purpose built Highland Games venue anywhere in the world.

14 Highland Clans were in attendance last year, many of which were names we do not normally come across at Games here in Scotland (Grant, Fraser of Lovat, Mackenzie, Chisholm, Urquhart, Donald, Stewart etc). David Rose of Kilravock, Chief of Rose, and John Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Chief of Mackintosh and of Clan Chattan were present, I am hoping for even more this year! I have also managed to secure funding for the tent, tables, chairs, two passes for each Clan and a parking space....just needed to throw in a free burger and a pint and it would have been a straight flush!

My Mother and Father will again be hosting the MacEwen table this year as the Clan's Highland 'Chapter', and following the Games there will be a mass meeting of all the Clans for an hour likely to be at nearby Eden Court to discuss all manner of Clan-related goings on, before those who need to travel, do so, and the rest of us head to the ceilidh or to another drinking establishment of variable repute.

but wait...there's more....

A colleague and I have also, no idea how, managed to get the Inverness Council and the Provost to agree to a large opening ceremony, involving all the Clans parading behind the mass pipe bands, led by the Provost, into the main Games arena, this will be the first such time this has taken place and should be quite the spectacle akin to the likes of Luss, except hopefully many more banners!

More details soon - however for your diaries should you wish to join us, Saturday 13 July 2024, it is just a few days after Luss so may not be ideal for most, however I have attached a few photos from last year, it was an exhausting day and quite hard work, however....predictably the Highland Capital made for the ideal spot for Clan goings on,



Ross McEwen McEwen
Clan Soc' Vice Chair, third
from left—front row.

Below right - Colin
McEwen manning the clan
stall.



Another First for MacEwens at the Maine Highland Games

James McEwen



Clan MacEwen has been selected as the Honoured Clan at the Maine Highland Games at Thomas Point, Brunswick, Maine in August 2024.

We look forward to MacEwens, whatever the spelling, to join us in representing the Clan. Tickets can be ordered online or at the gate. <https://www.mainehighlandgames.org/>

Clan MacEwan Society Oceania in New Zealand

Chris McEwan

The team from Oceania together at Hawkes Bay Easter Highland Games, New Zealand. It's the first since the international gathering in 2019.



Left to Right: Iain, Chris, Greg and Virginia

The Clan's Thoughts Are With You!

You may recall earlier this year, following news that King Charles 3rd had been diagnosed with cancer, Clan Commander Sir John McEwen sent his best wishes on behalf of the Clan to His Majesty, wishing him a speedy recovery.

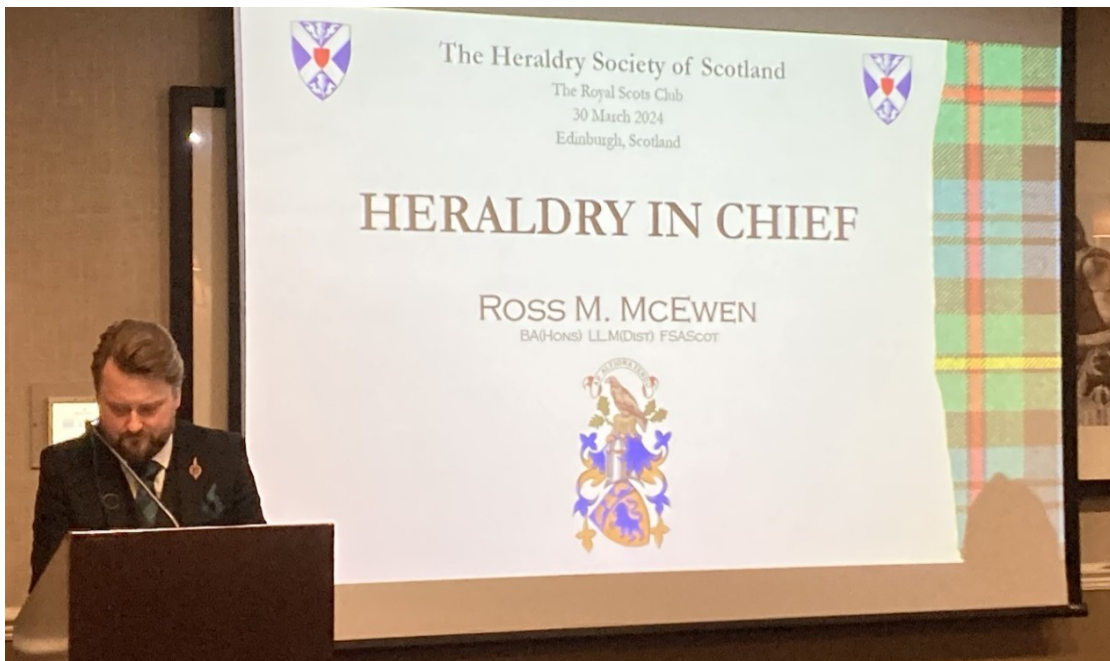


Heraldry in Chief

On Saturday 30th March, Ross (Vice Chair) delivered the lecture ‘Heraldry in Chief’ to the Heraldry Society of Scotland and selected guests at The Royal Scots Club, in the centre of Edinburgh.

