



the Scottish Banner



North American Edition



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A' Bhratach Albannach

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The Banner Says...

A spooky kiss



by Sean Cairney

This month many kids, big and small, will be donning costumes of witches, ghosts and just about anything else that could bump in the night. Most popular across North America this tradition in fact has its origins with our very own Celtic ancestors.

Samhain

Halloween is a shortened version of All Hallows Evening, which refers to the Christian festival of All Hallows' Eve or All Saints' Eve. The ancient pagan Celtic festival of Samhain (or Samhuinn in Gaelic), was held on the 1st of November, which marked the end of summer season and harvest period and the onset of winter ahead. The Celtic year was determined by the growing seasons and Samhain, considered one of the most important periods in the calendar, symbolised the boundary between the world of those living and the world of the dead. Many Celts believed on the night of October 31st, ghosts would walk again amongst them, and large bonfires were lit in each village to honour the dead and in order to ward off any evil spirits.

Spooky stories and tales

Today Scotland is still known for many spooky stories and tales. Edinburgh has been named the most paranormal city on earth and only just exceeds Glasgow in reported "ghostly events", with both reporting hundreds of paranormal sightings or events. I have been to Scotland and also had some unique stories to bring back with me. Whilst staying in a stately home which today is a hotel in the west of Scotland several people

in our group came to breakfast asking who had a barking dog, staff quickly told us there in fact was no dog at the hotel. However it was a faithful dog who died twenty years previously and who lost his master many years before and was reported to still bark for his owner.

Whether or not you believe in ghosts Scotland remains a fascinating country with a rich history and an incredible story to be told.

On another visit I remember keeping my blinds open at night in a different hotel as it had such a brilliant view, I went to brush my teeth before bed and came out and the blinds had been lowered and thought - that's odd... Later that night I awoke to a peck on the cheek and thought - that's even odder. I felt very strange going to the desk the next day to request a room change. When I told them why the staff told me there was a motherly spirit that had been reported at the hotel over many years by several guests but she was lovely. I can't say this was my best kiss ever but one I will never forget!

Instagram

Last month the Scottish Banner expanded our social media reach and initiated an Instagram account. Many people had commented how much they enjoy our Facebook and Twitter images and that we should also use the photo based social media platform. So if you happen to also use this popular service please follow us and help us share our story and love for Scotland.

In this issue

Many people around the world should by now be able to breathe a bit easier as the hit television show *Outlander* has returned to our screens. The "Droughlander" has been fixed for the time being and this month we are so thrilled to have one of the shows most beloved actors taking part. Graham McTavish took the role of Dougal

MacKenzie and made it his own and literally brought the character swinging out of the pages of Diana Gabaldon's books to our screens.

Scotland was recently named the most beautiful country in the world by travel gurus *Rough Guides*. This has made headlines around both Scotland and the world and we are so happy Scotland has been recognised in this way. Of course the Scottish Banner has been telling people this for over forty years and our readers know this already but this well-deserved accolade just reaffirms what we do each month and why.

Also big in the news recently was the opening of Scotland's newest landmark, the Queensferry Crossing. This bridge looks to have many uses, first and foremost as a modern transport link for locals and visitors but also creating a "bridge tourism" effect with people looking to come to Scotland to see all the great bridges the nation has and some are described in this issue.

As mentioned this month is Halloween and we have a few of our favourite Scottish spooky places highlighted in this issue. Whether or not you believe in ghosts Scotland remains a fascinating country with a rich history and an incredible story to be told. This month millions of people will celebrate a tradition our Celtic ancestors created and passed on, this is a gift to the world.

If you happen to get a kiss this month in the night, I hope it is from someone lovely, even if they happen to be a ghost...

Have you had a spooky experience in Scotland? Share your story with us by email, post or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

This month also marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month and includes our pink tartan cover, the Scottish Banner will be donating proceeds from this issue to help this great cause, and we thank our readers for their support.



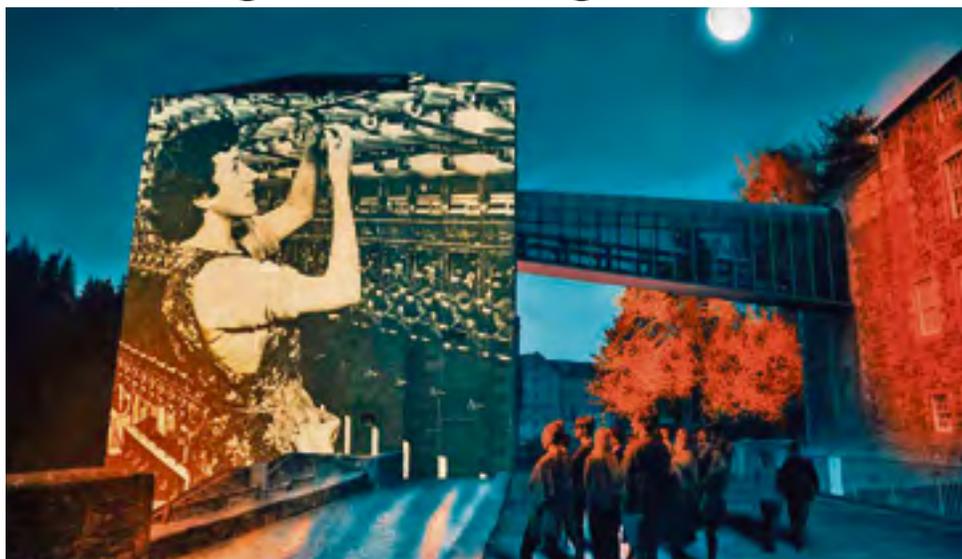
Gracing our front cover: Scottish actor Graham McTavish as Dougal MacKenzie in *Outlander*. Photo courtesy of Foxtel.



The ancient Celtic Halloween festival of Samhain. Photo: P Tomkins/VisitScotland.

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Shining a new light on New Lanark World Heritage Site



As part of the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology Signature Event Programme, New Lanark World Heritage Site will present *Shining Lives* this month with hundreds of tickets allocated to date. This spectacular sound and light projection event taking place at New Lanark World Heritage Site in October is being created by NOVAK Projection Mapping Creative Agency.

The stunning 230 year old New Lanark buildings will be brought to life on a grand scale whilst acting as the display surface for historic images and video footage from New Lanark and the surrounding area. Augmented by a soundtrack, lighting and living history the exhibition will echo the life of the mills and the workers throughout its history. Through this innovative event,

the tangible and intangible heritage of New Lanark will be combined to capture imaginations and provide a unique interpretation of this famous site.

Immersive display of image and sound

As part of the *Shining Lives* event, NOVAK will present a large scale projection artwork that will be displayed across several walls at New Lanark. Creating a giant multi-channel and immersive display of image and sound. The artwork will be narrative based and will explore the lives of people who have lived and worked in New Lanark and the surrounding Clyde and Avon valley area. The artwork will depict a number of characters, reflecting the many generations that have lived and worked at New Lanark over its existence as working cotton mill.

The exhibition will exhibit the development of the region's industries, music and other social activities engaged in and how all of this impacted upon lives of these people.

The stunning 230 year old New Lanark buildings will be brought to life on a grand scale whilst acting as the display surface for historic images and video footage from New Lanark and the surrounding area.

Anniqne Armstrong, VisitScotland Regional Director said: "From ancient monuments and listed buildings to our

myths, stories and legends, the 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology is celebrating Scotland's people, distinct culture and traditions, and historic landscapes. The historic environment forges connections between people and places, so it's fitting that during Scotland's current celebratory themed year, we will be shining a spotlight on New Lanark's outstanding universal value. The activity will bring the region's historic past to life in the context of a modern, collaborative and innovative Scotland for both visitors and locals who get the chance to experience this memorable event."

Shining Lives will be a spectacular sound and light projection event in New Lanark World Heritage Site, Lanark on October 21st and 22nd. Tickets for Shining Lives will be free with registration. To register log on to www.newlanark.org



By: Dona Cruickshank

The 70th Glengarry Highland Games



President Anne Stewart welcomed the Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau.

enjoying the offerings and being true Scots weren't put off by the weather.

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau

The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau attended the Glengarry Highland Games. He joined the list of Canadian Prime Ministers who have visited our grounds since the first Games in 1948. Games president Anne said it was wonderful to have our Prime Minister (wearing his Sinclair kilt) visit our games, a year when we are celebrating our 70th anniversary and Canada's 150th. She added that it is the people who attend the Games, some attending for the first time this year and others here for their 70th visit, that have made it a world-class Celtic event.

The Grade One Toronto Police Pipe Band, were winners of The 2017 North American Pipe Band Championships. Fittingly, Bill Livingstone, the Games Guest of Honour this year still plays with the band and competed with them here in Maxville.

The 2018 Glengarry Highland Games will take place August 3-4, 2018 in Maxville, Ontario. For further details see: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com



North American Pipe Band Champions the Toronto Police Pipe Band.

In 1948, when the first Glengarry Highland Games took place in Maxville, Ontario, Canada and organisers decided to revive the ancient Scottish traditions, little did they think that 70 years later, tens of thousands would still be trekking to Maxville on the long summer holiday weekend each year. We had a great Games for our 70th with good crowds in spite of the weather's best attempts to dampen our spirits. There were so many events happening this year for our 70th that the people just kept on

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Outlander stars join fundraising effort for Gairloch Heritage Museum



Stars of the global phenomenon, *Outlander*, have lent their support to Gairloch Heritage Museum's fundraising efforts and now people have the chance to get their hands on some coveted *Outlander* goodies.

Gairloch Heritage Museum has launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise the final £60,000 required for its proposed new museum and it has teamed up with Adhamh O'Broin, Gaelic consultant for hit TV show, *Outlander*, to offer some great rewards. Some of the rewards up for grabs include a limited number of Gaelic



Artists concept of the new museum.

dictionaries, signed by members of the *Outlander* cast including Sam Heughan who plays Jamie Fraser, and Gaelic lessons with Adhamh. People will also be able to purchase inscribed metal plaques inspired by the Gairloch Pictish fish which will be part of a large installation that will take pride of place in the new museum.

Adhamh said: "Not many people are aware but Gairloch and Wester Ross have played an integral part to the creation of the TV series, *Outlander*. We use the Wester Ross Gaelic dialect throughout the series and I often called upon Gairloch man, the late Roddy Mackenzie, for advice when we were on set.

"Roddy, who was also heavily involved in the Gairloch Heritage Museum, helped us by providing accurate translations and local sayings to ensure we were portraying the language as authentically as possible. Roddy worked very closely with Roy Wentworth when Roy was compiling the well-known dictionary, *Faclan is Abairtean à Ros and Iar* – Gaelic words and phrases from Wester

Ross – which also proved invaluable to myself and the cast whilst filming."

Rich cultural heritage

The funds raised will secure the long-term future of the museum's collections and the cultural activities it offers and the museum team hope to open the new premises in early 2019. Dr Karen Buchanan, Curator, Gairloch Heritage Museum, added: "The total cost of the project is just over £2M of which our community of supporters aims to raise 10% with the remaining 90% coming from public and private sector trusts, including the Heritage Lottery Fund.

"The new museum will feature expanded displays, and improved access to our collections and archives. The museum hosts the first Pictish stone found on the west coast mainland of Scotland, and its Gaelic language and literature resources are highly valued by Gaelic scholars. There will also be more space for exhibitions, and incorporate a cafe and a shop.

"The museum has been managed and run by volunteers since 1977 and is a cultural hub for Gairloch and the surrounding area. The upgrade to new premises will see the creation of a number of new jobs and training opportunities for the area."

"This is an ambitious project, particularly for a community the size of Gairloch, and we have been blown away by the support from the local community and further afield. Wester Ross has such a rich cultural heritage and the museum plays an important part in preserving our heritage for the future. We

hope that our fundraising efforts and the support from the *Outlander* cast will help us reach our target; the new museum will not only preserve our heritage but will also enable us to reach new audiences and educate them about our fascinating history, maybe even teaching a few words of Gaelic along the way."

'One of the best little museums in Scotland' is how the National Trust for Scotland described Gairloch Heritage Museum. The award winning, nationally accredited independent museum is housed in an historic farm steading in the heart of Gairloch. Its museum, archive and library collections present a fascinating historical insight into the area and an enriching, enjoyable experience for visitors however it is losing its current premises and will be homeless by the end of 2018 meaning they require to raise these funds to secure a new home. The local community has already raised over £140,000 towards the total and it is hoped that the remaining £60,000 will be raised through this crowdfunding campaign.

To donate to Gairloch Heritage Museum, please visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/gairlochheritagemuseum.



Outlander's Sam Heughan.

Rousing finale to 2017 Cowal Highland Gathering

Thousands of people from across the world gathered in Dunoon for the celebrated Cowal Highland Gathering. Competitors and spectators alike joined forces to ensure the event's spectacular was a day to remember for everyone involved. From the hundreds of dancers and pipers to the heavy athletes, runners, ceilidh tent performers, stunt cyclists and many other entertainers on show, every participant contributed to what was a fantastic day's entertainment. The standard of competition was breathtaking, with many of the world's top competitors giving their all in a bid to go home with the silverware.

Highland Dancing World Champion

One of the highlights of the Gathering's final day – and one of the most fiercely contested – was, as always, the Cowal Pipe Band Championship. This year, newly crowned world champions Inveraray and District Pipe once again managed to hold off the challenge of Johnstone Pipe Band to be crowned winners of the Grade 1 Cowal Pipe Band Championships 2017.

Then came the biggest Highland Dancing competition in the world – the World Championship finals – with dancers from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the USA pitting their skills against the best the UK has to offer. In the end, it was Scotland's Ellie Dalrymple from Tranent in East Lothian who emerged victorious

in the World Juvenile (Under 16) finals, followed by Elise Cheyne from Ontario with Cyan Macleod, who had come all the way from Victoria in Australia, coming in third. The trophy for best Scottish Juvenile Dancer went to Ellie and best Overseas Juvenile Dancer to Elise. In the World Junior (Under 18) championship, last year's Juvenile winner Erin Blair from California just held off the challenge of Scotland's Michelle Gordon from Huntly (2nd), with Sophie Dunn from Ontario coming third.

The best Scottish Junior Dancer was Michelle, with Erin picking up best Overseas Junior Dancer. The biggest cheer of the day came when the results of the Adult World Championships were announced. Last year, Ontario's Marielle Lesperance pipped Rebecca Thow – originally from Aberdeen but now living in Alberta – to the title. This year the pair were again inseparable, with both winning two of the four disciplines and coming second in the other two. However, when the individual dance points were counted, it was Rebecca who came out top. Marielle had to settle for second, with Scotland's Candice Walker third. Rebecca is also taking home the Mary McHarg Quaich for best Overseas Adult Dancer. The cup for best Scottish Adult Dancer went to Candice.

Wonderful competitors

Cowal Highland Gathering chair Ronnie Cairns said the event would go down as one of the most memorable in recent times. "On behalf of the Gathering's



2017 World Highland Dancing Champions from left to right is Ellie Dalrymple, Tranent, Scotland (Juvenile); Rebecca Thow, Alberta, Canada (Adult) and Erin Blair, California, USA (Junior).

organisers, I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard and contributed so much over the last few months and years to ensure Cowal Highland Gathering continues to go from strength to strength. I hope they're pleased with the results of their efforts," Ronnie said. "I'd also like to thank the thousands of people who have come out to support the Gathering over the last three days. We've welcomed spectators not just from Argyll and Bute and Scotland more generally but from right around the globe, and the feedback we've received has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Of course we wouldn't have a Gathering at all without the wonderful competitors, who excelled themselves this year. Those of us lucky enough

to have been here witnessed levels of performance never seen before. We all know how popular the traditional Highland Games events such as the piping, dancing and heavy athletics are, and of course they remain the main draw. However, we're delighted with the feedback we've had over the last couple of years on some of our newer attractions, and we'll continue to look for ways to keep Cowal at the top of the list of Fun Family Days Out in Scotland in the future."



Scottish settlers and the making of modern Canada

In 2017 Canada marks 150 years since Confederation. Early Scottish settlers in Canada interacted with indigenous peoples and developed trade and cultural links and helped pave the way for the nation we know today as Dr Juliet Shields explains.



For those attended the World Congress of Scottish Literatures, held in Vancouver, BC from the 21st to the 25th of June, the 150th anniversary of Canadian confederation offered an opportunity to consider Scots' many contributions to Canada's history, literature, and culture. Speakers came to the conference meeting from various parts of the UK, Canada, and the US, and from as far away as Prague, Macau, and Wellington, to share their knowledge about the historic interactions between Scottish settlers and Canada's indigenous peoples. In her opening speech, conference organizer Professor Leith Davis made a point of recognizing that this anniversary was not a celebratory occasion for everyone because modern-day Canada was created by the displacing of indigenous peoples from their lands. And while many of the Scots who arrived in Canada during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries lived harmoniously with indigenous peoples, many were complicit with this displacement.

Scots and indigenous peoples

Researchers at the conference drew on a range of literary works and historical archives to explore the cooperation and conflicts between Scots and indigenous peoples. Katie McCulloch, director of Simon Fraser University's Scottish Studies Centre, described the story of Scottish settlement in British Columbia as "woefully understudied." To remedy this neglect, the Scottish Studies Centre has launched an oral history project called *Scottish Voices of the West*, an internet archive of recordings of the stories of Scottish settlers and their descendants. These stories are available for anyone to hear at <http://digital.lib.sfu.ca/soh-collection/scottish-oral-history-collection>. A new phase of the project focuses on the area around Fort Langley, where marriages between Scots and indigenous peoples were common. This phase, titled *Changing the Narrative of 150*, will create a sound archive of interviews with the descendants of these marriages.

One of the highlights of the conference was a joint presentation on Scots in the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) by Bronwen Quarry, from the HBC's archives in Manitoba, and Pamela Perkins, Professor of English at the University of Manitoba. The HBC archives hold corporate records going back nearly 350 years, and these are a goldmine of information about Scots

in North America during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Although these records provide little insight into the family and personal lives of the company's employees, they show that Scots dominated at the Hudson's Bay Company's trading posts. Among Scots, Orcadians were particularly favoured by the HBC, with almost 80% of the company's employees in the early-to-mid nineteenth century coming from Orkney. Many of the HBC's employees were temporary residents and never intended to remain permanently in Canada. While these workers contributed Scottish elements to an emerging Canadian identity, they often brought Canadian-born wives and children back to Scotland with them who in turn contributed to Scottish culture. For instance, distinctive patterns in the music of fiddlers in present-day Manitoba and Orkney attest to the historic cultural interchange between these locations.

Scottish influences

Scottish influences extended far beyond the Hudson's Bay Company's posts. Brenda MacDougall, from the University of Ottawa, and Sherry Farrell Racette, from the University of Manitoba, explained that Scots were also prominent in the Northwest Company, which traded in the Red River region. A mixture of Gaelic and Cree was spoken at the Northwest Company's trading posts. Although the metis or mixed people of this region have often privileged the French elements of their heritage, metis culture also incorporates Scottish elements. For instance, Metis jigging, ably demonstrated by the V'ni Dansi Company at the conference banquet, fuses First Nations traditions with Scottish and Irish forms of dance.

The World Congress showcased a variety of other events celebrating Scottish and indigenous contributions to Canadian culture. On the first evening of the conference, a program of First Nations music and poetry honoured National Aboriginal Day with. Spoken word artists Jordan Abel, Rain Prudhomme-Cranford, and Samantha Nock silenced the room with their powerful, and often intensely personal, reflections on the experiences of Canada's indigenous peoples; and the voice and percussion ensemble M'girl had the audience swaying in time to its harmonies.

Performances by the Vancouver Gaelic Choir and the BC Highland Dancers demonstrated that Scottish culture is thriving in Canada. Conference attendees were also treated to a reading by Shetland poet and novelist Robert Alan Jamieson, whose most recent novel *MacCLOUD FALLS*, is a road-trip romance that explores the Scottish colonization of British Columbia through the character of Gilbert Johnson, a bookseller from Edinburgh.

