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the Scottish Banner

A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 42 Number 10 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper April 2019

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**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 Draine

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

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Expiry

The Banner Says...

Tartan-The cloth of a nation



by Sean Cairney

This month North American Scots will be celebrating Tartan Day on April 6th. The day had its humble beginnings in Nova Scotia and today has grown to be recognised by official government bodies and includes celebrations across Canada and the USA.

The first Tartan Day was held on April 6th, 1986 at a meeting of the Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia, which symbolically took place on the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath (the most famous document in Scottish history, which declares Scotland's independence, drafted in 1320).

Whilst Tartan Day is not being celebrated this month in places such as Australia and New Zealand, they celebrate on July 1st, regardless of where you are in the world tartan is one of Scotland's true icons.

Tartan culture

The diverse history in textile manufacturing is one of Scotland's great economies. The industry is today so much more than just producing world class kilts in someone's family Clan tartan. Large fashion houses have used tartan in their collections and the textile industry uses tartan on multiple products such as homewares and fabrics, thus creating an exciting 'tartan culture'.

The industry continues to represent quality products that are made with tradition and tell a story of a nation, often mixing modern with historical threads, allowing it to reinvent itself. Go to any kilt maker or weavers and you will find a space awash with colour as there are literally thousands of tartans to choose from. Each year many new tartans are registered, and they of course are not all family linked.

Tartans are created to mark special occasions, districts, anniversaries and more. Regular readers will know in each issue we feature unique tartans with our *Tartan of the Month* section, and *the Scottish Banner* even has our very own tartan marking 40 years of publishing! It is *the Scottish Banner* tartan that borders our front cover each month.

Tartan's overall contribution to Scotland's GDP is equivalent to approximately £350m per annum, with an estimated 700,000 people employed in the industry making it a huge part of the Scottish economy.

In this issue

After a long dark winter, most people look forward to bringing in the light and warmth of summer. This month in Edinburgh hundreds of very loud people will be putting on an ancient Celtic display at the Beltane Fire Festival to roar in the beginning of summer. Fire, drums and acrobats will certainly be letting Mother Nature know they are ready to receive the season in an event which has become a highlight of Edinburgh's cultural calendar.

A visit to a doctor today could easily be with a male or female physician and most would not even consider if they were seen by a man or a woman. Roll back to the 1860's and things were quite different and a group of women, who would become to known as The Edinburgh Seven, opened up the possibility of women getting into the medical profession in the UK. Things were not easy for these women who suffered abuse and roadblocks to fulfilling their dreams, they however did fulfil those dreams and made not only Scotland, but the world know medicine was not a male only domain.

One Scottish writer is honouring her father, a father she barely got to know, with a production premiering in Scotland this month. *Lost at Sea* tells the story of what many fishing families and communities have struggled with and uses the Northeast language Scots language of Doric. What a tribute to a father forever lost at sea, but never forgotten.

Many who have passed are remembered with grave sites across Scotland, however one family has used incredible architecture to forever rest in peace.

Two grand Victorian Monteath family mausoleums can be found in both Glasgow and the Scottish Borders. While some may find it morbid, I love going to a cemetery and reading about people and taking in how they are remembered. I have visited several Scottish cemeteries and soaked up the history of the place and those who came before. The Monteath cousins certainly have left Scotland with monuments for all to enjoy.

A fabric that continues to reinvent itself

Few fabrics I can think of speak to you like tartan and give the wearer a real sense of belonging and connection to Scotland. Tartan is how many Scots express themselves and you can be guaranteed to be noticed when wearing it. I have been to Scottish events in several countries around the world and you will always find many in tartan, it is a timeless product and carries a great legacy with it. You of course do not have to be Scottish to wear some tartan as it represents quality in manufacturing the world over.

It also is a fabric that continues to reinvent itself, showcasing more than kilts, and something more than just Scots aspire to owning. It is one of 'brand Scotland's' top ambassadors and is renowned for its premium quality, allowing Scotland to be recognised as a nation of top production.

Last year a design student from the Scottish Borders designed a tartan for the blind and vision impaired. Heriot-Watt student Anna Cuinu designed a knitted tartan fabric using stitch structures to translate colours and patterns from the traditional tartan fabric into a sensory one. This is a perfect example how the industry is moving along with a modern world and being of appeal to a broad spectrum of people.

In today's fast fashion world products with heritage, legacy and that last are becoming more and more rare. Tartan has been part of the fabric of the story Scotland for generations and long may that weave of quality continue.

Wishing those celebrating a fantastic Tartan Day this month, I know I will be wearing my kilt on April 6th!

Do you own tartan or have a special connection to the fabric? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

Price increase: This month the *Scottish Banner* is increasing our cover and subscription rates. This is to support the recent increases in printing, distribution and print post rates. Subscription rates will continue to be the most economical and convenient way to receive *the Scottish Banner*. We appreciate our readers continued support!



*Gracing our front cover.
Iona in the Inner Hebrides on
the western coast of Scotland.*



Olivia and Jack are Scotland's top baby names



Olivia and Jack were the most popular first forenames for babies whose births were registered in 2018, National Records of Scotland (NRS) announced recently. Olivia was the top girls' name for a third consecutive year; Jack has been the most popular boys' name for eleven years running. Emily remained the second most popular name for girls. Grace (up five places at eighth) was the only entrant to the girls' Top Ten; Charlotte (down two places to eleventh) dropped out of it. There were two entrants to the girls' Top Twenty: Eilidh (up two places to nineteenth) and Mia (up three places to twentieth).

The joint second most popular names for boys were Oliver (second in 2017) and James (up from third). Rory (which rose eight places to ninth) was the only entrant

to the boys' Top Ten, while Harry (down two places to twelfth) dropped out of it. There were two entrants to the boys' Top Twenty: Max (up five places to nineteenth) and Finn (up five places to twentieth).

The biggest climbers within the Top Fifties were:

Georgia (up thirteen places to 24th); Rosie (up thirteen places to 27th); Jaxon (up ten places to joint 33rd).

Particularly fast-rising entrants to the Top Fifties were:

Mila (up sixteen places to 36th); Ivy (up twenty places to joint 38th); Hunter (up 38 places to 30th); Arthur (up 43 places to 46th); Luca (up 55 places to joint 47th); Robert (up 17 places to 50th).

NRS registered the births of 23,253 girls and 24,532 boys in the period covered by these figures. Parents chose 4,130 different first forenames for girls and 3,322 different first forenames for boys. In total, 2,635 girls and 2,085 boys were given first forenames that were unique. The numbers of different names, and of unique names, were well above the levels of 10 and, much more so, 40 years ago. For example, the number of boys with unique first forenames was greater this year (2,085 in the period covered by these figures) than in the whole of 2008 (1,932) and 1978 (843).

Background

Among the top first forenames for girls, Isla, Sophie and Amelia remained third, fourth and fifth (respectively), Ella rose from eighth to sixth, Ava remained seventh, Aria was up one place at ninth, Jessica fell four places to tenth and Sophia was up four places at twelfth.

As for the most popular names for boys, Logan rose from fifth to fourth, Lewis was down one place at fifth, Leo climbed three places to sixth, two names were joint seventh (Alexander, which was up one place, and Harris, which remained seventh), Noah was down four places at tenth, Lucas rose five places to eleventh, and Thomas was up five places at fourteenth.

The Top Fifty girls' first names accounted for 37% of all those registered, and the Top Fifty boys' first names accounted for 39% of registrations. Olivia was the first name of just 1.8% of girls and Jack was the first name of only 1.6% of boys.

Luskentyre Beach rated top in Scotland



Luskentyre Beach on Harris has been voted the second best beach in the UK and Scotland's top beach according to a poll by online travel company TripAdvisor. The stunning sandy beach in the Outer Hebrides was scooped by Bournemouth Beach in Dorset, which also came sixth in Europe and is among the top 20 in the world. Other top beaches around the UK include St. Brelade's Bay Beach in Jersey. Wales' beaches are featured in the top ten three times, with Barafundle Beach, Rhossili Bay and Newborough Beach all included. And Woolacombe Beach in Devon, Gorleston Beach in Norfolk, and Perranporth Beach, Cornwall in England.

Scots Day Out



Clan high commissioners Frank McGregor, Ken Gordon and Malcolm Edmiston with Bendigo's Frank Hill at SDO Edinburgh Short Film Festival screening.

The introduction of direct flights between Sydney and Bendigo have Scots Day Out organisers excited as they begin planning the 2020 event after another successful celebration in the central Victorian city.



Medieval might.

Despite the warmest start to autumn in 30 years, more than 5000 people were in Rosalind Park for the 7th annual free event where the Scottish Terrier Club of Victoria made its debut, adding to the atmosphere in the shade of the park.

They joined five clan Australian high commissioners and pipe bands and highland dancers from across Victoria, encouraged by 2019 Chieftain Skye Kinder, the Victorian Young Australian of the Year.

Scottish heritage

Skye, a Bendigo doctor currently working in Melbourne, celebrated her Scottish heritage with a special dress made by her mother in the distinctive Bendigo tartan. Skye's ancestors arrived on the Bendigo goldfields from Glasgow in the 1850s.

SDO organisers hope the direct flights into Bendigo will boost band, dancer and diaspora organisations represented next March.

Winners of the 2019 pipe band competitions were - Grade 2: Hawthorn. Grade 3: City of Melbourne. Grade 4: Maryborough.

For more information on Scots Day Out see: www.scotsdayout.com



Chieftain Skye Kinder.

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SCOT POURRI

Highland Inspiration



What a stunning cover you had in the March edition of the *Scottish Banner*. It screamed out Scotland to me and what a lovely read. I love to see young people keeping the traditions of Scotland going and also mixing them in a modern way to keep them relevant. I had not heard of Lorna

Gillies before but will look at her collection in the hopes to add to mine!

I also love reading about Scotland's first female knight, Scottish women sure are a force to be reckoned with.

Gail Fraser
Chicago, Illinois
USA

Visiting Scotland

I have never set foot in Scotland but my love for the land of my ancestors runs deep. I love the history of this ancient land which my great grandparents left to settle in New Zealand. I am sure many readers of the *Scottish Banner* can relate to this and possibly have the same 'pull' as I do to Scotland.

To say it is on my bucket list would be an understatement and I will get there and when I do I plan on going for at least a month. I think I will need it with all the places to visit. I learn about Scotland every month with the *Scottish Banner*, the only place to get Scottish news in these parts, and with each issue my trip seems to get longer as I learn more. I love my country but will always be a proud Scot!

Craig McAlpine
Wellington
New Zealand

Ed note: Thanks for your note Craig. We hope you continue to enjoy the *Scottish Banner* and we remind our New Zealand readers they can subscribe direct with us.

Clydebank Blitz

While reading my March edition of the *Scottish Banner* about *This Month in Scottish History*, I handed it to my wife Audrey about the bombing in Clydebank in 1941. She was seven years old then and lived in Knightswood, Glasgow and was in the shelter with her mum and three wee sisters. Her father was a POW in Germany for five years and mum said; "Don't be afraid girls, daddy is looking after you." Then when the all clear went two days

later they found their house was still standing, but they saw the poor people passing who weren't so lucky. Audrey is writing her life story now for our grand and great grandchildren, to let them know what she went through. Both of us now are 85 years old, me who was lucky to come from Edinburgh and her from Glasgow. We were both evacuated Audrey for one year and me three years.

Charlie and Audrey Brewer
Ringwood, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thank you for your letter Charlie and what a wonderful gift Audrey is leaving her family, sharing family history so it does not get lost.

Munro Bagging

What a delightful article (*Climb every mountain*) in the March edition of the *Scottish Banner*. Whilst I will never be a 'Munro compleator', I admire those who do manage to 'climb every mountain'. I have certainly been to the Highlands on many occasions and the hills and mountains fill me with appreciation for the raw beauty of Scotland.

It is articles such as this that set the *Scottish Banner* apart, constantly delivering an informative view on Scotland and also keeping us to date on all the Scottish events taking place-thank you to all involved!

Roz Ferguson
Washington DC
USA

Ed note: Thanks Roz for your kind note and we agree Scotland is a natural beauty!

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send your photos or letters via social media



Clan Baird

Clan Baird Society will host their 2019 General Meeting in St. Trinnean's Room, St. Leonard's Hall, University of Edinburgh, 18 Holyrood Park Road, Edinburgh, Scotland EH16 5AY, on 5 August 2019 from 2:00-4:00 PM. All Bairds are invited. A representative from the Office of the Lord Lyon will be meeting with us. Please contact Debra Baird, President of the Society, at djbaird4@gmail.com to sign up to attend. We must have a count of those who are coming.

Debra Baird
Clan Baird
USA

Felt like I was being watched!



The Kelpies are definitely worth a visit if you haven't been, and if you have...go again.

A View From My Camera
Scotland

Linlithgow Palace



Popped into Linlithgow Palace today. Here is Mary Queen of Scots who was born in the Palace. More recently a biopic film *Mary Queen of Scots* has had a stint at the box office.

Historic Tours Scotland
Scotland

Up Helly Aa



Shetland Up Helly Aa 2019 the most amazing day.

GN Photography
Scotland

Glencoe



Summer or winter. Glencoe always outstandingly beautiful.

Robert Gibb
Scotland

Delighted to be on the new cover



Delighted to be on the new cover of the *Scottish Banner*, oh and along with fellow Scots The Proclaimers too!!! Available across Australia, NZ, Canada & USA #SoHappyAndGrateful

Lorna Gillies
Scotland

Royal Air Force Chief of the Air Staff takes final Tornado flight over Scotland

Images courtesy of the RAF.



Nearly 26 years after being introduced at RAF Lossiemouth, the iconic Tornado aircraft returned to Scottish skies for the last time recently. The final sortie of three days of flypasts marking the jet's imminent retirement took place in late February over Scotland. The formation was led by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier KCB CBE DFC ADC, a Tornado pilot and former Station Commander of RAF Lossiemouth, who was flying the type for the last time.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier, Chief of the Air Staff, said; "My sincerest congratulations again to the Tornado Force as we approach it's final few weeks in RAF service. As a Tornado GR4 pilot myself, I have seen the aircraft develop over its nearly 40 years of service into an outstanding combat aircraft, flown, maintained and supported by similarly outstanding air and groundcrew. The capabilities of the Force are underlined by its near continuous deployment on operations since 1990, serving with immense distinction in

Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Libya and the Balkans. I will personally be very sad to see the Tornado retire, but it is time now to pass the baton to our next generation combat aircraft. The F-35B Lightning is now operational and the Typhoon is now fully multi-role capable and able to take on the Tornado's missions."

The four-aircraft formation flew a route that took in RAF Lossiemouth and Leuchars Station and was enjoyed by thousands of onlookers who had responded enthusiastically to the social media campaign heralding the flypasts.

Extraordinary aircraft

Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier added; "It was an enormous privilege for me to lead today the final Tornado flypasts over Leuchars, Lossiemouth and Tain, and then back to Marham. Everyone can take immense pride in what the Tornado has achieved in defence of the nation over nearly four decades, and reflect back on the courage, commitment and achievements of everyone who has contributed to the success of this extraordinary aircraft. First entering service in 1979, the fast jets has been used in operations across the world, most recently bombarding Daesh to push the terrorist group back through Syria and Iraq. After over four years on Operation Shader, on 5 February this year the aircraft finally returned home from operations for good.

In the immediate term, the Tornados will be replaced by new weapons capabilities for the Typhoon jet. Under 'Project Centurion', worth £425m over the past three years, the Typhoon now has deep strike cruise missile Storm Shadow, air-to-air missile Meteor and the precision attack missile Brimstone at their disposal."

The RAF's new fleet of F-35 Lightning jets will form the backbone of the UK's combat air fleet alongside the Typhoon jets in the coming years. The Tornado will be officially retired from service at the end of March and will only be used for training purposes over the UK in the intervening period.

Nicknamed the "Tonka", the aircraft's first use in live operations was during the Gulf War in 1991, when 60 Tornado GR1s were deployed from bases in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Two years later they were upgraded to the GR4 model, which has been used ever since over the skies of Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.



Tartan of the Month- Upper Hunter



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

This tartan (SRT reference: 12320) is based on Campbell of Breadalbane (SRT reference: 517) as the Upper Hunter region has had a connection with the M Campbell & Co stores based in the Upper Hunter Valley, a region of New South Wales, Australia, dating back to the late 1800s. Colours: green is for the lands where lucerne supports the dairy, beef and equine industries; blue is for the waters of the Hunter and Goulbourn river valleys; white is for the milk and cream that flowed throughout the valley to the butter, milk and cheese factories; black

represents the black coal seams; purple represents the grapes of the viticultural industry; yellow is for the golden cereal and canola crops as well as the golden wool clips produced; red is for the Light Horseman of the Upper Hunter region and their horses who served in World War I. The Upper Hunter Tartan was designed by the Aberdeen Highland Games Inc. and registered in December, 2018.

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



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SCOTSPEAK

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

"I can confirm that we removed a snake from a property in Bridge of Allan. I responded to a call from a woman who had just returned from a holiday in Australia who had found a small snake inside her shoe in her suitcase. When I arrived, the snake had been contained by the caller, so I safely removed the snake from the property. Upon examination, the snake was found to be a spotted python which is not venomous. The snake is now in quarantine at our animal rescue and rehoming centre in Edinburgh."

Scottish SPCA animal rescue officer Taylor Johnstone said as a snake from Queensland, Australia was found in a Scottish tourists luggage. Moira Boxall had just returned home after a family holiday to Queensland to find a spotted python curled up in her shoe in her suitcase.

"These latest figures confirm Glasgow's status as a go-to destination for the film and broadcast industry and both show its importance of filming to the city's economy. The work of the council's film office continues to bear fruit, and the latest figures underline the importance of not only attracting productions but supporting local companies in the industry. Glasgow Film Office is in



continuous discussion with production representatives and location managers, and as a result, more major films and broadcast programmes and features can be expected to be coming to the city soon."

Councillor David McDonald, deputy leader at Glasgow City Council, said movie and television blockbusters such as *Outlander*, the *Fast & Furious* franchise and *Outlaw King* have pumped almost £20m into Glasgow's economy. Filming in Scotland's largest city was worth £19.1m to the economy in 2018- a 26% increase on 2017.

"During the 18th and 19th centuries, Paisley was one of the leading towns in Europe for the manufacture of high-quality fashion fabrics. The fine silk gauzes and figured muslins of the 18th century, followed by the 19th century shawl, were in demand in all the fashion circles of Europe. Much of the legacy of this great textile tradition is now preserved in Paisley Museum. The textile collection in the museum holds what is thought to be the largest collection of shawls in the world, together with many pattern and sample books, including those which so inspired the incredible Hermes design team. This collaboration shows the extraordinarily rich and varied collection can be used by today's designers to continue Paisley's tradition of creating beautiful high-quality textiles with provenance, while raising awareness of the town's internationally-significant story."

Dr Dan Coughlan, textiles curator at Paisley Museum, said as French fashion house Maison Hermes is creating an exclusive 'Paisley from Paisley' range for its 2019 spring/summer silk and accessories collections.



"What it will do is significantly reduce train journey times between the city belt in Glasgow and Edinburgh, where the line will connect into the existing West Coast and East Coast main lines. Journey times once the full route is completed to the north of England, to the Midlands and ultimately to London for Scottish businesses and people who live in Scotland will be improved. What we see is a huge amount of momentum in what HS2 will do for the Midlands and the north. The wider agenda for HS2 is to rebalance our economy - be a catalyst for growth and prosperity away from London and the South East."

HS2 Limited chief executive Mark Thurston said that high speed rail would benefit Scotland and cut rail travel times from Scotland to English centres. The HS2 high speed network planning is now underway with the first phase of the £56bn railway is due to open in December 2026, with trains to travel at high speed between London and Birmingham. HS2 trains are expected to be running from London to Leeds in 2033 with an extension to Scotland being considered.

"Once up and running there will be six full time jobs and seasonal workers. The company want to make sure much of the

add-on benefits remain local. The area is designated a 'shellfish water-protected area'. When complete it is likely to be the largest oyster farm in Scotland."

Black Isle councillor Craig Fraser said as the largest oyster farm in Scotland has been given the go-ahead by Highland councillors. Cromarty Mussels, trading as MacKenzie Oysters, will be situated in Cromarty Bay on a 165 acre site.

