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## Welcome to the Clan Hunter International Gathering 2026

We are delighted to welcome you to the Clan Hunter International Gathering 2026—an unforgettable journey into our shared history and heritage. Whether you are reconnecting with fellow Hunters or discovering the rich legacy of our clan for the first time, this gathering promises to be a truly memorable experience.

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### Strengthening Our Cornerstones and Deepening Bonds of Friendship

Guided by the four pillars of Stewardship, Connectivity, Inclusion, and Legacy, Madam Pauline and her dedicated team remain committed to nurturing the foundations that will carry Clan Hunter confidently into the future.

This year marks a particularly meaningful milestone. Twenty-five years ago, Madam Pauline extended a heartfelt Hand of Friendship to Clan Muirhead—a bond that continues to flourish today. In that same spirit, we will extend our Hand of Friendship to three additional Chiefs and their clans: Clan Irving, Clan Grant, and Clan McEwen. This special occasion will be celebrated in a special ceremony on Friday afternoon.

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### Hunterston Castle's Ancient Bearing Sword

For many years, Hunterston Castle has held a remarkable secret, nearly as old as the castle itself. Displayed in the Great Hall was a sword of extraordinary size and weight. Recent examination revealed it to be a 15th-century ceremonial bearing sword, likely used for significant occasions such as the inauguration of a new clan chief.

This historic sword has now been lovingly restored and will be formally presented during the Friday afternoon ceremonies.

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### A Unique Moment in the History of Clan Hunter

The 2026 Gathering will also celebrate several historic firsts. Madam Pauline has made two significant new appointments:



Louise Hunter, marketing expert and events organiser, will be appointed Chieftain.



Martin Beer, our social media specialist, will be appointed *Deputy Macer Venatorus*.

In recent years, Clan Hunter has experienced remarkable growth. Madam Pauline and her partner, Graham Wright, *Macer Venatorus*, have worked tirelessly to share Scottish clan culture across our global diaspora and to elevate Hunter heritage on the international stage—with great success. With the expertise and leadership of Louise and Martin, the clan will be well positioned to participate in more events and to further support Scotland's rich cultural traditions.

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### The Court of the Lord Lyon

These appointments have been submitted for approval at the highest level, and we are honoured that The Lord Lyon has graciously given consent to the official inauguration of Louise and Martin. High-ranking representative of the Lyon Court, George Way Pleas, Rothsay Herald, will be present at the ceremony which will also take place on Friday afternoon along with the presentation of the bearing sword and the Bonds of Friendship.

We are also delighted to welcome Philip Tibbetts and Ross McEwen, who will share their expert insights into the symbolism surrounding our celebrations.



Philip Tibbetts, March Pursuivant of Arms at the Court of the Lord Lyon and Honorary Vexillologist, will speak on flags and their powerful symbolism.



Ross McEwen, seanachie to the Chief of Clan McEwen and an authority on heraldry, will explore the rich traditions and meanings of heraldic symbolism.

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We look forward to welcoming you to a gathering filled with history, friendship, and shared pride in our enduring Clan Hunter legacy. Please [click here](#) for the full gathering programme.