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speaks to Dougie Maclean » Pg 28

Volume 42 - Number 4

Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

Supernatural Scotland



by Sean Cairney

his is always a month where things go bump in the night just that much more, as millions of children and adults around the world plan and create the perfect costume or scary trick with Halloween finishing off the month each October.

Samhain

As the sugar rush of treats hits its peak many may not be thinking of Halloweens Celtic origins. Samhain is an ancient Celtic celebration based on the tradition of the Feast of Samhain, which marked the end of the Celtic year and the beginning of the new one, much like New Year's Eve traditions we have today. Samhain also marked the end of summer and the change of season (taking place between the autumn equinox and the winter solstice) ahead for Celts as nights draw in and cooler weather prevails, and dates back thousands of years.

Part of the Samhein celebration involved rituals to honour people's deceased relatives and spirits that roam the land. Scotland is no doubt a hot spot for ghosts and spirits, proving it really is a must see destination, as even in the afterlife people visit! With so many historical sites, with such at times brutal and horrid pasts, there is no doubt Scotland is a land filled with spooky opportunity.

Most parts of the country will have a story to tell and while some laugh it off as folklore others leave with some unique tales to tell. I have had a few experiences in different parts of the country which I cannot explain, nor do I feel the need to, they become part of the Scottish experience for me.

Rosslyn Chapel

I remember being in Rosslyn Chapel, located in the village of Roslin outside of Edinburgh, admiring its incredible stone work and going into a lower chamber and getting the sense that someone was around me and a very strong rush of cold also came around me. This was in winter so I try to explain that to myself as a probable reason, but this was different than the cool air everywhere else...

Scotland is no doubt a hot spot for ghosts and spirits, proving it really is a must see destination, as even in the afterlife people visit!

Regardless this is an incredible place to visit just to take in the incredible stonework which is filled with mysterious Celtic symbolism and detail. There are of course numerous reports of "happenings" here with reported sightings of spirits such a lady in white within the chapel to a horse rider in black outside the chapel, it is the possible place of the Holy Grail, considered to be on a spiritual fault line and even had reports of aliens visiting by UFO spotters!

In this issue

The bagpipes are the sound of the Scotland and we have a roundup of this year's World Pipe Band Championships as bands and piping fans descended on Glasgow for one of the pinnacle pipe band events in the world. Bands from all over the world attended including of course Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. These bands joined not only bands from across Scotland, Ireland and the UK but diverse nations such as France, Oman, Switzerland, and even Zimbabwe. Proving the bagpipe really is a global instrument.

The colours of a Scottish autumn are a sight to be seen. The nation begins a fiery dance of colour as tress change and skies soften. Crisp air and blankets of fallen tree leaves make it a great time to visit as the crowds drop away but the nation puts on a natural display the whole world is invited to enjoy.

The song *Caledonia* is known by millions of Scots the world over and this year is having its 40th anniversary. We have been lucky to again catch up with our friend Dougie Maclean on his musical journey from penning that as a young man in the late 1970's to how that song and his musical overall talent has helped him create a creative family business in Perthshire.

One of the most haunted countries on Earth

For those who dare and are intrigued by spooky spots in Scotland we do give some a mention in this issue. There are of course hundreds of other places that have stories to tell, in fact you can't go far without finding a haunted story in Scotland, and perhaps you have visited and experienced something yourself?

Edinburgh is considered not only one of Scotland's most haunted spots but one of the most haunted cities in the world with tales around every corner and close. This Halloween marks the 190th anniversary also of the final killing in Edinburgh by the infamous William Burke and William Hare, two Irish labourers who murdered 16 people in the space of a year and sold their bodies for medical research. They preferred suffocation and this became known as "Burking".

Their last victim, Marjory Campbell Docherty, was killed on October 31st, 1828 and William Burke was hung in the Lawnmarket district of Edinburgh the following January. William Hare was spared and fled to England after the gruesome events took place. Today Burke's skeleton is still on display at Surgeon's Hall in Edinburgh next to his death mask adding to the city's spooky credentials.

From haunted moors to spooky castles Scotland is considered one of the most haunted countries on Earth, but that dark past only adds to its magical appeal. If you happen to be at Halloween event or have a visiting trick or treaters at your door you may want to think of our Celtic ancestors who celebrated this time of year and marked a new Celtic year ahead, a year filled with opportunity and celebration of those who walked before us, and perhaps are still walking amongst us today...

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

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



Gracing our front cover:
The next generation at the World
Pipe Band Championships.
Photo: Glasgow Life.



Vision for collaboration to make Glen Affric forest reach from coast-to-coast



len Affric National Nature
Reserve could be at the core of
an unprecedented collaboration
between landowners and
communities to create an unparalleled
forest corridor stretching from Scotland's
east to west coast, says a new film
from Forest Enterprise Scotland and
conservation charity Trees for Life.
Narrated by acclaimed cameraman
and filmmaker Gordon Buchanan, the
five-minute film, Glen Affric: A landscape
worth restoring, celebrates 60 years
of forest restoration in the glen and

highlights the opportunities for wildlife and the local economy going forward.

Steve Micklewright, Trees for Life's Chief Executive, said: "The film celebrates the restoration that has been achieved so far – and spotlights the opportunity to raise the bar even higher by creating a wild, coast-to-coast forest that would form a magnet for wildlife and people, creating local jobs in the process."

One of Scotland's finest landscapes Glen Affric, one of Scotland's finest landscapes, is still recovering from a difficult past with some areas planted

with commercial forestry, and browsing damage from high numbers of grazing animals stifling regeneration. But over recent decades, Forest Enterprise Scotland and Trees for Life have brought about a remarkable transformation in the National Nature Reserve which is at the heart of the glen – with a new generation of trees creating a reforested landscape that has seen the return of plants, insects, birds and other wildlife.

Trees are also growing further up the mountains than once thought possible – creating wooded hillsides and a natural tree-line not seen in Scotland for generations. Glen Affric's steady recovery is showing what is possible, and is inspiring more people to give nature a helping hand to ensure a rich, vibrant landscape full of life. However, with this recovery in the glen stuck behind fences to prevent grazing, the new vision is for people to work together so the forest can expand naturally - strengthening traditional livelihoods like deer stalking, and creating new opportunities for local businesses from tourism and timberrelated enterprises.

"The prize could be a coast-to-coast network of wild forest with people earning a living from a landscape patrolled by stags, hunted over by golden eagles and used by red squirrels to spread their range," said Steve Micklewright.

Tartan of the Month Royal Pumpkin Spice 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 (SRT).

Based on the Royal Stewart tartan, this whimsical design (SRT reference: 12232) pays homage to the colours and flavours of the Hallowe'en and holiday season, evoking spicy notes of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, ginger, and of course, pumpkin. This tartan was designed by Deborah Savage and registered in September, 2018.

THE SCOTTISH CLAN AND FAMILY ENCYCLOPAEDIA





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SCOT POURRI

Send us your inquiries on life's little question marks.

Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history?

Ode to Glencoe



We are blessed with a soft day to stand here admiring this rugged glen and the Three Sistersa slow mist on my glasses, drops slowly gathering

and drifting down my blue poncho as my thoughts go back several hundred years to a deep winter, food shared beside the fire,

and good whisky drunk toast and toast alike until the sudden betrayal and brutal deathsslowly forgotten if at all in this land

where blood should not have to fear a brother's hand, where hearts and veins should throb and die in due course and time.

Here we can silently weep with the Sisters, feel the deep, quiet peace of the dead. and wish for them to rest undisturbed.

I do all that, and raise my hand in a slow salute to these sodden crags where now, after days of slow-falling rain,

cold waters gathers atop these ancient heights, find a channel nearby, and sluice downhill, scuttering their noisy way with unbecoming speed. David Black Louisa, Virginia USA

Kirking of the Tartan

The Scottish Heritage Centre organised a Kirking of The Tartan church service on the 1st of July Sunday afternoon at the Scots' Church, Fremantle. The Clan banners were piped into the church by Viv Riley, and the acoustics in the church gave the pipes a beautiful tone which is very seldom heard.

Rev. Stuart McNair Bonnington conducted the service which was very special and traditional. It included bible readings in the Gaelic by Morag Lowe, and a reading by Geoffrey Robertson of an extract from the Declaration of Arbroath. Rev. Bonnington spoke on Celtic Christianity in these modern times, which was very thought-provoking.

Favourite hymns were sung, and after the service, everyone gathered in the church hall for afternoon tea and catching up with friends. It is planned to hold the next Kirking of The Tartan on the first Sunday in July 2019, again at Scots Church Fremantle.

Scottish Heritage Centre is seeking more members to enable it to organise more and different Scottish events. Contact Shirley Oliver on 9457 1945 or e-mail at olivetree@ westnet.com.au, or Helen Cole on 0421 202 727 or e-mail on hjcole@iinet.net.au.

My name is George Sinclair and I am currently Secretary of the Clan Sinclair Association of Canada (CSAC). In my capacity as Secretary, I am responsible for conveying information to our members in Canada about any issue Scottish. We are Members of the Clans And Scottish

Clan Sinclair Association of Canada

Societies of Canada (CASSOC) and disseminate information they provide on a quarterly basis and as well. Recently, I became aware of your

publication which I have perused in part. I found it quite enjoyable and informative. Particularly the story concerning Culloden... what a shame! I am writing to Malcolm Caithness, the 20th Sinclair Earl of Caithness and Hereditary Chief of Clan Sinclair who sits in the House of Lords, to apprize him of our concern about Culloden. Don't know if he is interested or what concern he may have!

However, I am interested in subscribing to your Scottish Banner in a digital format and will advise our members on a more or less, ad hoc basis. In this way, more Scots will find out about the Banner and the issues affecting their homeland. Who knows, some may even want to obtain their own subscription.

You can check us out for Canada at www.clansinclair.ca and the USA at clansinclairusa.org.

Cheers aye, George D. Sinclair Honey Harbour, Ontario Canada

Ed note: Thanks George for contacting us and we hope many Clan Sinclair members can also enjoy getting a copy of the Scottish Banner.

Weans Bridge

I was interested in your interview with Ryan Wells in the May edition of the Scottish Banner. He spoke of the Weans Bridge in Edinburgh. My grandparents lived and brought up their family (my Dad included) in Edinburgh. Their surname and my maiden name is Weans. I've never heard of Weans Bridge, can anyone give me more details of it please? Where it is in Edinburgh and who put the money in. I came to South Australia from a village in Stirlingshire in 1966. My parents, sister and brother did too and we all settled in Adelaide.

I am very eager for a reply. Isabella Brown (Weans) 2/45 Kolapore Ave. Largs North, South Australia 5015 Australia

Family history McDonalds in ritiochry and Highlands of Scotland

I am trying to trace Hugh McDonald who was born in the Pitlochry area, about 1800 and the father of Annie McDonald (born in 1827 and married to Henry Anderson in Dunfermline, in 1849). Any information about Hugh McDonald and his ancestors would be appreciated. The Andersons were based in Dunfermline going back to around 1634.

I am descended through this line through my father's mother, who was Annie McDonald Anderson married to my Grandfather Arthur Jamieson Rogers.

The Rogers ancestors arrived in Australia, from Newburgh, Scotland, in 1836 (being Robert and his son David who followed in 1847.)

Our Anderson ancestor Hugh McDonald Anderson arrived in Australia in around 1874 and settled in a place called Elmore in central Victoria, Australia.

Kind Regards **Jonathan Rogers** E-mail: jr4350@gmail.com

Who "were" the Scots?

Here's a wee question for oor very own Ron Dempsey, we know the modern Scottish race is product of many differing racial blood lines, born out of varying historic settlements in Scotland. I personally am Scots/Irish on my father's side and Anglo/ Welsh on my mother's side, though I see myself as 100% Scottish. Being keen on my Scottish genealogy I can almost tell straight away the origins of a name. The Banner as lately and most interestingly has highlighted our Scottish genetic origins, as you mentioned 10 % of Scottish men are originally descended from the Pictish race, but as we know it would be pretty difficult to define a Pictish surname for certain, but we know for example the families like the Bruce's, Stewart's and Jardine's were Scots of French/ Norman descent, surnames like Lawson and Clarke are Scottish of possible Northumbrian Anglo-Saxon descent, the McLeod's and Gunn's are Scots who can claim Nordic/Viking descent, the Campbell's ,Wallace's and Galbraith's are Scots of Brythonic Briton descent, so many differing races there, but who were the race that were the "Scotti" that gave us our name "the Scots"? We know as much that these Scottish came through ancient Hibernia/Scotia Major bringing the Stone of Destiny to Dalriadan Argyle, but where from before that? The Declaration of Arbroath tantalises us with its historical Scottish annals, almost hinting the "Scots" are the lost tribe of Dan and states the "Scots" defeated the above races, the Picts, the Norman/ Anglo -Saxons, the Vikings, and the Britons, whose descendants within Scotland's borders are very recognisable proud Scots. So we know after millennia of inter marriage who the Scots "are", but the big question is who "were" the original Scots/Scots race, "Scots of Scottish origins " (if they ever really existed) and if so does modern DNA testing point the genetic finger to any particular part of the globe outside of the UK where the Scots race may have possibly originated? Andrew Heaney Brisbane, Queensland Australia

Kings, Castle and "Durty" **Wee Rascals**

Hello Jim, lovely article (Dandelion & Burdock, Scottish Banner, August, 2018) Just a correction on bus colours. Middlesbrough buses were blue and Stockton buses were green. When the Teeside Council was formed, in the 60's, buses from Stockton and

Middlesbrough were all repainted a turquoise colour. United Bus Service which routes around Teesside were red with gold lettering. These went, for us, to Redcar, Saltburn and down to Whitby though we usually took train.

The maroon and white buses were from West Hartlepool. All these buses would have been seen in Stockton's High Street.

As a Middlesbrough lad, I spent a lot of time at Redcar which in the 60's was well patronised and occasionally going further south to the posher Saltburn.

I remember the fishing boats pulling up on the beach to sell fresh cod and the amusement park.

Only went to Seaton Carew a few times, going across the Transporter bridge then catching United Bus.

Kind regards,

John Richards

FROM OUR **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Send your photos or letters via social media

The Vital Spark



Some colour on a moody day at Inveraray always stop off to photograph The Vital Spark.

GN Photography Clydebank, Scotland

Tantallon Castle



It's everything you could want from a Scottish castle! Tantallon Castle at North Berwick. Lisa Stewart

Edradour Distillery



Taken at Edradour Distillery in Pitlochry, Perthshire. Henning McNing Germany

Pose your questions on Scottish related topics to our knowledgeable readership who just may be able to help. Please keep letters under 300 words and we reserve the right to edit content and length. Letters can be emailed to info@scottishbsanner.com or online at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us, alternatively you may post your letters to us (items posted to the Scottish Banner cannot be returned). Please ensure you include your full contact details should you require a reply. This page belongs to our readers so please feel free to take part! New 'suspension bridge' keeps red squirrels safe in Highlands





specially designed rope bridge slung between trees high over a Highlands road is giving red squirrels a safe crossing. Camera footage has revealed regular use of the bridge by the charismatic species. Conservation charity Trees for Life installed the bridge over a road near Shieldaig last summer, as part of its project to reintroduce red squirrels to the northwest Highlands. Footage collected for more than a year from a camera trap has now revealed squirrels from a flourishing new population at Shieldaig crossing the bridge and exploring their new homes.

Together with nearby road signs alerting drivers to the squirrels' presence, the innovative bridge appears to have had a significant impact in reducing road deaths of the species. "Sadly, road traffic is a major risk for wildlife – including red squirrels. We wanted to take positive action to help the red squirrel population spread into the local woodlands as safely as possible. The combination of bridge and road signs definitely appears to be working well, which is great news," said Becky Priestley, Trees for Life's Wildlife Officer. "It's safer for reds to travel in the tree canopy rather than on the ground, so it's likely that if they have the option of using a bridge rather than crossing the road, they will take it. We also installed feeders at each end of the bridge to encourage the squirrels to use it."

Since the bridge and road signs were introduced, there has only been one known red squirrel road death locally, with none reported so far in 2018. In the year prior to the safety measures, there were three reported road deaths of reds in the immediate area, and two others further away on another road. The rope bridge is suspended over the A896 outside

Shieldaig village, alongside the Ben Shieldaig woodland – one of Scotland's few remaining fragments of ancient Caledonian Forest.

Native reds

There have been trials of road bridges for red squirrels in a few other areas of the UK, reportedly with mixed results. Use by squirrels appears to depend on how bridges are sited. At Shieldaig, Trees for Life left trailcams in place for more than a year – allowing enough time for two litters of red squirrels to be born – to monitor whether the population was using the bridge.

The Peoples Trust for Endangered Species says an estimated one million mammals are killed on UK roads each year. Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels has said in recent years that three per cent of red squirrel sightings recorded via its website are dead on roads, with the actual figure perhaps far higher. Today only an estimated 120,000 reds remain in Scotland, their numbers decimated by reduction of their forest homes to isolated remnants. Grey squirrels, introduced to the UK in the 1800s, also outcompete the native reds, and spread the squirrel pox virus – to which they are immune but which is lethal to reds.

For the last three years, Trees for Life has been carefully relocating red squirrels from their strongholds in Inverness-shire and Moray to isolated fragments of suitable Highland forest where reds would once have lived, but to which they cannot return on their own. The successful project has seen 140 red squirrels released so far, including at Shieldaig. The reintroduced populations have been seen exploring their new woodland homes, and they have been breeding and spreading into new areas. Numerous young squirrels have been sighted at the release sites throughout 2018.



Clan Buchanan to have first Chief in 337 years



or the first time since 1681, Clan
Buchanan will have a clan chief to
represent millions of clansmen and
clanswomen around the world. The
clan, one of the largest and most ancient
in Scotland, will be led by John Michael
Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan, now known
as The Buchanan. The chiefship of Clan
Buchanan was last held by his ancestral
kinsman, John Buchanan, until his death
without a male heir in 1681.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms, the head of Lyon Court which regulates Scottish heraldry, has formally upheld a petition for Mike Buchanan to assume the chiefship of the clan.