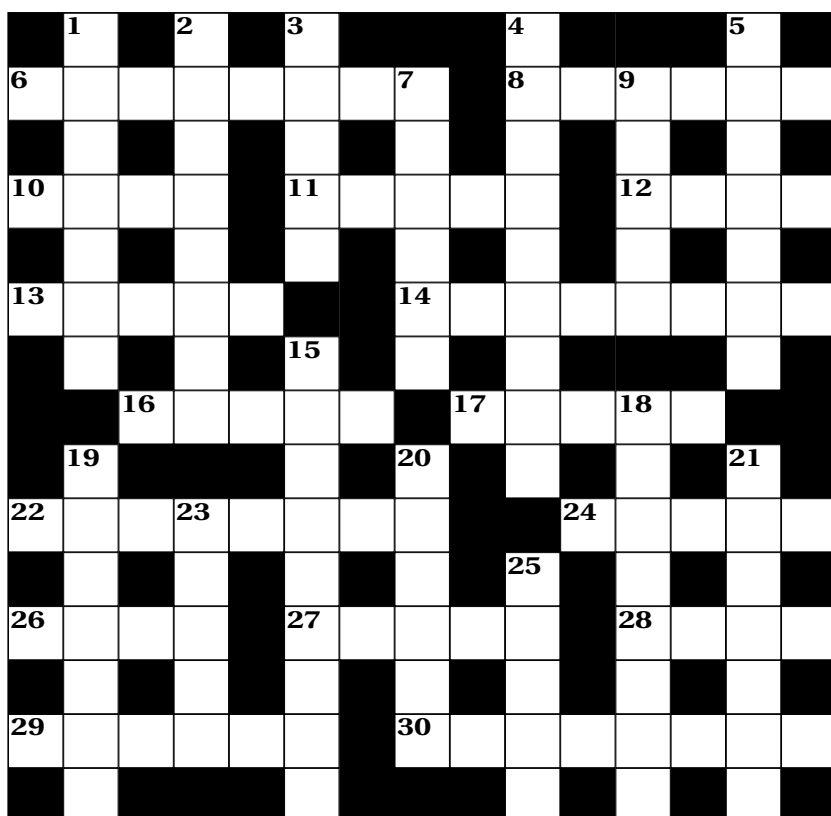


"To think how this would have been constructed - men and boys at the time living in an environment that would have been incredibly challenging, and creating something of this scale without the tools that we have today. The works that we're doing today are clearly much safer. We've got all this equipment. We have the machinery and the power to be able to do what we're doing and those people, 200 years ago, clearly wouldn't have had it."

Peter Robinson, head of engineering at Scottish Canals, said as five miles of the 60-mile Caledonian waterway has been drained to allow a multi-million pound upgrade. Opened in 1822, at a cost of £900,000, the Caledonian Canal was almost twice over-budget and opened 19 years late. The ten new gates, however, are scheduled to be within a Scottish Government budget of £5.3m.

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

- 6) Town near Aberdeen (8).
- 8) Stone pyramids (6).
- 10) Agitate (4).
- 11) Potato chip to a Scot (5).
- 12) Clydeside Firth (4).
- 13) A Scots sweeper (5).
- 14) Spring-blooming flower (8).
- 16) Young bullock (5).
- 17) North-east talk! (5).
- 22) Historic Central town (8).
- 24) Kirk official (5).
- 26) Comfortable (4).
- 27) She's a relative (5).
- 28) Head lice (4).
- 29) It goes with Ross (6).
- 30) MacLeod stronghold (8).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) When white it's lucky! (7).
- 2) Loch near Blairgowrie (8).
- 3) Silvery tree (5).
- 4) Orkney anchorage (5, 4).
- 5) Disinclination to move (7).
- 7) Estate owners (6).
- 9) A cool house! (5).
- 15) Fishing village on Mull (9).
- 18) He's surrounded by water (8).
- 19) Village north of Perth (7).
- 20) Consented (6).
- 21) Glasgow rail station (7).
- 23) Accurately correct (5).
- 25) Bairns (5).

The 15th Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival

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Festival Program
Sunday 26th May - Scottish Concert
Thursday 30th May - Genealogy Fair
Friday 31st May - Heritage Breakfast, Heritage Bus Tour, CWA Shortbread Baking Competition, 9 Hole Clash of the Clans mixed Golf Tournament, Clan Gathering and Ceilidh/Concert
Saturday 1st June - Street Parade, Opening Ceremony, Highland Games, Stalls, Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing and Scottish Theme Dog competition.
Grand Scottish Ball
Sunday 2nd June - Thanksgiving Service and Blessing of the Banners, Breakfast and Farewell

SCOTS' CORNER

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New research reveals fashion secrets of Mary Queen of Scots

The inventories of Mary Queen of Scots provide the only known evidence for the use of 'pippins' in renaissance Scotland.



Three pippins wearing intricately detailed outfits.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) have published research which sheds new light on the inventories of Mary Queen of Scots and gives a glimpse into fashion trends of the 16th century. The research, undertaken by Dr Michael Pearce on behalf of HES, has revealed evidence for a rare set of fashion dolls among Mary's possessions when inventoried in 1578. Known as 'poupée' or 'pippins', these dolls were used by high-status individuals across 16th and 17th century Europe as a way of keeping up to date with the latest fashions. It is believed

that the inventories of Mary Queen of Scots provide the only known evidence for the use of these 'pippins' in renaissance Scotland.

Commenting on his research, Dr Michael Pearce said: "After the battle of Carberry, Mary's 'pippens, fantasies, and feathers' were packed away and locked up in Edinburgh Castle, as the inventory made twelve years later explains. The inventory also reveals how Mary dressed these pippins in the best silks to fashion her European court, as it records a payment in 1563 to Jacques, her tailor, to make grey and silver clothes for a set of dolls. Much more useful than diplomatic accounts

or portraits, these dolls' outfits would have been exquisitely crafted to display the latest trends in materials, accessories and dress styles. The miniature versions could then be exchanged and replicated by tailors elsewhere. This research adds some intriguing new colour to our understanding of life in the court of Mary Queen of Scots."

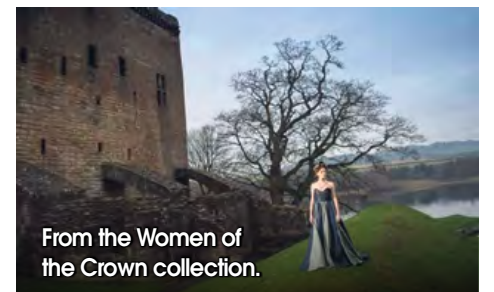
The original royal fashion icon

Rachel Pickering, Senior Cultural Resources Advisor at HES, said: "While fashion dolls such as these became common in the 17th century, evidence for their earlier use is poorly documented – making this new interpretation of Mary's inventories so significant. There is evidence of use of these dolls in 16th century France, with records showing Francois I requested a set from Isabella d'Este, one of the leading women of the Italian Renaissance, for the women of his court. Mary Queen of Scots was raised at the court of Francois' son Henry II, and his wife, Catherine de Medici also had a set of dolls among her personal belongings. This new interpretation of Mary's inventories show how she engaged with the wider world, giving us insight into her role in the exchange of cultural ideas and fashions of the time across Europe."



A close-up side profile of a pippin.

Mary Queen of Scots has also provided the inspiration for a collaboration between HES and American designer Jeff Garner of fashion label Prophetik, who recently brought a new catwalk show to Edinburgh Castle's Great Hall. 'Women of the Crown' showcased this exclusive collection for the first time before it traveled to London Fashion Week. In conjunction with Prophetik, HES will also launch a new range of products inspired by Mary Queen of Scots, the original royal fashion icon.



From the Women of the Crown collection.

The National Celtic Folk Festival



Scotland's Duncan Chisholm is one of the most accomplished and authentic interpreters of traditional Highland fiddle music will be at the National Celtic Festival.

The National Celtic Folk Festival comes to Portlinton on the Northern Bannine Peninsula over the June long weekend. The festive extravaganza will showcase some of the world's most culturally rich performers in concert, workshops, sessions and cross-disciplinary community art projects. There are also theatre and spoken word events, competitions, forums, singing sessions, dances, gatherings, pipe bands, and markets for you to enjoy. The program offers a diverse range of art forms, along with the many interpretations of Celtic and Folk culture within this picturesque Australian setting.

The festival market features stalls selling an array of goods and crafts profiling local designers, Celtic wares and a variety of local produce. Visit clans and associations from across Australia with displays including

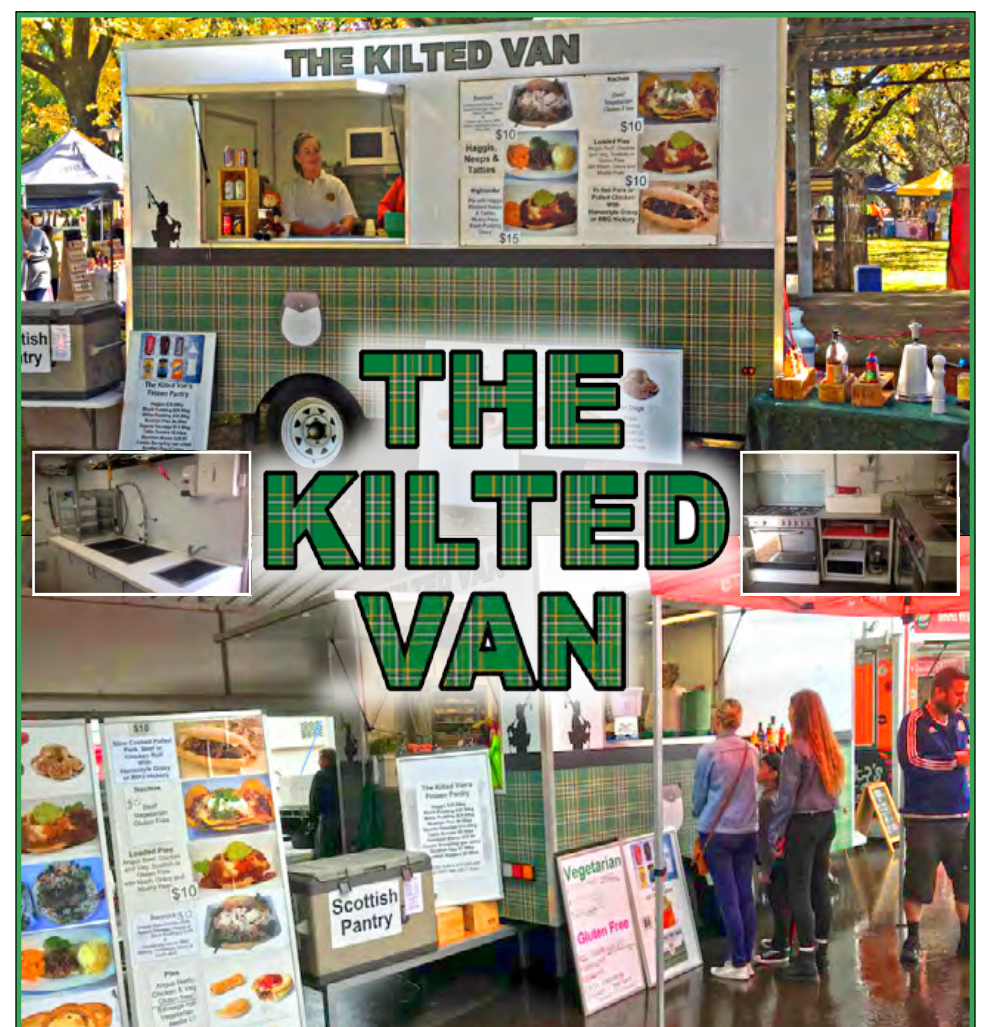
Celtic martial arts and the resident Vikings who settle in for the weekend to present traditional Vikings practices of wrestling, crafts, and iron mongering.

Diverse Celtic gathering

In a National Celtic Festival first, the festival will welcome the Australian Highland Cattle Show. Highland cattle were imported into Australia by Scottish migrants in the middle of the 19th century and this show is a great place to see the best of the breed, with cattle appraised by an international host judge.

The festival showcases national and international artists who attract over 16 000 local and interstate visitors to the region. With a reputation that grows each and every year, this is Australia's largest and most diverse Celtic gathering.

For details and to book tickets see: www.nationalcelticfestival.com



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Scotland facts-I don't believe it!



It is a national day for practical jokes and elaborate fibs, but this April Fool's Day (Monday, 1st April), VisitScotland is celebrating the weird and wonderful facts about Scotland that are entirely true!

Known as 'Hunt the Gowk' Day in Scotland - gowk being the Scottish word for a foolish person - the 1st of April tradition used to see people sent on a foolish errand to deliver a sealed message reading 'Dinna laugh, dinna smile, hunt the gowk another mile'.

Today, it continues to be a time to fool friends with fictional tales but from tales about Elvis Presley to waterfalls higher than Niagara Falls, the following Scottish stories - believe it or not - are no April Fools:

- Scotland has approximately 790 islands but only a quarter are inhabited.
- There are more red heads in Scotland than anywhere else in the world.
- The village of Bonnybridge, near Falkirk, has been dubbed the UFO capital of the world, with more than 300 reports of unidentified flying objects recorded every year.

- Located at the geographical heart of Scotland in Fortingall Churchyard lies what is believed to be the oldest tree in Europe. Estimated to be 3,000 - 5,000 years old the Fortingall Yew has a trunk diameter of 52 feet.
- Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire is considered the only place in Britain that Elvis Presley ever visited. In 1960 the 'King' was finishing his army national service and stopped over for 2 hours.
- Edinburgh was the first city in the world to have an organised municipal fire brigade. The Edinburgh Fire Engine Establishment was formed in 1824, led by James Braidwood who went on to be first director of what was to become the London Fire Brigade. A statue to James Braidwood can be found in Edinburgh's Parliament Square.
- It was a Scot from Renfrewshire who laid the foundation stone for the Statue of Liberty. William A Brodie was a stonemason and moved with his family to the US in 1843 when he was two years old. He was born in the village of Kilbarchan.

- Cairns were rallying points before battles and fights. Each man would place a stone on the ground upon arrival and remove it again after the fight. Then the number of stones left would count to the lost number of the Clan.
- Following a storm in 2008, cup and rings marks were revealed in Achnabreac Forest near Lochgilphead believed to be around 5,000 years old.
- The very first recorded appearance of the elusive Loch Ness Monster occurred in 565 AD, when a "water beast" attacked one of St. Columba's followers in the loch.

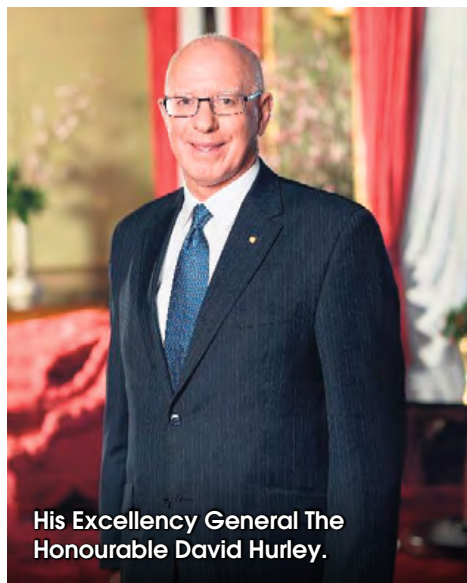
World records

And from fools to impressive feats - do you know that Scotland is also the holder of an impressive number of world records, many of you can visit?

- Ebenezer Place in Wick, Caithness has the record for the shortest street in the world, measuring just 2.05m.
- Operated by Loganair, the world's shortest commercial flight takes place between the two Orkney Islands, Westray and Papa Westray. It covers a distance of 1.7 miles (2.7 km) and if the weather conditions are favourable, it can be completed in just 47 seconds.

- The Dumfriesshire village of Sanquhar is home to the oldest working post office in the world. It's been operating continuously since 1712.
- At 127m tall, The Glasgow Tower at the Glasgow Science Centre is officially the tallest tower in the world which can rotate fully through 360 degrees.
- The world's tallest and longest hedge can be found in Perthshire; Planted in 1746, the Meikleour beech hedge is 540m long and at its highest point is 36m tall.
- As the Home of Golf it is no surprise that Scotland is also home to the oldest golf course in the world, The Old Course at St Andrews Links in Fife. Archbishop Hamilton's Charter in 1552 is the earliest documentary evidence that allowed the people of St Andrews to play golf on the Links
- Founded in 1786, Strathisla Distillery in Keith has been recognised as the oldest operating Scotch whisky distillery.
- If you pay a visit to Smith Museum in Stirling, you'll find the world's oldest football. Discovered during an excavation project in the mid - 1970s, tested have confirmed the grey, leather ball is 436 years old.
- The new Queensferry Crossing over the River Forth Estuary entered the record books as the longest pair of free-standing balanced cantilevers measuring 643.9m.

The Bundanoon Highland Gathering



His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley.

Scots from around Australia are set to descend this month on the NSW Southern Highlands for the Bundanoon Highland Gathering. Some of the highlights of this year's event include the Australian Highland Heavy Weight Championships, this is an outstanding field of heavy weight



competitors across various heavy event, so the competition should be fiercely contested and always a hit with the audience. The Tartan Warriors will be lifting the Bundanoon Stones. The weight of the stones are 100kgs, 115kgs, 125kgs, 140kgs and 165kgs.

The Gathering is expecting 25 pipe bands to perform who will march in the opening parade and ceremonies, play throughout the day and of course stop everyone in their tracks at the massed bands finale, which includes a lone piper display.

The sounds of Scotland

The sounds of Scotland will be heard throughout the day with artists such as Mary Kiani, Sydney Scottish Fiddlers and the Bundanoon Public School Choir - a recent initiative for the school, as well as Scottish Highland and Country dancers and an array of family friendly entertainment. The Chieftain of the Day will be His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd), Governor of New South Wales accompanied by his wife Mrs. Linda Hurley.

This annual event began on 21 October 1978, its principle aim to raise funds for local charities and bring tourists to Bundanoon in particular, and the Southern Highlands, today it is one of the largest events for the area and one of the top showcases of Scottish culture in Australia.

The Bundanoon Highland Gathering will take place on Saturday April 6th, rain or shine, in Bundanoon, NSW. For details: 02 4883 7471 or www.brigadoon.org.au

Did you know? Glasgow



Glasgow City Chambers.

- The name 'Glasgow' derives from a Gaelic phrase meaning 'green valley' or 'dear green place'.
- Glasgow is the only city in Scotland that has an underground train service with it being the 3rd oldest system in the world.
- Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a famous architect and designer, was a resident of Glasgow and many of his work can be found in Glasgow.
- The first international football match, between Scotland and England, was played in Glasgow.
- Glasgow is the fourth-largest city by population in the UK, after London, Birmingham and Leeds.
- The City Chambers was built using more marble than the Vatican. The building was built in 1888 at the cost of £578,323, which is over £40 million in today's money.
- Fossil Grove in Glasgow's Victoria Park has trees that are twice as old as dinosaurs. Eleven extinct fossilised trees date back 330 million years to a time when Glasgow's climate was warm and humid.
- The Mitchell Library in Glasgow is Europe's largest public reference library.
- The city's Horseshoe Bar is a grand Victorian bar established in 1884 by Calvary Captain John Scouller. The bar measures 104 feet and four inches, and is the longest continuous bar in Europe.
- Glasgow is Scotland's largest urban economy, and is the hub of the metropolitan area of West Central Scotland. Glasgow generates over £13 billion Gross Value Added each year, supports over 400,000 jobs in more than 12,000 companies, and has the third largest Gross Domestic Product Per Capita in the UK, after London and Edinburgh.

Scotland reaches for the stars



Kirroughtree Forest, Dumfries and Galloway.

Scotland's satellite industry could help revolutionise the world's response to natural disasters and potentially save lives, according to a leading scientific researcher. Dr Ciara McGrath, from the University of Strathclyde, made the claim at VisitScotland Business Events' latest INNOVATETHENATION talk, held at the University of St Andrews in March.

INNOVATESPACE discussed Scotland's thriving work within the Space sector and how the country is making a name for itself as a growing and dynamic location in this field. There are currently 132 organisations engaged in space-related activities in Scotland, including the headquarters of 83 UK space industry firms with a total income of £140 million. Last year, the UK Space Agency and Highlands and Islands Enterprise announced funding to build the

UK's first spaceport in Sutherland which will launch Scottish-built satellites into space by early 2020.

Dr McGrath, a Research Associate in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, used INNOVATESPACE to present her research on the use of satellites the size of shoeboxes, called CubeSats, to track natural disasters. Currently, the only satellites that can provide real-time coverage of natural disasters are larger geo-stationary satellites which sit in a set orbit about 36,000km above the surface and follow the rotation of the Earth.

Take Scotland into the next stratosphere

Dr McGrath said: "Scotland has a rich heritage of innovation and engineering but the growth in the Scottish satellite sector has really taken off in the last ten years.

At the moment satellites tend to follow a set path in orbit around the Earth as it takes a lot of fuel to move them, but there are new smaller satellites (CubeSats) being built in Glasgow which are easier to move around - and there are more being built here than any other city in Europe. It's like moving a drone rather than a 747. With easier manoeuvrability, they could be used to learn about natural disasters, such as forest fires and hurricanes, by tracking their movements and rapidly relaying data to first responders. In doing so Scotland could help revolutionise the world's response to natural disasters and potentially save lives."

INNOVATETHENATION, organised by VisitScotland Business Events, is a series of talks which bring together industry experts to discuss Scotland's areas of excellence and innovation and to help attract future events to Scotland's cities and regions. Joining Dr McGrath to speak at INNOVATESPACE were also Dr Anne-Marie Weijmans, School of Physics & Astronomy at the University of St Andrews, and Dr Luke Daly, School of Geographical & Earth Sciences at the University of Glasgow.

