



Clan MacEwen Society Bulletin

Reviresco

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www.instagram.com/clanmacewen



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Commander's Message Sir John McEwen

This year Duns Players, the theatrical troupe of which I am Chair, made its first ever foray to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. We presented *Colonel Anne*, a true story from the '45, and it went very well, with 85 per cent of tickets sold, and we are delighted. It was truly exciting to be involved in the world's largest arts festival, of which Scotland should be extremely proud. Edinburgh is the first UNESCO City of Literature, boasts the only railway station anywhere named after a novel (I believe) and also has on display the biggest monument on earth dedicated to a writer, the Scott Monument. One might not always think it, but Scotland is a highly literate and art-loving place with a high regard for the life of the imagination. This worked to the benefit of our production which was "age-blind" which meant that a certain 57-year-old Clan Commander was allowed to play Bonnie Prince Charlie! And he enjoyed himself very much. Best wishes to all Clansfolk!



Chairman's Message Sean McCuin

Greetings from Kilfinan and Hello to all!

The Gathering here at Kilfinan was a marvelous success and a great time was had by all. This year we have been fortunate enough to bring the Clan MacEwen to its first Scottish Festival in France. I would like to thank all who were involved at making it a great event for one and all. We have also been continuing to expand our games and gathering presence around the globe. This is in no small part to the dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to bring our message of kinship and camaraderie to the masses.

This coming year we are working hard on the planning for our great gathering here in Kilfinan, where we will be able to be truly recognised as the great clan that we are. Our mission of the Clan that Plants Trees and the preservation of our ancient language, are always at the forefront of what we strive for within the wider Scottish Community and will truly reap positive benefits throughout the globe. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, during the year, at a games near you.



Reviresco!

Co'mhla!

GySgt. USMC Ret.

From The Editors

What a year so far! All games and gatherings back on track with much enthusiasm and enjoyment. So far this year we have had a bumper season, where clan members have been able to attend Highland Games not only across Scotland but in Canada, USA and Oceania. We had the pleasure of meeting the McCuen Family, from the town McEwen in Tennessee, at the Cowal Games. However, they weren't the only people from America and from other clans with whom we rubbed shoulders. The newest of the games for the clan was in France, attended by Sean, Dina and Achim and you can see how they all got on at the event in our gallery of photographs. All games attended by clan members raise our profile and bring in new Society members. The motto "*Reviresco*", *we grow strong again*, has never been more apt. The MacEwen family just keeps growing! All this is an important lead in to our gathering in 2024, which is vitally important for us, since it will be attended by the representative of Lord Lyon, the Hon. Adam Bruce Marchmont Herald who needs to see for himself the support we have for Sir John to be our next Chief. We look forward to seeing you there.



Attending Highland Games can be a bit overwhelming for some but there are ways of dealing with it!



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Canada Commissioner Report by Maggie McEwan



Greetings to our fellow Clans people from southern Ontario.

This year I was able to enjoy our AGM in person for the second time. A wonderful 3 days...seeing friends from previous meetings, making new friends, hiking to the MacEwen Cairn and elsewhere, listening to interesting lectures, and, of course, the AGM itself.

In June, James and Angela McEwen from USA crossed the border to man the booth at the Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival for the second time.

Clan MacEwen hosted a tent at Cambridge (ON) Highland Games in July. This was our first time at Cambridge; but not our last. Despite threats of heavy rain, we decided to stay and wait it out. It turned out to be a wise decision as the rain did not materialise. We had many visitors, MacEwens, Ewans and more.



In August we enjoyed the three-day historic Fergus Highland Games. Fergus is one of the oldest 3-day Highland Festivals in Canada and this was our third visit. Opening night, Friday, Clans take part in the Tattoo; the re-creation of 'the lighting of the hearth'. Each clan carries a flaming torch. We also take part in the opening ceremonies on Saturday, where each clan is identified as we pass the stage. Similar to our earlier Games at Cambridge, we again had many visitors. Even visitors with no connection to our Clan are interested in our history.

I would love Clan MacEwen to have a presence at Games in areas as well as New Brunswick and Southern Ontario. If you would like to convene a booth, please let me know.



Cambridge Games

Fergus Games



USA Commissioner Report by Bob and Carol Owens



Greetings Fellow MacEwens! It has been a busy summer thus far for Clan MacEwen in the United States.

June found **Valerie Farschman** in Berea, Ohio, flying the colors at the Ohio Scottish Games, while Northeast Regional Conveners **Jim and Angela McEwen** lent their expertise to our Canadian compatriots, convening a tent at the Greater Moncton Highland Games & Scottish Festival. July it was **John and Tanja McCuen** (of McEwen, TN), **Jim and Angela McEwen** (of Rochester, NH), and my bride **Carol Owens** and myself hosting two tents at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina. August saw MacEwens in the news in New England, with **Michelle McEwen**, along with **Teresa McEwen, Judy McEwen Ryan**, and a young **Adelaide McEwen** (a young Convener in training), holding down the fort...or in this case Clan tent...at the Maine Highland Games while **Jim McEwen** was working in the background as one of the event's Clan Village volunteers, while **Dina-Lee McEwan** volunteered with ticket sales. **Jim and Angela McEwen** also debuted the MacEwens for the first time in Quechee, Vermont at the Quechee Highland Games.



September will see us easing into the fall Games season, with a Clan MacEwen presence at the upcoming New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival, the Middle Tennessee Highland Games, the Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival (TN), the Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games & Festival (IN), Stone Mountain Highland Games (GA), Edinboro and Ligonier Highland Games (PA) and Rocket City Games (Alabama) on October 6th. Visit the event websites online or watch our Facebook page for details on these upcoming events.

Lastly, we continue to expand our presence in the U.S., with Members having expressed interest in becoming new Conveners in Arizona, California, and Colorado.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED in convening, or assisting in convening, an event in your area, please contact me, Robert (Bob) Owens at owens@rebelscreek.com. I'll be happy to help you connect with your area's regional convener or with you personally to set that up.

Together, we grow strong again! **Reviresco! Co'mhla!**

**If you're already convening an event of which I'm not aware, please let me know so we can recognize and thank you publicly and offer any assistance you might need!*

Kilts and Cowboy Boots Clan Gathering

4 - 7 April 2024

San Antonio, Texas

For hundreds of years Scottish clans fought for domination and resources. Ancient alliances, as well as disagreements, are well documented. In modern times, Clans in the USA share space in Scottish Games across the country, forging friendships through our shared love of Scotland and our Scottish heritage.

Clans Colquhoun, MacGregor, MacFarlane, **MacEwen**, Graham, Buchanan, and Hunter will be coming together in a spirit of camaraderie and friendly competition in San Antonio, Texas. So, shine up your boots, grab your hats, and join us for what will be an incredibly special gathering.

Don't wait to hear about how exciting our Clan gathering *was*, experience it yourself!



Event Highlights

Whiskey & Wine Tasting

Tales of Our Heritage

Bonniest Knees Competition

Introduction to Genealogy

Clan drinks reception with Participant Clans and Clan Chiefs

Clan Scottish-Heritage Quiz Competition

San Antonio Highland Games

including:

The Parade of the Clans

Clan Battle with Clan Colquhoun, Clan Buchanan, Clan Graham, Clan Hunter, **Clan MacEwen, Clan MacFarlane, and Clan MacGregor on the games field.**

Kilt and Cowboy Boots Banquet

Don't miss the fun...join Clan MacEwen Commander Sir John R.H. McEwen, Bt., and Society Chairman Sean A. McCuin, GySgt. USMC (Ret) for this special Gathering. Visit www.clanmacewen.com or www.clancolquhoun.com for more information. To register directly online visit <https://www.clancolquhoun.com/registration-macewen/>

** While the San Antonio Highland Games are open to all, you must be a Clan MacEwen Society member to participate in the Kilts and Cowboy Boots special events.*



Oceania Commissioner Report by Chris McEwan.



I am pleased to report that with the drier weather that we were hoping for and expecting we have been able to be a lot more active this year over the busiest part of the Highland Game and Celtic Festival Season!

Since my March report we have been able to represent the Clan at Bundanoon is Brigadoon, The Australian Celtic Festival at the Australian standing stones in Glen Innes, The Berry Celtic Festival, and Aberdeen Highland Games in the Hunter Valley as well as joining in with the rest of the International Society for our AGM in June.

Coming up in the next couple of months we have Clans on the Coast near Port Stephens late in September and ideally, we would like to have a presence at The Canberra Burns Club Highland Gathering. Unfortunately, I will need to be working that weekend so if you are one of my fellow Australian Clans folk and you are interested in seeing us represented in the only Games that happens in our Nation's Capital please reach out to us. We have a setup that makes it very easy for anybody who is able to tow a trailer to borrow everything required to run the stall and we already have a booking for a tent at the gathering.

Beyond these gatherings in NSW we are also looking forward to a number of the events that will be happening in Victoria and South Australia in the next couple of months where Greg will be representing the Clan as well as preparing for the International Gathering in June next year!



Aberdeen Highland Games in Hunter Valley



Berry Celtic Festival

Captured moments of our June Gathering at Otter Ferry.









March to the Motte, led by Pipe Major JR Ewen

Commander Sir John MacEwen , Vice Chairman Ross McEwen and Chairman Sean McCuin in quiet reflection and contemplation at the Motte.



