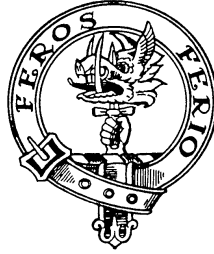
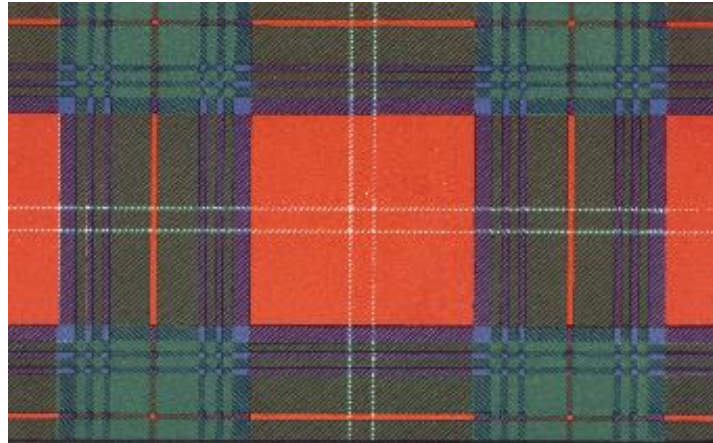


**CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY
UK BRANCH**



An Cirean
Cean Cinnidh



Welcome to Issue No 74 -UK Branch Newsletter

Dear UK Branch members.

Firstly we send many congratulations to Dr Jean Munro – Hon Clan Historian on her 100th Birthday – Saturday 2nd December 2023.

Well the summer is truly over across the UK – we had variable weather since our July gathering with some parts of the country experiencing terrible rain and flooding. I hope all members have been safe from these extremes of weather – where I live on the edge of the fens it is chilly and exposed due to the lack of hills but we do not have flooding near to us.

I have been able to make time for brief trips to the Highlands since July and each time I have been very lucky with warm sunny weather. Part of the reason for the trips has been to start putting together next years International Gathering which will be held from Monday 8th July to Saturday 13th July 2024. I have met with some UK Branch committee members, hotels in Inverness and the Strathglass Heritage Association who are keen to work with us. It was very useful meeting with Duncan Chisholm in Inverness and Juliette and Ben in Beaulieu. My thanks also go to Margaret Collin who has made enquiries regarding some of the visits we are planning for instance to Culloden, The Highland Folk Museum and the Highland Archive. I have followed up with emails to these places and a coach company to discuss where necessary times, refreshments and costs etc. Our main problem with fixing bookings is that we do not know the numbers planning to join us next July. We hope to have fairly firm numbers by the new year and have put in a provisional maximum of 100 people attending.

There has been encouraging interest from Australia and New Zealand Chisholm's who have already booked their flights to the UK to get the best deals. The outline of our Gathering with approximate times is shown on the next page. We will post a more detailed itinerary in due course. Obviously until we know the numbers of folk planning to attend fixing a price for the gathering is difficult to do. I have had outline costs from a number of the companies we will be using but we still have other items to sort out – eg a ceilidh band for the Tuesday evening and hire of a marquee for the Tea Party at Erchless Castle on the Thursday.

CLAN CHISHOLM GATHERING - JULY 2024 - Provisional Plans (as at November 2023)				
Monday	8th July	6:30pm onward	Meet & Greet/Register	Glen Mhor Hotel
Tuesday	9th July	09:30	Fort George	Coach trip
"	"	12:30	Culloden (+ lunch)	Coach trip
"	"	7pm	Ceilidh evening	Glen Mhor
Wednesday	10th July	10:30	Newtonmore - Highland Folk Museum. (+ lunch)	Coach trip
"	"	-	Free evening	-
Thursday	11th July	11:00	Glen Cannich - Marker Stone & Cairn	coach/mini coach
"	"	11:00	Cannich - Marydale. Strathglass Heritage Association Clearances & Chisholm related Exhibition	coach/mini coach
"	"	12:30	Lunch	coach/mini coach
"	"	15:30	Erchless Castle visit & Tea party	coach/mini coach
Friday	12th July	11:00	AGM - International Society	Glen Mhor
"	"	12:30	Buffet Lunch	Glen Mhor
"	"	14:30	Inverness Archive - Chisholm material	Bught Road
Saturday	13th July	11:00	City of Inverness Highland Games - inc Clan Village & Chisholm tables	Bught Park

