



43

the Scottish Banner



Years Strong - 1976-2019 www.scottishbanner.com

A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 42 Number 8 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper February 2019

Thriller Queen

Mary Queen of Scots

» Pg 30



The Surprise of Loch Awe

Saint Conan's Kirk

» Pg 14



7 25286 84459 8 02

- Caithness Broch Project » Pg 13
- HM Convict Prison
- Peterhead » Pg 19
- A Changing Garden » Pg 25
- America's Great War
- Highlanders » Pg 31

the Scottish Banner

Publisher
Valerie Cairney

Editor
Sean Cairney

EDITORIAL STAFF
Jim Stoddart
Ron Dempsey, FSA Scot
The National Piping Centre
David McVey
Angus Whitson
Lady Fiona MacGregor
Eric Bryan
David C. Weinczok
Judy Vickers
Nick Drainey

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

North American Office:
PO Box 6880
Hudson, FL 34674
mail@scottishbanner.com

Follow us on social media



Distributed monthly in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. ISSN 0707-073X

Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806

Published monthly by Scottish Banner Publications
PO Box 6220, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204, Australia

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

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

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

AUSTRALIA: Integrated Publication Solutions 1 800 606 407
NEW ZEALAND: Gordon & Gotch 09 979 3018

The Scottish Banner

Uniting Scots Around the World for 42 Years!

THE SCOTTISH BANNER

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

Australia: Print: 1 Year / \$48.00 AUD
Digital: 1 Year / \$25.00 AUD

Canada: Digital: \$19.95 CDN

New Zealand: Print: 1 Year / \$65.00 AUD
Digital: 1 Year / \$25.00 AUD

U.S.A.: Digital: 1 Year / \$19.95 USD

Overseas: Print: 1 Year Air Mail: AU \$ 110.00

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

www.scottishbanner.com/subscribe

Subscription are non-refundable.

Cheques, money orders, Visa and MasterCard accepted.

Scottish Banner Australia/New Zealand:

PO Box 6202, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204

Scottish Banner USA:

PO Box 6880 Hudson, FL 34674

Digital subscriptions must be requested via our website only.

Name:.....

Address:

Post Code:.....

Tel/Email:

1 Year New Subscription Renewal

Gift Subsc. From

Visa/MC.....

Expiry.....

The Banner Says...

Dunblane's golden son



by Sean Cairney

For many, and certainly for those in Scotland, the grip of winter is well and truly on. Those cold days and dark nights can get to you after a while, leaving many to wonder when will it end. I grew up around snow and ice and remember longing for sunshine and warmth and no month did that ring truer than February. It may be the shortest month of the year, but it often felt the worst for the winter chill.

Andy Murray

Of course, for those on the other side of the Equator things are very different. As we go to press the Australian Open is on with days forecast close to 40°C (or 104°F) making some crave a "driech" cool Scottish winter's day. Speaking of the Australian Open many tennis fans around the world were left saddened and shocked that Scottish tennis superstar Andy Murray admitted his body is in pain every day, and he is even struggling to put on his socks and walk the dogs-never mind play elite tennis.

Murray has certainly done Scotland proud on the world stage with a career that has seen him being a US Open champion, double Wimbledon champion, double Olympic gold medallist, 11 Grand Slam finals, a former world number one just to name a few. Murray has done so much for the sport and today is Dunblane's most famous son.



Dunblane's golden post box, in honour of hometown great Andy Murray.

A gold post box honouring the first of Murray's two historic Olympic triumphs takes pride of place in the High Street of the town which sits just outside of Stirling.

The Dunblane native narrowly escaped the 1996 school shooting tragedy at Dunblane Primary School. Sixteen children were murdered along with their teacher on 13 March, 1996 when a gunman broke into the gymnasium and began shooting at a class of five- and six-year-olds. The young Murray, then eight, and

Murray has certainly done Scotland proud on the world stage with a career that has seen him being a US Open champion, double Wimbledon champion, double Olympic gold medallist, 11 Grand Slam finals, a former world number one just to name a few.

his brother Jamie, two years older, were in the school at the time and were on their way to the gymnasium when shots rang out. No doubt Andy's close call with evil has left him deeply affected, and thankfully the incident is still today the only mass shooting at a UK school.

In this issue

There certainly is something about Mary at the moment, with Mary Queen of Scots on the lips of many people around the world.

A new international film release has certainly put the spotlight on one of the icons of Scottish history. It is another example of just how the story of Scotland needs no script as the history of this dynamic nation is so compelling and we feature just how this latest film is helping Scotland tell her story to the world.

Planning a trip to Scotland? I would imagine a castle, distillery or taking in the amazing outdoors are in order. What about going to prison? Some may be interested to learn that Scotland has its very own prison attraction. HM Convict Prison Peterhead once housed Scotland's most hardened inmates and now tourists can visit their cells and here the stories of both the prisoners and guards on just what it was like to live one of the North East' most infamous places.

Resting on the steep north shore of Loch Awe sits the incredible St Conan's Kirk. This church was built by the love of son for his mother and used his unique and creative styles of design to create a building that would most likely never today be made. Walter Campbell used granite from nearby Cruachan and the wooden beams for the roof are believed to have been taken from old wooden battleships that had recently been broken up, creating an amazing piece of architecture. Now a grant is helping St Conan's not only continue to be a place of worship but also for weddings and events so that even more people can take in one of Scotland's most unique buildings.

Love of Scotland

This is also a month of love with St Valentine's Day on February 14th. I hope on the 14th you honour someone or something you love. Your family, pet or simply your love of Scotland. A land that continues to tell its tale with pride.

Andy Murray has said he hopes his tennis success has helped his home town, a town he loves, recover from the school shooting ordeal that will forever be part of his life. I am sure his success has helped and more, as Dunblane and Scotland can forever be proud of Murray who has taken the tennis world by storm, yet never forgot where he is from. Whether Andy continues to play or not he will always be Dunblane's golden son.

Is there something about Scotland you love? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



Gracing our front cover: Saoirse Ronan as Mary Queen of Scots. Photo courtesy of Universal Pictures.

600-year-old stone carvings discovered at Dunkeld Cathedral

Recent works at Dunkeld Cathedral have revealed previously unseen features.



Dunkeld Cathedral. Photo: Historic Environment Scotland.

Stone carvings which had lain hidden for centuries have been discovered at Dunkeld Cathedral in Perthshire. A routine inspection of the site by Historic Environment Scotland's (HES) Conservation team led to the discovery of at least a dozen unrecorded carved saint-like figures.

The tomb of Bishop Cardeny

The torch-lit discovery within the obscured recesses of the tomb of Bishop Cardeny, which dates from 1420, was followed

by a second, more in-depth assessment undertaken using cutting-edge 3D photogrammetric technology. A detailed 3D model was created by obtaining multiple images using cameras and mirrors, enabling a closer look at the carvings which had been previously hidden from direct view.

Bishop Cardeny was the longest serving Bishop of Dunkeld Cathedral, made Bishop by Pope Benedict VIII In 1399. Not unusually, the tomb was created before his death, in this case 17 years before.

The unearthing of these stone carvings has shed new light on the history of the site, revealing that the tomb has at some point been moved and built into the wall from its original free-standing location.

An important ecclesiastical centre

Colin Muir, Stone Conservator at HES who led the discovery, said: "The discovery of these rare, hidden carvings behind the 15th century tomb of Bishop Cardeny is very exciting, and will enrich our understanding

This discovery also hints that there may still be other obscured areas of detail preserved within the walls behind the tomb.

Conservation works to protect the fabric of the tomb are currently being planned, and we hope to undertake further investigation of what may lie behind it. At this stage we don't know what, if anything, remains - but it will be fascinating to find out."

Dunkeld Cathedral is one of over 300 Historic Scotland properties across the country managed by HES. The site of the cathedral has long been an important ecclesiastical centre, with relics of St Columba brought to Dunkeld from Iona by King Kenneth McAlpin in 849. The cathedral was developed over a period of around 250 years, which the earliest surviving section – the choir – dating from the late 1200s.

The discovery of these rare, hidden carvings behind the 15th century tomb of Bishop Cardeny is very exciting, and will enrich our understanding of the history of Dunkeld Cathedral and late medieval stone carving.

of the history of Dunkeld Cathedral and late medieval stone carving. This discovery also gives fresh incentive for further research and exploration of the site, as we still don't know when exactly the tomb was moved, or why.



SAVE THE DATE!!!!
MARCH 2nd and 3rd, 2019!
SCOTLAND IN THE DESERT!



Phoenix Scottish Games
Celebrate our 55th Anniversary!
Presented By Kilt Lifter Scottish Style Ale
 For information and tickets go to:
www.phoenixscottishgames.com

SCOT POURRI

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

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

My favourite Scottish castle



The haunted Tulloch Castle in Dingwall.

It's difficult to choose a favourite castle as they are all beautiful in their own way, the derelict ones would have so much to tell if they could only talk, if it's a Scottish castle I love it!! I can't leave Tulloch Castle and room 8's friendly?? ghost. My daughter and I stayed there twice and he made his presence known both times. I was interested in the oystercatcher on the back page, in Australia they are called a pied oystercatcher and we also have a black one, the sooty

oystercatcher. They both live right around the Australian coast. If I can get close enough I'll try to hear their calls, perhaps they'll say "g'day mate!" I'm really enjoying this month's issue and must try to locate the *Outlaw King* as I know that I will enjoy it. Google will get a workout.

A very Happy New Year to your staff and readers.

Jocelyn Layton
Wyndham, Western Australia

Oliver Cromwell

This may be of interest to Mrs Beverley Mason who wrote regarding Oliver Cromwell. There is a book by Richard Lee Bradshaw, called *God's Battle Axe* about John Bradshaw who was Oliver Cromwell's Attorney General for four years and is called the Regicide Judge as he signed the death warrant for Charles the First.

Both Richard and I are related to him!

Robert Bradshaw
Ashwood, Victoria
Australia

Robert Burns songs and poems

I am seeking your kind assistance and support in helping me find a lost treasure (I think I was silly enough to loan it to some body and they never bothered to return it.

It's a smallish (pocket book) approximately 25 cm x 15 cm and has a reddish tartan cover with a photo of our Bard in the middle.

I am led to believe it may have been called "The Kirkaldy Edition"

I have been to so many book shops and can tell you am utterly amazed and disgusted they don't know what I am talking about or it's maybe they just don't care.

Can anyone put any light on where/how I can replace it?

If successful please include in next moths edition of our most valued *Scottish Banner*.

Kind Regards,
R Adam Ainslie
Email: agands1@bigpond.com

Pen friend wanted

I am looking for someone who would be interested in communicating with me (if you like to call it pen friend), who is Scottish. I am into arts and crafts, gardening, sewing etc. I am a 60 year old lady and I live in New Zealand. I would be very happy make meet another lady who is also like minded.

Many thanks,
Janet Sinclair
New Zealand
Email: jansinclair5@gmail.com

Great Scottish products

Just a brief note to let you know my order of two books and a DVD arrived safely this morning. I am very pleased to have the DVD as I attended the Edinburgh Tattoo when it came to Melbourne. To say I am delighted with the two books *Great Scottish Journeys* and *A Life in the Hills* is an understatement. What wonderful books!

I'd warmly recommend them to anyone proudly carrying Scottish blood to add them to their book collection.

Mrs Margaret Michie Benney
Craigieburn, Victoria
Australia

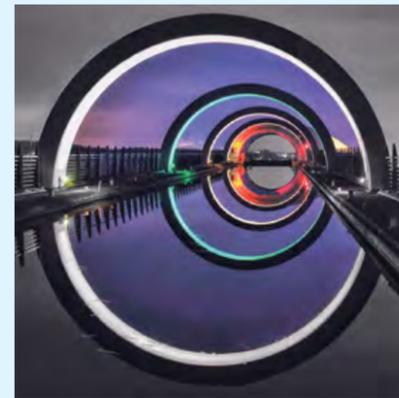
Ed note: Margaret we are thrilled to hear you are enjoying our mail order product range, thank you for your order.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Send your photos or letters via social media

The Falkirk Wheel



Always worth a visit to the Falkirk Wheel.
Robert Gibb
Scotland

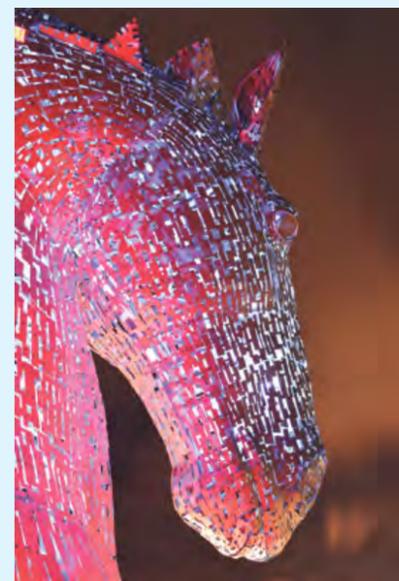
The Sir John De Graeme Memorial Fountain



The panelling from the Sir John De Graeme Memorial Fountain which with help from Falkirk Council we are getting refurbished.

We aim to take custodianship of the site to ensure a lasting future for the site.
The Society of John De Graeme Falkirk, Scotland

The Kelpies



Unedited, straight off the camera...
FANTASTIC

The Kelpies at Falkirk.
A View From My Camera
Scotland

Up Helly Aa



It was wonderful to read about the unique Up Helly Aa event in the Shetland Islands (*Scottish Banner*, January, 2019). What a wonderful celebration of Viking heritage, a heritage many assume only belongs to Scandinavia. I have been to Shetland but never in winter and this event is certainly something to consider. Your January issue also had some very interesting and varied content and helps us reader fall in love with Scotland more each month.

Wishing all the writers, staff and readers of the *Scottish Banner* a wonderful 2019 ahead.

Sue Anderson
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: Thanks Sue for your note and Scotland really does have a great variety of events year round and everyone is welcome!

Encyclopaedia Britannica



How fascinating to read about the 250th anniversary of *Encyclopedia Britannica*. I remember growing up with a volume of these in our house and it was the "go to" for information. This of course was way before Google or the internet existed! I however never knew until reading this article that it was in fact started by Scots, as I always and wrongly assumed it was started in England. Scots never cease to amaze me on their ingenuity and lust for further knowledge and education.

Perhaps that is why I became a teacher??!

Alan Sinclair
San Francisco, California
USA

Ed note: Thanks for your note Alan and Encyclopedia Britannica is certainly a literary icon, which is still teaching people new things today.

Research on the enduring appeal of Mary Queen of Scots



The Abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots by Gavin Hamilton (1723-1798) held in The Hunterian's Collection.

She was a Queen who only reigned for six years. Yet more than four centuries after her death, Mary Queen of Scotland continues to polarise opinion and to hold a fascination for the general public.

Now a project led by the University of Glasgow brings together some 40 academics and curators to help understand how her legend has impacted on Scottish society and culture in the intervening years. For more than 400 years, Mary's legend has been depicted in popular culture and immortalised in music, books, plays, art and on coins and medals. And since 1895, the extraordinary life and death of the sixteenth-century queen continues to be told and retold on the big screen.

The latest film, *Mary Queen of Scots*, centres on the royal rivalry between Mary (played by Saoirse Ronan) and her cousin Elizabeth I (Margot Robbie).

A source of fascination and debate

Dr Steven Reid, a Scottish Historian based at the University of Glasgow's College of Arts, and Anne Dulau-Beveridge, a curator at The Hunterian have been awarded funding for a two-year research network project on Mary from the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Dr Reid said: "Our project will look at what is it about Mary's life and her story that gives it such appeal and endurance – why does she remain such a source of fascination and debate? Why do historians, authors and artists continue to re-imagine her? To date, there have only been a handful of works exploring Mary's posthumous reputation. This project will undertake a detailed and holistic assessment of Mary's reputation and depiction in popular culture, from the end of her personal reign in Scotland through to the present.

"It will focus on objects held in Scottish archives and national collections. Through this corpus, it aims to explore and understand how Mary has been remembered and what the changing representations of Mary tell us about evolving attitudes to gender, monarch and religion as well as Scotland's own perceptions of its history."

Objects about Mary

Already the University of Glasgow team have found hundreds of objects about Mary in its own Archives, Special Collections and Hunterian collections. This includes a rare

medal commemorating the marriage of Mary to Lord Darnley in 1565 and a Mary Queen of Scots Thirty-Shilling Piece from 1555 (Mary's coinages were the first to feature portraits of a female monarch).

Another key piece in the University's Archives is a letter of gift (dated 13 July 1563) from Mary, offering much-needed financial support in the form of land grants and endowments to the university. The installation of a Scottish Protestant parliament in 1560 and the disintegration of Catholicism jeopardised the University's very existence, and Mary's grant played an important role in keeping the University solvent through this difficult period in its history.

One of the key Queen Mary pieces in The Hunterian's collection is a romanticised painting by Gavin Hamilton (1723-1798) called *The Abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots*. This painting inspired the University of Glasgow to look more in-depth at Mary's posthumous reputation.

Interest in the life of the Queen

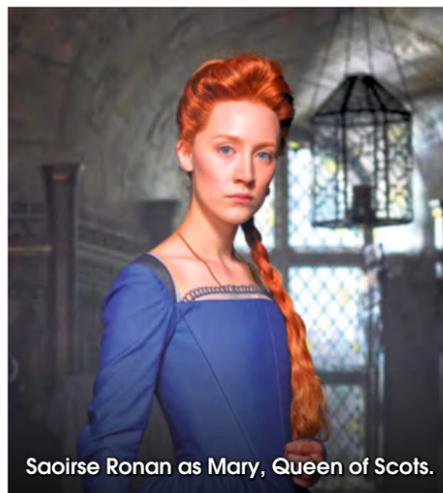
Ms Dulau-Beveridge said: "This project grew from a simple idea to explore the making and meaning of the depiction of Mary Queen of Scots by Gavin Hamilton. The painting was commissioned by James Boswell, the 18th century author and biographer. And in fact Boswell and Hamilton corresponded for more than 10 years to decide on which sources should be used to help with the depiction of Mary on canvas. I think both were aware of the importance the painting would acquire in later years, as it was the first history painting depicting the life of Mary."

She added: "It soon became apparent that this commission was only one sign of a renewal of interest in the life of the Queen in 18th century Britain. This included The Hunterian's own founder Dr William Hunter who gathered key texts about Mary. This led to discussions with colleagues across the University and the result was to take this further and look at Mary's reputation and depiction in popular culture. Already this project has borne fruit to show that the University owns one of the most significant collections of Mary Queen of Scots materials in Scotland. We are now looking forward to seeing what other interesting facts and finds that this new research, generously supported by The Royal Society of Edinburgh, will uncover."

The areas that the project will look at over the next two years include:

- The noticeable absence of Mary from Jacobite memorialisation;
- The collection and consultation of Mary memorabilia by famous intellectuals including William Hunter, Sir Walter Scott, and George Washington;
- The explosion in eighteenth/nineteenth-century engravings of Mary, featuring wildly varying portraits;
- The industry of Mary Queen of Scots rings produced in the 1820s;
- The Victorian mania in the 19th century for formal staged photographs of young women as Mary and her attendants. A collection of which are housed in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

From this project, a dedicated exhibition on the memorialisation of Mary will be hosted at The Hunterian in Glasgow in 2022.



Saoirse Ronan as Mary, Queen of Scots.

