



the Scottish Banner



Australasian Edition



Years Strong - 1976-2018 www.scottishbanner.com

A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 41 Number 08 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper February 2018

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The Banner Says...

For the love of Scotland



by Sean Cairney

February may be the shortest month of the year but for some it is also the month of love. Love can mean so many things to different people. Love for each other, our pets, places, music and pretty much anything else that we connect with.

This past couple of months have also caused me to reflect on some wonderful readers I have gotten to know over the years and have recently sadly passed away. With the Scottish Banner I have been lucky to travel all over the world to attend Scottish events (in 2017 I was at events in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Scotland and the USA) and at these functions I get to meet many readers and literally put a face to the names. Some also call our offices when a new issue hits to tell us how on the mark, or off, we were with a story or piece of coverage.

One lady called me to tell me she took her husband's paper in to him in hospital as he was not doing well. Once she arrived he read it from cover to cover and died soon after with a smile on his face she said. This gentleman I had met before and was a long time reader, and I know we were a vehicle for him to express his deep love for Scotland and each month we helped connect him to the nation his heart never ever left.

To those long time readers who I can't speak to again, but let me know on a regular basis how much they "loved Scotland and their Banner", thank you for teaching

me more about the land you loved and keeping your passion for Scotland alive until the end.

Corpus Valentini Martyris

With Valentine's Day coming up this month, many may be surprised to hear nestled in the heart of the Gorbals area of Glasgow, lie the remains of a man who inspires the world to more romantic and celebrate love every February 14th. But just how did the remains of St Valentine end up not only in Glasgow, but one of its most notorious suburbs?

With Valentine's Day coming up this month, many may be surprised to hear nestled in the heart of the Gorbals area of Glasgow, lie the remains of a man who inspires the world to more romantic and celebrate love every February 14th.

In 1868, a wealthy family from France made a donation to the Franciscan church of a small wooden box inscribed with the Latin phrase 'Corpus Valentini Martyris' or 'The Body of Saint Valentine.' The church sent the relic box (apparently containing his forearm bones) to Saint Francis Church, in the Gorbals on the south bank of the River Clyde, as they were impressed with the religious devotion of locals. There the box remained, with few knowing the important relics said to lie within, for over a century. In 1999 the gold box was moved to the nearby Blessed St John Duns Scotus, where it has been given pride of place at the entry of the church. Every Valentine's Day, the church is decorated with flowers and the priests pray for lovers, and today some men

also choose that spot on February 14th to propose to their partners.

There is some question of course if these remains are in fact those of St Valentine as also Rome, Italy; Birmingham, England; Roquemaure, France and Dublin in Ireland also claim to house St Valentine's bones. Regardless today Glasgow often bills itself as the 'City of Love' due to these remains. It is without question a city I love and I always look forward to my next visit back.

In this issue

Travel by train can be a great way to see a country and Scotland is no different. With an excellent rail network many visitors to Scotland can sit back and take it all in by train. Some routes also access parts of the country roads do not, making it extra special. With this issue you can sit back and get on board for a ride along the rails and some of Scotland's best train experiences.

If you have travelled by train no doubt you have seen sheep from the window of your carriage. A team of Scottish researchers have been studying the facial expressions of sheep who exhibit emotions through facial changes and reactions. With more sheep than people and one of the longest life expectancies in the world it is wonderful to see researchers learning how we can help sheep by looking at what their faces are telling us.

Recently the Renfrewshire town of Paisley missed out on being named the UK's City of Culture for 2021. As the only Scottish entry this of course came as a big blow, but the town is not letting that stop it from a dynamic cultural change. I remember one summer renting a flat with friends in Paisley, on the doorstep of Glasgow, when I was a teenager. We instantly loved the town and its amazing buildings and Paisley will always hold a special place for me. I know there is much more to the town than just an iconic pattern and next time you are in Scotland try and see what all the fuss is so rightly about.

Scotland really can be considered a romantic destination with world class vistas, heritage and food, no matter what month you visit. The month of February some may say is short and sweet. It can also be the dragging out of winter, or summer (in the Southern Hemisphere), for many and perhaps a quick nod to St Valentine (regardless of where he resting) halfway through the month can only be a good thing.

If you are reading the Scottish Banner, no doubt you have a love for an ancient land called Scotland, and no matter what you do on the 14th that is something we can all agree on...

Tell us what you love about Scotland. Share your story with us by email, post or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



Glasgow the City of Love.

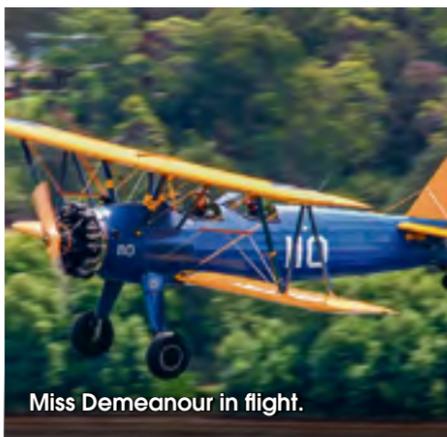
Gracing our front cover: All aboard! The Jacobite steam train passing over the Glenfinnan Viaduct. Photo: VisitScotland.

Global Scot set to join “One of the World’s Last Great Adventures” – *The Vintage Air Rally*



Jane McKellar at the flight deck.

Imagine flying cross-country in an open cockpit vintage bi-plane, through 19 countries from the southern-most tip of Argentina at Ushuaia, through the Andes, into Latin America then via Cuba and finally to Florida, USA.



Miss Demeanour in flight.

Following the old Aero Postale routes of the 1920’s and 30’s, that’s what Global Scot and international business woman, Jane McKellar (daughter of the late singer Kenneth McKellar) plans to do if selected for The Vintage Air Rally starting in March 2018. The Vintage Air Rally attempts the almost impossible with vintage planes, because “there’s no satisfaction in ‘easy’”. Based on the Northern Beaches of Sydney, Australia, Jane and her husband, John Tabone have a beautiful, 1942 Boeing Stearman open cockpit bi-plane (named Miss Demeanour).

Enormous challenges

There will be only 15 vintage planes selected from around the world to participate and Jane and John have already been short-listed to take part. Jane hopes that with John’s extensive experience as a pilot and hers as a co-pilot and navigator and having both flown in extreme conditions, they will be well placed to face the enormous challenges that this Air Rally will pose. High density altitude conditions, tropical rain forests, mountainous terrain and high desert and very uncertain weather conditions awaits them – all in a 75 year-old, open-cockpit vintage bi-plane. Not for the faint-hearted!

The Vintage Air Rally starts on 1st March 2018 and is due to finish mid-April. Jane said “When John and I got

married, I knew I was committing myself to a threesome... John, Miss Demeanour and myself! It’s safe to say that you only get a chance to do something like this once in your life – and it’s also important to step outside your comfort zone in order to really live life. That’s what the three of us fully intend to do.”

Jane is a professional non-executive director of several listed public companies in Australia. Born and brought up in Glasgow and a graduate of Aberdeen University, Jane is the Founder of the Kenneth McKellar Memorial Scholarship at Paisley Abbey – in memory of her late father – the world-renowned Scottish singer.



John Tabone and Jane McKellar.

Tartan of the Month *Romance Tartan*



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

This month we celebrate St Valentine’s Day and look at the aptly named Romance Tartan. The Romance of Kinloch Anderson Tartan is an exclusive design and one of the Kinloch Anderson Collection of house tartans all of which are based on the sett of the original Kinloch Anderson tartan. It introduces some softer more feminine shades in order to appeal to children and ladies and also to be suitable to wear in Spring and Summer. The colours of the tartan are pink, sky blue, light green and three shades of purple.

Happy Valentine’s Day!

Calling all warriors, poets and craftsmen *New event at 2018 Celtic Festival at Glen Innes!*



On May 3rd The Australian Celtic Festival in Glen Innes, NSW is adding to its many attractions with a one day symposium including a talkfest on all things Celtic, a poster competition and a photographic display. Organisers are already calling for entries into the talk component.

What they are seeking is presentations on anything Celtic with a broad appeal such as Celtic history, arts, culture, religion. Presenters can have up to 30 minutes on the soapbox, or alternatively your written paper could be published as part of the record of the proceedings.

Here’s your opportunity to shine and be famous! All you have to do is submit your proposal with content outline by 1st March. The full version if you are selected will be called for by 14th April. The program of selected presentations will be announced on 14th March and posted on the Festival website.

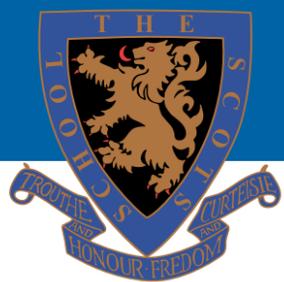
Each year’s Festival celebrates one of the Celtic nations and this the 2018 Festival will honour Brittany, Galicia & Asturias and will run from Thursday 3rd May to Sunday 6th May.

Need more information? Contact Mary on 02 6730 2410 or email Nigel at drnigel@gmail.com. For details on the 2018 Australian Celtic Festival see: www.australiancelticfestival.com

HIGHLAND GATHERING

Sunday 18th March 2018
10am – 4pm

- NSW Pipe Band Competition
- Professional Strongman Competition
- Stalls • School Tours • \$2 entry



The Scots School
Bathurst & Lithgow



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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.

John Cairney



Hello Sean, We enjoyed reading your article about your uncle John Cairney (*the Scottish Banner*, January, 2018). We have been a great fan of your uncle since the 1960's when we first

heard him do his Robert Burns concert. We had it on an old audio tape which was played so much it finally unravelled on us but you were kind enough to get it for us on a CD a few years ago. We are glad to say we have now added 3 different DVD's to our collection as well as the book called *The Man Who Played Burns* which was an autobiographical journey of John Cairney and was a most interesting read. You also had an article in *the Banner* about how the Russians love the works of Robert Burns. Back in the 1960's we bought a book by Ian Nimmo which was brought out by the weekly Scotsman and inside the back cover was a record of a Russian children's choir singing *A Man's a man for a' that*. You also mention that Russia brought out a stamp of Robert Burns which I thought you might be interested to see as I have one in my stamp collection.

Just love reading *the Scottish Banner*, keep up the good work.
Jessie Nicol
Queensland, Australia

Ed note: Thanks Jessie for your note and John is still being creative as ever with his art and writing in his beloved Glasgow.

What's in a name

Thanks for writing this article in the November issue. I have struggled with confirming my Scottish ancestry, because my ancestors came to America in the 1700's and the spelling of my last name has changed from the original. I recently received my DNA analysis from ancestry.com: 78% Great Britain, 7% Iberian Peninsula, 6% Ireland, 3% Finland, 3% West Europe, 1% East Europe, 1% Scandinavia, less than 1% Italy/Greece - almost a perfect match to your article. I feel more Scottish now!
Donald C McGlohon
Greenville, NC
USA

Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta



Eileen and Eddie Lyon with Clan Chief, Robin Neill Lochneil Malcolm.

My husband and I recently made the long haul from Sydney, Australia to attend the Stone Mountain Highland Games in Atlanta, USA as the Clan Chief of MacCallum/Malcolm was the Chief of the Gathering and had come from Scotland.

It was a wonderful Gathering in a lovely setting with the Clan and Societies' tents and entertainment stages set amongst the tall forest trees. The sight of 104 Clan and 21 Pipe Bands on the meadow for the Tartan Parade was amazing. There were so many activities going on over the two days it was not possible to visit them all, but the atmosphere was very Scottish.

The North American MacCallum/Malcolm Society members as well as others were so friendly and made us two Aussies feel very welcome - of course it is probably the little bit of Scottish in them! I recommend that every Aussie Scot should attend at least one of these Gatherings in USA to have a great experience.

Thank you Stone Mountain Gathering Committee for an experience which will not to be forgotten.

Eileen Lyon
MacCallum/Malcolm Society of
Australia & New Zealand
Maroubra, NSW
Australia

Ed note: Thanks Eileen for sharing your story and glad you had a great time at Stone Mountain Games and thanks also for stopping by our tent to say hello!

Serendipity & Diaspora

I found myself in Masterton New Zealand on November 30th 2017, after a very long absence, to record my oral history. I was born there, the last of six, to my mother from Newburgh, Fife and father from Port-nahaven, Islay (arr. NZ early 1900's). By chance, I picked up the November 2017 issue of *The Banner* from a wee newsagent in this small town on the other side of the world. Had recently visited my son in Victoria, Australia, near the town of Daylesford, prior to his major operation for cancer of the tongue. Back home reading (and relishing) all the news in the magazine on Saturday 2nd December and imagine my surprise to find on pg. 13 the notice advertising the "65th Daylesford Highland Gathering". They would be meeting at that very same moment in Australia as I was reading the advertisement. My son would no doubt have been present there just as I was reading about it!

Thank you to *the Scottish Banner* for such a wealth of information and memories of my Scots connections including my wife, married 63 years ago in Edinburgh.

Scotland Forever!!
Peter Angus MacGillivray-aged 87 yrs.
Palmerston North
New Zealand

St. Andrew's First Aid



Enclosed is a photo of one of our first aid event teams prepared for a day's volunteering at the Kilsyth Chelodina Festival. Three of our first aiders are in their clan kilts adding the Scottish flavour to the event. Pictured are Max Sheehy, Chief Operations Officer Marcus Byron and Jay Mackley. They are joined by the Chief Commissioner David Fleming, JP who was thrilled to see the Scottish variation to the uniform.

David Alexander-Fleming, JP
Chief Commissioner
St. Andrew's First Aid
Australian Headquarters

Ed note: Thank you David for the great work St. Andrew's First Aid do for the community.

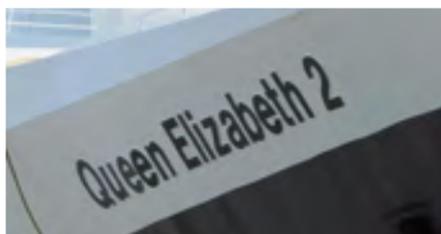
Piper recognition



I was given a plaque at our Lodge on December 12th for service of 20 years as a piper. I am also Care Officer, this involves reporting on the health and well-being of members and their families.

I hope to get another one in 20 years from now!
Des Ross
Australia

The QE2



I really enjoyed reading the article regarding the QE2 (*The End of an Era, Live on TV, Scottish Banner*, October, 2017) written by David McVey as it brought up the memory of my first sighting of the ship. As I lived in Clydebank from 1960-1964, so I knew quite a few people who worked at John Brown's shipyard. I came to live in Australia in 1964 and in the year 2000 I finally had the chance to sail on a 'leg' of her world tour. My husband and I flew to Hawaii a few days before she was due to dock there.

On our last day in Honolulu we took a minibus tour to Pearl Harbour. One of the passengers, who had commandeered the whole back row for himself, talked incessantly in a very loud voice all the way there. He complained the whole way that it was too hot or too cold-we were going too fast or too

slow and he knew absolutely everything. I thought a visit to Pearl Harbour-which was very moving and interesting-might calm him down a bit, but it was not to be and on our way back we had a repeat performance, much to the dismay of the other passengers. Driving into Honolulu we went onto the coast road, turned a corner and lo and behold there she was-QE2-right in front of us and looking every bit a Queen. What a sight.

Well the man from the back seat yells "Wow look at that, wow!" I had great pleasure in standing up and saying "That is the QE2 which was proudly built in Clydebank, Scotland and this afternoon we will be embarking on it to sail to Auckland." There was silence from the back seat and the only sound to be heard was the tittering from the other passengers trying desperately to repress their laughter.

What a wonderful trip that was. In 2001 and 2003 we did different 'legs' and enjoyed them so much too. We have been on a few cruises since then including the Queen Mary on her first voyage to Sydney and sailed to Dubai, but I must say I loved the QE2 the best-I felt I was home.

Anne Koomen
The Patch, Victoria
Australia

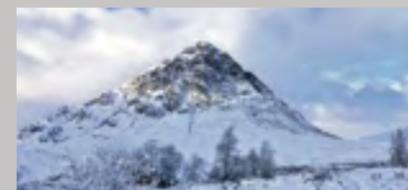
Ed note: Thanks Ann for sharing this memory with us and you are so lucky to have experienced such a fine ship.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Send your photos or letters via social media

Winter in the Highlands



A winter capture at Buachaille Etive Mòr.
Carolynn Wilson
Scotland

Happy Hogmanay



There were two great firework displays from Stirling Castle esplanade at 9pm and 12am.

Happy Hogmanay!
Robert Gibb
Scotland

A view from the Borders



Here is an image of the Scottish Borders hills around my home town of the Royal Burgh of Selkirk was taken just before the end of the year.

Bryan Johnson
Scotland

Protecting Scotland's treasures *New report shows impact of climate change on historic sites*

Ground breaking research published in new Climate Change Risk Assessment will help HES protect Scotland's ancient buildings and places.



An aerial image of historic Fort George.

A ground-breaking report outlining the climate change risk to Scotland's historic sites, and next steps for managing this through in-depth assessment and investment, has been published by Historic Environment Scotland (HES). The Climate Change Risk Assessment Report is a major step forward in a comprehensive and ongoing exercise to understand, monitor and manage environmental risk to HES's diverse estate.

This assessment has identified the most 'at-risk' of over 300 sites of national and international importance in the care of HES. This information will be used to prioritise investment through conservation and maintenance programmes to manage the climate change risk to these historic places.

Scotland's historic environment

The report outlines a new approach for assessing climate change risk that places current risk from natural hazards at the forefront of the analysis. The frequency and severity of these hazards, such as flooding and coastal erosion, are closely linked to changes in the climate. It is also the first time that a heritage-focused

organisation has collaborated in this way to use a combination of datasets from other public bodies, including the British Geological Survey (BGS) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), to inform management of climate change risk. It is hoped that this innovative approach can be applied to assess climate change risk to the wider historic environment, including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.

Ewan Hyslop, Head of Technical Research and Science at HES, said: "Climate change poses a number of very real threats to Scotland's historic environment, from an increased frequency of extreme and unpredictable weather events to rising sea-levels. As well as this, average rainfall in Scotland has risen by more than 20 percent since the 1960s, with historic buildings particularly susceptible to the accelerated decay this can cause. It is important we're well equipped to deal with these challenges, and the Climate Change Risk Assessment report enables us to better understand the risks we face and enhance the knowledge we have to help protect and preserve

Scotland's historic environment for future generations. This report places Scotland at the forefront of the global challenge to tackle Climate Change, as we lead the way in the adaptation of the historic environment by working with partners to share expertise and guidance with the wider sector to enhance resilience against current and future changes to our climate. This initial baseline assessment to evaluate climate change risk will help to improve evidence-based decision making within HES, and in turn will inform future investment in our estate."

Rich cultural heritage

The report follows the announcement in January 2017 of a £6.6m investment boost to support conservation work, repairs and upgrade of visitor facilities at sites across the HES estate. Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop, said: "Scotland is well known throughout the world for its rich cultural heritage and wealth of historic

sites. This report is important because it's vital that we understand the impact that climate change will have on these sites, and what steps we can take to protect them for future generations."

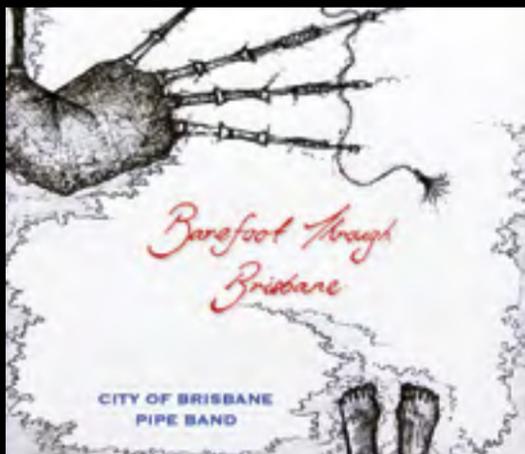
One of four case-studies featured in the report is Blackness Castle, which provides an example of how the risk assessment data and methodology can be used to mitigate against specific risks. The fortress on the Firth of Forth has been determined to be at high risk from a number of natural hazards, including coastal erosion and flooding. To protect against these hazards, HES have implemented the construction of a retaining shore-front wall to prevent damaging wave action.

