



# Clan MacEwen Special Edition Bulletin Kilfinan 2022

Reviresco

We will rise again

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## Society Officers

**Commander of Clan  
MacEwen:** Sir John McEwen

**Chair:** Sean McCuin

**Vice Chair:** Ross McEwen

**Treasurer:** Dina-Lee McEwan

**Secretary:** Sandra McCuin

**Editors:** Ewan and Pauline  
Rowland

**Membership Secretary:** Carol  
Owens

**Country Commissioners:**

**Australia:** Chris and Marilee  
McEwan

**USA:** Bob and Carol Owens

**Canada:** Maggie McEwan

**Committee Members:**

Duncan McEwan

Herma Goosens

## Commander's Message



Once again we prepare to gather for our Annual General Meeting with hope and good fellowship in our hearts! At such a time as this, when war and pestilence and raging weather might make even the most reasonable among us feel that there is something biblical going on, it is more important than ever that those parts of life which are completely unconnected with suffering, such as the coming-together of a Clan, are cherished and valued. As Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, *'There is no duty we so much underrate as the duty of being happy. By being happy we sow anonymous benefits upon the world'*.

*Go, us!"*

*Reviresco!*

## Chairman's Message

Greetings Kinsmen and Women,

I would like to personally welcome you all to our gathering this year, here in Kilfinan. As you know the majority of the restrictions that we have been facing in recent years have finally been lifted and we are truly allowed to gather en masse.

This year is the 'Year of the Story Teller' and I am excited to have some special guests joining us this year. We will be providing as much live feed as possible during the event and we will be creating a special page to access the videos that will be produced.

As always, I look forward to welcoming each and everyone of you to our ancestral home.

Reviresco! Comhla!

Sean A McCuin

Chairman of the Clan MacEwen Society



## From the Editors

Ewan and Pauline Rowland

In our northern latitudes Spring is finally bursting forth and in our home part of Scotland, Argyll and Bute, colour replaces the drab of winter. The blossom trees have never been so beautiful and bountiful. The newly emerging leaves on the trees have a freshness and brightness that only Spring can offer. This is a time of opportunity when, if you so choose, you can make a fitting tribute to the emerging new life by planting a tree. It doesn't matter what size garden you have, as shown in our feature 'The Clan that Plants Trees', you can make a contribution to our cause and one that should out live us all.



See you at the 'Gathering'.



Koen and me  
© Scouting Rijnwaarden

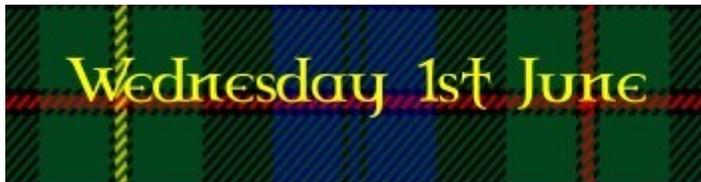
### Apology from the Editors

In the last edition of the Bulletin, Herma, a Society member from the Netherlands, was pictured (inset) with her Nephew Koen (Water Scout) planting an oak tree. However, the caption to the photograph was incorrect. It should have said that **the planting took place when she visited 'Scouting Rijnwaarden on "Het Gelders Eiland" (Isle of Gelder)'**.

**Be part of 'the Clan that plants trees for a greener future!'**



**CLAN MACEWEN  
GATHERING**  
1st-5th June 2022  
Kilfinan, Argyll, Scotland



**Wednesday 1st June**

Schedule of Events

All Events At Kilfinan Community Hall/Clan MacEwen Heritage Centre and Shop unless specified. Open to all

- 13:00-15:00 Welcome - Coffee and Cake
- 15:00-17:00 Family Tree Workshop Q&A—  
“Branching Out: One Tree,  
Many Branches”
- 18:30 Scottish Fayre Buffet and Zoom Social

The Clan MacEwen Gathering 2022 is made possible through funding from the Clan MacEwen Store, and an award from The National Lottery Community Fund, made possible by National Lottery players.

The National Lottery Community Fund, Scotland Chair, Kate Still, said: “National Lottery funding can make amazing things happen in local communities across the country. This project delivered by CLAN MACEWEN SOCIETY, is a great example of community activity in action, showing just what can be achieved when people come together for a common cause or to help others. National Lottery players can be proud to know that the money they raise is helping to support this vital work and to help communities thrive.”




**Thursday 2nd June**

Schedule of Events

All Events At Kilfinan Community Hall/Clan MacEwen Heritage Centre and Shop unless specified. Open to all

- 10:00-11:30 Walk to MacEwen Motte on Ballimore Estate, Otter Ferry (see Sandra if you need help with transportation)
- 12:00-13:00 Lunch
- 13:00-14:00 Writing Workshop
- 14:30-15:30 Family Tree Workshop—Research Resources, How and where to find information
- 18:30-19:00 Drinks with the Commander at Oystercatcher, Otter Ferry
- 19:00 Dinner with the Commander at Oystercatcher, Otter Ferry Including Lighting of the Jubilee Beacon on the Beach. Dress Code: Wear your Tartan!

