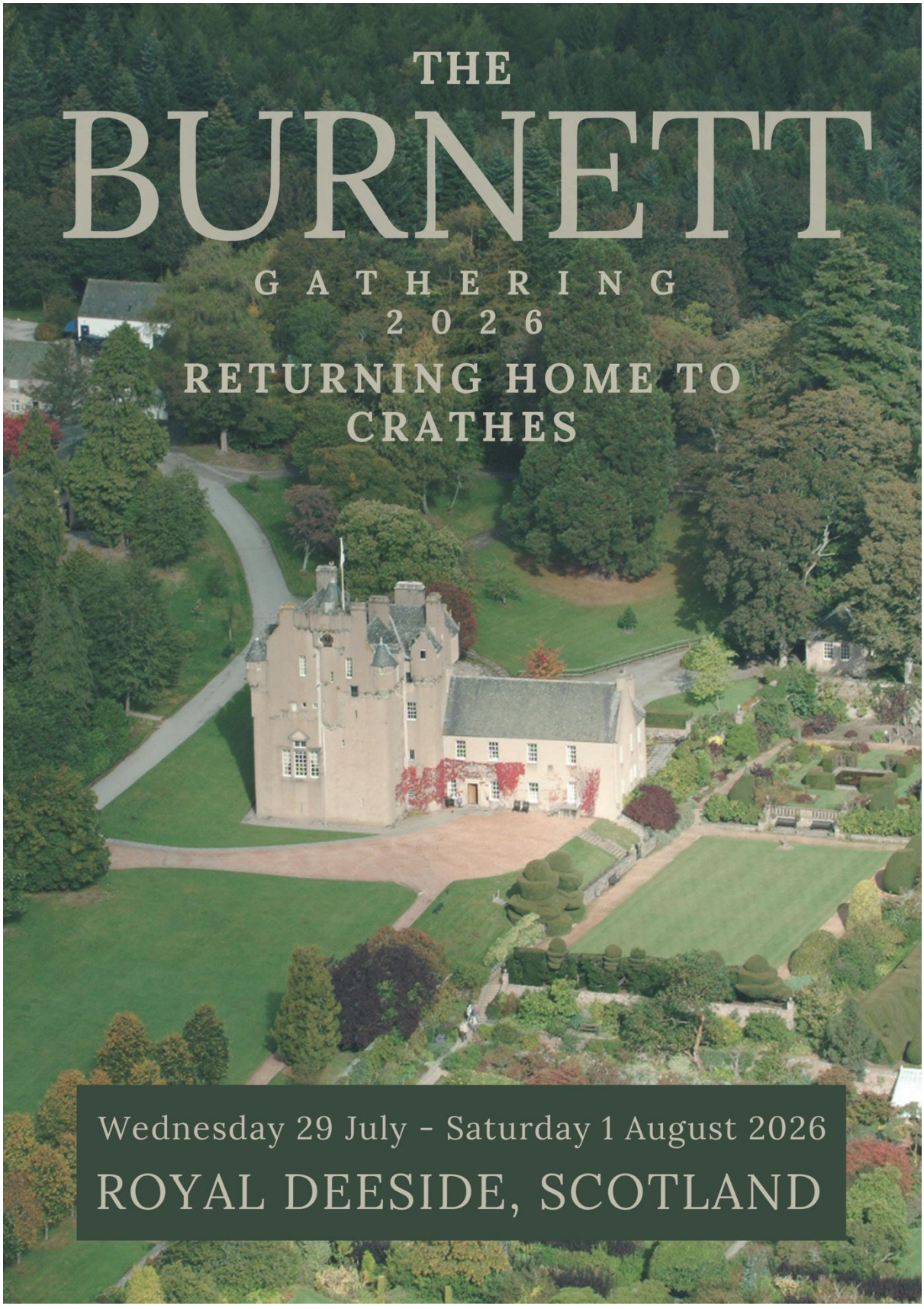

THE
BURNETT
GATHERING
2026
RETURNING HOME TO
CRATHES
Wednesday 29 July - Saturday 1 August 2026
ROYAL DEESIDE, SCOTLAND

A WELCOME HOME

In the summer of 2026, members of the Burnett family from across the world are warmly invited to return to Royal Deeside for a special gathering on and around the ancestral lands of the Burnett of Leys.

