

Winter Newsletter

Clan MacDuff Society of America

December 2022



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NOTES FROM THE NATIONAL CONVENER

National Convener Gary Ballard offers a few words for the closing of the year.

Howdy MacDuffs,

2022 is coming to a close and I for one am looking forward to a new year. Clan MacDuff will be in good shape for 2023. Nearly all festivals are planning to open. MacDuff has been slowly growing and now more and more members are hosting tents at more festivals and events. There are plans for Quarterly regional meetings, local meetings, picnics and other gatherings.

As always there are many positions that still need to be filled, Clan MacDuff is growing but more volunteers are needed to keep the Clan growing. So become more involved and come out to festivals, meetings and functions. These are a great excuse to travel and meet more of your MacDuff Kinfolk. We will be traveling to many interesting places and would love to have you join us for the fun and memories that we will be making.

I want to thank Jolene Gurley for the wonderful job she did as Newsletter Editor for so many years. I also want to thank Riley Alfred for stepping up and agreeing to take over as Newsletter Editor

For information, see the Clan MacDuff website and visit us on facebook.

- Gary Ballard



Gary Ballard is a registered Professional Engineer, University of Texas Arlington Electrical Engineering graduate who worked with the US Army and Air Force, and though retired after 33 years he still does consultation work on occasion.

Gary and his wife live on the family farm where they raise cattle and hay on about 600 acres of land. They also like to travel and have been to about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the National Parks and many historical sites and have traveled about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the world.

After discovering that he and his wife are both MacDuffs they joined Clan MacDuff in 2002 and became life members in 2006. In 2003, Gary became a Texas State Convener and in 2005, he became the Southwest Regional Convener. In 2019 he became the National Convener for Clan MacDuff and currently holds both positions of Southwest Regional Convener and National Convener.

CLAN MACDUFF OOT N ABOUT



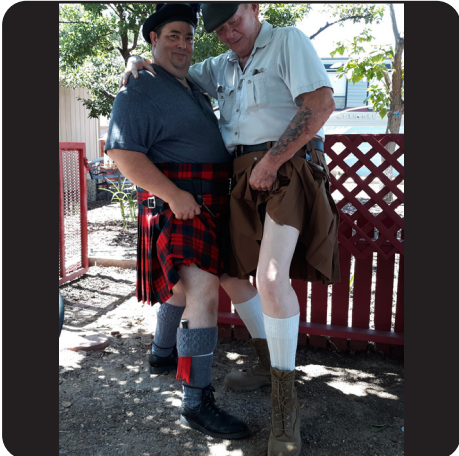
Michele the Ligioneer Highland Games



Cathy at the Edinboro Highland Games



MacDuff in New Mexico!



MacDuff in New Mexico!



MacDuff in New Mexico!



MacLellan/MacDuff at the Salado Games

Please take photos at the events you go to and submit them to the newsletter! Let's show off all the cool things we do and places we go!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAKER-DAVIS HANDFASTING

*On this day of 10 September, 2022
Tod Baker and Daylin Davis
Celebrated their love with a handfasting
in Estes Park, Colorado*

After a romantic proposal sealed with a kiss, most of the clan joined in as witnesses to the handfasting!



GENEOLOGY REPORT

With the holidays quickly approaching, I thought I would comment on the DNA kits available for purchase. Although there are probably many to choose from, I have used 23 and Me and Ancestry. Both provided similar results and answered some questions that I had.

Depending on which kit you use you will probably get slightly different results. For example, one kit stated that I was over 50% British. What I failed to realize was that the report did not break British down into Scottish, Irish, English, as I do. Another thing that can be frustrating (it was for me) was that the results do not list specific areas – such as which area of a country your relatives are from. I think that this is something that many people want to know. Unfortunately, this where research comes in. I have a friend who has been doing research for more than 40 years and still learn something new every day.

23 and Me can give you a breakdown of which countries you have relatives in – of those who have taken the 23 and Me test and allowed their results to be shared. When I looked at the map feature, I saw that I had relatives (people with shared DNA) all over the US and in many European countries. You can also get a list of people who are related to you and how much shared DNA you have. They also offer a message platform so you can reach out to people who share your DNA.

