



42

the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 42 Number 7 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper January 2019

Up Helly Aa

Lighting up Shetland's dark winter with Viking fun

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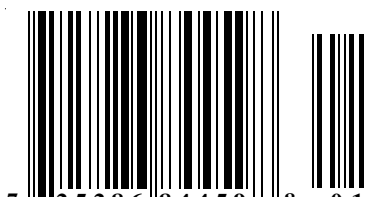
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**the
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The Banner Says...

Starting the year off Scottish style



by Sean Cairney

With the holiday vibe in full swing many people are extra busy in the lead up to January. Some may even consider January a quiet month to get over all the holiday cheer, not the Scots!

The month begins of course in full festive flair throughout Scotland with Hogmanay celebrations taking place across the country, as the clock strikes twelve, millions of Scots around the world celebrate ringing in the bells and throwing a party called Hogmanay.

You would then assume January 1st may be a quiet day for many? Well in Scotland a couple of great traditions take place that certainly are unique ways to start the year off. In South Queensferry outside of Edinburgh, over a 1000 people, many in fancy dress, plunge their bodies in the icy Firth of Forth to start their year. This great cause is not only a spectacle to be seen but raises funds for charity while soaking away any cobwebs from 2018, or perhaps the night before...

The Kirkwall Ba'

For those seeing the New Year in Orkney, an altogether different tradition takes places on January 1st. The Kirkwall Ba' (which is also held on Christmas) is one of Orkney's favourite traditions, with origins thought to go back to when Norse Vikings settled in Orkney. On New Year's Day a mass football game takes place up and down the streets of Kirkwall in a very rough and tumble event that even the Vikings would be still proud of.

The Ba' has two teams the Uppies and the Doonies, your team is judged by where someone is from. If you were born to the north of the

Cathedral you were a Doonie, with Uppies being those born to the south, or you play on the side that your father or grandfather did before you. Uppies and Doonies came from the term "Up the Gates" and "Doon the Gates", from the old Norse word-gata, meaning road. A scrum involving hundreds of men and boys then erupts across the town as each team crushes and competes each other, with games lasting up to five hours or more, with apparently few injuries.

Currently this is a male dominated event, however in 1946 after the Second World War, a Women's Ba's took place for the first and only time, so far.

With the holiday vibe in full swing many people are extra busy in the lead up to January. Some may even consider January a quiet month to get over all the holiday cheer, not the Scots!

Not for everyone but these are just two examples of how Scots start the year off. Overseas Scots are also beginning the year off right with Highland Games on New Year's Day in both New Zealand and Australia, as peak summer allows pipes and drums, Scottish dancers and Clans to gather in celebration of our culture and the year that lies ahead. With Highland Games also taking place later in the month in Florida for all those snowbirds to enjoy.

Burns Night

You cannot mention Scottish celebration in January without Robert Burns. Scotland's Bard is celebrated and revered across the globe and this month thousands of people will attend Burns Suppers which have been taking place since 1801. Burns started his life as a poor tenant farmer and his creative and powerful poetry made him one of Scotland's most important cultural icons.

Today Robert Burns is thought to generate £200m every year to the Scottish economy and Burns Supper's celebrate not just the man and his work but his values and belief in justice and equality.

From Scotland to the world, Burns Suppers will celebrate this great literary figure from Africa to America. Our events page includes some of great events taking place and hopefully you can take part whether it be at an informal at home event to one of the great many dinners taking place though January into February.

In this issue

Another uniquely Scottish tradition taking place this month is Shetland's biggest fire festival, Up Helly Aa. This event though modern, also takes a nod to the island's rich links to Shetland's Viking heritage. Each year a month after Christmas the streets of Lerwick see hundreds of torch-carrying "guizers" lead a procession to burn a Viking longboat and light up the winter sky. The festival incorporates Norse traditions and celebrate Shetland's Viking heritage.

While this month many will celebrate Robert Burns, in this issue we also look at those who helped shape the man. The bard's family would certainly be instrumental in making Robert who he was and in turn part of the legacy that he left on Scotland. Robert Burns was one of seven children and those lives would have been interwoven as we look at Robert's humble beginnings.

With 2019 upon us there is a great deal happening for those planning a trip back to Scotland. We have included some highlights of events taking place in both the piping world and across the tourism industry. Perhaps if you had been thinking of going back to Scotland, this may just convince you?!

Experience some Scottish culture this year

As you can see there is much going on this month for Scots. The best wee country in the world certainly starts the year off with a bang and 2019 looks to be another great year of events and celebration. Whether it be back in Scotland or closer to home I hope you can experience some Scottish culture this year, there is something on every month and the more we celebrate our culture the stronger our events and identity to it becomes.

All of us at *the Scottish Banner* wish you and yours the very best for 2019. 🍷

Will you be visiting Scotland or attending some Scottish events closer to home in 2019? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



Starting the year off at The Kirkwall Ba'.



Gracing our front cover:
Up Helly Aa Vikings.
Photo: VisitScotland.

Scottish Government urged to step in to save Coul Links



Coul Links. Photo: Craig Allardyce.

The fate of one of Scotland's most important dune habitats now lies with Scottish Ministers after Highland Council voted to approve plans for a golf course at Coul Links near Embo in East Sutherland.

The Council's planning committee has approved the application on an internationally protected site against the recommendation of their own officials, in addition to a statutory objection from Scottish Natural Heritage.

A coalition of environmental groups has been campaigning to save Coul Links from these proposals and is strongly critical of the failure of the planning committee to give due consideration to need to refuse the application because of its environmental impact. They are now calling on Scottish Ministers to save the Coul Links from being permanently damaged by the construction of the golf course.

Stuart Brooks, Head of Natural Heritage Policy at the National Trust for Scotland said: "Scotland's world class wild landscapes and wildlife are at risk again from development. By approving this scheme in the face of public opposition and against the recommendation of the Government's natural heritage advisors the Scottish Government must now intervene to protect the site in the national interest."

Precious dune habitat

Calum Duncan, Head of Conservation Scotland, Marine Conservation Society said: "We are bitterly disappointed with this anachronistic decision. The Coul Links dunes should be celebrated for the precious wild space they currently are, a status they are now set to lose, that can be enjoyed responsibly by everyone, including most importantly for local benefit."

A holistic approach to encourage visitors, especially with the profile of the North Coast 500, should celebrate these as amongst the last and best examples of this precious dune habitat, and the boost to health and wellbeing a visit there could provide. Instead unique wildlife will be threatened, the wildness of the dunes trashed and the opportunity for inclusive recreational access diminished."

The plans for the course had been recommended for refusal by officials as they are contrary to Highland Council's development plan due to the "significant and permanent loss of sand dune habitat". They also highlighted that "...Coul Links support some of the best quality SSSI dune slack habitats in Scotland".

The proposal had received unprecedented levels of opposition with over 1,800 objections lodged with Highland Council, and one petition gaining over 89,000 signatures. Objectors included many local people and local groups such as the Tain and District Field Club and local campaign group Not Coul, as well as Scotland's national statutory nature conservation advisors Scottish Natural Heritage, the international IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and numerous national environmental groups.

Due to the severe damage that would be caused to internationally important wildlife habitats, the decision cannot be issued until Scottish Ministers have had an opportunity to consider the proposals. Ministers now have the opportunity to step in and save the site by calling in the application.

Burns' favourite drinking 'howff' The Globe Inn sold



Annandale Distillery Company Ltd. has acquired The Globe Inn in Dumfries. The Globe, which has stood on the site since 1610, was famously

frequented by Scottish poet Robert Burns who would often stay there in his capacity as Exciseman for the area. He was also a regular patron in later years when he moved his family to Dumfries. His chair still sits by the fire, and the verse he etched into the glass windows attracts visitors from around the world. The site is also significant as being where the Mausoleum Committee met in 1819 to arrange an annual celebration of the Bard's life – effectively one of the first ever Burns Suppers – and established the Dumfries Burns Club in 1820.

Annandale owners Teresa Church and David Thomson have modest plans for the historic site that's been owned and operated since 1935 by the McKerrow family.

"Our principal concern is the preservation of this historic landmark", says Church. "The process of sympathetically restoring the distillery buildings in Annan stirred up a real passion in us for discovering and protecting the remarkable history of our region. When the opportunity to own The Globe came up, we leapt at the chance to be custodians of such a historically significant site."



The Ailsa Tartan Tote

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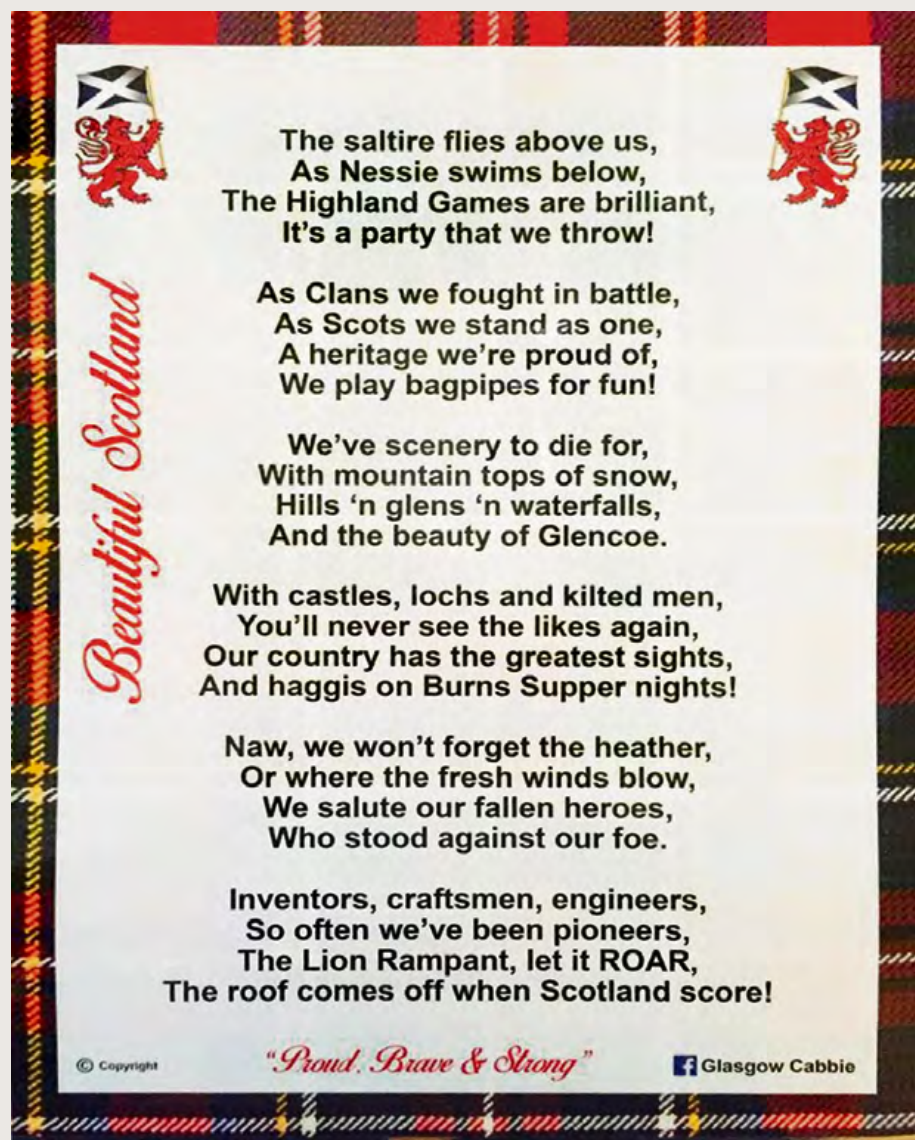
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Ever wanted to know what happened to your old pal from home, how to make your favourite Scottish meal, or wondered about a certain bit of Scottish history?



The Glasgow Cabbie
Glasgow, Scotland

Outlaw King



Thank you for the article on the *Outlaw King* in your November edition. I had never heard of this film until reading this article in your very informative publication.

I am history obsessed and the story of Scotland is so fascinating, in part due to my Scottish heritage, but also for the fact you just can't make some of this stuff up!

I really enjoyed the film and hope this now gives producers the push to feature more of the life of Robert the Bruce and Scottish history in general. The appeal is not limited to Scots but all the more fascinating for us!

Love the *Scottish Banner*!
Stuart Craig
Wellington, New Zealand

Ed note: Thanks Stuart and we agree the *Outlaw King* deserves a follow up. It was only based on one year of Robert the Bruce's life, so much more to tell.

Reply to social media ref Sharon Connell

Reply to *Scottish Banner* Volume 42, Number 5, November 2018, Page 4, regarding the social media request by Sharon Connell. In reply to your enquiry regarding Grandparents from Kirkintilloch. As a past resident of Kirkintilloch now living in Australia I Robert McAlpine still have family living in Kirkintilloch. My sister passed on information for you, this is what we found: M Baillie Flat C 11 Shamrock St, Kirkintilloch L H Baillie 60 Boghead Road, Kirkintilloch D Connell 123 Lock Road, Kirkintilloch I Connell 37 Boghead Road, Lenzie I Connell 3 Burns Drive, Kirkintilloch

Wish you all the best in your research.

The *Scottish Banner* is indeed a great paper to keep us all in touch.

Kind regards,
Robert McAlpine
Australia

Oliver Cromwell

I just read the story of Gilder Roy (*Scottish Banner*, November, 2018). I was pleased to read about him, you also mention in the story of Oliver Cromwell. I have been interested in Oliver Cromwell for some time and only get small pieces of information. It is many years since my school days and I only have vivid memories of him mentioned in history. It would be wonderful if the *Scottish Banner* did an article on Oliver Cromwell in the future.

I get my subscription to the *Scottish Banner* for Christmas each year and read it from cover to cover and get so much information from it and pass it on in all directions.

Mrs Beverley Mason
Raymond Terrace, New South Wales
Australia

Culzean Castle



I loved reading about my favourite Scottish castle in the November edition of the *Scottish Banner* (*Hidden doorway revealed at Culzean caves*). I have visited the castle on three different trips to Scotland and always love being there which such great history and architecture. The castle has one of the most impressive stair cases I have ever seen and the surrounding grounds are gorgeous with bird and plant life nestled on the edge of the Ayrshire coast. My husband is a avid golfer and the area is home to great golf courses and overall stunning scenery.

I love the *Scottish Banner* and there really is nothing quite like it in the market-thank you for continuing to provide Scots worldwide with such an informative read each and every month.

Kelly Ferguson
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Thanks Kelly for your note and you are so right, this castle is a stunner, both inside and out. Do other readers have a favourite Scottish castle? Please share with us!

Family of Bruce International



Family of Bruce International had their AGM at Stone Mountain, Georgia Highland Games October 20, 2018. There were 26 members present representing seven states. Polly Bruce Tilford
National Secretary to Family of Bruce International
USA

Ed note: Great to see the Bruce's proudly gathered!

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



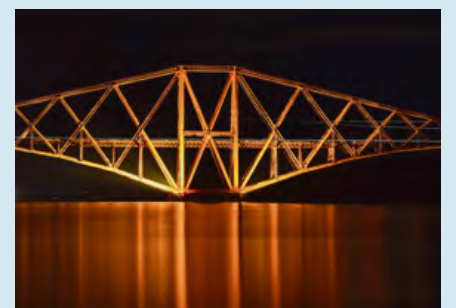
Send your photos or letters via social media

Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk



The Learned Kindred of Currie made a great showing at misty Alexandria (Virginia) Scottish Christmas Walk. Our colours don't run! Thanks to all who organized and marched!
The Learned Kindred of Currie
USA

The Forth Bridges



Few words needed - what a stunner of a view #ForthBridge.
View From My Camera
Scotland

Bruce & Wallace



Bruce & Wallace in Stirling.
Robert Gibb
Scotland

Raised from the dead

One of the rarest Spitfires will again take to the air

Scottish war hero's Spitfire found in Norwegian peat bog over 75 years after being shot down by the Germans during secret mission in World War Two.



A spitfire aircraft.

One of the rarest Spitfires, lost and inaccessible in the mountains of Norway for more than seven decades and piloted by an ill-fated Scottish 22-year-old Great Escape hero, has come home.

The story of the recovery and repatriation of Spitfire AA810, one of a tiny number of reconnaissance aircraft, has recently featured in a BBC documentary, *Digging for Britain*.

Flt Lt Alastair "Sandy" Gunn

AA810's body bears the scars of the dogfight that brought her down. As a reconnaissance aircraft she had been stripped of weaponry in favour of additional fuel capacity – to give her a longer range.

Every bullet hole punched into her fuselage tells a story. Auchterarder-born pilot, Alastair "Sandy" Gunn, had flown the aircraft out of RAF Wick in Caithness on 5 March 1942.

The young Scot was part of the Photographic Reconnaissance Unit, whose aircraft were stripped of guns and armour to make them lighter and also allowed them to carry additional fuel, for missions such as Scotland to Norway.

The Norway recovery expedition was put together by aircraft engineer and historian Tony Hoskins. Spitfire Heritage Gin, which supports the Spitfire Heritage Trust, and sponsored Tony, was part of the expedition team that hauled AA810's bones down the mountain, piece by piece. Whilst the aircraft is home, the same cannot be said for her brave pilot. The young man at the controls, Alastair Gunn, parachuted just seconds from the snowline and made his escape. It was short-lived and his moving story makes the return of his aircraft all the more poignant.

Flt Lt Gunn was captured by the Germans and sent to Poland and became a key figure in the prisoner of wars' escape tunnel digging, other wise known as The Great Escape. Though he managed to escape he was captured after two days on the run and shot. He was 24.

A long, challenging and yet hugely rewarding task

Before beginning her journey home, each recovered piece of the aircraft was laid out accurately within an outline of her silhouette, drawn on the stage of the local Norwegian village's theatre. The expedition team was lucky to find so much of the aircraft intact. Now the real journey begins – a journey that will restore an aircraft as beautiful as it is rare to the skies.

AA810 will be carefully and expertly restored, and again take to the air, thanks to the work of Tony Hoskins, and his business partner, aviation businessman Dr Michael Smith, CEO of Experience Tells Ltd.

Tony said "This has been a long, challenging and yet hugely rewarding task. With hours spent in The National Archives, finding and providing proof of the AA810 was the aircraft we believed she was, getting the relevant permissions to transport her and finding the funding to achieve everything has all been incredibly time consuming. Researching all the operational pilots of AA810 and their fascinating background stories has taken thousands of man hours but with great success. It's been worth every second and we are incredibly grateful to those who've helped – Spitfire Heritage Distillers for funding and boots on the ground in Norway, 360 Production for making the programme and the BBC for its commitment to broadcast it."

The project will mark the supreme, but largely unsung, courage and achievements of the young men of the WWII Photographic Reconnaissance Unit. He went on: "We will also focus on delivering a Youth Engagement Scheme which will be set up around the project, and we will be fully supporting all aspects of the project and its endeavours within the Aerospace industry".

A future for Spitfires

In addition to the sponsorship support from the gin, Spitfire Heritage Distillers CEO and Spitfire Heritage Trust vice-chair Ian Hewitt walked the mountain shoulder

to shoulder with Tony and his team and helped haul aircraft parts. He said: "I was on board from the very second Tony introduced me to the project. Travelling to the edge of the Arctic Circle to dig up and return the remains of a historically important Spitfire is the stuff of comic book Boys' Own dreams. I'd pretty much packed my rucksack before we'd finished the phone call.

"To have been a part of the expedition and to have actually pulled pieces of AA810 out of the ground and carried them down the mountain. To have seen the bullet holes and to have had the desperate last moments of Alastair's flight brought to life by military historian Mark Khan's insight into the entrance and exit points in the fuselage is something that I will carry with me forever.

"And now, as an integral part of the ongoing funding of the restoration to flight for Spitfire AA810, it is, quite simply, an honour and a duty most enthusiastically embraced. I am fortunate to already be a part of the work of ensuring there's a future for Spitfires, I am perfectly positioned to continue to communicate the incredible story of Alastair Gunn and Spitfire AA810."



Ian Hewitt with the silhouette of the AA810 in Norway.

DANNY BHOY

AGE OF FOOLS

TOUR 2019

MARCH 4-9 PERTH ASTOR THEATRE
 MARCH 12-17 ADELAIDE ROYALTY THEATRE
 MARCH 19-24 BRISBANE POWERHOUSE
 MARCH 26-APRIL 7 MELBOURNE ATHENAEUM THEATRE
 APRIL 9 CANBERRA CANBERRA THEATRE
 APRIL 23 & 27 WELLINGTON MICHAEL FOWLER CENTRE
 APRIL 24 & 26 AUCKLAND ASB THEATRE
 APRIL 28 CHRISTCHURCH TOWN HALL
 APRIL 29 DUNEDIN REGENT THEATRE
 MAY 1 NEWCASTLE CIVIC THEATRE
 MAY 2-5 SYDNEY STATE THEATRE

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SCOTSPEAK

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



“When location scouting for Outlaw King I felt we had to use Dunfermline Abbey, not only due to its stunning architecture but, it being the resting place of Robert the Bruce, it was fitting to have the Abbey play a part in a film which examines the important legacy of the man himself. I had a wonderful experience filming at the Abbey, surrounded by such fascinating history we felt a real connection with Robert the Bruce and we were truly grateful to all the staff for accommodating us.”

David Mackenzie, Director of *Outlaw King*, said that the resting place of Robert the Bruce, which played a starring role in Netflix film, was an important place to include in the historical epic. Dunfermline Abbey, which doubles as Westminster in the film, which is home to The Bruce's tomb. *Outlaw King* was shot entirely in Scotland and is said to be the largest production, budget-wise, to be made in the country to date.

“It's brought enormous prosperity to the island. It's given people well paid jobs, it's given people nice houses, amazing roads, nice schools. We have an amazing infrastructure and most of that is down to the oil companies.”

Local councillor Andrea Manson said on the 40th anniversary since the first oil was brought onshore at Sullom Voe in Shetland. Since 1978 the local economy has received many boosts from the oil industry. Between 1973 and 1982 it became one of the biggest construction sites in Europe, with up to 6,000 people employed to build the terminal, with vast amounts of peat cleared from the site. Daily production rates are around 70,000 to 80,000 barrels of oil, however the site has capacity for four times as much.

