



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 43 Number 1 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper July 2019

Piping Inverness

attracts international bands to the Highlands

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the Scottish Banner

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Distributed monthly in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA. ISSN 2209-8364

Australia Post Print Approved PP:100004806

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

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The Banner Says...

Bringing Scotland's past to present



by Sean Cairney

Scotland has always been a leader in preserving the past. From historic sites to vast genealogy networks of information, the past is never too far away. I was recently sent a fascinating film trailer of footage shot in the 1930's, which shows a side of Scottish life few ever experienced. Filmed by an American who became spellbound by Scottish, and more specifically Gaelic culture, the film shows a life that does not exist anymore and creates an incredible historical document for all of us to enjoy.

Solas

The new film celebrating the footage collected by Margaret Fay Shaw recently premiered at an event in South Uist. Created by the National Trust for Scotland's Canna House archivist, Fiona J Mackenzie, *Solas* (Gaelic for light) uses rediscovered film shot by the US-born folklorist who dedicated her life to documenting Gaelic song.

Folklorist Margaret Fay Shaw first came to Scotland as a teenager from Pennsylvania, in 1920. She was orphaned at an early age and her family decided to send her to St Bride's School in Helensburgh, in an attempt to get Scotland-the home of her forefathers-to 'sort her out'. It was in Helensburgh, at a school recital, that Margaret first heard Gaelic being sung by Victorian song collector, Marjory Kennedy Fraser, and she decided there and then to make Gaelic song her 'life's quest', to find the 'pristine version'.

Margaret spent six years living in the remote hamlet of North Glendale, South Lochboisdale, South Uist, between 1929- 35 and over the course

of these years, she became one of the world's first female photographers and cinematographers, documenting a disappearing way of Hebridean life.

Margaret Fay Shaw left the world a fascinating collection of images and invaluable film of a lifestyle which no longer exists. She not only took film and photos in the Outer Hebrides but also on the Isle of Canna, where she lived with her husband, fellow folklorist John Lorne Campbell, from 1938 when they bought the island, until her death at the age of 101 in 2004.

Historically important

This film collection was recently re-digitised by the National Trust for Scotland, who have cared for the island since 1981, to ensure its preservation for years to come. In the process of carrying out this work archivist Fiona J Mackenzie uncovered some previously unseen film, including footage of such historically important events as the first plane landing on the Cockle Strand on Barra, 1936.

Solas uses Margaret's images, films and words to tell the story of her life and the people in that life. Using two broadcasts which Margaret made for the BBC in the 1950s and the words of her close friend and companion, Basque born Magda Sagarzazu, their own recorded voices tell how their lives were affected by the islands, the people, the animals, crofting, the birds, the songs and the sounds.

The film also uses samples from the sound archive recorded by John Lorne Campbell during the 1930s and 40s in the Hebrides, primarily Barra, South Uist, Eriskay and Canna. During the production of the film, musicians spent a week in Canna House, using the films to produce a suite of new music. This includes actual sounds from Canna House, such as, the front door, the Canna Steinway piano, John Lorne Campbell's bugle, Margaret's typewriter and the servant's bells which all make an appearance in the music.

In this issue

Another film which is now being released in the UK is the new *Robert the Bruce* movie. The film takes place after Robert the Bruce was crowned King of Scotland following William Wallace's torture and execution. Whilst not quite a sequel to *Braveheart*, this film picks up from that story and promises to take viewers on a brutal journey as Bruce leads his country to a hard-fought independence battle. *The Scottish Banner* was fortunate to be one of the few international publications to get some images and release details at time of press ahead of its Edinburgh International Film Festival world premiere. I, like many, look forward to seeing this release.

I remember growing up in Canada and on those crisp days going out on a school field trip to tap Maple trees for sap. Now a Scottish company in Perthshire is looking at what Canada has done for decades and using similar techniques to create a healthy Birch Water product. Birch water is the birch sap collected from birch tree and perfect for those of us who are moving away from sweet drinks to a healthier choice. Birch water contains antioxidants, vitamins and minerals and is packed with electrolytes, such as calcium, manganese and zinc, providing ideal hydration properties. Birch water also contains saponin, which is known for lowering cholesterol content. With with over 91,000 hectares of birch woodland in Scotland the potential is endless and untapped.

The Lewis Chessmen are the most important chess pieces in history. Found on Lewis in 1831, the Lewis chess pieces are regarded as one of the most well-known archaeological finds from Scotland. Believed to be Scandinavian in origin, the pieces have been preserved in the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and the British Museum in London and believed to be 900 years old. Of the 93 pieces, 5 pieces have been thought lost with their whereabouts unknown for many years, but one was recently found in the Scottish capital. The piece purchased for £5 in 1964 goes to auction this month and adds another intriguing layer to Scotland's incredible story.

Celebrating 43 years

This issue marks our 43rd year of producing the *Scottish Banner*. When my parents decided to start *the Scottish Banner*, they could never know the life the business would have and the travels it would take. It began out of humble beginnings above our then Scottish restaurant and pub and over 500 issues later we present you with *the Scottish Banner* of today.

The Banner simply would not be still be here if it wasn't for the many thousands of loyal readers and advertisers who have supported us over the decades. There is no denying in 2019 this is not an easy business to be in, but the Scottish community is strong and vibrant and that has been a great part of our lifeline, so as you read this issue we thank you for helping us continue and keep telling the old and new stories of Scotland.

Have you got a story on how Scotland's past is being told today? How has the Scottish Banner touched you over our 43 years? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



A still from the *Solas* film release. Photo: The National Trust for Scotland.



Gracing our front cover: Knox Grammar School Pipe Band from Australia, part of Piping Inverness.

Outlander star Sam Heughan and the Scottish Banner's Lady Fiona MacGregor among recipients of Honorary Doctorates at Dumfries



Dumfries Campus Rutherford McCowan building.

Actor Sam Heughan - best known for his role as Jamie Fraser in the TV drama series *Outlander* - is to receive an honorary doctorate at the University of Glasgow's Dumfries campus in recognition of his artistic success and his charitable work.

On the 20th anniversary of the University's Dumfries campus, the University is also conferring the honorary degrees of Doctor of the University on Wednesday, 3 July, to:

Dr Fiona Armstrong, Lady MacGregor, *Scottish Banner* columnist, TV journalist and Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries;



Lady Fiona MacGregor receiving a Royal Television Society award in 2017.

Sir Peter Lampl, Chairman of The Sutton Trust;

David Mayer de Rothschild – a British adventurer, ecologist, environmentalist and head of the charity Sculpt the Future Foundation;

Alice Thompson, co-founder of Social Bite, which started in 2012 as a sandwich shop in Rose Street in Edinburgh which operated as a social business, giving away all profits to good causes;

and Andrew Walls FRCS, Convener of The Crichton Foundation.

Recognise and celebrate the achievements of honorary graduates

The work of the recipients of the honorary degrees reflects the core interests of the University's School of Interdisciplinary Studies at Dumfries. For example, the *Outlander* series was filmed in a number of locations in Scotland, boosting tourism – taught at postgraduate level; the Sutton Trust promotes widening participation in higher education – an underlying principle of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies; and the aims of David Mayer de Rothschild's charity chime with the Environmental Science and Sustainability degree course at Dumfries. Alice Thompson's social enterprise vision and Andrew Walls' background in medicine have parallels with the School's degree in Health and Social Policy.

Professor Carol Hill, Head of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies at the University's Dumfries campus, said: "This campus has grown in influence and impact since it was opened 20 years ago in September 1999 to serve the higher education needs of Dumfries and Galloway. In this, our 20th anniversary year of celebrations, we at Dumfries are delighted to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our honorary graduates, representing a range of talents, careers and charitable interests."

Sam Heughan

Heughan was born in 1980 in the Dumfries and Galloway village Balmaclellan before moving to nearby New Galloway. He moved to Edinburgh at the age of 12 and graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) in 2003. He is best known for his role as Jamie Fraser in the Starz hit series *Outlander*, for which he received two nominations for the Saturn Awards. He was nominated for a Laurence Olivier Award for Most Promising Performer in 2003 for his performance in the play *Outlying Islands*, which was performed at the Royal Court Theatre Upstairs. Since then he has performed widely in film, TV and theatre. He has also been active in charitable work.

Attributing much of his early success to his participation in youth theatre, Heughan became a patron for Youth Theatre Arts Scotland in 2014.



Actor Sam Heughan - best known for his role as Jamie Fraser in the TV drama series *Outlander*.

In 2015, he established his charitable foundation My Peak Challenge – a training, nutrition and support programme which provides participants with a sense of community as they work towards personal goals which at the same time raising money for charity. The foundation has partnered with Leukemia Lymphoma Research, Bear Strength Clothing and Fight Camp Glasgow to raise funds for cancer research. In 2019, Heughan teamed up with Omaze, raffling off a date to the 2019 MPC Gala, which raised \$2,892,080 for Bloodwise UK; he is also president of Scotland Bloodwise. Last year he ran both the Stirling and EMF Edinburgh Marathons to raise money for Cahonas Scotland's Testicular Cancer Education and Awareness Programme.

As part of its "20 years in Dumfries" celebrations, the University's Dumfries campus is hosting a series of lectures, conferences and other events. For details see: www.gla.ac.uk/events/dumfries

Montreal Highland Games

Sunday, August 4, 2019

Douglas Hospital Grounds, Verdun, QC

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stay for the fun!

#ScotlandRocks the Ceilidh Tent with
Mariner's Curse & The American Rogues.

Enjoy the pipes, drums & dancers,
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SCOT POURRI

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

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

Atholl Gathering



Photo: Derek Maxwell.

Sarah Muir celebrates being declared overall winner at the Atholl Gathering. On a wet and windy day at Blair Castle, Sarah from Campbeltown, won the Piobaireachd and the March, Strathspey and Reel.

She was placed second in the March, Strathspey and Reel. This piping event is sponsored by the William Grant Foundation. *Derek Maxwell Scotland*

Ron Dempsey

I wish to add my warmest thanks to Ron for his great work uncovering *What's In A Name* over the years. My usual practice, when I received *the Banner* was to read the Editorial and then straight to Ron Dempsey's article, which I always enjoyed reading.

I have corresponded with Ron over the years, particularly with regard to Clan Donnachaidh.

I wish Ron a very happy retirement.

Regards,

Gordon Robertson

Secretary Clan Donnachaidh Society New South Wales Inc.

Australia

Thank you Ron

I wanted to write to *the Scottish Banner* after reading Ron Dempsey has written his last column of *What's In a Name*. I thoroughly enjoyed his monthly column and have learned so much about so many unique names. I often would read about a friend or co-workers surname and surprise them with a tid bit of information of their own name, which often was met with great surprise and thanks. I also hope Ron and *the Banner* knows this column has given me a passion for genealogy and looking into where I came from all those generations ago. Ron as you hang up your keyboard please do so with pride knowing you have brought a great deal of interest to so many.

I continue to enjoy *the Scottish Banner* every month, a link to the land of my ancestors- as I have confirmed through my own genealogy journey.

Kaye Robertson

Toronto, Ontario

Canada

Scottish education

I was interested in the article *The Scottish School System (the Scottish Banner, April, 2019)*, as I am one who has benefited from the system.

One must remember that Scotland had five universities at a time when England had only two, Oxford and Cambridge, and entry to them for some time was restricted to members of the Church of England. London University was founded in the mid nineteenth century.

Scotland's first University, St. Andrew's, was founded in the fourteenth century quickly followed by Aberdeen. Then in 1452 Glasgow was founded, followed by a second university in Aberdeen and then Edinburgh University followed.

Bursaries and scholarships were often available from the local authority, who also helped with travelling expenses, and Andrew Carnegie, the Scottish American philanthropist created bursaries too. They were available to children on a meritocracy basis, and my late husband was a fortunate recipient of one.

We must not forget Scotland's contribution to the world via its excellent education system.

At present my great grandson is in his second year at Glasgow University, where he is one of some thirty odd dating from 1910 who have graduated from this august establishment, covering many disciplines.

Yours,

Mrs June Laws

Little Mountain, Queensland

Australia

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send your photos or letters via social media

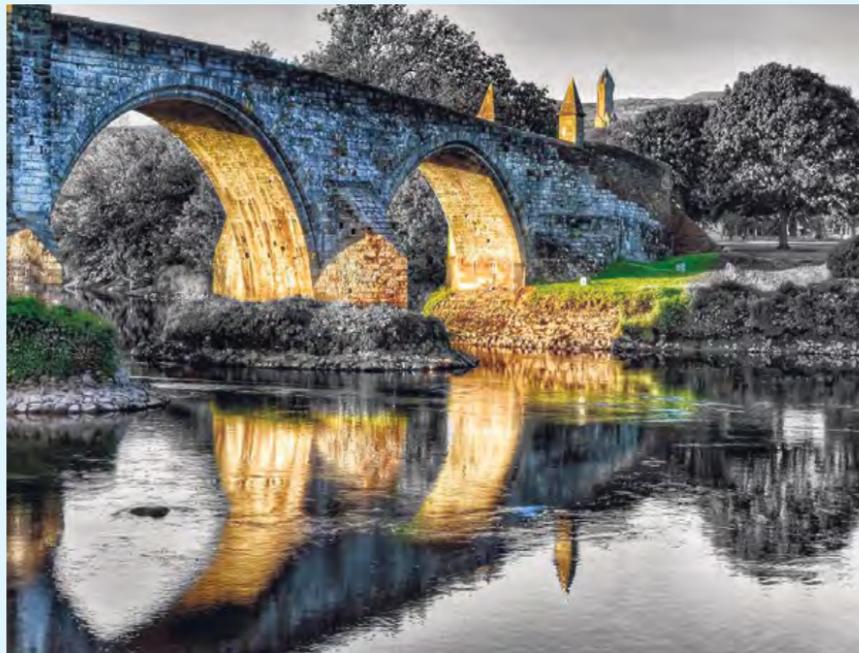


Loch Restil



Loch Restil, Argyll Saturday morning the light was amazing. *GN Photography Scotland*

Wallace Monument & Stirling Bridge



Wallace Monument & Stirling Bridge. *Robert Gibb Scotland*

The Society of John De Graeme



In May 1296 as Wallace rose up against English occupation in the south Sir Andrew De Moray raised the Standard at Avoch, today its known as the Northern Rising *P Jamieson & C Halliday*

John Paul Jones

The Father of the American Navy



Museum interior.

John Paul Jones is one of Scotland's and America's greatest heroes that most citizens have no idea of. Born of humble Scottish beginnings on July 6th, 1747, he was the fifth and youngest child of the Scottish groundskeeper for Arbigland Estate. An excellent student and outstanding sailor, at age 13 he signed on as a cabin boy in the British Merchant Navy. Overcoming incredible racism (he was Scottish after all), he earned his way to becoming a ship master at the age of 21 in the Navy.

Jones then volunteered his services to his adopted country, the American colonies, in their fight for Independence. Again, he overcame incredible racism (he was born and raised in Great Britain, the enemy) just to be selected into the Continental Navy, he was only selected because he became a Mason whilst in Scotland. Jones rose through the ranks and became the greatest American naval hero in the American Revolutionary War. He later went on to win incredible naval battles for Catherine the Great of Russia!

Honored officer

John Paul Jones, single handily brought fear to the greatest military power at the time, Great Britain. He did it repeatedly against unbelievable odds against the greatest Navy in history, at the time.

Without John Paul Jones, a strong case can be made that America would have lost the Revolution War. Only 5 men were honored by the US Continental Congress for their role in the Revolutionary War: John Paul Jones was the only Naval Officer honored; one of the other 4 was George Washington himself! King Louis XVI of



A memorial with both US and Scottish flags.

France honored John Paul Jones with a prestigious medal and golden sword, the only foreigner to ever be so honored by King Louis XVI. Catherine the Great also honored John Paul Jones for his naval victories.

Very few people in history have had such a profound affect. Yet, very few people know about this incredible hero of Scotland, America, France and Russia.

Sacred historic ground of Scotland and America history

The life of John Paul Jones is an unbelievable testimony to what one incredibly dedicated, motivated and unwilling to give up individual can do for freedom on a worldwide scale. His life has inspired untold numbers of people to work for and sacrifice in the defence of freedom. His museum must be kept open to keep inspiring untold numbers more, like me.

John Paul Jones is one of Scotland's and America's greatest heroes that most citizens have no idea of.

As an American, especially a retired naval officer who graduated from the US Naval Academy, I am both ashamed and angry that the US government has never contributed one cent to the upkeep of the John Paul Jones Birthplace Cottage Museum. We spend tens of millions of dollars every year on state dinners, parties for foreign diplomats, parties for entertainers, parties for government workers, trips for congress and their staffs/ families and more. Yet all these years, not one cent for one of our greatest Founding Fathers and The Father of the US Navy.

For approximately \$30,000 a year (or for less than the cost of sending one congressional party overseas on a "fact finding mission") the Museum could not only survive but grow into its goal of becoming the worldwide acknowledge expert on John Paul Jones. The Museum also wants to tell the world of the amazing contribution other Scots from this small area, made to the Revolutionary War (for example, George Washington's personal doctor was born at Arbigland at approximately the same time as John Paul Jones).

The Museum is sacred historic ground of Scotland and America history. To let it disappear would be a crime and an incalculable loss to future generations, especially considering it costs so little to maintain.

The John Paul Jones Cottage Museum

Visitors to the John Paul Jones Cottage Museum can watch a 20-minute video of John Paul Jones life, then move through the exhibition where the story boards go into more depth about his story bringing his story up to his actual burial in Annapolis, Maryland.

There is also the scale model of the *USS Bonhomme Richard*, books written about his life, a life size bust of John paul Jones, memorabilia donated by the *USS John*

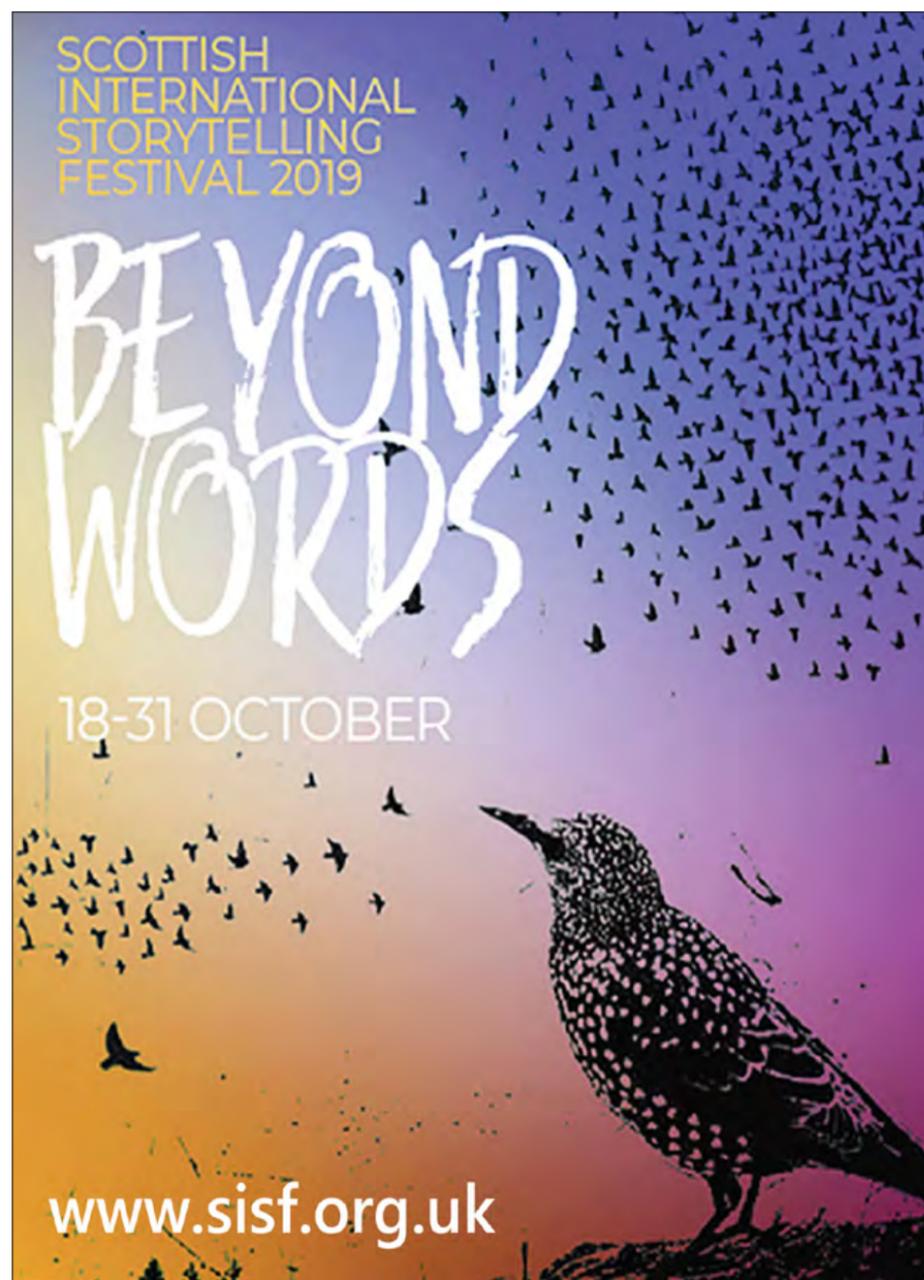
Paul Jones and USS Bonhomme Richard, plus photos and general information about the American connection within the immediate area. In the actual cottage there is a slide presentation of the Battle of Flamborough Head and an audio narrated by his "mother" on her life after the children, and John paul Jones had left.

