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Volume 42 - Number 11

Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

The changing flow of whisky



by Sean Cairney

hink Scotland for many non-Scots and images of tartan, bagpipes and whisky come to mind. Scotland is all these things, and so much more, but those traditional icons often stand out for many. This month whisky will be highlighted both in Scotland and across the world as May hosts Whisky Month in Scotland and World Whisky Day also takes place globally.

Sold in over 200 countries worldwide, whisky is one of Scotland's most famous exports, with nearly forty bottles of whisky being exported from Scotland every second! Last year that equated to nearly 558 million bottles, with recent big increases in the Indian and Chinese markets. This is on top of the already robust markets of Europe and the United States. A whisky can be called Scotch whisky only after it has matured for a minimum of three years in oak casks in Scotland itself. Over the years I have been asked about being 'Scotch' and I must let the person know that it is in fact a drink, not Scots.

It's believed whisky-making began in Scotland as winemaking methods spread from monasteries in Europe during the 11th century. Whisky which translates in Gaelic 'uisge beathe' (or 'water of life') is a product steeped in tradition, but at the same time one which is innovating itself in today's modern world.

Ancient craft

The ancient craft of creating oak casks has been part of Scotch whisky for centuries, but the

industry has celebrated a new first with the recruitment of two female coopering apprentices. First-year coopering apprentices Angela Cochrane and Kirsty Olychick recruited by leading Scotch distiller Diageo at its Cambus Cooperage in Clackmannanshire - are breaking down the gender barriers and blazing a pioneering trail in the once male dominated trade.

Diageo has invested significantly in its coopering operations in Scotland in recent years, opening the £10 million state-of-the art Cambus Cooperage in 2011. Drawing on generations of skill and knowledge, and combining it with the state-of-the-art engineering, the cooperage is now able to process more whisky casks than ever before, producing over 400,000 casks each year to be used to mature spirit from Diageo's portfolio of single grain and single malt distilleries.

The Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival takes place this month in locations across Speyside, the spiritual home of Scotland's whisky industry. One of the more unusual events is Secrets of Spynie on May 4 which combines walking and canoeing. During their guided journey by foot and by voyageur canoe, visitors will be able to learn about the 1,500-year history of the Laich of Moray where much of the barley used in local whisky is grown. Guides will also be sharing the story of Macbeth, the history of Spynie Canal and will visit Spynie Palace, which dates back to medieval times.

In this issue

Last month some prominent Scottish events took place around the world. We were thrilled to see Sir Billy Connolly take part in the New York Tartan Day events. It may be the Big Apple, but when the 'Big Yin' walks down the city streets in his kilt it was sure to make people stop and cheer. As our headline says, New York certainly had a tartan takeover.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is one of the world's top live events. Regular readers of the Scottish Banner will know of this event as we highlight the Tattoo on a regular basis with many readers having attended the Tattoo or most certainly have it on their bucket list. I was fortunate to sit down with Brigadier David Allfrey to hear about this great event and how it really is becoming an international viewing experience.

The Proclaimers are one of Scotland's great music exports. They were certainly part of the soundtrack of my youth and over 30 years later they are still making great music and playing to audiences across the world. Craig Reid told me he was simply trying to get off the dole as he and twin brother Charlie formed the band back in the 80's. Well they sure did that and made us all the richer for doing so.

Ron Dempsey

This month we say farewell to the longest contributor in Scottish Banner's history Ron Dempsey. Many will know Ron from his What's *In A Name* genealogy column. Ron has written for the Scottish Banner for over 30 years and provided much insight into people's names and we hope has helped many people add that extra piece of information to their own family tree. Ron has always come up with a column when his mail bag is full, or empty, and his love of genealogy and helping others has come across in every column. To keep your content fresh and insightful for so long is no easy task, and I can think of few contributors who have been so loyal to the Scottish Banner and our readers.

I would like to thank Ron for his dedication and friendship to the Scottish Banner for all these years. I have known Ron since childhood and whilst the Banner will not be the same without him, I hope you will join me in wishing Ron all the very best for the future and if he has helped you or sparked your genealogy interest please share your story with us. Ron as you hang your keyboard up with us, I hope you can look back with pride on helping so many and most certainly helping the Scottish Banner grow to new heights one name at a time. 🧩

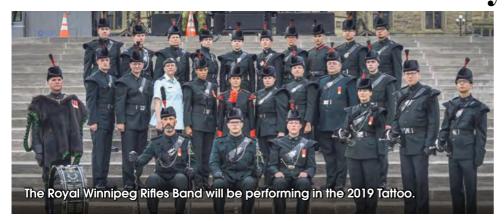
Do you have any comments on this month's editorial or edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

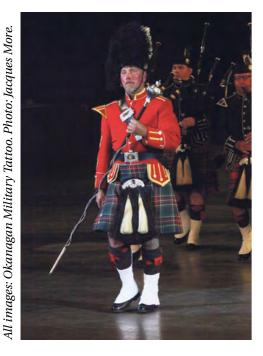


Gracing our front cover: The 2019 Tartan Day Parade in New York. Photo: Jennifer Leonard.



Okanagan Military Tattoo returns to Vernon, British Columbia July 27 & 28, 2019





magine if Hollywood decided to create an old-fashioned epic motion picture with a patriotic theme and you had a chance to see it performed live. A huge cast, stunning costumes, intricate choreography, a dramatic musical soundtrack, moments of sheer spectacle, stirring pride and patriotism, something to make you laugh, something to make you cry, all in an amazing show that flies by way too fast. That's the Okanagan Military Tattoo.

The term Tattoo evolved from a European tradition dating back to the 17th century when Low Country innkeepers would cry "Doe den tap toe" or Turn off the taps! as the fifes and drums of the local regiment signalled a return to quarters.

Culture and traditions

Today the word Tattoo refers to a ceremonial performance of military music by massed bands. Each Tattoo is influenced by the culture and traditions of the country they represent. Fans of the massed spectacles of music might flock to the world's great Tattoos: The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Scotland, the Basil Tattoo in Switzerland and the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo in Halifax. But the greatest Tattoo in Western Canada is the Okanagan Military Tattoo in Vernon BC.

The sixth annual Okanagan Military Tattoo - Vernon's largest annual indoor event will take place on Saturday, July 27 at 7:00pm and Sunday, July 28 at 2:00pm at Kal Tire Place. Headliners this year include the Brentwood Imperial Youth Band from the United Kingdom and the Calgary Round-up Band. The Regimental Band of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles will play a major role in the "Tribute to the Veterans" segment of the 2 hour Tattoo program as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day.



Tickets to the Okanagan Military Tattoo are on sale now at the TicketSeller Box Office in Vernon 250-549-7469 or toll free 1-866-311-1011. Tickets can also be purchased on-line at www.ticketseller.ca. Special pricing is available for groups of 10 or more and all seating is reserved. For full details see: www.okanagantattoo.ca



Tartan of the Month- Whisky Tartan



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

ay is Whisky month in Scotland and we raise a glass to the Whisky Tartan (SRT reference: 7267). The yellow lines on the brown band are the fields of barley; the black squares are for the peat and coal used to dry the malted barley. The small brown squares are for the yeast. The darker blue squares are for the Scottish water, the brown lines are the barrels, black lines the warehouses, the light blue lines are for the 'Angels' share', the resulting fungi from which blacken the walls of the warehouses and the white lines are for the glass bottles.

This tartan was recorded prior to the launch of The Scottish Register of Tartans in January, 2007 and designed by Edgar van de Crommert. Slàinte, cheers!



SCOT POURRI

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

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

Celebrating a birthday and Tartan Day



Ian Mackay of Kerikeri, New Zealand turned 83 on 5 April and a small group of friends gathered to celebrate the occasion on 6 April being Scottish Tartan Day. Ian donned his kilt and friend John Cree also donned his kilt to celebrate Scotland's Tartan Day.

As expected a good few drams of whisky were consumed in the joint celebration.

I have attached a photo of Ian and John with *the Scottish Banner* proudly held.

Lyn Cree New Zealand

Ed note: Thank you for sending Lyn and I am sure Scottish banner readers from around the world will join in wishing Ian a wonderful 83rd year!

My school years





I read a piece by Jim Stoddart regarding schools *The Scottish School System (the Scottish Banner,* April, 2019), and I am sending you a picture of my class, from I think 1955, I am front second row with the fancy hair and turned up collar. Far left standing is Sir Jackie Stewart.

A lot of these guys from the plasticine class did well, one to South Africa, two to Canada, two to Australia and one to Walesa couple of guys did great things.

The other picture is of us weans waiting to get into the ABC minors at the Rialto. I am behind the kid on the right with the cowboy hat. I lived across the road at 93 College St. I am still in touch with Ian McFarlane and Billy Thomson, I love talking to them about the good old days, I am hoping to talk to Ian Guthrie coming back from Australia for a visit. I hope to hear from George Murray soon.

Jackie Melville

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Canada

Ed note: Thanks Jackie for sharing your memories with us.

The Scottish School System Dear Jim,

Your story re the education system in Scotland (Kings Castles and "Durty" Wee Rascals, The Scottish School System, Scottish Banner, April, 2019) and the wonderful photograph, brought back so many memories. While I realise it is not possible to publish information such as the school where the photo was taken, there was a distinct likeness to myself, the lad, back row last on the right, so if there is any links to the information provided below, it would be appreciated.

Education started at the then Lockerbie Academy – 1947-48 – being the son of a Scottish soldier, school was never permanent, and we moved on to Glasgow (Garrioch Road School) the time of the Mary Hill Barracks (now a housing estate) – on to Berwick – and the Junior School, almost opposite the Barracks, RHQ The KOSB – Edinburgh (I admit to forgetting the name of the school, as we then moved below the border to schools in England).

My Mother – a (Lowlander) Johnson by birth, never failed to remind me that there was only Scottish education, and that while I may not have finished under that system, the fact I commenced my education in Scotland, formed the very "back bone" of my success. How right she was.

So Jim you did awaken a dormant folk memory – many thoughtful trips down memory lane – (though I am often in Scotland) and visit Lockerbie, where it all began – Berwick on Tweed, and Edinburgh- where the "feeling" of belonging runs deep, your article certainly achieved a great deal.

Thank you, Alexander Sutton

Ed note: Thanks Alexander for sharing your story. The photo used was undated and had no details of which school in Scotland it was. How amazing if this is you!

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

f (



Send your photos or letters via social media

Cauldshiels Loch



Cauldshiels Loch, Galashiels. James Gordon Images Galashiels, Scotland

On the rails in Edinburgh



The Balmoral getting in on the act at Edinburgh Waverly with The Aberdonian. A View From My Camera Scotland

Muness Castle



Muness Castle in Shetland, the most northerly castle in Scotland. *Historic Tours Scotland Scotland*

Kilchurn Castle



Kilchurn Castle, Loch Awe...so nice you need to see it twice!

Robert Gibb

Scotland

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

Tenement House spruced up for spring



he National Trust for Scotland's
Tenement House has enjoyed
a spruce up in time for the new
season. A new retail space has been
created in what was once the exhibition
area and the old gift shop has been turned
into an improved exhibition space with
an engaging approach to interpretation.
There are interactive exhibits which
include a type writer just like the one Miss
Toward (past occupier of the Tenement
House) used to use, costumes and props
for the perfect selfie and a wide selection
of handling objects from the period,
including 1930s board games.

The Tenement House provides an authentic time capsule of life in early 20th century Glasgow and inspiration for the retail area was taken from the museum itself – the collection of which includes a dressmaker's dummy, suitcases, wrought iron bed and baking scales. Modern shop fittings have been combined with old-fashioned period objects including a mangle, metal irons and scales - all helping to bring the space to life. Visitors to the museum can take home a unique souvenir with the gift shop now boasting products from local suppliers, including Glasgow made cards as well as a new range by local

artist Libby Walker featuring Glasgow's landmarks and tenements. There's also the opportunity to purchase products crafted by the Tenement House volunteers themselves - proceeds of which will go towards the house.

Frozen in time

Ana Sanchez, Visitor Services Supervisor, said: "The idea behind the refurbishment was to improve the visitor experience. Our museum is full of quirky items and we wanted to recreate that vibe in our new and improved visitor areas. We're very proud of our new spaces and we're looking forward to sharing them with visitors as our season progresses." As well as its refurbishment, the Tenement House has also extended its opening times. Visitors can now visit the house between 10am - 5pm daily until

November and Saturday - Monday 11am - 5pm from November-March.

At first glance, the Tenement House appears to be an ordinary middle-class tenement from the late 19th century, standing in Garnethill. However, when you step inside, the faithfully restored four rooms appear as if frozen in time and provide a rare glimpse into life in Glasgow in the early 20th century.

Shorthand typist Miss Agnes
Toward lived here from 1911 until
1965, and preserved her furniture and
possessions with love and care.
She held on to all sorts of things that
most people would have thrown away,
and this extensive personal archive
has become a valuable time capsule
for visitors today. The Tenement House
also reveals what it meant to be an
'independent woman' at that time.



Did you know? Orkney



- Britain's oldest natural woodland is located on the island of Hoy in the Orkneys. It is believed to be 10,000 years old, a relict remaining after the last ice age.
- Scotland's first free lending library opened in 1683 on Orkney Island.
- Cliffs on the isle of Hoy are 1140 ft high.
 They are the tallest cliffs in the UK.
- Orkney's place names, settlement patterns, culture and language are all reminders of its Norse heritage. Along with the Shetland Islands in the North, Orkney was under Norse rule until 1468, when these last outposts of the dwindling Scandinavian empire fell under Scottish influence.
- Orkney's earliest lighthouse was established in 1789.
- Orkney has the world's shortest scheduled air flight in the world.
 The flight between the islands of Westray and Papay takes less than two minutes.
- At the Midsummer solstice, the sun rises around 3.58 am, setting again at around 10.29 pm and is therefore above the horizon for 18 hours.
- Orkney is home to some of the bestpreserved Neolithic sites in Europe.

 There are villages, burial tombs, stone circles and Orkney was granted World Heritage status by UNESCO in 1999.

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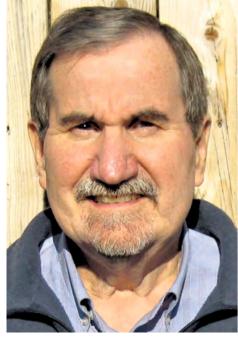
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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By: Ron Dempsey

This month we say goodbye to a long time contributor and friend of the Scottish Banner. Ron has helped many people around the world with their queries and sparked the interest of genealogy in many readers. Has Ron helped you or have you learned something from Ron's columns over the years? Share your story with us or send Ron your best wishes by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us





To quote again my dear Mother this May: "Never cast a cloot till May's oot."
Sage advice to those dwelling northern climes suggesting that one should keep vestments handy against the chill until the end of May. Another advice she offered was to wash your face in the morning dew on May 1st to keep one looking youthful.

Caughie

Now onto queries, the first coming from Mary Lowell, a lady, Airdrie born now living in the USA. She is interested in her middle name Caughie which she inherited from her great grandmother. Caughie or Caughey from the Irish MacCaughie sometimes Mulcahy is from Irish MacEachaidh Anglicized as Aghy or Oghy once a popular personal in county Tyrone.

Binks

The next letter came from Isabel Cameron née Binks, from New Zealand. Ms. Cameron is asking about her own birth name Binks and some other names in her family. Binks a descriptive land name for banks as in a bank of land, possibly built as defensive wall. This was particularly true in Yorkshire where they were built as a protection against the raiding Scots. Binks comes from Middle English for benc or bench. Ms. Cameron also mentioned a place near Queensferry named Binks Rock. This point of land is a very ancient landing place from the North Sea to the Firth of Forth. It is a ledge of rocks that were shaped to be a landing place. It is reputed that Queen Margaret later Saint Margaret wife of Malcolm Canmore landed here when she sought refuge in Scotland.

Munro

Next name on her list is Munro, which is a rather prolific clan in the north of Scotland where the principal branch is Foulis pronounced Fowls. Clan myth has some men from Ireland helping the local leaders against Viking raiders and were given lands in gratitude, the clan was well established by 14th century.

The name is from the Gaelic - Mac an Rothaich (man from Ro). Clan Motto: Dread God

Clan Badge: An eagle perched. There many posts on major clans on the internet which I will leave readers to pursue and to learn more of these fascinating histories.

Mathers

Third name on the list is Mathers. This name is particularly interesting to me and my ancestry since there is an area on the coast of Kincardineshire known as the Kaim of Mathers. It was a fortification built by the noble family of Barclay of Mathers that held land in the area until the early 1600's. Another form of the name Mather or Mathers from the Middle English word for reaper or mower of grain.

MacCrimmon

Last name is the famous piping name of MacCrimmon. A Gaelic name with a Norse origin of Hroðmundr meaning famed protector. For many generations they were the hereditary pipers for Clan MacLeod based at Dunvegan on the Isle of Skye. Again, there is much on the internet for this ancient family.

Hanging up my keyboard
A special thank you the ladies
mentioned above, Mary Lowell and
Isabel Cameron as you are last in a
long line of letter writers asking about
their surnames. For the last 34 years I
have had the pleasure of responding
to so many people asking about their
surnames from all over the world. It has
been my privilege and honour to answer
them in the best manner I could.

In the beginning, I am sure that Val Cairney, publisher and editor of a publication had hoped it would be welcomed by a strong local ex-pat community, but had no idea what global growth was in store for the publication as the years passed. It was a pleasure to have been a small part of this publication.

As I said to editor Sean, it's time to hang up my keyboard, so this will be my last column in the Scottish Banner. I have come a point in my life where I wish to pursue other interests. My years with the Banner have been interesting to say the least. I still remember picking up what turned out to be the first copy of *the* Scottish Banner in a Scottish bakery in the east side of Toronto back in 1976 and was quite taken aback with it. For the next 9 years I looked forward each monthly edition. It was October of 1985 when I approached editor Val Cairney about a column on Scottish surnames. My thinking there must more people out there that are interested in their names. Val thought so too, and my monthly contributions started.

It was after a few months of columns when someone wrote to me asking about surnames for the first time. I proudly phoned Val and jokingly told her a letter had "poured" in. I had no idea it would the first of many over the next three decades.