Blessing of the Tartan, by Rev Mackenzie, at the Motte



Reviresco, Our Call

In our March Bulletin you will recall we featured Matt McEuen in ‘Spotlight on a MacEuen’, an accomplished musician. At the June Gathering in Otter Ferry, we were delighted to meet up with Matt and his wife Jill, who travelled from their home in Missouri to attend the Clan gathering and AGM. After the AGM had finished Matt gave a rousing rendition of his composition *Reviresco, Our Call*.

Reviresco, Our Call

Matt McEuen
Jim O'Brien

We are one Clan Mac-Ew - en and we will be re - newed! We will
From the High - lands and Low - lands to Can - a - di - an pines, we are
Now with eyes toward the fu - ture we will build on the past, Buid sinn

grow ag - ain! Grow ag - ain, and nev - er be subdud. We are
one ag - ain! One ag - ain! To go - thru re - de - fire. From Deutsch -
còmh - la fhathast! Còmh - la fhathast! Is sin mar seo an-dràst! And with

one Clan and to our neigh - bors we'll be a friend! Grow ag - ain, till the whole world we am -
land and Aus - tra - lia to Am - er - i - can plains, one ag - ain, and to - ge - ther we are
brav' - ry and skill we'll re - al - ize all our plans. Còmh - la fhathast! Build a leg - a - cy to

end. And our spi - rit re - stored, we are bold to do more, for to -
great! From Kil - fin - nan we rise, Kirk - cull - bright to Loch Fyne, Car - o -
last. Let us he - al the land, make a strang - er a friend, and with

day is tu - mor - row's glor - ious here! As we plant and we work and heal and
lie - a to Ulc - ter's ere - rald shore, From the boid - ers to In - ver - ness
joy share with oth - ers what we have. Let us raise up a voice as Clan Mac -

speak, we will sing: Is e Re - vir - es - co an gairm again! Rev - ir -
we're plant - ing trees, hand in hand with kin a - cross the seas!
Ew - en and shout: Còmh - la! Re - vir - es - co! Bless the Clan!

es-co... is our call to make anew! Rev - ir - es - co our deci - ion when there's something we can do. Rev - ir -

es-co... is our call to per - sever! May God grant us Rev - ir - es - co! Clan Mac - Ewen we are here!

Is e Reviresco an gairm again? Is e Reviresco an Gairm an t-àite again? Reviresco is our Call!
Buid sinn còmhla fhathast, is sin mar seo an-dràst! (Buid sinn còmhla leat, is sin mar seo an-dràst) again. We will be together yet, and that's like this now!

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Ed writing with Highland Pipe part available on request.

Inverness Games By Ross McEwen.

Clan MacEwen was delighted and honoured to play a leading role in the success of the 'Clans Tent' at the recent Inverness Highland Games, which took place at Bught Park on Saturday 15 July 2023, and amounted to the largest inter-clan gathering to take place in Scotland for many years.

The Inverness Games, which were first instituted in 1837 have over the years welcomed Kings, Queens and swathes of Clans and their Chiefs. Located in the centre of the Highland Capital the games were the principal reason for the building of the 'Northern Meeting Park', the first purpose built Highland Games venue anywhere in the world. Over recent years the games have had to relocate to the much larger nearby Bught Park towards the south-west of the city on the banks of the River Ness. The games are operated by the Highland Council via their 'Common Good Fund', the Chieftain of the Games this year was Provost of the City of Inverness, Councillor Glynis Sinclair.

Since 2013 the **Association of Highland Clans & Societies**, chaired by MacLean Chieftain The Very Rev. Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch, have organised the 'Clans Tent', which provides a space for the Association's member clans to host a table, free of charge, and engage with attendees. The Association is comprised of approximately 34 member clans and were pleased to welcome 14 Highland Clans to the Inverness Highland Games this year to host a table within the Clans Tent.

This year Clan MacEwen took over the administration and logistics planning for the Clans Tent, acting as the principal liaison between the membership Clans and the Highland Council, to ensure the best possible arrangement for all involved.

The Clans in attendance hosting tables at the games this year were, Cameron, Chattan, Chisholm, Donald, Fraser of Lovat, Grant, MacEwen, Mackenzie, Maclean, Macmillan, Macrae, Rose, Stewart, Urquhart, and were joined by The Highland Archive Centre, The Highland Family History Society, The Stories of Scotland Podcast and The



Notable attendees on the day who could be found at their respective clan tables were John Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Chief of Mackintosh, (31st Chief of Mackintosh), David Rose of Rose and Kilravock, Chief of Clan Rose, Lois McDonnell of Glengarry, Dr Roddy Cameron (President of Clan Cameron), and Thomas Urquhart (Chieftain in Clan Urquhart).

The 'Stories of Scotland' podcast also in attendance and hosted a table are, at the time of writing, the most downloaded Scottish history podcast in the world.

The Clans Tent saw constant footfall throughout the day, so much so at one point access to the tent had to be restricted due to becoming so full of visitors. The Clan presence predictably prove to be one of the main draws at the games, and visitors from Scotland and overseas alike took the opportunity to learn more about the vitally important aspect of our culture that is, the Clan system.

The MacEwen table was manned by Inverness natives Society Vice-Chair Ross McEwen, Colin J. McEwen, and Mariei McEwen, as well as Fife Clansman Archie McEwan who travelled up to the event to lend a hand, which was much appreciated.

Featured among the many items at the Clan MacEwen table were new information leaflets specifically regarding two notable historic Inverness members of the Clan, former provost of Inverness and first leader of the 'Scottish National Party' Sir Alexander MacEwen, and renowned Highland journalist and member of the Highland community Alexander G. McEwen. Included also was the very first full display of all 12 MacEwen Scottish Coats of Arms granted by the Lord Lyon.

Some of the very first people through the tent when the Games opened were in fact, MacEwens...nine of them no less! A wonderful family from New Mexico and Texas, which included Samuel McEwen, son of Dustin and Ashlee McEwen of Ruidoso, New Mexico USA, who came second place in the U15 Boys Long Jump on the day. There were also German, Dutch and East Asian MacEwens who paid a visit to the table.

One of the special visitors to the MacEwen table on the day was John Lachlan Mackintosh of Mackintosh, 31st Chief of Mackintosh, a truly historic line in Highland history, and it was a privilege to meet The Mackintosh and have the opportunity to speak about the work Clan MacEwen are undertaking here and abroad.

At the conclusion of the successful games, representatives from the member clans then travelled to nearby Eden Court Theatre for the Association's Annual General Meeting. The meet achieved consensus on a wide range of matters, notably the formal 'relaunch' of the Association newsletter, website, and events, as well as the election of a new governing committee, consisting of

Chair: The Very Reverend Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch [Maclean]

Deputy Chair: Donald McIntosh [Chattan]

Secretary: Ross M. McEwen [MacEwen]

Treasurer: Rossie MacRae [MacRae]

Committee Members: Graeme Mackenzie [MacMillan], Anne Maclean of Dochgarroch [Maclean], Mark Sutherland [Sutherland], Tim Atkinson [Grant], Anne Fraser [The Highland Archive Centre]

It is anticipated that Clan MacEwen will again play the leading role in the organising of the Clans Tent at the 2024 Inverness Highland Games, where it is expected up to half a dozen additional Clans will be in attendance, securing the Games as one of the premier clan-related events in all of Scotland.

Society Vice-Chair wishes to express special thanks to Archie, Colin and Mariei for their hard work and exceptional contribution to the success of the MacEwen table on the day.

"The Clans Tent at Inverness this year demonstrated Highland Clan culture is alive and well in the North of Scotland, and it is exciting for Clan Rose to celebrate our heritage alongside our fellow Highland Clans at events such as the Inverness Games".

David Rose of Rose and Kilravock

"It is always a fantastic opportunity to meet many people from around Scotland and further afield, and to share our interest with them and to help guide them towards the understanding and fellowship they seek."

John Mackintosh of Mackintosh



Ross with John Lachlan Mackintosh of Mackintosh, 32st Chief of Mackintosh



MacEwens at Aubigny sur Nère By Sean McCuin.



For more than 30 years, the French-Scottish Festival has recalled the historic past of the City of Aubigny through shows, medieval markets, camps, concerts, feasts, and fireworks. Bagpipes, kilts and Pipes Bands invade Aubigny each year for a weekend, to celebrate the Auld Alliance. This, for more than 250 years (from 1423 to 1672), Aubigny belonged to the Stuart family.

An important Scottish legacy!

The Scottish ruling has left lots of traces. The Stuarts' castle nowadays shelters a bagpipe school as well as the Auld Alliance centre. The historical town centre is full of picturesque streets bordered with XVIth century half timbered houses such as François I's house, Joan of Arc's house, St John's house, the bailiff's house. For almost 300 years, this town lived in the Scottish way. Although the castle now belongs to the town council the traditions are still very lively.

An outstanding weekend!

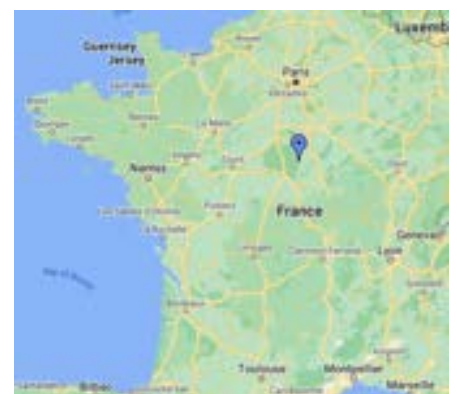
Since 1990, every year around July 14th, those French-Scottish feasts strengthen the existing tight links between the Scots and Aubigny. The town then revives its past and displays Scottish colours, where kilts are a formal dress, and the music of the bagpipes and the pipe-bands spread all through the town.



