



the Scottish Banner



Australasian Edition



Years Strong - 1976-2018 www.scottishbanner.com

A' Bhratach Albannach

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The Banner Says...

Where is Scotland?



by Sean Cairney

If you are reading this then no doubt you know where Scotland is. Some may even be quite specific and tell you Scotland's coordinates are 56.4907° N, 4.2026° W, but then again most of you would know that as well...

A reader in the USA recently posted on our social media that they were surprised to hear that there was a Paisley in Scotland. They clearly were familiar with the American town of Paisley (you can find a Paisley in both Oregon and Florida) but surprised to hear of the market town outside of Glasgow with a history that dates back to the 1100's.

Scottish footprint

This month one of our features delves into how the Gaelic name for Edinburgh, Dùn Èideann, has become Dunedin for two places on opposite sides of the world thanks to their shared Scottish links. Which got me thinking just how much of the world has a Scottish footprint, whether the residents are aware or not. There are simply hundreds of cities, towns and villages across the world with a Scottish name, this does not include the many lakes, rivers and virtually anything else that can have a name, having a Scottish connected name. In fact Scotland is all around us regardless of where you live.

Around the world this month all eyes will be on our Celtic cousins, the Irish, for St Patricks Day with green

beer flowing and Irish music getting toes tapping. Many wonder why the impact of Scotland cannot be as widely recognised through events such as St Andrews Day, Burns Night or Tartan Day. However many pipe bands will be kilted up at not only St Patricks Day parades this month but at a variety of public events throughout the year, across the world. At any one time our website has hundreds of Scottish events listed from around the world. I am pretty sure a week does not go by where someone somewhere is not celebrating Scotland through events such as at Highland games, Scottish dance events, with music and Clan functions. It goes without saying that many places named after a Scot or

Perhaps next time you are out for a drive and see a name that says Scotland to you, there just may be a great story behind it, with Scottish history.

somewhere in Scotland itself, still today carry out Scottish events as a nod to those founding Scots who persevered in new lands.

Everyday millions of people go to bed each night in a place that has been touched by a Scot, who has helped not to only give it a name but shape the place they call home today. Of course billions more enjoy inventions that were created by a Scot, from telephones to televisions we would be lost without them today. So in many ways Scotland is around in what we do and where we live, still today.

In this issue

This month we speak to the Munro Bagpiper Grant MacLeod who is

playing the pipes at the very top of Scotland. Grant is looking to become the first person to play his bagpipes at the top of all 282 of Scotland's Munros (mountains with a height of over 3000 feet). Mountains, bagpipes & kilts what could be more Scottish?

Scottish world record setting endurance cyclist Mark Beaumont recently placed himself again in the record books by cycling 18,000 miles across the globe in 79 days. Now the Perthshire native has set himself a new challenge for 2018 by riding his Penny Farthing bicycle farther than anyone else in one hour. The determination of this Scot is incredible and with every pedal he makes us all proud.

Cruising has never been more popular, with ships plying the world's oceans taking passengers to some amazing locations. Scotland too, has never been more popular, with 2018 set to be the best year yet. Orkney has evolved from Viking boats to cruise mega ships and been declared the cruising capital of the UK. I was surprised to hear this and with well over 100,000 people coming by ship this year Orkney has a fantastic opportunity to show off its unique scenery and culture to the world.

However the influx of so many people on tiny island community of less than 25,000 has to be carefully managed and made to be a positive impact for local residents.

The legend of Merlin dates back to the 6th century and some may be surprised to learn of the Scottish links of the mythical wizard. In fact a Merlin Trail is being launched this month so visitors can follow in not only the legend we know from books and film, but the original figure who roamed the hills and forests of southern Scotland long ago.

Footsteps of our history

Most of us yearn to get back to Scotland to discover the land of our ancestors and step in the footsteps of our history. However we can also find some those same amazing footsteps in our own backyards which have seen Scots walk before us. Perhaps next time you are out for a drive and see a name that says Scotland to you, there just may be a great story behind it, with Scottish history. Our ancestors left us with a rich Scottish history across the planet and how fun might it be to find out where that Scotland is for you. 🏴󠁧󠁢󠁥󠁮󠁧󠁿

Do you know a special place outside of Scotland with a distinct Scottish name or link? Share your story with us by email, post or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



Where does Scotland's flag fly for you?
 Photo: Scotland.org

Gracing our front cover:
 The Munro Piper
 Grant Macleod with his mate
 Cluanie on the top of Scotland.

Scottish band Breabach announce national tour



Scottish five-piece Breabach deliver a thrilling and unique brand of contemporary folk music that has earned them international recognition on the world and roots music scene as one of the UK's most dynamic and exciting bands. Having been previously released internationally, Breabach are delighted to announce their award winning fifth album *Astar* (translating from Scottish Gaelic as distance or journey) has now been released.

The music on the album takes inspiration from the beauty of both the places and people the band have visited and the wonderful



musicians and cultures encountered along the way. Working with producer Greg Lawson (BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, GRIT Orchestra) the band have taken melodic, rhythmic and harmonic ideas from each of the countries they have visited.

The lead single from the album is *The Last March*, composed by the late great Cape Breton fiddler John Morris Rankin. Rankin was one of the most highly revered and influential fiddlers and composers of all time and sadly lost his life in a tragic car accident in 2000. His spirit and music live on through recordings, sessions and festivals all over the world and this melody with Breabach is thought to be one of the last he ever composed.

Guest artists

The album includes Australian musicians the band have become friends with during their previous visits Down Under. Yidaki (didgeridoo) player Mark Atkins performs on *The Last March*, *The Striking Clock* and *The White Sand of Jervis Bay*, with extraordinary Aboriginal artist Yirmal Marika singing a traditional song from Arnhem Land on *The White Sand of Jervis Bay*.

Other special guests that lend their musical talents to the recordings are Maori tradition bearer Scott Morrison (NZ) who performs a newly composed Haka for the track *Muriwai*, Quebecois violinist Olivier Demers of Le Vent Du Nord (Quebec) and Hardanger virtuoso Olav Luksengård Mjelva of Nordic Fiddlers Bloc (NO).

Breabach unite the talent of members Calum MacCrimmon (pipes/whistles/

bouzouki/vocals), Ewan Robertson (guitar/ vocals), James Mackenzie (pipes/ flute/whistles), Megan Henderson (fiddle/ vocals/stepdance) and James Lindsay (double bass). Since launching their career as winners of the Open Stage Award at Celtic Connections in 2005 the band have steadily moved from strength to strength, picking up accolades and performing at esteemed events along the way.

Folk band of the year

2017 began in exciting fashion as receivers of the Scots Trad Music Awards 'Folk Band of the Year' for the second time and 'Album of the Year' for *Astar*. A special Celtic Connections show to celebrate the album was held in Glasgow's City Halls and was received with a sell-out crowd and 5-star review in the *Scotsman*.

The momentum continued with nominations for 'Best Band' at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards and for 'European Album of the Year' in the Songlines Music Awards. This was underpinned by a packed live performance schedule including tours of the UK, Sweden and Canada and an exciting, energetic festival season across Europe.

2018 will see Breabach back in the studio to record a sixth studio album as well continuing their adventures across the globe with tours of the UK and Australia to kick things off. Delivering an increasingly mature repertoire and live performance whilst continuing to build their reputation at the forefront of the UK's world and roots music scene, this is a band at the very top of their game and one not to be missed!

Reader giveaway



Breabach are touring Australia nationally from March 9th to April 7th, *the Scottish Banner* has 3 double passes to any non-festival performance across Australia or we also have 3 copies of the new CD *Astar* to giveaway. To win simply see www.breabach.com for complete tour dates and locations and enter via email: competitions@scottishbanner.com, via our website www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us or post (sorry no telephone entries) our Sydney office, our full contacts can be found on page 2. Please ensure you include what prize are wanting, your full postal address and email/phone details. Winners will be notified directly, good luck!

Did you know?



Stirling

- The name Stirling probably comes from the Gaelic or Cumbric for "land enclosed by a stream or river." 'Sruighlea.' The origin of the name is uncertain although others claim it comes from a Gaelic or Scots word meaning "Place of battle/Struggle." It also may come from the Brythonic name for "dwelling place of Melyn."
- Stirling is the smallest city in Scotland and a former ancient burgh. The town was originally created as a royal burgh by King David I in 1130 which it remained until 1975. In 2002 Stirling was granted city status as part of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.
- Stirling was originally a Stone Age settlement as suggested by the presence of the Randolphfield stand stones and the Kings park prehistoric

carvings. Stirling has always been a strategically important place in Scotland due to its defensive crag and tail hill and its position at the foot of the Ochil hills on the border between the lowlands and the Highlands.

- Stirling is dominated by the castle and the medieval old town. The city was the location of several major battles during the wars of Independence. You can still visit the site of the battle of Stirling Bridge (1297) and Bannockburn, where Robert the Bruce defeated the English in 1314, is a nearby town.
- In 1507 the first attempt of flight in Scotland took place at Stirling Castle. An Italian believed he could fly using feathered wings and jumped from the castle battlements, breaking his thigh in the process as he fell to earth.
- Mary, Queen of Scots was crowned at Stirling Castle in 1542.

The 14th Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival is COMING !

(Wingham, Mid North Coast, NSW)

SUNDAY 27th MAY - SUNDAY 3rd JUNE

Come along and join in the celebrations.
Activities for all Ages.
Clan of Honour 2018-
Clan MacLennan

Festival Program

- Pick up a brochure at the Museum or visit the Museum's Website at www.manninghistorical.org
- Sunday 27th May
 - Scottish Concert
 - Thursday 31st May
 - Genealogy Fair
 - Clan MacLennan Re-union dinner (www.clanmaclellan-worldwide.com/aust/bonnie-ingham-2018/)
 - Friday 1st June
 - Braveheart Poets Breakfast
 - District Bus Tour
 - CWA Shortbread Baking Competition
 - 9 Hole Clash of the Clans mixed Golf Tournament
 - Scottish Fun Night
 - Saturday 2nd June
 - Street Parade, Opening Ceremony, Highland Games, Pipe bands, dancing and best dressed
 - Scottish Theme DOG competition.
 - Grand Scottish Ball
 - Sunday 3rd June
 - Thanksgiving Service and Blessing of the Banners
 - Barbecue Breakfast
 - Luncheon and Ceilidh/Concert



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.

The Robert Burns Club of Camperdown



The Robert Burns Club of Camperdown had a busy week of celebrating the 259th birthday of Scotland's bard. The Robbie Burns Memorial Plate was won by "Fill The Flute" at Camperdown Cup race day on January 20th. Club president John Menzies had the honour of presenting the plate to the horses connections. Later in the week on the Bards birthday, local performers Angela Preiss, Michelle Benjamin and Don Grieve hosted an afternoon of entertainment in the Camperdown Botanic Gardens.

*Chris Maguire,
Robert Burns Club of Camperdown
Camperdown, Victoria
Australia*

Melville Castle



This past summer my wife and I visited family in Dumbarton. Before leaving Winnipeg I booked two rooms at Melville Castle near Edinburgh. My wife and I were joined by my two sisters (from Dumbarton). We spent a lovely day in Edinburgh. The highlight was staying at the castle where many Royals had stayed and maybe some of our forebears. We learned that there was a lot of history to the Melville name. I grew up in Dumbarton, left in 1967 with my wife and two kids (Karen and Jeffrey). Been in

Canada since, with the exception of a six year spell working in Bangladesh.

In regard to the interview with the world travelling piper (*The First Piper, Scottish Banner*, August, 2017). When I was in Bangladesh one of our expats (Lever Bros manager and a Scot) was leaving after four years. I contacted the Chittagong police department and was able to get their pipe band (yes) to come to Ian's leaving party. They had some different names for some tunes. They had been originally taught by servicemen from WW2. When these guys paraded in to the yard, playing *Scotland the Brave*, Ian was absolutely blown away. I guess my point is that you can find Scotland everywhere. I will never forget that moment.

*Jack Melville
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada*

Ed note: Thanks Jack for sharing your stories of Scotland and Scots abroad. Scotland is all over the world and we are certainly lucky for that!

South African Scots



Wow!! This is an exciting publication. What do you need to get interest in South Africa to publish a South African edition? Maybe that's a simple question to a more complex project but at last I see something which can bring together the various elements of Scots (and generally Celtic) activities and interest throughout the country. We have Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing, Scottish Country Dancing in all the main centres, as well as Caledonian and Scottish Associations. Unfortunately, the latter organisations are declining and many have closed over the years but the Cape Town Callies continues to GROW!!!

My point is that there are many Scots and descendants of Scots in South Africa who, I'm sure, would benefit from a publication like this and it would also be a catalyst in bringing many in the South African Scottish diaspora together to celebrate Scotland again. It's amazing that, when talking to South Africans generally about the Cape Town Callies, how many say that they have Scottish roots. Just as an aside, the number of weddings in the Afrikaans families that have tartan and kilts as the main dress code is quite amazing!

I have to say that the Cape Town Caledonian Society is a registered Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) and its objectives are to bring together Scots and others who love Scotland and, in the long run, assist members when the need arises as well as offering an interesting and fun event or function on a monthly basis – including, of course, St Andrew's Nicht and Burns Nicht – and we promote other functions, not presented by the Society, that will be of interest to members and friends of the Society. We maintain close contact with the Irish and Welsh associations to try to keep the Celtic traditions alive and well.

Personally, I have no publishing background but have put together newsletters styled "The Cape Caledonian" in the past. The Scottish Banner is SO much better (no argument there) and is just the publication that is needed in South Africa. That's the simple but, I suppose, the selfish reasons for having a South African Edition. However, if the interesting stories and information that I've seen in the December 2017 edition you kindly sent to me is anything to go by, I know that all Scots and friends would love to be able to have access to it all at an affordable price.

*Stuart Munro
Chief – Cape Town Caledonian Society
Cape Town, South Africa*

Ed note: Thanks Stuart for such an enthusiastic letter and glad you are enjoying the Scottish Banner. Whilst we are not planning a South African edition you can, regardless of where you live, subscribe to our print or digital editions to keep up to date with the international Scottish community.

Sons of Scotland Pipe Band Burns Supper



The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band from Ottawa, Canada, had the honour of performing at the last dinner held by their Benefactors, The Sons of Scotland - Camp Argyll No. 26 – as part of their 127th Burns Dinner and Banquet, the largest and longest running in Eastern Ontario. The band put on a concert with guest highland dancers from the Katharine Robinson School of Dance, celebrating their 50th year in 2018, and the Pipe Major added in a special tune written for long time member of the Camp and officer in the Cameron Highlanders Regiment in Ottawa, Ms Joyce Bremner who passed away in August at the age of 86.

The band made its debut in 1896 as part of this special evening, and are proud to have been on hand to play for these past 122 years. Both organizations are proud of their work and heritage, and the pipe band will continue to support the Celtic arts in the Ottawa region and beyond.

*More information on the camp is at
<http://sonsofscotland.com/about-us/history>
Bethany Bisailion
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada*

The Massacre of Glencoe

I have just watch a movie about "The Massacre of Glencoe" and I must admit being named Ronald Bruce MacDonald (my Mother's name) Marsonet, which means the second son of the God of War and Madness. I am a bit conflicted and if you knew more of my story (I was born in Fort William, Ontario, Canada and my

brother was named Robert because he was born on January 25, 1950 in the shadow of a mountain called Mt. McKay with a lake from which we got our drinking water called Loch Lomond). If you knew the rest of my story related to the Campbell's in this city you would understand my conflict. By the way my Italian grandmother on my father's side was named Angela Furlan (a Gallic name), a name from which I have been told by her relatives was the of a origin of the name McFarlane (McFurlan) plus I am a cousin of a Pisces man named Fisher (related to the Campbell clan) who caused me great pain and suffering. I must admit this night will be a rather difficult one to process in my mind.

Scotland I hope to visit you soon, maybe to stay as a Celtic Scot and Franco/Italian Gaul, I must see Scotland before I pass, especially Iona.

*Ronald Bruce MacDonald (Marsonet)
Ontario, Canada*

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Send your photos or letters via social media

The University of the Highlands and Islands



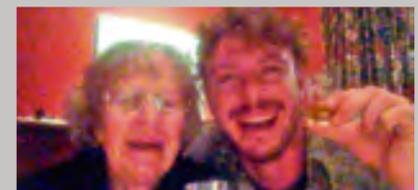
We thought you'd like to see and hear this... all the way from the Outer Hebrides, where we have made a series of short films all about the people and places around the BA Applied Music UHI course here at Lews Castle College on Benbecula and the Isle of South Uist. You can view at: www.facebook.com/appliedmusicUHI TrixPix Media Isle of South Uist, Scotland

Glencoe



That tree and the 3 sisters of Glencoe. *Carolynn Wilson
Scotland Up Close*

Fond memories of a grandson



Old mate Christine here is moving out of the house she's been in for the last 34 years. Many a fond memory in this ol' spot with Gran, including learning the piano from her.

I'll try to keep up your monthly supply of *the Scottish Banner*, Gran, whether they stock them near your next pad or not. *Slàinte mhath,
Andrew Gunn
Auckland, New Zealand*

Forget-Me-Not Garden and dementia centre planned for Lauriston Castle



Lauriston Castle and grounds. Photo: Spectacular Scotland.

A dementia friendly 'forget-me-not garden' is to be planted in the grounds of a castle by the sea in Edinburgh. At a recent meeting of Edinburgh Council's Culture and Communities Committee, members agreed to the creation of a specially designed garden and to consider opening a drop-in centre for those with memory loss at the city's historic Lauriston Castle. Through sensory planting and reminiscence features, it is hoped the area will provide support for the increasing number of people living with dementia in Edinburgh and raise awareness of the disease for which there is currently no cure. The area will be designed and managed by the Edinburgh Forget-Me-Not Garden Trust, which is seeking a 25-year-

lease to establish a drop-in centre and support network for sufferers and their family, friends and carers.

Scotland's first dementia-friendly city

Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener, said: "With its calm, tranquil atmosphere, and stunning views across the Firth of Forth, the grounds of Lauriston Castle provide the perfect place to escape from the bustle of the city centre. I can think of no better place for the Forget-Me-Not Trust to plant this beautiful, sensory garden. Edinburgh was declared Scotland's first dementia-friendly city in 2014 and over this time we have been working in communities to end the stigma around memory loss. Cramond is one of those areas which has established

a great community understanding and respect for people affected by dementia. I am delighted to help the charity as they seek to secure this spot."

Subject to approval, a 25-year-lease of Lauriston's Gate Lodge will allow the charity to apply to major external funding bodies for support. Patricia Eason from the Edinburgh Forget-Me-Not Garden Trust, added: "Over 800,000 people are living with dementia in Britain and this figure is expected to rise to over 1,000,000 by 2021. Sensory gardens have been planted in many places around the UK and are proven to help people with severe memory loss reconnect to nature and their surroundings. Our vision is to plant a beautiful garden in the grounds of Lauriston Castle which will please the senses and allow families, friends and carers to enjoy some quality time and happy memories with their loved ones. Should we secure the lease and funding, we want this garden to provide an oasis of calm in the face of what can be a very difficult disease."



Clan Donald, Patron of the Arts Pipe Band Prize 2018

Continuing their centuries old patronage of the arts and support of Gaelic culture, The Clan Donald Lands Trust Armadale Skye will again award a Pipe Band Prize named "In memory of AWR MacDonald, a son of Australia, in the name of the great Clan Donald" at a pipe band competition in Australia in 2018. This year the award will support the Grade 4 band at the Australian Championships, Brisbane Boys College Brisbane Queensland on April 7th 2018.

The AWR MacDonald Memorial Prize

The AWR MacDonald Memorial Prize of \$1000.00 and unique Scottish targe like trophy for first as well as cash amounts for 2nd and 3rd will be presented on the day by representatives from Clan Donald including Malcolm C. McDonald, O.A.M., Toiseach of the Finlaggan Council, Clan Donald International.

The AWR MacDonald Memorial Prize in Australia joins the Donald MacDonald Quaich, awarded annually at an invitational competition for Piobaireachd at Armadale Castle on Skye. In 2018, the Clan Donald Lands Trust will also award similar annual prizes for pipe bands in America to be known as the Ellice and Rosa McDonald Memorial Prize and in New Zealand as the Harold McIssac Memorial Prize. The worldwide support from the Clan Donald Lands Trust will promote, encourage and develop excellence in piping and drumming, an integral part of our beloved Scottish heritage.



