



THE  
BURNETT  
GATHERING  
2026  
RETURNING HOME TO  
CRATHES

Wednesday 29 July - Saturday 1 August 2026  
ROYAL DEESIDE, SCOTLAND



# A WELCOME HOME

Returning home to Crathes

The Burnett Gathering 2026 invites you to Royal Deeside — to the historic seat of the Burnetts at Crathes, and to four days shaped by heritage, landscape and shared tradition.

It is a gathering held upon ancestral ground.

Over these days, we will walk the estate lands, hear the stories of our lineage, share meals together, explore the surrounding countryside and celebrate with music and Scottish tradition.

Whether this is your first visit to Scotland or a long-awaited return, we look forward to welcoming you — not simply as guests, but as part of the story.





## The Complete 4-Day Gathering Package

£600 per adult

£450 per youth (ages 10-17)

Children under 10: Complimentary

Over four days, the following experiences are included within your package:

- ✓ Welcome Supper & Clan Presentations
- ✓ Full Day at Crathes Castle & Estate
  - Castle Interior Tour
  - Historic Gardens Tour
  - Walks with the Ranger
  - Lunch at the Horsemill
  - Loch of Leys Walk
  - Highland Cattle Farm Visit
  - Estate & Family History Tour
- ✓ Evening supper, Strathspey & Fiddle Concert
- ✓ Full-Day Coach Excursion (choice of curated routes)
- ✓ Entry tickets to Balmoral Castle and/or Dunnottar Castle
- ✓ Grand Ceilidh Supper with Live Ceilidh Band
- ✓ Coach transport to Aboyne Highland Games
- ✓ Reserved Burnett Tent at the Games
- ✓ Lunch at the Games
- ✓ Evening Supper after the Games.
- ✓ All scheduled coach transport

To allow each guest to tailor their experience, the following elements are arranged individually:

- Accommodation
- Flights and airport transfers
- Admission to special exhibitions, interior tours and additional site experiences is not included in the Gathering package and may be purchased individually according to personal interest.
- Lunch on Day 3
- Entry to the Aboyne Highland Games
- Optional whisky tasting, salmon fishing, golf or gamekeeper experience

This approach provides personal choice while maintaining the shared spirit of the Gathering.



DAY 1  
ARRIVAL & WELCOME

WEDNESDAY 29 JULY – BANCHORY

Arrive in Royal Deeside and settle into your chosen accommodation in or near Banchory.

In the evening, we gather for a relaxed two-course supper, followed by clan and heraldry presentations from Lawrence Pearse, House of Burnett Genealogist, and Ross MacEwen on *Scots Heraldry: Clans, Lore, Legends & Law*.

An opening evening of gracious hospitality and shared heritage — extending a warm and traditional welcome to those who have journeyed from afar.

Optional Enhancements (Additional Cost):  
Salmon Fishing on the River Dee  
An Evening Roe Stalking with the Gamekeeper





## DAY 2 CRATHES & THE ESTATE

THURSDAY 30 JULY

Today we gather at Crathes Castle, historic seat of the Burnetts, where stone, landscape and lineage meet.

The day unfolds gently across the Castle, gardens and surrounding estate — an opportunity to experience both the formal history of the house and the deeper story of the land itself.

### Morning at Crathes Castle

- Castle Interior Tour
- Historic Gardens
- Walk with the Ranger
- Croquet on the lawn

### Lunch on the Estate

A relaxed lunch shared together at the Horsemill.

### Afternoon Estate Experience

- Loch of Leys & Crannog View
- Highland Cattle Farm Visit
- Estate & Family History Tour

### Evening

Three-course dinner  
Traditional Strathspey & Fiddle Concert

A full day immersed in land, lineage and living Scottish tradition.

### Optional Enhancements (Additional Cost):

- Whisky Tasting
- Salmon Fishing
- An Evening Roe Stalking with the Gamekeeper





Day 3  
Exploring Beyond the Estate

Friday 31 July

Today we venture further afield by coach.

Guests may choose between two carefully curated experiences.

Coach departure: 9:00am  
Return: approx. 4:30–5:00pm

Lunch is not included today to allow flexibility of choice.

## OPTION 1

### Royal Deeside & Balmoral

Follow the River Dee westward into landscapes long associated with the British Royal Family.

- Ballater – a Victorian royal village
- Crathie Kirk – place of royal worship
- Balmoral Estate – café, grounds and optional Castle exhibition
- Braemar & Highland scenery
- Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve

Entry to Balmoral Estate grounds and the Castle exhibition (including audio tour) is included within the Gathering package.

Guests may explore the grounds at leisure, visit the exhibition spaces, or enjoy the estate café and formal gardens.

A scenic day of royal connection and mountain air.





## OPTION 2

### Aberdeen & Dunnottar Castle

A combination of medieval scholarship and coastal drama.