Ancestry would love to sell you a subscription, but you do not have to accept. Their breakdown was slightly different from 23 and Me – percentage of each country. Where 23 and Me focuses on research, I have found that Ancestry focuses on records. They are adding new types of records (passenger lists, military records, etc.) on a regular basis. One option is to accept their free two-week trial. I have spoken with some people (when I helped my friend) who visited the Genealogy Pavilion at my local Irish Festival who told me that they used the free two weeks to search records and fill in gaps in their family trees.

My suggestion is that if you are curious, take the test. You may even want to get tests for family members. There are often specials offered on tests that will make the price more reasonable. It makes a great gift – any time of year.

On another note, if anyone is doing research for their family tree and doesn't know where to look, I may be able to help. My friend has collected free sources to locate records for Scotland and Ireland. Please reach out to me if you are interested. These are ones she gives out regularly when people come to her pavilion at festivals. I have not used the resources yet but have recommended them to others. - Cathy Montgomery

PENNSYLVANIA STATE CONVENER'S REPORT

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend two festivals this year. The festivals were on back-to-back weekends in September.

For the first time since the beginning of the Highland Games in Edinboro, PA, Clan MacDuff was represented. I was fortunate enough to attend the 28th annual Games at West Penn University, Edinboro Campus – formerly known as Edinboro University. Edinboro is approximately 2 ½ miles north of Pittsburgh, near Erie, PA. These games are part of a four-day celebration called the Highland Games and Scottish Festival. Although the Games were held on Saturday, the festival began on Thursday evening with a movie in the campus Planetarium. On Friday evening there was a fiddle workshop that was open to the public, followed by the Regional Qualifier Fiddle Competition, and to finish the evening, a showing of the Disney movie Brave under the stars on the campus lawn.

Saturday morning brought the National Scottish Fiddle Championship – US Junior competition, and Heavy Athletic Competitions. Throughout the day (starting at 9) approximately 10 Clans (a new record from what I have been told) gathered under a large tent and socialized. I had the opportunity to make new friends and to see old friends. Throughout the day there were Scottish Village Vendors and food vendors offering Scottish and American food. There was even a fire entertainer.

Throughout the day there were also Solo Pipe and Drum Competitions, music performances, art exhibitions, Highland Games and crafts for kids, Clydesdale horses, a Highland Dance Competition, archery, and a Folk Harper Showcase, among many others.

Two interesting things about this event were the layout and the competitions. First, all Clans shared one large tent. It was much easier to meet and greet people on a level area. Second, the competitions were held on the lawn in front of the Clan tent area. This made watching the competitions much easier.

For those who like to shop, the vendors were in an area a short distance away, but the area was level and much of it was paved. This made getting to everything very easy.

Saturday evening the Edinboro Food Service provided a Ceilidh dinner. Many of the Clans had representatives in attendance. Traditional foods were offered, following the presentation of the haggis. The dinner was outstanding, and a fiddle band played after dinner. The members of the band were in high school and traveled from another state to play for us. Sunday morning closed the festival with a service at a local church.

The festival was very family friendly. There were even children in attendance at the Ceilidh dinner. Overall, this was an excellent festival, and I definitely plan to attend again next year.

The second festival was held in Ligioneer, PA. This was the second time that Clan MacDuff was represented at this festival.

This event was a one-day celebration held about 1 hour from Pittsburgh. Each Clan had its own tent spread throughout a large area. This festival is held on the grounds of Idlewild Park, an amusement park for families. There is an area within the park called Storybook Forest where our youngest ones can see their favorite characters from books and at one time (and maybe still but I'm not sure) could see King Friday from Mr. Rodgers' Neighborhood.

An interesting thing about this festival is that in order to do anything you must walk through the park (even use the facilities). Although some of the rides were available, the competitions were held in the large bandstand area. For the Clan parade we had to walk through the park, down a hill, and into the bandstand area.

Outside the bandstand area were food vendors, a genealogy pavilion, vendors selling Celtic goods and other groups such as the St. Andrew's Society. It is unfortunate that the Clan tent area is so far from the action. One really must try to find the Clans. But many people did. For the first time I gave out several membership applications.

