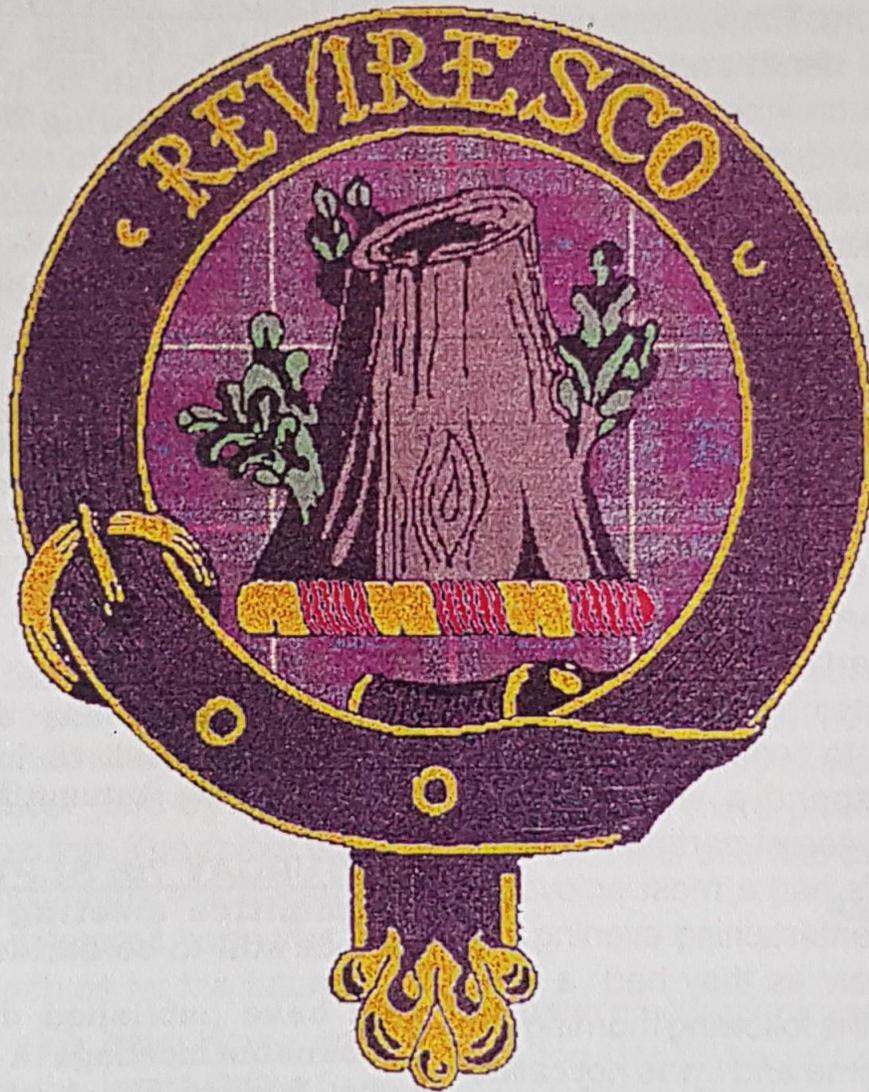


# CLAN EWEN SOCIETY



No. 46

*Bulletin*®

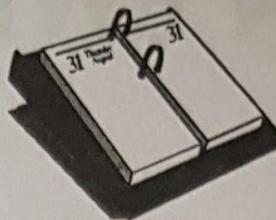
NOV. 2001

## ***FAILTE***

As we go to press I am reminded of the dreadful toll of lives, perpetrated by Osama Bin Laden and his cohorts, in Manhattan, Washington and Pittsburg. These were deliberate acts of death and destruction carried out on innocent citizens of America, and many more worldwide nationals many of whom were British working in New York. I should like to convey, on behalf of this Society, the heartfelt sympathies of all members, and our most sincere condolences to those who have lost loved ones.

I received an invitation from Joseph Ewing Jr., Chancellor of 'Clan Ewing in America' to dine with him and his party in Glasgow. Some eighteen members of his Clan Society were to come across the Atlantic to spend a week visiting places of interest pertinent to their Society. We had a most enjoyable meal and entertaining evening but unfortunately as they had a very early start the following morning we ran out of time and I was not called upon to talk to them about Clan Ewen and also a history of the Ewings in the west of Scotland.

Joe, who is also a member of our Society, had previously visited the site of MeEwen's castle prior to, and once after, the memorial cairn was built. The party was to visit the McEwen Castle site the following



## ***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!***

### **SATURDAY 19th JAN. 2002.**

Final date for any articles which you wish to have included in the Spring Bulletin.

### **SATURDAY 26th JAN. 2002**

Committee Meeting, Piping Centre, Glasgow, Commence 1300 hrs.

### **SATURDAY 1st JUNE 2002**

A.G.M. in Royal Marine Hotel, Hunters Quay. Commence 1330 hrs. This being our 25th Anniversary, please try to attend Friday p.m. until Sunday.

### **SATURDAY 25th Aug. 2002**

Final date for any articles which you wish to have included in the Autumn Bulletin.

### **SATURDAY 7th SEPT. 2002**

Committee meeting Perth. Venue still to be decided.

We have published dates of committee meetings in order to give Society Members an opportunity to have any items, which they wish to raise, added to the agenda.

If you have any strong views or comments as to the running of your Society, now is your chance. In this event, please send your contribution to Eleanor, your Vice-Chairman & Secy.

morning - hence the early start!

**Their main** area of interest was to be Stirling and westward towards Loch Lomond and beyond. The reason for the interest in this territory is that "William of Stirling" is thought to have come from the Logie area west of Stirling. "William of Stirling" is considered to be the progenitor of their society in that his sons settled in Northern Ireland and many of their descendants went to America in the early eighteenth century. The surname of this family, strangely enough, was Ewing.

