



The Lion's Face

Official Newsletter of Clan Farquharson in the United Kingdom

www.farquharson-clan.co.uk

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2015 Officers

President - Alan Caig

Vice President – Joan Farquharson

Secretary/Treasurer - Margaret Finlay

Membership secretary - Ansgar Boehmer

Editor of Lion's Face – John Patterson, FSA SCOT

Web Site Manager -Alan Caig

Committee Members – Philip Compton Farquharson, David Coates

Welcome to 2016, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! 2015 was a great year for meeting new friends, building on Clan relationships and getting back on track. The Committee has worked hard to get things in order and Alan has gone above and beyond to insure the Clan is being protected.



A Message from the President

Welcome to this the second edition of our new Lion's Face and a special welcome to the new members who have joined us since our AGM last August. Our membership now consists of friends old and new and those whom we thought we had lost are beginning to return. Our future looks very bright indeed.

We will be speaking to the Ballater Highland Games committee shortly and getting our attendance at their games on 11 August organized. This year, the Aboyne Games coincide with the start of Victoria Week in Ballater, so we can start our gathering events with attendance at the Aboyne Games. Alistair and Joan will be hosting a tent, as usual, with some refreshments. One of our good friends, David Irvine, is the Clan Chief of Clan Irvine and he has very kindly agreed to give us a personal tour of his ancestral home at Drum Castle. We can follow that with a visit to the castle café and on the way home we stop off at the Finzean garden shop. Transport will be in our own cars.



Our web site has been kept up to date by our new web manager and contains a lot of historical information as well as details of our events.

Our bank account has been sorted out and our funds transferred to the new account set up by Margaret Finlay. Before we recovered our money, we made a donation of £100.00 to the Ballater floods appeal. The floods were very serious in some parts of the village and it will take some time before the village returns to normal. Fortunately, the clan's ancient rallying point, Cairn na Cuimhnhe, was not destroyed, despite being right on the river bank. We are assured that the village will be fully operational by the time of our gathering.

Your committee has approved the new Constitution and this is on the web site for all to see. The next AGM will be invited to permanently adopt the new constitution.

Our Clan Chief, Capt Alwyne Farquharson is looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible in August.

Fide et Fortitudine.

Alan Caig, President

My Way to Scotland and to Clan Farquharson

By Horst Kraus

I got to know Scotland very late in life, too late, I feel. In the year 2004 we booked a two-week trip to South England with a small group to see several gardens in Kent and London, e.g. Sissinghurst, the famous garden planned and created by Vita Sackville-West. My wife Uschi is a fan of Vita Sackville-West and Virginia Woolf and a very enthusiastic gardener as well. I love nature and gardens – especially our home garden – but for me the highlight was the visit to Greenwich, seeing the famous clocks of John Harrison. This was an emotional moment for me (I had followed this historical development in several books) and the beginning of my friendship with our tour guide and owner of the small travel agency organizing this excursion. His name is Donald Tarrier, he is a Scotsman, who has been living in Germany for a long time and he planted in me my love for Scotland.

In Hildesheim we have another Scotsman, Eoin Ashford, who has also been living in Germany for a long time. He is a friend of Donald Tarrier's and Pipe Major of our local pipe band, the Alba Pipe Band Hildesheim. This friendship took me to several concerts of the Alba Pipe Band and one day I asked Eoin: How do I learn piping? He asked: How old are you? Answer: 66. He: Forget it.

I: But I learned the piano 50 years ago! He: Ok, try it, but not for the band!



Six months later Donald visited me with Dagmar, a piper, and we agreed to have a piping lesson every week. In summer 2010 I joined my first summer school of the German Bagpipe Association at Burg Breuberg, a youth hostel in an old German castle, a wonderful mediaeval environment where two weeks every year a lot of pipers, drummers, Scottish teachers and lovers of Scottish culture get together. Since 2010 I have

attended the summer school each year and once also the winter school of the College of Piping (Glasgow) held in Germany (Homburg).

