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the Scottish Banner

Australasian Edition

A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 41 Number 6 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper December 2017

Edinburgh welcomes

the world and 2018 this holiday season

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the Scottish Banner
Volume 41 - Number 06

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The Banner Says...

Scotland - *Where ancient customs and modern festivities meet*

by Sean Cairney

As December approaches we are reminded of one of the most special times of the year when we can all pause and celebrate Christmas and Hogmanay with our loved ones. The month is a busy one with social events for many and catching up with friends, family and even ourselves.

I remember as a child the excitement of putting up decorations and seeing presents appear under the tree (especially if they had my name on them!). We had a ritual in our house where we were allowed to open one gift before bed on Christmas Eve. It usually was a prelude of things to come the next day and consisted of lots of wrapping paper ripped apart and across the floor with everyone checking out what the other received.

Banned Christmas

Christmas, however, was not always such a special time in Scotland. The Protestant Reformation banned Christmas in Scotland for 400 years and it was simply just another day for everyday Scots and amazingly Christmas Day didn't become a public holiday in Scotland until 1958, with Boxing Day not a holiday until 1974.

Perhaps this is why the Scots have always been known for Hogmanay, which have been an important ancient Gaelic winter celebration for centuries and today attract people from all over the world to the country.

Unique Scottish traditions

Scots not only know how to throw a party (and welcome the world) this month, many will also keep up with some rather unique Scottish traditions that are carried out across the country.

The custom of First-footing describes the arrival of your first guest on New Year's Day. Tradition dictates a tall, dark male bearing various gifts is said to bring good luck and prosperity to a home; whilst fair-haired males and females are thought to be unlucky.

The Kirkwall Ba' is a mass-football game played out in the streets of Kirkwall in Orkney every Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The game pits two rival groups (the Uppies and Doonies, the names being derived from Up-the-Gates and Doon-the-Gates), against each other in a battle to secure a goal and win the game. Dating back to the mid-17th century the Kirkwall Ba' is still today one of the most popular parts of the Orkney holiday calendar.

Scots not only know how to throw a party (and welcome the world) this month, many will also keep up with some rather unique Scottish traditions that are carried out across the country.

Maybe not as exciting for some is the tradition of redding where a thorough housecleaning or "redding," removal of the ashes from the fireplace, and repayment of all debts -- all of which must be done before "the bells" at midnight on December 31st. Who doesn't like to start the year off in a nice clean hoose?

The small town of Burghead in Moray gets a bit greedy over their Hogmanay celebrations with two celebrations to enjoy. The Burning of the Clavie is a fire festival unique to Burghead, which greets in the New Year. The Pagan festival dates back to at least the 1750s and takes place both on December 31st and also again on January 11th. The significance of the 11th January dates back to the 1750's, when the Julian calendar was reformed in Britain. The new Gregorian calendar was introduced. People rioted, demanding back their 11 days – but not in Burghead. The clavie, which is a half-cask filled with wood shavings and tar, is set alight. Getting a piece of the clavie is said to bring good luck for the coming year.

In the issue

Scotland's historic capital is again rolling out the red carpet for kids of all ages this festive season with a huge range of events to cater to all tastes, highlighting with the spectacular fireworks display over Edinburgh Castle. The city will again blend a mix of new and old customs for the tens of thousands of revellers which showcase Scottish hospitality and tradition.

As winter takes hold this month the days become shorter and skies much darker. Scotland is now a top stargazing nation and parts of the country are some of the darkest in Europe. For those who want a real out of this world light show there are few places that can match the celestial displays of bright stars and Northern Lights.

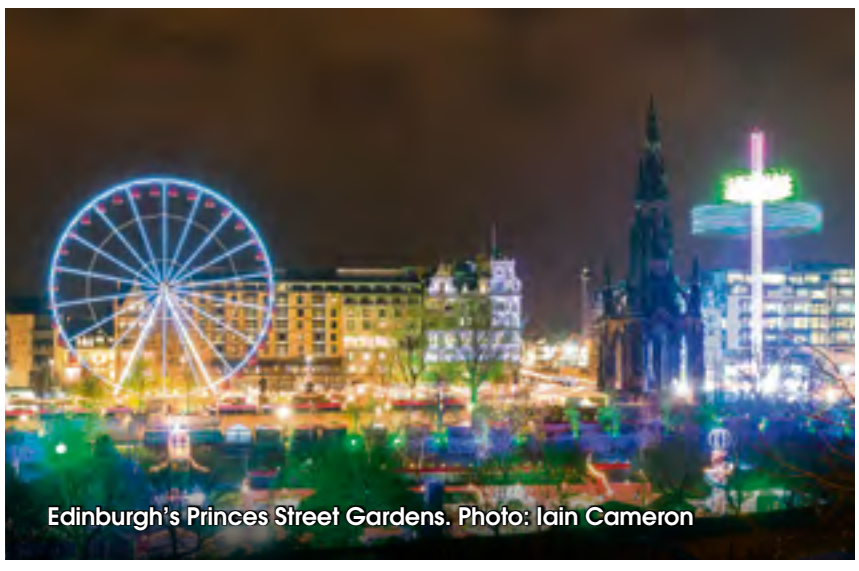
The reconstruction of an Iron Age roundhouse in Dumfries was recently honoured and the ancient settlement of Whithorn is being recreated for future generations to understand Scotland's Iron Age past. Many crafts people have worked tirelessly to preserve Scotland's rich heritage.

Scottish folklore is full of interesting tales and this month we look at the story of the last dragon to be killed in Scotland. Many may not be familiar with the Linton worm in the Scottish Borders, however Sir Walter Scott was. Just like the much more famous Loch Ness monster, fact or fiction, the tale is incredible because just what if it was true…

A festive time in a very festive nation

Scotland offers a unique mix of ancient tradition mixed with a modern flair. This month is a festive time in a very festive nation, however wherever you may be spending your Christmas or seeing in 2018 all of us at *the Scottish Banner* wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season and may 2018 be a year of health and happiness.

Have you got a favourite Christmas or Hogmanay tradition or perhaps been lucky enough to visit Scotland during the holiday season? Share your story with us by email, post or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens. Photo: Iain Cameron

Gracing our front cover: Celebrating festive fun in Edinburgh. Photo: Tim Edgeler.

St Columba's cell revealed by archaeologists

The St. Columba of Iona Monastery. Photo: Historic Environment Scotland.

1957 archaeological excavation helped the University of Glasgow and HES uncover conclusive evidence that a wooden hut traditionally associated with St Columba dates to his lifetime in the late sixth century AD.

Archaeologists from the University of Glasgow working with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) have uncovered conclusive evidence that a wooden hut traditionally associated with St Columba at the monastery on the island of Iona does indeed date to his lifetime in the late sixth century AD.

Monk's cell

The process of carbon dating has led to the significant breakthrough, which categorically proves samples of hazel charcoal, unearthed from an excavation of a wattle and timber structure on Iona 60 years ago, dates back to the exact period Columba lived and worked at the Hebridean monastery. It may be the monk's 'cell' where he prayed and studied in isolation.

The samples, excavated in 1957 by Professor Charles Thomas, were kept in his garage in Cornwall, preserved in matchboxes, until 2012 when they were given to HES predecessor body Historic Scotland. A University of Glasgow team of archaeologists then identified the significance of the finds and recently submitted the samples for carbon dating. Until recently the finds from the site were believed to be missing, but a project led by University of Glasgow archaeologists Dr Ewan Campbell and Dr Adrián Maldonado, funded by ourselves, re-located the samples.

Commenting on the findings, Dr Maldonado said: "This discovery is massive. St Columba is a key figure in Western Christendom and Thomas always believed he'd uncovered Columba's original hut, but could never prove it because the technology wasn't there at the time. This is as close as any archaeologist has come to excavating a structure built during the time of St Columba. It's vindication of the archaeological instincts of Thomas and his team and a remarkable lesson in the value of curating excavation archives for as long as it takes, to make sure material is ready for the next wave of technology."

Hugely significant

Richard Strachan, Senior Archaeologist said: "This work is hugely significant. The radiocarbon dates have confirmed the Tòrr an Aba structure excavated in the 1950s to be consistent with Columba's presence on Iona in the 6th Century AD and provides compelling evidence this was Columba's writing hut, as described by Adomnán. It endorses Thomas's meticulous curation of his archive for over 60 years ago and demonstrates the huge value in its re-examination. The team at the University of Glasgow did an amazing job synthesising his extensive excavation. It's just a huge regret Professor Thomas did not live to see these results."

The 2017 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo DVD Giveaway

Full coverage of the 68th Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo live from the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle. The world's most spectacular military Tattoo will host a parade of talent from all around the world whilst celebrating 'Splash of Tartan' Set against the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, the spine-tingling presentation includes Massed Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Tattoo Highland Dancers, crowd favourites the Massed Pipes and Drums plus many more.

The Scottish Banner is pleased to offer 5 lucky readers a chance to take home a copy of the greatest show on Earth. Courtesy of Universal Music Australia & ABC we have 5 copies of the 2017 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo DVD, to enter simply email: competitions@scottishbanner.com, enter via our website or post (sorry no telephone entries) our Sydney office, our full contacts can be found on page 2. Please ensure you include your full postal address and email/phone details. Winners will be notified directly, good luck!

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Valerie Cairney

Dear Mrs Cairney,
Congratulations on your retirement, but I hope that you will still have input in *the Banner*. How fortunate, as readers, that your son Sean is our new editor. The history page and the Scottish events are so concise, yet informative. The last two editions have included Wolfville, Nova Scotia, just 15 km from us - with Scotch on the Rocks dance week.

Our Scot Country Dance Group is the Annapolis Valley Scottish Dancer, of which I have belonged for 30 years. We'll have lot of pictures for our archives.

Back to *the Banner*, the first article I read is Lady Fiona's Scotland. Lady MacGregor and Sir Malcolm were so gracious at our clan reunion 3 years ago. No doubt they will be again in 2018. I love her quips regarding our Chief. An example of this is when she blamed his vanity for allowing him to ruin his best pair of suede shoes!

Do accept the enclosed cheque for the renewal of my subscription.
Mrs June MacGregor Jain
Coldbrooke, Nova Scotia
Canada

Job well done

Please convey to Valerie my congratulations on a job well done over there on these past 40 years. I hope she is enjoying her retirement.
Evelyn Murray
USA

Amazing legacy

Hi Sean,
After having just returned from Bonnie Scotland, and even some warm weather, I read in the August edition of *the Scottish Banner* that you are carrying on the truly amazing legacy that your mother created so well. What wonderful work Valerie did, in setting up the very successful "wee paper", linking Scots all over the world. Each edition has new and interesting articles about Scotland and its connections worldwide. You have proved your capabilities in editing the Australasian edition, so I am sure the paper will go from strength to strength under your leadership!

Congratulations and a big thank you on behalf of your thousands of readers.

Warm regards,
Sue MacLeod
Ringwood, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thank you Sue for your lovely note and Valerie has certainly left some very big shoes to fill. We hope all our readers will continue to enjoy the legacy of her work.

Keeps me connected

Please find enclosed my cheque for a two year subscription. Many thanks for providing so much pleasure with your wonderful publication. It keeps me connected to my treasured Scottish roots.
Margaret Michie Benny
Craigieburn, Victoria
Australia

Clan Skene

On August 17th 2017 at the National Museum of Scotland, Clan Skene installed its new Chief, Dugald Skene of Skene. Dugald was presented with his late father's bonnet, with its three feathers, by his mother Anne. Al McGalliard, President of the Clan Skene Association presented him with a replica of the dirk pictured in William Forbes Skene's book *Memorials of the Family Skene of Skene* (1887). After the investiture the Clan, some 50 strong, gathered at the Great Hall in Edinburgh Castle to march into the Edinburgh Tattoo.
Ralph Comp, Secretary
Clan Skene Association Inc.

Ed note: Thank you for sending Ralph and what a important time for Clan Skene.

Spooky Scottish experiences

In response to your October edition editorial (*A spooky kiss*) I've already had this published in *the Scottish Banner* so will repeat it. In 2013 my daughter & I stayed in room 8 at Tulloch Castle. We felt an extreme heat on the first night which was supposed to be a sign of the ghost. The next night Karen set up her infrared camera on video, about 1am she woke to see the chandelier moving and it was recorded, I asked why she didn't wake me but she thought that I may be scared...so I missed the chance of a lifetime! We stayed in the same room in 2015 and this time it was my turn when I felt someone/thing pressing my shoulders, I just told it to go away and went back to sleep but it came back so it got the same treatment. When I woke in the morning my shoulders were tender where I'd felt the pressure. Late on the next day I was walking along the path at the rear of the castle as Karen wanted a photo of me walking into the sun. Suddenly there was a rustle, which stopped when I did then started again when I did. This happened several times so I turned and went back. Ghosts I can deal with but this could have been a mugger. If anyone wants a spooky experience try room 8 at Tulloch Castle. The receptionist probably thought that we were a couple of crazy colonials when we were excited at being given that room, it was the only available one so we requested it on our second visit. There was a good ghost tour on our second visit.

The article on Graham McTavish was very interesting, I'm patiently waiting for the new *Outlander* book, I don't have pay TV so will buy the DVD's when they're available. Thanks for my monthly Scottish "fix", I wish that I'd discovered Scotland when I was younger as I'd have moved there. It's just a beautiful country with lovely people.
Jocelyn Layton
Wyndham, Western Australia

Ed note: Thanks Jocelyn for sharing your ghostly tale!

Scotland- Australian Cairn at Mosman

I received an Order of Australia medal in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours. I consider the Scotland-Australian Cairn at Mosman my premier achievement. I had to find a site, find $40,000 to pay for it, organise the collection of a stone from each of the 1,750 parishes in Scotland (to represent the whole of Scotland), persuade a Cairn builder in Scotland to fly to Sydney (he had never been on a plane and was Gaelic speaker so all instructions had to be translated to Gaelic).

The final stone was carved from rock in Iona and pictured are myself and Duncan Matheson of Kyle, Scotland
Mrs Rosemary Samios OAM
Double Bay, NSW
Australia

Ed note: A much deserved recognition Rosemary and thank you for your incredible contribution to the Australian Scottish community.

What's In A Name

You never know where you'll find information about your ancestors , and mine is the strangest that I know of . It all started back in 1982 when I picked up a magazine titled *Military Modeler* as it had an article about the Highland Regiments at the Battle of Waterloo. The article mentioned a Colonel John Cameron of Fassiefern who was a colonel of the Gordon Highlanders, and was killed three days before the actual battle. It wasn't until 1984 when I attended a Cameron family reunion that I found out he was an ancestor of mine, and have been searching for his military off and on since then. It wasn't until about a month, or two that I was finally able to contact the Gordon Highlander Museum in Aberdeen. I had them send me his military records, it had cost me 40 pounds, but it was worth it.

When I visited the museum back in August to thank them for the information, just as I was leaving one of their genealogists stopped me and when I told him how this all started with a model magazine his mouth just dropped, I could see he couldn't imagine finding ancestral information in such place. I guess it proves information about your ancestor is out there, but sometimes you have to dig long, and hard to find it.
Jon Evans
USA

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

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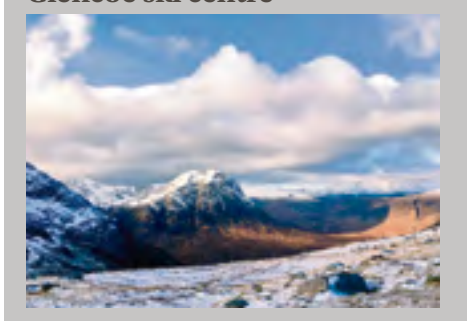
Eilean Donan Castle

We've already welcomed more November visitors than in any other previous year! Clearly winter visitors to #Scotland are on the up & up!
Eilean Donan Castle
Scotland

Glencoe ski centre



Decided to try out the chairlift at Glencoe ski centre for the first time on Sunday was lovely walking about in the snow with not too much effort involved.
Carolynn Wilson
Scotland

Seafield Kirkcaldy

Seafield Kirkcaldy.
Kenny Bruce Photography
Scotland

Glenfiddich Piping Championships 2017

Jack Lee(Piobaireachd and overall winner) and Roddy MacLed (March Strathspey and Reel winner). Photo courtesy of t Derek Maxwell & the William Grant Foundation.

Competitors at the Glenfiddich Piping Championship. Photo: Derek Maxwell/William Grant Foundation.

The 44th edition of the world's most prestigious solo piping competition, the Glenfiddich Piping Championship, took place in October at Blair Castle, Blair Atholl, Perthshire. This year's competition was won overall by Jack Lee from Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. To claim this year's title, he took 1st in the Piobaireachd and 2nd in the March, Strathspey and Reel events. Scotland's Roddy MacLeod, Principal of Piping at the National Piping Centre in Glasgow won the MSR event.

The results from this year's event were as follows:

Piobaireachd
1st Jack Lee, Surrey, British Columbia
2nd Angus MacColl, Benderloch
3rd Iain Speirs, Edinburgh
4th Glenn Brown, Glasgow
5th Callum Beaumont, Bo'ness

March, Strathspey & Reel
1st Roddy MacLeod, Glasgow
2nd Jack Lee, Surrey, British Columbia
3rd Alasdair Henderson, Glasgow
4th Craig Sutherland, Crieff, Scotland
5th Cameron Drummond, Edinburgh

Speaking about his win Jack Lee said: "Solo competitors are part of a close knit community where we often play and compete in events across the country. From this experience, we all know how tough competing in the Glenfiddich Championship is going to be, as it is performing at the highest level in piping. Each player has worked hard and won other events to earn their place here, so to win amongst such talent is an incredible honour."

World's finest pipers

The Glenfiddich Piping Championship was established in 1974 to bring together the world's finest pipers and witness some of the finest renditions of the ancient and traditional piobaireachd or ceol mor (the great music) and light music or ceol beag (the little music). The 10 competitors are invited to play as a result of having won prestigious accolades at other piping events during the last year. So all the competitors are already champions before coming to Blair Atholl, but competing at the Glenfiddich is seen as solo piping's ultimate prize.

The event was livestreamed to people across the world, including viewers in the US, Canada, Australia and South Africa.

Tartan of the Month
Christmas Morning

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

This festive tartan was created to celebrate the joy of Christmas. The Christmas Morning tartan (Reference: 7274) was designed as a fashion tartan by the House of Edgar/Macnaughton Holdings Ltd. In December 2011. Happy holidays!

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Clouds clear for another stunning Hororata Highland Games

The City of Christchurch Pipe Band.

Images courtesy of Murray Irwin.

The 7th annual Hororata Highland Games has again seen this rural community stage a suburb event enjoyed by over 10,000 people; with 12 Pipe Bands, over 100 Highland Dancers (officially the biggest one day competition in New Zealand), 58 solo pipers and drummers, 18 wool spinners, 140 tuggers, 68 Junior Warriors, 6 shooters and 20 heavy athletes competing.

The weather was moody in the morning, keeping to the Scottish theme with a short period of rain, but right on queue at 11 am as the crowd stilled for an Armistice Day remembrance, the clouds parted and the sun shone through. The Malvern Schools combined Kupa Haka group then welcomed Chieftain Hon Amy Adams with a stirring performance.

Community spirit

Chieftain Hon Amy Adams spoke of how she has attended every Horoata Highland Games since its inception. It is one event she really looks forward to because of the community spirit which can be felt from the minute you reach the Domain. In her heartfelt speech, she commented on 'how this amazing community pulled together and rebuilt after the life-changing earthquakes, and right from the start, the Games have been spectacular. Amy congratulated the Games committee and the community on another highly professional and well-organized event.'

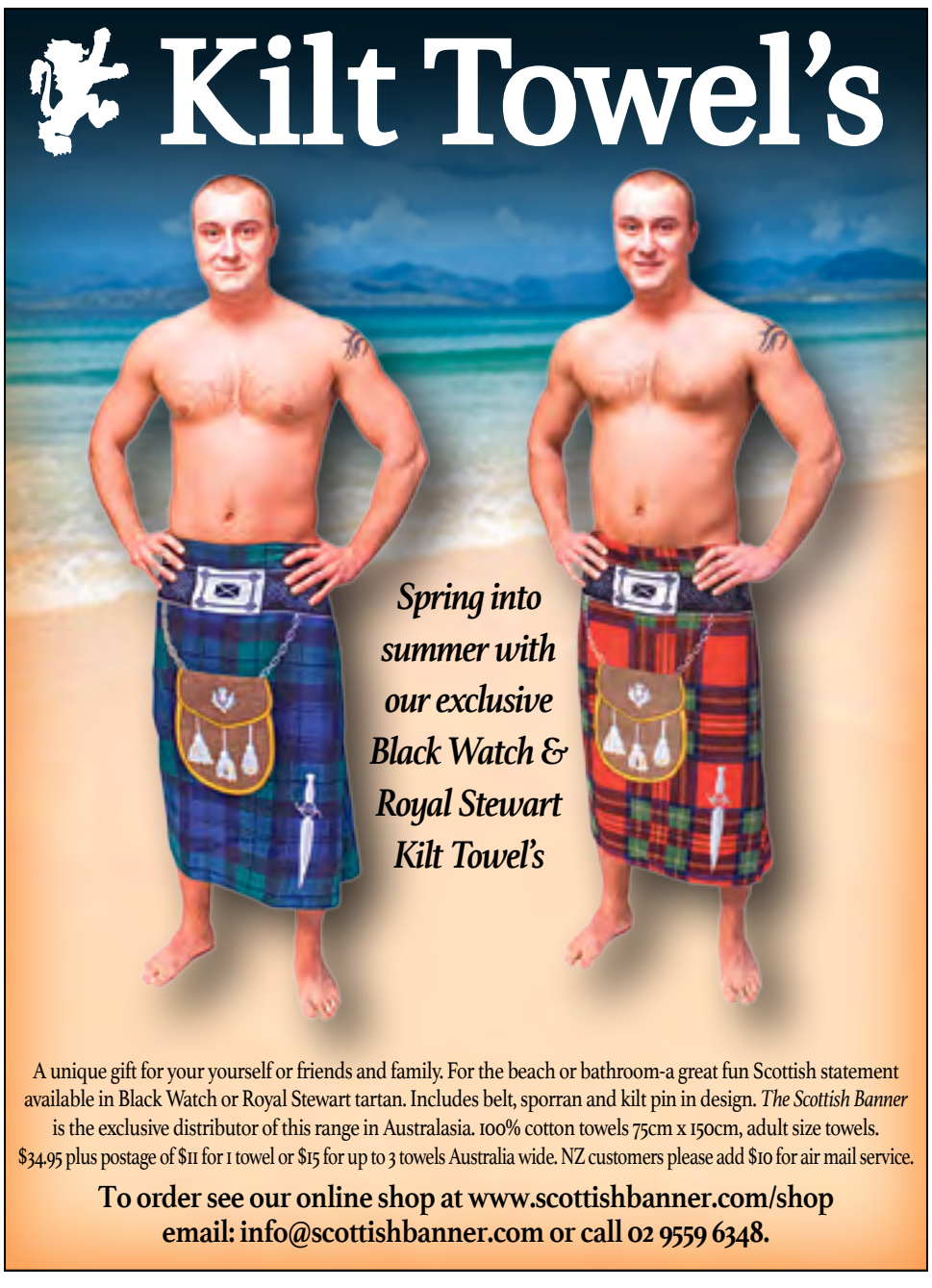
The Gough CAT Oceania Heavyweight Championship was won by New Zealander, Jono MacFarlane, who also broke a field record tossing the 56lb weight over a 15.5 foot bar. Ashburton's Craig Manson came second in his first time in this division. Third was Australian Scott Martin. The women's Gough CAT Amature Championship was won by Julie Stechman and the men's was taken out by David Jackways both also from New Zealand.