Fiona MacKinnon, Associations & Sectors, VisitScotland Business Events said: "Scotland has a hugely successful and thriving space sector, by the year 2030 it is expected that the space industry will grow its value to £4billion. Our speakers for INNOVATESPACE all have different focuses within the sector and we're looking forward to hearing about the fantastic work each of their institutions are doing to take Scotland into the next stratosphere."

Ghost Signs of Glasgow



A new project by Glasgow City Heritage Trust (GCHT) will be unearthing the stories behind old signs and shopfronts of the city. Ghost signs, the fading remains of old painted signs on buildings, provide an invaluable insight into Glasgow's architectural, social and cultural history. Many ghost signs hide in plain sight hidden by the urban landscape around them, leaving a tangible part of Glasgow's heritage vulnerable to being lost forever.

The project will be revealing, researching and documenting ghost signs in Glasgow in order to create an online archive and to expand our collective knowledge about these remnants of Glasgow's past. GCHT will be organising guided walks, talks and workshops, and making a map of these signs and shopfronts across the city. With the help of volunteers, the project hopes to use social media to engage people with Glasgow's historic environment and encourage communities to share their memories of the city.

Beavers given protected status



However, we recognise that beavers can have a significant impact on farming, particularly in areas like Strathmore, which is why we have been working closely with farmers and partner agencies to establish management plans, as well as a licensing system for culling when there is no other alternative."

Beavers benefit nature

SNH Chief Executive Francesca Osowska said: "Beavers benefit nature, creating habitats such as ponds and wetlands where other species thrive, as well as alleviating flooding and improving water quality. But it will sometimes be necessary to minimise or prevent beavers' impacts on farming, and other interests. In readiness for beavers' protected species status, SNH has been working with a range of partners, including Scottish Government, farmer and conservation bodies, to produce a strategy for beavers' sustainable future."

Beavers became extinct in Britain in the 16th century, mainly due to over-hunting. However, between 2009 and 2014, sixteen Eurasian beavers were successfully introduced to Knapdale Forest, Argyll and Bute, with the benefits and impacts being independently monitored by SNH. It was the first successful reintroduction of any wild mammal to the UK. Further, unregulated releases of beavers were made in Tayside, where the population now stands at around 500.

The Eurasian or European beaver will be added to the list of European Protected Species of Animals, protected under Scottish law. This means that from 1 May 2019 shooting will only be allowed under licence, which will be managed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). All licenses will be issued in accordance with the law on European Protected Species.

Announcing the news, Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: "The Scottish Government believes in the highest standards of animal welfare - for both wild and domestic animals - and we felt it was high time that beavers enjoyed the same legal protection as other species like bats, dolphins, wildcats and otters. There are few species that have such a significant and, largely positive, influence on the health and function of our ecosystems. The importance of beavers to Scotland's biodiversity is huge.

Bundanoon is -BRIGADOON

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KINGS CASTLES AND “DURTY” WEE RASCALS

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



For mair than a generation noo, every bairn has had to go to the school – a' the parents o' the weans in school the noo have had an education themselves, so that baith at hame and in the school the young generation of the present day have sae mony advantages over whit you and I had, they ought to be regular gems o' guid behaviour and intelligence. But I canna see that they're ony better than their grandfaithers were at the same age. Except my guid-dochters boy, Alick, he's worse.

Some healthy scepticism from Neil Munro's comic character Erchie MacPherson.

The public or rather state school system in Scotland has a proud and ancient lineage. In 1474 King James IV, that same destroyer of Crookston Castle, in the interest of good governance, made education an important part of his public policy, and the Scottish Parliament, passed, the first compulsory education act in Europe. The act required the barons, freeholders and other prominent citizens to put their eldest sons into schools until they had thoroughly learnt Latin, and only then were they allowed to go on to study arts and law for a further three years. It was hardly democratic but latent aspirations for a universal provision of education were given a further nudge forward when in 1560 the religious reformers, Knox and Melville, discouraged private education, and with Calvinist zeal, promoted the “trew religion” by “virtuous education and Godly upbringing.”

John Knox

The First Book of Discipline ordained that every kirk should have a schoolmaster (in rural districts he might be the Minister), who was to give elementary instruction particularly in Calvin's catechism.

Knox's interest in education was not, of course, totally altruistic and was ecclesiastical rather than civil. It was not the intention of Knox to teach everyone reading, writing and arithmetic, but to educate the young in matters of religion. It was driven by the idea that for the Protestant religion to prosper, for people to be able to fully appreciate the scriptures and be involved in their worship, they had to be literate. The result was that Scotland's peasantry became one of the most literate in Europe.

No matter what any of us might think about John Knox's influence then and today, his writings foreshadowed and laid down some of the foundations for a modern Scottish Education system, one that was destined to become comprehensive, compulsory, democratic and free, with universal entitlement to be provided not just for the children of the poor but for everyone who showed ability. There was to be an elementary school in each parish where the populace were to be equipped to be able to read the bible in “inglis or Scottis”, a grammar school was to be provided in each burgh and a college in each principal town. In the towns provision was made for the teaching of Grammar, Latin, Logic and Rhetoric and the universities of St Andrews, Glasgow, and Aberdeen were to be reorganised. Not all of these ideas were implemented in the 16th and 17th century, with civil strife and the civil wars of the Covenant taking its toll in the years to come, but Knox and Melville had cast the framework from which Scottish Education was to be inspired, grow and develop, and to be moulded by future generations.

It took until the time of James VI and Charles I for Knox's ideal of a school in every parish to become established and enforced by Acts of the Scottish Parliament. But in many country places little was done for several generations, those responsible pleading poverty stating in one case that the “*people are puir labouris of the ground and thairfor are content that their bairns be brought up to labour with thame*”.

Another says “*Not ane in the paroche can reid nor wryt except the Minister*.” Where education was provided the idea that it was possible for the idealised ‘lad of pairts’ from a village school to advance in society is not disputed, that enough did so still did not make it a democratic education system.

Scottish Education System

An independent Scottish Education System, an independent Scottish Legal System and the maintenance of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland was about all that was quarantined for the future when Glasgow and Edinburgh's citizenry rioted and Scotland's aristocracy signed away Scotland's right to maintain its own Parliament by the Act of Union in 1707. But in spite of such social unrest and other difficulties, the notion of providing educational entitlement to all of Scotland's young people persisted and survived through the centuries, until it was finally achieved in the 19th century by my grandparents' generation. However, when the Education Act of 1892 was first introduced it applied to children of primary school age only with secondary education left in the hands of town councils and private bodies.

From my own experience most of those Scots who I meet from time to time throughout the world demonstrate the benefits of their Scottish education.

Nevertheless, there was a flurry of activity from 1873 onwards when the Govan Parish School Board was established in and the schools that my parents and siblings later attended were opened to the children of Govan. In fact of all the school boards set up under the provisions of the 1872 Education Act the Govan Parish Board was by far recognised as being the most progressive. In the space of 46 years they built 34 new schools, pioneered medical inspections, school swimming baths, education for the handicapped and new school design and architecture. First came Rutland Crescent School, the school my father and some of his brothers and sisters attended, opened in 1884, (*he often laughingly referred to it as the “ragged school”*) Lambhill Street Public School opened in 1875, (later attended by my brother and sister) then Kinning Park West Public School in 1876, then came Lorne Street School in February 1894, (later attended by my siblings, Charlie and Jean and which I would have gone to if my family had remained in Plantation).

But it was still a bit of a surprise, and a reality test, to discover that my great grandmother, Margaret Livingstone, born in 1836, was only able to sign her

marriage certificate, aged 23 in 1859, with a cross “according to her mark”. It shouldn't have been so surprising, for it was as late as 1872 that primary education was made compulsory and secular, and it was as late as 1894 before elementary education was “offered free” from the age of 5 to the age of 14. Margaret Livingstone was said to have come from Morvern (alt. sp. Morven) in Argyll. The district is bounded in the north by Loch Sunart, west by the Sound of Mull and east by Loch Linnhe. It's a very scenic but remote part of Scotland and in 1836 I doubt that there were many opportunities for schooling for the young lass that was become my great grandmother. How she met my great grandfather is not known but we can surmise that she and perhaps the rest of her family came to Glasgow amongst that massive number of immigrants into the city when Glasgow became heavily industrialised and people sought work there. It was my grandparents' and my parents' generations that were the first to enjoy the trials and tribulations of universal education provision in Scotland, at least until the age of twelve and later fourteen.

Education for all

It may be something of a myth that Scottish education was somehow more democratic compared with systems in operation elsewhere, and the idea of the ‘lad o' pairts’ has undoubtedly been overdone. What can be said, however, is that Scottish education has a very valid claim to having been meritocratic at least in its aspirations from a very early date. When many countries were still providing for the children of the aristocracy and an English Education Act, as late as 1870, was speaking of ‘education for the poor’, the Scottish Education Acts had already been talking about ‘education for all’. This had been a consistent vision for Scottish Education over the centuries, in spite of the country being one of Europe's less wealthy nations and a vision which all Scots can justly take some pride and which certainly until recent times was recognised word-wide.

With hindsight I am impressed with the standard of literacy that my own parents reached even if, tongue in cheek; they talked about the “ragged school”. From my own experience most of those Scots who I meet from time to time throughout the world demonstrate the benefits of their Scottish education. They may not have attended a fancy school but they carry something positive from their growth in the Scottish education system. I leave the last word, in his Highland lilt, to Neil Munro's fictional character, Para Handy. It seems to sum up what a Scottish education was all about, maybe a confidence that it was as good as anything else available and that we had absorbed and taken some of it to heart and mind.

...education gives you the nerve, and if you have the nerve you can go around the world.

Do you have fond memories of your schooling in Scotland? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

A tale of two Monteaths



The aerial shot of the Monteath Mausoleum in the Scottish Borders.
Photo ©www.BorderArchaeology.co.uk

The stonework crumbled and the mausoleum was placed on Scotland's Buildings at Risk Register.

Happily, a local Friends group was formed in 2014 and after years of campaigning and fundraising, a full restoration got underway during 2018. Completion is due late in 2019. The building is being weatherproofed, the stars re-glazed and there will also be improvements to access and interpretation. Once the work is complete and access to the site is restored, getting there will be quite easy thanks to the 2015 re-opening of the Borders Railway.

Galashiels Station, Borders Buses service 68 takes you to Lilliardsedge Holiday Park. Near the park a new track runs to the lonely hilltop mausoleum. Few will remember General Sir Thomas Monteath Douglas, but people will increasingly notice his memorial. Where did he get the idea for such an ostentatious resting place?

Major Archibald Douglas Monteath

Perhaps from a relative. For Glaswegians there is another Monteath Mausoleum. Major Archibald Douglas Monteath was a cousin of Thomas, and also served in the Indian Army. He died in 1842 and is interred in a smaller but still impressive mausoleum in Glasgow's famous Necropolis. This celebrated Victorian burial ground occupies a green hill above the cathedral and abounds in the kind of elaborate memorials that inspired the famous *Doctor Who* 'Blink' episode. One of the most impressive mausoleums is Monteath's.

This mausoleum is circular, 30 feet in diameter, with a smaller circular cupola and an entrance porch. Some suggest that it is modelled on the Knights Templar Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. There's certainly a resemblance and it's perhaps a relief that the Monteath tomb didn't feature in any Dan Brown novel or film adaptation. There is no text or other inscription anywhere on the structure but many intricate carvings and unsettling grotesque miniature heads.

The architect here was an Edinburgh man, David Cousin, who was more used to designing buildings for the living. One property he designed in Edinburgh,



The Monteath Mausoleum, Glasgow Necropolis. Photo: David McVey.

the former St Thomas's Church in Rutland Street (now Ghillie Dhu's bar and restaurant), features a very similar entrance porch to the Monteath tomb in Glasgow, though without the elaborate decoration. There's a ghost story in there somewhere.

Victorian funerary architecture

After Archibald's death, his brother, James Monteath, succeeded to his estate and, on acquiring further lands, he acquired the additional surname 'Douglas'. Sir Thomas Monteath (remember him?), as we saw, succeeded to these estates, and the additional surname, on James' death in 1850.

The Glasgow mausoleum is in reasonable condition though there is an appeal underway to raise funds for refurbishing work. It's difficult to assess the state of the interior as apparently Glasgow Council have lost the keys! If Dan Brown didn't write about the Monteath Mausoleum, I did. I published a humorous ghost story some years ago, imagining that the Necropolis had its own police force (The Necro Polis) who ran the cemetery in association with its resident ghosts. The police station I situated in a fully-renovated Monteath Mausoleum.

The coppers shared it with the Major himself.

And so, two branches of a forgotten family acquired wealth and fame through colonial service, and a member of each branch left behind a spectacular example of Victorian funerary architecture.

These are monuments to the men themselves, certainly, but also, I suspect, to a shared yearning for something beyond this life.

The Monteaths were a widely-dispersed Scottish family notable for serving the Empire in India. They also had a talent for commissioning elaborate tombs for themselves. Well, two of them did, anyway.

Thomas Monteath was a cosmopolitan figure. Born in 1788 in Jamaica, he had an English mother, a Scottish father and travelled to India to enlist in the Bengal Infantry. He prospered in the subcontinent and rose through the ranks to become a general. In 1850 he inherited the wealth and lands of his cousin, James Monteath Douglas (more, much more, about him later), and appended the name 'Douglas' to his surname. After retiring, he settled on the family estate near Ancram in the Borders. In 1865 he was awarded a KCB, so becoming Sir Thomas Monteath Douglas.

So much, so unremarkable; an exciting career, albeit in an arena most of us would have moral qualms about today, and a prosperous retirement. But what really makes Monteath's life stand out is what he planned for after he left it. By 1864, he had decided where he would spend eternity after his death - the summit of Gersit Law, high above Ancram Moor. He commissioned architects Peddie and

Kinnear to design a mausoleum for the spot, a structure that would impose itself and his memory on the landscape.

Colossal monument

The architects couldn't have known it, but they needed to get their skates on. Monteath would only live until 1868, albeit reaching the impressive age of 80. In fact, the mausoleum was ready for business by 1865. It resembled something like a Scottish version of the Great Pyramid. Two life-size stone lions guarded the entrance, one awake and the other sleeping, as if they were on duty turnabout. The interior, which was designed to be locked for all time, featured two life-size stone angels (if angels are human-sized) on either side of Monteath Douglas's stone sarcophagus. Sea-green natural light, filtered by 48 glazed stars in the domed ceiling, was never designed for living eyes. The height of the entire structure, up to the cross that surmounts the dome, is over 60 feet.

And yet this colossal monument became almost forgotten. The glazed stars were smashed, admitting the rain, and the locked wooden doors were also breached.



Approaching the Monteath Mausoleum high above the Glasgow cityscape. Photo: David McVey.



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Beattock Railway Station.

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



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

Greeting from Scotland – and what a wild place it is at the moment as we do battle with a storm. The wind howls and it is time to think about sunnier climes. And not just think. The chief is celebrating a BB. A Big Birthday looms and a Big Holiday is on the cards.

I know Africa reasonably well. We were brought up in Nigeria and I have holidayed in Kenya and filmed in countries like Benin, Cameroon and Uganda. The MacGregor and I have also visited friends in South Africa.

This time our goal is Namibia, a place known for spectacular landscapes. First stop is the Skeleton Coast, which, although not a desperately welcoming name, is said to contain some dramatic scenery. After that we will be going on safari and we will be camping in the desert. There will be sand in shoes and there will be scorpions. There will also be sun-downers at sunset.

We pack lightweight clothing and sunscreen – and that is the easy bit. There are the dreaded jabs to cope with and at the clinic the view that red-heads

really are more susceptible to pain than the rest of us is confirmed. The MacGregor does not like injections one bit.

Beattock

Before we go there is also unfinished business to sort out and one of the films I am working on at the moment is the possible re-opening of Scotland's closed railway stations. Some of the more rural ones were shut in the 1960s and 70s and there is now a movement to get them re-opened.

Several dozen regional stations are being looked at. And one with a particular history is Beattock in the south of Scotland. This iconic site between Lockerbie and Glasgow opened in the early Victorian age and it became a vital stop for trains coming north from England.

The reason was that the steep terrain of Dumfriesshire and Lanarkshire made it difficult for steam engines to climb the hills. So, locomotives had to stop at Beattock and be pushed to the summit by other heavy-duty engines.

A whole community grew up around this remote part of the country. At one stage four hundred people populated the local village. For them and the nearby spa town of Moffat the railway was a vital link to the wider country.

Beattock closed back in the 1970s. When modernisation came the new electrified trains could make their own way up the hills and the station was redundant. Now, though, there are moves to get it up and running again. The platform is still there, albeit in a sorry state, and the tracks and overhead lines are all in place.

As in other parts of Scotland opening a station would rejuvenate; giving people in rural area better access to the cities; boosting business and bringing in tourists. A decision on the future of these forgotten railways hubs is expected later this year.

African blanket

Talking of railway stations. I am waiting to catch a train when something colourful, or rather someone colourful, catches the eye. This woman has blonde hair and blue eyes and she is wearing a red and blue checked coat.

Now, I have a similar red and green offering. Which, like hers, goes right down to the ground. Mine is fashioned from MacGregor tartan and is not something I would wear day to day. No, my coat of many colours is sported at clan gatherings and evening events. So, I am intrigued by hers.

When I ask what the tartan is, she replies that it is not a tartan. The garment she has on is what is known as an 'African

blanket'. It is made from 'Shuka' cloth which is the fabric worn by the Maasai people of East Africa.

This legendary semi-nomadic tribe populates Kenya and Tanzania. Tall and slim and known as great warriors, the men hunt for food in the wildest areas. There the sun bakes in the day whilst the nights can be bitterly cold, and a heavy-duty fabric helps protect them from the elements.

When I ask where the rainbow shades come from, I learn that the Maasai are expert in creating dyes; using animal blood, plants and crushed insects to produce vivid reds, greens and blues. It is useful because a bright colour can help to scare the wildlife away from the cattle.

Yet further research throws up another theory. And that is that the Shuka cloth may be a throwback to the tartan brought to Africa by colonial troops and Scottish missionaries. Even if the good Dr Livingstone did not actually wear a kilt to tramp through the jungle, he was reportedly seen in a tartan jacket. Which one day proved fortuitous. When the explorer was attacked by a lion the thickness of the plaid is said to have saved him.

Wish us well on our trip. It is an exciting time – and whether we will find more links to Scotland, who knows....

By: Frank McGregor

2019 Richmond Highland Gathering



L-R Frank McGregor, Dr Frank Davidson, Mal Nicolson, John and Elizabeth Macleod, Malcolm Murray, John Nicolson, Heather and Don Macleod and Mal Edmiston.

The 24th Richmond Highland Gathering was held on Sunday 17th of February on the beautiful village green in the historic town of Richmond Tasmania.



Massed bands at Richmond Highland Gathering.

Chieftain Sally Cornish and the St Andrews committee were delighted with the large turnout of spectators considering that this is one of Tasmania's busiest weekends for alternative events on the Tasmanian calendar.

For this cultural display to go so well is a feather in their cap and there were a lot of feathers there but more about that later.

Most weekends, Richmond is traditionally buzzing with tourists and on this day, they were treated to the swing of the kilt, pipe bands, highland dancing and various entertainment groups which included the Clarence Concert Band.

It is also pleasing to see that this gathering is beginning to attract more stall holders and clan tents from interstate which includes St Kilda Retail and *the Scottish Banner* who is now a regular stall holder and supporter of this event.

Clan Alumni

Compared to other Highland Gatherings in Australia, this would be considered a boutique gathering but it is probably the pick of the Australian gatherings when it comes to attracting senior members of the clan network. Now to the feathers. Wayne Sinclair, President of the Clan Sinclair Society and his colleague Jim came for the first time and said that they have been travelling around gatherings for twenty years and remarked that he had never seen so many feathers before.

And he was correct. For your information, feathers can only be worn by Clan Chiefs, and clansmen or Armigers who have had their position recognised and awarded through the Lord Lyon Court of Scotland.

Richmond was pleased to welcome the St Andrews Society Patron, Rt Hon Malcolm Murray Earl of Dunmore, Chief Torquil Donald Macleod of The Lewes, Chief John Macleod of Raasay, Chief John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac, Frank McGregor High Commissioner & Lieutenant Clan Gregor Australia, Dr Frank Davidson High Commissioner Clan Davidson and Senior Vice President of the Scottish Australian



Massed bands at Richmond Highland Gathering.

Heritage Council, Mal Nicolson Chiefs Lieutenant Clan MacNicol, Mal Edmiston High Commissioner of Clan Edmonstone and Wayne Sinclair President Clan Sinclair Society.

Finally this gathering only succeeds with the support of the Clarence City Council, to the trade stalls and vendors, clan tents, the entertainment groups, the six pipe bands involved, all of the Highland Dancers, judges, emcee, the audio team, marshals, volunteers and helpers throughout the day and a years' worth of planning by the St Andrews Society committee. See you in February 2020.