Chiefship of Clan Buchanan

It follows decades of genealogical research conducted by renowned genealogist Hugh Peskett, who famously traced President Ronald Reagan's Irish ancestry in the 1980s. He became a genealogist 50 years ago after his grandmother (a Buchanan clanswoman herself) urged him to find the rightful Buchanan chief. He researched lineage back to 1370 and established references in more than 300 documents from around the world to verify the claim to the chiefship of Clan Buchanan.

The Buchanan said: "I am honoured and proud that my claim to the chiefship of Clan Buchanan has been upheld by Lord Lyon.

"There has not been a chief for a very long time – over 337 years – but there is a thriving community of Buchanan clansmen, clanswomen and septs around the world. I look forward to meeting members of the clan, committing myself to clan matters in Scotland and attending some of the popular clan functions that take place overseas.

"My family has been acknowledged as leaders of one of the principal clan septs, the Buchanans of Leny and Arnprior, for many years but we have also believed that we had a good case for the overall chiefship. It has been a long journey to prove our lineage.

"We first approached the Lyon Court informally over 20 years ago and it has taken decades of genealogical research to back up our claim – I am indebted to Hugh Peskett, my fellow Buchanan clansman, for his meticulous research and enduring tenacity."

The world's oldest clan society Genealogist Hugh Peskett said: "As a clansman of the Clan Buchanan, it was absolutely fascinating to delve into the history and ancestry of one of the oldest clans in Scotland. Tracing hundreds of years of lineage and unpacking the secrets of the past is no mean feat!

"My research took decades to compile and unequivocally confirms the chiefship claim. This is a historic moment for Clan Buchanan and I am truly privileged to have played my part. I believe my grandmother would be incredibly proud of what we have achieved."

While the Clan Buchanan can be traced back to 1010 AD in Scotland, it now has several million members across Great Britain, the United States of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Jamaica among many other



countries. Over five million people bear one of the recognised clan names, although not all will be clan members.

They are represented by the world's oldest clan society, the Buchanan Society, which was established in 1725 to support members of the clan in times of hardship, and the worldwide Clan Buchanan Society International.

For the first time since 1681, Clan Buchanan will have a clan chief to represent millions of clansmen and clanswomen around the world.

David J. Byrne, President of Clan Buchanan Society International, Inc., said: "On behalf of the Clan Buchanan Society International, I offer my sincerest congratulations to John Michael Buchanan on his being confirmed by the Court of the Lord Lyon as Chief of the Name and Arms of Buchanan.

"After 337 years our Clan is complete once again and we celebrate this historic event. I look forward to working with Michael as we continue to grow the traditions, history and honor of our Clan name. I join with Clan members of the name Buchanan and our many other sept names around the world in welcoming Michael as our chief!"

The Clan Buchanan Society International flies a banner at Highland games around the world which features a lion rampant with tears of sorrow to represent the sadness of clansmen without a chief.

Did you know? The new chief is the manager of

- The new chief is the manager of Cambusmore Estate in the Southern Highlands near Callander. He has four children with his wife The Lady Buchanan including heir apparent, Angus John Buchanan younger of that Ilk, Bruce, Lucy and Rory.
- As well as those with the surname Buchanan, clansmen and women also include those with Scottish roots and surnames such as Bohannon, Coleman, Colman, Cormack, Dewar, Dove, Dow, Gibb, Gibbon, Gibb, Gibson, Gilbert, Gilbertson, Harper, Masters, Masterson, Morris, Morrison (some only), Richardson, Rush, Rusk, Walter, Walters, Wasson, Waters, Watson, Watt, Watters and Weir. These are known as septs.
- Clan Chiefs must be approved by the Lord Lyon King of Arms. The Lord Lyon, through the Lyon Court, has full judicial powers to enforce use of heraldry and coats of arms in Scotland as a "Court of Chivalry" and it is the last surviving court of chivalry in the world. Its powers are governed by an Act of the Scots Parliament in 1672. The court sits with judge and advocates in wigs and robes.

SCOTSPEAK

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

"It's a remarkable achievement. I'm full of admiration. What you've managed to do is truly splendid and will make such a difference to Glasgow."

Prince Charles, the Duke of Rothesay, said on a visit to Glasgow's Willow Tea Rooms, which date back to 1903. The Willow Tea Rooms Trust has overseen a £10m, fouryear restoration of the A-listed property, which is of international significance as it was the only building where Charles Rennie Mackintosh had complete control over the architecture and interior decorations.



"With Scottish Gins sweeping the board and picking up a number of awards in 2018 at some of the world's most prestigious and respected spirits competitions, the reputation of Scottish Gin as being amongst the best in the world has been firmly established. Scotland as a food and drink producing country is seen as a benchmark for quality so we wanted to create a day that celebrates Scottish Gin as one of Scotland's newer, premium drinks."

The Gin Cooperative co-founder Natalie Reid said as International Scottish Gin Day has been set for August 3rd, 2019. International Scottish Gin Day will help a global audience discover the wonderful world of Scottish Gin and aims to create a special day established to raise the profile of Scottish Gin.

"Macallan single malt is the darling of whisky collectors and The Macallan Adami 1926 with its Peter Blake stablemate - sits at the very pinnacle of the distillery's distinguished output. All the appeal of Scotch whisky - the myth, the tradition and the romance - find its ultimate expression in this bottle."

International whisky consultant Charles MacLean said as a 60-year-old Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 is going under the hammer in Edinburgh on October 3. Only 12 bottles were ever produced and the exceptional rarity and quality of the whisky bottle mean it is estimated to sell for between £700,000 and £900,000.



"It is believed that around 9 million people have climbed the 246 steps of the Monument since it opened. Undoubtedly many of these visitors will have fond memories of their visit and we'd love to hear them. We hope to receive some fascinating photos or hear untold stories from visitors around the world."

The National Wallace Monument's Marketing Manager Ken Thomson said as past visitors and fans of the Monument are invited to share their own photographs and memories to The National Wallace Monument's #Wallace150 Facebook group, and it is expected that some fascinating stories and anecdotes from the past will be discovered. Since opening its doors in 1869, The National Wallace Monument has been welcoming visitors from around the world and telling the story of Scotland's national hero for 149 years. Commemorative activities and events marking the Monument's 150th anniversary will be announced at the beginning of 2019.

"We are beyond thrilled to mark our third consecutive £1m donations in support for military, veterans and the arts. A strong component of this year's donation has been awarded to organisations that will continue to engage people, especially young people, with the Armed Forces; support and care for veterans as well as inspiring the next generation of musicians and dancers. All of this will help to sustain the Tattoo and all that lies behind."

Rucelle Soutar, head of finance for The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, said as the Tattoo has announced they will distribute £1m between 13 charities after another sell-out year. They include the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, Army in Scotland Trust and Scottish National War Memorial. The Tattoo has donated more than £11m to charity since the event began in 1950.



"The thrill for many of seeing and hearing a steam locomotive tackling the snow-covered gradients of Britain's best-loved scenic train journey will be sorely missed this year."

The chairman of Friends of the West Highland Lines, Doug Carmichael, said as the winter services of the hugely popular Harry Potter train have had to be cancelled for maintenance. Due to recent heat and drought in Scotland necessary maintenance work must now be carried on the trains that serve The Jacobite Steam Train, which runs from Fort William to Mallaig. A highlight of the 84 mile route is the 21-arched Glenfinnan viaduct, a location made famous in the *Harry Potter* film franchise.

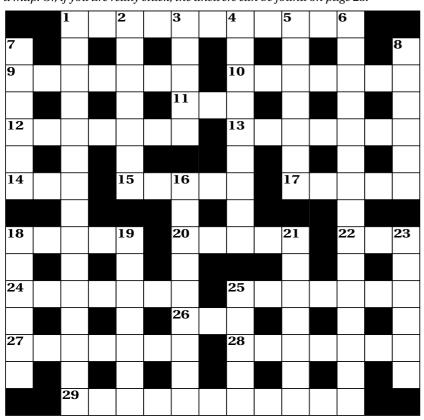


"The current funding landscape for the project is one of continued austerity. A realistic option is therefore to seek significant private investment to add into the potential funding mix, for example an interested hotel operator or wealthy individuals with an interest in Rum, Kinloch Castle and the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. If secured, significant private investment, working in conjunction with KCFA, would provide the opportunity for Kinloch Castle to be redeveloped as proposed, with Phase 1 delivering hostel accommodation initially, and Phases 2 and 3 resulting in high quality hotel rooms and external facilities. This would in turn provide a social and economic impact locally (Phase 1) and for the wider benefit of Lochaber and the West Coast (Phase 2). This is an exciting and challenging project which requires a wide range of skills and expertise to implement it effectively, together with a complex funding package likely to include private sector funds."

A spokesperson for the Kinloch Castle Friends Association (KCFA) said as the 118 year old Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum is looking for private investors as it falls into disrepair. The castle functioned as a hotel until 1996, and then as a hostel until it was closed to overnight visitors in 2013. If alternatives are not found the building may be demolished.

SCOTWO

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



CLUES ACROSS

1 Scotland's Playground (7,4)

9 Village 3 miles south of Lochmaben (7)

10 Old Scots wall linings (7)

11 The gift of speech! (3) 12 Italians by Scots (7)

13 Run of the mill (7) 14 Provider of warmth (3)

15 But never last! (5)

17 Old hands! (5)

18 Referee (5)

20 Regimental alternative to kilts (5)

22 Play 1 Across and get one (3)

24 Prettier in Scotland (7)

25 Erica's flower (7)

26 North-east flower! (3)

27 Scotland's emblem (7)

28 Red cents! (7)

CLUES DOWN

1 Colourful games attraction (8,7)

2 A Village 3 miles south of Crieff (7)

3 The last of the drink (5) 4 Village 1 mile south of Dalkeith (9)

5 Deer tops! (7)

6 Low range east of Dumbarton (10, 5.)

7 Wishaw location sounds like gunfire(6)

8 We islands (6)

16 The ship's back (9)

18 Highland Dress accessories (6)

19 Old correspondence (7)

21 Marine winger (7)

23 Religious district (6)

25 Long-legged kin of 21 Down (5)

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By: Ron Dempsey

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



t's an anniversary of sorts for me this month. Way back in October, 1985 my first column on surnames appeared in *the Scottish Banner*. I had been an avid reader of the Banner since its first copy appeared in July of 1976. Back then, I wondered if readers would share my interest in the origins and meanings of Scottish Surnames. After writing a rough prototype for a column on the subject I submitted it in September of that year and waited for a response. I received one from founding editor Val Cairney with one critique, she requested if I could make the column longer. While some months and some names submitted to me have been challenging, it has been for the most part a labour of love these past 33 years.

Where is your surname from?

Surnames in Scotland

Let's go back and have a simplistic view of how surnames evolved in Scotland. While that same progress in the use of surnames was similar all over Europe, Scotland was one of the first to employ them. If you can imagine life in medieval Scotland, some 600 to a 1000 years ago, there was a low population. Communities consisted of villages near castles, cluster of homes on farms, and some very small towns. As most people never traveled more than five miles from their homes everyone knew each other and first names were enough to identify each other. As conditions improved over the centuries and populations grew so do the need for surnames. The first strata of the population to use them was the nobility and they were identified by the land holdings, names such as Meldrum, Gordon, Rattray, Mar etc. The time came when common people needed surnames to identify themselves when the limited personal names weren't enough.

The four main types of surnames came in play. Land names both specific and generic, such as Leith or Hill, Patronyms

or named after parents, Richard, Wills, Ibbitson. The Gaelic version being Mac. Occupations or offices such as Carpenter or Stewart. Lastly, nicknames, by names or tee names which were usually descriptive of the individual, physical characteristics, such as Lang and Little, or mannerisms such as Proud or Meek.

Use of surnames

Let's look at a scenario where surnames were evolving and see where an individual could have had more than one surname. We'll call this individual Robert. He was born in the lands of Pollock, where he was

It's an anniversary of sorts for me this month. Way back in October, 1985 my first column on surnames appeared in *the Scottish Banner*.

raised by his family and his father was named Alexander but known to his friends as Sander. When Robert was born, he had a slight infirmity that gave a slight bend in his leg. At twelve years old he worked in his father's trade of installing roofing slates. He completed his training he set off to try his luck in the Cathedral town of Glasgow. Since at this time surnames were not fixed but were used in different situations. Therefore to Robert's father's peers he was known as Rab Sanders, to his chums growing up and due to his impediment he was known as Rab Cuickshank. As he gained independence from his trade he would have been in his area as Rab Slater. When he moved to Glasgow there was already a Rab Slater in the neighbourhood so became known as Rab Pollock.

This is a scenario where all four types of surnames might have been applied

to an individual. Now the fun part is that his sons may have taken any one of the names as their own surname and passed it along to future generations.

It is conceivable that four men today could be descendants of the above mentioned Rab if they bear the surnames, Sanders, Cruickshank, Slater or Pollock. If this was a real life scenario, their relationship could be proved with the use of a Y-DNA test. Y-DNA is only carried through the male and is passed from father to son over the generations. I hope this was a fun in helping you understand the beginning of the use of surnames.

Stirrat

Roisin Stirrat, who lives in Australia asked about her own surname Stirrat. Her grandfather James Stirrat was from Ayrshire. Stirrat, Stirret, or Starrat appears to be very much an Ayrshire name, particularly in the parish of Dalry. It has its origins for a place named Stairiard, pronounced Stirie, near the present day village of Stair. It is recorded as early as 1493, where John Sterehede witnessed a document. The Clan Douglas Society claims the name as an associate name. The name Stairaird being a name of a farm held within Douglas lands and its meaning in Gaelic is a path over a bog.

Scotti

Mr. Andrew Heaney of Brisbane, Australia wrote to pose a what could be a very difficult question. After mentioning in his letter the historical make up of Scotland today from Vikings, Normas, Picts, Welsh etc. He posed this particular question:

"Who were the race that were the "Scotti" that gave us our name "the Scots"? We know as much that these Scottish came through ancient Hibernia/Scotia Major bringing the Stone of Destiny to Dalriadan Argyle, but where from before that? The Declaration of Arbroath tantalises us with its historical Scottish annals, almost hinting the "Scots" are the lost tribe of Dan and states the "Scots" defeated the above races, the Picts, the Norman/Anglo -Saxons, the Vikings, and the Britons, whose descendants within Scotland's borders are very recognisable proud Scots. So we know after millennia of inter marriage who the Scots "are", but the big question is who "were" the original Scots/Scots race, "Scots of Scottish origins " (if they ever really existed) and if so does modern DNA testing point the genetic finger to any particular part of the globe outside of the UK where the Scots race may have possibly originated?"

Having only an interest in our history and the languages of the Scots and not being an accredited historian, I can only offer my thoughts from various readings. The Scots today are those people who wished to be known by that title as either native born or residents of Scotland.

Who were the original people who gave us their name is difficult to define. With so many tribes or races of people that are known by what other people call them it can be unclear as to what name they wished to be known.

An example is the Welsh or Wales from the Old English meaning stranger or foreigner. This is a name I'm sure the original Welsh people wouldn't have called themselves. Thus, it was probably the same for the original Scots. I couldn't find a definitive meaning for the actual word Scot but there are more than a few suggestions of what the name means.

The Romans referred to all Gaels as Scoti, however later the name seemed to apply to those in the northern part of Ireland and the Isles of Scotland. The root of the word is not clearly defined but seems to be for one "cut -off" or a swarm or horde. In other words rebellious non-compliant people such as the Vikings were to the Norse. Over the centuries as Latin was used as a means of official communication, their word Scoti became the word for the land and people north of England no matter to what languages or races they belonged.

I wish I could give a more scholarly answer but I hope this helps explain their origins and give readers impetus to do further readings.

We hope you have a wonderful October and be especially careful of the witches and goblins and the odd super heroes that my come knocking on your door on the 31st.

Ross Fountain flows again



ork has been completed on Edinburgh's Ross Fountain which has seen the A-listed monument returned to its former glory.

Crafted in Antione Durenne's foundry in France in the early 1800s, the structure was gifted to the city by local gunsmith Daniel Ross. The year-long the £1.9M restoration project under the Ross Development Trust will see new foundations and waterworks, enabling the fountain to operate for the first time in eight years.

Edinburgh's Lord Provost, Frank Ross, said: "Edinburgh boasts statues and monuments at almost every turn. Yet, out of the 200 monuments in our care, the Ross Fountain stands out as one of the most timeless. Since being installed in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle in 1872, it has become one of the most recognisable features of Princes Street Gardens."

Culloden heather used to thatch Leanach Cottage



eather collected from Culloden Moor is being used to rethatch Leanach Cottage on the historic battlefield. Purpleflowering heather, collected fresh from Culloden Moor, is being used by expert Hebridean thatcher Neil Nicholson and his apprenticeship partner Marion to re-thatch the roof at Leanach Cottage. The thatching is part of the Trust's ongoing conservation project at Leanach Cottage before it reopens to visitors later in the year.

"We feel really proud to be working here," says Neil, who has been a thatcher for 23 years and is enjoying working on this Conservation in Action project at one of Scotland's most important heritage sites. Their work is generating lots of interest from visitors who are taking the opportunity to talk to the experts as they carry out this specialised task that will protect the historic cottage for years to come. "We're getting lots of questions from visitors," adds Marion, "such as "how long will it last?" and "What are you thatching the roof with?"

Fellow Hebridean Thatching Services team member and heather cutter Archie Campbell is supplying Neil and Marion with the material to replace the 1.5 feet of heather which used to cover the cottage. 'We use whatever is growing locally,' explains Neil. 'Heather was on it before,

with reed beneath for waterproofing. We need a good-size heather – the longer the better. Archie's getting the best stuff.'

