



the Scottish Banner



Australasian Edition



Years Strong - 1976-2017 www.scottishbanner.com

A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 41 Number 3 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper September 2017

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The Banner Says...

The Scots - *Telling their stories*



by Sean Cairney

September is often considered a time of change. In the Northern Hemisphere many kids are settling into the new school year and back into a routine after a fun filled summer break. The weather begins its change and the nights slowly begin to draw in, as do the temperatures.

In the Southern Hemisphere of course the days grow longer and temperatures warm up to a lovely spring feel with gardens beginning to burst with colour and life.

When do the Scots gather?

One thing however that does not change is it is another month to enjoy Scottish events.

I once had an advertiser who is not Scottish ask me, "When do the Scots gather?" I referred her to our online events page as it was a hard question to answer. We always seem to be gathering somewhere. This lady came back and was confused as she had expected one or two events a year and she was seeing hundreds listed. I suppose I am quite used to seeing dozens of events listed across several countries in this publication at any one time, but someone not connected to the Scottish community may be surprised by how much the community offers, and of course you don't have to be Scottish to take part and enjoy. Our events page often reads like a story of the diverse, active and passionate global Scottish community.

One look at our events calendar will see there are many great things on this month to celebrate your connection to Scotland. Our regular readers will know in each issue we list a variety of Scottish events taking place and we urge our readers to get out there and support the people who run these great cultural spectacles. The stage is set to showcase Scotland every week somewhere in the world. At any one time we also have hundreds of Scottish events listed at www.scottishbanner.com/events for example, these listing

are updated weekly, year round and offer our readers, friends and followers information to plan an event near them or perhaps attend one when they are next in Scotland, or even at the other side of the world.

**One of the world's top
 Scottish events resources**

We are proud to offer one of the world's top Scottish events resources available from concerts, Clan events, Highland Games, Scottish festivals, Scottish dance and pipe band events and more. From January to December we hope something catches your fancy and if it does, tell your friends and family and let's keep these events going and growing.

Last month I attended the Fergus Highland Games in Ontario, Canada and met many of our readers and friends. It was really great to see so many from Ontario where *the Scottish Banner* began, but also many who were visiting from various parts of both Canada and the USA at this event. I am not sure if there is such a saying but "Have kilt, will travel!" comes to mind.

Outlander

Speaking of stories, this issue is a special one for us as we celebrate the global return of the television series *Outlander*. I remember seeing the author of the books, Diana Gabaldon, at Highland Games. This was long before the show came to be, but her passion for the characters and history of Scotland have propelled millions of people around the world to fall in love with the books and now the show, with the third series of the TV show airing this month. We are so honoured Diana took the time to be part of this issue we have also included some other *Outlander* themed stories as 'Droughtlander' ends this month.

Outlander has done much for Scotland by awaking many Scots to their own story and has had a profound impact on both the tourism and film industries in the country. The *Outlander* story seems to not only be an international best seller and People's Choice Award winner, but a story in itself on how the books and show are contributing to Scotland. This is unravelling before our eyes and it is amazing to watch.

Continued US expansion

Last month we launched *the Scottish Banner* at Books A Million stores

across the USA. After this successful launch we are thrilled to further expand our footprint as we launch with this issue at Barnes & Noble locations around America.

This is in addition to our already robust distribution across Australia, Canada and New Zealand. We thank each and every reader for purchasing an issue whether it be at a shop or by subscription. These sales do so much to help us produce this publication and deliver a wee bit of Scotland to you each month.

We are also so thrilled to see many of our customers taking up our digital download subscription. This is giving those who want to read *the Scottish Banner* on their devices the option to do so. Our print edition is here to stay as many continue to want a physical paper and even say it is a more relaxing way to enjoy *the Banner*. The publishing industry has to keep up with trends and in order to reach new readers and remain a relevant part of the community, we are excited to offer this choice.

In this issue

In this issue readers will find some varied stories to connect us back to Scotland.

Another successful World Pipe Band Championships recently took place in Glasgow and this year was won by a Scottish band.

An amazing Scottish adventurer was honoured recently, Myrtle Simpson, who is considered the "mother of Scottish skiing" took her kids on an arctic adventure fifty odd years ago. This pioneering Scot still snow skis today at near 90 and must be considered one of the coolest grandmothers out there.

Conservation in Scotland remains an important industry and it is so great to hear that initiatives are being developed to save the iconic Scottish bird, the capercaillie. This bird has been under threat before and we hope has the spirit of Scotland in them to bounce back.

Anyone who has been to Edinburgh knows the city is like a museum. 101 objects around Edinburgh have been selected to represent the city's incredible history over the past 1000 years. I am sure many who have been have visited some of these fascinating objects, however if like me, there may be some you are not aware of and can plan to take in on your next visit.

Edinburgh, like Scotland itself, always has a story to tell.

**Please share with us your
 views by email, post or at
www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us**



Gracing our front cover:
 Sam Heughan leads the
 charge for the series 3 return of
Outlander this month. Photo
 courtesy of Starz/Foxtel.



'Droughtlander' to end as Outlander returns



Tobias Menzies ('Black Jack' Randall).

Season three of the Golden Globe nominated series *Outlander* will return to television screens in September. The third season will include 13 episodes based upon *Voyager*, the third of eight books in Diana Gabaldon's international best-selling *Outlander* series. In March, production and filming on the current season moved from its home base in Scotland to Cape Town, South Africa, to shoot pivotal sea voyage scenes on the former sets of the STARZ original series *Black Sails*. Production on the season began in September 2016 and wrapped up in June. *Outlander* also recently attended San Diego Comic Con again, offering fans a chance to experience more of this beloved series in person.

Claire and Jamie

The story picks up right after Claire (Caitriona Balfe) travels through the

stones to return to her life in 1948. Now pregnant with Jamie's (Sam Heughan) child, she struggles with the fallout of her sudden reappearance and its effect on her marriage to her first husband, Frank (Tobias Menzies). Meanwhile, in the 18th century, Jamie suffers from the aftermath of his doomed last stand at the historic battle of Culloden, as well as the loss of Claire. As the years pass, Jamie and Claire attempt to make a life apart from one another, each haunted by the memory of their lost love. The budding possibility that Claire can return to Jamie in the past breathes new hope into Claire's heart... as well as new doubt. Separated by continents and centuries, Claire and Jamie must find their way back to each other. As always, adversity, mystery, and adventure await them on the path to reunion. And the question remains: When they find each other, will they be the

same people who parted at the standing stones, all those years ago?

Diana Gabaldon's beautiful story

Carmi Zlotnik, President of Programming for Starz said "While 'Droughtlander' will last just a little longer, we feel it is important to allow the production the time and number of episodes needed to tell the story of the *Voyager* book in its entirety. The scale of this book is immense, and we owe the fans the very best show. Returning in September will make that possible."

Steve Kent, Senior Executive Vice President, Programming, Sony Pictures Television said, "With the scope of the production and all of the intricate details that go into the Emmy-nominated sets and costumes, we had to make sure everything is kept to the high standard of the previous seasons and Diana Gabaldon's beautiful story. We're so proud of the incredible work that Producer Ron D Moore and the *Outlander* team have done."

Diana Gabaldon's eight-book *Outlander* series has sold more than 26 million copies worldwide and all the books have graced the New York Times best-sellers list. The *Outlander* series spans the genres of history, science fiction, romance and adventure in one grandiose tale. The second season of *Outlander* won the Critics' Choice Award for Most Bingeworthy Show, and four People's Choice Awards, including Favorite TV Show.

Outlander returns for Season 3, September 11 on showcase.

Reader giveaway Tommy's Honour



Tommy's Honour is based on the true story of the challenging relationship between 'Old' Tom and 'Young' Tommy Morris, the dynamic father-son team who

ushered in the modern game of golf. As their fame grew, Tom and Tommy, Scotland's Golf Royalty, were touched by drama and personal tragedy. At first matching his father's success, Tommy's talent and fame grew to outshine his father's accomplishments and respect as founder of the Open Championship in 1860 with a series of his own triumphs. But in contrast to Tommy's public persona, his personal turmoil ultimately led him to rebel against both the aristocracy who gave him opportunity and the parents who shunned his passionate relationship with his wife.

The Scottish Banner has 5 double passes to the Sydney preview screening which will take place on Wednesday 6th September, 6.30pm at Palace Verona cinema, Paddington.

Please note this offer is for the Sydney screening only. Tommy's Honour is released on September 7th. To enter email competitions@scottishbanner.com

Historic sites celebrate 'Outlander effect'



Scottish historic sites are feeling the 'Outlander effect' as they celebrate a significant surge in visitor numbers. Photo: Historic Environment Scotland.

Scottish historic sites are feeling the 'Outlander effect' as they celebrate a significant surge in visitor numbers. The start of the summer season 2017 has seen sites in the care of Historic Environment Scotland which have a starring role in the hit TV series record dramatic increases in footfall from the same period last year. Blackness Castle - which features in the series as the stand in for Fort William - has seen the most significant rise in visitors, up 72% for the period 1 April to 2 June 2017. Doune Castle, famed for its role as the fictional Castle Leoch, recorded an impressive 50% increase for the same period. Other sites which recorded increased visitor numbers after making a cameo appearance in the series include: Aberdour Castle 58% increase Linlithgow Palace 43% increase Glasgow Cathedral 39% increase

Treasured heritage sites

The announcement comes as the historical time-travel drama series recently made its UK

terrestrial television debut and series three gets ready to hit screens again internationally. Stephen Duncan, Director of Commercial and Tourism at Historic Environment Scotland, who manage over 300 Historic Scotland visitor attractions, said: "I'm delighted to welcome this boost in visitor numbers as we continue to celebrate the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. This is an excellent return on the investment we have made across our estate.

At Doune Castle, for example, after upgrading the visitor and retail offering, we have seen retail income increase 62% for the year to date. Featuring in *Outlander* has opened up our sites to a whole new audience, inspiring more and more visitors to come and discover the history behind these places, further demonstrating the enduring value and significance of heritage attractions in Scotland."

Treasured heritage sites

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, said: "It's fantastic to see that the international success of *Outlander* continues to draw visitors from around the world to visit treasured heritage sites like Doune Castle and Blackness Castle and find out more about Scotland's rich history and fascinating heritage. The TV drama showcases Scotland to international audiences and has helped strengthen the growth we're seeing in tourism from overseas. I'm delighted Scottish and UK audiences will now be able to watch *Outlander* on terrestrial TV, and look forward to seeing the impact on visitor numbers to the heritage sites that provide the stunning backdrop to the series."

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Congratulations on 41 years



Congratulations on 41 years of *the Scottish Banner*, may it continue for another 41 plus years. I would like to say a very big thank you for forwarding the May issue of *the Scottish Banner*, our postie commented when she handed it to me by saying "Special delivery from *the Scottish Banner*". I have been getting *the Banner* now for about 8-10 years and hate to miss a copy. I love *the Banner* and read everything. I have even contributed to *Scotpourri* and *What's in a Name*. My husband is from Keith in Scotland and we have been over to Scotland before and would love to return.

I would also like to give my sincere congratulations on Valerie's retirement, may she enjoy it.
Mrs C Bruce Jennings, NSW Australia

The Scottish Banner is a Clyde Built Bridge

Dear Valerie & Sean,

I must admit that rather than putting the kettle on the boil, I tend to pour a glass of wine to accompany my monthly read of *The Banner*. Our subscription was a much appreciated gift from Archie & Rena Davidson (originally from Motherwell and Fort Augustus respectively).

Valerie, I met you briefly at the Sarasota Games in 2014 when I went 'walk about' with Jimmy McIntosh while Joyce was judging the bands.

It was a pleasure meeting you and I deeply admire the effort you and your

family have put in to keeping us all up to date and connected to a place that many of our families left....not because they wanted to, but because they had to.

Your latest publication is, as always, engaging and informative. It would be wonderful however to know the location of each of the Bothys in the article's photos (*Bothy Bagging*, *Scottish Banner*, July, 2017).

Thank you again Valerie for your enormous contribution to all of us of Scottish heritage. *The Scottish Banner* is a Clyde Built Bridge to our heritage and homeland.

Thank you.

Alex (Alexandra) Macdonell & Derek Davidson (former Executive Director New Hampshire Highland Games) USA

Ed note: Thank you Alex for such a kind note and not all Bothy locations were provided to us as many do not have any accurate address descriptions in remote locations. We are honoured to be considered Clyde built!

Read every word

We would like to renew *the Banner* for another two years. Just love the paper. We would like to go back "home" to Forres and Brodie but need to win the lottery first. Instead we have *the Scottish Banner* and read every word.

Hermione & Robert Duncan Barcaldine, Queensland Australia

Ed note: Thank you for your note and we hope you win that lottery and get back to Scotland, but glad to hear we help fill the Scottish void until your numbers come in.

St. Andrew's First Aid



Recently we attended the Weary Dunlop Foundation Service in Melbourne, it was the 110th Anniversary of his birth. The Guest Speaker was Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston, AK, AFC (Ret'd) and the Dunlop Appeal was launched by the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer, MP, Minister for Revenue and Financial Services.

I attended representing SAFAA, paying our respects to the man who was our first patron and responsible for bringing us out from Scotland in 1976.

Weary Dunlop is an Australian icon, Wallaby, and former WW2 POW Surgeon who endured the hardships of the Thai-Burma Railroad POW Camps under the Japanese Imperial Army as the Commanding Officer (after he refused the opportunity to evacuate from Java to stay and care for his patients), respected and loved by all Australians, so much so he was accorded a State Funeral upon his death in 1993.

This was the first time that our Pipes and Drums played in public.

David Alexander-Fleming, JP Chief Commissioner St. Andrew's First Aid Australia Victoria, Australia

Ed note: Congratulations to everyone at St Andrew's First Aid and thank you for the great work you do.

Bullard

I am trying to trace my late mother's maiden name Bullard, I believe it is Scottish. Where should I start?

Thank you.

David Sheridan

E-mail: davidsheridan200@bigpond.com

A monthly breath of Scotland

I think it's great that we will be able to read *the Scottish Banner* online. However, I pass mine on to a dear Scottish friend who is 97 years young and in long term care. She is the one person with home I talk in the "Mither tongue".

I, myself, just turned 95, and I guess it's true, old habits die hard, as I still prefer to hold the printed word in my hand.

It's 70 years since I left Bonnie Scotland and it's lovely to get a breath of it every month, thanks to the staff at *the Scottish Banner*.

Thank you and may I wish you continued success.

Sincerely,
Agnes Loosmore Canada

Ed note: Thank you Agnes for your kind comments and whether it be print or digital we are glad you are enjoying the paper and we are happy to offer both choices to our readers across the world.

George Ritchie Mackie-Dundee

As I am travelling to Dundee early October 2017, am curious to know if there are any relatives still living in the area (or buried there) who are in any way connected to my great grandfather?

He was George Ritchie Mackie, born on November 3, 1865 in Dundee, Angus. His parents were Robert Mackie and Margaret Miller who were age 39 and 38 respectfully when he was born. He had a sister Elizabeth, born about 1868 and a brother, William, who also emigrated to Grafton, NSW (Australia), where they went into business together. William died on 7 November in Grafton when George was 46 years of age.

George lived in St Andrew, Angus in 1871 and was a third class engineer. He married Catherine Susannah Venador (French) Oct 23 1894 and they had a son Louis. He emigrated with Louis 1900 and married Alice Helena Waldon in 1901, Sydney NSW when he was 36 years old. They had six children, Neville Robert being my grandfather.

George died in 1939 in Cowper (near Grafton) NSW aged 74.

Someone may know more regarding his sister, Elizabeth Mackie or his parents Robert Mackie and Margaret Miller.

I am looking forward to visiting Dundee enormously as my grandfather was very proud of his Scottish heritage and so am I!
Rhonda Beresford Australia

Email: rhondaberesford@gmail.com

Glasgow Central Station Tours



A few months ago *the Banner* published an article about Glasgow Central Station Tours. Today I was very fortunate to be able to take this tour. I would highly recommended the tour to anyone visiting Glasgow. It was very informative and entertaining. Paul is a very enthusiastic guide with a lot of knowledge about the history of the Station. Paul was a wee bit surprised to hear that we heard about the tour in Australia but he remembered being interviewed by Sean, he asked us to say hello and send his regards to Sean.

Such a great experience.

Jean Buchanan Victoria, Australia

Ed note: Thanks for sharing this with us Jean and this tour is an incredible way to learn not only about one of Glasgow's great buildings but also its amazing social history.

SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGES

(Send us your photos or letters via social media)

Flower of Scotland



Taken in our backyard in Canada.
Theresa & François Ouellette Toronto, Ontario Canada

The Tyndall Bruce Monument



This was taken just inside the Tyndall Bruce Monument.
Kenny Bruce Photography Scotland

Paisley named sole Scottish bidder on UK City of Culture 2021 shortlist

The team behind Paisley's bid to be UK City of Culture 2021 have thanked the people of the town for their 'incredible contribution' after Paisley was named as the sole Scottish place on the shortlist for the next stage of the competition. The UK Government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport have confirmed the 11 places bidding for the title has been whittled down to just five – Paisley, Coventry, Stoke, Sunderland and Swansea. Initial bids were lodged in April – the five selected are due to submit more detailed second-stage bids by the end of September, with the winner announced at the end of the year.

Paisley is bidding for the title as part of a wider push to use the town's unique heritage and cultural story as the home of the globally-recognised Paisley Pattern to transform its future. It is estimated Paisley's 2021 year could bring a £172m economic boost and create the equivalent of 4,700 jobs over a ten-year period. Current UK City of Culture hosts Hull has seen £1 billion of investment since winning the title in 2013, with the city attracting 1.4m visitors in just the first three months of its year in the spotlight.

Major endorsement for Paisley and Renfrewshire

And the shortlist news has been hailed by the team behind Paisley's bid as a massive thumbs-up for the town and its ambitions. Renfrewshire Council

Leader Iain Nicolson – chair of the Paisley 2021 Partnership Board – said: "For the judges to have shortlisted us is a major endorsement of our ambitions for Paisley and Renfrewshire – and we are in it to win it. I know local people will be absolutely thrilled at this news – we want to thank every one of them as they are the ones whose incredible contribution made it happen. They turned the bid into a mass movement, with more than 30,000 people joining the conversation – a number equivalent to almost half the town's population. Winning the UK City of Culture 2021 title would be a major boost to our wider plans. Aside from hosting some of the world's best performers and bringing more than a million people to Paisley in 2021, it would over the long term create thousands of new jobs, and allow us to attract massive investment and build a new town centre economy with tourism and creativity at its heart. We wish the best of luck to the other places which join us on the shortlist, and send our best wishes to those which didn't make it through."

Scottish first

Paisley 2021 bid director Jean Cameron added: "There's never been a Scottish winner and we would be thrilled to be the first – we are now Scotland's bid and would love to see the whole country get behind us. The work to date has already been really positive for Paisley – it taken awareness of our internationally-significant story to a



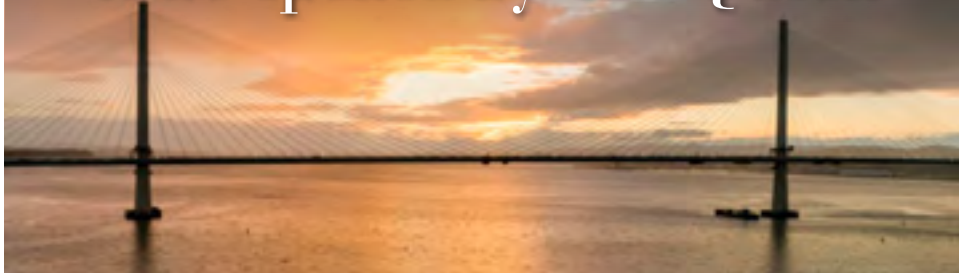
new level and changed perceptions of the town. It has also brought a new sense of self-confidence to residents and shown them how the power of culture can be harnessed to change people's lives for the better. Our £1m Culture, Heritage and Events Fund has boosted our local cultural scene and linked local groups with some of Scotland's best creative talent – building a foundation for our 2021 year. The initial bid was the product of a wide range of local groups – community and cultural organisations, schools and Young people, businesses and the council – all working together on a shared vision to change the area's

future. Paisley will build on that over the next few months as we look to further convince the judges that the town wants the title, needs the title, and will deliver a year of world-class culture in 2021."

Work is under way in the town on new cultural infrastructure – including a proposed £42m revamp of Paisley Museum and a new museum store and library on the town's high street – as well as work to reconnect the Pattern back to the town which gave it its name via partnerships with international design houses.

To help support Paisley 2021 or for more details see: www.paisley2021.co.uk

Date set for Queensferry Crossing to be opened by The Queen



The Queensferry Crossing will be officially opened by Her Majesty The Queen on 4 September 2017. The new bridge opens to traffic for the first time on 30 August, prior to closing on 2-3 September for the Queensferry Crossing Experience, when 50,000 members of the public have the unique opportunity to walk across the bridge – following a ballot that attracted almost 250,000 entries. On 5 September, an additional 'community day' has been added, giving up to 10,000 more people from local schools and community groups on both sides of the Forth the chance to walk on the bridge. From 6 September onwards the bridge will re-open to traffic with no pedestrian access.

Iconic structure

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: "It is very fitting that the Queensferry Crossing will be officially opened by The Queen, exactly 53 years to the day from when she opened the Forth Road Bridge. Importantly, this celebratory event will recognise the thousands of people who

have been involved in the construction of the new bridge. The Queensferry Crossing is a symbol of a confident, forward-looking Scotland and – as well as providing a vital transport connection for many years to come – it is a truly iconic structure and a feat of modern engineering."

The 1.7 mile Queensferry Crossing – the world's longest three-tower, cable-stayed bridge – is set to be delivered at a cost of £1.35 billion, £245 million under the original budget. Following the inception of plans for a new bridge in 2007, construction commenced in June 2011 and the project has involved more than 15,000 people, including the creation of 1,200 jobs in the local area, with thousands more indirectly employed.

The Queensferry Crossing in numbers:

- 23,000 miles of cables, almost enough to wrap around the earth's equator.
- 35,000 tonnes of steel, the equivalent of 80 Boeing 747s.
- 207 metres in height above high tide – 50 metres taller than the Forth Road Bridge and 97 metres more than the rail bridge.

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AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 9:30AM – 4PM

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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.