(Only 30 places available, booking essential. £35 per ticket for meal and commemorative glass, pay as you go bar for drinks. See [www.clanmacewen.com](http://www.clanmacewen.com) for details or contact a society committee member)



## Friday 3rd June

### Schedule of Events

All Events At Kilfinan Community Hall/Clan MacEwen Heritage Centre and Shop unless specified. Open to all

- 08:00-09:00 Wild Swimming with Dan The Merman at Otter Ferry (booking essential, see [www.clanmacewen.com](http://www.clanmacewen.com))
- 10:00-11:00 Dalriada Gaelic and Place Names with Adhamh O Broin
- 11:00-12:00 MacEwen Migration Presentation with Bulletin Editors Ewan and Pauline
- 12:00-13:00 Lunch
- 13:00-16:00 Walk to the Cairn
- 18:30—Late BBQ , Mini Highland Games and Casual Ceilidh
- 20:00 Whisky Tasting and Social (Whisky Tasting £15 per person, includes commemorative MacEwen Whisky Tasting Glass, booking essential, see [www.clanmacewen.com](http://www.clanmacewen.com) )



## Saturday 4th June

### Schedule of Events

All Events At Kilfinan Community Hall/Clan MacEwen Heritage Centre and Shop unless specified and open to all

- 10:00-11:00 Heraldry Presentation by Vice Chair Ross
- 12:00-13:00 Lunch
- 13:00-14:00 Commander's Presentation
- 15:00-17:00 Annual General Meeting
- 18:30-late Dinner—Ceilidh to Follow with Adhamh O Broin and Gillibride MacMillan From Outlander

We encourage you to have a mini gathering in your local area, online content is available to support your gathering wherever you are in the world. All video content will be available under the International Gathering and AGM 2022 tab at [www.clanmacewen.com](http://www.clanmacewen.com). Zoom socials are scheduled and live feeds will be available where possible.

Special thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund





Schedule of Events

All Events At Kilfinan Community Hall/Clan MacEwen Heritage Centre and Shop unless specified and open to all

- 10:00-11:30 Family Tree Workshop-  
"Branching Out: One Tree, Many Branches"
- 1200-1330 Blessing O' The Tartan
- 1330-1430 Jubilee Picnic and  
Family Mini Highland Games

**This year's theme reflects Visit Scotland's theme of The Storyteller. We will be highlighting our talented MacEwen storytellers past and present in many genres of the arts.**

for more info, contact:

[www.clanmacewen.com](http://www.clanmacewen.com)

[info@clanmacewen.com](mailto:info@clanmacewen.com)

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Kilfinan, Tighnabruaich, Argyll, PA21 2EP



# Clan MacEwen Dinner Party

## The Oystercatcher - Dinner at 7.30pm

### Menu

#### Starter:

Cullen Skink, with Homemade Bread and Butter—Gluten free available (gf)

Vegan Quorn-a-Leekie, Homemade Bread and Butter (gf)

#### Main:

Lepinchapel Lamb, Homemade Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, with a beautiful Vegetable Sauce  
Greens for the table to share

#### Pudding:

Homemade Cranachan—Yoghurt Panna Cotta, Toasted Oats, Raspberries & Whisky Sauce (adults only)

Homemade Vegan Cranachan—Vegan Yoghurt Panna Cotta, Toasted Oats, Raspberries and a Whisky Sauce (adults only)

or

Bramble Crumble and Custard

£35 per person



Drinks at the bar, and entertainment afterwards.

# The Clan That Plants Trees

It won't be a surprise to you to know that we are the clan that plants trees, since our emblem is a blasted oak with green shoots emerging from its trunk. Nor will its sentiment go unnoticed since our clan shares so much with this noblest of trees.



## The Oak Tree by Johnny Ray Ryder Jnr

A mighty wind blew night and day,  
It stole the Oak Tree's leaves away.

The wind stripped its boughs

And pulled its bark

Until the Oak was tired and stark.

But still the Oak Tree held its ground

While other trees fell all around.

The weary wind gave up and spoke.

How can you still be standing Oak?

The Oak Tree said, I know that you

Can break each branch of mine in two,

Carry every leaf away,

Shake my limbs and make me sway.

But I have roots stretched out in the earth,  
growing stronger since my birth.