The Museum grounds are also perfect fora picnic or BBQ overlooking the Solway Firth with the Cumbrian Hills on the far side, located in a beautiful coastal and rural part of south west Scotland.

The John Paul Jones Cottage Museum is located outside of Dumfries. The Museum will be holding a birthday celebration on July 6th in honor of John Paul Jones. For information or to support the Museum and its work see: www.jpj.demon.co.uk



The John Paul Jones Cottage Museum.



www.sisf.org.uk

SCOTSPEAK

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

“Scotland’s space sector is young, but has strong potential and an appetite for significant growth. There is already international interest in opportunities here for design, manufacturing and supply chain businesses, and launch operations. HIE is delighted to be working with our partners in the Spaceport 1 consortium to develop these ambitious plans for the Outer Hebrides.”

Rachel MacKenzie, area manager for Highland and Islands Enterprise Innse Gall, said that North Uist residents are set to get a taste of the space race after plans were unveiled to create the UK’s first vertical-launch commercial spaceport on the Outer Hebridean island, creating up to 70 jobs. The local government council is investing around £1m to purchase the land where the launch facility will be constructed, from where rockets will be launched vertically, offering low-cost, safe and efficient access to sun synchronous and polar orbits.



“We need to know more about where the Great Yellow bumblebee is holding on, so we can take action to protect it before it’s too late. Anyone can get involved with this citizen science initiative to save a species. Because this iconic insect’s last havens are in some of the country’s most far-flung corners, we don’t have enough volunteers to find and record its whereabouts. So we’re asking people holidaying in the northwest Highlands and Islands this year – as well as those living in these beautiful places – to help.”

Katy Malone, Bumblebee Conservation Trust’s Scotland Conservation Officer, said as people taking their holidays in northwest Scotland this summer are being asked to help identify some of the last locations of one of the UK’s rarest bumblebees, in a new bid by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust to pull the insect back from the brink of extinction. The conservation charity wants people to hunt for the rare Great Yellow bumblebee at sites ranging from Tiree, the Uists, Harris and Lewis, across Sutherland and Caithness on the mainland, to Orkney and Shetland. During the past century, the UK’s bumblebee populations have crashed, and two species went extinct. Loss of flower-rich habitat – including the loss of at least 97% of wildflower meadows – is the biggest threat to the survival of these important pollinators. Climate change, disease and pesticides may also be major threats. Today, 24 bumblebee species remain – several of which have declined dramatically.

“We wanted the visitor experience to be at the heart of Ardnahoe. Our family business values and our distillery team, most of whom are islanders and steeped in the whisky industry, offer a warm Islay welcome to all who want to be part of the Ardnahoe journey.”

Andrew Laing, export director of the Ardnahoe Distillery on Islay said. Ardnahoe is the first new distillery on Islay since 2005. The distillery, on the island’s north-east coast, expects to welcome 20,000 visitors each year, with up to 30 people employed in retail, dining, tours and other events.

“This is a significant day in the long history of our World Heritage site and the internationally important monuments it contains. The agreement signed commits us to working side-by-side to care for the site and ensuring the best possible arrangements are in place to manage visitor numbers in the best interests of the site, the monuments and our community as a whole.”

James Stockan, leader of Orkney Islands Council, said that over £300,000 will be invested in key Orkney historic sites to preserve them and enhance the visitor experience for tourists and locals alike. The island boasts some of Scotland’s most stunning Neolithic sites and attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year.



“We want to hear about what the people of Glasgow want to say about a beloved public space which is a huge part of our civic life and history. So we are now looking to properly and meaningfully engage our citizens, businesses and visitors about George Square’s use or design through this public engagement, and this will then allow us consider and develop future plans.”

A Glasgow City Council representative said as the Council is planning to transform the area and one of Glasgow’s most iconic places. Decisions are likely to focus on the debate over whether to ban or restrict vehicles from the four surrounding streets.

“I was curious to see how far I could go and now I’m officially a world record holder. When I set off this time last year, I wasn’t sure what lay ahead, but the journey was awe-inspiring, exhausting and ultimately life-changing. I’d encourage anyone to get out on their bike and discover they are capable of far more than they think they are.”

Jenny Graham, a cyclist from Inverness, said as she officially became the fastest woman to circumnavigate the world by bike.

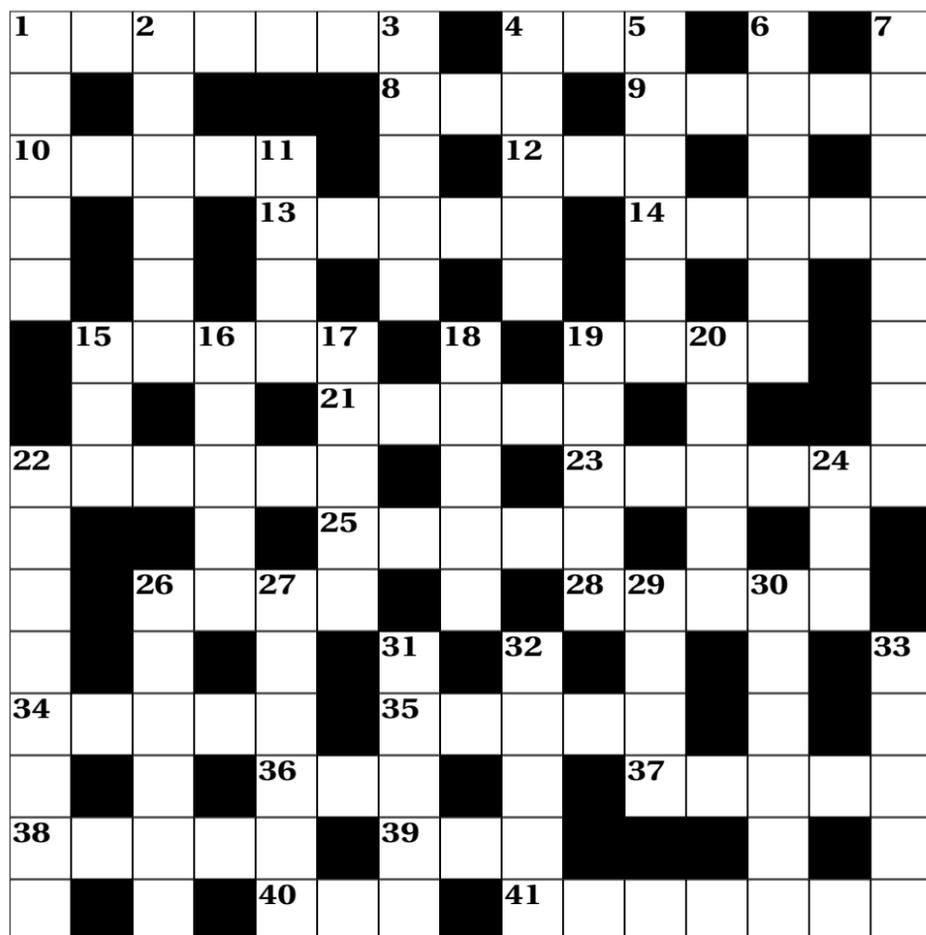
Jenny completed her feat in 124 days and 11 hours, shaving almost three weeks off the previous world record. She rode 18,000 miles across 15 countries, starting in Berlin on June 16 last year. On average, she cycled 156 miles a day, totally unsupported and carrying all of her kit.



“We can no longer sweep this under the carpet. The fact remains there are females in Shetland who wish to participate but who are being prevented from doing so solely because they are women or girls. One of our main concerns is the message that is being sent out to schoolchildren and young people who are preparing for their future participation in a modern society which does not accept exclusion from events and festivals on the grounds of one of the Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, whatever the justification may be. Shetland should not become known as the one place in the country where discrimination is permitted and in fact encouraged by the local authority.”

Sally Huband, leader of the Up Helly Aa for Aa group, said as campaigners have vowed to continue campaigning to allow females to take part in a male-only Viking festival after four schoolgirls had their applications to join the junior parade rejected. Every January 1000 men and boys march through the streets of the town during the festivity’s parade, before hurling flaming torches onto a Viking longboat in Lerwick, Shetland Islands.

SCOTWORD



Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 20!

CLUES ACROSS

- 1) Fishing town on Banff Bay (7).
- 4) To make a Scot do something (3).
- 8) Blade (3).
- 9) Town near Blairgowrie (5).
- 10) The mountain ash (5).
- 12) Time period (3).
- 13) A Scot off the straight (5).
- 14) The deil (5).
- 15) Strath near Bridge of Cally (5).
- 19) Scots cowshed (4).
- 21) Winter sportsman (5).
- 22) Village on River Lossie (6).
- 23) Town on Cromarty Firth (6).
- 25) Miss Laurie (5).
- 26) Cautious (4).
- 28) A Highlander’s dagger (5).
- 34) Praise lavishly (5).
- 35) Power units (5).
- 36) The first lady (3).
- 37) Male voice (5).
- 38) Hooked claw (5).
- 39) Scots view with them (3).
- 40) On it you’re alone (3).
- 41) Site of 1645 victory by Montrose (7).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) Firth stretching from Inverness (5).
- 2) Village near Nairn (6).
- 3) Shetland island (5).
- 4) Colourful regiment (5).
- 5) Island east of Skye (6).
- 6) An evergreen shrub (6).
- 7) Pipes for beginners (8).
- 11) Joiner’s fastener (4).
- 15) Away to a Scot (3).
- 16) Mouth of a river (5).
- 17) A composition (5).
- 18) Tell a Scotsman no (5).
- 19) Scots hillsides (5).
- 20) A series of hills (5).
- 22) Town near Edinburgh (8).
- 24) Transgression (3).
- 26) Interwoven building twigs (6).
- 27) Change one’s mind (6).
- 29) A large Scots box (4).
- 30) Place of business (6).
- 31) Peebles’ river (5).
- 32) Scots street gutter (5).
- 33) Town on River Tay (5).

The covers come off the historic Abbey Strand Buildings at the Palace of Holyroodhouse



Abbey Strand buildings © The Royal Collection Trust.

The newly restored exterior of the Abbey Strand buildings in the Canongate at the end of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh will soon be unveiled to reveal a new pale-pink facade. The restoration work was undertaken as part of Future Programme, a major programme of investment by The Royal Collection Trust to improve the visitor experience

at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. The colour of the buildings, which was produced using traditional methods, was chosen by The Duke of Rothesay (The Prince of Wales's title when in Scotland). His Royal Highness is known for his interest in heritage buildings and, as Chairman of The Royal Collection Trust, is closely involved with the project.

For the past year, the Abbey Strand buildings had been covered with a nine-metre-high scaffold wrap, behind which the specialist restoration work was carried out. The ground and first floors will house a new Learning Centre, opening in late 2019. The buildings' new pink lime-mortar coating is a rough-cast finish that has been used in Scottish construction for hundreds of years. The pink colour was produced using mineral pigment from the red sandstones of Dumfries, which yield a red-ochre tone.

The buildings' new pink lime-mortar coating is a rough-cast finish that has been used in Scottish construction for hundreds of years.

900-year history

Adjacent to the buildings, a new public garden is being created, inspired by some of the earliest recorded gardens at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Within the garden, a flowering meadow of medicinal plants will evoke the monastic

gardens of Holyrood Abbey. A formal arrangement of raised flowerbeds will be planted to reflect the design of the royal gardens, as documented in a 1647 map of Edinburgh by James Gordon of Rothiemay. In addition, a physic garden will reimagine the lost 17th century garden originally established at the Palace of Holyroodhouse by Sir Robert Sibbald and Dr Andrew Balfour, two of the founding members of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

Over their 500-year history, the Abbey Strand buildings have served many purposes. In 1541 they were used as a weapon store for James V of Scotland during his campaign against the English and in the 18th century they were reputedly home to Lucky Spence, the brothel keeper immortalised by the Edinburgh poet Allan Ramsay in his ballad *Lucky Spence's Last Advice*.

Tim Knox, Director of the Royal Collection, said: "The unveiling of the restored exterior of the Abbey Strand buildings is a significant stage in our Future Programme project. The next milestone will be the opening of the Learning Centre as a place for schoolchildren, adults and the local community to engage with the Royal Collection and the 900-year history of the Palace of Holyroodhouse."



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Perth's Palette of Colour



Blue Poppy.

There's a small patch of hillside in Perth that explodes into colour every spring and summer, and which becomes heady with the perfume of flowers both familiar and exotic. I mean, of course, the National Trust for Scotland's Branklyn Garden, situated low on the western flank of the city's towering Kinnoull Hill.

The garden extends to less than two acres - it's really surprisingly small - yet it's possible to lose yourself on the paths that thread the greenery or, at least, to lose your sense of time as you discover new colours and scents.

Branklyn House was built in the 1920s, in a pleasing arts and crafts style, by John and Dorothy Renton. They bought the land in 1922 from Orchardbank Nursery and two pear trees still survive from the garden's previous life. There was no grand plan for the garden, just the idea of a leafy refuge and the assurance of privacy. But the Rentons had interests in botany and, in particular, the plants of mountain Asia. They also had contacts with a number of doughty plant-hunters, including George Forrest, Frank Ludlow and George Sherriff. These were men who travelled to China, Bhutan, Kashmir and Tibet looking for new plants and who sent samples to botanic gardens in the United Kingdom.

Examples of these plants began arriving at Branklyn and in time, a small corner of Perthshire began to hold a nationally important collection of Himalayan plants. The Rentons lived for many years at Branklyn, but Dorothy died in 1966 and John in 1967. John Renton left the house and garden to the National Trust for Scotland and they took over its management from 1968.

Meconopsis, the Himalayan Blue Poppy

My most recent visit to Branklyn came on a bright spring day in April when there were already impressive displays of flowering rhododendrons. There were plenty of daffodils, of course, but also a couple of late snowdrops, in their giant 'polar bear' form. All the same, perhaps the most spectacular time to visit Branklyn is May when its speciality is in bloom.

Branklyn is famous for its collection of Meconopsis, the Himalayan Blue Poppy. Meconopsis seeds first arrived at Branklyn in the 1930s from plant hunters Ludlow and Sherriff; one of the five species now at Branklyn is, in fact, Meconopsis Sherriffii. There are also 25 meconopsis cultivars growing at Branklyn, varieties developed on site. Some of these cultivars aren't even blue.

Examples of these plants began arriving at Branklyn and in time, a small corner of Perthshire began to hold a nationally important collection of Himalayan plants.

They are a haunting and compelling sight, the blue poppies of Branklyn, and they really are a must-see. However, around 3500 species grow at Branklyn, but the blue poppies are not the only stars of the garden. For example, the national collection of cassiope is held here; these are a genus of small, shrub like plants. They flower in early summer, May to June, typically.



Memorial to Geddes.



Blue Poppy.

They are plants of the Arctic and northern mountain ranges and, just like so many Himalayan plants, they seem to like this corner of Perthshire.

There is colour throughout spring and summer at Branklyn. In the height of summer look particularly at the alpins in the scree and rock gardens, and there is always something of interest in the burn, the pond and in the small area of bog adjacent to the pond. More than plants, too, since there are toads and newts in the pond. Other wildlife likes the garden too; I saw my first butterfly of 2019 at Branklyn.

A real insight into Perth

Finding your way around is simple; just use the map in the guidebook to navigate the paths, or just lose yourself. I prefer the latter option, just wandering at will and finding new things at every corner. As I've stressed before, Branklyn is small but there is a great deal to see. The surprising thing is, given that it's just off the Dundee Road, how peaceful it is. The house, by the way, is not open to the public, although part of it is now a tearoom.

Parking for Branklyn is signposted, and the 39 bus to Arbroath stops in Dundee Road just yards from the garden. But for a real insight into Perth, how's this for a day out entirely on foot?

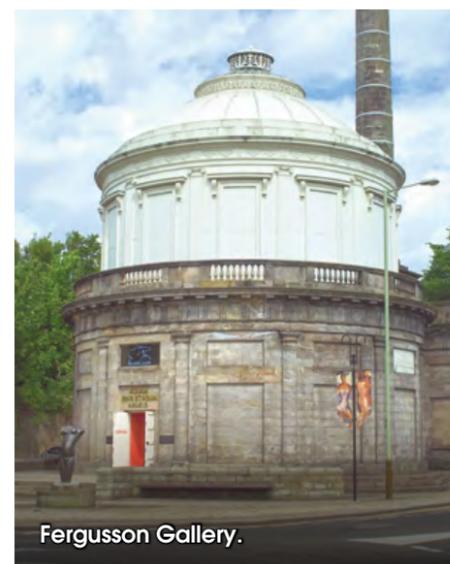


By: David McVey

A riot of Branklyn colour.

Visit the Fergusson Gallery (featuring the work of Scottish Colourist JD Fergusson) then cross the Tay by the footpath slung next to the railway bridge that takes you to the East Bank via Moncrieffe Island (which features the UK's only golf course set entirely on a river island). After visiting Branklyn Garden, if you still have the energy, climb Kinnoull Hill for its breathtaking view across the Tay, and return on foot to the city centre by the Geddes Way, a path that honours Sir Patrick Geddes (1854-1932), the polymath who had close links to Perth. It was Geddes, and not some recent Californian environmental guru, who first coined the term 'think global, act local' and the phrase is commemorated in the memorial seat at the summit of Kinnoull Hill.

That would be a full summer's day, but a memorable one. And at the heart of it would be the gem of Branklyn Garden, Perth's palette of colour.



Fergusson Gallery.



Perth from Moncrieffe Island.

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.



Billy's, Dan's and Auld Tin Cans

*If ye'r lookin' for trouble,
Ye've come to the right place,
If you're lookin' for a fight,
I'll smack ye in the face.*

We looked the same; we talked the same and we even thought the same, - at least at first. We had all tumbled into this diverse city from our mothers' wombs to breathe the same polluted air and to live on the same grey streets. So perhaps Glasgow's children would have done themselves, and their city, a great favour if they had all decided to answer 'tin can' to the question "are you a Billy, a Dan or an auld tin can?", that is rather than Protestant or Catholic. The religious divide between the Protestant and Roman Catholic populations of Glasgow showed itself as one of the city's darker attributes. The idea that "one person's religious opinion and adherence was better than another's" was very much alive in Glasgow and sat happily with the idea that "my God is better than your God." The havoc, death and destruction such naïve views have caused throughout history were often ignored.

Glasgow became Scotland's main population centre

After the Reformation of 1560 and up until the 18th century, Glasgow was a small, staunchly protestant city. At the time of Union with England it was still a homely provincial city with a population of 12,000. It was only during the 1820's and 1830's that Glasgow became Scotland's main population centre and that smoke began to spew from its hundreds of factories to blacken its buildings for us still to come. By 1821 its population had reached 147,043 and it now surpassed Edinburgh's 138,235 and the population figures for all other towns and cities in the British Empire, except of course, London. As it poised to enter the Victorian age, it became entitled to call itself the Second City of the British Empire; and when the youthful Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837, the city's population had exploded and grown into a quarter of a million people.