1745: An Untold Story of Slavery

Gilbert has decided to track down the descendants of his grandfather, Jimmy Lyle, who, Gilbert has been led to believe, played an important role in the nascent 'Indian Rights' movement in early twentieth-century



Canada. When Gilbert arrives in the tiny village of Cloud Falls, he discovers that it was not his Lyle but his native N'laka'pamux wife Antko who led the political struggle that is still ongoing today. Although the conference focused primarily on the Scottish diaspora in Canada, other topics of interest emerged that may receive further attention at future meetings of the World Congress of Scottish Literature. These included panels on Scots in the South Pacific, Scottish science fiction, digital technology and the study of Scottish literature, and the Scottish diaspora in the Caribbean, where, in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, many Scots were slave owners.

Scotland's involvement in the slave trade was until quite recently something of a taboo subject among historians and

literary scholars. But much as Canadians are now re-examining their government's historic treatment of First Nations, Scots are addressing their ancestors' participation in the slave trade. Conference goers were invited to participate in a discussion of this darker aspect of Scotland's past after attending a screening of *1745: An Untold Story of Slavery* imagines the adventures of two female slaves who were brought back to Scotland by their owner and escaped into the Highlands at the very moment when Bonnie Prince Charlie's supporters were also taking to the hills. While the film's criticism of a Scottish economy dependent on slave-holding is timely, its attempt to establish parallels between Jacobites and runaway slaves founders a bit. After all, Jacobites did not seek freedom or independence for Scotland; rather, they sought to replace one monarchical regime with another. Nevertheless, the stunning cinematography and the compelling storyline made this short film, currently under development as a feature film, well worth watching.

Dr. Juliet Shields is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Washington. The third World Congress of Scottish Literature will be held at Charles University in Prague in the summer of 2020. For further information, see www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/arts/research/scottishstudiesglobal/iaass/welcome

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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.

"You don't really start out to do them all, but the next thing you know it's in sight. I absolutely love the hills and can't imagine life without them. It's very social, it's hard work, but its relaxing getting away from everything. It's impossible to pick a favourite but I do love the hills in the north-west. I will keep going but I don't think I'll manage them all a fourth time."

76 year old Munro-bagger Elsa Yates said as the grandmother recently finished climbing all 282 of Scotland's highest hills-for the third time. Munros in Scotland are mountains over 300ft.

"The Borders Railway has been an extraordinary success. Each and every day thousands of people are travelling to and from the region for work, to study and to catch up with friends and family. It has also really opened up this most beautiful part of our country to the tourism market that is so important for our country. Businesses are thriving, communities are being strengthened and opportunities are being opened up for people young and old. As we continue to build the best railway that Scotland has ever had, we will be looking at more ways to support the line. The passenger numbers we have seen in the first two years are really impressive, but we know that this is just the beginning of the story."

Lindley Kirkpatrick, head of ScotRail's Borders Railway programme, said as the 31 mile Borders Railway recently celebrated its second birthday. The route which travels from Edinburgh's Waverley Station to Tweedbank has seen over 2.6 million people travel on the service and had a positive impact on both tourism and business in the Scottish Borders region. Scotrail is looking at the feasibility of extending the route all the way to Carlisle in England.



R&B Distillers

"It is the location; an island off an island with complex geology, water and island climate with probably the best views from any distillery in Scotland, that makes Raasay ideal for our innovative Scotch whisky distillery."

Alasdair Day of R&B Distillers said as Raasay's first whisky distillery officially opened. The distillery is projected to produce 150,000 bottles of single malt. The distillery plans to use all-local ingredients — water, peat and barley — with a barley growing trail beginning on the island this summer. Raasay has a population of about 120 people and is reached by a ferry from Skye.

"The proposal to open the arts centre on Sunday afternoons is an excellent idea and long overdue. The Sabbatarian community that wants to stay indoors and read bibles can do so. They are not obliged to avail themselves of the facility. However, those other communities who don't share their religious views should not have them imposed by default."

Alistair McBay, vice-president of the National Secular Society, said as Stornoway arts centre An Lanntair on

Lewis will open its gallery and cinema for the first time on a Sunday. The Outer Hebrides islands of Lewis and Harris have held on to religious based traditions of closing down on a Sunday and only recently allowed people to hang out laundry on Sundays.

"I have already slowed the clock a little, so he's not quite as old as he should be. I never think more than one book ahead, but I can't imagine writing books about (Rebus) when he's in a care home, whizzing around on his electric wheelchair. Maybe an author can make it work, but I don't think I'm the author to make it work, so he has got a limited life-span. I don't know what the end point is for him and me."

Scottish crime writer Ian Rankin said his beloved character John Rebus will come to a close at some stage. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the popular Rebus detective series and Rankin plans to release his next Rebus instalment in 2018. The novels, centred on Detective Inspector John Rebus, are mostly based in and around Edinburgh.



"The route is already delivering for the north of Scotland and has tremendous potential to further benefit the communities it serves, encourage more investment in tourism facilities, stimulate jobs and expand the tourism season."

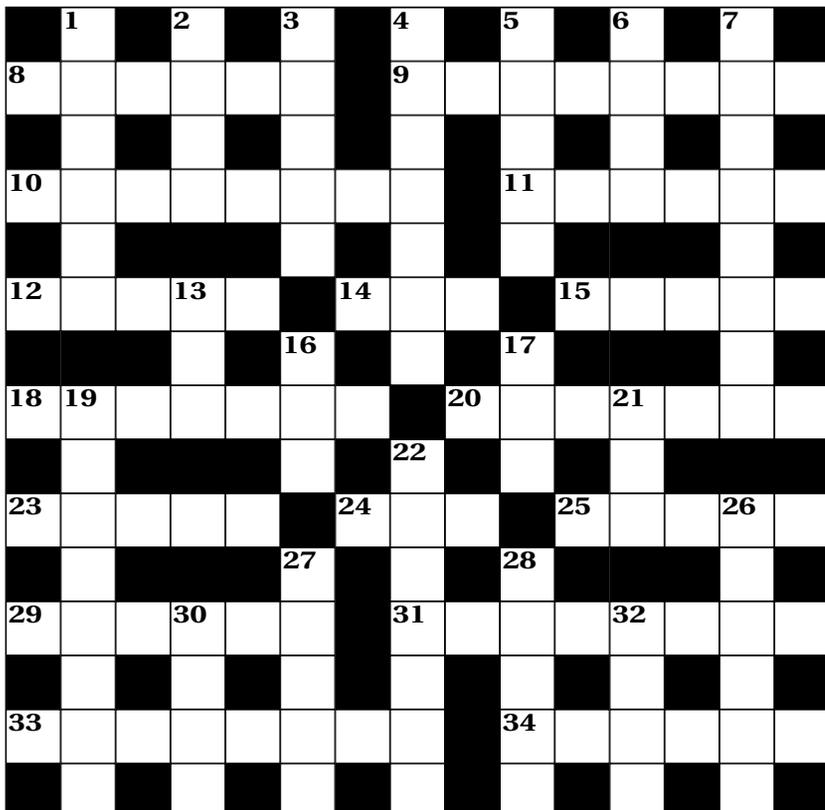
Scotland's Tourism Secretary Fiona Hyslop said that the North Coast 500 has generated a £10 million boost for the Highlands economy. The North Coast 500 bends through some of Scotland's finest coastal scenery and cover 516 miles. Since opening, Scotland's answer to Route 66 has seen an over 26% increase in visitor numbers with accommodation providers being booked out at peak summer times.

"We're trying to bring back trees that have always been here, they're part of the Hebrides. The genetics of these trees have a timeline going back 2,000 years on the islands. They're hardy, like the people here."

David Mackay, of Horshader Community Development, said at the launch of a project to return large areas of native woodland to the Western Isles. The Hebridean Ark project aims to bring back the tree population native saplings around Harris and Lewis by 2020. A seed bank has been created and plans are underway to plant 100,000 trees across the islands. Vikings, climate change and crop expansion are all partly to blame for the deforestation that has taken place for centuries across the Outer Hebrides.

SCOTWORD

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



CLUES ACROSS

- 8) People of a state (6).
- 9) It can be found in the North Sea (8).
- 10) It goes with Dumfries (8).
- 11) Scots town sounds American (6).
- 12) Perfect (5).
- 14) A Scots roll (3).
- 15) Front of a kilt (5).
- 18) Bagpipe essential (7).
- 20) Scotland's emblem (7).
- 23) Scots valleys (5).
- 24) A conical hill (3).
- 25) Call-to-arms cross! (5).
- 29) Resort near the River Earn (6).
- 31) The Granite City (8).
- 33) East-coast port (8).
- 34) A Scot's bride's dowry (6).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) A Knight's tunic (6).
- 2) A Scot's measure (4).
- 3) A Scot's hilltop (5).
- 4) Follow the feline! (7).
- 5) Glasgow's flower! (5).
- 6) Bequeath (4).
- 7) Fishing port on Loch Broom (8).
- 13) Scotland's own (3).
- 16) A river from 31 Across (3).
- 17) Reserved (3).
- 19) A capital palace (8).
- 21) Scot's winter pastime (3).
- 22) Castle rampart (7).
- 26) Smelt in Scotland! (6).
- 27) Gently flowing water (5).
- 28) Grampian town on the Isla (5).
- 30) Newts (4).
- 32) 31 Across airport (4).

Historic steamship finds permanent home



Historic Scots steamship *TS Queen Mary* is to be berthed permanently on the Clyde, at Glasgow Science Centre. The

steamship was rescued from scrap by a group of trustees last year and is currently undergoing a multi-million pound refurbishment. Situated beside the Millennium Bridge she will be a stone's throw from the SSE Hydro and SECC complexes, and right in the heart of Glasgow's media village. Friends of *TS Queen Mary*, the charity behind the rescue and restoration project, estimates the vessel will welcome 150,000 visitors and students each year once restored.

The charity has raised £1.3 million in cash and in-kind donations, leaving just under £700,000 left to fully fund the restoration. The charity hopes to reopen the ship as a heritage destination, education and business centre in spring next year.

Nicola Sturgeon, MSP for Glasgow Southside, said: "I'm absolutely delighted to see the *TS Queen Mary* find a permanent berth at the Glasgow Science Centre. The restoration will bring a major benefit not only in the form of visitors but in giving students unique hands-on experience. It's a very fitting addition to the Clyde and I look forward to visiting over the years to come."

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 at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us, 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.



October is one of my favourite months. Here in Canada we celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of the month, a time for family and way too much food. The leaves in the trees put on a colourful display at this time of year and somehow it feels nice to put on a pullover for the first time in a while and go for a walk in the woods. The grand finale of the month is the eve of the 31st when all the ghosties, princesses and superheroes are flying about in their bright costumes in a quest to fill their little pails with candies and all kinds of sweets.

As the season changes, whether your raking leaves in the north or looking forward to days at the beach in the south, please enjoy your October.

Etheridge

This month I was helping a friend to research her family history. Just when I think I have seen every surname possible, new and interesting ones appear. This was the case in this research. First on the list was the name Etheridge, a name with two possible derivations. The name predates the Norman conquest by being from an Anglo Saxon name "Aelthricus" meaning noble ruler. Some suggest it also could be a toponym or a place name for "at the ridge" from the Old English "aet hrycg."

Dewdney was on list also sometimes spelled Dudney or Deudney. Although looking very Anglo Saxon the name was originally French from "Deiu donné" meaning God given.

Another name that got my attention was Flint. The original bearer of the name had it for one of two reasons either he was as hard as rock or dwelt near the that particular type of rock. Lastly was the

name Pullen, sometimes spelled Pullin or Pulleyn. This name is from the Old French "Poulain" meaning colt. So either for one who is as frisky as a colt or one who raised and sold colts.

McGlohon

Sometimes I receive challenges in the mailbox. Mr. Donald McGlohon Jr. of Greenville, North Carolina, U.S.A. asked about his own surname, its meaning and its point of origin. His family has been in the U.S. since the 1700's in the Virginia and North Carolina area. He wondered if it originated in Scotland or Ireland.

This is obviously a Gaelic name but I am having a difficult time finding any material in this form. So many of the Gaelic names sounded similar to the English clerk's ear and they transcribed as they heard it without knowing the subtleties and nuances of the Gaelic language. I am not a Gaelic scholar but reading so much history in this area I have managed to glean a few facts in its structure. We often see the letter h in Gaelic names and as English speakers we tend emphasize the letter as in the word hard, where as in Gaelic it is usually aspirated softly as in the word loch.

So consequently a Gaelic name can be have been recorded with a myriad of spellings for that same name. Also some name that sound similar in English can have more than one meaning and were recorded identically.

My assumption is the surname McGlohon from the Irish name "Mac Giolla Eoin" meaning son of the devotee of St. John similar to MacLean in Scottish Gaelic. This name has many spellings when put into English. They include McGlone, McGloin and McGloon. These names are more prevalent in Tyrone and Donegal.

They can sometimes be confused with McCloon and McClune which have a different derivation being from "gluin" meaning knee.

I wish I could offer more but sometimes resources are difficult to obtain for rare names.

Handyside

Mr. Richard Handyside sent an inquiry via the Australasian office of *the Scottish Banner* with a list of surnames that he wished me to address. Naturally, the first name on the list is his own. The unusual name is from the Scottish borders place name and was held by a family of the same name as early as the 14th century. When a family held lands and that same place name is the family surname of the land owners, the term that is used is "of that ilk."

Recorded as early as 1398 as "Haggansid" it translates as wooded lands on the hill side. The name has gone through a series various and unusual spellings through the centuries, Hangside, Handasyde, Hangansyde etc. just to name a few. The next name is a new one for me and I love when that happens. That name being Hush, most of my usual resources didn't mention it but I did find something on it that makes almost self-explanatory. Hush comes from "hus" the Old English probably directly from Anglo Saxon for house. House or a surname may seem to sound fairly generic for a surname because the term house is almost universal for an abode or home in today's world. However, in medieval or even pre-medieval times, house would refer to the living quarters of the lord of the manor or a religious house. So the only the cream of the feudal world would live in one, along with their immediate servants. Most of the lower classes got by living in a cottage or a hut. House would be the equivalent to what our immediate ancestors referred to as the "big house". So anyone who lived near or in the Lord's house were known by that surname.

Carr

Truly a borders name, Carr is a variation of the more common Kerr. The Ker or Kerrs were a well-established borders family. In middle English Kerr refers to marshy woodland also in Old Norse it was "kjarr." Anyone interested in this family can find them at clankerr.co.uk

Turner is next on the list. There many layers to this occupational name, one is for a person for one turns wood, metal or bone presumably on a lathe. Another for the person who operated the turnspit at the kitchen in the "big house" where large roasts and full carcasses were cooked. Lastly, from the Old French "tourneur" for a participant in a tourney or a tournament.

One more on the list is Broadfoot, a descriptive for the obvious physical attribute of the individual who had large feet, sometimes recorded as Bradfute in Scotland.

Lastly is the well-established clan name Murray, it is a territorial name for the area in Scotland known as Moray. A thorough history of the clan can found at the clan website clanmurray.org.

Family history

My other interest besides surnames as you know is family history. While some young people catch the bug early like myself some 40 years ago, for the most part, the interest in genealogy usually comes later in life to most adherents. The most common complaint is I wish I had asked the previous generations some vital questions when I had the chance. However, when one is 20 years old, one never thinks about your grandparents having had their own grandparents.

For those who are on social media or have access to social media there are a lot of genealogically related groups on Facebook. These are groups of likeminded souls who can sometimes help with your query or at least know how to source the material you require. There can be a wide a spectrum as Scottish genealogy or as specific as Fife genealogy or Aberdeen and North East genealogy, they can also be varied such as Scots in America.

Most will agree that the internet maybe a mixed blessing in our society but on the plus side, it gives us an avenue to reach other souls who have the same interest as ourselves and even possibility to find cousins to share family history. I hope you find this helpful.

Lastly, as always, we love to hear from you. Your enquiries serve two purposes, one to answer your own interest but also make for interesting reading for many others. Enjoy your October.

Did you know? - Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park

- The Park is 1,865 sq km (720 sq miles) and has a boundary length of 350 km (220 miles).
- 50% of Scotland's population lives within an hour's drive of the National Park.
- There are 21 Munros (mountains above 3,000ft) in the Park and the highest is Ben More at 1,174m.
- There are 20 Corbetts (mountains between 2,500ft and 3,000ft).
- There are 22 larger lochs, with numerous smaller lochs and lochans, and about 50 rivers and large burns.
- Over 15,000 people live in the National Park.
- The National Park contains one of the UK's largest National Nature Reserves - The Great Trossachs Forest.

- There are two Forest Parks - Queen Elizabeth in the Trossachs and Argyll in Cowal.
- Ben Lomond National Memorial Park is Scotland's national memorial to those who have died in conflict.
- The stunning Loch Lomond is home to 22 islands and 27 islets.
- The National Park has 39 miles of coastline around Loch Long, Loch Goil and the Holy Loch.
- The Park was the first National Park in Scotland followed by the Cairngorms.
- Loch Lomond is the largest area of freshwater in Britain at 24 miles long. At its deepest, it measures 623 feet, the equivalent of 45 double decker buses.

- There are four distinctive areas of the National Park: Loch Lomond, Cowal, The Trossachs and Breadalbane.

- For hundreds of years, up until the 19th century, Scottish Gaelic was the language of most of the inhabitants of the Park area.



SCOT POURRI



Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks. Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history? Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Our letters page is a very popular and active one and many readers have been assisted across the world by fellow passionate Scots. Please keep letters under 200 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters, photos and any other items posted to *the Scottish Banner* cannot be returned. We prefer letters to be emailed to your nearest office or please visit our online Scotpourri form at www.scottishbanner.com, alternatively you may post your letters to us. Please ensure you include your full contact details, when emailing it is best to include your post address for those without internet access. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part! Thanks to all our readers from around the world who have made this such a special page.

You're a Wizard

Twenty years ago J. K. Rowling put pen to paper and Hagrid said to a young Harry Potter, "You're a wizard Harry" it was a wonderful adventure to delight so many young readers. But in 1670 folk accused Major Thomas Weir of being a wizard, it did not end well. Between 1497-1722 the Church said that was a mortal sin and the Crown said it was a crime – witches, warlocks and wizards were burned at the stake in Scotland.

Enter the angelic child Thomas Weir, son of Thomas Weir, Laird of Kirktone and Lady Jean Sommerville; born into a family with ancient roots, power and wealth would set young Thomas on a privileged path and step out on that path he did. He marched to the drum beat of the Covenanter Army. As a civilian he and his spinster sister lived in West Bow, Edinburgh. A fine figure of a man, a devoted member of the Kirk who often robustly gave "preaching's" to all and any who would listen. He lived to a good age (70) and on that fateful spring day in 1670 he was seen out marching along with his unique walking stick as he often did.

But on this day those preaching's took on a very different tone; a raving rant of unspeakable evil and the once angelic Thomas became the Wizard of West Bow. Friends said that poor Thomas had taken a turn and was not well. Others were not so kind and spoke in hushed tones of seeing that walking stick had a life of its own; marching before the dark and totally evil wizard. Edinburgh's Lord Provost was called in to sort it out. Jean was called before the court to give an account of her brother and what a tale she told! She also put on a dramatic show worthy of any actress on stage. Both of them were locked up in the Tolbooth to wait their fate as between the Kirk and Crown there could be only one outcome – guilty.

In April 1670 Thomas Weir was burned at the stake at the Gallowlee along with that offending walking stick. As an act of mercy he was to have been strangled before the burning but that did not go as

planned. He was only unconscious and was burned alive. Jean was to hang at the Grassmarket. As she was led toward the gallows, she started to rave, tear her clothes and even managed to get her head stuck in the steps leading up to the gallows. She had managed to put on a fine show for the crowd before her death. Their bodies were buried at Shrub Hill and the grand house where they had once lived soon became a legend. No one wanted to stay there. It had an aura, a bone chilling sense of doom and darkness and unexplained things happened in that house. For 200 years folk tried to off load that house because it was prime real estate, Finally they gave up and tore it down.

So why did Major Weir and his sister take leave of their senses and their fine orderly life vanished as their rantings and reports of that devilish walking stick became the talk of the town? Was it dementia? Or was Major Thomas Weir a wizard?

Happy Halloween.

Donna G. Portree
Canada

Ed note: Thank you Donna for sharing this interesting, and rather spooky, piece of amazing history with us!

