

Claymore Hotel History

The Claymore Hotel has an extensive history with records dating back to 1225 when Gilchrist, founder of the Clan MacFarlane received a charter of the lands of Arrochar, as it was then spelt.

The original part of the building is built on the site of the previous estate that incorporated house of the MacFarlanes. The house that exists now was built in 1697 and was called Inverioch House.

The second part of Inverioch House was added in 1799 by the Duke of Argyll. It is still disputed to this day whether it was the centre part or the rear part of the house, which was built first.

In 1821 the lands of Arrochar were sold to Colquhoun of Luss. Even today most of the land around Arrochar is owned by the company Luss Estates

The third part of Inverioch House, the present front part, was added by Sir James Colquhoun of Luss. This last part of the house, the present front of the house, looks out over Loch Long, but when the first part of the house was built the front looked towards the MacFarlane avenue of oak trees, and towards Loch Lomond from where the MacFarlanes had come. A stone was placed above the front door of the house and was engraved with the date and the Gaelic inscription "thugadh a chlach so bho ard dorus an aitreabh: a thog eoin. Triath nam parlanaich, agus tighearna an arrathir. Air culthaobh an tighe so. An ga bhbiadhna ata scriobhte orra." which translates to "it was on this very spot that John, chief of the MacFarlane clan, had his original home. "

In 1950 the hotel was called "The Arrochar House Hotel" and was owned and run by Mrs McLeod.

The first extension to be put on to the hotel includes what is now the reception area the function room and a block of 35 rooms. This was built around 1978 by the owner at the time Mr Bobby Campbell. The hotel was then taken over in 1986 by Mr Maurice Root-Reed who in turn built another extension on to the hotel in 1994. This was on a much larger scale and incorporated the new wing, which consists of 56 bedrooms. Also added at this time was the main dining room and kitchen area.

The hotel was then taken over by Wallace Arnold in September 2003 who did extensive refurbishment and modernisation. It was at this time that the hotel name was changed to the Claymore. Wallace Arnold then merged with Shearings in March 2005 to create WA Shearings also incorporating National Holidays and Caledonian Travel, forming the largest coach holiday company in Europe.

Of course the story of the Claymore would not be complete with out a resident ghost. Rumour has it that many years ago the daughter of the Chief of the Clan MacFarlane had a love affair with the son of the Chief of the Clan Colquhoun of Luss. This was forbidden, as the clans were enemies. When the young Miss MacFarlane's father heard of the affair he put her in solitary confinement and locked her in her room. She refused to eat and died of a broken heart. Her restless spirit still wanders around the original house at night.... perhaps still looking for her lost love. Locals have named her spirit "the green lady".