



the Scottish Banner



North American Edition



Years Strong - 1976-2017 www.scottishbanner.com

A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 41 Number 1 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper July 2017

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A blooming business

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*with Scotland's
premier bothy expert*

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The Banner Says...

Seeing out four decades



by Valerie Cairney

As we hit the press this month we close our 40th anniversary year and welcome in 41 years of *the Scottish Banner*. During our 40th anniversary we had a busy year launching our new layout in North America, our very own tartan web site, welcoming new writers (and still enjoying our long time favourites!) and celebrating with our recently launched digital download subscription service-giving our readers around the world a choice in how they read their *Scottish Banner*.

Humble beginnings

Looking back four decades it is amazing to see all the change that has transpired at *the Scottish Banner*. From its humble beginnings in rural Ontario in Canada to a paper that is read across both North America and Australasia (as well as Scotland itself!). Starting a paper back then was so very different with the technology we have today and things like internet, social media and smart phones not even a thought on people minds. Getting news from home back then, as it is today, was so important and connected us no matter where we lived.

I never knew how *the Scottish Banner* would be received and for how long. I never thought it would be available in the places it now is and I would writing an editorial 40 years later. We have some incredibly loyal readers, writers and advertisers who we simply could not publish without.

The Scottish Banner family is a global one and one that that involves a variety of ages, back grounds, interests and locations-however it is one that unites many people for many different reasons to Scotland.

Today we have kept a place in this modern world we live and now connect with global Scots with each edition printed or downloaded and through social media daily. For my 40 plus years doing *the Scottish Banner* I have seen a great deal of change but one thing that remains is that Scots, regardless of how far back that goes back, have a passion for being Scottish and celebrating that passion. We see it with our readers who never miss an issue, those who attend Highland Games, play in pipe bands, spend hours researching their roots and those travel back to Scotland's shores (regardless of how long that flight can be) to connect quite literally with the land of their ancestors.

Scottishness

I have been able to see some great parts of the world with *the Scottish Banner* attending Scottish events across North America, Scotland and

Australasia. The love for Scotland and people's "Scottishness" have not really changed since the 1970's to today, whether they be in Auckland, Toronto, San Francisco or Sydney. This has been such a great privilege to witness this across the world and see that in 2017 being Scottish is still so important to so many.

Keeping up with all the changes of modern day publishing can certainly be a challenge. Each issue we produce takes many hours to compile and complete and once one issue has "gone to bed", another is already being planned. I have loved this exciting journey that *the Banner* has given me all these years, however now I am ready to start another, albeit slower, journey and that includes stepping back from my duties at *the Scottish Banner*.

The Scottish Banner family

The paper has been part of our family for now over four decades and I am glad to advise it is staying in the family with my son Sean taking over for me. I hope *the Banner* is also considered part of your family and you continue to enjoy our pages for many years to come as he and our team of writers from around the world bring you a monthly dose of Scotland.

The Scottish Banner family is a global one and one that that involves a variety of ages, back grounds, interests and locations-however it one that unites many people for many different reasons to Scotland. Our readers have been so special to me and given all of us here a sense of "doing each issue better". For over 40 years this publication has been my job, lifestyle, pride and passion, I have enjoyed every minute - well most. And I thank you for being most patient with me at times. I will never be far away, and I thank you for all the experience you have given me.

Excited to see where it goes next

I have many different reasons for stepping away from *the Banner* but do so with pride of where I leave it and am excited to see where it goes next. After this issue my son Sean will be taking over the publication. He has been doing this for so many years now that he is probably better than me for what he does, and I wish him luck with everything he does.

May Scotland continue to reach out and give the world its own brand of Scottish colour, charm and history. I have been proud to nurture and develop *the Banner* all these years and now am proud to release it to Sean. Good luck Scotland and Sean-may you always be winners.

If you have any comments about this month's editorial or wish to send Valerie a message please share with us your views by email, post or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



Editor and Publisher of the Scottish Banner-Valerie Cairney.

Gracing our front cover: Geoff Allan - Scotland's premier bothy expert. Photo: Geoff Allan.

Tattoo Brigadier welcomes original Jacobite suit to Edinburgh



Brigadier David Allfrey, Producer and Chief Executive of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, got a sneak peek at an original tartan suit of English Jacobite, Sir John Hynde Cotton, ahead of its installation at the National Museum of Scotland for the Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites exhibition, which is has now opened in Edinburgh.

The Brigadier's special preview comes as National Museums Scotland and the Tattoo unite this year to tell the tales of Scotland's colourful history through a variety of exciting initiatives. *Splash of Tartan* will be the theme for this year's Tattoo, encouraging Scots across the world to explore their connections with the country while organisers urge visitors to dress in their finest tartan accoutrements during the August showcase.

Splash of Tartan

Brigadier David Allfrey said: "It has been a huge pleasure working with National Museums Scotland to develop our plans for *Splash of Tartan* at this year's Tattoo. In looking to celebrate Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, a wonderful interest from Scottish clans and families around the world, a Royal Navy lead and the special place of Scotland's national fabric; we have needed to do lots of research. The National Museums' staff have been incredibly generous with their time, and we have all learned so much about the Jacobites. I was thrilled to be invited for a closer look with conservators at the National Museums

Collection Centre in Granton. It was fascinating to see the conservators at work and talk through the challenges of their various disciplines. The suit is not only a substantial garment - he was a big lad - but the tailoring and colours in the tartan are intricate and extraordinary. So much of a story in one piece of 'high and mighty' clothing! John Hynde Cotton certainly knew how to splash the tartan!"

Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites is running at the National Museum of Scotland presenting over 300 objects covering the full 'multi-media' range of material culture: jewellery, portraiture, official documents, letters, textiles, metalwork, sculpture, glassware and more.



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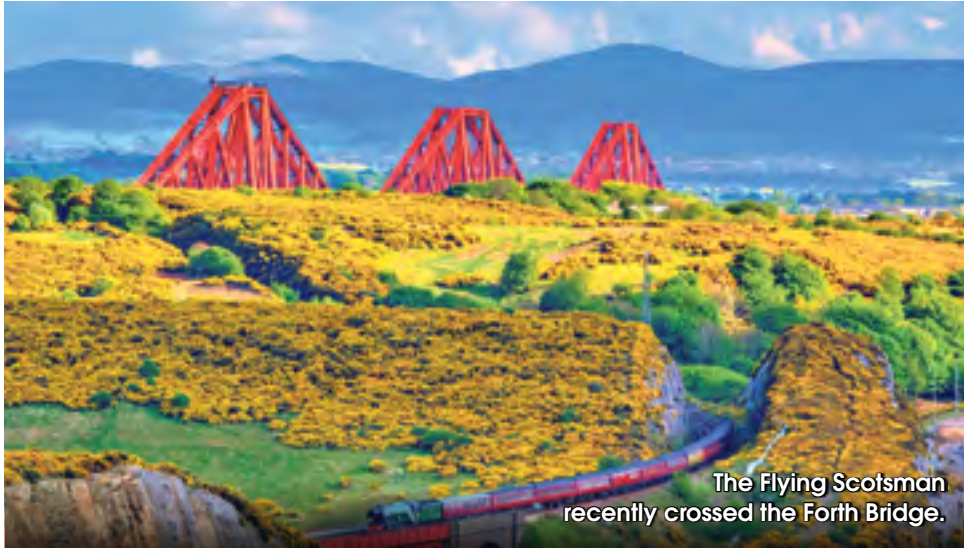
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Borders Railway gathers steam



The Flying Scotsman recently crossed the Forth Bridge.

The opportunity to step back in time and travel by steam train on Scotland's newest scenic rail route as well as cross the iconic Forth Bridge is back on the timetable this summer. Hundreds of passengers will have the opportunity to travel on a train hauled by a Black Five steam locomotive when it travels for the first time on the route that takes in two of Scotland's Great Scenic Rail Routes every Sunday in August.

The Scottish Railway Preservation Society

The special steam experience is being operated by the Scottish Railway Preservation Society, a charity which owns and maintains the former British Rail

coaches. It is the first time that passengers can board a steam train in West Lothian and Fife to cross the Forth Bridge and travel on the new Borders Railway. The journey begins in Linlithgow before travelling over the Forth Bridge and round the Fife coast before heading south on the Borders Railway to Tweedbank every Sunday in August. VisitScotland says that the return of steam experiences will help shine a spotlight once again on the Borders Railway as it approaches two years since it was officially opened by HM Queen in September 2015 and highlight the quality of the country's tourism offering.

Passengers from Linlithgow will be able to enjoy the unforgettable experience

of crossing by steam the Forth Bridge – designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2015 – before taking in the spectacular views from Kinghorn, Burntisland and Aberdour along the Fife coast. After crossing the bridge once again, the train steams through Princes

Hundreds of passengers will have the opportunity to travel on a train hauled by a Black Five steam locomotive when it travels for the first time on the route that takes in two of Scotland's Great Scenic Rail Routes every Sunday in August.

Street Gardens before arriving at Edinburgh Waverley and continuing along the 31-mile route of the Borders Railway, stopping at Galashiels and Tweedbank.

The Scottish Borders

Passengers will be able to enjoy more than two hours in the Borders before the return journey and are being encouraged to visit some of the nearby towns and visitor attractions on offer in the region. Trips are being arranged to Abbotsford House, the home of Sir Walter Scott, as well as to the historic towns of Melrose and Galashiels.

The Scottish Borders is celebrated for its outstanding natural larder with a variety of food and drink establishments on offer in the local towns, as well as at Seasons restaurant over the River Tweed in Gattonside. The hop-on, hop-off City Sightseeing Scottish Borders open top bus will also be operating tours of the Borders for train passengers.

Rob Dickson, Scottish Borders Council's Corporate Transformation and Services Director, said: "This is the third year of the steam train experience, and the most exciting yet. The offering this year will provide a day to remember for all on board, crossing the Forth Rail Bridge before travelling along the Borders Railway to spend the afternoon in our wonderful area with plenty to see and do, and quality local food and drink available. It is clear that the Borders Railway is now becoming one of the great scenic rail journeys to experience."

The Forth Bridge and Borders Steam Special Experience will depart from Linlithgow every Sunday in August, picking up passengers at Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, Dalgety Bay and Edinburgh Waverley. The return will be diesel-hauled from Tweedbank to Newcraighall, where the train will be turned on Niddrie triangle so that it can be steam-hauled for the remainder of the return journey. The Black Five locomotive was designed by Sir William Stanier for the London, Midland & Scottish railway and a total of 842 were built between 1934 and 1951.



ANNOUNCING the new Scottish Banner digital download subscription

As part of our 40th Anniversary celebrations *the Scottish Banner* is excited to offer our readers a new choice in how they receive *the Banner*.



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SCOT POURRI



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Clan Lennox and descendants of Lennox

Looking for descendants who live in Australia and New Zealand. I am on a committee organizing an international clan society for Clan Lennox. We have representatives from all the major countries with populations of Lennox people - except Australia. If any Lennox's in Australia would like to help start our Clan in Australia please do get in touch.

Thank you,
Neil Whitford
2702 Three Iron St.
Morehead City, North Carolina
USA
Email: nbwhitford@hotmail.com

Tartan Day Ottawa



The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band welcomed the sun and so many people up to Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Sunday, April 23 – a record breaking crowd cheered on the band and dancers as they celebrated the band's 12th annual celebration of heritage, music and culture. 46 different tartans were represented, and the wonderful day was enjoyed by hundreds of locals and visitors to the nation's capital!
Bethany Bisaillon
Sons of Scotland Pipe Band
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Congratulations to the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band for celebrating Tartan Day for 12 great years and highlighting our great culture.

Scottish Autism fundraiser

Hi Folks,
This is my 4th year fundraising for Scottish Autism. I would like to thank all who have donated and supported me to date. At the age of 72 I feel this could be my last

chance to do something very special for a very special granddaughter (Holly) and all her classmates at Kaimes Special School, I would be very grateful if you could donate to this cause at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ken-hanley

Yours aye, slainte
Ken Hanley
Scottish Tourist Guides Driver/Guide
Scotland



Scottish tablet

In the May issue of *the Banner* Andy Duff asked for a recipe for Scottish tablet, well here is one my mother-in-law made in Edinburgh for years.
125grams/4oz salted butter
1 kg./21¼ lb. granulated sugar
1 cup full cream milk
4 grams/14 oz. tin condensed milk

Over a low heat melt the butter in a heavy bottomed pan. Add the sugar and milk. Keep stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Add the condensed milk. Turn the heat up a little and slowly bring to a boil. Turn the heat down and let it simmer for 20 minutes. Test the mixture after 18 minutes by dropping a spoonful in a bowl of cold water. If it turns into a softball in your fingers it is ready to remove from the heat. Beat it for 3 to 5 minutes. Pour into a baking tray and score the top with a knife into fingers. My mother-in-law used to put in walnuts in the bottom of the tray sometimes.

My husband always looks forward to your competitions and he has won a few in the past.
Mrs Judy Wajer
Maryborough, Queensland
Australia

Ed note: Thank you Judy for being so helpful to a fellow reader and we hope Andy gets to try your mother-in-law's great recipe.

Learn, reflect and relax

I need to tell you about one of my favourite days of the month-the day I get my *Scottish Banner*! I look forward to receiving my copy each month and when it arrives a system of routines begin for me. The kettle goes on and the world around me stops. I do not take phone calls or have the TV or radio playing, this is my time to learn, reflect and relax. I so enjoy the articles and snippets of information in each issue, after my first read I will then go back and take in more and find perhaps something I missed earlier. Thanks so much *Scottish Banner* for producing this great and informative publication that is so very loved. My copy gets passed on to several friends all who wait eagerly to also fall in love with Scotland each month with *the Banner*.
Emma Stewart
Auckland, New Zealand

Ed note: Thank you Emma so much for this lovely note and sharing with us what your paper means to you, hearing this means much to all of us involved.

Scottish associations

Last week I happened to pick up a copy of *the Scottish Banner* and noticed your interesting page on surnames. I am three parts Sassenach, one quarter Scot (my mother a Beattie, her family coming originally from Cathcart and Glasgow- in the 19th century days the two distinguished from each other). I have had

the pleasure of visiting Scotland on many occasions, most recently including a visit to the Langholm associated with the small Beattie Reiver clan long ago.

Our town here, of course, has many Scottish associations, having been founded by our greatest Governor, Lachlan Macquarie, in 1820 and named after his wife, buried on Mull. A few years ago we had a statue of her placed in what is now a park but which was originally the town market square (and a place I think where some were hung) next to St Peter's Parish Church which he also founded, opened in 1822. Campbelltown has grown greatly though is almost part now of the ever-spreading metropolis of Sydney. Many of Campbelltown's "suburbs" have names with a Scottish character of one kind or another – Airds, Ruse, St Andrews, Glen Alpine, Ingleburn, Glenfield, Macarthur, Blairmount, Blair Athol (without the original double l), Claymore, Kentlyn and Wedderburn! Macquarie did give his own name, his wife's name, and his poor son's name to many, many places in our country but can certainly be excused – he received no proper recognition or recompense from the Government of his day.

Yours sincerely,
(The Revd Dr) John Bunyan
Colenso Corner
Campbelltown, NSW
Australia

Omaha Pipes and Drums



These three pictures were taken in 2004 when I was in Scotland with the Omaha Pipes and Drums. The top one was I think taken in Glasgow, the one in the middle was taken in Stirling and the lower one was taken in North Berwick. This coming August I'll be making my second trip to Glasgow with them, it will also be my third trip to Scotland as my second trip was to attend the Clan Cameron Gathering in 2009. I will also be meeting up with some pipers from Canada while over there.
Jon Evans
USA

Kilts for Kancer

I have come up with the idea of wearing kilt every day for a year. Not matter the weather.

It gets cold here in winter. For one reason was for prostate cancer awareness and to raise money. The second is I wanted to show people that kilts are no longer just for weddings. I was also going to try and have people wear a kilt for a day to raise money for prostate cancer research. I thought it was a good idea and a good cause.

Thank you,
James Kringle
Markham, Ontario
Canada
Email: jtkringle@rogers.com

Ed note: Great initiative James-good luck with helping a great cause and promoting a great way to dress!

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The Glasgow Cabbie
Glasgow, Scotland

Bridge of Allan Highland Games



The Maple Leaf set to "fall" on this year's Bridge of Allan Highland Games Sunday August 6th. The Hamilton Police Service, Ontario, Canada are now confirmed to be gracing the games. Also attending are the long arm of the Canadian law with the Peel Regional Police Pipe Band as an international competitor.
Bridge of Allan Highland Games
Scotland

KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS

Australian Jim Stoddart was born in a Glasgow Tenement and raised in a Glasgow Housing Scheme 1943-1965. Jim will be taking readers on a trip down memory lane, of a time and place that will never be the same again, and hopes even if only a few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.



Bunnets & Bowlers

I guess it was partly because he had to put up with filthy clothes at work that my father always took great pride in his personal appearance away from work. Like his own father before him, he was always a well-groomed, dapper and well-dressed man, a real Burlington Bertie type. He always owned, at all times, at least one good, well-tailored suit from Burtons and whilst my paternal grandfather was always seen with a bow tie when dressed, my own father was rarely seen without a collar and tie when away from work. Being a riveter had its compensations. It was one of the better paid of the trades in the yards and so long as he could find a yard to take him on, it was a job that he could take some pride in, for it was one of the key jobs in what was still Glasgow's premier industry.

Clydebuilt

At a time when 'Clydebuilt' was an epithet recognised the world over a Glasgow man wouldn't feel embarrassed to say he was a riveter and that simple pride and confidence in what he did came through from my father, without him ever having to say it out loud. Some men work in manufacturing industries that are important but produce small components and other products which, isolated from what is finally built, don't exactly impress the rest of us. Glasgow men who



Govan shipbuilder by Jeremy Sutton-Hibbert, Street Level Photoworks.

designed and worked with their hands to build bridges, locomotives and fine buildings were more fortunate for they had something to point out to their children and grandchildren. Shipbuilders were part of those elites, for my father was able to point to a massive ship ready for launching and say "See that ship over there, son. I helped to build that." Or as he was more likely to have said, "See that ship, Jim, ma

rivets are haudin it thegether." He was always known to exaggerate.

