

The Gathering 2009

2 day International Gathering of the Clans in Holyrood Park. To be held over the weekend of July 25th, 2009.

The Gathering will take the form of a traditional Highland Games. The Gathering will be hosted by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. It is hoped that the Chief of the Games will be a member of the Royal family.

The Clans are the primary focus of the gathering, and the key activities will be designed for their benefit. These will include a clan parade, and a special commemorative event to be held on the Castle Esplanade in the Tattoo infrastructure. It is estimated that there will be over 100 Clan tents, with around 7500 clan members. The Gathering also aims to attract members of Caledonian and St Andrew's societies from around the world.

The Gathering should attract a further 25,000 people from Edinburgh and central Scotland. Depending on the weather this figure could easily double.

The Highland games, especially the "heavy" athletes, are, however, the main attraction to the general public, and therefore will be heavily promoted. It is hoped that the occasion will draw the world's top competitors, and should prove an ideal opportunity for them to show case the various disciplines and sports to a largely novice audience.

The Gathering is one of the main events of the Homecoming Scotland 2009 initiative, and has the full support of VisitScotland. A company has been set up to run the event. The directors have considerable experience in marketing and managing special events, and have good access to the international clan network. The company will actively promote the Gathering in Highland games and festivals in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The objectives of the Gathering are all about attracting people with an affinity to Scotland and promoting Scottish culture. The event will act as a hook to draw in visitors, many of whom will then travel elsewhere in Scotland.

It is not intended to run the Edinburgh Gathering on an annual basis. It is very much a celebration of one of our greatest traditions, and an opportunity to thank the clan associations and Scottish societies from around the world for their role in keeping these traditions alive.