Part of the Culloden story

Stones will be used to weigh down the rabbit netting, which will eventually cover the thatch and help it settle down. This conservation work is being done with grant aid from Historic Environment Scotland, and each phase and material being used is historically authentic. For example, hazel spears are used to fix the thatch to the supporting roof beams underneath.

Raoul Curtis-Machin, Operations Manager at Culloden Battlefield and Visitor Centre says: 'Here at the National Trust for Scotland we are working towards a vision where Scotland's heritage is valued by everyone and protected for future generations. This is a good example of our charity's vision in action.' Raoul continues: "This very special cottage, which was occupied until 1912, is the only building remaining on the battlefield from the time of the conflict. Government forces burned down the barns associated with the cottage when wounded Jacobite soldiers were found hiding there." Raoul adds: "Our many visitors from both the UK and overseas are so interested in Leanach Cottage and we are looking forward to opening the doors once again and allowing people to experience this part of the Culloden story."

One of the most harrowing battles in British history

On 16 April 1746, the final Jacobite Rising came to a brutal head in one of the most harrowing battles in British history. Jacobite

supporters, seeking to restore the Stuart monarchy to the British thrones, gathered to fight the Duke of Cumberland's government troops. It was the last pitched battle on British soil and, in less than an hour, around 1,600 men were slain -1,500 of them Jacobites.

The richly researched, stimulating and sensitive Culloden Visitor Centre, which stands beside the battlefield, features artefacts from both sides of the battle and interactive displays that reveal the background to the conflict. It is both a monument and a guide to a pivotal day in history.

The work at Leanach Cottage is part of the National Trust for Scotland's programme to invest almost $\pounds 60$ million over the next five years.





Top 11 spooky places to visit in Scotland

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

1. Scotland's Spookiest Street



Mary King's Close, Edinburgh. The street leading from Edinburgh Castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse is known as "The Royal Mile", with dark and spooky lanes leading off. One, Mary King's Close, was bricked up during an outbreak of plague and only recently re-opened. Said to be the most haunted place in the Scottish capital, the spirit of a young girl has often been seen. Guided tours will take you to the close, Greyfriars cemetery, where the ghosts of covenanters who were tortured and executed linger, and also to the place where body snatchers Burke and Hare first dug up corpses to sell for use in medical experiments.

2. Roslyn Chapel

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

3. Spooky Stirling

Stirling Castle was the home to the Kings and Queens of Scotland. Trouble, intrigue and death were never far from their walls. Stirling is not short of a ghost story or two. Some of their origins are clear, others are shrouded in even more secrets. The Pink Lady falls into the latter category.

Some say she was a pretty noblewoman engaged to a brave knights who starved to death inside Stirling Castle – while under an English siege in 1304 - during the Wars of Independence. She in turn died, not from malnourishment but from the pain of a broken heart.

Her spirit roams the castle awaiting the day their souls will be entwined once more.

Others say she is Mary Witherspoon, a victim of Grave Robbers who sold bodies to educated men for dissection. While the robbers were brought to justice her ghost still seeks her mortal remains. People report a faint scent of rose-blossom in the air before she appears, her favourite flower.

4. Fyvie Castle

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

5. Cruden Bay

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

6. Cawdor Castle

Shakespeare's Macbeth was given the title of Thane of Cawdor in the classic story or power and revenge. While the castle did not exist during the time of the real Macbeth, could the stories of Cawdor Castle, close to Nairn near inverness, be stranger than Shakespeare's fiction.

One ghost is thought to be the daughter of and earl of Cawdor. A wayward lass who insulted her father by flattering an enemy chieftain's son. When the Earl discovered their tryst she fled to the highest tower of the castle as he followed in murderous pursuit. She lowered herself from the window to escape the threats of her father. He showed no mercy and chopped off her hands sending her to her death.

Visitors have reported seeing the ghost of this handless girl still roaming the castle.

7. Dunstaffnage Castle

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

8. The Home of Walter Scott at Abbotsford House

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

9. Culloden Moor



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

10. Edinburgh Castle

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

11. Overton Bridge

A modern day mystery, the Overton Bridge in West Dunbartonshire has been the site of many unexplained dog suicides. The dogs are reported to take the plunge from exact same spot on the same side of the bridge. Some of those lucky enough to survive are said to return moments later to try again. It is alleged Overton Bridge has taken the lives of 50 unfortunate canine companions.

There have been many attempts to explain the phenomena. Some think the problem lies with mink trails leading over the side of the bridge. However, in Celtic beliefs Overton Bridge is called a "thin place" where the realms of the living and the dead cross. Others believe that dogs are super sensitive to the spirits and spooked enough by the bridge to take their own lives.





By: Joanne Warnock

Queen unveils new Duke of Rothesay Highland Games Pavilion at Braemar Gathering





he Queen expressed her "delight" as she unveiled the new Duke of Rothesay Highland Games Pavilion during her annual family outing to the Braemar Gathering. The £2.5 million heritage centre has been named after Prince Charles in recognition of his bond with the area, and the project was partly funded and driven by the Prince's Foundation – taking just one year to build. It will open to the public next year and showcases the history of the Highland Games in Braemar and across the world.

Great future for the Highland Games

Leading the royal tour of the new property, David Geddes, president of Braemar Royal Highland Society, said he hoped the exhibition would become a draw for people from across the globe. He added: "I think this is part of a great future for the Highland Games – it will be a major boost to tourism in Deeside and will hopefully attract more people. I'm delighted it's happening during my spell as president."

The Queen joined the throng of 15,000 visitors who descended upon the Deeside village to soak up the pageantry, piping and spectacle of the traditional Highland Games event. The picturesque community has played host and provided the stunning backdrop for the event for 203 years and this year marks the 170th anniversary of its Royal Family links. Though it is not an official royal event, the Queen chooses to attend while she holidays at nearby Balmoral Castle. This year Her Majesty was joined by Prince Charles, Princess Anne and her husband Sir Timothy Laurence.



Princess Anne and the monarch, who was wearing a striking jade green dress suit, were both presented with floral posies by Braemar youngsters Esme Evans, 11 and Fern Jolly, 10. Speaking afterwards the girls said they would remember the day "forever" and revealed they had chatted to the royals about their dancing.

One of the icons of Aberdeenshire

Marking their centenary, the RAF chose the Gathering as one of its main RAF100 events - a C130 Hercules from RAF Brize Norton performed a fly-by to the delight of the crowds. The royal party looked in appreciation while cabers were tossed and hammers were flung as the heavies battled it out and children taking part in the sack race bounded excitedly across the finish line. A total of 11 bands from Ayrshire to Fraserburgh marched together around the arena and this year were joined by the Pipes and Drums of Canada and the RAF Central Scotland Pipe Band.

Aberdeenshire Council chief executive Jim Savage donned his trainers and took part in the open hill race, alongside 126 other competitors. He said: "This is one of the icons of Aberdeenshire. It's my third time competing at Braemar - and I'm delighted with my time of 36 minutes."

Compering the event again, Robert Lovie welcomed the Queen and sang the national anthem, with backing from a new arrangement written by Aberdeen composer Paul Mealor. The popular entertainer later introduced the Queen to the Highland Games Pavilion sponsors as she toured

the new building and said she had been "delighted" with the new facility. Mr Lovie added: "We are so proud of the building and so proud to announce that it is named after the Duke of Rothesay. The Queen was really pleased with it."

The project has been generously supported by a number of local donors including hoteliers Iwan and Manuela Wirth, Irene Kauffman, James Milne of the Balmoral Group, and Baxters of Speyside. Mr Milne, of the Balmoral Group, met the Queen inside the Milne Gallery and said he thought the finished room was "fantastic". Exhibits include paraphernalia from Highland Games and Gatherings, such as medals and trophies, and partner The Scottish Tartans Authority will also contribute to the collection.

The facility also provides a new headquarters for the Braemar Royal Highland Society and is expected to open to the public early in 2019.

This feature was originally reported in the Press and Journal and the Scottish Banner thanks the author for kind permission to reprint.





All images courtesy of the Braei



reetings from Scotland where the leaves are turning and the mists start to gather. Yes, there's definitely a nip around. And that's nothing to do with whisky. Actually, when you think about it, why do they call something so satisfyingly warming a nip? I prefer the word 'dram'. Even though I don't drink the stuff. Which is probably as well. I love wine and could get well-used to whisky, if I really tried...

The chief, of course, adores it – and is happy with both blends and malts. He has a whole cabinet full of different bottles, including ones brought over by our Australian and American friends. Now those are friends indeed! Yes, the MacGregor loves his whisky. Then what self-respecting clan chief does not?! He is therefore most interested to hear of my recent trip to a restored distillery.

The Annandale Distillery

The Annandale Distillery at Annan in south-west Scotland is one of the country's oldest operating distilleries. It was set up in 1836 and was once part of the Johnny Walker empire. At the end of the

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

Lady MacGregor of MacGregor – otherwise known as British broadcaster Fiona Armstrong. Fiona is currently news reading for the BBC, but she also leaves the studio 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.



First World War, though, production was stopped and the place fell into disrepair. And that's how it stayed for nine decades. Until it was rescued by an entrepreneur on a mission to see whisky flowing in this part of southern Scotland.

Now, a century on from its closure, single malts are again being made, with two brands - Man o'Sword and Man o'Words - remembering local heroes: Robert the Bruce, King of Scots and Earl of Annandale, and Robert Burns, poet and local exciseman.

Today there are over one hundred active distilleries in Scotland - and whilst folk often associate them with being in the Highlands and Islands, the Lowlands and Borderlands are starting to give them a run for their money. The newly-opened Borders Distillery in Hawickis the first whisky distillery in the Scottish Borders since 1837 and to celebrate this Scotch revival 1837 casks of amber nectar are being offered for sale.

Big Trees

However, you need a clear head when working. And this month my job takes me to film at Dawyck Botanic Gardens near Peebles. Gardens that are open to the public are big business in Scotland. They bring hundreds of millions of pounds to the economy and at Dawyck we find a feast of trees and shrubs, among them Giant Redwoods, or Wellingtonia.

The Scots-born American naturalist, John Muir, simply called them Big Trees - and ours are probably less impressive than yours. The ones we have are just 200 years old, mere babies compared to those growing in other parts of the world. It is still awesome to stand by these towering giants of the sky. And to think that they started from seeds brought back to Scotland from America in the 19th century by an English plant hunter.

It is still awesome to stand by these towering giants of the sky. And to think that they started from seeds brought back to Scotland from America in the 19th century by an English plant hunter.

Then there are the Douglas Firs - and that is another story. David Douglas was a Scottish botanist. Born in 1799 in the village of Scone outside Perth, he worked as an apprentice gardener at Scone Palace before moving on to Glasgow Botanical Gardens. Later David Douglas was sent on a plant hunting expedition to America and Hawaii – and it was in 1826, in the Pacific North West that he sent the first Douglas Fir seeds

back to his home country. These ended up in the gardens of Scotland's great castles and stately homes – and the rest is history. Now every country estate here boasts a Douglas Fir. In the gardens at Dawyck there is a life-sized wooden statue of David Douglas. It remembers his work as a botanist. And, because he mixed with the indigenous people of North America, there is also a dramatic sculpture of a First Nations figure.

Dawyck is a paradise for walkers – and it would be for dogs, too, but only registered assistance pets are allowed into the grounds. Which is a blow for the MacNaughties who would love to be darting in and out of the trees. But both dogs are being cautious at the moment after getting stung by bees at home as they sniffed about in the undergrowth. The spaniel was chasing round and flapping his ears. The naughty Norfolk just sat there, completely dazed.

I, meanwhile, have also had an unwished-for experience. Yes, sometimes, even the Queen's personal representative must roll up her sleeves. The chief was away. The heavens opened. Water was threatening to overrun the courtyard and there was nothing for it. I found a bucket, put on a pair of rubber gloves and cleared a drain. Getting down and dirty proved therapeutic. To hear that satisfying gurgle as the rising tide disappeared down a clear channel. Just don't tell the MacGregor, or he will expect me to do this the next time it happens...

Scottish Halloween traditions



ike many ancient festivals,
Samhain has continued despite
the coming of Christianity.
November 1st was henceforth to
be All Saints Day. The night before was
Eve of All Saints Day, or All Hallows Eve.

But while the name might have changed, old habits persisted. Halloween was a time when witches and warlocks might walk abroad, engaged in wicked practices. In many parts of Scotland it was customary to leave an empty chair and a plate of food for invisible guests. People believed that it was the night when the souls of the dead were set free to roam.

They might come into their houses and eat at their tables. The hour before midnight was the witching hour when the departed returned. Silence was marked as the chimes of midnight rang out.

It's not hard to understand why, in Scotland of all places, Halloween continued to be important. Much of the nation's history involves the supernatural. From the witches of Macbeth as imagined by William Shakespeare to the real burning of women, accused of working with the devil, in a rash of satanic trials during the seventeenth century. There is a special atmosphere in many parts of Scotland even to this

day where, as daylight fades, the flames of Halloween bonfires show up ancient ramparts of castles and buildings where devilish deeds once may have been done.

Sufficient spookiness

Robert Burns, Scotland's greatest bard, wrote extensively of how ancient beliefs had survived well into the Christian era, as he twisted stories of witchcraft and the devil with the traditions kept alive during Halloween. What is remarkable is how so much of the pagan past persists to this day. Bonfires, which once were lit to scare away the undead, still illuminate the October sky. Lanterns, which in Scotland were always carved out of turnips, are fashioned for the same purpose. Until recently trick or treat was unknown in Scotland. Instead children here dressed up in old clothes,

Halloween was a time when witches and warlocks might walk abroad, engaged in wicked practices.

or pretended to be evil spirits and went guising. The custom traces back to a time when it was thought that by disguising children in this way they would blend in with the spirits that went abroad that night. Any such child who approached a house would be given an offering to ward off evil. These days children who knock on their neighbours doors have to sing for their supper. Or tell stories for a gift of sweets or money.

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

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

As part of the Tweed Valley Forest Festival in November 2008, the town of Peebles set the world record for the most amount of people to dook for apples at one time. Amongst the 70-strong participants was a local MP and a councillor.

The modern world has had an effect on some of these customs. Pumpkins are now as common as turnips for lanterns. Children turn up shouting trick or treat and expect gifts without having to perform, and traditional songs and games are dying out in some areas. But there is still sufficient spookiness in old Scotland to ensure that the Halloween rituals will be as everlasting as the spirits that are said to return to earth when dusk arrives on October 31st.

By: Bethany Bisaillion - P/M Sons of Scotland Pipe Band

The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band tour Scotland





he Sons of Scotland Pipe Band of Ottawa, Canada took their 15th annual journey to Scotland this past August, and along with a turn



at the World Pipe Band Championships and performances in Edinburgh and Glasgow, they took the entire group – all 100 of them - up to the Highlands to play at Glencoe, Culloden, Portree and more. The band also were accompanied by dancers from four different schools across Canada, who entertained the crowds at every wonderful stop they made.

Royal performance

Along with pipers and drummers from the USA, Scotland, and 3 different regions in Australasia (Ambulance Victoria Pipes and Drums-Australia, New Zealand Police Pipe Band, St. Andrews Caledonia-Tasmania, Australia, Scottish players Craig Weir, Jack Spence, Caitlin Shanks from 2622 Highland Squadron, Scotland and the Citadel Regiment Band, South Carolina, USA), they ended their 11 day trip by adding another 50 people to the guest list with a performance for Her Majesty The Queen at her home at Balmoral Castle near Ballater. An expert performance enjoyed by four generations of Royals, the band enjoyed a lovely visit with Her Majesty after the performance, and everyone came away with wonderful memories and great photos of the day. This was the band's 4th performance at Balmoral, and perhaps not their last!

A great journey with even greater people, and we look forward to next year's trip.

For further details on the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band, Canada's oldest civilian pipe band founded in 1896, visit: www.sospb.com

















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ield Marshal Montgomery Pipe
Band from Northern Ireland have
been named the World Pipe Band
Champions for 2018. They fought off
stiff competition from Inveraray and District
who finished second and St Laurence
O'Toole who were third. 214 Pipe Bands
brought around 8000 pipers and drummers
to Glasgow Green to compete at the World
Pipe Band Championships. Over 30,000
people attended the event over 2 days.

Bands from 13 nations including.
New Zealand, Australia, Denmark,
France, Canada, Oman, Switzerland,
Zimbabwe, Eire, USA, England,
Northern Ireland and Scotland took
part. Up to 40% of the competitors
this year were under the age of 25. The
World Pipe Band Championships is
part of the Partner Programme for the
Year of Young People 2018. The Year of
Young People 2018 provides a platform



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to promote and celebrate the talents, achievements and contributions of Scotland's incredible young people.

The first ever World Pipe Band Championships were held at Murrayfield in Edinburgh in 1947. The event was first held in Glasgow in 1948 and has been staged in the city continuously since 1986.

Hugely talented pipers and drummers

Glasgow's Lord Provost Eva Bolander, who was Chieftain of the World Pipe Band Championships 2018 said: "My heartiest congratulations to everyone who competed at the World Pipe Band Championships. Glasgow is always delighted to welcome so many bands and their supporters and we remain proud to be the host city for The Worlds. It has been a wonderful occasion that is as memorable for the extraordinary musicianship as it is

for the incredible sight of 8000 competitors on Glasgow Green.

Ian Embelton, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association said: "The World Pipe Band Championships has always had the capacity to bring the very best out of the hugely talented pipers and drummers that work so hard in their bands to be the best. This year, we have been treated to a wonderful example of how compelling and dramatic this competition is, even though it is always contested in the best possible spirit. As always, the pursuit of perfection has been a joy to watch and to listen to."

As well as the best Pipe Bands in the world, the event also hosts Highland Games, Highland Dancing and a great showcase of Scottish food and drink.