Clan Leslie at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo



We were asked to go to Edinburgh Castle with other members of the clan to have a walk down the castle esplanade. This was called a "Splash of Tartan", this was a prelude to the real Tattoo to allow the Clan Chiefs to show off the different tartans from each clan. They paraded three different clans every night of the tattoo. Our night was Leslie's

Moffatt's and Urquhart's. When we arrived at the castle we were shown to the great hall to wait instructions. We had a talk from the Great Ones about what we were to do. A bit of music from the Royal Marine Band to make sure we were awake. Back outside and the RSM (Regimental Sergeant Major) told us what we were there for.

Most of them had not a clue as to what he was saying as we had a lot of people from the USA, Canada and others.

We were to march down the esplanade and line each side of the Red Carpet. That done the three Clan Chiefs and the other ones from up there had a quick nip from a Quaich. After the handshaking we all went

to our seats to watch the Tattoo. We had a rousing call for "FREEDOM" as we passed a crowd of Jacobite's who were taking part in the Tattoo.

Brian & Petra Lesslie
Perth, Scotland

Ed note: Thanks for sharing with us Brian and Petra, if any other Clan's took part in this years "Splash of Tartan" do let us know and send your photos.

Small Scottish world

I'm writing to you because of an uncanny situation that occurred on my recent trip back to Scotland so here it is. On a recent trip back to Scotland, only my second in 61 years, my cousin took me to the Riverside Museum in Glasgow. Whilst there I got talking to a lady who works in the museum shop. In conversation I mentioned that I came from Adelaide in South Australia and she said she had been there and thought it is a lovely city. In fact she said her brother is a warder at Yatala Labour Prison in Adelaide and her sister-in-law is in the police force.

As a retired South Australia police officer myself I rang my wife, who was back in Adelaide, that night and asked her, out of curiosity, if she would ask her eldest son, who is also a police officer in the SA Force, if he might know of Sue's sister in law. Imagine my surprise when my wife rang me back the next day to say that her son had only taught the sister in law his job in the CIB as he was moving on. Out of all the thousands in the force how is that for coincidence?

Whilst on this trip I was also able to visit a number of Scottish singers and companies who have been kind enough to send me CDs for my Scottish radio program I present here in Goolwa, South Australia, singers such as Fiona Kennedy, Moira Kerr, Eddie Rose, Colin Campbell as well as Scotdisc and Greentrax.

All in all it was a great six weeks holiday.
Bruce Scotland
Goolwa, South Australia

King of Scots

After research by the Canadian, American, Scottish and Australian families from Scotland. I was so proud to see that my ancestor was the only King of Scots to be anointed by the Pope and elected King by the seven ancient Earls of Alba.

Although some information is unusual and cannot be confirmed as all references were destroyed even some of the Church records. Our name can be traced back to Finley Earl of Moray who married Princess Donada whos son Macbeth become king after the Vikings killed his cousin in or near Forres, when Macbeth was in his castle near Braemar. When Duncan's son took over the family made a quick getaway to Ireland until the end of the 11th century before returning to Scotland. One of the descendants was the standard bearer for Mary Queen of Scots at the battle of Pinkie, that's were my line started to be recognised once again.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who did a wonderful job in the genealogy for the world wide family of Finley, irrespective of the spelling.
Robert Findley
Australia

Silver Chanter Competition Skye



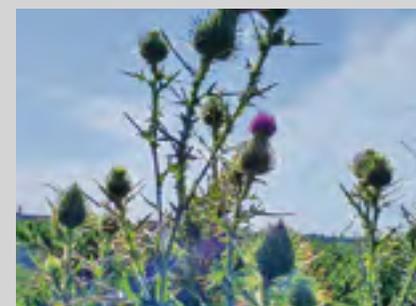
The Silver Chanter took place in August at Dunvegan Castle. Participants included: (Standing left to right) Finlay Johnstone, Derek Midgely, Cameron Drummond, Iain K. MacDonald and Callum Beaumont. Seated Roddy Macleod MBE. The Silver Chanter piping event is sponsored by the William Grant Foundation.

Derek Maxwell Photography
Scotland

SENT TO OUR FACEBOOK OR TWITTER PAGES

(Send us your photos or letters via social media)

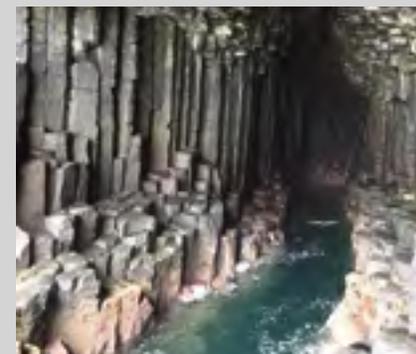
Flower of Scotland



O Flower of Scotland. When will we see your like again!!! I just saw some in Connecticut next to the baseball field that we play at.

Margo Mattice
Trumbull, Connecticut
USA

Staffa, Inner Hebrides



Beautiful rock formations and loved the puffins on Staffa too.

Tina Miller
Wrexham, Wales

Cawdor Castle



Fabulous visit to Cawdor Castle today, a beautiful castle and stunning gardens.

Borders Journeys
Edinburgh, Scotland

The End of an Era, Live on TV

2017 marks 50 years since QE2 was launched on the Clyde on 20 September 1967. For most of her almost 40 years in service QE2 was the most famous ship in the world and was built at John Brown's shipyard in Glasgow. The launch of the ship 50 years ago was a cause for national celebration and everyone in the West of Scotland knew about it as David McVey explains.



In July, Cunard's luxury cruise ship *Queen Elizabeth* docked at Greenock. My wife and I boarded for a guided tour. She's an impressive vessel designed with an eye for quality but it was a melancholy experience that took me back to nearly 50 years earlier, to the first and only previous time I'd set foot on a Cunarder. However, we'll start by going back just a wee bit further, to September 1967, exactly 50 years ago.

Important day for Scotland

During a normal lesson in Primary 3 class at Hillhead Primary School in Kirkintilloch, our teacher glanced at the clock and told us to put away our pencils and jotters. Then she led us out of the room towards the school hall. Something strange was happening. There was a bustle in the corridors as every pupil and every teacher made for the hall. Even the seemingly near-adult Primary 7s had travelled from their distant hut by the playing fields. We sat in lines on the hall floor while teachers and the Primary 7s had proper seats up the back.

And then we just waited in the hall that always smelt of sweat, floor polish and school dinners. The Assistant Headmistress went to the front of the hall, opened the shutters of the huge school TV (the only telly in the school) and switched it on. 'This is a very important day for Scotland,' she said as it warmed up, 'I hope you all watch this and remember.' On the TV we saw - in black-and-white, of course - a bleak industrial riverside scene with cranes and crowds and an unfinished-looking, funnel-less but still elegant great ship sitting at an awkward angle on a slipway. Of course! Today was the day they launched the Q4!

Clyde shipbuilding heritage

Q4 was the advance name given to Cunard's latest 'Queen', which was being built at John Brown's shipyard in Clydebank. It was to be the fourth 'Queen': the near-legendary *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*, also built at John Brown's, had been the first two. A third had been mooted for building on the Tyne but that project never materialised. Earlier in the year we'd gone on a bus run to the Clyde Coast. As the bus rumbled along the south shore of the river, a fellow-tripper pointed out a tangle of cranes and gantries and

scaffolding that stood out on the north bank. 'That's the Q4,' he told us, 'That's where they're building our latest ship.'

Our latest ship. People in Glasgow and the West of Scotland are taught to be proud of our Clyde shipbuilding heritage. The Q4 project had been big news. Even at the age of six or seven, we had seen the TV coverage and the front-page stories. The 'Summer of Love' was for a few moneyed young people in London and San Francisco; for ordinary Scottish people the three big events of 1967 were Scotland beating England 3-2 at Wembley, Celtic winning the European Cup - and the launch of the Q4.

We sat in the school hall, then, watching the ceremony and listening to the hushed commentary. Apart from major sporting events, state funerals and coronations, live TV broadcasts were still rare, so there was a thrill in watching events as they happened just 15 miles down the road.

The Queen announced, "I name this ship, Queen Elizabeth the Second." I wonder if she thought, "Ooh, they've named it after me!" I suppose she was in on the secret. QE2, not Q4, was now the abbreviation. The bottle crashed, champagne splashed, and the 963ft long giant lurched into motion, slipping down the slope, juddering into the river and churning the murky Clyde into bright silver spray. In the hall we "ooh-ed" as she settled in the water. So did hundreds of thousands of other Scots in Clydebank itself or watching TV around the country. It was a joyful occasion that nothing could spoil. We didn't know that we'd just seen, live on TV, the end of an era.

Clyde-built Cunarders

Some weeks after the launch, we travelled into Glasgow where we transferred from our blue Alexander's Midland bus to an unfamiliar red one that took us to Clydebank. With thousands of others, we queued for a brief look around the QE2. I have only fleeting memories of that visit, images of grand rooms and elegant staircases, like a posh hotel you can't afford to stay in. Aged just seven, it was all a bit over my head; I think I was more amazed by the bizarre notion of a red bus.

John Brown's would soon be in foreign ownership and most other yards would be withering and dying within twenty

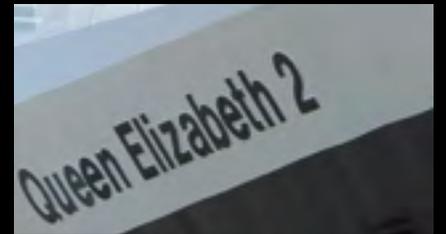
years. Shipbuilding was seen as a dying, smokestack industry that belonged firmly in the past. As a result, today, when the booming cruise ship industry commissions new vessels, they are never built on the Clyde. The QE2 herself underwent an extensive refit in 1986 - in Germany. 2003 saw the launch of a massive new *Cunard Queen*, the *Queen Mary 2*. Only one UK yard, Harland and Wolff in Belfast, was invited to tender for the construction, but the winning yard was French. The new *Queen Elizabeth* was launched in 2010 in Italy.

Meanwhile, the QE2 paid occasional return visits to the Clyde. When she did so in 1990 and 1994, tens of thousands of people rushed to the Firth to catch even a distant glimpse of the famous ship. She was still ours. She was decommissioned in 2008 and sold to Dubai. Plans for conversion to a hotel and the like have come and gone and she remains a sad shell. If there was any justice, she'd be returned to the Clyde as the ultimate tourist attraction, but that's billions and billions of dollars short of possible.

It was fascinating, in 2017, to see round the new *Queen Elizabeth* and pleasing to see the on-board memorabilia about the QE2 and other Clyde-built Cunarders. But I couldn't help thinking back to my visit to the QE2 nearly 50 years before and to the

decline of a great Scottish tradition. The new Cunarders - *Queen Elizabeth*, *Queen Mary 2* and *Queen Victoria* (built in Italy in 2007) - show that shipbuilding is alive and well. What a pity the Scottish industry was permitted to decline. The three ships are all impressive, but they're not ours.

Did you know?



In 39½ years of service the QE2:

- Completed 1,419 voyages.
- Sailed 5,875,493.22 million nautical miles - more than any other ship ever.
- Carried almost 2.5 million passengers.
- Completed 812 Atlantic crossings.
- Called at New York 710 times.
- Called at Southampton 726 times.
- Completed 25 full World Cruises.
- Completed ten 'extended' voyages
- Was commanded by 25 Captains

Queensferry Crossing officially opens



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon accompanied Her Majesty The Queen for the official opening of the Queensferry Crossing on September 4th. The event marked the culmination of six years work to build the structure, involving more than 15,000 people, at a cost of £1.35 billion - £245 million under the original budget. Following a ribbon cutting ceremony on the south side of the bridge, undertaken by Her Majesty, The Queen was accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh to an event on the north side where she unveiled a plaque officially declaring the Queensferry Crossing open.

This was followed a traditional folk performance by singer Karine Polwart, and



the recital of a specially commissioned poem by Scotland's Makar, Jackie Kay. Showcasing a wide range of Scottish talent, there were also performances by, among others, KT Tunstall and King Creosote. The Red Arrows performed two flypasts above the bridge - going from south to north and also east to west across all three bridges while a flotilla comprising around ninety craft sailed below.

The biggest infrastructure project in Scotland

Speaking at the event, the First Minister said: "This crossing is the tallest bridge in the UK. It has required 150,000 tonnes of concrete, 23,000 miles of steel cabling and 19 million hours of labour. But, far more important than those statistics are the benefits this bridge will bring. It will improve journey times, and bring benefits to families and businesses - not just in Fife and the Lothians, but across Scotland. It is already attracting global attention. Together, the three Forth bridges will bring people from around the world to admire their ingenuity and their beauty. It is an honour to have Her Majesty The Queen opening the new bridge for Scotland's communities, just as she opened the Forth Road Bridge, linking Fife and the Lothians."

The new 1.7 miles (2.7km) publicly-funded crossing is the biggest infrastructure project in Scotland in a generation and will replace the Forth Road Bridge as the main road route between Edinburgh and Fife, carrying 24 million vehicles a year.

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.



Househillwood Park

*Jeanie Mac, Jeanie Mac,
Bonnie wee Jeanie Macgee,
Turn your back about to me;
An gin ye fin' any bawbee,
pick it up an gie't to me.*

Sung by optimistic wee girls walking up and down singing, with arms linked behind their backs.

Some people might think of a housing scheme as a sterile environment of patchy grass and struggling trees, set amongst a concrete and cultural wilderness. Our world in Pollok was not like that, at least not from my eyes as a child. Cornalee Road was on the very outskirts of the Pollok housing scheme and was bordered by Househillwood Park and the remnants of the older Housil Estate. The park had mature maple, horse chestnut, beech and oak trees and some of these were very old and tall enough to support massive rookeries. In autumn these trees provided us with thick carpets of leaves to roll in and throw about. The chestnut trees supplied us with spiky nuts and the sycamores the twirling helicopter blades that we liked to collect.

Football

The park had two football pitches where my older brother, Charlie, played for the local Househillwood Youth Club team. He told me of how some of Glasgow's well-known football players occasionally came along to give a bit of coaching and even to see some of the matches held at the ground. He mentioned players like Eddie Rutherford, the right winger, who was to take over from the famous Willie Waddell on the Rangers bench. He also recalls seeing Celtic's Jacky Mallin and Celtic's Irish international, Charlie Tully, famous for his dirty tricks, like stepping back onto an opponent with his studs and for his rigorous charging. The reason for these 'fitba' celebrities having frequented such a modest and insignificant football field in Pollok may have had to do with the fact that another

famous football player, Celtic's Bobby Collin's lived just around the corner from us, on Cornaig Road, or at least Bobby's mother and his younger sister did.

When we played down on the little grassy hill and spare ground just in front of Bobby's house there would be a sudden, hushed and reverent silence from us when someone spotted the famous Bobby going into his house for his tea and after someone had whispered excitedly, "There's Wee Bobby Collins". His five feet and four inches didn't stop him from scoring 116 goals for Celtic over his career with the club. I think, though, we must also have held his wee sister in much awe, as well, for I don't remember her ever being part of our local gang. I was only to learn in later years that she was in fact a very good school friend of my wife, Jean, at one time and that Jean knew the family well.

The Parkie

Down at the park a wooden bridge led from the pitches across to a public toilet block and at the end of the park was a much older stone bridge which once led to the old Housil Estate. This dressed stone bridge lay beneath a rookery with its constantly 'cawing' rooks. The small wooden bridge had parapets that allowed us to walk precariously along the outside of the bridge towards the toilet block. The toilet block was our regular point of contact with the 'Parkie' who was in regular communication with us day by day and week by week, usually in his high-pitched whining and sibilant voice.

"I saw you boys walking along the outside of the bridge. You've not to do that".

"You boys were throwing stones at the chestnuts. That's not allowed. You've not to do that".

"I saw you boys piling up the grass after it was mown this morning. And you were throwing it at each other and burying people. You've not to do that."

"You boys have catapults and were firing stones at birds. I've seen you before. You're not"

"Hey hold on a minute, that wisnae us, mister," we responded getting self-righteous and annoyed. "We were firing our slings at the big black slugs along the fence on the Barrhead Road - that's all we were doing."

"A slug gun, more like. Is that what ye've got now? Ye've not to ..."

"We didnae say that. We haven't got an air gun. Ye're always givin' us a row for things we haven't done, mister."

"Aye that's right, bawheid, leave us alone and go and bile your heid", said Alec Nichol.

Tearooms

We started laughing and ran off towards Househillwood and the shops. We would now have to keep away from Househillwood Park for a week or so, at least until the Parkie had forgotten what we looked like. But the environs of Pollok had plenty of other places to go for adventure.

The Househillwood housing scheme, which bordered where we lived, was begun in 1935 and covered the sites of the old Houshil coal and lime pits and the even

older hamlets of Housilmuir and Turnberry on the Househil Estate. In 1750 Robert Dunlop, an antecedent of the pneumatic tyre family, purchased the Househil estate and Househil mansion, described in 1710 as a neat and handsome dwelling. He replaced this home after 1750 with a comfortable and more 'modern' 22 room mansion, reputed at the time to be the largest private house on the Lavern Water.

The estate then changed ownership a number of times until it finally became the home of Miss Kate Cranston, owner of Glasgow's renowned tearooms and a personal friend of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Miss Cranston was a pioneer of the 'tea room' which had not really existed up until then. The Cranstons had strong temperance connections and while men were able to drink in coffee houses, clubs and taverns these were not available to 'respectable,' middle class women who at that time were expected to stay at home and have their afternoon tea parties with visiting friends.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh

In 1884, Catherine Cranston was about to change all that. Recognising the possibilities, she first rented a shop in Argyle Street where she opened a tearoom, and from this small beginning her business grew as a fashion conscious, rising middle class of women went looking for opportunities to show themselves in public. Women were the main customers but soon men too began to sit in Kate

Cranston's tearooms for her tearooms were much more than a place to sip tea and eat cakes and tea bread. They were more like clubs, providing special rooms for smoking, playing chess, dominoes, billiards and for reading. Over the next twenty years she opened more tearooms and Charles Rennie Mackintosh was commissioned to create the interiors and to design the furnishings and the furniture for them. He began to establish in these a personal art nouveau style which contributed to his later fame.

Kate Cranston later married John Cochrane the owner of a successful engineering business in Barrhead and in 1904 she gave her friend Charles Rennie Mackintosh a commission to completely re-decorate and furnish their residence on the Househil Estate. This Mackintosh work was unfortunately completely destroyed when the mansion house became severely damaged by fire in June 1934. The remaining burnt out ruin was eventually sold to Glasgow Corporation and tragically, but probably necessarily, demolished sometime later. A children's play area near one end of the old stone bridge, where we once played, marked the site of the old mansion, which if it had survived with its Rennie Mackintosh decoration and furnishings would surely have put our 60 acre Househillwood Park firmly on to Glasgow's modern tourist map, to join Pollok House and the Burrell Collection as major local attractions.

Shetland Vikings descend on Glasgow



Shetland Viking history meets cosmopolitan Glasgow. Photo: VisitScotland.

Vibrant Glasgow got a taste of Scotland's Norse history recently as a squad of Shetland Vikings descended on the city for an exciting and rambunctious visit. The ancient Scottish islanders were in Scotland's largest city for some pampering and relaxation (epic beard trim anyone!?) ahead of the Follow the Vikings events which took place in September.

Britain's most northerly island

In a short video, the Shetland heroes can be seen enjoying a leisurely bike tour by the river Clyde, a visit to the spectacular Riverside Museum, some hipster styling at House Martin Barbers, and a few well-earned cocktails and food at the beautiful Spanish Butcher restaurant. The video highlights Scotland's rich and varied

history, as well showcasing the country's modern, progressive and lively culture. To celebrate Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, the Vikings also met the locals to talk about Shetland's Follow the Vikings festival, which took place in September. Held over two weekends, visitors had the opportunity to experience Scotland's rich Viking legacy on Unst, Britain's most northerly island and one of the Vikings first landing places in the North Atlantic, and in Lerwick, Shetland's capital.