Tartan of the Month - Ulva Tartan



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

The tartan design is entirely symbolic of the Isle of Ulva and its surrounding sea area. The centre of the sett is purple for Ulva's purple heather and ling growing on the island's high ground. Dark grey bands mimic the basalt cliffs. Green signifies bracken, grass, and gorse - which is noted by a thin

band of chrome yellow. The rocky coastal cliffs and bays are depicted by a band of grey against which a narrow band of natural white denote waves on the shores. Blue is for the sea surrounding Ulva, separated from the next sett by a wider band of natural white to emphasise that Ulva is a Scottish island of great history. Turned sideways the white bands form the Scottish Saltire. These are some of the colours of Ulva - but I would have liked a seventh colour to use, however, this wasn't possible. I would have chosen another green, to have had both a dark green and a light green would have been perfect. The Ulva Community Buyout. The need to raise awareness and funds so that the Isle of Ulva can be saved for everyone to enjoy in the future.

For details on the Ulva Community Buyout: www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/northwest-mull/ulvabuyout

RINGWOOD highland games
SUNDAY 25th MARCH 2018



pipe bands
highland dancing
the return of the heavy games
fun family activities
great food
market stalls
whisky tastings
haggis and scots treats
plus much, much more




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Kids (6-16) \$8
Family \$30.00
Kids under 6 free

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RINGWOOD EAST SPORTS GROUND
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By: David McVey

Rannoch Moor

An Outpost of Progress

Photos: David McVey.

Rannoch Moor is one of Britain's last great wildernesses where rugged beauty meets remoteness. Travelling to this unique landscape by train is possible on the West Highland Line, as it travels across ancient moorlands and letting passengers almost touch some of Scotland's most unique and changeable scenery as David McVey explains.

'A wearier-looking desert man never saw'. That's how the narrator, David Balfour, describes Rannoch Moor in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*. Aeneas MacMaster, in Neil Munro's *The New Road*, is a bit more thoughtful on the subject; 'God-forgotten, man-forsworn, wild Rannoch... it charmed and it repelled him.' That sums the moor up nicely. Even though, by Outback standards, Rannoch is a tiny pocket of wilderness it still has an austere and forbidding face.

The West Highland Line

Depending on how you define it, Rannoch Moor extends to around 50 square miles and is a high tableland of bog, rock, scattered lochans and rough heath, completely surrounded by high peaks. There are some stretches of natural woodland - principally Crannach Wood towards the south end of the moor - but large tracts have in recent decades been given over to forestry.

The A82 Glasgow-Fort William road runs along the western fringe of the moor but anyone can see into its wild heart simply by stepping on the train. The West Highland Line, which also links Glasgow with Fort William, crosses the Moor between Bridge of Orchy and Tulloch. The journey to Fort William is a slow one and the trains are disappointingly basic (except on the West Highland Sleeper service), but the scenery more than compensates.



Rannoch Moor in winter.

The railway opened in 1894, with the stretch across the Moor perhaps the most challenging bit for the engineers. Over the wetter parts of the moor, the rails had to be laid on floating mats of brushwood, and after the railway's first winter a snow-shed was fitted over the Cruach Rock cutting, north of Rannoch Station, to prevent blockage by snowdrifts. It's still in use today, the only one on the UK rail system.

Scenically spectacular

The West Highland Line is scenically spectacular for most of its length, and by the time they reach Bridge of Orchy, most travellers will already be blown away having experienced Loch Long, The Cobbler, Loch Lomond, Ben Lomond and much else. After Bridge of Orchy, the train passes Loch Tulla and rattles through Crannach Wood, a remnant of the great Caledonian Forest. Slowly we're pulling on to the moor, though this section includes most of the afforestation that has taken place. All the same, you can judge the nature of the moor already. The peaks of Glencoe rise to the west and then a large body of water, fringed by sandy beaches, comes into view - Loch Laidon - and the train rattles into Rannoch Station. Rannoch Station lies at the end of a narrow road ribboning west from Kinloch Rannoch. The nearby Moor of Rannoch Hotel specialises in breaks for jaded Londoners who step off the sleeper from Euston and into a completely contrasting world - one with no TV or radio signal, no Wi-Fi and no mobile signal.

Rannoch Station is remote, but it's still civilisation. Next, however, the train rumbles over a viaduct, through the Cruach Rock snowshed and onto a high plateau of wild moorland and gleaming lochans edged by 3000ft peaks. It's the wildest landscape you'll see from any British train.

On my last visit, in January 2018, it was almost frightening, the dark winter moor, the soaring white peaks beyond, and all seen from a vulnerable, toylike train.

Rannoch Station is remote, but it's still civilisation. It's the wildest landscape you'll see from any British train.

Suddenly the train slows to a halt at a bare station platform; there's a house alongside, a few trees, a whirring wind turbine and a dirt track coming in from the east. This is Corroul, originally a private station for the Corroul Estate. Corroul Lodge was several miles east and a pony and trap used to collect visitors from the train and deliver them to a pier at the western end of Loch Ossian, just over a mile away; a launch would speed them to the lodge at the other end of the loch. From 1934, Corroul Station appeared in the public timetables. You might think that it would attract few passengers but walkers, climbers, mountain-bikers and bird watchers come in numbers. Hillwalkers are attracted by peaks such as Leum Uilleam (909m/2971ft) just west of the station and Beinn na Lap (3068ft/935m) to the north-east. At Loch Ossian is a celebrated youth hostel, while in the summer the Station House offers accommodation and a cafe.

The highest station on the UK rail system

At 1340ft, this is the highest station on the UK rail system. The line tops out at 1347ft just north of here, and only Druimachder Summit (1484ft) on the Perth-Inverness

line is higher. The former signal box has been converted to guest suites by the Corroul Estate; I remember when it offered a basic passenger shelter. The present shelter, just a wooden hut, has, like every station on the line, an interactive digital display about the Sleeper service, incongruous high technology. Corroul is remote, but it's an outpost of progress, to borrow the title of a Conrad short story we read at school.

I came here in December 2009, at the start of what many Scottish people will remember as the 'Winter of the Snow'; there were 18 inches on the ground but the trains coped perfectly well. That day the moor was like a gigantic pile of meringues, with hungry red deer everywhere. Even on my recent visit there were plenty of deer visible from the train. You're usually guaranteed to see some.

By the time I'm waiting for the train back to Glasgow, there are a dozen other people on the platform. It's remote but not lonely. Five students have paying tribute to the station's incongruous appearance in the film *Trainspotting*, re-enacting scenes at the foot of Leum Uilleam. That's not my kind of film at all; I'm more of a *From Russia with Love* man, and scenes near the end of that film were partly filmed on the Moor with the railway making an appearance in what's supposed to be the Balkans. Some shots from around Crinan on the Argyll coast also appear in the same sequences. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1* features the Hogwarts Express halted on the moor and being menaced by Death Eaters. Bits of the moor also appear in the stylised, surreal Jupiter sequence of Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

In December or January it's fair to call the moor bleak, but in summer it bursts into growth, with an explosion of purple heather in August. Beware the insect hordes of July, though. Once, on a hot sunny day on the moor between Rannoch Station and Corroul, I was terrorised by clouds of the biting horseflies known as 'clegs' in Scotland. I had killed fifty by the time I stopped counting. I stopped walking not long after and fled for shelter.

The moor is perhaps at its best on a crisp frosty day in early spring with no midges or clegs and plenty of daylight. It deserves respect, like any wilderness, but a visit to the moor is a train journey like no other.



Celebrating Trainspotting near Corroul Station.



Rush Hour at Corroul.

SCOTSPEAK

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

"If I can ski comfortably down the hills then I'm pleased. I've had a lifetime of extraordinary pleasure out of it and I consider myself very fortunate to have been doing it for so long. I love being in the wonderful beauty of the snow-covered mountains, it's always such an invigorating feeling."

98 year old Perthshire resident George Stewart said as he is making plans to go skiing in France with his son. Mr Stewart is believed to be the oldest skier in the UK and has skied for over 70 years.



"In so many ways the opening of An Lanntair is a very sad and unnecessary development for the town of Stornoway. It is wrong whether one looks at it from a spiritual, social, family or cultural perspective and it would seem many within the community resonate with this view. The manner in which this significant change has been introduced is also disappointing. It cannot be denied that the general observance of the Lord's Day locally is one of the things that makes Lewis and Harris culturally distinctive and attractive today."

A spokesman for the Lewis branch of the Lord's Day Observance Society said as a cinema in Stornoway, on the Outer Hebrides island of Lewis, aired the recent Star Wars movie on a Sunday. The viewing

has angered some locals who want to keep the Sabbath tradition, dating back centuries, of businesses being closed on Sunday's alive. Lewis and neighbouring Harris have kept these traditions alive going against the rest of the UK.

"When our head distiller, Liam Pennycook tasted the uncut spirit straight from the still, he decided it was too good not to share. By developing Uncut, we really wanted to push the boundaries - but obviously ask people to enjoy it sensibly. You have to appreciate that most gins are 40-50% ABV (alcohol by volume) so care must be taken when drinking this spirit and a small amount definitely goes a long way."

Brand ambassador for Twin River, Ryan Rhodes, said as the Scottish gin maker has produced the world's strongest gin. The gin by Twin River Distillery in Banchory is 77% ABV. Recent years have seen a gin renaissance in Scotland, a country best known for its whisky, as there has been a rise in the number of artisan distilleries producing gin across the country.



"After 17 years, we are one step closer to a new home that will allow us to meet our vision and ambition. We applaud the Councillors for taking this decision in the face of considerable objections. We are fully aware of and sympathetic to those in Westhill and Kingswells who have objected to our plans and I want to reassure them

once more that we want to engage with them to deliver community facilities they can all enjoy and benefit from."

Aberdeen FC chairman Stewart Milne said as Aberdeen City Council has approved plans for Aberdeen Football Club to build a new £50m stadium with seating for 20,000 fans and a training academy Kingsford, Westhill.

"This is the first step in implementing satellite remote sensing as a regulatory data resource and will produce a step change in the way we monitor quality in the UK. This method of monitoring provides a more detailed and representative view of the whole lake, when compared to current sampling techniques that typically assess water quality in samples taken close to the lake edge."

Dr Claire Neil of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency said that satellites will be introduced to monitor water quality at Scottish lochs. This cutting edge technology will allow researchers to sample Scottish water in a more efficient way, whilst capturing a better overall picture of total water conditions.



"Over recent months we have had to deal with inconsiderate parking, dangerous driving, and damage to property and incidents of lewd behaviour, even defecation. Hopetoun Estate welcomes visitors. However, Midhope Castle is

not an attraction such as Hopetoun House and therefore doesn't have the infrastructure in place to support the numbers of fans descending upon what is essentially a working farm, timber yard and tenanted properties. The introduction of security is to accommodate visitors safely while protecting the historic castle, the privacy of residents and the livelihood of the people who work at the site."

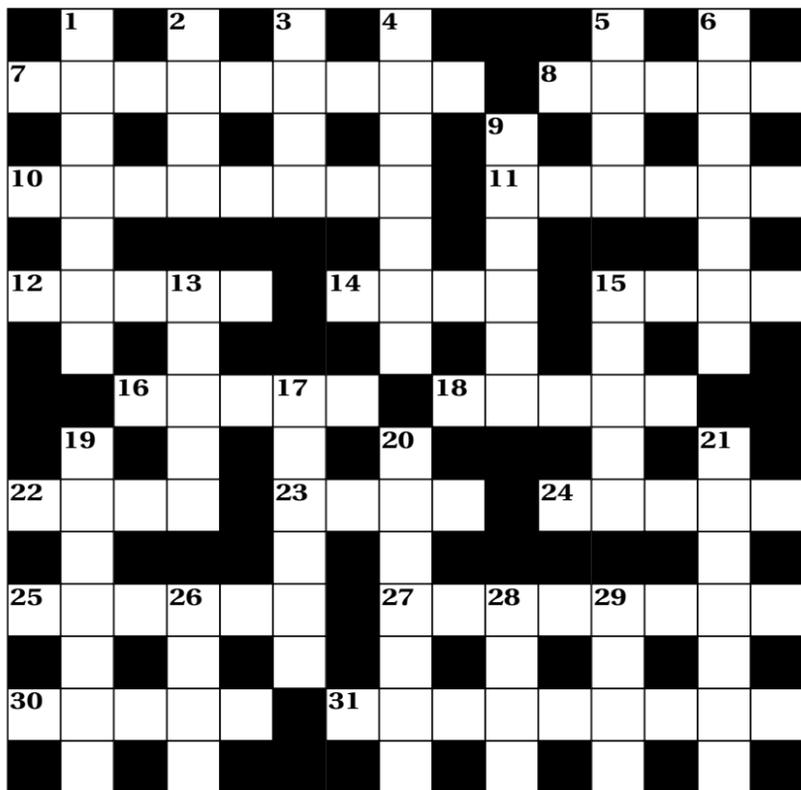
A spokeswoman from Hopetoun Estate, which also houses 15th century Midhope Castle, said as the South Queensferry location has been inundated with fans from the hit show *Outlander*. Midhope Castle is the ancestral home of *Outlander* lead character Jamie Fraser, played by Sam Heughan, however fans have not respected the historic site and caused damage and headache for locals. The castle has also been used the film *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*.

"It's something we've discussed over many years. We've been around since 1780, that's 238 years we've been a single-sex club. Every year we get new members in so we're continually asking the opinion of members and we did that via a survey. The information we got back was that we should really address this. I think the days of single-gender clubs are slowly disappearing and we didn't want to be left behind."

The Royal Aberdeen Golf Club secretary Ronnie MacAskill said as members recently voted to allow female membership. The sixth oldest golf club in the world dates back to 1780 and overwhelmingly voted in support of a change to the club's constitution whereby membership applications are no longer restricted to gentlemen. Last year Muirhead golf club in Edinburgh voted to allow women to join, the first time since 1744.

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

- 7) Grampian fishing port (9)
- 8) Lochaber river (5)
- 10) Port on the Clyde (8)
- 11) Search in Scots (6)
- 12) Town on the River Tay (5)
- 14) Small Scots island (4)
- 15) Grain (4)
- 16) Scotsmen (5)
- 18) A young salmon (5)
- 22) Robert Burns! (4)
- 23) The Cross of Christ (4)
- 24) Heard in kirk (5)
- 25) Inverness military fort (6)
- 27) A dance or a round of golf! (8)
- 30) Town east of Dumfries (5)
- 31) It's capital! (9)

CLUES DOWN

- 1) They're picked at Blairgowrie (9)
- 2) Relinquish (4)
- 3) Scram! (4)
- 4) Spiced Scottish biscuits (7)
- 5) It's heard at St Andrews! (4)
- 6) Glasgow team (7)
- 9) Bonnie Dundee! (6)
- 13) Border river (5)
- 15) Aberdeen suburb (5)
- 17) Loch Lomond resort (6)
- 19) Village SW of 31 Across (7)
- 20) Disclose (7)
- 21) Adornment for fliers! (7)
- 26) Harvest the crops (4)
- 28) Jugs (4)
- 29) A tattiel! (4)

DUNMORE

SCOTLAND



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By: Ron Dempsey



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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



Welsh celebration on St David's Day, one of three Celtic saints, being celebrated by our Celtic cousins this month.

We mentioned two saints in the February column of *What's In a Name* and we find we have to do the same again in March. March 1st is St David's Day, the patron saint of Wales. So to add a Welsh touch to this column and let me explain something about certain Welsh names. I am sure I have touched on this subject previously but it doesn't hurt to reinforce it or it could be new reading for recent subscribers.

Celtic cousins

Many Welsh names are the from a personal name such as Richard, Thomas, Jones (for John) Evans and Davies etc. Some may have

a strange twist to the English reader in that they recognise part of the name but not the first letter. Examples being Pugh, Pritchard, Pumphrey, Powell and Bowen. These names were originally Hugh, Richard, Humphrey, Owell and Owen. So why the change?

In old Welsh the word for son was map not too much difference from the Gaelic mac. When surnames were evolving an individual may have been known by his father's name in the form of MapHugh, or MapRichard but over the centuries with changes in speech patterns and local dialects it sounded more like ap or became just the letter P so that MapHugh became Pugh etc. In some cases it sounded more like a B as in Bowen.

Now for the Irish, March 17th is the day when even the non-Irish wear green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the patron saint of Ireland. Here we have to something that has been said repeatedly but bears being said yet again. It is a myth that Irish names begin with Mc and Scottish names begin with Mac. Mac is the Gaelic word for son and over the centuries English clerks who didn't speak word of Scottish and Irish Gaelic recorded names as they heard them. Thus we have Mc and Mac in both Scottish and Irish surnames. In older recordings of these names we have also seen M' for Mac. The softer dialect of Northern Ireland even sees the form of Meg or Mag as in Megarry or Maguire.

Anyway, we couldn't let the month pass without acknowledging our Celtic cousin's special days.

March

March is also a surname but has nothing to do with the calendar month but rather a specific geographic area. Those areas being border lands. The Welsh and the Scottish borders were known as the March. The reigning monarchs gave land in these regions to certain nobles whose main occupation to keep the peace along their respective lands and to insure that raids from without were rebuffed. The earliest record of the name is in Scotland was 1473.

One item of modern Scottish history which happened in March particularly March 6th 1923. The first BBC radio broadcast was made from Bath Street in Glasgow. Lord Reith of Stonehaven, the founder of the BBC was there to officiate. It is good and fitting that the founder bore a Scottish name. The name is primarily an Aberdonian in its origin and is thought to be from MacReith or MacRaith one of the many variations of MacRae. These names all stem from the Gaelic translation for son of Grace. It has taken on many forms, in Irish Gaelic it shows as McGraw and McGrath.

Aucterlonie



The Angus Tartan. Photo: The Scottish Register of Tartans.

Mr. Aucterlonie from somewhere in internet land wrote to ask a few questions about his surname. The name is a place name from Angus or Forfarshire, a pre-1974 shire that went by either name. Linguistically, Aucterlonie is a Gaelic place name. Two meanings are suggested either the field of the elk or field of the blackbird. The name in Gaelic is achadh na lon. The last element may have different sounds or emphasis attached to it that most likely was not picked up by English speakers, thus the two possible derivations.

Over the centuries the spelling became a bit fluid with over a dozen variations being recorded. They include Aucterlonie, Auchterlonie, and Ochterloney. Oldest

record for the land of Othirlony was in 1226 but a Walter with the surname Aughterlony submitted to King Edward I of England on the Ragman Roll of 1296.

Mr Auchterlonie inquired about a family or clan tartan for the name and couldn't find one and unfortunately I couldn't either. If he wished to wear a tartan, it was suggested that the closest would be the district tartan of Angus. It is not unusual for some Scots family names not have a tartan. Even though tartans have been worn in Scotland for over a thousand years the concept of clan or family tartans is relatively new. The idea of a family came into vogue with the visit of William IV to Edinburgh in 1822 where Sir Walter Scott arranged for display of all things Scottish for the monarch. After this event it became fashionable amongst the Highland noble houses to have clan tartan and were registered accordingly quite a turnaround from the previous century when all things Highland were outlawed.

Historically tartans were usually distinctive to an area where the colours were determined by the natural flora and the dyes they could produce. One can have a family tartan, designed and registered. However having a minimum run of the tartan manufactured maybe financially restrictive, you may need either an extensive family or lots of people with the same name interested.

I don't pretend to know all the tartan etiquette but if one doesn't wish to wear a district tartan they may wish to find possibly a maternal line with a family name that has a tartan and choose accordingly. There are also other generic tartans that are open to the public such as Black Watch, Royal Stewart, Scottish Heritage etc. One can google tartan finder and review what is available and decide from there.

Although there is no longer chief of the family of Ochterlony, but they have a clan badge. Clan Badge: A blue eagle wing spread in blue. Clan Motto: Deus Mihi Adjutor, God is my helper.

Bryden

From Canada we received an e mail from Ms. Anna Burke, originally a native of Maryhill, Scotland who wrote a kind note stating her appreciation for the varied columns in *the Banner*. Ms. Burke is writing for her father who is a subscriber to *the Scottish Banner* and wondered about the name Bryden, the maiden surname of his mother. This is a tough one for like many names it appears to have more than one derivation, Bredon an old British language term for hill fort. Possibly similar to the Scots word brae meaning a slope and dun for a fortified castle. Another explanation is from Bridon, Old French for a bridle, for one who made or sold them. Lastly from Bradden from Old English meaning broad hand. So many names have more than one explanation because of their blending into the lexicon from different old dialects. There would be no way of ascertaining exact roots.

