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*Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

The land of myths and legends



by Sean Cairney

cotland is a land of myths and legends. The history and stories of the nation have inspired generations of people and when in Scotland you can often expect the unexpected. Delve into Scotland's past and find centuries of folklore and legend that sends shivers up your spine, or leaving you wondering could it really be?

This month a few more things may go 'bump in the night' as the world celebrates Halloween and perhaps a few legends will again be told of this ancient nation, which continues to fascinate people across the world. Scotland is certainly a spooky place, but not just on Halloween. It is a land with a long bloody history set in remote forests, castles and glens is the ideal fodder for many gruesome tales of ghosts, ghouls, folklore and myths. Not to mention Scots famous knack for storytelling, allowing for these tales and legends to be carried down through generations.

Water beast

One of Scotland's most famous mysteries is that of the Loch Ness Monster (or 'Nessie' as it has affectionately come to be known). This 'water beast' has been documented as like a large dinosaur type creature, which is reputed to inhabit Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands. 'Nessie' has a long neck and one or more humps protruding from the water. The first recorded sighting of the monster was nearly 1,500 years ago when a giant beast is said to have leaped out of the loch near Inverness and eaten a local farmer. Since then, the myth of the Loch Ness Monster has magnified and become a large part of Scotland's story.

In 1934, a London doctor snapped a photograph that seemed to show a dinosaur looking creature emerging from the deep and cold water. Dozens of sightings have since been claimed, many of which have turned out to be hoaxes, while others make you wonder what that could be. In 2009, a newspaper reader claims to have spotted 'Nessie' whilst browsing Google Earth's satellite photos of Loch Ness. The Loch Ness Monster is used in Google searches about 200,000 times per month. Regardless of the truth, the suggestion of the monster's existence makes Loch Ness one of Scotland's most popular tourist attractions, with thousands visiting its shores each year with the hope of catching a rare glimpse of the famous monster.

The history and stories of Scotland have inspired generations of people and when in Scotland you can often expect the unexpected.

Loch Ness is, in fact, the second deepest body of water in Scotland and contains more fresh water than all the lakes of England and Wales combined, which could make for plenty of room for a giant monster.

In this issue

Scotland's most famous mystery is without question Nessie. A team of researchers have recently collected e-DNA from the loch in order to ascertain if the monster ever did scientifically exist. Results have shown it may have been a giant eel, or was it? Myth or fact, Nessie is a monster money-maker for the Highland economy bringing in tens of millions of pounds to the area, with visitors from across the world drawn to the beauty of the area and of course the legend.

The Royal Edinburgh Military
Tattoo is also famous the world over,
and very rightly so. This unique event
draws crowds and performers from all

over the globe, with massed pipes and drums, military bands, display teams, dancers and the haunting lament of the Lone Piper set against the magnificent backcloth of Edinburgh Castle. The Tattoo must be on many people's bucket list, or if like me you have attended, it is an event you feel lucky to have experienced. Getting to Edinburgh for many Scottish Banner readers is not always easy so this month thousands of people will be able to attend the incredible Tattoo live as it marches into Sydney. Our Canadian readers will have the chance to get up close as well with its cinema release happening also this month. We are honoured to have Brigadier David Allfrey from the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo take part in this edition.

This year is the 300th anniversary of Daniel Defoe's book *Robinson Crusoe*. The tale of a shipwrecked sailor castaway on a tropical island has been an enduringly popular story ever since it was published in April 1719 and remains one of the most famous books in literary history. However, it was an adventurous Scot, Alexander Selkirk, that inspired Defoe who used the tales as the basis for his novel, in an instance of life being stranger than fiction.

Scotland's fabric and story

I have sat at the edge of Loch Ness a few times and wondered what lies beneath those deep waters. I don't think anyone would visit Loch Ness and not at least take a moment to see if anything is there, just in case. Has science confirmed through DNA findings that Nessie was not in fact an aquatic reptile left over from the Jurassic era? Perhaps, but I know the next time I get back to the loch I will again scan the waters horizon and look to see if the 'water beast' is there.

The legend to me is bigger than anything science can claim. It is part of Scotland's fabric and story. It has fascinated millions of people from across the world and drawn many to come to Scotland, making Nessie a significant contributor to the tourism economy.

I can only assume that there will be future Nessie sightings, and I would not want it any other way!

Have you been to Loch Ness or are fascinated by a certain piece of Scottish legend? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

This month also marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month and includes our pink tartan cover, the Scottish Banner will be donating proceeds from this issue to help this great cause, and we thank our readers for their support.



Gracing our front cover: Performing at the greatest show on earth. Photo courtesy of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.





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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?

The Kelpies, oor Caledonian Colossus



With Halloween fast approaching it's quite an appropriate time to reflect on one of Scotland's "mythical beasties" The Kelpies. When I was back home in Scotland in 2014, I managed to cram in a lot of historical visits, like Bannockburn and the Wallace Monument, but so close, yet so far, I missed out on the Kelpies monuments. Even on paper they look so impressive, it must be quite something to sail under them, it's almost like they're Scotland's modern day take on the ancient "Colossus monument" of Rhodes (only 3 metres smaller I believe). And definitely a candidate for one of the seven wonders of Scotland, but going back to mythical beast of the Kelpies, I would love to share this wee poem I've written with our readers of their origins.

The Kelpies, oor Caledonian Colossus In the auld ancient days in oor lochs and burns, in Scotland's deepwater course There lived a cursed aquatic beast, that took the form of a horse. Aye and the locals called them Kelpies, and tae the bairns they instilled thair fear. And from the youngest age they heard savage tales and were telt tae stay well clear.

The Kelpie was a cunning beast, some say the devil incarnate, also taking the form of man or maiden, then using themselves as bait. But they would have a giveaway, despite thair charming moves. With bits of sea grass in thair hair and still keeping thair devil like hooves.

They wid lure thair victims across tae them, with deviant charm and wit. Then drag them doon in the river, tae thair murky watery pit. Drowning and devouring them mercilessly, in frantic struggle as they sank. Feeding thair demonic appetite, and spitting thair entrails on the bank.

In horse like form they grazed the banks, saddled and bridled tae lure. Tae catch the eye of a weary wanderer, aye tae set a trap for sure. And if anyone thought thair luck was in, and climbed upon it's back. Again they'd jump into the deepest water, tae begin thair grisly attack.

Noo this went on fur centuries, but folk got wise tae thair ways. And gradually they disappeared, like Scots mist of the morning haze It's been said they changed thair evil ways, when a fine maiden broke thair curse. And that all thair power ebbed away and ebbed into the Clydesdale horse.

Noo when you gaze upon the Clydesdale, you'd think this could be right. For they pulled us through an Industrial age, that set the world alight with massive strength and endurance, of great power and great heart. And still never far from the waters edge, hauling great barges and carts.

Those days are gone, but remembered noo with great monuments tae oor past. And like Scotland's industrial heritage, standing proudly they will last. Aye but theres none so great and none so bold tae our Kelpies/Clydesdale horses than Andy Scott's Kelpie monuments, oor Caledonian Colossus!

Andy Heaney Brisbane, Australia

SS Waverley



I read in the July edition of *the Scottish* Banner, the sad state of the paddle steamer SS Waverley. My family and I travelled on her when I was only a wee lad. I remember it well, she was a lovely ship, and is worthy of restoring at all costs. Our family moved to Alexandria, Dunbartonshire near Loch Lomond. We had a wonderful time there swimming, boating and camping and I believe Loch Lomond to be the world's most famous lake.

On Loch Lomond was a paddle steamer called the Maid of the Loch, a beautiful paddle steamer owned by and operated by, at that time, British Rail. My family could never afford the cost of a trip on her, let alone a meal as the costs were decided on somewhere in England.

On my last return to Scotland, I was appalled at the condition of such a beautiful lady- 'the Lady of the Loch'. On the other side of the world, on Lake Wakatipu in Queenstown, New Zealand is the SS Earnslaw, about the same age as the Maid of the Loch or the SS Waverley. It takes passengers, locals as well as tourists daily, and in the evening takes people on a cruise and a fab three course meal.

So, come on all Scots and non-Scots, support all three famous ships in all three world famous destinations. Vince Flynn Pegasus Town, Canterbury New Zealand

Send your photos or letters via social media **Blackness Castle**

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA





Blackness Castle, film location for the Outlaw King & Outlander etc. Robert Gibb Scotland

Black sheep



Lovely Black Sheep up at Tarbert Castle, beautiful beast. GN Photography Scotland

World Pipe Band Championships



Thanks for a great round up on the 2019 World Pipe Band Championships, I am an ex-piper and continue to have a great interest in this competition each year. I was also so happy to read that so many of the pipers and drummers competing were under 25. The pipe band movement needs young people to keep it going. It can be unfortunate when kids who get great mentoring in schools leave the pipes and drums behind after they complete their studies. I hope that some, or should I say many, carry on the tradition and take their knowledge learnt with them to teach the next generation. Being involved in pipe bands is so rewarding, both musically and socially. You get to attend some fantastic events, meet great people and at times travel to places you would otherwise not visit.

May the next generation carry on piping and drumming with Amazing Grace! Alex MacLeod Vancouver, British Columbia Canada

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!

The Braemar Gathering-Scotland's Royal Gathering

From left HM The Queen, The Duke of Rothesay, Autumn Phillips and husband Peter Phillips and Katharine Nicolson, wife of BRHS Vice Patron Cpt. Mark Nicolson.

housands of people enjoyed the 2019 Braemar Highland Gathering, one of Scotland's most iconic Gatherings. Royal connections are closely associated with Braemar, from the time of her first appearance at the

Gathering in 1848, Queen Victoria took a close interest both in the Society and the Gathering, and in 1866 ordered that the title "Royal" should be added to the name of the Society. Her Majesty The Queen was accompanied by Prince Charles



Highland dance display.

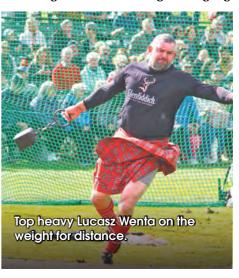
(Duke of Rothsay), his wife Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall and Autumn Phillips and husband Peter Phillips (Princess Anne's son and daughter-in-law).

A royal part

Welcoming Her Majesty The Queen and family to the event in the afternoon commentator Robert Lovie also noted the passing of Bill Anderson one of the great heavies on the games circuit for many decades. Spotted in the crowd, just a few feet from the Royal Pavilion was another "Queen", Dame Judie Dench who played a royal part in at least two major movies. Competition among the heavies was really keen with Czech Vlad Tulacek breaking the five-year-old record for throwing 56lb weight over the bar one handed. The Queen first attended the Braemar event as a seven-year-old child in 1933 and has attended most years since coming to the throne in 1952. The Braemar Gathering, is always held on the first Saturday in September in The Princess Royal and

Duke of Fife Memorial Park in Braemar, Scotland. Her Majesty is patron of the Highland games event, which takes place a short distance from the royals' summer residence Balmoral. It draws both local people and visitors from around the world.

For further details on the Braemar Gathering see: www.braemargathering.org



Tartan of the Month Nessie 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 feature the Nessie Tartan (SRT reference: 12544) and designed by Mairi MacLeod and registered in July, 2019.
Created for Loch Ness monster lovers all over the world. Colours: dark blue for Loch Ness; green for the hills and glens surrounding Loch Ness; white for the clouds reflecting on the loch; blue for the skies of a sunny highland day and the dark colour of Nessie's skin.

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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.



"Pipe band music sits at the very heart of Scotland's culture and communities, celebrated the length and breadth of the country, and I'm heartened to see so many young people continuing this vibrant tradition. I have the greatest respect for all the tutors and volunteers who dedicate their time throughout the year to nurturing young talent. I would also like to pay tribute to the work of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association and to extend a warm welcome to all the international bands for the commitment they make to travel across the world to attend one of the star events in Scotland's cultural calendar."

Scotland's Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said as served as Chieftain at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow in August. The two-day event, held on Glasgow Green, showcased the number of young people taking up the pipes and drums, with up to 40% of the 8,000 competitors under the age of 25. The benefits of playing in pipe bands include increased confidence, teamwork, creativity and concentration.

"Prof. Gemmell's environmental DNA survey of Loch Ness has furnished us, at a stroke, with species lists, to compare with those we have compiled over the last forty years with net and microscope. This

powerful yet elegant technique has also brought a new maturity to the popular debate about what much larger creatures might sometimes be seen here."