“We are so thrilled to have begun the next chapter in the life of the Music Hall. This is a huge campaign that has been years in the making – it has taken many months of planning and



fundraising. However, this project is about much more than bricks and mortar. The Music Hall is a national treasure with decades of wonderful history behind it. The range and calibre of artists, musicians and events the Hall has hosted over nearly 200 years is truly astonishing and its place at the heart of community and civic life is unassailable. It really is an ingenious re-imagining of the space. We're restoring and retaining the Music Hall's historic fabric and its wonderful acoustic and at the same time we're adding new features in keeping with the expectations of a 21st century audience.”

Jane Spiers, chief executive of Aberdeen Performing Arts said as the Aberdeen Music Hall reopened after £9m revamp. The 200 year old venue is one of Scotland's oldest and most historic concert halls and was closed for over two years. Aberdeen Music Hall was designed by architect Archibald Simpson and originally opened in 1822.

“We wanted to refine a recipe to offer a delicious, refreshing beer for every dog who visits us nationwide. The result has been tried and tested and approved by our panel of pups, meaning the thousands of dogs that visit our bars each week can now get a taste, too.”

Scottish beer company BrewDog co-founder James Watt said they have created a Subwoofer IPA. The drink is made with the same base as their human beer but it is doggie friendly being alcohol and hop-free and non-carbonated beer.

“I'm delighted that Lewis Grassie Gibbon will be recognised in the town where he attended school before stepping out into the world to become one of Scotland's greatest writers. A plaque to mark his transition from the family croft in the Howe of the Mearns, to school at Mackie Academy in Stonehaven, is long overdue. His years at Mackie Academy widened his horizons, and allowed him to form his own political, and often radical,

ideas. During his time there he witnessed the huge changes brought about by the First World War, and the loss of the generation of young men who attended the school before him. Gibbon's famous novel Sunset Song details the huge changes the war brought and the ending of the crofting way of life. The book also details the town of Stonehaven as he recalls it from his schooldays there. I'm pleased that Lewis Grassie Gibbon's time in Stonehaven, in particular the time he spent at Mackie Academy, will be recognised through this plaque as vital in his development as one of the most influential writers of the 20th century.”

Laura Mitchell, who nominated Lewis Grassie Gibbon for Historic Environment Scotland's Commemorative Plaque scheme. Lewis Grassie Gibbon, one of the foremost Scottish writers of the 20th century, perhaps best known as the author of *Sunset Song*, which was voted Scotland's favourite novel as part of a BBC poll in 2016, Grassie Gibbon was born James Leslie Mitchell in Aberdeenshire in 1901. He started his writing career in the north-east as a journalist for the Aberdeen Journal in 1917, before turning his hand to fiction. The plaque is to be installed at the site of the old Mackie Academy in Stonehaven (now Arduthie Primary) – the school the writer attended during his formative years in Aberdeenshire.



“Although I've always had a strong affinity with the natural world, making Project Wolf has really opened my eyes to the history of the woodlands that I encounter, most prominently how many non-native species are widespread even in older areas of forest. When I ventured out into the forest to join the 'human wolf pack' I really didn't know what to expect. Rewilding is a topic that is often misunderstood. It's not always about reintroducing a species to an environment; it's also about reflecting on the way we look at and interact with the landscape around us.

All too often we become consumed by our phones and technology, however there is so much to be gained from reconnecting with natural world around us. Meeting the people involved in the study and uncovering the conversations that are happening around rewilding in Scotland has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I am so excited to be able to share that journey.”

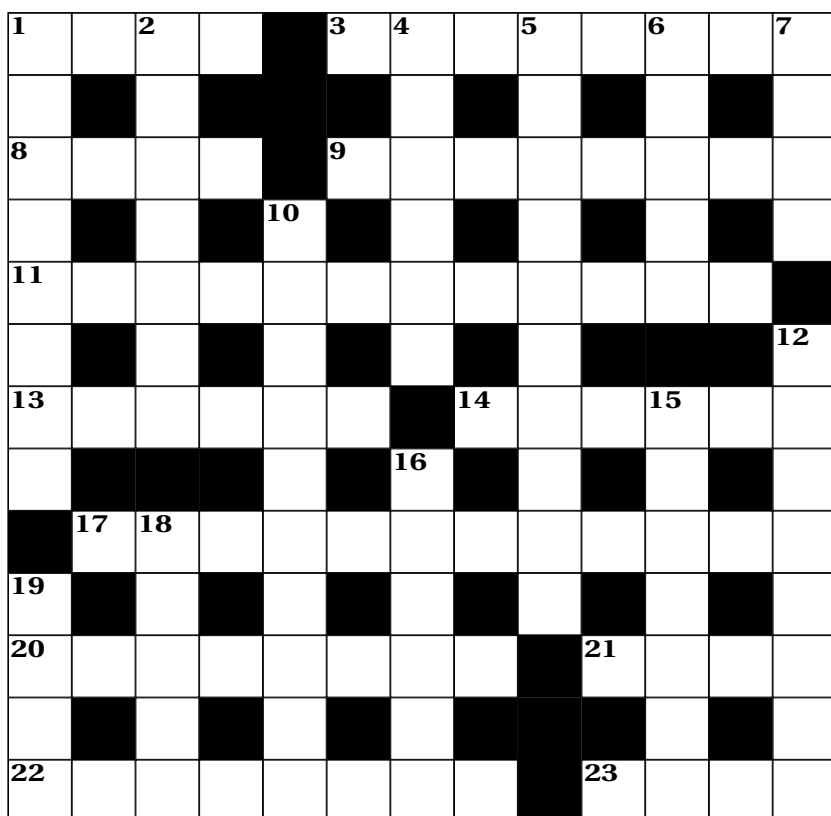
Award-winning Scottish filmmaker Lisa Marley said in regards to her latest project, Project Wolf, a new documentary following an experimental 'human wolf pack' in the Scottish Highlands. The 30-minute documentary – which is now available to watch online for free – examines Project Wolf, a study run by charity Trees for Life. The scheme saw volunteers spending weeks in the Caledonian Forest, mimicking the behaviours and disturbance patterns of large predators, like wolves, in an effort to curb overgrazing of saplings and new growth by the native red deer population.

“Amazingly this data is open access, despite being probably the most expensive X-ray diffraction data in history. This allowed us to compare the Martian data to our own Scottish soil dataset, measured on a similar instrument, and to ask the question whether there are any soils in Scotland with similar mineralogy to those found on Mars. By comparing each of the Martian soils with all 1,500 Scottish soils in our dataset, we consistently find a group of Scottish soil samples that are strikingly similar to those on Mars. There are two sites in Scotland that have particularly similar soil minerals to those found of Mars, located on the basaltic soils of Skye and Mull. This makes sense because Mars is understood to be rich in basaltic rocks, but when we examine the mineralogy in more detail, we're quite confident that we have found a good analogue. Whilst it's fun to establish these connections between Mars and Scotland, this now provides us with the opportunity to use the identified sites on Skye and Mull to better understand the conditions of ancient Mars.”

Dr Benjamin Butler of the Aberdeen based James Hutton Institute said as they have found that soil on Mars to be similar to that found in both the islands of Mull and Skye in Scotland. Information on 30 soils from Mars were compared against a dataset of Scottish soils and the minerals in the soil were found to be quite closely similar.

SCOTWORD

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



CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Marshes (4)
- 3) Adequately fitting (8)
- 8) Battle or Lochaber (4)
- 9) 'Smokie' town (8)
- 11) Central area of beauty (3, 9)
- 13) Her Majesty's signature (6)
- 14) Highland (6)
- 17) Princess Margarets' birthplace (6, 6)
- 20) Acting wary (8)
- 21) Where Scots find work (4)
- 22) Wholesaler (8)
- 23) Enterprising space journey (4).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) David Livingstone's birthplace (8)
- 2) Glen - both ways! (4)
- 4) Hot substantial (6)
- 5) Road surface! (10)
- 6) Impetuous. (5)
- 7) Sound return (4)
- 10) Giant step in opening dance (5,5)
- 12) James Watt's birthplace (8)
- 15) Food provider (7)
- 16) Behind on board (6)
- 18) Hi-tech beam (5)
- 19) Was Mac the first Scot? (4)

Turakina Highland Games

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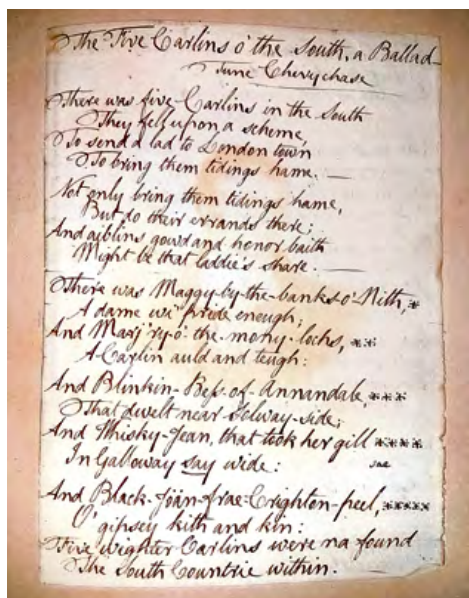
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www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz

gates open 8.30am

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Burn's works authenticated by new, minimally destructive technique



A picture of an original Burns work, 'The Five Carlines'.

Authenticating historic manuscripts can be a complicated and at times destructive process, with parts of the paper or ink damaged. However, a cross-disciplinary team of researchers from the University of Glasgow have found a novel way to accurately authenticate ancient documents in a minimally destructive way.

The findings, published in *Scientific Reports*, present a technique called direct infusion mass spectrometry, which uses a method of minimally destructive sample extraction directly from the paper surface. The team analysed the ink and paper of both authenticated and forged Robert Burns' manuscripts to produce a 'Support Vector Machine classifier' that could accurately distinguish true Burns handwriting from the fakes. The scientists were also able to distinguish which inks Burns used to write each of his poems, whether it be ivory black, iron gall or a mixture of the two.

The project and findings are the result of collaboration between Dr Karl Burgess of the University's Glasgow Polyomics and the School of Critical Studies, led by Professor Gerard Carruthers, Francis Hutcheson Chair of Scottish Literature.

With the help of Burns collector Dr William Zachs, the team were able to look at originals and fakes to ascertain the type of ink used, helped by a handwritten book owned by Dr Zachs which contained recipes for all sorts of liquids, including inks.

In total, the team tested 12 documents; three real Burns' documents selected from different periods of the bard's life, and nine fakes from the 1890s by notorious forger Alexander Smith.

The scientists were able to lift ink from the copies using a simple pipetting process that could be performed outside the laboratory, and that crucially did not visibly damage the original material. Tests were initially performed on one of Alexander Smith's handwritten 150 year old fakes before being performed on real Burns' material.

Forgery and fakery

Details of the ink and paper from the 12 documents were analysed, the data gathered and machine-learning

algorithms were used to develop a classifier for the documents. The classifier, or 'Support Vector Machine' could then be used to help predict real or fake Burns' manuscripts.

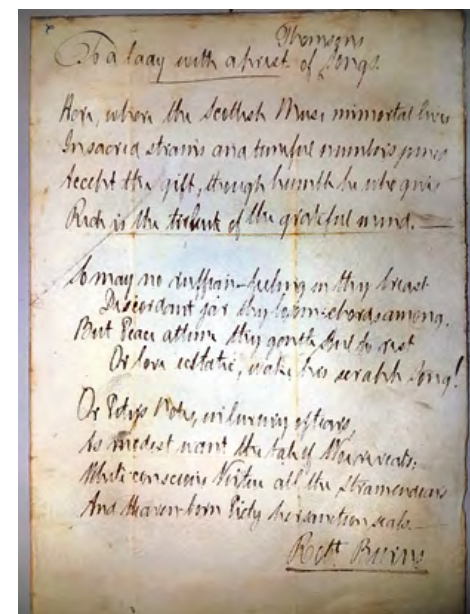
Sixteen significant differences were found distinguishing the Burns and Smith manuscripts. Significant differences between the inks and paper were also detected in Burns manuscripts.

In the *The Holy Fair* manuscript by Smith and in the letter written by R. Burns, the team detected iron gall ink, and in the *Dainty Davie* poem by Smith, they detected the presence of ivory black. In the *Five Carlines* manuscript by Burns, they detected both ink features, demonstrating that Burns, as was common at the time, mixed inks to obtain a desired lustre and consistency in his writing.

Dr Burgess said: "Through this technique we now know some things about Burns that we never knew before. However we're particularly excited about that fact that we have a new way of providing more evidence for a fake or a real manuscript if one turns up, and we have a technique that we can apply to any manuscript to gain more information about it. The simplicity of the sample preparation method we used means that the sampling can be easily performed at the site where the manuscripts are stored, which in turn could make it an ideal technique for auction houses to confirm authenticity.

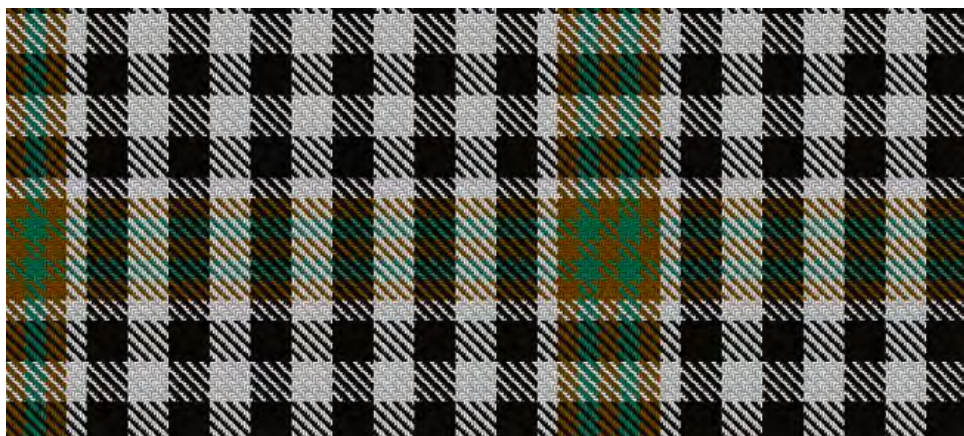
In future, we'd like to analyse as many historical documents we can, so that we can begin to build a database of inks and manuscripts."

Professor Carruthers said: "In terms of Robert Burns there has been a huge historic industry in forgery and fakery, and he is not alone in this. It is very exciting that we're creating an authenticity tool that will have wide implications for scholars, libraries, archives, auction houses and collectors. This appliance of science to the physicality of culture is a crucial development."



A picture of a letter, a forgery, in the hand of Burns.

Tartan of the Month - Burns Check



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).

This month the world will celebrate Scotland's bard, Robert Burns, on January 25th and to celebrate we are highlighting the Burns Check tartan (Ref: 1736). The late Baron Marchand of Messrs George Harrison & Co. of Edinburgh explained to E.S. Harrison of Johnstons of Elgin, how the Burns Check came about. He related that he had been approached by a friend from *The Scotsman* newspaper with

the suggestion that he create a Robert Burns tartan. The first idea had been to base it on the Campbell - a clan with which the Burns family were connected - but after much discussion it was decided more appropriate to model it on the Shepherd's Check. The overcheck introduced 'the hodden grey and a' that' and a little flavour of green fields was added. There was thought of calling it the 'Ayr Tartan' but that was discarded in favour of the present name which more aptly celebrated the bicentenary of the poet's birth. In June 1959 the Burns Federation accepted the design with the condition that all goods should be made in Scotland. This was superseded by the Burns Heritage Check (Ref: 2206) which in turn has been superseded by the Burns Heritage Tartan (Ref: 4515). Various woven samples of #1736 (original Scottish Tartans Authority reference) with 5, 6 and 7 black bands and this tartan was registered in January, 1959.

Wishing all our readers a very Happy Burns Night!

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A Literary Inn



It was quite exciting. I was staying overnight in South Queensferry. One of the most dramatic locations in Central Scotland, the town is historically one end of the former ferry crossing between Edinburgh and Fife. The 'queen' commemorated in the name is Queen Margaret, the consort of Malcolm III. She died in 1093, was later canonised, and is the saint commemorated by St Margaret's Chapel in Edinburgh Castle. It's said that she instituted the ferry here, for the convenience of pilgrims to St Andrews.

She and her entourage regularly made the crossing when travelling between Edinburgh and Dunfermline.

The Forth Bridge

The ferry is no more and there are now three physical links across the firth. Thousands come here to view them, an odd sort of tourist attraction especially since there's only one that really matters. The Forth Bridge carries the railway line from Lothian to Fife and opened in 1894. Description is redundant; I've heard it described as 'Scotland's Eiffel Tower'

though you could argue that the Eiffel Tower is 'France's Forth Bridge'. The bridge towers over the place I was staying.

Standing on the shore road in South Queensferry, looking up at the bridge's mighty stone pillars and swirls of metal is genuinely awe-inspiring, but an even greater thrill is to pass underneath the bridge on a boat. Sadly, the Rosyth-Zeebrugge ferry that flourished briefly is no more; what a great way to return to Scotland it was, past the Bass Rock and North Berwick Law and then under the great Forth Bridge. You could then fully understand Sir Walter Scott's lines from *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*; *Breathes there the man, with soul so dead, Who never to himself hath said, This is my own, my native land! Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd, As home his footsteps he hath turn'd, From wandering on a foreign strand!*

It's remarkable that one small inn found itself immortalised in works by two of the nation's most celebrated writers, and that it's still there for people to sample today.

We'll get back to Scott shortly (you can't escape him for long in Scotland). If the Zeebrugge ferry is no more, the *Maid of the Forth* still runs to the magical island of Inchcolm from South Queensferry Pier, and passing under the bridge is a highlight of the mini-voyage.

The Hawes Inn

It does puzzle me that so many visitors simply arrive at South Queensferry, park, take some pictures of the bridge, and then move on. For the best way to experience the Forth Bridge is to *cross* it. Even if you've arrived in South Queensferry by car, all you have to do is follow the steep path that begins almost directly under the bridge to Dalmeny Station, buy a return ticket for North Queensferry and you can experience the magic of two crossings of one of Scotland's greatest wonders.

Yet that wasn't why I was so excited to be in South Queensferry. I was excited because I was staying at the Hawes Inn. The Hawes Inn sits almost right beneath the Forth Bridge, beside the pier, at the eastern end of town. Parts of the building may date back to the late 17th century. And few other inns can top its literary heritage.

In 1886, a local writer stayed at The Hawes Inn, just before the Forth Bridge started to appear above it. Robert Louis Stevenson had often been there before, however, not least on canoe expeditions from Cramond. His novel *Kidnapped* began to appear in serial form in April 1886 and the Hawes Inn features in an early chapter. In fact, the kidnapping (of the hero, David Balfour) that gives the book its title is plotted in the inn - with the landlord



implicated. Stevenson also mentioned the inn in an essay, *A Gossip on Romance*, which was first published in 1882; "There it stands, apart from the town, beside the pier, in a climate of its own, half inland, half marine - in front, the ferry bubbling with the tide... behind, the old garden with the trees."

Stevenson goes on to write that at Hawes he had been '...in a perpetual flutter, on the heels, as it seemed, of some adventure that should justify the place... some day, I think, a boat shall put off from the Queen's Ferry, fraught with a dear cargo...' Stevenson was as good as his intention. *Kidnapped* would be that story.

Place in Scottish literature

Later in the novel, David Balfour returns to South Queensferry and finds it '...a fairly built burgh, the houses of good stone...' and the historic part is still worth strolling through today. Its shops, cafes and restaurants seem to flourish; most of the tourist pull these days is related to the Three Bridges, but there are still those of us drawn by RLS.

Yet, elsewhere in *A Gossip on Romance*, Stevenson tells us that there were literary tourists drawn to the Hawes Inn in *his* day; 'Americans seek it already for the sake of Lovel and Oldbuck.' Lovel and Oldbuck are characters in Sir Walter Scott's 1816 novel, *The Antiquary* who talk in the Hawes Inn as they wait for the ferry to Fife. They are greeted by '...the fat, gouty, pousy landlord.' Scotland's great writers haven't been kind to the staff at this historic inn.

It's remarkable that one small inn found itself immortalised in works by two of the nation's most celebrated writers, and that it's still there for people to sample today. What a hat-trick it could have celebrated if only Muriel Spark had taken Miss Brodie and her girls there. Now part of a pub dining chain, the Hawes Inn was thought to originally have been called The Newhalls Inn. Clearly the name had changed by the time Scott and Stevenson were writing - whether it was 'The Hawes Inn' in the early 1750s, when *Kidnapped* is set, is more doubtful.

Visit South Queensferry and marvel at the Forth Bridge by all means, but also remember its place in Scottish literature. And pack a copy of *Kidnapped* and *The Antiquary* when you go.



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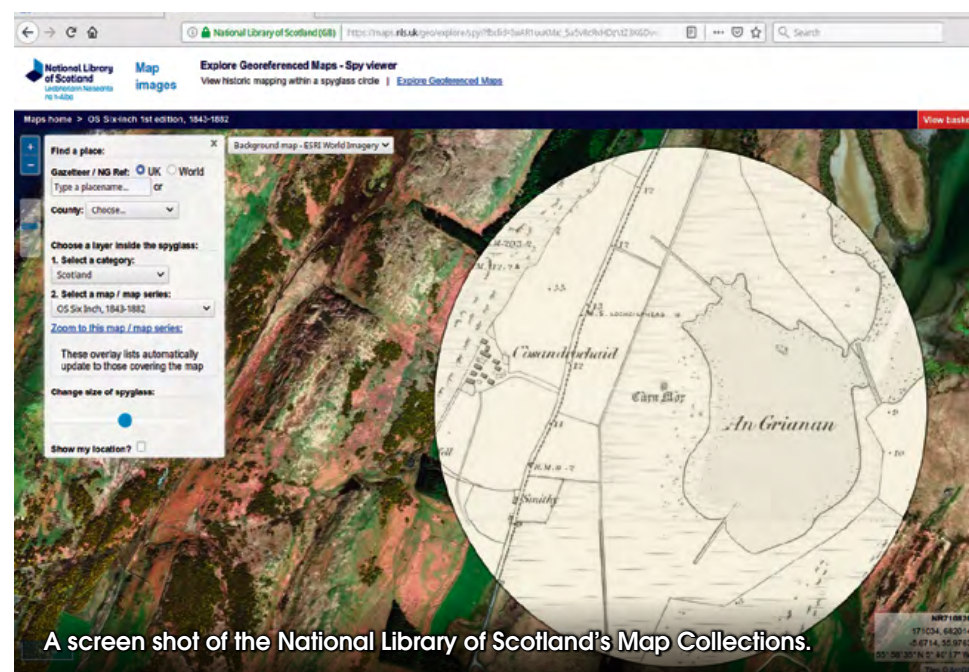
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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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



It seems like only yesterday we were waiting in eager anticipation for the new millennium. Here it is twenty years later, time does fly. Whether you wish for new beginnings or want to have things remain unchanged in your life, we wish you all the best for 2019.