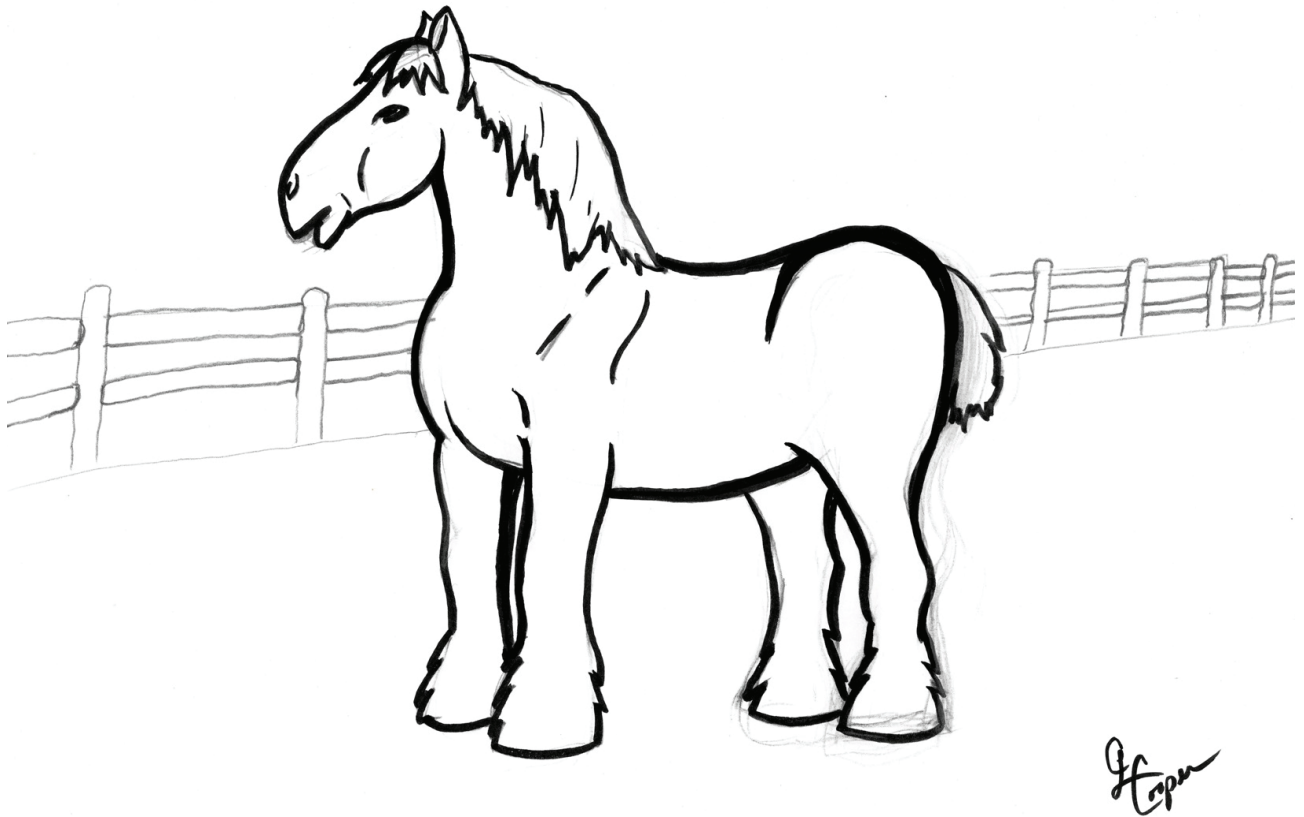
I also had the pleasure of sharing this event with a friend of mine, Michele. She graciously offered to attend the Ligioneer event with me and stay at the tent while I marched in the parade and went shopping.

Clan MacDuff will be represented at these two events next year, and hopefully a third event. While at Edinboro, I was approached by people from a local winery. They wanted to host a Highland Games event at their location. They wanted Clan representation, and all the events they could possibly host. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, but promised to attend next year. A winery seemed like an unusual place for a Highland Games, but anywhere we can share the culture and fellowship works for me.

- Cathy Montgomery



Cathy Montgomery is the Clan Genealogist (4 years) and Pennsylvania State Convener (2 years). Her ties to Clan MacDuff come from both her mother's and father's families. She is part of Clan Montgomery.



