



Clan Moffat Association

Autumn Newsletter - We are back !

MOFFAT TOWN



Making contact with you after
Coronavirus Lockdown

August 2020

Edition No 1



CLAN MOFFAT UK NEWSLETTER

August 2020

Welcome to the Clan Moffat UK Autumn Newsletter. Along with many others I have mixed feelings at this time. I am thinking of our dear friend and Chairman George Moffat who died in December. Our thoughts are with Pam and family at this time. George and Pam were the first members I spoke to at my first Clan Gathering in Moffat in 2004.

I was really looking forward to the exciting programme that Alison had planned for the International Gathering in July. I have been looking through past editions and finding photographs and articles about earlier gatherings and these have brought back many happy memories. I have included in this edition photographs of our International Gathering in 2010 when the Clan Moffat Society was celebrating its tenth anniversary. This year's cancelled International Gathering coincided with our 20th anniversary. I have also included a message from John Moffett, Editor of Moffatana, the American publication where he recalls his memories of the Homecoming event at Stirling in 2014, along with some photographs of that event. I am looking forward to a time when we can meet at gatherings again.

This has been the first time in ten years that I have not been able to send a publication to members. We are planning to produce another edition of Moffatania later in the autumn which will include tributes to George Moffat and an article by Margaret Anderson, Madam Jean's sister, about their father, the late Major Francis Moffat of that ilk

In the meantime we have decided to produce this Autumn Newsletter so that we can keep in touch with members. I hope you find it helpful and enjoyable.

Jim Moffat
Editor Moffatania
August 2020

Letter from Clan Chief

Dear Members,

What a time we have had in the last four months. I do hope you have all come through unscathed from Coronavirus. We all have and fortunately our village has been virtually untouched. Most of the family were able to work from home and home school which proved hard. I only wish I had been able to help but of course we were not allowed near them for so long. We were so grateful to have a dog to be able to get out and walk and the weather was on our side. The garden looks tidier than it has for a while too!

Not only have we had to deal with Covid 19 but we have discovered that our membership has been declining over several years and we have had to take drastic action to revive the situation. I have taken a much more hands on approach and instigated a Membership Action Plan. The Committee has been working very hard to rescue our membership. We are going to make everything more up to date and go digital where we can. The website has been updated and we are going to have a Facebook page just for the UK. This is your Clan Association and we want you to be proactive and tell us if you have any ideas to make it more enjoyable for you. As we had no Chairperson, Alison Parfitt, our Secretary, has taken up the position of Acting Chair and I am so grateful to her for all the hard work she has put in to get the membership and accounts up to date. I should also like to thank the other members of the Committee for their continued commitment and hard work.

We were sad to have to cancel our Gathering this year with the Americans coming over. I don't know when they will come next as they are still badly affected. We had so many great events planned and were looking forward to hosting them.

I would just like to end with a sad note. I was deeply shocked and saddened to hear that our Chairman, George Moffat had died back in December.

He had given us great service as Chairman twice and was a loyal member of the Clan. He and I had a lot in common as we have both suffered from Crohns Disease, he more so than me. Robin and I send our deepest condolences to Pam and her family. I know there will be a full obituary in Moffatalia when it is next published.

Spero Meliora – that motto has never been more apt than now!

Jean Moffat of that Ilk



It is with great sadness that our treasurer, Bunty Davies, has resigned from the Committee. Bunty has worked tirelessly for the Clan Association as Secretary and Treasurer, both in organising our annual AGM's and also when the Americans came for a Gathering she organised all the events.

I wish her well in the future.

Jean Moffat of that Ilk



CLAN MOFFAT UK ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE OFFICERS

CLAN CHIEF: MADAM JEAN MOFFAT of that Ilk

Acting Chair: Alison Parfitt alisonparfitt@gmail.com

Acting Secretary / Publicity Officer: Catherine Brown
cabrown24@hotmail.com

Clan Piper & Editor of Moffatalia: James Moffat
clanmoffatpiper@me.com

Genealogist: Colin Moffat: colinmoffat@virginmedia.net

Acting Treasurer: Rex Parfitt rexpalfitt@gmail.com

Membership: The whole Committee is presently working as a team on Membership matters, but if you have any queries please contact either Catherine Brown: cabrown24@hotmail.com or Alison Parfitt: alisonparfitt@gmail.com who are the main contacts at present.

