



the Scottish Banner



Australasian Edition



Years Strong - 1976-2018 www.scottishbanner.com

A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 41 Number 7 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper January 2018

Let it snow

Creating snow and boosting the Highland economy

» Pg 16

Scotland

What's new for 2018

» Pg 14



Band on the Run

Playing pipes with Sir Paul McCartney

» Pg 6

Australia \$4.00; North American \$3.00; N.Z. \$3.95



7 25286 184459 8 07

2018 - A Year in Piping » Pg 6
Nigel Tranter:
Scotland's Storyteller » Pg 25
Scottish snowdrop's
- A sign of the season » Pg 29
Robert Burns:
Scotland's Bard » Pg 30

**Publisher**

Valerie Cairney

Editor

Sean Cairney

EDITORIAL STAFF

Jim Stoddart
The National Piping Centre
Angus Whitson
Marieke McBean
Judy Vickers

Ron Dempsey, FSA Scot
David McVey
Lady Fiona MacGregor
David C. Weinczok
Nick Drainey

OFFICES OF PUBLICATION**Australasian Office:**

PO Box 6202
Marrickville South, NSW, 2204
Tel: (02) 9559-6348
info@scottishbanner.com

North American Office:

PO Box 6880
Hudson, FL 34674
Tel: (866) 544-5157
Fax: +1 727-826-0191
mail@scottishbanner.com

Canadian Address:

PO Box 724
Niagara Falls, ON, L2E 6V5
Tel: (866) 544-5157
Fax: +1 727-826-0191
mail@scottishbanner.com

www.scottishbanner.com

Follow us on social media

Printed monthly in Australia, Canada and the USA. ISSN 0707-073X

Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806

Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement No.40022115

Published monthly by Scottish Banner Publications
PO Box 6880 Hudson, FL 34674 USA

USA-Periodical Postage Paid at Sarasota, FL 34231
and additional Entry Offices (USPS 9101)

U.S. Postmaster send corrections to:
PO Box 6880 Hudson, FL 34674

The publisher reserves the right to reject, discontinue or omit any advertisement or to cancel any advertising contract for reasons satisfactory to the publisher, without notice, and without penalty to either party. All advertising and reading matter is subject to Publisher's approval. Right reserved to revise or reject advertising and reading material in accordance with standards acceptable to the Scottish Banner, without notice. The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount of space paid for, whether such errors are due to negligence, copy right or otherwise. The publisher does not endorse the historical accuracy of the editorial stance of materials submitted for publication. The publisher reserves the right edit all submitted material prior to publication.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

Trouble getting the *Scottish Banner* each month? Use the subscription form below to subscribe, or you may contact our distributors for your nearest sales outlet.

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND:
Integrated Publication Solutions 1 800 606 407
CANADA: Disticor-1 905 619 6565
USA: 866 544 5157

The Scottish Banner-Uniting Scots Around the World for 41 Years!

**THE SCOTTISH BANNER**

**Subscribe to the worlds largest international
Scottish culture newspaper online or use below:**

Australia:	Print: 1 Year / \$48.00 AUD	2 Year / \$90.00 AUD
	Digital: 1 Year / \$25.00 AUD	
New Zealand:	Print: 1 Year / \$65.00 AUD	2 Year / \$125.00 AUD
	Digital: 1 Year / \$25.00 AUD	
U.S.A.:	Print: 1 Year / \$36.00 USD	2 Year / \$68.00 USD
Canada:	Print: 1 Year / \$40.00 CDN	2 Year / \$76.00 CDN
Overseas:	Print: 1 Year Air Mail: US/CDN \$70.00, AU \$110.00	

Australia/New Zealand: T (+61) 02 9559-6348

North America: T +1 866 544-5157

www.scottishbanner.com/subscribe

Subscription are non-refundable.

Cheques, money orders, Visa and MasterCard accepted.

Scottish Banner Australia/New Zealand:

PO Box 6202, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204

Scottish Banner Canada:

PO Box 724, Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 6V5

Scottish Banner USA:

PO Box 6880 Hudson, FL 34674

The Banner Says...**January-Celebrating two great Scots**

by Sean Cairney

A New Year has again come around and with the hopes of health, happiness and hopefully some fortune to be had! For some January is a month of setting goals and catching up after the busy festive period and for the Scottish community there are a few big events to celebrate.

Robert Burns

This month thousands of Scots will of course honour Scotland's national poet Robert Burns, whose work has permeated everyday life and is still recognised as some of the most important written works in history. Burns was born on 25 January 1759 in Alloway and his works about the ordinary man, love and social inequalities have given him an international following.

As a child I somewhat felt I grew up knowing Robert Burns. Now you may be asking how I could have known a poet from Scotland who died in 1796, clearly I am not (quite) that old nor was it my childhood imagination running rife.

In fact I knew of Robert Burns because of my Uncle, John Cairney, who was considered as one of the world's leading interpreters of the works of Robert Burns. As a small child of course you do not know any different than what I did, and that was seeing people pack theatres to watch him perform the works of Robert Burns. When I did get to see him perform I was usually dragged up on stage for a moment of the show by him, much to my horror. I am sure my red face of embarrassment was one of the very few moments the audience took their eyes off my Uncle and his engaging performances as he portrayed the brilliant works of Robert Burns, which have been enjoyed by many for hundreds of years.

So as you can imagine Robert Burns was a part of the family's

growing up. When Uncle John came to town we all chipped in and helped where we could with the shows. It was only a little later in childhood I realised that not all my friends were dragged up on stages by a famous Uncle and probably none knew who Robert Burns was.

As many people around the world, and most certainly many *Scottish Banner* readers, will celebrate the great Robert Burns I will too raise by glass to both the national poet of Scotland and also the man who was for me the living Burns of my youth.

Greyfriars Bobby

Around the time of my theatrical debut (as mentioned above!) I also started a small dog walking service. Each day after school I would pick up local dogs and walk them for neighbours so I could get some pocket money. We already had dogs in our family and my lifelong love for our four legged friends started at a very young age. So I am always interested to see the special place the city of Edinburgh has for one faithful dog called Bobby, and each year the Scottish capital honours a Skye Terrier known today as Greyfriars Bobby on January 14th.

The story of Greyfriars Bobby is one that has captured generations of people across the world. In 1850 a gardener named John Gray arrived in Edinburgh with his family looking for a better life. Unable to find work as a gardener he ended up joining the Edinburgh Police Force as a night watchman. To keep him company through the long winter nights John took on a partner, the Skye Terrier called Bobby. Together John, or Auld Jock has he was sometimes known, and Bobby became a familiar sight walking along the ancient cobbled streets of Edinburgh. They became each other's friend and family 'pack' member and patrolled the streets year round as companions and work partners.

Sadly John Gray passed away from tuberculosis on 15 February 1858 and was buried in an unmarked grave in Greyfriars Kirkyard, leaving Bobby behind. Once Auld Jock was buried Bobby began a new career which involved protecting his master's grave. Bobby carried on to protect his master's grave for the next 14 years in all weather and out of true love and devotion. Bobby's fame spread throughout Edinburgh and many people took on roles to help Bobby by feeding him and looking out for him. The then Lord Provost, Sir William Chambers, ensured the Bobby's freedom by buying a licence and dog collar, allowing him to roam the graveyard. Bobby continued to protect Auld Jock's grave up until his own death in 1872 and his poignant memorial reads: 'Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all.'

Today the statue of Greyfriars Bobby is one of the most popular visited sites in Edinburgh (please don't rub his nose

however) and the story has crossed over into books and a film and surely must be considered one of the great stories about 'man's best friend'.

In this issue

2018 is now upon us and Scotland is again ready to welcome visitors to a nation that keeps offering something to come back to. We look at some of the highlights of both the Scottish tourism and piping calendar in 2018. With new attractions opening, anniversaries and pipe band competitions being held throughout the year, it makes you want to pack your bags today!

Winter has now set in across Scotland and we learn about how technology is helping the Highland ski resorts create the perfect ski run for visitors who will be taking to the slopes right into the spring season amongst some of the most stunning scenery in Scotland.

The Scottish Snowdrop Festival will begin later this month and this heralds in the first floral sign of growth for Scotland. And whilst not quite spring it provides locals and visitors a sure sign that spring will come with each new bloom across the country.

This month is also the anniversary of the death of one of the most prolific and celebrated Scottish historical authors ever, Nigel Tranter. Tranter wrote over a hundred books and let Scotland's story set the stage for a read which was hard to put down. It was wonderful to see he also inspired one of our very own writers David C. Weinczok, who though separated by several generations, cherishes his works and uses it still today to help him to tell the story of Scotland in a modern way. Many readers will also remember Nigel was a contributor and supporter of *the Scottish Banner* and we know few international publications can say that.

January is a great month to reset yourself and take stock of where you are. It is also a month that we remember some great Scots and I hope that some of their lasting legacy helps us in the year ahead, Happy New Year! 🍷



Gracing our front cover:

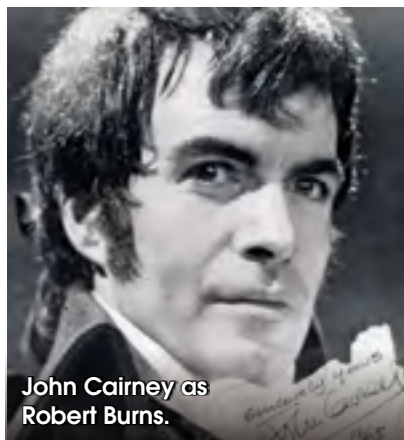
Nevis Range - Boarder on the edge of the back carries with braveheart tow in the distance. Photo Steven McKenna.

Changes for Australian & New Zealand readers

At time of press *the Scottish Banner* has been informed that our New Zealand distributor is no longer providing a New Zealand distribution service and this will be the final issue they distribute.

We are looking at options available to us, however to ensure you receive your copy of the Scottish Banner you can subscribe with us direct at www.scottishbanner.com/subscribe

We apologise for any inconvenience this causes and will be working to rectify and supply copies for our New Zealand readers as quickly as possible. Readers will notice also that from this month our newsstand and subscription rates have increased. This is the first increase in many years and is due to postage, print and distribution increases we have had to absorb recently. We hope you will agree that since our last change we have dramatically improved the paper with a new layout presentation, have gone full colour and increased each issue with 4 pages of more content.



John Cairney as Robert Burns.

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

Tel/Email:

☐ 1 Year ☐ 2 Years

☐ New Subscription ☐ Renewal

☐ Gift Subsc. From.....

To

Visa/MC..... **Exp**.....

Signature

Annie Lennox OBE becomes Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University



Royal Academician, singer songwriter, highly-respected social activist and philanthropist, Dr Annie Lennox OBE is the new Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University. Dr Lennox succeeds Nobel Peace Prize Winner Professor Muhammad Yunus, anti-poverty campaigner and founder of the Grameen Bank and Social Business Movement. She is the first ever female Chancellor of the University.

Commitment to social justice

Dr Lennox said: "It is truly a remarkable honour to be invited to become Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University. I am humbled by it, and intend

to serve this outstanding institution in the very best way I can. Following in the footsteps of such an exemplary individual as Muhammad Yunus is somewhat daunting, but I'm very much looking forward to working with everyone in a collaborative way, so I can be of good value to the students and the establishment of the University."

Professor Pamela Gillies CBE, Vice-Chancellor of GCU said: "The vision and inspirational leadership of Chancellor Lennox will continue to set the moral compass, strategic direction and social actions of our University for the Common Good. The students, staff, and lay governors of the University feel privileged indeed that she has accepted the role of Chancellor and are excited by the prospect of what we might now achieve together over the coming years." Professor Yunus remains a lifelong friend to the University as Emeritus Chancellor.

The role of Chancellor involves formal and ceremonial duties, conferring degrees on students, and supporting and promoting the University's ambitions and vision for the common good. The University's values and work to transform lives through education align with Dr Lennox's deep commitment to social justice.

Humanitarian work

Throughout her hugely creative and successful musical career spanning more

than 30 years, Aberdeen born Annie Lennox has so far received an Oscar, four Grammy Awards, eight Brit Awards and four Ivor Novello Awards.

Dr Lennox was inspired to launch the SING Campaign to raise funds to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS after taking part in the inaugural concert of Nelson Mandela's 46664 HIV Foundation in 2003, and visiting Uganda with Comic Relief and Malawi with Oxfam. An Ambassador for UNAIDS, Oxfam, Amnesty International and the British Red Cross, Dr Lennox received the Nobel Woman of Peace Award at the 10th Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in 2011 for her work on HIV/AIDS prevention and control, especially for women and children. In 2011 she received an OBE in the Queen's New Year Honours for her humanitarian work. She founded The Circle, a charitable non-governmental organisation, in 2008. The Circle has a vision of equality for women and girls in a fairer world and supports some of the most disempowered women and girls in the world to change and challenge the injustices they face.

In 2017, Dr Lennox's most recent social philanthropic work was honoured when she received the George Harrison Global Citizen Award. Chancellor Lennox will be formally installed during a ceremony at Glasgow Caledonian University in July 2018.

Tartan of the Month Rabbie Burns



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.

Designed by Claire Donaldson of House of Edgar for Robert Nicol of South Methven Street, Perth to commemorate the poet Robert Burns and for use in his dress hire business. This tartan (Ref:6318) was recorded prior to the launch of The Scottish Register of Tartans. **Happy Burns Night!**

Restalrig – Edinburgh's 50th conservation area

Photos courtesy of The City of Edinburgh Council.



St Margaret's Church.

These buildings reflect the historical and architectural significance of the area and its development as a centre of religious activities.

Cllr Neil Gardiner, Planning Convener, said: "Conservation areas have special architectural or historic interest and we protect them by putting in place extra rules to control building work. The use of natural materials in several of the listed buildings in the area, such as rubble stone, creates a sense of place and are integral to its character."

Lestallric

The village of Restalrig developed around the ancient parish church of St Margaret (formerly Restalrig Parish Church). The name Restalrig is a 15th century variant on the name Lestallric, recorded from the late 12th century. The area was part of a medieval estate owned by the De Lestallrics. St Margaret's Church has its origins in the 12th century and formed the nucleus of the village. The original parish incorporated South Leith.



Restalrig streetscape.

Edinburgh's 50th conservation area, Restalrig, was announced in December by the City of Edinburgh Council. Approval was given after a report was considered by the Planning Committee, following a public consultation in the local area. Restalrig lies to the north east of the city and the boundary of the conservation area includes St Margaret's Parish Church, graveyard and surrounding buildings at the entrance to Restalrig Road South from Restalrig Avenue.

Historically significant

Restalrig conservation area is historically significant as a result of its development around St Margaret's Parish Church. Within the area there are other listed buildings at 62 Restalrig Road South and The Deanery Wall. There is also a scheduled monument, St Triduana's Aisle, Chapel and Well house.

Bundanoon is ~BRIGADOON

Saturday April 7th 2018

**Massed Pipes & Drums, Scottish Highland & Country Dancing,
The Tartan Warriors, 120 Specialty Crafts, Souvenirs & Food Stalls,
30 Clan Information Tents to trace your heritage and so much more!**

Admission: Adults \$20, Child \$10, Family \$50 (2 adults + 2 children) Concession \$18 (Age Pension Card)
BUY ON LINE TO SAVE TIME <http://brigadoon.org.au/tickets/>

Bulk buy for Groups and Coaches: \$16, more than 20 persons
Must be Pre-Paid before 16 March 2018
Bulk buy can be ordered by phoning: 1300 657 559

P: 02 4883 7471 publicity.brigadoon@gmail.com
Official "Brigadoon" Ceilidh (Scottish Knees-up) Bookings: 02 4883 6033 ceilidh.brigadoon@gmail.com
Accommodation Booking and Home Hosting brigadoon.org.au/about/home-hosting

Australia with a "wee" bit of "Scottish Flavour"
www.brigadoon.org.au

SCOT POURRI



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

Robert Burns Club of Camperdown hosts Burns Clubs of the Pacific Rim



The fledgling Robert Burns Club of Camperdown hosted the Burns Clubs of the Pacific Rim for their annual conference from September 29th to October 1st. The conference was attended by President Royden Sommerville and his wife Lee from New Zealand and delegates from Australia. The Friday night dinner was held at Lake Edge cafe overlooking the shore line of Lake Purrumbete. Saturday morning was business and after lunch there was a tour of the property "Renny Hill" owned currently by Clark & Judy Roycroft.

That had been the property of the Taylor family who donated the Burns statue by John Greenshields to the town of Camperdown. A ceilidh was put on the Saturday night with The Likely Celts, Andy Richardson, Peter Daffy and local band Tuniversal. Sunday morning there was a tour of Stewart & Bev McArthur's property "Menningort" and finally to send our guests on the way a barbecue at John & Carolyn Menzies property Wuorong.

Cheers,
Chris Maguire
Camperdown, Victoria
Australia

Scottish Weather: Winter

We'll come again, perhaps at a different season. I'd like to taste a Scottish winter—just a little—just once. I'd like to be here among some villagers during a lighter snow, visit a pub with them

and share a glass or two of The Famous Grouse, then walk out to an easy wind and the ground still bare in spots. I'd want to feel a few gritty flakes strike my skin, then watch them skid across an icy spot

with a soft, whispery, sleety sound, and hear in local tones that ancient word "skift" which my dad used when I was a child, and which hasn't come to mind in sixty years.

Twice a reunion, that moment—his soft Virginia voice in my ear and this harsh word from another forebear who brought with him a few clothes, an axe, and a crazy-quilt language patched together from a dozen lands. "A skift of snow," I think to myself, and look ahead to home and winter, to a cold day and a few grains of icy snow rasping across the frozen ground, when I can whisper in my father's voice, Now that's a skift of snow.

David Black
Louisa, VA
USA
Facebook page www.facebook.com/davidblackwriter

Chief John MacArthur leads Clan on Edinburgh Tattoo opening night



Photo: Chief John MacArthur of that Ilk meeting HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, the Earl & Countess of Wessex with daughter Lady Louise Windsor. Photo courtesy of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Clan Arthur, along with Clan Murray, were invited to appear on the 4th August opening night of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Clan members from across the globe met at a pre-tattoo supper held at the New Club on Princes Street hosted by Clan Murray. Afterwards we walked from Princes Street to the castle where we assembled and were ushered into the Great Hall for a welcome prior to the event. We were then mustered into lines and given our marching instructions. The clans formed columns behind Chief John MacArthur of that Ilk, and Michael of Tullibardine, Chieftain of Clan Murray and we were led onto the castle esplanade by the Atholl Highlanders and their pipe band. The columns halted at a prearranged point awaiting the arrival of the guests of honour. Two limousines drove onto the esplanade and our clan heads were introduced to HRH Prince Edward of Wessex, his wife Sophie and their two children, and His Serene Highness, Prince Albert II of Monaco. The clan heads then shared a Gaelic toast with the two Princes. When the opening ceremony finished, the clan members found their seats in the stands while Chief John and his wife, Lorraine enjoyed the show in the luxury and prestigious company of the Royal Box. We were very lucky to see the Orchestre des Carabiniers du Prince au Monaco as they only performed at the Tattoo on this one night.

The following day Saturday, 5th of August, the International Clan Arthur Gathering was held at the very historically significant Masonic Lodge in Canongate off the Royal Mile. We toured the Temple, and heard the most impressive organ masterfully played by Malcolm McCrae, the Lodge organist. The building dates back to the 1700s and on the top floor it houses the historical painting of Robert Burns, exalted to a companion in the Holy Royal Arch Degree in May 1787. A special guest at this

function was Dr Joseph Morrow, King of Arms who sported a MacGregor tartan kilt, a clan that is close to his heart. Both the Lord Lyon and Chief John are Freemasons.

If you would like to know more about Clan Arthur, please contact carolmcarthur18@gmail.com
Carol McArthur Budlong
High Commissioner, MacArthur Society in Australia

Scottish Banner trip to Scotland winner



We are back from our whirlwind tour of Scotland! None of which would have been possible if not for *the Scottish Banner* and Qatar Airways. Who would have thought that simply entering a competition would be so rewarding? It was a truly amazing experience. "A dream come true" for my wife Helena and I.

We stayed in Glasgow for 4 nights to check out my home town and catch up with some of my relatives that I haven't seen in almost 36 years. It was great to explore such a vibrant city and sample all the culinary and liquid treats on offer. We hired a car at Glasgow Airport and headed to Gourrock. We caught the car ferry over to Dunoon and drove from there to Inveraray, then on to Oban where we stayed for the night.

The next day we drove to Glencoe, then on to Fort William. We stayed in Caol for 2 nights which allowed us the time to have a better look around the area. We went on the Jacobite Steam Train to Mallaig, via the Glenfinnan Viaduct and back again to Fort William. On our way out, we drove to Invergarra and to see Eilean Donan Castle on our way to stay on the Isle of Skye for the next 3 nights. We based ourselves in Portree which allowed us to explore the island from one end to the other. Some of the highlights were the Armadale Castle, Clan Donald Centre & the Museum of the Isles in the south. The Old Man of Storr, The Museum of Island Life & Flora MacDonald's Grave in the north.

From Skye we headed towards Drumnadrochit to see Urquhart Castle and the Loch Ness Centre & Exhibition on the way to Inverness, where we stayed for 2 nights. We went to Culloden and their Visitors Centre, then on to Elgin, Harlaw and Aberdeen for 2 nights. We went to Kincardineshire to see where my ancestors came from, before heading to Dunnottar Castle, Montrose, Arbroath, Dundee, Perth, then to Doune for the night. While there, we went to Doune Castle, Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument and then stayed in Falkirk for the next 2 nights. We went on the Falkirk Wheel and to see the Kelpies (day & night) Linlithgow Palace, Blackness Castle, Midhope Castle and around to Culross via the new Queensferry Crossing, which satisfied Helena's interest in seeing sites from *Outlander*.

The next day we dropped off the car at Edinburgh Airport (I had managed to clock

over 1000 miles in the 2 weeks we had the car), and from there we caught the tram into Edinburgh City Centre. Accommodation for our final 3 nights in Scotland was provided by The Spires Serviced Apartments Edinburgh, located on Hanover St. It's an ideal location for sightseeing around the city as it's so central to everything. On the 1st day in Edinburgh we took our complementary Rabbie's Tour around the old & new city. It was ideal for seeing the sights and provided us with a great way to decide which areas were most suitable for us to visit the following day. We went to Edinburgh Castle the following morning, then down to see Greyfriars Bobby and explore the city. That night we went on the Mercat Tours "Ghost & Ghouls Tour" (also a part of our prize). It was a great way to hear about the history around and under the streets of Edinburgh from our knowledgeable and entertaining guide Steve.

As you can see, we packed a heap of great experiences into our short trip around Scotland and when we left in the wee small hours of our final day, hauling our extra luggage to the tram to the airport, we realised just how lucky we were to have had such a fun adventure together. So I'd just like to say another huge thank you to everyone who made it possible.

Scott Rodger
Victoria, Australia

Ed note: Congratulations once again Scott and you sure packed in so much of Scotland. We are thrilled you had such a great experience.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Send your photos or letters via social media

Autumnal Glencoe at Loch Achtriochtan.