Ready for the Grand Parade with
(right to left) Achim Fuchs, Dina, Sean, Alex Noe and
Frederick



The Clan MacEwen Society Display at Aubigny sur Nere.



As this was the first time we as a Clan were in attendance, I was impressed with the level of organization for the event, and truly look forward to attending in the future. The camaraderie between the clans in attendance was a real highlight and the bond between MacEwen and Lamont was strengthened even more. The weather was at times very hot and very Scottish at the same time. The members of the Spessart Highlanders were able to help augment another German Pipe Band in attendance in their time of need.



The Leaders of the Attending Clans at Aubigny sur Nere



Sean McCuin discussing the history of the Clan with Society Member Gerald Macoine.

One of the highlights for me was the opportunity to connect with members of the Society. Gerald Macoine was reinvigorated by meeting members of the Society and the ability to have some of his questions answered then and there. Other Members of the public seemed to be very interested in our objective of restoring and maintaining the Gaelic language for everyone, and our Motto- ‘the Clan That Plants Trees’. A great time was had by all and I would highly encourage everyone to attend this great event!





The MacEwens literally rubbed shoulders with their very good friends, Clan Lamont and Clan Buchanan, in their shared marquee. It soon became the focal point for other visiting clans and inquisitive visitors to the Games.



Lady Rachel McEwen with the McCuen family from near McEwan town in Tennessee.



Sir John McEwen, Sean McCuin, Lady Rachel McEwen and son Robin.



Margaret Buchanan with visiting Buchanans from the USA



Marching out for the piping competition.



Look down on the stadium from the Clans' marquee



Spectators will do anything to get a good view.

Blairgowrie and Rattray Highland Games

By Sean McCuin.

Clan MacEwen was honored to be present at the Blairgowrie Highland Games hosted by Laurence Blair Oliphant of Ardblair and Gask, who was also the Chieftain of the Games. This was our first time at the games and we were next to our friends Youngs of Scotland. The weather was absolutely stunning and the atmosphere was great fun and inviting. The Games were attended by a very good number, considering it took place just one day after the Braemar Gathering, which is traditionally attended by the Royal Family.



Left to Right ; Victoria, Ross, Laurence Blair Oliphant of Ardblair and Gask (Chieftain of the Games), Sean, Tanja and John



The MacEwen Crew



Marching with the Clans



Sean swears by Peijnenburg Dutch Breakfast Cake washed down with a cup of MacEwen coffee.

Peijnenburg are one of our prospective sponsors for the 2024 gathering and family convention. It is the Dutch brand for the delicious Dutch breakfast cakes, Their Famous Breakfast cake comes in different flavours; Peijnenburg ginger breakfast cake, Peijnenburg pearl candy cake, Peijnenburg raisin cake, Peijnenburg wholemeal breakfast cake, and Peijnenburg breakfast honey caramel cake.

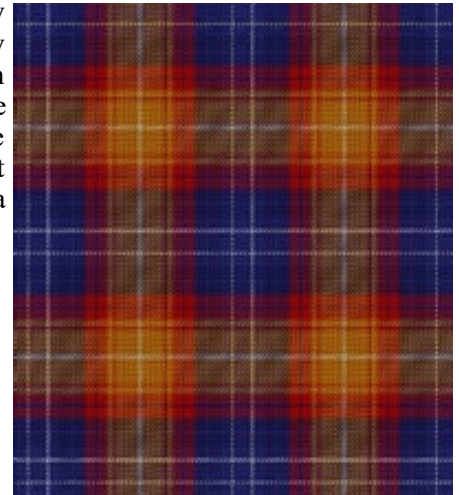


Another successful day for the Clan!

How The Tartan Of Holland Was Created. By Herma Goosens.

Each November about 5.000 whisky lovers attend the Dutch Whisky Festival in Leiden. Some Dutch enthusiasts preferred to be dressed in tartan at the festival and "borrowed" a Scottish family link as an excuse to wear their tartan. The support was growing for *a tartan of our own*, this way they did not have to "borrow" anymore.

There was already a Dutch Mackay tartan created by John Cargill in January 1965, to honour Baron Aeneas Mackay. This tartan was based on the Mackay tartan because of the association with the Chiefs of the Clan Mackay. Baron Aeneas Mackay was Prime Minister of the Netherlands 1888-1891, Vice President of the Council of State and holder of the Cross of the Order of the Netherlands and 10th Lord Reay. His great grandson Lord Reay, the present Chief, is also a Dutch Baron. The sett chosen was John Cargill's proposal of a simple colour change in respect of the two tartans, Dutch and Dutch Dress.



At last, *The Tartan of Holland* was designed at the university of St Adrews by Dr David Wishart of Edinburgh. It combines the colours of the Netherlands national flag - red, white and blue - with orange, representing the Royal House of Orange. It took five months to design and has been officially registered by the Scottish Tartans Authority. It was submitted as a District Tartan, regarded as a Fashion design. Weavers are Lochcarron of Scotland at Galashiels.



©Revenge of the Kilt

www.tartanregister.gov.uk

www.news.bbc.co.uk

<https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mackay>

The McEwen Letters- (a window on Sir John's Family) By Lady Rachel McEwen.

John and I have always wanted to make a room at Polwarth, where we live near Duns, to house the family papers and letters that have been written by family members over the last couple of centuries. In the last decade we have managed to do just that, a glorified corridor really, but it does justice to the book collection that has been in the family for a long time. Marchmont house, which is a mile away from here, was vacated by John's family in the mid 1980s and much of the library is here with us at Polwarth; the other family house Bardrochat was sold in the early years of this century and from there we have much of the family papers. Over the years we have sifted through them and there is much to be reported, but arguably the most interesting and most easily accessible are a collection of letters written by six siblings, Margaret, James, John, David, Robert and Hugh, over the 19th century. The letters were collated by John's grandfather in the 1920s and we have written and some typed copies. We don't have the originals; I can only guess that he wanted to create some space in his archives - he also cut out signatures of well known people of the day and stuck them into an autograph book, which we have, but without any of the letters!

The letters in the first three volumes span from the mid 1820s to the 1880s and are mostly sent to a Robert McEwen from his siblings, his mother and his uncles from his mother's side of the family. Robert McEwen was the fourth son and fifth child of Robert McEwen and Jean McIlwraith. There is a letter from his father written in the late 18th century that shows a very pious man; born at Bardrochat to James McEwen and Helen Pyper in 1759, he had one sister Janet who also married to a McIlwraith. James McEwen's father, also James, born in 1695, died in the Stinchar in an accident at the age of 42. In volumes 1-2 it seems that only Robert kept the letters so we have very little evidence of his writing - this is such a shame as it is because of his avid writing that his recipients are compelled to write back to him! However, the letters not only reveal the character traits of the people who are writing but they are a great source of social history.

Bardrochat lies on the slopes of the Stinchar Valley in Carrick, South Ayrshire, an area that has a long history of McEwen inhabitants. From the dining room at Bardrochat, on a clear day, one can see the coast of Northern Ireland and the large crag of Ailsa Craig is always a welcoming sight. The village of Colmonell lies in the valley a short hop over the hill from the coast road that links the busier towns to the North with the ferry port of Stranraer, the gateway to Ireland by sea. From the coast road it is easy to see how this area developed over centuries for its close proximity to the islands and peninsulas of the West Coast by sea. Villages like Colmonell might seem rural today but they lie on an ancient pilgrimage route from Paisley, near Glasgow to Wigton in the South west of Scotland. And for these reasons, this part of the world has seen much movement of people, of which the McEwen family were a part

Robert McEwen, born 1759, the father of the siblings, who wrote the letters, did not have children until his 40s and died in 1812. It is evident reading the letters that their extended family life was amongst their mother's side of the family, who also resided in the Stinchar valley and who owned land. They sometimes ask questions about their McEwen history, and it is evident in the letters that they sought clarification from others. In the early 1860s, they visited a McEwen relative in Colmonell and I have published an account of the visit here. The elder siblings writing the letters were born at Bardrochat but the younger siblings, including John were born in Alloway. Robert their father had been appointed factor to the Countess of Crawford's estates, in Alloway, not long after he married Jean McIlwraith and the role came with prestige, the children were all educated at Ayr Academy and he became Captain in the Ayrshire Militia. Only two of his children had children, John McEwen, the second son, born 1803 and who became the minister at Kirkmichael in later years, and David the 3rd son, born 1805, who emigrated to Canada and we have his letters documenting his move and life; I will dedicate a submission to the bulletin, to David alone. John is the father of Robert Finnie McEwen, his only son who was born in 1861, when he was 57. John died of cholera in 1866 leaving two young children, the other, a girl called Janet (Jessie) did not have children. Robert Finnie McEwen inherited more than a fair share of the wealth from his uncles when they died, including the farmland at Bardrochat, on which he commissioned Robert Lorimer to build a mansion house, and where, of course all these letters were stored and recovered to our library in recent times.

