

THE BURNETT BANNER

Burnett Newsletter
(including House of Burnett News)

Edition No 34
June 2016

ALEXANDER BURNETT WINS ELECTION FOR ABERDEENSHIRE WEST AND HEADS TO THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT AT HOLYROOD

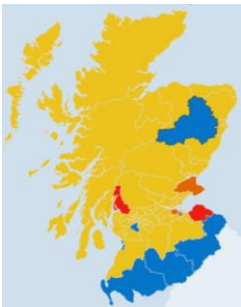
It was an exciting night on May 5th 2016 as Alexander Burnett won an historic victory to be elected into the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood, representing the constituency of Aberdeenshire West.

Alexander was sworn in officially as the Member of the Scottish Parliament for Aberdeenshire West during the following week.



Alexander's vote totalled 13,400 to 12,500 for Dennis Robertson of the SNP – a 900 winning majority.

It was a good night across north-east region for the Scottish Conservatives and Unionists as their vote doubled to nearly 86,000, up from 37,000 in 2011, which meant four regional MSPs.



The Scottish National Party fell just two short of overall majority government– with 63 MSPs. The Scottish

Conservatives replaced Scottish Labour as the main opposition party, with 31 MSPs – 16 more than 2011.



The result was in marked contrast to a year ago when Alexander lost in the General Election in 2015. What a difference a year makes!

Alexander has been made shadow Energy spokesman, at an important time for Oil and Gas industry in North-East of Scotland.

Well done to Alexander on his victory, and thanks to all those who have supported him over the last few years. Congratulations to you!

Maiden Speech: History in the making?

I hope readers will forgive highlighting a short extract from Alexander's first speech relating to Burnett family history and evoking James Burnett of Monboddio!

"Before I draw my remarks to a close, I hope that members will forgive me for a quick reference to my family history in this place and beyond.

My family has been rooted in Scotland for many centuries, earning our name from Robert Bruce, and we value the freedoms hard won by Scots over that time.

It has been over 300 years since a Burnett of Leys last sat in a Scottish Parliament, and on that occasion he notoriously voted against the import of French wine. Members can be assured that I will not be making the same mistake.

Not far from here in Edinburgh, during the Scottish enlightenment, another ancestor—James Burnett of Monboddie—hosted his famous learned suppers. At his table dined such luminaries as David Hume, Dr Johnson, James Hutton, Adam Smith, Joseph Black, James Boswell and Robert Burns, who were making new discoveries about the universe and geology and even tracing the evolution of man and language. I am therefore pleased by the First Minister's current focus on education, for we need a new Scottish enlightenment for the 21st century.

I look forward to serving Aberdeenshire West to the very best of my abilities."



NOTE FROM THE HOB SECRETARY

Greetings,

At the Loch Norman games on Friday we met with the Chief of the Games, where we had hors d'oeuvres (I again ask if Haggis is a hors d'oeuvre) and beverages. As soon as it got dark we gathered on the field to light torches and announce the attendance of the clan. On Sunday at the parade

of tartan myself. John A. Burnett, Susan Cooper and husband Jim along with new member Callie Snead marched in the Parade.

At the Glasgow KY Games Jim Burnette and I manned the Burnett Tent with help of 15 other Burnett's who stopped by. We again had a great turn out, even with a forecast of rain all weekend, which did not happen.

It's a little over a year before the 2017 Gathering and we need to start working on the plans. A list of the activities and the registration form is on the Burnett web site www.burnett.uk.com. If you have trouble getting a copy let me know.

I am also in the planning stage and need some information.

1. Who is planning on coming?
2. Who is planning to take the bus from Glasgow to Banchory?
3. I also need a count on those who are planning to come to Glasgow on Saturday the 30th and catching the bus on Sunday?

We are still looking for members to sponsoring a Burnett Tent at Scottish Festivals in your area. Some of the members who have been sponsoring Burnett Tents are getting older and need help. If you are willing to get involved let myself or the President know.

I wish to ask for your thought and prayers for 2 of our members, John A Burnett and Herbert Burnett who have some serious medical issues.