The 2019 World Pipe Band Championships will again take place at Glasgow Green on 16 and 17 August, 2019. For more details see: www.theworlds.co.uk



The 2018 World Pipe Band Championships results

Grade 1

1st Field Marshal Montgomery (Northern Ireland)

2nd Inveraray & District (Scotland)

3rd St. Laurence O'Toole (Ireland)

4th Scottish Power (Scotland)

5th Simon Fraser University (Canada)

6th Police Scotland Fife (Scotland)

Drumming: St. Laurence O'Toole (Ireland)

Grade 2

1St City of Dunedin (USA)

2nd St. Thomas Alumni (USA)

3rd Closkelt (Northern Ireland) 4th Manorcunningham (Ireland)

5thWorcester Kiltie (USA)

6th Peel Regional Police (Canada)

7th Ravara (Northern Ireland)

8th MacKenzie Caledonian (Scotland)

9th Los Angeles Scots (USA)

10th North Stratton (Canada) 11th New Ross & District (Ireland)

12th Bucksburn and District (Scotland)

Grade 3A

1St Royal Burgh of Annan (Scotland)

2nd Port Lethen & District (Scotland)

3rd Perth Metro (Australia)

4th Stockbridge (Scotland)

5th Uddingston Strathclyde (Scotland) 6th The Highlanders 4 Scots (Scotland)

Drumming: St. Joseph's (Ireland)

Grade 3B

1St Pasadena Scottish (USA)

2nd Battlehill (Scotland)

3rd St. Mary's Derrytrasna (Northern Ireland)

4th Johnstone (Scotland)

5th Clogher & District (Northern Ireland)

6th Toronto Police (Canada)

Drumming: Toronto Police (Canada)

1st Dollar Academy (Scotland)

2nd St. Andrew's College (New Zealand) 3rd George Watson's College (Scotland)

4th George Harriot's School (Scotland)

5th North Lanarkshire Schools (Scotland)

6th Peoples Ford Boghall & Bathgate Caledonia (Scotland)

Drumming: Dollar Academy (Scotland)

Grade 4A

1St McNeillstown (Northern Ireland)

2nd Lochryan (Scotland)

3rd Tweedvale (Scotland) 4^t Kildoag (Northern Ireland)

5th Glenrothes & District (Scotland)

6th Williamwood (Scotland)

Drumming: McNeilstown (Northern Ireland)

Grade 4B

1st Gransha (Northern Ireland)

2nd Kelty & Blairadam (Scotland)

3rd Lower Clyde (Scotland)

4th Mid-Argyll (Scotland)

5th Stockbridge (Scotland) 6th Camelon & District (Scotland)

Drumming: Sergeant Walker Memorial

(Northern Ireland)

Novice Juvenile A

1st Dollar Academy (Scotland)

2nd Oban High School (Scotland)

3rd Brisbane Boys College (Australia)

4th Lochalsh Junior (Scotland)

5th George Watson's College Novice (Scotland)

6th Scots College (Australia)

Drumming: George Watson's College (Scotland)

Novice Juvenile B

1St St. John's College (Zimbabwe)

2nd North Lanarkshire Schools (Scotland)

3rd Bucksburn & District (Scotland)

4th 1st Troon Boys Brigade (Scotland)

5th Kintyre Schools(Scotland)

6th Sgoil Lionaclaeit (Scotland) Drumming: St. John's College (Zimbabwe)









Autumn is a beautiful time of year to visit Scotland; the landscapes are ablaze with autumnal colours, with bright blue skies, fiery coloured leaves and crisp air as Nick Drainey explains.

utumn has arrived in Scotland and nature is putting on its stunning annual display. When a bright sun burns off early morning mist, the sight of a hillside of trees with their leaves in an array of differing colours is one of the best views to behold in the country's countryside.

From Dumfries and Galloway to the Northern Isles, the dramatic seasonal change is visible and draws visitors in greater numbers every year.

Big tree country

Perthshire markets itself as Big Tree Country and no wonder with a wonderful array of arboreal scenery. The Enchanted Forest woodland light show at Faskally Wood near Pitlochry has become a major fixture on the calendar and for many is a sign that autumn is here. While the flashing beams and tranquil music are impressive, nature's own performance in the area is more than a match.

The Birks of Aberfeldy, immortalised by Burns, and the Hermitage at Dunkeld enrapture many visitors for the mix of tumbling river and tree canopy. For the latter a walk starting in Birnam by the Inchewan Burn adds in the beautiful sight of beech trees in full golden raiment.

Strathearn, especially the stretch from Crieff to Comrie and up to Loch Earn are equally as spectacular, as are the Ochil Hills to the south. While distinctly lacking in tree cover the grasses take on a golden brown colour as the summer fades and winter starts to creep in, making what is already a sleepy, secluded corner of Scotland even more seductive.



Further north the mists above Loch Tummel give a mystical feel to the Allean Forest. The Queen's View just below it offers a great panorama of mountains and loch, it's no wonder Queen Victoria liked this most picturesque corners of Perthshire - or should that be Mary, Queen of Scots, or Queen Isabella the wife of Robert the







Bruce? There are a number of explanations as to the name Queen's View, currently Isabella is the favourite.

The Trossachs are also a place for autumn, especially to the south where Aberfoyle and the infant River Forth form a link between the Lowlands and the mountains to the north. At Milton there is forest to explore, and still with the deciduous, rather than forestry, cover areas William Wallace once used.

Further south, the shore of the Firth of Forth is a great place to head in autumn as geese fly in to make their home for the colder months. At Blackness, Wester Shore Wood leads you away from the ancient castle and on to another fortress – Midhope. This old castle was little more than a derelict outbuilding until recent years when coaches started arriving after it was used as Lallybroch in the hit TV show *Outlander*.

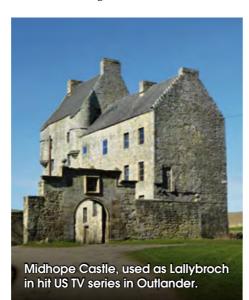
At the Falls of Clyde, the sight of autumnal brilliance is mixed with the raw power of the river, used to power the progressive 18th century mills of New Lanark below. This combination of history is also seen on the River Tweed, especially above Dryburgh. Here there is the famous (Sir Walter) Scott's View of the Eildon Hills.

A lovely stroll from the nearby abbey, which dates back to the 12th century and is the last resting place of the literary giant, leads to a view of the tree-lined River Tweed and a striking sandstone statue of William Wallace built by the 11th Earl of Buchan.

Autumnal brilliance

Further south, in Dumfries and Galloway, autumn is a time for excitement because there is less daylight and stargazing can be enjoyed in the evening. Telescopes have become popular since the area's designation as the UK's first Dark Sky Park, where the inky black heavens have little light pollution and allow the stars to shine through. Dark nights are even longer in the northern half of Scotland but there is enough daylight to enjoy autumnal brilliance on the ground. Sutherland is pretty short of trees but there are enough to reward a trip up on to the hills with a splash of vibrant colour.

This is also the time in Sutherland and across the whole of the Highlands when the red deer stag comes into its own, the bellowing of the males as they try to attract a mate can be heard far and wide in the glens.



Glen Affric is one which deserves to be highlighted, a place of ancient pines, birch trees and lochs surrounded by high mountains. No wonder many think it the finest in Scotland.

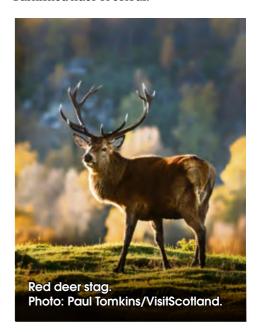
A rather less arduous way of seeing the countryside, and one increasing popularity is by rail. Heading north from Glasgow on the West Highland Line the countryside sails past, often in places so remote it would take a day's hike to reach there in any other way. A restored steam railway chugs out of Aviemore and into Speyside, home of whisky but also a fantastic array of autumnal leaves giving a more natural golden hue to the surroundings.

Loch Morlich, nestled below the Cairngorms, is a place where the first snows of winter can be seen on the Northern Corries while pine martens and red squirrels scurry around for a last big feast before freezing conditions make this area more Arctic than European.



Loch an Eilein in the nearby Rothiemurchus Forest is possibly one of the most picturesque spots in this area and the larches make it more so in autumn.

Royal Deeside is stunning all year round and in autumn the colours by the majestic river make a great display. Heading into the hills up Glen Tanar has to be one of the best detours you can make in the Highlands. Here a large estate has kept a huge pine forest in good condition, interspersed with birch and home to the red deer stag. But wherever you look in Scotland, the senses cannot fail to be enlivened by the world-class scenery, wrapped in the calming mists, dappled light and burnished hues of colour.





IN SCOTLAND TODAY



V&A Dundee opening marks 'Momentous Occasion' for Scottish tourism

As one of the most eagerly anticipated cultural attractions in Scottish history, V&A Dundee opened its doors in September. As Scotland's first design museum, V&A Dundee tells a global story, investigating the international importance of design alongside presenting Scotland's outstanding design achievements. V&A Dundee's construction and fit-out took three and a half years to complete and it stands at the centre of the £1 billion transformation of the Dundee waterfront, once part of the city's docklands.

With its complex geometry, inspired by the dramatic cliffs along the northeast coast of Scotland, it stretches out into the River Tay – a new landmark connecting the city with its historic waterfront, and a new major cultural development for Scotland and the UK.

At the heart of the museum the Scottish Design Galleries feature 300 exhibits drawn from the V&A's rich collections of Scottish design, as well as from museums and private collections across Scotland and the world.

At the centre of these galleries stands the magnificent Charles Rennie Mackintosh Oak Room meticulously restored, conserved and reconstructed through a partnership between V&A Dundee, Glasgow Museums and Dundee City Council. Visitors to the museum will be able to experience once again Mackintosh's extraordinary talent in designing this room, lost to view for nearly 50 years.

The ambitious international exhibition programme opens with Ocean Liners: Speed and Style, organised by the V&A and the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, the first exhibition to explore the design and cultural impact of the ocean liner on an international scale. Major exhibitions are complemented by new commissions and installations including This, looped by Glasgow-based artist and former Turner prize nominee Ciara Phillips.

Philip Long, Director of V&A Dundee, said: "The opening of V&A Dundee is a historic occasion for Dundee, for the

V&A, and for the very many people who played a vital part and supported its realisation. This is a very proud moment for all involved. V&A Dundee's aspiration is to enrich lives, helping people to enjoy, be inspired by and find new opportunities through understanding the designed world. After years of planning, we are thrilled at being able to celebrate the realisation of the first V&A museum in the world outside London. The museum's light-filled wooden interior and impressive spaces inside have been designed to provide a warm welcome to visitors, described by architect Kengo Kuma as a 'living room for the city'. We are all very excited indeed that we can now welcome everybody into this remarkable new museum."

Glasgow School of Art to be rebuilt



Three months after the second tragic Glasgow School of Art fire the School has announced plans to rebuild. The Charles Rennie Mackintosh building will be rebuilt in work that could take between four to seven years to complete. Art school chairwoman Muriel Gray said; "We are resolved that the Mackintosh comes back as a working art school, as a major player, a cultural leader for the city and the Scottish economy. It will be beautiful. It will be as Mackintosh designed it, to the millimetre."

The iconic Glasgow landmark was ripped apart by fire in 2014 and was due to reopen after years of repairs in early 2019 when a second and larger fire took hold of the building again in June of this year. It is hoped the restoration will be paid for by insurance and private donations.

Aberdour station is best in Britain



ScotRail has announced that Aberdour Station has been named the best small station in Britain at the National Rail Awards 2018. The West Fife railway station won the 'Small Station of the Year' award at the event in London in September. Judges assessed the nominees against set criteria, including safety, infrastructure and customer-friendly presentation. The award win comes after a new community heritage centre opened at the station and the signal box, located on the platform at Aberdour station, was restored and converted into a studio for local artist Lynette Gray in 2017. James Ledgerwood, ScotRail's Head of Economic & Community Development, said: "We're delighted that Aberdour has won this accolade. The station has been given a new lease of life recently and it's fantastic to see the hard work of the volunteers, and the local community, get the recognition it deserves. Making our stations a more pleasant and relaxing place to catch a train is a key part of our plan to build the best railway Scotland has ever had."

Edinburgh house prices on the rise



UK real estate agents Savills have released research that reveals 60% of all houses being sold in Scotland worth £1m or more are being sold in Edinburgh. Savills are also predicting overall house prices in Scotland

to rise by around 17% by 2020, significantly more than the rest of the UK. Faisal Choudhry, head of Savills Residential Research in Scotland, said: "Whilst London and its surrounding commuter areas have been most effected by current political and economic uncertainty, there remains more confidence in the Scottish markets, where there is capacity for further growth in values. We are currently forecasting a 17% increase in Scottish house prices by 2022. This compares with 7.1% in London and 14.2% across the UK as a whole."

The Savills Edinburgh City Prime Index grew annually by 7.5% during the second quarter of 2018 due to under supply and growing demand. The official UK House Price Index for Scotland has seen positive annual growth for the last 27 consecutive months with Edinburgh having particularly strong growth in the housing sector. The Scottish capital was earlier this year rated the most attractive UK city in which to live and work.

Beano sale surprises

A rare copy of the first *Beano* annual has sold for double the estimated value cost. The rare 1939 copy went under the hammer for £2700 at Keys Fine Art Auctioneers in Aylsham, Norfolk, the original sale value was estimated at £1200 - £1500.

Robert Henshilwood, head of books for Keys, described the *Beano* as the "archetypal kids' comic", adding: "It is very rare to see a copy of the first ever *Beano* annual, especially in such good condition." The weekly *Beano* comic was first published by Dundee-based DC Thomson in July 1938. Today there are several *Beano* investors around the world. Some good condition early editions of the *Beano* have been valued at over £20,000.

Loch Ness Monster worth millions to the Scottish economy



New research has suggested the famed Loch Ness Monster is worth more the Scottish economy than previously estimated. Accountant Gary Campbell analysed the number of people who visit attractions around the loch, as well as tourism spend on accommodation and food. Mr Campbell said; "We analysed the number of people that visit the attractions around the loch, along with those who took to the water to try to get a closer look for Nessie and then took other research into tourism spend on overnight accommodation and food. We then added in the day trippers and from this we conservatively estimate that the draw of the monster is adding £40.7m to the local economy each year."

The monster, first sighted in 565AD, had 11 recorded sightings in 2017 and this year Nessie has been spotted eight times already with the most recent in August.

The best of autumn in Scotland



eading to Scotland this autumn? Then make sure your trip includes a wander through the woods, where you can look out for colourful leaves, and maybe even a woodland creature. Want to see Scotland at its best this Autumn? Here are a some great locations to inspire.

Brodick Bay, Isle of Arran- The long sandy beach sweeps towards the peak of Goat Fell and the sandstone splendour of Brodick Castle. Known as 'Scotland In Miniature', you can marvel at the changing colours in Arran's well managed woodlands. Enjoy beaches, castles, excellent seafood and one of the most famous 12-hole golf courses in Britain.

Edinburgh at night-See the Edinburgh skyline bathed in unforgettable night colours. Whether looking towards Arthur's Seat, the Athenian acropolis on Calton Hill or towards Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile, there are few better urban skylines anywhere in the world in Autumn.

Dunkeld and Birnam, Perthshire-Home to many of Scotland's heritage trees like the Birnam Oak, the nation's Big Tree Country is glorious in Autumn. The Perthshire Amber Festival, organised by internationallyfamous local musician, Dougie Maclean, celebrates in song and word the beauty of the Autumn larches and pines towering above the River Tay. Perthshire, which is known as 'Big Tree Country', is ideal for admiring the rich shades of autumn and has a fantastic range of walks to choose from.

Rackwick Bay, Hoy, Orkney-Watch the waves crash over the long beach of boulders and sand. One of Scotland's hidden gems, the changing moorland colours of Hoy in Autumn and the ancient stone croft houses make it a place of serenity and inspiration.

Loch Fyne, Argyll-Famous for succulent oysters and delicious seafood, Scotland's longest sea loch is overlooked by magnificent mountain scenery like the Arrochar Alps, making it an Autumnal delight. The sea food is a must, as is a visit to the picturesque villages of Inveraray and Tarbert.

Lammermuir Hills, Scottish Borders-Get intimate with the changing hues of the moors and rolling hills with a walk along one of the many routes across this natural boundary between the Lothians and the Borders. The setting for Sir Water's Scott's The Bride of Lammermoor, the hills are still home to the rare black grouse.

Braemar and Crathie, Royal Deeside, Aberdeenshire-Described by Queen Victoria as her 'dear Paradise in the highlands', the Scottish home of the British Royal family is spectacular in Autumn. Visit Balmoral, the home of royalty, set against the greens and browns of the Caledonian pine forest and acres of heather-covered hills. A camera is essential.

Loch Earn, Loch Lomond and the **Trossachs National Park-Sharing** the same tidal system as Lake Garda and Lake Geneva, Loch Earn is a

water sports oasis. Beautiful from the shores in the Autumn evening or coasting along the surface in a canoe or on water-skis, Loch Earn is a perfect holiday or short break destination. You can even learn to fly a sea-plane.

Dundee Botanic Garden- Autumn in the university's botanic garden means spectacular leaves, amazing fungi and bright berries. Wander round the

fine collections of trees, tropical and temperature glasshouses and water gardens before stopping by the café and admiring the changing display of artworks.

Isle of Skye-The Misty Isle contains some of the most dramatic glacial formations in Scotland. A climber and walker's dream, it is worth taking time to see the majestic Cuillin range or the Storr silhouetted in the Autumn sunset. Quality hotels, excellent local produce and an award-winning island brewery makes Skye a must-see destination.

Annandale Way, Dumfries and Galloway-Off the usual tourist track, this new 55-mile long-distance walk is the perfect introduction to a scenic and peaceful corner of Southern Scotland. The route follows the river Annan from source to sea and takes in ancient oak forests enchanting in Autumn - ruined castles and a nature reserve. Stay overnight in one of the ancient market towns along the way.

