CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY UK BRANCH



An Cirean Cean Cinnidh



NEWSLETTER
NUMBER 78
NOVEMBER 2024

Welcome to Issue No 78 - UK Branch Newsletter

Dear UK Branch members.

Things have been a little quieter within the Society in the last few weeks, however our branch Committee has been concerned that we have not been able to find time to hold our Annual General Meeting. The AGM of the International Society was held towards the end of our week-long International Gathering. We had thought we might have been able to have our branch meeting during the week in July as many UK Branch members were in the Highlands, however the week was so full we could not find the time. It was decided the Branch AGM should be held electronically and the earliest suitable date was 19th October. The Agenda was emailed to members explaining that an electronic meeting would involve committee members, with our branch chairman holding proxy votes for members and the secretary putting forward any new matters. Minutes of the meeting are circulated with this newsletter—in pdf format for those receiving correspondence by email and a paper copy is sent to those electing to continue to receive our newsletter and other material in the post.

Next year 2025 we hope to hold a physical Annual General Meeting in the Highlands – very likely in Beauly again and possibly in July.

Minutes of the International AGM have been circulated to Clan Council Members and will be posted on our Society website. Additionally, the minutes will be included in the Annual Report of the Society for the year 2024 which will be distributed to all members early next year.

A discussion item at the branch AGM was around clan walks. In the past, groups of Chisholm's have enjoyed walks in the Highlands, in particular in or near the historical clan lands. We are interested in gauging interest from members on whether they would like to take part.

The last newsletter included a number of obituary items but unfortunately these did not get included in the PDF version circulated to most of our members. Those members who still receive the paper version will have had those pages included. I apologise for this omission which can only be explained by doing things in haste! I have therefore included those previous articles in this issue of the pdf version together with any newer items and commemorations. The paper version will only have the newer items.

I have been able to get up to the Highlands each month for a few days and on Sunday 29th September was delighted to be able to join the Strathglass Heritage Association on a walk taking in three sites of archaeological and heritage interest. A report on the walk is included in this newsletter.

When in the Highlands I am able to catch up with some of our branch committee members, especially Ben our branch Chairman and Juliette who have done so much for our Society and continue to do so. I thank them and other friends and family for their generous Highland hospitality on my visits.

As this is the last newsletter before Christmas I have included a Christmas Quiz with a prize of a bottle of Laphroaig whisky. Even if you are not a whisky lover this would make a valuable gift. There are one or two smaller prizes for runners up.

Wishing all our members a very happy Christmas and New Year

Yours in clanship Susan



STRATHGLASS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION - WALK

On Sunday 29th September 2024 Strathglass Heritage Association invited interested folk to meet at Marydale Church, Cannich ahead of a Heritage walk to three historic sites nearby. The sites were a couple of miles away in Guisachan near to narrow forestry tracks with limited parking so we were encouraged to share lifts. I gave a lift to the two representatives from Soirbheas, Kara Scott originally from Elgin and now of Inverness & Jimmy Murray who lives with his family at Balnain. Soirbheas, a charity has been working with local groups including SHA to set up heritage trails. "These trails not only celebrate the rich heritage of our area but also offer everyone a chance to connect with the beautiful landscapes and fascinating stories that shape our community".

Strathglass Heritage has been identifying sites and has listed actions required to clear, research and make sites accessible and to provide information on each.

Twenty five people plus one child and six dogs set off led by Jim McAuley of SHA up through the trees to the site of an old lime kiln. The draw kiln was sited near the top of a hill not far from cultivated fields. Marjorie Wilson, historian with SHA described how the kiln was used and when it would have operated. Lime would have neutralised the acidity of the soil and raised the pH allowing a wider range of crops to be grown. In a draw kiln, usually a stone structure, the chalk or limestone (calcium carbonate) was layered with wood, coal or coke and lit, a temperature of above 900°C is needed to produce lime (calcium oxide). As it burnt through, lime was extracted from the bottom of the kiln, through the draw hole. Further layers of stone and fuel were added to the top. The limestone used probably came from the quarry near the kiln, and a track leading up towards the top of the kiln may have been made by carts bringing limestone or fuel. The fuel used was probably wood, as peat produces too much ash and affects the quality of the lime.

