Sthe Sthe Banner Scottish Banner

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Launches on Scotland's spectacular West Coast » Pg 29



Spreading the Love

Overtourism & Alternatives in Scotland
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Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

What lies beneath: The lost settlements of Glencoe



by Sean Cairney

n a windswept moor laden with wild grass and heather lies a part of Scotland's past, which archaeologists from the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) hope to uncover. However, it is just not artefacts the team are looking to uncover, but remnants of entire villages and it is not just any windswept moor but Glencoe, one of Scotland's most popular, dramatic and historic locations.

Clachans

Glencoe is without question a place of extreme beauty nestled in the Scottish Highlands, it is also a place of great tragedy where blood has soaked its soil. The Glencoe Massacre took place on February 13th, 1692 and still today holds people's fascination. 38 men, women and children of the MacDonald Clan were murdered by a regiment of soldiers who had arrived in this incredible area of rugged beauty as friends. They stayed with the families for 12 days before being ordered to murder them all.

The small traditional settlements (also referred to as clachans) of Inverigan, Achnacon and Achtriochtan vanished during the Highland Clearances, where thousands of people were forcibly evicted from their homes in the $18^{\mbox{th}}$ and 19th centuries by landlords who wanted to create large farms. These forced evacuations left behind a way of life and tradition which is long past and appears to have been literally sealed over by greedy landowners.

Archaeologists and a team of volunteers have recently discovered the remains of buildings and homes and pieces of working life, allowing them to peek into what life was like in rural Scotland over 300 years ago.

The NTS hopes now raise funds in order to continue its intricate unravelling of the past and also to build some replica turf houses so 21st century visitors may get to a taste of what life once was like for those hardy Scots.

In this issue

Scotland is known worldwide as the 'Home of Golf'. It has some of the world's top courses and hosts some of the most prestigious golfing events. Golf is also a great source of tourism for Scotland and a recent study released stated that golf was worth over £300 million to the Scottish economy and was responsible for nearly 5000 jobs. I do not play golf but have been fortunate to stay at some of Scotland's best golf locations and loved being amongst the beauty and tranquillity of Scotland's courses (which can be found across the entire country).

Glencoe is without question a place of extreme beauty nestled in the Scottish Highlands, it is also a place of great tragedy where blood has soaked its soil.

Readers of the Scottish Banner no doubt either have been, plan to or simply wish they could travel to Scotland for a holiday. Tourism contributes around £6 billion to the Scottish economy and employs over 200,000 people so it is a vital industry. However, many visitors to Scotland are hitting the same places and missing out on so much on offer. Overtourism is a word being used around the world where there are too many visitors to a destination. You would think overtourism could only be good for the economy however let us spare a thought for those Edinburgh residents who will be sharing their city with the world this month. If like me, you have been to Edinburgh in August you

will know it is a fun but busy place and you may be forgiven to think the over 2 million visitors who visit the city each year are in fact there just in August. Getting people to keep coming to Scotland but trying a new slice of Scottish pie surely must be something tourism groups are hoping to achieve.

A new Hebridean Whale Trail on Scotland's spectacular west coast has been launched by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust. Scotland's west coast is one of Europe's best places to catch sight of whales, dolphins and porpoises from land - and you may see bottlenose and common dolphins, harbour porpoise, minke whales and killer whales. The trail also takes in some fantastic beaches, lighthouses and historic sites and a perfect example of blending Scotland's wildlife, scenery and history.

Other-worldly

Speaking about the Glencoe project Neil Oliver, historian and president of the National Trust for Scotland, said: "Never before has this type of work been carried out at Glencoe. We now need to raise £300,000 to bring this project to life. This will support our archaeological work and enable us to recreate two turf houses, using traditional methods and materials wherever possible. We need the public's help to do that and as a charity, we rely on donations to help us share the stories of iconic places like Glencoe. With your support we can bring alive the sights, smells and sounds of the 17th century and help us to remember those who lost their lives in the troubled times that shaped Scotland's history. This project will also help us celebrate the resilience of the Highlanders and their way of life, now and for generations to come."

I remember my very first visit to Glencoe and noticing two things the windy cold and the quiet, it for me was somewhere very much "otherworldly", a place of vastness and rugged beauty. I have not been back for many years and the fact that this dramatic landscape is revealing a part of its past is very exciting. Our Scottish ancestors continue to teach us about their story, however tragic, and we are all the richer for it.

To find out more about the project at Glencoe and to make a donation, visit www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/glencoe

Have you been to Glencoe? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



Gracing our front cover: The Old Course, St Andrews. Photo: VisitScotland.



Make your Fringe this August



he world's largest festival of performing arts, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, has launched its full programme for this month, inviting audiences to #MakeYourFringe. With 744 shows from Edinburgh, 963 from Scotland and work from a record 63 countries, where do you begin?

New for 2019 is the FringeMaker game, which will encourage visitors to explore different venues, see shows and tackle random Fringe challenges using a dedicated webbased app. In true treasure hunt style, players will be rewarded for breaking new ground and discovering hidden top hats located in each of the over 300 venues taking part in this year's festival.

In order to help audiences to take a chance on something new, the Fringe Society have also introduced the Inspiration Machine, an interactive, arcade-style machine that will randomly display videos from Fringe artists at the push of a button. The Inspiration Machine will be located on the Mound throughout August as well as online, and Fringe-goers young and old will be invited to roll up and see all that the Fringe has to offer.

A remarkable feat of engineering and human endeavour

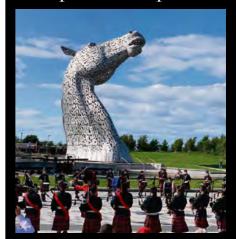
Launching the 2019 Fringe Programme, Shona McCarthy, Chief Executive of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, said: "The Fringe is a remarkable feat of engineering and human endeavour, and this year we are celebrating all the artists, writers, crew, staff, venue operators, audience members and more who come together to Make Your Fringe. This year's festival will feature 744 shows from Edinburgh, 963 from Scotland and work from a record 63 countries, which collectively help make the Fringe the greatest celebration of arts and culture on the planet."

The Fringe is world-famous for its liberal use of unconventional venues, and 2019's programme is no different, with performance spaces this year including a former swimming pool, a street art exhibition space, a football stadium, hair salon and a purpose-built circus big top. And across the Festival's 323 venues, audiences will witness productions covering major themes such as Environment and climate change, Migration, Space, Indigenous work, Death and grief, Body image and body positivity, True crime, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic identity and explore sex and sexuality.

Bargain hunters can take advantage of the 706 free shows, with a further 404 following a pay pay-what-you-want model. And the Fringe's legendary cast of street performers will be out in full force to entertain and entice crowds on the Royal Mile, at West Parliament Square and on the Mound Precinct just off Princes Street.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe runs from 2-26 August 2019 and tickets for all shows are on sale now. Find out more at www.edfringe.com

Scotch Melbourne - 2019 European Champions



Scotch College Melbourne performing at The Kelpies outside Falkirk.

cotch College Melbourne has been crowned the 2019 European Champions in Novice B in Inverness, Scotland. The band received two firsts in piping and a first in ensemble to finish top of the table in the 17-band grade. *The Scottish Banner* joins Pipe Bands Australia in congratulating Scotch Melbourne on the championship victory.

Scotch Melbourne was part of the largest-ever Australian contingent at the Europeans. Flying the flag with Scotch Melbourne in contests and public performances in Scotland recently are Knox Grammar, PLC Sydney, Haileybury and Scotch College Adelaide.









Featured Guest: AUTHORS SERIES Elizabeth May & Claire McFall

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MASTER OF CEREMONIES Gillebride MacMillan.

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By David Whysall

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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?

Summer Rain in Scotland



Weather is not sudden now the fog drifts, the misty rain creeps, any breeze is a furtive visitor

slowed by the mountains. Summer here is mostly rain, the rainiest land in Europe, some say—quiet rains filling burns and lochs,

replenishing cisterns and wells—good for pines, good for pasture and sheep, good for people, good for whisky, some say with a wink.

We travel with ponchos in our daypacks and the wise words of our guide Harry: There's never bad weather, just the wrong clothes.

There will be surprises in this land, I'm sure—but these first drops of the day splattering us as we board the bus

are not among them, and Harry has taught us well: Better to be looking at them than for them. Like good friends, you might say.

> David Black USA

What's In A Name

I am very glad I got in my query to Ron Dempsey before he retired from *the Scottish Banner*. I have always felt rather deprived by not being given a middle name and wish they had given me my father's middle name of Phimister, since Ron advised it mean's 'master of the cattle herd', as I have been a farmer for many years now. A far cry from my father as an Edinburgh accountant! *Mora McCallum South Australia*

Informed of both modern and historical Scotland

I have been a reader of *the Scottish Banner* for over 20 years, and I look forward to it. It is an excellent read and a great way to keep ex-pats around the world informed of both modern and historical Scotland.

Lang Mae Yer Lum Reek! Aye Yours,

Aye rours,
Duncan Quinn
Waiheke Island, Auckland
New Zealand

Robert the Bruce



Thank you *Scottish Banner* for including the new film, *Robert the Bruce*, in your July edition. As far as I can see *the Banner* is the only publication outside the UK that has given this any form of press. After the huge success of *Braveheart* the interest in this film should be immense and I have not seen a mention of it anywhere. I cannot wait to see this film and I am glad to know the staff at *the Scottish Banner* are keeping us expat Scots up to date on major releases like this.

It is so thrilling to see so much Scottish content coming to film and television recently-it makes me so proud to be a Scot! Andrew Smith Halifax, Nova Scotia

Canada Pippins



I must say how much I enjoy reading the Scottish Banner. I find every article interesting and wonder how you are able to come up with so many and varied month after month. I was particularly interested to read the article about the fashion dolls or 'pippins' of Mary Queen of

Scots (New research reveals fashion secrets of Mary Queen of Scots, the Scottish Banner, April, 2019). I have a pippen, though not a 16th or 17th century one, and not made of wax. It is made of China, has lovely eyes that open and close and real hair.

My maternal grandfather was a highly respected headmaster in Newcastle and because of this was able to obtain for me toys, books and even a push bike he restored. I was given the doll, I don't know where it was made. The doll came with a magnificent set of clothes, including a day dress, evening dresses and beautiful fabrics. I was told the doll was French as it was dressed in expensive French fabrics. I never doubted that, but was excited to read her origins.

Ann Grant Randwick, NSW Australia

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send your photos or letters via social media



The Borders Walking Festival



Scottish Borders Walking Festival 7-14 September. Walks, strolls & events in Selkirk and the Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys.

Join us

www.borderswalking.com

Castle Stalker



Lovely Castle Stalker and Loch Linnhe, Argyll. GN Photography Scotland

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

Largest assembly of pipe bands set for Pleasanton Scottish Games





hirty-five-plus pipe bands and a U.S. Marine Band in a gala presentation is but one part of the huge celebration of everything Celtic at the Scottish Highland Gathering & Games. Celebrating its 154th consecutive year, the extravaganza returns to the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, California, over the Labor Day weekend, August 31st and September 1st.

World-class Highland Games

Regarded as one of, if not the largest such gathering in the world, the Games have been presented by the Caledonian Club



of San Francisco since 1865. The Games moved to Northern and Central California's largest fairgrounds in Pleasanton 26-years ago in order to accommodate the 25 different venues, that include the 800-plus pipers and drummers, the 45th U.S. Invitational Heavy Event athletics, the Western States Highland Dancing Competition, seven stages of continuous traditional and Celtic Rock entertainment, historic pageantry with Mary Queen of Scots and her Highland Warriors escorts, plus so much more. Add a 100 clan area, Irish Step Dancing exhibitions, falconry, highland cattle and five-a-side soccer,

Rugby and Shinty tournaments, and you have a full day's worth of entertainment.

The U.S. Marine Band performs daily with a world-class pipe band in marching and stationary formations, interspersed with the military brass band and the pipers and drummers. Viewed only at these Scottish Games, the Marine/Pipe Band performance is part of the daily Closing Ceremonies along with the 35-plus pipe bands from the U.S. and Canada in front of the massive fairgrounds covered grandstands. The world-class assemblage uses the front straight of the one-mile horse racing track.

These annual Games are considered by many as one of the best "band-for-your-buck" festivals in the world!

The full schedule of events and admission pricing can be viewed on the Games website at: www.TheScottishGames.com



The world's first Highland Coosmonaut



new tourism map highlighting Scotland's links to space **L** exploration and the first Moonwalk has been released on the 50th anniversary of the launch of Apollo 11 and to coincide with the 50th anniversary year of VisitScotland. The Scotland is Out of this World trail is part of the new VisitScotland campaign of the same name which saw BuzzBò, the world's first Highland Coosmonaut, soar 36,000 metres into near space wearing an Armstrong tartan spacesuit. The national tourism organisation teamed up with Sent Into Space to send up the cuddly toy. Footage of him lifting off by weather balloon from Gilnockie Tower, the ancestral home of Clan Armstrong, and landing safely near Cranshaws in the Scottish Borders has been released. 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 become the town's first and only Freeman, declaring it at the ceremony his "home town".

Tartan of the Month Earl of St. Andrews Tartan

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

his month we highlight the Earl of St. Andrews (Dress) Tartan (STA ref: 4778) designed by D.C. Dalgliesh. From D.C. Dalgliesh's dancers' fancies swatch book and based on the original Earl of St Andrews. This tartan was recorded prior to the launch of The Scottish Register of Tartans. St Andrews is a university town and former Royal Burgh on the east coast of Fife in Scotland, and is often considered the world's "Home of Golf". This tartan has remained popular due to its connection with the town of St Andrews and golfing links.

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SCOTSPEAK

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

"The season started off a good two weeks early in early/mid May, with larger populations, particularly in Argyll. First generation midges mate and lay eggs that normally give rise to a second generation about six weeks later. Sometimes this can speed up in warmer weather but the relatively cool weather in June seemed to slow this development down a little, but we are now seeing the second generative appear in quite high numbers and with the warm, damp, weather, this is going to optimise their chances of survival and breeding success."

Dr Alison Blackwell, Director of Dundeebased APS Biocontrol Ltd., said the notorious Highland biting midge is forecast to appear in "bumper numbers" this summer. The first of this year's hatchings in May happened two weeks earlier than usual, according to the scientists behind the Scottish Midge Forecast. Scotland's midge season usually starts in May and ends in late September.



"This is great news for Ayrshire potato growers, particularly given the current uncertainty for the industry being caused by Brexit. Scotland has an unrivalled global reputation for quality food and drink produced from our own natural larder. PGI status not only helps protect the provenance of products like Scotch whisky, Stornoway Black Pudding and Arbroath smokies but also assures consumers at home and abroad that they can trust the product they are buying, and ensures that the right expertise, ingredients and methods of production are being used. I'm delighted that Ayrshire Earlies are the latest fine Scottish product to benefit from that protection. My congratulations to the Girvan Early Growers for making this happen."

Scotland's Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said as Ayrshire new potatoes have become the latest Scottish product to be granted EU protection against unauthorised imitation. The potatoes, also known as Ayrshire Earlies, join a list of products including Scotch whisky, Stornoway Black Pudding and Scottish salmon, which also have protected geographic indication (PGI) status. Ayrshire's milder climate helps grow some of the UK's finest new potatoes, and have been grown in Ayrshire since around the 1850s.

"The B2Space balloon launch is the first tangible spaceflight activity in Unst and will mark a truly ground breaking day for Shetland Space Centre, the islands as a whole, Scotland and the UK. It foreshadows the arrival of a whole new sector in the local economy."

Shetland Space Centre project director Scott Hammond said ahead of the test launch of a balloon for a system that can deliver small satellites into orbit. The test launch has been described as the UK's first commercial spaceflight-related activity and took place on Unst in Shetland, Scotland's most northerly island.



"Plastic waste is undoubtedly one of the most important issues around the world today, with TV shows like Blue Planet highlighting the effects of plastic pollution. This year, we are transforming Boots as we celebrate 170 years, and the move to unbleached paper bags is another pivotal moment in that journey. There is no doubt that our customers expect us to act and this change signifies a huge step away from our reliance on plastic."

Boots managing director Seb James said as Stores in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen were amongst the first in Britain to stop using plastic bags for customers. The UK pharmacy chain has announced it will replace plastic carrier bags with unbleached paper bags in all stores. The paper bags will initially replace plastic bags in 53 Boots stores, with a full roll-out to all 2,485 stores completed by early 2020.

"We're all thrilled to be celebrating the opening of our spectacular new Lagg Distillery and to bring production back to the heart of whisky-making on the Isle of Arran."

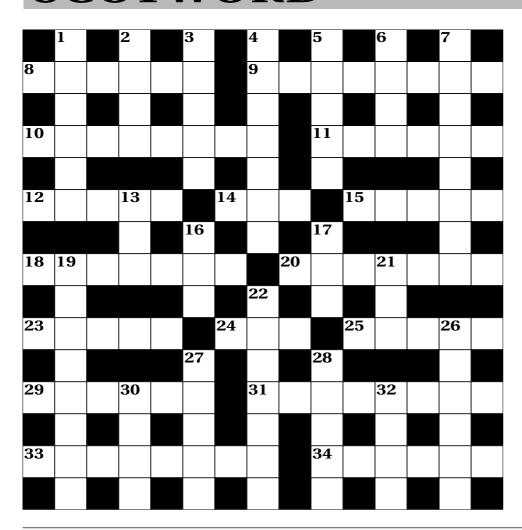
Lagg Distillery manager Graham Omand said as the first new distillery on the Isle of Arran for nearly 25 years has officially opened its doors to visitors last month. The distillery includes a new visitor centre, shop, cafe and restaurant. Owners Isle of Arran Distillers said the move was in response to the continuing growth of whisky tourism in Scotland.



"It was very tough indeed, we took a long time wondering about it. We got a consultant in and looked at all the options. But a house like this has costs, considerable amounts of money and I just felt that future generations couldn't go on spending that amount so rather than me bleeding the treasury we had to do something about it and that's what we've sadly decided to do. It's going to be very sad, and quite emotional. I suppose on the practical side we will live in considerably more comfort in a smaller house that we can keep heated with double glazing and easier living arrangements so there is an upside to it, but emotionally it's going to be very sad indeed."

The Earl of Dalhousie said it has been a very tough decision to sell Brechin Castle in Angus. The castle which has been in the Earl's family for 300 years, boasts 16 bedrooms and ten bathrooms, as well as 8 reception rooms with walls throughout adorned with historic works of art. Interested parties should be prepared to submit offers in over £3,000,000.