Also remember the old Scots' saying: "Whit's fer ye will no go bye ye." Simply translated, if your wish is meant to be, it will come to pass. The Auld Scots tongue was ever so succinct!

Burns Night

Besides "Ne'er's Day", the other important day in January is the birth day of Scotland's bard, Robert Burns, January 25th will be his 260th birthday. His birth place was in Alloway, Ayrshire and his Ayrshire ancestry came from the maternal side of the family. Before her marriage Robert's Mother was Agnes Brown or Broun daughter of Gilbert Brown and Agnes Rennie or Rainie. Gilbert's parents were John Brown b. 1665 and Janet McGren from Kirkoswald. The name Gilbert was passed on to Robert's brother. Robert and Gilbert Burns' father William Burness was born at Clockenhill, Glenbervie parish in Kincardineshire and his lineage has been traced to the mid 1600's. Most of Kincardineshire was known as the Mearns.

The surname Burness and the spelling was changed to Burns by Robert. The name was recorded in the Mearns as Bernys, Burnes and Bernis over the centuries, all variations originate from Burnhouse. There is a place in the Mearns known as the Burnhouse of Kair.

I hope all of you can attend a Burn's Supper, it will be another wonderful way for Scots, and non-Scots alike, to attend a Scottish function.

Veitch

As mentioned last month, I am still coming with new surnames to address from two projects in genealogy. One is with a friend for whom I managed to expand and correlate her family history. The other was a friend and neighbour asking to do some research for their friend's daughter for a Christmas gift. This kept me busy this autumn especially trying to keep within Santa's deadline.

The first name is Veitch or sometimes Vetch. The name goes all the way to 1200 when Ranaldus Uacca held lands from a Henry de Graham. Later generations had the name as Vache or Wache again to become Vaiche Vaitch and finally Veitch.

Uacca or Vacca and Vache are all terms from the Latin and French for cow. Therefore, the original family must have had herds of cattle as their mainstay.

McGarva

Another unusual name is McGarva sometimes found as McGarvie. It is a Galloway name particularly in Wigtownshire from MacGairbheith of son of Gairbhith, the Gaelic word "garbh" means rough in Gaelic so possibly a mention of the original name bearer's temperament. It was recorded as early as 1484 in Scotland.

Caird

The next name is from the Gaelic Ceard meaning craftsman, or tinker, we know it as Caird sometimes Card. As people working in small metals some but not all would travel around certain areas in search of work and were known as tinkers or tinklers. Tinker or Tinkler is another name for a tradesperson who worked in metal and

as they roved the countryside in search of work mending pots and pans, they were known as travelling folk and as such developed a less than reputable identities. Whether true or not Tinkers are not to be confused with other travelling folk known as the Gypsies, who had the erroneous name because being dark skinned people thought they were from Egypt. In fact, the original Romany people as they are known were from a group of people who left from northern India nearly thousand years ago.

The Caird name has two associated clans, Sinclair and MacGregor.

Hastie

A name I have seen more than a few times in my researches over the last 40 odd years but which I don't believe I have addressed is the surname Hastie.

Whether you wish for new beginnings or want to have things remain unchanged in your life, we wish you all the best for 2019.

Also remember the old Scots' saying: "Whit's fer ye will no go bye ye." Simply translated, if your wish is meant to be, it will come to pass. The Auld Scots tongue was ever so succinct!

It has mentioned in records. In England in 1221 and in Scotland 1376. You would be correct in assuming that it is a descriptive name for someone with speed or quick in movement. However, it does also have a personal name connotation from the pet name Asti which stems from the Norman Asketin which in turns comes from the Old Norse Asketill.

Mapping Scotland

We all have our own levels of fun or at least what is interesting. Anyone who has access to the internet and has an interest in the history Scotland and/or family history may like an item offered by the National Library of Scotland.

It is a map which shows an area from above as we see it today with all the new infrastructure of motorways and housing developments etc. You can enter the name of any community in Scotland and have a look. The fun feature it has a spot which you can control with a mouse that lets go over the same mapped area and see how it was in older maps before the developments of these last four or five decades. One can pick the years in which they are interested and see the lay of the land in days gone by. It's fun to find the family croft before it was buried under a housing estate of today. Cut and paste this address and have a look at: <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore>

Trip back to Scotland

Last year I made some resolutions and I am finally getting to the stage in life where I can keep some of them. For number one resolution suffice to say that my shadow is not nearly as big as it was, which makes me feel better and I have more energy and resolve to tackle the day's events. My main exercise regimen was to push myself away from the table.

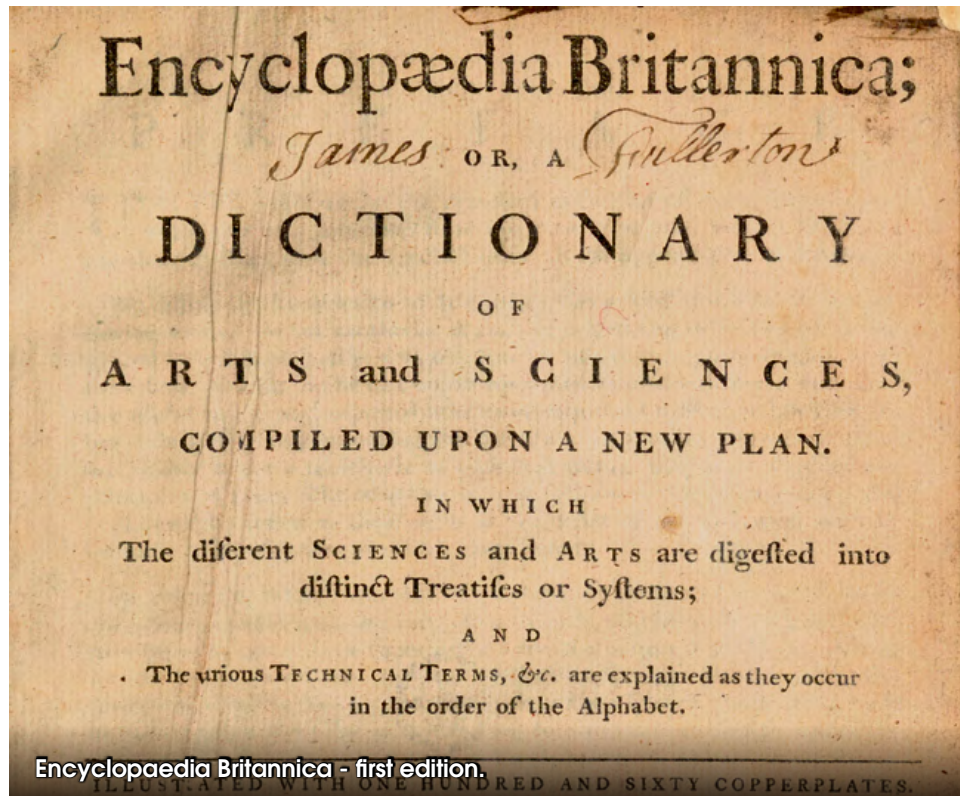
The other was very easy as I made a promise to myself to take a trip back to Scotland. It was only for 12 days but I saw lots of old friends and cousins and managed to be a tourist as well. The weather could have been better, but we never think of Scotland as sun destination, do we? Since I came to Canada at a relatively young age, my manner of speaking would be best described as mixed, Canadian and native Scots. With this in mind, a humorous event took place when I had to have a slight adjustment to my rental car. After deliberating with the service person, I sat down and a younger lady beside me who obviously heard the conversation leaned over and said in the broad Glaswegian: "Ah luv yer accent!" It made me smile.

Be kind to others, be good to your family and look after yourself and hopefully you'll breeze through 2019. Happy New Year.

By the way where is that letter or email that you have meaning to send to us?



Library's gift to the world to mark Britannica's 250th anniversary



Encyclopædia Britannica - first edition.

The National Library of Scotland has published online a rare first edition of *Encyclopædia Britannica* to mark its 250th anniversary. *Britannica* was conceived, compiled, printed and published entirely in Edinburgh, and on 10 December 1768, the first pages were published.

Subscribers were scandalised by explicit engravings – specifically those on midwifery – and it was decreed by the Crown that they be torn out of every copy. However, the National Library has a complete copy in its collections and, thanks to a

successful fundraising campaign for its digitisation, has made the first edition available online for all to view.

A household name throughout the English-speaking world

Rare Books Curator Robert Betteridge said *Britannica* is one of the enduring achievements of the Scottish Enlightenment. He said: “By the 20th century *Britannica* was a household name throughout the English-speaking world, and what is especially interesting about this publication was that it had a distinctly Scottish viewpoint. The first edition emphasised two themes – modern science and Scottish identity, including ground-breaking and controversial articles on anatomy and Scots Law.

“*Britannica* became viewed as an authoritative source of facts about the world. Its first editor believed strongly in the democratisation of knowledge – that it should be accessible to all who sought self-improvement, regardless of background. We adhere to this belief at the Library, which is why we are working to digitise and make available as many early editions as possible.”

Head of Development Lucy Clement said: “*Britannica* holds a special place in people's memories. Many donors to our appeal have told us how, in childhood, it piqued their curiosity about the world around them and helped with their homework in the days before Google. They are fascinating time capsules of human knowledge and society's values at particular points in our history and with the public's help, we hope to make many more editions available for free online.”

Scottish Enlightenment

The first edition of *Encyclopædia Britannica* was undertaken at considerable financial risk by three young tradesmen, none of whom had published anything previously. The two principal partners, who would retain the copyright of its first three editions, were printer Colin Macfarquhar (1744-1793) and engraver Andrew Bell (1753-1832). Macfarquhar, a wigmaker's son, had just opened his printing firm in 1767.

Bell, a baker's son and an apprentice of Scotland's leading engraver Richard Cooper, established his reputation as an engraver through pioneering work for *Scots Magazine*. There, he met William Smellie (1740-1795), himself a master printer, and editor of the magazine from 1760 to 1765. Smellie agreed to compile the *Britannica*'s first edition for a fee of £200, more than Diderot received for his efforts editing the *Encyclopédie*, but nothing like the approximately £25,000 Bell and Macfarquhar would jointly accrue from the *Britannica*'s first three editions.

The first edition of *Encyclopædia Britannica* will form part of the National Library's major exhibition on the Scottish Enlightenment, due to open in the summer of 2019.

To view the online copy for free, visit www.nls.uk



Encyclopædia Britannica.

The Erskine Bridge joins the A-list



The landmark Erskine Bridge has been listed as a Category A structure.

The Erskine Bridge has been awarded Category A status by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) after it was recognised as being of special architectural interest. The Erskine Bridge, officially opened in 1972, is one of Scotland's most architecturally and technically designed bridges of the post-war period and has the longest cable-stayed span of its type in the world. It is one of only three bridges in Scotland with a main span exceeding 300 metres.

The decision to list Erskine Bridge follows on from a consultation launched by HES, West Dunbartonshire Council, Transport Scotland and Renfrewshire Council, where members of the public were invited to express their views on the Bridge being awarded listed status.

A state-of-the-art infrastructure landmark

Elizabeth McCrone, Head of Designations at HES, said: “The Erskine Bridge is a state-of-the-art infrastructure landmark in Scotland for its time and is recognised for its structural simplicity, economy of

materials and slender appearance. Spanning the River Clyde, the Bridge was part of a strategic and highly ambitious expansion of the new motorway network in Scotland, and is directly associated with the period of ambitious transformation of Scotland's modern infrastructure in the 1960s. Its minimalistic single-cable design - which is exceptionally rare for a large-scale road bridge - combined with its largely unchanged appearance makes it one of the country's most innovative bridges of the 20th century, and we're delighted to recognise its national importance with this Category A status.”

Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, said: “Scottish Ministers, through Transport Scotland, have been responsible for the Erskine Bridge's inspection and maintenance since 1971, so I am delighted that it has been recognised as a Category A listed structure. This well-known landmark is testament to the engineers who designed it, as well as those who have worked on it over the years, and I congratulate everyone involved in this process for their efforts.”



An aerial view of the Erskine Bridge over the River Clyde.

Did you know?

- The first edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* says that Humans were divided into five categories: European, American, Asiatic, African and Monstrous.
- For the first edition, Bell produced three full pages of anatomically accurate depictions of dissected female pelvises and of fetuses in wombs for the midwifery article; these illustrations shocked King George III who commanded that the pages be ripped from every copy. The National Library of Scotland's copy has these pages intact.
- The US state of 'Callifornia' was spelt with two 'L's' and is described as 'a large country of the West Indies. Unknown whether it is an island or a peninsula.'
- The solar system was described as having six planets – Uranus, Neptune and Pluto have yet to be discovered.
- Andrew Bell, the engraver, was 4 foot 6; he had crooked legs and an enormous nose that he would sometimes augment with a papier-mâché version whenever anyone stared at him. Despite his small stature he insisted on always riding the tallest horse available and used a ladder to mount and dismount.
- After Macfarquhar died in 1793, Bell bought out his heirs and became sole owner of the *Britannica* until his death in 1809.



First edition, dogs.

KINGS CASTLES AND “DURTY” WEE RASCALS

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



A calm day at Dergbuaich.

Ancient Dalriada

*Maggie Smith was a very good girl,
She went tae church on Sundays,
Tae pray tae God tae gi' her strength,
Tae kiss the boys on Mondays.
When Maggie wis a wee girl, it wis toys, toys, toys,
No' Maggie is a big girl its boys, boys, boys.*

When still a working croft in the 18th century life at the settlement of Dergbuaich, Portavadie would have been hand to mouth. Subsistence farming meant that potatoes, sown in thin soils improved and fertilized by seaweed from the shore, would have been the staple crop. But oats or barley may also have been cultivated on the run-rig system, most likely in the lower fields. Each family would have owned a few cows, most probably pastured and herded together in the rough grasses behind and above the remaining cottages. Fish would have supplemented the crofters' meagre diet. Even in the 1960's, fish were still plentiful in Loch Fyne and there remained a range of fish species to be caught, such as haddock, cod, whiting, plaice as well as large shoals of mackerel.

When we rowed along to Glenan Bay and Eilan Buie or used the outboard motor to take us to Eilan Buidhe and south to Port Leathan we were guaranteed a healthy catch, so many in fact that we could usually feed our own large numbers staying at the cottage and still have some to spare for Martha and Min at the farm and the Simpsons over at Millhouse. It was not unusual to receive a visit from Uncle Davie. He would have walked over the hill in his gamekeeper tweeds and plus fours with his rifle or shotgun over his shoulder, to bring a package of fresh venison, some rabbits or a guddled salmon under his arm. Unlike perhaps the crofter families who had gone before us, we always ate well, and often, at Dergbuaich.

Bronze Age past

One of the simple pleasures of staying there was the fact that because there was no electricity supply there was no television to watch. Even radio reception with batteries was poor because the cottage lay in a shallow glen. During the day there were great walks and historical

explorations to be made along the shores to the south by Creag a Chaisteil to Port Leathan, to the old abandoned settlement with its ruined and roofless cottages and gaunt crumbling gables at Low Stillaig, then back past the standing stones to Portavadie farm. All around the area there was evidence of a Bronze Age past. There were the remains of three burial cairns just behind Portavadie farm and others at Stillaig and Ascog Bay. To the north we walked to Glenan, another abandoned settlement like Dergbuaich, to Ardmarnock and if we still felt fit we could tackle 'Barr nam Damb' to get fine views of Kintyre and could walk easily back over the hill on well worn sheep tracks along the side of Cnoc a Chaisteil to Loch Ascog.

The kingdom of Dál Riata (Dalriada) corresponds approximately with Argyll and Bute and its borders were defined by the Firth of Clyde to the south, Druim Alban to the east and probably the mountains of Lochaber to the north.

According to Elizabeth Rennie writing about pre-historic Cowal, when the level of Loch Ascog was lowered during the construction of the powder mill in 1839, three Iron Age crannogs, dating from around 700–500 B.C., became visible. By then Cowal was inhabited by a Celtic people and it was them who built these artificial islands for security and defence. On the islands they built their round timber-framed houses. The crannogs and forts of these Celtic ancestors are remembered still in the Gaelic names of Colachla at Millhouse, Caistel Na Sidhe at Ardlamont and Caistel Aiodhe at Ardmarnock. Unfortunately there are very few clues to what the people of this part of Cowal called themselves, except that in the late Iron Age, in the Roman period 43-410 A.D., Ptolemy wrote that the Epidii (the tribe of the horse) occupied Kintyre and the Creones mid Argyll.

It is thought that the West of Cowal was inhabited at that time by the Cerones

and in the East by the Dumnonii, but it has to be remembered that, unlike more modern geographical boundaries, lochs and rivers united these people and only mountains tended to divide them from each other. No real evidence of even a temporary Roman visit to the area exists, but we are told that in 81 A.D. Agricola made at least one personal sea journey to the West, sending his ships along the West Coast. Nothing of their presence survives except that, intriguingly, there is mention by Elizabeth Rennie in her Historical Guide of Cowal, of a mysterious road that was uncovered some years ago

near Ardlamont Point. It was apparently so old that peat beds had formed above the road level and had completely covered it over. It was said to have had some Roman features but was lost to sight once again under afforestation and before it could be properly investigated and its possible destination and purpose traced.

Dál Riata

The kingdom of Dál Riata (Dalriada) corresponds approximately with Argyll and Bute and its borders were defined by the Firth of Clyde to the south, Druim Alban to the east and probably the mountains of Lochaber to the north. Comhghall (Cowal) bears the name of an early ruling family of this part of Dál Riata who emerged by 700 A.D. and there was certainly once a continuous movement of families between Erin (Ireland) and Alba (Scotland), with intermarriage between their royal families a common occurrence. In the 11th century a prince of the house of O'Neill married a princess of Dál Riata and from this marriage a number of West Highland families claim descent. In Cowal the MacLachlans and the Lamonts possibly stem from this union. The Lamont chief was known as Lamont of Inverryne and that suggests that Inverryne, lying between Tighnabruaich and Kilfinnan, and not Dunoon, was the early seat of the clan. After the massacre and destruction of Toward and Ascog Castles, the Lamont chiefs lived on at Ardlamont House until it was sold in 1893.

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WHOLESALE AVAILABLE

Scotland: What's New for 2019



Eilean Donan Castle in the Scottish Highlands, named by Lonely Planet - along with Scotland's islands - as one of the top must-see destinations in the world in 2019.

Scotland is the place to be in 2019 with a host of new openings, festivals, events and anniversaries. From Edinburgh's Hogmanay to the Glasgow Film Festival, Scotland is no stranger to staging huge international events. 2019 is set to be the year that the country strengthens its reputation as a top event destination as it welcomes the Solheim Cup for the first time, as well as an exciting new TEDSummit.

Read on to discover what's happening in 2019, the latest news, anniversaries, distilleries and exciting new exhibitions to check out during the year ahead.

Coming in 2019



The Hebridean Whale Trail.

Lonely Planet Best in Travel 2019

Scotland's Highlands and Islands have earned their place as one of the top must-see destinations in the world in 2019. Lonely Planet revealed in October 2018 that the regions have been listed amongst its top 10 'Best in Travel' destinations for 2019. Described in the new guide as "one of the wildest, least inhabited and most scenic parts of Europe," Scotland's Highlands and Islands have, for decades, attracted visitors from around the world who are drawn to their unparalleled scenery, unique culture and wildlife.

The Solheim Cup 2019 - 15 September, Gleneagles, Perthshire

The Solheim Cup is the biggest event in women's golf and one of the most prestigious sporting events on the planet. Next year, it's coming to...Scotland. The event runs from Monday 9– Sunday 15 September 2019 at the one and only Gleneagles in Perthshire. This comes just five years after the hugely successful staging of The Ryder Cup at the same venue. With more than 100,000 spectators expected to attend from across the globe, this is a must-attend occasion for golf and sports fans looking to experience the passion and atmosphere of this unique event.

The nearby Gleneagles hotel has been undergoing refurbishment and in the past year has opened new restaurants, remodelled their bar and added new areas for children. A great option for those visiting for the Solheim Cup.

The Hebridean Whale Trail

2019 will see the completion of the Hebridean Whale Trail, the first of its kind in the UK. Hebridean Whale and Dolphin trust have developed a network of 25 world class whale-

watching and whale heritage sites across the west coast of Scotland. The trail aims to showcase the history of people's relationships with whales through the support of the existing wildlife tourism businesses and heritage sites across the Hebrides. Scotland is home to a quarter of the world's whale and dolphin species and visitors will have the opportunity to catch a glimpse of the amazing marine wildlife all along the west coast. It will highlight the Hebrides as a top destination for tourists and nature fans, and tell the stories that make the west coast such a special and unique place within Scotland. It is set to launch in summer 2019.

2019 events

European Athletics Indoor Championships. 1-3 March 2019, Glasgow

The European Athletics Indoor Championships come to Glasgow in March 2019. Some of the world's leading athletes will descend on Glasgow's Emirates Arena between 1-3 March as the Championships return to the iconic city for the first time since 1990. There will be 650 athletes from more than 45 nations setting their sights on glory. Six sessions will be competed across three action-packed days of competition, with qualifiers and finals contested every day. Medals for events such as the Women's 3000m and Men's Shot Put will be up for grabs on day one. Meanwhile, the Men's Pole Vault and Women's 400m will be among the highlights on day two, with both the Men and Women's Long Jump, 4x400m Relay, and 1500m all featuring on an exciting final day.

TEDSummit. 21-25 July 2019, Edinburgh International Conference Centre

Scotland has fought off stiff competition from around the globe to play host to the next TEDSummit. The prestigious TEDSummit, part of the TED network, will take place at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre from 21 July-25 July 2019, bringing together up to 1300 members of the international TED community. TED is a non-profit organisation devoted to identifying, and then spreading, relevant and potentially impactful ideas. It began in 1984 with a conference converging technology, entertainment and design, and over time the organisation has expanded its topics from science to business to global issues. TEDSummit gathers the most engaged members of the global TED community for community brainstorming, discussions, performances, workshops, outdoor activities and an eclectic program of mainstage talks – in beautiful surroundings.