At that time there were 85 places of worship in the city, 40 belonging to the Church of Scotland, 39 to the dissenting Protestant churches, 4 to the Episcopalians and 2 to the Roman Catholics. The Irish potato famines were about to change all of that. The famines and the continuing rapid industrialisation of the city brought about an influx of Irish Catholic immigrants, in search of work and a living. They could buy a cheap sixpenny deck passage and make their way easily and quickly to Glasgow to look for a new opportunity. That influx by large numbers of people of a different religious tradition was to change the face and culture of Glasgow irrevocably in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. At this same time there was much new building going on such as the four storey Victorian tenements that were to become a feature of the city. But although some of Glasgow's new industrial wealth brought into existence some of its later much admired rich, Victorian public buildings, it also created a great deal of poorly-built public housing.

Some of the worst housing conditions in Britain

Housebuilding could not keep pace with the flood of newcomers, not only from Ireland but also from the Highlands and rural areas of Scotland, all seeking work. By 1831 it was estimated that there were around 163,000 Scots, 36,000 Irish 3,000 English, and about 500 'foreigners' living in Glasgow. Many people had no choice but to lodge in overcrowded, wretched, unsanitary hovels in the vennels and wynds of the old city.

As Glasgow began to acquire its other title as 'the workshop of the Empire' and as the population continued to increase towards a million people, it also acquired a reputation for having some of the worst housing conditions in Britain and a reputation for violence born of those conditions. Although its Irish immigrants were to contribute to the city's overcrowding in its tenements, more importantly the juxtaposition of the two religious faiths was to bring about a Glasgow humour and culture, born of diversity, adversity and conflict that was destined to eventually enrich the life of the city and to produce a born Glasgow comedian on every street corner.

To the best of my knowledge there was never any sectarian trouble on the street where I lived. Our good neighbours downstairs were the Kelly's, a Roman Catholic family. Across the side fence were the Gallagher's, another Catholic family. Upstairs and through the wall were the Smarts, a Protestant family and downstairs from them another protestant family.

The juxtaposition of the two religious faiths was to bring about a Glasgow humour and culture, born of diversity, adversity and conflict that was destined to eventually enrich the life of the city and to produce a born Glasgow comedian on every street corner.

The boys and girls who I played with were both Roman Catholic and Protestant and were scattered throughout our Street. There were lots of kids around our street and in the early days my circle of friends never needed to extend any further. It was a close-knit community, probably because we were literally on the very edge of the Pollok Housing Scheme. All of our neighbours seemed to be honest, reliable

and hard-working people, who got on well together, each and every day, without any evidence of bigotry. But I may have been especially lucky where I lived as a child and I accept that I would not have been party to knowing half of what might have been going on. But I have admired my parents and our neighbours since, for maintaining good relations amongst themselves.

The Orange Walk

Yet on the Saturday closest to the 12th of July, the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, I would be found standing on Argyll Street with my father, watching the Orange Walk and listening to children's chants of 'Are you a Billy or a Dan or an auld tin can?' and hear them sing, *The Sash* my father Wore. My father had taught me religious tolerance but here we were watching the banners and bands turn around the corner from St Enoch Square into Argyll Street. Many of the onlookers were singing *The Sash*, in memory of the seemingly sacred orange bandolier worn by the victorious King William of Orange, their hero from the Battle of the Boyne, against King James VII. My dad had a very low opinion of Orangemen and very little respect for the Orange Lodge for he saw them as trouble-makers and bigots, but he loved to be part of a big crowd and he was always attracted by their stirring music and street processions. On 12th July each year he took me to see the parades and here we were once again entranced by the music and the spectacle.

Game of Thrones Kingdom-wide takeover



Following the most anticipated finale in television history, Doone Castle, along with three other places in the UK, have been transformed into the World of Westeros to mark the Digital Download release of *Game of Thrones: The Final Season*. In this Kingdom-wide takeover, Doone Castle, Essex, Blackpool and London's Covent Garden have all pledged their allegiance to the legacy of the show by unveiling signs with their new names, encouraging members of the public to find them. For one week, Doone Castle was renamed Winterfell after being used as the filming location for the Stark family home in the pilot episode.

Thrones-fever has been ever present throughout the UK, and around the world, since the show's opening episode in 2011. People up and down the country now have had the opportunity to relive and celebrate the fictional locations we

have all grown to know and love with the following signs being unveiled:

Winterfell – formerly known as Doone Castle, Stirlingshire, Scotland.

Highgarden – formerly known as Covent Garden, London.

Castle Black-pool – formerly known as Blackpool.

Essos – formerly known as Essex.

Gillian Macdonald, Head of Business Development and Enterprise at Historic Environment Scotland, said: "We are delighted to be involved with the *Game of Thrones* takeover. Doone Castle was featured as the location for Winterfell in the pilot episode so it's fantastic to be chosen as the much-loved Westeros location now that the TV series is coming to an end. We hope fans of *Game of Thrones* across the country will visit Doone Castle and enjoy walking in the footsteps of Jon Snow and the Starks!"

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“Without a word of a lie, I’m Donald from Skye.”

Meet the animated character created to help tourists visiting popular Scottish island



Visitors to the Isle of Skye will now be welcomed by Donald, who will answer their questions and give them important information whilst staying on the island. The creation of local businessman Calum MacDonald, it is hoped that Donald from Skye will act as a friendly face for the island and even build up his own following with his trademark ginger beard, kilt and quirky catchphrases.

Donald from Skye is an animated character and the star of a short film about the island. Donald, assisted by his trusted companion Fergie the Tractor, tells visitors to Skye all they need to know – from where to stay and what to do, to how to drive safely on the roads and where to park.

Visitors can ask Donald any questions they have about their visit and a short animated film of Donald from Skye will be available on Donald’s YouTube channel; acting as a unique and informative source for anyone wishing to visit Skye.

Beauty of an island

Commenting on the launch, Donald from Skye said: “Without a word of a lie, I’m Donald from Skye! I’m here with my pal Fergie the Tractor to help anyone who’d like to visit this beauty of an island that I’ve called home all my life. Whether you’re looking for somewhere to get a tasty meal or have a wee dram; looking for a tour from a local like me; or need somewhere to rest your wee head

for a few nights – I’m the man for the job and can tell you everything you need to know.

“I’ve got my own short film, giving information on Skye, and, can you believe it, I’ve even got a range of merchandise! Have a wee look at my YouTube channel and go to the website to ask me anything about the island. Fergie and I hope to see you soon on Skye!”

A friendly face for the island

Creator Calum MacDonald was inspired by a previous drawing by his niece, Sadie MacDonald. Calum said: “In November 2017, following on from Skye receiving negative publicity during that summer, I was inspired by a drawing my niece had drawn of her family. I came up with the idea of creating a character from Skye, acting as a friendly face for the island and having him help solve the problems Skye was facing.

“Since then Donald has developed into an animated character and is the star, along with Fergie the Tractor, of his own animated film. Donald and Fergie answer any questions visitors might have about Skye on the website and we hope to add further episodes of Donald from Skye soon.

“The Donald from Skye website acts as a hub of information for visitors, with business listings, a ‘recommended by Donald’ list and clips of Donald and Fergie. Donald from Skye is also on social media, allowing visitors to see updates and recommendations from Donald directly on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.”



Calum MacDonald and Donald.

“I hope Donald from Skye will be informative and entertaining for both tourists and locals, and enhance their experiences on this beautiful island.”



For more details see: www.donaldfromskye.com

Orca Watch takes place in Scotland



Orcas photographed off the John O’Groats Ferries, in the Pentland Firth, this May. Photo: Steve Truluck.

Every year, scientists at the Sea Watch Foundation lead a campaign to involve members of the general public in collecting records of orcas, and any other cetacean species utilising the waters of the Pentland Firth and neighbouring seas. For over forty years, Sea Watch Foundation scientists as well as volunteer observers all around the coasts of the British Isles from Shetland to the Isles of Scilly have been reporting sightings of whales, dolphins and porpoises (cetaceans) to inform Sea Watch’s massive database of records. The scheme is one of the oldest and longest running citizen

science projects in the world. As Orca’s travel south from Iceland to Shetland, and Scotland in search of food. Each May, the Pentland Firth welcomes back the charity’s annual Orca Watch event during which the North coast is visited by hundreds of whale enthusiasts, tourists and local media wanting to witness the passage of orcas close to shore.

The largest and longest-running sightings schemes in the world

With the possibility of underwater turbines installed in the area, a decision was made to establish a seasonal

watch to gather information on how orcas use this area and what might be the consequences of such an installation. Watches were conducted at Duncansby Head, Caithness, the main viewpoint, around Orkney and Shetland. There were also volunteer observers onboard the John O’Groats ferry (connecting mainland to Orkney), collecting sightings and effort data. More than two thousand people have contributed sightings to the Sea Watch Foundation’s National Database that currently comprises over 60,000 records, making it one of the largest and longest-running sightings schemes in the world. Scientists and volunteers do complete sightings forms for Sea Watch, recording not only the sightings they make but, where possible, also the number of hours spent watching or the distance travelled in a boat. Even when no cetaceans are seen, it is important to have a measure of effort in order to interpret sightings more effectively.

“Being able to sight so many different cetacean species in Caithness, Orkney and Shetland so close to shore is something truly amazing!” says Dr Chiara Giulia Bertulli, Sea Watch Sightings Officer and lead organiser of this year’s event. “What we hope for is to be able to collect sightings data involving members of the general public, helping each other while sharing skills. Sightings are important because

they give us information about where and when particular species occur, from which we can identify important areas and habitats, as well as determine changes in their status and distribution. Such knowledge helps provide better informed conservation measures”, concludes Chiara.

Orca Watch takes place annually in May and this year’s National Whale and Dolphin Watch takes place between 27th July and 4th August. For details see: www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk



Orca’s in Scottish waters. Photos: Colin Bird.

Glengarry Highland Games

Keeping tradition in Ontario's Celtic Heartland



The incredible Massed Bands display at Glengarry Highland Games.

For seventy-two years, thousands have been trekking to the small Canadian farming community of Maxville, Ontario, for the annual Glengarry Highland Games. Held in one of the most beautiful settings for any event, the Games offer excellent vantage points to view the impressive

Friday night Tattoo, Saturday's Official Ceremonies and the not-to-be-missed Massed Bands performances. This August 2nd and 3rd, the Games will once again welcome their fans, old and new for another exciting celebration of all things Scottish.

Throughout the grounds, shady, restful spots can be found to watch a Grade One pipe band warm up for their competition or to cheer on junior heavyweights in their first attempt at the caber toss. Indoors, endless Celtic entertainment provides dancing and listening enjoyment. More than 200 Highland dancers compete in the Arena during the two days. One hundred up-and-coming young fiddlers perform on Friday in the air-conditioned dining hall, while the Metcalfe Centre is the

hub for comfortable listening to a wide array of Celtic music. For those who are more energetic, the tents resound with music and laughter as friends congregate to dance to the tunes of Glengarry's finest bands.

On the infield, intense competitions keep the audiences cheering as the heavyweight athletes strive to set new Canadian and World records. In another area, the Canadian Highland Regiments struggle to win the Challenge Cup in the increasingly popular Tug of War. Around the infield, pipe bands practice and compete while in another area, the 78th Fraser Highlanders delight the crowds with their 18th-century musket drill.

Great Celtic entertainment

Each year, the Games welcome a celebrated Canadian hero to be the Guest of Honour. This year the Games are proud to announce that Glengarry's very own Brigadoons will officially open the Games. This popular celtic group had its beginnings in Glengarry in 1960 and since then has thrilled fans at Celtic festivals, Highland Games, concerts and cruises across North America and the Caribbean. No Games Tattoo would be official without the Brigadoons starting it off with the famed MacCulloch Dancers.

On the entertainment front, Glengarry's renowned Celtic bands will be out in full force



The Brigadoons in the early days.

throughout the two days: the Brigadoons of course, Stewart's Glen, Bob and Ducky, Fridge Full of Empties, Hadrian's Wall, Bang on the Ear and more. Everyone is excited that The Next Generation Leahy will be headlining the Friday night Tattoo to continue their rained-out show of two years ago.

Not to be forgotten are the Whisky Tasting (spaces are filling up fast), the Kilt Run (kilts are mandatory), the Wee Bairns area (fun for the very young set), Thursday night's formal Tartan Ball (Highland Dress encouraged) and the Harp Workshop on Saturday (bring your own harp). Then, there's the Fiddling Workshops on Saturday, the Clan Exhibits and the Clan Parade (join your clan for a walk in front of the cheering infield).

Full details on all this and more can be found at: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com. You can also follow the Games on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



The Brigadoons' were inducted to 'The Glengarry Celtic Music Hall of Fame' in 2006.

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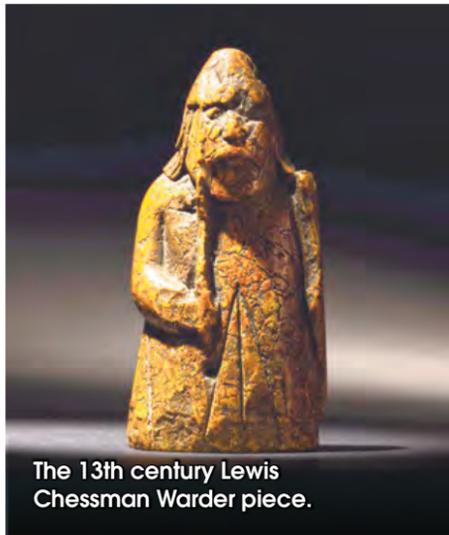
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A newly discovered Lewis Chessman is discovered



The 13th century Lewis Chessman Warder piece.



Lewis Chess pieces at the National Museum of Scotland. Photo: ©National Museum of Scotland.

One of the highlights of the Old Master Sculpture & Works of Art auction in London on 2 July will be a newly discovered Lewis Chessman. Bought for £5 by an antiques dealer in Edinburgh in the 1960s, the piece is estimated to bring £600,000-1,000,000.

Rightly regarded as the most famous chess pieces to have survived from the medieval world, the Lewis Chessmen secured their place in history when they were found in 1831 on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. The remarkable hoard constituted the greatest ever discovery of medieval chess pieces, and from the moment they were unearthed, the Lewis Chessmen evoked their own mysterious world, steeped in folklore, legend and the rich tradition of story-telling. They have continued to inspire every new generation, from the classic British 1960s children's animated television series, *The Sagas of Noggin the Nog*, to, most recently, *Harry Potter*, in the Warner Bros. production of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, and Japanese Manga, in Hoshino Yukinobu's Professor Munakata's British Museum Adventure.

The hoard comprised 93 objects, the majority carved from walrus ivory, which could make four complete sets of figure pieces, with the exception of one Knight and four Warders. In addition to the 59 chessmen, there were 19 pawns and 14 flat, circular games pieces and one belt buckle (the only outsider in the hoard).

Of those 93 pieces, 82 are in the British Museum in London and 11 are in the collection of the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, the whereabouts of the remaining five pieces unknown. Now, on 2 July in London, Sotheby's will offer what appears to be the first additional piece from the Lewis hoard to have been discovered since 1831.

Acquired for £5 in 1964 by an antiques dealer in Edinburgh and passed down the same family by descent, the 'new' Lewis Warder will be presented with an estimate of £600,000-1,000,000 in the Old Master Sculpture & Works of Art sale. Its appearance marks the first time that one of the chessmen has ever come up for sale at auction.

Magical significance

Alexander Kader, Sotheby's Co-Worldwide Head of European Sculpture & Works of Art, said: "With fond memories from my childhood of the brilliantly animated television series that paid full tribute to the inspiration of the Lewis hoard, this is one of the most exciting and personal rediscoveries to have been made during my career. Today all the chessmen are a pale ivory colour, but the new Lewis Warder's dark tone clearly has the potential to offer valuable and fresh insight into how other Lewis chessmen may have looked in the past."

There is certainly more to the story of this warder still to be told, about his life over the last 188 years since he was separated from his fellow chessmen, and just as interesting, about the next chapter in his journey now that he has been rediscovered."

A family spokesperson said: "My grandfather was an antiques dealer based in Edinburgh, and in 1964 he purchased an ivory chessman from another Edinburgh dealer. It was catalogued in his purchase ledger that he had bought an 'Antique Walrus Tusk Warrior Chessman'. From this description it can be assumed that he was

unaware he had purchased an important historic artefact. It was stored away in his home and then when my grandfather died my mother inherited the chess piece.

My mother was very fond of the Chessman as she admired its intricacy and quirkiness. She believed that it was special and thought perhaps it could even have had some magical significance. For many years it resided in a drawer in her home where it had been carefully wrapped in a small bag. From time to time, she would remove the chess piece from the drawer in order to appreciate its uniqueness."

'Phantom' volcanoes discovery signals new hope for North Sea oil and gas exploration



Geologists at the University of Aberdeen have discovered a huge swathe of the North Sea left unexplored for oil and gas because of so-called 'phantom' volcanoes they have proven don't exist. The 7000 sq km area, known as the Rattray Volcanic Province, was previously thought to contain the remains of three volcanoes that erupted 165 million years ago, when the North Sea tried to create an ocean between itself and Europe - a 'rifting' episode geologists have described as a failed 'Jurassic Brexit' attempt.

For decades it was assumed that the area contained the empty remains of old magma chambers, ruling out the possibility of oil and gas discoveries.

However, a study led by Dr Nick Schofield and PhD student Ailsa Quirie from the University's School of Geosciences, with colleagues from Heriot-Watt and the University of Adelaide, has overturned this view.

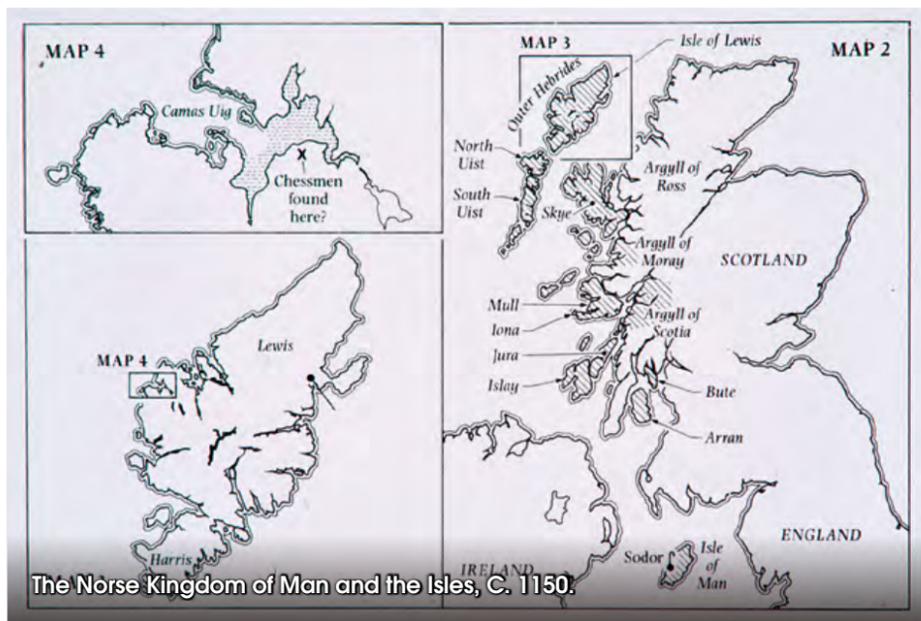
Dr Schofield explained: "Building on methods we have used to look at prospectivity in volcanics elsewhere in the UKCS, we combined 3D seismic data

donated to us by Petroleum Geo-Services (PGS) with well data to take a fresh look at the Rattray Volcanic Province. What we found has completely overturned decades of accepted knowledge. Previously, it was believed the area contained old magma chambers - the plumbing systems of three Jurassic-era volcanoes - that effectively ruled out the potential for oil and gas discoveries.