Launch of a ship

The launch of a ship was an exciting and dramatic event and it gave a purpose and celebration to the product of the men's hard labours having come to fruition. It had ritual and ceremony, with all the men allowed to down tools and gather around if it was a weekday launch. Invited dignitaries and guests, including wives and children of the workers were often given passes to enter the yard and witness the big event. My mum and I went to see some launches but most of the names of them are lost to me now. I do know I was aged eight at one of my first launches for my mother kept our entry pass. It was at Harland and Wolff to see the launch of the motor tanker *Bollista*. We entered the yard by Napier Street and went to the public enclosure. The champagne bottle was thrown vigorously at the hull of the big tanker on 5th May 1951 by Her Royal Highness, the Princess Astrid of Norway.

The powerful sight of the massive hull moving down the greased slipway, held in check by tons of drag chains, was incredibly impressive. The roar of the miles of drag chains finally gave way to a moment of breathless silence as the ship hit the waters of the Clyde and shot down at an angle only to immediately bob up again in a wash of water. Now safely afloat, the cheers of the spectators resounded loudly, added to by hooters and a cacophony of noises from along the banks of the river.

Famous merchant and naval ships

My father could lay claim to have helped build some famous merchant and naval ships in his time, including *The Queen Mary*. During the Second World War he did his bit by helping to build what was later referred to as the Clyde's Victory Armada of nearly a thousand naval ships and boats. These ranged in size from three Battleships to 499 landing craft and the prototype for the famous Mulberry Harbour used in the D-Day landings. But the list also included 5 aircraft carriers, 13 cruisers, 117 destroyers, 18 submarines and more than 500 merchant ships.

Petty pilfering was endemic in the shipyards. Theoretically you could lay your hands on just about anything.

The many stories, including the one that just about everyone in Clydebuilt was fortunate enough to have exactly the same Axminster carpet in their single ends as the passengers had underfoot whilst cruising on the *Queen Mary*, had its origin in the idea that ships, like the luxury liners, seemed to need to be fitted out twice over because of pilfering. My family never seemed to need to buy firewood for kindling and some of our stippled walls in Pollok looked a bit like battleship grey or the colours of P&O but that's about as much as I could have surmised might have come from a shipyard. I do remember my dad once talking about getting a bit of scrap wood and steel through the gate to make my sledge but that's about it. He did emphasise to me the difference between a man taking out a bit of waste material from the yard and stealing someone's 'piece'. Everyone turned a blind eye to the first offence but the second one would have resulted in the culprit being thrown into the River Clyde. According to my father there was nothing lower crawling around the shipyard than a man who stole somebody else's 'piece' that is someone else's sandwiches.

Battles between the bunnets and the bowlers

The terrible working conditions and lack of job security in the shipyards was hardly conducive to bringing about loyalty to the employer. There was little guilt involved in getting one over on the bowler-hatted bosses, by walking past the gateman with a bit of something up your trouser leg. Battles between the bunnets and the bowlers were rife with workers being able to be fined on the spot, or their wages docked, for brewing up a cup of tea and blamed for wasting company time. Officially there were no tea breaks but a brew could be got readily and unofficially, by using the riveter's furnace. A man could be summarily dismissed for such an offence so that the taking of tea breaks by the men and the banning of tea breaks by the employers became a matter of principle to both sides, leading to cat and mouse games, division, hatred and strike action. The bosses could retaliate by imposing lockouts on the men so that they were literally starved into submission and forced to return to work on the employer's terms.

Shipbuilding was an industry where security of tenure was non-existent and inter-union rivalry a way of life. Each union tried to protect the jobs of its own members so that demarcation disputes became rife. This, undoubtedly, contributed to the industry's decline and its final demise, so that when at last the owner's and bosses came to finally accept that modernisation was required for survival, the distrust between the men and the bosses, as well as between unions, was so great that co-operation was nigh impossible. When the shipyards eventually did re-equip in the late 1950's and early 1960's it was too late. They were re-equipped with technically obsolete equipment to build the type of ships for which there was no longer any demand.

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Sound archives inspire new Canna installation



The isle of Canna is the westernmost of the Small Isles archipelago, in the Inner Hebrides.



Margaret Fay Shaw and John Lorne Campbell.

Visitors alighting at Canna this summer will experience a beautiful installation inspired by the many archive recordings that are housed on the National Trust for Scotland's island. The work has been created as part of a joint project between the Trust, the charity that conserves and promotes Scotland's heritage, and the National Library of Scotland's Connecting Scotland's Sounds project. Musician and artist Yvonne Lyon worked with the Canna community, visual artist Anne McKay and Canna Archivist Fiona MacKenzie to co-create the new multi-media installation which was premiered on Sunday 2 April at the Pier Waiting Room on the Hebridean island.

Audio heritage

The creation celebrates the National Trust for Scotland's Canna Sound Archive Collection – a unique treasure trove of audio recordings

made from the 1930s onwards by folklorists John Lorne Campbell and Margaret Fay Shaw, who both feature throughout, and inspired the installation. From Gaelic songs recorded by John Lorne Campbell and light-hearted recordings of Margaret Fay Shaw's cat to new songs created by Yvonne Lyon and the Canna community, visitors to the island will enjoy a unique interpretation of Canna's audio heritage.

Connecting Scotland's Sounds is a project based at the National Library of Scotland, championing the preservation and sharing of Scotland's heritage sound recordings from 2016 to 2017 with support from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. Yvonne Lyon said: "Working as a Guest Sound Curator on Canna has been enormously inspiring. To have the opportunity to mine old archives and have space and time to re-imagine them, breathe new life into them, create new work and

involve the community has been a profound privilege. Hopefully the new art created will encourage others to explore the old!"

Fiona Mackenzie, Canna House Archivist/Manager at the National Trust for Scotland said: "Turning our little empty waiting room on Canna Pier into a welcoming, interesting and vibrant place for visitors and locals to learn about our island's heritage has been a wonderful experience. The community has learned about our own Canna Sound Archive and the potential that we have for using the 'old' to create the 'new'.

The island was gifted to the National Trust for Scotland in 1981 by Gaelic scholar John Lorne Campbell

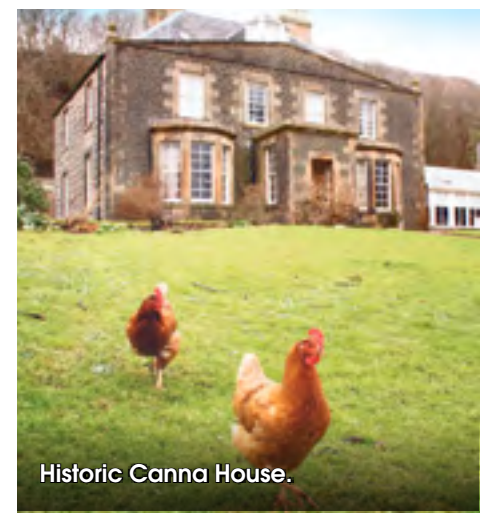
It has re-opened the community's eyes and ears to these treasures. It was also wonderful to work with professional creatives, whose activities the schoolchildren in particular have embraced fully! We thank the Connecting Scotland's Sounds project for giving us this chance."

Sgur na Ban Naiomh

Canna is in the Inner Hebrides and has been inhabited for thousands of

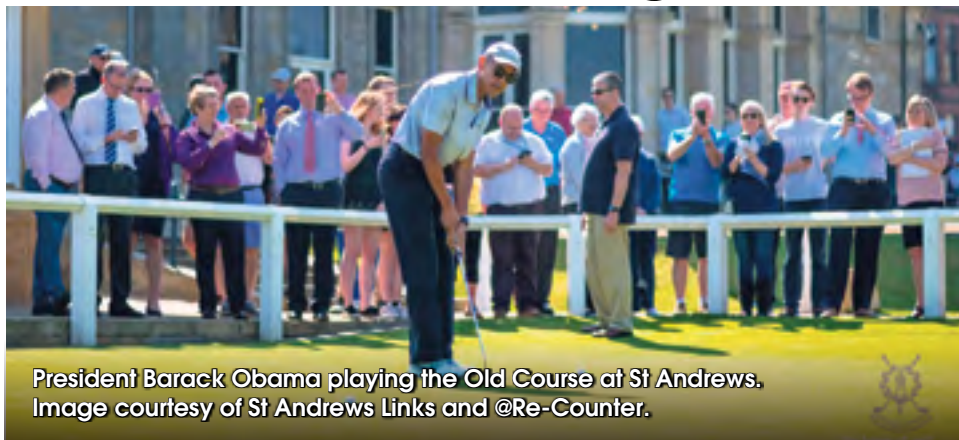
years. In the early-Christian period, it belonged to the monastery on Iona. There are a number of archaeological remains on the island dating from this period, including a series of highly decorated cross shafts and the wonderfully located hermitage site, 'Sgur na Ban Naiomh'. The island was gifted to the National Trust for Scotland in 1981 by Gaelic scholar John Lorne Campbell, who lived there with his wife Margaret Fay Shaw. As well as its rich cultural heritage, the island is renowned for its seabirds and boasts puffins, razorbills and Manx shearwaters. There are also sea eagles and golden eagles. There are currently 23 residents on the island.

More information on Scotland's Sounds can be found at www.scotlandssounds.org



Historic Canna House.

Old Course Inauguration



President Barack Obama playing the Old Course at St Andrews. Image courtesy of St Andrews Links and @Re-Counter.

The Home of Golf welcomed another star admirer during May in the form of former US President Barack Obama. Within hours of touching down in Edinburgh, the former President was teeing off on the iconic Old Course during his first ever visit to Scotland. VisitScotland believes his outing to St Andrews reinforces Scotland's prestige as the best golfing destination in the world, which in turn could boost the country's important golf tourism industry. A recent study revealed the economic value of golf tourism and events to Scotland has increased to £286 million per year following a bumper decade.

Barack Obama was in Scotland to address business leaders at a charity dinner in Edinburgh organised by the Hunter Foundation. Malcolm Roughead, VisitScotland Chief Executive, said: "As the undisputed Home of Golf, playing a round

on the Old Course is a dream for golf fans and clearly Mr Obama is no exception, travelling straight to Fife after landing in Edinburgh this morning. His visit, which has been widely publicised, only strengthens our already stellar reputation as the best golfing destination in the world and will undoubtedly inspire others golf fans to add Scotland to their travel plans. Scotland is blessed with fantastic scenery, rich culture and awe-inspiring attractions. We hope Barack Obama continues to enjoy, not just the warm weather, but also our warm Scottish welcome and that this trip marks the first of many."

Last month, a VisitScotland poll of 3,000 golfers set out to discover which golf holes in Scotland exhibited #ScotSpirit – a feature of the national tourism organisation's Spirit of Scotland campaign. It named the 18th at St Andrews' Old Course as the best golf hole in Scotland.

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SCOTSPEAK

Scotspeak is a selection of quotes which made headlines in Scotland last month on a variety of current Scottish affairs.

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I like these prizes. I owe everything to Bill Tennent from Scottish Television who put me on his show every time he couldn't find another guest. He would phone me and I'd go and turn up with my guitar and play folk songs.”

Billy Connolly said as he won an award for his outstanding contribution to Scottish television. The Glasgow comedian was recently honoured at the Royal Television Society Scotland awards in Glasgow for his contribution to Scottish TV.

“The day was a celebration of what communities can achieve when they're in control and not at the mercy of landlords' whims. It was an honour to be on the Isle of Eigg to celebrate 20 years of community ownership – not only because of the progress that has been made but also because of the people who were there. Some of these people have been instrumental in leading the way on land reform and believing that communities should be in control of local assets. Twenty years ago, Eigg led the way in showing the world how to create a sustainable community by owning the land, acquiring security of tenure and working together. Today, the lively community numbers over 100 people and it's largely down to the sheer determination and commitment of a small number of people who weren't satisfied with the status quo.”

MSP Kate Forbes said on the 20th anniversary of the local community buy out of Eigg in the Inner Hebrides. Once boasting a population of 500, the island was left with just 64 inhabitants before local residents completed their ambitious £1.5million purchase of the land in 1997. The island has now grown to just over 100 residents with new housing available and high green energy targets.

“It's such a charming, beautiful city with generous people to match. I'm having a little trouble understanding people but I think if I stayed here a little longer I might understand the accent.”

Desperate Housewives star Eva Longoria Baston said on her first visit to Edinburgh. The Texan was visiting Scotland as a guest at the Global Gift Gala, and was looking forward to exploring the historic Scottish capital.



Dunstaffnage Castle. Photo: Historic Enviroment Scotland.

“2017, the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, is a special one for all of us here at HES. Across the year we will also celebrate a particular aspect of heritage, history and archaeology each month to highlight Scotland's diverse historic environment. The Traders and Norsemen event will provide the opportunity to find out more about this little-known chapter in Scottish and Norse history, how the Vikings came to be here and the impact they had.”

Laura Gray, Assistant Event and Filming Manager at Historic Environment Scotland (HES), said as Vikings recently brought history to life at Dunstaffnage Castle, just outside Oban. The castle was packed with Norsemen and women, offering visitors a fascinating insight into this lesser known part of history in the west of Scotland.

“Ten minutes before this we had a beautiful sunny day. It was just torrential.

Everybody ran for cover and a wind seemed to appear from nowhere and lifted our first aid tent and some of the stall holders' tents. And then the noise was just terrifying - the noise of the wind and the folks screaming. The wind just swept through the park tearing up the tents, just clearing the arena and everything in its path. It swept through the village and five minutes later it was flat calm again.”

Cornhill Highland Games Secretary Shona

Hay said as a mini tornado hit the North-east village of Cornhill during the annual Highland games. No one was injured but several tents and displays were damaged and the event had to be cancelled after.

“I know that everyone in Scotland will join me in sending our heartfelt sympathy to Eilidh's family and friends ahead of what will be the most difficult day imaginable. Everything that I've heard, seen or read about Eilidh shows that she was a vivacious, fun-loving young woman with a bright future ahead of her, and I know that the community on Barra will pay her a fitting tribute. Her family are in my thoughts.”

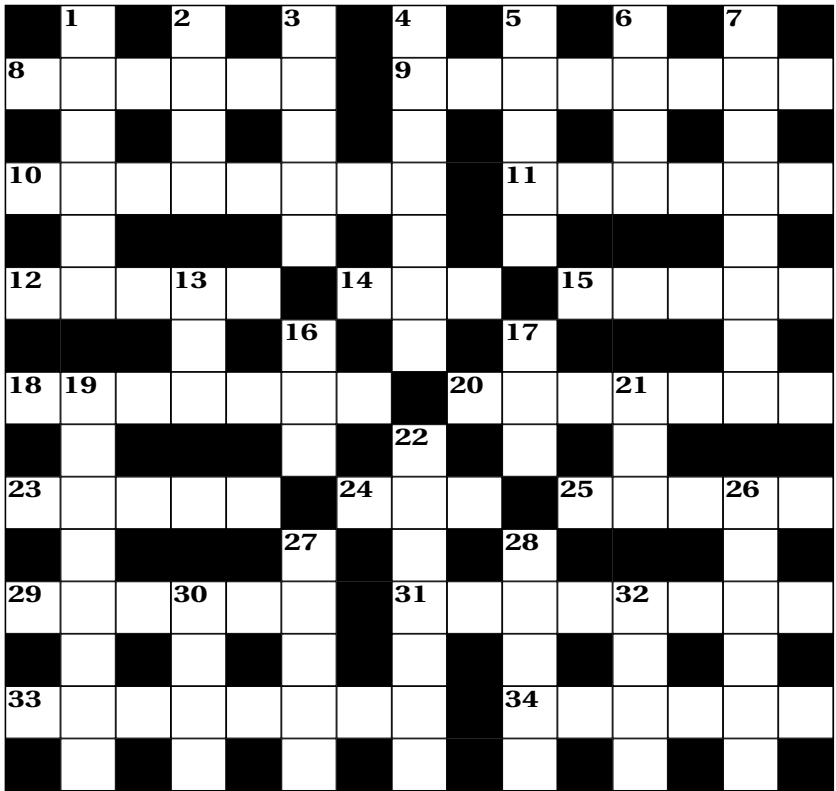
First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said as Manchester Arena attack victim 14 year old Eilidh MacLeod was laid to rest on her island home of Barra. Most businesses on Barra shut for the day out of respect for Eilidh's family. Eilidh's friend, Laura MacIntyre, 15, was injured in the terrorist attack which killed 22 people on 22 May.

“Scotland is united in wishing to keep our wild landscapes free from large-scale wind farms, giant pylons, super quarries and other inappropriate commercial developments. Wild land is a key part of Scotland's natural heritage and national identity. It is also a major driver of the Scottish economy, attracting tourists from all over the world to visit, spend money and support jobs in some of our most fragile local communities.”

Helen McDade, head of policy for the John Muir Trust, said as Scottish conservationists are calling for statutory protection for wilderness areas in Scotland, giving natural areas similar protections as national parks and ensuring natural protection from development and mismanagement.

SCOTWORD

Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 23!



CLUES ACROSS

- 8) Scots kids (6).
- 9) Eternally (8).
- 10) Jimmy Shand's polka (8).
- 11) The -----o' the Isles (6).
- 12) A northerly flow! (5).
- 14) Row of kirk seats (3).
- 15) Old Scots garment (5).
- 18) A capital street (7).
- 20) Village on Arran's east coast (7).
- 23) A Scot gone awry (5).
- 24) A Grampian flower (3).
- 25) Border river (5).
- 29) Arbroath delicacy (6).
- 31) Resort near Burntisland (8).
- 33) Like a stag! (8).
- 34) How dancers should be (6).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) The true Scots tongue (6).
- 2) A Scots hillside (4).
- 3) They're surrounded by water (5).
- 4) Scots gumboots (7).
- 5) Town south-east of Elgin (5).
- 6) The last word (4).
- 7) Rain protectors (8).
- 13) Barrie's Peter! (3).
- 16) A Scot who knows! (3).
- 17) A Scots roll (3).
- 19) Military division (8).
- 21) An isolated Scots hill (3).
- 22) Jacobite emblem (7).
- 26) Eagles nests (6).
- 27) River dams (5).
- 28) Miss Laurie (5).
- 30) Narrow arm of the sea (4).
- 32) Part of the Highland dress (4).