Carolynn Wilson
Scotland

Wallace Monument



Thanks *Scottish Banner*-what a great paper. Thought you may like this photo I took last time I was in Scotland.

Marcus MacLeod
Ashtonfield, New South Wales
Australia

From Russia with love of Robert Burns



Russian school pupils Polina Berezanslia, Daniil Romanyuk, Natalia Rozhkova, Ilia Zorin and Lana Shikhar visiting the University of Glasgow.

He is dubbed the people's poet in Russia and his work has been taught in schools along with their own national writers. The Russian's love affair with Robert Burns even saw the country becoming the first in the world to honour his memory with a postage stamp in the mid- 20th century. And modern day Russians are still learning about his works as part of their school curriculum. Recently a group of Russian school pupils toured Scotland to follow in the bard's footsteps. During the trip, organised by the Robert Burns World Federation, the group visited locations around Scotland that had an association with our national bard such as Dumfries,

Edinburgh and Alloway. On 1 November 2017, students took part in a series of short lectures with academics at the University of Glasgow's Centre for Robert Burns Studies.

People's poet

Professor Gerard Carruthers, Co-director of the Centre for Robert Burns Studies and Francis Hutcheson Chair of Scottish Literature, said: "We were delighted to welcome this group from St Petersburg to the University. Robert Burns first became popular in Russia in the 19th century. His works were translated into Russian and he was seen as a great source of inspiration for ordinary Russians. Post the Russian Revolution, he became known as the

people's poet and today he is still taught in schools alongside their own national poets."

Daniil Romanyuk, 16, who plays Robert Burns in the school's Burns production, said: "Robert Burns poetry is full of wonderful language and it is very beautiful. We really appreciate coming to Scotland and the University to learn more about his country." The group of 22 students and leaders from the school travelled to Scotland to learn more about Scotland's national bard after featuring in winning awards in Burns competitions written in Russian. One of the party is the winner of the St Petersburg Robert Burns World Federation Essay.

Ensure the heritage and future of Burns

This visit was organised by the World Federation and St Petersburg Forum and will see the Russian group visiting Burns associations around Scotland. Marc Sherland of the Glasgow District Burns Association who hosted the group during their visit to the city and the University, said: "Our continuing mission for all Burns associations is to ensure the heritage and future of Burns and the Scottish language are celebrated both at home and on the international stage. It is wonderful to see how these Russian children have embraced and enjoy the writings of Scotland's national bard."

The Centre for Robert Burns Studies was established in July 2007. Its mission is the development of research, scholarship and teaching in the area of Robert Burns, his cultural period and related literature.

REMT giveaway winners



Congratulations to the winners from our December edition reader giveaway of a copy of the 2017 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo DVD, we had a large volume of entries for this competition and we hope the following people enjoy watching "the greatest show on earth":

G Cox Calwell, ACT
S Reeve Black Mountain, NSW
B McIntosh Serpentine, WA
S Andrews Boat Harbour, NSW
A Wajer Maryborough, QLD

Jacobite History Brought to Life in LEGO



Jacobite story brought to life in new Brick to the Past exhibition at Stirling Castle until 2 February 2018.

Visitors to Stirling Castle will be able to step back in time to explore Scotland's Jacobite history through the magic of LEGO with a brand new exhibition which is now on display at the iconic castle. The Jacobite Risings: The Fight for Britain's Throne depicts key locations involved in the Jacobite story, recreated in approximately 1 million LEGO bricks, and featuring over 2000 soldiers from both sides of the conflict. The model includes detailed miniature recreations of two sites in the care of Historic Environment Scotland (HES): the medieval tower house Corgarff Castle and Ruthven Barracks, the bulwark against the Jacobites built by George II's government in the early 1700s. The exhibition – on display for the first time ever in Scotland – will run until Friday 2nd February 2018.

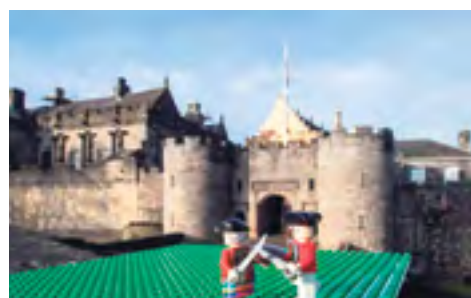
So much history

The spectacular 6 metre by 3 metre model has been painstakingly crafted by Brick to the Past, a team of volunteer LEGO and history enthusiasts who

specialise in creating massive, detailed and meticulously researched historically themed LEGO models.

Speaking at the exhibition, Dan Harris of Brick to the Past said: "As 2017 is Scotland's year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, we wanted to join in with the celebrations and struck upon the Jacobite Risings as great topic that represented a pivotal moment in not only Scottish history, but in British history too. We had a great time designing and building its different parts, from the Jacobites themselves to the major buildings, which are based on HES properties such as Corgarff Castle and Ruthven Barracks. It also gave us an opportunity to take on Scotland's dramatic landscape, so we have built mountains, rivers, forests and animals that are designed to represent those of the highlands. It's really exciting to be going on display at Stirling Castle. It's an incredible venue with so much history!"

Brick to the Past's The Jacobite Risings: The Fight for Britain's Throne will be on display in the Queens Outer Hall at Stirling Castle until Friday 2nd February. Entry to the exhibition is included in the normal Stirling Castle admission price.



Finalist in the 2017 NSW Tourism Awards

GLENINNES AUSTRALIAN CELTIC FESTIVAL

May 3 to 6 2018

Celebrating Brittany Galicia & Asturias

www.australiancelticfestival.com 6730 2400

Band on the Run-Playing pipes with Sir Paul McCartney



Sir Paul McCartney playing in Perth with the WA Police Pipe Band.

Governor Macquarie Memorial Pipe Band (GMMPB) had the rare honour of playing alongside one of the greatest musicians of our time in Sydney in December. Thanks to an invitation from Pipers of Distinction GMMPB accompanied Sir Paul McCartney playing *Mull of Kintyre* as part of his One on One World Tour in two Sydney shows on the 11th and 12th December, 2017. The band was greeted enthusiastically by the 18,000 strong crowd as they joined McCartney on stage as a special surprise for the Sydney audience as one of the final numbers for the evening.

How does such a well-loved artist as Paul McCartney, manage to rouse images of Scotland literally in the midst of so many people? *Mull of Kintyre* has a hauntingly simple musical theme with the sound of the pipes and drums evoking all things Scottish. For the pipers of GMMPB to not only hear the music but to physically feel it through the chanter, to touch it through the

finger sequences was a once in a lifetime experience, particularly with the playing of the beautiful sustained low A early in the song. Both McCartney and the audience gave GMMPB a huge welcome on to the stage and the applause was thunderous and sustained throughout the song.

Thrilled

GMMPB performers were a mixture of players young and young at heart, each being absolutely thrilled to be involved in this event. The youngest player and snare drummer, 10 year old Jaxson Gray, was singled out by McCartney for special praise with McCartney commending him for continuing the pipe band tradition. The band also included a number of other young members, 14 year old pipers, Luke Blowes, Oscar Petro and Hayley Whitehill and 14 year old snare drummer, Ezra Wolfinger, a huge McCartney fan, who described these two nights as "the best of my life." Other young

players included 15 year old bass drummer, Clare Adamson and 17 year old piper, Lachlan Wiggins. These players summed up the experience well when describing the fun and excitement of learning the music with great friends prepared together in the lead up to the event, the nerves of rehearsal in Qudos Arena, meeting Sir Paul McCartney and the thrill of playing to such a large audience.

They each felt honoured to have been involved. The number of young players in this band is a promising sign for the future of pipe bands in Australia. Many of the more experienced members of GMMPB have followed McCartney over the decades and were perhaps even more thrilled to be involved in the performance. The experience was particularly special for piper, Ian Henry, who first heard the Beatles play in Liverpool in 1961 before they were well known and has followed the music of Paul McCartney since. Ian developed a particular love for the song *Mull of Kintyre* having worked in the north of Ireland in a vet practice within sight of the Mull of Kintyre.

Other bands

In addition to the Sydney performances a selection of bands also got to experience a musical highlight playing alongside the legend of Sir Paul McCartney. In Perth the tour gained the services of the current Grade 1 Australian Champions the Western Australia Police Pipe Band at NIB Stadium in front of 28,000 people under the direction of Gold Medalist Pipe Major James Murray.

In Melbourne the current Grade 3 Australian Champions, Scotch College performed for two nights with Sir Paul



10 year old drummer Jaxson Gray being interviewed in-front of the 18,000 strong crowd in Sydney by Sir Paul.

McCartney, led by tutor Mark Saul. At this show a very rare opportunity came along to have the bands bass drum skin signed on stage which will have a pride of place for the band and school. The show at AAMI Stadium attracted 30,000 each evening.

In Brisbane a combined band was established lead by Pipe Major Barry Gray for the show with players from the Governor Macquarie Memorial Pipe Band, Ipswich Thistle, MacLean, St Andrews, Warwick Scots School, City of Whitehorse and Queensland Irish participating at Suncorp Stadium with a crowd of 52,000. Auckland was the last stop of the tour with the Grade 1 Auckland & Districts Pipe Band taking the stage with Sir Paul under Pipe Major Ben MacLaughlin.



Governor Macquarie Memorial Pipe Band on stage with Sir Paul McCartney.

By: The National Piping Centre, Glasgow



Happy New Year from The National Piping Centre! Across the world each year there are lots of opportunities to hear Scotland's national instrument, but these are some of the key events here in Scotland and abroad. Celtic Connections, now in its 25th year, kicks off the year in style as Glasgow's annual folk, roots and world music festival, celebrates Celtic music and its connections to cultures across the globe. From 18 January – 4 February 2018, over 2,100 musicians from around the world will descend on Glasgow and bring the city to life for 18 days of concerts, ceilidhs, talks, art exhibitions, workshops, and free events, including a very special event at the SSE Hydro, where the GRIT orchestra will be joined by stunt cyclist Danny MacAskill who will perform tricks for Bothy Culture and Beyond, a celebration on the work of pioneering piper Martyn Bennett.

In February, our National Piping Centre Junior Piping Championship returns, one of a host of fantastic contest for young pipers aged Under 18 across the country every

year. It aims to encourage all young players to compete, with chanter competitions through to Piobaireachd events.

In March and April The National Piping Centre's Seasonal Schools return with our spring editions. These great 4 day workshops are tailored for different age groups and are a great way to meet other pipers and get immersed in learning.

There are 5 Major pipe band championships in the UK, and this year they are:

- British Championships – May 19th - Paisley
- United Kingdom Championships – June 16th - Belfast
- European Championships – June 30th - Forres
- Scottish Championships – July 28th - Dumbarton
- World Championships – August 17th & 18th at Glasgow Green, Glasgow

The piping world gathers

The last of these championships is the biggest and the best. It is part of the world's biggest week of piping here in Glasgow,

with Piping Live!, taking place from 13th–19th August. This festival brings together musicians from across the globe, who come to the city with pipe bands and music groups from many different countries to take part. With Pipe Idol, The Piping Live! Big Band, The Masters, Evening Concerts, the festival club, Street Café and more, Piping Live! has something for everyone.

This all leads up to the World Pipe Band Championships on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th August. For 2 days the piping world gathers on Glasgow Green (even via the live streaming of the event!) to celebrate a new world champion. Will Inveraray and District repeat their phenomenal success of 2017? We will wait with bated breath and see... This marks the end of the UK pipe band season.

International competitions

Other significant worldwide contests include the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships, this year in Rotorua on 8th – 9th March, The Australian Pipe Band Championships on April 7th in

Queensland and the North American Pipe Band Championships at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario which is 3rd – 4th August 2018.

Once the Pipe Band season is over, thoughts turn to major solo competitions. The end of August and start of September see The Argyllshire Gathering and Northern Meetings, the two most prestigious solo piping competitions in Scotland. Each event takes place over 2 days with competitors taking part in Piobaireachd and light music events. Once the winners have been announced for these, then the 10 competitors for the Glenfiddich Piping Championship are announced. This solo championship, taking place at the end of October each year has been called the de facto world solo championship, where the 10 best pipers of the year compete for the overall trophy.

The Glenfiddich is the end of the 2018 season, only for the 2019 season to start the very next weekend in London with the Scottish Piping Society of London's annual competition, which has its 80th year in 2019.

So if you are travelling this year, come and hear piping in Scotland – or look out for it around the world!



Piping Live!



SCOTSPEAK

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

"This is the most we have had this century. In recent years the most sightings in a year we have had is 17 - and that was in 1996. Before that the 1960s and 1930s were the times that had most sightings - sometimes more than 20 in a year."

Gary Campbell, Registrar of Sightings at the Official Loch Ness Monster Sightings Register, said that 2017 had more official Nessie sightings on Loch Ness than any other year this century. 9 reported sightings happened in 2017 from visitors to the area from as far as Canada, England and the USA. The legend of Nessie has captivated the world for decades and continues to be a lure for local tourism.

An artist's impression of the new Citizens Theatre opening in 2020.



"The Citizens Theatre building is about to embark on the biggest changes to its physical structure in its 139-year history. This latest stage in our £19.4m redevelopment project presents an exciting opportunity for a number of key landmark cultural organisations to work together in Glasgow."

Glasgow's Citizens Theatre company artistic director Dominic Hill said as Glasgow's Citizens Theatre company is to relocating out of the 139 year old building it occupies in the Gorbals for the first time in its 72-year history. The theatre will close next summer for a £19.4m redevelopment which will take two years to complete and is expected to reopen in the autumn of 2020. The building first opened as His Majesty's Theatre in 1878, during its closure, the company plans to take its work further afield across Scotland.

"The discovery of a second Bronze Age cist on the site provides increasing evidence for the special selection of this site in the prehistoric landscape as a location for ceremonial funerary activity. This cist, along with the medical centre cist and a second burial pit, is generating much more information about the prehistory of Glen Urquhart. Historically, there was a large cairn shown on maps of the area but you can imagine that centuries of ploughing in these fields have removed any upstanding reminders of prehistoric occupation. During the work, we actually found a displaced capstone from another grave that either has not survived or has not yet been discovered. So it's quite likely that these graves were covered by stone cairns or mounds, long-since ploughed out."

Mary Peteranna, operations Manager for AOC Archaeology's Inverness office, said as archaeologists have found an important burial site from the bronze age in the Loch Ness area of the Highlands. The grave believed to be over 4,000 years old included items such as beaker pots and human remains. Over the years the sites have been interrupted by local farmers and weather deterioration.



"We continue to break our own records, bringing in more visitors to Glasgow each year, and showcasing some truly amazing talent. Piping Live! is intrinsic to Scotland's cultural calendar and we're delighted to say that this report reflects a worldwide thirst for traditional music that is going from strength to strength."

Piping Live! Festival organiser Roddy MacLeod said as the international piping festival attracted record crowds in 2017. The event which takes place at venues across Glasgow and presented the National Piping Centre generated £2.5m for the local economy and attracted record numbers of visitors from outside Scotland.

"It's a very emotional issue and it's not just in Scotland now, it's worldwide. The author of Outlander, Diana Gabaldon has brought this attention to people all over the world."

Protester and Outlander extra Andy MacAlindon said as protesters gathered to stop a housing development to be placed on sacred ground at Culloden in the Scottish Highlands. Culloden Battlefield is one of the nation's most sombre places where thousands of Scots were killed by the English. Property developers Kirkwood Homes wants to build nearly 20 homes less than 400 metres from the historic battleground site. The Battle of Culloden of 1746 is where British troops defeated the Scottish Jacobite army for the final time near Inverness.



"In this past year Barra has shown the importance that a flag can have for its community - not only as a celebration but also as a symbol to rally around. I am sure it will serve as a powerful example to the many other communities thinking of developing their own flag to promote their own identity and the patchwork of national heritage."

Philip Tibbetts, of the Flag Institute, said as the flag representing the Isle of Barra has secured official recognition. The green and white Nordic cross has been used by residents of the Hebridean island for decades. Following a campaign, the flag has been granted the seal of approval by heraldic authority, the Court of the Lyon Court. The Nordic cross on the flag represents Barra's Scandinavian heritage, while the green represents its landscape.

"We have found evidence of the impact at two sites on the Isle of Skye, at the moment. One of the things that is really interesting here is that the volcanological evolution of the Isle of Skye has always been considered to have been started with what's called a volcanic plume, an enormously large bulk of magma which has come up under what then was the crust that Skye was on. We are now suggesting that this may well have been assisted by a meteorite impact."

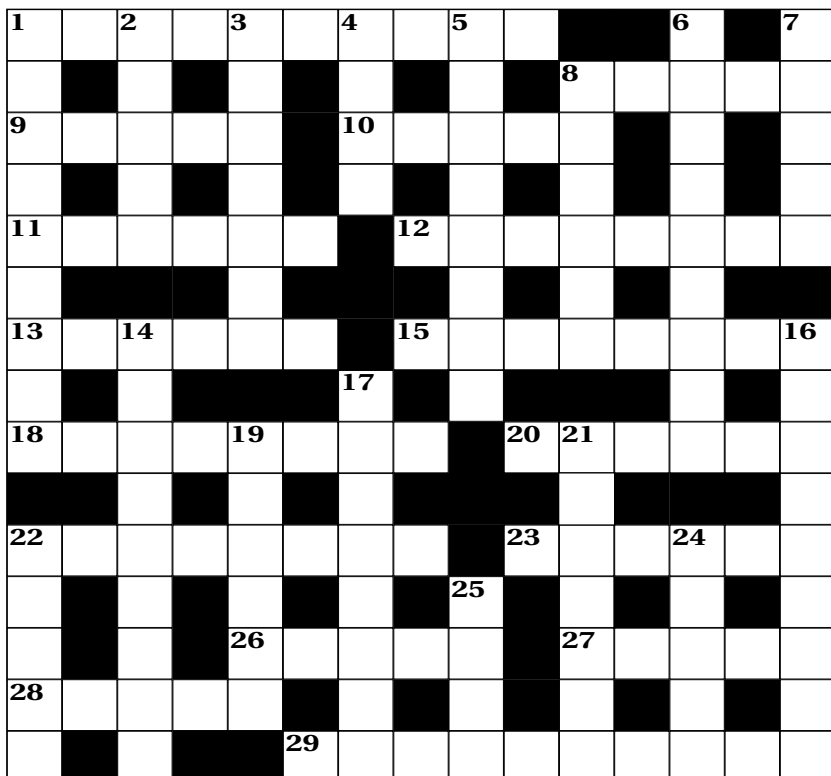
Dr Simon Drake from the University of London said as geologists have discovered evidence of a 60 million year old meteorite that hit the Isle of Skye. The surprise find was made just outside of Broadford.

"Many are familiar with Edinburgh's rich history and folklore, renowned architecture and classical beauty. Although every nook and cranny has a story to tell, some stories are told more than others. Using imagery sourced from Edinburgh's archives, this projection mapping show presents Edinburgh's giant advent calendar, telling stories of Edinburgh's past, using the facade of this iconic Edinburgh landmark as its canvas."

Steven McConnachie, director of Double Take Projections, said as Edinburgh's iconic General Register House, featured 24 glimpses of Edinburgh Winters from years gone-by, one revealed each day throughout December, as part of the city's Christmas celebrations.

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) Borders woollen town (10).
- 8) Top male voice (5).
- 9) Kirk office bearer (5).
- 10) Additional part! (5).
- 11) Heraldic plumes (6).
- 12) Scattered the bed frame! (8).
- 13) A salad plant (6).
- 15) Highland gardens (8).
- 18) Vied with (8).
- 20) Stopped work in Scotland (6).
- 22) Found in Skye & Lothian Region (8).
- 23) He prepares issues (6).
- 26) A running knot (5).
- 27) Drive out (5).
- 28) A wee dram! (5).
- 29) A low wall in Fife! (10).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Village east of Perth (9).
- 2) A serving scoop (5).
- 3) Scottish valleys (1).
- 4) On the rocks! (4).
- 5) Capital regions (8).
- 6) Highland capital (9).
- 7) Doublet edging (5).
- 8) Scot's potato (6).
- 14) Bandleader up front (4,5).
- 16) Carpet town near Johnstone (9).
- 17) Congratulatory steak! (4,4).
- 19) Fervent (6).
- 21) Up to Hogmanay (3,4).
- 22) A knight's wage increase! (5).
- 24) Feeling after 28 Across (5).
- 25) Auld Nick! (4).



St Andrew Highland Gathering Sunday 18th February 2018 10am – 4pm

Enjoy the colour, the sounds and the spectacle of:

Pipe Bands,

Highland Dancing,

The Clarence City Concert Band,

The Navy Cadet Drum Corps and many other displays throughout the day on the Village Green, Richmond.

**Richmond Village Green,
Richmond**



For information: Di: 0408 528 658 or
Email: Dianne.cornish1@bigpond.com

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.



Now that Christmas is over let's talk about the really important holiday in Scotland and that is New Year or known locally as Ne'er's Day. New Year's always brings back many fond memories. In our house, everyone had to be home before the clock struck twelve to see in the New Year together. Then it was a steak pie dinner after the bells announced midnight. The table was then cleared for the arrival of the first footer. The first footer or the first person across the door had to be a dark haired gentleman bearing a lump of coal for warmth through the year and wee dram for friendship and conviviality. It was time remembered fondly as everyone looked upon the coming year with a sense of buoyed optimism.

New beginnings

New Year is a time for new beginnings and with that we make our New Year's

resolutions. These are to do with some goals that we wish to attain. In years past I have been suggesting to our readers that a good resolution was to start in compiling a family history and collecting those ancestors in a comprehensive form for future generations.

I can now voice a resolution that I made for myself. For forty odd years *the Scottish Banner* has been receiving letters from readers, for all kinds of subjects, but what most pleases me is those letters inquiring about their surnames. While this is my greatest interest to which I am only too happy to respond there are features in these letters that I may not always mention. These are the kind words of appreciation for the column and for *the Scottish Banner* in general. It is very gratifying to have readers to take the time to send a note of appreciation. It is also so very nice to know that we are reaching you, even those that let us know where we may have erred on a subject matter. Thank you all.

Eells

From the internet we received an email from Ms. Jane Eells and Mr. Jim Adair as well a kind note about the column they asked about their own surnames. Eells is an unusual name and it is the first time I have come across it. It has various forms of spelling including Eele, Eales, Eals etc. There are two possible derivations of the

name, which can happen with many family names. The first is the evolution in sounds and dialects from Old English personal names as Ægel, Æ el, or Ealh. The other is that it is another form of the more common form of Ellis which supposedly Crusaders brought back from the Holy Land. It derives from the Greek names of Elis or Elias which in turn is from the Hebrew name Elijah.