We are also grateful for support we have received from current and former Committee Members and Clan Consorts.

Clan Moffat website: www.clanmoffat.info

Report from Alison Parfitt, Acting Chair

'BRINGING YOU UP TO DATE'

Coronavirus and the Cancellation of the 'Homecoming - International Gathering 2020'

Our 2020 Gathering was going to be a very special time. We were all looking forward to the planned events this July in Moffat for the International Gathering, and it would have been an excellent 'turn out' of members here in the UK and overseas. The Town of Moffat and our various 'hosts' were very much looking forward to welcoming us.

It was with great sadness we had to cancel all of our arrangements and disappoint our hosts, and of course members here in the UK and overseas. Coronavirus as you know very quickly changed everything for us. However on a positive note we are hoping that for 2021 we can make the gathering a special time for Clan Members – we will be glad to be meeting one another again and able to celebrate without the restrictions we have become used to this year.

Culture Change & Communication

The long and tedious lockdown restrictions did however give us an opportunity to relook at and reflect on everything the Clan has been doing. Ideas were forthcoming from members as well as from Committee members. There was a clear desire to see some changes.

Our Clan Chief became fully involved and it gave Madam Jean the opportunity to introduce some changes herself, not only in the way we operate as a Committee but in our processes and engagement and communication with members as well. The Membership Action Plan which Jean established is guiding us and helping us in implementing the necessary changes both members and the members of the Committee felt was needed. It is important that the future is very much 'Membership led'. We are taking every opportunity in our contacts with members to seek their views in order that we can improve our communications with you and engage more effectively with you.

Lots to achieve in the months to come. The Committee members, are already working more closely together as a team, sharing workloads, information, and ideas, as well as looking outwards to others for support, so that we can safeguard the future of the Clan.

Website: We are working with Helen our Website Manager to identify ways we can utilise the website more effectively for our members. We will be loading more information onto it, photos, relevant articles, videos, updates, news, forthcoming events etc.

We have already had feedback from some of our members on what they feel would be appropriate to see on the Website and we would welcome any more ideas from members on what they would like to see on the website. Don't forget that you may also have a role here to input some stories or information. Please contact Catherine Brown our Acting Secretary and Publicity Officer with any relevant information on: cabrown24@hotmail.com

Facebook:

Our Clan Chief has been very keen for us to set up a Facebook page for Clan Moffat UK. The US Clan have found this a worthwhile route, both in encouraging membership and also to spread the word about the Clan's existence. This looks very promising for us, and I am sure we can reach more Moffats not only in the UK but across the world. Watch this space!

Don't Forget!

This is your Clan and you should feel free to share your ideas and suggestions for the future development of the Clan (whatever they may be). We are always looking for your input by sharing your stories whether it is about your family, a holiday experience, career, good news, hobby, project you are involved in, or new skill acquired – short or long! Please send these to Jim Moffat our Editor and Clan Piper clanmoffatpiper@me.com

Look Out For:

[New Clan Constitution](#)

[New Clan Data Protection Policy & Procedure](#)

[New Membership Packs](#)

[New Simplified Forms/Documentation](#)

[New DVD History of the Moffat Clan](#)

Future Meetings/Communications

We will keep you informed of any more future changes as these are planned. Our plan is to monitor the Coronavirus situation over the autumn and then make a decision on any future face to face meetings. We had plans for greater access and involvement by members by such means as regional meetings, and this direct contact is very important to us, but measures required to combat Covid-19 have delayed the introduction of these. A friendly face is how we need to be, and this Newsletter will be followed by our Moffatalia journal in the Autumn.

Alison Parfitt

Acting Chair

Welcome

-To New Members

Robin Gates

Barry White

Rex Parfitt

David Brown

Michael Grady

Leslie Grady

AND welcome back to all those who have 'Rejoined'!

Where are you?

