



The Coat of Arms of  
Catherine Farquharson  
11<sup>th</sup> Clan Chief

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##### ***Treasurer:***

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##### ***Membership Secretary***

***& Facebook Manager:***

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##### ***Archivist & Secretary***

Philip Farquharson of Invercauld

##### ***Editor of "The Lion's Face"***

Horst Kraus <sup>\*) last page</sup>

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##### ***Committee Members:***

Gillian McKeracher

Horst Kraus

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Margaret Finlay

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Donald Farquharson

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# The Lion's Face

Newsletter of Clan Farquharson UK

## Fàilte!

**Clan Chief**

Philip Farquharson of Invercauld



## Looking forward to our Clan Gathering 2024:

<https://clanfarquharsonuk.com/the-gathering/>

## President's Update

Sadly, last year we lost two of our Vice Presidents, Alistair and Joan Farquharson. Alistair passed away in July following ill health and Joan passed away in December having endured ill health for a few years. Both Alistair and Joan were two of our most hardworking committee members over many years and their contribution to our society has been immense. Find below a photo taken at the 2018 cairn visit showing Joan and Alistair with Margaret Finlay.



Following Barb Hilton's stint as the Clan Chief's banner man at our visit to Carn na Cuimhne last August she and husband Grant went home and set about pushing forward with a new clan society in Australia. At the last count they now have over 200 members, so I should like to congratulate them on this wonderful achievement.

We also have Roger Lovall working hard in Norway to start a new clan society there and Murray Cleverley in New Zealand doing likewise.

At our gathering in 2023 we had four brothers (Dominik, Ulrich, Lawrence and Valentin), of the Wedl family from Austria and Wigand and Monika of the Forker Association in Germany join us. We thoroughly enjoyed their company and we hope we provided them with a successful experience of a Scottish clan gathering, and highland games. We have also made contact with the Royal Highland Club in Vienna and we are hopeful some of their members will be able to join next year.

Clan Farquharson now has associations or connections in USA, Canada, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Austria and Germany. This can only strengthen our global presence, increase our profile and hopefully increase our membership numbers. We are looking at holding joint meetings on Zoom so all of our associations can share ideas and experiences and give assistance where necessary.

Following the announcement of the ill health of His Majesty King Charles I sent a letter of good wishes on behalf of clan members and we hope to see him again in Ballater very soon.

Our (relatively) new Clan Chief is waiting for his new Coat of Arms to be granted by the Lord Lyon King of Arms. Once the Arms are available we should properly stop using Captain Farquharson's flag and pipe banners at our events, and purchase new ones. It would be

fitting to have these presented to the Clan Chief at an appropriate event and we are looking at making a formal presentation in public during the 2025 Ballater Victoria Week. I have made enquiries as to whether His Majesty the King would be able to make the presentation, and if he is not, then His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire, Mr Sandy Manson has kindly agreed to do so. Once the arrangements are agreed with all of our partners in Ballater we will publish the programme on our web site.

All in all Clan Farquharson is moving from strength to strength, not just in the UK but all around the globe.

*Alan Caig*

President Clan Farquharson UK



Cairn visit 2018, Joan Farquharson, Margaret Finlay, Alistair Farquharson



## CLAN FARQUHARSON UK

05 April 2024

His Majesty The King  
Buckingham Palace  
London SW1A 1AA

Sir,

I was saddened to hear of your recent health diagnosis, and which has concerned all of us in Clan Farquharson. May I, therefore, on behalf of all clan members, wish you a speedy return to full health and in the hope that we may very soon see you again in Ballater.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your Majesty's humble and obedient servant.

ALAN CAIG  
PRESIDENT



## Membership Secretary & Facebook Manager

Hello to all members of Clan Farquharson UK

My name is Randy and I am running the membership department here at Clan Farquharson UK. I took over the position approximately one year ago, and we now have 145 members which is a rise in Membership from when I took over by approximately 15.