Leland L Burnett
Secretary, House of Burnett

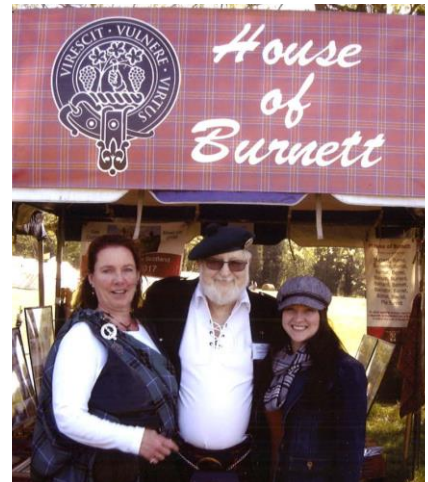
burnett@dcwis.com
5982 W Carlsville Rd
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

LOCH NORMAN HIGHLAND GAMES RURAL HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

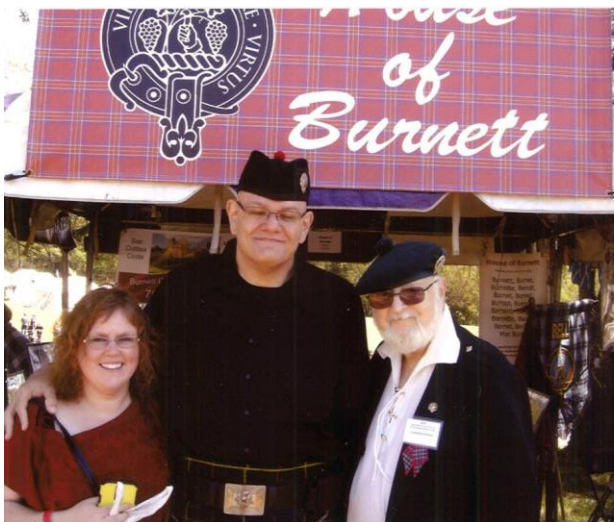


Getting ready for the parade of Tartans at the Loch Norman Highland Games.

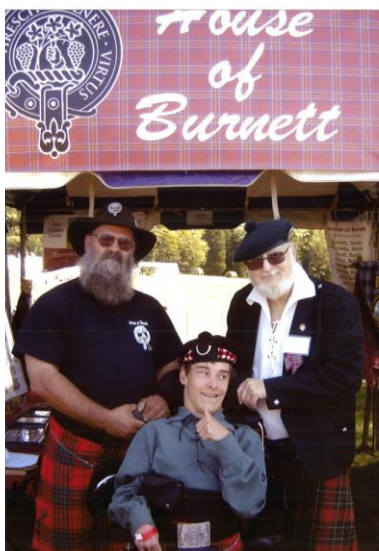
L to R: Callie Snead (new member), John A Burnett, Leland Burnett, Jim & Susan Cooper



Ellen Bentley & Callie Snead with Leland



Gary Davenport with Leland Burnett



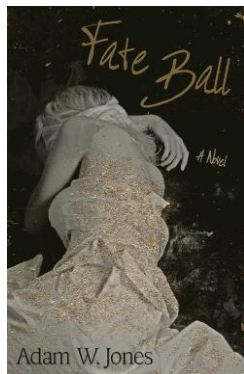
Mark & Mike Burnette with Leland



Mike Burnette and his date enjoying their prom.

FATE BALL BY ADAM W JONES

Adam W. Jones, the son of Susie Burnett Jones of Raleigh, North Carolina, recently had his first novel published. Fate Ball is a tragic love story about a young boy who can't let go of his first love even as she spirals out of control from alcohol and drug addiction. Fate Ball is a story of love, forgiveness and redemption and following these two lives as they take separate paths over a fifteen year period.



Most of the story takes place in Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA. Deep South Magazine has selected Fate Ball as a must-read for its summer reading list for best new fiction by a debut author. Also, Fate Ball was a Finalist in the National Indie Excellence Award for new fiction. Fate Ball was released in April 2016 and it has generated quite a buzz with excellent reviews from around the US and abroad.

<http://www.newsobserver.com/entertainment/books/article78869922.html>

Fate Ball sat on the shelf for nearly twenty years before Adam picked it back up three years ago and became determined to finish it. For more information go to www.adamwjones.com or search Fate Ball on Amazon.com.