First source is an introduction from John's grandfather, Captain Sir John McEwen who compiled the letters in the 1920s, he introduces the family, a few sources and then begins with one of the only sources we have from Robert, written in 1824, giving a lovely description of the land of his childhood. This moves on to the first letter from Margaret to Robert after he has left home - Margaret is the eldest child born in 1800 and the only girl - she spends her time at home looking after her mother, her younger brother, visiting brothers and the house. The second source, written in 1860 is a description from James, the eldest brother, of his father's death in 1812 and finally I have included the write-up of notes from the visit to an elderly McEwen relative in Colmonell in 1864. By this time the land at Bardrochat was in the ownership of the family.

In thinking about how to put this series together, I turned my mind to the McEwen families of the Stinchar Valley, their histories and the sources we have that document their lives. I found out very quickly that the family (and many websites) have the brothers' birth order wrong which puts a different slant on the communication in some of these letters, especially those of Hugh, who now as the youngest brother actually is protesting rather than joking, but I will introduce him in a later bulletin!

Notes taken down by James McEwen from information communicated to him in October 1864 by Mrs. McCue (nee Agnes McEwen) a daughter of the only sister of our father, Robert McEwen when the said James McEwen, The Rev. John McEwen, Mrs. McEwen, his wife, & Robert McEwen, visited Colmonell.

Mrs. McCue at the time we visited her was at a very advanced age, being, it was believed, about 82.

Our paternal grandfather, I understood her to say, had in his possession as tenant the whole of the present lands called Bardrochwood now belonging to Mr. E. & also the hill lands called Upper Bardrochwood now belonging to another proprietor. He died much respected in 1790 or so.

(Marginal note by Robert McEwen: "I think tenant of Upper and lower. Upper I saw the house of as I walked along the hill boundary.")

Our paternal grandmother reached a great age & died in about 1802 when nearly 97. Latterly she was in her second childhood.

It was our great grandfather who perished in the river Stinchar. The accident occurred some way above Bardrochwood; the exact spot forgot. He was crossing the river on horse back with fishing nets at his saddle bow. The water was in flood. The horse slipped & was taken down. He got entangled in the nets from which he was unable to extricate himself & was carried down by force of the current & drowned. It was hay time or harvest. There were at that event some reapers or workers in a field nearby who saw the accident & ran to his rescue; but all their efforts were unsuccessful. The exact spot

1864

where the body was afterwards got was not mentioned, nor whether it was on the same day or subsequently. Further enquiries might be made as to this if a proper opportunity occurred. The file of the *Ship Advertiser*, if it was published at that time, might be examined.....

Mrs. McLerie said there were originally three brothers who came from the Highlands to the district: one of them & his descendants it is said, were long tenants of Carleton, from which Sir John Lubart takes his title. Another brother came to Bererockwood, & a third to Arwel.

I see from the Dalquharran Receipt Book for rent that a James McEwen, an ancestor, paid his rent on 15 October 1755 as per receipt under the hand of Francis Kennedy. It appears from the same book that David Piper was the name of the preceding tenant. Our paternal grandmother's name was Piper, probably a daughter or sister of this David Piper. The above book is in my possession. The two present tenants of Ocknowe & Bererockwood, tho' both of the name of McEwen, were said not to be relations.

(Note by Robert McEwen: "To enquiry as to collateral descendants by intermarriage the only one known or named was I think Mr McWilliam of Colmonah, present Inspector of the Poor, a respectable & responsible man personally & officially.")

It would be very desirable if a future opportunity occurred to verify the above by getting new & additional particulars.

Introduction and Robert McEwen's Account - 1886

The following which from its appearance would appear to date from about this time was found among the papers of Robert McEwen, son of the foregoing, who died in Manchester in 1886:

"In Kilfinnan, which is in Darroon presbytery, in Argyleshire, about a mile below the church, is the vestige of a building, called 'MacEwen's castle', an irregular fabric. MacEwen was the chief of a clan & proprietor of the north division of this parish. Robert MacEwen. (no date)

That the writer of this fragment was not Robert McEwen in Bardrochwood is I think clear both from the difference in spelling "mac" instead of "Mc" & from the expression "this parish," which best would seem to point to the minister of Kilfinnan being the author.

Robert McEwen married in 1799 Jean McIlwraith (Auchenflower): their eldest child, Margaret, was born at Bardrochwood the following year: after her came five sons in the following order, James, later a W.S. & first laird of Bardrochwood (or Bardrochat as it was & renamed many years afterwards more correctly); John, my grandfather, for 31 years minister of Kirkmichael in Carrick; Robert, who went into the calico printing trade in Manchester; Hugh, who went out on business to India & died there, & David, who emigrated to Canada & founded a family whose descendants still exist there. Robert, the father of this family, died in 1812 & was buried at Alloway. I have not been able to find any account of his death. (See later) Vol. III.

The extracts which follow are taken from a Diary kept by Robert (the son) beginning in December 1824; it is headed: "Diary containing daily occurrences, observations, reflections, etc., etc. by Robert McEwen."

"Clochranhik: Dec^r 3, 1824 Rose at 7 o'clock.... The winter has commenced

James's Account - 1860

1860

[On January 2^d, 1860 John McEwen & Isabella Torrie (in Trichfield Street, but married) were married in Edinburgh by Dr Thomas Crawford, minister of St. Andrew's Parish Church. The bridegroom was 57 & the bride 38.]

[The following fragment of autobiography is in the handwriting of James McEwen. The first part is descriptive of Clackmannon.]

April 1860

My early years were passed under the watchful eyes of two pious and affectionate parents. My birth place was in the country. Before the door of the dwelling house there was a field of great beauty, generally in pasture. Stretching further at the foot of it & on both sides lay other fields, & in the distance, but not above two miles off, rose a mountain rising as it were on its side & rising towards the head. The sound of a river which as it was heard far up or far down served in some respects the purposes of a water barometer. An orchard full of fruit trees was behind the house & on the west it was protected by a mound on which grew a number of trees. The chattering ring of a sawing hammer not far off was often heard. At about a similar distance off was to be seen as well as heard the saw pit of a country wright. Beyond it was a monument consecrated to the remembrance of departed genius. From the sides of the burn [trick] which surmounted its low mountain. There was reflected in summer the brilliant rays of a setting sun. Above a mile off too was frequently heard the howling of a kennel of fox hounds, drowned during gales by the roaring of the sea waves, beating on the resist bearing beach. There was heard too the rarely in the quiet of a summer evening the melow tones of the pine tree at the county town. Wood as well as water abounded & the character of the scenery was unobscuring. In autumn as well as spring the somewhat hard crash of the wood cutters axe confirmed as nothing else would, the rural nature of the district. Fond I was of roaming among those woods, bathing the the pools of the river near by & running thro' the fields, then turning over the pages of my Latin Grammar. Had the distance to the Academy was but two & a half miles - I went there as soon as my limbs would bear me. Denied rather than

James's Account 1860 - page 2

walked to school. In a kind feeling of enjoyment pervaded my whole mind arising partly from King's Bench with a vigorous (constitution) enjoying the road to school by wood & fields was embowered with the shade of the beech tree perched on the top of the highest tree & by the song of the thrush & lark! What a fairy picture was presented to my youthful eyes. How gentle the bit of discipline then touched the lips & eyes before entering into the term. . . . & then when a Saturday came round - as come it did - what a well letter day it was with the exercise & privileged enjoyment which it brought along with it. But an event happens to strike even the youthful mind with awe among my classmates was a boy about 9 years of age like myself we sat generally next me. One day he was absent. I thought I knew that he notices at once when he becomes placed beside a different face. The absence continued for some days; the cause of it was known. A few days more he lingered - a death laid his hand on a young flower. A few days more elapsed & that flower I saw put into its bed, its mother earth. With what intense emotion I stood beside the edge of the grave of my first play mate could it be that he who but a week or two before was running over the schoolyard as full of health & of warm affections as I was gone! I could hardly receive the idea. I learned afterwards the truth that I might indeed go to him but he would not return to me. Five years more elapsed. One Sabbath day my mother desired one of the female domestics to take my brother & me away to the Fair Park. This was an uncommon thing. It was early in July. The faithful upbringing of religious parents prevented us taking the freedom which we took on other days. On our return we learned that our father had undergone an operation. He was now in bed. [There might be] the shriek cry of ~~nothing~~ ^{nothing} under the impulsion of the knife, young ears & young hearts could not bear the cry of agonies without deep emotion. It was wise & kind to send us to the Fair Park. My mother took us into another room & engaged in prayer. I went to school as usual. My father remained in bed, he did not appear, or did not let it appear that he was suffering much. He asked me & he did not play, not school about.

James Account 1860 - page 3

1860

once to come near to him. I did so. He took my hand in his holding it gently & affectionately for some moments & looking in my face with a touching expression of countenance he said quietly but impressively: "James, be a good boy." He then touched my hand, while an unusual expression of gravity sat on his features. A day or two afterwards on returning from school I met my Uncle at the door. I did not enter the house. He asked me to accompany him into the garden. We went up the grass walk together. He walked slowly & hardly spoke. When he reached the head of the garden he said simply: "James, your father is gone." I was then 4 years of age. Everything around was full of beauty, the roses in full bloom & other flowers sending forth their richest fragrance. Without all was sun hazed with loveliness; all within was darkness & death. The deep drawn sighing sighs of my agonized mother yet sound in my ear with terrible effect when I reach the scene. Many were the prayers during my father's illness which every night as long as we remained together as a family were offered up at the Throne of Grace. May these never be effaced from my memory for good. Amidst all my shortcomings & sins I have never forgot those touching words, that special legacy to me of a dying parent. "James, be a good boy." The whole conduct of life & preparation for eternity are included in that single short sentence. May God make me thro' life & in death to remember all that is implied in it.