Mary Stuart's timeline:

- Mary Stuart is born in December 1542 in Linlithgow Palace just a week before the death of her father James V of Scotland.
- She is taken to France in 1548 to be the bride of the Dauphin, the young French prince, in order to secure a Catholic alliance against England.
- During this time Scotland is ruled by a series of regents, including Mary's own mother Marie de Guise.
- In December 1560, Mary's husband (now King Francis II and still in his teens) dies after a year on the French throne.
- Mary returns to Scotland in 1561 to exercise direct rule as Queen of Scots.
- In 1565 she marries her cousin, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley.
- On 19 June 1566, at Edinburgh Castle, Mary gives birth to her son James (the future James VI).
- Lord Darnley is murdered at Kirk O'Field in February 1567.
- In April 1567, Mary is abducted by James Hepburn, fourth earl Bothwell. They are married the following month.
- In July 1567, Mary is forced to abdicate in favour of her one-year-old son James VI of Scotland.
- In 1568, after an unsuccessful attempt to regain the throne, Mary flees to England seeking the protection of her cousin Elizabeth I.
- In England, Mary is held in captivity for 18 years before she is executed at Fotheringhay Castle in 1587, aged 44.
- Mary's son James VI of Scotland becomes James I of England in 1603.

CLANSMAN'S CREST BADGE T-SHIRTS
STERLING JEWELRY & MORE

Clan MacFarlane
Clan MacGregor

OVER 200 CLAN DESIGNS

The most complete line of clan crest t-shirts on the market today!

STERLING SILVER JEWELRY
Hand-crafted .925 sterling silver

Military Badges
Clan Badges
Kilt-Pins & Jewelry

CELTICJACKALOPE.COM
A DIVISION OF ROYAL PUBLISHING, INC.
PO Box 398 GLENDORA, CA 91740
PHONE: 626-335-8069 • FAX: 626-335-6127
INFO@CELTICJACKALOPE.COM
WHOLESALE AVAILABLE

SCOTSPEAK

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

“As we welcome in the New Year, today in Stornoway we rightly look back 100 years and remember those lost on the Iolaire - a tragedy that involved so many, so close to shore and, for most of the men, so close to home. We reflect on those who perished and how survivors, family, friends and the wider communities on Lewis, Harris and Berneray must have felt. It may have been a century ago but the legacy of the Iolaire will never be forgotten. I was honoured to be part of the commemorations and meet descendants.”

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said at the 100 year commemoration service of the HMY Iolaire, which was carrying soldiers returning from World War One when it smashed into rocks near the Isle of Lewis during the early hours of January 1, 1919. More than 200 men died and the Iolaire tragedy remains one of the worst UK maritime disasters of the 20th century.



“This additional funding is fantastic news and will help us to safeguard the incredible heritage assets of Scotland’s canals for future generations to enjoy.

These 200-year-old waterways play a vital role in local communities and Scotland as a whole, contributing to the marine economy; attracting tourists, visitor spend and investment; as well as stimulating job creation and business growth. While managing these historic assets is not without its challenges, we are committed to continuing to work with the Scottish Government and our partners to ensure they continue to deliver benefits for all the people of Scotland.”

Catherine Topley, Scottish Canals chief executive, said as an additional £5.35m in funding has been granted by the Scottish Government to undertake critical works on two historic Scottish canals. Work on the Caledonian Canal, which connects Inverness with the west coast at Corpach near Fort William, and on the Union Canal, which runs from Falkirk to Edinburgh, commenced in January.

“How is it possible that a sacred and historic Scottish heritage site like Culloden Battlefield, do not get the respect they deserve. It urgently needs to be in peace for our Scottish heritage, the brave fallen and of course our future generations. It is still a pilgrimage place for many.”

Protester Patricia Robertson said she was highly concerned about the protection of the Culloden Battlefield in the Highlands. Developer Kirkwood Homes’ sales office for its 16-home Viewhill development, is within the Culloden Moor Conservation Area and some 300 yards to the north east of the famous battlefield.

“My Parkinson’s is not going to go away and it’s going to get worse, my life is slipping away. There is no denying it, I am 75, I have got Parkinson’s and I am at the wrong end of the telescope of life.

I am at the point where the yesteryears mean more than the yesterdays. Because it is back there in my childhood and youth when I go to all those things that made me that live keenest in my memory now.”

Scottish comedian Sir Billy Connolly said whilst filming a BBC documentary *Made In Scotland*. Connolly, also known as The Big Yin, has Parkinson’s disease and has had to cut down work due to his health. The celebrated actor and comedian soon after apologised to fans for being morbid and said his time was still not up.



“Once again we have brought together the best pies and baked goods in the land and today we can really celebrate the achievement of our hard working butchers and bakers. My heartfelt congratulations go to our world champion, and indeed everyone today taking away a prize, they are all winners in my book.”

Ronnie Miles, president of Scottish Bakers as The Little Bakery in Dumfries has been crowned winners at this years World Scotch Pie Championships. The World Championship Scotch Pie Awards was launched in 1999 by proud butcher and baker Alan Stuart with an aim to focus on quality and innovation.

“This is a rare opportunity for us to bring a whole mountain under our care. It already supports a magnificent area of ancient Caledonian pinewood and a temperate rainforest of native birchwood. Perhaps even more exciting is the potential to manage these within a mosaic of their natural neighbours. Our aim is to see native woodland, montane scrub and open moorland habitats meshing naturally with each other from sea to sky. That would encapsulate all that a restored landscape can be, not just in Torridon but across the Highlands.”

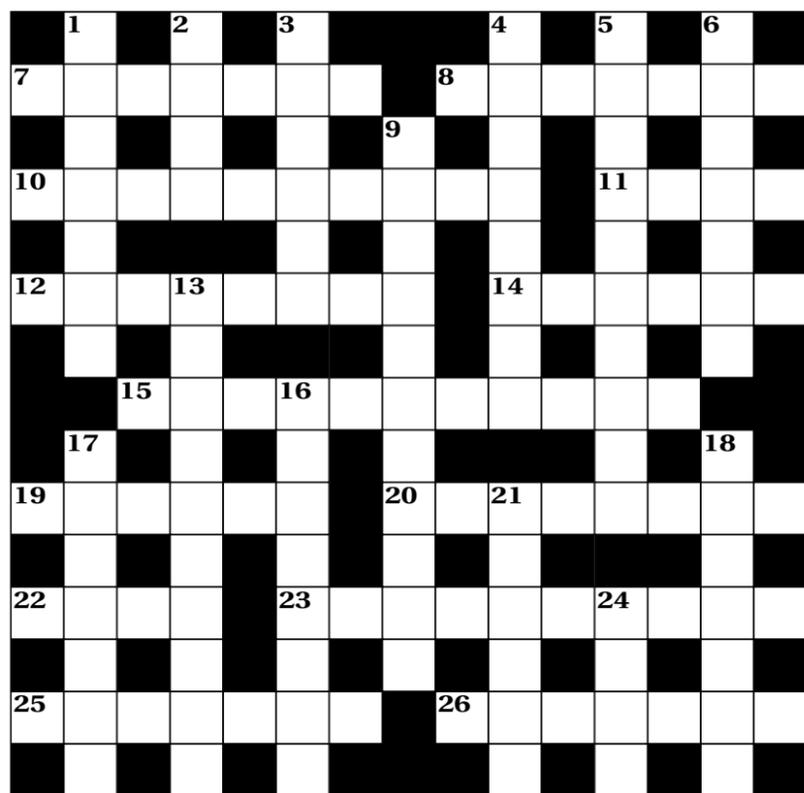
Carol Evans, Woodland Trust Scotland director, said as the conservation charity has launched a £1.6m fundraising drive to buy a Ben Shieldaig mountain in the Highlands. The mountain covers around 4000 acres set in the dramatic Torridon landscape within the Wester Ross National Scenic Area and is rich in wildlife and ancient Caledonian pinewood.

“As we don’t have a pool on Fair Isle, for the kids to be able to learn to swim we simply have to fly to the nearest pool. About 50% of our lessons that we plan don’t happen as the weather often sees our flights get cancelled at short notice. It’s not the smoothest journey from Fair Isle to Tingwall – in the summer there can be too much fog to fly and in the winter too much wind. So we just have to be flexible. We always over pack, for example, because we can’t take it as a given that if we do make it to the mainland we’ll be able to get back.”

Fair Isle school teacher Ruth Stout said as her students must fly from the Fair Isle to Shetland for swimming lessons. As the island has no pools the children from Fair Isle Primary School take the 25 minute flight for swim lessons. The Fair Isle is home to 60 people and is the most geographically remote inhabited island in the United Kingdom.

SCOTWORD

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



CLUES ACROSS

- 7) He.s No. 1 with 18 Down. (7)
- 8) First page (7)
- 10) Village east of Kinlochewe (10)
- 11) Monster waterway (4)
- 12) Wide US street (8)
- 14) The type to lean (6)
- 15) Village north-west of Pitlochry (5, 6.)
- 19) A Scots whim (6)
- 20) Found north of the Border (8)
- 22) An eyesore (4)
- 23) Not excessive (10)
- 25) Edinburgh is (7)
- 26) First school stage (7)

DOWN

- 1) They add colour to Games (7)
- 2) Shock with a blow (4)
- 3) Picture puzzle (6)
- 4) Close family members (8)
- 5) Scotland.s palatial hotel (10)
- 6) Plant with carrot-like root (7)
- 9) January 1st (3. 5. 3.)
- 13 Old version of 25 Across (4, 6.)
- 16 In memory of Burns (8)
- 17 Famous Glasgow station (7)
- 18) 1 Downs nautical change (7)
- 21) Fragrances (6)
- 24) Member.s weapons (4)

Glass milk bottles making a comeback



Customers across the UK are rethinking how they get their milk delivered as many are making a switch from plastic to glass. Once finished

glass milk bottles are returned to the dairy, they are washed out and refilled to be delivered again. This stops hundreds of plastic bottles being used which only have a single life-span. Diaries across Scotland, England and Wales are all seeing a change in customer habits. Director of Kerr’s Family Dairy in Dundee, Kelvin Kerr said: “Attitudes have changed in the way people use plastic. I think it’s because there’s a lot of stuff on TV about how plastic can damage the environment. Milk is a household need so by switching your plastic to glass it’s a good way to start helping the environment.”

Thomsons Dairy in Lanarkshire has seen a 7% increase in demand for glass since last year. Milk deliveries however have been in steady decline since the 1980’s and doorstep accounts for just 3% of the market, in 1970 almost 99% of milk would have been door-delivered. The UK’s five big supermarkets say they have no plans to start stocking milk in glass bottles.

55th anniversary of the annual Phoenix Scottish Games



Scotland comes to the Desert Southwest during the weekend of March 2nd and 3rd, 2019 with the 55th annual Phoenix Scottish Games to be held at historic Steele Indian School Park in downtown Phoenix. You don't need to be Scottish to enjoy the Games featuring full Highland pageantry with pipes and drums, Highland dancers, athletics, Celtic bands and Gathering of the Clans.

As you move from area to area within the festival, you'll be treated to a variety of live entertainment, interactive displays and athletic events. The event hosts Highland Dance Championship and the Desert Southwest Pipe Band Championship. In addition to dancers and pipe bands, you won't want to miss performances of traditional folk and bluegrass music with roots in the lowlands and highlands, plus The Wicked

Tinkers, local entertainers Scot Jeffers and Traveler, Stoneybank and Open Beta in one of the many entertainment venues featuring Kilt Lifter beer located throughout the festival. Watch in awe as competitors on the athletic field make it look easy to throw a log bigger than a telephone pole or toss a hammer farther than you can throw a ball! Events include the Caber Toss, Sheaf Toss, Hammer Throw and "Putting the Stone" with male and female competitors of all ages from across North America.

If the kids want to try their hand at some of these fun events, there will be a "Wee Ones" children's area sponsored by the Knights of St. Andrew's featuring a mini-Highland Games with their very own Caber Toss and Hammer Throw as well as Highland costumes to try on. While in the Wee Ones area you can take a selfie with our very own Nessie the Lock Ness Monster.

The Celtic Village

All ages will have fun in the Celtic Village, featuring a variety of Celtic merchants with clothing, music instruments, jewelry, baked goods and other traditional culinary delights that you won't find at any other festival - traditional shortbread cookies, haggis, highland beef dishes and more. There will be Scotch Whisky Tasting where you can enjoy a dram and hear about the whisky making process of each expression. Car lovers don't forget to vote for your favorite vintage vehicle at the British Car Display and show.

If you are curious about your heritage, stop in to our Genealogy tent located in the Clan Village. Arizona has over 175,000 Scots. You could be one of them! Everywhere you look you can see deep ties between Arizona and Scotland. Douglas, Arizona was named for a Canadian-Scotsman, and the Rose Tree Museum in Tombstone Arizona features a rose tree grown from a cutting shipped to a young Scottish bride from her family in Scotland in 1885.

But even if you don't have any ties to Scotland, you will enjoy yourself at 55th annual Phoenix Scottish Games. As long as you relish good music, food and fun, you'll have a great time. The Phoenix Scottish Games are produced by the Caledonian Society of Arizona, the largest Celtic organization in the state, promoting Scottish culture through art, education and athletics. Funds raised at the event supports scholarships to aspiring and professional Highland

athletes, musicians and dancers and/or other individuals or organizations whose mission, project or program promotes Scottish heritage.

Stick around Saturday, or come after work for the Saturday evening Ceilidh at the Ghillie Dhu Pub Stage. Enjoy all our musical performers in one spot including The Wicked Tinkers, Scott Jeffers, Iain Walinck & Stoneybank, and more. Admission is included in your Saturday ticket, or just \$10 at the gate (after 4:00 pm). The Ceilidh starts at 5:00 pm and wraps up at sundown.

The Phoenix Scottish Games run from 9 am to 7 pm on Saturday March 2, 2019 and from 9 am to 5 pm on Sunday March 3, 2019 at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E Indian School Rd, Phoenix. Single day tickets can be purchased at the gate for \$20, or in advance at www.ArizonaScots.com for \$17. Add a second day for just \$10. Discounted pricing is available for seniors, members of the military and children. See the website for detailed pricing information. Free parking is available at the park and the festival has a free shuttle.



Outdoors visits at record high

Outdoors visits at record high: Scotland's People and Nature Survey ©Lorne Gill/SNH.



Visits to the outdoors have hit record levels in Scotland, a new survey suggests. Research from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) reveals that an estimated 547 million outdoors visits were made in 2017/18. The figure is up from 396 million in 2013/14 and is the highest ever recorded.

Scotland's People and Nature Survey

Scotland's People and Nature Survey shows that people are also getting out and about more regularly and enjoying nature closer to home. More than half (57%) said they ventured out weekly, up from 50% in 2013/14 when the survey was last carried out. Meanwhile the proportion of visits taken in urban areas increased by 6 percentage points to 40%.

Local parks were the most popular destination, while walking remains the most frequently used mode of transport. Exercising a dog was the most frequently cited reason for visiting the outdoors (42% of visits) followed by health and exercise (37%)

and to relax and unwind (29%). The majority of those who visited the outdoors (67%) strongly agreed it had helped them de-stress, 64% said it had improved their physical health and 52% said they felt closer to nature.

However, the survey of around 12,000 adults in Scotland shows there is still more to do to help under-represented groups access and enjoy nature.

A healthier Scotland

While 82% of the total population had visited the outdoors for recreation over the 12 month period, this dropped to just 47% of those who reported having poor health, 73% of older people and those in the most deprived parts of Scotland and 63% of those with a long-term illness or disability.

SNH Chair Mike Cantlay said: "We know the many benefits of getting outside for physical and mental health and wellbeing, so it's great to see that people in Scotland are enjoying the outdoors more than ever before. We want everyone across Scotland to benefit from nature but it's clear from these findings that some groups still face barriers. That's why SNH is investing in projects across Scotland to improve green spaces in our towns and cities, particularly in the most disadvantaged areas, to create better places for people to connect with nature closer to home and reduce these inequalities. The outdoors is our Natural Health Service, and we are also working closely with other organisations to realise the incredible potential of our natural environment for a healthier Scotland."

DUNMORE SCOTLAND



Designed and made in Scotland, carried around the world. Stewart of Appin Satchel, Bucket Tote and Clutch, three of our striking tartan designs.

+ 44 (0)1968 660 078
dunmorescotland.com

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By: Ron Dempsey



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



Kirkcaldy's historic oldest church, Kirkcaldy Old Kirk and Kirk Wynd, the Kingdom of Fife. Photo: VisitScotland/Damian Shields.

January has passed us by, along with things such as New Year's celebrations, salutes to Robbie Burns as well as most of New Year's resolutions and the annual January 1st to January 3rd diet, so on to February. February 1st is the day of Saint Brigid. She was a 5th century nun who was reputedly born in Ireland in 439. It is also falling on the old Celtic pagan day of Imbolc which marked the days of the lambing an equivalent of Spring.

February 14th the other big event of the month with St. Valentine's name after Christian martyr of the fourth century and I am not sure how he became associated with romantic love.

Laing

Ena Laing of Ettalong Beach in New South Wales, Australia wrote to ask about her surname that she acquired through marriage. Mrs. Laing has been busy with family history and has the Laing name

back to a John Laing born in 1670. This is a considerable genealogical feat.

Laing is an old Anglo-Saxon descriptive name for someone who was tall in stature equivalent to modern day long. Over the centuries it may have been found to be recorded as Lang depending on the whim of the officiating recording clerk or local dialect. It was recorded as early as 1357 in Scotland primarily in Dumfriesshire.

Lang is listed as being associated with Clan Leslie, but the Laing form is listed as an armigerous clan, a term means that it is a family or clan that is without a chief. Such a descriptive name would be very common and found in all parts of Scotland, so it would be difficult from to tell from where any family with this particular name stemmed.

There is a Laing clan badge. It is a dove with a sprig of olive in its beak. The motto is: Mercy is my desire.

There more than few different Laing tartans, to see them best to search on the internet under "tartan finder."

McCrombie

Again, from Australia Mr. Ron Fyfe of Macleod, Victoria, wrote and asked about the surname McCrombie. I had a heck of a time trying to find any listings for the name in any of my resource literature. It is fairly prolific in familysearch.org where it can be found primarily in the North East of Scotland. So, I am going to go out in a limb and suggest that it is the combination of two known names, Crombie and McCombie. Both have different origins and one can see where the two could be combined. MacCombie from Tomaidh Mor meaning "great Tommy". The clan is listed today as Clan MacThomas.

It was not unusual to hear something similar in Scottish households of the past, where father and son shared the same name and would known as big Jim and wee Jim even when the son towered over his father on reaching adulthood.

Little was also used as a humorous application for one who was tall or corpulent.

There is the land name Liddesdale in Roxborough that evolved into the surname Liddell. It wouldn't be unconceivable that the names were often interchanged depending the clerk who was writing the documentation over the centuries.

There is a Clan Little Society at www.clanlittlesna.com for further research.

Church

Throughout our history the church has been a mainstay within the communities of Scotland. The pre-Reformation Roman Catholic church held lands much like feudal lords which gave them an income from the lands benefited the diocese as well the contributions to the Vatican. People's association with church gave them surnames that have come down to us today. Scots Inglis name for church was pronounced kirk. From this came such names as Kirk, Kirkby. There are a few places in Northern England by this name. These areas would have been in the Danelaw, a place where Vikings settled in north east England. The ending "by" is from Old Danish for farm so Kirkby translates as church farm. The other examples are Kirkwood, Kirkdale, which are self explanatory. Kirkman differs in that is an occupation for one who managed a church.

Similarly, in England the form Church shows up in many forms, such as Church, Churchman, Churchyard and more famously Churchill.

Eccles as a surname has two meanings, one from the Old English ish "aec laes" meaning oak pasture but to our theme, also from "ekklesia" meaning church. An example of the latter is Ecclefechan, a Brythonic (Old Welsh associated language) is a small village in the southwest of Scotland meaning small church.

