

Outline Programme for the Clan Munro International Gathering 9, 10, 11 August 2019

**This is a very special Gathering built around the theme of commemorating the last time Clan Munro fought as a military unit on the evening of 10<sup>th</sup> June 1719 at the Battle of Glenshiel.**

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August.** We will be based at Dornie & District Community Hall

<http://www.dorniehall.org.uk> amongst the superb scenery of Kintail in Wester Ross, where our lunch will be served and where you can relax and enjoy your surroundings in between visits.

By coach we will visit the site of the battle in beautiful Glenshiel and an expert guide will explain the action and in particular that part played by Clan Munro.

We have arranged for groups to visit Eilean Donan Castle <http://www.eileandonancastle.com> the ancient stronghold of the Seaforth Mackenzies, Chiefs of the Clan, and looked after on their behalf by the hereditary keepers, Clan Macrae. In 1719 Eilean Donan acted as the Jacobites' headquarters, and on May 10<sup>th</sup> of that year the Spanish/Jacobite garrison was captured and the castle destroyed by three ships of the British Navy. For the next 200 years the castle lay a ruin until its restoration was completed by Lt. Colonel Gilstrap-Macrae in 1932. It is now probably one of the most iconic castle in Scotland.

In the evening we have arranged the rare privilege of a Civic Reception for Clan Munro in either Inverness or Dingwall.

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August.** Sees us return by coach to the heart of Mackenzie Country where we will be based in the magnificently restored Victorian Strathpeffer Pavilion where there will be musical entertainment laid on, and a running buffet lunch will be provided.

<https://www.highlifehighland.com/strathpefferpavilion> Built to serve as a social and entertainment centre for the many visitors who in the late C19th came to take the waters from Strathpeffer's sulphur springs, then the most northerly spa in Europe and a popular health resort. We have arranged for you to visit nearby Castle Leod <http://www.castleleod.org.uk> a tower house gem of the late 15<sup>th</sup> early 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries and home to the current 'Caberfeidh' (as the Chief of Clan Mackenzie is known), the Earl of Cromartie, a personal friend of our own Chief and whose father was a prisoner of war with Hector's father during 1940-45.

There is much to see and do in Strathpeffer, we probably will not have time to see everything but we may visit the Eagles Stone, said at one time to have marked the burial place of Munros killed in a nearby fight with the Mackenzies. It also features in one of the Prophecies of the C16/17th Brahan Seer <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofScotland/The-Brahan-Seer-the-Scottish-Nostradamus> whose second sight brought him both notoriety and ultimately death linked closely to the Munros of Foulis. The Seer is still spoken of in reverential tones throughout the Highlands today.

We will visit The Strathpeffer Highland Games taking place in the beautiful grounds of Castle Leod. A shuttle bus will be in attendance to help you make a visit to these highlights from our base at the Pavilion which will also be the venue for our evening meal. (This evening meal is intended to be less formal, (dress Highland daywear) than the banquets of the last couple of Gatherings but will be an excellent chance to get to know each other and we hope to have the Earl & Countess of Cromartie as our guests). Return by coach to Hotels/Drop Off

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August.** Morning free.

**12.00pm International Gathering - Open to the General Public**

By coach to Foulis Castle for a BBQ lunch, formal speeches, and an afternoon full of a selection of entertainment from re-enactments, whisky nosing & tasting, pipe band, archaeology, DNA update, puppets, story telling, folk musicians, singing, falconry/bird display, spinning demonstration etc. Return by coach to Hotels/Drop off.

**NB.** For budgeting purposes we estimate the weekend will cost an absolute maximum of £220/head, this will include transport by coach to and from designated Drop off points but will not include accommodation and meals outwith those mentioned the programme. It will be up to individuals and groups to arrange these for themselves.

As the details become clearer we will update the entry on the website and arrange ticket purchase in the meantime get your kilts packed and flights booked, we look forward to welcoming you to what should be a truly memorable Gathering.