



*Reviresco  
We will rise again*

## Contacts

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

[clanewenuk@live.co.uk](mailto:clanewenuk@live.co.uk)

Jocks Lodge, Kilfinan, Tighna-  
bruaich, Argyll, PA21 2EP

## Society Officers

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

**Chair: Sean McCuin**

**Vice Chair: Achim Fuchs**

**Vice Chair/Communications/  
Constitution: Ross McEwen**

**Treasurer: Rachel McEwen**

**Secretary: Sandra McCuin**

**Membership Secretary: Carol  
Owens**

**Country Convenors:**

**Australia: Chris and Marilee  
McEwan**

**USA: Bob and Carol Owens**

**Canada: Maggie McEwan**

**Committee Members:**

**Duncan McEwan**

**Herma Goosens**

# Clan MacEwen Society Newsletter

## Commander's Message



"As perhaps the most patient of all clans, Clan MacEwen is well prepared to deal with the current n-normal. Having waited for more than 500 years to find a Chief, and knowing all that time, deep in our hearts, that we would, indeed, rise again, we are, as befits The Clan That Plants Trees, a clan that takes the long view. While our thoughts and prayers are first of all with the families and friends of those who are now suffering, this weird crisis must be considered a time of opportunity. We are being invited to reconsider: what matters, whose work matters, where our priorities lie, what's the best way to organise the world. Feeling sad about the cancelled gatherings of Clansfolk from all over the planet brings home how much our Clan means to us all. This - Clan MacEwen - is one of those things that matter. And we have known worse than this. We can wait a wee bit longer. We'll be back. And we'll be back with all colours flying. *REVIRESCO!*"

## Chairman's Message

Greetings from the Chairman,

I hope that this message finds you all Healthy, Safe and Well. As everyone should know, the results of the Global Pandemic, most all of the Highland Games and Gatherings have been cancelled for the near future, including our own International Gathering that was scheduled for the first week of June of this year. I would like to first like to thank everyone for continuing their support to the Clan and Society. During this time we have had many of our members volunteer in their Local Communities and provide much needed support to the vulnerable. This goes to the heart of the Clan Motto, Reviresco! We Shall Rise Again!



We at the Society are looking forward to the future, where we can come together as a family once again and share our Kinship and Camaraderie. I am truly looking forward to this time. Planning for upcoming events is continually underway and once allowed, the Clan Banner will be flying proudly along with the other Clans at various venues throughout the World.

I would like to thank the Country Conveners and the Executive Committee for their dedication to the Clan and Society, without whom we would be in a very different situation.

I would also commend the individual members as well, your trust in and devotion to the Clan and Society is energizing and motivating.

So, while we cannot be together in person during this time, I know that each and every one of you are together in spirit. Let us show the world that Clan MacEwen truly rise again!

Reviresco!

## From the Editor

Apologies for a lack of newsletters this year, it seems each time we tried to publish, the world had changed and new messages were needed, cancellations updated, information became outdated as the days went on due to the pandemic. Now things have stabilised somewhat, we have an exciting catalogue of new features and in depth articles to share. As always, please feel free to submit articles you would like to share or request articles you would like to read. Thank you for your patience and we hope you enjoy the new features and feel the unity of our wonderful clan even though we can't physically be together, we are always together in spirit.

USA



Greetings from Clan MacEwen USA! We hope this finds each of you staying active, safe, and well during these unusual and challenging times.

Calendar year 2020 saw Clan MacEwen kick off the U.S. highland games season in sunny temperate Winter Park, Florida at the Central Florida Highland Games (one of the Southeast's largest and oldest games). Bob Owens, U.S. Convener and Clan MacEwen representative, and Carol Owens, Society membership secretary, along with members Mary McEwen Hays and Lee Hays, had a great time with our inaugural at this event. An added bonus for Mary's husband Lee was Clan Hay enjoying the distinction of Honored Clan.

Clan MacEwen was warmly and personally welcomed by Central Florida Highland Games officials and fellow Clans, not the least of which was our longtime historic Cowal neighbor and friend Clan MacLachlan. A great time was had by all, and the commitment was made to make this an annual U.S. event.

While Clan MacEwen looked forward to an expanded presence throughout the U.S. in 2020, with increased concern over Covid-19 officials felt it prudent to cancel or postpone a number of subsequent U.S. events, including the Dunedin Highland Games (FL), Savannah Scottish Games (GA), Smoky Mountain Highland Games (TN), Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (NC), Maine Celtic Celebration and St. Louis Scottish Games (MO). We remain hopeful that conditions will safely allow for gatherings, games and festivals to recommence in August, September and November.