Set amid the hills, rivers and castles of Aberdeenshire, the Burnett Gathering is not a tour, nor a formal conference, but a family occasion — an opportunity to reconnect with people, place and shared history, while enjoying the best of Scottish hospitality, culture and landscape.

The programme offers choices, flexibility and comfort, allowing guests to shape their own experience while coming together for key moments of celebration.

Whether you join us for gentle walks, historic visits, music and storytelling, or simply good food and conversation, you will be very welcome.



Not a tour, but a family gathering — a return to place, people and shared history.

THE GATHERING

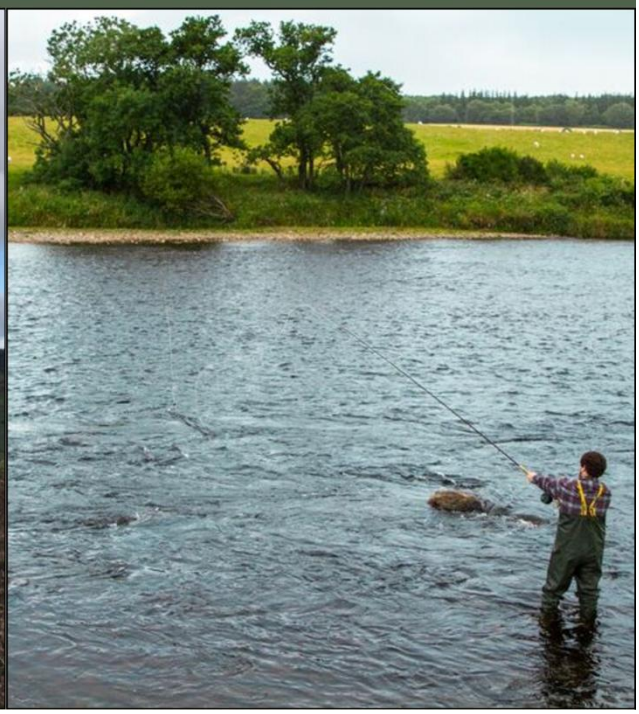
The Gathering is built around a small number of hosted anchor events, complemented by a range of optional daytime experiences. Guests are free to participate as much or as little as they wish.

- Activities range from gentle and social to more active
- Coach transport will be available for organised excursions
- Many events are suitable for all ages and levels of mobility
- Dress is casual by day; relaxed evening wear (kilts welcome but not required)

Further details on booking and transport will be provided closer to the event.

All activities and experiences are offered subject to availability and demand, and we will always do our best to accommodate individual preferences.





PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

DAY 1

Wednesday 29 July

Arrival & Welcome

Welcome Supper & Storytelling Evening

Our Gathering begins with a relaxed welcome supper, bringing family together in a convivial setting.

The evening will include:

- A traditional Scottish welcome
- A short introduction to the Burnett story and the lands of Leys
- Professional storytelling, sharing Highland history and folklore
- A shared supper featuring local produce.



DAY 2

Thursday 30 July

The Heart of the Estate
A day centred on the lands, landscape and stories of the Burnetts of Leys.

Morning – Choose One

Castle & Gardens Walk
A gentle guided walk through historic gardens and Castle, with time to pause, photograph and enjoy the setting.

Loch of Leys Nature Walk
A relaxed walk to the Loch of Leys with the possibility of accessing the Crannog - the man made island - on which the Burnetts lived when they arrived on deeside in the 14th century.