Please let me (Susan) know as soon as you can if you intend to join us for the Gathering next July. I will post approximate cost as soon as I am able but please be assured that we do not expect to make a profit on the gathering and your committee is entirely voluntary. Therefore the fee will be at cost price only. I hope to hear from many of our branch members.

Wishing all our members a very happy Christmas and New Year.
Yours in clanship,
Susan

PUBLICATIONS

As mentioned in the last newsletter in August – Clan Chisholm Society member Michael Cope has published **‘The Chisholms of Lietry’ – ‘Two Centuries of a Highland Family’**. This is a very well researched history using existing sources such as Alexander Mackenzie’s History of The Chisholms as well as more recently available records. It tells the history of a branch of Chisholm’s over many generations from before the 18th century, through the troubled period of the Highland Clearances and up to present times. There are also many interesting and useful pictures and images of various documents. Michael has kindly donated a copy to our Clan Chisholm Society archives where it joins other distinguished publications. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading the book which may be purchased from Thirsty Books, Edinburgh for £20.00. see www.thirstybooks.com

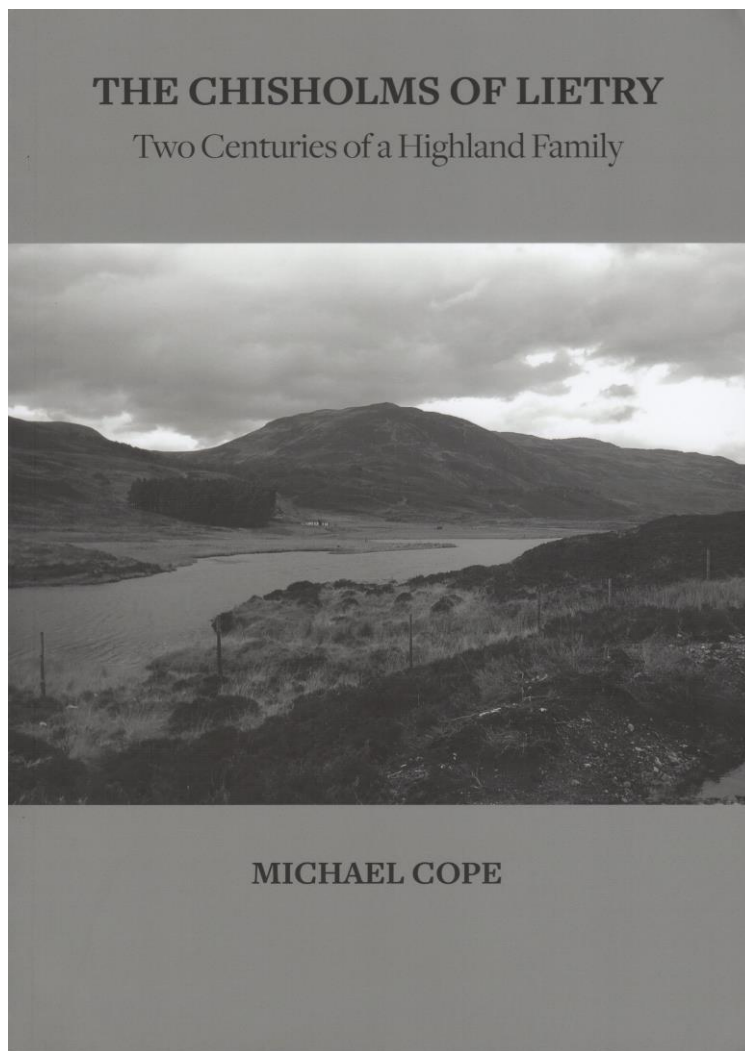
The book was featured in the recent Journal of the Highland Family History Society - [An Appreciation](#) included in the introductory pages of the book and written by the Chairman of the HFHS is given below with an image of the book cover with photograph by Alastair Chisholm showing Lietry looking North East across the River Cannich.

