

THE BURNETT BANNER

Burnett Newsletter
(including House of Burnett News)

Edition No 40
December 2017

To all Burnetts, wherever you may be, a very Happy Christmas and New Year from us all here at Crathes. We were fortunate in meeting many new Burnetts here this year and we hope that our next Gathering, which is planned for 2021, will be as popular. Regardless, all are welcome here at any time.

This Burnett website may change shortly. The Banner and the information which it contains may be replaced with a more frequent e-newsletter to readers with links to the website for further detail. If and when this is to happen, further information as to how to receive it, will be posted on the website

Best wishes

James C A Burnett of Leys

JOHN CAMERON BURNETT 1953 - 2016

John Burnett's monument has now been placed at his gravesite. It is said that he always wanted the monument to have his coat of arms and for it to be the biggest one in the cemetery. I don't think that he will be disappointed at what his family have produced. A great tribute to John, who was the principal founder of the House of Burnett. Britton has sent me the photographs. *See Page 5 for further details*



*John at the 2015 Las Vegas Reunion together with
Charles Burnett and Britton*



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the year draws to a close I wish to thank those who have helped further the name of Burnett in the U.S. as well as around the world. Thank you to those who set-up at the Highland Games, those who attended Highland Games, and those who attended the Burnett Gathering this Summer. You have all helped The House of Burnett expand.

In 2018 we hope to reach even more Burnetts through adding more places where we do Highland Games, more Burnett events, the Burnett Banner, our Social Media presence, and through the updated Burnett UK website and the updated HouseBurnett.com website.

The updated HouseBurnett.com site will focus more on the activities of the House of Burnett like where we have representatives at Highland Games, U.S. events, House of Burnett officers, By-Laws, Board Members, and objectives of the organization. We intend to have a tab to pay dues and buy House of Burnett items like Clan Buckle t-shirts.

The best way for all the members of the House of Burnett to support the expansion of the name Burnett is to keep your membership current. That includes paying your membership dues as well as keeping your contact information current.

For 2018 we are introducing the Lifetime Membership. With the Lifetime Membership you will always be up to date with the House of Burnett. We will include a new Lifetime Member pin, (pictured is the Lifetime pin next to the regular membership pin), a laminated permanent membership card, and a certificate. And, while supplies last, a copy of the Burnett Heraldry poster signed by our Chief, Charles Burnett, and John C Burnett, our late Tosheador.



The annual membership dues is \$20.00 and is up for renewal every January. The Lifetime Membership is \$500.00.

To renew your membership for 2018 or to become a Lifetime member contact

Leland Burnett
burnett@dcwis.com

Jacky Daugherty
jdaugherty@1791.com
azlassie@gmail.com
928-788-9434

HOUSE OF BURNETT MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

It is hoped that many House of Burnett members will have occasion to visit Crathes Castle at some time. If so, you will be assured of a warm welcome. If you give sufficient notice, I would be pleased to try to meet with you and suggest how your visit might be in any way enhanced.

The National Trust for Scotland will also be willing to provide a guided tour of the Castle and/or the Gardens if resources are available at the time and if sufficient notice is given. Normally, there is a system of self-guiding for the Castle with guides in each room.

The Burnett Arms Hotel, Banchory has kindly offered to give members a 10% discount on charges for accommodation and food.

The above will apply for 2018 and it is hoped that such beneficial arrangements will be able to continue.

James C A Burnett of Leys



NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY HOB

Greetings;

Congratulations to Guy Burnett of Framville, VA. and Nicole Zimmermann, Racine, WI., who were elected to a 3 year term on the Board of Directors.

On Nov. 18th at the Board of Directors meeting the Board elected the following Executive Officers. As of this writing the following Executive Offices: President Jackelyn Daugherty, Topock, AZ., Secretary Leland Burnett, Sturgeon Bay, WI and Treasurer Mike Burnett, San Antonio TX.