Highland dance displays.

Woman of note: How Cate Cranston led the way for female entrepreneurs

Text courtesy of Scotland.org



The new Royal Bank of Scotland £20 note due to go into circulation in 2020.

When it comes to celebrating ground-breaking women, and the incredible contributions they have made, the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) is putting its money where its mouth is. Of course, this is nothing new to the bank, which has long been an innovator in banknote technology. In 1727, the year RBS was founded, the bank issued the first note to feature a human face, a portrait of George II; in 1777 it became the first bank in Europe to issue multi-coloured banknotes (black, red and blue) and in 1826 it became the first British bank to issue a double-sided note.

Famous faces

Their new, polymer notes feature design ideas drawn from a countrywide People's Money consultation. While the reverse side of their new £5, £10, and £20 notes celebrate Scotland's open spaces and wildlife – featuring mackerel, otters, and red squirrels, the faces of the notes will celebrate Scottish women.

The £5 note will feature pioneering Scottish writer, poet and naturalist Nan Shepherd (1893-1981). Author of fiction and poetry, as well as a celebrated non-fiction book titled 'The Living Mountain' (1977) about her experiences walking through Scotland's famous Cairngorm Mountain range, Shepherd is today recognised as a major contributor to Scottish Modernist literature.

The £10 note carries an image of writer, mathematician and astronomer Mary Somerville (1780-1872). Famously lauded as the 'Queen of British science' upon her death, Mary Somerville was



Catherine Cranston.

hugely influential throughout her life and was nominated to be the first-ever female member of the prestigious Royal Astronomical Society.

Catherine 'Kate' Cranston

The new £20, due to go into circulation in 2020, celebrates one of Scotland's pioneering female entrepreneurs; Glasgow tea room queen Catherine 'Kate' Cranston (1849-1934), and her world-famous Willow Tea Rooms, in Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street.

A legend in her own right, Miss Cranston not only changed the way women socialised in Scotland, she also ushered in the pioneering interior look known as the 'Glasgow Style' through her patronage of architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his artist wife Margaret.

Before Miss Cranston opened her chain of Glasgow tea rooms, it was not the done thing for ladies to socialise without a male chaperone. Her business model, and visionary taste in modern design, freed-up a whole generation of modern ladies to break with Victorian and Edwardian convention and experience a new kind of freedom.

Revolutionary

The daughter and sister of existing tea room owners, Miss Cranston used her business acumen and design flare to put Glasgow on the world stage and helped transform the city. Gone were the dim and dusty old-style meeting places, replaced by bright and airy interiors, light years ahead of anything found anywhere else in Europe.

Royal Bank of Scotland's senior archivist, Ruth Reed, added: "Not only was Kate Cranston revolutionary in how the tearooms offered women a place to meet unaccompanied by men, she is great example of how good entrepreneurship has a positive knock-on effect in so many other ways in communities, such as employing and commissioning local talent."

Miss Cranston's entrepreneurial spirit is as alive today as it ever was. Her famous Willow Team Rooms have just reopened after a massive, £10m restoration project. The driving force behind the tea rooms' renaissance is modern day Scottish entrepreneur Celia Sinclair, who has enjoyed a successful career in senior executive management and commercial property development.

Celia, who is chair of the Willow Tea Room Trust, was absolutely delighted that the image of Kate Cranston is featuring on the Royal Bank of Scotland £20 note: "She was serious about training – she ran all of her own courses and all her staff had to toe the line. She grew her own flowers for the tearooms, fresh foods were supplied by her own dairy. I think there were many women like Kate Cranston around at that time, but history simply doesn't remember them, but now I am glad to say we are with this very fitting tribute."

Banking on female talent

As well as providing space for tech start-up companies at its Entrepreneurial Hub, at its Edinburgh HQ, RBS also operates its own Open Experience Unit, which, via its 'Girls Can Code' employee network, aims to redress the gender imbalance in the Scottish tech sector. The bank recently welcomed more than 200 businesswoman and female school students to its HQ to take part in its Growing Inclusive Leadership in Tech (GILT) conference. While 15% of women work within the tech sector, figures from the Women's Engineering Society show that 95% of all leadership positions in the industry are held by men.

FinTech – financial technology – is already one of the fastest growing sectors of the UK economy, contributing £6.6bn to GDP in 2015 and employing over 61,000 people.

After London, Scotland already turns out the most FinTech-related graduates in the UK – 12% of the annual pool of 97,000 graduates. Alison Rose, CEO of the RBS's Business, Corporate and Commercial wing, believes that if Scotland wants to continue to strengthen its position as one of the best places to start and grow a business, then no-one can be left behind, "Statistics show that women make up only a third of all entrepreneurs in the UK. To better drive the UK's economy, we need to understand, and tackle the barriers and reasons as to why this is."

That's an ambition we're sure Miss Cranston would heartily approve of.



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The Edinburgh Seven

Trailblazers for female doctors

The Edinburgh Seven were an inspiring group of women who broke through barriers to become the first females to study medicine in the UK. The women faced multiple obstacles yet went on to not only complete their dream, but excel in it, and become trailblazers for a generation of women in medicine as Judy Vickers explains.

At four o'clock on the afternoon of Friday, November 18, 1870, a group of medical students were walking towards Surgeon's Hall in Edinburgh's Nicholson Street where they were due to take an anatomy exam.

But as they approached the hall, they found their way blocked by a large angry crowd; some of them began to pelt the students with mud and rubbish and hurl abuse. "We walked up to the gates," one of the students later described, "which remained open until we came within a yard of them, when they were slammed in our faces by a number of young men."

The group of seven did managed to get into the examination hall after a sympathiser unbolted a gate for them but their troubles didn't end there – the chaos continued inside and a live sheep – Poor Maillie, the medical college's pet sheep – was let loose in the room through a back door.

But the Surgeon's Hall Riot, as it later became known as, the site of which is now commemorated by a plaque, proved to be a turning point in a row which had been simmering since the previous spring. For the seven students, who had caused a riot by trying to sit an exam, were all women – the first women in the UK to attempt to study to become doctors.

Tenacity of the women

Such is the iconic status of their struggle, their story has become the subject of the inaugural Dr Elsie Inglis lecture by Edinburgh and the Lothians Health Foundation, which will take place on April 10 at the National Museum of Scotland as part of the Edinburgh Science Festival.

Amanda Tyndall, creative director of the Festival, said: "These women were not given an easy ride any step of the way. What strikes me is the vehemence of the opposition and the tenacity of the women – they must have been characters to be reckoned with."

The story which led to the riot began 150 years ago when the leader of the Edinburgh Seven (as the women were to become known) Sophia Jex-Blake wrote to the Dean of the Medical Faculty at Edinburgh University asking for permission to attend medical lectures.

Born in 1840 in England, Jex-Blake had been inspired to become a physician when she met the pioneering American female doctor Lucy Sewall, who worked at New England Hospital for Women and Children in Boston in the US. Having been refused entry to study medicine at Harvard, then in England, Jex-Blake turned her attention to Scotland.

Her request was instantly divisive. Some members of the faculty, such as James Young Simpson, supported her, others did not, such as Professor Robert Christison who said the poor intellectual ability and stamina of women would lower professional standards. The matter went to a vote which Jex-Blake won only to see that decision overturned after an appeal supported by a petition of around 200 male students.

The reason given was that the cost of a separate female class – it was assumed men and women couldn't be taught anatomy and surgery together – could not be justified for a single woman. So her friend and supporter, Alexander Russel, the editor of the *Scotsman* newspaper, published an appeal for more women to join her.

Gaining honours

One of the first women to respond was Edith Pechey, who wrote: "Do you think anything more is requisite to ensure success than moderate abilities and a good share of perseverance? . . . As regards any thorough knowledge of these subjects at present, I fear I am deficient in most."

In fact, Pechey was among five women sitting the entrance exam in October 1869 along with 145 male candidates; four of the women, including Pechey, came in the top seven places.

These five women were the first members of the Edinburgh Seven: Sophia Jex-Blake, Isabel Thorne, Edith Pechey, Matilda Chaplin and Helen Evans. Mary Anderson and Emily Bovell joined shortly afterwards.

The university ruled that women would receive their tuition in classes separate from the men, and, as those classes were smaller, they would have to pay higher fees. Tutors were permitted but not obliged to teach women so they had to arrange their lectures themselves but Jex-Blake took up the challenge, and the women settled into lodgings in Buccleuch Place.

In March 1870, the women sat their first examinations in physiology and chemistry. They all passed, with four gaining honours in both subjects. Edith Pechey won first place among the candidates sitting the exam for the first time. This meant she should have been in line for a Hope Scholarship, awarded to the top four students sitting the exam for the first time; instead it went to male students with lower marks. The awarding professor feared growing resentment but the move failed to diffuse the situation.

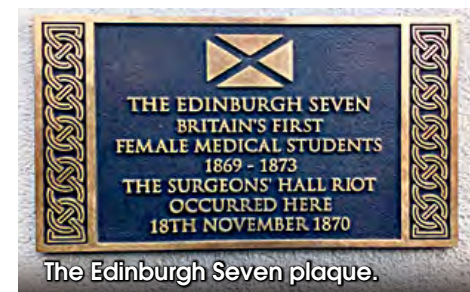
Jex-Blake later wrote of male students "shutting doors in our faces, ostentatiously crowding into the seats we usually occupied, bursting into horse-laughes and howls when we approached — as if a conspiracy had been formed to make our position as uncomfortable as might be."

For the seven students, who had caused a riot by trying to sit an exam, were all women – the first women in the UK to attempt to study to become doctors.

The women were followed home, Jex-Blake's doorbell was pulled off, her nameplate damaged, fireworks attached to her door. In a letter to *The Scotsman*, Pechey wrote of having "the foulest epithets" like whore shouted at her in the streets. The women stayed in at night; sympathetic groups of male students chaperoned them from Buccleuch Place to their lectures.

Tensions were racked higher in April 1870 when a debate was held by the University Court to decide whether the women should be allowed into mixed classes, so cutting their fees and making them eligible for prizes and scholarships. Professor Christison, one of the women's fiercest critics, said patients wouldn't want female doctors and suggested they become midwives instead. While the women's opponents won the debate, the press, reporting on it, came down on the side of the women.

Press and public feeling was growing for the women's cause. In the wake of the Surgeon's Hall Riot, *The Scotsman* said: "a certain class of medical students are doing their utmost to make sure that the name of medical student synonymous with all that is cowardly and degrading, it is imperative upon all...men...to



come forward and express... their detestation of the proceedings which have characterised and dishonoured the opposition to ladies pursuing the study of medicine in Edinburgh."

And they did. A General Committee for Securing a Complete Medical Education for Women was created to help the plan the women's campaign and fundraise; among its 300 members was Charles Darwin.

The first female doctors

Then in 1873, after having passed all of their final exams, the women were refused their degrees on the grounds that regulations prevented women from serving in wards. It was the end of the Edinburgh battle but not the end of the war.

"I believe that it was the seed sown in tears in Edinburgh that was reaped in joy elsewhere," Jex-Blake declared later in her 1886 book *Medical Women*.

She moved to London in 1874 to help set up the London School of Medicine for Women, alongside Elizabeth Garret Anderson, and continued campaigning – despite the school there was still nowhere for women to sit their exams for their medical licence.

That only came in 1876, with the passing of the Medical Act. Jex-Blake and Pechey completed their MD in Bern in Switzerland in 1877, then sat exams in Dublin four months later – the College of Physicians of Ireland being the first body to take advantage of the new law.

Jex-Blake returned to Edinburgh to become the city's first female doctor setting up a clinic for poor patients and later helping set up the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women and the Edinburgh Hospital and Dispensary for Women; Scotland's first hospital for women entirely staffed by women.

Pechey practised in Leeds before moving to Mumbai, continuing the campaign for female doctors in India. Bovell and Anderson worked in London, Chaplin in Tokyo, before returning to London. Neither Thorne nor Evans ever managed to qualify as doctors – but two of Thorne's daughters did.

Back in Edinburgh, the university allowed women to graduate in 1894 and the first female doctors did so in 1896. They still had to organise their own tuition.

In 2015 the Edinburgh Seven were commemorated with a plaque at Edinburgh University.



Another record-breaking year for Scottish heritage sites

Heritage visitors have generated £620 million local tourism expenditure.



Urquhart Castle in summer with Loch Ness in the background.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has reported an increase in footfall with 5,229,049 people visiting its staffed sites in 2018 – a 5% increase from the previous year. The most-visited staffed site was Edinburgh Castle with 2,111,578 visitors. Stirling Castle was the second-top visited site with 605,241 visitors, followed by 518,195 visitors to Urquhart Castle. This is the first time Urquhart Castle has welcomed over 500,000 visitors in a single year.

Sites featured in the TV show *Outlander* have continued to see record-breaking numbers, with Blackness Castle reaching

50,000 visitors for the first time – an increase of 36% from the previous year, while Doune Castle and Craigmillar Castle have also experienced an increase in footfall. HES also had a record number of memberships in 2018 which peaked at over 200,000 – up from 5% in 2017.

Stephen Duncan, Director for Commercial and Tourism, said: “2018 was another fantastic year for Scotland’s heritage sites, with visitor numbers continuing to grow. As well as the ‘Outlander effect’ bringing international visitors to Scotland to explore its rich history, we have also seen an increase

in the number of Scots visiting heritage sites as evidenced in our highest ever membership figure. With Scotland being used as a filming location for productions such as *Outlaw King* and *Mary Queen of Scots*, we hope visitors will continue to be inspired to explore the history of the sites they see on the big screen.”

Scotland’s cultural heritage

HES looks after over 300 heritage sites, including over 70 staffed Historic Scotland attractions. Despite the ‘Beast from the East’ having an impact on sites at the beginning of 2018, there has been a

steady increase in footfall, with half of the heritage body’s staffed sites seeing record visitor numbers last year.

Stephen adds: “As part of our investment plan we have been working on enhancing the visitor experience at our sites. This included a £332,000 investment project at Edinburgh Castle to open ‘Fight for the Castle’ – our first new permanent exhibition at the Castle since 2002. Another commitment was to reach new audiences, particularly with the Year of Young People. We launched Knight at the Castle, the first after-hours event at Edinburgh Castle targeting young people, and our touring LEGO exhibitions were a huge success across our regional sites with Aberdour Castle seeing a 42% increase in visitors from the previous year.”

In addition, staffed HES sites have generated £620 million of local tourism expenditure across Scotland in 2018 – up £30 million from 2017 – and supported more than 18,000 FTE jobs.

Stephen continues: “These incredible figures show the importance that the historic environment has on local communities with the vast majority of economic growth generated by the increase in high-spending international visitors. From abbeys in the Borders to Norse settlements in Shetland, the appeal of Scotland’s cultural heritage reaches far and wide and is there to be enjoyed by all.”

Culzean Castle visitor numbers up



The National Trust for Scotland have reported a 30 per cent increase in visitor numbers to Ayrshire’s Culzean Castle from 2017 to 2018. With Robert Adam’s dramatic cliff top castle, inspiring history, beautiful scenery encompassing woodland, landscaped gardens and rugged coastline, it’s easy to see why Culzean is a popular visitor attraction. Situated south of Ayr, Culzean welcomed 300,000 people to the historic Ayrshire estate in 2018.

The investment over the last few years to improve facilities and visitor experience, coupled with an array of events and activities have helped make Culzean an even more popular place to visit, contributing to the increase in visitor numbers. The unseasonably warm weather in early 2018 is also credited with encouraging visitors to enjoy outdoor attractions such as the Walled Garden and Culzean’s open-access playground, Adventure Cove.

Much to discover at Culzean

The glorious 260ha estate was once the playground of David Kennedy, 10th Earl of Cassillis – a man who was keen to impress with his wealth and status.

Opulent to the extreme, the park is planted with conifers and beech, sculpted around miles of sandy coastline dotted with caves, and finished off with a Swan Pond, an ice house, flamboyant formal gardens and fruit-filled glasshouses.

Operations Manager, Gareth Clingan, said: “Culzean has benefitted from investment in recent years and it is great to see that reflected in the number of people experiencing Scotland’s heritage. Every single visitor helps our charity protect the places that make Scotland so special. We have continued to work hard over the winter months and are gearing up for another successful year. There is so much to discover at Culzean and we’ve added new features and experiences for our visitors to ensure we’re at the top of everyone’s bucket list for 2019.”

Whether it is a walk around the grounds, gardens, a family picnic, or simply taking in the views of our national heritage, Culzean is a great day out for everyone to enjoy. The castle is open daily from April to October 27th.

Did you know?

- Culzean Castle originally belonged to the Kennedys, an ancient Scottish family descended from Robert the Bruce. There was a stone tower house here in the 16th century, and various Kennedys over the centuries made their mark on the castle with improvements and alterations.
- But it wasn’t until the 1770s that it started to become the grand country seat it is today. David Kennedy, 10th Earl of Cassillis and a peer in the House of Lords, commissioned famed Scottish architect Robert Adam to design and build a castle that reflected the family’s status and wealth.
- It was a no-expense-spared project, but neither Kennedy nor Adam survived to see the castle completed as they both died within months of each other in 1792, shortly before the castle was completed.
- A new phase of works started in 1877 under the 3rd Marquess. Edinburgh architects Wardrop & Reid were employed to make further improvements to the castle in keeping with Adam’s style, including the additional three-storey west wing and a newly designed entrance.
- In 1945, when the castle was passed to the National Trust for Scotland, the top floor was converted into a flat for use by General Eisenhower, as a gesture for America’s support during the Second World War. General Eisenhower visited on four occasions including while president of the United States of America.

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UPPER HUNTER COUNTRY

The Beltane Fire Festival

Bringing ancient Celtic tradition to life

The May Queen. Photo: Gordon Veitch.



Photo: Scott Millar.

This month hundreds of performers and thousands of revellers will come together to celebrate the death of winter and the birth of summer with innovative costumes, and the spectacle of fire, music and dance. Bradley Mcarthur from the Beltane Fire Society took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on the history of Beltane and what it means, just who the May Queen and the Green Man are and how this event celebrates our Celtic ancestors.

SC: Brad thanks for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can we begin with you telling us just what exactly the Beltane Fire Festival is?

BA: The Beltane Fire Festival is a modern reimagining of the old Celtic traditions for celebrating the holiday of Beltane, the marking of Winter changing into

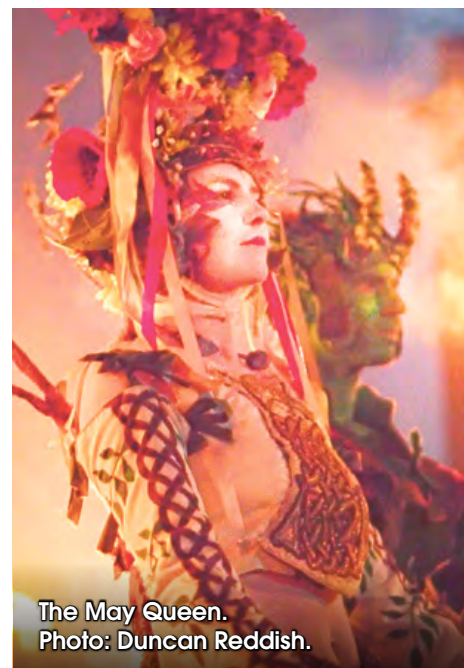
Summer, which is put on by the volunteers of Beltane Fire Society. Our charity gets around 300-400 volunteers who get involved for two months to develop a group concept for their performance on the night. Each group is volunteer led, so they are choosing what they want to add to the festival and as these groups change each festival it means no two festivals are ever the same.

SC: Beltane roughly translates to mean "bright fire" and marks the beginning of summer. Can you tell us the importance of fire to both the festival and historically as it was used this time of year?

BA: For the festival, it helps to light up the space to allow the audience to witness what is happening while also bringing people close together on what can be a very cold night. It is also something we don't see a lot of in this modern age, at least in a positive light, which makes it stand out to people as something special when it is used. Historically it was very



Photo: Vince Graham.



The May Queen.
Photo: Duncan Reddish.



Photo: Vince Graham.



The Green Man.
Photo: Martin McCarthy.

important to the people since it was one of their only means of warmth and sustaining themselves, and could often bring a community together to keep warm through those dark nights.

SC: Historically Beltane would involve agricultural animals. Can you tell more?

BA: One of the traditions that we have been told used to happen at Beltane was the lighting of two big bonfires that the people would then drive their cattle between. The smoke and heat from the bonfires on either side would help kill off any pests attached to the animals from being stuck in captivity together for most of the winter. This would help ensure a healthy livestock going into Summer, which was vital for people back then as they heavily depended on their agricultural animals.

SC: Two prominent figures at Beltane are most certainly the May Queen and the Green Man. Can you tell us more about these symbolic individuals and how does one be chosen for this unique role?