Robert's Account 1824

1824

with unusual severity & that frost which is the source of so much pleasure to me must be very disagreeable to him whose best occupation exposes to the rigours of the elements. Dec: 4. Rose at 8. From the window at which I now write the scene is truly grand. To the right appear a few houses partly covered with snow: to the left a few plantations carelessly spread around, & before me lies a smooth plain at the end of which stands Alloway Kirk in a roofless state adding solemnity to the surrounding scenery, & its decayed & ruinous condition forms an agreeable contrast with the elegance & ornament displayed on yon stately structures erected to perpetuate the memory of the poet of nature, Robert Burns. A few yards beyond this elegant monument the Doune pours forth its floods. Beyond the Doune & directly opposite to the window rises in beauty & magnificence the Carrick Kirk. January 1 (1825) New Year's Day - Rose as usual - I was not always so - when my brothers were all at home I had noble sport & was very eager to be first out of bed & was often groping for my clothes in the dark about cock-crowing. But this year the clock had struck 9 before I thought of bestirring myself. One principal amusement of New Year's Day used to be shooting with a bow & arrow, but to day I just fared into town as usual to the office of Mr John Paul, Writer, & was as long in it as usual. I may here mention that I finished my education at Ayr Academy on 30 July 1824. I have enjoyed a very superior education for which I ought to be very thankful, indeed my mother wished us all to be scholars. The branches which I studied at that excellent seminary were: Greek, Latin, French, Mathematics, Composition, Geography, Arithmetic & Book-keeping. For my English reading I am indebted to my sister Margaret, for my writing to my brother James. During my last session at that Institution (the Academy) I wrote 3 or 4 hours (my odd time thro' the day) with Mr. Paul from the month of Sept. 1823 to August 1824 & since this last period I have been writing with him from 10 to 4 o'clock & I do not attend in the evening. As a remuneration Mr. Paul was so good as to present me with £5 to day which was very handsome & grateful indeed. I shall

Robert's Account 1825

1825

not forget it. I felt a great deal of pleasure on receipt of the money, the first that I have ever earned by my own application...

[Letter to Robert from his sister Margaret]

Clarkland 1 June 1825

My dear Robert

By your letter to my brother I am happy to see you are safely arrived in Glasgow. I observe with much pleasure Mr. Hutchings attention on assisting you to look out for lodgings. I think surely it is not high 4/- per week. I should like to know if your room is respectably furnished, & if your landlady is able to arrange the Dishes on the table in mathematical order. Also let us know the distance from the warehouse, & if on trial you are not satisfied with your landlady you know by giving her proper warning you are at liberty to remove. Further what kind of Boys are in the warehouse, & if the portmen are pleasant, & what kind of employment you have. With this is sent an "empty Bag" with meal & a Ham in the midst of the meal, now observe I say in the midst of the meal as can be attested by portmen. As to the Ham it is of exquisite quality, make your landlady ready it & you had better just take a fork & knife yourself & slice it as you eat it, by so doing it will last longest, & it is very customary also. Sir D. is provided in a tutor who enters about this time recommended by Mr Brunton one of the ministers of Edin' - now I am no what disappointed, - so be it. Now try to get some private opportunity & let me have a long epistle from you, fraught with much intelligence. Mr. Thomas Young was here on Friday evening who excited us to much "variability" of course. There is some butter nicely powdered for you today, it will be ready to send per carrier on Monday. We join in sending you our kindest affection. Good bye my very dear brother, may all that is good attend you in the sincere wish of your truly affectionate sister Margaret Mackenzie

To Mr Mackenzie

at Mrs. MacGregor's lodgings

Partin Place

* Sir David Hunter Blair St. foot of Stockwell St. Glasgow.

Colonel Anne at the Edinburgh Fringe.

By Ewan Rowland and Ross McEwen

It was our privilege and enormous pleasure to have watched a play on its opening night in which Sir John McEwen and members of the Duns Players performed at the Edinburgh Fringe. The Players are a community theatre group in the Historic Border town of Duns, Berwickshire. Their performance of Colonel Anne by David Shirreff won a five-star glowing review in 'Get Your Coats On', the arts review website. Don Lentell wrote on Facebook, "Despite many nettle dangers, the Dun Players have stretched every fibre of their artistic being and plucked a flower - success. Nae Bad"

An article in the Edinburgh News describes Colonel Anne as a truly fierce heroine who fought off thousands of soldiers with just a handful of servants thus saving a prince from the raiding British army.

Lady Anne Farquharson-MacKintosh gained her nickname Colonel Anne during the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion as she rallied 350 troops to fight as part of the Jacobite cause in the Clan Chattan Regiment. While her husband Angus MacKintosh, Chief of Clan MacKintosh, a captain of the Black Watch Regiment was fighting against the Jacobites.

Lady Anne risked her life for a cause she truly believed in. But Colonel Anne, doesn't even have a proper gravestone. She died in 1770 and was buried in North Leith churchyard.

The play tells the true story of Colonel Anne's life during the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion, the turbulent relationship with her husband and her secret love triangle. Bonnie Prince Charles called her 'La Belle Rebelle'. Lady Anne was the courageous daughter of John Farquharson, Chief of Clan Farquharson who defied her husband Angus, a captain in King George II's army, by mustering clansmen for the Jacobite cause. During the Jacobite Rebellion the government forces were losing and as a result her husband Angus was captured and became a prisoner of Lady Anne. When they met, she greeted him with the words, "Your servant, Captain" to which he replied, "your servant, Colonel".



Colonel Anne Jacobite Heroine buried in Leith—Allan Ramsay portrait

But after the government officially defeated the Jacobites, the tables turned and Lady Anne was arrested and spent six weeks in Inverness Castle and almost executed for High Treason. She was then released into her husband's custody. Their love survived and they spent twenty-five more years together.

Ross McEwen, who attended on the second night described the play as a classic piece of Highland passion and pride, risk taking and fighting for a greater cause. He said of Carol Robson, who played Colonel Anne, 'she gave a stella performance supported by a cast who performed wonderfully. They brought the play to life taking us on a Jacobite journey in the belly of Old St Paul's Church in Edinburgh, the venue for the performance, claiming it the most Jacobite friendly congregation in the Scottish capital (coincidence?..)'.
Bravo and well done to the cast and to the unseen members of the team who also gave a stella performance!

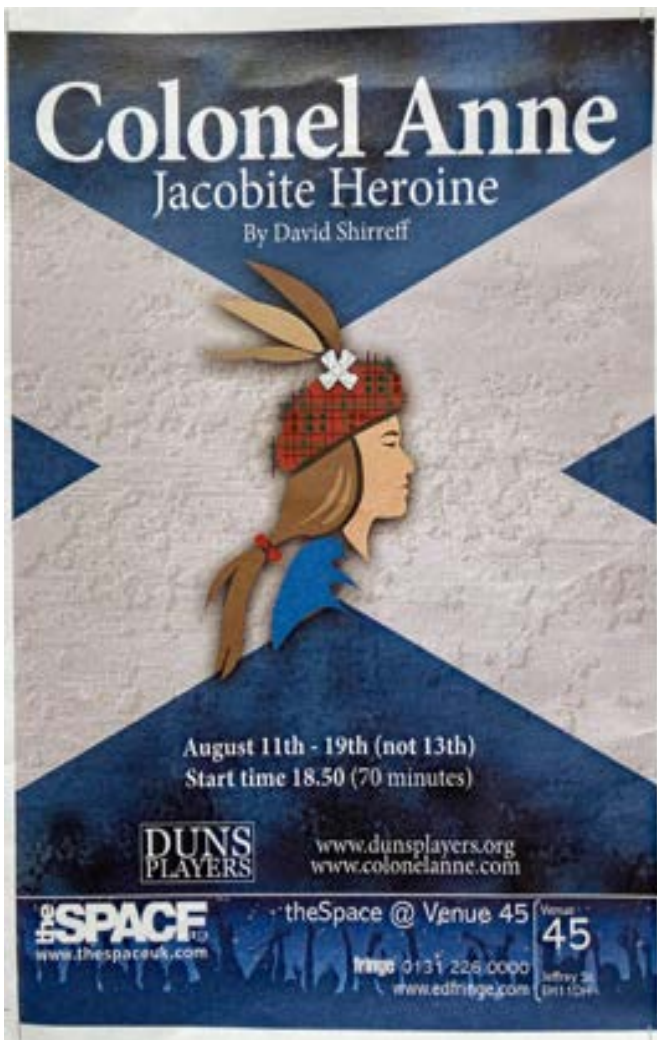
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Undiscovered Scotland.co.uk—Lady Anne Mackintosh

dunsplayers.org

Don Lentell - getyourcoatson.org - 13/08/23



The Action...
...takes place at Moy Hall, seat of Clan Mackintosh; at the dowager Lady Mackintosh's house in Inverness; in Inverness Castle; at Petty Churchyard; and in London two years later.