Gillanders

This is just an elementary list of names that evolved from just the name church, there so many other associated names that comes from occupations or associations with the church such as Pope, Bishop, Preistley, Deakin (Deacon) Parson, Monk, Monkman, Prior, Abbot and Nunn just to mention a few. Revered figures added to that list as well such as Saint names especially in Gaelic names that start with either "gil" or "kil". Names such as Gillanders or Gilchrist are translated as the servant or devotee of Saint Andrew or servant or devotee of Christ. Other names such as Kilpatrick or Kilbride in Gaelic refer to the church of St. Patrick and St. Bridget respectively.

We hope you are enjoying your month, although the weather can be bleak here in the north at this time of year, our southern friends are sure to be enjoying warm weather of summer. Let's hope it's not too hot.

Tartan of the Month *Scotland's War*



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).

The 2,000+ pages on the Scotland's War (1914-1919) Charity's website at www.scotlandswar.co.uk reflect the significant sacrifices made by the Scottish people on the Home and Fighting Fronts, and the Scottish Diaspora, in the Great War.

This is the Scotland's War (1914-1919) Charity's commemorative tartan (SRT reference 12185). The dominant red colour represents the sacrifices that were made in the War. It is not generally understood that the War was not technically and legally over until the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919. Until then, there was an armistice which is a formal agreement of warring parties to stop fighting. The Scotland's War (1914-1919) Project will continue until the centenary of the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919, which ended the War. Scotland's War (1914-1919) was formally accepted for registration as a charity by the Scottish Charity Regulator on 17 November 2016 and the website hosts the contributions from 21 local authority partners in Scotland, and from individual contributors at home and abroad in the Scottish Diaspora.

This followed the decision by the University of Edinburgh not to fund the original Heritage Lottery Funded project. The work and legacy projects of the Charity is approached in a sensitive, respectful and ethical manner, and ensures that the Scotland's War (1914-1919) commemorative initiatives are relevant to all ethnic, religious and secular parts of Scottish society.

A woven sample of this tartan has been received by the Scottish Register of Tartans for permanent preservation in the National Records of Scotland.

Throughout our history the church has been a mainstay within the communities of Scotland. People's association with church gave them surnames that have come down to us today.

Crombie is from a place name in Aberdeenshire in the parish of Auchterless. It originates from the Gaelic word "crom" meaning crooked or bent. This could for a bend in the river or the road.

Little

From White Plains, New York in the USA comes a query from Don Drummond asking about the surname Little. Little, as a descriptive name can be what exactly what it implies for a person of small stature.

It can also be for standing within a family to be used by one of two people who have the same name. Therefore, John Little would explain that one John is the junior of his father also named John.

Brooch gifted by Mary, Queen of Scots to her close aide and personal hairdresser goes on display in Edinburgh



The brooch given by Mary, Queen of Scots.

A brooch given by Mary, Queen of Scots to one of her closest lady attendants, who had a particular flair for hairdressing, has gone on display at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for the first time. Mary Seton was a devoted assistant and friend of Mary, Queen of Scots and lived with her at the Palace from 1561–6. She was one of the four attendants known as the 'Four Marys' who spent many years in France with the exiled Queen.

Mary Seton continued to accompany Mary, Queen of Scots during her captivity in England. Sir Francis Knollys, an English courtier charged with the care of the Queen, noted that Mary Seton 'did set such a curled hair upon the Queen..... every other day she hath a new device of head dressing, without any cost, and yet setteth forth a woman gaily well'.

The brooch dates from c.1580 and is made from enamelled gold and studded with pearls and rubies. It can be seen in the

Outer Chamber of the Mary, Queen of Scots apartments at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Famous inhabitants

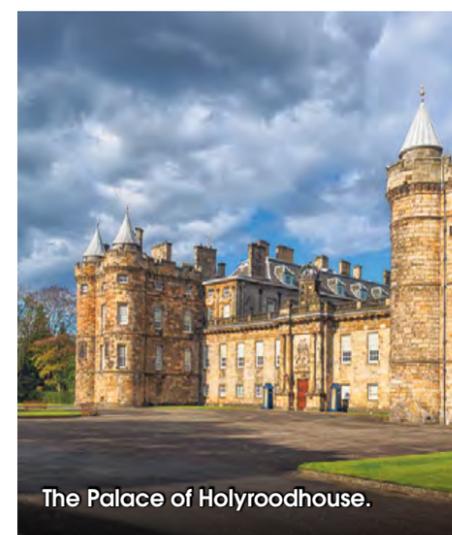
Mary, Queen of Scots lived at the Palace following her return from exile in France in 1561. In 1565 she married Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, in the Palace chapel; just a year later her Italian secretary, David Rizzio, was murdered by Darnley in front of the Queen, in her private apartments.

A brooch given by Mary, Queen of Scots to one of her closest lady attendants, who had a particular flair for hairdressing, has gone on display at the Palace of Holyroodhouse for the first time.

The private apartments of Mary, Queen of Scots have recently been re-presented as part of a £10 million investment by Royal Collection Trust to enhance the visitor experience at the Palace, including the re-display of the historic spaces to tell the stories of the Palace's famous inhabitants. A royal residence for more than 500 years, the Palace of Holyroodhouse has served as home to both Mary, Queen of Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Other projects that form part of the investment, collectively called Future Programme, include the creation of a public physic garden and a Learning Centre within the restored Abbey Strand buildings, and new ticketing and welcome spaces.

Sally Goodsir, Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts, Royal Collection Trust, said, "Through new displays of the Royal Collection our visitors will be able to explore the Palace's close association with some of Scotland's best-known historic figures. We want everyone to gain a deeper understanding of Edinburgh's royal palace and of its continuing role as the official residence of the Sovereign in Scotland."



The Palace of Holyroodhouse.

Pictish symbol stone discovered in Aberdeen



The Pictish stone being removed from the River Don.

A rare Pictish symbol stone has been discovered on the banks of the River Don in Dyce, Aberdeen. The river's low water level, resulting from the recent sustained spell of warm and dry weather, led to the unearthing of the stone which had become partially exposed from the river bank. Survey and removal of the stone was coordinated by teams from Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Aberdeenshire Council and The University of Aberdeen, which confirmed the stone to be a Class I Pictish symbol stone – an unworked stone with carved symbols including a triple disc with cross bar, a mirror, and a notched rectangle with two internal spirals.

Kirsty Owen, Deputy Head of Archaeology at HES, said: "We're very excited by this find, made all the more

remarkable by the brief window of opportunity we had to recover the stone before the water levels rose again. AOC Archaeology, our emergency call off contractors, worked with a specialist lifting company to carefully and safely remove the stone from the river. This is a wonderful example of a local authority, university, national body and commercial archaeological company working together to save a significant piece of Scotland's archaeological heritage."

Among Scotland's most distinctive monuments

Pictish symbol stones are among Scotland's most distinctive monuments. Their elegant and vivid symbols and images can be found carved into boulders

and slabs of rock, and on specially cut and shaped free-standing stones. Class I Pictish stones date to between 6th to 8th centuries AD, and are typically unworked stones with carved symbols. The meaning of the symbols is debated, but it is believed they may represent the names of individuals or groups. This new discovery is one of a number of impressive finds in the north-east of Scotland, which include an early Pictish stone now on display at the Church of St. Fergus, Dyce, close to where the new find was unearthed.

Bruce Mann, Local Authority Archaeologist for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, said: "The exceptional summer has led to river levels being at their lowest for decades, so there was always a chance that something new would be found. However, I certainly didn't expect a find as stunning as this. Pictish symbol-stones are incredibly rare, and this one, with its apparent connection to the river, adds further to the discussions around their meaning and what they were used for."

Europe's 'lost people'

The Picts are one of Europe's 'lost people', chiefly known for their elaborately decorated memorial stones found throughout eastern Scotland, from Shetland to the Firth of Forth. Gordon Noble, Head of Archaeology at the University of Aberdeen, is currently leading a major research project into the early medieval Kingdoms of northern Scotland and Ireland. He said: "The distinctive set of symbols carved into the stone meant we

were quickly able to identify it as belonging to the Pictish tradition. Although there is a corpus of more than 200 of these stones across Scotland, each one is unique and this is a fantastic example which enables us to fill some of the gaps in the record and helps us to trace the development of literacy in north-east Scotland. As such, it is a very significant find."

The Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Barney Crockett, said: "This is a fantastic find and another great offshoot of the marvellous summer we have been enjoying. The Pictish symbol stone is yet another example of how lucky we are in Aberdeen in having such amazing history on our doorstep".

The stone has now been reported to the Crown Office's Treasure Trove Unit, and temporarily moved to Edinburgh while discussions on where it will be permanently housed are ongoing.



Pictish symbol stone submerged in water in the River Don.

Orkney tidal turbine breaking energy generation records

The turbine generated more electricity in its first year than the entire of Scotland's wave and tidal energy sector in the 12 years before.

The revolutionary Scotrenewables SR2000 turbine turns previous designs on their head. That's because, rather than having turbines fitted to the sea bed, the turbine blades are suspended beneath a floating platform. This not only dramatically cuts installation costs, but also reduces the amount of time and money needed to maintain and service the machinery through simplifying accessibility.

Incredibly, the energy generated equates to more in 12 months from this single turbine than the entire wave and tidal energy sector has done in Scotland in the 12 years preceding the launch of this turbine.

The SR2000 turbine was installed in the Fall of Warness tidal races, Orkney in August 2017 and the team at Scotrenewables said their success is evidence that tidal power generation could be rolled out more widely. This is because it's estimated that the seas around the UK could one day be capable of generating 20% of its electricity needs.

Scotland's remarkable marine energy resource

The European Marine Energy Centre (Emec) is a test centre in Orkney where more than 30 different devices have been



Yesnaby Castle sea stack on the west coast of Orkney Mainland.

tested since it was established in 2003. However, the 64m long SR2000 has so far proved to be the most successful of them all. It has regularly generated the equivalent of 7% of Orkney's electricity demand, but can power up to 25%, at certain times.

Jonathan Lindsay, Operations and Technology Director at EMEC, said: "Wind energy has had about 50 years from when it first started, whereas wave and tidal has

really only been over the last 10 years or so and has actually made quite a lot of progress in that time. As we move forward we will see bigger and better machines coming along."

This amazing milestone for the tidal energy industry really demonstrates the untapped potential of this emerging renewables sector. Scotland's remarkable marine energy resource has placed us front and centre in developing this industry with global potential.

As Scotland continues to embrace and lead the way towards a wholly renewable electricity system, it's more important than ever that we have a diverse range of renewable electricity sources. We've already seen huge growth in onshore wind and offshore wind over recent years and this new milestone from a tidal energy turbine is another welcome addition to an ever-increasingly important sector.

Queen Mary Scots Festival and International Highland Games XXVI



Marching proud.



Clans gather at the Queen Mary.

Eighty-eight years ago, in the quaint seaside town of Clydebank, Scotland, construction began on the *Queen Mary*. Exemplifying the finest craftsmanship of the country, the *Queen Mary's* heritage is celebrated throughout the two-day Scots Festival honoring Scottish culture.

The *Queen Mary* is pleased to welcome back the annual Scots Festival & International Highland Games XXVI February 16 & 17 (9AM - 6PM). Experience the rich culture and history of Scotland first hand through an array

of authentic activities, athletics, dancing, entertainment and cuisine, paying homage to the *Queen Mary's* Scottish legacy.

Culture at every turn

Scots Festival honors nearly fifty Scottish clans and vendors throughout the weekend with professional and amateur competitions in piping, drumming, massed bands, darts, Highland dancing, and the brand new North American Professional Highland athletics. The Scottish Highland Games, a precursor to today's Olympic Games, were designed to test the strength,

skill, and technique of ancient warriors through face-offs. With falconry, sheep herding and a large array of other activities, guests will have culture at every turn!

Whisky tasting sessions with aged malt experts are available for adult festivalgoers while the wee laddies & lassies can bear witness to Queen Mary's coronation, knighting ceremonies, and even take part in the Wee Highland games.

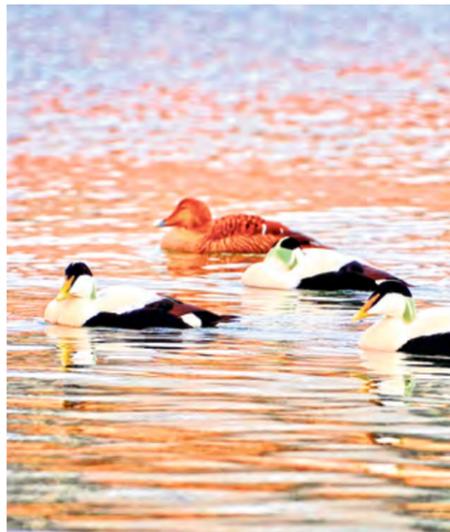
This February, come to Long Beach, California for the 26th annual Scots Festival celebration in one of the most unique venues in the world.

The Queen Mary Scots Festival & International Highland Games XXVI will take place on February 16th and 17th, 2019. For more details: 877-342-0738 or www.queenmary.com



The fun of Scottish dance.

Reports confirm importance of Orkney's seas to waterbirds



work found that Orkney holds more than 40% of great northern divers, Slavonian grebes and long-tailed ducks wintering in Great Britain.

A special place for wildlife

Sally Thomas, SNH's Director of People & Nature, said: "Orkney is a special place for wildlife, including wintering waterbirds. These surveys vividly illustrate how important Orkney's seas are to these birds, some of which migrate long distances from breeding grounds in Northern Europe to winter here. It's remarkable that more than 40% of some of waterbirds overwintering in Britain are found in Orkney waters."

Other marine birds recorded in high numbers included common eider and red-breasted merganser, with more than 10% of their GB populations. North Orkney also held nearly 10% of the GB population of velvet scoters and Scapa Flow 7% of black-throated divers. Over 6,000 European shags were counted as well, representing 6% of the GB population and over 3% of the Northern European population.

The surveys included five complete counts of North Orkney pSPA and four of Scapa Flow pSPA between November 2017 and March 2018. The surveys were mainly done from the shore with additional boat-based counts in central Scapa Flow; they were the first surveys to fully cover both sites by these methods in a single season.

The importance of Orkney's seas for wintering waterbirds, including ducks, divers, grebes and shags, has been highlighted in a report survey by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

The surveys covered the Scapa Flow proposed Special Protection Area (pSPA) and the North Orkney pSPA. The population estimates for the species surveyed were the highest yet recorded, totalling over 11,460 birds in North Orkney and 9,680 birds in Scapa Flow.

The surveys confirm the international importance of these waters to wintering waterbirds indicated by previous surveys, dating back as far as the 1970s. In fact, the

Did you know? *St Mary's Loch*



- St Mary's Loch is the largest natural loch in the Scottish Borders and is situated between Selkirk and Moffat.
- The loch is 5 kms/ 3.1 miles long and 1 km/ 0.62 mile wide.
- Loch is the Irish, Scottish Gaelic and Scots word for a lake or for a sea inlet.
- Local legend had it that the loch has no bottom and is reputed to be the coldest loch in Scotland.
- St. Mary's Loch is only a few steps away from the Southern Upland Way (a long distance footpath for walkers).
- The ancient and ruined St Mary's Kirk - The Kirk of the Lowes, and its graveyard. This was located on the NW shore of St Mary's Loch and it has given its name to both the lochs. This location was known for the Blanket Preaching, and open-air service held every July and this tradition is still maintained.
- St Mary's Loch Sailing Club is run from premises at the south end of the loch. It is run by the Royal Yachting Association.
- Off St Mary's Loch you can climb to the statue of poet and writer, James Hogg, the "Ettrick Shepherd" and friend of Sir Walter Scott, who was born just over the hill in the Ettrick Valley.

EST 2002

SCOTLANDSHOP

TAILORED TARTAN CLOTHING & INTERIORS

**10%
DISCOUNT**
USE OFFER CODE:
BANNER2019

**OVER
500
CLAN &
FAMILY
TARTANS**

VISITING NEW YORK FOR TARTAN WEEK

POP-UP STORE & MEASURING SERVICE

APRIL 3RD-7TH

THE TAILOR PUBLIC HOUSE 505 8TH AVE

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE NOW

www.ScotlandShop.com

+44 (0)1890860770 info@scotlandshop.com

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 Royal Child from the Stewarts of Crookston



*Ah! Mary, tho the wind should rave
Wi jealous spite to keep me frae thee,
The darkest Stormy night I'd brave,
For ae sweet secret moment wi thee
Cruikston Castle's Lonely Wa's
by Robert Tannahill, 1809.*

Lady Lennox, Margaret Douglas, Henry Darnley's mother, was not only her mother-in law but a kinswoman of Mary Queen of Scots in her own right. She was the daughter of Margaret Tudor, Henry the VII's daughter and Mary's grandmother. This marriage of James IV to Margaret Tudor in 1503, known as the marriage of the Thistle and the Rose, was a fateful one. Although furthest from the minds of the treaty makers at the time, the wedding eventually led to the joining of the crowns exactly a century later when the great grandson of the union, James VI, became King James I of England as well.

But Margaret Tudor was married twice, her first husband had been James IV of Scotland, Queen Mary's grandfather but after being widowed Margaret Tudor took a second husband, Archibald Douglas, the father of Lady Lennox. Lady Lennox and her son Henry Darnley thus had a claim to royal blood and the throne of Scotland, but not near as strong as Mary's. Mary and Henry were both great grandchildren of Henry the VII of England giving them both Tudor as well as Stewart blood in their veins.

The crown of Scotland

Lady Lennox and her husband Matthew, Lord Darnley, the 4th Earl of Lennox, had long harboured high hopes that their son Henry Stewart might someday wear the crown of Scotland, but Matthew the owner of Crookston Castle, was an out and out rogue. He was an ambitious and thoroughly ruthless man and a strong supporter of Henry VIII's 'rough wooing', in which Henry Tudor attempted by open warfare to arrange a marriage between the infant Queen Mary and his son Edward Tudor. This would have united the two kingdoms at a much earlier date, than in fact came to pass. Matthew played his part by sacking and pillaging the Clyde and Ayrshire coasts

as a contribution to the 'rough wooing'. That led to the infant Mary's flight to France for her protection and to her subsequent marriage the Dauphin.

Because he had entered into such an unpatriotic agreement with the English King, Lennox was declared guilty of treason by the Scots Parliament in 1545. His estates, including Crookston, were forfeited and he very wisely fled to England. The result was that Henry Stewart, his infant son, was largely raised in England and he and his mother, Lady Lennox, were in due course detained there for years because of Queen Elizabeth's fear that they might become rival claimants to her throne. It was not until 1565 that the young Henry Stewart was permitted by Elizabeth to return to Scotland. He was not quite twenty-two, whilst Mary was twenty-three.

Mary was now at the mercy of her cousin, Elizabeth, from whom she urgently, but naïvely, sought refuge.

Perhaps it was because she was lonely that the young widow of the Dauphin took to Darnley as soon as she saw him. The young Queen was undoubtedly attracted to him with her sense of romance, love and beauty. He was very tall, a good attribute in the eyes of a woman who was herself 6 feet tall. He was fair, strong and athletic looking, and according to one observer of the time 'beardless and baby-faced.' Mary and Henry now spent a lot of time together and it's not too hard to accept that they might have spent some of that time at Crookston during this early romantic interlude.