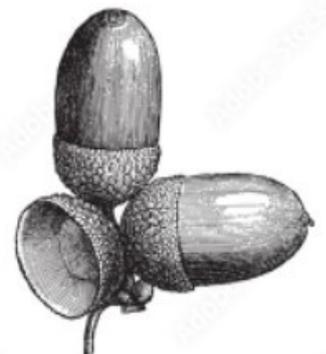
You'll never touch them, for you see

They are the deepest part of me.

Until today, I wasn't sure  
of just how much I could endure.

But now I've found with thanks to you,

I'm stronger than I ever knew.



## The Clan That Plants Trees

According to the Woodland Trust (UK), Oak forests support more life forms than any other nature forest. They are host to hundreds of insect species supplying many birds with an important food source. In Autumn, mammals such as squirrels, badgers and deer feed on the acorns.

The Oak is also revered in mythology since it was sacred to many gods including Zeus, Jupiter and the Celtic Dagda. Each of these gods ruled over thunder and lightning and the Oak is the most often tree hit by lightning as they are the tallest living feature in the landscape (up to 40m tall). Druids practiced rituals in Oak groves and cherished the mistletoe that grew in its branches. The Oak is also linked to royalty; as ancient kings and Roman Emperors wore crowns of Oak leaves. In England the Oak is a national symbol of strength. Couples were wed under Oaks in Oliver Cromwell's time. The Oak is also the emblem of many environmental groups including the Woodland Trust from whom this information was retrieved.

Apart from its many uses as timber for war ships and house building etc., its leaves were believed to heal many medical ailments, including diarrhoea, inflammation and kidney stones. Acorns were used to make flour for bread making and tannin from the bark has been used to tan leather since at least Roman Times.

Oak galls provided the ink for the most important texts in western history including the Magna Carta, Newton's theories and Mozart's music. The acorns were also used as a coffee substitute (BB4 and Natural History Museum – Natural Histories Series).

Below are three examples from Society members about planting trees. The first is from Adam, who lives in Helensburgh in Argyll and Bute on the West Coast of Scotland.

For the past two years, we've undertaken a large-scale tree-planting operation as part of a garden redesign project. Our aim was to plant native or naturalised tree species where possible, as well as create schemes which would reflect the local flora vernacular.



Taking delivery of different tree species in early 2021

## The Clan That Plants Trees

Since 2020, we've planted more than 200 trees, planting them as either semi-mature specimens to create a woodland setting or as smaller bare-root plants to form a boundary hedge.

Approximately 160 plants went into creating a beech hedge to mark the property boundary. Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) are a common native tree in western Scotland and create a valuable habitat for insects and small song birds as well as acting as a convenient privacy screen when trained into a hedge.



Planting the beech hedge in winter 2020-21.



The same beech hedge in April 2022, now established

In addition, we planted English Yew trees (*Taxus baccata*) in a dense formation to create a garden room for our vegetable plot. The dense evergreen habit of the Yew is not only very architectural but acts as a lovely voile for other garden features. It is also the adopted plant badge of the Clan.

## The Clan That Plants Trees



Left: Planting the Yew Garden 'walls' in early 2021.

Below: The walls of Yew firmly established in April 2022.

To finish this area of the garden we used a combination of multi-stem and fastigate silver birch trees as well as a couple of Sorbus (commonly known as Rowan) to create a woodland path. In the Summer, the delicate leaves of the silver birch create a lovely, dappled shade and in the autumn the Sorbus 'Olympic Flame' add a final burst of exotic colour before the dreich winter weather sets in.



## The Clan That Plants Trees



Multi-stem silver birch trees (*Betula utilis jacquemontii* 'Doorenbos') lining the woodland walk in April 2022.



The ghost-white stems of the fastigate silver birches (*Betula utilis jacquemontii* 'Doorenbos') with a Sorbus 'Olympic Flame' bursting into leaf in April 2022

In another section of the garden we planted a trio of ornamental weeping cherry trees (Kiku Shidare-Zakura). Backlit in the spring by the red blousy flowers of a camellia hedge (Kramer's Supreme), the vibrant pink blossoms and drooping habit of these trees create an interesting feature in what is a more formal area of the garden. Helensburgh is famed for its cherry blossom-lined streets in the spring, so the choice of such a floriferous cherry blossom in our garden reflects a long-standing tradition in the local area.

# The Clan That Plants Trees



Above: The famous cherry blossom-lined streets of Helensburgh

Left: The trio of weeping cherry trees starting to blossom in April 2022

Whether as instant impact or with an eye to the future, we've found tree planting a very rewarding experience, one which we'll hopefully benefit from for many years to come.



Thea, another Society member sent in her contribution from Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, but on a much smaller scale. This is a Waterfall Willow, *Salix integra pendula* waterfall. It's a dwarf tree only reaching 1.5m in height and spread over 10 years. So a perfect tree for a smaller garden.

Right: Finally, the Editor's contribution, a Conference Pear Tree.

