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Hunters Tryst

Summer 2019 Newsletter from Madam Pauline, Chief of Clan Hunter



Greetings Clansfolk,

Thank you for your continued support for our Clan and Clan Seat, Hunterston Castle.

To have our Clan Seat intact and still owned by Hunters is an exceptional circumstance and to be celebrated.

The preservation and ownership of Hunterston Castle and land surrounding it is to be secured by our Board for the future.



Visit by Bryan Hunter and family to Hunterston Castle.

This summer I had the very great pleasure of welcoming Bryan Hunter, Clan President USA, his wife Elizabeth and their children to Hunterston to stay with me at Hunterston House. It was arranged that Bryan met with the Board of Directors of Hunterston Estates to discuss the future of the Clan at Hunterston and the preservation of our Clan Seat.

At Hunterston the weather was so sunny that when we all walked to the top of Goldenberry hill we were able to see as far south as Ailsa Craig, famous for the best curling stones

and north up to the Highlands with most of the west of Scotland, Cumbrae, wee Cumbrae, Arran, the Mull of Kintyre, Bute and faintly in the distance Jura and Islay. Hunterston is very well placed in terms of access to to the whole of Scotland by road and ferry.



www.marnixcollege.nl

Marnix College excursion to Hunterston in May 2019

After a successful try-out school excursion in May last year, Marnix College asked to repeat the trip for our second year classes again this year. Madam Pauline graciously

gave permission and I have a feeling that Hunterston will remain a must-see on the College's Scotland programme.

For those of you who missed the write up in the newsletter last year, Marnix College is a Dutch secondary school in a town called Ede in the Netherlands. Marnix College runs the normal Dutch curriculum for pupils between the ages of 12 and 18 years old and also runs a bilingual programme for those pupils who are looking for an extra challenge in their education. Pupils on this programme get 70% of their lessons in English and are immersed in the English language from day one. Although English is a second language for the pupils, it's amazing how quickly they can speak, read and write it fluently.

I live in the Netherlands and I first started teaching at the college 12 years ago when I was asked to join the team of teachers for this bilingual programme. The pupils are very bright, quick and hands on. So while they enjoy the 'brain work' of the academic study, they also enjoy project work and producing an end product based on what they have learned. Internationalisation is an essential part of their curriculum: opening their eyes to that which is beyond the classroom and giving them first-hand experiences of a variety of cultures, not just English. Hence the trip to Scotland in the second year. The pupils and their teachers spend a week touring interesting sights and doing small assignments. In subsequent years they are encouraged to study other cultures further from home.

Although the weather wasn't as good as it was last year, now and again there were blue skies and this did not dampen anyone's spirits! Our group comes armed with their own games and assignments for an afternoon of fun at Hunterston. Pauline Fraser takes small groups for tours around the Pele Tower and the students take it in turns to try on ancient battle gear and wield heavy swords. Pauline Fraser is wonderful with the students bringing the Hunter history to life! Other activities are bow and arrow shooting (using safe, blunt-ended "arrows"), design your own tartan, form a clan and give your clan a name and a slogan and a puzzle quiz around the gardens.

Students are asked to write a report of the trip when they get back to the college which they upload into their portfolio. Here below are a couple of quotes from those reports which, I think, shows their enthusiasm:

"After the mountain hike (above Loch Lomond) we drove for one and a half hours to the Hunterston Clan and Castle..... I found the castle tour the most interesting because it was just like it would have been 500 years ago and I found it very special to see it all and being allowed to ask questions"

"Afterwards we left Loch Lomond and headed towards Hunterston Castle! Once arrived we did several activities Personally, I learned a lot of interesting things about clans and of course the Hunterston clan. This was definitely one of my favourite aspects of the entire trip."

A good time had by all!

Marnix College looks forward to another Scotland excursion in May 2020! Thank you Madam Pauline and Pauline Fraser for facilitating an unforgettable experience for our students.

Lucy J.Hunter-Weston



Bats in Hunterston Castle

As some of you who have visited Hunterston Castle are aware it is the home of several bats. These being a protected species we are required to live with them. However, since they roost in the Castle chimneys, a solution has been found to stop them from flying round the Castle. I have invested in Chimney Sheep, these are felted pads that fit into the chimneys allowing the castle and chimney to breathe but preventing the bats from flying round the castle disturbing visitors. Keeping everyone safe but allowing the bats to have a safe roosting place in the chimneys. <https://www.chimneysheep.co.uk/>



International Gathering 2020

2020 is the Year of celebrating Coasts and Coastlines in Scotland. www.visitscotland.com

Gathering Programme- To book please go tour web page at <https://clanhunterscotland.com>

Friday

1200 till 1600/Midday till 4 pm Hunterston Castle Tours by Madam Pauline.

Shop Open

From 1200 - 1600 Try your hand at Archery with the Ancient Society of Kilwinning Archers. <https://kilwinningarchers.com> <https://www.longbow-archers.com/kilwinning.html>

Evening Madam Pauline and Graham Macer Venatorus will be in the Aura Room at the Seamill Hydro from 1900 (7 pm) if you wish to join us for a chat. The Seamill Hydro serves food in both the Aura Room and the Orangery, www.seamillhydro.co.uk

Saturday Largs Viking Festival all day, Madam Pauline will be at the Clan tent.

The programme for 2019 is at www.largsvikingfestival.org.

The programme varies slightly from year to year.

Shop Open at Hunterston Castle all day

Clan Dinner at the Masonic Hall in West Kilbride 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Sunday Watch ASKA competition. Castle Tours by Madam Pauline. Shop Open Viking Festival at Largs.

I will be delighted to have you join me at Hunterston Castle for our Gathering.

Madam Pauline, Chief of Clan Hunter

A Tour is being organized by Lois Wallace and Carol Hunter Sullivan

Clan Hunter Custom Tour 2020

A special Customized tour that will include the Clan Hunter gathering for 2020 is being planned. To include transportation to and from Gathering events accommodations as well as sites of Historic significance to Clan Hunter and Scotland.

Carol Hunter Sullivan is planning and coordinating the itinerary with Authentic Celtic Travels. Tentative dates are Sept.2-10, 2020. To be on the list to get the full information as soon as it is available contact Carol at 928-542-2072 or carolhuntersullivan@gmail.com. She is compiling a list of those interested in this one of a kind trip. Complete information will be ready in October of 2019.