Though this is the story of just one Chisholm family from Strathglass, it could be taken for any family that was forced to leave their ancestral home. Their move is said to have been due to ‘Estate improvements’ rather than being part of the ‘Highland Clearances’, but they nevertheless had to uproot and move away when changes were made, and so ended a way of life known for centuries, this ‘diaspora’ story is common to many families with Highland Ancestors, but Michael Cope has been able to add further information to the account handed down in the family to bring the story from the eighteenth century almost to the present day. He has done so using resources such as The Chisholm Writs 1456 – 1810 by J Munro, and the Lovat Estate papers both in the Highland Archive Centre.

Overall this work shows the dedication of the author to tell his family’s history in a highly informative manner, and the use of family photographs adds so much more to the story throughout the book. Along with numerous other illustrations, the book is well presented and informative.

It is part of the Highland Family History Society’s Constitution to promote works such as this and it was agreed by the Committee to contribute to the cost of its publication.

The following by Michael Cope and taken from the Highland Family History Society Journal Volume 41, Issue 4, August 2023.



The Chisholms of Lietry are a cadet family of Clan Chisholm that have their origin in in the early seventeenth century in Strathglass in the former county of Inverness-shire. In the early 1700s Colin Chisholm (of the fourth generation) moved his family to Lietry in Glen Cannich and later generations would farm there until the late 1830s before moving to the Aird on the coast of the Beaulie Firth and subsequently to Inverness itself and the wider world.

The lives of Colin and his descendants can be traced against a background of immense social change in the Highlands of Scotland: upheavals of the Jacobite rebellions; the decline of the clan system and changes in land tenure; land clearances and waves of emigration to North America and Australia; and the emergence of a new mercantile and middle class before the First World War.

I have been able to bring this story of the Lietry family together in a new book which looks beyond kinship to describe the social background of people's lives and tells the personal stories of a dozen individuals across several generations. In addition to the usual sources for family history research, I have had access to a manuscript rent book of the factor for the Chisholm Estate 1770-1794 which has proved valuable to document the family occupation of farms in Glen Cannich in the decades prior to the clearances; these findings are published here for the first time. The family occupation at Lietry has been documented between 1715 and 1838 from Baillie Court records (Colin IV), the factor's rent book (Colin V) and estate rentals (Colin VI). All these record sources are supplemented by the anecdotal evidence of Colin VII (known as 'Colin of Namur'), a noted scholar of Gaelic language and Highland history, especially the Chisholm history in Strathglass. This tells us that Colin IV fought at Sheriffmuir and Culloden and retained his weapons in spite of the Disarming Acts of 1715 and 1746. Also, Colin of Namur was witness to the final clearances of Glen Cannich and Strathglass by clan Chief William Alexander XXV in the 1830s. Colin Chisholm VI was the last traditional farmer to leave Glen Cannich in 1838, after which the glen was converted into a sheep walk and subsequently a deer forest. He moved his family to Lovat lands at Phopachy in the Aird and the family's subsequent occupation there by his sons Duncan and Aeneas has been traced through census returns and valuation rolls. His daughters