The lecture aimed to set out how Clan Chiefs are legally recognised; how Clans without surviving chiefly lines may work to have them re-established; the ever increasing growth in popularity and interest in Clans around the world.

Among the guests was a wonderful gathering of MacEwens, Victoria, Mariei, Colin, Sir John, Sean, Ewan and Pauline. Also, there were a number of heraldic experts Lyon Court Officials, a senior trustee of the Scottish Tartan Authority and a number of heads of families.



Lt-Rt: Lady Buchanan, Ross, Michael Buchanan of Buchanan, Chief of Buchanan, Rupert Irving of Bonshaw, Chief of Irving, Sir John McEwen of Marchmont & Bardrochat, Commander of MacEwen, James McNab of McNab, Chief McNab, & Daisy McNab, Younger of McNab

Family Gathering

Proposed Schedule of Events

(See the website for more information)

Thursday 6th of June

09:00 Registration, Self-Guided Activities and Shop Open
09:30 Boat Tours available- Otter Ferry Pier
10:00 Coffee Morning Social
11:00 Walk to MacEwen Motte
13:00 Lunch
14:30 Kids Story Telling Workshop
15:00 Family Tree Presentation by James McEwen
16:00 Wild Swimming with Dan the Merman
17:00 Drinks with the Commander
18:00 Evening Meal
20:00 Campfire Ceilidh (Shared Stories, Songs and Chat)

Friday 7th of June

09:00 Registration, Self-Guided Activities and Shop Open
09:30 Collect Lunches for Walk to the Cairn, Boat Tours Available
10:00 Coffee Morning Social, Leave Otter Ferry for Walk to the Cairn
13:00 Lunch for individuals not walking to the Cairn
14:00 Piping workshop by Spessart Highlanders
15:00 Heraldry Presentation by Ross McEwen
16:00 Shinty Workshop
17:00 Drinks with the Commander
18:00 Evening Meal
19:30 History of MacEwen Play by Sir John McEwen
20:30 Whisky/Gin Tasting and Campfire Ceilidh (shared stories, songs and chat)

Saturday 8th of June

09:00 Registration, Self-Guided Activities and Shop Open
10:00 Coffee Morning Social
11:00 Clan MacEwen Society AGM in Main Tent
13:00 Lunch
14:00 Family Highland Games
15:00 MacEwen Family Convention in Main Tent
17:00 Drinks with Commander
18:00 Evening Meal
20:00 Ceilidh (Inverhooley live band)

Sunday 9th of June

09:00 Registration, Self-Guided Activities and Shop Open
10:00 Coffee Morning Social, Walk to MacEwen wood and orchard at Tighnabruaich (Meet at Kilfinan Community Forest)
12:00 Kirkin '0 the Tartan - Main Tent
13:00 Lunch
15:00 Farewells

Clan MacEwen Society Projects

Would you like to learn more or donate to one of our Special Projects

The Clan that Plants Trees Project

👑 Donate

👑 Learn More

Clan MacEwen Cairn and Motte Maintenance Fund

👑 Donate

👑 Learn More

The Clan that Plants Trees Project

OVERVIEW

We want to make a lasting positive impact in our world for future generations, we plant trees wherever we are in the world, an act that an individual can do or as part of a bigger group to make an impact. If every clan member planted one tree each, we could make a huge impact for our environment, our wellbeing, our future generations and is a lasting legacy. We want to plant a MacEwen Wood in the ancestral homeland for everyone to enjoy anchoring our commitment to make our world a better place and help connect the ancient Atlantic rainforest in this area. To solidify this commitment and communicate this message, we have adopted the tag line “The Clan That Plants Trees”.

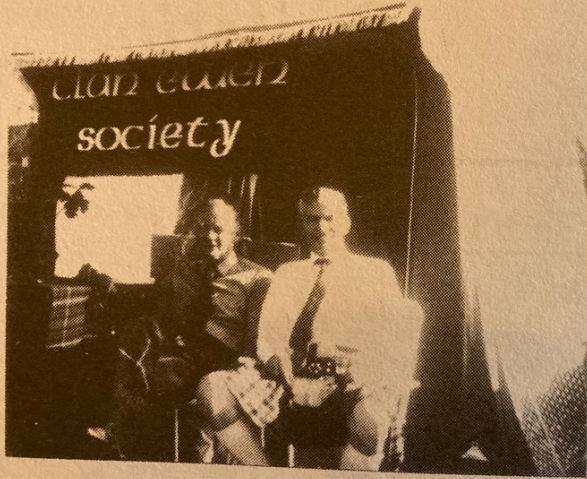
Clan MacEwen Cairn and Motte Maintenance Fund

OVERVIEW

An important landmark in the Kilfinan area is the cairn marking the site of the McEwen Castle. The site offers spectacular views over Loch Fyne and beyond to Kintyre. Standing there you are transported back to a time when our ancestors saw what you can see. The Society wants and needs to improve signage and the paths to the cairn in order to improve access.