The Clan has now redone the webpage and memberships can be purchased online by using PayPal. I have just been informed that we will be adding electronic deposit as well.... please state that you wish to use EFT Electronic Funds Transfer and we can send you the information. Hopefully everybody is happy with the way the membership is working, and if anybody has any suggestions or questions, please feel free to send emails to my attention and I will do my best to help you,

Thanks, cheers!

*Randy Finlay*  
Membership Secretary  
Clan Farquharson UK

## Return of the Invercauld Highlanders

*By Philip Farquharson, Randy Finlay and Gary Humphries II (Mckinley)*

*May 2024*

The exact formation date of the Invercauld Highlanders is unknown, but it is believed to have arisen partly from the government-sponsored militias of the 1790's, and partly from the historic tradition of Highland men, fighting under the banner of their Chiefs at national level. Initially they were known as the Farquharson Highlanders, marching under the Farquharson Chief. In the mid-twentieth century this seems to have changed to Invercauld Highlanders. Correspondences of the late eighteenth century show that both the Farquharsons Invercauld and Monaltrie were organizing groups of militia under government sponsorship. Photographs of the early 1900's show lines of Invercauld Highlanders marching at a Highland Games (Fig 1), the twin banners used bearing the Arms of Catherine Farquharson (1774-1845), 11th of Invercauld and Chief of the Clan. The exact date of the name-change from militia to Highlanders most likely took place around 1815, when the Braemar Wright Society was formed, William Farquharson of Monaltrie as its' first President. A group of the Clan Farquharson men marched in front of King George IV on his trip to Edinburgh on August 16th, 1822.



Fig. 1 The Invercauld Highlanders marching in the 1930's

The Farquharson Highlanders turned out as a group of marching men for over one hundred years and their final march, before an 81-year hiatus, was during the 1938 Braemar Gathering. After the war there was a period of dormancy, until 2014 when the 16th Chief of the clan, Alwyne Farquharson (1919-2021), was approached by a group of Farquharson men based in the US prompting their revival. At the 2019 Ballater Highland Games Randy Finlay and Gary Humphries (Mckinley), Commanders of the Invercauld Highlanders, guards of honour to the Chief of Clan Farquharson, marched alongside the 100 year-old chief, Alwyne Farquharson, the first march of the Invercauld Highlanders since 1938.

Another two-year hiatus ensued while the world suffered travel restrictions, social distancing and lockdowns, but after lifting of restrictions the Ballater Games returned for the 2022 season.



Fig.2 Modern day Invercauld Highlanders (and piper) at the ceremony of oath, August 2022

The two Invercauld Highlander Commanders returned with eight (six new) members of the guard of honour. These eight Farquharson men conducted a Ceremony of Oath with their new Chief at the ruined cottage of Balnagower near Braemar Castle, overlooking a memorial to a former chief James Farquharson, (1802-1862) 12th of Invercauld. The portrait of this James is the earliest colour image of the Invercauld Highlander dress, dated to 1845 (Fig.3). Those eight Invercauld Highlanders marched their Chief Philip Farquharson, 17th of Invercauld and Monaltrie, also in uniform, onto the games field at the 2022 Ballater Highland Games.

It is believed the last Chief of Clan Farquharson to march in Invercauld Highlander uniform was Major Alexander Haldane Farquharson (1867-1936), 14th of Invercauld. As the current Commanders move this unit forward the Invercauld Highlanders intend on recruiting to the ranks every year from Farquharson men and women all over the world. This will be a great achievement for the Invercauld Highlander Commanders and their Chief.