Perth City Hall to be transformed



Five architectural firms have been shortlisted in Perth & Kinross Council's competition to redesign City Hall. The Council officially launched the competition in February, challenging architectural firms to come up with a grand vision for redeveloping the building. The designers hoping to undertake the project have developed initial design concepts which went on public display in June. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the concepts, and comments will be taken in account by the Programme Board. The final decision on which architect winning

the contract will be taken by Perth & Kinross Council. The successful architect is likely to be confirmed by the end of 2017 and construction work will start on the building in 2019. The grand opening of the building is scheduled for 2021. Perth and Kinross Council voted in June to bring the building back into public use with the vision of increasing the city's capacity to display collections of national significance, house major touring exhibitions and feature national and overseas loans. Together with a £10m investment to transform Perth Museum and Art Gallery, it is planned that the two venues will tell the story of how the ancient roots of Scotland were forged in Perth in the Kingdom of Alba, and how modern Scots including the painter John Duncan Fergusson shaped the modern world.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Have a name that has you stumped? Scottish Banner readers can send in their name queries direct to Ron via the Scottish Banner by post, via our website or email: info@scottishbanner.com. Ron will do his best to help you with your name query and may just add that extra piece to your genealogy puzzle.



There we are in July and the mailbag has brought in my favourite thing, inquiries about interesting and challenging names. After many years of doing this column, I never tire of receiving new surnames to address. Some are straight forward while others are a challenge. There times when I look a new name I haven't seen previously and I think I don't know how am I going find anything on this one? Sometimes I do and sometimes I don't, no matter what, the fun is in the search.

Lintower

Reverend Dr. John Bunyan of Campbelltown, N.S.W. wrote to ask about the surname of one of his ancestors with the unusual but pleasant sounding name of Elizabeth Lintower. My usual resources offered no solutions or origins of the name. With the prefix "lin" as in linseed or linen in the name I wondered if it had anything to do with the flax trade but I didn't have any luck there. My one and only reference to the word and not necessarily to the surname was found in an article from a group entitled GEN UKI for genealogy United Kingdom and Ireland. This was concerning the town of Ballantrae on the southern part of the west coast of Scotland, in the county of Ayr.

It read as follows; "Ballantrae "was not, however, created a Burgh of Barony till 1617. The inhabitants are chiefly fishermen, and in early times the smuggling of tea, tobacco, and brandy formed one of the staple industries of the place. Large pirate vessels called Buckers, carrying 20 or 30 guns, were accustomed to lie in the bay and discharge their cargoes at Ballantrae. The arrival of one of these vessels was the signal for the smugglers, who were called lintowers, to proceed in a large body to the shore, with their horses, ready to receive the contraband goods, and convey them through the country. The lintowers numbered about one hundred men, all of them stalwart fellows, armed with cutlass and pistol ready to fight if resistance was offered them in the discharge of their illegal calling. The old Kirk was a favourite place for hiding the contraband goods."

Looking at familysearch.com I only found three only baptisms for the name

and they were all females so possibly the name has died out.

McLevin

Mr. Lindsay Campbell of Upper Hutt, New Zealand has list of surnames that caught his interest. They are Gaelic in origin with some possible Anglicized versions. Looking at the list, they are not the usual ones of which are fairly common, so I needed to do some research. Also I wish put forward a disclaimer that I am not a Gaelic scholar so be kind to me if my findings or assumptions are incorrect and lastly, resources may be sparse for such uncommon names.

He found the name McLevin and also McIllevin recorded in Kilmodan, Argyll in 1790 presumably from the parish registers. I found no mention of the name in either form in my Scottish sources. However, I did find mention of a Manx version of the name as MacGilllewne but no origin was mention. In the Surnames of Ireland the closest I found was Levens Anglicized from Mac Dhuinnshleibhin which to our English ear would sound MacDunslevin, a variant of Dunlevy. Another form of the Levens name is Levinge sometimes Anglicized to read Livingstone s mentioned in Mr. Campbell's letter.

MacIliriach

The next name on the list is MacIliriach a name is seen as Riach, Reach and Reoch etc. It means son of the brindled or grizzled one not sure exactly what that means but it seems to have a negative connotation, possibly as an unkempt person.

McVurrich or McMhutrich is often Englished as Currie, although Currie stands alone in derivation and origin. The origin of Mac Vurrich has eluded me. If it a case of vowel sounding and is similar to MacVarish then it would be son of Maurice. However, I hope others can offer something that can disrepute this.

MacNeuar is straight as we know better as MacNair or MacNeir. It is sometimes seen as MacNuyer or MacNayer. Due to the English clerk not being able to discern the different tonal and vowel sounds in Gaelic there is more than one possible source for the name. Masc Iain uidhir meaning son of the dun or brown one. In Perthshire it is

thought to be from Mac an oighre son of the heir. Mac an fhuibhir meaning either son of the smith or son of the stranger. One may wonder how this could be translated in English as such but a knowledge of sound aspirations and vowel pronunciation in Gaelic would answer that question. The name is sometimes Englished into Weir.

If you were descended from the son of the Canon a clerical post, then your surname maybe MacChananaich or MacChannich. In English supposedly it is known as Buchanan.

Lastly, on Mr. Campbell's list is the interesting name MacLugas sometimes

seen as MacCluggage etc. This name is simply son of Lucas.

Thank you for that challenging list.

More generations

Having done my family ancestry these last 40 plus years, I look upon my results and think back to when I started on this journey. All I knew was my grandparents' names and not much else. As time resources allowed I managed to break down a few brick walls that let me become aware of more generations. Naturally with every generation comes a new female surname and it is so very interesting to see them added to list. These names span Ireland on my paternal side and Scotland on maternal side. Oddly enough after finding 50 plus surnames in tree I had to go back to 1795 to finally a "Mac" name appear in my family tree.

I only wish I could have asked my parents more about what they knew when I was young. Also it would have special to be able to share my findings with them as I am sure they would have found it interesting.

So if you have done or thinking about doing a family tree make sure that you make copies available for your family. They may not be interested now but they will thank you later.

Enjoy your July and make me happy by sending in your queries.

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Canadian researcher and forensic sculptor rejects Scottish King Robert's leprosy label



Portraitist Christian Corbet works on a clay bust of Robert the Bruce. The bust is the first commissioned by the Bruce family, based on evidence from a cast of the king's skull. Nelson's research concluded the skull shows no signs of leprosy, despite contemporary and later rumours Robert the Bruce had the disease. Photo courtesy of Christian Corbet/University of Western Ontario.

A Western University bio-archaeologist and forensic sculptor in Canada has laid to rest a pernicious 700-year-old rumour: Scottish warrior-king Robert the Bruce did not have leprosy. The suggestion their national hero may have had the disfiguring, contagious disease has long been a burr in Scotland's thistle. Leprosy in more recent

years has lost much of its stigma and is curable with medications. But it was a different story in the 1300s; "In those days, if you wanted to come up with the worst thing you could say to someone, it was, 'you leper,'" Western anthropology Prof. Andrew Nelson says. "With just that word, you could besmirch a person and his legacy."

Centuries-old rivals' rumours

But in the first examination authorised by the Bruce family descendants, Nelson has determined King Robert I did not show the tell-tale suite of signs of the disease. Nelson examined a plaster cast of a skull the family had lent to sculptor Christian Corbet, as the Bruce family for the first time commissioned a bust of the hero king. Corbet needed to know whether previous depictions of King Robert that showed him disfigured by leprosy were based on forensic evidence or were based merely on centuries-old rivals' rumours.

Legendary Robert the Bruce, who fought for a Scotland independent of England, died in 1329 after 23 years as king. His remains were accidentally exhumed in 1818 and, before the king's remains were re-interred forever in thick tar, officials made a plaster cast of his skull.

Nelson notes that the bone around the nose area, the anterior nasal spine, is teardrop-shaped as it would be in a healthy person. In someone with leprosy, that bone

would have eroded to a more circular shape. He also examined images of a metatarsal bone, which should have been pencil-shaped at one end if Robert the Bruce suffered from leprosy. It was normal. Some analysts have speculated that four missing front teeth as shown in the cast would suggest a deformation that was common in leprosy. But contemporary reports say the exhumed skull, even 490 years after his death, was whole and as healthy-looking as anyone's. Nelson believes the plaster-casting process broke teeth already decayed by periodontal disease.

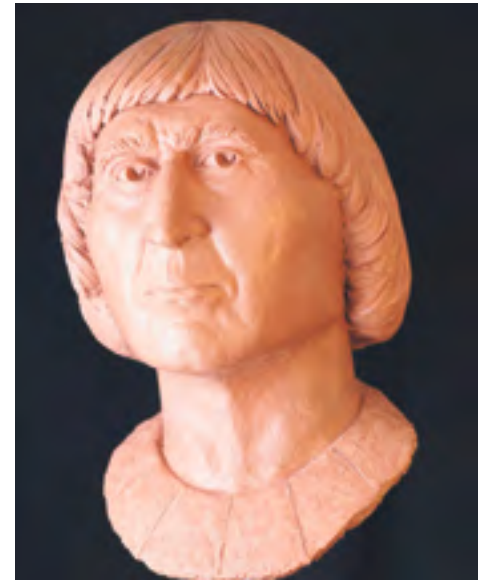
A fierce and battle-scarred warrior

Nelson also worked with internationally recognized paleo-pathologist and leprosy expert Dr. Olivier Dutour of France and Dr. Stan Kogon, a professor specializing in forensic dentistry at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, on the analysis. The report is under review by the International Journal of Paleopathology. "That 'leprosy' diagnosis was made on the basis of something that wasn't there during his life," Nelson says.

The analysis has enabled Corbet to shape a bust that shows King Robert as a fierce and battle-scarred warrior, one without the skin lesions common in leprosy. That bust, on a plinth made of an oak believed to have been planted by Robert the Bruce himself, was unveiled at

the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum in Central Scotland in March — near where the small forces of Robert the Bruce routed the larger and better-equipped English army at Bannockburn in 1314. (In historical legend, even if not in the Hollywood movie version that celebrated freedom-fighter William Wallace, the term "Braveheart" was a battle cry uttered in later years to evoke the memory of Robert the Bruce.)

Corbet says the work exemplifies the best of multi-disciplinary collaboration — the intersection of science, history and art. "It's a new face to a great king, a new face for a great man" he said.



Drone footage of Scotland's first design museum released



V&A Dundee has released stunning drone footage and photographs of huge cast stone panels being hung on the curving walls of Scotland's first design museum. The panels, which each weigh between 1.5 and 2.5 tonnes, are being individually fixed into place on the complex walls.

Edge of River Tay

In total 2,466 of them will wrap around the outside of the museum which is under construction on the edge of the River Tay, each held in place by two specially designed brackets. Once attached they will complete the exterior of the first British building by Japanese architect Kengo

Kuma, the internationally renowned architect who is also designing the Tokyo 2020 Olympic stadium.

The design of V&A Dundee is inspired by the cliffs along Scotland's north-eastern coastline. The drone footage shows an engineer inspecting panels fixed to the highest point of the £80.11m building – an 18.4m (60ft) high wall built out into the river.

So unique

Mike Galloway, Executive Director of City Development at Dundee City Council, said: "V&A Dundee is an impressive feat of engineering and installing thousands of stone panels is the next stage of this ambitious build. Nothing like this has

ever been constructed in Scotland before. In fact, I can't think of another building anywhere in the world similar to this. Because the museum is so unique the team of constructors, designers and engineers have had to use the latest technology to realise the architect's vision."

Philip Long, Director of V&A Dundee, said: "It is fantastic to see V&A Dundee take shape and a joy to watch as these panels transform the curved walls of the museum into the exciting form Kengo Kuma envisaged. The hard work, skill and dedication of those involved in the build is remarkable and is producing something very special on the banks of the River Tay. As the building enters the final stages of construction excitement

is growing as we look ahead to opening Scotland's first design museum next year."

Meticulously planned

The panels have been fitted to the riverside wall first, so work can begin on removing the cofferdam later this year. The cofferdam consists of 12,500 tonnes of stone and has allowed the museum to be built out over the river. None of the external V&A Dundee building walls are straight so the process of making and installing the stone panels has had to be meticulously planned. The shape of each one was designed in advance with the help of a 3D model. The panels, made from materials including stone aggregate, cement and reinforcement mesh, were then cast in moulds.

The channels in which the brackets sit were cast into the reinforced concrete walls of the museum, meaning the exact position of each panel had to be carefully mapped out well in advance of construction starting. The panels are lifted onto the brackets using a fork lift and secured by engineers stationed on hydraulic platforms.

Construction of V&A Dundee is on schedule for opening to the public in 2018.

V&A Museum of Design Dundee will be an international centre for design, housed in a world-class building created by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma at the heart of Dundee's revitalised waterfront. It will host major exhibitions, celebrate design heritage, inspire and promote contemporary talent, and encourage future design innovation. For details see: www.vandadundee.org

The Story of Edinburgh Unveiled in 101 Objects



Creating a fresh perspective on Edinburgh's rich narrative of history, culture, heritage and everyday life, Edinburgh's 101 Objects is a new visitor experience set to bring the city's colourful, and sometimes dark, past to life through some of its most treasured objects and curiosities.

The compelling story of the city

The recently launched city-wide campaign is a first for Edinburgh. 50 partners, including city institutions, attractions, universities, galleries and local pubs, have come together to each showcase their precious objects in celebration of 1,000 years of Scotland's capital city. Over 80% of the 101 Objects can also be found in venues free to visit.

Running until April 2018, the 12-month campaign forms part of Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, made possible by a city collaboration on an unprecedented scale. From the architectural grandeur of the Scott Monument and the ethereal ceiling in

the Thistle Chapel at St Giles' Cathedral, to a 90-year old paint mixer used on the Forth Bridge and a golf ball once owned by Robert Louis Stevenson, every object has been carefully chosen for both their personal intrigue and wider role in the compelling story of the city.

Seven themes

Seven themes provide a thread through the Edinburgh's 101 journey through time: Building a City, Faith & Nation; City of Innovation; Arts & Performance; Everyday Life; On the Dark Side and Books, Words, Ideas. A balanced combination of familiar favourites including The Stone of Destiny, Sherlock Holmes statue and Dolly the Sheep, sit along the first Edinburgh International Festival programme from 1947, the 200-year

old Sabal palm tree, the original New Town Plan and the Witches Well.

A new website presents all 101 objects, providing an entertaining insight into each object's personal history and its place within Edinburgh's gripping story. With each item numbered 1-101, visitors can explore the objects, arranging them by locale or theme, creating a personal visitor experience tailored to their interests. Designed to be an engaging information resource, the site also acts as a mobile geo-mapped guidebook, enabling visitors to navigate the city and discover the physical objects for themselves.

Edinburgh's 101 Objects which celebrates Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, runs until April 2018 in various locations across the city. For more details see: www.edinburgh.org/101



Scotland's most unique and smallest cake shop opens in Argyll



Two friends have come up with one of the most unique uses of a decommissioned iconic red phone box in the small town of Cladich. Bron Campbell and Holly Ford both have a love of baking and started up 'Cakes in the Call Box' as a way to bring a little sweetness to Argyll & Bute. There is no room for a shop assistant so there is an honesty box, which is said to be monitored by the local Highland cows, where locals and visitors are stopping by the old phone box for a unique way to have a treat. The friends bake daily and refresh the goods on offer and have used British Telecom's Adopt a Kiosk scheme which has been successful in transforming unused payphone kiosks and preserving the heritage of the red kiosk, particularly in rural locations. Since the scheme launched in 2008 over 200 phone boxes have been given a second life in Scotland alone.



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George Wyllie - *The memorable artist*



As the Second World War drew to a close, George Wyllie was serving in the Royal Navy, on *HMS Argonaut*. He and his shipmates visited Australia, after seeing action in the seas around Sumatra, calling at Sydney and



George Wyllie's 1996 Monument to Maternity at Rottenrow Gardens on the site of the old Rottenrow Maternity Hospital, Glasgow.

Fremantle. Afterwards, in the last weeks before the end of the war, *Argonaut* took part in the war in the Pacific. The previous year, the *Argonaut* had been in action off the Normandy beaches. Before the Royal Navy, he had tried writing songs for a living, had briefly been part of a tap-dancing double act and an engineer.

After the war he would live for a time in Northern Ireland, serving as a Customs Officer at a time when an IRA bombing campaign was under way. And then, in his mid-forties, he began to distil the experiences of a varied and often exciting life and he became one of Scotland's best-known, best-loved artists.

Eclectic talents

Wyllie was born in 1921 in Glasgow's Shettleston. His family was an ordinary-lower-middle-class one, but with an interest in performing and the arts. He grew up in a city that was a world industrial powerhouse, famous for shipbuilding and railway locomotive manufacturing. The young Wyllie was fascinated by model boats and railway engines and aeroplanes and before the war broke out he was working for the engineering department of the GPO (essentially the predecessor of BT/British Telecom).

But so eclectic were his talents that he and his brother toured the Glasgow theatres with their song-and-dance

act and he also tried to sell songs on Glasgow's variety circuit. This was actually a potentially lucrative career as Glasgow had, at the time, around 26 variety theatres! War put a stop to all that.

George Wyllie never stopped performing or creating even well into his forties, while back in Scotland but still working for HM Customs and Excise. He started providing decorative sculptures and ornaments for an acquaintance who worked in interior design. This was in 1967; George Wyllie had finally embarked on the career that would make him famous.

Scul?ture

During the 1970s Wyllie produced more and more works and began to exhibit them, supported by the Edinburgh arts impresario Richard Demarco. He even formed a movement - Scul?ture - with the '?' signifying both his personal doubts about whether someone like himself, with no formal training, could be regarded as a sculptor, and also the notion that art should raise questions and encourage people to think.

Certainly, George Wyllie's informal 'apprenticeship', his Royal Navy voyages, his growing up in a powerful but declining industrial city, his flirting with show business all contributed in one way or another to his unique, quirky and thought-provoking approach to art.

Wyllie became known for works that were witty, whimsical and fun but that still made important and serious points. This approach can be seen in what remain his two best-known works, even though (as we'll see) neither exists any more.

The Straw Locomotive (1987) was, as its name suggests, a life-size steam railway locomotive made from straw bales. Wyllie had it suspended from Glasgow's giant Finnieston Crane which had, in its day, loaded many real locomotives onto ships for export. The end of the project involved the straw locomotive being taken to Springburn, formerly the heart of Glasgow's rail industry, where it was set on fire. The straw locomotive had gone - just like Glasgow's railway manufacturing industry.