“We have now been in discussion with Dundee Council regarding the concept of a stadium on part of this site for over a year and would like to thank them for the assistance they have given us. When Dundee Football Club were originally formed in 1893, they played their games at West Craigie Park. They then moved to a new ground at Carolina Port adjacent to the Docks in Dundee. In 1899, Dundee moved to their current home at Dens Park and we are delighted to be involved in what we hope will be the development of their new home for the future.”

Bob Hynd of Leadingham Jameson Rogers and Hynd Architects said as Dundee Football Club's move from Dens Park has moved forward after the team's owners and management began the official process of obtaining planning permission for a new stadium at Campderdown Park, adjacent to the Dundee Ice Arena. Although plans for the new stadium have not yet been drawn up, it is expected its capacity would be at least 50% greater than Dens Park, which can hold 11,500 fans. A formal planning application is then expected to be submitted to the local authority in December.

“This document will help inform the debate on preparing for the proposed railway through the Scottish Borders to Carlisle

and beyond. The economies of Edinburgh, Midlothian and the northern Borders have all gained demonstrably from the opening of the Borders Railway. Now it is time for Hawick and other communities in the southern Borders to benefit directly.”

Allan McLean, Chairman, Campaign for Borders Rail said at the launch of a new report detailing the advantages of extending the Borders Railway route by 60 miles to include Carlisle, through Hawick and states it would provide a strategic new link to the national rail network. The £350m Borders Railway, stretching 30 miles from Edinburgh to Tweedbank, opened in 2015, and there are now calls for the line to be continued and reinstate the original route, Scottish Government ministers having pledged to look into the feasibility of such an extension. Despite widespread opposition, the Waverley Route connecting Edinburgh to Carlisle via the Borders carried its final passengers in January 1969.



“While he enjoys attention from visitors and loves to have his photo taken, Bobby gets distressed when people rub his nose. It really does cause damage to the statue, which is why we urge people to be respectful. We always request the city's statues and monuments are treated respectfully, and it's great so many local people agree.”

An Edinburgh City Council spokesman said as tourists in the Scottish capital are being urged not to rub the nose of the famous Greyfriars Bobby statue as it is causing damage to one of the city's most loved landmarks. Greyfriars Bobby was a Skye terrier who became known in the 19th -century for supposedly spending 14 years guarding the grave of his owner until dying in 1872. A year later, a drinking fountain topped with Bobby's statue was erected at the junction of George IV Bridge and Candlemaker Row to commemorate him. The monument is now Edinburgh's smallest listed building.

“The history of the Royal Navy and Scapa Flow are tightly entwined. Last year, we recognised the huge sacrifice made by our sailors at the Battle of Jutland and commemorated the loss of HMS Hampshire. Now we will recognise the achievement of Squadron Commander Edwin Dunning with his first-ever landing of an aircraft on a ship at sea and his subsequent death a few days later, but this weekend we are firmly committed to commemorating the tragedy that was the loss of HMS Vanguard. The devastating explosion, completely accidental rather than a result of enemy action, was a shock when it happened and the tragic loss of more than 840 lives is still felt through their descendants and those in Orkney who feel passionately that we should mark the centenary in appropriate fashion.”

Naval regional Commander for Scotland and Northern Ireland, Captain Chris Smith, said as descendants of the victims of the HMS Vanguard tragedy marked 100 years since sinking of the Royal Navy's worst wartime accident. HMS Vanguard exploded and sank off Orkney with the loss of 843 lives in 1917.

“The assumption has always been that there was nothing left at Burghead, that it was all trashed in the 19th century but nobody's really looked at the interior to see if there's anything that survives inside the fort. But beneath the 19th century debris, we have started to find significant Pictish remains. We appear to have found a Pictish longhouse. This is important because Burghead is likely to have been one of the key royal centres of Northern Pictland and understanding the nature of settlement within the fort is key to understanding how power was materialised within these important fortified sites.”

The University of Aberdeen's Senior lecturer Dr Gordon Noble said as archaeologists have uncovered important new details of a Pictish settlement at Burghead Fort. Evidence of a longhouse has been found at the site, near Lossiemouth in Moray, along with a coin which is 1,100 years old.

It is thought the Burghead Fort was a significant seat of power within the Pictish kingdom, between AD500 and AD1000. The university team, which have been digging at the site since 2015, hope to find more items in the future.



“We have had lots of lovely comments on social media about it and we really hope lots more people will come and see it. This has been a long time coming for us, but we are immensely proud to finally have this aircraft on display. It is the only combat veteran Spitfire in Scotland, with a fascinating history. The next stage of its restoration can now begin, as we refit the cockpit and carry out detail work on the rest of the airframe. To unveil the aircraft in this, our 40th anniversary year, is a tremendous achievement for a small volunteer museum.”

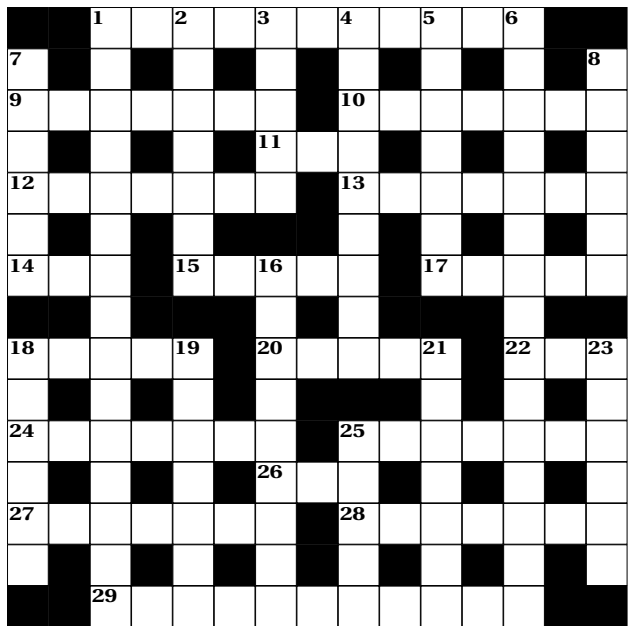
Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum curator David Reid said as the museum proudly unveiled a restored spitfire aircraft which crashed into Loch Doon during World War II. The Spitfire MkIIa P7540 was retrieved from the depths of the loch, which is near Dalmellington, during a recovery operation 35 years ago. The plane had crashed on October 25, 1941, killing the pilot whose body was never found — he is commemorated on a memorial at the side of the loch.

“I am trying to promote a fresh take on the tradition by bringing it into theatre and film and through collaborating with international artists. Step dance is a natural response to music. If you can feel the music, it is normal to want to dance to it. For me, it's like playing along to the tunes with your feet. Step dance is not intended to be a spectacle. Whether it's on stage, as part of social dance or just jamming along at a session, it's about responding to the music and being part of the music, like a musician. I teach my students the basic traditional steps. How they put these together to express themselves is up to them. I believe there is a lot of potential for step dance to be further integrated within traditional music in Scotland. We have a vibrant trad scene with sessions, cèilidhs, festivals and touring musicians. Step dance has a place in all of these contexts and is accessible to anyone who wants to learn.”

Scottish step dance expert Sophie Stephenson who is helping keep the ancient Gaelic tradition of step dancing relevant in 21st century Scotland. Step dancing was popular in Scotland in the 18th century and Scots who left took the custom with them where in places such as the Canadian Maritimes it still flourishes today. The dance had its Scottish revival about 20 years ago and is today being incorporated in trad-music event and workshops and being taught at the University of the Highlands and Islands. Sophie hopes to introduce more Scots to the ancient dance and keep this aspect of Scottish culture alive not only in Scotland but also in parts of Europe and North America.

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 24!



CLUES ACROSS

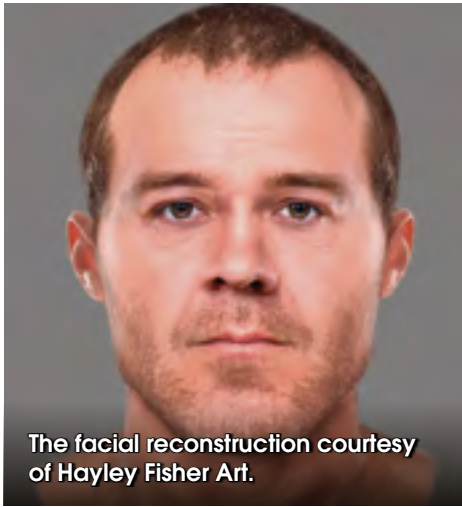
- Scotland's Playground (7,4)
- Village 3 miles south of Lochmaben (7)
- Old Scots wall linings (7)
- The gift of speech! (3)
- Italians by Scots (7)
- Run of the mill (7)
- Provider of warmth (3)
- But never lost! (5)
- Old hands! (5)
- Referee (5)
- Regimental alternative to kills (5)
- Play 1 Across and get one (3)
- Prettier in Scotland (7)
- Erica's flower (7)
- North-east flower! (3)
- Scotland's emblem (7)
- Red cents! (7)
- A glen in the Trossachs (11)

CLUES ACROSS

- Colourful games attraction (8,7)
- A Village 3 miles south of Crieff (7)
- The last of the drink (5)
- Village 1 mile south of Dalkeith (9)
- Deer tops! (7)
- Low range east of Dumbarton (10, 5.)
- Wishaw location sounds like gunfire(6)
- Wee islands (6)
- The ship's back (9)
- Highland Dress accessories (6)
- Old correspondence (7)
- Marine winger (7)
- Religious district (6)
- Long-legged kin of 21 Down (5)

Making a Murderer

The face of the Crammond killer



The facial reconstruction courtesy of Hayley Fisher Art.

Putting a face to the 'Cramond Murderer', a new museum display in Edinburgh has used forensic techniques to picture John Howison for the first time. The life-like profile of the 19th Century killer is exhibited next to a replica of his skull in a free display, open now, at Cramond's Maltings Interpretation Centre. John Howison's crimes involved the brutal murder of a local woman, Ms Marta Geddes, on 21 January 1832. The widow was found dead with severe fracture wounds to her head – following an unprovoked attack by Howison with a sharp spade.

He was sentenced by Judge David Boyle (pictured) to execution by public hanging before his body was given to Dr

Munro of the University of Edinburgh in the last criminal dissection to take place in the capital.

Councillor Ian Campbell, Edinburgh's Depute Culture and Communities Convener, said: "Edinburgh's history never fails to amaze, shock and, in this case - scare. By putting a face to the Cramond Murderer, we have been able to piece together the story of the man behind the crimes. The project has combined the Council's archaeological findings with forensic techniques; the University of Edinburgh's scientific research and remains; and the brilliant local knowledge of the Cramond Heritage Trust. It is fantastic to see the city collaborate and the result is a fascinating new display in the heart of the Cramond community."

Incredible events

John Dods from the Cramond Heritage Trust, said: "Cramond may be a small district but its history packs more incredible events and findings than many parts of Edinburgh. The trial of John Howison is one of the area's lesser known tales, but it was an important event in scientific history. I hope our display at the Maltings educates and provides visitors with an insight into Cramond's colourful and sometimes unsavoury past. I'm delighted we are able to host this display locally, and thank everyone involved for making it happen."

As the capital's last criminal to be dissected before the Anatomy Act of 1832 abolished the practice, Howison is famed in the University of Edinburgh's Anatomical Museum. His articulated skeleton is still displayed next to the remains of William Burke.

Dr Janet Philp from the University's Deanery of Biomedical Sciences, explained: "It's fascinating to be able to link the Anatomical Museum to local stories, which in turn enables our history to become increasingly accessible to others. A reconstruction like this, even with a measure of artistic license, helps us to increasingly appreciate and understand our museum collection and the significant role it has played in our city's history."

John Lawson, City of Edinburgh Council Archaeologist, added: "This has been a rare opportunity to put a face to one of Edinburgh's lesser-known perpetrators. We often focus on the history of the city centre, but our communities are just as interesting. The story of John Howison, the Cramond Murderer, is especially captivating."

The Maltings Interpretation Centre is a small museum outlining the history of Cramond. Run by volunteers, the space is free to visit between 2-5pm every Saturday and Sunday between April and September.

Did you know?



Scots and red hair

- More than 20 million people in the UK and Republic of Ireland carry the gene that produces red hair.
- There are more red heads in Scotland than anywhere else in the world.
- Approximately 650,000 redheads are in Scotland or roughly 13% of the country, however 40% might carry the gene.
- The Edinburgh and Lothian region was found to have a large percentage of ginger people, whilst the North and West are believed to over 10% less likelihood of having the red head gene.
- Having red hair and blue eyes is actually rare. Most people have brown eyes, hazel or green shades.
- Red hair is often thicker than other colours.
- Set in the Scottish Highlands, Disney film *Brave*, tells the story of a little red-headed warrior princess named Merida and her courageous fight against the tradition of her land and a mysterious, menacing beast.
- The next Redhead Day UK will take place on 19th May, 2018.

'A MUST-SEE ACT' - Daily Mirror

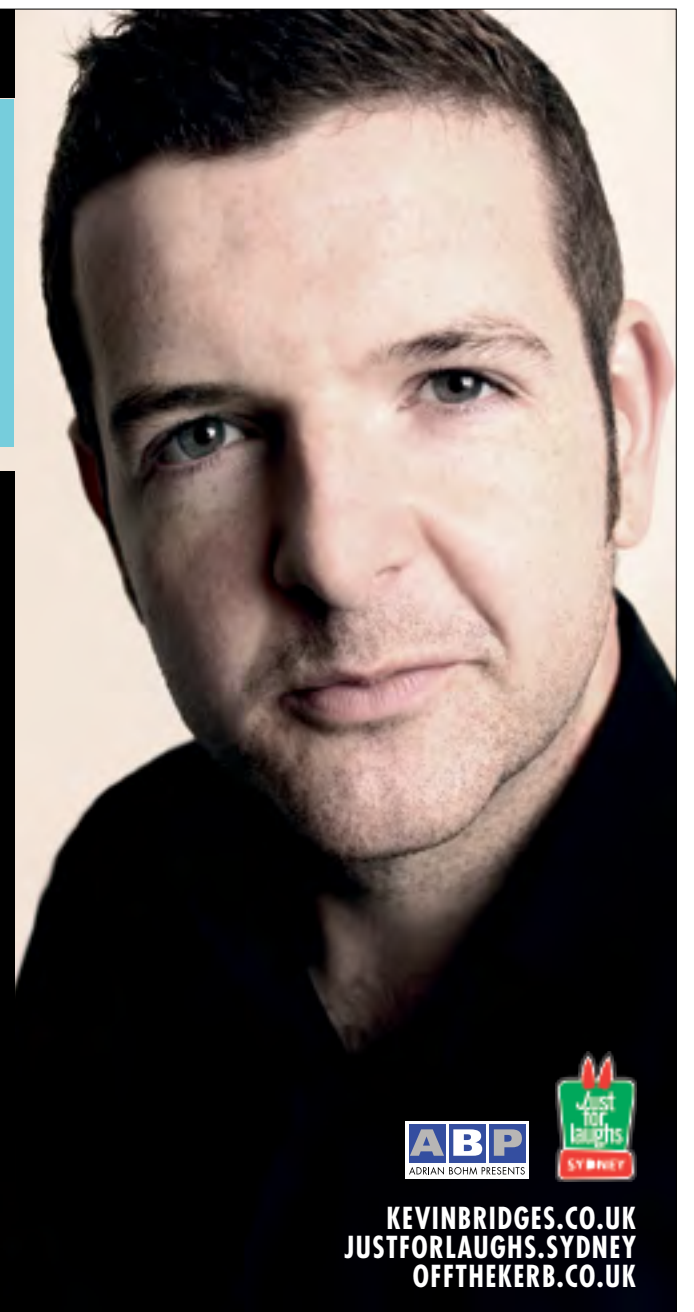
'BRITAIN'S BEST STAND UP' - The Sun

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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 via our website, by post 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.



As you read this know that there are only a few more weeks of summer here in the north left, so enjoy yourself. Our summer was very good because our local Scottish festival was revived this summer after taking a year off to reorganize. We knew that it may be scaled down a bit and it was but that didn't stop a great crowd coming to support it. It just shows that where there are people with a smidgen of Scottish DNA they will gather to enjoy the pipes, food, and dancing. Our summer here in Ontario, Canada tended to be wet with rain as happens every so often. So I used those wet days to do some genealogical endeavours. By helping out others I am finding tricks to better the organization of my own family research.

Pedigree chart

Firstly, I fill in a pedigree chart with my ancestors giving birth, marriage and death dates and places. Each person has a number: 1. For yourself 2. For your father and 3. For your mother etc. Then each ancestor and their numbers has a separate file where I keep copies of those births, marriages, deaths certificates and any other documents pertaining to their lives as well as photographs. This I do for everyone on the tree. Lastly, I make a summary list of individuals with their numbers and list what certificates I have for them. So I can see at a glance what I have for a person and of course what I still need without going through reams of documents. I hope this helps you. I find this gratifying to be able to wade through all data without getting overwhelmed by paperwork.

Bouglas

We have some interesting names to look at this month. Ms. Elizabeth Aitken from somewhere in Australia asked about the Border surname Bouglas. Ms. Aitken suggested that the name maybe a variation of the name Douglas and I have to admit I was wondering if it was a typo. It is in fact a Border name sometimes spelled Buglass or Bookless for lands in the Melrose, Roxburghshire. Historically known as Booklawes or Bukelaws. One suggestion is that it was from buck laws or stag hills. Another is from the Gaelic "buidh glas meaning yellow and blue/gray". The oldest record of the name 1220.

Bullard

Again from Australia, Mr. David Sheridan asks about a name on his maternal side, Bullard. While not a Scottish name in derivation it is found in Scotland at various stages of our history. One might suspect that it is from bull-herd or bull-ward but it is in fact a variation of Bullar

a non-complimentary name. It is from the Old French bole or boule for one who as a fraud or deceptive. Bullar a name at one time for one who printed false bulls or leaflets. I do see some families of that name on the 1841 census in Dunbartonshire.

Jenkin

As mentioned in the August issue of the *Scottish Banner*, Mr. Lindsay Campbell of Upper Hutt, New Zealand wrote to us with an extensive list of surnames which caught his eye. Mr. Campbell was researching family history in the parochial registers of Dunoon and Kilmun where he came across entries of surnames that he found interesting. Although these names weren't necessarily in his own family, he felt that they should be addressed in this column to which I agree.

First on this month's list is the name Jenkin. A variation of the forename John. "Jun" or "Jen" is the Flemish form probably arriving in the 12th and 13th century. The

Old English "kin" element added to denote a younger person or as progeny of a John. Translated it would be read as "little john." Earliest recording of the surname in Scotland is 1565.

Next name is Lennie from the lands of Leny, parish of Callander, in Perthshire. One John de Leny had the surname when witnessing a charter in 1270. Another form of the name may have originated from Linay, a land name in Ronaldsay, Orkney. Rob Lenay was mentioned there in 1576.

Whytelaw

From the very French sounding name Gaston we find, it has been in Roxborough for centuries. A Hendrie Gastoun was mentioned in the region in 1567. Possibly it has the French connection for one being a native of Gascony in France. However, English sources have it as variation of Garston for one who is a dweller near a grass enclosure.

Mack as a surname would seem to be a name that would identify someone as a true Scot. It is in fact a Border name primarily in Berwickshire. Recorded as early as 1424 as "Makke". Thought to be a Scandinavian word which was originally "Makr" or "Maki." Gaelic influence may have the name from a place name in Yorkshire named Macwra, which would be equivalent to MacGraw, MacRath or MacRae meaning son of Grace.

Last on the list is Whytelaw. The surname is from a place name, for the lands of Whitelaw in the parish of Morebattle in Roxburghshire. "Law" the last element of the name usually means a hill in Scots so the name is quite generic when as white hill read. John de Whytelaw rendered homage to King Edward I in 1296 as many nobles in Scotland did. Spellings over the centuries included Quitelaw, Quytelaw and Whitlau etc. Thank you Mr. Campbell for that list.

Scottish surnames

Not all Scottish surnames have a tartan or a clan but that doesn't make them any less Scottish. There are so many origins of Scottish surnames. Flemish, Viking, Scottish Gaelic, Norman French. French that came in the entourage of Mary Queen of Scots, and English. Yes, English, Scots "Inglis" was a language for over a thousand years in Scotland before the union in 1707 after which it became fashionable to speak London English and regulated Inglis to the five major dialects in Scotland.

Therefore you should know by now that we love hearing from you so drop us a line or an e mail and ask about that family surnames that has you curious. The Chinese have a saying: "May you live in interesting times." sounds like a good plan to me. I can only add, may your September be one that you can tell your grand "weans" about.

Iolaire tragedy remembered



Newly digitised material being made available for the first time to tell the story of one of the worst ever disasters in Scottish history. The story of the worst peacetime shipping disaster since the *Titanic*, when 205 soldiers returning from WWI died within sight of Stornoway harbour, is being remembered at the National Library of Scotland. A new website has been created to raise awareness of the tragic events of New Year's Day in 1919, ahead of the 100th anniversary of the disaster. It was described by the *Stornoway Gazette* as "the blackest day in the history of the island."

The men were aboard the *HMY Iolaire* and looking forward to being reunited with loved ones when the ship struck rocks called the Beasts of Holm, at the entrance to Stornoway Harbour. There were only 79 survivors. Scarcely a family was left untouched in the close-knit communities of Lewis and Harris. "The homes of the island are full of lamentation - grief that

cannot be comforted," reported *The Scotsman* on January 6, 1919. "Carts in little processions of twos and threes, each bearing its coffin from the mortuary, pass through the streets of Stornoway on their way to some rural village, and all heads are bared as they pass." So many people died that the island ran out of coffins and they had to be brought in from elsewhere to bury the dead.

Reflections on the disaster

The dual language Gaelic/English website features reflections on the disaster from descendants of both survivors and those who perished, together with video interviews with John Macleod, author of *When I Heard the Bell - The Loss of the Iolaire*. The story is also told through historical newspapers, maps and documentary sources in both Gaelic and English. Some of these have been newly digitised and made widely available for the first time. The site includes artistic

responses to the tragedy, including poetry and early 20th century Gaelic songs.

In his interview, John Macleod recalls the waste of it all. "These men did not die heroically in war. They were killed by colossal carelessness and human error. A ship ran aground in not really bad weather conditions on a notorious reef well off the main shipping line by utterly incompetent officers."

