



The Hunters' Tryst

Publisher Billy Hunter C.O.
Editor Bill Hunter

1st Edition—I nternet

November 2006



Dear Clans folk

It has been sometime since I wrote to you all and hope to find every Hunter in good heart. I know you will join me in thanking all our Clan members who have attended Games over the last summer, for their support of our Clan and their enthusiasm and time and effort. It is very much appreciated. Being a member of Clan Hunter should be a pleasure and interesting. Meeting up at Highland Games is a great way to re-affirm our interest in our Scottish heritage, meet those with similar interest and have a good time.

Recently, the St. Andrew's Society of Manchester have invited myself to be the First lady Chief Guest of the Society. They are a very prestigious St. Andrews Society, which started in 1876. It is a very great honour for myself as Clan Chief and for the Hunter Clan. The dinner will be held on St. Andrew's day, which is exceptional too.

Next year, 2007, is our International Gathering at Hunterston Castle. It is also the celebration of the Hunters having been at Hunterston for 900 years. It is interesting to think back to the days when the first Hunter, Norman Venator arrived at Hunterston, which was then marsh and woodland and to look at the Hunters now, who live in many countries. I'm sure that they would be proud that we have grown in numbers and still value our ancestry.

The gathering will be held over the weekend of the 20th, 21st and 22nd July and I hope that many of you will be able to make the journey. We are fortunate amongst Clans not only to still have our original Clan lands but also our Clan Seat, Hunterston Castle.

I will be making this a special Gathering by presenting **The Order of the Royal Huntsman** to three individuals from all our Clan Associations.

Yours Aye

Madam Pauline Hunter of Hunterston and of that Ilk

Clan Gathering 2007 - 20th, 21st and 22nd July

Friday: Evening Buffet Supper 6.30pm then from 7.30 on Interactive stories around a campfire in front of Hunterston Castle or in the Castle.

Saturday: 9.30am Clan Officers meeting with the Clan Chief
10.30am presentation of "The Order of the Royal Huntsman" to three Clan Members.
Display and interaction with Living History.
Dinner in the Community Hall with entertainment by "Something Scottish"

Sunday: Pipers & Dancers

What is happening at Hunterston

Those of you who have not visited Hunterston for some time will be amazed at the changes, the garden has never been so colourful for years



Yew tree 2001



Yew Tree 2006

Most of the shrubs and plants were donated by Frank Hunter Murray and his wife Jan. Angus, Mary and Ralston have done the planting and weeding. The grass is manicured regularly by Ralston Ryder and Mary Ross with the help of the new motor mower purchased last year



There is also a new Acer Tree planted by Peter Hunter in memory of his Brother and it is well established in the garden

A group of about 50 Norwegian Spruce have been felled and are being used in the construction of a Log Cabin in the region beyond the Yew Tree, This is as far as it has grown but you will be kept up to date with its progress.



Inverness Highland Games 2007

The Inverness Highland Games are the best attended in the North of Scotland with 4000-6000 enjoying a major traditional Highland event that has something for everybody.

The highlight of the day is of course the ever popular 'Tossing of the Caber'. The 16 foot plus caber weighs more than a man and it is a feat of enormous skill as well s extraordinary strength to hurl the caber so that it turns over and lands in the required 12 o'clock position. However, for many athletes the most enjoyable event of the day is the 'Great Putt of the Inverness Stone' weighing some 10kg (22lbs), it is it's awkward size and shape, rather than it's weight that creates a light hearted finale to the day. The rules dictate that all athletes taking part must wear the traditional kilt which, rather than a sporran, it is accompanied by a weight belt in the Inverness Games.



The Inverness Games has a tradition of trying to include something new every year and this there was Piping Competitions, Dancing Competitions, Cycling Competitions, a Highland Craft Fair, a Children's Fun Fair, Tug-of-War, and a Massed Pipe Band. This year there was an aerobatic Display.