Adair

Now Mr. Adair's surname, a very Scottish surname, it too is from a personal name from Middle English. That name being Edgar via the older form Eadzer. My guess is that the letter "z" was a replacement for the Middle English and Middle Scots letter known as yogh. It was written like a numeral three and could be confused with elongated written letter "z". This letter was sounded like a softer version of the letter "g". Thus modern readers would read as with a z when in fact it should be as it is pronounced in Edgar as vocalized today. Similarly, the yogh also comes into play, with the surname Menzies with a mix of modern and ancient pronunciations such as Menzies, Mingis, and Minnis, almost like Spanish letter ñ pronounced as onion. One of the earliest records of the surname in Scotland was a Thomas Adair held lands in the reign of Robert I, the Bruce. Since Robert I died in 1329 it would be awarded

the decade or two before this. Land holdings for various branches of the family were in Galloway and Dumfries areas. Family Badge: a man's head, cut and bloodied. Family Motto: Loyal Au Mort (Loyal unto death)

Is it no time ye wur awa' hame?

I was going to say, this seems like a good year for a trip to Scotland then I realised that any year is a good time to see Scotland. If you haven't been, there are so many things to do and see in Scotland. Wouldn't it be lovely to attend a Burns Supper in Scotland, or attend the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and Edinburgh Fringe Festival? One can see the clan and family homelands, a variety of castles and exciting landscapes in any part of the country. While there one can look up some old friends and family. If amazing historical or geographical sites aren't enough reasons to visit Scotland, then world class entertainment and shopping can be had at the major cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. While I say this to first time visitors but also to expats: "Is it no time ye wur awa' hame?"

Lastly for the New Year let's hope that the political climate of the world improves and sanity becomes the mindset for humanity, with kindness and tolerance coming to the forefront. A very healthy and wealthy new year to all our readers and their families for the year 2018.

Hat's off to Scotland!

Hats off to Scotland! Cover Yer Heid with this great range of Scottish baseball and beanie hats.

All hats one size fits all adult and are \$19.95 plus \$7.50 postage. To order contact the Scottish Banner (contacts can be seen on page 2). Many more styles are available online at www.scottishbanner.com/shop. Go on, wear your Scottish pride on yer heid!



Scotland Waving Saltire
Code: C3214E



Scotland Saltire
Code: C3076E



Edinburgh Saltire Harvard
Code: C3213E



Glasgow Scotland
Saltire Code: C3032E



Lion Rampant Royal
Stewart Tartan
Code: C3002ER



Lion Rampant Black
Watch Tartan
Code: C3002E



Lion Rampant
Code: C3215E



Scotland 3D Glitter Cap
Code: C3185E-SKY



Scotland Celtic Knot
Code: C3078E



Thistle Loch Ness
Code: C3200E



Wee Bairs (Kids) Nessie
Code: C3145E



Scotland Reversible
Red/Blue Bucket Hat
Code: C3020E



Royal Stewart Flat Cap
Code: H7RS



Black Watch Flat Cap
Code: H7BW



Scotland Pom Pom Beanie -
Maroon Code: C3018J-MA



Scotland Thick Knit
Beanie Code: C3022J

Titanic The Exhibition Sydney reader giveaway



The producers of Titanic The Exhibition, the world's largest and most comprehensive touring exhibition have just announced exciting additions to the Titanic The Exhibition, including a Titanic Virtual Reality experience that lets you dive to the wreck, new artefacts and a new learning gallery. Using stunning graphics that place the visitor inside a virtual dive vessel, visitors will travel to the depths of the ocean and explore the murky waters that surround the sunken ship. With narration detailing the historic event this state of the art virtual reality technology will

fully immerse you in the history and impact of the tragedy and provide a unparalleled view into that fateful April evening.

Titanic The Exhibition runs until

February 4th at Byron Kennedy Hall, The Entertainment Quarter, 122 Lang Road, Moore Park. Tickets at the box office (during exhibition hours) online at www.titanictheexhibition.com.au or the Ticketek Titanic Exhibition Booking Line (M-F 9am-5pm) 02 8240 2135.

The Scottish Banner is pleased to offer 2 lucky readers a family pass to Titanic The Exhibition, 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! This extraordinary exhibition will remain in Sydney until 4 February 2018.

Lady MacGregor's Scotland



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



Sir Malcolm MacGregor, The Revd. Dr. Glenn Chestnutt, Lady MacGregor and Jason MacCallum at The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in Montreal. Photo courtesy of Ian Aitken.

Greetings from Scotland where a low-key Hogmanay was originally in the wind. The chief and I planned to be home alone. Just be the two of us. And the MacNaughties, of course. The two naughty dogs always close at heel...

As we prepared to bid farewell to 2017, we hoped it would be quiet – and cosy. The chief pouring himself a dram or two. Yours truly drinking wine and perhaps cooking a venison casserole.

For once this would be a calm end to the year. No energetic dancing of reels. No excitement as a handsome, dark-haired male brought the obligatory piece of coal into the house. We would wait in vain for a first-footer to come through the door. Then we are a little off the beaten track.

We would need a blazing fire, of course. Because the weather has been freezing. December brings snow and ice, driving our feathered friends into a feeding frenzy around the bird table. One morning I am tardy with the refills and a cheeky red robin taps impatiently on the glass to let us know the peanut feeder is empty.

A red streaked woodpecker is busy guzzling bits of fat. Meanwhile, a posse of gaudy pheasants hoovers up the seeds that fell to the ground: much to the disgust of the MacNaughties who bark indignantly from their sentry post at an upstairs window.

It has been really cold here in Scotland. But not as cold as I imagined Canada would be. Because since we last talked, the MacGregor and I have once again crossed the Atlantic.

Montreal

The chief has been to Canada several times before, not least with the army.

One of his visits was for a military exercise with Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, a regiment raised to help in the First World War. 'First in the Field' is its boast - and the great outdoors its hardy soldiers train in must surely sort out the men from the boys.

From sugar and steel, to construction and flour production: if there was a success story to tell here, the chances were there was a Scotsman behind it.

Mercifully, our trip involves fewer basic survival skills. This time we are in Montreal - a charming place and a perfect mix of old and new. This is where historic stone churches sit alongside towering glass edifices and Victorian piles. The massive Sun Life building was finished in 1931. One of the first modern skyscrapers, it was said to be the largest in square footage in the British Empire.

We do some sightseeing. But that is not the main reason to be in this part of the world. For we are guests of the St Andrew's Society of Montreal, founded in 1835 and dedicated to the preservation of Scottish culture. Which abounds in this chic city. Montreal may be French in appearance and style, but it was developed mainly by Scots.

Over the years, tens of thousands of economic migrants from the Land of the Thistle made the arduous sea journey to Canada. Many came with nothing but the clothes on their back – and they arrived hungry to prosper.

When they did succeed, they might want to put something back. Grateful for his own education at a Scottish university, businessman and philanthropist, James McGill, founded a university in Montreal. Other Scots transformed the place into a thriving business hub. From sugar and steel, to construction and flour production: if there was a success story to tell here, the chances were there was a Scotsman behind it.

Tartan abounds

Walk round any corner in Montreal and you might see some Celtic influence. A statue to Sir John Macdonald remembers a man who was born in Glasgow and went on to become Canada's first prime minister. Drummond Street recalls an entrepreneur known for banking and railways. McTavish Street is named after a celebrated fur trader.

Scottish sports, too, have left their mark here. The Royal Montreal Curling Club was founded in 1807. It was the first curling club in North America. Ditto, the Royal Montreal Golf Club founded in 1873.

Here in Montreal, the Royal Highland Regiment of Canada is known as The Black Watch. Its soldiers sport kilts and the traditional Red Hackle - and its pipe band excels itself at the St Andrew's Society of Montreal banquet.

This is a glittering affair and our hosts could not be more welcoming. Tartan abounds. So does haggis and whisky. We dance reels and we admire the different plaids. Among them is the new Montreal 1642 Tartan. It is designed to mark the 375th anniversary of the founding of the city. We feel at home - and do not want to leave.

But leave we must – to plan for Christmas and New Year. And guess what? Plans for a peaceful Hogmanay are in ruins. An invitation comes in – and we cannot resist. We are dancing into the wee small hours...

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



CELEBRATE OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY WITH

10 % OFF ALL ROOMS!



Simply enter promo code: **"BIRTHDAY"** on our website to receive our best rate for Scottish Banner readers.

The Argyll Hotel Glasgow
973 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow
Scotland, G3 7TQ
Tel +44 (0) 141 337 3313
info@argyllhotelglasgow.co.uk
www.argyllhotelglasgow.co.uk

The Argyll Guest House
970 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow
Scotland, G3 7TH
Tel +44 (0) 141 337 3313
info@argyllhotelglasgow.co.uk
www.argyllhotelglasgow.co.uk

Hurricane Low Q - Scotland's greatest natural disaster

This month is the 50th anniversary of Glasgow's January gales which saw Scotland's largest city battered by nature's raw power. A wave of destruction was caused across industrial Glasgow and David McVey recounts his memories from a storm in which 20 people died, 250,000 homes were damaged and more than 2000 people were left homeless.



I remember the 15th of January 1968 quite clearly. I woke up about my normal time to be told I'd slept through the worst of a powerful storm and, sure enough, the wind was still howling menacingly around the house. It wasn't all bad, though, as I was also told there'd be no school today. We lived in Kirkintilloch, near Glasgow, in a sturdy 1950s council house. A few slates and coping tiles had gone flying off our roof. Debris was scattered about the streets, greenhouses had been shattered and garden sheds crushed. But we'd got off lightly, all the same. For Hurricane Low Q has been described as Scotland's greatest natural disaster.

No warning

Hurricane Low Q battered Northern Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man and Northern England, but it caused particular distress and havoc in and around Glasgow. The storm system had actually been born very far from a wintry Scotland, near the

Bahamas, but by Sunday, January 14, 1968, it was whirling towards the Faroe Islands. Late on the 14th, however, it began to change direction and during the night it rampaged through Northern Ireland, crossed the Irish Sea and hurtled across Scotland's Central Belt. The winds were at their most powerful between 3am and 5am, in the middle of a long dark winter's night. And, of course, in a pre-digital age, there had been absolutely no warning.

Online you can find plenty of photographs, and YouTube footage taken in Central Scotland on the 15th January, 1968. The destruction looks appalling but even so it's difficult to comprehend just how widespread and serious the damage was and to imagine the level of disruption caused. Heavy roof slates, brickwork and chimney heads had tumbled onto cars and lorries and, tragically, sometimes people. Much of Glasgow's housing stock at the time was already in poor condition and the storm ruthlessly exposed these flaws. Thousands of homes in the city were damaged and many completely destroyed leaving hundreds of people homeless. Factory chimneys (much more numerous in 1968 than 2018) had toppled as had church towers and spires and, on the Clyde, several great shipbuilding cranes. Twenty people were killed on the day, nine of them in Glasgow. Three men were drowned when a dredger capsized in the gales off Greenock. Astonishingly,

another 30 people are thought to have died subsequently during clearing, demolition and repair work.

Highest recorded wind speed in the UK

Winds in Central Scotland had peaked at over 100mph and a speed of 134mph was recorded on the summit of Great Dun Fell in the Pennines in Northern England. This was the highest recorded wind speed in the UK until a 173mph gust smashed all records on the summit of Cairn Gorm in 1986. That must have been a day to avoid the Cairngorms. On the Tuesday, January 16th, we walked back to school through a devastated streetscape. The following day, two days after the storm, was my 7th birthday. I remember nothing about it. I think things like birthdays must have seemed trivial.

Our local council quickly and efficiently repaired its housing stock, including our roof. However, the damage was so great in the worst-affected areas that clearing, repair and rebuilding took months and sometimes years. In the early 1970s I lived briefly in Dennistoun in Glasgow's East End. Most of the tenement roofs in our block were still draped in giant olive-green waterproof tarpaulins, their roofs still not fully restored after the January Gales years earlier.

Immediate after the gales, 150 soldiers from Edinburgh barracks were sent to help in Glasgow's clearing-up work. Voluntary collections were made subsequently

to help raise funds for those affected, with particularly large sums raised from collections at football matches. Frankie Vaughan staged a benefit gig at the Alhambra Theatre. The government, disappointingly, only provided a £500,000 interest-free loan to the affected areas. Damage in the gales was estimated at around £30m so this was not a great deal of help and had to be repaid anyway.

Lost to memory

The January Gales of 50 years ago are largely unknown except by those of us who experienced them. There was no Internet then, no Twitter, and there were no mobile phones or rolling news TV programmes. In fact, there was scarcely any TV at all until late in the afternoon. If the unaffected parts of the UK heard about the gales at all - and they heard little - it was a long time after Hurricane Low Q had hammered across the North Sea to cause similar disruption in Denmark (it had finally fizzled out by the 18th).

There's no January Gales Memorial in Glasgow or anywhere else, and indeed the hurricane of January 1968 is now largely lost to memory. But on the 50th anniversary it's worth pausing to reflect on what it was and what it caused. Arguably, it at least contributed to the improvement of Glasgow's housing stock. A similar storm now would not destroy anywhere nearly as many domestic buildings. That, at least, is some comfort.

The Big Tree – Scotland's Tree of the year



The Scottish winner of Tree of the Year with 655 votes was a 200 year-old sycamore tree named The Big Tree, in Orkney. It has been a meeting spot for generations of Orcadians. The Big Tree was originally part of a trio however in 1870s a new owner of the land cut down two of the trees as he was planning to cut the third an outcry and protest from the public saved the final tree, which still stands strong today. It could only be regarded as "big" somewhere like Orkney where there are so few trees, and as Kirkwall grew the Big Tree eventually found itself in a street rather than a garden. In more recent years a public outcry once again saved the Big Tree when the council decided to remove it. In poor health due to its challenging location, and its hollowed out trunk supported by a metal rod, the Big Tree nevertheless continues to find a special place in the hearts of Orcadians. Woodland Trust Scotland Director Carol Evans said: "The competition celebrates grand trees, old trees, historic trees and trees with a story. The Big Tree may be a comparatively modest specimen but it has a big place in Kirkwall's heart. A worthy winner!"

The National Wallace Monument welcomed 135,000 visitors in 2017



Stirling's National Wallace Monument has felt the effects of a strong year for Scotland's tourism sector as it welcomed over 135,000 visitors in 2017. With the highest number of visitors for over ten years, the attraction has generated an estimated gross direct contribution to the local economy of over £4.5m during what has been an unforgettable year.

Scottish landmark

Throughout 2017, Stirling District Tourism, the charity responsible for the running of the Monument, has continued to make significant investments in the 148-year-old Scottish landmark, including improvements to the Abbey Craig and new displays inside The Hall of Heroes.

Commenting on this year's successful performance, Zillah Jamieson, Chair of Stirling District Tourism, said: "Our goal has always been to keep The National Wallace Monument at the heart of culture, education and heritage in Stirling. The visitor numbers which have been recorded this year, and the Monument's contribution to the local economy reflect how this is being achieved."

The stand-out year began with an initiative that captured the hearts and minds of the public across the globe - who cast their votes for 'Scotland's Heroines', selecting Mary Slessor and Maggie Keswick Jencks as the first females who will be commemorated in The Hall of Heroes.

2017 also saw extensive renovations completed on the Abbey Craig, the hill on which the famous landmark stands, with the main pathway leading to the Monument upgraded, and the 'Wallace Way' opened with its collection of 11 specially created woodcarvings. The Abbey Craig was also the setting for an expanded programme of visitor events, which included a celebration of Wallace's victory at the Battle of Stirling Bridge and 'Knock on History's Door' - a special event where the doors were opened after hours for an exclusive evening tour.

Scotland's National Hero

2018 is set to be another important year for the charity, as it continues to make improvements to the attraction and looks ahead to the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Monument, in 2019. Zillah Jamieson explained: "As a key part of Stirling's heritage tourism infrastructure, we pride ourselves on the quality of the visitor experience and we are always looking for ways to make improvements to the Monument. The performance of the Monument this year means that we are able to take forward our investment plans for the attraction. We look forward to revealing the next phase of the Scotland's Heroines project in the new year, as well as finalising our plans for 2019, when we will mark 150 years of the Monument telling the story of Scotland's National Hero."

Cities vie for the title: Kilt Skate Capital of Canada

By: Don Cummer,
Skater-in-Chief

On the rink in Toronto.

For the fourth straight year, skaters across Canada will be taking to outdoor rinks in a unique celebration of Scottish heritage: the annual Sir John A's Great Canadian Kilt Skate. What began years ago as a private house party to celebrate a birthday has grown into a friendly, cross-country rivalry for the title of Kilt Skate Capital of Canada.

Canada's 150th birthday in 2017 saw kilt skates held in seven cities across the country, with Montreal taking the Kilt Skate Capital honours. On a cold winter day, the city's St. Andrew's Society was able to draw out the local Highland dance societies and curling clubs to join in the birthday party for Sir John A. Macdonald, the architect of Canada's confederation and its first Prime Minister.

Tartaned

Anyone showing up at the Natrel Skating Rink in the city's Old Port had their admission fees paid for by the St. Andrew's Society. Everyone – tartaned, kilted or not – was invited to enjoy birthday cake.

Montreal wrested the Kilt Skate Capital title from Saskatoon which, the previous year, had coordinated its kilt skate with the city's initiative to set the Guinness world record for the World's Largest Snowball Fight.

Calgary was also a strong contender for Kilt Skate Capital. Skaters gathered at the Olympic Plaza where they were entertained by pipers, Highland dancers, and a choir which sang *O Canada* in both English and Gaelic.

Toronto held its first kilt skate in 2017 at the popular Nathan Phillips Square in the heart of downtown.



Raising the flag in Montreal.

Its opening ceremonies included Science Minister Kirsty Duncan, who brought special greetings from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The home of the original kilt skate, Ottawa once again attracted enthusiastic crowds. The original plans were to hold the event on the Rideau Canal Skateway – the world's largest skating rink. However, unseasonably warm temperatures forced the organizers to move the event to the Lansdowne Skating Park. That didn't prevent more than a hundred kilted skaters from enjoying a perfect day for winter fun, with the snowflakes gently falling.

The kilt skates are indelibly Scottish and undeniably Canadian – a great way to celebrate Scotland's contribution to Canada's multicultural heritage.

Warm weather forced the cancellation of the kilt skate in Winnipeg, where it had been scheduled on a large duck pond. Back in 2015, however, Winnipeg's inaugural kilt skate brought together perhaps the hardest skaters in the country. They gathered at The Forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers at The Forks in temperatures that dropped to minus 35 degrees Celsius, with a wind chill on top of that. That year, many of the Winnipeg skaters displayed bare knees. Were they skating "regimental?" No one is saying.

Kilt skate phenomenon

Each of these kilt skates had been coordinated and organized as a part of a national event by the Scottish Society of Ottawa (SSO). The SSO provided communications support, channelled sponsorship funding, and created and forwarded design templates for promotional material. In the meantime, the news about

the kilt skate phenomenon spread to other communities, including Lloydminster, which hosted its own event, bringing the total in 2017 to seven cities.

Most are planning kilt skates for January and February 2018, and the national organizers are enlisting other cities interested in joining this growing phenomenon. The Scottish Government has provided sponsorship funds for organizations to purchase cake and hot chocolate, hire entertainment and photographers, and buy insurance and ice time (if required).

This year, the kilt skates will highlight Scotland's "Year of Young People" – an opportunity for the host organizations to reach out to clubs and societies that bring a youth element to the events. Expect to see hockey and ringette teams out in force, wearing tartan.

The kilt skates are indelibly Scottish and undeniably Canadian – a great way to celebrate Scotland's contribution to Canada's multicultural heritage. Some five million Canadians trace their ancestry back to Scotland – which is close to the population of Scotland itself.

But Sir John A's Great Canadian Kilt Skate is not just for those who can boast Scottish heritage. It's a time for everyone to nurture their inner Scot. They don't have to be Scottish. They don't have to wear a kilt. They just come join the party with a Scottish spirit of fun and fortitude, and wear Canada's favourite colour – tartan!

For more information on Sir John A's Great Canadian Kilt skate, or to contact the national organizers, go to www.kiltskate.com. Or follow #kiltskate2018.



Ottawa smiles.

Aberfoyle-Did you know?



- Before 1800 Aberfoyle was just a small hamlet centred around the old church. The railway in 1884 changed that by carrying slate to Glasgow. The slate quarries worked for more than 300 years and in 1858-9 produced 1.4 million slates. The car park is where the old station used to be and the old line can be walked as far as Buchlyvie.
- There are some significant graves in the old church; 1692- Rev. Robert Kirk. Kirk is famous for having revealed the secrets of the fairies in Aberfoyle and having suffered the punishment. His soul is still said to dwell within the fairy hill.
- Patrick Graham, a friend of Sir Walter Scott as well as a historian is buried here. (1756 - 1835) He wrote the first guide for the district.
- There are remains of Nissen huts in Loch Ard which are old store buildings made of corrugated iron. Some are still used for agricultural purposes. During World War 2 Loch Ard was a munitions base and these huts contained live ammunition, shells and mortar bombs.
- Sir Walter Scott visited the area and wrote his famous poem, *The Lady of the Loch*, based on his experiences at Loch Katrine.
- In 1949 Scottish nationalists led by Dr John McCormick met at the Inchrie Castle hotel for two days and launched a petition, *The Second Covenant* to secure a devolved Scottish parliament. This was eventually signed by two million people. The second covenant was named after the national covenant of 1638, which was a manifesto which opposed Charles I's attempts to lesson Presbyterian worship. The hotel was later named the Covenanter's Inn.
- The Stone of Scone was also hidden in the Covenanter's Inn in 1950 when stolen by nationalists from Westminster Abbey, although some argue it was a fake.
- The old graveyard in Aberfoyle contains one of the few remaining mortsafes in Scotland.



SATURDAY 3 MARCH

ROSALIND PARK BENDIGO

Parade at 10am in historic View Street

Traditional celebrations with a contemporary twist in the centre of the city featuring pipe bands, highland dancers, folk groups on Ceilidh Corner, cuisine & beverages, medieval villages & kilted warriors, Scots Arcade, Clan Central & more ... and you're invited to share in the amazing experience that is Bendigo's SDO!



ESFF
EDINBURGH SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

SDO prelude
Friday 2 March
Australian premiere
of ESFF highlights



BENDIGO
VICTORIAN
multicultural
commission

www.scotsdayout.com

Immortal Memory - *The Scottish Banner speaks to Len Murray*

This month many Scots around the world will celebrate one of Scotland's great sons-Robert Burns. Glasgow born Len Murray is considered one of Scotland's top legal and academic minds. However his love for Robert Burns has seen Len become one of the Scotland's foremost speakers on Burns and is today Dean of the Guild of Robert Burns Speakers. Len took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on just what makes a good Burns Supper, The Robert Burns Guild of Speakers and how Burns' legacy still lives today.



Len Murray.

SC: Len thank you for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can we begin with giving us a brief background on how one of the Scotland's top lawyers became so connected to a poet who died over 200 years ago?

LM: I think it all began many years ago, indeed more than I am ready to admit to. I was in my first year at Glasgow University when an Indian student with whom I was friendly asked me why the Scots make such a fuss of Robert Burns. I answered by saying probably because he was a good poet. But Ajit, my friend, wasn't convinced by my answer and he went on to tell me that Scotland had other good poets and he mentioned Walter Scott and James Hogg. Why didn't we make a fuss about them? He went on to tell me that there was a big Burns Supper every year in his native Calcutta. What did Robert Burns have to do with Calcutta? I'm sorry to say that I didn't know the answer to that. I resolved that one day I would find out. I think that it

was that encounter, and more importantly that question, that started it all off.