The Climate Change Risk Assessment Report represents the most in depth study to date of the historic sites in the care of HES. The results of this initial risk assessment will provide the strategic basis for existing maintenance work programmes, as well as the allocation of funds for future works.



Threave Castle is in a flood plain.

Congratulations



Congratulations to all the winners from the January edition competitions:

Barefoot Through Brisbane CD

G. Harrington, Mount Gambier, SA
K Guthrie, Merrylands, NSW
K Brinckman, Victoria Point, QLD

Titanic The Exhibition

A Burke, Heathmont, VIC
T Johnston, Tempe, NSW

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26 April
to
6 May

By: Lynda Ireland

Bathurst's little bit of Scotland



The Scots School Bathurst Pipe Band.

The annual Highland Gathering of The Scots School Bathurst will be held on the picturesque main oval on Sunday 18th March 2018 from 10am-4pm at The Scots School, 4173 O'Connell Road, Bathurst. The Highland Gathering is one of Bathurst's iconic events and draws crowds from far and wide.

The focus of the day is the pipe band competition which attracts pipes and drums from schools and clubs across NSW. This makes for a fabulous day with the bagpipes complementing the Highland dancing displays and a professional strongman competition.

The Massed Bands, which concludes the day, is a great spectacle in front of our castle situated on the main oval.

The Strongman competition is in its

second year at Scots. There are both male and female professional athletes competing in a full heavy events competition. Events include Caber Toss, Stones on Round Table, Weight over Bar and Weight for Distance. There will be seating provided or visitors are quite welcome to bring a picnic rug or chair along.

Plenty on offer

There is a variety of food on offer including a Bar-B-Q, Devonshire teas, cake stall and a crowd favourite lamb and beef rolls. Drinks, ice creams and popcorn are also available.

The parents, staff and students run a tombola stall, book stall, plant stall, sells showbags and runs a chocolate toss which is a lot of fun. There are also many other commercial stalls on the day some of which include candles, jewellery, lavender,

soaps, bears and dolls, cards and lollies. Of course, it wouldn't be a Highland Gathering without the Scottish stalls that sell merchandise including kilts, band equipment, belt buckles and tartan scarves.

There is also plenty on offer for the children, with kid's rides including the horizontal bungee and a jumping castle and a range of games in our sideshow alley.

The Highland Gathering is the P&F Committees major fundraising event. Entry to the event is \$2 per person (under 5's are free), so put it in your calendar and come and have a great day out with the whole family. We look forward to you joining us.

The Scots School Bathurst and Lithgow is a co-educational day and boarding school with an established reputation for strong values and a commitment to learning. In 2019 The Scots School will be coming together with All Saints' College Bathurst. Tours of the school will also be available on the day.

For further information, please call 02 6331 2766.



Scotland snow-free after 'glacier' melts

An 11-year-old patch of snow nicknamed "Scotland's glacier" recently melted, marking the first time in more than a decade that Scotland's hills have been snow-free. The snow section on Britain's third highest mountain, known as the Sphinx, the snowfall at Garbh Choire Mor on the 1,296 metres high Braeriach melted late summer. Affectionately known by climbers and walkers as "Scotland's glacier", Britain's longest-lasting patch of permanent snow has melted away and has only been thought to have melted seven times in the last 300 years – in 1933, 1953, 1959, 1996, 2003, 2006 and now 2017. Snow of course came back to Scotland with much of the country experiencing winter white in December and January.

All aboard Harry Potter Express!



Scotrail have announced they will begin new services on the Glasgow to Mallaig. The route has been made famous by the Harry Potter movies and is considered one of the most scenic train rides in the world and include crossing the famous Glenfinnan Viaduct, used in the Harry Potter films for the Hogwarts Express. The journey which also travels to Oban takes in a dramatic landscape of mountains, steep-sided lochs, and heather moors will be used with new trains equipped with Wi-Fi.

LJMU reveals digital image bringing people face to face with Seventeenth century Scottish soldier



Liverpool John Moores University's (LJMU) Face Lab has unveiled a digital reconstruction of the face of a Seventeenth century Scottish Soldier whose body was discovered at a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013. The soldier had been imprisoned and died in Durham following the Battle of Dunbar in 1650, but now his image has been revealed through a remarkable new digital reconstruction.

Face Lab specialises in the reconstruction of faces for archaeological and forensic purposes and worked with archaeologists at Durham University to reconstruct a 'true to life' 3D image of the soldier after his remains

were uncovered in Durham in 2013. The reconstruction is based on the skull of a male, known only to the project team as 'Skeleton 22'.

Digital scan

Analysis of Skeleton 22, led by experts at Durham University, showed that he was aged between 18 and 25 when he died, had suffered periods of poor nutrition during childhood and had lived in South West Scotland during the 1630s. The images and video, were created by careful re-assembly the skull to allow for a detailed digital scan to be undertaken. This scan was used with the research from Durham University

to build up facial features, including a previously unidentified facial scar.

Professor Caroline Wilkinson, of Face Lab, said: "This unique facial image was created using the very latest techniques housed at Liverpool John Moores University's Face Lab. This combines a 3D craniofacial depiction system with digital modelling software and facial and anatomical datasets, which can provide the most accurate and lifelike images of an array of fascinating archaeological and forensic art depictions. In this case, our collaboration with Durham University enabled us to draw on scans and data to create the most accurate and lifelike image possible to enable a true glimpse into the past of this Scottish soldier and how his life had been lived."

She added: "It will join a collection of work by Face Lab reconstructing historical figures including Robert the Bruce, Richard III and St Nicholas."

The soldier is depicted wearing the blue bonnet, brown jacket and shirt typical of Scottish soldiers of the time.

Remarkable and privileged glimpse

Durham University Department of Archaeology Professor Chris Gerrard said: "Analysis of the dental calculus has revealed a lot about the conditions in which this man, known to us only as 'Skeleton 22', grew up. This information combined with the digital facial reconstruction gives us a

remarkable, and privileged, glimpse into this individual's past."

The Battle of Dunbar was one of the most brutal and short battles of the Seventeenth Century civil wars, after which thousands of soldiers were marched over 100 miles from the South East of Scotland to Durham in North East England. Around 3,000 soldiers were imprisoned in Durham Cathedral and Castle, at a time when the Cathedral was empty and abandoned.

Soldiers who survived imprisonment in Durham were employed locally in coal mines, at salt pans and as weavers whilst others were sent to King's Lynn to help with drainage projects on the Fens. But some were also sent to France to fight or crossed the Atlantic to places such as Barbados and New England, USA, where they worked as indentured servants.

Once research on the remains is completed they will be reburied at the Elvet Hill Road Cemetery in Durham City, close to where the remains were originally found.

In 2018 Durham University will host an exhibition about the Scottish Soldiers and the archaeological research that has helped uncover their story. The exhibition entitled *Bodies of Evidence: How Science Unearthed Durham's Dark Secret* will be held at the University's Palace Green Library, which is part of the complex of buildings where the remains were found in 2013.

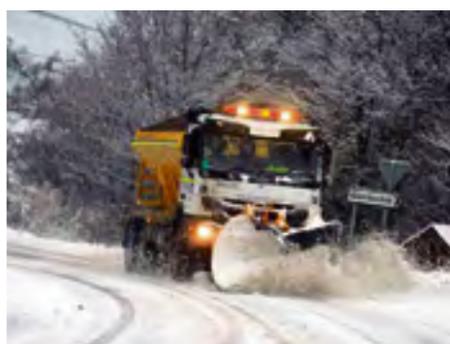
For further information please visit: www.durham.ac.uk/scottishsoldiers

SCOTSPEAK

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

"It's the exact opposite message of the one we've been trying to give out musically from the festival. Artists are less likely to engage with a country that is less internationalist in its outlook. It's also one thing getting permission to come to the UK from the immigration service here, but a lot of the artists we work with have to get visas to be allowed to leave their own countries. Without even thinking about it, artists would have added the UK to their touring schedule in the past. I think they will be more reluctant to do that because they envisage border issues."

Donald Shaw, Celtic Connection Artist Director said that international acts, especially European ones, may be put off appearing at the annual Glasgow music event as the UK leaves the European Union. Celtic Connections is a winter music festival in Glasgow, featuring artists from around the globe alongside the best Scottish talent each January and February.



"We've got nearly 100 winter vehicles involved in our winter service throughout trunk roads in the north east and north west of Scotland. Out of these, we have 45 large 32-tonne eight wheeler spreaders, which are some of the largest in the UK. A few winters ago we got involved with a competition led by Transport Scotland to help name some of our 32-tonne gritters, and reached out to local primary schools in our areas to help us come up with some names for the vehicles."

"We had a great response from the schools that were involved with the competition, with some excellent entries submitted. Our teams that visited the schools all commented on how the pupils were taking on board the information about how our winter Operatives help keep the trunk roads clear of ice and snow each year. We now have the likes of Sprinkles, Mrs McGritter, Sir Grits-a-lot and Gritty Gritty Bang Bang out working on trunk roads across the north of Scotland!"

A spokesman for Bear Scotland, the company responsible for managing and maintaining both the North East and North West trunk road networks on behalf of Transport Scotland, said. Sir Andy Flurry, Grittie McVittie, Sir Salter Scott and Gritty Gritty Bang Bang are just some of the gritters currently ensuring Scotland's trunk roads remain free from ice and snow this winter.

"While we are absolutely thrilled, we are not celebrating prematurely as polar bear cubs have a high mortality rate in the first weeks of life due to their undeveloped immune system and the mother's exaggerated need for privacy, with any disturbance risking the cub being killed or abandoned. We will continue to monitor Victoria and very much hope for the best possible news when she emerges around March. Until then, Victoria's enclosure will be closed to the public and keeper activity will be at a minimum to give her offspring every chance of survival."

Una Richardson of the Highland Wildlife Park at Kincaig, near Aviemore said as the first polar bear to be born in the UK since 1992 took place in the Highland location just before Christmas. New-born polar bear cubs are blind, around 30cm long and weigh little more than a guinea pig. They only open their eyes when they are a month old and are entirely dependent on their mother, feeding on fat-rich milk to grow quickly, weighing around ten to 12 kg by the time they leave their den.

"It is a really large internal space, much bigger than a circular round house, and it stands on its own on a promontory in Strathglass. It would have been visible from quite a way off as it sits above the valley. We are looking at whether this was a domestic or ritual site and one interpretation is that it was used as a gathering point under the authority of some kind of tribal leader."

Archaeologist Mary Peteranna, of AOC Archaeology, said as ruins of an Iron Age dun-house have been uncovered in the Highlands. The site at Comar Wood, Strathglass may date as far back as 2,400 years when dun house structures were used by tribal families.



"We ran lots of taste tests that showed most people can't tell the difference - nine out of 10 regular Irn-Bru drinkers told us we had a good or excellent taste match."

A spokesperson for drinks maker AG Barr said as they have reduced the sugar content of their iconic brand Irn-Bru and the original recipe is no longer in production. Approximately 50% of the sugar is being removed and replaced with additives such as sweeteners already used in many products. The move from Barr comes ahead of the UK's proposed sugar tax which come into effect in April.

"I am very sad about it, it's very unfortunate. Vandalism happens up and down the country, but it's a pity it has come to something like this. For vandals to target a tourist attraction which depicts a harmless story is very disappointing."

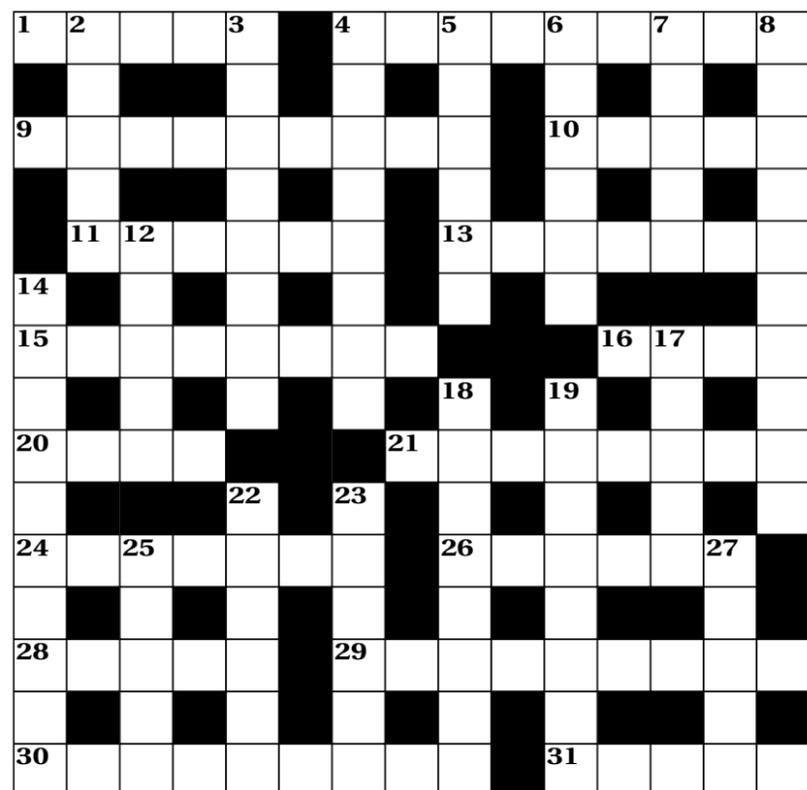
Steve Lister, Greyfriars Kirk operations manager, said as the Edinburgh grave of Greyfriars Bobby's master was vandalised in January. The legend of Greyfriars Bobby dates back to the late 19th century as the Skye terrier is said to have kept a constant guard over the grave of its owner John Gray in Greyfriars Kirkyard for 14 years.

"We're delighted to see Dundee in this list of top global cities for design and culture. We hear people talk about what Dundee 'will be' like in the future, so it's great to know the city's current cultural scene is already on the map alongside many must-visit international destinations. As we celebrate 10 years of Creative Dundee this year, there's an ever-increasing amount happening right across the city, from ambitious urban developments, to incredible community gardens, great events/shows and exhibitions, and brilliant local artists, musicians, designers and creative spaces. We're glad to see the growing recognition of our city and look forward to giving a typically warm Dundee welcome to visitors when they arrive."

Gillian Easson, director of the Creative Dundee network, said as American broadcaster CNN named Dundee alongside Tokyo, Toronto and Paris as one of the world's most "design-savvy" cities of 2018. The city is well into a £1bn regeneration masterplan which includes the opening of the V&A Museum later this year. Dundee became the first city in the UK to win City of Design status from the UN's cultural arm, UNESCO in 2014.

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) Soak at an angle! (5).
- 4) Two-edged swords (9).
- 9) Tayside flower! (5, 4).
- 10) In Scotland he's a provost (5).
- 11) A tumshie to a Scot (6).
- 13) An undershirt (7).
- 15) Major police commission (8).
- 16) Minerals (4).
- 20) Smoke to Scots (4).
- 21) Dance movement put together! (8).
- 24) A gathering of Scots! (7).
- 26) Apprehensive (6).
- 28) In debt to (5).
- 29) Yee-Haaa! (5, 4).
- 30) Valley, village and forest in Central Region (9).
- 31) Edible seaweed (5).

CLUES DOWN

- 2) Contort at this dance (5).
- 3) Laurel & Hardy, Martin & Lewis (8).
- 4) Competitor's ultimate aim (8).
- 5) Town 3 miles W. of Invergordon (6).
- 6) A short time (6).
- 7) Top stag! (5).
- 8) Dance it or play it (10).
- 12) Loosen (5).
- 14) Symbol to gather and fight (5, 5).
- 17) Loose gowns (5).
- 18) Amber nectar to the Gael (8).
- 19) Annuled (8).
- 22) Move in fits and starts (6).
- 23) Spanish wine (6).
- 25) More slipper (5).
- 27) Egg centres (5).

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By: Ron Dempsey



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



Saint Brigid's Cross symbolises the start the pagan festival of spring.

sign of the cross which is made of reeds known as Saint Brigid's Cross. Saint Brigid must have had an impact on the Gaels even as they migrated in to Scotland with places such as East and West Kilbride. Kilbride translates to cell or church of Saint Brigid.

Saint Valentine

But let's talk about the saint who supposedly responsible for the flood of heart shaped paraphernalia and sweets that fill our shops and stores the day after Christmas. Who is this saint named Valentine and what did he have to do with romantic love? We do know that there was at least two Saints named Valentine who were martyred in the 3rd century. One was priest and the other bishop and both were martyred near Rome. There is little known about their lives and what may be passed on about them maybe a mix of both their lives. Saint Valentine was associated with February 14th and sometime in the 14th century Saint Valentine became the saint of courtly love. Possibly this day was also chosen to replace some pagan fertility rite celebrated on that day. No matter how it arrived, enjoy the day and remember to love your dear ones the other days of the year.

Love

Speaking of love, Jen Campbell of Auckland, New Zealand and asked about the surname

Love which was her grandmother's maiden name. Ms. Campbell thought it would be an appropriate name to discuss this month with St. Valentine's Day coming around again. Unfortunately, the common most origin of the name appears to have nothing romantic about it. In that the name is from the Old French loup for wolf, in particular the feminine form of the word louve. Similarly, the surname Lovell means little wolf.

However, there is hope for some romance since other sources have it from the Old English lufu used as a woman's personal name meaning love.

Unusual names

It is a pleasure to receive letters of inquiries and I am so interested in researching them that I often forget to acknowledge all the words of appreciation that are written about my column. It's kind of you to take the time to say so. After writing it for over 30 years it's pleasing to know that you aren't tiring of it. Such a letter was received from Ray Perry of Lismore, NSW, Australia. There was an interesting twist to Ray's request. Instead of a name or list of names for research, he asked me about the oddest or unusual names I had found over the years. This intrigued and made me look way back to dusty old file copies of columns over the years and I came up with a few that I hope will be of interest.

The first is the surname is Naughty. It is an Aberdeenshire name and though it seems to imply that the ancient bearer of the name was mischievous, but he was in fact from an area named Nochtly and as a surname it was sometimes written as Nachty and Nachti.

Saint Brigid must have had an impact on the Gaels even as they migrated in to Scotland with places such as East and West Kilbride. Kilbride translates to cell or church of Saint Brigid.

One unfortunate name still with us is Bastard. Although in the last century or two past it had a stigma attached to it, which fortunately has lost to us today. I know of more than one elderly person who early in the last century who was traumatized to see the word ILLEGIMATE stamped on their Scottish birth certificate. It may not have been such in the Middle Ages, although a person's status was clearly marked by the name it wasn't without its compensation, in that the bearer may have received their name for being the product of a noble or royal house and all that perks associated with it. The loftiest person to bear the name was the Norman duke who conquered England in 1066. Prior to the conquest William I was known as William

the Bastard. This name because of his mother being a tanner's daughter and the father being the old Duke. After the conquest, William the Conqueror seemed a better name for a ruling monarch.

In the Glaswegian dialect many English words pronounced differently than they would be at Oxford or Cambridge. For instance the word "herself" would be pronounced "herself". However, that is not the derivation of the surname Hirsell or Hersel which is the name of land near Coldstream in Berwickshire.

In the north of England there was a prominent family named Trollope or Trollop, possibly a local land name that has as yet to be ascertained. A cadet of the family received lands in Perthshire from Robert I. Unfortunately, it has taken on a less than flattering meaning in the last two centuries.

There are also many names that do not look very Scottish or even English, such as Rollo, Tullo, Patillo and Nimmo but when we look back they invariably started as Rolloch, Patilloch etc.

Thank you Mr. Perry, that was an interesting project.