Thanks to the Piping Competition there was music throughout the day. In addition to the pipes, the Pipe Band responsible for making the arrival of the Provost of Inverness (who acts as Chieftain of the Games) played throughout the afternoon.

Then there is the Clan Village which houses around about 35 Clans and stands promoting various organizations.

Clan Hunter were represented this year by Janet (Membership Secretary) and Bill (Council Member) we were quite busy with questions and had a varied amount of Hunters from abroad, Germany, New Zealand, Spain, U.S.A , Holland and one fro U.K. below is a picture of Josiah Hunter Jnr. (Clan HunterU.S.A.) and his wife Marcelle (who is connected to Clan Chisholm)



The 2007 Inverness Highland Games will be a 10 day Festival including a Highland Tattoo and the gathering will end with the European Pipe Band Championships on Saturday 28th July 2007. This competition usually attracts around 160 plus bands.

Doors Open Day 3rd September 2006

Report By Robert Hunter, O.R.H. S.B.

As I see it, this doors open day has become such an event that it has the potential of becoming the biggest day in our events calendar next to our Clan Gathering.

From early hours Angus, Ralston and members of Hunterston Rotary were busy pitching tents making ready for the Craft people from West Kilbride to bring their wares. This was a new venture organised by Angus and Maggie Broadley (Craft & Design Development Officer– West Kilbride) West Kilbride is now recognised as Craft Town .

By the time I arrived around 10am, the small band of Clan Association Members who gave their whole day to helping with the crowd control were already placing themselves in appropriate positions. Me, traffic control (The Car Park) not to bad really because from a distance, I could view all the out-of-doors activities and there was plenty of that.

Firstly there was the big noise, I'm talking of the Pipe Band the ladies and gents of "Crocodile Rock" That is Millport in case you did not know. These boys and girls worked for their corn I can tell you. Entertainment was first class, especially at one point in the day, when three of the pipers who have the skill of the playing of the small pipes. These men presented themselves in the Grand Hall, and filled that old Castle with the most haunting, and romantic music, that only the people of the Celtic Race can produce. Then there were the dancers, the girls of the Rose Arnott School of Highland Dance. They made the party swing, "excuse the pun but it is true". The girls danced the day away to the pure delight of the visitors (270 in total). Speaking of visitors, we had Clansmen and Ladies who came from far afield to make this a day to remember, there were the "Hunters of Preston" that is Ian and Elsie, also Duncan and Jean four hundred miles they travelled in a day just to get to Hunterston. There were new faces too, Michael Guest and Teresa all the way from Kent to celebrate with their Clans folk. For all of them their love of Hunterston and Scotland makes the miles a necessary chore.

What was going on inside the Castle? Pandemonium! People were roaming from one room to another. Questions were being asked, ten to the dozen, it was busy but it was good because everybody was genuinely interested in what was on display and the History.

With the restrictions regarding access to the Castle we have to curtail the amount entering and only allow 10 at a time, also we did not have all of the Castle open.

Pamela Moon with her usual charming and positive approach to the job put in a hard shift and I can say that for the rest of the ladies, Janet (Clan Secretary) along with Pamela controlled the "Dining Room and Grand Hall" while Ellen was busy at the door keeping check on the numbers and controlling the entry. Mary the keeper of the keys seemed to be just everywhere.

Bill Hunter was in the basement where the tour begins and did not miss a trick, he managed to acquire three new Members (He is not on commission).

The Clan Officer, Billy Hunter, is the man at the centre of entertainment, without Billy there would be no music and no dancing. The Clan Officers contribution to the Clan Hunter Association can be measured against the fun and enjoyment that he creates for us through his music.