Adrian Shine, Leader of the Loch Ness Project, said as a DNA investigation into the fascinating watery inhabitants of Loch Ness has been revealed by researchers. 250 water samples were taken from the length, breadth and depth of Loch Ness, UK's biggest loch by volume freshwater. The DNA from those samples was extracted and sequenced, resulting in around 500 million sequences that have now been analysed against existing databases. Loch Ness and the 'Nessie' phenomenon is worth millions to the Scottish economy. Hundreds of thousands of visitors travel to the loch and Drumnadrochit every year to catch a glimpse of the mythical monster.



"It's clear that there's widespread public support for our ambitious plans for City Centre Transformation, which will be game-changing in terms of the way people move around our city, how services are delivered and the positive impact it will have on quality of life for everyone who lives, works or visits here. This is a major project, which will require significant investment, but the project team have worked hard to ensure that funding for the first five years is broadly

already in place. There is no doubt that its implementation is crucial considering the benefits that will be delivered – we simply can't ignore the need to change the way we use our city. With our population set to expand rapidly over the next 20 years in the face of various challenges, including the increasingly urgent issue of our climate emergency response, this strategy will help us to build resilience, making sure Edinburgh's centre continues to thrive, delivering economic, social and environmental benefits for everyone."

Councillor Lesley Macinnes, Transport and Environment Convener, said as a "game-changing" £314m plan to transform Edinburgh's city centre over the next 10 years has been submitted for approval. The plans backed by 80% of Edinburgh residents includes investment in improved public spaces, inclusive access and prioritisation of travel on foot, by bicycle and on public transport.



"Few places of Paisley's size can claim such global impact - the town created a global fashion icon, was once the centre of the world's textile industry, and Paisley people have shaped the world for centuries with their creativity. The reopened museum will celebrate all of that and more, by using Paisley's outstanding collections to retell the

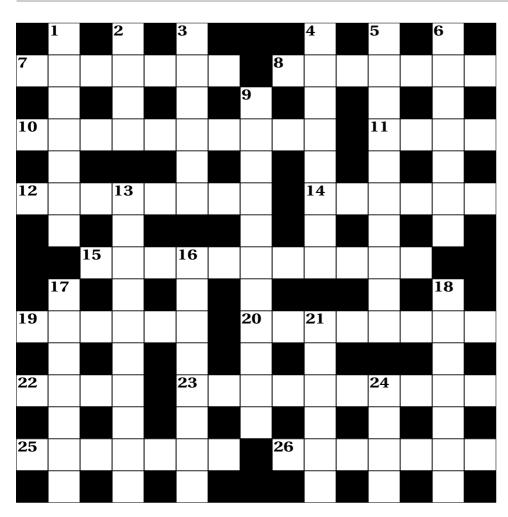
stories of those people, and give the world a reason to come back to Paisley. The museum is central to a wider investment in Paisley's venues and outdoor spaces, embedding culture and events at the heart of how we are transforming our historic town centre and putting it back on the map as a destination. The beautiful images revealed today show how this wonderful historic building will at once be preserved and modernised, and ensure this proud symbol of Paisley's past is at the heart of its future."

Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, chair of Renfrewshire Leisure, said as the first images showing how Paisley Museum will become a world-class destination showcasing the stories of a Scottish town whose influence reached around the globe have been revealed. The museum is undergoing a £42m transformation into a leading European museum telling the stories of Paisley's people and Pattern, and home to its internationally-significant collections. When it reopens in 2022, the reimagined museum is expected to draw audiences from Scotland, the UK and abroad - almost quadrupling visitor numbers to 125,000 a year.

"Sad to hear this morning that Scotland's oldest man, Perth and Kinross based Alf Smith of St Madoes has passed away aged 111 years and 128 days. When he was 100, he bought a new washing machine and decided on a 10 year extended warranty! Optimism seems to be the key to a long life."

SNP Perth and Kinross councillor Eric Drysdale said as Scotland's oldest man, Alfred Smith, died at the age of 111. Mr Smith was born in Invergowrie in 1908 and was a farmer and lorry driver in Perthshire.

SCOTWORD



Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 19!

CLUES ACROSS CLUES DOWN

- 7) Time to roam in Scotland! (7).
- 8) Burns birthplace (7).
- 10) Fishing port south-west of Girvan (10). 3) Colourful pigment (6).
- 11) Melodies (4).
- 12) Moveable Scots households! (8).
- 14) A soft, porous cake (6).
- 15) This Scot is his bond! (4, 7).
- 19) Condensed antacid (6).
- 20) They take illegally (8).
- 22) The female deer (4).
- 23) This Scot created a bond! (3, 7).
- 25) Fussy to a Scot (7).
- 26) Catch the ferry here to Skye (7).

- 1) For ancient dates! (7).
- 2) Scottish first course! (4).
- 4) Old high-ranking noble (8).
- 5) Waterway at Inverness (5, 5).
- 6) Top fastener (7).
- 9) Site of 1745 victory (11).
- 13) Town 3 miles north of Dumbarton (10).
- 16) 8 or 9 irons! (8).
- 17) The National Guard (7).
- 18) Parents' parent! (7).
- 21) At sea! (6).
- 24) Ben More is on this island (4).

Scotland's genetic landscape echoes Dark Ages

The DNA of Scottish people still contains signs of the country's ancient kingdoms, with many apparently living in the same areas as their ancestors did more than a millennium ago.



xperts have constructed Scotland's first comprehensive genetic map, which reveals that the country is divided into six main clusters of genetically similar individuals: the Borders, the south-west, the north-east, the Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland.

Genetic continuity

These groupings are in similar locations to Dark Age kingdoms such as Strathclyde in the south-west, Pictland

in the north-east, and Gododdin in the south-east. The Dark Ages are widely considered to be from the end of the Roman Empire in 476 AD to around 1000 AD. In addition to showcasing Scotland's genetic continuity, experts believe this type of population analysis could aid the discovery of rare DNA differences that might play major roles in human disease. Professor Jim Wilson of The University of Edinburgh's Usher Institute and MRC Human Genetics Unit said: "It is remarkable how long the shadows of Scotland's Dark Age kingdoms are, given the massive increase in movement from the industrial revolution to the modern era. We believe this is largely due to the majority of people marrying locally and preserving their genetic identity."

Iceland links

The new data from Scotland means this is the first time the genetic map of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland can be seen in its entirety, researchers say. The study also discovered that some of the founders of Iceland may have originated from north-west Scotland and Ireland and that the Isle of Man is genetically predominantly Scottish. The study looked at the genetic makeup of more than 2500 people from Britain and Ireland – including almost 1000 from

Scotland – whose grandparents or great grandparents were born within 50 miles of each other.

Northern isles

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh and RCSI (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) then compared this with the DNA of people who lived thousands of years ago. Experts found that Orkney and Shetland had the highest levels of Norwegian ancestry outside Scandinavia and that many islands within the archipelagos had their own unique genetic identity. The islands also contained subtle, but notable genetic differences between people living only a few miles apart, with no obvious physical barriers.

Dr Edmund Gilbert of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland said: "This work is important not only from the historical perspective, but also for helping understand the role of genetic variation in human disease. Understanding the finescale genetic structure of a population helps researchers better separate disease-causing genetic variation from that which occurs naturally in the British and Irish populations, but has little or no impact on disease risk."

The study has been published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

Scotland to lose more public phone boxes

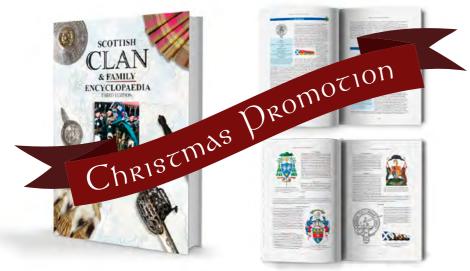


BT is planning to remove hundreds of phone boxes across Scotland.
Approximately 20% of call boxes are being ear marked for removal across the country, with the Scottish Borders and Highlands with the

largest loss of service. All up about 650 call boxes will be removed in Scotland, which equates to about 20% of the national total. This would leave Scotland with around 2,600 public phone boxes remaining, a reduction of over 50% from 15 years ago. "Most people now have a mobile phone and calls made from our public telephones have fallen by around 90% in the past decade," said a BT spokesperson.

However, BT is offering communities across Scotland the chance to adopt their local phone box for just £1 and help to turn them into something inspirational for their local area. More than 370 payphones have already been adopted in Scotland as part of BT's Adopt a Kiosk scheme. BT will continue to provide electricity - if already in place - to power the light for adopted kiosks, free of charge to communities. Where electricity is available, adopted boxes can be used as housings for defibrillators - an increasingly popular and potentially life-saving conversion. Other exciting new ventures include conversions to mini-libraries, miniature art museums, cake shops and information centres.

THE SCOTTISH CLAN AND FAMILY ENCYCLOPAEDIA



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By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

Lady MacGregor's Scotland

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 where it is raining. But do not worry, because I can bring some sunshine to this month's story by telling you about a colourful wedding. Let's put it this way: the bride did not wear white...

Derek Stewart is a care worker in the Scottish Borders town of Hawick. But at weekends he picks up his sword to become a martial man. Derek is a re-enactor who dresses in medieval costume; playing the part of a 'reiver', those riding men who five hundred years ago raided across the Scottish border with England.

Reiving

Julia Elliott is a lassie from Canada, but as hers is a border 'reiving' name she has an interest in this part of the world. The couple first met online and they hit it off at once. Julia might have been living on the other side of the world, but she came over to find out about her family roots. The rest is history. Derek popped the question. She accepted - and now all they had to do was to find a suitable wedding venue.

They found it at an ancient reiving tower. Gilnockie stands on the banks of a river near Canonbie. The place has been newly restored. It is stunning and, as such, made great TV. Especially as everyone was in period costume.

Julia will now make her home with Derek here in the Borderlands. Which is a loss for Canada, but lovely for us. For she will no doubt throw herself into things: turning out at re-enactment events and joining in the spirit of things. Best of all, as an Elliott, she will most certainly be at home.

On the subject of weddings, we have just had had a visit from two American friends. Rick Walker is the son of the MacGregor chief's representative in the USA. Randy Walker is Chieftain of the ACA, the American Clan Gregor Society, and we met him and his family when we visited Texas two years ago.

Anyhow, Rick and his girlfriend, Jennifer were on a grand tour of Scotland. Visiting the Highlands and Edinburgh - and coming down to our house in Dumfries and Galloway.

Dunvegan Castle

After they left us the next stop was Dunvegan Castle on Skye which proved to be apt. This island is home to the MacLeod's - which is Jennifer's clan. And it was there that Rick sprung his surprise - putting up a drone before he popped the question. Down he went on one knee...

It is good to know that, unlike our ancestors, we are not always fighting each other! It was a wonderful way to propose but do remember: if you want to put drones up here, you will need to get permission first, as Rick correctly did.

I have not been to Dunvegan, but it is certainly on the 'to-do' list. Built on a rock in a dramatic loch side setting, this is Scotland's oldest continuously inhabited castle. Indeed, this imposing pile has been the ancestral home of the Chiefs of Clan MacLeod for eight centuries.

I can bring some sunshine to this month's story by telling you about a colourful wedding. Let's put it this way: the bride did not wear white...

The clan motto is 'Hold Fast' and they have certainly managed to hold onto some clan treasures, among them the 'Fairy Flag'. Legend has it that this banner has miraculous powers. It was said that when it was taken into battle the clan could beat whatever enemy came their way.

Ancient fabric

Dunvegan also boasts a number of items related to Bonnie Prince Charlie including one of his waistcoats. We, too, have a famous waistcoat, and this one

belonged to the chief's great-great-great grandfather. It was Sir Evan MacGregor of MacGregor who wore it at the King's visit to Edinburgh in 1822.

We recently took the two-hundredyear-old embroidered garment back up to Edinburgh – carrying it ever so carefully! It forms part of a tartan suit and as the chief was giving a lecture about the development of this iconic cloth, it made a useful prop.

Our audience was a group of ladies from North America. They were in the Scottish capital on a needlework course - and were fascinated to hear how tartan has become one of Scotland's main symbols. For although this fabric dates back centuries, it is only in the last two hundred years that it has become one of the country's most obvious emblems.