The British Shows sponsored by *the Scottish Banner* were fun times. At the events I was able to meet some of the readers and enjoyed talking to them about their surnames and things Scottish. Also, there were some years where *the Scottish Banner* staff couldn't attend all the Highland Games they wished. I was pleased that I could set up a tent for them and represent them at a few.

My association with the Scottish Banner

It was at those events I got a sense of what a great networking vehicle *the Banner* had become to so many Scottish ex-pats. Many readers that I met suggested that *the Banner* offered them a "wee bit o' hame."

In the beginning, I am sure that Val Cairney, publisher and editor of a publication had hoped it would be welcomed by a strong local ex-pat community, but had no idea what global growth was in store for the publication as the years passed. It was a pleasure to have been a small part of this publication.

The most positive things I can list with my association with *the Scottish Banner* is my friendship with Val Cairney and also Sean. In receiving so many interesting queries, it certainly helped open further my spectrum of interest on one of my favourite subject matters. Lastly, over these 34 years I was touched by all the kind compliments that I received from readers, even the ones that pointed where I may have been mistaken. Sometimes a columnist works in a vacuum and it was these kind notes that let you know you are reaching people.

This last column is a short one, but I have many pleasant memories of the readership of *the Scottish Banner*. Thank you all.

SCOTSPEAK

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

"Don't let anything bother you, eat chocolate and drink whisky."

Glasgow born Australian Nessie Kluckhenn said as she celebrated her 100th birthday. Nessie is Australia's oldest person.

"Porridge is helpful, and having a job you enjoy. I like to think I've lived a decent life. I do ask myself - why me? Why have I lived so long when others haven't? I quite like meeting people I have never seen before, that's one of my delights. I like meeting people who have been places and have some understanding of what it means to be human."

Scotland's oldest man, 111 year old Perthshire resident Alfred Smith, reveals the secret behind his long life. Mr Smith a farmer worked at his farm into his 80's and credits porridge among the secrets to his longevity.



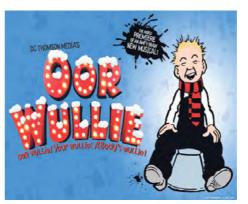
"No one wants to talk about the problems associated with the North Coast 500. It is like we have set up a Disneyland where people can come and look at us in our nice wee rural lives, as they whizz by in their camper van or sports car. But this is real life and it can be very frustrating. It is not sustainable."

Highland councillor Kirsteen Currie said as residents living and working on the North Coast 500 driving route are becoming frustrated with just how popular it has become for tourists. Dangerous driving, slow campervans, and inconsiderate drivers are all having an impact on locals who are trying to go about their daily lives. The NC500 was launched in 2015 and covers over 500 miles of coastline and Highland scenery and has brought tens of thousands of additional tourists to the area.

"Improving outdoor spaces for people living with dementia is important to ensure they can get outside to benefit from sunlight, fresh air and sensory stimulation. If outdoor spaces are well designed for someone living with dementia, they are well designed for everyone. This is important as Paths for All want more people to benefit from everyday walking. Well designed and maintained paths is essential to making walking an easier option, especially, if you are living with sensory or cognitive decline."

Ian Findlay, Paths for All, Chief Officer said that Evanton Community Woodland in the Highlands will be Scotland's first dementia friendly woodland. Walking tracks and signage have been improved to assist people with dementia and their carers use the green space. It is estimated that Scotland has 90,000 people with a dementia diagnosis, with walking being seen as a great and safe activity to help sufferers.

"It's a real responsibility taking a character everyone loves and a story everyone loves and bringing them to life. But it's an exciting one - and I for one am looking forward to the show. It's certainly going to be one people won't forget.



We want to bring Oor Wullie onto the stage for his fans, but we're also aiming to open up Oor Wullie to a new generation that perhaps don't know about him. I think we have to tell the story of a traditional character, but in a contemporary Scotland and a contemporary Dundee. It's quite a job to do, but we're working on it."

Andrew Panton, artistic director at Dundee Rep, said as Oor Wullie! Your Wullie! A'body's Wullie! will be launched as a live show in Scotland for Christmas 2019. Oor Wullie, Scotland's favourite comicstrip rascal, born and bred in Dundee over 80 years ago, is all set to try a hand at the magical world of musical theatre in an upcoming national Scottish tour.

"We are pleased to commemorate the historic achievements of the Edinburgh Seven in this 150th anniversary year of them joining the University of Edinburgh. These honorary degrees recognise not just their academic achievements, but the significant contribution these women made to widening access to a university education for generations to follow."

Professor Peter Mathieson, Principal and Vice-Chancellor at the University of Edinburgh said, that seven pioneering students who broke down barriers for

women in medicine are finally to be awarded posthumous degrees, 150 years after beginning their studies. The group - known as the Edinburgh Seven - were the first female medical students admitted to a UK university when they enrolled in 1869. Mary Anderson, Emily Bovell, Matilda Chaplin, Helen Evans, Sophia Jex-Blake, Edith Pechev and Isabel Thorne will be awarded the posthumous MBChB on Saturday July 6.

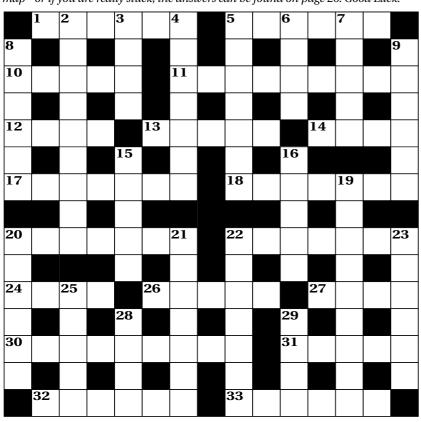


"Edinburgh is an extremely film-friendly city, which provides the perfect backdrop to Julian Fellowes' story of 19th century society, against which intrigue and dynastic power struggles play out. In addition to our central Edinburgh locations, we have the privilege of using the majestic stately homes of Hopetoun and Manderston, which will become key characters in this fantastic event series."

Television producer Colin Wratten said that Downton Abbey creators plan to film their new drama Belgravia in Edinburgh. Belgravia is a story of secrets and dishonour amongst the upper echelons of London society in the 19th century. The largely untouched Georgian architecture of Edinburgh's New Town will double for 19th century London. The New Town was built between 1767 and 1850, extending the city north to deal with overcrowding inside the Old Town walls and to prevent an exodus of wealthy citizens.

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 any doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or map - or if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 26. Good Luck!



CLUES ACROSS:

1-Traditional Scottish dish (6).

5-Scots brigand (3, 3) 10-Scots sandwich (5)

11-Village on shore of Moray Firth (9).

12-In Scots it's terrible (4).

13-A Scots broom (5).

14-Small Scots child 0). 17-Grass cutters (7).

18-A high chest of drawers (7).

20-Spanner in the works! (7)

22-Argyll waterway (4, 3).

24-Curved entrance (4).

26-Mischievous laddie (5).

27-The misty isle (4).

30-Clydeside castle (9). 31-An alleyway between Scots houses (5)

32-Village west of Crieff (6)

33-They're danced over (6).

CLUES DOWN:

2-Village near Callander (9) 3-A Gaelic speaker (4)

4-Dribbles saliva to a Scot (7).

5-Government soldier (7) 6-Whirl quickly to a Scot (4).

7-Branch of peace (5).

8-Young fish (6).

9-Kirkwall its capital (6).

15-Endure a Scot (5).

16-Gather the herd (5). 19-Village near Auchterarder (9)

20-Protectors (6).

21-Shirt adornment (7).

22- Bagpipe dirges (7).

23-A hole in the shoe! (6). 25-Walk-on part! (5)

28-Glasgow holiday fortnight (4).

29-A sound return (4).



Scotland's iconic castles are a hit with visitors

The Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions (ASVA) has published its Visitor Trends Report for 2018.



cotland's historic sites performed well in 2018 with Edinburgh, Stirling and Urquhart castles featuring in the sector's top 20 visited sites according to the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions (ASVA). ASVA, which represents the interests of the key visitor attractions sector in Scotland, has over 450 members comprising some of Scotland's most popular and iconic castles, galleries, museums, historic houses, heritage sites, wildlife parks, gardens and leisure attractions.

Analysis of statistics submitted by 232 of the organisation's member sites for its annual 'Visitor Trends Report' confirms that 30,262,245 visits were made to those sites in Scotland in 2018, which represents a modest increase of 0.1% over 2017 figures. The increase comes on top of a 9.7% rise in 2017, which itself followed a 6% rise in 2016, confirming once again that visitor attractions in Scotland are enjoying a period of sustained growth.

Edinburgh continued to dominate the marketplace, with 10 of the top 20 attractions located in the city. The National Museum of Scotland welcomed the most visitors over this period, while Edinburgh Castle retained its status as the most popular 'paid' attraction. Both sites attracted more than 2 million visits each. This is the second time that any visitor attraction in Scotland has surpassed the 2 million milestone after Edinburgh Castle broke the record in 2017.

Heritage attractions across Scotland have seen an increase in visitors Commenting on another successful year for Historic Environment Scotland sites, Susan Loch, Head of Visitor Operations and Customer Service at Historic Environment Scotland and ASVA Board Member, said: "We are delighted that heritage attractions across Scotland have seen an increase in visitors. These figures demonstrate the appeal that Scotland's heritage has on visitors and how important heritage attractions are to the tourism industry. It is fantastic that more and more people are visiting our sites each year. Edinburgh, Stirling and Urquhart Castles, which are included in ASVA's top 20, all had a record-breaking year in 2018, welcoming a combined total of over 100,000 more visitors from the year before."



Welcoming the news, Gordon
Morrison, Chief Executive of ASVA said:
"These figures demonstrate that the
visitor attractions sector in Edinburgh
has excelled once again. Attractions that
have invested in their visitor offer by
providing fantastic customer service and
innovative new products and services,
supported by creative and effective
marketing campaigns, are not only
reaching new visitor markets but are
actively encouraging their existing visitors
to return time and again".



After the Factory-Do you remember the Singer Sewing Machine Factory?



esearchers working on a project called "After the Factory" want to interview people who worked in the Singer sewing machine factory in Clydebank that closed in 1980. Dr Jackie Clarke at the University of Glasgow leads "After the Factory", which is funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The network brings together local partners in the West of Scotland with researchers who are studying the legacies of de-industrialisation in countries across Europe.

"When we think of the loss of industrial jobs in Scotland, we probably think first of industries like the shipyards, coal and steel that employed thousands of men. In this network we're also interested in women's experiences and in how the loss of industrial jobs affects the lives and identities of both men and women," said Dr Clarke.

One of the projects developed by the network brings together researchers - Dr Clarke at the University of Glasgow, and Dr Andy Clark, Newcastle University - with partners at West Dunbartonshire Council, holder of the Singer Sewing Machine Collection and Singer Archive, a Recognised Collection of National Significance, derived from the major Singer sewing machine factory that operated in Clydebank from 1884-1980.

The Singer Archive

The research team is working with volunteers to interview people who worked in the factory, recording their memories of working life at and after Singer, the role that the factory played in the local community, and what happened once it closed.

Dr Clarke added: "People sometimes think their stories won't be of interest to historians or that they don't have much to say. But once you get them talking, you learn so much. And with this project, it's not just researchers who benefit from hearing these stories. We're creating a resource for the community so we really want to hear from as many people as possible – even if they think they don't have much to say."

The interviews will become part of the Singer Archive and will be available to individuals and groups who want to understand more about Singer and the social history of the area. As part of the "After the Factory" project, West Dunbartonshire Youth Theatre are working with the interviews collected in the archive to develop a piece of theatre based on people's stories about Singer.

Anyone who is interested in sharing their memories of the Singer factory should email arts-afterthefactory@glasgow.ac.uk or phone Andrew Graham (at West Dunbartonshire Council) on + 44(0) 1389 772149.

Scone Palace opens for the 2019 season



cone Palace has its doors for another season of historic tours, award-winning events and family-friendly fun. Scone Palace has an exciting and diverse range of events lined up throughout the summer months for visitors of all ages to enjoy, as well as the historic Palace itself and the spectacular surrounding grounds and gardens.

Battle is set to commence again at Scone Palace after the success of last year's International Medieval Combat Federation (IMCF) World Championships as the Palace gets ready to host the Braveheart Scottish Axe Throwing Open on Sunday 5th May. At least 2,000 visitors are expected to descend on the Palace for the event, which will see axe-wielding competitors from the UK, Ireland and across Europe competing.

The team at Scone Palace are also getting ready for a truly paw-some event at the end of June. Paws at the Palace, organised in partnership with Dog Friendly Perthshire,

will feature doggy fun and games, parades of different breeds, agility classes and some four-legged demonstrations for dogs and their owners to enjoy. The all-day event on Sunday 30th June will also include food stalls (for humans and dogs), cool-down areas, and a host of stall holders selling doggy gear and gifts.

One of Scotland's most iconic and historic visitor attractions

Stephen Brannigan, Head of Palace and Events at Scone Palace, said: "As one of Scotland's most iconic and historic visitor attractions, we look forward to welcoming visitors from all over the word during our summer season to experience what makes Scone Palace so unique and special. We have some really exciting events coming up over the next few months, including our first Paws at the Palace, which we are sure people, both locally and further afield will not want to miss."

Scone Palace has also announced it is introducing ground-breaking new rules on smoking and vaping to coincide with opening for the 2019 tourist season.

The award-winning visitor attraction is becoming a smoke and vape free environment with the aim of making the Palace grounds as healthy an environment as possible for all visitors. The policy does not extend to the wider estate which hosts popular events such as the annual Rewind Festival.

Scone Palace's summer season runs to Thursday 31st October 2019. For more information about Scone Palace visit www.scone-palace.co.uk

Forensic reconstruction reveals face of man's ancient four-legged friend

A reconstruction, commissioned by Historic Environment Scotland, has revealed the face of a Neolithic dog for the first time in over 4,000 years.



he reconstruction has been created from the skull of a dog discovered in Cuween Hill chambered cairn on Orkney. The canine skull, now in the collection of National Museums Scotland, was CT- scanned by staff in the Diagnostic Imaging Service at Edinburgh University's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. This enabled HES' Digital Documentation team to make a 3D print, which was in turn used by forensic artist Amy Thornton to create a realistic model of the dog's head, building up muscle, skin and hair in the same way she would approach a human head.

In all, 24 skulls were discovered when the site was excavated in 1901. Radiocarbon dating of the dog bones unearthed at Cuween has shown that the dogs were placed in the chamber more than 500 years after the passage tomb was built, suggesting that they were ritually buried.

Neolithic Orkney

Steve Farrar, Interpretation Manager at HES, said: "Just as they're treasured pets today, dogs clearly had an important place in Neolithic Orkney, as they were kept and trained as pets and guards and perhaps used by farmers to help tend sheep. But the remains discovered at Cuween Hill suggest that dogs had a particularly special significance for the farmers who lived around and used the tomb about 4,500 years ago. Maybe dogs were their symbol or totem, perhaps they thought of themselves as the 'dog people'.



While reconstructions have previously been made of people from the Neolithic era, we do not know of any previous attempt to forensically reconstruct an animal from this time. Looking at this dog helps us better relate to the people who cared for and venerated these animals, people whose ingenuity and sophistication made Orkney such an important place in the Neolithic and who have left us with such a rich legacy of monuments today."

Amy Thornton, who trained in facial reconstruction methods while undertaking an MSc in Forensic Art at the University of Dundee, said: "This reconstruction has been a particularly interesting project to be involved in, as it marks the first time I've employed forensic methods that would usually be used for a human facial reconstruction and applied these to an animal skull. This brought its own set of challenges, as there is much less existing data relating to average tissue depths in canine skulls compared to humans. The reconstruction was originally created in clay using traditional methods, with a 3D print of the Cuween Hill skull as the base to build the anatomy on to. The completed sculpture was then cast in silicone and finished with the fur coat resembling a European grey wolf, as advised by experts. The resulting model gives us a fascinating glimpse at this ancient animal."

Cutting-edge technology

The original skull used to create the model is held at National Museums Scotland Dr Alison Sheridan, Principal Archaeological Research Curator in the Department of Scottish History and Archaeology at National Museums Scotland, said: "We are delighted to have collaborated with HES on this very important initiative, which enables people to encounter a Neolithic dog 'in the flesh'. The size of a large collie, and with features reminiscent of that of a European grey wolf, the Cuween dog has much to tell us, not only about ceremonial practices and the symbolic significance of the dog in Late Neolithic Orkney but also about the appearance of domestic dogs in the third millennium BC."

The canine reconstruction is part of a wider project to use cutting-edge technology to share the stories of Orkney's Neolithic chambered tombs with visitors. Last year we published 3D digital models of these chambered cairns, created through photogrammetry to better reveal the sophisticated structure of these monuments with the public. This process involves taking hundreds of overlapping images which are then combined to create a 3D model, enabling users from anywhere in the world to explore the sites in detail online.

All of this new research will form part of updated interpretation panels for visitors to Orkney's chambered cairns, including Cuween Hill, due to be installed this summer. The reconstruction itself will also be going on display in Orkney later this year.



Did you know?

Cuween Hill Chambered Cairn

- Cuween Hill Chambered Cairn, built between 3000 and 2400 BC, is an excellent example of a Neolithic chamber tomb.
- It has four cells opening off a central chamber, which is accessed down a passage.
- Entrance into the tomb today is through the original passage.
- The cairn illustrates the sophistication of life among Scotland's earliest agricultural communities, attesting to a belief in an afterlife 5,000 years ago with evidence of complex burial rites.
- As well as the discovery of the skulls and bones of 24 dogs on the chamber floor, exploration at the tomb in 1901 also unearthed the remains of at least eight humans, five skulls on the floor of the chamber, one at the entrance and two in side cells.



Lost carvings of the ancient Kingdom of Strathclyde turn up in Govan



community archaeology dig in Govan has uncovered long-lost gravestones from the Middle ▲ Ages, when the area was a political and religious power centre on the Clyde. Volunteers on the 'Stones and Bones' community dig set out in search of a set of lost gravestones in the graveyard of Govan Old Parish Church. One young volunteer, 14-year-old local school pupil Mark McGettigan, was helping out with the survey of the area when he felt something solid below the surface in the graveyard. Mark has found what turned out to be the first of three lost medieval sculptured stones, part of a unique and nationally important collection called the Govan Stones.