BA: The May Queen is the embodiment of the Celtic Triple Goddess who will bring with her the changing of the seasons and acts as a force of nature. Meanwhile the Green Man starts out carrying the burdens of winter but journeys with the May Queen before dying, being reborn while leaving those burdens behind and then joining her to bring in the new season with their union. These roles in the festival are more unique since they are

chosen before the other various volunteer groups are pulled together. Each year people put themselves forward to play the role of Green Man, lending to the feeling of constant renewal, while the May Queen is picked and is expected to hold the role for several festivals.

SC: Brad the Festival has gone from strength to strength for over 30 years and is today one of Edinburgh's cultural institutions which attracts visitors from around the world. How important is it for the Festival to showcase ancient Scottish customs to international visitors?

BA: As Scotland is an open and welcoming nation, it's great that we get to share our rich heritage with people from all around the world with our modern reimagining of the Beltane Fire Festival. Not only does it get to highlight Scotland's rich past, it also allows people to be involved in a very unique event while also helping to get people involved in Scottish street theatre and pageantry and give a great experience for our volunteers as well. Where else can someone who has volunteered for a charity for two months say they then got to perform in front of almost 10,000 people?

SC: Beltane is an incredible mix of drums, acrobatics, fire and physical theatre with hundreds of participants and thousands of spectators converging on Carlton Hill. What is your favourite aspect to the event, or would you consider the highlight?



Photo: Duncan Reddish.



Photo: Mark Taylor.

BA: Personally, although it's hard to single out one part of the night since it all blends into one magical experience, I would say the first part of the night where it's pitch black and suddenly you have fire light up with volunteers on the National Monument and the sound of the drums finally starts. It was one of the reasons I was so captivated as a child and decided I had to be involved in this!

SC: The Beltane is the largest event of its kind in Europe and plays homage to the Celtic ancestors and traditions of the past. However, prior to 1988 the last Beltane Fire Festival was in 1820. Can you tell us why it took so long for Scotland to re-ignite this ancient custom?

BA: Although I can't name a specific reason for why it took so long to get back in touch with such traditions, we know that the founders of Beltane Fire Society had wanted to reclaim a part of Scotland's heritage, reuse a public space in Edinburgh that had developed an ugly reputation, and also protest the then governments feelings on large public gatherings. It was these elements and more that helped the first Beltane Fire Festival kick off and it did take several years before it became more popular with the public. Thankfully dedicated volunteers kept the festival going so that it has grown to what it is today!

SC: And finally Brad, summer is not the only season to get an incredible welcome.

Last year the annual Samhuinn Fire Festival, celebrating the start of winter, was held for the first time on Calton Hill. Can you tell us more?

BA: So along with Beltane, the Beltane Fire Society also creates a fire festival for the other major Celtic holiday known as Samhuinn. This is where we mark the changing of the seasons from the warm Summer over to the darkening Winter and is held on the 31st October each year. Due to it's growing popularity, we moved it for the first time last year to take place on Calton Hill which was a new experience for us all!

The Beltane Fire Festival takes place on April 30th on Edinburgh's Calton Hill and is produced by the Scottish charity Beltane Fire Society, SC040137. For details see: www.beltane.org



Photo: Scott Millar.



Photo: Asier Goikoetxea.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Tennants lager opens the UK's biggest beer attraction in Glasgow

Following a seven-figure investment, a new visitor centre in the East End of Glasgow is making Tennent's Lager's Wellpark Brewery the leading beer destination in the UK. 'The Tennent's Story' experience is the biggest single investment the company has made in the brewery's visitor experience, which now boasts an impressive 3-floor development at the Duke Street site.

The major development aims to become the UK's biggest beer attraction, significantly boosting local and international visitor numbers to Glasgow's East End. The Tennent's Story will be a must-visit destination in Scotland and puts the country's favourite beer at the heart of Glasgow tourism and the city's ambitions for visitor growth by 2023.

This new immersive experience traces the history of Scotland's oldest brewery, from the 1500s to the present day. Building upon the existing tour and tasting experience, The Tennent's Story will take visitors behind the scenes of the famous beer, covering everything from its origins, production, provenance and even how to pour the perfect pint.

Centred on the story of Hugh Tennent and the first brew of Tennent's Lager in 1885, which was described by newspapers at the time as a "madman's dream", the visitor centre will be home to artefacts gathered from the first days of brewing at Wellpark in 1556 through to today.

Alan McGarrie, Group Brand Director for Tennent's Lager, said: "The Tennent's Story is at the heart of Glasgow's history, and with this significant company investment at our home at Wellpark, we are bringing the story to life - bigger and better than we ever have before, as we showcase the brewery, the beer and the brand. With an ever-growing interest in the provenance story of beer, and a subsequent rise in beer tourism, we want to give locals and visitors to the city a behind the scenes look at not just a working brewery, but the history of Scotland's No.1 beer and the cultural icon that is Tennent's Lager. It has been an incredible experience to watch the transformation of the visitor centre over the last 7 months, which

will build upon Scotland's best-loved brewery tour and we can't wait to open the doors to the public in November. We look forward to watching the impact and growth this will have for tourism not only in Glasgow, but in Scotland as a whole."

Visitors to Scotland currently spend £1 billion every year on food and drink, with beer tourism set to contribute to a further £1 billion in growth by 2030.

Historic Jacob's Ladder re-opens, connecting Old and New Towns of Edinburgh



Jacob's Ladder, the steep pathway carved into the volcanic rock of Calton Hill, has re-opened following the completion of extensive improvements including new high-tech lighting and handrails, the removal of graffiti and extensive stonework repairs.

The pathway, which starts under the railway bridge on Calton Road and emerges into the light at Regent Road, first appeared on a map in 1784, though is likely to have existed as a route long before then. It was also used as a route for funeral processions from the Old Town to the old Calton Hill burying ground. There are a number of steep paths and steps dotted around the UK that are named after the biblical Jacob's Old Testament dream at Bethel.

Adam Wilkinson, Director of Edinburgh World Heritage commented: "The ancient wynds and pathways of Edinburgh, each with their own stories and associations, are an important part of our rich cultural heritage. We want to encourage

everyone to use these pedestrian routes, including closes, paths through burying grounds, and wynds, as they go about their daily business and perhaps explore their city a little in the process."

Slains Castle inspires new musical work



The eerie clifftop setting of Slains Castle is thought to have paved the way for the creation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and now it has provided the inspiration for a new piece of orchestral music. The 16th century ruin, near Cruden Bay in Aberdeenshire, is the subject of a new piece by north-east composer and University of Aberdeen PhD student Joe Stollery.

Joe, 25, has used a number of local landmarks as inspiration for his work leading to a myriad of locally-inspired compositions from his opera 'The Maiden Stone', to 'Grampian Picture' a piece written for a student orchestra, which had recently been performed by the Aberdeen Sinfonietta.

Joe, who is originally from Monymusk but now lives in Aberdeen, said: "I have always been interested in local landmarks in the North East, having visited many of those places from a young age. They have strongly influenced my music and ruins and prehistoric sites provide me with a lot of ideas. When drawing on certain landscapes, I tend to get inspiration from a variety of things involved in these places. As well as looking at what things I can realistically see from my viewpoint such as sunshine, forest sounds, moving water, I also tend to look into the cultural ideas associated with them, and also certain experiences when interacting with them.

"Slains has many of these stimuli. The ruined castle itself is dark and imposing against the long horizon

next to steep cliffs. When you come up to the castle, you find that it is quite a treacherous place, with spiral stairs leading haphazardly to non-existent top floors. Stringing all these things together give the potential for a dark but exciting piece."

'Slains' premiered with the University of Aberdeen Symphony Orchestra and Aberdeen Youth Orchestra at the university recently.

Outlander author recognised with national tourism award



Outlander author Diana Gabaldon has been honoured at the Scottish tourism 'Oscars', as a new VisitScotland research paper reveals the extent of the effect her creation has had on Scottish tourism. The American writer has received a special "International Contribution to Scottish Tourism" award from VisitScotland at the Scottish Thistle Awards, the industry's premier awards ceremony, to mark the 50th anniversary of the national tourism organisation.

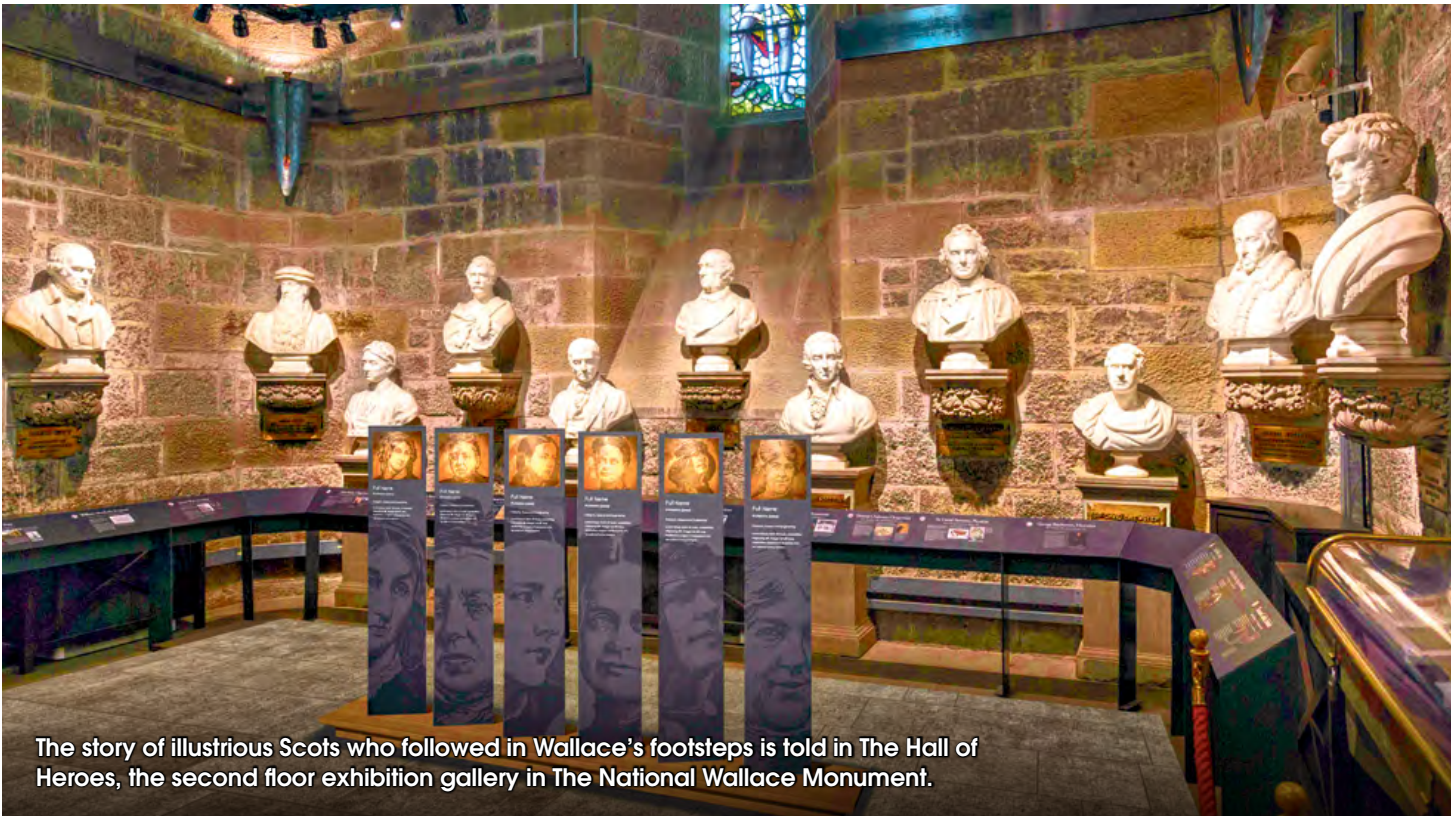
The Outlander Effect & Tourism paper, reveals that attractions used in the popular television adaptation of her famous novels have seen visitor numbers soar by 67% since 2013, from 887,000 to 1.5 million. Screen tourism, or set-jetting, whereby viewers visit their favourite on-screen location, is a growing trend in Scotland and nowhere is it better seen than in the effect on *Outlander* filming locations.

Doune Castle which doubles as Castle Leoch in the popular TV series has seen the largest surge in visitor numbers – 226.5% in the last five years to 2017, from 38,081 to 124,341 – followed by Blackness Castle (181.7%), which features as Black Jack Randall's headquarters, and Glasgow Cathedral (66.8%), which played a French hospital.

The romantic adventures of English World War II combat nurse Claire Randall, who travels back in time to 18th century Scotland where she meets and falls in love with Scottish Highlander Jamie Fraser, were introduced to readers in 1991. A further seven novels and nine spin-off books have been published in 43 countries and in 39 languages, selling more than 35 million printed copies worldwide. In 2014, *Outlander* was adapted for television by Sony Pictures and film production continues to be based in Scotland, with many Scottish locations doubling as France, the Caribbean and North America.

Diana Gabaldon, author of the *Outlander* series, said: "I'm deeply honoured, and so pleased, at being given the Thistle Award. To be quite honest, I chose Scotland as the setting for my first novel because of a man in a kilt, but upon looking into things more deeply, was enchanted to discover a country and a people like no other, whose traditions and history are as strikingly beautiful as its landscapes."

The National Wallace Monument to unveil new look during 150th year



The story of illustrious Scots who followed in Wallace's footsteps is told in The Hall of Heroes, the second floor exhibition gallery in The National Wallace Monument.

The National Wallace Monument has released new visuals that show how its exhibition galleries will be completely transformed as part of a £1m+ investment scheme now underway in the Scottish landmark's 150th anniversary year.

The Monument's new look interior, funded by Stirling District Tourism (the charity responsible for running the popular tourist attraction) at a cost of over £500,000, will feature fresh interactive activities, an immersive film and enhanced foreign language content set across its three galleries. The state-of-the-art refurbishments, managed by Edinburgh-based design

consultants Studioarc, have been designed to tell the story of Scotland's national hero better than it has ever been told before, and to appeal to the diverse visitors that the Monument attracts from across the world.

Filled with fascinating historical information and exciting new insights, the displays will give focus to the story of the Battle of Stirling Bridge, where Wallace's army famously defeated English forces in 1297. A detailed reconstruction has been created with expert guidance to show visitors how Stirling would have looked at the time of the historic battle. Wallace's pivotal role in the Wars of Independence will also

be told through a powerful animation created by Glasgow-based ISO.

The Hall of Heroes will be updated with the addition of two new busts depicting Scottish heroines Mary Slessor and Maggie Keswick Jencks. Other elements will be introduced specifically to engage children in history, including a superheroes quiz and a 'making arms' interactive shield design activity.

Ensuring that Wallace's legacy is preserved

The National Wallace Monument shut on the 11th of February to accommodate the extensive interior

refurbishment as well as the ongoing conservation work to the exterior of the building, reopening in spring 2019 with the promise of a brand-new visitor experience.

Speaking about the interior refurbishment, Stirling District Tourism Chair, Zillah Jamieson said: "This investment is so important as it helps to ensure that The National Wallace Monument remains an exciting and relevant tourist destination for visitors across Scotland and internationally, as well as ensuring that Wallace's legacy is preserved for years to come. The new exhibition displays make great use of the space inside the Monument, and they will create an enhanced experience for all of our visitors. It is thanks to the positive increase in visitor numbers over the last four years that we are able to upgrade the interior displays and improve the overall visitor experience."

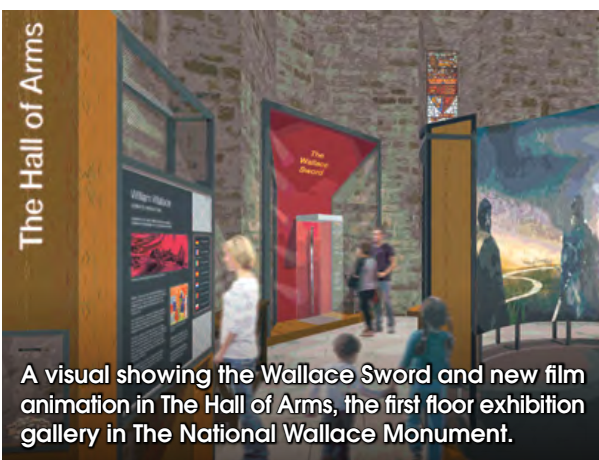
In addition to the interior refurbishments, Stirling Council is managing a £515,000 project covering important conservation work to the structure's exterior. This work includes the £260,000 restoration of the giant bronze statue of William Wallace, which will be temporarily removed from its usual residence on a corbel in the south-west corner of the Monument for the first time since its installation 132 years ago.

The National Wallace Monument commemorates the life and legacy of William Wallace, patriot, martyr and Guardian of Scotland.

To keep up-to-date with new activities at the Monument as well as the ongoing works, visitors are advised to go to www.nationalwallacemonument.com



A reconstruction of the bridge used in the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297.



A visual showing the Wallace Sword and new film animation in The Hall of Arms, the first floor exhibition gallery in The National Wallace Monument.

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CALLING THE CLANS

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



Membership is open to those descended from Baird, Barde, Bard, Beard, Beaird, 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

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



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secretary.clandonaldustralia@gmail.com

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Clan Douglas Society of North America

Recognized as Septs & Allied Families

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

Visit our website: www.clan douglassociety.org

Jim Morton, Secretary

4115 Bent Oak Court, Douglasville, GA 30135



Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald

Ph: 0412 090990

Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au

Web: www.clandonaldqld.org

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

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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



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 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, Edmondson, 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 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 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.clancrawfordassoc.org

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

Proudly affiliated with Clan Donald Australia, Victorian Scottish Union and Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group.

Represented at all major Highland gatherings in Victoria.

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald

Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mrs Christina Milne Wilson

Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

Judith M. Elliott-Clan President

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

Direct inquires to: Membership-Treasurer

Patricia Tennyson Bell

2288 Casa Grande South

Pasadena, CA 91104



Family of Bruce International, Inc.

Family of Bruce International, Inc., the only such organization recognized by the hereditary chief of the Name of Bruce, The Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, is a non-profit organization established to create kinship amongst its family members and promote interest in the Family of Bruce and its history. Membership is open to persons who qualify by surname, by 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 Cumming Society of the United States

www.clancumming.us
info@clancumming.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 Buchanan Society International, Inc.

Invites membership of all Buchanans and of other septs:

Bohanon	Leavy	MacCoubrey	MacMorris	Murchison
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Cormack	Macaltonich	MacCubbin	MacMurphy	Risk
Cousland	Macalanan	MacDonleavy	Macneur	Rusk
Dewar	Mancadeoir	MacGeorge	MacQuat	Spittal
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Dove	Macauselan	MacGibbin	MacQuinten	Wason
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Graeme Paul Watson, Mem. Secretary,
128 Oak Haven Drive, Statesville, NC 28625



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.clandavidson.org.au or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P. P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

CLAN 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



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Clan Hay

April Rich
28 Oxbow Drive
Willimantic, CT 06226
clanhaymembership@hotmail.com

The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes
inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Haye(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s);
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Hawson; Haygood; Hayter; Hayward; Haywood; Haynie; Hayden;
Hayfield; Hayne(s); Leask(e); Leith; Lester; MacGaradh; Peebles;
Peebles; Peoples; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester

www.clanhay.com



Clan Kerr/Carr Of North America, Inc

Cordially invites membership applications from all sept variants of the name Kerr, Carr, Caray, Caris, Cear, Curr, Care, Karr, Keir, McCarry and other sept Variants. The Clan accepts membership from all interested in Scottish and Celtic Highland Games and Genealogy. See applications on the Clan's website at: www.clankerr.us

Or write: Attn: Clan President
679 Silvercreek Drive, Winter Springs, FL 32708

**Clan Mackenzie Society
in Australia Inc.**

 Membership enquiries
welcomed from Mackenzies
of all spellings and Septs 

Contact: N Dennis, 61 Alma Street,
East Malvern 3145 Ph 03 9569 5716

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



Clan Galbraith Association

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

DNA testing project, members only databases, Biennial gatherings, blog, Quarterly journal.

www.clangalbraith.org

The MacEanrriugs, the proud sons of Henry, invite you to join the

Clan Henderson Society

Purposes
and
Goals
of the
Society

Culture: foster Scottish culture and activities
Games: promote Scottish traditional games
Genealogy: assist in genealogical research
Fellowship: foster fellowship and friendship among clan and kin
History: maintain and promote the history of the clan and Scotland
Awards: promote charitable and educational activities via scholarship fund
Gather the Clan: as directed by our Chief, Alistair of Fordell

Some other surnames of the proud sons of Henry:

D'Harrindson, Eainrg, Earnung, Henderson, Endhenson, Endrinore,
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Henersoun, Hennersoue, Henrrysoun, Henresoun, Henreysoun,
Henriesoun, Hentison, Hensieno, Henniroun, Hennisroue, Heny,
Henrysson, Henrysen, Henryssion, Kendrick, Kennick, MacCann,
MacCannik, MacEarnung, MacEnrick, MacHennie, MacHendrie,
MacHendry, MacHenric, MacHenrik, MacHerry, MacKannig, MacKennick,
MacKennick, MacKendrick, MacKendrick, MacKendrick, MacKendry,
MacKenrick, Makanny, Maahenny, McHerry, McKendree, McKendrick,
McKendry



An Circan Ccanas Ciridh

www.clanhendersonsociety.org



CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY

of Australia
and New Zealand

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

Contact: Malcolm W. Leslie D.Ua.
117/303 Spring Street.
Kearney's Spring, Qld, 4350, Australia.
Phone: +61 7 4635 8358

malncol@icr.com.au www.clanleslie.org

Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada

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

The crest of the Clan MacKenzie, featuring a lion passant guardant on a shield, with a banner above it and a motto scroll below.