Rocks of Solitude river circuit, Edzell, Angus-Those looking to stretch their legs on a long walk out in the crisp autumn air should head for Edzell in Royal Deeside. Follow this circular woodland walk along the River North Esk to the grand Gannochy Bridge and through the surrounding countryside to see the vibrant foliage that flanks the riverside pathways.

Do you have a favourite part of Scotland to visit in autumn? Share your suggestion with us by email, post or at www. scottishbanner.com/contact-us

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CALLING THE CLANS

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

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

Regional Directors for Australia David and Patricia Benfell

Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



CLAN BELL Clan Bell North America

ordially invites membership inquiries from persons Named Bell (all sellings), their descendants and friends. Computerized Genealogical sta base available to help members in their research. Quarterly newsletter

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Contact our Membership Chairperson:

Pauline Bell

1513 Anterra Drive, Wake Forest, NC 27587 e-mail: debellinnc@reagan.com

Clan Blair Society Membership cordially invited from the des

Visit our Web Site at

Charles Diman Membership Chairman 3413 Sunnybrook Dr.



Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Memberuhip inquiries should be directed to:

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

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

Clan Buchanan Society International, Inc. Invites membership of all Buchanans and of other septs:

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MacCoubrey

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MacMurchie
MacMurchie
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MacQuinten
MacWartle
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Statesville, NC 28625



Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

2018 Australian Gathering

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

President: Alistair Cameron cameron490@ozemail.com.au

Secretary: Terry Cameron jr.ta.cameron@gmail.com

THE CLAN CAMPBELL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

The Society exists for the benefit of all its members.

All Campbells or descendants of Campbells and members of Clan Septs are most welcome to join the Society. For information on State Branches

contact the National Secretary, Margaret Vallance Email: libertyv93@gmail.com www.clan-campbell.org.au

Clan Campbell Society (North America)

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

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

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Clan Cumming Society Of The United States

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clancumming.us

Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.



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

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

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

CLAN DONALD AUSTRALIA



State Commissioners NSW Qld SA

Vic

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

secretary.clandonaldaustralia@gmail.com There is no joy without Clan Donald

CLAN DONALD QUEENSLAND

Neil Macdonald 0412 090990 ndonaldqld@optus Web: www.clandonaldqld.org

ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell. Donald, **OR** of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, **OR** with a connection through family lineage.

There is no joy without Clan Donald

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



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

info and a complete Sept list.

Diane Carey-Schmitz

1685 Casitas Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91103,

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald

Contact: Secretary

secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mrs Christina Milne Wilson Contact: Secretary

secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com A hereditary clan society formed by the children of Norman Hume Macdonald and Johan McKenzie Macdonald (nee Munro) who departed Scotland in 1854.

Clan Donnachaidh

Society of New South Wales Inc. Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid

People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh "The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.

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

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands Canada: Ontario * Western Canada

Australia: New South Wales * Victoria * Queensland * Western Australia

New Zealand: New Zealand Spain South Africa

Arizona * Carolinas * Florida * Gulf Coast * Mid-Atlantic * New Mexico * Mid-West * Northeast * Northern California * Pacific North Rocky Mountains * South * Southern California * Texas * Upper Mid-Wes



Visit our website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, our History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you. http://www.donnachaldh.com/
Facebook: The Clan Donnachaidh Society
Email: ivc@donnachaidh.com

Clan Douglas Society of North America

Recognized as Septs & Allied Families



A DOUGLAS! A DOUGLAS!

Visit our website: www.clandouglassociety.org

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

Clan Dunbar of The House of Gospatric the Earl



Eligible blood or marriage, all descendants of The Gospatric: Dunbar, Clugston, Corbett, Dundas, Edgar, Grev. Hervng, Home, Knox, Nisbett. Peddie, Strickland, Washington, Wedderburn and families who were associated with The Gospatric

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

Edmonstone Clan Society



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

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

Clan Elliot Society, U.S.A.

Michael D.Elliott-Clan President



Welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family.

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

CLAN FARQUHARSON ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA Clan Chief: Captain A.A.C.Farquharson, MC of

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

Invercauld

The Secretary Clan Farquharson Association Australia SPRINGWOOD, NSW 2777

or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com

CLAN FERGUSSON SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA



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

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



CLAN FRASER NORTH AMERICA



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

Donald Brix Fraser. Kathryn Fraser, President cfsna.com



Clan Galbraith Association

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

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

Join from only US\$15 p.a. www.clangalbraith.org

American Clan Gregor Society



Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

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

Jeanne P. Lehr

website: www.acgsus.org

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

Clan Gregor Society Australasia



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

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

"Royal is my Race"

Clan Gregor Society



Great Lakes,

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

www.clangregor.org For membership com-Inez Boedse 120 Wicksford Glen, Sandy Springs, GA 30350-5713



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

Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton des cordially invited to join the society. Inquiries to be sent to: Sheri Lambert, Treasurer P.O. Box 5399 Vernon Hills, IL 60061

www.clanhamilton.org



Clan Hope of Craighall Society

www.clanhay.com

For all of the name and lineage of Hope



Stephen Hope

Membership Chair:

www.clanhope.org www.clanhopeaustralia.org



Clan Innes Australia

New Memberships Welcome Innes, Thain, Mitchell Marnock, Middleton Reidford. Wilson McRob McTary, Mavor

robthainclaninnes@gmail.com

Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron



Contact Barbara Edelman, Chairman 65 Colonial Drive Telford, PA 18969

215-721-3955 barb3.edelman@gmail.com IRWIN • RVIN • IRVINE • IRVING • ERWIN • ERVIN Over 270 ways the name has been spelled since 325 A.D. clanirvin.org

The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc

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

Membership inquiries are warmly welcomed!

www.clankeith-usa.org

or email membershipclankeith@mindspring.com

CLAN KERR/CARR OF NORTH AMERICA, INC



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

WWW.CLANKERR.US

Or write: Attn: Clan President ercreek Drive, Winter Springs, FI 32701



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

Moore etc in all their spellings Contact: Malcolm W. Leslie D.Ua.

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

Clan MacAlpine Society



3061 Harbor Blvd, Ventura CA, 93001 USA Earl Dale McAlpine - President email: earlmcalpine@yahoo.com



Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

Valerie McDougall

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

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

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





Michael R. MacFarlane, FSA Scot - President Brian I.W. Mactarlane, Vice President Richard G. Kilby, FSA Scot - Treasurer

John K. Manchester - Secretary International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc. PO Box 398 Glendora, CA 91740 USA

MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacInnes



All spelling variants of MacInnes are welcome worldwide: (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Ninch, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Innes, (Mac)Masters www.clanmacinnes.org

Eric Perry, Director-Member Services 14 Jakes Lane

Dexter, ME 04930; eric@macinnes.org

CLAN MACKENZIE SOCIETY

in Australia Inc.



Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

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

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



Clan MacKenzie Society Canada

www.clanmackenziecanada.ca

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



ClanMacKenzieCA



Clan MacKenzie Society in the United States

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

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

Clan Mackintosh

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

U.S.A. Margaret McIntosh, Secretary 301 Smugglers View Jeffersonville, VT 05464

Clan MacLanen MACLAREN MACLAURIN LAWRENCE LAWSON LOW[E]

LOW[E]RY LAW[E] PATTERSON MACPATRICK MACRORY



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

Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr. Treasurer 6409 Knollwood Drive McKinney, TX 75070-6032

Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods, Septs (of any spelling) and descendants. Askey MacAndie MacCorkill Beaton MacAskill MacCrimmon

Bethune MacAulay MacGillechallum MacCabe MacRaild Caskie Harold MacCaig MacWilliam Lewis MacClure Norman Tolmie Williamson

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



Clan MacLeod Society U.S.A., Inc. Cordially invites membership inquiries from MacLoods, any spelling, sept families,

Beaton

their descendants and other inte-

Beton Caskie Lewis Macaskill MacCallum MacCorkill MacCrimmon Mackaskill MacWilliam

Callam Grimmond MacAllum MacAulay MacCaskie MacCorkle MacCraig MacLewis Malcolmson Normand

Beaton Callum Harold Macandie McCabe MacCaskill MacCorkindale MacGillechallum MacLure

Caskey Harrold Macaskie MacCaig MacClure MacCorquodale MacHarold MacRaild

Bethur

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

Clan Macnachtan **Association Worldwide**

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

Chairman - Peter McNaughton - 360-686-8451

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

Australia - Regional Commissioner - Bruce McNaught +61 7 3266 2047 bruce@brucemcnaught.com W. Canada - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughton 250-999-9636 milescammac@aol.com New Zealand - Regional Commissioner - John Macnaughtan

+64 9 441 4984 macnaughtan@xtra.co.nz **USA** - Membership Secretary - Mary Nivison Burton 541-401-2613 membersec@clanmacnaughton.net WWW.CLANMACNAUGHTON.NET

Clan MacNeil Association OF AUSTRALIA



For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact.

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



Ulan Alacneil ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Invites all Macneils . . . regardless of surr spelling, some of which are listed below: spelling, some of which are listen below:
MCNEILL MACNEIL MACNEL MACNEL MACRELY
MCNEELY NEAL NEILSON O'NEILL to join us in preserving our heritage. Contact: Rhorswyn Darby McNeil, VP, Membership, PO, Box 230693, Montgomery AL 36123-0693, (334) 834-06 E. E-mail rdmatmgm@aol.com

CLAN MACNICOL SOCIETY, INC.



Welcomes persons of the names Nicolson, Nicol, MacNicol in all spellings For membership inquiries, contact:

CANADA McNicoll

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

Clan MacNicol

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

Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

Ross Nicolson For membership 22 Bellevue Drive inquiries contact:

Carlingford NSW 2118 www.clanmacnicol.com

Clan Macpherson Association



Canada. John C Gillies

Scotland. Bill Macpherson New Zealand, Tim McPhers phone +64 3 234 5098

Clan Museum. Curator

THE CLAN MACRAE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND



greymac@acenet.com.ai phone +61 2 4871 1123

hone +1 559 658 6189

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

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

Clan MacTavish, U.S.A.



Under the patronage of Chief Steven MacTavish of Dunardry invites you to join us in celebrating our history. Cash, Holmes, MacTavish, Stephenson, Stevens, Thompson, Thomson, Todd & other variants. www.clanmactavish.org

Membership Info: Clanmactavishusa@gmail.com or PO Box 686, Milford, OH 45150-0686

CLAN MAITLAND SOCIETY



WE ARE ALL RELATED! Contact your local society

Rosemary Maitland Thom rthomnyprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

AUSTRALIA

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

NEW ZEALAND Judette Maitland

33 Disley Street, Highbury, Wellington 6012. NZ judette@xtra.co.nz We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at: www.clanmaitland.org.uk

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

Chief of the Clan Major Sir Fergus Matheson of 7th Baronet of Lochalsh

Invites all Mathesons/Mathiesons or Kin to join our Clan Society. Contact the Chief's Lieutenants in USA U.S.A. Malcolm Matheson, III P.O.Box 307, The Plains, VA 20198 Tel: (540) 687-6836, Fax: (540) 687-5569

www.clanmatheson.org



Clan Moffat Society

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

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



Clan Montgomery Society International Leonard Montgomery

President president@clanmontgomery.org

www.clanmontgomery.org



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 78/37-8539
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 Munro Association, U.S.A

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

COME JOIN US!

Web site: www.Clanmunrousa.org Write: Heather Munro Daniel 4600 Lloydrownn Road Mebane, NC 27302



Murray Clan Society of North America

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

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

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

Clan Pollock



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

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



Clan Pringle Association

(North America) Membership cordially invited from Pringle/ Prindle decedents and other interested part www.clanpringle.org.uk William L. Pringle, III

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



Clan Ross in Australia

for information contact Commander Des Ross (By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowar

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



ASSOCIATION AND FOUNDATION MERGED Many Names - One Clan

Liz Ross, President

Robert Aumiller, Membership Secretary cramembership@sbcglobal.net PO Box 6341 River Forest, IL 60305

www.clanross.org

id Ross of Ross, Baron Balnagowan If of the Clan

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

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

CLAN SCOTT AUSTRALIA GROUP

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

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

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

Clan 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

Info@ClanScottSociety.org • www.ClanScottSociety.org



Clan Shaw Society

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

> Secretary 2403 West Cranford Denison, TX 75020

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

Clan Skene Association, Inc.



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

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



The Stewart Society

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

Please inquire:

Tel/Fax 0131 220 4512 www.stewartsociety.org

53 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HT,



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

213 Mork (sign Street)

Toowoomba,4350 Queensland, Australia lliam.hodgkinson@bigpo http://goldenvale.wix.com/clansutherlandaus



Clan Sutherland Society of North America, Inc.

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

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

Clan Young Society Australia Inc.



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

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

Clan WARDLAW Association



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

'Wardlaw ivermair!'

www.clanwardlaw.com Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

Scottish Associations and Societies

Australian Scottish Communtiy (Qld) Inc. Promoter of International Tartan Day,



Brisbane, Queensland PO Box 3188, South Brisbane 4101 Bi-Monthly Newsletter, All things

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

Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia (The

Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a nonprofit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels.

Ruaraidh MacAonghais, Neach Cathrach (Convenor)

Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org Web: www.ozgaelic.org

Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

CALEDONIAN CLUB

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

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

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

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

> Promotes interest in the works, life and milieu of the Scottish Poet Robert Burns

Celebrates Scottish Culture

 Conducts Annual Burns Supper, Poetry Afternoons & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon For Membership Information contact: Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 9306 7495 Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au

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

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

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



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

Scottish descent or association

Essex Junction, VT 05453

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

FOUNDED 1974 St. Andrewis Society of Vermont P.O. Box 484

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

Víctorian Scottísh Uníon

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

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> Jan Macdonald: Secretary Victorian Scottish Union

T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930 E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com www.victorianscottishunion.com

SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

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

CANADA

OCTOBER 2018

4 Kingston, ON - Gaelic Splendour: Julie Fowlis Julie Fowlis is a multi-award winning Gaelic singer nominated as 'Folk Singer of the Year' at the 2015 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, and 'Best Artist' at the Songlines World Music Awards 2015 live at The Isabel Bader Centre for Performing Arts 390 King St W. Info: 613 533-2424 or ibcpaboxoffice@queensu.ca

5 - 13 Cape Breton, NS - Celtic Colours For nine days in October, Cape Breton Island is alive with music, energy and excitement as people come from far and wide to celebrate our rich culture. Info: www.celtic-colours.com

5 - 7 Canmore, AB - Scots' Gathering 2018 Unleash Your Inner Scot! Explore the arts with dancing. music and needlework workshops. Learn new things with whisky tasting and cultural lectures. Enjoy meeting new friends at the classes, ceilidh and ball. Hosted by St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Calgary Branch Info: www.calgaryscots.org

5 Vancouver, BC - Pipes & Drams-A Whisky Tasting Experience

Performances by the world renowned Vancouver Police Pipe Band and Shot of Scotch Highland Dancers with whisky tasting and haggis at The Roundhouse Arts and Recreation Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews. Info: www.vpdpipeband.ca

6 Vancouver, BC - The Gaelic Society of Vancouver Cèilidh Scottish language, music and dance at the Cultural Centre. Info: www.vancouvergaelic.com

12 Montreal, QC - Taste of Scotland - Whisky Tasting Night This ever popular event will allow guests to sample over 25 different brands of whisky and enjoy a buffet featuring a variety of delectable Scottish dishes at Officer's Mess, Black Watch Armoury, 2067 Bleury St. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca

12 - 14 Ottawa, ON - RSCDS Ottawa Workshop Weekend A special workshop weekend of Scottish country dance events. Info: www.rscdsottawa.ca

13 - 14 Guelph, ON - Guelph Centre for Scottish Studies Foundation Fall Colloquium

Popular culture in Scotland and abroad at The Robert Whitelaw Room, University of Guelph, Info: Tel: 519-824-4120 ext 53209 or scottish@uoguelph.ca

13 - 17 Vancouver, BC - Gaelic Language Lessons Beginner and Intermediate Gaelic language lessons will be held at the Cultural Centre on Saturday mornings 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon from October 13th to November 17th, 2018. Info: www.vancouvergaelic.com

19 - 21 Halifax, NS - Re-Jigged Festival

Featuring workshops, master classes, sessions, three concerts and a late-night ceilidh, Re-Jigged is about learning, sharing and enjoying the best "new trad" Celtic music and dance.. Info: www.rejiggedfestival.com

28 London, ON - Kirkin o' the Tartans

St. George's Presbyterian Church, 1475 Dundas Street, is hosting its annual Kirkin' o' the Tartan at 10:30 am. Wear your tartan if you like and enjoy Scottish fare after the service. Ample Parking. Info: $519\,455\text{-}5760\, or\, www.stgeorgespresbyterian.com$

NOVEMBER 2018

3 Calgary, AB - Ceilidh

St. Giles SCD Club presents an evening of fun, entertainment, Celtic band, piping, highland dancing, ceilidh dancing, cash bar and pub fare \$20.00 at 2212-13th Street NW. Info: www.stgilesscottishcountrydance.club

3 Vancouver, BC - The Gaelic Society of Vancouver Cèilidh Scottish language, music and dance at the Cultural Centre. Info: www.vancouvergaelic.com

18 Toronto, ON - 2018 Annual Church Parade Presented by the St Andrews Society of Toronto. The service commences at 10:30am at the historic Glenview Presbyterian Church. Info: www.standrews-society.ca

24 Ottawa, ON - St. Andrew's Annual Dinner and Gala St Andrew's Society of Ottawa Annual Dinner and Gala will be held at the Britannia Yacht Club, 2717 Cassels St. The Haggis will be formally addressed. During dinner there will be a Pipe Band and a Highland Dance display. Alan James will be Master of Ceremonies The evening will conclude with Ceilidh and Scottish Country Dancing on a newly refinished floor. Info: Hugh Reekie 613-738-5343, h.reekie ieee.org or www3.bell.net/max-com/Andrew.Ottawa.html