Scots love their tartan – and their embroidery. Mary Queen of Scots did it - as did other notable ladies. Then there is the Great Tapestry of Scotland, a series of 160 hand-stitched panels which next year it is moving to a permanent home in Galashiels in the Scottish Borders. Gala is only about an hour from us, so there is no excuse for not making the effort to see it. This trip is also on my 'to-do' list. I am going to be busy.

The Scottish Clans and Historical Figures Event Fund



he Scottish Clans & Historical Figures Event Fund supports the growth of events taking place in Scotland that publicly celebrate clans, recognised families and historical figures using their stories and legacy to bring communities together. Since its launch in 2014, the fund has played a specific role in supporting clans, clan societies and recognised families to deliver public-facing events. For Round 7, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop was delighted to relaunch the fund under its new name 'Scottish Clans & Historical Figures Event Fund', expanding it to accept applications from events that celebrate both clans and/ or great Scots internationally recognised for their historical significance. The fund is open to clans, clan societies and recognised families as well as nonclan organisations. Strong applications will appeal to locals and visitors alike, attract a diverse audience through accessible programming and provide meaningful opportunities to engage with Scottish clans and/or history makers.

Celebrate clan history and heritage The Scottish Clans & Historical Figures Event Fund supports the growth of events taking place outside Edinburgh and Glasgow which publicly celebrate Scottish clans, recognised families and/or great Scots internationally recognised for their historical significance. Round 7 is now open for applications from clans, clan societies and recognised families as well as non-clan organisations planning events which publicly celebrate clan history and heritage and/or historical figures, using their stories and legacy to bring communities together. Strong applications will appeal to locals and visitors alike, attract a diverse audience through accessible programming and provide meaningful opportunities to engage with Scottish clans and/or history makers.

Eligible events applying to Round 7 must take place between 01 January 2020 and 31 December 2021. Deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 11 October 2019.

For further information about the Scottish Clans & Historical Figures Event Fund or to download the Guidance and Criteria Document please see: www.eventscotland. org/funding/scottish-clan-event-fund



Cowal Highland Gathering 2019





s family days out go, this one was surely hard to beat. Thousands of people from across the world gathered in Dunoon in August for the spectacular climax of the Cowal Highland Gathering (CHG). Competitors and spectators alike joined forces to ensure the event's finale was, as always, a day to remember for everyone involved. From the hundreds of dancers and pipers to the heavy athletes, ceilidh bands, axe throwers and many other entertainers on show, every participant contributed to what was a fantastic day's entertainment. The standard of competition was breathtaking, with many of the world's top competitors giving their all in a bid go home with the silverware.

One of the highlights of the Gathering's final day – and one of the most fiercely contested – was, as always, the Cowal Pipe Band Championship. This year, Royal Burgh of Stirling Pipe Band was crowned winners of the Grade 1 Cowal Pipe Band Championships 2019 to take home the famous Argyll Shield.

Highland Dancing Championships

Then came the biggest Highland Dancing competition in the world - the World Championship finals - with dancers from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA pitting their skills against the best the UK has to offer. In the end, it was Rosey Watt from Macduff who emerged victorious in the World Juvenile finals, followed by Robyn MacMillan of Forth and Morven Johnston of Western Australia. The trophy for best Scottish Juvenile Dancer went to Rosey and the best Overseas Juvenile Dancer was Morven Johnston. In the World Junior championship, Beret Dernbach of California held off the challenge of Elise Berrevoets of Ontario (2nd) and Hailey Romain (3rd).



The best Scottish Junior Dancer was Ellie Dalrymple of Tranent, and the trophy for the best Overseas Junior Dancer went to Beret Dernbach.
The Adult World champion was Marielle Lesperance from Nova Scotia, followed by Rebecca Thow from Alberta, with Ellis Hayes from Newton Stewart in third.
Marielle Lesperance is taking home the Mary McHarg Quaich for best Overseas Adult Dancer. The cup for best Scottish Adult Dancer went to Ellis Hayes of Newton Stewart.

Three major dancing competitions take place at the Gathering. The Scottish Championships, the Argyllshire Championship and the World Championships.

Success of the Gathering

Cowal Highland Gathering chair Ronnie Cairns said the success of the weekend and the enthusiasm of everyone involved would ensure that this famous event will continue to go from strength to strength. "Judging from the feedback we've been receiving over the last three days, the vast majority of people who have taken part this year - whether competing or spectating - are going home having had a brilliant time. It's very rewarding for everyone involved in its organisation to see and hear how much people enjoy it. There are so many people working away behind the scenes to ensure that everything is as good as it can possibly be by the time the last weekend in August arrives.



Our competitors have excelled themselves, as they do every year. Our spectators have marvelled at the skills on show, as they do every year. And the entertainments on offer in addition to the traditional Highland Games elements have once again proved a major hit and we very much look forward to welcoming everyone back to Dunoon for the 2020 Gathering."

The Cowal Highland Gathering takes place in Dunoon, Scotland each August. For details see: www.cowalgathering.com



First eDNA study of Loch Ness points to something fishy

niversity of Otago geneticist, Professor Neil Gemmell has announced the results of investigations into the environmental DNA present in the British Isles largest and second deepest body of fresh water, Loch Ness. The results come after 250 samples of water were taken around, through the centre, and into the very depths of Loch Ness. DNA from each sample was captured, extracted and sequenced then compared against global DNA databases to reveal a comprehensive picture of life present in the Loch examining the bacteria, the fish, and everything else in between.

The monster factor

"Most species are so small you can barely see them but there are a few that are larger and of course the question we're all asking is - is there anything big enough to explain the sorts of observations people have made over the years that have led to this myth or this legend of a monster or creature in Loch Ness?" Professor Gemmell says.

The "monster-factor" has provided Professor Gemmell with an opportunity to showcase the science of eDNA to the world, and the project has subsequently drawn considerable interest. A documentary team from Travel Channel has been on the journey with Professor Gemmell and his team, with a two-hour special premiered in the United States on Travel Channel and in the UK on Discovery Channel in September.

"The search for Nessie is one of the world's most iconic and beloved mysteries, capturing our imaginations and sense of adventure," says Matthew Butler, GM, Travel Channel. "This scientific expedition for answers to what could be lurking beneath those waters is extremely captivating viewing."

"People love a mystery, we've used science to add another chapter to Loch Ness' mystique," Professor Gemmell adds. With over a thousand reported sightings dating back to the 6th century, Professor Gemmell says of all the ideas for what people have seen in the water, one of

the more common, and outrageous, is there might be a Jurassic-age reptile or population of Jurassic-age reptiles such as a plesiosaur present in Loch Ness.

"We can't find any evidence of a creature that's remotely related to that in our environmental-DNA sequence data. So, sorry, I don't think the plesiosaur idea holds up based on the data that we have obtained," Professor Gemmell says.

A very large eel

The research team tested other predominant theories of various giant fish; whether it be a giant catfish or a giant sturgeon, an eel, or even a shark such as a Greenland shark.

"So, there's no shark DNA in Loch Ness based on our sampling. There is also no catfish DNA in Loch Ness based on our sampling. We can't find any evidence of sturgeon either," Professor Gemmell says. The remaining theory that Professor Gemmell cannot refute based on the environmental DNA data obtained is that what people are seeing is a very large eel.

"There is a very significant amount of eel DNA. Eels are very plentiful in Loch Ness, with eel DNA found at pretty much every location sampled – there are a lot of them. So - are they giant eels? Well, our data doesn't reveal their size, but the sheer quantity of the material says that we can't discount the possibility that there may be giant eels in Loch Ness. Therefore, we can't discount the possibility that what people see and believe is the Loch Ness Monster might be a giant eel."

Professor Gemmell adds that "further investigation is needed to confirm or refute the theory, so based on our data, giant eels remain a plausible idea." He notes that in 1933 researchers had also proposed that a giant eel might in fact be the explanation for some of the sightings made then.

That idea then waned as notions of extinct reptiles became more prominent. He notes other evidence such as the video shot by Mr Gordon Holmes in 2007 which shows a four-metre torpedo-like shape seemingly swimming on the Loch's surface support the hypothesis of a giant eel, large fish, or perhaps a marine mammal.

"Divers have claimed that they've seen eels that are as thick as their legs in the loch, whether they're exaggerating or not - I don't know - but there is a possibility that there are very large eels present in the loch. Whether they are as big as around four metres as some of these sightings suggest – well, as a geneticist I think about mutations and natural variation a lot, and while an eel that big would be well outside the normal range, it seems not impossible that something could grow to such unusual size."

The benefit of eDNA

Professor Gemmell is philosophical about the study findings, and believes no matter what science says, there will always be belief in the Loch Ness monster.

"What I'm most satisfied with is that we came here to study environmental DNA, and our analysis has captured everything we thought is in the loch. We now have an excellent database which if compared to any future testing could enable us to identify trends and changes in the Loch environment. That is essentially the benefit of eDNA – it is an extremely powerful and robust tool to document the living things (both large and microscopic) present in a

given place. It's going to be extremely useful in the future as the technology becomes quicker and more accessible, more data is created."

Professor Gemmell says one of the more intriguing findings was the strong input of DNA from land-based species in the Loch. "We found substantial levels of DNA from humans and a variety of species directly associated with us such as dogs, sheep and cattle. However, we also detected wild species local to the area such as deer, badgers, foxes, rabbits, voles and multiple bird species. These findings indicate eDNA surveys of major waterways may be useful for rapidly surveying biological diversity at a regional level."



Brexit advice video launched for European visitors



isitScotland is ensuring that European visitors aren't put off coming to Scotland because of uncertainty and misinformation around Brexit. The tourism organisation's European marketing team has created a video with up to date information for EU citizens planning to travel to Scotland before and after 31StOctober. The video, created in six languages, covers some of the most frequently asked questions regarding travelling to the country post-Brexit with helpful advice showing the differences whether the UK leaves with or without a deal.

The national tourism organisation's film gives tips on everything from passport and border control, visas and driving licenses to customs tariffs and travel insurance and is available to view on VisitScotland.com. Following feedback from the tourism industry and their concerns that there was a lack of concrete information around

about post Brexit travel, VisitScotland wanted to create an informative video to counter these concerns.

A warm Scottish welcome

Both tourists and business travellers to Scotland will find informative advice as well as links for more information on specific issues and the film will be updated as the situation evolves in the lead up to Brexit. Judy Mariëns, Senior Market Manager for Europe at VisitScotland said: "Our European visitors are incredibly important to us, so it is important we help them stay as informed as possible before they visit Scotland after Brexit. We feel this video will help visitors with some of the key updates in travelling here so they can plan appropriately, however one thing that definitely won't change is the warm Scottish welcome."

Europe provides six out of Scotland's ten key tourism markets with 1.6 million EU residents visiting the country in 2017, generating £956 million to our economy. The video will be produced in French, German, Italian, Dutch, Spanish alongside English to be as accessible as possible to all European markets. On the original date that the UK was scheduled to leave the European Union – March 29 – Scotland launched a global marketing campaign with the message, "Europe, let's continue our love affair".



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.





Television in the 1950's

I like coffee, I like tea, I like radio, and TV.

This was a topical skipping rhyme in 1953.

t a time when Calvinist Scotland had no Sunday sport, when cinemas, dance halls and public houses remained firmly closed on the Sabbath day, a family visit to join my relatives at the homes of my grandparents on Mosspark Drive or Trinity Avenue was always an entertaining social occasion. What my aunts and uncles had in common, which seemed to rise above any of their trials and tribulations, was their sense of humour. They were all natural storytellers and conversationalists. They had a 'joie de vis' that meant that when they met together the air seemed charged with their good humour. I enjoyed every minute of their company, playing their card games and listening to their impromptu singing. Things were to change when television came to our homes in the early 1950's, especially when sales were given a massive boost by the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth in 1953. The big family reunions for a Saturday or Sunday dinner diminished with the deaths of my grandparents and the strengthening of the power of 'the box'.

Wonderful technology

My Uncle George and Aunt Betty lived with my younger cousins, Drew and Tom in my grandfather's house on Trinity Avenue. They owned some canaries that wouldn't sing (probably females) and the first television set in our extended family. I regularly tramped all the way through Pollok, over the railway bridge at Mosspark West Railway Station, to go and watch little paper-chain figures dance around a transmission mast that pulsated to represent the programs being magically beamed out to us. And if that didn't keep us interested we had the manipulation of the horizontal and vertical hold, the contrast and the brightness buttons to master in order to keep the picture steady and watchable before we could relax into an armchair and into another world. Nevertheless, that fine manipulation of the knobs on the TV set sometimes required the skill, the finesse as well as the patience of a World War 11 bomb disposal expert.

