



THE DURIE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Number 11 Winter 2015

Dear Fellow Member,

This is my first newsletter as chairman. As you know Sir David Durie stood down at the last AGM after leading and guiding the Association since 2009. This he did with wisdom and experience taking us up to where we are today: good membership, secure finances and last year a very exciting event, the Gathering. I thank David, once again, for all the time and ideas he has put into the leadership of the DFA and we are all glad that he is remaining on the Committee.

Scotland had one of its wettest summers on record, but then fortunately this was compensated for with some beautiful weather in September and October. The Autumn colours have been magnificent. We were watching the forecast closely as our younger son Philip and his fiancée Sandra Gonzalez had decided to marry here, at Finnich Malise, on the 19th September. It was a very happy day with fine weather, and after the service at Buchanan Church, their ninety young friends dined in our Steading Hall and danced in the covered courtyard until the early hours. Philip and Sandra live and work in London, and will spend their honeymoon in Colombia in January.

Ten days later Marguerite and I flew to North Carolina to visit our daughter Nicola and her family in their new home in Chapel Hill. The Fall colours there were even more spectacular than Scotland's. We all went up to the Appalachian Mountains for the weekend, which gave us the chance to visit Grandfather Mountain where I have been invited to the annual Gathering next July. It is one of the biggest Gatherings and Games in the USA, and the setting in the woods is hugely impressive. It will be a great experience, and I hope will allow me to meet new North American Duries, and urge them to join our Association. Luckily Bruce Durie will be there to support and advise me as he takes up his Fulbright Scottish Studies Award at St Andrew's University, Laurinburg, in January. He was at Grandfather Mountain last year and knows the ropes.

Whisky – Those of you who have been lucky enough to taste our single malt '[Abbot's Seal](#)' will notice if they re-order that the whisky has changed. The cask we used for the first bottling has been emptied, and with Alex Bruce, Sales & Marketing Director of Adelphi, and my two sons and son-in-law, we have chosen a 15 year old Aberdeenshire single malt from Ardmore Distillery to replace it. I knew Ardmore well when I was at Allied Distillers. It has a little more peat in its composition, and I hope Members will enjoy it as much as we do.

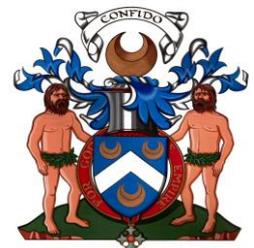
The Durie DNA Project [DNA Project](#) and **Durie Family Tree** [TribalPages](#) – are making progress. If you have not yet taken part in these please do. And for the website, as always, we ask that you send us any stories of your family – any little particle may help fill a gap in the world-wide jig-saw.

Merchandise – Durie items and tartan:

Looking for Christmas presents? You may find some ideas at [ScotClans](#)

Editorial and Next Year. Some of you may have read the article on the Duries in '*Scots Heritage*' magazine - the official magazine of the Scottish Council of Scottish Chiefs. Its Convener, Malcolm MacGregor, suggested that it would be a good idea for the magazine to feature a smaller Family Chief rather than another Highland Chieftain, so we got the slot. I was delighted to accept and Marguerite and I, with Bruce Durie had an interesting day with Susan Windham who wrote the article, and Angus Blackburn who took the excellent photographs. I hope you will agree that the piece gives a good and fair picture of our family. Let us hope this leads readers, particularly in the USA and Canada, to get in touch with us, and hopefully become Members. Better still if you and they come also to Grandfather Mountain next July: 7th-10th.

Andrew Durie of Durie, CBE DL
Chief and Chairman



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