BURNETT HOUSE

The Leys Estate Hill of Banchory development includes two Business Centres, the latest being named Burnett House. Highly energy efficient, it is heated through the District Heating Scheme stemming from the Biomass Energy Centre which is fuelled by woodchip from Leys Estate woodland. Burnett House was originally planned for an oil related company which became unable to take up the lease. Its tenants now include the Bancon Group.



CASTLE SCULPTURE

Visitors to Crathes during the last 2 years may have admired, or not, the sculpture resulting from a fallen Fir tree close to the Castle on the West Drive. Consequently there will be disappointment or satisfaction that it has now been removed and the area reseeded.



The Editor

BURNETT STUART CHINA

I am planning to make a few changes to the Family Room. One is to include most of our "Burnett" books. There have been a number written by members of the wider Burnett family over the years and it will be of interest to visitors to know something about them.

The other is for a display of Burnett china and will include an armorial plate given to me by Georgie Burnett-Stuart from his service at Crichton. The set was ordered by Georgie's ancestor, John Burnett Stuart of Countesswells. It was probably in the early 1770's when he was amassing his fortune in Malacca as a 21 year old. He returned aged 27 with a manservant called Ontong. Ontong is not mentioned in the family bible, but he was 'adopted' as a Burnett and was buried in Ellon graveyard north of Aberdeen. By 1805, John was dead and the rapacious Aberdeen lawyers rendered his widow and young son virtually destitute by their vicious activities. The Countesswells estate appears to have comprised West Culter, Peterculter, Bieldside and Countesswells around Aberdeen.



Georgie believes that the plate would have originally been part of a 250 / 300 piece set made in Jingdezhen like all porcelain was at the time (before Meissen acquired the technique in the 1700's). He was able to acquire a tureen in the 1970's.

James C A Burnett of Leys

DRAGONFLY IN THE POOL GARDEN

As part of a donation in memory of Professor John and Mrs Ruth Young of Aberdeen and who loved Crathes, Dr Ian and Mrs Sylvia Young commissioned a spectacular piece of sculpture by the renowned sculptor, David Meridith to enhance the Colour Garden at Crathes. Reflecting the iridescence of the dragonflies that shimmer over the pool in the summer, David's sculpture adds drama to the garden and provides a focal point for visitors.

Complementing the sculpture will be a series of stone carvings of some of the animals and insects to be found on the Estate at Crathes. The creation of Keith Mallard, these carvings will be positioned around the garden to form a Nature Trail for children to follow and learn more about the wildlife on the Estate.

The photograph of the sculpture and pool includes Dr and Mrs Young overlooking the pool and Sir Moir Lockhead, chairman of the National Trust for Scotland, behind the hedge on the left and facing the pool. On the right of the group photograph is James Henderson, the new property manager at Crathes.



James C A Burnett of Leys

SALAD BURNET

Herbs have made our lives easier in so many different ways. Burnet is one such herb. Burnet



can be defined as an herbaceous plant with round green flowers with pinkish stamens and toothed leaves composed of many small leaflets. The plant belongs to the rose family

(Rosaceae).. Some people describe the taste as a mixture of melon and cucumber. Some also say it gives a nutty flavour. The aroma too compliments the taste of it. Based on its characteristics, its name has been derived from the French word brunette. There are about 20 species, but the two most common types are Salad Burnet and Greater Burnet.

These days, Burnet is less often cultivated in the United States because other herbs have become more favourable. When the leaves of burnet are fresh they are preferred for culinary uses. Dried burnet leaves taste bitter as flavour weakens over time. It is then used for medicinal purposes. For example, dry leaves are used to make medicinal teas. All parts of the leaves are useful to humans. It's an easy growing plant that appears early in the season and holds up well in heat. It forms a clump and stays pretty well contained and controlled, growing in a loose rosette. However, salad burnet can spread by rhizomes and it will self-seed.