Eliza and Helen would remain in Strathglass by marrying into farming families. Others from the seventh generation of children would branch into quite different occupations. The eldest son Colin VII became a customs official working in Liverpool and London. Brothers Archibald and Hugh, would become priests and be assigned to parishes in and around Glasgow, albeit with different relationships with their communities. Another brother, Theodore, would become a businessman in Inverness with interests in insurance, leather tanning and wool milling. Later Duncan would leave farming at Phopachy after a bankruptcy and establish himself as a coal merchant in Inverness. Members of the seventh and eighth generations would participate in the waves of nineteenth century emigration to North America and Australia, although with quite contrasting fortunes and outcomes. The most notably successful was Duncan Chisholm, son of Aeneas who emigrated to Colorado, USA and became a mining and milling executive. His cousin Colin Alexander would become Chief of Police in Vancouver, Canada, after a successful career with the Metropolitan Police in London. More tragically Isabella Chisholm, who took passage to Australia sponsored by the Highland and Island Emigration Society, died on the voyage of cholera in 1854; a not uncommon outcome for the times. Of those who stayed, the most notable of the eighth generation was Archibald Alexander (Archie) Chisholm, my wife's grandfather, who became Procurator Fiscal in Lochmaddy (1881-1913) and subsequently Sheriff-Clerk in Inverness (1913-1933). I have concluded the family story in the ninth generation with the death of Archie's son Alexander who was killed in action in France in 1917. So we come full circle in the family story from Colin who fought against a Hanoverian king called George to Alexander who fought for a king called George descended from the Hanoverians.

My book *The Chisholms of Lietry: Two Centuries of a Highland Family*, is published by Thirsty Books (www.thirstybooks.com) of Edinburgh, and was in part generously sponsored by the Highland Family History Society.

STRATHGLASS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

Clearances Exhibition Friday 13th to Sunday 15 October
at Beauly Bowling Club

This exhibition on the Highland Clearances had previously been staged during August at Marydale School Hall. It was well received and a lot of folk had not been able to get to the August dates so a further display was organised for Beauly. I went along with my eldest niece on a very cold day in October – we were pelted with hail stones as we entered the bowling club but thankfully it was nice and warm inside.

There was a wealth of information on the display boards, maps, pictures, geographical features and present day photographs of 'abandoned' crofts. The clan system and its decline were discussed and the history of the main landowning families in Strathglass the Chisholm's and the Lovat Fraser's were shown. There was so much information I did not have time to read it all as we had another engagement that afternoon.

Strathglass Heritage Association are keen to support our July 2024 Clan Gathering so I will have another chance to study some of the material.



Danu Stratton-Kent and Susan Chisholm at the exhibition

BEAULY BOWLING CLUB

During our visit to the Clearances Exhibition we noted the boards in the Beauly Bowling Club showing the names of club winners.

The Bowling Club was founded in 1868 and the present clubhouse opened on 10th August 1991 as the result of grant aid from a number of bodies – The Inverness and District Sports Council, Highlands and Islands Development Board and Highland Regional Council.

The plaques, starting in 1959 list the Green Champions, many Chisholm's among them:-

1960 – R Chisholm, 1962 – J Chisholm, 1964 – R Chisholm,

1978 - D Chisholm, 1983 – A Chisholm and in 2011 our own branch Chairman Ben Chisholm-

Broomfield. I also noted for 2004 and 2005 the name Sawicki. When I took on the secretaryship in 1998 we had Life members called Chisholm-Sawicki in London and Farnborough but lost touch with them in by 2003 – I wonder if there is a connection?

DUNCAN CHISHOLM (FIDDLER)
AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM UHI
(University of the Highlands and Islands)

Born and brought up near Inverness, Duncan Chisholm is one of Scotland's most recognised and accomplished fiddle players and composers. His musical career began in 1990, fronting folk rock band Wolfstone. The band started playing village halls in the Highlands before performing at festivals and arenas across Europe and the USA. Over the years, Duncan has performed on stage and recorded with many artists and his compositions complement many radio, television and film productions.

Duncan has produced a series of musical pieces inspired by the wild places of the Scottish Highlands, from the Glens of Strathglass to Sandwood Bay and, most recently, the Black Cuillin of Skye. Duncan's award-winning studio releases are a product of research, adventure, writing and production. Duncan's acclaimed multi-media production Kin toured widely. The series brought archive recordings to life through film and music, celebrating the people, places and culture of the Highlands.

