



CLAN HOME GATHERING

AUGUST 2018

The **Clan Home Association** is pleased to announce that the next **Clan Gathering** will take place in Berwickshire around the weekend of **11th-12th August 2018**.

The dates selected mean that Clan members, family and friends, can, if they wish, join in the activities of the **Coldstream Civic Week** before the Gathering and go on to the **Edinburgh Festival** in the week following.



Figure 1 - Wedderburn Castle

The organisers of the Coldstream Civic Week are very excited at the prospect of many Homes, Humes and others associated with the Clan combining with them to celebrate their Civic Week.



Figure 2 - Duns Castle

The plan is to base the Gathering at the magnificent **Wedderburn Castle**, as in 2013, but also, on the assumption the numbers will justify, to use the wonderful facilities at the neighbouring **Duns Castle**. Given that the organisers propose an even more ambitious programme than in 2013, the aim is to make use of the next fifteen months to build interest in the events so that a record number attend the 2018 Gathering. This would of course require more facilities to be available for use by attendees.

Those who would like to stay at Wedderburn Castle or Duns Castle are **invited to contact the Clan Association** to register an interest. Rooms will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. At present the CHA expects Wedderburn to be rented for three nights, starting 10th August, and Duns for six nights, starting from the evening of Tuesday 7th August.



The Association plans are still being developed, but the current thinking is that the Gathering will start formally on Wednesday 8th August with a day given over to Genealogical matters. The brief session at the last Gathering was clearly too short for those interested in Home/Hume genealogy. Given that the Gathering takes place on the centenary of the end of the First World War, it would be appropriate at the same time to remember the history of the Clan, including individual stories, in that terrible conflict. We might be able to set up a room to organise appropriate displays. Visits to nearby places of interest like the magnificent Floors Castle may also be possible.

The Coldstream Civic Week's highlights take place on the Thursday and Friday, with a ride to Flodden for the horse-riders among us (a coach will be supplied for those of us who do not ride) followed by a dinner/dance on the 9th and a torchlight procession and firework display on the 10th. We might also seek to arrange a session at the Berwickshire archives on the Friday morning before raising the Home banner at a tea party at Hume Castle in the afternoon. It is hoped that excavations may have been undertaken at the Castle by August 2018, in which case we may be able to learn what has been found and look at any digs.

Saturday and Sunday would provide the core of the Gathering, with the AGM and lunch at our Chief's beautiful home, the Hirsell, followed by dinner/dances in the evening of the 11th, possibly located at both Wedderburn and Duns. On the Sunday, a coach tour of houses and churches and other places of particular interest to the Clan is planned; this



Figure 3 - Hume Castle

has been much enjoyed at previous Gatherings. This tour would end at Paxton, another Home house, for an informal evening meal. We expect to be able to see a fabulous collection of antique Chippendale furniture, organised to mark the three hundredth anniversary of the furniture-maker's birth, and which will be on display here.

Many of these events will, we hope, be accompanied by pipers, pipe bands and, possibly, some displays of Scottish dancing, all of which should stir the hearts of anyone with Scottish ancestry!

The Berwickshire Gathering would then conclude but we hope to organise a session on the Monday at the archives in Edinburgh for those interested in exploring genealogical matters further. Provided there is interest, we may organise a tour of Edinburgh on the Tuesday and possibly attendance at one or more events at the



Edinburgh Festival, that great celebration of the arts, including a Military Tattoo – which, for all us Scots, probably counts as the Greatest Show on Earth.



Figure 4 - Paxton House

The extent to which it will be possible to organise all these events will depend on the response from Clan members and others. We are in the process of organising a committee to make the necessary arrangements for the Gathering and have a good response already but will welcome all offers of assistance. **Please would anyone who is able to give time to help organise this wonderful event, let the Association know.** Much of the Association's work is conducted over Skype or similar networks nowadays so there is no need even to be on the same continent to participate!

We look forward to seeing you in 2018!