But after all that effort we were finally awarded by the sight of *Muffin the Mule, Bill and Ben the Flowerpot Men* with their friend Weed and of course *Felix the Cat* cartoons in all-consuming black and white.

Transmissions were so few and far between that everyone watched just about anything on offer in those days, even some awfully boring so-called drama programmes on a tiny 12-inch TV screen. We had to wait in later years for *Dixon of Dock Green* and *Z-Cars* to bring a little bit of excitement to the Box in the corner. Breakdowns in transmissions were so common that we would stare at the intermission card for a large amount of our time. We were nonetheless enthralled and captivated by the wonder of this new and seemingly wonderful technology.

John Logie Baird

My Maternal grandmother, Jane Russel Robertson, loved to watch cowboy series such as the Lone Ranger and the Cisco Kid on television, programmes that have not travelled well and that would undoubtedly struggle to maintain our interest today. But in the context of a woman born in 1877 and who would have spent her childhood and youth firmly in the 19th century we can understand her enthusiasm for what to her must have seemed close to having your own cinema, in your own home. Her husband, Allan Livingston Baxter, my grandfather, also born in 1877 but who died in in 1947 sadly never had that opportunity to enjoy television like his wife and descendants. It existed in 1947 but was not available to British audiences until much later than that.

Although first invented by fellow Scotsman, John Logie Baird, in and around 1923 the new technology did not become available to home audiences until after the Second World War. Baird built his first working television from the following items, a bit like we, Boy Scouts, used to build things in our scout hall on a Friday night. Baird's makeshift list included not much more than an old hatbox, a used tea chest, some darning needles, some lenses from a few bicycle lamps, some sealing wax, glue and a pair of scissors. And of course an electrical source which nearly killed him on one occasion. From such modest beginnings he went on, in October 1925, to transmit the first television picture using the head of an old ventriloquist's dummy called 'Stooky Bill,' as the first

head of television so to speak. He then just about dragged in a nearby office worker called Edward Tranton to give him the honour of being the first person in history to be televised.

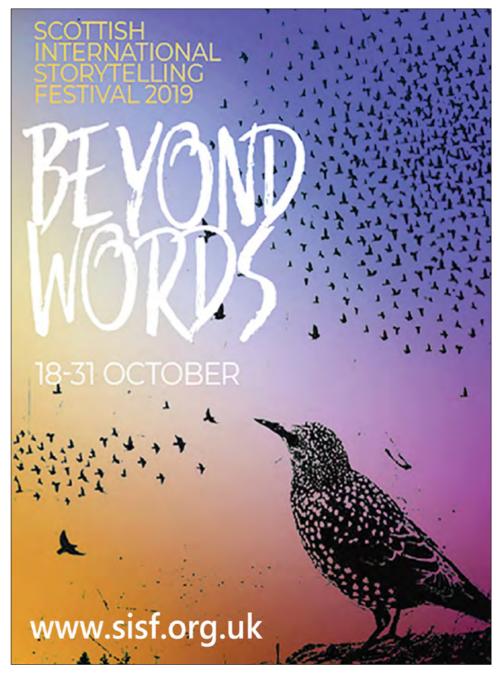
Transmissions were so few and far between that everyone watched just about anything on offer in those days, even some awfully boring so-called drama programmes on a tiny 12-inch TV screen.

With such exciting news to be shared with the world you would have thought that his contemporaries would have been eager to shout the news from the rooftops or at least give him a mention in the newspapers. Instead, it's said that this brilliant man went out to try and get an interview with the news editor of The Daily Express in London, in order to promote what was to become one of the defining inventions of the 20th century, only to have him and his invention completely ignored. Apparently, the news editor said to one of his staff, "For God's sake go down to reception and get rid a lunatic, who's down there. He says he's got a machine for

seeing by wireless – Watch him! – he may have a razor!" I think there just might have been a wee touch of racism there. Had the receptionist also said in her message to the upstairs editor's office that he was a Scotsman as well as a lunatic.

The phenomenon of television

Back at my house in the 1950's at night, after the television broadcasts had finished, usually about 9.00 p.m., my mother covered the TV set in the same way that you would cover a bird cage to help a budgerigar settle down to sleep. My mother obviously did appreciate Baird's great invention but I'm not sure, with the benefit of hindsight, whether my mother thought 'the box' would arise out of its slumber with a life of its own to awaken us all in the middle of the night with unscheduled noisy programmes or whether it was simply to keep the dust off its precious screen. Television sets were expensive to buy or rent but quickly became a must buy item. My mother's chosen cover laid over the TV was an old tapestry-like textile with scenes of armed, musket-toting Arab tribesmen in the Arabian Desert with a zeppelin in the sky above. The truth was that the cover was more exciting to look at than most of the programs offered on the television set. I've still got the cover which was already near on an antique in the 1950's and it has of course outlived the 12-inch television set during the many decades since. Nevertheless, the phenomenon of television itself was here to stay and was to dramatically change how all of us lived, worked and socialized in the years to come.



154 years of Scottish heritage onto the record books





Chief Rob Tysinger presents the Chief's Trophy to drummer Ethan Braithwaite, of the Utah Pipe Band.

elebrating 154 years of Scottish
Highland Gathering & Games, the
Caledonian Club of San Francisco
produced yet again a successful
and memorable Celtic festival. Taking
place at the enormous Alameda County
Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, located in
the San Francisco Bay Area, the Games
included more than 20 different events and
attractions, including 28 pipe bands from
the U.S. and Canada and the U.S. Marine
Band, marching and playing integrated

with the Robert Malcolm Memorial Pipe Band from Vancouver. With a record 87 pro and amateur entries, the 45th US Invitational Heavy Events went into the record books as one of the best athletic contests in the history of the storied event.

One of the world's largest Celtic festivals

Founded on November 24, 1866, the Caledonian Club of San Francisco is one of the oldest Scottish clubs in California. It has been running their annual Scottish Highland Gathering and Games, currently held at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, every year since 1866. Record crowds close to 50,000 attended the Sesquicentennial Scottish Highland Gathering and Games on September 5-6, 2015.

Now it is "back to the drawing board" for the members of the club to begin plans for the 155th edition of one of the world's largest Celtic festivals next Labor Day weekend! For further details: www.thescottishgames.com



Alameda County Supervisor and Honorary Chieftain of the 154th Scottish Games, Scott Haggerty, presenting a Commendation to Chief Rob Tysinger at last weekend's Opening Ceremonies.



Treasures from the Hoard



stunning new exhibition at the John Gray Centre, Haddington, has opened featuring many of the iconic pieces from the spectacular Traprain Treasure, found on Traprain Law 100 years ago. This is the first time this internationally significant Roman silver can be seen in East Lothian since its discovery in 1919.

The Traprain Treasure is the largest hoard of late Roman 'hacksilver' found anywhere in Europe. It consists of fragments from over 250 silver objects, that had been cut into set weights of bullion and sent north from the Roman world,

probably as a diplomatic gift. They were found buried in a pit within a hill fort during an archaeological excavation.

The Treasures from the Hoard exhibition takes over the first gallery of the museum, involving a total revamp of the gallery and features real and replica objects.

A programme of talks and events are planned to mark the centenary, both in East Lothian and at the National Museum of Scotland.

The most significant silver find from beyond the Roman frontier The hoard was buried more than 1,500 years ago, around AD 450. When first found, it was thought that barbarians had stolen the 'loot' from retreating Romans. However, following extensive research by Dr Fraser Hunter of National Museums Scotland, into other hacksilver hoards across Europe, it was more likely cut up within the Roman world at times of economic crisis, when precious metal was valued as bullion rather than as fancy vessels.

The Traprain Treasure is the largest hoard of late Roman 'hacksilver' found anywherein Europe.

It was then sent north as diplomatic gifts (or payment for military assistance) to the powerful leaders on Traprain Law, as a way of buying their support and keeping the Roman frontier secure. This silver was intended for the melting pot – Roman silver bullion was melted down and made into the first ever items of Scottish silver jewellery, with examples of this from the Traprain Law settlement itself.

East Lothian Provost, John McMillan, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have some of the pieces from this collection

available for the exhibition during the centenary year of the amazing discovery. I am sure both local residents and visitors alike will be fascinated by the story of the discovery and also the history of the hoard."

Dr Hunter, whose research into the hoard has been published in a new book, *The Late Roman Silver Treasure from Traprain Law*, said: "The Traprain Treasure is the most significant silver find from beyond the Roman frontier right across Europe. A century after its discovery, it's exciting that it can still reveal new insights. It's a key part of this fascinating period in our history, and I'm sure it'll dazzle those who see it. We are delighted to be supporting its display in East Lothian, which is a fitting way to mark the centenary of its discovery"

Treasures from the Hoard exhibition runs until 27 October. Check the JGC website for opening times www.johngraycentre.org





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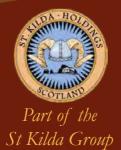
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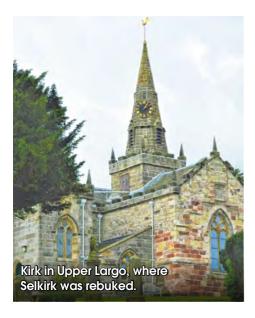
Alexander Selkirk - The real Robinson Crusoe

Daniel Defoe's book Robinson Crusoe was first published 300 years ago and was inspired by Scottish sailor Alexander Selkirk, who was marooned on an island off Chile for more than four years. The resourceful Scotsman learned to hunt and survive as a castaway, and inspire a story which has captivated generations as Nick Drainey explains.



n idyllic isolated island in the South Pacific with beautiful beaches and soaring mountains. An escape from the pressures of the everyday life with time for contemplation and a wholly organic diet. It sounds like an advert for a 21st century luxury retreat – instead it was the reality for four years and four months for the real-life inspiration for the world's most famous castaway, Robinson Crusoe.

It is the 300th anniversary of the publication of Daniel Defoe's world-famous novel, *The Life and Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*. The book, often credited as being the first true English language novel, was an instant hit, with four editions printed during 1719 alone. It went on to be translated and reprinted so many times the hero's name passed into general usage.



But Defoe's fictional tale has hardly less drama than the life story of Alexander Selkirk, the Scot who has become known as the real Robinson Crusoe.

Ironically for a man who would have oceans to meditate on nature and God, it was a quick temper that landed Selkirk both at sea and on his island home.

Born in the Fife village of Lower Largo in 1676, Selkirk was the seventh son of Euphan and John, a tanner and shoemaker. His first brush with the law came in August 1695 when he was summoned before the Kirk Session for his "indecent conduct in church" – he didn't appear, "being gone away to ye sea". He was back by 1701 when he was again summoned by the Kirk, this time for an assault on his brothers – apparently for taking a joke where he was tricked into drinking sea water rather badly. He "was rebuked in face of the congregation".

Pirates

Perhaps it was this that made small town life undesirable for Selkirk – certainly he left again and in September 1703 was boarding a ship, *Cinque Ports*, in Ireland, ready to sail to South America as navigator.

This was no prestigious Royal Navy position, however – the crews of the *Cinque Ports* and its sister ship the *St. George*, were pirates, albeit legalised ones. This was the time of the War of the Spanish Succession between Britain and Spain, and armed merchant ships were authorised to attack Spanish vessels as part of hostilities, a practise which could prove very profitable considering the treasure cargoes dispatched from Spain's American colonies.

The privateers set sail in September – by November the captain of the *Cinque Ports* was dead and the manner of the new commander, Thomas Stradling, quickly ruffled the feathers of the already hungry and disease-stricken crew. By the following autumn, they had rounded the Cape Horn and were sailing up the coast of Chile. But they had spilt from the *St George*, captained by notorious privateer William Dampier, and were pirating on their own. The ship was in a bad state, so full of leaks that pumping out the water was a 24-hour job and so worm-eaten that its mast and decks were in a fragile state.