Napier

Speaking of interesting names, a Scottish name that I haven't addressed in all the years of this column is Napier. While the name is found in both England and Scotland, the derivation for the name is supposedly different. In England it appears to a title to a royal or noble household for the naperer, one who was responsible for the household linen.

The name in Scotland seems to come from one family that were associated with the Earl of Lennox line, possibly a younger sibling, as far back as the reign of William the Lion who ruled from 1165 – 1214. One story is that a member of this family was particularly valiant in a battle that the king singled him out in praising him by saying that he had "nae peer". Personally, I would find it difficult for a king at this time to be speaking Scots when I believe the main languages at court would have been Gaelic and or Norman French. Inglis or Scots English became more dominant in the late middle ages.

Another clue to the linen connection is the family motto "Sans Tache" meaning without stain.

Today social media is a mixed blessing. In one way it opens a whole new world to a person's interest. On the other hand it can take up to much of your time with misinformation. I have found that if one has an interest in anything connected to a Scottish heritage there is a myriad of pages that will fill your needs. Everything from Scottish genealogy, Scottish clans, your particular Scottish clan, Scottish DNA and where to visit in Scotland. Again, while it may fill the research you require but be reserved in taking everything posted as being true facts.

Wishing you all a healthy and loving February and true to this column's mantra, keep those inquiries coming.

Many centuries ago, February was a busy month in both Celtic and the Roman churches. Initially the Irish Gaels celebrated pagan spring rites which transferred into Saint Days in the Celtic and later the Roman church. Imbolc or the spring season was celebrated around the first of February in the Old Druid calendar. It was halfway between Yule on December 23rd and the festival of fire, Beltane on May 1st. Imbolc referred to the lambing season and was associated with the goddess Brigid. These seasonal festivals carried on after the arrival of Christianity in Ireland but the goddess became a Christian saint. Saint Brigid is still celebrated on February 1st and supposedly lived around the 3rd century. St. Brigid has her own distinctive



Urquhart Castle is one of Scotland's most iconic castles on the banks of Loch Ness.

Loch Ness

- Loch Ness contains more water than all the lakes of England and Wales combined – but it's not Scotland's biggest Loch (that's Loch Lomond) or deepest Loch (that's Loch Morar).
- The year round temperature of Loch Ness is 6 degrees Celsius, meaning you cannot swim in it in summer and it also never freezes.
- Loch Ness is part of the Caledonian Canal, which was built in the 19th century to allow ships to make their way from the North Sea to the Atlantic without having to face the dangers of the Pentland Firth.
- The waters of Loch Ness are very dark due to the peat washed from the hills into the Loch – perfect cover for any creatures that might be living in the depths!
- Loch Ness only has one island, the tiny "Cherry Island" near Fort Augustus – it's an artificial island called a "crannog", which was built during the Iron Age.

- Loch Ness was once watched over by Scotland's smallest manned lighthouse – Bona Lighthouse. The lighthouse keeper used to put a lantern in his window to guide ships from Loch Ness into Loch Dochfour. Today Bona Lighthouse has been restored and is available as a holiday home.
- Before modern roads were built along the shores of Loch Ness, people travelled along the Loch by Paddle Steamer. A boat trip is still the best way to experience Loch Ness, you can either choose a leisurely cruise or a thrill-seeking trip on a RIB.
- The first ever Nessie sighting was back in 565AD by St Columba. According to legend, the Irish monk's servant was attacked by a "water beast", although the attack is said to have happened on the River Ness rather than the Loch itself.
- You can use Google Earth to look for Nessie under the surface of the Loch, give it a try!
- Loch Ness lies in the Great Glen faultline and seismic activity has been recorded, although earthquakes in the area tend to be minor.

V&A Dundee opening announced



creativity; a design residency studio where designers will share work-in-progress with visitors; a multi-purpose auditorium for conferences, design jams and community events, and a restaurant with spectacular views from its open terrace over RRS Discovery and the River Tay.

Philip Long, Director of V&A Dundee, said: "After many years of planning for V&A Dundee, we are absolutely thrilled to announce the date of the new museum's opening. In just months we will be opening the doors and welcoming our first visitors. V&A Dundee is set to be a vital new cultural organisation for Dundee, the UK and beyond, helping to change understanding of just how important design and creativity are to people's lives. We are enormously grateful to all our supporters for helping to make this happen. V&A Dundee brings something new to Scotland. It is the country's first museum dedicated to design, which visitors will be able to experience and get involved with in very many ways. Particularly important is that the new museum enables major V&A exhibitions to be seen more widely by more people across the UK. So I am especially excited that part of V&A Dundee's opening programme will be the breath-taking exhibition *Ocean Liners: Speed & Style*, the first of many ambitious exhibitions at V&A Dundee that will show how our lives have been – and always will be – shaped by design."

V&A Dundee, Scotland's first design museum, will open to the public on Saturday 15 September 2018. It will be the only V&A museum in the world outside London: 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, and the vital contribution design makes to all our lives.

Designed by internationally acclaimed Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, V&A Dundee stands at the centre of the £1 billion transformation of the Dundee waterfront, once part of the city's docklands. With its complex geometry, inspired by the dramatic cliffs along the east coast of Scotland, it stretches out into the River Tay – a new landmark reconnecting the city with its historic waterfront, and a major new cultural development for Scotland and the UK.

Scottish Design Galleries

The new museum will feature permanent galleries of Scottish design, as well as an ambitious international programme of changing exhibitions showcasing the very best of design from around the world, new design commissions, fast-changing installations by emerging designers and creative projects developed through our learning programme for all our audiences.

At the heart of V&A Dundee, the Scottish Design Galleries will tell the story of Scotland's exceptional and international design heritage. Curated in collaboration with the V&A, these galleries will be free to enter and feature around 300 exhibits drawn from the remarkable collections of the V&A, as well as from museums and private collections across Scotland and the world, covering architecture, ceramics, engineering, fashion, furniture, healthcare, jewellery, textiles, videogame design and more.

At the centre of these galleries will stand Charles Rennie Mackintosh's magnificent Oak Room, fully restored and preserved for future generations in a partnership with Glasgow Life. The 13.5-metre-long panelled room was originally designed for Miss Cranston's Ingram Street tearooms in Glasgow in 1907, before being saved – and placed in

storage in hundreds of pieces – almost 50 years ago. Other key objects in the Scottish Design Galleries will include a beautifully decorated 15th century Book of Hours, a spectacular Cartier 'Valkyrie' diamond tiara, original *Beano* artworks from Dundee publishers DC Thomson, and the snap40 digital device which is designed to improve healthcare.

It will be the only V&A museum in the world outside London: an international centre for design, a place of inspiration, discovery and learning.

The new museum enables V&A's most ambitious exhibitions to be shared more widely across the UK. The opening exhibition *Ocean Liners: Speed & Style*, will explore the designs behind a mode of transport that came to represent the status of nations and the aspirations of millions. The show, organised by the V&A and the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, is the first to explore the design and cultural impact of the ocean liner on an international scale. It will re-imagine the golden age of ocean travel and explore all aspects of ship design from the remarkable engineering, architecture and interiors to the opulent fashion and lifestyle on board. Further exhibition announcements will be made ahead of the museum's opening.

The temporary exhibitions and permanent galleries will be complemented by exciting new commissions and installations, supporting and showcasing emerging design talent.

Dynamic learning spaces

Turner Prize-nominated artist Ciara Phillips has been commissioned to produce a new work in response to the V&A's remarkable collections of Scottish design. Drawing on research into textile histories and Scottish ceramic production, this site-specific installation will welcome

visitors as they reach the upper floor of the museum, before entering the galleries.

The Michelin Design Gallery will showcase contemporary design talent, starting with an exhibition of V&A Dundee's pre-opening national project, the Scottish Design Relay, presenting design prototypes created by young people in communities across Scotland from Orkney to Govan.

The museum will also include: dynamic learning spaces to accommodate visitors of all ages and backgrounds to learn from and participate in design



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Heavy Games and Ceilidh return to the 2018 Ringwood Highland Games



After an absence of 19 years, Tossing the Caber, Scottish Hammer Throw and Stone Put will be some of the highlights on the program of the Ringwood Highland Games to be held on Sunday March 25th at the East Ringwood Sports Ground. Traditionally, Highland Games revolved around athletic and sports competitions and along with the Pipers and Dancers the Caber Toss has come

to almost symbolise Highland games all over the world. In addition to the pipe bands contest, the two Highland dancing competitions, swordplay, the large number of Scottish Clan tents and Scottish Country Dancing, there will be some new activities for adults and children of all ages.

In the newly introduced Grand Marquee, there will be a whole day program including Celtic bands, folk

singers, recitations and presentations of Scottish history and Clans, drumming and harp play. In addition to children's face painting a new attraction will be separate face painting using Celtic designs by a well-known artist. All the Scottish delicacies and a huge range of food and drink will be available as will be whisky tastings. There will be a large contingent of interstate stalls with Scottish goods and a wide range of items and memorabilia, including some new stalls.

Come to the Ceilidh

As a lead up to the games, the night before, Saturday the 24th of March, a Ceilidh will be held upstairs in the Maroondah Club, which is also located at the East Ringwood Sports Ground All are welcome to come and join in the dancing with music provided by Celtic Band Trioc and also a bush band with caller provided dance instructions. Finger food will be provided as part of the entry cost and drinks will be available at bar prices. Ceilidh (pronounced "Kay-lee", emphasis on the first syllable) is many things. It derives from the Gaelic word meaning a visit and originally meant just that (and still does in Gaelic).

The financial sponsorship received from the Victorian Scottish Heritage

Cultural Foundation, together with Habitat for Humanity is very much appreciated. Without this assistance and support, it would be difficult for the 52 year old Ringwood Highland Games to continue.

Spend a day in Scotland, come to the Ringwood Highland Games, the only Highland games in Melbourne.

For more information see: www.ringwoodhighlandgames.org.au



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Westie Jute Bag

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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

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An Epic Journey

By: Kenny MacAskill



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

Every emigrant Scot has a tale of departure and journey to their new home. For many in modern times its by bus or train heading south or a plane across the oceans. It may be alone or with family and friends. Its relatively safe even if sorrow and loss are still experienced.

In years gone by it was far harder and certainly far from safe. The journey over land was gruelling and across the seas was dangerous. Some were travelling alone and others with family and even their entire community. For some it was a journey of hope, for a better life for others forced removal from the land of their birth.

Normanists

But, few if any can compare with the epic journey made by a Minister from Sutherland with his entire congregation. In the middle of the 19th century when travel was lengthy and dangerous they travelled initially to Nova Scotia before heading on to New Zealand, via Cape Breton and Australia. Not only those challenges were faced but even the need to construct the ships they sailed in on occasion was sometimes required. No wonder one was named the "Ark".

Rev Norman McLeod and his followers known as the "Normanists" became the Scots of Waipu, a Gaelic speaking community established at the top of North Island, New Zealand. The son of a fisherman in Lochinver, Sutherland, he was born around 1780. A driven but dogmatic individual he attended university in Aberdeen before going to Edinburgh to study theology, intending to enter the ministry. Before travelling to Edinburgh, he married his childhood sweetheart Mary McLeod who accompanied him on not just that trip but his epic journey. They had 10 children, though only 5 survived them.

Canada

After graduating though he didn't enter the Ministry as he disagreed with the Church over what he saw as lax adherence to the strict principles he believed in. Instead he returned to the Highlands becoming a teacher with the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SPCK), though, he was also a very popular lay preacher. He was a firm adherent to Knox and Calvin, which saw him engage in numerous theological battles with the Church. That strengthened his popularity within the lay pulpit but cost his job at the school.

Accordingly, he moved to Wick in 1815 where he became a fisherman, whilst he planned for a new life in Canada. In 1817, he and his family sailed away to Nova Scotia, settling in Pictou where there was already an established Sutherland community. A further 150 came out to join him the following year as the clearances were in full sway. Both new and old settlers were in need of a Minister and he therefore formally entered the pulpit.

In 1820, a community in Ohio approached him to come and minister to them. After some consideration he agreed to go and persuaded his congregation to join him. It was then that the "Ark" was built to take them and all their worldly possessions to a new land.

However, the new land was to be Cape Breton not the American Mid-West. Departing Pictou storms forced them into St Ann's on the Nova Scotian island where finding bountiful fishing, the community decided to settle. There he also formalised his Ministry and become enrolled in the New York Presbytery. He and his congregation were joined by more Highland and Island emigrants and a Gaelic community grew and prospered. Its legacy and influence linger to this day. All seemed settled in Cape Breton until potato blight struck in 1847, as it did in Scotland and most tragically in Ireland.

That added to challenges faced with geography and climate saw them decide to seek a new home. One of the Reverend McLeod's sons had returned to Scotland before travelling on to Australia. His letters to his father described a bountiful land providing plenty and offering far more than the hardships currently being endured. McLeod and his followers accordingly packed up and continued their epic journey, this time heading to southern climes.

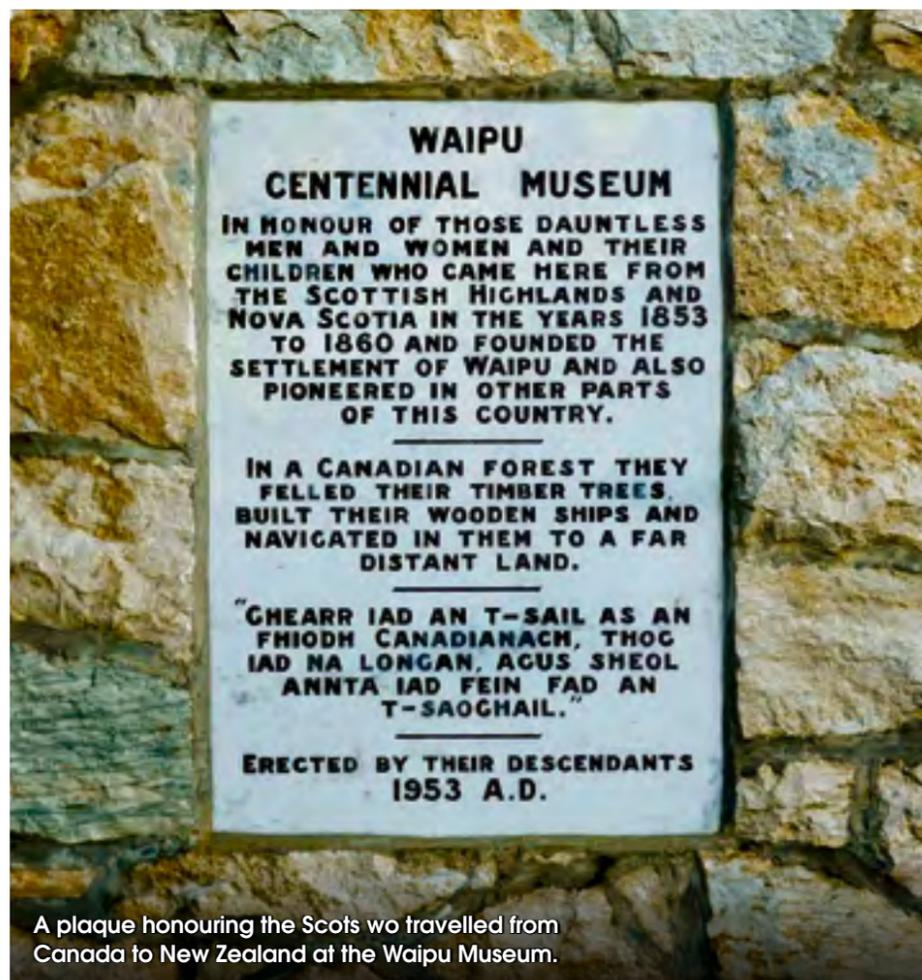
However, once again ships were required to take them to the other side of the world. 1850 saw them building the boats that would take them there. By November 1851, two were ready to sail. One the "Margaret" contained him and his family along with almost 150 Normanist's and embarked first. Six months later it was followed in its wake by the "Highland lass" with a similar number. They called at Cape Town before anchoring at Adelaide in April 1852, the sister ship arriving in the October.

New Zealand

But, for the pastor and his flock it wasn't to be the promised land. Instead they found Victoria at the height of the Gold Rush. The price of land was at a premium and for the devoted it seemed licentious and Godless. When three sons died in a typhoid epidemic, their destination seemed also to be blighted by pestilence and plague. So, the Minister approached the Governor of New Zealand seeking land there for the entire community, including more still to come from Cape Breton. That request was granted and a ship was acquired, as the ones that had brought them to Australia had been disposed of on arrival.

In September 1853 the epic journey was finally concluded when his ship landed in Auckland. McLeod was by then in his seventies and he and his congregation settled along the Waipu River, where they were joined by nearly 800 more over coming years from Canada. The Minister had finally reached Providence and he and his congregation had found a land that provided for their spiritual and material needs.

McLeod died in 1866, preceded a few years before by his wife, who had travelled constantly by his side across the seas and around the globe. They had been followed by their adherents and the Gaelic community of Waipu was founded. Time has dissipated the community and the language but descendants still remain and a legacy left. Few can match that epic journey.



A plaque honouring the Scots who travelled from Canada to New Zealand at the Waipu Museum.

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www.ringwoodhighlandgames.org.au

By: Judy Vickers

Moat Brae

The enchanted land in Dumfries

Historic Moat Brae.

Moat Brae in Dumfries was the childhood playground of J.M. Barrie, creator of Peter Pan, and the place where he first found Neverland. The Georgian mansion has been saved from decay and vandalism and this year will take on the role as Scotland's national centre for children's literature and storytelling and will be a place which promotes and encourages imagination and creativity. The attraction will include visiting exhibitions, interactive rooms and a discovery garden as Judy Vickers explains.

What could be more fitting for the Year of Young People? That's the title 2018 has been given by the Scottish Government, following on from 2017's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology – and one of the centrepieces of this year will be the opening of Moat Brae in Dumfries in south-west Scotland.

The Georgian mansion which inspired JM Barrie's *Peter Pan*, one of the world's best-loved and most magical children's stories, will be holding a three-day festival later this year as one of the flagship events of the Year of Young People. The final phase of works to create a National Centre for Children's Literature and Storytelling at Moat Brae began last April and the centre itself is due to open at the end of this year. It is designed to be a place to discover children's literature and storytelling from many eras, countries and cultures while the grounds will be reinvented as a Neverland Discovery Garden.

Number One Dumfries

As actress Joanna Lumley, the patron of the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust, said when she visited in the autumn: "It's so exciting to actually stand here in JM Barrie's 'enchanted land' and see our dreams for a Neverland Discovery Garden begin to come true."

The opening will be the culmination of nine years' work by a dedicated group who became the Moat Brae Peter Pan Trust. Their aim was to rescue Moat Brae, a mansion once known as "Number One Dumfries" which had fallen into neglect and suffered vandalism in the late 1990s.

It is designed to be a place to discover children's literature and storytelling from many eras, countries and cultures while the grounds will be reinvented as a Neverland Discovery Garden.

Moat Brae was designed by Dumfries architect Walter Newall in 1823 for local solicitor Robert Threshie. It had been a significant property in the town both as the private residence and as a private hospital and nursing home.

Threshie was a solicitor and local postmaster and he bought the land to build Moat Brae house from the trustees

of Dumfries Academy and the sweeping grounds down to the river from John Clark Maxwell of Middlebie. It takes its name from the earthwork castle or "motte" which once stood on the bank of the river Nith. Its exterior, with its Doric porch, and original interior with its dome above the entrance hall, made it much admired in its heyday.

Threshie lived there with his family and servants until 1841 when it was bought by a minister's widow, Mrs Babbington, then when she died in 1863, by Henry Gordon, a bank agent and solicitor. His two sons, Henry and Stewart, grew up there and went to Dumfries Academy, where they became friends with fellow pupil, the young JM Barrie, who had moved to Dumfries from Kirriemuir when he was 13. Barrie was living with his brother in a house not far away and often played at Moat Brae – its garden he later called an "enchanted land" which inspired the Neverland of Peter Pan.