The Cast

'COLONEL' ANNE MACKINTOSH	Carol Robson
ANGUS MACKINTOSH, ANNE'S HUSBAND, AND CLAN CHIEF	Peter Lerpriere
LADY MACKINTOSH, ANGU'S MOTHER	Flora Drenery
ALASDAIR MACGILLIVRAY, WARRIOR CHIEF	Richard Jones
ELIZABETH CAMPBELL, BETROTHED TO MACGILLIVRAY	Genny Dixon
LORD LOUDOUN, BRITISH COMMANDER IN THE NORTH	Jerry Ponder
PRINCE CHARLES EDWARD STUART	John McEwen
WILLIAM DUKE OF CUMBERLAND, SON OF GEORGE II	Chris Drenery
LACHLAN, ANGU'S NEPHEW	Janie Meis/Logan Robertson
DONALD FRASER, ANNE'S BLACKSMITH	Graham Bryson
LORD BLAKENEY, GOVERNOR OF INVERNESS GARRISON	James Shirreff
DIRECTOR	Kevin Purvis
SOUND	DC Canoy
CHOREOGRAPHY	Lynn Joyce DanceAcademy
COSTUMES	of Upper Circle, Edinboro
MUSIC AND SONGS	Wagniff and Lack
LIGHTING	Taff Thomas
GRAPHIC DESIGN	Watson Consultancy, Duns





Spotlight on a MacEwan

Novelist Ian Russel McEwan CH. CBE. FRSA. FRSL.

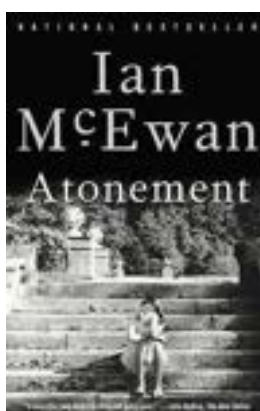
Ian Russell MacEwan is a world renowned and prodigious writer of novels. He was born on June 21st, 1948. His father, David McEwan was a working class Scotsman who became a Major in the British army, having worked his way through the ranks. The son of a military father, Ian travelled the world living in East Asia, Germany, North Africa and Libya. Returning to England aged 12, Ian continued his education culminating in a place at the University of Sussex, where he received his degree in English Literature in 1970. He is currently married to Annalena McAfee with two children from his first marriage, which ended in 1995. He went on to complete his master's degree at the University of East Anglia in literature and creative writing.

As a world acclaimed novelist, Ian McEwan has been nominated for and won some of the highest honours in creative writing. However, he recently had bestowed on him his highest honour yet, that of the nation's Companion of Honour (CH) for outstanding achievements and awarded by King Charles 3rd. His other awards include a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), which is the highest-ranking order for prominent role at a national level. Ian is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) and Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature (FRSL), bestowed on him from among the best writers in any genre. Interviewed by the Independent Newspaper, McEwan said "news of the honour, in a letter from the Cabinet Office, was a complete surprise and naturally, I was delighted. I guess it amounts to a really good review. I'm entering my 54th year of writing fiction. As all dedicated writers know, a literary life is not a career so much as a way of being". (Independent Newspaper Friday 16th June).

Awards are not new to Ian as he was awarded the Somerset Maugham Award in 1978 and the Whitbread Award in 1987. Toni Magazine named his 'Atonement' novel (2001) the best novel of 2002 and he was shortlisted for the Booker Prize for the second time having won it in 1998 for 'Engineering Love', which was adopted into a film in 2004. Ian's next novel 'Saturday' (2005) won him the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. It is the story of an eventful day in the life of a successful neurosurgeon.

Ian's most recent work focusses on a scientist, who hopes to save the planet from climate change. Then in April 2019 he published a novel 'Machines Like Me', a story about artificial intelligence. His 2022 novel 'Lessons' was published to much critical acclaim. The Times called it a "500 page masterpiece and the New Statesman claimed the novel, "may well be remembered as one of the finest humanist novels of its age."

We too would like to congratulate Ian for his many successes and in particular his being honoured with the CH.



It' A Small World - by Ewan Rowland.

There is an idea that all people are six or fewer social connections away from each other. If we, and by that, I mean the MacEwen Clan, go back far enough, then we can make connections with the Lamonts.

It all starts with Dalraida a Gaelic Kingdom and said to have been founded by the legendary King Fergus Mór (Fergus the Great) in the 5th century. The Kingdom encompassed the western seaboard of Scotland (Argyllshire) and the northeast of Ireland and was at its height in the 6th and 7th centuries. At this time there was extensive immigration from Ireland, when in c.500 the ruling family of Irish Dalraida crossed over to Scotland.

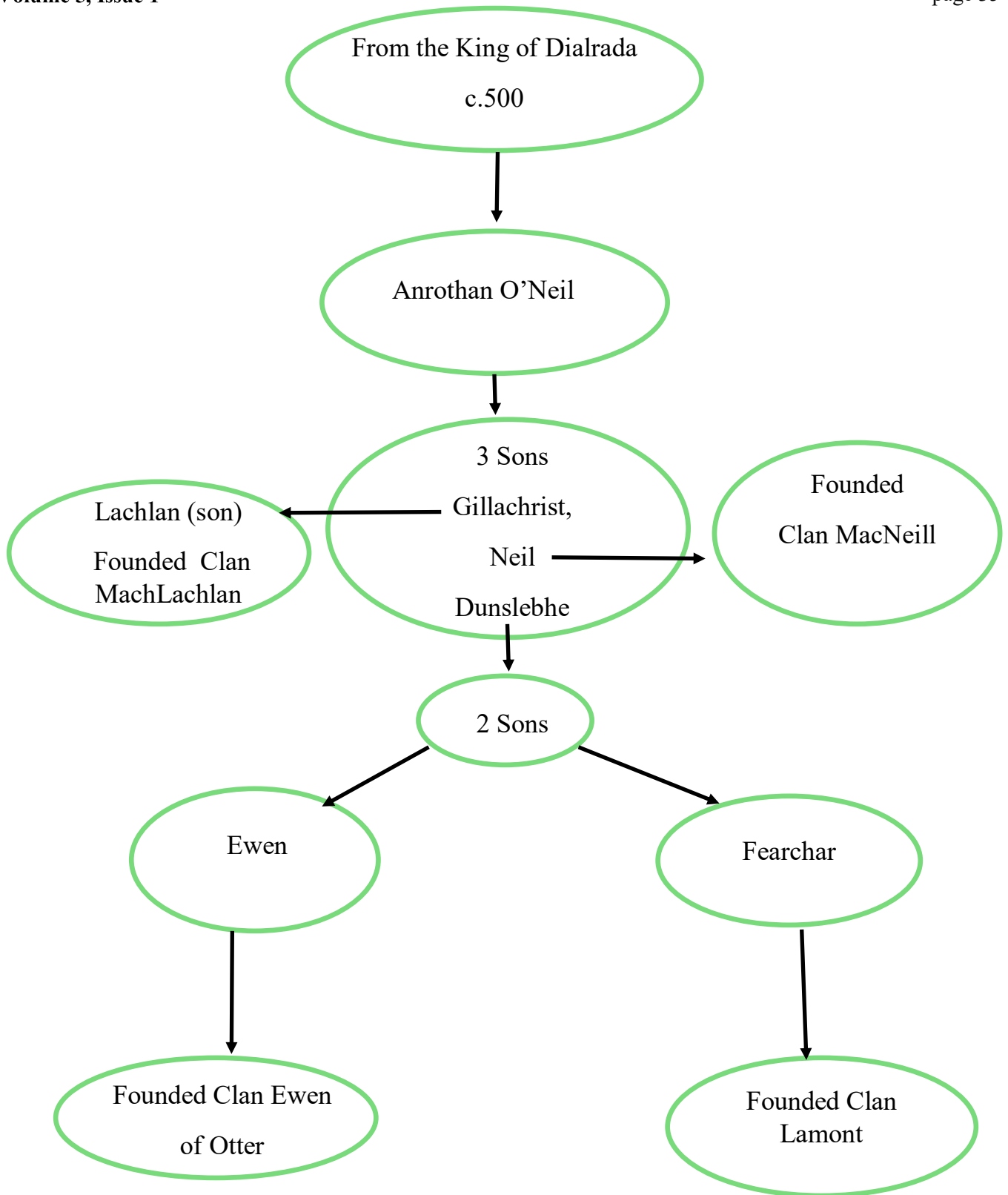
Anrothan O'Neil, an Irish leader from the O'Neil dynasty, took advantage of this new Scottish kingdom and gave up his rulership in Ireland to settle down in Argyll. The Lamont family branched out to include *Aodha Alain O'Neal* from whom other branches formed, eventually leading to *Ewen* and *Fearchard*, sons of *Dunsleibe*. It was *Ewen* who founded *Clan Ewen of Otter*. *Fearchard's* grandson founded Clan Lamont. It is thought that Fearchard and Ewen, the ancestors of the Lamonts and MacEwens were brothers. This brief account clearly indicates that we have a long association with the Lamonts.



The shaded area shows northeast Ireland and the western sea board of Scotland. (Wikipedia)

The MacEwens possessed a tract of land on the Cowal but on the conquest of Argyll by Alexander II in 1222, what was left of the Clan settled with their own chief at Otter, on the banks of Loch Fyne. Two and half centuries later the last chief died. After that things didn't go well for the Ewen Clan, losing their land toward the end of the 15th century, when the barony of the estates of Otter passed to a branch of the Campbells. This led to the scattering far and wide of the MacEwens and they became known as 'bandits', 'children of the mist' and a 'broken clan'. The Lamonts stepped in and offered help and protection to some of the Ewen Clan. The MacEwens were by this time closely allied not only to the Lamonts but also to the MacLachlans, who were in possession of the greater part of the Cowal Peninsula (which remains today as the ancestral home of the MacEwens).