Designed to be exhibited in public

Over 1989-1989 a similar project paid homage to another diminished Glasgow industry; the Paper Boat was just what it claimed to be, a huge version of a paper boat made of plastic over a steel frame but its appearances on the Clyde were accompanied by poetry, street theatre and public demonstrations in order to get the message across. It also sailed on the Thames in London and on the Hudson in New York. Both works were accessible and fun, but people in Glasgow, especially, took



The Straw Locomotive at Glasgow's Finnieston Crane.

them to their hearts and recognised the points Wyllie was making. The Paper Boat, by the way, was broken up (just like a real ship would be once its time was up) and some of the parts recycled by Wyllie for other sculptures.

By the 1980s and 1990s Wyllie was a well-known figure in the Scottish media through his projects, installations, exhibitions and theatre work as well as other forms of performance. Many of his works can still be seen, as they were designed to be exhibited in public. The Running Clock, a clock supported on a pair of metallic running legs, stands outside Glasgow's Buchanan Bus Station and always raises a smile. It's perhaps less funny if you are late and actually running for a bus. At a deeper level, perhaps, it asks us to question our slavery to time and our need to hurry. Oddly, none of his works appear in the National Galleries of Scotland.

Wyllie died in 2012. A retrospective exhibition of his work in the same year attracted 10,000 visitors. Jan Patience collaborated with George's daughter Louise on a book, *Arrivals and Sailings* that celebrated the artist's life and work. "The book came about," she says, "because I had a growing sense that there had to be a bigger story in how George came to art late in life and I wanted to know what led to him being the artist - and the man - many people knew and loved." Certainly, George Wyllie's informal 'apprenticeship', his Royal Navy voyages, his growing up in a powerful but declining industrial city, his flirting with show business all contributed in one way or another to his unique, quirky and thought-provoking approach to art.

If there's nothing of his in the National Galleries, there is nonetheless much of George Wyllie's work openly on display in Glasgow, elsewhere in Scotland and beyond. Look out for it, smile, and then ponder on what it says about Scotland and its journey.



Images courtesy The Wyllie Family/George Wyllie Foundation.

Lady MacGregor's Scotland



Lady MacGregor of MacGregor – otherwise known as British broadcaster Fiona Armstrong. Fiona is currently news reading for the BBC. But she also leaves the studio from time to time to report on matters Scottish. She lives in Scotland with her husband, the MacGregor clan chief. Sir Malcolm is Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, and Fiona is an active member of Clan Armstrong, so their lives are interwoven with all things tartan. The couple have moved from the borderlands to the lowlands, home is now a white tower house between Perth and Dundee, although filming and writing takes Fiona all over Scotland.



Greetings from Scotland where weeks of spring sunshine have given way to summer showers. Yes, umbrellas are again the order of the day - and they were certainly needed at the Scottish Borders vintage motor show we took our cameras to this month.

Historic Motoring Extravaganza

Held in the grounds of magnificent Thirlestane Castle, the 'Historic Vehicle Extravaganza' is one of Scotland's classic vintage motor shows. We were filming for a TV show and could take our pick from around eleven-hundred vehicles. From the breathtaking to the quirky, there was the regal 1930s Rolls Royce and the British Bentley that does a mere nine miles to the gallon. There was the sleek racing-green Jaguar and the racy red Porsche Carrera. Then there were the stylish American cars: a canary yellow Ford Mustang convertible and a baby-blue Chevrolet Camaro.

Despite the rain it was a real trip down Memory Lane. A 1965 Ford Zephyr reminded me of my father's first car. It cost him three times his annual salary and when he drove it he thought he was the bees-knees. There was also the iconic orange VW Beetle, not unlike the one I learned to drive on back in the seventies. What a taste of freedom that was!

Arrol Johnston

On display was a police car from the 1960s and a tractor from 1940. There were veteran motorcycles, including a Harley Davidson with sidecar from 1917. It really was a blast from the past. I took a spin in the oldest Scottish-built car, a 1914 Arrol Johnston, and we managed a top speed of thirty miles an hour!

Arrol Johnstons were made in the south of Scotland. There was a factory in Dumfries and Galloway and after the first

world war the company was involved in the production of another unusual car. The 'Galloway' was built for women drivers - by a woman. Dorothee Pullinger was the innovative automobile engineer and her creation was a smaller vehicle that was not so heavy to handle. Because women were generally not as big as men, the seat was raised, the dashboard was lowered and the steering wheel was made more compact.

The Victorian Scot, Robert Thomson, may have invented the pneumatic rubber tyre in 1845. Another Scotsman, John Dunlop, might have further developed the thing in 1887. Yet Scotland is not really noted for mass car production. In fact, the country has only had one wholesale car-production factory - and that was at Linwood, near Glasgow, where 'Hillman Imps' were produced in the 1960s and 70s. This small car was designed as a rival to the Mini, but technical problems meant the business was not a success. What's more, workers were often on strike. In one year alone, there were 324 stoppages at the factory.

Thirlestane Castle

There may have been one on display somewhere, but I did not see a Hillman Imp at the 'Historic Vehicle Extravaganza'. However, the setting at Thirlestane is certainly a dramatic one. This castle dates back to the 14th century when a large fort was built to defend the road to Edinburgh from the south. The centre part of the present building was erected at the end of the 16th century, with later grand additions being added in Victorian times. Thirlestane has been home to the Earls and Dukes of Lauderdale. It is still a 'Maitland' family seat and its owners have excelled in the army and the law. One was Keeper of the Great Seal and Lord Chancellor of Scotland. Another

was secretary to Mary Queen of Scots. Today the castle is home to the Maitland-Carews and it boasts some of the finest plasterwork ceilings in the world.

The classic car event was widely reported in the local newspapers. And, talking of local press, it is good to see that one of our publications has been saved from closure. The Eskdale and Liddesdale Advertiser can claim to be Scotland's first penny-paper. This Langholm publication is 169 years old - and up to a few weeks ago it faced an uncertain future. Now, though, it has been bought by the community who plan to continue printing it in the town.

Local is good. We can do little about far-off wars. But we can try to change things in our own areas. The headline, 'dog bites man outside convenience store', or 'crisps stolen in break-in' may not be earth-shattering news. But it matters to someone. Especially if it is your favourite flavour of crisp that has gone walkabout.

Seriously, at the end of the day, local generally trumps over national, or international. Remember the famous Scottish line in one Aberdeen newspaper: 'North-east man lost at sea. 1,500 perish in Titanic disaster'...

Follow the MacGregor clan chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, on twitter.com/theclanchiefs

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Bothy bagging with Scotland's premier bothy expert



The Scottish Banner speaks to Geoff Allan

Scotland is blessed with numerous wild and dramatic landscapes, and some remote areas are rarely visited. A unique way to explore these less frequented parts of the Highlands and Islands is to stay in one of the country's mountain bothies, open shelters which are free to use, with no booking system or wardens. Many bothies are old crofts and farmsteads with a rich evocative history, echos from a time when there were many thriving rural communities dotted across the country. Geoff Allan is a bothy lover who has visited each of Scotland's most popular bothies and recorded them in his new travel guide, *The Scottish Bothy Bible*. He spoke to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on what makes a great bothy, connecting with the Scottish landscape and how he has become an advocate for encouraging people out to the hills.

SC: Geoff thanks for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can we begin with you telling readers who may not already know exactly what a bothy is?

GA: The term bothy is derived from the Gaelic bothan, and ultimately the Old Irish both, meaning hut, and originally described the rudimentary accommodation provided by landowners for farm labourers or estate workers, who were employed on a seasonal basis tending crops or livestock. However, over the last

few decades, the word has been co-opted to describe shelters that are now freely available for anyone to use, as somewhere to stay the night. They are found in many remote locations across the wilderness areas of the UK, though the majority are in Scotland. Typically they are old shepherds cottages or crofts that have been rescued from ruin and renovated, over 80 by the Mountain Bothies Association (MBA), a voluntary charity which supervises the bothies maintenance to guarantee that they are windproof and water tight.

SC: You have spent several years travelling around Scotland's amazing outdoor areas to chart all 81 of the country's official bothies, and most of this was done on a bike! Can you tell us your inspiration for this adventure and what you learned about Scottish bothies along the way?

GA: The whole adventure started at the end of 2011 when a journalist friend suggested the idea of writing a bothy book, knowing that I had spent many happy years visiting these mountain huts since I came to study at Edinburgh University back in the late 1980's. When I looked online and discovered that there wasn't any sort of guide available, I immediately realised that there was an opportunity to write a definitive tome. I had planned to do all the research by car, but realised early on that I couldn't afford to run it, so most of the visits were undertaken by bike and public transport. One of the most satisfying aspect of the project was discovering just how varied the different bothies were, each with their unique story to tell. Their remote locations also meant that I visited many highland glens for the first time, deepening my knowledge of the country so now I have a real affinity with both the geography and how the history is

interwoven within the landscape.

SC: Bothy accommodation is considered quite basic, did any surprise you with what was available and what recommendations do you have for someone looking to try staying in bothies on their next visit to Scotland?

GA: The bothies described in the book vary in size from Easan Dorcha, affectionately known as the 'Tea house', which is little bigger than a garden shed, to a bothy like Craig, a stone cottage with two reception rooms on the ground floor and three bedrooms upstairs. Although there are generally no facilities, (ie. no gas, electricity or running water), some of the more remote bothies have retained their historical character, and still have their original wood panelling, mantelpieces, and even stairs up to attic rooms. Some of the best have sofas, bunk beds and even a library of books left by fellow travellers. A few others have had major renovations and have the feel of a hostel rather than a shelter. No two bothies are the same, and each has its own unique charm and character. Only a few have toilets, and perhaps for a beginner who doesn't want to use the spade provided to answer calls of nature, these would be best places to





start. Ruigh Aiteachain and Gelder Shiel Stables in the Cairngorms National Park, which both have stoves and an outdoor dunny (!) latrine.... Further north, Craig, Ben Dronaig Lodge and Strabeg all have kitchen areas and separate bathrooms.

SC: Your travels have taken to you to some of the most remote parts of Scotland seeing landscape few do. What have been the highlights of your travels and do you have any secret gems you recommend readers explore whether they are staying in bothies or not?

The term bothy is derived from the Gaelic bothan, and ultimately the Old Irish both, meaning hut, and originally described the rudimentary accommodation provided by landowners for farm labourers or estate workers, who were employed on a seasonal basis tending crops or livestock.

GA: My favourite places are in Scotland have to be the islands off the west coast. Skye is an amazing location though increasing busy, but its near neighbour Rum, is equally as impressive and far more remote. Further south, Jura and Islay, home of the classic malt whiskies are difficult to resist.

SC: Bothies can be found in some of Scotland's most wild locations and rely on volunteers for their upkeep, can you tell us how the network is maintained?



GA: The majority of the most popular bothies are looked after by the Mountain Bothy Association (MBA). Each bothy has its own maintenance officer (MO) who regularly visits and makes a note of any repairs that need to be undertaken. Weekend work parties are then organised to carry out these repairs, making sure the bothies remain wind proof and water tight. Roof panels are replaced, and exterior wall re-pointed. The MO also makes sure the bothy remains clean and tidy, and takes away any rubbish which has been left by thoughtless visitors. Although there are no formal rules that you have to abide by when visiting a bothy, there is a bothy code which has been formulated by the MBA, posted at every property that the association maintains. This is a common sense enunciation of the philosophy of treating others as you would want to be treated yourself, and leaving a bothy in the condition in which you would wish to find it.

SC: Geoff, *The Scottish Bothy Bible* has been an instant hit with readers, are you surprised by the interest in Scotland's bothies and do you hope this fantastic past time gains even more popularity with both Scots at home and abroad.

GA: The main motivation for writing the book was to share my knowledge and inspired people to start out on their own bothy adventures. I've been overwhelmed by the positive reaction, and its seemed to have caught the imagination of outdoor enthusiasts at home and visiting on holiday, who didn't realise that much of this fantastic resource was so easily accessible.



SC: Being based in Edinburgh how important is it for you to literally get away from it all and head off to a bothy and be connected to the land and nature?

GA: I love being out in the hills and visit as often as I can. The sense of solitude is intoxicating and there's nothing more life affirming for me than being out of mobile and internet coverage for an extended period, leaving all my day to day worries behind, and immersing myself in the wilds of Scotland's magnificent scenery. I'm currently part way through a nationwide book tour, so haven't been out as much as I'd like, but straight after this interview, I'm packing my rucksack and heading off on a week long trip to the west coast!

SC: And finally Geoff, having visited all of Scotland's most popular bothies, do you consider yourself a "bothy bagger" and do you have a favourite which you tell us about?

GA: I have never really considered myself a bothy bagger, though through the course of writing the book, I've certainly had the necessary motivation! I prefer to re-visit my favourite's, which I now almost consider as old friend's. The place I've visited most often is called Staoineag, which is found in the wild moorland east of the tourist hub of Fort William, home of Scotland's highest peak, Ben Nevis. The bothy is most accessible by train, a characteristic that widens its appeal. As well as archetypal outdoor enthusiasts, it attracts those who have no car and are eager to enjoy a slice of wilderness with relatively straightforward access. I've visited Staoineag over half a dozen times, and always taken home happy memories.

The Scottish Bothy Bible is published by Wild Things Publishing and is available on their website www.wildthingspublishing.com and from all the popular online book stores.



IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Summer start for Sauchiehall Street makeover

A summer work date has been set for the start of work to turn Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street, one of the city's main thoroughfares, into a tree-lined avenue during a "radical" transformation. Work to add trees, seats and cycling facilities to the main city centre artery will begin in the summer, marking the start of a £115 million investment by Glasgow City Council to create a network of continuous pedestrian and cycle priority routes in the city centre. Council bosses say the aim is to make the city centre more attractive, people friendly and economically competitive. Improvements to the non-pedestrianised stretch of Sauchiehall Street between Charing Cross and Rose Street will take around 18 months to complete.

They will transform the traffic-dominated street to an area with trees, seats and cycling facilities.

A report to councillors says: "Experience has proven these kinds of improvements lead directly to safer and more vibrant places with an increasingly mixed leisure and retail offer with greater economic stability." In 2013, businesses on the non-pedestrianised section of Sauchiehall Street voted overwhelmingly to create a business improvement district. The aim is to substantially increase the number of overseas and domestic visitors through high-profile marketing, a programme of events and by ensuring the street is cleaner, safer and more inviting.

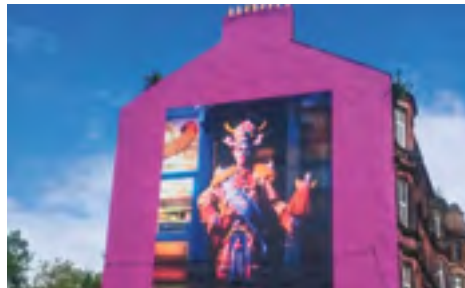
Graffiti found at Fyvie Castle



An 800 year old castle in the heart of Aberdeenshire has unlocked another piece of its history recently with the discovering of some historic graffiti. Fyvie Castle staff have uncovered World War 2 graffiti in a shaft of the castle's dumb waiter system. The graffiti included names of those who worked at the castle during the war as well as a drawing of

Adolf Hitler. The castle is a stunning example of Scottish Baronial architecture and was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers during the war. The castle is now appealing for anyone who may have had a relative who worked at the castle during the war to help identify the names.

Big tribute to the Big Yin



A 'larger than life' tribute to The Big Yin, launched by BBC Scotland in conjunction with Glasgow Life and Glasgow City Council, will literally make Billy Connolly part of the architecture of his home city on a major scale. Three representations of the comedian, who turns 75 this year, from original works by top Scottish artists commissioned by BBC Scotland, have gone up on walls dotted across Glasgow city centre area. The works – which are more than 16m (50ft) high – are depictions from specially created portraits of Billy by artists John Byrne, Jack Vettriano and Rachel Maclean, who is currently representing Scotland in the Venice Biennale. The actual portraits are now on display at the People's Palace, Glasgow.

Head of Glasgow Museums Duncan Dornan said: "Billy Connolly needs no introduction to the people of Glasgow. His boundless talent as a comedian, actor and presenter makes him one of Scotland's most famous sons and so it is fitting these extraordinary works of art, commemorating this significant birthday, are to be displayed in Glasgow for the city's people and visitors to enjoy. This bolsters the rich relationship Glasgow Museums continues to enjoy with Billy. Last year the People's Palace was lucky enough to host an exhibition of his artwork and some of the most popular exhibits at the museum are memorabilia from Billy's early career, making it the perfect venue for this exhibition."

The work is in conjunction with Glasgow City Council's City Centre Mural Trail project.

Whisky Galore bottles sold at auction



Two bottles of whisky salvaged from the shipwreck that inspired the book *Whisky Galore!* have sold in Edinburgh for more than £11,000. The bottles of whisky, bottled by 'Gilbey of London' and 'Peter Dawson of Glasgow' are thought to have been bottled in 1940. A professional diver called Donald McPhee salvaged the bottles from the wreck of the *SS Politician* in August 1987. They were found in hold No.5 and were part of a cargo of whisky headed for Kingston, Jamaica and New Orleans. The ship, however, was wrecked in the Sound of Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides during a storm in February 1941. Famously, many bottles (over 200,000) were washed ashore and gleefully salvaged by beach-combing locals – much to the fury of HM Customs & Excise. Worsening winter weather soon broke the ship up and consigned the remaining bottles to the deep. The incident though inspired the novelist Sir Compton Mackenzie who wrote *Whisky Galore!* in 1947 as a result. In 1949 the book was later turned into one of the best-known and best-loved films in the Ealing comedy canon, starring Basil Radford and Joan Greenwood; with the locals' ingenious efforts to hide their new stocks of whisky from the suspicious tax man forming the basis for a raucous farce that has seen the film remade (unnecessarily and not to great applause unfortunately) and a musical. The bottles are just the latest in a reasonably long line of shipwrecked wines and spirits that occasionally come, quite literally, to the surface. A few years ago a Paris auction house sold the wine collection of designer Yves Saint-Laurent which included a bottle of Champagne salvaged from a Swedish ship that was sunk in the Baltic by a German submarine in 1916.

Historic Islands Bill passed



An historic bill has been introduced to Parliament to meet the unique needs of Scotland's islands now and in the future. The Islands (Scotland) Bill published will help create the right environment for sustainable growth and empowered communities. Measures in the bill will include:

A requirement to 'island proof' future legislation and policies

The creation of a National Islands Plan

Statutory protection for the Na h-Eileanan an Iar Scottish parliamentary constituency boundary

Greater flexibility around Councillor representation within island communities

Extended powers to island councils in relation to marine licencing

Islands Minister Humza Yousaf said: "This government is committed to promoting islands' voices, to harnessing islands' resources and enhancing their well-being. In particular, the provision to 'island-proof' decision-making across the public sector will ensure the interests of islanders are reflected in future legislation and policy from the very outset. This is the first ever bill for Scotland's islands, marking an historic milestone for our island communities."

