

HIGHLIGHTS – May 5, 2008

1. Village of Taynuilt
2. Oban
3. Dunbeg, Dunstaffnage Castle, Connel and the Falls of Lora
4. Ardchattan Priory on Loch Etive and Benderloch
5. First MacIntyre World Invitational Golf Tournament
6. Famous M*Int*res
7. Fly Fishing / Fly Casting Tournament
8. Iona
9. Lismore

HIGHLIGHT #8 - IONA

This tiny island, located one mile west of Mull, is renowned as an ancient and modern spiritual center. In 563 AD St Columba founded a monastery there which introduced Christianity into Britain. Though only 3.5 by 1 mile wide, Iona remains a center for learning, worship and pilgrimage. Many ancient Scottish, Norwegian and Irish Kings are buried there. Only 3 of its 360 stunning carved Celtic crosses survive.

CalMac offers a Day Sail excursion to Iona which begins with a ferry ride from Oban to Craignure on Mull, a bus ride across Mull to Fionnphort to connect with another ferry which will take you to Iona. Explore Iona's abbey, graveyard, garden, shoppes, several lovely beaches and serenity.

HIGHLIGHT #9. LISMORE

Some Gathering attendees can trace their ancestry to nearby Lismore, a 10 mile by 1 mile wide island in Loch Linnhe. Like Iona, Lismore was the site of an ancient settlement and early Christian life in Scotland. Its MacIntyre residents survived on farming especially from 1740 until the Clearances around 1800 when they were forced to leave for new lands and opportunity.

Contact Sandy at sandymif@aol.com for more information about visiting Lismore.

#1 – VILLAGE OF TAYNUILT

We are fortunate to have as our home bases in 2008 the excellent village of Taynuilt and the “big” port town of Oban. Greater Taynuilt, including the suburbs has 800 souls. In town there are two churches, a post office, a police station, public school, bus and train stops, historical sites & monuments, a hotel, pub, grocery store, general store, antique shop, butcher, car repair, a well-known tea shop, a medical office, B&Bs, self-catering, golf course and village hall.

In the “suburbs” of Taynuilt there is a service station, camping/caravan site, another hotel, many B&Bs and self-caterings, fishery, gardens, florist, kennel, computer service and similar services.

It will be the geographical center of our Gathering as well as the location of many events. For that reason, and the fact that there is one narrow main street, I’m asking that you avoid using your car within Taynuilt unless absolutely necessary e.g., your accommodation is there or you’re going all the way through town to the Loch Etive pier. Otherwise, for most people the distances are short and walking is the norm. I’ll try to find a car park along the main route and provide a shuttle bus service.

#2 - OBAN

The name Oban derives from the Gaelic word “ob”, meaning bay and “an” meaning little or the “little bay”. Archeologists have discovered evidence of Mesolithic (Stone Age) man from about 6500 BC. Facing west from Oban is Kerrera one of the Inner Hebrides Islands shelters Oban from the Atlantic the Firth of Lorne. Further on are the Islands of Mull and Iona and then the Atlantic Ocean. Somerled’s son Dugal established Clan MacDougall at Oban in the mid 1100s at the same time that Clan MacIntyre was established. Dugal’s grandson, Ewan, 3rd MacDougall chief built Dunollie Castle in the 1200s. At the beginning of the 1800s, Oban was still a small fishing village of 586 people and was the mainland port for the people living in the Inner and Outer Hebrides. It became a tourist center after a middle class developed and were able to afford to travel and both steamboats and later, trains, made travel convenient. The population rose to 1,398 in 1841 and then spurted when the artists discovered the Highlands and inadvertently advertised it in their works of art. These included Sir Walter Scott, Felix Mendelssohn, J. M. W. Turner, William and Dorothy Wordsworth. The crowning glory for tourism was the visit of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1847 and Oban became part of ‘The Royal Route’. The railway arrived in 1880 making Oban a required stop for anyone on their way north or west to the Highlands and Islands. Today it is the unofficial capitol of Lorne, crowned by McCaig’s Tower (Folly) which will be described in a later Highlight. Oban’s population today is 12,000, which swells to 25,000 at the height of the summer tourist season. It is still a transport hub for those traveling to the Highlands and Islands but the local fishing industry is almost gone due to over fishing by large foreign commercial boats. The fine glass blowing factory has closed but the whiskey distillery is still in operation and there are many other sights.