Planning to move or change your e-mail address, address, or phone number?

Do let us know in order to ensure that you are able to continue to receive Moffatalia and our regular Newsletter, together with information about future events that we are planning.

We have lost track of members in the past who have not advised us of these changes - don't let it be you!

CONTACT Catherine : cabrown24@hotmail.com or

Alison: alisonparfitt@gmail.com



Message from America

Soon after the Homecoming in June 2014 I received this message from John Moffett, Editor of Moffatana, the American Clan Society publication.

Greetings All...

We made it back to Kentucky in USA and brought with us many memories from our Scotland Trip. We had a great time visiting Caerlaverock and Hermitage Castles. We were able to hike along a portion of Hadrian's Wall at Twice Brewed and hiked up to Loch Skeen atop of the Grey Mare's Tail Waterfall. We toured Glenturret Distillery at the Famous Grouse Distillery near Crieff, we rented a Flat in Moffat. We toured both Edinburgh and Stirling Castles. Besides all that we thoroughly enjoyed the evening with Chief Jean and our cousins from Scotland, Great Britain and USA. The dinner was excellent and the service couldn't have been better. Jim's piping set the mood for the whole event. Thanks to the organisers for the dinner and Jim thanks for the soothing and welcoming music. It's not every day or in this case evening to have the opportunity to walk in a parade from Stirling Castle down to the King's Knot. We were greeted warmly by the large crowds who lined the streets. That in itself was spectacular, but to be surrounded by pipes and drums just emphasised what a special time it was. Visiting with others at the Clan Moffat Tent on Saturday at Bannockburn Live Event was enjoyable and we witnessed firsthand the "liquid-sunshine" that sometimes changes plans, but we were prepared with ponchos and rain gear.

I want to personally thank everyone for the many different arrangements that were made to make our trip so worthwhile, enjoyable and memorable. I look forward to the opportunity to return.

Many thanks,

John

Unfortunately John was not able to attend our planned Homecoming this year due to Coronavirus restrictions, but we look forward to seeing our American cousins again soon. The following photos provide some indication of the events we all attended.



BANNOCKBURN 2014



The photos on these two pages were taken at Bannockburn in 2014, also an International Gathering held one year earlier because of Bannockburn celebrations which Clan members attended.

Photographs - Gordon Crammond





CLAN MOFFAT AT STIRLING 2014



‘Beattock for Moffat’ and the Best of R.B. Cunningham Graham

I am always pleased to get a recommendation regarding information on Moffat, and a friend who is a rail enthusiast, made a connection with my being in Clan Moffat and recommended the above author and his short stories, the first being a railway journey from London to Moffat.

This short story is about a ‘Moffat son’ living in London who was accompanied by his wife and brother who wanted to take him home at the end of his life. The train journey depicted reminded me of my first railway journey to Moffat and the various stations passed through, and scenery not too different after all these years.

A good advertisement for Moffat, the author talks about ‘the bonny hills’, and after ‘three days in Moffat you will be ‘earty as you ever were’. The author sadly has not had the recognition he should have had for his talent. He was held in high esteem by all his contemporary writers and greatly respected as Cunningham Graham had a way of ‘painting word pictures’.

He was a Politician, writer, journalist, and traveller (1852-1936). His family home was in Ardoch and Dumbarton. A fascinating man, a Liberal and then Leader of the Scottish Labour Party as well as its first President. A man who had a sense of justice and humanity – championing the causes of the poor and oppressed, with a high regard for freedom and a deep love for his fellow man. An extraordinary man!

Although now out of print, copies can be readily obtained from websites such as Abe Books.

Alison Parfitt

Pun Corner

Living with COVID-19 has proved difficult for all of us, some much more than others, and we have often been short of positive news.

Humour is a very personal thing, but in an attempt to bring a smile (perhaps we should have said ‘wince’!) to your face we include the following:

- I bought a new hedge trimmer today. I proudly showed it to my son, who said ‘That’s great Dad’. I said ‘It certainly is – it’s cutting hedge technology’!
- There were two pebbles on a beach. The first one said to the other ‘Are you married?’ The second pebble replied: ‘No – I’m shingle’.
- I saw a baguette at the Zoo. It was bread in captivity.