At the same time my interest for Scottish culture, history, tradition, people and landscape was growing. And finally I met Robert Burns. To meet him means to love him. Today Robert Burns is not known very well in Germany. That was different in former times, in the 19th century – the period of the romantic age - several German poets translated and published Robert Burns. Johann Wolfgang Goethe, the great German poet,



said "... wir rechnen ... Robert Burns zu den ersten Dichtergeistern, welche das vergangene Jahrhundert hervorgebracht hat.." ("... we rank Robert Burns among the greatest spirits of poetry of the last century"). After I had read poems by Robert Burns and of course about his life I was sure: a Burns Night has to take place in Hildesheim. And so I met Mary Wichmann (McLaren), a Scottish lassie from Dundee, living and married in Germany and teaching the German language to British students at our university. With my friends Hubertus (Toast to the Lassies), Mary (Reply of the Lassies), Allen and Stefan (actors performing Burns poems) and Donald (Immortal Memory) we celebrated a wonderful Burns Night with about 150 guests. Eoin Ashford and the Alba Pipe Band with pipes, drums and dancers supplied the musical part and Eoin recited the "Address To A Haggis" as well.



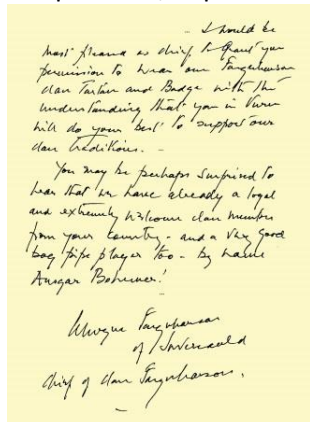
Now Robert Burns is my constant companion. Even though his life was very short - he died at the age of 37 years - he wrote countless poems and a lot of them are my favourites: "John Anderson, My Jo", "The Lovely Lass O'Inverness", "To A Kiss" or "To A Mouse, On Turning Her Up In Her Nest With The Plough" and - as a piper of course - these lines of Tam O'Shanter:

*A winnock-bunker in the east,
There sat auld Nick, in shape o' beast;
A towzie tyke, black, grim, and large,
To gie them music was his charge:
He scre'd the pipes and gart them skirl,
Till roof and rafters a' did dirl.*



Not only pipe music and Robert Burns have caught my interest. For me the whole Scottish history from the House of Alpin till today is a fascinating story including the time of the personal union with Hannover (most of my life I have lived here). When I visited the Glencoe Massacre Memorial I was very touched, remembering the history. And there are a lot of interesting points in Scottish history. There must be a secret in this country. At the time of Mary Stuart Scotland had a population of about 500,000, less than Hannover today. Many other countries were this size. But only Scotland is so present all over the world with its history, culture, stories and people - in German literature and music thematised by Friedrich Schiller, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Theodor Fontane, Carl Maria von Weber, Robert and Clara Schumann and many more.

By 2012 Scotland was an important part of my life as well and I felt the need for a Scottish "identity" in order to be able to play the bagpipes. So I was looking for a connection to a clan with an interesting and for me preferred historical development. After a short TV-movie about the Clan Farquharson I read more about this clan and its history and with each new detail my desire to come closer to this clan grew even more. So in June 2012 I wrote a letter to the Chief of Clan Farquharson, Captain Alwyne C. Farquharson, asking for permission to wear the



clan tartan and badge as a lone piper. I was not sure – shall I get an answer? The answer arrived after few days, hand written by the Chief and giving me the decision I had hoped for.

This day was a really happy day for me and I always have a copy of this letter in my sporran. From then on I felt obliged to support the Clan Farquharson tradition and I do. I was happy as well receiving a very friendly and hospitable mail from Margaret, the secretary of the Clan Farquharson UK. To cut a long story short I had intensive contacts to Margaret and Ansgar. He supported me when I ordered my first kilt. After one

year, in 2013, I joined the clan gathering in Ballater for the first time and I was overwhelmed by the clan members' hospitality and friendship.

In Aboyne I met Joan and Alistair for the first time. They have supported the clan tent in Aboyne and the Clan Gathering in Ballater for many years. Margaret told me: "Joan has provided the most wonderful meals for clan



members and they have done so much without charging

anybody. In previous years Alistair and Joan have provided the tent, loaded their car with tables and chairs and returned them to the Glenaden. As Alistair will be 80 next year, it was a lot for them to do."

Through Ansgar I soon came in contact with the Ballater & District Pipe Band and already on Sunday, August 4th, 2013, I joined the band marching through Ballater leading the vehicle parade.