24 Toronto, ON - St Andrews Society of Toronto Charity Ball

Experience a glamorous taste of Scotland and a tremendous opportunity to experience Scottish hospitality and revel in Scotland's rich history and traditions at Fairmont Royal York Hotel 100 Front Street West. Info: ball@ standrews-society.ca or www.standrews-society.ca

24 Calgary, AB - 135th Annual St Andrew's Ball $135\,\mathrm{years}$ and going strong! Join the St. Andrew's Society of Calgary for their annual ball featuring the music of Scot Band and Bill Ewan from Scotland. Ticket prices include a full buffet dinner, entertainment and dance. Info: Annvanderwal@shaw.ca or www.standrewcaledonian.ca

24 Toronto, ON - Shiftin' Bobbins' St **Andrew's Celebration Dance**

Scotch Mist will play for the 5th Annual Shiftin' Bobbins celebration of Scotland's Bard at Grace Church-On-The-Hill. 300 Lonsdale Rd. Info: www.shiftinbobbins.webs.com

29 Montreal, QC - The St. Andrew's Luncheon

Join the St Andrew's Society of Montreal, listen to bagpipes, eat haggis and have a great meal, all at a very affordable price. 2018 "Guest of Humour" George Bowser at Hotel Le Cantlie, 1110 Sherbrooke St. West. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca

30 Nationwide - Happy St Andrew's Day Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic

'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

30 Montreal, QC - St. Andrew's Ball

Join the St Andrew's Society of Montreal at the 2018 St. Andrew's Ball for an evening of dining, dancing and pageantry celebrating one hundred and eighty-three years of Scottish heritage in Montreal at The Marriott Château Champlain Hotel. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca

USA

OCTOBER 2018

4 Woodridge, IL - Kilted Classic

Join Chicago Scots for a day a uniquely Scottish golf tournament. Dressed in kilts of every color, golfers follow the skirl of a bagpiper around the course and enjoy one of Scotland's greatest inventions – the game of golf at Seven Bridges Golf Club. Info: www.chicagoscots.org

6 - 7 Aztec, NM - Aztec Highland Games and Celtic Festival 2018

The Four Corners region's premier event celebrating Celtic culture through traditional athletic competitions, music and dance performances, clan representation, and more at Riverside Park. Info: www.aztechighlandgames.com

6 - 7 Reno, NV - The 27th Annual Reno Celtic Celebration Celtic music, fun and friendship at Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Info: www.renoceltic.org

6 Laurinburg, NC - Scotland County Highland Games The games site provides an immersion into the Scottish-American heritage of this region on the grounds of the North Carolina Rural Heritage Center. Info: www.carolina-highlandgames.com

13 - 14 Ventura, CA - Seaside Highland Games The premier Scottish event on the central California Coast at Ventura County Fairgrounds 10 W Harbor Blvd. Info: www.seaside-games.com

13 Tyler, TX - Tyler Scottish Festival & Highland Games Join the clan as they celebrate the rich traditions of Celtic heritage in a unique community event at South Spring Baptist Church 17002 US Highway 69 S. Info: https://tylerscottishfest.weebly.com

14 Rohnert Park, CA - Gaelic Splendour: Julie Fowlis Julie Fowlis is a multi-award winning Gaelic singer nominated as 'Folk Singer of the Year' at the 2015 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, and 'Best Artist' at the Songlines World Music Awards 2015 live at Green Music Center, Sonoma State University, 1801 East Cotati Ave. Info: 866 955 6040 or https://gmc.sonoma.edu/event/3769438-julie-fowlis

19 - 21 Stone Mountain, GA - 46th Annual Stone Mountain Highland Games

In the meadows of the Stone Mountain Park with Clans, pipe bands, Scottish dancers and more. Info: www.smhg.org

19 - 21 Troy, MI - Scottish North American Leadership Conference 2018

Utilizing panels and the presentations of experts in the genre SNALC will listens for the blended voices of our speakers, our attendees, and our younger guests hosted by participating organizations at Kilgore Centre. Info: www.scottishleadershipconference.org

20 Springfield, MO - Ozark Mouuntain Highland Games Throwing heavy objects for sport, food, & fun. Info: www.facebook.com/OzarkMountainGames

20 Niagara Falls, NY - The Gathering of Pringles All persons of the Pringle surname, or of Pringle descent, are invited to gather for a special Pringle family celebration. This is an opportunity to meet other Pringles, learn of the first Pringles in North America, of our Scottish roots, origin of the name, some famous Pringles, and your place in the Family Tree. Info: www.facebook com/groups/clanpringleassociationofnorthamerica

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listed from around the world

and updated weekly. See our

most up to date listings and

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26 - 28 Pacific Grove, CA - Asilomar Scottish Country Dance Weekend & Workshop

A weekend of Scottish country dancing, classes, and lots more. Celebrating 60 years since the very first Scottish Country Dance event was held at Asilomar Conference Grounds, 800 Asilomar Ave. Info: www.asilomar.rscds-sf.org

26 - 27 Sarasota, FL - Sarasota Celtic Music Festival A weekend of Celtic music and fun at Nathan Benderson Park. Info: www.celtoberfest.org

27 Hollywood, FL - Scottish American Society

Of South Florida Fall Halloween Ceilidh Entertainment includes pipe & drumming, the fine fiddles & more at the Church of the Little Flower, 1805 Pierce St. Info: www.sassf.org

NOVEMBER 2018

9 New York, NY - Wallace Award Dinner for Heritage, Arts & Culture

Presented by the American-Scottish Foundation at the University Club, celebrate the work of the Foundation, honorees and Scottish American heritage in true Scottish style. Info: 212 605 0338 or www.americanscottishfoundation.com

10 - 11 Gulfport, MS - Celtic Music Festival and Scottish Highland Games 2018

Celtic music festival & Scottish Highland Games at the Harrison County Fairgrounds, 15321 County Farm Rd. Info: www.mshighlandsandislands.org

10 Washington, DC - 69th Annual Tartan Ball Come experience all the Scottish pageantry and tradition of this grand ball in the Ballroom of the Willard Hotel, hosted by the St. Andrew's Society of Washington, DC. Info: www.tartanball.org

16 New York, NY - Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York 262nd Annual Banquet Celebrate St Andrew's Day at The University Club, One West 54th St. Info: www.standrewsny.org

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

Presented by the Dunedin Scottish Arts Foundation is an annual event centered around traditional and contemporary Celtic music and both local and national craft beer at Dunedin's Highlander Park. Info: www.dunedincelticmusicfestival.com

18 Winter Park, FL - St, Andrew's Society of Central Florida St. Andrew's Dinner

St. Andrew's Society celebration with Scottish food and entertainment throughout the evening at University Club of Winter Park, 841 N Park Ave. Info: www.standrewscfl.com

18 North Hollywood, CA - St. Andrew's Day Dinner An evening of Scottish celebration with the Saint Andrew's Society Los Angeles at Spumante Restaurant, 11049 Magnolia Blvd. Info: www.saintandrewsla.org

25 Saratoga Springs, NY - St. Andrew's Day Celebration Celebrate with the St. Andrew's Society of the Adirondacks at a informal gathering and lunch at

Harvey's Pub. 14 Phila St. Info: www.adkscot.org 30 - Dec 1 Alexandria, VA - 48th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend & Parade

The Campagna Center presents the 48th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend & Parade. Thousands will join for a full lineup of festivities that will celebrate the rich Scottish heritage of Old Town Alexandria. Info www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend

30 Nationwide - Happy St Andrew's Day

Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'Là Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

30 St. Louis, MO - St. Andrew's Dinner

The Scottish St. Andrew Society of Greater St. Louis is hosting its annual St. Andrew's Dinner at the Kingshighway Racquet Club. Scottish musical entertainment, raffles, and speeches on Scottish heritage and culture in the 21st century. Info: www.stlstandrews.com

SCOTLAND

OCTOBER 2018

4 - 7 Inverness - Ness Book Fest

Inverness based book festival that features emerging voices as well as big names in a free programme of events. Info: www.nessbookfest.wordpress.com

6 - 14 Strathearn - Crieff & Strathearn

Drovers' Tryst Walking Festival Celebrates the life, work and play of the people who made Crieff the cattle-droving crossroads of Scotland in the 1700s. Info: www.droverstryst.com

11 - 14 Portree, Isle of Skye - Clan MacNicol World Gathering

Join members of the worldwide Highland Clan MacNeacail Federation on Skye for a variety of events and kinship. Info: www.scorrybreac.org/2018-clan-gathering.html

11 - 15 Shetland Islands - Shetland Accordion & Fiddle Festival

Visiting and local acts join together in a Shetland kneesup to warm up the October evenings with fine trad music. Info: www.shetlandaccordionandfiddle.com

12 - 20 Dunoon - The Royal National Mòd 2018 Scotland's premier Gaelic festival provides opportunities for people of all ages to perform across a range of competitive disciplines including Gaelic music and song, highland dancing, instrumental, drama, sport and literature. Info: www.ancomunn.co.uk/nationalmod

16 - 19 Glasgow - The National Piping Centre Young Stars The Young Stars schools are for pipers aged 17& under, at The National Piping Centre features workshops, recitals, games, sessions, practice

and more. Info: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk 19 - 31 Edinburgh - Scottish International

Storytelling Festival A celebration of live storytelling, oral traditions and cultural diversity, with Scottish and international storytellers and musicians at the Scottish Storytelling Centre. Info: www.tracscotland.org/scottish-storytelling-centre

20 - 28 Glentress, Scottish Borders -Tweed Valley Forest Festival

A celebration of the rich woodland culture of the Borders in a variety of locations around the beautiful ${\it Tweed Valley.}\ {\it Info: www.forest-festival.com}$

25 - 28 Orkney - Orkney Storytelling Festival A four-day programme of walks, talks, story sessions and workshops with renowned storytellers from Scotland and

beyond. Info: www.orkneystorytellingfestival.co.uk

27 Blair Atholl Perthshire - The Glenfiddich Solo Piping Championship

Established in 1974 to inspire the world's finest individual pipers and to seek the best overall exponents of ceol mor or piobaireachd (the great music) and ceol beag or light music (the little music) at Blair Castle. Each year, 10 competitors qualify to play at this prestigious event through placing in one of a series of qualifying events. Info: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk

27 Perth - Perth All Scotland

Accordion and Fiddle Festival The 69th annual festival of its kind. Kicking off with a ceilidh, the event takes in competitions and championships during the day before finishing with the Senior Scottish Championship and performances by some of Scotland's top musicians. Info: www.perthaccordionfestival.co.uk

29 - 1 Glasgow - National Piping Centre Adult Gatherings

Specially tailored for learners aged 18+ with themed workshops, practice time and small group lessons and more. Info: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk

NOVEMBER 2018

2 - 4 Perthshire - The Perthshire Amber Festival A variety of music events with Dougie Maclean and friends

including; music sessions, a triple Cabaret Amber, a big Dougie concert at Perth Concert Hall, and a Farewell Concert/Event. Info: www.perthshireamber.com

Answers to Scotword on Page 7

Across: 1) Hampdenpark, 9) Higtae, 10) Wattles, 11) Gab, 12) Tallies, 13) Average, 14) Sun, 15) Least, 17) Serfs, 18) Judge, 20) Trews, 22) Cap, 24) Bonnie, 25) Heather, 26) Dee, 27) Thistle, 28) Roubles, 29) Glenkinglas.

Down: 1) Highland Dancing, 2) Muthill, 3) Dregs, 4) Newbattle, 5) Antler, 6) Kilpatrickhills, 7) Shotts 8) Islets, 16) Afterdeck 18) Jabots, 19) Epistle, 2) Seagull, 23) Parish, 25) Heron.

Scottish Genealogical Research

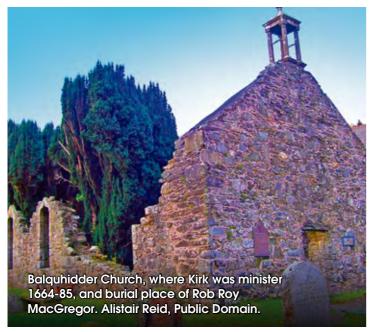
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Robert Kirk-The pixie parson



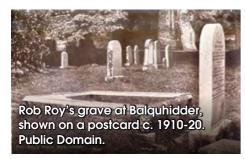


berfoyle-born minister, scholar and folklorist Robert Kirk (9 December 1644 – 14 May 1692) authored the first full Gaelic translation of the Scottish metrical psalms. Published at Edinburgh in 1684, Kirk often laboured into the wee hours on this work in order to beat the competition to publication. In the late 1680s Kirk superintended one of the first Scottish Gaelic translations of the Bible.

But Kirk is most famous for his work on second sight, witchcraft, fairy folklore, and ghosts, The Secret Commonwealth. Published in 1815 by Sir Walter Scott, the full title of the book is *The Secret* Commonwealth or an Essay on the Nature and Actions of the Subterranean (and for the most part) Invisible People heretofore going under the names of Fauns and Fairies, or the like, among the Low Country Scots as described by those who have second sight, 1691. Republished by Andrew Lang in 1893 as The Secret Commonwealth of Elves, Fauns and Fairies, subsequent editions appeared in 1933, 1976, 1990, 2001 and 2006.

Second sight and fairies

The Secret Commonwealth has compact chapters which make for quick reading. Within, the subjects of second sight and



Seventh son

The seventh and youngest son of James Kirk, minster at Aberfoyle, Kirk studied theology at St Andrews and in 1661 earned a master's degree at Edinburgh. Kirk became minister of Balquhidder in 1664 and of Aberfoyle from 1685 to his death. He married Isobel Campbell in 1670, with whom he had a son, Colin. Isobel died Christmas Day 1680, and Kirk carved her epitaph himself. Kirk had another son, Robert, with his second wife Margaret.

fairies are linked and interdependent, as Kirk reports that the former is necessary in order to see the latter. According to the book, fairy folk move seasonally, their 'chameleon-like bodies swim in the air near the earth with bag and baggage', and those with second-sight 'have very terrifying encounters with them, even on the highways'. Kirk notes that those with second-sight observe fairies supping at funerals and banquets. Fairies' houses, visible only to second-sighters, are lit by lamps and fires which burn without fuel, and sometimes there seems no source for the illumination itself.

Kirk's spirit is said to be trapped in the Minister's Pine which grows atop Doon Hill. Visitors write wishes on scraps of white cloth and tie the pieces to the trees on the hill in hopes fairies will favour them.

Chapter 10 tells: 'There be many places called fairie-hills, which the mountain people think impious and dangerous to peel or discover, by taking earth or wood from them, superstitiously believing the souls of their predecessors to dwell there. And for that end (say they) a mote or mount was dedicated beside every churchyard, to receive the souls 'till their adjacent bodies arise, and so become as a fairie-hill, they using bodies of air when called abroad.'

On summer evenings Kirk strolled on neighbouring Doon Hill, a 'fairie-hill' which he thought was the gateway to Fairyland. One evening he was found lying senseless there and brought home, where he died shortly after.

Pixie Parson

Kirk's tomb is in the Aberfoyle churchyard. A legend grew that fairies carried Kirk's body to Fairyland, where the departed served as Chaplain to the Fairy Queen, and that his coffin contained only stones.

Kirk's spectre reportedly visited Kirk's cousin Graham of Duchray (or another relation) with the information that it would appear at the baptism of the child Kirk's widow was carrying. Graham was instructed to throw an iron knife or fork at or over the ghost, thereby freeing Kirk from his fairy-enforced captivity. The spectre allegedly materialised, but Graham was too affrighted to honour the request, and the apparition faded away.

Kirk's spirit is said to be trapped in the Minister's Pine which grows atop Doon Hill. Visitors write wishes on scraps of white

Balquhidder

The small village of Balquhidder is in the Stirling council area. Looming over the village are the Braes of Balquhidder, which stand at the head of Loch Voil. The Celts regarded Balquhidder as a 'thin place', meaning a spot where Heaven and Earth were close to each other. In the 8th or 9th century, St Angus arrived at Balquhidder Glen, and acknowledging the Celtic belief about the place, knelt and blessed the ground. He lived the rest of his life in the area.

Rob Roy (7 March 1671 - 28 December 1734) lived in his house at Inverlochlarig Beag, on the Braes of Balquhidder, from some point before 1722 until his death. Rob Roy's grave is in Balquhidder kirkyard. Tom nan Angeae, known as the hill of fire, stands behind the present kirk. Up until the 19th century locals burned fires on the hill at Beltane and Samhain to honour the old gods. Today Balquhidder Glen is a popular place for walking, fishing and nature- and bird-watching. However, Balquhidder's railway station and singleteacher primary school are now closed.

cloth and tie the pieces to the trees on the hill in hopes fairies will favour them. Some refer to Kirk as 'the Fairy Minister'. Perhaps we might also call him the Pixie Parson.



Aberfoyle

At the foot of Craigmore on the River Forth, 27 miles northwest of Glasgow, lies Aberfoyle. The town is in the council area of Stirling within the historic county of Perthshire, and is inside the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. In 1885 the Duke of Montrose built a road over the eastern slope of Craigmore, which joined an older road and gave access to Trossachs Pass. Called Duke's Pass or Duke's Road, the Forestry Commission obtained the land and opened the way to public access in 1931. The road offers a route both to the Trossachs and Loch Katrine, the latter described by Sir Walter Scott in his poem The Lady of the Lake (1810). Rob Roy was born at the head of Loch Katrine, and his

cattle rustling adventures took place in the countryside around Aberfoyle.