Robert the Bruce was crowned king of Scotland by Countess Isabella MacDuff.

The Bruce was crowned king of Scots on March 25th of 1306.
But, did you know that he was also crowned a second time right after that?

It was the roll of the Earl of Fife (Clan MacDuff) to enthrone a Scottish king, sitting on the Stone of Destiny at Scone. However, in 1306, the Earl (Donnchadh III aka Duncan) was in prison and the stone had been stolen ten years earlier by Edward I.

This is why the Earl's daughter, Isabella, rode to Scone to crown The Bruce. She arrived a day late and so he was crowned a second time by her, because the crowning needed to be performed by a MacDuff.

Isabella MacDuff, Countess of Buchan and daughter of the Earl of Fife, was imprisoned by Edward I in a cross-shaped cage made of iron & stone and hung up outside, living in that for many years.

We celebrate The Bruce. Let's not forget to celebrate Isabella MacDuff for her heroic act.
[This really did happen in history!] –C.L. Cooper

NEW MEXICO CONVENER'S REPORT

Although the Scottish society as a whole in New Mexico is currently rather unstable, Clan MacDuff is very active. Every month, my husband Chris and I host a free movie at a local restaurant on a big screen. For example: December 13th 2022, Monthly Movie - "Stone of Destiny". Generally on the third Tuesday of each month, the venue is unable to completely set each date in stone more than about a month in advance.

We hold a Coronation Celebration every March 25th to honor our own Isabella, who crowned Robert the Bruce. This year, we will be crowning visitors and providing more details about her on Saturday, March 25th at a Clan MacDuff booth. Our event will be held during the 3-day New Mexico Renaissance Celtic Festival (NMRCF), March 24th - March 26th at Wildlife West Nature Center in the city of Edgewood. It is an event full of pirates and knights and even fantasy but a small Scottish clan area is a part of the larger gathering. Although clan applications are not yet available, the organizer is a personal friend and we will certainly be there and hope you will come if you are in the area.

There are other festivals tentatively planned for 2023. A summer event run by the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival (RGVCF) is tentatively set for May 6th and May 7th at the balloon grounds in Albuquerque. Clan applications are not yet available. Their fall event may have been cancelled once again as there is no data available on their website about it existing. There is normally an Aztec, NM, games and celtic festival in October as well. Like the fall RGVCF event, the website for the Aztec Highland Games currently shows no 2023 information at this time

Regardless of booth possibilities, our clan in New Mexico hopes to see you for our MacDuff Labor Day Brunch. This year, our free potluck brunch in our backyard will be on Monday, September 4th. We also have added three Nigerian dwarf goats to our household and our brunch guests can be sure there will be time at the end of the event for anyone to romp with them too. Please add us to your calendar if you might be able to visit with us. We were very honored to have a MacDuff from Texas spend an evening with us last year.

-Cynthia Cooper Jones



Cynthia Cooper Jones is the state convener for New Mexico, who's father is a former National Convener. She is part of Clan Cooper.

"Many from our lineage are documented back to 1696 in the areas of Rothney, Bucksburn and Premany. More recently, our relative George Harold Cooper, came to America in 1898 and was a founding member of the Signal Hill community in Long Beach, CA. I challenge other MacDuffs to embrace their lineage and to actively be a little part of their own bigger picture."

NEW MEXICO EVENTS

Although the Scottish society as a whole in New Mexico is currently rather unstable, Clan MacDuff is very active. Every month, my husband Chris and I host a free movie at a local restaurant on a big screen. For example: December 13th 2022, Monthly Movie - "Stone of Destiny". Generally on the third Tuesday of each month, the venue is unable to completely set each date in stone more than about a month in advance.

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-Cynthia Cooper Jones



SALADO, TX HIGHLAND GAMES

The annual Salado Scottish Gathering and Highland Games was held November 11-13 on the grounds of Thomas Arnold Elementary School in Salado, Texas. This year is their 61st year of bringing traditional Celtic Music and culture to Central Texas.