Salad Burnet, while not considered one of the major additions to the herbal pharmacopoeia, is still a decorative and endearing herb. The plant name, *Sanguisorba*, derived from the Latin, gives clue to its ability to staunch blood from wounds, and is closely related to the *alchemilla* genus which are used in the same manner. The plant is healing, tonic, styptic and cooling, having much the same medicinal qualities as the less tasty medicinal burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*). Like borage, burnet was best known for its ability to "lighten the heart" and was most often served in wine.

Medicinal, culinary or herbal, in whichever form it is used, burnets are not toxic. The plant is easy growing and emerges early in the season. It is known globally for its properties by gardeners, scientists and users of all kind. It would not be wrong to state burnet as the modern herbal remedy.

The Editor (with assistance from the Internet)

BURNETTS, CALIFORNIA AND THE BIG BANG THEORY

Burnetts have had many notable associations with California in the past and the present is not excepted.

Ben Cecil, the second son of my late brother David, has been successfully training racehorses at Santa Anita in California for the past twenty years and with a number of good winners. His wife, Kristy, is now The producer of the Big Bang Theory which is the most popular comedy show in America and shown all over the world. The photograph taken at Christmas includes their Francesca and Hugo who are now 7 and 6.



James C A Burnett of Leys

VISITORS TO CRATHES

Over the past year or so, we have enjoyed visits from several members of an Australian family. Colin and Maree Burnett-Dorn in 2014 more recently, Carmel Basset. this year we welcomed Carmel's brother Kevin twomey son of Thelma Joyce Burnett and grandson of William Abraham Burnett and Kevin's wife, Marilyn.

All are descended from William Burnett who was born 1823 in Aberdeen and died in 1893 in Illabarook (near Cape Clear), Cictoria. He married Margaret Mcfarlane in 1849 from Iona in Scotland and who died in 1900 in Illabarook. William was a miner and they spent a lot of their early years around the goldfields of Bendigo, Ballarat and Illabrook areas.

As with most of our visitors to Crathes, we have to visit the Loch of Leys to view the Crannog.



The Editor

After years of hearing about Crathes castle from my Great Aunt Marah, herself a direct member of the Burnett family, my mother and I decided to visit during a recent trip to Scotland to see friends and Marah's memorial plaque at Kemnay House.

We chose a rather spectacular weekend, full of sunshine and blue skies, and were delighted to meet Victor, the son of James Burnett, and also fortunate enough to get a full tour of the castle by him, equipped with notes on each room!

One of the things we loved is that you could really imagine the family living there – lots of warmth and charm, nooks and crannies.

It was wonderful to see the castle bustling with visitors, from neighbouring cities and villages to coach loads of tourists from Germany and America (among others).

After a lovely tour of the castle, which is clearly beloved by the very knowledgeable and enthusiastic National Trust staff, we had a stroll around the beautiful gardens, humming with bees and wildlife.

We finished the day with an excellent tea in the cafe and some postcards from the gift shop, and very much look forward to our next visit, particularly to see the ever growing additions to the newly revamped family room.



From Robynne Fletcher & her daughter Jade.

Heraldry with Charles J Burnett – Queen's Herald in Scotland

THE NUMBER THREE AND HERALDRY

Heraldry is full of strange facts, curious shapes, and odd animals. One of the strange facts is the prevalence of objects occurring in threes, or objects coming together in threes.

There are three main reasons why this should be so.

The first reason is the shape of the shields used in heraldry. Normally they have a broad top and a pointed bottom so that a two and one arrangement fits the shield more happily [Fig. 1, the Arms of St Nicholas Kirk, Aberdeen] than a two by two layout [Fig. 2].

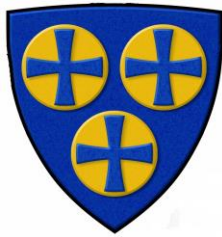


Fig.1 Three charges



Fig. 2 Four charges

As the centuries rolled past and the need for each coat of arms to be different the Heralds had to use their imagination and creativity to come up with new shapes and combinations. The heraldic beast known as a griffin is a combination of the king of birds with the king of animals [Fig. 3].