Barrie's history and heritage

The Gordon family lived in the house until 1906 when it was bought by knitwear manufacturer James McGeorge. When he died in 1914, the house became the Moat Brae Nursing Home, a private hospital and respite facility for the elderly. In 2001 it was bought by a businessman who planned to turn it into a themed hotel but failed to get funding and it was sold to the Loreburn Housing Association. In 2009, when the housing association were planning to demolish the house to build affordable housing, the action group was formed.

A huge boost was being adopted the Prince's Regeneration Trust, as well as actress Joanna Lumley coming on board as patron – children's author David Walliams has also given the project his backing.

By 2011, the trust had raised £75,000 to buy the house and grounds from the housing association just through funding from the local community and family trusts. A second stage, finished

in 2014, restored the roof and house but by March last year, the trust had raised its £5.7 million target and work began in April on the final stage of the work. That will see the house transformed into a specialist interpretation centre on its and Barrie's history and heritage, with interactive rooms and an education suite. Activities, events, workshops and exhibitions will held, aimed at encouraging reading, storytelling and the igniting the imagination. A bank of stories will be created to preserve folktales and stories from the local area. It is estimated once open to the public, it will attract about 40,000 visitors a year.

Enchanted land

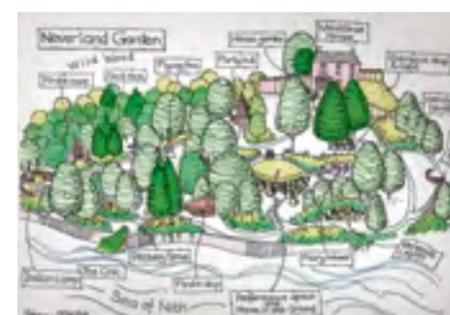
A key part of the project is the garden which is being turned into an "enchanted land". The garden lies to the north and north-west of the house, looking out across the river to the water meadows and beyond to the rolling hills of the southern uplands in south-west Scotland. The original layout of the Moat Brae garden would have been made after the house was designed in 1823 but it is thought that the very little that now remains of the early garden design relates to Victorian times – when Barrie played there.

Work is under way to create adventure trails, art installations, a plant study area and performance spaces. Peter Pan features for children to explore will include a mermaids' lagoon, pirate cave, flying fox, skull rock, fairy bower and pirate ship.

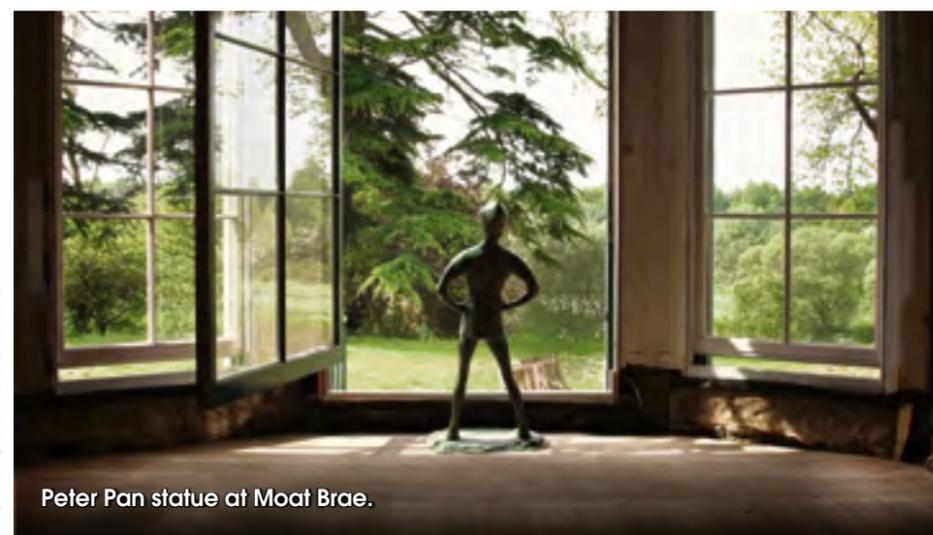
Cathy Agnew, project director of the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust, explained how the work is going: "They are building two new contemporary wings on the house.

The west wing will be a new visitors' entrance with a shop, café and box office, while the east wing extension will be the learning and education suite. As for the house itself, the ground floor is to be put back as far as possible as it was in the 1860s when Barrie would have known it. And up in the attic floor there will be the Darling nursery. At the moment in the garden there are paths going in and we are awaiting the arrival of the pirate ship which will be the best pirate ship you have ever seen. We will also have Tinkerbell's camp and a Lost Boys' lookout."

Dame Barbara Kelly, who chairs the trust, said it was a fantastic achievement considering the house had been on the brink of being bulldozed. "We were very fortunate that JM Barrie a long, long time ago publicly stated that *Peter Pan* began in this garden and that has given us the hook to hang the whole project on." She said that as well as the literature centre, the site would also be a celebration of the work of architect Walter Newall. "There are lots and lots of different strands to this project which we hope will bring in people not only locally but nationally and internationally," she added.



Moat Brae garden sketch by Peter McGowan.



Peter Pan statue at Moat Brae.

Photos: Graeme Robertson.

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

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 the former 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.



Lady Fiona MacGregor with Sir Malcolm MacGregor.

relations between the Scottish Diaspora, the Scottish Government and Visit Scotland. He has worked with the Scottish Tartans Authority and Lyon Court who deal with matters of heraldry. He has liaised closely with overseas' groups like the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (Cosca) and the Scottish Australian Heritage Council.

It all turned into something of a full-time job. But he has relished the challenge and made friends across the world. The chief is now in touch with clansmen and women in America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and further afield. If you can get further afield than New Zealand...

The MacGregor and I – because yours truly has been lucky enough to accompany him on his numerous travels – have attended Highland Games in misty mountains and on sandy beaches. We have been guests at Burns' suppers in South Africa and St Andrew's Day celebrations in French-speaking Montreal. It has been a rollercoaster tartan-packed ride across the world. Always colourful, always meeting interesting characters.

Jane Haining was born in the south of Scotland. A Church of Scotland missionary, she was sent to Europe to work in a girl's school in Budapest.

When the Second World War broke out Jane was told to return home to Scotland for her own safety. But she refused to leave her charges. As she said: 'if my girls need me in days of sunshine, how much more will they need me in the days of darkness...' The brave Scotswoman stayed with her charges. She was eventually arrested by the Nazis and sent to Auschwitz concentration camp where she died. Like the disabled power lifter, that, too, is a moving film, although for very different reasons...

The other thing keeping us busy is finding a house for my elderly parents. They are currently based in England, but they are getting on in years and now need to be near us. So Scotland beckons. We have found a pretty place with a view of a loch. I tell them they will love it. And they will...

Follow the MacGregor clan chief, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor, on twitter.com/theclanchiefs



The new Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, Donald MacLaren of MacLaren.

Greetings from Scotland where we alternate between cold and crisp and wet and windy. The days are still short. It is dark from seven until five. But there is a hint, just a hint, mind, of spring. The crocuses are just visible, the daffodils not far behind in terms of growth. It is always a good sign.

In the house, the wood burners blaze on. Which keeps the chief busy with the chainsaw. Now he has stepped down as Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs(SCSC) he has a mountain of time on his hands. Which he plans to devote to his photographic business. To go to wild places and take fabulous pictures – and he can always chop more wood, of course...

Donald MacLaren of MacLaren

The new chief at the helm of the SCSC is Donald MacLaren of MacLaren. Our families are good friends and we have spent a convivial Hogmanay or two together. Yet his clan were once our fierce enemies. The MacGregors and MacLarens may have inhabited the same west Perthshire glen, but in ancient times they did not like each other one bit. We massacred a fair few of them – and vice versa. That's how it was.

Today there is still some gentle rivalry at play. But, on the whole, apart from the odd swords at dawn duel - only joking! - we get along just fine. Donald will do a great job running the clan chief's group. In another life, he was a British ambassador, working in places like Moscow. So he is well-used to keeping the peace. What's more, he is very Scottish. He wears a kilt and plays the bagpipes. How good is that?!

Over his eight years as Convenor the MacGregor has overseen major clan events like the Bannockburn and Flodden anniversaries. He has strengthened

The chief is now in touch with clansmen and women in America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and further afield. If you can get further afield than New Zealand...

Let us hope it is not over. Because we have yet to attend Highland Games in places like Germany and Italy. Then there is Russia, where they go mad for Robert Burns, so there may be a trip there at some stage in the future.

Remarkable Scots

At home, meanwhile, this month has been a busy one, workwise. I have just finished making a film about a remarkable Scottish man who is breaking records. Stuart Jamieson was born with spina-bifida and his parents were told he would not live beyond the age of two. He grew up to be a world champion power lifter – and has just smashed the record for lifting five times his weight. Despite the macho image he is a thoughtful, shy man. Yet his is a story of grit and determination. Then the Scots are nothing if not gritty and determined.

The other film I am involved with is about the only Scot to be officially honoured for giving her life to help Jewish people in the Holocaust.

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A box of delights to rescue Mackintosh's Hill House

Images courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland.



Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has developed an inspired, cutting-edge plan to quite literally save the Hill House for the nation. The Trust plans to build a colossal yet sublime enclosure (designed by architects Carmody Groarke) over Charles Rennie Mackintosh's renowned Helensburgh landmark to protect the building and keep the elements out. This will give skilled conservation teams the time needed to find long-term solutions that will secure the building's structural integrity.

Home for the future

The Hill House was built as a domestic dwelling for publisher Walter Blackie between 1902 and 1904. Mackintosh was determined to give his client a 'home for the future', dispensing with fussy Victorian and Edwardian-style external detailing in favour of a shockingly plain exterior. To achieve this Mackintosh made use of a new material – Portland cement – to form a smooth layer of render. The result was much admired and controversial in equal measure to his contemporaries. The trouble is that the once-experimental

finish has allowed extensive moisture ingress from the day it was first applied.

Decades of driving west coast wind and rain have saturated the walls of the Hill House – and threaten the building's long-term survival, including the bespoke interior finishes and designs that Mackintosh and his wife, Margaret MacDonald, created for his client. Over many years, solutions have been attempted but none have solved the problem. The Hill House's current owner, the National Trust for Scotland, is now taking action to ensure that, for once and for all, one of Scotland's most important buildings will remain as a beacon of one of its greatest son's design genius.

Simon Skinner, the National Trust for Scotland's Chief Executive said: "As our President, Neil Oliver, put it, the Hill House is in danger of 'dissolving like an aspirin in a glass of water.' We are building what amounts to a shield around and above the Hill House to keep wind and rain out and give the building a chance to dry. The structure is effectively a porous cage, albeit a beautifully designed one, that still allows some movement of air and

a degree of moisture penetration – this is essential to ensure the walls do not dry out too quickly and crumble as a result. While the Hill House is being protected from the elements, our conservation and architectural heritage teams can start work to find solutions that will respect the historic and design integrity of the building, meet the standards and obligations required by its listed status and ensure that this precious place will survive to inspire future generations. The temporary enclosure is see-through, which means that the building will still be visible from the outside, despite its respite from the elements after a century of being drenched."

Mackintosh's masterpiece

The Trust also revealed that the enclosure, which could be in place for a number of years, will do more than act as a refuge from the weather.

Simon Skinner added: "Not only will the structure allow us to keep the Hill House open to the public while our conservation teams are at work restoring the building to its original condition, it will become accessible to them like never before. Within the enclosure, visitors will be able to climb stairs and gangways for a bird's eye view of Mackintosh's masterpiece and to get up close and personal to the genius of his design. As a bonus, visitors can watch the restoration work as it progresses and then turn around to enjoy stunning views out over the Firth of Clyde."

Did you know?



- Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the son of a police superintendent, was born in Glasgow on 7 June 1868. The 150th anniversary of his birth will be marked in 2018.
- He enrolled at Glasgow School of Art in 1884. After completing his apprenticeship in 1890, he met his future wife Margaret MacDonald, her sister Frances and, together with his friend, Herbert McNair, they became known as 'The Four' who created the 'Glasgow Style' of architecture and interior design.
- In 1902, the publisher Walter Blackie purchased a plot of land at the top of a hill in Helensburgh for which he planned a new home with views over the Gareloch and the Firth of Clyde.
- Blackie already had an interest in the Glasgow Style and Mackintosh was recommended to him.
- Mackintosh was heavily influenced by the traditional plain style of historic Scottish towns and villages and disliked the then current vogue in architecture which copied Tudor, Gothic and Classical detailing. It was a meeting of minds with Blackie.
- At a cost of £5,000, Mackintosh, along with his wife Margaret MacDonald, oversaw the design and construction of every detail of the Hill House, which was completed in 1904.
- The Hill House proved to be incredibly influential in Europe, becoming especially inspiring to the German Bauhaus school and architectural/design movement, which in turn inspired much mid-late 20th century architecture.
- In 1953, the property was sold to Mr T Campbell Lawson. In 1972 it was sold to the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) and by 1978 the Landmark Trust took over a specially converted top flat for holiday-letting.
- The total cost of the Hill House project will be in the region of £4 million.



An artists impression of the enclosure.

Scotland by train...

What an Adventure!

Images courtesy of VisitScotland.



More than just a manner of getting from A to B, a train journey around Scotland can be one of the best (and most comfortable!) ways of admiring the stunning landscapes around the country. Where else can you see hundreds of miles of misty mountains, glittering lochs, quaint villages and even elegant mansions, all with a cup of tea in hand and being able to sit back and truly relax.

Brief Encounter, North by Northwest, The Lady Vanishes, Some Like it Hot.... What do all of these films have in common? A thrilling train journey. With the release of Kenneth Branagh's *Murder on the Orient Express*, visitors to Scotland can have a train journey to remember with stunning landscapes to explore every corner of the country. From overnight journeys deep into the Highlands to quick round trips perfect for all of the family, Scotland's railways offer dozens of options with great service and amazing views. Train fans can also pretend they're on the Orient Express with a journey across Scotland via the ultra-chic Belmond Royal Scotsman, with afternoon tea and elegant cabins.

All aboard!

The Belmond Royal Scotsman- The ultra-exclusive Belmond Royal Scotsman train offers a truly glamorous once-in-a-lifetime trip with fine dining and five-star hospitality. The Royal Scotsman whisks travellers around Scotland on unforgettable luxury breaks, stopping off for day trips along the way. Stops en route from Edinburgh include the Rothermurchus Estate in the Cairngorms, many whisky distilleries and Glamis Castle in Angus, across a variety of bookable excursions.

Borders Railway - Scotland's newest railway is the longest domestic railway to be constructed in Britain for over 100 years. The route runs from the heart of the City of Edinburgh to Tweedbank in the Scottish Borders, travelling through outstanding scenery and giving visitors the opportunity to stop off and explore some of Scotland's off the beaten track but incredibly beautiful urban and rural landscapes. From literature and history to fashion and mountain biking, the one hour journey will intrigue and excite travellers.

The West Highland Line- Widely regarded as one of the world's greatest train journeys, the West Highland Line is

known to millions as the railway that took Harry Potter from Platform 9 ¾ all the way to Hogwarts. The route leads from Glasgow to Mallaig on the west coast, passing over the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct and offering breathtaking views of locations such as Loch Shiel, Loch Eilt and Ben Nevis, many of which can also be seen in the Harry Potter films. For a truly magical day out, hop on the old-fashioned Jacobite steam train at Fort William, pack a picnic to enjoy as you explore the charming Mallaig Bay, or stop off at Arisaig to take a walk along one of the Highlands' best beaches.

Caledonian Sleeper- Visitors travelling from England can catch the Caledonian Sleeper at London Euston and be swept up to the Highlands overnight, waking up to stunning views of Rannoch Moor before arriving in Fort William. Other options include waking up in Edinburgh, Inverness, Aberdeen or Glasgow before continuing your Scottish adventure.

The Far North Line- Britain's most rural railway, the Far North Lines connects Inverness with Thurso and Wick at the northern limits of the Highlands. The

full journey takes around four hours and follows hundreds of miles of beautiful varied landscapes, from peatland bogs and minuscule hamlets to the gates of the magnificent Dunrobin Castle.

The Kyle Line- Departing from Inverness, the Kyle Line leads through charming Highland villages such as Achnasheen and Plockton before arriving in Kyle of Lochalsh. Completed in 1897, the line was the most expensive rail project of its day: the last 10 miles between Stromeferry and Kyle needed 31 cuttings and 29 tunnels and had to be blasted out of solid rock. The result is a gem of a railway passing over deserted beaches and through fishing villages, and offering views of mountains and herons and possibly the odd eagle or otter.

Strathspey Steam Railway -The majestic Cairngorm mountains can be seen from the comfort of a plush carriage on a trip along the Strathspey Steam Railway. Ideal for all ages, the journey lasts 90 minutes round trip and connects Aviemore with Broomhill: tuck into afternoon tea or a three-course Sunday lunch on board the train, or hop off at

Boat of Garten to spot ospreys and other wildlife at the nearby RSPB reserve.

Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway- Young travellers will enjoy the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway, just outside Falkirk, which passes by the local nature reserve, estate and museum at Kinneil and the charming vintage railway station at Birkhill. Wee ones can enjoy a day out with Thomas the Tank Engine, while bigger kids climb aboard heritage locomotives at the Museum of Scottish Railways in Bo'ness, the largest of its kind in Scotland.

The Forth Rail Bridge- No Scottish rail experience is complete without a trip across the Forth Rail Bridge. Connecting Edinburgh with Fife, this remarkable structure has the second-longest single cantilever span of any bridge in the world and is currently being considered for UNESCO World Heritage status. There are great views of the Firth of Forth, not to mention the brand-new Queensferry Crossing bridge, to be seen as the train speeds across the rails.

Glasgow to Oban- This is the less well known route of the West Highland Line and well worth the journey. On splitting at Crianlarich, the train powers through Tyndrum, Dalmally, Lochawe, Taynult and Connel before reaching the end of the line on Oban's south pier. Along the way, the train skirts Loch Awe, offering passengers glimpses of Kilchurn Castle before passing beneath the impressive Ben Cruachan. As the train pulls into the terminus, views across Oban bay and its surrounding islands welcome the traveller. The ferry terminal in Oban is a fifteen minute walk from the railway station, connecting visitors to many of Scotland's idyllic islands.

CairnGorm Funicular Railway- CairnGorm Mountain near Aviemore is home to the UK's highest funicular railway. Open all year round, the railway provides spectacular views from Britain's sixth highest mountain as well as mountain walks and mountain bike descents for the more adventurous.

For more information on holidaying in Scotland please visit www.visitscotland.com/railjourneys



The Jacobite steam train passing over the Glenfinnan Viaduct at the head of Loch Shiel, Lochaber, Highlands of Scotland.



**St Andrew
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Sunday 18th February 2018
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Enjoy the colour, the sounds and the spectacle of:

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It's shawl happening in Paisley



Paisley Abbey.

It may have narrowly missed out on being named the UK's City of Culture but Paisley, Scotland's biggest town, is still set for big things as it carries on its quest to celebrate culture. The market town is packed with fantastic attractions, stunning architecture and exciting events, and will continue its mark on Scotland's cultural calendar in 2018 and beyond.

Best known for its world famous Paisley Pattern, which was sewn into shawls produced by local weavers, this small market town grew to prominence at the centre of the global textile trade. Away from the weaves, workers led important conversations around social justice and fair employment.

The town centre has the highest concentration of listed buildings anywhere in Scotland outwith Edinburgh. Architectural gems include the 12th century Paisley Abbey, the grand neo-classical Paisley Town Hall, the newly-restored Russell Institute and the spectacular neo-Gothic Thomas Coats Memorial Baptist Church.