This model was widely commended through Duncan's personal contribution, as well as being used as an educational programme to engage young people in ethnology, film making and music composition. Duncan's commitment to the future development of traditional music is through the design and delivery of contemporary productions, educational programmes and ground-breaking cultural collaborations.



Duncan said: "It is an honour to be awarded this honorary doctorate from UHI and I am very happy to see my musical endeavours appreciated and so clearly perceived. It is always by considering what has gone before, our shared 1000 years of our culture, that we can prepare and design for what will come next. Those foundations of culture give us the strength to create new streams within our tradition. Bringing our tradition together with contemporary media and production has always been at the heart of my work as a musician and creator. "I realise, however, that it is respecting our tradition and educating ourselves in what has gone before that we can really look forward with confidence. I feel privileged to be one part of this vibrant and valuable sector of the arts. Traditional music gives us a sense of belonging and a sense of place. It is a great river that flows through our lives and as a custodian of that culture I have always felt a responsibility to protect what has gone before as much as moving it forward in new and exciting ways."

In May 2021 Duncan joined the Chisholm DNA project and was excited to learn that he has links to the Chisholm chiefs line from 1500's to 1700's. This makes him a distant cousin to Chief Hamish. Robert Chisholm our Society President who heads up the DNA project suspects that Duncan will find a link to the Lietry or the Knockfin trees. Duncan whose family lived at Craskie in Glen Cannich has compiled some information on his family history with help from his father Archie and aunt Margaret.

THE 21ST SCOTS TRAD MUSIC AWARDS – 3RD DECEMBER 2023

Supported by Creative Scotland, the Trad Awards, or ‘Na Trads’, inaugurated in 2003, stand as a testament to the innovation and dedication of the individuals and organisations whose valuable contributions continue to enrich Scotland’s vibrant musical landscape. Presented by Alistair Heather and Mary Ann Kennedy, the awards were broadcast live on BBC ALBA and can be watched back on BBC iPlayer.

One of the country’s most recognised and accomplished fiddle players **Duncan Chisholm** won the award for Album of the Year, sponsored by Birnam CD, for his record Black Cuillin. Duncan’s seventh studio album to date, the beautiful body of work draws inspiration from the mountain wilderness on the Isle of Skye.

MISCELLANEOUS

Seen in a Daily Telegraph feature earlier this year but published in 2022.

A Waiter in Paris: Adventures in the Dark Heart of the City. By Edward Chisholm.

A search of the internet reveals this memoir has received a number of good reviews.

“Goes below the surface of one of the most iconic cities in the world and right into its glorious underbelly.”

The Parisian waiter inhabits a world of inhuman hours, snatched sleep and dive bars; scraping by on coffee, bread and cigarettes, often under sadistic managers, with a wage so low you're fighting your colleagues for tips. Colleagues - including thieves, narcissists, ex-Legionnaires, paperless immigrants, wannabe actors and drug dealers - who are the closest thing to family that you've got.



Edward Chisholm was born in Dorset, England, and moved to Paris in 2012 after graduating from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. A resident there for seven years, Chisholm spent the first four of them working all manner of low-paid jobs, from waiting and bar work to museum security and market hand, while trying to build a career as a writer.

Chisholm makes a living as a copywriter/pen for hire, with ambitions of writing novels. His work has appeared in The New York Times, the Guardian and the Financial Times magazine.

ALSO IN DORSET

In October several papers featured articles on the Cerne Abbas Giant. The National Trust which looks after this 180 ft ancient attraction cut into the chalk had to apologise when the outline became indistinct. A Trust spokesman said that mowing is not an option due to the biodiversity of the site. The exceptionally wet summer followed by a warm September and October had boosted grass growth.

Alastair Chisholm, an historian from nearby Dorchester, said “ To hear it is overgrown is extremely disappointing. The giant gives the heart and soul to Cerne Abbas.”

The National Trust has decided to remedy the problem by putting a flock of sheep on the site.