We look forward to Spring here in the north and no doubt you will be pleased to have relief from the heat in the south. Enjoy your March and keep those inquiries coming.

2018 Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival



Photo: Scott Calvin, Fairfax Media.

Clan MacLennan will be the Clan of Honour at the 2018 Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival scheduled from 31 May to 3 June 2018. Clan genealogist, Bruce MacLennan will be the 14th Festival's Honorary Chieftain and will preside at the activities programmed from the Genealogy Fair on Thursday 31 May through to the Ceilidh on Sunday 3 June.

Not to be missed

Heralding the Festival, will be a spectacular Scottish Concert at the Wingham Catholic Church on the preceding Sunday afternoon, 27 May. The Braveheart Poets Breakfast will be at and the Wingham's Anglican Church on Friday 1 June, will again raise funds towards supporting the Wingham High School's Chaplain. This year's district bus tour, will visit sites with MacLennan significance from first settlement and family cemeteries, to recognition of descendants to the present day. Other Festival highlights will again include the Street Parade, Scottish Fair and

Highland Games on the Wingham village green, on Saturday 2 June, followed by the Grand Scottish Ball that evening.

On the Sunday, a Thanksgiving Service will be held at the old Wingham wharf where many of the pioneering MacLennan settlers arrived. This will include an address by Pastor David Freeman, himself a descendant of the MacLennan Clan. The concluding event is the Ceilidh Clan Luncheon. A Festival not to be missed!

For further information and bookings visit the website: www.manninghistorical.org Enquiries to John Lauder via email: bonniewingham18@gmail.com



Photo: Julia Driscoll, Wingham Chronicle.

International Bagpipe Day-Celebrating bagpipes across the world

International Bagpipe Day takes place every March 10th and you are invited to go out and play your pipes – anywhere, anyhow to anyone. This is a day initiated by The Bagpipe Society to celebrate the world's many bagpipes and piping traditions as The National Piping Centre explains.

Text and images by The National Piping Centre, Glasgow.



Canadian pipers at play.



Mallorcan Xeremiers.



Slovakian bagpipe.

International Bagpipe Day is a day of celebration for The Great Highland Bagpipe, and all types of bagpipe, where people are encouraged to go out and play, find out more about piping across the globe and fall in love with pipe music. First held in March 2012, it was inaugurated by The Bagpipe Society, an institution

which was set up in 1986 to promote bagpipe revival across the world.

Diversity in piping

There are so many global events which celebrate the diversity in piping, and their development. Events like Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Celtic Connections and Piping Live! showcase

the amazing diversity of with different bagpipes from across the world, as well as different styles of music and performance. The World Pipe Band Championships held annually in Glasgow, also shows how the Great Highland Bagpipe has travelled, with pipe bands from the four corners of the globe coming together to compete and share music. When the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo recently toured to Melbourne Australia, the music wowed the audiences and showed how the bagpipes continue to thrill audiences and resonate with people worldwide.

The National Piping Centre is delighted to welcome visitors fascinated by our instrument to our Museum of Piping which holds part of the National Museums Scotland's collection of artefacts. We hope that this affection continues for many years to come. So, on 10th March, we will be joining with pipers around the world, to play a tune in celebration of our fantastic instrument in all its forms from across the globe.



Malaysian Pipe Band.



Czech bagpipes.

The Richmond Highland Gathering



The Clans gathered at the 2018 Richmond Highland Gathering in Richmond, Tasmania with members attending from both Tasmania and interstate representing Clan MacGregor, Clan MacNicol, Clan Buchanan, Clan Edmonstone, Clan Davidson and the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. The annual event takes place in historic Richmond, outside Hobart, each February and is presented by the St Andrews Society of Hobart.

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Celtic: The Official History

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



The Picts: A History

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



Haunted Scotland

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



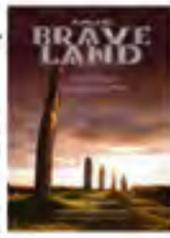
The Highland Clearances

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



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

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



Mary Queen of Scots: A Study in Failure

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



Dundee: A Short History

In this absorbing and comprehensive history meet the women who hijacked the Reformation, the sisters who terrorised Winston Churchill, the martyred George Wishart who kept only his hat, the whaler James McIntosh who ate his to survive, and witness Shackleton's remarkable expedition to far-north Dundee, and the flights of fancy surrounding Preston Watson. Alongside significant events like Monk's massacre and the Tay Bridge disaster, there are also controversial views about the very fabric of the city, like what went wrong with the Waterfront, why was the old Overgate demolished, and why is Tayside House still standing? **Price: \$17.95 Plus postage**



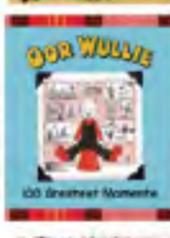
Maw Broon's But An' Ben Cookbook

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



Oor Wullie 100 Greatest Moments

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



Oor Wullie Colouring Book

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



Scotland: A History from Earliest Times

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



The Hebrides

Paul Murton has spent half a lifetime exploring some of the most beautiful islands in the world - the Hebrides. In this book Paul visits each of the Hebridean islands in turn, introducing their myths and legends, history, culture, and extraordinary natural beauty. He also meets the people who live there and learns their story. He has met crofters, fishermen, tweed weavers, Gaelic singers, Clan chiefs, artists, postmen and bus drivers - people from every walk of life who make the islands tick. This blend of the contemporary and the traditional creates a vivid account of the Hebrides and serves as unique guide to the less well-known aspects of life among the islands. **Price: \$39.95 Plus postage**



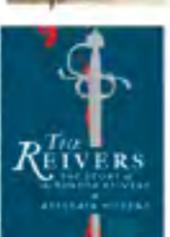
Essential English-Gaelic/Gaelic-English Dictionary

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



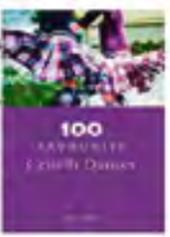
The Reivers: The Story of the Border Reivers

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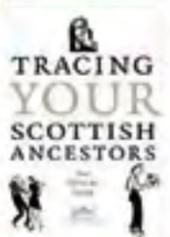
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With 5 million people in Scotland, and over 30 million of Scottish descent scattered over the globe, it is not surprising that research into Scottish family history is so popular/especially now that huge amounts of information on family origins are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



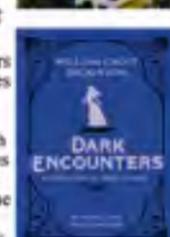
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First published in 1963 by Harvill Press, Dark Encounters is an elegantly spine-tingling collection of ghost stories set in the brooding landscape of Scotland and often referring to real people, places and objects. From a demonic book that brings its readers to an early death to the murderous spectre of a feudal baron, these tales are a welcome addition to the long and distinguished canon of Scottish ghost stories. For those who seek the unnerving and the inexplicable, Dark Encounters is guaranteed to raise the hairs on the back of your neck. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



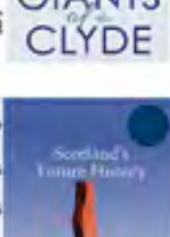
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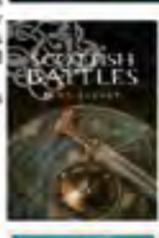
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In Britain's Last Frontier best-selling author Alistair Moffat makes a journey of the imagination, tracing the route of the Line from the River Clyde through Perthshire and the north-east. In addition to exploring the huge importance of the Line over almost two thousand years, he also shows how it continues to influence life and attitudes in 21st-century Scotland. The result is a fascinating book, full of history and anecdote. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



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Illicit distilling in Scotland was seen as a 'right of man' at the end of the 17th century. This book gives a fascinating insight into the day-to-day struggles that led to the increase in illicit distilling from the mid-1600s, then to its eventual demise in the early 20th century. Using new research first-hand historical accounts and official records, the authors show how spirits from this small parish were made and travelled far and wide, across the border to England and across the North Sea to France, firing up revolution and lending solidarity to the struggles of the Jacobites. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**



Orkney: A Historical Guide

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



The Colouring Book of Scotland

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



Glasgow by the way, but

This is a book about Glasgow, but not your everyday history book. Glasgow by the way, but is a tribute by actor and author John Cairney is a contemporary series of essays examining different aspects of Glasgow in a historical and cultural context, revealing a unique, amusing and sometimes critical, perspective of Cairney's beloved city. Those who remember John Cairney's performances and have read his other books will enjoy the insightful anecdotes from Cairney's career. **Price: \$19.95 Plus postage**



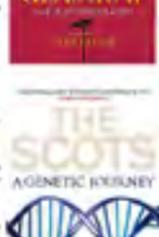
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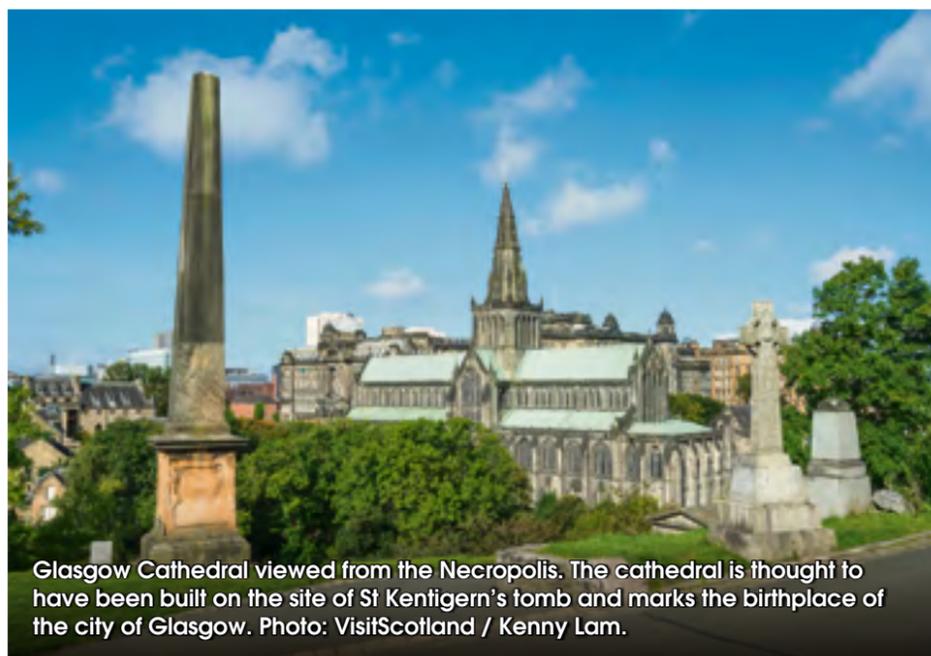


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KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS

Australian Jim Stoddart was born in a Glasgow Tenement and raised in a Glasgow Housing Scheme 1943-1965. Jim will be taking readers on a trip down memory lane, of a time and place that will never be the same again, and hopes even if only a few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.



Glasgow Cathedral viewed from the Necropolis. The cathedral is thought to have been built on the site of St Kentigern's tomb and marks the birthplace of the city of Glasgow. Photo: VisitScotland / Kenny Lam.

Auld Glasgow

*Glasgow to thee thy neighbouring towns give place,
Bove them thou lifts thine head with comely grace,
Scarce in the spacious Earth can any see,
A city that's more beautiful than thee.
Towards the setting sun thour't built, and finds
The temperate breathings of the Western winds.*

An excerpt from Arthur Johnstoun in his epigrams in 1685

Glasgow was once the pretty one, not her older sister, Edinburgh. That was before the industrial revolution put its black and sooty hand upon that 'dear green place' of St Mungo. Whilst Edinburgh's citizenry were still shifting their unwanted garbage and worse into the middle of the High Street and their city was acquiring its nickname of 'Auld Reekie' from its smoking chimneys, Glasgow was still bathing in the fine compliments of those who visited her. In the 1940's it was difficult to believe that in the eighteenth century Glasgow was considered the most beautiful city in Scotland with many travellers singing the praises of her towers and steeples rising above the gently flowing Clyde.

The name, Glasgow, was derived from the Brittonic words glas cau meaning a green hollow, hence a 'dear green place' but in my childhood it probably took a born and bred Glaswegian to be able to keep a straight face when relating that fact to strangers on their visits to our fair city. Many of them, quite rightly, looked around and saw something very different from what the derivation of the name suggested. And of course Glasgow's housewives would have readily concurred that the price of just about everything in the shops in Glasgow made it a really 'dear place'. Nevertheless most Glaswegians, some of the time, did seem to experience something, in their hard-wired memories of the prehistoric and 6th century salmon-fishing village that Saint Kentigern (or Saint Mungo) saw.

Medieval past

Fifteen miles upstream from the Clyde's estuary it was the lowest crossing point on the Clyde and became a fording place

long before, and even after, the first bridge was built. And before the cathedral was founded in the 12th century, Glasgow had in the words of its motto, 'flourished by the teaching of the word'. Unfortunately, by the 1940's there was little for me, a Glasgow child, to see as evidence of the existence of these more ancient communities, or even of Glasgow's medieval past, that was with the notable exceptions of Glasgow Cathedral and Provand's Lordship. But as a fairly imaginative child it was not too difficult for me to envision a very different Glasgow. That was because my father instilled in me a love of this ancient city through taking me with him on regular Saturday morning jaunts along her streets.

When my father and I walked along the spine of old Glasgow on a Saturday morning from the Cathedral, down Duke Street to the Tollbooth, the Saltmarket and the Mercat Cross and then on to Glasgow Green and the River Clyde we had trod in some of the steps of Saint Mungo.

When my father and I walked along the spine of old Glasgow on a Saturday morning from the Cathedral, down Duke Street to the Tollbooth, the Saltmarket and the Mercat Cross and then on to Glasgow Green and the River Clyde we had trod in some of the steps of Saint Mungo. Visitors might have been misled, however, by the old names of the Trongate, the Gallowgate and the Bridgegate, for these didn't refer to gates through a walled city. Glasgow was never walled although it did once have a Bishop's Palace and a Castle. These old names once referred to toll gates and reminded us that Glasgow became a market hub early in its ancient history. There is an old saying that 'the Clyde made Glasgow and Glasgow made the Clyde' and that helps us to fill in the many remaining gaps in a long story.

We have to appreciate that less than three hundred years ago Glasgow was still a pleasant little ecclesiastical town, situated beside a salmon river. The ecclesiastical city of the Middle Ages, with about 1,500 inhabitants was, after the Reformation, to give way to a 17th century Royal Burgh and market centre, but still with a population of fewer than 15,000 citizens. Unfortunately, by my childhood in the 1940's, the city had lost most of its ancient architectural heritage and what little was left from earlier times of its medieval architecture was simply swept away and obliterated in the name of progress in the reign of Queen Victoria. But even as late as the 18th century, Glasgow still had fewer than 20,000 inhabitants and early writers, such as John Mackay in 1723 was enthusiastic and said that: "Glasgow is the beautifullest (sic) little city I have seen in this country; it stands deliciously on the banks of the River Clyde. The city consists of four main streets in the form of a cross and the streets being spacious add to the beauty of the place."

Victorian architectural heritage

These descriptions are a far cry from the 'No Mean City' image that Glasgow was to acquire from later writers, when it became the, 'second city of the Empire', and Scotland's workshop during the industrialization phases of the 19th and 20th centuries. Nevertheless in the 1940's, and even on a cold, wet and wintry evening, and the grey and smoke-

grimed tenements of Glasgow cast a warm light from its single ends on to its smooth black pavements. When that was added to by the lights from its shops and tramcars on to its wet cobbled streets that city could still hold a magic and beauty for a child, like me, who was not yet old enough to judge her harshly.

The Glasgow that I was born into in 1943 was still in its industrial prime with much of its Victorian architectural heritage remaining intact. Lots of it of it was hidden by more than a century of industrial grime and the washed out grey of the city's tenements, public buildings and its streets is what many of us remember about the Glasgow of our post-war childhoods. But it never seemed a dull or boring place, for its people were as lively and colourful as one could ever have wished for. Its streets were alive, perhaps not so much with the sound of music, but with the sound of laughter. As a child growing up in Glasgow I wished for nothing better than to alight from a time machine and to see for myself some of these 'Glasgow's of the past' but that was not to be. Instead I depended upon the stories of my parents and teachers and the use of my imagination to visit the places that Saint Mungo knew. The Molindinar Burn was one of these. None of us 20th century children ever saw it, but we all knew, from what our teachers said, that it still flowed beneath our feet, beneath the flagstone pavements and cobbled streets of the ancient spine of our 'auld city'.

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Winter over Edinburgh. Photo: VisitScotland.

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

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



The snow comes and goes. It has been a harder winter than normal and when deep drifts ground us, I busy myself with those tiresome jobs you keep putting off: tidying a kitchen cupboard, dusting the top of a bedroom wardrobe, sorting out piles of old magazines and newspapers... Even making a tartan curtain for the chief's office – hurrah!

It is a glamorous life at the moment. And the MacGregor is also busy with mundane tasks – although he is undeterred by the bad weather. Snow might be up to his knees, but off he trudges to replenish the wood basket, or to put out seed for the birds.

We keep our feathered friends well-supplied with mixed seed and scraps of bread – and the red squirrels, too, are constantly hungry. These endearing creatures we feed with more luxurious peanuts and pumpkin seeds. We spoil them, for we are lucky to have them around the house.

Red squirrel

You see, this native animal, once so numerous in Scotland, is now endangered in parts of the country. It is under threat from its imported cousin, the larger grey squirrel, an imposter imported in Victorian

times from places like North America. Greys were brought in to be fashionable additions to large estates. They bred like crazy and there are now around a quarter of a million of them in Scotland.

These bully-boy greys chase the cute wee reds from their habitats. They also carry a virus, a pox, which can be deadly to the reds. Their grey march has been relentless. Seventy years ago you could see reds in practically every part of the country. Now the reds are almost gone from the Central Belt.

However, conservationists are trying to turn the tide – and a recent survey says that Scotland's native squirrel is making a comeback around Aberdeen, in the north-eastern part of Scotland. Which is great news. One of the most cheering sights is to watch a fluffy-tailed red picking food from a feeder and nibbling his way through a nutty feast... Especially against a background of white snow...

Rescue teams

Despite the wintry weather, we have had the most beautiful days. Lots of sunshine and bright blue skies. Again, it lifts the spirits and I would joyfully climb a nearby hill if I wasn't so scared of slipping on the ice! Then there is the salutary tale of the man who lives in a remote cottage up the valley. After a week of being snowed in, he was running out of

food. The final straw was the power-lines going down, so the poor chap set off to get help and ended up having to be saved by the mountain rescue people.

Despite the wintry weather, we have had the most beautiful days. Lots of sunshine and bright blue skies. Again, it lifts the spirits and I would joyfully climb a nearby hill if I wasn't so scared of slipping on the ice!

These invaluable voluntary groups are found all over Scotland - and they are literally life-savers. From Arran to the Borders, Skye to Tayside, teams of hardy men, women and dogs are ready to go out at any time of the day or night. Last year they carried out hundreds of operations in all weathers – on hills and glens the length and breadth of the country.

They must be saints, because people do the silliest things: setting off when weather warnings tell you absolutely not to, wearing unsuitable footwear, and carrying the wrong sort of supplies. I recently interviewed one rescue group who ended up saving the same couple – twice, in one day! These foolish folk were attempting a

climb worthy of Everest conquerors – and were clad only in tee shirts and golf shoes. I think I would have been tempted to let them find their own way home...

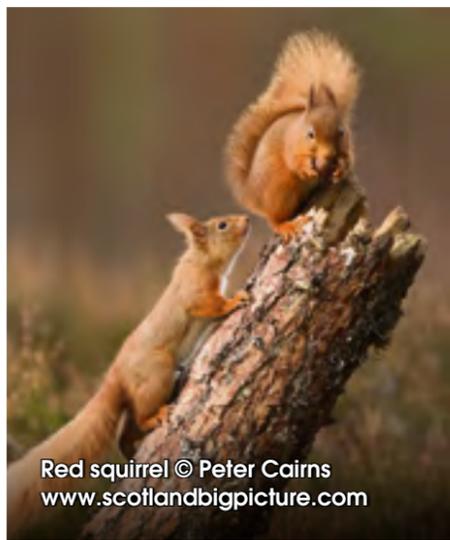
It might be a walker who has got disorientated on the heights. It might be a fisherman on a hill loch who has broken his ankle. Or someone stranded on the moors. Scotland's mountain volunteers will mount search and rescue operations in often hostile environments. Over the last year Scotland's Mountain rescue teams saved more than six hundred people, nineteen dogs and several sheep. So let's hear it for the boys – and girls!