For those of you who were unable to attend the Gathering in July/Aug please check out the Burnett website for some the happenings. We had well over 200 who attended and everyone seemed to have a great time.

Save the date of June 1st – June 3rd for the Glasgow Kentucky Scottish Games. The House of Burnett will be the Honor Clan, as well the Chief James C A Burnett (Our Chief) will be the chief of the Games. Let make him welcome with a large turnout. We will be publishing the itinerary and other information as soon as the details are firmed up.

If you have any pictures or articles you would like to share please send them to us.

Please check the expiration date on your membership card. We cannot continue to expand without the funds to do so. I still have lots of e-mails and home addresses which fail. Please update them and send them to me. The details on the new Life membership. Program will be coming soon.

It is time to start planning for 2018 and if you anyone is willing to represent the Burnett Family at Scottish Games in their area let us know and we will supply a Convenor starter kit.

This will be the 13 year as your secretary and it is my intention is to step down as the Secretary but will continue to work to help the House of Burnett grow.

I had a check taken from my mail box so if you want to correspond with me please use my PO Box 550 Sturgeon Bay WI. 54235.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a great 2018.

Leland L. Burnett
Secretary, House of Burnett

Sunday June 3rd

8:50 AM Interdenominational "Kirkin of the Tartan" worship service.

1:25PM Parade of Tartan. The House of Burnett will lead the parade.

3:15 PM Closing Ceremonies.

We hope to have a large turn out and accommodations are hard to come by so I suggest you plan early.

Please let the Secretary or the President of the House of Burnett know if you plan on be there.

Leland L. Burnett
Secretary, House of Burnett
Burnett@dcwis.com

Jackelyn Daugherty
President House of Burnett
azlassie@gmail.com



MARCH BEHIND THE BURNETT BANNER IN THE 20TH NY TARTAN DAY PARADE



TENTATIVE AGENDA

2018 Glasgow Kentucky Highland Games 1-3 June
James Burnett of Leys Chief of the Games

Thursday May 31st

6:30 PM The Chief will be the guest of the President of the Glasgow Highland Games.

Friday June 2nd Lunch with the Chief.

11:45 AM meet in the Lobby to line up for the processional.

6:30PM Assemble at Highland Games field Pavilion #2 with Tartan attire and Banner.

6:55 PM Raising of the Clans.

7:30 Ceilidh

Saturday June 2nd

8AM Assemble at the House of Burnett Tent for setting up. 10:30 – 11:00 The Chief will be escorted on a walk about to all other clan tents by some clan members. 2 Clan members will pick up judging forms and inspect all other clan tents. This need to be completed by the opening ceremonies.

11:55 Opening Ceremonies.

3:45 Clan Tent Awards Presentation.

7:00PM Patron and Sponsor's Reception: Formal evening attire requested.

The House of Burnett would like to participate in the Tartan Day Parade in New York City on **April 6, 2018**. We need at least seven persons to register for the parade. We are close to that number but would like as many Burnetts as possible to attend.

The route is from 44th Street to 55th Street up Sixth Avenue. There is no charge to participate. If you have a Scottish breed of dog they may march as well.

Tartan Week in New York has activities throughout the week before and after the parade. Visit their website for more information: nyctartanweek.org

If you are interested in marching contact

Jacky Daugherty
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928-788-9434
PO Box 666, Topock, AZ 86436

TUCSON GAMES FINAL

Thanks to John M Burnett and his wife Katie for helping at the Tucson Games. The photographs shows them all set for the opening on November 11th



of Wake Forest. Without a college degree, Burnett had to talk Wake Forest professors into accepting him as a special student. He wound up graduating third in his law school class.

"When I got into law, I was home," he said. After a successful law career, Burnett ran for District Court for New Hanover and Pender counties in 1968, won and was named chief judge for the local 5th District soon afterward, and went on to serve 23 years.

One of the new court's branches was its juvenile bench. "I decided to take that under my wing," he said.