SC: For those who don't know can you tell us how the concept of a Burns Supper began and just what happens at one today?

LM: It all began in 1801, five years after his death, when some friends of his gathered at his birthplace to commemorate his death; the following year a group of Ayrshire men decided to hold a supper on the anniversary of his birth, although they got the date wrong! They held it on 29th January instead of 25th but they got it right the following year! The idea of a Burns Supper is to remember that beautiful legacy of poetry and song that Burns left, a legacy unequalled by any other.

SC: There is a great deal of ritual at a Burns Supper, can you tell us your favourite part of the evening, or perhaps least?

LM: There is often too much ritual at Burns Suppers. The essence of any Burns Supper is enjoyment while recalling the life and works of this literary genius. There has to be music, there has to be poetry, there has to be an appreciation of Burns, usually a toast to his *Immortal Memory*, but above all there has to be enjoyment. My own favourite part, of course, is the *Immortal Memory* which I have had the honour of proposing right across the world from North West Canada to South East Australia.

SC: Len as you say, you have travelled all over the world attending hundreds of Burns suppers and functions. What have you learned about Scots the world over when attending these events?

LM: The Scottish diaspora is surely the greatest in the world. The story is told of four men washed ashore on a desert island, two Englishmen and two Scots. After a week the Scots were the best of pals: they had had a great ceilidh, a fantastic Burns Supper and a wonderful St. Andrew's Night. The two Englishmen hadn't spoken - they hadn't been introduced. There is a warmth and a sincerity about the ex-pat Scot which must be the envy of all others.

SC: The legacy of Robert Burns is still very much relevant today. There can surely be few songs that are more frequently sung throughout the world than *Auld Lang Syne*. How do you think a song penned in the 1700's is still so much a part so many peoples holiday traditions today?

LM: *Auld Lang Syne* is generally regarded as the universal song of parting. It has been sung all round the world countless times and probably *Happy Birthday to You* or *He's a Jolly Good Fellow* are the only songs which have been more frequently sung. Remember that Burns did not write the song. Its origins go back many years before him but it is yet another example of how he took an old traditional song of Scotland, resurrected it and breathed new life into it. Why is it so popular? Well, I ask, is there anything more nostalgic than those verses:

We twa hae run about the braes,
and pou'd the gowans fine;
But we've wander'd mony a weary fit,
sin' auld lang syne.
We twa hae paidl'd in the burn,
frae morning sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
sin' auld lang syne.

SC: Robert Burns wrote from the heart and with a great deal of humanity. Do you have a favourite work of Burns and if so what and why?

LM: By far my favourite Burns' work is *John Anderson my Jo*. It is a work that illustrates the genius of Burns as much as anything else. It was originally a bawdy ballad in which an old lady was complaining of her husband's declining virility, shall we say. Burns took it, sanitised it, polished it and converted it to surely the greatest hymn to the love between a man and a woman as they grow old together. It was the favourite piece of my late wife so it has a very special and emotional meaning for me.

SC: You are Dean of Guild at The Robert Burns Guild of Speakers, a select group of 37 Burns enthusiasts. Can you tell us more about this organisation?

LM: The Guild was the idea of former Presidents of the Burns Federation who were concerned about the standard of speaking at Burns Suppers, so they decided to raise that standard. We are

only 37 in number, the age Burns was when he died. Membership of the Guild is by invitation only and membership is a guarantee of the speaker's ability and knowledge of the subject.

SC: Say Robert Burns and people think Scotland, however his works have a far reaching international appeal and still translate into today's fast paced society. What is it about Robert Burns and his works do you feel has stood the test of time and crossed so many borders?

LM: Robert Burns occupies a unique place in world literature and rightly so. When he wrote: "Whatever mitigates the woes or increases the happiness of others, this is my criterion of goodness but whatever injures society at large or any individual in it, then this is my measure of iniquity" he was writing with a compassion for his fellow man which no other writer had ever shown. Elsewhere he wrote: "God knows I'm no saint. I have a whole host of sins to answer for; but if I could, and I believe that I do it as far as I can, I would wipe all tears from all eyes." What a beautiful sentiment! No other writer in any language delivered such a message of love and compassion for his fellow man. Burns Suppers are held in over 200 countries throughout the world. No other figure in world literature is honoured the way he is. He has been admired throughout the world and down through the ages: Abraham Lincoln was a great admirer of Robert Burns as was Kofi Annan. William Wordsworth, one of England's greatest poets, wrote a poem mourning the death of Robert Burns.

SC: And finally Len can you tell where you will be this coming Burns Night?

LM: Yes, I shall be in the Great Hall of Stirling Castle as the guest of Historic Scotland proposing the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns and I can think of fewer places I would rather be and even fewer things I'd rather be doing.

For more information or to connect with Len Murray see: www.lenmurray.co.uk



A Burns Supper in the Highlands of Scotland. Photo: Paul Tomkins/VisitScotland.



Addressing the haggis. Photo: Kenny Lam/VisitScotland.

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.



Strictly Dashing White Sergeant

*Deary me, when ah wis wee,
Ah used tae peel the tatties,
But noo ah'm big and ah can jig - ,
Aah can even kiss the laddies.
Ma faither built a wee, wee hoose,
Tae keep me from the laddies,
But the hoose fell in and ah fell oot,
An ah fell in wi' a' the laddies.*

The big sliding doors that usually partitioned off and separated the boys' gymnasium from that of the girls were unexpectedly left wide open. Sometimes these were opened up to provide us with the extra space needed to play our favourite game, British Bulldog. That was when Mr Macdonald, 'Wee Mac', let us put out every piece of apparatus the school owned so that we could keep off the floor by scrambling over mats and vaulting horses, by climbing around the parallel bars and swinging from rope to rope, like Tarzan, to try and avoid being caught by the bulldog. We all loved the rough and tumble of this game and would have played it all day and every day if we had been allowed to. Today was different, for Wee Mac, an ex-paratrooper and built like a classical men's gymnast and whose body always seemed to highlight our puny little frames, was reminding us yet again about the protocols required for the lesson ahead.

Cattle market

For today and for the next few weeks before Christmas the partition doors of the gymnasias were to be opened up for dancing; and the excitement of British Bulldog was to be replaced by the more subdued and tantalising expectation caused by a different set of hormones racing around our pubescent little bodies. As we entered the gym, there lined up before us, stood the pride of Crookston Castle Secondary School's evolving womanhood, our thirteen year old girl students dressed in sky-blue T-shirts and wrap-around navy blue skirts. "Take your partners, gentlemen, for the *Saint Bernard's Waltz*", rang out wee Mac's voice, as we eyed up the talent. This was going to be better than the practice sessions pairing off with another boy, a most embarrassing situation and best to be avoided. "And no running", added Mrs Beveridge, the girls' Physical Education teacher "It's not a horse race".

But it was a cattle market. Those of us who had an eye on prospective partners made bee-lines for the girls we had in our sights; often the girls who we looked longingly at in the corridors or who we tormented through the fence to the girls' playground. We gave up from holding up the walls of the gym to actually touch and hold these same creatures even if only at a respectable and designated distance. Those of us who hesitated were destined to end up with the sad-faced girls with the vacant eyes, the too fat girls, the too skinny girls or the ones who smelled. We, 'the likely lads', gave little thought, at the time, to the sad fact that none of these poor lassies had any choice in the matter of who they had to accept amongst we handsome and mannerly, would-be dancing partners. For the girls had their own protocols for accepting their

partners, laid down by Mrs Beveridge, and to be complied with, without question.

"May I have the pleasure of this dance?" I asked with confidence, holding out my hand to be taken by a pretty girl with a nice smile. She was the younger sister of an equally good-looking friend of my sister. "Certainly, with pleasure", came her immediate response in the words drummed into all the girls by Mrs Beveridge in the secrecy and privacy of the girls' change rooms. As an aside It was there that Isabel Johnston, the sister of my brother-in-law, Robert, reports that the ritual showing of a pair of worn underwear in one hand to be replaced by a clean pair in the other at the end of a perspiring PE lesson underwent a regular inspection by Mrs Beveridge. She didn't say what the girls wore whilst this ritual was happening and both hands held up a pair of knickers. And I was too polite to ask.

Quickstep

I then shyly walked with my partner her hand on my arm, to the dance floor like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. But that's where the illusion ended. *The Gay Gordons* and the *Vienna Waltz*; they were not so difficult; for I could always watch some of the others and try to keep in step with what they were doing. I could even begin to relax, that was until Mrs Beveridge's strident voice rang out. "Come here, boy". I glanced quickly from side to side and behind me. "Yes you, the boy that was being over boisterous during the *Dashing White Sergeant*, a few minutes ago and who appears to have two left feet. It's the Quickstep, slow-slow, quick-quick-slow-, not a foxtrot, - a quickstep." The smiles on the faces of my classmates all around me, as they involuntarily stepped back a little, confirmed my worst fears. "Who me, Miss?"

"Yes you, and don't act so glaikit, boy. Come here at once." Red-faced and mortified in front of, Ginger Rogers, my

dancing partner, I slunk across to the centre of the gym to Mrs Beveridge. She took my right hand and placed it abruptly behind her and onto her lower back. She made me take her right hand in my left and gently kicked my feet into position. "Right then, thank you, Mr Macdonald, please start the music again." Where to

I then shyly walked with my partner her hand on my arm, to the dance floor like Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. But that's where the illusion ended.

put my eyes was my first dilemma. When I looked straight ahead my nose seemed only an inch or so from Mrs Beveridge's ample breasts, with a hint of her perfume tantalising my senses for good measure.

Slow, slow –quick, quick slow

I felt utterly trapped and could sense the rest of the class's heightened enjoyment at my fast growing discomfort. Like all thirteen year olds I thought any teacher older than twenty-five was ancient; and Mrs Beveridge was certainly a lot older than twenty-five. Nevertheless, the fact that she was an attractive woman was not lost on us adolescent boys as we sniggered in the change rooms. If other teachers like the grandmotherly 'Maw Whyte' or the prim 'Ma Logan' had held me in the same way I would have gained nothing but sympathy; but the actions of the more sexy Mrs Beveridge brought out the opposite in my trusted pals.

"Slow, slow-quick-quick, slow", rang out from her as she manoeuvred me around the glossy wooden floor of the gym; all the while kicking my feet, puppet-like, to keep in step with the music. I had seen her do the same to other boys with two left feet and I knew that there was nothing personal in her actions. I had giggled on these occasions with the best of them as we watched such ungainly and undignified perambulations around the gym. It was my turn today and I thought I saw an occasional flicker of a smile on 'wee Mac's' face as he watched yet another victim take the floor. "That's a bit better", she said as the music stopped and the other boys politely thanked their partners, "Just think more about what you're doing." I shamefacedly walked back to my own partner having lost all confidence in myself. I was no longer a man of the world, with savoir faire and sophistication. I was a failed dancer.

I wished at that moment that I had inherited the 'rerr pair o' feet' that my father claimed and boasted of. He loved old time and ballroom dancing and with his black patent leather shoes tucked under his arm saw himself as the next Gene Kelly. The romantic in me has in the years since believed that if Mrs Beveridge had taken a different approach to her dance teaching, all might have been well with my skill development and I might have become a good dancer after all. If only she had said, "Now relax boys and girls and listen to the rhythm of the music and with your hearts to the mood of the dance. Let yourself flow and glide to what you feel within. But most of all enjoy the moment; for the purpose of all this is to let you enjoy dancing this Christmas at the school social and more importantly in the years to come."

On the other hand I might have taken not a blind bit of notice of what she said: for the order of the day in the coming years was to be Rock and Roll, The Shake and The Moonie at the Flamingo Dance Hall on Paisley Road West. Slow, slow –quick, quick slow was becoming a bit dated.



DUNMORE

SCOTLAND



"My tote bag arrived yesterday evening - the bag is absolutely beautiful! The craftsmanship and quality are exquisite, certainly a bag I will treasure."

See our quality for yourself at
+ 44 (0)1968 660 078 dunmorescotland.com

Scotland: *What's new for 2018*

Scotland is the place to be in 2018 with a host of new openings, festivals, events and anniversaries. From the first V&A museum to be opened outside London, to a brand new 90 mile scenic route through the Highlands, and a luxury floating hotel in Edinburgh with royal connections. It is going to be a big year for Scotland. Read on to find out about what is happening in 2018, including VisitScotland's Year of Young People 2018, distillery updates, and amazing new attractions to check out during the year ahead.



The V&A Dundee opening in 2018.

The best of 2018

V&A Dundee - Scheduled to open in the second half of 2018, the V&A Museum of Design Dundee will be the only V&A museum anywhere in the world outside London. It will be the first ever dedicated design museum in Scotland: an international centre for design, a place of inspiration, discovery and learning. Visitors to V&A Dundee will experience the remarkable story of design past, present and future in a Scottish and global context, as well as the processes which underpin great design and the beautiful and inventive objects which tell that story. This is all part of over 1 billion pounds of investment in to the new Dundee waterfront. www.vandadundee.org

Snow Roads Scenic Route, Cairngorms National Park - The Snow Roads Scenic Route is a 90 mile journey from Blairgowrie to Grantown-on-Spey, crossing the highest public road in Britain and travelling through the outstanding landscapes of the eastern Cairngorms. The road links the communities of Braemar, Ballater and Tomintoul with a range of natural and cultural attractions. Three stunning Scenic Route Installations provide new opportunities to stop and explore this wild and beautiful highland countryside. www.cairngorms.co.uk

Fingal - The Royal Yacht Britannia's New Floating Hotel - Launching in spring 2018, this major investment by the Royal Yacht Britannia will provide the ultimate luxury experience: a floating hotel berthed at The Shore, Edinburgh. The 23 beautifully styled cabins, all named after Stevenson lighthouses, are inspired by Fingal's rich maritime heritage. With a cabin for every occasion - guests will be able to choose their own private balcony, a duplex cabin or, for that special occasion the stunning presidential suite. All of this a short stroll from two Michelin starred restaurants in the vibrant Leith neighbourhood. www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk

Year of Young People - In 2018, Scotland puts its young people in the spotlight, celebrating their talents, contributions and creating new opportunities for them to shine. The Year of Young People 2018 will offer even more opportunities for both locals and visitors to enjoy a trip to, and around, Scotland. From adventure breaks to road trips, camping holidays to family-friendly days out, there is a range of fantastic things to see and do for young people and their families to enjoy. A year-long programme of events and activities will also give young people in Scotland the opportunity to show the world what they are made of. www.visitscotland.com

New attractions



Kirkcudbright Galleries - The new Kirkcudbright Galleries are opening 24 March 2018. The B listed, 19th century building is located on St Mary Street, in the heart of Kirkcudbright's town centre and within the inspirational landscape of Dumfries and Galloway. The new gallery will celebrate the town's unique artistic heritage, through a dedicated permanent exhibition gallery. This exhibition will explore the history of the artist's colony, including why Kirkcudbright was and still is a desirable location for so many artists and creative people. www.kirkcudbrightgalleries.org.uk

Moat Brae - In 2018, you will be able to discover the place where a legend was born, where *Peter Pan* began. Moat Brae – the enchanted land in Dumfries was the childhood playground of J.M. Barrie, creator of *Peter Pan*, and the place where he first found Neverland. The national centre for children's literature and storytelling will be a place which promotes and encourages imagination and creativity. The attraction will include visiting exhibitions, interactive rooms and a discovery garden. www.peterpanmoatbrae.org

Set the date – Anniversaries



Celtic Connections' 25th Anniversary

Returning for its 25th anniversary in 2018, Celtic Connections – Scotland's largest winter music festival – will be filling the city of Glasgow with music and entertainment for two weeks. The opening gala celebrates the history of the festival with a variety of artists who have featured prominently over the years, reflecting such Celtic Connections hallmarks as its multi-generational breadth, its internationalism and its collaborative, cross-genre spirit. With pianist David Milligan – one of 1994's original performers – as musical director, expect plenty of mixing and matching among the cast, creating a wealth of fresh connections as well as aptly session-style festivity. www.celticconnections.com

Mackintosh 150th Anniversary

A major exhibition celebrating the work of one of Glasgow's great artists will happen in 2018, to coincide with the anniversary of his birth. Little-seen Charles Rennie Mackintosh objects from the city's collection will go on display at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum - part of a city-wide celebration of the architect and designer. His work can be seen across the city; at Scotland Street School, The Willow Tearooms and House for an Art Lover. There will also be a fully conserved tearoom, the Oak Room, put on display at V&A Dundee. www.glasgowlife.org.uk

Muriel Spark 100th Anniversary - Led by the National Library of Scotland and Creative Scotland, with the collaboration of many more partner organisations, the Muriel Spark 100 programme celebrates the life and literary achievements of one of Scotland's finest internationally respected writers. The programme boasts a series of events throughout 2018, including talks, exhibitions, readings, publications and screenings. www.murielspark100.com

Frankenstein - 200 years of the Gothic Classic - 2018 will mark 200 years since the publication of Mary Shelley's classic *Frankenstein*. A classic work of gothic literature, which has been adapted into many films, Shelley stayed in Dundee for nearly two years, incorporating the 19th century Tayside town's industrial society into the text. The young writer arrived in 1812 from London looking for rest and recovery from illness. She was housed by family friend William Thomas Baxter at "The Cottage" - a decently-sized home in Dundee's Ferry Road that had originally been constructed as the Countess of Strathmore's dower house. Literary fans can explore the links to the story with the help of Dark Dundee, a company that runs regular tours exploring the darker side of the city. www.darkdundee.co.uk

Time for a wee dram



Fife Whisky Festival - The first ever Fife Whisky Festival will take place in March 2018, at the Corn Exchange in Cupar. The inaugural Fife Whisky Festival will showcase the renaissance of whisky-making in Fife, bringing together whisky connoisseurs and

beginners with the best whisky producers from Fife and beyond. With over 25 different exhibitors, including the Kingsbarns Distillery, Morrison and Mackay, Glen Moray, Isle of Arran and the Glasgow Distillery, there will be a huge range of whiskies to try. www.fifewhiskyfestival.com

Borders Distillery, Hawick - This will be the first distillery to open in the Borders for 180 years. The Borders Distillery will be opening in 2018 with a small visitor centre. The distillery is expected to produce a light, fragrant and floral style of malt whisky - a very typical Lowlands character. www.scotchwhisky.com

Falkirk Distillery - Rosebank Single Malt was last produced in Falkirk in 1993 and reviving the style of this famous whisky is the vision of the Falkirk Distillery Company. The new distillery and visitor centre will have a traditional appearance in a modern facility. Producing its own distinctive triple distilled whisky, the new building will house a world class leading retail, restaurant and business complex. www.falkirkdistillery.com

Ardnahoe Distillery, Isle of Islay - Ardnahoe will become Islay's ninth operational distillery. With a production capacity of just 500,000 litres of alcohol per annum, Ardnahoe will distill a classic peated style of Islay malt, using the finest barley and water from the depths of Loch Ardnahoe itself. Employing wooden washback, Scottish-made stills, traditional worm-tub condensers and the knowledge of one of the whisky industry's most experienced Master Distillers, Ardnahoe will strive to create one of the most enchanting spirits to come out of the renowned Whisky Isle. www.ardnahoe-distillery.com

Holyrood Park Distillery, Edinburgh

- Situated next to Holyrood Park, this city-centre distillery is located right in the heart of Edinburgh's distilling history - on St. Leonard's Lane. The 180 year old Engine Shed building - steeped in railway history - will be thoughtfully renovated to suit the distilling needs, while making room for the visitors. The visitor centre will be unique: a hands-on, sensory, educational experience that will enlighten and delight people as they explore the world of flavour while touring a working distillery. www.holyroodparkdistillery.com

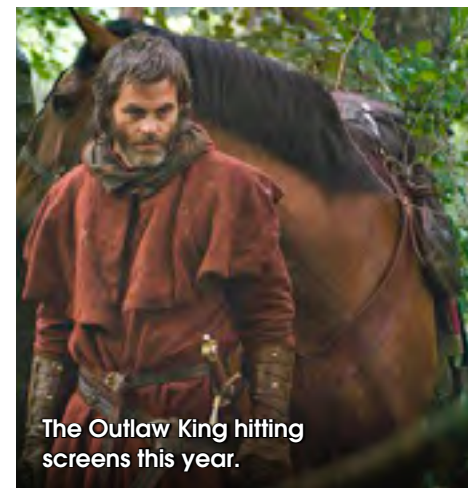
And relax...



Japanese Gardens, Cowden Castle

Located north east of Dollar, this Japanese-style garden is set within the park and woodland grounds of the former Cowden Castle estate. The garden itself occupies a relatively low-lying area close to the Cowden estate boundary wall. It is centred on an artificial lake created from what was once a tract of waterlogged ground and is secluded around much of its perimeter by higher ground, shelter-belt plantations and the mature specimen trees and shrubs of the garden itself with the notable exception of an open and panoramic outlook to the west towards the Ochill Hills. www.cowdengarden.com

Films to look out for in 2018...



The Outlaw King hitting screens this year.

Don't miss the following new releases that include scenic filming locations in Scotland:

Outlaw King (2018) - Starring Chris Pine and Aaron Taylor-Johnson, it tells the story how the great 14th century Scottish 'Outlaw King' Robert The Bruce used cunning and bravery to defeat and repel the much larger and better equipped occupying English army.

Mary Queen of Scots (2018) - Saoirse Ronan plays the titular Mary Stuart, and Margot Robbie portrays her cousin Elizabeth I. Mary's attempt to overthrow her cousin the Queen of England, finds her condemned to years of imprisonment before facing execution.

Avengers: Infinity War (2018) - The next film in the superhero franchise stars Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson and Chris Pratt.

For more information on holidays in Scotland, please go to www.visitscotland.com

Coorie in, an bide a while



Còsagach identified as a Scottish trend which could rival the Danes. Picture credit: Jack Boothby, The Lazy Duck, Nethy Bridge.

Còsagach - an old Scottish word which describes the feeling of being snug, sheltered or cosy - has been identified by VisitScotland as a new trend for 2018, which could rival the Danish concept of Hygge. Scotland is world renowned for its hospitality, most recently being voted Most Welcoming Country by *Rough Guides* readers, and now the national tourism organisation is encouraging businesses to create environments which "induce a feeling of warmth or cosiness" where visitors can relax and unwind. Almost a quarter of visitors come to Scotland to get away from it all, whilst more than 4 million UK visitors mentioned relaxing as something they did when here.

Feeling of contentment

Còsagach is just one of the trends identified by VisitScotland and comes off the back of a boom in the trend for Hygge, a Danish word described as a type of cosiness and comfort that engages a feeling of contentment or well-being. Referring to Còsagach, the VisitScotland reads: "With tranquil seascapes, vast open spaces and many warm and welcoming pubs, Scotland is a perfect place for your well-being." That feeling of well-being also forms the basis for another trend, "Wellness", where visitors seek escapism from technology and their fast-paced lives in tourism-related activities, to recharge their mind and body.