#3 – DUNBEG, DUNSTAFFNAGE CASTLE, CONNEL, AND THE FALLS OF LORA

Going north on A85 from Oban you will reach Dunbeg on the left. ‘Dun’ means fort and ‘beg’ means small or little, i.e., little fort. It was where the Scots first arrived on the mainland in the fourth century from their kingdom, Riada, in the north of Ireland and where St. Columba brought for safekeeping the Stone of Destiny, the Lia Fail, not yet called the Stone of Scone. Much later, in the 1200s, the MacDougalls built the Dunstaffnage Castle and Chapel that can be seen today. This castle looks out on the Firth of Lorn and guards the entrance to Loch Etive. It was used as a temporary prison for Flora MacDonald who was instrumental in achieving Bonnie Prince Charlie’s escape from Scotland after the debacle at Culloden. The Castle has been beautifully restored by Historic Scotland and is one of the stops on our Tour of MacIntyre Country.

A short distance further on A85 is the town of Connel, halfway between Oban and Taynuilt. It is on the southern shore of the entrance to Loch Etive at the Falls of Lora. Until 1903 the only way to cross the entrance to Loch Etive was a ferry from Connel to North Connel on the Benderloch peninsula. In that year the cantilever railway bridge was completed but train service stopped in 1966 and the bridge was converted to a one-way alternating motor vehicle road. Ships can only enter Loch Etive when the tide is in. When the tide is out, the rocks below the surface of the water are exposed. As the tide comes back in it creates a tidal falls over the rocks, hence the name, Falls of Lora. Some have already booked their lodgings at the Falls of Lora Hotel. This hotel was the lodgings for our family, when in 1976 we made a bicentennial visit to Glen Noe where we made a movie and started the cairn which you will be able to see at the Gathering on Sunday or on a boat ride on Loch Etive. For the movie, my father borrowed a sword that was used as decoration over a door in the Falls of Lora hotel. The sword belonged to Ian Hamilton, one of the co-conspirators who on Christmas Eve 1950 stole the Stone of Scone from under King Edward’s throne at Westminster Abbey. On April 11, 1951 they allowed it to be recovered by the authorities at the Arbroath Abbey where it was covered by a saltire, the Scottish flag (blue background with the white Cross of St. Andrew). It was the Arbroath Declaration of Scottish Independence from England in 1320 that predates the U.S. Declaration of Independence from England by 350 years. The famous quote from the Declaration is:

“...for, as long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours that we are fighting, but for freedom – for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself...”

4 – ARDCHATTAN PRIORY ON LOCH ETIVE, BENDERLOCH

Ardchattan Priory is on the Benderloch peninsula which you reach by crossing the Connel Bridge going north. Benderloch means between two lochs, Loch Etive and Loch Linnhe. The Ardchattan Priory was founded in 1230 by Sir Duncan MacDougal, Lord of Lorn. The monks were from the Valliscaulian Order in Burgundy and came under the Benedictine Rule from 1454 until the Scottish Reformation. The monks were silent, ate no meat, wore hair shirts and slept without a mattress with their clothes and shoes on. Many generations of MacDougalls are buried there. The last Scottish Parliament where Gaelic was spoken met at the Priory in 13?? and was presided over by King Robert the Bruce.

After 1580, the Priory was no longer used by the Order and became a dwelling for Alexander Campbell. It has always been a burial site for the Campbells of Ardchattan and of Lochnell and other families in the area, as late as 1906. Duncan (I) of Glenoe and his wife, Mary Campbell of Barcaldine are buried there, she in 1695 and he c. 1722. You will see their grave stone when you visit the Priory. Colin Campbell of Glenure, the "Red Fox" in Robert Louis Stevenson's novel, *Kidnapped*, was buried in an unmarked grave after being ambushed and killed by unknown assassins in 1752.

Use of the Priory for worship ended in 1731. The burial sites came under the guardianship of the Government in 1954 and are now under the care of Historic Scotland. The grounds contain a large garden open to the public from which you can see Loch Etive and Ben Cruachan. The garden has a wide variety of flowers, including rhododendrons.