"He brought change and attention to our juvenile courts before anyone realized it was important," said District Judge Jay Corpening, a longtime colleague. One way, Corpening said, was with his "unique sentences." Before long, Burnett was sending young offenders off to work on farms, to earn money so they could pay off damages with their wages. "People got after me, said I was making those boys work in the hot sun," Burnett said. "Shoot, I did that when I was a boy."

Burnett soon applied the principle to adults. "I realized I was sending too many people to jail," he said. Jail time, he realized, often cost defendants their jobs, putting their families on welfare. Before long, he was sending offenders in small cases off to pick up trash at Wrightsville Beach. That approach, said Corpening, led to North Carolina's community service work program, launched statewide in 1984.

It soon became a national model and Gil received inquiries about the program from as far away as New South Wales, Australia.

Gil visited Crathes in the early 70s and has attended every Burnett Gathering at Crathes since the first in 1992. In 1017, we celebrated his 92nd birthday in the Golden Garden at Crathes Castle



Judge Gilbert H. Burnett aboard his sailboat, "Sailbad the Sinner", in Mona Black Marina in Carolina Beach, N.C in, 2017.



JUDGE 'GIL' BURNETT RECEIVES STARNEWS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Few people deserve such awards more than Gil Burnett

Gil was vacationing at White Lake in 1952, when a local lawman came to the door with bad news. A textile mill he operated near Raleigh had been struck by lightning and burned to the ground, a total loss and underinsured. His business was finished. Burnett thought a moment. "Well, I had a bunch of lumber in my yard," he said, "so I decided to build a boat to keep my sanity."

While building, he thought about his options -- and decided to change course, entering law school at Wake Forest University, while it was still in the town

JOHN BURNETT

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The Burnetts next to John are the markers for his bothers. The one directly next to him is his oldest brother, Paul, who passed away in 2013. The two on the far left are for his brother Pat and his wife and his brother Bill and his deceased wife, Nikki. Pat and Bill are still alive, but they had their monuments made a few years ago. They are in Atkins, AR at Oakland Cemetery, which is the resting place of many Burnetts and their cousins since 1928. At least four generations of Burnetts are buried in this small cemetery, including Mike Burnett's parents, Dr. Thomas (Buddy) Burnett and his wife Erma from Sapulpa, OK.



SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS PARADE

John's sons, Wes and Britton Burnett attended the Scottish Christmas Parade in Alexandria, VA in early December. They represented the House of Burnett by wearing the tartan. The photograph is Santa with Britton, Wes and Logan aloft



VISITORS TO CRATHES

A first visit to Scotland visit, unfortunately for them in freezing weather, was for Abby Burnette-Peake and David Humkins from New York. David and Abby have a most interesting business, Dot and Cross, providing entertainment support for designers, producers and vendors www.dot-cross.com Abby's grandparents, Doctor Harvey Burnett and his wife, had been to Crathes for some the early gatherings. I met them in the Great Hall beside the newly upholstered chair. *See Page 10*



TOM AND SUSAN BURNETT DAVIS

I was unfortunately abroad when Tom and Susan Davis visited Crathes in October. Tom was fortunate to visit the Falls of Feugh on the southern edge of Banchory when and where Salmon were jumping the rapids. A visit that all those who come to Banchory should make.



*The bright-plumed Feugh, triumphant in his linn,
Shakes a wild fleece and plunges to the Dee;
And mighty salmon leap his walls of porphyry.*

*The Tower of Scolty signals to the sky
And Clochnaben his craggy shoulder high
Shrugs in the lift – above brave Banchory.*

*Skinner's blyth fiddle still inspires the play
Of lightsome measures here – and loud Strathspey;
Is there a fairer vale than thine brave Banchory?*

Tom and Susan, who are from Aledo, Texas, had a double reason for coming to Aberdeenshire. In addition to Susan's Burnett connection, Tom's great-



grandmothers was Lelia Forbes (and Louisa Sacrimanus Forbes). His great-great grandparents were James and Joel Forbes. Another ancestor was a Logan and also from Scotland. The Forbes and Logan families moved to Pennsylvania and then to North Carolina on to Kentucky, where his Logan family built Logan's Fort in Kentucky in the 1780's. Susan and Tom went on to Castle Forbes after leaving Crathes to be entertained by Lord and Lady Forbes,

whom Aboyne Games visitors may have met as we always share a tent with them at the Games.