Aberfoyle features in Scott's novel Rob Roy, and the location provided the inspiration and setting for Jules Verne's Les Indes noires, published in English under the title The Child of the Cavern. Aberfoyle's industries included ironworks, slate quarries, a lint mill, and wool spinning. The Aberfoyle railway station was in operation from 1882, but as the settlement's enterprises dried up it stopped serving passengers in 1951 and closed to freight service in 1959. In the centre of the town is a VisitScotland tourist information office through which visitors can book local rooms. Aberfoyle's estimated population in 2010 was 800.

KINGS CASTLES AND

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 "DURTY" WEE RASCALS only a few people in the Scot's Diaspora have a dormant folk memory awakened, then he shall be more than delighted.





The Hogback **Stones of Govan**

Wee chookie birdie toll-oll-oll, Laid an egg on the windae sole, The windae sole began tae crack, Wee chookie birdie went quack- quack.

A Glasgow childrens' rhyme as sung to me in infancy by my mother.

t was a sunny autumn day a few years ago that found me sneakily entering the side door of the Old Govan Parish Church in Glasgow – without anyone's permission. I had come through the open wrought-iron gates and into the church cemetary, only to find the big wooden front doors of the church firmly closed - once more. I say once more for this was the third time I had visited this same church on previous trips from Australia over the years, regularly to find the doors firmly locked to the public. I already knew that the church

was only open to the public at certain hours, on certain days and that even all that changed depending on the season. And a quick reading of the sign on the front gates had already told me that today was not one of those that gave access.

But I'm ashamed to say that I was determined, none the less, to break this rule and sneak in quietly and surreptitiously for I had noticed that a smaller side door was open and that there were one or two cars sitting close by. I assumed that there might be a caretaker, a cleaner or even the Minister of the church inside and thought I might be able to explain my predicament for I was flying back to Australia the next day and unable to try again. I would explain that I had come to see for myself, amongst other important artefacts, the iconic Hogback Stones that lay within this church.

Hogback stones

At the gate I had already noted a memorial to the men and women of Govan who had

I had taken notice of what it said in the little booklet entitled The Govan Heritage Trail about this very special graveyard I was walking through. The shape and size of the graveyard apparently points to the importance of this place, called Govan, as an important Christian community as far back as the 9th and 10th centuries and is the only part of a pre-industrial Govan to have survived through the many centuries of massive change. For although the present church is an 1888 youngster, at least three other earlier churches have stood upon this same spot, within this ancient graveyard, that includes by tradition the site of the early medieval monastery founded by King and Martyr, St Constantine. Inside the church I knew lay the Govan Sarcophagus, a beautifully carved shrine coffin, recognized as one of the most historically important medieval relics in the West of Scotland - and possibly

given their lives during two world wars and

Also within the church I learned from the booklet could be found 30 ancient sculpted stones including the shafts of four freestanding crosses. Amongst these were to be found 'the cuddy stane', a man on horseback and possibly an early representation of Christ riding into Jerusalem on what was to become Palm Sunday. Another artefact, the 'Sun Stone' has on one side a carving of a Pictish warrior with sword and spears and on the other side carvings of snakes chasing one another. But being a Viking tragic, what I had mainly come to see that day were the five Hogback stones suggesting a Viking settlement here in Govan as far back as the 10th century.

the final resting place of that saint.

Very mysterious

Now I was born only a mile or so from this special place that I now walked within and my father worked in the shipyards of Govan only a stone's throw from there. He had a good layman's knowledge of the history of the city of Glasgow which

he often shared with me on our jaunts around the city when I was a child. Yet the knowledge of this treasure trove of Old Govan Church was unknown to me until I became an adult and no longer lived in Glasgow. My family certainly attended a different church from this one but it remains a mystery to me to this day how this local ancient place received no attention from any of my family, many of whom were raised in Govan. I was determined to make up for lost time even if I might get into trouble for trespassing.

I entered through the side door keeping as quiet as a mouse only to hear some merriment and laughter from deep within the church. That took me by surprise. As I moved on I noticed that the church was very dark with only some very low safety lighting to show the way. I looked down the aisle keeping behind a pillar to try and go unnoticed. I took a deep breath and became very aware of my heartbeat and breathing, the way you become increasingly conscious of these functions when trying to hide from your friends in childhood or your grandchildren as an adult. And there they were, like five alien pods or giant eggs waiting to be brought back to life. There is something very mysterious about these stones. A cursory observation of them has each of them looking a bit like some kind of giant tortoise but even bigger than those on the Galápagos Islands.

Glasgow hospitality

Luckily for me the Hogback Stones were to my left on the same side of the church as where I was trying to keep a low profile. Under better lighting I could now see half a dozen or more people sitting around a table at the front of the church chatting and laughing. They had not yet seen me so I quietly progressed down the aisle to have a better look at the stones hoping that they would not notice me until the last minute. I held my breath.

"Hello there, can we help you", inevitably rang out but I noticed to my relief it was in a fairly friendly tone.

"Oh I'm sorry to interrupt your meeting - I apologise, I had come to see the Hogback Stones but I do realise that you're not open to the public today. I'm very sorry to have come in without permission but I head back to Australia tomorrow-so...."

Expecting to be asked to leave immediately I shamefacedly took another quick look at the stones as I made to go out the way I had come.

"Oh don't worry, come away in and we'll show you around later. Please join us first and have a cup of tea. Would you like a scone or a pancake to go with your tea?"

Over the next half hour or so I shared the story of my family connection to Plantation and Govan and my subsequent emigration to Australia. Later the lights above the Hogback Stones were put on for me and I was given a personal tour and viewing of the stones. For that I am indebted to this little band of friendly guardians of the treasures within their church. But the best thing that I took away from that visit was the simple example of unpretentious Glasgow hospitality. I felt proud to have shared some time with these present-day good people of Govan, my birthplace.



IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Pumkin soup

Ingredients:

1 x 4kg/8lb. 13oz. pumpkin 125g/4oz. butter 2 medium onions, peeled, finely chopped 1 cinnamon stick freshly grated nutmeg salt and freshly ground black pepper 1.7 litres/3 pints chicken stock (vegetarians may substitute vegetable stock) 3 tablespoons sherry

Method:

Cut the top off the pumpkin and set aside. Scoop out the seeds and fibres from the middle and discard. Using a sharp knife and a spoon, carefully hollow out the pumpkin, removing the flesh and setting aside. (It is imperative that you do not cut right up to the inside of the skin or pierce it. Leave 2cm/1in of flesh all around the inside). Roughly chop the scooped-out pumpkin flesh. Melt the butter in a large pan with a lid over a low heat and add the onions. Cook the onions gently for 10-15 minutes, until they are softened and golden-brown. Add the pumpkin flesh, the cinnamon and nutmeg, and season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Increase the heat to medium and cover with the lid. Cook for 40-45 minutes, stirring occasionally to prevent the base from burning, until the pumpkin is cooked through. Add the stock and bring to the boil. Remove from the heat and allow to cool slightly. Transfer the soup to a food processor in batches and blend until smooth. Return the soup to the pan and bring to a low simmer and cook for a further half an hour. Forty-five minutes before eating, preheat the oven to 170C/335F/Gas 3. Pour the soup into the hollow pumpkin shell, add the sherry and stir to combine. Place the reserved pumpkin 'lid' onto the pumpkin and place onto a large baking tray. Cook in the oven

for about 45 minutes, to bring the soup up to temperature. To serve, carefully remove from the oven and serve the soup in the pumpkin at the table. Ladle into bowls and serve.

Slow cooker chicken and butternut squash stew

Ingredients:

100g/3½oz. plain flour 4 tbsp sunflower oil 500g/1lb 2oz. boneless, skinless chicken thigh, chopped into 2.5cm/lin pieces 1 onion, chopped 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped 2 chillies, finely chopped 175ml/6fl oz. white wine ½ butternut squash, peeled, chopped into 2.5cm/1in pieces 300ml/10fl oz. chicken stock 5 sprigs fresh thyme 3 bay leaves 4 tbsp. crème fraîche salt and freshly ground black pepper small handful chopped fresh parsley

Method:

Sprinkle the flour onto a plate. Heat half of the oil in a frying pan, dredge the chicken pieces in the flour and fry for 4-5 minutes, or until browned all over. (You may need to brown the chicken in batches.) Tip the browned chicken into the slow cooker. Heat the remaining oil in a frying pan and fry the onion for five minutes, then add the garlic and chilli and fry for another 2-3 minutes. Add the wine and continue to cook for another few minutes, or until the volume of the liquid is reduced by half. Tip the onion mixture into the slow cooker. Add the butternut squash, chicken stock, thyme and bay leaves to the slow cooker. Stir everything together, pressing down so that everything is covered in liquid. Cook for 8-10 hours on low. About 30 minutes before serving, stir in the crème fraîche

and season to taste with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Cook for a further 30 minutes, then stir in the parsley.

Pumkin muffins



Ingredients: 60ml/2fl oz. vegetable oil, plus

extra for greasing

180g/6½oz. self-raising flour
130g/4½oz. wholemeal flour
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
pinch salt
3 fresh rosemary sprigs, finely chopped
2 free-range eggs, lightly beaten
100ml/4fl oz. plain yoghurt
275ml/10fl oz. milk
1 tbsp. honey
240g/8½oz. cooked pumpkin, cut into
½cm/¼in cubes
handful pumpkin seeds

Method

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Oil a 12-hole muffin tin and line with 12 squares of baking paper. Push the squares down into each hole so that the paper sticks up.

Sift the flours, baking powder, and bicarbonate of soda into a large bowl. Stir in the salt and rosemary. (Reserve any wholegrain left in the sieve.)

Meanwhile in another bowl, mix the eggs, yoghurt, milk, honey and vegetable oil until well combined.

Pour the wet ingredients into the dry and fold the ingredients together, but be careful not to over-work the mixture. Stir in most

Things may go "bump in the night" in the kitchen this month and we hope these spooky recipes are enjoyed in the lead up to Halloween.

of the pumpkin, reserving a little for the top of the muffins. Spoon the mixture into the muffin cases.

Sprinkle the reserved wholegrain, pumpkin and the pumpkin seeds over the muffins. Bake in the centre of the oven for 20–25 minutes, or until the muffins are well risen and a skewer inserted in the centre comes out clean.

Halloween scary cookies

Ingredients:

250g/9oz. unsalted butter, softened 250g/9oz. golden caster sugar 2 free-range eggs, lightly beaten ½ tsp vanilla extract 500g/1lb 2oz. plain flour red and black food colouring (optional) 1 tsp baking powder Halloween-themed cookie cutters red, white and black writing icing 200g/7oz. ready-to-roll fondant icing 1 tbsp. apricot jam, warmed with 1tsp. water

Method:

Beat together the butter and sugar in a large bowl, preferably using an electric mixer, until the mixture is light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs and vanilla extract. (If the mixture looks a little curdled, add a spoonful of the flour.) If you're using food colouring, add a few drops to the mixture.

Sift together the flour and baking powder in a separate bowl. Stir the flour into the butter mixture and work into a dough using floured hands. Turn onto a floured work surface and knead into a ball (the dough will be quite wet). Divide the dough into two portions, wrap in cling film and leave to chill in the fridge for at least one hour. Preheat the oven to 170C/325F/Gas 3. Line two baking trays with greaseproof paper. Roll the dough out to a 0.5cm/1/4in thickness on lightly floured work surface. (It's best to roll out one portion of the dough at a time, leaving the remainder in the fridge.) Cut shapes out with the Halloween cutters. Take a few limbs and heads off the gingerbread man for added gore. Place the cookies onto the baking tray, leaving a gap between them in case they spread a little. Bake for 12-15 minutes, leave on the tray for 10 minutes and then move to a wire rack to finish cooling. Once cool, let your imagination run wild. Use the red writing icing along the edges of the missing limbs and heads as blood. For the skeletons and mummies, roll the fondant icing out to a 0.5cm/1/4in thickness on a work surface dusted with icing sugar and cut out shapes using the same cutters as the cookies. Brush the cookies with the warmed apricot jam and stick the icing onto the cookies. Decorate with the white and black writing icing.

Halloween punch

Ingredients:

500ml/18fl oz. cranberry juice 1.5 litres/2½ pints lemonade 3 limes, juice only large handful gummi worms

Method

Pour all of the ingredients into a large glass bowl and mix until well combined. Drapethe gummi worms over the edge of the bowl.

New Zealand dog help's Orkney in the world's largest island eradication project

By: Judy Vickers





New Zealand dog and his handler have been flown to Orkney to lend their skills in detecting stoats as part of the world's largest eradication project. Stoats are native to the UK Mainland but not to Orkney, where they pose a very serious threat to Orkney's native wildlife particularly the Orkney vole, hen harrier, short-eared owl and other ground nesting birds such as red-throated divers, Arctic terns and curlews.

Orkney is internationally important for these species and its thriving wildlife tourism industry relies on them. Therefore, the Orkney Native Wildlife Project, a partnership between Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and RSPB Scotland, has been set up to protect the native wildlife of the islands by removing stoats, an invasive non-native predator that was first recorded there in 2010.

Macca, a fox terrier from New Zealand, is a conservation detection dog and is specially trained to detect signs of stoats. He and his handler Ange, from North Canterbury, have an important role to play in helping preparations ahead of the start of the programme to remove stoats from Orkney. Their job, for three months, is to systematically search for signs of stoat presence on high-risk islands around Orkney's main island (Orkney Mainland).

Scattered populations

Stoats are notoriously difficult to detect particularly when they are living in scattered populations. Therefore, the only way to be certain that stoats are not present is to use specially-trained conservation detection dogs, like Macca, to systematically search for signs and the scent of stoats.

Since 2010, stoats have spread and established across Orkney Mainland and four islands that are linked to the

Mainland by road bridges including Burray and South Ronaldsay. There have also been a handful of sightings reported on other non-linked islands including Hoy and, most recently, Shapinsay. Traps and motion-activated cameras have been used to try to determine whether stoats are present on these other islands following possible sightings. However, the presence or absence of stoats on all "high-risk" islands must be determined before the eradication programme to remove stoats can commence.

Like other detection dogs, Macca has been rigorously trained to the highest standards similar to those used to train drug or "sniffer" dogs. The difference is that Macca is trained to identify all signs and the scent of stoats and to indicate this to his expert handler – in this case Ange Newport.

Ange is a dog handler with 10 years' experience and has worked with Macca for three and a half years. She lives near Christchurch, but grew up in Hokianga, on the family cattle and sheep farm in the far north of New Zealand. She said: "Macca is a working dog that has been specifically trained to detect stoats – their sign and scent – and alert me to their presence.

Although he is not really a pet, he is definitely part of my family. We have a very strong bond, which is integral to the success of our work, and we also enjoy our free time together too. He has a colleague back home, my rodent detection dog, and as a working team, they understand whose turn it is when I head off to work with one or the other of them. When it's our down time, he enjoys a good romp on the beach at home, saying hi to the other beach dogs out there, and running after sticks in the surf."

Stoat invasion

Ange has been working in conservation for more than 13 years. After first attending a fine arts school, she redirected and got her first conservation job as Biodiversity Ranger with the New Zealand Department of Conservation in 2005, before recently becoming an independent contractor.

In 2009, she started training and working conservation dogs for rodents and mustelids (a family of animals including stoats, weasels and mink), as part of her job. Over the last five years she has worked further afield with island work; spending 14 months with her rodent detection dog on Australia's sub-Antarctic island, Macquarie as part of an eradication programme; and last year, as part of the post monitoring team for the rodent eradication on South Georgia.

She added: "We are here in Orkney to do what we do best; seek out the sign or scent of stoat presence, particularly on the islands surrounding Mainland Orkney. Mac loves his job and is surely happy to be here, and he does have a rather Scottish sounding name, which hopefully puts him in good stead for making friends."

Plans are in place to train six conservation detection dogs as part of the Orkney Native Wildlife Project, but, because they take years of training, Macca has been brought in to help with the critical task of confirming the presence or absence of stoats on islands that are at high risk from stoat invasion.

Orkney's wildlife

High-risk islands are those that are within a swimmable distance of islands where stoats are established. Stoats can swim considerable distances (at least 3 km) over open water and there are many smaller islands that they could use as stepping stones.

Being trained to simply target the signs and smell of stoats means that Macca (and other detection dogs like him) will not attempt to catch any stoats or react to the presence of other species



or livestock. No stoats will be harmed by Macca or Ange, whose sole job is to determine presence or hopefully absence of stoats from other islands. Macca will be under full control, wear a muzzle and be identifiable by a special vest or harness at all times. If landowners require it, he can be kept on a leash at all times.

Since 2010, stoats have spread and established across Orkney Mainland and four islands that are linked to the Mainland by road bridges including Burray and South Ronaldsay.

As part of their time on Orkney, both Macca and Ange be meeting Orcadians on all the islands where they will be working. As there are currently no stoat conservation detection dogs in the UK, the Orkney Native Wildlife Project is keen that people find out more about the important role dogs like Macca play in conservation across the world as well as specifically what will be happening in Orkney.

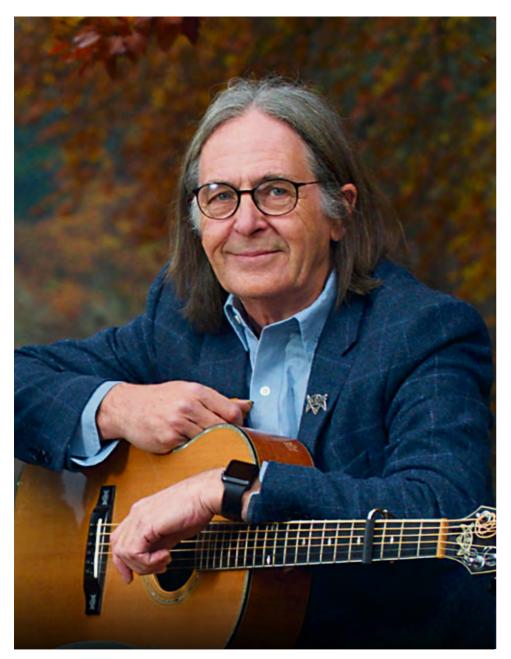
Speaking on behalf of the Orkney Native Wildlife Project, Sarah Sankey said: "We'd firstly like to thank all the landowners in Orkney who are assisting with making these essential checks for stoats possible but we also want to welcome Macca and Ange. Checking the high-risk islands for stoats is a key step in developing a successful operation to eradicate stoats in Orkney and protect our world-renowned and internationally important native wildlife. Orkney's wildlife is such an important part of what make these islands special and is ingrained in our culture and our history. We want to ensure that, together, we can safeguard its future."