So it was that after a month's stop off on an uninhabited island, then known as Mas a Tierra, part of the Juan Fernandez archipelago, more than 400 miles off the coast of Chile, Selkirk lost his temper again - although this time possibly with good cause. He told Stradling the ship was not in a state to withstand a storm or a privateers' sea battle and that he would rather stay on the island than remain on board. Stradling happily abandoned him with a musket, a hatchet, a knife, a cooking pot, a Bible, bedding and clothes. Realising his bluff had been called and that no other men were going to follow his lead - Selkirk chased after the ship through the surf and begged to be allowed back on board. The pirates merely laughed and left. Selkirk had been right about the state of the ship, though - the Cinque Ports sank off the coast of Peru shortly afterwards with only the captain and seven men as survivors. But even they were captured by the Spanish and clapped into prison.

Ingenious and resourceful

Without that knowledge to sustain him, Selkirk initially found life hard on his island. He had hoped – in fact assumed – that a passing ship and rescue would come quickly but when that failed to materialise he became morose and suicidal. He clung to the shoreline where he could scan the horizon for ships but an influx of noisy, mating sea lions drove him further into the island.

Here, life took a turn for the better – he discovered feral goats which provided him with meat and milk, as well as wild cats, which he managed to tame for company and to see off the rats which attacked him while he slept. Like his fictional counterpart, he became ingenious and resourceful, making a knife out of barrel hoops and new clothes out of goat skins. He sang hymns and read from the Bible, and found a kind of spiritual peace on the island which had been missing before.

As Woodes Rogers, the captain of the ship – *The Duke* - which would finally take him from the island and who included the episode with Selkirk in an account of his travels, said: "One may see that solitude and retirement from the world is not such an insufferable state of life as most men imagine . . . he said he was a better Christian while in this Solitude than ever he was before."



Rogers was also impressed by Selkirk's physical condition: "He ran with wonderful Swiftness thro the Woods and up the Rocks and Hills. We had a Bull-Dog, which we sent with several of our nimblest Runners, to help him in catching goats; but he distanc'd and tir'd both the Dog and the Men."

Selkirk's hunting efforts enabled the scurvy-ridden crews to recover their health and Rogers made him the Duke's second mate. Selkirk returned to the pirate's life with gusto, raiding for gold and jewels up a river in Ecuador and hunting down treasure galleons along the coast of Mexico. He finally arrived home in Scotland in 1712, with £800 in his pocket and surprised his family at the kirk in Lower Largo – they had assumed he was dead.

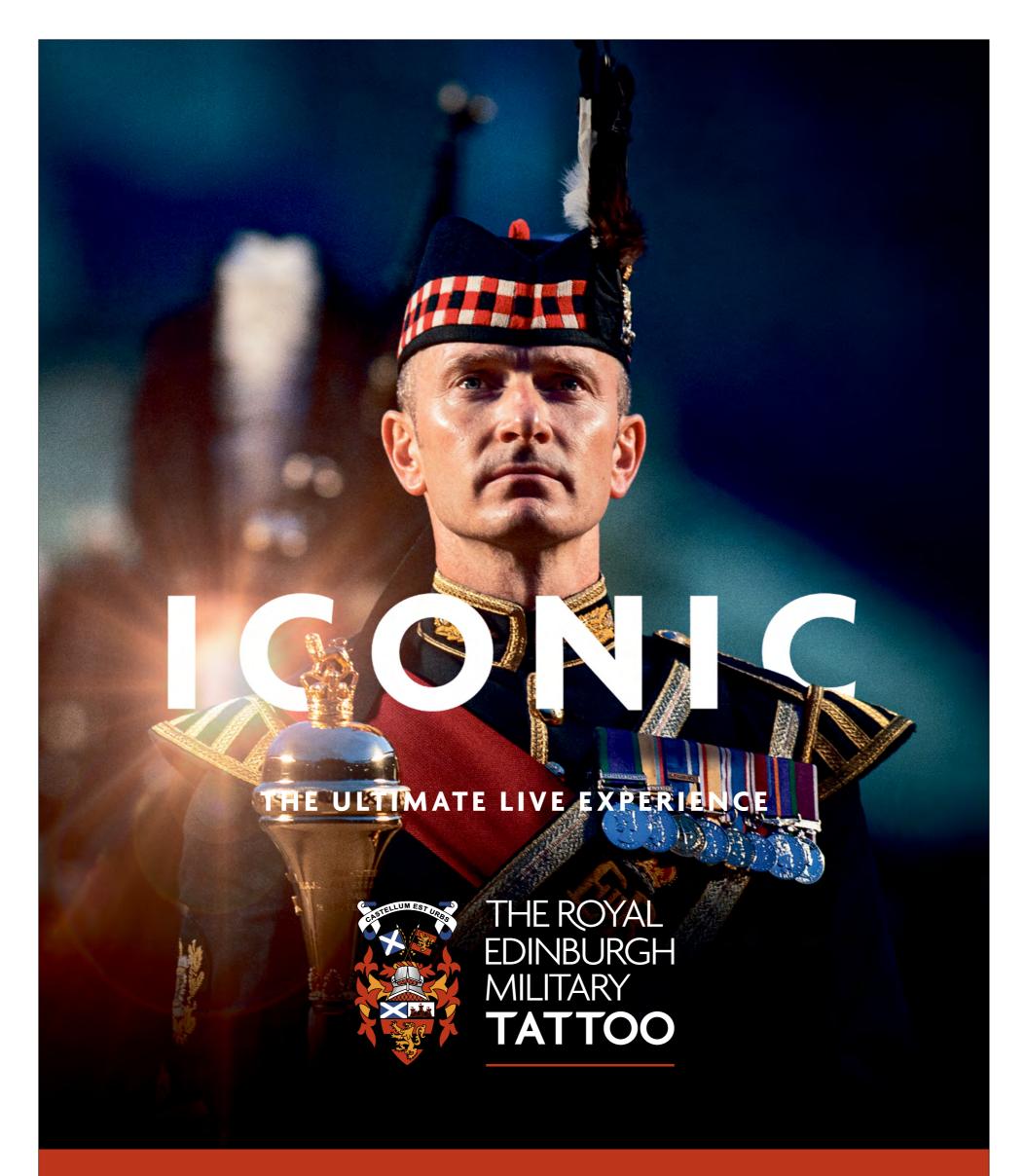
Minor celebrity

Accounts of his life were published in 1712 and 1713 and he ended up as a minor celebrity, using his fame to cadge free dinners in return for telling his tale. Defoe never met him – although the Englishman did spend several years in Scotland, including as a spy for the English during the Union negotiations – but he did meet Woodes Rogers.

Neither the novel's author nor its inspiration benefitted much from the book's fame - it never made Defoe his fortune as he had given away the copyright. And Selkirk was 43 when it was published and he never had time to appreciate the new level of fame it would bring him – he died a few years later, in 1723, of fever, on board a ship off the west coast of Africa.

The island which had been Selkirk's home for four years was renamed Robinson Crusoe Island in 1966 by the Chilean government. It now has a population of just under 900 people and mainly relies on the spiny lobster trade – and Robinson Crusoe tourists.





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s the lights go down on our 2019 Kaleidoscope season in Edinburgh, I have the opportunity not just to reflect on the success of the season past but also, more importantly, to look ahead to future adventures. The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo grew out of the Edinburgh Festival of Music and Drama in the 1940s and went its own way in 1950. It is remarkable to think that we have been able to deliver an unbroken series of annual shows for nearly 70 years - and this against the backdrop of so many changes in our world, in the international communities, in societies at home and abroad and.. amongst the blizzard of more temporary trends. With the Tattoo poised to be in Sydney for four performances in October (17 - 19 October at the ANZ Stadium), our focus needs to shift quickly to this new

project which has been bubbling away famously or nearly two years, under the hands of our staff in Edinburgh and those of the Michael Cassel Group.

This year, we have been proud and privileged to host a wonderful international cast in Edinburgh - more than 1100 cultural and military performers, of whom nearly 800 were musicians. Kaleidoscope - Our Glorious Symmetries was chosen as a theme to allow us to celebrate the wonders and properties of visible light, the fabulous spectrum of colours identified by Sir Isaac Newton and their display through the lens of a kaleidoscope, and that wonderful optical instrument first patented by the Scottish inventor and scientist Sir David Brewster. Our cast was drawn principally from Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, New Zealand, Nigeria, the United

Kingdom and Trinidad and Tobago, with support from the United States, Mexico, Uruguay, Greece and many others besides.

Bringing people together

The youngest performer was just ten years old and the most senior celebrated his 80th birthday during the run. This representation, across a quite remarkable diversity - both horizontally and vertically - is the essence, I think, of the Tattoo's sustained success. We take huge pride in bringing people together.

With this firm foundation of human talent, we wanted to design a show that would not just be entertaining but also would inspire.

So far more than 55 countries have taken part in the Tattoo and we have a healthy pattern of prospective contributors waiting their turn. As Alasdair Hutton, our Storyteller, remarks each evening: "We come together as strangers and we leave as friends!". In a world where differences so often act as the root for tension and mistrust, we feel it is important to celebrate where each nation and culture differs wonderfully from one another. We believe that when we understand each other better, we comprehend what makes other people tick, the better we get on, the easier it is to trust one another and then interact. Certainly, our international cast - with I think 12 different languages - got

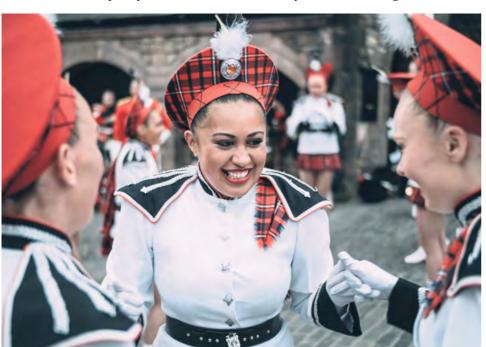
on famously across the summer without a single disagreement. It has been a wonderful atmosphere throughout.

With this firm foundation of human talent, we wanted to design a show that would not just be entertaining but also would inspire. The *Kaleidoscope* formation in the finale provided everyone with a splendid focus. Designed around an 8-bar musical structure - with something happening at each change - it was described variously at the start with just a snort, as "impossible", "a good idea but impractical" and "that will never work!". So, it was a joy to watch our Principal Director of Music, Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Jones and the Senior Drum Major, Allan Campbell gently bring the ingredients together. By the 3rd day of rehearsal, we had the essence established and it improved each and every time from then on.

In support of all this, we brought together our technical teams - many of whom have worked with the Tattoo for years - to build a stunning backcloth of sound, lighting, projection, fireworks, special effects, costumes and props.

Continued page 17.





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Alex Huang-The Tattoo Dance Company

Canadian dancer Alex Huang was the only male dancer in this year's Tattoo Dance Company which performed at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. An integral part of any Tattoo, the Tattoo Dance Company celebrates the cultural tradition in highland dancing. At the same taking a great leap forward in showcasing how contemporary the art form can be. Alex took the time to answer some questions about Highland Dancing and what is was like to be part of the 1,200 strong international cast that performed Kaleidoscope 2019.



How did you get into Highland Dancing? I told my mother, who used to be a dancer herself, that I wanted to take up the sport after watching a Highland dancing competition at a Highland Games with my family when I was 5. She signed me up with no hesitation and I remain doing what I love fourteen years later after reaching the highest competitive level!



These included light sticks to be carried by the highland dancers, a lit podium for the Principal Director of Music and special effects for every weather condition. All the colours of the rainbow from rigs and installations including LED and incandescent lights, and this before nearly 60 minutes of architectural projection.

The sound is now phenomenal. With nearly 50 musicians 'geo-tagged' we can calculate, using sensors around the arena, precisely the position - in elevation and azimuth - of the key musicians. The sound from their instruments and from others - there are more than 2000 radio microphone changes across the Show - can then be processed precisely to give every member of the audience a 'surround-sound' experience. We can now listen to a single bird fluttering from section to section or waves can roll from



one end to the other! These effects, when combined, offer something for all the senses...and sometimes you can even taste the gunpowder! And then...the Castle! 400 years of historic and imposing stonework is always the silent cast member and the tape-recorder of Edinburgh's history and our heritage. It is spectacular.

The 70th Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will take place in August, 2020. For full details see: www.edintattoo.co.uk Hundreds of dancers are auditioned every year, from across the world for the Tattoo Dance Company. Can you tell us how the process works and just how that made you feel to be selected?

The audition process differs slightly depending on where each dancer is based, as dancers can join the Tattoo Dance Company from anywhere around the world. UK dancers who wish to take part travel to Edinburgh for a set date to audition in-person in front of the dance director. Dancers who are overseas, like I was, are sent performance requirements – dances, steps, etc., and are asked to film video auditions to be sent to the dance director.