We'll keep Society members posted via the website on the status of upcoming events with the hope of being represented at the Loch Normal Highland Games (NC), Middle Tennessee Highland Games & Celtic Festival (TN), Scotfest (OK), Charleston Scottish Games & Highland Gathering (SC), Stone Mountain Highland Games (GA) and the rescheduled Dunedin Highland Games (FL).

Despite staying-at-home, social distancing and fewer opportunities to physically gather, as the U.S. contingent of Clan MacEwen, we do and will continue to "Grow Strong Again" and look forward to getting together soon. In the meantime, we encourage you to visit the online Members only section at [www.clanmacewen.com](http://www.clanmacewen.com) for the latest on all things MacEwen!

*Reviresco!*

## Canada



We would like to highlight some members so that you can all get to know them a little more as we are unable to meet in person at the moment. So here is Maggie, our Canadian Convenor:



The following is an excerpt from a letter Maggie wrote to Canadian members:

I am Maggie McEwan, the Canadian Convenor of the Society. Last year I attended my first Clan MacEwen AGM in Kilfinan. At the AGM I noticed flags from various countries were hung around the room, but no Canadian flag. Being a proud immigrant to Canada I asked Sir John and Sean for the reason. I walked away as the Canadian Convenor. It was an easy decision on their part as I was the only Clan MacEwen member from Canada present.

A little about myself; I live in Freerton - a small village between Hamilton and Guelph. My parents were from the Glasgow area, my father from the Vale of Leven and my mother from Gourrock. My Great-Grandfather - Robert McEwan - left Islay and moved to the Vale and is first mentioned in the 1871 census. My parents moved to England where I was born and brought up....visiting Scotland at every opportunity.

At the age of 23, I set out on a 3-year working trip around the world, starting in Toronto where I already had a friend. I quickly got a job, working in their fledgling Computer Lab - yes, it was a long time ago - and promised to stay employed there for a year. When the year was up I was in love with Canada and stayed 'another year or two', and here I remain.

Last August we had an opportunity to participate with a Clan MacEwen tent at the Fergus Highland Games. It was all arranged in just over 2 weeks. Some chaos and late hours ensued, but with help from Kilfinan and various volunteers, we made it. Sean was even able to rearrange his schedule and joined us for two of the three days. It was a wonderful experience. This year we were planning a presence at four Highland Games in Ontario, which were cancelled. If you have an opportunity to participate with a Clan MacEwen tent at a Games in your area - this year if any still exist - or any future year, please let me know; I can help with display items.

It is a challenge to form a community in such a vast country where members are so scattered. We are a small group...let's work together to attract more members. It would be wonderful to have more Canadian members at the 2021 AGM in Scotland.

Maggie added the following update for this newsletter:

Winter is the time of year when most outdoor activities in Canada go into hibernation. We can still enjoy skiing, skating and tobogganing; indoors we celebrate Hogmanay and Burns Night.

We had hoped to increase our membership by anticipating in four Highland Games this year; but that is not happening as all have been cancelled. Fergus Highland Games, the only Canadian Games where Clan MacEwen had a presence last year, was planning a large and ambitious 3-day 75<sup>th</sup> year celebration. Clan MacEwen was proud to have been a participant.

USA



This recipe was submitted by Bruce from Hawaii who has been a Society member for many years, we will be adding all these family recipes to our Clan Cookbook:

The Caledonian Society of Hawaii had a contest a couple of years ago where we were to take a Scottish recipe and localize it. This is the one I chose, a Scottish Hot Pot. Aloha, Bruce

### Da Kine Scotch Hotch Potch

	Original Recipe
8 oz. kalua pork	8 oz. chopped lamb
8 oz. peas	8 oz. peas
6.5 oz. frozen edamame-cooked	4 oz. broad beans
6 spring onions, scallions or ½ sweet onion-chopped	6 spring onions-chopped
2 carrots-chopped	2 carrots-chopped
¾ lb. daikon-bite-size dice	¾ lb. turnip-chopped
1 medium cauliflower in florets	1 medium cauliflower in florets
2-3 baby bok choy-chopped	1 small lettuce-chopped
1 medium taro-steamed and bite-size dice	
1 T. chopped parsley	1 T. chopped parsley
10 c. chicken broth or vegetable broth	10 c. water
Hawaiian salt (alaea) & pepper-to taste	salt to taste

#### Cooking:

Add a dash of salt to water and bring to boil. Add daikon, onion, and carrots. Simmer for 10 minutes then add taro and continue to simmer for 10 more minutes. Add cauliflower and baby bok choy and continue to simmer 10 more minutes. Add kalua pork and simmer 10 more minutes. Add parsley and season to taste with salt and pepper. Add a splash of lemon juice just before serving to enhance flavor. Serve hot.

