

CLAN SECRETARY REPORT FOR THE AGM, SEPTEMBER 2019

MEMBERSHIP

After a very busy year, where we saw a big increase in Memberships and Membership renewals, our Membership total to date is 1253. Over this year I have carried out a big campaign, going back over the last 5 years, to contact Members whose Membership has lapsed. I noticed whilst doing the renewals that a lot of Members who originally had 1 year Memberships changed whilst renewing to 5 year Memberships. I will now do a renewal campaign every year, starting with last year's lapsed Memberships.

PITLOCHRY GAMES

This year we are hosting a tent at the Pitlochry Games but sadly we will not be able to introduce the Donnachaidh Stones. This was a decision that was taken by the Games Committee because they had a long list of field events that would take up a lot of room. This was disappointing but there is nothing we can do about it. I have booked 2 spaces for the Clan Donnachaidh Society, half of which we will give to the local branch to run their annual fund-raising tombola. The other half of the space will be used by the Society for selling merchandise and promoting Memberships, the DNA project and information on the Society, as well as providing hospitality. Volunteers have been asked to go to the Recreation Ground after the AGM to help put the tent up in preparation for the Games on Saturday as this will allow the volunteers on Saturday to arrive a wee bit later.

The Pitlochry Games Committee has stated that going forward only one application will be accepted in the name of the Clan Donnachaidh Society. This information will have to be shared with the local branch.

Volunteers are required to help during the day of Pitlochry Games and to help tidy up at the end of the day. Thanks to those who have already volunteered.

SIGNAGE

After many months of discussion regarding new signage for the Clan Centre and Museum I am delighted to report that the signage will be erected today at 2.00pm. The new signage will comprise 2 outside story boards, a new sign for the Clan Secretary Office and Reading Room as well as 2 signs for inside the Museum, one with information on the Kist and the second on Clan Country. I encourage as many people as possible to view the signage and to let me have feedback.

MUSEUM

With a lot of help and advice from the House of Bruar the Museum has been totally revamped and to date has received a huge amount of fantastic feedback from all types of visitors. I encourage as many people as possible to view the changes.

I have recently started selling some Clan memorabilia and to date it has proven to be very popular. I have not got a huge range as I am just testing the water as to what will sell and trying to find out what Members and visitors are looking for. So far so good. The merchandise has only been selling for the past 6 weeks and we have taken in approximately £940.00. The help we have received from the House of Bruar has been instrumental in the success of this venture to date. Anyone visiting the

Museum who has not been able to purchase an item currently on offer can contact me and I will look into obtaining it.

CLAN ANNUAL

This year has seen the Clan Annual being edited by James Irvine Robertson and there has been a host of fantastic compliments and feedback on the presentation of our 2019 Clan Annual. A huge thanks to James for all his hard and good work

We managed to save some cost compared with 2018, including using the services of the Rocky Mountains Branch: a huge thank you to Jim Robertson, President of the Rocky Mountains Branch, his wife Lisa and some of his local branch Members for distributing the annual in the USA and elsewhere. After the 2019 challenges of moving editorship and production back from the USA we will be looking even more closely in 2020 at ways of minimising costs in respect of production, printing and distribution, as well as getting the Annual to Members earlier than in the past.

CLAN BRANCHES

This year I have been contacting all Branches requesting information on the Clan Games, Festivals and events they are organising, with the dates and venues, and I have been sharing this information with the Visitors that I meet at the Clan Centre. This has proved highly successful with the Visitors and I have received feedback from the Branches and Visitors who have gone on to attend some of the Branch events. I am also able to show the Visitors photos of the local Branch Presidents and Committee Members as well as some photos taken at some past events.

When I receive new Memberships, either via mail or in person, I send the new Members information on their 'local' branch. I also send the new Members' details to the branch so they can contact the new Member and invite them to join their branch. This has also proved to be very successful.

FINANCES

The Trustees' Annual Report (incorporating the Directors' Report) for the year ended 31 December 2018 is attached.