

Editor's Letter

This edition is dedicated to the upcoming Clan Ross Gathering in Tain on the 12-14th August 2014. The plans have been made and the volunteers at Tain & District Museum and Clan Ross Centre are looking forward to meeting everyone and welcoming them to Tain. There is a stellar lineup of local musical talent ready to perform at our "Ross Music" concert and at our ceilidh. Also in this edition is news of a Clan Ross appointment in Australia but first some words from Chief David as he prepares to join us in Tain for the Clan Ross Gathering 2014.

Morag Ross Bremner

David Ross of Ross and Balnagowan

"It will give my wife, family and I great pleasure to attend the 2014 Clan Ross Gathering in this the year of "Homecoming". As with this very successful event in 2009, this will truly be an international occasion with visitors from the four corners of the world, many with family connections to Ross-shire. In particular, we shall again welcome a large group from Finland, all of whom have a single common Ross ancestor. Whilst most Scots have kith and kin somewhere in the Commonwealth, it is not often realised that the Scottish Diaspora spread all across Europe too, in my own case to Sweden to escape the persecution of those who supported the Jacobite cause in the early 18th century. As Chief of Clan Ross, I have always emphasised to the many Rosses and related families with whom I have been in touch, the great importance of Easter Ross. Most emigrants have achieved success wherever they have settled, but their descendants have never forgotten the debt they owe to where their ancestors came from. I should like to conclude by thanking the Trustees and the team at the Tain & District Museum and Clan Ross Centre, along with many other contributors and volunteers, for their enormous effort to bring this Gathering into being. Without their unstinting support there would be no programme to enjoy."



David Ross of Ross and Balnagowan
and Lady Eileen arriving for the 2009 Gathering

Photo: Anita Nykanen



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MUSEUM

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Clan Ross Gathering 2014

August 2014

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Programme

Tuesday 12th August. Reception: 7pm for 7.30pm.

A chance to register and meet the volunteers and members of Tain's community. Alasdair Mearns will give a talk and music will feature throughout the evening. Tea and biscuits will be served.

Wednesday 13th August. Clan Ross Gathering: 10am for 10.30am start.

Address by Chief David Ross of Ross and Balnagowan.

Talk by Dr Andrew Ross - Donald Ross: critic of the Highland Clearances, hero of the poor.

The mysteries of the Bagpipe explained by Alasdair Mearns

A leisurely lunch and an opportunity to blether and get to know fellow Rosses approximately 1 – 2pm.

Menu: Stovies/ Veggie option stovies followed by Liz's Raspberry Crannachan.

An energetic afternoon under the instruction of Maureen Ritchie as she guides us through the intricacies of the various dances for the ceilidh. Finish at 3.30pm to return at 7.30pm for our evening concert "**Ross Music**" celebrating the best of music in Ross-shire.

Wednesday 13th August at 7.30pm in the Duthac Centre, **Ross Music** with Fèis Rois Ceilidh Trail, Duncan MacGillivray, Dagger Gordon and Fiona J MacKenzie.

Thursday 14th August. Assemble at Duthac Centre 10.30 am for parade through High Street at 11am. It is a further 10 - 15 minute walk out to the Games field after the parade disbands. Please arrange your own transport to the Games field. Once out there we will be joining the chieftains' parades so assemble on the field for 11.45am. To find out more about the Tain Highland Gathering visit <http://www.tainhighlandgathering.com/>

Make sure to visit the Clan Ross tent throughout the day

Thursday 14th August Ceilidh 7.30pm

An evening of music and dancing with John Gordon and, specially formed for the evening, the "Clan Ross Ceilidh Band". Light refreshments will be provided along with non-alcoholic cocktails.

Meet the Artists



Fèis Rois Ceilidh Trail 2014

The Ceilidh Trail is a professional development opportunity for young musicians aged 16 – 25 who are considering a career in music. The young people have the opportunity to develop their skills in performance, repertoire, arranging, playing for dancing and much more. The project also has a significant cultural tourism aspect as it allows visitors to hear high quality traditional music across Ross-Shire during the months of July and August. Graduates of the Fèis Rois Ceilidh Trail project include Mairearad Green, John Somerville and Matheu Watson to name but a few.

This year's Ceilidh Trail features Fèis Rois's Creative Apprentice, Katie Macdonald on guitar alongside Frank Fraser from Strathpeffer also on guitar, Danny Ogilvie from Munloch on fiddle, Cameron MacDougall from Nigg on pipes and whistles, Imogen Hay from Inverness on vocals and clarsach, Joseph Peach from Achiltibuie on accordion and keyboard and Robbie Mackenzie from Inverness on fiddle and vocals.

"The Ceilidh Trail officially runs from 14th July to 9th August, but we are always keen to offer additional performance opportunities to our young musicians," said Fiona Dalgetty, Chief Executive of Fèis Rois. "Having the chance to play alongside, Duncan, Dagger and Fiona will be hugely inspiring for our Ceilidh Trail musicians.



Duncan MacGillivray is one of the Highland's finest pipers and, as a member of The Battlefield Band from 1978 – 1983, Duncan was among the earliest pipers to appear in a folk group context. He remains an inspirational figure to many young players today. Duncan will be joined by his children, all of whom are talented musicians.