**You will**, no doubt, have noted the new format of your Bulletin. This has been done, with considerable help from Anne of "Fast Printing", the company which prints your Bulletin. The idea was to try to bring the magazine more up-to-date, add a bit of colour, and try to make it more interesting. The colour is perhaps not quite right yet, but as this is the first attempt I hope that you can bear with us for the future

**You may** also have noted some changes in the list of Office Bearers, viz. we have a new E-mail correspondent in the form of Rachel McEwen, and a very pleasant form it is. Colin has asked to stand down from Editorship as he finds it difficult to attend committee meetings, living as he does near Liverpool. However we are not losing Colin entirely. He has accepted the po-

sition of Sub Editor and I am sure that he will be able to give Sidnie Terry, our new Editor, considerable help. At this juncture, I should like to thank Colin for his work as Editor. This has not been an easy job, particularly that aspect of which was trying to persuade members to send in articles for inclusion in the 'Bulletin'. This has been with limited effect. Perhaps the problem was that, over the years, Colin, himself, had submitted a goodly number of interesting articles so that members hesitated to send their own "copy".

**Please let** us know what you think of the new format, or how you see the development of the 'Bulletin'.

Finally we are halfway through October now and the year-end approaches fast, so let me wish you all a jolly and Merry Christmas and a happy and more peaceful New Year than this one has been.

*Alan Ewing*

**P.S.**

**We have** a new appointment which was too late to be printed on the list of Office Bearers, viz. Youth Development Officer:-

**David McEwan,  
35d Clouden Road,  
Kildrum, Cumbernauld  
Glasgow, G67 2EW.**

**Tel: 01236 612913.**

**David also assists Murdo in the  
Geneological Department.**

## ANNUAL GATHERING 2001

**Dear Friends:** Well, another gathering has passed by and what a marvellous time we all had. We had our usual mixed Scottish weather but nothing that Mother Nature could throw at us deterred our spirit and enjoyment.

**As ever,** our hosts for the weekend, the Management & Staff of the Royal Marine Hotel, bent over backwards and offered us their hospitality and I am eternally grateful to the owners, Shirley & Martin Greig and to their new manager, Paul Colquhoun, for all their help and assistance during our stay with them.

**I should** also like to add my own personal thanks to those brave overseas visitors who, despite the nonsense reported by foreign governments on foot and mouth disease, made the trip to this year's gathering. My respect goes to Janet and Colin McEwan from North Island, New Zealand (the home of the big trout) and Mike Noftsger from the good old USA. Not only did Colin and Janet attend the gathering but they also entertained us with Maori poems and prayers (hope to see you guys again soon).

**Mike very** kindly enlightened us as to his employment in a period village where he, in his 19th century clothing, shows how items of that period were made. Kind thanks go to Mike for donating a book on this subject to the Clan. I was assured by these goodly people that our Clan interests will be actively advertised and pursued in their own homelands. I hope Mike remembers to bring some of his musician friends back home to Scotland for one of our future gatherings. **Keep up the good work Mike.**

**On our** first day, the Friday, we arrived to sunny but windy conditions and after settling into our rooms, we had the opportunity to meet with fellow clans people and meet up with friends old and new and after a marvellous meal we adjourned to the Blue Room lounge where we held our first ever Quiz night, yours truly being the Quiz Master. Well, what fun we had. We concentrated on all aspects of Scotland and what interesting answers we got back in return. I must say at this point that many of the questions in the Scottish Quiz Book would have taken Mensa members to task but our brave Quiz teams plodded on and at the end of the night our winning team, Mike's Marauders led by team captain Mike Noftsger ably assisted by Sir John and Lady McEwen and last but by no means least, a lady who aspires to be one of our next Miss Clan Ewen winners to make this a family hat trick, Betty McEwan. The grand prize of a bottle

of UisgeBeatha (whisky) was ably presented by my wife Barbara.

**Our main** day on the Saturday was met with mixed conditions. A chance to walk into Dunoon during the sunshine and showers, a swat at the midgies or if you wished a paddle in the sea and then on to purchase some of the local delights in the busy shopping area of Argyle Street.

In the afternoon we held the formal part of our gathering. This gave us all the opportunity to hear from the respective Clan Council Committee Members their yearly update from their offices. It also gave the body of the meeting a chance to ask questions of the Clan Council, propose new changes and at the end of the meeting the power to select a council to further the Clan for the year ahead.

**During the** afternoon we held the first of our Clan raffles with prizes in excess of £300 sterling. We received a very generous donation from our Vice-Chairperson/Secretary, Eleanor, of a watercolour of Kilfinan Bay but we decided to retain this for auction later in the evening.

**To conclude** our afternoon, we had our fellow council member, Duncan McEwan, showing us his, as always, stunning pictures of the Lochaber area and with a musical background and narration carried out by himself, Duncan led us on a pictorial grand tour of our native land.

This, *Ladies and Gentlemen*, has always been the highlight of my Clan gathering and I should like personally to thank Duncan and in the years to come hope that he will continue to enlighten us to the views which many of us never get the chance to see.

**Our evening** events started early this year and after a sumptuous traditional Scottish menu specially laid on for our gathering, we were honoured by a Civic Reception laid on by Argyll & Bute Council and during this reception our Clan Chairman, Lt. Col. Alan Ewing presented our Clan shield to Mr. Dick Walsh ably assisted by 2 of his fellow councillors, Mr. Jim McQueen and Mr. Gordon McInver in return for the presentation of their shield to us last year.

**I am assured** by Argyll & Bute Council that our interests in pursuing Clan events on the Cowal will be met favourably and I would hope to see Clan Ewen partake in other gatherings and events on the Cowal throughout the year and not merely at our own gathering. This I propose to take up at Council level.

**No events** ever run smoothly and this year for us was no exception. The

reluctance of the band used previously to accept the offer to play for us was more than suitably overcome by the hotel manager, Paul, finding us a replacement in the Alastair McPhail band. All of those attending could only but praise the evening's musical accompaniment to our dancing.

