



News Release

for immediate use

Arisaig Games Announces Major Developments for 2010

Arisaig Games has announced three major developments for 2010's event, on July 28th.

A significant sponsorship deal has been struck through the growing clan heritage strand of the games with The Glenlivet Whisky.

The Glenlivet will be sponsoring the piping competition at the 2010 games, and prize money will be increased substantially. Arisaig will now have some of the biggest prizes in piping in the west Highlands. It is hoped, too, that the numbers of pipers will be increased and provide a greater spectacle for this celebration of Highland culture. The Glenlivet team will host an exhibition tent with educational tastings of their products in their tent. They will also be welcoming local licensees to visit and develop a greater appreciation of their product.

The deal was coordinated by Ranald Macdonald, younger of Clan Ranald, son of the current chief. Welcoming the deal, games secretary, James MacKenzie, said "We are delighted that The Glenlivet are to sponsor the Piping competitions at this year's Arisaig Highland Games. Support from such a high-profile brand is an exciting development for our event."

Ranald is also proprietor of the Boisdale group of restaurants and eateries in London and the southwest. Boisdale will be providing a unique event for a Highland games in The Glenlivet tent when two of their chefs will demonstrate butchery and cookery skills to the audience.

The second development at Traigh this year will be An Tilleadh. This is a new event based on the acclaimed Homecoming 2009 which sought to bring far flung people home to Scotland to sample the culture of their past and present heritages. An Tilleadh, (Gàidhlig for 'The Return') seeks to do the same for families whose roots are in Arisaig.

The inaugural An Tilleadh will focus on Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair, the first bard of the Gàidhlig Enlightenment and bard to Clan Ranald. A forceful and raucous figure, MacMhaighstir Alasdair was born at Dalilea near Acharacle, and ended his days living on Rhu. He is acclaimed as one of three of the greatest Gàidhlig poets ever to have lived, his main rival to the title being the late Somhairle MacGilleathain.

The third of those bards is the contemporary Aonghas Phadràig Caimbeul who lives on Skye. Aonghas Phadràig will also be at An Tilleadh performing and discussing the poetry of his bardic predecessor. Complementing him will be Allan MacDonald, Glenuig, another huge name in Highland culture. One of the three piping Whaler boys, Allan is famous worldwide and has an abiding interest in Piobairachd and the history of piping in general. He has published widely and teaches on the RSAMD BA Music: Piping course at the Piping Centre in Glasgow.

For that combination alone the event will be worth coming to. But there will also be contributions from Jane Henderson of Mallaig, and Maggie MacDonald, Curator of the Museum of the Isles at the Clan Donald Centre on Skye.

An Tilleadh is a two day event, however. The day before the games Elizabeth and Allan MacDonald will be leading a walk to Rhu to see where MacMhaighstir Alasdair lived. The walk will also cover the birthplace of the legendary bard, Ossian, as well as a variety of other important historic sites and features. The MacDonalds are well known to local and international readers of the area's newspaper Westword, where Allan has a regular column on genealogy, to which Elizabeth also contributes as well as doing her own one off features and series.

Elizabeth said recently, "We are thrilled to be getting An Tilleadh underway. The history and genealogy strand of cultural interest has been growing rapidly in recent years, and it is good to see Arisaig taking its place in that. We have a great story to tell, and a huge number of descendant families and other Albaphiles scattered across the globe to tell it to."

An Tilleadh will finish it's first day with a visit to Castle Tioram where Boisdale, Clan Ranald and The Glenlivet are hosting a Wild Highland Barbecue for guests.

The final development for Arisaig Games is its website. Due to be launched just before the games this year, the site has been funded by a generous grant from the Arisaig Fund, a trust set up by Arisaig Partners, an international investment management company, to benefit Arisaig and projects designed to promote and develop the village.

Chas MacDonald, Promotions Manager, was enthusiastic about the site, saying "The grant from the Arisaig Fund has been fantastic for us and is greatly appreciated, This quality of site would have been almost impossible without this help. It will allow us to get our message out to our competitors and regular visitors, as well as to let people coming to the area know that a great event is on hand for them, at what is truly one of the most beautiful settings on earth.

An Tilleadh spans 27th - 28th July. Games Day is Wednesday 28th. There will be a parade through the village at 10am, followed by the opening procession at 12pm at Traigh, both of which all are welcome to join. And Games Day ends with the Games Dance at 10:30 in the Astley Hall in the village. Contact info@arisaighighlandgames.co.uk for more information on any event, to take part, or just to come along.

Note to Editors

2010 marks the 74th Arisaig Highland Games, and the 6th Clan Ranald Gathering.

It is held at Traigh Farm three miles from the village of Arisaig on the west coast of Lochaber, Scotland.

Arisaig Games is a charitable organisation run solely for the purpose of celebrating the local culture and getting the community together.

If you require any further information, editorial, logos, imagery, posters, or flyers, please get in touch with Chas Mac Donald.

The Glenlivet, which inspired a whole region and laid the foundations for malt whisky from Speyside, is one of Scotland's most respected and highly acclaimed whiskies.

The Arisaig Fund is a trust fund set up by Arisaig Partners, an independent, employee-owned, investment management company established in October 1996, and based in Singapore.

Press attendance at the Games is welcome, as are photographers. Please let us know beforehand, though.

Full listings of events or results can be emailed as required.

LINKS

Arisaig Highland Games

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The Glenlivet

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Arisaig Partners

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