Website: www.clanmackenziecanada.ca

The flag of Canada, featuring a red field with a white square in the center containing a red maple leaf.

The Facebook logo, a blue square with a white lowercase 'f'.

The Twitter logo, a light blue bird silhouette.

The YouTube logo, a red square with a white play button icon.

Clan Gregor Society
Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balgihadder,
24th Chief of Clan Gregor

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

www.clangregor.com

For membership contact Keith MacGregor
P.O. Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876
kmac1@optonline.net.

Peter Lawrie, *Secretary*
6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL, Scotland



Clan Hope of Craighall Society

For all of the name and lineage of Hope

INTERNATIONAL & USA

President: Richard Rex Hope
president@clanhope.org

Membership Chair: Janet Hope Higton
memberships@clanhope.org

AUSTRALIA

Convenor: Stephen Hope
convenor@clanhopeaustralia.org

www.clanhope.org www.clanhopeaustralia.org



Clan MacAlpine Society

3061 Harbor Blvd, Ventura CA, 93001 USA
Earl Dale McAlpine - President
Email: earlmc Alpine@yahoo.com



Clan Mackenzie Society in the United States

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

Barbara MacKenzie, Treasurer

PO Box 20454 Cheyenne, WY 82003-7011

Phone: 307-214-4817 Email: cmustreas@gmail.com

Website: www.clanmackenzie.com



Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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

Frank McGregor - Clan Gregor Society
PO Box 14
North Hobart TAS 7002

Email: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com
Web: www.clangregor.com

"Royal is my Race"



Clan Innes Australia
New memberships welcome
Innes, Thain, Mitchell, Marnock,
Middleton, Reidford, Wilson,
McRob, McTary, Mavor
Email robthainclaninnes@gmail.com



Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

Valerie McDougall
VP Membership



MacDougall

505-270 Scenic Drive, London, ON
NS2 3B2

MacDowall

Email: info@macdougall.org Home page: www.macdougall.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/clanmacdougall

***Names Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyll
and Clan MacDowall of Galloway***

Coul	MacCoul	Macoual
Conacher	MacConacher	
Coyle	MacCoyle	
Doe	MacDoe	MacDill
Doual	MacDoual	MacDougall
Dougal	MacDougall	MacDougald
Dougale	MacDougale	MacDougall
Dugal	MacDugal	MacDugle
Dowall	MacDowall	MacDowall
MacDowell	Macdowell	McDowell
Lullich	McLullich	MacCullich
MacCulloch	MacCulloch	MacCullough
MacClintock	MacClintock	McClintock
MacHale	McHoual	MacTheul
MacHowell	MacCowan	McCown
MacKichan	McGowan	MacNameall
MacLucas	MacLugash	MacLuce

Spelling Variations May Vary or Omit the Mac, Mc



Clan MacLaren

MacLaren MacLaurin Lawrence Lawson Low[e]
Low[e]ry Law[e] Patterson MacPatrick MacRory

Mark A. McLaren, President
611 Indian Home Rd.
Danville, CA 94526
(925) 838-8175
boarsrock@earthlink.net



American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909

Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

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

**Contacting our registrar, Jeanne P. Lehr
11 Ballas Crt.
St. Louis, MO 63131-3038**

Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org
website: www.acgsus.org

Clan Irwin Association

Chief and Patron

David Irvine, Baron of Drum, Chief of the name.
Contact: Barbara Edelman, Chairman
65 Colonial Drive
Telford, PA 18969

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

www.clanirwin.org

**INTERNATIONAL
CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC**

The Official Clan MacFarlane Society
Founded 1911 - Glasgow & London
Re-established- 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC

**Loch Sloy! We welcome all descendants of
Clan MacFarlane from around the world!**

Michael R. MacFarlane. FSA Scot - President
Brian J.W. MacFarlane - Vice President
Richard G. Kilby, FSA Scot - Treasurer
John K. Manchester - Secretary

International Clan MacFarlane Society, Inc.
PO Box 398 Glenora, CA 91770 USA
info@macfarlane.org



*Arms of the International Clan
MacFarlane Society granted by Lord
Lyon, 16 February, 2000*

MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.
Treasurer
6409 Knollwood Drive
McKinney, TX
75070-6032
Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net

The crest is circular with a decorative border. Inside the circle, a thistle is positioned on the left and a lion is on the right. A banner or ribbon wraps around the bottom of the circle, containing the words 'Think On' in a stylized font.

Clan Hamilton Society

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society.

Inquiries to be sent to:
Sheri Lambert, Treasurer
P.O. Box 5399
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
visit our website:
www.clanhamilton.org



**The Clan Keith Society
USA, Inc**

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

www.clankeith-usa.org
or email membershipclankeith@mindspring.com



Clan MacInnes

International Association of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

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

www.clanmacinnes.org

**Eric Perry, Director-Member Services 14 Jakes Lane,
Dexter, ME 04930; eric@macinnes.org**

Clan MacLeod

Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling), and their descendants. *Recognised Septs:*

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



THE MACLEODS

**RICH IN HIGHLAND
TRADITIONS**

FOR INFORMATION:
WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

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



Clan Macpherson Association

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.

Paul D Ross, President
Virg Bumann, VP Membership
1015 Archer St, San Diego, CA, 92109
membership@clanross.org
info@clanross.org
www.clanross.org



Clan Macnachtan Association Worldwide

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

Chairman - Peter McNaughton - 360-686-8451

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

Australia - Regional Commissioner - Bruce McNaught
+61 7 3266 2047 bruce@brucemcnaught.com

W. Canada - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughton
250-999-9636 milesclammac@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 Munro Association, U.S.A

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

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



Clan 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 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



Murray Clan Society of North America

Applications for membership are invited from Murray's
and the following allied families: Balneaves, Dinsmore,
Dunsmore, Fleming, Moray, Murrie, Neaves, Piper, Pyper,
Smail, Smales, 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: clan-scottaustraliagroup.moonfruit.com



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 rdmatmgn@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
rthomnvrdrdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

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

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

We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar
name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at:
www.clanmaitland.org.uk



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 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 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



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 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 Bertioz Apt 203
Verdun, QC H3E 1B8 Canada
Email: mcnicollclan@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 Ross in Australia

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

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

Contact: Commander Des Ross at
loneripper.ross@gmail.com M 0403 830 853
Ken Duthie JP Director of Publicity M 0409 322 374



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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



The Stewart Society

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

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



Australian Scottish 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,

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457
Pinehurst, NC 28370

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

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



The 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



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

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

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 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

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

Victorian Scottish Union Inc

Established 1905

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

Affiliated Clans & Societies

Ballarat Highland Dancing Society	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 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@clanyoungaustalia.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



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



Exclusive to the Scottish Banner

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

the map before your opponents, find out whether Nessie is willing to help or hinder you, and be the first player to move their (Highland Cattle) piece to the end of the Time Track, -which will make you the winner!

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

*The contents: 1 game board • 5 Highland Cattle movers • 15 Cabers • 20 Location tiles
110 cards: 5 Player cards • 35 Location cards • 50 Character cards • 20 Nessie cards • 1 set of rules*

Price: \$49.95 plus \$18.00 postage Australia wide.

To order: Scottish Banner: PO Box 6202, Marrickville South, NSW, 2204

P: 02 9559 6348 or www.scottishbanner.com/shop

Scottish Associations and Societies

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.



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

For Membership Information contact:

Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973

Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au

SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

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

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

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

AUSTRALIA

APRIL 2019

6 Brisbane, QLD - Inverness Highland Dancing Competition

Highland dancing event. Info: mmcbihds@hotmail.com

6 Bundanoon, NSW - Brigadoon-The Bundanoon Highland Gathering

Australia's largest Scottish event with pipe bands, Clan village, Scottish dancing, music, heavy events, stalls and more-a great day for the entire family in the beautiful Southern Highlands. Info: 02 4883 7471 or www.brigadoon.org.au

7 Flemington, VIC - Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Poetry Afternoon

Theme for the discussion will be early years: poverty and obscurity as seen through his early poems at Canterbury Street Stables Community Centre, 49-53 Canterbury St. Info: Ina Graham (03) 8361 0308.

7 Ipswich, QLD - Piobaireachd Group Queensland Social

Piping event at Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band Hall, cnr Lion & Moffat Sts. Info: 07 3398 4659.

13 Toowong, QLD - BBC Highland Gathering 2019

The BBC Highland Gathering is a brilliant day with Pipe Bands, Drum Majors, Medieval Re-enactment, Highland Dancing, stalls and more at Brisbane Boys' College, Kensington Terrace. Info: 07 3309 3500 or mail@bbc.qld.edu.au

13 - 14 Adelaide, SA - 2019 Australian Solo Piping Championships

Scotland's Robert Wallace will head the adjudication panel for the nation's premier solo pipe band competition and most prestigious piobaireachd competition conducted by the RU Brown Society. Info: www.pipebandsaustralia.com.au/championships

19 - 20 Maclean, NSW - Maclean Highland Gathering

In the Scottish town of Australia with full pipe band and solo piping competitions, Highland dancers, stalls and more. Info: Mobile: 0429 842 472 or www.macleanhIGHLANDgathering.com.au

27 Inglewood, WA - Caledonian Society of WA April Ceilidh

Come sing and dance to Heel n Toe Band. Listen to our piper at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beafort St. Info: John 0427 990 754.

29 Toowong, QLD - Queensland Highland Pipers Society Social

At the Walrus Bar, Regatta Hotel. Info: 07 3397 4512.

MAY 2019

2 - 5 Glen Innes, NSW - Australian Celtic Festival

Celebrating Celtic culture amongst the Australian Standing Stones with Celtic music, vendors, entertainment and ceremony. 2019 is the Year of Scotland. Info: www.australiancelticfestival.com

5 McLaren Flat, SA - Tartan in the Vale

Clan MacLeod invites members and friends to join them on a visit to local vineyards, followed by a late Lunch at Carmel's Bar and Grill. Start 10:00am at Hugo Wines, 246 Elliott Rd. Info: Nicole Walters 0415 654 836 or www.cmssa.org.au/calendar-of-events.html Info: Nicole Walters 0415654836

5 Ipswich, QLD - Piobaireachd Group Queensland Social

Piping event at Ipswich Thistle Pipe Band Hall, cnr Lion & Moffat Sts. Info: 07 3398 4659.

16 - 30 Nationwide - The Proclaimers Australian Tour 2019

Scotland's finest Celtic soul brothers Craig and Charlie Reid have reached a rarefied status: after three decades they are as innovative as ever and with every album and show played, The Proclaimers continue to garner new fans. Tickets available at venues and all usual outlets. Full tour dates and details at: <https://www.themusichouse.com.au/files/tour-detail.php?id=82>

18 Nationwide - World Whisky Day

A day of global whisky celebration. World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

19 Greenacres, SA - Latitude with Attitude

Mighty Mini MacLeods invite members and friends to climb, bounce and fly at Latitude Centre. Cost \$18pp or \$12.00 for child under 130cm height. Meet at 2:45 for a 3:00pm start. Onsite cafe for parents. Info: Nicole Walters 0415 654 836 or www.cmssa.org.au/calendar-of-events.html

19 Narangba, QLD - Moreton Bay

Highland Dancing Championships Highland dance event at Narangba Valley State School, Harris St. Info: 0409 373 480.

25 - 26 Albury, NSW - The Scots School Albury Pipe Band-Young Drummer of the Year Competition and Pipe Band Reunion

The Scots School Albury Pipe band is celebrating 65 years in 2019 and will be hosting a reunion and Young Drummer of the Year at the Scots School Albury. The event will also be live streamed. Info: 02 6022 0000.

25 Inglewood, WA - Caledonian Society of WA May Ceilidh

Come sing and dance to Heel n Toe Band. Listen to our piper at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beafort St. Info: John 0427 990 754.

25 Berry, NSW - Berry Celtic Festival

Street parade, Celtic music, pipe bands, dancers, jousting medieval knights, stalls and more at Berry Showground. A great family day out in support of Rotary Club of Berry. Info: (02) 4403 0300 or www.berryrotary.org.au/celtic-festival

25 Toowoomba, QLD - Ceilidh

Toowoomba Caledonian Society & Pipe Band Inc. is holding a Ceilidh in the Drayton Hall starting at 7pm. Come along & enjoy a night of Scottish entertainment. Lots of Scottish country dancing all dances are called. Listen to the Band, watch highland dancing display. Cost of the evening is \$10 Adults pp, School-aged children Over 13 \$5.00 and Under 13 free & a plate of food for supper. Contact Marg 0429700217 for larger group bookings.

26 - May 2 Wingham, NSW - Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival

Presented by Manning Valley Historical Society a week long program of Scottish themed events including a Scottish concert, Genealogy Fair, Highland Games, Ceilidh and more. Info: John 02 6556 9057 or www.bonnie-ingham-scottish-festival.manninghistorical.org

27 Toowong, QLD - Queensland Highland Pipers Society Social

At the Walrus Bar, Regatta Hotel. Info: 07 3397 4512.

31-Main Beach, QLD - A Night in Scotland

The Order of St John Priory of Queensland invites you to put on your kilt and join us for a jovial evening of bagpipes, whisky and dancing! Proceeds in aid of the Institute for Glycomics Griffith University Gold Coast and the St John's Crisis Centre in Surfers Paradise. \$120pp including welcome drink, 3 course dinner, whisky and haggis at Southport Yacht Club, 1 MacArthur Pde. Info: Shane Hough 0400 657 372 or sjthough@onthenet.com.au

NEW ZEALAND

APRIL 2019

5 Auckland - Scottish Celtic Music Group

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

6 Northland - Scottish Clans -Scottish Settlers Bus Tour 2019

Come and explore our Scottish history in Northland with the Scottish Clans Association. Going to Waipu Museum, Normanite performance, Fiddlers, Paihia, Waitangi Treaty Grounds, Stephenson Lighthouse at Cape Brett, Music & crafts, and dinner with friends. Info: 021 739 643 or www.scottishclans.co.nz

12 Auckland - Scottish Fiddle Club Fiddle Club Night

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

13 Wellington - Whisky Tasting

Hosted by Wellington Gaelic Club at Wellington Pipe Band Hall, corner of Hanson and Stokes, Newtown. Info: www.wellingtongaelicclub.org.nz

23 - 29 Nationwide - Danny Bhoys-Age of Fools Tour

Scottish comedian Danny Bhoys returns to New Zealand with a brand new show in 2019. Don't miss this chance to see this internationally-renowned and critically-acclaimed comic, who sells out tours all over the world with his unique brand of observational storytelling at various cities. Info: www.abpresents.com.au

26 Auckland - Ceilidh Club

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

MAY 2019

3 Auckland - Scottish Celtic Music Group

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

4 Wellington - Ngaio - Annual Dance

Scottish Country Dance event at Ngaio Town Hall, Ottawa Road, Ngaio. Info: www.wellingtonscd.org.nz

7 Wellington - Scottish Country Dancing

Scottish dancing is social and energetic – exercise for body and mind, done to toe-tapping music! Have fun and meet new people, while getting fit at Wellington High School, 249 Taranaki St. Info: 04 385 8919.

10 Auckland - Scottish Fiddle Club Night

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

18 Wellington - Shetland Viking Dance

Presented by the Shetland Society of Wellington. Info: www.shetlandwellington.org.nz

18 Nationwide - World Whisky Day

A day of global whisky celebration. World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

31 Auckland - Ceilidh Club

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

SCOTLAND

APRIL 2019

5 - 7 Kinross - Glenfarg Folk Feast

A small and friendly stalwart of the folk festival calendar, this festival is an initiative of Glenfarg Village Folk Club and is open to many musics of an acoustic variety as well as storytelling and poetry. Info: www.glenfargfolkclub.com

5 - 10 Edinburgh - Edinburgh International Harp Festival

A wonderful selection of concerts, courses and workshops at Merchiston Castle School for a celebration of all things harp. Info: www.harpfestival.co.uk

13 - 14 Collessie, Fife - Scotland's Daffodil Festival

Make the most of spring daffodils with a woodland walk, an egg hunt, artisan stalls, talks, nine hole putting and more. Home to the National Collection for Narcissus Backhouse cultivars. See some of the first daffodil cultivars ever created in the UK from the Wordsworth style daffodils and hundreds of different historic, modern, scented and rare daffodils at Backhouse Rossie Estate. Info: www.backhouserossie.co.uk/scotlands-national-daffodil-festival

19 Inverurie - True ORIGInS: The Scottish Gin Festival

Festival celebrating Scottish gins, with masterclasses, live music, Scottish-inspired street food and plenty of botanicals to enjoy, the first gin festival from Scotland to promote purely Scottish gins. Info: www.trueorigins-ginfestival.com

26 - May 6 Edinburgh - Edinburgh Tradfest

The past, present and future of traditional music. Info: www.edinburghtradfest.com

27 Glasgow - Music Show Scotland

A big celebration of Scottish music and dance featuring over 200 pipers, drummers, dancers, musicians and vocalists at SSE Hydro. Info: www.musicshowscotland.com

Answers to Scotword from page 6

ACROSS — 6 Westhill; 8 Cairns;

10 Stir; 11 Crisp; 12 Lorn; 13 Besom; 14 Daffodil; 16 Stirk; 17 Doric; 22 Stirling; 24 Elder; 26 Snug; 27 Niece; 28 Nits; 29 Wester; 30 Dunvegan.

DOWN - 1 Heather; 2 Stormont;

3 Birch; 4 Scapa Flow; 5 Inertia; 7 Lairds; 9 Igloo; 15 Craignure; 18 Islander; 19 Stanley; 20 Agreed; 21 Central; 23 Right; 25 Weans.

28 Loch Ness - Etape Loch Ness

A cycle sportive taking place around iconic Loch Ness, offering the chance to cycle 66 miles around the loch on traffic free roads. Info: www.etapelochness.com

29 - 19 Isle of Colonsay - Colonsay Festival of Spring

This tiny island comes alive with a series of events that showcase its natural beauty: workshops and tours, whisky tasting and cake baking, music, exhibitions and film screenings. Info: www.colonsayspringfest.com

30 Edinburgh - Beltane Fire Festival

Join hundreds of performers and thousands of revellers as they come together on Calton Hill to celebrate the death of winter and the birth of summer by casting off the darkness and celebrating the light on one of the most magical nights of the year at Calton Hill. Info: www.beltane.org

MAY 2019

1 - 6 Speyside - Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival

Event providers from all corners of Speyside – the spiritual home of Scotland's malt whisky production – have lined up a host of exciting and unusual events for both whisky connoisseurs and first-time visitors. Info: www.spiritofspeyside.com

4 Ayr - Burnsfest! 2019

Burnsfest! is a free family festival featuring live music, Burns Wine Bar and Beer Garden, A-Coo-Stick Tipi, The Mercat, Performance Pokey, Bairns Bunnet, Haverin' Hoolie, Burns Fair- celebrate the man, the music, the legacy. Info: www.burnsfestival.com/burnsfest

10 - 12 Isle of Coll - Coll Bird Festival

A chance to find out about the bird life on Coll, including the elusive cornrake. Did you know that one of the best places to see the cornrake, along with a host of other fantastic and often rare wildlife, is the Isle of Coll? Info: www.collbunkhouse.com

10 Glasgow - Traditional Music: Masters Performance

Masters students from the Traditional Music department perform their end of year recitals as part of this impressive showcase at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Info: www.rcs.ac.uk

13 - 19 Orkney - Orkney Nature Festival

Get familiar with Orkney's wildlife through walks, talks, activities, demonstrations, concerts and more. Info: www.orkneynaturefestival.org

16 - 25 Perth - Perth Festival of the Arts

Music, comedy, theatre, dance and visual arts are all up for grabs at this festival. Info: www.perthfestival.co.uk

16 Muir of Ord - Highland Whisky Festival

Brand new festival celebrating the Highland Whisky Trail and taking place at eight distilleries along the North Coast 500 route. Info: www.highlandwhiskyfestival.com

18 Nationwide - World Whisky Day

A day of global whisky celebration. World Whisky Day invites everyone to try a dram and celebrate the water of life. Info: www.worldwhiskyday.com

18 Paisley - British Pipe Band Championships

Paisley comes alive with the skirl of the pipes and the beat of the drums. Over 125 bands will travel from around the world to the St James' Playing Fields, Paisley, to compete for a whole series of titles. Info: https://paisley.is/featured_event/british-pipe-band-championships/

21 - 25 Isle of Skye - Hebridean Whisky Festival

Whisky festival with tastings and local food and drink, showcasing the four Hebridean distilleries. Info: www.hebrideanwhisky.com

26 Blair Atholl - The Atholl Gathering

Traditional Highland Games at Blair Castle. Info: www.blair-castle.co.uk

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By: Nick Drainey



Lost at sea - *The tale of a North-East fishing family*

Inspired by the loss of her fisherman father, Morna Young's personal tribute to the fishing communities of Scotland premieres in Perth this month. Featuring the voices and stories of fishermen and their families in their own words – with music, songs and Scots language – *Lost at Sea* is the lyrical and powerfully evocative story of a North-East fishing family as Nick Drainey explains.



