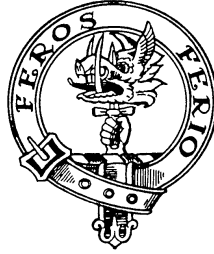
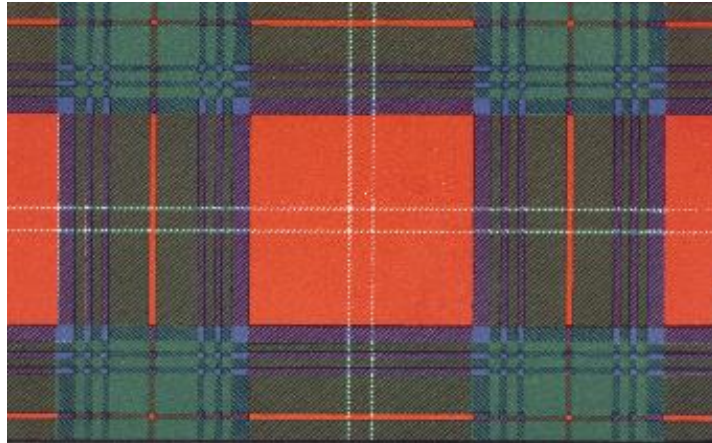


**CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY
UK BRANCH**



An Cirean
Cean Cinnidh



Welcome to Issue No 76 -UK Branch Newsletter

Dear UK Branch members.

Plans for the International Gathering in July that our branch is hosting are progressing well, with just a few small details to iron out. We have Chisholm's coming from around the world; Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand and some are office bearers for their branches as well as sitting on your International Clan Council. A few of our events will be held at the Glen Mhor Hotel on Ness Bank in Inverness (at the old Waterside Hotel southern end of the complex) and days out will start from there with the coach pick up. Quite a few folk have booked into the Glen Mhor for convenience and we are pleased to have negotiated a 20% discount on rooms for those attending our gathering. Contact the events manager Beth Porter and explain you are part of the Clan Chisholm gathering.

An outline of the gathering is given below. There are still a few places left so if you are hoping to join us – please get in touch with me as soon as possible to secure your booking. The booking form is posted on our website and for those who receive the printed newsletter a copy was enclosed in February's issue.

Yours in clanship
Susan

Our week starts on the evening of **Monday 8th July** with the welcome evening. This Meet & Greet starts at 5:30pm and we will have our talented friends Norman and Christina Chisholm giving an exhibition of spinning craft and a display of Highland Handwovens. We hope that there will be an opportunity for people to purchase items that have been had made over the long winter months. Light snacks and refreshments will be available during this time.

At 7:30pm Dr Margaret Collin, Historian will give a presentation on Chisholm/Chisholme history. I have heard Margaret give talks before and they are always extremely interesting and very well researched. Following the lecture I am sure Margaret will take questions. The early start to the evening will give those who wish to time for either dining in the hotel or at one of the many excellent places nearby.

On **Tuesday 9th July** at 09:00 our coach company will pick us up from outside the Glen Mhor and we head off for Fort George a short drive from Inverness. This huge fort sits in 42 acres on a promontory jutting into the Moray Firth near Ardersier north east of Inverness. A previous Fort George was built in Inverness in 1726 however during the Jacobite rising of 1745 it was besieged and blown up. In the mid 19th century the red sandstone building called Inverness castle was built on the site. Following the Jacobite defeat after Culloden the present Fort George was begun, with completion in 1769. The barracks are still a military establishment. Within the compound we find the Regimental Museum of the Queens Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Cameron Highlanders). The late Chief Alastair and his grandfather chief Roderick were both in the Seaforth Highlanders and had been stationed at Fort George.



The site from the air



The barracks buildings

We then head just under ten miles to Culloden where we will enjoy lunch before being given a guided tour. There will be plenty of time to view the exhibition and the battle ground. Our coach will bring us back to the Glen Mhor for 5pm to give everyone time to get rested and changed for the Ceilidh evening which starts from 6:30 pm. A buffet supper is arranged and we have a ceilidh band headed by Tom Cruickshank playing from 7:30 pm. Scottish Country dancers will arrive at 8pm to demonstrate for us and encourage everyone to get on their feet and join in the Eightsome reels, Gay Gordons and Strip the Willow. We are sure this will be a fun evening for all, young and old alike.

On Wednesday 10th July we have given folk an extra half hour to get ready in case they had a late night at the Ceilidh.