Paisley's cultural highlights

Paisley Pattern shawls and Paisley Museum- Named as one of 25 objects to shape Scotland's history, Paisley Pattern shawls symbolise a golden manufacturing era when Scotland, as an active player in the Industrial Revolution, capitalised on global demand for a product. Paisley became the epicentre of production for this particular item over the 19th century thanks to the skill of local weavers in replicating the complicated teardrop motif. The names of the town and the pattern became synonymous as the iconic Paisley Pattern design was favoured across the world, worn by figures from Queen Victoria to the Beatles. Paisley Museum has the world's largest collection of Paisley shawls – a collection designated by experts as 'internationally-significant'.

Paisley Abbey-Dating back more than 850 years, the stunning Paisley Abbey is recognised as the cradle of the Royal House of Stewart. It is the birthplace of Robert II of Scotland, the first of the Stewart monarchs. His mother, Marjory Bruce – daughter of the famous Scottish king, Robert the Bruce – died at the

historic site while giving birth to the future king. The Abbey became wealthy due to extensive trade with commercial centres in Europe. It was a centre of learning, and it is believed William Wallace was educated at the abbey by the monks. It also has a gargoyle that has been modelled to look like one of the monsters of the film 'Alien', thought to be the handiwork of a cheeky stone mason during refurbishment work in the 1990s, and a stained glass window by Daniel Cottier, who influenced Louis Comfort Tiffany.

Paisley's Grand Fountain-Considered to be one of the best examples of a Scottish-made cast iron fountain, Paisley's category A-listed Grand Fountain is the centrepiece to the beautiful Fountain Gardens. Standing at 10m tall, the fountain, which is adorned with an array of creatures and cherubs, was gifted to the people of Paisley by mill owner, Thomas Coats. The fountain was fully restored in 2015 and is the only fully function cast-iron fountain in Scotland.

Brown's Lane-Come face-to-face with some of Paisley's VIPs in the town's Brown's Lane. The street has been transformed into a contemporary piece of art with surrounding buildings adorned with giant street-art murals depicting some of the town's most famous exports, including Gerry Rafferty and Paolo Nutini.

The Sma' Shot Cottages-This popular attraction offers a unique insight into two distinct periods of Paisley's textile history, transporting visitors back into the 18th

century into a typical weaver's cottage, originally built in the 1750s. Within the weaver's cottage, you will find the original weaving looms and learn about the origins of the Sma' Shot Day celebration held in July each year.

Coats Observatory-Part of the Paisley Museum complex, Coats Observatory is the oldest public observatory in the country, dating back to 1883. As well as the astronomical work, daily weather readings are taken and the observatory had also served as a seismic recording centre monitoring earthquakes worldwide, including the famous 1906 San Francisco quake.

Paisley: The Secret Collection-Paisley is unveiling a treasure trove of objects with the UK's first publicly accessible Museum Store on a High Street. Paisley: The Secret Collection will house tens of thousands of items from Renfrewshire's collections in a purpose-built publicly-accessible storage unit in a former retail property. The collection includes some of Paisley's world-famous textiles, plus a mix of ceramics, world cultures, social history, art and sculpture, natural history and local archives – with many of those items unseen by the general public in decades or longer.

Major events programme

Paisley has a growing reputation for staging a number of major events attracting regional, national and international audiences to experience a culturally-vibrant town.

Highlights include Weave (July), a two-day cultural festival wrapped around the town's traditional Sma' Shot celebrations and celebrating its roots in both textiles and radicalism; The Spree (October) multi-arts festival, now a major fixture in Scotland's cultural calendar, which has an attractively-varied programme of music, drama and dance, and this year featured a homecoming show by Paolo Nutini.

The town has also secured a number of other major events. Having won the right to host the British Pipe Band Championships from 2016-2018, Paisley has recently learned it will again hear the skirl of the pipes and the beat of the drums when the championships return for another three-year run from 2019-2021. The town has also won the right to host the Royal National Mòd in either 2021 or 2022, having previously staged this famous showcase of Gaelic culture in 2013 in one of its most successful stagings.

Paisley Burns Club

Paisley Burns Club was founded in 1805 and is the world's oldest formally constituted Burns Club. The club meets in its premises in Queen St Paisley - a cottage once owned by Paisley's world-famous poet and songwriter Robert Tannahill. Tannahill was also the founder and first secretary of Paisley Burns Club.

For more information about the Paisley visit : www.paisley2021.co.uk

Did you know?



- Paisley Abbey contains the tomb of Marjory Bruce – daughter of Robert the Bruce – who died there while giving birth to the future Robert II of Scotland.
- Paisley Gilmour Street is the fourth-busiest station in Scotland with more than five million passengers per year - more than Haymarket, Aberdeen or Dundee stations.
- Paisley was the location for the landmark 'snail in a bottle' legal case. A lady visited a local cafe, was served a bottle of ginger beer with a dead snail in it, fell ill and successfully sued the manufacturer, thus creating the modern concept of negligence.
- The Paisley pattern originated in Kashmir but soon travelled to Europe and paisley shawls became a fashion icon. From 1800 to 1850, the weavers of the town of Paisley became the foremost producers of these shawls. The design became known as the Paisley pattern.



By: Nick Drainey



Understanding Scottish sheep



Travel across Scotland and you will see a landscape full of sheep. Researchers in Scotland have studied facial expression research with sheep which is being considered as an important discovery in animal welfare. As you pass these docile and cute creatures you may not realise they have a range of emotions and feelings which they express in their own 'sheepish' way as Nick Drainey explains.

Most people would struggle to tell the difference between a happy or a sad sheep just by looking at their faces but scientists have discovered that the woolly animals actually have a wide range of expressions. Despite having few facial muscles, sheep can convey how they are feeling to the rest of their flock, especially by using their ears. And, researchers have found, one happy - or sad - sheep can change the mood of the whole group. Scientists at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) made the discovery by showing sheep life-sized photographs of their fellow animals' heads with happy or sad expressions.

Important discovery

The study, which was carried out in association with the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), is being hailed as an important discovery in terms of animal welfare and that facial expressions are a key social signal that can affect the temperament of small ruminants, such as sheep, goats and deer.

It is thought that if animals can perceive emotions in others then it is likely to affect their own emotional state. The findings of the experiment, led by Dr Lucille Bellegarde, have been published in the academic journal *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*.

Dr Bellegarde said: "This study showed for the first time that sheep are not only able to discriminate between facial expressions, but they are also able to

perceive the valence – in other words, negative or neutral – of the expressions displayed. In terms of animal welfare, it is essential to be able to understand how emotions are perceived between animals reared in groups.

"Because this emotional perception is likely to affect their own emotional state, it might take just one happy – or unhappy – sheep to make an entire flock happy, or unhappy."

Photo sheep

As part of the study, sheep were photographed in different situations. To obtain happy, or neutral, expressions, they were photographed in their home pens and, for negative expressions, they were either photographed during social isolation, or during aggressive social interactions.

The sheep were then shown photographs of the "Photo Sheep" in the test pen. The photos were displayed on



Dr Lucille Bellegarde with the test sheep.

computer screens so that they were of the same size as the heads of real sheep. The tested sheep then had to learn to choose the correct type of face (either the happy or the negative) to gain a small food reward which was placed behind the picture.

They had to choose the correct image 22 out of 30 times before the researchers could consider that they had learned the task. The results also showed that sheep learned to link an image of a negative facial expression with a reward faster.

Dr Bellegarde said: "We have linked this difference to the attention bias that exists in mammals towards negative stimuli. For instance, humans pay more attention to potential threat such as images of spiders, than to images of buildings. This increased attention towards images of negative faces is most likely what 'helped' the animals to learn the discrimination task more quickly."

Pain assessment

The research comes after an artificial intelligence system designed by researchers at the University of Cambridge was developed to detect pain levels in sheep, which could aid in early diagnosis and treatment of common, but painful, conditions in animals.

The AI system uses five different facial expressions to recognise whether a sheep is in pain, and estimate the severity of that pain. The results could be used to improve sheep welfare, and could be applied to other types of animals, such as rodents used in animal research, rabbits or horses.

Building on earlier work which teaches computers to recognise emotions and expressions in human faces, the system is able to detect the distinct parts of a sheep's face and compare it with a standardised measurement tool developed by veterinarians for diagnosing pain.

Severe pain in sheep is associated with conditions such as foot rot, an extremely painful and contagious condition which causes the foot to rot away; or mastitis, an inflammation of the udder in ewes caused by injury or bacterial infection. Both of these conditions are common in large flocks, and early detection will lead to faster treatment and pain relief. Reliable and efficient pain assessment would also help with early diagnosis.

Professor Peter Robinson, who led the research, normally focuses on teaching computers to recognise emotions in human faces. He said: "There's been much more study over the years with people. But a lot of the earlier work on the faces of animals was actually done by Darwin, who

argued that all humans and many animals show emotion through remarkably similar behaviours, so we thought there would likely be crossover between animals and our work in human faces."

Happy sheep

According to the researchers, when a sheep is in pain, there are five main things which happen to their faces: their eyes narrow, their cheeks tighten, their ears fold forwards, their lips pull down and back, and their nostrils change from a U shape to a V shape.

Co-author of the study, Dr Marwa Mahmoud, said: "The interesting part is that you can see a clear analogy between these actions in the sheep's faces and similar facial actions in humans when they are in pain – there is a similarity in terms of the muscles in their faces and in our faces."

The Cambridge researchers used approximately 500 photographs of sheep, which had been gathered by veterinarians in the course of providing treatment.

The next plans for the system are to train it to detect and recognise sheep faces from moving images. Professor Robinson said a camera could be positioned at a water trough or other place where sheep congregate, and the system would be able to recognise any sheep which were in pain. The farmer would then be able to retrieve the affected sheep from the field and get it the necessary medical attention.

"I do a lot of walking in the countryside, and after working on this project, I now often find myself stopping to talk to the sheep and make sure they're happy," said Professor Robinson.

Did you know?



- Scotland has more sheep than people, with nearly 7 million across the country.
- Scotland has some of the oldest sheep in the world with ages recorded to nearly 26 years.
- Authentic haggis is a savoury pudding containing sheep's pluck – the heart, liver and lungs – minced with onions, spices and oatmeal.
- Pregnant women should avoid sheep during lambing season due to possible infections the animals can carry.
- Moffat in Dumfriesshire in the south of Scotland has hosted an annual sheep race, which was cancelled in 2017 due to animal safety concerns.
- Sheep can live where man cannot. Sheep are found for example on the uninhabited and wild island of St Kilda off the Scottish west coast.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



The UK's first driverless trains for Glasgow

The revamped Glasgow Subway could be the first rail service in the UK to run trains without any staff on board. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), which is carrying out a refurbishment of the city's underground system costing £288m, confirmed that it aimed to run 'fully driverless' trains, sometimes without any staff, on board once passenger screens are in place at all stations. SPT announced in 2016 that new trains would not have drivers. A spokesperson said that there would always be staff to assist passengers, although these might be on platforms, rather than on the trains themselves. The 17 new trains will be open-plan with no doors between their three carriages to maximise space and provide room for wheelchair users. The new trains will be tested near Ibrox Stadium later this year and will initially be operated by drivers before going fully autonomous in 2021. Other light rail systems, such as London's Docklands Light Railway, currently run trains without drivers but with a member of staff to open and close train doors. The new trains part of a £288 million overhaul of the Glasgow Subway and the biggest for nearly 40 years. The Glasgow Subway or Clockwork Orange as it is known is the third oldest subway system in the world opening 1896.

Scotland's first purpose-built film & TV studio wins government backing



Scottish ministers have granted planning permission in principle for the country's first purpose-built film and TV studio following a long-running planning battle. Pentland Studios, which will be based near Straiton, outside Edinburgh, could help kick-start Scotland's film industry and create more than 900 jobs. A hotel, energy centre, film school and student

accommodation will also be constructed as part of the proposals with the first phase hoping to open by the end of 2019.

Ullapool going plastic straw free



Photo: Stephen Dyrgas.

Young campaigners from two Scottish primary schools are helping to make Ullapool the first plastic straw free village in the United Kingdom. All 14 bars, restaurants and cafes in the village are now using non-plastic alternatives, or have stopped offering drinking straws altogether. The last remaining outlet, the town's supermarket, has agreed to stop stocking plastic straws in the early part of this year. In September pupils from Ullapool Primary School joined forces with Glasgow's Sunnyside Primary School to lobby local businesses as part of the #NaeStrawAtAw campaign. The children were supported in their efforts by our Living Seas Communities Officer Noel Hawkins, who said: "This achievement is wholly down to pupil-power.

The pupils went door to door to speak directly to businesses, and this has clearly had an impact. I'd like to thank everyone involved for taking action after listening to the concerns of these youngsters. Living on the coast means we constantly see the impact of a throwaway attitude to plastic, both on our beaches and in our seas. Finding plastic drinking straws during beach cleans is particularly frustrating because alternative products are available. This may only be a small step towards reducing the amount of plastic in our seas, but if the #NaeStrawAtAw campaign can be successful in Ullapool it can work anywhere. All it takes is for people to be aware there are alternatives to plastic straws, and say no if they are offered one in a pub or a restaurant."

An average of 138 pieces of food and drink-related waste, including plastic

straws, were found on every 100 metres of UK beaches during this year's Great British Clean. According to a comprehensive assessment published by the IUCN around 8 million tons of plastic are released into the world's oceans every year

Another chance for the last man hanged in Dundee?



Professor Dame Sue Black, Director of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification at the University of Dundee.

A re-examination of the medical evidence which led to the execution of William Bury, the last man hanged in Dundee 129 years ago, will be staged at a public mock trial next month, organised by the University of Dundee. Bury was found guilty of the murder of his wife Ellen, and hanged on April 24, 1889. In his initial confession he made a claim to be Jack the Ripper.

His conviction rested largely on medical evidence which drew some uncertainty from the jury at the time. Now students from the Mooting Societies at the Universities of Dundee and Aberdeen will take part in a re-consideration of the information that was available at the time and will present evidence by today's forensic science standards.

"The William Bury trial and his subsequent execution is a fascinating story in so many respects, from the reaction of the Dundee public, who were very much against the death sentence at the time, to the claims linking him to the Jack the Ripper case, and the circumstances of the death of his wife," said Professor Dame Sue Black, Director of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification at the University of Dundee.

"We have excellent records of the original case, through documents held in the National Records of Scotland and press reports of the time. William Bury's body was transported to the University for anatomisation and the bones from his neck remain in my office. He had been hanged and his neck snapped at his second cervical vertebra – the classical hangman's fracture.

"When the jury returned the first time they found Bury guilty but asked for mercy as they found the medical evidence to be conflicting. However they could only return with one of three verdicts – guilty, not guilty or not proven. On the second return to the courtroom they found him guilty and he was sentenced to death by hanging. We will now look at this evidence again in the light of modern thinking and see what the jury decides – will he still be found guilty?"

In the original trial the Crown alleged that Mr Bury strangled his wife Ellen with a piece of rope he had bought, then cut her abdomen open, disembowelling her, possibly whilst she was still alive or very shortly thereafter. He then crammed her mutilated body into a wooden trunk, breaking both the bones in her leg in the

process. The defence alleged that it was suicide and that she 'self-strangled' and that the cuts to her body were made after her death. The mock trial will take place on February 3rd.

Celtic Bridge linking Scotland and Ireland

A leading Scottish architect has proposed building a bridge between Scotland and Ireland to create a 'Celtic Powerhouse'. Professor Alan Dunlop of Aberdeen's Robert Gordon University said such a crossing could be created for about £15 billion. Prof Dunlop, who is also a Fellow of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, said it would boost both economies and help the post-Brexit border issue. Dunlop said "It would be a wonderful thing - a connection between Scotland and Ireland. We share a lot of history together, similar ideals. The business potential is exceptional, the chance of actually really making an investment in what would be the true North. Westminster politicians talk about the northern powerhouse, but they're really only talking about Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield. This would be an investment in what would be, I think, the true North." Potential locations for the bridge include from Portpatrick to Bangor or Larne, or from around Campbeltown, the Mull of Kintyre across to the Antrim coast.

State Sword of Robert the Bruce goes on public display



As part of Bonhams Scottish Week – a seven-day celebration of all things Scottish – the auction house hosted an exhibition of Treasures from Broomhall House and the Bruce Family in Edinburgh. Among the many objects on display at the exhibition were the Sword of State of Robert the Bruce. Kept at Broomhall House, the seat of the Bruce Family, this historic sword is rarely seen in public. Other treasures included a suit in the Bruce Tartan from around 1760. The suit was commissioned and worn by James Bruce of Kinnaird, who discovered the source of the Blue Nile in 1770. From 1746 – 1782, the Dress Act banned the wearing of tartan in Scotland for every man and boy, except serving soldiers. Also on display was silver from the collection of Alexander Bruce, 2nd Earl of Kincardine. Bruce was a noted Scottish 17th inventor who collaborated in the invention of the first reliable marine chronometer, and, with Robert Boyle and Christopher Wren, was a founding member of the Royal Society.

Bonhams Managing Director in Scotland Charles Graham-Campbell said, "It's a pleasure and a privilege to be hosting these treasures from Broomhall House belonging to the Bruce Family. This is a great opportunity for people to see important and wonderful artefacts from our nation's history that are rarely on public display."

The ultimate porridge holiday

Scotland tourism agency has created the Porridge Grand Tour: ideas for porridge-themed trips in Scotland where oat enthusiasts can indulge their love of porridge and even eat it for breakfast, lunch and dinner!

2016 was all about kale. In 2017 you couldn't move without hearing people discussing the best avo on toast or Instagramming their turmeric latte; but what faithful dish has been there for us through thick and thin? Porridge of course! In fact, the tag #porridge pops up almost two million times on any given day on Instagram with an array of toppings. But porridge isn't just for breakfast anymore. Nowadays it can also be a delicious lunch, dinner and dessert, with chefs and foodies creating ever more imaginative sweet and savoury porridge options suitable for any hour of the day.

The Porridge Grand Tour of Scotland

To celebrate this VisitScotland, working together with Scotland Food & Drink, has launched The Porridge Grand Tour of Scotland: a range of unique porridge-themed adventure recommendations where oat enthusiasts can indulge their love of porridge and even enjoy porridge for breakfast, lunch and dinner whilst admiring the view of rolling hills, lochs or castles.

The Porridge Grand Tour of Scotland aims to get taste buds tingling by transporting visitors on an adventure through history and heritage as well as the country's famous landscapes and vibrant cities. It recommends some of

the best places to stop off in Scotland to try a variety of porridge recipes – with the option of eating it over seven times in one trip! There's a porridge for everyone and any time of the day, with dishes including porridge benedict with seared Scottish pigeon breast, an Italian inspired cannelloni porridge and porridge with whisky jelly, oatmeal cream and raspberry.

There will also be porridge themed cultural learnings and activities to get involved with along the way, such as a visit to the Devil's Porridge museum in Dumfries & Galloway – so called for the cordite that was produced in the munitions factories in the area during the Second World War. All the while, visitors can soak up Scotland's famous landscapes, attractions and breathtaking scenery with six suggested itineraries to choose from which head out of the easily accessible Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness and Aberdeen.

Follow your tastebuds

The options for journeys in Scotland are plentiful, as visitors can also follow their tastebuds to Ayrshire and Arran, the Outer Hebrides and beyond. Fiona Richmond, Head of Regional Food at Scotland Food & Drink, said: "Porridge is becoming more fashionable than ever, with many chefs and food fanatics getting creative with this staple Scottish dish. Whether you like it the



A bowl of porridge at Ballintaggart Farm, with views to the Perthshire hills beyond.

traditional way, topped with something sweet or prefer a more savoury offering, The Porridge Grand Tour of Scotland highlights just some of the best places across Scotland to enjoy this iconic dish in a new, fun and exciting way."