Fig. 3 Griffin – half eagle half lion

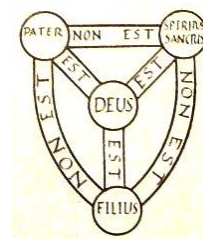


Fig. 3 Fig. 4 The Shield of Faith

Finally, when heraldry was invented in the twelfth century the Catholic faith was universal in Western Europe and one of its basic beliefs was in the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Therefore the numeral 3 had deep religious significance and this was reflected in many coats of arms. Two symbols associated with the Trinity are the Shield of Faith [Fig. 4] and the Triquetra with its three equal arcs and continuous form which represents eternity [Fig. 5].



Fig.5 Triquetra



Fig. 6 Three lions, one head

When three animals are joined together with one head they are described as *tricorporate* [Fig. 6]. Three legs conjoined at the thigh are called a *triskilion* [Fig. 7] and three arms conjoined at the shoulder [Fig.8] are used by the English family of Tremayne. This is a punning coat of arms as *trois mains* is French for three hands! A coat of arms found here in Banffshire belonging to Morrison of Bognie has three Saracens' heads conjoined in one neck [Fig.9]. The origin of this coat is lost in antiquity but it may be a Morrison once went to the Crusades.



Fig.7 Triskilion



Fig. 8 Three arms conjoined at the shoulder

The first Kirk in the Royal Burgh of Dundee is dedicated to the Virgin Mary whose symbol is a pot of lilies. These appear on the Arms of the Burgh, and notice there are three lilies – another reference to the Trinity. [Fig.10].



Fig.9 Three heads conjoined on one neck



Fig.10 The Arms of Dundee with three lilies

There are examples of three charges on a shield which in turn consist of three parts, for example David Irvine of Drum bears three bunches of three holly leaves on his Arms [Fig.11], and finally the shield itself can be divided in three parts, this is blazoned *tierced in pairle* [Fig.12].



Fig.10 Three bunches of three items



Fig. 11 Shield divided in three

Things do not happen in heraldry “by chance” there is a reason for each element in a coat of arms, be it a certain colour, be it the number of charges on the shield, or be it the choice of motto. In each case the Herald or designer makes use of symbolism to reflect the owner of the Arms, or their aspirations and interests

So the numeral 3 has taken its place in the heraldic vocabulary for the reasons given and will continue to do so for as long as the practice of heraldry provides meaningful identity for the incorporations and the individual people of Scotland.

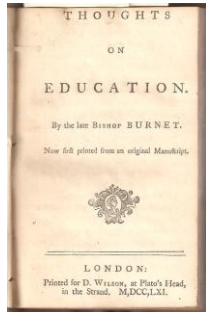
BISHOP BURNETT THOUGHTS ON EDUCATION 1761

It is true great change and daily variety of company, doth rub off all rusticity, and give a garb, and teach a good behaviour; and this is all most doe or can pretend to. But if a short satisfaction, which is soon forgotten, or a gab which, not suiting with the humour of the countrey, must be aid aside ere the French clothes be worn out, deserves to be once let in competition against the almost certain hazards a traveller is exposed to, let all wise men judge. All the wits there counting it their glory, to turn to mysterys of faith, scriptures, and piety in ridicule. Some yeeres agoe there was a hazard of gentlemen their returning papists: but now wee may rather expect to get them home atheists; since there is, in this depraved compound of a man, a farre stronger byasse to atheism than to popery.

I mention not the hazards from duellers and robbers, since by the king's severity, these are not now so frequent; neither shall I much consider the impoverishing the kingdome; by carrying so much money beyond sea, nor the ruin of estates occasioned by travel: for these are considerations without my road. But there is one thing further considerable, that by travelling, and seeing fine and high things, they are made to loathe and weary of home.

Upon all these accounts, I exceedingly disapprove young men their travelling.

Yet a person of a mature spirit and ripe judgment =, who is well confirmed in his religion, and hath a true sense of piety and virtue, and is not of a light or gadding mind, but doth know what to observe and search after, if he be well recommended, may after he is twenty one yeeres of age, with much advantage, spend a year or two abroad. For he may be capable of larger and freer thoughts; and may learne to know more of the world and of mankind; as also he may see a great many useful things, which our countrey doth not afford; and by seing even the finest things in the world, he may arrive at a more just understanding of what is best



on earth, and so be taught to contemne it. and with the help of effectual recommendations (for complimenting ones are not worth carrying) he may get the acquaintance of worth and wise persons, who may prove kind and good directors to him. But what I say of travelling, I mean only of running beyond sea, for since we have not now a king and court in Scotland, it is very proper that the gentlemen be well acquainted with the court in England; thought there be many things there that make me with even a short stay among them.

