

Message from the Chief to all clansmen - 18 January 2008

As you should already be aware a 2-day International Gathering of Clans and a Highland Games, to be held in Holyrood Park in Edinburgh, is to take place over the weekend of 25th and 26th July 2009. This is part of "Homecoming in 2009" an initiative started by South Ayrshire Council to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of "Robert Burns". It has grown exponentially and is now an "all Scotland event" with the Scottish Executive and VisitScotland heavily involved. His Royal Highness "Prince Charles" has agreed to be Patron.

The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs will be hosting the events in Edinburgh, which are being run and coordinated by a special company set up for the purpose called, "The Gathering 2009 Ltd", 27 Queen Charlotte Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6AX. Tel. no. +44131 561 1323. E-mail: lucy-rose@thegathering2009.com - website: www.thegathering2009.com. Tickets for the events can be obtained from this company, who will also provide information updates and advice about accommodation in or near Edinburgh, etc.

The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs also plan to hold the first ever Clan Convention prior to the Gathering. This is to take place on Friday 24th July. I have not yet received final details, but it is intended that it should be held from 10am to 4pm with lunch. It is expected to be held in either Holyrood Palace or the Old Parliament Hall. Questionnaires have been sent to all known Clan Associations requesting their input towards compiling the agenda. The final agenda will be drawn up by the Standing Council. It is also hoped that there will be a civic reception in the evening.

My son Jamie and myself with other members of SCSC will be attending a meeting with "The Gathering 2009 Ltd" on 25th January 2008 to discuss various details and tie up loose ends. Future information will be posted on the Macnab Memorial Trust website - www.macnabclanuk.org.

For our part we will be drumming up support among Macnabs in the UK and plan to ensure that both the Clan and the Macnab Memorial Trust play their part in the proceedings in Edinburgh. The year 2009 also presents an opportunity to arrange a Clan event in Killin. This could perhaps be held in conjunction with the 2009 Killin Games, which (although not confirmed yet) I expect to happen on 29th July. More about this will follow!

I should be grateful if those of you who plan to be in Edinburgh in 2009, either in a party or as individuals, could keep me informed of their plans.

With renewed good wishes for 2008 and looking forward to seeing some of you in 2009.

(J C Macnab of Macnab)
Leuchars Castle Farmhouse
Leuchars
ST ANDREWS
Fife, KY16 OEY

Tel. no: 01334 838777. Fax: 01334 838283
E-mail: the.macnab@mac.com