Neal Robertson, Double World Porridge Making Champion and owner of Tannochbrae Tearooms - which is a destination on the tour - said: "It's amazing to see how much fun people are having with porridge across Scotland and around the world. The possibilities are endless with the humble oat and I can't wait to show people how to make the perfect bowl

of porridge on this Porridge Grand Tour. If I'm feeling generous I might even lend them my winning spurtle invention – the double backed 'spon' spoon to try out."

Visitors who might not want to eat porridge for every meal, can of course dip in and out of oaty experiences as they see fit. The six Porridge Grand Tour of Scotland itinerary suggestions can be adapted and tweaked to suit individual appetites and offer lots of great recommendations for things to do and places to see. A map and suggested itineraries for The Porridge Grand Tour of Scotland will be available to download from www.visitscotland.com/porridge

Recipe for Safari or bush porridge

By: Ghillie Basan

"A bowl of steaming porridge has been woven into the fabric of Scotland's rural life since medieval times forming the staple diet of the farm workers and crofters. Historically porridge was made with barley, an ancient grain which made its way north from the Middle East and Africa where it was consumed with vegetables or meat in a thick broth (similar to Scotch Broth), and formed a staple food of much of northern Europe and Russia. As oats gradually replaced barley in Scotland, a basic 'brose' or 'gruel' was prepared with the oatmeal, often just by soaking it in water and drinking it from the bowl. The traditional bowl of porridge we all enjoy today is still just as simple, the only difference being that the rolled oats or oatmeal are simmered in water or milk and served hot.

"My father was of a generation that grew up with the tradition of porridge stored in the kitchen drawer to cut into squares for the piece to take onto the hill for the day. When at home in Scotland he could execute his traditionalist approach with great satisfaction but, when we lived in East Africa, he had to adapt to the bush-style preparation of porridge. I would open the tent flap in the cool morning air, the steam still rising off the elephant droppings around our tent, to the sight of my father stirring the porridge over the campfire. The camp porridge was his domain and the combination of his fond tales of porridge in his youth and the kilted highlander on the box of Scots porridge oats led me to believe

as a child that this was Scotland's national dish. And in the African bush, this national dish would lure me out of the tent with the warm, sweet aroma of the oats simmering, a smell I still love to this day especially when porridge is prepared outdoors. Lacking fresh milk, porridge in the bush was different every day – sometimes it was drizzled with melted golden syrup or honey (a child's delight), other times it might be served with coconut milk or condensed milk and, if we were on safari with other families, there was usually a bottle of whisky or rum to hand, a selection of tropical fruits like mangoes, bananas, and pineapples, and perhaps some toasted nuts and coconut chips. A simple bowl of porridge, with its requisite pinch of salt, could become an exotic breakfast feast! To make Safari or Bush Porridge, simply...

1. prepare your porridge with rolled oats or oatmeal in the manner that you prefer.
2. Add cinnamon and nutmeg to taste if you like, and then top it with any of the following: mango, banana and pineapple chunks, caramelized in a pan with a little honey or brown sugar coconut chips tossed in a pan with a knob of butter and tiny sprinkle of salt until lightly browned.
3. Whisky or rum heated with a spoonful of honey or muscovado sugar.
4. Warm or chilled coconut milk or cream. Honey to drizzle; or brown sugar to sprinkle; or sugar flavoured with vanilla, cardamom or cinnamon

"If you're not driving, the whisky is essential – in my opinion!"

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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
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Austin, TX 78711-3021
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Scottish Associations and Societies



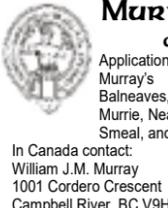
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The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

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

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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
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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
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Web: www.ozgaelic.org
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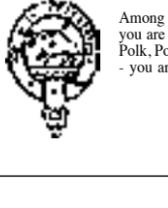


Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria
www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org
Founded in 1905

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

Language Class: Wednesdays 7:00 to 8:30 pm during school terms at the Celtic Club, 420-424 William Street, West 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.au

William L. Pringle, III
e-mail: williampringle3@gmail.com
Clan Pringle Assoc. (North America)
6530 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

P.O. Box 484
Essex Junction, VT 05453

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



Clan Ross in Australia
for information contact Commander Des Ross
(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowan)

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

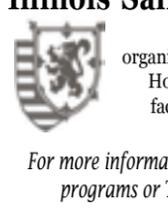
Contact: Commander Des Ross at lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853
Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0418 806 172



The Stewart Society

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

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



Illinois Saint Andrew Society

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

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

Victorian Scottish Union
Established 1905

Umbrella group representing the interest of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria.

Affiliated Clans & Societies

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Ballarat Highland Dancing | Geelong Scottish Dance |
| Balmoral Highland Dancing Society | Glenbrae Celtic Dancers |
| Begonia City Highland Dancing Society | Glenmaggie Scottish Folk Festival |
| Brunswick Scottish Society | Kilmore Celtic Festival |
| Clan Donald Victoria | Maryborough Highland Society |
| Clan Grant | Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society |
| Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc | Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society |
| Clan Mackenzie of Australia | The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne |
| Clan Maclean Australia | Warrambool & District Caledonian Society |
| Clan Sinclair Association | Warrambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society |
| Clan Sutherland Australia | Robert Burns Club of Camperdown Inc |

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



CLAN ROSS AMERICA
ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION MERGED

Many Names - One Clan

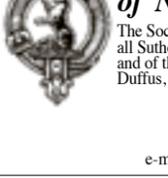
Liz Ross, President
Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary
cramembership@sbcglobal.net
PO Box 6341
River Forest, IL 60305
www.clanross.org



Clan Sutherland Society of Australia

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

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



Clan Sutherland Society of North America, Inc.

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

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

Tradfest Edinburgh - *Join the convivial ceilidh*



May Day Parade. Photo: Ludovic Farine.



DOSCA winner of the 2017 Battle of the Folk Bands. Photo: Ludovic Farine.



Tradfest 2017 Lankum concert. Photo: Douglas Robertson.

What is it that makes Scotland special? Looking beyond the tartan, haggis and bagpipes, it is surely our love of place, urban and rural. And the way in which guests, strangers, and new arrivals are all invited to share that love.

Coast to coast, Scotland exhibits every kind of rock formation known to humanity and the scenery to adorn them. Scotland, as they say, rocks. And nestling in the folds and shores, there are the diverse villages, towns and cities that mark where people have settled on our northern turf. These often homely or humble spaces are what make places into homes. And they are where visitors can tap into the lore of place.

How can these attachments be communicated? Through pictures certainly, and music – including the magnificent bagpipe. Yet, the traditional way was to gather people together and share stories, songs and perhaps a dance. Sometimes this was called ‘ceilidh’, which just means visiting. In other words: getting together to pass the time with a convivial spirit. So, some food and a dram or two might also be involved.

Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland

That ‘convivial’ word speaks volumes. Spending time with each other – getting to know folks – has become more precious than ever before in this digital age. When we stop messaging and start to talk, tensions ease and humanity can breathe again.

When the Scottish Storytelling Centre opened in June 2006 on Edinburgh’s Royal Mile, it immediately became a place of meeting and welcome. Soon those who founded the Centre, lovers of storytelling tradition, were asking in the musicians and dancers too, so that the ceilidh could continue in the 21st century, and as it has done for more than five thousand years in Scotland, so far.

Together, these good people set up TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland), and began TradFest *Edinburgh; Dun Éideann*, a capital city showcase for Scotland’s Arts of Tradition. Each year TradFest ensures that Edinburgh becomes a ceilidh town, with story, music, song, film, craft and dance flowing, welcoming residents and visitors alike into these communities.

The Scottish Storytelling Centre acts as the main hub for the Festival, but events flow across multiple venues in the city, from established arts spaces to community centres, and from pub sessions to church halls. Edinburgh itself sings as a venue, with its unique landscape, history and stories rich for exploring.

Passing It On

TradFest’s theme for 2018 is sharing between generations with the tag ‘Passing It On’, which also acts as the title of the TradFest Opening Concert on Thursday 26 April. This celebrates the tradition of handing down a tune, song, story or dance to the next generation through performances and social occasions. Exciting, young talent will perform alongside established performers who have influenced them, combining to showcase the best of both their talents, with a nice nod to Scotland’s Year of Young People

who are the future tradition bearers. Young talent is also showcased in Hands Up for Trad’s second annual Battle of the Folk Bands concert on Sunday 6 May.

The Festival programme celebrates many different traditions and cultures which are existing and collaborating in Edinburgh today. At the core of that are the dance, music and storytelling activities. Highlights include a celebration for International Dance Day at The Pleasance on Sunday 29 April, with participatory workshops and engaging performances throughout the day and into the evening. Musician Kirsty Law showcases her new album ‘Young Night Thought’, which is a collaboration with filmmaker Daniel Warren and painter Kirsty Whiten, sharing – through a lens of Scots folklore – a dialogue around childhood perception, imagination and play. ‘Giants’ are explored by Alice Fernbank and Svend Engh, two very tall storytellers on a quest to find out

what it is to be gigantic through the myths and legends that tell stories of titans.

At TradFest, you can attend performances, join open sessions, see exhibitions, and follow the Trad Trail to discover the best instrument makers, craft shops, food, and pub sessions. TradFest is a dynamic festival experience led by the communities and cultures which celebrate traditional arts all year round; a celebration of everything that makes Edinburgh welcoming and Scottish, with guest artists from near and far joining the revelry.

So, join the convivial ceilidh and pass on the experience of Scotland’s living traditions, encountering the heritage of Scotland in its most engaging form – folk arts.

TradFest Edinburgh; Dun Éideann takes place Thursday 26 April – Sunday 6 May. For further information, visit www.tracscotland.org, [Facebook.com/tradfestedinburgh](https://www.facebook.com/tradfestedinburgh) or twitter.com/TradFestEd

World clan leader in Bendigo

Former chairman of the world-wide Clan Macpherson Association, Shelagh Macpherson Noble, met with members of Bendigo’s Scots Day Out team today as strong diaspora bonds continue to grow between the city and Scotland. Mrs Macpherson Noble served as world chairman from 2009 to 2012 and is now an honorary vice-president of the association that is well represented at Scots Day Out each year in Rosalind Park. She met with the 2017 chieftain Neil Clark who presented the visiting clan leader with a scarf in the unique official Bendigo tartan. Former chieftains and the event director were also among those to meet with Mrs Macpherson Noble.

Diaspora bonds

The Australian visit by Mrs Macpherson Noble and her husband Alistair included time in Victoria where she continues to research the role of an ancestor, Alexander Macpherson, one of the

survivors of the ill-fated Burke and Wills expedition. Mrs Macpherson Noble acknowledged the leadership of the clan’s Victorian representative David McPherson who each year arranges the presence at Scots Day Out. During the meeting, there were discussions on the features of Scots Day Out and diaspora celebrations in Scotland.

Scots Day Out is on Saturday 3 March in Bendigo’s Rosalind Park, a free event in the centre of the city, with the Australian premiere screenings of highlights from Edinburgh Short Film Festival the previous night. For further information see: www.scotsdayout.com



Shelagh Macpherson Noble embraces the Bendigo tartan with husband Alistair, and members of the SDO team.

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 SDO prelude
Friday 2 March
Australian premiere
of ESFF highlights

www.scotsdayout.com
Marching into March

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

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 Toowoomba, QLD - Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Pipe Band Burns Supper

Pipe band performances, food, Address to the Haggis and more at Drayton Hall. Info: Lynn 07 4630 8193 or www.tcpb.com.au

3 Tusmore, SA - Robbie Burns Celebrations

A lively day celebrating the life of Scottish Bard Robbie Burns at the Burnside Library, 401 Greenhill Rd. Info: 08 8366 4280 or www.burnsidelibrary.eventbrite.com

3 Glenroy, VIC - Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Burns Supper

Celebrate Burns with the Robert Burns Club of Melbourne at Glenroy RSL with music, food and poetry. Info: 03 8361 0308.

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

3 Sydney, NSW - Governor Macquarie's Birthday Dinner

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council invites you to attend this function at The Women's Club, 179 Elizabeth St. Guest speaker Ms Lorraine Kypiotis, Outreach Coordinator, National Arts School, "Sydney From the Medici to Macquarie: Neoclassicism and the Colonial Ethos". Cost \$105 p.p. includes dinner & drinks. Download booking form: www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au or ring Nea on 0408 990 413 or Susan 0411 097 724.

4 Rochedale, QLD - Piobaireachd Group Queensland Social

piping at Rochedale High School, 10am. Info: 07 3397 4512.

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@vrs.com.au

17 Brunswick East, VIC - Brunswick Scottish Society Burns Supper

Immortal Memory of Robert Burns, haggis and more at Fleming Park Hall, 98 Victoria St. Info: 03 8361 0308.

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

22 - 25 Queenscliff, VIC - Boxwood Festival - Celtic Music Workshop

In beautiful and historic Queenscliff for four days of musical discovery, immersion in traditional music and fun. Info: www.boxwood.org

26 Toowong, QLD - Queensland Pipers Society Quartet Competition

Teams of 4 pipers matched against each other for a single first prize at Brisbane Boys' College Band Room, Moggil Rd. info: qhps@qhps.org

MARCH 2018

3 Bendigo, VIC - Scots Day Out

A free Scottish event in the centre of the city with pipe bands, Scottish stalls, dancing and more at Rosalind Park. Info: 0419 549 743 or www.scotsdayout.com

4 Rochedale, QLD - Piobaireachd Group Queensland Social

Piping event at Rochedale High School, 10am. Info: 07 3397 4512.

9 - 18 Nationwide - Big Country Australian Tour

Scottish rockers Big Country performing gigs around Australia. Info: www.metropolistouring.com

10 Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day

Every March 10th you are invited to go out and play your pipes - anywhere, anyhow to anyone!

18 Bathurst, NSW - The Scots School Highland Gathering

Bagpipes, dancing, stalls and more at The Scots School Bathurst. Info: Email: scotshighlandgathering@gmail.com

18 Corio, VIC - Geelong Highland Gathering

A great day of Scottish fun, entertainment, pipe bands, dancing, Clans, stalls and more at Goldsworthy Reserve Athletics Track, Goldsworthy Rd. Info: www.geelonghighlandgathering.org.au

24 Sydney, NSW - Scots on The Rocks - Chaotic Ceilidh

Featuring music by ARIA Award winning Chris Duncan & Catherine Strutt, it will be a night of energetic and popular dances. Includes supper (BYO alcohol) in The Rocks. Tickets \$35pp. Info: 0435 154 433 or www.sotr.org.au/chaos

25 Rochedale, QLD - Piobaireachd Group Queensland Social

Come along and play a tune or just listen and discuss the classical music of the Highland Bagpipe at Rochedale State High School, 249 Priestdale Rd. Info: 07 3397 4512 or www.qhps.org

25 Ringwood, VIC - Ringwood Highland Games

Celebrates hundreds of years of Scottish heritage and traditions, and displays to the community many facets of our Scottish culture, the only Highland games in metropolitan Melbourne at East Ringwood Sports Ground, Cnr Mt Dandenong Rd & Dublin Road, E. Info: Phone 0418 370 051 or ringwoodhighlandgames@gmail.com or www.ringwoodhighlandgames.org

30 - 31 Maclean, NSW - Maclean Highland Gathering

Pipe band contents, Scottish dancing, bar and Scottish stalls in the Scottish town of Australia. Info: www.macleanhIGHLANDGATHERING.COM.AU

31 - April 1 Newcastle, NSW - Champion of Champions

Presented by the Highland Dance NSW Australia a weekend of Highland dance competition and events at Newcastle Entertainment Centre. Info: www.nswhighlanddancing.com.au

NEW ZEALAND

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 Christchurch - Alistair Brown - A Well Travelled Scottish Singer-Accordion

Scottish folk singer and accordion player live at Irish Society Hall, 29 Domain Terrace, Spreydon. Info: www.folkmusic.org.nz

11 Hamilton - A Celtic Journey

Hamilton City Brass will take you on 'A Celtic Journey' featuring musical favourites from Ireland, Scotland and Wales at Rhododendron Lawn, Hamilton Gardens. Info: 0800 842 538 or www.hgaf.co.nz

11 Wellington - Shetland Society of Wellington Society Picnic

Meet with the Shetland Society over food and friendship. Info: events@shetlandwellington.org.nz

15 - 20 Waipu - Boxwood Festival - Celtic Music Workshop

In beautiful and historic Waipu for five days of musical discovery, immersion in traditional music and fun. Info: www.boxwood.org

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

MARCH 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

3 - 4 Christchurch - DramFest 2018

Unique, intimate masterclass tastings are hosted by visiting experts who will share with you some of the most exclusive whiskies at Horncastle Arena, 81 Jack Hinton Drive. Info: 03 377 6824 or www.dramfest.co.nz

6 - 27 Hamilton - Scottish Country Dancing Beginners Classes

Lochiel Scottish Country Dance Club invites absolute beginners to join us for an evening of dancing and fun. All ages welcome. Come alone or bring the whole family and/or friends. Wear soft soled shoes or bare feet please. Fun, fitness and friendship at St John's Methodist Church, 20 Wellington St. Info: www.lochielscdclub.org.nz

7 Picton - Scottish Country Dancing

Have fun and keep fit at the same time with Scottish Country dancing. Very social, no partner needed, just a pair of soft shoes will do. Not to be confused with highland dancing, Scottish Country dancing is a social activity for all ages at Picton Little Theatre, 9 Dublin St. Info: 217 6442

9 - 10 Rotorua - 92nd New Zealand Pipe Bands Championships

Pipe bands across NZ compete in all grades at Rotorua International Stadium, Devon Street West. Info: 07 579-1689 or ynkev@extra.co.nz

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 Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day

Every March 10th you are invited to go out and play your pipes - anywhere, anyhow to anyone!

22 - 25 Christchurch - Clan Donald Forum

The Australasian Forum for the Clan Donald societies in New Zealand and Australia with a variety of Clan events and functions. Info: www.clandonaldustralia.com

30 - April 1 Frimley, Hastings - 68th Hawkes Bay Easter Highland Games

Pipe bands, Clans and more at Lindisfarn College, 600 Pakowhai Rd, Frimley, Hastings. Info: barry-gaye@extra.co.nz

30 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

FEBRUARY 2018

3 Cumbernauld - Address the Haggis in Cumbernauld

Revellers will have the chance to raise a dram and toast Scotland's most iconic poet at a special Burns Night at The Westerwood Hotel & Golf Resort. Info: www.qhotels.co.uk

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.spectraaberdeen.com

10 - 11 Glasgow - St Valentine's Weekend of Love and Friendship

In Latin America St Valentines day is known as "Día del Amor y la Amistad" (Day of Love and Friendship). Come along and try out fun new craft ideas and take home something special for you loved ones at St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, 2 Castle St. Info: museums@glasgowlife.org.uk

10 Edinburgh - Tapestry Weaving Experience Day

Aimed at beginners, and taught by an independent weaver, the workshop introduces the materials and skills involved in creating tapestry at Dovecot Studios, 10 Infirmary St. Info: www.dovecotstudios.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

18 - 23 Pitlochry - Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Winter School 2018

Scottish country dance classes, events and fun at Atholl Palace Hotel. Info: www.rscds.org

23 - 24 Badaguis - Groove CairnGorm

A thrilling weekend of live music, world-class DJs and snow sports all within the setting of Cairngorm Mountain & Badaguis 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

24 Glasgow - The National Piping Centre Junior Piping Competition

This annual event held at The National Piping Centre celebrates the best in young piping, from all pipers aged Under 18. Info: If you have above@thepipingcentre.co.uk or 0141 353 0220.