The festival surrounding the competitions was enjoyed by all. Thousands of people took on the 'Have A Go' challenges and were entertained with numerous performances around the grounds in amongst the stalls. Steve McDonald, who has performed at highland games around the world, said 'Hororata Highland Games are one of the best he has ever attended'. All this simply would not be possible without the over 200 volunteers, competitors, partners, stall holders, suppliers and of course the visitors. The Hororata Community Trust thanks, everyone who makes the games truly special.

Next year's event is the 10th November 2018. For a full list of results and more information on the Hororata Highland Games see: www.hororatahighlandgames.org.nz

Heavy athletics.

Chieftain Amy Adams with Highland dancers.



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Haggis on the menu in Canada

Scotland to start exports of haggis for the first time in 46 years.

Scotland will start exporting haggis to Canada for the first time in almost 50 years, after Macsween of Edinburgh developed a new recipe that meets Canadian regulations. It follows the lifting of the Canadian ban on red meat imports from Europe in 2015. Attending an event in Toronto to showcase Scotland's food and drink produce to Canadian buyers, Economy Secretary Keith Brown welcomed the news. He said: "Haggis is known the world over for being a truly iconic symbol of Scotland. It's great news that Macsween have been able to develop a haggis recipe for export to Canada. After waiting 46 years I'm sure there will be many Canadians and ex-pat Scots looking forward to having Scotland's national dish at the centre of their table at the next Burns' supper. This development is an indication of the increasing interest in, and love of, Scottish food and drink produce in North America. As a Government, we have supported Macsween to grow their business and will continue to support Scottish companies in unlocking the significant opportunities to be found in this fast-growing market."

Huge milestone

James Macsween, Managing Director of Macsween of Edinburgh, said: "We at Macsween are absolutely delighted to be the first Scottish haggis sold in Canada in 46 years! Finally, Canadians and the ex-pat community within Canada will be able to enjoy the UK's no.1 haggis brand, loved for its' award-winning taste and texture. This is a huge milestone for Macsween to be expanding internationally and leading the way in an increasingly competitive market. My grandfather, Charlie, would be very proud to see how far we've come from his original butcher's shop in Bruntsfield, which he opened back in 1953."

Food and drink exports to Canada are now worth more than £94 million, with latest reports from Scottish companies suggesting that food exports have increased by 37% over the last year.

Scottish companies having particular success include: Scottish seafood supplier, Associated Seafood, which recently launched two Scottish smoked salmon products with Canada's largest retailer Loblaw. It has over 1,700 locations across Canada. Highland-based company, Cullisse, which has begun exporting the first Scottish rapeseed oil to North America. Stockans Oatcakes, which can now be found in Canadian Wal-Mart, Metro & Sobeys stores. Edinburgh-based brewer, Innis & Gunn, whose largest export market continues to be Canada and are the most popular imported craft beer in the country.

SCOTSPEAK

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

"I had never heard of the Swedish Runestone until the relocation proposals came up and I would imagine that would be the same for most people in the city, even though it has been in the gardens since the early 19th century. It will now be in a much more prominent and accessible position. It's a significant historic relic with an astonishing story - it just shows you that this historic, ancient city never ceases to amaze."

Donald Wilson, Edinburgh City Council's culture and communities convenor, said as an 11th century Viking gravestone will be moved for the first time in over 200 years. The Swedish Runestone, which is only one of its kind in the UK and has been in Edinburgh since 1787, will be relocated from Princes Street Gardens to George Square.

"This project will play a key role in our plans for the further development of Glasgow city centre. The 'Avenues' will become an attractive feature for everyone who uses the area, whether for work, study, shopping, eating and dining, clubbing and theatre-going, or as a resident, and we look forward to working with partner organisations to deliver this project which will change the face of the city centre for the better."

Councillor Kenny McLean, city convener for neighbourhoods, housing and public realm at Glasgow City Council, said as plans were launched for the £1.8 million transformative 'Avenues' project in the heart of the city. Focusing on seven key city-centre thoroughfares and is planned to complete in 2022.

"What makes you proud to live in Scotland?"

The question being asked of young people across Scotland and part of the #ScotWord initiative which is asking Scottish youth to sum up Scotland in one word. The initiative is part of the lead up to Scotland's 2018 Year of Young People and is asking youth from 8 to 26 to take part in the project and pick a word that represents Scotland. The word chosen will be unveiled on December 30 at Edinburgh's torchlight procession.

"Whisky distillation isn't new to Dumfriesshire. In the latter part of the 19th Century, three distilleries were producing locally; taking advantage perhaps of the abundance of peat for malting barley. Alas, all had closed by 1920. It's been an epic journey but 99 years after Johnnie Walker closed Annandale Distillery, seemingly forever, single malt Scotch whisky of the finest quality and character is about to flow once again."

Prof David Thomson, managing director of The Annandale Distillery, said as the first bottles were produced at the Lowlands distillery. The last bottles produced there were in 1918 and now the distillery will focus on bottling its first general releases of single malt for two distinct brands: Man o' Words and Man o' Sword. The two brands refer to two 'locals' who made it on the world stage: Robert Burns and Robert the Bruce.

"With over 225,000 visitors every year, the Museum is one of Edinburgh's flagship venues. From dinky cars and teddy bears to school books and first shoes, the Museum boasts an impressive collection of more than 60,000 objects reflecting childhoods from the 18th century to the present day. This refurbishment will allow us to re-display some of these items, and tell the story of childhood in new ways. The result will be a new, open space for children and adults to explore, learn and play; with new interactive elements, hands-on history and film. We are hugely grateful to Museums Galleries Scotland and the Friends of Edinburgh City Art Centre and Museums for contributing towards this redevelopment, and look forward to opening again in March 2018."

Edinburgh City Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener, said as curators packed away hundreds of artefacts, including dolls, toy cars and puppets as the Museum of Childhood closed for refurbishment. Opened in 1955 as the world's first museum dedicated to the history of childhood, the star attraction relocated to its current position on the Royal Mile, in 1957 to accommodate the growing collection, and in 1986 the Museum expanded again into adjacent buildings. In what is to be the first large scale change to the Museum for 30 years, the five-month refurbishment will see new cases, floors and lights installed and objects displayed that have not been seen in the Museum before.

"On the one hand it has all the perfect characteristics for a national park - great cultural heritage, marvellous landscapes, wonderful things to visit for tourists and things to do. And on the other hand it has got severe socio-economic problems - local incomes are declining, people are leaving, there are no good jobs for young people here. A national park would bring in visitors, would bring in more people to live here."

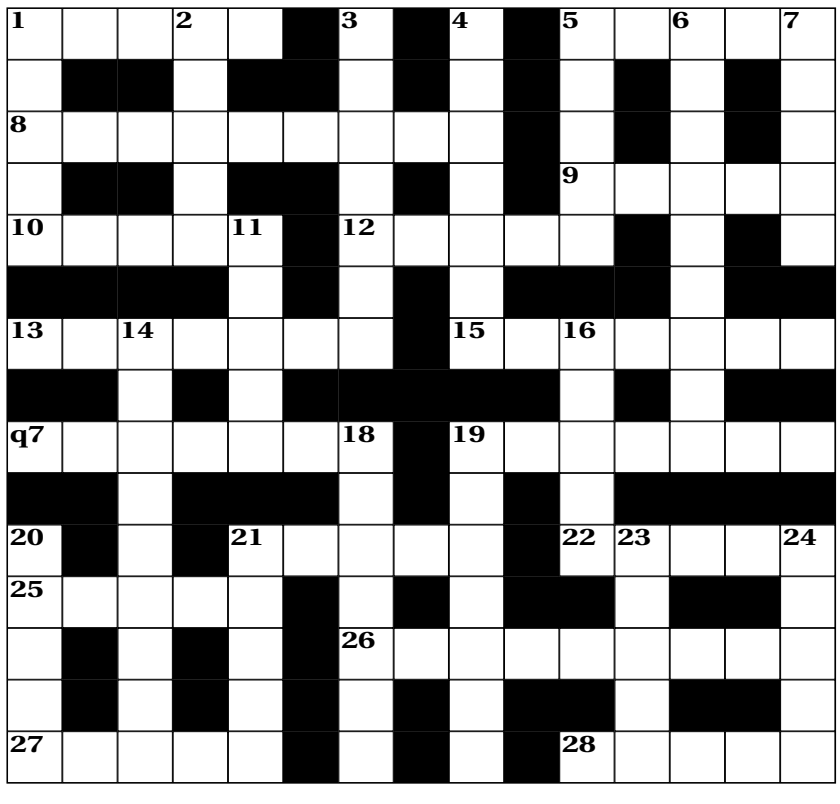
Professor Jane Bower of campaign group Borders National Park said as they look to turn part of the picturesque Scottish Borders into a protected national park from Melrose to the Scotland-England border. Proposals are being looked at for both economic and environmental merits. Scotland currently has two national parks - in the Cairngorms and at Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

"The discovery of this hidden portrait of Mary, Queen of Scots is an exciting revelation, not only as it adds to our knowledge of 16th century Marian portraiture and patterns of commission at the time, but as it aids in illuminating our understanding of Adrian Vanson, a Netherlandish émigré artist who came to Jacobean Scotland to seek a new life and quickly ascended to the status of Crown painter."

The Scottish National Portrait Gallery Conservator Caroline Rae said as an unfinished portrait of Mary, Queen of Scots has been found hidden beneath another 16th century painting. The image of Mary was found using X-ray photography as part of a special research project at the National Galleries Scotland.

SCOTWORD

Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 24!



CLUES ACROSS

1) Front of the kilt (5).
5) Scots biter! (5).
8) Clyde resort near Ardrossan (9).
9) Hebrides nearest to mainland (5).
10) Having a cutting edge (5).
12) Scots valleys (5).
13) The young pretender (7).
15) Scottish sweetmeat (7).
17) Old government soldier (7).
19) Unit of heat (7).
21) Length of wound yarn (5).
22) Tartan trousers (5).
25) See 27 Across.
26) Village in valley of the River Balvag (9).
27 & 25 Across) Jimmy Shand played it! (5,5).
28) Abbey superior (5).

CLUES DOWN

1) Kirk domes (5).
2) Freshwater mammal (5).
3) Village west of Blairgowrie (7).
4) Old shooters (7).
5) The song thrush (5).
6) Castle near Stonehaven (9).
7) Pitchers! (5).
11) Viral disease (5).
14) Catch the boat here for Arran (9).
16) Young bird of prey (5).
18) Country betrayal (7).
19) Glasgow's main station (7).
20) Change for the better (5).
21) Perth's palace (5).
23) Restore to former condition (5).
24) A young salmon (5).

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By: Ron Dempsey

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.

Whether you will be sitting in front of a cosy fireplace or basking in the sunshine on a sandy beach, we wish you the happiest Christmas and a fortuitous New Year. We received a considerable amount of interesting mail this month so let's away and see what we can do with it all.

Stenhouse, Greig, Splitt and Crombie

Mr. Robert Horobin of Campbellford, Ontario, Canada asked about his wife's and her family's middle names. These middle names include the surnames Stenhouse, Greig, Splitt and Crombie. He is curious as to why such names were used as middle names rather than other personal names. Simply, they were a way to carry female names forward in the family such as mother's maiden name or grandmother's maiden name. This was a way of keeping the family lineage in familial memory. Further to this it was a big family and the immediate family names were addressed some of the younger children might have the surnames of the local worthies such as the minister, doctor, or the local laird and lastly a friend of the family. In the past, middle names in Scotland tended to be surnames rather than additional personal names. I hope this helps.

McGufficke

From Cooma in NSW, Australia Mr. Denis Sutherland wrote and asked about a friend's interest in the surname McGufficke. Like so many Gaelic names the spellings has come down in a variety of ways. Most versions are mangled interpretations of what the English speaking clerk heard. It appears to be a variation of the more widely used version McGuffog. This family were once powerful in the Galloway region of Southwest Scotland. One Patrick McGuffok was recorded as early as 1289. The name appears to be derived from the Gaelic MacDabhog or son of Davuc, a pet form of David. I didn't find a tartan for the name but I did find that Clan Douglas acknowledges the name as a sept of their clan.
See www.clandouglassociety.org/macguffey

Hain

Mr. Sandy Hain from somewhere in the internet ether wrote to ask about his surname. He says that the family and name goes back to Auchtermuchty in Fife, albeit with different spellings Hanes, Haynes etc. He has also seen the Irish name Ó Heyne. His thought that possibly it was connecting to the ancient Celtic festival Samhain, which I think I can rule out since most derivations seem to have an Anglo Saxon origin. Like so many surnames it can have more than one origin due to it evolving into modern form of English from two similar ancient words that had different meanings from each other. This is the case with Hain, one from the Middle English 'hegen' meaning enclosure probably a hedge and the other from Middle German 'hagan' for a hawthorn. The Irish Ó Heyne derives from Ivy.

The form of the name Hayne is found locally in Somerset. On familysearch.org the name is mostly in the lowlands of Scotland and predominantly in Fife as Mr. Hain suggested.

Gaelic surnames

Mr. Lindsay Campbell of Upper Hutt, NZ kindly sent in some interesting list of surnames which he had found in some parish records in Argyllshire this past summer. Some of them were Gaelic surnames and I tried my best to determine their origin with my limited resources. Mr. Freeman Taylor from somewhere in the U.S. wrote a long interesting email in response to my writings. The gist of the letter was in response to my self-admitted lacking of Gaelic scholarship. Mr. Freeman felt that if someone is offering explanations of Gaelic literature then they should have access to a Gaelic scholar to which I agree. However, I do not presume to offer scholarly efforts in this area other the more basic of translations where fitting and whether I can source them.

My column is merely a passing interest and at best it may spur someone to seek further afield to fill their quest for knowledge in these Gaelic and other surname origins in more accommodating resources.

Here is a wonderful example of Mr. Taylor's work and research. "McLevin / McIlevin: These names may possibly be from different origins, as the "Il" sound in Gaelic-derived names is often from "Gille" (which lit. means "boy" or "lad" but which generally indicates a servant, and can also mean a follower or religious devotee of a saint or cleric - as for example Mac Giolla Chriost; ("son of the devotee of Christ") or Gillespie, from Gille Easbuig - "son of (the) servant or religious devotee [of the] bishop. the name Gillespie, from (mac) Gille Easbuig - son of (the) servant [or devotee] (of the) bishop. (The phrase "of the" is not written, but is understood in this case.) It could also be derived from "cille" - "church" - but this is usually found in place rather than personal names.

Thus McIlevin may have some such origin, whereas McLevin may be from different roots - or it may just have dropped the "gille" along the way of its development in English, as we see in MacBride, from mac giolla Bridghe - "son of the devotee of (St.) Bridget."

The Rev. Patrick Woulfe (whose admirable work on surnames admittedly has some difficulties) and the later Edward MacLysaght (ditto), who may be following Woulfe, give the McLevin name origin as Mac Dhuinnshleibhinn - which in both Irish and Scots Gaelic dialects would be pronounced (very approximately) as "Mock Gwin-lyayvin". (The letter "H" following both the "D" and the "S" lenites, thus causing following consonants to become voiced, aspirated, or lost respectively. Different dialects would give slightly different phonetic sounds)

Woulfe gives English variants such as: M'Inleavin, M'Inlene, MacLavin, MacLevin, etc. Note that the earlier variants (given first) are closest to the Gaelic in sound.

Woulfe gives the name as a diminutive of Mac Dhuinnshléibhe with variants such as: M'Anlevy, M'Enlievie, M'Enlevie, M'Enleve, etc. (Again note the similarity of the earlier spelling variants to the original Gaelic sound)

The root name, Dunnshléibhe (aka Donnshléibhe), appears in several places, including as an ancestor of the legendary Suibhne, eponymous ancestor of Clann Suibhne (Sweeney), and said to be the builder of Castle Sween).

Mac Dhuinnshleibhin and Mac Dhuinnshléibhe both appear to be derived from the root words duinn and sleibhe. These could mean fort and mountain respectively, hence a mountain fort, but could also mean "brown (haired) person of the mountain" - which to me appears more logical."

This is an exemplary work but not the kind of detail I can put in my column for every name or I would be using all space in each edition of *the Banner*. Thank you Mr. Taylor for your illuminating piece.

You possibly have meaning to write to ask about your surname, now is the time to do it and have revealed in the New Year's edition of *the Scottish Banner*. Enjoy your December.

£30,000 Investment for Midhowe Chambered Cairn

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has invested £30,000 in the conservation of Midhowe Chambered Cairn on the isle of Rousay. The Cairn – one of the largest chambered cairns in Scotland – is placed just twenty meters from the shoreline and is sheltered from the elements by a stone and steel structure erected in the 1930s, following the initial excavation of the site. Giving an insight into conservation efforts at the time, the shelter makes use of traditional stonework and is naturally ventilated and lit rather than being completely enclosed. Above the Cairn, a 33 meter long walkway allows visitors a unique view of the partitioned burial chambers, where the remains of 25 individuals were found.

Now, work will be undertaken to restore the steel elements of the structure and tackle climate-related corrosion, so the Cairn can continue to be enjoyed by all. HES Head of Conservation North, Lucy Vaughn said: "Chambered cairns are not uncommon in the north of Scotland, but this is one of the best preserved examples thanks to careful conservation. That conservation can be a slow process, and in this case, it is lengthened due to the constraints at the site. We understand that there will be some disappointment for visitors to the island hoping to see Midhowe, but these works will ensure that that the site remains in an excellent state, providing a distinctive view of a Neolithic burial site for years to come."

The work will see extensive scaffolding erected to allow HES staff and contractors access to the roof, and to protect the Cairn while work is going on. The corrosion will then be treated, and the steel trusses repainted. The treatment for the corrosion will require an extended period of time to cure, and require comparatively warm and dry conditions. A final inspection will be carried out before the scaffolding is removed. As the site relies on natural lighting, work has begun in August to allow staff to maximise daylight to avoid poor weather conditions that might delay work and transport of materials.

The site is expected to reopen in December 2017. Access to the nearby Midhowe Broch will be unaffected by the works.

Ian Rankin joins giants of Scottish literature at Writer's Museum

Joining the ranks of Sir Walter Scott, Robert Burns and Robert Louis Stevenson; author Ian Rankin is celebrated in a new exhibition at Edinburgh's Writers' Museum. A rare selection of personal items, manuscripts and images belonging to the best-selling writer are displayed in a new exhibition celebrating the 30th anniversary of his much-loved super sleuth, Detective Inspector Rebus.

Co-curated between the author and the Museum, *Rebus30* explores the relationship between Rankin and his character, and both men's connections with Edinburgh's places, people and history. In the *Rebus30* exhibition, Ian Rankin writes: "I don't think the Rebus novels could be set anywhere else – they really are about Edinburgh. I still haven't got to the bottom of what makes Edinburgh tick or what makes it a unique setting. It just seems to be a place that has influenced writers, and continues to nurture writers."

Author Ian Rankin, image courtesy of RebusFest.

Edinburgh's favourite super sleuth

Edinburgh's Culture and Communities Convener, Councillor Donald Wilson, said: "Celebrating 30 years of Edinburgh's favourite super sleuth, RebusFest delves into the murky underworld of Inspector Rebus and the imaginative mind of his maker. Over three decades, Rebus has evolved into one of the nation's most familiar fictional figures; as ingrained in popular culture as Miss Jean Brodie or Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. This free exhibition at our Writers' Museum explores how such characters and their creators have inspired Ian Rankin and his relationship with Rebus. I am delighted we are hosting it here in the world's first UNESCO City of Literature and in the heart of the city Rankin and his detective call home."

The Writers' Museum occupies the historic A-Listed Lady Stair's House, built in 1622 by Sir William Gray of Pittendrum, an Edinburgh merchant burgess. Celebrating Edinburgh's continued status as a home of great writing, the Museum also celebrates three giants of Scottish literature in a permanent display of work and belongings of Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott.

Rebus30 at the Writers' Museum runs until 21 January 2018. Find the programme at www.ianrankin.net/rebusfest

Did you know?

Fireworks over Stirling Castle.

- Due to the Protestant Reformation Scots for many years were not allowed to celebrate Christmas so the holiday they observed was the Winter Solstice or Hogmanay.
- The word Hogmanay came from various possible language origins such as Gaelic, Dutch and Flemish.
- A traditional Scottish custom is to clean the house before midnight to start the year off to a fresh start, do you have your vacuum ready?
- First Footing is a traditional Scots custom. After the stroke of midnight, neighbours visit each other, bearing traditional symbolic gifts such as shortbread or black bun, a kind of fruit cake.
- At Edinburgh's 2000 Hogmanay celebrations 1914 people danced *Strip The Willow* and entered the *Guinness Book of World Records* and got the world record for the largest Scottish country dance attempt ever made.
- The song *Auld Lang Syne* was made famous by poet Robert Burns. However it became the song to sing on New Year's Eve because of a Canadian singer called Guy Lombardo who for year years performed a live broadcast from the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City on New Year's Eve and included this at the stroke of midnight.

New Gaelic place-name website

Ever wondered what the Gaelic name on that bi-lingual road sign means, or what its origin is? If so, the answer is at hand. The new website for Ainmean-Àite na h-Alba (AÀA), the national advisory partnership for Gaelic place-names in Scotland, has now been launched. Following support of £7,100 from the Scottish Government, the new website includes AÀA's renowned database of Gaelic place-names which may be accessed free of charge. The database offers definitive forms which can be used by local authorities, the media, researchers, local communities, walkers and climbers or anyone with an interest in place-names. The database includes historical information, local sources and sound files to help with pronunciation.