Alice Heywood, Learning Officer at the National library of Scotland who has worked on the development of the website said "The site aims to give visitors a starting point in looking at the impact the tragedy had on both the community of the time and what we can learn from it today. It includes contributions from the community on the Isle of Lewis and related items in the Library's collection to provide an overview of events on that fateful day."

The website can be found at
www.digital.nls.uk/learning/iolaire



Scotland's top 25 historical objects announced

The Lewis Chessmen are part of Scotland's History in 25 Objects.

From a Roman distance slab to a medieval football, Antarctic goggles to a dancing fiddle- VisitScotland has revealed the top 25 objects that have shaped Scotland's history in a stunning 25 objects ebook. The list has been compiled by an expert panel for the 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, the 25 objects cover over 5000 years of Scottish history and the length and breadth of the country from Shetland to Dumfries and Galloway. The objects were chosen based on chronological and geographic spread alongside their individual interesting stories. The final 25 were chosen by a panel that included representatives from Historic Environment Scotland, National Museums of Scotland, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and VisitScotland.

Scotland's fascinating past

VisitScotland hopes that visitors will go on a trail to discover as many of the objects as possible and in turn discover more about Scotland's fascinating past. The oldest object in the list is a barbed harpoon point

(originally found in the MacArthur Cave, Oban) that dates back to the Middle Stone Age, and is one of the earliest instruments used to hunt and fish in Scotland. The most modern in the list is Dolly the Sheep - the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell - who is currently housed at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and celebrated her 20th anniversary in 2016.

More unusual objects on the list include the Orkney Venus - the earliest known depiction of the female human form - which dates from the Neolithic period and was uncovered at the Links of Noltland on the Orkney island of Westray in 2009.

A violin which ignited Robert Burns' rebellious streak, revealing more about the great Bard's personality is another object that makes the final cut. The Gregg Violin was owned by Burns' dance teacher, William Gregg. In around 1779, Robert Burns started taking dancing lessons and wrote that he hoped these new skills would 'give my manners a brush', but it was most likely an act of rebellion because his father did not approve of such seemingly sinful behaviour.

Full list of Scotland's History in 25 Objects:

1. Barbed Harpoon Point
2. The Orkney Venus
3. Poltalloch Jet Necklace
4. The Carpow Logboat
5. Mousa Broch
6. Roman Distance Slab
7. Carved Footprint
8. St. Martin's Cross
9. The Lewis Chessmen
10. Stone Effigy at Sweetheart Abbey
11. Robert the Bruce Equestrian Statue
12. Honours of Scotland
13. Oldest Football
14. Castle of Mey Tapestry
15. Penicuik Jewels
16. Bonnie Prince Charlie's Travelling Canteen
17. The Gregg Violin
18. Sir Walter Scott's Desk
19. Mackintosh Trail Music Room
20. Paisley Shawls
21. Tom Morris Junior Medal
22. Dallas Dhu Stencil
23. Captain Scott's Snow Goggles
24. Steam Locomotive "Maude"
25. Dolly the Sheep

The national tourism organisation is encouraging the public to suggest their own ideas for objects that have played a part in Scotland's history that haven't been included in the list. Suggestions can be made on social media using the hashtags #25objects #hha2017

Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology began on 1 January 2017. To date, hundreds of events have happened across the country including Scotland in Six, Weave, Edinburgh's Georgian Shadows, Tradfest, Dig it! 2017, Festival of Museums and a range of activity across Historic Environment Scotland locations.

Scotland's rich and colourful history

Gwen Raez, Senior Marketing Manager at VisitScotland said: "After months of deliberation, we're delighted to unveil the list of 25 objects that we think best represent Scotland's rich and colourful history - but it is by no means an exhaustive collection and we know there will be many more out there that people want to add! We chose items that were not only important to the history of the country, but also had an interesting narrative behind them and would inspire people to find out more. Scotland's history, heritage and archaeology are among the top reasons for visiting Scotland. 2017 is the year to delve into the past and discover Scotland's fascinating stories through a wide-ranging, variety of new and existing activity to drive the nation's tourism and events sector, boosting tourism in every single corner of the country. We hope lots of visitors enjoy this fascinating e-book."

Dr Jeff Sanders, Dig It! 2017 Project Manager at the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland said: "As you can imagine, capturing thousands of years of Scottish prehistory and history with just a handful of objects was not an easy task! It's great to see a mixture of old favorites and unexpected items come together to tell a story that opens with the first hunter-gatherers and stretches all the way up to our living memory. Now that the list has been revealed, it's the perfect time to discover Scotland's stories for yourself during the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology."

Scotland's History in 25 Objects is now available to download at:
<http://ebooks.visitscotland.com/25-objects/>

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By: David
C. Weinczok

Craigmillar Castle.

artillery line and one of his own guns proceeded to explode.

Mons Meg's barrel burst in 1680 while marking the visit of the future James VII. It did a stint in the Tower of London before being returned to Edinburgh in 1829, and it has had a home in Edinburgh Castle almost constantly since. You'll find it next to St Margaret's Chapel, and it's devilishly fun to stand behind it and imagine firing off a shot. There are three other items on the Edinburgh 101 list inside the castle as well: the Stone of Destiny, Crown Jewels, and wooden doors in the old prison marked with graffiti by American, French and Spanish prisoners of war.

Craigmillar Castle yew trees

There are actually quite a few castles and tower houses in Edinburgh, though of course Edinburgh Castle itself is by far the best known. A real contender, though, is Craigmillar Castle, now receiving a lot more attention thanks to being used for filming in season three of the hit television series *Outlander*. Having been to just under 300 Scottish castles now, Craigmillar always ranks amongst the must-sees I recommend to visitors.

One reason is that its atmosphere is that of a 'proper castle', a hard-to-define concept but you know it when you're

101 objects around Edinburgh have been selected to represent the city's sprawling history.

in one. Craigmillar has countless nooks and crannies to explore, remarkably intact curtain walls, and significant and bloody historical events to recount. Perhaps my favourite feature, though, are the yew trees flanking the entrance to the main gate. No one knows for sure how old they are, but they make entering the core of the castle feel like walking into a *Game of Thrones* set.

Mary, Queen of Scots spent time unhappily at Craigmillar on several occasions. Most notoriously, during a stay in 1566 the 'Craigmillar Bond' was hatched between several nobles to murder Mary's husband, the oafish Lord Darnley. Life at Craigmillar was otherwise mostly peaceful, a place to escape the mire and masses of the city.

The full list of 101 objects can be found at the dedicated website www.edinburgh.org/101, and you can 'visit' the objects on social media by using and searching #Edinburgh101. Travel and heritage writers, myself included, will be sharing lots of photos, videos and information about them in the coming months. There is so much more to discover, from Britain's largest fossil to a carving of an angel playing the bagpipes in St Giles Cathedral. With 101 quirky corners of Edinburgh to explore, it's a comprehensive tour of one of the world's most storied cities.

David C Weinczok is a heritage professional, presenter and adoptive Scot based in Edinburgh. Twitter: @TheCastleHunter

Visitors to Scotland's ancient capital are being invited to discover the rich history of Edinburgh through its most treasured objects over a time span of 1,000 years. 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. The city is a showcase of history and whether you are walking its streets or discovering its treasures online Edinburgh 101 celebrates the story of Edinburgh and allows people to connect with Edinburgh's history in a unique way as David C Weinczok explains.

The story of Edinburgh is an epic still in the making. From its volcanic origins, whose upheaval gave us Castle Rock and Arthur's Seat, to the insatiable minds of the Enlightenment and the frantic Fringe Festival, it's nearly impossible to do the capital justice. But Edinburgh World Heritage, an independent charity that seeks to engage people with the city's UNESCO World Heritage status, has come as close as you can.

101 objects around Edinburgh have been selected to represent the city's sprawling history. From the 350 million-year-old rocks of Hutton's Section in the Salisbury Crags to Dolly the Sheep, the first cloned mammal, the diversity of the objects means there is an Easter egg hunt in the making for all interests. I have only been to around forty after living in Edinburgh for six years, so it's been a real joy discovering extraordinary places and artifacts.

David Hume's Toe



David Hume's toe.

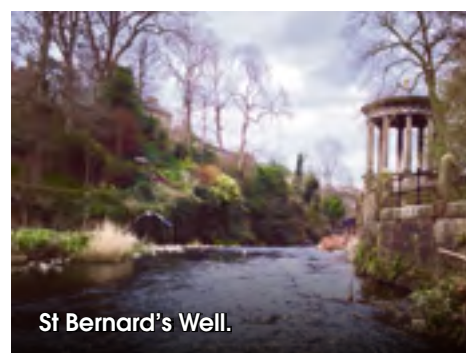
Irony and self-deprecation is something that Edinburgh does well, with sculptures and statues seemingly a favourite means of mischief. A case in point: David Hume's right big toe.

Living in a time when superstitions were beginning to give way to science and reason, Hume was an objectivist to the core – if it

couldn't be observed in the physical world and measured empirically, he had no time for it. We have Hume to thank in no small part for the development of the scientific method, for humanism, Enlightenment and skepticism. On the other hand, he knew well that the course human life is often decided by passions rather than reason. He might have found a chuckle, then, in the fact that visitors and students in the city since the late 1990s have rubbed his toe for good luck!

Some view the rubbing of Hume's toe as little more than a vacuous, vain photo opportunity for tourists with selfie sticks. And sometimes it is. But the sculptor, Sandy Stoddart, seems on board, stating in a 2006 interview with *The Scotsman* that "We are seeing the birth of an ancient tradition...the more people are seen to do that kind of thing, the more cultivated and cultured they become." While that may be slightly optimistic, Edinburgh World Heritage has clearly embraced the idea, encouraging myself and other history geeks to rub the toe on a recent walking tour. I like to think it's history in the making.

St Bernard's Well



St Bernard's Well.

The New Town of Edinburgh is the Enlightenment in stone, its streets, gardens and symbolism all designed to encourage rational individuals. While that may not have entirely worked out, it did become home to some of the finest minds in science, literature and philosophy. Many of those minds looked back to ancient Greece and Rome for inspiration, where St Bernard's Well would have fit right in.

In the late 1780s three schoolboys found a mineral spring here, and a local eccentric, Lord Gardenston, championed its healing abilities. He commissioned a pillared temple and statue of Hygieia, goddess of health and cleanliness – a much needed morale boost in a city so dirty it was called 'Auld Reekie'.

St Bernard's Well gets a mention in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, listed amongst Edinburgh's "...environs, the most delightful in the world". The stretch of the Water of Leith between Stockbridge and Dean Village is one of the most beautiful yet least well-known sections of the city, just 10 minutes' walk from Princes Street yet blissfully secluded. It is also very historic, with mills being recorded here in the early 1100s and many of the colourful buildings have their origins in the 16th century.

Mons Meg



Mons Meg.

If ever curiosity killed the cat, that cat was James II (r. 1437-1460). The Scottish king had a fascination with artillery bordering on obsession, often watching demonstrations of cannons in his free time. Such was his enthusiasm that when Duke Philip of Burgundy was shopping for a gift for the Scottish king in 1449, he settled on Mons Meg.

Capable of firing a 250kg stone around 2 miles, the behemoth bombard was more a status symbol than a practical weapon. Still, despite its bulk and the staggering logistics of hauling it anywhere, its shot battered the walls of Norham, Dumbarton and Roxburgh castles. Roxburgh is where James II was killed when he was inspecting his

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.



The Last Tram

***But ye Cannae go tae heaven on a Number 3 car,
For a number 3 car, don't go that far.***

A Glasgow University student song. (The number 3 travelled through Mosspark to Glasgow University)

The adult passengers on our tram had travelled aboard tramcars all of their lives but few had ever asked themselves how they worked or what half of the paraphernalia on them was for. Yet much of a tramcar's technology was open and exposed for all to see. That was part of what made them interesting for us children to look at and to ride on.

Tramcars had charisma

Glasgow's electric trams had survived three wars and the economic depressions of the 1920's and 1930's. They dominated the city's streets and captured our imaginations; for a 17 ton vehicle that clangs, rumbles and rattles along to its fixed destinations upon steel rails, giving off sparks, could readily do that. Tramcars had charisma. They had personality and character and their journeys had the added attractions of requiring all sorts of procedures to be undertaken and things to be done to them all along the way.

Blue sparks often shot between the bare copper wires of the overhead cable and the long pole fixed to the roof of the tramcars. The pole itself carried a small metal trolley or stud that was arranged to press against the live suspended wire and run smoothly along under the cable's surface. In spite of this, there were times when the trolleys in the older tramcars would suddenly leave the wire and bring the tramcar to an unscheduled standstill. Then the conductor, with a quiet curse, had to get out and use a big wooden pole to re-connect the trolley to the wire. To solve this problem, later trams were fitted with bow collectors which allowed a wider area of contact.

Auchenshuggle

To give notice of our tramcar's approach there was a heavy gong fixed under the footman's platform. This was struck by means of a heavy clapper pressed down by a foot tramp. There was another foot tramp used to release sand, sometimes required to improve traction whilst braking

or when the rails were wet, greasy or iced up. Both tramps were sunk into holes in the floor. But today the weather was fine and our tramcar finally lurched to a standstill. We had reached our destination, the terminus at Auchenshuggle. Our conductor immediately dashed upstairs to change the destination blinds and turn all the swing back seats and backrests over to the opposite way for the return journey. As we left, he then dashed downstairs again to release the trolley rope from the dash rail to give a strong pull on the rope to swing the trolley pole around and on to the 'down' wire for the return trip

Glasgow's electric trams had survived three wars and the economic depressions of the 1920's and 1930's.

As we looked tentatively around us at Auchenshuggle the tram driver was making some changes. He brought the small brass reversing handle, the air brake handles and the larger one used to regulate the speed of the motors from the rear to the front of the tram. He then fitted these back on to the controller for the return journey whilst the conductor reset the circuit breaker. After checking the pressure on his air brakes the driver, standing erect, pushed the small handle on the controller, his other hand on the air brake, and the tramcar started running again. Meanwhile, the conductor put a card into a clock-like device to clock-in their departure time. By now we were taking in the sights of our special destination, Auchenshuggle. Disappointingly there was practically nothing there of interest. The magic was indeed in the name and not the place, so we made our way instead up to Alexandra Park and the Monkland Canal instead.

Trolleybuses

Glasgow was late in introducing trolleybuses to its streets but the routes grew quickly. As youngsters we used to seek them out just for the novelty of riding on one. That interest did not last for long. We soon discovered that

trolleybuses were like castrated tramcars. They were tramcars without the sparks, the rattle and the noise of steel upon steel. They never had the vitality and character that made tramcars exciting and attractive to us and that brought about fond memories that endured into our adulthoods. They did not even have the noise and sway of a bus. This cross between a tramcar and a bus meant that they were neither fish nor fowl. They had some of the same restrictions of operation as the tramcar but were not as flexible as a bus. They were also brandished with the unfortunate nickname, 'the silent deaths' because of their ability to sneak up quietly upon unsuspecting pedestrians crossing Glasgow's busy streets. They were introduced in April 1949 and left the Corporation's service, ignominiously, in May 1967. That was not the case when Glasgow's beloved tramcars were taken out of service.

The last tram, the No.9 Auchenshuggle to Dalmuir West, travelling at a maximum speed of 8 miles per hour, ended its service at the beginning of September 1962. Following that on the 4th September 1962, a historical selection of Glasgow's tramcars made its way through the city, for the last time. It so happened I was travelling into the city to go to a jazz concert, with my girlfriend, Jean, and some of our friends. We had not been thinking about the final procession, for with the arrogance of youth, we had more important things to do. As fate would have it our number 23

bus travelling from Pollok to Broomielaw was held up and brought to a standstill at Pollokshields, at the very point where there was one of the tram depots.

Glasgow's citizens loved their tramcars

There were crowds of people lining the streets as some of the tramcars destined to become exhibits in the transport museum passed into the depot at Albert Drive. By accident, and not by design, our group ended up with box seats, upstairs on the bus, watching part of the historical procession of Glasgow's tramcars. Neither Jean nor I remember anything about the jazz concert. It may have been Acker Bilk or Kenny Ball performing that night but we do remember that last procession of trams.

I had always enjoyed travelling on Glasgow's tramcars as a boy but now that I was a youth I was still to learn how much I would miss them from our streets. All Glasgow's citizens loved their tramcars, and Jean and I now value the fact that we inadvertently joined 250,000 other Glaswegians who came out that night, in a carnival atmosphere, to farewell them in style. They had become a familiar symbol of stability in old Glasgow. They well deserved our thanks for their long and valued service to the city and if Glasgow's city fathers and other citizens had known then, what they know now, they or their successors would still be 'shoogling' along on Glasgow's cobbled streets.

Alasdair Fraser ★★ ★

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Sir Malcolm MacGregor and Lady Fiona MacGregor fishing on the River Spey.

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

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 the Highlands where I am perched on the grass by the River Spey. The water is a good height and the MacGregor is on the bank, casting a long line across the stream. Yesterday one of our fishing party landed a twenty-three pound salmon, so we have high hopes of catching something for the pot...

Angling is vitally important to the Scottish economy. It brings in fishermen and women from all over the world. If you take into account the amount of money they spend in local hotels, restaurants and shops each silvery salmon that is hooked is said to be worth thousands of dollars to the local area.

The Riviera of the North

The Spey is one of our premier rivers. Dark, wide, rushing – and breathtakingly beautiful, especially at this time of year. Mossy banks are covered with blue and yellow wildflowers. Feathery ferns cover rocky mounds. Rowan trees are heavy with fat orange berries. The trees are still gloriously green, and white and purple heather clings to silvery grey hillsides.

This is a real Highland morning. It is not quite autumn, but there is still a slight chill

and a haze on the horizon. As the day goes on, the mist will clear from the mountains and the sun will peep through the clouds. For despite an early nip in the air, this place has a relatively mild climate. Indeed, it has been called the 'Riviera of the North'.

There is perhaps some exaggeration there! This is Scotland. No matter: at least the midges are missing today. Then a red squirrel leaps from the branches of an ancient Douglas Fir and a hatch of gaudy flies floats across the water. A kestrel flies silently overhead scanning the ground for something good to eat.

Morayshire

This is Morayshire – and it is a whisky region with eight distilleries within a seventy-mile radius. Nearest to us is the MacCallan, a famously delicious malt. A little further down the road is the Aberlour distillery, its smoothness no doubt fed by numerous surrounding golden fields of barley. If you come here one of these days – and I do hope you do – take the Speyside Malt Whisky Trail – and get yourself a driver so you can have a dram or two on the way...

To soak up all that alcohol you will, of course, need some food – and the nearby town of Aberlour is home to a famous brand of biscuit. If the wind is in the right direction you can smell the baking as you pass by. The Walkers Shortbread business

was started in 1898 when Joseph Walker opened a bakery with a loan of just a few dollars. Then he used a horse and cart to deliver his moreish wares. By the 1960s the firm had a fleet of fourteen vans and today, these sweet offerings in their tartan packaging are put on ships and planes to be sold all over the world.

Whisky and shortbread. It is all very Scottish. And, to be honest, this month has been very Scottish. First of all, the chief and I visit the Lochearnhead Games in Perthshire where the MacGregors and

Angling is vitally important to the Scottish economy.

It brings in fishermen and women from all over the world.

MacLarens hold sway and where the tug-of-war is one of the star attractions. What fun it is to watch lines of kilted men digging in and holding on for dear life, before being dragged across the grass...

The Young MacGregor

Then there is the annual Langholm Common Riding: two hundred horses and their riders thronging the streets of this

small Borderland town; proclamations being thundered out in the town square; pipe bands, brass bands, giant thistles and barley bannocks all adding to the festive feel as locals celebrate another year of marking proud Borderland traditions.

Finally, there is the piping concert we attend near Dumfries. It marks the end of a week-long course for youngsters who want to learn to play the bagpipes – and some of them have the makings of being very good, indeed. As a special treat one of the course tutors, a piping expert, plays *The Young MacGregor*, a complicated tune written for my husband's father when he was just thirteen years old. I am told it was composed in 1938 by a Scots Guards pipe-major. And so I learn something new. The Scots Guards piping book is said to be the bible of the piping world. It is the chief's former regiment. How good is that?!

But back to the river. So far the MacGregor has had no luck. Then that is angling for you: incessant expectation and perpetual disappointment. Perhaps I will have to have a go myself. After all, everyone knows we ladies catch the biggest fish! Until the next time, I wish you tight lines...

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

The Galloway Hoard-Viking objects on display



Following allocation of the Galloway Hoard to National Museums Scotland by the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (QLTR), part of the Hoard has gone on display for a short period as part of a fundraising campaign to raise the necessary £1.98 million to save it for the nation.

National Museums will put a selection of items from this unparalleled find on temporary display at the National Museum of Scotland until 1 October 2017. The items are on loan from the QLTR and will give visitors a first glimpse of this unique hoard of Viking-age gold, silver and jewelled treasures.

Delicate conservation

The treasures on display have not yet been fully cleaned or conserved. The fragile nature of many of the items in the Hoard as a whole, means a rigorous process of review and delicate conservation work will be necessary before the long term display of individual items can be planned.

Dr Gordon Rintoul, Director of National Museums Scotland said, "We have only months in which to raise the necessary funds to acquire this spectacular treasure hoard

and save it for the people of Scotland. The Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (QLTR) has kindly granted us permission to put a selection of the Hoard on short-term display to support our fundraising campaign. I would encourage everyone to come along to the National Museum of Scotland to enjoy a first glimpse of this outstanding Viking-age silver. There is not much time and we are seeking the public's support in saving this extraordinary treasure."

Viking-age hoard

The Hoard brings together the richest collection of rare and unique Viking-age objects ever found in Britain or Ireland. It is of international significance and will transform our understanding of this period of Scottish history. Uncovered by a metal detectorist in Dumfries and Galloway, the Galloway Hoard comprises in excess of 100 gold, silver and other items from the Viking Age. It was buried at the beginning of the tenth century, although some of the items within the Hoard date from an earlier period.

The bulk of the find is a rich Viking-age hoard of silver jewellery and ingots. However, it also contains an outstanding range of exceptional precious metal and jewelled items including a rare gold ingot, a gold bird-shaped pin and a decorated silver-gilt cup of Continental or Byzantine origin. The cup is carefully wrapped in textiles and is the only complete lidded vessel of its type ever discovered in Britain or Ireland. This vessel contains further

unusual objects: beads; amulets of glass and rock crystal; pilgrimage relics; a silver penannular brooch; another rare gold ingot; five Anglo-Saxon disc brooches of a kind not found in Scotland before; and jewelled aestels, pointers used to read and mark places within medieval manuscripts.