Our coach leaves the Glen Mhor at 09:30 for a day out at the Highland Folk Museum at Newtonmore some 45 miles south of Inverness. The Folk Museum is spread out on an 80 acre, one mile long site. There are some 35 historic buildings ranging from the 1700's to the 20th century. These include Leanach church – relocated from near Culloden, the relocated Kirkhill school house, the Glen Livet Post Office and a sweetie shop, farming buildings and other crafts etc.

The museum was the brainchild of Dr Isobel Grant (1887 – 1983), originally set up on Iona then in Kingussie and moved to its present site in the 1980's and has a 'living history' approach.

A recreated 17th century township from before the clearances shows Highlanders living and working.



One of the recreated 17th century buildings





The modern Am Fasgadh facility

Left.
The Am Fasgadh (Gaelic for The Shelter) building where we will have lunch houses over 12,000 historical artefacts. We are extremely lucky to have secured a guided tour of the collections.

We return to Inverness for 5pm.

At **6:30 pm** we have a visit to the impressive **Town House in Inverness**.

The recently refurbished municipal building houses two swords which have a strong Chisholm connection. One having been presented by Captain Archibald Macra Chisholm of Glassburn House and a broadsword said to have been used at the Battle of Culloden. The main hall also has beautiful stained-glass windows – one shows the crests for Chisholm, Fraser of Lovat and Forbes of Culloden.



From 1996 Gathering at the Town House :- Madam Rosemary Chisholm, late chief Alastair and his brother Ruari Chisholm DFC, Susan Chisholm of Chisholm standing.

Light refreshments, tea and coffee with biscuits will be served during our visit and we have Duncan Chisholm on hand to describe the historical connections of the Town Hall.

After the visit is a free evening.

The following day **Thursday 11th July** we set off at **09:00** for Strathglass. We will stop at Cannich Village where Strathglass Heritage Association has organised a display of material relating to Chisholm's and the Highland clearances. A smaller coach will be used to take us up into Glen Cannich to Loch Mullardoch where a short ceremony will take place at the cairn overlooking the Loch and dam. Work started on the hydroelectric scheme in 1947 and was completed by 1951 with much of the glen flooded and houses destroyed.

The cairn was begun by Miss Miriam Chisholm, Australia. She had visited Mullardoch in 1927 before the glen was flooded and had seen

the now water-covered Chisholm stone where the chief was said to have addressed his clansmen. Miss Miriam suggested "we construct a cairn here so that clansmen who visit the spot can leave a stone to commemorate their visit". On 6th September 1959 one hundred members of clan chisholm travelled from Inverness to Loch Mullardoch where lunch was provided at a marquee set up below the dam. After lunch Ruari Chisholm the chiefs brother unveiled the commemorative plaque. See picture below.



The Chairman of today's Australian branch of the Clan Chisholm Society Tony Morrison is attending the gathering with his wife Sue and will say a few words at the cairn.

Following this ceremony we will travel back to Cannich to view the exhibition at Marydale and to have lunch.

As we will have a smaller coach available we may be able to take a few people to Clachan Comar burying ground nearby if there is time.

We leave Cannich at 3:30pm to head to Erchless Castle for the tea party in the grounds.

Arrive Erchless 4pm

We have a marquee arranged and caterers to provide our refreshments and tea. The chief Hamish will be present to address our gathering. Hamish and his family; wife Julie, their children and grandchildren are staying in the Castle for most of the week. Let's hope for good weather – we have been very lucky at previous gatherings!



We plan to leave Erchless for Inverness at about 6pm

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On **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July – 11:00** at the Glen Mhor we will hold the Annual General Meeting of the Society. This will be followed by a buffet lunch.

In the afternoon at **2:30pm** our Historian Dr. Margaret Collin has kindly arranged for us to view Chisholm historical artefacts at the Bught Road, Inverness Archive Centre nearby.

On **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July** the City of Inverness Highland Games opens at 11:00.

Tickets are purchased at the gate and are advertised at a very reasonable £10.00.

Susan and Duncan will host a Clan Chisholm table in the clans marquee.

## CANNICH – AFFRIC HOTEL

Regularly passing through Cannich it has been sad to see the decline of the Affric Hotel over the last twenty years or so. This hotel stood at the crossroads leading from Beauly to Cannich village and Glen Affric and to Glen Cannich opposite the road to Marydale and on to Drumnadrochit. Our Society has used the hotel many times since 1951.