SCOTWORD



Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland. If you are in any doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or map - or if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on our Events page (page 26). Good Luck!

CLUES ACROSS:

- 8) It's auld Edinburgh (6).
- 9) Island in the Firth of Forth (8).
- 10) Gathering (8).
- 11) Observance (6).
- 12) Glasgow flower (5).
- 14) Landowner's estate (3).
- 15) UK lawman (5).
- 18) Titanic wrecker (7).
- 20) Scots rubbish heaps (7).
- 23) Cry to meet a Scot! (5).
- 24) Male sheep (3).
- 25) Tayside admin region (5).
- 29) Engine fuel (6)
- 31) East-coast port (8).
- 33) Variety of plum (8).
- 34) Auchterarder glen (6).

CLUES DOWN:

- 1) Small furry mammal (6)
- 2) Largest Hebridean island (4).
- 3) Classic horse race (5).
- 4) Revolutionary type of transport (7).
- 5) Where kings were crowned (5).
- 6) He's from above the Border (4).
- 7) Hogmanay necessity (5, 3).
- 13) A Seats puddle (3).
- 16) With Bru it refreshes (3).
- 17) Coniferous tree (3).
- 19) Scottish philanthropist (8).
- 21) He's comically desperate! (3).
- 22) Porridge ingredient (7).
- 26) Gent's heavy double-breasted coat (6).
- 27) Charlie's saviour (5).
- 28) Bulls-eye! (5).
- 30) Duty list (4).

2019 Floral Clock resplendent for Save the Children centenary



ork has finished to complete this year's design on the world's oldest Floral Clock in Edinburgh's West Princes Street Gardens. For 2019, the hugely popular landmark commemorates the centenary of charity Save the Children. One hundred years ago, Save the Children's founder Eglantyne Jebb, along with her sister Dorothy, held a public meeting in London's Albert Hall to launch the charity. Their mission was very simple - to fight for children left sick and starving in Europe after the First World War. Since that day, Save the Children has always been there for children when they've needed the charity the most.

One of Edinburgh's most cherished attractions

City of Edinburgh Council Parks Leader Councillor Karen Doran said: "We couldn't be prouder of our amazing Floral Clock, which is looking absolutely stunning with its 2019 design to mark the Save the Children centenary. People flock from far and wide to see the clock every summer and it's undoubtedly one of Edinburgh's most cherished attractions. Huge thanks to the fantastic gardens staff who have spent hundreds of hours perfecting the design. They've excelled themselves yet again!"

Claire Telfer, Head of Scotland at Save the Children, said: "We're thrilled that the iconic floral clock is honouring 100 years of Save the Children. Our founder was the first person to speak about children's rights globally and her declaration formed the basis of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most universally accepted human rights instrument in history. It is fitting that in our centenary year, the Scottish Government has committed to realising the rights of all children in Scotland in Scots law for the first time. We are proud of the work we've done to support children in Scotland over the last 100 years with the help of supporters, volunteers and staff in Edinburgh and across Scotland. We are so privileged to have our legacy commemorated in the very heart of Edinburgh and want to extend a massive thank you to all those involved in bringing this vision to life. We hope all those involved in supporting us over the years will be able to visit and enjoy the clock."

The oldest of its kind in the world

The Floral Clock was first created in 1903 by then Edinburgh Parks Superintendent, John McHattie, and is the oldest of its kind in the world. It initially operated with just an hour hand, with a minute hand added in 1904, followed by a cuckoo clock in 1952. Until 1972 the clock was operated mechanically and had to be wound daily.



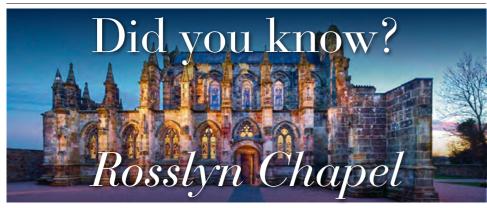
Since 1946 it has been designed in honour of various organisations and individuals, including the Girl Guides Association, Robert Louis Stevenson and the Queen, for her Golden Jubilee. In the clock's centenary year in 2003 it won a Gold medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

It has taken three gardeners six weeks to plant the 35,000-plus flowers and plants used to create the clock, which will be in bloom until October. Plants included in this year's design are: Crassula cooperi, Antennaria, Kleinia, Echavarias, Sedum spathufolium, Pyrethrum, Non stop Begonias, Begonia semperflorens, Thymus and Agaves.



Did you know?

- The clock was created in 1903 and is the oldest floral clock in the world.
- It is housed in the plinth of the Allan Ramsay Monument at the north-east corner of West Princes Street Gardens.
- Planting begins in May each year.
- Up to 40,000 plants are used in the design each year (compared to 13,000 in the 1930s; 25,000 in the 1950s).
- In 1946 the clock began celebrating a different event or anniversary each year.
- In 1952 a cuckoo clock was added and still chimes every 15 minutes.
- In 1973 when the clock began being operated electrically.
- In 2003 the clock won a Gold medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.
- Clock circumference: 36 ft.
- · Clock width: 11 ft 10 ins.
- Weight of large hand (when filled with plants): 80lbs.
- Weight of small hand (when filled with plants): 50lbs.
- Floral clocks are now distributed worldwide and many were made in Edinburgh, where the idea originated. They can be found in India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, South America, United States of America, Canada and many other European countries.



- Rosslyn Chapel was built in 1446 by Sir William St. Clair, Prince of Orkney and a grand master of the Knights of Templar. It is one of the more than 37 collegiate churches (secular foundations intended to spread intellectual and spiritual knowledge) built in Scotland between 1406-1513. Original plans for the chapel, which included extension to a larger cruciform building with a tower at its centre, were never completed after St. Clair's death. In the years after his death, the unfinished chapel fell into disuse during the reformation, was damaged by local protests and even housed Cromwell's troops during the attack on Rosslyn Castle.
- From the flying buttresses, gothic gargoyles and intricately carved biblical and pagan scenes of the interior, Rosslyn Chapel is one of the best examples of medieval architecture in Europe. Many speculate that because Sir William St. Clair carefully oversaw every part of the building process, each carving holds a hidden meaning.
- The ceiling contains hundreds of stone blocks, each carved with a unique symbol.
 No cryptographer has ever broken the code and a reward is offered to anyone able to do so.

- The rose carvings are the only repeated ornamentation throughout the chapel.
 These roses are believed to emphasize that the St. Clair family's lineage was from the holy bloodline of Jesus Christ, who was also called the Rose of Sharon.
- Carvings of cactus and corn are said to symbolize Henry Sinclair's (the architect's grandfather and a member of the Knights Templar) pre-Colombus trip to America. It is known that Columbus sailed under the flag of the Knights Templar, and it is also believed he was guided by Sinclair's charts.
- The "Apprentice Pillar," symbolic of the tree of life, is said to have resulted in the creator's death. Local legend holds that the apprentice carved the pillar during his master's absence, and upon his return, the master became jealous of his apprentice's ability and killed him.
- Recent geological ultrasounds uncovered a vault below the surface of the Chapel, with no entrance or exit. With no excavation permitted, speculation continues that within it lie many holy relics including the Holy Grail, the Ark of the Covenant, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and even the mummified head of Christ!



Piping Live! brings the stars of piping to Glasgow



he world's biggest week of piping is set to bring 40,000 music fans to Glasgow this summer. Glasgow's Buchanan Street was recently transformed into the Piping Walk of Fame, with Hollywood-style stars revealing the headliners of this year's Piping Live! Glasgow International Piping Festival, which returns to the city 10-18 August 2019.

The festival gave Glasgow's Style Mile a piping hot makeover, lining the popular street with tartan-themed stars announcing the big names set to perform - including Dougie MacLean, Finlay Johnston, Dàimh and Lúnasa. Now in its 16th year, Piping Live! is the biggest festival of its kind, attracting over 40,000 music fans, families and tourists who travel from around the globe to watch more than 5,000 pipers perform at 150 events across the city.

The programme will feature performances by the very best international acts from countries including New Zealand, Malaysia, Canada and Scotland, and will also see the return of the fiercely contested Masters Solo, International Quartet and Pipe Idol competitions. In addition, there will be daily performances, family fun and the hugely popular Street Café will return to The National Piping Centre for the festival.

The biggest celebration of piping and Pipe Bands in the World

Roddy MacLeod, Festival Director of Piping Live! said: "Each year, we bring the stars of traditional music to Glasgow, so this year we decided to pay tribute to them by creating our very own Piping Walk of Fame to unveil our headliners. Our 16th year is set to be an incredible festival – we have some of the biggest performers putting on events throughout the city, family fun at our Street Café and evening concerts not to be missed. There really is something for everyone and we look forward to enjoying an amazing event with you all in August."

Councillor David MacDonald, depute leader of Glasgow City Council and Chair of Glasgow Life said: "The return of Piping Live! always brings a vibrancy to the city with exceptional musical performances from incredible musicians. The opportunity to see something so distinctly Scottish that features some of the finest talent in the world is compelling for Glaswegians and for visitors to the city. Coming in the days leading up to



The World Pipe Band Championships it makes for the biggest celebration of piping and Pipe Bands in the World."

Tickets are on sale now via www.pipinglive.co.uk





he Royal Edinburgh Military
Tattoo will take place this month
at the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade
from 2-24 August. Under the
theme Kaleidoscope, this year's Tattoo
will capture the imaginations of audience
goers through a series of performances
bold with colour and light, comparable to
the optical invention which was created
by Scottish physicist Sir David Brewster
in 1816. The show will celebrate "glorious
symmetries" through precision-led
performances with the British Army at the
fore, complemented by the Massed Pipes
and Drums, Pipers Trail, the Tattoo Dance



Company and Hjaltibonhoga (Shetland Fiddlers), which are all confirmed to participate. Returning to the captivating setting of Edinburgh Castle's Esplanade for its 69th show, the military and cultural spectacle will bring its renowned energy to the city with more than 1,200 international performers expected to descend on the capital.

Scotland's vibrant cultural capital

Brigadier David Allfrey, Chief Executive and Producer, The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, said: "Each Tattoo is planned up to two years in advance in order for us to build the creative concept and secure the most exciting international performers that draw in our audiences year on year. 2019's Show is all about light and colour. In 1816, the Scottish inventor Sir David Brewster was looking at objects through mirrors and he noticed how colours appeared in beautiful patterns.

This was the inspiration for his kaleidoscope, a wonderful device that delivered symmetrical yet ever-changing images. In turn, our Show will celebrate the geometry, colour and movement of our military and folkloric performers in their constantly changing patterns; all accentuated by world-class lighting, projections, sound and special effects.

It is a fabulous project. We are proud to have sold out for the last 20 consecutive seasons and the demand for tickets continues to be high. This is tremendous for Edinburgh, Scotland, Great Britain and our international partners. For many of our guests, the Tattoo is on their bucket list and is a principal reason for travel. We take our responsibilities in this very seriously and work hard to deliver a show that is always exciting and inspiring."

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo performs to a remarkable live audience of 220,000 at Edinburgh Castle each August with TV audiences reaching 100 million. The business also revealed plans to take the show to Sydney, Australia in October, as part of its ambitious growth plans which also include potential tours to China and Canada.

And remember - The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo takes place at the same time as four of Edinburgh's other major festivals, which between them celebrate just about every conceivable art form, making August an ideal time of year to experience Scotland's vibrant cultural capital.

 $For \ details \ see: www.edint at too.co.uk$



By: Amelia Whittaker

Scotland set for a festival of golf

cotland will host a festival of golf this summer when it welcomes three world class events to East Lothian. It is expected that around 80,000 fans will visit the stunning stretch of coastline when the Aberdeen Standard **Investments Mens and Ladies Scottish** Opens and The Scottish Senior Open will take place there over six weeks. Following on from 2018 when Scotland hosted no less than seven world class golf events, the country which gave golf to the world, will once again welcome superstars from both the mens and womens games. The spectacular summer kicks off this week with the ASI Scottish Open, which is being staged at The Renaissance Club, North Berwick for the very first time.

VisitScotland is investing more than $\mathfrak{L}2$ million into this summer's golf events, with golf tourism worth an estimated $\mathfrak{L}286$ million to the economy and supporting around 4,700 jobs, these events ensure Scotland remains at the forefront of world golf.

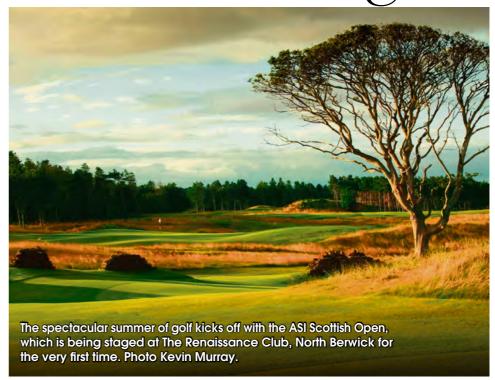
Scotland's Golf Coast

VisitScotland Regional Director Neil Christison said: "The staging of these high profile sporting events - the Aberdeen Standard Investments Scottish Opens and The Scottish Senior Open - have an immense impact on tourism in East Lothian and surrounding areas, attracting golf fans from across Scotland and beyond. With its range of 21 courses, high quality accommodation, food & drink and visitor attractions, East Lothian really does live up to its name as Scotland's Golf Coast. Golf is a vital part of the visitor economy with the ripple effect felt in shops, hotels, restaurants and a wide variety of other businesses across the region. Golf tourism is worth £286 million to the country annually – and around £21.5 million to East Lothian alone. In addition, as we look towards The Solheim Cup taking place at Gleneagles in September, the global spotlight will once again be focussed on Scotland as the Home of Golf and a world-leading golf destination."

The Scottish Open itself will attract tens of thousands of spectators to the East Lothian course to watch the likes of Rory McIlroy, Henrik Stenson and American's Rickie Fowler and Justin Thomas. Not only that, but it will be beamed globally into millions of homes by a network of broadcasters including Sky Sports in the UK and throughout the United States by NBC, all of which helps to promote Scotland, the Home of Golf as a fantastic golf tourism destination.

The biggest event in the womens golf

No less than three weeks later the best in the womens' game will get their chance to play for the biggest purse on the Ladies European Tour. The cosanctioned ASI Ladies Scottish Open takes place from 5-11 August also being



played at The Renaissance Club for the first time. Fans can expect a strong player field from the LPGA and LET including defending champion Ariya Jutanugarn, Team Europe Solheim Cup captain and North Berwick native Catriona Matthew and the 2018 Womens British Open champion Georgia Hall.

And the action doesn't stop there. The biggest event in the womens golf, The Solheim Cup, takes place at Gleneagles from 9 -15 September. This is the 16th edition of the biennial event and it aims to be the biggest ever European staging and the most family-focused one in its history, with around 100,000 spectators expected to make the trip to Perthshire. The action returns to East Lothian from 16-18 August when The Scottish Senior Open heads back for a second year to Craigielaw Golf Club, while our amazing year of golf comes to a close with the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship at St Andrews, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns.



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15 Reasons to Visit Edinburgh's Festivals



Not sure whether you should come to Edinburgh for its famous Festivals? It's not too late to plan your trip - Eve Livingston gives us fifteen reasons why you should drop everything and head for the capital this August.

5. ... and spot some rising stars

1. Weird and wonderful venues
Edinburgh has many a traditional theatre
and art gallery to offer up, but festival
season sees performances taking place
in even the most unlikely of venues
right across the city. Watch a play in
Underbelly's famous upside-down purple
cow, catch a comedian in a pop-up yurt
or bus, or squeeze into one of Cowgate's
converted vaults. It's all part of the charm!

2. There truly is something for everyone

With thousands of performers, authors and artists descending on the city in August, visitors will truly be spoiled for choice. Whether you're into books, dance, cabaret, politics, or spacethemed improvised musical comedy with clowns (and who isn't?) you'll find something to suit every taste and mood.

3. Mouth-watering street food and quirky pop-up bars



Between shows, visitors can sample some of the best-quality food and delicious drinks Edinburgh has to offer at an array of interesting bars, restaurants and food stands situated throughout the city. Choose between traditional Scottish produce and hearty world food at pop-ups situated in every nook and cranny, outdoors and in.

4. Catch some of the biggest names in the arts...

Edinburgh's Festivals continue to attract the biggest stars in comedy, theatre, books and art. Whether they're putting on an entire run or appearing for a very special one-off event, August provides a unique chance to hear directly from the world's biggest names and all of your favourites.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe in particular is known for launching the early careers

is known for launching the early careers of some of comedy and theatre's greatest success stories. The likes of Alan Bennett, Stephen Fry, Emma Thompson and Bill Bailey all got their big breaks here. So take a chance on that unknown comedian flyering you for a free show in the back of a pub - you never know where they might end up!

6. It's great for children and families



Edinburgh's Festivals offer a unique experience for children and families, with a huge collection of events for young people of all ages and a range of facilities such as buggy parking, nappy changing and play areas. Check out the dedicated children's programmes at the Fringe and Book Festival and plan a trip that's fun for all the family.

7. The street performance buzz



Edinburgh in August is the kind of place where you can get stuck behind a masked man on stilts or run into a crowd watching an acrobatic magician and consider it normal. Not only do the festivals attract the biggest and best to their venues, but Edinburgh's streets fill up with the world's top street performers throughout the month too. You only need to wander down

the Royal Mile to experience singing, dancing, magic, clowning, acrobatics, or quite possibly, a combination of them all.

8. You can find a good bargain

There are plenty of top-tier tickets available across Edinburgh's festivals, but it's also perfectly possible to stick to a budget and still see some of the biggest names and best shows. The Fringe programme includes a huge number of free and cheap shows, boasting plenty of famous faces, while almost everything at Edinburgh Art Festival is free, offering a huge range of cost-effective culture.

9. Accessible and inclusive festivals

Each of Edinburgh's Festivals has worked hard to make all they offer as accessible as possible for people with disabilities. There are a huge range of performances available with BSL interpretation and closed-captioning, and there are plenty of events specifically for disabled children and adults. Just check in at the appropriate venue where the staff will be happy to help.

10. You can take a day out to explore one of the world's greatest cities

A visit to the festivals is also a great chance to explore Scotland's capital. From iconic spots like Edinburgh Castle and the Scott Monument to family favourites such as Edinburgh Zoo (complete with its famous pandas) and Mary Kings Close, there's plenty to see and do beyond the festivals... if you somehow find yourself with a spare moment!