**The half way** event of the evening was our 2nd ever Miss Clan Ewen Contest and as usual a beautiful group of ladies entertained us with their charms, good looks and personality and a panel consisting of Sir John, Lt. Col. A. Ewing and Councillor Walsh judged this competition and after much deliberation chose the 2001 winner to be Mrs. Martha McEwan. As ever our winner was presented with a McEwen tartan sash and a bottle of champagne and crowned with a tiara (next year she goes on to represent Scotland in Miss World in Kuala Lumpur).

**Our second** raffle of the evening was held and my wife and I were privileged to win some of the prizes. Our watercolour painting was auctioned and the successful buyer was none other than Lt. Col. Ewing paying in excess of the money it took to purchase a Van Gough at Christy's in London earlier that week.

**I do so** hope that we can call upon Eleanor again to supply us with a donation for future raffles. This applies to all other Clan members whose skills and craftsmanship are as yet untapped. Following on we had one of our new Clan Council Members, Mr. David McEwan, sing to his own guitar accompaniment, a song he personally composed - "Children of the Mist". The song quite aptly describes our Clan's past and during its verses it depicts that which our ancestors suffered only to rise at a later time to a brighter and better future.

**The latter** part of our ceilidh carried on to the wee hours of the morning when we all retired happy and foot weary.

**A photograph** of those present over the weekend will be displayed in the Spring edition of the bulletin.

**Sunday morning** saw us rise early to a bright sunny day and after breakfast we hurriedly packed to make our way up the Cowal and across looking down to the Kyles of Bute and northward to our ancestral home north of Kilfinan. At the local parish Church of Scotland we were greeted by the Rev. David Kellas who welcomed us to his parish and invited us to join in morning service with his local congregation. Our Clan banner was paraded to the chancel and a blessing was conducted by the Minister. How nice it was to be back in the lands that our ancestors had and we enjoyed the service and music accompaniment of a solo violinist. It is not

in every Scottish church that you see a West Highland Terrier wander around during the service, waiting to be petted by the members of the congregation.

**Following the** service and the taking of many photographs we adjourned to enjoy the hospitality of the new manager of the Kilfinan Hotel, Mr. Stephen Brathy. Unfortunately the opportunity to walk out to the cairn was not available to us due to the restrictions of foot and mouth. It should be well noted that on the date of writing this article no outbreaks of foot and mouth, apart from those around the Scotland/England border, have ever occurred, today being the 12th week since the outbreak started. The tea/coffee & biscuits provided free of charge by Stephen and his staff brought our weekend to a close and after many sad farewells we all parted and hopefully looking forward to gathering again next year at our 25th anniversary.

**Ladies & Gentlemen** - It has always been my intention to plan our gatherings around your interests but I cannot do this without your thoughts and suggestions and I know, despite me having asked in previous Bulletins, it has fallen yet again on deaf ears. Please help me make next year's special event the best ever.

**I am very** kindly informed by Mrs. Shirley Greig, owner of the Royal Marine Hotel, that the prices for next year will be kept at this year's rates.

**I look forward** to this winter's trade fair show in order that Barbara and I may look to purchase new goods for sale through the clan but this shouldn't hinder or deter you from purchasing a range of goods for this Christmas and that every item purchased will assist us in buying more and new stock for the year to come.

## **"ORDER EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS".**

**New items** available this autumn include authentic Celtic targes in many designs (the highland shield), claymores and broadswords to accompany them. Prices on request and who knows, maybe one day we will be able to support our own re-enactment battle society. It is in all our interests to self generate and make this clan bigger and better and through the offices of our new Youth Development Officer, Mr. David McEwan, our youth should be encouraged to play its part.

Only two weeks ago we celebrated the marriage of our eldest daughter Elaine to her fiance Corporal Brian Russell and I hope it won't be too long before we can add our second generation to the clan membership.



To conclude, Barbara and I would like to wish all our members and families a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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## MEETINGS . . . . .

### COMMITTEE MEETING

THE PIPING CENTRE, GLASGOW

on SATURDAY 21st APRIL 2001 at 2 p.m



**SEDERUNT:** *Alan Ewing, Eleanor Williamson, Iain McEwan, Malcolm McEwan, Murdo McEwan, Charles Ewan, Jim & Barbara McEwen and Co-opted member, David McEwen.*

**APOLOGIES:** Duncan McEwan and co-opted member Sid Terry.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:** Alan welcomed David and Sidnie to the committee. He outlined his latest research into procedures with the Lyon Court and has asked Sir Crispin Agnew to furnish us with a list of armigerous McEwans, and is awaiting his reply.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** had been distributed and read. Some members said they should be available as soon after the meeting as possible. The Secretary explained the extra expense this would involve as Agendas

and Minutes were posted at the same time. However, it was arranged to send out sooner.

**BUSINESS ARISING:** Charles brought up the subject of Clan Ewen USA and read letter from Rob pointing out lack of communication between the two societies. This has to be resolved. The Secretary and Chairman were requested to write to Forest B. Ewen and Robin Ewen and bring back results to the Committee.

**TREASURER'S UP-DATE:** Current Account at present £2,008. Chief's Account (now in 30 day) £1,397. A new Auditor has to be appointed and Malcolm suggested a colleague who is an Accountant. He was requested to follow this up.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Malcolm passed round new Membership Form and also copies of suggested letter to be sent out to members who have not renewed subscriptions as a reminder to encourage lapsed members. Also a letter to be sent to prospective Clan members. Considerable discussion took place over the wording of these letters.

**SALES & MERCHANDISE:** Jim gave an outline on his arrangements for the A.G.M. at the Royal Marine. He had been down and had great co-operation from Mr. Greig. Programme roughly is as follows:-

|                           |                                                                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Friday Evening</i>     | Winnie Ewing Talk & Films                                           |
| <i>Saturday: 1 pm</i>     | Start of A.G.M. Dinner                                              |
| <i>4 - 5 pm</i>           | Slides - Duncan McEwan                                              |
| <i>7 pm</i>               | Civic Reception - Argyll & Bute<br>Everyone welcome                 |
| <i>8 pm</i>               | Ceilidh & Dance - Miss Clan Ewen<br>Band: David Black - Finish 1 am |
| <i>Sunday: 12 o'clock</i> | Service at Kilfinan Church with<br>Kirkin' o' the Tartan            |

Jim had also visited the Kilfinan Hotel which is under new management and was given a very friendly welcome and an offer of refreshments after the Service.