Edinburgh to be part of major EU-funded historic cities project



Edinburgh World Heritage has announced that it had secured significant European Regional Development funding for a major international project to investigate how Europe's historic cities, many of them World Heritage Sites, can achieve a sustainable future. The three-year project groups Edinburgh, whose Old and New Towns were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage list in 1995, with Porto, Santiago de Compostella, Bordeaux, and Florence. Among the project's objectives are to improve the protection and promotion of city World Heritage sites, strengthen local residents' sense of belonging, and promote sustainable management practices, both in terms of economic growth and the social well-being of residents.

Edinburgh World Heritage will have responsibility for ensuring that the solutions proposed by the project can be translated into useful, practical projects that can be implemented locally. Through engagement with City of Edinburgh Council, as well as UK, and international partners, Edinburgh World Heritage will ensure that what works for Edinburgh also makes sense in other places too. An international academy for professionals and academics will also be established to help oversee and add value, and the ideas and projects will also be taken into local schools. In 2018, a World Heritage Cities Week will be organised to ensure wider public engagement.

Krzysztof Jan Chuchra, International Manager at Edinburgh World Heritage commented: "Europe's historic cities face a number of different threats ranging from inappropriate development, poor maintenance and care of historic buildings in private hands, and the negative consequences of some aspects of the tourist economy. The Atlas project will attempt to develop solutions to some of these problems, in partnership with local residents and the Council."

Join the Alliance of Defiance - *The Edinburgh Festival Fringe Launches 70th anniversary programme*

Photo: Neil Hanna/The Edinburgh Festival Fringe.



The official 2017 Edinburgh Festival Fringe Programme has been launched with shows catering for all ages and appetites, inviting performers and spectators from around the world to join the Alliance of Defiance and celebrate 70 years of defying the norm at the Fringe. Over the last 70 years the Edinburgh Festival Fringe has gone from strength to strength, inspiring a global network of more than 200 fringes and establishing itself as the largest platform for creative freedom in the world. On the 11 July, fringes from around the world will come together for the inaugural World Fringe Day (worldfringeday.com), supported by the Scottish Government and EventScotland, in an international celebration to mark the 70th anniversary of the birth of the fringe movement.

The Fringe began in 1947 when eight

theatre companies turned up uninvited to perform at the inaugural Edinburgh International Festival. The companies were refused entry to the programme but decided to perform on the fringe of the Festival anyway. The Fringe has remained true to the defiance expressed by the eight companies who performed here in 1947, upholding its open access principle that permits anyone with a story to tell and a venue willing to host them to participate. People travel from all over the world to take part in the Fringe, creating an international melting pot of culture and art in Scotland's capital city every year. This year's programme is as varied as ever, offering theatre, dance, circus, physical theatre, comedy, music, musicals, opera, cabaret and variety, children's shows, free shows, exhibitions, events and spoken word.

Special year

Shona McCarthy, Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society said: "This is a very special year for the Fringe as we celebrate 70 years of defying the norm, of championing artistic freedom and providing a platform for artists around the world to come and present their work in a truly unique environment that is inclusive, inspiring, and often life-affirming. The fringe movement has circled the globe and inspired a worldwide network of over 200 sister fringes, with fringes now taking place on every continent except Antarctica. In the current climate of global uncertainty,

fringes are more crucial than ever, continuing to provide artists with a space to express themselves without fear of censorship. The 2017 Fringe Programme reflects the principles that guide the fringe movement, it is diverse, topical, challenging and of course, exciting. I hope that as many people as possible will join us here in Edinburgh for the 70th anniversary edition of the Fringe, to witness and participate in this joyous international celebration of arts and culture."

In 2017 new venues are spread across the city and beyond with work from 58 countries will appear at the Fringe this summer. With dance, circus, comedy, spoken word, theatre, politics, exhibitions, music and more the Scottish capital will be buzzing with creativity and inspiration. There are 686 (up 6.7%)

free shows, 215 (up 31%) pay what you want shows, 1,683 (down 2.8%) premieres and 62 (up 29%) different countries represented.

For a full program and information of this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe visit: www.edfringe.com

Fringe facts 2017:

Total shows: 3,398 (up 3.9%)
Total venues: 300 (up 2%)
Performances: 53,232 (up 5.9%)
Countries represented: 62 (up 29%)
International countries: 58 (up 32%)
Cabaret and Variety makes up 4% (compared to 4% last year)
Children's Shows make up 4% (compared to 5% last year)
Comedy makes up 35% (compared to 34% last year)
Dance, Circus and Physical Theatre makes up 4% (compared to 3% last year)
Events make up 3% (compared to 4% last year)
Exhibitions make up 1% (compared to 1% last year)
Music makes up 14% (compared to 15% last year)
Musicals and Opera makes up 3% (compared to 4% last year)
Spoken Word makes up 3% (compared to 3% last year)
Theatre makes up 28% (compared to 27% last year)



Edinburgh's Ross Fountain restoration gets underway



Work has begun to restore Edinburgh's A-listed Ross Fountain to its former glory. After initial inspections, the cast-iron feature will be removed piece by piece this summer from West Princes Street Gardens before being repaired and returned in Spring 2018. Crafted in Antoine Durenne's foundry in France in the early 1800s, the structure was gifted to the city by local gunsmith Daniel Ross. The year-long restoration project under the Ross Development Trust will

see new foundations and waterworks, enabling the fountain to operate for the first time in years.

Timeless

Edinburgh's Lord Provost, Frank Ross, said: "Edinburgh boasts statues and monuments at almost every turn. Yet, out of the 200 monuments in our care, the Ross Fountain stands out as one of the most timeless. Since being installed in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle in 1872, it has become one of the most recognisable features of Princes Street Gardens. We are very grateful to the support of the Ross Development Trust. Thanks to this project, Edinburgh can look forward to seeing the fountain back in Spring."

The Ross Development Trust is undertaking a series of projects in West Princes Street Gardens in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, including the restoration of the Ross Fountain, refurbishment of the Gardener's Cottage and a new Ross Pavilion. David Ellis, Project Director for the Ross Development Trust, said: "As we prepare for public consultation on the Ross Pavilion designs, we are delighted to see restoration work begin on the fountain. We are keen to see the peace and tranquillity of the gardens, enjoyed by so many, enhanced by these improvements." Engineers will temporarily remove the Fountain this summer to renovate the internal structure and return it to full working condition.



Did you know?

- The Ross Fountain is one of only two A-listed cast iron fountains in the UK. It is from the world-famous foundry of Antoine Durenne, in Sommevoire Haute Marne in France.
- The Fountain is a magnificent example of 19th century cast-iron work, in the neoclassical style commonly known as Beaux Arts. The figures were sculpted by Jean-Baptiste Jules Klagmann, born April 1810, whose other work includes figures for the Louvre and fountains in the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris.
- The Fountain was purchased by an Edinburgh gunsmith, Daniel Ross, at the Great Exhibition of 1862, and eventually installed in its present position in West Princes Street Gardens in 1872. Since then the Fountain has become one of the most recognisable features of Edinburgh. The Fountain's significance is attested by some of Scotland's leading architectural heritage experts, including Historic Scotland and the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust.

Further information of the Ross Development Trust and updates on the progress of the restoration will be available at: www.rdtrust.org.

Scotland and Canada

This month Canada celebrates the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Scots have played a great role in the development of this great country and today Scots continue to thrive in the Canadian nation they have played a large role in developing and that we know today. Across the country Scots are celebrated with Highland games, pipe bands, Scottish dance groups, Clans, sport and more-Happy Birthday Canada!



Text courtesy of: www.Scotland.org



The Vancouver Police Pipe Band.

With immense territories stretching from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west and the Arctic Ocean in the north, the mighty nation of Canada might seem as though it couldn't be more unlike its much smaller transatlantic cousin - Scotland. And yet the two countries share ties that bind them to a common history and offer the boons of a close-knit future. Below are some of the historic links between the two countries and celebrate the continuing economic and cultural proximity.

Ancient history

Canada is the second largest country by area on the planet, and its history has long been one of immigration, trade, and multiculturalism the perfect counterpoint to Scotland's legendary heritage of emigration, invention and conviviality. Inhabited since pre-history by indigenous aboriginal peoples, the first rumours of Scottish emigration to Canada come from as early as 1010 AD when Vikings may have



The Nova Scotia tartan.

arrived in modern Newfoundland carrying Scottish slaves. It was not until around the 1500s, however, that better recorded European exploration came, with English and French expeditions, led by John Cabot and Jacques Cartier respectively, arriving on the Atlantic coast. By the early 1600's permanent settlements had been established in Port Royal and Quebec.

The number of Scots who actually moved to and settled in this New World remained relatively low until the founding of Nova Scotia on the South East coast of Canada in 1621. The indomitable Sir William Alexander of Menstrie appealed to King James I (King James VI of Scotland) that a New Scotland was needed to expand national interests alongside New England, New France, and New Spain. The King agreed to sign a grant claiming as 'Nova Scotia' an area larger than Britain and France combined, and creating a new order of Baronets at a cost of 3000 mercks each.

Amazingly, around 100 Baronets of Nova Scotia still exist descendants of those original settlers who have retained their titles some of whom will still proudly claim that Nova Scotia Baronets are superior in rank to any others in Scotland!

The French Connection

Canada's fascinating history was at the forefront of many Canadians' minds in 2008 as the country celebrated the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec, one of the oldest cities in North America. With its theme of 'Meetings and Encounters', the 2008 festivities saw spectacular performances of dance, song, and music, alongside historical performances, contemporary art exhibitions and sporting events. Much of the architecture and street naming of Quebec also reflect the significant influence of Scottish immigration to the city, and this still vibrant connection was also remembered during the fantastic festival.

Amongst the settlers in Quebec were a large group of highland soldiers. A prime example was the Fraser Highlanders, who sailed from Scotland to lay siege and then capture the mighty French Fortress at Louisbourg, Nova Scotia in 1758. The men wintered further south before pursuing the Quebec campaign throughout the summer of 1759. It was the largest regiment on the Plains of Abraham and suffered the heaviest casualties. The bitter Canadian winter of 1759 tried the highland soldiers within the walls of the old fortified city and tradition says that the French Ursuline Nuns came to the Highlanders aid by knitting longer hose to reduce their exposure to the elements the Canadian winter proving a real challenge to traditional highland garb.

Since a number of the soldiers spoke French (many had had Jacobite

connections) and were Catholic, they integrated well with the French Canadians in the area. When the Regiment was disbanded in Quebec, many men decided to stay and take up land grants and many married into French Canadian families. During this Quebec sojourn, members of the Regiment also established the first Presbyterian church in Canada, the first Masonic Lodge and introduced one of Canada's most popular sports, curling, having discovered that the severe winter did have some advantages over those at

Scots and Scotland continue to contribute much to the culturally energetic, economic success story that is modern Canada from Highland Games to regimental pipe bands, to curling, soccer, and rugby.

home where frozen rivers and lakes could not always be guaranteed.

Others went on to establish business concerns, particularly in the fur trade, where they or their descendants explored and opened the continent naming such rivers as the MacKenzie and the Fraser. The Regimental website says: "the influence of the original 1,500 men of this Regiment on Canadian and North American history is still evolving. New historical discoveries are still being made which further indicate that this Regiment deserves a special place in our military tradition."

Fathers of Canadian Confederation

One of the most important Scots-Canadian-Quebecois co-operations was that formed by two of Canada's greatest 19th century politicians. The

Glasgow-born John A Macdonald and the Quebecois Sir George-tienne Cartier were both lawyers, both had major interests in railways and supported by another Scots-born Canadian, George Brown, are recognised as the main Fathers of the Canadian Confederation, the men who created Canada as we now know it. The link lives on today in the name of the Macdonald-Cartier Freeway from Toronto to Quebec and in the Macdonald-Cartier International Airport in Ottawa.

In more recent times the Scots-Quebecois political links lived on in Prime Minister's Pierre Elliott Trudeau and his son Justin Trudeau, both are one of Canada's best recognised political figures whose very name records their connections with both ancestries.

Scots and Scotland continue to contribute much to the culturally energetic, economic success story that is modern Canada from Highland Games to regimental pipe bands, to curling, soccer, and rugby. Perhaps this healthy Scottish influence isn't really so surprising. After all, of the 500,000 Highland Scots who left their homes and emigrated overseas, a huge proportion ended up in Canada, where they took pride in their Scottish and Canadian identity.

Today, the relationship goes from strength to strength, and there's never been a better time for Scots and Canadians to go and see for themselves, with the Canadian connection supporting a buoyant tourism industry between the two countries. Direct flights are plentiful and whether Scots go to explore all that Canada has to offer, or Canadians come to celebrate their shared Scottish heritage, all are assured of a warm welcome and an eye-opening stay.

Every year Glasgow hosts the annual Celtic Connections festival where Canadian artists have been firmly entrenched in the programme for many years. With our shared history, joint business endeavours, and mutual love of sport, song, and celebration, it is clear that our two great nations will be enjoying our cultural connections for centuries to come.



Canadian kilt skaters-a celebration of two great nations.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past



1 - The reconvened Scottish Parliament was officially opened. After a devolution referendum showed resounding support for the reconvening of the Scottish parliament, plans were put into motion for the creation of such a body. The parliament would sit in the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall in Edinburgh. Elections were held on May 1 1999 and the first sitting of the body took place on May 12 of that year. The official opening on July 1 saw the Queen transfer full constitutional powers to Edinburgh. **1999**

1 - Seal granted by Edinburgh Town Council to the Incorporation of Barbers and Surgeons to practise their craft. The organisation is now known as the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. **1505**

1 - Proscription Act Repealed, thus allowing again the wearing of tartan and the carrying of weapons (banned as a result of the 1745 Uprising in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie). **1782**

2 - Treaty of Perth, Norway renounces claim on the Hebrides. **1266**

2 - Dumfries reached a temperature of 32.8C (91F), the highest recorded. **1908**

2 - Scottish architect Sir John Burnett died. His most famous commissions include the Royal Institute of Fine Arts; the Alhambra, and the Athenaeum, all in Glasgow, and the North front of the British Museum, the Institute of Chemistry, and the extension to Selfridges, all in London. **1938**

3 - John Logie Baird transmitted first colour television. **1928**

3 - The Clyde shipyards suffered their worst accident when the SS *Daphne* capsized at her launch. The packet steamer had been built by the Linthouse yard of Alexander Stephen and Sons and immediately sank into the River Clyde, taking the lives of the 195 workmen on board. It was later discovered that the 460-ton ship had little stability when it was launched, and rolled over forty-five degrees, taking huge amounts of water through a large deck opening. **1883**

4 - Lanarkshire-born James Keir Hardie became the first socialist to win a seat in the UK Parliament. **1892**

5 - Final run of the Edinburgh to London mail coach (trains had taken over). **1847**

5 - Border reiver, John Armstrong of Gilnockie, and 50 of his men were hanged for blackmail by James V. Armstrong was a well-known laird in the Borders area, and although a frequent marauder in England, he is not known to have attacked in Scotland. However, his wealth and power in a troublesome region brought the resentment of James V. Armstrong was tricked into attending a royal hunt only to be seized on his arrival. He faced the king, and volubly remonstrated with him that he had "asked grace at a graceless face". Legend has it that the trees at Carnlanrig, where Armstrong and his followers were hanged, withered, and none have grown there since. **1530**

6 - John Paul Jones, hero of the US Navy, born Kirkbean, Dumfries. **1747**

6 - The Piper Alpha oil platform in the North Sea was rocked by a huge explosion. Blasts continued on the platform throughout that night, and by morning 167 men had died. **1988**

7 - John Knox became the first Protestant minister appointed in Edinburgh. **1559**

7 - The novel *Waverley*, by Sir Walter Scott, was published. *Waverley* was Scott's first novel, and written mainly as a way of proving himself a superior literary talent to Byron. Although it was published anonymously as a safety net against its failure, it was an open secret who the author was. Scott needn't have worried: the book was a runaway success and Scott became regarded as the leading author in Europe. **1814**

8 - King Alexander II died on Isle of Kerrara, Oban Bay. **1249**



9 - Queen's Park Football Club, first senior football (soccer) club in Scotland formed. **1867**

9 - Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the Chief of Clan Fraser, Scottish aristocrat and soldier was born. Fraser, a Second World War hero, played a key role in the development of the commandos and was actively involved in both the Dieppe Raid, 1942, and D-Day landings, 1944. **1911**

10 - King James III born at Stirling. **1451**

10 - Glasgow Rangers signed Maurice Johnston. One of the last bastions of Scottish Protestant sectarianism, Rangers shocked many of its supporters when the club, under manager Graeme Souness, signed Maurice Johnston from the French club, Nantes, for £1.5m. Johnston had not only played for arch-rivals Celtic, but was the first well-known Roman Catholic player to sign for Rangers in modern times. **1989**

11 - Robert the Bruce born at Turnberry Castle, Ayrshire. After the death of William Wallace, Bruce led the campaign to regain Scottish independence, culminating in his stunning victory at the Battle of Bannockburn in June 1314. **1274**

12 - Darien expedition left Leith for Panama. **1698**

13 - King Alexander III crowned at Scone July 14 1272 - Scottish National War Memorial opened. **1249**

14 - Cavalry units from the Scottish Engager army clashed with Lambert's Parliamentarian cavalry at Penrith. The Engager forces were commanded by the Duke of Hamilton, who made several mistakes in planning and executing his advance south, and quickly made themselves unpopular with the local population for their plundering and excesses. **1648**



15 - National Portrait Gallery for Scotland opened in Edinburgh. **1889**

16 - David II, son of Robert I (the Bruce) married Joan, sister of Edward III (he was 4, she was 7). **1328**

16 - 13th Commonwealth Games opened in Edinburgh. **1970**

16 - A Shetland fishing tragedy occurred leaving 105 fishermen dead as their boats got lost at sea. 31 Shetland sixern boats perished leaving devastation to the island community. **1832**

17 - Bank of Scotland, first bank to be established by an Act of the Scottish Parliament, opened. **1695**