The Women's Tour of Scotland. 9-11 August 2019

A brand new annual global female cycling event has chosen Scotland as the backdrop for its very first event. The Women's Tour of Scotland will follow a 350km route across the country and promises to show off Scotland's breath-taking landscape and further cement its place as an

international sporting events host. The tour will show the importance of female cycling and will take place over the course of three days in August with the route to be announced soon. A mass participation event will occur on the same three days with 5000 participants from across Scotland and beyond able to participate. Not to be missed if you're a cycling fan!

Annual events



Celtic Connections.

Celtic Connections. Thursday 17 January - Sunday 3 February, Glasgow

Celtic Connections is the largest winter music festival of its kind and the UK's premier celebration of Celtic music. Glasgow's annual folk, roots and world music festival, Celtic Connections celebrates Celtic music and its connections from across the globe. From 17 January–3 February 2019, 2100 musicians from around the world will descend on Glasgow and bring the city to life for 18 days of concerts, ceilidhs, talks, art exhibitions, workshops, and free events. The festival is renowned for its strong spirit of collaboration, bringing together one-off line-ups for very special one night only collaborative shows. The camaraderie between musicians continues into the wee small hours at the late-night Festival Club – home of legendary musical collaborations and spontaneous sessions.

Up Helly Aa

29 January 2019, Shetland

Up Helly Aa is a tradition that originated in the 1880s. Since then, the festival has been an annual occurrence in the Shetland calendar. Britain's biggest and most spectacular fire festival takes place in Lerwick on the last Tuesday of every January. With a torch-lit parade of almost 1000 people dressed either as Vikings or in all manner of crazy fancy-dress costumes, the spectacular burning of a Viking galley, ceilidhs and all-night partying, Up Helly Aa is guaranteed to brighten up the January gloom.

Burns turns 260 - 25 January 2019

What day of the year combines haggis, whisky and poetry with lots of fun and laughter? Burns Night of course. Scotland is the best place to celebrate the birthday of Scotland's national bard with a host of special Burns Night events. There will be lavish suppers, family-friendly arts festivals, and opportunities to enjoy the songs and poetry of Robert Burns. Burns Night 2019 marks the 260th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth on 25 January.

Glasgow Film Festival. Wednesday 20 February-Sunday 3 March, Glasgow

Glasgow Film Festival is one of the leading UK film festivals. The audience is central to the programming and ethos as the Festival aims to enable audiences to experience the best international cinema. The GFF programme regularly features new local and international film from all genres, mainstream crowd-pleasers and ground-breaking art-house experimentation, the return of well-loved classics alongside rare cult gems, filmmaker guest appearances and interactive workshops and discussion panels to complete the mix!

Highland Games. May-September, Across Scotland

Highland Games combine sport, fun and culture in a uniquely Scottish style; they take place every weekend in the summer. From May to September visitors can get in on the action at

one of over 80 Highland Games taking place on islands and in towns, villages and cities across the country - some castle grounds host games too.

Edinburgh Festivals

Edinburgh International Science Festival. 6 April-21 April 2019

Edinburgh International Science Festival delivers one of Europe's largest Science Festivals, giving audiences amazing experiences through a programme of innovative and inspiring discussions, workshops, performances, screenings, special events and exhibitions. The Science Festival brings great minds together for a programme that fosters dialogues about the future of our culture, our nation, our planet and our understanding.

Edinburgh International Children's Festival. 25 May-2 June 2019

The Edinburgh International Children's Festival presents the world's best theatre and dance for young audiences with performances that are deeply engaging, innovative and inspiring. With an emphasis on striking visual productions, the international programme continuously goes beyond expectations of children's work, inspiring and delighting both the young and young-at-heart.

Edinburgh International Film Festival. 19-30 June 2019

Established in 1947, the Edinburgh International Film Festival is renowned around the world for discovering and promoting the very best in international cinema and for heralding and debating changes in global filmmaking. Intimate in its scale, ambitious in its scope, and fuelled by pure passion for cinema in all its manifestations, Edinburgh International Film Festival seeks to spotlight the most exciting and innovative new film talent. A mix of red carpet glamour, innovative and exciting cinematic discoveries and massive audience appeal makes Edinburgh's Film Festival one of the world's most popular and approachable celebrations of cinema.

Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival. 12-21 July 2019

Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival plays host to the finest jazz and blues talent from all corners of the globe. From bop to boogie-woogie to blues-rock, from samba to swing to soul, there's something to suit every mood and musical taste over 10 groove-packed summer days. From the magic mirrors of grandiose Spiegeltents to the opulence of the Festival Theatre to hip jazz clubs, the Festival matches the music to some great venues.

Edinburgh Art Festival 25 July-25 August 2019

The UK's largest annual celebration of visual art, attracting over 250,000 visitors each year, Edinburgh Art Festival brings together the capital's leading galleries, museums and artist-run spaces, alongside new public art commissions by established and emerging artists and an innovative programme of special events. The festival includes over 40 exhibitions each year, showcasing some of the best contemporary art alongside important artists and works from modern and historical periods. Each year Edinburgh Art Festival commissions new work by leading and emerging Scottish artists, with a particular emphasis on artists who are developing work for non-gallery contexts.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. 2 August-24 August 2019

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is an iconic Edinburgh institution. A sell-out year after year, enjoy music, dance and precision from the Massed Pipes and Drums, the Massed Military Bands, cultural troupes, singers with the poignant refrain of the Lone Piper against the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. Each year's Tattoo is very much a 'global gathering' - showcasing the talents of musicians and performers from every corner of the globe.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

2 August-26 August 2019

The world's largest arts festival transforms Scotland's capital every August, as thousands of performers take to hundreds of stages all over the city to present shows of all kinds. The work on show ranges from huge names in the world of entertainment to unknown artists looking to build their careers. Entirely open-access, the Fringe is proud to include in their programme anyone with a story to tell and a venue willing to host them. Audiences can enjoy theatre, comedy, dance, circus, cabaret, children's shows, physical theatre, musicals, opera, music, spoken word, exhibitions and events.

Edinburgh International Festival.

2 August-26 August 2019

Every August, the Edinburgh International Festival transforms one of the world's most beautiful cities, presenting three exhilarating weeks of the finest creators and performers from the worlds of the arts. Edinburgh's six major theatres and concert halls, a few smaller venues and often some unconventional ones too, come alive with the best music, theatre, opera and dance from around the globe. The International Festival presents events which cannot easily be achieved by any other UK arts organisation through innovative programming and a commitment to new work.

Edinburgh International Book Festival.

10 August-26 August 2019

The Edinburgh International Book Festival programme offers over 800 events featuring the greatest writers and thinkers in the world. From rising stars of fiction to Nobel Prize-winners, it's a place where audiences and authors gather to share ideas, have thought-provoking discussions, be entertained, informed, enthralled, and challenged. There is also a highly regarded programme of events for children and young adults featuring the finest writers and illustrators for young people. From author events and interactive workshops to lively debates and book signings, the Book Festival gives you the chance to meet your favourite authors, hear about their latest work, and get stuck into some gripping conversations.

Scotland's International Storytelling Festival

18 October– 31 October 2019

Scotland's International story-telling festival offers enchanting performances, workshops, as well as talks and events centred on traditional storytelling. This celebration of live oral traditions and cultural diversity brings together Scottish and international storytellers and musicians to celebrate rhythms and methods of storytelling. Inspired by the Scottish ceilidh tradition and its sense of togetherness, this is an inviting community gathering full of tales, anecdotes, music, songs and ballads.

Scotland on Screen

Mary Queen of Scots

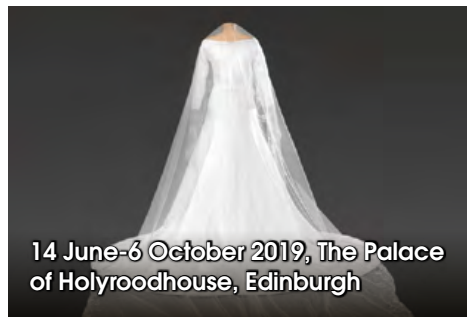
Saoirse Ronan plays the titular Mary Stuart, and Margot Robbie portrays her cousin Elizabeth I. Mary's attempt to overthrow her cousin the Queen of England finds her condemned to years of imprisonment before facing execution. The new film promotes Scotland's rich history and its renowned queen, once again establishing Scotland the top choice as a filming destination. 2018 has been a big year for the country and its presence on the silver screen. The success of *Outlaw King*, the latest *Avengers* outing, and *Outlander*, has raised Scotland's profile at home and abroad, as well as attracting visitors from across the globe.

Outlander Season 4

Outlander season four began in November with the characters finding their footing in their new American home. The TV series has had massive success across the world and has brought visitors in their hundreds to Scotland's historical attractions. The new series, although set in America, will focus on Jamie's longing for his home and heritage in Scotland. With international screenings taking place throughout 2019.

Exhibitions

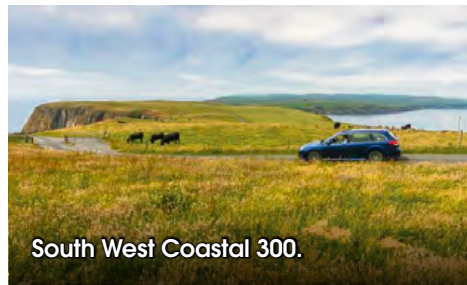
A Royal Wedding: The Duke and Duchess of Sussex.



14 June-6 October 2019, The Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh

The wedding outfits of The Duke and Duchess of Sussex will go on display at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh in 2019 in a special exhibition *A Royal Wedding: The Duke and Duchess of Sussex*. The exhibition will include The Duchess of Sussex's wedding dress, created by the British designer Clare Waight Keller, Artistic Director at the historic French fashion house Givenchy; the five-metre-long silk tulle veil, embroidered with the flora of the 53 countries of the Commonwealth; the diamond and platinum bandeau tiara, lent to The Duchess by Her Majesty The Queen; and The Duke of Sussex's frockcoat uniform of the Household Cavalry (the 'Blues and Royals'), made by tailors at Dege & Skinner on Savile Row.

New Attractions



South West Coastal 300.

V&A Dundee

The newly opened, architecturally stunning V&A Museum of Design Dundee is the only V&A museum in the world outside London. The museum, showcasing the best of Scottish design, sits on Dundee's waterfront and was designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma. The £80 million museum is part of the £1 billion redevelopment of Dundee, the UNESCO City of Design, and its waterfront which lies on the River Tay.

Moat Brae, Dumfries & Galloway

This Spring Moat Brae will open its doors to the public as a national centre for children's literature and storytelling. Visitors will be able to discover the place where a legend was born; where Peter Pan began. Moat Brae, the enchanted land in Dumfries, was the childhood playground of J.M. Barrie, creator of Peter Pan, and the place where he first found Neverland. The national centre for children's literature and storytelling will be a place which promotes and encourages imagination and creativity. The attraction will include visiting exhibitions, interactive rooms and a discovery garden.

Scotland's Storybook Trail

From Harry Potter to Peter Pan, Scotland's Storybook Trail has been created to celebrate the country's many links with children's literature. The trail allows visitors to experience Scotland from a different viewpoint and bring out their inner child! Trace and follow in the footsteps of famous childhood authors and visit the places that were the inspirations behind their novels and characters. A downloadable map is available for people of all ages to start planning their trip to Scotland.

Hebridean Whisky Trail, Outer Hebrides

Explore the Spirit of the Isles with the brand new Hebridean Whisky Trail. Embark on a whisky tour by road and sea against the stunning backdrop of the Scottish Hebrides along the Atlantic coast. Discover the stories and the communities behind the whiskies as well as the histories and the landscapes that have influenced their productions. Launched in August 2018 the trail is perfect for any whisky fan looking to get off the beaten path!

National Museum of Scotland's New Galleries, Edinburgh

The three new galleries will complete the 15 year journey restoring one of the UK's finest Victorian buildings and transforming the National Museum of Scotland. The new galleries will be dedicated to Ancient Egypt, East Asia and the Art of Ceramics; each revealing remarkable treasures and creating inspiring learning experiences for all visitors. 40 per cent of the objects will go on show for the first time in at least a generation. 2019 is the 200th anniversary of the first Egyptian objects becoming part of the collection and the Ancient Egypt displays will present the remarkable culture and achievements of the ancient Egyptians. The East Asia collection, which is one of the most significant in the UK, will offer a unique perspective on East Asia, its diverse traditions and its dynamic cultures. The Art of Ceramics gallery will give visitors the chance to marvel at the collections and explore the use of ceramics in scientific and technological applications. They are set to open 8 February 2019.

Scapa Fest

Scapa Fest is the UK's Yoga and Adventure Festival; a unique Sunrise to Sunset mind-body-nature connection experience in one of the world's most beautiful locations, Ardkinglas Estate, Loch Fyne, Scotland. Scapa is the Old Norse word for refuge. The festival will be bringing yogis, instructors and tutors from all over the world to visit Scotland during Scapa 2019. This year the festival hopes to be a 100 per cent renewable energy powered festival.

South West Coastal 300

From the North East to the South West, Scotland offers stunning drives against spectacular backdrops, showcasing the best sites of the country. The South West Coastal 300 is a 300 mile route which follows the coastline, passing by some of the regions diverse scenery and highlighting its natural beauty. There is so much to explore along the way including a multitude of interesting town and villages, one of which is Scotland's highest village! The roads are quiet in this area which means more time to stop and admire the surroundings.

Mark the Occasion – Anniversaries

1984 – 70 years of the classic dystopia

2019 will mark 70 years since the release of George Orwell's dystopian novel *1984*. The classic book that relies on government control and surveillance as its main theme was not, as many would think, written in one of Britain's major cities. Orwell wrote this book on the secluded and tranquil Isle of Jura in the Inner Hebrides. Fans of 1984 can stay in the very place the classic was penned– Barnhill. The house is still as secluded as it was in Orwell's time and is available to rent for anyone looking for a bit of peace and quiet and an escape from technology and the modern world.

Ring of Bright Water – Celebrating its 50th anniversary

The well-loved film, *Ring of Bright Water*, celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2019, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of Gavin

Maxwell's death; the author of the book and named protagonist in the film. Fans of the classic can visit some of the locations it was shot and the places that Gavin Maxwell held special. Most of the filming took place in Argyll and Bute on the west coast of Scotland and in the Highlands. Those interested in the setting for Camusfearnacan travel to its true location, Sandaig, on the west coast of Scotland and visit the Island of Seil which houses the village, Ellenabeich, also featured in the film.

Distilleries



The Lagg Distillery on the Isle of Arran.

Clutha Distillery, Glasgow

Opening autumn 2019

A new £10.7 million urban whisky distillery and bottling complex is to be built on the banks of the River Clyde in the heart of Glasgow. The ambitious and innovative project is being masterminded by one of the country's fastest growing Scotch whisky firms, Douglas Laing & Co. The Scotch specialist, has announced that its new distillery will be named the 'Clutha Distillery'. 'Clutha', meaning Clyde in Gaelic, reflects both the company's heritage and the location of the new distillery, which will sit on the banks of the river in the heart of the city.

Holyrood Park Distillery, Edinburgh.

Opening summer 2019

Situated next to Holyrood Park, this city-centre distillery is located right in the heart of Edinburgh's distilling history – on St. Leonard's Lane. The 180-year-old Engine Shed building – steeped in railway history – will be thoughtfully renovated to suit the distilling needs, while making room for the visitors. Under the guidance of Head Distiller, Jack Mayo, the distillery will produce a range of single malts, gins, liqueurs and other spirits. Holyrood's progressive approach to playing with flavours, ingredients, distilling processes and maturation will set it apart. This 'flavour first' focus will be brought to life in a matter of months with prototype gins and liqueurs being made available for testing. The visitor centre aims to provide a totally new kind of distillery visitor experience, immersing guests in the flavour sensations of Holyrood's range of spirits.

Lagg Distillery - Opening Spring 2019

A brand new Single Malt Scotch Whisky Distillery will be opening on the Isle of Arran in the West Coast of Scotland. The new distillery is located near the village of Lagg on the southern tip of the island in an area that was a hotbed of whisky production in the late 18th and early 19th century. The Lagg Single Malt will be heavily-peated in a style reminiscent of the original Arran whiskies. The distillery will open in Spring 2019 along with a brand-new visitor centre.



IT'S GOING TO BE A DAY TO REMEMBER

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For details: 0418 370 051 or ringwoodhighlandgames@gmail.com



Edinburgh Christmas Markets and events carry on into January.

Greetings from Scotland! The chief and I both hope your year will be a happy and healthy one. And we hope your weather will be rather better than ours has been. We've had some nice early morning sunshine; the sky a hazy pink at dawn; then seems to dull over as the day goes on; and it is dark by four o'clock. Roll on the spring!

Edinburgh

Well, the festive season came and went and one day we journeyed up to Scotland's capital to do some shopping. Edinburgh is an hour away from us on the train. It's Christmas Market takes place in the heart of the city and it attracts hundreds of thousands of people, right through into January.

This traditional fair in the Princes Street gardens has been named the best of its kind in Britain. It offers a fabulous range of arts and crafts, from hand-knitted socks to German fir tree decorations. The place is lit with fairy lights and each business sits in a wee decorated hut.

There is a varied selection of food of food on offer. You name it - Scottish, Polish, Mexican - and you can probably get it there. However, we were more thirsty than hungry and made our way to

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



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

The Mound, to the Johnnie Walker Bothy Bar. Now, I am not normally a whisky fan, but a hot toddy goes down a treat on a frosty afternoon.

Yes, Edinburgh raises spirits in more ways than one. Take an ancient castle, a royal palace and a quirky parliament building. Then add lines of quaint cobbled streets and dozens of inviting inns, including 'The MacGregor' on the Royal Mile.

Edinburgh is where old meets new. From historic buildings to the giant festive wheel that turns over the city. From a Gothic church to The Fringe, the largest modern arts festival in the world.

Penelope

But back to the shopping. A friend's daughter has just had a baby. I am in search of a present for the new born and I eventually find a gorgeous knitted dress. At home the outfit is carefully wrapped in tissue paper. But as I come to fill in the accompanying card, I realise that I have forgotten the tiny tot's name.

So, I ask my daughter to check it out on Facebook. 'She's called Penelope' is the answer. Penelope. It has that glamorous feel. The raven-haired actress, Penelope Cruz, comes to mind. As does the bottle blonde Lady Penelope from *Thunderbirds*.

I muse on the fact that this baby may well,

at some stage, end up being called Penny, or even Pippa. Whatever she will answer to, I have seen the pictures and she looks adorable. I take the present to our friend's house and pop it on the kitchen table.

Edinburgh is where old meets new. From historic buildings to the giant festive wheel that turns over the city. From a Gothic church to The Fringe, the largest modern arts festival in the world.

'There's a little something for Penelope,' I announce. 'We can't wait to meet her.' Our friend is touched, but looks a bit bemused. 'It's a dress,' I continue.

'You've bought Penelope a dress?' she says. 'Yes, it's really sweet. It won't fit now, but it should do in a few months...'

Then comes the laughter. 'That's really kind, but why would you buy Penelope a dress? Penelope is the dog!' And then it dawns. Thank you Facebook! Penelope is a miniature dachshund with a sleek black coat and a pointy nose. And whilst she

might look good in a tiny tartan dog coat, a cream and pink dress just doesn't do it.

Devon

The chief and I are still laughing about it as we get in the car to drive to Devon in southern England. One of his best friends - a Campbell, no less - is having a 60th birthday bash and we are invited. Now Devon is a long way from here. In fact, it is around five hundred miles away. But, despite the distance, Scotland does have similarities to Devon – not least the fact that both places have Celtic origins.

There is another link. Back in the late Victorian age Benedictine monks at a Devon abbey started producing something called 'Buckfast Tonic Wine.' This alcoholic drink was mixed with caffeine and it was originally meant to be medicinal; a sort of 'pick-me-up' drink that could even help with insomnia. It must be taken in moderation. But in certain parts of Scotland they drink a lot of it and in some areas, 'Buckfast' has been blamed for bringing on anti-social behaviour. 'It was the Buckie made me do it...' It's a claim the monks absolutely refute.

Yet cider is the real drink down in Devon. There they have some of the best apple orchards in the world and we will, no doubt, be raising a small glass of 'scrumpy', as the locals call it.

So, as the new year gets underway, cheers!

Visualising the Iolaire 100 years on



The Oban Times, January 11, 1919.

Scottish researchers have created a digital visualisation revealing the untold stories of those who tragically died following the sinking of *HMV Iolaire* 100 years ago. *HMV Iolaire* was returning sailors to the Western Isles from fighting in World War 1 when it foundered on rocks and sank on New Year's Day 1919. The final death toll was 205, of whom 181 were from the islands, devastating the communities on both Lewis and Harris.

To mark the 100th anniversary of this tragedy, researchers from Abertay University in Dundee and the University of the Highlands and Islands have developed an online

application, Visualising the Iolaire, which provides a virtual map of the disaster. It details those that died, identifies the communities directly and indirectly impacted, while also documenting how people have been memorialised on the island.

Sorrow heaped upon sorrow

The development of the online application has been led by Dr Iain Donald from the School of Design and Informatics, at Abertay University. He said: "The original aim of the project was to look at how the impact of a single event can transform a community. Previously we have looked at how the 4th

Black Watch casualties at the Battle of Loos in 1915 had impacted the city of Dundee. The story of the Iolaire is especially poignant as it occurred after the war was over and was bringing sailors home to be with friends and family for New Year in 1919. Working with Dr Iain Robertson at the University of the Highlands and Islands and the community partners on this project has demonstrated what a heavy price the Western Isles paid during the war, and the Iolaire tragedy was sorrow heaped upon sorrow."

The men were aboard the *HMV Iolaire* and looking forward to being reunited with loved ones when the ship struck rocks called the Beasts of Holm, at the entrance to Stornoway Harbour. There were only 79 survivors. Scarcely a family was left untouched in the close-knit communities of Lewis and Harris. "The homes of the island are full of lamentation - grief that cannot be comforted," reported *The Scotsman* on January 6, 1919. "Carts in little processions of twos and threes, each bearing its coffin from the mortuary, pass through the streets of Stornoway on their way to some rural village, and all heads are bared as they pass." So many people died that the island ran out of coffins and they had to be brought in from elsewhere to bury the dead.