A considerable amount of stock is still at Kilfinan so some of this may have to be taken over to the Royal Marine.

Jim displayed the Shield to be presented to Argyll & Bute Council (£18.00). There will be two raffles on Saturday - one in the afternoon and one at the Ceilidh.

**GENEALOGIST** - Murdo made a brief report.

**A.O.C.B:** The Secretary has had letters from both Australian and New Zealand correspondents, and is pleased to inform the Committee that both of them are happy to continue to work for the Clan. David McEwan (new co-opted member) was proposed as Youth Development Officer & Assistant Genealogist. This was agreed.

The next meeting will be in **PERTH** on first Saturday in September - the Secretary to find a suitable venue and make arrangement. The meeting was closed with thanks to the Committee.

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**SHORT COMMITTEE MEETING at the ROYAL MARINE HOTEL on Saturday 9th June prior to the A.G.M. 2001. - 10.30 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Alan, Charles, Eleanor, Iain, Murdo, Jim, Barbara, Sidnie.

**BUSINESS DISCUSSED:** General comments on A.G.M. Programme and reason for Dr. Winnie Ewing's cancellation due to the election.

Ideas for increasing Membership - Sidnie offered to do a Mail-Shot for Tay-side & North Fyfe and it was agreed that this could be beneficial to the Society.

Clan Ewen USA to be discussed at next Committee meeting.

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**A.G.M. & GATHERING**

**The meeting was held on Saturday 9th June 2001 in the ROYAL MARINE HOTEL, HUNTERS QUAY at 1.30 p.m.**

**CHAIRMAN** Alan Ewing welcomed members and friends and as usual a special greeting to Colin and Janet McEwen from New Zealand and Michael Noftsgger from the USA and to Sir John McEwen and Rachel. In his opening remarks Alan read extracts from the article in the Dunoon Observer & Argyllshire Standard written by "Jock Finnie", giving a brief outline of the history and re-establishment of the Clan and plans for the future.

**APOLOGIES** were received from Donald, South Australia, Dr. Winnie Ewing, Colin Davies, Lynn Gehling, Malcolm McEwan and Joan McEwan.

**MINUTES** of previous A.G.M. were read, approved and signed.

**THE SECRETARY** reported on her correspondence with our Australian and

New Zealand correspondents and was pleased to inform the Society that they are both in contact with members in their respective countries and doing all they can to promote the Clan Ewen Society. Three Committee Meetings had been held and good attendance at them all - the Piping Centre in Glasgow being the venue.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Iain presented his Financial Statement which had been audited and circulated. He pointed out that the change in the Financial Year left a gap in the income but the increase in subs. had helped the funds.

Our **GENEALOGIST** Murdo reminded members of the excavations made at McEwan's Castle some years ago and copies and reports of this could be obtained by anyone interested. He also showed a very simple Birth Certificate at basic level which everyone could do.

**SALES & STOCK:** Jim gave a brief resume of some of the attractive pieces of Clan merchandise on sale over the weekend at the Sales table and drew everyone's attention to the Raffles - one during the afternoon and one later in the evening. People had been very generous and had gifted some lovely prizes. There was also an original water-colour of Kilfinan Bay painted by the Secretary which would probably be auctioned.

**THE MEETING** continued with the **ELECTION OF THE OFFICE-BEARERS**. The present Office-Bearers were re-elected but as Charles has had to resign as E-mail Correspondent Rachel McEwen - proposed by Alan, seconded by Murdo - was elected in his place. Colin Davies remains as Bulletin Editor but Sidnie Terry - proposed by Charles, seconded by Eleanor - was appointed Sub-Editor. David McEwan - proposed by Jim, seconded by Iain - was appointed Youth Development Officer & Assistant Genealogist.

Committee Members are Charles, Duncan and Barbara.