The Unst Viking Festival featured the local Viking squad joined by visiting Vikings - Ardglass from Northern Ireland (featured in the TV series *Vikings*) and Walhalla from Poland. Visitors enjoyed re-enactments of Viking combat and a re-creation of Viking life around the replica longhouse and longship at Haroldswick, Unst. The Viking Activity Day also took place at Shetland Museum and Archives (SMAA), Lerwick on 9 September. It consisted of talks, workshops and re-enactments for all the family. The SMAA will go totally "Viking" for the day, with particular emphasis on the Norse elements of the SMAA collections. A Viking themed meal illustrated the best of contemporary cuisine with a Nordic twist, presided over by the Lerwick Up-Helly-Aa Guizer Jarl in his role as King Sweyn Forkbeard.

Tim Stead - *Wood genius*

Wood sculptor, furniture maker and conservationist Tim Stead MBE lived and worked in the Scottish Borders and was one of Scotland's great artists. Stead made furniture for galleries, castles, cathedrals and even for Pope John Paul II and now his estate is planning an exhibition and a sale of his works to raise funds to be able to create a museum and share his creative genius with future generations as Judy Vickers explains.



Crowds gather at the foot of the ten-foot clock as the time ticks towards the hour. A mini-Medieval cathedral, The Millennium Clock is one of the National Museum of Scotland's most popular exhibits and every day visitors stand enthralled as the timepiece bursts into life, as miniature grotesque figures appear, cogs whirr and the mirrored pendulum swings.

The clock tower sculpture, made of glass, metal and wood and representing the suffering of humans in the 20th century, was a collaboration between artists Eduard Bersudkey, Maggy Lenert, Annica Sandstrom, Jurgen Tubbecke and the late Tim Stead, commissioned for the Millennium.

It was one of the last pieces completed by Stead who died at the age of 48 in April 2000 and it is a tribute to his talent that he is seen as one of the foremost 20th century Scottish artists despite his early death robbing him of many years' future work.

The Tim Stead Trust

Now plans are under way to turn his former home in the Scottish Borders into a museum dedicated to his work and allow his legacy to be seen by the public. Among other fundraising and awareness raising plans, the Tim Stead Trust is organising an exhibition at the Scottish Parliament Building in November, a new piece of music inspired by Stead's work will be performed in Glasgow in May next year and some of his sculptures and furniture have been put on sale.

The campaign has been ignited as Stead's widow, Maggy, is looking to sell the couple's home the Steading, in Blainslie near Lauder, and move to France – she was born in Luxemburg. Stead used the house to try out many of his ideas in wood, from floors and staircases to baths, beds and tables, and the house is a memorial to his craft.

For Maggy, though, who has spent years keeping his legacy alive with a furniture workshop at the house and numerous exhibitions touring Scotland of his work, it's time to move on. "When Tim died, half of me died. Everything in this house he made, I can't have a peaceful time here, everything is so emotional. There is not one bit of this house that doesn't remind me of him. He would not want me to be tortured. When I decided to sell this house, I felt so much pain, it was like a second burial of Tim.

"Then all these people got together to keep it and that felt really, really good, that I could go and close a door, and all these people will come and be inspired by it and it will be in safe hands. It's like giving a child you can no longer look after to a nice couple to adopt!"

Iconic pieces

Stead, originally from Cheshire, came to Scotland in 1975 as a post-graduate at the School of Art in Glasgow. He met Maggy four days before she was due to leave Scotland – they fell in love at first sight and were married a year later. He also fell in love with Scotland and stayed, eventually settling at Blainslie in the Borders.

Over the years, he created many iconic pieces for churches, cathedrals, museums and other public places across Scotland. The rood screen and furniture for the North Sea Oil Industries Memorial Chapel in Aberdeen, were commissioned in 1989. The initial letters of the woods used in the chair backs spell out: "We remember yew". In 1981, he made a chair for Pope John Paul II for his visit to Murrayfield and in 1990, he recreated the pre-historic stone house and furniture of Skara Brae in Orkney for a "Scotland Creates" exhibition and many diners know his work from Café Gandolfi in Glasgow's Merchant City, where he created the now famous tables and chairs.

He straddled the boundary between artist and craftsman, creating beautiful pieces of furniture which were hugely popular with the general public – and which gave him the funds to continue his beloved sculpture. He worked with native wood, often burr elm, in a way which now has many imitators – he and Maggy nicknamed them "Insteads" - and his passion for woodlands extended beyond just his art work. In 1986, he made 365 wooden axeheads, one for each day of the year. He sold them and the money which was raised was used to help buy 55 acres of forest which became the Wooplaw Community Woodland, the first community woodland in Britain – the pioneering idea caught on and there are now more than 60 in Scotland alone. He also became involved with reseeded forests throughout the world and in 1997 founded a wood school near Jedburgh in

the Borders to give graduate designers the chance to work with Scottish hardwoods. For his woodlands work, he was appointed an MBE by the Queen shortly before his death from cancer in 2000.

Extraordinary influence

For Nichola Fletcher, the chair of the Tim Stead Trust, there are striking similarities to another famous Scottish artist. "There is a big parallel with Charles Rennie Macintosh who was pretty much unknown and forgotten after he died but then people began to say, 'Where did these rose designs come from?' and I would put Tim Stead in the same position now. He has had an incredible influence on other woodworkers, sculptors and furniture-makers - you just have to look around at furniture and woodwork being produced now to see his influence. Now it's more than 17 years since he died and there is a whole generation who have grown up not knowing who he is and not realising how much this stems from this one man."

She said the trust's plan, which has just been announced after two years in the planning, will make the charity self-



Wooden sink at the Steading.

Tim in the workshop in 1982.

sustaining after an initial £3 million has been raised. "We have worked out a plan to make the building sustainable in the future - so many of these small charities achieve their initial aim to buy or save whatever it is but then five years down the line they can't raise enough to keep it going. We want to be able to say that's not going to happen here."

And she said the board were all dedicated to making the vision a reality in order to preserve Stead's legacy. "Tim Stead was the nearest person to a genius I have ever met. We want to be able to recognise the extraordinary influence he had."

For more information on the work of the Tim Stead Trust see www.timsteadtrust.org

19th Annual
DUNEDIN Celtic Music & Craft Beer Festival
 MUSIC • BEER • FOOD
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH, 2017
 GATES OPEN AT 10 AM
 MUSIC FROM NOON TO 10 PM
HIGHLANDER PARK, 1920 PINEHURST ROAD
 LIVE PERFORMANCES BY:
 • OFF KILTER • BRODHER • TARTAN TERRORS •
 • GLENGARRY BBOYS •
 • CITY OF DUNEDIN PIPE BAND •
THE YOUNG DUBLINERS
 CELTIC MUSIC ★ OVER 20 CRAFT BEERS ★ CELTIC VENDORS ★ FOOD
 CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF CELTIC MUSIC
CELTIC COUNTDOWN
 FREE EVENT
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 MORE INFO @ DUNEDINCELTICMUSICFESTIVAL.COM
 FACEBOOK: [DunedinCelticFestival](https://www.facebook.com/DunedinCelticFestival)
TICKETS:
 \$20 AT THE GATE
 \$18 IN ADVANCE
 ★ 12 & UNDER FREE ★

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.



Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor and piper Michelle Lord.

mix of red and green, blue and white, and yellow tartan. Moving in line we followed our respective chiefs, processing down from the Great Hall, banners waving; heads held high, feet carefully negotiating ancient cobblestones. Passing rows of immaculately-dressed pipe bands and Jacobite re-enactors in period costume we reached the castle gates.

And there a great roar went up from the crowd. There was a nervous intake of breath and there we were – stepping boldly out in the arena. It was like being gladiators in a Roman amphitheatre - a breathtaking mix of history, pageant and film set. It was lights, camera, action, with six thousand people cheering and waving us on.

Cannot take Scotland out of the girl

We were led in by three pipers: among them one Michelle Lord. And herein lies a story... In the mid-1980s a family from Glasgow emigrated to Australia. Ann Harkiss was taking her children, nine-year-old Michelle and six-year-old Chris, to join their new stepfather. Their destination was Collie, a small mining town in south-west Western Australia. You can take the girl out of Scotland, but you cannot take Scotland out of the girl - or boy. Deep Down Under both children learned to play the bagpipes. Clad in red and

green tartan kilts they joined the Collie Police and Citizens Youth Club Pipe Band.

Michelle would go on to play with the Western Australian Police Pipe Band (civilian) - and become Pipe Major of the City of Cockburn Pipe Band. Her ambition was to play at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, but with a TV career claiming much of her time, that aim seemed a distant one.

Michelle worked in Perth as a picture editor for Channel 9 before travelling to the UK to take up jobs with media companies like CNN, Sky and ITV. The pipes increasingly took a back place. Yet one Hogmannay, this red-haired ScOzzie still managed to delight her very English neighbours by playing in the new year on the rooftop of a London flat.

But Scotland was tugging at her heart and in 2014 Mish moved north to Glasgow. And this is where our paths met. Both of us working on a TV series called *Border Life*. Me reporting and presenting, Mish crafting fabulous films out of the jumble of pictures and interviews I come back with.

Ceremonial and tartan magic

So when the Chief needed pipers to lead the MacGregors in the Tattoo, it was plain who we should ask. You see, Mish has MacGregor roots. She may have taken her stepfather's name of 'Lord', but her

biological father was actually a 'King' – which is one of the names outlawed MacGregors once adopted to protect themselves from persecution.

For this lassie born in Glasgow and brought up in Oz, the Tattoo was a dream come true – albeit a nerve-wracking one. "I used to watch the tattoo as a teenager and think, one day I'd love to play there," she says. "As we crossed the drawbridge, I was too busy concentrating on the notes to be worried about the crowd. In fact, I was more concerned about playing near the professional pipers. I am sure they were thinking, 'who on earth let her in?'" It is another tick on the bucket list – and it has re-ignited my passion for the pipes. Although my Glasgow neighbours may not be quite so happy about that!"

Mish - and our two other pipers, Ken and Kevin, did us proud. For them, and the rest of us, among them Germans, French, Barbadians and Americans, it was a night to remember. Standing by the red carpet, the MacGregor, Hannay and Buchanan chiefs offering the Gaelic Toast to the Chief of Chiefs, her Majesty the Queen. It was ceremonial and tartan magic. Yet we couldn't help but reflect that the last time Clan Gregor was at Edinburgh castle in such great numbers they were heavily armed and trying to capture the place...

Well, what a busy month it's been: I've been filming, the MacGregor's been photographing – but the highlight was the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. This dazzling piping, drumming and dancing extravaganza has been taking place for 68 years – and it never fails to impress. The Tattoo showcases military bands from all over the world. 100 million people watch the musical drama on TV in 30 different countries. Over the three weeks it is staged 200,000 visitors from all four corners of the world pack into Edinburgh castle. And this time they were cheering on the clans.

A Splash of Tartan

'A Splash of Tartan' was this year's theme and each night a mix of Scottish names would march onto the esplanade to celebrate their past. The MacGregors were paired with the Hannays and Buchanans: a formidable Highland, Lowland and Borderland combination and an eclectic

Scottish Halloween Traditions



Spooky Glamis Castle. Photo: VisitScotland.

Text courtesy of Scotland.org

Like many ancient festivals, Samhain continued with the coming of Christianity. November 1st was henceforth to be All Saints Day. The night before was Eve of All Saints Day, or the Eve of All Hallows. But while the name might have changed, old habits persisted. Halloween was a time when witches and warlocks might walk abroad, engaged in wicked practices. In many parts of Scotland it was customary to leave an empty chair and a plate of food for invisible guests. People believed that it was the night when the souls of the dead were set free to roam. They might come into their houses and eat at their tables. The hour before midnight was the witching hour when the departed

returned. Silence was marked as the chimes of midnight rang out.

Supernatural

It's not hard to understand why, in Scotland of all places, Halloween continued to be important. Much of the nation's history involves the supernatural. From the witches of Macbeth as imagined by William Shakespeare to the real burning of women, accused of working with the devil, in a rash of satanic trials during the seventeenth century. There is a special atmosphere in many parts of Scotland even to this day where, as daylight fades, the flames of Halloween bonfires show up ancient ramparts of castles and buildings where devilish deeds once may have been done.

Robert Burns, Scotland's greatest bard, wrote extensively of how ancient beliefs had survived well into the Christian era, as he twisted stories of witchcraft and the devil with the traditions kept alive during Halloween. What is remarkable is how so much of the pagan past persists to this day. Bonfires, which once were lit to scare away the undead, still illuminate the October sky. Lanterns, which in Scotland were always carved out of turnips, are fashioned for the same purpose. Until recently trick or treat was unknown in Scotland. Instead children here dressed up in old clothes, or pretended to be evil spirits and went guising. The custom traces back to a time when it was thought that by disguising children in this way they would blend in with the spirits that went abroad that night. Any such child who approached a house would be given an offering to ward off evil. These days children who knock on their neighbours doors have to sing for their supper. Or tell stories for a gift of sweets or money.

Apple dookin

Children's parties are still an important element of Halloween. One of the most popular games in Scotland is dookin' for apples, where bairns (children) have their hands tied behind their backs and try and grab apples from a basin full of water. Apple dookin usually follows on from the game of treacle scones. Here

again the hands of the children are tied, and sometimes they are also blindfolded. Participants are invited to bite a scone, covered in treacle, hanging from a rope. Messy faces are usually then washed in the apple basin!

As part of the Tweed Valley Forest Festival in November 2008, the town of Peebles set the world record for the most amount of people to dook for apples at one time. Amongst the 70-strong participants was a local MP and a councillor. The modern world has had an effect on some of these customs. Pumpkins are now as common as turnips for lanterns. Children turn up shouting trick or treat and expect gifts without having to perform, and traditional songs and games are dying out in some areas. But there is still sufficient spookiness in old Scotland to ensure that the Halloween rituals will be as everlasting as the spirits that are said to return to earth when dusk arrives on October 31st.



Scottish graves tell the history of the dead. Photo: VisitScotland.

The Forth Bridges - *Crossing into history*

All images courtesy of VisitScotland.



The Firth of Forth could rival San Francisco, London and Sydney by becoming a leading destination for bridge tourism, according to VisitScotland. The national tourism organisation believes the opening of the new Queensferry Crossing, which stands alongside the Forth Road Bridge and iconic Forth Bridge, could see the area emulate the success of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, Sydney's Harbour Bridge and Tower Bridge in London - all of which regularly attract millions of visitors every year. Last month Scotland enters the history books as the only place in the world to boast three bridges spanning three centuries in one stunning location.

Feat of modern engineering

As the world's longest three-tower cable stayed bridge, the Queensferry Crossing is a feat of modern engineering. It will make it easier for local, national and international visitors to travel across the east of the country, to discover attractions such as Dunfermline Abbey, Hopetoun House, Blackness Castle, Aberdour Castle, Deep Sea World and Inchcolm Abbey. The crossing will be opened to traffic on 30 August and was officially opened by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II on 4 September.

Tourism Secretary Fiona Hyslop said: "The Queensferry Crossing will join its two neighbours in the ranks as one of the world's most iconic bridges, a national 'must see' for visitors to Scotland. The people of Scotland will take this new bridge to their hearts and we invite the world to join in celebrating its opening as a celebration of the magnificent feats of innovation, engineering and construction, but also the history and heritage of the three bridges and surrounding areas. By successfully attracting people to the area, we are working with other bodies to ensure that local communities, businesses and attractions are able to capitalise on this increased level of interest to their benefit."

Impressive range of bridges

Scotland is home to an impressive range of bridges, many of which were designed by Scots or built by Scottish construction companies. A vote on the national tourism organisation's community pages

is currently trying to find the nation's favourite Scottish bridge. The iconic Forth Bridge has emerged as an early favourite, closely followed by the Glenfinnan Viaduct, whose starring role in the *Harry Potter* films helped catapulted it to stardom.

Malcolm Roughead, VisitScotland Chief Executive, said: "Bridges, such as the Queensferry Crossing, are a lasting reminder of a nation's engineering expertise and never fail to attract global interest. This impressive structure, which rather fittingly opens during the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017, marks Scotland's place in history as the only destination in the world to boast such a remarkable trilogy. This is undoubtedly a golden opportunity for tourism and the chance for Scotland to become a global destination for bridge tourism."

From their beauty, grandeur or breath-taking engineering prowess, Scotland's bridges each have their own story to tell. Some of Scotland's most recognisable structures include:

Forth Bridge



It now enjoys the same prestigious status as the Taj Mahal and the Great Wall of China, having earned its UNESCO World Heritage Status in 2015. Designed by Sir John Fowler and Sir Benjamin Baker, the Forth Bridge remains an important symbol of Britain's transport heritage and Scotland's engineering pedigree. Its distinctive style makes it one of the most recognisable structures in the world, inspiring artists, photographers and filmmakers. Last year it was also chosen as Scotland's greatest manmade wonder.

The Kylesku Bridge

Replacing a long running boat service, Kylesku Bridge was completed in 1984 and is one continuous concrete curve

that crosses Loch a'Chairn Bhain. The previous ferry services had proved unpredictable, especially in bad weather, and the award-winning bridge helped travellers to avoid a 100 mile route on land. The bridge is located in the North West Highlands Geopark on the North Coast 500 driving route.

Tay Road Bridge, Dundee

One of the longest road bridges in Europe, the Tay Road Bridge connects the city of Dundee with Fife and spans 1.4 miles. It was designed by Glasgow-based William A. Fairhurst and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was in the first car to cross the bridge on the day it officially opened in August 1966. Unusually, the pedestrian pathway runs through the middle of the two lines of traffic and is raised above them.

Glenfinnan Viaduct



A favourite with *Harry Potter* fans having starred in two of the blockbuster movies, the impressive Glenfinnan Viaduct carries the railway 100ft above the River Finnan. When it was completed in 1901 it was the longest mass concrete viaduct in Britain and was built by rail and road engineer Sir Robert McAlpine. The Jacobite Steam train, which doubled as the Hogwarts Express in the *Harry Potter* movies, runs from Fort William to Mallaig. Must-see attraction in the area include the Glenfinnan Monument and Visitor Centre which commemorates the Jacobite clansmen who fought and gave their lives in support of Charles Edward Stuart, otherwise known as Bonnie Prince Charlie.

The Brig o'Doon

This 15th century cobbled bridge in Alloway is famed for its appearance in poetry. The Brig o'Doon saved Tam o'Shanter in Robert Burns' poem of the same name. The witches from Alloway Auld Kirk were pursuing Tam when he crossed the bridge on horseback but were unable to cross the water, and only managed to rip off the poor horse's tail. Originally, the old bridge was supposed to be demolished but this decision was overruled by Alloway's increasing role as a gateway for literary tourists, attracted to the area by Robert Burns' work.

Leaderfoot Viaduct

This elegant red sandstone viaduct opened in 1865 and was created by Charles Jopp and Wylie & Peddie. Its 19 red sandstone arches carried the Berwickshire Railway over the River Tweed and although there was flooding damage to the line in 1948, the Leaderfoot Viaduct was in use until 1965. You can take an

8.5 mile circular walk which includes the viaduct, as well as Melrose, Newstead, Gattonside, Earlston.

Clyde Arc



Best known as the 'Squinty Bridge' due to its twisted arch, the Clyde Arc was designed by the Halcrow Group and built by Kilsyth-based civil engineering company, Edmund Nuttall. Its construction was part of a huge regeneration project on the Clyde Waterfront. The Clyde Arc is just one of 21 bridges that span the River Clyde, with the earliest bridges dating from the 1850s. They are diverse in style and each plays a part in telling the story of how Glasgow formed to be the city it is today.

Clachan Bridge

Built in 1792, Clachan Bridge crosses the Clachan Sound, but is known by the much grander title of 'The Bridge Over the Atlantic' because the sound opens directly into the Atlantic Ocean. It was designed by John Stevenson, whose family founded Oban, and the plans were revised by Robert Mylne. In the early summer, the rare Fairy Foxglove covers the bridge in a gentle purple haze.

Carrbridge Packhorse Bridge

Celebrating its 300 anniversary this year, the Carrbridge Packhorse Bridge is one of the most iconic visitor attractions in the Cairngorms. Originally built to allow funeral processions to gain access to Duthil Church, the crossing is often nicknamed 'coffin bridge'. It was funded by the Brigadier-General Alexander Grant of Grant who paid mason John Niccelstone to create what is the oldest known stone bridge in the Highlands. All that remains of the bridge is a single span, arching high into the air across the swiftly rushing river below.

