



THE DURIE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Number 7 Spring 2014

Dear Fellow Member,

All the arrangements are now in place for the first **Durie Gathering** at the end of June. This is not the occasion to say more about it except to welcome in advance those who are coming. It promises to be both fascinating and fun. Let us hope the weather is kind to us! We will devote a special Newsletter to it later in the Summer to let you know how it went.

DFA AGM.

The AGM was held on Friday 22 April at Heather Durie Ewart's Studio in Chelsea, London on Friday 25th April. Easter week is clearly not a good time as attendance was lower than in recent years so we will avoid that week in future. Nevertheless all the necessary business was conducted. Our finances are in good shape and membership continues to increase steadily. We now have 67 members from 11 countries. For those interested my Chairman's Report for 2013 can be found on the website. I am pleased to say that I was privileged to be re-elected Chairman but I have said that due to other commitments this will be my last year as Chairman.

Scottish Heraldry

The AGM was followed by a fascinating illustrated presentation from Dr Bruce Durie, Shenachie to the Chief, on heraldry – especially Scottish and with reference to Durie Arms. Bruce reminded us that those of us who have Arms can use our Arms, but that there is no such thing as Family Arms – we can of course all use the Chief's crest in the form shown at the top of this Newsletter. I hope that, e'er long, Bruce will dilate further on all this in an article on the DFA website.

His presentation did give rise to a fascinating discussion on crests. Our Treasurer, Alistair Durie, has Arms, which like his Father's, Sir Alec Durie, were granted by the English College of Arms, and have as crest a dove holding an olive branch (non-heraldic language) which appear originally in some unofficial 19th and early 20th Century books on arms. It turns out that a number of my Durie relations also use a similar crest on signet rings etc. The Chief's crest, and Bruce's, both matriculated in Scotland by the Lord Lyon, consist of a Crescent Or (a gold crescent) as at the head of this Newsletter whereas mine, for personal reasons, is the castle and key

symbol of Gibraltar. If any of this strikes a chord with you, have a look at the Forum on the DFA website where I have initiated a debate – and add your own twopennyworth for good measure!

Tartan Week, USA

Bruce also had a busy time in America in April and May, helping out with various Tartan Week activities. He gave two lectures at the 25th Charles Bascombe Shaw Memorial Scottish Heritage Weekend, St. Andrews University, Laurinburg, North Carolina, plus talks at other places. The visit culminated with a presentation at the Tartan Day symposium in the U.S. Capitol Building, Washington DC.

Bruce will return to the USA for the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and Clan Caucus, in July 2014. If you are attending the Games do, please, make contact and arrange to meet Bruce.

Durie tartan etc

You will be pleased to hear that thanks to sterling work by our Secretary, Christian Dewar Durie, great progress is now being made on the weaving and supply of Durie tartan – more detailed information on which you will have received by e-mail. There are also more Durie items coming on stream from ScotClans about which we will keep you informed and put on the website under the 'Merchandise' tab. Those in Australia have also been informed of easier access to Durie whisky.

Membership

As reported above, membership continues to grow but we still believe that we have yet to tap even a majority, let alone, all potential members. The more members we have, the more we will all benefit from the exchange of information, family histories etc and be able to make those extra connections with other Duries which could prove so valuable. So please continue to encourage other Duries known to you to join.

Yours aye,

Sir David Durie, KCMG,
Chairman



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