Ingenious online lexicon

Roy Pedersen, Chair of AÀA said: "AÀA's two members of staff, Eilidh Scammell and Jake King, and Vanessa Lopez and Chris Mitchell from Lumberjack Digital have put in a power of work to create this ingenious online lexicon. I praise them for their efforts in pulling the whole thing together in a very cost effective manner. Many thanks are also due to the Scottish Government who provided funding for the project at a time when we were struggling to access the necessary financial resources. There is a growing body of people with an interest in place-names and in Gaelic, not least those worldwide visitors inspired by the "Outlander" series. I am sure that they will find the new website invaluable, but I hope that it may also draw in a wider public to this fascinating aspect of Scotland's rich cultural heritage."

Part of Scotland's heritage

Welcoming the launch of the new website Deputy First Minister John Swinney said: "We are very pleased to be able to support this new website, which will be a valuable resource for many people by providing a central point of reference for Gaelic place-names. The Scottish Government recognises that Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's heritage, national identity and current cultural life and we welcome initiatives such as this which strengthen the position of Gaelic within everyday life, helping to ensure it has a sustainable future."

Users also have access to valuable place-name PDF downloads, research resources and an interactive map provided the Ordnance Survey's open source map. Gaelic Officer, hill walker and frequent AÀA user, Janni Diez, based at Skye's Gaelic college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig said: "The new website is a fantastic resource and it is now even easier to find out more about place-names. I love how you can now search the map for place-names and find grid references with one click."

Visit www.ainmean-aite.scot for more information or to consult the online database, the National Gazetteer of Gaelic Place-names.

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Celtic: The Official History

Celtic is a club like no other. Its story is a unique one, of a football club founded to raise money to help alleviate poverty within the predominantly Irish immigrant community of Glasgow's East End. Yet, from its inception, Celtic has been a club open to all. From those humble and charitable origins, Celtic have gone on to become one of the most famous names in world football.The story of Celtic continues – of success on the field, backed by a strong organisation off it, and all underpinned by a commitment to remain true to the charitable roots of the club, this is just the latest chapter
Price:$29.95 Plus postage

The Picts: A History

New edition of this popular history of the Picts, an ancient nation who ruled most of northern and eastern Scotland during the Dark Ages. Despite their historical importance, they remain shrouded in myth. Absorbed by the kingdom of the Scots in the 9th century, they lost their unique identity, their language and their vibrant artistic culture. It pieces together the evidence to tell the story of this mysterious people from their emergence in Roman times to their eventual disappearance.
Price:$24.95 Plus postage

Haunted Scotland

In the global world of the Internet, where anything is possible, where scientists never cease to astonish yet seem to provide more questions than answers, Roddy Martine looks beyond the everyday and the normal, searching for answers in the mysteries of Haunted Scotland. Collected over many years, the author retells stories that have evolved through the mists of time, while others he recounts are based on interviews with those who claim to have experienced real-life paranormal encounters. **Price: $19.95 Plus postage**

The Highland Clearances

The Highland Clearances was one of the most emotive chapters in Scotland's history. This book traces the origins of the Clearances from the 18th century to their culmination in the crofting legislation of the 1880s. In considering both the terrible suffering of the Highland people as well as the stark choices that faced landowners during a period of rapid economic change, it shows how the Clearances were one of many 'attempted' solutions to the problem of how to maintain a population on marginal and infertile land. This book offers a balanced analysis of events which created a terrible scar on the Highland and Gaelic imagination.
Price: $29.95 Plus postage

Scotland the Brave Land: 10,000 Years of Scotland in Story

From bold heroines to clan battles, standing stones to castles, there is hardly any aspect of Scotland's heritage that does not feature in our storytelling traditions. This collection of stories from all parts of Scotland, and from all periods of our dramatic – and often truly heroic – history is both an introduction to and a journey into Scotland's rich cultural heritage, this book provides the next step for those wishing to delve deeper into Scotland's culture and traditions. **Price: $19.95 Plus postage**

Mary Queen of Scots: A Study in Failure

Unlike biographies of Mary predating this work, this masterly study sets out to show Mary as she really was – not a romantic heroine, but the ruler of a European kingdom with far greater economic and political importance than its size or location would indicate.Her extraordinary story has become one of the most colourful and emotionally searing tales of western history, and it is here fully reconsidered by a leading specialist of the period. **Price: $34.95 Plus postage**

Bake with Maw Broon

Always up to her elbows in flour or stirring bubbling pots of homemade jam, Maw Broon has been baking cracking cakes, brunv biscuits and perfect pastry for her hungry family for years. And now she finally shares her secrets…Following on from the bestselling Maw Broon's Cookbook, Maw will show you how to bake a mouth watering collection of sweet favourites, from shortbread to sugar craft, from Dundee cake to Edinburgh tart, and from black bun to clootie dumpling. Beautifully designed and easy to follow, Bake with Maw Broon is the definitive guide to traditional baking for all the family. **Price: $29.95 Plus postage**

Maw Broon's But An' Ben Cookbook

A cookbook with a difference, this nostalgic collection of recipes dates back to 1940 and is entirely different, but just as good as, the first Maw Broon cookbook. Funny, inventive and full of humour and comic strips from "The Broons", with witty comments from the family members throughout, this second cookbook has more balance with both sweet, traditional, recipes as well as recipes with lighter, healthier ingredients
Price: $29.95 Plus postage

Oor Wullie 100 Greatest Moments

Every week for as long as can be remembered, Oor Wullie has captivated the Scottish nation with his exploits and left readers wondering what he'll do next. Most of what he does has people of all ages laughing out loud, and this brand new collection is no exception. Join Oor Wullie on a romp through the years as he reveals for the very first time his own personal hundred greatest moments from a very mischievous life.
Price: $17.95 Plus postage

Oor Wullie Colouring Book

Oor Wullie has been delighting since 1936. This beautiful book, packed with classic illustrations from the Oor Wullie archive, gives readers the chance to add a bit of colour to the Wullie clan's lives. This book's a fair wee smasher so grab your pencil tins, line up your crayons and pit yer feet up. It'll put you in touch with your artistic side and gie you a richt guid laugh too! **Price: $19.95 Plus postage**

Scotland: A History from Earliest Times

From the Ice Age to the recent Scottish Referendum, historian and author Alistair Moffat explores the history of the Scottish nation. As well as focusing on key moments in the nation's history such as the Battle of Bannockburn and the Jacobite Risings, Moffat also features other episodes in history that are perhaps less well documented. From prehistoric timber halls to inventions and literature, Moffat's tale explores the drama of battle, change, loss and invention interspersed with the lives of ordinary Scottish folk, the men and women who defined a nation. **Price $34.95 Plus postage**

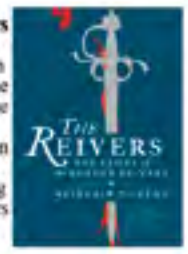
Scots Language Learner- An Introduction to Contemporary Spoken Scots

This edition features updated information is suitable as an introductory course or for those interested in reacquainting themselves with the language of childhood and grandparents. There are dictionaries and grammar books but this is the first-ever language course. The book assumes no prior knowledge on the reader's part. Starting from the most basic vocabulary and constructions, the reader is guided step-by-step through Scots vocabulary and the subtleties of grammar and idiom that distinguish Scots from English.
Price:$39.95 Plus postage

Essential English-Gaelic/Gaelic-English Dictionary

Ideal for learners of Gaelic at all levels, and its generous coverage of vocabulary from fields such as business and IT makes it a valuable tool for all those who require an up-to-date reference work. It contains a large amount of explanatory material, numerous examples of usage and idiomatic phrases and expressions. Many registers and styles are sampled, from the familiar (and occasionally the vulgar) to the formal and the literary.
Price:$24.95 Plus postage

The Reivers:The Story of the Border Reivers



Only one period in history is immediately, indelibly and uniquely linked to the whole area of the Scottish and English Border country, and that is the time of the Reivers. Whenever anyone mentions ?Reiver?, no-one hesitates to add ?Border?. It is an inextricable association, and rightly so. Nowhere else in Britain in the modern era, or indeed in Europe, did civil order break down over such a wide area, or for such a long time. This book tells the remarkable story of the Reivers and how they made the Borders.
Price:$29.95 Plus postage

100 Favourite Ceilidh Dances

The first ever book to offer 100 favourite ceilidh dances including historical background and clearly stated, detailed descriptions of each dance. There are new dances, well known dances, and dances that caller Andy Greig does differently in this book and thus it is an adventure of dance. The calling hints come in very handy for the inexperienced caller. Who doesn't love a ceilidh? **Price: $19.95 Plus postage**

Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors

With 5 million people in Scotland, and over 30 million of Scottish descent scattered over the globe, it is not surprising that research into Scottish family history is so popular?especially now that huge amounts of information on family origins are available online. If you are one of those who wish to trace their roots in Scotland, this major new edition of the official guide is the one book you must have.
Price:$29.95 Plus postage

The Ultimate Guide to Being Scottish

Essential reading for Scots everywhere. This lighthearted yet thoroughly researched book examines the great things about being Scottish: Hogmanay, Burns Night, Up Helly Aa, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Hallowe'en and Tartan Day – and getting the most out of the big Scottish party occasions. Ceilidhs, Highland dancing and The Royal Caledonian Ball – how to put your best foot forward The National Spirit – the history of whisky Munros, monuments and midges – how to survive the great Scottish countryside ….and a great deal else, from a potted history of Scotia's monarchs to deep-fried Mars bars to the bits of Auld Lang Syne nobody can remember. **Price: $24.95 Plus postage**

Dark Encounters: A Collection of Ghost Stories

First published in 1963 by Harvill Press, Dark Encounters is an elegantly spine-tingling collection of ghost stories set in the brooding landscape of Scotland and often referring to real people, places and objects. From a demonic book that brings its readers to an early death to the murderous spectre of a feudal baron, these tales are a welcome addition to the long and distinguished canon of Scottish ghost stories. For those who seek the unnerving and the inexplicable, Dark Encounters is guaranteed to raise the hairs on the back of your neck.
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Giants of the Clyde: The Great Ships and the Great Yards

There is barely a corner of the five great oceans where Clyde-built is not recognised as the ultimate shipbuilding accolade. As late as the 1950s, around a seventh of the total of the world's sea going tonnage was built on the Clyde. From the many yards on its banks, north and south, en route from the gentle hills of Lanarkshire to the Firth of Clyde, came engineering innovation and fabled names in shipping vessels.This is the fascinating, often turbulent story of a great river, its great ships, and the folk who built them. **Price: $19.95 Plus postage**

Scotland's Future History

Scotland's history is changing. What picture of the Scottish past should we pass on to future generations? Stuart McHardy takes a revolutionary approach to interpreting the past. He shows that future generations will understand Scottish history in a fundamentally different light thanks to recent and future developments in archaeology, folklore and oral history. A whistle-stop tour from prehistoric times to the present day, Scotland's Future History unlocks a vision that is free from the kinds of distortion, bias and error that have plagued our understanding for centuries.What should Scotland's future history be?**Price: $ 19.95 Plus postage**

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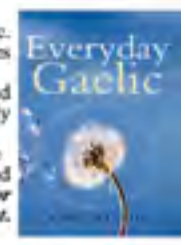
Everyday Gaelic Book or Book & CD



By an author with years experience in teaching Gaelic. In addition to basic words and phrases, it also includes more complex and idiomatic material, all arranged thematically and covering topics such as meeting and greeting, travelling, weather etc. There are also clearly explained sections on grammar and imitated pronunciation for all Gaelic words and phrases. The result is an accessible and useful book to all levels and ages of Gaelic learners.***Available book only $24.95 or with language learner CD included for $40.00 + post.***

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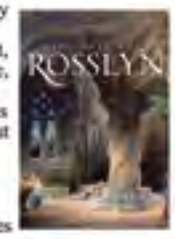

Rosslyn Chapel is one of the world's most extraordinary places. Since the mid 15th century it has cast a mesmerising spell, as if it holds the key to some vast, unearthly secret it continues to confound and intrigue, inspiring stories of The Knights Templar, the Holy Grail and a myriad of esoteric beliefs. This book lets the facts speak for themselves, showing ultimately that the truth is no less amazing than fiction.
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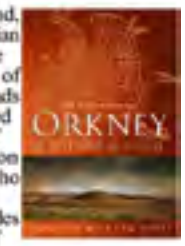
Robert the Bruce: King of Scots

In this exciting and visually stunning book, the most talented Scottish novelist of his generation teams up with Jill Calder, whose bold and colourful illustrations are a perfect complement to one of the most dramatic tales in Scottish history. In addition to the big set pieces from the Bruce story, not least of course the Battle of Bannockburn, and the other famous elements? such as the murder of the Red Comyn and Bruce and the spider book is full of accurate historical detail and imaginative touches which offer a fresh and vital perspective on one of the great heroes of Scottish history. **Price:$19.95**

Orkney: A Historical Guide



Orkney lies only 20 miles north of mainland Scotland, yet for many centuries its culture was more Scandanavian than Scottish. Strong westerly winds account for the scarcity of trees on Orkney and also for the tradition of well-constructed stone structures. As a result, the islands boast a large number of exceptionally well-preserved remains, which help us to form a detailed picture of Orcadian life through the ages. In this updated edition of her best-selling book, Caroline Wickham-Jones, who has worked extensively on Orcadian sites for many years, introduces the history of the islands and provides a detailed survey of the principal places and sites of historic interest. **Price: $24.95 Plus postage**

The Colouring Book of Scotland

The first colouring book dedicated to the beautiful landscapes and landmarks of Scotland. A unique Scottish colouring book suitable for adults as well as children featuring 20 of the country's most iconic places, including: Edinburgh Castle • Forth Rail Bridge • HMS Discovery, Dundee • Loch Ness/Urquart Castle • Callanish standing stones • Lews Castle, Lewis • Highland Games • Eilean Donan • Tobermory, Skye • Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow • Melrose Abbey • Rosslyn Chapel • Falkirk Wheel and more.
Price: $19.95 Plus postage

A Walk in the Park- Exploring the Treasures of Glasgow's Dear Green Places

In A Walk in the Park, actor and author John Cairney shows that he clearly loves the city, and he expresses through this journey of green spaces. Glasgow is not just a city full of tenements and big buildings, it is a beautiful Scottish landmark outfitted with the beautiful parks that he will go on to describe. He takes the reader on a unique walk through the various parks of the town stopping along the way to share brief anecdotes, historical accounts, and detailed images of how the parks look. **Price: $19.95 Plus postage**

Glasgow: The Autobiography

The story of the fabled, former Second City of the British Empire from its origins as a bucolic village on the rivers Kelvin and Clyde, through the Industrial Revolution to the dawning of the second millennium. Arranged chronologically this vivid portrait of one of the world's great cities in all its grime and glory – a place which is at once infuriating, frustrating, inspiring, beguiling, sensational and never, ever dull.
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The Lowland Clearances: Scotland's Silent Revolution

The Highland Clearances are a well-documented episode in Scotland's past but they were not unique. The process began in the Scottish Lowlands nearly a century before, when tens of thousands of people significantly more than were later exiled form the Highlands were moved from the land by estate owners. These Clearances undeniably shaped the appearance of the Scottish landscape as it is today as they swept aside a traditional way of life, establishing them as a wider part of the process of Clearance which affected the whole country and changed the face of Scotland forever. **Price: 24.95 Plus postage**

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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.

Glasgow is Scotland's largest city and is renowned for its culture, style and its people.

A tribute to Glasgow

Oh I was born in Glasgow, near
the centre of the town,
I would take you there and show but
they've pulled the building down,
And when I think about it, it
always makes me frown,
They bull-dozed it all to make a road.
And that great old place I miss so
much has seen much better days,
And still we talk about it as we
go our separate ways,
Oh but Glasgow gave me more
than it ever took away,
And prepared me for life on the road.
Glasgow by Billy Connolly, Musical tour of Scotland, Rondor Music.

Billy Connolly singing these simple words set to that haunting theme music from his *Musical Tour of Scotland* never fails to evoke a sentimental and nostalgic response in me. Billy is a contemporary of my wife, Jean and I, born almost directly over the other side of the River Clyde. He was born in Partick, she in Anniesland and myself in Plantation. The song evokes such a powerful response in us because these few words sum up much of what happened to the place where we all once lived. Blackburn Street where I was born was bull-dozed for 'slum clearance' and re-development. My wife's birthplace in 3 Picadilly Street was like Billy's place of birth bull-dozed to make way for that same road that he mentions in the song.

Great old place

We therefore know that Billy was envisaging the same cityscapes that Jean and I both knew and loved when we were all children of that "Great old place", the City of Glasgow. So today the freshly gilded angel at Paisley Road Toll now looks toward the Kingston Bridge whose piles and supports on the north side of the river required the demolition of my wife, Jean's, birthplace, and at an earlier time my grandfather Baxter's birthplace at 117 Cheapside Street. From there, the bridge thrusts its way across the river above where the Clyde Street ferry once gently plied with my mother and me as passengers. The bridge carries the motorway that pushes traffic across central Glasgow from North to South and South to North. The traffic going south winds its way behind Kinning Park and Ibrox, having destroyed much of what was once there; to meet the M77 as it speeds on its way to Kilmarnock via Pollok. There, the road cuts through and divides Pollok, the housing scheme, from the Pollok Country Park, now the site of the world famous Burrell Collection as well as Pollok House. It divides Pollok more effectively than wealth and privilege ever did during our childhoods.

Born a Glaswegian

Sometimes I have to somehow justify to strangers why I'm so proud to have been born a Glaswegian but I never have to do that to someone like Billy who knows our city for what it both was and is. That said, Billy's family moved to the Drumchapel housing scheme in the north of Glasgow and was, for whatever reason, and from what has been written in his biography, not a good experience. Whereas my wife and myself enjoyed our formative years being raised in the Pollok housing scheme and to that upbringing we both find no fault.

Billy, as he says in the song, was prepared "for life on the road." We cannot claim or identify with any of that. Nevertheless, we can similarly thank Glasgow for having prepared Jean and me for life in general, for providing us with good loving and dependable Glasgow–born parents and siblings, for giving us good role models in the Presbyterian Church and its Ministers of religion, who we could respect for their common sense and intellect. We can thank our city of birth for providing us with a proud history of achievement and many famous sons and daughters to take pride in, with well-educated and caring teachers and a good Scottish public education system under the auspices of Glasgow Corporation. We can thank Glasgow for nurturing us in our extended families of Glasgow aunts and uncles, cousins and friends and decent hard-working Glasgow neighbours.

Yes of course it wasn't all perfect but paraphrasing what Billy says in his song "Glasgow gave us more than it ever took away" and for that we can concur and will be eternally grateful.

Billy Connolly designed by John Byrne and painted by Rogue One. One of three murals commissioned to mark the 75th birthday of the much-loved Glaswegian comedian. Part of the Glasgow City Centre Mural Trail. Photo: Kenny Lam/VisitScotland.

Search for young composer with the piping x-factor

A competition to find Scotland's next superstar young composer and an iconic new tune for our national instrument has launched today; Piping Hit 2018. Youngsters across Scotland are being asked whether they think they have the x-factor and to compose a hit tune suitable for the Great Highland Bagpipe. The competition is open to every school pupil in Scotland. Music charity organisers, the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT), want to showcase some of Scotland's young musical talent whilst also helping to create some great new Scottish tunes. Entrants must make a recording of the tune played on the pipes, but composers don't have to be able to play the pipes themselves. The tune must be an original piece of work and can be as traditional as *Scotland the Brave* or more contemporary.

Fantastic young musical talent

Kenny Forsyth, chair of the judging panel and SSPDT trustee, said: "We have some fantastic young musical talent and we are looking forward to hearing what they compose. The pipes are used in so many different types of music now and we want to encourage all pupils to get involved, whether they play the pipes or not. The tune doesn't have to be what is considered a typical traditional Scottish melody, it could be as modern as Ed Sheeran or Katy Perry – it's up to the composer! The judges will be looking out for tunes that have the power to connect with an audience. The winner of Piping Hit 2018 will receive £250 as well as £1000 for their school's music department. The winning tune will also be performed at the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships in March 2018 – the world's largest competition of its type."

Lorne MacDougall, piper, composer and one of the judging panel, added: "I started playing the pipes when I was at school and I am very lucky that it is now my fulltime career. Composing is not only great for getting the creative juices flowing, it's also very therapeutic and a good way to express yourself. It can also lead to lots of exciting prospects, including traveling around the world, so there is the potential to make a good career from it! I've written and performed music for TV and film including *Doctor Who, Brave* and *How to Train Your Dragon* and it all started with getting involved with piping when I was at school!"

The deadline for entries is the 19th January 2018 and full competition rules and entry details can be found on www.sspdt.org.uk.

Christmas comes alive in Scotland. Photo: Kenny Lam/VisitScotland.

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.

The chief is back from photographing in America. He tells me he has missed the dogs and me (in that order)! But it has to be said, he returns reluctantly - and I can see why. A wet and windy Scottish winter's day is no compensation for the light and heat of New Mexico. Or the glorious red and gold tail-end of a Colorado fall.

Yet when a watery sun gets up over a dry and frosted glen, there is no finer place to be. Crisp underfoot. Breath crystallising in pine-scented air. The MacNaughties love it. And that is why I left my husband to his cameras and returned earlier than him from the USA. There were doggies to rescue from boarding kennels…

Christmas

And now the countdown to Christmas is underway. Which, at the risk of upsetting someone, is not my favourite time of year. Bah humbug, yes, that's me… It is just too commercial. And, like going fishing, there is the danger of incessant expectation and perpetual disappointment.

But my mother loves it – and aged nearly ninety, she expects - and deserves - to have the full festive works. Especially as she arrives with a moist, fruity Christmas cake and buys the crackers, which this year have little Scottie dogs on them.

Then there is our 25-year-old daughter who is planning to leave London in good time for the festivities. She is coming north with a new boyfriend in search of Scottish snow, mulled wine and toasted marshmallows on log fires. It must be slightly serious if she's bringing him home at this family time.

Logan

There is also the filming work that accompanies a Scottish Christmas. Each year we wrack our brains for seasonal stories that might fill our current affairs/features TV programme. In years gone by there was the donkey sanctuary (think Mary and Joseph on the way to Bethlehem) and there was the huge fir-tree plantation, (vital for all those Christmas trees needed at this time of year).

This time the producers have come up with the bright idea of bringing a touch of the tropical into our normally chilly festive lives. We are to film at Logan Botanic Gardens in the south-western tip of Scotland. This exotic paradise sits on the coast and is warmed by the Gulf Stream that flows nearby. Which means the climate is milder than elsewhere in the country. So temperate, in fact, that palm trees and other southern hemisphere plants thrive there. Even in the depths of winter, I am told there is always something to see at Logan.