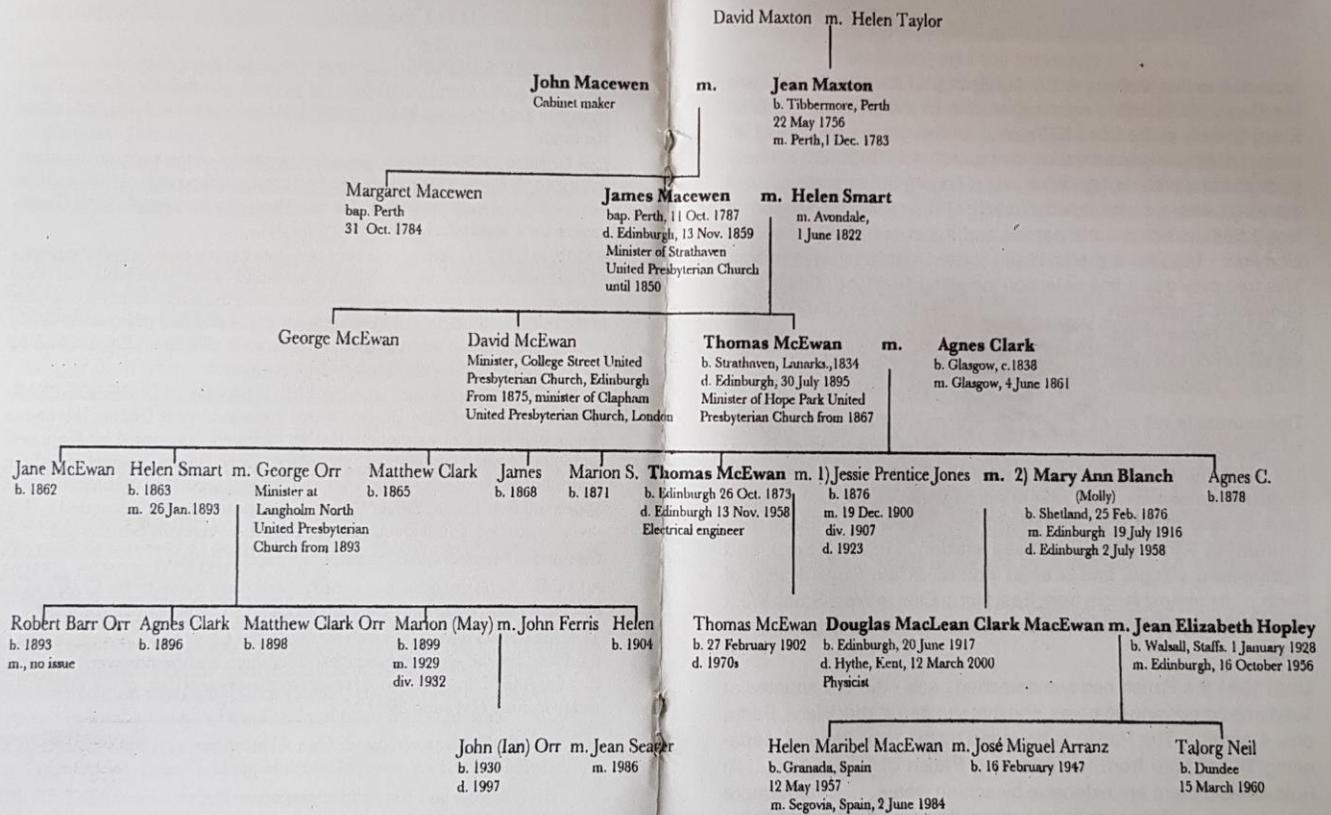
**A.O.C.B.** Two very generous contributions were made to the Chief's Fund by Harry Davis and Jim & Barbara McEwen. Thanks were expressed.

**THE MEETING** was closed with thanks to the Chair and Committee and to the Hotel for the excellent facilities. Members and friends were reminded that the A.G.M. in 2002 would revert to the original date of the **FIRST** Saturday in June (1st June 2002).

*Eleanor Williamson*

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THE MacEWAN FAMILY



## "TIBBERMORE .....

**Included** in this 'Bulletin' is the family tree of the late Dr. Douglas MacEwan. 'Dr. Douglas' was responsible for establishing the Clan Ewen Society in the late 1970's, and for this we are all greatly indebted to him. His academic and research work took him to many parts of the world - but go back just a couple of generations, and the world was a much smaller place. Part of the fascination of family trees is not just the names and the dates - both essential elements - but also the places associated with each generation. This tree provides a fine selection including Shetland, Edinburgh, Langholm, Strathaven, Granada (Spain). Go-est reference to a place place - Tibbermore, Hythe (England), and ing back in time, the earli- is Jean Maxton's birth- Perth - 22 May 1756.



**Tibbermore** is still very rural - approximately four fifty miles north of Edinburgh. Groome's Ordnance Gazeteer of Scotland, written just over one hundred years ago, devotes half a page of very small print to Tibbermore. "A Parish of Perthshire containing Almondbank railway station, Huntingtower and Ruthvenfield village, and a small portion of the Royal Burgh of Perth..... Its utmost length from East North East to West South West is 6.1/8 miles; its breadth varies between 6 1/2 furlongs & 2 1/2 miles.

**Until 1891** the Parish had two detached parts - the one situated at Tullylumb comprising 96 acres, and that situated at York Place, Perth, only 4 acres.... The Parish is bounded by the river Almond, separating Tibbermore from the adjoining Parish of Redgorton..... At Ruthvenfield there are extensive bleaching works ..... Tibbermore (also known as Tippermuir) has given its name to the first battle

fought between the Marquis of Montrose and the Covenanters (1 September 1644), a battle in which the latter confronted 1,700 Highlanders and Irishmen with 6000 foot and 600 horse, but were completely vanquished and suffered a loss of 2000 slain and 2000 captured ..... Tibbermore was the residence of several of the Bishops of Dunkeld, including Bishop Sinclair who is noted in history for an exploit against the English in the reign of Robert Bruce ..... At Tullylumb anciently stood a convent of Carmelites ..... The name Tibbermore signifies 'a great well', and probably alludes to a perennial spring which issued from behind the church, and was long known by the name of 'The Lady Well', but which - not long before 1843 - was destroyed by the draining of the adjacent field.... Population in 1801 - 1306; in 1841 - 1651; in 1881 - 1883".

**So we can** get to learn quite a lot about Tibbermore. Elsewhere, in Webster's 'Scottish Population Statistics', dated 1755, we are informed that there are 0 'Papists' in the Parish, but there are 988 'Protestants', and 197.3/5ths 'Fighting Men'. (I wonder what 3/5ths of a Fighting Man consists of!!).

**Curiosity**, family association, 'the heartstrings' - all good reasons for Jean Maxton's descendents to find out about, and to visit, Tibbermore. If you have a Tibbermore equivalent in your family tree, researching it, and maybe paying a personal visit, can be a highly enriching experience. Perhaps you could share such an experience with a wider audience by contributing an article to the Bulletin.