One of the worst maritime disasters in Scottish history

The research behind the project was led by Dr Iain Robertson from the Centre for History at the University of the Highlands

An untold tragedy of the First World War

and Islands. He said: "At a time when society is once more having to work out how to recover from a collective trauma, it is important to see what lessons can be learnt from history. We have collected memories of silence, of the 'widow's share', and of the joy felt when sisters and cousins, returning from working in Dundee, were no longer dressed in mourning black. And we have heard a song sung by the son of the bard who, upon returning from the war himself and hearing that two of the island's sons had been lost, felt moved to compose his personal tribute and commemoration of the disaster."

The *Iolaire* tragedy was one of the worst maritime disasters in Scottish history and was the worst peacetime shipping disaster since the *Titanic*.

The map project is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council's 'Living Legacies 1914-18' WW1 engagement centre, which has been helping to fund community led research projects to mark the centenary of the First World War.

The app can be accessed via <https://iolaire.itch.io/the-iolaire>



The virtual map of the disaster.

Discover Scotland's Starry Nights

Text and images courtesy of Scotland.org



As the long nights take hold this month, visitors to Scotland can enjoy the night light with some of the darkest skies in the UK. This lack of light pollution means Scotland is one of the best places for star gazing and there's a new show every night, with clear, starry skies for all to enjoy.

There are few experiences that are as wondrous as gazing up at an inky black, twinkling night sky. Find out why now is the time and Scotland the place to go stargazing. When it comes to great stargazing locations, southern Scotland might not be top of your list. However, it's deep in the heart of the beautiful countryside of Dumfries & Galloway that you will find some of the blackest, and starriest, skies in all of Europe.

Britain's first Dark Sky park

Rolling green hillsides, glistening beaches and endless expanses of forest; Dumfries & Galloway is a joy to explore in the daytime, but stay after dark, and you can experience the region at its most dazzling.

Galloway Forest Park spans 75,000 hectares and is Scotland's Dark Sky Park. It is also almost completely uninhabited with practically zero light pollution. In fact, it ranks an impressive 23.6 out of 25 on the International Dark Sky Association's scale of darkness - fantastic news for professional and amateur astronomers alike.

Once inside the park, head to the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory, an incredible stargazing hotspot that welcomes all stargazers. With just your naked eye, gaze up at thousands of glimmering stars, constellations, far-off planets and even the lustrous Milky Way.

The observatory is a state-of-the-art facility which boasts two immense telescopes and a roll-off roof which showcases the night sky in all its celestial glory. Admire breath-taking magnified images of astronomical marvels like the Whirlpool Galaxy and, if you're really lucky, the occasional meteor shower.

Europe's first Dark Sky Town

Galloway Forest Park isn't the only place where you can find a clear night sky. Dumfries & Galloway is also home to Europe's first Dark Sky Town. Moffat is a small town which has 'dark sky friendly' street lamps which leave the sky above unobscured by the orange haze of artificial light. So pack a flask, wrap up warm, and watch as the sky becomes studded with glittering stars.

Moffat is one of many locations across Scotland which have all the key ingredients for optimum stargazing conditions. Here are some of the standout Dark Sky Discovery sites you can visit this autumn and winter when low temperatures ensure the highest possible clarity.

Incredible sights

Although the South of Scotland is undoubtedly an amazing destination to take in the wonder of the night sky, the great news is that there are plenty of locations right across the country. That means that no matter what part of

Scotland you decide to visit, you're sure to be in with a chance of catching some incredible sights.

You don't have to venture far from Scotland's capital for a spot of stargazing. Newbattle Abbey is located to the south of Dalkeith and is the best place to stargaze near Edinburgh. The abbey was awarded Orion site status by Dark Sky Scotland, meaning that the eight main stars of the constellation are easily visible.

Another of Scotland's many designated Dark Sky Discovery Sites, Glen Nevis, is a rugged wilderness that couldn't be easier to reach. With its own visitor centre and ample car parking, the glen is an ideal places to enjoy a spot of stargazing. The towering mountains all around are only rivalled in majesty by the pitch black sky with its glimmering stars.

Off the beaten path

If you're looking for somewhere a little more off the beaten path, you can't do much better than the Isle of Coll, which is designated as Scotland's Dark Sky Island. There are zero street lights on the island which means you can look forward to a heavenly vista that is truly out of this world. Look for luminous clusters like the Beehive and the glow of the Great Orion Nebula.

Shetland and Orkney, locations as sublimely beautiful as they are remote, are as close you can get to the Arctic Circle within the UK. They're also places where you have a high chance of catching a highly coveted sighting of the Aurora Borealis or Northern Lights.

Locals here have their own name for this ethereal natural phenomenon, the 'Mirrie Dancers'.

You don't have to travel all the way to Scotland's most northerly islands to see these shimmering bands of green, red and orange light, but the otherworldly atmosphere and wild beauty of Shetland and Orkney make the experience even more magical.

There are also spots scattered across the Moray Coast, which straddles Aberdeenshire and the Highlands, where you can observe incredible night skies. SIGMA, the Moray's Astronomy Club runs a series of events throughout the winter period which invite members and guests the chance to enjoy the starry spectacles with the help of specialist instruments including powerful telescopes.

Celebrating the dark

The Glenlivet Estate, located within the Cairngorms National Park, could soon be Scotland's second Dark Sky Park. Spanning 23,000 hectares, it already contains three Dark Sky Discovery Sites. With big, expansive views of the night sky, hardly any light pollution and easy access, Glenlivet is the perfect place to spend a night or two watching the moon and stars come out to play.

February will also see the first Hebridean Dark Skies Festival. Held at An Lanntair and across the Isle of Lewis from 8-21 February, it includes a unique programme of events that celebrate art, science and the wonders of astronomy.







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Up Helly Aa

Lighting up Shetland's dark winter with Viking fun

Photos courtesy of VisitScotland.

Up Helly Aa is the biggest fire festival in Europe, is held in Lerwick on the last Tuesday in January each year, and remembers the Vikings who used to rule the Shetland islands 1,000 years ago. Today thousands of visitors from across the world travel to this northernmost corner of Scotland to join in this Scandinavian Vikings' style celebrations of the end of winter and the return of the sun. The people of Shetland certainly know how to throw a party and celebrate like 21st century Vikings!

Up Helly Aa is a relatively modern festival and is a descendant of the ancient feast of Yule - which the Vikings held to celebrate the rebirth of the sun. There is some evidence that people in rural Shetland celebrated the 24th day after Christmas as "Antonmas" or "Up Helly Night", but there is no evidence that their cousins in Lerwick did the same. The emergence of Yuletide and New Year festivities in the town seems to post-date the Napoleonic Wars, when soldiers and sailors came home with rowdy habits and a taste for firearms.

Lerwick

On olde Christmas eve in 1824 a visiting Methodist missionary wrote in his diary that "the whole town was in an uproar: from twelve o'clock last night until late this night blowing of horns, beating of drums, tinkling of old tin kettles, firing of guns, shouting, bawling, fiddling, fifeing, drinking, fighting. This was the state of the town all night - the street was thronged with people as any fair I ever saw in England."

As Lerwick grew in size the celebrations became more elaborate. Sometime around 1840 the participants introduced burning tar barrels into the proceedings. "Sometimes", as one observer wrote, "there were two tubs fastened to a great

raft-like frame knocked together at the Docks, whence the combustibles were generally obtained. Two chains were fastened to the bogie supporting the capacious tub or tar-barrel...eked to these were two strong ropes on which a motley

mob, wearing masks for the most part, fastened. A party of about a dozen was told off to stir up the molten contents."

The main street of Lerwick in the mid-19th century was extremely narrow, and rival groups of tar-barrellers frequently clashed in the middle. The proceedings were thus dangerous and dirty, and Lerwick's middle classes often complained about them. The Town Council began to appoint special constables every Christmas to control the revellers with only limited success.

Torchlight procession

When the end came for tar-barrelling, in the early 1870's it seems to have been because the young Lerwegians themselves had decided it was time for a change. Around 1870 a group of young men in the town with intellectual interests injected a series of new ideas into the proceedings. First the improvised name Up Helly Aa, and gradually postponed the celebrations until the end of January.

Secondly, they introduced a far more elaborate element of disguise - "guizing" - into the new festival. Thirdly, they



inaugurated a torchlight procession. At the same time they were toying with the idea of introducing Viking themes to their new festival. The first sign of this new development appearing in 1877, but it was not until the late 1880's that a Viking longship – the “galley” – appeared, and as late as 1906 that “Guizer Jarl”, the chief guizer, arrived on the scene. It was not until after the First World War that there was a squad of Vikings, the “Guizer Jarl Squad”, in the procession every year.

Up Helly Aa is a relatively modern festival and is a descendant of the ancient feast of Yule - which the Vikings held to celebrate the rebirth of the sun.

Up to the Second World War Up Helly Aa was overwhelmingly a festival of young working-class men and during the depression years the operation was run on a shoestring. In the winter of 1931-32 there was an unsuccessful move to cancel the festival because of the dire economic situation in the town. At the same time the Up Helly Aa committee became a self-confident organisation which poke fun at the pompous in the by then long-established Up Helly Aa bill – sometimes driving their victims to fury.

Celebrates Viking heritage

Since 1949, when the festival resumed after the war, much has changed and much has remained the same.



That year the BBC recorded a major radio programme on Up Helly Aa, and from that moment Up Helly Aa – noted for its split-second timing before the war – became a model of efficient organization. The numbers participating in the festival have become much greater, and the resources required correspondingly larger. Whereas in the 19th century individuals kept open house to

welcome the guizers on Up Helly Aa night, men and women now co-operate to open large hall throughout the town to entertain them. However, despite the changes there are numerous threads connecting the Up Helly Aa of today with its predecessors 150 years ago.

Today under the black winter skies, up to 1000 colourfully attired guizers muster and carry their burning torches through the streets of Lerwick,

producing a riot of colour. Lerwick Up Helly Aa is the biggest procession of its kind in Europe and celebrates the islands' Viking heritage. It is one of 10 fire festivals held across Shetland, with the following day being a much needed Public Holiday throughout Shetland.

Have you ever embraced you inner Viking and attended Up Helly Aa? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

Discovering why basking sharks come to Scotland



Basking shark.
Photo: Alex Mustard.

Scientists seeking to discover whether Scotland's seas are a mating ground for basking sharks have gathered new footage showing the sharks being sociable, including a first look at groups forming on the seabed. These data have been gathered by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the University of Exeter as part of a new camera tagging project which launched in August.

The second largest fish in the world

Basking sharks are the second largest fish in the world, reaching lengths up to 10m. Despite their size and prevalence in Scotland's seas, little is understood about their social behaviours. “A large number of sharks appear each year just off the western

coast of Scotland in the Sea of the Hebrides. However, there's been limited research to show exactly what they're doing here: do they come solely to feed on plankton, or are they courting each other and using our coast as a mating ground?” said Dr Suzanne Henderson, Policy and Advice Officer at SNH.

Researchers from SNH and the University of Exeter spent a week off the coast of Tobermory tagging three basking sharks using towed camera tags – the camera tags trail slightly behind the attachment point at the base of the main dorsal fin. It is believed this type of tag has never before been used on basking sharks. The video footage collected by the tags will give scientists a new understanding of basking shark group behaviour.

Dr Henderson continued, “There's very little information about social and mating behaviours in basking sharks, or indeed sharks in general. We've been unsure whether the surface behaviours we see in the Sea of the Hebrides – such as parallel swimming, following nose to tail, or swimming in tight circles – are courtship activities.”

Shark's eye view

Dr Matthew Witt, Senior Lecturer in Natural Environment at the University of Exeter, added, “The footage we've collected gives a fantastic shark's eye view of the environment and new insight into behaviours. We can see sharks very closely aggregating near the seabed, potentially forming social groups. Three sharks are seen very close together, fins touching but hardly swimming. We haven't seen basking sharks exhibit this behaviour at depth, and early in the morning, before.”

“The basking shark is a protected species in Scotland, across the UK and in the coastal and offshore waters of many northeast Atlantic countries,” said Dr Lucy Hawkes, Senior Lecturer in Physiological Ecology also of the University of Exeter. “But as yet we don't know how human activity might inadvertently affect their behaviour, including mating, and as such this project offers an exciting opportunity to look more deeply into the lives of these large planktivorous sharks. It's also possible that future footage we collect will record basking sharks mating, to our knowledge this would be the first recording of these fish mating.”

Data collected by the camera tags will also help inform future consultation processes around designating a Marine Protected Area by identifying why the area is important to the sharks. The researchers hope to return to Tobermory next year to obtain more footage. Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, Mairi Gougeon added, “The study being undertaken by Scottish Natural Heritage and the University of Exeter is an exciting opportunity to build our knowledge of how basking sharks use our seas. In addition to being a world first for the use of these towed camera tags on this species, this work will enhance the evidence base for a basking shark Marine Protected Area proposal which will be consulted on later this year.”

SNH and the University of Exeter have been collaborating on basking shark research since 2012. This new research follows a satellite tagging project (2012-2016) which showed for the first time that individual sharks return to the same areas off Scotland's coasts in consecutive summers.



Basking shark near the surface
Photo: Scottish Natural Heritage.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



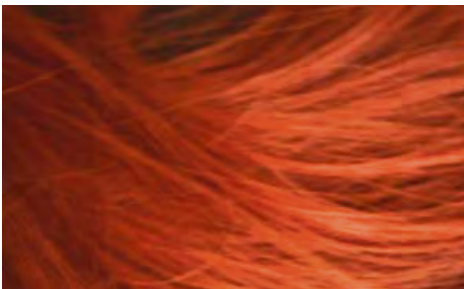
Highlands dwarf birch added to Millennium Seed Bank

Tree seeds have been collected from dwarf birch trees near Loch Ness as part of the UK National Tree Seed Project. The seeds collected as part of the project are safely banked in the underground vaults of Kew's Millennium Seed Bank – forming the UK's first national collection of tree seeds. These collections play a vital role in conservation work to protect UK trees and woodlands, including against pests and diseases such as ash dieback. The collections, and associated data, are available to researchers working on solutions to tackle the many threats facing our woodlands.

Dwarf birch is part of the montane scrub group of plants that grow at high elevation – over 300 metres – in the Scottish hills. It is a small tree that grows no more than a metre tall, and is often found growing on its side along the ground. Montane tree species would once have been common on Scottish mountains – found between dense woodland and open hilltops – but today montane scrub has almost disappeared from Scotland.

Clare Trivedi, UK National Tree Seed Project Coordinator at Kew Gardens, said: "Building up our seed collections of the nation's favourite and most important tree species is a vital step in combating the multiple challenges, including pests and diseases, which threaten to alter our landscape dramatically." The seeds collected will be stored in a specially temperature and humidity controlled environment at the Millennium Seed Bank before being processed and transferred to deep-freeze conditions. The seeds should remain viable for many decades and will be available to support research and on-the-ground conservation activity.

Red head study carried out by the University of Edinburgh



Eight genes linked to red hair have been discovered by scientists, helping to shed light on how redheads inherit their distinctive locks. The study, led by

researchers at the University of Edinburgh, has been described as the largest genetic study of hair colour to date. Previously, it was thought that red hair is controlled by a single gene known as MC1R, with versions of the gene having to be passed on from both the mother and the father. However, not everyone carrying two red-haired versions is a redhead, meaning that other genes had to be involved.

The team examined DNA from almost 350,000 people who had taken part in the UK Biobank study. When they compared redheads with people with brown or black hair, scientists identified eight previously-unknown genetic differences that are associated with ginger locks. The team also looked at the functions of the genes they identified and found that some of them work by controlling when MC1R is switched on or off.

The researchers also uncovered differences in almost 200 genes associated with blondes and brunettes. Professor Albert Tenesa, of the university's Roslin Institute, said: "We are very pleased that this work has unravelled most of the genetic variation contributing to differences in hair colour among people."

Professor Ian Jackson, of the Medical Research Council Human Genetics Unit at the university, said: "We were able to use the power of UK Biobank, a huge and unique genetic study of half a million people in Britain, which allowed us to find these effects."

There are more redheads in Scotland than anywhere else in the world.

University of Glasgow creates its own wool



The University of Glasgow has created its own brand of knitting yarn made with wool from sheep reared on its own farm. Cochno Wool is a luxurious wool in four colours – natural (un-dyed), University blue, Thistle pink and Slate grey – which will be sold through the University shop.

The idea is the brainchild of academics Professor Lynn Abrams and Dr Marina Moskowitz – both keen knitters and historians of Scottish knitted textiles.

Professor Abrams, Head of the School of School of Humanities | Sgoil nan Daonnachdan at the University of Glasgow, said: "Knitted textiles are an important and very recognisable part of Scotland's heritage – think Fair Isle jumpers and Sanquhar gloves and the knitwear factories of the Borders – but they also make a significant contribution to the Scottish economy. Knitting is also back in fashion as part of the new interest, particularly amongst younger generations, in textile crafts. Our knitting wool is locally grown, meeting the desire amongst makers for materials with traceable provenance."

The historians were inspired by their project on Scottish knitted textiles, funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The project - Knitting in the Round; Hand-Knitted Textiles and the Economies of Craft in Scotland - has focused on themes of sustainability, creativity and authenticity and has collaborated with heritage organisations, knitwear designers and makers to better understand the historical antecedents of today's Scottish knitwear revival. The wool, which is single-origin double-knit and worsted-spun, was sourced from the Scotch Mule sheep flock at the University's Cochno Farm. In June last year, the University flock were sheared; then the fleeces were sent to the Natural Fibre Company for processing – cleaning, carding, spinning and dyeing - in September. A pattern book is also in the pipeline, with designers across Scotland contributing their designs for a range of knitted items inspired by the architecture of the University of Glasgow.

Screen Scotland seeks operator for major Film & TV production facility



Screen Scotland has launched a tender process inviting proposals from private developers to lease, refurbish and operate a permanent world-class film and television production facility at 31 Bath Road (formerly the Pelamis building), Port of Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Recently host to Marvel's *Avengers: Infinity War* (2017), the ex-industrial building is situated on a private gated 8.6-acre site within the port estate and is owned by Forth Ports Limited. Offering industry standard dimensions, it incorporates adaptable interior shooting options across 160,000 sq. ft and potential for 5 sound stages of between 50ft and 100ft in height.

The building is conveniently located in Edinburgh, 3 miles north of the city-centre, is just 10 miles from Edinburgh International Airport and a 50-minute drive west along the M8 from Glasgow and within reach of Scotland's breathtaking locations.

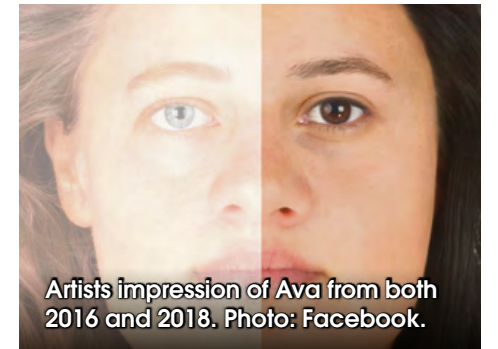
Public transport links also connect it with both Edinburgh and Glasgow, with the development providing parking to accommodate permanent personnel alongside visiting studio productions.

Isabel Davis, Executive Director, Screen Scotland said; "The enormous potential of 31 Bath Road was demonstrated when it hosted Marvel's *Avengers: Infinity War* last year. Its scale, accessibility, proximity to crew and central Edinburgh and its ability to be rapidly adapted make it a highly attractive proposition and one that could swiftly provide a home in Scotland for large scale productions."

The television and film industry spent £95m in Scotland last year - the highest total since records began. Some of the productions filming in Scotland recently have included:

Avengers: Infinity War, The Outlaw King, Outlander, Star Wars: The Last Jedi and Mary Queen of Scots.

Genetic data bring Bronze Aged woman back to life



Artists impression of Ava from both 2016 and 2018. Photo: Facebook.

In 2016, a team of Scottish archaeologists and forensic scientists created an astonishingly realistic facial reconstruction using the skeletal remains of a young Bronze Aged woman believed to be aged 18-25. Named Ava, she was discovered and excavated in Caithness in 1987, in a cist which contained the tightly contracted skeletal remains of the young woman, accompanied by a beaker, three flint artefacts and a cattle scapula. In 2016 the girl they portrayed with a Celtic complexion of red hair and blue eyes – but, according to the latest DNA research published in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, this is now thought to be incorrect. Thanks to improved DNA testing Ava is now considered to be "foreign" with a more olive complexion and dark eyes. It is also now believed the skeleton may be up to 4,250 years old, rather than the 3,700 previously thought.

Archaeologist Maya Hoole said; "It's been remarkable. It is almost like time travel going back 4,250 years to see what somebody would have looked like. The revelation that her ancestors were recent northern European migrants is exciting, especially as we know that she has no, or very few, genetic connections with the local Neolithic population who resided in Caithness before her. Whilst the overall shape of Ava's face and facial features remained as they were previously, darkening her eyes, her skin tone and giving her totally new hair made her look very different to what I initially imagined when I received the DNA results."

Interestingly researchers have also been able to establish that Ava, alongside the majority of her population, was lactose intolerant.

2019-A Year in Piping

Text courtesy of The National Piping Centre, Glasgow, Scotland.



Piping Live! coming to Glasgow this August.

Happy New Year from The National Piping Centre! Across the world each year there are lots of opportunities to hear Scotland's national instrument, but these are some of the key events here in Scotland and abroad.

Celtic Connections, now in its 26th year, kicks off the year in style as Glasgow's annual folk, roots and world music festival, celebrates Celtic music and its connections to cultures across the globe. From 17 January – February 2019, over 2,100 musicians from around the world will descend on Glasgow and bring the city to life for 18 days of concerts, ceilidhs, talks, art exhibitions, workshops, and free events, including a "Made in Scotland" a concert by The National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland and a very special showing of Disney's *Brave*, with live orchestral music from the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra among this year's highlights.

Young pipers

On 16th February, our National Piping Centre Junior Piping Championship returns, one of a host of fantastic contest for young pipers aged Under 18 across the country every year. It aims to encourage all young players to compete, with chanter competitions through to Piobaireachd events. In April The National Piping Centre's Seasonal Schools return with our spring editions. These great four-day workshops are tailored for different age groups and are a great way to meet other pipers and get immersed in learning. There are 5 Major pipe band championships in the UK, and this year they are:

- **British Championships**
May 18th - Paisley
- **United Kingdom Championships**
June 15th – Lurgan, Northern Ireland
- **European Championships**
June 29th - Inverness
- **Scottish Championships**
July 27th - Dumbarton
- **World Championships**
August 16th/17th – Glasgow Green, Glasgow

Piping Live!