11. The city never sleeps throughout August

With shows starting early in the morning and venues open until the wee small hours, you can plan your days around a schedule that suits you. It's possible to pack every waking hour with shows and events, or just to wander into the city at any given time and find something that takes your fancy. The festivals truly are what you make of them, day or night.

12. See some of Edinburgh's most iconic spots in a whole new light



Edinburgh's favourite tourist spots are open all year round, but in August they're transformed into some of the festivals' most interesting backdrops. Watch the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo on the iconic Castle Esplanade, catch a circus show on the Meadows, or enjoy the International Festival's famous fireworks display from Princes Street Gardens.

13. Get hands-on with workshops and events

For those with a creative flair and energy to burn, many of the festivals offer a chance for audiences to get directly involved. Learn a new skill, do some arts and crafts, or take part in an open discussion or debate.

14. See one-off collaborations



With so many performers in one place at one time, the festivals offer a unique opportunity to see big and exciting names on the same bill. The Fringe includes a number of showcase events where you can find multiple comedians on the same lineup, while concerts and exhibitions taking place at the International and Art Festivals pride themselves on interesting collaborations between local and international artists.

15. It's a truly unique experience



Unless you've visited, it's hard to imagine the electric atmosphere and magical feeling that pulses through Edinburgh in August. These are the world's biggest festivals, and the memories you make here will last a lifetime.

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.





Holibags

Ta ra ra boom de ay, Her knickers flew away, They had a holiday, But came back yesterday.

It's nocht but fun and games aa day, Nae mair work but lots o' play Until neist year the schule-bell caas Them back to maister and his tawse.

'Holidays', Sing it Aince for Pleasure J.K.Annan.

ur family always went on an annual holiday and I believe it was a point of honour with my dad that we always had one, no matter what. When he was in steady work he made comparatively good money in Glasgow's shipyards. The riveters, the platers and the welders were amongst the highest paid tradesmen in the yards and he had ended his career as a foreman, even if only for a short time in the 1960's. That was before the final demise of shipbuilding on the Clyde. The trouble was that shipyard work was not dependable and continuity of employment could not be relied upon. When a ship was completed and launched my father was likely to be out of work for weeks on end, unless a new ship was on the stocks or a new order was coming off the drawing boards. If that wasn't the case, then he was laid off and had to look for whatever work was available in another shipyard. Luckily for us, my father was a good worker and was, what the womenfolk at the time, would have described as a good provider. He was prepared to stand in line wherever there was work to be had, and he usually got taken on at another yard fairly quickly. This meant that over his working life in the shipyards, from the age of fourteen he worked at Fairfield's, Alexander Stephens & Sons, John Browns, and Harland & Wolff. There were very probably others, but these are the ones I best remember him talking about as he came and went between them, as a ship was launched at one workplace and new work became available at another.

One male breadwinner

That uncertainty of employment also helped to explain why the vast majority of working people in Glasgow, like my mother and father, didn't own their own houses or even aspire to do so. At many times during their marriage my parents probably had enough income to afford to do so, but they were never able to rely on my dad's pay packet. The only relative of mine, of my mum and dad's generation, who did own a house during my early childhood, was

my Uncle Andrew and Aunt Marion who bought a bungalow in Milngavie. But then, my Uncle Andrew worked in retail and later managed a men's tailor and outfitting shop. His weekly earnings, on average, were probably far less than my father's over the years but it was a steady income that could be relied upon. That's what made all the difference. My mother and father had lived through two world wars and the Great Depression. There was little room for ambition having experienced such insecurity, but I well remember my mother musing on the lost opportunity of buying a house in Milngavie, at the same time as Andrew and Marion bought theirs.

My mother never worked after she was married but a family depending upon one male breadwinner was a very common arrangement at the time. The male was most often seen as the traditional breadwinner and the female the homemaker for the most part. I believe there was sometimes a sense of shame, or perhaps a touch of pride, perhaps even a bit of snobbery, involved in the idea that a husband might not be able to support his wife and family. Single mothers, widows and women with un-employed spouses might be excused by such outmoded ideas, but not necessarily married couples, when the husband was in steady well-paid work.

Even during the war, when previously designated 'men's work' had to be done by women, and there was a dramatic change in the workforce, my mother had my brother, Charlie, my sister, Jean and me, a new baby, to look after. And although many women continued in the workforce after the war when families with aspirations began to look toward double incomes, my mother never did go back to the workforce. She was a very good and loving mother but I have to say not always a good money manager. She seemed to be forever robbing Peter to pay Paul, temporarily borrowing the money from the Christmas club to make the payments on the 'never never' for the new fireside rug. But she managed to get by; we always had her at home and we wanted for nothing important.

Never a dull moment

My sister tells of how my mother was always able to borrow from my paternal grandfather when we lived in Blackburn Street, since he often dropped in to our house for his lunch, away from his work at the Prince's Dock. More correctly that was his dinner hour when many workers took the main meal of the day and took a lighter tea in the evening, after work. My sister also recounts that my mother never used pawn shops although there were plenty around Plantation and Govan at the time. If my mother,

grandmother or my Aunt Peggy were seen in a pawn shop, it was more likely to be to view a bargain, one pawned by some unfortunate and never to be recovered.

Although I've been very fortunate to have travelled to many exotic places since those times, and have enjoyed every one of them, they will never be able to compete with those of my childhood and youth, spent with family and friends.

There were also money lenders, often women living in the same closes and streets as their clients. They were depended upon by some people, yet quietly and secretly despised for their extortionate rates of interest. The important thing for

our family was that when times were bad and my dad was out of work my mum could rely on family and not have to resort to moneylenders. My Dad gave over his whole wage packet and he received back his 'pocket money'. He didn't ever drink and he gave up his cigarettes early in my childhood. We managed very well overall and we always had an annual holiday to look forward to at the Glasgow Fair fortnight, when just about the whole of Glasgow shut down and "went doon the watter for the fair" - if they could afford it.

Our family holidays were modest affairs by some people's standards but happy and fulfilling ones just the same. In my early childhood they were spent on a farm at Ardwell Bay, near Girvan, or with relatives at Teesside in England. After Mr. McKean died and Mrs. McKean had to leave her tied, farm labourer's cottage at Ardwell, most of our holidays were spent at Largs with trips over to Millport, down to Saltcoats and on the Clyde Coast steamers to Rothesay, Dunoon, the Isle of Arran and as far afield as The Kyles of Bute and Tighnabruaich. My childhood school holidays were invigorating with never a dull moment, refreshing me for an eventual return to school. And although I've been very fortunate to have travelled to many exotic places since those times, and have enjoyed every one of them, they will never be able to compete with those of my childhood and youth, spent with family and friends. They will always remain special to me.



Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

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





reetings from Scotland – or even from sunny France!
Which is where the chief and I are at the moment...

Yes, we have managed to slip away for a short holiday. We are chasing the sun. And boy, is it hot here. The MacGregor brought some tartan with him. But it is far too warm for a kilt. Which is a shame. It would go down well here. The French love the Scots. Not least because many centuries ago these two countries got together to form an 'Auld Alliance'. This military and diplomatic treaty was signed in 1295 and was basically an attempt to stop aggressive expansion by the English. It gave France and Scotland some sort of security. It meant that Scots had access to some of the finest French wines.

Happily, that side of things continues – and, now surrounded by vineyards, the MacGregor and I are wasting no time in working our way through a few bottles of the stuff. Yet it is not all wine and roses. The French midges are relentless. Which reminds us of summer in the Highlands.

Sam Heughan spent the day in Dumfries. He was receiving an honorary degree from the local university – as was I.

The crickets, meanwhile, start their irritating chorus at dawn and carry on until late into the night. That said, it is still relaxing here. We sit by the pool and read. We breakfast on croissant and coffee. We dine on pate and salad and it is all very pleasant.

Robert the Bruce

The rest is welcome because it has been a busy time back at home. Not least with the unveiling of a new statue. From Aberdeen to Annan... In Scotland there is no shortage of reminders of Robert the Bruce. And now there is another effigy to add to the list.

This latest carving of the King of Scots is in Dumfries and it has been carved by a chap called Chainsaw Pete. Pete Bowsher is a Canadian forester. Some years ago, he moved to Scotland where he has become a familiar face at the Scottish Open Carving Championships and a star turn at Edinburgh's Royal Highland Show. Anyhow, this time Pete has excelled himself. His life-size figure of Bruce is crafted from red cedar and sits grandly on a sandstone plinth. From the curves on the king's cloak, to the hairs on his beard, it is simply stunning.



I was present at the unveiling – as were a number of others. Because the King of Scots is especially important in this part of the world.

Indeed, Bruce's links to the south-west of Scotland are well-documented.

This seventh Lord of Annandale had a castle in Lochmaben and another in Annan. It was in a Dumfries church that he killed his rival on his way to claim the Scottish throne. And it was from this part of the country that Bruce set out on his Wars of Independence. It is stirring stuff. And there is more excitement to report...

Sam Heughan

You may have heard of the *Outlander* TV series. I mean, who hasn't?! Well, the actor who plays Highland clansman Jamie Fraser was born in south-west Scotland. And this month he returned to his roots. Sam Heughan spent the day in Dumfries. He was receiving an honorary degree from the local university – as was I. The chief was with me and he and Sam had a good old chat about clans and tartan.

Everyone wanted to shake the actor's hand - and have their picture taken with him. Because appearing in this block-busting time-travel drama, has made Sam a famous Scottish face. So much so, that he is now being tipped to play the next James Bond.

And ladies, you can see why.

Tall, handsome, and charming, he left everyone both shaken and stirred.

Paws at the Palace

I know that Robert the Bruce had a dog. I do not know if Sam Heughan has one. If he doesn't, then perhaps he should have gone to Scone Palace in Perth this month where there were a thousand of them.

'Paws at the Palace' was a sell-out event. The chief and I have never witnessed such a gathering of four-legged friends. There were big ones and wee ones. Fluffies and smooth coats. Long legs and stumpy ones. Flat faces and pointy noses. There were puppies in prams and mutts on the back of motorbikes. There were dogs in dresses and hounds in helmets. I helped judge the pretty pooch competition - and if I have any sense it will probably be the last time that I do such a thing. You see, everyone thinks their own pet is the most beautiful creature in the world and I nearly got chased off the field for not choosing the right hound...

Yes, it has been a hectic few days back in Scotland. But time slows here in the French countryside. So, if you will excuse me, I will get back to my book and my glass of wine.... We'll catch up again soon!

Edinburgh Castle nominated for top travel award



dinburgh Castle has again been nominated as Best Heritage Attraction in the prestigious British Travel Awards (BTAs).

The public decide who wins and have until 30 September to vote to ensure the castle seizes the top prize at this year's awards.

Winners will be announced at the BTA Gala Awards Dinner in London on 27 November.

Last year over 2 million people visited Edinburgh Castle, making it Scotland's number one paid-for visitor attraction. It has been nominated for a BTA Best Heritage Attraction before, previously winning four times in a row, in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Another honour for Edinburgh Castle

Edinburgh Castle Executive Manager, Nick Finnigan, said: "This nomination is another honour for Edinburgh Castle. With its incredible history, new highquality exhibitions, excellent staff and breath-taking views of the city, we are very proud of the castle and for it again being recognised in this category. We are especially thankful to our amazing visitors who continue to be fascinated by the castle and would be hugely grateful if they took the time to vote for us and help us win."

BTA chief executive Lorraine Barnes
Burton said: "The British Travel Awards
gives the opportunity to reward travel
and tourism enterprises for outstanding
performance in service delivery and product
offering. Last year more than 750,000
votes were cast by the travelling public
to determine the 2018 Award winners.
Voting in the 2019 Awards is now open with
nominated companies having until 30th
September to lobby their happy customers
for votes – good luck to Edinburgh Castle."

The British Travel Awards are considered the benchmark for excellence when it comes to finding the best in the travel industry. The British Travel Awards is a proudly independent organisation, verified by leading global business practitioners, Deloitte.

By: Christine Davidson

A celebration of Celtic music at Canmore Highland Games



t this year's Tartan Day fundraising event, late into the evening during a break between the band's sets, a woman stood up at the urging of her tablemates. She walked calmly to the front of the room and began to sing opening with a note so sweet and pure, it instantly silenced the entire room. She had no back up accompaniment, she didn't warm up, and yet she had us all completely transfixed. It was an old Celtic Folk song that no one knew. Her performance was magical. It literally gave me goose bumps and brought a tear to my eye.

Such is the power of Celtic music.

Its melodic line rising and falling like the waves of the sea that surrounds the Celtic nations that gave rise to it. Traditionally Celtic music is akin to what social media is today. A tool for telling stories about our common human experience that unites us regardless where we come from. There could be no greater example of this than Banda Taverna from Brazil.

How did a Celtic music band come from Brazil you might be wondering? The story begins with the talented vocalist and front woman, Mariana Roque, deciding to study English in Ireland. While there, she fell madly in love with Celtic music and convinced her professor to teach her Gaelic so that she could sing the traditional folk songs in their native language, and understand the rich history behind their verse.

Upon returning to Brazil, as fate would have it, she started to find other musicians who were also fascinated with Celtic music, and they quickly formed a band. In Mariana's own words, they are total geeks when it comes to Fantasy and Folklore. This mutual passion is the driving force behind their new album Libertas, meaning freedom, which will be debut during their premier Canadian Tour.

Much to love about Celtic music

If you are lucky enough to find yourself in Ireland or Scotland in an old pub, on an evening where a live session breaks out, it is easy to see how much there is to love about Celtic music. On any given night at O'Donoghues Pub in Dublin Ireland, a corner of the room evolves, one musician at a time, into a lively jam session where music never before heard, and likely never to be heard again, fills the charming local atmosphere.

Cabot's Crossing is a band that composes all their original songs via improvisational jam sessions. Bryan Culliton explains that the band starts the recording, and sits down together to play freely without any pre-set plan or intention. They simply let the music flow, their instruments talking to one another like a casual conversation. The authentic rawness that emerges from those recording sessions becomes the set songs they perform live. The honesty of their music is what endears them

to their many fans, most of whom come back again and again to join in the familiar songs, becoming part of the session themselves.

Another band with a huge fan base is the Johnny McCuaig Band. Their history goes back 22 years. Now in their 4th version the band has decided to rename themselves the Arcana Kings. They have done so for the simple reasons no one in North America is able to reliably spell the name McCuaig correctly.

Arcana is an ancient word meaning secret of the alchemists. They are no doubt Kings of mystery as front man Johnny McCuaig, like a sorcerer, whips the crowd into a complete frenzy. They have been known to stop traffic in Vegas when they play Fremont Street. Check out Arcana Kings on social media, and scroll through the many videos from live shows. You will see a huge crowd jumping around completely electrified by this bands big playful sound.

When guests come to The Canmore Highland Games this year, they will have the opportunity to experience the entire evolution of Celtic music. From Banda Taverna's traditional folk, through Cabot's Crossing straight out of the original pub scene music, and then have their socks knocked off by the Johnny McCuaig band's arena rock meets bag pipes. The stories to be shared are many, and they might just give you goose bumps.

Canmore Highland Games, Western Canada's premier Highland Games takes place on August 31-September 1st. For full details and tickets see: www.canmorehighlandgames.ca



Go Beyond Words at the Scottish International Storytelling Festival this October



here is no greater pleasure than the power of traditional storytelling taking listeners on a journey of the imagination. The 31st Scottish International Storytelling Festival features 60 events in Edinburgh and 22 throughout Scotland, with 20 international guests



joining 60 Scottish artists to share old traditions and new connections, showcasing how music, dance and story communicate shared experiences that are 'Beyond Words'.

There are 6 exhibitions to explore, including a sound installation of contemporary Scottish stories and music, a Gaelic Day on Tuesday 29 October, plus open floor opportunities at 'Guid Crack Storytelling Session' and our Halloween marathon – 'The Devil & the Clutch of Fools'.

Scotland & Canada

Our international exchange focuses on Scotland & Canada, exploring their closely interwoven identities and histories, as First Nation and Scottish tradition bearers share and compare their story, dance and song inheritance, with further insights during our 'Meet the Storyteller' conversations which will ebb and flow like the waterways that join and divide the two nations, featuring Cree First Nation Storyteller Joseph Naytowhow, Mi'kmaq and Acadian storyteller Robert Seven Crows Bourdon and Nacho Nyak Dan First Nation Storyteller Louise Profeit-LeBlanc to name a few.

Canada's Deborah Dunleavy explores Scottish connections through the fascinating life of Isobel Gunn who disguised herself as a man in 1805 to work as a labourer in the then wilderness of Rupert's Land, while Scotland's Fiona Herbert reimagines some of Scotland's greatest myths at 'Corryvreckan: Inspiralled Tales'.

The Global Lab week features keynote speeches, debates and explorations of the role of storytellers in the 21stcentury, from the politics of folktales to transforming myths to explore nature, reconnect and provoke change. The annual 'Alan Bruford Lecture' gives insight into the Fianna cycle of tales, with a focus on Fionn and his men in the maritime context, while we are excited to feature British Columbia's Dancers Of Damelahamid, who showcase contemporary takes on traditional forms of indigenous performance.

Shared human values

Festival on Tour is coordinated by regional storytelling teams with guest storytellers visiting Angus, Argyll & Bute, Clackmannanshire, Dumfries & Galloway, Dundee, Fife, Glasgow, Highlands, Moray, the North East, Orkney, Perthshire and the Scottish Borders to meet with local performers and audiences.

Plus, our annual 'Enchanted Garden' day for all ages presents storytelling in-situ at Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Garden, with sessions in the Botanic Cottage as well as story journeys amongst the beautiful autumnal surroundings.

Perfectly positioned with Scotland's 'A Year of Conversation 2019', SISF will nurture a space to express shared human values, aspirations and hope for the future.

Whether you're a storyteller yourself, a listener, or someone who is completely new to the craft, let SISF take you Beyond Words this autumn.

Advanced Programme available on www.sisf.org.uk





Highland Games at Edinboro University celebrate Scottish heritage



oin Edinboro University for the 26th annual Edinboro Highland Games & Scottish Festival, which will be held September 3-8 on the picturesque EU campus in Edinboro, Pennsylvania. Featuring world-class musicians, finegift vendors, the National Scottish Fiddle Championship, Highland dance and athletic competitions, pipe band and solo competitions, Clan gatherings, kids' crafts and games and traditional Scottish food, the festival is an annual favorite that brings thousands of people to Edinboro to revel in the rich traditions of Scotland.