Swilcan Bridge



Also known as Golfer's Bridge, this crossing might be small in size, but it's an iconic part of golfing history and a mecca for golf fans. This stone footbridge crosses over Swilcan Burn, which meanders across the 1st and 18th fairways of the Old Course in St Andrews. It has witnessed 29 Open Championships in its time and been privy to some of the finest moments in golfing history.

To cast your vote for your favourite Scottish bridge visit: <https://community.visitscotland.com/discussion/1135/your-favourite-scottish-bridges>

The Scottish Banner speaks to Graham McTavish



Outlander's Dougal MacKenzie, played Graham McTavish. Photo: Courtesy of Foxtel.

The phenomena of Outlander has taken the world by storm with millions of people reading the books by Diana Gabaldon and now watching the show which is currently airing. Celebrated Scottish actor Graham McTavish starred as Dougal MacKenzie, the War Chieftain of Clan Mackenzie during the Jacobite Rising of 1745, in the time travel drama and spoke to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on what it is like to play such a complicated character, the show's use of the ancient Gaelic language and his own love for Scotland.

SC: Graham thank you so much for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. As a Scot how enriching has it been for you to be involved with a production that is teaching millions of people so much about the story of Scotland?

GM: Scotland is a character in the story and for me to be able to go back to where I grew up and where I did all my theatre and to see

a lot of people from my theatre days come also through the show as cast members has been incredibly rewarding. I never imagined for a moment when I was doing countless theatrical productions all over Scotland that I would come back dressed in a kilt with a broadsword and dirk charging through the heather, but I was so glad to do it. To be a part of both the creative and physical landscape of *Outlander* was fantastic.

SC: Scots are known as tough people and Dougal was without a doubt a fierce, headstrong, complicated and hard warrior who walked the line between good and bad. What are your views on the character of Dougal MacKenzie, if you could, are there any aspect of the character you would have changed or would he be someone you would relate to if he were to really exist?

GM: One of the great joys of playing him was he was such a complex character, he isn't purely a good guy and certainly isn't purely a bad guy. Like a lot of people he is human, he has his faults and strengths. Dougal is loyal to a fault and he is very passionate and loving to the people he cares about and a fierce enemy to those he doesn't and can be very quick to act.

When you look at a character like him you need to look at him as a whole, at all the varied and interesting qualities he has. He was a privilege to play on screen, and is one of those interesting characters which I am sure everyone knows one. One minute you love being around them and he is the life of the party and everyone loves him and the next he says or does something terrible and you ask "Why did you say that?" Dougal is a lovable rogue and we all love those kinds of people. There is a mythic quality about him, certainly in terms of storytelling, and he makes for a rich character to play as an actor.

SC: Has playing such a political character from a pivotal period in Scotland's story awoken your own interest in Scottish history?

GM: To be honest I was always very interested in Scottish history and knew quite a bit about that period, but being in the show has awoken my interest in my own family history which I have looked into a lot more. The fact that the first season coincided with the Scottish independence referendum certainly made you think when you were making it and remembering what some people have fought for. That spirit of rebellion in Scots has characterised Scottish history. Rebellion towards authority, amongst themselves, amongst Clans, between Highlander and Lowlanders for example.

Scotland is rich in history and Scots are people who will not back down and that is something the British as a whole took great advantage of when creating their own armies and spreading their empire around the globe and found out that Scots are useful people to have around in a fight post Culloden.

SC: The incorporation of Gaelic into the *Outlander* production has added another element of reality to the production and been a great revival for the language. How has it been for you to speak the ancient language and what impact do you feel it has brought to the show?

GM: I loved the fact there was so much Gaelic used, especially in the first season. We sat down and discussed using Gaelic before we shot any of the Highlanders scenes, and discussed that we should only speak Gaelic when the viewer first meets them. I argued that we should only use

Gaelic until the moment that I come up to Claire and ask “What’s your name?” There is a sense of foreignness for her being dropped in an alien world and it is very powerful and also helps identify them as a separate culture as well.

It was so interesting to learn Gaelic for the show as a non-speaker. I would have to go back to my great great Grandfather to find a Gaelic speaker in my family and I so enjoyed using the language and it is so great to see a revival of the language taking place around the world and there is much more notice being taken of the language today. It is a beautiful language but a very hard language to learn if you are a native English speaker as there are sounds which are quite tricky, though it may be easier if you already speak Dutch, then you are well on your way to speaking Gaelic!

I never imaged for a moment when I was doing countless theatrical productions all over Scotland that I would come back dressed in a kilt with a broadsword and dirk charging through the heather, but I was so glad to do it.

SC: The “Outlander effect” has been an incredible boost to Scotland’s tourism and film industries. How proud does that make you feel to be a part of this gift to Scotland?

GM: Immensely proud and we had no idea it would be as successful as it has become. I was recently at a Highland Games in Northern California and the impact of the show is huge and I was overwhelmed and humbled by it all.

Everywhere I go I meet people who love the show and it is not just the English speaking nations taken by the show but also Italians, Germans, Scandinavians and Argentinians. The people who run Doune Castle can’t believe it the impact, with visitor numbers up by over 40-50% alone. The show and has introduced people to Scotland and an interest to learn more and visit and also engaged Scots at home to look at our own story.

SC: The recipe for *Outlander* is a unique mix of fantasy, history, romance, brutality and even time travel. The show is a refreshing form of entertainment compared to so much of what is seen on the current television landscape. What elements of the show do you think fans love the most and do you yourself have a favourite aspect of the complex *Outlander* story?

GM: For me the brilliance of Diana’s (Gabaldon) idea was introducing a time traveller element to it, it just takes it into a completely different world. If it was just a straight forward period romance it would just be lacking that certain something and Diana was originally going to write Claire as a 18th century Scottish woman but felt Claire would not have the voice to speak

up to the men as Claire does in the books were she from that period. Personally I feel 18th century Scottish women could have and Diana clearly had not spent that much time in Scotland!

Introducing a time traveller element really intrigued me. We would all love to be able to go to a place where you can go to another time, maybe not be stuck there, but the idea to be able to move backwards in time and visit would be something all of us would love to do.

SC: Speaking of the fans they are incredibly enthusiastic and passionate about the show. Have you been surprised by the reaction to the show and is there anywhere you have been that that reaction is the most intense?

GM: Yes we all have been surprised. I had just done *The Hobbit* when I started and the fans of *The Hobbit* were pretty intense, but the *Outlander* fans are more so and that is saying something. As an actor in the show you feel a responsibility to bring a character to life. It is always the greatest compliment that I can receive is when people tell me that Dougal is an even more complex character on screen than he was already in the book and I am very proud of that. Over two and half years being in *Outlander* was some of the happiest experiences I have had as an actor.

SC: In 2015 you were the Grand Marshal at New York’s Tartan Day Parade. Just what was that like for you to see not only so many *Outlander* fans but thousands of people celebrating their love for Scotland in central Manhattan?

GM: It was amazing, talk about things you would never imagine yourself doing. My only regret was my father was not alive to see it as he would have loved it. I was very very proud to lead that parade and to be associated with celebrations of Scotland is so fantastic and I will never forget it. 40,000 people lined up in in 6th Avenue in New York with the pipe bands playing behind you is not something you forget about.

SC: And finally Graham you are a true “Global Scot” having lived in Scotland, Canada, England and now New Zealand. Has being in *Outlander* helped bring you “home” and connect you back to Scotland?

GM: I was born in Glasgow but my father was a pilot and we moved around a lot and lived in Scotland, Canada and England and I now live in New Zealand. *Outlander* has helped hugely and means I have an ongoing association with Scotland in a way I did not have before.

After I finished shooting the film *Rambo* in the northern Thailand jungle, I was asked by the crew where I would go after shooting wrapped up and they expected me to say Los Angeles or London. I told them I was off to the Highlands of Scotland as I felt a really strong need to connect with the land. I just walked around for about a week and found it very grounding. In *Outlander* the physical experience of being in Scotland was important to me, when I am in Glasgow being with the people is grounding and the humour and view of life is so refreshing. So now when I go places I carry that with me and it’s a lovely feeling.



The Tartan Day Parade on Saturday, April, 11, 2015 in New York. The Presiding Officer Rt Hon Tricia Marwick MSP leads the parade with Grand Marshal and star of *Outlander* Graham McTavish. Photo courtesy of The Scottish Government.



IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Take-off for Scotland's Airline

Loganair, the only airline based in Scotland, has celebrated a historic occasion as it took to the skies under its own colours for the first time in 25 years. Loganair had been operating as a franchise partner – firstly for British Airways and latterly since 2008 for Flybe - with its aircraft wearing the livery of these two companies. Now the creation of a national airline for Scotland, headquartered at Glasgow Airport - the result of a £4m investment that has secured 600 jobs throughout Scotland, including 160 at Loganair's bases in the Highlands and Islands, and created 15 new posts. The airline contributes over £300m per annum to the Scottish economy. The official inaugural flight carrying Loganair's bold new tartan livery flew into Glasgow from Islay with new routes also being launched to Manchester and the Fair Isle.

The tartan-tailed Spirit of Harris, a Saab 340, was welcomed by a spectacular water cannon salute, normally reserved to mark the launch of a new route - performed by Glasgow Airport's Fire Department. The pipe band Sgoil Lionacleit, from the Benbecula comprehensive school of the same name, played as the aircraft landed. The band recently finished first in the free style category of the 2017 Scottish School Pipe Band Championships.

Jonathan Hinkles said: "Today is a major milestone in the 54-year history of Loganair. Although we have flown as a franchise carrier for larger airlines over the last 25 years, there is still a huge level of recognition and affinity for the Loganair name throughout Scotland and beyond."

The airline's new, distinctly Scottish identity continues in the cabins of its aircraft where colourful Harris Tweed headrest covers now appear on all aircraft, and Tunnock's caramel wafers are part of the range of complimentary refreshments offered to all customers, with Tunnock's sponsoring the in-flight catering carts.

Dundee's MacManus celebrates 150 years



The MacManus in Dundee is celebrating its 150th anniversary, and to celebrate

this major landmark an exciting year-long programme of exhibitions and events have begun, highlighting the important role it has played past and present as a major cultural attraction.

The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum, is an award-winning Victorian, Gothic building, and is home to Dundee's main art collection spanning 400 million years and has been at the heart of art and culture in the City since 1867. Eight beautiful open gallery spaces house fascinating exhibitions of art, history and the environment, giving a fascinating insight into Dundee. Bob Duncan, Chair of Leisure & Culture Dundee said "With 150 years of history, The McManus has brought so much to the city over the years and we are very lucky to have it on our doorstep. It is right then that 2017 is going to be a real celebration of the building, the city's collections and the people who have shaped it. This of course includes the thousands of visitors who visit every year. I am looking forward to spotting this bus around the city and enjoying what will be an exciting McManus 150 programme of exhibitions and events."

The team at the gothic revival style building will be focusing throughout the year on the important role Dundee's best loved building has played, past and present as a major cultural attraction. The building was originally called the Albert Institute for Literature, Science and Art when it was established in 1867 as the first civic museum and art gallery in Dundee.

Glasgow Girls descendants sought



Glasgow School of Art is searching for the descendants of a group of artists known as the Glasgow Girls. The women became household names in the late 19th

and early 20th century for their intricate Celtic designs. Their work became known as the Glasgow style and now the race is on to find relatives of the lesser known Glasgow Girls as their relatives may still own the copyright. In the UK and parts of Europe, artists or their heirs are entitled to a royalty when their copyright protected work resells on the art market. Known as the Artist's Resale Right (ARR), DACS (a not-for-profit visual artists' rights management organisation) has thousands of pounds in royalties to pay to their eligible heirs and beneficiaries. The artists are Katherine Cameron (1874-1965), Jessie Marion King (1875-1949) and Elizabeth Mary Watt (1885-1954).

Susannah Waters, archives and collections manager at the school said; "Some of the Glasgow Girls became very famous and we're very lucky to still be in touch with their families. However, there are many other pieces we still have from others who perhaps aren't as well known, and we don't know much about them. We'd like to see if we can find family for them to learn more about their lives before and after art school and more about their works." Last year, DACS successfully located the heirs of over 120 artists due almost £30,000 in royalties – sometimes crossing continents and reuniting families in the process.

Scotch whisky casks hit the road



US bike maker Renovo has collaborated with Glenmorangie, creators of Highland Single Malt Scotch Whiskies, to create the world's first bicycle made from whisky casks. For the Glenmorangie Original bicycle, Renovo designers took inspiration from the shape of Glenmorangie whisky cask staves. Since 1843, Glenmorangie has been revered for its masterful whisky creation, challenging the bounds of single malt in pursuit of excellence. The Distillery's dedication to its craft is never more apparent than in The Original. Created from spirit distilled in Scotland's tallest stills, it is matured for ten years in the finest hand-selected ex-bourbon casks. Once the design was finalised, it took more than 20 hours – and 15 staves – to create each bicycle. At Renovo's workshop, in Portland, Oregon, the wood was carefully cut into the shape required and any remaining charcoal (bourbon barrels are traditionally charred on the inside) was smoothed away.

Renovo was founded in 2007 by Ken Wheeler, a keen touring cyclist. He was

inspired by wood's unrivalled ability to absorb shock and resist fatigue to begin designing unique, hollow-framed wooden bicycles that displayed all the durability and beauty of an heirloom. Ken, who has a background in aeroplane engineering, was delighted by the prospect of working with Glenmorangie's casks. "The American oak from which Glenmorangie makes its casks is a great wood," he says. "Its engineering properties are ideal for bikes, as hard woods have a high stiffness. For us, the only aspect that was different was the shape of the staves, which have a curve to them, and the fact that they were a little damp, after spending years with whisky inside them... which, by the way, made them smell pretty good. Although, we have to admit to whisky fans, the scent has now diminished!"

Last year Glenmorangie also began an innovative collaboration with British eyewear brand Finlay & Co. to create the world's first Scotch whisky sunglasses from The Original's casks.

First rum distillery in Orkney



J. Gow Distillery has laid down its first barrels on the uninhabited Orkney island of Lamb Holm, now one of the smallest rum-producing islands in the world. Named after notorious Orkney pirate John Gow who was hanged for treason, the distillery laid down its first barrels – thought to be the first ever laid on Orkney – in August.

As it prepares to launch its inaugural product, a spiced rum, to date J. Gow has produced 38,000 litres of wash from six tonnes of molasses and distilled 20 runs on the still. The resulting liquid has been decanted into Italian chestnut barrels, chosen for their compatibility with the cool Orkney climate. Former whisky casks are currently being reconditioned and will be filled in the coming weeks and months. J. Gow Spiced Rum is "made with a blend of spices from around the world including two secret ingredients grown in Orkney", and will offer citrus and cinnamon notes with a hint of vanilla and a "warming spice finish".

A release date has not yet been announced. J. Gow Rum hopes to be able to produce between 12,000 and 15,000 bottles a year. The first are due to go on sale in the autumn. Lamb Holm island also features the distinctive Italian Chapel, built by prisoners of war during WWII.

By: David C Weinczok



The Real History Behind the Outlander Effect



Doune Castle with Jamie cutout.

There's something in *Outlander* for everyone, so while I'm not particularly concerned with finding a bonnie Highlander to sweep me off my feet I am fascinated by the real places and history that provide the backdrop for the world's most popular romance.

I recently joined forces with VisitScotland, Scotland's national tourism organisation, and fellow travel bloggers The Scotlanders to explore the real history behind the filming locations for seasons one and two. Season three locations were top-secret, however, which just means that another adventure lay ahead. From castles to country parks, following the trail of *Outlander* locations in fact gives you a pretty comprehensive cross-section of Scottish history. Here are a few that stood out along the way.

Falkland



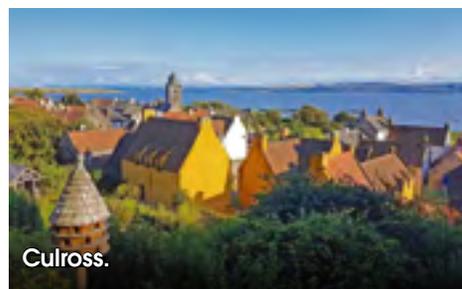
Falkland with VisitScotland site map.

For many viewers the love affair with *Outlander* began in Inverness, where Claire and Frank go on their second honeymoon. While Frank is engrossed in family history Claire gets a mysterious visitor in the form of a mysterious Highlander gazing into the window of their hotel.

The Highland city has gone through a few changes since the 1940s, however, so an atmospheric look-alike was found in the form of Falkland. Nestled in the rolling hills of central Fife, Falkland charms on its first impression. Of course, few visitors can resist the temptation to re-create that now-iconic scene by posing by the Bruce Fountain, as Jaime did, myself included.

Aside from buildings such as The Covenanter Hotel, which was Ms Baird's Guesthouse in the show, the centrepiece of the village is Falkland Palace. A Renaissance masterpiece credited to James IV and James V, Falkland Palace represents a time when Scotland's kings sought to shed the country's rough-and-tumble image for a more refined, cosmopolitan future. Palaces such as Falkland, Linlithgow and Edinburgh's Holyrood all fit this trend, and each are absolutely worth exploring.

Royal Burgh of Culross



Culross.

What a gem Culross is. Pronounced 'coo-russ', much of the burgh has been frozen in time since the 16th and 17th centuries. Aside from a few coats of paint and hiding away the modern street signs, very little had to be done to transform Culross into Cranesmuir, the village near Castle Leoch that Geillis Duncan calls home. Her house in the show is

in fact someone's actual front door! I wonder how many knocks they get each day from those hoping for a little bewitching.

One of the most memorable if cringe-inducing, scenes from season one occurred here when a young boy had his ear nailed to the pillory. It's possible that this particular punishment is the source of our expression 'earmarked', and the filming of it took place at Culross' mercat cross. With its multicoloured buildings, well-worn cobbles and narrow wynds, the mercat square and village centre is one of the best places in Scotland to experience the early modern era.

From castles to country parks, following the trail of Outlander locations in fact gives you a pretty comprehensive cross-section of Scottish history.

Culross is quiet now, but was once a bustling port with over 150 vessels docking at any one time. The burgh's fortunes were built on salt and coal mines, the former of which actually extended underneath the waters of the Firth of Forth and was possibly the first of its kind. Culross also has connections to St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow, who was raised by the Cistercian monks at the hilltop abbey. There's therefore plenty to fuel the history hunter or sightseer regardless of their affinity for *Outlander*, though being a fan surely adds another layer to the journey.

Callendar House



Callendar House.

Looking much more like a French chateau than anything you'd expect to find in Falkirk, Callendar House is full of surprises. A tower stood here since at least the 14th century, but that barely scrapes the site's historical surface – a significant section of the Antonine Wall, Rome's final frontier in Britain, is on the grounds. Reduced to earthen banks that hardly seem apt to defend an empire, the boundary marked what was, to Romans, the edge of the known and civilized world. Beyond be dragons, or worse, painted Picts stalking in the dark depths of the Caledonian Forest.

It all gets very civilised once inside. Callendar House is a fantastic example of French Renaissance-style architecture, and there are comforts to match the exquisite exteriors including a Georgian kitchen – complete with recipes for porridge, kippers and pound cake in the event your taste buds feel like travelling back in time, too. The kitchen was the scene of a shocking moment

in season two. It served as the Duke of Sandringham's kitchen, and with tensions well past boiling point, the Duke – spoiler alert – is murdered in a brutal act of retribution. Catriona Balfe, who plays Claire, said in an interview with *The Hollywood Reporter* that she especially enjoyed filming at Callendar because "The effects were just so authentic".

Doune Castle



Doune Castle courtyard.

This brief list couldn't end without mentioning at least one castle, and Doune Castle – which stars as Castle Leoch itself – is a doozy. It's been something of a pilgrimage site for pop culture fanatics for decades already, having been used extensively for filming *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (in fact, ask at the desk and they have coconut shells that you can borrow). Lately, however, it's *Outlander* fans who are storming the gates in record numbers. The much-lauded 'Outlander Effect' discussed in last month's issue is perhaps felt most heavily here.