The last of these championships is the biggest and the best. It is part of the world's biggest week of piping here in Glasgow, with Piping Live!, taking place from Saturday 10th– Sunday 18th August. This festival brings together musicians from across the globe, who come to the city with pipe bands and music groups from many different countries to take part. With Pipe Idol, The Piping Live! Big Band, The Masters, Evening Concerts, the festival club, Street Café and more, Piping Live! has something for everyone.

Across the world each year there are lots of opportunities to hear Scotland's national instrument, but these are some of the key events here in Scotland and abroad.

This all leads up to the World Pipe Band Championships on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th August. For 2 days the piping world gathers on Glasgow Green (even via the live streaming of the event!) to celebrate a new world champion. Will Field Marshall Montgomery Pipe Band repeat their phenomenal success of 2018? We will wait with bated breath and see...

This marks the end of the UK pipe band season. Other significant worldwide contests include The North American Pipe Band Championships which take place at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario which is 2nd – 3rd August 2019, and the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships, this year in Dunedin on 29th – 30th March 2019.



Learning the pipes workshops.

Solo competitions

Once the Pipe Band season is over, thoughts turn to major solo competitions. The end of August and start of September see The Argyllshire Gathering and Northern Meetings, the two most prestigious solo piping competitions in Scotland. Each event takes place over 2 days with competitors taking part in Piobaireachd and light music events. Once the winners have been announced for these, then the 10 competitors for the Glenfiddich Piping Championship are announced.

This solo championship, taking place at the end of October each year has been called the de facto world solo championship, where the 10 best pipers of the year compete for the overall trophy. Last year's top honour went to National Piping Centre teacher Finlay Johnston, his first win in this top solo piping competition.

The Glenfiddich is the end of the 2019 season, only for the 2020 season to start the very next weekend in London with the Scottish Piping Society of London's annual competition, which has its 81st year in 2019.

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

The National Piping Centre promotes the study and history of piping in Scotland. For details see: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk



Glasgow the "Home of Piping".



The North American pipe Band Championships in Maxville, Canada.



SATURDAY 2 MARCH

ROSALIND PARK

10am: Parade of Bands, Clans and Dancers down historic View St

From 11am: Pipe bands, Folk Music, dancing, games, stalls, sword tournaments Scottish cuisine with lots of traditional and contemporary Highland fun ... and it's free!



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CONNECTING CULTURES COMMUNITIES & GENERATIONS

Images courtesy of John Slavin Photography/ The National Piping Centre and Maxville Highland Games.

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, Bayard, Bardt, Barth and Biard or varied spellings of the name of Scottish origin.

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

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President

3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565

Email: djbaird4@gmail.com

Regional Directors for Australia

David and Patricia Benfell

Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com

website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



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



Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

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

Applications may be made online: www.clan davidson.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 DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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



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

<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>

Facebook: [The Clan Donnachaidh Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheClanDonnachaidhSociety)
Email: ivc@donnachaidh.com



Clan Bell North America

Cordially invites membership inquiries from persons Named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Computerized Genealogical data base available to help members in their research. Quarterly newsletter published. Tents hosted at major Scottish games from coast to coast.

Your Bell ancestry is important!

Visit our web site: www.clanbell.org

Contact our Membership Chairperson: Pauline Bell
1513 Anterra Drive, Wake Forest, NC 27587
Email: debellinn@reagan.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 Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald

Ph: 0412 090990

Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au

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 Blair Society

Membership cordially invited from the descendants of all Blairs.

Visit our website: www.clanblair.org

Charles Diman

Membership Chairman

3413 Sunnybrook Dr.

Charlotte, NC 28210

Email: clanmembership@clanblair.org



Clan Campbell Society (North America)

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

Prospective members inquire to: Secretary (secretary@ccsm.org)
Clan Campbell Society, (NA)

963 Plum Tree Lane, Fenton, MI 48430

www.ccsna.org



Clan 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,

celticwww@sbcglobal.net



Edmonstone Clan Society

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

Edmundson, etc. Contact Sir Archibald Edmonstone Bt of Duntreath

3 Laguna Ave, Kirwan Qld 4817

61 (0)7 4755 4370

m.edmiston@bigpond.com



Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary
President 5561 Earl Young Road
1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Bloomington, IN 47408
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 www.familyofbruce.org



Clan Crawford Association

Membership extended to all Crawford's of various spellings, worldwide. Join to preserve our legacy & receive assistance with events, heraldry, highland games, forums, DNA genealogy, surname history, quarterly newsletter and more.

Joanne Crawford, President
Local Contact: Warren Crawford
wcrawford84@hotmail.com

www.clancrawfordassoc.org

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.clandonaldivic@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@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.



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

Judith M. Elliott-Clan President welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family.

Direct inquires to: Membership-Treasurer
Patricia Tennyson Bell
2288 Casa Grande South
Pasadena, CA 91104



Clan Buchanan Society International, Inc.

Invites membership of all Buchanans and of other sept:

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

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



Clan Cumming Society of The United States

7409 Jessica Way
Rowlett, TX 75089

www.clancumming.us



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



Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

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

The Secretary: Clan Farquharson Association Australia

PO Box 585

Springwood, NSW 2777

or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com

Clan 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 MacNicol Society, Inc.

Member of The Highland Clan MacNeacail Federation welcomes persons of the names Nicolson, Nicol, MacNicol in all spellings

For membership inquiries, contact:

USA: Jeremy Nicholson
P.O. Box 501166
Atlanta, GA 31150-1166
macnicolsociety@bsn1.net
www.clanmacnicol.org

Canada: Jacques McNicoll
202 Berlitz Apt 203
Verdun, QC H3E 1B8 Canada
Email: mcnicollclan@videotron.qc.ca
www.clanmacnicolcanada.com



CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

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

Invites all Mathesons/Mathiesons or Kin to join our Clan Society.
Contact the Chief's Lieutenants in USA

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



Clan Pollock

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

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

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

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

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

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



Clan MacNicol

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

Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

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

www.clanmacnicol.com



Clan 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 Pringle Association

(North America)

Membership cordially invited from Pringle! Pringle decedents and other interested parties.

www.clanpringle.org.uk

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



THE MACLEODS RICH IN HIGHLAND TRADITIONS

FOR INFORMATION:

WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

A.L. MACLEOD
3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B
WEST VALLEY CITY, UT
84120-6880



Clan Macpherson Association

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Clan Montgomery Society International

Join a Thousand Year Tradition

President: Leonard Montgomery
president@clanmontgomery.org

www.clanmontgomery.org



Clan Ross in Australia

for information contact Commander Des Ross

(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowan)

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

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



Clan Macnaghten 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@brucecmnaught.com

W. Canada - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughton
250-999-9636 milesccammac@aol.com

New Zealand - Regional Commissioner - John Macnaghtan
+64 9 441 4984 macnaghtan@xtra.co.nz

USA - Membership Secretary - Mary Nivison Burton
541-401-2613 membersec@clanmacnaughton.net

WWW.CLANMACNAUGHTON.NET



The Clan MacRae Society of Australia and New Zealand

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

Australian Contact:

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



Clan Morrison Society of North America

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

Kimberly Mrkonc
Membership-Treasurer
PO Box 1007
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

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 Ross America

Association and foundation merged
Many Names - One Clan

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



Clan MacNeil Association of America

Invites all MacNeils, regardless of surname spelling, some of which are listed: McNeill MacNeil MacNeal MacNiel, McNeely, Neal, Neilson and O'Neill to join us in preserving our heritage.

Contact: Rhonwyn Darby

McNeill VP.; MembershJp, PO. Box 230093, Montg_omery
AL 36123-0693. (334) 834-0612 Email rdmatmgn@aol.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 Munro Association, U.S.A

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

COME JOIN US!

Web site: www.Clanmunrousa.org

Write: Heather Munro Daniel

4600 Lloydrownn Road

Mebane, NC 27302



Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated

Contact: M Hodgkinson

212 MacKenzie Street

Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559)

william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au

<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus>

Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



Clan Maitland Society

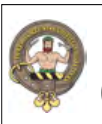
Chief: Ian Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale!
We are all related! Contact your local society

North America: Rosemary Maitland Thorn
rthomnvrdrdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Carole Maitland carole_maitland@yahoo.com.au
4230 Colac- Lavers Hill RoadWeeaprounah. VIC. 3237

New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz
33 Disley Street, High bury, Wellington 6012. 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



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
Wyomissing, PA 19610-2738

In the U.S. contact: Robert W. Murray

2000 Cambridge Ave #329
Campbell River, BC V9H 0C3



Clan Ross of The United States

David Ross of Ross, Baron Balnagowan, Chief of the Clan invites all Ross', septs and their descendants toto join in preserving our heritage.

www.clan-ross.org

clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com

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



Clan Scott Society

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

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



Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

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

CALEDONIAN CLUB OF FLORIDA WEST (SARASOTA, FL)

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



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

The 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



Clan Shaw Society

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

Secretary: Mike Shaw
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020

CLAN YOUNG AUSTRALIA



For those affiliated with the Young surname

Ian J Young
Convenor

Membership inquiries:
Clan Young Australia
10 Cedric Street
Parkdale VIC 3195
membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au

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

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 www.daughtersofscotia.org

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org
Founded in 1905

Scottish Gaelic Choir:

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



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

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



Clan Sinclair Australia

Membership and inquiries from all Sinclairs, Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants.

For further info contact
President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174
Secretary : Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263
E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com
www.clansinclairaustralia.com



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

Worldwide organization for all Wardlaws or related families. We invite you to join us.

Email: clanwardlaw@yahoo.com

'Wardlaw ivermair!'

www.clanwardlaw.com
Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books



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 Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited
ABN 30 093 578 860

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association.

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



Clan Skene Association, Inc.

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

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

Scottish Associations and Societies

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 Burn Supper, Poetry Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

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

FOUNDED 1974



St. Andrews Society of Vermont

P.O. Box 484
Essex Junction, VT 05453
Invites membership inquiries.
David Campbell - President (802) 878-8663
Website: www.sasvt.org



The Stewart Society

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

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



Australian Scottish Communiti (Qld) Inc.

Promoter of International Tartan Day, Brisbane, Queensland

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

Victorian Scottish Union

Established 1905

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

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

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



Clan Sutherland Society of Australia

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

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



Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

(The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a nonprofit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels.
Ruairaidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor)
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org
Web: www.ozgaelic.org
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235



Clans and Scottish organisations



To have your Clan or Scottish organisation listed in these pages please contact us at:
info@scottishbanner.com
or www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

Having a Clan event? Know of a highland games? Know where the pipes will be playing? Let Scottish Banner readers know of Scottish events both near and far with the Scottish Banner events page.

Send us your community event, concert, meeting or anything with a Scottish twist! Please submit events either online at www.scottishbanner.com/events or email info@scottishbanner.com.

Please ensure you submit your event in the exact format we use below, events not submitted in this way cannot be guaranteed to be printed. Events will run both in print and online and is a free service.

AUSTRALIA

JANUARY 2019

1 Maryborough, VIC - The Maryborough Highland Gathering

Start the year off Scottish at Australia's oldest continuous running sporting event with pipe bands, Scottish dance, stalls and more at Princes Park. Info: 03 5461 1480 or www.highlandsociety.com.au

6 Nationwide - National Shortbread Day

Celebrate the classic Scottish treat today! Shortbread is so named because of its crumbly texture which is caused by its high-fat content, provided by the butter. "Shortening" is its related word that refers to any fat that may be added to produce a "short" (crumbly) texture.

12 Sydney, NSW - Scottish Gaelic Poetry Seminar
Poetry is a fascinating and beautiful way in to language and culture. In this half-day seminar, we will read and discuss a selection of Scottish Gaelic poems and songs in Gaelic with English translations. No knowledge of Gaelic is required, at Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt St. Info: www.celticlearningcomau.wordpress.com

13 Weston, ACT - Who were the Celts? Study Day

A day-long introduction to the culture of the Celts, focussing on bronze-age, iron-age and early medieval language, art and archaeology. Prented by the Australian School of Celtic Learning at Canberra Irish Club, 6 Parkinson St. Info: www.celticlearningcomau.wordpress.com

19 Sydney, NSW - Celtic Illuminated Manuscripts Study Day

Spend a day looking at early medieval Celtic illuminated manuscripts from the modest Book of Mulling to the extravagant Book of Kells. Our list will include Scotland's only securely identified example, the Book of Deer, together with better- and lesser-known examples from various parts of Great Britain and Ireland, at Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 280 Pitt St. Info: www.celticlearningcomau.wordpress.com/events/

19 Argenton, NSW - Hunter Valley Scots Burns Night

Celebrate Robert Burns with the Hunter Valley Scots Club at Club Macquarie with food, music and dance. Info: www.huntervalleysclotsclub.org.au

19 Melville, WA - Summer "Keep in Touch" Dance

RSCDS Western Australia Branch invites you to a Summer "Keep in Touch" Dance at Melville Uniting Church Hall, 64 Kitchener Rd. Come along and catch up with your friends and enjoy dancing in the air-conditioned hall. Info: www.rscdswa.com

19 Gaythorne, QLD - Burns Supper Dance

Presented by the Brisbane Clans Pipes and Drums at Gaythorne RSL. Info: 07 3369 2232.

25 Nationwide - Happy Burns Night

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

25 Hobart, TAS - Burns Night

Join the City of Hobart Pipe Band to toast the Immortal Memory. Whisky, haggis, bagpipes, The Iain MacLeod Ceilidh Band, dancing for everyone, fine company and excellent craic. Info: www.cohphpb.org.au

25 Wongawallan, QLD - Burns Supper

Includes the Address the Haggis, 3 course dinner, music and more at the Fox & Hounds Country Inn, 7 Elevation Dr. Info: 07 5665 7582 or www.foxandhounds.net.au

25 Lyons, NT - A Night of Robert Burns

Celebrating the life and works of Scotland's National Poet, Robert Burns, in poetry, song and dance at Tracy Village Social and Sports Club Bistro, 28 Tambling Tce. Info: Moyston Wright 0487 407 672 or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-night-of-robert-burns-tickets-52244541831?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

25 Perth, WA - Burns Supper

Presented by the Saint Andrew Society of Western Australia at the Parmelia Hilton. Info: www.saintandrew.org.au

26 Ipswich, QLD - Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band Burns Supper Ceilidh

Enjoy our traditional Burns Supper Ceilidh, and celebrate the life of Rabbie Burns. Including a traditional supper while you are captivated by the address to the haggis and all the formalities at Ipswich Masonic Lodge, 82A Nicholas St. Info: ipswichthistlepipeband@gmail.com or 0429 362 142.

FEBRUARY 2019

1 Sydney, NSW - SAHC Macquarie's (257th) Birthday Dinner

Major General Lachlan Macquarie, CB (31 January 1762 – 1 July 1824) was a colonial administrator from Scotland. Macquarie served as the fifth and last autocratic Governor of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821, and had a leading role in the social, economic and architectural development of the colony, celebrate at this dinner at Cello's Restaurant, The Castlereagh Hotel with the Scottish Australian Heritage Council. Info: Nea MacCulloch 0408 990 413 or info@scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

4 - 25 Sydney, NSW - Learn Scottish Country Dancing with the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Eight week course aimed at beginners (and improvers). Learn the basic steps and formations along with some simple but fun Scottish country dances. A great way to keep fit and make friends. No partner required at Fort Street Public School, The Rocks. Info: www.trybooking.com/445875 or Diana, 0413542552, sydney@rscds.org.au

9 Manly West, QLD - 2019 SQRCHDI Workshop

South Queensland Regional Committee of Highland Dancing are once again thrilled to host a fun-filled weekend of highland dancing to kick start your dancing year. An educational, inspirational and social program at Moreton Bay College, Hargreaves Rd, Manly West. Info: www.highlanddancecomps.com.au

9 Hall, ACT - Canberra and District Scottish Country Dancing Annual Picnic Dance

Scottish Country Dancing at Hall Village Pavillion, 21 Gladstone St, with music by Canberra Scottish Fiddlers. Info: www.rscds-canberra.org

15 - 17 Callala Beach, NSW - Scottish Gaelic Retreat

Spend a weekend immersed in Scottish Gaelic at beautiful Callala Beach on the NSW South Coast. Formal Gaelic language classes will be interspersed with gentle walks on the beach, cooking traditional Scottish dishes and enjoying the outdoors – all in Gaelic. No prior knowledge of Gaelic required. Info: www.celticlearningcomau.wordpress.com

17 Richmond, TAS - Richmond Highland Gathering

St Andrew Society of Hobart will again be holding its annual Highland Gathering on the Village Green, with Pipe Band displays from across Tasmania, Scottish dancing and stalls. Info: Di Cornish 0408 528 658 or dianne.cornish1@bigpond.com

23 East Gosford, NSW - Gosford Opening Social

Presented by the Gosford Scottish Country Dancers at East Gosford Progress Hall, cnr Henry Parry Drive & Wells Streets. Info: Janice 4388 2253.

NEW ZEALAND

JANUARY 2019

1 Waipu - Waipu Highland Games

The first Highland Games to take place each year in the world, bagpipes, Scottish dance, Clans, tartan and more. Info: www.waipugames.co.nz

4 Auckland - Scottish Celtic Music Group

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

6 - 11 Christchurch - RNZPBA Summer School

The largest Summer School in the Southern Hemisphere offers Jack Lee and Reid Maxwell from world-famous Simon Fraser University Pipe Band (Canada); fantastic tutors from New Zealand and additional international tutors at St Andrew's College, Papanui Rd. Info: summerschool@nzpipebands.org.nz or www.nzpipebands.org.nz/education/summer-school

6 Nationwide - National Shortbread Day

Celebrate the classic Scottish treat today! Shortbread is so named because of its crumbly texture which is caused by its high-fat content, provided by the butter. "Shortening" is its related word that refers to any fat that may be added to produce a "short" (crumbly) texture.

11 Auckland - Scottish Fiddle Club Fiddle Club Night

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



The Scottish Banner is the #1 source for Scottish events in Australasia! With hundreds of Scottish events listed from around the world and updated weekly. See our most up to date listings and add your event anytime at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

20 Dunedin - Robbie Rocks Dunedin 2019 Concert

Robbie Burns may be the greatest songwriter in history. He was certainly the outstanding 'rock star' of 18th-century Scotland and love for his poems and songs has spread around the world ever since. Join at the upper Octagon to hear the Robbie Rocks Dunedin finalists rocking out their interpretation of some Burns' classics. The winners will be announced at the end of the show. Info: www.toituosm.com/whats-on/events/robbie-rocks-dunedin-2019

24 Auckland - Burns Supper

This is a truly Scottish celebration of the life and poetry of Robbie Burns with Scottish food specials including Haggis, Neeps and Tatties, as well as specials on Scotch Whisky, Tennents Lager and Irn Bru at Malt Public House, 442 Richmond Rd, Grey Lynn. Info: 360 9537 or www.facebook.com/events/191234865154600

25 Nationwide - Happy Burns Night

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

25 Auckland - Ceilidh Club

Celebrate Robert Burns at St Davids in the Fields Church, 202 Hillsborough Rd. All are welcome to play, dance, or even call ceilidh dances and certainly just to watch. Info: learnScotsfiddle@gmail.com

26 Turakina - Turakina Highland Games

Celebrating everything Scottish with Highland & National dancing, the New Zealand Open Solo Piping Championships, pipe bands and traditional Scottish field events. Many Clans are represented and members are happy to help you research your Celtic heritage at Turakina Domain, Cameron Rd. Info: 027 6656 238 or www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz

27 Ashburton - Ashburton's Festival of Pipe Band Music

Ashburton's annual music festival beginning with Street March at 12:30pm, followed by Medleys & Sets in the Domain. Info: Peter MacLean: petermaclean@xtra.co.nz

FEBRUARY 2019

1 Auckland - Scottish Celtic Music Group

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

8 Auckland - Scottish Fiddle Club Fiddle Club Night

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

9 Paeroa - Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo

A fully-fledged Highland Games, one of only seven such Scottish gatherings in New Zealand, and the only one in New Zealand to hold an evening Tattoo at the Paeroa Domain. Info: www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

9 Wellington - Pipes In The Park 2019

Wellington's very own Highland Games. Pipe Band competition, Highland dancing, Clans, castles (of the bouncy kind) and craft markets. Bring your picnic blanket or deck chair, sit back and enjoy some great entertainment from some of the best Pipe Bands in the country at Waitangi Park, 107 Cable St. Info: www.facebook.com/pipesintheparkWGTN

16 Dunedin - Octagonal Day

Piping event held in the Octagon Dunedin. Info: Maureen Hurrell hurrellm@xtra.co.nz

17 Dunedin - Otago/Southland Pipe Band Contest

This Contest includes a Street March on George Street and then to Alhambra Rugby Grounds, also known as the North Ground. Info: Maureen Hurrell hurrellm@xtra.co.nz

22 Auckland - Ceilidh Club

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

23 Wellington - Wellington-Hawke's Bay Pipe Band Contest

Annual Centre Pipe Band Contest for Wellington-Hawke's Bay is to be held at the Scots College Grounds. Info: Sandra Harry: sharry13@gmail.com

Answers to Scotword on Page 6

Across: 1 Bogs; 3 Suitable; 8 Axes; 9 Arbroath; 11 TheTrossachs; 13 Regina; 14 Dancer; 17 GlamisCastle; 20 Discreet; 21 Broo; 22 Merchant; 23 Trek

Down: 1 Blantyre; 2 Glenelg; 4 Unrest; 5 Tarmacadam; 6 Brash; 7 Echo; 10 Grand March; 12 Greenock; 15 Caterer; 16 Astern; 18 Laser; 19 Adam

SCOTLAND

JANUARY 2019

1 - 2 Falkirk - Fire and Light

Start your New Year with a magical 3km walk around the Helix, Home of the Kelpies. The park will be transformed into an extraordinary spectacle of fire performances, interactive light installations, breath-taking puppetry, enchanting sculptures, and animated projections depicting the zodiac signs. Info: www.thehelix.co.uk/fireandlight

6 Nationwide - National Shortbread Day

Celebrate the classic Scottish treat today! Shortbread is so named because of its crumbly texture which is caused by its high-fat content, provided by the butter. "Shortening" is its related word that refers to any fat that may be added to produce a "short" (crumbly) texture.