TAPAS RESTAURANT – INVERNESS

When visiting Inverness why not pop into La Tortilla Asesina in Castle Street for delicious food and drink and great service.

The restaurant is run by Duncan M Chisholm who is the son of Duncan F Chisholm (our past president, clan council member and UK branch stalwart). Duncan M's grandfather and Duncan F's father also Duncan was a founder member of the Society and started the famous Kiltmaking business also in Castle Street.

CAIRN – LOCH MULLARDOCH IN GLEN CANNICH.

Many visitors to the ancient clan lands take a trip up Glen Cannich and end at the dam at Loch Mullardoch. The glen was flooded as part of the hydro-electric schemes after the last war. A commemorative plinth was placed above the loch to mark where The Chisholm would address his clansfolk. A cairn was also started at the spot. It is said that the chief stood on a large rock, now under the water – this stone emerges in dry years – see photograph from 2021.

We are hoping to work with Strathglass Heritage and other agencies to make the route to the cairn safer and easier to navigate as it can be quite boggy underfoot. We will be visiting Loch Mullardoch during next years International Gathering.



Top of stone visible in front of the dam.



Plinth with plaque at the cairn

OBITUARY NOTICES

From various sources including Inverness Courier and Press & Journal

MARGARET DICKSON

Born 2nd February 1924 in Uddington, South Lanarkshire.

Margaret Hiddlestone Dickson joined the Clan Chisholm Society in June 2002 when living in Mill Hill, London. She had seen our advertisement in the Scots Magazine and was interested in Clan Chisholm as her mother was Florence Mary **Chisholm** born at Muckerach in Glen Cannich later moving to Crunaglack, Struy. Margaret later moved to Whetstone in London before moving back up to Scotland in late 2016 to East Calder in West Lothian. Margaret renewed her annual subscription each year usually enclosing a cheque with a Christmas card and was keen to read about Chisholm history in our society publications. In early September Margaret's daughter rang to let us know that her mother had recently died aged 99 years. Margaret wished to have her ashes placed in Eskdale Church, near Struy and Juliette was able to put the family in touch with St Mary's RC Church Beaulieu regarding this. Our condolences have been sent to the family.



CHISHOLM - Peacefully, in the exceptional care of the Moy Unit, Daviot Care Home, Inverness, on 4th September, 2023, **Kathleen Chisholm (Kate)**, née Tulloch, aged 84 years, latterly of Hazel Avenue and formerly Fairfield Road, Inverness.

Beloved wife of the late John Chisholm, loving mother of Wendy, Linda and Joanne, also a dear granny, great-granny, mother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law and aunt. Funeral Service on Friday, 22nd September, 2023 at 12.30pm in D. Chisholm & Sons' Funeral Home, Huntly Street, Inverness; thereafter to Kilvean Cemetery. All welcome to attend. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, in memory of Kate towards Alzheimer Scotland may be given at the door. Livestream was available.

DENISE CHISHOLM (Buckpool) Peacefully, at Seafield Hospital, Buckie, on Thursday, October 26, 2023, Denise (nee Cowie), aged 70 years, retired classroom assistant '**Mrs Chiz**' at Cluny Primary School and a much loved daughter, mum, gran, auntie, niece, cousin and friend to many. A celebration of Denise's life will be held at Buckie North Church, on Saturday, November 4, at 11am, thereafter to Buckie West Cemetery, to which all are welcome. Family flowers only, please, donations if so desired, may be given in lieu, in aid of Friends of Seafield Hospital. She will be forever in our hearts.

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**NANCY CHISHOLM** (Aberdeen). Peacefully, at Persley Castle Care Home, on Saturday, September 16, 2023, Nancy aged 98 years. Loving wife Ross, beloved great-granny of August and Riley and a dear friend to many. Funeral service to be held at Aberdeen Crematorium, East Chapel on Thursday, September 28, at 2.30pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. No flowers, please.  
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OBITUARY NOTICES – CONTINUED

CATHERINE CHISHOLM (Invergordon). Peacefully, at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on August 23, 2023, surrounded by friends and family, Catherine (Kate), late of Key Housing, Invergordon. Beloved sister, friend, sister-in-law, aunty and grand-aunty. Funeral service in Aultbea Free Church, at 12 noon, on Thursday, August 31, and thereafter to Mellon Charles Cemetery.