On Friday, things started out pretty hectic. Festival site opened at 8:00 am. Weather was cold and rainy with a stiff wind blowing. Some brave souls tried to set up their tents. They soon learned the hard way that setting up tents in this weather was not a good idea. Friday night we met at Taqueria Mexicano Grill that is located adjacent to the hotel. This place serves excellent Tex-Mex food in large amounts. I think several members were surprised at the amount of food they were served. Seems they expected a fair amount of food on a plate. Instead, they received a large amount of food on a platter and many took food back to their rooms.

Saturday started out much like Friday as it was very hectic. The festival opened at 10 am so some members had to be at the festival site early. Tents were put up and anchored, sides were up in right location and fastened correctly, banners were put up as well as tables and chairs. The whole place looked wonderful with a beautiful appealing view for any potential members to see. It was a slightly windy, cloudy/ sunny day with pretty cool temperatures in the morning and hot in the afternoon. In other words just a normal Texas Day in November. This kept some people at home but as the temperature warmed those who wanted to get out and enjoy life started showing up at the festival. About 11 am several more members made their way to the tent. This worked out fine as they were able to man the tent for awhile. After the opening ceremonies everyone made their way back to the tent to relax. This was good as there was a large number of visitors asking questions about Clan MacDuff. At times we had several members helping these visitors. Good thing we have members who are willing to help.

Saturday afternoon we had a regional meeting at 2 pm where we went over various topics that pertained to what our region is doing. We try to hold these 4 times a year for our members so they will know what we are doing and also so they can ask questions or make comments. Members appreciate these meetings because they get to be a part of decision making for the region. This year we had 15 members attend.

At a set time we met and traveled a few miles to Schoepf's BBQ in Belton. This restaurant has 3 large rooms with the back room reserved for Clan MacDuff. Schoepf's is a pit BBQ place with a large variety of meat and a large selection of side dishes. They have brisket, ribs, steaks, pork, quail, 8 kinds of sausage, etc and sell by the pound so everyone could get as much as they wanted to eat. Samples were also given to those who could not decide what to eat. Did not hear anyone say they were still hungry so everyone must have enjoyed the meal. Needless to say it was noisy but people

seemed to enjoy their meal and visiting with each other. A few members were leaving very early the next morning so after eating we all said our goodbyes to them and went back to the lodgings for a well deserved night of rest.

Sunday, the weather was about the same as Saturday and as it got warmer more people started showing up. But Sunday was still much slower than Saturday. We still managed to talk to several people and some members renewed. We stayed open until 3:30 pm. There were very few people so we packed up and went home.

Overall I believe we had a very successful weekend. In fact this is the first time in many years that the weather was pretty nice all weekend, pretty good attendance all weekend, and more than enough members to man the tents at all times.

Gary Ballard
Southwest Regional Convener



2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Clan MacDuff AGM will be held at the Orlando Highland Games 14-15 January 2023. We will also be the Honored Clan at the event! In regards to voting at the AGM, here is a note from the Clan secretary, Scott Fletcher:

“Ballots must be postmarked by December 26, 2022 in order to arrive by the festival, all of the instructions are on the Ballots and/or Proxy forms. Please fill them out completely and return by the cutoff date.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Clan Council, I want to wish you the Merriest Christmas Holidays, The Happiest Hanukkah, and all of the other seasonal holidays!

Yours aye,
Scott Fletcher
Clan MacDuff National Secretary

You can use the ballot form at the end of this publication or check your email for the printable PDF attachment sent by Gary Ballard on November 10, 2022. When mailing the ballot please clearly mark on the outside “BALLOT” and address it to:

Sean Bradshaw, Vice Convener
8105 Rainfall Rd.
Alvarado, TX 76009-4505



The Clan MacDuff Society of America, Inc.



Gaelic Name:
Motto:

MacDhuibh
Deus Juvat (God Assists)

Greetings MacDuff's,

Please use the enclosed Proxy Statement and Ballot if you are **NOT** planning to attend the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM), in Orlando Florida January 14 – 15, 2023.

Please initial the appropriate blank or write in a nomination of your choice. In the case of a family membership, both adult members may vote by initialing.

Note: The ballots will remain sealed until the weekend of the AGM, when they will be counted by two tellers and overseen by a judge appointed by the Vice Convener.

