

Hello Clan!

I trust this email finds you well, having enjoyed a happy and relaxing Christmas break. I have been very hard at work trying to make up for an exceptionally disruptive year in 2017, for which I must apologise. I was so busy with work (and teaching myself web design was a slow process!) that I didn't get a chance to publish the registrations as quickly as expected. In addition, I must apologise for not having sent an email this year.

However, the good news is that things were definitely happening behind the scenes! For example, we applied for and secured a 5000 GBP grant from the Scottish Clan Event Fund, which will help with our infrastructure costs, keeping the cost of the Gathering as low as possible, and supporting the success of our event. I also spent two months in Oban during September and October, making contacts locally and laying the groundwork for a successful event next year.

One of these contacts was Adhamh O Broin, the renowned Gaelic consultant to the television show Outlander. Adhamh is a champion of Gaelic language, history and culture. He will join us for at least two days of the Gathering, taking us on a journey through our cultural heritage and inviting us to connect with the authentic Scotland.

Today marks 200 days until the Gathering, and it's definitely full speed ahead on everything: the website is looking good <https://macintyregathering.com/> and in future I expect to send updates roughly every two weeks to keep you abreast of what's happening.

The big news is that registrations are open and the preliminary schedule is now available so you can start planning your trip. Detailed descriptions, itineraries and prices will be available soon, and tickets to events will go on sale by the end of January. Go to the **buy tickets** tab on the website to register your attendance and check out the schedule. Please register your attendance as soon as possible so we have some idea of the logistics we are facing!

I've also published a call for volunteers, and it would be wonderful if you could help out in any of the capacities listed here: <https://macintyregathering.com/call-volunteers/>. In a testament to the willingness of MacIntyres to pitch in when there is a worthy task at hand, I am very happy to say that several of these positions were filled within the past 24 hours. I look forward to filling the rest just as quickly.

In addition, we are looking for creatives at the Gathering to participate in a range of ways, from playing at ceilidhs to exhibiting their work: <https://macintyregathering.com/call-macintyre-creatives/>

If you aren't part of the Gathering Facebook group yet, you can find it here and meet us virtually before July: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/macintyregathering/>

I can't wait to see you in Oban in 2018 and thank you for your patience. I know it's very exciting and you've been looking forward to the details! It's no consolation, but all good things, and all that.

Cruachan!

Dr Alison Macintyre
Secretary, Clan MacIntyre Trust
Organiser, World Gathering of MacIntyres 2018