New life in Scotland

Meanwhile, my very English parents are preparing for a new life in Scotland. They are getting on in years and the decision has been made to move them from a large old house into a small, modern one. It will be warmer - and it has fabulous views across a loch. Importantly, it will be near us, so we can look after them properly.

They come with some interest – and a little apprehension. Will we be able to understand people? Will we be forced to eat haggis? Yes and no. You will get used to the Scottish tongue – and, as we tell all who visit us here, eating a mix of spicy oatmeal and sheeps' innards is not compulsory. But once you get the taste there will be no stopping you...

Red squirrel reintroduction success with breeding and natural expansion



Red squirrel © Peter Cairns
www.scotlandbigpicture.com

A project by Trees for Life relocating red squirrels to their old forest homes in northwest Scotland has been boosted by evidence of breeding and natural expansion by the new populations. The conservation charity is reintroducing squirrels to suitable native woodlands in the Highlands, from which the species has been lost. Because reds travel between trees and avoid crossing large open spaces, they can't return to these isolated forest fragments on their own.

"Early indications are that this could be a real wildlife success story. The new squirrel populations are not only flourishing and breeding in their new homes, they are also starting to spread out into new areas – with squirrels being sighted as far as 15 kilometres away," said Becky Priestley, Trees for Life's Wildlife Officer.

Natural recolonisation

The project's initial relocations took place between the springs of 2016 and 2017, with the first 33 squirrels from Inverness-shire and Moray released at Shildaig in Wester Ross. This was followed by 22 more released at the Coulin Estate next to Beinn Eithe National Nature Reserve near Kinlochewe, and 30 at Plockton, which is owned by landowners including The National Trust for Scotland. Trees for Life now has evidence of the relocated squirrels breeding two years in a row at Shildaig, and also of breeding at Plockton.

Natural recolonisation of other areas appears to have begun from Shildaig. During 2016, the squirrels spread throughout much of the habitat, with one sighting 13 kilometres away beyond Loch Torridon. There have been further sightings in the same area during 2017, and others two kilometres further away, at Inveralligin.

Although annual monitoring at Coulin and Plockton will not begin until this spring, Trees for Life has seen evidence of feeding across the Coulin woodlands, and has captured images of squirrels by using specialised cameras. There have been regular sightings at Plockton since the release in 2017. Some squirrels also appear to be travelling quite widely from Plockton and may be colonising other areas. One was seen recently near Nostie, about eight kilometres from the release site, and there has been evidence of feeding at the National Trust's Balmacara office, more than five kilometres away.

Positive community involvement

Recently further releases took place around Lochcarron, with squirrels going to the remote Reraig peninsular and to Attadale. As with the other relocations, local people have been keen to get involved. Positive community involvement – including local people reporting sightings, monitoring the squirrels, and carrying out supplementary feeding – is at the heart of the project.

In the UK, red squirrels are now rare with only an estimated 138,000 individuals left. Their numbers have been decimated by the reduction of forests to isolated remnants, and by disease and competition from the introduced non-native grey squirrel. Trees for Life's Red Squirrel Reintroduction Project aims to expand significantly the numbers and range of the UK's red squirrels, by establishing eight new populations of the species.

With animal welfare paramount, squirrels are transported in special nest boxes, lined with hay and containing food and apple for hydration. Only small numbers are removed from any site, to leave donor populations unaffected. Health checks ensure that diseased animals are not introduced to new populations. The boxes are fixed to trees at the reintroduction sites, with grass-filled exit holes allowing the squirrels to leave when ready. Food is provided for several months as the squirrels get used to their new habitat. Annual monitoring involves observations of feeding signs, drey surveys and sightings records.

Increasing red squirrel numbers benefits native forests, as red squirrels collect and bury thousands of tree seeds each autumn, which are often forgotten by the squirrels and can then take root.

To find out more about Trees for Life's award-winning work to restore the Caledonian Forest and rewild the Highlands, visit www.treesforlife.org.uk

Did you know?

- The red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species and lives in conifer-dominated boreal and broadleaved deciduous forests. Across much of Britain, it has been largely outcompeted by the introduced grey squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). Greys are immune to and spread squirrel pox virus, which is lethal to reds.
- Red squirrels occur throughout most of mainland Scotland, with the largest populations in the Highlands, and in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish population, estimated at 120,000 individuals, has increased slightly in recent years, but the animal's range and population would have been far larger before the loss of most of the Caledonian Forest. There are approximately 3,000 red squirrels in Wales and 15,000 in England.

Biggest audience figures for the 25th Celtic Connections



The Old Fruitmarket, one of Glasgow's great venues for Celtic Connections.

Glasgow's Celtic Connections has announced that audience figures are the highest on record as the event wrapped up its 25th edition. Over 18 days in January and February a whopping 130,000 attendances have been recorded in venues across the city. Celtic Connections brought Glasgow to life with more than 350 concerts, workshops and events. The festival has welcomed over 2300 artists from over 30 countries to perform across its 28 stages.

Artistic Director Donald Shaw has confirmed that in future years his role will focus on developing more of the special commissions, major one-off shows and unique creative collaborations that have made the festival such a distinctive and

internationally acclaimed event under his artistic leadership. He will work with the wider festival team and funding partners to bring fresh programming talent to the festival. Shaw said: "This is an exciting moment for the festival. Now that the Scottish Government Expo Fund has been opened up to us it is important that we make the most of this opportunity to develop more of the unique collaborations and one-off shows that the festival has become so well known for. Strengthening and expanding the festival's programming team will support further growth, and enable us to continue to develop the festival to its fullest potential as we look forward to the next 25 years; ensuring the longevity and musical integrity of Celtic Connections."

Councillor David McDonald, the Chair of Glasgow Life, said: "It's been another phenomenal year for Celtic Connections with the 25th anniversary festival breaking all records yet again. There is nothing that compares to Celtic Connections and it is a huge part of our year-round cultural calendar, providing much needed entertainment and economic cheer to the city during the darkest winter months. Our first 25 years have seen the festival grow into a world-beater and I can't wait to see what is to come as we move forward with the city's musical ambitions."

Celebrating music from the Celtic nations

Twenty five years ago, Celtic Connections began as a series of concerts celebrating

music from the Celtic nations and it has since transformed into a globally recognised festival of national importance. The unique and exciting collaborations that we have witnessed over the last 18 days, from both home-grown and international talent, has further solidified the festival's reputation as a platform from which outstanding, one-off musical moments are showcased. Not only do artists flock from all over the world to perform on the Celtic Connections stages, but so too do audiences; some have been travelling here every year since the festival began.

When the festival started in 1994 doubters couldn't believe the "sheer audacity" of festival organisers in planning an event of such length and scale during the month of January, when people were more inclined to stay indoors on the dark, cold nights than head out to attend a gig, especially a folk gig! Fast forward 25 years and now we have that same festival showcasing a fusion of folk, electronica and classical music on the stage of the largest entertainment venue in Scotland.

Over the last 25 years the festival has grown at an unprecedented rate, increasing from 66 events in 1 venue with 27,000 attendees in 1994 to 172 events across 11 stages with 50,000 attendees in 1997, to now putting on over 350 events across 28 stages and an attendance figure of over 130,000. The 18 days of entertainment included a mixture of concerts, talks, workshops, film screenings, ceilidhs, art exhibitions, free events and late night sessions.

Band honour at Bundanoon is Brigadoon



The Bundanoon Highland Gathering on recommendation from the Pipe Bands Coordinator is delighted to announce that Clarrie Lemme will be the Senior Drum Major for Brigadoon 2018. Clarrie has been an important part of the pipe bands throughout Australia especially in NSW for countless years. Clarrie recently retired from the NSW Police Pipe Band and in recognition for his outstanding service and commitment the pipe bands the committee wish to acknowledge this by giving him the honour of leading the Massed Bands as a thank you for all the support he has given Brigadoon over many years.

Other highlights of the day include the Tartan Warriors heavy event, Scottish dance displays, a variety of entertainment throughout the day, an active Clan village and 100's of great stalls.

The Bundanoon Highland Gathering will take place on Saturday April 7th in Bundanoon, NSW. For details: 02 4883 7471 or www.brigadoon.org.au

Date confirmed for Museum of Childhood re-opening

The official opening date of Edinburgh's upgraded Museum of Childhood has been revealed as Saturday 3 March 2018. The date has been confirmed as curators unpack 60 rarely-seen objects relating to childhood life, learning and play following a five-month refurbishment of the ground floor. Newly displayed items at the Royal Mile-based venue will include retro favourites like this Buzz Lightyear action figure from 2000 and Fisher-Price Chatter Telephone dating to 1979.

Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener, said: "With over 225,000 visitors every year, the Museum is one of Edinburgh's flagship venues. Its impressive collection of more than 60,000 objects reflecting childhoods from the 18th century to the present day has been recognised as of National Importance by the Scottish Government, which has generously funded much of the refit through Museums Galleries Scotland grants. The refurbishment will allow us to tell the story of childhood in new ways, and engage young people in Edinburgh in the history of these objects and how they relate to Scotland's shared social history. We look forward welcoming visitors to the re-opening in March."

World's first museum dedicated to the history of childhood

Gillian Findlay, Curatorial and Engagement Manager for Museums & Galleries Edinburgh, added: "Staff, volunteers, students and supporters have dedicated time, resources and funding to transform this space into a gallery which is fun and fit for families to enjoy

in 2018. We are so grateful to them all and thrilled that the works have gone to schedule - but we won't be resting on our laurels! We will be actively collecting feedback from visitors about the new space, and this information will help us shape our plans. This is the start of change at the Museum on Childhood - not the end - but a very important milestone in our journey to present this hugely important collection to more visitors, in a range of exciting and enjoyable ways."

Opened in 1955 as the world's first museum dedicated to the history of childhood, the star attraction relocated to its current position on the Royal Mile to accommodate the growing collection, and in 1986 the Museum expanded again into adjacent buildings. In what is the first major change since then, the refurbishment will see new cases, floors and lights installed and objects displayed as the ground floor is opened into an interactive space, with dedicated zones focusing on memories of life at home, in school and at play. An area for film and a digital photo album will also be launched, focusing on how children have grown up in Edinburgh over the decades.



Curator Lyn Wall outside Museum of Childhood.

Bundanoon is BRIGADOON

**Saturday
April 7th 2018**

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30 Clan Information Tents to trace your heritage and so much more!*

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On the trail of Merlin



Merlin the wizard of Arthurian legend.

lost landscape of 6th century Southern Scotland and you can discover the facts by exploring The Merlin Trail, which is being launched with VisitScotland at Easter. You are the detective. Investigate the evidence and see where it leads in a lost world and a Dark Age.

As a legend, Merlin is known the world over but behind the fiction is a true but largely forgotten story.

Merlin was a man of many talents – warrior, scholar, bard, seer, and shape shifter. Born of royal blood, his place of privilege was ordained until he lost everything in a sudden bloodbath of pillage and genocide. On the banks of the Esk in the Debatable Lands, there lie the remains of a mighty fortress. Today it is screened by undergrowth and trees, but in the 6th century it was a symbol of power and wealth dominating the Solway plain as the stronghold of a powerful chief called Guenddolou. His domain stretched from Southern Dumfriesshire to North Yorkshire and his wealth was legendary. But this was also the cause of his downfall. An army of freebooters from the south came, not to conquer but to plunder and destroy. The Battle of Arthuret, fought in 573AD, lasted six weeks. It ended in genocide. It was afterwards described as one of the three most futile battles in the history of Britain.

The defenders fought to the last man. The entire clan were wiped from the map. Buildings were burned and the land laid waste. The elements of genocide, religious conflict and ethnic cleansing were as familiar then as they are today. Suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, a few survivors escaped and fled into the dense woodlands of the Forest of Celydon (later Etterick). One of them was Merlin. The political vacuum in central Southern Scotland created an opportunity for an incoming army of missionaries, led by St Mungo, to convert the remaining

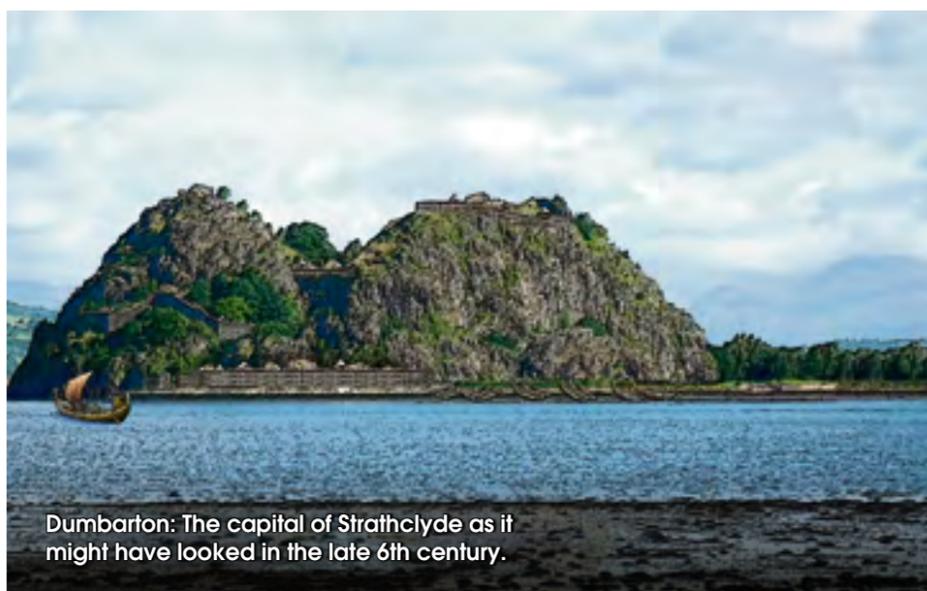
The murder took place on a beautiful summer's day in Upper Tweeddale. The air was still and all you could hear were the birds in the trees and the gentle lap of the river. Walking alone, a man began to cross the ford across the Tweed to Drumelzier. He knew a secret which, if revealed would

lead to a trial for adultery and probably a death sentence. To prevent the truth from coming out, he had to be silenced. Lying in wait, hidden in the bushes, was a gang of paid assassins. As he neared the far side, they suddenly attacked with clubs. Stunned and semi-conscious, he toppled backwards, falling on to a stake used by

fishermen for their nets. Pierced through the body, his head went under water and finally he drowned. His name was Merlin

The Merlin Trail

As a legend, Merlin is known the world over but behind the fiction is a true but largely forgotten story. It played out in the



Dumbarton: The capital of Strathclyde as it might have looked in the late 6th century.



Arthuret: Capital of Caer Guenddolou as it might have looked at the time of the 573AD.



Merlin in the forest of Celydon (aka the Efferic Forest).

population to Christianity. As one of the last of the great Druids, Merlin represented a challenge. He was a wanted man. He survived as an outlaw, hiding in a cave shelter in the Moffat hills. Often on the brink of starvation, he lived for over a decade off what nature could provide. Played out against a web of political intrigue, it was a duel between priest and pagan. Rather than accepting compromise as the price for a comfortable old age, Merlin remained true to his beliefs

Welsh

In the 6th century the whole of Southern Scotland was Welsh-speaking. An important but slender historical source is a body of 6th century Welsh poetry written mostly by Taliesin, a close friend and fellow druid of Merlin (although some of it quite possibly by Merlin himself). When the Angles invaded, all the records that could be saved were hurriedly sent for safekeeping to Dumbarton Rock where they remained for several centuries until threatened by Viking raiders. They were then shipped to North Wales where, in time, the events gradually became transposed to the Welsh landscape. With the Norman conquest of England, a Breton monk, who understood Welsh, heard the Merlin story.

Although in reality, Merlin and Arthur were two generations apart and never met, he combined them into a composite adventure, which also included other tales from different parts of the Plantagenet Empire. Different peoples recognised the elements that were familiar to their local area, and this gave credibility to the whole. In effect the Arthurian legend was the creation of a British identity. To

avoid appealing to Welsh nationalism, the events were relocated to Cornwall. The original tales were already known in Brittany, and French writers added new elements like the Round Table and the Holy Grail. Further stories developed along the pilgrim routes to Ciompostella and the Holy Land, and the troubadours then took them even wider across Europe. Over the centuries, the legend was adapted and the characters reshaped to suit changing times, culminating today in Obi Kenobi and Dumbledore. It became perhaps the longest running soap opera in European history

Cultural tourism

The Merlin Trail covers 30 different sites across Southern Scotland. It is in four weekend sections – each with a different theme – covering Merlin, St Mungo, the Gododdin, and the coming of Christianity to Rhegged. Information panels with downloadable QR codes explain the history of particular sites. On the website there is a page on each site and information on other visitor attractions in the area. A permanent Dark Age exhibition is opening in Moffat Museum, and a large-scale multi-media musical/theatrical production is in development. You can read the full story in a well-illustrated book *On The Trail of Merlin In A Dark Age*, which also includes a gazetteer that explains how to find the locations.

The project is the brainchild of Robin Crichton, who spent nearly 40 years in the film industry pioneering international co-production. He is a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, He created a Charles Rennie Mackintosh Trail in the Pyrenées Orientales where it has significantly boosted the range and number of visitors. This was the pilot for the Merlin Trail in Scotland. Robin said “The 200 years between the departure of the Romans and the arrival of St Columba have been largely ignored by modern historians because of the lack of cross-checkable written data. They don’t trust oral history. I started life as a social anthropologist, working with preliterate people, and it made me aware that oral history can actually be remarkably accurate.

History, archaeology, etymology, topography, botany and folk memory are all part of a giant jigsaw. Nearly a thousand years ago, the Merlin legend was transposed from the real Dumfriesshire locations to a forest in Brittany, while in Cornwall, Merlin’s cave was recreated at

Tintagel. Although purely fictional, each location respectively now attracts over 150,000 and 200,00 visitors annually. With dynamic marketing, the true story and the real locations present a terrific potential for a new kind of cultural tourism in Southern Scotland “

For information on The Merlin Trail, launching this month, see: www.merlintrail.com

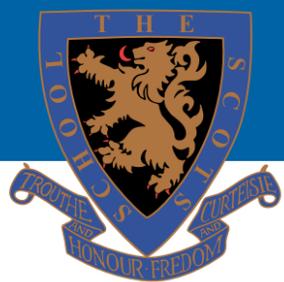


6th century cavalry patrol.

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- Professional Strongman Competition
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Music amongst the Munros



Images courtesy of Derek Ferguson Photography and CLM Photography Scotland.

The Scottish Banner speaks to Grant MacLeod-The Munro Bagpiper

This month we celebrate International Bagpipe Day by speaking to one Scot with is literally taking piping to new heights. Grant MacLeod is a musician and adventurer looking to play Scotland's instrument on top of all 282 of Scotland munros (a mountain with a height of over 3000 feet). Videos showcasing his talent and the beauty of Scotland have been seen online by millions of people connecting them with the sound of a nation. Grant took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on how he got into piping, what bagpipes mean to him and how he is now providing "Pipeagram's" for people across the world.



Grant Macleod with his mate Cluanie on the top of Scotland.

SC: Grant thank you for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can we begin with you telling us how you got into playing the bagpipes?

GM: I was always fascinated by the pipes, the sound, the image, the spectacle of pipe bands, and in my school, from the age of 8, you were allowed to take lessons. I always asked to go with the older kids, but was told to wait. When the time came, I couldn't wait to get started. My instructor was a no nonsense former FOUR time world champion, and the first few weeks were make or break in terms of whether he thought you were going to progress. Fortunately, I took to it quickly, and the journey began!

SC: You take Munro bagging to a whole new level, can you tell us how you came up with the idea to play your pipes at the 282 Munros of Scotland?

GM: I grew up truly among the mountains of the North West of Scotland, my grandparents back garden gate, literally, opened up on to the steepest Munro in Scotland, Beinn Sgritheall (pronounced Ben Skreel and means Hill of the Scree, which is loose rock on the hillside) and it was my playground. I remember, looking up to the summit from the living room, and thinking how cool it would be to pipe on the summit. When I was 27, I started thinking about pre-thirty challenges, and I toyed with the ambitious idea. As fate

would have it, my Nana, whom I spent so much time with as a child, passed away the next day. She would have LOVED to see what I am doing now, and this really confirmed the idea in my head. I didn't manage to complete every Munro before thirty, but I am enjoying taking a slower approach, and bringing the journey to life for so many.

SC: Has there been any issues with you playing your pipes at the top of Scotland such as getting them up safely or playing at a great heights? Also do you always do a climb in a kilt?