Craft & Design Exhibition
Open Day 3rd Sept.2006



There was also a Hog Roast Stand manned by Shaun Middleton and a stall selling lovely strawberries and marshmallows covered with chocolate from a fountain manned by John Dunbar I think they both were kept busy

West Kilbride Craft & Design Town

In 1998 an Initiative Group was formed to address the decline in the town and help regenerate West Kilbride. There are now six professional designer-makers operating from West Kilbride, creating a diverse range of carefully considered, beautifully crafted objects. Each studio, with its distinctive green and gold signage, provides a shop front/exhibition area and workshop area. The high quality facilities present an opportunity for the public to see and buy work of a regional, national and international significance focused within one area. Craft Town Scotland has recently been awarded 'Visitor Attraction' status by Visit Scotland.

West Kilbride Craft & Design Town was recently voted the most enterprising place in the U.K. in the Enterprising Britain 2006 award, a national competition sponsored by the Department of Trade & Industry <http://www.sbs.gov.uk/sbsgov/action/layer?topicId=7000000287>

West Kilbride Craft & Design Town was chosen as the overall winner of Enterprising Britain 2006 because of the way it has gone about revitalising its centre, making it a focus for niche retailing and attracting visitors to the town. The national judges were particularly impressed by the strong sense of team spirit and local involvement surrounding the project, and the fact that the project found its Unique Selling Point (Craft & Design) right from the start..

Although the competition was once again a hard fought one, West Kilbride Craft & Design Town really stood out for the judges. In many ways, it sums up the spirit of the competition – being all about creating in a community with enterprise at its heart, in a way many other places across the country both could learn from and be inspired by.

Despite a lack of resources, this dedicated band of residents has displayed remarkable resilience and determination and is an outstanding example of what a small community can do for itself. You can learn more by visiting the West Kilbride Craft Town website. www.westkilbride.ork.uk



Crafts in Town :- Maggie Broadley—Ceramics
Virgil Bauzys —Basket Weaver
Marion E. Kane—Silversmith
Nicola Beattie—Candlemaker
Donna Morrow—Milner

The Massacare of Glencoe 1692

If you had visited Hunterston on 26th, 27th 28th September 2006 you would have thought that you had walked back in time, as there were redcoats and highlandmen all over the Castle and House .

The B.B.C. were making a documentary about “The Massacare of Glencoe” Hunterston Castle and Hunterston House were ideal sites for this period.

The film shall be shown on B.B.C.1 sometime in the beginning of 2007.



Above are some of the actors taking part, Robert Hunter (Past Clan Officer/Newsletter Editor/etc.) and his wife Ellen came to see the action and are pictured here with Chief Maclan of Macdonalds outside Hunterston House

The Battle of Roslyn Glen
Written by
Chevalier John Ritchie KTpI

In the thirteenth century Scotland although being an independent country, suffered from a feudal system that crippled its economy, reducing the country to a series of warring states due not only to clan battles for land and wealth in the north, but continual oppression by the English in the Lowlands. Scotland, was divided into the highlands north of Perth, and the Lowlands from Perth to the border, mostly garrisoned by the English army or Scottish Lords who had been forced to give their allegiance, to Edward the first the English King.

After the tragic death of King Alexander at Kinghorn, Edward the first, had always cast an avaricious eye towards Scotland, his chance came after the demise of the little Maid of Norway. No fewer than thirteen noble claimants to the crown of the northern Kingdom had come forward, the land was threatened by vicious civil war. The Lords of Scotland appealed to Edward that he might graciously arbitrate, he accepted, with gilded crown and chain in hand, the Lion would now adjudicate the Unicorn.

Edward as regal bearer of this self-sought Scottish manacle was more than willing to apply it, he demanded that on the 10th of May 1291, at his castle at Norham, the Lords of the north attend him. For the purpose of a hearing of the primary claimants, now reduced to eight. The long adjudication began, the Scottish people desired a King with nothing but Celtic blood and one of undivided loyalty, this was declared the issue of Edward's mandate to arbitrate.