"However, our study has shown these volcanoes never existed at all, and that the fireworks preceding the North Sea's attempt to create an ocean with Europe came via a series of lava fissures. Essentially this gives us back a huge amount of gross rock volume that we never knew existed, in one of the world's most prolific regions for oil and gas production"

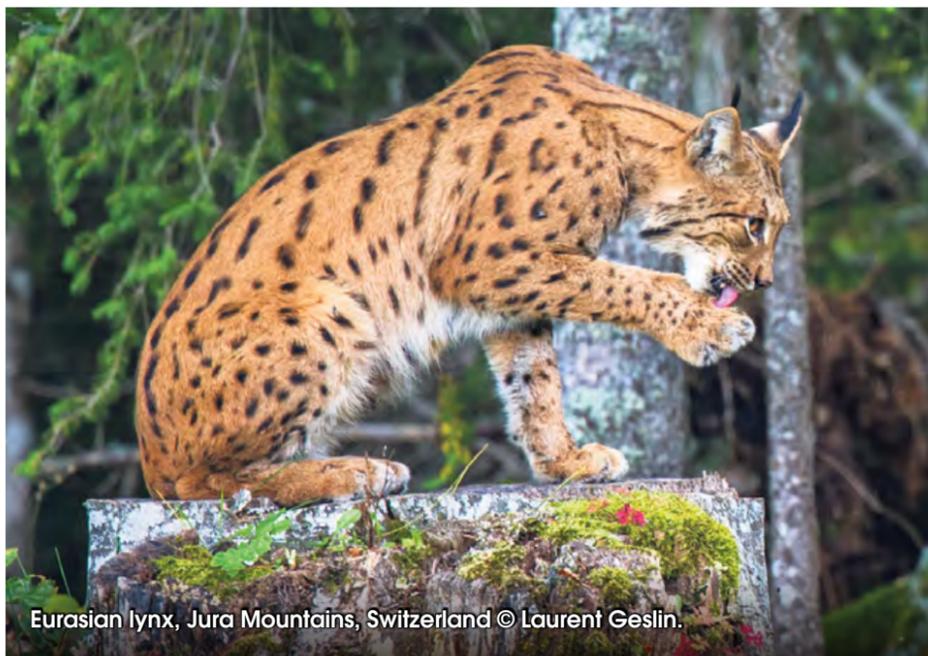
The study's findings raise the prospect of future discoveries in the area, which has been left untouched over 50 years of exploration activity in the North Sea.

"There is a huge area under there that hasn't been looked at in detail for a long time, because of the previously incorrect geological model," Dr Schofield said. "That's not to say that exploration wouldn't be challenging, but technology is constantly improving and there are still big discoveries being made in the North Sea, as we've recently seen in the Central Graben and Viking Graben areas. As the old saying goes, often the best places to look for oil are in places near to where you've already found it, and the North Sea is a prime example of that."



The Norse Kingdom of Man and the Isles, C. 1150.

New book looks at pros and cons of reintroducing lynx to Scotland



Eurasian lynx, Jura Mountains, Switzerland © Laurent Geslin.

A stunning new book published by SCOTLAND: The Big Picture looks at what it might be like if the Eurasian lynx returned to Scotland. *The Lynx and Us* - by ecologist Dr David Hetherington, with stunning photography of wild lynx from Laurent Geslin - aims to inform a growing debate about the possibility of reintroducing this charismatic predator to Scotland after an absence of more than 400 years. Drawing upon evidence from across Europe, the book examines what it would be like to have an apex predator living in our midst once again.

The Scottish Highlands

Lynx numbers are on the rise in Europe, through natural colonisation and reintroductions - sparking calls for the species' return to Britain. Whilst this may be undesirable for some, Hetherington says tangible benefits would include helping to control the damaging effects of deer in commercial woodland, and opportunities to boost Scotland's appeal for nature-based tourism. "Reintroducing lynx would be a milestone for British nature conservation. By preying on roe deer, they could play a vital role in maintaining healthy woodlands. But the lynx's return could bring challenges too, so a respectful dialogue with those who live and work in the countryside is essential before any reintroduction could ever happen," said David Hetherington.

Evidence suggests that lynx survived in Britain until after the Middle Ages. The Scottish Highlands may be where it held out longest, and this is also where Hetherington says a modern-day lynx population could live, given the area's abundance of forest and woodland deer as prey. His previous research indicates that the Highlands could support a population of at least 400 wild lynx.

A comeback across Europe

Following centuries of decline due to deforestation, persecution and overhunting, the lynx has been reintroduced to several European countries since the 1970s - including in busy areas more densely populated than the Highlands, and which are used for farming, hunting, forestry and tourism. The lynx's shyness and small size mean attacks on humans are virtually unknown.

"The lynx is staging a comeback across Europe - but in Scotland returning top predators remains a prickly conversation, often based on misunderstandings. This book aims to address that by offering a balanced discussion," said Peter Cairns, Director of SCOTLAND: The Big Picture.

In Scotland, there would be scope for conflict between lynx and human hunters of deer, but probably less so than in other countries, where there are fewer deer and more hunters. Impact on red deer stalking is unlikely to be significant because lynx

are shy ambush-hunters, which avoid open areas and instead prefer smaller woodland deer such as roe and sika. Lynx also avoid red deer stags, which are most sought after by human hunters.

"Attacks by lynx on sheep grazed in open pasture are relatively rare, but occasionally happen. Switzerland's 250 lynx cause livestock losses of 20 to 50 animals each year, while preying on 12,500 wild roe deer and chamois annually. Nevertheless, farmers here would need to be reassured that negative local impacts could be managed," said Hetherington.

Nature-based tourism

This could be achieved by using and adapting methods tested in other countries for years - such as livestock protection measures, compensation schemes, and even lethal control. Based on evidence from other countries, there would be no significant impact on threatened species such as wildcats and capercaillie. Meanwhile, lynx are known to routinely prey on foxes, which do prey on capercaillie and can compete with wildcats for food.

A major benefit of a healthy lynx population would be to reduce the impacts and costs of browsing by deer. Scotland's high numbers of woodland deer - which currently lack natural predators - can have

a costly impact on forestry and on wildlife habitats through heavy browsing.

Lynx could offer opportunities for Scotland's tourism industry, especially important in economically fragile areas such as the Highlands. Nature-based tourism is growing, and has been calculated to have a direct economic benefit to Scotland of £1.4 billion and 39,000 full-time jobs annually.

Much of the infrastructure and market for absorbing the lynx into Scotland's nature tourism market already exists. As the UK's only top predator, the species would be a major wildlife icon that could be used to help promote Scotland's wilder places to visitors. Cairngorms-based Hetherington has studied Europe's lynx for over a decade. His University of Aberdeen doctorate focused on the feasibility of reintroducing the species to Scotland.

The Lynx and Us is the second book in a series from SCOTLAND: The Big Picture, which produces stunning visual media promoting the benefits of a wilder Scotland for people and wildlife. It follows *The Red Squirrel: A future in the forest* by Neil McIntyre and Polly Pullar. For more information see: www.scotlandbigpicture.com

Do you think the lynx should be reintroduced to the Scottish Highlands? Share your thoughts with us by email, post or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



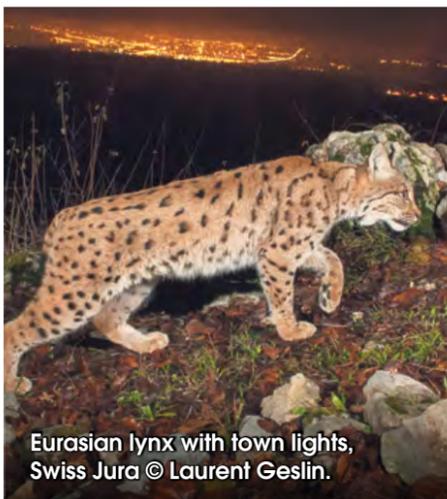
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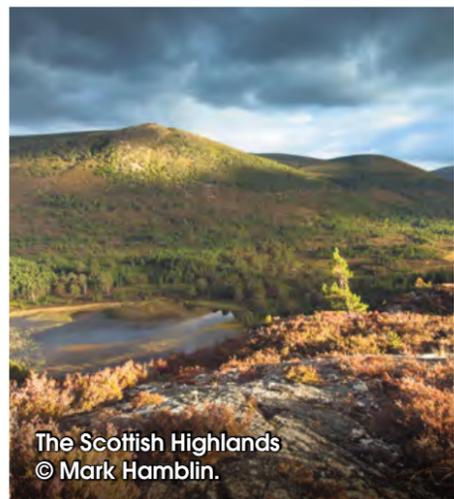
SUMMER  **2019**

<p>Pittsburgh, PA July 7-12, 2019</p> <p>Instructors: Andrew Carlisle, Bruce Gandy, George Balderose, Richmond Johnston, Gordon Bell (Drumming)</p>	<p>East Stroudsburg, PA July 14-19, 2019</p> <p>Instructors: Andrew Carlisle, Jimmy Bell, George Balderose, Richmond Johnston, Gordon Bell (Drumming), Colin Bell (Director, Celtic Ensemble Music program)</p>
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www.bagpiping.org
or call: (412) 323-2707



Eurasian lynx with town lights, Swiss Jura © Laurent Geslin.



The Scottish Highlands © Mark Hamblin.

Robert the Bruce premieres at the Edinburgh International Film Festival

Images courtesy of Signature Entertainment.



Angus Macfadyen as Robert the Bruce.

Did you know?

- Robert was born on July 11, 1274 in Ayrshire. His father was Robert de Brus, 6th Lord of Annandale. Robert was also a fourth great grandson of David I, King of Scots. His mother, Marjorie was a fearsome woman who was also the Countess of Carrick. Robert had nine siblings and was the third eldest child of his parents.
- Robert was well read and educated and spoke Scots, Gaelic, French and Latin.
- Robert loved to eat eel.
- In the winter of 1306, he was forced to flee Scotland and was exiled to a cave on Rathlin Island in Northern Ireland.
- After the death of William Wallace, Robert was determined to win Scotland's independence from England.
- At the Battle of Bannockburn in June 1314, Robert the Bruce defeated a much larger English army under Edward II, confirming the re-establishment of an independent Scottish monarchy.



The film, made by Australian director Richard Gray, will be receiving its World Premiere at the prestigious Edinburgh International Film Festival. The epic story of Scotland's greatest heroes will play in competition at the 73rd edition of the world's longest running and highest regarded film festival in June.

Scotland 1306, Robert the Bruce crowns himself King and takes the ambition of Scotland's freedom as his own.



On location in Scotland.

Robert the Bruce is a hard-hitting historical epic covering the turbulent time after William Wallace's victories depicted in Braveheart.

Robert the Bruce is a hard-hitting historical epic covering the turbulent time after William Wallace's victories depicted in *Braveheart*. Angus Macfadyen reprises the role he played so memorably in *Braveheart* as Scottish leader Robert the Bruce in this retelling of the legendary story. In the last months after the injured king's forces have been decimated, he finds himself hunted across the snowy Highlands. Robert takes shelter with stoic Morag (Anna Hutchison) and her brave children, who restore him to health and help him find the resolve to rally the Scots and lead them to independence.

But he cannot overcome England's power: defeated again and again, his army is scattered and Scotland's nobility abandons him. Hunted, with a price on his head, he finds himself alone and wounded. The cause of freedom seems lost once more.

Thrilling, brutal and breath-taking

Hidden secretly in a secluded croft of a clan pledged to England, and close to death Robert is nursed back to life by a young widow and her orphaned children. His determination to do what is right, regardless of the cost, reinvigorates his passion to rise again. But it's not revenge he desires. It's freedom. Now.

Also starring Daniel Portman (*Game of Thrones*) Anna Hutchinson (*Cabin in the Woods*), Jared Harris (*The Crown*), Zach McGowan (*Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*), Patrick Fugit (*Almost Famous*), Kevin McNally (*Pirates of the Caribbean*) and Emma Kenney (*Shameless*), featuring original music from Scottish national treasure, Lulu.

Robert the Bruce picks up where *Braveheart* left off in a thrilling, brutal and breath-taking fashion.

Robert the Bruce was released in UK cinemas 20th June and will be released on DVD and Digital in October.



- Robert the Bruce adorned Scottish money for decades. In 1981, the Clydesdale Bank began issuing £1 notes with Bruce on them. Bruce held his position on that banknote until the Clydesdale Bank finished printing £1 notes in 1989. Bruce was moved onto their £20 notes instead.

- The Declaration of Arbroath is a letter written in 1320 by the barons and whole community of the kingdom of Scotland to the pope, asking him to recognise Scotland's independence and acknowledge Robert the Bruce as the country's lawful king. It is the most famous document in Scottish history.

- Robert the Bruce was of poor health during his final years. It's reported that he suffered from leprosy or a similar skin disease. Robert died on June 7, 1329 at Manor of Cardross near Dumbaron. He was buried in Dunfermline Abbey in Fife. He was then succeeded by his son, David II as King of Scotland.

- There are several statues of Robert in Scotland, including one in Edinburgh Castle and also at Bannockburn.



Anna Hutchison as Morag, with Patrick Fugit.



Angus Macfadyen as Robert the Bruce.



Mesa Caledonian Pipe Band from Arizona, USA.

Piping Inverness attracts international bands to the Highlands



Piping Inverness took place in June, with over 140 bands competing, including eight Pipe Bands from Australia, one from the USA, and one from Switzerland.

Piping Inverness encompasses the European Pipe Band Championships, which attracts 4,000 pipers and drummers and dancers to Inverness' Bught Park. This year entries have exceeded expectations, with the bands travelling from as far afield as Melbourne in

Australia, whilst closer to home, pipe bands came from Inverness, Ross and Cromarty, Dornoch, and Skye. Thirty-four Juvenile Bands also entered, with some of the pipers as young as nine participating in this much coveted competition.

The European Pipe Band Championships are a one-day competition, with bands and Drum Majors competing in nine categories. Ian Embleton, Chief Executive of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (RSPBA), said: "We're delighted that so many bands have entered the European Pipe Band Championships as part of Piping Inverness, and with 12 Grade One bands taking part this year, it's set to be a tightly fought competition. Good luck to all the competitors!"

Piping Inverness also featured a Highland Dancing competition, live entertainment and activities for all ages, including the 4 Scots and 7 Scots Regular and Reserve Regiment's climbing wall, inflatable assault course as well as their military vehicles on view.

There was also a Highland Dance competition as well as traditional craft stalls, live entertainment and food and drink outlets, which all combined to make this a fun-filled family event.

Superb pipe band competition

Rebecca Corbett of LCC Live, the organisers of Piping Inverness, said: "Piping Inverness, which incorporates the European Pipe Band Championships, is proving exceptionally popular with bands travelling from around the world, and visitors coming from near and far to enjoy what will be a superb pipe band competition. To have eight bands travelling from Australia and 12 Grade One Pipe Bands competing reinforces the popularity of the Championships, but also the appeal of Inverness as it plays host to the event for the first time."

Delighted with her role as Chieftain, the Provost of Inverness, Helen Carmichael said in the lead up to the event: "It really is a tremendous honour and privilege to be the Chieftain for such a prestigious event. Not only will the Championships bring significant economic benefit to the city, but it is also a great opportunity to showcase what Inverness and the whole Highlands can offer. I very much look forward to welcoming the many competitors and spectators from across the world to what I am sure will be a terrific occasion filled with lots of memorable sights and rousing pipe bands to savour."

Piping Inverness the European Pipe Band Championships will be held in Bught Park Inverness for a three-year run from 2019-2021.

This edition of the Scottish Banner was published prior to the results of Piping Inverness being available. For more information see: www.pipinginverness.com

Piping Inverness took place in June, with over 140 bands competing, including eight Pipe Bands from Australia, one from the USA, and one from Switzerland.

Inverness' first female Provost was chosen as the Chieftain for the European Pipe Band Championships, the first female to take on the role in over six years. Provost of Inverness, Helen Carmichael said she was honoured to be asked to fulfil the role of Chieftain for the European Pipe Band Championships. As Chieftain, Provost Carmichael met with competing bands, handed out awards to those recognised for their playing and meet the thousands of visitors attending the inaugural Piping Inverness.



Scotch College Melbourne Pipe Band from Australia.



Drummers in competition.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Calls to help save the Waverley

Paddle Steamer *Waverley* is the world's last sea-going paddle steamer and has had to cancel all summer sailings due to her boilers in need of urgent repair. In 1974 she was famously gifted for £1 to the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society (PSPS). Waverley Steam Navigation Co. Ltd, a charity registered in Scotland, was set up to operate the ship and her first sailing in preservation was May 21st, 1975. *Waverley* then began a second career as one of the country's best-loved tourist attractions.

Since she has carried over 5 million passengers from over 80 ports around the UK. *Waverley* is a unique piece of Britain's maritime heritage, bringing pleasure to tens of thousands every summer. She has been magnificently restored with towering funnels, timber decks, gleaming varnish and brass. 2003 saw the completion of a major restoration project, which returned *Waverley* to the original 1940s style in which she was built. 2017 marked 70 years since *Waverley's* maiden voyage on 16 June, 1947.

In May 2019 it was announced that *Waverley* was withdrawn from service for the 2019 season as her boilers require replacing. The charity which owns *Waverley* has no reserves to fund this project and is requesting support to ensure that *Waverley* sails again. Without new boilers the ship will never steam again. To help save the *Waverley* see: www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk/friends-of-waverley/donate

Lord Of The Rings TV series to be filmed in Scotland

Amazon's *Lord Of The Rings* TV series will begin filming in Scotland later this year, according to reports. Filming is expected to take place at a new television and film studio in Leith. The show is set to have one of the biggest budgets in television history, costing a whopping \$1 billion (£710 million) which is 3.5 times more expensive than Peter Jackson's film trilogy. The filming contract will continue the run of productions being made in Scotland will be worth millions of pounds to the Scottish economy. Amazon's *Lord Of The Rings* is expected to be released in 2021.

Scotland's best beaches 2019



Environmental charity, Keep Scotland Beautiful, has announced that 61 Scottish beaches from across the country have been recognised this year for the high standards provided to users - from keeping sand litter free to providing excellent information and accessible amenities. The annual Scottish Beach Awards act as the national benchmark for local environmental quality all along Scotland's coastline. Scotland's coastlines and waters attract thousands of visitors every year. These beach users can be assured that where they see the Scottish Beach Award flag they will have the experience they are looking for: a clean beach, excellent amenities and signposting about the local area, as well as information about water quality.

Derek Robertson, Chief Executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful said: "This year's 61 winning beaches, across 11 regions included Irvine Beach - Front Shore, an award winner for the first time since 2009. 2019 also sees many long-standing award participants return, including Gullane Bents and St Andrews West Sands, both of which celebrate 27 consecutive years as award winners." Fife retains its title as the region with the most awards, home to 14 winning beaches. The Highlands was second with 12 successful award winners. Award flags will be flying at beaches the length and breadth of Scotland. Find award winning Scottish beaches at: www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/beachawards

True age of mysterious Scottish 'artificial islands' revealed



Recovering Neolithic pottery from Loch Arnish in 2012. Photo: C Murray.



Aerial view of islet in Loch Langabhat. Photo: Fraser Sturt.

Archaeologists from the University of Southampton, working with colleagues at the University of Reading and local archaeologist Chris Murray, have discovered that some Scottish 'crannogs' date to the Neolithic period – far earlier than previously assumed.

These artificial islands, constructed in lakes and sea inlets, have, until now, thought to have been built, used, and re-used over 2,500 years between the Iron Age and the post-medieval period. However, researchers have now conclusively radiocarbon dated four crannog sites in the Outer Hebrides to c.3640–3360 BC – shifting the timeline by thousands of years. Their findings are published in the journal *Antiquity*.

In 2012, extraordinarily well-preserved Early/Middle Neolithic pots were discovered on a loch bed by Lewis resident Chris Murray. Later, working with Mark Elliot from Museum nan Eilean, he

recovered similar collections in five more crannog sites across the Island. These pottery finds suggested the crannogs could date to the Neolithic period and led the researchers to investigate using a combination of ground and underwater survey, photogrammetry, palaeoenvironmental coring and excavation. They concluded there was evidence of artificial islet construction in the Outer Hebrides during the Neolithic.

Archaeologist at the University of Southampton, Professor Fraser Sturt, comments: "These crannogs represent a monumental effort made thousands of years ago to build mini-islands by piling up many tons of rocks on the loch bed." Substantial quantities of Neolithic ceramic vessels were recovered from the lochs and their large fragmental sizes suggest that at least some, and possibly all, were complete when they entered the water. In other words, there was a systematic and possibly ritualised deposition from the islets. Although the Outer Hebrides have a significant number of crannogs, they are also common across the rest of Scotland and Ireland. Just 10 per cent have been radiocarbon dated and only 20 per cent in total have been dated at all. Professor Sturt concludes: "It appears most probable that many more Neolithic crannogs will be found. Our research shows this is a new type of site for the British Neolithic, indicating different forms of prehistoric practice. It is very exciting to think about the potential that these sites hold for improving our understanding of the past."

Prince Harry and Meghan's wedding outfits go on display in Edinburgh



Photo: The Royal Collection Trust.