The new discoveries, which date to the 10^{th} - 11^{th} centuries, feature crosses and Celtic interlace designs similar to those on the stones housed inside the church. Mark's mother Sandra said: "My son Mark has always wanted to be an archaeologist. When I saw there was a community dig in

Govan, I signed us both up to take part. I still can't quite believe that on Mark's very first archaeological dig he uncovered these stones that everyone thought was lost forever."

An obscure period of history

Mark, an S3 pupil from Lourdes
Secondary School, said: "I was just
prodding the ground to see if there was
anything there and suddenly it made a
noise and I realised I had hit something
. Myself and two of the archaeologists
worked out the area of the object
and started to dig it out and clean it.
I wasn't too sure at the start what it was.
But then we checked with the records and
we realised it was one of the lost Govan
Stones. I am extremely happy, in fact I'm
ecstatic at what I helped to uncover."

The Stones and Bones dig was being carried out by Northlight Heritage with local participants for the Govan Cross Townscape Heritage Initiative and the Glasgow City Region City Deal.

The Govan Stones, most of which are now housed in Govan Old Parish Church, shine light into an obscure period of history before the nation of Scotland existed, when warlords battled for control of the British Isles and Viking long ships caused mayhem along Scottish coasts and waterways. A total of 46 stones were found in the graveyard in the 19th century, and 31 of them were taken into the church for safe keeping.

The Govan Stones are a collection of international importance and these recovered stones reinforce the case for regarding Govan as a major early medieval centre of power.

The remaining stones were displayed against the wall of the churchyard, under the shadow of the Harland and Wolff shipyard. In 1973, the shipyard building was demolished and scholars believed that the stones were destroyed in the process.

However, it now seems likely that many of these long-lost stones have survived and await rediscovery by Mark and the community dig. Professor Stephen Driscoll, the University of Glasgow's Professor of Historical Archaeology, is part of The Govan Heritage Trust, which owns Govan Old Parish Church and the Govan Stones. He said: "This the most exciting discovery we have had at Govan in the last 20 years. The Govan Stones are a collection of international importance and these recovered stones reinforce the case for regarding Govan as a major early medieval centre of power.

The discovery is very timely because the Govan Heritage Trust is embarking on a major refurbishment of Govan Old, which will culminate in a redisplay of the collection. In the coming months we look forward to continuing this community archaeological work to locate the other lost stones to assess their condition from a conservation perspective and to consider how best to secure their long-term future."

Ingrid Shearer of Northlight
Heritage said: "We're delighted that our
volunteers have had the opportunity
to make such a significant discovery.
They've toughed it out through rain
and snow over the past few weeks and
their hard work and commitment has
really paid off. Govan Old is the oldest
churchyard in Scotland and we hope
that this find will give a boost to plans
for the future."

Historic significance of Govan Councillor Kenny McLean, City Convener for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Public Realm at Glasgow City Council, said: "This work aimed to show the historic significance of Govan, and I am delighted to say this discovery has achieved that aim in the best way possible. The unearthing of these stones is of international importance, and is all the more remarkable given that they were discovered by a 14 year-old enthusiast, and Mark deserves all the congratulations coming his way. The excavation was a stage of the public realm work that will make Govan Old and this part of Govan even more attractive for the people who live, work and visit there, and underlines the fantastic heritage of the area."

The Stones and Bones community archaeology project is being funded by the Glasgow City Region City Deal and Govan Cross Townscape Heritage Initiative. The archaeology forms part of the third phase of public realm works being taken forward as a priority of the Central Govan Action Plan. The graveyard and the stones form a Scheduled Monument due to their national importance and are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The current works have scheduled monument consent from Historic Environment Scotland.

Riona McMorrow, Acting Head of The Heritage Fund in Scotland, said: "This is an incredibly exciting find for the community of Govan and for the country as a whole. One thousand years of history has lain undiscovered until now, these stones can help shine a light on the town's medieval past. It is the discovery of a lifetime for the volunteer archaeologists involved and one I'm sure they will never forget."

The Govan Heritage Trust are currently running a crowdfunding campaign to secure the future of the building and its rare collection. Anyone wishing to support the Trust can contribute at https://tghts.charitycheckout.co.uk/profile





his year's chance to see thousands of spectacular seabirds, including the largest concentration of nesting puffins along the east coast, has begun with the public opening of the Isle of May' reserve. A record number of people visited the island in 2018 over 13,500 visitors came ashore to the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) national nature reserve, making it the fourth consecutive year visitor numbers have grown.

But puffins are far from the only attraction. Isle of May reserve manager, David Steel, shares his top 10 reasons to visit this spectacular island.

1: Enjoy a boat trip! The trip over to the May is rollicking good fun, led by knowledgeable guides, and will warm you up with a few bird sightings before you even reach the island.

- 2: Experience the feeling of being inside a puffin snow globe. In spring, over 40,000 pairs of puffins return from the open sea where they have been since August. Birds bond for life and will use the same underground nest burrow, so watch out for adults 'spring cleaning' and pair bonding.
- 3: Walk in the footsteps of the famous Robert Stevenson, the engineer who designed and built the impressive main lighthouse on the island in 1816. Climb to the highest point of the island to gain free entry to the lighthouse (weekends only) and enjoy the story of this magnificent building.
- 4: Watch out for endearing eiders. Spring is the best time to see the largest nesting duck in the British Isles, with over 1,200 females nesting across the island. This loveable duck will sit tight on four to five eggs and will not move throughout her four-week incubation. Many will nest on the footpaths which crisscross the island, so watch where you step!
- 5: See the Isle of May in bloom. Following the long cold winter months, the island springs to life as the dormant season gives way to spring. Take in the display of the white sea campion which carpets the island, and the thrift (known as sea pink) which grows in the crevices of stone walls and the cracks of the rocks.
- 6: Take in the sights, sounds and smells of the seabird city. Don't miss the spectacle of thousands of cliff-nesting seabirds, including guillemots, razorbills, shags and kittiwakes on the high west cliffs of the island. Watch and listen to the buzz of activity and throng of birds as they return from the open sea, display with partners and squabble for nest sites.
- 7: See seals hauled out on seaweed-covered rocks as they enjoy the spring warmth. The Isle of May is home to one of the largest grey seal colonies in the UK, with thousands giving birth in the autumn months. However, spring is also a good time to see the animals hauled out on the rocks.

- 8: Enjoy the freedom of an island, breathing in the sea air and escaping the hustle and bustle of daily life. The island's walks offer breath-taking views and if clear, there are views of the Forth Road Bridges out to the west, St. Abb's Head to the south and the mighty Bell Rock lighthouse to the north.
- 9: Experience the spiritual atmosphere of this special, historical place. Wander around the ruins of the medieval monastery. Learn about the significant role the island played in the history of early Christianity and about the hermits and monks who lived on the island from the 7th century.
- 10: Learn more about the fascinating life of a modern-day Robinson Crusoe - meet the friendly SNH staff who will greet you on arrival to the island. The staff live and work on the island from March to November and deal with all aspects of island living from welcoming visitors to researching seabirds.

The May

David adds, "This is an exciting time on the May. We're all thrilled to be back, welcome the season's first visitors, and see our first seabirds return, including the ever-popular puffins. There's a whole variety of events coming up this season, including family fun days and a weekend celebrating the island's seals. My advice to visitors of all ages is to book your place on a boat soon!"

Known locally as 'The May', this small island sits on the edge of the Firth of Forth. The island's importance for seabirds has drawn scientists to its shores for many years and the May is home to the oldest continuously running bird observatory in the UK. The May is also a regular haunt for grey seals, often seen lounging on the shoreline rocks. This island is a historical gem and has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries with an early island monastery. The May was also the site of Scotland's very first lighthouse, built in 1636, while the current, castle-like lighthouse was designed by the engineer Robert Stevenson.

The May is open almost daily (weather dependent) to 30 September with boats sailing from Anstruther Harbour.

To keep up-to-date on all the wildlife sightings, events and more on the Isle of May, follow the blog at https://isleofmaynnr.wordpress.com or the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/isleofmayNNR





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& Cross Bow





reetings from Scotland where the temperature is rising. It feels almost balmy today, although it is not quite as hot as it was in Africa. Yes, we have been there, and we celebrated the chief's BB (Big Birthday) in suitable style. A balloonride across orange desert dunes was followed by a champagne breakfast on the sands. What a way to say hello to your sixties...

Namibia was frankly fab. It is a mix of desert, coast and bush and, despite the wildness of much of it, it feels safe. Folk are friendly, the food is excellent, and the landscape is mesmerising.

This is a country that is ten times the size of Scotland and with just two and a half million people in it. Swelling the indigenous population are the hordes of expectant tourists who come in search of adventure. We meet Europeans, Americans and Canadians. Plus, a sizeable number of folks from neighbouring South Africa.

A voyage of discovery beckons – and stamina is a must. In twelve days, we drive two thousand miles, most of it over dusty, rickety roads. We stay in desert and coastal camps and on a game reserve. Changing two flat tyres by the side of the road is a novel experience. I never knew the MacGregor was so nifty with a tool kit.

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.

There is the roaring lion we see at twilight. And the family of giraffes casually loitering by the side of the road. In one village a baby monkey waves cheekily from the safety of its mother's back. At a water hole two snorting rhinos square up to each other whilst a pack of Zebras look nervously on.

Mostly it is hot, hot, hot. Then an African storm hits, the thunder fearsome, the rain falling in stair-rods. Spears of lightening stab the sky. As animals run for cover a porcupine tears through the restaurant in which we are sitting.

Back in Scotland

It is an amazing trip – and it is all too short. But it is time to go home and Scotland is calling. We take off under blue skies and land in a grey mist. Poor old Edinburgh is cold and bleak.

Coming down from a holiday high is always tough. There is the business of waiting for the baggage to appear on the airport carousel. There is the matter of manoeuvring said bags through the puddles to the long-stay car park.

We stow suitcases and climb into the vehicle. Then we do what we always do. The chief and I ask ourselves why we choose to live in a cold climate. Would a place in the sun not be infinitely kinder to older bones?! It is a tantalising thought - and we must remind ourselves why we live where we do.

Here in Scotland there are four distinct seasons. The blossom buds of spring followed by the light bright nights of summer. The red and gold leaves of autumn precede the frosty hips and haws of winter.

Here in Scotland there are four distinct seasons. The blossom buds of spring followed by the light bright nights of summer.

The red and gold leaves of

hips and haws of winter.

Then it is said that those living in

autumn precede the frosty

Then it is said that those living in cold countries tend to live longer than those based in the tropics. And whilst heat may be good for the soul, it does not do much for the skin.

The dogs

Moreover, let's face it, if we were to move to kinder climes, what would happen to the MacNaughties? How long would the dogs survive in temperatures of thirty degrees? For them, of course, our return is the best thing ever. They have been staying with friends at the local riding school, being quartered in the stables with a grey horse on one side and a pink potbellied pig on the other.

We refer to the latter as piggy-wig and I keep meaning to ask what he is really called. It is nice to know the name of local pets. Who knows, one day they may well turn up at the front door.

And one did the other day. He is a collie and he is called William. And William has a brother who answers to the name of Wallace.

Which all sounds great fun. Until you must shout it out loud. Both hounds belong to neighbours at the far end of the village. She is a local lassie, but he is a Welshman and he is understandably reluctant to stand at the end of the garden bellowing the name of a Scottish legend.

Of course, naming animals after Scotland's heroes is nothing new. A quick look at the dog charts shows that. 'Bruce' comes in at number 78. 'Bonnie' is at 86, 'Prince' is at 76 whilst 'Charlie' is at number 2. 'Mac' squeaks in at number 100 whilst, believe it or not, 'Fiona' is ranked 76 on the female list.

But back to our African trip. It has been an amazing adventure, but it feels good to be back in Scotland...

Piece of Inverness history restored as iconic mosaic panels return

istoric mosaics have been returned to 96 Academy Street, Inverness, following restoration. Originally made by Craven Dunnill Jackfield, the mosaics have been restored by the Mosaic Restoration Company and reinstalled at Rose Street Foundry – also known as the AI Welders buildings. As part of the Inverness Townscape Heritage Project, the mosaics are considered an important element of Inverness' industrial heritage and are being followed by full restoration of the building to bring it back into use.

Owner Cairngorm Taverns Limited was awarded a grant of £960,000 by the Inverness Townscape Heritage Project last year. This grant is a significant contribution towards the total cost of the restoration of 96 Academy Street which is being carried out in tandem to the mosaics being repaired in Shropshire.

Iconic building

Commenting on the reinstallation of the mosaics, Highland Councillor Jimmy Gray, Chair of the Inverness Townscape Heritage Partnership, said: "I'm thrilled to see the return of the mosaics to 96 Academy Street. This marks both an important part of the restoration of the building itself and shows the overall progress to regenerate and restore Academy Street through the Inverness Townscape Heritage Project. I'm sure locals and visitors will enjoy the



restored mosaics for years to come, and I hope it will encourage other building owners on Academy Street to look into the support available as part of the project."

Samantha Faircliff from Cairngorm Taverns Limited said: "The reinstallation of the mosaics to 96 Academy Street is a key milestone in the restoration of the building, which we expect to be finished by September 2019. We're delighted to be the custodians of such an iconic building in the heart of Inverness."

Gary Bricknell from The Mosaic Restoration Company added: "It's been great to be part of such an important project for Inverness and the icing on the cake is seeing the mosaics in place, back in their original home. When working on a building such as this, which dates back to 1893, it's incredibly rewarding to see it restored to its former glory."

Scotland's first bridge to be named in Gaelic awarded listed status

rochaid a' Chaolais Chumhaing / Kylesku Bridge in Sutherland has been awarded Category A status by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) after it was recognised as being of special architectural interest. The bridge will also be the first to be legally named in Gaelic.

Drochaid a' Chaolais Chumhaing / Kylesku Bridge, which spans the deep sea inlet of An Caolas Cumhang, is one of Scotland's most visually striking and technically innovative modern concrete bridges. Built between 1981 and 1984, the quality of the bridge's design and its method of construction have been recognised through a number of prestigious awards, including the Scottish Award for Civil Engineering Construction and the Concrete Society Award.

The decision to list Drochaid a' Chaolais Chumhaing / Kylesku Bridge follows on from a consultation launched by HES and the Highland Council, where members of the public were invited to express their views on the Bridge being awarded listed status.

Architectural significance

Elizabeth McCrone, Head of Designations at HES, said: "Drochaid a' Chaolais Chumhaing / Kylesku Bridge is one of Scotland's most architecturally distinguished bridges of the second half of the twentieth century, and is among the most outstanding of its type in the country. As well as its architectural significance, the bridge is also an emotive and poignant reminder of the modernisation

such civil engineering projects brought to remote areas of the Highlands, and the subsequent impact they had on traditional ways of life. Today, the significance of Drochaid a' Chaolais Chumhaing / Kylesku Bridge is reflected in its growing status as tourist attraction along the North Coast 500 route, and we're delighted to recognise its national importance with Category A status."

A view of Kylesku Bridge captured from underneath the carriageway. The distinctive curve of the structure can be made out as it crosses the water. Councillor Alister Mackinnon, Chair of The Highland Council's Gaelic Strategy and Implementation Group, congratulated HES for awarding the bridge category A status, and also in recognising the importance of Gaelic in this part of Sutherland. He said: "Historically most of the residents in the local area were Gaelic speakers, and the area is culturally rich in Gaelic song and stories. It is therefore appropriate that this bridge is the first in the Highland area to be named in Gaelic, the indigenous language of the Highlands."



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.





Walking With Vikings

'Whenever you come to a doorway or some new place, open your eyes! The world can be dangerous and filled with foes as well as friends. Be ready to defend yourself, but remember better than the best –forged sword are the wits you were born with and the wisdom of your ancestors.

From the Story of Hervor, 'How to be a Viking', by Art Berk.

'n 870 AD the Norwegian Vikings were raiding along Scotland's Western Seaboard and after a four month siege of Dumbarton Rock, they finally took Al Cluith, the ancient capital of the Strathclyde Britons. We can imagine that their Viking warrior crews, sailing in a fleet of 200 or more longships, would have had to range far and wide to maintain food and supplies. We know that their sleek dragon ships moved up into the River Clyde into present day Renfrewshire, and certainly as far as Govan, as evidenced by the five hogback stones that now lie within the old Parish church there. It seems quite likely that their shallow-draft longboats would have entered the major tributaries of the Clyde such as the Black Cart water and the White Cart Water their confluences entering the River Clyde between Dumbarton and Govan, there to harass and the plunder folk living along those river banks. The White Cart Water flows through Pollok close to where I lived, then through Paisley to meet up with the Black Cart at Clydebank.

So began my fascination for the Norsemen whose name of Viking was such a powerful and emotive term, who generated in their own age fear and horror as well as stories of great adventure.

In 1153 when King David I died he was succeeded by his eldest grandson, Malcolm IV, an eleven year old boy and known to history as Malcolm the Maiden. The King of Norway immediately sacked Aberdeen while Somerled, Lord of Argyll, sailed up the Clyde and sacked Glasgow.

These descendants of Vikings, now well ensconced and established in the Inner and Outer Hebrides, and in the Orkney and Shetland Islands had produced Somerled, the powerful half Scots and half Viking sub-king of Argyll and titled the Lord of the Isles. The Lords of the Isles had for a long time regarded themselves with some reason as independent rulers with no particular loyalty or obligations, to anyone including the King of Scotland, their allegiance if to anyone, was to the King of Norway. In 1164 Somerled took 160 galleys up the River Clyde to Renfrew with intent on challenging Malcolm, in an attempt to subdue all of Scotland.