Parts of the present dwelling date from 1230 and rebuilt in the 1400s and added to in the 1850s. The present owner is Sarah Troughton, a member of the Preston-Campbell family. She has generously offered to have our tour stop at the burial site and gardens.

5 – First MacIntyre World Invitational Golf Tournament

Since Taynuilt has a 9-hole, honor system golf course I decided to have a golf tournament in conjunction with the Gathering. Over 45 applicants have indicated they want to play. It isn't finalized because there were a number of problems to solve. For example, what will they use for clubs? Can we accommodate everyone who wants to play? What about large differences in skill?

To those who have said they want to play, I want to make **one thing perfectly clear**, this will not be a normal competitive golf tournament with normal playing rules. It is specifically designed for this event to meet the conditions on the course and the players who are participating and most importantly, to have fun. We don't want people to bring golf clubs from all over the world just to play in this tournament. We will somehow procure clubs from a source in Scotland (hopefully loaned by a manufacturer or distributor) or we will have to ask MacIntyres in the UK, members of the Taynuilt golf club and others in the Oban area to loan some clubs. I know there must be some clubs in garages and basements that have been saved for just this occasion. To make this feasible, we will be limiting the number of clubs to a putter plus the following possibilities: 3 and 7, or 3 and 5, or 3 and 6, or 3, 5 and 7. They will be shared whenever possible. This will minimize time spent selecting a club and as much as possible avoid balls leaving the course.

It will be a SHOTGUN start with a group starting at each hole. It will be BEST BALL, where all player hits from the same location starting at the Tee and then everyone plays the next shot from the location of the "best ball" in that group. The intent is: to share clubs, keep the play going smoothly, avoid looking for balls, do a little damage to the course as possible, keep playing time to a minimum, and allow as many to play as possible. Tees will be allowed on the fairways to ensure that most players will at least hit the ball most of the time and to save the fairways. We will allow a certain number of Mulligans. We will have clubs for left-handed players and for both short and tall players. We will devise a system of awards that will ensure everyone will receive at least one prize (participation?), some will receive many prizes, and a few will get first prizes from among a large number of categories according to age and prior skill. The range of player's age and skill is already known to be immense. We hope the good players will be tolerant of the rest of us and play in the spirit of MacIntyre kinship. At the end of play, all can revel in the fact that they played in the first tournament of its kind and all the pros, including Tiger, weren't eligible (does anyone know a pro with the name MacIntyre or Wright?). We briefly considered having MacIntyres compete against the best from Taynuilt but **scotched** that idea when the requests to play came rolling in, not to mention the slim chance that a MacIntyre might not win. We're considering having monogrammed balls and tees for mementos.

#6 – Famous M*Int*res

Late 1700s and early 1800s: Samuel McIntire and James MacIntyre

This will be an ongoing site for brief items on Famous M*Int*res. Feel free to contribute. This update highlights Samuel McIntire in Salem, Massachusetts and James MacIntyre in Burslem, England

Samuel McIntire

Read this article and for much more go to:

<http://www.pem.org/mcintire/contents.php>

and

www.WSJ.com/OnlineToday

James Macintyre & Co Ltd.

James Macintyre, potter in Burslem, North Staffordshire, England, review these two web sites.

<http://www.awco.org/Moorcroft/index.htm>

<http://www.thepotteries.org/mark/m/macintyre.html>

#7 FLY FISHING AND FLY CASTING TOURNAMENT

The Inverawe Fisheries and Fly Fishing Country Park is only a short walking distance from Taynult across the pedestrian bridge over the River Awe. We have arranged for a Fly Casting Tournament on the afternoon of the first day of the Gathering, Thursday, 17th July, 2008. Those who have never fished, let alone tried fly fishing, are welcomed to compete and will definitely win a prize for participating, if nothing else. Fishing is replete with stories of how the novice fishman caught a fish while the experienced fishermen went empty handed..

You will receive instruction in the art of fly casting from experienced teachers and have sufficient time to practice before the competition. There will be all sorts of prizes based on accuracy, distance, style, and non-fishing factors such as age, dress, willingness to try, perseverance through difficulty (Per Ardua) and other factors that may be determined on the spot to be sure you will get a prize e.g. caught the most trees. The following information about fly fishing and fly casting come from Wikipedia.com. Don't be overwhelmed by the detail and skill involved. The information is only meant to help you get started with a reasonable level of knowledge so as not to be embarrassed. The ancient art of fly fishing was probably much more important than golf to our MacIntyre ancestors and much older than either golf or darts. Now, about fly fishing.