Festivities begin Tuesday, Sept. 3, with Celtic Nights Star Gazing in the Edinboro University Planetarium. The show is free and open to the public, but reservations are required at www.edinboro.edu/planetarium. A Scottish trivia contest is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 4, in the Frank G. Pogue Student Center. Winners will be automatically entered into a raffle to win a trip to Scotland with the Edinboro's Global Education study-abroad program in August 2020.

Thursday, Sept. 5, features "High Tea on the Hill" at Scotland Yards Greenhouse & Nursery, 12555 Fry Road, Edinboro, Pa., at 4:30 p.m., followed by an evening of music, ale and fun at Sprague Farm & Brew Works, 22113 US-6, Venango, Pa., from 6-9 p.m.

On Friday, Sept. 6, a single-malt whisky tasting will be held from 5:30-8 p.m. in the Van Houten Dining Hall presidential suite. The event features five single malts and an assortment of Scottish foods,

including haggis, salmon, shepherd's pie and desserts. The single-malt tasting is \$50 – reservations can be made www.edinboro. edu/highland-games.

"Now in its third year, the whisky tasting continues to grow," said Dr. Tim Thompson, director of the Highland Games and chairperson of Edinboro University's Communication, Journalism and Media Department.

The festival is an annual favorite that brings thousands of people to Edinboro to revel in the rich traditions of Scotland.

"The fun-filled event features delicious food and the finest whisky." The evening will conclude with the lighting of the festival bonfire and calling of the clans on the lawns behind Pogue Student Center.

Let the Games begin!

The main festival events and games will be held throughout Saturday, Sept. 7, on the campus of Edinboro University, at McComb Fieldhouse – at the corner of Scot and Scotland roads – and Pogue Student Center. The beer tent opens at 11 a.m.

"If you get there before noon, you'll want to see the opening ceremony. It's spectacular, with the massed pipe bands marching and the Scottish clans on parade," Thompson said. "Between noon and 4 p.m., you can catch all the best the festival has to offer."

Bagpipe music will fill the air throughout the day, while pipe bands and soloists march together and compete against one another. Between impromptu concerts, musical tent and numerous workshops, heavy athletes will toss various weighty objects on the back lawns as part of the ever-popular heavy athletic competitions. Those events include the caber toss, hammer, stone and 56-pound weights for height and distance.

The festival is once again hosting the National Scottish Fiddle Championships, set for 12:30-3 p.m. in the Pogue Student Center. An array of high-quality vendors will be on hand, selling clothing, jewelry, glassware and other goods. Scottish and American food vendors will offer sausage rolls, meat pies, shepherd's pie, chicken dinners, kettle corn, cookies, desserts and more. The full schedule of Saturday's events will run from approximately 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., followed by the Ceilidh dinner and music from 6-10 p.m. in Van Houten Dining Hall. The Ceilidh format is new this year, with a pig roast, brisket, cash bar, music by the Chelsea House Orchestra and a dance. Hosted by the Robert Burns Scottish Club of Erie, reservations are \$20 per person.

On Sunday, Sept. 8, events close with a Chelsea House Orchestra concert at 10:45 a.m. at the Edinboro United Methodist Church.

Let the Games begin!

All events will go on, rain or shine, with alternate locations set in case of inclement weather. Full festival information is available on the website at www.edinboro.edu/events/highland-games.

New Scottish route Heart 200 launches





200 route is an exciting initiative which takes in some of the country's best assets. New ideas like this are an excellent example of innovation within Scotland's tourism industry to keep up with everchanging consumer demands and ensure visitors continue to have memorable experiences. These visitors represent a major benefit to areas across Scotland. Tourism is more than a holiday experience it is the heartbeat of the Scottish economy and touches every community, generating income, jobs and social change."

The new touring route hopes to emulate the successful North Coast 500 which has brought millions to the Highland economy.

For further details on the Heart of Scotland visit: www.heart200.scot

n innovative new touring route designed to reinvigorate tourism in the heart of Scotland, which covers 200 miles around Perth, Stirling, The Trossachs and Highland Perthshire, designed to encourage more visitors to a region launched last month. The hotly anticipated Heart 200 route has been designed to encourage more tourists to a region which since 2011 has seen a 17% drop in visitor numbers.

Heart 200 is a spectacular circular route on existing public roads, with sub-routes suitable for walkers, cyclists and bikers as well as motorists. A vast array of visitor attractions and activities can be found in the vicinity of the 200-mile route, which uniquely links Scotland's two national parks, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs and The Cairngorms.

The route, which is a broad 30-mile corridor, encourages visitors to take a wide range of different sub-tours as part of the experience, enabling them to access and enjoy a huge array of visitor attractions, places to visit, restaurants and hotels in the vicinity.

Encourage tourism back into the heart of Scotland

Robert Cairns, director of Heart 200 and owner of the Fortingall Hotel near Aberfeldy, said: "With visitor numbers declining year on year in this region for several years now, Heart 200 has been designed to encourage tourism back into the heart of Scotland. We aim to offer visitors a unique holiday experience; a leisurely journey through the stunning heart of Scotland, giving visitors the option of staying in the area for as long as possible. In the development of Heart 200 we have taken every effort to consider the concerns of local residents and have amended the route accordingly."

Caroline Warburton, VisitScotland Regional Leadership Director, said: "Spanning Perthshire, Stirling and Scotland's two National Parks, the Heart



Montreal Highland Games

Sunday, August 4, 2019
Douglas Hospital Grounds, Verdun, QC
Come for the competitions,
stay for the fun!

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

Enjoy the pipes, drums & dancers, Highland Heavies & the Celtic Mile. Sign-up for the Caledonian Run.

montrealhighlandgames.com











PEMBROKE







RBC Family
Village

Tee Up: 18 Golf Courses to try in Scotland

rom world-class courses to remote and hidden gems, check out 18 of the best golf courses that Scotland, the home of golf, has to offer.

St Andrews Golf Course (Old)



Par: 72
Length: 6,721 yards
The world's most famous links course,
the Old Course at St Andrews has its
beginnings rooted as far back as over 600
years ago. It is the home of the Royal and
Ancient Golf Club, with The R&A itself
acting as golf's governing body with the
exception of Mexico and the United States.

No other golf course has hosted more Open Championships than St Andrews. Despite its revered status the course remains public and open to all. Six annual tournaments are held here, including the coveted St Andrews Links Trophy.

The legendary golf pioneer Old Tom Morris was custodian of the links at St Andrews from 1865 to 1903.

From the Archbishop Hamilton recognising the people's right to play on the links in 1552, to Tiger Woods becoming the youngest grand slam winner in 2000 – St Andrews Golf Course has a rich history.

Muirfield Golf Course

Par: 71

Length: 7,245 yards

Situated in East Lothian, Muirfield is home to one of the world's oldest golf clubs, 'The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers' which began in Leith in 1744.

Since 1892 Muirfield has hosted 42 national and international competitions. Despite this, only two golfers won twice at this course – James Braid and Nick Faldo.

Golf was first played here in 1891 with 16 holes, later becoming 18. It is world-renowned for its routing, with each nine playing in clockwise and counter-clockwise circles, ensuring golfers face every wind direction. After 273 years, Muirfield, the venerable Scottish golf club that has 16 times hosted the British Open, voted to allow women to become members in 2017.

Turnberry Resort (Ailsa Course)

Par: 70

Length: 7,211 yards

The Turnberry Golf Club was established in 1902 with the Turnberry Hotel later opening in 1906. Despite its long heritage, the course has come close to extinction on two occasions.

During both World Wars the government acquired the golf course at Turnberry for military purposes. Used as an airbase, concrete runways flattened the course. Restoration to former glory only came from the enthusiasm of then owner Phillip Mackenzie Ross.

The Ailsa course at the Turnberry Resort in Ayrshire is regarded as one of the most scenic, with views including the legendary lighthouse. The extensive work of Ross was rewarded when the course hosted its first Open in 1977. Since then it has hosted The Open Championship three more times, the last being in 2009.

Carnoustie Golf Links

Par: 72

Length: 6,941 yards

The first record of golf being played here dates back to 1527. Originally 10 holes, the services of Old Tom Morris were called into action in 1857. Morris refashioned Carnoustie into an 18 hole course, with James Braid extending the course in 1926.

Since then the course at Carnoustie has remained largely unaltered, and has hosted the Open Championship seven times. While not the most scenic of courses, it remains an incredible test of nerve and skill for any golfer.

Widely considered one of the most challenging golf courses, Carnoustie has seen many a golfer become undone. Case in point are its burns around the final trio of holes – making for a notoriously difficult finish to the course.

The Nairn Golf Course

Par: 72

Length: 6,721 yards

Established in 1887 the Nairn Golf Course has hosted a number of tournaments - the Walker and Curtis cups being some of the most recent

The mastermind behind the course's creation, Robert Finlay, grew its stature by employing Old Tom Morris to extend and revise the course. Believed by some to be a masterpiece, it has had many famous architects tweak its design such as James Braid and Ben Sayers.

The Nairn golf course is one of the most spectacular seaside courses in Scotland, with each hole offering a unique and picturesque view.

Royal Troon Golf Course



Par: 71

Length: 7,175 yards

Originally a five-hole course, the Royal Troon Golf Club was created in 1878. It hosted its first open in 1923 and its eighth in 2004.

A traditional out and back links course, Royal Troon holds the largest par five in Open Championship golf on the 6th. After reaching its centenary year the Troon course received royal patronage in 1978.

The course is sometimes overshadowed by its Prestwick neighbour, which has held 24 Open championships. However Royal Troon has emerged from its shadow and is well worth a visit.

Loch Lomond Golf Course

Par: 72

Length: 7,100 yards

The setting of Loch Lomond Golf Course is one of startling Scottish beauty, with 600 acres of course hidden between the loch and mountains.

Opened in 1993, the course is significantly younger than the majority of Scottish golf venues. Despite this, Loch Lomond Golf Course quickly cemented itself as a course of great significance – becoming the home of the Scottish Open.

The championship was contested here from 1996 to 2010.

Orkney Golf Club

Par: 70

Length: 5,411 yards

Created in 1902, the course in Orkney has a rich legacy despite the remoteness of the island. Visitors can enjoy a golfing experience like no other. With incredible views across the harbour, Orkney Golf Club also offers the unique opportunity to play a midnight round of golf during the summer solstice in June.

With a 'turn up and play' policy, golfers who enjoy a shorter round will find an excellent selection of 9-hole courses in Orkney.

The Brunstfield Links

Par: 71

Length: 6,446 yards

The Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society dates back to 1761 – making it the fourth oldest golf club in the world. This heritage is reflected in the atmosphere and dining experience that can be enjoyed at the clubhouse – which is famous for its food.

The globally renowned golf architect Fred Hawtree carried out significant reconstruction on the course in 1971. Recently Brunstfield Links was nominated as a Regional Qualifying course for 2011 to 2015. Despite its name, Brunstfield Links is an open parkland situated amongst the Edinburgh suburbs – not a links course. The course is not hindered by the setting however and is one of the most picturesque courses in a city environment. In 2018 members voted to allow women to join for the first time in its 257-year history.

Askernish Golf Club

Par: 72

Length: 6,259 yards Located on the island of South Uist in the

Outer Hebrides of Scotland – Askernish Golf Club opened in 1891. Old Tom Morris designed the course, but over the years the course fell into disrepair. Part of it was turned into an airstrip in the 1930's.

In 2006 Gordon Irvine began restoring the course to its former glory, closely following the design and technique of Old Tom Morris' 1891 layout.

This is what makes Askernish so exciting and different from other courses – it is a living, breathing golf museum.

Some of the plaudits for the course include environmental experts hailing Askernish as the most natural links course in the world.

Musselburgh Links



Par: 34 (9 holes) Length: 2,968 yards

The earliest recording of golf being played here goes as far back as 1672. This has earned Musselburgh the accolade of being the oldest course in the world. It is even reputed Mary Queen of Scots played at Musselburgh as early as 1567.

Musselburgh Links was one of the three courses to stage The Open Championship in rotation in the 1870s and 1880s, alongside Prestwick and the Old Course at St Andrews.

Only a small number of holes are longer than 400 yards, making this course a test of accuracy and discipline instead of distance.

North Berwick Golf Club

Par: 71

Length: 6,464 yards

A truly memorable place to play, golf at North Berwick Golf Club dates back to 1832. The course is the third oldest to still play on its original fairways.

The course enjoys spectacular views, with the land raised above sea level resulting in scenic views across the course.

Much like the Old Course, play begins and ends in the town, with the clubhouse standing tall behind the green. The course has an excellent collection of holes which are replicated across the world. The most copied is the 15th which is a 190 yard par three, known as the 'Redan'.

Kingsbarns Golf Links

Par: 72

Length: 7,210 yards

Built in 2000 Kingsbarns is one of the best modern courses in the world. Despite being relatively new, the course has a history dating back to 1793 when it existed as nine holes.

World War II saw the course acquisitioned by the government, but was subsequently remoulded by Kyle Phillips. As a testament to the craft of modern golf architecture, the design retains a natural look and feel.

Kingsbarns is only six miles from St Andrews but looks like it has been part of the land for over a century. It has carved out its own heritage, hosting the Dunhill Links Tournament every autumn. Many believe the 12th is one of the worldv's most picturesque holes, a par five that follows the rugged coastline.

Royal Dornoch Golf Club

Par: 70

All images courtesy of VisitScotland

Length: 6,711 yards The Royal Dornoch course enjoys stunning panoramic views and a history which dates back to 1877, when the Dornoch Golf Club was formed.

Located in the remote Northern Highlands, the course is yet to host any of the modern golf tournaments. However Ryder Cup captain Tom Watson has stated playing at the Royal Dornoch is the most fun he has had on a golf course.

Few would dispute this, and the course inspired famed golf architect Donald Ross when he created Pinehurst No.2 in the USA.

Prestwick Golf Club

Par: 71

Length: 6,908 yards

The location of the first ever Open Championship, Prestwick, is considered by many to be a golfing pilgrimage. The course has hosted the Open 24 times, a feat only bettered by St Andrews.

Prestwick is distinct and harkens back to a traditional design with little changed over time. The train still runs to the right of the first hole, suitably titled 'Railway', giving golfers a unique start to play.

Machrihanish Golf Club



Par: 70 Length: 6,462 yards Established in 1876, The Machrihanish Golf Club was shaped by Old Tom Morris and is continually ranked in the

world's Top 100. Located in the remote Kintyre Peninsula, golfers are treated to breath-taking views.

Machrihanish is well known for its first hole, an intimidating first drive that forces players to consider the Atlantic gusts. In addition to this there are beautiful natural dunes and firm, varied greens.

Machrihanish is a fantastic links course that all capable golfers must visit.

Cruden Bay Golf Club

Par: 70

Length: 6,599 yards

Golf at Cruden Bay allegedly dates back to the 18th Century, although it was 100 years before the first Golf Club was established. Perhaps one of the most original golf courses, it was designed by Old Tom Morris and Archie Simpson.

Using the original lie of the land, they created a course some think quirky and others a masterstroke. Entertainment comes in the form of aggressive dunes and some very unique blind pars.

The old-fashioned nature of the course offers an absurd yet rewarding experience that other courses simply can't match.

Gleneagles Golf Resort (King's Course)

Par: 71

Length: 6,790 yards A 1919 classic from James Braid, Gleneagles boasts the accolade of being the site for the first ever international golf match in history. An informal Ryder Cup of sorts, Great Britain and the USA competed in 1921.

Fixed between the mountains, the course has some of the most renowned

moorland track. The holes fit naturally into the landscape, and Gleneagles can be punishing for those who steer off the fairway into the challenging rough.

Many important golf tournaments have been played at Gleneagles, and 2014 marks the visit of the Ryder Cup.

And not forgetting the 19th hole... **Royal and Ancient Golf Clubhouse**

The finest golf clubhouse in Scotland is the home of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. Playing across the St Andrew's links courses, the Royal and Ancient clubhouse overlooks the first tee and 18th green of the Old Course, and is one of the most spectacular buildings to be found.

The memorabilia on display is like a museum in itself, with the original claret jug and champions belt on display (which never leave their showcase!). In addition to this are countless unique golf artefacts and ancient clubs – most forged by the hands of Old Tom himself!

There are more lavish clubhouses in Scotland (see Loch Lomond), and more lively places to wet your beak after a long 18 (see Gleneagles), but none hold more gravitas and more respect than the Royal and Ancient. There are no televisions to be found, members are still provided with pads of paper, pens and crested envelopes to write correspondence. One could picture an Earl or King walking into the Big Room, ordering a glass of Claret (they don't call it the Claret Jug for nothing).

Have you played a round of golf in Scotland? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

Scotland-The Home of Golf



o country in the world can claim as close an affinity with the game of golf than Scotland. It is the country that gave the game to the world and where, to this day, thousands of visitors from all over the world come to experience golf in its truest form.

Scotland is also synonymous with hosting major golf events, with a history stretching back more than 150 years to the first-ever incarnation of The Open in 1860. Today Scotland retains an envied portfolio of golf events including major one-off and



rotational events such as The Open, the Ricoh Women's British Open, The Senior Open Championship, The 2014 Ryder Cup, the 2018 European Golf Team Championships and the forthcoming Solheim Cup at Gleneagles.

The magnificence of Scotland's golf offering

In addition to these major international events, Scotland's annual portfolio is strong with events such as the Aberdeen Standard Investments Scottish Open, the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, the Aberdeen Standard Investments Ladies Scottish Open, the SSE Scottish Hydro Challenge and the Scottish Seniors Open all held every year, contributing to Scotland's burgeoning reputation as a major golf events destination.

Hosting major golf events not only benefits the country in direct economic impact terms, with spectators travelling from around the world to attend, they also serve as a shop window to the world, promoting Scotland on a global stage as the Home of Golf. With audiences upwards of 600 million homes around the world, there is no better way to showcase the magnificence of Scotland's golf offering than through the hosting of major events.

There's nothing quite like seeing the world's top golfers tee off at a golf tournament in Scotland. After all, Scotland is The Home of Golf, where the game has its roots. And when we say golf tournaments, we mean some of the very best golf championships around. Between June and October, hundreds of golf fans from around the globe descend on Scotland's championship courses to see how the best in the game take on the challenges of the country's finest courses from Gleneagles to St Andrews Old Course and Carnoustie to Gullane.