The Bloody Mire

He was defeated at Renfrew by Walter FitzAlan, the High Steward and Lord of Renfrew, with Somerled and his son being killed in the ensuing battle. An unlucky spear thrust had killed Somerled and apparently as late as 1772 there was a mound in a field between Renfrew and Paisley thought to have been the burial place of Somerled after that battle. There is also a place mentioned by T.C.F. Brotchie in 1931, beyond Inchinnon in a field near the Clyde that was known as the 'Bloody Mire' which Brotchie suspects may also link with the Battle of Renfrew. I suspect in the new millennium those same fields now form part of Glasgow Airport and since aircraft appear to come in for landing up along the River Clyde, not only are we modern day travellers following the route that Somerled once took but are probably landing on part of the site of what was once the battlefield where he died.

Sometime in the early 1950's, however, my small fingers were following the flow of the River Cart on a map. I had already become a Viking fan and was soon to appreciate that Clydebank and Renfrew were a mere six miles or so from where I lived in Pollok and was hoping that I could urge their longships up the River Cart, in my mind to close to where I lived. Their shallow draft ships were likely to have been navigable at least to present day Paisley, less than three miles away. That brought them pretty close to where I lived but even using portage to drag and carry their ships around the natural weirs and falls of the river, which I knew they were very good at managing, I could not get them any closer to home. And I knew enough about them to understand that they rarely ventured very far from their longships just in case a fast retreat might be required. So they were unlikely to have

walked to ancient Pollok. Even my vivid imagination could not squeeze them any further along my local river, for realistically the White Cart was by now, at least in my day, a fairly tame little burn unless in spate. It was all a flight of fancy.

Intrepid sea pirates

So within a few years of the attack on Dumbarton, and until Somerled was defeated, a large part of the Western Isles of Scotland was conceded to these intrepid sea pirates and their powerful Norwegian Kings. The well-populated Hebrides, lying on the trade route from Viking Dublin to Norway, came to enjoy a prosperity and importance in medieval Scotland that descendants in this Kingdom of the Isles, must have envied since. The strategic importance of the River Clyde, with its sea lochs and islands, was apparent to invaders from early times. It afforded shelter in a vast natural harbour for sea routes to Ireland and the west coast of the British Isles. That importance in military and political terms meant that it was always to lie open to aggression especially in the age of the Vikings.

On family holidays at Largs in the early 1950's I walked with Vikings once more even if only in my imagination. I went out with my father on evening fishing trips aboard sturdy, clinker-built charter boats that during the day lay alongside wheeled gangways that jutted out from the pebbled beach at Largs and into the sea. These were used to ferry day-trippers to the Cumbraes and Millport during

and to take us out on fine warm evenings toward the Cumbrae islands and the Isle of Bute to fish for Haddock, cod and whiting together with a more exotic chance catch of a dogfish or octopus. In the concentrated silence that followed immediately after the engine was cut, there was only the creak of the boat's timbers against the run of the tide and the sound of our wet fishing lines running against the gunnels to break the gentle stillness. With the line taut against my forefinger I could peer into the depths of the water below and let my imagination run free.

With the smell of the sea in my nostrils it was not hard to imagine that I was aboard a sleek Viking long ship for King Haakon's dragon ships sailed these very same waters in 1263 AD. Their Viking crews looked upon these same shores and upon a scene not so different from what I was seeing now. On a separate occasion I had looked from a hill on Cowal toward a herring fleet, out from Campbelltown, and lying off the majestic east coast of Arran. As a late evening sun glinted off a flat calm sea and the sun began to fall toward sunset in the west, I screwed up my eyes against the sun and saw a transformation take place. I now saw the shimmering masts and hulls of Haakons longships out from the bay of Lamlash readying for their attack on the coast of Ayrshire. So began my fascination for the Norsemen whose name of Viking was such a powerful and emotive term, who generated in their own age fear and horror as well as stories of great adventure.

Scotland out-performs rest of UK for 7th year running Attractions in Scotland saw the biggest increase in visitors according to the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA).



dinburgh Castle has retained its status as the 12th most-visited attraction in the UK according to the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) which recently released its members' visitor figures for 2018. In addition to outperforming the rest of the UK for the seventh year in a row, the most visited attractions outside London were in Scotland. Edinburgh Castle – the most-visited paid attraction in Scotland - welcomed 2,111,578 visitors in 2018 at an increase of 2% on the previous year.

Other HES sites which performed well include Doune Castle with 142,091 visitors at an increase of 14% on the previous year – partly due to the ongoing 'Outlander effect', and Stirling and Urquhart Castles which had 605,241 and 518,195 visits in 2018 respectively.

Rich history and heritage

The UK as a whole saw an average year-on-year increase of 8.89% visits to attractions. However, Scotland saw the biggest increase with 19.65% while Northern Ireland saw 4.67% growth.

Stephen Duncan, Director of Commercial and Tourism at Historic Environment Scotland, said: "I am delighted that ALVA members across the UK have continued to see a rise in the numbers of visitors to their sites. Scotland has outperformed the rest of the UK for the seventh year in a row, demonstrating the appeal our history and heritage has on international and domestic visitors. We look forward to another successful year across the sector and welcoming many more visitors to our sites."

Malcolm Roughead, VisitScotland Chief Executive, said: "Scotland's many visitor attractions are a valuable part of the country's outstanding tourism offering, showcasing our rich history and heritage and sharing Scotland's story with visitors from far and wide. We're delighted that Scottish attractions are continuing to perform strongly in the UK which is a testament to the industry's drive to create innovative and dynamic visitor experiences. With the opening of Moat Brae in Dumfries and the redevelopment of Aberdeen Art Gallery taking place this year, following in the wake of the hugely popular V&A Dundee, there is plenty of new and exciting attractions to look forward to in 2019."



NY has a tartan takeover at New York City Tartan Day Parade

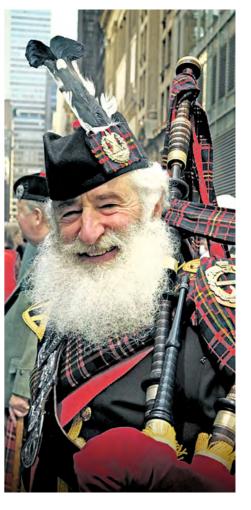
Grand Marshal, Sir Billy Connolly, lead 3,000 marchers along 6th Avenue.





he world-famous New York City
Tartan Day Parade took place
on Saturday 6th April, bringing
30,000 spectators to the heart
of Manhattan to celebrate the 21st
anniversary of Tartan Day. Globallyrenowned comedian, artist, musician,
presenter, actor and artist, Sir Billy
Connolly, led the parade, which saw more
than 3,000 participants march from 44th
Street to 55th Street up Sixth Avenue.





The procession was made up of solo pipers, drummers, highland dancers and Scottish clans and full pipe bands. The famous parade pups also made their annual appearance and, this year, the beloved competition was judged by internationally acclaimed psychologist and wife of Sir Billy Connolly, Dr. Pamela Stephenson. There were five groups of Celtic canines taking part - Scotties, Westies, Dandie Dinmonts, Golden Retrievers and Shetland Sheepdogs – who won over the crowds as they marched along with the bands.

New York City Tartan Week

The New York City Tartan Day Parade is the highlight of a week of celebrations, commonly known as New York City Tartan Week, which sees a full programme of special events taking place throughout Manhattan, including traditional Scottish dance workshops, kilt fittings, band performances and ceilidhs popping up in venues such as Bryant Park, The Tailor Pub and Carnegie Hall.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Leonard.



Globally-renowned comedian, artist, musician, presenter, actor and artist, Sir Billy Connolly, led the parade, which saw more than 3,000 participants march from 44th Street to 55th Street up Sixth Avenue.

Sir Billy Connolly, CBE, Grand Marshal of New York City Tartan Day Parade, said: "I've absolutely loved being Grand Marshal of this year's New York City Tartan Day Parade. The crowds were brilliant and hearing the skirl of the pipes echoing along Sixth Avenue made me dance a wee jig in my heart. What a day."

Kyle Dawson, President of the New York Tartan Day Committee, said: "What an incredible 21st year this has been for New York City Tartan Week. We've enjoyed a phenomenal week of celebrations - from



ceilidhs to workshops and pipe bands performances to parties. We had the great honor of welcoming Sir Billy Connolly as Grand Marshal of this year's NYC Tartan Day Parade and saw tens of thousands of people line the sidewalks of Sixth Avenue to cheer on our participants. I'd like to thank everyone for their outstanding work – from our wonderful sponsors, to volunteers and marchers. Because of you, New York has enjoyed a tremendous tartan takeover. Here's to year 22!"

April 6th has been designated as National Tartan Day, a day for celebrating Scottish heritage and pride. The New York City Tartan Day Parade is usually held the Saturday nearest Tartan Day. This year, NYC Tartan Week was a proud partner of Carnegie Hall during its citywide festival "Migrations: The Making of America", which had a focus on celebrating the Scottish people who helped build America including Andrew Carnegie who migrated from Dunfermline and established the famed NYC concert hall in 1891.

For more information on NYC Tartan Week see: www.nyctartanweek.org







Photos courtesy of Jennifer Leonard.

Rhododendrons bloom early in warmer weather



his year's Scottish Rhododendron
Festival is geared up to be vibrant
from day one, as many of these
wonderful plants are already in
full bloom because of the recent warmer
temperatures. The festival, which takes place
to 31 May, comprises more than 50 events
across Scotland as gardens, estates and
woodlands open to showcase their displays.

Returning for its fifth year, the annual festival is organised by national garden tourism group Discover Scottish Gardens and supported by VisitScotland. It aims to encourage local audiences and tourists to enjoy the wonders of Scottish gardens during the rhododendron flowering period and highlight the diversity of collections that can be found in Scotland.

Rhododendrons are a large family of around 1,000 species from small mountain

shrubs to magnificent tree-like specimens. This year, many species have been flowering earlier than usual due to higher-than-average temperatures in most parts of the country.

In February, the Met Office reported an average temperature of 6°C in the UK, which is 2.4°C above the 1981-2010 long-term average. A southerly incursion from north Africa brought record-breaking temperatures and dry sunny weather throughout most parts of the country in the latter half of the month.

Optimum conditions for these exotic shrubs

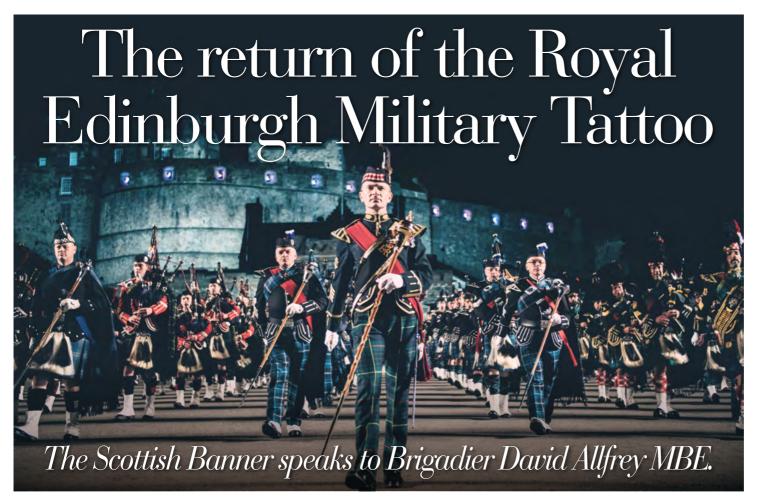
David Knott, Curator at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, a world centre for rhododendron studies, said: "The warmer temperatures we have been experiencing provide optimum conditions for these exotic shrubs, originally from the east, to thrive. The unusual weather and early flowering also highlight the impact of climate change on plants and flowering behaviour - a situation we will continue to monitor at the Botanics."

Four new venues will participate in this year's festival including Abbotsford, Cawdor Castle, Cowden Japanese Garden and National Trust for Scotland's Culzean Castle, with each hosting activities and Rhodo walks for all the family.

The festival was originally founded by the Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute and some of the most stunning rhododendron displays can be seen in the west of Scotland at gardens including Achamore, Glenarn and Benmore Botanic Garden. Elsewhere, Inverewe, Gordon Castle and Attadale Gardens in the north provide beautiful displays, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Branklyn and Glendoick Gardens in central Scotland and Dawyck, Glenwhan and Logan in the south.

Malcolm Roughead, VisitScotland Chief Executive, said: "It's fantastic to see the Rhododendron Festival return for its fifth year and I'm thrilled to see so many attractions getting involved and making the most of the opportunity. Festivals like this draw in visitors and represent a major benefit to Scotland. Tourism is more than a holiday experience, it is the heartbeat of the Scottish economy and touches every community, generating income, jobs and social change."





The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT) takes place each August in Edinburgh. This year the Tattoo returns to Australia, with performances in China and North America being planned. Producer & Chief Executive, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Brigadier David Allfrey MBE, took time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on the Tattoo's plans and what makes this one of the world's premier live experiences.

SC: David thank you for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. For those who have yet experienced the magic of the Tattoo, can we begin with you giving us a back ground on the event and what audiences can expect with the show today?

DA: The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is now in its 69th year and 2020 is our 70th anniversary, making it our platinum year. We have been seen live in Scotland by about 14 million people over the years and have sold out in Scotland for the past 20 consecutive seasons, which is amazing when you consider how much societies have changed, and tastes have changed. In a good year we will go on sale for Edinburgh in early December and more than half of the run will be sold on one day, so over 100,000 tickets will go on just a single day, of the 230,000 tickets to be sold. What we have discovered is that



getting to Scotland for some is a tough old distance and it is important now to take the show out. We went to both Melbourne and Wellington in 2016 and the Tattoo is now committed to going abroad every year from this year. So, the plan is we will be in Australia this year, in China we hope in 2020 and the west coast of North America in 2021. From then on, we will have gotten into the habit of taking a travelling show around the world which will be great fun and it helps us grow our business and expertise. The show is basically about heritage and the Tattoo formula is a very powerful one, but also it is a great outdoor show. We now time the show to a tenth of a second because of the projections, lights and special effects and we need to get out into the world and show people we are a world class production. When you bring all of that together it is very natural to this year return to Australia, where we have an awful lot of friends here through the tremendous Scottish Diaspora which we know is here but also the Australian Defence Force and a varied team of local partners. This is going to be a tremendous adventure and I think this show in Sydney will be the biggest we have ever done. The ANZ Stadium is so iconic for a start, and very big. We will build a replica of Edinburgh Castle in about 4 or 5 days at the southern end of the stadium. The castle replica feels and looks real, it is a very astonishing thing. Then we will have a cast of about 1400 which will come with about 250-60 pipes and drums, 100 dancers, 60 fiddle players, and massed military bands from all around. What we have done is moved the map to make Australia at the centre, rather than at the bottom of the world and we want Australia to be front and centre. There is a tremendous amount of interest in Australia and it such a great place to bring talent.

SC: Australia is often referred to as the "lucky country". This is certainly true in terms of the Tattoo as this year it makes a 4th return to Australian shores. How does that make you feel that a land so far away from Scotland is so obviously supportive and enthusiastic about the Tattoo experience?

DA: Australia is a very interesting country. I first came here in the 70's and it was very different and had its own very particular electricity even then. You are very struck from the moment you get off a plane in Australia coming from abroad is that it is elegant, it is very subtle, very knowledgeable, and it is intensely curious. Australians are intensely curious; you could reasonably say every Australian is a polymath and interested in so much. The way Australian's move around the world and hoover up other people's culture at a pace the rest of us find almost breathless. You go to the Andes, Borneo, Africa or London you will find an Australian. There are also an awful lot of people in Australia of Scottish descent, with forbearers who have come in various waves over the centuries.

When you go around to the Highland Games like I did recently at the Bundanoon Highland Gathering it is such a spectacle with over 10,000 people, 250 pipe and drums and the Clans settled under the gum trees, it is so amazing. So, I think that whole piece really sits well with us. We are very proud and emblematic of Scotland in so many ways, with our musical tradition and history. Bringing that tradition together with Australian culture is potent mix.

SC: The REMT is a kaleidoscope of colour and spectacle and referred to as 'the greatest show on earth'. Logistically what is the most challenging part of organising the Tattoo? How difficult is it to secure the diverse range of international artists each year and keep the Tattoo both varied whilst honouring the traditions of its military heritage?

DA: So most challenging aspect for us is not the mathematics of getting performers into beds, in the right clothes or on the right plane. It is normally the conversations with governments beforehand, many of our acts are sponsored by a government, being a member of the armed forces, which is a very precious resource. Nobody lends their armed forces to a show without very careful thought. When we have armed forces, we will mix that with folkloric bands, so you are representing both military and civil communities, which we are very keen to do. Each Tattoo will take anywhere from 3-5 years to build together. We have acts coming to Sydney we have been talking to since 2015, all of that is very gentle, considered and careful. We talk a lot to diplomats, senior defence people and senior tourism, arts and business people. This works incredibly well, and you have people now who respect the Tattoo and find it inspiring and exciting, but also it has a gentle layer beneath it which is about understanding each other's cultures and brings people together. Each year we will have between 15-20 nations represented in the cast and watching them all muddle together and find friendships and discover common ground is great, and of course that happens within the audience as well. In Edinburgh we sell tickets to over 90 countries and people come to the show and often sit next to someone from a different country and arrive as strangers and leave as friends locking hands for Auld Lang Syne, you don't even get that at a football game. In Australia will shall bring all of that to bear in Sydney and I think Australians should leave the show in October feeling proud of themselves and their place in the world.





SC: From massed bands, to incredible dance displays and of the stirring lone piper the Tattoo promises to entertain. With such an electric atmosphere that comes with each performance do you have a personal favourite part of the Tattoo experience?

We are very proud and emblematic of Scotland in so many ways, our musical tradition and history.
Bringing that tradition together with Australian culture is potent mix.

DA: The lovely thing about my job is I get to select acts every year because they have something amazing about them. I get asked each year what is favourite act and the truth is each act has something special about them, it may not be the whole act, it might be a set of dance moves, or a particular angle they provide on the castle, or some lovely moment of integration where sound, lighting and music comes together which is really special.

SC: The Tattoo over recent years has certainly expanded its reach. With Tattoo performances in both Australia and New Zealand, film releases in Canada, China, Australia and New Zealand and a global television audience of millions.

Can you tell us how important it is for the Tattoo to not just be seen by those lucky enough to have seats at the Castle Esplanade each August but also creating an international audience?