GM: The playing at the summit is often hit or miss. I can have perfect weather all the way up, and then the summit is blowing a gale, it is a mountain after all. Having grown up in the mountains, I am well aware of the dangers, and so only ever set off on a climb when I am as sure as I can possibly be that there will be no weather issues (you can never be 100%). I generally climb in my kilt, unless the snow is going to be thick, therefor for safety I will change at the top (not happened often though). Safety is always the main priority.

SC: Few instruments sum up a country like the bagpipes do for Scotland. What do the bagpipes mean to you, whether it be at the top of a Munro or on the ground? Also do you have a favourite piece of piping music to play and if so what?

GM: I often say this about the pipes. They may not have originated from Scotland, and many of the world's finest pipers are not from these shores, but when you see or hear the pipes, there is only one thought... Scotland. My ears pick up whenever I hear them. I was once at a music gig, and like a dog, my ears picked up, and I disappeared in search of the source. No one else could hear anything, and I we got closer, there was a piper outside the building.

I genuinely feel a sense of pride playing at the summit of a Munro. Just that sense of remoteness, and connection to the land, it is really powerful. My favourite tunes depend on the circumstances. On the



Ancient MacLeod of Harris tartan.

hills, I play more mellow, haunting tunes, and when performing, I love playing more upbeat tunes for people to dance along to. Gordon Duncan and Mark Saul are two of main composers I look up to, and perform their tunes.

SC: Grant you also do dedications for people at a variety of scenic spots around Scotland. Can you tell us more and just how rewarding this has been for you?

GM: I was asked to pipe a wedding in Greece, and was unable to make the trip, so I had the idea of wishing the couple a happy marriage from a Munro top, and play their favourite tune. This was played at the wedding, and I was told it had the room in tears. From this my "Pipeagram" personal dedications grew, and it has seen me pay tribute to lost loved ones, celebrate anniversaries, birthdays, and even play from places where loved ones ashes have been scattered. The emotional feedback I get from this really fills me with pride.

I genuinely feel a sense of pride playing at the summit of a Munro. Just that sense of remoteness, and connection to the land, it is really powerful.

People are receiving memories that will last a lifetime, and I am so honoured to have contributed to such a thing. I am always available to discuss arranging these dedications, and make every effort to make them as personal and unique as possible.



SC: You have tens of thousands of people following you on social media from around the world. How does it make you feel to know your music and the scenery of Scotland you showcase has such a reach and international following?

GM: I remember getting excited when I reached 500 likes on Facebook. I really thought this was an achievement, and that was about as far as it would go. As I speak to you, I have passed 60,000 likes, from over 70 countries, and to be honest, it is a bit mind blowing. Again, some of the messages I receive on what my posts mean to people, I am lost for words at times. In 2013 I crossed the USA, New York to LA, piping as I went along, with only 500+ followers, I can only imagine how different it would be now. I am very passionate about my country, so love showcasing it, and often from angles not seen from the tour books. I like to call it the real Scotland, and I look forward to bringing so much more in 2018.

SC: Is there a place in Scotland you have yet to play that is on your 'must do' list?

GM: The inaccessible pinnacle, part of the Cullin on the Isle of Skye, is the ultimate goal. A lot of planning will

take place to make this happen, but I think it will be an iconic image. I am also saving certain areas in the North West of Scotland such as Torridon and Asynt for good conditions, so stand by for some breath taking videos.

SC: And finally Grant, for someone interested in getting started in a pipe band or learning the pipes what advise do you have?

GM: The bagpipes are pretty much accessible the world over. You are never far away from a pipe band, and most will have beginner's classes. Later this year I hope to launch an online tutorial series, shot from beautiful Scottish locations, so keep an eye out for that on my page. The pipes, as with every instrument, can be frustrating at the start, but it is VITAL you learn the fundamentals WELL before progressing, and this can put people off who just want to "play" the bagpipes. You can tell instantly which pipers have been taught the basics properly, so it is all about patience, but worth it!

For more details on The Munro Piper or to request a "Pipeagram" see: www.munrobagpiper.com and www.facebook.com/munrobagpiper



IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Dean Castle temporary closure

Dean Castle in Kilmarnock has closed until 2020 to allow major repair and refurbishment works to be carried out. During March the Castle's collections of early musical instruments, arms and armour and tapestries will be brought to the Dick Institute for safe-keeping and display. A series of events, workshops and recitals have been planned to allow visitors to view the collections. The display will change and develop over time as the collections are made ready to return to Dean Castle when it reopens in 2020. Due to the scale of the move, exhibits are expected to be on display at the Dick Institute from April 2018. Dean Castle, home and stronghold of the Boyd family for over 400 years, is open all year round and is free to visit (the country park remains open). The Keep, dating to around 1350 will house outstanding displays that tell the story of the Boyd family and medieval life, as well as East Ayrshire's stunning collection of arms and armour, once restoration is complete. The 15th century palace was spectacularly rebuilt from ruins by the 8th Lord Howard de Walden in the 1930s. The result is a sensitive restoration in keeping with the interior design of the 16th and 17th centuries and even re-using original 17th century fixtures and fittings taken from Balfour House, Fife. This building will tell the stories of the Howard de Walden family and showcase an internationally significant collection of medieval musical instruments.

Councillor Elena Whitham said: "Dean Castle is very much the jewel in East Ayrshire's crown and its future very much depends on these vital restoration works, which will preserve the attraction for generations to come. I'm delighted that the collection can be housed at the Dick Institute during

the closure period. I would encourage visitors from near and far to pop into the museum to see these artefacts in a new light in their new temporary home."

Glasgow tram to be brought back to life



Restoration has begun on one of the most iconic symbols of Glasgow's past, the Coronation tram, at the Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life in Coatbridge. Volunteers are painstakingly working on the tram (number 1245) so it can again carry passengers in May, 2019 for the tram's 80th anniversary of when passenger service commenced. Project co-ordinator Chas McAloon said: "It was the iconic Glasgow tramcar that everyone can relate to. Whole generations went to work on them,

and when you talk to people about the trams, that's the one they remember."

Glasgow was a great tramway city and was the last in the UK to survive, apart from the Blackpool coastal tramway.

Stirling is the most affordable city in the UK



A Bank of Scotland study found that when house prices are compared to local pay, Stirling comes out top for affordability. The average house price in the city is £186,084 which is 4.03 times local earnings. This is well below the Scottish average of 5.35 times local earnings and the rest of the UK at 7.20. Four of Scotland's seven cities made it into the UK top 20 most affordable cities, with Dundee, Glasgow, Inverness and Perth also ranking highly. From Bannockburn to a cliff-top castle Stirling is steeped in rich and riveting history, with more than 34,790 people calling this city home. Stirling is known as the 'Gateway to the Highlands', situated at the point where lowland Scotland and the highlands meet. It was once a pivotal strategic point and Scotland's seat of power was at Stirling Castle. Nowadays it's a vibrant university city with great connections to the rest of the country. Beautiful scenery, an outstanding quality of life and its accessible location make it an appealing place to live and work. Stirling has one of the most qualified and highly-paid workforces in Scotland. Located at the heart of the country, it's a key location for businesses in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and even the North of England. In fact, over half of Scotland's population live within an hour's drive of the city.

1st March deadline to use paper £5 & £10 notes in Scotland



The Committee of Scottish Bankers, on behalf of the Scottish note issuing banks - Royal Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale Bank, and Bank of Scotland - has announced that all Scottish paper £5 and £10 notes are to be withdrawn from circulation. Since 2015, Scottish issuing banks have been introducing Polymer notes into circulation. Polymer delivers significant benefits over paper, particularly when combined with state-of-the-art security features which make the notes much harder to counterfeit. Polymer is also

stronger than paper and so notes will last longer, remain in better condition and deliver environmental benefits. Scottish polymer notes now account for approx. 80 per cent of £10 and 90 per cent of £5 bank notes circulating in Scotland. Issuing banks will continue to accept all Scottish notes from their own customers. These can be either deposited into their bank account or exchanged for polymer notes. Royal Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale and Bank of Scotland have also agreed that they will exchange their own paper £5 and £10 notes from non-customers up to the value of £250. Other banks, building societies and The Post Office may continue to accept and exchange Scottish paper notes after March 1st. The withdrawal of Scottish paper notes coincides with the withdrawal of Bank of England £10 paper notes from circulation, which is also on 1st March, 2018.

New flag for Sutherland



A winner has been chosen in a recent competition, which attracted over 300 entries, to create a county flag for Sutherland. The bold design has been approved by the Lord Lyon and depicts an eagle on a vivid yellow and red background with three heraldic stars down its left hand side. A spokesman for the judging panel said an eagle had featured on a considerable number of the entries. He said: "The eagle was chosen as a unifying feature of the flag - the west (of Sutherland) now has a fair population of white-tailed sea eagles and the east has golden eagles in good numbers. It was felt that the bird's swooping pose, albeit perhaps unique on a flag, was considered bold and easy to identify from a distance. The vivid red and yellow background was felt to reflect the "rich sunrises and sunsets experienced in Sutherland and the glorious beaches and winter grasses on the hills and moorland."

Red and gold are also the oldest colours appearing on early Sutherland shields - the old Sutherland district flag incorporated red as a background colour. The three stars, or mullets, are the oldest known heraldic device from Sutherland and dated from at least the 13th century.

Sutherland follows Shetland, Caithness, Kirkcudbrightshire and Orkney who also have their own regional flags. The new flag will be officially launched at an event later in the year.

Iron Age find on Lewis

Construction workers on Lewis were caught off guard during works to discover a 200 year old underground chamber on the Isle of Lewis. The stone structure is in fact the sixth such find on the island, is likely a roundhouse from the late Iron Ages. Roundhouses were often used to store food or wood and could date back to 350BC.

You do not need to be an Olympian to enjoy Scottish snow sports



Scottish Skiing and snowboarding at the Nevis Range, The Highlands.

With the XXIII Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games taking place, now is the time to embrace the sub-zero temperatures and take part in some winter sports, even if it's just for fun. Scotland is the perfect place to indulge in some snow sports, whether it be skiing, snowboarding, curling or even leading a pack of sled dogs.

Ready set ski

Skiing and Snowboarding - Scotland's five ski resorts offer the best outdoor skiing and snowboarding in the UK. Surrounded by beautiful Highland and Aberdeenshire scenery, the country's ski centres are easily accessible from all of Scotland's cities and the north of England, and offer great opportunities for beginners and seasoned skiers or boarders alike. www.ski-scotland.com

Scotland's Ski Centres - CairnGorm Mountain has a reputation as one of the most beautiful and popular places to ski in the UK, as well as boasting Scotland's only funicular railway. Visitors will also find the highest restaurant in the UK at CairnGorm Mountain. www.cairngormmountain.org

Glenshee - Glenshee, which takes its name from the Gaelic 'Glen of the Fairies', certainly offers one of the most magical skiing experiences in Scotland. The largest resort in the UK, it covers an area of more than 2,000 acres extending across four mountains and three valleys and boasting 21 lifts and tows. www.ski-glenshee.co.uk

Nevis Range - Nevis Range offers skiing up to 1190 metres (3,900 feet) Nevis Range reaches high on to the mountain of Aonach Mor. The Nevis Range Mountain Gondola – the only of its kind in Britain, was built on Aonach Mor originally as a way to transport skiers to the slopes. The Gondola is also widely used as a short cut by climbers on their journey to the clouds. www.nevisrange.co.uk

The Lecht - The Lecht is situated in the stunning Eastern Cairngorms at 2,090 ft. above sea level, in the heart of the UK's largest National Park. The resort has grown from one ski tow to a year-round Highland activity centre with 20 maintained ski runs and 14 lifts. www.lecht.co.uk

Glencoe Mountain - Glencoe Mountain is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the edge of the wild Rannoch Moor and offers stunning views of the iconic Buachaille Etive Mor. Glencoe is Scotland's oldest ski centre and has a reputation as being a great venue for the more experienced skier, though there are also plenty of options for beginners and intermediates too. www.glencoemountain.co.uk

Ski Touring - This invigorating activity, which combines mountaineering and skiing skills, is a fantastic way to experience the untouched mountain backcountry of the Highlands. A few activity centres offer ski touring courses and guided tours in the majestic Cairngorms, including Glenmore Lodge and G2 Outdoor. Both of these operators are based near Aviemore in the Highlands, which can be reached from Glasgow by road in less than three hours.

Cross Country Skiing - Alongside downhill skiing, cross-country skiing on Scotland's snowy mountains is on offer for experienced and suitably equipped enthusiasts. Guided courses with Glenmore Lodge are a good way to get started. You'll also find Britain's only purpose-built, all-weather Nordic centre in the Aberdeenshire town of Huntly, which caters for all levels, from novice to elite. If snow conditions are good, high level trails in nearby Clashindarroch Forest are used. If not, then it's on to a 400 metre all-weather mat, or forget the snow and have some fun roller-skiing along an 800 metre tarmac track.

Why not try...

Sled Dog Safari - You might be surprised to know that there is quite the sled dog racing scene in Scotland, with popular rallies taking place in the winter months - Aviemore is even home to a designated centre for the sport. You can meet these hardworking canines at the kennels and sled dog museum or book a sled dog safari, training session or course with the Cairngorm Sleddog Centre.

Curling - Curling is on the list of the many great things that the Scots have invented, and when it comes to international curling competitions, our athletes have a tendency to do us proud. Play it for yourself and you will soon find that curling is a lot of fun! There are curling clubs at ice rinks across the country, from Dumfries in the south to Elgin in Moray Speyside. Sometimes, when a cold spell hits and lochs and ponds freeze over, curling is played outdoors.

Snowshoeing - Strap on a pair of snowshoes, grab some poles and get walking across blankets of pure white snow. It's a magical way to explore snowy forest tracks and hillsides. Perthshire-based Mains of Taymouth organise snow shoeing trips or you could join C-N-Do Scotland on a guided expedition - their trips range from half day taster sessions in Callander in the Trossachs to two day excursions in the northern Cairngorms, and they can provide the equipment too.

Skating & Ice Hockey - There are over 20 rinks spread across Scotland offering all sorts of fun on ice. Some specialise in curling, whilst others also offer skating and ice hockey. Ice fans can have a go or spectate at an exciting ice-hockey match.

Biathlon - Another fascinating and challenging Olympic winter sport you can try in Scotland, which combines the endurance athleticism of cross-country skiing, with the skill and millimetre precision of rifle shooting, is biathlon. Courses, led by former six-time Olympian biathlete Mike Dixon, are available at Glenmore Lodge.

For more information on winter sports in Scotland, please go to www.visitscotland.com/blog/snowsports/winter-sports-scotland



61st COMMEMORATIVE



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10 Cedric Street
Parkdale VIC 3195
M: 0409 670 055
E: iyoung@alphalink.com.au

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



The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

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

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



Clan Morrison Society of North America

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

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

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



CLAN SCOTT AUSTRALIA GROUP

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

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

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



Clan WARDLAW Association
Founded 2004

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

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

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457
Pinehurst, NC 28370

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

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



Clan Munro Association, U.S.A.

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

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



Clan Scott Society

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

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

Scottish Associations and Societies



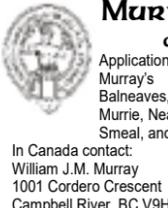
Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

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



The Scottish Australian Heritage Council

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



Murray Clan Society of North America

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

In Canada contact: William J.M. Murray 1001 Cordero Crescent Campbell River, BC V9H 0C3
In the U.S. contact: Robert W. Murray 2000 Cambridge Ave #329 Wyomissing, PA 19610-2738



Clan Shaw Society

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

Mike Shaw
Secretary
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020



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

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

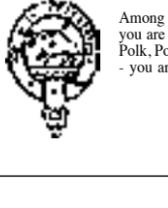


Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria
www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org
Founded in 1905

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

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

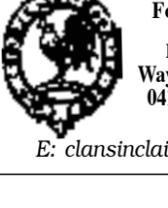
Contact Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277
Email: scottishgaelicsocietyvic@gmail.com



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 0410 045 263

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

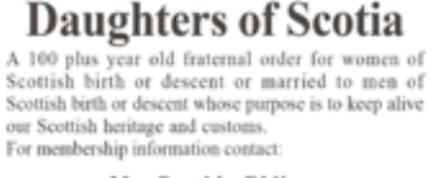
William L. Pringle, III
e-mail: williampringle3@gmail.com
Clan Pringle Assoc. (North America)
6538 140th Ave., Holland, MI 49423



Clan Skene Association, Inc.

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

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



Daughters of Scotia

A 100 plus year old fraternal order for women of Scottish birth or descent or married to men of Scottish birth or descent whose purpose is to keep alive our Scottish heritage and customs.
For membership information contact:
Ms. Cynthia Ridings
Grand Recording Secretary
2566 Galloway Road
Blue Ridge, GA 30513
706-632-8510
cynthiar5@yahoo.com http://www.daughtersofscotia.org



St. Andrew's Society of Vermont

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 Balmagowan)

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

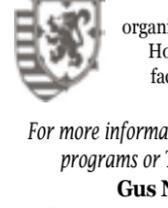
Contact: Commander Des Ross at lonepiper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853
Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0418 806 172



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

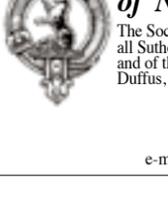
Liz Ross, President
Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary
crmembership@sboglobal.net
PO Box 6341
River Forest, IL 60305
www.clanross.org



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).

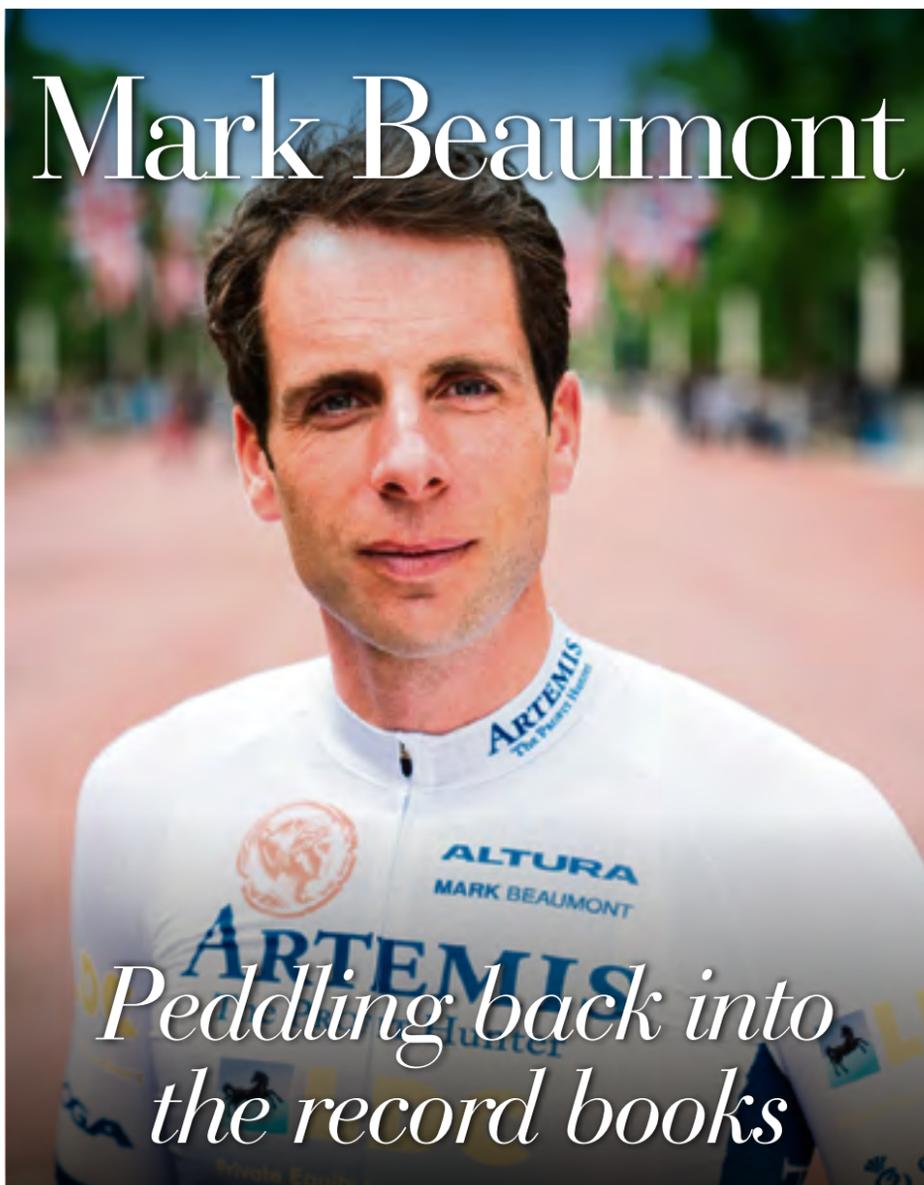
Marie Hodgkinson
212 MacKenzie Street
Toowoomba, 4350
Queensland, Australia
e-mail: william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au
http://goldenvale.wix.com/clansutherlandaus



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



Scottish cyclist and adventurer Mark Beaumont recently cycled around the world in 78 days. The Edinburgh native is now preparing to change his endurance bike for a Penny Farthing bicycle and hopes this year to break a world record set at the end of the 19th century for going further than anyone else on the ancient contraption in an hour as Nick Drainey explains.