Susan is a 4 x great-grand daughter of Jeremiah Burnett from South Carolina b. 1786 whose father, also Jeremiah, was born in 1718 in Virginia and whose grandparents were John Burnett and Amy Gatewood. Coincidentally, her father's line includes Francis Brown of Essex Co Old Rappahanock Virginia. John Burnett (b 1610) was a neighbour on Piscataway Creek.

Susan has done her DNA and advises me that she has looked at the Burnett DNA website at Family Tree DNA and finds it interesting that 2 of the groups claim to be of Leys. They are R-M269 haplogroup. It appears to her that some of the male markers have mutated over the years hence two groups are able to claim Leys as ancestry.

If any reader is interested in a DNA kit, which Susan can supply, or corresponding with Susan on the subject, please contact her.

sdavis@mpatexas.net

RANDI STEELE

We very much enjoyed a visit from Randi Steele last month. She visited us last year with her mother and has returned to Glasgow to apply for a Post Graduates degree in Scottish History. Randi, from San Diego, is a descendant of John "Jonne" Burnett.

We gave her a full weekend programme including a Ceilidh provided by the Dee Don Ceilidh Collective at Tarland. Her partner for the evening was Angus Hay, an active member of the Clan Hay Society and whom Gathering visitors may have met.

Randi did display her Burnett allegiance on the Castle roof.

Best wishes with her endeavours to spend more time in Scotland.



RENE SHUFORD & PAM HOLBROOK

Rene Shuford from Asheville and Pam Holbrook from Ohio came to Crathes in October. Pam had been stationed at the US base at Edzell at one time, but had sadly never visited Crathes. They were travelling on around Scotland including a visit to Findhorn where Rene once considered a job.

Readers may know of my family connection with Asheville because the late Bill Cecil at Biltmore is my second cousin. Coincidentally and strangely, Rene's great uncle Cecil Burnette was the groundskeeper at Biltmore for many years. It's a small world.

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RUSTY AND SHARON BOLTZ

Amongst recent visitors to Crathes have been Rusty and Sharon Boltz from Oriental, North Carolina. We can trace Sharon's ancestry to Frederick Thomas Burnett who was born in 1770 and whom we are still researching. Rusty's lineage includes that of Burns. More recent links American links are Jesse Burnett born 1733 in Brunswick Cty., Virginia, who died 1829 in Buncombe City, NC and his father Frederick Burnett, who died in in Virginia in 1753, but was born in Scotland in 1708.

Some readers may know that the theatrical production, Monboddo, developed from a plan to make a film of the evolutionist's life. The film did not materialise, but one of the intended scenes was to be in the Garden at Crathes, where Robert Burns and Eliza Burnett would first kiss under the beautiful and spectacular laurel tree in the centre of the Lower Garden. Thereafter, film goers might find Crathes an appealing place to visit for that reason and re-enact that scene. Although the film was not to be, the intention has been honoured albeit by a different Burns and Burnett.

It was therefore fitting that Rusty and Sharon, with their Burns and Burnett ancestry should celebrate a major wedding anniversary by enacting what was planned for Eliza and Burns.



LETTER FROM LONDON

Peter and Chenyu Burnat

It was great to have Burnett representation from over the Border and particularly from a Gathering newcomer, Peter Burnat, his wife, Chenyu and children Dante-Antoni and Elizabeth. One of Peter's achievements during the visit was to arrange with Pam Blackhall, the renowned kilt-maker, to make him a kilt in the Burnett of Leys hunting tartan. He kindly sent me the front page photograph taken at the Gieves and Hawkes Christmas party at No1 Savile Row. Peter described how the kilt shone amongst the sea of suits and gathered a lot of interest.