A Royal Wedding: The Duke and Duchess of Sussex features the wedding outfits worn by the couple at their wedding in May 2018. The Duchess of Sussex's wedding dress was created by the British designer Clare Waight Keller, Artistic Director at the historic French fashion house Givenchy. The Duchess chose Ms Waight Keller for her timeless and elegant aesthetic, and for the impeccable tailoring of her creations. The Duchess and Ms Waight Keller worked closely together on the design.

The Duke of Sussex's wedding outfit was the frockcoat uniform of the Household Cavalry (the 'Blues and Royals'), made by tailors at Dege & Skinner on Savile Row. As the uniform specially commissioned for the occasion is required for use by His Royal Highness, an identical uniform made for The Duke by Dege & Skinner a few years is on display. The exhibition takes place at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh until October 6th.

By: Ross Manson McEwen

The largest gathering of Clan MacEwen in nearly 600 years takes place in Scotland



Sir John and the Clan Chairman, retired US marine Sean McCuin.



Vice Chairman Achim, the Clan's Pipe Major and leader of the Spessart Highlanders Pipe Band from Germany, dressed in full regalia while on parade.

Over 100 kinsmen and women gathered at the Kilfinan Hotel (at the ancestral home of the Clan in Kilfinan, Scotland), which sits a mere single mile / 0.6km from the ruins of Castle MacEwen ancestral home of Kilfinan, Scotland. These attendees travelled from New Zealand, Australia, Europe, The United States (including Hawaii and Alaska) and Canada.

The historic story of our clan is a rather sour one, with the clan disbanding in the 1430s due to financial disputes with the Campbells of Inverarey. The final Chief Swene McEwen passed away in 1496 and the clan disbanded and spread across Scotland and the world subsequently.

The first MacEwen Chief in over 500 years

The gathering/convention in June was not merely any normal Clan Gathering, MacEwen have been pursuing the installing of a new Clan Chief for several years. The Clan's choice for chief is their current Commander Sir John R.H McEwen 5th Baronet of Marchmont and Bardrochat. Sir John was sworn in as Commander of the name in 2014 and this past weekend was the opportunity for the Clan/Convention to approve a

further term or of course, object to his nomination. The convention of MacEwens nominated Sir John to remain Commander for another 5-year term (he also agreed!) while the Clan leadership continues with the process to install him as the first MacEwen Chief in over 500 years.

We were delighted to have in attendance the Honourable Adam Bruce, the Marchmont Herald to the Court of the Lord Lyon, King of Arms – The Court of law which regulates Heraldry in Scotland. Marchmont attended as an observer and to officially report back to Lyon with the Clan's choice for Commander and that his nomination as the Clan's choice of Chief remains unopposed.

For more information on Clan MacEwen see: www.clanewen.org



Sir John McEwen.



A group of the convention stood at the cairn which marks the spot Castle MacEwen once stood.



The Spessart Highlanders on parade at the spot where Castle MacEwen once stood, overlooking Kilfinan Bay in Argyll.

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WHOLESALE AVAILABLE

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

JULY

01 - Zorra, ON - Embro Highland Games
Family fun with a Scottish flair on Canada Day at 355644 35th Line. Info: www.embrohighlandgames.ca

01 - 05 - Big River, SK - FiddlyNess 2019
Traditional fiddle music has been passed down from generation to generation for centuries. FiddlyNess will feature jam sessions for all levels, exciting concerts, old time dances, new friends and new tunes, all in the beautiful setting of Ness Creek. Info: www.fiddlyness.com

04 - Toronto, ON - Great Scots: Canadian Fiction Writers with Links to Scotland
Join Douglas Gibson, editor, publisher, author and performer, as he presents the Toronto premiere of Great Scots, recounting the literary contributions of Scottish-Canadians from 1867 to present at the Toronto Reference Library, Hinton Learning Theatre, Third Floor. Info: www.torontopubliclibrary.ca

05 - 07 - Almonte, ON - Almonte Celfest
Celfest is a fun weekend of Ottawa Valley and Celtic entertainment, in the natural amphitheater of Gemmill Park. Info: www.almontecelfest.com

05 - 07 - Kincardine, ON - Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games
Enjoy three days and nights of lively music, exciting competitions, cultural workshops, and friendly small town hospitality at Victoria Park. Info: www.kincardinescottishfest.com

06 - Penticton, BC - The Penticton Scottish Festival
A one day event that combines traditional Scottish Highland Games of musical and athletic competition with Celtic cultural expos of entertainment and family fun at Kings Park, 550 Eckhardt Ave. Info: www.pentictonscottishfestival.ca

07 - 14 - Antigonish, NS - The 156th Annual Antigonish Highland Games
The Games feature athletic competitions such as the Elite Mile, Scottish Heavy Events, and a Tug-Of-War, as well as competitions in Piping, Drumming, Pipe Bands and Highland Dance at Columbus Field. Info: www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca

13 - Aldergrove, BC - Herbs and Medicines of Outlander
Come along to the farm where we will explore the herbs and medicines of Clare Fraser from the hit TV show, Outlander. We will see some of the botanicals growing on the farm and develop a basic understanding of how herbal medicines were utilized in the show. We will discuss tincture, salves and teas. The ticket includes a traditional 18th century Scottish lunch at Laurica Farm, 25775 12 Ave. Info: www.facebook.com/lauricafarm

19 - 20 - Cambridge, ON - Cambridge Scottish Festival
Full Highland Games with piping and drumming with over 150 competitors including mass bands where you can see all of the bands perform together. Info: www.cambridgescottishfestival.ca

19 - 21 - Orillia, ON - Scottish Festival Orillia
The Scottish Festival is an annual event celebrating Scottish culture & heritage in Orillia. We are sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 34 Orillia at Couchiching Beach Park. Info: www.scottishfestival.ca

26 - 28 - Fredericton, NB - The New Brunswick Highland Games Festival
With workshops, entertainment, competitions and an opportunity to learn more about your Scottish heritage at Government House. Info: www.highlandgames.ca

27 - Nationwide - Canada - Bagpipe Appreciation Day
Show your love of the pipes by playing your pipes today or listen to favourite band. Be sure to listen to some bagpipe music today!

27 - 28 - Vernon - Canada - Okanagan Military Tattoo
A musical extravaganza of pipers, drummers, musicians, military bands, marching troops, multicultural dancers and singers of all ages brought together in an action packed, non-stop choreographed two-hour event at Kal Tire Place, 3445 43rd Ave. Info: www.okanagantattoo.ca

AUGUST

01 - Ottawa, ON - B in the Park
The annual "B in the Park" concert presented by the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band of Ottawa takes place in Major's Hill Park. A fantastic way to kick off the Glengarry and Montreal Highland Games weekend, this concert is family-friendly, has food and drink options, and features bands from many cities. Tickets for the door prize are only \$10, and are available at the park. Info: www.sospb.com for more details on this wonderful concert!

02 - 03 - Maxville, ON - Glengarry Highland Games
Over 50 pipe bands are put through their paces to decide the North American Pipe Band Championships, more than 200 dancers defy gravity in the Highland Dance competition and giants hurl telephone pole-sized cabers and 50 pound iron hammers around the infield. It is a memorable and incredible event. Info: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

03 - 04 - Eldon, PE - 154th Prince Edward Island Highland Games & Scottish Festival
Heavy athletics, pipes and drum bands, kilted golf tournament and kilted pace harness racing at Lord Selkirk Park. Info: www.caledonianclubofpei.ca

04 - Montreal, QC - Montreal Highland Games
Every year, the Montreal Highland Games brings together Montrealers of Scottish and all other backgrounds to celebrate Highland games, music and culture at Douglas Hospital, Verdun. Info: www.montrealhighlandgames.com

09 - 11 - Campbell River, BC - Campbell River Highland Gathering
Bagpipes and Buzzsaws, a full weekend of Scottish fun, part of the Salmonfest. Info: www.campbellriverhighlandgathering.ca

09 - 11 - Fergus - Canada - The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games
Scotland comes to Fergus with highland dance, Clans, pipe bands and much more. One of Canada's top Scottish festivals. Info: 1 866-871-9442 or www.fergusscottishfestival.com

09 - 11 - Goderich, ON - The Goderich Celtic Roots Festival
Celtic music and fun in music, song and dance. Info: www.celticfestival.ca

24 - Almonte, ON - North Lanark Highland Games
Celebrate the Scottish culture and heritage of the Ottawa Valley, featuring Scottish Dance, Heavyweight Athletic competitions, free kid's admission and Mini-Highland Games, and vendors. Info: www.almontehighlandgames.com

31 - Calgary, AB - Calgary Highland Games
One of the oldest gatherings in North America at the Calgary Rugby Union, 9025 Shepard Road SE. Info: www.calgaryhighlandgames.com

31 - Sept 01 - Canmore, AB - Canmore Highland Games
In the beautiful Canadian Rockies just minutes from Banff. A full weekend of Scottish music, events and fun. Info: www.canmorehighlandgames.ca

USA

JULY

07 - 12 - Pittsburgh, PA - The Balmoral School's 2019 Summer School
Piping instruction with guest instructors Andrew Carlisle and Bruce Gandy. Professor of Music and Director of Piping at Carnegie Mellon University, Carlisle has won the A Grade Strathspey and Reel at Oban, the A Grade Piobaireachd & Overall at The Cowal Highland Gathering, and three All-Ireland titles at Senior level. Gandy's solo piping awards include the Canadian Gold Medal, Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting, Gold Medal at Oban, and Bratach Gorm. He is a 3-time winner of the MacCrimmon Memorial Cairn for Piobaireachd and is a Vancouver Indoor 6-Time Metro Cup Winner, at Shadyside Academy. Info: www.baggpiping.org

11 - Webster Groves, MO - St. Louis St. Andrew's Society Social Night
The SSAS hosts a social night to give people a chance to meet officers and fellow members to answer any and all questions they have about the society at Weber's Front Row, 8169 Big Bend Blvd. Info: www.stlstandrews.com

11 - 14 - Linville, NC - Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
Includes traditional dancing, piping, drumming, athletic achievement, music and Gaelic culture at MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain. Info: www.gmhg.org

14 - 19 - East Stroudsburg, PA - The Balmoral School's 2019 Summer School
Piping instruction with guest instructors Andrew Carlisle and Jimmy Bell. Professor of Music and Director of Piping at Carnegie Mellon University, Carlisle has won the A Grade Strathspey and Reel at Oban, the A Grade Piobaireachd & Overall at The Cowal Highland Gathering, and three All-Ireland titles at Senior level. Andrew Carlisle teaches alongside Jimmy Bell. Bell directed Parlin and District Pipe Band to a North American championship in the EUSPBA. As a solo piper, he's won the Metro Cup, Canadian Gold Medal, and EUSPBA Overall Professional Champion. He is on the Scottish Solo Piping Judges Association., at ESU. Info: www.baggpiping.org



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

19 - 20 - Eagan, MN - Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games
Celtic Music, Highland Dance Competition, Heavy Games Competition, Pipe Bands Competition and Mass Bands, Scottish Country Dancing, Clan Row and more at Eagan Central Park, 1501 Central Pkwy. Info: www.mnscottishfair.org

19 - 21 - Belfast, ME - Maine Celtic Celebration
A weekend of Celtic fun and entertainment on the Belfast Waterfront. Info: www.mainecelebration.com

20 - Florence, MA - Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival
The only Scottish Festival in Massachusetts, and the second largest one in New England, at Look Park, 300 North Main St. Info: www.glasgowlands.org

20 - Gresham, OR - Portland Highland Games
For more than 60 years, the Portland Highland Games have delighted participants with a unique, Scottish experience featuring incredible Scottish pipe bands, bag pipers and drummers, dancers and athletes at Mt. Hood Community College. Info: www.phga.org

26 - 28 - Enumclaw, WA - 73rd Annual Pacific Northwest Highland Games and Clan Gathering
Bringing Scotland to the Pacific Northwest for over 70 years through the skirl of the Pipes and Drums, the beauty of Highland Dancing, the brawn of Scottish athletics, and the sharing of clan history at Enumclaw Expo Center, 45224 284th Ave SE. Info: www.sshga.org

27 - Nationwide - Bagpipe Appreciation Day
Show your love of the pipes by playing your pipes today or listen to favourite band. Be sure to listen to some bagpipe music today!

AUGUST

02 - Livonia, MI - Detroit Highland Games
The St. Andrew's Society of Detroit is proud to present its Annual Highland Games. The games are the oldest continuous games in North America at Greenmead Historical Park, 20501 Newburgh Rd. Info: www.highlandgames.com

03 - 04 - Monterey, CA - Monterey Scot Games
The music, dance and athletic events of the mystical lands of Scotland and Ireland to Monterey. Info: www.montereyscotgames.com

17 - 18 - Amherst, NY - Buffalo Niagara Scottish Festival
Celebrate Scottish cultural heritage at Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village, 3755 Tonawanda Creek Rd. Info: 716-689-1440 or www.bnhv.org/scottish

17 - 18 - Hamilton, MT - Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering
A weekend of Celtic events at Daly Mansion, 251 Eastside Hwy. Info: www.bcg.org

23 - 24 - Mayville, NY - Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival & Gathering of the Clans
Pipe bands, Celtic music, Clans and more at Mayville Lakeside Park. Info: www.facebook.com/JamestownRegionalCelticFestival

31 - Sept 01 - Altamont, NY - Capital District Scottish Games
Over 70 years of rich heritage celebrating Scotland at Altamont Fairgrounds, 129 Grand St. Info: www.scotgames.com

31 - Sept 01 - Pleasanton, CA - The Caledonian Club of San Francisco's Scottish Highland Gathering and Games
Labor Day Weekend to celebrate Scottish culture, competition, cuisine and entertainment at its very best at the Alameda County Fairgrounds. Info: www.thescottishgames.com

31 - Sept 01 - The Plains, VA - Virginia Scottish Games
A weekend of Scottish events, music and friendship at Great Meadow, 5089 Old Tavern Rd. Info: www.vascottishgames.org

Solutions from Scotword page 6

ACROSS	34 Extol.	7 Chanters.
1 Macduff.	35 Watts.	11 Nail.
4 Gar.	36 Eve.	15 Awa.
8 Oar.	37 Tenor.	16 Delta.
9 Alyth.	38 Talon.	17 Essay.
10 Rowan.	39 Een.	18 Dinna.
12 Era.	40 Tod.	19 Braes.
13 Agley.	41 Kilsyth.	20 Range.
14 Satan.		22 Dalkeith.
15 Ardle.		24 Sin.
19 Byre.	DOWN	26 Wattle.
21 Skier.	1 Moray.	27 Relent.
22 Dallas.	2 Cawdor.	29 Kist.
23 Alness.	3 Foula.	30 Agency.
25 Annie.	4 Greys.	31 Tweed.
26 Wary.	5 Raasay.	32 Stank.
28 Skean.	6 Myrtle.	33 Perth.

SCOTLAND

JULY

03 - Kenmore - Kenmore Highland Games
Traditional Highland games with a heavy event unique to Kenmore, throwing the Tirnie Stones - an almost spherical stone found on Tirnie Farm, Kenmore. Info: www.kenmorehighlandgames.com

06 - Arbigland, Dumfries - John Paul Jones Birthday Celebration
John Paul Jones was one of the greatest Founding Fathers of America and The Father of the US Navy for his heroics in the American Revolutionary War. Come celebrate his birth (July 6, 1747) at the place of his birth and childhood, The John Paul Jones Birthplace Cottage and Museum located on Arbigland Estates just outside of Dumfries. The US Consulate and other dignitaries will be paying their respects. The Scottish Sea Scouts will preform the flag raising ceremony along with a drill demonstration. The local fire and rescue boat organizations will have exhibits on hand. Admission to the museum is free for the event. Info: Robert McCall 1387 88 0613 or www.jpj.demon.co.uk

07 - 12 - Isle of South Uist - The Ceolas Summer School
Unbeatable tuition in Gaelic music, dance and language from the best traditional musicians in Scotland and Canada; guided walks, house ceilidhs and village-hall dances in the strongest Gaelic-speaking community in the world; authentic Hebridean culture alive in its heartland. Info: www.ceolas.co.uk

13 - Balloch - Loch Lomond Highland Games
Athletics, pipe bands and more at Moss o' Balloch Park, Loch Lomond. Info: www.llhgb.com

17 - 20 - Stornoway Isle of Lewis - HebCelt
The Hebridean Celtic Festival is an international Celtic music festival, which takes place annually with a variety of performers and events. Info: www.hebceltfest.com

20 - Falkirk - The Battle Of Falkirk 1298 Commemoration 2019
Commemoration The Battle Of Falkirk 1298. On the 22nd of July 1298 Sir William Wallace Guardian of Scotland and high protector of the Realm and his army of Scotsman stood in defiance of tyranny against King Edward I of England at Falkirk Trinity Church. Info: www.facebook.com/events/661098897603239

21 - Stonehaven - Stonehaven Highland Games
Highland dancing, athletics and Pipe Band Competition at Mackie Academy Playing Fields. Info: www.stonehavenhighlandgames.com

26 - Isle of Skye - Alasdair Fraser's Mammoth Fiddle Night
Prepare for a string spectacular and experience the sound of over 130 fiddles and cellos lifting the rafters of Sabhal Mr Ostaig. Info: www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/en/

26 - Langholm - Langholm Common Riding
A week of celebration culminate in a ceremonial procession. The procession is led by the cornet and his mounted supporters, accompanied by brass and pipe bands, horse-racing, athletics, Cumberland wrestling and Highland games; with an open air dance in the evening and a closing ceremony. Info: www.returntotheridings.co.uk/langholm-common-riding

27 - Duftown - Duftown Highland Games
A full programme of Light and Heavy Events, Massed Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing and there is a chance to take part too with the Overseas Race. Info: www.duftownhighlandgames.org

27 - Dumbarton - Scottish Pipe Band Championships
Pipe band contest, all grades. Info: www.rspba.org

27 - Nationwide - Bagpipe Appreciation Day
Show your love of the pipes by playing your pipes today or listen to favourite band. Be sure to listen to some bagpipe music today!

28 - St Andrews, Fife - St. Andrews Highland Games
One of the top Highland Games in Fife with a full traditional program at Station Park. Info: www.standrewshighlandgames.co.uk

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Scotland is Out of this World



The world's first-ever Highland Coosmonaut is set to be launched into 'near space' as part of a new tourism campaign announced by VisitScotland, to celebrate Scotland's connection to the first Moonwalk. Primary school-aged children across Scotland have been invited by the national tourism organisation to name the heroic cuddly toy Highland coo (Scots word for cow) which will be sent almost 40,000 metres into the stratosphere wearing a Clan Armstrong tartan spacesuit.

A truly special year for Langholm

The *Scotland is Out of this World* campaign will mark the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission and US

astronaut Neil Armstrong's historic walk on the lunar surface as well as the 50th anniversary of VisitScotland. Ohio-born Neil Armstrong was said to be proud of his Scottish heritage. The ancestral home of Clan Armstrong is Langholm in Dumfries and Galloway and in 1972 he became the town's first and only Freeman.

On accepting the honour, Armstrong told the gathered audience: "It's said that the most difficult place to be recognised is in one's own home town. And I consider this, now, my home town."

Scotland is Out of this World is among a series of activities created this year to mark VisitScotland's 50th anniversary.

The Development of Tourism Act came into force in 1969 – the same year as the Moon landing – and an official Scottish Tourist Board was established with government funding. VisitScotland has teamed up with Sent Into Space to send the toy Highland cow into the sky attached to a weather balloon – with footage of its journey released in time for the Moon landing's anniversary.

The Coosmonaut's spacesuit was specially made by Vintage Bunting in the Scottish Borders using Clan Armstrong tartan supplied by Lochcarron of Scotland.

Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins formed the three-man NASA mission which set off on 16 July 1969, to land on the surface of the Moon. On 20 July 1969, Armstrong and Aldrin touched down on the lunar surface.

Ian Martin, Project Manager at Gilnockie Tower, said: "Gilnockie Tower, the ancestral home of Clan Armstrong, was opened last year and has attracted visitors from across the world interested in tracing their family roots and history. As well as the 50th anniversary of the moon landings, we are also celebrating the 500th anniversary of the rise of Gilnockie Tower - a truly special year for Langholm and our celebrated links to the most famous Armstrong of them all – Neil Armstrong."