The owner of Guisachan estate in the mid-19th century, William Fraser of Culbokie, is said to have "taken advantage of the capabilities of the soil by introducing the most approved system of modern agriculture" (New Statistical Account of Scotland, 1845), so it was possibly he who had the kiln built to provide lime for his own fields and those of his tenant farmers. The writer of the account of the parish in the New Statistical Account also notes that the soil is thin and stony and requires a lot of lime and manure to raise a good crop.

The kiln is not marked on the 1876 edition Ordnance Survey map, so it is likely that it had gone out of use by then, with lime possibly being bought instead from commercial kilns further south.



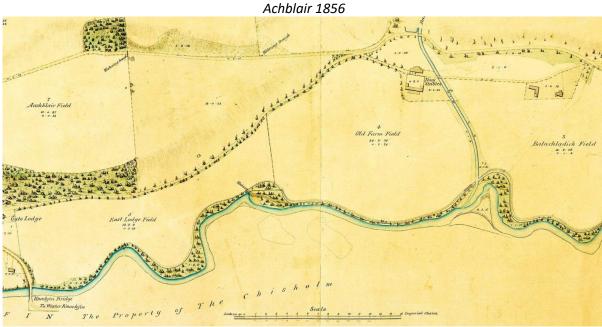
The remains of the 19th century lime kiln. Photograph - Susan Chisholm.

After exploring the area around the kiln we went back down the hill and picked up a track towards the site of the ancient township of Achblair. Jim described how the people who had lived there would have lived. He showed pages from Kilmorack Heritage Association publication – 'The Policies of Guisachan' which gives the census records for 1841,1851,1861.

The following information is taken from the SHA website and covers what Jim described during our visit to Achblair.

The tenants including Chisholm's were either accommodated in the new model village of Tomich and became employees of the estate or were simply evicted and moved elsewhere.





Achblair 1880

The estate maps shown, drawn just under twenty-five years apart, show the landscape changes resulting from 'improvements' on the Guisachan estate. In 1856 there are more than twenty buildings and an enclosure at Achblair. By 1880 they are gone – from the map perhaps, but the remains of several structures still exist today. Unfortunately we don't have access to maps prior to the 1790s but we can be sure that Achblair was inhabited long before then.

In 2020 Achblair was 'discovered' within the Lower Guisachan Forest by one of SHA's members. The site remained untouched till 2023 when, in preparation for the creation of our heritage trail, work began to clear the moss and vegetation from some of the old houses. One structure has been totally, and two others partially, cleared to reveal the stone foundations. We also know the locations of several more structures and the track shown on the 1876 OS map. The houses originally would have had timber frames attached to form the roof, covered with turf and then thatched with dried grass. For more detailed information on how the houses were built visit Electric Scotland.



One of the ruined dwellings within the forest that we were able to visit. It has been partially cleared by SHA. Photograph - Susan Chisholm.

SHA hope to locate and clear all the remaining buildings including removal of trees growing within or that have fallen across some of the structures.

During our July International Gathering Jim took Val Chisholm Perry (past president of Clan Chisholm Society) and family who had travelled from the USA, to see where their family originated at Achblair. They were overwhelmed and immensely pleased to discover this part of their own heritage. Val's ancestors had left Scotland for Nova Scotia and then settled in the US.

Siorbheas have provided markers and signage and in some cases interpretation panels for eleven sites in Strathglass. Chisholm Burial Ground at Erchless, Church of Our Lady & St Bean in Cannich, Cannich Hall, Clachan Comar, Guisachan House, St Ignatius Well, Mullach an Tuir (neolithic or bronze age cairn), Clan Chisholm memorial stone at Cannich Brae, Guisachan Lime Kiln, Achblair township and Balcladaich Still. See. www.strathglass-heritage-trail.co.uk

Soirbeas has also worked with Glen Urquhart heritage groups to set up trails and signage there. See. www.glenurquhart-heritage.com/heritage-walking-trail

From Achblair we headed to the site of the Balcladaich still where Marjorie described the structure. The still is one of many illicit whisky stills in the Highlands. In 1781 small unlicensed stills were made illegal, but they continued to flourish in Strathglass until the mid 19th century and beyond. This small still is approximately 2 metres square, with an entrance 55cm wide. The dry stone walls still stand to about 80cm high. The roof was probably made of rafters or even just branches, covered with turves. The still is tucked into a space at the foot of a steep slope and is well hidden from view. It is about 65 feet (20 metres) from the Allt a' Bhuachaille burn, which would have provided the necessary water, and in an area where trees and peat were both available for fuel. The barley used would have been bere, or six-row barley, which would have been obtained from local farms or imported from southern Scotland.