Fly fishing is a distinct and ancient angling method, most renowned as a method for catching trout and salmon

In fly fishing, fish are caught by using artificial flies that are cast with a fly rod and a fly line. The fly line (today, almost always coated with plastic) is heavy enough to send the fly to the target. Artificial flies can vary dramatically in all morphological characteristics (size, weight, colour, etc.).

Artificial flies are created by tying hair, fur, feathers, or other materials, both natural and synthetic, onto a hook with thread. The first flies were tied with natural materials, but synthetic materials are now extremely popular and prevalent. The flies are tied in sizes, colours and patterns to match local terrestrial and aquatic insects, baitfish, or other prey attractive to the target fish species.

In broadest terms, flies are categorized as either imitative or attractive. Imitative flies resemble a natural food items. Attractive flies trigger instinctive strikes by employing a range of characteristics that do not necessarily mimic prey items. Flies can be fished floating on the surface (dry flies), partially submerged (emergers), or below the surface (nymphs, streamers, and wet flies.) A dry fly is typically thought to represent an insect landing on, or emerging from, the water's surface as might a grasshopper, dragonfly, mayfly, stonefly or caddisfly. Other surface flies include poppers and hair bugs that might resemble mice, frogs, etc. Sub-surface flies are designed to resemble a wide variety of prey including aquatic insect larvae, nymphs and pupae, baitfish, crayfish, leeches, worms, etc. Wet flies, known as streamers, are generally thought to imitate minnows or leeches.

The fly angler uses a rod longer and lighter than those used for cast and spin fishing. Fly rods can be as short as 2 m (6 ft) long in freshwater fishing and up to 4.5 m (15 ft) long for two-handed fishing for salmon or steelhead. The average rod for fresh and salt water is around 9 feet in length and weighs from 3 –5 ounces, though a recent trend has been to lighter, shorter rods for fishing smaller streams.

Unlike other casting methods, fly fishing can be thought of as a method of casting *line* rather than lure. Non-flyfishing methods rely on a lure's weight to pull line from the reel during the forward motion of a cast. By design, a fly is too light to be cast, and thus simply follows the unfurling of a properly casted fly line, which is heavier and more *castable* than lines used in other types of fishing. The angler normally holds the flyrod in the dominant hand and manipulates the line with the other close to the reel, pulling line out in small increments as the energy in the line, generated from backward and forward motions, increases. The mechanics of proper rod movement are commonly described as "10 to 2", meaning that the rod's movement on the forward cast is arrested at the 10 o'clock position (12 o'clock is rod straight up, 9 o'clock flat forward, 3 o'clock flat backwards) and the backcast at 2 o'clock. In proper casting, *loops* of line unfurl completely before the angler throws his rod in opposite direction. The effect resembles sending a wave along a garden hose to remove a kink. Newer casting techniques promote minimal wrist movement, a very open stance and movement of the arm parallel to the ground, discouraging the rigid boundaries of the 10 to 2 technique. Proper casting, regardless of technique, requires pauses in both directions (forward and backward) to allow the entirety of the line to unfurl parallel to the water's surface. As additional line length is desired for farther casts, the angler allows momentum generated by the forward and backcasting to carry slack line previously pulled free from the reel to glide forward through the non-dominant hand. Flyline speed and orientation in three-dimensional space, in both the forward and back cast, yield a tighter or looser unfurling of the "loop" of line. As rhythm and line control improve, longer and more accurate casts can be achieved. Poor casts typically lead to tangled lines that pile up on the water's surface in front of the angler as he attempts to allow the fly come to rest.

Modern fly fishing is normally said to have originated on the fast, rocky rivers of Scotland and northern England. Other than a few fragmented references, little was written on fly fishing until *The Treatyse on Fysshynge with an Angle* was published (1496). The first detailed writing about the sport comes in two chapters of Izaak Walton's *Compleat Angler*, which were actually written by his friend Charles Cotton.