28 Perth - Eddi Reader Live

The popular folk pop chanteuse, known for her work with Fairground Attraction and often called upon to add her voice to other people's records tours her latest album Vagabond. Info: www.eddireader.co.uk

⚡ 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 6

ACROSS: 1) Steep; 4) Claymores; 9) RiverEarn; 10) Mayor; 11) Turnip; 13) Singlet; 15) Interpol; 16) Ores; 20) Reek; 21) Assemble; 24) Ceildh; 26) Uneasy; 28) Owing; 29) RebelYell; 30) Strathyre; 31) Dulse

DOWN: 2) Twist; 3) Partners; 4) Champion; 5) Alness; 6) Moment; 7) Royal; 8) Strathspey; 12) Untie; 14) Fierycross; 17)Robes; 18) Usquebae; 19) Repealed; 22) Fidget; 23) Sherry; 25) Iciar; 27) Yolks

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Scottish Genealogical Research



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Email: dempseyrand@gmail.com for details.

Mingulay seabirds' strong season



summer. Wild weather conditions in early summer made it very difficult to monitor other seabirds on St Kilda. National Trust for Scotland Senior Nature Conservation Adviser Dr Richard Luxmoore said: "Some species have had a really strong season this summer at sites across the country. However, we remain very concerned about the long term plight of the kittiwake which despite a more successful season at a few locations this summer, continues to decline at an alarming rate. It is always difficult to disentangle the many factors at play here and change in the availability of prey is often implicated. In the case of kittiwakes and puffins, which feed largely on sandeels, the long-term trend has been linked to the inexorable rise in sea temperatures caused by climate change which is obviously a real concern."

On Canna, the impact of the rat-eradication programme which was completed in 2006 seems to be having a positive impact, particularly for ground and burrow-nesting species such as guillemots, razorbills and Manx shearwaters whose populations are all showing signs of recovery. There are now thought to be around 20 shearwater nests, up from a tiny handful in 2000. Scotland is internationally important for its seabirds, having some 45 per cent of the breeding population in the whole of the European Union. The National Trust for Scotland hosts almost a fifth of these at its properties of St Kilda, Mingulay, Fair Isle, Canna, St Abb's Head, Iona, Staffa and Unst.

The Outer Hebridean island Mingulay has had its best seabird season in 2017 since 2000 according to new figures from the National Trust for Scotland. Scotland's largest conservation charity has been monitoring seabird populations on Mingulay since it became responsible for the protection of the island. Summer 2017 has been a bumper year for razorbills and guillemots. The population of guillemots reached over 19,000 this year - an all-time high. The charity cares for some of Scotland's most significant seabird nesting sites, including St Kilda World Heritage Site, St Abb's Head National Nature Reserve, Berwickshire and Fair Isle, Shetland which are home to over a million seabirds of all species every

summer. Over the past few years, the charity has been highlighting concerns about the future of the kittiwake which has been in serious decline at all of its sites. This year there is some cause for optimism as the populations increased slightly at both Canna and St Abb's Head. This year 4803 were counted at St Abb's Head, up from 2779 last year, but still well below the historic level of over 17,000 in 1990.

St Kilda

Another species for which there is serious concern is the 'vulnerable' Leach's Storm Petrel - St Kilda is the largest colony for this species in the north-east Atlantic. To try to unravel the reasons for recent declines, 47 nest boxes have been installed, with three chicks hatching this

'Coo Palace' conversion plans approved



A building constructed in rural Kirkcudbrightshire in the early 1900s, which was designed to look like a castle for a herd of 12 cows, is to be converted into holiday apartments under new plans. The iconic landmark building overlooking Wigtown Bay fell into serious disrepair and was placed on the Buildings at Risk register more than 25 years ago. Dumfries and Galloway Council has now given the green light to bring the Coo Palace back into use after several decades. The proposals will see 24 units created in total involving the conversion of the current building and construction of new properties. The building was constructed for wealthy Manchester merchant James Brown who retired to south west Scotland in the late 19th century. Historic Environment Scotland welcomed the move to bring an "unusual and distinctive" site back into use but with a number of suggestions to amend the design.

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Jam-filled butter biscuits

Ingredients:

250g/9oz. plain flour
200g/7oz. butter, cut into small cubes
100g/3½oz. icing sugar
pinch of salt
2 free-range egg yolks
4 tbsp. raspberry jam
4 tbsp. apricot jam

Method:

Preheat the oven to 170C/325F/Gas 3.
Place the flour, butter, icing sugar and salt into a bowl. Using your fingertips, rub the ingredients together until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.
Add the egg yolks and mix until a dough forms. Turn out onto a lightly floured work surface and roll out to a thickness of about 0.5cm/¼in. Cut out shapes using a 4cm/1½in cutter.
Divide the sables in half. Using a 2cm/1in fluted cutter, make a hole in the middle of half of the sable biscuits and discard the dough. Place all the sables on a baking tray.
Bake the sables for 10-12 minutes, or until light golden-brown and crisp. Remove and transfer to a wire rack to cool.
Using a teaspoon, place a small dollop of raspberry jam on a whole sable. Place a sable (with a hole) over the whole sable biscuit. Repeat until half the sables are done with raspberry jam, then repeat the process, using apricot jam, for the remaining sables.

Highlander Soup

Ingredients:

2 cups dried lentils or peas
1.35kgs/3 lbs. ham or beef bone
½ cup diced celery
1 small onion, diced
1 cup cut carrots
2 tablespoons flour
2 teaspoons salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

Method:

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

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

Beef with whisky and mushroom cream, wilted spinach and crushed tatties

Ingredients:

For the beef:
3 tbsp. black peppercorns, coarsely ground, sieved, dust discarded
4 x 175g/6oz. fillet steaks, cut in half
4 tsp. Dijon mustard
freshly ground sea salt and freshly ground pepper
2 tbsp. sunflower oil
50g/2oz. butter
200g/7oz. fresh cep (porcini) mushrooms, thickly sliced
For the tatties:
450g/1lb. new potatoes, scrubbed, boiled until tender
50g/2oz. butter
salt and freshly ground white pepper
3 tbsp. chopped flatleaf parsley
For the spinach:
25g/1oz. butter
500g/1lb 2oz. baby leaf spinach
3 tbsp. water
salt and freshly ground white pepper
For the whisky sauce:
50ml/2fl oz. whisky
50ml/2fl oz. beef stock
50ml/2fl oz. double cream

Method:

For the steaks, spread the coarse black pepper pieces over a small plate. Coat all sides of the steaks with the Dijon mustard and then press them into the crushed peppercorns to coat. Heat a large frying pan until very hot and add the sunflower oil. Season the steaks with salt, then add to the pan to cook for 1-2 minutes. Turn once to brown both sides (don't move the steaks around once they are in the pan or the peppercorn crust will fall off - cook to achieve a good crusty coating on each side.) Add the butter and allow it melt and turn nut-brown in colour, but don't let it burn. Add the mushrooms and stir in the butter. As the mushrooms start to absorb the pan juices, turn the steaks again and allow them to cook for 3-4 minutes on each side, or until cooked to your liking.

Remove the steaks and place onto a baking tray and leave to rest in a warm place. For the tatties, place the potatoes into a large mixing bowl. Add the butter and gently crush each potato with a fork until it just splits. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground white pepper, and add the parsley. Mix until all the butter has been absorbed, but don't over-mash the potatoes. For the spinach, heat a medium frying pan or wok until hot. Add the butter and the spinach and stir-fry for one minute, then add the water. Continue to stir until the spinach has wilted. Remove from the heat, season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground white pepper and set aside until ready to serve. For the whisky sauce, add the whisky to the pan used to cook the steaks, and cook over a very high heat for one minute to boil off the alcohol. (CAUTION: the whisky may catch fire, which is perfectly acceptable, but if this worries you, have a large lid handy to place onto the pan to prevent the flames. And make sure you have your extractor fan turned off.) Add the stock and boil to reduce the liquid volume, until thickened, then add the cream. Boil to reduce the liquid volume again, scraping and stirring to loosen the stuck bits from the bottom of the pan. Pour any juices released by the resting steaks into the sauce and stir well. To serve, place a chefs' ring into the centre of each of four plates. Fill with the crushed potatoes and carefully remove the ring. Place a small pile of spinach onto the potatoes, and arrange two medallions of steak on top of each pile. Spoon the sauce and the mushrooms over the steak, and serve.

Scottish scones



Ingredients:

450g/1lb. self-raising flour
2 level tsp. baking powder
50g/1¾oz. caster sugar
100g/3½oz. butter, softened, cut into pieces
2 free-range eggs
a little milk
handful sultanas (optional)
To serve
strawberry jam
clotted cream

Method:

Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7. Lightly grease two baking trays.
Put the flour, baking powder and sugar in a large bowl. Add the butter and rub in with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
Crack the eggs into a measuring jug, then add enough milk to make the total liquid 300ml/10fl oz. Stir the egg and milk into the flour - you may not need it all - and mix to a soft, sticky dough.
Turn out onto a lightly floured work surface, knead lightly and work in the sultanas, if using. Roll out to a rectangle about 2cm/¾in thick.
Cut into as many rounds as possible

with a fluted 5cm/2in cutter and place them on the prepared baking trays. Brush the tops of the scones with a little extra milk, or any egg and milk left in the jug.
Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until the scones are well risen and a pale, golden-brown colour. Lift onto a wire rack to cool. Eat as fresh as possible.
To serve, split the scones and serve with strawberry jam on the plain scones along with a good dollop of clotted cream.

Whisky marmalade



Ingredients:

1 small grapefruit
2 lemons
1 sweet or Seville orange
1.75 litres/3 pints water
1.4kg/3lb 1oz granulated sugar
75ml/5 tbsp. whisky (rum or brandy)

Method:

Juice the fruit and pour the juice into a large, lidded pan with a capacity of 6-8 litres/10-14 pints. Add the water.
Scrape out the inner membranes and pips from the fruit with a small sharp knife. Put the membranes into a food processor or mini-chopper and chop finely. Put the chopped membranes, and any pips, into a muslin bag or a piece of muslin tied with string. Add to the pan.
Shred the peel to your preferred thickness and add it to the pan. Set aside to allow the peel to soak for a few hours or, if possible, overnight.
Bring the lidded pan to boil, reduce the heat and simmer very gently for two hours. The peel should be very tender.
Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 140C/275F/Gas 1. Pour the sugar into a baking dish and warm in the oven for a few minutes.
Remove the muslin bag from the pan and squeeze the liquid from the bag into a bowl. Pass through a sieve and add to the pan.
Weigh the contents of the pan - it should be no more than 1.4kg/3lb 1oz. If you have more than this, return the contents to the pan and simmer to reduce the liquid until the correct weight is achieved.
Add the warmed sugar to the pan and stir until dissolved. Gradually bring the pan to a rolling boil. After seven minutes, test the setting point by scooping out a large spoonful of the marmalade. Allow the mixture to cool a little, then slowly pour it back into the pan. If it is at the setting point, the drops will run together to form a hanging flake (this is known as the flake test). It can take up to 30 minutes to reach setting point, so keep testing.
Leave the marmalade to cool for 5-10 minutes (a skin should form on the surface). Remove any scum from the surface and add the spirit of your choice to the pan. Gently stir the marmalade to evenly distribute the peel and the alcohol.
Pour the marmalade into sterilised jars and seal. Leave the jars upright and undisturbed to set.



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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Alexander Selkirk, a sailor from Lower Largo, Fife, rescued after four years on the island of Juan Fernandez, 400 miles off the coast of Chile; his story inspired Daniel Defoe to write *Robinson Crusoe*. **1708**

1 - Author Muriel Spark born. She is most well known as the author of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, written in 1961, a touching and funny portrait of an individual and eccentric Edinburgh teacher during the inter-war period, and the effect she has on her pupils. **1918**

2 - Feast and legal Quarter Day of Candlemass.

2 - James I married Lady Jane Beaufort, daughter of the Earl of Somerset, in London. **1424**

2 - Battle of Inverlochy, one of the Duke of Montrose's victories over the Covenanters, killing 1,300. **1645**

2 - Birth of James Chalmers in Arbroath - he devised the adhesive postage stamp. **1782**

2 - Novelist Alistair Maclean died. His books *The Guns of Navarone*, *Ice Station Zebra* and *Where Eagles Dare* were made into films. **1987**

3 - General Monck's regiment entered London, having marched from Coldstream in the borders. The regiment kept order during the period of the restoration of Charles II. It continued as a standing regiment of the British Army, becoming known as the Coldstream Guards. **1660**

4 - Charles II proclaimed king in Edinburgh - but not in England. **1649**

4 - Prince James Francis Stuart, the Old Pretender, left Scotland after a stay of only three weeks, effectively bringing the first Jacobite Uprising to an end. **1716**

4 - Honours of Scotland put on display in Edinburgh Castle after being rediscovered by Sir Walter Scott. **1818**

5 - SS *Politician* ran aground on Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides during gale worse winds, creating the basis for Sir Compton Mackenzie's novel *Whisky Galore*. **1941**

5 - John Witherspoon, clergyman, writer, President of Princeton University 1768-94, signatory to American Declaration of Independence 1776, born in Gifford, East Lothian. **1723**

5 - John Boyd Dunlop, who patented the first practical pneumatic tyre, born Ayrshire. **1846**

5 - Writer and historian Thomas Carlyle died in London. **1881**

6 - Queen Anne, last of the Stuart monarchs, born. **1665**

6 - King Charles II, the "merry monarch" died. His last words to his brother James were "Don't let poor Nellie starve" - a reference to his favourite mistress, Nell Gwynne. **1685**

6 - Representation of the people Act received Royal assent, granting votes to women over the age of 30. **1918**

6 - King George VI dies and Queen Elizabeth II becomes monarch. **1952**

7 - Battle at Glenfruin when the MacGregors slaughtered a number of Colquhouns - the origins of the banning of the MacGregor name. **1603**

7 - 12,000 players and spectators descended on the frozen Lake of Menteith for Scotland's only outdoor curling tournament, known as the Bonspiel or the Grand Match. **1979**

7 - The Old Pretender's Jacobite army disbanded at Aberdeen, ending the 1715 uprising. Thirty years later his son, Charles, would try again to recapture the throne for the Stuarts. **1716**

8 - Mary Queen of Scots beheaded at Fotheringay Castle. At the time of her death, Mary was 44 and had outlived three husbands. **1587**

8 - A contingent of a thousand Scots, commanded by the brothers John and William Stuart, headed to the relief of the beleaguered French garrison at Orleans. The expedition ended in disaster when the force was defeated by the English at Rouvray Saint Denis and both Stuarts were killed. **1429**

9 - Golfer Sandy Lyle born. **1958**



9 - John Noble, co-founder of Loch Fyne Oysters and Loch Fyne Restaurants died. It began as an umbrella and a trestle table and then transferred to a cowshed. Soon the venture became a restaurant, and then evolved into a chain of oyster bars. **2002**

10 - Robert the Bruce murdered Red Comyn. **1306**

10 - Lord Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, assassinated. **1567**

10 - Death of Lord Joseph Lister, pioneer of surgery and antiseptic at the University of Glasgow and Glasgow and Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. **1912**

11 - Tolls are removed from the Erskine Bridge, the Tay Road Bridge, and the Forth Road Bridge. These bridges were the last three remaining toll bridges in Scotland. **2008**

11 - Coldest temperature ever recorded in Scotland, -27.2 (-16.96F) at Braemar. **1895**

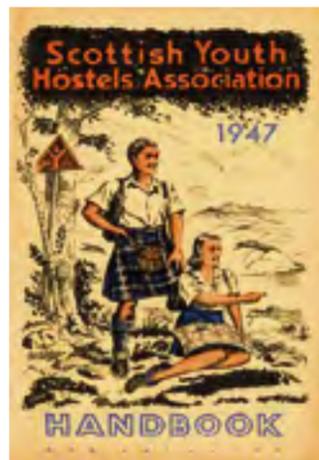
11 - Author and politician John Buchan died in Canada. **1940**

12 - Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the world-wide savings bank movement, died near Ruthwell. **1846**

12 - George Heriot, goldsmith to King James VI and founder of Heriot's School, died. The school was originally founded as Heriot's Hospital, Edinburgh. He is thought to be the inspiration for the character, Georgie Heriot, in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Fortunes of Nigel*. **1624**

13 - Kenneth MacAlpin, King of Dalriada and the Picts, died at Forteviot. **858**

13 - Massacre of 38 of the Clan Macdonald by government order at Glencoe. **1692**



13 - Scottish Youth Hostel Association formed. **1931**

14 - Mary Queen of Scots meets Lord Darnley for the first time. They married in July 1565. **1565**

14 - Alexander Graham Bell patented the telephone (Patent 174461). Two hours after it was lodged, his rival, Elisha Gray, applied for a similar patent. Bell's was granted. **1876**

15 - Decimal currency introduced, abandoning 12 pennies to a shilling and 20 shillings to a pound. **1971**

15 - The Caledonian Railway company opened. The Caledonian Railway ran trains from London to Glasgow and was in fierce competition with the Edinburgh based North British Railway. **1848**

16 - Government forces under Lord Loudon attempted to capture Prince Charles Edward Stewart at Moy Hall. **1746**

16 - Scottish crime and science fiction writer Iain Banks was born in Dunfermline, Fife. He was named one of The 50 greatest British writers since 1945 and sadly Banks died from cancer on June 9, 2013. **1954**

17 - King James V passed a law which recognised Scotland's gipsies. **1540**

17 - James Renwick, last Covenanter to be executed. **1688**



18 - Glasgow's Queen Street train station opened. Originally called Glasgow Dundas Street the station was built by Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway to link the thriving city of Glasgow to the nation's capital. The station and line took four years to build. **1842**

19 - James Douglas retook Roxburgh Castle and razed it to the ground. The Black Douglas, as he was known, and sixty men gained access to the castle by climbing the castle walls using hooked scaling ladders. **1314**

20 - King James I murdered in Perth by a group led by Sir Robert Graham. **1437**



20 - Orkney and Shetland annexed from Norway. **1472**

20 - Gordon Brown, former UK Prime Minister, born. **1951**

21 - Intercity railway between Glasgow and Edinburgh opened by Queen Victoria. **1842**

21 - Eric Liddell, *Chariots of Fire* athlete, winner of 1924 Olympics 400 metres, died in Japanese internment camp in China. **1945**

22 - David II died at Edinburgh Castle. **1371**

22 - King Robert II crowned. **1371**

23 - Battle of Roslin in which a Scots army of 8,000, led by Sir Simon Fraser, Sinclair of Rossllyn and the Red Comyn, surprised an English army of 30,000 led by Sir John Seagrave and defeated them. **1303**

23 - James Herriot (pen name of James Alfred Wight), author of *All Creatures Great and Small*, died aged 78. **1995**



24 - Steam train, the Flying Scotsman went into service with London and North Eastern Railway (LNER), on the London (King's Cross) to Edinburgh route. The train was the first and the first to reach speeds of 100 mph. **1923**

24 - Footballer Denis Law who played for Manchester United and Scotland, born. **1940**

25 - Bishop Henry Wardlaw established St Andrews as a university although it was not officially inaugurated until 4 1414 when a Bull of Foundation was promulgated by Pope Benedict XIII. **1412**

26 - Philip van der Straten, a Fleming, was granted Scots naturalisation and set up a factory in Kelso, thus starting the Border woollen industry. **1672**

26 - Robert Watson Watt demonstrated radar for the first time. **1935**

26 - Entertainer and singer/song writer Sir Harry Lauder died. **1950**

27 - Battle of Ancrum Moor in which Scottish forces, led by Earl of Douglas, defeated an English army twice their size. **1545**

28 - Second National Covenant signed in Greyfriars Churchyard. **1638**

29 - Patrick Hamilton, a Protestant martyr, was burned at the stake in St Andrews. **1528**



29 - The famous Glasgow theatre, The Pavilion, celebrated its opening performance. **1904**

29 - Patrick Hamilton was burned at St Andrews for the crime of heresy. Hamilton is regarded as the first Protestant martyr in Scotland. After studying in Europe, where he came into contact with the ideas of Martin Luther, Hamilton began to preach Protestant ideas in Scotland, leading to his arrest. Hamilton was sentenced to be burned at the stake but, horrifically, his inexperienced executioners underestimated how much kindling would be needed, and the fire petered out with Hamilton badly burned but alive. In all it took six hours for the flames to consume Hamilton. **1528**

Mugdock Castle-Castle of the Marquis

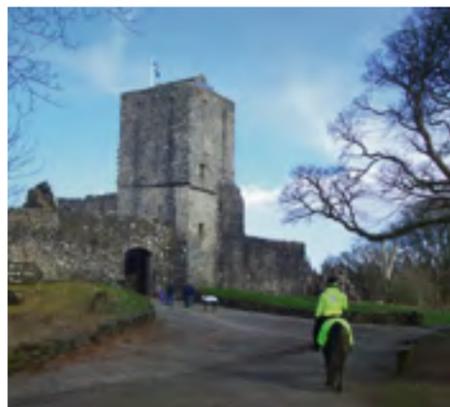
The ruinous Mugdock Castle is an impressive four story castle set amongst some stunning Scottish scenery on the outskirts of Glasgow. The Category A listed building is also the ancient seat of Clan Graham which dates back to the 1300's and has had a varied history which faced attack, fire and is a fascinating part of the West Highland Way as David McVey explains.