The producer is driving down from Edinburgh to meet me and the cameraman. Let us hope his journey is an easier one than the last time we worked together. The weather was wet and wild, he was in a hire car, and as it was not his normal vehicle he was concentrating hard on the road when the dashboard started flashing bright red.

'Warning, warning!' the thing said. So, doing a steady seventy and thinking that the engine was about to explode, he glanced nervously down to see what the problem was. As the car swerved slightly the following words appear on a screen. 'Try not to be distracted when driving. Being distracted can be dangerous when you are at the wheel… '

Carefully-packed packages

Technology, who needs it?! And who needs all that stuff we accumulate around us? This month the MacGregor and I get back some boxes from storage. They went in during a house move eighteen months ago and, the thing is, we simply cannot remember what is in these carefully-packed packages.

We take turns at taking a wild guess. That cocktail-making kit that never got used? Maybe some unwanted Christmas decorations? A spare dinner service, perhaps? Or what about those toys we thought future grandchildren might like to play with? (Don't mention grandchildren when daughter brings up new beau. Don't want to frighten him off at first meeting…)

I am constantly trying to downsize, but with a thrifty Highlander for a husband, it is hard work - because the MacGregor does not like to throw anything out. In our house we have hundreds of Celtic magazines. There are kilts galore, some more moth-eaten than others, three dating back a century and a half. At the last count there were eleven rucksacks, most of them battered and bruised, but still apparently required. And don't get me going on his wardrobe. Frayed collars and cuffs a plenty, but never a shirt deemed bad enough to throw the thing out.

Whatever is in these newly-arrived boxes, we have neither missed it, nor needed it. I think it may be ornaments. Which, if taken out, will require regular dusting. Bah humbug, again – I promise to try to be a nicer person in the new year. In the meantime, enjoy…

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

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This sturdy bag comes with a classic pattern of a Scottish Terrier dog with sturdy handles.
H: 30cm, W: 40cm, D: 12cm

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This sturdy bag comes with a colourful pattern of bonnie Highland coo's.
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Trust ready to reveal its treasures

Cataloguing at the Hill Of Tarvit Mansion, Fife.

One of Scotland's biggest ever heritage projects got underway recently, as the National Trust for Scotland's (NTS) Project Reveal team started work on the daunting task of updating their records to ensure that every single piece of their extensive collections is recorded, all over Scotland.

Employing 26 people, the £1.3 million 'Project Reveal' is a huge piece of work planned to take 20 months, and to cover every single property in the care of Scotland's largest conservation charity, from the huge Culzean Castle in Ayrshire, to the humble home of geologist Hugh Miller in Cromarty. Weighed down with laptops, ladders, cameras, tape measures and object labelling equipment, six inventory teams have set off to catalogue and photograph all of the collections displayed and stored in 47 of the NTS visited properties.

Hidden gems

The endeavour will see experts photograph and record each of the Trust's 100,000 artefacts. Over the course of the project, the team will not only learn a lot about the pieces which are on display at Trust properties all over Scotland, but will also, they hope, discover 'hidden gems' which will give an even greater insight into the country's history and heritage.

National Trust for Scotland Chief Executive Simon Skinner said: "This is a huge project, both for the Trust and for the heritage of Scotland. It will mean we know so much more about the many treasures in our care, and this information will help us as we strive to share Scotland's spectacular scenery, amazing history and unforgettable experiences with more visitors, in more engaging and relevant ways."

Wendy Turner, Project Manager for Project Reveal said: "This is an unusual project within the cultural sector because the majority of our collections are on display within historic houses, castles, cottages and workshops, and much of the inventory work will take place in full view of our visitors. We are revealing not just our collections, but our working methods as well. We fully expect the teams to 'reveal' hidden treasures and to uncover new stories about our collections."

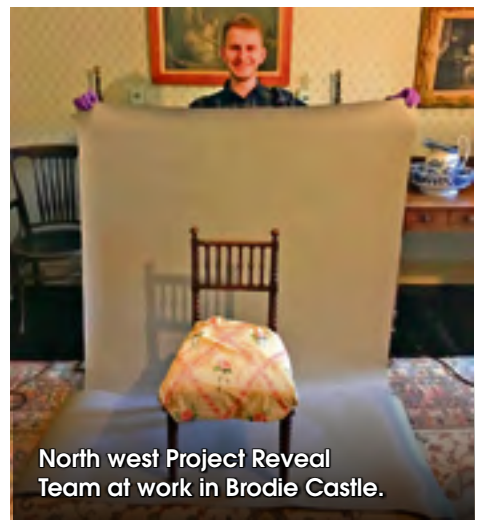
Updated and accurate database

By the end of the project, the NTS will have an updated and accurate database record of every item in their care. Improving the quality of the information that they hold will help them to manage the collections more effectively. More importantly, the NTS will be in a stronger position to share what they know about their collections through events, property guides and interpretation, publications and online exhibitions.

The scale of this project is unprecedented at the NTS and represents a major investment in managing and preserving Scotland's heritage. It is also unusual within the cultural sector. Unlike most organisations that collect and care for historical artefacts, the majority of the collections are not in store but are on display within historic houses, castles, cottages and workshops, and much of the inventory work will take place in full view of our visitors. The NTS are revealing not just their collections, but their working methods as well.

Teams have started work at Brodie Castle near Forres, Pitmedden Garden in Aberdeenshire, Newhailes in East Lothian, the Hill House in Helensburgh and Culzean Castle in Ayrshire.

They will be blogging about their work as they go – keep up to date with the latest news at www.nts.org.uk or #ProjectReveal.


North west Project Reveal Team at work in Brodie Castle.

SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG

CÙRSAICHEAN GOIRID

EASTER & SUMMER SHORT COURSES

2018

A' CHÀISG
EASTER

02 - 06/04/18
- Gaelic 1, 3, 5, 7
- Gaelic Song with Christine Primrose
- Fiddle Course with Ewen Henderson
- Gaelic in the Landscape with Roddy MacLean

09 - 13/04/18
- Gaelic 2, 4, 6, 8
- Gaelic Conversation with Joy Dunlop
- Flute & Whistle with Hamish Napier
- Fiddle & Viola with Patsy Reid
- Aspects of Highland Material Culture with Margaret Stewart

SAMHRADH
SUMMER

02 - 06/07/18
- Piping & Drumming for under 18s
- Family Learning Week

09 - 13/07/18
- Gaelic Song with Christine Primrose
- Gaelic 1 & 2
- Gaelic Conversation Course with Muriel Fisher
- Piano Accordion with Addie Harper Jr & Stephanie Harper
- Button Box with Robert Nairn & Fergie MacDonald
- Gaelic for Irish Speakers (Beginners)

21 - 27/07/18
- Fiddle course with Alasdair Fraser
- Cello course with Natalie Haas

23 - 27/07/18
- 'Exploring Skye' (Beginners Gaelic) with Muriel Fisher

30/07 - 03/08/18
- Gaelic 1, 3, 5, 7
- Gaelic for Irish Speakers (Advanced Learners)
- Traditional Music Ensemble with Innes Watson
- Isle of Skye Piping School with Decker Forrest

06 - 10/08/18
- Gaelic 2, 4, 6, 8
- 'A Seascape of Gaelic Song' with Margaret Stewart
- Clarsach with Ingrid Henderson

13 - 17/08/18
- Gaelic 1, 3, 5, 7, 9
- Digital Photography with Cailean MacLean
- Gaelic Creative Writing with Alison Lang

20 - 24/08/18
- Gaelic 2, 4, 6, 8, 10
- Adam Sutherland School of Fiddle Summer Camp
- Learning through Living Culture in Flodigarry

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By: Judy Vickers

Whithorn-*Bringing the Iron Age past back to life*

The ancient Scottish settlement of Whithorn has a history spanning more than 1500 years and Whithorn, the site of the first Christian church in Scotland, stands alongside Iona and St Andrews as one of the most important religious sites in the country. Recently Historic Environment Scotland recognised The Whithorn Trust for their project to build a full-scale reconstruction of an Iron Age roundhouse in Dumfries in south-west Scotland, which opened earlier this year and is based on excavations of sites dating back to 450BC as Judy Vickers explains.

The finished roundhouse.

Images courtesy of The Whithorn Trust.

It's a quiet corner of Scotland that's positively steeped in history – and prehistory - from Bronze Age remains to Georgian magnificence. The Machars – the name means coastal pastures – which jut out in to the Irish Sea from the south-west of Scotland contain the site of the country's first church, was home to its first saint and can even lay claim to its first town, the ancient settlement of Whithorn.

Iron Age roundhouse

But now the past has come back to life with the painstaking reconstruction of an Iron Age roundhouse. And the Whithorn roundhouse, modelled on the remains of those found nearby by archaeologists, has scooped a top award, the perfect accolade and spur for those behind the project, as they look forward to welcoming visitors and working with school children on the dwelling's furnishings in 2018.

The idea of the roundhouse reconstruction grew out of the historical excavations which have been carried out for many years in an area which has long been a huge draw for archaeologists thanks to the legends of St Ninian, Scotland's first saint. According the monk and historian St Bede, writing in the 8th century, Ninian was a bishop who built Scotland's first church at Whithorn – the candida casa or shining white church.

Certainly by the 300s AD Whithorn, with the sea and Roman Carlisle close at hand, was an important centre for trade and early Christianity. Ninian, who is believed to have died in 431AD, is credited with introducing Christianity to large parts of Scotland years before the work of St Columba.

His church, according to Bede, was "built of stone in a manner to which the Britons were unaccustomed" – at the time the local population would have lived in roundhouses like the reconstruction, made of wooden posts and woven hazel hurdles, as they had done for hundreds of years and would continue to for hundreds more. Julia Muir Watt, development manager of

The Whithorn Trust, the group behind the reconstruction, explains: "Roundhouses are found for thousands of years - from the Bronze Age, right up to the 8th century AD. Whithorn certainly had some on the spot." In fact, archaeologists found a 10-metre wide roundhouse in the 1980s just yards from where the reconstruction is today.

But it was a beautifully preserved roundhouse found at Black Loch of Myrton around five miles away which inspired the current project, which has won a Scottish Heritage Angel Award. The settlement there dates back to around 450BC yet the roundhouse was so beautifully preserved in the wet boggy ground that even the details of the joints of the frame could be seen. Julia explains: "The roundhouse at Black Loch would have housed a prosperous farming family. It was built to impress with its elaborate oak facade. They would have had perhaps 20 or more people living inside, with animals too - the evidence from insect remains shows insects which are parasitic on animals. Perhaps the outer ring might have been used for animal pens."

Julia and Dr Graeme Cavers of AOC Archaeology which carried out the excavations came up with the idea of the reconstruction as a way of exciting and engaging the public over the amazing finds.

Thatching

The project was conceived in 2015 and has cost around £60,000 to bring to fruition – including building a concrete raft for the reconstruction to sit on, protecting the archaeology underneath.

Along with Julia and archaeologist Dr Cavers and his colleague Dr Anne Crone, there were three craftsmen working on the site as well as 30 volunteers, some of whom gave up weeks of their time, as well as staff from the local council and workers from local building firms. Master thatcher Jonathan Botterell trained the craftsmen and volunteers from Historic Environment Scotland's technical team as well as working himself on the reed-thatched roof using age-old techniques. He says: "Within living memory, thatching hasn't really changed except for one or two innovations. And in fact there is an Egyptian

hieroglyphic of a fellow up a ladder with a leggett (thatching tool) dressing some reeds which is just the same as we are doing and that's about 3,500 years old."

The project also had an architect, Hazel Smith, a structural engineer, and much help from local farmer William Smith, who transported all the timber under a Medieval arch up to the site.

The settlement at Whithorn dates back to around 450BC yet the roundhouse was so beautifully preserved in the wet boggy ground that even the details of the joints of the frame could be seen.

The amount of modern expertise needed to construct the house gave those working on the project a renewed sense of admiration for the builders of long ago. "They must have been very skilled workforce because they didn't have the modern machinery we have to be able to erect such a structure," says Hazel.

But even that modern help was limited not least by the Medieval arch which the materials had to pass through to reach the site, meaning equipment such as cranes was ruled out. And a desire to be carbon-neutral means that some of the timbers were even pulled up by horse, no easy task considering how huge some of them are.

Julia says: "We reckon the main timbers weigh between a half and one tonne. The longest timbers were used for the rafters and are up to 11m in length. They were the slenderer trees, while the central ring beam was the stoutest and were specified by our engineer at 350mm in diameter. There are eight massive inner ring uprights and about 27 outer ring uprights, slightly smaller and the same number of rafters. There are literally hundreds of slim purlins, which cross between the rafters to support the thatch. They were harvested from just near the Iron Age site, where they still grow in profusion.

"The reeds were the only material we had to buy, as there were too few growing near the Black Loch and they need to be long and straight for thatching. We bought 26 tonnes of reed and used almost all of it."

While the project has tried to replicate the original roundhouse as far as possible, Dr Cavers adds: "Inevitably there are aspects of that building we need to take guesses about because they don't survive but that's been one of the most interesting parts of the projects, solving the same problems the original builders did."

Iron Age links with the Christian period

Now the trust is looking forward to new developments in 2018 – and welcoming a host of visitors. Julia says: "When visitors come, one of our expert guides will take them across the small field excavated during the 1980s, with an explanation of how the Iron Age links with the Christian period - indeed continues well beyond it into the 600s AD. They will arrive at the palisaded walls of the roundhouse - just like the original, ours has hazel walls for defence - and they will then have a full guided tour of the interiors, explanations of how Iron Age people lived in them, and how we built ours. Some tours are given in costume, with an explanation of the clothing we know about from the Iron Age period. We have also begun making furnishings - a loom based on original evidence has been created. Our central hearth works and we often light the fire. The floors are woven willow panels. Most visitors are surprised by the sheer scale of it and the magnitude of the original - and current - builders' task.

"In 2018, we are working with local schools on how to furnish the interiors - there's no reason to suppose they did not have beds as they knew how to create the sophisticated joinery evident in the Black Loch structure. Did they sleep on a mezzanine sleeping platform? What kind of pots did they use? These are all questions we are working on with archaeologists - it's a developing project."

Thatching the roof.

Skye Admiral Sir Roddy's home becomes residence for artists

Wasps project allows generations of artists to benefit from the island cottage of a fearless sailor who took his paintbrush and easel to sea.

Admiral Roddy painting on Skye.

A watercolour by Sir Roddy.

The former island home of Vice Admiral Sir Roddy Macdonald, World War II veteran, painter and Chief of the Skye Highland Games has officially opened as a residence for artists. Generally known as Admiral Roddy, he was a keen watercolourist whose brushes and easel accompanied him on all his travels, including throughout his service during World War II and subsequent conflicts. The cottage at Braes, which overlooks the sea, is where he spent many happy years during retirement. It was gifted by his estate to WASPS (Workshop and Artist Studio Provisions Scotland) and now has three studios, including the one the admiral used himself.

Vice Admiral Sir Roddy Macdonald.

Deeply involved with island life

Pictures, paintings and travel mementoes belonging to Roddy (who died in 2000) are being kept at what is now known as The Admiral's House to preserve the memory of a man who was deeply involved with island life. He was Chieftain of the Skye Highland Games, organised the conversion of the old school into a village hall was instrumental in banning tankers from passing through the Minch. A number of items belonging to the Admiral will also be housed in the Skye and Lochalsh archives.

John Macdonald, the Admiral's son, said: "This project has brought all of the family back together again in a symbolic way. It's wonderful that this beautiful place will continue to be a focal point for the rest of the family to come, enjoy and share experiences."

The Admiral's obituary in *The Times* in 2001 stated that: "If naval officers can be said to divide themselves into two classes, clerks and pirates, then Roddy Macdonald, was a pirate."

Fearless and forceful character

His fearless and forceful character served him well in service during the Norwegian campaign and in the last stages of the war against Japan. He later played a significant role in Cyprus. He also caught an intruding Soviet submarine during the Cold War.

His last appointment before retiring in 1979 was as Chief of Staff to the NATO Commander, Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe and he was also an aide to Her Majesty the Queen.

Despite a lifelong career in the navy he was delighted to retire to Skye saying "One good book to close. And another to open". It enabled him to devote more time to his art and other interests as a trustee of the Clan Donald Lands Trust and President of the Skye Piping Society.

The residency is being delivered by WASPS in partnership with the respected Skye-based Atlas Arts. Future programmes and activities will also be developed in association with Atlas Arts. One of the great appeals of the Admiral's House is that the superb surrounding landscapes provide a strong sense of place and that the residency facility will offer artists the chance to develop their connections with local communities, oral and social histories, music, and Gaelic culture.

Did you know?

- Vice Admiral Sir Roddy Macdonald KBE or Admiral Roddy as he is more commonly known, was born in Java in 1921.
- He joined the Navy in January 1939 and his first posting was to HMS Belfast in Scapa Flow.
- He also served in Cyprus and commanded the multi-national Borneo Naval Force in the 1960s.
- During his time in the Navy, Admiral Roddy commanded six warships and a squadron of minesweepers and frigates.
- He was the Commander in Chief of the Naval Home Command from 1973-6 and in 1975, was appointed as an aide to the Queen.
- He retired in 1978 and pursued a successful retirement career in painting.
- Admiral Roddy was also the chieftain of the Clan Macdonald, the Skye Highland Games, the president of the local piping society and also of the Inverness Sea Cadets.
- He passed away in 2000 aged 79.

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Edinburgh welcomes the world and 2018 this holiday season

Princes Street Gardens. Photo: Iain Cameron

Looking to start (or end) the year in Scotland? Edinburgh will be rolling out a very Scottish welcome mat again this year with an incredible list of activities for all ages. Get into the festive spirit across Edinburgh (and Scotland!) this month and enjoy hospitality like no other.

Edinburgh's Christmas

Edinburgh's Christmas is one of the most popular Christmas celebrations in the United Kingdom. 2017 will see the biggest, brightest and best programme of events and entertainment across the city centre to date. This year's highlights include Festival Square Spiegeltent presenting the legendary entertainment masters La Clique with their Christmas show, La Clique Noël. Residents and visitors alike will enjoy a stroll through the Princes Street Gardens' filled with stalls offering food, Glühwein as well as creative ideas for Christmas presents. This year the refreshed celebration expands across the city from East to West, North to South and into community hubs outside the city centre. A new feature, The Ice Adventure – a journey through frozen Scotland comes to the west end of George Street offering residents and visitors a stunning new attraction made of snow and ice. Another new offering this year is Edinburgh's Giant Advent Calendar, this free attraction, created by Double Take Projections, will be projected nightly onto General Register House, with 25 glimpses of Edinburgh winters from years gone-by, one revealed each day. As always, adults and children of all ages will revel in an amazing variety of Christmas-themed rides and activities, from Santa's Grotto to outdoor ice rink.

Edinburgh's Lord Provost, Frank Ross, said: "Edinburgh's Christmas has become one of the top winter festivals in the UK. This year's programme celebrates the past, present and future of our city, with a combination of new attractions, popular events and old favourites. I'm looking forward to seeing the festive cheer spread beyond the city centre this winter with decorative displays in many of our local communities. From Westerhailes to Leith, 50 artworks by local schoolchildren will provide a window into the Edinburgh of the future. It will spread awareness of the 2050 City Vision initiative and brighten all corners of Edinburgh."

Edinburgh's Hogmanay

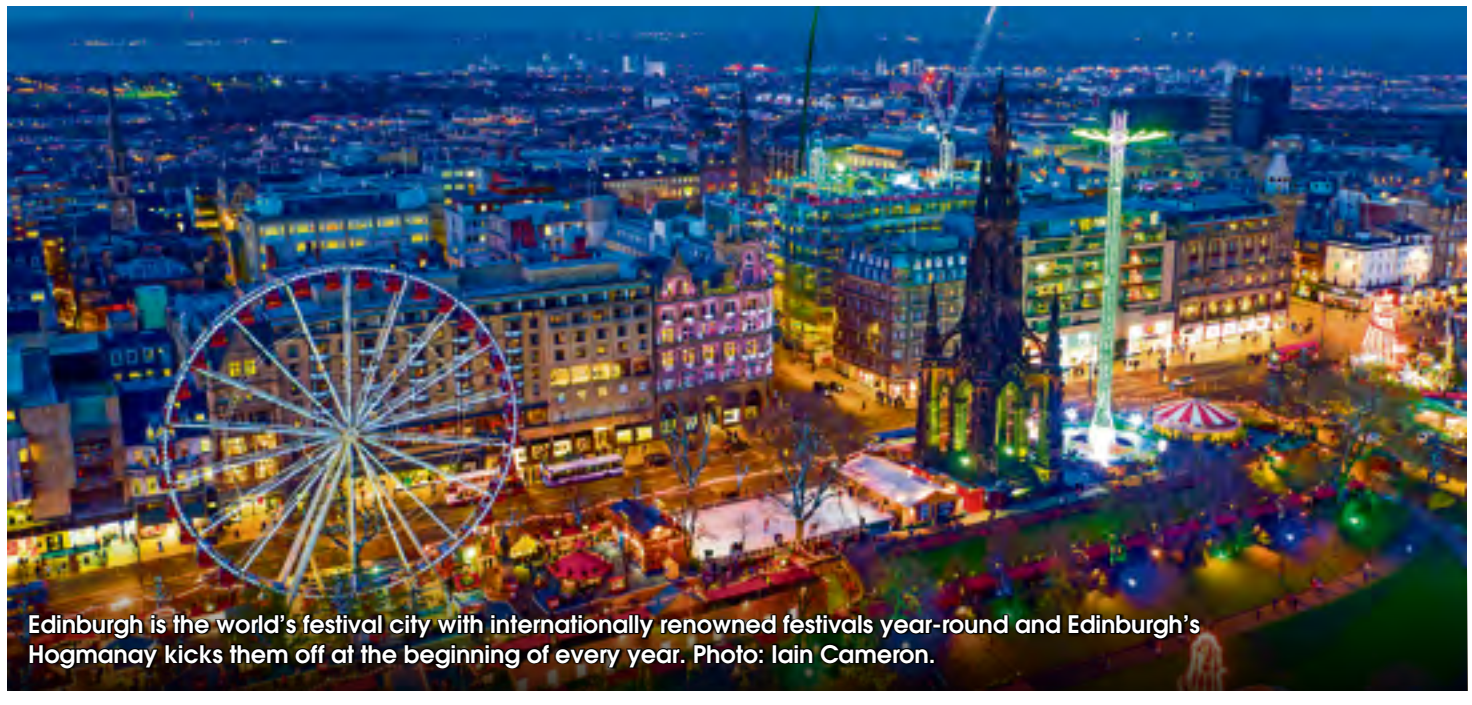
Edinburgh's Hogmanay is the UK's (if not the world's) leading New Year Festival lasting 3 days in Scotland's stunning capital city drawing an estimated 150,000 people from Scotland and around the world. The home of Hogmanay and the place to celebrate New Year, has announced the programme for its 25th Hogmanay festival. Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2018 is better than ever before with new events, including the family friendly Bairns Afore and a new look ceilidh at the foot of the city's iconic castle, an extended fireworks display which will rival any other city in the world this New Year, and a revamped and animated Street Party that keeps the celebration going all evening.

