



Ceres

Highland Games

Since 1314...



Saturday 27th June 2020

The Ceres Highland Games 2020



Today we pay tribute to the brave men of Ceres who fought at Bannockburn and returned home safely 706 years ago. The Ceres Games were granted a royal charter by King Robert the Bruce and are one of, if not the, oldest highland games in the world. Sadly like so many other events the main games were cancelled this year but we could not let the date go by without a wee tribute.

*The three pipers played - socially distanced of course. We thanked our front line workers and said hello to our worldwide community who come and see us year after year. We said farewell to our outgoing chieftain, the Reverend Jim Campbell who is retiring and has supported us so well for the last 8 years. The games were then marked with the ceremonial lifting and throwing (sort of) of the Ceres Stane - a rock of unknown weight but possibly the biggest shot putt in the land. A final farewell from the 3 pipers at the Bannockburn memorial closed the day and we now look forward to returning in 2021. We would love to see you all here in our beautiful village and the best wee highland games on the circuit. Follow us on our **Facebook page, @Ceres Highland Games**, for updates.*

The Ballad of Ceres Games

*Whene'er, my friends, you are inclined
To Ceres Game, just bear in mind
That thereby hangs an ancient tale
Which faithfully I'll now retail.*

In Thirteen fourteen came the call –
'Lest Scotland yield to Edward's thrall,
Ilk man that's fit tae carry spear
And holds his country's freedom dear,
Put by the scythe and leave your hearth
And show the English what you're worth;
Mak' haste to join his Royal Grace
And face the foe that comes apace.'

In Western Isles, in Buchan lands,
The call was borne wi' fiery brands;
In Galloway, in Angus glens,
The length o' Fife, its howes and dens;
And so in Ceres, Beaton's feu
Where nineteen men baith stark and true
Assembled on the village green –
Young Wat the miller, Andro Bean,
Magnus Bethune, his brother Tam,
Father and son ca'ed McIlwham,
John Heggie and his stalwart sons,
The Logies and the Morrisons.
And there they made a solemn band
To follow Bruce and win the land,
To haud thegither, close and tight,
On march and through the bloody fight,
And safely come – all scaith forfend –
Hame to this meadow at the end.

By Wemyss, Kirkcaldy and Cuross,
Dunfermline, syne Kincardine Moss,
The nineteen marched, some brash and
bright,
Some fearful o' the coming fight.
At ilka hamlet on the way
The puir folk cam' wi' bread and whey;
While as the burns feed into streams
And jostling torrent foams and reams,
At ilka road – end others came,
None ken'd but some o' distant fame,
Till one unbroken column swelled,
By joint resolve and faith impelled;

United under Bruce's crown,
All cam' at last tae Stirling town.

Next day the armies ready lay,
And when the Scots began to pray,
Edward who thought to him they kneeled
Soon learned they had no mind to yield;
De Bohun was felled by Bruce's axe,
His bowmen fled from swift attacks;
You ken the rest, how English might
By Scottish spears was put to flight.

Next day dawned, the dying stirred,
And priestly benisons were heard.
The men of Ceres met and stared –
And counted – asked how each had fared;
And high their spirits 'gan to soar
For they had all survived – and more –
Had played their part in victory
And ta'en their part in victory.
The nineteen marched for Fife that day,
Borne up by cheers along the way;
To Ceres Green at last they came,
The whole town there to see them hame.
And syne the folk took up the cry
'Let's hold a Games where all men vie
At louping, running, riding horse,
At wapenschaw, all kinds of sports;
Let's hold them yearly from now on,
Remembering what our lads have done.'

And so, my friends, whene'er you stand
At Ceres Games – revere that band
That took their place at Bannockburn
And lived to make a safe return.

Our Chieftain



The Reverend Jim Campbell

Ceres, Kemback and Springfield Parish Churches

Reverend Jim has been the Chieftain of the Games for the past 8 years. Due to retirement, this was unfortunately his last year as our Chieftain.

Reverend Jim, we have been honoured to have you as our Chieftain for the last 8 years, consistently offering kind words of support and encouragement to all that are associated with the Games. We hope you will return to visit on the last weekend of June each year, safe in the knowledge that you will be welcomed with open arms by the committee and the local community.

The committee wishes you a long and happy retirement from your role as our Chieftain and more importantly from your long-standing position within our local community.



The 2020 Ceres Highland Games



Thank you!

The Committee would like to thank all of our supporters who year on year help us to stage what we feel is the best Highland Games in the world. Our thanks goes out to our sponsors, visitors from near and far, pipe bands, athletes, local businesses and our wonderful community.

In particular, this year three members of our community helped to mark the 2020 Games in a poignant way by playing the bagpipes at our small celebration of the Games.

Dougie Murray, Euan Baillie and Cameron Currie performed on what would have been Games Day. Playing both on the green and at the war memorial, the gentlemen exquisitely piped the Ceres Stane onto the green followed by a rousing rendition of Highland Cathedral to finish by the war memorial.

To Dougie, Euan and Cameron, thank you for being there to support the Ceres Highland Games 2020.



We Need You!

The Ceres Highland Games is in fact a charity. Each year the Games run entirely on charitable contributions from the local community to further afield and these can range from monetary donations to donations of time and resources.

The sponsorship money, door to door collection, programme sales, Games Day collection, raft race, treasure hunt, quiz, domino competition and car park donations essentially make the following year's Games viable. So we have found ourselves with a bit of a black hole this year, scratching our heads on how to fill this void.

Our key fundraising initiative has centred around our President, Richard. He is a keen runner and decided to use his love of this to support the 2021 Games.

It started small, pledging to run 131.4 miles in June, a nod to our founding year of 1314. However, he managed this in 16 days and with lots of encouragement from the committee, his family and the local community, Richard is currently running to reach the milestone of 1314 miles by the end of the year!

If you would like to support his challenge and watch his progress, please follow our Facebook page:

[@CeresGames](#)

and a donation can be left at the following link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/CeresHighlandGames1314>.

We would be most grateful for your support and hope to see you all there next year!

The Ceres Highland Games Committee 2020