11 Burghead, Moray - The Burning of the Clavie

A fire festival unique to Burghead, which greets the New Year. The significance of the 11th January dates back to the 1750's, when the Julian calendar was reformed in Britain. Info: www.burghead.com/clavie

17 - Feb 3 Glasgow - Celtic Connections

Celtic Connections is the largest winter music festival of its kind and the UK's premier celebration of Celtic music,featuring artists from around the globe alongside the best Scottish talent. Info: www.celticconnections.com

20 - 22 Glasgow - Scotland's Trade Fair Spring

Scotland's biggest trade show for the gift, homewares, jewellery, fashion accessories, craft and textiles market at the SEC. Trade only event. Info: www.scotlandstradefairs.co.uk

22 - 27 Edinburgh - Burns and Beyond

Celebrating the life and legacy of Robert Burns and bringing together the best and brightest of Scotland's cultural landscape. This innovative new event will invite audiences to experience free and ticketed events in venues throughout Edinburgh city centre, including the spectacular Museum of the Moon @ St Giles' Cathedral, The Burns Supper and a brand new Culture Trail experience. Info: www.burnsandbeyond.com

23 - 27 Ayr - Burns An' A' That! 2019

Celebrate the bard in his 'hame town' with a celebration street party, the world's first Burns Supper drive thru, Burns live music nights, Alloway birthday celebrations, the only Burns Supper in the world to take place in Burns Cottage, the winner of the Robert Burns Humanitarian Award and more! Info: www.burnsfestival.com

24 - 3 Dumfries - Big Burns Supper

The world's biggest contemporary Burns celebrations with 111 events across 11 days of world class music, comedy, theatre and cabaret. Info: www.bigburnssupper.com or 01381 271 820.

25 Nationwide - Happy Burns Night

Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

26 Perth - Perth Riverside Light Nights - Burns Night

Perth will celebrate the contribution Robert Burns has made to Scottish culture, with live entertainment and fun with a Scottish twist as part of the Riverside Light Nights event. Info: www.perthcity.co.uk/event/perth-riverside-light-nights-2/

27 Mauchline, East Ayrshire - Burns' Birthday in Mauchline

Join in the celebrations of our national bard with an afternoon of art workshops, kirkyard tours, storytelling, performances and much more at the Burns House Museum. Info: www.eastayrshireleisure.com

29 Lerwick, Shetland - Up Helly Aa 2019

Europe's largest fire festival. Every year the historic event includes a thousand-strong torchlight procession takes place in the village and ends with the iconic burning of a replica Viking Longship. Info: www.uphellyaa.org

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The Bards Family



By: Kenny MacAskill



Burns Cottage and Museum in Alloway.

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

Speakers around the globe will soon be in full flow at Burns Suppers remembering Scotland's National Bard, relating his prose and recounting tales of the man. Whilst much is said about him, little is said about his family, other than being from a humble background as a tenant farmers son from Ayrshire. But, knowing something about them helps paint a picture of the Bard himself.

I have to confess to knowing little myself until I came across a Burns family grave in Bolton Kirk, East Lothian where his mother, a brother and a sister are buried; rather ashamed I found the visit informative and poignant. A modest plaque affixed to the church wall proclaims it and a notice board next to the grave provides further information. But that's all.

Perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised as visiting St Michaels Church Cemetery in Dumfries previously I was aware that after his death in 1796, his plot there was initially marked only with a plain headstone. It took a visit from William Wordsworth, the English poet, who appalled at the lack of a fitting tribute saw a fundraising campaign launched. That was supported by the

likes of Sir Walter Scott and resulted in the more fitting mausoleum which now stands being completed in 1817.

William Burnes

But, I return to the family tale. As many know the Bards father William Burnes was from the North East, being born in Kincardineshire in 1721. It's rumoured that the family had Jacobite sympathies which might be the root of his eldest sons' radicalism as well perhaps for the father's departure to new parts.

Burnes senior initially moved to work in Edinburgh before heading to Ayrshire, settling on a farm in Alloway. There he never changed his surnames spelling to the local fashion though it was done by his son and his other children. That probably explains the spelling in the new fashion on his own gravestone when he was no longer around to object!

Soon he married Agnes Broun, the daughter of a farmer from nearby Kirkoswald, 11 years younger than him, she was pretty and vivacious, which may have been the seed for Rabbie's notorious eye for the ladies. William and Agnes remained happily married though for 26 years until Burnes senior passed away in 1784. It's been said that William fretted over his first borns cavorting and feared for the family's good name, evoking tears of remorse from Rabbie at his father's death bed.

Born in 1759, in the cottage his father had built a few years before, the bard was to become the eldest of seven. That humble cottage now hosts the Museum visited by tourists and aficionados alike. Three brothers and three sisters were to join him there, Gilbert born the following year in 1760, Agnes in 1762, and joined by Annabella, William and John, until finally Isabella in 1771.

Gilbert Burns

Gilbert and Rabbie were close and not just in age. Both enjoyed poetry with Rabbie acknowledging Gilbert as his intellectual equal though wider opinion tended to

think that he lacked his elder brother's natural talent and wit. They even required to share their education as hands were required to assist their father and when even that schooling ceased, they sublet some of his land together. Then, when their father died, they jointly took over his land.

Love of the land

However, as history has recorded and many an immortal memory recounted, though Rabbie loved the land he wasn't so partial to working on it, and anyway his natural talents lay elsewhere. Accordingly, Gilbert remained on the land but backed his elder brothers' efforts as a poet.

However, the family farm wasn't on particularly fertile ground and Gilbert soon moved south to Nithsdale, as his brother had to Dumfries, then headed across the country to East Lothian. There he became Estate Manager at Morham West Mains in the early 1800s before taking over at Lennoxlove Estates, Bolton, near Haddington. That explains the grave in Bolton Kirk, where Gilbert not only became an elder but was involved in its construction.

Gilbert was accompanied on his journey by his mother Agnes and his spinster sister Annabella. Agnes was to outlive her first born by almost 26 years dying in 1820. Gilbert died in 1827 and Annabella in 1832 and it's their names that are inscribed on the headstone standing in that quiet East Lothian village. Thomas, Gilberts son, obviously inherited his father's though not uncle's religious fervour, moving to New Zealand and becoming one of Dunedin's founding fathers.

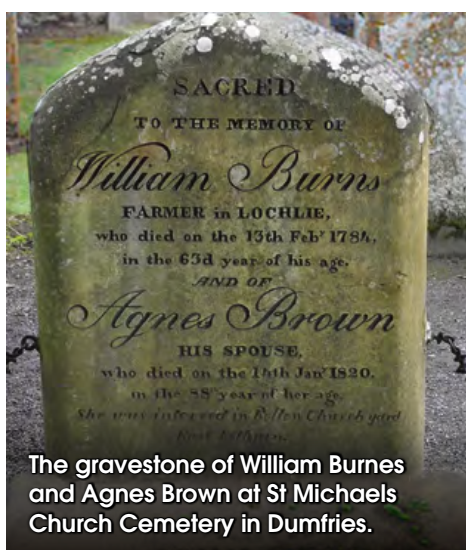
Agnes Burns Cottage

There is, though, another memorial to one of the Bards family that I had previously visited and it isn't even in Scotland. When Justice Secretary I regularly met with Republic of Ireland and Northern Irish counterparts. The first such meeting was held near Dundalk at Agnes Burns Cottage, chosen by my Irish colleague Dermot Ahern as it was in his constituency and had a link for all attending.

As I discovered Agnes, Burn's sister, married William Galt, who had worked for Gilbert in Ayrshire, in 1804. The couple moved to an estate in County Louth, Ireland and there William helped develop the estate, now forming part of a nature reserve.

Their cottage is also now a Visitor Centre providing a brief history of the Bard and his links with Ireland. It's not the only memorial in Ireland either as Agnes who died in 1834 is buried in St Nicholas Presbyterian Church in nearby Dundalk. As with Rabbie's grave in Dumfries it was initially a simple stone that marked her grave until a public outcry once again generated widespread support. That saw funds gathered and a more substantial obelisk erected on Burns Night 1859.

Like many I've made my pilgrimage to St Margaret's cemetery to see the Bards Mausoleum. Ireland has also paid its respects to him and his family. Bolton Kirk was poignant but as with Rabbie and Agnes's initial headstones I can't help think that much more should be done to remember both them and our national bard.



The gravestone of William Burnes and Agnes Brown at St Michaels Church Cemetery in Dumfries.



Sunday 17 February 2019
10am – 4pm
Village Green Richmond Tasmania
 See Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing, Clarence City Concert Band, Navy Cadet Drum Corps, Rakish Paddy, specialty stalls and much more!
 Proudly supported by Clarence City Council and St Andrew Society Tasmania
For information: Dianne Cornich 0408 528 658

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Cullen skink

Ingredients:

For the stock:

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

For the soup:

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

Method:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Neeps



Ingredients:

1 large turnip, peeled and diced
splash whole milk
salt and pepper, to taste
chopped fresh chives, to taste (optional)

Method:

Bring a saucepan of water to the boil over a high heat. Add the turnip then allow to cook until tender, about 12 minutes over a medium heat.

Drain and mash then add a good splash of milk, salt and pepper and some chopped fresh chives, mix well. Serve hot.

Haggis, Neeps and Tatties

Ingredients:

400g/14 oz. of haggis – purchased from a good quality butcher
4 baking potatoes
50g/2oz. butter
50g/2oz. cream
1 turnip
8 shallots
1 sprig of thyme
3 cloves of garlic
50g/2oz. of sugar
salt
200ml/7oz. of red wine
80ml/3oz. of port
500ml/17oz. of brown chicken stock
10ml/.5oz of whisky
200ml/7oz. of cream

Method:

Scrub the potatoes and bake them whole in the skins in the oven at 180 degrees until cooked. Remove from the oven and scoop out the flesh of the potatoes and pass through a fine sieve or potato ricer. Add in the cream and butter and mix.

At the same time, peel and dice the turnip and cook in salted water then pass through a fine sieve or potato ricer. Follow the butcher's instructions for the haggis based on size. Use a round metal ring and layer with one third of haggis layer followed by a third of mashed turnip before adding the mashed potatoes to fill the ring.

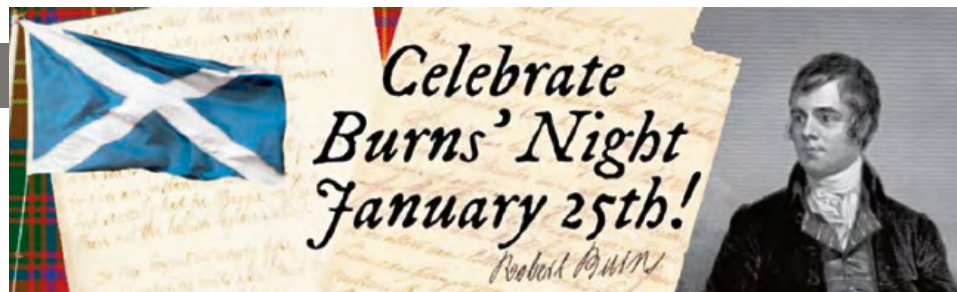
To heat put in a medium oven until warm. Make a stock from the port, red wine, sugar, garlic, thyme and salt. Simmer in a pan together with the shallots until tender. Remove the tough outside layer when cooked. Make a whisky sauce with the brown chicken stock and cream before adding the whisky at the end to taste.

Serve the timbale of haggis with 2 shallots and the whisky sauce.

Vegetarian haggis stuffed mushrooms

Ingredients:

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



Burns Night Recipes

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

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

Method:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cranachan



Ingredients:

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

Method:

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

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

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

Honey sponge

Ingredients:

130g/4½oz. heather honey
100g/3½oz. unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
100g/3½oz. caster sugar
3 free-range eggs
110g/4oz. self-raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
custard or cream, to serve

Method:

Butter a 1 litre/1¾ pint pudding basin. Put two tablespoons of the honey into the prepared basin (if the honey is very thick, warm it gently first to make it more liquid).

Put the remaining honey and all the other ingredients into a large bowl and beat together using an electric whisk. Start off slowly, then increase the speed and mix for two minutes until all the ingredients are well combined.

Pour the mixture into the pudding basin, on top of the honey.

Place a piece of baking parchment on a sheet of foil and make a large pleat in the middle, folding both sheets together (this allows for the pudding's expansion as it cooks). Put the parchment and foil on top of the pudding, foil side up, and secure with string, looping the end of the string over the top of the pudding and tying it to form a handle that will enable you to lift the pudding in and out of the pan.

Place the basin in a large pan, and pour in enough boiling water to come halfway up the side of the basin. Put a lid on the pan and bring to a simmer. Lower the heat to maintain a simmer and let the pudding steam for 1¼ hours, until risen and springy to the touch. Top up the boiling water, if necessary, to prevent the pan boiling dry.

Remove the foil and parchment and run the tip of a small, sharp knife around the edge of the pudding to help release it. Turn onto a warmed plate and serve piping hot with custard or cream.

Shortbread



Ingredients:

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

Method:

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

Beat the butter and the sugar together until smooth.

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

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

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

Scotland sailing towards zero emissions target

Text and image courtesy: www.Scotland.org



July marked the start of a ground-breaking project that will result in the world's first zero emission seafaring ferry. Known as HySeas III, the project is now in its final stage of development, paving the way for the building and launch, in Scotland, of the first-ever hydrogen-fuelled, sea-going, car and passenger ferry. The fuel for HySeas III will exclusively be produced from renewable electricity, which will signal a move away from traditional fuel sources towards entirely emissions-free transport. HySeas III follows on from two prior development stages which were supported by Scottish Enterprise and the Canadian Transport Ministry.

This pioneering new project perfectly fits with the ambitions of the Scottish Government's recently announced climate change bill. The new legislation is set

to be the toughest in the entire world, emphasising Scotland's commitment to safeguarding our planet's future. The new climate change bill has set an immediate target of achieving a 90% reduction in greenhouse emissions by the year 2050. However Scotland have the added intention to go to a full 100% reduction, known as 'net-zero', as soon as possible. HySeas III is an excellent opportunity to showcase the innovative skills and facilities on offer in Scotland and a perfect example of the benefits of collaboration between Scotland and the rest of Europe.

Renewable energy innovation

Hyseas III is led by the University of St Andrews and Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd with other partners

including Orkney Islands Council, Konigsberg Marine (Norway), Ballard Power Systems Europe (Denmark/Canada), McPhy (France), DLR (the German state aerospace agency) and Interferry (the global ferry operators association, Belgium). Ferguson Marine Chief Executive, Gerry Marshall, said of the project: "We now have one of the most innovative and competitive shipyards in Europe, from which we plan to deliver great things for Inverclyde and Scotland. HySeas III is a living example of how it can be possible to lead the world".

Once constructed, the new ferry will operate in and around the Orkney Islands, which provides some of Scotland's most challenging coastlines. Orkney is already a hotbed of renewable energy innovation, and is home to the world's largest tidal turbine and the world's first grid-connected wave and tidal test centre. These are already beginning to produce hydrogen for a range of uses. This project will ensure that Scotland continues to be in a world leading position regarding the development of sustainable marine transport. This will undoubtedly lead to substantial new manufacturing opportunities and export growth potential for Scottish companies as we continue to demonstrate our ambitions to lead the world in emission-free transport and to support innovative ambitious companies looking to make a difference.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh statue unveiled in Glasgow



A statue of Charles Rennie Mackintosh has been unveiled on the 90th anniversary of his death. The statue by Andy Scott, whose works include The Kelpies,

is believed to be the world's first public sculpture celebrating Mackintosh, one of Scotland's most famous sons. The artwork was commissioned by Sanctuary Group to mark the completion of the affordable housing provider's £60 million regeneration of Anderston, Glasgow.

Andy Scott said: "Most of my memories as a Glasgow School of Art student have Mr Mackintosh's beautiful building as a backdrop. His distinctive architectural styling and the sculpted detailing of that building undoubtedly influenced my career path. I am immensely proud to have created this distinctive bronze statue of him, especially here in his home city. There can't be many Scots who deserve recognition more than Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a view I am delighted to say is shared by Sanctuary Group."

The statue shows Mackintosh sat on the famous high-backed chair he designed for Glasgow's Argyle Street Tea Rooms.

Mr Scott added: "What better time to formally recognise this humble but brilliant Glaswegian than at the end of the year celebrating the 150th anniversary of his birth? I hope the sculpture becomes a much-loved local and city-wide tribute to this genius of Scottish architecture."

Sir John returns to Pollok

The National Trust for Scotland's Pollok House welcomes 'This Lad o' Pairs', an exhibition which will reintroduce Sir John Stirling Maxwell to the people of Glasgow. The house was once home to the Maxwell family, who lived on the site from the 13th century. The Maxwell family donated the house and estate to Glasgow in 1966, and today it is looked after by the conservation charity.

Sir John Stirling Maxwell was the last of the Maxwell family to bring about significant change to the lands that formed the Pollok Estate. Social housing schemes, open spaces in the city, fair rents for workers and quality town planning were all close interests of Sir John. From the moment he inherited Pollok Estate he gave his time, and in many cases his land, to further these and other causes. Sir John opened his grounds at Pollok to the public, and also donated land for urban parks. In 1939 he drew up a pioneering conservation agreement with NTS which imposed strict conditions for the preservation of the natural and built heritage of Pollok Estate.

Social and economic change

Sir John was born to a life of privilege but as a wealthy man who was well connected to local and national government, he used his position to help ordinary people at a time of difficult social and economic change. He spoke out publicly to influence debate on a range of national issues, lent his assistance to many Scottish charitable organisations, and was a founding member of the National Trust for Scotland. As part of the research carried out for this exhibition, accounts



from people with memories of Sir John and life on the estate were recorded. Those who shared their memories remember him as a kind man, providing good housing for workers, and supplying coal and electricity.

To complement the exhibition, Pollok House will host a series of talks, giving visitors a flavour of life on the estate. Ken Mallard, Volunteer on the Pollok House Oral History Project said: "It's been fascinating to speak to people and to hear their connections with the estate and house. I've loved being able to share information that we've gathered with those we've met. It's really been a two-way thing."

This month a mobile exhibition, with complementary talks, will begin a tour of Pollok Library, Pollok Community Centre, Cardonald Library, Langside Library and Newlands FC Church.

'This Lad o' Pairs' exhibition will run until end June 2019. Pollok House is an elegant stately home and is set in the scenic Pollok Country Park on the outskirts of Glasgow. For more details see: www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/pollok-house

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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

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

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

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

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

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

1 - The constitution is drafted for the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, making it the oldest in Britain. **1783**

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

13 - Death of St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow (and also known as St Kentigern) and is buried at his church in Glas-gu which later becomes Glasgow. **603**

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



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

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

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

15 - Strathclyde Regional Council applies for 250,000 summary warrants against residents refusing to pay the highly controversial "Poll Tax", introduced in Scotland in 1989. **1990**

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

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

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

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

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

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



18 - Raasay House on Raasay off Skye was badly damaged in a fire. The building was undergoing a £4m restoration project. The former stately home had been run as an activity centre since 1984 and was being restored for that purpose again. The sprawling 258-year-old mansion once belonged to the Clan MacLeod. **2009**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



24 - First train over Forth Rail Bridge. The bridge is considered as a symbol of Scotland, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **1890**

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

25 - First Minister Alex Salmond launches a consultation on the SNP Government's proposals for a referendum on Scottish independence. The referendum on Scottish independence was held on 18 September 2014 saw Scotland vote to remain part of the United Kingdom, with 55% voting against the proposal for Scotland to become an independent country and 45% voting in favour. **2012**

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

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

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

The Herald

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

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

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



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

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

30 - King Charles I executed. His execution caused a change of sides

by most of the Scots who had previously supported the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War as, for all his faults, Charles was still a Scottish Stuart king. **1649**

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

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

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

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

The Immortal Memory

Robert Burns was born into a farming family at Alloway in Ayrshire on January 25th, 1759. He died in Dumfries at the early age of 37. Yet in that short time he had taken the Scottish literary world by storm, and had secured a place for himself in history and in legend.

Text courtesy of Scotland.org



The Mitchell Library, Glasgow.

A mainstay of Burns Suppers, the *Immortal Memory* celebrates Burns' enduring spirit. It's a fitting tribute for one who himself did so much to preserve and popularise Scotland's rich historical, cultural and literary heritage.

First and foremost, of course, Robert Burns was a poet. He took as his subject, everyday life, women and drink. With a faithful and often satirical eye, the Ploughman Bard provided a detailed record of life in 18th century Scotland. For an eye witness account of how his fellow rural Scots lived, look no further than Burns' *The Cotter's Saturday Night* or for impassioned comment on the apparent hypocrisy of certain sections of the Kirk, read *Holy Willie's Prayer*. In all of his poems, letters and songs, Burns immortalises not only his own ability, but the life and times, culture and politics of the day.

Entering Edinburgh's cultural scene

It was in his capacity as an avid collector of traditional songs and tunes that Burns entered Edinburgh's cultural scene. Unable to find a patron to support his writing, despite the success of *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*, Burns began working for an Edinburgh music-seller, James Johnson, who had embarked on a project to collect and publish the words and music of every Scottish folk-song. Although the collection was produced by Johnson, Burns was its virtual editor and principal contributor, writing over 150 songs, including *For a' that an' a' that*, *Ae Fond Kiss* and *Auld Lang Syne*. The work, entitled *The Scots Musical Museum*, eventually ran to six volumes of 100 songs each. A prolific writer, Burns also contributed 114 songs to *A Select Collection Of Original Scottish Airs*, a collection of 'classical' arrangements of Scottish folk-songs on which he collaborated with musical enthusiast George Thomson.

Preserving and popularising Burns' gift

Burns, then, clearly did his bit to preserve Scotland's heritage, not to mention language, for future posterity. But what of our generation? Charged with the safekeeping of his crucial work, what are we doing to preserve and popularise this gift?

For sheer volume of material, it's hard to beat the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. From the moment the library opened in 1877, its committee declared its intention to honour the memory of Robert Burns.

Today, the collection has grown to over 4,000 items, making it one of the largest, if not the largest, collection of material relating to Burns in the world. Among its many treasures are more than 900 different editions of Burns' poetical works, including two copies of the Kilmarnock edition and two printings of the Edinburgh and London editions. What is particularly interesting about one of the Kilmarnock editions is that it belonged to a neighbour of Burns, Robert Aird. Blessed with a local knowledge, Aird filled in some of the blanks in the text where Burns used only initials or asterisks. Other interesting and valuable items include a letter to William Nicol (an Edinburgh schoolmaster and drinking companion) and one of only six remaining original manuscripts of *Auld Lang Syne*. Reflecting Glasgow's cosmopolitan appeal, the collection also houses translations of Burns' works in more than 30 languages, the most recent addition being Polish.