Dark skies

Travel guide publisher, *Lonely Planet*, has identified dark skies as a tourism trend for 2019. Galloway Forest Park in Dumfries

and Galloway and Tomintoul and Glenlivet in Cairngorms National Park are two of only 15 International Dark Sky Parks in Europe. It means they are some of the best places on Earth to study the sky at night. The Isle of Coll was also Europe's first "Dark Sky Island" and Moffat, in Dumfries and Galloway, was its first "Dark Sky Town".

The International Dark-Sky Association which certifies International Dark Sky Parks defines the term as "a land possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment".



Gilnockie Tower.

From the Far East to Scotland's North East

The Romantic Scotland exhibition has gone on display at Duff House following an exhibition in China.



A historic metal helmet, part of the Romantic Scotland exhibition.

The late 18th century ushered in a new cultural movement in Scotland, which developed throughout the 19th century and transformed the country's art, literature and national identity. The impact and legacy of this period is explored in Romantic Scotland, which is on display at Duff House in Banff until Sunday 29 September 2019.

Curated by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and The National Galleries of Scotland, the exhibition showcases paintings from some of the leading Scottish artists of the 18th and 19th centuries - from Alexander Nasmyth and William McTaggart to Glasgow Boys Sir James Guthrie and Sir John Lavery –

displayed alongside artefacts and exhibits from the same period, contrasting artists' creations with documentary photographs, archive material and tangible objects.

Shaping both Scottish identity and perception

Claire Whitbread, Exhibitions Manager at HES, said: "Romanticism in Scotland sought inspiration from the country's natural surroundings, particularly the wild and dramatic landscapes of the Highlands, and often involved an emotional response to nature. The romantic image of Scotland popularised in the late 1700s and early 1800s has had lasting influence and significance, playing an important role in shaping both

Scottish identity and perception of the country internationally. This exhibition, in juxtaposing the romantic interpretations of Scotland's landscapes with historical photographs and objects, explores the different stories these items tell of this period in Scotland's history."

Romantic Scotland arrived at Duff House following an exhibition in China, where it was on display at Nanjing Museum, one of the country's largest cultural institutions. Duff House is a masterpiece of baroque architecture and one of the most important buildings in the north of Scotland. It was designed in



A painting from the collection.

1735 by the renowned Scottish architect William Adam and is now a five-star visitor attraction, run in partnership by Historic Environment Scotland, the National Galleries of Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council. This summer, Duff House is extending its opening hours to open daily from 9.30am to 5.30pm.



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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Oven chips

Ingredients:

2 large sweet potatoes, scrubbed
1-2 large potatoes, scrubbed
4 sprigs thyme, leaves only
1 tsp ground cumin
1 pinch chilli flakes
1 tbsp. olive oil
2 tsp. hot smoked paprika
sea salt flakes

Method:

Preheat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Cut the sweet potatoes into thick wedges and put into a large mixing bowl. Cut the white potatoes into slightly thinner wedges (they take longer to cook so need to be slightly smaller for an equal cooking time) and add to the bowl. Add the remaining ingredients and toss until the wedges are evenly coated. Season with sea salt then spread over a non-stick baking tray in an even layer. (Put the sweet potatoes in the centre and the white potatoes round the edge of the tray where it will be hotter.) Cook for 20-25 minutes, checking after 10 minutes, shaking and turning occasionally, until cooked through. If the sweet potatoes are cooked before the others are ready then remove them from the oven and leave the rest to cook for longer.

Highland Salad

Ingredients:

1 x 300g/10½oz. sirloin or fillet steak
salt and freshly ground black pepper
25ml/1fl oz. rapeseed oil
1 red chilli, finely chopped
1 tbsp. palm sugar
2 garlic cloves, sliced
2 tbsp. fresh coriander, plus extra for the salad
2 tbsp. fresh mint
1 tsp. fish sauce
1 tbsp. soy sauce
1 lime, juice and zest
1 round lettuce
50g/1¾oz. sugar-snap peas, halved
6 radishes, sliced

Method:

Preheat a barbecue or griddle pan to hot. Season the steak with lots of black pepper, drizzle with oil and place onto a hot barbecue or griddle pan for five minutes, turning half-way through. To make the dressing, put the chilli, palm sugar, garlic and a teaspoon of salt into a pestle and mortar. Grind for 1-2 minutes, then add the coriander and mint and grind for another minute. Mix in the fish sauce, soy sauce, lime juice and zest.

Cut the lettuce into six wedges and place in a bowl. Top with the sugar-snap peas, radishes and a few coriander leaves. Pour the dressing over the salad and toss to coat. Slice the beef and lay it on top of the salad.

Black Pudding Sausage Rolls

Ingredients:

For the shortcut puff pastry:
600g/1lb 5oz. plain flour
pinch salt
300g/10½oz. butter, 100g/3½oz. chilled and cut into cubes, 200g/7oz. frozen
For the filling:
300g/10½oz. chestnut mushrooms, trimmed
2 tbsp thyme leaves
1 tbsp sunflower oil
25g/1oz. unsalted butter
2 red onions, thinly sliced
2 tsp soft brown sugar
1 tbsp sherry vinegar
300g/10½oz. good-quality sausage meat
100g/3½oz. black pudding, cut into 2cm/1in pieces
1 free-range egg, beaten, to glaze
1 tbsp sesame seeds

Method:

For the shortcut puff pastry, mix the flour and salt together in a bowl. Rub in the chilled butter using your fingertips until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Gradually add enough water to form a dough (about 4-6 tablespoons of water).

Roll the dough out into a rectangle on a lightly floured work surface. Coarsely grate the frozen butter over the bottom two-thirds of the dough. Fold down the top third and fold up the bottom third as if folding a letter.

Turn the folded dough 90 degrees on the work surface and roll out into a rectangle again. Fold again in thirds, wrap the dough in cling film and set aside to rest in the fridge for 30 minutes. Repeat the rolling, folding and turning process a further two times, chilling in between each turn. In total you will have done four turns. Rest the pastry in the fridge while you make the filling. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.

For the filling, put the mushrooms in a food processor and season with salt and pepper. Pulse until the mushrooms are broken down to a rough paste. Add the thyme and give the mix a final pulse. Put the mushroom mixture into a dry frying pan set over a medium-high heat and cook, stirring often, until all the moisture has evaporated from the mushrooms. Remove from the pan and leave to cool. Meanwhile, using the same pan, heat the oil and butter over a medium-low heat. Add the onions and sugar and cook slowly until the onions are very soft and sweet. This will take at least 20 minutes. Once caramelised, stir in the sherry vinegar. To assemble, roll out the pastry into a 60x45cm/24x18in rectangle, and cut into 12 squares.

Divide the mushroom mixture into 12 portions and spread a portion down the centre of each square of pastry, leaving a 2cm/1in gap at the top and bottom.

In a bowl, mix the sausage meat with the black pudding and mould into 12 sausage shapes. Place on top of the mushroom paste and then spread the caramelised onions on top of each sausage.

Make two small diagonal cuts from each corner of the pastry, to remove a small triangle. Then fold the top and bottom 'wings' over the ends of the sausage meat. Cut a 1cm/½in fringe all the way down the pastry on each side of the filling. Bring one strip over the filling from one side, then one from the other and so on, crossing the strips over to form a plaited effect. Tuck the ends of the pastry under the plate, trimming off any excess if necessary.

Repeat with the remaining squares of pastry until you have 12 mini sausage plaits. Place the plates on a baking tray, brush with beaten egg and sprinkle with sesame seeds.

Bake for 20 minutes, until the pastry is golden-brown. Leave to cool for five minutes or so, then serve hot or cold.

Celtic scallops

Ingredients:

scallops (hand-dived if possible)
1 medium cauliflower
500ml/16½fl oz. full fat milk
icing sugar
150g/5oz. unsalted butter
30g/1oz. chopped shallots
30g/1oz. chopped button mushrooms
1 bouquet garni
100ml/4oz. dry white wine
100ml/4fl oz. double cream
50ml/2fl oz. virgin olive oil
30g/1¼oz. water soaked raisins
30g/1¼oz. washed salted button capers (baby capers have more flavour but others are fine)
15 leaves of fresh chervil

Method:

Using a table knife prise the scallop open. Lift the scallop from its shell and remove the roe and beard (keep the beards for the sauce and the roes can be used in a salad). Keep the scallops on a cloth in the fridge until ready to cook (this keeps them dry for frying in oil).

To make the cauliflower, cut the cauliflower into even sized florets. Break off 15 florets and set aside. Slice the remaining cauliflower, and cook in the milk, with enough salt to taste, until tender and remove from the milk. Purée in a liquidizer using 50ml/2fl oz. of the double cream until smooth, adjust seasoning where necessary. To make the sauce, gently fry the scallop beards in 30g/1oz. butter without any colour. Then add the shallots, mushrooms, bouquet garni and cook for a few more minutes. Pour in the wine and reduce by 9/10ths. Add 50ml/2oz. of the double cream and bring to the boil. Remove to a low heat and stir in 120g/4oz of butter. Adjust the seasoning and pass through a fine sieve onto the raisins and capers. Do not allow this sauce to get too hot or cold (store in a warm place). Cook the scallops in a non-stick pan to your liking. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Dust the cauliflower florets liberally with icing sugar and in the

same pan fry them until golden. To serve, place the cauliflower florets neatly around the serving plate. Put some of the purée in the centre. Place the scallops on top and spoon around the caper and raisin sauce. Decorate the dish with chervil.

Slow cooker bean chilli

Ingredients:

2 tbsp olive oil
2 onions, thinly sliced
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 tsp hot smoked paprika
1 tsp. ground cumin
1 tsp. ground coriander
¼ tsp ground cinnamon
150ml/5fl oz. hot vegetable stock (made with 1 stock cube)
2 x 400g/14oz. cans chopped tomatoes
2 x 400g/14oz. cans black beans or red kidney beans (or a mixture), rinsed and drained
1 tsp dried oregano
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method:

Heat the oil in a large frying pan and fry the onions for 5 minutes, or until softened and lightly browned, stirring frequently.

Add the garlic, paprika, cumin, coriander and cinnamon and cook for a further minute.

Transfer to the slow cooker. Stir in the stock, tomatoes, drained beans, tomatoes and dried oregano. Stir well then cover with the lid and cook on low for 8-10 hours, or until the sauce is thick and the spices have mellowed. Serve hot.

Ginger Biscuits



Ingredients:

110g/4oz. margarine, plus extra for greasing
110g/4oz. caster sugar
110g/4oz. golden syrup
225g/8oz. self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting
2 tsp ground ginger

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4 and grease a baking tray.

Melt the margarine, caster sugar and golden syrup gently in a pan over a medium heat. Once melted, remove from the heat and cool slightly. Add all of the dry ingredients to the pan to make a dough.

Once cool enough to handle, with floured hands, roll the dough into 50p-size balls. Place these individual balls onto the greased baking tray with enough room between each biscuit to allow them to spread during cooking. Mark the top of each ball with a fork. The dough should make about 30 biscuits. Put the baking tray into the oven for about 10 minutes, or until the biscuits are golden-brown. Remove from the oven, leave to cool slightly and transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

To serve, garnish with lemon peel.

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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - The reconvened Scottish Parliament was officially opened. After a devolution referendum showed resounding support for the reconvening of the Scottish parliament, plans were put into motion for the creation of such a body. The parliament would sit in the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall in Edinburgh. Elections were held on May 1, 1999 and the first sitting of the body took place on May 12 of that year. The official opening on July 1 saw the Queen transfer full constitutional powers to Edinburgh. **1999**



1 - Seal granted by Edinburgh Town Council to the Incorporation of Barbers and Surgeons to practise their craft. The organisation is now known as the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. **1505**

1 - Proscription Act Repealed, thus allowing again the wearing of tartan and the carrying of weapons (banned as a result of the 1745 Uprising in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie). **1782**

2 - Treaty of Perth, Norway renounces claim on the Hebrides. **1266**

2 - Dumfries reached a temperature of 32.8C (91F), the highest recorded. **1908**

2 - Scottish architect Sir John Burnett died. His most famous commissions include the Royal Institute of Fine Arts; the Alhambra, and the Athenaeum, all in Glasgow, and the North front of the British Museum, the Institute of Chemistry, and the extension to Selfridges, all in London. **1938**

3 - John Logie Baird transmitted first colour television. **1928**

3 - Robert Adam, the Scottish architect, furniture and interior designer, was born. Adam is regarded as a leading exponent of the neoclassical revival in the latter part of the 18th century. **1728**

3 - The Clyde shipyards suffered their worst accident when the *SS Daphne* capsized at her launch. The packet steamer had been built by the Linthouse yard of Alexander Stephen and Sons and immediately sank into the River Clyde, taking the lives of the 195 workmen on board. It was later discovered that the 460-ton ship had little stability when it was launched, and rolled over forty-five degrees, taking huge amounts of water through a large deck opening. **1883**

4 - Lanarkshire-born James Keir Hardie became the first socialist to win a seat in the UK Parliament. **1892**

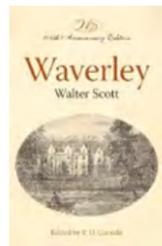
5 - Final run of the Edinburgh to London mail coach (a route which was taken over by rail). **1847**

5 - Border reiver, John Armstrong of Gilnockie, and 50 of his men were hanged for blackmail by James V. Armstrong was a well-known laird in the Borders area, and although a frequent marauder in England, he is not known to have attacked in Scotland. However, his wealth and power in a troublesome region brought the resentment of James V. Armstrong was tricked into attending a royal hunt only to be seized on his arrival. He faced the king, and volubly remonstrated with him that he had "asked grace at a graceless face". Legend has it that the trees at Carnlanrig, where Armstrong and his followers were hanged, withered, and none have grown there since. **1530**

6 - John Paul Jones, hero of the US Navy, born Kirkbean, Dumfries. **1747**

6 - The Piper Alpha oil platform in the North Sea was rocked by a huge explosion. Blasts continued on the platform throughout that night, and by morning 167 men had died. **1988**

7 - John Knox became the first Protestant minister appointed in Edinburgh. **1559**



7 - The novel *Waverley*, by Sir Walter Scott, was published. *Waverley* was Scott's first novel, and written mainly as a way of proving himself a superior literary talent to Byron. Although it was published anonymously as a safety net against its failure, it was an open secret who the author was. Scott needn't have worried: the book was a runaway success and Scott became regarded as the leading author in Europe. **1814**

8 - King Alexander II died on Isle of Kerrera, Oban Bay. **1249**

9 - Queen's Park Football Club, first senior football (soccer) club in Scotland formed. **1867**

9 - Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, the Chief of Clan Fraser, Scottish aristocrat and soldier was born. Fraser, a Second World War hero, played a key role in the development of the commandos and was actively involved in both the Dieppe Raid, 1942, and D-Day landings, 1944. **1911**

10 - King James III born at Stirling. **1451**

10 - Glasgow Rangers signed Maurice Johnston. One of the last bastions of Scottish Protestant sectarianism, Rangers shocked many of its supporters when the club, under manager Graeme Souness, signed Maurice Johnston from the French club, Nantes, for £1.5m. Johnston had not only played for arch-rivals Celtic, but was the first well-known Roman Catholic player to sign for Rangers in modern times. **1989**

11 - Robert the Bruce born at Turnberry Castle, Ayrshire. After the death of William Wallace, Bruce led the campaign to regain Scottish independence, culminating in his stunning victory at the Battle of Bannockburn in June 1314. **1274**

12 - Darien expedition left Leith for Panama. **1698**

13 - King Alexander III crowned at Scone. **1249**



14 - Scottish National War Memorial opened. The National War Memorial for Scotland was established by Royal Charter to commemorate the sacrifice of Scots in the Great War, Second World War and subsequent conflicts. The Memorial within Edinburgh Castle houses and displays the Rolls of Honour of Scots servicemen and women from all the Armed Services, the Dominions, Merchant Navy, Women's Services, Nursing Services and civilian casualties of all wars from 1914 to date. **1927**

14 - Cavalry units from the Scottish Engager army clashed with Lambert's Parliamentary cavalry at Penrith. The Engager forces were commanded by the Duke of Hamilton, who made several mistakes in planning and executing his advance south, and quickly made themselves unpopular with the local population for their plundering and excesses. **1648**

15 - National Portrait Gallery for Scotland opened in Edinburgh. **1889**

16 - David II, son of Robert I (the Bruce) married Joan, sister of Edward III (he was 4, she was 7). **1328**

16 - 13th Commonwealth Games opened in Edinburgh. **1970**

16 - A Shetland fishing tragedy occurred leaving 105 fishermen dead as their boats got lost at sea. 31 Shetland sixern boats perished leaving devastation to the island community. **1832**



17 - Bank of Scotland, first bank to be established by an Act of the Scottish Parliament, opened. **1695**

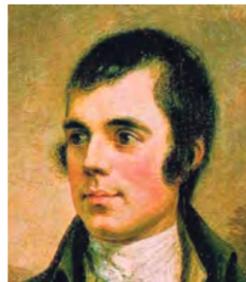
18 - John Paul Jones, naval hero of the American Revolution, died; he was born in Kircudbrightshire in 1747. **1792**

18 - Birth of Jim Watt, Scottish boxer. After a successful amateur career, Watt turned professional in 1968 and quickly rose to the top of the lightweight division before adding British and European titles to his collection during the 1970s. **1948**

19 - Battle of Halidon Hill in which Sir Archibald Douglas (guardian of David II) routed by Edward Balliol and Edward III. Scots losses were nearly 600, English losses 14. **1333**

19 - A.J Cronin, the Scottish novelist, was born. Cronin is most fondly remembered as the creator of the hugely popular character, Dr. Finlay. **1896**

20 - Battle of Inverkeithing. Royalist force supporting Charles II failed to halt advance of army of Oliver Cromwell heading for Perth. **1651**



21 - Robert Burns dies in Dumfries, aged 37. The cause of death appears to have been heart failure, probably brought on by the hard physical work done in his youth. His widow, Jean Armour, gave birth to a son on the day of her husband's funeral. However, Maxwell, named after Burns's doctor, died in infancy. **1796**

22 - The army of the English King Edward I, using longbows for the first time, defeated the Scots led by Sir William Wallace at Battle of Falkirk. **1298**

22 - Oliver Cromwell invades Scotland and proceeds to the eastern edge of Edinburgh. The Scots form a defensive line within the city. **1650**

23 - Charles Edward Stuart landed on Eriskay at the start of the 1745 campaign. July 24 1567 - Mary Queen of Scots abdicated and the young James VI acceded to Scottish throne. The Earl of Mar was appointed regent. **1745**

24 - The Princess Royal formally opened the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Scotland's first national park. **2002**

24 - The Battle of Harlaw took place at Inverurie. Nearly 2000 Highland and Crown soldiers fought over an area of land called the Earldom of Ross. **1411**

25 - King James I born. **1394**

25 - Charles Macintosh, inventor of the plastic mac, died. Macintosh discovered the first rainproof cloth in 1818, by joining two sheets of fabric together with dissolved indiarubber. Although Macintosh is best known for his eponymously titled coats, he made significant advances in many fields of chemistry. As well as inventing a revolutionary bleaching powder with Charles Tennant, he also discovered a fast method of using carbon gases to convert iron to steel, and devised a hot-blast process which produced high quality cast iron. **1843**

26 - James IV responded to pleas for assistance from France and declared war on England. Aside from assisting the French, who had been invaded by an English army, James was also aggrieved at England's seizing of two Scottish ships and the non-payment of part of the dowry for his wife, Margaret Tudor. **1513**



27 - The Forth and Clyde Canal was opened from the Firth of Forth to the Firth of Clyde, with the first boat navigating its channel in August of that year. The length of the Canal from eastern sea lock to the western sea lock was 35 miles. **1790**

27 - Battle of Killiecrankie in which Graham of Claverhouse (Bonnie Dundee) leading an army of Highlanders in support of the Jacobite cause, defeated King William's army under General Hugh Mackay. **1689**

28 - The Royalist Marquess of Montrose beat General Baillie in a skirmish which was part of the English Civil War at Dunkeld, Perthshire. For a war of positions the Highlanders had neither aptitude nor inclination, and at Dunkeld the greater part of them went home. **1645**



29 - Mary, Queen of Scots, married Lord Darnley, in a Catholic wedding. **1565**

29 - King James VI (aged 13 months) crowned at the Church of the Holy Rude, beside Stirling Castle, following the abdication of Mary, Queen of Scots, five days earlier. **1567**

30 - First edition of the long-running *Beano* comic was published. **1938**

30 - The beginning of the work-in at John Brown's Clydebank Shipbuilding Yard, organised by stalwart Socialist, Jimmy Reid. This was in response to the Ted Heath Tory government's plans to liquidate the yard - Reid exposed these as unethical. **1971**

31 - Cigarette advertising banned on television in Britain. **1965**

31 - The first edition of Robert Burns' poems, *The Kilmarnock Edition*, was published by John Wilson of Kilmarnock, under the title of *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*. It cost three shillings and the entire print run of 612 copies sold out within a month. **1780**

31 - French naval forces in support of the Catholic Mary Queen of Scots bombard St Andrews Castle and capture the Protestant rebels. These include Protestant John Knox, who is sent to become a galley-slave. **1547**

The Montreal Highland Games

Pipes and Drums, Highland Dancers, Athletics, Celtic bands, RBC Family Village, and much more



Highland dance displays.