18 - John Paul Jones, naval hero of the American Revolution, died; he was born in Kircudbrightshire in 1747. **1792**

18 - Birth of Jim Watt, Scottish boxer. After a successful amateur career, Watt turned professional in 1968 and quickly rose to the top of the lightweight division before adding British and European titles to his collection during the 1970s. **1948**

19 - Battle of Halidon Hill in which Sir Archibald Douglas (guardian of David II) routed by Edward Balliol and Edward III. Scots losses were nearly 600, English losses 14. **1333**

19 - A.J Cronin, the Scottish novelist, was born. Cronin is most fondly remembered as the creator of the hugely popular character, Dr. Finlay. **1896**

20 - Battle of Inverkeithing. Royalist force supporting Charles II failed to halt advance of army of Oliver Cromwell heading for Perth. **1651**

21 - Robert Burns dies in Dumfries, aged 37. The cause of death appears to have been heart failure, probably brought on by the hard physical work done in his youth. His widow, Jean Armour, gave birth to a son on the day of her husband's funeral. However, Maxwell, named after Burns's doctor, died in infancy. **1796**

22 - The army of the English King Edward I, using longbows for the first time, defeated the Scots led by Sir William Wallace at Battle of Falkirk. **1298**

23 - Charles Edward Stuart landed on Eriskay at the start of the 1745 campaign. July 24 1745 - Mary Queen of Scots abdicated and the young James VI acceded to Scottish throne. The Earl of Mar was appointed regent. **1745**



24 - The Princess Royal formally opened the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Scotland's first national park. **2002**

24 - The Battle of Harlaw took place at Inverurie. Nearly 2000 Highland and Crown soldiers fought over an area of land called the Earldom of Ross. **1411**

25 - King James I born. **1394**

25 - Charles Macintosh, inventor of the plastic mac, died. Macintosh discovered the first rainproof cloth in 1818, by joining two sheets of fabric together with dissolved indiarubber. Although Macintosh is best known for his eponymously titled coats, he made significant advances in many fields of chemistry. As well as inventing a revolutionary bleaching powder with Charles Tennant, he also discovered a fast method of using carbon gases to convert iron to steel, and devised a hot-blast process which produced high quality cast iron. **1843**

26 - James IV responded to pleas for assistance from France and declared war on England. Aside from assisting the French, who had been invaded by an English army, James was also aggrieved at England's seizing of two Scottish ships and the non-payment of part of the dowry for his wife, Margaret Tudor. **1513**

27 - Battle of Killiecrankie in which Graham of Claverhouse (Bonnie Dundee) leading an army of Highlanders in support of the Jacobite cause, defeated King William's army under General Hugh Mackay. **1689**

28 - The Royalist Marquess of Montrose beat General Baillie in a skirmish which was part of the English Civil War at Dunkeld, Perthshire. For a war of positions the Highlanders had neither aptitude nor inclination, and at Dunkeld the greater part of them went home. **1645**

29 - Mary, Queen of Scots, married Lord Darnley. **1565**

29 - King James VI (aged 13 months) crowned at the Church of the Holy Rude, beside Stirling Castle, following the abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots, five days earlier. **1567**


30 - First edition of the long-running *Beano* comic was published. **1938**

30 - The beginning of the work-in at John Brown's Clydebank Shipbuilding Yard, organised by stalwart Socialist, Jimmy Reid. This was in response to the Ted Heath Tory government's plans to liquidate the yard - Reid exposed these as unethical. **1971**

31 - Cigarette advertising banned on television in Britain. **1965**



31 - The first edition of Robert Burns' poems, *The Kilmarnock Edition*, was published by John Wilson of Kilmarnock, under the title of *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*. It cost three shillings and the entire print run of 612 copies sold out within a month. **1780**



CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY

of Australia
and New Zealand

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Contact: **Malcolm W. Leslie D.Ua.**
117/303 Spring Street.
Kearney's Spring, Qld, 4350, Australia.
Phone: +61 7 4635 8358
malncol@icr.com.au www.clanleslie.org


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 LOWE JURY LAW PATTERSON MACPATRICK MACRORY

 Chuck Lawson, FSA Scot, President
 1211 Wilson Ave., Tullahoma, TN 37388
 Phone: (931) 455-2925
 E-mail: cglawson@fighttube.net

**Clan MacNeil Association
OF AUSTRALIA**

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact.

John McNeil
21 Laurel Avenue, Linden Park,
SA 5065
Email kisimul@chariot.net.au



Clan Moffat Society

Madam Jean Moffat, Chief of the Name and Arms of the Family of Moffat, welcomes Moffats of all spellings. Spouses and those legally adopted by Moffats are also eligible for membership.

Website: <http://www.ClanMoffat.org/>



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www.clan-ross.org
Contact: L. O. Ross
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Orlando, FL 32801
ClanRoss@theUnitedStates@gmail.com



Clan Young Society Australia Inc.

Ian J Young
Convenor
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Parkdale VIC 3195
M: 0409 670 055
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For Membership Information contact:
Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 9306 7495
Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au




Clan Morrison Society of North America

Arthur G. Morrison
220 South Orchard Drive
Burbank, CA 91506

June Alvarez-Fetzer
Membership-Treasurer
8516 Lookout Cliff Pass
Austin, TX 78737-8539
www.clanmorrison.net

Membership cordially invited from those who are connected with this great Clan, i.e., Morrison, Morison, Gilmour, Gilmer, Gilmore, Murison or descendants of eligible name.



Clan Scott Society

Membership is invited from all descendants of the surname Scott, associated families: Balwearie, Bucklew, Geddes, Harden, Laidlaw, and Langlands (however spelled); as well as those who have an interest in the heritage of the Middle March of the Borders of Scotland.

Clan Scott Society
PO Box 13021
Austin, TX 78711-3021
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Web site: **www.Clanmunrousa.org**
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CLAN SCOTT AUSTRALIA GROUP

Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch K.B.E
Commissioner: Heather de Sylva

Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs: Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.
Info: Secretary, PO Box 320, Maclean, NSW, 2463

E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com
W: clanscottaustraliagroup.moonfruit.com


Scottish Associations and Societies



The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

Founded at a meeting held in Sydney 18 June 1981
Welcomes membership from all Australians of Scottish descent.

Applications for membership can be obtained from:
The Hon Secretary, SAHC
Susan Cooke tel: 02 6255 6117
Email: alfredhcooke@gmail.com
www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



Murray Clan Society of North America

Applications for membership are invited from Murray's and the following allied families: Balneaves, Dinsmore, Dunsmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrie, Neaves, Piper, Pyper, Small, Smale, Small, Smeal, and Spalding.

In Canada contact: William J.M. Murray
1001 Cordero Crescent
Campbell River, BC V9H 0C3

In the U.S. contact: Kathy Wolf
11186 Coal Ridge St.
Firestone, CO 80504-5789



Clan Shaw Society

Invites membership or inquires from all: Shaw, Ayson, Adamson, Esson, MacAy, MacHay, Shiach, Sheach, Sheath, Seith, Seth, Skaith, Scath and Shay.

Mike Shaw
Secretary
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020



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Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org
Founded in 1905

Scottish Gaelic Choir:
Wednesdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm during school terms at The Kildara Centre, rear of 39 Stanhope Street, Malvern.

Language Class: Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:30 pm during school terms at the Celtic Club, Cnr Queen and Latrobe Streets, Melbourne.

Contact Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277
Email: scottishgaelicsocietyvic@gmail.com



Clan Pollock

Among the most ancient families of Scotland. If you are a descendant of Pollock, Pollok, Pook, Polk, Polke, Paulk, Poalke, Poulk, Poolke, Pogue - you are cordially invited to contact:

A. D. Pollock, Jr.
PO Box 404
Greenville, KY 42345
e-mail: apollockis@comcast.net



Clan Sinclair Australia

Membership and enquiries from all Sinclairs, Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants

For further info contact

President Wayne Sinclair
0417 146 174


Secretary Liane Sinclair
(03) 9348 2663

E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com



Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia (The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a non-profit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels.


Ruaraidh MacAonghais, Neach Cathrach (Convenor)
Phone: 04 0482 2314 **E-mail:** fiosa@orggaelic.org
Web: www.orggaelic.org
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235



Clan Pringle Association
(North America)

Membership cordially invited from Pringle/Prindle descendants and other interested parties.
www.clanpringle.org.uk

William L. Pringle, III
e-mail: williampringle3@gmail.com
Clan Pringle Assoc. (North America)
6538 140th Ave., Holland, MI 49423



Clan Skene Association, Inc.

Invites membership from Skene and septs Cariston, Carney/Carnie, Currehill, Dyas, Dyce, Dyer, Hall, Halyard/Hallyard, MacGalliard, Rennie, and Skains.

Al McGalliard
President
273 Amy Clegg Drive
Gray, GA, 31032
Email: alrx95@gmail.com

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Email: roberthoward200@gmail.com
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for information contact Commander Des Ross
(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balmagowan)

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Welcomes Stewarts, however spelled, by name, birth, or descent, from all over the world. Annual Gathering in historic, Stewart-related properties in Scotland. Newsletter. Annual magazine.


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2566 Galloway Road
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Balmoral Highland Dancing Society	Geelong Scottish Dance
Begonia City Highland Dancing Society	Glenbrae Celtic Dancers
Brunswick Scottish Society	Horsham & District Highland Dancing Club
Clan Cameron	Kilmore Celtic Festival
Clan Donald Victoria	Maryborough Highland Society
Clan Grant	Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society
Clan Lamont Australia	Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc	St Andrews First Aid
Clan Mackenzie of Australia	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Clan Maclean Australia	The Royal Caledonian Society
Clan Sinclair Association	Warrnambool & District Caledonian Society
Glenmaggie Scottish Folk Festival	Warrnambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society

Jan Macdonald: Secretary
Victorian Scottish Union
T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930
E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
www.victorianscottishunion.com

SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

Having a Clan event? Know of a highland games? Know where the pipes will be playing? Let Scottish Banner readers know of Scottish events both near and far with the Scottish Banner events page.

Send us your community event, concert, meeting or anything with a Scottish twist! Please submit events either online at www.scottishbanner.com/events or email info@scottishbanner.com.

Please ensure you submit your event in the exact format we use below, events not submitted in this way cannot be guaranteed to be printed. Events will run both in print and online and is a free service.

CANADA

JULY 2017

1 Embro, ON - Embro Highland Games

Celebrate Scotland on Canada's birthday at Kings Park. Info: 250-492-2215 or www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca.

1 Pugwash, NS - Gathering of the Clans

Canada's 150th birthday celebrations, there will be tall ships visiting Pugwash over the Canada Day long weekend and full day of Scottish events. Info: www.pugwashvillage.com.

1 Penticton, BC - Penticton Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Celebrate Scotland on Canada's birthday at Kings Park. Info: 250-492-2215 or www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca.

1 Nationwide - Happy Canada Day!

Wishing all our Canadian readers and friends a Happy Canada Day-celebrating 150 great years!

2 - 9 Antigonish, NS - Antigonish Highland Games Week

Featuring competitions in piping, drumming, Highland dancing and Scottish heavy events along with concerts, Ceilidhs, Clan gatherings and more. Info: 902-863-4275 or www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca.

7 - 9 Kincardine, ON - Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games

The Festival also honours the traditions and contributions of Scottish culture within the Canadian multi-cultural mosaic at Victoria Park. Info: 519 396 9300 or www.kincardinescottishfestival.ca.

7 - 9 Almonte, ON - Almonte Celfest

A fun weekend of Ottawa Valley and Celtic entertainment, in the natural amphitheater of Gemmill Park. Info: www.almontecelfest.com

9 Montreal, QC - Scots in the Park!

Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday with Scotland's Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra, Black Watch Association Pipes and Drums, highland dancers and more at Montreal West Strathearn Park. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca

13 - 17 New Glasgow, NS - The 60th Festival of the Tartans & Highland Games

Celebrates traditional Scottish culture brought to this area by Scottish immigrants more than 2 centuries ago. Info: www.festivalofthetartans.ca.

14 - 15 Cambridge, ON - Cambridge Scottish Festival

Bring your family and friends for a Scottish adventure full of entertainment and fun activities, at 200 Christopher Dr. Info: www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca or 519-740-4681 #7927.

14 - 16 Orillia, ON - 40th Annual Orillia Scottish Festival

A great weekend of Scottish events at Couchiching Park, Terry Fox Circle. Info: www.orillialegion.com

23 - 30 Vancouver, BC - TAC Summer School

Teachers' Association (Canada) Scottish Country Dance summer school is open to all Scottish Country dancers from basic to advanced and from beginner to experienced at the University of British Columbia. Info: www.tac-rscds.org.

28 - 30 Fredericton, NB - New Brunswick Highland Games Festival

Pipes bands, Scottish dance and more on the beautiful grounds of historic Government House. Info: Toll Free: 1-888-368-4444 or www.highlandgames.ca.

29 - 30 Vernon, BC - Okanagan Military Tattoo

A musical tattoo-a demonstration of military drumming & skills. Pipe bands, military heritage and more at Kal Tire Place. Info: www.okanagantattoo.ca

29 Uxbridge, ON - Uxbridge Scottish Festival

A free family event with lots of wonderful entertainment, vendors, food and more. Info: 905 985 6573.

AUGUST 2017

4 - 5 Maxville, ON - The Glengarry Highland Games

One of Canada's top Scottish events which includes the North American Pipe Band Championships, the largest massed pipe bands in North America, and much more. Info: 1-888-298-1666 or www.glengarryhighlandgames.com.

6 Montreal, QC - Montreal Highland Games

Montrealers celebrate Highland games, music and culture at Parc Arthur-Therrien in Montreal's borough of Verdun. Info: 514-842-2030 or www.montrealhighlandgames.qc.ca.

10 - 12 Guelph, ON - 2017 Scottish North American Leadership Conference

Pulling together the Scots diaspora from both Canada and the US to look at What the Relevance of Scottish History and Heritage is to the Future Generations at the University of Guelph. Info: www.cassoc.ca.

10 - 13 Guelph, ON - Clan MacFarlane Worldwide AGM

Celebrate with us in Guelph and Fergus throughout a 4 day weekend of MacFarlane Clan activities including the Fergus Scottish Festival and a Ceilidh with dinner buffet and live Celtic entertainment at the Holiday Inn in Guelph. Info: Barb Duff barbbduff@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/groups/clanmacfarlaneworldwideinc

11 - 13 Fergus, ON - Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games

Scotland comes to Fergus with highland dance, Clans, pipe bands and much more. Info: 1 866-871-9442 or www.fergusscottishfestival.com.

11 - 13 Goderich, ON - The Goderich Celtic Festival

An annual celebration of the music, craft, and culture of the Celtic nations. Info: 519-524-8221 or www.celticfestival.ca.

14 - 18 Wolfville, NS - Scotch on the Rocks

Scottish Country Dance Week

Scottish Country dance week, consisting of: Four ½ day classes at Intermediate-Advanced level, a Scottish ceilidh & a dance with live music. Info: Duncan Keppie 902-542-5320 or keppie@eastlink.ca.

26 Montreal, QC - SAS Golf Tournament

Every year the St Andrew's Society hosts a golf tournament. Grab your kilt or your tartan treds for 9 holes of golf at Caughnawaga Golf Course, followed by a delicious meal in the clubhouse. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca

USA

JULY 2017

3 - 7 Plymouth, MA - Pinewoods English-Scottish-Contra Sessions 2017

The best of English Country, Scottish Country, and Contra dancing and more at Pinewoods Camp. Info: Dan Blim 734-883-6460 or www.rscdsboston.org.

4 Nationwide - Happy 4th of July!

Wishing all our American readers a very Happy Independence Day!

4 Waimanalo, HI - Hawaii Celtic

Fourth of July Picnic 2017

Free event co-sponsored by The Saint Andrew Society of Hawaii, The Friends of St. Patrick, & The Caledonian Society of Hawaii at Bellows Field Beach Park. Info: SASHawaii@icloud.com

6 - 9 Linville, NC - Grandfather

Mountain Highland Games

One of the premier Scottish Highland Games and Gathering of Clans in North America. Info: 828-733-1333 or www.gmhg.org.

9 - 14 Pittsburgh, PA - Balmoral School

Pittsburgh 2017 Session

Instruction in bagpiping and drumming. Piping instructors Terry Tully, Robert Mathieson, George Balderose, Richmond Johnston. Drumming instructor Gordon Bell at Shady Side Academy, Fox Chapel/ Pittsburgh. Info: 412 323 2707 or www.BalmoralSchool.org

13 Lakewood Ranch/Bradenton, FL - The

Caledonian Club of Southwest Florida Social

Casual Scottish get-together for food & drinks, no reports, just chats. Membership NOT required. Truman's Tap & Grill, 11161 E. State Road 70 #100, Lakewood Ranch FL 34202 (east of I-75). Info: Caroline David, (941) 722-3056 or cmdavid37@yahoo.com

14 - 16 Belfast, ME - Maine Celtic Celebration

Maine's premier Celtic festival at Belfast Common and Steamboat Landing. Info: www.mainecelestialcelebration.com

15 Dundee, NY - Dundee Scottish Festival

The festival will feature artists, music, dancers, highland games at 125 Seneca Street Extension. Info: 315-729-2124 or www.dundeescottishfestival.com.

15 Gresham, OR - 65th Annual

Portland Highland Games

Immerse yourself in Scottish culture at Mt. Hood Community College, 26000 SE Stark St. Info: www.phga.org.

16 - 21 East Stroudsburg, PA - 2017

Balmoral Summer Sessions

Immerse yourself in a week of music with some of the best pipers and pipe band drummers in the world at East Stroudsburg University. Info: +1 412-323-2707 or www.bagpiping.org.

AUGUST 2017

4 - 6 Snowmass Village, CO - Colorado Scottish Festival

The only free Scottish Festival in Colorado sponsored by the St. Andrew Society of Colorado & Snowmass Village. Info: www.scottishgames.org.

5 Livonia, MI - St. Andrew's Society

of Detroit Highland Games

A great day of Scottish celebration at Greenmead Historical Park 20501 Newburgh Rd. Info: 248 526-1849 or www.highlandgames.com.