Doubtless there were many other photographs of Peter and Chenyu at the party but I am sure none as charming as this one.



SNAKE FREED AFTER FIVE MONTHS LIVING IN RENTAL VAN

(All Burnett stories qualify for the Banner)

Mushu the corn snake went missing in June when her owner, Gavin Burnett, hired a Hertz van to move house.

The Scottish SPCA called to Aberdeen on Thursday to reports from a "completely terrified" woman of a snake slithering around on a seat. Mushu disappeared into the bodywork of her temporary home so was towed to an animal rescue centre where she came out of her own accord on Friday. They stripped the van and put it back together about three times, left bait and water to try and get her to come out. After about six days and no sign of her, they just assumed she had escaped from the van altogether.

Other users of the van five months later found Mushu. They found the snake slithering around the side of the seat. They were terrified and called Hertz who said they hadn't had that before. So they then phoned the Scottish SPCA.



Any animal rescue officer at the SSPCA said that finding a snake in a van can be a bit disturbing - but it's not uncommon to find snakes in unusual places. Snakes are notorious escape artists. They're very clever and can figure out how to manipulate locks, so owners have to be careful

However, Mushu is alive and well



BURNETTS IN VIRGINIA

We have recently had an enquiry regarding Burnetts in Virginia. There are descendants of John Burnett born 1610 in Aberdeen and his son Thomas born in Old Rappahannock, Virginia in 1665, (Banners 12 and 14) but our records are lacking information which we can pass to the enquirer. Following the Jacobite troubles in 1715 there were many Scots who were taken prisoner by the English and who were sentenced to be transported to work on the plantations of Virginia & elsewhere. Amongst others, these may include some Burnetts of whom we have no records.

If any reader has any relevant information, we would be pleased to be permitted to have it on our records.



BANCHORY PIPE BAND

Pipers and Drummers of the Banchory Pipe Band, under its new Pipe-Major, Calum Lawrie, joined with the Rubislaw Pipe Band and Grampian & District Pipe Band under on Armistice Day in Banchory. Alexander Burnett laid the wreath of poppies in his capacity of Member of the Scottish Parliament



SMILEY BURNETTE

Lester Alvin Burnett (March 18, 1911 – February 16, 1967), better known as Smiley Burnette, was a popular American country music performer and a comedy actor in Western films and on radio and TV, playing sidekick to Gene Autry and other B-movie cowboys. He was also a prolific singer-songwriter who could play as many as 100 musical instruments, some simultaneously. His career, beginning in 1934, spanned four decades, including a regular role on CBS-TV's Petticoat Junction in the 1960s.

There are lots of sites on-line with info about him. His parents were George Washington and Almira Bell Burnett who were both ordained preachers. Apparently he changed the spelling of his name from Burnett to Burnette.

SIR WILLIAM BURNETT KCB FRs

The Burnett of Leys Connection

In the Burnett Banner No 37 (March 2017) the career of Sir William Burnett, who was Physical General to the Royal Navy, was featured because of a particular piece of research in the course of which it emerged that he was the great grandfather of a Marjorie Gordon Burnett (Mrs Roberts).

At that time we were able to gather information about the career of Sir William Burnett but it was not clear if there was any connection to the Burnetts of Leys.

What was known was that William Burnett was born in Montrose, Angus, in 1779 and, after education at Montrose Grammar School and assistant to a local doctor, progressed to Edinburgh University to study medicine. Soon after arriving in Edinburgh he was appointed surgeon's mate on board the "Edgar" from which developed his illustrious naval career.



Further research into his family background has now shown that William Burnett was born on 16th January 1779 in Montrose, the son of William Burnett and his wife Mary Croll who were married in Montrose in October 1769. William snr was a Merchant in Montrose and from information gathered it would appear that much of his trade passed through the port of Montrose.