In our free time Ansgar and I had several short trips to see nice interesting places around Ballater. We took our pipes to practise in the Highlands, visited Balmoral Estate, the Royal Lochnagar Distillery, Braemar Castle and Invercauld House. Here we could not get into the grounds, but we went into the Myrtle Farquharson Memorial Pavilion at the



entrance. Myrtle Farquharson was Chief of Clan Farquharson and, unfortunately, was killed in an air-raid in 1941. The date of May 10th/11th 1941 saw one of the heaviest air attacks by Nazi Germany against London. As a German I felt very bad while reading this. One reason more for me to feel obliged to support the tradition of the Clan Farquharson.



On following Wednesday we spent cheerful hours preparing the clan tent for the Ballater Games Day with Joan & Alistair, Ansgar, Jane & Ian, Jane & Michael, Doug from New Zealand and Roxane, who came from the United States.

The next day was a great day for me – after Aboyne my second games day in Scotland, enjoying the hospitality dispensed by Joan and Alistair, talking to other clan members, meeting the Chief for the first time and listening to the “Sound of Scotland”: the whole day pipes and drums, performed by the Ballater & District Pipe Band and guest bands or competitors of the bagpipe or highland dance competitions. The events of our clan gathering were a very emotional experience for me, particularly visiting the Clan Farquharson cairn,



listening to the Chief's words, piping the "Millennium Prayer For Peace" and listening to "Flowers of The Forest", played by Ansgar.

Later we visited Braemar Castle for a small ceremony when Betty, Stuart and Gordon presented a hand-stitched clan crest and I was surprised and pleased to meet a German guide crew at Braemar Castle Shop.



On Friday the formal Clan Dinner at Finzean House was an impressive event as well. Unfortunately, Sir Angus had had a stroke some time before, and the worry about his health was present in our thoughts. Thank you, Lady Alison and Sir Angus, for your hospitality in these days and all good wishes for Sir Angus' recovery as soon as possible. My table neighbour was Geoffrey Farquharson. He has written an interesting book about the history of Clan Farquharson. I would like to read this book, but regrettably the book is not available at the moment.



The Victoria Week 2013 and meeting the clan was really an exciting and wonderful time. But there was a disappointment in store: After a lot of mails I was looking forward to meeting Margaret personally, but unfortunately she could not come to Ballater because of back pain.

Finally I met her this year for the first time and we had a lot to talk about.

Last year I tried to improve my skill with the bagpipes. Now I am a member of the Alba Pipe Band in Hildesheim, still as a beginner, and I am piping with the "Music Show Scotland", a show giving ten concerts a year in large towns, e.g. Berlin, Hannover and Rotterdam, sometimes with more than 7,000 spectators. Hopefully our show will come to the UK as well.



This year in Ballater I joined the Ballater & District Pipe Band for the vehicle parade and for the games field parade as well, watched by Prince Charles and Camilla, Duke and Duchess of Rothesay. It was a great moment when they visited our Clan Farquharson tent, talking to clan members after they signed our guest book.

And again like last year meeting clan members, the Chief and Madam Farquharson, visiting the cairn and taking part in the formal Clan Dinner were really enjoyable moments.



I have to say thank you to the Chief and to all clan members for their hospitality and the hearty welcome in Ballater at the yearly clan gathering. Your kindness has given me the feeling of having been with the clan for a long time.

And I say thank you to Margaret, Ansgar, Christine and Andrew, President of the Clan Farquharson UK, for giving me photos I publish here and on Facebook. Thank you, Ansgar, for accompanying me when I met the clan and Ballater during these past two years and for giving me a lot of information about the clan,

the clan history and all the interesting places and buildings around Ballater, last but not least the contact to the Ballater & District Pipe Band and our friends we met in the "Barrel", unforgettable evenings.

Hope to see you all next year in the best of health.



2014 Memories

By Margaret Finlay

The Deeside Inn in Ballater was the venue for this year's "Meet & Greet" on Wednesday 13th August & almost everybody who had signed up for the gathering was present. We were delighted to welcome members of Clan Farquharson Australia, namely their Clan High Commissioner of New South Wales & Territories, Syd Finlay, who is also president of Clan Farquharson Australia, together with his wife Brenda, daughter Jane Marlon & her sons, Max & Austin. Jane has been seconded to a law company in London for a year. It was a merry get-together with clansmen catching up with each other's news & generally chatting. Other overseas members were Ansgar & his wife Christine together with Horst Kraus whom most people met last year.