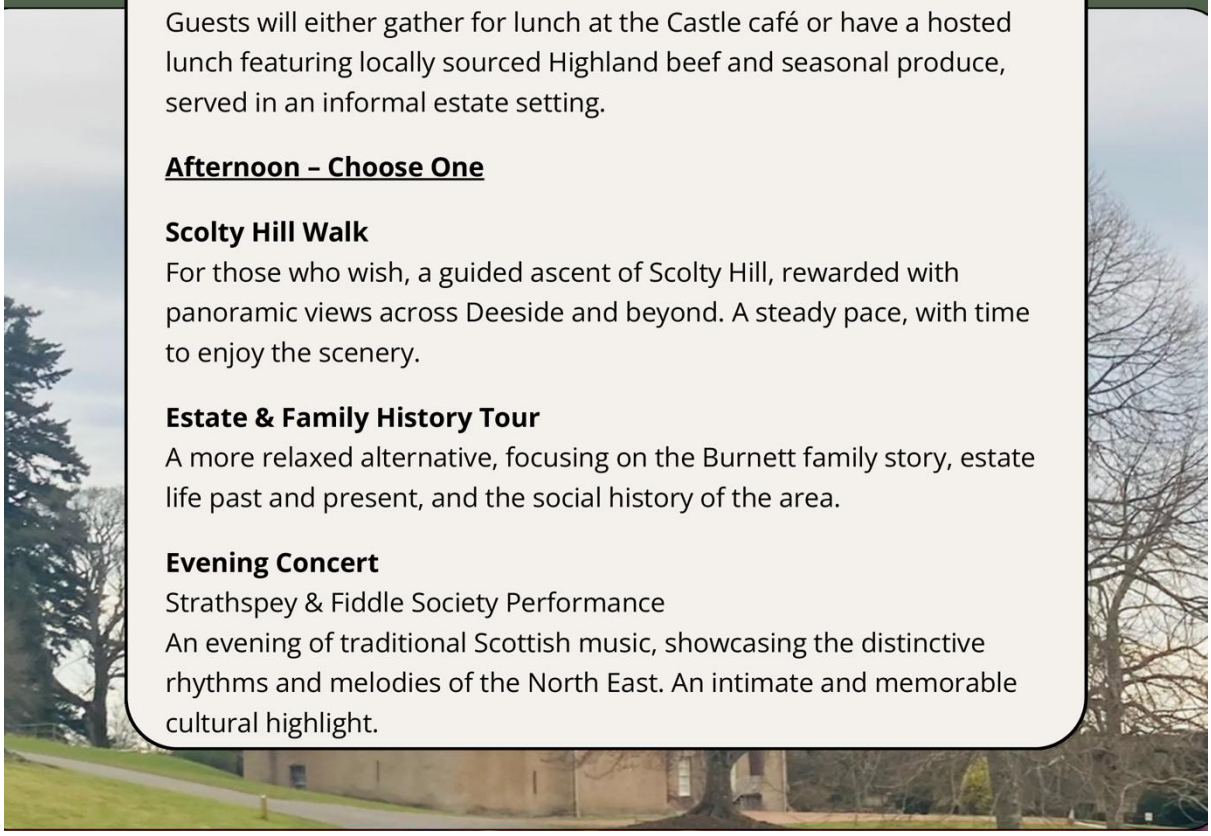
Lunch on the Estate
Guests will either gather for lunch at the Castle café or have a hosted lunch featuring locally sourced Highland beef and seasonal produce, served in an informal estate setting.

Afternoon – Choose One

Scolty Hill Walk
For those who wish, a guided ascent of Scolty Hill, rewarded with panoramic views across Deeside and beyond. A steady pace, with time to enjoy the scenery.

Estate & Family History Tour
A more relaxed alternative, focusing on the Burnett family story, estate life past and present, and the social history of the area.

Evening Concert
Strathspey & Fiddle Society Performance
An evening of traditional Scottish music, showcasing the distinctive rhythms and melodies of the North East. An intimate and memorable cultural highlight.



DAY 3

Friday 31 July

Castles, Coast & Culture Day Tours

Guests may choose from one of three curated day tours, each offering a different perspective on the region.

Option 1 – Royal Deeside & Balmoral
Explore the landscapes and heritage of Royal Deeside, including castles, villages and royal connections that have shaped the area for generations.