Doune stands at the confluence of two roads into the Highlands a few miles north of Stirling, which has been dubbed the 'brooch clasping the Highlands and Lowlands together'. Any force wishing to invade the Highlands or Lowlands was made to pass through these lands, making them extremely strategically important. The man who built the castle was Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany and king in all but name during the late 14th to early 15th centuries.

The castle was seized in 1745 in the name of 'Bonnie' Prince Charlie, and after the Jacobite victory at the Battle of Falkirk in 1746 Doune was used as a prison for captured royalists. It fell into ruin after Culloden, but picked up steam again in the 19th century as a tourist destination. Old habits die hard, indeed.

Kilt-wearing phenomenon

These are but a handful of almost 30 filming sites across Scotland that you can investigate using VisitScotland's site map, downloadable on their website. For anyone using social media, you can also search the hashtag '#Scotlanders' to follow in the footsteps of my adventure to many of these places earlier this year.

Despite not being a member of the fandom per se, I found visiting these places to be an incredibly rewarding experience, and I am firmly of the belief that history really resonates with people when it's tied to their experiences in the here and now. If more people can learn to love Scotland and its history thanks to the time-travelling, kilt-wearing phenomenon that is *Outlander*, then count me in as a fan after all.

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

Scotland named as 'Most beautiful country' in the world

Scotland is officially the most beautiful country in the world, according to travel guides *Rough Guides*. With many spots of natural beauty, from beaches to lochs to stunning isles and coastline, visitors are clearly spoilt for choice when it comes to memorable views and experiences.

Scotland beat Canada, New Zealand and England in a poll of readers of *Rough Guide*, based on their favourite places that spark the imagination. A writer for *Rough Guides* commented, "Who can deny that these wild beaches, deep lochs and craggy castles are some of the most wonderful and beautiful sights in the world?"

Awe-inspiring landscapes

Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland said; "We are delighted that Scotland has received this wonderful accolade, but of course it will not have been a surprise to anyone who has encountered our wonderful country. From our awe-inspiring landscapes to our remarkable historic attractions, to our bustling but beautiful urban centres, Scotland takes people's breaths away. Our latest campaign, the Spirit of Scotland was based on feedback from visitors that they get a special feeling while in the country - whether it's in the wilds of Glen Coe on a stormy day or taking part in a ceilidh on Burns' Night - there is something different about Scotland that they can't experience anywhere else in the world. We look forward to welcoming more people who want to encounter this beauty and spirit in the flesh for many years to come."

If any other reason was needed to book a trip, check out a selection below of just some of the top places of beauty to behold in Scotland.

Best beaches

Luskentyre on the Isle of Harris regularly makes the lists of top beaches in the world, and is often mistaken (at first glance at a photograph) for the Caribbean; but not forgetting the beach at Barra, often referred to as having the most scenic plane landing; Tombolo on St Ninian's Isle and Banna Min beach, both in Shetland; as well as Dornoch beach in Sutherland; Calgary beach on the Isle of Mull; Balmedie beach in Aberdeenshire; and Yellowcraig beach in East Lothian, with views to the 1885 lighthouse on Fidra Island, the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's famous tale *Treasure Island*.

Dark Skies and Northern Lights

Scotland has some of the darkest skies in Europe, making it a perfect place to view the night skies; Galloway Forest Park is one of the darkest places in Scotland, which is why it's the UK's first Dark Sky Park. Moffat in Dumfries and Galloway was also given the title of Europe's very first Dark Sky Town, having adopted special street lighting to keep light pollution to a minimum. In addition, places in Scotland, including Shetland, Orkney and Aberdeenshire and the Moray coast are great spots from which to see the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights.

Historic views

From Old Man of Hoy on Orkney; to Dunnotar Castle in Aberdeenshire; to



Stunning castles are just part of the reason Scotland is the most beautiful country in the world. Photo: VisitScotland.

Old Man of Storr on the Isle of Skye; to the drive up to Glamis Castle in Angus; or Culzean Castle in Ayrshire and Dryburgh Abbey in the Scottish Borders, visitors to Scotland can spot historic and magical gems around every corner, many of them linked to Scotland's myths and legends and mysterious stories.

Cinema Paradiso

Scotland has been voted the world's Best Cinematic Destination and it's not difficult to see why: with the striking views of the Glenfinnan Viaduct associated with the *Harry Potter* films; West Sands Beach in St Andrew's famous for the beach run and the music

of Vangelis in *Chariots of Fire*; and Rosslyn Chapel in Midlothian famous for its usage in the film version of *The Da Vinci Code*.

Wonderful walks

The rugged coastline from Portpatrick to Killantringan in Dumfries and Galloway is a popular one for dogwalkers and ramblers alike; not forgetting the West Highland Way, which starts at Milngavie on the edge of Glasgow and stretches to Fort William at the foot of Ben Nevis. A less strenuous walk be a stroll around the Kelpies in the Helix parkland in Falkirk or along the Water of Leith in Edinburgh, to include a glimpse of the Dean Village. Or

what about a walk to the top of the city's Arthur's Seat, with panoramic views out to the Firth of Forth, including the new Queensferry Crossing bridge?

Scotland's 'Route 66'

Scotland's North Coast 500 route boasts epic scenery, stunning coastal views and beautiful beaches, including Achmelvich in Sutherland. It regularly makes the list of the world's best driving routes and should be on everyone's list of must-dos.

For more information on Scotland, including more suggestions of stunning landscapes and beautiful views, go to www.visitscotland.com

Six Stunning Sites Unearthed in Search for Scotland's Hidden Gems



The Govan Stones, a collection of 31 medieval stones carved in the Viking era, received the most votes in Dig It! 2017's search for 'Scotland in Six - Hidden Gems'. Image: The Govan Stones Project.

Dig It! 2017, the year-long celebration of archaeology, has been coordinating the Scotland-wide search. Over 12,000 votes have been cast over the last two months and with the polls now closed, the winners have been revealed:

- Govan Stones, Glasgow
- Ardrossan Castle, North Ayrshire
- The Howff, Dundee
- James Watt Cottage, Bo'ness (Falkirk)
- Campbeltown Picture House, Argyll & Bute
- Lincluden Collegiate Church, Dumfries & Galloway

With over 2,000 votes, the Govan Stones was the most popular site. The collection consists of 31 medieval stones carved in the Viking era, including carved crosses and five Viking hogback stones. Ardrossan Castle, a medieval ruin which once played host to some of Scotland's most powerful people including William Wallace, came in second place. The Howff, a 453-year-old graveyard, landed in third place with over 1,000 votes. Fourth place was claimed by James Watt Cottage - the former workshop of the inventor James Watt, whose steam engine played a key role in the Industrial

Revolution. Campbeltown Picture House, one of the earliest surviving purpose-built cinemas in the UK, came in fifth place with over 800 votes. The final spot was claimed by Lincluden Collegiate Church, where visitors can still find angels and cherubs carved in the stone.

As part of the 2017 Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, Scotland's six World Heritage Sites were celebrated with six events in April. The organisers then set out to find six "lesser-known" sites to bring them into the spotlight as well. The 'Scotland in Six - Hidden Gems' campaign began in June after 28 sites were nominated by local groups and organisations. Voting took place on Facebook, where one "like" equalled one vote.

The six winning Hidden Gems sites are now preparing to mark their victory with six events during Scottish Archaeology Month in September. Dr Jeff Sanders, Dig It! 2017 Project Manager, said: "We've been thrilled by the reaction to the Hidden Gems campaign. The people who nominated the sites have put an enormous amount of time and effort into the promotion and it's been great to see members of the public respond with equal enthusiasm - whether they're sharing childhood memories or discovering a site for the first time."

To learn more about the sites, visit www.DigIt2017.com

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Battle of Largs - Scots defeated the Vikings who were attempting to invade. **1263**

1 - Contract to construct the North Bridge, Edinburgh, signed. **1763**

2 - Birth of Sir William Ramsay, Scottish chemist who discovered helium, xenon, neon, argon, radon and krypton. **1852**

2 - Death of Sir Thomas Lipton, grocer, tea merchant and contestant for the Americas Cup. **1931**



2 - The new paddle steamer *Waverley* was launched from A. & J. Inglis's yard on the Clyde. After providing services on the Firth of Clyde she has been preserved and still takes passengers "doon the watter" as the oldest sea-going paddle steamer in the world. **1947**

3 - Treaty of Berwick, freeing David II from imprisonment by the English. **1357**

3 - Last Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh before the Union with Westminster. **1706**

4 - Boys' Brigade founded in Glasgow by Sir William Alexander Smith. The first uniformed youth organisation in the world, from one small company of 35 boys it has grown into a worldwide organisation with companies in over 60 countries. **1883**



5 - Balloon flight by Italian aeronaut Vincenzo Lunardi from Heriot's School, Edinburgh to Ceres in Fife. **1785**

5 - The birth of Jock Stein, famous Scottish football manager. Stein was manager of Celtic between 1965 and 1978, during which time it was one of the most successful clubs in Europe, and in 1967 became the first British club to win the European Cup. **1922**

6 - Scot Ebenezer Henderson formed the first Congregational church in Sweden. He spent many years travelling throughout Scandinavia and Russia, giving out bibles translated into local languages. **1811**

7 - Birth of Charles McLaren, one of the founders of the *Scotsman* newspaper. **1782**

8 - Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the first savings bank, born in the Manse at Lochrutton. **1774**

9 - King James IV ratified the Charter incorporating the Surgeons and Barbers. **1506**

9 - Death of Lord Home of the Hirsel, also known as Sir Alec Douglas-Home, formerly Foreign Secretary and UK Prime Minister. **1995**

10 - Writer and geologist Hugh Miller born on the Black Isle, Cromarty. **1802**

10 - Jock Stein, Scottish football manager, collapsed and died. He suffered a massive heart attack after watching Scotland draw 1-1 with Wales in a World cup qualifying match in Cardiff. As well as managing the national team, from 1965-78 he was Celtic's most famous manager, seeing them win the European Cup in 1967. **1985**

11 - Letter from Wallace and Moray to the mayors of Lubeck and Hamburg saying that "The Kingdom of Scotland has, by God's Grace, recovered by battle from the power of the English". The Lubeck Letter was thought to have been destroyed during World War Two, but was found in a Lubeck Museum and is now on permanent loan to the Museum of Scotland. **1297**

11 - Ship *Great Michael* launched for King James IV. **1511**

11 - The British fleet, under the command of Admiral Adam Duncan (born in Forfar in 1731), defeated the Dutch off the village of Camperdown, Holland. **1797**

11 - Scotland's first First Minister Donald Dewar died suddenly at 63 after a fall on the steps of his official residence in Edinburgh. He was the first person to hold the position of First Minister following the establishment of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. **2000**

12 - Ramsay MacDonald, first Labour Prime Minister of UK, born in Lossiemouth. **1866**

12 - The birth of Magnus Magnusson, writer and broadcaster. Born in Iceland, Magnus moved to Scotland when only a baby. He made a career in journalism, finally achieving the post of Assistant Editor with *The Scotsman*. Magnusson died on January 7th 2007. **1929**

13 - Battle of Aberdeen, James Graham, 1st Marquess of Montrose, sacked the city. **1644**

13 - Birth of Allan Ramsay, painter and son of Allan Ramsay the poet. **1713**

14 - Second marriage of King Alexander III (to Yolanda de Dreux). **1285**

14 - Edward Bruce, brother of Robert the Bruce, killed in a battle near Dundalk, Ireland. **1318**

14 - Birth at St James' Palace, London of King James VII, second son of King Charles I and brother of King Charles II. **1633**

14 - The 50 pence decimal coin was first issued, replacing the ten shilling note. **1969**

15 - Birth of poet Allan Ramsay, father of Allan Ramsay the painter. **1686**



15 - Edinburgh's Balmoral Hotel opened its doors for the first time. **1902**

15 - Poet William Souter died in Perth. **1943**

16 - King James II born. **1430**

16 - Poet Robert Fergusson died. **1774**

17 - Battle of Neville's Cross during which King David II was captured by the English. **1346**

17 - James "Paraffin" Young obtained a patent for the extraction of paraffin from shale, starting the chemical industry in West Lothian. **1850**



17 - Bridge to the Isle of Skye opened. **1995**

18 - Aberdeen-born Denis Law became the youngest footballer to play for Scotland. At the time playing for Huddersfield Town, he was 18 years and 7 months old when he played against Wales at Cardiff. Scotland won 3-0. He has recently been nominated Scotland's best player of the last 50 years by the SFA. **1958**

18 - The death of Margaret Tudor, English princess, sister of Henry VIII, wife of James IV, and mother of James V. It was through Margaret, a paternal great-grandmother (through Henry, Lord Darnley), and a maternal great-grandmother (through Mary, Queen of Scots), that James VI based his claim to the throne of England following the death of Queen Elizabeth I. **1541**

19 - The first public-hire sedan chairs became available in Edinburgh. A sedan was an enclosed chair for one person, carried on poles by two men. They reached the height of their popularity in the 18th century, when there were as many as 180 sedans for public hire in Edinburgh. **1687**

20 - Explosion at Clarkston Toll shopping centre, killing 12. **1971**

21 - Last tram car ran in Dundee. **1956**



21 - The Queen officially opened the Burrell Collection in Glasgow's Pollok Country Park. The museum's collection had been donated to the city nearly 40 years earlier by the shipping magnate Sir William Burrell. The Burrell Collection is now closed for refurbishment and will reopen in 2020 after a multi-million pound redevelopment is complete. **1983**

22 - Foundation stones of main Post Office and National Museum of Scotland laid by Prince Albert in his last public engagement before his death. **1861**

23 - Treaty between King John Balliol of Scotland and King Philippe IV of France which promised mutual help against the English - the start of the "Auld Alliance". The Alliance, which was described in 1942 by Charles de Gaulle as 'the oldest alliance in the world' promised mutual help against the English, asserting that should either Scotland or France be invaded by England, the other country would invade English territory. **1295**

23 - Death of John Boyd Dunlop who re-invented the pneumatic tyre from the design of Robert W Thomson. **1921**

24 - Artist David Roberts born in Edinburgh. He died on 25 November 1864 whilst working on a painting at St Pauls Cathedral. **1796**

25 - Elvis Presley touched down at Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire, his only visit to Scotland. This was also the only time "The King" set foot on British soil. **1960**

26 - George III crowned, beginning a 60 year reign, one of the longest in British history. **1760**

26 - Lady Caroline Nairne, songwriter and poet, died at Gask, Perthshire. **1845**

26 - Poet Sorley MacLean born on the island of Raasay. **1911**

27 - James Cook, circum-navigator of the globe, born to Scottish parents in Yorkshire. **1728**



27 - William Smith, founder of the Boys' Brigade, born. **1854**

28 - Birth of Robert Liston in Linlithgow who was to carry out the first operation in Britain with the aid of an anaesthetic. **1794**

28 - Dr Henry Faulds, a Scots medical missionary working in Japan, published a letter in "Nature" which gave the first evidence that fingerprints could be used as proof of guilt or innocence in legal cases. **1880**

28 - Journalist and novelist Cliff Hanley (*Dancing in the Streets*) born in Glasgow. **1922**

29 - James Boswell, biographer of Dr Johnstone, born at Blair's Land, Parliament Square, Edinburgh. **1740**

30 - Caledonian Canal opened. The Caledonian Canal links the west of Scotland to the East, and makes it possible to navigate a canal boat journey coast to coast right through Scotland's Great Glen, between Fort William and Inverness. It is scenically spectacular along its whole length, surrounded as it is by Scotland's highest mountains and most beautiful scenery. **1822**

30 - First moving image on a television screen when John Logie Baird transmitted the image of a 15-year-old office boy in his London workshop. **1925**

31 - Pneumatic bicycle tyres were patented by inventor John Boyd Dunlop from Ayrshire. **1888**



31 - Hampden Park Stadium opened in Glasgow as the home of Queen's Park Football Club. The national stadium of Scotland bears the name of an English politician John Hampden and is actually the third venue to be called Hampden Park in Glasgow. **1903**



Clan Montgomery Society International
Join a Thousand Year Tradition

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



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of The United States
David Ross of Ross, Baron Balmagowan,
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www.clan-ross.org
Contact: L. O. Ross
105 S. Graham Ave.
Orlando, FL 32801
ClanRoss@theUnitedStates@gmail.com



Clan Young Society Australia Inc.

Ian J Young
Convener
10 Gedric Street
Parkdale VIC 3195
M: 0409 670 055
E: iyoung@alphalink.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, Murrison or descendants of eligible name.



Clan Scott Society

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

Clan Scott Society
PO Box 13021
Austin, TX 78711-3021
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

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email: shusa@embarqmail.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: Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.
Info: Secretary, PO Box 320, Maclean, NSW, 2463

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

Scottish Associations and Societies



The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

Founded at a meeting held in Sydney 18 June 1981
Welcomes membership from all Australians of Scottish descent.
Applications for membership can be obtained from:
The Hon Secretary, SAHC
Susan Cooke tel: 02 6255 6117
Email: alfredhcooke@gmail.com
www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



Murray Clan Society of North America

Applications for membership are invited from Murray's and the following allied families: Balneaves, Dinsmore, Dunsmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrie, Neaves, Piper, Pypier, Smail, Smeal, 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, Scath and Shay.

Mike Shaw
Secretary
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020



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

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org
Founded in 1905

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

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

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



Clan Pollock

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

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



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

For further info contact

President: Wayne Sinclair 0417 146 174
Secretary: Liane Sinclair (03) 9348 2663

E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com



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

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

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

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



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 Bahagowan)

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

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

P.O. Box 484
Essex Junction, VT 05453

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



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ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION MERGED

Many Names - One Clan

Liz Ross, President
Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary
czmembership@abccglobal.net
PO Box 6341
River 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 Horshoe Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24060
e-mail: richard@langfordmail.net

Illinois Saint Andrew Society

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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:

Balarat 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	Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society
Clan Lamont Australia	Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc	St Andrews First Aid
Clan Mackenzie of Australia	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Clan Maclean Australia	The Royal Caledonian Society
Clan Sinclair Association	Warrambool & District Caledonian Society
Glenmaggie Scottish Folk Festival	Warrambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society

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

SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

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

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

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

CANADA

OCTOBER 2017

5 - 8 Vancouver, BC - Scottish Dance Teachers Alliance North American Conference and Scholarships

A weekend of learning with the SDTA - great instructors, fun classes, and events at the Pinnacle Harbourfront Hotel. Info: www.facebook.com/SDTA2017

6 - 8 Dartmouth, NS - RSCDS Nova Scotia Branch 35th Anniversary Fall Workshop

Scottish country dance classes, ceilidh and more at Christ Church Parish Hall, 61 Dundas St. Info: www.rscdsnovascotia.ca.

6 - 9 Canmore, AB - Scots Gathering in the Canadian Rockies

Unleash Your Inner Scot! Explore the arts with dancing, music and needlework workshops. Learn new things with whisky tasting and cultural lectures. Hosted by St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Calgary Branch. Info: www.calgaryscots.org

7 - 15 Cape Breton Island, NS - Celtic Colours

Nine days of Celtic music, energy and excitement. Info: 888 355-7744 or www.celtic-colours.com.

13 - 15 Halifax, NS - The Great Canadian Genealogy Summit

The National Genealogy Conference featuring all Canadian speakers, includes Scottish ancestry at the Lord Nelson Hotel. Info: www.cangensummit.ca

13 Toronto, ON - Celtic Night at The Tranzac Club

Ugly Horse and Old Man Flanagan's Ghost are energetic and entertaining, and endearing to those familiar with Celtic music, live at The Tranzac Club, 292 Brunswick Ave. Info: 416-923-8137 or www.tranzac.org

13 Montreal, QC - Taste of Scotland - Whisky Tasting Night

The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal annual Whisky Tasting Night at the Officers' Mess at The Black Watch Armoury, 2067 Bleury St. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca

14 Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON - Traditional Scottish Ceilidh

Gather the clans and join us for a fun night of traditional Scottish music and dancing at Christ Church Great Hall, 254 Sunset Blvd. Info: (905) 640-1461.