Older members will remember Murdo Mackenzie who was the friendly proprietor from 1965 to 1985.

It is possible that a hostelry was here back in the days when Cannich was a busy drover's route. More recently the 1871 census shows Thomas Ballingall as proprietor of the hotel and by 1901 it was apparently a Temperance Hotel.

A Valentine Chisholm had it from 1960 – 1963.

The hotel has now been demolished and building work has begun on erecting four dwelling houses.

The pictures following show the hotel as it was originally, a stone built traditional building. The first picture, a postcard in the Clan Society archive, the second picture (courtesy of Strathglass Heritage Association) shows the old bridge across the River Cannich taking the road past the crossroads towards Beauly and Inverness.



Below is a photograph taken during the 1953 Clan Chisholm Gathering. This shows the newer extension with the older stone built original showing to the east.



*Annual Clan Chisholm Gathering – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 1953.*

A party of 80 members travelled from Inverness to Strathglass. Tea was at the Glen Affric Hotel after which there was stylish Scottish Country dancing with Alec Chisholm of Fort Augustus playing the pipes.



The pictures above show the 23-bedroom hotel when still in use, often as a base for fishing parties and a later one where demolition has begun.

The hotel had been bought in 2002 by a former science teacher who was there for 12 years before an eviction notice was served. During those 12 years the property became dilapidated with no running water and home to over 40 feral cats. The building then stood empty for many years. Following the demolition of the unsafe building locals considered the site an eyesore but probably less of one than in the years previously. A mystery local cheered up the boundary wall during and after the Covid 19 lockdown by placing a collection of colourful tea-pots along it. Some local folk think they know who it was but no-one will reveal!





## STRATHGLASS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

The Association holds regular events and talks for members usually at Marydale, 7:30pm. See rest of 2024 schedule below.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. Erik Lundberg: The Wardlaw Mausoleum

June 10<sup>th</sup>. Marjorie Wilson/Jim McAuley: The Strathglass Heritage Trail Project.

July 8<sup>th</sup>. Darroch Bratt: Spirits, Smugglers & Strathglass; illicit distilling in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. Clan Chisholm visit – from 10:30 am

August - TBC.

Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. David Jarman: Stalkers paths in the Western Glens – what were they really for?

Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. AGM

There will also be a number of field trips throughout the year continuing work on heritage trail sites and investigating several ‘new’ sites discovered recently.

See [www.strathglass-heritage.co.uk](http://www.strathglass-heritage.co.uk) or email to [info@strathglass-heritage.co.uk](mailto:info@strathglass-heritage.co.uk)

I went along to the talk on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May by Erik Lundberg of the Wardlaw Mausoleum Trust. The Trust manages and looks after the Mausoleum in Kirkhill which was built in 1634 as the burial place of the Fraser Lords of Lovat.



*Above left - Wardlaw Mausoleum, right – The lead coffin liner and the smaller wooden coffin in which were reinterred the remains found during the investigation.*

Erik outlined the history of the building and of the Lovat Fraser family. He also talked about the recent work done to identify the remains found in a lead lined coffin always spoken of as those of the famous Old Fox, Simon Fraser 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Lovat 1667 - 1747. The bones within the coffin were found to be of 5 different people although mainly of a headless female aged between 25 – 35. Analysis of these skeletal remains suggest she had a good diet of meat and some fish and shellfish. This would be typical of someone living around Spitalfields in London but could also be someone from a wealthy family near to Kirkhill. The work to identify the remains continues and the project was led by well-known forensic anthropologist Professor Dame Sue Black. The Old Fox was executed in London for his part in the Jacobite uprising and his remains supposed to be buried in the Tower of London. It is almost certain that is where he lies. The story of his body being smuggled out of London clearly pure romance.

The remains were reinterred within the mausoleum at a service led by Father Maximilian Nwosu, of St Mary’s Beaulieu and attended by the present Lord Lovat.

## MEMBERS NEWS

### Norman Chisholm, Invergordon 'compleates' all the Munro's

Norman (a UK Branch vice Chairman and walks adviser) finally finished walking and climbing all the Scottish Munro's recently. Leaving some of the most difficult peaks on Skye until the last when the weather made it safe to complete.

Our congratulations to Norman who has now written to the Scottish Mountaineering Club to register his full house.