SCOTTISH ACCESSORIES SHOPPE KILT HIRE



- Sydney's Finest Highland Regalia Stockist.
- Kilts and Tartan skirts made to order.
- Stockists of Quality Giftware including Jewellery, Pewter Flasks, Tankards, Quaiches & Clan Badges.
- Australia's largest supplier of authentic Tartan Scarves, Ties, Bow Ties, Caps, Sashes, Tammies and much more.
- More than 600 different Scottish & Irish Tartans on display with over 5,000 Tartan items in stock.

Come and visit our store at

25 The Strand, Croydon NSW 2132
Close to Croydon Railway Station, with plenty of free parking!

Tues-Fri 10.00am-6.00pm Sat 9.00am-2.00pm

MAIL ORDER TO ANY POSTAL LOCATION

Tel: (02) 9747-8270

Email: sales@scottishaccessories.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/scottishaccessories

Website: www.scottishaccessories.com.au

By: Nick Drainey



Let it snow

Creating snow and boosting the Highland economy

Nevis Range, looking into the back carries with braveheart chair: Photo Steven McKenna.

Scottish ski resorts are looking to technology to future proof their slopes, income and keep visitors coming to enjoy snowsports across the Highland ski region. Revolutionary technology will be used for the first time at a ski resort in Scotland to guarantee snow for the thousands of skiers and snow boarders who visit the Highlands each year and play an important role in Scotland's winter tourism economy as Nick Drainey explains.

Scotland is gearing up for a “game changing” winter of snowsports with technology being brought in to guarantee a covering of the white stuff necessary for good pistes. With the Winter Olympics taking place in South Korea next month (February) resort owners are hoping for a surge in interest and an increase in skiers and snowboarders on Scottish slopes.

A winter of mild temperatures and high winds took its toll on the snowsports industry last year but this year, technology is being imported from the Alps in the form of snow making machines which can create piste in temperatures as high as Scotland sees on the warmest summer days.

The same machines are being used in South Korea to make sure the showpiece Winter Olympics go without a hitch, whatever the weather.

The Snowfactory

Glencoe Mountain Resort – Scotland's oldest ski and snowboard area - has been running a crowdfunding drive to pay for the TechnoAlpin Snowfactory equipment. Owner and managing director Andy Meldrum said: “These units make 100 cubic meters of snow per day in temperatures of up to 25 degrees. We expect this to be a game

changer for Scottish skiing as it will allow us to guarantee at least some skiing for the whole winter.”

The snowmaking – which is also being introduced at CairnGorm Mountain and The Lecht - takes place in a mobile cooling plant which connects to an electricity and water supply. The snow is made from small dry ice flakes after cooling water to freezing point. It is then pumped out through a snow outlet pipe. The Snowfactory is capable of producing 45 tonnes of snow a day which can be pumped and sprayed a distance of 200m.

Meanwhile, a spokeswoman from Nevis Range said everything possible was being done to make the most of interest generated by the Winter Olympics. She added: “The engineering team has been working hard over the summer months preparing for a great winter.”

One of the first things the resort had to do to get ready for the season was more basic than high engineering, rubbish had to be collected into 25 large bags and taken off the ski slopes by helicopter. Fencing is a key part for any ski resort because they capture the snow and keep it in place on the slopes, stopping it being blown away, either completely or to a very thin level. At the Nevis Range, in the shadow of “The Ben”,

around 2,500m of fencing have been replaced around the beginners' area.

Scottish winter

As well as the actual ski slopes, huts and lifts also needed upgrades to make them strong enough to survive a Scottish winter's 100mph winds and sub-zero temperatures. At Glenshee, work is due to begin on a new four-person chairlift similar to ones seen in the Alps,

replacing the elderly Cairnwell T-bar tow and transporting three times as many snowsports lovers and much more user-friendly for snowboarders.

Ski-Scotland Chair Heather Negus said: “The snowsports areas are all set to welcome the new season's snow, both natural and factory-produced, as well as our skiing and snowboarding customers. We would encourage them to make sure they are ready for some serious snow



Cairngorm - Looking Across Northern Corries.



Nevis Range, frozen Saltire.
Photo: Steven McKenna.

sliding fun by having their equipment serviced early, working on their muscle toning and buying their season tickets.”

The Scottish snowsports industry is worth around £30 million each year to the Scottish economy, with local businesses including ski and board hire shops, bars, restaurants and hotels benefiting from a winter influx of visitors to the Highlands. Although there have been bumper years in the last decade when huge snowfalls have meant the season can be extended until May, last winter’s mild weather led resort owners to come up with new ideas to create the right conditions. The slopes in the Cairngorms have seen the introduction of the snow making machine for a trial period this winter. Adam Gough from CairnGorm Mountain Ltd said: “This is really significant for CairnGorm Mountain. It is no secret that last season

was poor in terms of snowfall and we simply weren’t able to open for snowsports as often as we would have liked. Being able to trial the Snowfactory for two months is crucial to understand whether this is a viable option for the resort in the long term. If successful, then we believe it will noticeably enhance the snowsports experience at CairnGorm Mountain.”

A guarantee of snow

Susan Smith, Head of Business Development with Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), added: “This is a very exciting development for Cairngorm Mountain, which plays such an important role in underpinning the wider tourism sector in the Aviemore area. The technology looks set to offer skiers and snowboarders a guarantee of snow being available whenever they want to visit.

For an outdoor business in Scotland, that could be a real game changer.” The Lecht says its snow factory will create “green snow” because it is powered by the resort’s own wind turbine.

Scotland’s snowsports industry has been keen to promote its environmental credentials and Nevis Range installed its own hydroelectric power scheme in the autumn. Built at the Allt choille Rais - known to skiers and boarders as the Braveheart Burn in the ‘Back Corrie’ of Aonach Mor – it has an electrical output range of 40kW to 1.1MWh from two 550kW Pelton turbines. The scheme is projected to generate 3,700MWh per annum, equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of over 1000 households. The power generated from the turbines is transferred via an 11kV private HV cable to the Nevis Range Gondola Station. The power is then used onsite with any excess being exported to the National Grid.

Peter MacFarlane, managing director of Nevis Range, said: “The idea of building a hydro scheme was an attractive one to Nevis Range. Not only did we want to produce green power with the option to



Nevis Range - Boarder on the edge of the back corries. Photo Steven McKenna.

export any excess to the National Grid, reduce carbon emissions and help mitigate climate change, we were also looking for a way to benefit from the periods of wet and windy weather when our visitor attraction and ski area struggles to generate income from its normal business.”

Did you know?



Cairngorm funicular railway.

- Scotland has 5 major ski centres which are home to the UK’s top ski and snowboard runs:
 - CairnGorm Mountain, near Aviemore
 - Glencoe Mountain Resort between Tyndrum and Ballachulish
 - Glenshee Ski Centre between Blairgowrie and Braemar
 - Nevis Range, near Fort William
 - The Lecht Ski Centre, between Strathdon and Tomintoul
- The snowsports sector is important for Scotland’s rural economy and is worth an estimated £30 million per year, supporting over 600 jobs.



Cairngorm - Coire Cas.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY

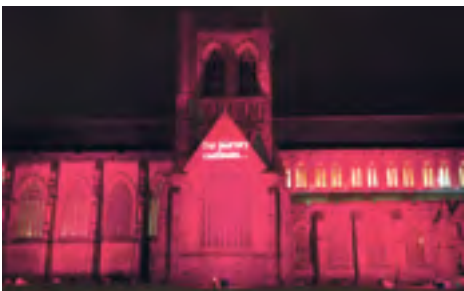


Orkney Islands a great place to live

The Orkney Islands enjoy the best quality of life of any rural area in Great Britain, according to the 2017 Halifax Rural Areas Quality of Life Survey. The annual study examines key factors in determining quality of living across the nation, with employment, education, social and environmental factors helping measure the rural communities with the best quality of life on offer. The Orkney Islands scores strongly in employment rate, average earnings and average spend per pupil on education, as well as low anxiety levels, crime rates, and high scores in factors related to well-being and leisure. Although there is an abundance of space, Orkneys has some of the smallest houses in Britain with an average of 4.5 habitable rooms per home.

Also in the wider top 50 places to live in UK, which included towns and cities, the Orkney Islands in took second place after Hart in Hampshire, followed by Rutland in the East Midlands, Wychavon in Worcestershire - and last year's winner Winchester in fifth place.

Paisley's reaction as UK City of Culture 2021 title decided



The team behind Paisley's bid to be UK City of Culture 2021 have thanked the people of the town for their 'incredible effort', while promising Paisley's journey will continue – after Coventry was named the next UK City of Culture. Paisley was the only Scottish place to make the shortlist for the 2021 title, awarded every four years by the UK Government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Paisley's bid was part of a wider plan to transform the town's future using its internationally-significant heritage and cultural story as the one-time home of the world's thread industry and the place which gave its name to the globally-recognised design icon, the Paisley Pattern.

And bid bosses spoke of 'heartbreak mixed with pride' after a two-year campaign which energised the town – while promising the momentum created by the bid will continue. Paisley 2021 bid director Jean Cameron said: "We are

of course heartbroken not to win the title as we know how much the people of the town poured into this – but at the same time those hearts are bursting with pride at what Paisley achieved in the past two years. More than 34,000 people – equivalent to almost half of Paisley's population – added their voices and ideas to the town's bid....and our thanks go to every single one of you for an incredible effort and those ideas will still be taken forward. We are proud to be the only town to ever make the shortlist and by some distance the smallest place to ever get this far in the competition – few places of Paisley's size can claim to have given the world so much over the years, and the town punched above its weight once again. Our bid was based on a belief that culture changes people's lives, and that by harnessing that power while promoting what sets us apart, Paisley can change its future for the better – and the people of the town made that vision their own over the past two years. The next chapter in our story is only just beginning."

Meanwhile Dundee also received a blow as the Dundee 2023 bid team have been advised they will not be able to compete in the European Capital of Culture 2023 competition due to Brexit, the European Commission has confirmed.

The reds are back in Aberdeen



Recent feeder box monitoring and camera trapping carried out in Countesswells and Foggieton Woods, near Aberdeen, indicates a rosy future for red squirrels. The work by Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) and Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels (SSRS) builds on many years of conservation work and monitoring and indicates that red squirrel numbers in the area are increasing - and that the woods are free from non-native grey squirrels.

Philippa Murphy, Environment Manager for the FES team in the area, said "We put some sticky tape on the feeder boxes to collect hairs and these, once analysed, showed that the number of red squirrels recorded in these woodlands are increasing year on year, suggesting

more and more red squirrels are taking advantage of the free treats on offer. But the best news is that we've got no trace of grey squirrels, which tend to drive reds away from local habitats. It's like getting a thumbs up from the red squirrels for our sensitive management of the forests around Aberdeen."

As well as following best practice to manage the woodlands for red squirrels, other measures taken include minimising the amount of large clearfell sites and maximising the tree species favoured by red squirrels. There has been no evidence of grey squirrels in the area for the last two years.

All aboard at Barry Links

New UK wide figures have been released and shows that a station in Angus is the least used in Britain. Barry Links station was used by just 24 passengers during 2016-17, according to data produced by the Office of Rail and Road. This is in quite a contrast to London's Waterloo Station which was the country's busiest station with some 99.4 million passengers - up by more than 250,000 on the previous year. Whilst in Scotland Glasgow Central and Edinburgh Waverley are the nation's busiest railway stations, with 32,060,134 and 22,582,342 entries and exits respectively. Barry Links is on the line between Carnoustie, which hosts golf's Open Championship next year, and Dundee, and is served by just one ScotRail train a day in each direction, Monday to Saturday. There is no ticket office, ticket machines, toilet or CCTV, and the station is not staffed. The two passengers who enter or exit the station on average each month can use bicycle parking facilities.

Freedom of the City of Aberdeen: Denis Law honoured in conferral ceremony



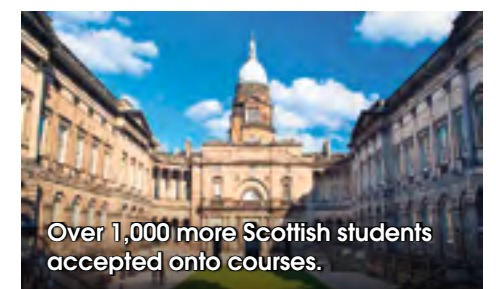
Denis Law CBE has been awarded the Freedom of the City of Aberdeen at a ceremony underpinned by centuries of tradition. The sporting hero and charity ambassador had the honour bestowed upon him at a special event at the Beach Ballroom in his home city. While the Freedom of the City dates back to the 12th century, current features of the modern ceremony first become apparent in the 18th century. Key features of the Freedom of the City conferral included the reading of the Burgess Ticket, which is an extract from the Freedom Roll, the signing of the Freedom Roll, the presentation of a casket to hold the Burgess Ticket and the pinning of the ticket to the honorary freeman's hat. Denis wore a Scotland cap, provided by the SFA for the occasion. Denis Law said: "To get the Freedom of the City of Aberdeen is a real highlight in my life and something I will never forget – and to get another Scotland cap is fantastic! It was very emotional, looking around the

audience and seeing all of our family and people from Aberdeen. It was a proud day for our children and grandchildren - they have never been to something like this and it was a very special event."

The Lord Provost of Aberdeen Barney Crockett said: "Today's ceremony was a fantastic occasion to honour an incredible individual, a man who put Aberdeen on the world map and who has never forgotten his roots. He will always be recognised a hero for his sporting achievements, but Denis is also a charity figurehead and has been a driving force for the efforts of the Denis Law Legacy Trust in Aberdeen. Through the Trust he is making a lasting difference to the lives of young people in the city and he deserves enormous credit for that. Denis Law has received the Freedom of the City today and with it comes the best wishes and goodwill of everyone in Aberdeen."

The ceremony marked the first conferral to take place in Aberdeen since Scotland the What? received the honour in 2008 and 18 years since fellow football legend Sir Alex Ferguson was honoured. Previous recipients include international figures such as Mikhail Gorbachev and Nelson and Winnie Mandela as well as eminent UK politicians, including Sir Winston Churchill.

Record number of Scots going to Scottish universities



The number of Scottish residents going to university in Scotland has reached its highest ever level, latest figures show. In 2017, 34,830 applicants living in Scotland were accepted for a place at a Scottish university – an increase of more than 1,000, or 3%. Scottish students represented 70% of all acceptances to universities in Scotland. The number of English students accepted at Scottish universities also increased by 2.8 per cent to the highest figure on record. The figures also show that students from European Union (EU) countries accepted to Scottish universities fell by 10 per cent, while the number from outside the EU increased by 4.3 per cent.

Further and Higher Education Minister, Shirley-Anne Somerville, said: "These figures show that more people of all ages from Scotland are being accepted to study at Scottish universities. This is testament to the excellent reputation of our universities, but also shows that more people are benefiting from access to tuition-free higher education. Not only is this encouraging our brightest and best to stay in Scotland to study, it is also giving more people the opportunity to go on to university by removing one of the most significant financial barriers. While this is encouraging, there is still much more work to do to widen access to university to students from Scotland's most deprived areas – and this remains a key focus of the Scottish Government and the sector."

Barefoot bagpipers and drummers march into new album

By: Camille Layt



Electric anticipation hangs in the air as ranks of figures stand in silent unison. They tense as the Drum Major's mace lunges upward.

He takes a deep breath, then howls, "BY THE CENTRE... QUICK MARCH!" With cracking accuracy, the snares roll, bass booms, kilts swish and sway, and pipes ring out. The crowd roars.

Australian pipers and drummers may seem like a mad bunch to a layperson. Garbed in traditional dress designed 300 years ago for the bitter Scottish cold, they are a novelty at public events, sweating it out in heavy woollen kilts and hose in the sweltering humidity of Australian summers, having dedicated years of their lives to play instruments that are physically demanding, difficult to tune and play, and that will take decades to master.

Tradition

So why do they do it? Mostly, it's because of a feeling – dozens of kindred spirits from all walks of life, creating a sound so primal that it makes adrenaline soar and grannies cry. There's nothing like it in the world. City of Brisbane Drum Sergeant David 'Spotty' Spotswood knows the feeling well. "I thrive on the esprit de corps, when a drum corps is sounding great," he says. "There is just something about the sound, and the culture of a pipe band. It's kind of like 'these are my people.'"

The City of Brisbane Pipe Band is a social and competing community band based in – as their name suggests – Brisbane, which is Queensland's capital city and home to an active pipe band community. Spotty has led the band's drum corps for two years, and has more than doubled the number of snare and tenor drummers in that time. "I love to share my interest in music, pipes and

drums, and I want to ensure that this tradition goes on," he says. "Teaching new players is the best way I can think of to achieve that."

Formed in 1950, the band proudly wears McNeill of Barra tartan in honour of its long-serving Pipe Major, Ian McNeill. The band's performance highlights over the decades have included playing for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh in the opening ceremony for the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games, and welcoming the Chief of Clan Campbell, the Duke of Argyll, to City Hall in 1988.

In 2018, the band will compete at the Australian National Championships at Brisbane Boys College, in addition to a number of regular competitions such as the Maclean Highland Gathering, and will perform at 'A Night at the Proms – a Musical Spectacular' in March and the Glenn Innes Australian Celtic Festival in May.

Spotty was invited to join the band by Pipe Major Peter Hurwood, the band's leader and musical director, who has invigorated the band with a number of innovations since he took the role in 2014.

Joyous voyage of discovery

The latest of these is one that took years to realise, but that has finally paid off with the recent launch of *Barefoot Through Brisbane*, an album that predominantly features pipes and drums, but also a number of tracks that combine them with brass, blues and folk musicians to create a truly captivating sound.

"I wanted to create something that was unique," Peter says, "Not just another pipe band album, not just rolling out the same tired arrangements of old favourites like 'Amazing Grace' and 'Scotland the Brave'.

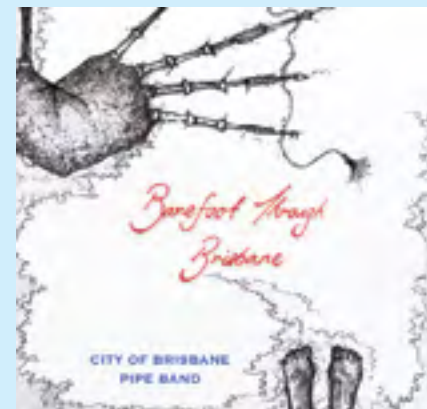
"We've reimagined the tunes you think you know by bringing together a community of musicians who are celebrating Celtic music in a distinct and accessible way."

Named after the band's signature tune and title track, the album includes folk covers of classic rock songs like *House of the Rising Sun* along with traditional tunes that feature pipes and drums complemented by brass to add an epic atmosphere, such as *Hector the Hero* and *Highland Cathedral*.

The album is dedicated to piping veteran Charles Elliott, the band's current Pipe Sergeant who joined the band 45 years ago, and who plays and sings on the album. "It is a great honour to be recognised in this way – I am thrilled!" he says. He admits that he has also been seduced by the euphoria of playing in a pipe band. "I was first drawn to piping after seeing a piper playing in the New Year from the back of a ute when I was about 6 – my godfather, a piper, encouraged me by sending me a practice chanter, saying that if I could learn a march, strathspey, reel and jig, he would send me a set of pipes. Since then it has been a joyous voyage of discovery. I feel I am just on the threshold of becoming a proper piper, even after nearly 50 years of playing."

Barefoot Through Brisbane is available online now via barefootthroughbrisbane.com

Barefoot Through Brisbane reader giveaway



Barefoot Through Brisbane is the latest album from the City of Brisbane Pipe Band, featuring a number of guest artists including The Barefoot Ceilidh Band and guests Pipe Major Wayne Kennedy and Sunnybank Brass. The album predominantly features traditional pipe tunes, with full pipes and drums, but a number of tracks also combine pipes and/or drums with brass and blues musicians and vocalists, presenting a truly unique sound.

The Scottish Banner is pleased to offer 3 lucky readers a chance to take home a copy of this great new Australian piping recording courtesy of the City of Brisbane Pipe Band. To enter simply tell us what tartan the band wears via email: competitions@scottishbanner.com, 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!

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! 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.
(NZ Please add an additional AU\$4.00).

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!

Price: \$17.95 Plus \$6.00 postage.
(NZ Please add an additional AU\$4.00).

Order yours direct from the Scottish Banner: Post orders: PO Box 6202, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204

Telephone orders: 02 9559 6348 Email: info@scottishbanner.com

Payment can be made by cheque, money order, Visa, MasterCard, PayPal or EFT.



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 genealogist. **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
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 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: debollinn@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, MacEwen, McKellar, MacKewlie, MacKessock, MacNichol, MacTavish, MacThomas, Moore, Muir, Orr, Pinkerton, Thomas, Thompson.





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

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 Cumming Society
Of
The United States

7409 Jessica Way
Rowlett, TX 75089

clancumming.us

Circom Cranes Classified

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, Carnuthers, Crosby, Randolph and Stenhouse.

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

<p>William A. Bruce, FSA Scot, President 5556 27th Ave. So. Minneapolis, MN 55417-1934</p>	<p>Polly A. (Bruce) Tiltford, Secretary 5561 Earl Young Road Bloomington, IN 47408 www.familyofbruce.org</p>
--	---

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; Day; Day; Dye; Dyson; Davidson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dee; Day; Dow; Doh; Dhail; Kay; Key; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDavid; 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 Buchanan Society International, Inc.

Invites membership of all
Buchanans and of other septs:

Buchanan	Leary	MacCauley	MacMorris	MacIntosh
Colquhoun	Levens	MacCubbin	MacMurchie	Richardson
Cormack	MacLachlan	MacCubbin	MacMurphy	Risk
Cousland	MacLellan	MacDonnally	Macneil	Rusk
Dewar	Macdonald	MacGeorge	MacQuat	Spittal
Donleavy	Macdonald	MacGibbon	MacQuintley	Walter
Dove	Macdonnell	MacGilbert	MacQuinn	Watson
Dow	MacEwan	MacGrouch	MacRae	Watson
Gibb	MacCallum	MacGibbon	MacRether	Watson
Gibby	MacCallum	MacGibbon	MacWhorter	Watt
Gibson	MacCallum	MacGibbon	MacWhorter	Watt
Gilbert	MacCallum	MacGibbon	MacWhorter	Watt
Gilbertson	MacCallum	MacGibbon	MacWhorter	Watt
Harper	MacCallum	MacGibbon	MacWhorter	Watt
MacCormack	MacCallum	MacGibbon	MacWhorter	Watt

and other spellings

Gladys 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
State Commissioners

NSW
Qld
SA
Vic
WA

Mr Lachlan Macdonald

Mr Lachlan Macdonald
Mr A. Neil Macdonald
Ms Therese McCutcheon
Mr Norman A Macdonald
Ms Pamela McDonald

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

CLAN DONALD QUEENSLAND
Commissioner: Neil Macdonald
P/E: 0412 090990
29 Finewood St, Goobang QLD 4034
Email: clanndonaldqld@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.clanndonaldqld.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,
celticw@sbcsglobal.net

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

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald
Contact: Secretary
secretary.victoria@clandonlindaustalia.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.