DA: It is very important for us to reach further afield, we carry with us very important standards about bringing people together. The Tattoo tries to work hard to have a large reach both at home and abroad and we are reaching for a billion audience by 2025. We have had audiences close to that in recent years and if you can use those huge numbers for a useful purpose, bring people together and learn a bit about each other that is great. There are over 200 media channels that interest us in developing the Tattoo across print, broadcast and social media, making it a rich palate of communication.

SC: Recently the Tattoo incorporated a "Splash of Tartan" and involved a variety of Clans at each performance. Is this something the Tattoo is looking to build on and what was the reaction to this unique initiative?

DA: It absolutely is. The main production of the Tattoo you want to keep to about 100-110 minutes, so you have all that power compressed into that amount of time. What we have done is try and reach out to Clans and families and to institutional bands of the pipe band communities. For the show and pre-show, we are encouraging people to get in touch with their Clan and arrange to come into the stadium early and have a briefing from us and then parade on to the field ahead of the Salute Taker.

The Salute Taker will be greeted by the Clans at each performance and they will be escorted by institutional and community bands each night. It will be a great experience to soak up the Scottish heritage and dress up in your kilt and take part in the show. We will have different Clans highlighted over different performances and think it will be great addition to Sydney's Tattoo. With regards to Edinburgh we hope to include a Clan element every few years and it worked incredibly well with the Standing Council of Chief's. It would be great to do a Clan themed Tattoo one year, but you need a great deal of lead time to do that sort of things.

SC: Another great initiative of the Tattoo is the Pipers Trail. Can you tell us more about this and how a pipe band member can get involved?

DA: We are thrilled with The Pipers Trail. I was really stuck in my first year of taking over the Tattoo when a piper became quite emotional as we walked across the drawbridge and he was quite overcome with his feelings and told me he had been waiting his whole life to play the pipes across that drawbridge. I thought what an amazing thing for someone to say. So it did not take us long to decide we should have an opportunity for individuals around the world who can't come in a formed pipe band but a facility for pipers, drummers, dancers and fiddle players could come to the show and take part for the summer and team up with amazing people. We bring people in from say Uruguay, New Zealand and America and uniform them and they wear The Pipers Trail tartan and teach them military foot drills and study with some of Scotland's top pipers and feed off each other's skills. Playing your pipes for a month is a magical thing. We also have the Tattoo dance company and the fiddlers with a huge network, and we have just started recruiting a marching band, it is very international and that is what I find so inspiring about it.

SC: And finally, David you have such an incredible passion for the Tattoo and it's hard to know if you were made for the job or the job was made for you.

What is it you hope audiences leave with after experiencing the magic of the Tattoo and what would you like to see happen next for the Tattoo?

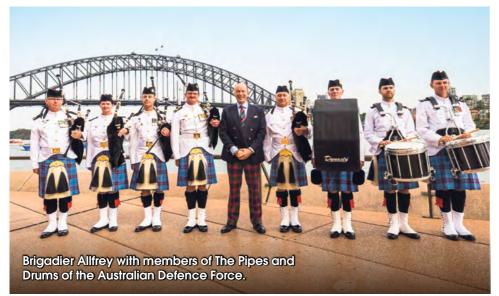
DA: There is not a producer in the world that would not want the same as me, I would love to connect with this large



audience of 40,000 people emotionally. I want people to come and feel something, about being part of something. I want them to be excited and inspired but also go home about feeling great about themselves. Regardless of where you are from, I hope in Sydney we get visitors coming from North America, New Zealand, the Pacific and more. Feeling great about you and your nations place in the world, if the Tattoo plays a part in that well then that is marvellous from my point of view. These shows all play into the textures of our lives, for example the Olympics had a huge impact on Australia, and I hope the Tattoo can also be part of the Australian story.

Of course, please also come to Scotland. There is so much to see in Scotland and the Tattoo takes place each August. Once you have seen the Tattoo you have The Fringe, The Edinburgh Festival and of course the Highlands and North Coast 500, sample the whisky, great food and drink, just come over and find your own story.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo takes place each August in Edinburgh. For details see: www.edintattoo.co.uk
The Tattoo in Sydney, Australia takes place in October. For details see: www.edinburghtattoosydney.com.au





IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Plans unveiled for a new £6.5 million visitor attraction in Moray

Architect's impressions of a planned £6.5 million Heritage Centre and distillery in Moray have been unveiled. The Cabrach Trust facility at the Inverharroch Farm aims to celebrate the heritage of the remote rural area, which was at the centre of illicit whisky-making in the 18th century. The project will include a museum of illicit whisky and smuggling, and a learning centre, plus a working distillery designed to replicate the kind of operation found in the Cabrach in the 1830s. The Heritage Centre was granted planning permission in September 2017, and it is hoped that work on the centre and distillery can begin this year, and that it will be able to open within the next couple of years.

Peter Bye Jensen, heritage manager of the Cabrach Trust, said: "The Cabrach has played a central role in Scottish history; it was the home of Jacobite rebels, its illegal whisky trade led to the Scotch whisky industry we know today, and its people fought in the country's great wars but all this was in danger of being forgotten. The Heritage Centre will bring that history to life and unveil the secrets of the Cabrach through interactive exhibits where visitors will travel back in time to experience life in this harsh but beautiful place."

The new Heritage Centre will be constructed at Inverharroch Farm in the Cabrach, eight miles from Dufftown. It is expected to attract around 20,000 visitors a year and provide the equivalent of ten full time jobs.

New study models the proposed reintroduction of the Eurasian lynx to Scotland



Experts have used an innovative approach to model the proposed reintroduction of the Eurasian lynx to

Scotland. Researchers used a state-ofthe-art modelling tool, RangeShifter, developed at the University of Aberdeen to help identify the most suitable location for lynx reintroduction in Scotland - and how this choice might affect the size of a population and its expansion over subsequent decades. Significantly, they believe their model will inform and enhance decisionmaking around large carnivore reintroductions worldwide. The work was led by University of Stirling PhD researcher Tom Ovenden as part of his Masters project at Bangor University, with support from the University of Aberdeen.

Mr Ovenden said: "Reintroducing large carnivores is often complicated and expensive, meaning that getting things right first time is extremely important. Therefore, advances in modelling approaches, as utilised during our study, are extremely valuable. Our research considered several proposed reintroduction sites, showing how these models can be used as a safe and relatively inexpensive way of assessing the suitability of reintroduction proposals and providing the evidence required to inform decision-making at an early stage. Recent advances in both ecological theory and modelling approaches have made the incorporation of individual species' complex behaviours in novel environments more realistic. We applied this approach to the potential reintroduction of Eurasian lynx in Scotland - and demonstrated the power of this new, sophisticated model. Our research demonstrates the potential of this approach to be applied elsewhere to help improve reintroduction success in large carnivores, from the safety of a modelling environment."

The lynx is thought to have become extinct in the UK during the medieval period, around 1,300 years ago. In recent years, its potential reintroduction has been widely debated. The results showed that Scotland possesses sufficient, connected

habitat to offer a realistic chance of population establishment and that some sites are more suitable than others. Of the three sites considered, the study indicated that the Kintyre Peninsula was the most suitable, with the population spreading across the Highlands in the 100 years following release. Significantly, the Central Belt would act as a barrier to colonisation between the Highlands and Southern Uplands providing evidence for two distinct habitat networks.

Jo Pike, Director of Public Affairs at the Scottish Wildlife Trust, said: "Returning the lynx to our landscape as a top predator could help restore the health of Scotland's natural ecosystems. Any future reintroduction would have to be carefully planned, widely consulted on, and rigorously assessed against national and international guidelines. This research is a useful contribution to the evidence base that needs to be developed over the coming years."

Project set to turn Orkney into a 'smart energy island'



A pioneering £28.5 million project to create a so-called virtual energy system in Orkney, digitally linking renewable generation with consumer demand, is set to get underway in the Orkney islands. The ReFLEX (Responsive Flexibility) initiative aims to make Orkney a 'smart

energy island', eventually eliminating the need for fossil fuels. Orkney is already a net exporter of renewable energy, with over 100 per cent of the islands' yearly electricity demand met by wind, solar and wave and tidal generation. The ambitious project will also further strengthen Orkney's global standing as a low-carbon centre of excellence, while demonstrating the effectiveness of flexible and renewable friendly electricity grids to the rest of the world.

Consisting of a network of technologies, including batteries for homes and businesses, electric vehicles (EVs) and an industrial-scale hydrogen fuel, the VES will balance out intermittent local renewables generation.

State-of-the-art monitoring of the Orkney VES network will ensure storage systems get charged when renewables generation is at a peak, and power released when demand is highest.

Official figures show that 10% of homes on Orkney create their own electricity - compared with a UK average of 2.8%.

Hollywood to converge on Glasgow



Director Steven Spielberg will be coming to Glasgow to shoot his next film. Movie bosses have submitted a planning application to shoot scenes for First World War movie 1917 at Govan Docks. The location already has a cinematic history, popping up in scenes from Taggart and the TV adaptation of Ian Rankin's Detective John Rebus series. 1917 will be produced by the Hollywood icon behind ET and Indiana Jones Steven Spielberg and directed by Sam Mendes, whose most recent works include James Bond's Skyfall and Spectre. Glasgow's Film Office has been in talks with the production crew to bring the movie to the city and the set is being built east of the Pump House. The planning statement reads: "The location of the filming is focused on the northern two docks which form part of the Govan Graving Docks. The set is proposed to be built to the east side of the Pump House creating a temporary extension to the existing building along with a temporary bridge which will span dock #1. This location has been chosen to minimise views from the surrounding road network and allow safe and practical access for all construction vehicles, crew and visitors. It is also the case that the proposal will bring significant economic benefit, such that temporary planning permission can be granted, as detailed within this statement."

The dry docks were originally built for the Clyde Navigation Trust between 1869 to 1898 and were in use until 1988.

Tracing travels across the Atlantic

tool created by the University of Aberdeen is enabling the descendants of Scots who made the journey across the Atlantic to trace the route taken by their ancestor Professor Marjory Harper, a historian from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, has spent years researching the stories of the emigrants who set sail for a new life on the other side of the world. As part of her work, she has spearheaded the creation of a free online tool, The Scottish Emigration Database, which contains the records of 21,000 people who set sail from Scottish ports to cross the Atlantic.

It lists details including the town or village of origin, address, occupation and destination for passengers who embarked at Glasgow and Greenock for non-European ports between 1 January and 30 April 1923, and at other Scottish ports between 1890 and 1960. It also gives information about specific vessels and the shipping lines to which they belonged. Professor Harper said that she and her colleague, Dr Nick Evans, had focused initially on 1923 as the year saw a record number of 89,000 people emigrate from Scotland. "There was a particular spike in departures in the month of April", she explained", "and while most emigrants came from the Central Belt, 595 passengers left the Hebrides in a single week on two ships, the Marloch from Lochboisdale and the Metagama from Stornoway. As many of the descendants of this Scottish diaspora mark their heritage in the Scottish Week celebrations, it is timely that we consider

the factors which led their ancestors to seek a new life. The database is a great starting point for this."

Saga of Scottish emigration Professor Harper recently visited the United States to discuss the Scottish diaspora, using personal testimony as a lens through which to view the complex and often contradictory saga of Scottish emigration. She spoke at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque and at three events in New York and Chicago during Scottish Week. In her public lectures she quoted extracts from more than 100 interviews with emigrant Scots that she has conducted in recent years. One of those interviewees sailed on the Marloch in 1923 and appears on the Scottish Emigration Database.

Professor Harper added: "Scottish Week will be a trigger for many of those of Scottish descent to think about the reasons their forebears came to America and the journeys they took. The database - and the feedback we have had from it - provide insights into some of these issues. It is therefore a useful tool not only for those investigating their own family history but for anyone who is interested in understanding the wider context of the unprecedented Scottish exodus of the 1920s. It shows us, for instance, how postwar unemployment in the central belt led to massive disillusionment and a high departure rate, not least among shipyard workers who had been - or feared being - laid off. Despondency among

Hebrideans that long-standing problems of land hunger had not been resolved was intensified by lingering despair in the aftermath of the *Iolaire* disaster. More positively, the introduction of the old age pension in 1908 meant younger people had fewer qualms about leaving elderly parents and seeking opportunities overseas. Many in this group found their horizons had been opened up by war service, particularly those who had served alongside soldiers from the Commonwealth. The introduction of government subsidies in 1922 also helped, as did the persuasive tactics of recruitment agents."

Personal connections

Personal connections, however, had always been the key ingredient in decision-making, and remained so after the war. Mary Watson, who lived on the edge of the University of Aberdeen's campus at 40 College Bounds in Old Aberdeen is one of the 21,000 entries in the database whose experience demonstrates the importance of such links. Aged 24, Mary emigrated to the United States in April 1923, on the SS Cameronia from Greenock. Professor Harper added: "Mary Watson's details demonstrate the transatlantic travelling arrangements of a single female in the 1920s. She sailed unaccompanied, which was quite common, but - unlike most domestic servants who emigrated before the war – she could afford to take a passage in the second cabin."



During the first four months of 1923, 876 other domestics also emigrated from Scottish ports. Like Mary Watson, 304 women went to the United States, whereas 572 gave Canada as their destination. In terms of place of origin, Mary was one of 896 emigrants from the city of Aberdeen who went to the USA and Canada between 1 January and 30 April 1923.

Professor Harper went on to explain: "By linking evidence from the database with the records of the US Federal Labor Department held at Ellis Island, we can pinpoint Mary Watson's arrival in the United States and glean some further details about her. For instance, she had never visited the country previously, and she was emigrating in order to join her sister, Minnie Watson, In Manhattan Avenue, New York. Mary had paid her own passage, was able to read and write in English, was 5ft 4in tall, with brown hair, grey eyes and a fair complexion, and she was in good health. She was a native of Aberdeen whose previous address was not her place of employment but the family home, where her mother, Mrs Bella Watson, lived."

The Scottish Emigration Database can be accessed at: www.abdn.ac.uk/emigration

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.





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

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

Calling the Clans

Welcome to our "Clansified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our 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 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



WEB www.Clan-Forbes.org

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CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President 3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565

Email: djbaird4@gmail.com Regional Directors for Australia

David and Patricia Benfell Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



Clan Davidson Society in

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 Na 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.

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

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

Africa: USA: Arizona * Carolinas * Florida * Gulf Coast * Mid-Atlantic * New co * Mid-West * Northeast * Northern California * Pacific Northwest * y Mountains * South * Southern California * Texas * Upper Mid-Wesi

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

http://www.donnachaidh.com/ acebook: The Clan Donnachaidh Society



and Fraser septs

to join our clan society. All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com Website: http://clanfraseraustralia.org Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/ Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/ 482236358590288

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: debellinnc@reagan.com

Clan Donald Australia

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

High Commissioner State Commissioners

Qld SA Vic

Mr Lachlan Macdonald

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

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



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



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

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

www.clangalbraith.org

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce 1051 Eagle Ridge Trail

Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary 5561 Earl Young Road Bloomington, IN 47408 Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 www.familyofbruce.org



Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald Ph: 0412 090990

Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au Web: www.clandonaldqld.org ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage. There is no joy without Clan Donald



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

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



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

www.clangregor.com

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

Peter Lawrie, Secretary de, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland



Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

President: Alistair Cameron cameron490@ozemail.com.au

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

www.clan-cameron.org.au



Clan Donald

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



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

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



Clan Gregor Society

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"



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 in VICTORIA

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

Clan Farguharson [®] Association Australia

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

Membership inquiries are invited from descendants of Farguharson 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



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 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



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 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



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, PO. Box 230093, Montgomery AL 36123-0693. (334) 834-0612 Email rdmatmgm@aol.com





The American Branch of the First Family of Scotland welcomes inquires from descendants of: Hay(s); Haye(s); Hayne(s); Hey(s); Alderston; Armll; Ayer(s); Constable; Con(n); De La Haye; Delgatie Delgatie; D' Ay(e); Dellah'aY; Errol(I); Garrad; Garrow; Gifford; Hawson; Haygood; Hayter; Hayward; Haywood; Haynie; Hayden; Hayfield; Hayne(s); Leask(e); Leith; Lester; MacGaradh; Peebles; Peeples; Peoples; Turriff; Tweeddale; Yester

www.clanhay.com



Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

Valerie McDougall VP Membership



Treasurer 6409 Knollwood Drive McKinney, TX 75070-6032

Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net



Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

> **Contact Ross Nicolson** 10/377 North Rocks Rd., Carlingford NSW 2118

www.clanmacnicol.com

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

The MacEanruigs, the proud sons of Henry, invite you to join the Clan Henderson Society



www.clanhendersonsociety.org

INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC

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

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 91740 USA



MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

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

MacAndie MacCorkill Askev Beaton MacAskill MacCrimmon Bethune MacAulay MacGillechallum MacCabe MacRaild Caskie MacCaig MacWilliam Harold Tolmie

MacClure Norman 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

Australia. John L Macpi greymac@acenet.com.a phone +61 2 4871 1123

phone +64 3 234 5098 USA. Ken Croker croker@sti.net one +1 559 658 6189 Canada. John C Gillies

Clan Macpherson

Scotland. Bill Macpherso

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

membership@clanhope.org **AUSTRALIA**

Convenor: Stephen Hope convenor@clanhopeaustralia.org www.clanhope.org www.clanhopeaustralia.org

Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.



Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

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

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

Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada

MACLEODS RICH IN HIGHLAND

TRADITIONS

FOR INFORMATION: WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

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

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 Innes Australia

New memberships welcome Innes, Thain, Mitchell, Marnock, Middleton, Reidford, Wilson, McRob, McTary, Mavor

Email robthainclaninnes@gmail.com



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 MacNaughtor 250-999-9636 milescammac@aol.com

New Zealand - Regional Commissioner - John Macnaughtar +64 9 441 4984 macnaughtan@xtra.co.nz USA - Membership Secretary - Mary Nivison Burton 541-401-2613 membersec@clanmacnaughton.net WWW.CLANMACNAUGHTON.NET



Clan Maitland

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

North America: Rosemary Maitland Thorn rthomnvprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org Australia: Carole Maitland carole_maitland@yahoo.com.au

4230 Colac- Lavers Hill RoadWeeaproinah. 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



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



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 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 Munro Association, U.S.A

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

COME JOIN US!