Munro's are mountains 3,000 feet or higher and are named after Sir Hugh Munro (1856 – 1919) who first published a list of 283. One of these Beinn a' Chlaidheimh was downgraded to a Corbett in 2012. Corbetts are between 2,500 and 3,000 feet. There are also 227 Munro Tops which are not mountains in their own right but are subsidiary summits.



## OBITUARY NOTICES

### Margaret Wagstaff aged 87 on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Margaret joined the Clan Chisholm Society on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1992 as a Life Member. She was a great correspondent and kept in touch over the years. She would have liked to join us at various gatherings and meetings but found that hard to do as sadly her husband Arthur began to lose both his hearing and his sight. Margaret wrote that she had visited the north of Scotland shortly after marrying but did not get as far as Strathglass. They visited Urquhart Castle, the Great Glen and Inverness as well as Skye. Margaret worked with other clan members including Wilfrid Medlam on her substantial Turriff Chisholm research. Margaret moved into a nursing home in the last few years and we continued to send her newsletters and the annual journal which her daughter was pleased to read to her. Margaret's daughter Christine Crowstaff has sent the following obituary which we are very pleased to include in full.

**WAGSTAFF (née Chisholm)** – Peacefully at Blandford Grange Nursing Home, Dorset, on 5th March 2024 - Margaret Askew Joan Wagstaff, age 87 years. Also known as Mags Wags or Maj Wag, when writing.

Beloved mother of Christine and David.

A Life Member of the Clan Chisholm Society, Margaret avidly kept in contact with relations far and wide, as well as doing her best to keep up with ancestral records going back to the 'Turriff Chisholms' and – in brief - leading to the Cumbria Whitridge families and Welsh Phillips and Davies.

Funeral and life celebration – 5th April, 2pm at Stalbridge Congregational Church, Dorset, DT10 2RG.

Many of Margaret's ancestral records are now with Christine who may be contacted at: [christine@vale-designs.uk](mailto:christine@vale-designs.uk) – and will be interested to try to continue her mum's legacy of connecting with relations.



### PAUL A KEANE - b. 6<sup>th</sup> February 1946

**Paul Keane** joined the Society on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1986 as an Annual member, he took up Life membership from 1996.

We occasionally received emails or letters from Paul over the years.

On 15<sup>th</sup> April this year his copy of the Clan Chisholm Journal posted on 3<sup>rd</sup> April was returned. On it was written that the person on the address label is deceased. Unfortunately we do not have any further information on Paul or any relatives. A brief internet search suggests that his house was sold last year in May. As Paul had an email address for newsletters we would not know that he had moved or died and presumably the 2023 Journal had been received in March/April last year or got lost in the house move or sale.

## OBITUARY NOTICES – CONTINUED

**John (Jack) CHISHOLM** formerly of Middleton, Greater Manchester.  
*From Haywood Advertiser*

Passed away on 17th March 2024, aged 94 years.  
Much Loved Husband to Doreen. Dear Dad to Mike, Tim and Beccie, and Grandad. Funeral Service held at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury on Wednesday 17th April.



**Ian CHISHOLM** - 12/05/1962 - 12/03/2024 (Age 61) Byker, Newcastle.  
*From Evening Chronicle Newcastle*

Passed suddenly and unexpectedly during recovery at home after a period of time spent in hospital. Dearly loved partner to Rhona, son of Stan and Mavis, brother to Gillian, father to Alex, Robbie and Cy, father in law to Jade, Kirsty and T'Nealle, Grandad to Albie and uncle to Rochelle and Great uncle to Leah and Carter. Celebration of Ian's life at the West Road Crematorium on Thursday the 11th of April. Followed by a gathering at the Cricket Club on the West Road



**Anne Isabella (Anne) CHISHOLM** - 16/10/1932 - 02/02/2024  
*From The Journal (Newcastle)*

Anne from Embleton Passed away peacefully on February 2nd at home age 91 years. Widow of Fred and long term partner of Dickie. Dearly beloved Mother to Lynn and John, Mother in Law to John and Karen. Treasured Nana to Christopher, Beth, Rosie and Doug and much loved Great Grandmother to Carter and Sebastian. Cremation Northumberland Crematorium, Bockenfield, Felton Wednesday 21st February. Celebration of Life service at Embleton Holy Trinity Church. Donations if desired for The British Heart Foundation and Arthritis Action.



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Visit the clan society website at [www.ClanChisholmSociety.org](http://www.ClanChisholmSociety.org)