Original recipe from *A Feast of Scotland* by Janet Warren (1979)

## Netherlands

Submitted by Herma Goosens—another good one for the cookbook



### Oliebollen or Dutchies

A Dutch tradition on New Year's Eve or an extra treat in trying times. It's said to have been first eaten by Germanic tribes in the Netherlands during the Yule, the period between December 26 and January 6. The earliest discovered recipe came from the 1667 Dutch book *The smart responsible Cook*.

#### **Ingredients:**

- 400 g of flour
- 2 tsp of salt
- 20 g of fresh yeast
- 300 ml milk (Lukewarm)
- 1 tablespoon of sugar
- 2 eggs
- 200 grams of raisins soaked (optional in rum or whiskey) and dried.
- 1 big apple (peeled, cored and chopped in small cubes) Goudreinet/ Bramley
- Lemon zest of one lemon
- fat for deep fat frying (Sunflower)
- Icing sugar

*For plain oliebollen, just leave out the raisins and apple.*

*For the fillings substitution is possible, but keep the same weight in total.*

#### **Instructions:**

1. Dissolve the yeast in the milk, leave for a few minutes to get frothy.
2. Mix the flour, salt and sugar.
3. Add the eggs and the yeast-milk mixture to the flour.
4. Mixer to mix everything together for about 10 minutes to develop the gluten.
5. Add the raisins, lemon zest and apple and stir it in with a spoon.
6. Cover the bowl and leave to rise for about 1 hour.
7. Heat the fat in a deep fat fryer or suitable pan to 190C.  
*It's important to gauge the temperature of your oil: too hot and the oil will scorch the outside but leave the inside of the balls uncooked.*
8. Form spheres from the risen batter with 2 spoons, or an ice cream scoop, dipped in the hot fat and let them slide into the hot fat.
9. Bake them until brown, in 4-6 minutes. They usually will turn themselves as they cook in the fat.
10. Place a plate with several paper towels to soak up the excess fat.
11. Take the oliebollen from the fat and place them on a plate with several paper towels to soak up the excess fat.
12. Eat hot, cold or reheated in the microwave and dusted with Icing sugar and ground cinnamon.

# Netherlands

## Dutch and Scottish Ties

### Friendship and trading ties between the Netherlands and Scotland.

I want to share a story about long-lasting Dutch and Scottish trading ties during the centuries. Just enjoy a little bit of history, if you like. The Netherlands are an unusually low country. A quarter of the land is below sea level and at high water, two third of the country would be flooded on a regular basis. We are very aware of how powerful it can be and were forced to become skilled in water management. We turned the tables and learned to take advantage of living in a Delta. We became a naval trading nation by tradition, the water brought a lot of prosperity in the past and present. And one of those trading partners are the Scots.



### Veere a city in the province Zeeland and its Scottish trading ties

In the 12th century, wool production in Scotland and England began to outstrip domestic demand, so the Cistercian monks of Melrose exported Scottish wool duty-free to Bruges in Flanders. This right was formalised in 1407 by a decree of the Duke of Burgundy which created the office of Conservator of Scottish Privileges in the Low Countries. Huge amounts of wool were exported for manufacture into cloth in the Low Countries. Veere a fishing port in 1296 soon made contact with Scottish ports and exchanged roof tiles, weaponries, cloth, horticultural products, Dutch gin, wine and brassware. Major imports at the time were coal, hides, Scottish whisky, flax and grain. The Scottish Wool Staple was moved in 1541 to Veere because of the Spanish and French influences on religion in Middelburg. The Staple Contract granted Veere a monopoly on importing, storing and trading Scottish goods in the Netherlands. The Veere - Scotland ties had been strengthened by the marriage in 1444 between Wolfert VI of Borssele, Lord of Veere, and Mary Stuart, the daughter of the Scottish king James I and Joan Beaufort. The links between the Stuarts and the Netherlands continued with the marriage of Prince William of Orange (Marquis of Veere) to the daughter of James VI. The Scottish traders received several privileges in the town they called Campvere. The Scots had their own duty free inn, Scottish Kirk and private water well. The Scots 'ships were given preferential treatment and they had their own taxation and legal system. The Napoleonic period saw the end of the wool trade and the Scottish Privileges. The title of 'Honorary Conservator of the Scottish Privileges in the Low Countries' was granted to *Mrs. Winifred Ewing*, Member of the European Parliament, when Veere celebrated its 700th anniversary in 1996. How could it be otherwise, it was the Scots of the 52nd (Lowland) Division who liberated Veere in November 1944.