If you have any puns, poems, odes or indeed any contribution that you think might be appreciated by other members, these will be welcomed.

Please send items to our Editor Jim Moffat clanmoffatpiper@me.com

Rex Parfitt

Publicity for Clan Moffat UK

Since taking over the role of publicity officer I have been trying to find new ways of publicising the Clan to increase our membership.

I started out in September 2019 whilst attending Braemar Highland Games and placed an advert in a local eaterie called the Hungry Highlander hoping that a "Royal" Moffat might call in. Only local news was allowed to be placed on notice boards in the region.

Also in September we visited St Germain en Laye in France, twinned with Ayr, which was holding its first ever Highland Games complete with Pipe Bands from Paris. There are Scottish connections here as St Germain was Mary Queen of Scots childhood home and also later the exiled Jacobite Court. A copy of our ad is in the Hotel du Ville in St Germain. A copy will also go up in Ayr Library.

I sent a copy of the ad to a friend in New Zealand and it is up in Kaipoi and Rangiora Libraries just outside Christchurch. She said the local libraries were delighted to help and an announcement was made on the Kaipoi Residents Facebook Page. She also emailed the City Library in Christchurch. They responded by saying that they had passed on the ad to 18 libraries. We would welcome "kiwi" Moffats!

To date I am waiting for responses from the City Libraries in Melbourne Australia and Vancouver Canada and the Scottish Field publication. If the libraries only put up local news I will contact tourist offices in these areas. The Scots Magazine published our ad both in their May and June editions and said they would welcome any further information regarding the Clan which they would pass on to their advertising department for future publication. I will also place ads in local newspapers and welcome any suggestions that committee members might have.

As many Moffats originated in and around the East Coast of Scotland our Ads will be posted up in various libraries and museums e.g. Edinburgh, Musselburgh, Tranent, Haddington. Our American friends will be familiar I am sure with John Muir and when the John Muir Museum in Dunbar opens I intend to take one there and also visit the Musselburgh and Moffat Museums. This of course is dependent on the present Covid19 situation as all museums are closed until further notice.

I am hopeful that facebook will help boost our membership and am looking forward to welcoming new members to join our Clan in the future.

Catherine Brown

Publicity Officer

cabrown24@hotmail.com

Be part of our Virtual Clan Gathering!

"The team behind the hugely popular [History Scotland](#) website and magazine have revealed details of a brand new virtual festival which will take place from **28 August until 25 September** at [historyscotland.com](#)

The [Celebrate Scotland Virtual Festival](#) supports the country's gradual reopening and brings together Scottish history and heritage enthusiasts from around the world at a time when travel is not always possible.

The month-long online event will spotlight clans around the world, must-see visitor attractions in Scotland, and features a festival programme of videos, guides and expert articles.

[historyscotland.com](#) website is one of the most popular Scottish history resources in the world, and, together with the brand's large social media following, attracts an audience of over 130,000. The site features history guides, interviews, expert blogs, news, and even a podcast. The website is published by the team behind [History Scotland](#) magazine, written by a team of historians, curators, archaeologists and authors and enjoyed by thousands of readers around the world. Find out more at [www.historyscotland.com](#)"

This advert was brought to the Clan's attention by Hazel Crammond and we thought it would be a good idea to take part.

Clan members contributed stories, articles and experiences they have had whilst being members of the Clan at home or away and photos were produced of attending occasions such as having a Clan tent at Bannockburn in 2014 and being involved with and taking part in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2017.

Catherine Brown

Publicity Officer

cabrown24@hotmail.com

Deborah Moffat

While googling Scottish Poetry, I came across a lady called Deborah Moffatt.

Some of you may already have heard of her, I had not,
so I thought to include a potted history about her life.

Deborah Moffatt was born in Norwich, Vermont in 1953, graduated front University of Washington with a BA in Spanish and Communications, also graduated from Boston University in Communications.

She lived for a while in Latin America as a Journalist and in 1982 moved to North East Fife, Scotland.

Her Poetry has been published in English and Gaelic.