Week's passed, and the finalists were reduced to the families of Balliol and Bruce. The Scots Lords now painfully aware of their feet on alien soil and foreign King deciding the fate of their crown, silently watched as the remaining claimants in turn swore to abide by Edward's decision as their liege and sovereign Lord of the land.

this true story was gifted to, and presented to the
Hunters Tryst by Fergus Caerfre

Edward's final favour fell upon his dependent John Balliol. With this choice the Unicorn was finally chained and the die cast for a suicidal war of escape from England's strangling chains. The smile on the teeth of the Lion was warm for his new Scottish subjects as John Balliol was crowned the puppet King at Scone on November the 30th. 1292. Dutifully, Balliol appeared later to do homage to Edward at Newcastle bearing with him the ancient seal of Scotland.

Shock however, attended the faces of his faithful followers as Edward took the old and regal seal in his hands and broke it into four pieces and ordered that they be placed in English treasury as a token of his English dominion. This act gave Edward the first legal right to Scotland under Norman law.

However, Scotland's law even then, differed from English law, in that it was the people who in the form of the Scottish parliament that made the law in Scotland and not just the King.

Edward had always been aware that in order to rule and hold Scotland that he had to give lands in England to the Scottish nobles and effect martial unions between the daughters of Scottish noble families to his Norman English Lords, this was not acceptable to the Scottish nobility.

When a marriage was arranged between Balliol's son and the Count of Anjou's daughter one of Edwards French enemies. Edward was so infuriated that he sent an English force into Scotland in 1296. Berwick was the first town in Scotland, Edward hung over 10,000 of it's inhabitants from their own doorframes to show what he was capable of, giving a clear message to all that might oppose him.

His army then moved to Dunbar to defeat a Scottish army and capture most of it's leaders which included Sir William Sinclair of Roslyn, Sir Symon Fraser of Neidpath, Sir Gilbert Hay of Borthwick, Sir Edward Ramsay of Dalhousie. Edward made the captured nobles swear fealty and allegiance to the English crown before they were released, this they did with tongue in cheek and were allowed to return their Lands. King John Balliol was forced to abdicate. Scotland was left without a King.

Story to be continued.

Castle Tours

The request for tours keep coming in with many people from abroad with just a few days to spend in the area who want to include Hunterston in their itinerary and they are never disappointed as we always go out of our way to fit a tour in, we are also having visits from groups in the Ayrshire community, below is a group from Ayrshire Members' Centre National Trust for Scotland who spent a lovely afternoon at the Castle and Garden



We also had a visit from Tom Hunter from Illinois who is based in Afghanistan and wanted to visit the Castle while on leave. He hopes to be able to return next year for the Clan Gathering



The Hunters' Tryst

Any news for the Tryst should now be sent to :-

Bill Hunter
32 Overton Crescent
West Kilbride
KA23 9HG

Or email whunter@tiscali.co.uk

We cannot publish a newsletter without **NEWS** you are our reporters so let us know what is happening in your Town/Village/City we are a Family and I am sure there must be something you want to let us know about. The article about West Kilbride is to let you know what is happening there. Our members are spread all over the country and there are many places we know nothing about, so please let us have NEWS.

Bill Hunter



Members News



Pictured above are Brian and Margaret Hunter who just recently celebrated their 'Golden Wedding' Anniversary.

It is not difficult to say something nice about the pair of them, It is just difficult finding something new to say about them.

Brian and Margaret of Humberside joined Clan Hunter UK many years ago. As Clan Genealogist, Brian has organised and sorted out many of the family histories for our kin folk, 'my own included'

Fond memories for me was September 2000, Clan Hunter and other assembled on Flodden Hill, Brian as standard-bearer of the colour party proudly bore the flag of Saint George. That standard today takes pride of place alongside the flag of Saint Andrew in the Clan Room at the Castle.

Margaret with the rest of the ladies was a great support to her man on that fine day.

Congratulations to them both at this very special time in their lives.

I'm very proud to say that they are "Friends of Mine"

Robert Hunter orh., sb.