It is also likely that William Burnett snr succeeded to a family business as his father, Robert Burnett, was also a Merchant in Montrose. Robert Burnett and his wife Elizabeth Dunbar were married in Montrose on 17 December 1724 and had five other children born there in addition to William.

The link to Burnett of Leys is through Robert Burnett who was a son of Robert Burnett, Honorary Burgess of Aberdeen, who purchased the estate of Glenbervie in 1675 and his wife Katharine Douglas, whose father sold the estate. Robert snr was a son of Alexander Burnett of Leys and Jean Arbuthnot and a grandson of Sir Thomas Burnett who completed the building of Muchalls Castle.

Eileen Bailey

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

William Amherst Vanderbilt Cecil

Although not a Burnett, it would be inappropriate for me not to mention the sad passing of my cousin, Bill Cecil, who recently died at the age of 89.

Bill was the youngest son of Cornelia Vanderbilt Cecil and my great uncle John (Jackie) Francis Amherst Cecil and grandson of George W. Vanderbilt III, who built Biltmore House in the 1890s. He graduated from Harvard University in 1952 and he and his wife, Mimi, returned to Asheville in 1960 to preserve Biltmore by growing tourism in the region.

He retired from The Biltmore company's day-to-day operations in 1995 but very much remained an influence.

Comment from his family adequately sums up those of his many friends who knew him. His legacy is immeasurabl

e for his family and he will always be remembered for his leadership, vision and dedication to Biltmore. He had the



foresight to do what everyone thought was impossible. He spent many years in devotion to the preservation of Biltmore, determined to make the estate self-supporting by developing its appeal for tourism. Biltmore was always very close to his heart and he dedicated his life to ensuring that Biltmore would continue to be a treasure for future generations. He was very proud of his family and to see them carrying out his legacy gave him great joy.



I was fortunate to witness this. Fiona and I visited them shortly after we were married and Eliza and I in 2012. No hosts could have been more kind or helpful in making our visits always memorable.

CHAIR IN THE GREAT HALL AT CRATHES CASTLE

Times are not easy for the National Trust of Scotland and often much needed, but not critical, repairs have to be shelved until finance is available.

It is intended to place on the website a list of such projects in case anyone feels sufficiently sympathetic to contribute to the costs. I don't think that all would disagree that a property in perfect condition enhances the enjoyment of visitors although it is appreciated that the Trust must have its priorities when resources are under strain.

An item which recently attracted the attention of a visitor was a Scottish mid-Georgian mahogany armchair which is in the Great Hall and which was covered with Kashmir embroidery of Paisley design

It has been recovered in by Mo Fettes, a local upholsterer and thanks to the visitor who is a member of the House of Burnett. Here you can see it before and after the recovering.



LORD CHIEF JUSTICE LORD BURNETT

We are always proud of Burnetts who achieve public high office, but few successes can compare with that of the new Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, Sir Ian Duncan Burnett, Baron Burnett of Maldon,

I wrote to him recently in order to establish whether his family had any roots in the North East of Scotland, in which case there might be a family connection. He kindly confirmed that his great grandfather, John Duncan Burnett, a doctor, was born in Fraserburgh, his father being Robert who was a chemist, and who came south to practise in the South of England

John Duncan Burnett, born in 1867 at Frithside Street, Fraserburgh, attended Aberdeen University, where he is recorded as having gained Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery qualifications.

John Duncan's father, Robert Burnett was born in 1828 in Fraserburgh. He was the son of James Burnett and Helen Orchiston Andrew. After attending the academy in Fraserburgh, Robert was apprenticed to Dr Grieve in the town and later went to London to study chemistry and ophthalmology.