Why not come and see world-class gon for yourself:

Aberdeen Standard Investments Ladies Scottish Open

Watch some of the world's best female golfers competing for glory at the Aberdeen Standard Investments Ladies Scottish Open, a co-sanctioned event between the LET and the LPGA. Staged on one of Scotland's best links courses at The Renaissance Club, the event will showcase the very best of women's golf where Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn will look to defend her title!

When: 8 - 11 August 2019

Where: The Renaissance Club, East Lothian



Solheim Cup

Watch team Europe competing against team USA in the biggest tournament in women's golf. The 2019 Solheim Cup will be held on the PGA Centenary Course at Gleneagles, the same venue as the 2014 Ryder Cup. When: 13 - 15 September 2019 Where: Gleneagles, Perthshire

Alfred Dunhill Links Championship

Golfing stars and celebrities join forces at this hotly anticipated European Tour event. The Alfred Dunhill Links Championship is a team format event which will be played over three fabulous courses - Carnoustie Golf Links, Kingsbarns Golf Links and St Andrews Old Course.

When: 26 - 29 September 2019 Where: Carnoustie Golf Links, Angus, Kingsbarns Golf Links, Fife, and St Andrews Old Course, Fife.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Outlander star receives honorary degree from Stirling

Award-winning Scots actor Sam Heughan – best-known for playing the lead role in hit television show Outlander - has spoken of his delight after receiving an honorary degree from the University of Stirling. The 39-yearold star - recognised for his outstanding contribution to acting and charitable endeavours - said he was "thrilled" by the accolade, as he celebrated alongside hundreds of graduating students in Stirling. Professor John Dawson, an **Emeritus Professor of the Universities** of Stirling and Edinburgh, also received an honorary doctorate in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the establishment and pursuit of retail research in the UK and internationally.

Mr Heughan plays Jamie Fraser in *Outlander* – part of which was filmed on the Stirling campus, with locations including the Pathfoot Building, the link bridge and Hermitage Woods. He has won a number of best actor awards for his performances in the series, and received nominations for both a BAFTA and a Critic's Choice Television Award. Mr Heughan is an ardent supporter of the blood cancer charity, Bloodwise, and has established his own charitable foundation, My Peak Challenge.

On receiving his award, Heaghan said: "I am thrilled to be honoured by the University of Stirling, an excellent university in a truly unique setting. I have always had a strong bond with the city and surrounding area, recently spending a great deal of time shooting our television show there. It has a breathtaking landscape and is an inspiring city. The current graduates have worked so hard and I have enjoyed celebrating the big day with them."

Professor Dawson – who is recognised for his outstanding contribution to the establishment and pursuit of retail research in the UK and internationally – said: "I am extremely honoured to be awarded this distinction by the University of Stirling. The University has a global reputation for excellence in research on retailing – and I am delighted to be associated with this."

Highlands and Islands the 'happiest place to live' in Scotland



The Highlands and Islands region is the happiest place to live in the whole of Scotland, according to the latest Bank of Scotland Happiness Index. The annual nationwide survey asks Scots how happy or unhappy they are in their local communities, to create an official cheeriness barometer ranging between -100 (very unhappy), to +100 (very happy). Overall, Scots are slightly less happy than last year as the index recorded a score of 44.6 (a small decrease of 0.3 compared to 2018). However; that's still 5.6 points happier than they were four years ago.

The wild landscapes of the Highlands and Islands may appeal to those looking for a more joyful life, as it's been crowned the happiest place to live in Scotland, up from second position in 2018. Those living in the region highlight its rural nature and a strong sense of community as being key to their positive outlook.

Mid-Scotland and Fife is the second happiest region, followed by South Scotland. Those living in Glasgow have less cause for cheer, as they report being the unhappiest in the country.

Getting older doesn't necessarily mean becoming grumpier as the index reveals that over 65s remain the happiest age group. They've consistently been tabletoppers for the past four years. At the other end of the age scale, 18 to 24 year olds' happiness levels have slumped, falling by seven points to 33.5 to now come bottom of the table.

Two's company when it comes to a happy home as households with two residents say they're the happiest. However those living on their own are the least happy households, falling one place to the bottom of the table.

They say money can't buy happiness but, according to the index, the more Scots earn, the happier they are. This year, Scots with a household income of more than £60,000 are happiest, with those earning less than £15,000 the least happy.

Ricky Diggins, Director, Bank of Scotland said: "Residents of the Highlands and Islands will be even happier once they find out they officially live in the cheeriest part of Scotland. More remote locations can present some challenges to everyday life, particularly around areas such as transport, but locals highlight the natural environment and sense of community as being key to their happiness. We can see that happiness continues to increase the older we get, though this could also be linked to higher incomes as people progress through life."

Falkirk crowned Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood



Falkirk has walked away with the title of Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood 2019, following a public vote to find the most walker-friendly urban neighbourhood in the UK. The Scottish town beat nine other strong contenders across England, Scotland and Wales to take the crown, with an impressive 20% of the vote. Second place went to the south London Borough of Brockley, while Milton Keynes came in a close third.

Wraight Shepherd, chair of Stirling, Falkirk & District Ramblers who nominated Falkirk for the award, said: "We are really proud that Falkirk has won the Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood Award. It's a testament to the commitment of the council working together with local communities that Falkirk has been transformed in recent years into a place that is enjoyable and easy to walk around, building a real culture of walking."

Well-known for the Helix Park with its iconic giant horse sculptures, the Kelpies, Falkirk stood out from the competition thanks in part to a remarkable 383 miles (617km) of well-maintained and signposted paths, making it a fantastic place to get around on foot. Several great initiatives to prioritise walking also contributed to Falkirk's triumph. Taking every day journeys on foot has been made easier and more and enjoyable thanks to efforts by the local authority to widen pavements and create more off-road paths. Well-linked routes around the town's shops, services, bars and restaurants means people can easily walk to the places they need to go.

Falkirk residents also have great access to nature, with every community well-served by parks and green spaces. A planning standard introduced by the council means states that every house should be within 400m of an open space, now reduced 300m for new developments.

Vanessa Griffiths, chief executive of the Ramblers, said: "Congratulations to Falkirk, a very worthy winner of the Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood Award. Our vision is of a country truly designed for walking, where everyone is encouraged to walk whenever they set out on a journey, whether they are popping to the shops or going to work. Falkirk is a fantastic example of how this can be achieved. Walkable neighbourhoods bring not only the physical and mental health benefits of walking and being able to access green space; places where people walk regularly also have more connected communities. Making it easy to choose walking over driving helps to reduce congestion and improving air quality too, bringing us one step closer to our zero emissions target."

West from Edinburgh By: David McVey





ome of the more intrepid overseas visitors to Edinburgh see further than Princes Street and the Royal Mile and the National Museum of Scotland, bravely hopping on buses to more distant attractions, like the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh or Craigmillar Castle. Some even take the train to visit an even greater city. When they do go to Glasgow, they usually travel by train on the main line from Edinburgh Waverley to Glasgow Queen Street High Level. There are actually *five* different rail routes between Glasgow and Edinburgh and one of them goes beyond even Glasgow and enables visitors to Edinburgh to experience a much wider Scotland.

A whole lot of sightseeing

For many years, commuter trains rumbled east from Glasgow to Airdrie and west from Edinburgh to Bathgate. In 2008, the line linking the two routes was reopened and now trains regularly run from Edinburgh Waverley, through Bathgate and Airdrie, to Glasgow Queen Street's low-level station and onwards either to Milngavie or to Dumbarton and Helensburgh. It's a route that opens up a whole lot of sightseeing.

Shortly after passing through Airdrie, trains from Edinburgh call at the delightfully named Coatbridge Sunnyside. The station building itself dates from 1888 and has recently been restored. It's the handiest stop for the Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life which occupies the site of an eighteenth-century ironworks. The museum features a working electric tramway with heritage trams, steam engines and a mining exhibit. There's enough for an entire day out here if you're a social and industrial history buff.

Further west the train approaches the centre of Glasgow; one stop before Queen Street is High Street Station. This is a good place to alight for Glasgow Green, the city's much-loved and oldest public park where you'll find the People's Palace social history museum, the world's largest terracotta fountain, and a stone marking the alleged spot where James Watt conceived the separate condenser, the invention that enabled him to revolutionise the steam engine! The Green is a magical place, and continues to be the scene of special events, such as Proms in the Park, the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and the 2018 European Championships.

Quite a spread of Scotland that's easily reached from Edinburgh on a single train route.

Turn right instead of left when leaving the station and you can climb High Street to Glasgow's historic heart where, clustered round Cathedral Square, you'll find Glasgow Cathedral, the historic Necropolis burial ground, the St Mungo Museum of Religion and Provand's Lordship, the oldest domestic building in Glasgow. Enough, again, for a full day of sightseeing.

Queen Street Station is the best stop for George Square, the magnificent City Chambers and the Gallery of Modern Art. Transport enthusiasts can change at Queen Street for Buchanan Street Subway Station, to experience a trip on the city's diminutive underground system.



The next stop, Charing Cross (Londoners are often surprised to find that Glasgow also has a Charing Cross Station) is a good stop for the city's famous Mitchell Library. One of the largest public reference libraries in Europe, it also incorporates a theatre. If you see a tour of the Mitchell advertised, don't miss it.

The rail service from Edinburgh continues west through Glasgow's suburbs. During the day, some terminate at Milngavie, a neat, attractive railway station in a prosperous East Dunbartonshire town. Every year, thousands of people arrive at this station to start the 95-mile West Highland Way walking trail to Fort William; some of them even pronounce the town's name correctly ('Millguy') when they buy their rail ticket. Near the station is the Lillie Art Gallery which often has exhibitions and has a notable collection of paintings by Joan Eardley, born in England but who lived in Scotland for many years.

An easy journey away

Trains bound for Helensburgh call at the impressive Dumbarton Central Station, but the previous stop, Dumbarton East, is the nearest to Dumbarton Castle.

The castle is built around and on top of the towering Dumbarton Rock. Long before the buildings appeared, this was Alcluith, the capital of the kingdom of Strathclyde. So, the site has a long history, and its military use continued right up to the Second World War when there were antiaircraft guns on its summit.



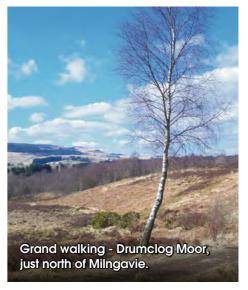


Nearly two hours from Edinburgh, the train glides into Helensburgh Central station, with its splendid glass roof and canopies. Helensburgh is a planned 19th century town that still preserves its grid structure. In April, the prosperous streets are lined with frothing cherry blossom trees. Once it was a popular tripper destination for Glaswegians, and the paddle steamer Waverley still sometimes calls at the pier. There is good walking beyond the town; it is the western terminus of the John Muir Way which runs to Dunbar in the east and the Three Lochs Way passes through the town.

Helensburgh's big attraction is Hill House. The town is full of imposing Victorian and Edwardian mansions built by industrialists and other wealthy families. In 1904 the Blackie family commissioned Charles Rennie Mackintosh to design their new home and Hill House, a ground-breaking design, is now in the care of the National Trust for Scotland. Unfortunately, the materials used when it was first built weren't suited to the West of Scotland's phenomenal rainfall and while they undertake remedial measures, the NTS has had to cover the building in a kind of giant marquee. Nonetheless, the house and its gardens remain open to the public.

Quite a spread of Scotland that's easily reached from Edinburgh on a single train route. There's really no excuse for being stuck in the lounge of that hotel, or for doing the Royal Mile again. Plan a day trip to Helensburgh, or experience Scotland's lost industrial heritage at Summerlee, or something else. It's all just an easy journey away.





Calling the Clans

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



Clan Cumming Society of the **United States**

www.clancumming.us info@clancumming.us

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



Clan Donnachaidh **Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia**

Duncan Robertson Reid

People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh "The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.

For information and membership application. contact Gordon Robertson

58/157 Marconi Rd. Bonnells Bay NSW 2264

WEB www.Clan-Forbes.org

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CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President

3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565 Email: djbaird4@gmail.com

Regional Directors for Australia David and Patricia Benfell

Email: clanbairdsa@gmail.com website: www.clanbairdsociety.com



Clan Davidson Society in

CHEIF: Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing one of these Na Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day; Dye; Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees Dee; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dhai; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade: MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny; MacDhai: McKeddie. In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson. Applications may be made online: www.clandavidson.org.au or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P. P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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

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

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

> r website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, ou & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you. http://www.donnachaidh.com/ acebook: The Clan Donnachaidh Society

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

and Fraser septs

to join our clan society. All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves Membership enquiries to Don Chitts Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com

Website: http://clanfraseraustralia.org Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/ Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/

482236358590288



Clan Bell North America

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

Your Bell ancestry is important!

Visit our web site: www.clanbell.org Contact our Membership Chairperson: Pauline Bell 1513 Anterra Drive, Wake Forest, NC 27587 Email: debellinnc@reagan.com

Clan Donald Australia

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

High Commissioner State Commissioners

Qld SA Vic

Mr Lachlan Macdonald

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

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

Clan Dunbar of The House of **Gospatric the Earl**

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

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



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

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

www.clangalbraith.org

Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to: Donald E. Bruce

1051 Eagle Ridge Trail

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

Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald Ph: 0412 090990 Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au

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

Edmonstone Clan Society

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

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

Clan Gregor Society Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor Great Lakes New England, Pacific North West,

Western U.S. and Southeast Chapters

www.clangregor.com

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

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



Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

President: Alistair Cameron cameron490@ozemail.com.au Secretary: Terry Cameron jr.ta.cameron@gmail.com

www.clan-cameron.org.au



Clan Donald

Membership is open only to persons of the blood of Macdonald, however spelled or of the blood of a recognized associate family or is related by marriage or legal adoption to either of these write for more info and a complete Sept list.

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



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

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



Clan Gregor Society

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

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

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

"Royal is my Race"



The Clan Campbell Society Of Australia

The Society exists for the benefit of all its members. All Campbells or descendants of Campbells and members of Clan Septs are most welcome to join the Society. For information on State Branches contact the National Secretary, Margaret Vallance Email: libertyv93@gmail.com www.clan-campbell.org.au

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

Proudly affiliated with Clan Donald Australia, Victorian Scottish Union and Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group. ented at all major Highland gatherings in Victoria

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mrs Christina Milne Wilson Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com

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

Clan Farguharson Association Australia

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

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

> The Secretary: Clan Farquharson **Association Australia**

PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777 or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com



American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909

Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

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

Contacting our registrar, Jeanne P. Lehr 11 Ballas Crt.

St. Louis, MO 63131-3038 Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org website: www.acgsus.org



Clan Hamilton **Society**

Hamiltons and those of Hamilton descent are cordially invited to join the society. Inquiries to be sent to: Sheri Lambert, Treasurer P.O. Box 5399 Vernon Hills, IL 60061 visit our website: www.clanhamilton.org





Clan MacLaren

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

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



Clan MacNeil **Association of America**

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

Contact: Rhonwyn Darby

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





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

www.clanhay.com



Founded 1911 - Glasgow & London Re-established- 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC Loch Sloy! We welcome all descer Clan MacFarlane from around the world!

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

PO Box 398 Glenora, CA 91740 USA info@macfarlane.org



MACFARLANE.ORG

Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr. Treasurer 6409 Knollwood Drive McKinney, TX 75070-6032

Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net



Clan MacNicol

Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

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

www.clanmacnicol.com

Association

Clan Macpherson welcomes enquiries from Macphersons

and members of our Associated families. For information

contact your local representative, our web site

www.clan-macpherson.org/branches or the 'Official Clan

Macpherson Association' Facebook page

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



www.clanhendersonsociety.org

Clan MacInnes **International Association of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)**

All spelling variants of MacInnes are welcome

www.clanmacinnes.org

worldwide: (Mc)Angus, (Mc)Kinnis, (Mc)Innis, (Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Ninch, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Canse, (Mc)Masters, (Mc)Innes, (Mac)Masters

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

Clan Mackenzie Society

in Australia Inc.

Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies

of all spellings and Septs

Contact: N Dennis, 61 Alma Street,

East Malvern 3145 Ph 03 9569 5716

Visit our website

Check out your Tartan and Sept

www.clanmackenzie.org.au

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

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

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

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

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

phone +64 3 234 5098 USA. Ken Croker

croker@sti.net one +1 559 658 6189

Canada. John C Gillies

Clan Macpherson

Scotland, Bill Macpherson



Clan Irwin Association **Chief and Patron**

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

IRWIN • RVIN • IRVINE • IRVING • ERWIN • ERVIN Over 270 ways the name has been spelled since 325 A.D.

www.clanirwin.org

MACLEODS RICH IN HIGHLAND

TRADITIONS FOR INFORMATION:

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

> Clan Macnachtan **Association Worldwide**

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

Chairman - Peter McNaughton - 360-686-8451

or any of the Septs on our Website: Contact the Membership Secretary, Vice-Chairman or Regional Commissioners in:

Australia - Regional Commissioner - Bruce McNaught

+61 7 3266 2047 bruce@brucemcnaught.com

W. Canada - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughtor

250-999-9636 milescammac@aol.com

WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

The Clan MacRae **Society of Australia** and New Zealand

If your surname is MacRae.

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

Australian Contact:

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

215-721-3955 barb3.edelman@gmail.com



Website: www.clanmackenziecanada.ca









Clan Maitland Chief: Ian Maitland. The Earl of Lauderdale!

We are all related! Contact your local society North America: Rosemary Maitland Thorn

rthomnvprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org Australia: Carole Maitland carole maitland@vahoo.com.au 4230 Colac- Lavers Hill RoadWeeaproinah. VIC. 3237

New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz 33 Disley Street, High bury, Wellington 6012. NZ We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar

name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at: www.clanmaitland.org.uk



CLAN LESLIE SOCIETY

of Australia and New Zealand

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

Contact: Malcolm W. Leslie D.Ua. 117/303 Spring Street. Kearney's Spring, Qld, 4350, Australia. Phone: +61 7 4635 8358 malncol@icr.com.au www.clanleslie.org



Clan Mackenzie Society in the **United States**

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

Barbara MacKenzie, Treasurer PO Box 20454 Cheyenne, WY 82003-7011 Phone: 307-214-4817 Email: cmustreas@gmail.com Website: www.clanmackenzie.com



Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: John McNeil

21 Laurel Avenue, Linden Park, SA 5065 Email kisimul@chariot.net.au



Clan Munro **Association, U.S.A**

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

COME JOIN US!

