

**Midges (the only truly dangerous animal on Skye)**

Welcome to the real top of the food chain.

Midges are tiny, aggressive biting insects that seem to be unbothered by most forms of bug repellent. If you are prone to allergic reactions to insect bites, then bring along your antihistamine medication. Over-the-counter products that seem to work include:

- Avon’s “Skin So Soft” and its retail clones (from the USA and Canada),
- Rid (from Australia), and
- “Bite Free” and “Bite Soother”, natural and effective Scottish-made products for dealing with the midges. The North Room Group will be selling these products daily at the Village Hall information desk.

**In the Dunvegan area**

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

- Police and fire**
- The Emergency number for Ambulance, Police and Fire in the UK is 999.
  - 999 can be dialed from a mobile phone or telephone booth at no charge.

- Medical and dental emergencies**
- Regardless of your nationality or your home health care program, if you need ambulatory health care or advice, you can call the National Health Service at 08454 242424.

**CONVENIENCE INFORMATION**

- Banking**
- There are two “big” banks in the square in Portree: Halifax Bank of Scotland and Royal Bank of Scotland. Both banks have 24 hour ATM machines.
  - In Dunvegan, cash withdrawals can be made from the Link ATM at Fasgadh (food store) or the Royal Bank of Scotland’s mobile banking unit, which will be at Fasgadh’s between about 13.30 – 14.30 on Tuesday and 12.00 – 13.00 on Thursday.
- Taxis**
- Dunvegan Taxis 01470 521560 (within the Village).
- Internet**
- At the time this leaflet was written, it looked like we would have Internet access at the Village Hall. If this doesn’t work out, the Clan Information Point will have a list of alternative sites.
- Mobile phone top-ups**
- Locations where mobile phone top-up cards can be purchased will also be posted at the Village Hall.
  - Mobile phone top-ups (without cards) can also be done at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Portree.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DURING THE MACLEOD PARLIAMENT**

- Registration and event sign-ups in Dunvegan are open in the Village Hall from 12.00 to 18.00 on Saturday 29 July, and from 16.00 to 18.00 on Sunday 30 July.
- During our time on Skye, an Information Point will be staffed by NRG at the Dunvegan Village Hall at the following times: during registration, and from 9AM until noon Monday 25 July through Saturday 05 August. You may also call the Information Point at +44 (0)777 450-5038 during these hours.
- All event reservations or cancellations must be made at Parliament registration or else through the Information Point.
- A lost and found will be maintained at the Information Point in the Village Hall. Articles left unclaimed after Saturday 05 August will be recycled or else donated to charity.



**The 15<sup>th</sup> Clan MacLeod Jubilee Parliament**

Lewis ☞ Harris ☞ Skye ☞ Raasay  
 26 July ~ 5 August 2006

**Parliamentarian Etiquette and Cultural Guide**

**Welcome!**

Along with other MacLeod clansfolk, you are about to begin a fascinating adventure in the Scottish islands. You will have an opportunity to explore your heritage, visit places of renowned natural beauty, and greet both old and new friends.

Parliament is an event run by volunteers -- by MacLeods for MacLeods. There is a great deal of preparation and many daily chores required to make it run smoothly. We are constantly learning how to do new things, and how to do old things better. Parliament also involves many local businesses and members of the island communities. In some cases, the influx of so many Parliamentarians will stress these businesses and other local resources. You can be sure that during Parliament there will always be one or two memorable situations where an extra bit of patience and humor will help get us through the day.

Cooperation, consideration, and care for each other can only enhance the time we spend together. This booklet contains information that will help facilitate an enjoyable experience for everyone.

### **Name tags**

Remember to wear your name tag at all times. Although you may be well-known at home or within your national Clan Society, there are many people around the world who have not had the pleasure of meeting you yet.

### **Transportation to and from events - please use the buses!**

Buses or motor coaches are provided for transportation to and from several major Parliament events. There are serious practical reasons for this, as Skye's narrow roads cannot accommodate dozens of private automobiles that may be carrying only one or two people. Parking is also limited, and an excess of private cars can impair the movement of fire and medical emergency vehicles. Please, plan to take the bus whenever possible.

### **Automobile etiquette**

Our parliament "Travel Tips" leaflet includes information about "**Driving in Scotland and around Skye**". If you are new to driving in the UK, you may want to look at that leaflet. It also includes references to other helpful driving resources.

From an "etiquette" point of view, it is important to remember that during Parliament we are guests of the community of Dunvegan and of Skye. Parking policies, speed limits, and road safety markings reflect the experiences of residents and tourists over many years. We would like the swarm of MacLeods to be remembered for our consideration and courtesy.

Scotland is not as "car oriented" a society as you may find in other parts of the world, and cars are a necessity rather than a "given" part of the culture. Parking is limited, roads are narrow (and on Skye, roads are often only one lane wide), road surfaces are maintained differently, fuel is relatively expensive, and pedestrian walkways are narrow and not always well-delineated. The best advice is to always be alert, never drive impaired, and expect to use a combination of automobile, public transportation, and human muscle power to get around during Parliament.

### **Pedestrians, be alert!**

It is important for pedestrians to use the sidewalks and to cross streets only at designated places. In Scotland, pedestrians typically don't "jaywalk" or wander in the road, so drivers may not expect to see you there. Please especially be sure that young children are supervised when walking in the village.

### **Local business hours**

Although Parliament takes place in busy tourist areas, these areas are still largely rural. Sunday business closings are not uncommon, and some businesses close earlier on weekdays than you might expect. It's best to check posted business hours, and plan ahead.

### **Parliament "dress code"**

Most Parliament activities require functional and not glamorous clothing. The village setting is informal, and the outdoor activities are best enjoyed with casual clothing. Kilts and tartan are encouraged at any time, dressed up or dressed down according to the event. Ladies may wear skirts or slacks as they prefer. In the long run, what you wear doesn't matter as long as you are willing to get up and dance!

The weather on Skye is variable, so it may be tempting to bring a lot of clothing. There is an old joke about packing for travel, which says you should first pack your suitcase -- then open it up, take out half of everything you packed, and close the suitcase again. Then you are ready to go.

### **Scottish hospitality works both ways**

Hospitality in the highlands is nearly a sacred tradition. You can be assured that your hosts will do everything they can for your comfort and safety. But it is also important to remember that you are a guest in your hosts' home. In addition to managing family life, your hosts may have other employment besides operating their B&B. Please respect your hosts' requests concerning smoking, parking, noise, meals, and other uses of the accommodation's facilities.

### **Consumption of alcohol**

The legal limit for drinking and driving is 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 milliliters of blood (80mg/100ml). This is equivalent to 35 micrograms in 100 milliliters of breath. You can expect these limits to be enforced.

Persons under the age of 18 are not allowed to purchase or to be served alcohol in Scotland. This law will be observed at all Parliament functions. Young MacLeods should expect this law to be enforced in all public establishments, in Dunvegan and elsewhere on Skye.

Be aware that businesses that serve intoxicated persons or underage persons can lose their license to serve alcohol. And as always, the best thing to do is to refrain from drinking alcohol if you have to drive.

### **Trash and the three R's (reduce, reuse, recycle)**

Please dispose properly of your own personal trash, especially smoking materials. In some parts of Scotland, you can be fined £50 for dropping cigarette butt litter.

Parliament organizers will make every effort to reuse or recycle catering and other supplies. Where possible, it would help if you could reduce your need for fresh supplies. Using a personal coffee cup or your own cutlery can make a difference, especially over the course of a week.