Option 2 – Dunnottar Castle & the Coast
Visit the dramatic clifftop ruins of Dunnottar Castle, followed by time in a coastal town to enjoy sea air, scenery and local hospitality.

Option 3 – Aberdeen: City & Culture
Discover Aberdeen's historic old town, galleries and maritime heritage, offering a more urban and cultural experience.

Coach transport and local guides will be provided for all tours.

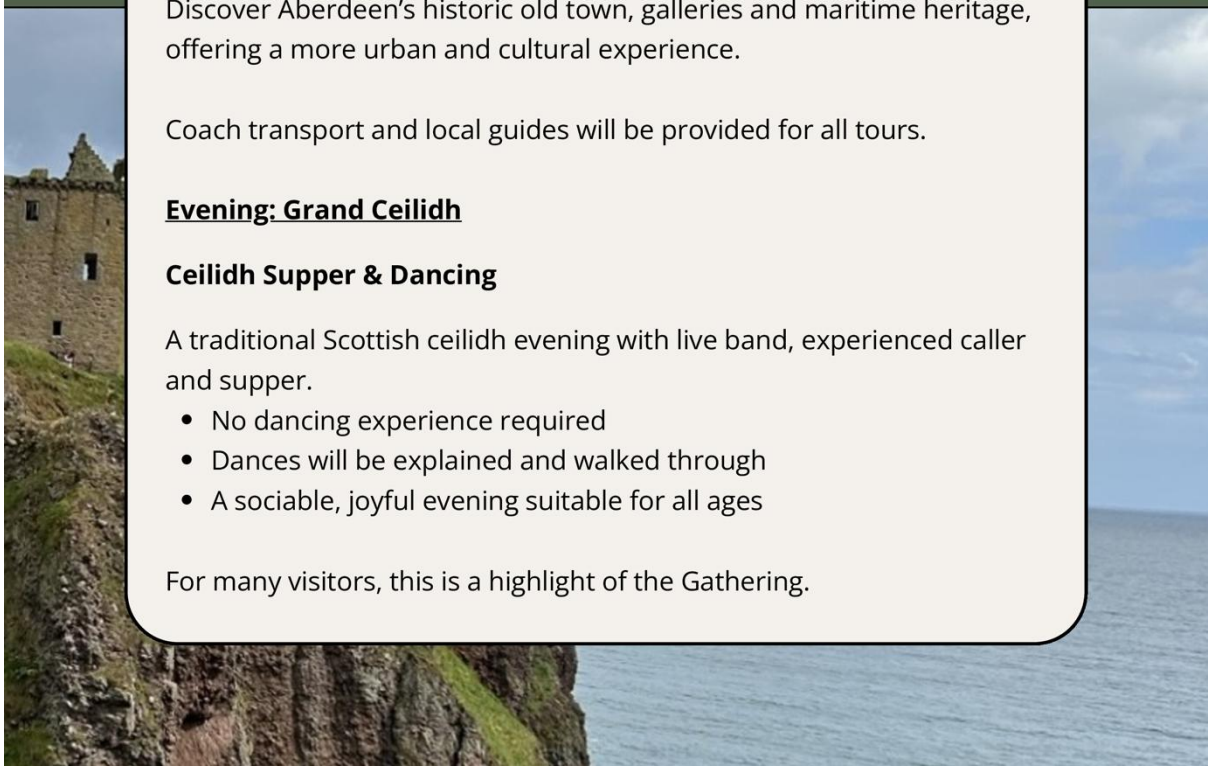
Evening: Grand Ceilidh

Ceilidh Supper & Dancing

A traditional Scottish ceilidh evening with live band, experienced caller and supper.

- No dancing experience required
- Dances will be explained and walked through
- A sociable, joyful evening suitable for all ages

For many visitors, this is a highlight of the Gathering.



DAY 4

Highland Games & Farewell

Aboyne Highland Games
Guests are invited to attend the Aboyne Highland Games — one of Scotland's most respected and authentic Games.