6 - 11 Wilmington, NC - 2017 Clan Macleod AGM

Clan MacLeod events presented by Clan Macleod USA. Info: www.clanmacleodusa.org

11 - 12 Sparta, MI - Sparta Celtic Fest

A Celtic celebration with tons of music, food, beverages, crafts and fun for all ages. Info: www.spartacelticfest.org

12 Liverpool, NY - Central New York

Scottish Games & Festival

Celebrate Scotland at Long Branch Park, Onondaga County. Info: www.cnyscottishgames.org

17 Sarasota, FL - The Caledonian Club

of Southwest Florida Social

Casual Scottish get-together for food & drinks, no reports, just chats. Membership not required at Meadows Village Pub, 5013 Ringwood Meadow. Info: Shona Burtner (941) 925-0462 or skburtner@hotmail.com

19 - 20 Amherst, NY - Buffalo Niagara Scottish Festival

A weekend of Scottish celebration and entertainment at Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village, 3755 Tonawanda Creek Rd. Info: 716-689-1440 or www.bnhv.org/scottish

19 - 20 Hamilton, MT - Bitterroot

Celtic Games & Gathering

Celebrate Celtic culture at Daly Mansion, 251 Eastside Hwy. Info: www.begg.org

19 - 20 Winston, OR - Celtic Highland

Games & Clan Gathering

Presented by the Douglas County Celtic Society at Riverbend Park. Info: www.dccelts.org

19 Brunswick, ME - Maine Highland

Games and Scottish Festival

Full day of Scottish events and fun at Topsham Fairgrounds. Info: www.mainehighlandgames.org.

25 - 2 Boulder Creek, CA - The Valley of

the Moon Scottish Fiddling School

A week of intensive study, recreation, and good times with people who share an interest in the music and dance traditions of Scotland and beyond. Info: www.valleyofthemoon.org

SCOTLAND

JULY 2017

1 - 2 Paisley - Paisley's International Festival of Weaving

A festival reconnecting Paisley's weaving heritage with its historic textile connections all over the world. The programme features the Sma' Shot Parade, a historic and colourful pageant, as well as cultural activities and performances. Info: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk.

1 Luss - Luss (Loch Lomond) Highland Gathering

A traditional Highland Gathering for all the family at Games Park. Info: www.lusshighlandgames.co.uk

2 - 7 Dalabrog, South Uist - Ceòlas Summer School

Expert tuition in piping, fiddle, song, dance and the Gaelic language are offered over a backdrop of community events, including ceilidhs, concerts and guided walks. Info: + 44 (0) 1878700154 or www.ceolas.co.uk.

4 - 7 Glasgow - The National Piping Centre

Adult Seasonal Piping Gathering

Themed workshops, practice time and small group lessons to improve your playing through this shared learning experience at the National Piping Centre. Info: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk

8 Tain - Stewart Highland Games

Presented by The Stewart Society of Edinburgh at Ballone Castle. Info: +44 (0)131-220-4512 or www.StewartSociety.org.

8 Alva, Clackmannanshire - 161st Famous Alva Games

The last surviving sports and games to be run in Clackmannanshire, the games feature the full range of traditional events including athletics. Info: www.alva.ukctest.co.uk.

16 Stonehaven - Stonehaven Highland Games

Traditional Highland games with open and heavy events, the Grampian light events championship at Mackie Academy Playing Fields. Info: www.stonehavenhighlandgames.com

19 - 22 Stornoway - The Hebridean Celtic Festival

HebCelt is an international Celtic music festival with traditional and contemporary music on the Isle of Lewis. Info: +44(0)1851 621234 or www.hebceltfest.com

26 Arisaig - Arisaig Highland Games

& Clan Ranald Gathering

This traditional Highland Games is held at the scenic location of Traigh Farm, Arisaig with sweeping views across sandy beaches. Info: www.arisaighhighlandgames.co.uk

28 Edinburgh - Ceilidh at The Counting House

Come and dance to Annasach Ceilidh Band at our regular Ceilidh at The Counting House, Edinburgh from 8pm. All dances will be called so beginners welcome. Info: www.annasach.co.uk.

29 Dumbarton - Scottish Pipe Band Championships

Set against the backdrop of Dumbarton Rock and Castle, the Championships welcomes players and spectators from across the globe at Levensgrove Park. Info: www.rspsba.org.

30 St Andrews - St Andrews Highland Games

Watch all the cabers and stones fly across the field at one of the top Highland Games in Fife, at Station Park. Info: www.standrewshighlandgames.co.uk

AUGUST 2017

1 Killin, Perthshire - Clan Macnab

International Gathering

Clan Macnab members from across the world unite at the Killin Highland Games. Info: www.clan-macnab.com

3 - 8 Aberdeen - Clan Hay Tartan Ties

Delve into the history of the Scottish people and their way of life at Tartan Ties, organised by Clan Hay. Info: www.clanhay.org

4 - 26 Edinburgh - The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

The greatest show on earth with pipe bands, military displays and hundreds of performers from across the world on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle-2017 features a Splash of Tartan with Clans being highlighted nightly. Info: www.edintattoo.co.uk.

4 - 7 Newtonmore - Clan MacPherson Annual Gathering

The annual clan gathering brings together Macphersons and associated families from all over the world to celebrate their history and heritage. Info: www.clan-macpherson.org.

4 - 28 Edinburgh - The Edinburgh International Festival

An unparalleled celebration of the performing arts and an annual meeting point for peoples of all nations with events throughout the city. Info: www.eif.co.uk

6 - 13 Bruar, Perthshire - International Gathering

of the Clan Donnachaidh Society & AGM

A week of events in celebration of Scottish heritage in Pitlochry, Blair Atholl, and Bruar at the annual Clan Gathering. Included the honour of participating in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo on 12 August, led by our Chief, Gilbert Robertson of Struan. Info: Clan Secretary +44 (0)1796 483770 or www.donnachaidh.com.

7 - 13 Glasgow - Piping Live!

A great week, with pipers from across the world coming together to take part, share their music, compete and perform across Glasgow. Info: www.pipinglive.co.uk.

9 - 11 Kirkwall, Orkney - Stewart Society AGM

Dinner & Ceilidh at Albert Hotel also; Palaces of the Stewart Earls of Orkney, St. Magnus Cathedral, Earl's Ru, Italian Chapel, Skara Brae, Maes Howe, Skail House & Churchill Barriers. Info: + 44 (0)131-220-4512 or www.StewartSociety.org.

9 Portree - The Isle Of Skye Highland Games

Traditional highland games with all the usual treats, including piping, Highland dancing and kids activities at Skye Games Field. Info: www.skye-highland-games.co.uk

11 - 12 Glasgow - World Pipe Band Championships

The world's biggest pipe band championships, includes bands from across the world, Scottish dance and more at Glasgow Green. Info: +44 141 353 8000 or www.theworlds.co.uk.

13 Perth - Perth Highland Games

Featuring running, cycling, heavy events, Highland dancing, pipe band contests and more at North Inch Park. Info: www.perthhighlandgames.co.uk.

15 Glasgow - Currie Family Convention

The Clan Currie Society seeks to facilitate the formal recognition of a Chief of Name and Arms of Currie by the Lord Lyon King of Arms. The Convention will be held at the Trades Hall of Glasgow. Info: Revd. Dr. David A. Currie: currieconvention@gmail.com

18 Edinburgh - Stewart Gathering

At the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Info: Info: + 44 (0)131-220-4512 or www.StewartSociety.org.

19 Rothesay, Isle Of Bute - Bute Highland Games

Full programme of dancing, heavy, athletics and pipe band and drum majors, junior shinty and a great wee family day out. Info: www.butehighlandgames.org

24 - 26 Dunoon - Cowal Highland Gathering

Traditional Highland games, renowned for its unique atmosphere, world-class competitors, beautiful Highland location at Dunoon Stadium. Info: www.cowalgathering.com.

Answers to Scotword on Page 8

ACROSS - 8 Bairns; 9 Evermore; 10 Bluebell; 11 Tangle; 12 Scapa; 14 Pew; 15 Plaid; 18 Princes; 20 Lamlash; 23 Agley; 24 Don; 25 Tweed; 29 Smokie; 31 Kinghorn; 33 Antlered; 34 Instep.

DOWN - 1 Gaelic; 2 Brae; 3 Isles; 4 Wellies; 5 Keith; 6 Amen; 7 Broillies; 13 Pan; 16 Ken; 17 Bap; 19 Regiment; 21 Law; 22 Cockade; 26 Eyries; 27

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Scotsman sausage rolls

Ingredients:

For the rough puff pastry:

- 125ml/4fl oz. cold water
 - 250g/8oz. plain flour
 - 2 tsp lemon juice
 - 100g/3½oz. cold butter, cut into 1cm/½in cubes
 - 50g/1¾ oz. cold lard, cut into 1cm/½in cubes
- For the filling:
- 300g/ 10½oz sausage meat
 - 1 tsp salt
 - ½ tsp chilli flakes
 - 1 orange, grated zest only
 - small bunch sage, finely chopped
 - 1 free-range egg, beaten
 - 200g/7oz. cranberry sauce, to serve

Method:

For the rough puff pastry, mix together the water, flour and lemon juice in a bowl until they come together. Tip out onto a floured surface and knead for 5 minutes until smooth and pliable. Cover with cling film and leave to relax for 10 minutes.

Roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface to a 15x45cm/6x18in rectangle. Try to keep the edges as straight as possible – this will make it easier to fold.

Take the cold fats out of the fridge and arrange them at random on the rolled out dough covering two-thirds of the surface, leaving a 15cm/6in square piece free.

Fold the uncovered piece of pastry over, so it covers half of the fat-covered pastry and press the edges down. Fold these two layers of pastry over the remaining piece to form a square consisting of three layers of pastry separating two layers of fat.

Turn the pastry 90 degrees and roll out again to 45x15cm/18x6in, fold back into a square as before, cover with cling film and put in the fridge to cool for at least 20 minutes. This is one turn.

Meanwhile for the filling, mix the sausage meat thoroughly in a bowl with the salt, chilli flakes, orange zest and sage. Roll into a ball, coat with flour to stop it sticking and set aside.

Take the chilled pastry out of the fridge and roll, fold and turn twice as before. Wrap in cling film and return to the fridge for another 20 minutes to firm up again.

Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/ Gas 7 and line a large baking tray with parchment paper.

Lightly flour a work surface and roll

out the sausage meat to a 60cm/24in long sausage. Set aside.

Flour the work surface again and quickly roll out the chilled pastry to a 15x60cm/6x24in rectangle. Place the sausage meat in the centre of the pastry and brush a 2cm/1in strip of beaten egg along the long edge of pastry closest to you. Roll the dry edge of pastry over the sausage meat until you have one 60cm long sausage roll, stuck together with the egg wash.

Shape the sausage roll into a circle, making sure to keep the pastry seam at the bottom and gently lay on the baking sheet. Use a little more egg to stick the two ends together.

Using kitchen scissors cut 16 sausage rolls, leaving the inner circle of pastry (about ¼ of the thickness of each roll) connected, creating a wreath shape . Liberally egg wash the whole wreath, then slash the pastry quite deeply diagonally a couple of times on each sausage roll.

Bake in the oven for 25-30 minutes, until golden-brown and cooked through. Eat warm, serving with a bowl of cranberry sauce in the middle of the wreath.

Highlander Soup

Ingredients:

- 2 cups dried lentils or peas
- 1.3kgs/3 lbs. ham or beef bone
- ½ cup diced celery
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 cup cut carrots
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

Method:

Wash lentils or peas & soak overnight in cold water. Drain. Add the recipe water & bones. Heat to boiling. Simmer 2 hours. Add greens (celery) & carrots & simmer until lentils or peas are tender. Skim all fat from soup.

Remove bones, cut off any meat, dice it, & return diced meat to the soup. Sauté onions, then add flour, salt and pepper. Mix well. Slowly add one cup hot soup stock to onion mixture, cook until thick & smooth & return thickened mixture to rest of hot soup.

Pork chops with apples and cider

Ingredients:

- 4 pork chops, good thick ones with lots of fat
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- a good glug fruity olive oil

- 1 large onion, or 2 small ones, peeled, chopped
- a couple of eating apples, each cut into 8 wedges, and at least 3 eating apples left whole
- a few fresh sage leaves
- a few juniper berries, squashed using the back of a knife
- a good glass of dry cider

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Season the chops well with salt and freshly ground black pepper. In a large shallow ovenproof pan, heat the olive oil and fry the rind of each chop for a good head start to getting them crisp. Then lightly fry each side for a minute or so to get the outside crusty and golden brown, and remove from the pan. Add the onion to the same pan with the pork juices, and brown a little before adding in the apple wedges and sage leaves (add only a few as sage can overpower the dish) with the juniper berries. Add the chops back into the pan, and nestle them among the apples and onions, along with the remaining whole apples. Pour over the cider, enough to just cover the ingredients, season to taste and place in the oven for about half an hour, or until the pork and apple are cooked.

Bakewell tart



Ingredients:

For the pastry:

- 300g/10½oz. plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- 125g/4oz. cold unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 30g/1oz.sugar
- 2 free-range eggs
- 2 tbsp. milk (optional)

For the filling:

- 225g/8oz. unsalted butter, softened
- 225g/8oz. caster sugar
- 225g/8oz. ground almonds
- 3 free-range eggs
- 1 lemon, finely grated zest only
- 50g/2oz. plain flour
- 1 jar raspberry jam
- flaked almonds, for sprinkling

Method:

For the pastry, place the flour, butter and sugar into a food processor and pulse until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add one of the eggs and pulse until the mixture comes together to form a rough dough. If the dough is too dry, add a bit of milk. Shape the dough into a ball and wrap in cling film. Chill in the fridge for 20 minutes. Unwrap the dough and discard the cling film. Turn the dough out onto a floured work surface and roll out until large enough to line a 30x20cm/12x8in cake tin. Line the tin with the pastry, then place into the fridge to chill for a further 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/ Gas 6. Line the chilled tart case with a sheet of greaseproof paper and fill with baking beans. Bake for 15-20 minutes, or until the pastry is lightly golden-brown. Remove

the paper and beans and brush the pastry all over with the remaining beaten egg. Return the pastry to the oven for a further five minutes, until golden-brown. Remove the pastry from the oven and turn the oven temperature down to 180C/365F/Gas 4. For the filling, beat the butter and sugar together in a bowl until pale and fluffy.

Mix in the ground almonds, then crack in the eggs one at a time, beating well between each addition until smooth and creamy. Fold in the lemon zest and the flour. Spread some of the raspberry jam generously across the base of the pastry, leaving a 2.5cm/1in gap around the edge. Spread the filling mixture over the jam and sprinkle over the flaked almonds. Bake the tart for 20 minutes, or until the filling is set and golden-brown. Allow to cool in the tin before serving. To serve, cut the tart into 5cm/2in squares.

Scottish scones

Ingredients:

- 225g/8oz. self-raising flour
- pinch of salt
- 55g/2oz. butter
- 25g/1oz. caster sugar
- 150ml/5fl oz. milk
- 1 free-range egg, beaten, to glaze (alternatively use a little milk)

Method:

Heat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Lightly grease a baking sheet. Mix together the flour and salt and rub in the butter. Stir in the sugar and then the milk to get a soft dough.

Turn on to a floured work surface and knead very lightly. Pat out to a round 2cm/¾in thick. Use a 5cm/2in cutter to stamp out rounds and place on a baking sheet. Lightly knead together the rest of the dough and stamp out more scones to use it all up.

Brush the tops of the scones with the beaten egg. Bake for 12-15 minutes until well risen and golden.

Cool on a wire rack and serve with butter and good jam and maybe some clotted cream.

Sporran breeze

Ingredients:

- 1 orange wedge
- 50ml single-malt whisky
- 2 tsp passion fruit syrup
- 25ml/1fl oz. fresh apple juice
- 25ml/1fl oz. cranberry juice
- ¼ apple, to garnish

Method:

Put the orange wedge, whisky, passion fruit syrup, apple juice and cranberry juice into a cocktail shaker. Add a handful of crushed ice and shake hard. To serve, strain the cocktail into a highball glass fill with crushed ice. Garnish with the apple.



The flower of Scotland

A blooming business

Putting local garden flowers back into every vase in the Scotland is the mission of a group of flower growers across the UK who are not only growing flowers, but their business with locally grown and natural flowers as Nick Drainey explains.

Loved by grannies for their sweet scents and delicate blooms, cottage garden flowers fell out of fashion in favour of bold, bright, long-lasting – but largely unperfumed – roses shipped in from Kenya and Columbia. Now the trend is turning full circle with dahlias, cornflowers, bluebells and poppies back in demand – along with more unusual plants such as dock, nettles, feverfew and thistles – thanks to brides looking for “just picked from the garden” bouquets and concerns over the environmental cost of foreign flowers. And that demand is being fed by a new generation of female flower farmers with a huge increase in the number of growers in Scotland over the last four years.

Paula Baxter, of Mill Pond Flower Farm in Berwickshire, is in her fifth season growing flowers. “Every year I’ve doubled what I’ve grown and I’ve not had



Bouquet of wild flowers.



Paula Baxter.

enough to fill demand,” she says. A former business development manager for an education charity, she says she is typical of this new breed of farmers. “There are a lot of people who have had career changes, from accountants to ballerinas, people with really diverse backgrounds, although some are farmers who are diversifying. It’s become a career option. But I would say 95 per cent are women. Some work with their partners, but it’s often that the women have started it and their husbands work with them part-time, the complete reversal of the farmer and his wife picture.”

Flowers from the Farm

Paula is a member of the UK-wide Flowers from the Farm network, set up in 2012 to support growers. She was the only Scottish member when she joined in 2013 – now there are more than 40, with over 400 across Britain. “It’s grown massively,” she says. She uses social media, posting pictures of what’s come up in the garden that day on Instagram in order to connect instantly with florists. “The trend has moved from very tight rose bouquets to something a lot looser and wilder, with lots of greenery. I grow dahlias, roses and tulips, but I’ve sold marsh woundwort, dock flowers and sea holly, which looks like a thistle – I had a bride in Essex asking for some Scottish thistles. Brides can’t really do that more unusual thing unless they are buying from a grower.”

British grown flowers

Caroline Byrne, who formerly worked in London and Glasgow and now runs Wild Blossom florists in Forres, agrees. “There is a really strong trend for this ‘just picked from the garden’ look, and it’s not



Poppies and cornflowers.

just brides, we do hotel flowers and other commercial clients and there is a huge increase in people looking for that kind of back to nature style. Foliage is a big thing, and while you still get your staples like roses, even then people want garden roses rather than the run-of-the-mill white ones.