*Murdo McEwan - October 2001*

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# CLAN EWEN SOCIETY

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 22nd MAY, 2000 to 21st MAY, 2001

|               |                             |                |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b> | Subscription Life Single    | £ 129.62       |
|               | Subscription Life Family    | 181.04         |
|               | Subscription for 2000       | 437.86         |
|               | Subscriptions for 2001-2002 | 555.29         |
|               | Sales of Clan Merchandise   | 1139.44        |
|               | Raffles                     | 219.55         |
|               | Bank Interest               | 70.64          |
|               |                             | <b>2733.44</b> |

|                    |                                           |                |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b> | 'Scots Magazine' Adverts                  | £ 351.66       |
|                    | Printing and postage of bulletin (1 copy) | 579.21         |
|                    | Purchase of Clan Merchandise              | 1081.23        |
|                    | Clan Ceilidh musicians                    | 250.00         |
|                    | Committee members expenses                | 100.74         |
|                    |                                           | -- --          |
|                    | Room hires for committee meetings         | 105.50         |
|                    | Excess of income over expenditure         | 265.10         |
|                    |                                           | <b>2733.44</b> |

|                        |               |                |                       |                |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| <b>TRADING ACCOUNT</b> | Opening Stock | £1290.30       | Closing Stock         | £1711.97       |
|                        | Purchases     | 1081.23        | Tartan for book cover | 30.79          |
|                        | Profit        | 510.67         | Sales                 | 1139.44        |
|                        |               | <b>2882.20</b> |                       | <b>2882.20</b> |

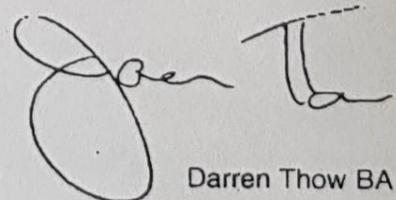
|                                |                       |                      |  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| <b>ASSETS AT 21st MAY 2001</b> | Treasurers Account    | £2017.80             |  |
|                                | Cash in hand          | --                   |  |
|                                | Closing Stock         | 1711.97              |  |
|                                | Clan Chief's Accounts | 1400.15 <sup>2</sup> |  |
|                                |                       | <b>5129.92</b>       |  |

Note 2-Donation of £500 received

|                                |                       |                  |  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>ASSETS AT 21st MAY 2000</b> | Treasurers Account    | £1861.00         |  |
|                                | Cash in hand          | 100 <sup>1</sup> |  |
|                                | Closing Stock         | 1290.30          |  |
|                                | Clan Chief's Accounts | 658.71           |  |
|                                |                       | <b>3910.01</b>   |  |

Note 1-Understated by £6.13

No audit has been done on the closing stock figure  
 The books and records of the Society have been examined by me  
 and assuming the closing stock value is reasonable, the above statement  
 represents a true and fair view of the Society's accounts as at 21st May 2001

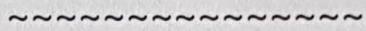


Darren Thow BA CA

TRACING MY ANCESTERS ... 

I am trying to trace my Ewing ancestors who moved from the Parish of Logie, near Stirling, Scotland probably during the 1870's or so - they stayed in Roslyn, Dunedin, New Zealand and I give the names of those I

know ..... Ralph, Archibald, William and possibly James. In 1877 Ralph sent £10 for coal for the poor and in 1898 he sent over a substantial amount of money to have a grave monument erected for his deceased parents and four of his deceased brothers and sisters who now lie in the Old Kirk, Logie. **Sub-Editor of the Bulletin - address on back page plus E-mail. Sidnie Terry.**



*In ancient days, the Barony of Otter, situated on the Cowal side of Loch Fyne nearly opposite Ardrishaig on the other side of the loch, belonged to the Macewens, one of the original families of Argyll. There, for many generations, they held their own, undismayed by the many vicissitudes of the stirring period in which they lived.*

*On Argaddan, a rocky promontory to the north of Kilfinan Bay, stood their homestead commanding extensive views of the Loch. Their dead were laid to rest in a large mound modern mansion house of*

*It was an ill day for the the Campbells became Inveraray. They were am-grandisement: their greed*



*intriguers, they contrived, by fair means or foul, to extort some personal advantage from every turn of fortune's wheel. In those turbulent times of struggle and strife, they developed an uncanny knack of always backing the winning side. They were in high favour at the court of the King of Scotland at a time when most Highland Chieftains were reluctant to acknowledge that Monarch as their rightful sovereign.*

*"Dun Mhic Foghain" near the Ballimore.*

*whole of Loch Fyneside when firmly established at bitious: they sought family ag-for land was insatiable. Born*

*On one pretext or another most of the original proprietors of Argyll became dispossessed of their properties, which almost invariably fell into Campbell hands. The Macewens were no exception to the rule. About the year 1450 "Gillaspy Campbel" became Lord of the Otter.*

*Macewen was on his way home from Ireland when a witch came to him and told him to get home at once as the "Campbells were Coming". The witch handed Macewen a string tied in three knots, saying - if he wanted a good breeze to enable his vessel to go faster to untie the first knot; again if he*

wanted more speed, to untie the second knot, but on no account whatsoever to untie the third knot. Macewen untied the first knot; getting impatient he undid the second knot. He was within sight of his castle when he perchanced to see the Campbells coming over the hill. Speed at this point was of the utmost. He quickly undid the third knot, but to his horror he became becalmed and had to lie in the bay and watch the Campbells take the Castle of Otter.

*Sent in by Paul McEwan, American Correspondent.*

## EDITOR'S LETTER



On a personal note, to all our American and Overseas members, relatives and friends, I wish to extend our sympathy and deepest sorrow to all relatives and friends of loved ones lost in the World Trade Centre, Pentagon and Airline terrorist assaults. If these horrific attacks of terrorism, define one thing, it is how close we are, not only as Scots but as nations, amid Family connections which criss-cross the world. I will not make any political statements as people far more eloquent than I have done so already. Suffice to say, old friends are there to comfort in times of adversity, remain staunch and are resolute in defence of those friendships.

*Editor*

In matters of the Clan Society directly, next year is a major event being the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Society. So a lot of work is being undertaken by the Committee members to ensure a celebration to remember. I am not involved in the Committee meetings as much as I should be due to living in Eng-

land. I have therefore suggested to the Chairman that from next year it might be more beneficial to the Society if someone other than myself took the Editorial position over and was closer to home and in place, so to speak. So I hope our Committee member, Sydnie will agree to become the full Editor and I will assist from where I am based, as and when needed. It may seem an unusual step to take now, as the 25th Anniversary approaches but I cannot think of a better time to start as Editor than a major celebration.