Heir to the crowns of two nations

As far as everyone was concerned Henry Stewart was a sensible choice as a husband. His mother was the childless Queen Elizabeth's cousin and so a match would combine two possible heirs to England's crown. No one could refuse to admit the claims of a child born to such a couple and as far as the stumbling block of religion was concerned, Darnley suited both sides, for his mother Lady Lennox was a Catholic whilst Darnley, himself, had later embraced the Protestant faith. Everyone's ambitions were finally realized when the pair married on 29 July 1565 and later their child, James, became the heir to the crowns of two nations. The Stewarts of Crookston had finally produced a future king, destined not only to rule Scotland as James VI but to rule England as well as James I.

When the Battle of Langside took place, Mary had just made a daring escape from her imprisonment at Loch Leven Castle and had rallied her forces to take on the Regent Murray. Most historians support the view, that Mary witnessed the resulting battle from Court Knowe, at Cathcart Castle, or from another small hill above the battlefield. After her consort, Henry Stewart, Lord

Darnley, was murdered at Kirk o' Fields his father, Mathew, turned against the Queen and took up arms against her.

Forces against Mary

He joined the Regent's forces against Mary on the battlefield at Langside, just a few miles ride from his castle at Crookston. On the other hand, Sir John Maxwell, Laird of Nether Pollok and one of Mary's adherents was sent a letter calling him to her banner. He was created a baronet in the course of that eventful day, possibly the recipient of the last exercise of her power as Queen of Scotland.

At this point, so the story goes, that having been advised by her lords, at a council of war, that a flight to Dumbarton was impossible, the impetuous Mary is said to have pulled an ebony crucifix from her breast and placed it in the palm of her hand and passionately declared angrily to her supporters, "by the cross in my loof, I will this day fight the Regent and I will be there tonight in spite of you traitors".

From that time on that spot has been known as Crossmyloof. It had always seemed an unusual name for a familiar place to us children living in Pollok, but the story of how it got its strange name was unknown to most of us then. Crossmyloof was simply where we went to on the bus, along Pollokshaws Road, to get to the Crossmyloof ice-skating rink, near to Queen's Park, named after Mary. Six thousand men had mustered under

Mary's loyal Lords but unfortunately for her cause, these allies had not the military talent to match their loyalty.

Nothing was left but for Mary to flee

The Regent, her half-brother, Murray, intercepted her forces at Langside, as the latter were marching to Dumbarton. The Queen's men were out-generalled and out-fought in less than half an hour. Three hundred of her army fell in battle and another four hundred were taken prisoner. Nothing was left but for Mary to flee. She was by this time standing less than half a mile from Murray's victorious troops, and there was no way she could get past them to Dumbarton.

Instead, the faithful and courageous Mary Seaton dressed herself as the Queen to lead astray her pursuers. Mary was escorted by the Lord Herries, Fleming, Livingstone and the young Douglas's and rode nearly a hundred miles, non-stop; to reach the coast of the Solway, near Dumbarton. She embarked on a fishing smack that took her to Workington on the Cumberland coast. Mary was now at the mercy of her cousin, Elizabeth, from whom she urgently, but naïvely, sought refuge.

Instead, she was imprisoned at Fotheringhay Castle for 19 years, before her execution.

*Tis past - she rests - the scaffold hath
been swept, the headman's guilty axe to
rust consigned.*

Hopes to increase film production for Scotland



An artist's impression of the film studio.

PSL Land, the company behind a £250m plan to build Scotland's first film studio complex in 2017, now hopes to go ahead on a site at Saltersgate, near Dalkeith, in the southeast of Edinburgh.

A planning application has been filed with Midlothian Council for a mixed-use development comprising film and TV studios including workshops, offices, backlot, trailer park and film academy, along with associated infrastructure.

The company's first choice for the International TV & Film Production Facility of Scotland, also known as Pentland Studios, was Straiton, on the southern outskirts of the Scottish capital. However, this had to be abandoned after a local farmer, who faced eviction, successfully objected to the development in the Scottish Land Court.

The new plan arose after Scottish developer Buccleuch Estates approached PSL Land to suggest the Saltersgate site,

which is about four miles from Straiton and close to Dalkeith Country Park.

Nick Waugh, commercial property director at the commercial arm of Buccleuch Estates, said: "We recognise the importance of this ambitious project, and are delighted to play a role in helping deliver a world-class film studio to Scotland that will inevitably transform the Scottish creative industry and our reputation as a filming location across the globe."

The development will include six sound stages, two backlots, a 180-room hotel, and 50,000 square feet of workshop space. The teaching building mentioned in the application will be the result of a collaboration with Edinburgh Napier University aimed at establishing a Scottish Film Academy.

The industry has longed for suitable studio space in Scotland as major film and television products may have used Scotland in film the production has often happened in other parts of the UK.

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



The Gemrock Museum in Galloway.



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.

Greetings from Scotland where the winter weather is about to hit hard. Indeed, by the time you read this we may be in the grip of an Arctic blast. The bulbs that are peeping out of the ground are in for a shock...

And talking of things that grow. We lost five large trees when Storm Ali hit last autumn - and now another ancient Douglas Fir has bitten the dust. The towering tree was bending ominously by the drive and this month a tree surgeon arrived to examine the thing.

It looked like it was well past its sell-by date. And it was. Our expert confirmed our worst fears and urged its removal. But as he made the first cut with a giant saw, the thing seemed to have a mind of its own. It twisted and fell in the wrong direction. Right on top of the nearby rhododendron bushes.

Rhododendron Ponticum

Mercifully no-one was hurt. And thankfully the unfortunate plants it crashed down on were not the specimen kind. No, these were the common-or-garden 'ponticum'. Purple and as a picture for a couple of weeks of the year. But generally considered an all-round invader.

I may have told you before: 'Rhododendron Ponticum' was brought across to Scotland in the mid-1700s as an ornamental plant. It probably came from Spain, or Portugal and it ended up in gardens, parks and estates, especially in Scotland where the soil was very much to its liking. Now it is classed as one of the country's most threatening non-native invasive plants. Vast swathes of Scottish land are covered by these bushes.

In short, our decimated shrubbery is not a great loss to mankind. Anyhow, our tree expert apologises. He clears away the worst of the broken branches and leaves. But substantial debris remains. Over the lawns is a mass of broken twigs and greenery. So, the chief and I don our outdoor gear and get stuck in. We beaver away. Backs bent, arms filled with foliage.

The Gemrock Museum

It is a far cry from the leisurely film shoot later in the week. The Gemrock Museum in Galloway is one of Scotland's most iconic exhibition centres.

Here are rocks, crystals, fossils – and gems. It is literally a treasure trove. Here are some four thousand artefacts, some real, but one definitely not. It is a replica of what was once the biggest nugget of gold ever found. The 'Welcome Stranger' was found in Victoria, Australia, in 1869.

It weighed around 173 pounds and was worth a fortune, although I understand that this record has recently been beaten – again by a find in Australia.

Most the artefacts at the Gemrock Museum, though, are real and I like the colourful crystals - and the stories behind them. They say that amethyst was traditionally worn by holy men to promote piety. Indeed, this purple sparkler was rumoured to ward off drunkenness. Agate, meanwhile, was used to cleanse the mind and was rumoured to bring good luck and fortune. Rose quartz gave inner peace to anyone who touched it whilst fluorite was used to ease rheumatism.

Creetown

The Gemrock museum is sited in the village of Creetown which is an appropriate place. Creetown was once famed for its stone. From here, local granite blasted from the nearby hills was shipped all over the world. Various UK docks, including Greenock and Leith harbours, were built with these hardy white blocks.

It was said you never saw an overweight Scottish quarryman and in Victorian times hundreds of men toiled in the local quarry. They arrived with their picks and shovels and were rapidly followed by their families. The industry swelled the population of this south-west coastal village to three thousand.

Today the quarry is no longer worked, and the village is home to six hundred. It could be a forgotten place. Yet Creetown is a real example of how a community can regenerate itself with local businesses, a thriving arts and crafts centre – and a much-visited museum.

Dundee

Another place that is on the up is the port of Dundee. Here in Scotland's fourth largest city the waterfront is being renovated and redesigned. And in pride of place is the new museum of decorative arts and design – the Victoria & Albert. A sister of the main V&A in London (named after Queen Victoria and Prince Albert) this stunning modernistic building has been ten years in the planning and has cost eight million pounds.

Inside are the Scottish design galleries with thousands of Scottish objects on display, including the famous Oak Room created by the Glasgow architect, Charles Rennie Mackintosh. From tartan to swimsuits, to engineering designs. From a designer suit worn by Marlene Dietrich as she arrived in America on board a cruise-ship in 1950. It makes Dundee a must-see destination. And the chief and I plan to get up there soon to have a good look round. We will report back!

Caithness Broch Project

Caithness Broch Project is looking to build an Iron Age roundhouse in Caithness. The reconstruction will use ancient methods that built similar mysterious structures in area, something that hasn't been done in 2,000 years. Brochs are uniquely Scottish towers, built during the Iron Age (around 2,000 years

ago) and mainly around the Highlands and Islands of the country. Caithness, however, can lay claim to having more brochs than anywhere else in Scotland - it is the 'home of the broch'. These towers are incredible and awe-inspiring buildings - some would have reached up to 40 feet (13m) high. Double walled, sloping in profile and with

features such as corbelled cells, staircases, wall voids, hearths, stone 'furniture' and mysterious ritual wells, these structures were real feats of architecture and engineering.

The first broch in Scotland in over 2,000 years

Kenneth McElroy, director with Caithness Broch Project, said: "The project design brief document will help to inform and refine a number of points concerning the project - from architectural design to sustainability. It is a vital component in the development of our plan to build the first broch in Scotland in over 2,000 years. Bone combs, painted pebbles, polished discs which might have been used as mirrors and a skull fragment with three holes drilled through have been found in Caithness brochs.

"All these things point towards the idea brochs were used for domestic purposes. But to make the Caithness broch memorable to tourists we need to make it large. There are [replica] roundhouses popping up all over England and Scotland, so to give people a reason to visit Caithness we want to make this one impressive and iconic. Caithness had more brochs than anywhere else in Scotland. We don't know why, and this is something we would like to find out. Caithness has not been subject to a lot of archaeological investigation compared to places such as Orkney. Rebuilding a broch, using the same techniques as the original builders, the team hope it will provide an insight into how Iron Age people lived their lives in Caithness."

Between 200 and 300 broch's are thought to exist in Caithness, the highest number found in any Scottish region.

For details on the Caithness Broch Project fundraiser see:
www.crowdfunder.co.uk/lets-build-a-broch.



An artist's impression of the proposed Caithness Broch. Photo: Caithness Broch Project.



CELTICCORNERSTORE.COM

THE MIDWEST'S PREMIER SCOTTISH AND IRISH SHOP

CUSTOM KILTS • KILT RENTAL • HIGHLAND OUTFITTERS
JEWELRY • GIFTS • PIPES & DRUMS • HIGHLAND DANCE

SAVE 5% ON WEB ORDERS
SCOTTISH BANNER DISCOUNT CODE: SB5
SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY

513-528-5578
SALES@CELTICCORNERSTORE.COM

The Surprise of Loch Awe Saint Conan's Kirk

All images by Martin Haddington.



Nested on the banks of stunning Loch Awe, the Grade A listed Saint Conan's Kirk has been named as one of Scotland's top 10 buildings. It is steeped in family history, unconventional approaches to design and magical stories. The kirk was built by the amateur architect Walter Campbell of the wealthy Blythswood family, so his mother had a grand church close by. Now a £100,000 grant is helping this unique building secure its future as one of the area's leading attractions as Judy Vickers explains.

The view has been described as one of the most beautiful in the Highlands. Looking out from the sundial terrace of the church, Loch Awe stretches away in front, surrounded by magnificent mountains, while the woodland-enclosed site of an ancient monastery lies behind a scattering of islands to the right, one of which, Innischonain, was once the home of the Campbell family.

A soaring church named after a historic saint, an old family name in a tucked-away part of the Highlands – it all has a centuries-old feel. Yet one of the most surprising things about St Conan's Kirk, amongst a host of unexpected treasures, is that this architectural gem was only completed in 1930.

Built by an eccentric wealthy amateur architect, St Conan's is now becoming a popular visitor attraction. The Grade-A listed building was voted one of the top 10 Scottish buildings of the last 100 years in a 2016 RIAS public poll and, with work about to begin revitalising and repairing the property, thanks to a £100,000 National Lottery and Historic Environment Scotland grant, the church looks like having as bright a future as it has a curious past.

The Blythswood family

The story begins in the 1870s with the coming of the Callander and Oban Railway. Prior to that, despite the

presence of the Stirling-Oban road, the north shore of the loch was a lonely and empty place. This increased accessibility prompted Walter Douglas Campbell, a younger son of the Blythswood family, to buy the island of Innischonain from the Marquis of Breadalbane and build a mansion house on it for himself, his sister, Helen, and his mother.

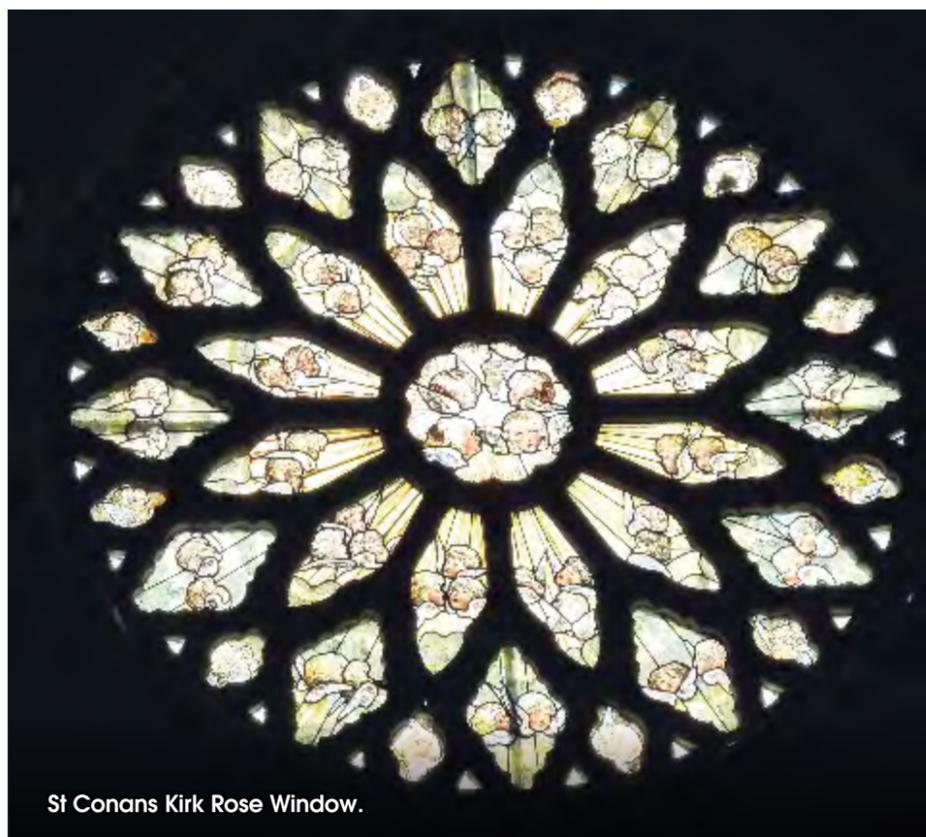
Peter Hennessy, chair of the Friends of St Conan's, explains: "The Blythswood family had enormous holdings of land in Glasgow, and interests in mining, coal, iron, and shipbuilding in Renfrew so they were pretty wealthy. He was the 4th son of Lord Blythswood, he came up to Loch Awe as part of the Victorian drive towards the Highlands started by Victoria herself."

As well as his talents as an architect, surveyor and engineer, Walter was also a gifted playwright and he performed at Balmoral for the Queen as well as becoming friendly with her son Prince Leopold.

"He built the house for his mother and sister - the folk story is that his mother wanted to go to church but



St Conans Kirk from the Gardens.



St Conans Kirk Rose Window.



St Conans Kirk interior

not have to travel through the Pass of Brander, so he said he would build her a church," says Mr Hennessy.

And when he said he would build her a church, he meant it rather more literally than most wealthy landowners of the time - he designed and oversaw the building of the church himself. It was begun in 1881, with the first phase completed in 1886, very much in the tradition of Scottish Presbyterian churches. But just over ten years later, he began a second phase where he let his imagination run wild.

"He applied for a number of church commissions but didn't get them so thought: 'Damn it, I can do it myself'. He was wealthy enough that he could indulge himself," says Mr Hennessy.

A soaring church named after a historic saint, an old family name in a tucked-away part of the Highlands – it all has a centuries-old feel. Yet one of the most surprising things about St Conan's Kirk, amongst a host of unexpected treasures, is that this architectural gem was only completed in 1930.

It is said that he tried to include examples of every type of ecclesiastical architecture found in Scotland, and that is why there is a circle of standing stones at the entrance gate. It is built mainly in Norman or Romanesque style although incorporating both early and later examples of that style – although the larger square tower is Saxon with stones decorated with a fern-like pattern.

Robert the Bruce

The stones for the church were rolled down the hillside from Ben Cruachan and large boulders form the piers for the chancel arch. The timbers for the mini-cloister – a gem in itself - came from the wrecks of two famous battleships, the Caledonia and the Duke of Wellington.

"Walter was closely connected with the Duke of Argyll and Iona and he also went to Mull and sketched Pictish and Celtic gravestones, and those influences can be seen in the details in the church," says Mr Hennessy.

Pieces of carving from Iona Abbey are built into the north wall of the south aisle, and the church's close connection with that historic island mean visitors often make a point of stopping at St Conan's on their way there.

Other curious yet beautiful highlights include stalls carved from Spanish chestnut representing the ten clans which once dominated the area, and a large organ screen carved by the multi-talented Walter himself with grotesque monsters and heavenly creatures.

The church is unusual for a Church of Scotland building – although it was never adopted by the Kirk and remains a chapel of ease – in that it has a number of chapels, including St Conval's Chapel, below which, in a vault, lie the remains of Walter and his sister Helen, St Bride's Chapel with its Levantine marble slabs, and, most famously, the Bruce Chapel, named after Robert the Bruce, one of Scotland's best-loved kings. It was a manoeuvre on the hillside above the kirk that helped Bruce win one of his most decisive victories at the Pass of Brander; the chapel also contains one of the king's bones, a 19th-century bell from the Skerryvore Lighthouse, a clear



St Conans Kirk Crypt Gates.

glass window, originally from St Mary's Kirk in South Leith from 1483, and a larger-than-life effigy of the king himself.