Fig.3 Portrait of James Farquharson of Invercauld in early Invercauld Highlander dress, approx. 1845

*It was so sad to hear of Des Quaite's' death in January 2023.*

*Each time Des received a copy of the Lion's Face, he would ring to thank me for posting it and always, we had a good chat and an update on what he and Lily had been doing and sadly ill health had been a topic during the last few years. However, Des was bright and always interested in clan matters.*

*I am so grateful for their daughter Anne's willingness to write about her father and all that he achieved in his life of service to others. He certainly was a remarkable gentleman and as far as I am aware, the first clan member who has received the George Cross.*

*We share the sadness of all the Quaite family as we remember our good friend Des.*

*I understand Lily is quite comfortable in her new home and was very pleased when her brother in law also came to live there, so they can meet up and chat.*

*Margaret Finlay*

## THE REVEREND DESMOND QUAITE

*by Anne Owen*

Born 8th June 1935

and called home on the 20th January, 2023.

Dad was born in Gracehill in Northern Ireland.

After a brief time in Dublin, the family returned to Gracehill and it was there that he grew up.

He met my Mum Lily when they were both at primary school and at that tender age

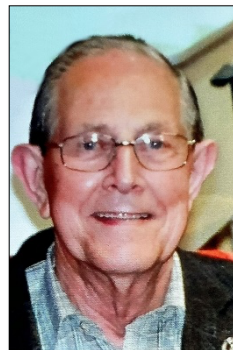
my Mum decided she would marry my Dad! As Dad always said, "I didn't stand a chance".

My parents were married in June 1956 and were married for sixty six years and as they put it, they were blessed with four children, my brothers Desmond, David and Colin and myself, Anne and then with nine grandchildren and so far, eight great grandchildren.

In 1953, Dad joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) serving for a time at Hillsborough Castle and Stormont. He served in the Constabulary until 1965 when he was called by God to serve in the Moravian ministry.

He undertook his training for the ministry at Union Presbyterian College in Belfast, where he gained the student prize, which was incredible as he was also serving as student pastor for Kilwarlin and Ballinderry congregations.

Dad was ordained as minister in 1968 and served in many congregations at Kilwarlin and Ballinderry, County Down, Northern Ireland and in Gomersal and Heckmondwike, Yorkshire, in Carmel Jamaica, West Indies. Also in Malmesbury, Swindon and Tytherton in Wiltshire.





While serving as a minister in Malmesbury, Dad was also a part-time fireman and in Swindon he was a security guard. In each place where dad served in the ministry the congregations grew. My dad had a great faith in our Lord and lived by his faith.

He was friends with so many people and he did love to talk and chat. You always knew when you were in for a long story when he folded his arms put out his foot and began. He also loved to sing and is now doing that to his heart's content.

My parents moved back to Northern Ireland in 1980 as our aged grandparents needed care. Unfortunately the church was unable to move them so Dad resigned from the ministry and rejoined the Royal Ulster Constabulary, where he served until he retired in 2000 due to ill health.

However, Dad never really retired from being a minister as he was always taking services, including weddings and funerals.

He also proudly served as chaplain to the Royal Ulster Constabulary George Cross Association. For his funeral it was fitting that the standard of the RUC George Cross Association was placed in the church, along with his police cap, gloves and medals.

His preaching Bible was also placed as a tribute to his faith and commitment to God.

To so many, our Dad was minister, policeman, confidant, advisor, comforter, colleague, clan member and friend, but to us he was husband and best friend, dad and grandfather, who would do anything for any of us. We always knew we were loved and that we loved him, but we never knew how much we would miss him and how much of a gap has been left in our lives.

Sadly, our Mum has dementia and does not always remember Dad but she remembers a good husband and that they had a good life and that he loved her.

Our parents loved being members of Clan Farquharson and would proudly tell us about its history and the people involved. He was also very proud and touched when he was invited to become Clan Chaplain.

He and mum loved attending the annual clan gathering and were upset when ill health prevented them travelling to The Royal Deeside and enjoying meeting their friends in Ballater.



*My parents with Alan Caig*

Thank you for all the joy Mum and Dad received from being members of Clan Farquharson and the many friendships they enjoyed.