Her fiction published in Anthologies and has twice won the Wigtown Poetry Competition.

As a musician she plays traditional Irish/Scottish music on Flute, Fiddle, playing with dance bands and playing solo. Also plays Piano and Guitar, a lady with many talents.

To find out more about Deborah, go to:-

[www.deborahmoffatt.com](#).

Lesley White

Piping during Lockdown

Although naturally I was disappointed not to be able to play my pipes at the gathering this year and I have missed playing with other pipers in the bands I have been involved in, I have nevertheless had a number of positive experiences.

This time last year I had not long returned from a week in Glasgow for the Piping Live Festival and the World Pipe Band Championships on Glasgow Green. Although all the events were cancelled this year, Piping Live and The Piping Centre organised an online festival involving two solo competitions, a folk concert and three talks about piping. It was very enjoyable and informative.

I played outside my house at eight o'clock on ten Thursday evenings as part of the thank you to the NHS. After the ten weeks my neighbours asked if I could continue to play on Thursday evenings. I have done so every Thursday since apart from one evening when there was torrential rain. The pattern is that I play about eight tunes at my front door while the neighbours stand on the pavement by my front wall. Passers by sometimes stop to listen and recently a couple from a nearby street who heard me on their evening walk have joined the regulars. After the playing the neighbours chat for an hour or so. People feel that it has provided an opportunity for neighbours to spend time together and get to know each other better. It has helped my piping as I try to play something new each week so it gives me a focus for my practice. I am fortunate that my next door neighbours like pipes and don't mind that since Lockdown I practice in the house every day and not in a local church. There have been three occasions when I have



played my pipes as part of a national tribute. First there was VE Day when I played "When the Battle's O'er" outside my house. Pipers world wide were invited to play that tune at 3PM. The second was joining the national tribute on 12th June to the 51st Highland Division, the forgotten heroes of Dunkirk who stayed on after the evacuation to fight alongside the French. The tune played that day was "The Heroes of St Valery". The third occasion was when I took part in the national tribute on VJ Day. I played "When the Battle's O'er" at 6AM in a nearby churchyard where there are seventeen WW2 graves. It was quite misty that morning and very atmospheric. I also played again outside my house at 10.30 AM.



Much as I feel my piping has benefitted from these experiences, I am really looking forward to a time when I can return to some of the piping activities I have enjoyed before.

Jim Moffat, Clan Piper

Join the Clan.

We know you have already done this! However we do seek to promote the Clan and improve our communications and engagement with members. We would welcome any help you might be able to give. Clan members are scattered across the UK and internationally, and remaining relevant for example to those who may be unable to attend the Annual Gathering in Moffat is very important to us.

Whether you have joined the Clan as a result of investigating your family history or for any other reason the Committee would welcome any offers of support where the Clan could benefit from your skills and experience, or simply from your enthusiasm!

We know that if you live in Cornwall or Devon, Wales, or Sussex, London, Birmingham, Suffolk or Manchester or anywhere in between, Moffat can seem a long way away, particularly with the restrictions coronavirus has imposed. We are determined however to connect more effectively with our members, wherever they are and you could help us do this!

Contact Catherine: cabrown24@hotmail.com

or Alison alisonparfitt@gmail.com



Stop Press:

Clan Moffat UK is now on Facebook. You can use your own login if you are a member of Facebook and search for Clan Moffat UK and join. If you are not a member you will need to LOG ON to Facebook. When you find the Clan's site you will be asked to complete a couple of questions.

This photo was taken at our 2010 International Gathering and our 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the Clan. This year would have been our 20th Anniversary. We are standing in front of Moffat House Hotel which as you know is now being sold.



INTERNATIONAL GATHERING 2010



Piping the Clan through Moffat to the church service on the Sunday morning.

Coming soon!

A revised and updated range of Clan Moffat items will soon be available from the Clan Shop:

Cufflinks

Kilt pins

Lapel pins

Key fobs

Moffat crest badges

Moffat mini book

Spoons

Paperweights

Fridge magnets

Thimbles

Bookmarks

Moffat cards

Clan Moffat's History DVD



