

### North Room Group or "NRG"

A Young Peoples Clan Parliament was introduced at the fourth Clan MacLeod Parliament in 1965. Eighteen young MacLeods representing 6 countries met in the North Room of the Castle, and subsequently became called the "North Room Group" -- or "NRG", and now sometimes "Energy". Beginning in the 1990s, NRG has taken on service projects for the Castle estate and for Parliament itself.

### MacLeod Mhor, Bheag, Sùrdail, Ealanta, and the Nellies

These names refer to the various themed youth programmes for young MacLeods: Some are Gaelic words: "mhor" (large), "bheag" (small), "sùrdail" (strong), and "ealanta" (artistic). The "Nellies" are the youngest of the Clan, and get their name from a distinguished Clan member -- nicknamed "Nellie" -- who referred to the other children in her age group as "the Nellie Club".

## 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.

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

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

## Why we do what we do... at Parliament

Once upon a time, Dame Flora -- our great Chief of the MacLeods -- invited clansfolk from all over the world to gather at Dunvegan for a "Parliament", to talk about the Clan. At first Parliament was small, and included only a speaker and a few country delegates. The early Parliaments were held every three years. Attendance at Parliament grew to include hundreds of people, and Societies were established representing several more countries. Parliament is now held every four years in Dunvegan, with interim gatherings in North America and the Pacific.

As Parliament has grown, being a first-timer in Dunvegan has become a little overwhelming. Parliament has become a very busy time for many of us. There are more and more activities to engage the larger number of people attending. Senior members of the various Clan MacLeod Societies are frequently tied up in Parliament tasks or business meetings and are not always available to demystify the proceedings.

The purpose of this booklet is to tap the knowledge of the Wise Ones and share the origins of some of the events on this year's Parliament program. It is not a substitute for the many fine books and pamphlets that chronicle the history of the Clan Societies, MacLeod lore, or Parliament itself. It is simply a bit of extra background for the events included in our 2006 Jubilee Program.

Remember that once upon a time, we all came to Parliament for the first time. We have all quietly worried how well we would dance at the ceilidh, forgot how to spell Borreraig, got lost on the way to Orbst, or suddenly found ourselves standing shock-still on the main street of Dunvegan, staring in awe at the MacLeod Tables. So if you feel a little overwhelmed, you have joined a fine tradition!

## Why are we doing these things...

In general, the activities at Parliament in Dunvegan are chosen because they take us to sites of historic significance to the Clan MacLeod, they allow us to enjoy places of natural beauty, or they have been popular events at previous Parliaments.

## Places of historic significance to the Clan MacLeod

### **Borraig**

The MacCrimmons are the hereditary pipers to the Chiefs of the Clan MacLeod. Many years ago, there was college of piping at Borraig, where the MacCrimmons and others were trained. It took many years of study and practice to master the pipes. (It still does!) Some stones from the old buildings can still be found, marking the ruin of the original school. In the 1930s, a large stone cairn was erected to commemorate the cultural contributions of the MacCrimmons.

When we visit the cairn, we acknowledge the long relationship between the MacLeods and the MacCrimmons. The trip to Borraig gives us a wonderful opportunity to enjoy both the spectacular views across Loch Dunvegan as well as to listen to live music in a magnificent location. The custom is to invite a MacCrimmon piper to lead this event.

### **Isles of Harris and Lewis**

The story goes that Leod had two sons, Tormond and Torquil. Torquil inherited the lands of Harris and Lewis, and Tormond had Skye and Assynt. Parliament this year will be opened in Torquil's historic MacLeod lands.

### **Isle of Raasay**

One of the MacLeod septs is Raasay, which now has its own Chief. Raasay has a fascinating history, typical of a smaller Scottish island. The Raasay visit is traditionally one of Parliament's most popular activities.

### **Orbost**

Orbost used to be "MacLeod territory" but has changed hands in recent years. The Orbost community has several interesting public projects underway, including the construction of a "Emigration Wall" using stones brought back to Skye by the descendents of Scottish emigrants scattered overseas by the Clearances.

### **The Norman Magnus Hall and Dame Flora Lounge**

When Norman Magnus was Chief, he had the original Village Hall erected and gave it to the "community". It has subsequently been expanded by other groups to include the Sports Hall, parking, public toilets, and other facilities.

Within the present Village Hall, there is a room dedicated to the memory of Dame Flora. After she passed away in 1976, the ACMS paid to have this room, built, furnished, and decorated. Make sure you visit this lovely memorial.

## The natural beauty of Skye (only a sample!)

### **Climbing MacLeod's Tables**

"Just do it" -- experience the distinctive Skye terrain and memorable views.

### **Waterness (and Trotternish, Duirnish, Uiginish, Minginish...)**

In Norse, "nish" or "ness" means headland. The "Inishes" of Skye form the spreading wings of the island. Each has a slightly different character.

### **Coral Beaches**

The Coral Beaches are famous for their special "sand", which is not really sand but instead made of tiny bits of crushed coral, thousands of miles away from tropical waters. Legend says that if you find 12 little pink cowrie shells on the beaches, it means you will return to Skye within a year.

## Popular celebrations at Parliament

Because of the increasing number of people at Parliament, formal activities are included each evening but they should not get in the way of spending time with friends.

### **Fireworks and dancing on the Castle gunwales**

The Castle gun yard provides a unique outdoor venue for dancing, and the Castle itself is a dramatic backdrop for the fireworks.

### **Clan Quiz Night and Silent Auction**

Teams of four, including at least 2 nationalities and one member under 40, will compete for glory in our first-ever Quiz Night -- challenged by a selection of simple questions on general knowledge, current events, music, sports, and clan history. During breaks from heavy quizzing, please peruse the fine selection of items displayed in the Hall for the ACMS Silent Auction fundraiser.

### **Evening ceilidhs**

"Ceilidh" (pronounced "KAY-lee") is a Gaelic word that means "visit" or house party. Ceilidhs are informal musical events popular throughout Scotland -- and the world. At Parliament, Clan members are warmly invited to share their talents and perform traditional and reinterpreted works. Often we have a new song or story composed just for MacLeods.

### **Clan MacLeod Ball**

The Clan MacLeod Ball or formal dance is held on the last night of Parliament. While many of the other events during the week are less formal, the Ball is an opportunity to "dress up" in whatever finery you may have. However, it is not necessary to go to any extraordinary expense as everyone is welcome to come as they are. Enjoy this fine evening of dancing and the opportunity to bid farewell to old and new friends.