Lochside kirk

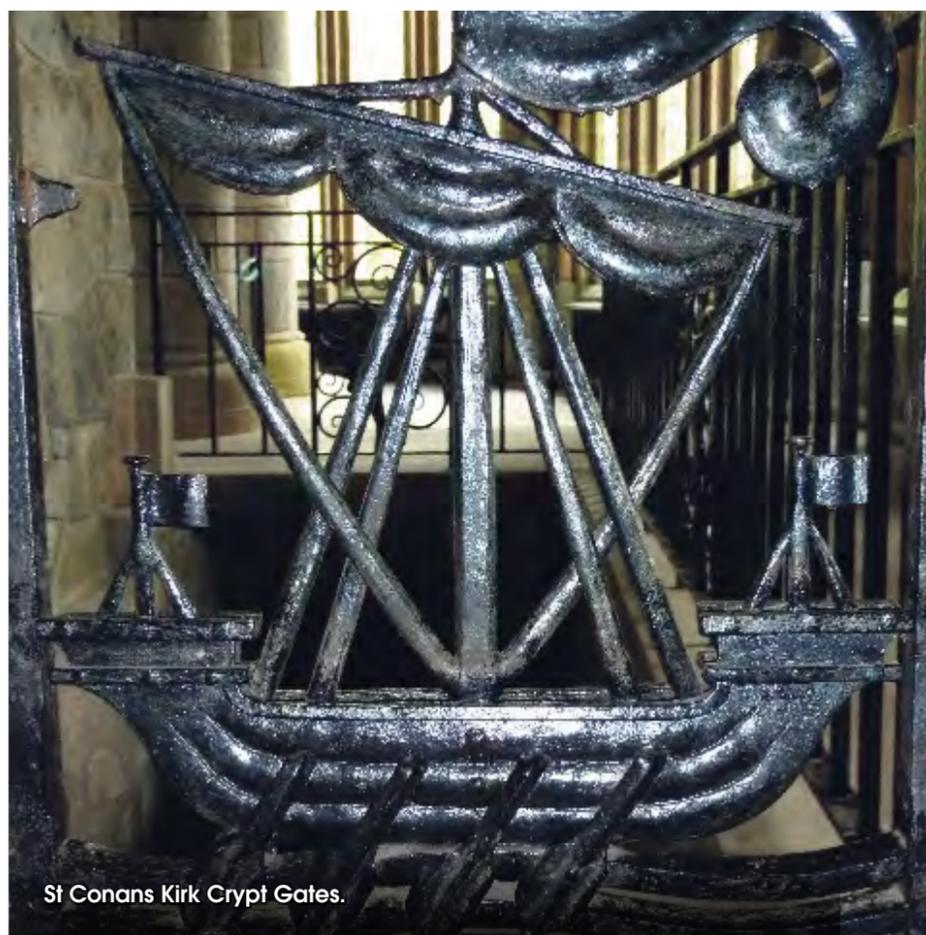
Other details include a painted-glass window with figures of angels and cherubs which Helen Campbell designed and made, a Celtic Cross erected in memory of Walter's mother, a font in the model of a Breton fishing boat, gargoyles on the roof in the shape of a dog chasing hares, and metal rabbit head spouts for the drainage system. The kirk was named for St Conan, a local bishop who was said to have rapped the knuckles of the Devil.

Walter died in 1914 and the work on the chapel was continued by his sister until her death in 1927, when it passed into the ownership of trustees who completed the work in 1930. Just one church service a month is held there now but a few years

ago the Friends of St Conan's was formed with the aim of giving the kirk a broader and brighter future.

"We didn't want it just as a church with a small congregation; it needed a wider audience," explains Mr Hennessy. Work will begin this spring, using the £100,000 grant, to make essential repairs to the building, particularly the roof, as the first stage of a plan to create a visitor area and make St Conan's more of a community and tourist hub. Already, says Mr Hennessy, the church is becoming more popular with a string of community events, including meetings, exhibitions and musical concerts, as well as more wedding bookings and an increase in the numbers of tourists, all of whom are left astounded by the curious lochside kirk.

"People are always quite taken aback when they come," says Mr Hennessy. "It's just not something you expect to see in village of 220-odd people."



St Conans Kirk Crypt Gates.

A Royal Tragedy

Mary Queen of Scots

Saoirse Ronan as Mary Stuart.

MARY'S SIGNATURE
Mary's signature.

All images courtesy of Universal Pictures.

Mary Queen of Scots, starring Saoirse Ronan and Margot Robbie has had its Scottish premiere in Edinburgh following a special reception for the film's makers and stars at Edinburgh Castle hosted by the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. Directed by Josie Rourke, the film also stars a host of Scottish actors including Jack Lowden, David Tennant, Martin Compston and James McArdle.

Theatrical visionary Josie Rourke has made her film directorial debut with a powerful dramatisation of the incredible life of *Mary Queen of Scots*. Based on the ground-breaking book *Queen of Scots: The True Life of Mary Stuart* by Dr. John Guy, which uncovered new evidence about Mary and Elizabeth, the film retells the story of these two Queens in a way that speaks to the experience of women in the modern world.

Immortalised by history

Born a Catholic at a time of religious turmoil, as an infant Mary is sent for her safety to Catholic France. At 15, Mary marries the heir to the French throne. Queen of France at 16, at 18 Mary is widowed, defies pressure to remarry and instead returns to her native Scotland to reclaim her rightful throne. In Mary's absence, Protestants have gained control of Scotland, and her half-brother, Moray, has ruled in Mary's place. The powerful John Knox leads Scotland's Protestants and believes that a woman monarch is against nature and God's will. In England, Mary's cousin Queen Elizabeth faces pressure to marry and produce an heir. In Scotland, Mary faces conspiracy, civil rebellion and a hatred of women that brings her sexual conduct into constant question.

Mary has, by birth, a rival claim to Elizabeth's throne. The two Queens have a unique fascination with each other: only they can understand what it is like to rule in their land as women. Mary offers friendship and a treaty that settles their competing claims, but the bloody and intense politics of their courts keeps them apart.

Mary defies her advisors and England's will to marry and produce an heir to both kingdoms, her son James I. Following his birth, there is again the possibility of alliance and peace, but Mary's enemies are too numerous, and Elizabeth witnesses, with mounting horror, the cruelty, conspiracy and violence of Mary's court.

Both women make very different choices about marriage, children and leadership. Through those choices, each woman has been immortalised by history.

Filmed across Scotland

The film was shot across locations in Scotland in 2017, including Strathdon, Glencoe, Glen Feshie, Blackness Castle and Seacliff, East Lothian.

Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland said, "The Scottish premiere of *Mary Queen of Scots* provides another opportunity to showcase Scotland as a world-class location for productions. Securing film and TV productions offers significant benefits to the Scottish economy and job opportunities for our skilled crew. It's good for tourism too as our stunning scenery features on screen. Through Screen Scotland, we are increasing support for the sector and seizing emerging opportunities to ensure the industry in Scotland continues to go from strength to strength."

Irish actress Saoirse Ronan has been committed to play Mary Stuart for years, originally signing on to a much earlier iteration of a biopic of the ill-fated queen when she was just 18 years old. "Even then, I always felt a real connection to Scotland and the history, probably because I think there are so many similarities between Scottish and Irish history," says Ronan, now 24.



Margot Robbie as Queen Elizabeth.



“The idea of playing a queen who represents so much for the Scottish people and had such a story to tell was really exciting. I believed it was a story that needed to be told. As an actor, it was a brilliant role to get, and I knew how lucky I was to have been entrusted with it. That wasn’t something I was going to abandon. I always had faith it would come together at the right time.”

The turbulent life of the charismatic Mary

Mary Queen of Scots explores the turbulent life of the charismatic Mary Stuart. Queen of France at 16 and widowed at 18, Mary defies pressure to remarry. Instead, she returns to her native Scotland to reclaim her rightful throne. But Scotland and England fall under the rule of the compelling Elizabeth I. Each young Queen beholds her “sister” in fear and fascination. Rivals in power and in love, and female regents in a masculine world, the two must decide how to play the game of marriage versus independence. Determined to rule as much more than a figurehead, Mary asserts her claim to the English throne, threatening Elizabeth’s sovereignty. Betrayal, rebellion, and conspiracies within each court imperil both thrones - and change the course of history.

Production spend in Scotland has reached records levels of £95million. An increase of over 300% in the past decade, the figures reflect the growing strength and confidence of Scotland’s film and tv sector as increased incentives like Scotland’s Production Growth Fund, new funds from Scottish Government coupled with existing UK tax incentives, are bringing unprecedented international interest in Scotland as a place to film.

Jenni Steele, Film and Creative Industries Manager at VisitScotland, said, “Scotland’s history and culture is a huge driver for visitors from across the globe, with the life of Mary Queen of Scots a fascinating part of that. We’re excited to see Saoirse Ronan and Margot Robbie take on the iconic roles of Mary and Elizabeth in this latest big-screen interpretation of Mary Stuart’s life, especially as Scotland’s landscapes and built heritage appear on screen. With its mix of political intrigue and stunning imagery of Scotland, *Mary Queen of Scots* could offer further inspiration for visitors to explore the country and the many real historical locations linked to the 16th century monarch.”

The film’s Scottish Premiere followed Margot Robbie’s BAFTA nomination for the Best Supporting Actress in her role as Elizabeth I, alongside Alexandra Byrne for Best Costume Design and Jenny Shircore for Best Make Up/Hair.

Did you know?

- Mary Queen of Scots was born on December 8, 1542. She was just six days old when her father, King James V, died, and she ascended to the Scottish throne. She spent most of her childhood in France, her mother’s native country, while Scotland was ruled by regents. In 1558, she married the French Dauphin who became King Francis II of France in 1559. But Mary was only Queen Consort for a year before Francis died. She travelled back to Scotland to take up her throne in 1561.
- Elizabeth I, born 7 September 1533, was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn (who was executed when Elizabeth was two years old). Henry was succeeded on the English throne by Elizabeth’s half-brother Edward VI, then her cousin Lady Jane Grey (for nine days) followed by her half-sister, the Catholic Mary (who was Henry’s first child with Catherine of Aragon). Elizabeth became Queen in 1558.



IN SCOTLAND TODAY



2018 record year for Nessie sightings

Figures have been released by the Loch Ness Monster Sightings Register that 2018 was a record year for “Nessie” spotting. Statistics showed the world famous monster was spotted by 13 people in 2018, up from 11 in 2017. Sightings occurred throughout the year by people from the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia and Scotland. The most recorded recent sightings took place in 1996 with 17, with previous record years of over 20 sightings taking place in the 1930’s and 1960’s.

The first recorded sighting of the Loch Ness Monster was in 565 AD. Nessie was said to have appeared from the deep Loch Ness waters. Here she snatched up and ate the servant, St Columba, before being forced back into the waters by his very self. Over the years, more rumours spread far and wide of other such ‘strange events’ at Loch Ness. Many believed in the water Kelpies and the Each-Uisge, (meaning ‘water horse’) a water spirit in Scottish folklore. These ancient Scottish myths about such water creatures contributed to the notion of a creature living in the depths of Loch Ness. There have been a total of 1106 sightings of the mythical monster since it was first spotted by St Columba over 1000 years ago.

The St Magnus Graffiti Project



Volunteers have been invited by the Orkney Archaeology Society (OAS) to help record nearly 900 years of graffiti that has been recorded at the historic St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall. Workshops for volunteers have now begun to allow volunteers to be trained in the skill of

building recording in this exciting new project to record 870 years of mark-making in the Cathedral. These sessions are being run by professional archaeologists, who will also be advising the project throughout. Once trained volunteers will be working in the cathedral and recording/photographing and writing up all marks, Graffiti and other carvings that have been made in the building over the hundreds of years. Full access to the building, including behind the scenes and to places where the public are usually not allowed.

Martin Carruthers, Chairman of OAS said; “This is a really exciting project and something a bit different for the society. St Magnus Cathedral is such a well-loved building in Orkney, it’s a fabulous opportunity to learn more about the people who have made their mark their over the centuries. As well as the recording work in the Cathedral we will also be training a group of volunteers in the skills to record buildings and it would be great if these skills went on to be used in other historical buildings across Orkney.”

Having a Ball with Cinderella



In January the Scottish Ballet made the first of five wishes come true as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations in 2019. Lily Douglas, aged 11, was surprised by Scottish Ballet Principal dancers who revealed that her dream of dancing with the company, taking a backstage tour, and watching Cinderella would come true. An avid dancer and a huge ballet fan, Lily has been battling a form of childhood cancer called ‘Ewing’s Sarcoma’ and has recently

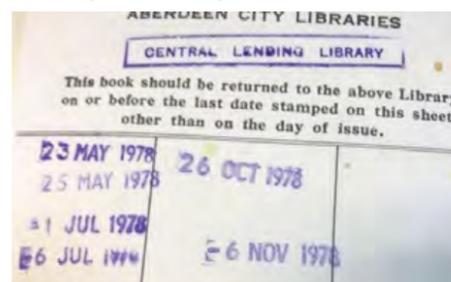
been undergoing rounds of treatment. A family friend submitted a wish on Lily’s behalf to our Make a Wish campaign for her to spend the day with the company.

Thinking she was attending a workshop at Theatre Royal Glasgow, Principal dancers Bethany Kingsley-Garner, Constance Devernay and Sophie Martin surprised her and announced that she would, in fact, be welcomed to watch the company take their morning class, before joining them on stage. Dame Darcey Bussell greeted Lily with a special video message before she was taken on an exclusive backstage tour to the dancers’ dressing rooms and to see the sets, costumes, and props.

On stage, Principal dancer Christopher Harrison, dressed as The Prince, presented Lily with her own custom, bejewelled pointe shoe, before she and her family and friends took to their seats to watch the magical performance of Christopher Hampson’s Cinderella.

Jane Douglas, Lily’s mother said: “I can’t believe Lily’s wish was chosen. When I found out I was over the moon; it was so difficult to keep the news a secret, but the surprise was worth it. From the minute we arrived, we were made to feel so welcome by Scottish Ballet and it was an incredible experience. Lily had an amazing day, and she loved being part of the company.”

Book comes back to Aberdeen library after 40 years



It doesn’t quite beat the record of 64 years but someone has returned a book to the Aberdeen Central Library

which was 40 years overdue. Crime novel *A Touch of Danger* by James Jones was last taken out in 1978, the book is about an American detective who runs into danger while operating in a Greek island. The library said; “Perhaps it was a New Year’s Resolution to return any library books to clear those shelves. If you have any overdue items, whether it is 40 days or 40 years, you can return them to any library in the city. Don’t worry, we are very nice and understanding, plus fines are capped at a maximum of £3.60 per book!”

The book’s reappearance follows the return of another title in July which was 64 years overdue. J M Barrie’s *A Window In Thrums* made its way back to the Aberdeen Central Library from a charity shop in London, and now rests in a glass display case for posterity.

Edinburgh Council opens citywide TVL consultation



The City of Edinburgh Council has opened a citywide consultation on proposals for a Transient Visitor Levy (TVL) or ‘Tourist Tax’. Having conducted detailed research, informal engagement with industry stakeholders and an in-depth survey of residents and visitors, the Council last month set out key aspects of how a scheme could look.

Now, views are being sought from all city stakeholders but, in particular, the hospitality and tourism sector, plus city businesses and investors, culture partners, visitors and residents, concerning the best possible arrangements for introducing a TVL in Edinburgh.

The draft proposal suggested a charge of either 2% or £2 per room per night, chargeable all year round on all forms of accommodation, including short-term lets, but capped at seven nights. Respondents are being asked for their views on the details of the scheme but also importantly what any income raised should be spent on.

The Council sees the purpose of this fund as being to invest in and manage the consequences of the future success of tourism within the city and respondents will also be asked to identify things they feel could benefit from the estimated to be at least £11m per annum that would be raised.

Figures show 85% of respondents to a City of Edinburgh Council survey backed the move, including more than half of accommodation providers. The results suggested 90% of residents are supportive of a tourist tax, while 51% of Edinburgh accommodation providers, who would have to enforce the proposal, also support it.

HM Convict Prison Peterhead *From housing criminals to a museum*



By: Kenny MacAskill



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

Photos courtesy of Peterhead Prison Museum.



Guard muster, 1952.

From Alcatraz to the Tower of London there are infamous prisons which now form visitor attractions. Scotland's likewise but it's not in any of the major castles with historic goals or even in one of the major cities with gruesome dungeons to frighten young and old. Instead it's located in the north east of Scotland and in an area more famous for farming and fishing but which over the years has seen Peterhead become synonymous with Scotland's most forbidding penal institution.

Of course, many of the ancient castles still possess their medieval goals and the cities have their modern grisly venues. Other sites have played historic roles in imprisonment with Fort George near Inverness housing the United Irishmen who were neither executed nor transported after the 1798 rebellion. But it's still better known for its construction to suppress the Highlands and repel invaders after defeat at Culloden ended the 1745 Jacobite rebellion.

Scotland's most hardened criminals

For throughout my lifetime and for generations before Peterhead was the place that sent a chill up the spine of many



H.M.C.P. Peterhead. Civil Guard Corps c.1906

and instilled foreboding amongst some of Scotland's most hardened criminals. It was there that sentences were served by Scotland's most notorious prisoners and were overseen by some of the most experienced Governors.

As Justice Secretary I visited it and was responsible for its closure in 2013 with its replacement by a new institution adjacent to the former site. Neither the new prison nor indeed any other are particularly welcoming places but the old HMP Peterhead was especially cold and unforgiving. Even as an escorted visitor it sent a shudder through me.

All though that now remains is an old naval bell and part of the old site which now houses a museum to tell its story. Its notoriety is perhaps understandable as it was Scotland's first convict prison when built in the second half of the eighteenth century and throughout its lifetime it was used for holding the most serious offenders before latterly specialising in dealing with sex offenders.

Its inmates have included Oscar Slater, the victim of a great miscarriage of justice before the first world war, John McLean the revolutionary and anti-war activist and Johnny Remensky, the safe breaker freed to assist the second world war effort. 1988 even saw a riot in which prison officers were held hostage and military special forces were required to be used to secure their release. Walking around the prison I saw graffiti and the names of many who had been notorious prisoners when I was younger and then a practising defence lawyer.

A distinct Scottish institution

Now though what remains tells not just of some individuals but of Scotland's penal policy over the years. Historically prisons were local and sentences were short, Scotland had up to 170 at one time.

Most are long gone, though, a few town museums still exist and many a street name tells of the former historic site in a town. After all they dealt with debt and less serious offences, more serious crimes saw perpetrators executed or transported to the colonies. Initially to America and the West Indies and after the War of Independence to Australia.

Only just under 8000 Scots were transported to Australia though more had gone elsewhere before then. Transportation was for 7 or 15 years and Botany Bay became the destination for the prison ships, that carried their miserable human cargo around the globe. However, when Australia declined to accept any more a new system required to be devised. Convict prisons opened in England, such as the notorious Dartmoor but there were others including Chatham, Rochester, and Parkhurst. Scots convicted of serious crimes were sent there. Banishment to a foreign soil was avoided but they were harsh institutions with hard labour the norm.

As time passed and numbers rose there were calls for a distinct Scottish institution. That didn't come about through a desire for penal reform but rather that some thought Scotland was missing out on its free convict labour.

For throughout my lifetime and for generations before Peterhead was the place that sent a chill up the spine of many and instilled foreboding amongst some of Scotland's most hardened criminals. It was there that sentences were served by Scotland's most notorious prisoners and were overseen by some of the most experienced Governors.

Some politicians demanded that the Scottish prisoners be used in Scotland not sent south. A commission was established and various options were considered though with a preference for a North Sea port and which narrowed down to either Peterhead or Montrose, with the Aberdeenshire town winning out.

Part of Scotland's history

The North East can be a cold and bitter place in winter and conditions for convicts were austere with the climate only one of the hardships to be faced. Building started in the mid 1880's with work by paid labourers but soon thereafter the first batch of convicts arrived to help in the construction.



They built the breakwater which would become the harbour, along with the rest of the prison that was to hold them. Initially there were just over 100 prisoners but that soon rose to the normal quota of 350, though a peak of 450 was reached in 1911. The granite from which the port and prison were made was extracted from a quarry at nearby Boddam, with a small railway line being built to take the prisoners to and from there.

The Naval heritage from transportation saw warders initially carrying cutlasses which was a ceremonial dress maintained by the Governor for years after it ceased to be an integral part of an officer's uniform. An early rule was that convicts couldn't approach a warder closer than a cutlass length. In due course cutlasses were dispensed with but carbines were acquired with warders patrolling armed with rifles. That continued until 1933 when an officer appears to have wounded himself and the practice ceased.