The Montreal Highland Games will be held on the lush grounds of the Douglas Hospital in Verdun on Sunday August 4 with full Highland pageantry, in collaboration with principal sponsors Pembroke Private Wealth Management and the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal.

The day will include pipe band, highland dance and heavy weight competitions including the caber toss, sheaf toss, hammer throw and putting the stone from competitors from throughout North America. ScotlandRocks in the Ceilidh entertainment tent throughout the afternoon with Celtic bands Mariner's Curse and The American Rogues.

Now in their 43rd year, the Montreal Highland Games are one of the premier events in the North American Highland Games circuit. The Games replaced the Caledonian Games that took place between 1856 to 1973.

Here's what you can expect this year

For the kids – Children will have their own mini Highland Games at the RBC Family Village, with their very own caber



Pipe bands entertain.

toss, tug of war and Highland costumes to try on. Lizanne Murphy, RBC Olympian, basketball player, will sign autographs and meet with junior athletes. There will be bouncy castles, face painting and medieval battles by trained professionals where kids can partake in play "combat" training. This is, of course, in addition to all the Highland Games events where children compete, in the Highland dance and band competitions.

Now in their 43rd year, the Montreal Highland Games are one of the premier events in the North American Highland Games circuit.

For the adults –The Celtic Mile will feature an array of Celtic merchants with clothing, musical instruments, clay works, jewelry, baked goods, culinary delights, along with pipe band and fiddle and harp performances, Scottish Clan displays, Highland dancing and many more activities.

Foodies of all ages will be delighted to have the opportunity to experience Haggis, traditional shortbread cookies, highland beef dishes and more.



The Burgundy Lion Patrons' Pavilion is the oasis at this celebration of Scottish celebration. Located on the edge of the main field with a view of the Opening and Closing Ceremonies featuring the massed pipe bands (350+ musicians playing together) and an up-close-and-personal vantage point for the athletic competitions, this is also the V.I.P. area where the Chieftain of the day and various officials spend time when not 'on duty'.

A celebration of Scottish culture and traditions

Reigning champions, the Concordia Stingers, are back for the traditional tug of war benefitting the Douglas Hospital Foundation. The Black Watch Regiment team plans to win back the cup. Let the fundraising and battle begin!



Heavy events.

Attending the Montreal Highland Games doesn't require Scottish roots. This is a celebration of Scottish culture and traditions; a day of welcoming friends who share a common bond, and welcoming newcomers who want to learn about the culture. The only requirement on August 4 is a desire for fun, food and – the love of bagpipes!

The Montreal Highland Games will take place on Sunday, August 4, at Douglas Hospital Grounds, 6875 Boulevard LaSalle, Verdun, QC. For more details on the MHG or to buy discounted tickets online, visit the event webpage: www.montrealhighlandgames.com



Kilt run.



Massed bands.



The Scottish Scamp



A 1966 Scottish Aviation Scamp at the National Museum of Flight, East Fortune, Scotland. Photo: Creative Commons.

Long before the current Tesla hit the market a Scottish aviation company in Ayrshire began plans for an electric car. The revolutionary Scottish Aviation Scamp was a small concept electric city car that was designed between 1964 and 1966 by Scottish Aviation as Eric Bryan explains.

By the early 1960s, as a result of political turmoil and unfortunate business decisions, the British aircraft industry was in a slump. Some aircraft manufacturers contemplated auto production as an avenue to make up profits. Traffic congestion in towns and cities encouraged the design and manufacture of small economy cars such as the Mini, and concerns over air pollution pushed the micro-car concept into the realm of electric powered vehicles.

The Farm Cart

In 1964, Scottish Aviation Ltd in Prestwick began work on plans for a small economical city car. The project, led by John Chalmers and Dr WG Watson, resulted in a battery-powered prototype design by Dr Watson, christened (perhaps affectionately or humorously) 'The Farm Cart'. Dr Watson refined the design into an electric vehicle which became the Scamp. Made of fibreglass, aluminium and wood, the Scamp had four 48-volt Lucas Industries batteries and two 2.7 hp motors which turned the rear wheels via chain drive.



Myreton Motor Museum, Aberlady, East Lothian, Scotland. Photo: Creative Commons.

Early design proposals of the Scamp included a door-less body concept, a three-wheeled arrangement like that of the Reliant Regal, and one with a rhombus shaped chassis. The Scamp ultimately took shape as a micro-car whose lines evoked those of some of the bubble cars of the 1950s and early '60s. At seven feet long and just under four feet wide, the Scamp had a tall windscreen and windows and a high roof for occupant comfort and visibility. The car's kerb weight was 1000 lb, with the batteries' weight totalling 400 lb.

Manoeuvrability and ease of parking were high on Dr Watson's list of prerequisites for the Scamp, qualities exemplified by the car's tight turning radius of only 16.5 feet. Astonishingly, this was nearly half that of a Mk 1 Mini. The Scamp could go to a top speed of about 35mph, which was enough for a car intended for in-town shopping excursions and errands, but the Scamp was faced with the bugaboo which afflicted most all electric vehicles: limited range. The Scamp's maximum open road travel distance was 30 miles nonstop, and where many stops were involved such as in towns and cities, this was reduced to 18 to 20 miles.

Electric micro-cars

Despite the Scamp's range disadvantage, the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) was optimistic about the car. In an agreement with the CEGB, Scottish Aviation began production of the Scamp. With an eye toward the CEGB promoting the car through its string of showrooms, Scottish Aviation went on to build 12 Scamps, delivering most of them to the CEGB. There were demonstrations of the car in London and Bristol, and champion racer Stirling Moss even got behind the wheel of one, lending some high-profile publicity to the project. One Scamp was displayed at the 1967 Ideal Home Exhibition in London.

The Scamp's prospects continued to look rosy when a journalist for the Press Association test drove the car and reported its ease of handling, its decent acceleration for a battery-powered vehicle (0-30 mph in 10.5 seconds), and its surprising roominess and visibility due to the high roof and tall windows. More good news came from the press when the July 1966 issue of Popular Science voiced praise for the Scamp, noting that electric micro-cars could be the solution to the problem of congestion in British cities. Furthermore, the July 1966 edition of the Design Journal featured the Scamp in an article (by the aptly-named Richard Carr) presenting various town car concepts.

The walls began to close in on the Scamp programme when the CEGB initiated testing of the car, specifically with the Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA), during which the car's suspension

The Scamp ultimately took shape as a micro-car whose lines evoked those of some of the bubble cars of the 1950s and early '60s.

system took such a battering that it broke down. Other test results proclaimed that the cabin flooded in wet conditions, the steering was imprecise, and that the narrowness of the car caused the driver's knee to be bruised by the door handle.

Other portions of the test results read like an automotive comedy of errors: water surged beneath the soaked seat cushion while a pond one inch deep luxuriated over the floorboards; the speedometer ceased to function; the driver's safety belt persistently slipped off of his shoulder; and the speed controller cut in and out until the car stalled altogether amidst the crisp fragrance of burning electrics. Perhaps most preposterous of all, one claim was that the boot suddenly flipped open of its own accord, and the spare wheel tumbled out! Who was the test driver, an earlier incarnation of Mr Bean?

Scottish mid-1960s inventiveness

These allegations seem like overkill and have the mark of negative propaganda intended to torpedo the Scamp project. Perhaps some higher-ups were nervous about the positive press this electric car was receiving and the dent it had the potential to make in the petrol-driven micro-car market. Nonetheless, the disappointing outcome of the tests caused the CEGB to back out of talks, and led Scottish Aviation to shelve the Scamp and focus again on aircraft manufacture in 1968.

Robert McIntyre, who worked as an apprentice electrician for Scottish Aviation on the Scamp project, recalled a small workshop with an assembly area for perhaps six of the cars. He noted that Dr Watson's technique of series / parallel batteries arrangements was used in aircraft at least into the 1990s, and perhaps to the present day.

Mr McIntyre remembered having great fun putting the Scamps through trials on the Prestwick Airport taxiways and secondary runway. He confirmed that early on there were issues with the steering boxes, but these were overcome on sets one and two. On the claim that during testing the rear hatch flew open, McIntyre remarked that driving the Scamp on the airfield's bumpy taxiways would surely have been enough to jar the lid open if this had been a chronic issue, but this problem wasn't encountered during Scottish Aviation's own trials.

Of the original 12 Scamps produced, there are said to be only three or four surviving. One is in the Myreton Motor Museum, Aberlady; another is in the National Museum of Flight, East Fortune. A third Scamp, at the time of writing, was for sale by a private owner near Inverness. The seller describes the car as a two-to-three occupant vehicle built in 1965, with two electric motors and a full-charge range of 30 miles. This example is missing its batteries, but wouldn't it be interesting to fit it with current-technology cells and get this icon of colourful Scottish mid-1960s inventiveness driving again?

The heritage of the Scottish electric car



- The first rudimentary electric carriage was invented in Scotland in the 1830s by Robert Anderson. As the lead-acid rechargeable battery wasn't created until 1859, Anderson's vehicle was driven by primary power cells which had to be replaced once flat.
- Scottish-born William Morrison created one of the world's first electric cars, in Iowa in the 1890s. This was an 800 lb vehicle fitted with a 24-cell battery. This four horsepower machine could go to 14 mph. Morrison's car made quite a splash at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893.
- Another Scottish innovation, the Neale Electric Car, was made in Edinburgh in 1897 by Douglas Neale. It had a 405 lb lead 15-cell battery, each cell with a 115 amp hour capacity. This direct-drive vehicle, when laden to a gross weight of 900 lb, had a range of 35 miles.

Ancient Scottish birch water



By: Nick Drainey

Harvested from the wild birch woods of Perthshire

In the forests of Perthshire, a 5,000-year-old tradition is being recreated with birch trees being tapped for the health-giving sap contained within the ancient trees.

For the first time, a commercial operation has begun in Scotland to take and bottle the “birch water” and sell it to the public.

Gabrielle and Rob Clamp use maple syrup kits bought from Canada to syphon off the natural tonic which is reputed to cleanse kidneys and liver, ease arthritis and rheumatism, and help strengthen teeth.

The process is popular in Finland and the Baltic countries and the water is drunk by celebrities including Victoria's Secret model Rosie Huntington-Whiteley. But it has never been seen in Scotland on a large scale.

History of birch water in Scotland

However, there is a history of birch water in Scotland going back millennia. Rob, whose company Birken Tree collects around 5,000 litres of sap each year, says: “We trace it back at least 5,000 years. There was a Neolithic lady whose body was dug up in Caithness where I am from and there was evidence of some food and some of that was birch sap. In the Highlands there are records of people using it as a tonic after a long winter; giving it to babies, themselves and even cattle. It makes sense because it is so full of minerals and vitamins and it is a lean period (in nature).”

Although still known about in other countries Rob says there could be a simple reason its use died out here. “They have a very different history to us in Scotland. People were cleared away to the New World and that connection to the land was severed.”

Sat amid the birch trees of Grandtully Forest in Perthshire, Rob explains the unique taste: “I like the silkiness of it, almost creamy. There is a very slight sweetness, depending on the tree or the season. Some people compare it to melons or cucumber, it is very subtle.”

When they first tapped the sap last year Gabrielle said she was excited: “We realised the taste of fresh sap was different from the bottle we had before – we really loved it. That is why we use glass bottles to keep the taste right. And, if you warm it up slightly the flavours are more intense.”

Pure sap

There is usually only a three-week window to gather the sap in spring because as the warmer months arrive it develops a bitter taste. However, the season has been longer this year though because the warmer weather in February meant they started in the second week of March. They collect about 5,000 litres a year but estimate that each tree only loses a tiny amount of its sap. Rob says: “We take about one per cent. We know they take up 100s of litres a day and we take about five.”

Gabrielle gave up a job as a chiropractor to concentrate on the business. And while Rob still works as a forester, he aims to concentrate on their start up business full-time. Internationally, the market is worth millions of dollars and Gabrielle and Rob were introduced to it when a friend gave them a bottle marked ‘Made in Finland’. Gabrielle says: “We thought someone must make it in Scotland but no.” As a result, they became the only Scottish producers on a commercial level, selling to local delicatessens and through a wholefood distributor.

In the forests of Perthshire, a 5,000-year-old tradition is being recreated with birch trees being tapped for the health-giving sap contained within the ancient trees.

Gabrielle adds: “There are lots of vitamins and minerals, enzymes and amino acids. There is xylitol as well which is good for the teeth. A lot of people ask if it is (normal) water because it is called birch water but no, it is pure sap.”

Ancestral Scottish tradition

The sap ferments in three days so they freeze it and then pasteurise it a little to give it a longer shelf life. Rob says: “At some point it would be nice to focus on it full time and we have launched a crowdfunding campaign.” Growing the business will mean adding flavours such as cranberry, bilberry and meadowsweet and also creating sparkling birch water which has been asked for by high end hotels and restaurants. We are so proud that we have been able to revive this ancestral Scottish tradition and unlock the huge potential that these native Birch trees can offer. We have injected so much energy, enthusiasm and money into our business - but now we need help to take it further. We've been so grateful for all the support we've received so far and hope that this campaign will encourage more people to get behind us and play an active part in the use and conservation of our native Birch woodlands.”



Rob and Gabrielle Clamp.

Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, 31, has written about birch water on her Facebook page saying the “nutrient-dense liquid” is a “hero ingredient”. Despite the trendy, modern feel to the product Rob insists its 5,000-year history means what they are doing is “nothing new”. He adds: “What we are saying is ‘hello, you should be drinking this stuff!’”

Hayley Bruce, Commercial Marketing Intelligence Manager at Scotland Food & Drink, said: “Scotland has a rich heritage when it comes to food and drink production and it is great to see traditional techniques being adopted in the modern world. Searching through the past for inspiration, whether looking for ancient wisdoms, indigenous ingredients or heritage produce, can open up some fantastic new opportunities for the Scottish food and drink sector.”



Birch tapping.



Birch water collecting bag.

The Giant MacAskill

By: Kenny MacAskill



A museum display of Angus MacAskill.



The Giant MacAskill Museum on the Isle of Skye.

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

I'm just over 6 feet tall and my eldest son's even taller. However, height's neither normal in my family nor amongst Scots as a people, unlike say the Dutch or the Lithuanians. Sporting competition can often show the disparity and Scottish international football managers have been known to lament the small stature of their squad.

However, there was one Scot and a namesake of mine, Angus MacAskill, who towered over everybody. He was no relation as far as I know, although we have both have our roots in the Western Isles and the surname is also spelt similarly. He grew to an almost incredible 7' 9" which is 2.26 meters for those that operate in metric and would have even me craning my neck speaking to him.

He was born in 1825 on the Island of Berneray that's linked by a causeway to North Uist and lies across the Sound from the Isle of Harris. Moving, as did so many from those parts, to Canada he's buried ironically in Englishtown, Nova Scotia. His fame therefore straddles the Atlantic with museums commemorating him in both Skye and Cape Breton.

Gille Mor

It seems that height was unusual in family. Neither his parents nor any of his 12 siblings were exceptionally tall nor was he a particularly large baby when born. At the age of 6 his parents emigrated to Canada with it being suggested that they were cleared from the land that now lies quite desolate and largely depopulated today; moving initially to Stornoway, in the Isle of Lewis, before heading across the seas to a new life.

The family settled in Englishtown, Nova Scotia in 1831 and it was there that he stated to grow and grow. The town was then largely a fishing community and predominately Gaelic speaking, where he was nicknamed Gille Mor or the Big Lad in English. As he continued to stretch, it soon changed to the Cape Breton Giant or Angus Mor. His size didn't detract from his good looks, possessing deep blue eyes and a deep voice which was thought both gentle and melodic, which was probably the Gaelic lilt.

However, there was one Scot and a namesake of mine, Angus MacAskill, who towered over everybody.

His size wasn't just in his incredible height but in other aspects of his stature. He weighed a mighty 425 lbs (193kg) but was always lean and other measurements were equally immense. His chest measured 80 inches or 200 centimetres which is the largest for any non-obese person. That's almost twice mine and I'm no shrinking violet. His shoulders measured 44 inches (110cm) and even the circumference of his wrists was a stunning 13.5 inches (34cm).

Abnormally large

The palm of his hand was 8 inches (20cm) wide and 12 inches (30cm) long, the size alone of some new born infants. His ankles were 18 inches (46cm) around which is more than the scale of most people's thighs. There were no shoes produced which could fit him and they had to be specially made to order but measured 17.5 inches (44cm). A mighty foot print indeed!

He was fortunate in that he never had any problem with his spine, an issue that can often affect unusually tall people as the growth spurt weakens the skeletal frame. However, it appears that as his growth and height were perfectly natural albeit abnormally large, he was fit and healthy. That allowed for feats of strength which were to become as legendary as his size.

Becoming a fisherman in St Ann's, Nova Scotia as a young man his strength was put to good use. He was able to simply tip his two-ton boat over its beam end to empty bilge water, as other fishermen had to repeatedly bail out their boats. Equally he could set a 40-foot (12 m) mast in a schooner unaided.

It's said he could lift to chest height a ship's anchor weighing in 2800lbs (1,300kg) and was also reputed to have carried barrels weighing 350lbs (160kg) under each arm. It's also suggested he raised a fully-grown horse over a 4-foot fence and carried a hundredweight (50kg) with two fingers whilst holding it at arm's length for 10 minutes.

A gentle man

In spite of his feats of strength he was considered a gentle man, his power belying a passive nature. Perhaps because as a young man an incident brought home the potential damage his sheer power could do. A disturbance at a dance he'd been taken to by fishing crewmates saw him knock a man out. So, concerned was he about what he might have done that the ship's captain found him praying for the man's recovery. That seemed a salutary lesson and he never again was known to raise his fists or use his strength in anger.

Nowadays he be a major hit in iron men competition and doubtless on TV shows. It was the same then though with different mediums. Entering the circus, he worked for the legendary PT Barnum appearing with Tom Thumb. It seems that sadly not just that but other crueller and more barbaric sights whether human or animal were also on show, in what would now be considered almost a "freak show". It must have been hugely undignified but it was simply reflective of the age and the desire to see such an unusual man.

Doubtless, he was also well paid for it which was why he did it. But it didn't seem to concern or upset him and it allowed him to travel both across North America and back to Europe that he'd left as a child. The substantial funds he received for it allowed him to buy land, a mill and a store back in Englishtown.

Life seemed settled until the summer of 1863 when he had gone to buy supplies in Halifax and took ill. He returned to his parents' house but sadly died from what was described as a "brain fever" at the age of 38. His death was mourned across the land and many turned out for his funeral. Buried in the Auld Cemetery in Englishtown his headstone towers over that of his parents, forever the Giant MacAskill.



Angus MacAskill, the Cape Breton Giant, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, 1863. Photo: Library and Archives Canada.

Did you know?

There is a Giant MacAskill Museum on the Isle Of Skye. Set in a restored Highland croft, the museum shows off the greatness of Angus MacAskill, who was born in 1825 and grew to a mighty 7'9" tall. In 1981 he was recorded in the *Guinness Book of Records* as the tallest "true giant".

Retrospective exhibition of Linda McCartney's photography to be shown in Glasgow



A major retrospective of photography by Linda McCartney will be shown in the UK for the first time at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow from 5 July 2019 to 12 January 2020. The Linda McCartney Retrospective, which is curated by Paul, Mary and Stella McCartney, features iconic names and moments in music from the 1960s along with more intimate and emotional later work by this acclaimed and prolific photographer.