Dougie Maclean is one Scotland's premier music exports and 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of his iconic love song to Scotland, Caledonia. Dougie took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on just what it is like to write such a defining song, the return of his music festival Perthshire Amber and how working with his own family hits all the right notes.



SC: Dougie thank you for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can we begin with by you telling us what got you into music and what influence your family's love of traditional music has had on you?

DM: I was very lucky that both my parents loved music of all kinds ... my mother played a little melodeon and my father had learnt to play a wee bit of fiddle. It was quite common in our house, if there was a gathering of people, for my mum to get the melodeon out and play a few Gaelic waltzes. She taught me as a very wee boy to play the melodeon ... albeit in a very basic way... and I guess that was my introduction to playing an instrument!

We also had an old radio that was on all the time. We also regularly went along to dances in the local village halls with the various visiting Scottish Country Dance Bands ... I wanted to be a drummer in a dance band and my very first performance was a harmonica tune during one of the dance breaks.

SC: This year is the 40th anniversary of the track *Caledonia*. As a young backpacker in France who was genuinely homesick and missing Scotland you wrote the career defining song which has been labelled an unofficial national anthem and has been played at numerous events associated with





Scotland. How does it make you feel that the song still resonates with so many people, so strongly today and does the adult Dougie still connect with the boy who wrote the song on a Brittany beach all those years ago?

DM: Caledonia was a genuine 'homesick' song that I wrote in my early twenties when I was travelling in Europe....it was indeed on a beach in Brittany. It's a wonderful thing as a songwriter to have a song that he has written become part of 'common culture' like that, where it's sung at weddings, funerals, big sporting and musical events etc. and I always get a great feeling when I hear it sung in these situations. I'm very proud of the wee song and still really enjoy singing it, sharing it ... and revisiting the young man who wrote it!

SC: Your music really tells a tale and gives listeners the opportunity to explore a story told with humanity and compassion. What is it about the magic of writing music do you find so special and what is your preferred way to pen a song?

DM: Songwriting is quite a magical process ... it's that challenge of using language to explore universal and yet very personal themes. Something magical happens when you combine a melody with carefully chosen words. When I write I try and let myself drift into a kind of 'subconscious' place ... then somehow, almost magically, sometimes 'things' (melody and lyrics) appear. Bringing these together into something that is enjoyable to sing is the main part of the process. I can't sing something I don't really love.

SC: Your latest album *A Robert Burns*Selection highlights your love with the poetry, songs and story of Robert Burns.
Can you tell us more about the album and your fascination with Scotland's bard?

DM: I was exposed to the songs and poetry of Robert Burns from a very early age through my parents. Nobody can fail to be moved by his brilliant, honest writing and his sense of melody. I've always enjoyed singing his songs and even though they are over 200 years old they are still as relevant today as they were in his own time. My recent album is a collection of his songs that I've arranged, sung and recorded over the years on different albums...with a couple of newly recorded songs included.

SC: Perthshire Amber is coming back to Scotland this November. The music festival highlights some of Scotland's top talents and is one of Scotland's most unique music events. Can you tell us what is happening at the festival this year?

DM: The festival has since 2005 been a great way of sharing my music and my musical friendships with visitors from all over the world as well as celebrating the history and culture of my Perthshire home and sharing its beautiful scenery. Returning in 2018 after a one year break, our small festival has again got concerts in venues ranging from castle to concert hall, the captivating Cabaret Amber, as well as the Open Mic showcases and acoustic music sessions in Dunkeld's famous pubs. We really want to focus more on these pub sessions this year - there's nothing better than walking into a welcoming, good quality 'session' where the varied music flows comfortably for hours on end....with everyone feeling free to join in. We hope this year's festival will be enjoyed by around 5,000 people from over 20 countries worldwide!

SC: As a long established musician how important is it for festivals such Perthshire Amber or Celtic Connections to help highlight all the amazing home grown talent that Scotland is producing?

DM: Festivals have always been a great catalyst to inspire musicians, young and old, to improve their skills and hold on to their enthusiasm! They have proved to be a great place for musicians to get together and exchange ideas and experiences. I've performed at and been involved in hundreds of festivals, enormous and small, in different countries over the years and they have played a huge part in my musical journey.

SC: Your music business has definitely become a family affair as you work closely with your wife Jenny and son Jamie and I understand even had your six year old grandson co-write a song with you! Can you tell how important it is for you to enjoy your professional journey with the ones you hold dearest?

DM: Very early on (in the early eighties) when I met Jenny, we decided to take a very independent direction with my music and her art. We realised that was the only way to maintain our integrity and the ownership of the things we would create. Fortunately we were able to buy my old village school and from that base in Perthshire we developed our family business, with children joining us when they became old enough. With a publishing company, recording studio and label and the management of my concerts and our festival we have had lots of hard work and yet great fun in a business that many find difficult. The family nature has kept me grounded and has helped to maintain the authenticity of the work we all do.

My last CD was a complete collaboration with our son Jamie who arranged the songs, played most of the instruments and engineered and produced the album!

He grew up with my music and it's very easy and enjoyable working together. Now the grandsons hang around the old school and add their own input to the creative process... yes I did co-write one of the songs on my last



album *New Tomorrow* with my grandson. *Thunderbolt* is about an Australian bushranger and he got right into the whole story!

Doing it all the way we do helps it to make genuine sense. Jenny does all the business side of things as well as her watercolour paintings and weavings...and all this, songwriting, painting, festival and concert plans...get decided around our kitchen table.

SC: And finally Dougie you are known the world over for your music, however some readers may be surprised you are also an archer and bee keeper! Can you tell us more about these and any other hobbies you enjoy when not touring?

DM: I've always been fascinated by all kinds of things. I think it's important for a musician to have a 'real' life...it makes the music you write more relevant and authentic. I grew up working on farms in a rural environment so I love finding things, growing things, learning things. I am fascinated by local history whether iron age archaeology or Fergie Tractors or ancient archery with a long bow! It's all part of understanding and appreciating the world we live in.

Perthshire Amber will take place November 2nd-4th 2019. For details see: www.perthshireamber.com



THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- ${f 1}$ Battle of Largs Scots defeated the Vikings who were attempting to invade. ${f 1263}$
- 1 Contract to construct the North Bridge, Edinburgh, signed. 1763
- 2 Birth of Sir William Ramsay, Scottish chemist who discovered helium, xenon, neon, argon, radon and krypton. 1852
- 2 Death of Sir Thomas Lipton, grocer, tea merchant and contestant for the Americas Cup. 1931



- 2 The new paddle steamer *Waverley* was launched from A. & J. Inglis's yard on the Clyde. After providing services on the Firth of Clyde she has been preserved and still takes passengers "doon the watter" as the oldest sea-going paddle steamer in the world. 1947
- **3** Treaty of Berwick, freeing David II from imprisonment by the English. **1357**
- 3 Last Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh before the Union with Westminster. 1706



- 4 Boys' Brigade founded in Glasgow by Sir William Alexander Smith. The first uniformed youth organisation in the world, from one small company of 35 boys it has grown into a worldwide organisation with companies in over 60 countries. 1883
- **5** Balloon flight by Italian aeronaut Vincenzo Lunardi from Heriot's School, Edinburgh to Ceres in Fife. **1785**
- **5** -The birth of Jock Stein, famous Scottish football manager. Stein was manager of Celtic between 1965 and 1978, during which time it was one of the most successful clubs in Europe, and in 1967 became the first British club to win the European Cup. **1922**
- **6** Scot Ebenezer Henderson formed the first Congregational church in Sweden. He spent many years travelling throughout Scandinavia and Russia, giving out bibles translated into local languages. **1811**
- 7 Birth of Charles McLaren, one of the founders of the *Scotsman* newspaper. **1782**
- 8 Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the first savings bank, born in the Manse at Lochrutton. 1774
- 9 King James IV ratified the Charter incorporating the Surgeons and Barbers. $1506\,$
- 9 Death of Lord Home of the Hirsel, also known as Sir Alec Douglas-Home, formerly Foreign Secretary and UK Prime Minister. 1995
- $10\,\textsc{-}$ Writer and geologist Hugh Miller born on the Black Isle, Cromarty. $1802\,$

- 10 Jock Stein, Scottish football manager, collapsed and died. He suffered a massive heart attack after watching Scotland draw 1-1 with Wales in a World cup qualifying match in Cardiff. As well as managing the national team, from 1965-78 he was Celtic's most famous manager, seeing them win the European Cup in 1967. 1985
- 11 Letter from Wallace and Moray to the mayors of Lubeck and Hamburg saying that "The Kingdom of Scotland has, by God's Grace, recovered by battle from the power of the English". The Lubeck Letter was thought to have been destroyed during World War Two, but was found in a Lubeck Museum and is now on permanent loan to the Museum of Scotland. 1297
- 11 Ship Great Michael launched for King James IV. 1511
- 11 The British fleet, under the command of Admiral Adam Duncan (born in Forfar in 1731), defeated the Dutch off the village of Camperdown, Holland. 1797
- 11 Scotland's first First Minister Donald Dewar died suddenly at 63 after a fall on the steps of his official residence in Edinburgh. He was the first person to hold the position of First Minister following the establishment of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. 2000
- $12 \hbox{-Ramsay MacDonald, first Labour Prime} \\ \text{Minister of UK, born in Lossiemouth. } 1866$
- 12 The birth of Magnus Magnusson, writer and broadcaster. Born in Iceland, Magnus moved to Scotland when only a baby. He made a career in journalism, finally achieving the post of Assistant Editor with *The Scotsman*. Magnusson died on January 7th 2007. 1929
- 13 Battle of Aberdeen, James Graham, 1st Marquess of Montrose, sacked the city. 1644
- 13 Birth of Allan Ramsay, painter and son of Allan Ramsay the poet. 1713
- 14 Second marriage of King Alexander III (to Yolanda de Dreux). 1285
- 14 Edward Bruce, brother of Robert the Bruce, killed in a battle near Dundalk, Ireland. 1318
- 14 Birth at St James' Palace, London of King James VII, second son of King Charles I and brother of King Charles II. 1633
- 14 The 50 pence decimal coin was first issued, replacing the ten shilling note. 1969
- 15 Birth of poet Allan Ramsay, father of Allan Ramsay the painter. 1686



- 15 Edinburgh's Balmoral Hotel opened its doors for the first time. The hotel was originally known as the North British. Acclaimed as one of the great railway hotels, it originally boasted 300 bedrooms and 52 bathrooms. It was later renamed The Balmoral which means "majestic dwelling" in Gaelic. 1902
- 15 Poet William Souter died in Perth. 1943
- 15 HMS Hawke was shot and sunk off the coast of Aberdeen by a German submarine. Launched in 1891 the ship was the sixth British warship to be named Hawke. 524 officers and men died, including the ship's captain, Hugh Williams, with only 70 survivors. 1914
- 16 King James II born. 1430

16 - Poet Robert Fergusson died. 1774



- 16 Bridge to the Isle of Skye opened. Built as a private finance initiative, the bridge initially had the highest tolls in Europe which led to a decade of non-payment protests. 1995
- 17 Battle of Neville's Cross during which King David II was captured by the English. 1346
- 17 James "Paraffin" Young obtained a patent for the extraction of paraffin from shale, starting the chemical industry in West Lothian. 1850
- 18 -Aberdeen-born Denis Law became the youngest footballer to play for Scotland. At the time playing for Huddersfield Town, he was 18 years and 7 months old when he played against Wales at Cardiff. Scotland won 3-0. He has recently been nominated Scotland's best player of the last 50 years by the SFA. 1958
- 18 The death of Margaret Tudor, English princess, sister of Henry VIII, wife of James IV, and mother of James V. It was through Margaret, a paternal great-grandmother (through Henry, Lord Darnley), and a maternal great-grandmother (through Mary, Queen of Scots), that James VI based his claim to the throne of England following the death of Queen Elizabeth I. 1541
- 19 The first public-hire sedan chairs became available in Edinburgh. A sedan was an enclosed chair for one person, carried on poles by two men. They reached the height of their popularity in the 18th century, when there were as many as 180 sedans for public hire in Edinburgh. 1687
- 20 Explosion at Clarkston Toll shopping centre, killing 12. 1971
- 21 Last tram car ran in Dundee. 1956



- 21 The Queen officially opened the Burrell Collection in Glasgow's Pollok Country Park. The museum's collection had been donated to the city nearly 40 years earlier by the shipping magnate Sir William Burrell. The Burrell Collection is now closed for refurbishment and will reopen in 2020 after a multi-million pound redevelopment is complete. 1983
- 22 Foundation stones of main Post Office and National Museum of Scotland laid by Prince Albert in his last public engagement before his death. 1861
- 23 Treaty between King John Balliol of Scotland and King Philippe IV of France which promised mutual help against the English the start of the "Auld Alliance". The Alliance, which was described in 1942 by Charles de Gaulle as 'the oldest alliance in the world' promised mutual help against the English, asserting that should either Scotland or France be invaded by England, the other country would invade English territory. 1295

- 23 Death of John Boyd Dunlop who re-invented the pneumatic tyre from the design of Robert W Thomson. 1921
- $\bf 24$ Artist David Roberts born in Edinburgh. He died on 25 November 1864 whilst working on a painting at St Pauls Cathedral. $\bf 1796$
- 25 Elvis Presley touched down at Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire, his only visit to Scotland. This was also the only time "The King" set foot on British soil. 1960
- 26 George III crowned, beginning a 60 year reign, one of the longest in British history. 1760
- $26 \hbox{ Lady Caroline Nairne, songwriter and} \\ poet, died at Gask, Perthshire. \\ 1845$
- 26 Poet Sorley MacLean born on the island of Raasay. 1911



- **27** William Smith, founder of the Boys' Brigade, born. **1854**
- 28 Birth of Robert Liston in Linlithgow who was to carry out the first operation in Britain with the aid of an anaesthetic. 1794
- 28 Dr Henry Faulds, a Scots medical missionary working in Japan, published a letter in "Nature" which gave the first evidence that fingerprints could be used as proof of guilt or innocence in legal cases. 1880
- 28 Journalist and novelist Cliff Hanley (*Dancing in the Streets*) born in Glasgow. 1922
- 29 James Boswell, biographer of Dr Johnston, born at Blair's Land, Parliament Square, Edinburgh. 1740
- 30 Caledonian Canal opened. The Caledonian Canal links the west of Scotland to the East, and makes it possible to navigate a canal boat journey coast to coast right through Scotland's Great Glen, between Fort William and Inverness. It is scenically spectacular along its whole length, surrounded as it is by Scotland's highest mountains and most beautiful scenery. 1822
- $\bf 30$ First moving image on a television screen when John Logie Baird transmitted the image of a 15-year-old office boy in his London workshop. $\bf 1925$
- **30** Glasgow born Scottish aviator Scottish aviator Jim Mollison died. Mollison became the RAF's youngest serving officer, the first person to fly solo east to west across the Atlantic and flew from Scotland to Australia in 8 days, 19 hours and 28 minutes. **1959**
- 31 Pneumatic bicycle tyres were patented by inventor John Boyd Dunlop from Ayrshire. 1888



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

Rob Roy Way-Walk for cancer



hen Australian ICU and hyperbaric nurse Natalie McGregor was diagnosed with cancer, she found out how hard it was to be a patient – it left her emotionally and physically drained. Out the other side of that illness, Natalie feels that she's a better nurse, more aware of how to help her patients. Now she's paying it forward. "When you're told you have cancer, the instant fear and sadness is overwhelming but in my case I had a team of health professionals from two hospitals that not only made me feel safe,

but showed me dedication, kindness and compassion beyond words. It's been six years since I finished my treatment and three years since the loss of my dearest friend to cancer but those teams are still by my side and have helped me navigate life after cancer," Natt said.

The Rob Roy Way

To give back, Natt and a team of mates will be trekking the Scottish Highlands along the Rob Roy Way, following the trails of her ancestors, the McGregors. The team of eight, including six Alfred nurses and

two Victoria Police officers, will complete the 124km journey over 10 days in April next year. Training for the event has now begun, with the team focusing on improving their fitness. The aim is to raise \$30,000 for cancer care.

The Alfred Radiation Oncology and Cabrini Breast Cancer Oncology (Brightways)

The Alfred treats thousands of people living with cancer. Alfred Health's cancer service includes 28 inpatient beds, 18 day procedure beds, and a large radiotherapy and chemotherapy centre. The Alfred's cancer services allow for close clinical coordination with a range of cancer specialists, including surgeons, medical oncologists, haematologists, nursing and allied health specialists.

The Cabrini cancer (Brightways) service provides multidisciplinary care which, in simple terms, means that Cabrini's health professionals – surgeons, oncologists, breast care nurses, physiotherapists and counsellors all work together to determine the best course of treatment for individuals, addressing specific needs. Treatment is planned by a multidisciplinary healthcare team with Brightways providing care for over 550 new patients per year.

All funds raised during the Rob Roy Way Challenge will support radiation and oncology services at The Alfred Radiation Oncology and Cabrini Breast Cancer Oncology (Brightways).

You can support this great cause at www.gofundme.com/rob-roy-way-walk-forcancer or follow their journey on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/Tartan-About-Rob-Roy-Way-Walk-for-Cancer-164408394209161



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