The remains of the still in Guisachan Forest – photograph - Susan Chisholm

We then walked back down to where the cars had been parked and returned to Marydale. It had been a most interesting afternoon in great company. The picture below shows some of the party back at Marydale Church by the recently installed interpretive board supplied with the help of Soirbheas.



Photograph – Strathglass Heritage Association

7[™] CENTURY FAMILY GRAVEYARD IN ARGYLL

Scottish landowner loses bid to keep ancient 7th-century graveyard for family burials

Taken from an article in The Scotsman.



Cladh a' Bhile burial ground, which dates to the 7th Century, sits on the west side of Loch Caolisport in Argyll.

A landowner has lost his bid to use part of an ancient graveyard linked to early Christianity in Scotland for private family burials. The burial ground has been used as a private family graveyard for five generations.

Cladh a'Bhile, by Loch Caolisport in Argyll and Bute, holds a large collection of 29 carved stones from the 7th and 8th century and sits on a hillside surrounded by mature trees.

Heritage chiefs moved to protect the burial ground with <u>scheduled monument status</u> given its national importance as a place of early Christian ritual and practice.

It has been used as a private burial ground by the Rogers family, of nearby Ellary, for five generations with several descendants buried there. As a result, a corner of the site was excluded from the designation given the 19th and 20th Century burials and memorials and the associated disturbance to the ground.

Duncan Henry Rogers, of Ellary House, in his appeal, asked for a larger area to be excluded from the designation to allow for future family burials. Planning reporter Christopher Warren has rejected the appeal.

Mr Warren, in his decision notice, said: "Ultimately, I must balance this ongoing private interest in the use of the site with the justification for designation and the importance of preserving the site."

"In doing so, whilst I am sympathetic to the appellant's position, I do not consider this to be sufficient to justify extending the area excluded from the site's designation."

"Given the site's historic cultural importance, the requirement for scheduled monument consent would provide an appropriate safeguard against ongoing burial activity that might compromise this."

Historic Environment Scotland, in papers linked to the appeal, said the early ecclesiastical site had potential to hold buried features and deposits, including the remains of an early church or monastic buildings, as well as further carved stones and burials.

Mr Rogers, in his appeal, said the area excluded from the designation was not large enough to permit future family burials and would prevent use as a family burial site.

The family wish to continue with its "careful maintenance" of the burial ground with concerns also raised that the designation would attract a greater number of visitors.

Mr Warren said: "There is the possibility that the appellant's willingness or desire to provide continued maintenance of the site might wane."

"Whilst that might be the case, the burial ground has no doubt sustained variable levels of management and maintenance over the course of the 13 centuries or so that it has existed, so it is doubtful that reduced maintenance would compromise its integrity."

"I consider a greater threat to its condition would potentially arise from ongoing uncontrolled burials within the enclosure, particularly due to the inevitable excavations associated with this."

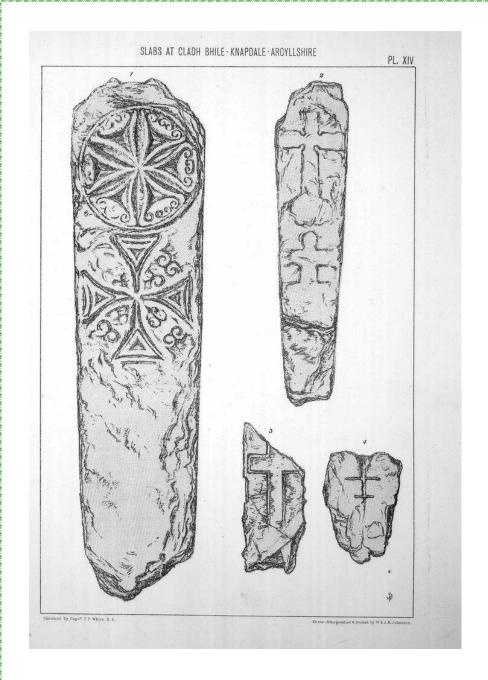
"The appellant has noted that the scheduling of the burial ground may increase visitor numbers. This appeal only challenges the extent of the scheduled area, rather than the designation as a whole."