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**MARGARET MACDONALD** nee **Chisholm** – (Inverness). Peacefully, on Saturday, 26th August, 2023, in the loving care of the wonderful staff at Ach An Eas, Margaret MacDonald (nee **Chisholm**), aged 91 years. Originally of Fortrose.

Loving wife to the late Ian, caring mother to Donald, Fiona and Steven, doting nana and great-gran. Funeral service on Thursday, 7th September at 2pm, in the funeral home of William T. Fraser and Son, Culduthel Road, Inverness. All invited. Donations welcome for Ach An Eas.

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JEAN CHISHOLM (Graham). Coatbridge, North Lanark. With immense sadness we announce the death of Jean Chisholm on the 10th. August 2023. Peacefully at Summerlee House Care Home, aged 87 years. Beloved wife of **Michael Chisholm** and much loved and missed by her brother Tommy, her children Anne Marie, Michael, Gerard, Jacqueline and Clare, her grandchildren, great grandchildren and all who knew her. Funeral service was held at St. Augustine's Parish on 17th. August 2023.

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**STEVEN GERALD CHISHOLM** – Leicestershire.

Steve, as he was known, sadly passed away on the 4th February 2023, aged 70 years, surrounded by his wife, children and grandchildren. Eternal husband to wife Anita. Much loved father and adoptive father to Warren, Tara and Leanne. Also, grandad to Madison, Ella, Jake, Olivia, Eleanor and Theia. Steve dedicated his life to his family and helping others with a career in the NHS as a paramedic. As Steve got older, he stayed within care and moved to a role within Age UK, continuing to assist and care for others with needs. Steve touched the lives of many, leaving fond memories and warm wishes wherever he went. Steve was the life and laughter of any gathering; he will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Steve was a true role model to his children and grandchildren, someone who they will always look up to and admire. The funeral service was held at South Leicestershire Crematorium on Friday 17th of March 2023 at 3pm. Flowers welcomed, but donations in lieu, if so desired, to the Alzheimer's Society UK.



## SUBSCRIPTIONS

*A reminder that Annual Subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year. Thank you to all who continue to support the Society with their regular subscriptions and a huge thank you to members who add a donation to funds – you are helping to ensure that our Society and all it stands for continues.*

***Please Note:** If your payment is by standing order with your bank could you please **check that the amount is correct.** Some of these arrangements were set up some years ago and are now too little to cover our costs.*

*Current subscription rates are shown below and are usually found in our branch newsletters. NB. Subscription rates have not been raised since 2013.*

Payment by cheque (or PO) to:- 'Clan Chisholm Society - UK Branch'  
and sent to Hon Secretary/Treasurer, Susan Chisholm

Or a bank transfer may be made to our bank - Natwest, Bury St Edmunds –  
sort code 60-04-16, a/c 30250633. (IBAN GB55 NWBK 6004 1630 2506 33)

If you elect to pay by bank transfer please let me (Susan) know.

For **Life Members** who wish to continue to receive the Annual Clan Chisholm Journal - a payment of **£5.00** per annum is requested to help cover the cost of publication and postage. NB. Life membership ceased to be offered after 1996.

*There is no charge for branch newsletters which are produced 3 - 4 times a year.*

Annual membership - £12.00

Annual over 60 - £9.00

10 year membership - £65.00

10 year Family membership - £74.00

I try to send a reminder if a member is overdue in subscription payment. If you are unsure, then the year last covered by a subscription payment is usually shown on the address label with newsletters and other mail which I send to some members. For those receiving information electronically please do email me. If you have any other queries please do get in touch.

*Susan*

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Visit the clan society website at [www.ClanChisholmSociety.org](http://www.ClanChisholmSociety.org)