Warders initially were recruited from the military but in due course the prison, along with fishing, became the main employment in the town. Several generations often serving which applied to Governors as well. Whilst other communities opposed institutions being built, Peterhead actually fought against theirs being closed, which it was a factor in the new HMP Grampian being sited there.

Less well known than the likes of Alcatraz it's still part of Scotland's history and has a story to tell.

HM Convict Prison, Peterhead which officially opened in 1888 and now forms part of the Admiralty Gateway. Peterhead, once known as the most notorious prison in Scotland and the location of the only time the S.A.S were used in Britain to end a domestic siege after an officer was held hostage on the roof tops for 4 days. For more information on the prison and tours see: www.peterheadprisonmuseum.com



CALLING THE CLANS

Welcome to the *Scottish Banner's Calling the Clans* section. Our "Classified" 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.

President: Alistair Cameron
cameron490@ozemail.com.au

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

www.clan-cameron.org.au



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; Dhai; 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 Australia

"under the patronage of the High Council of the Chiefs of Clan Donald"

High Commissioner Mr Lachlan Macdonald
State Commissioners
NSW Mr Lachlan Macdonald
QLD Mr A. Neil Macdonald
SA Ms Therese McCutcheon
Vic Mr Norman A Macdonald
WA Ms Pamela McDonald

secretary.clan donald australia@gmail.com
There is no joy without Clan Donald

Clan Douglas Society of North America

Recognized as Septs & Allied Families

Agnew	Crockette	Harkness	Pringle
Bell	Dalyell	Home	Rowell
Blackadder	Dalzell	Hume	Rowle
Blackett	Deal	inglis	Rule
Blacklock	Dick	Kilgore	Rutherford
Blackstock	Dickey	Kirkpatrick	Sandilands
Blackwood	Dickson	Kirkpatrick	Sandlin
Blaylock	Dixon	Kirkland	Simms
Breckinridge	Drysdale	Lockberly	Soule
Brown	Forest	Lockery	Sterrett
Brownlee	Forrester	Lockhart	Syme
Carmichael	Foster	MacGuffey	Symington
Carruthers	Galbraith	MacGuffock	Troup
Cavan	Gilpatric	Maxwell	Turnbull
Cavers	Glendenning	McKittrick	Weir
Cleland	Glenn	Moffat	Young
Cledenon	Hamilton	Morton	Younger

Visit our website: www.clan douglassociety.org
Jim Morton, Secretary
4115 Bent Oak Court, Douglasville, GA 30135

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 septs, their descendants, and their friends. Recognized septs 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@ccsna.org)
Clan Campbell Society, (NA)
963 Plum Tree Lane, Fenton, MI 48430
www.ccsna.org

Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald
Ph: 0412 090990
Email: clan donald qld@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.clan donald qld.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 Dunbar of The House of Gospatric the Earl

Eligible blood or marriage, all descendants of The Gospatric: Dunbar, Clugston, Corbett, Dundas, Edgar, Grey, Heryng, Home, Knox, Nisbett, Peddie, Strickland, Washington, Wedderburn and all spelling variations of each name. Also all other families who were associated with The Gospatric.

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

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

Family of Bruce International, Inc., the only such organization recognized by the heredity 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 decent, or by recognized septs: 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
wrcrawford84@hotmail.com
www.clan Crawford assoc.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.

William H. McDaniel
High Commissioner, CDUSA
bill-mcdaniel@att.net

Edmonstone Clan Society

Invites membership to anyone of the surname or variations:- Edmiston/e, Edmondston, Edmanson, Edmeston, Edmonson, Edmundson, etc. Chieftain Sir Archibald Edmonstone Bt of Duntreath

Contact: Mal Edmiston
3 Laguna Ave
Kirwan, Qld, 4817
61 (0)7 4755 4370
m.edmiston@bigpond.com

Clan Buchanan Society International, Inc.

Invites membership of all Buchanans and of other septs:

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

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

Clan Cumming Society of the United States

www.clan cumming.us
info@clan cumming.us

c/o G. Allen Cummings
PO Box 6888
Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469-6888

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 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 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@bns1.net www.clanmacnicol.org
Canada: Jacques McNicoll 202 Berlioz Apt 203 Verdun, QC H3E 1B8 Canada Email: mcnicolclan@videotron.qc.ca www.clanmacnicolcanada.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, or 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 dalmore@xtra.co.nz phone +64 3 234 5098
USA: Ken Croker ckcroker@stl.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 BI 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 Macnachten 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 Macnaughtan +64 9 441 4984 macnaughtan@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
Christopher L. Gillmore Email: cgillmore@gmail.com
June Alvarez-Fetzer Treasurer/Membership 8516 Lookout Cliff Pass Austin, TX, 78737
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 Australia
 For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: John McNeil
 21 Laurel Avenue,
 Linden Park, SA 5065
 Email kisimul@chariot.net.au

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 Lloydrown Road
 Mebane, NC 27302

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, FL 32803

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, Membership, P.O. Box 230093, Montgomery AL 36123-0693. (334) 834-0612 Email rdmtnmgn@aol.com

Clan Maitland Society
 Chief: Ian Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale!
 We are all related! Contact your local society
North America: Rosemary Maitland Thorn rthomnvrpcan@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, Murrrie, Neaves, Piper, Pyper, Smail, Smaile, Small, Smeal, and Spalding.
In Canada contact: William J.M. Murray
 2000 Cambridge Ave #329
 Campbell River, BC V9H 0C3
In the U.S. contact: Robert W. Murray
 1001 Cordero Crescent
 Wyomissing, PA 19610-2738

Clan Scott Australia Group
Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch KT, K.B.E
Commissioner: Heather de Sylva
 Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs: Balwearie, Harden, Laidlaw, Geddes & Langlands.
 Info: Secretary, PO Box 320, Maclean, NSW, 2463
E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com
W: clanscottaustraliagroup.moonfruit.com

Clan MacNicol
Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac
 Contact Ross Nicolson
 10/377 North Rocks Rd.,
 Carlingford NSW 2118
www.clanmacnicol.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 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 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/



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia
For further details contact John: 0427 990 754
Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com
www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

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 Sinclair Australia

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

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

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

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 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

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

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER



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,
www.standrewsociety.com



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.stewartssociety.org



Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

Promoter of International Tartan Day, Brisbane, Queensland

PO Box 3188, South Brisbane 4101

Bi-Monthly Newsletter, All things Scottish

All persons of Scottish Descent welcome.

www.aussie-scots.org.au Ph 07 3359 8195

Email: secretary@aussie-scots.org.au,

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



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



Chicago Scots

Established in 1845, the Chicago Scots (aka Illinois Saint Andrew Society) is the oldest 501c3 in Illinois. The Chicago Scots organise programs and events to educate, entertain and nourish Scottish identity. The Chicago Scots operate Caledonia Senior Living, a unique retirement community located in the forest preserve a few miles west of downtown Chicago.

Tel: 708-447-5092
W: www.chicagoscots.org

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 Inc

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	Kilmore Celtic Festival
Brunswick Scottish Society	Maryborough Highland Society
Clan Donald Victoria	Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society
Clan Grant	Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Clan Mackenzie of Australia	Robert Burns Club of Camperdown
Clan Maclean Australia	Warmambool & District Caledonian Society
Clan Sinclair Association	Warmambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society
Clan Sutherland Australia	

Chief: Ms Ceilidh McKinna Robertson
President: Mr Douglas Pearce
Secretary: Mrs Jan Macdonald
T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930
E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
www.victorianscottishunion.com



Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

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



Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

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

Ruaraidh 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.

CANADA

FEBRUARY 2019

1 - 3 Brandon, MB - Scottish Pavilion

Hosted by Westman Scottish Association at Victoria Inn Brandon, 3550 Victoria Ave. Come enjoy Scottish food and drink, and entertainment. Info: www.facebook.com/events/343480396434140

1 - 3 Halifax, NS - Halifax Celtic Festival

Experience Celtic culture, language, music, dance, food and vendors. Free admission at Multipurpose Room at Halifax Forum 2901 Windsor St. Info: www.halifaxcelticfest.ca

9 Ottawa, ON - Ardrae Dancers of Ottawa Ball, Buffet, and Brunch

Dance with us to the exciting music of Torridon Scottish Country Dance Band at our annual Triple-B event... Ball, Buffet, Brunch. At the beautiful Glebe Community Centre, 175 Third Ave. Info: www.ardrae.org

9 Regina, SK - Mid-Winter Celtic Festival

Western Canada's "West of Mabou" taps into their strong Scottish, Irish, and Cape Breton roots to deliver a unique brand of high-energy, traditional music with a contemporary flare. Also performing The City of Regina Pipe Band. Info: www.crbp.org/mwcf

9 Victoria, BC - Annual February Weekend of Highland Dance

This is a joint highland dance weekend with the Victoria Highland Dance Association at Victoria High School Theatre. Info: dance@victoriahighlandgames.com

10 Calgary, AB - The Great Canadian Kilt Skate

Indelibly Scottish and undeniably Canadian. It speaks to the Scottish contribution to Canada's multicultural heritage, a chance to nurture your inner Scot. A spirit of Scottish fun and fortitude, and wear Canada's favourite colour - tartan! At Calgary Olympic Plaza, 228 8 Ave SE. Info: www.kiltskate.com

15 - 17 Edmonton, AB - Edmonton Caledonian Workshop & Ball

Scottish Country Dance event at the beautiful Château Lacombe Hotel for the 49th annual Workshop and Ball. Info: ann_mac@shaw.ca

16 Toronto, ON - RSCDS Toronto-The Tartan Ball

Dinner, Scottish dancing and more at The Old Mill, 21 Old Mill Rd. Info: www.dancescottish.ca/Tartan_Ball.html

16 Maxville, ON - 4th Annual Glengarry Pipe Band Bonspiel

Support the Glengarry Pipe Band at the Glengarry Curling Club with curling and fun. Info: amandaeva@live.com

21 Montreal, QC - WhiskyFête 2019

Montreal's most unique Scotch Tasting event, an evening of unique and rare whiskies at The Mount Royal Club. Info: www.whiskyfete.org

23 Maxville, ON - The Great Canadian Kilt Skate

Indelibly Scottish and undeniably Canadian. It speaks to the Scottish contribution to Canada's multicultural heritage, a chance to nurture your inner Scot. A spirit of Scottish fun and fortitude, and wear Canada's favourite colour - tartan at Maxville & District Sports Complex, 25 Fair St. Info: www.kiltskate.com

MARCH 2019

1 - 3 Belleville, ON - Belleville Scottish Country Dance Weekend

The Belleville Scottish Country Dance Society cordially invites you to our Annual Ball Weekend at the Masonic Temple. Info: David.Aston@david.aston@kos.net

10 Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day

This is a day initiated by The Bagpipe Society to celebrate the world's many bagpipes and piping traditions. Every March 10th you are invited to go out and play your pipes - anywhere, anyhow to anyone!

16 Montreal, QC - Curling for Dummies

Presented by the St Andrew's Society of Montreal at the Montreal West Curling Club. All of the curlers, whether experienced players or complete beginners, can have a great time shooting and chasing the rocks over the ice. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca

23 Winnipeg, MB - Winnipeg Scottish Festival

Piping events and more. Info: www.winnipegscottishfestival.com

23 - 24 Vancouver, BC - Heather Ball and Musicians' Workshop

RSCDS Vancouver proudly presents the Heather Ball with Scottish music and dancing and workshops at Scottish Cultural Centre. Info: www.rscdsvancouver.org/dance/the-heather-ball

23 Brampton, ON - West End Workshop and Tea Dance

Full day workshop and tea dance for Scottish Country Dancers in the Toronto area at Turner Fenton Secondary School. Lunch and afternoon tea included. Pre-registration is required. Info: www.dancescottish.ca

USA

FEBRUARY 2019

2 New York, NY - Tartan Kilt Skate NYC

Gather the Clan for NYC's first kilt skate at Bryant Park, 6th Avenue at W 42nd St. Info: www.kiltskate.com/new-york-city-2019

2 Dallas, TX - Robert Burns Supper

The Dallas Knights of St. Andrew invite you to celebrate the birthday of the National Bard of wee bonnie Scotland, Robert Burns at Crystal Dining Room, Dallas Scottish Rite Cathedral, 500 S. Harwood St. Info: (817) 680-6090 or visit <https://squareup.com/market/dallas-knights-of-st-andrew>

2 Leominster, MA - Leominster Burns Night Supper

Join in the festivities to celebrate the life and works of the Scottish Bard, Robert Burns at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Erdman Way. Info: (978) 870-2769 or burnsnight@earthlink.net

2 Contoocook, NH - Robert Burns Celebration

Hosted by New England Scottish Arts Centre at Saint Methodios Faith & Heritage Center, 329 Camp Merrimac Rd. With pipers, dancers, dinner, Haggis and more. Info: www.nescottishartscentre.com

8 San Francisco, CA - Robert Burns Supper

Celebrate the Bard with The Saint Andrew's Society of San Francisco at The City Club. Info: www.saintandrewssocietysf.org

8 - 9 Brooksville, FL - Seventh Annual Celtic Family Jamboree

Celtic music and fun with free workshops, Highland athletics and sheepdog herding demos at Sertoma Youth Ranch, 85 Myers Rd. Info: www.celticheritageproductions.com

9 Parkersburg, PA - Burns Night at Historic Beale Manor

The Octorara Covenant Presbyterian Foundation cordially invites you to Burns Night at Historic Beale Manor, 200 South Church St. Info: www.facebook.com/events/31817213877139/

10 Greenbelt, MD - St. Columba's Valentine Dance

Scottish Country Dance event at Greenbelt Community Center Gym. Info: www.rscds-greaterdc.org/events

14 Webster Groves, MO - St. Louis St. Andrew's Society Social Night

These are informal gatherings where everyone is welcome and can bring guests too. Throughout the year, some social nights will have specific Scottish topics at Weber's Front Row, 8169 Big Bend Blvd. Info: www.ststandrews.com

15 - 16 Newark, NJ - The Metro Cup-Premier Solo Piping and Drumming Competitions

Players have been invited based on results from Major Contests in Scotland, Canada and the United States at the Ramada Plaza. Info: www.themetrocup.com

16 Long Beach, CA - Scots Festival & International Highland Games XXVI

Scots Festival honors nearly fifty Scottish clans & vendors throughout the weekend with professional and amateur competitions in piping, drumming, massed bands, darts, Highland dancing, and Highland athletics at the Queen Mary, 1126 Queens Highway. Info: www.queenmary.com

MARCH 2019

2 - 3 Phoenix, AZ - 55th Anniversary Phoenix Scottish Games

Presented by The Caledonian Society of Arizona at Steele Indian School Park, highlights include: Genealogy tent, traditional and modern Scottish tunes, competitive highland dancing, pipe bands, heavy athletics, country dancing, historical re-enactments, vintage British car exhibitions and more. Info: 480-788-6694 or www.arizonascots.com

2 Plantation, FL - Southeast Florida Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Celebrate Scotland at Plantation Heritage Park with pipe bands, Clans, Scottish dance and more. Info: www.sassf.org

8 - 10 St. Augustine, FL - St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival

Celtic artisans, Celtic food, and more in America's Oldest Celtic City at Francis Field, 29 W Castillo Dr. Info: www.celticstaugustine.com

8 - 10 Sonora, CA - Sonora Celtic Faire

A full weekend of Celtic fun, including the International Ultimate Jousting Championships at Mother Lode Fairgrounds, 220 Southgate Dr. Info: www.sonoracelticfaire.com

10 Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day

This is a day initiated by The Bagpipe Society to celebrate the world's many bagpipes and piping traditions. Every March 10th you are invited to go out and play your pipes - anywhere, anyhow to anyone!

16 Dothan, AL - Southeast Alabama Highland Games

Family friendly Highland games at the Houston County Farm Center at 1701 E Cottonwood Rd. Info: www.wiregrasshighlandgames.com

23 - 24 Washington, PA - 38th Annual Highland Ball

The 38th Pittsburgh Highland Ball and Workshop will once again be at the Washington Elks Lodge Ballroom. Excellent music will be provided by Highland Square. Info: www.pscds.org

23 - 24 Sherman, TX - Sherman Celtic Festival & Highland Games

Celtic music, Pipe Band Competition, Celtic dogs, Scottish athletics and more at 2190 Fallon Dr. Info: www.shermancelticfest.com

29 - 31 Madison, WI - Madison Scottish Country Dancers Ball Weekend

Madison Scottish Country Dancers are thrilled to welcome A Parcel of Rogues back to the shores of Loch Mendota at the University of Wisconsin Memorial Union's newly renovated Great Hall their 41st Scottish country dance ball. Info: www.madisonscottishcountrydancers.org

29 - 30 Jackson, MS - CelticFest Mississippi

A celebration of Celtic culture at the MS Agriculture & Forestry Museum, I-55 & Lakeland Dr. Info: www.celticfestms.org/wp

30 - 31 Gonzales, LA - The Louisiana Highland Games & Celtic Festival

Scottish entertainment, Clans and athletics at Lamar Dixon Expo Center. Info: www.lahgcf.com

SCOTLAND

FEBRUARY 2019

2 Glasgow - National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland: Made in Scotland

Bringing together Scotland's most talented young musicians at a national level, the National Piping Centre will present The National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland live for this unmissable afternoon performance at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Info: nypb@thepipingcentre.co.uk

2 Glasgow - Rura

Energetic contemporary folk from up and coming Scottish musicians on whistles, Highland pipes, fiddle, flute, guitar and bodhran at Saint Luke's & The Winged Ox, 17 Bain Square. Info: info@stlukesglasgow.com

8 - 21 Isle of Lewis - Hebridean Dark Skies Festival

Ambitious programme of events featuring stargazing events, workshops and talks led by leading scientists, film, music, theatre and more - all located on the Isle of Lewis, which has some of the darkest skies in the UK and is one of the best places in the country to see the Aurora Borealis. Info: www.lanntair.com/darkskies

9 Edinburgh - Six Nations: Scotland Vs Ireland

Scotland take on Ireland in the Six Nations at Murrayfield Stadium. Info: www.scottishrugby.org

16 Dunfermline - Dougie MacLean

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

17 - 22 Pitlochry - RSCDS Winter School

Held in the picturesque town of Pitlochry, the RSCDS Winter School, has Scottish country dance classes held at different venues around Pitlochry. Classes are held every morning and there are optional classes in the afternoon - a full day of dancing if your feet are up for it! Info: www.rscds.org

20 - 3 Glasgow - Glasgow Film Festival

One of the largest film festivals in the UK, with new local and international film from all genres; mainstream crowd-pleasers to groundbreaking art-house experimentation; the return of well-loved classics alongside rare cult gems; with filmmaker guest appearances, interactive workshops and discussion panels to complete the mix. Info: www.glasgowfilm.org/glasgow-film-festival

20 - 24 Fort William - Fort William Mountain Festival

A series of films and lectures celebrating the great outdoors and mountain culture, held in Scotland's outdoor capital, and spread over five nights. Info: www.mountainfestival.co.uk

28 - 3 Braemar - Braemar Mountain Festival

The second Braemar Mountain Festival celebrates the mountains in winter with a programme of workshops covering ski touring, winter skills, avalanche awareness, low level walking, navigation and fell running. Info: www.braemarmountainfestival.com

28 - 6 Inverness - Inverness Music Festival

This music festival is a competitive event that allows people of all ages and abilities to show off their skills. The main discipline groups are vocal, instrumental, speech, Gaelic and Scottish with over 75 awards to be won. Competitions are open to the public. Info: www.invernessmusicfestival.org

MARCH 2019

6 - 10 St Andrews - StAnza

StAnza, Scotland's Poetry Festival, is held every March in St Andrews, Scotland's oldest university town. With readings, exhibitions, performances, music, and film. Info: www.stanzapoetry.org

9 Cupar - Fife Whisky Festival

The Fife Whisky Festival brings over 30 distilleries and independent bottlers from all over Scotland to showcase their whisky wares at Cupar Corn Exchange, St Catherine St. Info: www.fifewhiskyfestival.com

10 Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day

This is a day initiated by The Bagpipe Society to celebrate the world's many bagpipes and piping traditions. Every March 10th you are invited to go out and play your pipes - anywhere, anyhow to anyone!