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 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**

**Membership invited to all who share the Sept names:
Duncan, Robertson, Reid, etc.**

UK: London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands
Canada: Ontario * Western Canada
Australia: New South Wales * Victoria * Queensland * Western Australia
New Zealand: New Zealand
Europe: Spain
Africa: South Africa
USA: Arizona * Carolinas * Florida * Gulf Coast * Mid-Atlantic * New Mexico * Mid-West * Northeast * Northern California * Pacific Northwest * Rocky Mountains * South * Southern California * Texas * Upper Mid-West

Visit our website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, our History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you.

<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>
Facebook: The Clan Donnachaidh Society
Email: ivc@donnachaidh.com

Clan Douglas Society of North America

Recognized as Septs & Allied Families


Agness	Crockett	Harkness	Fringe
Bell	Dalyell	Rossie	Kewell
Blackadder	Duffell	Russe	Kewle
Blackie	Evel	Teglin	Wale
Blacklock	Gick	Kilgiver	Rutherford
Blackstock	Dickey	Kilpatrick	Sandilands
Blackwood	Dickson	Kirkpatrick	Scandin
Blaylock	Dixon	Kirkland	Mason
Breckinridge	Drysdale	Lackaby	Saults
Brown	Fairhead	Lackey	Smye
Brennan	Farrister	Lockhart	Springston
Cornishall	Foster	MacGaffly	
Cumstons	Guthrie	MacGibbon	Troup
Cavan	Gilpatrick	Maxwell	Turbull
Cavers	Glenodinning	McKintire	Weir
Chelard	Glen	Muffat	Young
Chredman	Hamilton	Murison	Younger



A DOUGLAS!
A DOUGLAS!

Visit our website: www.clan douglas society.org

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



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

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 III
 of Dunroth

Clan Elliot Society, U.S.A.
Michael D. Elliott-Clan President



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

Membership-Treasurer
Patricia Tenneyson Bell
2984 Siskiyon Blvd.
Medford, OR 97504



CLAN FARQUHARSON
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
SPRING WOOD, NSW 2777
or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com*

**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 Fergusson

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

 **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

American Clan Gregor Society
EST 1970

 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 Cr.
St. Louis, MO 63131-3036**

Phone: 314-432-28742, registrar@acgsus.org
website: www.acgsus.org



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 Gregor Society
Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland



Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Larrick and Balgildien,
24th Chief of Clan Gregor

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

www.clangregor.org
For membership contact
Irene Brooker
120 Winkfield Glen,
Sandy Springs, GA 30338-5719

Ms Isabel MacGregor, Secretary
3 Allot Road, Cranley by Ailton, Cucknashore, FK10 2NT Scotland



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 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: cmastreas@gmail.com

Website: www.clanmackenzie.com

 **Clan Macneil**
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Invites all Macneils... regardless of surname
spelling, some of which are listed below:
MCNEILL MACNEIL MACNEAL MACNELL O'NEILL
MCNEIL NEAL NEILSON O'NEIL
to Order in person or by e-mail to: Richard@ClanMacneil.org
McNeill, VP, Membership, PO Box 330063, Montgomery
AL 36133-0063, (334) 834-0612. E-mail edmundmcneil@aol.com



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 Balmagowan,
Chief of the Clan

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

www.clan-ross.org
Contact: L.O. Ross 1055 S. Graham Ave. Orlando, FL 32803
ClanRoss@theUnitedStates@gmail.com



Clan Young Society Australia Inc.

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


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



The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

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

For Membership Information contact:
Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 9306 7495
Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au



Clan Morrison Society of North America

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

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

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



CLAN SCOTT AUSTRALIA GROUP

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

Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs:
Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.
Info: Secretary, PO Box 320, Maclean, NSW, 2463
E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com
W: clanscottaustaliagroup.moonfruit.com



Clan WARDLAW Association
Founded 2004

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

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

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457
Pinehurst, NC 28370

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


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



Clan Munro Association, U.S.A.

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

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



Clan Scott Society

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

Clan Scott Society
PO Box 13021
Austin, TX 78711-3021
USA
Info@ClanScottSociety.org • www.ClanScottSociety.org

Scottish Associations and Societies




Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

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



The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

Founded at a meeting held in Sydney 18 June 1981
Welcomes membership from all Australians of Scottish descent.
Applications for membership can be obtained from:
The Hon Secretary, SAHC
Susan Cooke tel: 02 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

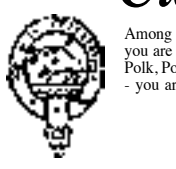


Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria
www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org
Founded in 1905

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, Pouk, Poolke, Pogue - you are cordially invited to contact:

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




Clan Sinclair Australia

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

For further info contact

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

E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com



CALEDONIAN CLUB OF FLORIDA WEST (SARASOTA, FL)

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

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




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

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



Clan Pringle Association (North America)
Membership cordially invited from Pringle/Prindle descendants and other interested parties.
www.clanpringle.org.uk

William L. Pringle, III
e-mail: **williampringle3@gmail.com**
Clan Pringle Assoc. (North America)
6536 140th Ave., Holland, MI 49423



Clan Skene Association, Inc.

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


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



Daughters of Scotia

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

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



St. Andrew's Society of Vermont
FOUNDED 1974

P.O. Box 484
Essex Junction, VT 05453

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



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


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.stewartociety.org**



Illinois Saint Andrew Society

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

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

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

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

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



CLAN ROSS AMERICA
ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION MERGED

Many Names - One Clan

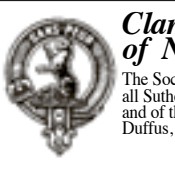
Liz Ross, President
Robert Auxillex, Membership Secretary
clanmembership@sboglobal.net
PO Box 6341
Plover Forest, IL 60305
www.clanross.org



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 Horseshoe Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24060
e-mail: **richard@langfordmail.net**

Geelong to host the 2018 Victorian Pipe Band Championships



Scottish Clans proudly march at the Geelong Highland Gathering.



Bands on parade.

The 2018 Geelong Highland Gathering, at Goldsworthy Reserve, Corio, on Sunday, March 18, will again host the Victorian Pipe Band Championships (VPBC) for the third time since 2009. The 2018 Gathering will also mark 161 years since the first Geelong Highland Gathering was held on New Year's day 1858 and will be the 61st event in the modern era, which began in 1958.

Being awarded the VPBC again, in preference to two promoters in Melbourne, is a major breakthrough for the Geelong Highland Gathering, which was the permanent home of the championships for the decade up to 2009. Organisers were happy with the Corio venue and obviously Pipe Bands Victoria also for Geelong to be awarded the State Pipe Band Championships again. The committee

is hoping retaining the State Pipe Band Championships for 2018 and hopefully a permanent home at Goldsworthy Reserve, will see the Gathering begin to recover from the decline it faced moving from venue to venue in recent years. In 2010 the event was held at Fyansford Common, 2011 & 2012 at the Geelong Show Grounds, 2013 to 2015 at the Waurn Ponds campus of Deakin University and previously at Queens Park from 1958 to 2009.

Massed pipe bands

The championships hopefully will see pipe band numbers increase to 20 or more as was regularly the case prior to 2009 when Geelong was the second largest Pipe Band Contest in Australia after the bi-annual Australian Pipe Band Championships. The 2018 Gathering will see all the usual events, the South Pacific Heavy Scottish Games Championships, Highland Dancing competitions, Scottish Country dancing, 42nd Highland Regiment and New Varangian Guard historic re-enactment groups, Clan and heritage associations, Glen Lachlan College of Arms sword play demonstrations, Scottish-Celtic folk music, whisky tasting, haggis and other Scottish foods and a Scottish Dogs' show. The highlight of the day will be the massed pipe bands at the end of the day's activities. There will also be a Scottish faire market with food, souvenir, clothing and other stalls, free children's activities including a petting zoo, jumping castle etc.

The constant moves of venue, in recent years, has seen a significant drop in gate revenue to the extent the Gathering is now dependent upon sponsorship. The financial sponsorship by Geelong Major Events in recent years, and more recently by Geelong Connected Communities, together with "in kind" from the Geelong Advertiser Group is appreciated. Without their support this iconic Geelong event would just not happen.

More information can be obtained from the website:
www.geelonghighlandgathering.org.au



The sounds of Scotland at the Geelong Highland Gathering.

Being Scottish is Bags of Fun!



Westie Jute Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a colourful pattern of playful Westies.

H: 20cm, W: 20cm, D: 14cm



Scottie Multi Dog Canvas Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish Terrier dogs. With black handles and interior zip section handy for keys. A best seller!

H: 30cm, W: 40cm, D: 15cm



Scottie Dog Single Canvas Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a classic pattern of a Scottish Terrier dog with sturdy handles.

H: 30cm, W: 40cm, D: 12cm



Highland Coo Jute Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a colourful pattern of bonnie Highland coo's.

H: 20cm, W: 20cm, D: 14cm



Royal Stewart Jute Bag

This sturdy bag comes in Scotland's most famous tartan design-the Royal Stewart and includes inner key purse for coins and keys. Webbed handle.

H: 30cm, W: 30cm, D: 20cm



Scotland Highland Fling Jute Bag

Scotland text and a Highland Dancer and two pipers. Made with sturdy jute with blue webbed handles.

H: 40cm, W: 36cm, D: 18cm



Tartan Stag Jute Bag

This sturdy new bag comes with a tartan Scottish stag pattern, handle and gussets.

H: 30cm, W: 30cm, G: 20cm



Thistle Jute Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish thistle. Webbed handle.

H: 30cm, W: 30cm, D: 20cm



Scottie Single Jute Bag

Jute is a strong plant fibre and this lovely bag features a wee Scottie dog, with red webbed handles and trim and black gusset.

H: 30cm, W: 30cm, G: 20cm

From the Scottish Banner the canvas and jute bag collection direct from Dundee, Scotland.

These great and fun bags show off your Scottish pride wherever you go and have many uses. Make shopping or going to the beach fun with these multi use carry bags. Great for yourself or as a unique gift!

\$24.95 plus \$9 postage or \$16 for up to 3 multi-bag orders Australia wide (NZ orders please add \$10 airmail postage fee).

To order yours simply contact us on **02 9559 6348** or email: **info@scottishbanner.com** online at: **www.scottishbanner.com/shop**

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

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.

25 Hobart, TAS - City of Hobart Highland Pipe Band Burns Night
Celebrate Burns with music, food and more at the Hobart Function and Convention Centre. Info: niall@hfcc.com.au or 0418 107 175.

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

27 Mackay, QLD - Mackay & District Pipe Band Burns Supper 2018
Celebrate the 259th anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet, Robert Burns. There'll be pipes & drums, Highland dancing, a buffet dinner, the haggis ceremony, poetry, and Scottish country dancing at North Mackay Bowls Club, 74-76 Malcomson St. Info: www.mackaypipeband.com.au

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

FEBRUARY 2018

2 - 4 Sydney, NSW - AWESome Scottish Country Dance Weekend
AWESome is a Scottish Country Dance Weekend for younger dancers aged from 18 to 40 years. Info: AWESome@rscds.org.au

3 Quirindi, NSW - Quirindi Military Tattoo
The event aims to showcase military bands in both a competition and exhibition format, and pays homage to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Info: 02 6746 1755 or www.quirindimilitarytattoo.com.au

5 - 26 Sydney, NSW - Learn Scottish Country Dancing with Scots on The Rocks
This course is for new dancers who wish to learn steps and basic dance formations that are the building blocks of Scottish Country dancing. You will be introduced to Jigs and Reels and will learn a series of lively, beginner friendly dances. Info: 0435 154 433 or www.sotr.org.au/beginner

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

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

7 - 16 Nationwide - Celtic Woman Australian Tour
Celebrating the timeless emotion of Celtic music and centuries-old heritage, Celtic Woman will visit Brisbane, Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne, Adelaide & Perth on their Voices of Angels Australian tour. Info: www.ticketek.com.au

16 - 18 Albury, NSW - 30th Anniversary Clan MacRae Gathering, Dinner & AGM
Celebrate and gather with Clan MacRae with tours, AGM and a dinner. Info: Roslyn MacRae 0412 491 054 or learn@vst.com.au

18 Richmond, TAS - Richmond Highland Gathering
Tasmania's only Highland games at historic Richmond oval. Pipe band competitions, highland dancing competitions and stalls. Info: Di Cornish 0408 528 658 or Dianne.cornish1@bigpond.com

NEW ZEALAND

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@extra.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

13 Henderson, Auckland - Scots Wha Hae!
The West Auckland Research Centre invites you to join us in celebrating the 259th anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert (Rabbie) Burns, who was born on the 25 January 1759. Enjoy a reading of Robert Burns' poetry and learn about the Scottish settlement of Auckland's north west from Carolyn Skelton. Listen to some Scottish fiddle playing and enjoy bag-piping while watching Scottish dancers perform as we celebrate the Scottish poets life at Waitakere Central Library, 3 Ratanui St. Info: 09 839 2260.

20 Dunedin - Alan Reid in Concert
Glasgow born Alan Reid has been taking Scottish folk music all over the world since 1975, including with the Battlefield Band at 50 Dundas St. Info: 0800 BUY TIX (289 849).

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

21 Hamilton - Scottish Country Dancing In the Gardens
Dancers from around the region will meet for a picnic and social dancing on the Round Lawn. Come and 'have a go' with us and enjoy the music. Suitable for children to seniors. No experience or special clothing required at Hamilton Gardens, Cobham Dr. Info: lochielSCDClub@gmail.com

25 Dunedin - Burns Night

Join Toit and the Dunedin Burns Club to hear more about the man and his times at 31 Queens Garden. Info: 03 477 5052 or toituosm@dcc.govt.nz

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

FEBRUARY 2018

2 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@extra.co.nz.

4 Hamilton - Scottish Country Dancing In the Gardens
Dancers from around the region will meet for a picnic and social dancing on the Round Lawn. Come and 'have a go' with us and enjoy the music. Suitable for children to seniors. No experience or special clothing required at Hamilton Gardens, Cobham Dr. Info: lochielSCDClub@gmail.com

9 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

10 Wellington - Pipes In the Park 2018
Wellington's very own Highland Games. Pipe Band competition, Highland Dancing, Clans, Castles (of the bouncy kind), face painting and craft markets at Waitangi Park, 107 Cable St. Info: pipesinthepark@gmail.com ;

10 Paeroa - The 25th Annual Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo
A celebration of Scottish culture at the Paeroa Domain, includes an evening Tattoo performance. Info: 021 936 450 or www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

11 Wellington - Shetland Society of Wellington Society Picnic
Meet with the Shetland Society over food and friendship. Info: events@shetlandwellington.org.nz.

17 Dunedin - 23rd Octagonal Day
Pipes and drums at the Octagon. Info: hurrellm@extra.co.nz

23 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

SCOTLAND

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.thegaity.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.

26 Alloway, Ayr - Haggis Hooley
Celebrate the Bard's birthday in style at an informal nod to a Burns Supper. The Borland Ceilidh Band and a variety of talented local musicians will perform while you enjoy traditional Burns Supper fare at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. Info: www.burnsmuseum.org.uk

27 - 28 Stirling - Revel with Rabbie
Celebrate Scotland's national bard and learn about the Stirling Lines with a dram of whiskey and a bite of haggis at Stirling Castle. Info: +44 (0)131 668 8885 or events@hes.scot

FEBRUARY 2018

8 - 11 Aberdeen - Spectra 2018: Play The Night
Aberdeen's four-day festival of light will light up the winter skies with a varied programme of light installations from fire drawings to light projections and sculptures, as well as music and performance. Info: www.spectraaberdeem.com

9 - 10 Glasgow - The Glasgow Tattoo
Pipe bands and military displays at The SSE Hydro. Info: www.theglasgowtattoo.com

17 Edinburgh - Inspire by The National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland
The National Piping Centre is proud to present The National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland live in concert. This year's concert will see the band perform a fantastic mixture of traditional and contemporary music infused with the ever so popular NYPBoS twist at Edinburgh Corn Exchange, 11 New Market Rd. Info: +44 (0) 141 353 0220 or www.thepipingcentre.co.uk

23 - 24 Badaguish - Groove CairnGorm
A thrilling weekend of live music, world-class DJs and snow sports all within the setting of Cairngorm Mountain & Badaguish Outdoor Centre. Info: www.groovecairngorm.co.uk

24 - 28 Inverness - Inverness Music Festival
This music festival is a competitive event that allows people of all ages and abilities to show off their skills. The main discipline groups are vocal, instrumental, speech, Gaelic and Scottish. Competitions are open to the public. Info: www.invernessmusicfestival.org

£ 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) Galashiels; 8) Tenor; 9) Elder; 10) Extra; 11) Crests; 12) Littered; 13) Radish; 15) Inverewe; 18) Emulated; 20) Lowsed; 22) Armadale; 23) Editor; 26) Noose; 27) Expel; 28) Short; 29) Cellardyke

DOWN: 1) Glencarse; 2) Ladle; 3) Straths; 4) Iced; 5) Lothians; 6) Inverness; 7) Braid; 8) Tattie; 14) Dummajor; 16) Elderslie; 17) Welldone; 19) Ardent; 21) Oldyear; 22) Arise; 24) Tipsy; 25) Deil

Listen to Scottish Radio S.A.



Tuesdays: 12:30pm – 1:30pm

Saturdays: 5:00pm – 6:00pm

5EBI 103.1 fm

Digital EBI World: WWW.5ebi.com.au

SCOTS' CORNER

With David Keith

On 106.7 Phoenix FM Monday 2:30 to 4:30pm

Traditional, Folk & Gaelic Music

Scottish News Views & Blethers

Live Streaming - www.phoenixfm.org.au

Scottish Genealogical Research



Let us build your Scottish Family Tree!

Ron Dempsey
General Delivery
Udora, Ontario
L0C 1L0, Canada

Email: dempseyrand@gmail.com for details.

Nigel Tranter: Scotland's Storyteller

By: David
C Weinczok



This month marks the anniversary of the death one of Scotland's most beloved historical writers Nigel Tranter OBE. The bestselling author penned over 100 books and was also a long time contributor to the Scottish Banner. His works were rigorously researched and brought Scotland's history to life for many including our very own David C Weinczok.



The ruins of Threave Castle brought to life so well by Nigel Tranter.

Scotland's castles capture the imagination like perhaps no other aspect of our history. Their stones stand as testaments to an extraordinary drama through which we may freely wander, pages in a book with countless chapters imprinted all across the land. You do not need to be a historian to stand in awe of history at such places – you need only to be curious. It was with relentless curiosity that they were brought to life by a man who harnessed the power of storytelling to inspire millions. When it comes to Scottish castles, no storyteller inspired more people to discover their wonders for themselves as Nigel Tranter.

Prolific Scottish author

Tranter passed away on 9 January 2000 at the age of 90, and goes down in history as the most prolific Scottish author after Sir Walter Scott. He published over 100 historical novels as well as dozens of books in genres spanning from Westerns to children's literature under the pseudonym Nye Tredgold. His best-known work is probably *The Bruce Trilogy*, which sold over 1 million copies and has pride of place in the literary pantheon that fostered the enduring legend of Scotland's hero king. *The Scottish Banner* was also privileged to call Tranter a friend and contributor for many years, and retains many of the personal letters he would include alongside his articles. His impact on modern Scotland is profound – I am certain that Tranter's writings provided the first spark for many of the brightest minds now working to illuminate Scotland's story.

Tranter's fascination with castles in particular may have begun as a schoolchild at George Heriot's School in Edinburgh. A palace by any other name, it is now captivating a whole new generation as one of the architectural inspirations for Hogwarts in *Harry Potter*. To this day one of the most dramatic perspectives of mighty Edinburgh Castle is from the grounds of George Heriot's and adjacent Greyfriar's Kirkyard. Surely the great castle on the crag was the source of many a daydream in his schoolboy years.

Castles

From the age of thirteen Tranter started concertedly exploring the castles in

the south of Scotland, sketchbook always in hand as he walked or cycled to his destination. By age twenty-two he published his first serious study of castellated architecture, *The Fortalice and Early Mansions of Southern Scotland, 1400-1650*. This was the first instalment in an exhaustive five-part series of descriptions and detailed sketches of castles across the country called *The Fortified House in Scotland*. Many times I have turned to this series when embarking on a castle quest of my own, and every castle enthusiast I know treats it as something of a bible.

While most of Tranter's works are classified as historical fiction, I recommend using them as guidebooks. There is no better way to connect with a historical site than to learn a story or two about it before visiting, and for that Tranter's tales are indispensable. Take Threave Castle, setting of much of the intrigue in his book *Black Douglas*. Set in the 1440s in the wake of the infamous Black Dinner, the story follows the doomed William Douglas and his kin as they negotiate the minefield of medieval Scottish politics under James II.

Now a brooding ruin, Tranter restored it to its full glory with vivid and intimate descriptions of lordly life within its walls. Though of course speculative, the conversations and internal thought processes of real historical figures such as Margaret, the 'Fair Maid of Galloway', are so well-informed that you can envision her as clearly as though she were receiving you into the castle's Great Hall. By taking this approach Tranter achieves what standard history lessons so often fail to do: he makes you care about the people behind the titles, to empathise their fears, desires, ambitions, and doubts. You recoil with them when their pride is bruised and revel in their victories as though you had taken up arms alongside them.

Scotland's extraordinary history

Tranter was sometimes criticised for romanticising aspects of Scottish history, and while that may be true in some cases no one can say that he ever sacrificed accuracy for the sake of the story. To the contrary his commitment to history led to several of his

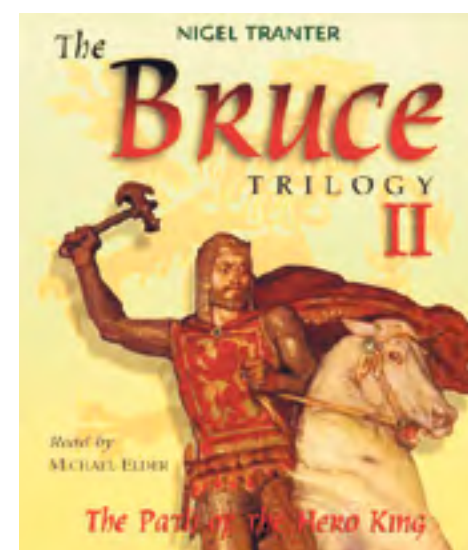
major works subverting standard dramatic narratives. After all, the very last page of *Black Douglas* kills off the main protagonist in an impulsive, spiteful act that hits all the harder for being historically inevitable. Who needs *Game of Thrones* when you have Scottish history as told by Tranter?


While his many endeavours brought him international fame and a living, these were incidental products of a simple pleasure: setting out on a long walk to write. Tranter famously worked on the go, hiking or cycling for many miles to places where the tales he wanted to tell actually unfolded. He held a particular affinity for Aberlady in East Lothian where he lived for much of his life, calling the small wooden bridge at Aberlady Bay 'The Footbridge to Enchantment'. Every day he would take his walk, fuelled by a childlike fascination that enriched everything story he told, for he told them out of love.

