

From Clan MacLeod Society Newsletter December 2008

ASSOCIATED CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETIES (ACMS) NEWS

Australia has a new Clan MacLeod Coordinator . Peter MacLeod, President of CMS NSW steps into the role in which he and Wendy will be more able to represent Australia at International Clan Gatherings. Peter is a quiet man with considerable knowledge of things , travel and Clan genealogy. They have shown strong committment to the clan. and their associations with international Clansmen. He produces and excellent newsletter to his home Society.

The appointment follows the retirement of Rob from the position due to a poor run of health issues. He and Jeanette are hitting the road while able, and we wish happy and safe travelling, as they make good for having spent so much time laid up. □

SCOTTISH HERITAGE GRANTS ABOUND.

Dunvegan, Lewis and Raasay, all get pieces of the pie.

MINISTER ANNOUNCES £594,000 BOOST FOR DUNVEGAN CASTLE

Culture Minister Linda Fabiani announced that Dunvegan Castle has been awarded funding of up to £594,188 in latest round of Historic Scotland grants.

The award will allow a three-year programme of work to repair and renew the lead roof coverings and guttering to prevent further water damage.

Ms Fabiani said: "Dunvegan Castle is one of the most recognised and historic castles in Scotland - both at home and abroad. It has been an important seat of political and cultural power throughout its history and it is fitting that, as we move closer to the Year of Homecoming, we invest in its future to celebrate its past."

The castle is one of six projects to share more than £1.6 million in this round of Historic Scotland's Building Repair Grants.

Ms Fabiani said: "By giving grants to these outstanding historic buildings we are making sure that they will continue to be used. They will provide facilities for businesses and community groups alongside opportunities for traditional skills training and jobs.

"By investing in and enhancing our heritage we preserve the identity, history and landscapes of Scotland's villages, towns and cities."

Hugh MacLeod of MacLeod said: "Dunvegan Castle is an iconic building which constitutes an important part of Scotland's built heritage. It is a key driver of economic growth on the Isle of Skye, acting as a magnet for over one hundred thousand visitors every year. Although this is the first stage of a long process that will take many years to accomplish, I am very grateful to Historic Scotland for supporting my aim of securing this vital historic asset for future generations to enjoy."

In his letter to the Clan in the recent Newsletter, Chief Torquil Donald Macleod of the Lewes reveals this great news.



The site for the application for this grant is St. Columba's Church at Aignish, near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. It is the burial site for the Chiefs of MacLeods of Lewis. The Church was listed as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a category A listed building, the highest designation for an historic building in UK.

In the past there was confusion over ownership and it thwarted the restoration, but in 2000 The Uidh Church Trust was established with clear restoration objectives. Approval was granted by Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The applied-for project cost is estimated at £610,000, and includes, erosion mitigation, roofing, security,



and interpretive signs. The image is of how it may look once completed.



Slab & effigy of Roderick VII of The Lewes, 1498

Meanwhile over on the Isle Of Raasay....

Restoration of the wonderful Raasay House continues, by the Raasay House Community Company (of which John Macleod 18th Raasay is a Patron). It had been owned by several landlords since the MacLeods of

Raasay departed for South Australia, the latest use was as an Outdoor Centre, but little was being invested in it and deterioration had accelerated. £4 million has been earmarked for diverse projects including the major restoration of Raasay House.