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



Murray Clan Society of North America

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

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

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

1001 Cordero Crescent Wyomissing, PA 19610-2738



Clan Shaw Society

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

> Secretary: Mike Shaw 2403 West Cranford Denison, TX 75020



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 200

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

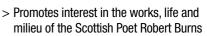
Email: clanwardlaw@yahoo.com

'Wardlaw ivermair!'

www.clanwardlaw.com

Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.



> Conducts Annual Burn Supper, Poetry Afternoon & Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

> Celebrates Scottish Culture

For Membership Information contact: Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973 Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au



Clan Pollock

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

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



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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

www.clansinclairaustralia.com



Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457 Pinehurst, NC 28370

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

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



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

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

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



The Stewart Society

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

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



Societies

Australian Scottish Communtiy (Qld) Inc.

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



Founded at a meeting held in Sydney 18 June 1981
Welcomes membership from all Australians of Scottish descent.

Applications for membership can be obtained from: The Hon Secretary, SAHC Susan Cooke tel: 02 6355 4158 Email: alfredhcooke@gmail.com

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Clan Ross America

Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.



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

Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated Contact: M Hodgkinson

212 MacKenzie Street Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559)

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

CHICAGO SCOTS

Chicago Scots

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

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

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org
Founded in 1905

Founded in 1905

Scottish Gaelic Choir:

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



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

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



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

www.clan-ross.org

clan ross of the united states@gmail.com

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



Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

Richard Langford

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



Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

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

Ruaraidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor) Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org

Web: www.ozgaelic.org

Mall: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

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

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association

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



Clan Scott Australia Group

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

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

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

CLAN YOUNG AUSTRALIA



For those affiliated with the Young surname

Ian J Young Convenor

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

membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au

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



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

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

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

Víctorian Scottish Union Inc

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

Affiliated Clans & Societies

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James Watt artefacts unveiled

n exhibition dedicated to the life, work and legacy of Scottish engineer and inventor James ►Watt opens at The Engine Shed in Stirling to celebrate the 250th anniversary of his invention of the condenser engine. The exhibition will focus on James Watt's improvements to the steam engine and features historic artefacts including what might be an example of William Murdoch's locomotive - on loan from The Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum. The exhibition will also showcase two examples of Cartwheel pennies, and a sign from Kinneil House where James Watt developed his prototype steam engine.

On display for the first time since 2000, the locomotive is a replica of what is possibly one of the experimental steam carriages created by William Murdoch in defiance of James Watt's 1782 patent. The George III Cartwheel penny, dated 1797, was the first copper penny to be circulated in Britain and the first coin in England to be minted on a steam powered press, developed by James Watt and Matthew Boulton. The sign exhibited is a painted copper alloy plaque from an engine cylinder at Kinneil House.

Visitors will discover the impact James Watt's invention had on Britain's industry and engineering, which is still evident today.

Scotland's ground-breaking inventor

The Engine Shed, part of Historic Environment Scotland (HES), serves as a central hub for building and conservation professionals and the general public. Mark Watson, Deputy Head of Industrial Heritage at Historic Environment Scotland, said: "This exhibition is the perfect way to celebrate the work of James Watt on the 250th anniversary of his patent for the separate steam condenser. This exhibition shines a spotlight on Scotland's ground-breaking inventor while looking at the impact of his work from the industrial revolution to climate change. This intriguing miniature locomotive gives an insight into the earliest experimental road vehicles, and we're delighted to bring it back into public view for the first time in 19 years. We hope to showcase James Watt's global significance to a new audience and demonstrate how his work continues to influence the world today, 200 years after his death."

James Watt (1836-1819), transformed the steam engine – the most significant invention of the Industrial Revolution. Without Watt there would have been no locomotives, steam ships or factories where machines were energised by coal. Watt was, however, much more – a scientist who also conceived the concept of horse-power, made the first commercial copying machine and gave his name to a unit of power – the Watt.

We should not only celebrate him as a practically minded genius. He was shaped by friends and family and influenced by his Scottish and Midlands environment. Watt was fashioned by Enlightenment thinking, but his business interests were interconnected with transatlantic slavery and, in a revolutionary age, he was politically conservative. After his death Watt's reputation was forged into a heroic embodiment of the modern age by those who came after him.

James Watt: Power to the World' is free to visit from 10am – 4pm Monday – Saturday and is on display until Friday 23 August.





Full event schedule at www.edinboro.edu/highlandgames

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*\$10 per car parking donation appreciated

By: David C Weinczok

Spreading the Love: Overtourism & Alternatives in Scotland

Across Europe many places are suffering by their very own success as "overtourism" is a new buzz word for governments and the travel industry to grapple with. Locations in Italy, Croatia, and Holland are under pressure to cope with mass tourism whilst trying to keep their character and remain locations that people want to actually live. Parts of Scotland are not immune from its increased success as a tourism hot spot, however you can still find your very own patch of Scottish paradise if look beyond the masses as David C. Weinczok explains.







ver the din of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, which at the height of summer resembles not so much a functioning city as a vast single organism comprised of Fringe flyers, luggage wheelie bags, and Instagram acolytes vying for the next great selfie, one word has risen above the rest on the lips of locals. For several years they dared not say it at anything louder than a whisper, for fear that doing so would make it true or that they would be labelled as killjoys. And then the floodgates opened. In July CNN Travel released their annual report on tourism-related issues around the world. According to the report, Edinburgh and

parts of Scotland including the Isle of Skye and the North Coast 500 route through the northern Highlands are officially in the grips of that dreaded word: overtourism.

Taking the Scottish roads less travelled

As a resident of Edinburgh, I entirely agree. The unregulated rise of Airbnb holiday lets, hundred-strong 'free' walking tour groups, and an increasing 'festivalisation' of the Old Town in particular make Scotland's capital an increasingly difficult place to live, especially for young people and those on lower incomes. Alongside the likes of Amsterdam, Venice, and

Reykjavik, Edinburghers are finding it ever more difficult to cope with the costs, both literal and environmental, of living in a tourism mecca. Similarly, tales of immense motorhome traffic jams and housing shortages on Skye are now routine, while the very serenity and isolation that once drew visitors to parts of the Highlands are being shattered by sheer volume.

And yet, the very real challenge of overtourism in Scotland is an intensely regional one. The chronic issues facing residents of Skye, for instance, are almost unheard of in the valleys of the Scottish Borders or the villages of mainland Argyll. One culprit is undeniably social media. As tourism organisations share hyperedited images of the same five or six locations over and over again, more people flock to them to recreate those snaps for themselves creating a positive feedback loop that excludes vast, beautiful, and

While there is no overnight fix to the issue of Scottish overtourism - it truly requires a systemic reassessment of priorities, marketing strategies, and public consultations along with long-term improvements to infrastructure - one tactic to alleviate the pressure is to encourage people to diversify their itineraries.

Not only are there innumerable opportunities to create memories and have experiences every bit as exciting and dramatic as those in the mainstream tourism adverts, but Scots and Scotland alike will surely thank you for it.





As a heritage professional and guide myself, I despair of the number of times (perhaps as much as nine out of ten) that visitors tell me that their time in Scotland will be exclusively spent between Edinburgh, Loch Ness, and Skye, with perhaps one or two brief detours in between. Lovely as all these places are, they are also simply the places with the greatest name recognition. Many visitors are simply unaware of the alternatives and so, understandably, go with what is known. This must change if Scottish tourism





is to achieve sustainability, both in the conventional sense of the word and in the sense, applied to the likes of Dubrovnik or Bruges, of maintaining liveability for those whose homes and communities are at the centre of tourism hotspots.

As an example of the countless alternatives available to visitors, I offer this alternative summertime itinerary that includes stunning landscapes, thousands of years of history, top notch food and drink, and plentiful outdoor action all while taking the Scottish roads less travelled.

The Scottish Borders

The birthplace and lifelong muse of Sir Walter Scott, the Borders mix rolling hills and serene scenes with some of the hardiest upland landscapes in Britain. It is truly a land of opposites, home at once to a multitude of grand abbeys and spiritual retreats to soothe the soul and one of the bloodiest martial traditions in Europe in the form of the infamous Border Reivers. Roman forts and standing stones dot the landscape, while settlements such as Peebles, St Abbs, and Hawick feel as much of a world apart as most any Highland equivalent. Personal favourite places of interest including the brooding Hermitage Castle, the precipitous beauty of Grey Mare's Tail, and Melrose Abbey where you will find the entombed heart of Robert the Bruce at rest amidst the ruins.

Galloway Forest Park

Swerving southwest through Dumfries and Galloway, a region whose residents were historically considered as untameable as any Highland clan, you'll find a vast land

of coasts, hills, and forests. A formidable network of castles such as Caerlaverock and Threave guarded the gateway into Scotland, and Scotland's cultural ties across the Irish Sea are made tangible with the Isle of Man and Northern Ireland being easily visible on the horizon on a clear day. Galloway Forest Park stands out, with its 'Dark Sky Park' status making it one of the best places in Scotland for camping, summer frolicking, and stargazing.

The Cowal Peninsula

Having emerged from the southwest to the banks of the River Clyde, do as the Victorians and go 'doon the watter' to the quintessentially charming coastal town of Dunoon on the Cowal Peninsula. Walk along its Victorian promenade in the shade of palm trees before visiting the extraordinary Benmore Botanic Garden, where you'll find giant redwoods and all manner of international flora. From there you can embark upon the Loch Lomond & Cowal Way, one especially beautiful and secluded stretch of which is known as Argyll's Secret Coast. Here the boundaries between land and sea become blurred, with narrow waterways splicing rugged coasts and sailboats gracing their shimmering blue surfaces. During the summer a number of small ferries give you the option to continue to the Kintyre Peninsula or the Isle of Bute, and the area is especially good for cycling and longdistance hiking.

Coastal Argyll

'Go west' is my mantra for first-time visitors to Scotland, and few places feel more elemental than Argyll, the 'coast of the Gael'.



At Kilmartin, well out of the way of conventional tourist routes, you'll find a historic landscape that has been deemed the most archaeologically abundant of any in mainland Scotland. To me, nothing beats climbing the ancient hillfort of Dunadd at sunset and placing your bare foot in the faint impression at the top, an act which bound the earliest Kings of Scots to the land and people they ruled. There are over six hundred sites of historic interest within a few miles of Kilmartin Glen, and as you venture northwards you'll pass standing stones, 5,000 year-old cairns, multiple castles, and a landscape that is amongst the most satisfying, in my humble opinion, of any in the world.

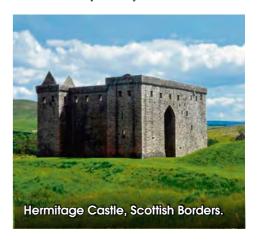
The port town of Oban, known as the 'Gateway to the Isles', is the main hub of the area and links you to the boundless beauty of the Hebrides. You need not go far for an unforgettable experience, however. A five minute-long ferry ride from Gallanach, just south of Oban, brings you to the Isle of Kerrera, which has one of my favourite walks in Scotland from the tiny ferry terminal to Gylen Castle, perched atop a cliff with breathtaking views across the islands that comprised the mighty Norse-Gaelic Lordship of the Isles. Highland coos graze the fields around it, and you're almost certain to have it more or less to yourself - a rare treat in Scotland these days.



Scotland is your oyster

From Oban, Scotland is your oyster. Sail forth to the Isles, weave through the Pass of Brander to the aptly named Loch Awe and iconic Kilchurn Castle, continue on to Highland Perthshire via Loch Tay or the Romantic's dreamland of the Hermitage of Dunkeld, or zig-zag across the fields of Fife. All of these places have so much to discover, and it is to them that veterans of travelling in Scotland tend to return time and time again.

Of course, should you be tempted to heed the call of going over the sea to Skye or to have a capital experience in Edinburgh, you are more than welcome and I do believe that first time visitors to Scotland should see some of these places that are, for good reason, internationally renowned. But if you have a little more time on your hands, or are a repeat visitor, I strongly encourage you to spread the love. Not only are there innumerable opportunities to create memories and have experiences every bit as exciting and dramatic as those in the mainstream tourism adverts, but Scots and Scotland alike will surely thank you for it.





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

AUGUST

01 - B in the Park - Ottawa, ON

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 - Glengarry Highland Games - Maxville, ON 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 polesized cabers and 50 pound iron hammers around the infield. It is a memorable and incredible event. Info: www.glengarryhighlandgames.com

03 - 04 – 154th Prince Edward Island Highland Games & Scottish Festival - Eldon, PE Heavy athletics, pipes and drum bands, kilted golf

Heavy athletics, pipes and drum bands, kilted golf tournament and kilted pace harness racing at Lord Selkirk Park. Info: www.caledonianclubofpei.ca

04 - Montreal Highland Games - Montreal, QCEvery 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 - The Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games – Fergus, ON

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 - The Goderich Celtic Roots Festival - Goderich, ON

Celtic music and fun in music, song and dance. Info: www.celticfestival.ca

09 - 11 - Campbell River Highland Gathering - Campbell River, BC

Bagpipes and Buzzsaws, a full weekend of Scottish fun, part of the Salmonfest. Info: www. campbellriverhighlandgathering.ca

24 - North Lanark Highland Games - Almonte, ON 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

24 – 2nd Annual Gathering of the Clans Highland Festival - Sedgewick, AB

This is a free family event. Come watch the Highland Dance competition, Heavy Games (caber it's, etc.) and the piping and drumming competition. All this excitement at Broadmoor Lake Park from 9am until 5pm. Info: www.facebook.com/events/389009768306607/

31 – September 01 - Canmore Highland Games - Canmore, AB

In the beautiful Canadian Rockies just minutes from Banff. A full weekend of Scottish music, events and fun. Info: www.canmorehighlandgames.ca

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

SEPTEMBER

07 - Colchester Games & Gathering - Truro, NSColchester Games & Gathering is a multifaceted event

Gotheset Values & Gathering is a traditional Highland Games (Heavyweights, Pipe Bands, Highland Dancers) with an array of entertainment for everyone at Bible Hill Ball Fields. Info: www.colchesterhighlandgames.com

13 – Whisky's of the World 2019: British Pub Edition - Winnipeg, MB

The British quality of Whisky, Beer, Gin, Rum and Cider produced over the years, is world renowned. Pair that with inspirational Pub Grub, with a friendly welcoming atmosphere, and a good time will be had by all at the Whiskys of the World 2019: British Pub Edition, at Winnipeg Winter Club, 200 River Ave. Info: whiskysoftheworld@gmail.com

21 - 22 - Nova Scotia Harp Festival 2019 - Halifax, NS Friday evening Opening Concert 7:30pm. Saturday all day Classes at the BMO Room Halifax Central Library. Sunday noon - 5 The Old Triangle. Info: www.nsharp.ca

21 - Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas Concert - Victoria, BC

The musical partnership between consummate performer Alasdair Fraser, the Michael Jordan of Scottish fiddling, and brilliant Californian cellist Natalie Haas spans the full spectrum between intimate chamber music and ecstatic dance energy. Over the last 20 years of creating a buzz at festivals and concert halls across the world, they have truly set the standard for fiddle and cello in traditional music at First Church of Christ Scientist, 1205 Pandora Ave. Info: www.alasdairandnatalie.com

USA

AUGUST

02 - Detroit Highland Games - Livonia, MI

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

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

17 - 18 - Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering - Hamilton, MT

A weekend of Celtic events at Daly Mansion, 251 Eastside Hwy. Info: www.bcgg.org

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

30 – September 01 - Wisconsin Highland Games - Waukesha, WI

A weekend of Scottish and Celtic fun for the whole family, featuring music, dance, athletics, food, drink, living history, and much more. Info: www.wisconsinscottish.org

31 – September 01 - The Caledonian Club of San Francisco's Scottish Highland Gathering and Games - Pleasanton, CA

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 -September 01 - Capital District Scottish Games - Altamont, NY

Over 70 years of rich heritage celebrating Scotland at Altamont Fairgrounds, 129 Grand St. Info: www.scotgames.com

31 -September 01 - Virginia Scottish Games - The Plains, VA

A weekend of Scottish events, music and friendship at Great Meadow, 5089 Old Tavern Rd. Info: www.vascottishgames.org

SEPTEMBER

05 - 08 - Longs Peak Scottish-Irish Highland Festival - Estes Park, CO

Celebrating Over 40 Years in the Celtic Capital of North America with Celtic music, vendors, entertainment and more. Info: (800) 903-7837 or www.scotfest.com

05 - 08 – 26th Annual Edinboro Highland Games & Scottish Festival - Edinboro, PA

Scotland has proud traditions of independent and innovative thinking, and the Edinboro Highland Games celebrates that heritage, featuring exceptional music, dance, athletics, art, food, and family gatherings, the festival offers fun for all ages. Info: www.edinboro.edu/events/highland-games

06 - 07 - Southwest Missouri Celtic Heritage Festival & Highland Games - Buffalo, MO Celebrates the heritage of the Buffalo Head Prairie by the immigrants that settled in the area and created Buffalo, Missouri at Dallas Country Fairgrounds. Info: www.buffaloareachamber.org/celticfestival

07 - 08 - Middle Tennessee Highland Games & Celtic Festival - Nashville, TN

Athletes, Clans, vendors, coos, black faced Scottish sheep being herded, huge kids zone Irish & Highland dance, piping competition, numerous music acts, roving pipe bands & entertainers, food, beer, Scotch tasting etc. at Percy Warner Park, Hwy 100 W @ Old Hickory Blvd. Info: www.midtenngames.com

07 – 6th Annual Covenanter Scottish Festival - Quarryville, PA

Held on the grounds of the Octorara Covenanter and Middle Octorara Presbyterian Churches. Entertainment performed throughout the day. Athletes will be competing in the Penn's Wall Highland Games, pipers will participate in solo pipe competitions and Highland dancers will be competing. Info: https://www.facebook.com/groups/901923783221601/

14 - 15 - 61st Ligonier Highland Games - Ligonier, PA An annual celebration of Celtic traditions at Idlewild Park, Route 30. Info: www.ligonierhighlandgames.org

20 - 22 - The New Hampshire Highland Games & Festival – Lincoln, NH

One of the largest and most diverse Highland Games held in North America at Loon Mountain Resort. Info: www.nhscot.org

28 - Dandridge Scots-Irish Festival - Dandridge,TN A celebration of Celtic culture with music, dance and friendship. Info: www.scotsirishfestival.com

SCOTLAND

AUGUST

02 - 24 - The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo - Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Tattoo is a spectacular like no other. A kaleidoscope of music, dance and entertainment. All set against the iconic backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. See your evening burst into life with a colourful blend of Scottish pipe and drum bands, highland dancers and performers from across the world. Info: www.edintattoo.co.uk

02 - 26 - The Edinburgh Festival Fringe - EdinburghThe largest arts festival in the world featuring
performers from across the globe at locations
across Edinburgh. Info: www.edfringe.com

02 - 26 - The Edinburgh International Festival - Edinburgh

For three weeks in August, Scotland's capital becomes an unparalleled celebration of the performing arts and an annual meeting point for people of all nations. Festival programmes featuring dance, opera, music and theatre at venues across Edinburgh. Info: www.eif.co.uk

03 - International Scottish Gin Day - Nationwide International Scottish Gin Day aims to help a global audience discover the wonderful world of

global audience discover the wonderful world of Scottish Gin and to create a special day established to raise the profile of Scottish Gin, which accounts for 70% of the UK's overall gin production.

