

CLAN CENTRE NEWS

Warmest greetings to all Clan members!

The Covid-19 pandemic still seems far from over in much of the world, and with new variants of the virus still emerging, even in the UK and including Scotland of course, there are still many significant uncertainties ahead. This is especially so as regards travel across national and international borders. Despite or perhaps because of this situation, the Clan Council thought it would be helpful to publish this report on the Clan website.

2021 Clan Gathering

As of now our Chief and Bridget, also his heir Alasdair and family, and also most if not all of our U.K.-based Council members, are still definitely planning to be in Scotland for at least part of the week beginning August 16th 2021, unless of course prevented by some new pandemic-related restrictions. Needless to say, they will all be delighted to see anyone else who manages to be there. **The previously announced dates of Friday August 20th for the AGM at the Tryst in Pitlochry (following a Council meeting) and Sunday August 22nd for the Struan Kirk service are as firmly in the diary as they can be.**

Informal and/or short-notice get-togethers, within any official numbers limits or distancing requirements, for anyone coming would most certainly take place too, but probably not before Wednesday August 17th. However, as Jonn Duncan, our International Vice Chair, recently advised to all the branches, it is clearly impossible to commit to specific events or outings (e.g., a formal Chief's Dinner) other than the AGM and the Kirk service as above, without the certainty on numbers attending which would be needed to avoid lost deposits and other penalties.

At present it appears that only a tiny handful of overseas visitors at best still have "firm" plans to attend. Sad though it is not to be able to plan the proper 2021 Gathering for which so many had been hoping, Council's focus is now increasingly on the 2022 Gathering, which we hope will mark a return to the gatherings that we have enjoyed in previous years.

The 2021 Clan Annual, which hopefully has reached most of you by now (some months of course after its content was written) appears overly optimistic about this year, but its core message about travel and accommodation risks remains unchanged. **Would any members with even tentative plans to come this year please keep me informed by email - admin@donnachaidh.com - as their plans develop or change.**

Clan Museum

Our museum has now, at last re-opened and is welcoming visitors during the hours of 10.00 am through to 5.00 pm seven days a week. Sharing our museum building is the House of Bruar's new Whisky Shop which replaces the jewellery department which has moved elsewhere within the Bruar complex. The photograph below shows the new signage which has been erected outside the building.



Clan Centre Office & Reading Room

Mindful of Scottish Government protection levels and regulations, “work from home” where possible remains the default position at this time. In line with these rules, the Clan Centre & Reading Room officially remain closed until further notice. It is hopeful that later next month (mid-June), if an easing of restrictions is permitted, a phased return to office workplaces may commence. We shall keep you posted! In the meantime, the best form of contact for any matters relating to Clan membership and administration is via e-mail to admin@donnachaidh.com. Alternatively, you can call, text or message the Clan Secretary's dedicated mobile number +44 (0) 7931 217681).

With best wishes to all members for a safe and healthy summer.

Irene Cameron
Clan Secretary