



Clan Donnachaidh

2021 Clan Donnachaidh Society AGM - International Vice Chair Report

Greetings all! It is with much disappointment that I compose this report for reading again this year, rather than my being able to give it in person. Unfortunately, the travel restrictions still in place for anyone outside of the UK traveling into Scotland are still extremely strict and what restriction lifts were made, have come too late for travel arrangements to be made.

I hope this message finds everyone well.

I greatly appreciate the dedication of those able to attend the AGM this year and have high hopes of things being somewhat back to normal by next year so that overseas members will be able to travel. Due to the lack of activity with games and festivals during the later part of 2020 and early 2021, no branch reports were requested by Council for this year's AGM.

The good news to report is that a few of the Highland Games and Festivals worldwide have been held already or are scheduled for the remainder of 2021. Kathy and I were able to attend the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina in July and have plans to attend the Longs Peak Festival in Colorado in September as well as, several scheduled events in our surrounding states in September, October and November. This brings promise and great hope that I will have much to report in 2022. My hat is off to the Branches that have persevered these trying times and kept the Donnachaidh flags flying proud.

I was excited to learn from the Newsletters from Gordon Robertson in New South Wales and from David Reid in New Zealand that the early part of 2021 has been much better for branches in the Antipodes (Australia and New Zealand) in terms of restrictions on getting together than it has been in North America. The Newsletters report busy Clan Donnachaidh tents at a number of events and also the excellent news that Clan Donnachaidh will be the honored Clan at the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival in 2022.

To say that this past year has been difficult for us all, would be an extreme understatement. For the Council, efforts to conduct Society business remotely was not an easy task. Our entire Council worked readily and willingly with many emails, telephone calls and Zoom meetings showing impressive dedication and success. I want to express a huge thank you to our Chairman, Gillespie Robertson for his unwavering dedication to the Clan Donnachaidh Society. Most especially, for his no doubt very difficult task of, getting a new Secretary in place amid a complete lockdown of Scotland. He and Vice Chair Iain Reid did a splendid job with the selection. We welcome Irene Cameron as Clan Secretary and want to express what a splendid job she has done in getting herself acclimated to Clan business, and getting details sorted so that we can continue "business as normal". The past year has presented many losses to the Clan Donnachaidh family. My hopes and prayers are that we continue to push through these difficult times and find much brighter days ahead.

Until we meet again, I wish you all safe travels and good health.

Kindest regards
Jonn Duncan-IVC