### Rotterdam a city in the province South Holland and the Scots

Seventeenth century merchants already knew that tolerance was useful. Trade flourishes only in a climate of freedom and respect, when every client is an individual, regardless of colour or creed. The port of Rotterdam became the centre of a trading empire that spanned the globe. Attracted by Rotterdam's opportunities, the town went on to outshine Veere as the focus of Scots trade in Europe. The Scots Kirk in Rotterdam attracted merchants and religious exiles alike. The community flourished and integrated easily into Dutch society, many Dutch people still have Scots surnames.

## Netherlands



### Leiden a university city in the province South Holland and the Scots

Scots who were seeking a professional education preferred Leiden, rather than Paris by the 17<sup>th</sup> century. 1460 Scots students signed up, in law and medicine, at Leiden during the year's 1572 to 1800. Over half the Scots students at Leiden, studied law. They dominated the Faculty of Advocates and laid down the theoretical basis of modern Scots law, when they returned to Scotland. Leiden gave the lead as well in medicine. Sir Robert Sibbald, the first Professor of Physic at Edinburgh in 1685, was educated there and created Edinburgh's famous Botanical Gardens, based on Dutch models for medical gardens. Alexander Munro, established the world-famous Medical Faculty at Edinburgh University in 1726 based on Leiden's own. Even Edinburgh's Royal Infirmary, opened in 1741, and was based on a Leiden Hospital.



### Scottish bravery, highly regarded!

Another Scots export to the Low Countries were mercenaries. Many Scots fought across Europe also extensively for the Dutch United Provinces in Germany. The Dutch Brigade alone employed 1,500 Scots from 1572-1782. With the outbreak of the Wars of the Covenant in Scotland in 1638, ports like Veere in Holland sent many experienced Scots troops back home to fight. After William of Orange's coup in 1688 many Scottish exiles returned to reshape Scotland by applying the new ideas they had encountered in \*Holland. Among them were men like Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun, defender of Scotland's parliamentary liberties. Most importantly of all, these men brought new economic ideas gleaned from the Dutch money markets, the most advanced in Europe at the time, to transform the Scots economy. The Bank of Scotland was based on the Bank of Amsterdam and the Company of Scotland was based on the Dutch East India Company. They were designed to increase Scottish access to credit and trade; both were founded by men with strong Dutch connections. John Holland founded the Bank of Scotland - an Englishman with extensive connections to Scottish merchants in London and \*Holland as well as to the East India Company. Today's CEO and Executive Director of the Bank of Scotland is Mr. Ross Maxwell McEwan. (I learned he resigned last April with a 12 month notice, but he will remain until a successor has been appointed.) William Paterson founded The Company of Scotland - the Scot who founded the Bank of England and was highly trained in Dutch commerce.



Even today the top three of Scotland's top trading partners are EU nations; the Netherlands, France and Germany. I think the Dutch and the Scots are pretty close to each other and we have come a long way. Regardless of Brexit and even in these trying times. Let's stick together and keep busy!

*Herma Goosens*

*Note: The Netherlands used to be a Republic of the seven united Netherlands. A federation of seven states - **Holland**, Zeeland, Gelderland, Utrecht, Friesland, Overijssel and Groningen.*

***Holland in this article refers to the province.***

## Netherlands



John Frost bridge Arnhem 17 September 1944

### Liberation and freedom

On 4 May the Dutch remember all Dutch victims, civilians and soldiers, who have been killed or murdered in the Kingdom of the Netherlands or anywhere else in the world in war situations or during peace-keeping operations since the outbreak of the Second World War. The main commemoration ceremony is held on Dam square in Amsterdam but in almost all Dutch cities there are ceremonies as well. On 5 May we celebrate our freedom and the end of the Second World War in the Netherlands. Normally we have various festivals and celebrations on Liberation Day and the nation changes into the colour of orange, but not this year.

These days we are still more or less homebound due to a new enemy called COVID 19. We are all in the same storm in different boats. Forced to adapt to this new reality, some more effected by it than others. Those on the frontline, often putting their own lives at risk, trying to save as many lives as possible, day after day. Others doing great jobs and helping out wherever they can and others again who involuntarily have to stay put in their houses. The ego is silenced and we are forced to reflect on ourselves. You cannot buy yourself out of this situation. A new set of rules are set by life/nature itself.

Reminiscing on Remembrance Day, I went on my biennial mission to the war cemetery in Oosterbeek to put flowers on the last resting place of Norman Sutherland McEwen, Flying Officer (Air bomber), aged 37. I always wondered how he looked like and if there were descendants. I recently found out he is related to our Vice Chairman Ross McEwen. Ross filled in the gaps and showed me a picture of the man resting in this garden of remembrance. It is so nice to have a face by the name.



