



THE DURIE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Number 15 Autumn 2017

Dear Fellow Member,

From a damp and windy Scotland, my Greetings!

I feel sure that by now you have all read and seen photographs of our amazing Durie night on the 25th of August at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. It was followed by an excellent two-day Gathering and a report will follow. My sister Christian, our Secretary, did an incredible job, starting a year ago, to announce our night with information as it came out, and help with planning and booking both tickets and accommodation. That we were 70 strong on the night from eight countries was an outstanding achievement and her report with the evocative photographs brings it alive. To partner the Bruce Family was an easy decision and thus link our two Fife families but to march out of Edinburgh Castle beside the Great Sword of Robert the Bruce with its Canadian Elgin Regiment Escort was a moment none of us will forget.



Our day trip to Fife was a perfect balance to the previous night's excitement. We started at Rossend Castle, in Durie hands for some time until lost in the mid 16th C. Ian Archibald, a local historian, had prepared fascinating pictures and detail for us. Then it was on to Falkland Palace, no direct Durie connections but steeped in history of the four Scottish Queens with which our ancestors were connected. We then lunched by the Firth of Forth before going on to Dunfermline Abbey and Church and the historic Nave, where we were briefed on its Durie history, and had time to see the Durie window, memorial and the Annunciation Stone with the Durie Arms.



After lunch at Lower Largo

On Sunday most of us took an audio-guided tour of the royal Holyroodhouse Palace before an informal lunch by Leith Water. My *Shennachie*, our Family Genealogist, Bruce Durie had a Q&A session and then, all too soon, it was time for our farewells.

My huge thanks go first to Christian for all the time and effort she put in to ensuring the weekend's success. Our Treasurer Alistair Durie was immensely helpful in the financial planning, and for securing a grant from EventScotland which helped support the costs of the Fife day. Alex Bruce of Adelphi Distillery kindly gave us miniature bottles of the Durie Dram to help us home. And my sincere thanks to all the extended family of Duries and close friends who came from far and wide, to support the weekend so admirably. Thank you all for your commitment.

Now for important news: There are some changes which will occur at the start of next year following a recent Executive meeting. In spite of all our efforts, we have not been able to research or recruit new members in the numbers we would like. We dropped the Joining Fee earlier this year, but that has had little effect. Nor have we been able to attract new members to the Executive or to help with the burden of the administrative, secretarial and member search workload. The present team has done excellent work, most for over seven years.

In addition Christian, my sister, and I have a project of direct interest to the DFA, which we have had to put on one side since last year. We need to get back to it.

Chief & Chairman: Andrew Durie of Durie, CBE DL

Honorary Treasurer: Alistair Durie, FCA

Honorary Secretary: Christian Dewar Durie, FRSA

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

Website: www.duriefamily.co.uk

e-mail: secretary@duriefamily.co.uk

Three years ago we started work with a Scottish author on the military career of our father, Raymond Varley Dewar Durie, our first modern day Chief, and in particular on three of his remarkable and unusual periods in China, both before and after WWII. Because of the demands of the Association and events we had to stop work on this project last year. It will be time-consuming and if we are to complete it, which is very important to us, then both Christian and I must step back from the DFA for at least six months, maybe more.

Because of this the amount of material going up on the website and out to members will be reduced. We therefore believe that it is unreasonable to ask members to carry on paying for membership renewals. The DFA Executive have, therefore, agreed that membership to the DFA will be free from 1st January 2018 until further notice. If any members wish to make a donation to the DFA to help cover the continuing website costs, our biggest annual outlay and mainly for security, then these will be gratefully received!

We will continue to keep a Membership List, and Members will be informed by Newsletter and e-mail of Association and Member news. DFA Members will also continue to have access to the ScotClans discount.

AND we still want your information! Clues about members' family histories coming in to us have been scarce... Bruce Durie needs these to trace back all the roots and thus build up a better picture of our Durie history across the globe. This lack of information coming in has held back one of the original aims of the Association. So! However insignificant you may think what you have is - please share it with us and it will continue to be uploaded.



Dunfermline Carnegie Library

On a very positive note: A new opportunity has arisen which could have far reaching implications for the Durie Family world-wide:

A spectacular £12.4m extension to the Dunfermline Carnegie Library was opened earlier this year. It is situated right beside the Abbey and the new facilities include a new reading room and a state of the art Archive storage area.

The Durie Family – from wherever members may be – has been offered space in the Archive for any material we wish to place there. This is most generous. Christian, Bruce and I have been round with the Curator and are most impressed. Now it is up to us and you to collect and put forward papers, books, records of any sort, where they can be kept safely and accessed in the future. Bruce and I will work on the detail of how we best do this and then will circulate our ideas to you all. *A home for all our Durie papers is a dream come true.*



The Dunfermline Carnegie Library was opened on 29th August 1883 and was the world's first [Carnegie Library](#) funded by the [Scottish-American](#) businessman and philanthropist [Andrew Carnegie](#). The stunning new extension is home to a museum over two floors with three temporary exhibition galleries, a cafe, a shop, a new children's library and the Reading Room - a local history, study and archives space. An incredible place for the history of the Duries and its Family papers to be stored and to be so accessible.

As this eventful year draws to a close, I send you all my very best wishes for the holiday season and for 2018

Yours,

Andrew Durie of Durie, CBE DL
Chief and Chairman



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Website: www.duriefamily.co.uk **e-mail:** secretary@duriefamily.co.uk