In the 1871 census, the family were recorded at Frithside House and in 1881 at 62 Broad Street, Fraserburgh. Robert Burnett, in business as a Dispensing Chemist and Optician, also appears to have operated a grocery, in Fraserburgh until his death in 1903. An extensive obituary



Mr Robert Burnett, chemist, Fraserburgh

,with the illustration shown, was published in the Fraserburgh Herald. He was buried in Kirkton Cemetery. During his lifetime he was a respected member of the community, a prominent member of the United Free Church and of the Town Council.

Robert Burnett's parents, James Burnett and Helen Orchiston Andrew, were married in 1823 in Aberdour, Aberdeenshire. James Burnett was born in 1796 at Ardlaw, Pitsligo, son of James Burnett, Crofter & Wheelwright and Margaret Prott. James Burnett jnr was a butcher in Fraserburgh in 1851 and later a farmer at Kirkton, Fraserburgh where he died in 1875.

Lord Burnett's grandfather, an academic, became an English barrister and his own father, sadly struck down when only 44, contested a parliamentary seat

in Scotland. This may have been, as Lord Burnett put it, more as a romantic nod to his heritage than practical sense, as they lived in Kent. Recent Burnett parliamentary involvement suggests that a calling to become a Member of Parliament is in the Burnett genes.

Lord Burnett was educated at St John's College and studied law at Pembroke College, Oxford. Called to the Bar in 1980, he became a member of Temple Garden Chambers. His practice has focussed on public and administrative law, personal injury and health and safety law, including acting as junior counsel to the King's Cross Fire inquiry and to the inquiry into the

convictions of the Guildford Four and Maguire family. He was leading counsel to the inquiry into the Southall rail crash and into train protection systems



following the Paddington train crash. His final case at the bar was as counsel to the inquests into the deaths of Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi al Fayed.

One task which he has set himself is to raise public awareness of what judges do. "I doubt whether most people appreciate the nature of the work done by our judges on a day-to-day basis," he says "Nobody should underestimate how difficult and harrowing it can be to deal regularly with family cases concerning child protection, or criminal cases involving serious violence or sexual abuse," he said. "Our judges work incredibly hard, making important, often life-changing decisions; day in, day out, in difficult circumstances." Court work is only part of it, he added, because there are long hours away from the public gaze. "Judges are a pretty remarkable group of women and men who put public service above personal gain."

He also wants to secure reforms to modernise the justice system, while improving the "terrible" state of some court buildings. He also wants to build on work in schools to teach children about the justice system; hundreds of judges already visit schools and local communities.

He lives in Essex with his wife and their two children, whose names, Robert and Helen, have been popular in Burnett genealogy. His interests include history, music, silver and wine.

LADIES FIRST

Readers may have seen the photograph of Sandra Burnett and her salmon which she caught in August during the Gathering week. Not to be outdone, Vinny did the same, with a slightly smaller specimen, but still a salmon. They all have to be returned to the river in accordance with the current code of practice but congratulations them both



ABOYNE HIGHLAND GAMES DVD

The 2017 Aboyne Highland Games, which was attended by those who came to the Burnett Gathering, was the 150th Anniversary of the Games. A DVD of the event is available from the Games Committee. The cost is £12.99 each. They can be posted for £1.50. (additional copies will cost more for postage). Payments accepted via BACS, PayPal or Cheque. Please get in touch via the Facebook page or email: secretary@aboynegames.com

www.aboynegames.com

A PUPPY'S CHRISTMAS POEM



It's the day before Christmas
And all through the house
The puppies are squeaking
An old rubber mouse.

The wreath which had merrily
Hung on the door
Is scattered in pieces
All over the floor.

The stockings that hung
In a neat little row
Now boast a hole in
Each one of the toes.

The tree was subjected
To bright-eyed whims,
And now, although splendid,
It's missing some limbs.

I catch them and hold them.
"Be good", I insist.
They lick me, then run off
To see what they've missed.

And now as I watch them
The thought comes to me,
That theirs is the spirit
That Christmas should be.

Should children and puppies
Yet show us the way,
And teach us the joy
That should come with this day?

Could they bring the message
That's written above,
And tell us that, most of all
Christmas is love.