*Flight Lieutenant  
N.S. McEwen and his wife Mrs Hilda Marie McEwen*

*Today I entered a very desolate garden of remembrance, where the well-kept white headstones were having a shower from heaven, with thunder and lightning as encore. But even in this unexpectedly bad weather it felt very peaceful as always. I am very aware of what these men had endured during these terrible times in this specific region. I know the stories about this war very well.*

## Netherlands



*Scottish section*

**The General Cemetery at Tolkamer (my dad's home town) next to the river Rhine, is a small enclosure used for bodies washed ashore in the vicinity. Also the last resting places of an unknown Canadian soldier and 7 airman from the Nr. 640 Squadron RAF. (Part of the liberation route marker 34)**



**Damaged street in Tolkamer, after an explosion by landmines. A lot of casualties, mainly children.**



***My dad, Wilhelmus  
Laurentius Goosens***

My own family, living near the German border in this very region had to leave everything behind. The war hit them hard. All spread out in different directions, not knowing if they would ever see each other again. Just when the war was over, my dad had to do his military service and went abroad into another war for a couple of years. I grew up with all these stories about the war and in this ancestral house where the marks of the war were still visible at the outer walls, as a reminder of these horrid times. I have seen many military cemeteries in my life and every time it humbles me to look at all those graves and the people they represent. They paid the highest price to bring us our freedom.

*There are different wars to fight in life and this current one is a fight against a very powerful invisible enemy. The frontline troops are really fighting a hard battle! The burning question is, when are we going to be liberated from this invisible enemy? Worldwide, we unite the forces to win this war and we are on the brink of a new reality in a more human setting of social cohesion. It is up to us all, if we grab this change to make a better world.*

It will take a while before we can wander care free into this new world, but even as we are in the midst of this battle and are more or less restricted, we always have the freedom of mind!



***Herma Goosens***

***Some of our clan members are also working in the frontline at this very moment and are doing their utmost to take care of the sick. A very special thank you for all of you in the frontline! Stay safe and healthy! Xxx***

# Scotland

We had a great start to the year, enjoying a Burns night with Clan Lamont, working with Adhamh O Broin, cowl dialect gaelic specialist, networking with Argyll businesses and heritage community to bring some interesting offerings this year.

We have also been working with the Woodland Trust, local landowners and community forests to create a MacEwen wood, we are hoping to be able to launch this at the AGM 2021, to further our campaign to be “the Clan that Plants Trees”, more news to follow.

Scottish membership has increased which is exciting and we look forward to connecting with those new members at various events when we can gather again.

The heritage room in Kilfinan at Jocks Lodge is finally underway, this will be open to all and provide more in depth information for those visiting and will house the Clan Store. Of course, locally roasted MacEwens coffee will always be available with views across Loch Fyne and the MacEwen castle ruins. If you are in the area, please stop by, you are always welcome.

Sean painting heritage room at Jocks Lodge



Bluebells on hill by Old Smiddy overlooking Loch Fyne

During this slower pace of life, the weather has been very kind to us so we have been able to explore Kilfinan more on our walks, and find lots of old



Old kiln on B8000 at junction of C11 near Otter Ferry

Standing stone at Fearnoch Farm— Cow scratching post? No-one seems to know history of this one!



settlements, Duns, cup and ring marked stones, standing stones, which we hope to find more about and would love to share these walks with you. Sean has been sharing

pictures on facebook of the changing seasons here and the little gems we find when out and about.



Bronze age cup and ring marked stone at Lindsaig, behind Jocks Lodge



War memorial between community hall and old post office, Kilfinan

We commemorated the 75th anniversary of VE day with a walk to the Kilfinan war memorial whilst listening to the bagpipes.

We have also had a chance to look through more of our archives and upload to the website more bulletins, they are fascinating to read and full of great articles and history.

Bluebell wood between Kilfinan hotel and Kilfinan Burn



Just before the lockdown here, more MacEwens were able to move back to Scotland, or come home for a little while, the land has a way of calling us home and we look forward to connecting again.

## Clan Store

New items:  
Ghillie Shirt  
Clan Crest Sgian Dubh (no stone)  
Clan Crest sew on patch  
Tartan fabric by the metre

We are working with some local craftspeople to offer some new products you will not be able to find elsewhere.

As always, if there is anything you would like to see in the store, please let us know. Thank you to all who have purchased, all profits go back to the Clan.

## Events

Unfortunately all events have been cancelled for the rest of the year due to the pandemic.