The three-day festival opens on 30 December 2017 with the stunning traditional Torchlight Procession which this year blazes a new path seeing the river of light weave its way through the historic heart of the city around Holyrood

Loony Dook. Photo: Chris Watt.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay. Photo: Iain Cameron.

Light Night. Photo: Tim Edgeler


Edinburgh is the world's festival city with internationally renowned festivals year-round and Edinburgh's Hogmanay kicks them off at the beginning of every year. Photo: Iain Cameron.

Palace and the Scottish Parliament before culminating in a stunning visual moment in Holyrood Park: #ScotWord project.

Year of Young People 2018

Marking the start of Scotland's Year of Young People 2018, Edinburgh's Hogmanay will celebrate Scotland's young citizens at the Torchlight Procession and give them the limelight on a Scottish and global stage. A Scotland wide engagement campaign co-designed and led by young people will seek to reach their peers in Scotland between the ages of 8 and 26 this year in a quest to find #ScotWord. This one word will form the fiery finale of the popular Torchlight Procession on 30 December sharing with the world the answer of Scotland's young people to the question "What makes you most proud to live in Scotland?".

Edinburgh's Hogmanay is the UK's (if not the world's) leading New Year Festival lasting 3 days in Scotland's stunning capital city drawing an estimated 150,000 people from Scotland and around the world.

On 31 December, local and visiting families have the opportunity to celebrate New Year together in West Princes Street Gardens at Bairns Afore. The family friendly celebration includes an hour of entertainment and culminates in its very own 'midnight' fireworks moment… at 6pm, allowing families to take their children home to bed before the late night reveling gets underway.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay renews its partnership with One City Trust, donating 50 pence from every ticket sold for the Torchlight Procession to the Trust as the Torchlight Procession Charity Partner for 2017. Edinburgh's Hogmanay will also make 300 free tickets for Bairns Afore available to the Trust to maximize the opportunity for young people around Edinburgh to get involved and celebrate Hogmanay. One City Trust is dedicated to fighting inequality and exclusion in Edinburgh.

Edinburgh's Street Party is the only night long celebration that makes that midnight moment last with a 6 hour street party bringing the spirit of carnival and animating the length and breadth of the Princes Street arena in a hugely revamped programme for one of the world's great parties.

Something for everyone

Ringing in the New Year, Edinburgh's Hogmanay sees the longest, biggest and best fireworks display for years - set to music and once again launched from Edinburgh Castle. Edinburgh's Hogmanay festival doesn't stop when the bells finish ringing. On Monday 1 January 2018, the brave, the foolhardy and the generous dive into the chilly Firth of Forth for the Loony Dook, raising money for a huge range of charities in the process.

As dusk falls on 1 January, Edinburgh, the world's first UNESCO City of Literature, celebrates its rich literary heritage and that of Scotland with projections across buildings and landmarks across the city. In a nod to Robert Burns's poem Sketch New Year's Day, Message from the Skies sees literary star Val McDermid join with dramaturg, Philip Howard of Pearlfisher, Edinburgh based projection company Double Take Projections and some of Scotland's best soundscape artists to create and write a new short story which will lead audiences on a trail around Edinburgh. Message from the Skies runs until 25 January 2018 in a celebration of the Bard's day too.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay. Photo: Grant Ritchie.

Minister for Winter Festivals and Burns Night Alasdair Allan, said: "Edinburgh's Hogmanay is a cornerstone event in the Winter Festivals and a brand leader in New Year celebrations around the world, showcasing all the many facets of Scotland's rich and vibrant culture. Hogmanay hugely contributes to promoting Scotland as a fantastic visitor destination, a host of the world's major events and a dynamic country rich in culture and creativity. Most importantly, it enhances Scotland's reputation as a place where everyone is assured a warm welcome, whether they are visiting the country, are here for business or to study, or have chosen to live and work here."

Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "This year Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrates its 25th birthday so it's fitting that it will be the biggest party ever staged in Scotland's great capital city. The fireworks display is being extended with new events like Bairns Afore and Message from the Skies plus favourites such as the Torchlight Procession and Loony Dook. There will be something for everyone not just to see but to take part in. Come along and experience what Edinburgh's Hogmanay is really about!"

Torchlight Procession. Photo: Chris Watt.

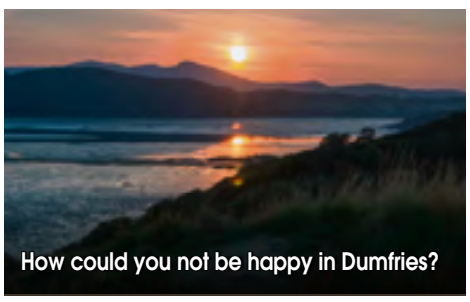
IN SCOTLAND TODAY

The Fairy Pools on Skye. Photo: VisitScotland.

Skye residents buy land to ease Fairy Pools congestion

An organisation in Skye is to become the first to acquire land under a new scheme to transfer publicly-owned forestry assets, to the benefit of local communities. Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) launched the Community Asset Transfer Scheme earlier this year. Minginish Community Hall Association (MCHA) applied to purchase land close to the Fairy Pools, an increasingly popular tourist site. FES have now agreed to transfer the land for £2,500, a discount of £27,500 on the market value, because of the substantial public benefit that will be delivered. MCHA intend to expand car parking facilities, alleviating long-term concerns for tourists and residents, as well as installing new visitor facilities. Julie Burnett, a director of MCHA, said: "This is a key milestone in the project to provide improved parking facilities close to the Fairy Pools. The community benefit of the land transfer and the overall project cannot be overstated. Tourists are welcome on Skye, it's our responsibility to ensure the infrastructure is prepared for them." The MCHA plans to make space for 137 cars and about 20 mini-buses and camper vans in a bid to reduce congestion

The happiest places in Scotland



How could you not be happy in Dumfries?

Over 17,000 people across Great Britain voted in a national survey to find the "Happiest place in Live" in the UK and how happy they are where they live, and the results are in for the Rightmove's Happy at Home Index. The poll looked at the friendliness of locals, services and amenities of communities, crime and vandalism rates and overall community spirit levels. Leamington Spa in England has been crowned the happiest place to live in the UK, with Leigh-on-Sea, coming in second place. The Scottish national happiest poll was as follows: Dumfries, Edinburgh, Inverness, Dundee, Kilmarnock, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Kirkcaldy, Perth, Motherwell, Falkirk and Paisley.

World's first distillery reopens after 500 years

A new £7m distillery and visitor centre in Fife has opened in the spiritual home of whisky. The first recorded mention of Scotch whisky is in the Exchequer Rolls of 1494, where Friar John Cor is asked to make aqua vitae for King James IV. Cor is reputed to have resided at Lindores Abbey in Fife, often referred to as the 'spiritual home of Scotch whisky'. Now, some 500 years later, distilling has returned to the area at Lindores Abbey Distillery, with a mixture of traditional and modern production processes. Drew McKenzie Smith of Lindores Abbey Distillery said: "Opening Lindores Abbey Distillery, at the spiritual home of Scotch whisky, is a special day for my family, colleagues, and the whisky community around the world. Twenty years ago, when I first read that the earliest written reference to Scotch whisky distillation in Scotland cited Friar John Cor of Lindores' commission by King James IV to turn eight bolls of malt into aqua vitae it changed my life and gave me the purpose and ambition to preserve Lindores Abbey for generations to come. The late, great whisky writer Michael Jackson wrote of Lindores Abbey that 'for the whisky lover, it is a pilgrimage' so we are honoured today to share our vision for the future and the award-winning Lindores Abbey single malt whisky which will safeguard this tranquil site of historic significance for generations to come." Lindores is planning to produce 150,000 litres of whisky a year, the first batch should be available by 2023.

The North East 250-Scotland's latest driving route launched

The ultimate road route has been launched in the heart of Scotland, the circular North East 250 route will take visitors on a journey through Speyside, the Cairngorms, Royal Deeside, Aberdeen, the East Coast and the Moray Coast giving visitors the opportunity to drive fantastic roads with lovely views while also being able to explore castles, wildlife, coastal villages, stunning beaches, golf courses, mountains, forests and distilleries. It is hoped that the new route will bring additional trade to communities situated along the North East 250, with visitors to the North East wishing to explore Scotland in a different way and to make the most of the various itineraries possible.

The North East 250 has been developed by local businessman Guy Macpherson-Grant, whose family's roots on Speyside go back to the 16th century. Passionate about the North East of Scotland, Guy is confident that the North East 250 will encourage people to come to the region, to enjoy driving its roads and to enjoy everything it has to offer besides: spectacular scenery, bounteous wildlife, globally renowned food and drink, traditional warm hospitality and activities galore.

Guy Macpherson-Grant explained his vision: "I am delighted to reveal the North East 250 today amongst fellow tourism businesses in Moray Speyside. I am excited by the potential of the North East 250 to bring more visitors to our area and experience, what I believe, is the very best that Scotland has to offer. We need businesses along the Route to really get behind it and help make it the success I know it can be."

The North East 250 team has carefully curated initial lists of places to visit, as well as provided information on some accommodation providers and local amenities. Information on these can be found on www.northeast250.com under each of the route's sectors: Speyside, the Cairngorms, Royal Deeside, Aberdeen, the East Coast and the Moray Coast. These attractions and places to visit will be added to all the time as businesses sign up, and feedback from people who have completed the route is encouraged to ensure that the best experience is created for future visitors.

Those visitors or locals doing the route can also become a Member for access to extras, including: a downloadable itinerary of choice, a printed map of the route, a North East 250 Member car sticker and a souvenir North East 250 Passport – to be stamped as you travel along the route.

Aberdeen plans for Scottish cruise boom

A £350 million expansion of Aberdeen Harbour is expected to help Aberdeen become a future cruise destination. The new works would eliminate the need for ships to dock off shore and tender in passengers and allow ships to disembark directly from the new piers. Cruising is booming in Scotland with nearly 1 million passengers travelling on Scottish cruises in 2017. Elaine Booth, business engagement manager of VisitAberdeenshire, said that the Aberdeen region will be recognised as a "world class cruise destination". She added: "The Aberdeen harbour development has presented us with a real opportunity to grow our cruise market share, which is rapidly growing in Scotland and is estimated to generate £72 million per year." The new facilities will include 1,400 metres of new quay, with a water depth of up to 10.5 metres and has been described as a "major new chapter" in the port's history. The harbour expansion into Nigg Bay, which is due to be completed in 2020, hopes to create 2,300 jobs by 2026.

The Emigrant Ships

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, now published.

Either, the clipper ship Blenheim, 808 tons, built at South Shields in 1845, or the ship Blenheim, 1314 tons, built in Newcastle in 1848. Photo courtesy of www.blenheim175.wordpress.com

Nowadays, those emigrating from Scotland do so on a scheduled flight whether bound for a new life in Canada or Australia or a job in the Middle East. The journey's relatively short and the risks are few. But, for our forefathers and mothers who migrated years ago, the hardships could be severe and the risks significant. Leaving Scottish shores whether forcibly ejected for some or simply in search of a better life for most, meant crossing mighty oceans and sometimes even hemispheres. In the 18th or 19th century ships were the only transport available to get you there whether you wished to go or were leaving under duress. The journey was long irrespective of the destination. Crossing the Atlantic to America was a journey then of weeks, not the hours it is today. New Zealand and Australia, months rather than the days, it now takes; and reducing still further with direct flights.

The crossings could frequently be stormy even when setting sail in spring to avoid winter gales. Risk was prevalent and danger everywhere, not simply with the seas and natural environment but with the ships themselves. Some were leaky old tubs to put it mildly and a few even death traps that would prove to be coffins for both passengers and crew. Privation was everywhere, as cruise liners these were not, and sickness prevalent due not just due to the conditions on board but the health of many passengers. For, some it would prove to be their final journey and one they never completed.

The Blenheim

A few years ago, a visitor from New Zealand kindly gave me a booklet about the voyage of one such ship. It chronicled both the passengers and the passage, and made a fascinating and even humbling read for someone who has travelled extensively amongst the Scottish diaspora. Written by a direct descendant of someone who had been on board it recorded what had transpired, as well as celebrating the 175th anniversary of its arrival on New Zealand shores.

The ship was called The Blenheim and departed from Greenock on 25th August 1840. On board were 199 passengers, of whom 21 were cabin and were 178 steerage. They were both young and old, married couples as well as single men and women. The destination was Port Nicholson in New Zealand, part of the great natural harbour of what's now the City of Wellington.

They had been recruited by the New Zealand Company seeking labour and settlers for the new land. Most came from Lochaber and Inverness. Some passengers failed to show or changed their mind and those available places were taken by people from the Glasgow and Paisley area. A few also came from Skye and Morvern, where families were being cleared from their ancestral lands to make way for sheep. Some had all or some of their passage paid, no doubt to both encourage and facilitate them to leave their homeland.

Economic migrants

Most, though, were economic migrants departing Scottish shores for a better life elsewhere. It's a term much denigrated now but applies to most aboard. As it does to the majority who left on other ships, to whatever destination and down through the centuries. Their new land of New Zealand, as with other parts of the new world, offering opportunities denied them at home.

The manifest described most of the Highland males, as labourers or cowherds and the females as housemaids or dairymaids. A few skilled craftsmen such as blacksmiths and carpenters were also amongst. The late additions from the west of Scotland included weavers, bakers and even a former customs officer.

It took four months for them to sail through the Bay of Biscay, around the Cape of Good Hope and across the Great Southern Ocean to south Australia and Van Dieman's Land, now better known as Tasmania, before passing through the Cook Strait and into Port Nicholson on 27th December of that year. Some storms required to be endured but otherwise conditions were fair. Serious ill health was largely avoided, though life's great cycle continued on board as six children were born on the voyage, though sadly two also died. Relationships even bloomed and matrimony between passengers followed on arrival.

New Zealand was the final port of call for those passengers. The ship, however, continued sailing travelling again to New Zealand with settlers, but also crossing twice to take convicts to New South Wales. The New Zealand Company representatives and other settlers who had arrived the year before met the disembarking passengers. They were joined by local Maori Chiefs who showed great kindness to the new settlers, even though Maori wars were subsequently to break out.

New lands

Many initially settled at "Kaiwarra" which became known as the "Scotch Village" which was the first Scottish settlement in New Zealand, and preceded Dunedin by 8 years. They soon settled and a Highland Games were held in 1848. A significant contribution was made by them to the establishment of what became the City of Wellington through road building and contributions to civic society. Some though moved on moved elsewhere in New Zealand or to Australia as Gold Fever broke out in Victoria. Descendants of that ship are still to be found in that region today, and understandably take great pride in their ancestor's travels and contributions.

As the 20th century began, came steam which replaced sail and steel supplanted wood, emigration became safer and faster. But, it still had its hardships and journeys were still days and weeks, though no longer weeks and months. Cabins remained cramped and austere, functional not frivolous for what was a voyage to a new life, not a holiday. Whilst it was different for those traveling first class, they were few, and many fortunately situated there would be returning. It was not so for most in steerage where the cost of travel meant a return journey home would never be taken.

In this modern age, where travel's easy and inexpensive, it's worth recalling the journeys made by those who forged those new lands.

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CALLING THE CLANS

Welcome to the *Scottish Banner's Calling the Clans* section. Our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan to these pages please contact your nearest *Scottish Banner* office for full details. Our address and phone numbers are located on page 2. If you are contacting your Clan be sure to tell them you saw them in *the Scottish Banner* and please support these great community organisations.

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

Membership is open to those descended from Baird, Barde, Bard, Beard, Beaird, Brd, Bayard, Bardt, Barth and Biard or varied spellings of the name of Scottish origin.

In addition to the Society newsletter and the opportunity to associate with fellow clansman members may query the Society geneologist. **For information write:**

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President
3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565
Email: djbaird4@gmail.com

Regional Directors for Australia
David and Patricia Benfell
Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com
website: www.clanbairdsociety.com

THE CLAN CAMPBELL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

The Society exists for the benefit of all its members.
All Campbells or descendants of Campbells and members of Clan Septs are most welcome to join the Society.
Branches exist in NSW, Vic, Qld & SA.
For information contact the National Secretary Judy Campbell
Ph: (08) 8260 3637
Email:campbelljr@optusnet.com.au
www.clan-campbell.org.au

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

Proudly affiliated with Clan Donald Australia, Victorian Scottish Union and Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group. Represented at all major Highland gatherings in Victoria.

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald
Contact: Secretary
secretary.victoria@clandonaldaustralia.com
Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mrs Christina Milne Wilson
Contact: Secretary
secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com
A hereditary clan society formed by the children of Norman Hume Macdonald and Johan McKenzie Macdonald (nee Munro) who departed Scotland in 1854.

Clan Elliot Society, U.S.A.

Michael D.Elliott-Clan President

Welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family.
Direct inquires to:

Membership-Treasurer
Patricia Tennyson Bell
2984 Siskiyou Blvd.
Medford, OR 97504

CLAN FARQUHARSON ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

Clan Chief: Captain A.A.C.Farquharson, MC of Invercauld

Membership inquiries are invited from descendants of Farquharson and descendants of Sept family names. Please contact the association by mail to:

The Secretary
Clan Farquharson Association Australia
PO Box 585
SPRINGWOOD, NSW 2777
or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com

CLAN BELL
Clan Bell North America

Cordially invites membership inquiries from persons Named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Computerized Genealogical data base available to help members in their research. Quarterly newsletter published. Tents hosted at major Scottish games from coast to coast.
Your Bell ancestry is important!
Visit our web site: www.clanbell.org
Contact our Membership Chairperson:
Pauline Bell
1513 Anterra Drive, Wake Forest, NC 27587
e-mail: debellinnc@reagan.com

Clan Campbell Society (North America)

A society for Campbells, members of recognized septs, their descendants, and their friends. Recognized septs include: Ballantine, Burnett, Burns, Caddell, Calder, Harris, Hastings, Loudon, MacArthur, MacConachie, MacDiamid, MacIver, McKellar, MacKelvie, MacKessock, MacNichol, MacTavish, MacThomas, Moore, Muir, Orr, Pinkerton, Thomas, Thompson.

Prospective members inquire to:
Secretary (secretary@ccsm.org)
Clan Campbell Society, (NA)
963 Plum Tree Lane
Fenton, MI 48430
www.ccsna.org

Clan Donnachaidh
Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia
Duncan Robertson Reid

People who bear any of the above names or names of any of the Septs of the Clan (see advertisement from CA USA) are invited to join with us in our activities to promote Clan Donnachaidh, "The Children of Duncan" by participating in the various activities conducted by Scottish Societies.

For information & membership application, contact Gordon Robertson
58/157 Marconi Rd. Bonnells Bay NSW 2264

CLAN FERGUSSON SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

One of the oldest Highland Clans, stretches back in history to the founder of Scotland's monarchy, King Fergus 1.

President: BJ Ferguson
Please address inquiries to:
B. J. Ferguson, President, CFSNA
192 Hawthorne Hill Rd, Jasper, GA USA 30143

Clan Blair Society

Membership cordially invited from the descendants of all Blairs

Visit our Web Site at
www.clanblair.org

Charles Diman
Membership Chairman
3413 Sunnybrook Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28210
Email: clanmembership@clanblair.org

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY
Chief Gilbert Robertson of Struan

Membership invited to all who share the Sept names: Duncan, Robertson, Reid, Collier, Dobson, Hobson, MacConachie, MacIvor, MacJames, MacLagan, Stark, and all variations.

Worldwide Clan Society Branches:
- UK: London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands
- Canada: Ontario * Western Canada
- Australia: New So. Wales * Victoria * Queensland * Western Australia
- New Zealand: North Island of New Zealand
- USA: Arizona * Carolinas * Florida * Gulf Coast * Mid-Atlantic * Mid-West * Northeast * Northern California * Pacific Northwest * Texas South * Rocky Mountains * Southern California * Upper Mid-West

Learn more about Clan Donnachaidh * our History * Membership * our Clan Museum in Bruar, Scotland * the DNA Project * locate a Branch near you. Visit our website:

http://www.donnachaidh.com/
Facebook: The Clan Donnachaidh Society
Email: IVC@donnachaidh.com

THE CLAN FRASER SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

SALTOUN LOVAT

The Clan Fraser Society of North America is one of the five authorized national societies operating worldwide under the authority of the Rt Hon. Lady Saltotm, Chief of the Name of Fraser, and the Rt. Hon. Lord Lovat, Chief of Clan Fraser of Lovat. Members receive a newsletter, "The Nessie' and support in doing genealogical research. All those bearing the name of Fraser, recognized Septs thereof and their descendants are cordially invited to contact the following for membership information:

Gary Fraser, Chairman, Roswell, GA, info@cfsna.com
cfsna.com
Kimbell Frazier, Secretary, Linville, NC, info@cfsna.com

Clan Cumming Society Of The United States

7409 Jessica Way
Rowlett, TX 75089

clancumming.us

Cirean Ceann Cinnidh

Clan Douglas Society of North America

Recognized as Septs & Allied Families

Agnew, Bell, Blackadder, Blackett, Blacklock, Blackstock, Blackwood, Blaylock, Brackinridge, Brown, Brewster, Carmichael, Carruthers, Cavan, Cavers, Cleland, Clendenen, Crockett, Dalyell, Dalzell, Deal, Dick, Dickey, Dickson, Dixon, Drysdale, Forrest, Forrester, Foster, Galbraith, Gilpatric, Glendenning, Glenn, Hamilton, Harkness, Home, Hume, Inglis, Kilgore, Kilpatrick, Kirkpatrick, Kirkland, Lockerby, Lockery, Lockhart, MacGuffey, MacGuffock, Maxwell, McKittrick, Moffat, Morton, Pringle, Rowell, Rowle, Rule, Rutherford, Sandilands, Sandlin, Simms, Soule, Sterrett, Syme, Symington, Troup, Turnbull, Weir, Young, Younger

A DOUGLAS! A DOUGLAS!

Visit our website: www.clandouglassociety.org

Jim Morton, Secretary
4115 Bent Oak Court, Douglasville, GA 30135

Clan Galbraith Association

Includes name variations such as Galbreath, Calbreath, Gilbraith etc.

DNA testing project, Members Only databases, Biennial gatherings, Blog, Quarterly journal.