Scots adventurer Mark Beaumont is used to huge tests of endurance - he is the fastest man around the world after completing an 18,000-mile route round the globe in less than 80 days and once nearly died when the boat he was rowing across the Atlantic capsized. But he has decided something completely different is needed for his next endurance attempt - beating a record set at end of the 19th century

for going further than anyone else on a Penny Farthing in an hour. Mark, who lives in Edinburgh wife, Nicci, and daughters Harriet, four, and Willa, one, said: "I have been training hard around the parks of Edinburgh and you get some funny looks. I have got a team of pace setters on Penny Farthings, with their 52-inch wheels. The hour record is 23 and a half miles which is pretty nuts on a Penny Farthing but I have been quite



enjoying not training ultra-endurance - this just me and my mates wanting to do something eccentric and daft."

129 year old record

Last year, the cyclist pedalled round the world in 78 days, 14 hours and 40 minutes. That was far quicker than his first round the world record - 194 days set in 2008. But it is the Penny Farthing record which is taking up all his energy at the moment, after taking delivery of a custom-made version of the old-fashioned bike on January 2. He said his mates who welcomed him on Penny Farthings in the centre of Paris at the end of his round the world ride came up with the idea of cracking the 129-year-old record at Herne Hill Velodrome in Surrey in June.

Mark Beaumont has decided something completely different is needed for his next endurance attempt - beating a record set at end of the 19th century for going further than anyone else on a Penny Farthing in an hour.

He said: "Everything I have ever done has felt like a natural stepping stone to the next expedition but the honest truth is that going round the world in 80 days doesn't naturally lead to anything - that was my Everest." He added: "Last year was completely professional and I don't want to take life quite so seriously this year. I have got some mates who are Penny Farthing nuts - every year they hold the Scotland v England Penny Farthing Polo Championship. A few of them came out to Paris (at the end of his round the world ride) and rode into the finish with me and they said we should crack this 129-year-old record."

Experience

Beaumont has some experience of riding a Penny Farthing. In 2015, he cycled the entire 100-mile route of the Etape Royale, which goes through Moray and Aberdeenshire, in 13 hours 40 minutes. The challenge also raised funds for the Mercy Corps Nepal earthquake appeal - he described the unusual feeling of having to walk his bike up steep hills but described going down the other side as "downright treacherous".

As well as training on Penny Farthing, Mark now intends to spend the rest of the year with his family. He said: "I have great home support. I am going to spend more time with the family and write my book." He said that returning home can be a strange feeling after a big endurance expedition. "It is weird coming back - you have lived in that performance bubble and you come back and you are changing nappies, being dad and reading nursery rhymes - it is utterly bizarre. Having kids and a family is very important because otherwise you would continue to live in that weird expedition world which is not particularly healthy."

Trans global record

Mark also holds the record for cycling the length of Africa after going from Cairo to Cape Town in only 42 days in 2015. In 2009 he pedalled 15,000 miles from Anchorage,

By: Nick Drainey



Alaska, to Ushuaia in Argentina. And in 2012, the TV personality and five crewmates had to be rescued when their boat capsized in January during an attempt to set a record for rowing across the ocean. They were 500 miles from completing the 3,000-mile crossing from Morocco to Barbados.

But his latest success in cycling round the world has surpassed everything, even his first trans global record. He said: "Ten years ago that was seen as quite significant - the first person to get round the world in 200 days, which seems utterly pedestrian now.

"Then it was very much about the adventure of it but the reaction this time has simply been 'how do you do that?' 'How do you average 240 miles a day for two and a half months?' 'How do you live on five hours sleep a night for 78 days?' The scale of the endurance and the complexity of the project and the team behind it makes ten years ago look like kindergarten - it is a completely different league. The reaction to this one is that they simply can't get their head around it."

As well as intensive training Mark also puts his success down to 40 team members and three years of planning, and the motivation all that organisation brings. He said: "It's the fear of failure ... when you are having a rubbish day and your battling a storm or picking yourself up from a crash I just had to look behind me and see the team. I didn't have a choice to stop, I was full committed. It is a pretty isolated feeling being absolutely at the sharp end of a project like that - if I fail or lose concentration all bets are off, everyone fails. I felt great pressure. A lot of people imagine it would be lovely to cycle around the world and see the sights but this was none of that, this was head down and absolutely brutal."



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

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.

5 Adelaide, SA - Adelaide Pipers' Gathering

Piping event. Info: Jack Brennan brennanjack@optusnet.com.au

6 Milton, QLD - Brisbane Smallpipe Session

Piping event. Info: Malcolm McLaren on (07) 3820-2902 or mrmclaren@bigpond.com

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

18 Melbourne, VIC - Celtic Piping Club Session

Piping session, 2pm - 5pm, upstairs at the Exford Hotel, 199 Russell St (cnr Little Bourke). Info: email@celticpipingclub.com

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

APRIL 2018

2 Adelaide, SA - Adelaide Pipers' Gathering

Piping event. Info: Jack Brennan brennanjack@optusnet.com.au

3 Milton, QLD - Brisbane Smallpipe Session

Piping event. Info: Malcolm McLaren on (07) 3820-2902 or mrmclaren@bigpond.com

4 - 15 Gold Coast, QLD - The 2018

Commonwealth Games Cheer on Team Scotland at Gold Coast 2018, the international multi-sport event for members of the Commonwealth at Carrara Stadium. Info: 1300 2018 00 or www.gc2018.com

7 Toowoong, QLD - The Tartan Spectacular

A celebration of all things Scottish and includes Australian Pipe Band Championships with competitors from across the country and beyond at Brisbane Boys' College. Info: www.tartanspectacular.com.au

7 Mooroolbark, VIC - Ceilidh

Come along and enjoy an evening with family and friends at a ceilidh. Dances will be walked and talked through so that everyone can get up and have fun. A fantastic supper is provided (no alcohol) - \$7.00 for Dancers \$3.50 for non dancers at St Margaret's Uniting Church Hall, 219 Hull Rd. Info: mrsjohnstone@gmail.com or 0400 674 832.

7 Bundanoon, NSW - Bundanoon Highland Gathering

Australia's largest Scottish event celebrating 41 years. A day of great entertainment from pipe bands, singers, dancers, strong man competitions and much more. Info: www.brigadoon.org.au

8 Rochedale, QLD - Piobaireachd

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

14 Strathalbyn, SA - Glenbarr Bowman

Batemans Foundation Highland Gathering Celebrate Scotland at Glenbarr Homestead. Info: Vicki Clark 0411 969 679 or toriavic@activ8.net.au

15 Melbourne, VIC - Celtic Piping Club Session

Piping session, 2pm - 5pm, upstairs at the Exford Hotel, 199 Russell St (cnr Little Bourke). Info: email@celticpipingclub.com

20 - 22 Gold Coast, QLD - 2018 Australian

Clan Cameron Gathering The first national Clan Cameron gathering in Australia. All national and international Cameron descendants are invited to attend. Info: CameronGathering2018@gmail.com or www.clan-cameron.org.au

28 Inglewood, WA - Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh

Dance and sing to Heel N Toe band, \$20 non members. Supper supplied at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beaufort St. Info: John 0427 990 754.

NEW ZEALAND

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@xtra.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

8 - 10 Dunedin - Best of Scottish Comedy

With the undoubted links between Scotland and Otago, the show returns in 2018. This year brings a new line up but the same desire to bring laughter with a kilt from the frozen north to the deepest south. Sideswipes and observations of the world from a Scottish perspective. Info: 0800 BUY TIX (289 849).

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@xtra.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!

21 - 24 Nationwide - Big Country New Zealand Tour

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

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.clanondaldaustralia.com

30 - April 1 Frimley, Hastings - 68th

Hawkes Bay Easter Highland Games Pipe bands, Clans and more at Lindisfarne College, 600 Pakowhai Rd, Frimley, Hastings. Info: barry-gaye@xtra.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

APRIL 2018

6 Auckland - Scottish Celtic Music Group

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

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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

MARCH 2018

1 - 7 Inverness - Inverness Music Festival

More than 1000 entrants will take part in the Inverness Music Festival hoping to win awards in instrumental, speech and vocal in Gaelic disciplines. Info: www.invernessmusicfestival.org

7 - 11 St Andrews, Fife - StAnza:

Scotland's Poetry Festival StAnza is a literary festival that focuses on verse. Joining the locals for readings, performances, slams and open mics, jazz, films, workshops and poetry-related art exhibitions, installations and films are a host of local and international wordsmiths. Info: www.stanzapoetry.org

10 Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day

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

10 Cupar - Fife Whisky Festival

The inaugural Fife Whisky Festival will showcase the renaissance of whisky-making in Fife, bringing together whisky connoisseurs and beginners with the best whisky producers from Fife and beyond. Info: www.fifewhiskyfestival.com

15 - 25 Glasgow - Aye Write! - Glasgow's Book Festival

Celebrating the rich variety of Glaswegian writing and also brings the best of Scottish and international writers to the city. Info: www.ayewrite.com

16 - 18 Dunkeld & Birnam - Niel Gow

Annual Scottish Fiddle Festival Established in 2004 to celebrate the life of Perthshire fiddle legend Niel Gow, this festival is held in his home village of Dunkeld & Birnam each year. Now a breeding ground for traditional music talent, the festival runs a selection of workshops, performances and events each year. Info: www.niel-gow.co.uk

23 - 25 Dumfries and Galloway - Wild Film Festival Scotland

A weekend-long celebration of the natural world with wildlife film screenings, celebrity speakers and a photographic exhibition. Info: www.wildfilmfestivalscotland.co.uk

30 - April 4 Edinburgh - Edinburgh International Harp Festival

Held on the beautiful grounds of Merchiston Castle School, EHF annually welcomes a healthy mix of world-class harpists and up-and-coming local talents playing a range of musical styles from folk to jazz for concerts, courses, workshops, the UK's largest harpmakers' exhibition and late night music sessions. Info: www.harpfestival.co.uk

31 - April 15 Edinburgh - Edinburgh

International Science Festival In 2018, the Scottish Year of Young People and the 200th anniversary of the publication of Frankenstein, the Edinburgh International Science Festival is themed around Life, The Universe and Everything - celebrating the wonder and diversity of life. Info: www.sciencefestival.co.uk

APRIL 2018

2 - 13 Isle of Skye - Sabhal Mòr Easter Gaelic Courses

For over 40 years Sabhal Mòr Ostaig has offered courses in the Gaelic language and in traditional music with instruction in Gaelic, Gaelic song, fiddle, button-box and accordion, photography and a range of other specialised subjects offered by a talented team of instructors. Info: www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

7 Dundee - Dougie MacLean Live

Scotland's foremost folk/roots troubadour, renowned for his meaningful, haunting music at Dundee Rep, Tay Square. Info: www.dougiemaclean.com

14 Melrose - Melrose Sevens Rugby

Scottish Borders Rugby Sevens events. Thousands of spectators come every year to see rugby played at its traditional home. Info: www.melroserrugby.org

20 - May 7 Glasgow - Glasgow International

Festival of Contemporary Art Exhibitions, seminars, talks and events in this festival showing the best of contemporary visual arts and artists. Info: www.glasgowinternational.org

26 - May 6 Edinburgh - TradFest Edinburgh/Dùn Èideann

Edinburgh's TradFest kick starts the summer season with a feast of folk arts - music, storytelling, dance, folk film, literature, talks, crafts and visual arts - across Scotland's capital. Info: www.tracscotland.org/festivals/tradfest

28 - 29 Isle of Colonsay - Colonsay Book Festival

A book festival hosted by the beautiful inner Hebridean island of Colonsay. As well as readings and performances, the emphasis is on meeting and chatting with the writers, and debate and good craic in the pub. Info: www.colonsaybookfestival.org.uk

29 Stirling - Stirling Scottish Marathon

Take in the sights of Stirling Castle, Blair Drummond Safari Park, University of Stirling and the historic Wallace Monument. Info: www.princeandprincessofwaleshospice.org.uk/event-article/challenges/stirling-marathon

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Answers to Scotword on Page 7

ACROSS: 7) Peterhead; 8) Morar; 10) Greenock; 11) Reenge; 12) Perth; 14) Inch; 15) Corn; 16) Celts; 18) Smelt; 22) Bard; 23) Rood; 24) Psalm; 25) George; 27) Foursome; 30) Annan; 31) Edinburgh.

DOWN: 1) Berries; 2) Cede; 3) Shoo; 4) Parkins; 5) Fore; 6) Rangers; 9) Graham; 13) Tweed; 15) Cults; 17) Tarbet; 19) Balerno; 20) Confide; 21) Plumage; 26) Reap; 28) Urns; 29) Spud.

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Orkney-Britain's cruising capital



Royal Princess cruise ship near Orkney. Photo: Craig Taylor

The Orkney Islands are the UK's most popular cruise ship destination with over 140 cruise ships calling into Kirkwall and Stromness annually. Visitors are drawn to the Neolithic history and stunning natural beauty of Orkney, creating both new economic opportunities and planning and management challenges with influxes of visitor numbers to the dramatic landscape as Judy Vickers explains.

This month the first cruise ships of 2018 will arrive in Orkney. The Magellan which carries up to 1860 passengers will dock at Hatston Pier near Kirkwall on March 14th – the first of more than 140 cruise ships which will visit the islands between now and September. In the last five years, Orkney has become the cruising capital of Britain with 130,000 visitors a year checking into the ports of Kirkwall and Stromness – on an archipelago of islands which are home to just over 20,000 people. It's a picture which has been replicated to a lesser degree all around Scotland – there was a 35 per cent increase in cruise ship calls to Scottish ports in 2016 from the previous year.

Neolithic Orkney

But it's not hard to see why visitors would be attracted to Orkney: situated off the north coast of Scotland and separated from the mainland by the notoriously treacherous Pentland Firth, the Orkney Islands have their own distinctive character. The islands have been inhabited for at least 8500 years with evidence of nomadic Mesolithic occupation, and a Neolithic farmstead on Papa Westray, one of the 70 islands, dating back to 3500BC – making it older than the pyramids of Giza in Egypt. Highlights include Skara Brae, Europe's best preserved Neolithic settlement,

Many of the islands are uninhabited but the main island – confusingly called Mainland – is home to the two main ports, Kirkwall in the east with its Viking cathedral of St Magnus and Stromness in the east, with its old winding streets.

Skara Brae, together with the 27 megalith Ring of Brodgar, the Stones of Stenness and the Maeshowe Chambered Cairn make up a UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the Heart of Neolithic Orkney. And with



The Splendida cruise ship at Orkney. Photo: Craig Taylor

white sandy beaches, abundant bird and sea life including puffins, dramatic sea stacks and a fascinating World War Two heritage, it's not hard to see why it was already a popular destination with tourists flying in or taking the ferry.

Cruise ship bonanza

But what changed just a few years ago was the development of the pier at Hatston near Kirkwall. Originally built in 2002, the terminal is now Orkney's largest commercial pier, and Scotland's longest deep-water commercial berth following a 160-metre extension in 2013. The longest berth is now 385 metres meaning very large ships with almost 5000 can be accommodated as well as offering space for other ships at the same time at Kirkwall Pier. Alongside anchorage for smaller vessels at Stromness, that has seen the number of cruise ships visiting Orkney soar.

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In 2011, the number of cruise line visits for the year was just 36,000, whereas this year 130,000 passengers will arrive between April and September with all major cruise lines having visited in the last three years.

The numbers of visitors have transformed Orkney. This year what was once a dilapidated warehouse at Kirkwall Harbour will reopen as a new distillery and visitor centre. The husband and wife team, Stephen and Aly Kemp, who are behind Kirkjuvagr Gin, say the cruise ship bonanza is the reason why they've taken the plunge and expanded. The building will

be a base for the production of Kirkjuvagr Gin and house a coffee bar, a shop and a private function room for special tasting events. Key to the whole project however will be regular tours of the distillery, and the increase in visitor numbers and the continued growth of Orkney's cruise ship trade have played a major factor in the planning process. "The development of cruise ship traffic in Orkney really helped give us the confidence to go ahead with this project," said Stephen. "It's an increasing market and for us, having access to that potential footfall, is a massive boost."

The economic boost from the cruises has made a huge difference to the islands, whose population declined from a peak of 26,500 in 1851 to around 17,000 in 1971. Inward migration has seen numbers rise to around 22,000 now.

The dramatic rise has not been without issues – locals have complained that the streets have become jammed on days when a number of ships arrive. But after a record 7,000 passengers disembarked on July 5 last year, Orkney Islands Council Marine Services introduced a limit of 4,500 cruise passengers per day and a new welcome and information service will greet passengers as they arrive this year. And when residents were asked their overall opinion of cruise tourism in Orkney, the majority of responses were positive.

Orcadian DNA

Michael Morrison, Business Development manager with OIC Marine Services said: "The customer service rating for Orkney from cruise ship passengers has been exceptional with one cruise line advising

that the customer service ratings for Kirkwall were the highest in the UK and the second highest in Europe. In 2018, Orkney will receive 145 port calls and is expecting 130,000 on board guests; that is quite a challenge when even our largest town has a population of only 7,500 but it is a challenge that we very much relish. Managing these numbers in addition to the other 150,000 tourists that we receive annually requires a great dealing of planning to find the right balance for a memorable tourism experience in Orkney.

"The cruise industry has high levels of repeat business so it is important that itineraries are kept fresh and varied. Off the beaten track from the more well-known attractions can be found hidden island gems of quiet, white sand beaches, dramatic coast lines, incredible flora and fauna viewing platforms and quiet tea rooms with famous Orkney home bakes. Balancing the number of day visitors (be they from cruise ships or from independent tour operators) against longer staying visitors is challenging but rewarding. Every visitor is important, and we look for high repeat and referral business to underpin and sustain growth. This can only be achieved through collaborative and cohesive strategies with all sectors of tourism, bound by a common commitment and desire to present Orkney at its best always. Almost everyone who lives and works in Orkney is involved in tourism at some level either directly or indirectly; how Orkney attracts its tourism industry, the way in which it welcomes and services its visitors and how it makes them want to come back year after year is all part of the Orcadian DNA."



The Ring of Brodgar in the Heart of Neolithic Orkney. Photo: VisitScotland / Kenny Lam.

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Cornish Heavy (Hevva) Cake

Ingredients:

500g/1lb 1oz. Self-raising flour
250g/9oz Butter
360g/13oz. Mixed dried fruit
180g/6oz. Sugar
100ml.3.5 fl oz. Milk

Method:

Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F.
Line a medium, square cake tin.

Rub the butter into the flour until it's the texture of fine breadcrumbs. Add the sugar and fruit and mix well. Add the milk and mix to a soft, stiff dough.

Press into the cake tin, pushing down firmly in the corners. Score the top of the cake with a sharp knife, making criss-cross diagonal lines.

Place in the middle of the preheated oven and bake for 35-40 minutes, or until golden brown and a skewer inserted in the middle comes out clean.

Remove from the oven and while still warm, brush with milk and give a generous sprinkling of granulated sugar. Allow to cool and cut generous slices.

Lamb burgers

Ingredients:

120g/4½oz. hard sheep's cheese coarsely grated
800g/1lb 12oz. coarse lamb mince, fattier the better
1 red onion, finely chopped
4 anchovy fillets, finely chopped
8 small gherkins, finely chopped
4 tsp capers, drained
salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 tbsp. olive oil
4 burger buns

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Divide the cheese into four piles, and roll each one into a tight ball. Set aside.

Place the lamb mince in a large mixing bowl. Add the onion, anchovies, gherkins and capers and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Mix the contents of the bowl together, ideally by hand. Divide the mince mixture into four.