Anyone who had paid for a dinner ticket for the International Gathering in Kilfinan 2020 has the option of a full refund, to put towards a dinner ticket at the next International Gathering or to donate their ticket cost to the Society. The AGM will be conducted virtually with the executive committee. If you have an item for discussion, please send to [info@clanmacewen.com](mailto:info@clanmacewen.com)

## Australia



Over the Summer the Australian Branch of the Clan went through perhaps its quietest season of the year. The fact of the matter is heavy woollen kilts and strenuous feats of strength are not hugely attractive at a time of year which regularly reaches above 40°C during the day and often doesn't drop below 25°C at night. It was also quite an abnormal Summer for us with massive fires burning across much of the East Coast and with a heavy smoke haze obscuring the sun most days almost all outdoor activities came to a halt. This was followed, in Sydney, by some of the most significant flooding we have seen in the last 30 years (Australia is well described as a land of extremes). Nevertheless, a number of Society members managed to attend a number of events including: The Maryborough Highland Gathering in Victoria on the 1<sup>st</sup> January as well as some Burns night events and in February the Richmond Highland Gathering in Tasmania. With Autumn almost upon us we were all looking forward to some cooler weather and the large number of Celtic Festivals/Highland Games this season usually brings. Unfortunately, this was the moment that COVID19 entered the scene. As a result, almost every event for the remainder of the year has been cancelled! We are still holding out hope for the possibility of something in November but we will just have to see how this pandemic plays out over the coming months. We hope that all of our kin and especially those in Australia and New Zealand are safe and well and we look forward to when we will be able to see you all again!



## Norway



In the spirit of getting to know everyone a bit more in this issue, we wanted to introduce Eivind Aavik from Norway who has been proudly sporting his MacEwen tartan most recently during Norway's Constitution Day May 17th. The pictures below are of him and his children, they were even featured on television! Well done!! We do not often get to hear from MacEwens in Norway so were thrilled when Eivind got involved and started sharing his news. Great job promoting the Clan, Scottish Culture and traditions in beautiful Norway, and thanks Eivind for sharing.



## Germany



Hello Clan,  
I am currently in Waldleiningen Castle in rehab to improve my working ability, it has been brought forward 2 weeks and still lasts about 5 weeks. I was supposed to have a small vein operation in May, but I was able to postpone it until September. I sit here in a funk hole and have to march 25 minutes to the next hill to have

reception. I'll be fit and ready again soon and everything will go back to my usual gear. Here in Germany we are struggling with Corona COVID19 like the whole world is at the moment. Nobody knows what is going to happen and what should be done, because we have different rules for the federal states and municipalities and businesses. But we can still be quite happy, we in Germany can still go out and shop and so on. To make a long story short, I'll be back for you soon: Reviresco and keep going. I wish you all to be spared from the Corona. It applies: safety first. Aim high! Pipes up!

Beautiful greetings from Germany to the whole world

Achim Fuchs

## The Clan that Plants Trees



As you know, we embarked this year on our new campaign, a wonderful vision from our Commander to become “The Clan That Plants Trees” to enhance our deep connection with trees as shown in our clan crest and motto. This is something a lot of us may still be able to do even during lockdown, A wonderful way to unite us throughout the world, just like the trees have hidden networks underground that connect each other, we too have strong connections that are not always visible, and like the trees we too have connected all over the world and tapped into this wonderful kinship and sense of belonging and unity our clan offers.

This tree campaign will leave a lasting legacy for the future generations of MacEwens and others to enjoy, we hope they too get to enjoy the connections with trees and family. What a great way to affect climate change also in a positive way which most of us can do on a personal level either by physically planting a tree or donating to one of the many woodland charities so they can plant a tree for you. We are working with landowners in our ancestral homeland to create “MacEwen Wood”, an area of native woodland where we can plant trees to commemorate our MacEwens, we hope to offer trees to purchase to be planted in the wood with a plaque with your own inscription to be put next to the tree. More information will follow.

Fun Fact: Did you know that the temperature is lowered by as much as 10 degrees in the park areas of large cities!

Fun Fact: Scotland used to be mostly ancient forest, then turned to sheep farming and much of the ancient forest was lost to make way for grazing and it became illegal to plant trees. Now Scotland only has 2.4% of its native ancient woodland left according to the Woodland Trust and is trying to replant its native woodland once again.



Susan Winfrey from Upton, KY, USA sent in these lovely pictures of the trees she has planted: “One more tree planted. That makes 4. This one is an Emperor I Japanese Red Maple. Tucker’s family sent it for Mother’s Day and my birthday. It’s going to be beautiful one day”. Thanks for sharing Susan, your trees are now in the tree book!



An update on the Oak tree that Achim, our German country representative, Vice Chair and Pipe Major brought over during our Gathering in Kilfinan in 2015 pictured left. It was planted by the Cairn and Castle ruins and here is how it looks today, pictured right.