The Burnett Gathering will have a reserved base where guests can:

- Watch traditional athletic events
- Enjoy piping and Highland dancing
- Meet and socialise throughout the day

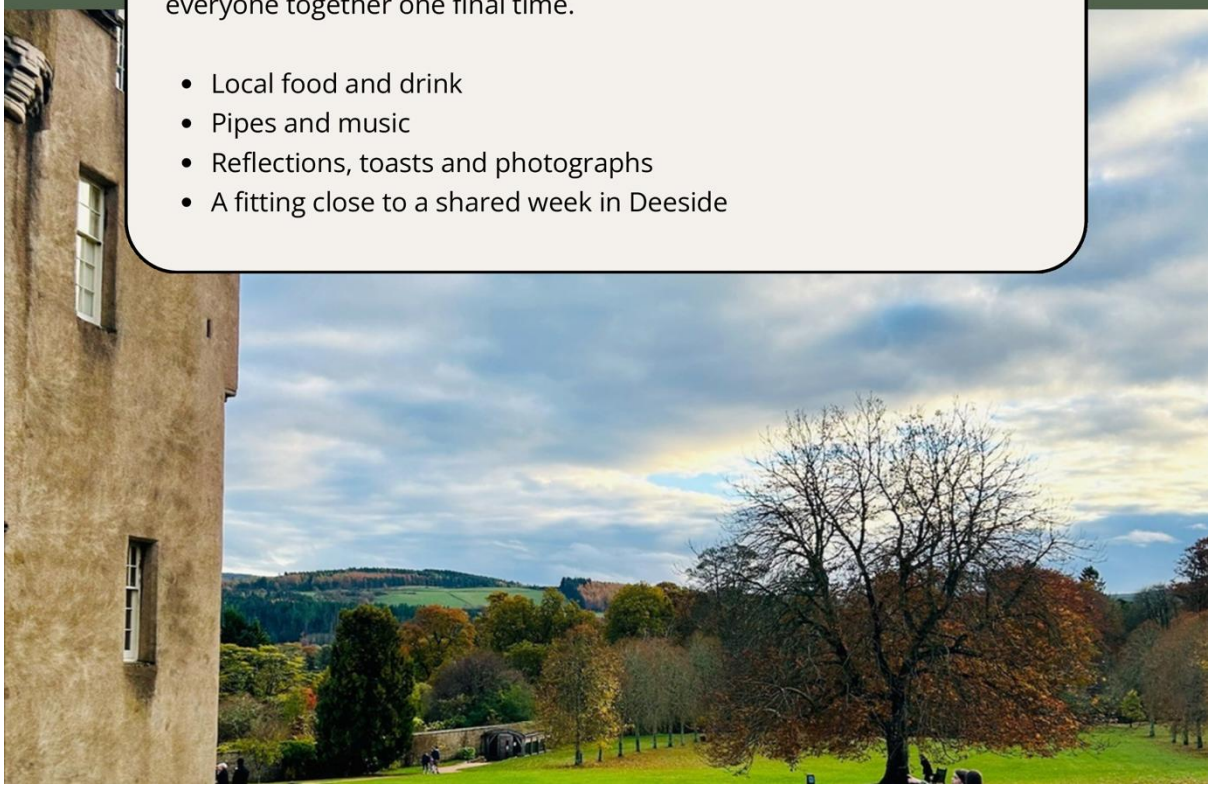


Lunch arrangements will be provided.

Farewell BBQ & Closing Evening

The Gathering concludes with an informal farewell barbecue, bringing everyone together one final time.