Congratulations to Clan Member Michael Guest (Right of picture)

on being elected as Epsom & Ewell councillor. Michael and his partner Teresa were both at our Clan Open day where I had the pleasure to meet them , they both intend to make it to the Clan Gathering in 2007



Editor

Earlier this year we were sending our good wishes to Gordon our Clan Treasurer, and his wife Eleanor on reaching 80 years of age. Unfortunately the year for Gordon has not been a good one, health wise, with numerous tests and spells in hospital.



Throughout all this suffering Gordon has still the welfare of the Clan at heart and we just hope for a solution to be reached and Gordon can be free from discomfort and he and Eleanor have some quality time together.

Gathering of the Clan

A WARM HUNTER welcome to our new members:-

- David Hunter (215) Cheshire
- Gail Hunter (216) N. Ireland
- Robert Hunter (217) New Zealand
- Lucy Massaar Hunter Weston (218) The Netherlands
- Ann Hunter Stanhope (219) Illinois U.S.A.
- Aiden Hunter (220) Essex

Fluere ae' the forrest

Tom Hunter, of Illinois, U.S.A. 15th October 2006

Tom Hunter, Editor of the Hunter's Horn, Tom was a stalwart of the Hunter Clan Association in the U.S.A. and one of the founder members there. As Editor of the Hunters's Horn, Tom created an exceptional magazine and was very pleased to have won a 'highly commended' one year. It is those like Tom who just get on with the tasks that make our Clan Association what it is and help to keep us all in touch. I still miss those green newsletters coming through the post even though e-mail is great, it does not generate the same interest as holding the paper magazine. It was a very great pleasure that I was able to award Tom "the Order of the Royal Huntsman, for all his efforts on behalf of the the Hunter Clan Association in the U.S.A. We shall all miss him and send our deepest sympathies to his family

Edward Hunter- Blair 21st October 2006

Brother to Jamie Hunter-Blair and a frequent attendee at Gatherings. He last visited Hunterston in 2001 and will be missed for his interest in the Clan

CLAN OFFICERS REPORT

This is the first copy of the Tryst published on the web and I hope it encourages some feedback from clan members thus enabling us to enhance communication and have a greater spectrum of issues and subjects.

The open day was again a success with Angus having organised craft stalls and a “Hog Roast” (which was delicious)

The Isle of Cumbrae RBL Pipe Band <http://www.isleofcumbraerblpipeband.org/> Recently returned from a 5 day engagement in Asturias, Spain and having played at the Viking Festival parade in Largs the previous day, entertained the visitors on the lawn, along with the **Rose Arnott highland dancers**



While a couple of pipers playing the small pipes entertained inside the Castle



Isle of Cumbrae R. B. L. S. Pipe Band

Official Photograph of the Band
Asturias, Spain
August 2006

Rose Arnott Highland Dancers



Highlanders abroad
UHI Centre for History Summer School

I have recently received a communication from UHI centre for History which some of you may be interested in. As part of Scotland's year of Highland culture 2007, a project aimed at promoting the Highlands, its people and its culture they are organising a summer school based in Inverness.

Co-incidentally the Director of the centre is a Hunter; James Hunter originally from Duror in North Argyll, he was the first director of the Scottish crofters Union, Chairman of the board of Highlands and Islands enterprise and has written eleven books on various Highland and Island themes. Further information may be obtained from:

UHI centre for History
The North Highland college UHI tel: 01847 889372
Ross House
Dornoch IV25 3LE email rob.macpherson@uhi.ac.uk

If you have difficulty accessing the web, please contact the secretary Janet Hunter on 01294 829851 or write to 32 Overton Crescent, West Kilbride, Ayrshire KA23 9HG and she will arrange for a copy to be sent to you.

I hope the new Tryst format on the web will appeal to most of you and I shall look forward to your comments.

Yours Aye
Billy Hunter
Clan Officer