Note: Both members who hold a family membership may use the same form but must sign separately.

PLEASE complete and mail / email postmarked no later than Monday, December 26, 2023.

Sean Bradshaw, Vice Convener
8105 Rainfall Rd.,
Alvarado, TX 76009-4505

macduffsb@gmail.com

Important: On the outside of your envelope please print the word "**BALLOT**". Sometimes envelopes have been opened by mistake because the recipient did not realize that the envelope contained a ballot. Envelopes are not opened until the day of the AGM to be held on Saturday, January 14, 2023.

Yours aye,

Sean Bradshaw,
Vice Convener
Clan MacDuff Society of America, Inc.

The Clan MacDuff Society of America, Inc.



Gaelic Name:
Motto:

MacDhuibh
Deus Juvat (God Assists)

An Ceann
Cìrean Cinnidh

Official Ballot Proxy Statement

If you are unable to attend the AGM, it is important that the Clan Council have your signed PROXY STATEMENT.

This Proxy Statement allows the individual named below, either the Vice Convener or other designated party, to vote on your behalf on business at the meeting.

If there is another member who will be attending the AGM, who is in good standing, and you wish that person to vote on your behalf, please supply your designated parties name below.

PROXY

I, THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBER, of The Clan MacDuff Society of America, Inc. a North Carolina non-profit corporation, do hereby constitute and appoint

Sean Bradshaw, Vice Convener
8105 Rainfall Rd., Alvarado, TX 76009-4505

OR:

Name of other designated party (**MUST** be a Member in good standing)

Address (if known)

as my attorney in proxy with full power of substitution for, and on my behalf, to attend the Annual General Meeting on January 14, 2023 of said corporation and to act, vote, and execute consents with respect to all matters on which members may vote, as fully and to the same extent and effect as I might do myself.

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Printed: _____

Printed: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

The Clan MacDuff Society of America, Inc.



An Cèann
Cìrean Cinnidh

Gaelic Name:
Motto:

MacDhuibh
Deus Juvat (God Assists)

2023 AGM Official Ballot

2023 – 2025 Officers (two-year term)

Any nominations from the membership would be gratefully received.

Vice Convener

_____ Sean Bradshaw

Treasurer

_____ Davie Cottrell

2023 – 2025 Regional Conveners (two-year term)

Any nominations from the membership would be gratefully received.

Deep South

(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi)

_____ Tony Dickens (Incumbent)

Mountain States

(Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming)

_____ Ryan Gurley (Incumbent)

The Clan MacDuff Society of America, Inc.



An Ceann
Cìrean Cinnidh

Gaelic Name:
Motto:

MacDhuibh
Deus Juvat (God Assists)

Pacific Southwest

(Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada)

_____ **Stephen Lundie** (Incumbent)

New England (Vacant)

(Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Middle Atlantic (Vacant)

(Delaware, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia)

New England (Vacant)

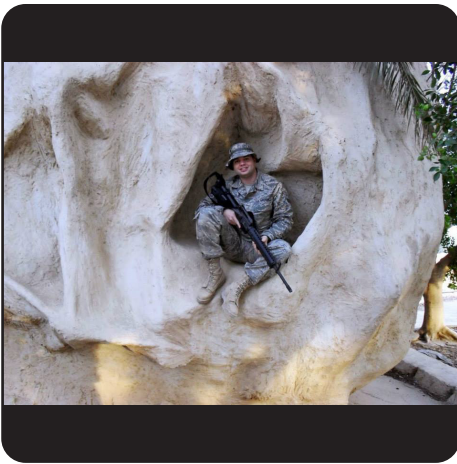
(Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Plains States (Vacant)

(Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota)

Pacific Northwest (Vacant)

(Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington)



Riley Alfred is a 7-year veteran of the United States Air Force, an accomplished chef and award winning baker, a talented leather worker, and avid nature photographer.

They also enjoy riding motorcycles and participating in equestrian sports like pleasure riding or driving a cart or carriage.

Riley is a descendent of Clan Alfred and Clan Stewart, as well as having ancestry from the O'Markey family in Ireland and the Hughes and Woughter families from Wales.

If you would like to submit photos or articles for the newsletter please send these to: mxrileyquinn@gmail.com