20 - 22 Dartmouth, NS - Re-Jigged

Atlantic Canada's first and only new trad Celtic festival, celebrating new directions in music and dance. Think Celtic-with attitude. Info: www.rejiggedfestival.com

21 Salt Spring Island, BC - A Simply Scottish Day of Dance on Salt Spring Island

Scottish country dance event offering workshops during the day and a dinner and dance in the evening. Info: www.saltspingscottishdancers.org/simply-scottish

22 London, ON - Kirkin' O' The Tartan

St. George's Presbyterian Church is hosting its annual Kirkin' O' the Tartans Service, 10:30 am at 1475 Dundas St. Everyone is welcome. Wear your tartan. Light Scottish fare will be served after the service in the lower all. Handicapped Accessible. Ample Parking. Info: Keith McKee 519-455-5760.

25 Surrey, BC - The Centre for Scottish Studies at Simon Fraser University Lecture

Dr. Andrew MacKillop from the University of Glasgow will speak on Scots in India ca. 1690-1820 at SFU Surrey Campus. Info: www.scottish.sfu.ca

28 Windsor, ON - RSCDS Windsor Ball

Annual ball with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Windsor Branch at 7:30 p.m. in Mackenzie Hall, 3277 Sandwich Street West. Info: www.rscdswindsor.org

NOVEMBER 2017

4 - 5 Duncan, BC - Duncan Highland Dance Competition, Premiership & Workshop

Presented by The Cowichan Valley Highland Dance Association. Info: www.cvhda.com

7 Vancouver, BC - The Gaelic Society of Vancouver Ceilidh

Join in at the Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St. Info: www.vancouvergaelic.com

18 Toronto, ON - The St. Andrew's Charity Ball Toronto

Experience Scottish hospitality and revel in Scotland's rich history and traditions, co-hosted by the St. Andrew's Society of Toronto and the 48th Highlanders of Canada at Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 100 Front Street West. Info: ball@standrews-society.ca or www.standrews-society.ca.

18 Vancouver, BC - St Andrew's Ball

Join the British Columbia Pipers' Association at the Coast Hotel, Denman Street for a formal, four course dinner, music by the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra, entertainment by Shout of Scotch and dancing all night long. Info: www.bcpipers.org

18 Orléans, ON - Scotland Tonight

An afternoon of Celtic excellence featuring the pipes, drums, song and dance in a showcase of local Celtic talent. With something for everyone, Scotland Tonight is a wonderful way to enjoy the Celtic arts in a grand variety show at Shenkman Arts Centre, 245 Centrum Blvd. Info: www.shenkmanarts.ca

24 - 26 St. Anns, NS - Gaelic Weekend

Take some time to develop your Gaelic skills Spend the weekend at The Gaelic College while learning the Gaelic language in an exciting, useful, and enthralling way. Info: 902 295 3411 or www.gaeliccollege.edu

25 Toronto, ON - RSCDS Toronto's 60th Anniversary Dance

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Toronto celebrates their Diamond Anniversary year with a gala dance at the Sala Caboto Ball room. Info: www.dancescottish.ca

30 Nationwide - Happy St Andrew's Day

Wishing all our readers and friends a happy St Andrew's Day! Celebrate St Andrew's Day, Scotland's national day.

USA

OCTOBER 2017

5 Woodridge, IL - 16th Annual Kilted Classic Golf Tournament

Dressed in kilts of every color, golfers follow the skirl of a bagpiper around a course and play the game that many regard as one of Scotland's greatest inventions, presented by Chicago Scots at Seven Bridges Golf Club. Info: 708 426 7126 or www.chicagosots.org/kiltedclassic2017

7 - 8 Aztec, NM - Aztec Highland Games

The largest Celtic music festival in the Four Corners at Riverside Park, 500 South Light Plant Rd. Info: www.aztechighlandgames.com

7 Snow Hill, MD - Chesapeake Celtic Festival

A great event for the whole family-Celtic dancing, Celtic bands, bagpipes & drums, storytelling, artisans, historic ales & speciality beers, whiskey tasting & more at Furnace Town Living Heritage Village, 3816 Old Furnace Rd. Info: www.furnacetown.org

7 - 8 Reno, NV - The 27th Annual Reno Celtic Celebration

Presented as a community and family event to celebrate Celtic culture at Bartley Ranch Regional Park. Info: www.renoceltic.org

7 Laurinburg, NC - Scotland County Highland Games

Celebrate Scotland at the North Carolina Rural Heritage Center, 13040 X-Way Rd. Info: www.schngc.org

7 Henderson, NV - Pipes & Pours 2017 - LVPB's Annual Whisky Tasting Fundraiser

Pipes & Pours whisky tasting fundraiser, benefiting Las Vegas Pipe Band, a registered local non-profit, and the annual Celtic Thanksgiving Concert. This event brings you the perfect traditional Scottish pairing of whisky and bagpipe music at 1794 Amarone Way. Info: www.lasvegaspipelineband.org

14 - 15 Ventura, CA - Ventura Seaside Highland Games

The premier Scottish Event on the Central California Coast at Seaside Park, Ventura Co. Fairgrounds. Info: 818-886-4968 or www.seaside-games.com

14 Indianapolis, IN - Indianapolis Scottish Highland Games & Festival

Presented by The Scottish Society of Indianapolis and The Scottish Foundation of Indianapolis at German Park, 8600 S Meridian St. Info: www.indyscotgamesandfest.com

14 South Amboy, NJ - New Jersey Celtic Fest

Show off your kilt and your brave heart and join us at the New Jersey Celtic Fest in County Middlesex at Raritan Bay Waterfront Park, John T. O'Leary Blvd. Info: 855-478-6888 or www.irunnewjersey.com

20 - 22 Atlanta, GA - 45th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games

On the meadows of the Stone Mountain Park the sights and sounds of a Scottish Highland Games presented in a uniquely southern style. Info: 770 521-0228 or www.smhg.org

21 Sarasota, FL - Sarasota Celtic Music Festival

Celebrate Celtic culture at Nathan Benderson Park. Info: www.celtoberfest.org

21 Denton, TX - 2017 Celtober Highland Games

Presented by the Texas Celtic Athletic Association at South Lakes Park, 556 Hobson Ln. Info: www.txceltics.org

21 Salem, OR - Samhain Celtic Year Festival & Concert 2017

Celebrate Celtic culture through a day of hands-on experience at the Ceili of the Valley's 2nd annual Samhain Celtic New Year Festival at Grant Community School, 725 Market St. NE. Info: www.celticfestival.info

21 Merrionette Park, IL - CFD Pipes and Drums 10th Anniversary Benefit Party

Join the Chicago Fire Department Pipes and Drums in celebrating 10 years of service on October 21, 2017, 4pm-8pm at 115 Bourbon St. Info: 773-800-1742 or www.chicagofirepipers.com

28 Hollywood, FL - Scottish American Society Of South Florida Fall Ceilidh

With a Hallowe'en flavour at Little Flower Catholic Church, 1805 Pierce St. Info: www.SASS.org

28 - 29 Fayetteville, NC - Carolina Caledonian Fest

A festival honoring the Argyll Colony, America's most significant Highlander settlement at Campbellton Landing. Info: www.caledonianfest.com

28 - 29 Richmond, VA - Central Virginia Celtic Festival & Highland Games

A weekend of Celtic fun at Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 E Laburnum Ave Info: 804-356-1093 or www.vacelticfestival.com

28 Zachary, LA - Louisiana Highland Games and Celtic Festival

Featuring traditional Highland games, Scotch and Irish country dancing, bagpiping, heritage events, foods and much more at Zachary Youth Park, 1650 E Mount Pleasant Rd. Info: www.facebook.com/LAHighlandGamesCelticFest

28 Bakersfield, CA - Bakersfield Celtic Music Festival

The great tradition of Scottish and Irish music at Kern County Fairgrounds. Info: www.kernscot.org

29 Modesto, CA - Kirkin of the Tartan

The Modesto St. Andrews Society will honor traditions of the past with its bi-annual "Kirkin' of the Tartan" at St. Paul's Episcopal Church 1528 Oakdale Rd. Info: www.standrewsmodesto.org

NOVEMBER 2017

1 - 1 New York, NY - A Spooky Night

Join the American-Scottish Foundation in association with Burns Society NY at Cafe Tallulah, 70th Street & Columbus Ave. Celebrate the "Halloween" of Robert Burns with verse and music. A haunting fun evening for all. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.org

3 - 5 Myrtle Beach, SC - The Association of Scottish Games and Festivals Conference

A conference of resources and information to assist in the production of Highland Games throughout the United States. Info: www.asgf.org/conference

4 - 5 Austin, TX - Austin Celtic Festival

Multi-stage and programming of all things Celtic out at the beautiful Pioneer Farms in North Austin. Info: www.austincelticfestival.com

4 Denver, CO - 2017 St. Andrew's Gala

Presented by St. Andrew Society of Colorado at Denver Marriott Tech Center, 4900 S. Syracuse St. Info: www.coloradoscots.com

4 Seattle, WA - 53rd Annual Heather Tartan Ball & Silent Auction

Featuring pipe band performances, auction, Scottish country dancing & music. Presented by the Seattle Scottish Highland Games Association at Seattle Latvian Center 11710 3rd Ave NE. Info: www.sshga.org

6 Havana, FL - St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee Kirkin' of the Tartans

At Havana Presbyterian Church, 213 1st St NE, Info: www.saintandrewtallahassee.org

17 - 19 Pacific Grove, CA - Asilomar Scottish Country Dance Weekend & Workshop

Scottish country dance weekend & workshops at Asilomar Conference Grounds, 800 Asilomar Ave. Info: Patti Cobb, Asilomar Weekend Chair (510)858-7588 or www.Asilomar.rscds-sf.org.

18 Pittsburgh, PA - Fraser and Haas in Concert at Balmoral Classic

Scottish traditional music on Scots fiddle and cello at the Balmoral Classic. Pittsburgh's Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming presents Alasdair Fraser and Natalie at McGonigle Theatre, Central Catholic High School, 4720 Fifth Ave. Info: 412 323-2707 or www.bagpiping.org

18 Dunedin, FL - Dunedin Celtic Music & Craft Beer Festival

Traditional and contemporary Celtic music and both local and national craft beer at Highlander Park. Info: www.dunedincelticmusicfestival.com

25 Las Vegas, NV - Celtic Thanksgiving

Las Vegas Pipe Band's annual Celtic Thanksgiving concert showcases the best of Southern Nevada's diverse Celtic performing arts community on one stage: Scottish & Irish dancers, Celtic singers, bagpiping & Scottish drumming at Clark County Library 1401 East Flamingo Rd. Info: www.lasvegaspipelineband.org

25 Parker, TX - Celtic Festival at the Farm

Spend a beautiful fall day with us on a working farm, where Celts and Celts-at-heart will gather to enjoy live bagpipe music, Scottish food, gift vendors, kids games and crafts, historic costumes, silent auctions, Outlander fan meet-up, and more at Jacob's Reward Farm 4308 Church Lane. Info: www.facebook.com/metroplex.united

29 New York, NY - Eve of St Andrew's Day Dinner

Celebrate Scotland's patron saint with the Scottish-American Foundation with Scottish food, drink and cheer at Maggie Place, 21 East 47th St. Info: 212 605 0338 or www.americanscottishfoundation.org

30 Nationwide - Happy St Andrew's Day

Wishing all our readers and friends a happy St Andrew's Day! Celebrate St Andrew's Day, Scotland's national day.

SCOTLAND

OCTOBER 2017

3 - 6 Glasgow - The National Piping Centre Adult Seasonal Piping Gathering

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

8 Falkirk - Glasgow to Edinburgh Canoe Challenge

Paddle your way from Glasgow to Edinburgh over two days and help raise funds for Kidney Cancer Scotland along the Union Canal. Info: www.kcuk.org.uk/scotland

13 - 15 Inverness - Loch Ness Knit Fest

International knitting festival. Info: www.lochnessknitfest.com

20 - 31 Edinburgh - Scottish International Storytelling Festival

A celebration of live storytelling, oral traditions and cultural diversity, with Scottish and international storytellers and musicians. Info: www.trascotland.org/festivals

21 Ballinalloch, Moray - The Dramathon

Run from Glenfarclas to Glenfiddich, pick up stamps along the way and get single malt samples at the end. Love running and whisky? Time to cross the streams. Info: www.thedramathon.com

27 Edinburgh - Ceilidh

The Annasach Ceilidh Band provide the live music at this ceilidh dance with a caller at Counting House, West Nicolson St. Info: www.annasach.co.uk

27 Bowmore, Isle Of Islay - Theatre of Drams Whisky Festival

Morning lectures explain the linear process of whisky making - Malting, Mashing, Distillation, Maturation, Ligation/Marketing/Nosing and Tasting. Afternoons offer Peat Cutting, Gaelic and English Distillery Tours, Whisky Tastings, Ceilidh Corner, Independent Bottlers, Independent Distillers and more at Bowmore Hall. Info: www.theatreofdrams.scot

28 Perth - 68th Perth All Scotland Accordion and Fiddle Festival

Kicking off with a ceilidh, the event takes in competitions and championships during the day before finishing with the Senior Scottish Championship and performances by some of Scotland's top musicians at Salutation Hotel, South St. Info: www.perthaccordionfestival.co.uk

28 Oban - Scottish Rhododendron Festival 2017: Achnacloch

Enjoy a succession of wonderful bulbs, flowering shrubs, rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias and primulas and a woodland garden with ponds above Loch Etive at Scottish baronial house by John Starforth of Glasgow. Info: www.scotlandsgardens.org

28 Alloway, Ayr - Alloween

Are you brave enough to visit Alloway on Halloween? Spooky Guided Tour of the Bard's birthplace and Alloway's Auld Haunted Kirk at Burns Cottage. Info: 01292 443700 or burns@nts.org.uk

🍷 DID YOU KNOW?

The Scottish Banner has one of North America's most comprehensive Scottish events listings available! With hundreds of Scottish events listed from around the world and updated weekly.

See our most up to date listings and add your event anytime at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

Answers to Scotword on Page 6

ACROSS: 8) Nation; 9) Oilfield; 10) Galloway; 11) Dollar; 12) Ideal; 14) Bap; 15) Apron; 18) Chanter; 20) Thistle; 23) Glens; 24) Pap; 25) Fiery; 29) Crieff; 31) Aberdeen; 33) Montrose; 34) Tocher

DOWN: 1) Tabard; 2) Gill; 3) Knowe; 4) Copycat; 5) Clyde; 6) Will; 7) Ullapool; 13) Ain; 16) Dee; 17) Shy; 19) Holyrood; 21) Ski; 22) Parapet; 26) Reeked; 27) Afton; 28) Keith; 30) Efts; 32) Dyce

Scottish Genealogical Research



Let us build your Scottish Family Tree!

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Lantern soup

(pumpkin and haricot bean soup)

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 675g/1½lb pumpkin flesh, cubed
- 450g/1lb sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 tsp mixed dried herbs
- 1 tsp chopped sage
- 1.5L/2½ pints vegetable stock
- 400g/14oz canned haricot beans, rinsed and drained
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Heat the oil in a large saucepan and fry the onion and garlic for about 10 minutes until softened and starting to colour. Add the pumpkin, sweet potato and herbs and cook for a further 5 minutes. Add the vegetable stock and bring to the boil. Cover the pan and simmer for 30 minutes, until the vegetables are cooked and tender. Add the haricot beans and season to taste with salt and pepper. Cook for 5 minutes, then serve hot with crusty bread.

Devilish red cabbage

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp. sunflower oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 450g/1lb red cabbage, shredded
- 225g/8oz cooking apples, peeled, cored and diced
- 2.5cm/1in piece fresh root ginger, peeled and grated
- pinch of ground cinnamon or allspice
- 150ml/¼pt vegetable stock
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Heat the oil in a large saucepan. Add the onion, red cabbage and apple and cook gently for 5 minutes. Add the ginger and cinnamon or allspice and the vegetable stock. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer gently for 15-20 minutes until most of the liquid has evaporated and the vegetables are tender. Season to taste and serve.

Wizard's hat pasties

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- small onion, finely chopped
- 250g/9 oz. pumpkin flesh (buy a large wedge and peel, or use leftovers from lantern-making), cut into small cubes of about 1cm
- 2 tsp tomato purée

- pinch grated nutmeg
- 75ml vegetable stock
- 375g/13 oz. pack ready-rolled puff pastry
- egg, beaten
- 50g/1.7 oz. cheddar, grated
- 2 tbsp. roasted pumpkin seeds (from a packet)

Method:

Heat the olive oil in a large saucepan, then add the onion and cook for 5 minutes until softened and lightly golden. Stir in the pumpkin and tomato purée. Season with nutmeg and salt and pepper to taste. Pour in the stock and bring to the boil before turning down to a simmer for 8-10 minutes. The pumpkin should be just tender and almost all of the liquid evaporated. Spoon into a bowl and set to one side to cool. Heat oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6. Unroll the pastry and roll it out slightly thinner with a rolling pin. Cut out 8 diamond shapes approximately 10cm wide x 15cm long. Brush each pastry diamond with beaten egg. Stir the grated cheese into the cooled pumpkin mixture, then divide between the diamonds, placing the mix on the top half of each piece of pastry. Fold the bottom of the diamond over the filling, pressing the edges together firmly to make a well-sealed triangle. Brush all over with egg glaze and scatter over a few pumpkin seeds, in star or moon shapes if you like. Chill for 30 minutes, or overnight, covered with cling film, if you are making ahead. Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden and puffed.

Pumpkin pasta with rosemary



Ingredients:

- 340g/12oz. pasta such as large shells
- 1 small pumpkin
- 2 sprigs rosemary
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 shallot
- 140ml/5fl oz. carton double cream
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp chopped flat leaf parsley
- 30-55g/1-2oz butter
- 150ml/¼ pint white wine
- ½ lemon, juice only



Halloween, celebrated on 31 October, is widely assumed to be an American festival but it's actually an ancient Celtic pagan celebration. The term Halloween comes from All-hallow-even or All Hallows' Eve - the evening before All Hallows' Day, or All Saints' Day. The festival originated as a pagan ritual among the Celts in Ireland and Britain, who regarded 31 October as the last day of summer, November being associated with the death and slaughter of animals that provided meat for winter. In the old Norse religion, sacrifices were made to the elves, and food was blessed and stored for winter. Irish and Scottish immigrants carried Halloween festivities in the 19th century.

salt and freshly ground black pepper
grated parmesan (or similar
vegetarian hard cheese), to serve

Method:

Preheat the oven 190C/375F/Gas 5. Peel and de-seed the pumpkin. Dice into 2.5cm/1in and place onto an ovenproof sheet. Chop the rosemary and sprinkle over the pumpkin. Season and drizzle with olive oil. Place in the oven and cook for 45 minutes. Cook the pasta in plenty of salted boiling water as per instructions. Chop the garlic and shallot, gently pan-fry in the butter for about 1 minute. Add the mustard and wine, bring to the boil. Simmer for 2-3 minutes. Add the lemon juice, seasoning, cream and finally the parsley. Drain off the pasta and remove the pumpkin from the oven. Fold into the pasta in a bowl. Pour over the sauce and mix together. Check seasoning. Serve in a bowl with the parmesan cheese over the top.