- Local food and drink
- Pipes and music
- Reflections, toasts and photographs
- A fitting close to a shared week in Deeside



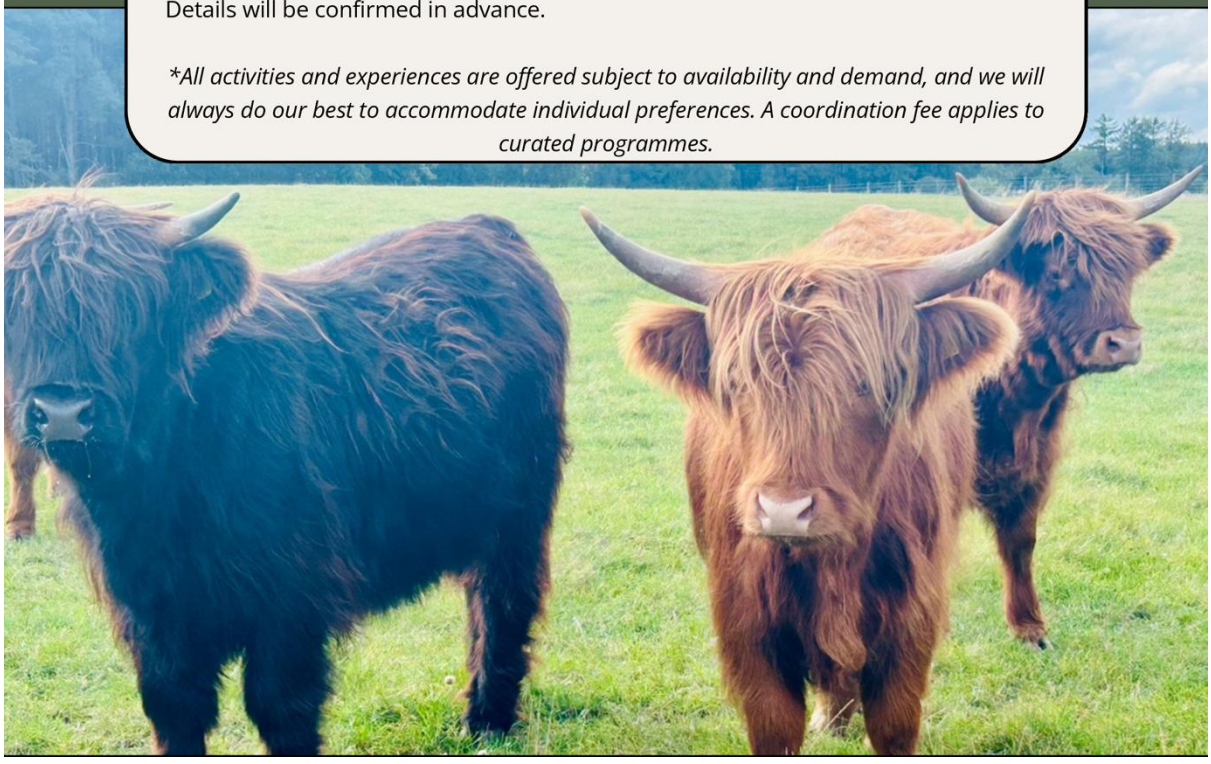
ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES

For those who wish to enrich their week further, a small number of optional experiences may be available.

- Whisky or gin tastings
- Archery, paintball, laser tag and bubble football
- Croquet on the Lawn at Crathes Castle
- Heritage and family research sessions
- Gentle guided walks and informal gatherings
- Golf on the 9 hole Queens Course at Inchmarlo or a few swings at the 20-bay driving range
- Salmon fishing on the River Dee with equipment and tuition provided
- Roe deer, Rabbit and Fox hunting - An evening with the Estate's Gamekeeper

Details will be confirmed in advance.

**All activities and experiences are offered subject to availability and demand, and we will always do our best to accommodate individual preferences. A coordination fee applies to curated programmes.*



A GATHERING TO REMEMBER

The Burnett Gathering 2026 has been designed to balance heritage with comfort, tradition with flexibility, and formality with warmth. Above all, it is about people — renewing connections, sharing stories, and enjoying Scotland together.

We very much hope you will be able to join us.

Further Information

Full booking details, accommodation guidance and activity selection will be circulated in due course.

In the meantime you can:

- Register your interest
- Indicate preferred activity choices

by emailing burnettcurator@outlook.com