I, for one, owe him a great debt for he carved out the path that I now follow. Since arriving in Scotland seven years ago I have created a niche as a 'castle hunter', sharing and celebrating Scotland's castles and history in pages such as these. I am under no illusion, however, as to who the original and greatest castle hunter was! Tranter visited thousands of castles in his lifetime and played an essential role in establishing them as internationally recognized icons

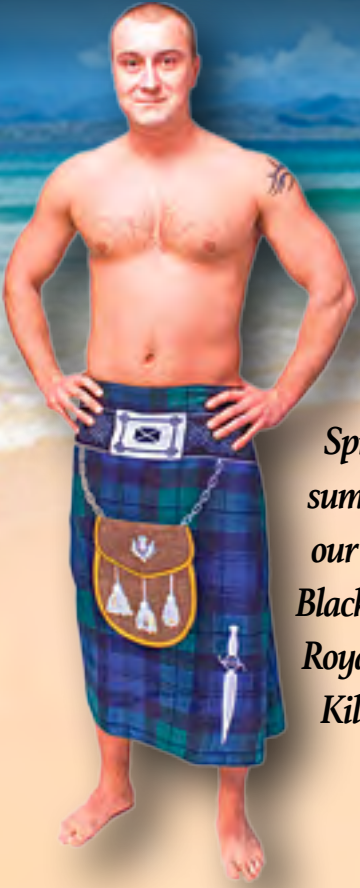
of Scotland. So when I set out towards a castle, often along the same routes that Tranter took, I am acutely aware that I do so in the footsteps of a giant. I often travel with one of his books in my bag, referring to them as I approach the places described in their pages. Nigel Tranter lived his life enchanted by Scotland's extraordinary history. Perhaps the most fitting tribute of all, then, is that his work is now considered an indispensable chapter within that story.

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

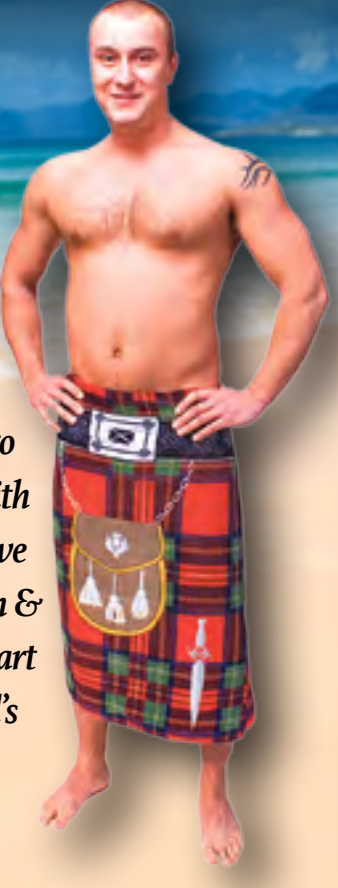




Kilt Towel's



*Spring into
summer with
our exclusive
Black Watch &
Royal Stewart
Kilt Towel's*



A unique gift for your yourself or friends and family. For the beach or bathroom-a great fun Scottish statement available in Black Watch or Royal Stewart tartan. Includes belt, sporran and kilt pin in design. *The Scottish Banner* is the exclusive distributor of this range in Australasia. 100% cotton towels 75cm x 150cm, adult size towels. \$34.95 plus postage of \$11 for 1 towel or \$15 for up to 3 towels Australia wide. NZ customers please add \$10 for air mail service.

**To order see our online shop at www.scottishbanner.com/shop
email: info@scottishbanner.com or call 02 9559 6348.**

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Cullen skink

Ingredients:

For the stock:

75g/2½oz. butter
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
2 leeks, roughly chopped
2 onions, peeled, roughly chopped
2 fennel bulbs, roughly chopped
250ml/9fl oz. white wine
500g/17½oz smoked haddock
750ml/1 pint 7fl oz. water

For the soup:

75g/2½oz. butter
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
2 leeks, finely chopped
2 shallots, peeled, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, peeled, crushed
300g/10½oz. potatoes, peeled, chopped
500ml/17½fl oz. double cream
1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley
pinch freshly grated nutmeg

Method:

For the stock, heat the butter and vegetable oil in a large pan and gently fry the leeks, onions and fennel for 3-4 minutes, or until softened.

Add the white wine to the pan and bring to the boil. Add the smoked haddock, pour in the water and bring back to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes, skimming off any scum that rises to the surface, until the haddock is cooked through.

Strain the haddock, reserving the cooking stock. Chop the haddock into bite-sized pieces.

For the soup, heat the butter with the vegetable oil and fry the leeks, shallots and garlic for 3-4 minutes, or until softened. Add the potatoes and the chopped smoked haddock to the pan.

Add the reserved cooking stock and bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 10-15 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender. Stir in the cream and briefly blend the soup with a stick blender.

Serve the soup with crusty bread and sprinkle with the chopped fresh parsley and a sprinkling of freshly grated nutmeg.

Vegetarian haggis stuffed mushrooms

Ingredients:

4 large flat open/Portobello mushrooms
1 tbsp. olive oil
75g/2½ oz. breadcrumbs
2 tbsp. pine nuts, toasted
2 tbsp. pecorino, grated
2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
350g/12 oz. vegetarian haggis, sliced

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Place the mushrooms onto a baking sheet and drizzle with a little oil. Cook in the oven for 5-6 minutes or until beginning to soften.

Mix together the breadcrumbs, pine nuts, pecorino and parsley.

Remove the mushrooms from under the grill and top each mushroom with a slice of vegetarian haggis.

Spoon the breadcrumb mixture over the haggis and drizzle with a little more oil.

Return to the oven for about 15 minutes or until the cheese is slightly melted and the filling is hot and bubbling.

Serve one mushroom as a starter or 2-3 with tatties and neeps as a main course.

Haggis



Ingredients:

1 sheep's stomach or ox secum, cleaned and thoroughly, scalded, turned inside out and soaked overnight in cold salted water
heart and lungs of one lamb

450g/1lb. beef or lamb trimmings, fat and lean
2 onions, finely chopped
225g/8oz. oatmeal
1 tbsp. salt
1 tsp. ground black pepper
1 tsp. ground dried coriander
1 tsp. mace
1 tsp. nutmeg
water, enough to cook the haggis
stock from lungs and trimmings

Method:

Wash the lungs, heart and liver (if using). Place in large pan of cold water with the meat trimmings and bring to the boil. Cook for about 2 hours.

When cooked, strain off the stock and set the stock aside.

Mince the lungs, heart and trimmings.

Put the minced mixture in a bowl and add the finely chopped onions, oatmeal and seasoning. Mix well and add enough stock to moisten the mixture. It should have a soft crumbly consistency.

Spoon the mixture into the sheep's stomach, so it's just over half full. Sew up the stomach with strong thread and prick a couple of times so it doesn't explode while cooking.

Put the haggis in a pan of boiling water (enough to cover it) and cook for 3 hours without a lid. Keep adding more water to keep it covered.

To serve, cut open the haggis and spoon out the filling. Serve with neeps (mashed swede or turnip) and tatties (mashed potatoes).

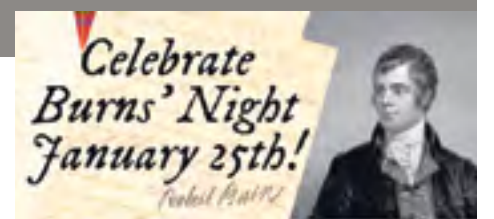
Bobby Burns Cocktail

Ingredients:

60ml/1.5 oz. Scotch whisky
30ml/3/4oz. red vermouth
2 dashes Benedictine

Method:

In a mixing glass with ice, add the whisky, vermouth and Benedictine and stir until condensation forms along the outside of the glass. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a twist of lemon peel.



BURNS NIGHT RECIPES

*Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the pudding-race!*

The Burns Supper on January 25th is an institution of Scottish life: a night to celebrate the life and works of the national Bard. Suppers can range from an informal gathering of friends to a huge, formal dinner full of pomp and circumstance, enjoy!

Cranachan



Ingredients:

570ml/1 pint double cream
85g/3oz. porridge oats
7 tbsp. whisky
3 tbsp. honey
450g/1lb. raspberries
fresh mint, to garnish

Method:

Toast the oats in a frying pan, being careful not to burn them.

Lightly whip the cream until it reaches the soft peak stage, then fold in the whisky, honey, oatmeal and raspberries.

Serve in dessert glasses garnished with a few raspberries and mint.

Shortbread

Ingredients:

125g/4oz. butter
55g/2oz. caster sugar, plus extra to finish
180g/6oz. plain flour

Method:

Heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.

Beat the butter and the sugar together until smooth.

Stir in the flour to get a smooth paste. Turn on to a work surface and gently roll out until the paste is 1cm/½in thick.

Cut into rounds or fingers and place onto a baking tray. Sprinkle with caster sugar and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes.

Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to cool on a wire rack.

By: Peter MacIver

Bendigo Mac – “*Lugs*” based justice



Historic Bendigo gaol.

Scotsman Lachlan MacLachlan took a chance to start a new life in New Zealand and Australia and became a Police Magistrate (P.M) and local identity in Victorian goldfields with his own unique sense of folklore and justice as Peter MacIver explains.

Whilst reading a book published in 1903 called *My Adventures on the Australian Goldfields* by William Craig of Invercargill, New Zealand I came across the following passage. “It was said, too, that Mr McLachlan, the well-known P.M of Bendigo, invariably took into consideration, in his judicial decisions, the size and shape of the ears of those brought before him the larger the “lugs” of a culprit, the heavier would he lay it on. . . . When there was any conflict of evidence, in cases where the accused possessed unnaturally large ears, furnished with thick, heavy lobes, “Bendigo Mac” generally gave society rather than the accused the benefit of his doubts, and the man a double dose of imprisonment.”

If having a fine set of “lugs” were a reason to send someone to prison, then many of the rugby players I have known down the years would never see the light of day again. The police magistrate known as Bendigo Mac was, in fact, Lachlan MacLachlan a man who reached almost mythological status amongst the diggers of the Victorian goldfields as William Craig’s story of his methods highlights. The reality, whilst not quite the “lugs” based justice of the passage, was every bit as colourful. According to his obituary in the *Bendigo Advertiser* Lachlan MacLachlan was one of two sons from the first marriage of Captain Neil MacLachlan and was born on the family estate near Lochgilphead in Argyllshire in 1809. His grandfather had been killed at Culloden fighting for the Young Pretender. Lachlan was educated at the High School, Edinburgh, and afterwards by a private tutor, the Rev. Peter McBride. He subsequently became an articled clerk and studied law.

New Zealand

It would appear that he was an adventurous young man and in 1840 when the opportunity came to take charge of a group of immigrants bound for the Manukau land speculation in the fledgling colony of New Zealand, he grabbed it. In December of 1840, he and his party left on board the barque *Brilliant* for New Zealand. According to *The Australian* of June 22, 1841, shortly after leaving, the passengers and crew mutinied against the captain, who was in a “state of intemperance from the time he left Greenock, until his arrival at Cork.”

After a change of captain and stops in Sierra Leone and Cape Town, the *Brilliant* arrived at Port Phillip on July 26 and spent six weeks there, before leaving for Tasmania. Four weeks were spent at Hobart. It has been claimed that MacLachlan spent time with the Governor and visited the Port Arthur penal settlement. Some even claimed that it was the time that he spent there which accounted for his knowledge of the criminals he encountered at Sandhurst later. Whilst he may well have visited Port Arthur, the idea that he recognised criminals from there many years later is really just part of the mythology which grew around him.

The police magistrate known as Bendigo Mac was, in fact, Lachlan MacLachlan a man who reached almost mythological status amongst the diggers of the Victorian goldfields.

The *Brilliant* finally arrived at Manukau in New Zealand on 21 October 1841, ten months after leaving Greenock. Unfortunately, the land deal which had prompted MacLachlan and his party to come to the new colony fell through. Nonetheless, he settled in New Zealand for the next 10 years. In newspapers of the time he was described as a prominent citizen, sitting on the bench and also participating in the Maori Wars. In the meantime, two of his half-brothers had come to Victoria and settled there.

The Victorian goldfields

In 1852, MacLachlan left Auckland bound for Melbourne. His wife, Isabella, (who would not make another sea journey) and his son John remained behind in New Zealand. The marriage ended in divorce. In 1903, MacLachlan’s son, John Mitchell MacLachlan, bought 1927 acres of the original land for the Manukau settlement and it was bequeathed as a public park upon his death in 1909. There is also a

memorial to commemorate the arrival of the *Brilliant* which was erected by the Auckland City Council.

In Melbourne, Lachlan MacLachlan was made a Police Magistrate and posted to Castlemaine where he remained for a short time. As the population of the goldfields quickly grew it became apparent that the diggers on the Bendigo strike were in need of a firm hand and MacLachlan was asked to go there and take control.

The Bendigo Advertiser in MacLachlan’s obituary noted that “Very possibly Mr MacLachlan exaggerated the extent of the evil, and from the records of his actions as police magistrate he too often imagined that those brought before him were criminals of that dark dye to which we have alluded. Certainly, however, his strict administration of the law had a very wholesome effect—it cleared the district of men whose presence was undoubtedly prejudicial to the public safety.”

A piece of theatre

The truth behind Bendigo Mac’s unorthodox methods of judging a criminal by his “lugs” are much simpler than William Craig’s story. MacLachlan had the aid of very capable police officers, some of whom had Tasmanian experience. His court was really just a piece of theatre designed to put the fear of God into criminals on the Goldfields and it worked.

The Bendigo Advertiser reported that “In dealing with the criminal class in those days, Mr MacLachlan had a clever and powerful assistant in the person of the late Simon O’Neil, then the chief detective officer of the Bendigo district. . . . From him, the police magistrate was in the habit, previous, to the opening of the court, of obtaining particulars of the men to be brought before him. When an old hand happened to be among the prisoners, he would be terrified by the fierce reprobation of “Bendigo Mac,” or by the glare which shot from that inevitable eyeglass, and would have his antecedents published in the court by the Police Magistrate in such expressions as, “I know you, you scoundrel: your name’s so and so; you were at Norfolk Island in such a year; you were one of the Point Puer boys in such a year.”

Of course, the prisoner would be quite at a loss to account for the Police

Magistrate’s knowledge of his past career. Perhaps the Police Magistrate would direct the detective to look at the man’s hands, and if there was a sign then of his doing no work, he would say there was no need to go into evidence and have the offender sent to gaol. A notable practice of the police magistrate was when some fellow of doubtful antecedents was before the Bench, to take a view of his back. “Turn him round, O’Neil” he would say, and adjusting his eye-glass, the P.M. would survey him for a moment or two. “That will do O’Neil. ‘Now sir,’ addressing the prisoner, ‘you can’t deceive me, sir, you are from the other side, sir,—you are a Tasmanian convict.’

Colourful stories

If the charge against the man were trivial, the P.M. would turn to another favourite henchman of his, “Sergeant Richards, see that this ruffian leaves the district within 24 hours, if not, bring him here again.” At other times he would say to a prisoner—“This district is not big enough for both you and me. One of us must leave—which shall it be?” The prisoner would feel of course that there was very little doubt about the matter and would promise to make himself scarce, requesting probably a couple of days’ grace in order to wash up a bit of wash-dirt, and in most cases his Worship would grant the time, but with a terrible caution that it must on no account be exceeded.”

There are many more colourful stories of Bendigo Mac, such as the gagging of two abusive Tasmanian prisoners, catching a sly grog seller and then selling the confiscated liquor, giving himself a fine for having drunk too much the previous evening, quelling a riot at Bendigo Gaol or ordering the release of prisoners from a lock-up made of iron which had become dangerously hot on the grounds that they all return the next day (they all did). These stories all built up to create an almost mythical status for the man. In 1871 Lachlan MacLachlan retired from the bench, receiving 700 sovereigns from the grateful citizens of Bendigo. As well as being one of the founding members of the Bendigo Caledonian Society, he was also a member of the Society of Old Bendigonians which held a banquet in his honour upon his retirement.

Bendigo Mac retired to a house in East Melbourne where he died at the age of 76 years in 1885. He was survived by his second wife and five daughters.



Bendigo Mac.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - King James V married Magdalene of France. **1537**

1 - Charles II crowned at Scone, the last coronation on Scottish soil. **1651**

1 - James Stewart the "Old Pretender" died. **1766**

1 - First celebration of New Year in Scotland on this date (was March 25th till then). **1600**

1 - The Beatles opened a 5-day tour of Scotland to promote their first single *Love Me Do*. **1963**

2 - Ibrox Park disaster, 66 supporters killed on stairway 13. The disaster led to the rebuilding of Ibrox Park as an all seater stadium. **1971**

3 - O H Mavor (James Bridie) physician and prolific playwright, born in Glasgow. **1888**

3 - Poet and critic Edwin Muir died. **1959**

4 - The death of George Cathcart. Cathcart was a doctor from Edinburgh who instigated the annual series of concerts now known as the Proms, short for promenade concert. **1951**

5 - 89,000-tonne Liberian-registered Braer oil tanker, carrying 84,500 tonnes of crude oil, hit rocks on Shetland Isles in heavy seas. **1993**

6 - A.J. Cronin, author of *Keys of the Kingdom* and creator of the British television series *Dr Finlay's Casebook* died. **1981**



7 - Glasgow University founded at the request of James II and Bishop Turnbull. **1451**

8 - The first newspaper in Scotland was published. *Mercurius Caledonius* offered coverage of "the Affairs now in Agitation in Scotland, with a Survey of Foreign Intelligence." It ceased publication on 28 March after only nine issues. **1661**

8 - King Alexander I crowned. **1107**

8 - Earl of Stair, held responsible for the massacre of Glencoe, died. **1707**

8 - Rationing of sugar, bacon and butter introduced. **1940**

9 - The Diocese of Glasgow was elevated to an Archdiocese by Pope Innocent VII. **1492**

9 - Income tax introduced for the first time. **1799**

9 - The first women's golf tournament took place in Scotland, at Musselburgh. **1811**

9 - Liner *Queen Elizabeth I*, launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank, in 1938, caught fire and sank in Hong Kong where it was to serve as a floating marine university. **1972**



9 - Author and *Scottish Banner* columnist Nigel Tranter died. Tranter published more than 130 novels and biographies during his 60-year-long career, most covering famous Scots and their place in the country's history. **2000**

10 - Pop star Rod Stewart born. **1945**

11 - John A MacDonald, first Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada in 1867, born at 20 Brunswick Street in Glasgow. **1815**

11 - The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Association was created. This independently funded service was responsible for Scotland's blood and blood products. The National Blood Transfusion Service in England and Wales was not set up until the 26 September 1946. **1940**

12 - John Buchan, author (39 Steps etc) and diplomat (Governor General of Canada, 1935/1940) died. **1940**

13 - Death of St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow (and also known as St Kentigern). **603**

13 - Mary Slessor, missionary in West Africa and known to many as "Ma", died in Calabar. **1915**



14 - Skye Terrier Greyfriars Bobby died after staying by his master's grave for 14 years. The terrier belonged to Edinburgh policeman John Gray who died of tuberculosis in 1858. His grave stone reads: Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all. A statue of Bobby is now one of the most popular in Edinburgh. **1872**

14 - Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated his telephone to Queen Victoria. She made the first call in the British Isles from her residence on the Isle of Wight. **1878**

15 - Neil M Gunn, author of *The Silver Darlings* and many other books and short stories, died. **1973**

16 - Retreating Jacobite army defeated Hanoverian forces at Battle of Falkirk. **1746**

16 - Treaty of Union of Scottish and Westminster Parliaments ratified. **1707**



17 - Duddingston Curling Society became formally organised, one of the earliest in the history of curling - though Kilsyth lays claim to a date of 1716. Curling dates back to the sixteenth century in Scotland, with Scots taking the sport across the world where it still flourishes. **1795**

17 - Author Compton Mackenzie (*Whisky Galore* etc) born. *Whisky Galore* is based on a real life true story. In the middle of war time rationing, the *SS Politician* ran aground with a cargo of 264,000 bottles of malt whisky. **1883**

18 - Death of Sir John Pringle, President of the Royal Society from 1772-1778 and physician to King George III. Sometimes called the "father of modern military medicine", the Scottish-born physician focused on the need to adopt a clean medical environment for the treatment of wounded soldiers. He also coined the term "influenza". **1782**

18 - The launch of the Scottish Labour Party. The inaugural meeting of the breakaway party was held in Glasgow. It was formed as a result of the dissatisfaction several Labour MPs felt with their party over its stance on devolution for Scotland. **1976**

19 - A Scottish army under the Earl of Leven crossed the river Tweed into England. It remained in England for three years playing an important part in the Civil War. **1644**

19 - Birth of James Watt, mathematical instrument maker, developed the steam engine, invented the condenser and copying machine. **1736**

20 - Benny Lynch crowned world flyweight champion. Recognised as probably the greatest boxer Scotland has produced, Lynch enjoyed a meteoric rise to the top of the sport. **1937**

20 - The chemist Thomas Graham, was born. Graham is famous for discovering the diffusion rate of gasses, which is known as "Graham's Law". He is also called the "father of colloid chemistry", and was the author of, *Elements of Chemistry*. **1805**



21 - Sweetheart Abbey, near Dumfries, founded by Devorguilla, mother of John Balliol. **1290**

22 - Poet George Gordon Byron (later Lord Byron) born. He moved to Aberdeen at the age of four and attended Aberdeen Grammar School. The title was inherited from an uncle. **1788**

23 - James Stewart, the Regent Moray on the abdication of Mary Queen of Scots, murdered in Linlithgow, triggering civil war. **1570**

23 - William Hamilton, the Scottish Labour politician, died. He was MP for Fife West, 1950-74, and Fife Central, 1974-87. He became a controversial public figure due to his outspoken advocacy of Scottish independence and his dislike of the Royal Family. **2000**

24 - Birth of Publius Aelius Hadrianus, who built Hadrian's Wall to cut off Scotland from the rest of Britain. **76**

24 - First train over Forth Rail Bridge. **1890**

25 - Robert Burns born Alloway. Burns Night is celebrated around the world on this night. **1759**



26 - One o'clock gun fired for the first time from Edinburgh Castle. The gun was created to complement a time ball on Nelson's Monument which was not reliable during Edinburgh foggy days. **1861**

26 - The 1st Glasgow Scout troop was registered, the first to be formed. **1908**

26 - Kirkpatrick MacMillan, inventor of the bicycle, died. The thought of patenting his invention or trying to make any money out of it never crossed MacMillan's mind, but others saw its potential, and soon copies began to appear. However, Macmillan was quite unconcerned with the fuss his invention had prompted, preferring to enjoy the quiet country life he was used to. **1878**

27 - *Glasgow Herald* newspaper first published. It is the longest continuously published daily newspaper in Britain. Today the paper is simply called *The Herald*. **1783**

27 - First public demonstration of TV by John Logie Baird. **1926**

28 - William Burke, murderer and body snatcher of "Burke and Hare" fame, executed. The duo were accused of killing 16 people over the course of 12 months, in order to sell their cadavers as "subjects" for dissection. **1829**

29 - Earl Haig, Commander in Chief of British forces 1915-18, founder of the British Legion, died. **1928**



29 - The first adoption of GMT by Scotland. The subject has been the source of controversy ever since. **1848**

30 - King Charles I executed. His execution caused a change of sides by most of the Scots who had previously supported the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War as, for all his faults, Charles was still a Scottish Stuart king. **1649**

31 - Lachlan MacQuarie, "Father of Australia" born Ulva. Lachlan Macquarie was the governor of the colony of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821. **1761**

31 - Charles Edward Stewart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie" died in Rome. **1788**

31 - *Princess Victoria*, Stranraer-Larne ferry, sank in a storm with the loss of 133 lives; 44 were rescued. **1953**

31 - 270 Royal Navy servicemen were killed whilst on practice missions with other Royal Navy vessels in the Firth of Forth. **1918**

By: Judy Vickers

Scottish snowdrop's

A sign of the season

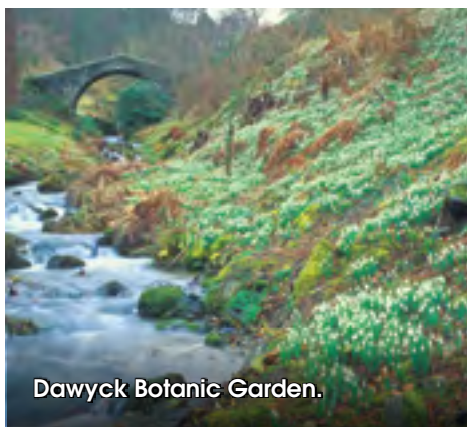
This month throughout Scotland a floral carpet of change will be laid across woodlands, gardens and loch side roads. As the small snowdrop flower (or flower of hope) blooms, on a beautiful display across the country, many of Scotland's top gardens and historic properties are getting ready to celebrate one small flower which provides a great deal of light and hope to the winter weary. The snow drop is one of the first flowers to bloom in Scotland, a sure sign that spring will return and adds another unique aspect to a winter visit to Scotland as Judy Vickers explains.