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



Murray Clan Society of North America

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

> In Canada contact: William J.M. Murray 2000 Cambridge Ave #329 Campbell River, BC V9H OC3

In the U.S. contact: Robert W. Murray 1001 Cordero Crescent

Wyomissing, PA 19610-2738



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 Wardlaw Association

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

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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

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 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

Scottish **Associations** and **Societies**

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

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

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



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 Communtiy (Qld) Inc.

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

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



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

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Clan Ross America



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 Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated Contact: M Hodgkinson

212 MacKenzie Street Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559)

william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



Chicago Scots

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

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

Scottish 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



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 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

Mall: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

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 Scott Australia Group

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

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

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

CLAN YOUNG AUSTRALIA



For those affiliated with the Young surname

> Ian J Young Convenor

Membership inquiries: Clan Young Australia 10 Cedric Street Parkdale VIC 3195

membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au

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



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia For further details contact John: 0427 990 754

Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

Victorian Scottish Union Inc

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

Ballarat Highland Dancing Balmoral Highland Dancing Society Begonia City Highland Dancing Society Brunswick Scottish Society Clan Donald Victoria

JIERT S. A SOUCHTES
Geelong Scottish Dance
Glenbrae Celtic Dancers
Klimore Celtic Festival
Maryborough Highland Society
Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Societ
Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Robert Burns Club of Camperdown
Warrnambol & District Caledonian Society
Marrnambol & District Caledonian Society

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

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 England declared war on both Scotland and France. $1522\,$
- 1 1707 Act of Union of English and Scottish parliaments proclaimed, the Union was brought about in spite of opposition by the majority of Scots.
- $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{2} \text{ Edward Bruce, brother of King} \\ \text{Robert the Bruce, crowned High} \\ \text{King of All Ireland. } \textbf{1316} \end{array}$
- 2 King James I crowned at Scone. 1424



- 2 Mary, Queen of Scots, escaped from Loch Leven Castle and revoked her abdication. She soon gathered an army and moved towards Dumbarton castle. 1568
- 2 Loch Ness monster is sighted. Although accounts of an aquatic beast living in Scotland's Loch Ness date back 1,500 years, the modern legend of the Loch Ness Monster is born when a sighting makes local news on 2 May 1933. The newspaper *Inverness Courier* related an account of a local couple who claimed to have seen "an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface." 1933
- $\bf 3$ John Knox began the Reformation in Scotland. $\bf 1557$
- $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{4} \text{ Marquis of Montrose victorious} \\ \text{at Battle of Auldearn. } \textbf{1645} \end{array}$
- **5** King Charles I surrenders to Lord Leven and was later passed to the Parliamentary forces. **1646**
- **5** King George VI officially opened the Empire Exhibition in Glasgow. Glasgow's Bellahouston Park played host to over 13 million people who came to visit the Empire Exhibition, a celebration of the achievements of the British Empire. **1938**



- **6** Last major bombing attack on the Clyde area by the Luftwaffe; Greenock was badly hit with 280 dead. **1941**
- $\bf 6$ Icelandic gunboats fired live rounds at British fishing trawlers, many of them from Scottish ports, during the Cold War over fishing rights. $\bf 1959$
- **6** The election of the first Scottish Parliament since 1707. Elections were held for the Scottish Parliament and the 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) took their seats on 12 May 1999. **1999**
- 7 James Naysmith, engineer and inventor of steam hammer, died. $1890\,$
- 7 -The Earl of Hertford invaded Scotland in an attempt to force the marriage of Edward, son of Henry VIII, and Mary, Queen of Scots. $1542\,$
- $\bf 8$ Scottish-born pirate "Captain" William Kidd tried for piracy at London's Old Bailey. He was hanged on 23 May. $\bf 1701$

- 8 V.E.(Victory in Europe) day marked the end of World War II in Europe. Over 50,000 Scottish servicemen lost their lives during the conflict. 1945
- 9 J M Barrie, author of *Peter Pan* born. 1860
- 9 The Marquis of Montrose and his Royalists camped at Auldearn near Nairn, en route to attack Inverness. The Covenanters, reinforced by troops withdrawn from England because of the threat from Montrose, gathered at Inverness before marching overnight in an attempt to surprise Montrose at Aldearn. The Royalists won a fierce fight, killing 2000 Covenanters for the loss of 200 of their own men. 1645
- 10 Rev Henry Duncan opened the world's first savings bank in Ruthwell, near Dumfries. 1810
- 10 Donovan, Scottish pop and folk singersongwriter, was born. Upon his emergence during the mid-'60s, Donovan was anointed "Britain's answer to Bob Dylan". $1946\,$
- 10 Rudolf Hess crash-landed in Scotland after his bizarre solo flight from Nazi Germany. Hitler's most trusted official and friend, he crash-landed a stolen plane at Eaglesham in an inexplicable effort to negotiate an end to the war. He died in 1987 after apparently trying to hang himself with an electrical cord. He was 93. 1941
- 11 Covenanter martyrs, Margaret Lachlane, or McLachlan, and Margaret Wilson, refused to take an oath of loyalty to Charles II that acknowledged his authority on everything, including religious matters. They were tied to stakes in the Solway near Wigtown where they drowned as the tide rose. A reprieve had been sent from Edinburgh but never reached Wigtown. 1685



- 12 The Black Watch regiment was commissioned under General Wade to police the Highlands. The force was known in Gaelic as Am Freiceadan Dubh, "the dark" or "black watch". The regiment's motto is Nemo Me Impune Lacessit (No One Assails Me With Impunity). 1725
- 12 The Scottish Parliament reconvened with Dr Winifred M Ewing MSP as acting Presiding Officer. Her first words to the Parliament were: "The Scottish Parliament which adjourned on the 25th of March in the year 1707 is hereby reconvened." 1999
- 12 Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, daughter of the Earl of Strathmore, was crowned Queen of the United Kingdom with her husband King George VI. Queen Elizabeth was raised at Glamis Castle in Forfar. Queen Elizabeth reigned until 1952 and became known as the Queen Mother as her daughter, the current Queen Elizabeth, took the throne. 1937
- 13 The forces of Mary Queen of Scots are defeated at Battle of Langside by a confederacy of Scottish Protestants under James Stewart, the regent of her son, King James VI of Scotland. During the battle, which was fought out in the southern suburbs of Glasgow, a cavalry charge routed Mary's 6,000 Catholic troops, and they fled the field. Three days later, Mary escaped to Cumberland, England, where she sought protection from Queen Elizabeth I. 1568
- 13 James Kirk was executed near Dumfries as a Covenanter refusing to swear the oath, one of the last of the wave of deaths of the "Killing Times". 1685



- 14 St Andrews Society of Golfers constituted. In 1834 it became the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. Thus began the foremost club in both Scottish golf history and world golf in general. 1754
- 15 Mary, Queen of Scots, married Earl of Bothwell at 4am. Mary's third marriage to James Hepburn, the Earl of Bothwell took place in the Chapel of Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh. 1567
- 15 Bobby Murdoch, Scottish footballer, died. Murdoch was a key figure in Celtic's European Cup-winning side of 1967, dubbed the Lisbon Lions. 2001
- 16 Biographer James Boswell met Samuel Johnson for the first time. $1763\,$
- 16 James Boswell's *Life of Johnson* published. 1791
- 17 King James V established paid judges to sit as the Court of Session, the highest civil court in Scotland. 1532
- 17 Robert Tannahill drowned himself in a Paisley canal. A compassionate poet, he explored themes of love, friendship and empathy, and often used his surroundings as inspiration, taking long walks in the country around his home. He was prone to bouts of melancholy. 1810
- 18 Robert the Bruce invades Isle of Man. 1313
- 18 The Free Church of Scotland was founded by dissenting members of the Church of Scotland. 1843
- $19 \hbox{ Death in Auchinleck of James Boswell,} \\ biographer of Dr Johnston. 1795$
- 20 Battle of Dunnichen (also known as Nechtansmere), south of Forfar in Angus, as a result of which the Picts stopped the advance northwards of the Angles of Northumbria. 685
- 20 The Earl of Argyll sailed from Holland to Campbeltown with 300 men in an attempted uprising. After its failure he was executed. The rebellion was designed to place Charles II's illegitimate son, the Duke of Monmouth, on the throne. The failure of this revolt led to a close bond between the Stewart monarchy and the enemies of the Campbells in the Highlands, which was to become more apparent in the subsequent Jacobite uprisings. 1685



- 21 Clocks and watches went forward for one hour as the Daylight Savings Act brought in "British Summer Time" for the first time. $1916\,$
- 22 Britain's worst train disaster at Quintinshill (near Gretna Green) in which three trains collided, with the loss of 227 lives. A troop train carrying the Seventh Royal Scots Regiment hit a stationary train and the night express from London then hit the wreckage. Two signalmen were later jailed. 1915

- 22 The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland voted in favour of women ministers. Soon after four women were accepted as candidates for the ministry by the Presbyteries of Edinburgh, Irvine, and Kilmarnock. 1968
- 23 Captain William Kidd, the notorious Scottish pirate, died. Born in Dundee, around the year 1645, Kidd became one of the best known pirates of his age. 1701
- 24 King David I died at Carlisle and Malcolm IV crowned at Scone. $1153\,$



- 24 Glasgow Rangers became the first Scottish side to win the UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, when they defeated Dynamo Moscow in Barcelona. 1972
- 25 John Stuart, Earl of Bute, Britain's first Scottish Prime Minister, born. 1713
- 25 Celtic FC become the first British football club to win the European Cup. The winning team was made up of eleven Scots, all born within a thirty mile radius of Glasgow. 1967
- 26 The parliament convened by King James I approved the arrest of a number of the Scottish nobility and also banned the playing of football. $1424\,$
- 26 Dunnottar Castle, the last Royalist stronghold in eastern Scotland, surrenders. Dunnottar Castle had been under siege for eight months by Cromwell's forces. Although the castle fell, the defenders managed to smuggle out the Crown Jewels of Scotland to nearby Kinneff Church. 1652



- 27 Maiden voyage of liner *Queen Mary* from Southampton to New York. Built by John Brown & Company in Clydebank, Scotland and was a luxury ocean liner for three years until 1939, when it was transformed into a troopship for the Second World War. She resumed passenger service in 1947, where it continued until 1967, when it docked permanently in Long Beach, California. 1936
- 28 Papal Bull signed by Pope Alexander VI confirming the marriage of King James IV and Margaret Tudor and the "Treaty of Everlasting Peace" between Scotland and England. 1503
- 29 King Charles II born. 1630
- 29 King Charles II returned to England. Royal Oak Day. 1660
- 30 Thomas Chalmers, the Presbyterian cleric, theologian and social reformer, died. Chalmers was a popular figure within the Kirk and held a keen interest in improving social welfare. 1847



31 - The Royal Bank of Scotland was formed from a company of debenture holders. 1727



It has been 32 years since Scotland's finest Celtic soul brothers, Craig and Charlie Reid, aka The Proclaimers, emerged in our musical psyche. Since then, their enduring appeal across generations has carved a niche for themselves where pop, folk, new wave and punk collide as the emotional honesty, political fire, wit and sing-along raucousness of their songs and their extensive touring has enlightened and entertained fans around the world. Craig took time to speak to the Scottish Banner's Sean Cairney on their love of Edinburgh, how a Scots word nearly got their biggest hit banned and just how important live music is for the twins.

SC: Craig thanks for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. You grew up in Scotland which has a rich musical past. What musicians were you and Charlie influenced by growing up and were any Scottish?

CR: I wouldn't say they were Scottish. We were very influenced by what was on the radio like The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. When punk happened with acts like The Sex Pistols, The Clash, The Jam, and The Buzzcocks, they were the biggest influences

on us. Obviously, we listened to Scottish radio and heard people like Jerry Rafferty, Rod Stewart and The Bay City Rollers, as well as Scottish traditional music. Though I would not say those Scottish sounds were our biggest influences on what we did.

SC: One of the most poignant tracks on your new album is the *Streets of Edinburgh*, which regardless of where they come from in Scotland, will make many ex-pats a wee bit homesick. Can you tell us about your connection and love for Scotland's capital?

CR: We were born in Edinburgh in 1962 and lived there until we were around 8. Our parents then moved us down to Cornwall in England for a couple of years and then we moved back to Scotland to Auchtermuchty in Fife. We lived there until we were 18 and then moved back to Edinburgh and I have lived there ever since. I feel Edinburgh is my city and I think it is a unique place. With the Streets of Edinburgh, I wanted to do an honest appraisal of the city. Edinburgh is physically beautiful and has a reputation of having a population that is a bit cool, but at the same time it is not everyone's cup of tea, and I wanted to write a song about this city. It is my favourite city without a shadow of a doubt. I am glad to travel and tour different parts

of the world, which gives you a great perspective of the place you live when you experience other places. I am more appreciative of Edinburgh when I do a lot of touring, and though it is not perfect it is my favourite city on earth.

We are also lucky to tour all over Scotland from big venues to small towns. I think Scotland is a fantastic country, it's not a matter of being proud to be Scottish, because I am simply Scottish by birth. But you see it in the reactions of people from other countries, more often than not people look at you very favourably when they know your Scottish. People love the place, from the scenery, the history and the people really make the country. When we meet people all over the world touring and they tell us they have been to Scotland it is an overwhelmingly positive experience for them and a place they thoroughly enjoyed.

SC: Your first album *This Is the Story* was released back in 1987. Did you ever think your music career would take you so far and still be going strong over 30 years later?

CR: No I don't think when we first signed a record deal, which was in early 1987, we thought about where it could take us, we did it to get off the dole. We had been unemployed for years and that really was the ambition, to just get off the dole and make a living playing music. That was all we wanted.



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The first album was acoustic, and we started playing in clubs and pubs all over Britain and Ireland and that was great. I think honestly if that was as far as we did go, we would have been happy. We did not have any real ambitions of having hit records, we just didn't think that would happen. Then we re-recorded The Letter From America album and made This is the Story and used musicians and it was produced by Jerry Rafferty and that became a hit in 1987. The next year we recorded Sunshine on Leith and I'm Gonna Be and I'm On My Way became hit songs and it just flowed from there. So, our real ambition over 30 years ago was simply get off the dole and make a living.

SC: One of the great things about the Proclaimers is your clear use of your Scottish accent in your music. Has that been a conscious decision to keep your Scottish sound rather than a mid-Atlantic accent?

CR: I think when we were first started playing in bands we were generally not singing leads but backup vocals but I think you would not have mistaken us from being from anywhere else. When we started as The Proclaimers in 1983, we started as an acoustic duo just the two voices with the guitar and the tambourine. I think we felt we wanted to sing and write about our own lives and experiences, the fact we were Scottish was coincidental, but we felt if we were writing about our own experiences in our own country then it would be non-sensical not to do it in our own accents. So yes, it was definitely a conscious decision and we have kept that going ever since.

SC: Your biggest hit *I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)* was nearly banned by US radio due to the use of a Scottish word can you tell us more?

CR: The word haver is part of that song, which means to talk nonsense. There were some in America who thought it was a swear word and were not quite too sure about it. The song was not banned but a few people had to look up and understand the meaning of the word, this was back in 1993 when it became a hit after being included in the film *Benny & Joon*. It took a few people by surprise, the record company included, that it became such a huge hit in America.

I think we felt we wanted to sing and write about our own lives and experiences, the fact we were Scottish was coincidental, but we felt if we were writing about our own experiences in our own country then it would be non-sensical not to do it in our own accents.

SC: *Sunshine on Leith* an incredible track and my favourite Proclaimers song. The song has been adopted by Hibernian FC and the title of both a stage musical and eventually a film. Can you tell just what a landmark track this for the band and more about its football and theatre association?

CR: It became an anthem at Hibs FC when we were touring in North America at around 1994. The song was played at Hibs games and the crowds began singing it very loudly and since then it has stayed with the club. It was an organic thing. With regards to the musical it was originally done in 2007 by Dundee Theatre Company and they produced a musical out of Proclaimers songs, which became a full stage show.

Then they did again a couple of years later and became a bigger production, and a then did another even bigger production. After the third stage production the film came about in 2012-13 and that film became quite a big hit in Britain and internationally. Subsequently the theatre show was done again last year on an even bigger scale, so it has become a stage show which grew down the years and ended up as a movie release.

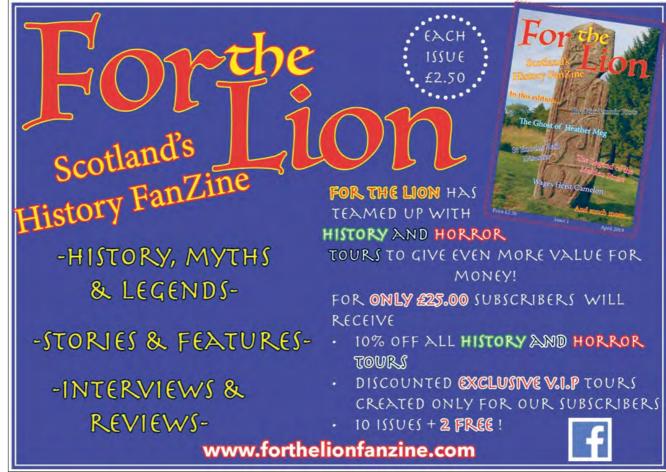
SC: And finally, Craig you are known as a great live act. How much do you enjoy touring and how important is it for you to connect with your fans across the globe through live performance?

CR: I think playing live, along with writing music, is the reason we do this. It is not making records, obviously records get you across the globe and heard. But for us the main reason we wanted to do this was so we could write our own songs and play them live. We enjoy playing live probably even more than we did back in the early days. We enjoy the gigs more and I think we are better because we have been playing for over 30 years and we are better as performers. The energy you get from playing as well as the energy we get back from the crowd is the reason we keep going.

This year we are playing also again back at Edinburgh Castle, we originally played the castle about 11 years ago. The fact we are doing it again and the first show sold out so quickly, it is so great to be able to play in your own city with such tremendous support. Not only playing to your own people but many visitors who will come and see us play at the castle esplanade. We are looking forward to it again and just hope we will again be lucky with the weather and there will be no rain, the shows are in July, but you never know just what the weather will be...and that's Scotland for you.