One by one flatten each pile of mince into the palm of your hand, leaving a little well in the centre. Place the cheese ball in the well and mould the mince

around the cheese to form a tight, plump burger shape that is almost spherical.

Heat the olive oil in a frying pan over a moderate heat and brown the burgers.

If the panhandle is ovenproof, transfer the pan to the oven to bake. If not, carefully transfer the burgers to an oven tray and bake for 30 minutes.

Slice the buns and when the burgers are cooked, soak the cut side of the bread in the pan juices. Fill the buns and serve.

Irish Champ



Ingredients:

1.35kg/3lb potatoes, well-scrubbed and left whole in their jackets
290ml/½ pint milk
85g/3oz. butter
salt and white pepper
1 large bunch spring onions, finely chopped

Method:

Boil the potatoes in salted water until soft. Drain and remove from the pan. Leave until just cool enough to peel. Mash thoroughly.

Boil the milk and add to the potato, together with the spring onions. Season and stir well.

Pile into a serving dish. Make a well in the centre and add the butter. Serve immediately.

Classic Cornish pasty



Ingredients:

For the pastry:
500g/1lb 1oz. strong bread flour
120g/4oz. vegetable shortening or suet
1 tsp. salt
25g/1oz. margarine or butter

175ml/6fl oz. cold water
1 free-range egg, beaten with a little salt (for glazing)

For the filling:

350g/12oz. good-quality beef skirt, rump steak or braising steak
350g/12oz. waxy potatoes
200g/7oz. swede
175g/6oz. onions
salt and freshly ground black pepper
knob of butter or margarine

Method:

Tip the flour into the bowl and add the shortening, a pinch of salt, the margarine or butter and all of the water.

Use a spoon to gently combine the ingredients. Then use your hands to crush everything together, bringing the ingredients together as a fairly dry dough.

Turn out the dough onto a clean work surface (there's no need to put flour or oil onto the surface because it's a tight rather than sticky dough).

Knead the dough to combine the ingredients properly. Use the heel of your hand to stretch the dough. Roll it back up into a ball, then turn it, stretch and roll it up again. Repeat this process for about 5-6 minutes. The dough will start to become smooth as the shortening breaks down. If the dough feels grainy, keep working it until it's smooth and glossy. Don't be afraid to be rough – you'll need to use lots of pressure and work the dough vigorously to get the best results.

When the dough is smooth, wrap it in cling film and put it in the fridge to rest for 30–60 minutes.

While the dough is resting, peel and cut the potato, swede and onion into cubes about 1cm/½in square. Cut the beef into similar sized chunks. Put all four ingredients into a bowl and mix. Season well with salt and some freshly ground black pepper, then put the filling to one side until the dough is ready.

Lightly grease a baking tray with margarine (or butter) and line with baking or silicone paper (not greaseproof).

Preheat the oven to 170C (150C fan assisted)/325F/Gas 3.

Once the dough has had time to relax, take it out of the fridge. The margarine or butter will have chilled, giving you a tight dough. Divide the dough into four equal-sized pieces. Shape each piece into a ball and use a rolling pin to roll each ball into a disc roughly 25cm/10in wide (roughly the same size as a dinner plate).

Spoon a quarter of the filling onto each disc. Spread the filling on one half of the disc, leaving the other half clear. Put a knob of butter or margarine on top of the filling.

Carefully fold the pastry over, join the edges and push with your fingers to seal. Crimp the edge to make sure the filling is held inside – either by using a fork, or by making small twists along the sealed edge. Traditionally Cornish pasties have around 20 crimps. When you've crimped along the edge, fold the end corners underneath.

Put the pasties onto the baking tray and brush the top of each pasty with the egg and salt mixture. Bake on the middle shelf of the oven for about 45 minutes or until the pasties are golden-brown. If your pasties aren't browning, increase the oven temperature by 10C/25F for the last 10 minutes of cooking time.

In the Celtic kitchen

We celebrate our Celtic cousins of Cornwall, Wales and Ireland who will be celebrating St David's St Piran's and St Patrick's Day this month. People in Wales and those of Welsh origin celebrate the life of their patron saint, St David, and the Welsh culture on March 1st. Saint Piran's Day is celebrated each year on 5th March as the national day of Cornwall. The Irish Saint Patrick will be celebrated across the world on March 17th by the Irish community, a toast for St Patrick's Day, "May the roof above us never fall in, and may we friends beneath it never fall out."

Traditional Welsh cakes

Ingredients:

225g/8oz. self-raising flour
110g/4oz. salted butter, diced
85g/3oz. caster sugar, plus extra for dusting
handful of sultanas
1 free-range egg, beaten
milk, if needed
extra butter, for greasing

Method:

Sift the flour into a bowl and add the diced butter.

Rub with your fingertips, or pulse in a food processor, until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.

Add the sugar, sultanas and beaten egg and mix well to form a ball of dough, using a splash of milk if needed.

Roll the dough out on a floured board to a thickness of about 5mm/½in.

Cut into rounds with a 7.5–10cm/3–4in plain cutter.

Rub a bakestone or heavy iron griddle with butter, wipe away the excess and place on the hob until it is heated through.

Cook the Welsh cakes a few at a time for 2–3 minutes on each side, or until golden-brown.

Remove from the griddle and dust with caster sugar while still warm.

Irish coffee



Ingredients:

A good measure of Irish whiskey
1 tsp. brown raw cane sugar
1 heaped tbsp. whipped cream
hot strong coffee to fill the glass

Method:

Use warmed coffee glasses and add the whiskey. Add the sugar and dissolve in the whiskey. Add the coffee and stir well. Float the whipped cream on top and serve.

Exploring the Isle of Lewis



The Isle of Lewis is the largest island of the Scottish Western Isles. You don't just visit the island for a day as the journey there is too far; the ferry from Ullapool takes two hours and 45 minutes to reach this remote island of Scotland's west coast. Once you get there, there is a wealth of culture, nature and particularly history to discover as Marieke McBean explains.



The Garrannan Blackhouse Village.

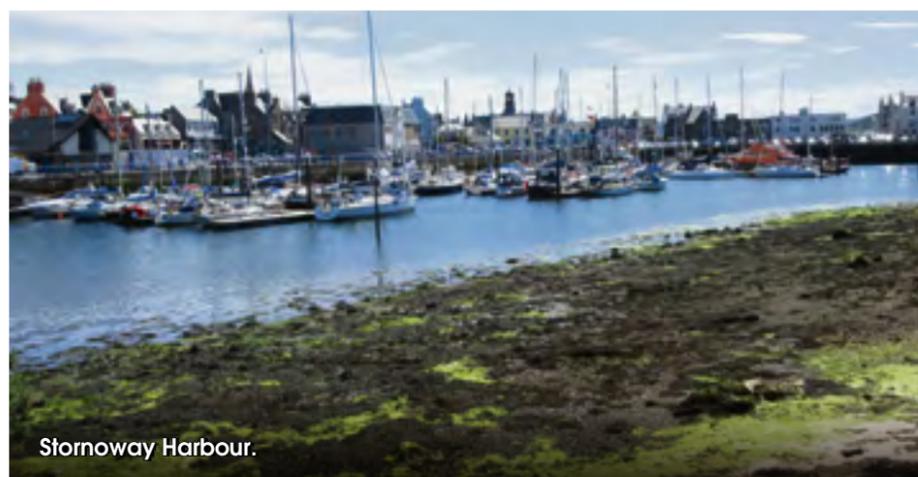
It wasn't until 2009 that ferries started serving Lewis on a Sunday. The island's Free Church is opposed to a Sunday service, but Caledonian MacBrayne said it acted on popular demand by instating a service on the Sabbath. The influence of the church is still present on most of the island; shops and services are almost non-existent on Sunday and the playgrounds carry a sign asking visitors to "respect the sabbath".

Of course there is still plenty to see and do on the island, particularly if you choose to include weekdays on your visit, thus making sure visitor centres and museums are open. Having your own transport is very useful; sites are too far apart to walk and public transport will limit your chances of seeing everything. Having said that, the island is also popular with cyclists, braving the exposed roads to get from A to B.

Stornoway is the main town on Lewis. This is where the CalMac ferry comes in and it also has a small airport. There are two main supermarkets, plus the only pedestrian shopping area on the island. We loved spending time in the harbour, eating ice cream and watching the seals who would regularly pop up their heads. Lewis Castle stands overlooking the harbour from the other side. It is currently being refurbished and houses the new Lewis Castle museum.

The Hebridean Celtic Festival

Every third week of July, Stornoway transforms from a quiet town to a bustling hub with thousands of visitors. The Hebridean Celtic Festival is the second largest folk festival in Scotland and attracts many visitors to the island. It is setup in the grounds of Lewis Castle and for us, a family of four, the main reason to visit the island. If you're not interested in the music though it is best to avoid visiting at this time of year; accommodation is fully booked, so are ferries and there is usually a fair waiting time when eating out. If, however, you do like the music, you'll have the best time ever. Not only can you enjoy



Stornoway Harbour.

the sights of the island during the day, the festival events will keep you entertained into the early hours of the morning. In the streets you'll encounter theatre, dance and music while special workshops and concerts take place throughout Stornoway and beyond.

The influence of the church is still present on most of the island; shops and services are almost non-existent on Sunday and the playgrounds carry a sign asking visitors to "respect the sabbath".

Standing Stones

The Callanish Standing stones are arguably Lewis's most famous visitor attraction. At a mere thirty-minute drive from Stornoway you'll find yourself transported back in time thousands of years. This huge collection of standing stones roughly forms a cross, although no-one knows its exact meaning. The first stones were erected here at around 3000BC and the "Story of the Stones" exhibition gives you the chance to learn more about how it was

built and what it has meant to people in the past. We were lucky enough to stumble across a live music session in the on-site café; another bonus for being on the island during the music festival (the downside being that it was hard to find a moment of peace looking at the stones themselves... Too many visitors!).

Iron Age living

Nearby, people can visit the Dun Carloway Broch; a well preserved stone fortified tower dating back to the Iron Age. We chose to visit a lesser known Iron Age site though; the reconstructed round house built on Bosta Beach. In 1993 a great storm exposed several buildings here, which turned out to be Iron Age dwellings. Archaeologists had a chance to partially excavate the buildings, after which the now visible reconstructed Iron Age Roundhouse was built. The stone house with a thatched roof is a little-known treasure on Lewis; despite us visiting during the festival we were at one point the only people there. The guide has a wealth of knowledge about Iron Age life on Lewis and would happily talk to you for hours on end. It's a true gem which, for an admission fee of just £3, you should definitely not miss.

Blackhouses

In the past, many people on Lewis lived in Blackhouses. These are small stone houses



Beach life on Lewis.

with thatched roofs and no chimney. The Garrannan Blackhouse Village has nine restored houses, of which three are open to the public with the rest being rented out as self-catering accommodation and a hostel. The café on site sells some good lunch (surprisingly hard to come by in this area!) and the views from the village over the Atlantic are beautiful.

In the north of the island, near Ness, we adored watching the gannets diving into the sea to catch fish. Every August, the locals here travel out to the isle of Sula Sgeir where they hunt for baby gannets. The hunters taking part in this annual "guga hunt" have a license to kill 2000 birds each year. It has been accepted as sustainable by both Scottish National Heritage and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Ness is home to some great seascapes as well as an unmissable adventure playground for children.

Books

To get a feel for the island without actually visiting, it is worth seeking out some of the great novels set here. Peter May's famous Lewis trilogy is a gripping set of books which is hard to put down. His book *Coffin Road* is another great novel set on the island. During our trip on Lewis I also picked up the lesser known *Celtic Fringe* by Di Reed. I have really enjoyed reading this; it tells the story of incomers trying to fit in on the island and is well worth a read if you can find a copy.



Lewis abound with wildlife.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past



1 - The Advocate's Library (known as the National Library of Scotland since 1925) opened by its founder, Sir George Mackenzie, the Lord Advocate in Edinburgh. **1682**

1 - Scots voted in favour of Devolution, but failed to reach the required 40% of the population in favour of implementing it - due to 36% of the electorate not voting. **1979**

1 - Actor David Niven was born, roles included *The Pink Panther* and *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Niven had claimed several times that he was born in Kirriemuir, but according to his birth certificate, was born in London. **1910**

2 - King Robert II born in Paisley, the first monarch of the House of Stewart. He was the son of Marjorie Bruce, daughter of Robert the Bruce, and Walter, High Steward of Scotland. Robert acted as regent three times during the reign of his uncle, David II, and acceded to the throne in 1371. He died in 1390 and was succeeded by his son Robert III. **1316**

3 - Robert Adam, architect, died. Among his many works were Culzean Castle, Fort George, The Town House, Inveraray and Glasgow Trades Hall. **1792**

3 - Alexander Graham Bell born Edinburgh. Bell was scientist, inventor, engineer, and innovator who is credited with patenting the first practical telephone and died in Nova Scotia, Canada in 1922. **1847**

4 - Sir Henry Raeburn, renowned for painting the portraits of many of the citizens of Edinburgh, born. **1756**



4 - Forth Rail Bridge opened by Prince of Wales. **1890**

4 - Jim Clark, Formula 1 World motor racing champion, born Fife. **1936**

5 - King David II born. **1323**

5 - Flora Macdonald, who helped to save Prince Charles Edward Stewart during his flight after the defeat at the Battle of Culloden, died in Kingsburgh, Skye (in the same bed in which Bonnie Prince Charlie had slept during his escape). **1790**



5 - The *Maid of the Loch* paddle steamer was launched, she was built in Glasgow and was the largest ever vessel to be built for an inland waterway in Britain, this was also the last of a series of steamers to sail on Loch Lomond, dating back to 1818. **1953**

6 - King James II decreed in an Act of Parliament that there should be regular target practice and military parades and that "football and golf be utterly cried down and not used". This was the first time that the games had been mentioned in Scottish documents. **1457**



6 - Scotland's first radio broadcast took place. The broadcast took place from Rex House, 202 Bath Street in Glasgow. By the summer

of 1924, stations had opened in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and, by the eve of the Second World War, over 90% of the Scottish population were served by BBC transmitters. **1923**

7 - Sculptor and artist Sir Eduardo Paolozzi born in Leith, the eldest son of Italian immigrants. **1924**

7 - The world's first golf club was founded in Edinburgh. The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers held their first meeting on Leith Links and petitioned the Edinburgh Council to provide a silver club for competition. **1744**

8 - Kenneth Grahame, author of *The Wind in the Willows* born in Edinburgh. **1859**

8 - The *Oor Wullie* cartoon strip first appeared in *The Sunday Post*. **1936**

9 - David Rizzio, Mary Queen of Scotland's secretary, murdered by Lord Ruthven in the Palace of Holyrood. **1566**

9 - *Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith published. **1776**

9 - Scottish faith healer John Alexander Dowie died in Illinois, USA. Edinburgh born Downie believed in the power of prayer only for curing ailments and banned followers from eating certain food, drinking and smoking. **1907**

10 - Birth of James Herriot, author of *All Creatures Great and Small*. **1916**

10 - St Kessog, the Irish missionary in the Lennox area and southern Perthshire, was killed. Kessog was Scotland's patron saint before Andrew, and his name was used as a battle cry by the Scots. Son of the king of Cashel in Ireland, St Kessog is said to have worked miracles, even as a child. **560**

11 - Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, died. **1955**

11 - The birth of Binkie Stuart, the child film actress, in Kilmarnock. Born Elizabeth Alison Fraser, she was hailed as Britain's answer to Shirley Temple and enjoyed huge fame as a child star. **1932**

12 - The last salmon was caught in the River Kelvin. The salmon population in the river had been in decline due to the rise of industrial pollution in the area. However, in February 1999, after £43 million of investment, salmon again spawned in the river and anglers were allowed back. **1852**

13 - Death of poet and historian John Barbour, author of *The Bruce* recounting the history of King Robert I. **1395**

13/15 - Blitz of Clydebank by German Luftwaffe. **1941**

14 - First television programmes broadcast in Scotland. **1952**

14 - The birth of Scottish lawyer, Dame Margaret Kidd. Not only was Kidd Scotland's first woman advocate, but she was also the first woman King's Counsel in Britain and the first woman to plead before the House of Lords. **1900**

15 - Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh founded Advocates' Library "equipped with works written by lawyers". **1689**



15 - The end of two nights of heavy German bombing of Clydebank. The Clydebank Blitz, as it became known, destroyed a third of the buildings of Clydebank, leaving 35,000 people

homeless. A thousand German bombers were used in the raid and the devastation of the town was so complete that only eight buildings remained entirely unscathed after the bombing. To further compound Clydebank's misery, only two enemy planes were shot down. **1941**

16 - King Robert the Bruce convened his first parliament, at St Andrews. **1309**

16 - Death of Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, chief of the Fraser clan. He developed the Commando force in the British army and was active in the Dieppe Raid (1942) and the D-Day landings (1944). **1995**

17 - Treaty of Edinburgh between King Robert I and Edward III which recognised Scotland's independence, ending the 30 years of Wars of Independence. **1328**

17 - Scotland won Rugby "Grand Slam" at Murrayfield Stadium - the first time in 59 years. **1984**

18 - Earl of Leven raises a Border regiment to hold Edinburgh against the Jacobites. It later becomes the King's Own Scottish Borderers. In 2006, the Kings Own Scottish Borderers Regiment was amalgamated with the Royal Scots to form the Royal Scots Borderers, which became the 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland. **1689**

19 - King Alexander III died after crossing the river Forth to Fife at Queensferry. **1286**

19 - David Livingstone, missionary and explorer, born Blantyre. **1813**

20 - King Malcolm IV born. **1141**



21 - National Gallery of Scotland opened in Edinburgh. **1859**

21 - Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh opened, becoming the home of Scottish rugby. Scotland marked the occasion by beating England 14-11 and winning their first Grand Slam. Unfortunately, the Scottish rugby team have only managed to repeat this success twice more, in 1984 and 1990. **1925**

22 - Neil Gow, first of a famous family of Fiddle players and composers, born at Inver, near Dunkeld, Perthshire. **1727**

22 - Last fully public hanging in Scotland - that of Joseph Bell at Perth. **1868**

23 - The Free Church of Scotland settlement at New Edinburgh, New Zealand was founded under Rev Thomas Burns, a nephew of the poet Robert Burns. The settlement later became Dunedin, one of the largest towns in the country, and one which still retains a distinctive Scottish character. **1848**

23 - Roddy McMillan, the Scottish stage and TV actor, was born. His credits include the TV series, *The View From Daniel Pike*, and the play, *The Revellers*. However, he will be most fondly remembered for his portrayal of Para Handy, the captain of the *Vital Spark* in the much loved television series of the 1960s. **1923**

24 - Union of the Crowns of England and Scotland on the death of Queen Elizabeth I and the succession of King James VI of Scotland. **1603**

24 - An estimated one million people watched the *Queen Mary* leave the Clyde for the first time. However, the sailing did not quite go to plan: despite extensive dredging having taken place, the liner ran aground twice on the way to Gourock. **1936**

25 - King Robert I ("The Bruce") crowned at Scone. Bruce was crowned by Bishop William de Lamberton in front of the banner of the kings of Scotland, wearing royal robes which had been hidden from the English. **1306**



25 - The Commercial Bank of Scotland was founded in Edinburgh by John Pitcairn, Lord Cockburn and others. **1810**

26 - Car driving tests introduced for the first time. **1934**

27 - King Robert II crowned at Scone. **1371**

27 - Scottish chemist Sir James Dewar, inventor of the Dewar Flask, which later became known as the Thermos flask, died. **1923**

27 - King James VI died at Theobalds Park, Hertfordshire and buried at Westminster Abbey. Succeeded by his son, King Charles I. **1625**

27 - David Coulthard, Grand Prix racing driver born in Twynholm, Dumfries and Galloway. **1971**

28 - King Robert the Bruce captured Berwick on Tweed. **1318**

28 - The Scots Guards Regiment was formed when King Charles I issued a commission to the Marquess of Argyll, Chief of Clan Campbell, authorizing him to raise in Scotland a regiment of 1,500 men. The King's 'Lyfe Guard of Foot' became the Scots Guards. **1642**

29 - Longannet, Scotland's last deep coal mine, closed, ending centuries of mining tradition. The Fife mine was put into liquidation after being flooded on the 23rd, when a dam separating old workings from new seams under the river Forth collapsed. **2002**



29 - The Royal Society of Edinburgh incorporated by charter. **1783**

30 - King James I captured by English near Flamborough Head on his way to France. **1406**

30 - Edward I of England sacked the Scottish town of Berwick. The English army destroyed the town and decimated the population of around 15,000. This act was retaliation for the widespread carnage perpetrated in the north of England, and what Edward considered to be the treacherous stab in the back of the Scottish-French alliance. Berwick was rebuilt by Northumbrians, and the Scottish-English border forever after remained north of this town. **1296**

31 - Scottish Regalia (crown, sceptre and sword) saved from invading army of Oliver Cromwell by James Granger, minister at Kinneff, Aberdeenshire, after they had been smuggled from Dunnottar Castle which was under siege. **1652**

31 - General Patrick Gordon was born. Gordon led a remarkable life. Upon leaving Scotland, he entered the Russian army as a major and soon rose to become a close advisor to Russian Tsar, Peter the Great. Gordon rose to the rank of General-in-Chief and was made an admiral of the Russian navy. **1635**

The NHS in Scotland turns 70 in 2018



2018 sees the 70th anniversary of the National Health Service (NHS) in Scotland, with a number of significant milestones and records marking the occasion. Since its creation on 5 July 1948 the NHS in Scotland has seen a number of important and significant developments, including:

- In its first year, 15 million prescriptions were dispensed in Scotland - today, the figure is over 103 million with these now being provided free as a result of landmark reforms under this government.
- In 1948 1.2 million people were seen as outpatients – in 2016/17, there were around 4.25 million outpatient attendances.
- In 1948 NHS Scotland employed 22,062 nurses and midwives – today, this has risen to a new record high of over 59,000.