The following day was the 150th anniversary of the Ballater Highland Games Day, a very significant occasion. Clan Farquharson was very fortunate in having been allocated a most generous space in the Ballater Historical Society's tent. The Ballater Games Committee, with the Chief's approval, appointed Hon: Vice president Alan Caig, together with Joan & Alistair Farquharson, to host the arrangements & to man a visitors' Book, which it was hoped would give the committee some feedback about attendees' impressions & comments on all aspects of the Games day. In her usual competent way, Joan produced a fantastic buffet with a whole salmon, cold meats, salads & fruit. . Not only that, Joan and Alistair provided this banquet free of charge, as well as the wine, so a huge thank you to them for their most generous gesture.

When I arrived at the tent, I was greeted with a question, "which do you want first, the good news or the bad news"? As one usually does, I opted for the bad news first & Horst, who was staying at Inchgeal Guest House with Ansgar & Christine told us that Ansgar had been taken very ill in the night & his hostess Diane had called an ambulance which took him to Aberdeen Infirmary. That really was a shock because he had seemed fine the previous night. Alistair was able to make contact with the hospital later in the day because neither Ansgar nor Christine had time to take their mobiles. It appeared that poor Ansgar had kidney stones, which must have been horribly painful. I am happy to report that once home, Ansgar saw a specialist & even better news, he parted company with his stones!

The good news was that The Duke & Duchess of Rothesay, aka Prince Charles & Camilla would be visiting our tent after their arrival at midday! That was a surprise. Next question was "Have you a camera Margaret"? Luckily I had, so I

was appointed official clan royal photographer for the day!. I quaked as I am only a "point & shoot" photographer but I found myself backed up by Jane Marlon who luckily had a camera on her phone. We positioned ourselves as well as we could & were fortunate to get some close ups of the royals as Alan, Joan & Alistair greeted them & introduced them to our Australian guests. & then after a chat, Joan invited Charles & Camilla to sign our visitors' book. Interestingly, a member of their security team advised us not to leave the book unattended as it was now very valuable with their signatures in it. The couple were very friendly & interested in all that was happening in the tents as they had previously spent some time looking at The Historical Society's photos of Ballater through the ages.

By the time they left, we were standing around feeling as if we had just had a surreal experience, so Alistair nobly came to the rescue & offered reviving drinks all round, which were followed by an invitation to partake of Joan's wonderful buffet.

It wasn't long before the arrival of the Chief & Madame Farquharson, so several of us made our way towards the arena entrance, including the colour party, which had been approved by the Chief. His personal banner would be carried by Ian F, with Syd & Brenda Finlay, & brothers Gordon & Stuart F. In the meantime, the Queen's Guard arrived to form a guard of honour for The Chief, who drove in just afterwards. As always, the professional soldiers were much admired for their smartness & absolute precision when marching. The Chief gave a special wave to those of us awaiting his arrival. Alan checked the Colour party to ensure all was well before they made their entrance into the arena. With the sound of the pipes & drums, all was ready for the afternoon's session, with the feats of strength, Scottish dancing & later, the hill run which is always popular. As always, there were numerous stalls around the outside selling all manner of food & drink as well as many other stalls showing beautiful handcrafted items, clothes, & a huge variety of goods as well as charity stalls. The weather was fine & the whole day most pleasurable.

Later in the afternoon when the events had been completed, the colour party & other clan members strolled over to prepare for the Chief's exit from the arena when a tall piper came striding across the field & to our amazement, it was our Ansgar, discharged from the hospital, very heavily dosed with painkillers but ready to complete the colour party & to carry his Chief's flag. What a trooper!

The Chief & Madame paid their customary visits to the various tents, including Clan F & presented prizes & awards to dancers, sportsmen & athletes, before leaving what had been a most remarkable Ballater Games day.

Friday saw us having a quiet morning & at lunchtime, clan members could be spotted in various cafes, having a light lunch before the afternoon visit to our clan cairn. Luckily the weather was dry, so our walk across the field was quite enjoyable. Ansgar & Horst showed great skill as they piped our Chief across to the cairn & played so hauntingly during the service. The Chief & Madame's dog Sam, who is amazing on his 3 legs, was very excited & the little Australian boys were delighted to be given the task of holding his lead during the proceedings. The Chief spoke movingly about the clan & its history & in his unique way, making the short service so meaningful.