Now the trend is turning full circle with dahlias, cornflowers, bluebells and poppies back in demand – and that demand is being fed by a new generation of female flower farmers with a huge increase in the number of growers in Scotland over the last four years.

Dahlias were really popular last year and look like being even more so this. Brides are more interested in working with the seasons and the fact that we can source it locally just adds another dimension to it.”

Caroline often buys from local flower grower Kirsty Reid from her Teeny Weeny Farm in Aberdeenshire. The 49-year-old is a former university history lecturer who got fed up with her indoors lifestyle and bought a house with a large garden with her husband. “The idea was originally to grow food – we planted lots of fruit trees and herbs – but I got really captivated by the flowers. My market is mostly florists, particularly events florists who are looking for British grown flowers and something much more natural. And my biggest problem is growing enough bulk.”

Along with the usual tulips and dahlias, she grows – and successfully sells – field poppies, campion, forget-me-nots and even rosebay willow herb, often considered a weed. “A lot of brides are looking for little bunches, say for the wedding tables, and



Kirsty Reid.

forget-me-nots are so pretty and delicate. People think you can’t use flowers like poppies as cut flowers but they will last if you condition them the right way and events florists aren’t looking for flowers to last weeks, just a few days for a wedding.” She also grows and sells edible flowers for use on wedding and other celebration cakes.

Full circle

“My older ladies like my flowers for the smell, it reminds them of how flowers used to be. Other customers appreciate the ecological or environmental reasons – I do provide flowers for green burials which are becoming increasingly popular. It’s like we have lost the memory of what we used to grow – I have a florist’s catalogue from the 1820s and it’s amazing what we used to grow until after the Second World War. It seems like it’s going in a full circle and people are wanting flowers that are locally grown – in the same way we did with food, now flowers are following.”

Amanda Barnes came to flower farming through a more traditional route – she has 1100 ewes on her farm Cherrytrees in Kelso in the Borders. “But like all farmers we needed to diversify,” says the 53-year-old. “We renovated a walled garden and used it as a wedding venue.” But then she discovered many of the brides asking to raid her garden for her flowers for their big day. “It was a friend who said: You should really be selling these rather than just saying Yes, that’s fine,” she laughs. “And I realised there was a real demand there.” Now along with selling flowers, such as feverfew, to brides beyond those marrying in her garden, she also grows herbs – “just pots of herbs on the wedding tables, no flowers at all, that’s quite popular” – and fulfils the demand for lots of foliage from hedgerows around the farm while out walking her dogs, snipping wild cherry blossom, hawthorn, ash and birch as she goes. “I think people are worried about air miles and insecticide but it’s the natural look above all that they want.”



Kirsty Reid’s edible flowers.

By: Judy Vickers

The RiverLife Project

Restoring Scotland's river heritage

Fair-a-far Weir at Cramond.

An ambitious river restoration project in Scotland's central belt has commenced with a programme of works within both the River Almond and Avon catchments. The four-year project will focus on improving urban rivers and engaging communities so rivers can be used as a resource for recreation and learning whilst reconnecting wildlife and communities with their local river as Judy Vickers explains.

For 300 years the two rivers have served man; weirs have been built, channels straightened and sections dredged or culverted so that people can work – mining shale for oil or building mills for paper, iron or grain – and live. And the Rivers Almond and Avon, two tributaries of the River Forth, and the wildlife that depends on them, have paid a price for that. Fish struggle to get past barriers – at Mid Calder weir in West Lothian, they have been filmed continually hitting the rocks and getting too exhausted to continue upstream, while in others areas waterways have been left lifeless and poisoned - in Bathgate a tributary of the Avon has been “lost” due to years of industrial work and now housing. “The Bathgate Water currently has no invertebrates or fish life and, with no flow, resembles a ditch more than a river,” explains Alison Baker, manager with the River Forth Fisheries Trust.

Reconnect people with their waterways

Now the biggest restoration project of its type aims to roll back that damage and reconnect people with their waterways. One day fly fishermen could be seen catching salmon in the centre of Scotland's former industrial heartland, while kingfishers and dragonflies dart about. And while fish are at the heart of the £6.7m project, called RiverLife: Almond and Avon, the trust admits that this scheme, which will run until the end of 2020, represents a bold new step-change in the way it works.

Alison explains: “An obvious, but often forgotten, point in the world of fisheries management is that we cannot manage the fishery without managing the river,

we cannot manage the river without managing the land and we cannot manage the land without active interaction with the people who use the land. The vision of the RiverLife project – to reconnect wildlife and communities to their local rivers – may seem a world away from fisheries management and have little to do with enabling the trust to conserve and enhance freshwater fish and their environments. However, it is increasingly evident that this approach is required to ensure the long-term sustainable management of our rivers and their associated fisheries.”

Series of smaller schemes

The project is actually made up of a series of smaller schemes. One of these is the Almond Barriers Project which will ease seven weirs along the River Almond to help migratory fish such as salmon and sea trout, as well as eel, lamprey and brown trout, to get upstream so that they can spawn. Much work has already been done on the Almond and its tributaries to rid it of the industrial pollution of the past – otters can now be spotted on Muriston Water - and this new scheme will build on that success. An extra 234km of additional habitat will be opened up thanks to the works, and monitoring system will be put into place to see how the improvements are faring – counters will be installed in the lowest and highest fish passes to check on adult returning fish.

History and heritage

Old fish passages that aren't working so well will be removed but history and heritage won't just be swept, however, particularly in places where a feature is well-loved by the local community. “We

will be looking to keep as much as possible as far as old structures go. At Fair-a-far in Cramond, for example, we are putting in a new fish pass on top of the footprint of the existing fish pass and repairing the weir and adjacent walls at the same time. Wherever there is industrial, cultural or natural heritage we aim to enhance and improve it,” explains Jamie Ormiston, the trust's community engagement officer.

Other weirs which will be eased are at Mid Calder, Kirkton Weir at Almond Valley Heritage Centre, where a viewing platform will be built, the Howden Bridge and Rugby Club weirs in Livingston, and at Dowies, with fish passes, rock ramps or channels built.

The Upper Avon Restoration Project will work with landowners to make the river itself habitable by wildlife, as well as to its banks, hopefully heralding the return of kingfishers and dragonflies as well as fish. “This part of the Avon annually has spawning migratory salmon as well as resident brown trout and the proposed work will provide additional habitat. It is hoped that the work will act as a demonstration site and that other landowners will see the dual benefits of the land management practices demonstrated by the project for both themselves and the wildlife,” explains Alison. The Killandean Blue/Green Network Project will ease a weir and improve the water for wildlife at Kirkton Campus in Livingston, as well as improving paths, and installing benches and public art.

Involve local communities

One of the most important aspects of the project will be to involve local communities – organisers hope that the equivalent of 500,000 hours of voluntary time will have been spent on it by the end. The Riverfly Monitoring Project is asking locals to turn citizen scientist to help monitor water quality, and throughout the project, interpretation and activities will be organised for communities and families, from guided river walks, an interactive salmon viewing station, a small grants scheme for community groups, public art, promotion of river trails, and an introduction to angling, as well as visits to primary and secondary schools.

Alison says: “Training is a key aspect of RiverLife and it is hoped that by offering training opportunities in, for example, electrofishing, invasive non-native species management and pollution monitoring, communities will be empowered to take an active role in looking after their local river.”

Legacy

The Bathgate Water Restoration Project will see 1.2km of river flowing through the centre of the former industrial town brought back to life with path networks created or improved, viewing platforms erected and play areas and community facilities put in place. “Ultimately the intention is that the works will allow life to return to the Bathgate Water,” says Alison.

The trust's aim is that the work, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as the Scottish Government and the two councils through whose land the two rivers flow, Edinburgh and West Lothian, will have a legacy that will stretch well beyond the project's end date and will benefit far more people than just anglers.

If you would like to be involved and kept up to date with the progress of RiverLife please visit: www.fishforth.co.uk/rfft



Heron at Cramond.

Did you know?

RiverLife: Almond & Avon is made up of multiple projects. These projects include:

The Almond Barriers Project – easing six weirs along the River Almond to help migratory fish such as salmon and sea trout into spawning habitat upstream.

Killandean Blue/Green Network Project – easing a weir and improving instream habitat for aquatic wildlife whilst improving paths, bins, benches, public art and more.

Bathgate Water Restoration Project – restoring 1.2km of river through the heart of Bathgate, improving path networks, viewing platforms, natural play areas and community facilities.

Upper Avon Restoration Project – working with landowners to restore instream habitat and the banks of the river for the benefit of wildlife.

Almond / Avon Invasive Species Project – continue to control a number of Invasive Non-Native Species along rivers in both catchments.

Riverfly Monitoring Project – a citizen science project engaging communities to monitor riverfly to create an overview of water quality within both catchments.



Mid Calder Weir.

The Royal Yachtsmen to Britannia celebrate Yotties Week



The Royal Yacht Britannia recently welcomed back 60 former Royal Yachtsmen, affectionately known as 'Yotties', for their annual

reunion on board in Leith. The Royal Yacht Britannia is the official headquarters of The Association of Royal Yachtsmen and that is why each year the Yotties travel to Edinburgh from all over the UK to work alongside Britannia's current maintenance team for Yotties Week. Donning their white overalls once more, the Yotties were on board to answer questions and tell their stories from their time on board.

The Yotties gave visitors first-hand experiences on life below decks, and also re-enacted the rum ceremony, historic naval tradition that was practised aboard the Royal yacht until 1970. At 4pm they

stopped painting, scrubbing, sanding and polishing for their daily tot of Pusser's rum.

Strive for daily perfection

When Britannia was in Royal service, over 220 crew worked on board. Once a sailor became a Royal Yachtsman on Britannia he entered a world quite unlike any other in the Royal Navy. His orders were nothing less than to 'strive for daily perfection'. Hand-picked to meet the very highest standards, each and every sailor chose this special ship for the honour and privilege of serving Her Majesty The Queen and country. Her Majesty The Queen is the

Patron of the Association, founded in 1989 by Albert 'Dixie' Deane MBE RVM. It is dedicated to bringing together many of the estimated 3,296 Yotties who served on board HMY Britannia between 14 January 1954 and 11 December 1997.

Britannia was launched from the John Brown & Company shipyard in Clydebank on 16 April, 1953. For over 44 years she served the Royal Family, travelling over one million miles to become the most famous ship in the world. The Royal Yacht Britannia, berthed at Leith, Edinburgh is now a five-star visitor attraction and an exclusive events venue.

The Glengarry Highland Games - *Seventy great reasons to celebrate*



Seventy years ago, piper Peter MacInnes after returning to Maxville from a Highland Games in Embro, Ontario, wondered to his friend and local vet, Doc Gamble, "Why could we not have a Highland Games like this in old Glengarry?" The two friends set the plan in motion with local politicians and businessmen and in August 1948, Maxville hosted its first Highland Games.

Peter's daughter, Jean (Campbell) who competed as a highland dancer at the first Games and was herself Games President at the 50th Games, remembers, "My father's reaction to the first Games was first elation as the crowds started to pour into Maxville and discouragement at the end of the day because

they never, in their wildest dreams thought that there would be such a crowd and were not prepared to handle so many people. Their biggest problems were crowd control and lack of food. However after they reviewed the day, it was deemed wise to try again so plans quickly got underway for 1949."

The North America Pipe Band Championships

The 1948 planning committee had hoped that they might get a few thousand people, a large number for a town of 800, but much to their surprise they, the fairgrounds, and the village were overwhelmed with crowds reaching at one point more than 10,000. Seventy years later the Games can boast of hosting the largest massed pipe bands at the North America Pipe Band Championships with bands that one year reached over seventy. Through the years, world famous pipe bands such as the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band, the Clan MacFarlane and the 78 Fraser Highlanders as well as the Knightswood Junior Pipe Band from Scotland have thrilled the fans at the Games.

Starting with William Lyon MacKenzie at the first Games, it has been a Games tradition to have a Canadian celebrity including Prime Ministers, Governor

Generals, sports celebrities and even an astronaut open the competitions each year. The Friday night Tattoo stage has seen the best in Celtic entertainment such as The Alexander Brothers, Great Big Sea, John McDermott and Natalie McMaster along with local stars, Rae MacCulloch and Ken MacRae, composer of *Glengarry My Home*.

Along the way, a Canadian stamp was created to commemorate its 50th year in 1997, and in 2004 Rae MacCulloch and her 505 highland dancers set a Guinness World Record on a muddy field. Canadian and World records have been set in the heavyweight competitions while the highland dancing competitions feature World and Canadian Champions.

One of North America's premier Highland Games

Today the Games have grown to two full days, Friday and Saturday, with a wide range of special events that keep the crowds coming and turning it into one of North America's premier Highland Games. No matter how the Games change they still honour the traditional sporting and cultural events of their Scottish ancestors. This year's 70th edition will salute the contributions of Scots in Canada as a

tribute to our Nation's 150th, but the real focus will be celebrating 70 years of producing the best Celtic event possible.

As Games President Anne Stewart states, "Plans are well underway to bring a combination of new and traditional events to this summer's Glengarry Highland Games. Our guest will be treated to an amazing array of History and Heritage in celebration of the Games' 70th anniversary and Canada's 150th." A Heritage Village will showcase Glengarry's rich history and heritage as well as 70 proud years of the Games. Characters from Canada's history can be found strolling the grounds and visiting the Clans and History displays.

In 1948, when the first Games organizers decided to revive the ancient Scottish traditions with their highland event, little did they think that 70 years later, tens of thousands would still be trekking to Maxville on the long summer holiday weekend. As Past President and Peter MacInnes' daughter reminisces, "It is too bad that all the organizers in 1948 couldn't see what the Games have become."

The Glengarry Highland Games will take place in Maxville, Ontario August 4-5th for more details see: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com



Canadian Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and Connie Blaney at the 1957 Games. Diefenbaker was Guest of Honour that year as well as in 1975 when he returned wearing a kilt. Photo courtesy of the Cornwall Community Museum.

Glengarry Highland Games

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15th century statues return to Melrose Abbey



15th century statues which have been in storage for over 30 years recently returned to display at Melrose Abbey. Photo: Historic Environment Scotland.

The four figures, depicting St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Andrew and Mary, were removed from the Abbey in the early 1980s due to fears that the carved sandstone was vulnerable to further weathering and damage. Restoration work was then carried out on the statues by expert conservators, which involved cleaning and the meticulous removal of previous repairs. The statues date to the early 15th century and the rebuilding of Melrose Abbey after it was destroyed by the armies of Richard II in 1385.

Impressive collection

Visitors have had the opportunity to view the statues on display in the Commendator's House Museum, while specially made replicas will remain in the niches where the original statues once stood. Exhibited alongside the statues was also the collection of artefacts discovered

during archaeological excavation at Melrose Abbey in the early 20th century, which have also undergone recent conservation work. This impressive collection - comprising of small but significant objects such as the handle and blade from a pair of medieval scissors, a fragment of the bone frame from a pair of 14th century spectacles and post-Reformation communion tokens - gives a fascinating glimpse in to day-to-day life at the Abbey both before and after the Reformation.

Rightful home at Melrose Abbey

Jill van Millingen, Collections Manager at Historic Environment Scotland (HES), which runs more than 70 Historic Scotland sites including Melrose, said: "It's fantastic to see these special artefacts restored and back in their rightful home at Melrose Abbey. The niche statues, which survived damage after they were defaced following the Reformation, give us a unique insight

into this turbulent period of Scottish history. Meanwhile this rich collection of everyday items from medieval times brings the history of Melrose Abbey to life, helping us understand what daily life would have been like for the monks who lived here."

David I founded Melrose Abbey, the first Cistercian monastery in Scotland, in 1136. Being so close to the border placed it on the front line of conflict with England during the later Middle Ages. Rebuilding began in the late 1380s and it remained in use as an abbey until the Protestant Reformation of 1560. While only a very small part of the first abbey church survives, Melrose Abbey is still considered one of the most magnificent examples of medieval church architecture anywhere in the British Isles.

Did you know?

- Melrose Abbey was one of a number of abbeys that David I set up in the Borders to show both his piety and his power over this contested territory.
- The great abbey church of St Mary the Virgin at Melrose loomed large in the lives of many people on both sides of the border.
- Melrose's location put it on the front line of conflict with England during the later Middle Ages.
- Only a very small part of the first abbey church survives. The present building of rose-coloured stone dates almost entirely to the post-1385 rebuilding.

Sir Big Yin



Scottish comedian, author, actor and Glaswegian Billy Connolly has been recognised in last month's Queen's Honours List. The popular comedian has received a knighthood

for his services to entertainment and charity. Connolly, who celebrates his 75th birthday this year, can add this high honour to others such as the Freedom of the City bestowed by the city of Glasgow, a BAFTA lifetime achievement award and also a CBE in 2003's Queens Birthday Honour List. Connolly said at the announcement; "It won't really dawn on me until Glasgow people start calling me Sir Billy ... or whatever they come up with. I feel like I should be called Lancelot or something. Sir Lancelot, that would be nice. Sir Billy doesn't quite have the same ring." The former Glasgow shipyard boilermaker was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and prostate cancer in 2013 but continues to work and be popular across the world. Glasgow has also recently unveiled three large art murals of Sir Billy across the city to celebrate his 75th birthday. Other people honoured in this year's Honours List include author JK Rowling, sporting legend Judy Murray and singer Emeli Sande.

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Tartan of the Month

Maple Leaf tartan



The Scottish Banner is pleased to be offering the Tartan of the Month series highlighting a variety of different, unique and colourful tartans from around the world which are registered with the Scottish Register of Tartans in Edinburgh. The Scottish Register of Tartans was established by an act of the Scottish Parliament in November 2008 and promotes and preserves information about historic and contemporary tartans from Scotland and throughout the world. Text and image use is courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans.

This month Canada celebrates its 150th birthday and the Scottish Banner began in Ontario, Canada 41 years ago this month. To celebrate

this great nation we are highlighting the Maple Leaf tartan (STA ref: 2034) which was designed by David Weiser in 1964. The colours of the maple leaf through the changing seasons became the basis for this asymmetric tartan designed by David Weiser in 1964.

Known officially as the Maple Leaf tartan, the pattern incorporates the green of the leaves' summer foliage, the gold which appears in early autumn, the red which appears with the coming of the first frost, and the brown tones of the fallen leaves. Fraser & Kirkbright said (September 2002) it was made for Highland Queen in anticipation of the centenary of Canada's Dominion status in 1867.