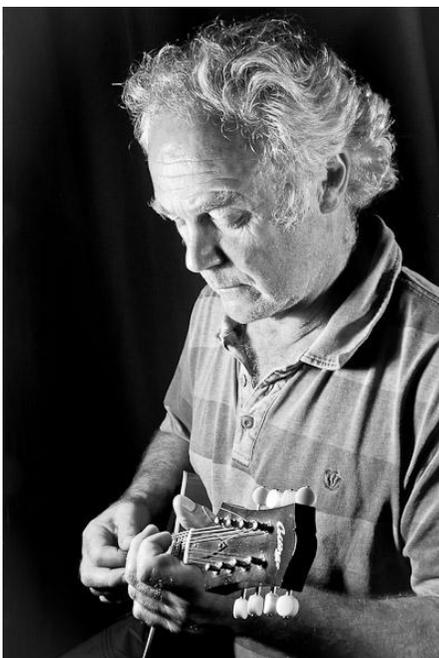


Fiona J Mackenzie will sing Gaelic songs from her album, *Òrain nan Rosach: The Songs of Ross-Shire*. Fiona is an acclaimed Gaelic singer who won The Silver Pendant, the premier prize for Gaelic learners at the Royal National Mod in 1996 before going onto win the prestigious Gold Medal for fluent speakers in 2005. She is currently Gaelic Associate Artist with the National Theatre of Scotland



John Gordon was born into a family with long traditions of working in agriculture and on sporting estates and worked his whole life as a Keeper on Glencalvie Estate and latterly as Estate Manager. His work is held in great respect throughout the North of Scotland, primarily for building up the deer forest of Glencalvie, for managing the salmon fishing and his skills in dog training. Glencalvie, well known for the part it played in the Highland Clearances, attracts many people keen to know more about the life of their ancestors. John has met many far travelled Ross's returning to find their roots and has the greatest admiration for these hardy families who gleaned a living on small, remote crofts.

Music has been the other great passion and he has played in dance bands since he was a teenager. He also features in the Grampian television series of the "Bothy Nights". John regularly plays in local venues, his music much appreciated by those who enjoy easy listening and dancing. John is married to Lynda, a retired teacher and in their spare time they enjoy being with their Collie dogs and gardening in their home in Dornoch.



Mandolin maestro, **Dagger Gordon** has released 2 solo CDs 'Highland Mandolin' and 'The Frozen River,' as well as a more recent album, "Like Father, Like Son" with his eldest son, Colin. In addition to playing mandolin, Dagger is an accomplished guitarist and, as a tutor for Fèis Rois, he has taught guitar to hundreds of children across Ross-Shire over the past 15 years.



To prepare for our ceilidh **Maureen Ritchie** will be giving a dance workshop. Her background is in Highland dancing, having been a pupil of World Champion Highland Dancer Betty Jessiman of Huntly. She progressed through all the exam grades and holds a teaching qualification. She moved on to Scottish Country Dancing which consists of jigs, reels and strathspeys danced in sets.

On moving to Sutherland 20 years ago she also got involved in ceilidh/social dancing. For the past 10 years she has been teaching a class in Ceilidh, Old Time, Set and Sequence dancing. As well as participating in the local dance scene she regularly travels further afield to attend Scottish country dance rallies



Commander of Clan Ross Australia

Des Ross has been appointed Commander of Clan Ross Australia by Chief David Ross of Ross and Balnagowan. This is an ambassadorial role.

He recently acted as Honorary Piper in a ceremony to welcome the world's oldest surviving clipper back to Australia from its previous home in Irvine, Scotland.

Des, originally from the Invergordon area, emigrated to Australia with other family members some 40 years ago. Below he tells us a bit about himself:

"My piping career started at age 12 after lessons from my older brother Pipe-Major Ronald Ross (now AOM). After civilian pipe-bands I was 'called' by the army to do National Service in 1956 and stayed with the Army Reserves till 1960 (South Aust Scottish Regt) as a pipe-sgt. Later in 1969 I became pipe-major of 3RAR (Royal Australian Regt). I am a member and piper of two Masonic Lodges: St Andrew's & The Royal Order of Scotland. I am the official Royal Australia Regiment Association Piper and a member of the Scottish Associations of South Australia.

I am a long time presenter of Scottish/Celtic Radio 5EBI 103.1 FM (now worldwide digital), Tuesdays 12.30-1.30pm Saturdays 5-6pm. I also attend a Gaelic class held at the radio station held every Tues 10-11am (hard work!)

I belong to a small piping group at Colonel Light Gardens Returned/Services League; we practice every Friday 9-1pm.

I last visited Scotland in 1999, I hope to be able to get over again one day.

Ross Music

A Celebration of the Music of Ross-shire



Museum volunteer Jason Ubych shows Zef Ubych and Elise Innes a one hundred year old drum from the museum collection. Lorna Ubych, who plays with the Tain Pipe Band, drums up support for the "Ross Music" concert on the 13th August 2014.

Tickets are on sale now from Tain & District Museum, Tower Street, Tain, IV19 1DY, Tel: 01862894089 or from: <http://tainmuseum.org.uk/tickets.asp?theme=21>

They cost £10 or £8 concession

The concert will be held in the Duthac Centre, Tain. It begins at 7.30pm.

Tickets for the Ceilidh are on sale now and cost £15



TAIN & DISTRICT MUSEUM AND CLAN ROSS CENTRE

TOWER STREET, TAIN, IV19 1DY