Following that, members either went into Braemar for a cup of tea or drove back to Ballater, to prepare for our formal dinner at lovely Finzean House. On arrival at Finzean, there was a gathering on the terrace with glasses of champagne & our formal group photo before we went into dine.. The Chief & Madame & guests were piped in. The dinner was superb & there was lively conversation at each table. The young Finzean family waiters were most efficient. !

Following The Loyal Toast, The Chief addressed clan members, offering thanks to all those who had travelled to Ballater & supported the annual gathering. He mentioned The Royal Braemar Games which were to follow on the first Saturday in September. The Chief also spoke about the great pleasure of having the company of Syd & Brenda Finlay, their daughter Jane & their grandsons & he wished them well. This was followed by the president's address which also thanked members for attending the gathering & thanks were offered to the Finzean Farquharsons for their hospitality in allowing us to use this delightful venue for our formal dinner. Thoughts were with Sir Angus, who is making good progress. Angus & Alison, Lady Farquharson & her family are much loved & respected members of Clan Farquharson. It was a delightful evening & one that will be remembered for the conviviality & delicious meal.

The AGM saw the usual formalities in order to keep us organized.

My happy memories of the gathering include the enjoyment of games day, the royal visit, the gathering by the clan cairn & seeing little Sam frisking around, the haunting piping by Ansgar & Horst, the wonderful evening at Finzean & the pleasure & privilege of sharing all these occasions with Syd, Brenda, Jane & the boys. The family made a great impact on us with their Aussie friendliness & big smiles.

We hope to see you again.

About our Clan

BY Margaret Finlay

We are delighted to have welcomed a number of new members during the last year. These are Christopher and his sister Franziska from Germany, Ron McAdam from the Borders, John Patterson and Samantha from Indiana, George Farquharson and Briony from Glasgow, Kay Finlay from Wales, Richard Bowman from Arizona, Kirsty Farquharson from Staffordshire, Francois Amoretti and his fiancée Nella from Provence, France, Scott Fraser from the Ballater Highland Games committee and Steven and Sally Couch from Edinburgh, We have also been pleased to welcome our Chief's great nephew Philip and his wife Lilibeth and small daughters. We hope you will enjoy your membership and maybe find time to visit Ballater in August for our clan gathering.

Everyone has been shocked and horrified at the dreadful floods which hit the UK at the beginning of the year and particularly in Scotland. National television covered the Stricken areas of The Royal Deeside and Inverurie, where Joan and Alistair live, indeed, their house overlooks the river Don and although they are much higher up, those below had their homes wrecked. The pictures of the floods in Ballater touched us all as we saw familiar streets and buildings almost unrecognisable under the water, cars and caravans floating down the river and wondered how Ballater could ever recover. However, true Scots spirit prevailed as everyone pulled together, organised voluntary help to run in tandem with official bodies and the Charitable Chiels set up a donations page which yielded fantastic results together with other donations.

Our clan piper Ansgar Boehmer from Germany found himself with some spare time, so without further ado, he drove to Calais where he boarded a ferry for Dover, then was on his way to Ballater to help. Once in Scotland he received a message from his wife to say the Laird of Drum and his Lady were in dire straits with water flowing into the castle, so our knight in shining armour did a detour via Drum and miraculously located sandbags which were then put to good use. Carolyn had posted a picture of herself on Facebook, wielding a mop in frantic efforts to keep the water at bay and begging the local population for old towels, so they were more than happy to have Ansgar's help before he continued his journey, He spent a couple of weeks in Ballater helping people who were displaced to move into temporary accommodation, sorting through donated clothing and allocating furniture. Well done Ansgar!

A Few clan members have been or are still unwell and to them, we send our very best wishes for improved health.