03 - 10 - Clan Farquharson Gathering 2019 - Braemar Celebrate our Clan Chief's 100th birthday and his 70th anniversary of becoming Clan Chief with a variety of Clan focused events. Info: www.farquharson-clan.co.uk

05 - Clan Baird Society General Meeting - Edinburgh Clan Baird Society is hosting its General Meeting, St. Trinnean's Room, St. Leonard's Hall, 18 Holyrood Park Rd. A representative from the Office of the Lord Lyon is coming to hear the state of the Bairds and to explain processes for more organization of the family. All Bairds are invited to attend. You do not have to be a member of Clan Baird Society to be a part of this meeting. Info: Debra Baird, President, djbaird4@gmail.com

07 - Isle of Skye Highland Games - Isle of Skye These games, which date back to 1877, remain one of the few games in Scotland to feature a sailing

event. Info: www.skye-highland-games.co.uk 09 - 11 - Clan Munro Gathering - Inverness

Clan Munro Clan event to commemorate the Battle of Glen Shiel in 1719 where the Munros took to the field for the last time as a clan. Info: www.clanmunro.org.uk

10 - 16 - Piping Live! - Glasgow

Piping Live! brings together musicians from across the globe, who come to Glasgow with pipe bands and music groups from many different countries to take part. With Pipe Idol, The Piping Live! Big Band, The Masters, Evening Concerts, the festival club, Street Café and more, the festival has something for everyone. Info: www.pipinglive.co.uk

14 - 15 - Learn@Live! at Piping Live! 2019 - Glasgow Learn@Live! is a brand new workshop series from the

Piping Livel festival team at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Learn@Live! will feature two full days of workshops looking at topics across the spectrum of Piping and Drumming. This is a great way to learn more about your craft, find out about a new style of music or look more closely at a particular topic. Workshops will be lead by some of the top names in piping and drumming including: Richard Parkes & Keith Orr, Murray & Patricia Henderson, Ali Hutton & Ross Ainslie, and Steven McWhirter.

Info: www.pipinglive.co.uk/2019/06/21/learn-live

16 - 17 - The World Pipe Band Championships - Glasgow Two days of competition showcases the extraordinary ability of 8000 pipers and drummers

District will face bands from around the World as they compete to hang on to their crown at Glasgow Green. Info: www.theworlds.co.uk

17 - Stirling Highland Games - Stirling

Stirling sees some of the burliest heavy athletes battle it out in the heavies, from the shot put to the hammer throw. Info: www.stirlinghighlandgames.com

29 - 31 - Cowal Highland Gathering - Dunoon, Argyll Celebrating 125 years and renowned for the quality of its Highland dancing, drawing in the best performers from around the globe as they compete in the Scottish and World Championships. Info: www.cowalgathering.com or 01369 703206.

SEPTEMBER

05 - 08 - 2019 Clan MacAulay Gathering - Aviemore MacAulays (of all spellings) will gather in the beautiful Cairngorms National Park at the Hilton Coylumbridge. It will be a time to connect with our fellow MacAulays, make new friends and reacquaint with friends you've made at previous Gatherings. Info: www.clanmacaulay.org.uk

06 - 08 - The Stewart Gathering 2019 - Elgin, Moray The Stewart Society (of Edinburgh) will hold its Annual General Meeting, hosted by the Royal Hotel with trips to Duffus Castle, Spynie Palace, Burghead, Darnaway Castle, Holy Trinity Church, and Dunkeld Cathedral to visit the tomb of the

07 - 08 - Perth Festival of Yarn - Perth

The festival brings together independent dyers, farmers, small-holders, knitters, spinners, felters and weavers for a weekend. You can also take part in a class programme with professional tutors across a range of textile disciplines. Info: www.perthfestivalofyarn.uk

07 - 14 - Scottish Borders Walking Festival - Selkirk
This year's festival will see a total of 28 guided countryside
walks of varied lengths and challenge, taking in routes
across the Selkirk, Ettrick and Yarrow Valley areas - from
the Southern Upland Way, the Grey Mare's Tail Waterfall
and the Ring o' the Loch to the famous Three Brethren
and many more. Info: www.borderswalking.com

Scotword answers from page 6

Across: 8 Reekie; 9 Inchcolm; 10 Assembly; 11 Notice; 12 Clyde; 14 Ilk; 15 Bobby; 18 Iceberg; 20 Middens; 23 Greet; 24 Ram; 25 Angus; 29 Petrol; 31 Montrose; 33 Victoria; 34 Eagles.

Down: 1 Weasel; 2 Skye; 3 Derby; 4 Bicycle; 5 Scone; 6 Scot; 7 Black Bun; 13 Dub; 16 Irn; 17 Fir; 19 Carnegie; 21 Dan; 22 Oatmeal; 26 Ulster; 27 Flora; 28 Inner; 30 Rota; 32 Rigs.

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The Queen marks the 20th anniversary of Scottish Parliament



The Queen with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

wo decades after officially opening the first elected assembly in Edinburgh, the Queen hailed the "remarkable" Scottish Parliament as she took part in its 20th anniversary celebrations. Her Majesty was accompanied by her son, the Prince of Wales - who is known in Scotland as the Duke of Rothesay. In the Queen's speech to Parliament she said: "We fondly remember that proud day when new members gathered in the Assembly Hall to celebrate Scotland's first parliament in 300 years. It has been with great pleasure that over the years I have watched Scotland grow and prosper, and have been with you at each stage of your parliamentary life, including

on landmark occasions such as today. Twenty years on, this chamber continues to be at the centre of Scottish public life, as an important forum to engage and unite diverse communities and also a home for passionate debate and discussion. As we look to the future, it is my sincere hope that this Parliament, and all those who come to serve in it, will use the power of this chamber to celebrate those invisible pillars of our communities, and follow their example by working tirelessly to improve people's lives, and strengthen the bonds of friendship and partnership both at home and abroad.' The visit marks the ninth time the Queen has addressed the Scottish Parliament.

Made Scotland a better place

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: "Although this parliament is only 20 years young, it has long come of age. This parliament is firmly established as the centre of this nation's public life. We have become the democratic institution which people look to, to reflect their priorities, values, hopes and dreams. The 290 Acts this parliament has passed have varied in their impact.



But from land reform in the first parliament to equal marriage in the last, to the Social Security Act in this, they have all made Scotland a better place."

Ahead of the Queen's arrival, the Crown of Scotland was brought in a procession from Edinburgh Castle to Holyrood, carried by the Duke of Hamilton and accompanied by the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion of the Scots Guards. Current and former MSPs were present, along with some of the Scots who were born on July 1, 1999 – the day the Scottish Parliament was officially opened. The chamber choir of the National Youth Choir of Scotland, Scottish folk musician Phil Cunningham and members of Scottish band Capercaillie also performed.



Southwest Missouri Celtic Festival & Highland Games



he 17th annual Southwest Missouri Celtic Festival & Highland Games, sponsored by the Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce, will be Friday & Saturday, Sept 6-7, at the Buffalo City Park and Fair Grounds, 315 E. Ramsey St, Buffalo, Mo.

Friday night admission is free, featuring some of the many vendors & clans that will participate all day Saturday. Baer Swords School of Western Martial Arts will hold demonstrations, and the Calling of the Clans ceremony will begin at dusk.

The highly competitive Highland Games will begin at 9am Saturday and will include: the Bramer Stone Toss, Open Stone Toss, Weight for Distance, Weight Over Bar, Heavy & Light Hammer, Sheaf Toss, and Caber Toss.

Entertainment will start at 9am Saturday, featuring:

Tullamore, a singing trio.
Beyond the Heather, a 6 piece
traditional Irish band.
Shamrock Irish Dancers from Rolla.
Ez & Dill, comedians and storytellers.
Shortleaf Band.
Julie Henigan.
External Combustion Orchestra.

Demonstrations will be going on all day Saturday will include crafts such as spinning, dancing, and black-smithing. Baer Swords Single Stick Tournament and Long Sword Competition, will run all day.

Advance tickets and applications for athletes, family clans & vendors, are available through the Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce call 417-345-2852. Advance tickets will also be available Friday night.

Admission at the gate Saturday is: \$10 each for adults (\$8 advance), \$8 for senior citizens (age 60 or older) and children (ages 5-12) (\$5 advance). Children 4 and under get in free. Family passes are available for \$20 (\$18 advance). T-shirts

will also available at the festival. Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

For further details see: www. buffaloareachamber.org/celticfestival



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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Tomato Soup

Ingredients:

2 onions, peeled and chopped 1 carrot, peeled and diced finely 1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed 1 stick celery, finely chopped 2 tbsp olive oil 450g/1lb fresh ripe tomatoes, halved 1 litre/1¾ pints vegetable stock 1 tsp sugar salt and freshly ground black pepper handful fresh basil, shredded (optional)

Method:

Heat the oil in a large saucepan and add the onions, carrot and celery and garlic. Cover and cook gently for 10 minutes until soft.

Add the sugar, salt, pepper and tomatoes. Stir and cook for another 5 minutes.

Add the stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 10 minutes. Liquidise until smooth. If using the basil, stir in at the end.

Shepherd's pie

1 large onion, finely chopped

Ingredients: 25g/1oz. dripping

2 tbsp. olive oil
500g/1lb 2oz. minced lamb
1 tbsp. plain flour
2 bay leaves
2 sprigs fresh thyme
1 anchovy, finely chopped (optional)
1 x 400g tin chopped tomatoes
2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
450ml/16fl oz. chicken, beef or lamb stock
salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the mash:

700g/1½lb potatoes, peeled and cut into halves or quarters 55ml/2fl oz. milk 75g/3oz. butter 1 free-range egg yolk

Method:

In a large saucepan, heat the dripping. Add the onion and cook for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, in a large frying pan, heat a little olive oil and fry the mince, stirring, until browned all over. While the meat is frying, break up any lumps with the back of the spoon. Stir the onions and

add the flour (this helps to thicken the juices) and stir. Mix well and add the bay leaves, thyme and the anchovy and stir. Add the chopped tomatoes, stock (keep a little aside, for putting into the mince pan to de-glaze the pan) and Worcestershire sauce. Add the cooked mince and then pour the stock mixture into empty mince pan, scraping off any bits of mince left in the pan. Pour the remaining stock into the pan containing the sauce mixture. Bring the mixture to the boil, adding a pinch of salt and pepper and let it simmer for about 45 minutes, stirring regularly. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/ Gas 6. For the mash, boil the potatoes until tender (about 10 minutes). Drain, add the milk, butter and egg yolk, then mash until smooth. Season with salt and pepper. Pour the meat into a 1.4 litre/21/2 pint ovenproof dish and spread the mash on top, smooth over and mark with a spatula. Put the dish into the oven and cook until the surface is golden-brown.

Cheese scones



Ingredients:

225g/8oz. self-raising flour pinch of salt 55g/2oz. butter 25g/1oz. mature cheddar cheese, grated 150ml/5fl oz. milk

Method:

Heat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Lightly grease a baking sheet. Mix together the flour and salt and rub in the butter. Stir in the cheese and then the milk to get a soft dough. Turn on to a floured work surface and knead very lightly. Pat out to a round 2cm/¾in thick. Use a 5cm/2in cutter to stamp out rounds and place on the baking sheet. Lightly knead together the rest of the dough and stamp out more scones to use it all up. Brush the tops of the scones with a little milk. Bake for 12-15 minutes until well risen and golden. Cool on a wire rack.

Farthing biscuits

Ingredients:

225g/8oz. plain flour, plus extra for dusting 225g/8oz. self-raising flour 1 tsp. table salt 1 tsp. caster sugar 85g/3oz. lightly salted butter, plus extra to serve 85g/3oz. lard

Method:

For the biscuits, preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. In a bowl, mix the dry ingredients together. Rub in butter and lard so that mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add just enough cold water to bring the mixture together to form a stiff dough (about 5-6 tablespoons). Refrigerate for 15-20 minutes. On a lightly floured work surface, roll out the dough to a thickness just less than a £1 or thick coin. Using a 9cm/3½in round cutter cut out biscuits from the dough. Prick the top of the biscuits all over to decorate, leaving a plain 5mm/¼in border around the edge. Transfer to wire racks or baking mesh. Place the racks/mesh on baking trays and bake for 14-16 minutes, or until the biscuits are dry but not browned. Set aside to cool completely. Serve the biscuits with chilled butter.

Tartan Trifle

Ingredients:

200 g/7oz. shortbread biscuits
250 g/9oz. raspberries - thawed if frozen
4 tbsp. whisky liqueur
25g/1oz. custard powder
25g/1oz. sugar
600ml/1 pint milk
300ml/1/2 pint double cream whipped
cake decorating gel (red, blue and
green or preferred colours)

Method:

Roughly crush shortbread biscuits and place half in the base of a glass serving dish. Add raspberries with any juice and 2 tablespoons liqueur, then remaining biscuits and liqueur. Blend custard powder and sugar with a little milk. Bring remaining milk to the boil and pour on custard mixture, stirring well Return to the pan, bring to the boil, stirring. Cook for 1 minute. Pour over raspberries. Leave until cold. Spread whipped cream over custard and decorate with a fork. Just before serving decorate with decorating gel.

Orange cranachan

Ingredients:

4 blush or blood oranges orange 50g/2 oz. pinhead oatmeal or rolled oats

150ml/5fl oz. pot whipping cream 2 tbsp. whisky whisky

150g/5oz. tub Greek yogurt 2 tbsp clear honey Honey

Method:

Slice the top and bottom off each orange and sit them on a board. Using a sharp knife, cut down between the peel and flesh until all the peel and pith have been removed. Cut between each membrane to remove all the segments. Roughly chop and set aside. Heat a non-stick frying pan over a medium heat. Dryfry the oatmeal, stirring often, for 3-5 mins. It should start to smell nutty, but don't let it burn. Tip the oatmeal onto a plate to cool. Whisk the cream and whisky together to soft peaks. Carefully fold in the yogurt, oatmeal and honey until just combined. Spoon half the mixture into 4 serving glasses and top with half the orange. Repeat layer with the remaining ingredients and serve drizzled with extra honey, if you like.

Cold Toddy

Ingredients:

1 medium orange 5–6 medium lemons

4 cinnamon sticks

1 piece ginger, peeled, smashed, plus more thinly sliced for serving

4 Earl Grey tea bags

1 tsp. whole cloves % cup honey

2 cups rye whisky

1 tsp. orange or regular bitters Orange twists (for serving)

Method:

Using a vegetable peeler, remove zest from orange and 1 lemon in wide strips, leaving white pith behind; slice fruit in half. Squeeze juice from orange into a small bowl (you should have about ¼ cup). Squeeze juice from lemon into a measuring glass. Slice remaining lemons in half and squeeze juice into glass to measure 1 cup total; save any remaining lemon halves for another use. Set orange and lemon juice aside.

Place zest in a small saucepan. Whack cinnamon sticks with the side of a chef's knife to break up a little and add to saucepan along with smashed ginger, tea bags, cloves, and 1¾ cups water. Bring to a boil and immediately remove from heat; let sit 5 minutes. Remove tea bags, then stir in honey; let cool completely, about 20 minutes.

Strain tea mixture through a finemesh sieve into a pitcher and add rye, bitters, and reserved orange juice and lemon juice. Add 2 cups ice and stir until ice is melted and toddy is very cold.

To serve, pour toddy into tumblers filled with ice and garnish with ginger slices and orange twists.

New Hebridean Whale Trail launches on Scotland's spectacular West Coast

30-plus site initiative aims to promote sustainable, low-impact marine wildlife watching from land, and benefit local communities.



spectacular new trail has been launched by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust to showcase Scotland's west coast as a world-class destination for spotting whales, dolphins and porpoises from land, and champion conservation of the Hebrides' globally important marine wildlife and environment. The Hebridean Whale Trail, the first of its kind in the UK, is a unique initiative connecting more than 30 top places offering opportunities for land-based sightings of whales, dolphins and porpoises, or showcasing important whale heritage sites that reveal the history of people's relationships with whales in these communities.

Scotland's stunning west coast

Basking sharks, seals and other wildlife may also be seen from the trail, which features 33 sites across the Hebridean archipelago and along Scotland's stunning west coast, from the Clyde to Cape Wrath, and as far west as St Kilda. These include lighthouses at the Butt of Lewis on the Isle of Lewis, Eilean Glas on the Isle of Scalpay, and the UK mainland's most westerly point at Ardnamurchan Lighthouse. Beaches include Clachtoll in the Highlands, and Huisinis on the Isle of Harris. Bustling harbours include Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, and Ullapool.

The trail ranges from easily accessible attractions such as the Hebridean Whale Trail Centre in Tobermory, to remote and wild destinations such as the Oa on Islay. "Scotland's west coast is one of Europe's best places to catch sight of whales, dolphins and porpoises from land - and you may see bottlenose and common dolphins, harbour porpoise, minke whales and killer whales," said Karl Stevens, Hebridean Whale Trail Manager. "We want people from all walks of life to visit the Hebridean Whale Trail to enjoy exploring the region's unique nature, culture and history, and to be inspired to support marine conservation."

The aims are also to boost the local economy and support communities through sustainable eco-tourism, provide educational opportunities, and improve connections between coastal areas.

The best of Scotland's marine wildlife and seascapes

David Adams McGilp, VisitScotland Regional Director, said: "Scotland's Hebrides offer captivating views, endless beaches, ancient history, the finest fresh food and of course, wonderful wildlife.