Here in Kilfinan, we too have been going a little tree crazy, it seems I have a penchant for Rowan, there seems to be a lot of varieties of Sorbus, the birds will be happy in autumn! A mix of hazel, viburnum opulus, Swedish whitebeam, and lots of Rowan! We would love to see your pictures too.



## Cowal Dialect Gaelic Lessons



Adhamh O Broin is the world's most sought after Gaelic language consultant, based in Glasgow, he hails from Cowal in Argyll and spent many years in and around Tighnabruaich. He has become globally

recognised for his tireless work for Scotland's native languages and culture. Probably his most famous work has been as an advisor for the internationally popular Outlander series.

He is a fascinating person with such passion for Scottish language, history and culture, with whom you could speak with for days! He has such a passion for our native language and our Cowal dialect gaelic and is on a passionate journey to revive this dying dialect. Adhamh is also excited to be working with the clans who would have spoken this dialect and who can help revive it as most of the native speakers have since passed away. Adhamh has interviewed native speakers over the years and provided his invaluable research on his website [www.dalriada.scot](http://www.dalriada.scot).

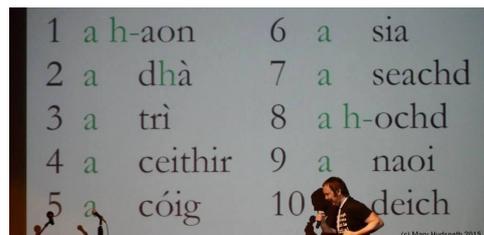
Personally, I have found his lessons to be thoroughly entertaining, light, manageable, interesting with little tidbits thrown in of historic references or context, and he really takes the time to show you how to move your mouth to make the sounds. I love his opening line— “if you can laugh, you can speak Gaelic!” as he introduces the first word “tha”! He and his family also teach and perform traditional ceilidh and song, we were going to be able to experience this first hand at the Kilfinan Gathering, but we will try for next year instead! If you ever want to visit Scotland or get a deeper perspective, Adhamh can also be your host as he offers bespoke tours of his beloved country.

We are so fortunate to be working with Adhamh to provide Cowal Dialect Gaelic lessons for us which are tailored to our Clan, to be accessed in the members section of the clan website. If there is anything you ever wanted to know about Gaelic, or things you would like to know how to pronounce, or find out more about the Cowal dialect versus the more standard Gaelic dialect, feel free to contact us and we will forward these on. Photos from [www.scottishgaelic.scot](http://www.scottishgaelic.scot)

You can learn more about Adhamh and his work at:

[www.scottishgaelic.scot](http://www.scottishgaelic.scot)

[www.dalriada.scot](http://www.dalriada.scot)



## Archives

We are updating the website with some great archival data. You will find more of the older bulletins in the members area which are great reads and provide some fantastic history.

We have been fortunate to have been sent many family histories and stories over the years and will be using this time at home to upload as many as we can.

If you have any archives you would like to share on the website, please contact us (info on front page).

## Clan Song

As we look towards our chiefship celebrations, we had asked about having a clan song. We have been sent an amazing rendition by the Shilleligans which we are sure you will all love, it is a really catchy tune! When they are ready with the finished song, with their permission, we will be proud to share with you all on the website.

If there are any other budding musicians who would like to create a clan song, we would love to hear from you.

## MacEwen Spotlight—McEwan Pipe Band and Dancers, Australia



### Clan McEwan Pipe Band celebrates 75 years of Scottish tradition in Belmont



It was the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1945 and the announcement of Victory in the Pacific to end World War 2, that a fledgling band of young enthusiastic Scot descendants decided that they were ready to start playing for real. They donned their kilts, lovingly made by mum Eva, stuck up the pipes and drums and set off from Dave & Eva McEwan's house in Belmont South, to march to Belmont centre to celebrate.

A VERY early photo of the band - probably around 1945-6

Thus began the story of the Clan McEwan Pipe band in Belmont, Lake Macquarie, Australia.



Dave McEwan was born in Beith, Scotland in 1887 and moved to Australia in 1911, as a 24 year old migrant. Dave was a baker and first lived in Tamworth where he met and married Eva, moving to Murrurundi to open a bakery there and eventually settling in Belmont South with his family of 7 sons.

Dave McEwan leading the band - circa 1945-6

Dave's love of the pipes saw him encourage his sons to learn and his fourth born, Jock (pictured right), was the one first to take up serious study of the pipes. As far as we know, most of Dave's sons learned the pipes, but didn't continue, while others learned the drums. Jock took on the role of Pipe Major and the Clan McEwan Pipe band played prolifically around the Lake Macquarie area from 1945, with



members sourced from the Lake Macquarie community. Jock married Mary Black who emigrated from Kilsyth, Scotland, and they had 3 sons - twins, Duncan and Donald and John.