Therefore, historically we are a clan with six or fewer social connections and the fact that the Lamont Clan and the MacEwens have strong ties with each other, continues to this day.
Long may it last!!



Myths, Magic, Mystery and Fun!

"We have had our Summer evenings, now for October eves!"

Humbert Wolfe - Poet

Compiled by Pauline Rowland.

The most famous of the October evenings is that of Halloween, also known as Hallowe'en, All-Hallows' Eve, All Saints' Eve, Allhalloween. It has its roots in the pagan Gaelic festival of Samhain, which took place on 1st November, marking the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter. Celebrations began on the evening of 31 October, since the Celtic day began and ended at sunset. This Celtic festival not only commemorated the end of the harvest season but also the blurring of the physical and spirit worlds. The Celts believed that the barrier between the physical and spirit worlds was open during Samhain and that ancestors might cross over during this time. Celts would dress as animals and monsters, to ward off the fairies, who might kidnap them. Examples of early literature suggest Samhain was marked by great gatherings and feasts and was when the ancient burial mounds were open, which were seen as portals to the other world. Samhain was also intricately linked with bonfires and sacrifices.

Bonfires were lit on hilltops at Samhain and there were rituals involving them. By the early modern era, they were most common in parts of the Scottish Highlands on the Isle of Man, in north and mid Wales and Ulster. It is suggested that the fires were a kind of sympathetic magic—they mimicked the Sun, helping the "powers of growth" and holding back the decay and darkness of winter. The bonfires were also used in divination rituals. At household festivities throughout the Gaelic regions and Wales, there were many rituals intended to divine the future of those gathered, especially with regard to death and marriage. Apples and hazelnuts were often used in these divination rituals and games. In Celtic mythology, apples were strongly associated with the other world and immortality, while hazelnuts were associated with divine wisdom.

In some areas, mumming and guising was a part of Samhain. It was first recorded in 16th century Scotland and later in parts of Ireland, Isle of Man and Wales. It involved people going from house to house in costume (or in disguise), usually reciting songs or verses in exchange for food. In Scotland, young men went house-to-house with masked, veiled, painted, or blackened faces, often threatening to do mischief if they were not welcomed. This was common in the 16th century in the Scottish countryside and persisted into the 20th. It is suggested that the blackened faces come from using the bonfire's ashes for protection. In the Celtic-speaking regions costumes and mumming were very appropriate to a night where supernatural beings were said to be abroad and could be imitated or warded off by mere humans.

The word Halloween evolved from the association of pagan Samhain and the Christian church. In the seventh century, the Catholic Church established November 1st as All Saints' Day, a day commemorating all the saints of the church. By the ninth century, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands, where it gradually blended with and supplanted older Celtic rites. In 1000 A.D., the church made November 2nd All Souls' Day, a day to honour the dead. The All-Saints' Day celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English *Alholowmesse* meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the traditional night of Samhain in the Celtic religion, began to be called All-Hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween. Over many centuries, the three holidays—All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day and Samhain—essentially merged into one: Halloween. The word Halloween itself is Scottish and derives from the Scots shortening of All-Hallows Eve.

Robert Burns, whose 'Halloween' poem was published in 1786, said this time of year was *'thought to be a night when witches, devils, and other mischief-making beings are all abroad on their baneful midnight errands'*.

His statement reflects some of the modern-day activities associated with Halloween relating to all things ghostly, spooky, and scary! When visiting Scotland at Halloween there is no shortage of ghostly places to visit!

While today Halloween often conjures up images of pumpkins, Scottish traditions included the carving of a hugely different foodstuff. In true Scottish tradition, scary faces were carved into neeps (turnips/swede) to create **neep lanterns** that would scare off ghouls wandering in the witching hours. Thanks to America's influence, pumpkins are now as common as turnips for lanterns in Scotland – and are easier to carve! As with the carved out pumpkin flesh, the carved turnip pieces need not be wasted as we will see in the recipes that follow.



Other Scottish Halloween traditions include - **Apple dookin'** an ancient Celtic tradition, remains a firm favourite at Halloween parties. Without using their hands, players must grab an apple floating in a basin of water. Not easy- but great fun for all!



Treacle Scones, another activity that sees players banned from using their hands, this messy game challenges participants to take bites out of sticky treacle-covered scones dangling from string. Messy but tasty!

Another tradition, well rooted in its Celtic past, is **Nut Burning**. A Halloween tradition once common among recently engaged couples involved each person putting a nut in a fire. If the nuts burned quietly, the union would be a happy one. However, if they hissed and crackled, a turbulent future lay ahead.

Guising involved children wearing costumes and pretending to be malicious spirits as they went 'guising' around the local streets. It was thought that, by disguising themselves, they would blend in with any wandering spirits and remain safe from harm. After performing tricks or songs, guisers were given gifts to help ward off evil spirits.

Kale Pulling – Today kale is seen as a super food and can certainly be part of your 'five-a-day' diet plan. Back in time the stalks were used to predict your romantic future. In the Burn's poem 'Halloween,' people would pull stalks from the ground after dark with their eyes closed. The length and shape of the stalk was said to represent your future lover's height and figure, and the amount of soil around the roots represented wealth.

The Celtic festival of Samhain may be seen as the inception of the present-day Halloween celebration. Across the intervening centuries the festival has undergone changes and additions. The following brief chronology serves to illustrate some of these changes.

The Celtic festival of Samhain

The Celts who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, marked Samhain at the midpoint between the fall equinox and the winter solstice.

10th Century-: Samhain absorbed by Christianity.

The Church mixed the traditions involving Celtic spirits and Catholic saints. In the 800s, the Church designated November 1 as All Saints Day. In 1000 A.D., the church made November 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honour the dead. It is widely believed today that the church was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, church-sanctioned holiday.



The Middle Ages: Trick-or-Treating Emerges

In England and Ireland during All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day celebrations, poor people would visit the houses of wealthier families and receive pastries called soul cakes in exchange for a promise to pray for the souls of the homeowners' dead relatives. Known as "souling," the practice was later taken up by children, who would go from door to door asking for gifts such as food, money, and ale—an early form of trick-or-treating.

19th Century: Jack- o- Lanterns appear.

The practice of carving faces into vegetables became associated with Halloween in Ireland and Scotland around the 1800s. Jack-o-lanterns originated from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack," who tricked the Devil and was forced to roam the earth with only a burning coal in a turnip to light his way. People began to make their own versions of Jack's lanterns by carving scary faces into turnips or potatoes and placing them into windows or near doors to frighten away Stingy Jack and other wandering evil spirits.

19th Century: Halloween Comes to America

Except for Catholic-dominated Maryland and some other southern colonies, Halloween celebrations were extremely limited in early America, which was mainly Protestant. It wasn't until the mid-19th century that new immigrants—especially the millions of Irish fleeing the potato famine—helped popularize the celebration nationally.

1930s: Haunted Houses Become a Thing in the US

*In the U.S., the great depression kickstarted the trend. By then, violence around Halloween—no doubt exacerbated by the dire economic conditions—had reached new highs. Parents, concerned about their children running amok on All Hallows' Eve, organised **haunted houses or trails** to keep them off the streets.*

1950s: Halloween Costumes Are popular.

Costumes and disguises have always been part of the celebration. But it wasn't until the mid-20th century that costumes started to look like what we know them as today. In the 1950s, mass-produced box costumes became more affordable, so more kids began to use them to dress up as princesses, mummies, clowns or more specific characters like Batman and Frankenstein's monster.

From its Celtic origins, the modern-day festival of Halloween, has evolved and spread across continents. Wherever you are in the world, celebrating at the end of October with **fun** activities, scary masks, amazing fancy dress, sweets and treats, remember the **magic, myths and mystery** of the past, from which today's Halloween was born.

To help the Halloween celebrations go with a swing it's always good to have some special Halloween treats. The following recipe is one that may be new to Halloweeners but it is steeped in Gaelic tradition and it's fun for the family. It is a practice which has largely been forgotten except in Gaelic speaking communities, both in the Highlands and Islands and in Canada (such as Cape Breton), is that of the *fuarag* (foo-ar-ak).

Many of the most prominent Halloween activities, such as dooking for apples, focused on divining the future at this time of year. The *fuarag* was no exception and would entail various objects placed within a bowl of raw oatmeal mixed with cream and sugar – more recently this has been replaced with mashed potatoes (or champit tatties) - and each guest, often blindfolded, given a spoon to take their share. The objects that were discovered were then used to foretell that person's future.

A ring would mean an upcoming marriage, the coin would denote financial good fortune, the button meant you were going to live a bachelor's life and if you received the thimble, you would become a spinster.

This recipe is one from Cape Breton:

Fuarag

Ingredients.

- 2 tbsp raw oatmeal /oats
- 2 cups of whipping cream
- Caster sugar to taste.
- 1 ring
- 1 thimble
- 1 coin
- 1 button



Instructions

- Whip the cream in a large bowl.
- Brown the oatmeal /oats in the oven on a baking sheet.
- Add the browned oatmeal/oats to the cream.
- Add the amount of sugar to your taste.
- Stir in the special items.
- Enjoy and have fun!