- In 1959 Scotland became a world leader in health education, with the UK's first nursing and midwifery studies unit set up at Edinburgh University - this year saw the highest ever number of acceptances to study nursing and midwifery at Scottish universities.

Care, compassion and professionalism

Health Secretary Shona Robison said: "Scotland's NHS has changed significantly in its 70 years, but its best qualities have endured. From the care, compassion, and professionalism of our staff, to remaining a public, universal service based on need – it has been 70 years of striving at all times for the highest possible standards in clinical excellence and patient care. The choices, services and outcomes that NHS Scotland provides today would not have been imaginable in 1948, and it keeps adapting, developing and changing. The lesson of the years since its creation is that staying still simply isn't an option. Through our approach of investment and reform, we will keep driving forward improvements and innovations. Everyone will have their own personal stories of what the NHS has done for them - why we must never take our health service for granted. I am delighted to see our NHS reach such a significant anniversary and I hope all of Scotland will join the celebrations this year as we pay tribute to everything it has achieved."

New £4m distillery and brewery in Fife



Eden Mill has unveiled ambitious plans to create a new distillery and brewery in Fife. The £4m expansion project will see it occupy the Guardbridge Paper Mill on the University of St Andrews' Eden Campus, which is also the former site of Seggie distillery. A 19th century distillery founded by the Haig family, Seggie was among the first to adopt a Coffey still for producing grain whisky in 1845. The development will further cement Eden Mill's status as one of Scotland's fastest growing brands. Included in the plans submitted to Fife Council are several visitor areas, with a café/bar, visitor's centre, shop, presentation room and a VIP tasting area on the top floor of the distillery offering views over the university campus and estuary. The new facility will enable Eden Mill to double the number of tourists taking distillery tours from 25,000 to 50,000 a year.

Paul Miller, co-founder of Eden Mill, said: "With ambitions to grow the business, it's the right time for Eden Mill to move forward with plans for a new

distillery and brewery. We have always been pioneering, and this expansion can open the door to new product development and continued success. To stay competitive, the spirits industry in Scotland needs to embrace new ideas and experimentation while respecting its heritage and traditions, particularly with whisky. At this new site, Eden Mill will be in the perfect position to invest in new products and lead the way with innovation. We firmly believe that this development will greatly benefit the local area and the wider Scottish economy, which is always what we have set out to achieve as a business."

Subject to planning approval, the new site will allow Eden Mill to invest in product development, increase output of beers and spirits, and attract more tourists to Fife by doubling capacity for distillery tours on the site. Pending approval of the application, Eden Mill aims to be on site by summer 2018 with the buildings operational by autumn 2018. Once complete, Eden Mill will become one of the first tenants within the University of St Andrews' Eden Campus. Eden Mill, together with other innovative companies working alongside the academic community of St Andrews, will be helping the University to grow a sustainable local economic model fit for the 21st century. The Campus is currently home to a biomass Energy Centre, a key part of the University's drive to become the UK's first energy carbon neutral university.

Street names indicate how "Scottish" you feel



with a high percentage of religious-related street names, such as 'church' or 'chapel', were more likely to identify as Christian.

Cultural markers

Dr Oto-Peralías said: "Street names are cultural markers of a town and its history, and can be used as a rich source of information to create socio-cultural indicators at the regional and local level. With the help of data software with text analysis capabilities, it is feasible to analyse hundreds of thousands of street names to extract themes and trends capturing the culture and history of the population." Many topics can be studied using street-name data, for instance, gender inequality. The data indicate that the street map is strongly biased toward men, reflecting a history of marginalisation of women in the public sphere.

For the Spanish case, analysed in depth by Dr Oto-Peralías, the percentage of streets named after men, over the total named after men and women, is 83.1 per cent. If streets named after religious figures are removed, the percentage increases to 86.8 per cent, which is a value close to that found in other studies that focus on specific European cities.

Dr Oto-Peralías added: "This large bias naturally generates controversy and indeed there are some social movements fighting for more gender equality in street names. This is an important issue because street names have strong symbolic power and can contribute to the perpetuation of those social and cultural values contained in them."

People living in Scottish areas with street names commemorating Britain, such as 'Queen', 'Royal', 'Regent' or 'London' are less likely to define themselves as Scottish only, new research from the University of St Andrews has revealed. The finding, by Dr Daniel Oto-Peralías, is part of new research focusing on what street names have to tell us about our culture and identity. Dr Oto-Peralías, of the School of Management at the University of St Andrews, compared the street names of Scottish Westminster parliamentary constituencies with a recent population census asking people to identify their national identity. In areas with a lower number of such union-themed street names, people were more likely to describe themselves as having a "Scottish identity only". The study, published in the *Journal of Economic Geography*, also shows that religion remains a salient topic with the word "church" featuring in the top four of the ranking of most frequent British street names. The research also found that people in areas



Scotland: The Board Game - From 2 to 5 players aged 8 and up can play this delightful board game which takes you on a trip through 2000 years of Scotland's history, travelling through its landscape from Melrose to the Orkneys and featuring 30 of its most famous citizens in its history! Try to visit the most important locations on

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This board game is fun for the whole family and has been designed by one of the UK's most talented young designers.

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Where do you think you are?

By: David C Weinczok



One hundred and seventy years ago this month Scottish settlers arrived in Dunedin, New Zealand to begin a new life. With them they took hope, dreams and even names from back home with them. This however was not unique to New Zealand, across the world and still today a Scottish name can be found in some of the most unique and far flung places which have been touched by Scots as David C. Weinczok explains.



Scottish connections stands tall at the Robert Burns statue in the centre of Dunedin, New Zealand.

Enterprise, eviction and empire drove hundreds of thousands of Scots to the four corners of the globe, where in unfamiliar and often desperate circumstances they sought to balance the opportunities of new worlds with comforts from the old one. Few things bring comfort like a familiar name, and so Scottish place names can be found from California to Canberra.

Dùn Èideann

Growing up in Nova Scotia, for instance, I often passed through the small suburban area of Tantallon, none the wiser to the existence of the great curtain-walled castle of the same name an hour's drive east of Edinburgh. Indeed, Scotland's capital has given its name in various guises to several places around the globe. It was on 23 March 1848 that the passengers of the *John Wickliffe* set foot on the shores of Otago, New Zealand, where they would establish the city of Dunedin, derived from the Gaelic name for Edinburgh, *Dùn Èideann*. In 1882 two Edinburgh-born merchants, J. O. Douglas and James Somerville, petitioned to have their Florida town of Jonesboro renamed Dunedin, and to this day the Dunedin Highland Games celebrate the town's Scottish heritage.

When the residents of either Dunedin walk the streets, do they know what the name recalls? There are certainly plenty of reminders, particularly in Dunedin, New Zealand, where many names are taken straight from Scotland's modern capital. Princes Street is a major road in both communities, and the Edinburgh areas of Corstorphine, Musselburgh and Liberton are all mirrored in Dunedin. There's even a Calton Hill, though the Dunedin version is home to a residential suburb rather than a motley collection of monuments like the original.

Providing further continuity is the remarkable fact that both Edinburgh and Dunedin, New Zealand are UNESCO Cities of Literature, with Edinburgh being home to such iconic and genre-defining writers as Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson and, in more recent years, Ian Rankin and J. K. Rowling. Both cities also feature the remains of the ancient volcanoes that carved out their respective forms. With all these connections permeating residents' everyday lives, what's in a name?

Y Gododdin

Gaelic speakers still call Edinburgh *Dùn Èideann*, and within that name are the roots of an ancient lineage. 'Dun' (and the earlier incarnation, 'din') means 'fort', and long before Edinburgh was a bustling

Enterprise, eviction and empire drove hundreds of thousands of Scots to the four corners of the globe, where in unfamiliar and often desperate circumstances they sought to balance the opportunities of new worlds with comforts from the old one.

medieval market town there were several hill forts in the area. The earliest known written reference to Edinburgh appears as *Din Eidyn* in the early medieval Welsh poem *Y Gododdin*. The poem is an account of the Battle of Catraeth fought sometime around 600CE between the Gododdin, the Brythonic people who lived atop what is now Edinburgh Castle Rock, and the expanding power of the Germanic Angles.

Y Gododdin is no dry read. Having feasted for an entire year within the hill fort atop the Rock, some 300 Gododdin riders streamed down the volcanic slope that now forms the Royal Mile and met the Angles in battle, probably somewhere near Catterick in North Yorkshire. The poem is in the heroic tradition, with individuals singled out for praise and the act of battle valorised with passages such as: *Men went to Catraeth with a war-cry, Speedy steeds and dark armour and shields, Spear-shafts held high and spear-points sharp-edged, And glittering coats-of-mail and swords, He led the way, he thrust through armies, Five companies fell before his blades.*

Perhaps the year of feasting had taken its toll on the Gododdin, however, for only three men returned from the expedition. One of them, conveniently, was the bard Aneurin, who would tell the story that became *Y Gododdin*. In 638 the Angles followed up their victory by surging into the south of Scotland and taking *Din Eidyn* for themselves. From that point on Celtic *Din Eidyn* was no more, and an Anglian Edinburgh rose from the ashes.

So, far from always being the capital of Scotland, from the 7th until the 11th centuries Edinburgh was not a part of the Kingdom of Scots at all but part of the Anglian Kingdom of Northumbria. This would have far-reaching implications for Scotland, as the Lowlands – centred around Stirling and Edinburgh – took on an increasingly Anglicised, feudal order while the Highlands and Isles retained their older Celtic character.

King Arthur

As an interesting aside, it is just possible that *Y Gododdin* contains the first literary reference to King Arthur, who despite being typically identified as an

English hero was in fact a Briton whose alleged activities and origins ranged from Cornwall to the Clyde. The writer of *Y Gododdin* used Arthur as a paragon, and while the warriors at the Battle of Catraeth were brave they apparently didn't quite measure up:

*He fed black ravens on the rampart of a fortress
Though he was no Arthur
Among the powerful ones in battle
In the front rank, Gwaurddur was a palisade.*

The prospect of Arthur gazing upon the hills of Edinburgh is not so far-fetched as it might seem. After all, the dominant feature of the city's skyline is the volcanic crag long referred to as Arthur's Seat - but that is a tale for another day.

Cultural flow

What goes around comes around, and while migrant Scots used Scottish names for their new settlements the cultural flow is now very much reciprocal. Edinburgh is a renowned centre of culture, with extravaganzas such as the Fringe Festival and Royal Military Tattoo as well as multi-arts events including TradFest regularly involving individuals and groups from places including North America and Australasia. For instance, Edinburgh's 2017 festival season was punctuated by 'NZ at Edinburgh', a programme which saw New Zealand artists, writers, performers and comedians specially invited to showcase their talents in Scotland.

It's a consistent historical quirk that the traditions of people's home countries are often most enthusiastically upheld by those who have moved elsewhere, and the upcoming Dunedin Highland Games in Florida is one of countless examples tying places around the world to Edinburgh. So, if you find yourself listening to bagpipes in Dunedin, Florida or walking to Waverley along Portobello Road in Dunedin, New Zealand, spare a thought for the 300 who rode out from the Rock at *Din Eidyn* and immortalised the name of Scotland's precipitous capital.

David C Weinczok is a heritage professional, presenter and adoptive Scot based in Edinburgh. Twitter: @TheCastleHunter Do you know a special place outside of Scotland with a distinct Scottish name or link? Share your story with us by email, post or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



The Dunedin Pipe Band plays at the Gulf of Mexico in Dunedin, Florida, USA.

By: Rosalind Jones

Ulva SOS

Save a Scottish island

Photos: Barry George.



The small community of Ulva are facing a crossroads in their history as they want to buy their island so that they can have a secure future for their families and keep this special island off the west coast of the Isle of Mull, in the Inner Hebrides, open for visitors and encourage more residents as Rosalind Jones explains.



A curious stag.

The Isle of Ulva, nestled close to Mull in the Inner Hebrides, is for sale. Its price - £4,241,000. Millionaires will vie for this prize! Five and a half miles long by two and a half wide, Ulva is majestic. A verdant 'stepped' landscape rises 1,000 feet, edged by rugged columnar basalt cliffs, stony and sandy bays. Ulva's flora and fauna attract ardent naturalists, whilst 7,000 years of human settlement, famous historic visitors, forebears and descendants, absorb historians. Advertised with a 'Big House', Telford Church, and other buildings, Ulva's most priceless asset is peace and

tranquillity. It is a haven where a rich new owner, wanting a private sporting estate-cum-marine-playground could shut out the rest of the world.

Spiritual place

Which is exactly what inhabitants and friends of Ulva and Mull do NOT want! Under its present owner, the island is open to locals and visitors to come ashore. Now everyone fears this wonderful concession could be lost. Ulva is a very special, spiritual place. An 'unsuitable' buyer could evict the present tenants, keep out Mull's community and tourists, depriving all but a privileged few of Ulva's unique, soul-restoring 'magic'. This possibility is so concerning that when owner Jamie Howard put Ulva on the market in summer 2017, the Ulva community petitioned the Scottish Government. Like the successful islanders of Eigg and Gigha previously, the North West Mull Community Woodland Company heading the venture, want to ensure that Ulva isn't sold to an absentee owner, and two thirds of the locals are in favour of a buyout. The Scottish Land Fund might regard Ulva as a 'special case', financing above the normal contribution, nevertheless, between 5% to 15% of the price must be raised. The Ulva Community is very, very small, and they only have until May 31st to raise an enormous sum. Hence the SOS.

When Jamie Howard's family bought

Ulva 71 years ago, its indigenous population was a sad vestige of previous times. Once the thriving ancestral home of Clan MacQuarrie until 1777, the numbers of Ulva's inhabitants declined under 'New Men' during the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1835, Stirling sheriff, Francis W. Clarke bought Ulva, plus neighbouring Gometra and Little Colonsay, his tenants numbering 800. It was a good investment. His tenants reared cattle and sheep, grew oats and potatoes, and paid rent from processing Kelp. When this thriving industry foundered, evictions began. By 1841 Clarke callously removed three hundred from 13 townships. The Potato Famine and Clearances of 1845-47 reduced this starving population to 150. By 1889 removals left 53 inhabitants. Ulva's diaspora emigrated to Canada, America, Australia, India, and New Zealand, greatly benefiting these new homelands.

Cause celebre

Ulva was finally sold again, in 1946, to Edith Lady Congleton, daughter of Lord Strathcona. Seven decades later, her grandson Jamie Howard, is one of only six inhabitants. Having dedicated half his working life to Ulva, his heart-wrenching decision to sell coincides with Ulva's population declining to rock bottom. 'Ulva for sale' has created a cause celebre for the people of Mull. They want Ulva to LIVE again! No one naively believes the island could sustain a large population today, but the Ulva Community's aim, to double the population in 5 years, and double again within 10 years, is attainable. Essentially they want Ulva to remain a vibrant, working island, where everyone can visit and benefit from its wild, unspoilt beauty.

Currently visitors embark at Ulva Ferry and cross over chatting to the ferryman. Safely ashore they visit 'The Boathouse' licensed tearoom for refreshments. Fortified to trek any of Ulva's sign-posted walks, most begin at 'Sheila's Cottage', a restored blackhouse, now museum. Ulva's long history, spanning Mesolithic, Bronze

and Iron ages, Saint Columba's times, Viking conquests, and Clan MacQuarrie, are all depicted. Famous sons and grandsons, Sir Lachlan MacQuarrie 'Father of Australia', and African Missionary - Dr. David Livingstone, are highlights, as are important visitors, - Boswell and Johnson, Sir Walter Scott, Beatrix Potter, and H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. Today's visitors are delighted to walk in such illustrious footsteps!

A very special Scottish island

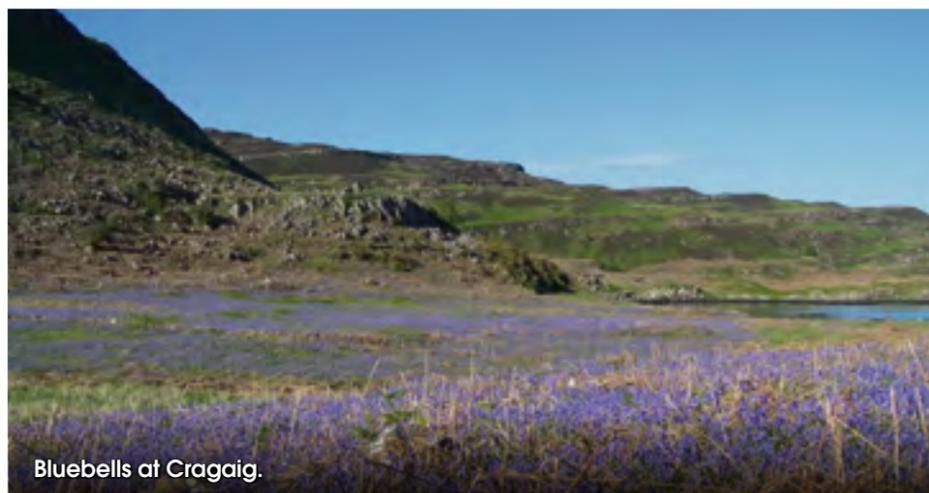
Tantalising choices are made because Ulva cannot be encompassed in a day. Its eastern tip is a tranquil landscape of pasture and deciduous woodland, with Ulva House and Farm. Many are content to remain here, transfixed by sea views to Mull's Munro, Ben More. Intrepid walkers head west. A rough track towards Gometra skirts the northern coast below Ulva's lofty basalt caps. Abandoned townships, with ruined blackhouses, testify a vital past. Seeing raised corrugations of once productive feannagan (lazy-beds), visitors sense the industrious former inhabitants. Visible everywhere in spring when bluebells bloom, by summer these cultivation ridges are bracken-smothered, whilst bright yellow gorse, offspring of bushes once draped with washing to dry, colonise the ruins. Intrepid walkers climb Beinn Chreagach where amethyst flowers of ling and heather exemplify Ulva as a priceless gem. From the summit the panorama is breath-taking. North lies the stepped landscape of North West Mull. East, Loch-Na-Keal, Eorsa Isle, and Mull's mountainous heart. Southeast, sacred Inch Kenneth. South, Little Colonsay. Southwest, Staffa and Fingal's Cave. West, the Treshnish Isles and mighty Atlantic. The views are so intoxicating that many feel like 'millionaires' to imbibe such beauty.

Ulva and these isles are havens for puffins, guillemots, gannets, fulmars, cormorants, and shags. Otters, grey and common seals, dolphins, porpoises, Minke, orca whales, and basking sharks can all be seen. Red deer, various small mammals, golden and sea eagles, over 120 other bird species, plus rare moths and dragonflies make up Ulva's wonderfully varied fauna. Which now could be threatened. Ulva mustn't become a private playground in private ownership. This unique, unspoilt, island MUST remain open to ALL.

Responding to this would mean that everyone will always have a very special place to enjoy. Names of donors are being recorded. Your name could be preserved for posterity as someone who helped save a very special Scottish island.

So, will you help?

Learn more and donate online through: www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/northwest-mull/ulvabuyout You can also follow and support this story on social media at #UlvaBuyout



Bluebells at Cragaig.