"Therefore, the outcome of this appeal would not alter the fact that this site appears in the publicly available schedule of monuments. In any event I would note that there is no evidence to suggest that a site's identification in the schedule increases visitor numbers."

"Given this site's relatively isolated location and limited accessibility, I consider it very unlikely that any meaningful increase in visits would arise."

Mr Rogers was contacted for comment by The Scotsman.

For further information on the Burial Ground visit https://canmore.org.uk/site/39051/ellary-cladh-a-bhile Or https://www.ambaile.org.uk/asset/31493



Slabs at Cladh a' Bhile, Knapdale The burial ground of Cladh a' Bhile is found near the village of Ellary by the side of Loch Caolisport. A number of carved decorated tombstones and were found at Cladh a' Bhile and there is a collection of 29 cross slabs. Figure 1 in this illustration was the most complete found by TP White on his 1875 visit. It and double shows single elliptical spirals which are in keeping with the Irish character of stones found at Keills on Islay. The other sketches in the illustration are of slab fragments bearing simpler cross carvings. This illustration was taken from 'Archaeological Sketches Scotland: Knapdale and Gigha', by Captain T P White (1875).

FAMILY NEWS - NEW BABY CONGRATULATIONS

On 24th July 2024 to Anna Newland nee Chisholm of Chisholm and husband Jason a third child and second son. Vinnie Hamish Alastair – a welcome brother for Reggie born August 2016 and Florence born December 2017. Chief Hamish and wife Julie are of course delighted with their latest grandchild.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ - DECEMBER 2024



A first prize of a 700ml boxed bottle of Laphroaig Oak Select – Islay Single Malt Scotch Whisky goes to the member with the most correct answers. If more than one fully correct response is received then names will go into a hat and the first drawn out will be the winner.

There are also runners up prizes of Clan Chisholm notebooks with pen and other stationery items.

Question 1.

What is the name of the Church Hall in Cannich village, Inverness-shire where Strathglass Heritage Association holds meetings and hosted a Clearances Exhibition for us during our International Gathering this year?

Question 2.

How many branches does the Clan Chisholm Society have and can you name them all?

Question 3.

The seven men of Glenmoriston are famed for having helped Bonnie Prince Charlie evade capture by the Duke of Cumberlands forces after the battle of Culloden. Can you name the three Chisholm brothers who were part of the group?

Question 4.

In what year was the Battle of Culloden?

Question 5.

Our present-day clan Society was founded by a WWI heroine (1896 – 1981) – what was her name?







Post or email your answers to Susan Chisholm of Chisholm (Hon Secretary) by Monday 16th December 2024 to the address at the back of this newsletter.

OBITUARY NOTICES

Walter Oliver CHISHOLME 09/03/1929 – 19/04/2024

Walter Oliver Chisholme joined the Clan Chisholm Society in early 2024 after receiving a letter from our UK branch Chairman Ben Chisholm-Broomfield. At the end of 2003 Ben had sent letters to Chisholm's found in the UK telephone books describing the Society and inviting these folk to join.

Mr Chisholm from Castle Douglas, who went by his middle name wrote to me outlining some research he had done into his family history. This was of especial interest to us as his surname was spelled with an 'e' at the end suggesting a Borders Chisholm connection. He was in fact born in Hawick in the Scottish Border country. His research had unfortunately hit a 'brick wall' around 1800 so I pointed him in the direction of our then Genealogy database administrator Bob Chisholm.

Notice in the Galloway News – **Major Walter Oliver CHISHOLME T.D. F.C.C.A.** Peacefully at Archview Lodge Care Home, Dalkeith, with his family beside him on April 19th 2024 aged 95.

Oliver, beloved husband to Jean, dearly loved dad, grandad and great grandad to his family. Funeral Service at Mortonhall Crematorium Edinburgh, Main chapel on Tuesday May 7th at 12 noon, to which all family and friends are invited. Family flowers only but a collection will be taken on behalf of the Royal British legion.