Morna Young.

A playwright whose father was lost at sea when she was just five is preparing to stage the world premiere of a play depicting the harsh lives of fishing families. Morna Young was inspired by the loss of her father, Donnie, who was lost overboard from the trawler *Ardent II* in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea in April 1989.

The accomplished writer says that as a child she thinks she would have expected him to return to Burghead in Moray because fishing families were used to their loved ones being at sea for long periods. "As a child there will have been a part of me still waiting – fishermen are away at sea and you are used to it."

Now, *Lost at Sea* is about to premier at Perth Theatre before going on a nationwide tour across Scotland. The play spans forty years of the fishing through the eyes of one family and the surrounding community. It is the story of two brothers experiencing the extremes of the industry: one is lost to the ocean, the other makes his fortune. Donnie Young was recorded as missing at sea, there was no body but many questions with no official inquiry into the reasons for the death.

Morna, 34, said: "I knew that it was a chance for me to write something that would be a tribute and it was an opportunity to get to know my dad – because I was so young when he died I didn't really have any clear memories of him." By interviewing people in the fishing communities in Moray she learned about her father's life, and the hardships of the fishing industry, including loss of the life. The people in the fishing communities I visited do not usually talk about their tragedies; however, many of them trusted me with their history and stories to write *Lost at Sea* because of my personal connection and background as a 'born and bred fisher quine'."

A story that reflected anyone

In 2011 she had been living in London and had studied for a Masters at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, as well as working as an actor and musician. But she decided to return home to Burghead to write the play with the support of her family. She said: "I didn't know what I was going to write .. but it felt like the time was right. My family have been really supportive of the play. Something I said early on was that this was my It has always been important me not to talk on behalf of the family; everyone has their own way of grieving and for me I have always processed how I feel through writing. The play is fictional story – it is not about what happened to me. I wanted to write a story that reflected anyone, anywhere involved in the fishing industry. Working my way through the research and writing the play was my opportunity, many years later, to grieve properly. I am fortunate that I have writing as my way of doing that."

Morna does not think she will never know exactly what happened to her father but her main reason to write the play was to

find out what he was like. She said: "There is a tendency to always want answers but there is a reality that in those situations you will never quite have the answers. It is not like a normal accident where you can pin down fact by fact what has happened. The main priority when I moved home was getting to know who my dad was (rather than answers about exactly what happened) and maybe that it is because there never seems to be definite answers. But psychologically we want to know who we are and what we are connected to. If you have lost a parent when you are young I do think there is that need to understand who you are and who they were because it is such a part of you. I can never own those memories but folk telling you stories helps build a picture of somebody and that to me is really important."

Morna also wanted to cover all fishing communities who have lost men at sea. She said: "In my dad's case it was just him that was lost from the boat but something that has always made me think a lot is that when an entire boat is lost that is seven or eight men from one village, all at once. That is like war and that has a huge impact on a community." She added that losses are common anywhere there is fishing: "You can go into any fishing community around Scotland and the scars will be there from people having lost members of their family."

Doric

The play is in Doric but that is not something Morna thinks should be an issue for audiences, no matter where they come from. After public readings of the play in Lossiemouth and London there was no feedback about audiences not understanding the language.



Daniel Young, Morna Young's 'Grandpa' working on nets at Burghead Harbour.



Donnie Young holding baby Morna.

She said: "I just grew up speaking Doric and it is the language of most of the fishing villages in the north east. It never crossed my mind to think about doing it differently. In the UK you can put anything on the telly, any kind of accent or dialect, but for some reason the further north you go in Scotland that is when folk will say they don't understand it so much. I do think that is because of representation; how many times have you seen a north east drama on screen? There is a tendency that Doric will be a wee bit couthy. It is not the case at all; Doric drama can be as contemporary as anything else. It is not a language stuck in yesteryear, it is actively spoken all around the north east of Scotland."

As it is the UN Year of Indigenous Languages Morna says her play is her "own celebration" and "hopes there are more celebrations of Scots and Gaelic in the year to come". After writing the play Morna says her "entire life has changed".

She added: "Beforehand I thought I might move back to London afterwards but having written the play I can't, I feel grounded in Scotland. What I needed to do and wanted to do was know who my dad was and that was the gap in my life I wanted to address. There is a harsh reality that I will never personally know him and during this process people have made an effort to share memories with me. I do feel closer to him having done this process and it felt really important to me to be able to do something so I could say 'here is my tribute to my dad'."

***Lost at Sea* premieres at Perth Theatre on Thursday 25 April and runs until Saturday 4 May before touring Scotland including Dundee, Aberdeen, Greenock, Inverness, Edinburgh and Dumfries.**

Berry Celtic Festival

Sat 25 May

from 9.30am

Highlighting the Celtic nation of "Ireland". The Grand Street Parade commences at 9.30am followed by a day full of entertainment including the spectacular jousting medieval knights, pipe bands, workshops for Irish dancing, traditional tunes for kids, Gaelic singing, instrumental sessions and after the Festival, the Berry Celtic Ball.

BERRY SHOWGROUND

Another community fundraising project of the Rotary Club of Berry with thanks to Shoalhaven City Council and Sponsors.

www.berrycelticfestival.org.au

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Crofters pie

Ingredients:**For the mince:**

50ml/2fl oz. olive oil
1 large onion or 3–4 banana shallots, finely chopped
650g/1lb 7oz. minced beef
2 tbsp tomato purée
1 tbsp plain flour
150ml/5fl oz. red wine
4 sprigs fresh thyme, leaves only
400ml/14fl oz. beef stock
Worcestershire sauce, to taste
salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the mash:

900g/2lb King Edward potatoes, peeled and chopped
115g/4oz butter
125ml/4½fl oz. milk

To serve:

150g/5½oz. frozen peas
50g/1¾oz. butter

Method:

Heat half the oil in a large heavy-based pan. Add the onion and cook until softened. Tip it onto a plate.

Return the pan to the heat and add the remaining oil. When it's hot, fry the mince, in batches if needed, for 4–5 minutes, or until browned all over. Stir in the cooked onion and tomato purée and cook for 1 minute. Stir in the flour and cook for a further minute. Pour in the red wine, scraping up any caramelised bits with a wooden spoon, and add the thyme.

Add the stock and simmer for 45 minutes, or until the mince is tender and the mixture has thickened. Season to taste, and add a few dashes of Worcestershire sauce. Keep warm over a very low heat. Preheat the grill to high.

Meanwhile, for the mash, put the potatoes in a pan of salted water and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 12–15 minutes, or until they are tender. Drain and return the potatoes to the pan, then place over the heat for about 1 minute to drive off any excess moisture. Mash well, then add the butter and milk, beating to form a smooth mash. Season to taste.

Put the mince mixture in a baking dish and spoon the mash over the top. Grill for 8–10 minutes, or until golden-brown.

Meanwhile, boil the peas in water in a small saucepan for 3–4 minutes, then drain and add the butter. Serve the cottage pie with the peas.

Easter biscuits

Ingredients:

For the dough:

200g/8oz. softened butter
150g/6oz. caster sugar
2 large free-range egg yolk
400g/14oz. plain flour, plus extra for flouring
1 level tsp mixed spice
1 level tsp ground cinnamon
2–4 tbsp milk

For the traditional currant biscuits

100g/4oz currants
a little caster sugar, for sprinkling

For the iced biscuits

1–2 tsp lemon juice
250g/9oz. icing sugar
about 2 tbsp. cold water
different coloured food colouring

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Lightly grease two baking trays lined with baking parchment.

Measure the butter and sugar into a bowl and beat together until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg yolk. Sieve in the flour and spices and add enough milk to give a fairly soft dough. Bring together, using your hands, to make a soft dough.

Halve the mixture and set half to one side.

For the traditional currant biscuits, add the currants to the remaining half of the mixture and knead it lightly on a lightly floured work surface. Roll out to a thickness of about 5mm/¼in. Cut into rounds using a circular cutter. Place on the prepared baking trays. Sprinkle with caster sugar.

Bake in the preheated oven for 15 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Keep a careful eye on the biscuits - it doesn't matter if you open the oven door to check. Sprinkle with caster sugar and lift onto a wire rack to cool. Store in an airtight container.

For the iced biscuits, knead the remaining half of the biscuit dough mixture lightly on a lightly floured work surface. Roll out to a thickness of 5mm/¼in. Cut out Easter biscuits using an assortment of shaped cutters, such as bunnies, Easter eggs, chicks, spring flowers.

Lightly grease two baking trays lined with baking parchment.

Place the biscuit shapes on the prepared baking trays and bake in the preheated oven for 10–15 minutes. Remove from the oven and lift on to a wire rack to cool.

To make the icing, pass one teaspoon of lemon juice through a fine sieve, to remove any pips or bits. Mix the icing sugar with the lemon juice, and then add about two tablespoons of water, adding it little by little until you have a relatively stiff but smooth icing. Add a splash more sieved lemon juice if necessary.

Divide the icing into separate bowls and mix in food colourings of your choice into the separate bowls of icing, until you achieve the desired shade.

Spoon a little icing into a piping bag and pipe your decorations onto the biscuits. For a smooth finish, you can pipe the outline of your design in the firmer icing, then slacken it down a bit by mixing in a little more water, giving the icing more of a runny consistency, and use this to fill in the designs.

Hot cross buns

**Ingredients:****For the buns:**

625g/1.3lb. strong white flour, plus extra for dusting
1 tsp salt
2 tsp ground mixed spice
45g/1.5oz. unsalted butter, cut into cubes, plus extra for greasing
85g/3oz caster sugar
1 unwaxed lemon, finely grated zest only
1½ tsp fast-action yeast
1 free-range egg
275ml/10fl oz. tepid milk
125g/4oz mixed dried fruit

For the topping

2 tbsp plain flour
vegetable oil, for greasing
1 tbsp golden syrup, gently heated, for glazing

Method:

For the buns, sieve the flour, salt and ground mixed spice into a large mixing bowl, then rub in the butter using your fingertips. Make a well in the centre of the mixture, then add the sugar and lemon zest and yeast.

Beat the egg and add to the flour with the tepid milk. Mix together to form a soft, pliable dough.

Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface. Carefully work the mixed dried fruit into the dough until well combined. Knead lightly for 5 minutes, or until smooth and elastic.

Grease a large, warm mixing bowl with butter. Shape the dough into a ball and place it into the prepared bowl, then cover with a clean tea towel and set aside in a warm place for 1 hour to prove.

Turn out the proved dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knock back the dough. Shape it into a ball again and return it to the bowl, then cover again with the tea towel and set aside for a further 30 minutes to rise.

Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and divide it into 12 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a ball, then flatten slightly into a bun shape using the palms of your hands. Cover the buns again with the tea towel and set aside to rest for 5–10 minutes.

Grease a baking tray with butter and transfer the buns to the tray. Wrap the tray with the buns on it loosely in greaseproof paper, then place inside a large polythene bag. Tie the end of the bag tightly so that no air can get in and set aside in a warm place for a further 40 minutes to rise.

Preheat the oven to 240C/220C Fan/Gas 8.

Meanwhile, for the topping, mix the plain flour to a smooth paste with 2 tablespoons of cold water.

When the buns have risen, remove the polythene bag and the greaseproof paper. Spoon the flour mixture into a piping bag and pipe a cross on each bun.

Transfer the buns to the oven and bake for 8–12 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. As soon as you remove the buns from the oven, brush them with the hot golden syrup, then set aside to cool on a wire rack.

Slow roast leg of lamb with herb rub

Ingredients:

whole head of garlic
1 tbsp salt flakes
2 sprigs rosemary, leaves only, chopped
2 sprigs thyme, leaves only
olive oil
1 leg of lamb, approximately 2kg/4½lb
For the mashed potatoes
1kg/2lb 4oz. potatoes
100g/4oz. butter
25g/1oz. Parmesan, finely grated
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Preheat the oven to 160C/Fan 140–150C/Gas 3. Separate and peel the garlic cloves, and crush them with the salt in a pestle and mortar. You need enough salt to give the mixture some grit. Mash the garlic into the salt. Add the rosemary and thyme, then mix with enough olive oil to make a thick paste.

Rub the garlic mixture over the whole surface of the lamb. Place the lamb into a deep-sided roasting tin.

Add 250ml/9fl oz of water to the roasting tin. Baste the meat with the liquid, then cover the lamb with foil. Roast for 3–3½ hours, until cooked to your liking.

When cooked, pour off any excess oil from the top of the liquid, leaving the cloudy, herby sediment in place. This is the gravy. Cover the pan with a lid and rest for 15 minutes.

Cut up the potatoes and cook in boiling, salted water. When soft enough to mash, drain in a colander then mash with the butter and grated Parmesan. Season well with salt and pepper.

Carve the lamb into thick chunks and serve with the mashed potatoes. Pour over the pan juices and serve.

Edinburgh signs up to vision for John Muir Way

The John Muir Way is a 134-mile coast-to-coast walking and cycling route that traverses central Scotland from Helensburgh to Dunbar. One of Scotland's Great Trails, the route symbolically links Dunbar (birthplace of 'father of national parks' John Muir) with Scotland's first national park (Loch Lomond and the Trossachs). Offering a truly unique blend of Scottish landscapes, culture, history and even its capital city, The John Muir Way is the ideal way to explore Scotland on foot or by bike, whether you're visiting for the first time, or have lived in Scotland all your life. Enjoy a mix of paths through woodlands, over hills, along cycleways and canals, leading you to castles, beaches, nature reserves and three UNESCO world heritage sites.



Muir Way, a 215km route stretching from the east to the west coast of Scotland, and signed the John Muir Way Concordat.

The City of Edinburgh Council has pledged its commitment to support and promote the success of the John

The concordat recognises the importance of the route, which passes through nine local authorities including Edinburgh, to the quality of life, health and economic wellbeing of the communities it touches. It also puts forward a vision for the route as easily accessible and attractive to residents and visitors, increasing understanding of John Muir's legacy by bringing people closer to nature.

By signing up to the concordat, the Council has committed to promoting this vision, in collaboration with the John Muir Way partnership initiative, maximising opportunities to manage, maintain and develop route infrastructure and driving forward economic development for businesses and communities along the way.

Depute Council Leader, Councillor Cammy Day, said: "Not only does the John Muir Way bring people closer to some of Edinburgh's major landmarks, but it also connects to our great network of paths and off-road routes, encouraging active travel by letting users explore the city further on foot or by bike. By signing this concordat we're committing to enhancing and supporting this great resource for future generations to enjoy."

Diverse landscapes and rich heritage of central Scotland

Keith Geddes, Chair of the Central Scotland Green Network Trust (CSGNT), said: "The John Muir Way takes in the diverse landscapes and rich heritage of central Scotland and we are committed to working with the City of Edinburgh Council to ensure that it is easily accessible and attractive to local people, businesses and visitors,

providing opportunities for all to increase the understanding of John Muir's legacy and philosophy through getting closer to nature."

The John Muir Way was created as part of the CSGN and was completed in 2014 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the death of John Muir, the celebrated Scottish-born philosopher, naturalist and environmentalist.

It symbolically links Dunbar (John Muir's Birthplace) with Scotland's first national park (Loch Lomond and the Trossachs) and Helensburgh in the west to create a coast-to-coast route. It utilises canal tow paths, core paths, other promoted routes, trails and cycleways, including the original John Muir Way in East Lothian.

The route can be walked or cycled from end to end in addition to some opportunities for horse-riding. In Edinburgh it follows existing routes to take in a range of scenery and landmarks, from views of the Forth and the Pentlands to Duddingston Loch and Holyrood Park, as well as linking to the Capital's extensive network of off-road paths.

For more detailed information on planning your own John Muir Way adventure visit: www.johnmuirway.org.

Consultation launched to protect Scapa Flow's wartime heritage



Scapa Flow, Orkney. Photo: VisitScotland.

One hundred years on from the scuttling of the German High Seas Fleet at Scapa Flow on Orkney, a consultation has been launched seeking views from the public on the designation of the site as a Historic Marine Protected Area (HMPA). The consultation was announced by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon at Scotland's International Marine Conference 2019, hosted in Glasgow by Marine Scotland. Historic MPAs aim to preserve marine historic assets of national importance, so that they can be protected, valued and understood.

Orkney has one of the most outstanding collections of First and Second World War naval wreckage remains, both above and underwater. Since 2001, the remains of three battleships and four cruisers of

the German High Seas Fleet scuttled in Scapa Flow in 1919 have been protected as scheduled monuments. The change to a Historic MPA is a more appropriate way to manage this fragile part of our history.

Internationally significant heritage

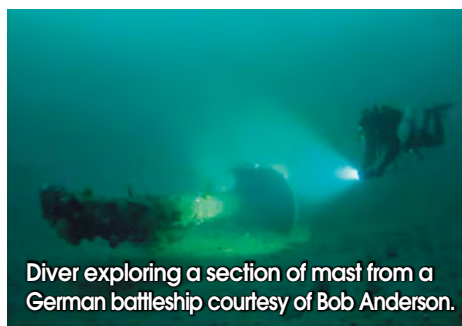
Philip Robertson, Deputy Head of Designations at Historic Environment Scotland (HES), said: "Scapa Flow is an internationally significant heritage asset which attracts visitors from all over the world. The launch of this consultation follows extensive public engagement with stakeholders over the past few years regarding Scapa Flow, from our online survey to meetings with those who live and work in and around the site. We have also been working closely with Orkney Islands Council on the way forward. It's important that the public have their say in how best to manage the site for the future, balancing the protection of Orkney's important wartime heritage while taking account of other interests, including the importance of the harbour to Orkney's sustainable economic growth. We want to promote access to Scapa's heritage and the Historic MPA will help to ensure that people enjoy marine heritage responsibly. I'd like to encourage everyone with an interest in Scapa Flow to take this opportunity to share their views about our nation's priceless marine heritage."

The array of underwater archaeological remains at Scapa Flow includes wrecks from June 1919 when, as part of the Armistice agreement at the end of

the First World War, Germany had to surrender most of its fleet. A total of 74 ships of the German High Seas Fleet arrived in Scapa Flow for internment. On 21 June 1919, under the mistaken belief that peace talks had failed, Rear Admiral Ludwig von Reuter gave the command to scuttle the entire fleet at Scapa Flow. A total of 52 ships went to the seafloor, making it the greatest loss of shipping ever recorded in a single day.

Diverse range of archaeological material

A major resource for salvage from 1919 to the 1970s, nowadays the wrecks of the German High Seas Fleet are a significant heritage asset, attracting visitors from all over the world and contributing to the economy of Orkney. Recent survey work by HES and partners on Orkney has shed new light on how much survives underwater. The research shows a hugely diverse range of archaeological material on and in the seabed and that just like landward archaeological sites, this fragile heritage is prone to deterioration and decay.



Diver exploring a section of mast from a German battleship courtesy of Bob Anderson.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: "Marine protected areas are an undoubted success story. In the last seven years the network has doubled and they now account for more than a fifth of Scotland's Seas. It is important that we conserve sites of historic interest and the public are able to have a say on how we do this. Scapa Flow is clearly a very important part of Scotland's maritime history, particularly during the World Wars. As we move towards the 2020 Year of Coasts and Waters, it is right that appropriate steps are taken to ensure this wartime heritage is preserved in a way that we can enjoy, remember and understand it responsibly."

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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Hunt the Gowk - Scottish equivalent of April Fool's Day (gowk is a cuckoo).