14 - 31 Glasgow - Aye Write! Glasgow's Book Festival

Aye Write! remains committed to celebrating Scottish and international writers and writing. Info: www.ayewrite.com

14 - 31 Glasgow - Glasgow International Comedy Festival

Glasgow's comedy festival birls back into your life, getting ever more impressive with each outing. For 2019, you're looking at a lineup of Craig Hill, Janey Godley, Julian Clary and more. Info: www.glasgowcomedyfestival.com

15 - 17 Dunkeld & Birnam - Niel Gow Annual Scottish Fiddle Festival

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

16 Innerleithen - Rat Race Mighty Deerstalker

An evening obstacle course where tweed is actively encouraged followed by the Mighty Beerstalker Party with food, ales and live bands. Legend tells of a cult running event deep in the Scottish Borders. This is probably the hardest off-road-tweed-clad-pipe-lit-plus-four-and-headtorch-wearing run that exists at Traquair House. Info: www.mightydeerstalker.co.uk

16 Stirling - Sounds from Stirling Castle: A Military Concert

Performances in aid of the service charity Erskine and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Museum Trust. At Stirling Castle a magical evening of military performances featuring: The Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland, The Military Wives Choir and The Pipes, Drums and Dancers of Queen Victoria School. Info: www.historicenvironment.scot

22 Glasgow - An Evening of Traditional Music

An exuberant evening of traditional music featuring students from Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Info: www.rcs.ac.uk



The Scottish Banner has one of North America's most comprehensive Scottish events listings available! With hundreds of Scottish events listed from around the world and updated weekly. See our most up to date listings and add your event anytime at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

Answers to Scotword on Page 6

- Across:** 7) Captain; 8) Flyleaf; 10) Achnasheen; 11) Ness; 12) Broadway; 14) Italic; 15) Blair Atholl; 19) Megrim; 20) Scotsman; 22) Sty; 23) Reasonable; 25) Capital; 26) Primary.
- Down:** 1) Dancers; 2) Stun; 3) Jigsaw; 4) Clannish; 5) Gleneagles; 6) Parsnip; 9) New Years Day; 13) Auld Reekie; 16) Immortal; 17) Central; 18) Sailors; 21) Odours; 24) Arms.

Scottish Genealogical Research

Let us build your Scottish Family Tree!



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

For details email: dempseyrand@gmail.com

A Changing Garden

Set in over 70 acres of beautiful landscape, The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is a stunning attraction at any time of year for the visitor to Edinburgh. With 100,000 plants, 70 acres, 10 Glasshouses, a history dating back nearly 350 years and panoramic views of the city it is well worth a visit, as David McVey explains.



The Palm House.

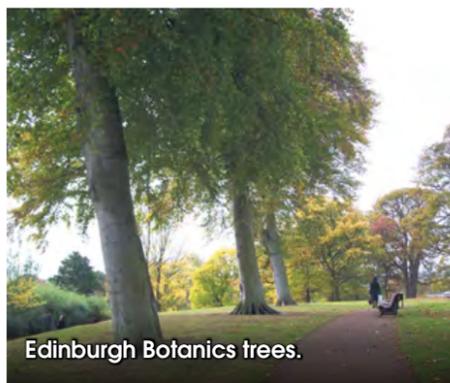
A garden grows and changes and develops, but it doesn't usually move. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) is different, because it has moved, and more than once, too. The RBGE is many things - a focus for botanical research and scholarship, a storehouse of rare plants and other treasures but for most of us it's a place of beauty and peace near the centre of the city. Although it's a hugely popular tourist attraction (an estimated 700,000 visitors a year) it's a world away from the scrum of Princes Street or the Royal Mile; there's always space and quiet.

You also can't miss a feeling of permanence; just look at the many soaring trees throughout the site. Yet the garden began its life elsewhere, a long time ago.

History

The garden dates from 1670 when a 'physic garden' was begun by Dr Andrew Balfour and Dr Robert Sibbald; the latter was the first Professor of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, while Dr Balfour was one of the founders of the College of Physicians. The purpose of the garden in those days, then, was growing plants for medical purposes. It occupied a small site, no bigger than a large domestic garden, near the Palace of Holyrood. It later moved to the Nor' Loch, in the deep valley between the Old Town and what would become the New Town.

In 1761, John Hope, then Regius Keeper of the garden, decided to move it to a more spacious site - on Leith Walk.



Edinburgh Botanic trees.

Leith Walk is now a very busy urban street, but then it was open and rural. The garden had shifted to Leith Walk by 1763 and remained there until 1822, when the final (so far!) move was made to the present site at Inverleith. Little remains of the Leith Walk site, though the gardens in Hopetoun Crescent may be a remnant. There is one other reminder of the Leith Walk garden, but we'll get to that later.

The present garden is just a ten-minute bus journey from Princes Street. Enter by the East Gate and you'll soon reach the Scottish Heath Garden which, though small, enables you to suspend your disbelief and imagine yourself into a quiet corner of the Highlands, with many of the characteristic sights and smells and sounds. In fact, as you explore the RBGE, you can picture yourself on a budget world tour; to the tropics and the high summits and perhaps even to China or Japan.

After settling in the Inverleith site, the garden, as gardens do, expanded and blossomed. In 1858 it acquired its crowning glory, the Temperate Palm House, one of the largest and certainly most elegant glasshouses anywhere in the world. Behind it is the octagonal Tropical Palm House, which houses, amongst other exhibits, a Bermudan Fan Palm that has been growing in the garden since it moved here in 1822!

Botanical research and conservation

Of course, there's a serious purpose to it all. The garden is primarily a place that supports botanical research and conservation. Rare and endangered plants are propagated and grown, scientific research is conducted in the garden's laboratories, botanists' study in the garden's library and consult some of the millions of dried and preserved plants in the herbarium. The garden's researchers travel on Indiana Jones-style expeditions to study and help conserve rare species and ecosystems around the world.

The happy thing for us is that this work needs a sizeable green space so

that everything from enormous pine trees to tiny mosses can be grown and displayed, in the open and under glass. I first discovered the garden when I worked in a dull job where I had to attend frequent training courses in a now-demolished building in the north of Edinburgh. Each lunchtime I would escape to the RBGE and explore the steamy tropical glasshouses or inhale the greenery-scented fresh air.

Changes in the garden reflect the interests and activities of its researchers. The Chinese Hillside, for example, demonstrates the garden's long history of partnerships with Chinese botanists and involvement in conservation work there. There is a stream and a pond and a traditional Chinese pavilion - a 'ting' - but most of all there are the plants, and particularly the rhododendrons which make this the must-see section of the garden in May.

The RBGE is many things - a focus for botanical research and scholarship, a storehouse of rare plants and other treasures but for most of us it's a place of beauty and peace near the centre of the city.

A spectacular new visitor centre and gateway building was opened in 2009 at the garden's West Gate. The John Hope Gateway (named for the Regius Keeper who supervised the move to Leith Walk) houses the garden shop, a restaurant, meeting rooms and an exhibition space all in a fascinating modern building that is worth seeing for itself. At the heart of the garden, and on its highest point, is Inverleith House, which dates from 1774 but only came into the garden's possession in 1875. For many years it housed the Scottish Gallery of Modern Art, and today continues to be used for art exhibitions. The wider garden is also a home for open air sculptures by important artists such as Barbara Hepworth and Ian Hamilton Finlay. Another feature of the garden near Inverleith House is the spectacular view of Edinburgh's historic skyline, from the Castle to Arthur's Seat; it's a stunning panorama.

Trees

Trees are perhaps the great highlight of the garden, whether you prefer the great palms in the glasshouses, the soaring pines in the arboretum, or the more familiar species you can find in the Native Woodland area, the Scottish Heath Garden and the Woodland Garden. The garden lost around 40 trees in the nightmarish gales of January 2012. I was there a few days afterwards when the garden resounded with power-saws and tractors hauled trailers piled with the chopped-up remains of fallen giants.



The John Hope Gateway.

Each fallen tree is a loss, yet, reassuringly, each provides a space for the garden to try out something new. I was there just the other day; only seven years on, you'd never guess there had been such devastation.

The changes continue. A new Alpine House showcases mountain plants. It's a building that curiously resembles an aviary. There are ambitious plans for redevelopment of the glasshouses to support research and conservation; the Biomes Project will see significant changes to the garden's buildings in the years to come. But the garden remembers its past, too. The Botanic Cottage, built during 1764-5, was the only building on the Leith Walk site that survived, and it has now been moved, stone by stone, to Inverleith. It sits amid the Demonstration Garden and is used for community and education events. Change doesn't always have to be about the future.

One of Edinburgh's top attractions

Tours of the garden are available during the summer, but the public areas are open almost every day. There's a charge for visiting the glasshouses, but it's worth it. Every pound you spend there, or in the shop, helps make the world a better place. The RBGE has three other sites, at Dawyck in the Borders, Logan in Wigtownshire, and at Benmore in Argyll.

If you're in Edinburgh and can only spare a couple of hours, my advice is to try the RBGE. It's not just one of Edinburgh's top attractions, but you can also imagine yourself on a forest track in the Highlands, stand by a mountain stream, or surround yourself with the flora of Asia or the Alps. It's a garden tour of Scotland and the world.

Here's something to ponder if you do visit the RBGE between trains; the garden's second site, on the former Nor' Loch, is now occupied by Waverley Station!

For more information on The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, see: www.rbge.org.uk



Inverleith House.

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Roast leg of lamb with rosemary and garlic

Ingredients:

2kg/4lb 8oz. leg of lamb
1 bulb garlic
large bunch rosemary
sea salt and black pepper
2 carrots, roughly chopped
3 white onions, quartered
250ml/9fl oz. dry white wine
olive oil

For the mint sauce

1 tbsp. caster sugar
3 tbsp. white wine vinegar
6 sprigs mint, leaves only, finely chopped

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Use a small, sharp knife to make 12-14 slits all over the lamb. Peel two garlic cloves and slice them into shards. Roughly squash the remaining garlic and put into the bottom of a large roasting tin.

Push a few slivers of garlic and small sprigs of rosemary down into each slit in the lamb and season with plenty of salt and pepper.

Put the carrots and onions into the roasting tin, drizzle with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Lay the lamb on top and roast in the preheated oven for 45 minutes.

For the mint sauce, mix together the sugar and vinegar until the sugar is dissolved. Add the mint and mix well. Season with salt and pepper and transfer to the fridge to steep.

Remove the lamb from the oven, pour in the wine then return to the oven and roast for a further 45 minutes.

When cooked, remove the lamb from the oven and transfer to a board. Cover with foil and leave to rest for 15- 20 minutes.

Carve the lamb into thin slices and serve with the mint sauce and roasted vegetables.

Hazelnut butter grilled scallops with salad

Ingredients:

For the scallops

1 tsp. olive oil
1 shallot, peeled, finely sliced
75g/2½oz. butter, softened
½ lemon, zest only
1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh chervil
1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh chives
45g/1½oz. hazelnuts, finely chopped
salt and freshly ground black pepper
6 scallops, cleaned

For the salad

½ tbsp. wholegrain mustard
½ tbsp. good quality white wine vinegar
1½ tbsp. good quality rapeseed oil
1 Little Gem lettuce, leaves separated
1 punnet pea shoots

Method:

For the scallops, heat a frying pan until warm, add the olive oil and shallot and fry gently until softened but not coloured.

Place the butter into a bowl and add the cooked shallot, along with all the remaining scallop ingredients, except the scallops. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper and mix well.

Preheat the grill to high. Place the scallops onto a grill tray and top each scallop with a spoonful of the hazelnut butter. Place under the grill for 3-4 minutes, or until just cooked through. Remove from the grill and set aside to rest for one minute.

For the salad, whisk the mustard, vinegar and oil together in a bowl. Place the lettuce leaves and pea shoots into a bowl, drizzle over the dressing and stir to coat.

To serve, place three scallops onto each of 2 serving plates and serve with a pile of salad.

Baked camembert with garlic bread

Ingredients:

1 whole camembert, in its box
1 garlic clove, sliced
3-4 sprigs fresh thyme
1 tsp olive oil

For the garlic bread

1 small ciabatta loaf, cut in half
1 tbsp olive oil
1 garlic clove, peeled

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Remove any plastic packaging from the cheese and place back in its box, leaving the lid off.

Pierce the top of the cheese in several places with a sharp knife and insert pieces of garlic and sprigs of thyme into the slits.

Drizzle the cheese with olive oil and place on a baking sheet, leaving the cheese in its box. Bake in the oven for ten minutes, or until the centre of the cheese is melted.

For the garlic bread, drizzle the cut side of the bread with olive oil and place cut-side down in a hot griddle pan until toasted. Rub the toasted side of the bread with the garlic clove.

Serve the garlic bread with the warm cheese for dipping.

Single strawberry shortcakes

Ingredients:

For the shortbread:
225g/8oz. plain flour
100g/3½oz. caster sugar
225g/8oz. butter, at room temperature
100g/3½oz. semolina
25g/1oz demerara sugar

For the filling:

500g/1lb 1½oz. strawberries, plus extra to garnish
1½ tbsp. port
2 tbsp. caster sugar
300ml/10½fl oz. double cream, whipped to soft peaks
300ml/10½fl oz. thick, natural yoghurt
2 egg whites, whipped to stiff peaks
extra strawberries, to garnish

Method:

Preheat the oven to 160C/320F/Gas 2. Put the flour, caster sugar, butter and semolina into a food processor and process until the mixture is thoroughly combined and comes together to form a dough. This can also be done by hand, rubbing the butter into the flour first, then adding the sugar and semolina and working the ingredients together to form a ball.

Roll the dough out on a floured surface to 1-2cm/½in thick. Using a circular cookie cutter or the top of a drinking glass, cut the dough into circles. Place the circles into a lightly greased tin and sprinkle the top with the demerara sugar.

Bake for 30-40 minutes, until the shortbread is pale golden and cooked through. Keep an eye on it in case it gets too brown. Allow the shortbread to cool for a few minutes then carefully lift each shortbread with a small palette knife and place on a wire rack to cool completely. (These can now be stored in an airtight container.)

Meanwhile, make the filling. Place the strawberries, port and sugar into a pan and heat gently until the sugar dissolves, stirring and mashing the strawberries into a chunky salsa. Allow to cool.

Fold together the whipped double cream, yoghurt and whipped egg white.

Fold in the strawberry salsa, leaving swirls. Place one shortbread circle on a small plate and place on a large dollop of the strawberry cream.

Place one whole strawberry on top of each dollop and serve.

Fruit and chocolate fondue

Ingredients:

55g/2oz. sugar
55ml/7fl oz. water
200g/7oz. plain chocolate, broken in pieces
1 tbsp golden syrup
selection of fruits cut in bite-sized pieces such as orange, banana, grapes, dates or pineapple.

Method:

Heat the sugar and water in a saucepan until the sugar melts and the mixture resembles a syrup.

Melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of simmering water. (Do not let the base of the bowl touch the water.)

Stir in the golden syrup and enough sugar syrup to form a smooth sauce. (Caution: the chocolate mixture will be very hot, allow to cool a little before serving.)

Serve with the platter of fruit.

Happy Valentine's Day!



After all the food and fun of the holiday's one would think February is a quiet month, however with Valentine's Day (Feb. 14th) it certainly is going to be a tasty month!

Macarons



Ingredients:

125g/4oz. ground almonds
200g/7oz. icing sugar
3 free-range egg whites
2 tbsp. caster sugar
½ tsp cream of tartar
pinch red powdered food colouring

For the chocolate filling

200g/7oz. dark chocolate, chopped
200ml/7fl oz. double cream
1 tsp brandy
15g/½oz. unsalted butter

Method:

Blend the ground almonds and icing sugar in a food processor until well combined. Set aside.

Using an electric whisk, slowly whisk the egg whites in a large bowl at a low speed until stiff peaks form when the whisk is removed. Slowly whisk in the cream of tartar and caster sugar until the mixture is smooth and glossy, increasing the speed of the whisk as the mixture stiffens.

Gently fold in the food colouring and blended ground almonds and icing sugar until the mixture resembles shaving foam.

Spoon the macaroon mixture into a piping bag fitted with a 1cm/½in round nozzle. Pipe 5cm/2in circles onto the baking tray lined with greaseproof paper. If a peak forms, wet your finger and smooth it down. Sharply tap the bottom of the tray to release any air bubbles from the macaroons, then set aside for 60 minutes (the macaroon shells are ready to go in the oven when they are no longer sticky to the touch).

Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 160C/315F/Gas 2½.

Bake the macarons in the oven for 10-15 minutes, or until cooked through. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool for 5 minutes. Carefully peel away the greaseproof paper and set aside to cool completely.

Meanwhile, for the chocolate filling, heat the double cream and chocolate in a saucepan over a low heat, stirring occasionally, until smooth and well combined. Add the brandy and butter and stir until smooth, then remove from the heat and set aside to cool completely.

Use the filling to sandwich the macaroons together then chill in the fridge for 30 minutes.



Grassmarket finding could shed light on the capture of Edinburgh Castle

Archaeologists believe a late medieval discovery in Edinburgh could shed new light on Edward I's Siege of Edinburgh. An excavation in the Grassmarket has unearthed rare remains of a large carved stone similar in appearance to a cannon ball dating to the 13th century, more than 200 years before the introduction of gunpowder or cannons in Scotland.

It is thought the ball was launched from a large wooden catapult known as a trebuchet, either from or towards the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle in the period of the Siege of Edinburgh in 1296. A significant event in Scottish history, the Siege saw Edward I capture Edinburgh Castle and hold it under English rule for 18 years, plundering treasure from across Scotland including the Stone of Destiny in the process.

The finding was made as archaeologists from AOC Archaeology continue to investigate the site, which has been earmarked for Europe's first Virgin Hotel. It is hoped the new 225-room Virgin Hotel Edinburgh will be open by 2020. Work began to dig the area in May and is expected to continue into the new year.

A remarkable find

Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener, said: "I never fail to be astonished by the discoveries made by archaeologists in Edinburgh but this really is a remarkable find. Unearthed in the shadow of the Castle in the Grassmarket, and aged at 700-800 years old, the evidence seems to point to this catapult ball being fired during the Siege of Edinburgh. It just goes to show how important it is that we take the

opportunity with every major development in the city to investigate what's underneath with a thorough excavation – well done to everyone involved."

Unearthed in the shadow of the Castle in the Grassmarket, and aged at 700-800 years old, the evidence seems to point to this catapult ball being fired during the Siege of Edinburgh.

Richard Conolly, of CgMs, said: "As archaeologists, most of our work deals with the remnants of day to day life. So, it is really exciting for the team to find something that potentially provides a direct link to an historic event and specific date. The siege only lasted three days – we don't often get that kind of precision in our dating. It is also a reminder that it was not just the castle that was involved in the siege; the surrounding town must also have taken a battering."

The Siege of Edinburgh

Nick Finnigan, Executive Manager at Edinburgh Castle, said: "This is an exciting new discovery which helps contribute to our understanding of Edinburgh Castle's remarkable history - particularly during the Wars of Independence. Edinburgh Castle has been besieged more than any other castle in the UK and it's incredible that we are still uncovering artefacts from these historic sieges."