*Editor, Colin Davies*

## DISTRIBUTION OF MACEWEN LANDS

### Estates of Kilmore & Kilbride

Land in Scotland was measured in units of value, one merkland being an annual rent of two-thirds of a pound Scots, or one hundred & sixty pennies. Estates were held in trust from the Clan Chief and normally passed from father to son by means of a Sasine, a document which was hand-written in Latin until about 1700. In legal jargon this recorded the transfer of the

land and everything on it, though it did not list individual properties. The Laird or 'tacksman' was described as 'of' and tenants as 'in' or 'at' the estate and this system continued until the land was disentailed during the 19th century. Although, some lands are still held in trust today.

**The estates** and land at Kilmore and Kilbride was divided between the Campbells and the MacDougalls.

**In reference** to Campbell of Lerags, in 1432, the 'Larragis' belonged to Suffne (Swene) McEwyn, Laird of Ottir in weran. The two Lerags were upper Lerags valued at nine merkland and Lower or Nether Lerags valued at seven merks.

**The Lerags** tack was claimed in 1478 by Duncan and Dugal Campbell, who were clearly related to the MacDonnachaidh Campbells of Glenfeochan and Knipoch. Archibald Campbell named, of Lerags, in 1510 and was responsible for the Celtic Cross raised near Kilbride in 1516 and received a fee in 1527 for 'Keeping the Isle of Lochnell'.

**From** 1623 to 1628 the lands of Lerags were 'apprised' from Duncan Campbell of Lerags and transferred to Duncan Campbell of Auchnagowell near Inveraray. Another account says that Campbell of Ardchattan bought Lerags in

1621 for a cadet branch of the Campbells of Lochnell. Whatever the truth, another Archibald Campbell was named first of Lerags in 1630 and he was a son of John Campbell, fourth of Lochnell. The oldest surviving Sasine is dated 1696 because earlier records were destroyed when Cromwell's soldiers burned Ardchatten Priory in 1654. Therefore, no written proof exists of any transfer of Sasine to Campbell ownership and equally, whether any took place at all. Sub-

sequent Lairds were called Archibald or John with the exception of Alexander, who built the late Georgian frontage of Lerags House about 1830. When the estate was disentailed and of-

fered for sale by John Beverley Campbell in the "London Times" in 1881, the estate area was 1,588 acres. The 677 acres of Minard Farm were sold in 1929 and the remainder auctioned in 1952 to form the modern farms of Lerags, Achalic and Lag-na-Keil. Lerags House was converted into Holiday Flats in 1960 and Holiday Chalets were later built at Lag-na-Keil and Cologin.

**There are** now a number of retirement homes in Lerags Glen, particularly beyond the public road which ends at Ardentallen House.

**Extracts from "Oban, Kilmore and Kilbride" by C. K. Hunter with full acknowledgement to him for information supplied.**





## NEW MEMBERS

*The Chairman on behalf of the Members of the Committee welcomes the following new members who have joined since our last publication:-*

*Robert H. McEwen and Family of Lockerbie  
and welcomes:*

*Mrs. Pam Ritchie of Ellon, Aberdeenshire  
who has returned to the fold.*

## CLAN EWEN SOCIETY SUBSCRIPTIONS

*When the November 2000 issue of the 'Bulletin' was delivered to members, it included a MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM for the period 1st JUNE, 2001 to 31st MAY, 2002. A Form was also enclosed in the Spring 2001 issue of the 'Bulletin'.*

*So far, the return of these Forms has continued to be slow. If you have not already returned a Form, your early response would again be appreciated as ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS are now due.*

*Iain McEwan, Hon. Treasurer*

## **MRS. FLORA BUICK**

*What follows are copy notes of correspondence between Mrs. Buick and our former Genealogist of Clan Ewen, the late Colin McEwan. Flora is from New Zealand and covered various aspects of McEwan history connections with Kings of Ireland and the O'Neills of Northern Ireland.*

*Sadly Flora is no longer with us. But if any of her relatives are still connected to the Society I would love to hear from them.*

### **IRISH KINGS**

**EOCHU:** Following Conn of the Hundred Battles, came Cormac who reigned 254 - 277.

**EOCHU:** While King of Tara, on a slave-raid to Roman Britain, captured and married a Princess of the Britons named Carina.

**NIALL:** King of Ireland, in whose time the royal house of Tara asserted a nominal superiority over

the whole of Ireland. He died a pagan but descendants built and endowed Abbeys.

**LAEGAIRE:** King of Ireland, defeated by enemy and buried with weapons in ramparts of Tara, facing Leinster. 300 canonised as Saints in his honour.

**CONALL:** King of Meath, ancestor of Kings of Brega and Kings of Uisnech. Principal branches of Southern O'Neils which alternated with the Northern O'Neills in the High Kingship of Ireland.

**MAINE:** Ancestor of the dynasty of Teffla in Meath.

**EOGHAN:** King of Aileach - mother was Ine, grand-daughter of Moidach, King of Ulster.

Took part with three of his brothers, Conall Gulban, Enda and Cairbre in conquering north-west of Ireland, including stronghold of Aileach. Established their own Kingdoms. Eoghan's sat in the peninsula between Lough Swilly and Lough Foyle.

He was converted to Christianity by St. Patrick, who called him 'The Scion Eoghan MacNeill', and was buried at Eskaheen. All his descendants, were known as Cenel Eoghain and became the principal branch of the Northern O'Neills. Castles held at Bunrana, Greencastle and Grianan of

Aileach.

He married a foreign princess - Indarb Finn 'The White'.

**MUIREDACH:** Ewen's eldest son eloped with Eire, wife of a Briton called Saran and daughter of Lorn, King of Scots. (She married 3rd by his cousin (Muredachs) Fergus 2nd son of Conall Gulban. Fergus was married to grandmother of St. Columba through his line.