Turnip Jam for Halloween

Turnips/swede (also known as neeps) are synonymous with Halloween in Scotland so this recipe for a quirky turnip jam, is ideal to celebrate the festival.

Ingredients

- 500 gm turnip
- 200 ml water
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger
- 5 cloves
- 1/4 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 lemon juice and zest
- 250 gm sugar
- pinch salt

Instructions

- ⇒ Peel and chop the turnip into small pieces and put into a heavy based pan with the water, lemon juice, zest and all spices and salt.
- ⇒ Bring to the boil then simmer for 20 minutes till turnips are tender.
- ⇒ Use a potato masher to squish them down in the pan.
- ⇒ Add the sugar and stir till dissolved.
- ⇒ Raise the temperature and boil to setting point.
- ⇒ Spoon into three small jars, cover with a waxed disc and pop on the lids.

A super tasty, sweet jam for Halloween that makes great jam tarts too!

This article was compiled using extracts from the following:

- nts.org.uk
- en.wikipedia.org
- history.com
- airghleus.blogspot.com
- larderlove.com



Brown Butter Pumpkin Cakes.

By Michelle McEwen

Ingredients:	(makes 12)	2	Eggs
		1/3cup	Buttermilk
6oz	Butter, browned	1 1/2cups	Pumpkin puree
9oz	All Purpose Flour		
		Frosting	
1 1/2teaspoon	Baking Soda	4oz	Brown Butter
		8oz	Cream Cheese at room temperature
1 1/2teaspoon	Ground Cinnamon	1 1/4 cup	Brown Sugar
1 teaspoon	Ground Ginger	1 1/4 cup	Powdered Sugar
3/4teaspoon	Salt		
1/4teaspoon	Ground Clove		
2/3 cup	Brown Sugar, packed		



Directions:

How to brown Butter:

Place butter in a pan and bring to a boil. Skim off the foam and cook until a nice brown colour. Please watch butter carefully because when it starts to brown it can burn very quickly. Pour brown butter into a bowl to cool before making cupcake batter.

When making the brown butter for the frosting, do the same thing but once poured into a bowl place in the fridge to harden up to a soft solid texture.

Cupcakes:

Place all dry ingredients into a bowl and whisk together. Then make a well in the middle of the ingredients.

In another bowl whisk eggs, pumpkin puree and buttermilk together.

Pour the wet mixture into the well of the dry ingredients and stir until it comes together.

Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 mins, checking doneness after 15 mins with a toothpick.

Let cool completely before frosting

Frosting:

Place chilled brown butter and cream cheese in a mixture with a paddle attachment and beat until light and fluffy

Add brown sugar and powdered sugar and beat again until fluffy and the sugar is completely incorporated

Place frosting in a piping bag with a star tip and pipe on top of the cupcake.

You can finish decorating with your favorite caramel popcorn.

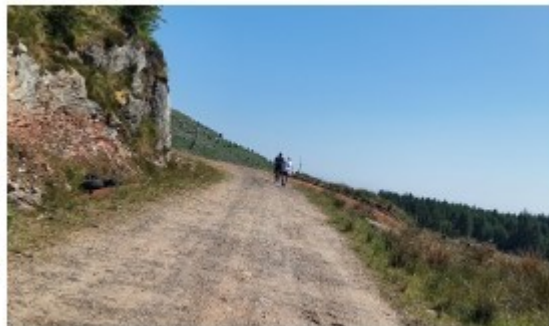
Beat The Demons At Old Kilfinan Road By Herma Goosens.

The Monday after the gathering, the annual walk was back on the programme. I was going to walk it with Sean and Madelon. This time the Old Kilfinan Road was on the programme again. Four years ago, Sean and I had attempted to walk it, which had turned out into a big hilarious adventure of 7 hours, in which we ended up half dead! The complete route was not walkable then. This year, the Forestry had cleared a large section, so we had decided to walk the route again and beat our demons. The weather had been exceptionally good from the time I had arrived in Scotland. Surely average temperatures of around 24 degrees, with plenty of sunshine, were an exception to the rule. Our start off was at Geraldine's house, but before we could go, we were ushered on to the terrace and had to have a drink before we were even allowed to go. The funny thing was that 4 years ago our walk ended abruptly at this house, where the lady of the house had literally been my saving grace at the time and now it became our starting point.



The sun was high in the sky and it was around 24 degrees. Not really smart to go hiking in the full sun at the hottest part of the day, but we knew it would become more forested, so we could take the shade. The first stretch gave views over the dam itself, the water sparkled in the sun and there was even a small rowing boat in the water, which made for a very idyllic overall picture.

After 15 minutes we turned a corner and followed the sign to Tighnabruaich. The path became slightly steeper and green hills with rocky parts were visible to our left.



When we were on top of the hill, we got a sneak preview of the Kyles of Bute. The road split with a path down the hill to our right and a path to our left, that would lead to another hill party. We chose to take the right path down. The wooded section was already coming into view which meant we could walk in the shade.

Just before going down, we saw an oil drum with a pair of hiking boots on it. We wondered why the shoes had been left there and fantasized what could have happened. Our imagination worked overtime..... Following the path down, we came into the forest. The shade was a relief to walk in and the scenery was fairy-like. I always love to walk somewhere where there are hardly any people, and this was just such a place, with no "oncoming traffic". We came across a really weird tree stump with all kinds of weird deformities. Sean put his hat on the stump and now it looked like an old man.



The route led deeper into the forest with spectacular views. Once you had climbed the hill, you were rewarded with a magical view of the Kyles of Bute, which lay glittering in the sun.

We came across a kind of teepee made of wood with a fire inside, a real paradise for children. We passed a Victorian waterfall, which wasn't giving much water at that moment but even though, looked magnificent. The path now went more into the inhabited world but was still full of surprises. There were bridges to walk over leading to hidden corners of the woods. The walk ended in Tighnabruaich with another magnificent view over the Kyles of Bute.

We continued towards Kames and treated ourselves to a well deserved ice cream.

Despite the blistering heat of that day it was a really nice route to walk and this time we made it to the finish line without incident or accident! We had beaten our demons!



In Loving Memory “Remembering the Happy Times.”



"Until the day breaks, and the shadows flee away".

The An Darach McEwen family are saddened to report the recent deaths of two beloved first cousins, Rognvald, and Moira.

Moira Maxwell Means (née McEwen)
(1937 – 2023)

Born in Kilwinning, Scotland, later residing in Bedlington, England. Only daughter and second child of Alexander Floyd McEwen and Elizabeth McDonald Maxwell. Wife of the late Leslie Means, Moira is survived by stepdaughters Yvonne, Leslie, Eleanor and Judith.



Professor Rognvald Sutherland
McEwen
(1938 – 2023)

Born in Falkirk, Scotland, later residing in Frampton Cotterell, England. Only son of Norman Sutherland McEwen and Hilda Marie Duffy, a lifelong academic, scientist and proud member of the Clan MacEwen Society. Husband of the late Aila Taulu, Rognvald is survived by daughter Anna, son-in-law Kenneth, and grandchildren Leo and Aila.

CLAN MACEWEN
INTERNATIONAL GATHERING AND
FAMILY CONVENTION

**June
6th–9th
2024
at
Otter Ferry
on the shores
of
Loch Fyne**

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Post Script.

Maggie Ewen

Over the Summer months in the Northern Hemisphere, athletes from round the world gathered in Budapest to compete in the 2023 Athletics World Championships. It's been a busy summer for Maggie competing in the top flight events. She won the shot put in the Diamond League in Zurich followed by 4th in Brussels this month. Maggie, originally from Minnesota is no stranger to being in the top league. She won a bronze medal in Toronto in 2018. Maggie was placed 4th in the 2019 World Championships. She also appeared in the 2022 World Indoor Championships. Maggie said that "the USA is so deep in the woman's shot put that we usually have to peak for nationals just to make the team." (www.worldathletics.org)



Robbie McEwan

Another notable from the 2023 world of sport is Robbie McEwan, an ex pro Australian cyclist. He was born in Brisbane, Australia in 1972. A three times winner of the Tour de France points classification, he was considered at his peak to be the fastest sprinter in the world. Fellow Australian cyclist Stuart O'Grady considered McEwan to be "*one of the fastest, most powerful accelerators the planet has ever seen*".

Robbie has been retired from the sport for several years but he now uses his inside knowledge to commentate on major cycling events such as the Tour Down Under and the Tour de France. He is currently part of the Eurosport commentary team at the 2023 La Vuelta in Spain. His autobiography '*One Way Road*', reveals what made him the most successful road race cyclists in the last 20 years, winning over 200 professional races and three Tour de France green jerseys.



Jade Ewen

Outside the world of sport, another notable personality worth a mention is Jade Ewen. Born in 1988 in a suburb of London, the daughter of Trevor and Carol Ewen. Her mother is Jamaican, while her father is Scottish and has Italian ancestry.

Jade represented the UK in the Eurovision Song Contest singing, Andrew Lloyd Webbers composition, *It's My Time*. She finished in 5th place.

In 2009, Jade replaced Keisha Buchanan (controversially) in the girl group *Sugarbabes*. The group achieved the top ten in the UK singles and top 15 albums before the group disbanded in 2011. She has moved into acting, appearing in her debut performance in the UK West End, *In The Heights* and went on to play Princess Jasmine in 2016.