The website of the Kings Own Scottish Regiment gives the following:-

Borderers, it is with great sadness that we notify of the death of MAJOR WALTER OLIVER CHISHOLME on 19 April 2024 aged 95 years. "Ollie" served as a National Serviceman 1947 – 49 with 1 Kings Own Scottish Borders and 1 Royal Scots. He would later re-join the Territorial Army with Reserve Army 1959 – 66 then transferring to 4/5 Kings Own Scottish Borderers and 1/52 Lowland until 1974.



NB. The KOSB and other regiments became The Royal Regiment of Scotland in 2006.

Oliver spent the remainder of this working life in accountancy being awarded fellowship of the Association of Chartered Certified accountants.

Obituary Notices from the Inverness Courier

MACKIE Peacefully, in the care of the Highland Hospice, Inverness, on 7th May, 2024, **Janet** Mackie (nee **CHISHOLM**), aged 71 years, Springfield Gardens, Inverness. Beloved wife of Hugh, much loved mum of Colin, Hugh, Charles and Gavin, also a dear nana, mother-in-law, sister, aunt and friend. Funeral ceremony on Wednesday, 22nd May, 2024, at 2pm, in Inverness Crematorium. All welcome to attend. Please wear a splash of red in memory of Janet. No flowers please. Donations towards the Highland Hospice.

CHISHOLM, on 3rd August, 2024, **David Chisholm** (Chizy), aged 49 years, Kilmuir Road, Inverness. Beloved partner of Joanne, also a dear brother, uncle and good friend to many. Funeral ceremony on Tuesday, 20th August, 2024, at 12.15pm, D. Chisholm & Sons' Funeral Home, Huntly Street, Inverness; thereafter to Kilvean Cemetery. All welcome to attend. No dress code. Family flowers only please. Donations in memory of David towards Beatson Cancer Charity.

SUTHERLAND Peacefully, on Friday, 26th July, 2024, at Raigmore Hospital, **Annalee** Sutherland (nee **CHISHOLM**), 54 Glenshiel Place, Inverness, aged 78 years. Former Secretary Highland Council. Much loved wife to Colin, dearly loved and beautiful mother to Julie, son-in-law George, treasured grandmother to Eliza and Zena and loving sister to June. Sadly missed by so many good friends. Funeral service on Friday, 9th August, at 11.00am William T. Fraser and Son, Inverness. Family flowers only please. Donations invited for Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland. All welcome to say a fond farewell.

KEANE Paul – Paul's sister Clare Keane has been in touch following the piece in the May newsletter, she explained that Paul died on 3rd September 2022. His daughters had sold his house in the following year which explains the returned mail. Paul joined the Society in 1986.



STRACHAN Peacefully, at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, after a short illness, on Sunday, 26th May, 2024, George Campbell Hunter Strachan, 'George the Post', of Upper Glassburn, Strathglass, aged 77 years. Beloved husband of Ishbel, a much loved dad of Jane and John, a devoted grandad to Ruairidh, Freya and Isla, an adored brother to Fiona, sadly missed brother-in-law and uncle and a dear friend to many. An informal gathering to celebrate George's life was held in Cannich Village Hall on Saturday, 8th June, 2024 from 2pm. I attended the event where the Hall was full to overflowing as George was so widely known and respected and additional car parking was required in the field across the road. Jim McAuley of Strathglass Heritage Association gave an outline of George's life in tribute to this very popular gentleman. See overleaf excerpts from Jim's address.

George was born on the 1^{st of} September 1946 at Invergordon to Thomas (Tommy) and Elizabeth (Elsie) Strachan, a younger brother to Fiona. He attended Invergordon Primary where he discovered his lifelong love of both Robert Burns and singing. George's education continued at Invergordon Academy where he excelled in languages, obtaining Highers in English, French, German, Latin and also Mathematics. In his teens he had joined Invergordon Yacht Club and sailed both his own and other folks dinghies at regattas.

George continued his love of languages at Aberdeen University where he often skived off classes to go to ceilidhs. However, George quickly realised that the university course he was taking would lead to a teaching career which he didn't really fancy. Much to his parents' horror, and that of the university court before which he was asked to appear, George didn't return to university for a second year and instead got a job as a Postie in Invergordon. During evenings and weekends, he sang at ceilidhs and concerts.