Rare opportunity

Other finds from around Britain or Ireland have been exceptional for a single type of object—for example, silver brooches or armlets. However, the Galloway Hoard is unique in bringing together a remarkable variety of objects in one discovery, hinting at hitherto unknown connections between people across Europe and beyond. It also contains objects which have never before been discovered in a hoard of this age. Incredibly, fragile textiles, leather and wooden fragments have also survived, providing an extremely to research and reveal many lost aspects of the Viking Age.

The Galloway Hoard is on display at the National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh until 1st October 2017. For details see: www.nms.ac.uk



By: Marie Gibson, Promotions Officer, Townsville Scottish Community Inc.

Townsville Scottish Weekend

Photos: Laurell Bourne.



This year's big Scottish weekend in Townsville was every bit as popular and full of patriotic Scottish pride as in previous years. The Clansmen's Ceilidh lived up to its name with 135 people from many clans coming together to feel moved by the skirl of the pipes, to watch a Scottish country dancing display then join in the ceilidh dancing with great gusto, enjoy a delicious roast beef meal and of course share a dram or two with friends.

The following morning dawned a perfectly crisp and cool tropical winter morning, just perfect for kilts, building to bright sunshine and a clear blue sky for the rest of the day. Celtic Fyre opened the day with rollicking tunes on centre stage then three pipe bands marched across Victoria Bridge, throwing the sound of the pipes and drums over the river and echoing around the CBD. The Kirkin' of the Tartans

on the steps of Victoria Bridge included an emotive rendition of *Amazing Grace*.

The Parade of Tartans

The Parade of Tartans again featured 50 clan banners making a great display behind the massed bands and was cheered by a massive crowd. A new addition this year was a kilted strongman event by the Iron Roots Laddies. The performance stage featured Highland and Scottish country dancing, Iain McKenzie playing accordion and Celtic Fyre with their unique combination of traditional and contemporary Scottish tunes.

People added their family's heritage to the Clans in Townsville Tree and others explored their family origins with the assistance of the volunteers from the Family History Association of North Queensland. The highlight of the weekend was undoubtedly the atmosphere. People

came together to celebrate their shared Scottish heritage and to remember the significance of the day – the lifting in 1782 of the English ban that had prevented the Scots from wearing their tartan since 1746. Let's do it all again next year!



Aberdeen to be hit hardest by Brexit



Aberdeen is predicted to be worst hit by Brexit according to a study, by the Centre for Cities and the Centre for Economic performance at the London School of Economics. The city's economy is heavily reliant on the oil industry, and Brexit's impact will be driven by how it effects this one sector. Other UK cities predicted to be hit hard by the Brexit process are Worthing, Slough, Reading Swindon, Edinburgh, London, Aldershot, Leeds and Ipswich.

Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce chief executive, Russell Borthwick, said: "Clearly there are challenges associated with whatever type of Brexit outcome we see but we are hopeful that the technology, skills and innovation for which this area is renowned will stand us in good stead to see this as an opportunity rather than a threat."

Tartan of the Month

Obama Family 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.

The Obama Family tartan (Reference: 11839) was commissioned by the Hunter Foundation to commemorate the visit of former US President Barack Obama when he flew in to Scotland on 26 May 2017 to play golf at St Andrews. He went on to speak at a prestigious dinner in Edinburgh and was presented with a kilt and trews made by Slanj Kilts. The red, sky blue and white colours in the tartan are taken from the flag of Chicago where Mr Obama lived and worked, navy blue represents the Hawaiian flag where Mr Obama was born and green represents the Kenyan flag to honour Barack Obama Senior's family roots. This tartan was designed by Brian Halley of Slanj Kilts and registered in July, 2017. A woven sample of this tartan has been received by the Scottish Register of Tartans for permanent preservation in the National Records of Scotland.



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Huge crowds watch the 2017 World Pipe Band Championships unfold

All photos courtesy of Glasgow Life.



Photo: 2017 World Pipe Band Champions, Scotland's Inveraray and District Pipe Band.

Inveraray and District Pipe Band have been named the World Pipe Band Champions for 2017. They fought off stiff competition from Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band who finished second and St Laurence O'Toole from Dublin who were third. This was the 70th anniversary of the World Pipe Band Championships which Glasgow has hosted for more than 30 years continuously.



219 Pipe Bands brought around 8000 pipers and drummers to Glasgow Green to compete at the World Pipe Band Championships. Approaching 35,000 people attended the event over 2 days. Bands from 15 nations including USA, Canada, Northern Ireland, France, England, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Austria, Netherlands, Republic of Ireland, Switzerland, Denmark, Argentina and Scotland took part at Glasgow Green with Scotland doing well across all grades.

Magnificent performances

The first ever World Pipe Band Championships were held at Murrayfield in Edinburgh in 1947. The event was first held in Glasgow in 1948 and has been staged in the city continuously since 1986.



Glasgow's Lord Provost Eva Bolander, who was Chieftain of the World Pipe Band Championships 2017 said: "My heartiest congratulations to everyone who competed at the World Pipe Band Championships. As a former pipe-band member I know exactly how much work goes into producing such magnificent performances. Next year will mark 70 years since the Worlds were first held in Glasgow and we are already looking forward to another fantastic occasion."

Ian Embelton, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association said: "We have enjoyed two outstanding days of musical performances of extraordinary quality. It's been a competition full of drama, excitement and above all some brilliant playing from the best bands in the world who continue to set new standards. It has been an unforgettable occasion for everyone who joined us."



As well as the best pipe bands in the world, the event also hosts Highland games, Highland dancing and a great showcase of Scottish food and drink. This year, the Worlds, as they are affectionately known, are part of the celebrations for Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. The World Pipe Band Championships are being supported by EventScotland, part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate.



THE RESULTS OF THE 2017 WORLD PIPE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Grade 1

- 1 Inveraray and District
 - 2 Field Marshal Montgomery
 - 3 St Laurence O'Toole
 - 4 Scottish Power
 - 5 Simon Fraser University
 - 6 Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia
- Drumming: Inveraray and District

Grade 2

- 1 The Glasgow Skye Association
 - 2 Lomond and Clyde
 - 3 St Thomas Alumni
 - 4 City of Dunedin
 - 5 MacKenzie Caledonian
 - 6 Manorcunningham-Eire
- Drumming: Lomond and Clyde

Grade 3A

- 1 Royal Burgh of Stirling
 - 2 New Ross and District
 - 3 Marlacoo and District
 - 4 Coalburn I.O.R
 - 5 St Joseph's-Eire
 - 6 Deeside Caledonia
- Drumming: Royal Burgh of Stirling

Grade 3B

- 1 Royal Burgh of Annan
 - 2 Bothwell Castle
 - 3 Quinn Memorial
 - 4 The Highlanders(4 Scots)
 - 5 Major Sinclair Memorial
 - 6 Kevin R. Blandford Memorial
- Drumming: Royal Burgh of Annan

Juvenile

- 1 Dollar Academy
 - 2 George Watson's College
 - 3 George Heriot's School
 - 4 West Lothian Schools
 - 5 Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate
 - 6 Robert Malcolm Memorial
- Drumming: George Heriot's School

Grade 4A

- 1 3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland
 - 2 Tullylagan
 - 3 McNeilstown
 - 4 Denny and Dunipace Gleneagles
 - 5 Cullybackey
 - 6 Dunbar RBL
- Drumming: Tullylagan

Grade 4B

- 1 College of Piping Summerside
 - 2 Kildoag
 - 3 Lisnamulligan
 - 4 Culter and District
 - 5 Cullen-Eire
 - 6 Davison Mains and District
- Drumming: Bucksburn and District Novice

Novice A

- 1 Ross and Cromarty P&D School
 - 2 Dollar Academy
 - 3 Oban High School
 - 4 George Watson's College
 - 5 George Herriot's School
 - 6 Peoples Ford Boghall and Bathgate
- Drumming: George Watson's College

Novice B

- 1 Lochalsh Junior
 - 2 Oban High School
 - 3 Bucksburn and District Novice
 - 4 MacKenzie Caledonian Juvenile
 - 5 North Lanarkshire Schools
 - 6 Sgoil Lionacleit
- Drumming: Bucksburn.

Aberdeen Highland Games



The power of the Heavies.



Bands on display.



Leading the march.



The grace of Highland Dance.

Glorious winter weather helped bring out the crowds at this year's Aberdeen Highland Games in the Upper Hunter Valley in New South

Wales. A full day of entertainment and large variety of stalls made this year's event another great success. The Aberdeen Highland Games continues to be one of the highlights of the

Australian Scottish event calendar and has been taking place each July at Jefferson Park since 2000.

For more details on this great Scottish event see: www.aberdeenhIGHLANDGAMES.COM

Photos courtesy of Amanda Gaffney- Ray/Aberdeen Highland Games.



ISLA GRANT

IN CONCERT

Australia

ALBURY | TUE 5 SEP
BENDIGO | WED 6 SEP
HAMILTON | FRI 8 SEP
WARRNAMBOOL | SAT 9 SEP
MT GAMBIER | SUN 10 SEP
WANGARATTA | TUE 12 SEP
GRIFFITH | THU 14 SEP
GOLD COAST | SAT 16 SEP
LISMORE | SUN 17 SEP
FRANKSTON | TUE 19 SEP
SHEPPARTON | WED 20 SEP
HORSHAM | THU 21 SEP
BALLARAT | FRI 22 SEP
SALE | SAT 23 SEP
GEELONG | SUN 24 SEP
WAGGA WAGGA | TUE 26 SEP
CANBERRA | WED 27 SEP

New Zealand

ASHBURTON | FRI 27 OCT
BLENHEIM | SAT 28 OCT
NELSON | SUN 29 OCT
GREYMOUTH | MON 30 OCT
OAMARU | WED 01 NOV
INVERCARGILL | FRI 03 NOV
DUNEDIN | SAT 04 NOV
CHRISTCHURCH | SUN 05 NOV
TIMARU | TUE 07 NOV
PALMERSTON NTH | FRI 10 NOV

WOLLONGONG | THU 28 SEP
BATHURST | FRI 29 SEP
DUBBO | SAT 30 SEP
NEWCASTLE | SUN 1 OCT
PORT MACQUARIE | TUE 3 OCT
TAMWORTH | WED 4 OCT
MARYBOROUGH | FRI 6 OCT
TOOWOOMBA | SAT 7 OCT
ROCKHAMPTON | SUN 8 OCT
CALOUNDRA | TUE 10 OCT
BUNBURY | FRI 13 OCT
ALBANY | SAT 14 OCT
PERTH | SUN 15 OCT
DEVONPORT | FRI 20 OCT
LAUNCESTON | SAT 21 OCT
HOBART | SUN 22 OCT

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The return of Outlander

Cast images courtesy of Starz/Foxtel.

The Scottish Banner speaks to Diana Gabaldon

The hit story *Outlander* has taken millions of people back in time to 18th century Scotland and to a love story like no other. *Outlander* follows the story of Claire Randall, a married combat nurse from 1945 who is mysteriously swept back in time to 1743, where she is immediately thrown into an unknown world where her life is threatened. When she is forced to marry Jamie Fraser, a chivalrous and romantic young Scottish warrior, a passionate relationship is ignited that tears Claire's heart between two vastly different men in two irreconcilable lives. Author and academic Diana Gabaldon spoke to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on how the concept of *Outlander* came to be, the *Outlander* effect and why the *Outlander* experience is such a success.

SC: Diana thank you very much for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Firstly congratulations on the tremendous success of *Outlander*. You have an academic background, however you have said that since the age of eight you knew you would be a writer. How did the inner voice of that little girl override the Ph.D. graduate to become an author?

DG: Well, it wasn't actually *my* voice, so to speak. When I was eight or so, I was on a family car-outing, driving along on a summer day, watching the big thunder-heads that build up near Flagstaff, Arizona

on days in mid-summer, and chatting with God. (Not formal prayer, it was just a conversation.) I mentioned that I thought what I really wanted to do was to write books "that would lift people up" (is how I put it, not having the vocabulary to describe the feeling of escape fiction adequately at that point—but I knew it when I read it...). To which God replied "OK. Do that."

So I—along with every other person who's wanted to write a book—had no idea how to do that...but I figured there must be a way and I'd figure it out eventually. There was, and I did (at age 36).

SC: I understand you were somewhat inspired to create *Outlander* by watching an episode of *Dr Who*, can you tell us more?

DG: I wouldn't say that, exactly. I saw a very old (Patrick Troughton, the second Doctor) episode of the show (it was *War Games*) in which the Doctor had picked up a companion from the Scottish Highlands in 1746. This companion was a young man who appeared in his kilt—which caused me to think, "Well, *that's* rather fetching..."

I found myself still thinking about this next day—in church—and I then thought, "Well, it doesn't matter where or when you set this novel; the important thing is just to pick a point and get on with it. So, why not? Scotland, eighteenth century." So that's where I began: knowing nothing about Scotland or the eighteenth century, having no plot, no outline and no characters—nothing, in fact, save the vague images conjured up by the notion of a man in a kilt. Which is, I think you'll all admit, a very powerful and compelling image...

SC: The first book *Outlander* was never meant to be published or even seen by anyone, as you have said you were merely developing your writing skills and craft. Based on this how do you feel it has helped you create the characters and develop storylines with such raw honesty?

DG: Well, I felt free to write the story exactly as I saw it and felt the natural shape of it, as I didn't have the usual beginning writer's constant fear of what their family or friends will think of what they're writing. My family and friends were never going to see it, so it didn't matter. Extremely freeing, and I strongly advise anyone who wants to write not to tell anyone about it until they've done it.

SC: You have sold over 25 million books which have been translated in over 20 languages, are you amazed just what a connection people around the world have with *Outlander*? Also how many more books do you think it will take to tell this amazing story?

DG: Er...28 million and 43 countries at the moment, actually. Yes, I'm constantly amazed (and not infrequently bemused when I get some of the foreign covers. The Korean one with the pink soap-bubbles was *possibly* the oddest one, but there's a lot of competition for that spot...).

SC: You had not been to Scotland when writing the first book. What was your first trip like to the country after seeing it through the eyes of someone who had "travelled" Scotland already whilst working on the book?



Caitriona Balfe (Claire Randall Fraser), Diana Gabaldon and Sam Heughan (Jamie Fraser).

DG: I can't say whether it was simply having seen so much of the country via photographic and other visual media—it's a beautiful place, and there's no shortage of pictures! Or just having been in a mental state where immersion and imagination meet, but when I stood on the Carter's Bar and looked off into Scotland, rolling greenly upward off into the distance, what I thought was...."Yes." Yes, it *was* just as I'd imagined it. And yes, it had a definite sense of coming....perhaps not coming home, but coming to a place where I was expected.

SC: Gaelic was the spoken language of the Highlands in 18th century Scotland. How important was it for you for historical accuracy to incorporate the language into *Outlander*? Also *Outlander* has brought a renewed interest to the Gaelic language, how does this make you feel?

DG: Fascinated, deeply moved, and responsible. It was very important to me to indicate (as best I could) what the actual historical/cultural context of the Highlands was, at the time I was depicting. In part, that's just the scholar's sense of obligation—I was an academic for many years before beginning to write novels—but it was also part of an overall perception/principle that I'd noted.

To wit: accuracy in detail is one of the best ways to insure a sense of reality in fiction. And if you're writing something that involves fantastic elements...you really *have* to make the reader believe in the details of daily life and ordinary human actions. If you can do that, when you then ask them to jump off a cliff (by believing in time-travel, say...), they'll follow you over the edge without the slightest hesitation.

How to produce accuracy in a language you don't speak? Well, you need help... I started with a modest Gaelic/English dictionary, procured with some difficulty (Gaelic speakers being thin on the ground in Phoenix, Arizona in 1988, when I began writing *Outlander*). Then things started happening, we (my agent and I) sold the book as the first volume of the trilogy, and I told my husband that I really must go see Scotland now.

While there, I procured a much bigger and more thorough Gaelic/English dictionary, which I used in the writing of *Dragonfly in Amber*. That novel, too, was well received, and I began to get fan-mail. (Real letters; email didn't exist, either.) Among these lovely letters was one from a gentleman named Iain MacKinnon Taylor. Mr. Taylor praised my books, saying how wonderful it was to see Scottish history handled so well, and how much he enjoyed the story. He then coughed metaphorically and said delicately that he had just one observation: he had, he said, been born on the Isle of Harris, and was a native Gaelic speaker. And, "I think you must be getting your Gaelic from a dictionary."

It wasn't, he said, so much that the words I was using were wrong, as that I had no grammar, voice, or idiom with which to arrange them. Might he, perhaps, offer his assistance? To which my response was a fervent, "Mr. Taylor, where have you *been* all my life?"

Iain was able to help me through several books, and when he developed health issues that prevented him from continuing, I was so fortunate as to find further help from Catherine MacGregor (a Canadian of Scottish extraction, who modestly styles herself a "learner") and her good friend



Catherine-Ann MacPhee, whom your readers probably know as a prominent television presenter and singer—and a native of Barra. I remember one letter from Iain, though, in which he told me that he was very much afraid that Gaelic was a dying language, and might well vanish in the next ten or fifteen years. To which I replied, "That may be so, Iain—but if the language does die, it won't be because you and I didn't try."

SC: The "*Outlander* effect" has seen fans of both the books and the TV series flock to see the Scottish locations featured in *Outlander*. How proud does that make you feel that your books have had such a positive impact to Scotland's tourism industry?

DG: Astonished, grateful, and very humble, I tell you!

SC: The television series returns to screens this month, ending what some call "Droughtlander", and the show has been a huge success all over the world. How involved are you today in keeping the production as close as possible to your written works?

DG: I'm a consultant on the show. Which means that they send me scripts, they send me the many (many, many) revisions of each script, they send me the daily footage (or pixelage) that they shoot on set each day, and they show me the various episodes as they're assembled—each one goes through several iterations before achieving its final form.

The production people invite my comments, and as we get along well together, they often see my point and will try to accommodate it. Nine times out of ten, they can; the tenth time, they'll explain why they can't.

They aren't, however, under any legal compulsion to pay attention to me. They *can* do anything they want with the show. So it's a good thing that they have a lot of respect for the fans of the books, as well as some for my opinions.

SC: You would have the most intimate connection with the characters spirits and



Sam Heughan as Jamie Fraser.



Caitriona Balfe, Diana Gabaldon and Sam Heughan on set in South Africa.

minds, whilst writing the books did you mentally create a physical appearance of those characters? Having watched the show I see each actor very much as the character they play. Was that the same for you or was there any adjustment for you to the characters you already had so well developed for many years prior to the series filming an episode?

DG: I don't *create* a physical appearance for anyone; they just *have* a physical appearance, which I can then describe for people who can't see them. (And, to answer an increasingly common question, no, I don't now see Sam Heughan and Caitriona Balfe when I write. I still see Jamie and Claire Fraser as they *really* look.)

SC: And finally Diana you have called your books "big fat historical fiction". *Outlander* mixes so many genres with time travel, raw intimacy, brutal history and Scotland's stunning scenery. How do you feel each genre helps create the overall *Outlander* experience for fans?

DG: Well, if you asked a hundred people what they liked about my books, you'd



Caitriona Balfe (Claire Randall Fraser), Tobias Menzies.

find at least fifty different answers. I'm not the first writer to realize—or to say—that I only *begin* a book; each reader finishes a different one. All I can say is that it doesn't matter what genre you like to read; you'll find some of it in my work!

Diana Gabaldon's latest release *Seven Stones To Stand or Fall- A Collection of Outlander Fiction* is now available. Diana is also now working on the 9th *Outlander* installment called *Go Tell The Bees That I Am Gone*. For more information see: www.dianagabaldon.com

***Outlander* Season 3 premieres September 11 on showcase.**



IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Scottish scientists using whisky waste to help the salmon industry

Scotland's whisky distilleries could soon become the source of an economically-competitive supply of omega-3 for salmon feed. Scientist Douglas Martin has developed an omega-3-rich microalgae that feeds on the nitrates and phosphates in the waste water from the whisky-making process. Martin, who has a Master's degree in synthetic biology and biotech from Edinburgh University, has secured funding for his start-up company MiAlgae so he can optimise the production process and grow enough algae for trials with feed manufacturers. He said confidentiality agreements prevented him from saying which distillery he was working with but added that it was "one of the big ones".

The finite supply of forage fish in the world's oceans means the expanding aquaculture industry has had to look elsewhere for omega-3 in salmon diets and algae is an increasingly established source. TerraVia produces algae in South America for BioMar using fermented plant sugars, and joint venture Veramaris recently revealed plans to build a \$200 million commercial-scale facility for producing algae in Nebraska in the US.

MiAlgae's operation would differ by obtaining nutrients and low or no cost, a win-win for MiAlgae and distillers. Another advantage is the fact that the waste water is also cleaned of potentially harmful phosphates and nitrates before it is put back in the system.

The National Trust for Scotland trademarks Scottish location and battle names



Reenactors at the Bannockburn Live event in Stirling.

The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) has trademarked the rights to a variety of

major Scottish names such as the Battle of Bannockburn, St Kilda, Glenfinnan, Culloden, Glencoe and Soldier's Leap. The NTS has taken out trademarks in order to protect the historical and charitable areas from exploitation and maintain the brand in which they represent.

An NTS spokesman said: "The National Trust for Scotland does hold the trademark for the name Glencoe and as such there are restrictions on how the name can be used by other parties. The purpose of this was to protect them from being acquired by commercial organisations with no links to these areas, as well as providing an opportunity for the Trust to raise awareness of these places and its role in caring for them."

New of the trademarks came to light recently in Scotland as the NTS sparked fury when their lawyers ordered Aboyne-based Hilltrek Outdoor Clothing to stop selling its £365 Glencoe waterproof jacket, which it has done for over 30 years under that brand name. Subsequently the NTS has been accused of bullying after threatening the small business with legal action.

New whisky distillery for Glasgow



A whisky firm has revealed plans to build a new £10.7 million urban distillery and bottling complex on the banks of the River Clyde. Douglas Laing & Co said the ambitious project will be built at Pacific Quay, the facility will also include a bottling complex, visitor centre, whisky laboratory and archive, and a new corporate head office for the family-owned company. The new venture will also see the launch of the firm's Govan-based malt whisky and create up to 38 new jobs.