Join from only US$15 p.a.

www.clangalbraith.org

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

Family of Bruce International, Inc., the only such organization recognized by the hereditary chief of the Name of Bruce, The Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, is a non-profit organization established to create kinship amongst its family members and promote interest in the Family of Bruce and its history. Membership is open to persons who qualify by surname, by descent, or by recognized septs: Carlisle, Carruthers, Crosby, Randolph and Stenhouse.

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

William A. Bruce, FSA Scot, President
5556 27th Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55417-1934

Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary
5561 Earl Young Road
Bloomington, IN 47408
www.familyofbruce.org

Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

CHEIF: Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing one of these Names: Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day; Dye;Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dee; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dhai; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny; MacDhai; McKeddie.

In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson.

Applications may be made on our website www.clandavidson.org.au or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P, P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au **0431 527 662**

Clan Dunbar
of The House of Gospatric the Earl

Eligible blood or marriage, all descendants of The Gospatric: Dunbar, Clugston, Corbett, Dundas, Edgar, Grey, Heryng, Home, Knox, Nisbett, Peddie, Strickland, Washington, Wedderburn and all spelling variations of each name. Also all other families who were associated with The Gospatric.

Chieftain David C. Dunbar
16419 Carlton Vale Ct.
Tomball, TX 77377-8488

American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909

Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

Gregor Grier MacAdams MacNish Magruder McGehee Gregory King Peter Fletcher Gregg Lecky Black and many others

Jeanne P. Lehr
11 Ballas Crt.
St. Louis, MO 63131-3036
Phone: 314-432-28742, registrar@acgsus.org
website: www.acgsus.org

Clan Buchanan Society International, Inc.

Invites membership of all Buchanans and of other septs:

Bohanon, Coleman, Cormack, Cousland, Dewar, Donleavy, Dove, Dow, Gibb, Gibby, Gibbon, Gibson, Gilbert, Gilbertson, Harper, MacCommon, Leavy, Lennie, Macaldonich, Macalman, Macandeoir, Macaslan, Macauselan, MacCalman, MacCalmont, MacCammond, MacCasland, MacCruiter, MacColman, MacColwan, MacCormack, MacMaurice, MacCoubrey, MacCubbie, MacCubbin, MacDonleavy, MacGeorge, MacGibbon, MacGilbert, MacGreusich, MacGubbin, MacInally, MacIndeor, MacIndoe, MacKibb, MacKinlay, MacMaster, Murchie, MacMorris, MacMurchie, MacMurphy, Macneur, MacQuat, McQuattey, MacQuamen, MacWattie, MacWhirter, MacWhorter, Masters, MacWhitty, Monice, Morris, Morrison of Perthshire and other spellings, Murchison, Richardson, Risk, Rusk, Spittal, Walter, Wason, Watson, Watters, Watt, Weir, Yule, Yuill, Zuill

Graeme Paul Watson, Mem. Secretary, 128 Oak Haven Drive, Statesville, NC 28625

CLAN DONALD AUSTRALIA

"under the patronage of the High Council of the Chiefs of Clan Donald"

High Commissioner	Mr Lachlan Macdonald
State Commissioners	
NSW	Mr Lachlan Macdonald
Qld	Mr A. Neil Macdonald
SA	Ms Therese McCutcheon
Vic	Mr Norman A Macdonald
WA	Ms Pamela McDonald

www.clandonaldaustralia.com
There is no joy without Clan Donald

DURIE

The Durie Family Association
and the Chief of the Name and Arms,
Andrew Durie of Durie, CBE DL,
invite membership from all variant spellings of the name including Dury, Duree, Durie etc.
Genealogy information & enquiries welcome
Visit: www.duriefamily.co.uk

Clan Gregor Society Australasia

All MacGregors and Septs of our Clan are invited to join one of the oldest Clan Societies in Scotland Est 1822. If you live in Australia or New Zealand, please contact our clan representative in Australia;

Frank McGregor
Clan Gregor Society
PO Box 14
NORTH HOBART TAS 7002
Email: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com
Web. www.clangregor.com

"Royal is my Race"

CLAN DONALD QUEENSLAND

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald
PH: 0412 090990
29 Pinewood St, Geebung Qld 4034
Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.clandonaldqld.org
There is no joy without Clan Donald

Clan Cameron NSW Inc.
2018 Australian Gathering

Details on website http://www.clan-cameron.org.au

President: James Lachlan Cameron
jcam2812@yahoo.com

Secretary: Lynnette Cameron
CameronGathering2018@gmail.com

Clan Donald, U.S.A., Inc.

Membership is open only to persons of the blood of Macdonald, however spelled or of the blood of a recognized associate family or is related by marriage or legal adoption to either of these write for more info and a complete Sept list.

Diane Carey-Schmitz
1685 Casitas Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91103,
celticww@sbcglobal.net

Edmonstone Clan Society

Invites membership to anyone of the surname or variations:- Edmiston/e, Edmondston, Edmanson, Edmeston, Edmonson, Edmundson, etc Contact

3 Laguna Ave,
Kirwan Qld 4817
61 (0)7 4755 4370
m.edmiston@bigpond.com

Chieftain
Sir Archibald Edmonstone Bt of Duntreath

Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balquhidder,
24th Chief of Clan Gregor

Great Lakes,
New England,
Pacific North West,
Western U.S.
and Southeast Chapters

www.clangregor.org

For membership contact
Inez Boothe
130 Wakefield Glen,
Sandy Springs, GA 30350-5713

Ms Ethel MacGregor, Secretary
5 Alloa Road, Cambus by Alloa, Clackmannanshire, FK10 2NT Scotland

Clan Guthrie - U.S.A. Inc

MEMBERSHIP INVITED

Clan Guthrie - U.S.A., Inc.
Membership Chair
Larry Guthrie
clanguthrieinfo@aol.com
www.clanguthrie.org

Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society.

Inquiries to be sent to:
Sheri Lambert, Treasurer
P.O. Box 5399
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

visit our website:
www.clanhamilton.org

clan hay

April Rich
28 Oxbow Drive
Willimantic, CT 06226
clanhaymembership@hotmail.com

The American Branch of the
First Family of Scotland
welcomes inquires from

descendants of: Hay(s); Hay(e)s; Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Arnall;Ayre(s); Constable; Con(n)a(l); De La Haye; Delgatie; Delgatie; D' Ay(e); Delhaye(y); Errol(l); Garrad; Garrow; Gifford; Hawson; Haypood; Hayter; Hayward; Haywood; Haynes; Hayden; Hayfield; Hayter(s); Leask(s); Leith; Leslie; MacGarad; Peebles; Peoples; Peoples; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester

www.clanhay.com

Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

INTERNATIONAL & USA	AUSTRALIA
President: Richard Rex Hope *president@clanhope.org*	**Convenor:** Stephen Hope *convenor@clanhopeaustralia.org*
Membership Chair: Janet Hope Higton *membership@clanhope.org*	
www.clanhope.org	**www.clanhopeaustralia.org**

Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron
David Irvine, Baron of Drum, Chief of the name

Contact:
Barbara Edelman, Chairman
65 Colonial Drive
Telford, PA 18969
215-721-3955 barb3.edelman@gmail.com
IRWIN • RVIN • IRVINE • IRVING • ERWIN • ERVIN
Over 270 ways the name has been spelled since 325 A.D.
clanirvin.org

The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc

Austin, Dickson, Dixon, Falconer, Faulkner, Hackson, Harvey, Haxton, Hervey, Hurry, Hurrie, Keith, Kite, Lumgair, Marshall, MacKeith, Urie

Membership inquiries are warmly welcomed!

www.clankeith-usa.org
or email membershipclankeith@mindspring.com

CLAN KERR/CARR OF NORTH AMERICA, INC

CORDIALLY INVITES MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS FROM ALL SEPT VARIANTS OF THE NAME KERR, CARR, CARAY, CARIS, CHARR, CURR, GARE, KARR, KEIR, MCCARRY AND OTHER SEPT VARIANTS. THE CLAN ACCEPTS MEMBERSHIP FROM ALL INTERESTED IN SCOTTISH AND CELTIC HIGHLAND GAMES AND GENEALOGY. SEE APPLICATIONS ON THE CLAN'S WEBSITE AT:

WWW.CLANKERR.US

Or write: Attn: Clan President
679 Silvercreek Drive, Winter Springs, Fl 32708

CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY of Australia and New Zealand

Clan Chief: Hon Alexander John Leslie
Enquiries invited from Leslies around the world, as well as the Septs of Clan Leslie: Abernethy, Bartholomew, Cairney, Lang, Moore etc in all their spellings.

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

Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

MacDougall — MacDowall

Valerie McDougall
VP Membership
505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON
N5Z 3B2

Email: Info@macdougall.org Home page: www.macdougall.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall

Names Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyll and Clan MacDowall of Galloway

Coul	MacCoul	Macoual
Conacher	MacConacher	
Coyle	MacCoyle	
Dole	MacDole	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	McDougal
Dougal	MacDougall	MacDougald
Dougle	Mcdougle	McDougald
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDugle
Dowall	MacDowal	MacDowall
MacDowell	Macdowell	McDowell
Lullich	McLullich	MacCullich
MacCulloch	McCulloch	MacCullagh
MacClintock	MacLintock	McLintock
MacHale	McHoul	Mactheul
MacHowell	MacCowan	McCown
MacKichan	M'Gowall	MacNamell
MacLucas	MacLugash	MacLuke

Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc

INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC

The OFFICIAL Clan MacFarlane Society
Founded 1911 - Glasgow & London
Re-established - 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC

Loch Sloy! We welcome all descendants of Clan MacFarlane from around the world!

Michael R. MacFarlane, FSA Scot - President
Brian J.W. MacFarlane, Vice President
Richard G. Kilby, FSA Scot - Treasurer
John K. Manchester - Secretary

International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.
PO Box 398 Glendora, CA 91740 USA
info@macfarlane.org

MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacInnes

International Association of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

All spelling variants of MacInnes are welcome worldwide: (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Ninch, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Innes, (Mac)Masters
www.clanmacinnes.org
Eric Perry, Director-Member Services 14 Jakes Lane, Dexter, ME 04930; eric@macinnes.org

CLAN MACKENZIE SOCIETY in Australia Inc.

Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

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

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

Clan MacKenzie Society Canada

www.clanmackenziecanada.ca

We invite you - whether you are a clansperson, a member of one of our septs, a highlander, a Scot - or just an enthusiast - to join the Society and participate in the many activities

@ClanMacKenzieCA

Clan MacKenzie Society in the United States

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

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

Clan Mackintosh

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

Canada	U.S.A.
Mr. David J. Elder	**Margaret McIntosh, Secretary**
46 Dunvegan Dr.	**301 Smugglers View**
Chatham, Ont. N7M 4Z8	**Jeffersonville, VT 05464**

Clan MacLaren

MACLAREN MACLAURIN LAWRENCE LAWSON LOW[E] LOW[E]RY LAW[E] PATTERSON MACPATRICK MACRORY

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

Clan MacLellan

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

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

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

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

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

NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
South Australia - Nicole Walters 0415 654 836
Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334
Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

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

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

Askey	Asley	Beaton	Bethune
Beton	Callum	Callum	Caskey
Caskie	Grimmond	Harold	Harold
Lewis	MacAllum	Macandie	Macandie
Macaskill	MacAulay	McCabe	MacCaig
MacCallum	MacCaskie	MacCaskill	MacClure
MacCorkill	MacCorkle	MacCorkindale	MacCorquodale
MacCrimmon	MacCraig	MacGillechallum	MacHarold
Mackaskill	MacLewis	MacLure	MacRaild
MacWilliam	Malcolmson	Norie	Norrie
Norman	Normand	Nicol	Nicholson
Tolmie	Williamson		

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

Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide

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

Chairman - Peter McNaughton - 360-686-8451

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

Australia - Regional Commissioner - Bruce McNaught
+61 7 3266 2047 bruce@brucemcnaught.com
W. Canada - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughton
250-999-9636 milescammac@aol.com
New Zealand - Regional Commissioner - John Macnaughtan
+64 9 441 4984 macnaughtan@xtra.co.nz
USA - Membership Secretary - Mary Nivison Burton
541-401-2613 membersec@clanmacnaughton.net
WWW.CLANMACNAUGHTON.NET

Clan MacNeil Association OF AUSTRALIA

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact.

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

Clan Macneil ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Invites all Macneils . . . regardless of surname spelling, some of which are listed below:

MCNEILL	MACNEIL	MACNEAL	MACNIEL
MCNEELY	NEAL	NEILSON	O'NEILL

to join us in preserving our heritage. Contact: Rhonwyn Darby McNeil, VP, Membership, P.O. Box 230603, Montgomery AL 36123-0603, (334) 834-0612. E-mail rdmatngm@aol.com

CLAN MACNICOL SOCIETY, INC.

Member of The Highland Clan MacNeacail Federation

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

For membership inquiries, contact:

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

Clan MacNicol

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

Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

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

www.clanmacnicol.com

Clan Macpherson Association

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE CLAN MACRAE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

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

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

Clan MacTavish, U.S.A.

Under the patronage of Chief Steven MacTavish of Dunardry invites you to join us in celebrating our history. Cash, Holmes, MacTavish, Stephenson, Stevens, Thompson, Thomson, Todd & other variants.
www.clanmactavish.org
Membership Info:
Clanmactavishusa@gmail.com or
PO Box 686, Milford, OH 45150-0686

CLAN MAITLAND SOCIETY

CHIEF: IAN MAITLAND
THE EARL OF LAUDERDALE

WE ARE ALL RELATED!
Contact your local society

NORTH AMERICA
Rosemary Maitland Thom
rthomnvprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

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

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

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

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

AN CIREAN CEANN DINNISH

Chief of the Clan
Major Sir Fergus Matheson of Matheson
7th Baronet of Lochalsh
Invites all **Mathesons/Mathiesons** or Kin to join our Clan Society.
Contact the Chief's Lieutenants in USA

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

Clan Moffat Society

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

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

Clan Montgomery Society International
Join a Thousand Year Tradition

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

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

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

www.clan-ross.org
ClanRossoftheUnitedStates@gmail.com

Contact:
L. Q. Ross
105 S. Graham Ave.
Orlando, FL 32803

Clan Young Society Australia Inc.

Ian | Young
Convenor
10 Cedric Street
Parkdale VIC 3195
M: 0409 670 055
E: ivyoung@alphalink.com.au

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

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 AUSTRALIA GROUP

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

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

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

Clan WARDLAW Association
Founded 2004

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

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

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457
Pinehurst, NC 28370

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

Write or phone for our free brochure.

www.scottishheritageusa.org
email: shusa@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 Lloydrownn Road
Mebane, NC 27302

Clan Scott Society

Membership is invited from all descendants of the surname Scott; associated families Balwearie, Bucklaw, 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

Scottish Associations and Societies

Australian Scottish Communtiy (Qld) Inc.

Promoter of International Tartan Day, Brisbane, Queensland
PO Box 3188, South Brisbane 4101
Bi-Monthly Newsletter, All things Scottish

All persons of Scottish Descent welcome. www.aussie-scots.org.au,Email: secretary@aussie-scots.org.au, Ph 07 3359 8195

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

Founded at a meeting held in Sydney 18 June 1981
Welcomes membership from all Australians of Scottish descent.
Applications for membership can be obtained from:
The Hon Secretary, SAHC
Susan Cooke tel: 02 6355 4158
Email: alfredhcooke@gmail.com
www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Murray Clan Society of North America

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

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

In the U.S. contact:
Robert W. Murray
2000 Cambridge Ave #329
Wyomissing, PA 19610-2738

Clan Shaw Society

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

Mike Shaw
Secretary
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020

Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

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

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

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org
Founded in 1905

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

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

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

Clan Pollock

Among the most ancient families of Scotland. If you are a descendant of Pollock, Pollok, Pook, Polk, Polke, Paulk, Poalke, 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	Secretary
WayneSinclair	Liane Sinclair
0417 146 174	(03) 9348 2663

E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com

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

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 decedents 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

Ross Clan in Australia

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

We would be pleased to hear from anyone with Ross Clan heritage and interest

contact Commander Des Ross at lonepiper.ross@gmail.com

The Stewart Society

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

Please inquire:
The Secretary
53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT,
Tel/Fax 0131 220 4512 ***www.stewartsociety.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. Andrewis Society of Vermont

FOUNDED 1974

P.O. Box 484
Essex Junction, VT 05453

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

CLANROSSAMERICA
ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION MERGED

Many Names – One Clan

Liz Ross, President
Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary
cramembership@sbcglobal.net
PO Box 6341
River Forest, IL 60305
www.clanross.org

Clan Sutherland Society of Australia

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

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

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

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

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

Victorian Scottish Union

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

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

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

Illawarra Scottish Fair

The Illawarra Pipe Band on display.

A wonderful day of pipe bands and community spirit was had at this year's Illawrra Scottish Fair. The annual event saw an increase in attendance with a day of bagpipes, heavy events and stalls. The event is presented by the Illawrra Pipe Band who have been running a Scottish day for the community for 36 years. The day closed with a minutes silence for local Scottish supporter and radio personality Shirley Smith who sadly passed away before her engagement as the Games Chieftain.

The Illawarra Scottish Fair takes place each October in Kanahooka, a southern suburb in Wollongong. For more information see: www.illawarrapipeband.com.au

A show of strength with the heavy events. Photos courtesy of Rod Mackenzie.

A Joyful Celtic Christmas

A must-see performance this holiday season, Riverside Theatres will present *A Joyful Celtic Christmas* performed by the Sydney Welsh Choir and City of Holroyd Brass Band on 15th December 2017. A celebration of Christmas with a Celtic twist, the performance will include a unique program of carols including *Silent Night* (*Tawel Nos* in Welsh), *Deck the Halls* in a traditional Welsh air, *A Welsh Noe'l*, *Torches* and an original composition of *Bethlehem* by the choir's musical director, Viv Llewellyn, and his grandfather.

A Joyful Celtic Christmas will bring together two of Sydney's most talented community music groups in a one-off special performance.

A Joyful Celtic Christmas performs at 7.00pm on Friday 15th December at Riverside Theatres – Corner of Church and Market Streets, Parramatta. Tickets: Adult $35, Seniors $30.

Bookings: https://riversideparramatta.com.au/show/a-joyful-celtic-christmas/ or from the Box Office (02) 8839 3399.

Quirindi Military Tattoo 2018

3 February 2018

Longfield Oval, Quirindi

For more information go to www.quirindimilitarytattoo.com.au or find us on facebook

SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

Having a Clan event? Know of a highland games? Know where the pipes will be playing? Let Scottish Banner readers know of Scottish events both near and far with the Scottish Banner events page. Send us your community event, concert, meeting or anything with a Scottish twist! Please submit events either online at ***www.scottishbanner.com/events*** *or email* ***info@scottishbanner.com.*** *Please ensure you submit your event in the exact format we use below, events not submitted in this way cannot be guaranteed to be printed. Events will run both in print and online and is a free service.*

AUSTRALIA

DECEMBER 2017

2 Daylesford, VIC - Daylesford Highland Gathering
Gather your clan and come to Daylesford on the 1st Saturday in December for a 'wee' bit of Scottish culture with a full day of piping, drumming & dancing at Victoria Park. Info: www.daylesfordhighland.com

2 Perth, WA - St Andrews Day Ball
Presented by Saint Andrew Society of Western Australia at the Grand River Ballroom, at the Pan Pacific Perth, 207 Adelaide Tce. Info: www.saintandrew.org.au

2 Wongawallan, QLD - St Andrews Dinner Pipe Competition
An event of over 20+ pipers and drummers representing Clans of Scotland present the best in piping and celebrate Scotland's patron saint at Fox and Hounds, 7 Elevation Dr. Info: 07 5665 7582 or www.foxandhounds.net.au

3 Tenterfield, NSW - Tenterfield St Andrew's Day Service
With pipes and drums and a traditional Scottish luncheon at Tenterfield Presbyterian Church, 117 Logan St at 10am. Info: 02 6736 5849.

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

4 - 15 Wongawallan, QLD - Celtic Christmas
Christmas songs played by over 6 different instruments throughout lunch in a Celtic form at Fox and Hounds, 7 Elevation Dr. Info: 07 5665 7582 or www.foxandhounds.net.au

4 Batemans Bay, NSW - Batemans Bay Caledonian Society End-of-year Social
At Soldiers Club, Beach Rd. Info: Kathryn Johnson kejohnson2537@gmail.com

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

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

15 Parramatta, NSW - A Joyful Celtic Christmas
A must-see performance this holiday season, Riverside Theatres will present 'A Joyful Celtic Christmas' performed by the Sydney Welsh Choir and City of Holroyd Brass. Info: Box Office 02 8839 3399 or https://riversideparramatta.com.au/show/a-joyful-celtic-christmas

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

25 Nationwide - Happy Christmas
Wishing all our readers and friends a very Happy Christmas and festive season!

31 Nationwide - Happy Hogmanay
The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2018!

31 Inglewood, WA - Scottish Hogmanay Ceilidh
Music, dancing and supper. Ceilidh music (Heel Toe Band). All ages welcome, very family friendly. Non-Scots welcome. 7.30pm at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beaufort St. $20 entry, $15 members, children free. Info: carolyn.orr@me.com

JANUARY 2018

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

1 Maryborough, VIC - The Maryborough Highland Gathering
Australia's oldest continuous running sporting event. With pipe bands, Scottish dancers, athletics and more. Info: 03 5461 1480 or www.highlandsociety.com.au

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

20 Mitchelton, QLD - Brisbane Clans Pipes & Drums Burns Supper & Dance
Celebrate the Bard with food, music and friends at Gaythorne RSL, Samford Rd. Info 07 3369 2232.

25 Wongawallan, QLD - Burns Supper
Greeted by a lone piper to celebrate the great poet Robbie Burns at the Burns Supper at Fox & Hounds Country Inn, 7 Elevation Dr. Info: 07 5665 7582 or www.foxandhounds.net.au

25 Perth, WA - 2018 Burns Supper
Celebrate the bard with the Saint Andrew Society of Western Australia. Info: www.saintandrew.org.au

25 Nationwide - Happy Burns Night
A night to celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death. Today events take place around the world with Scottish music, poetry, food, drink and dance.

26 Nationwide - Happy Australia Day
Wishing all our readers a wonderful Australia Day!

27 Ipswich, QLD - Ipswich Thistle Burns Supper
Celebrate Rabbie Burns with live music and food at Ipswich Thistle Pipe Hall, Limestone Park. Info: 0414 776 361 or www.ipswichthistle.com

NEW ZEALAND

DECEMBER 2017

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

3 Wellington - Children's Christmas Party & Members' Afternoon Tea
Presented by the Shetland Society of Wellington. Info: www.shetlandwellington.org.nz.