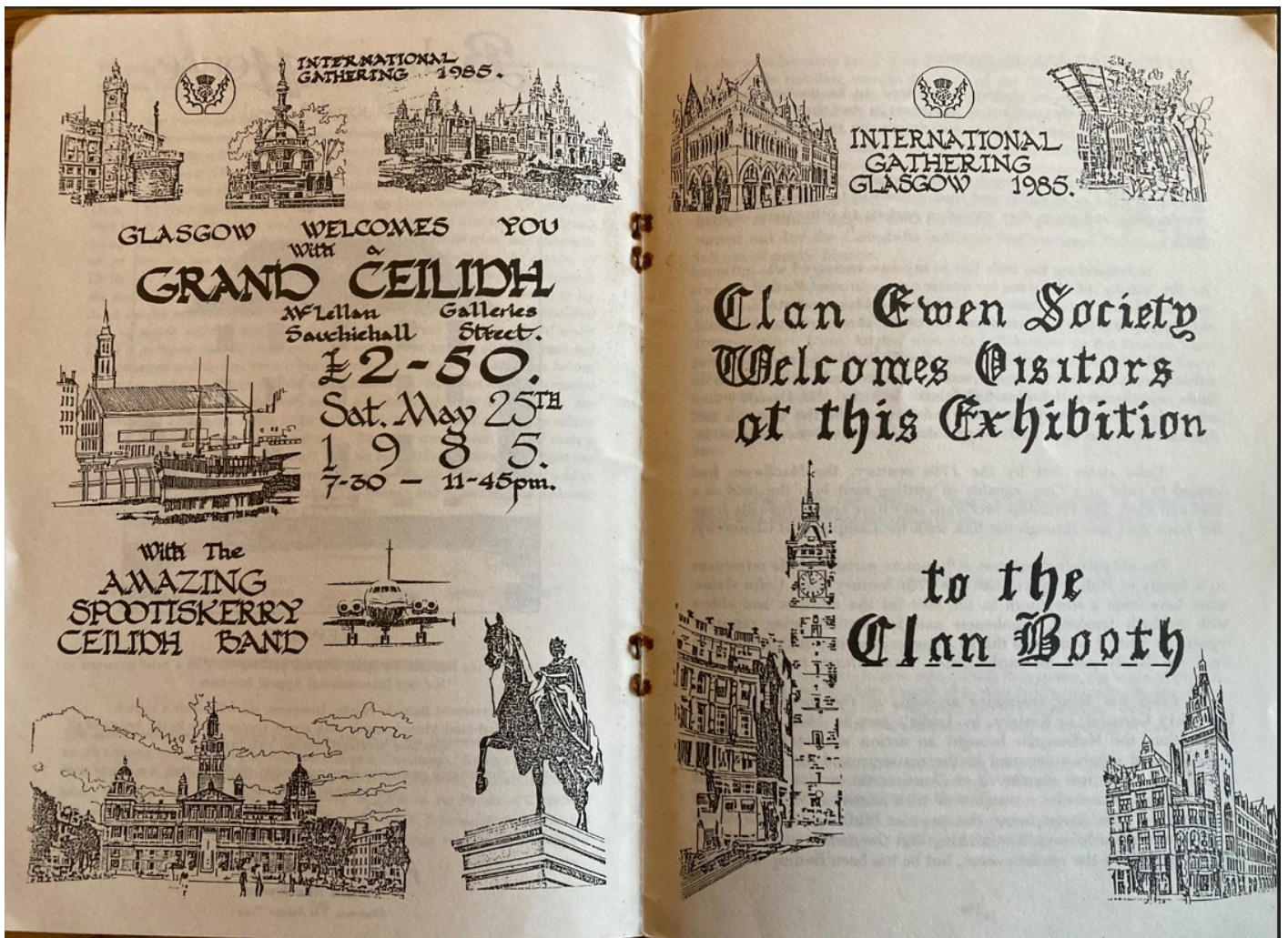
Please visit www.clanewen.com and click on ‘Society Project’s to make your donation.

RECRUITING AT THE WORLD PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP



The picture shows
our marquee
with
ALAN EWING
and
CHARLES EWEN
'on duty'.

'Show the Flag' featured
in 'THE CLAN EWEN
SOCIETY Bulletin'
November 1983



'THE CLAN EWEN SOCIETY Bulletin' May 1985 - International Gathering

More Gaelic

Gáilig Dhail Riada

The Gaelic dialect of Bute, Cowal & Mid-Argyle

Common Greetings

latha math

good day

shin u / sibh!

that[’s] you! [ie hello!]

dé tha ’dol?

what is going? [ie what’s happening?]

dé mar a tha u?

what like are you? [ie how are you?]

tha gu gasta!

[I] am splendidly! [ie I’m great!]

c’ ainm a th’ ort? /horst/

what name is on you? [ie what’s your name?]

is mise Calum

is me Malcolm [ie I am Malcolm]

Up date—Words so far

A

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briagh

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Seumas
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