Chris Leggat, finance director for Douglas Laing & Co, said the distillery will produce a 'gritty, urban style of malt'. "We won't be making a traditional Lowland whisky; the exact opposite in fact," he said. "We'll be looking for more strength and a style more toward the Speyside and Highlands. Our whisky will be unique for one produced in the Lowland area of Scotland. We're looking at a whisky that's designed for the palate of what we believe consumers are interested in. We've been making whisky for almost 70 years, so we're playing to our strengths and maximising our knowledge of the industry."

This will be the company's first dedicated site as they have previously used distillers across the country to make its blends. Water will be piped to the complex from Loch Katrine, and 300 tonnes of barley will be brought in from Scottish farms to create whiskies such as Old Particular, Timorous Beastie and The King of Scots.

Scotland's largest solar farm given go-ahead



Planning permission has been granted for what will be Scotland's largest solar farm, a 20MW project in the north-east of the country. Moray Council approved Bristol-based developer Elgin Energy's plans for the solar farm near Urquhart, which could see around 80,000 solar panels installed. The 47-hectare site will include a substation and 20 inverter stations, with all cabling to be underground. This is intended to ensure the farm maintains a strong environmental condition, allowing sheep to graze around the panels and hedgerows to grow undisturbed.

Moray Council planning & regulatory services committee chair Cllr Claire Feaver said: "A significant amount of renewable energy will be generated by this solar farm over the next 30 years. The opportunity to continue grazing on the land, together with the habitat management plan, will maintain and enhance the diverse range of species in and around the site. I see this as a win-win."

The project will overtake Scotland's current largest farm, a 13MW system at Errol Estate in Perthshire, which was opened in May 2016. The scheme was also developed by Elgin Energy and is capable of generating power more than 3,500 homes. Permission for the Moray solar farm is valid for 30 years, from the first time energy is exported from the site. A date for the start of the project has yet to be set but is expected to begin in the next few months. As well as the solar panels, the site will consist of a substation, 20 inverter stations and a CCTV camera system, all bound by a two-and-a-half metre high deer fence.

Film director Oliver Stone among Edinburgh honorary graduates



Academy award-winning film director Oliver Stone is among the public figures who received an honorary degree from the University of Edinburgh this past summer. The filmmaker received the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa at McEwan Hall, Mr Stone was awarded a degree in recognition of his prominent and politically engaging career in film. Stone has won three Academy Awards, as Best Director for his Vietnam War dramas *Platoon* (1986) and *Born on the Fourth of July* (1989) and for Best Adapted Screenplay, as writer of *Midnight Express* (1978). Before becoming a filmmaker, Stone served in the US Army and experienced combat duty in the Vietnam War, receiving numerous military awards for his service.

Other recipients of Honorary Degrees included a leading social entrepreneur and figures from the worlds of media and the arts. Entrepreneur Josh Littlejohn, who founded Social Bite – a growing chain of sandwich shops run as a social business – was awarded a Doctor of Science in Social Science. A quarter of their staff have been affected by homelessness and 100 per cent of the business' profits go to good causes. The venture gained worldwide profile when Hollywood star George Clooney visited one of its Edinburgh sandwich shops in November 2015.

Journalist Magnus Linklater – former editor of *The Scotsman* and *The Times* in Scotland – was awarded a Doctor Honoris Causa. Broadcaster Michael Mosley – a familiar figure on screen with his engaging, lively health and science documentaries – was awarded a Doctor of Science and Sculptor Andy Scott – best known for his popular Kelpies creation in Falkirk received a Doctor honoris causa.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Death of St Giles, patron saint of Edinburgh (and Elgin). **714**

1 - The sole remaining gas street lamp in Glasgow was lit for the last time. **1971**

2 - Death of engineer, road, bridge and canal builder Thomas Telford. He was buried in Westminster Abbey. **1834**

2 - Bill Shankly, arguably the greatest football manager ever, was born in Glenbuck, Ayrshire. His early career saw him winning seven caps for Scotland as a professional footballer. At the age of 33, Shankly was approaching the end of his playing days, so when the 1946-47 season brought professional football back post-war, Shankly embarked on a new career as a manager, he was appointed chairman of Liverpool in 1959. At this time Liverpool was languishing in the Second Division. Shankly turned this situation around and elevated Liverpool to the top of the league, the envy of all other clubs.. Shankly died of a heart attack in 1981. **1913**

3 - Prince Charles Edward Stuart proclaimed his father as King James VIII of Scotland at Perth. **1745**

3 - Rioting on the streets of Glasgow, as weavers expressed their anger at wage cuts. Workers burned their looms in the streets, and bricks were thrown at magistrates and soldiers, in protest at the city manufacturers' proposal to reduce the scale of wages. The disorder resulted in soldiers opening fire on the insurgents and six people were killed. **1797**



4 - The last of the famous green and yellow tramcars ran in Glasgow. The final scheduled tram ran from Dalmuir to Auchenshuggle in the city's East End, and marked the demise of a transportation system dating from August 1872. More than 200,000 Glaswegians turned out to bid a poignant farewell to the trams. **1962**

4 - The Forth Road Bridge was opened to the public. Construction had begun in 1958, and at 6,156 feet long, with a centre span of 3300 feet, the suspension bridge spanning the River Forth at South Queensferry outside Edinburgh was the longest in Europe at that time. **1964**

5 - John Home, the Scottish playwright, historian and minister, died. Home outraged the Church when his verse tragedy, Douglas, enjoyed a successful run in Edinburgh after its first performance in 1757. **1808**

6 - The Earl of Mar unfurled the standard of the "Old Pretender" in Braemar at the start of the first Jacobite Uprising. **1715**

7 - Sir Simon Fraser, the "Scottish Patriot", who fought alongside Wallace and Robert the Bruce, was executed by the English and his head displayed in London alongside that of Wallace. **1306**

7 - The birth of Henry Campbell Bannerman, the British Prime Minister. Born in Glasgow and educated at Glasgow and Cambridge, Bannerman became the Liberal MP for Stirling in 1868, a position he held until his death. He climbed the parliamentary ranks, before becoming leader of the Liberal Party in 1899. Bannerman became Prime Minister in 1905 following Balfour's resignation, and led his party to a landslide victory in the 1906 general election. **1836**

8 - The hanging and beheading of John Baird and Andrew Hardie in Stirling, following the Battle of Bonnymuir in April. The Radicals, who were on strike from the weaving communities in outrage at decreased wages, had marched from Glasgow towards the Carron Iron Works in Falkirk. **1820**

9 - James IV and the flower of Scotland's nobility were killed in battle at Flodden Field, near Branxton, in the English county of Northumberland. **1513**



9 - Mary Queen of Scots was crowned in the security of Stirling Castle. Although only six days old at the time, Mary's coronation took place in the castle chapel following the death of her father, James V. **1543**

10 - HRH Duke of York opened the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow. **1897**

10 - The Scots were defeated by the English at the Battle of Pinkie Cleugh, or Falside, near Edinburgh. The battle was sparked by the "Rough Wooing"; the English demands that the ten-year-old Edward VI should marry Mary Queen of Scots, aged five. The military campaign by Henry VIII on the Borders followed the reneged agreement by the Scots Parliament that the two crowns would be united by marriage. The battle was fought at Pinkie Cleugh (cleugh meaning narrow glen in Gaelic) outside Musselburgh and can be regarded as the first "modern" battle on British soil. **1547**

11 - Battle of Stirling Bridge, Wallace (as famously portrayed by Mel Gibson in *Braveheart*) and Andrew de Moray led Scotland to victory against the forces of England's King Edward I. **1297**

11 - The Referendum on Devolution in Scotland which approved the creation of a new Scottish Parliament. In the 1990s, the Labour Party had revived the idea of devolution and, on their return to power in 1997, the first moves were made. The referendum received an overwhelming "Yes" vote in favour of establishing a Scottish assembly with tax-raising powers, with 74.3 per cent voting for a Scottish parliament and 63.5 per cent in favour of it having tax-raising powers. The Scottish Parliament was formally opened by the Queen on 1 July 1999, with Labour politician Donald Dewar invested as the first minister, at the helm of a Labour-Liberal Democrat coalition government. **1997**

12 - Jacobites defeated government forces at Battle of Sheriffmuir. **1715**



12 - The death of William McNab, the curator of the Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden. McNab was one of the greatest of 19th century Scottish gardeners, responsible for reviving the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh, elevating it from a state of neglect into one of the world's great plant collections. **1848**

13 - Battle of Aberdeen, in which the Marquis of Montrose captured the city. **1644**

14 - Bonnie Prince Charlie, Charles Edward Stuart, occupied Edinburgh. **1745**

15 - The *Hector* from Loch Broom, near Ullapool, arrives at Pictou, Nova Scotia, carrying emigrants escaping from the Clearances. It is estimated that today there are more than 140,000 descendants of these emigrants living in Canada and the United States. **1773**

16 - Scottish explorer David Livingstone discovered Lake Nyasa, Africa. **1859**

16 - Jacobite forces routed Hanoverian dragoons on the outskirts of Edinburgh in what was known as the Canter of Coltbrig. At the beginning of September Charles had entered Perth. He had then crossed the Forth unopposed at the Fords of Frew and, after passing through Stirling and Linlithgow, he arrived within a few miles of Edinburgh. **1745**

17 - David Dunbar Buick was born in Arbroath. Buick emigrated to the USA with his parents at the age of two and founded the Buick Manufacturing Company which later became General Motors. **1854**



18 - Theatre Royal, Glasgow, became the first theatre in Britain to be lit by gas. The Queen Street Theatre's consent to be "illuminated with sparkling gas" in the presence of a large and fashionable audience was a significant advance. **1818**

18 - Scotland holds a Referendum on independence. More than 3.6m people turned out to answer the referendum question: 'Should Scotland be an independent country?' 55.3% voted no and 44.7% voted yes. **2014**

19 - The Great North of Scotland Railway opened, running from Aberdeen to Huntly. **1854**

20 - Liner *Queen Elizabeth II* launched at John Brown's shipyard at Clydebank. The ship was not named after the Queen, but rather was the second ship to bear that name. This is why the Arabic '2' is used in the name rather than the Roman numerals used by the Queen. The ship made its maiden voyage in 1969. **1967**

21 - King James V crowned at Stirling Castle. **1513**

21 - Prince Charles Edward Stuart emerged victorious at the Battle of Prestonpans. The Jacobite army of just over 3,000 under Bonnie Prince Charlie heavily defeated the English Royal forces led by Sir John Cope. **1745**

22 - Alex Salmond defeated Margaret Ewing by 486 votes to 186 to become National Convenor of the Scottish National Party (SNP). Salmond is credited with improving the credibility of the SNP by projecting a moderate image and presenting the party as a realistic alternative to the Labour Party. He would go on to become First Minister of Scotland. **1990**

23 - The Earl of Mar was commissioned to raise a regiment nicknamed "Earl of Mar's Gray Breeks" which later became the Royal Scots Fusiliers. **1678**

24 - Edward Balliol, son of John Balliol, crowned at Scone. He was deposed by supporters of David II in December 1332, restored in 1333, deposed again in 1334, restored in 1335 and finally deposed in 1341. **1332**

25 - The first telephone cable connecting the UK and North America "went live". 2,240 miles long, the cable ran from Gallanach Bay, near Oban in Argyll and Bute, to Clarenville, Canada. **1956**

26 - Queen Margaret, Maid of Norway ("Eiríksdóttir") died, en route from Norway to Scotland. **1290**



27 - The 80,000-ton liner *Queen Elizabeth*, then the largest passenger ship ever built, launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank. **1938**

28 - "Battle of the Clans" between clans Chattan and Kay on the North Inch, Perth, in front of King Robert III. **1396**

29 - Charter granted to Sir William Alexander of Menstrie to colonise the "Baronetcy of Nova Scotia". **1621**

29 - John Cobb made an attempt at the world water-speed record on Loch Ness which ended in tragedy as the boat crashed and Cobb was killed. Cobb was a racing driver who had broken the land speed record in 1938, 1939, and 1947, when he became the first man ever to attain a speed of 400 miles per hour on land. In 1952 he made an attempt on the water speed record. On his first run, he became the first person to break the 200 miles per hour barrier, but his boat crashed shortly afterwards and he was killed. **1952**


30 - Announcement of the discovery of penicillin by Ayrshire-born Sir Alexander Fleming. **1928**

30 - John Rae, explorer and surveyor of Canada's northern coastline was born in Orkney. Several Orkney born explorers worked in the Canadian Arctic in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, but Rae was the most outstanding. Rae was recently granted a posthumous Freedom of Orkney from the local officials. **1813**

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Coyle	MacCoyle	
Dole	MacDole	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	MacDougal
Dougal	MacDougall	MacDougald
Dougle	Mcdougle	MacDougald
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDugle
Dowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
MacDowell	Macdowell	MacDowell
Lullich	McLulich	MacCullich
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MacHale	McHoul	MacHeul
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info@macfarlane.org

MACFARLANE.ORG

Arms of the International Clan MacFarlane Society
granted by Scottish Kings of Arms, 16 January 2007



Clan MacInnes

International Association of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

All spelling variants of MacInnes are welcome
worldwide: (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Innis,
(Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Ninch, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Canse,
(Mc)Masters, (Mc)Innes, (Mac)Masters

www.clanmacinnes.org

Eric Perry, Director-Member Services 14 Jakes Lane,
Dexter, ME 04930; eric@macinnes.org

 **Clan MacKenzie
Society in the
United States**

All Mackenzies and septs, their
descendants and friends are invited to join
this charitable membership association.


Barbara MacKenzie, Treasurer
PO Box 20454 Cheyenne, WY 82003-7011
Phone: 307-214-4817 Email: cmustreas@gmail.com
Website: www.clanmackenzie.com

CLAN MACKENZIE SOCIETY
in Australia Inc.

 Membership enquiries
welcomed from Mackenzies
of all spellings and Septs 

Contact: N Dennis, 61 Alma Street,
EAST MALVERN 3145 : Ph 03 9569 5716

Visit our website
Check out your Tartan and Sept
www.clanmackenzie.org.au



Clan Mackintosh

Membership in Clan Mackintosh of North America is available to all persons bearing the name of any of the clans or septs of Clan Mackintosh. Associate memberships are also available to those interested in the clan.

<p>Canada Mr. David J. Elder 46 Dunvegan Dr. Chatham, Ont. N7M 4Z8</p>	<p>U.S.A. Margaret McIntosh, Secretary 301 Smugglers View Jeffersonville, VT 05464</p>
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Clan MacLaren
 MACLAREN MACLAURIN LAWRENCE LAWSON LOW[E]
 LOW[E]RY LAW[E] PATTERSON MACPATRICK MACRORY

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

Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.
Treasurer
6409 Knollwood Drive
McKinney, TX
75070-6032
Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

Invites all MacLellans and their descendants regardless of surname spelling to join in preserving our heritage. Various family names are MacLellan(d), McClellan(d), McLellan(d) and Gilliland.

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net



Clan MacLeod

Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods,
Septs (of any spelling) and descendants.

Askey	MacAndie	MacCorkill	
Beaton	MacAskill	MacCrimmon	
Bethune	MacAulay	MacGillechallum	
Caskie	MacCabe	MacRaid	Norie
Harold	MacCaig	MacWilliam	Tolmie
Lewis	MacClure	Norman	Williamson

NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
South Australia - Nicole Walters 0415 654 836
Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334

Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

Clan MacLeod Society U.S.A., Inc.

Cordially invites membership inquiries from
MacLeods, any spelling, sept families,
their descendants and other interested persons.

Aukoy	Auley	Beaton	Bethune
Beton	Callan	Callum	Casky
Caskie	Grimmond	Harold	Harold
Lewis	MacAlban	Macdonie	Macdonie
Macaskill	MacAnay	MacCabe	MacCaig
MacCallum	MacCaskie	MacCaskill	MacClave
MacCorkill	MacCorkie	MacCorkindale	MacComisdale
MacCrimmon	MacCraig	MacGillechaluim	MacHarold
MacDonald	MacLewis	MacLure	MacRaid
MacWilliam	MacLommon	Norie	Nornie
Norman	Normand	Nicol	Nicholson
Tolmie	Williamson		

Members receive our newsletter as well as our international magazine.
We have had an ongoing Migration/Genealogy Project since 1972.
For information visit the MacLeod tent at any major Scottish Festival
or Highland Games or write to Anne MacLeod, Membership Secretary,
Re: Banner Ad anne@macleod.comcast.net



Clan Macnaghten Association Worldwide

Sir Malcolm F. Macnaghten of
Macnaghten, Bart - Chief of Clan

Chairman - Peter McNaughton - 360-686-8451

We welcome membership from all Scots named MacNaughton or any of the Septs on our Website: Contact the Membership Secretary, Vice-Chairman or Regional Commissioners in:

Australia - Regional Commissioner - Bruce McNaught
+61 7 3266 2047 bruce@brucemcnaught.com

W. Canada - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughton
250-999-9636 milesccmmac@aol.com

New Zealand - Regional Commissioner - John Macnaughtan
+64 9 441 4984 macnaughtan@xtra.co.nz

USA - Membership Secretary - Mary Nivison Burton
541-401-2613 membersec@clanmacnaughton.net

WWW.CLANMACNAUGHTON.NET

 **Clan Macneil**
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Invites all Macneils... regardless of surname
spelling, some of which are listed below:
MCNEILL MACNEIL MACNEAL MACNIEL
MCNEELY NEAL NEILSON O'NEILL
to join us in preserving our heritage. Contact: Rhoswyn Darby
McNeill, VP, Membership, PO. Box 230603, Montgomery
AL 36123-0603, (334) 834-0612. E-mail: rdarbytgm@aol.com

CLAN MACNICOL SOCIETY, INC.
Member of The Highland Clan MacNeacail Federation

 Welcomes persons of the names
Nicolson, Nicol, MacNicol in all spellings

For membership inquiries, contact:

USA	CANADA
Jeremy Nicholson	Jacques McNicoll
P.O. Box 501166	202 Berlioz Apt 203
Atlanta, GA 31150-1166	Verdun, QC H3E 1B8 Canada
macnicolsociety@bsn1.net	Email: mcnicollclan@videotron.qc.ca
www.clanmacnicol.org	www.clanmacnicolcanada.com

**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 MacNicol
 Nicolson, Nicholson,
 Nicol, Nichol, MacNicol,
 Nicoll, Nicolls and similar

**Chief: John MacNeacail of
 MacNeacail and Scorrybreac**

*For membership
 inquiries contact:* Ross Nicolson
 22 Bellevue Drive
 Carlingford NSW 2118

www.clanmacnicol.com

Clan Macpherson Association



Clan Macpherson welcomes enquiries from Macphersons and members of our Associated families. For information contact your local representative, our web site www.clan-macpherson.org/branches/, or the 'Official Clan Macpherson Association' Facebook page

Australia. John L Macpherson
greymac@acenet.com.au
phone +61 2 4871 1123

New Zealand. Tim McPherson
dalmores@xtra.co.nz
phone +64 3 234 5098

USA. Ken Croker
ckcroker@sti.net
phone +1 559 658 6189

Canada. John C Gillies
jcgillies@rogers.com
phone +1 705 4460 280

Scotland. Bill Macpherson
bill.macpherson@glenfeargach.co.uk
phone +44 1577 830 430

Clan Museum. Curator
museum@clan-macpherson.org
phone +44 1540 673 332
(1 April to 30 October)

**THE CLAN MACRAE SOCIETY OF
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**



If your surname is MacRae,
or you are descended from a
person having the surname
MacRae (any spelling) or that of
a Sept of the Clan then you are
eligible to join our Society.

Australian Contact:
Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: learn@vsr.com.au
NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: sue.treg1@gmail.com

Clan MacTavish, U.S.A.

Under the patronage of Chief Steven MacTavish of Dunardry invites you to join us in celebrating our history. Cash, Holmes, MacTavish, Stephenson, Stevens, Thompson, Thomson, Todd & other variants.

www.clanmactavish.org

Membership Info:
Clanmactavishusa@gmail.com or
PO Box 686, Milford, OH 45150-0686

CLAN MAITLAND SOCIETY

 **CHIEF: IAN MAITLAND**
THE EARL OF LAUDERDALE


WE ARE ALL RELATED!
Contact your local society

NORTH AMERICA
Rosemary Maitland Thorn
rthcmnvpdrclan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

AUSTRALIA
Carole Maitland
4230 Colac - Lavers Hill Road Weesaprouniah, VIC. 3237
carole_maitland@yahoo.com.au

NEW ZEALAND
Judette Maitland
33 Disley Street, Highbury, Wellington 6012. NZ
judette@xira.co.nz

We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale,
Maïlen and similar name spelling.
See the entire list and your family history at:
www.clanmaitland.org.uk




CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

Chief of the Clan
Major Sir Fergus Matheson of Matheson
7th Baronet of Lochalsh

Invites all **Mathesons/Mathesons** or **Kin**
 to join our Clan Society.
 Contact the Chief's Lieutenants in USA

U.S.A.

Malcolm Matheson, III
 P.O.Box 307, The Plains, VA 20198
 Tel: (540) 687-6836, Fax: (540) 687-5569
clanmathsn@aol.com
www.clanmatheson.org



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/>



Clan Montgomery Society International
Join a Thousand Year Tradition

Leonard Montgomery
President
president@clanmontgomery.org
www.clanmontgomery.org



CLAN ROSS
of the United States
David Ross of Ross, Baron Balnagowan,
Chief of the Clan

Invites all Ross, septs and their
descendants to join in
preserving our heritage.

www.clan-ross.org
Contact:
L.O. Ross
105 S. Graham Ave.
Orlando, FL 32803
ClanRoss@theUnitedStates@gmail.com



Clan Young Society Australia Inc.

Ian J Young
Convenor
10 Cedric Street
Parkdale VIC 3195
M: 0409 670 055
E: iyyoung@alphalisk.com.au


Find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/groups/youngofaustralia



**The Robert Burns Club
of Melbourne Inc.**

- Promotes interest in the works, life and milieu of the Scottish Poet Robert Burns
- Celebrates Scottish Culture
- Conducts Annual Burns Supper, Poetry Afternoons & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

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 Balnawrie, 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
USA
Info@ClanScottSociety.org • www.ClanScottSociety.org



Clan WARDLAW Association
Founded 2004

Worldwide organization for all Wardlawes or related families.
We invite you to join us. Email:
clanwardlaw@yahoo.com

'Wardlaw ivermair!'
www.clanwardlaw.com
Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457
Pinehurst, NC 28370

Welcomes membership of anyone interested in the exchange of people and ideas between Scotland and the United States.