Burns in the digital world

Just 45 miles to the east but accessible from anywhere in the world via the internet is the National Library of Scotland's digital Burns collection. Here, scholars and enthusiasts alike can dip into an ever-growing online resource of the National's outstanding collection. As well as reading fascinating articles on the life, work and legacy of Scotland's Bard, you can study his handwriting, listen to audio clips and view contemporary drawings and engravings. Among the original manuscripts which have been digitised for the world's benefit are extracts from the rollicking *Holy Willie's Prayer*, the powerful yet tragic *Ae Fond Kiss* and Burns' touching poem on the birth of his first child, *A Poet's Welcome* to his love-begotten Daughter.

Add to that a remarkable collection of original manuscripts, including a letter from Burns to his former schoolmaster in which he wrote "I seem to be one sent into the world to see and observe", and rare books charting Burns' work from the Kilmarnock and Edinburgh editions to first publications in Dublin, London, Philadelphia and New York, and you can appreciate the significance of the National Library's collection.

Burns goes global

A different 'National' Burns Collection is the website created by a partnership of museums, galleries, libraries and other organisations that together care for over

36,000 manuscripts, books, artworks and other artefacts. Here you can explore a searchable database, take virtual tours of the poet's haunts, sample textual and audio versions of some of his best-known work and follow links to Burns organisations. One link that's missing is to the World Burns Club. As well as providing a useful Beginners Guide to Robert Burns, this offers expert analysis, a discussion forum and guidance on how to host the greatest Scottish feast, the Burns Supper.

There are other online resources too, each with their own particular strengths. Burns Country, for instance, offers an exhaustive Burns encyclopaedia with the full text of the authoritative Robert Burns reference volume. It also features his Complete Works with a glossary translation of harder Burns words into German, French, Spanish and American, plus the best of Burns translated into 'the de'il's tongue', English.

Sing them as they were meant to be sung

The written word is all well and good, but Burns' songs were meant to be sung. Here too, devotees of Scotland's Bard are doing everything they can to record his work for posterity and the enjoyment of many. A particularly fine example of this is Scottish company Linn. One of the most modern manufacturing operations in the UK,



Linn uses its state-of-the-art technology to produce the most authentic recordings of Burns' songs all 368 of them. Various described as 'hauntingly authentic', 'the definitive collection of Scotland's most famous son', and all 'performed with skill, feeling and, most importantly, pride', Linn's *The Complete Songs of Robert Burns* is the only series of its kind in the world.

Delve a little deeper into Linn's founding principles and you appreciate that this is a match made in heaven. Linn's egalitarian regime all of the office staff have identical desks and chairs, everyone eats at the same staff canteen and given names are used throughout would surely have been applauded by the man who wrote *For a' that and a' that*.

In the words of the 19th-century scholar and educationalist J S Blackie, 'When Scotland forgets Burns, then history will forget Scotland.' Long live the Bard!

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By: Nick Drainey



The SnowRoads

Britain's highest public road

Images courtesy of VisitScotland.

Scotland's SnowRoads is an amazing journey through the mountains of the Cairngorms National Park linking Blairgowrie (A93) to Grantown-on-Spey (A939) via Glenshee, Braemar, Ballater, The Lecht and Tomintoul. It is the highest 'A' road in Britain and now a new app has been developed giving people the chance to learn about all they are passing – scenic, historic and natural as Nick Drainey explains.

It is a 90-mile route through some of the most stunning scenery the Highlands of Scotland has to offer. Known as the SnowRoads, the high-level journey takes drivers and their passengers through the history and wildlife which abound in the rugged landscapes.



Recently, an app has been developed to help motorised explorers enjoy all there is in the real world as well as through virtual and augmented reality technology.

The highest 'A' road in Britain

The SnowRoads links Blairgowrie in Perthshire (A93) to Grantown-on-Spey in the Highlands (A939) via Glenshee, Braemar, Ballater and Tomintoul and is already a "must do" for many tourists.

It follows the highest 'A' road in Britain and is popular with classic car drivers, motor bike enthusiasts and road cyclists, traversing eastern Cairngorms through remote, wild, breath-taking landscapes and vibrant historic communities with castles, distilleries and ski centres along the way.

The new app aims to bring the route to life for adventurers and includes an augmented reality treasure hunt, an audio guide and 360 panoramic filming.

It also curates local stories and legends and nearby listings of more unconventional tourist attractions which were unearthed during a community engagement programme across the route. The app is free and will be used by businesses to promote the area and by visitors to enhance their experience.

A £245,000 grant from Scottish Enterprise was awarded under the Tourism Destination Development Fund towards this £315,000 initiative which is being led by the Cairngorms Business Partnership (CBP) with partners the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA).

As part of the Scottish Government's Scenic Routes initiative, three art installations were commissioned and placed along the route near the Devil's Elbow in Glenshee, a viewpoint at Corgarff and in Tomintoul.

A road less travelled

Project Manager of the SnowRoads for the CBP, Jennifer Green, said the aim is to create a "not-to-be-missed" scenic route through the Cairngorms National Park. She said: "We have created a digital toolkit for a truly immersive visitor experience to highlight this destination road which will have a major positive economic impact on communities and businesses along the route.

"We know we have created something authentic that local folk will enjoy as much of the content has been built around local stories and legends unearthed through a major community engagement project where we asked local people what they would like to see promoted as part of the project.

"There is a huge amount of original content in our toolkit including videos narrated by the people who live and work along the route and even our own five-track SnowRoads EP which was composed and produced by Scottish musician, Calum Wood. The music Calum has created is emotive and reflective of each area along the way and offers a perfect soundtrack to listen to while looking out at the wild and dramatic scenery of this untouched place."



Cairngorms National Park.



The Cairngorms Business Partnership is a membership funded, not for profit, Chamber of Commerce and Destination Marketing Organisation for the Cairngorms National Park. With a membership of over 380 businesses across the National Park it supports and represent business interests and promotes the use of Cairngorms National Park through projects such as the SnowRoads app.

The SnowRoads has joined the North Coast 500 and the North East 250 as driving routes designed to attract the same amount of tourism interest as the Garden Route in South Africa or the Pacific Coast Highway in the US.

Jennifer added: "The content will continue to build as local people and businesses will be invited to add listings and points of interest along the way which will then be delivered straight to visitors' mobile phones.

"The treasure hunt feature encourages people to stop off and explore the area to truly discover the Cairngorms and the rest of Scotland. It's also a lot of fun so will keep all the family interested.

"The SnowRoads does not apologise for its heritage, culture, challenging terrain and at times unruly weather conditions but rather, celebrates these things. It encourages people to discover a road less travelled.

"I'm not alone when I say I love to drive through the Cairngorms National Park. This route has local and international appeal for families on a Highland adventure, classic car drivers and cyclists. The technology and tools we have developed throughout this project will be invaluable for tourists and businesses alike, as they promote this journey as a bucket-list destination to the world."

Inspiring area of Scotland

Last year, the SnowRoads was announced as the winner of Innovation in Tourism at the Aberdeen City and Shire Tourism Awards (ACSTA) and will go on to represent the region in the national tourism 'Oscars', the Scottish Thistle Awards this year.

It has joined the North Coast 500 and the North East 250 as driving routes designed to attract the same amount of tourism interest as the Garden Route in South Africa or the Pacific Coast Highway in the US.

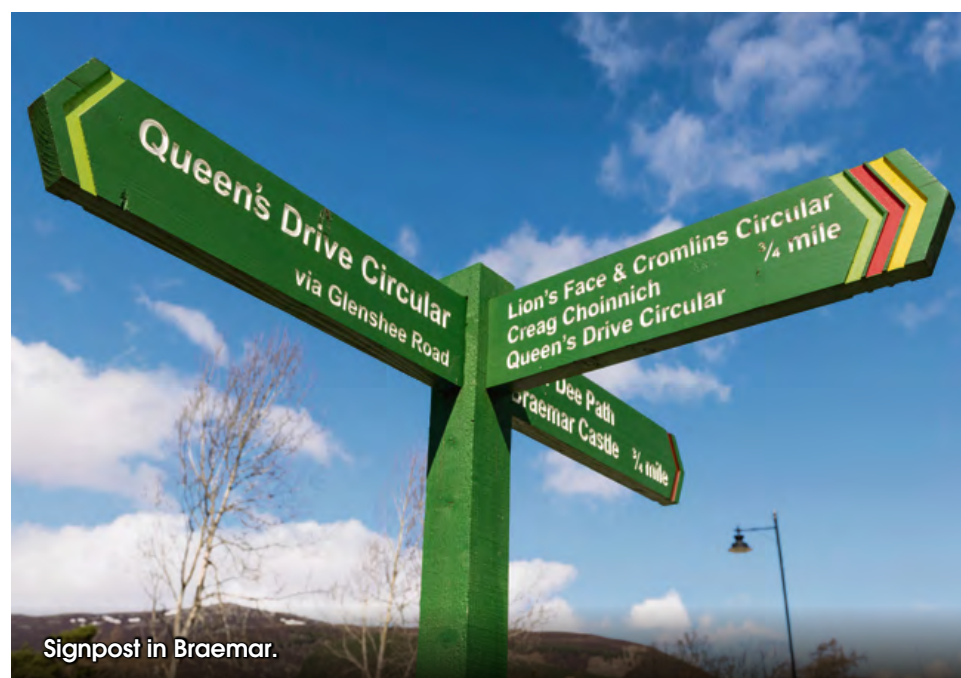
The North Coast 500 has become a huge success, following a stunning coastal trail in Wester Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Easter Ross, the Black Isle and Inverness-Shire. Meanwhile, the North East 250 takes in the whisky distilleries of Speyside, the spectacular mountain passes of the Cairngorms National Park, the famous castles of Royal Deeside, the Granite City of Aberdeen, the rugged North Sea coastline to the east, and the picturesque seaside villages of the Moray Firth Coast.

Pete Crane, Head of Visitor Services at the CNPA said: "A journey along the SnowRoads takes you through the Cairngorms National Park and over two of the highest public roads in Britain. This stunning route links five communities with the outstanding landscape of the Cairngorms and lots of reasons to slow down and experience this truly inspiring area of Scotland".

Danny Cusick, Director, Food & Drink, Tourism and Textiles, Scottish Enterprise said: "This is a fantastic development. We know that visitors to Scotland are looking for true, authentic and unique experiences. Through the use of digital technologies this App will enhance the visitor experience, enabling them to fully appreciate this unique

destination and increased business engagement will further develop the tourism offering that attracts both UK and international visitors."

The SnowRoads app is free to download on Apple and Android devices at: <http://snowroads.com/apps>



Geelong to host the 2019 Victorian Pipe Band Championships



The 2019 Geelong Highland Gathering will be held at the Goldsworthy Reserve, Corio, on Sunday, March 17, and will host the 2019 Victorian Pipe Band Championships (VPBC). The 2019 Gathering will mark 162 years since the first Geelong Highland Gathering was held on New Years day 1858 and will be the 62nd event in the modern era, which began in 1958.

Being awarded the VPBC, yet again, is recognition by Pipe Bands Victoria of the calibre of the Geelong Highland Gathering Association. Geelong was the permanent home of the State Championships for the decade up to 2009. The Championships hopefully will see pipe band numbers of 20 plus, including interstate entries, as applied in 2018, when Geelong was the 2nd biggest Pipe Band Contest in the country,



after the 2018 biennial Australian Pipe Band Championships held in Brisbane. The 2019 Pipe Band Contest will include music adjudicators from New Zealand (Scott Mitchell) and New South Wales (Andrew Sneddon) as well as highly qualified adjudicators from Victoria.

Great day of events

The 2019 Gathering will see all the usual events, the South Pacific Heavy Scottish Games Championships, Highland Dancing competitions, 42nd Highland Regiment Re Enactment Group, Long Sword demonstrations, Vintage Cars, Clan and Heritage Association tents. A highlight of the day will be the Massed Pipe Bands at the end of the day's activities. There will be a Scottish Faire market with food (including Haggis), souvenir, clothing stalls etc and free children's activities including a petting zoo, jumping castle etc.

The financial sponsorship by Geelong Major Events, Geelong Connected Communities, Victorian Scottish Heritage Cultural Foundation and Victorian Multi Cultural Commission together with "in kind" media support from the *Geelong Advertiser Group*, *Northerly Aspects* and the *Scottish Banner* is appreciated. Without their financial and "in kind" support and the dedication of members of the Geelong Highland Gathering Association, this iconic Geelong event would not happen.

Admission charges: Adult \$15.00; Concession \$10.00; 5 to 16 years \$ 8.00; under 5 Nil; Family (2 adults and 2 children) \$40.00. More information can be obtained from the website: www.geelonghighlandgathering.org.au



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15 fascinating facts: *A celebration of Gaelic and Scotland's natural heritage*

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the government's adviser on all aspects of nature and landscape across Scotland, recently celebrated the links between the Gaelic language, heritage and nature during the Royal National Mòd. Here are 15 fascinating facts highlighting the intrinsic relationship between people, Gaelic and the landscape, animals, birds and plants of Scotland. An robh fios agaibh? / Did you know?

Rannoch Moor ©Lorne Gill SNH



There are over forty different words in Gaelic for 'bog'. The English word 'bog' itself comes from Gaelic.

Trotternish ©Lorne Gill SNH



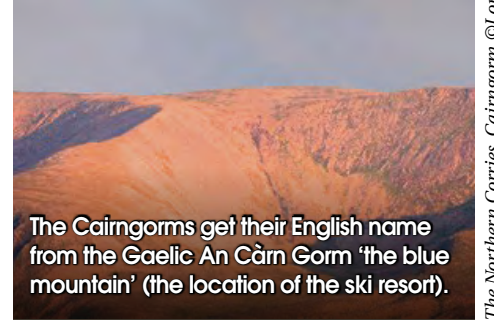
The poetic Gaelic name of the Isle of Skye is Eilean a' Cheò - 'the isle of the mist'.

Red deer stag ©Lorne Gill SNH



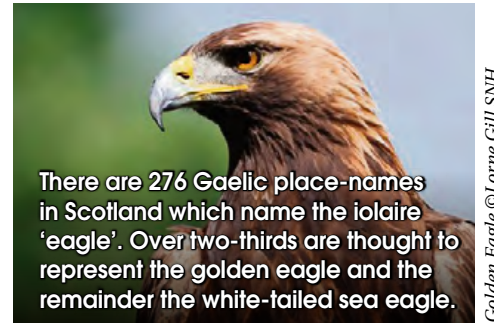
The Gaelic name for October is An Dàmhair, derived from damh-dàir and meaning 'deer roaring time'.

The Northern Corries, Cairngorm ©Lorne Gill SNH



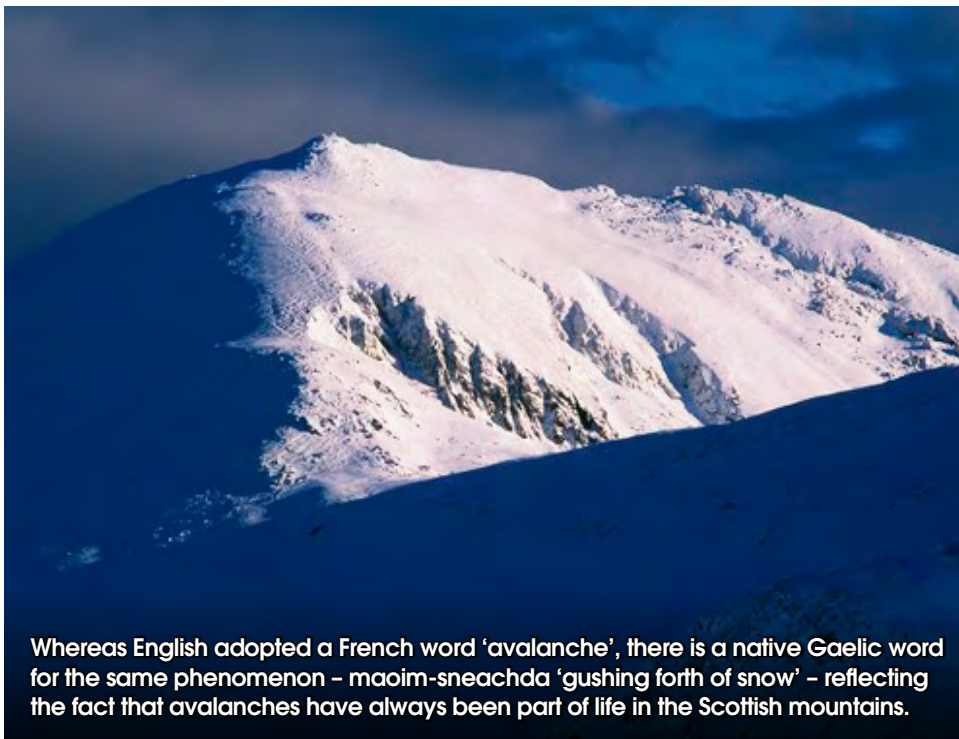
The Cairngorms get their English name from the Gaelic An Càrn Gorm 'the blue mountain' (the location of the ski resort).

Golden Eagle ©Lorne Gill SNH



There are 276 Gaelic place-names in Scotland which name the iolair 'eagle'. Over two-thirds are thought to represent the golden eagle and the remainder the white-tailed sea eagle.

Ben Lawers ©Lorne Gill SNH



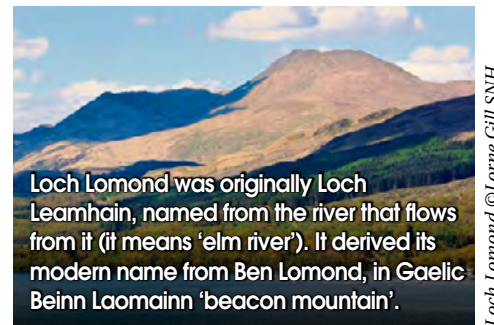
Whereas English adopted a French word 'avalanche', there is a native Gaelic word for the same phenomenon - maoim-sneachda 'gushing forth of snow' - reflecting the fact that avalanches have always been part of life in the Scottish mountains.

Brambles ©Lorne Gill SNH



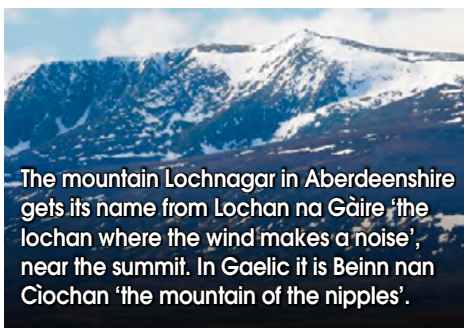
A Gaelic proverb says às an dris, anns an droigheann 'out of the bramble into the blackthorn'.

Loch Lomond ©Lorne Gill SNH



Loch Lomond was originally Loch Leamhain, named from the river that flows from it (it means 'elm river'). It derived its modern name from Ben Lomond, in Gaelic Beinn Laomainn 'beacon mountain'.

Lochnagar ©Lorne Gill SNH



The mountain Lochnagar in Aberdeenshire gets its name from Lochan na Gàire 'the lochan where the wind makes a noise', near the summit. In Gaelic it is Beinn nan Ciochan 'the mountain of the nipples'.

Aurora borealis ©Lorne Gill SNH



The aurora borealis is known in Gaelic as Na Fir-chlis, literally 'the nimble men'.

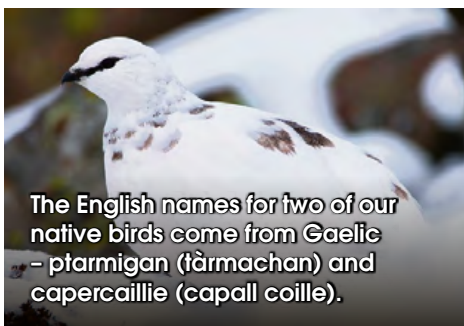
Iona ©Lorne Gill SNH



The shortest place-name in the world is the one-letter Gaelic for Iona - Ì. It is often known as Eilean Ì or Ì Chaluim Chille, the latter linking it to its most famous inhabitant, Calum Cille ('dove of the church', St Columba).

Iona ©Lorne Gill SNH

Ptarmigan ©Lorne Gill SNH



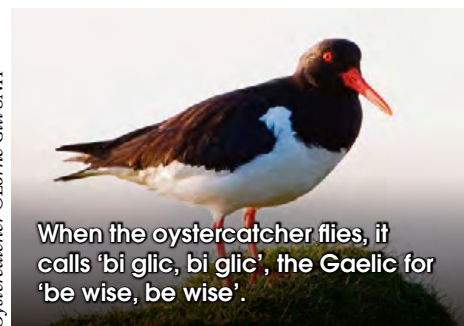
The English names for two of our native birds come from Gaelic - ptarmigan (tàrmachan) and capercaillie (capall coille).

Foxglove ©Lorne Gill SNH



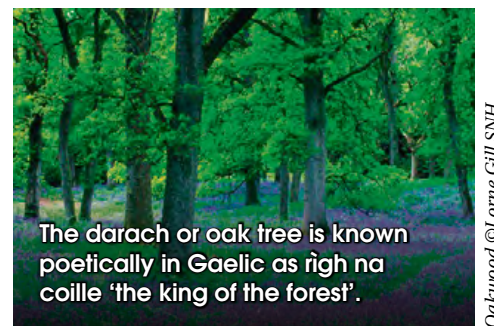
The foxglove is seen as a fairy plant in Gaelic tradition. Among its Gaelic names is Lus nam Ban-sith 'the plant of the fairy women'.

Oystercatcher ©Lorne Gill SNH



When the oystercatcher flies, it calls 'bi glic, bi glic', the Gaelic for 'be wise, be wise'.

Oakwood ©Lorne Gill SNH



The darach or oak tree is known poetically in Gaelic as rìgh na coille 'the king of the forest'.

SNH is involved in an extensive programme of projects to promote the use of Gaelic, boost interest in the language and secure its future as a unique and important part of life in Scotland.

Their work includes a bilingual series of booklets on Gaelic in the Landscape, celebrating the cultural and natural heritage of areas such as Skye and the North West Highlands, as well as an online Gaelic nature dictionary.

This was the third year of SNH's involvement in the Royal National Mòd, with a specially commissioned concert led by acclaimed musician Mary Ann Kennedy to celebrate the Clyde. The performance,

Clyde - A River Recovery, took place as part of the Mòd fringe in Dunoon.

SNH has also recently launched a new foraging education pack and workshops for Gaelic-medium schools.