Historic Mugdock Castle.

Every year, hundreds of walkers from all over the world tramp the 95 miles of the West Highland Way from Milngavie to Fort William. Of course, more people start the walk than finish it. However, everyone will still be going just three miles out from Milngavie when the trail enters the lush greenery of Mugdock Wood. However, those who stick strictly to the route can miss out on a great deal. And the Mugdock Wood stretch of the West Highland Way is just half a mile away from a romantic, picturesque castle with links to one of the most fascinating and controversial characters in Scottish history.

Mugdock Castle is a picturesquely tumbled building just a short, steep climb on good paths from the West Highland Way in Mugdock Wood. The best preserved part of the castle is actually the oldest; its distinctive 14th century tower is now renovated and serves as a heritage centre for the Graham family. James Graham, Marquis of Montrose, the hero/villain (depending on your viewpoint) of the 1640s wars in Scotland, spent some of his childhood here, and the castle twice saw action during that troubled period. The evocative ruinous sections visitors see today are much more modern; they are all that remain of a Victorian mansion which was abandoned in the 1940s.



The castle is one of the highlights of Mugdock Country Park, which occupies a ledge of high ground to the north of Milngavie, but the park has another castle to its name, though it isn't a real one. Craigend Castle was a stately home built in 1816-17 for the son of the famous Glasgow bookseller John Smith, whose firm still runs most of the university bookshops in the West of Scotland. After the Second World War, the Craigend Castle grounds were laid out as a zoo, with Charlie the elephant as the main attraction. The zoo never made money and was closed, and the castle was thereafter abandoned. There have been recent plans to bring the building back into some form of community use but for the moment it remains a ruin.

Magnificent views

A fine path, over 500ft above sea level, runs west from Mugdock Castle, with magnificent views over the Glaswegian sprawl, past the concrete remains of a wartime anti-aircraft battery, and reaches the Khyber Car Park. Khyber? Well, the narrow, unclassified road that leads to the car park climbs steeply from Craigallian Bridge by means of tight hairpins, through a deep rock cutting - the Khyber Pass? - and past Khyber Cottage. Perhaps, back in the 1960s, they should have filmed *Carry on Up the Khyber* here and not in North Wales.

About the same time as *Carry on Up the Khyber* was filming the BBC were making a historical drama called *The Borderers* that focused on warring families on the Scottish side of the uneasy border in the 16th century. The star of the programme was the distinguished Scottish actor Iain Cuthbertson but it also featured a youthful Michael 'Dumbledore' Gambon. Essentially it was a Scottish homestead western with lots of galloping about on horses, much of the outdoors action filmed

in the Mugdock area. Mugdock Castle features in a number of shots in the series.

Michael Gambon learned to ride for the series and became so attached to the horse he was allotted that he is said to have tried to buy it after the filming was completed. However, even if the man who played Dumbledore has links to Mugdock Castle, the really big draw will always be the Marquis of Montrose and it is tempting for the historical enthusiast to imagine the youthful James Graham playing beneath the lofty tower of the castle.

During the Civil War era, the castle was sacked by Lord Sinclair's forces in 1641 when Montrose was in prison in Edinburgh Castle. On his release, Montrose restored the castle but it suffered further attacks once he had declared fully for the king and had embarked on his 1644-45 'Year of Miracles' as the king's Captain General in Scotland.

The Marquis of Argyll

Montrose's battle victories came to an end in 1645 with defeat to David Leslie at Philiphaugh in the Borders. He fled abroad but returned to Scotland and was finally defeated at Carbisdale in far Sutherland in 1650. He was subsequently executed in Edinburgh. Mugdock Castle was forfeit

and came into the hands of the Covenant leader, the Marquis of Argyll, who had watched Montrose's execution from an upstairs window in the Royal Mile.

After the Restoration, it was Argyll's turn to be executed - grim times, indeed - and Mugdock Castle came back into Graham hands; a smaller house was built in the grounds to replace the castle. Later, the Grahams moved their seat to Buchanan Castle near Drymen and Mugdock was abandoned. A Victorian mansion built in 1875 obliterated the 17th century house and some of what remained of the original Mugdock Castle. This mansion was used by the authorities during the Second World War but was destroyed by fire not long afterwards. It was largely demolished, but for the few remains still to be seen, and the medieval tower again came to dominate the site.

Mugdock Country Park's Visitor Centre is set in the former stables complex of the Victorian mansion. With hills, moors, woods, castles, burns and lochs, it has everything you want in the Scottish countryside, not forgetting those links to one of Scottish history's most divisive characters.

And it's well worth a route diversion for walkers on the West Highland Way.



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Big adventures for short days

By: David C Weinczok



Scotland is currently in its quietest tourism time of the year with short days and cool long nights. However the country really is a year round destination with things on offer to help locals and visitors alike get that hat and scarf on and take in some of the amazing historic and natural attractions, without the crowds, as David C. Weinczok explains.

It's easy to see why so many people in Scotland go into hibernation in the winter. The temptation to surrender to the paper-thin window of daylight and the cold winds blowing through city and country roads alike is great indeed. If they can, many Scots escape to somewhere relatively warm at some point between December and February to recharge in order to make it through until spring.

There are, however, those idyllic winter days when the air is pure and the temperature not too cutting, and no matter how cosy it is inside the urge to venture out cannot be resisted. Such days are full of potential and all the more special for their rarity. Perhaps in compensation for their blink-and-you-miss-it length they can yield spectacular, even surreal sunsets, while the stillness you can find wandering forests or historic towns is enchanting.

It won't surprise you, of course, that Scotland has plenty of options for making the most of what many consider the worst time of the year. What follows are three of the best, chosen for a mixture of natural beauty, history and that all-important factor for winter exploring – cosy places to curl up afterwards! They are also all easily accessible from Edinburgh or Glasgow by public transport and can be done in a day or less.

Melrose and the Scottish Borders

The opening of the Borders Railway in 2015 has made a stunning swathe of Scotland accessible to thousands who may never have otherwise visited. The Borders is hard country, with deep glens and high moors just as rugged as those you find in the north. The area is dotted with castles, abbeys and picturesque villages – no wonder Walter Scott found so much inspiration here.

Tweedbank station is under an hour from Edinburgh and day trips are easy to do on impulse. From Tweedbank you can drive, be driven, cycle, or ambitiously walk to the region's main towns, which grew up around a series of very wealthy and powerful abbeys. Robert Bruce's heart is



Holyrood Park.

famously buried at Melrose Abbey, and the abbeys of Dryburgh, Kelso and Jedburgh are all worth experiencing.

There are also castles and towers galore with two of the best being Smailholm Tower and Greenknowe Tower, remnants of the 16th century when the Borders saw ceaseless large and small-scale warfare. So much so, in fact, that the word 'bereaved' comes to us from the loss of goods and people to the Reivers, skilled horsemen who profited from raiding and pillaging on both sides of the border. If your surname is, say, Elliott, Scott, Little, Bell, Kerr, Maxwell or Johnstone, some Reivers may even be family!

Holyrood Park, Edinburgh

While Holyrood Park is far from a secret given its dominance over the heart of Edinburgh, but it really is ideal for feeling like an adventure without ever being more than a mile from a warm pub. The volcanic plug of Arthur's Seat and the precipitous Salisbury Crags look and feel as though a chunk of the Highlands came to the Lowlands for some ancient feast, had a few too many and just decided to stay put.

In places the surrounding city disappears entirely, while in others it



The Hermitage.

unfolds in a spectacular panorama with the gothic spires of the Old Town focusing the eye on the great castle. On a clear day you can see the Forth Bridges and north as far as the Cairngorm, nearly halfway across Scotland. A network of paths explore all areas of the park and range from a staircase climbing the Seat's full height to gentle paths that meander their way to small lochs and lookout points. It's also a brilliant place to go if you're in town for Hogmanay, far from the madding crowds of the city centre and affording truly awesome views of the fireworks over Edinburgh Castle.

There are, however, those idyllic winter days when the air is pure and the temperature not too cutting, and no matter how cosy it is inside the urge to venture out cannot be resisted.

The history of Holyrood Park is the stuff of ages. Its rocks formed over 300 million years ago, and it was here that James Hutton made discoveries that created the basis for modern geology. Iron Age people built a fort atop the plug, part of a beacon system linking hill forts from East Lothian to Stirling. It was while hunting in Holyrood Park that, according to legend, King David was pinned by a white stag and saved by the appearance of the holy cross which frightened the beast away, hence the name Holyrood – meaning Holy Cross – Park. In thanks he founded an abbey and the town of Edinburgh truly took form.

The Hermitage at Dunkeld

The Hermitage is a fascinating study in our relationship with the land. This forested walk in the heart of Perthshire's 'Big Tree Country' majestically tracks the course of the River Braan between huge Douglas Firs. Moss covers the rocks and

trees and ferns grown large, making the whole place feel somewhat primordial – you can almost imagine a warband of Picts waiting to ambush a Roman sentry behind every turn. Yet, far from being wild and untouched, the landscape is a highly choreographed pleasure ground for the 18th century Dukes of Atholl based at nearby Blair Castle.

It sure fooled me. Despite its relatively recent state as a managed landscape The Hermitage is one of the best places in Scotland to envision the Caledonian Forest, a dense wood that, if Roman sources can be believed, once covered Scotland so densely that a squirrel could go from coast to coast without touching the ground. At the very least the great forest provided a handy excuse to Roman legionary captains, who blamed its dark depths for their lack of progress against the locals.

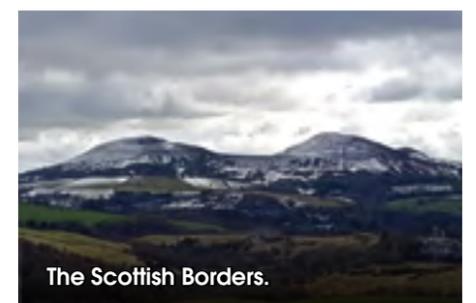
The Hermitage is punctuated by Ossian's Hall, an 18th century folly that overlooks the churning Black Linn Falls. A stone bridge arcs elegantly over the water, looking every bit like part of a *Lord of the Rings* set. That kind of epic mythology is precisely what The Hermitage is intended to invoke.

The nearby village of Dunkeld provides transport connections and comforts, and is itself worth visiting for its preserved 18th century aesthetic and grand cathedral. If a contemplative walk in a fantastical natural setting is your idea of a day well spent, it's hard to think of a better place in Scotland than The Hermitage.

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



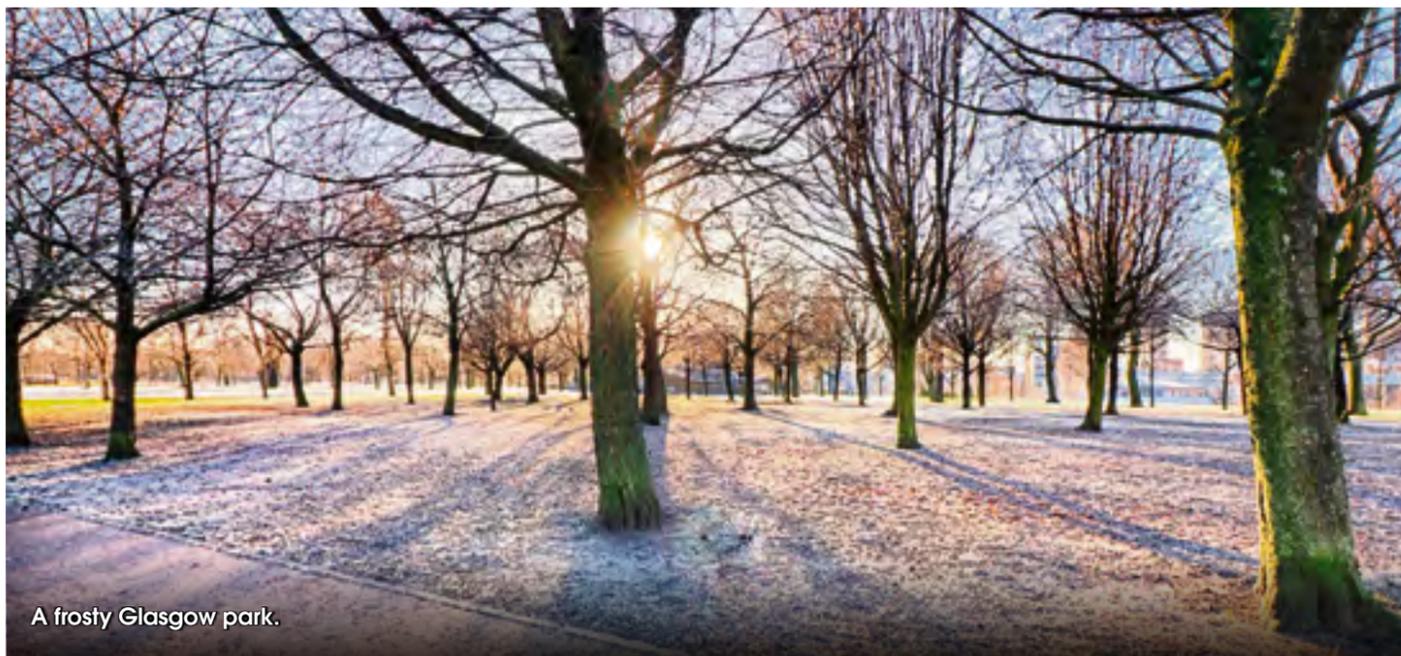
Melrose Abbey.



The Scottish Borders.

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.



A frosty Glasgow park.

The Wee Dragon Children

*Teacher, teacher let me in,
My feet are cauld, my shoes are done,
If ye willnae let me in,
I'll no' come back in the efternin'.*

Our teachers were always caring and kind to us at Langton Road Primary school. Miss Munro was our infants' teacher and was a bit like a mother, warm and cheerful. Miss Aird who taught us when we got older was more strict but very fair and thoughtful. We all grew to like her as well. There were sometimes treats like ice-creams from the teachers at the end of term in summer and apples from the people of Canada to brighten up our post-war childhood days. I still remember the wonderful smell of those wooden boxes full of crisp red apples and I have held the people of Canada in high regard ever since.

Nitshill

Miss Aird lived in the old part of Nitshill and for some strange reason we all thought that was a bit posh. She could tell us what Nitshill and Pollok were like in the 'olden days' of her youth and I loved to listen to her stories. We liked to occasionally walk up to one of the shops in what remained of the old mining village of Nitshill. It sold a range of different things of interest to children than the ones we could buy at our local shops. It stocked 'peeries', wooden whipping tops, 'dabbities', tattoo transfers which we wet with spit and stuck onto our arms. It sold scraps which were especially popular with the girls and were eagerly sought out for their scrap book collections. But this shop also sold little wooden frames that held photographic paper. By placing the paper in contact with a negative provided with the frame,

or by using one from home, we could put the frame out in the bright sunshine of a summer day and make ourselves, as if by magic, a sepia brown contact print.

We knew that our teachers at Langton Road cared about us. It was evident in the way that they dealt with Mary, in a sympathetic and business-like manner, when Mary 'peed' her knickers just about every day. It showed in the way that they made sure that John, with his backside

The late dawn of winter had brought a heady exhilaration as the sun bleached the shadows away from around our homes.

hanging out of his trousers, always got one of the extra bottles of school milk. It showed in the way they spoke to Sarah, the girl who only ever wore one well-worn dress and cardigan and it was evident in the way they quietly gave out the free dinner cards to the children of families in need.

Jack Frost

The late dawn of winter had brought a heady exhilaration as the sun bleached the shadows away from around our homes. It was bitterly cold yet a big red sun lay close to the orange horizon in the east. The trees glittered with a rind of frost upon their branches and we stepped out upon a clear fresh morning to go to school. It was a 'Jack Frost' day. We had run to school, sliding and skating along the ice-covered pavements and the tar macadam was already looking like black glass near the school as hundreds of sliding feet

converged upon the school gate. Fancy-shaped ice patterns had grown and crystallized on the edges of the frozen rain puddles to make the once dark and still water transform into bright shiny ice.

We had jumped and stamped on these to smash them to pieces so that we could 'skite' the broken bits along the frosty pavements and roadways of Pollok. Thick hoarfrost now clung to the grasses, shrubs, and hedges giving them a new beauty while elaborately spun spider-webs became newly visible to us, in all their intricacy. On our way to school, the water in the Brock Burn struggled to remain in flow in the

centre and below the ice along its banks. It was about to become a wonderful day where we would make big slides in the playground at playtime and lunchtime. It would be a special day where 'Jack Frost' would rule and like little pagans we would pray for his big, cold red face to stay with us for a while. Then he would be able to do his mischief on our school's outside toilets.

"Come away in, come away in quickly, my wee dragons, said Miss Munro with a laugh. "You all look frozen." There we were lined up for her class with our black balaclavas covering our heads and a large part of our faces as well. We had red noses, blue fingers and white legs; and breathed out clouds of steam into the dry, icy air. We sure enough looked like little dragons.

When 'Jack Frost' stayed for that day with us the toilets froze up and we were sent home early and when 'Jack Frost' decided to remain for another day we were sent home with a note telling us to stay at home the next day. It was then that hundreds of wee feet in 'tackety' boots and 'wellies' would skid and slide back home with delight and cover the housing schemes pavements with slides of black ice. The trails of black ice were treacherous for the elderly and soon enough responsible citizens were outdoors putting salt and coal ash onto them to dampen our enthusiasm. But while they lasted, we thanked 'Jack Frost', and we breathed out puffs of warm air into the dry icy air, just like wee dragons. We were free spirits and blissfully happy to be alive and well.



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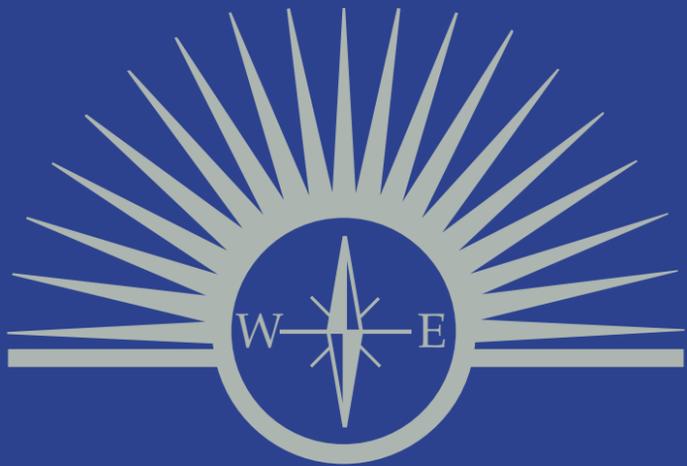
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