For more information on The Proclaimers see: www.the.proclaimers.co.uk





SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

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

CANADA

MAY 2019

4 Ottawa, ON - Scottish Society of Ottawa's 2019 Spring Scottish Breakfast and Annual General Meeting

All Scottish Society members and anyone interested in supporting Scottish culture and heritage are encouraged and welcome to attend The Scottish Society of Ottawa seventh Annual General Meeting at Heart & Crown Byward Market, 73 Clarence St. Info: https://ottscot.ca/

18 - 19 Regina, SK - Saskatchewan Highland **Gathering and Celtic Festival**

A weekend to celebrate Scotland at Victoria park. Info: www.saskhighland.ca

18 - 20 Victoria, BC - 156th Victoria **Highland Games & Celtic Festival**

The celebration of Scottish and Celtic music, arts, and culture starts off with a Tartan Parade through downtown Victoria the Saturday before the Games weekend, and includes the tilted kilt pubcrawl, clan torchlight ceremony and a series of performing arts activities. Info: www.victoriahighlandgames.com/games

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

25 Kingston, ON - Kingston Scottish Festival Pipe bands, Scottish dance, Clans and more at Rideau Acres. Info: www.kingstonscotfest.com

27 Kelowna, BC - A Whisky, By Any Other Name Rather than a typical blind tasting game of guessing the qualities of the whisky, your team will be in charge of naming it! Much like the members of the Scotch Malt Whisky Society panel, your team will need to decide on a creative, but accurate title for the whisky, along with some tasting notes to go along with it. Info: www.kelownascotchandfinespirits.org

IUNE 2019

14 - 15 Cobourg, ON - Cobourg Scottish Festival & Highland Games

Friday Ceilidh, Solo Piping and Drumming, Heavy Event competitions & the Highland Dancing at Victoria Park. Info: www.cobourghighlandgames.ca

15 Coquitlam, BC - BC Highland Games & Scottish Festival

With live Celtic music, beer garden, Tartan Run, artisans & vendors, piobaireachd and more at Lafarge Lake Park, 1240 Pipeline Rd. Info: www.bchighlandgames.com

19 - 23 Winnipeg, MB - National Clan Sinclair Canada Gathering

Clan Sinclair Members from around the world will be arriving in Winnipeg to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Clan Sinclair Association of Canada with events, talks and more .Info: George Sinclair 705 756-8889, george@clansinclair.ca or www.clansinclair.ca

21 - 22 Caledonia, ON - Caledonia Celtic Festival

Artisans, Celtic entertainment, pipes & drums, heavy events and Highland dancers. Discover your Celtic roots by visiting the Clan tents and trace your family heritage. Share a sláinte! with friends at the beer tent and satisfy your cravings at one of the food vendors at 151 Caithness Street East. Info: www.caledoniacelticfestival.com

22 - 23 East Selkirk, MB - The **Manitoba Highland Gathering**

A family fun filled, community designated over 50years old event which strives to preserve, promote, nurture, educate and share Scottish Culture and Heritage, arts, sports and agriculture at Legacy Park. Info: www.manitobahighlandgathering.com

22 Kingsville, ON - Kingsville Highland Games The Kingsville Highland Games will once again grace the north shores of Lake Erie in a celebration of Scottish and Celtic culture, Beautiful Lakeside Park provides the backdrop for the skirl of the bagpipes, the triumphant roars of the caber tossers and the

energetic highland dancers. Info: 519-733-2305.

29 - 6 Halifax, NS - The Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo

A show inspired by Military Tattoos given by military bands and display teams at Scotiabank Centre. Info: www.nstattoo.ca

USA

MAY 2019

3 - 5 Ames, IA - 28th Annual Ball Weekend of the RSCDS Central Iowa Branch

Presented by the Royal Scottish Dance Society of Central Iowa with Scottish Country Dance events at ISU Memorial Union, Iowa State University, 2229 Lincoln Way. Info: www.rscdscentraliowa.org

4 Savannah, GA - Savannah Scottish Games

A Celtic cultural celebration for the entire family. Music, dancing, athletic competition and more. Info: www.savannahscottishgames.com

10 - 12 Decatur, TX - The Texas Scottish Festival

The skirl of the Pipes, the cheers of encouragement for the Athletic events, and the swirling of the Highland Dancers at 3101 FM 51. Info: www.texasscots.com

18 - 19 Maryville, TN - Smoky Mountain **Scottish Festival & Games**

Bring your whole clan for a weekend of authentic Scottish Highland festivities in the Great Smoky Mountains at Maryville College. Info: www.smokymountaingames.org

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 Elkton, MD - Fair Hill Scottish Games

A day of athletics, music, dancing, food, and arts celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture at Fair Hill Race Track. Info: www.fairhillscottishgames.org

18 Shortsville, NY - Finger Lakes Celtic Festival Become Celtic for a family friendly day with

Celtic music, bag pipers, Highland heavy games, dance, pipe band demonstrations, Gathering of the Clans, historical societies, vendors with Celtic products and more. Info: www.flceltic.org

25 - 26 Alma, MI - 52nd Alma Highland Festival A weekend of Scottish music, dance and friendship at Alma College. Info: 989 463-

8979 or www.almahighlandfestival.com

25 Greenville, SC - Greenville Scottish Games Anchors Gallabrae, and embodies the finest of Scottish traditions brought to new levels of excellence at Furman University. Info: www.gallabrae.com

1 Friendsville, MD - Garrett County Celtic Festival

Family friendly event featuring traditional and contemporary Celtic music, Irish and Scottish dancing, Highland athletes, Pipe & Drum bands, Clans, living history and educational presentations, Celtic Marketplace and more at Friendsville Town Park. Info: http://gccelticfestival.com

1 Old Orchard Beach, ME - Fourth Annual Old Orchard Beach Scottish Festival

Featuring Albannach, Charlie Zahm, Scottish Festival Expos - Clan Village, Highland Games, Scottish artisans, Scottish food and more at Veteran's Memorial Park. Info: www.oob365.com

7 - 9 Beaver Dam, WI - Midwest Scottish Weekend

The Midwest Scottish Weekend is an annual Scottish Country Dance workshop and ball weekend held at Wayland Academy. The weekend includes a welcome dance on Friday night, a formal ball on Saturday night, and classes on Saturday and Sunday. Info: https:// sites.google.com/site/midwestscottishweekend

The Scottish Banner has one

of North America's most

comprehensive Scottish

events listings available! With

hundreds of Scottish events

listed from around the world

and updated weekly. See our

most up to date listings and

add your event anytime at:

www.scottishbanner.com/events

8 - 9 Blairsville, GA - Blairsville Scottish **Festival & Highland Games**

Highland dancers, Scottish athletes, family clans, bagpipes and drums and traditional musicians come to celebrate their heritage at Meeks Park on Highway 515. Info: 706-745-2161 or www.blairsvillescottishfestival.com

Held at the Adelynrood Retreat and Conference

16 - 21 Byfield, MA - New England Piping

Center, the annual Scottish bagpiping and drumming seminar. Small classes, intense instruction, and great camaraderie make this summer camp a must. Info: Bruce Beavis 773-580-1733 or ne.pipedrum.academy@gmail.com

16 - 21 Winchester, VA - The Virginia Piping School 2019

& Drumming Academy 2019

Presented by The National Piping Centre at Shenandoah University. Piping tuition and events with world-class instructors lined and welcomes all levels of players. Info: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk

22 - 23 Vista, CA - San Diego **Scottish Highland Games**

Heavy Athletics, Dancing - Highland and Scottish Country, Piping and Drumming, Massed Bands, Clans and Societies, vendors and more at 1200 Vale Terrace Dr. Info: www.sdhighlandgames.org

22 Wellington, OH - Ohio Scottish Games Celebrating traditional Scottish Highland Games at Lorain Country Fairgrounds. Info: www.ohioscottishgames.com

SCOTLAND

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 firsttime 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 Pokev, 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 corncrake. Did you know that one of the best places to see the corncrake, 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

IUNE 2019

1 Kirkwall, Orkney - Kirkwall City Pipe Band Parade A street parade by Kirkwall City Pipe Band. The band - which will be celebrating their 100th birthday in 2019 - parade along Broad Street for the entertainment of locals and visitors, performing a selection of

marches and sets. Info: www.kirkwallcity.com 2 Inverness - Highland Garden Fest 2019

The very first Highland Garden Fest - the only gardening festival in the Highlands! Whether you are a novice gardener or a gardening enthusiast this is a must visit and a fun day for all of the family at Inverness Botanic Gardens. Info: www.highlandgardenfest.co.uk

2 Markinch - Markinch Highland Games

Events include Grand Pipe Band contest, solo piping, Highland dancing contest, running, cycling, heavy events, children's races, fun fair and trade stalls. Info: www.shga.co.uk

6 - 8 Hawick - Hawick Common Riding

Festival commemorating the capture in 1514 of an English flag by a Hawick youth, and the ancient practice of riding the borders of the common land. The first of the Border festivals and celebrates both the capture of an English Flag in 1514 by the youth of Hawick. Info: www.hawickcommonriding.co.uk

15 Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire -**Lesmahagow Highland Games**

Pipe band contests, heavy events, road race, haggis hurling competition, children's football tournament final, athletics and more at Glebe Park. Info: www.lesmahagowhighlandgames.com

16 Aberdeen - Aberdeen's Highland Games Traditional Highland Games events with pipe

band, dance and heavy events at Hazlehead Park. Info: cityevents@aberdeencity.gov.uk

20 - 23 Edinburgh - The Royal Highland Show

Part agricultural show, part food festival, part family fun day out, with everything from motor, equine and craft programmes to food and drink and children's activities. Celebrating its 179th year, The Royal Highland Show is one of Scotland's most iconic events, showcasing the very best of farming food and rural life. Info: www.royalhighlandshow.org

22 - 23 Portsoy, Aberdeenshire - Scottish **Traditional Boat Festival**

Engages the local region, bringing together boats, music, crafts, food and drink to celebrate the region's rich cultural heritage. Info: www.stbfportsoy.org

29 Inverness - Piping Inverness

The European Pipe Band Championships will be held in Bught Park, with food and drink, traditional craft stalls and live entertainment, will make it a fun-filled $family\,day\,out.\,Info: piping inverness@lcclive.co.uk$

Scottish Genealogical Research

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Answers to Scotword from page 7

Across: 1-Haggis 5-Rob Roy 10-Piece 11-Ardersier

Down: 2-Aberfovle 3 Gael 4 Slavers 5-Redcoat 12-Affy 6-Birl 13-Besom

14-Wean 17-Scythes 18-Tallboy 20-Gremlin

20-Guards 21-Necktie

22-Laments 23-Eyelet 28-Fair

31-Close 32-Comic 33-Swords

22-Loch Awe 24-Arch 25-Scamp 27-Skye 30-Dumbarton

25-Cameo 29-Echo

7-Olive

8-Sprats

9-Orkney

15-Thole

16-Flock 19-Blackford

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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Whisky marmalade

Ingredients:

- 1 small grapefruit
- 2 lemons
- 1 sweet or Seville orange
- 1.75 litres/3 pints water
- 1.4kg/3lb 1oz. granulated sugar

75ml/5 tbsp. whisky

Method:

Juice the fruit and pour the juice into a large, lidded pan with a capacity of 6-8 litres/10-14 pints. Add the water.

Scrape out the inner membranes and pips from the fruit with a small sharp knife. Put the membranes into a food processor or mini-chopper and chop finely. Put the chopped membranes, and any pips, into a muslin bag or a piece of muslin tied with string. Add to the pan. Shred the peel to your preferred thickness and add it to the pan. Set aside to allow the peel to soak for a few hours or, if possible, overnight. Bring the lidded pan to boil, reduce the heat and simmer very gently for two hours. The peel should be very tender. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 140C/275F/Gas 1. Pour the sugar into a baking dish and warm in the oven for a few minutes.

The Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games thrills East Tennesseans for 38 years running



he 38th annual Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games will offer a weekend of authentic Scottish Highland festivities the entire clan can enjoy from May 18 - 19, 2019. The festival returns to Maryville College, or the home of "The Scots." It is located at 502 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway in Maryville, Tennessee

Commemoration of Scottish culture and legacy

The Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games, originally founded in 1981, are East Tennessee's original commemoration of Scottish culture and legacy. Maryville was inhabited by early Scots-Irish settlerspeople of relentless bravery and an avantgarde spirit, which grants the location as the "home of the Scots." The festival activities are a glimpse into the rich traditions and history of those settlers and takes place among the scenic Smoky Mountains.

Whether Scottish or not, Scottish Festival and Games Board Member Keith Austin assures attendees will have an enlightening and exhilarating experience. Keith said; "The Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival and Games creates an important opportunity for the Greater Knoxville area to participate in celebrating a unique culture and heritage in our area," said Austin. "The Festival offers something for everyone and has guests leaving with a smile on their face. We are very proud of the responses and attendance that arise from this event."

For more information about the festivities and ticket sales, visit: www.smokymountaingames.org





Celebrate Whisky Month in May with these recipes which add a splash of flavour using "the water of life". You can of course omit Whisky if preferred, enjoy and Slainte mhath! Your very good health!

Remove the muslin bag from the pan and squeeze the liquid from the bag into a bowl. Pass through a sieve and add to the pan. Weigh the contents of the pan - it should be no more than 1.4kg/3lb loz. If you have more than this, return the contents to the pan and simmer to reduce the liquid until the correct weight is achieved. Add the warmed sugar to the pan and stir until dissolved. Gradually bring the pan to a rolling boil. After seven minutes, test the setting point by scooping out a large spoonful of the marmalade. Allow the mixture to cool a little, then slowly pour it back into the pan. If it is at the setting point, the drops will run together to form a hanging flake (this is known as the flake test). It can take up to 30 minutes to reach setting point, so keep testing. Leave the marmalade to cool for 5-10 minutes (a skin should form on the surface). Remove any scum from the surface and add the spirit of your choice to the pan. Gently stir the marmalade to evenly distribute the peel and the alcohol. Pour the marmalade into sterilised jars and seal. Leave the jars upright and undisturbed to set.

Whisky mustard crusted pork chop with sautéed potatoes

Ingredients:

For the whisky mustard pork chops:

75ml/3fl oz. whisky

25g/1oz. honey 1 lemon, juice only

75g/3oz. yellow mustard seeds 25g/1oz. brown mustard seeds

50ml/2fl oz. water

4 x pork loin chops, French trimmed, fat removed

75g/3oz. dried breadcrumbs

1 tbsp olive oil

25g/1oz. butter

For the sautéed potatoes:

50g/2oz. butter

3 tbsp olive oil

4 small potatoes, peeled, cut into thick

1 garlic clove, peeled, finely sliced 2 fresh sprigs rosemary, leaves only salt and freshly ground black pepper 400g/14oz. baby spinach leaves 2-3 tbsp. water

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.

Heat the whisky, honey, lemon juice and water into a saucepan and heat until the honey dissolves.

Stir in the mustard seeds and cook for -2 minutes, or until most of the liquid has been absorbed.

Blend the mixture in a food processor until creamy (this will take a few minutes).

Sprinkle the breadcrumbs onto a plate. Brush the pork chop on one side with the mustard mixture and dredge in the breadcrumbs. Spoon the remaining mustard into a small bowl and set aside.

Heat the olive oil and butter in an ovenproof frying pan until hot. Fry the pork chops for 2-3 minutes on each side, or until golden-brown on each side.

Transfer to the oven for 6-8 minutes, or until the pork is cooked through. Remove from the oven and set aside to rest.

For the sautéed potatoes, heat the olive oil and half of the butter in a frying pan until hot. Fry the potatoes for 4-5 minutes, or until golden-brown and tender. Add the garlic and rosemary and season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Heat the remaining butter in a frying pan, add the spinach and water and cook for 2-3 minutes, or until the spinach has wilted.

To serve, spoon some potatoes onto each of 4 serving plates, top with a pork chop and spoon some spinach alongside. Serve with the remaining mustard.

Marmalade & whisky bread & butter pudding

Ingredients:

8 slices day-old crusty white bread,

crusts removed

50g/2oz. very soft butter

4 tbsp Seville orange marmalade, plus 4 tsp

300ml/10 fl oz. full-fat milk

250ml/9 fl oz. pot double cream

3 large eggs

seeds 1 vanilla pod

4 tbsp. golden caster sugar

1 tbsp. whisky

icing sugar, for dusting

Method:

Butter each piece of bread on both sides, then spread 4 with the 1 tbsp marmalade each. Pop the remaining bread on top to make 4 marmalade sandwiches. Cut into triangles and nestle in rows in a large baking dish. Heat oven to 160C/320F/gas 3.

Beat the milk, cream, eggs, vanilla, sugar and whisky together, then pour over the bread. Leave to soak for 30 mins.

Dot the remaining marmalade all over the top of the pud and dust with the icing sugar. Bake for 45 mins-1 hr or until puffy and starting to caramelise where the bread breaks out of the custard. Serve hot or warm.

Hot Toddy



Ingredients

50ml/2 fl oz. whisky

3 tsp honey

1 cinnamon stick, snapped in half

1 lemon, half juiced and half sliced

2 cloves

Method:

Whisk the whisky and honey together and split between 2 heatproof glasses. Add half of the cinnamon stick to each, then top up with 200ml/7 fl oz. boiling water.

Add a splash of lemon juice to each, then taste and add more to your preference. Finish each with a slice of lemon, studded with a clove, and serve immediately.

By: Nick Drainey

St Margaret - The Pearl of Scotland



Part of St Margaret of Scotland's shoulder bone has been removed from its reliquary by archaeologists seeking to find out more about the life of one of Scotland's great heroines as Nick Drainey explains.



piece of St Margaret's shoulder bone has been removed from its reliquary by archaeologists seeking to find out more about the life of one of Scotland's most venerated figures. The experts will use 3D scanning technology to try to discover more about the Queen of Scotland's lifestyle, as well as producing an exact replica which people can hold without fear of breaking an ancient artefact.