It was at a party in Invergordon, where George first met hairdresser, Ishbel MacDonald Houston. George and Ishbel married in the Church of Scotland, Invergordon on 11th September 1967. They were to remain happily married for almost 57 years. After a brief honeymoon, including one night in The Gleneagles Hotel they moved to London as George had joined HM Customs and Excise as a Higher Executive Officer.

A move to St Combs followed where George got the job of Assistant Manager at the ice factory in Fraserburgh. Ishbel did hairdressing from home, whilst Jane started primary school and new baby John arrived. A couple of years later they moved down to East Linton with George working in Craigmillar as manager of Scottish Cold Stores before they moved West to Oban for a fishing job.

Then followed a stint at West Coast Building Supplies, first as lorry driver then as a partner in the company. He and Ishbel's parents were getting older, and the call of the Highlands beckoned. The house in Oban was sold and they bought The Cnoc Hotel in Struy and then the lease of the Struy Inn. Son John ran the Inn and George & Ishbel the Cnoc Hotel until they sold it in 1990 and bought Upper Glassburn House. George went back to being a postman 2 days a week covering the Strathglass and the Kilmorack areas.

An "unfailingly cheerful man" and certainly a life well lived! NB. Ishbel Strachan is a talented painter, and her work can be found in many local shops, it often features images from Strathglass.



Annette (Annie) Julie CHISHOLM née Hall, Coventry.

Daughter of Jean Hall and the late Dennis Hall. Passed away suddenly on 29th May 2024, aged 64 years, after a courageous fight against illness. Sister to Pamela, devoted Wife to Simon, much loved Mum to Kevin, caring Mother-In-Law to Abby, adored Nanny Annie to Everlyn, Aunt, Cousin and friend to many. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Funeral service Wednesday 19th June 2024, Canley Crematorium.

Donations in memory of Annette for Cancer Research & Macmillan Cancer.



Professor Michael Donald Inglis CHISHOLM. FBA (1931 – 2024) Cambridge - died at home on 9th July. Dearly loved and respected. Private funeral. Memorial service later.

St Catharine's College, Cambridge posted the following:-

Professor Michael Chisholm FBA (1931–2024)

It is with great sadness that St Catharine's has learnt that Professor Michael Chisholm, Emeritus Fellow of the College and Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of Cambridge, died at home in Cambridge on 9 July 2024. The College flag will be flown at half-mast in his memory today 16th July 2024.

Professor Chisholm was admitted to St Catharine's to read Geography as an undergraduate in 1951. He went on to make fundamental contributions to economic geography and its translation into public policy, including serving on several government commissions. He returned as a Professorial Fellow in 1976, following his election to the 1931 Chair of Geography at the University of Cambridge in 1975. On his retirement in 1996, he became an Emeritus Fellow and turned his attention to advancing our understanding of the drainage and navigation of the Fens throughout history.

Sir John Benger (1979, English), Master of St Catharine's, commented:

"As an academic community, St Catharine's has been – and continues to be – home to leading geographers and Professor Chisholm was undoubtedly among the giants of his field in the twentieth century. St Catharine's was fortunate to have benefited from his expertise and passion for economic geography over so many years, and I am sure he will be missed by colleagues and collaborators in Cambridge and beyond. On behalf of the College, I want to express my heartfelt condolences to his wife, Judith, and his wider family."

For further information on Professor Chisholm see wikipedia Michael Chisholm geographer.



Margaret Chisholm 'Peggy' Brown née Whitfield. North Shields. 01/01/1935 – 24/08/2024

Beloved wife of the late John Michael Brown. Cherished Mam of Janice, Johny & Paul and Mother in law of Steve, Inga & Helen. Adored Grandma of Jamie, Alex, Sophie & Melissa. Much loved Step Grandma to Lesley & Steven. Step Great Grandma to Caitlyn, Sarah, Abi & Olivia.

Funeral 13th September, Tynemouth Crematorium, cortège leaving from Linskill Park. Donations to Macmillan.



Janet CHISHOLM On 5th September 2024, suddenly in Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary, Janet Chisholm, Trinity Town House, Abercromby Road, Castle Douglas.

Dearly loved partner of the late Raymond, much loved mum of Mark and a loved and loving granny, great granny, sister, sister in law, aunty and step mum.

Funeral service - Roucan Loch Crematorium on Thursday 19th September at 10.00am

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Visit the clan society website at www.ClanChisholmSociety.org