**CONALL GULBAN:** King of Tir, Conall emerged as O'Donnell of Donegal and as 'kindred of St. Columba'. Members of the branch were abbots of Iona 568 - 891 A.D., Abbots of Dunkeld from 9th - 12th century. King of Scots from Duncan 1st to Alexander III - who had a daughter Margaret who married Eric, King of Norway and taught him Scots and French in the short time they had together. She died a year later when baby Margaret was born (Maid of Norway). Alexander died as a result of a fall from his horse in a storm, then his son died under suspicious circumstances. So the Maid became heir to the Scottish throne at the age of 6. But on the sea passage, she took sick and died in the Orkneys. Her father, Eric, then laid claim to the Scottish throne but Edward I of England foiled that, so he married Isabella, Robert Bruce's sister, and had one child, a daughter, Ingleborg. And so it continues ....

Suibhne (Swene), Ermaine, Fergus, Donnall, Eochaid, another Eoghan, whose grandson was St. Mura, patron saint of O'Neills. A pastoral staff richly adorned and also a bell are still preserved. The Eochaid family line have St. Patrick's bell. Eoghan's name changed to Eugene abroad and he died in O'Neill's regiment when they fought for Kings of Spain and Portugal. Created Counts and presented with jewelled swords, married into the Spanish and Portuguese aristocracy, the name changed to Euginia.

Descending from Kings of Tara and Kings of Ireland, a son of the King of Ulster married an heiress princess of the Royal House of Argyll. From this union descend the Clans ..... Lamont, Lyon of Glamis, MacSorleys, ..... MacDonalds, McDonnells etc. .... McEwans of Otter, McLachlans, Livingstones, Scrymgeours, McQueens, Gilchrists, Barons McCorquordale, MacMillans of Knop, MacAults and MacNeils of Barra, Gigha, and Taynish. All these Clans except Livingstone and Scrymgeour who married heiresses, inherited their estates from Scots-Irish Kings.

Conall, who was Eoghan's uncle - his father was King Gabran. There were four Ewen Kings of Scotland. The last one married Urgucia, daughter of Unguis, King

of Picts.

We belong to the 'kindred of St. Columba', royal blood on both sides. St. Columba was given Iona by King Conal to build his church, after he had to flee Ireland for causing a war between the North and South O'Neills.

Aiden was Ewen's younger brother and couldn't wait to be king. He killed the next heir, Duncan, Conal's son and ignoring Ewen, persuaded St. Columba to cross to Iona and crown him king.

When Fergus, Loarn and Angus arrived in 503 A.D., Dalriada had been conquered years before by first Irish settlement with Eoghan's brother, Cairbre who named the province Dalriada after his home, Dalriada in Antrim. He founded the old pagan house of Eochaid.

We descent from Fergus and all have 'King Lyon' beside name on the Lyon Conjectural tree.

So much history I've gleaned from old Irish and Norse books.

The last Norse one published in 1871, fell to pieces in my hands. It had never been off the shelves of Otago University.

Both King Gabron and Aidan married Welsh princesses, Clan McArthur and Clan Maclean of Duart descend from two of his sons.

When I came to a halt in McEwan research I wrote to Sir Fitzroy Maclean who is a 42nd cousin - he married Lord Lovat's sister. He wrote back saying he had always known of the link between us, but never knew what it was.

Eoghainn is the old Gaelic name for Ewen and means 'born of a yew tree'.

*(Flora goes on to say she has the full Arms and History of McEwen's - including also Anat Ewen, who was a son of Ewen in the Cameron branch of the family, and was the ancestor of the Camerons of Dourraint. His second wife Marjorie MacKintosh and his mother, the daughter of McDonnell of Keppoch, designed a tartan which combined the MacDonald with Cameron).*

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## OFFICE BEARERS

- Chairman:** Lt. Col. Alan Ewing, T.D., Balgowan, Seven Sisters, Lenzie, G66 3AW, Scotland.  
TEL: 0141 776 3525
- Vice-Chairman & Secretary:** Miss E. Williamson, Bellcairn Cottage, Cove, by Helensburgh, G84 ONX, Scotland  
TEL: 0143 684 2352
- Treasurer:** Mr. Iain McEwan, 3 Wellington Street, Montrose, Angus, DD10 8QD, Scotland.  
TEL: 01674 673364
- Membership Secretary:** Mr. Malcolm McEwan, 34 Union Street, Montrose, Angus DD10 8PY.  
TEL: (44) 01674 671400.  
e-mail: mjm@rgit.co.uk
- Genealogist:** Mr. A. G. M. McEwan, 25 Carnethy Avenue, Edinburgh EH13 0DL, Scotland  
TEL: 0131-441 5034
- Society Manager:** Mr. J. G. McEwen, 30 Glenluggie Road, Waterside, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, Scotland.  
TEL: 0141-578 0657  
e-mail: jgmcewen@ntlworld.com
- E-Mail Service Correspondent:** Rachel McEwen  
32/5 Montgomery Street, Edinburgh EH7 5JS  
TEL: 0131 557 6449  
e-mail: rachelmcewen@aol.com
- Bulletin Editor:** Miss Sidnie Terry, Old Struan Cottage, Old Struan, Calvine, Perthshire PH18 5UD  
TEL: 01796 483201  
e-mail: SidinTerr@AOL.com
- Bulletin Sub Editor:** Mr. Colin Davies, 44 White Lodge Avenue, Huyton, Liverpool L36 2PU, Merseyside, England.  
TEL: 0151-480 8239
- Canadian Correspondent:** Mr. W. H. MacEwen, P.O. Box 3, St. Peters, Nova Scotia, BOE 3BO, Canada.
- U.S.A. Correspondent:** Mr. Paul McEwan, Saraland Apartments 105B, 8010 Highway 49  
Gulfport, Mississippi, 39501-7015, U.S.A.
- Australian Correspondent:** Mrs. Evelyn Jean Forsyth Mason, J.P.  
88 Laura Street, Tarragindi, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
- New Zealand Correspondent:** Mr. Cameron McEwing, 54 Glen Lynne Avenue, Hamilton, New Zealand  
e-mail: cmcewing@xtra.co.nz

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