Performing in The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is truly one of the most prestigious non-competitive honours that a highland dancer can receive. To be selected brings immense feelings of pride, gratitude, and excitement and I feel extremely fortunate to have been able to take part in the Tattoo for the past three years.

Can you describe the thrill of entering the Castle Esplanade each evening to perform in front of an international crowd and watched by millions of viewers?

Having performed over three summers for a combined audience of just under 700,000, the feeling is truly unparalleled. Speaking for myself, I can say that I rarely ever felt nervous before a show, especially in the moments leading up to the dancers entering the esplanade. Rather, I felt excited, maybe even anxious, but always in a good way.

Almost every Highland dancer that you'll encounter is a performer and takes pride in being such. Every member of the Tattoo Dance Company is fully committed to putting on the best show they can every night, for the audience and for themselves. It was always truly humbling, to dance out of the wings to the cheers of some 9,000 audience members.

It's also incredible to know that you are part of a team, which more often felt like a family, who support each other the whole way. Consider the international nature of both the audience AND the cast, and it's easy to see how the Tattoo has become such a global event. To be able to unite so many people through the basic human love of music, dancing, display, and culture will never be anything short of spectacular.

Alex had you been to Edinburgh or Scotland before? What were your impressions?

I've been "across the pond" to visit family in England nearly a dozen times in my life, but prior to my first time participating in The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2017, I had only actually been up to Scotland once. I can remember being blown away by the natural beauty, the culture, the spirit and by everything that the country had to offer. Each year that I've participated in the Tattoo, I've

been able to find new ways to further appreciate Scotland, and more specifically, Edinburgh, where I've spent most of my time. Truthfully speaking, Edinburgh is among the most beautiful cities I've had the pleasure of visiting.

Highland dance is a competitive and technical sport, what would you say it has brought to your life?

I struggle to imagine what my life would look like if I had never taken up Highland dancing. It has had more than a significant impact on my character development, my growth, maturation, and general life outlook. Seeing as the sport is so very technical and, at times, competitive, Highland dance has taught me so much, both as a sport and as an art form; it has taught me most of what I know about discipline, perseverance resilience, creativity, expression, positivity, and independence. Equally, dancing has granted me the ongoing opportunity to travel to many different places around the world and through my travels I have gained some truly invaluable experience.

The personal connections which I've made over my time as a Highland dancer are no doubt the thing I owe the sport most, as many of the strongest relationships that I share are thanks to my involvement in Highland dancing.

What would you say to someone looking to get into Highland dancing?

Stop thinking about it, and just go for it! Learn about the history, the performance, the competition and take some time to appreciate all the work that top dancers put in. Research, and take a class! Highland, like many forms of dance, is fantastic for maintaining a high fitness level, but it is also excellent at teaching discipline, perseverance, resilience, positivity and how to push yourself to be the best version of yourself. Additionally, it's an amazing way to establish lifelong friendships and build other strong connections. Not to mention it's just plain fun. So, try it out, make some friends, have a blast, and for the peace of mind of every instructor I've ever had, PLEASE point your feet.

The 2019 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is being shown at Cineplex theatres across Canada on October 6th. For details see: www.cineplex.com/Movie/the-royal-edinburgh-military-tattoo or tickets at:



IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Beaver reintroduction key to solving freshwater biodiversity crisis

Reintroducing beavers to their native habitat is an important step towards solving the freshwater biodiversity crisis, according to experts at the University of Stirling. New research from the Faculty of Natural Sciences has provided further support to previous work that has shown beavers have an important impact on the variety of plant and animal life. The latest study, led by Dr Alan Law and Professor Nigel Willby, found that the number of species only found in beaver-built ponds was 50 percent higher than other wetlands in the same region.

Dr Law, Lecturer in Biological and Environmental Sciences, said: "Beavers make ponds that, at first glance, are not much different from any other pond. However, we found that the biodiversity - predominantly water plants and beetles - in beaver ponds was greater than and surprisingly different from that found in other wetlands in the same region. Our results also emphasise the importance of natural disturbance by big herbivores – in this case, tree felling, grazing and digging of canals by beavers - in creating habitat for species which otherwise tend to be lost. Reintroducing beavers where they were once native should benefit wider biodiversity and should be seen as an important and bold step towards solving the freshwater biodiversity crisis."

Beavers are one of the only animals that can profoundly engineer the environment that they live in – using sticks to build dams across small rivers, behind which ponds form. Beavers do this to raise water levels to avoid predators, such as wolves and bears: however, numerous other plants and animals also benefit from their work.

A new home for the Stone of Destiny?



Could the Stone of Destiny be returning to Perthshire? Perth & Kinross Council's request to house the Stone in a new museum in Perth is being considered by the Commissioners for the Regalia and the Scottish Government is now hosting an engagement exercise to gauge public opinion on the location of the Stone. The stone was originally kept at the nowruined Scone Abbey in Perthshire. Perth & Kinross Council and the Tay Cities Deal are investing £23 million in a spectacular new museum at the former Perth City Hall, opening early 2022. There, the Stone of Destiny would be free to visit, in an accessible city centre public building two miles from its original home at Scone. At City Hall the wider significance of the Stone can be revealed by displaying it alongside one of the UK's oldest and most important public collections.

Visitors would enter the centrepiece display, the Stone Pavilion, to be introduced to the Stone through a short film sweeping through time to witness how Scotland was born from the Perthshire landscape. The film will also tell the life story of the Stone from its mythic origins to its role in early kingship ceremonies, and its creation as a powerful symbol of nationhood and monarchy which remains today.

After the film, visitors will see the Stone of Destiny. Displayed in a custom-designed secure case, the Stone will be animated with light and sound, recreating the 13th century crowning of Alexander III.

The Stone is currently displayed within the Crown Room in Edinburgh Castle, alongside the Honours of Scotland. If the Stone remains in Edinburgh Castle, plans are being developed by Historic Environment Scotland to undertake a major redevelopment of the display of both the Stone and the Honours. Under the terms of their Royal Warrant, it falls to the Commissioners to consider and advise upon all matters relating to the Stone. The final decision on any proposal to relocate the Stone will lie with The Queen, acting on the advice of the Commissioners. On Christmas Day, 1950, four nationalist students removed the stone from Westminster Abbey and smuggled it back to Scotland, sparking a huge manhunt.

Scottish Parliament raises a glass to 525 years of Scotch Whisky



The Scotch Whisky Association has celebrated the 525th anniversary of the first recorded dram by hosting an event at the Scottish Parliament. Ministers and MSPs gathered at Holyrood to mark the occasion and were joined by SWA Chief Executive Karen Betts. The first known mention of Scotch Whisky distillation is

credited to Lindores Abbey in Newburgh, Fife. A note in the 1494 Exchequer Rolls details that by order of King James IV, 'eight bols malt' be supplied to Friar John Cor to produce 'aqua vitae' - the water of life. Chief Executive of the Scotch Whisky Association Karen Betts said: "Scotch has moved with the times. Scotland's national drink is now our most successful global export, shipped to destinations which were only just being discovered by the explorers of the 15th century. Now we are proud that Scotch Whisky is the hugely successful export that it is. Over the last 525 years, the industry has not rested on its laurels and Scotch Whisky companies now produce some of the most globally recognised consumer brands. Only a couple of months ago, we marked a record number of visits to Scotch Whisky distilleries. Tourists from all over the world visit distilleries across Scotland to learn about the story of Scotch and of Scotland."

Scotch Whisky tourism saw record numbers of visitors in 2018, with over 2 million visits to Scotch Whisky distilleries from tourists for the first time. The SWA's annual survey revealed visits were up 6.1% year on year and 56% more than in 2010.

Bid to use hydrogen from renewables to produce gin



Edinburgh Napier will play a key role in an investigation into the feasibility of hydrogen as a fuel to decarbonise the distilling process. The HySpirits project has been awarded £148,600 by the Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to conduct the study at The Orkney Distillery. The project will investigate the development of a thermal fluid heater system to operate with hydrogen as the combustion fuel within the distilling process. This system will remove the need to use fossil fuels such as kerosene and liquid petroleum gas.

Lord Duncan, UK Climate Change Minister said: "Using the power of hydrogen could help cut emissions, create jobs and make industrial processes cleaner and greener, benefitting the whole economy as we work towards net zero by 2050. This innovative project from HySprits/EMEC will help our efforts to roll out hydrogen at scale by the 2030s - a crucial step towards the end of the UK's contribution to global warming."

Hydrogen has been identified as an alternative fuel for energy intensive industrial processes, such as distilleries. If the technology and business case detailed in the feasibility study proves viable, this offers a substantial decarbonisation opportunity for the wider industry and The Orkney Distillery could become the world's first hydrogen-fuelled distillery. It is hoped that the findings of this study can be replicated across the sector with the added benefit that the technology will be designed to be retrofitted into existing infrastructure.

Compete in the 2019 Balmoral Classic

Calling all Pipers & Drummers, age 21 and under, to apply for the 2019 Classic.



he Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming invites the nation's best young pipers & drummers to compete in the Balmoral Classic:
US Junior Solo Bagpiping & Drumming Championships. Applicants are required to meet strict standards, based on amateur upper grade competitive successes. Piping judges will be Ian Duncan, Bruce Gandy and Lezlie Webster.

Pipers will compete in MSR (march, strathspey, and reel), the traditional bagpipe competition medley, as well as in Piobaireachd, the classical music of Highland bagpiping. The Overall prize is a combination of scores from Piobaireachd and MSR. Drumming judges will be Gordon Bell and Jon Quigg. Drumming entrants compete in two styles:

Hornpipe & Jig and MSR. The Overall prize is a

combination of Hornpipe & Jig and MSR scores.

To attract more young drummers to the pipe band world, the Classic will also include a contest for Novice Drummers.

Apply by October 15th at:

(**Pipers**) https://balmoralschoolofpiping.org/balmoral-classic-2018-bagpiping-application

(Drummers) https://

balmoralschoolofpiping.org/balmoral-classic-2018-drumming-application

(Novice drums) https://

balmoralschoolofpiping.org/classic-2018novice-drumming-application

World class instruction

"Balmoral Classic is celebrating its 13th annual Junior Solo US Bagpiping & Drumming Championships, followed by an evening concert with the awardwinning ensemble, Eabhal, direct from Scotland," says the Balmoral's director, George Balderose.

Events include a Friday night celebration with entertainment and hors d'oeuvres, piping and drumming competitions on Saturday from 9:00am to 5:00pm, a Celtic music concert featuring Eabhal at 8:00pm on Saturday night, and a free Piobaireachd workshop with Pipe-Master Ian Duncan on Sunday morning, open to all pipers.

The Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming is a 501(c)(3) non-profit



educational organization founded and maintained in Pittsburgh, PA since 1979. It is our mission "to raise the standard and promote the appreciation of bagpipe music in the USA by providing world class instruction, cultivating excellence in youth, presenting innovative musical events, and fostering tradition."

For details on the Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming see: bagpiping.org

German battleships sunk in Scapa Flow sells below asking price on eBay



our World War One German battleships sunk in Scapa Flow in Orkney have been sold online for a total of £85,000. The vessels were part of the German High Seas fleet and were deliberately scuttled 100 years ago. They were listed on auction site eBay with a combined asking price of just over £800,000 for the four vessels. The ships include the *Karlsruhe, Konig, Kronprinz Wilhelm* and *Markgraf. SMS Karlsruhe* sold for £8,500, with *Konig, Kronprinz Wilhelm* and *Markgraf* all selling for £25,500 each. The vessels cannot be removed from the seabed.

The listing described the ships as "used", adding the buyer would need to collect, but said the sale "will require the consent of the Ministry of Defence". The advert further added the buyer would own "a sizable naval fleet amongst the largest in the world".

The vessels were being sold by Dundee resident Thomas Clark who purchased them in 1981, with the intention of performing further salvage operations. However, the wrecks are protected as scheduled monuments, which stop him from doing that. Mr Clark said: "It has been an absolute pleasure to own and dive on these iconic vessels and I regret I have not managed to do more with them during the period of my ownership.

I look forward to passing them on to the new owner and hope they get the opportunity to realise their aspirations for the vessels."

The ships were part of the German High Seas Fleet, which was famously scuttled at Scapa Flow, Stromness. The vessels were sunk on June 21, 1919 in what was to be one of the final acts of the First World War.