St Margaret was known as the Pearl of Scotland and led a pious lifestyle, helping the poor as well as introducing refinement to the country, such as the first use of knives and forks to eat with. It is more than 80 years since the ornate reliquary at St Margaret's Memorial Church in



Dunfermline has been opened but now Lauren Gill from the University of Glasgow and Martin Lane, Cardiff Metropolitan University have had the opportunity to begin researching the holy relic it contains.

Ms Gill said permission had to be given by Archbishop Leo Cushley before work could begin. She will use the 3D scan to recreate St Margaret's relic and then observe how people handle it at the church. "You can tell already she was very small, and that is normal for a woman of her era," the final year degree student said. The expert team will also look for signs of disease such as gout or osteo-arthritis and may also be able to detect malnutrition as St Margaret was known for fasting for long periods as she prayed to God.

A great figure for Scotland But the other side of the research will look at the importance of relics. Lauren said: "Now that relics are less popular it is important that we understand why they hold an importance to the church and to worshippers. She was a great figure for Scotland, and it is of national interest to find out more about her." St Margaret established a ferry which was named after her to take pilgrims on their way to St Andrews from South to North Queensferry. After her death in 1093 - days after the death of her husband Malcolm III - she was taken back to Dunfermline via the ferry and buried.

After being made a saint by Pope Innocent IV, a shrine was built at Dunfermline where she laid intact until the 16th century when Mary, Queen of Scots asked for her head to be sent to

her, to bring her help as she gave birth to James VI. Her head was then taken to a Jesuit College in Douai, France, and as the Reformation threatened to destroy catholic churches and abbeys the rest of her body was secreted away, ultimately being taken to Escorial Monastery by Phillip II of Spain. It wasn't until the 19th century that Bishop James Gillis of Edinburgh sought permission from Pope Pious IX for a relic to be brought to Scotland.

Father Chris Heenan, parish priest at St Margaret's Memorial RC Church, said: "They sawed a piece of the shoulder bone off and they sealed it with the seal of the Escorial which you can still see today." Bishop Gillis brought it back to Scotland to be placed in St Margaret's Convent in Edinburgh but when the convent closed it was moved to St Margaret's Memorial Church in Dunfermline in 2008.

A piece of St Margaret's shoulder bone has been removed from its reliquary by archaeologists seeking to find out more about the life of one of Scotland's most venerated figures.

Father Heenan said: "It is recognising somebody who was real, who lived here, walked the streets and did so much good for the country when she was alive. What was recognised as her driving force was her faith in God, a love that flowed to her family, the poor and people who she helped, and indeed the whole country. We don't pray to saints, we pray through saints ... we ask them to intercede on our behalf, to put in a good word for us to God. Relic comes from the Latin for 'what's left behind' - it is about getting physically close to what this person has left behind and, through them, get closer to God."

Not appreciated in Scotland as much as she should be

Father Heenan hopes the research following the scan will unveil more of St Margaret's piety. "She could be quite hard on herself in regard to fasting; you might be able to tell something about her diet." Father Heenan also thinks the new information will attract more people completing the Fife Pilgrim Way long distance route past religious sites which begins in Dunfermline. The church has visitors from across the world, as can be seen in the visitor's book, including people from Hungary, where St Margaret was born in exile from England. Father Heenan hopes more will now come to pray.

In 2015 a pilgrimage through Dunfermline to the church was restarted - something that attracts huge crowds. Father Heenan said in the first year the crowds were far bigger than expected. "We thought that if we filled the church



we would be doing well but I was at the church, waiting, and another priest came running along in advance saying "there are thousands coming' the church was jam packed and they were standing outside. Every year since we have booked the Carnegie Hall across the road and we do a video link to televise the Mass over there."

Jack Pryde an expert in Dunfermline history who runs Discover Dunfermline walking tours, said St Margaret is not appreciated in Scotland as much as she should be. He added: "She introduced things that we use every day, like forks and knifes. She was appalled that we didn't have them here; we just used what God gave us - hands."

But any moves towards a more refined Royal court did not alienate her from the public, according to Mr Pryde who said any sense of that she was aloof was "overshadowed by her good work". "She would quite simply go into her wardrobe and take out clothes and distribute them amongst the poor. Before she had her breakfast, she would raid the larders and go off to feed the orphans. She was very, very kindly and practiced a practical Christianity it wasn't all hymns and prayers, she lived the life in reality."



Heritage sector generated over £4bn for Scotland's economy in 2017-18

Annual Our Place in Time report showcases value of nation's historic environment.

cotland's historic environment is continuing to make a strong contribution to the nation's economy as Historic Environment Scotland (HES) published the latest annual performance report for the historic environment sector. Income generated by Scotland's historic environment sector in 2017-18 has risen to over £4bn, with the growth attributed to increasing tourist numbers, particularly international visitors.

As well as economic value, the Our Place in Time (OPiT) Annual Performance report also outlines the social, cultural and environmental contribution of the historic environment to the nation's wellbeing, through key performance indicators including boosting education and skills, supporting the voluntary sector and playing a lead role in reducing carbon emissions.



Scotland leads and enables delivery of OPiT, reporting on progress to the Strategic Historic Environment Forum (SHEF) which is chaired by the Cabinet Secretary of Culture, Tourism and External Affairs. This is the fourth OPiT report published since the strategy was launched in 2014 and includes case studies from over 60 organisations working in the historic environment sector. **Key achievements which span the range of the OPiT themes – cross-cutting, understand, protect and value – include:**

- £4.2bn generated for Scotland's economy in 2017-18.
- Between 2014 and 2018, grants of more than £56m assisted repairs of over £258m.
- 41% of the historic buildings on the Buildings at Risk Register have been saved between 2009 – 2018.
- The historic environment attracted 18m visitors in 2018.
- Over 17,000 volunteers have engaged with Scotland's historic environment, providing 121,000 days.

Scotland's remarkable assets
Jane Ryder, Chair of HES, said: "This report demonstrates the historic environment sector's commitment to working collaboratively and in partnership to deliver OPiT's vision. We're currently four years into the ten year strategy and steady progress has



been made towards achieving our strategic priorities. The case studies featured in the report demonstrate the breadth of activity and give us more of an understanding of the sector's impact on communities and people. There have been many achievements across the sector which have positively contributed to Scotland's economy. As well as a rise in both the number and range of people visiting the historic environment, there has been a boost to the availability of skills through apprenticeships, fellowships and internships, plus additional FTE jobs created across the sector this year. Looking ahead, we hope to build on the success of the strategy so far. We will continue to work with partners in the sector to create a flourishing historic environment to ensure future generations can enjoy Scotland's remarkable assets."

Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop, said: "The delivery of Our Place in Time, Scotland's first strategy for the historic environment, depends very much on collaboration and partnership working across the historic environment sector and beyond. Many organisations and individuals have contributed to the successes outlined in this report and I would like to thank them and acknowledge their huge contribution to helping to care for our precious and unique heritage. We have achieved much since the strategy was launched in 2014. We will continue to build on this success in the years to come as we work together to ensure that Scotland's historic environment continues to make a strong contribution to Scotland's culture, economy and wider wellbeing."

Mill featured in Outlander saved by public crowdfund



he National Trust for Scotland has successfully crowdfunded the restoration of one of Scotland's most picturesque mills, where some of *Outlander's* most memorable scenes were filmed. Launched on 8 March 2019, the crowdfund smashed its target of £12,000 on 26 March – less than three weeks after launching – through the support of the public and an American donor from Nantucket, Massachusetts who made a match funding contribution.

The raised funds will now be used to restore Preston Mill - one of the region's last working grain mills having been used commercially until 1959, located on the banks of the River Tyne in East Linton – after its water wheel mechanism which allows it to turn broke over the winter months, causing it to jam in a fixed position.

Stuart Maxwell, General Manager for Ayrshire & Arran and Edinburgh & East at The National Trust for Scotland, said: "We've been blown away by the support we've had since announcing the crowdfund. With heat from the friction of the turning axle, which allows the wheel to spin, distorting the metal components that hold the wheel in place over time, we knew we urgently needed the help of the public to be able to restore it to its former glory. It's been inspiring to see such a diverse range of people come together to support the appeal, in Scotland and even overseas, and collectively demonstrate their love for Scotland by ensuring that this spectacular piece of Scottish heritage is preserved. We'd like to say a massive

thank you to everyone who donated, and we can't wait to welcome you all to the mill when it reopens at the end of April."

An architectural oddity

With its curious Dutch-style conical roof, Preston Mill is an architectural oddity that beguiles visitors and transports them back in time. In 2014, it hosted the cast and crew of the hit TV show Outlander as they filmed some of the first season's most pivotal scenes and used the mill as a standin for Lallybroch, Jamie Fraser's (played by Sam Heughan) family home. Given the TV show's international popularity, the fundraising campaign ran in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA, where it garnered global attention with an American donor from Nantucket, Massachusetts, making a substantial match funding contribution. Barbara Beinecke Spitler matched all donations made towards the repair of the mill, dollar-for-dollar, until \$5,000 (£3,901.50) was reached. As a fan of Gabaldon's Outlander book series and a philanthropist of historic preservation, Barbara saw the donation as the perfect marriage of her two interests. To get the wheel turning again, engineers have restored the masonry pillar, which the wheel sits upon, and replace the timber bearing and metal bushes - which houses the wheel's axle and holds it in place, allowing the wheel to turn.

To find out more about Preston Mill visit: www.nts.org.uk

Dressed to Kilt celebrates diversity and culture in New York



ressed to Kilt's return to New York in April was a hit with a celebrity fashion show featuring kilts and kitsch and cool Native American designers as a fun twist to celebrate diversity. The show was entitled "From Downton Abbey to the Dakotas" and it celebrated the culture and couture of Scottish Clans and Native Tribes.

Phil MacHugh debuting LGBTQ tartan kilt in the USA.

The fashion show featured designers from Scotland and some Native American tribes along with the runway debut of a LGBTQ tartan worn by Scottish TV personality Phil MacHugh. The show featured fun spectacles and delights to keep the crowd entertained ranging from Native American dance numbers to famed rugby player brothers strutting shirtless down the runway, and even live falcons making a catwalk appearance.

Incredible designs

This year's notable line-up included:
Master Chief Edward Byers (active Navy Seal), Tom and Max Evans (Scottish Rugby players), Phil MacHugh (Scottish media personality and columnist), Adam Beach (Law and Order SVU, Hawaii Five-O and Juanita on Netflix), Francesca Curran (Orange is the New Black), Jessica Matten (star of Frontier on Netflix), Buddy Valastro (Cake Boss), Janelle Evans (Teen Mom), Kelli Barrett (Fosse/ Verdon on FX), Marvin Cortes (America's Next Top Model) and Genevieve Gorder (Former star of Trading Spaces and new Bravo series Stay Here).

Guests were greeted at the entrance of the Church of the Holy Apostles to a traditional Scottish bagpiper and treated to delectable nibbles before the show started. The crowd was treated to incredible designs from Native American designers Shyanne Brant, Stacey Mitchell, Sparkling Spur, Red Berry Women and Wabigonikwe Tenasco reminding guests of the incredible rich history and talent of Native Americans that is often ignored by the fashion community.

Designers from across the pond such as Lucan Fashion, Edinburgh based label Totty Rocks, Calzeat and Walker Slater reminded the crowd what true craftsmanship and heritage looks like. A nod was made to the outdoor lifestyle arena with designs from Horse Country Saddlery. In addition to these special designs, kilts and the Navy SEAL Foundation Tartan highland dress. A very special LGBTQ Tartan kilt made its debut on American runways really ringing in the message of inclusively for the evening.

The largest and most prestigious Scottish fashion event in the world The soiree was held in Houston last year, taking a break from a long run in New York City, but returned to its roots in New York City on Tartan Day weekend in April. Dressed to Kilt has developed a cult like following for those seeking some good Scottish fun and many celebrities with Scottish roots have dawned the catwalk.

From its genesis in 2003, Dressed to Kilt is now the largest and most prestigious Scottish fashion event in the world, and one of the highest profile fashion shows in the United States. Who believe that fashion without the enrichment of diverse cultures become hollow. The show is produced by the Friends of Scotland charity which was co-founded by Sir Sean Connery in 2002.

In addition to supermodels, this show highlights very accomplished men and women on the runway and it is also filled with A-List celebrities and athletes



from both sides of the Atlantic. In recent shows Sir Sean Connery, Gerard Butler, Kiefer Sutherland, Kyle MacLachlan, Andie MacDowell, Ivanka Trump and Donald Trump Jr., Chris "Mr. Big" Noth, Mike Myers and Craig Ferguson have all walked the runway. The charity has raised significant sums for the families of wounded veterans.

For more information on Dressed to Kilt see: www.dressedtokilt.com



Scotland shines in springtime

Spring is in the air and as nature begins to wake up there has never been a better time to visit Scotland's National Nature Reserves. Whether you are wildlife spotting or just want to get out and enjoy some fresh air and spectacular scenery, these special places are great to explore. Here are 10 of the best spring surprises Scotland has to offer and where you might find them:

1. Stacks of seabirds



Around the coast of Scotland, seabirds are returning home to breed, after a long winter at sea. Don't miss the chance to see thousands, including puffins, guillemots, razorbills, shags and kittiwakes, gathering on island and coastal cliffs. Just a short distance from Edinburgh the Isle of May and St Abb's Head are fantastic places to witness this spectacle, while further afield in Shetland the most northerly cliffs of Hermaness and Noss are fabulous and dramatic places to visit.

2. Wonderful wild flowers



Spring is when Scotland's woodlands, from the temperate rainforests of the west coast to the ancient oak woods, come alive with delicate wild flowers. Take a walk in the ancient gorge woodlands of Clyde Valley close to Lanark (don't forget to visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of New Lanark), where bluebells create a colourful blanket in April and May. Alternatively, explore the hidden gem of Glasdrum Wood on the shores of Loch Creran, where the woodland floor is carpeted with wild flowers including violets, wood anemone and primrose.

3. Climb high



Scotland's mountain landscapes are outstanding, whether you just want to take in the view from the roadside or embark on a challenging hike. Visit the majestic Beinn Eighe in Wester Ross, one of the

most scenic areas in Scotland (and the UKs first National Nature Reserve), where lochs and mountains combine to dramatic effect. Enjoy an easy low-level walk with views to the high ridges or take the Mountain Trail into the heart of the hills, a way-marked mountain path with stunning views. Elsewhere, explore Creag Meagaidh, a magnificent mountain plateau fringed by some of the grandest cliffs in Scotland. Hike on a trail through lovely regenerating woodland to Coire Ardair, where a lonely lochan sits below towering crags.

4. Soar with the eagles



Spring is when Scotland's majestic eagles return to their nesting sites and these iconic birds can be seen soaring high above the coasts and hills. The Isle of Rum lying splendidly off Mallaig is home to golden and sea (or white-tailed) eagles, and visitors to the trails of Beinn Eighe in Wester Ross can also spot both species as they search for food over the reserve. After a recent reintroduction of white-tailed eagles, you can also now see these magnificent birds around the forest and beach at Tentsmuir. Join a guided walk to have the best chance of spotting them.

5. Coastal gems



Scotland has an incredibly varied and rich coastline, which we'll be celebrating next year as part of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters. From extensive sandy beaches to rocky inlets, our diverse coast supports amazing wildlife and is great fun to explore at this time of year. Visit Caerlaverock in Dumfries & Galloway, where the views across the Solway Firth are constantly changing with the light and large gatherings of waders and wildfowl feed in the extensive salt marshes. Don't forget to visit mighty Caerlaverock Castle. Or why not enjoy a walk along the sandy shores, gentle dunes and grasslands of St Cyrus in Aberdeenshire?

6. Gone fishing



One of Scotland's most iconic species, the osprey, returns each spring from wintering grounds in Africa to breed. The birds come back each year to the same nest site in the tops of trees or occasionally on top of pylons. Watching osprey fish is one of the highlights of wildlife watching in Scotland. Loch Leven, close to Kinross, is one of the most accessible places to see osprey, while those at Abernethy in the Cairngorms National Park are probably the most famous in Scotland. Enjoy fantastic views across to the nest from the visitor centre and let expert RSPB guides tell you all about the birds.

7. Seal slumbers



Scotland's seals are some of our most charismatic mammals and this is a great time of year to see them. Watch as they haul out on rocky shores and beaches, slumbering in the spring sun. Head to Loch Fleet, on the North Coast 500 route in the North Highlands, where you can spot common or harbour seals hauled out in the sandbanks of this tidal loch. Or visit Forvie, on the Ythan Estuary in Aberdeenshire, home to a growing population of up to 1,000 grey seals. A short walk along the shore from Newburgh offers great views across the estuary, to the seals resting on the shores of the firth.

8. Scramble with squirrels



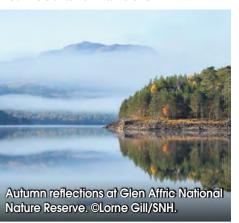
Who could resist the chance to see one of Scotland's most famous red heads – the acrobatic red squirrel? Spring sees them active and out and about – often spotted chasing up and down tree trunks. The woodlands of Muir of Dinnet in Royal Deeside are home to these charismatic characters while at Tentsmuir in Fife, visitors to the squirrel hide at Morton Lochs have an excellent chance of seeing and photographing their antics.

9. Return of the terns



In spring, terns return to our shores from their southern wintering grounds. With their delicate shape and flight they are one of the most elegant seabirds. Visit the Isle of May off the pretty fishing village of Anstruther, where the terns nest all around the harbour and visitor centre, filling the air with their calls and letting you know whose island this really is! Or take a coastal walk to the dunes of Forvie in Aberdeenshire, to see an extensive colony of terns and enjoy their stunning aerobatics.

10. Woodland wanders



Scotland's woodlands are the perfect place to relax and unwind in springtime. Enjoy a scenic walk and listen out for woodland birds as you wander. Explore Abernethy near Aviemore or Glen Affric in the Highlands to experience the best of the Caledonian pine forest, home to crested tits and unique Scottish crossbills. Or take a peaceful and energising dawn walk in the woodlands of Craigellachie near Aviemore, Ariundle Oakwood on the Sunart Peninsula or The Great Trossachs Forest in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park.

Visit Scotland's naturally inspiring National Nature Reserves this springtime. Who knows what you will find?