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

9 Palmerston North - 38th Jenny Mair Highland Square Day
Upwards of 20 highland pipe bands and scores of contestant solo bagpipers, solo drummers and highland dancers will converge on The Square. Info: Brent Le Quesne: 027 289 8711 or blequesne@gmail.com.

25 Nationwide - Happy Christmas
Wishing all our readers and friends a very Happy Christmas and festive season!

28 - 5 Masterton - The 61st RSCDS NZ Branch Summer School
The New Zealand Scottish Country Dance Society became a Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society on 1 January 1968. We will be marking the 50th anniversary at this Summer School with classes & social events. Info: Elaine Laidlaw 06-377 0322 or elaine@laidlaw.net.nz

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

31 Nationwide - Happy Hogmanay
The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2018!

JANUARY 2018

1 Waipu - Waipu Highland Games
One of New Zealand's top Scottish events with pipe bands, dancers and more. Presented by the Waipu Caledonian Society at Caledonian Park. Info: +64 21 961 238 or www.waipuhighlandgames.co.nz

1 Waipu - The Robert Turner Drumming Championship
Held annually at the Waipu Highland Games, is one of New Zealand's largest solo pipe band drumming contests. The contest features side, tenor, and bass drumming events in all grades, and attracts competitors from across the country. To enter head to www.waipugames.co.nz/drums or Ryan Marsich on ryanmarsich@gmail.com

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

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

20 Parnell, Auckland - Burns Night Ceilidh
Come along and experience a true Scottish Burns Night at The Paddington Parnell, 117 St. Georges Bay Rd. Info: aucklandscots@gmail.com

20 Waimate - 141st Waimate Caledonian Games & Sports Event
Celebrate Scotland and athletics at Victoria Park, Queen St.. Info: 03 689 7514 or waimatecaledoniansociety@gmail.com

25 Nationwide - Happy Burns Night
A night to celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death. Today events take place around the world with Scottish music, poetry, food, drink and dance.

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

27 Turakina - 154th Turakina Highland Games
Celebrate Scotland with pipe bands, Clans, heavy events at New Zealand's longest running Highland Games at Turakina Domain, Cameron Rd. Info: Secretary Heather Calkin 027 6656 238 or www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz

SCOTLAND

DECEMBER 2017

1 - 31 Kinross - Kinross-shire's Winter Festival
A mix of family fun including pantos, music, street market, carols, fairs and Christmas activities. Info: www.kleo.org.uk

1 - 17 Scottish Borders - Scottish Borders Winter Festival
The Scottish Borders is overflowing with history and beauty. This is a winter festival with events taking place in Galashiels, Kelso, Jedburgh, Selkirk and Hawick. Info: www.facebook.com/ScottishBordersWinterFestival

8 Darvel, East Ayrshire - Skerryvore
Expect blazing bagpipes, accordion and fiddle mixed with standard rock instruments as the 'boy band of Scottish traditional music' play live at Darvel Town Hall. Info: www.skerryvore.com

10 Glasgow - Santa Dash
Run the fun, festive 5K! The Santa Dash is a Christmas spectacle you won't want to miss as the city centre transforms in to a sea of Santa suits, all running for charity. Ready, set, go ho ho! Info: www.glasgowloveschristmas.com

23 Hawick - The Red Hot Chilli Pipers Live
Bagpipes with attitude, drums with a Scottish accent at Hawick Town Hall, High St. Info: www.rhcp.scot

25 Nationwide - Happy Christmas
Wishing all our readers and friends a very Happy Christmas and festive season!

28 Paisley - Family Festive Ceilidh
Celebrate the end of 2017 at the Festive Family Ceilidh with Clamjamfrie; a traditional evening of Scottish music and ceilidh dancing for everyone to enjoy at Paisley Town Hall. Info: www.whatsonrenfrewshire.co.uk

30 - 1 Edinburgh - Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2018
Edinburgh's Hogmanay is one of the world's greatest New Year celebrations. Three days of spectacular events, as Scotland shows the world how to celebrate. Info: www.edinburghshogmanay.com

30 - 31 Bo'ness - Hogmanay 'Black Bun' Special Trains
Celebrate the closing of the year with a steam ride, including a traditional Scottish black bun and tea or coffee on the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway. Info: www.bkrailway.co.uk

31 Glasgow - Hogmanay Hootenanny
Scotland is world famous for its Hogmanay celebrations, so where better in Glasgow to be than in the company of family and friends, bringing in the New Year at The National Piping Centre. Info: +44 (0) 141 353 0220 or www.thepipingcentre.co.uk

31 Stirling - Stirling's Hogmanay
Bring in the New Year in style as Stirling hosts its biggest ever midnight fireworks display, which will once again focus around the iconic Stirling Castle. Info: www.stirlingwinterfestival.com

31 Musselburgh - Hogmania
A family-friendly Hogmanay party with live music, a piper and traditional snacks at The Brunton. Info: www.thebrunton.co.uk

31 Nationwide - Happy Hogmanay
The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2018!

JANUARY 2018

1 South Queensferry West Lothian - Loony Dook
Dive into 2018 with a dip off South Queensferry. Gather for the parade and watch as the swimmers freeze their proverbials off under the iconic Forth Rail Bridge. Info: www.edinburghshogmanay.com

13 - 18 Edinburgh - The Edinburgh Outlander Experience
Visit locations from Diana Gabaldon's Outlander novels as visited by characters Claire and Jamie. Hear stories of the Jacobites, the Stuarts, witchcraft, clans and how the fictional story intermingles with history. Info: www.mercattours.com

19 - 5 Glasgow - Celtic Connections
Celtic Connections is a winter music festival in Glasgow, featuring artists from around the globe alongside the best Scottish talent at venues across the city. Info: www.celticconnections.com

19 - 28 Dumfries - Big Burns Supper
The world's biggest Burns Night celebration. Stars from across the country congregate as Dumfries celebrates the birth of the Baird with a vast selection of dance, theatre, visual arts, live art and comedy, turning Burns' Night into a festival of contemporary arts. Info: www.bigburnssupper.com

19 - 20 Ayr - Aileen Robertson School of Highland Dancing - Hop Scotch Polka
Dance Director of the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Aileen Robertson choreographs Hop Scotch Polka. Showcasing dancers aged 3+ who aspire to perform in the Tattoo Dance Company at Edinburgh Castle's Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo at Gaiety Theatre. Info: www.thegaiety.co.uk

21 - 23 Glasgow - Scotland's Trade Fair, Spring
The only Scottish trade gift show at the SECC. Info: 01877 385772 or www.scotlandstradefairs.co.uk

24 Edinburgh - Burns Night Special
Celebrate Burns Night in style with an evening of top comedy at The Stand. Info: www.thestand.co.uk

25 - 27 Edinburgh - Annasach's Burns Night Ceilidh
Annasach Ceilidh Band invites you to our informal celebration of The Bard's birthday at the Counting House. Info: www.annasach.co.uk

25 Nationwide - Happy Burns Night
A night to celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death. Today events take place around the world with Scottish music, poetry, food, drink and dance.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Scottish Banner is the #1 source for Scottish events in Australasia! 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 7

ACROSS: 1) Apron; 5) Midge; 8) Saltcoats; 9) Inner; 10) Sharp; 12) Glens; 13) Charlie; 15) Shortie; 17) Redcoat; 19) Calorie; 21) Skein; 22) Trews; 25) Music; 26) Strathyre, 27) Dance; 28) Abbot

DOWN: 1) Apses; 2) Otter; 3) Craigie; 4) Muskets; 5) Mavis; 6) Dunnottar; 7) Ewers; 11) Polio; 14) Ardrossan; 16)Owlet; 18) Treason; 19) Central; 20) Amend; 21) Scone; 23) Rehab; 24) Smelt

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Join Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye, for exceptional courses in a stunning location

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO), the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, in the southern peninsula of the Isle of Skye offers a unique learning and cultural environment. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig was founded in 1973 in old farm steadings at Ostaig in Sleat, known as the 'Garden of Skye'. While the initial aim was to establish a Gaelic library, the long term plan was for a Gaelic-medium college providing vocational further education for Gaelic speakers, in their own language and rural environment, while also giving the growing number of Gaelic enthusiasts the opportunity to learn the language. Today, it's the only college of its kind offering further and higher education courses through the medium of Gaelic, the national language of Scotland. Courses on offer include full-time and part-time, undergraduate and postgraduate, distance-learning courses and short courses.

Ceilidh fun on Skye.

Gaelic language and culture

The College's short courses programme has grown in popularity over the years and each year, nearly a thousand people of all ages and backgrounds have attended for instruction in Gaelic language and culture, Gaelic song, fiddle, accordion, photography, community based courses and a range of other specialist subjects offered by a talented team of instructors. These 5-day courses are a great way to meet new people, learn the Gaelic language and enjoy a good music session or two in a Gaelic campus at the heart of a warm and friendly community.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig offers short courses for two weeks during Easter and several weeks throughout the summer months. The college also runs weekend courses and workshops, both at SMO and in different communities across Scotland.

Trad music

As well as Gaelic courses which range from complete beginners to fluent speakers, 2018 sees the continuation of several courses taught by excellent tutors, including Flute & Whistle with Hamish Napier, Fiddle Courses with Ewen Henderson and Adam Sutherland, Clàrsach with Ingrid Henderson, Aspects of Highland Material Culture and 'A Seascape of Gaelic Song' with Margaret Stewart, Gaelic Song with Christine Primrose, and for the fluent speakers & advanced learners we have a creative writing with Alison Lang. This year, Patsy Reid joins the programme for a Fiddle & Viola course, as well as Innes Watson who will be leading a Tradition Music Ensemble week.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig also offer evening activities which are an essential part of the short course experience, and will include cèilidhs and concerts, music sessions, conversation circles and workshops. This encouraging atmosphere brings student together to engage with each other and with local Gaelic speakers who may impart some of their stories and knowledge of the area.

The courses led by SMO attracts students from all over the world including Canada, the USA, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Estonia and Japan. The global interest in Gaelic is striking and continues each year, even coming from countries that might surprise you. The Gaelic culture is rich in traditions, song and music that easily attract others to the language.

Some of the courses on offer by Sabhal Mòr Ostaig are shown in this issue , but for a full list and further information, please visit www.smo.uhi.ac.uk. Thigibh a chèilidh oirnn!

New Shetland flower discovered

Scientists at the University of Stirling have discovered a new type of plant growing in Shetland – with its evolution only having occurred in the last 200 years. The new plant is a descendant of a non-native species, the yellow monkeyflower (Mimulus guttatus), which colonised the United Kingdom in Victorian times. It has evolved through the doubling of the number of chromosomes, known as genome duplication or polyploidy. The plant, referred to as 'Shetland's monkeyflower', produces yellow flowers with small red spots. It is larger than the typical monkeyflower and its flowers are more open.

Researchers say the finding is significant as it shows that a major evolutionary step can occur in non-native species over a short period of time, rather than over thousands of years.

Associate Professor Dr Mario Vallejo-Marin said: "Evolution is often thought to be a slow process taking thousands or millions of years. Yet we show that a major evolutionary step can occur in a couple hundred years."

A team from Stirling's Biological and Environmental Sciences, working with Dr James Higgins at the University of Leicester, carried out tests after a "chance encounter" with the plant while conducting fieldwork near Quarff, Shetland.

Led by postdoctoral researcher Dr Violeta Simon-Porcar, they measured the plant's genome size and surveyed 30 populations of monkeyflowers from Shetland and across the United Kingdom. The Stirling team say that young polyploids, such as the new plant, provide an opportunity to investigate the early stages of an important evolutionary process.

2018 Scotland Calendars

Direct from Scotland the 2018 Scottish calendar & diary range.

Let Scotland into your home or office and have a laugh or enjoy the view each month with these great calendars. A great gift for loved ones and that includes yourself! Most titles sell out before Christmas so please order early to avoid disappointment. All calendars include: Canadian, Australian and New Zealand key holiday dates, in addition to those of the UK and Ireland.

The Scots Magazine Calendar 2018

Seasons come and go, but Scotland's magical beauty is timeless. The Scots Magazine Calendar 2018 includes a great spread of locations from all over the nation from Galloway to Gardenstown. This spectacular collection makes a wonderful gift for everyone who loves Scotland.
Price: $17.95 Plus $4.00 postage.
(NZ Please add an additional AU$4.00).

Oor Wullie Calendar 2018

This bestselling calendar is a must have for every Oor Wullie fan. Colourful, nostalgic, and cheerful, the calendar is crammed full of Oor Wullie's singular Scottish charm. Classic strips will entertain you throughout the year!
Price: $17.95 Plus $4.00 postage.
(NZ Please add an additional AU$4.00).

The Broons Calendar 2018

The Broons Calendar is a must-have for every Broons fan. Colourful, nostalgic and cheerful, the calendar is crammed full of Glebe Street charm from Scotland's longest-established, and best-loved family and best-loved family.
Price: $17.95 Plus $4.00 postage.
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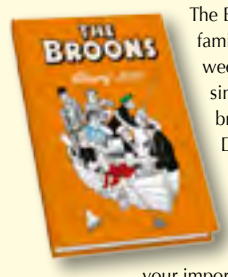
The People's Friend Calendar 2018

As always, twelve of Britain's most scenic locations have been carefully selected from the delightful paintings of the People's Friend's favourite artist: J. Campbell Kerr. It makes a wonderful gift for a friend or loved one, or the perfect treat for yourself.
Price: $17.95 Plus $4.00 postage.
(NZ Please add an additional AU$4.00).

The Broons Diary 2018



The Broons, Scotland's favourite family, have appeared every week in The Sunday Post since 1936, and here they bring you their braw 2018 Diary. This week-to-view working diary has handy hints and tips from each of the Broons, so you won't forget your important dates! Filled with funny illustrations, old and new, you'll not only remember everything, but also have a laugh along the way. Perfect for every Broons fan — what you forget, The Broons will remember!
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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN

Christmas turkey

Ingredients:

20ml/¾fl oz. rapeseed oil
1 x 5kg/11lb. good-quality free-range turkey, preferably organically reared, wishbone removed (ask your butcher to remove the wings and neck and chop them into 2.5cm/1in pieces to use in the dish)
40g/1½oz. unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
2 pinches sea salt flakes
2 pinches freshly ground white pepper
200ml/7fl oz. water
salt and freshly ground black pepper
1-2 tsp ground arrowroot (depending on how thick you like your gravy), dissolved in 1 tbsp. cold water
Roast potatoes and steamed seasonal vegetables, to serve

Method:

Remove the turkey from the fridge and bring to room temperature - this will take at least an hour.

When you are ready to cook, preheat the oven to 230C/220C fan/Gas 8.

Heat the rapeseed oil in a large, heavy-based roasting tray on the stove top. Add the chopped turkey wings and neck and fry for 8-10 minutes, turning the pieces over every 2-3 minutes, or until evenly browned all over.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, soften the butter with the back of a dessert spoon, then season with the salt and freshly ground white pepper. Using a pastry brush or your hands, smear the seasoned butter all over the turkey. Add any remaining butter to the roasting tray once the chopped wings and neck have browned.

Place the turkey on top of the wing and neck pieces, then roast in the oven for 30 minutes.

Remove the turkey from the oven and baste all over with the cooking juices.

Reduce the oven temperature to 160C/150C fan/Gas 3.

Pour the water into the roasting tray, then return the turkey to the oven and continue to cook for a further 1 hour, basting the bird with the cooking juices every 20 minutes (do this quickly to prevent the heat escaping from the oven).

At the end of the cooking time, test that the turkey is cooked through by inserting a skewer or roasting fork into the thickest part of its thigh; if the juices run clear, the meat is cooked. Alternatively, use a meat thermometer; if cooked, the temperature should be 74°C or above. If the turkey is not fully cooked, return it to the oven for a further 20 minutes or until the juices run clear.

Remove the turkey from the oven and transfer the bird to a large, deep-sided tray, reserving the roasting tray the turkey was cooked in along with the cooking juices. Set the turkey aside to rest for a minimum of 30 minutes and up to 1½ hours.

While the turkey is resting, cook your roast potatoes and vegetable dishes.

When you're almost ready to serve the meal, return the roasting tray used to cook the turkey to the stove top. Bring the cooking juices to the boil over a medium heat, scraping up any burned bits from the bottom of the tray using a wooden spoon.

Collect the juices released by the turkey as it was resting and add them to the gravy. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper, if needed.

Reduce the heat until the gravy is simmering, then stir in the dissolved arrowroot and cook until the gravy has thickened.

Strain the gravy through a fine sieve into a warmed jug. Keep warm.

To serve, bring the turkey to the table and carve into slices. Serve with the roast potatoes and vegetables. Pour over the gravy.

Festive roast potatoes

Ingredients:

10 large King Edward potatoes, peeled, cut into large chunks
50g/1¾oz. lard, dripping or vegetable oil
2 pinches sea salt

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.
Simmer the potatoes in a large pan of salted boiling water for 4-5 minutes, or until the outside of the potatoes are beginning to soften.

Thoroughly drain the potatoes and briefly shake them around in the colander or pan to roughen up the edges.

Melt the lard in a deep flameproof roasting tray on a high heat and fry the potatoes on each side until they begin to brown.

Sprinkle with salt, to taste, and roast for 30 minutes, or until starting to colour.

Turn the potatoes and return to the oven for a further 20-30 minutes, or until golden-brown and crisp.

Christmas pudding

Ingredients:

350g/12oz. mixed dried fruit (raisins, currants, sultanas)
100g/3½oz. pitted ready-to-eat prunes, chopped or left whole
100g/3½oz. dark muscovado sugar
4 tbsp. dark rum
100ml/3½fl oz. stout
100g/3½oz. chopped walnuts
100g/3½oz. blanched almonds
100g/3½oz. ground almonds
100g/3½oz. fresh white breadcrumbs
50g/1¾oz. plain flour
100g/3½oz. frozen butter, grated, plus a little extra for greasing
½ tsp freshly grated nutmeg
1 tsp ground cinnamon
2 tsp mixed spice
100g/3½oz chopped glacé cherries (or left whole if you prefer)
3 large free-range eggs, beaten
Recipe tips How-to-videos

Method:

Combine the mixed fruit, prunes, muscovado sugar, rum and stout in a mixing bowl. Stir well to mix, cover and leave for 24 hours to soak.

After 24 hours, mix the walnuts, almonds, ground almonds, breadcrumbs, flour, butter, spices, cherries and eggs along with the soaked fruit mixture in a large mixing bowl, making sure you include all the soaking liquor from the soaked fruit. Mix well until completely combined (let all the members of the family have a stir and make a wish).

Cover with cling film and leave to stand in a cool place for 24 hours.

After 24 hours, grease a 1.2 litre/2 pint pudding basin with butter. Cut a circle of baking paper and place into the bottom of the pudding basin and then grease it with a little more butter. Pack the pudding mixture into the pudding basin, pressing as you add it. Fold a pleat into the middle of a large piece of baking paper and place over the pudding. Cover with a large piece of pleated foil, ensuring the pleats are on top of one another. Secure tightly with kitchen string tied under the lip of the pudding basin.

Place an upturned saucer into a large saucepan one-quarter full of water. Fold a long piece of foil into quarters lengthways to create a long strip and place the pudding basin in the middle of the strip. Bring the sides of the strip up the sides of the pudding basin and lower into the saucepan. Ensure the water in the saucepan comes one-third of the way up the side of the pudding basin, but nowhere near the top of the basin. Leave the ends of the foil strip hanging over the side to make it easy to remove the pudding later.

Bring the water to the boil and then reduce the heat to a gentle simmer. Simmer gently for 5-6 hours, topping up the water level as necessary throughout cooking (do not allow the pan to dry out).

Once the pudding is cooked, remove from the pan and set aside to cool. The pudding can be stored for up to two years in a cool, dry place. To serve, reheat the pudding by steaming again (in the same way) for two hours, or until hot all the way through. Alternatively, remove the foil and reheat in the microwave.

This month gather friends and family around and eat perhaps a bit more than you should, and celebrate Christmas and Hogmanay with a great range of food and drink. From our table to yours-Happy Holidays!

Mulled wine

Ingredients:

1 large orange
3 lemons
12 cloves
2 satsumas or clementines
2 x 750ml. bottles red wine
2 cinnamon sticks
150g/5½oz. caster sugar (optional)
brandy, to taste (optional)

Method:

Carefully peel the zest very thinly from the orange and lemons using a vegetable peeler. Squeeze out the juice and reserve.
Stick the cloves into the satsumas.
Pour the wine, 1.2 litres/2 pints of cold water, and the citrus peel and juices into a large, heavy-based saucepan. Add the clove-studded satsumas and cinnamon sticks. Bring the mixture just to the boil, then reduce the heat until the mixture is simmering, cover the pan with the lid, and continue to simmer for about 1 hour. Stir in the sugar gradually during cooking, until the mulled wine is sweetened to your liking (you may not need all of the sugar). Strain the mulled wine and serve hot in cups.

Digital map brings Scottish-Polish links to life

Animated Great Polish Map of Scotland will use oral histories, archive imagery and film to bring Scots/Polish links to life.

A unique landmark celebrating Scottish/Polish relations is to be brought to life digitally to highlight the many cultural and historical connections between the two nations. The Great Polish Map of Scotland, a large, concrete, physical relief map in the grounds of Barony Castle, Peeblesshire, has been digitally scanned using 3D technology by Historic Environment Scotland (HES). Following completion of the 3D documentation work recently, the digital version of the map - in the form of an animation - is being prepared by HES and will feature various locations across Scotland boasting links to Poland and its people. Led by HES, the digital heritage project is being delivered collaboratively with The Scottish Government, MapaScotland - the charity campaigning to conserve and restore the physical map at Barony Castle - and the Polish Scottish Heritage Group.

Scotland's ties and friendship with Poland

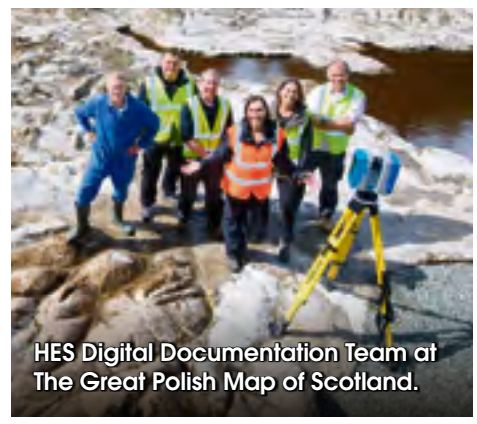
The project followed discussions earlier this year between Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop and the Consul General of Poland, Dariusz Adler, around how Scotland could mark the 100th anniversary of Polish Independence next year. Once complete, the map will be shared for use among the project partners. Commenting on the project, Ms Hyslop, said: "The Great Polish Map of Scotland is a fine example of Scotland's ties and friendship with Poland and I am confident this project will help strengthen the long-standing political, cultural and economic relations between our two countries and place a huge focus on our shared heritage as we celebrate this Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. Scotland and Poland have drawn strength from each other for centuries, building strong connections and a thriving relationship. I look forward to celebrating together the centenary of Polish independence in November 2018."