It's only a tiny flower, yet the diminutive snowdrop is probably one of the most welcome of all blooms in Scotland as it heralds the end of the cold, dark winter months and the beginnings of spring. So well-loved is *galanthus nivalis* - to give the flowers their Latin name - that they have their own celebration, the Scottish Snowdrop Festival, which runs from the end of January until the beginning of March, covering the period when these dainty perennials are at their best.

Scotland's gardens are rich in snowdrops

With more than 50 venues taking part across Scotland, including private and public gardens, nurseries and garden-related businesses keen to show off their collections, visitors are sure to experience brilliant moments full of winter wonder and beauty.

The event is run by VisitScotland and garden tourism organisation Discover Scottish Gardens with the aim of encouraging locals and tourists alike to enjoy the wonders of Scotland's gardens during the snowdrop flowering period and to highlight the diversity of our snowdrop collections.



Dawyck Botanic Garden.

For a small ticket price, a donation or for free, participating gardens provide fabulous spectacles of white flower carpets, and collections of unusual, rare and specialist snowdrop species, alongside a variety of events and activities celebrating this popular flower.

It's only a tiny flower, yet the diminutive snowdrop is probably one of the most welcome of all blooms in Scotland as it heralds the end of the cold, dark winter months and the beginnings of spring.

Amongst partaking gardens in the Scottish Borders are Dawyck Botanic Garden and Cringletie House. Set amidst a picturesque glen in the Scottish Borders, world-famous Dawyck Botanic Garden provides a magnificent backdrop for a stunning display of snowdrops, popping up their heads in their thousands. Every Sunday during the Festival in February and March, experienced garden guides take Dawyck's visitors for a walk to see the swathes of snowdrops carpeting the banks of Scrape Burn.

Paula Bushell, marketing manager at Dawyck Botanic Garden, said: "Scotland's gardens are rich in snowdrops, with many spectacular species thriving here and creating stunning displays. The flowers flourish brilliantly at Dawyck and in the surrounding area and the Garden looks particularly stunning at this time of year.

Spectacular displays can be seen the length and breadth of the country." At Cringletie House twinkling lights guide visitors along a waterfall path and through a snowdrop carpeted woodland.

Fantastic climate for snowdrops

The Cambo Estate in Fife is a global centre for the snowdrop. In a beautiful wooded glen are some of the best examples of the species, cultivated lovingly by the Erskine family who have lived and owned the estate since 1688. Catherine Erskine, from Cambo Estate, Chair of Discover Scottish Gardens and founder of the Snowdrop Festival in Scotland, said: "We are very lucky in Scotland to have a fantastic climate for snowdrops, with many species thriving here and creating stunning displays. And this year, due to a mild winter, snowdrops are certainly popping their heads out earlier than they have for many years."

As snowdrops need thinning out and redistributing every few years, Lady Erskine and her eight children spent many hours each year digging, dividing and replanting the flowers across the 70 acres of woodland on the estate. The estate is home to 350 different snowdrops and even has a children's snowdrop garden with different varieties labelled.

Another good spot in Fife is the Hill of Tarvit, an Edwardian mansion which was once the home of the Wemyss family. A monument on top of the hill of the same name was built in 1897 to commemorate the Treaty of Garlie Bank. Signed in 1559, that treaty saw Mary, Queen of Scots promise not to attack Cupar. The woodlands below are carpeted with snowdrops at this time of year and a good network of paths set up by the National Trust for Scotland allows great access.

More remote locations are covered by the festival including Abriachan Garden Nursery, where winding paths lead through native woodlands above Loch Ness, and the grounds of Fyvie Castle, at Turriff in Aberdeenshire.

Great seasonal sight

Many of the best snowdrop sites across Scotland are members of Discover Scottish Gardens, a national garden network, which launched in 2015 with funding from VisitScotland. The organisation aims to put Scottish gardens, nurseries and related businesses on the tourist map and to showcase the nation's outstanding horticulture and plant diversity. Discover Scottish Gardens now boasts a wide-reaching membership of more than 130 gardens and garden-related businesses in Scotland.

Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland, said: "Over the past decade the Scottish Snowdrop Festival has grown to become an annual calendar highlight with the first snowdrops of the year a sign that spring is just around the corner.

"The festival provides a welcome boost for attractions during a traditionally quieter period of the year and we hope many people will be able to get out and about to enjoy this great seasonal sight around Scotland's most stunning gardens and estates.

"Many of the Scottish Snowdrop Festival locations are within the grounds of some of Scotland's most historic buildings."

The Snowdrop Festival runs from Sunday 28 January to Sunday 11 March. Details of locations and events can be found on the VisitScotland website - www.visitscotland.com. Further displays across Scotland can be found on the Discover Scottish Gardens website - www.discoverscottishgardens.org

Did you know?

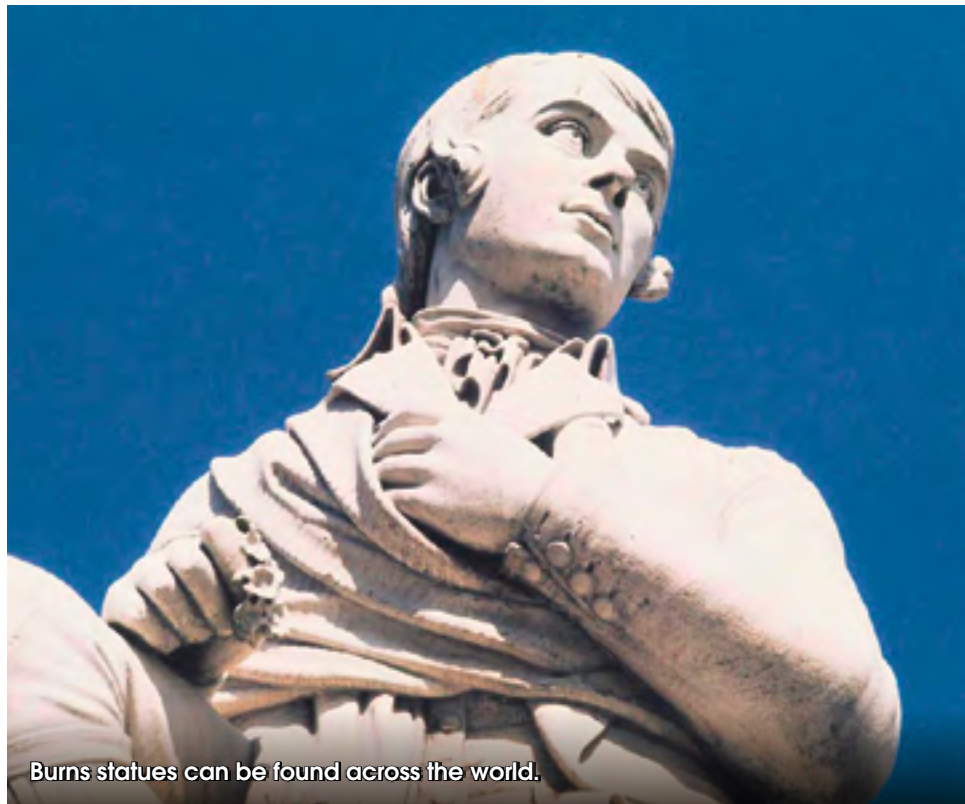


- The scientific name for the snowdrop is *Galanthus nivalis*. The name comes from the Greek words "gala", which means milk, and "anthos" which means flower. The second part of the name, "nivalis", originates from Latin language and it means snow.
- A galanthophile is an enthusiastic collector of snowdrops.
- The flower, given its status as one of the first signs of new spring life, has come to symbolise hope and consolation as well as purity.
- Snowdrops are known as natural thermometers. In the mid-part of the 20th century, they would generally appear in February. Since the 1990s, they have been arriving increasingly quickly, an indication of the changing climate.

Robert Burns: Scotland's Bard

As William Shakespeare is England's national bard so Robert Burns is Scotland's. And over 250 years after he was born into a poor Ayrshire farming family the universal appeal of many of his poems and songs endures.

Text courtesy of Scotland.org



Burns statues can be found across the world.

Burns had a genius for putting himself into the shoes of others and sympathising with their plight. His greatest works gave a unique and vivid insight into the aspirations and anguishes of the brotherhood of man and his words maintain their powerful meaning today.

Robert Burns died in Dumfries on 26th July, 1796, on the same day that his wife gave birth to their ninth child, a son, Maxwell. He succumbed to a form of rheumatic fever, which would have been easily treatable today. In those days, however, the cause and remedy of his ailment were unknown and his demise was likely hastened by a course of sea-bathing in icy salt waters.

To make matters worse, Burns died in debt, borrowing from a cousin and an old patron, George Thomson, to bail himself and his pregnant wife out of trouble. The fact is that Burns had lived in near poverty most of his life. He had been engaged in heavy physical farm work since he was a young boy, in a harsh climate and on a very limited diet had taken its toll. He was only thirty-seven years old. He was buried with full military honours as a member of the local volunteer militia, the Fencibles. Burns had joined up the year before as Britain was at war with France and there was a fear of invasion. Sadly, as is so often the case, Burns' genius was only widely recognised after his death.

Who was Burns?

In his short life he had written a host of poems and songs that would become cherished throughout the world. His words would reach far beyond his native Scotland and continue to resonate over two centuries later words about the human spirit and condition, about nature, love, life and death that are as meaningful now as they were in Burns' time.

Auld Lang Syne, Tam o' Shanter, Ae Fond Kiss, Red, Red Rose, Scots Wha Hae, A Man's a Man for A' That the list goes on and on.

But who was this man who died young and in poverty in a small provincial town, who was almost instantly mourned by an entire nation and who is still revered over 250 years after his birth?

Burns was born on a wild and windy night in Alloway on the Ayrshire coast of Scotland, in the family house his father, William, had built with his own hands. Robert was the eldest of seven children. Burns' Cottage, now a museum, still stands today, although no longer set in rolling fields, but in the new affluent suburbs of the town of Ayr.

Robert's parents were small tenant farmers. William and his wife, Agnes, struggled to make a living on poor soil. But despite their hardships they were keen to educate their offspring, so in 1765 Robert and his brother, Gilbert, were sent to a school two miles away at Alloway Mill. William then clubbed together with three local families to share a private tutor, a young man called John Murdoch, who taught Robert English grammar. He also made the children sing Psalms but, ironically, for someone who went on to pen some of the most well-known songs ever written, Robert's voice was, according to Murdoch, "untuneable". When Murdoch took up a post at Ayr Academy in 1772, Burns' father tutored the boys at home, although they continued taking lessons at various other schools nearby.

Burgeoning imagination

The following year the family moved to another farm at Mount Oliphant, high on a hillside two miles from Alloway. The rent was steep and the sour upland ground was difficult to cultivate. Life was tough on the new farm. Since the family couldn't afford hired help, Robert did a full day's work in the field and farmyard on a diet of oatmeal and skimmed milk even though they lived on a farm, meat was much too expensive.

On the long, dark, bitterly cold Scottish winter nights Robert was often to be found huddled under a single candle, with his nose buried in a book. By the time he was 21 he had read Shakespeare, David Hume, his favourite philosopher Adam Smith and everything in-between. These books helped to fuel his already burgeoning imagination.

He had already written his first love poems when he was fifteen, to a farmer's daughter from Dalrymple. It was the beginning of his life-long love of women and his celebration of them in poem and songs. Burns had many affairs throughout his life and enjoyed drinking with friends, but he was far from the over-sexed, booze-sodden farmhand of yore a slightly misleading myth that has tended to overshadow his literary legacy. He sowed his wild oats in a fairly roguish fashion, fathering over a dozen children to various women, and his sexual behaviour was radical, especially in 18th century society. The handsome, charismatic poet undoubtedly enjoyed the company of women, from society ladies to servant girls. Burns' first child was by a servant,

Nowadays, the Bard is said to generate in the region of £200m every year to the Scottish economy. Not bad for a man who left debts of £14 when he died.

Elizabeth Paton, who worked at Lochlea farm in Tarbolton (the family had moved to the village when Robert was nineteen), and one of his most famous love affairs, though never consummated, was with the upper class Agnes McLehose, for whom he wrote the beautiful parting song *Ae Fond Kiss*.

But Burns also liked women, acknowledging them as individuals who had valuable insights and opinions and were stimulating. He started a life-long correspondence with sometime patron, Mrs Frances Anna Dunlop, a well-to-do Ayrshire widow who admired his poems. In his work he managed to combine descriptions of his prurient exploits with the tenderest of emotions, memorably and simply expressed. Love (and lust!) and poetry were always to run together for Burns.

Scots language

By the time his first collection of poetry, *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect* was published in July 1786 he had founded the debating society, the Tarbolton Bachelors' Club, gained a reputation locally as an outspoken critic of the church and become a freemason.

He had started writing seriously after his father's death in 1784 and this first collection, known as the *Kilmarnock Edition* because that was where it was printed, emerged from the poems that had been passed around locally in manuscript form during 1784-85, gaining him regional notoriety. It included some of his best writing, including *The Twa Dogs*, *Address to the Deil*, *Hallowe'en*, *The Cotter's Saturday Night*, *To a Mouse*, and *To a Mountain Daisy*, many of which had been written at Mossgiel farm, where the family had moved in 1785. Having already written a handful of poems in English, Burns found his true voice in the Scots language, writing in words that did not come from the classical dictionary but from everyday speech.

His poems touched on themes of injustice, hypocrisy, the hard life of the countryman, radicalism, anticlericalism, sexuality, gender roles, Scottish cultural identity and man's inhumanity to his fellow man. He wrote scathing satires and tender love songs delivered in a direct, playful, yet sympathetic voice that spoke to all walks of life.

Throughout his life Burns was on the side of the poor and the downtrodden and was always anxious to speak up for them. Inequality made him angry. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the French revolution in 1789 before it turned into a blood-bath, and supported the American struggle for democracy led by George Washington.

Poetry was in Burns' blood but the book was also born of financial necessity. The farm at Lochlea, which he worked with his younger brother, Gilbert, provided little money and an increasingly desperate Burns had considered leaving for the West Indies to find a job as an employee on the slave plantations. He had even booked a berth on a boat to Jamaica but had postponed the trip on several occasions.

Heaven-taught ploughman

The Kilmarnock Edition got 612 advance subscriptions, mostly concentrated on around a dozen individuals who sold them on to other admirers. By this time Burns had met and married Jean Armour, who bore him twins in September 1786, despite the strenuous attempts by Jean's father to prevent his daughter having anything to do with the poet owing to his opprobrious reputation. After an enforced separation Robert and Jean were reunited and she remained his long-suffering wife until his death. She had nine of his children and took in and nursed one of his several illegitimate offspring.

Burns arrived in Edinburgh, Scotland's cultural capital, in November 1786 as the sensation of the season. In a review of his poems in the literary periodical *The Lounger*, Henry Mackenzie coined for Burns the famous epithet of the "heaven-taught ploughman". It was a sentimental moniker that stuck, the image of the rustic bard with plough in one hand and

quill in the other composing poems in the Ayrshire fields. But it was far removed from the reality of Burns' life, which had been one of toil and hardship.

Burns knew he was different and special and held centre stage in Edinburgh with his powerful charisma and passionate way with words. However, he was also aware of his low social standing in polite Edinburgh society. Poets were certainly not meant to be peasants and he found the drawing rooms of literary Edinburgh reeking with pretension, which he derided memorably in his famous poem *Address to a Haggis*.

A life-time of unrewarded toil

In April 1787 an Edinburgh edition of *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect* was published, containing 22 additional poems to the *Kilmarnock Edition*, and was subscribed to by over 1300 individuals. But Burns sold the copyright of the book to William Creech for 100 guineas and despite further editions appearing in London, Dublin, New York and Philadelphia, he made no money from these.

That same year the first volume of James Johnston's *Scots Musical Museum*, a collection of Scottish folk songs, appeared, including three songs by Burns. Burns would go on to contribute nearly 200 songs to future volumes of the publication, many published posthumously. He toured the Highlands and the Scottish Borders collecting old Scottish tunes to which he set his verses, thus helping to preserve the songs and keep a cultural tradition alive. Some of his more bawdy lyrics were collected in a notorious volume entitled *The Merry Muses of Caledonia*.

Despite his new-found fame in Edinburgh and beyond, Burns was struggling to support his family from either his poetry or the small farm he had leased in Ellisland, Dumfriesshire and he was forced to take a public service job in 1788. After a life-time of unrewarded toil he abandoned farming altogether in 1791 to become a full-time employee in the Dumfries excise, moving to a house in the town.

Undeterred by ailing health during the winter of 1790, and depression about the fading prospects of the farm, his muse remained undimmed and he continued his prolific output of songs and poems, completing his most famous poem and arguably his masterpiece, *Tam o' Shanter*, in November that year.

Celebrated all over the world

Nowadays, the Bard is said to generate in the region of £200m every year to the Scottish economy. Not bad for a man who left debts of £14 when he died. Every year on the night of Burns' birthday, 25 January, or an evening close to it, his life and work are celebrated as Burns clubs all over the world from Alloway to Adelaide, Moscow to Milwaukee host traditional Burns Suppers.

These informal suppers vary from club to club but the general format has remained the same since Burns' friends hosted the first recorded night in his honour around the anniversary of his death in 1801. Guests gather as at any informal function and the host says a few words of introduction before everyone is seated and the Selkirk Grace is said. A starter of soup, usually a Scots



A portrait of Robert Burns belonging to the Tolbooth Museum, Sanquhar, Upper Nithsdale. Photo: VisitScotland / Paul Tomkins.

broth or Cock-a-Leekie, is eaten, before the centrepiece of the meal, a haggis, is brought in while a piper plays the bagpipes. The host then recites *Address to a Haggis* and at the lines 'His knife see rustic Labour dicht, An' cut you up wi' ready slicht', draws and cleans a knife and plunges it into the haggis, slicing it open from end to end in dramatic fashion. A toast is then proposed to the haggis. Mashed potatoes (champt tatties) and turnips (bashed neeps) traditionally accompany the haggis.

When the meal is over, one of the guests makes a speech commemorating Burns and proposes a toast to the great man, known as the *Immortal Memory*. A toast is then made to the lassies' in recognition of Burns' fondness for the

fairer sex and sometimes a female guest will reply with a humorous toast to the laddies'. Following the speeches there may be singing of songs by Burns and occasionally guests take to the floor in a whirl of Burns Scottish country dancing known as a ceilidh, although this is not a normal part of a Burns supper.

Finally, to conclude the evening everyone stands, joins hands and sings the song most associated with Burns worldwide, *Auld Lang Syne* a song which has become an international anthem of brotherhood and has been translated into more than thirty languages.

The most important thing about a Burns Supper is to have fun. After all, the man you're paying tribute to was certainly not averse to a wee party himself!

The Scottish

TEA TOWEL RANGE

From the Scottish Banner, a great way to do dishes, as gifts or a wall hanging.

All towels print on 100% quality cotton and designed & made in Scotland.

Truly unique, Scottish, colourful and fun! Almost makes you want to dae the dishes!

Dialect tea towel
This charming tea towel includes old Scottish favourites - as well as some new ones.

Dinnae Fash Yersel and Keep Yer Heid! tea towel
Made in Scotland 100% cotton.

Glesga Patter tea towel
Howsitgaun? Fancy a wee swatch ae oor new tea towel? Glaswegian phrases and their translations. Black print on 100% cream cotton.

Scottish Food tea towel
Some of your favourites Scottish dishes. Colour print on 100% cream cotton.

Broon tea towel
If it's broon it's cooked an' if it's black it's buggert. Colour print on 100% cream cotton.

Keep The Heid tea towel
Our Scottish version of the popular motto. Blue print on 100% cream cotton.

Yer a long time deid tea towel
Make the most of your life. Made in Scotland 100% cotton.

Doric tea towel
Div ye ken Doric ata? A collection of phrases from the North East of Scotland. Black print on 100% cream cotton.

jings! crivvens! help ma boab! tea towel
Goodness gracious me! Made in Scotland, 100% cotton and fun.

Wit & Wisdom tea towel
A host of weel-kent Scots sayings, together on one tea towel. Black print on 100% cream cotton.

All tea towels \$15.00 plus \$4.00 postage Australia wide (NZ orders please add airmail \$3 postage).

To order: The Scottish Banner, PO Box 6202, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204, telephone orders to 02 9559 6348, www.scottishbanner.com/shop



THE NATIONAL TARTAN DAY NEW YORK COMMITTEE

INVITES YOU TO

CELEBRATE SCOTTISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE
AND ENJOY SPRINGTIME IN THE BIG APPLE!

TARTAN WEEK 2018

WITH THE 20TH ANNUAL NEW YORK TARTAN DAY PARADE



SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018

**WE INVITE
PIPERS, DANCERS, BANDS AND SCOTTISH ORGANIZATIONS
TO MARCH WITH US IN THE PARADE.**

To register, see our website or email us at register@nyctartanweek.org



Visit our website and Facebook page for more info.
Special hotel rates become available in January.

NYCTartanWeek.org

Telephone: 212-980-0844 | Email: info@nyctartanweek.org

NTDNYC, 150 E. 55th Street, 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10022

f | NYCTartanWeek |  | NYCTartanWeek