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The Hebridean Whale Trail is a clever initiative, which presents visitors with an unrivalled opportunity to explore the best of Scotland's marine wildlife and seascapes. The launch of this new trail is particularly apt as we prepare for the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 – a year-long programme of events and activities which will shine a spotlight on Scotland's coasts and waters. It's particularly pleasing that the trail is a conservation-based tourism product, as a key focus of the themed year will be celebrating and protecting Scotland's beautiful natural environment."

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust has spent a year developing the trail, identifying sites with communities, site owners, conservation organisations, schools, and businesses. The trail's website www.whaletrail.org includes routes, transport options and site details. On-site interpretation

at key locations will explain which species of cetaceans – the collective name for whales, dolphins and porpoises – might be seen.

Exceptionally rich in wildlife

Across the trail there will be many opportunities for visitors and residents to get involved in marine conservation activities

including joining volunteers to watch,
 identify and record marine wildlife from land
 or the ferries which connect the sites, as well
 as discovering more about Scotland's seas
 from experts at a range of visitor centres.

"The trail encourages accessible, low-impact whale-watching from land, which for many is a completely new way of thinking about viewing marine wildlife. Scotland's west coast is dotted with stunning places where you can quietly watch whales, dolphins, and other wildlife going about their business, from a clifftop or harbour," said Alison Lomax, Directorof the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust. "Ultimately we want people to experience the thrill of watching a fin breaking the surface in the distance, and the challenge of identifying which type of whale they've seen, sharing that experience with others, and learning about the threats these animals face in our seas."

While sightings of cetaceans can never be guaranteed, the Hebridean seas are exceptionally rich in wildlife. More than a quarter of the world's whale and dolphin species have been recorded in the region – including many national and international conservation priority species.

The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust is based on the Isle of Mull and has been taking action for the conservation of cetaceans off western Scotland for over two decades.

International pipe band friendship meets in Scotland



he band of the Sons of Scotland from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, have made friends through trips and performances all over the world, and they are proud of their music and fellowship that comes from the work. Back in 2004, Pipe Major Bethany Bisaillion had the good fortune of meeting Pipe Major John Ralph of the St. Andrew's Caledonia Pipe Band from Launceston, Tasmania, Australia on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle and a great friendship began.

An international effort

Now, 15 years later and the Tassie's bands' 3rd trip to Scotland, these two pipe bands will join forces during a grand tour and play at shows in Pitlochry and Glasgow, and compete together at the Perth Highland Games and the World Pipe Band Championships on August 17. This will be an amazing journey for everyone,

and new music and shows and ideas will come of this amalgamation of the work and dedication put forth by all players – this really is an international effort, and one that's come together with the aid of technology and talent – and it will be a tour none will forget.

Music touches us all, and brings us together in so many great ways – the Tasmanians and the Canadians are proof of that, and hope to inspire others to keep the traditions alive all over the world.



THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Death of Queen Anne; George I, Elector of Hanover becomes king. $1714\,$
- 1 Proscription Act introduced, banning tartan and the carrying of weapons. The penalty for a first offence was six months in jail and a second offence resulted in transportation for seven years. 1747
- 1 University of Dundee which was incorporated into the University of St Andrews(as Queen's College) in 1890, constituted as a separate university. 1967
- 2 Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, died in Nova Scotia. Although he is best known for this invention Bell was also well known for his work on deafness. $1922\,$
- **3** Sir William Kirkcaldy of Grange executed, after defending Edinburgh Castle on behalf of Mary Queen of Scots from May 1568 to May 1573. **1573**
- $\bf 3$ King James II killed by an exploding cannon at the siege of Roxburgh Castle. $\bf 1460$
- $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{3} \text{ William Wallace is captured near} \\ \textbf{Glasgow. Wallace is tried in London on} \\ \textbf{23 August, then executed. 1305} \end{array}$
- $\bf 3$ The 2014 Commonwealth Games (officially the XX Commonwealth Games) closing ceremony took place in Glasgow, Scotland. $\bf 2014$
- **4** Birth of the entertainer Sir Harry Lauder, his hits included *Roamin in the Gloamin'* and *Keep Right on to the End of the Road.* Lauder died in 1950 at the age of 79. **1870**
- 4 Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, the future Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, born. 1900
- **5** James, Earl Douglas, died out of sight of his army, in a bush, at Battle of Otterburn in which Scots defeat Henry Percy, (Hotspur) but with the loss of the Earl of Douglas. **1388**
- **5** The Scottish Parliament established a General Post Office. **1695**
- **6** First Glasgow/Edinburgh coach service began from White Horse Inn, Edinburgh. **1678**
- 6 Donald Alexander Smith later Lord Strathcona - born in Forres. A pioneer of the Hudson Bay Company in the North-West, he later championed the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway across Canada and drove the last spike at Craigellachie, British Columbia. 1820
- **6** Birth of Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin. **1881**
- 7 Lord Kitchener, the war minister, began a mass recruiting campaign, three days after Britain declared war on Germany.By the war's end a total of 147,609 Scots had been killed, a fifth of Britain's dead from a country that made up only 10% of its population. 1914



- 7 Air services begin from Barra Airport, the only beach airport anywhere in the world to be used for scheduled airline services. 1936
- 7 The first train arrives in Fort William on the newly opened West Highland Line. $\bf 1894$
- 8 Former World flyweight boxing champion Benny Lynch died. 1946
- $\bf 8$ King Edward I removed to England the Stone of Destiny on which generations of Scottish kings had been crowned. $\bf 1296$

- 8 King James IV married Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII of England. The marriage was known as the Union of the Thistle and the Rose. 1503
- **9** Civil engineer Thomas Telford born in Dumfries. **1757**
- **9** Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire opened after David McIntyre set up Scottish Aviation Ltd. Aircraft had been flying from the area since 1913. **1935**
- 10 King James III crowned at Kelso Abbey. 1460
- 10 Education (Scotland) Act passed, providing elementary education for all children. 1872
- 10 Perth Museum and Art Gallery opened by the Duke and Duchess of York. $1935\,$
- 11 Andrew Carnegie, the Dunfermlineborn steel industrialist and philanthropist, died. Throughout his later life Carnegie established a number of foundations for education and research such as the Carnegie Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. 1919
- 12 Roy Williamson, the Scottish folk musician and songwriter, died. Williamson was one of the famous duo, The Corries, along with Ronnie Browne. $1990\,$
- 13 Explorer Alexander Gordon Laing became the first Christian to reach Timbuctu, Africa. 1826
- 13 Birth of John Logie Baird, developer of television. 1888
- 13 Scotland's first nuclear power station at Dounreay went "critical" ushering in the generation of power from atomic reactions. 1957
- 14 King Duncan I killed in battle at Pitgavney by Macbeth. 1040
- $14\,1337$ King Robert III born at Scone.
- 14 King Robert III crowned at the Augustinian abbey of Scone. 1390
- 14 University of Strathclyde was constituted in Glasgow, based on the Royal College of Science and Technology. 1964
- 15 Macbeth killed in battle by Malcolm at Lumphanan. 1057
- 15 Novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott born. Synonymous with the Scottish Borders Scott wrote classics such as *Waverley* and *The Bride of Lamermoor*. 1771



- 15 Foundation stone for the Monument to Sir Walter Scott laid in Princes Street Gardens. 1840
- 16 Birth of Carolina Oliphant (Lady Nairne), poet and author of many Jacobite songs, including *Charlie is my Darling*. Her songs are second only in popularity to Burns. 1766
- 17 The see of St Andrews became an archbishopric by a bull of Pope Sixtius IV. 1472
- $17\,\textsc{-}\mbox{\sc Visit}$ of George IV to Edinburgh began, orchestrated by Sir Walter Scott. $1822\,$
- 17 First Edinburgh International Festival opened. 1947
- 18 The Tay Road Bridge opened. The Tay Road Bridge carries the A92 road across the Firth of Tay from Newport-on-Tay in Fife to Dundee. 1966

- 18 Arthur Elphinstone, Lord Balmerino, the Jacobite noble, was executed. Balmerino was captured along with Lord Kilmarnock after the Battle of Culloden and the pair were tried for treason in London and beheaded in the Tower of London. 1746
- 19 Mary Queen of Scots lands at Leith on her return from France, after the death of her husband, King Francis II. $1561\,$
- 19 Charles Edward Stuart, raises his standard at Glenfinnan, at the start of the '45 uprising. 1745
- 19 Scottish aviator Jim Mollinson landed after the first East/West solo flight of the Atlantic from Portmarnock, Ireland to Pennfield, New Brunswick, 1932
- 20 Ronald Ross, the first Scot to win a Nobel prize (in 1902) dissected a mosquito and established the link with malaria. 1897
- 21 Battle of Dunkeld when the newly formed Cameronians defended the town against 3,000 Highlanders. 1689
- 21 Birth of William Murdoch who pioneered the use of coal-gas lighting in 1792 in partnership with James Watt and Mathew Boulton. 1754
- 21 Birth of Donald Dewar, former Secretary of State for Scotland and First Minister in the new Scottish Parliament. 1937
- 22 Battle of the Standard at Northallerton in which King David I was defeated by the English. 1138
- 22 Devorgilla, Countess of Galloway founded Balliol College, Oxford. She was mother of John Balliol (who acceded to the Scottish throne in 1292). 1282
- 22 King Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham, initiating a Civil War in England between the Royalists (also known as Cavaliers) and Parliament (Roundheads). 1642
- 23 Sir William Wallace was executed in London. Wallace was captured after being betrayed by Sir John de Menteith and was transported to London. King Edward I had devised a new method of execution for one of his arch-enemies, and Wallace became the first person to endure the agonies of being hanged, drawn and quartered. 1305

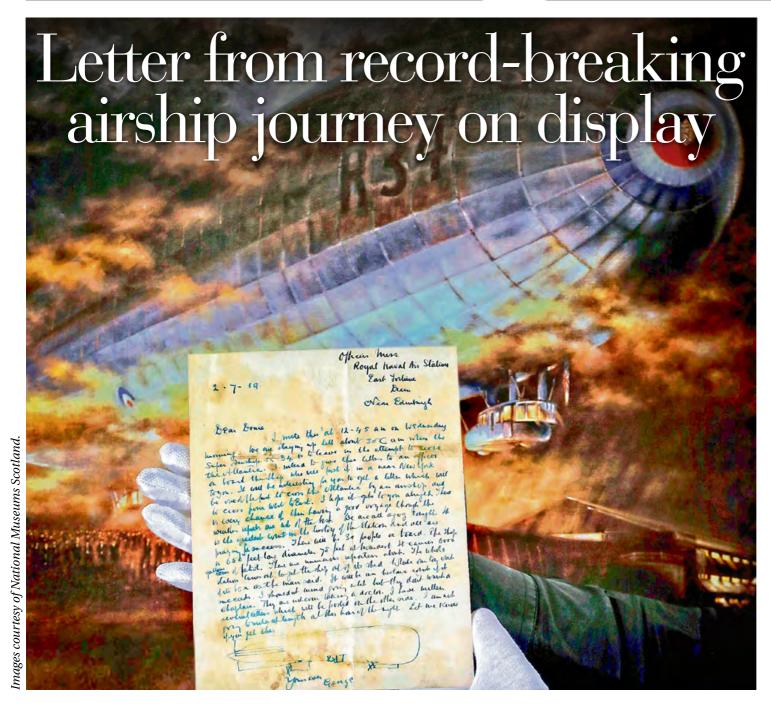


- 23 Work begins on the rebuilding of Eilean Donan Castle. It will take until 1932 to complete. The castle is today one of the most photographed in Scotland. 1913
- 24 Berwick on Tweed finally ceded to England (Edward IV) after changing hands 12 times. 1482
- 24 The first Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama opened. The festival was inspired by the arts festivals organised in Salzburg before the Second World War, but has grown to become the largest event of it's kind in the world. It has also spawned a book festival, film festival and the festival fringe. The festival was also responsible for the creation of Scottish Opera and forced a greater amount of funding from the Arts Council to be given to Scotland. 1947

- ${\color{red}25}\,\text{- James Watt, developer of steam}\\ {\color{red}power, died.}\,{\color{red}1819}$
- 25 Actor Sir Sean Connery born. Connery famously went from an Edinburgh milk man to global movie superstar, best known for playing James Bond 007. 1930
- 26 Novelist and statesman John Buchan born in Perth. 1875
- 26 The Donibristle Mining Disaster occurred in the Fife coalfield. The disaster occurred when part of Mossmorran peat bog near Cowdenbeath collapsed on sixteen miners 360 feet underground. Four miners were lost, as was a four-strong rescue party. All the bodies were eventually recovered but some remained underground until the December of that year. 1901
- 27 First balloon ascent in Britain by James Tytler, Edinburgh. 1784
- 27 James Thomson, the Scottish poet, died. Thomson's most famous works include the anthem, *Rule Britannia*. 1748
- 28 Edward I of England held a parliament at Berwick to which he summoned all Scottish landholders to sign the Ragman Roll. 1296
- 28 The Battle of Newburn on Tyne. The battle was fought between Leslie's veteran Scottish army and a hastily assembled English force. The Scots had invaded northern England in response to the attempts of Charles I to impose an Anglican prayer book upon Scotland. 1640



- 29 The population of St Kilda were evacuated from the island. The island was evacuated on economic grounds at the islanders own request as the population had dwindled from 73 in 1920 to only 37 in 1928. The island had been populated since Bronze Age times, but from the latter part of the 19th century, the islanders had began to lose their means of self-sufficiency and the fate of the resident population was sealed. The island was sold to the Marquess of Bute, a keen ornithologist, who bequeathed it to the National Trust for Scotland in 1957. 1930
- 30 The Royal Research Ship Discovery reaches the Falkland Islands on a mission to rescue polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, to find he has already been rescued. 1915
- 30 Birth of golf course designer Dr Alister Mackenzie; he was responsible for Augusta National and Cypress Point, among others. 1870
- **30** Liz McColgan won the World Athletics Championship 10,000 metres in Tokyo by a margin of 20 seconds. **1991**
- 31- The first Edinburgh Film Festival opened. The festival was officially opened on this date by the Lord Provost at the Playhouse Cinema. The festival was originally known as the International Festival of Documentary, but has now grown to become recognised as one of the great worldwide film festivals. 1946





letter written 100 years ago and dropped over Nova Scotia from the R.34 airship during its recordbreaking double transatlantic crossing has gone on display at the National Museum of Flight in East Lothian, on the centenary of the R.34's departure from its East Fortune base.

The R.34's epic journey, which took place just a few weeks after Alcock and Brown's record-breaking west-east Atlantic flight, was the first ever return flight across the Atlantic and the first east-west crossing by air. The R.34's trip also involved the first arrival in the USA by air when Major Pritchard parachuted from the airship to take charge of the hundreds of ground crew required, as well as the world's first human and feline trans-Atlantic aerial stowaways, Newcastle man, William Ballantyne and Wopsie the cat.

Record-breaking flight

The letter, which was recently acquired by National Museums Scotland, was written by the Reverend George Davys Jones who worked as a chaplain at RAF East Fortune. He gave it to the R.34 crew to post to his sister in Bournemouth once the airship had reached the USA. It was dropped from the airship over Nova Scotia on 5 July, discovered by Milton Weldon on 8 November at Selmah, Hants County, forwarded to Halifax, Nova Scotia and then posted back to England where it arrived later that month. The letter describes the sense of excitement about the R.34's forthcoming journey, explaining that the whole station was required to guide the massive airship out of its shed ahead of its record-breaking flight.

The 634 ft R.34 was stationed at East Fortune, now home to the National Museum of Flight but which started out as a Royal Naval Air Station. Nicknamed 'Tiny', her hydrogen-filled gas bags alone required the intestines of 600,000 oxen to make them. The airships came under the command of the Navy as their primary duties were convoy protection and anti-submarine activities. HMA R.34 arrived at East Fortune in May 1919.

She had been constructed at the Wm Beardmore factory at Inchinnan near Glasgow but was completed too late to see active service. She had one operational voyage over the Baltic Sea as part of a show of strength in advance of the ratification of the Treaty of Versailles.

Her main claim to fame came in July 1919 when she and her crew of 30 set off on the first direct flight between Britain and the USA. The initial destination was Mineola in Long Island, USA, where rolling grasslands and favourable winds made it a popular choice for aviators including the Wright Brothers. The R.34 reached Mineola at 9.45am on 6 July 1919, 108 hours and 12 minutes after it departed East Fortune, following an adventure-filled journey that was hampered by dwindling fuel supplies, violent squalls and a leak that was repaired with the crew's entire supply of chewing gum.

The crew was the toast of the town on arrival in the USA and was wined and dined in New York and showered with gifts including a rare case of prohibited rum.

The R.34 then flew over the sky scrapers

of New York as it set off for home, landing at Pulham in England 75 hours later after inadvertently soaking the welcoming musicians with water ballast.

One of Scotland's most fascinating aerial adventures

Sadly, the R34 was scrapped in 1921 following an accident in high winds but her transatlantic journey remains one of Scotland's most fascinating aerial adventures. Rev. Jones' letter will be displayed until 31 October 2019 in the National Museum of Flight's Fortunes of War gallery, which explains the fascinating history of the Museum's East Fortune home. It features other objects that help to tell the story of the R.34, including its large bowplate and altimeter dial, binoculars and a camera used on the flight as well as a bottle of brandy taken on board for medicinal reasons. The exhibition also includes a piece of the linen fabric from the airship's outer cover, part of one of the internal gas-bags and a piece of girder from the airship. Visitors can see a memorial to the flight, a twin of which exists in Mineola, and can recreate the flying experience of the record-breaking giant in an R.34 flight simulator. The Museum is also displaying additional archive photographs of the R.34 and will conduct a number of 20-minute talks about the epic journey.

The R.34's epic journey was the first ever return flight across the Atlantic and the first east-west crossing by air.

Ian Brown, Assistant Curator of Aviation at the National Museum of Flight, said: "It's extremely exciting to have Rev. Jones' letter returned to East Fortune, where it was written exactly 100 years ago, before its own double-crossing of the Atlantic. It's a fascinating addition to our collections that gives a first-hand account of the excitement felt by everyone on the ground here at East Fortune about this historic flight. The R34's aerial adventure was front-page news both in the UK and the USA and demonstrated new technology that many believed would be the future of long-distance travel. We hope that as many people as possible will visit during this centenary year to learn more about her record-breaking journey."

The National Museum of Flight, including the Fortunes of War permanent display, is open seven days a week from 10am until 5pm. Visit www.nms.ac.uk/flight for details and further information.



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