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Scotword answers from page 6

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Calling the ClansWelcome 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 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



Your Bell ancestry is important!

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Society in Australia Inc.

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or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P, P.O. Box 519

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who have a family association with the Clan Davidson.

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Visit our website to learn more about Clan Donnachaidh, our History & Traditions, the Clan Museum in Scotland, the DNA Project, the new Struan Kirk Appeal, & locate a Branch near you. http://www.donnachaldh.com/

Facebook: 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

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Mr Lachlan Macdonald

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

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www.clangalbraith.org



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Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce 1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Stillwater, Minnesota 55082

Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary 5561 Earl Young Road Bloomington, IN 47408 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.

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and Southeast Chapters www.clangregor.com

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

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Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

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

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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



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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

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

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

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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 Farquharson Association Australia

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

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

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



Gregor Society Membership inquiries

American Clan

Est 1909

welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

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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 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



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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



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

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

www.clanhay.com

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

Clan Henderson Society



www.clanhendersonsociety.org

Clan Hope of Craighall Society

INTERNATIONAL & USA hard Rex Hope Membership Chair

AUSTRALIA

Commissio Scott Hale nmissioner@clanhope.ca vw.clanhope.ca



Clan Irwin Association Chief and Patron

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

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

www.clanirwin.org

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



INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC.

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

Loch Sloy! We welcome all descendants of Clan MacFarlane from around the world! Michael R. MacFarlane. FSA Scot - President Brian J.W. MacFarlane - Vice President

Richard G. Kilby, FSA Scot - Treasurer John K. Manchester - Secretary International Clan MacFarlane Society Inc. PO Box 398 Glenora, CA 91740 USA



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



International Association of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

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

www.clanmacinnes.org

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

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling), and their descendants. Recognised Septs: Askey MacAndie MacCorkill Beaton MacAskill MacCrimmon

Bethune MacAulay MacGillechallum MacCabe MacRaild Norie MacCaig MacWilliam MacClure Norman Harold Tolmie

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

Clan Macpherson **Association**

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

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

New Zealand. Tim McPhe

dalmore@xtra.co.nz phone +64 3 234 5098 USA. Ken Croker

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

Scotland, Bill Macnhers phone +44 1577 830 430

phone +44 1540 673 332 (1 April to 30 October)

Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.



Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

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

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

Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada

We invite you - whether you are a clansperson

Website: www.clanmackenziecanada.ca

a member of one of our septs, a highlander,

a Scot, or just an history enthusiast – to join

the Society and participate in many activities

MACLEODS RICH IN HIGHLAND

TRADITIONS FOR INFORMATION:

WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG

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

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

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

Australian Contact:

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

Clan Macnachtan **Association Worldwide** Sir Malcolm F. Macnaghten of Macnaghten, Bart - Chief of Clan

Chairman - Peter McNaughton - 360-686-8451 We welcome membership from all Scots named MacNaughton or any of the Septs on our Website: Contact the Membership

Secretary, Vice-Chairman or Regional Commissioners in: Australia - Regional Commissioner - Bruce McNaught +61 7 3266 2047 bruce@brucemcnaught.com W. Canada - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughton 250-999-9636 milescammac@aol.com

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



Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

We invite MacRaes of all spelling variations and their descendants to join our Clan MacRae Society. Learn your Scottish MacRae history and family lineage!

www.macrae.org

Need more info? Contact: Bruce McRae. President 303-670-9611 brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com



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

Clan Mackenzie

Society in the

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 Maitland

We are all related! Contact your local society North America: Rosemary Maitland Thorn rthomnvprdcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Carole Maitland carole maitland@yahoo.com.au 4230 Colac- Lavers Hill RoadWeeaproinah. VIC. 3237 New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz

33 Disley Street, High bury, Wellington 6012. NZ We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at: www.clanmaitland.org.uk



Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyll and Clan MacDowall of Galloway



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



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

COME JOIN US!

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



Murray Clan Society of North America

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

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

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

Wyomissing, PA 19610-2738



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

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



Clan Wardlaw Association

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

'Wardlaw ivermair!'

www.clanwardlaw.com Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

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

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



descendant of Pollock, Pollok, Pook, Polk, Polke, Paulk, Poalke, Poulk, Poolke, Pogue - you are cordially invited to contact:

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



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

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

www.clansinclairaustralia.com



Scottish 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@embargmail.com (910) 295-4448



Clan Ross in Australia

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

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

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



The Stewart Society

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

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



Australian Scottish Communtiy (Qld) Inc.

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





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

www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org Founded in 1905

Clan Ross America



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



Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated Contact: M Hodgkinson

212 MacKenzie Street Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559)

william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au

http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



Chicago Scots

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

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

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

Scottish Gaelic Choir: Wednesdays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm during school terms

at The Kildara Centre, rear of 39 Stanhope Street, Malvern.



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

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



Clan Ross of **The United States**

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

www.clan-ross.org

clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com

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



Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

Richard Langford

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



Comunn Gàidhlig **Astràilia**

(The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a nonprofit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels. Ruaraidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor) Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org Web: www.ozgaelic.org

Mall: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235



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

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association

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



Clan Scott Australia Group

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

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

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

CLAN YOUNG AUSTRALIA



For those affiliated with the Young surname

> Ian J Young Convenor

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

membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au

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



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

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

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

Victorian Scottish Union Inc

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

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

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

Chief: Ms Ceilidh McKinna Robertson President: Mr Douglas Pearce Secretary: Mrs Jan Macdonald

T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930
E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
www.victorianscottishunion.com

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

OCTOBER

01 - Montreal, QC - Fish and Chips Supper Join the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal and catch up with some old friends, meet some new friends at Lord William Pub, 265 Rue des Seigneurs. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca

05 - Guelph, ON - Centre for Scottish Studies Fall Colloquium

Representing the Scottish past in film, text and media at the University of Guelph. Info: www.uoguelph.ca/arts/scottish

06 - Nationwide - The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2019-Cinema Release

A spectacular like no other, all set against the iconic backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. This year the Tattoo will capture the imagination of our audience in Kaleidoscope. Watch at Cineplex Theatres details: www.cineplex. com/Movie/the-royal-edinburgh-military-tattoo

11 - 19 - Cape Breton, NS - Celtic **Colours International Festival**

For nine days in October, Cape Breton Island is alive with music, energy and excitement as people celebrate Celtic cultures. Info: 1-888-355-7744 or www.celtic-colours.com

11 - 13 - Canmore, AB - Scots' Gathering

Unleash Your Inner Scot! At a unique Cultural Gathering held annually on Thanksgiving weekend. Explore the arts with Scottish Country dancing, Ladies Step dancing, music and needlework workshops. Learn new things with whisky tasting and cultural lectures. Enjoy meeting new friends at the classes, ceilidh and ball. Scottish Country dance teachers: Janet Johnson & Robert McOwen. Presented by The St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary. Info: www.calgaryscots.org

18 - 20 - St Thomas, ON - 2019 Clan Donald **Canada Annual General Meeting**

Clan Donald Southern Ontario is thrilled to welcome Clan members for their AGM, with ceilidh, formal dinner and friendship. Info: www.clandonaldcanada.ca

18 - Montreal, QC - Taste of Scotland - Whisky Tasting Night

The St. Andrew's Society of Montreal would like to invite all members, their friends and anybody else interested in fine whisky to our annual Taste of Scotland Whisky Tasting Night. This ever popular event will allow guests to sample over 25 different brands of whisky and enjoy a buffet featuring a variety of delectable Scottish dishes at Officer's Mess, Black Watch Armoury, 2067 Bleury St. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca

19 - Vancouver, BC - Pipes & Drams-A Whisky Tasting Experience

Presented by the Vancouver Police Pipe Band with performances, whisky tasting, haggis and more at The Roundhouse Arts and Recreation Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews. Info: 604.717.9998 or www.vpdpipeband.ca/pipes-drams

19 - Vancouver, BC - St. Andrew's Ball

An evening of fun and culture with Scottish Fare, Pipes and Drums, Scottish Country Dancing and music by the Vancouver Fiddle Orchestra at the Pinnacle Hotel Vancouver Harbourfront, 1133 West Hastings St. Info: www.eventbrite.ca/e/st-andrewsball-vancouver-2019-tickets-71428363157

25 - 27 - Dartmouth - Canada - Re-Jigged Festival Re-Jigged is a Celtic Music and Dance Festival with concerts, workshops and a

ceilidh. Info: www.rejiggedfestival.com 26 - Ottawa, ON - Scotchtoberfest

Presented by The Scottish Society of Ottawa at 2552 Old Montreal Rd, Cumberland. Info: www.ottscot.ca

27 - London, ON - Kirkin' O'The Tartans Service

St. George's Presbyterian Church, 1475 Dundas Street, will be hosting its annual Kirkin' o' the Tartans Service at 10:30am. There will be wonderful music, an inspiring sermon, and Scottish fare to follow. Wear your tartan with pride. Ample Parking. Info:

NOVEMBER

09 - Kimberley, BC - Road to 2020 Ceilidh

Join the Kimberley Pipe Band and the Liela Cooper and Hail Duncan Highland Dancers for an evening of music, food and fun all with a Celtic twist at the Kimberley Conference & Damp; Athlete Training Centre, 301 North Star Blvd. Info: www.kimberleypipeband.ca

16 - Ottawa, ON - Scotland Tonight Concert

Scotland comes to Ottawa with the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band and many more at Shenkman Arts Centre, Orleans. Info: www.sospb.com

22 - Montreal, QC - The 2019 St. Andrew's Ball

Join Peter McAuslan and Ellen Bounsall, our Guests of Honour, for an evening of dining, dancing and pageantry celebrating one hundred and eighty-four years of Scottish heritage in Montreal at The Marriott Chateau Champlain Hotel, 1 Place du Canada. Info: www.standrewsball.com

23 - Ottawa, ON - Scottish Genealogy **Group (Special Interest Group)**

Are you interested in your Scottish roots? In discovering who your Scottish ancestors were and how they lived? The Scottish Genealogy Group is made up of people who share these interests. At our informal meetings we share information and resources and discuss our successes and our brick walls. All of us, beginners and experts alike, learn from and encourage each other at Room 115, City of Ottawa Archives, 100 Tallwood Dr. Info: www.bifhsgo.ca

29 - Winnipeg, MB - The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg 149th Annual Dinner

This is the most prestigious event on the Society's calendar that celebrates and raises funds for Scottish culture and heritage groups and activities in Manitoba. The Queens Own Cameron Highlanders will also provide wonderful Scottish tunes at Hotel Fort Garry. Info: www.standrewssocietywinnipeg.com

30 - Nationwide - Canada - Happy St Andrew's Day Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'LA Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

30 - Toronto, ON - St Andrew's Society Toronto Charity Ball

A celebration of Scotland with music, dance and food presented by the St Andrew's Society of Toronto. For the first time since 1929, the St. Andrew's Charity Ball will take up its new residence at Toronto's Liberty Grand. Info: www.standrewscharityball.ca

30 - Cambridge, ON - Feast of St. Andrew

The Officers of the Royal Highland Fusiliers of Canada celebrate St. Andrew's Day with a Feast. The Feast of Saint Andrew is a formal, black tie, 6 course Mess Dinner. The Feast features the traditions and customs of a Highland Regiment Officers' Mess. It also includes the participation of the Regimental Pipes and Drums. Info: www.rhfc.ca/feast-of-st-andrew.html

30 - December 01 - Wallacetown, ON - Scottish & Irish Christmas Dinner in the Museum

Celebrate Christmas in the museum with a Scottish & Irish dinner on either November 30 and December 1. Enjoy a multi course meal and historical tidbits served by costumed volunteers. Arrive at 3:30 with dinner to begin at 4pm at Backus-Page House Museum, 29424 $\,$ Lakeview Line, Tickets \$100/person with a charitable tax receipt of \$50 in return. Info: 519-762-3072

USA

OCTOBER

04 - 06 - Mount Vernon, WA - Autumn Smallpipes & Fiddle Workshop 2019

Both Smallpipers and Fiddlers enjoy intimate, smallgroup classes taught by fantastic instructors at the Littlefield Celtic Center. Info: www.celticarts.org

04 - 06 - Troy, MI - Scottish North American Leadership Conference 2019

Hosted by the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, an opportunity for those in the Scottish-North American community to share views, values, experiences and best practices at the Kilgour Scottish Centre. In fo: www.scottishleadership conference.com