Write or phone for our free brochure.
www.scottishheritageusa.org
email: shusa@embarkmail.com
(910) 295-4448



Clan Munro Association, U.S.A.

We are the only national organization of Munro in the U.S.A. affiliated with the Clan Munro (Association) of Scotland.

COME JOIN US!
Web site: **www.Clanmunrousa.org**
Write: Heather Munro Daniel
4600 Lloydrown Road
Mebane, NC 27302



CLAN SCOTT AUSTRALIA GROUP

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

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

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

Scottish Associations and Societies




Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

Promoter of International Tartan Day.
Brisbane, Queensland
PO Box 3188, South Brisbane 4101
Bi-Monthly Newsletter, All things Scottish
All persons of Scottish Descent welcome. **www.aussie-scots.org.au**, Email: secretary@aussie-scots.org.au, Ph 07 3359 8195



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

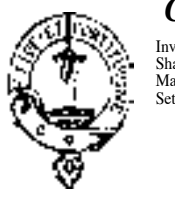


Murray Clan Society of North America

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: Robert W. Murray
2000 Cambridge Ave #329
Wyomissing, PA 19610-2738



Clan Shaw Society

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

Mike Shaw
Secretary
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020



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: fics@ozgaelic.org
Web: **www.ozgaelic.org**
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

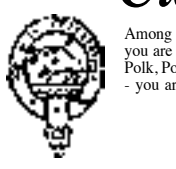


Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria
www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org
Founded in 1905

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, Pouk, 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
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E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com



CALEDONIAN CLUB OF FLORIDA WEST (SARASOTA, FL)

2017 Spring Schedule:
Feb. 4: Scottish Games
Mar. 25: Thistle Ball
Apr. 2: Kirkin' O' Tartans
May 6: Annual General Luncheon
Summer Socials: TBA

Contact: Robert Howard, President 941-376-5514
Email: roberthoward200@gmail.com
Web site: **www.caledonianclub.org**



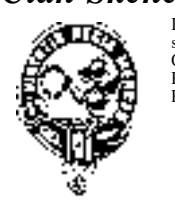
The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited
ABN 30 093 578 860
Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association.

The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC, QLD, 4101, Australia. **www.standrewsociety.com**



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



Daughters of Scotia

A 100 plus year old fraternal order for women of Scottish birth or descent or married to men of Scottish birth or descent whose purpose is to keep alive our Scottish heritage and customs.
For membership information contact:

Ms. Cynthia Ridings
Grand Recording Secretary
2566 Galloway Road
Blue Ridge, GA 30513
706-632-8510
cynthiar5@yahoo.com http://www.daughtersofscotia.org



St. Andrew's Society of Vermont
FOUNDED 1974

P.O. Box 484
Essex Junction, VT 05453

Invites membership inquiries.
David Campbell - President (802) 878-8663



Ross Clan in Australia
The clan is active again in Australia
for information contact Commander Des Ross
(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowan)

We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest
contact Commander Des Ross at lonepiper.ross@gmail.com



The Stewart Society

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.

Please inquire:
The Secretary
53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT,
Tel/Fax 0131 220 4512 **www.stewartssociety.org**



Illinois Saint Andrew Society

Illinois' oldest, largest Scottish organization and owner of The Scottish Home. A unique "assisted living" facility located in a beautiful wooded setting.

For more information on Society membership and programs or The Scottish Home, contact
Gus Noble, President
708-447-5092 or www.chicago-scots.org

Victorian Scottish Union
Established 1905
Umbrella group representing the interest of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria.
Affiliated Clans & Societies for 2013-2014:

Ballarat Highland Dancing	Geelong Highland Gathering Association
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	Morrington 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

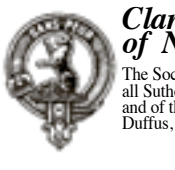
Jan Macdonald: Secretary
Victorian Scottish Union
T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930
E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
www.victorianscottishunion.com



CLAN ROSS AMERICA
ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION MERGED

Many Names - One Clan

Liz Ross, President
Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary
clanmembership@sboglobal.net
PO Box 6341
Plover Forest, IL 60305
www.clanross.org



Clan Sutherland Society of North America, Inc.

The Society cordially invites membership of all Sutherlands (however the name is spelled) and of the associated families: Cheyne, Duffus, Gray, Frederith, Mowat and Oliphant.

Richard Langford
1106 Horseshoe Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24060
e-mail: richard@langfordmail.net

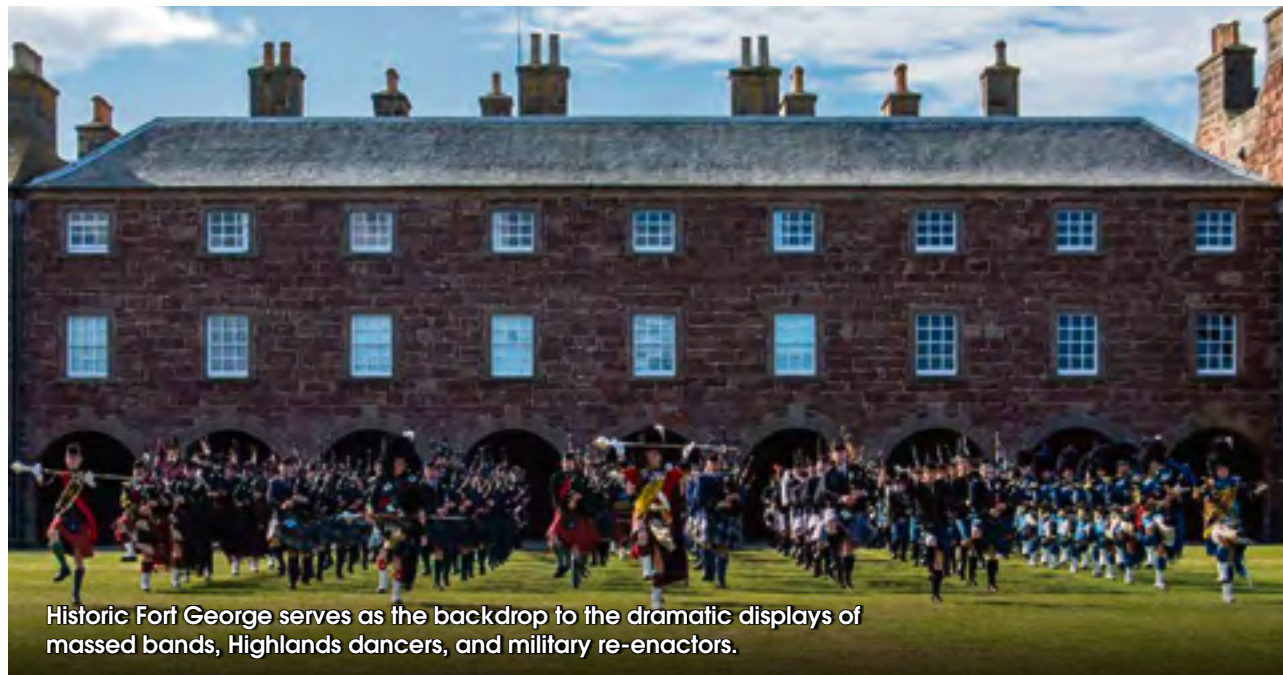


Clan Sutherland Society of Australia

The Society welcomes membership of all bearers of the Sutherland name and any of their septs- (Cheyne, Duffus, Frederith, Mowat (or any variation of the spelling)).

Marie Hodgkinson
212 MacKenzie Street
Toowoomba, 4350
Queensland, Australia
e-mail: william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au
http://goldenvale.wix.com/clansutherlandaus

The Highland Military Tattoo comes to Fort George



Historic Fort George serves as the backdrop to the dramatic displays of massed bands, Highlands dancers, and military re-enactors.

The Highland Military Tattoo is a unique and truly authentic experience. Set inside the magnificent ramparts of Fort George, this spectacular military ceremony showcases impressive acts, reflecting the very best of Scottish history, tradition and military expertise. With a broad appeal and a worldwide audience, the Highland Tattoo attracts visitors from many global countries, along with a faithful local following, returning to see new acts within an annually changing show.

Capital of the Highlands

Inverness remains ever popular as a tourist destination and its status as Capital of the Highlands, affords the city superb communication links, by road, rail, air and sea. The gateway city offers visitors an ideal location to stay whilst touring the wider Highlands, Speyside and Moray area and is on the doorstep of Fort George, making the Highland Tattoo a perfect way to spend an evening, whilst touring Scotland's northern reaches. Access to the Fort is of course free when attending the Tattoo and visitors are invited to take a stroll onto the ramparts and admire Fort George's classical buildings and examine its large cannons and mortars, which defended it and the sea route to Inverness. There's a good chance of spotting dolphins in the Moray Firth too!

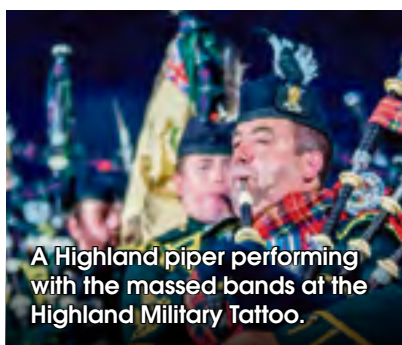
Overhead, there will be an aerial display by an SE5A World War 1 Biplane, to herald the imminent start

of the show and an invite for guests to take their seats. Seating is within three main stands, wrapped around the arena, with the Fort's frontage as the iconic backdrop to the Tattoo. In Visit Scotland's Year of History Heritage and Archaeology, the programme will celebrate the rich military heritage of Fort George, the Highlands and Moray, and the 75th anniversary of the Royal Air Force (RAF) Regiment. The show in fact commences with a Fly-past by RAF Typhoon jets, directly overhead of the main arena and signals the start to the evening's entertainment.

Gaelic Welcome

An array of Massed Pipes and Drums from some 9 military and local bands, The Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, historical vignettes, traditional highland dancing, a clarsach group, Gaelic singing, the Queen's Colour Squadron Drill Team from the RAF Regiment and an Armed Forces' competition with teams from the Royal Marines, Army and RAF battling it out; all take place during the course of the show.

The finale with the RAF Guard of Honour, a rendition of *Auld Lang Syne* and *The Last Post* followed by the Lone Piper, offer an often, emotional conclusion to



A Highland piper performing with the massed bands at the Highland Military Tattoo.

the evening's events; prior to an impressive fireworks display, to celebrate the end of the show.

The Highland Military Tattoo is fast becoming a 'must-see' event in the Scottish tourism schedule, offering locals and visitors alike, a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the heritage and culture of the Scottish Highlands and Moray against the backdrop of the spectacular Fort George.

It is also the year of the Gaelic Welcome and there will be Gaelic songs and the opportunity to learn a few Gaelic phrases. "We look forward to giving all our visitors a warm 'Gaelic Welcome' in September" said Major General Seymour Monro.

The Highland Military Tattoo take's place at Fort George, Ardersier, near Inverness between 8-10 September 2017. For details see: www.highlandmilitarytattoo.co.uk



The Highland Military Tattoo includes a variety of international military bands performing in their finest regalia.



Highland dancers are part of the energy and entertainment of the Highland Military Tattoo.

Work underway on £10m renovation of Scottish maritime buildings



Work has begun on the £10m renovation of maritime buildings in the harbour of Wick in Caithness to act as a hub for the new £2.6bn off-shore wind farm. The buildings were originally designed in 1807 by Scottish engineer and first president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Thomas Telford, to support the areas maritime industry. The new designs for the buildings, which will service the wind farm's 84 turbines have been done by HRI/Munro Architects with consultant Pick Everard, which is providing mechanical and engineering services.

Beatrice Offshore Windfarm is being delivered by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) in joint venture with Spanish-owned Talisman Energy (UK). It is expected to be operational in 2019.

Doug Soutar, director at Pick Everard, said: "The onshore element of the project comprises the conservation, re-planning and part reconstruction of two blocks of the historic Old Pulteneytown area of Wick. These buildings are more than 200 years old and have a longstanding history of being used for maritime purposes." Steve Wilson, senior project manager for SSE, said: "These buildings will become our long-term operations and maintenance base for Beatrice windfarm. These Thomas Telford buildings are a symbol of Wick's industrial and marine past so we are really pleased to be utilising them and in doing so help continue that legacy."



Clan Cameron Gathering Australia Gold Coast, Queensland 20 – 22 April 2018

Host: Clan Cameron New South Wales Inc.
Registration Forms are available on Clan Cameron website
www.clan-cameron.org.au

OR <https://jcam2812.wixsite.com/gathering>
For detailed information

and to follow the Gathering news, visit
www.facebook.com/ClanCameronGatheringAustralia
www.facebook.com/clancameronnswinc/

or contact Lynne Cameron at
CameronGathering2018@gmail.com
All National and International Cameron Descendants and their families are invited to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there

These two squares are QR codes. If you have a smartphone equipped with a camera and you download a QR code reader/scanner application feature you can scan this code and it will take you straight to our Facebook page (left) or our website (right).



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.

AUSTRALIA

SEPTEMBER 2017

4 Adelaide, SA - Adelaide Pipers' Gathering
Piping event in Adelaide. Info: Jack Brennan brennanjack@optusnet.com.au.

5 - Oct 22 Nationwide - Isla Grant Live
Legendary Scottish singer Isla Grant returns with exciting new songs, plus her extensive repertoire of much loved music. Info: www.grand-concerts.com

5 Milton, QLD - Brisbane Smallpipe Session
Smallpipes session. Info: Malcolm McLaren 07 3820-2902 or mrmclaren@bigpond.com.

8 - 10 Point Lonsdale/Queenscliff, VIC - Victorian Scottish Union Conference
Annual VSU events with events including a Ceilidh, conference, youth forum, dinner dance and Kirkin' O' the Tartan. Info: 03 9360 9829 or www.victorianscottishunion.com

9 - 21 Nationwide - Kevin Bridges- Australian Tour
Scotland's biggest stand-up comedian Kevin Bridges will make his way to Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne & Brisbane in support of his highly-anticipated Australian tour. Info: www.abpresents.com.au/current-events/show/kevin-bridges-2

9 Mackay, QLD - Mackay's Bluewater Fling
Mackay's tropical twilight Scottish musical event with massed bands, Celtic Fyre Rock band as Pipe Bands from Townsville, Rockhampton and Mackay. Come and enjoy the hospitality of the tropics and help celebrate Mackay's Scottish heritage at 10 River St. Info: Deborah Orr 0408 877 806 or www.facebook.com/MaDPipeBand

9 Bendigo, VIC - Scots Night Out
Celebrate the official birthday of the Bendigo Tartan and raising funds for Scots Day Out 2018 on Saturday 3 March. At The Metro and Puggs Irish Bar Hargreaves St Cnr Bull St. Ticket information: www.trybooking.com

10 Armadale, WA - Armadale Highland Gathering & Perth Kilt Run
WA's largest Scottish event which features pipe bands, Scottish dancers, Clans, stalls and the Perth Kilt Run, a free community event at Minnowarra Park presented by the City of Armadale. Info: 08 9394 5000 www.armadale.wa.gov.au or www.perthkilttrun.com.au.

10 Rochedale, QLD - Piobaireachd Group Queensland Social
Piping event at Rochedale State High School, 249 Priestdale Rd. Info: 07 3397 4512.

16 Nelson Bay, NSW - Clans on the Coast
Scottish pipe bands, Celtic band, Celtic stalls, caber toss, Celtic dancers & Choir and more at Tomaree Sports Complex, No. 1 Oval. Info: Ron Swan on 0418 495 336 or www.clansonthecoast.com.

16 Toowong, QLD - Queensland State Solos and Mini Pipe Band Contest
Solo & pipe band competitions at Brisbane Boys' College (entrance off Moggill Rd). Info: 0400 953 126 or bbcpipeband@gmail.com

17 Melbourne, VIC - Celtic Piping Sessions
Piping music session 2pm - 5pm, upstairs at the Exford Hotel, 199 Russell St. Info: email@celticpipingclub.com.

21 - Oct 1 Nationwide - Celtic Woman Australian Tour
Celebrating the timeless emotion of Ireland's centuries-old heritage, Celtic Woman will visit Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle and Brisbane on their Voices of Angels Australian tour. Info: www.ticketek.com.au

22 Red Hill, QLD - The Ceilidh Clan Community Ceilidh
Ceilidh dances with live Scottish music that are entertaining, fun and suitable for all ages at Red Hill Community Sports Club. Info: 0409 760 993 or www.ceilidhclan.com.

30 Sydney, NSW - Scots on The Rocks Chaotic Ceilidh
Featuring music by ARIA Award winning Chris Duncan & Catherine Strutt, it will be a night of energetic and popular dances. Info: 0435 154 433 or www.sotr.org.au/chaos.

OCTOBER 2017

1 - 8 Warburton East, VIC - Stringmania
A celebration and exploration of the traditional arts - music, dance, language and song - set in the beautiful Yarra Valley. Info: www.stringmaniacamp.com

1 Rochedale, QLD - Piobaireachd Group Queensland Social
Piping event at Rochedale State High School, 249 Priestdale Rd. Info: 07 3397 4512.

2 Adelaide, SA - Adelaide Pipers' Gathering
Piping event in Adelaide. Info: Jack Brennan brennanjack@optusnet.com.au.

3 Milton, QLD - Brisbane Smallpipe Session
Smallpipes session. Info: Malcolm McLaren 07 3820-2902 or mrmclaren@bigpond.com.

7 Kambah, ACT - Canberra Burns Club Highland Gathering
A great free day of Scottish culture in the ACT, includes ACT Pipe Band Championships, Scottish dance and more at Kett Street Oval. Info: www.canberragathering.com.au.

7 Canberra, ACT - A Capital Jig Canberra Ball
Scottish Country Dancing at Albert Hall with music by Chris Duncan and Catherine Strutt. Info: www.rscds-canberra.org.

9 - 27 The Rocks, NSW - Develop your Scottish Country Dancing
This course is for dancers who have some Scottish Country dancing experience and wish to improve their technique and knowledge of the dance figures. It is an ideal follow-on for anybody who has attended our stage 1 course or anyone who feels a bit rusty and wants to brush up on their skills. The course builds on the steps and dance figures learnt in our beginners' course with a focus on technique. This course also introduces the strathspey step and more challenging dances. Info: www.sotr.org.au/beginner or 0435 154 433.

13 Brisbane, QLD - Sounds of Scotland Concert
A night of Scottish entertainment with pipe bands, Scottish dance and music. Presented by BBC Pipe Band at Brisbane Boys College. Info: bbcpipebandevents@gmail.com

14 Collie, WA - Collie Clan Gathering
Inaugural event with a full day of Scottish events and entertainment. Info: 08 9734 3360 or www.collieclangathering.org.

15 Kanahooka, NSW - Illawarra Scottish Fair
Presented by the Illawarra Pipe Band with pipe band contests, Scottish stalls and more at Dandaloo Sports Oval, Kanahooka Rd. Gates open at 8.30 AM and Massed Bands Opening ceremony at approx 3.00 PM. Info: Alison 0414 928 016 or www.illawarrapipeband.com

15 Flemington, VIC - Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Poetry Afternoon
Burns at Canterbury St Stables Community Centre, 49-53 Canterbury Rd. Info: 03 8361 0308.

15 Melbourne, VIC - Celtic Piping Sessions
Piping music session 2pm - 5pm, upstairs at the Exford Hotel, 199 Russell St. Info: email@celticpipingclub.com.

21 Brisbane, QLD - Scotland the Brave
The international smash hit features over 100 choral singers, dancers, pipe-band and drum corps, soloists, Highland dancers and electric Celtic fiddlers at Queensland Performing Arts Centre 2:00pm & 8:00pm. Info: www.scotlandthebrave.com.au or bookings: www.qpac.com.au/event/scotland_the_brave_17

22 Malvern East, VIC - Clan Mackenzie Luncheon and AGM
Clan Mackenzie are holding their annual Luncheon and AGM. All current and new members welcome at the Malvern East Uniting Centre Hall 54 Serrell St at 1pm. Info or catering purposes please contact: Geraldine Fennessy 03 9889 5304 or gd.fennessy@bigpond.com

NEW ZEALAND

SEPTEMBER 2017

1 Auckland - Scottish Celtic Music Group
Monthly on the first Friday at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd. All instruments welcome to read through favourite Scottish tunes and dance sets. Info: John Hawthorn: john.hawthorn@xtra.co.nz.

8 Auckland - Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club Fiddle Club Night
7:30 PM - 11:00 PM at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd. Info: www.freewebs.com/aucklandsctishfiddleclub

8 Petone, Lower Hutt - Red Hackle Pipe Band Concert
Wee concert providing a variety of entertainment including piping & drums, Ceilidh band pieces & Highland dancing at Petone Working Mens Club, 47 Udy St. Info: 04-568 5404 or www.wellingtonredhackle.co.nz

9 Hororata - Amateur Heavy Training Day
Train in the unique Scottish Heavy Athletics, which requires a mix of strength, athleticism and sheer willpower. This day will prepare you for competing in the Gough Cat Amateur Heavy Championship at the Hororata Highland Games and other Heavy Events, at Hororata Domain, 10am - 3pm. Info: To register email cindy@hororata.org.nz or 021 366 606. www.hororatahighlandgames.org.nz/amateur-heavy-events-training-day

9 Levin, Horowhenua - Horowhenua Scottish Society Debutante Ball
At Levin and District War Memorial Hall, Chamberlain St. Ball Tickets: \$45.00. Info: 06 368 3295.

16 Auckland - Robert Burns Appreciation
The poems and songs of the great bard of Scotland, Robert Burns, are performed by members, visitors and guests followed by a light afternoon tea at Scottish Masonic Buildings 59 Grey Street, Onehunga. Info: piper1961@vodafone.co.nz.