## News About a Founder Member of Clan Farquharson UK

*Margaret Finlay*

Long time clan members will certainly remember Val and John, who were at the initial meeting of Clan Farquharson and Val was a wonderful membership secretary backed by John, who is a keen historian and has helped many people with their family research.

John is in hospital in Worthing for the second time this year after another fall in his bungalow and is very frail although his son assured me he still enjoys his food, which is a good sign. He is really concentrating on making plans for his 100th birthday in September.

John is one of the three veterans we have been privileged to have in the society.

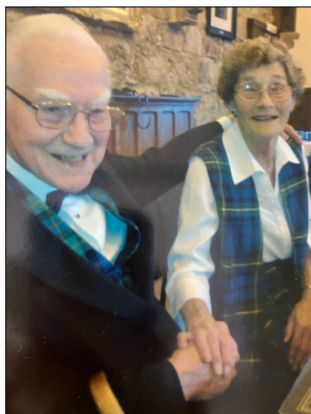
John was in the army and I think he served in the Far East.

At our Worthing lunches to which any members were invited, John, The Late Bill, an ace pilot and Stuart Farquharson-Roberts who was in the navy, always got together and we heard tales about the Russian convoys and all sorts of tales about their experiences.

Please think of John and how he longs to become 100.

John has a loving family who take great care of him and work in tandem with carers.

He is a very special clan member.



Grant Hilton

## Some bits to go into the Lions Face

Pictures of Clan Farquharson at the Melbourne Celtic and Highland Gathering 2024.







## A letter from Australia

On Sat, 16 Mar 2024 at 10:25, Grant Hilton wrote:

Dear Alan,

I just -want to acknowledge the good work Jim Payne, Gary Humphries, Randy Finlay yourself and others do in supporting people worldwide. Its my wish to pass this onto the Clan Farquharson UK committee. They have been very helpful and supportive during last twelve months as we in Australia have worked at bringing Clan Farquharson Australia Society.

Alan could you please pass this onto the UK committee.

Regards Grant Hilton.

President

CFA

## A letter from USA

26.11.2023, Larry Bowman wrote:

Hey there!

Here are a few photos taken at the Tucson Celtic Festival a couple of weeks ago. Jance Hawkins and I represented the Invercauld Highlanders along with Clansmen Amanda (my daughter) and her two sons, Hunter and Bowman. Jance's two sons, Soren and Bowman, also participated in the Parade of Clans. It was a great event. Sooooo proud of our Scottish Heritage!! We hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and that all is well there.

Take care and God Bless!

*L. R. Bowman*





## Thank You!

To all who contributed with reports and photos to this issue I would like to thank you most sincerely.

**\*)Don't forget:** We are looking for a successor as "Editor of the Lion's Face".

If you are interested, send us a message, please. Thank you!

*Horst Kraus, Editor of this issue of "The Lion's Face"*

## Websites

For Event Information, Memberships and Merchandise, please consult:

<https://www.clanfarquharsonuk.com/>

## Social Media

Our official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/clanfarquharsonUK>

Our official Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/clanfarquharson>

#clanfarquharson

#clantalent



## Key contact information:

For general queries or questions

about the Gathering or other Clan events

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For membership questions/issues

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For questions/issues with the website

[webmgrclanfarquharsonuk@gmail.com](mailto:webmgrclanfarquharsonuk@gmail.com)

We have a dedicated email for Paypal and this is

[admin@clanfarquharson.com](mailto:admin@clanfarquharson.com)

## Overseas Associations:

Clan Farquharson

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New Zealand – Murray Cleverley – [murray@uhs.nz](mailto:murray@uhs.nz)

Canada – Randy Finlay – [clanfarquharsoncanada@gmail.com](mailto:clanfarquharsoncanada@gmail.com)

Argentina – Carlos Farquharson – [carlosfarquharson@hotmail.com](mailto:carlosfarquharson@hotmail.com)

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