1 - The birth of Sir William, Mr Justice MacPherson of Cluny, the noted Scottish jurist and the 27th Chief of Clan Macpherson. **1926**



2 - The College of New Aberdeen was founded. The college was founded by the Earl Marischal of Scotland, George Keith of Inverurie, and became known as Marischal College. Marischal College was the second university in Aberdeen, following the foundation of King's College in 1495 by Bishop William Elphinstone. The two universities were united in 1860 as the University of Aberdeen. **1593**

2 - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian province of Prince Edward Island. **1992**

3 - Murder of Duke of Rothesay, heir of Robert III. **1401**

3 - King James VI travelled to London to take up the English throne. James moved his court to Whitehall Palace in London, where they settled around the palace in an area which became known as "Scotland Yard". On his way to London he knighted 300 people, and in the space of four months in England had knighted more people than Queen Elizabeth had in her entire reign. James returned to Scotland only once, in 1617, and he liked to boast that he now ruled his northern kingdom with a stroke of his pen. **1603**

4 - Parliament held by King Robert II at Scone, resolved that his son, the Earl of Carrick should succeed his father as King (as Robert III although he was baptised John). **1373**

4 - King Robert III died and James I ascended the throne (but was not crowned until 1424 as he was a prisoner of the English). **1406**

4 - John Napier, inventor of logarithms, died in Edinburgh. **1617**

5 - Birth at Lesmahagow of composer Alexander Muir, creator of Maple Leaf Forever. **1830**

5 - Disaster at English/Scottish football match at Ibrox Stadium when part of the flooring collapsed, killing 20, injuring 200. **1902**

6 - Declaration of Arbroath - "For we fight not for glory nor for riches nor for honour, but only and alone for freedom, which no good man surrenders but with his life", was drawn up by the monks of Arbroath Abbey. The Declaration of Arbroath is widely regarded as being the inspiration behind the American Declaration of Independence in 1776. **1320**



6 - Nova Scotia officially proclaims Tartan Day. Started originally as "Tartan Day in Nova Scotia," founder and *Scottish Banner* reader Jean Watson approached every provincial Legislative Assembly in Canada, as well as other Scottish-cultural societies across Canada, to help get such a date established. **1987**

6 - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta. **1992**

6 - Tartan Day is officially proclaimed in the Canadian province of Newfoundland & Labrador. **1995**

6 - The U.S. Senate declared April 6 to be National Tartan Day to recognize the contributions made by Scottish-Americans to the United States. **1998**

7 - Jim Clark, Duns farmer, twice World Motor Racing Champion, killed in crash, Hockenheim. **1968**

7 - The Scottish National Party was founded. The SNP was created out of the merger of a number of parties; the National Party of Scotland, formed in 1928 from an amalgamation of a number of small parties following the rejection of a Home Rule bill, and the Scottish Party, a breakaway section of the Cathcart Conservative Association. The party enjoyed its first success in 1945, when Robert MacIntyre was elected to represent Motherwell. **1934**

8 - Radical prisoners were taken from Paisley to Greenock jail under escort. The citizens of Greenock fought their escort, the Port Glasgow Militia, until they reached the jail. Still coming under attack, the Militia opened fire on the stone-throwing crowd. Eight were killed, including an eight year old boy, and ten wounded, before the militia retreated from Greenock. In the evening, the angry Greenockians stormed the jail and freed the prisoners. **1820**

9 - Second Treaty of Durham in which David I is recognised as King of an independent Scotland by King Stephen of England. **1139**

9 - Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the leading Scottish Jacobite rebel was beheaded on Tower Green, London. Lovat has the unwanted notoriety of being the last man to be publicly beheaded in Britain. **1747**

10 - King James V born. **1512**

10 - Sandy Lyle becomes the first Scottish (and British) golfer to win the US Masters tournament. **1988**

11 - Scottish settlement in Darien, Panama, abandoned. **1700**

11 - Scotland won the final Five Nations Rugby Championship. Scotland became champions by default when Wales beat England 32-31 at Wembley. If England had won the last game of the championship they would have been the champions. Both teams had won the same number of games, but Scotland won the title on points scored. The last time they won the championship was in 1990. The following season, Five nations became Six when Italy joined the competition. **1999**



12 - Union flag adopted as the flag of England, Wales and Scotland. **1606**

12 - The SNP won their first electoral victory. Dr Robert D. MacIntyre won the Motherwell and Wishaw by-election in a straight fight with Labour by a majority of 617 votes. MacIntyre later became Provost of Stirling. **1945**

13 - The Stone of Destiny, which had been removed from underneath the Coronation Chair by Scottish nationalists on 25 December 1950, was returned to Westminster Abbey after being found at Arbroath Abbey. **1951**

13 - Scots entertainer, actor and comedian Jimmy Logan died. **2001**



14 - University of Edinburgh founded. **1582**

14 - Aberdeen Football Club was founded. **1903**

15 - Prof Joseph Black chemist, researcher, teacher, first to identify carbon dioxide, died. **1799**

15 - Actor and comedian Rikki Fulton born in Glasgow. He was best known for his double act with Jack Milroy as Francie and Josie and as the Rev I M Jolly in Scotch and Wry. **1924**

15 - Infamous passenger liner the *RMS Titanic* sank in the Atlantic Ocean after hitting an iceberg. Several Scots died on the ship including musician Jock Hume who played as the ship sank, First Officer William Murdoch, and several staff members. 1500 people perished on the maiden voyage to New York. **1912**



16 - *Royal Yacht Britannia* launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank. The *Britannia* opened as a visitor attraction in Edinburgh in 1998. **1953**



16 - The Battle of Culloden took place at Culloden Moor, where British troops defeated the Scottish Jacobite army for the final confrontation of the 1745 Jacobite Rising. It was the last ever battle to be fought on British soil with over 1500 Scottish fatalities. **1746**

17 - A British record attendance at a football match was set when 149,547 watched Scotland play England at Hampden Park, Glasgow. Until 1950, this was a world record. **1937**

17 - Alexander Mackenzie, the Scottish-born Canadian statesman, died. Mackenzie was the first Liberal Prime Minister of Canada, serving from 1873-78. **1892**

18 - Remains of David Livingstone interred in Westminster Abbey. **1874**

18 - Harbourne Stephen, the Scottish World War II fighter pilot, was born. Stephen was a Battle of Britain fighter ace who went on to forge a career for himself as a newspaper executive. On his way to a tally of 23 registered kills (though it was almost certainly higher) he shot down five enemy aircraft in a single day in August 1940. **1914**

19 - Robert II, grandson of Robert the Bruce, died at Dundonald Castle. **1390**

19 - Jim Mollison, the pioneering Scottish aviator, was born. Mollison held many individual records for distance, endurance, and speed flying, he became the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic from East to West. **1905**

20 - The first public meeting of the Scottish National Party was held. The meeting was held in the Central Hall, Tollcross, Edinburgh. The Scottish National Party was formed by the amalgamation of The National Party of Scotland and The Scottish Party. **1934**

21 - John Muir, the Scottish-born American naturalist, was born in Dunbar. Muir was responsible for the creation of Yosemite and Sequoia national parks in California. The 550-acre Muir Woods National Monument is named after him. **1838**

22 - Sculptor and artist Sir Eduardo Paolozzi died. Born in Leith, he was a founder of the Independent Group, which is seen as a precursor to the '60s British pop art movement. **2005**

23 - King Alexander I died at Stirling Castle, succeeded by David I. **1124**

23 - Blackout restrictions lifted as World War II heads to a conclusion. **1945**

24 - 15 year old Mary, Queen of Scots, married French Dauphin, Francis Valois (aged 14) at Notre Dame in Paris. They had no children and Francis died in 1560, ruling France for just eighteen months. **1558**

24 - Novelist R M Ballantyne, who wrote 90 books, the best known of which was *The Coral Island*, was born in Edinburgh. **1825**

25 - Malcolm III (Canmore) crowned. **1058**



25 - The Royal Navy's last battleship, *HMS Vanguard*, was accepted for trials by the navy. The ship was built at John Brown's in Clydebank. It was originally intended to be part of the Far Eastern Fleet fighting the Japanese but was not completed until after the war, and so became the only British battleship never to fire her guns in anger. **1946**

26 - Philosopher David Hume born. **1711**

27 - The Scottish army was routed in the Battle of Dunbar by Edward I, King of England. Hostilities started when the King of the Scots, John Balliol, renounced his allegiance to the English Crown. The battle became known as the "Dunbar Drave". **1296**

27 - James Bruce, the Scottish explorer, died. Bruce became the first European to discover Lake Tana, the source of the Blue Nile, in 1770. **1794**

28 - Henry Dundas, powerful politician, known as "Uncrowned King of Scotland", born. **1742**

28 - Glasgow Garden Festival opened by Prince Charles and the Princess of Wales on the south bank of the River Clyde. The festival would welcome 4.5 million visitors over five months. **1988**

29 - Stephen Hendry, aged 21, becomes the youngest world snooker champion by beating Jimmy White 18-12 in the final. **1990**

29 - Lonnie Donegan, the Scottish skiffle singer, composer and guitarist, was born. Considered by some to be Britain's first pop superstar, James Anthony Donegan burst onto the scene in the mid-1950s with a distinctive, lively sound called skiffle. **1931**

30 - Royal Bank invents first overdraft, William Hogg overdraws by £1,000 (over £75,000 at today's money). **1728**



30 - An Comunn Gaidhealach was formally instituted as a vehicle for the preservation and development of the Gaelic language. **1891**

30 - David Livingstone, the renowned Scottish missionary and explorer, died. Born in Blantyre, Livingstone was famed for his exploration of central and southern Africa. He was the first European to see Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. **1873**

High-altitude forest to save rare trees and help mountain wildlife



Golden Eagle. Photo: Mark Hamblin.

A new high-altitude forest of 10,000 rare mountain trees supporting wildlife including golden eagles and mountain hares is to be planted near Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands by Trees for Life this spring.

The waist-high trees form a unique and important wildlife-rich habitat called montane scrub. This should be common between woodlands and open hilltops, but it has now almost disappeared from Scotland – largely due to grazing pressure from sheep and high deer numbers over the centuries.

The project involves collecting seed from trees such as dwarf birch and downy willow on precipitous mountain ledges and rocky crags, sometimes with the help of qualified climbers.

Planting the woodland itself will be challenging because the location – at Beinn Bhan on the charity's Dundreggan Conservation Estate in Glenmoriston – lies at more than 500 metres above sea level.

But the site is perfect for the tough small trees – known as 'montane' species because they can grow near mountain summits, despite high winds and dramatic temperature changes.

A bigger, richer forest environment

"This exciting initiative will address the sad loss of these special wee trees, which form a vital but vanishing part of Scotland's woodlands – while creating a home for golden eagle, black and red grouse, ring ouzel, and mountain hare. We're urging members of the public to support this project and help make it happen," said Steve Micklewright, Trees for Life's Chief Executive.

A new high-altitude forest of 10,000 rare mountain trees supporting wildlife including golden eagles and mountain hares is to be planted near Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands by Trees for Life this spring.

Trees for Life has launched a fundraising appeal to raise £20,000 to help create the new upland forest, which could also play a role in reducing localized flooding by retaining soils.

As well as asking for help from the public, Trees for Life has been awarded a grant by Forestry Commission Scotland in support of the new forest. Doug Gilbert, Trees for Life's Operations Manager at Dundreggan, said: "We've made maximum

use of the forestry grant-aid, but to create a bigger, richer forest environment we need the public's support."

The conservation charity has already begun growing tree seeds it has collected from Glen Affric – but to boost genetic diversity for stronger trees that are resistant to disease, it needs to do more. Expert climbers have to brave difficult terrain and rocky outcrops to collect cuttings from the rare species.

Trees for Life's volunteers will begin planting the new woodland at Beinn Bhan – the White Mountain – in spring 2019, against a backdrop of sweeping views to Glen Affric and its surrounding mountains.

Donations to Trees for Life's Beinn Bhan forest appeal will enable the charity to collect seed and cuttings from the rare montane trees, and then grow these species in its tree nursery at Dundreggan for planting in the new woodland. See www.treesforlife.org.uk/appeal



A Mountain Hare. Photo: Mark Hamblin//stock.adobe.com.

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By: Julia Horton



A renewed energy on Iona

Of all the Hebridean isles, Iona is arguably the best known around the world thanks to its unique place in history as the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland. Countless pilgrims from near and far have journeyed to its picturesque shores over hundreds of years, though the thousands of visitors who arrive these days are increasingly of all kinds of religions or of none. The tiny island itself still appears little changed in some ways since the arrival of St Columba in the sixth century, whose renowned work creating the iconic abbey and the world-famous *Book of Kells* put Iona firmly on the global map.

Like so many isolated communities, however, Iona's beauty belies a determined modern-day battle for survival. Unlike other islands off the west coast of Scotland, Iona is already bucking the trend, with its population rising instead of dwindling away. That success is due in no small part to the energy and hard graft of the 170 people now living here.

Sacred ground

And now a new form of energy is literally about to start bubbling up from the sacred ground of this holy isle as Iona goes green thanks to a pioneering scheme pumping hot water up from the earth beneath people's feet.

The switch to renewables is at the heart of parallel multi-million pound appeals to transform Iona's two most important buildings as islanders bid to move into the 21st century while holding on to their precious past.

For the religious Iona Community, denoted with a capital 'C', the new ground source energy network is a key part of the latest major restoration of the abbey. It will make it possible to offer a warm welcome to visitors year-round in future, instead of turning them away in winter because it is too cold for anyone to stay there.

Meanwhile the wider island community is on its own fundraising

mission to replace the existing village hall, which at nearly a hundred years old is no longer fit for purpose. The hall is certainly not as world-famous as the abbey, but it is just as vital to those who live here as the only public indoor space open year-round. Hooking up the new hall - along with the island school, houses and hotels - will restore its place as a lifeline hub for a myriad of key events and activities from traditional ceilidhs to pupils' sports classes and film nights.

Practically, generating its own heat will end the island's reliance on more costly imported fossil fuels from the mainland. Symbolically the community-led scheme illustrates islanders' determination to thrive.

Married mother of two Shiona Ruhemann, a former civil servant now leading Iona Community Council and the heating scheme, has a lifelong connection with the isle through her minister father who worked on a previous 20th century abbey restoration. She said: "It is quite a remarkable time on the island. There is a very energised group of people here."

Iona is unique

Like other islands residents have "very high fuel costs", so producing their own energy is a "no-brainer", she added. Successfully trialling boreholes definitely required brain power though on a holy island likened to working in an "archaeological minefield". The ground was a burial place for Scottish Kings and also holds the ancient remains of a Benedictine nunnery. Profits from the scheme will be invested in more environmental schemes on Iona in future.



The journey to Iona.



Iona local community.

Currently the focus is on the targets for the hall and abbey appeals which have won support around the world and are confident of persuading more people to donate to ensure that they reach their targets this year. Joanne MacInnes, who is from Dundee and married into an island crofting family, plays a key role in both appeals. She said: "The abbey campaign with its global reach has cornered the Christians. We have really struggled as a community group to shout as loud as that for the hall (but) once we tell people (from outside Iona) about the island, how hard everyone works, and how important the hall is they tend to get it. Iona is unique. We have this resident religious community, but we are also unique in that we have worked out what it is that works on Iona, what underpins a healthy, vibrant, growing population."

The answer, she said, is a village hall. For even on an island just one mile by one and a half miles, social isolation can be a real problem for everyone from young parents working opposite shifts to elderly residents living alone. Currently the existing hall is a "cold" place with a "tiny kitchen, tiny storage and a couple of tiny damp toilets."

Miraculous journey

The new hall promises to be fit for the 21st century, with a meeting room, gathering place, a "commercial-ish" kitchen, plus an outside space. "The difference will be completely amazing," Mrs MacInnes said. Among the latest hall fundraisers is a callout to the numerous people, places and organisations worldwide which share Iona's popular name. Those who make a donation will have their name engraved in a special wall in the new hall being built from the well-trodden floorboards of the old building.

While islanders hope to start building their new hall later this year, the final phase of restoration at the abbey began last November. The Iona Community has described progress as a "miraculous" journey powered by strong global connections, with a third of donations from overseas.

And while its sacred past is set in stone, the island's unique place in history may increasingly be at least as much about its energy, in every sense of the word.

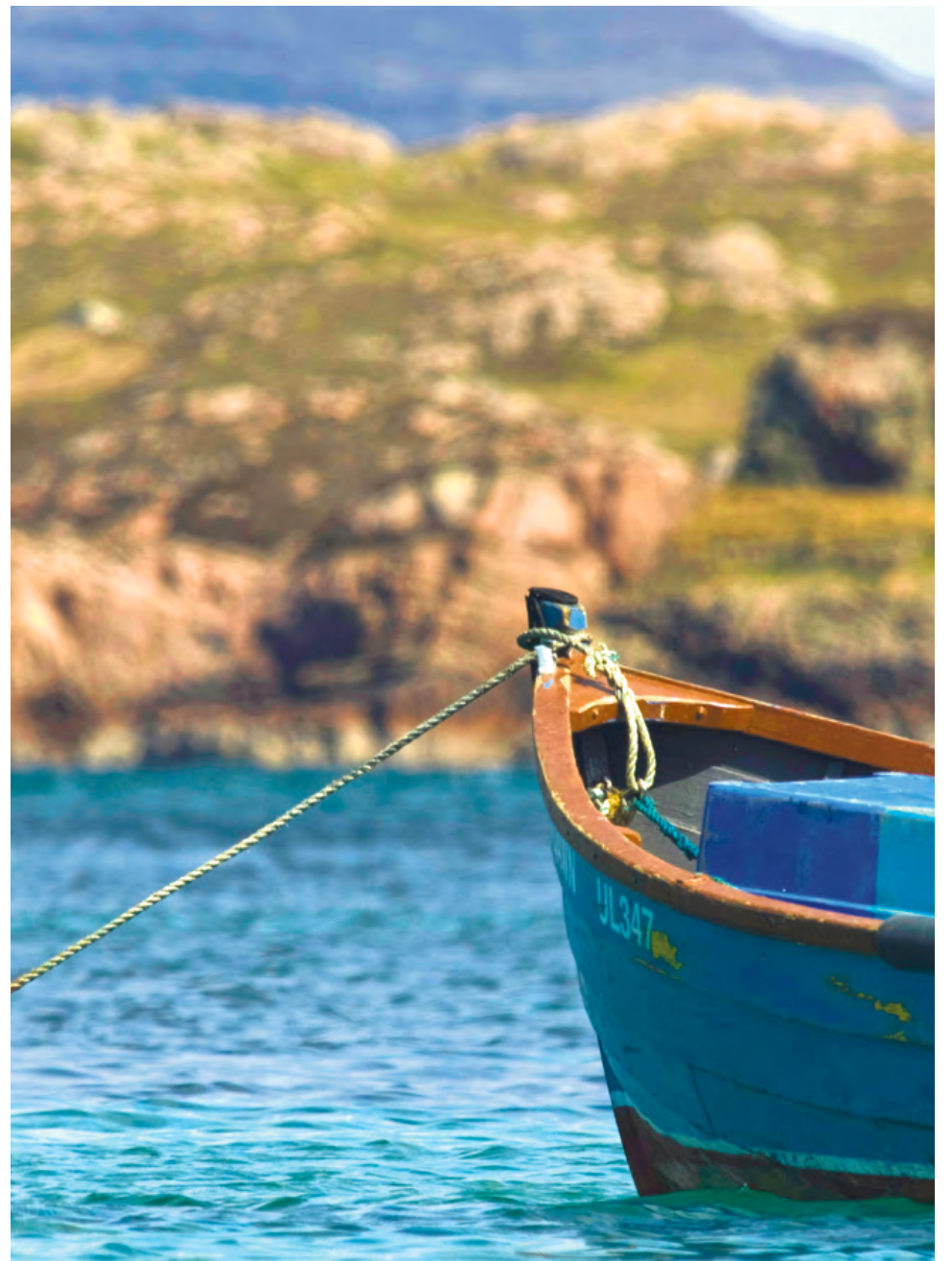
For the village hall the journey is arguably at least as miraculous, given the sheer number of rural populations nationwide all vying for cash to survive. Both communities on Iona are nearing their goals, jointly amounting to around £6 million, and the green energy scheme is moving forward. It seems likely that the tiny isle's vast international reach will continue to grow, drawing in yet more people for years to come.

And while its sacred past is set in stone, the island's unique place in history may increasingly be at least as much about its energy, in every sense of the word.

For more information on the hall and abbey appeals or to make a donation visit: www.ionavillagehall.org or www.iona.org.uk/capital-appeal-information



Iona Abbey ruins.



£60,000 upgrade for Iona Abbey



Iona Abbey is to undergo a £60,000 upgrade as details of work to conserve and maintain the iconic site have been announced. A new conservation heating system is to be installed in the Abbey Church, to help protect against increasing levels of rain water penetration that have been documented throughout the site. The level and intensity of rainfall on Iona has risen significantly over the past five decades. Since the 1960's average rainfall in the west of Scotland has increased by around 28% and the number of days in which rain is recorded has also increased during this time period. In the decades to come we are likely to see winters become increasingly wetter and summers drier, but with shorter, more intense periods of rainfall.

The cradle of Christianity in Scotland

David Mitchell, Head of Conservation at HES, said: "Iona Abbey has a special place in

Scotland's history, drawing tens of thousands of visitors every year. Like many of our historic sites across the country, changes in our climate present challenges to how we manage and maintain these priceless assets. Historic buildings like the Abbey Church at Iona are particularly susceptible to the accelerated decay that can be caused by increasing rainfall, and the current work we're undertaking will help respond to these impacts and protect the site for the future."

Iona Abbey is often described as the cradle of Christianity in Scotland. A site of pilgrimage since the 7th century, it remains an important spiritual centre today. The architecture of the Abbey Church itself spans the 13th to 16th centuries, now restored as an active place of worship.

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