Braemar Gathering 2015

By Alan Caig



On Friday 3 September I called in at Braemar in the way up to Ballater, where I was staying for the Braemar Gathering, and I called in to see Alistair Colquhoun one of our old friends, in his highland wear shop. Just as he was finishing his lunch he told me that he was sponsoring a wee dram for the Lonach Highlanders who were marching 17 miles to Braemar, ready for their marching for HM the Queen at the Braemar Gathering the following day. Every mile or two of their march they have a rest stop and various sponsors provide them with a wee dram (not always a wee one !) of whisky to help them on their way. Alistair invited me to help put his tent up and

provide the dreams, so I jumped at the opportunity and off we went. We waited, and we waited, but no sign of the highlanders. Then just the faint beat of a drum. After a few minutes as the beat became louder, we could just make out the plaids through the tress, blowing in the wind. The drum major spotted us and immediately the band started playing Scotland the Brave. They marched



right up to us, still playing, and every man was in step. Officers with swords drawn and the men carrying their pikes. What a spectacle ! This was 120 highlanders; just imagine what an enemy would have thought if they saw 5000 coming towards them ! After a few minutes they had finished their dram, they formed up again and off they went, in step to the pipe band, down the road to their final dram, just a mile away.

What a great privilege to assist in a very small way with such a wonderful event.



Gathering of Clan Farquharson UK 2015

By David Coates, Committee Member

Wednesday 12th August once again saw our 'Meet and Greet' convene at the Deeside Inn in Ballater, it was more of an international event this year, as we welcomed Linda and Brian of the Clan Farquharson Australia. John Patterson and his fiancé Samantha from Indiana USA who kindly agreed to edit our Lion's Face also attended. Our old friends Ansgar and Horst from Germany also visited us and entertained us with their piping skills. In addition three other American guests who were very welcome, were introduced by Eric Farquharson. It was altogether a very enjoyable event, made all the more so with the excellent cuisine provided by the staff at the Deeside Inn.

The following day was extremely well attended by Clan and non-Clan members alike. Whilst many were drawn by the sunshine and perfect weather, others made purchases of locally produced items from the various stalls placed in, and around, the arena alongside typical fairground attractions, which gave such pleasure to younger attendees. A display by the Royal Regiment of Scotland attracted many complimentary comments, as did the young ladies taking part in the Scottish Dancing competition. Athletic prowess, a tug of war competition, and various feats of strength added to what became a splendid day of family entertainment.

Our grateful thanks are extended to the Highland Games Committee who generously provided an excellent tent and seating, allowing our members to meet and sign our visitors book. It was here that the 'Best dressed Highlander' competition was revived after having been introduced in 1892 and subsequently won this year by Gordon of Portpatrick – congratulations to Gordon, whose name is the first to be engraved on the Targe awarded in memory of the games secretary for many years, Edward Anderson. Clan Farquharson provided a Quaich for the winner of the uniformed category. Our grateful thanks also to Alistair and Joan who provided an excellent buffet of salmon, cold meats, salad and fruit. Preparation must have been a time consuming task!

The annual general meeting took place in the morning of the 14th August in the function room of the Glenaden Hotel in Ballater during a formal but relaxed atmosphere. Nominations were of course made for various offices, and we were delighted when Alan Caig accepted the post of President of the Clan, and Joan as Vice President and Margaret Finlay that of Treasurer and secretary, whilst Ansgar took office as membership secretary. Gordon Farquharson (Portpatrick) and myself were made committee members.

Later in the afternoon many including the Chief's pet dog 'Sam' took the bracing walk across the fields to the Clan Cairn, Cairn na Cuihmne, where the Chief spoke meaningfully about the Clan and in particular about the history of the Cairn, followed by a brief prayer. Horst played The Flowers of the Forest, which was very moving and clansmen were then played hauntingly out of the field by the pipes of Ansgar and Horst before visiting Braemar Castle.



There was no formal dinner this year, however there was an organized informal dinner at the Deeside Inn. It was a well-attended convivial event which was enjoyed by all and many were heard to express the view that this would be a very acceptable future venue. I suspect that the high quality of our meal had much to do with that. Staff at the Deeside also made positive comments about the evening.





A Note from the Editor



As we say good bye to 2015 and welcome in 2016 I would like to take a moment to reflect. 2015 was a great year for me. I was elected to be a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, received my Knighthood in the Royal Order of Scotland, got engaged, and was elected to serve Clan Farquharson. I look forward to 2016 and our next trip to Scotland to see everyone one. Me and Sam cant thank everyone enough for their hospitality and friendship.

I would like to share some pictures from our trip, please see below:



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I certify that this is a true and official copy of the Lion's Face UK

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