Roast pumpkin seeds



Ingredients:

- 100g/3½oz pumpkin seeds
- ¼ tsp celery salt
- ¼ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ tsp paprika
- 1 tsp vegetable oil

Method:

Brush a frying pan with a very small amount of oil and place over a medium heat. Add the pumpkin seeds, stirring frequently. They will expand and brown fairly quickly, and when this is done, place them in a bowl and add the salt, celery salt, freshly ground black pepper and paprika. This is delicious if the pumpkin seeds are reasonably fresh

Halloween cake

Ingredients:

- For the cake:
- 250g/9oz. butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
- 250g/9oz. caster sugar
- 4 free-range eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 200g/7oz. self-raising flour
- 50g/2oz. cocoa powder
- For the ginger biscuit tombstones:
- 350g plain flour
- ½ tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

- 100g/3½oz. butter, cut into cubes
- 175g/6oz. light soft brown sugar
- 4 tbsp. golden syrup
- 1 free-range egg, lightly beaten

For the decoration:

- white icing (such as royal icing), for decorating the biscuits
- 125g/4½oz butter, softened
- 250g/9oz. icing sugar
- 2 tbsp. cocoa powder
- 1 tbsp. milk
- ½ pack Oreo cookies or bourbon biscuits
- 1 pack chocolate sticks

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Grease and line a 20x30cm/8x12in rectangular cake tin with baking parchment. Beat together the butter and sugar with a hand-held mixer until the mixture is pale and fluffy. Add the eggs a little at a time, beating well between each addition, adding the vanilla extract with the last of the egg. Sift together the flour and the cocoa powder into a bowl. Fold the flour mixture into the butter mixture until fully incorporated. Spoon the cake batter into the prepared tin and smooth the surface with the back of a spoon. Bake for 30 minutes until firm to the touch (a wooden skewer inserted in the centre should come out clean). Leave to cool for 10 minutes in the tin before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely. For the ginger biscuit tombstones, place the flour, ginger and bicarbonate of soda into a mixing bowl. Rub the butter in with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the sugar, syrup and egg and mix together until it forms a soft dough. Wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge for 30 minutes. Pre-heat the oven to 180C/350F/gas 4. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface and cut out your shapes – you will only need a few for the cake so cut out some other Halloween shapes for extra biscuits. Place the shapes on to greased baking sheets and bake in the oven for 10-12 minutes. Remove from the sheets with a palette knife and place onto a wire rack to cool completely before decorating with white icing. For the buttercream, beat the butter in a large bowl with a hand held mixer until creamy then add the icing sugar a spoonful at a time beating well between each addition. Add the cocoa powder and milk and beat again for a further five minutes until light and fluffy. Blend the Oreo or bourbon biscuits to fine crumbs in a food processor. Spread the buttercream over the cooled cake, covering the top and sides – don't worry if it's not smooth - a few lumps and bumps will make it more mud-like. Break the chocolate sticks in half unevenly, then stick around the sides of the cake to form the fence. Sprinkle the biscuit soil over the surface before sticking in the tombstones and decorating with spooky sweets.

The Law of the Innocents

By: Kenny MacAskill



Kenny MacAskill was an SNP MSP and Justice Secretary from 2007-2014. He is now a columnist with the Herald and Scotsman, as well as contributing to other papers and magazines. He has written several books on the Scottish Diaspora along with former First Minister Henry McLeish, as well on his own on Scottish politics, the Lockerbie Bombing and a biography of the trade union leader Jimmy Reid, soon to be published.



Iona Abbey is located on the Isle of Iona. The abbey was a focal point for the spread of Christianity throughout Scotland since Columba arrived there in AD 563. Photo: VisitScotland/Paul Tomkins.

There's a perception held by many that Scotland in ancient times was full of wode wearing savages who even the Romans couldn't conquer. Terrifying their southern neighbours, that it was only in later years that the barbarism ended and civilization began. It sometimes suits the image a few like to cultivate and as with most things there's an element of truth in parts.

A common culture

However, there was also a culture and a civilization in existence long before the history of Scotland begins for many. It's something that Scots should take pride in and one story is apposite today. As terror afflicts lands around the globe and as horror impacts on innocents many could do well to learn from what was invoked in Scotland over a thirteen hundred years ago.

Of course, it wasn't just in Scotland as in those days the Irish Sea was not an obstacle between two different lands but a highway that connected a common culture. Ireland and parts of Scotland were one in terms of language and religion. Monks traversed the sea bringing the Christian faith to Scotland, and indeed spreading it beyond to the north of England.

Much of that appears to have been lost in the mists of time. Partly, through events that troubled it and the time that has passed since it happened. Perhaps, also, partly because it was the ancient Celtic Church and neither the Catholic Church nor the Presbyterian Church that followed with the Reformation sought to fully record it. However, it's a fascinating tale, and given the troubled times now faced, well worth reflecting on.

St Adamnan

Most know that monks like Columba brought Christianity to Scotland from across the Irish Sea. Today Iona and other sites are both preserved and revered. But, Celts are still viewed in many ways as being both wode wearing and warlike. Yet there's so much more to appreciate.

Moreover, what's less well known is the contribution made in trying to bring peace to troubled lands and invoke rules to protect innocents in times of war. This being done almost 1400 years before the United Nations or the Red Cross were established.

St Adamnan, also spelt Adomnan invoked the Law of the Innocents. It's also known as Cain Adomnan or the Canon Law of Adamnan. It has been written about but for the reasons noted above and doubtless others it's never had the publicity it merits. Gilbert Markus, a former priest, penned a book entitled *Adomnan's Law of the Innocents* almost a decade ago and it's well worth a read for those seeking further information.

Adamnan became the 9th Abbot of Iona in 679 AD. He's remembered now as the biographer of St Columba who he succeeded as Abbot. In fact, he was also related to Colm Cille or Church Dove as it translates from the Irish, who is equally important across the Irish Sea. Columba being the patron Saint of Derry, and one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland. He was equally pivotal in Scotland, even if he followed in the wake of others who had gone before him. Preaching to and converting both the Gaels of Dalriada which covered much of what became Strathclyde and parts of Northern Ireland; as well as the Picts, elsewhere in the Scotland.

Regulate warfare

Adamnan followed in his footsteps. He was born in Donegal, Ireland its thought in 624AD. He was most likely educated at Durrow, in County Offaly. Where it's also believed, he may have taught. However, what's certain is that he received a very broad education, which was unusual in those days. He joined the Columba family rising to become Abbot of Iona from AD 679, until his death in 704AD. But his great legacy, is the law of the Innocents which he established.

As Abbot of Iona he brought together the main Chieftains and

clerics from across Ireland and both Gaelic and Pictish Scotland. It's thought it was enacted in AD 697 at a Synod held in the midlands of Ireland, at Birr. The date was chosen as it was the centenary of Columba's death.

The site was also selected not just because of the prestigious monastery sited there, but also as it was the border between the Kings of Munster in the south and the Ui Neill dominated north of Ireland. War and troubles had flared there over many years, as elsewhere in the Celtic lands.

The Law of the Innocents was basically a set of rules to regulate warfare and protect non-combatants. It was, though a first systematic attempt to try and regulate combat and protect innocents and civilians. Then, sadly as now, war and conflict can be savage and brutal. This was an attempt to protect women, children and clerics. It applied throughout both Ireland and in Scotland.

Celtic civilisation

It was also reflective of the times it was written in that some of the punishments for breaching it were severe indeed. For example, slaying a woman resulted in a right hand and left foot being cut off before execution. Far from benign and similar brutal punishments were meted out for killing peasants or clerics; as well as for specific crimes like rape. It also declared punishments to be carried out including death, mutilation and fines for other offences. Doing nothing to protect the innocents could also be punished.

It's considered the first Christian attempt to regulate warfare and protect those who were not active participants. Much of it was based on old Irish laws, that also applied in the parts of Scotland covered by it. How successful it was isn't really known and it certainly didn't spare Iona from savagery at the hands of the Vikings, who refused to recognise them.

However, it was still a remarkable attempt to mitigate the suffering of innocents 1300 years ago and long before the inception of rules like the Geneva Conventions. Sadly, it's as relevant now, as then. But, it shows there's more to Celtic civilisation than wode and war; and much to celebrate in the Celtic church.



Tartan of the Month

Jute, Jam & Journalism 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.

Warpweftweave studio was commissioned by Overgate Shopping Centre to design a unique tartan as a commemorative tribute to the once famous Dundee Juteopolis, as part of a yearlong marketing campaign. The Jute, Jam & Journalism Tartan (Reference: 11905) is to be woven entirely out of jute with various colours throughout to represent the three J's of Dundee; Jute, Jam and Journalism. Natural jute, the main colour of the design represents the jute industry of Dundee and secondary colours of orange, red, black and grey represent jam, marmalade and the newsprint of journalism respectively. This tartan was registered on 29 August, 2017 by A Slater, Blairgowrie, Perthshire.



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).



Spooky places to visit in Scotland



Fyvie Castle, home to Lillias Drummond. Photo: VisitScotland/Damian Shields.

Scotland is certainly a spooky place, not just on Halloween. Our long bloody history set in remote forests, castles and glens is the ideal fodder for many gruesome tales of ghosts and ghouls. Scotland is a nation of storytellers and throughout the centuries accounts persist of the spirits of real people who died in tragic or horrific circumstances. Of apparitions that appear at certain times of the night, or on certain days of the year – perhaps when they were murdered. And of strange, eerie sounds that pierce the chilled Scottish air. Hauntings seem to have no set boundaries. Ghosts have been reported on bleak roads, in old theatres and ancient graveyards across the land. Is it just a draught seeping through an ancient wall or something altogether more sinister. In Scotland you can never be too sure.

Scotland's spookiest street



Mary King's Close, Edinburgh. The street leading from Edinburgh Castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse is known as "The Royal Mile", with dark and spooky lanes leading off. One, Mary King's Close, was bricked up during an outbreak of plague and only recently re-opened. Said to be the most haunted place in the Scottish capital, the spirit of a young girl has often

Is it just a draught seeping through an ancient wall or something altogether more sinister. In Scotland you can never be too sure.

been seen. Guided tours will take you to the close, Greyfriars cemetery, where the ghosts of covenanters who were tortured and executed linger, and also to the place where body snatchers Burke and Hare first dug up corpses to sell for use in medical experiments.

Roslyn Chapel



A few miles to the south-east of Edinburgh. Made famous by the novel and movie *The Da Vinci Code*, this working church was built for the Sinclair family in the fifteenth century. Ghostly flames apparently flicker in the burial vault when one of the Sinclair's is about to die, and an apparition of the apprentice who carved the famous Apprentice Pillar and was then murdered by his teacher, can sometimes be seen or heard.

Spooky Stirling

Stirling Castle was the home to the Kings and Queens of Scotland. Trouble, intrigue and death were never far from their walls. Stirling is not short of a ghost story or two. Some of their origins are clear, others are shrouded in even more secrets. The Pink Lady falls into the latter category. Some say she was a pretty noblewoman engaged to a brave knight who starved to death inside Stirling Castle – while under an English siege in 1304 - during the Wars of Independence. She in turn died, not

from malnourishment but from the pain of a broken heart. Her spirit roams the castle awaiting the day their souls will be entwined once more. Others say she is Mary Witherspoon, a victim of Grave Robbers who sold bodies to educated men for dissection. While the robbers were brought to justice her ghost still seeks her mortal remains. People report a faint scent of rose-blossom in the air before she appears, her favourite flower.

Fyvie Castle

Just north of Aberdeen, this castle is haunted by the spectre of Lillias Drummond who died there in 1601. Some believe she was starved to death by her husband, others that she died from a broken heart. Whatever the truth, it is said that Lillias's ghost carved her name on the stone window sill of her husband's bedroom on the night that he took a new bride. The writing can still be seen and the green-ghost of Lillias appears when time bodes ill for the owners of Fyvie. A dead drummer and a haunted trumpeter are also believed to haunt the Castle – with the trumpet sounding when death is near.

Cruden Bay

On the Aberdeenshire coast and to the east of Fyvie, Cruden Bay is a pleasant looking fishing village. But in the 19th century it was the holiday haunt of Bram Stoker. The ruins of Slains Castle, which drape down from the headland inspired his vision of Count Dracula's Castle. The Kilmarnock Arms Inn, where Stoker stayed in 1895, is still there. Would you risk a visit to the place where Count Dracula was brought to life?

Cawdor Castle

Shakespeare's *Macbeth* was given the title of Thane of Cawdor in the classic story of power and revenge. While the castle did not exist during the time of the real Macbeth, could the stories of Cawdor Castle, close to Nairn near Inverness, be stranger than Shakespeare's fiction. One ghost is thought to be the daughter of an earl of Cawdor. A wayward lass who insulted her father by flattering an enemy chieftain's son. When the Earl discovered their tryst she fled to the highest tower of the castle as he followed in murderous pursuit. She lowered herself from the window to escape the threats of her father. He showed no mercy and chopped off her hands sending her to her death. Visitors have reported seeing the ghost of this handless girl still roaming the castle.

Dunstaffnage Castle

On the west coast of Scotland, close to the town of Oban, the castle is more than thirteen hundred years old. Besieged and rebuilt many times it was visited by Robert the Bruce, King James IV and Flora Macdonald – who was imprisoned at Dunstaffnage after helping Bonnie Prince Charlie escape Scotland following the Battle of Culloden. A lady dressed in green walks the ramparts when momentous events are about to unfold for the castle owners, Clan Campbell. When smiling the fortune will be good.

But if she is seen weeping, trouble lies ahead. The castle is open daily, with restricted hours during the winter.

The Home of Walter Scott at Abbotsford House

Abbotsford House in the Scottish Borders, was the home of novelist Sir Walter Scott. When you visit you can walk his library and even sit in his dining room. Be careful though. That is where the great man died after exhausting himself writing in an attempt to pay off huge debts. Might you catch a glimpse of his ghost?

Culloden Moor



It was here on a windswept patch of ground near Inverness that Bonnie Prince Charlie's rebel army was crushed by government troops in 1746. The Prince's army was made up of Scottish clans like the Stuarts, the Macdonalds and the Frasers. Many were slaughtered after the battle was over. Cairns, or rock monuments, stand where these men died. Visions of the battle and apparitions at the memorial cairns are said to occur in this sorrowful place. A refurbished visitor centre is open all year round.

Edinburgh Castle

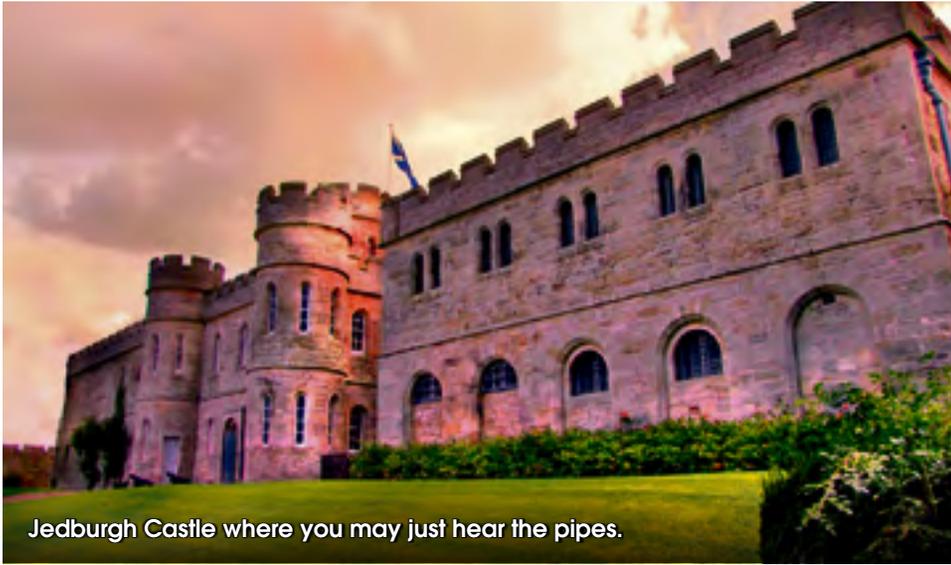
The castle has a long and bloody history and is reputed to be haunted by many ghosts, including that of a headless drummer boy. His appearance is said to be a warning that the castle is about to be besieged and was first seen in 1650 before Oliver Cromwell and his English army attacked. The castle is now a major tourist venue and is home to the Scottish crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny an ancient rock on which the Kings of Scots were crowned.

Overton Bridge

A modern day mystery, the Overton Bridge in West Dunbartonshire has been the site of many unexplained dog suicides. The dogs are reported to take the plunge from exact same spot on the same side of the bridge. Some of those lucky enough to survive are said to return moments later to try again. It is alleged Overton Bridge has taken the lives of 50 unfortunate canine companions. There have been many attempts to explain the phenomena. Some think the problem lies with mink trails leading over the side of the bridge. However, in Celtic beliefs Overton Bridge is called a "thin place" where the realms of the living and the dead cross. Others believe that dogs are super sensitive to the spirits and spooked enough by the bridge to take their own lives.

Celebrate Halloween in Scotland

The home of myths, legends and spooky stories!



Jedburgh Castle where you may just hear the pipes.

Text courtesy of Scotland.org

Scotland has long been known as the home of myths, legends and tales of the supernatural. A visit to any Scottish town or city, or even the most remote part of the country, will bring with it stories of ghosts, ghouls and mysterious events.

Halloween originates from the ancient Celts' celebrations and is based on their 'Feast of Samhain'. The eve became known as All Saints' Eve, All Hallows' Eve, or Hallowe'en. All Saints' Day, 1 November, is said to be the day when souls walked the Earth.

Visitors to Scotland this Halloween will certainly be in for a treat with a visit to one of its 'frightfully' good locations ... or perhaps a good scare! There are also a number of Halloween themed events

taking place in Scotland in the run up to, and including, 31 October.

Read on if you dare....

Creepy Castles

Jedburgh Castle, Scottish Borders - The site's eventful past as a medieval castle, site of the town gallows and as a prison throughout the 19th century, is well known. Among the 'ghosts' rumoured to haunt the castle is the Prison jailor, along with a number of male, female and child prisoners. On dark nights the refrain of a lone piper is said to be heard coming from behind the boundary wall.

Culzean Castle, Ayrshire - Culzean has a ghostly piper, who is reputed to have been searching caves beneath the castle

when he disappeared. The pipes are said to herald the announcement of a marriage, and also to be heard on stormy nights. His apparition is also said to have been seen in the grounds of the castle, both on Piper's Brae and near the ruinous collegiate church.

Glamis Castle, Forfar - Glamis Castle, just outside the village of Glamis, is reputed to be one of the most haunted castles in Scotland. King Malcolm II was murdered here leaving a bloodstain on the floor, which defied all efforts to be removed, and eventually the floor was boarded over. The castle is also said to contain secret rooms. One which is believed to house a monster which roamed at night. This monster was believed to have been the son of a Laird of Glamis who was horribly deformed and was kept in one of the secret rooms. A ghost named the 'Grey Lady' is also said to haunt the Chapel.

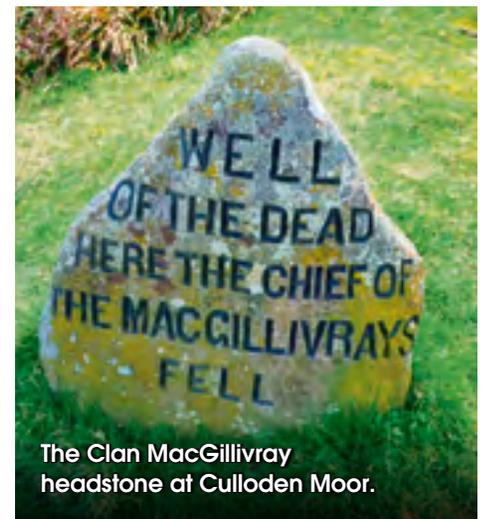
Tales of mystery, war and murder

St Andrews, Fife - the historic seaside town is steeped in legend, with stories of ghosts of murdered archbishops, John Knox and even the Devil himself wandering the streets! The Cathedral ruins are said to be haunted by an unidentified lady in a long white dress with a veil, holding a book in her clasped hands.

The Isle of Skye - In the past, scores of kilted soldiers have been reputedly sighted here. They are often seen near Harta Corrie which is celebrated in local history for the Bloody Stone that marks the scene of

a bitter battle between the MacDonalds and the MacLeods some 300 years ago. Also, often seen is a driver-less 1934 Austin phantom car hurtling along roads at breakneck speed.

Culloden Moor, Inverness-shire - This area is the site of the tragic end to the Jacobite Rising of 1745. Bonnie Prince Charlie and 5000 Highlanders were defeated by The Duke of Cumberland and over 9000 Government troops just outside Inverness in the Highlands. Here, by the memorial cairn, there has often been seen the dim form of a battle-worn Highlander. Some years ago, a woman who was visiting Culloden chanced to look into the Well of the Dead and as she did so she saw the reflection of a Highlander looking back at her. This is only one of many reported sightings on the moor.



The Clan MacGillivray headstone at Culloden Moor.

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/>

January 13-14, 2018

Saturday 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Sunday 8:45 AM - 5:00 PM

Winter Springs Florida • Central Winds Park



41st Annual
Central Florida

Scottish Highland Games



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