SLEEP WELL

In the days when children did not have their own bedroom, parents were far more likely to talk to their children to encourage them to get to sleep, as in this poem by Murdoch Maclean.

Sleep weel, my bairnie, sleep.
The lang, lang shadows creep,
The fairies play on the munelicht brae
An' the stars are on the deep.

The auld wife sits her lane
Ayont the cauld hearth-stane,
An' the win' comes doon wi' an eerie croon
To hush my bonny wean.

The bogie man's awa',
The dancers rise an fa'
An' the howlet's cry frae the bour-tree high
Comes through the mossy shaw.

Sleep weel, my bairnie, sleep.
The lang, lang shadows creep,
The fairies play on the munelicht brae
An' the stars are on the deep.

Meaning of unusual words:

bairnie=child
munelicht brae=moonlit hillside
her lane=alone
Ayont=beyond
croon=wailing song
bogie man=ghost
howlet=owl
bour-tree=elder tree
shaw=flat ground at the foot of a hill

BURNETT GATHERING

31st July to 6th August 2017



The 2017 Burnett Gathering includes events and activities which should appeal to Burnetts of all ages. There will be a number of new excursions and options for those who have been to previous Gatherings.

The Gathering programme will include a package of events and activities from Wednesday 2nd August - Saturday 5th August inclusive.
There are also a number of options during the whole week.

Accommodation can be arranged be at the Self Catering Villas and Apartments (subject to availability) at the Inchmarlo Resort in Banchory (N)

Details of suggested alternative accommodation can be found in the notes below.

DAY ONE

Monday 31st July

Guided Tour of Ballindalloch Castle and Culloden Battlefield (N)

Evening

Family History Supper/Lecture (N)

DAY TWO

Tuesday 1st August

Guided tour of Arbroath Abbey and St Andrews including a visit to
Iain Burnett the Highland Chocolatier (N)

Evening

Heraldry Supper/Lecture (N)

DAY THREE

Wednesday 2nd August

Guided Tours of Crathes Castle
Visit to the Crannog on the Loch of Leys
Burnett Luncheon

Visit to Kemnay House, home of the Burnetts of Kemnay (N)
Scottish Country Dancing Classes and Ceilidh Workshops (N)
Go-Ape Treetop Adventure (N)

Evening

Scottish Theatrical Production at Woodend Banchory

DAY FOUR

Thursday 3rd August

Guided walk up Scolty Hill overlooking Banchory
Journey on the Deeside Railway
Guided Tour of Crathes Gardens
Scottish Country Dancing Classes and Ceilidh Workshops (N)
Battlegrounds Paintball or Wilderness Challenge (N)
Croquet on the lawn at Crathes Castle (Annual inter-clan match)
Leys Estate Tour

Evening

Ghostly Tour of Crathes Castle

DAY FIVE

Friday 4th August

Choice of Local Guided Tours

Tour 1: Deeside

Craigievar Castle * Drum Castle * Blairs Museum

Tour 2: South

Fettercairn Distillery * Edzell Castle * Dunnottar Castle
Lewis Grassie Gibbon Centre

Tour 3: Historical Aberdeen

Trinity Hall * The Town House * Mitchell Hall * The Grant Room

Evening

Grand Traditional Ceilidh

DAY SIX

Saturday 5th August

Aboyne Highland Games with lunch at the Burnett Tent

Evening

Burnett BBQ

EVERY DAY ACTIVITIES

Access to Crathes Castle, Gardens and Grounds
Golf at Inchmarlo (N)
Salmon Fishing on the River Dee (N)
Evening Hunting with the Leys Estate Gamekeeper (N)

(N) Events and Activities not included in package charges.

Any additions or necessary changes will be posted on the [Burnett Website](#) or advised to those who have expressed an interest in attending