The band circa early 1950s

## MacEwen Spotlight—McEwan Pipe Band and Dancers, Australia (cont.)



The band in 1967

In 1965, Glen, Annette and Lorraine Sheffer joined the band as young teenagers, Annette and Lorraine (twins) eventually marrying Jock and Mary's twins, Duncan and Donald.



Dave McEwan arriving home from a trip to Scotland - circa 1950



Local street march - circa 1968

In the late 1990's the band went into a short haitus after the death of Jock's son Duncan and his wife Mary, but they never stopped playing for family and friends' parties and special events.

In 2010, after a family reunion, the band was re-ignited and many of the relatives joined to re-form a truly family band - with Annette - Donald's wife as Pipe Major. At one stage, the band boasted 35 members with 4 generations of pipers, 12 highland dancers 5 tenor drummers, 2 bass drummers, 4 side drummers - all McEwans or married to one! Not everyone in the family has stuck with it since 2010, but the band still boasts its original members from the 50's and 60's and many of Jock and his brother Val's descendants have been playing for community events, Anzac marches and special occasions ever since. Val, pictured right celebrated his 90th birthday in 2019.

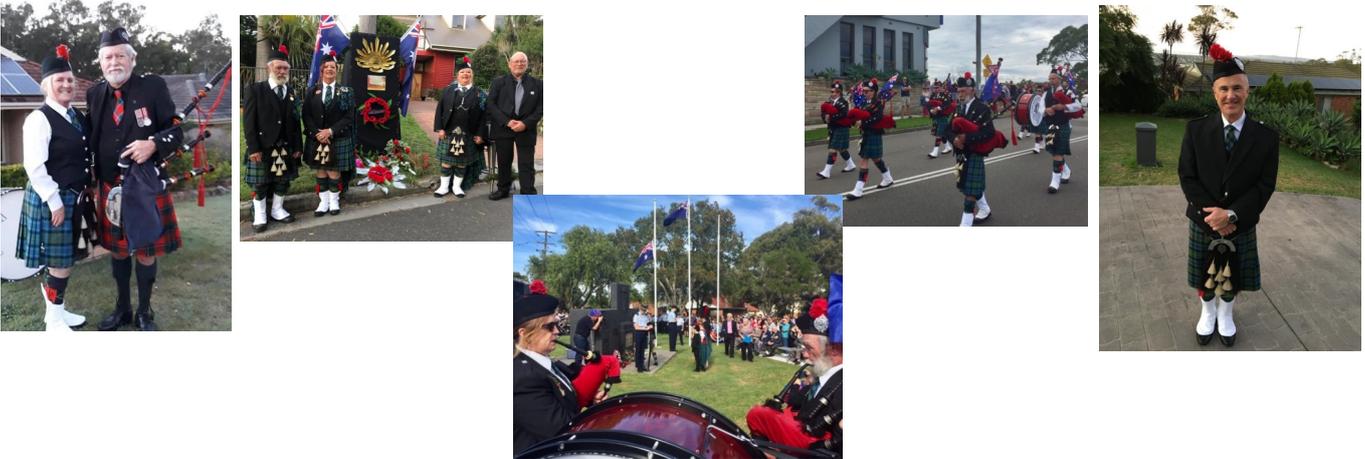


David McEwan would be extremely proud of his legacy as much as we are proud of the Scottish heritage and culture he instilled in us. Clan McEwan Pipe Band usually enters an engagement with our signature tune "Davie McEwan's March written in tribute to our patriarch and also continue the family tradition of playing "Will Ye No Come Back Again" as we exit.



Anzac Day March

## MacEwen Spotlight—McEwan Pipe Band and Dancers, Australia (cont.)



The band was planning a special celebratory dinner for Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> August - 75<sup>th</sup> years to the day they first marched off, but COVID has put a stop to many things.

At this stage though, we are still planning for, and hoping to be able to do a re-enactment march from the original home of Dave and Eva - now owned by their second youngest son, Val. We will be marching from the old headquarters to the end of Belmont South park - and with the band being such a well-loved tradition in this area, we already know that the community is looking forward to this event and will be turning out to celebrate with us.... Outdoors and well-socially distanced, of course!!

For more information, Contact:

Pipe Major, Annette McEwan

0410 696683

email: [annettemcewan@yahoo.com.au](mailto:annettemcewan@yahoo.com.au)

The band during Sean's visit 2019

