



THE DURIE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Number 4 Winter 2012/13

Dear Fellow Member,

Happy New Year to one & all!

Much has happened since last summer (or what passed for it in Britain - the second wettest year on record - though at least we were spared the devastation of Hurricane Sandy and the fires in New South Wales and Tasmania). We have had a steady influx of new members and have placed articles in and advertised our existence both in 'The Banner' (North America) and 'The Highlander' (North America and Australasia).

Website: As you know, we have put a lot of work into improving, adding to and updating our website to make it more user-friendly e.g., the Forum – and the new site has just gone live. It still looks the same and your usernames and passwords have not changed though you can now more easily change the password yourself if you want to. Our hope is that you will find it easier to access and to use. There is already quite a bit more content and there will be even more! Let us know via the Forum what you think of the changes as well as of any suggestions for further improvements. Remember, too, that the Forum exists to allow for an informal exchange of views and information between members. You should continue to send more substantial information which you would like to share with other Duries to secretary@duriefamily.co.uk

For the real enthusiasts among you, you will be able, thanks to Dr Bruce Durie, *Shenachie* to the Chief, shortly to find on the website some newly available information on Scottish servant tax rolls which cover 'non-essential' servants - i.e., not farm labourers etc., but the whole range of domestic and 'outdoor' servants – cooks, butlers, valets, grooms, coachmen, gardeners, nursemaids, etc. Unfortunately, they are not searchable by surname and each volume must be browsed separately by parish or burgh. He looked in certain volumes for anyone who had, or was, a servant named 'Durie'. For instance, after a cursory glance in Fife (1777-8) he found: Parish of Elie, Household of Sir John Anstruther, James Dourie (or possibly 'Lourie') listed as 'Sir John's Servant, on whom he paid a duty of 15 shillings'. Also, in 1785, a Mrs Durie in Dunfermline (possibly, but not necessarily, Elisabeth Thomson, wife of George Durie, 7th of Craighluscar) had a female servant called

'Elisebath Stahnouss' (*sic*) who attracted a duty of 1s 10½d. Bruce will elaborate on all this and explain how you can follow this up yourselves. He will also be putting a number of other Durie-related items onto the website.

Durie whiskies: You will also know that the two new Durie Family whiskies are now available. They are 'Abbot Durie's Seal', a 15 year old Highland Malt from a single cask, and 'The Durie Dram', a lovely blend of Malt and Grain whiskies. I have sampled both, with family and friends, over the New Year and can say, without hesitation, that both were greatly appreciated. A reminder about them and how to order them can be found on the website: www.duriefamily.co.uk/merchandise/durie-whiskies If anyone who is planning to come to the AGM on 22 February (see below) would like me to order one or both whiskies for them, please let me know before 7 February and I will arrange for them to be available without you having to pay for carriage.

Scotland 2014: Planning for events in Scotland in 2014 has moved on considerably since my last Newsletter, especially in respect of national events to mark the 700th anniversary of the **Battle of Bannockburn**. They will undoubtedly evolve further but here is today's snapshot! As things stand, there will be re-enactments of the Battle on 28 -30 June 2014 near Stirling. The National Trust for Scotland intends to promote a 'Clan Village' nearby. If this comes off and if enough other families and clans take part, the Duries will also do so. The Chief also has in mind to organise a Durie gathering at around the same time which will probably take the form of events based at his home, Finnich Malise, near Glasgow, with visits to Dunfermline and other places of Durie interest. It is too soon to make definite plans because so much is still uncertain but we do hope that you will come if you can.

Remember also that the Commonwealth Games will be taking place in Glasgow from 23 July to 3 August 2014. If they are anything like as good as the London Olympic Games last summer, they promise to be a really fantastic occasion. As I mentioned in my last Newsletter, I was a volunteer at the London Olympics which was an extraordinary experience. The whole of London was abuzz.

Chief: Andrew Durie of Durie, CBE DL

Honorary Treasurer: Alistair Durie, FCA

Contact: The Secretary, DFA, 3 King's House, 400 King's Road, London SW10 0LL, Great Britain

Website: www.duriefamily.co.uk

Chairman: Sir David Durie, KCMG

Honorary Secretary: Christian Dewar Durie, FRSA

e-mail: secretary@duriefamily.co.uk

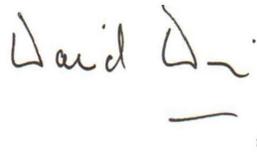
There will be literally thousands of events across Scotland in 2014 - emerging details are at <http://www.eventscotland.org/> and click on [Homecoming 2014](#). It is also worth keeping an eye on www.clans2014.com, operated by our friends at www.scotclans.com

2013 AGM: Finally, you should already be aware that we will be holding the 2013 DFA AGM in London at The Studio in Glebe Place, Chelsea (by popular demand – this is the same venue as last year with many thanks to Heather Durie Ewart) on **Friday 22 February at 6.30 for 6.45** The notice has just gone out and the meeting will also take the same form as last year with the formal business first, followed by a talk from Bruce Durie entitled *'The Lands of the Duries – the lost legacies'* (nb this is the real title of his talk!) and then an informal reception. The reason for choosing this date is that it coincides with the annual **'Who Do You Think You Are? Live!'** Exhibition at Olympia, London, where Bruce will also be speaking on a Durie-related theme at 2.45 on Sunday 24 February 2013.

You may also want to take the opportunity to visit the Exhibition. Bruce has also just become an International Board Director of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG).

I do hope that as many of you as possible will come to the AGM which was fun last year and should be again. I look forward to seeing you there – bringing whisky with me if you have asked for it (requests to me at Chairman@duriefamily.co.uk no later than 7 February, please).

Yours aye,



Sir David Durie, KCMG,
Chairman