17 Wellington - Shetland Society of Wellington Anniversary Lunch & AGM
Info: www.shetlandwellington.org.nz.

22 Hawera, South Taranaki - The Hawera Highland Pipe Band Concert

While the main feature will be seeing and hearing the amazing talent from the best of New Zealand young players there will be lots of other fun Scottish entertainment of singing and dancing, so be ready for a fun night at Hawera Memorial Theatre, 70 Albion St. Info: 06 278 8599 or www.hawerapipeband.nz

23 Auckland - Auckland Region Scottish Country Dancing Spring Dance
Scottish country dance event. Info: www.aucklandscd.org.nz

24 - 30 Nationwide - Kevin Bridges - New Zealand Tour

Scotland's biggest stand-up comedian Kevin Bridges will make his way to Christchurch, Dunedin, Auckland and Wellington in support of his highly-anticipated NZ tour. Info: www.abpresents.com.au/current-events/show/kevin-bridges-2

28 Wellington - VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group Social
James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, alive and thriving in the 21st Century at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay. Info: <https://wellyscots.wordpress.com>

29 Auckland - Ceilidh Club
St Davids in the Fields Church, 202 Hillsborough Rd. All are welcome to play, dance, or even call ceilidh dances and certainly just to watch. Info: learnScotsfiddle@gmail.com

30 Te Awamutu - Te Awamutu Competitions Society Highland & National Dancing Competition
This competition is held in conjunction with the Te Awamutu Performing Arts. Info: glaisdalefarm@outlook.com.

OCTOBER 2017

6 Auckland - Scottish Celtic Music Group
Monthly on the first Friday at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd. All instruments welcome to read through favourite Scottish tunes and dance sets. Info: John Hawthorn: john.hawthorn@xtra.co.nz.

7 Balmoral, Auckland - CAPB - 75th Anniversary Concert & Ceilidh
Join City of Auckland Pipe Band in Celebrating it's 75th Anniversary at Mt Eden War Memorial Hall, 487 Dominion Rd. Info: 0800 BUY TIX (289 849) or www.cityofaucklandpipeband.org.nz

13 Auckland - Auckland Scottish Fiddle Club Fiddle Club Night
7:30 PM - 11:00 PM at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd. Info: www.freewebs.com/aucklandsctishfiddleclub

27 - Nov 20 Nationwide - Isla Grant Live
Legendary Scottish singer Isla Grant returns with exciting new songs, plus her extensive repertoire of much loved music. Info: www.grand-concerts.com

27 Ashburton - Isla Grant Live
Scots singer at Ashburton Trust Event Centre, 211a Wills St. Info: 03 307 2010 or www.ateventcentre.co.nz.

Answers to Scotword on Page 6

ACROSS: 1 Hampdenpark, 9 Hightae, 10 Wattles, 11 Gab, 12 Tallies, 13 Average, 14 Sun, 15 Least, 17 Serfs, 18 Judge, 20 Trews, 22 Cap, 24 Bonnier, 25 Heather, 26 Dee, 27 Thistle, 28 Roubles, 29 Glenkinglas.

DOWN: 1 Highland Dancing, 2, Muthill, 3 Dregs, 4 Newbattle, 5 Antler, 6 Kilpatrickhills, 7 Shotts 8 Islets, 16 Afterdeck 18 Jabots, 19 Epistle, 21 Seagull, 23 Parish, 25 Heron

27 Auckland - Ceilidh Club

St Davids in the Fields Church, 202 Hillsborough Rd. All are welcome to play, dance, or even call ceilidh dances and certainly just to watch. Info: learnScotsfiddle@gmail.com

28 Wellington - VUW Wellington

Scottish Interest Group Social
Celtic Jewellery at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay. Info: <https://wellyscots.wordpress.com>

SCOTLAND

SEPTEMBER 2017

1 - 3 Dunoon - Clan Lamont Society Annual Gathering: 'Hands Across the Seas'

Full programme of activity in Dunoon Burgh Hall including sailing trip to Loch Striven to the Manse Clan Lamont Society HQ, formal dinner and ceilidh. There will also be films, children's activities, workshops, an exhibition of Lamont history over the years in the Burgh Hall. Info: www.clanlamontsociety.com.

2 - 9 Shetland Islands - Follow the Vikings Roadshow & Festival

Experience Viking heritage on a scale never before seen in Shetland. Info: www.shetland.gov.uk.

2 - 3 Kinross - The Mary Queen of Scots Festival
Celebrate the rich cultural and history and heritage of the Kinross area, most notably it's famed connection to Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots with living history encampments, music, food and more. Info: www.maryqueenofscotsfestival.co.uk

2 Braemar - Braemar Gathering

Perhaps the most famous and best Highland Games anywhere. It features the finest Pipe Bands, pipers, Highland dancers, and athletes in a beautiful setting surrounded by hills. The patron of the Gathering is Her Majesty the Queen. Info: www.braemargathering.org.

3 Blairgowrie - Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games

Traditional highland games with highland dancing, piping and sports at Bogles Field. Info: www.blairgowriehighlandgames.co.uk.

8 - 10 Fort George - The Highland Military Tattoo
A showcase of the best of Highland and military culture and traditions, set against the stunning backdrop of Fort George near Inverness. Info: + 44(0)131 3108701 or www.highlandmilitarytattoo.co.uk

9 Pitlochry - Pitlochry Highland Games

Traditional Highland games featuring dancing, pipe band competitions and, of course, heavy events and track & field at Pitlochry Recreation Ground. Info: www.pitlochryhighlandgames.co.uk

11 Glasgow - The HNC Music - Piping

The only course which has a bespoke Music First Study Unit for performance on the Highland Bagpipe at The National Piping Centre. Info: +44 (0) 141 353 0220 or www.thepipingcentre.co.uk

16 Bonar Bridge - Invercharron Highland Games

Traditionally the final games of the year, many of the Scottish Games Association league results are decided at Invercharron, making it the most exciting of the season, at Balblair Farm. Info: www.invercharrongames.co.uk

22 - Oct 1 Wigtown - Wigtown Book Festival

Scotland's National Book Town's literary festival: 240+ events. Info: www.wigtownbookfestival.com

28 - 29 Faskally Wood - Enchanted Forest: Oir An Uisge

Perthshire's renowned sound and light show offers visitors a unique opportunity to experience the outdoors, at night and with spectacular imagery. Info: www.enchantedforest.org.uk

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By: Andrew Morrison, Viscount Dunrossil Chairman, Society of Scottish Armigers

Arms, Armigers and an Armorial



Viscount Dunrossil, The Lord Lyon, and Dr J. Ru Morrison, Chief of Clan Morrison, with the banners of Dr Morrison and the Society of Scottish Armigers.

Whenever two or three Scots are gathered together...an argument ensues. It sometimes seems as if we are less homo sapiens than homo factiosus. We love nothing more than to pick sides and support our own while denigrating the other. It has been this way throughout history, and anyone who thinks it's only history has never been to an Old Firm football match.

We support our champions, almost as if it's a matter of life and death, wearing their livery, shouting their slogans and war cries, singing their songs, waving their banners and flags. A recent article in the *New York Times* talked about how some football clubs hired marketing men to come up with new logos, or change their uniforms, to promote further sales, and instead faced an angry backlash from supporters.

Well, duh!, as my children used to say. If these marketing whizzes had known the first thing about heraldry, they'd know these things are sacred. Nobody messes with my logo, or in the old heraldic Latin: Nemo me impune lacessit.

The crusades

It's not just history, but it has certainly been around a long time. Heraldry as we know it was invented during the Crusades. When the knights started wearing helmets, which covered their whole heads, it became necessary to find another way to recognize who was who. First they painted their shields with a specific personal design, and then reproduced the same design on the surcoat, which they wore over their chest armour: hence the term "coat of arms."

Your arms, especially the shield and motto, were your identity in a real sense, and wearing somebody else's arms was a medieval form of identity theft. It is still a criminal offense in Scotland. The arms were the personal, heritable property of an individual known as an armiger.

Pretty soon the office of the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, Chief Herald of Scotland, was formed to keep The Public Register of All Arms and Bearings, and to grant new arms to worthy later applicants. The Lord Lyon is an officer of the Scottish Government and the supreme judge in his own court of all matters heraldic.

The Lord Lyon

The Lord Lyon is also the President of the Society of Scottish Armigers, an association of armigers whose purpose is primarily educational. Their mission is to educate the general public about Scottish heraldry and to serve as a resource for Games and individuals who want to "get it right."

Take a look at the FAQ section of our website (www.scotarmigers.net) to see some of the questions we get asked. These include, what is the right way to address the wife of a chief, or an earl, or what banners can I fly, or how many feathers (if any) can I wear, and, of course, does ownership of a tiny souvenir plot in a Scottish glen entitle me to anything? (No, it doesn't. Sorry!)

In addition to the Lyon court, the Society works closely with the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA) and the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, many of whose members are also honorary members of SSA.

It is a fact that most people who identify as Scots do not live in the country of Scotland. Most of us are part of the 50 million, not the five. And most in the Diaspora identify with the motherland not directly but through the medium of a clan or family connection.

Chief of the name and arms

It also probably follows, then, that many of you reading this already own glasses,

The Society of Scottish Armigers

The Scots are a curious bunch. On the one hand we can be extremely egalitarian. "A Man's a man for a' that," Burns' great prophetic ode to the brotherhood of man, captures something central to our national character. On the other, we are deeply attached to our history. Highlanders in particular have been famously and fanatically loyal to their kings and chiefs, even when those leaders, frankly, proved unworthy of that devotion. Particularly among Scots of the Diaspora there remains a strong identification with clan, a fascination with chiefs and with the mottos, badges and insignia that go with them. These details tie us together and bind us back to the land of our ancestors, the home of our hearts.

Get to a Highland Games and see the proud displays in the clan tents, the flags flying everywhere, the vendors selling everything from t-shirts, ties and sashes to mugs, key-rings and who knows what with your clan tartan and insignia. Except, of course, that clans don't have coats of arms or mottos; armigers do. An armiger is an individual with heraldic arms. A clan is a group of people who recognize a specific armiger as their chief and wear his or her crest surrounded by a strap and buckle bearing the chief's motto or slogan.

mousepads or jewellery with your clan crest on them. The "clan crest" consists of the very top part of your chief's arms (the bit above the shield and helmet) surrounded by a strap and buckle bearing the chief's motto.

The chief is sometimes called the "chief of the name and arms of (whatever)," and there are usually other armigers in a clan or large family. The chief's arms are known as "undifferenced," while other people's arms refer back to the chief's in some way.

It can be fascinating to see the different ways an armiger's shield echoes the design on the chief's shield, and fascinating also to see the way a particular chiefly family chose to present the clan to the world, friend and foe alike. Is the motto in Latin, English, Scots or Gaelic? What message are they giving about themselves?

Illustrated History

Heraldry has been called "Illustrated History," and there is much one can learn about a clan or family from looking at their arms. Interestingly, the Society has now published an "Armorial," which is an illustrated collection of the arms of its members, and honorary members, grouped alphabetically by clan. In each case you can see the chief's arms first, followed by the other armigers of the clan. There are some 200 full colour, full page illustrations of coats of arms, along with several other photographs of recent Lords Lyon and other heralds, along with officers of the Society and of the Lyon Court itself.

The book is a beautiful production in itself, and one which would grace the shelves of any Scot, but there is, as always with the society, an educational mission here too, something of an ulterior purpose. Lyon hopes that this book will encourage and inspire other worthy folk of Scottish descent to apply for arms themselves.

Heraldry as we know it was invented during the Crusades.

When the knights started wearing helmets, which covered their whole heads, it became necessary to find another way to recognize who was who.

If this is something you might feel interested in, please get in touch with the Society or directly with the Lyon court. They will help you understand the process, and whether (and how) you might qualify. As we saw already, heraldry is an ancient and honoured art, but it is not simply a matter of history: it is still very much alive.

For more information on the Society of Scottish Armigers and their new book release *Armorial* see: www.scotarmigers.net

SCOTTISH ACCESSORIES SHOPPE KILT HIRE



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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Pea and mint soup

Ingredients:

1 litre/1 pint 15fl oz. water
salt
large handful fresh mint, leaves only
500g/1lb 2oz. fresh peas (shelled weight)
salt and freshly ground black pepper
drizzle olive oil
200ml/7fl oz. crème fraîche
4 slices Parma ham, fried or grilled until crisp (optional), to serve

Method:

Bring the water to the boil in a large pan and add a generous pinch of salt. Add the mint leaves and bring the liquid back to the boil. Add the peas and cook for 2-3 minutes, until the peas are just tender and bright green. Strain the mint and peas, reserving the cooking liquid, and transfer the peas and mint to a food processor. Allow to cool for 3-4 minutes. Add just enough of the cooking liquid to cover the peas and mint, then blend for 1-2 minutes, to create a smooth, bright green purée. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper and add a generous drizzle of olive oil. Add 140ml/4½fl oz. of the crème fraîche to the pea and mint purée and pulse in the blender for a few seconds, until combined. To serve, pour equal amounts of the soup into four warmed bowls. Add a neat tablespoon of crème fraîche into the centre of each and, if you wish, garnish with the crisp Parma ham.

Fish in oats with potato salad

Ingredients:

For the potato salad:
200g/7oz. small new potatoes
50g/2oz. kale, very coarsely chopped
¼ cucumber, cut in half lengthways, seeds scooped out with a spoon, thickly sliced
1-2 spring onions, trimmed and sliced

For the dressing:

1 tbsp. white balsamic vinegar
2 tbsp. cold-pressed rapeseed oil
squeeze lemon juice
salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the fish:

2 handfuls 'medium' oatmeal
salt and freshly ground black pepper
6 fish fillets, scales and central

line of bones removed
dollop mustard
30g/1¼oz. butter
splash rapeseed oil
lemon wedges, to serve

Method:

For the potato salad, boil the new potatoes in a large saucepan of salted water until tender (about 12 minutes). Add the kale and cucumber to the pan three minutes before the potatoes are ready and boil until all of the ingredients are tender. Drain well and set aside. For the dressing, whisk together the vinegar, rapeseed oil and lemon juice in a jug until well combined. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Set aside. For the herring, sprinkle the oatmeal onto a plate and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Brush both sides of each herring fillet with a little of the mustard, then roll in the seasoned oatmeal until completely covered. Heat the butter and the oil in a large, heavy-based frying pan over a medium heat. Add the coated herring fillets to the pan, skin-side up (do this in batches if necessary). Gently press down on each of the herring fillets using a fish slice so that they stay flat. Fry for 1-2 minutes, or until the oats are golden-brown, then turn over and continue to fry on the other side for a further 1-2 minutes, or until the herrings are cooked through and the oats are golden-brown. Remove the herring fillets from the pan using a slotted spoon and set aside to drain on kitchen paper. Place the boiled potatoes, kale and cucumber into a serving bowl, stir in the spring onions, and drizzle over the dressing. Mix well and season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. To serve, divide the herring equally between two serving plates. Spoon the potato salad alongside and serve with a wedge of lemon.

Arran fish pie



Ingredients:

For the flaky pastry:
250g/9oz strong white bread flour

pinch salt
50g/1¾oz. lard or vegetable shortening
1 tbsp. lemon juice
100ml/3½fl oz. chilled water
150g/5½ oz. butter

For the filling:

8 quails' eggs
600ml/20fl oz. milk
pinch saffron
2 bay leaves
6 black peppercorns
pinch salt
200g/7oz. salmon
200g/7oz. smoked haddock
200g/7oz. cod
70g/2½oz. sunflower margarine
70g/2½oz. flour
salt and freshly ground white pepper
small bunch chives, chopped
small bunch flat leaf parsley, chopped
125g/4½oz. jumbo king prawns, cooked and peeled
1 free-range egg, beaten
1 tbsp. sesame seeds

Method:

To make the pastry, mix the flour with the salt and rub in the lard or vegetable shortening until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Add the lemon juice and water to form a dough and knead until smooth. Roll out the pastry on a floured work surface to form a rectangle and dot two thirds of the rectangle with one third of the butter. Fold the unbuttered end of the rectangle over the middle third, fold again and seal the open ends by gently pressing them together. Cover with cling film and chill for 15 minutes. Roll out the pastry again and repeat the process with another third of the butter, then repeat again with the remaining butter. Roll out the pastry to a rectangle once more, fold it in thirds then wrap in cling film and return it to the fridge. To make the filling, cook the quails' eggs in a pan of boiling water for two minutes then plunge into cold water and set aside to cool. Warm the milk in a wide saucepan with the saffron, bay leaves, peppercorns and salt. Bring to a gentle simmer then poach the salmon, haddock and cod in the milk until just cooked through. Remove the fish, break it into flakes then set it aside and strain the milk through a sieve into a clean bowl. Melt the margarine in a clean saucepan then add the flour, stir to form a roux and cook gently for two minutes. Add the strained milk and bring the sauce to a simmer, stirring all the time, then season with salt and freshly ground white pepper. Add the chopped chives and parsley to the sauce, gently fold in the fish and transfer the mixture to an ovenproof dish. Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Peel the quails' eggs and add them to the pie filling with the prawns. Roll out the pastry and cover the filling, sealing the edges of the pastry to the dish with a little water. Roll out the off-cuts of pastry and use to decorate the top of the pie. Brush the pie with the beaten egg, scatter over the sesame seeds and bake for 25 minutes.

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.

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.

Outland about-*Visiting the locations of Outlander*



Culross Palace and Gardens in the Royal Burgh of Culross in Fife. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

Outlander season three is about to hit viewers around the world and the hit show recently had its long-awaited premiere on UK mainstream television, and while viewers fall in love with the story, Scotland's starring role in the show is also likely to capture hearts. Numerous stunning Scottish locations, such as Doune Castle, Linlithgow Palace and the Highland Folk Museum provide the backdrop for the television adaptation of author Diana Gabaldon's, time-travelling love story.

Based on the best-selling novels, *Outlander* follows the story of Claire Randall (played by Caitriona Balfe), a married English combat nurse from 1945 who, while on her second honeymoon in Inverness, is mysteriously swept back in time to the 18th-century Scottish Highlands. There she meets Jamie (played by Scottish actor Sam Heughan), a chivalrous young warrior, with whom she becomes romantically entwined.

The blockbuster fantasy show, along with the successful books, have inspired a range of tours and catapulted the real-life attractions and places from the series into the spotlight.

Jenni Steele, Film and Creative Industries Manager at VisitScotland, said "The fact that the hugely popular *Outlander* series is both set and filmed on location in Scotland has been great for tourism. Claire and Jamie's relationship may take centre-stage on screen but Scotland's sweeping scenery, romantic castles and fascinating history are far from just the support act, helping attract thousands of visitors to our shores. As the show airs for the first time on UK mainstream television we look forward to introducing a new wave of fans to Scotland, the land that inspired *Outlander*."

So whether it's following in the fictional footsteps of Claire and Jamie or embarking on your own adventure, here are some of the best *Outlander*-inspired locations and experiences every fan should try the below locations.

Fan-friendly filming locations

Kinloch Rannoch

Nestled in the shadow of Schiehallion, on the banks of the River Tummel, lies the pretty village of Kinloch Rannoch and the surrounding Rannoch Moor. The idyllic location is the backdrop for Claire and Frank's second honeymoon and is a fantastic example of Scotland's magical landscapes.

Doune Castle

Many film and TV fans will already be familiar with the formidable sight of Doune Castle, which graced the screen in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. It also takes a starring role in *Outlander*, substituting for the fictional Castle Leoch – home to Colum MacKenzie and his clan in the 18th century. You may also spot a 20th century version of the site which is visited by Claire and Frank on a day trip. With its striking 100ft high gatehouse, the 14th century courtyard castle is one of the best preserved great halls in Scotland.

Culross

Step back in time and enjoy a glimpse of Scotland from a different era with a visit to the pretty village of Culross. With its historic Mercat Cross and well preserved buildings, the Fife village doubles for the fictional Cranesmuir, while behind the stunning Culross Palace you'll find the filming location of Claire's herb garden at Castle Leoch.

Falkland

The Fife village doubles for the northern city of Inverness in some of the first scenes of the *Outlander* series. Enjoy a stroll around the village centre where you'll recognise a number of local shops, each transformed on screen into 1940s stores and guesthouses. Falkland is best-known for its Palace. The royal dwelling was once the country residence of the Stewart kings and queens as they hunted deer and wild boar in the forests of Fife.

Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway

The popular West Lothian attraction is almost unrecognisable when transformed into a busy wartime London railway station for Claire and Frank's goodbyes in series 1. Home to Scotland's largest railway museum, the charity-run heritage railway offers visitors the chance to journey by steam train.

Pollock Country Park

While Doune Castle takes on the role of Castle Leoch, it's Pollok Country Park that doubles as the grounds surrounding the fictional site. Situated near Glasgow, the extensive woodland area is great for walks and an ideal place to visit for all levels of mountain biking.

Preston Mill

The peaceful setting of Preston Mill provides the backdrop for a number of

scenes during the Jacobite Risings. Located in the village of East Linton, East Lothian, Preston Mill is one of the oldest, working, water-driven meal mills in the country. Today, visitors can see and hear the mill mechanisms in action and learn about the millers who worked there.

Outlander-inspired adventures

Outlander dramatises one of the most bloody chapters in Scottish history, the Jacobite Risings - an attempt by Charles Edward Stuart, better known as Bonnie Prince Charlie, to regain the British throne for the exiled House of Stuart. Today, during the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017, many attractions, tours and experiences bring to life the momentous events of that era and allow you to delve deeper into the real-life experiences that inspired Diana Gabaldon's story.

The Jacobite Trail

From Brodie Castle in Moray Speyside to the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, the Jacobite Trail spans 26 properties and attractions throughout the country whose history is intertwined with Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites.

Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites

This new exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland explores the real story of Prince Charles Edward Stuart and the rise and fall of the Jacobites. More than 300 spectacular objects including paintings, costumes, jewellery, documents, weapons

and glassware will bring to life the events of this turbulent period in European history.

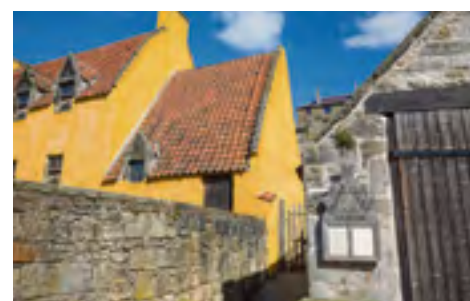
Prestonpans Battlefield 1745 & Bankton Doocot

Visit the site of the famous Battle of Prestonpans 1745, where Bonnie Prince Charlie won his first victory. Visitor can then explore the site of the battle on foot and discover three stone monuments. Smartphone users can also download a free mobile App to guide you are around the site.