Morning in Old Aberdeen

- King's College
- St Machar's Cathedral
- Granite architecture
- Aberdeen Art Gallery
- Maritime Museum

Afternoon at Dunnottar Castle, perched above the North Sea — one of Scotland's most dramatic historic fortresses.

Entry to Dunnottar Castle is included within the Gathering package.

Guests may explore the dramatic ruins and chambers or enjoy the sweeping cliff-top coastal views.

This is Scotland of legend and granite.

## OPTION 3

### INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION

For those who prefer to explore at their own pace, Royal Deeside and the surrounding coast offer a wealth of historic houses, landscapes and Highland character.

Guests may self-drive and shape the day according to their own interests.

#### Heritage & Coastal Landmarks

- Drum Castle — over 700 years of Scottish history
- Kemnay House — a Georgian country residence long associated with the Burnett family
- Muchalls, Craigievar Castle or Castle Fraser — from historic coastal settlement to distinguished National Trust for Scotland castles of architectural significance

For a more active day, Battle Grounds Adventure Activities offers outdoor pursuits, while Inchmarlo Golf Course provides a peaceful nine-hole parkland course set within woodland surroundings.

#### Scenic Walks & Natural Beauty

- Scolty Hill — panoramic views across the River Dee valley
- The Deeside Way — gentle riverside walking
- Falls of Feugh — a picturesque salmon leap
- Loch Kinnord & the Burn O'Vat — ancient landscapes and echoes of early settlement

Independent visits and entry fees are arranged individually.

Guests exploring independently are warmly invited to re-join the Gathering in the evening for the Grand Ceilidh.



DAY 3

## Supper & Grand Ceilidh

We gather for a traditional Scottish celebration at the Woodend Barn.

A hearty Scottish supper will be served, featuring classic dishes — a simple, time-honoured fare that reflects the warmth and character of the North-East.

Following supper, we welcome the Clachan Yell Ceilidh Band. With fiddle, accordion and driving rhythm, they lead us through reels and jigs drawn from Scotland's rich dance tradition. Each dance is clearly called and guided, ensuring that all may take part with confidence — whether seasoned dancers or complete beginners.

An evening of music, movement and shared celebration.

Included.





DAY 4

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST

## Aboyne Highland Games

Spend the day at one of Scotland's most enduring Highland gatherings — a celebration of strength, skill and tradition set against the backdrop of Royal Deeside.

The stirring sound of the pipes, the spectacle of the heavy athletics, the grace of Highland dancing and the camaraderie of the crowd together create an atmosphere unmistakably Scottish.

During our time at the Games, we will gather briefly as a Clan for our formal farewell — a moment of reflection and gratitude as the Burnett Gathering draws officially to a close.

The Burnett Gathering will be hosted from a reserved tent base on the Games field, offering a welcoming place to assemble, rest and share lunch together amidst the pageantry of the day.

A living expression of Highland tradition, and a fitting conclusion to our days together in Deeside.

Entry to be paid on the day  
Coach departure: 10:00am  
Return to Banchory: 4:00pm

## EVENING SUPPER

Following the Highland Games, those remaining in Royal Deeside are warmly invited to gather once more for an informal evening supper.

Although the official farewell will have taken place at the Highland Games, this relaxed evening offers time for conversation, reflection and shared gratitude — an opportunity to look back on our days together in Deeside and to celebrate connections renewed and newly formed.

The Gathering may draw to a close, but the connections endure.





## Optional Enhancements

For those who wish to enrich their time in Royal Deeside further, a selection of additional experiences may be arranged, subject to interest and availability.

These may include:

- Whisky or gin tastings
- Salmon fishing on the River Dee
- An evening Roe Stalking with the Estate's Gamekeeper
- Archery and country pursuits
- Croquet on the lawn at Crathes Castle
- Heritage and family research sessions
- Golf at Inchmarlo's nine-hole Queen's Course or practice at the driving range

All optional experiences are arranged subject to availability and sufficient interest.



## Join Us in Royal Deeside

We would be honoured to welcome you to the Burnett Gathering 2026.

If you would like to attend, please register your interest by email so that we may note your participation and keep you informed with further details as arrangements are finalised.

Further practical information, including accommodation suggestions and detailed timings, will be provided upon confirmation.

Early confirmation is appreciated to assist with planning arrangements.

For enquiries and reservations:

Ally Reid

Burnett Curator

✉ [burnettcurator@outlook.com](mailto:burnettcurator@outlook.com)

We look forward to welcoming you — not simply as visitors, but as part of the continuing Burnett story.

*\*While every effort will be made to deliver the programme as described, adjustments may occasionally be necessary. Should any element of the programme require amendment or cancellation, an appropriate refund will be provided where applicable.*