The retrospective also includes one of Linda McCartney's diaries from the

1960s displayed in public for the first time and bringing new insight into the contemporary music scene of the era and the beginnings of her photographic career. Cameras used by Linda McCartney and held in her archive will be displayed in public for the first time, along with Polaroids and Contact Sheets to explore her creativity and use of the different techniques. The range of material to be displayed reflects the McCartney family's passion for Linda's work and their desire for the extensive contents of her archives to be accessible to a wider audience.

Sir Paul McCartney said: "Linda would have been so proud of this exhibition being held in Scotland, a country she loved so much and spent so many happy days in."

Ahead of her time on every level

Stella McCartney said: "Through these images you meet the real mother I knew. You see her raw and deep talent and passion for her art, photography. Ahead of her time on every level this mother of four still held her camera close like a companion, she captures the

"Linda would have been so proud of this exhibition being held in Scotland, a country she loved so much and spent so many happy days in."

world around her through her eyes and this can be seen on the walls around the exhibition. Her humour, her love of family and nature and her moments framed with a slight surreal edge... Scotland was one of her favourite places on earth, and so many images were taken there. Enjoy her passion and compassion..."

The exhibition was first shown at the Kunst Hausn Wien museum, Vienna and subsequently at The Pavillon Populaire, Montpellier and Daelim Museum, Seoul. Themes including The Sixties, Family Life, Self Portraits, Observations – Animals and Nature, and Scotland, featuring pictures taken at the family home in Argyll and of people from local communities in Campbeltown, shape this significant retrospective.

Linda McCartney became a professional photographer in the mid-1960s, known for her portraits of Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling Stones and The Beatles, among many others. In 1968 she was the first female photographer whose work was featured as the cover of Rolling Stone magazine, with a portrait of Eric Clapton. In 1974, when Linda and Paul appeared on Rolling Stone's cover, she became the first person to have been photographed and taken a photo for the cover of the magazine: a neat reflection of Linda's life both in front of and behind the lens. Following her marriage to Paul McCartney in 1969, Linda's photographs became more intimate and emotional, exploring the natural world, family life and social commentary.

Linda McCartney continued to work prolifically as a photographer until her death from breast cancer in 1998. Her work has been exhibited by institutions including the International Center of Photography in New York, the Victoria & Albert Museum and the National Portrait Gallery in London.

Did you know? Castle Stalker European honour for Shetland



- Castle Stalker is located on a tidal island on Loch Laich, north-east of Port Appin, Argyll, Scotland.
- The castle is a keep with 4 floors.
- The islet upon which the castle sits is known as the Rock of the Cormorants.
- The castle can only be reached by boat.
- In the 14th century a small fort stood where Castle Stalker stands today. It was built by Clan MacDougall.
- In the mid-15th century, the Stewarts constructed the castle as it looks today.
- The castle was abandoned in around 1840, ownership having passed backwards and forwards between the Stewart clan and the Campbell clan.

- During the Jacobite Rising in 1745 Castle Stalker was used as a troop garrison.
- In 1908 basic reconstruction work was carried out by Charles Stewart. In 1965 Lt. Col. D.R. Stewart Allward fully restored the building.
- Castle Stalker has appeared in several films, including *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* and *Highlander: Endgame*.
- James IV of Scotland often visited Castle Stalker when he was on hunting trips to Argyll.
- In Gaelic, Stalker means 'hunter' or 'falconer'.
- The castle is currently privately owned. The public can tour the building between the months of March and October.

The UK's northernmost point has earned its place as one of the top must-see destinations for international travellers in Europe this year. Travel authority *Lonely Planet*, has revealed that Shetland has been listed at number six in its top 10 'Best in Europe' destinations for 2019 – the only UK destination to be included. The islands' "awesome coastal trails, wicked wildlife watching and fabled fish and chip shops" are singled out for praise and it says visitors can "spot otters and orcas from craggy headlands, then ease into the evening at one of Lerwick's local pubs."

For decades Shetland has attracted visitors from every corner of the globe, who are drawn to its breathtaking scenery and coastline, beautiful beaches and crystal-clear waters, unique archaeology, history, culture and wildlife, welcoming locals, delicious local food and drink and its wide variety of outdoor pursuits. Shetland is also a UNESCO Global Geopark - consisting of a group of more than 100 islands, only 15 of which are inhabited – and is more geologically diverse than any similar sized area in Europe.

Stunning scenery and incredible wildlife

Best in Europe 2019 is a highly-anticipated annual collection which has been compiled by *Lonely Planet's* travel experts, who for over 45 years, have trodden every cobbled street and admired every view on the continent, searching for those great new experiences for visitors.

In response to Shetland's inclusion in Lonely Planet's Best in Europe, Tourism Secretary Fiona Hyslopsaid: "Shetland's place in the list of top European destinations is richly deserved. Its many islands have so much to offer visitors of all ages, from amazing wildlife and scenery, a rich culture and history, to the warmth and hospitality of the local people. Anyone who is looking for a break somewhere a little different this summer should consider Shetland."

Steven Coutts, Leader of Shetland Islands Council said: "Shetland has long been known as a welcoming destination for travellers, and it's great to have made *Lonely Planet* – and Europe's – top ten this year. Those of us who live here know how fantastic the islands are, with stunning scenery and incredible wildlife on our doorstep. We're an outward looking community and there's a growing number of local businesses and organisations showcasing the best of our islands to visitors. We've a vibrant economy, tremendous natural resources and a beautiful environment, all of which makes Shetland an excellent place to live, work, study and visit."



Sumburgh Lighthouse, Shetland. Photo: VisitScotland/Kenny Lam.

Canna and Sanday map out the future



The GeoGeo drone.

The inner Hebridean islands of Canna and Sanday have emerged as world leaders in the application of digital mapping technology.

Owned by conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland, they are now the subject of the most detailed mapping exercise ever undertaken of any islands anywhere on the planet.

With project funding generously donated by its Members' Centres in London, Argyll and Angus, the Trust commissioned Glasgow-based GeoGeo to carry out a drone survey of the island in November 2018 using an ultra-high definition camera with the aim of pinning down the exact locations of archaeological features.

The drone not only achieved this but also revealed hitherto unknown archaeology. The images have been processed to create a minutely detailed 3-D map of Canna and Sanday, which is even capable of being used in a 3-D printer to create scale models of the islands.

The world's largest complete island dataset captured by drone

Paul Georgie, Founder & Lead Geospatial Technologist of GeoGeo said: "The drones we use aren't those commonly for sale to the public; they represent the most advanced autonomous systems available – miniature fixed wing aircraft built for larger mapping missions like this.

We spent five days on Canna last November in miraculously calm and clear weather, with our flying robot navigating itself over 400km to capture over 4000 images of the islands. We then took this data and processed on self-built super computers to produce the most complete 3-D map of the islands to date. This not only shows detailed topography and vegetation at a game-changing three centimetres resolution but, with over 420 million data points, is currently the world's largest complete island dataset captured by drone."

The inner Hebridean islands of Canna and Sanday have emerged as world leaders in the application of digital mapping technology.

Derek Alexander, the National Trust for Scotland's Head of Archaeology said: "We've previously recorded archaeology on Canna and Sanday which proves that there were inhabitants as far back as the Neolithic but this survey gives us information and detail we just haven't had until now. We've been able to obtain exact plots of known sites but also recorded the extensive traces of cultivation, such as rig and furrow field systems that range in from the Bronze Age onwards. At its peak in the 19th century, agriculture on Canna and Sanday was capable of supporting a population of 400.

"The detail is simply astounding – aerial surveys for archaeology have been around since the end of World War Two but this new technology takes everything into a completely new realm, being

considerably more detailed, affordable and flexible. My colleagues in the Trust were blown away by the results and the possibilities of this technology – the cameras allied to 'self-learning' software will be able to help us do things like seabird counts, as well as habitat and coastal erosion monitoring that are currently expensive and labour-intensive."

Detailed maps produced

Paul Georgie added: "One of the Trust's concerns was that bird life shouldn't be disturbed by the survey work. As it happens, we were more worried about the drone being attacked by the white-tailed sea and golden eagle populations, and we had evasive functions at the ready, from barrel rolls to Immelmann turns, to avoid contact. Fortunately, although birds did take a passing interest, we had no need to use this over Canna."

The Trust is now studying the detailed maps produced and will use them to update archaeological records and to prepare for future groundwork and excavations. In the meantime, the technology platform 'Alba3D' developed by GeoGeo is being improved almost daily, providing new opportunities to analyse and integrate other datasets, drawn from local community knowledge and observation as well as Scotland's public/private agencies, into a virtual 3D world.

Paul said: "This is a fantastic moment for geography and the geospatial industry, with autonomous drones and big data platforms like Alba3D helping to democratise Scotland's ability to monitor increasingly changing environments and share our local geographies with a global audience in new and innovative ways."

The isles of Canna and Sanday are the westernmost of the Small Isles archipelago, in the Scottish Inner Hebrides. They were given to the National Trust for Scotland by their Gaelic folklorist and scholar John Lorne Campbell in 1981. Canna House is the repository of nationally important archive of Gaelic culture and language he amassed.



Paul Georgie of GeoGeo on Canna.



Derek Alexander, Head of Archaeology at National Trust for Scotland

The birthplace of Peter Pan opens its doors

The new National Centre for Children's Literature and Storytelling has opened in the Dumfries house where JM Barrie played as a small child. You can see where the legend of *Peter Pan* first took flight in the Scottish writer's imagination at this brand-new family attraction. Rescued from demolition by local community activists, Moat Brae has finally received recognition as one of Scotland's most significant literary landmarks: the birthplace of *Peter Pan*. Restored to its original Georgian glory, this beautiful Dumfries house and its garden celebrates the legacy of Scots-born JM Barrie's *Peter Pan*. It is now also a space where children and their families can come together and experience the power of storytelling.

We all know the story of *Peter Pan* - in fact there are few characters in children's literature that are as iconic as the 'Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up'. Along with *Mary Poppins*, *Winnie-the-Pooh*, *Harry Potter* and others, there is no doubt that he holds a special place in the pantheon of great British literary creations. *Peter Pan* made his debut in JM Barrie's hit London play in 1904, *Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up*, leaving audiences instantly spellbound by his and the darling children's adventures, which saw them fly from their London home in Kensington Gardens to magical Neverland.

Having undergone many retellings over the years, *Peter Pan* may be forever linked to the English capital but like the equally iconic Sherlock Holmes, Peter is a character with definite Scottish origins. It's said that *Peter Pan* owes his very existence to a Georgian villa and its terraced gardens in Dumfries called Moat Brae. It's here that James Barrie, born in Kirriemuir, near Dundee in 1860, spent five happy years as a student at Dumfries academy, and many carefree afternoons frolicking in the house's garden with school friends Stuart and Hal Gordon whose parents owned the property.

An enchanted land

Those hours of playtime on the garden's sloping banks overlooking the River Nith were to plant the seeds of what would become one of the most enduring works of literature of all time. Recounting the inspiration behind his fantasy masterpiece, Barrie wrote fondly of Moat Brae: 'a certain Dumfries garden which was an enchanted land to me was certainly the genesis of that work'.

The family home was eventually sold and spent a long period as private hospital and nursing home. Following the closure of these businesses, Moat Brae lay vacant and was facing an uncertain future until the intervention of a local trust which



Moat House, Dumfries.

raised funds to repair and restore building, installing a myriad of interactive exhibits spread across its three storeys exploring its special significance.

Children's toys from the early 20th century are displayed among artefacts connected to JM Barrie, including a small bell the playwright would ring on stage to represent Tinker Bell during the story's original theatrical run. In the attic there is a recreation of the Darling children's nursery where children can try to 'catch' Peter's shadow and crawl into the family dog Nana's kennel to play with an array of dressing-up props. There are also plenty of comfortable spots where visitors can sit down and read from a collection spanning thousands of books which will soon provide a free, out-of-hours community library for local children.

It's said that Peter Pan owes his very existence to a Georgian villa and its terraced gardens in Dumfries called Moat Brae.

In short, Moat Brae represents a new generation of Scottish visitor attraction; one spearheaded by passionate locals resolute in creating shared community spaces that preserve Scotland's endangered historic sites while also helping families to actively enrich their daily lives through art and literature. In Moat Brae's case, through the simple pleasure of a good book and the joy of imaginative play, both of which, most would agree, play an invaluable role in early childhood development and beyond.

The Scotland of JM Barrie



The childhood home of JM Barrie in Kirriemuir.

Moat Brae is not the only place in Scotland connected with James Barrie which you can visit. The Angus-born writer spent his childhood in a modest, whitewashed cottage on Brechin Road in the small town of Kirriemuir. The son of a weaver, he lived with his seven brothers and sisters in two upstairs rooms, while his father worked downstairs. The washhouse in the yard served as Barrie's first theatre where he would entertain his siblings with his early plays. Now a National Trust property, the building has been restored and now appears as it would have during Barrie's childhood. You can also visit the town's Camera Obscura which was gifted to the town by Barrie in 1930.

Storytelling sessions

Scotland is proud of its storytellers and rightly so. Its storytelling tradition has its roots in the ancient Celtic role of the



Text courtesy of www.Scotland.org

seanchaidh, a Gaelic word meaning 'bearer of old lore', during a time when the laws and history of the land weren't inscribed, but memorialised through epic poems recited in front an audience. Over time the seanchaidh would evolve into the figure of the Bard, represented today by the 19th century poet and lyricist, Robert Burns. Here are a few ways can experience the art of Scottish storytelling – whatever your age.

The Scottish Storytelling Centre, in Edinburgh, is a vibrant arts centre that boasts a year-round programme of live storytelling, poetry readings, drama, music, exhibitions, workshops, and many other family-friendly events and festivals.

The Orkney Folklore & Storytelling Centre is at the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, The Heart of Neolithic Orkney, the centre hosts an array of workshops and events which summon the mysterious legends and time-honoured songs of the Orcadian isles.

Few people know that many of Beatrix Potter's stories were inspired by the childhood holidays she spent with her family in Dunkeld, Perthshire. Part of the Birnam Arts Centre, it incorporates a delightful vintage play area for kids, while the centre's year-round events programme features storytelling, theatre, comedy, and more.

Find out more about Moat Brae at VisitScotland.com

Borders rail explores Berwick extension



Options to extend the Borders Railway could see the route join with up with the East Coast Mainline near Berwick-upon-Tweed, according to a study released by Transport Scotland. Borders services were re-introduced between Edinburgh and Tweedbank in 2015 and campaigners have been pushing for the former Waverley Line route to be reopened in full south towards Hawick and Carlisle in England. Details of the alignment for a Borders rail extension are revealed in the 'Borders Transport Corridors study draft report' which contains 21 options to improve road, public transport and active travel links in the region.

Berwickshire, Roxburgh & Selkirk MP John Lamont said: "The suggestion that the line could be extended to the East Coast Mainline is an interesting one, but there is certainly less appetite for

this option from my constituents.

The Transport Scotland report notes that far more people access the Borders Rail from the south than from the east, so bringing the line to Hawick and on to Carlisle would seem to benefit more people." He added that in his view, the business case for bringing the line through Hawick to Carlisle is even stronger than the case for the current line.

Improved bus services, enhanced park and ride facilities and an active travel network across the Borders council area are also suggested. The six week public consultation on the document takes place ahead of the forthcoming second Strategic Transport Projects Review. Transport Minister Humza Yousaf said: "This national review will ensure that we deliver transport improvements for all of Scotland which are fit for the 21st century. I would encourage anyone with an interest to have their say."

Explore the Past Lives of Leith at the Museum of Edinburgh



Past Lives of Leith exhibition.

the town and those who lived and died in it from the many strands of evidence has been a fascinating process.”

John Lawson, City of Edinburgh Council Archaeologist, added: “Leith and the surrounding area has a rich archaeological history. These excavations have unearthed a cemetery thought to date from the 14th to the 17th centuries. The discoveries of these burials in this location, although always a possibility, was nevertheless a surprise.

Visitors can now see what the Medieval residents of the former burgh might have looked like 600 years ago.

This exhibition is a conclusion to a fascinating project which has truly changed what we thought we knew about the history of Constitution Street and the inhabitants of Leith. It has allowed us to highlight the lives of the ordinary person, by putting a face to these individuals and showing how they lived and died. Allowing us to compare and contrast with findings across Scotland and the UK. The forensic reconstructions have really helped to identify these remains as those of members of the public, rather than merely deeming them as archaeological findings, and how alike they are to modern day inhabitants of Leith and Edinburgh. Additionally, the project allowed us to develop important partnerships with the Universities of Dundee and Aberdeen, which led to further areas of collaborative work and research into the former inhabitants of Edinburgh – such as the 3D reconstructions on display in our exhibition.”

Past Lives of Leith runs to Sunday 6 October 2019 at the Museum of Edinburgh. For details see: www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk

Visitors to the Museum of Edinburgh can now explore the results of the largest excavation of a medieval graveyard undertaken in Edinburgh. *Past Lives of Leith*, which delves into the fascinating work carried out by experts from Headland Archaeology and the City of Edinburgh Council. Following the discovery in 2008 of medieval burials outside Leith Parish Church, a six-month archaeological excavation was carried out in 2009 in advance of the then expected construction of the Edinburgh Tram line to Leith and Newhaven. In total, these excavations recovered the remains of 378 people and provided a window into life in Leith from the 14th to the mid-17th centuries, rewriting part of the local history of the area.

Key findings that can be explored in the exhibition include:

- The excavations - how the discovery happened.
- Historic background - how the excavation site fits into the history of Leith.
- Who was buried in Constitution Street? How the analysis reveals key facts about their age, sex, build and pathology.
- How were they buried? How the different forms of burials discovered led to clues about social status and how they may have died.
- Isotope analysis: how scientific analysis was used to discover more about where the people buried were from and even details about what they ate.
- New dating for the graveyard: how the uncovered remains, which precedes the South Leith Parish Church graveyard, changes what we know about the history of the area.

Seven centuries of Scottish life and times

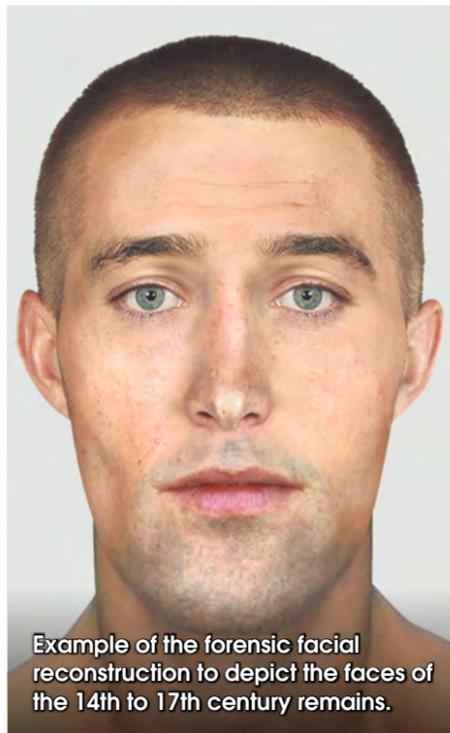
The exhibition also showcases the work undertaken by the Council and colleagues from the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification at the University of Dundee to bring this historic find to life, through the process of forensic facial reconstruction to depict the faces of the 14th to 17th century remains. Visitors can now see what the Medieval residents of the former burgh might have looked like 600 years ago.

Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener, said: “Spanning 10 years of painstaking archaeological fieldwork and scientific analysis, cutting through seven centuries of Scottish life and times, this exhibition explains how the Edinburgh Trams

project altered our understanding of the area’s history and its inhabitants. The work here is a fascinating look at our ancestors, with nearly 400 human remains found. The work carried out by our archaeologist, Headland Archaeology and Dundee University has meant we can now get not only an idea of how these medieval residents might have looked, we are also able to determine how old they were, if they were local and even how they died. I would encourage anyone with an interest in the history of our capital to pay the exhibition a visit. This is a fascinating insight into a little-known piece of our people’s history.”

Rich archaeological history

Julie Franklin from Headland Archaeology said: “Leith has persevered through sieges, famines, economic hardships and endless plagues. Weaving the sometimes harrowing, sometimes surprising story of



Example of the forensic facial reconstruction to depict the faces of the 14th to 17th century remains.



A woman with allergies, an example of forensic facial reconstruction.