West Highland Museum

At the West Highland Museum in Fort William, you can see the Bonnie Prince's death mask, sword, and some of his clothing, including his fine silk waistcoat, as well as other Jacobite artefacts.

For more Outlander inspiration and to download VisitScotland's dedicated Outlander Film locations map visit www.visitscotland.com/outlander



Numerous Scottish locations, like Doune Castle in Perthshire, feature in the smash-hit TV series *Outlander*. Photo: VisitScotland/Paul Tomkins.

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Myrtle Simpson

Scottish mother, adventurer and polar veteran

Myrtle Simpson is a woman who carved her own path (often out of ice) and is known as the “Mother of Scottish skiing”. Her passion for her family, adventure, climbing and skiing have seen her become a true Scottish trailblazer and this year was awarded the Polar Medal for outstanding achievement and service to the United Kingdom in the field of polar research as ‘Explorer of Arctic regions; sea canoer, climber and writer’. Myrtle was the first woman to ski across Greenland, raised her kids in the snow and still skis today as Nick Draine explains.



Myrtle and Hugh Simpson off the coast of Greenland.

As a young mother of four in the 1960s Myrtle Simpson would have been expected to stay at home to raise her family. But the pioneer of Arctic adventure took her babes in arms with her to the frozen wastes of the North, home to polar bears and sub-zero temperatures.

Arctic adventure

The 87-year-old received criticism for her lifestyle in the 1960s but nowadays she says attitudes are beginning to change. She, however, is adamant she will not change her active lifestyle and still advocates skiing, despite being in her ninth decade.

Earlier this year she was awarded the prestigious Polar Medal for her exploits in the Arctic, which included skiing across Greenland and making an attempt at reaching the North Pole. She was following her husband Hugh who received the medal 50 years ago for his work as a scientist in the Antarctic.



Arctic adventurer Myrtle Simpson.

Speaking from her home near Aviemore she says: “Of course you can take kids but you have to know how to do it. I got knocked a lot about it – people said it was bad to take children to such an awful place and I was a bad mother. But no-one says that now. There has been a change in people’s thinking, they are asking how I took the kids, not how awful it was to take them.”

Myrtle was born in Aldershot when her Edinburgh-born father was stationed on the town’s Army base. She estimates she went to 19 schools as the family moved around with the military but they moved back to Edinburgh when she was a teenager. She says: “I stuck out like a sore thumb because I hadn’t had a normal education so I used to go and walk by myself in the Pentlands.” She became part of the Edinburgh University climbing club and met Hugh when she was qualifying as a radiographer. Her first job was in Fort William at the age of 21 and her love of climbing grew: “I was accepted by the climbers and there weren’t many girls climbing in those days.”

She organised the Edinburgh Andean Expedition in 1958 and set off by boat to Lima with fellow climber Bill Wallace, meeting up in Peru with Hugh who was returning from the Antarctic. When there the trio made the first British ascent of the 22,000ft Huascaran, the second-highest mountain in the Americas.

Home to polar bears

Myrtle says: “It caused great interest in the press in Peru because there were two guys and me and I would say that above 20,000ft it doesn’t matter. Anyway, I came back and married Hugh.” Just after they were married Hugh had six months of research to do on Svalbard, an archipelago in the Arctic Ocean. Myrtle says: “I realised I was pregnant but too selfish to stay behind so I went too. We got a lot of press at the time for taking the baby, Robin, who was six weeks or so.”

The presence of women caused a stir even on the remote islands, home to polar bears. “A girlfriend of mine came out to see us and she and I went off kayaking. We were camping on a magical beach, just the two of us and the baby. When suddenly a boat appeared. A whole lot of people got off and a furious guy said: ‘Who are you, what are you doing. This is my area.’ He was from Cambridge and had just been telling his party how dangerous it was to land and they must keep close to him, he was the intrepid guy - then they find two young women and a baby camping.”

As a young mother of four in the 1960s Myrtle Simpson would have been expected to stay at home to raise her family. But the pioneer of Arctic adventure took her babes in arms with her to the frozen wastes of the North, home to polar bears and sub-zero temperatures.

In 1965 Myrtle became the first woman to ski across Greenland with three others as part of an unsupported expedition. But it was on another trip to the world’s largest island she enjoyed seeing her children thrive. She says: “Our daughter (Rona) was three and there was a little Greenland girl of three and these two spent every day of the summer playing together, making dollies and stuff. They didn’t speak a word of each other’s language and they didn’t at the end either. We thought our kids had much better time coming with us rather than us leaving them behind.”

In 1969, with Hugh and fellow expeditioner Roger Tuft, she was forced to turn back from an attempt to reach the North Pole.

“We took the kids as far as we could which was the most northerly school in Canada and Rory, our youngest child was just months old.” They took a teacher from Scotland with them who looked after the children while they were away.

“It was frightful to begin with; the ice was churned up and we were going about three miles a day. Then things got better but the radio went on fire. We argued for two days and three nights, I wanted to push on – I said if we can’t find it we’ll just push on to Russia. In the end we chucked it in and turned round and we went and picked up the kids.”

Broke the glass ceiling

It is with her children she has most enjoyed being the outdoors. She says: “The happiest I have ever been in my life is in a little tent with the four kids. I don’t care about the rain – of course I love my electric blanket and my Aga but it is great to know you can do without them. When you hear people wailing now about how bad everything is, I would say ‘take your family and go camping.’” Myrtle says she was shocked to be awarded the Polar Medal – first given in 1904 to Captain Scott’s first expedition to Antarctica.

“I was very surprised because we haven’t done anything big for ages, in all the congratulations cards the first thing said was why get it now. Maybe it is something to do with women being cool (at the moment) – they broke the glass ceiling but there are still lots of things (to do).”

Now, she is happy to continue a life-long love of skiing. A past president of the Scottish Ski Club – a position her daughter Rona currently holds - she still skis in the Cairngorms, where she helped establish the ski resort in the 1950s and 60s. She says: “It is the very sport for the elderly – the lift takes you up and all you have to do is ski down. You have to keep active.”



Myrtle on a 1969 attempt to reach the North Pole.

Facing up to a grave discovery at Edinburgh's City Art Centre



of the church graveyard bought by the Old Royal Infirmary in 1749 to bury patients who were 'unclaimed' and her remains had undergone an autopsy.

Teeth industry

Backing on to Surgeon's Hall, the area lies 300 metres from the site of one of Edinburgh's most notorious medical practitioners - Dr Knox. In findings reminiscent of the infamous physician, who traded with graverobbers Burke and Hare, the Council-found remains also bear evidence of 'underground' medical money-making. Forensic analysis demonstrates that the subject's front teeth were forcibly removed post-mortem. It is believed the teeth were stolen and sold to supply Scotland's 18th Century industry for real 'false' teeth.

Her facial reconstruction, by Josie Ide from the University of Dundee, is based on modern forensic techniques and has been placed on display for the first time. John Lawson, City of Edinburgh Council archaeologist, said: "In 18th Century Edinburgh, the Royal Infirmary became one of the UK's most important hospitals. The city was quickly establishing a name for itself as a centre for medical excellence, and the findings of the hospital physicians significantly developed enlightened medical research. However, this quest to advance medical science had a well-known dark side. It could be difficult to trace a deceased patient's relatives, and indeed many families were too poor to provide a proper burial. As the move towards graverobbing in the later

18th and early 19th Centuries tell us, such readily available bodies for research were in great demand. This led medics and hospital staff to meddle with Edinburgh's criminal underworld. This woman's teeth were almost certainly removed post-autopsy, most likely by one of the hospital porters. Help was possibly provided by one of the nurses or washerwomen charged with preparing the deceased for burial. These staff were poorly paid and corruption was commonplace. Such teeth, therefore, made a tempting and significant addition to a wage packet."

Criminal medical practice

Lynne Halfpenny, Director of Culture for the City of Edinburgh Council, added: "This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase Edinburgh's history and collections in one, major display. *Edinburgh Alphabet* is a celebration of many decades of collecting, conserving and displaying artworks and artefacts with a connection to Edinburgh. We have chosen themes for each letter of the alphabet around which each exhibit can be grouped, allowing for a display of incredible variety and colour. The collection tells us so much about life in Edinburgh from the cradle to the grave. This exhibit reveals an early move towards criminal medical practice, with the subject's teeth removed illicitly for money-making purposes. By putting a face to the finding, we hope to introduce visitors to this grisly but ultimately important part of the Old Town's rich history."

The facial reconstructions will be accompanied by artworks of the Old Town by Ned Holt, Walter Geikie and John Kay. The exhibition has been curated to highlight everyday objects, treasured items and unique paintings, drawings and sculpture from the collections of Edinburgh's Museum and Gallery service.

Edinburgh Alphabet: An A-Z of the City's Collections is open until 8 October 2017 and is free to enter. For more information on exhibitions at the City Art Centre, visit: www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk



Scotland's biggest comedy export *Australian & New Zealand Tour 2017*



Kevin Bridges is Scotland's biggest comedy export. Dubbed 'brilliant' by Billy Connolly, Kevin made his debut at The Edinburgh Playhouse on Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow in 2009. Overnight success followed with Kevin selling out his run at the Edinburgh Festival in just one day.

Kevin is returning to Australia and New Zealand for a national tour following a sold-out tour in 2014 and will be appearing at Sydney's Just For Laughs Comedy Festival.

His astonishing rise to success continued in 2010 when he recorded his first DVD *The Story So Far...* at a sold-out Glasgow SECC Arena in front of 10,000 adoring fans. It went on to out-sell Frankie Boyle and Billy Connolly. In 2011, Kevin headlined an episode of Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow at the Glasgow

King's Theatre. In 2012, he hosted the long running series *Live At The Apollo* and presented a six part documentary, *Kevin Bridges – What's The Story*.

Sell out shows

His 2012 tour, *Kevin Bridges – The Story Continues...* smashed box office records for opening day ticket sales. A staggering 45,000 tickets were sold on the first day and he sold out an incredible nine shows at the Glasgow SECC Arena. The DVD of this show was a top 5 best-seller in 2012 and is still riding high in the charts with over 300,000 sales.

His 2016 tour of the UK sold over 450,000 tickets making it one the biggest comedy tours in the UK. The reviews were 5 star all the way – this is definitely a must-see show.... but you need to be quick!

For full tour details and to book tickets see: www.abppresents.com.au

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The capercaillie

Saving a Scottish icon

Photos courtesy of RSPB.

Scotland's iconic bird, the capercaillie, is again under threat and is now one of Scotland's most endangered species. The capercaillie population has declined so rapidly that it is at a very real risk of extinction (for the second time) and is a 'Red List' species. However the largest nature conservation charity in the country has tramped 1000 miles across the forests of the Highlands to document the species and are now looking to put together a five-year plan in the Cairngorms to try to help the capercaillie survive in Scotland as Judy Vickers explains.

They have been dubbed Scotland's unluckiest bird. The capercaillie, the world's largest grouse and one of the country's most iconic animals, first became extinct in Scotland in the 18th century – along with the wolf – as its forest habitats were felled.

But the birds, with their distinctive “clicking” call, were reintroduced in 1837 from Swedish stock and numbers had reached 20,000 by the 1960s, putting them again at the heart of Scotland's natural heritage – one of the country's most famous folk bands is named after the bird.

However, the population of the bird, which lives in mature pine woodlands in the Highlands, has been tumbling in recent years and the latest survey of numbers by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Britain's bird protection charity, estimates that there are only 1114 individuals left, making it one of the country's most endangered birds.

The Cairngorms Capercaillie Project

Now an innovative five year plan, the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project, is being developed to help the bird to survive and escape a second extinction. Spearheaded by the Cairngorms Nature Partnership, the scheme will work closely with communities to build support for the conservation of capercaillie, as well as aiming to create bigger, better managed and better connected forests to support long-term survival of capercaillie and other species in pine woods. Capercaillie are found in mature pine woodlands in parts of the Highlands, Moray, Aberdeenshire and Perthshire, but Strathspey – where the Cairngorms are located - holds around 83% of the remaining population.

Nick Wilkinson, Conservation Scientist for RSPB Scotland, said: “The country's

capercaillie population has fluctuated between 1000 and 2000 birds since the first national survey in the 1990s, but it's now very much at the low end of this scale. Capercaillie are restricted to only a few areas of the country and most are found in Strathspey, which highlights the importance of innovative conservation work in this area, in partnership with others, for their population to recover.”

Native bird

The giant birds – the males are around 4kg in weight with slate-grey plumage and a bright red eye ring - are fairly elusive, often sitting quietly in pine trees or on the forest floor. In spring, however, they can be seen gathering at communal ‘leks’ where the males go to ‘strut their stuff’ in the hopes of attracting a mate. The males have an amazing song they use at leks which is a series of ‘clicks’ ending in a loud ‘pop’ – one of the reasons why the bird is so iconic; they are also very aggressive towards rival birds and fighting at leks is common.

Its name is a corruption of the Scottish Gaelic capull coille, meaning cock of the wood. Globally the bird is found in the mountain forests and boreal regions of Scandinavia, central Europe, northern Asia and Siberia but in Britain it is only found in the north of Scotland.

A native bird, it was once common in Scotland but as its pine forest homes were cut down, it became rarer and rarer – the last pair were reputedly shot for a royal wedding banquet at Balmoral. The Earl of Fife attempted to reintroduce the capercaillie for sport at Mar Lodge in Upper Deeside in the early 19th century but it was Lord Breadalbane who successfully brought the birds back in 1837 at Taymouth Castle using Scandinavian stock. The bird was then reintroduced into pine woods in various parts of the north of Scotland and

by the 1970s, with numbers around 20,000 they appeared to be a success story. But they numbers began to plummet again, falling to below 1000 in 1999.

Conservation steps were put into place and numbers edged towards 2000 by 2003-4 but the last RSPB survey – they are carried out every six years – put numbers at 1285 and this latest investigation shows another drop.

Conservation scientists believe the main reasons for the fall are relatively low levels of breeding success and an increase in deaths from collisions with deer fences. Fences can be marked, lowered or removed but improving the birds' breeding rate is a tougher challenge.

Breeding success is badly affected by high rainfall in June, when the chicks hatch, and by predators such as pine martens and foxes which eat the eggs and chicks. The number of chicks capercaillie raise is only relatively high when both of these factors are low but, unfortunately, wetter summers have become more frequent and the small size and fragmented nature of the forests these birds inhabit allow easier access to predators.

Reducing disturbance of capercaillie

There is also growing evidence that human disturbance can be an issue as it causes capercaillie to avoid using large areas of otherwise suitable woodland – limiting the potential for population recovery. So key to the new five-year plan's success will be partnerships with National Park communities; local residents will help the project team design sensible approaches to improve recreational opportunities for locals and visitors while reducing disturbance of capercaillie.

Andy Ford, Cairngorms Nature Manager, said: “People are key to securing the future of capercaillie in the National

Park. We want to empower people to be inspired to get involved. The project implements the Cairngorms Capercaillie Framework, a blueprint for a strategic approach to saving the capercaillie from going extinct in the UK through targeting future management at a landscape scale. We hope to develop a programme of conservation action to support the long-term survival of the species and provide a model to save ‘at risk’ species in National Parks around the world.”

Sue Haysom, Policy and Advice Officer with Scottish Natural Heritage, said: “Vital conservation work such as establishing rich feeding areas for adults and chicks, promoting woodland creation in the right locations to increase habitat, and carrying out targeted predator control around breeding sites has already brought benefits. Now we need to build on this with energy and innovative approaches developed by experts and local communities to ensure that future generations can experience this magnificent bird.”

The RSPB's surveyors walked nearly 1000 miles of “transects” 2km-long lines through woodland throughout the species' range - looking for and recording the birds. The latest survey of capercaillie is the fifth national survey of the species.



Did you know?

- The capercaillies found in Scottish woodlands are the biggest species of grouse in the world.
- All capercaillie in Scotland are from Swedish stock, as the species became extinct in Scotland in 1785. The population has halved in recent years and a variety of threats including habitat loss and fragmentation, birds flying into deer fencing and chick mortality due to wet and cool weather now face this species.
- Capercaillie size: Male weight: over 4 kg. Female weight: up to 2 kg. Male body length: 74 – 90 cm. Wingspan: 87 – 125 cm.
- Females lay 5-12 eggs in a nest on the ground and they take 28 days to hatch. Females look after the chicks by themselves and chicks are able to fly after a couple of weeks.
- Adult birds eat shoots and buds of conifer trees and a wide variety of berries. Young chicks feed on the insects they find in the ground vegetation.
- Capercaillies also can be found in Spain, central Europe, Scandinavia and across Russia to northern Asia.

There's something about Mary

It has the makings of any gripping thriller, a story filled with betrayal, revenge, love and even murder, but far from a work of fiction, these are the dramatic events surrounding the reign of Mary Queen of Scots.

The turbulent life of the young monarch, which includes her forced abdication of the throne exactly 450 years ago (24 July 1567), has captured the imagination of visitors, historians and even TV producers, with the successful Netflix series *Reign* inspired by the life and times of the famous queen.

The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017 offers the perfect opportunity to discover more about the life of Mary Queen of Scots and pay a visit to the many regional attractions that carry a link to her legacy.

A dedicated page on VisitScotland's website is full of inspiration to help you embark on your own quest into the life of Mary Stuart, whilst September 2-3, the Mary Queen of Scots Festival will take place in Kinross, celebrating the rich cultural history and heritage of the area, and most notably it's famed connection to one of Scotland's most famous royal figures.

Follow in the footsteps of Mary Queen of Scots

Mary's story begins in Linlithgow Palace where she was born December 8th 1542 to Marie De Guise and King James V. The magnificent Royal Palace was once a favoured residence of the Stewart kings and queens. Today, the ruin is set in its own park and overlooks the stunning Linlithgow Loch. Nearby lies St Michael's Parish Church where the infant Queen was baptised.

At just nine months old, following the death of her father, Mary was crowned Queen of Scots at the Chapel Royal in

Stirling Castle. The historic site was a haven for the Queen through some of her most turbulent years. You can get a feel for Royal life in 16th century Scotland with a visit to the Royal Apartment which bears the style and décor of life in that era.

It has the makings of any gripping thriller, a story filled with betrayal, revenge, love and even murder, but far from a work of fiction, these are the dramatic events surrounding the reign of Mary Queen of Scots.

For her own safety following a campaign by Henry VIII to force a marriage between Mary and Prince Edward, the young Queen spent time in Dunkeld in 1544 and later, Inchmahome Priory in late 1547.

Often used as a political pawn, Mary was just 5 years old when King Henry II of France proposed to unite Scotland and France through the marriage of Mary and his three-year old son, the Dauphin Francois, in exchange for military aid against the English. After the union was approved by the Scottish Parliament, Mary was moved to Dumbarton Castle which provided a safe 'gateway' to Paris. The formidable medieval castle is located in the ancient capital of Scotland and is spectacularly sited on a volcanic rock overlooking the River Clyde.

Having spent many years in France,

Mary returned to Scotland in 1561 following the death of Francois, where she took up residence at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for the next five years. At the top of a 25-step steep spiral staircases within the Palace lies Mary's Apartment and Bedchamber, considered by many to be 'the most famous room in Scotland.'

Political acumen

The young queen demonstrated her political acumen and often engaged in robust debates on religion. It was at the Palace of Holyroodhouse that Mary endured some of the most dramatic events of her life including her second marriage to Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, at Holyroodhouse in 1565 and the brutal murder of her Italian secretary, David Rizzio, by her husband the following year. The Outer Chamber of the Palace still bears a stain believed to be Rizzio's blood on the floor. Following the murder of Rizzio, Mary fled to Craigmillar Castle. It was in the castle where the plot was hatched to murder Mary's husband, Lord Darnley.

In June 1566, in a tiny room in Edinburgh Castle, Mary gave birth to her son who would go on to become James VI of Scotland and I of England. The nearby National Museum of Scotland includes over 200 objects connected to Mary Queen of Scots including the Penicuik Jewels. The gold necklace, locket and pendant, which is believed to contain miniature portraits of Mary and her son, were recently listed by VisitScotland among 25 objects that shaped Scottish history.

It was as part of an official tour in 1566 that Mary enjoyed a brief stay in Scottish Borders' town of Jedburgh. It was whilst she was here she visited her secret lover Lord Bothwell in Hermitage Castle. The town still celebrates its Royal connections

through the Mary Queen of Scots Visitor Centre. Situated within a 16th century towerhouse, the attraction explores the life of the tragic queen through paintings, textiles and objects associated with her.

Abdicate or die

Just three months after the death of Lord Darnley, who was believed to have been smothered in February 1567, Mary married Lord Bothwell at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The marriage with Lord Bothwell quickly became unpopular, sparking a rebellion which resulted in a military stand-off at Carberry Hill. Mary was forced to surrender and imprisoned in Lochleven Castle. Situated on an island surrounded by Loch Leven, Mary was confined to this small castle for almost a year and on 24 July 1567 she was forced to abdicate or die. Visitors can today take a boat ride over to the castle and visit the room where Mary was probably held.

With the help of castle insiders in May 1568, Mary was smuggled away from Loch Leven. She was first taken to Niddry Castle, then Cadzow Castle before forming plans to raise a 6000-men army to take Dumbarton Castle. Her army was intercepted enroute and Mary was forced to flee, seeking refuge in Dundrennan Abbey. The Abbey in Dumfries & Galloway, which is now a ruin, is where Mary would spend her last hours in Scotland.

On traveling to England to seek protection from her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I, Mary was confined south of the border for 18 years before Elizabeth sanctioned her death warrant and she was beheaded. Mary died on 8 February 1587 in Fotheringhay Castle.

To discover more about Mary Queen of Scots and the places associated with her visit: www.visitscotland.com/mary



Follow in the footsteps of the famous Scottish queen at Linlithgow Palace during the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017.



Illawarra
Scottish Fair
Sunday, 15 October 2017



The Dandaloo Hotel Sports Ground
336 Kanahooka Road, Brownsville
(Entry through Hotel carpark)

Gates open at 8.30 am

\$10 Adults, \$5 Children/Pensioners
Children 12 & Under Free
\$25 Family Ticket

* Pipe Band Contest * Highland Music Heavy Events *
* Scottish & Irish Dancing * Haggis Hurling *
* Side & Food Stalls (Scottish Food) *
* Free Childrens Events (Prizes, Races & Face Painting) *
* Massed Bands (approx 3.00 pm) *

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Presented by the Illawarra Pipe Band



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