Polish-Scottish heritage

Lidia Krzynowek, Director of the Polish Cultural Festival Association added: "The Great Polish Map of Scotland is a wonderful example of shared Polish-Scottish heritage and the many links our countries have and the great people stories that have contributed to the diversity of contemporary Scottish culture. This fantastic digital project will support that superbly and will help the new generations of young Scots and Poles remember the links between our nations going as far back as the 16th century."

The Great Polish Map of Scotland was the idea of Jan Tomasik, a former sergeant in the 1st Armoured Division of the Polish Army during World War II, who was stationed in Galashiels during the conflict. Following the War, Tomasik bought the hotel at Black Barony (Barony Castle) in 1968 and set about creating the unique landmark in its grounds as a celebration of the links between his homeland and his adopted country. The map was completed in 1979. The site also has connections with Polish forces during the Second World War when the hotel, established in 1926, was requisitioned in 1942 for use as the main staff college for training Polish officers in Scotland.

The map sits in an oval pool about 160ft (50m) wide and 5ft (1.5m) deep and once held gravity-fed water recreating rivers, lochs and seas and was granted listed status in 2012.



HES Digital Documentation Team at The Great Polish Map of Scotland.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - The first volume of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was published in Edinburgh, edited by William Smellie. **1768**

1 - First lighthouse in Scotland opened (at Kinnaird Head, Fraserburgh). It was built by Thomas Smith and Robert Stevenson. **1787**

1 - Hurricane-force winds caused widespread damage. **1966**

2 - Mary Slessor, West African missionary, born in Aberdeen. **1848**

3 - Robert Louis Stevenson died in Samoa. **1894**

3 - His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen opened and soon became the city's leading centre of entertainment. **1906**

4 - King William I (Lion) died at Stirling and was succeeded by his son Alexander II. **1214**

4 - Treaty of London, releasing James I from his 18 years captivity in England. **1423**

4 - Essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle, best known for his *History of the French Revolution* born in Ecclefechan. **1795**

4 - Cartoon character Desperate Dan first appeared in the *Dandy* comic. **1937**

5 - King Francis II of France, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, died. **1560**

5 - Death of Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the Brechin-born inventor of radar. **1973**

6 - King Alexander II crowned at Scone. **1214**

6 - Charles Edward Stewart's entry into Derby. **1745**

6 - The Battle of Dryfe Sands took place near Lockerbie, Scottish Borders, resulting in many casualties, it was a battle between the clans of Clan Maxwell and Clan Johnstone. Many were wounded by downward sword strokes known as "Lockerbie Licks". **1593**

7 -The birth of Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, the Anglo-Scottish aristocrat and second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary married Henry, her first cousin, on the 29 July 1565, to be the uncrowned "King Henry". Darnley was the second husband of Mary and father of King James VI of Scotland and James I of England. He was assassinated in February 1567 by person unknown, although Mary's third husband James, Lord Bothwell, was seriously implicated in the murder. **1545**

8 - Mary, Queen of Scots, born Linlithgow Palace. **1542**

9 - King Malcolm IV, King of Scotland, died at Jedburgh Castle. **1165**

10 - King Edward VIII abdicated and King George VI acceded to the throne. **1936**

10 - The death of Duncan Forbes of Culloden, the Lord President of the Court of Session. As a prominent Whig, like many Scots Forbes supported the Hanoverian cause and used his influence to dissuade a number of clans from joining the Jacobites. **1747**

11 - David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope born. **1781**

11 - Architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. **1928**

12 - Anne of Denmark, wife of King James VI, born. **1574**

13 - William Drummond, poet, born. Drummond was one of the first notable Scots poets to write exclusively in English after the Union of the Crowns in 1603. **1585**

14 - James V died at Falkland Palace. Mary Queen of Scots succeeded him. **1542**

14 - Glasgow District Underground opened, powered by electricity. **1896**

14 - Will Fyfe, comedian, died. **1947**

14 - University of Stirling instituted by Royal charter. **1967**

15 - The Zoological Society of Glasgow was founded on this day. **1936**

16 - Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland. Cromwell was the only invader of Scotland to conquer the whole country. **1653**

16 - Thomas Blake Glover, founding father of Japan's industrialisation (including Mitsubishi) and Japanese Navy, born Fraserburgh. **1838**

17 - Marriage contract between James IV and Margaret Tudor signed by King James. **1502**

17 - Lord Kelvin, scientist and inventor, died. **1907**

17 - Petrol rationing was imposed following the Suez crisis and the closure of the canal. **1956**

18 - Many Scottish historical records were lost when the ship Elizabeth of Burntisland sank off the English coast. The records had been taken to London by Oliver Cromwell and were being returned to Edinburgh. **1661**

18 - Society of Antiquaries founded. **1780**

18 - Death penalty for murder was formally abolished in Britain. **1969**

19 - *The Scotsman* newspaper moves to new offices at North Bridge in Edinburgh, remaining there until 1999. **1904**

20 - First General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. **1560**

20 - Entertainer Andy Stewart was born in Glasgow. Stewart is perhaps best known for his STV show, *The White Heather Club*, which began in 1960, and his songs *Ye Canna Shuv Yer Granny Off A Bus* and *Donald Where's Yer Troosers*. He died in 1993. **1933**

21 - Robert Liston, who was born in Linlithgow in 1794, performed the first operation in a British hospital using anaesthetic (ether). **1846**

21 - Pan Am 747 blew up and crashed at Lockerbie, Dumfries, killing 243 passengers, 16 crew and 11 Lockerbie residents. The Pan American jumbo jet bound for New York was blown out of the sky by a terrorist bomb and crashes onto the Scottish town of Lockerbie killing all 259 passengers and 11 people on the ground. **1988**

22 - James Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, son of James II, the deposed Catholic King of England, arrived at Peterhead in north-east Scotland to lead a Jacobite rebellion. **1715**

22 - Pop mega-star Madonna married movie-producer Guy Ritchie at Skibo Castle, putting Dornoch into the media spotlight. The couple has since divorced but helped create a Scottish wedding boom. **2000**

23 - Samuel Smiles, writer and author of *Self Help* and *Lives of Engineers*, born. **1812**

23 - Major outbreak of cholera in Scotland. **1831**

24 - King William I (Lion) crowned at Scone. **1165**

24 - Edinburgh Castle surrendered to Oliver Cromwell. **1650**

24 - General George Wade was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British army in Scotland after he had reported on the need for military roads in the country. **1724**

24 - Writer and geologist Hugh Miller died. **1856**

25 - Stone of Destiny removed from Westminster Abbey. **1950**

25 - Christmas Day becomes a public holiday in Scotland. It was abolished in 1640. **1958**

25 - The Jacobite army reached Glasgow. The military campaign to return a Catholic Stewart king to the throne in place of the Hanoverian Protestant King William III. **1745**

26 - Alexander III, the King of Scots, was married to Margaret, the daughter of Henry III, King of England, in York. **1251**

27 - King Charles I, imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle, reached an agreement with the Scots who offered military aid in exchange for a promise to establish Presbyterianism in England (but only for three years). **1647**

27 - Premiere of J M Barrie's play Peter Pan at the Duke of York Theatre, London. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir in 1860. **1904**

28 - The Tay Bridge disaster occurred. 75 passengers were killed when the structure collapsed under a train during a storm. **1879**

28 - Scotland's famous outlaw, Rob "Roy" MacGregor, died. He was immortalised in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Rob Roy*. **1734**

28 - James IV who liked to gamble played 'bylis' (similar to billiards) with a man described in records as "John Anderson that wantis the feit and handies". There's also a note mentioning that the king gave Anderson 14 shilling. **1501**

29 - Charles Macintosh, who patented waterproof fabric, born in Glasgow. **1766**

29 - William Ewart Gladstone, UK Prime Minister on four occasions, born 1809. **1809**

30 - Rangers' first match at their new Ibrox Stadium. It was a 3-1 victory over Hearts in the Inter-City League. **1899**

30 -The Albion Motor Company was established. At first the firm made motor cars and commercial vehicles, but from 1913 concentrated on the latter. **1899**

31 - Prince Charles Edward Stewart, The Young Pretender, was born in Rome. Known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie", after the Gaelic pronunciation of his name, he led the 1745 Jacobite attempt to overthrow the Hanoverian monarchy. Bonnie Prince Charlie or the Young Pretender, was the son of James, the Old Pretender. **1720**

31 - 72 killed at Glen Cinema Fire, Paisley. **1929**

31 - The farthing coin (a quarter of an old penny) ceased to be legal tender. **1960**

Scotland
Land of light

The Scottish Dark Sky Observatory, Dalmellington, Ayrshire.
Photo: Damian Shields/VisitScotland.

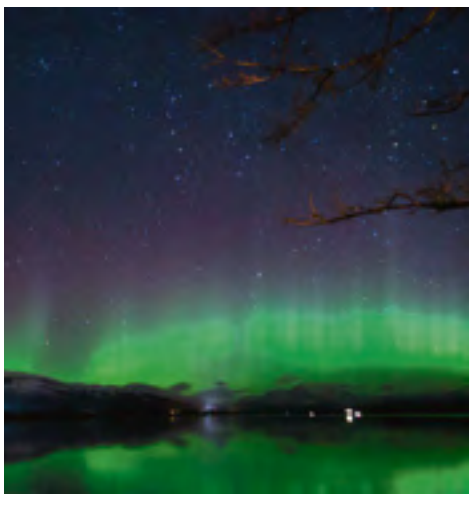
As Scotland welcomes winter and the nights set in, the nations skies light with thousands of stars and planets creating a show that is literally out of this world. Scotland is home to some of darkest skies in Europe and a celestial display is updated daily across the nation bringing stargazers in to Scotland, a land of light, as Nick Drainey explains.

Winter is not a time to stay indoors and read a book if you live in Scotland, it is a time to get out in the dark and look up at a great show - which is not on earth. Scotland has some of the darkest skies in Europe and Galloway Forest Park is the UK's first Dark Sky Park. Because so few people live in the area, street and building lights don't pollute the night sky, making it inky black and a brilliant place to enjoy the stars.

Over 7,000 stars and planets are visible with the naked eye from Galloway, and the bright band of the Milky Way is usually easy to see arching across the sky. Those who are fanatical about the unique place in Britain boast that there is a new show every night because, as the earth travels round the sun, there is a constantly changing view of the stars.

Dark Sky

The Scottish Dark Sky Observatory at Loch Doon near Dalmellington sits on the edge of the Forest Park but rangers are keen to get the public to take their own binoculars and telescopes to sites all over the area.



Kirroughtree Visitor Centre near Newton Stewart is hosting two spectacular nights in December. On the 15th the Geminid Meteor Shower will pass overhead and, a lack of cloud permitting, up to 120 meteors on hour will flash across the sky. Then, on the 20th , the Milky Way will be showcased in the middle of an area where it is hard to miss the celestial treat.

There are also permanent Dark Sky information points at Kirroughtree and the other visitor centres to help identify the constellations and planets which can be seen.

Galloway Forest Park has around 75,000 hectares of land, where limited numbers of buildings means light pollution is kept to a minimum. In addition, there is some control over development on the land, making it easier to control sources of light.

Only 4 per cent of the UK's landmass is now covered by "dark sky" places. The Galloway Forest Park has a Sky Quality Meter (SQM) scale reading of 21 to 23.6. The SQM scale runs from 0 to 25 and, to put it in context, in the middle of a major city such as Glasgow or Edinburgh, you would get a reading of around 8, whereas a reading of 24 would be measured in a photographer's dark room.

Stargazing tourism

Although the International Dark Sky Association gave Galloway the honour of being the first dark sky park in Britain, Scotland also has some other wonderful areas to enjoy a starry night. The West Coast, particularly Kintyre, is a good spot, as is Assynt in Sutherland. The Isle of Skye has made a particular promotion of "Dark Skye" and has nine sites where stargazers are welcomed. The Isle of Coll, which is 32km from the nearest lamp post, is known as Scotland's Dark Sky Island.

Galloway Forest's Dark Sky Park also plays a key role in raising awareness of light pollution while also boosting the local economy through stargazing tourism.

At a conference held in the Dark Sky Park this autumn, Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: "Scotland's natural environment, including its dark sky places, is one of its unique selling points and one that we should never take for granted.

Winter is not a time to stay indoors and read a book if you live in Scotland, it is a time to get out in the dark and look up at a great show - which is not on earth.

"Dark sky places have an important part to play in raising awareness of light pollution and its effects on people and the environment. However, we can share best practice and use more efficient technologies to reduce energy consumption and overall light pollution.

"Dark sky places can improve our environment and provide a big attraction for stargazers from all over the world and this can bring a welcome boost for local economies. It's a win, win situation."

Fantastic natural asset

An economic impact and potential report into the Dark Sky Park in Galloway found that in 2013 around £500k was being generated into to the local economy, with a potential to increase this to £860,000 with more promotion and specialised Rangers being hired.

By: Nick Drainey

Forest Enterprise Scotland manages the Galloway Dark Sky Park and worked with Dumfries and Galloway Council to produce award winning guidance on how to protect the night sky across the region. Both South & East Ayrshire councils have followed, ensuring the entire south west of Scotland is truly protected.

In addition, Dumfries and Galloway Council installed new street lighting across the region that is more efficient and creates less light pollution. Local businesses have been encouraged to join the drive to reduce light pollution.

Capturing the imagination

Keith Muir, Forest Enterprise Scotland's recreation and tourism manager was instrumental in setting up the Galloway Dark Sky Park. He said: "Astronomy or star gazing is growing all the time. It's now a subject which is capturing the imagination of both young and old people – most likely because digital technology is making it so much more accessible.

"Dark sky places are a fantastic natural asset which can inspire and educate but importantly create a better understanding of our environment. It's great that the National Forest Estate in Galloway is contributing to this in such a positive way."

Mr Muir said light pollution was a serious issue for Scotland. He said: "There's the straight fact that we are losing the ability to see our night sky. The stars are not just used by us in lots of different ways but they are also used by migrating birds and everything else to actually navigate by.

"Light pollution is causing all sorts of health issues and there is lots of research out there saying that we are only just beginning to see the long-term effects of that. He also said there was an environmental aspect to light pollution. He said: "We spend hundreds of millions of pounds lighting our streets. If we were to do something about that - not just about putting in better lighting but actually using less power - then we would be saving us all a lot of money, saving the government a lot of money and saving the planet from a whole load of other things that go round as well. But we are not there yet."

Did you know?

The Northern Lights

- The northern lights – or the aurora borealis – are caused by solar storms colliding with the Earth's magnetic field and creating charged particles generating dazzling light.
- Autumn and winter seasons, with their long periods of darkness and the frequency of clear nights, are probably the best time of the year to experience the auroral displays.
- It's possible to see the Northern Lights in the early night, however the best times are thought to be between 10 pm. and 2 am.
- Aurora Watch UK offers notifications on increased auroral activity by free text message alerts.
- Just as street lighting and other light pollution will affect how clearly you can see the northern lights, the strength of the moon is also a factor.
- 'Mirrie Dancers' is the Shetland phrase used for the Northern Lights.

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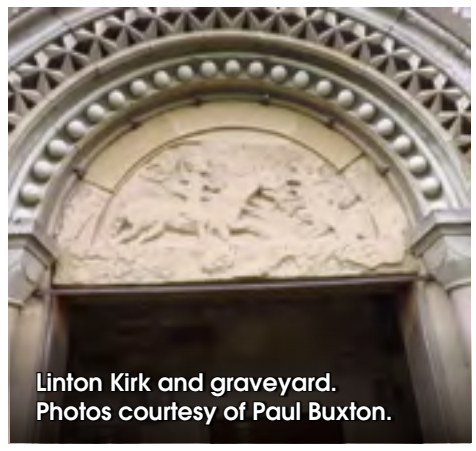
By: Eric Bryan

The wheel & wyvern

John Somerville faces the Linton worm

Not quite as well-known as Nessie but the Linton Worm was a mythical dragon like beast whose legend dates as far back as the 12th century along the Scottish Borders and whose existence was recorded by Sir Walter Scott. Legend has it that John Somerville bravely killed the last dragon in Scotland and today the carved Somerville Stone can still be seen at Linton Kirk commemorating this unique tale in Scottish folklore as Eric Bryan explains.



Linton Kirk and graveyard. Photos courtesy of Paul Buxton.

An engraving of the Somerville Stone from a drawing, in *Memorie of the Somervilles.*

There is a legend attached to Linton in Roxburghshire in the Scottish Borders, dating to the twelfth century. A worm or serpent (in Old Norse, orme' or 'worme' means 'serpent') had a lair in the side of a hill over a mile southeast of Linton church (some traditions link Linton Hill and Greenlees to the northeast with the worm.) The worm was the scourge of the local countryside, prowling during twilight hours with an appetite for cattle and any other animal it could swallow.

Size, habits and characteristics

According to *Memorie of the Somervilles; Being a History of the Baronial House of Somerville* by James, Eleventh Lord Somerville, and edited by Sir Walter Scott, the worm was a serpent three Scots yards long (a Scots yard being a Scots ell, or 37 inches), and of a thickness a bit larger than that of a man's leg. The creature otherwise had the appearance and markings of the native moor adders.

The worm would creep as far as perhaps two miles from its den in search of prey, making surprise attacks by concealing itself in the grass and heather and boggy ground of the Linton area countryside. Due to the serpent's depredations of pasturing cattle, farmers had to move their animals three or four miles away, deserting the local fields. Country folk were said to avoid travelling the roads to market or church because of the roaming worm.

Linton Kirk and graveyard.

All were afraid to come near the creature. No one tried to despatch the predator with lance or sword, because they feared that the proximity required to wield such weapons would put the fighter in danger of venomous biting or spitting. The people however made some attempts to kill the serpent with darts and arrows. When they found that such weapons could inflict only minor wounds, they decided that the worm must be a judgement visited on them by God, and that the whole countryside would be razed by the fiend.

The tale spreads, and a plan forms

While in the south, John Somerville began to hear tales of the Linton crisis. He made his way north and stopped in the Roxburghshire village of Jedburgh, where the people reported on the horrors of the ravaging worm. They were in such anxious dread, that they were on the verge of evacuating the town.

Some of the panic was purportedly due to the country folk exaggerating or inventing certain aspects of the worm, such as that at night it could be seen to have a fiery breath, that it was growing wings, and that the serpent was expanding in size day by day. However, the apparent reality of the creature was bad enough, and such a serpent wasn't known to have been sighted before in Scotland.

Somerville rode to see the creature for himself, and waited at dawn some distance from its den. The worm slithered out, spotted the horseman, and reared up and stared at him. Though watching with its mouth stubbornly agape, the serpent made no other gesture of aggression. Somerville approached in order to size up the beast more clearly, and to test whether or not it would advance upon him. The worm made no offensive move, and instead circled back into is lair.

Somerville observed the creature for several days, noting how it moved, and how when encountering a man, it always stared with its jaws hanging wide. Considering possible ways to vanquish such an adversary, Somerville conceived of a spear or lance nearly twice as long as was customary, with one-and-a-half of its length from the point backward encircled in iron.

He had the specialised weapon constructed, and practiced manoeuvres from horseback for some days with it. These involved charging with a burning peat stuck to the spear's tip, as Somerville was contemplating using fire as part of his offensive arsenal, and he needed to get his treasured horse habituated to the flames and smoke.

Next, Somerville had a small thin iron wheel made and fitted to the lance, several inches from the tip, so that it was free-spinning. Then he hired a servant, appointed a day on which he'd do battle with the worm, and sent the announcement out to all the local inhabitants, inviting them to be spectators. Some people dismissed Somerville's proclamation as braggadocio; others regarded it as the words of a madman.

The face-off

On the day in question, before dawn, Somerville and his servant posted themselves 'within half ane arrow flight' of the serpent's den. Somerville had had several peats, which had been dipped in brimstone, roset and pitch, wired to the wheel of the lance. When the worm appeared partway out of its lair, Somerville's servant set the peats alight.

Somerville closed in battle with the monster, charged and plunged the flaming wheel and nearly a third of the spear down the serpent's throat, the weapon breaking with the force of the impact. The writhing creature in its death agonies caused the hill to collapse onto it and bury it.

The now joyful Linton populace excavated the remains and put them on display for many days for the numerous curious visitors who travelled to marvel at the carcass of the worm. (Somerville had formulated his novel manner of attack because he didn't know if a lance could pierce the serpent's body.)

The porch and tympanum of Linton Kirk, showing the Somerville Stone. The stone is much worn, and has had a Perspex cover placed over it to preserve it.

Reward and commemoration

The story tells that Somerville was knighted and made Royal Falconer and First Baron of Linton by King William the Lion for conquering the worm. The symbols of a wheel and wyvern, said to represent Somerville's wheeled lance and the serpent, were added to the Somerville coat of arms.

The site of the battle is remembered as 'Wormiston' ('Worm's Den' or 'Worm's Glen', also referred to as Wormington) and the deed may have been memorialised in the tympanum above the south door of Linton's parish church. This work, known as the Somerville Stone, depicts an armoured knight, carrying a falcon, spearing a beast in the mouth.

A local rhyme based on an inscription in the stone tells:

The wode Laird of Laristone
Slew the worm at Worme's Glen,
And wan all Linton Parochine.

Scott and the Somerville Stone

In contemplating the Somerville Stone in the *Memorie of the Somervilles,* Sir Walter Scott noted the representation of the fully-armoured knight on horseback with a falcon on his arm, but had doubts about the type of beast the warrior was impaling. Scott describes the creature as 'a four footed animal, probably a bear or wolf, but which in no point resembles a serpent.'

However, in the engraving of the Somerville Stone in the book, no legs of the creature are definitely visible. The beast may be in a deep crouch, or standing in a depression, or legless. The creature's head might be shaped like that of a bear or wolf or boar, but it's also not dissimilar to that of a Komodo dragon or other monitor lizard. What seem to be horns or ears atop the head further complicate matters, and details of fur or scales aren't definite.

There is another form in the background beyond the creature. In *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, Scott opined that a second beast, a boar or wolf, was depicted here, attacking the horse. (In *Borders and Berwick: An Illustrated Architectural Guide to the Scottish Borders and Tweed Valley*, Charles Alexander Strang asserts that to an expert eye, the knight's foes are 'a brace of bears.' There still seems room for conjecture, however.)

THE ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO

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