City of Edinburgh Council Archaeologist, John Lawson, added: "It looks like the type of ball which would have been fired by a trebuchet, one of the most powerful catapults used in the Middle Ages. Worldwide, the most famous account of a trebuchet is that of Warwolf, the giant catapult used by Edward I's army at Stirling Castle in 1304. What we've discovered here suggests similar weapons were also used in

Edinburgh, possibly even during Edward I's Siege of Edinburgh in 1296, when the Stone of Destiny was stolen and the Castle taken out of Scottish hands. We always knew this area of the Grassmarket could shed new light on Edinburgh in the dark ages, and here we are with the discovery of a medieval weapon. It's a really exciting find, particularly if we can prove its links to the Siege of Edinburgh."



Archaeologist Samuel Kinirons with the find. Photo: Scott Loudon, The Scotsman.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

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



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

2 - Feast and legal Quarter Day of Candlemass.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



4 - Honours of Scotland put on display in Edinburgh Castle after being rediscovered by Sir Walter Scott. The jewels consist of a sword, crown and sceptre. The three items were first used together during the coronation of Mary, Queen of Scots and last used for the coronation of Charles II in 1651. During the Second World War, they were hidden in different parts of Edinburgh Castle in case of German invasion. **1818**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 - Mary Queen of Scots beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle after nearly 20 years of imprisonment. At the time of her death, Mary was 44 and had outlived three husbands. **1587**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



18 Glasgow's Queen Street train station opened. Originally called Glasgow Dundas Street the station was built by Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway to link the thriving city of Glasgow to the nation's capital. The station and line took four years to build. Currently a redevelopment of Glasgow Queen Street is underway and is expected to last until Autumn 2020. **1842**

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



28 - Second National Covenant signed in Greyfriars Churchyard. The document was a direct response to Charles I's attempts to introduce a Book of Common Prayer across the whole of Britain, as Presbyterians were incensed that the General Assembly had not been consulted. **1638**

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

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

Ben Lomond.

Photos: The National Trust for Scotland



Scots want their scenic landscapes better protected

A survey commissioned by conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland reveals overwhelming support for greater measures to protect Scotland's most scenic landscapes.

The online survey of a sample of 1,229 people representative of Scotland's population by age and gender was commissioned by the Trust from Mark Diffley Consultancy and Research to mark four decades of National Scenic Areas.

The beauty of Scotland's landscape

National Scenic Areas (NSAs) were first identified by the then Countryside Commission for Scotland in 1978. This followed publication of Highland Landscape by WH Murray commissioned by the National Trust for Scotland in 1962 which was the first national assessment of Scotland's most scenic areas. It came from a strong desire to protect the beauty of Scotland's landscape and enable 'economic' and 'amenity' factors to be weighed evenly on the scales.

Among the findings of the survey are:

- 95% strongly/tend to agree that scenic areas are vital for tourism;
- 91% strongly/tend to agree that scenic landscapes make them proud to live in Scotland;
- 92% strongly/tend to agree that there should be restrictions on large-scale industrial development in Scotland's most important landscapes;
- 84% strongly/tend to agree that the planning system should include more measures to protect National Scenic Areas

This is a strong consensus voice. Location, social background, age and gender made virtually no difference to the opinions expressed through the survey. It was also clear that respondents were unaware of or confused by the many different designations intended to protect landscapes in Scotland: for example, 88% were 'definitely aware' of National Parks whereas the percentage for National Scenic Areas was only 20% and 23% for Wild Land Areas.



Kintail.

When asked whether "most new development in the countryside is having a positive impact on Scotland's scenic landscapes," less than a quarter (23%) of respondents agreed, with 29% neutral, and 33% disagreeing. This suggests there is opportunity – and a need – for better planning and design to ensure the sustainable development of our landscapes.

Scotland's determination to see the landscapes they love properly protected

The National Trust for Scotland's Head of Conservation and Policy, Stuart Brooks said: "While the social and economic situation and types of pressure have changed since 1978, it's abundantly clear that one thing has been constant: the people of Scotland's determination to see the landscapes they love properly protected. It's been 40 years since National Scenic Areas were established, and up to this point they have been largely effective. Their amenity value has grown enormously within that time to the point where they are key economic drivers for Scotland. This is bringing wealth and opportunity to rural communities – whether as places to live or drawing visitors from around the world.

"Technological advances to produce and distribute clean energy to help combat climate change is necessary but presents new challenges to protecting

our landscapes and this is a concern for people as demonstrated through this poll. There's an immediate opportunity through the Planning Bill currently before Parliament to ensure our National Scenic Areas and Wild Land Areas are future proofed to ensure they continue to protect the beauty of our landscape and support our economy and communities. Let's also look beyond the Highlands and begin a discussion about the value of landscapes everywhere and the role their stewardship can play in the health and prosperity of our nation."

Most special parts of Scotland

The Director of The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS), John Mayhew said: "Scotland's National Scenic Areas are the jewels in our nation's crown. They represent the finest examples of the types of landscape for which Scotland is renowned around the world. When well-managed, as they have been in Galloway, they can enhance the special qualities of the local landscape, support the local economy and inspire pride and passion amongst local people. They have played a key role over the years in resisting inappropriate development, such as the Harris superquarry.

"This new research is welcome, as it shows how much the people of Scotland value the beauty of their landscapes. It is also timely, as this year we celebrate 40 years since the Scotland's Scenic Heritage report which led to the NSAs. But most of our NSAs would benefit from more funding, better publicity and more positive management. Now that we have seen once more how much people value them, we urge all concerned to redouble their efforts to look after these most special parts of Scotland."



Glencoe.

Thriller Queen - *New Mary Queen of Scots* film places Scotland locations and history in spotlight

Other images courtesy of VisitScotland.



From the Universal Pictures film release *Mary Queen of Scots*. Photo: Universal Pictures.

There's something about Mary, Queen of Scots: she's everywhere in Scotland, from her birthplace at Linlithgow Palace; to Craignethan Castle, near Lanark, said to be one of her regular 'haunts' (quite literally); and Edinburgh, as she hangs quite defiantly on display at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. All places history fans can explore on a trip to Scotland.

In 2019 a brand new film, *Mary Queen of Scots* which stars Saoirse Ronan as the titular Queen, and Margot Robbie as her second cousin and rival monarch Elizabeth I – inspires renewed interest in a tumultuous period of British history and offers the perfect excuse to explore Scotland and the many fascinating historical connections to Mary Stuart, as well as some the stunning filming locations used in the film.

The film explores Mary's difficulty in asserting her authority in Scotland, with threats from protestants (including from John Knox, played in the film by David Tennant), and from the English Queen, struggling herself to be a Queen in a man's country. Strong female roles are brought to life by two brilliant leading actresses, as well as a female director, Josie Rourke, and producer Debra Hayward.

Director Josie Rourke said of filming in Scotland: "We wanted to do as much as possible in Scotland and to show Mary in that environment and what her journey with it is. During the film, she comes to a deeper understanding and love of her country, so she had to be outside in it and witness the epic sweep of that landscape. Scotland is an extraordinary country, and it matches the scale of the story and the scale of what happens to Mary at certain points in the film. We just wanted to show Scotland in all of its incredible glory."

What's more, fans of the movie can continue their Scotland experience with a choice of Mary, Queen of Scots events across the country to tie in with the big screen release.

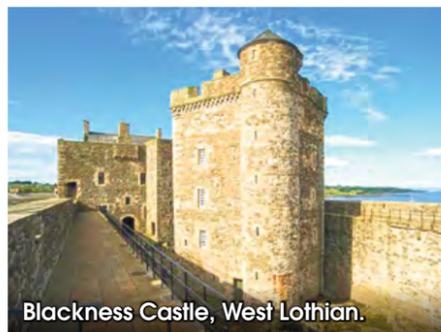
Filming locations open to visitors in Scotland included in the film are:

Strathdon, Aberdeenshire- Lying in Upper Donside, around 45 miles west of Aberdeen, Strathdon is a stunning and quiet part of Scotland and a superb place for spotting wildlife. It is an area steeped in history and visitors can learn more at Corgarff Castle with its fascinating star-shaped fortifications, and at Glenbuchat Castle. In the summer spot the Lonach Highlanders parading through Bellabeg, the main village in the area, as they make their way to the Lonach Gathering. In winter, there's skiing and snowboarding on offer at The Lecht Ski Centre. During the production of *Mary, Queen of Scots*, filming included a scene at Poldullie Bridge, Strathdon in which the Queen Mary gets ambushed: a fight scene with cows blocking the bridge.

The East Lothian landscape- To the east of Edinburgh and within very easy reach of the city, lie the craggy cliffs, golden beaches and rolling countryside of East Lothian. Hemmed in by the Firth of Forth to the north and the Lammermuir Hills to the south, the history of the area is typified by the stronghold of Tantallon Castle as it rests formidably on cliffs above Seacliff Bay. The area is also very popular with golfers and must-visit attractions include the Scottish Seabird Centre, National Museum of Flight and Glenkinchie Distillery to name just a few.

Seacliff Beach, North Berwick, East Lothian- With the ruins of Tantallon Castle perched above it, the beautiful Seacliff Beach is found near the East Lothian town of North Berwick. Seacliff is privately owned and there's a small charge to access it, but it's well worth a visit to discover what's thought to be the UK's smallest harbour with views of the Bass Rock. The beach also been featured in the recent Netflix release, *Outlaw King*, which stars Chris Pine.

In the film, Seacliff can be seen in a scene featuring Mary and her ladies in waiting on a rocky shore, looking out to sea, speaking to one another in French.

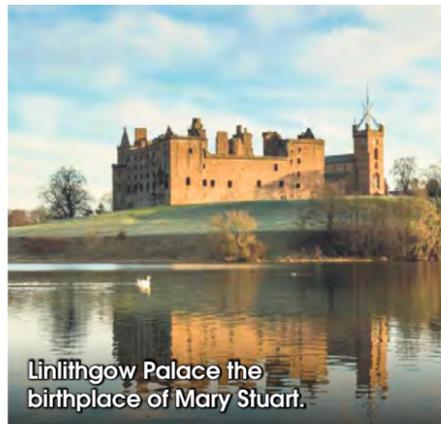


Blackness Castle, West Lothian.

Blackness Castle, West Lothian- This mighty fortification, jutting out into the Firth of Forth with its long and narrow design, has been described as 'the ship that never sailed'. It owes much of its nautical shape to the many fortifications that were added to it during the 16th century, transforming it into one of the most secure fortresses of its time – part of its south-facing wall is 5.5 metres thick! Now a popular visitor attraction, the castle has served as a garrison, state prison and also featured in season one of *Outlander* as well as *Outlaw King*.

The photogenic Cairngorms and Glen Coe are also featured in the film, as Mary and her army ride across Moorlands.

Explore the history of Mary, Queen of Scots, including the following places:



Linlithgow Palace the birthplace of Mary Stuart.

Linlithgow Palace-These historic ruins, once a royal 'pleasure palace', surrounded by peaceful gardens and grounds, were also the birthplace of Mary Stuart. The site was first occupied as far back as Roman times, 2,000 years ago. There has been a royal residence here since at least the reign of David I (1124–53). He also founded the town that grew up around the royal residence.

Stirling Castle- Mary spent the first few years of her life, from 27 July 1543, within the safe confines of this castle and in the hands of her guardian Lord Erskine, to February 1548, when she was moved to Dumbarton Castle and eventually shipped to France. It is here, in the Old Chapel, where she was crowned Queen of Scots on 9 September 1543, aged nine months. The ceremony consisted of the quick investiture of the child in the presence of the nobility.

Scottish National Portrait Gallery- The painting of Mary, Queen of Scots, by an unknown artist, is said to give some clues as to her imprisonment and execution. Famed for her tall and elegant appearance, the captive yet dignified Mary seems to tower above those who look at her in the painting. She stands on a Turkish-style carpet and her pale and slightly weary features are set against a dark background, accentuated by her black velvet dress with its elaborate lace cuffs and a diaphanous cloak.

National Museum of Scotland-The museum has a vast selection of objects associated with Mary. History fans can explore her dramatic story and separate out the facts from the myths that have built up over the centuries. Included in their selection of items is a harp, or clarsach, made in the 15th century and said to be to have been given by Mary, Queen of Scots to Beatrix Gardyne of Banchory, while on a hunting trip to Atholl, circa 1563. It is also said to have been adorned at one time with a gold portrait of Mary, which could be the real reason for its association with her.



Craignethan Castle in Blackwood, Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire.

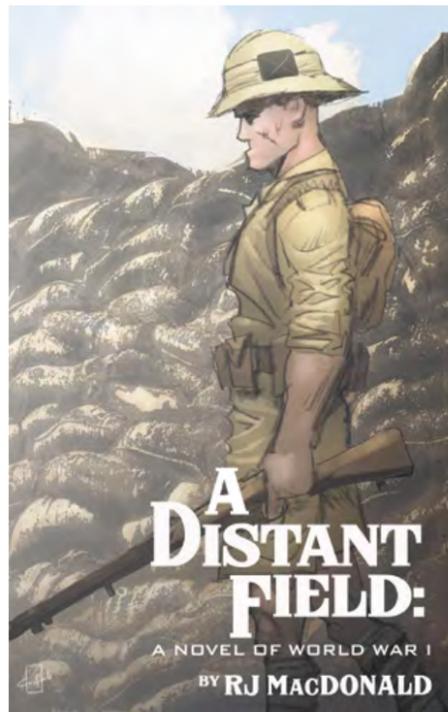
Craignethan Castle-There are various stories of places in Scotland – and elsewhere in the UK – of places the ghost of Mary, Queen of Scots is said to haunt; Craignethan Castle (where Mary is said to have spent the night before the battle of Langside in 1568) has one of those stories. Visitors at the Lanarkshire castle have reportedly seen a headless woman walking in the grounds, who some believe to be the Scottish Queen.

Mary Queen of Scots Visitor Centre- Located in a 16th century tower house in the centre of the historic town of Jedburgh in the Scottish Borders, the visitor centre reflects the proud association of the town with Mary who stayed there in 1566. The building was bought in 1927 by the town of Jedburgh as it had always been linked with Mary's stay on an official tour when she became seriously ill after riding to Hermitage Castle to visit Bothwell, her supposed lover. Each room has a different focus. The Rogues' Gallery introduces the individuals in the drama of Mary's life, whilst the Last Letter Room reveals Mary's final thoughts.

A map of Mary, Queen of Scots locations and historical links to Scotland are available at: www.visitscotland.com/maryqueenofscots. Don't forget to check out the *Mary Queen of Scots trail from Historic Environment Scotland*. See <https://maryqueenofscots.historic-scotland.gov.uk/> for full details.

America's Great War Highlanders

RJ MacDonald lives in the East Neuk of Fife, Scotland. He left Scotland as a teenager and spent sixteen years in America enlisting in the US Marines Reserves after graduating from UC Berkeley. He returned to Scotland to complete two masters degrees and was commissioned into the Royal Air Force Reserves. A veteran of Iraq and Libya, he now serves on a volunteer lifeboat, tasked with a 24/7 all-weather maritime search and rescue role in some of the world's roughest seas.



"Though our homes are far across the seas, our hearts and souls are Scottish..."
Lt Col Guthrie, 1918.

The mornings were cold in November 1917, so it's easy to imagine the scene- Her Majesty's Troopship *Canada* arrives at Liverpool docks, England. Soon lines of soldiers, burdened down with kit and rifles, are disembarking down the gangplanks. They form up into ranks, glad to be on dry land again, and with a nod from their commanding officer to the pipe major, the drone of bagpipes tuning up carries through the still air. Then, to the command of, "By the right, Quick March!" the men of the 236th MacLean Kilties of America march smartly away from the docks to the sound of their own pipes and drums. America's Great War Highlanders had arrived.



Author RJ Macdonald in Iraq.

Americans serving in the Canadian Forces were commonplace during WWI. Three battalions, the 97th, 211th and 213th, all designated 'American Legion', had been raised and deployed to France. But the 236th Battalion was special- it wore kilts. It was the brainchild of a Canadian- Lieutenant Colonel Percy Guthrie. While lying wounded in France, he heard a Scottish battalion passing by, pipes and drums leading the way. At that moment he resolved to raise a battalion of Highlanders.

Americans serving in the Canadian Forces were commonplace during WWI. Three battalions, the 97th, 211th and 213th, all designated 'American Legion', had been raised and deployed to France. But the 236th Battalion was special- it wore kilts.

On return home to Canada, he gained official support and in May 1916, the 236th New Brunswick Kilties (MacLean Highlanders) were raised. Needing men to fill its ranks, Guthrie's gaze quickly turned to New England following America's entry into the war. With a quick change of name and cap badges, the 236th Maclean Kilties of America appealed to Scots-Americans from Maine to Boston for recruits and within eleven days the Highland battalion had over-filled its ranks (*The MacLean Kilties* by Ian MacLean).



WWI Recruiting poster 1916.



Kilties Badge. Source-Clan MacLean Atlantic.

Fought in every major battle
Having arrived in Great Britain, the battalion trained hard, under the expert eyes of its officers and non-commissioned officers- all veterans of the Western Front. In March 1918, they deployed to France. A cruel blow awaited them. Despite vehement protests, the battalion was effectively split into three to feed the constant need for re-enforcements. The Canadians from New Brunswick were allowed to join the New Brunswick Regiment.

The rest, including the Scots-Americans, were divided between the Royal Highlanders of Canada and the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, in which they would go on to fight in every major battle for the remainder of the war, suffering 553 casualties, (*Percy Guthrie and the MacLean Kilties* by Paul Belliveau).

In 2006 a memorial plaque to the 236th Maclean Kilties of America was unveiled at their old headquarters building in Fredericton, New Brunswick. A memorial to all Americans who fought in the Canadian Forces during WWI was dedicated in 1927 at Arlington National Cemetery; the pipes and drums of the 48th Highlanders of Canada played at the ceremony.

RJ MacDonald's WWI historical novel, A Distant Field, was released on November 11th, 2018. The first in a series, it follows Stuart and Ross McReynolds, Scots-Americans who survive the sinking of the Lusitania. Together with four Irishmen, a Canadian, and a young English officer, they join Scotland's Seaforth Highlanders and head towards the bloody battlefields of WWI. For more details please visit www.rjmacdonald.scot or www.facebook.com/rjmacdonald.scot.

St Kilda's special reefs and sea caves are in good condition



Photos: Scottish Natural Heritage.

The findings of a wide-reaching survey carried out in 2015 by a team of divers have now been published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

Almost 90 years after St Kilda's last 36 residents were evacuated to the mainland, the islands remain vitally important for the wildlife they support.

The World Heritage Site hosts huge seabird populations, including the world's second largest colony of North Atlantic gannets, and the waters around St Kilda are part of Scotland's Marine Protected Areas (MPA) network, designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for their reefs and sea caves, which attract a wealth of spectacular sea life.

Crucial to the management of the MPA network, as with protected areas on land, is monitoring.

Weather conditions severely interrupted the team's plans but they managed to survey four caves at St Kilda, returning with valuable data which found that the cave and reef features were in good condition.

The purpose of the St Kilda survey was to judge the current condition of the site and to establish a baseline against which future assessments of its special features could be made.





THE QUEEN MARY[®]
Scots Festival



SHARE IN A
LONG BEACH TRADITION

**SCOTSFESTIVAL &
INTERNATIONAL
HIGHLAND GAMES XXVI**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
QUEENMARY.COM

**FEBRUARY
16 & 17**