05 - Bordentown, NJ - Kilt Fest NJ

Kilt Fest is a Highland Games and Medieval Celtic festival featuring live bands, axe throwing, sword fighting, vendors, beer and food. Info: www. eventbrite.com/e/kilt-fest-nj-tickets-66940218997

05 - Laurinburg, NC - Highland Echoes The Show

The show includes a cast of Highland dancers, a step dancer, live musicians, Gaelic and English Female vocals, Bagpipes and fiddle tunes. The 2019 tour features new music, more dancing, and new costumes to reflect both the traditional and modern use of the tartan at Scotland Highland School, 1000 West Church St. Info: www.highlandechoes.com/scotland

05 - Laurinburg, NC - Scotland County Highland Games A celebration of Scotland held on the grounds of the North Carolina Rural Heritage Center. Info: www.carolina-highlandgames.com

05 - 06 - Aztec, NM - The Aztec Highland Games and Celtic Festival

The Four Corners region's premier event celebrating Celtic culture through traditional athletic competitions, music and dance performances, clan representation, and more at Riverside Park, 500 S Light Plant Rd, Info: www.aztechighlandgames.com

08 - Washington, NC - Highland Echoes The Show The show includes a cast of Highland dancers, a step

dancer, live musicians, Gaelic and English Female vocals, Bagpipes and fiddle tunes. The 2019 tour features new music, more dancing, and new costumes to reflect both the traditional and modern use of the tartan at Arts of the Pamlico Turnage Theater, 150 West Main St. Info: www.highlandechoeswashington.eventbrite.com

10 - Bel Air, MD - Highland Echoes The Show

The show includes a cast of Highland dancers, a step dancer, live musicians, Gaelic and English Female vocals, Bagpipes and fiddle tunes. The 2019 $\,$ tour features new music, more dancing, and new costumes to reflect both the traditional and modern use of the tartan at The Bel Air Armory, 37 N Main St. Info: www.highlandechoesbelair.eventbrite.com

11 - Alexandria, VA - Highland Echoes The Show The show includes a cast of Highland dancers, a step dancer, live musicians, Gaelic and English Female vocals, Bagpipes and fiddle tunes. The 2019 tour features new music, more dancing, and new

costumes to reflect both the traditional and modern use of the tartan at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Dr. Info: www.highlandechoesalexandria.eventbrite.com 12 - Hollywood, FL - Scottish Pirate Mòd Ceilidh

Join the Scottish American Society Of South Florida for their annual Ceilidh. The theme this year is a Scottish

Pirate Mòd with ceilidh/mòd mashup with tartaned/ kilted pirates thrown into the mix. Info: www.sassf.org 12 - Indianapolis, IN - Indianapolis

Scottish Highland Games & Festival

Pipe bands, Celtic music, Clans, athletics and more at German Park, 8600 S Meridian St. Info: www.indyscotgamesandfest.com

12 - Radford, VA - Radford Highlanders Festival The festival will feature: The famed heavyweight games;

Sheepherding: live entertainment; food; vendors, and festivities for all ages at the Radford University. Info: www.radford.edu/content/festival/home.html

12 - 13 - Ingram, TX - The Kerr County Celtic Festival Scottish Highland Games

and Highland Dance CompetitionA weekend of Scottish celebration at Hill Country Arts Foundation, 120 Point Theatre Rd. Info: www.kerrcountyceltic.com

12 - 13 - Ventura, CA - Seaside Highland Games The premier Scottish event on the Central California Coast at Seaside Park. Info: www.seaside-games.com

13 - Scotland, CT - Scotland **Connecticut Highland Games**

A day of Scottish ${\rm \bar{c}elebration}$ in Scotland, USA at The Waldo Homestead, 96 Waldo Rd. Info: www.scotlandgames.org

18 - 20 - Stone Mountain, GA - USA - Stone **Mountain Highland Games**

The impressive mix of sights and sounds of a Scottish Highland Games presented in a uniquely southern style at Stone Mountain Park. Info: www.smhg.org

19 - Milwaukee, WI - 2019 Tartan Ball

Hosted by the Tripoli Scottish Highlanders with Highland Pipes & Drums, Haggis Ceremony, Scotch tasting, Scottish dancing and more at Tripoli Shrine Center, 3000 West Wisconsin Ave. Info: www. facebook.com/TripoliScottishHighlanders

26 - 27 - Richmond, VA - Richmond Highland Games Family events all weekend at Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 E Laburnum Ave. Info: www.vacelticfestival.com

NOVEMBER

01 - 03 - Moab, UT - The 2019 Moab Celtic Festival Celebrate the heritage and culture of Scotland, Ireland, England and Wales, just as it's been done

for centuries... with lots of great music, dancing, athletics and good fun, good food, good drink, and great friends. Info: www.scotsontherocksmoab.org

01 - 03 - Tucson, AZ - The Tucson Celtic Festival And Scottish Highland Games

Includes 19th Annual Scottish Master's Athletics $Heavy\ Events\ World\ Championship\ and\ full$ Highland Games at Rillito Raceway Park, 4502 N. First Ave. Info: www.tucsoncelticfestival.org

02 - Mount Pleasant, SC - The 50th Anniversary of Murray Clan Society of North America

The Murray Clan Society of North America will be celebrating their 50th anniversary at the 2019 Charleston Scottish Games & Highland Gathering. The Murray's will be the honored Clan and the honored guest of the Games will be Michael B.J Murray (The Most Hon) The Marquis of Tullibardine. He is the eldest son of Bruce G.R Murray, His Grace, The 12th Duke of Atholl and Chief of Clan Murray. Info: www.clanmurray.org

02 - Mt Pleasant, SC - Charleston Scottish Games Drawing visitors from around the country and abroad the Games brings in over 6,000 guests, immersing visitors in Scottish heritage and history at Boone Hall Plantation

& Gardens. Info: www.charlestonscottishgames.com 08 - New York, NY - The Wallace Awards The Wallace Awards recognize those of Scottish descent who have made exceptional contributions in the fields of Heritage, the Arts, and Culture.

Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.org 09 - 10 - Gulfport, MS - Celtic Heritage and Music Festival

Featured Bands: Highland Reign, Kracker Dan, Red McWilliams, and more musicians. Featured Activities: Jousting, Clans, Vendors, Children's Activities, Irish Dancing, Highland Cows, Bagpipe Bands, Sheep Herding, Artisans, Authentic Food, and more. Heavy Athletics on Sunday Only. Event Times: Sat. 9-5 and Sun 9-4 Adults-\$10; Senior & Military-\$8; Weekend pass-\$15; 12 & under-FREE at Harrison County Fairgrounds, 15321 County Farm Rd. Info: www.mshighlandsandislands.org

15 - 16 - Mount Dora, FL – 7th Annual Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival

Enjoy Scottish bands and musicians performing thorughout the weekends as well as an afternoon of Highland Games in Gilbert Park on Saturday from 10 AM-5PM. Info: Parks and Recreation Department at 352,735,7183 or visit MountDoraEvents.com

16 - Pittsburgh, PA - The Balmoral Classic

An annual event held In Pittsburgh each Fall, featuring the US Junior Solo Bagpiping and Drumming Championships, plus an Evening Concert with internationally recognized Celtic performance ensemble Eabhal. Info: www balmoralschoolofpiping.org/balmoral-classic

16 - Florence, SC - Swamp Fox Highland Games A celebration of Celtic culture and history. It is a fundraiser for Heaven's Hope Home for medically fragile children at Columns Plantation, 5001 Rankin

Plantation Rd. Info: www.swampfoxgames.com

23 - Dunedin, FL - Dunedin Celtic Music and Craft Beer Festival

The 2019 festival will feature music by Off Kilter, Seven Nations, City of Dunedin Pipe Band, The Screaming Orphans, and more at Dunedin's Highlander Park. Info: www.dunedincelticmusicfestival.com

30 - Nationwide - USA - Happy St Andrew's Day Saint Andrew's Day is Scotland's official national day. Celebrate St Andrew's Day (or in Scottish Gaelic 'LÃ Naomh Anndrais'), Scotland's patron saint!

30 - Parker, TX - Celtic Festival at the Farm

Spend a beautiful fall day with us on a working farm, where Celts and Celts-at-heart will gather to enjoy live bagpipe music, Scottish and Irish dancing, faire food, gift vendors, kids' games and crafts, historic costumes, silent auctions, Outlander fan meet-up at Jacob's Reward Farm, 4308 Church Lane. Info: www.facebook.com/metroplex.united

SCOTLAND

 ${\bf 03 - 03 - Pitlochry - Scotland - The\ Enchanted\ Forest}$ Perthshire's multi-award-winning sound and light show, entitled Cosmos, is inspired by the vastness and natural beauty of the skies that sit above the forest at Faskally Wood. Info: www.enchantedforest.org.uk

11 - 19 - Glasgow - Scotland - Royal National Mòd The Royal National Mòd is Scotland's premier Gaelic festival and is famous for celebrating our Gaelic linguistic and cultural heritage. Info: www.ancomunn.co.uk

18 - 31 - Edinburgh - Scotland - The 31st Scottish International Storytelling Festival

Celebrates old traditions and new connections, building bridges between artists, regions and communities in a feast of storytelling, music and dance. SISF 2019 will have a special focus between Scotland and Canada, aimed at developing new creative work, collaborations and exchanges between Scottish and Canadian artists and festivals. Info: www.sisf.org.uk

23 - 17 - Kilmarnock-Scotland - Illuminight with Lidl Experience one of the UK's most spectacular illumination events at Dean Castle County Park. The park is illuminated with light installations and AV effects, and there's quality local food and drink to keep you refreshed. Info: www.illuminight.co.uk

24 - 27 - Orkney - Scotland - Orkney Storytelling Festival The 2019 Orkney Storytelling Festival takes place around Orkney between the 24th-27th October. The festival has a truly international flavour, with storytellers from Scotland, Canada and Africa. Info: www.orkneystorytellingfestival.co.uk

25 - 26 - Paisley - Scotland - Paisley Halloween Festival Festivals Paisley Renfrewshire. Beware the witching hour, when supernatural creatures and ghostly figures gather their powers to scare even the bravest of souls at Halloween. Info: www.whatsonrenfrewshire.co.uk

26 - Blair Atholl Perthshire - The

Glenfiddich Piping Championship The Glenfiddich was established in 1974 to inspire the world's finest individual pipers and to seek the best overall exponents on Ceol Mor (or Piobaireachd, the great music) and Ceol Beag (or light music, the little music). The event is held annually in Blair Castle. Following the competition, the annual Pipers' Ceilidh will take place in the Atholl Palace Hotel in Pitlochry, with a limited number of tickets for this also available to purchase, along with a competition ticket. Info: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/glenfiddich

26 - Perth - Scotland - City of Perth Halloween Parade and Fun Night

Celebrate the spookiest time of year with the Grand Halloween Parade through Perth city centre. There's also live music and dance, storytelling, face painting and fun fair rides. Info: www.perthcity.co.uk

26 - 27 - East Neuk of Fife - Scotland - Scottish and **European Vintage Ploughing Championships**

The 57th Scottish Ploughing Championships will also be hosting the 22nd European Vintage Ploughing Championships. Over 200 competitors will battle it out in horse, vintage, modern and classic categories over the two day event, culminating in the crowning of European Vintage and Scottish Champions. Info: www.scotplough.co.uk

31 - Kenmore - Scotland - Celtic Samhain

Come and hear about the ancient legends of Samhain. Prepare for the most fearful day of all with a lovely winter storytelling and music session around the protective Crannog fire, as the veil between our world and the spirit world is lifted at the Scottish Crannog Centre. Info: www.crannog.co.uk

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



alloween, celebrated on 31 October, is widely assumed to be an American festival but it's actually an ancient Celtic pagan celebration. The term Halloween comes from All-hallow-even or All Hallows' Eve - the evening before All Hallows' Day, or All Saints' Day. The festival originated as a pagan ritual among the Celts in Ireland and Britain, who regarded 31 October as the last day of summer, November being associated with the death and slaughter of animals that provided meat for winter. In the old Norse religion, sacrifices were made to the elves, and food was blessed and stored for winter. Irish and Scottish immigrants carried Halloween festivities in the 19th century.

Pumpkin Soup

Ingredients:

2 tbsp olive oil
1 onion, finely diced
1kg/2lb 4oz pumpkin, peeled
and cut into 1cm/½in cubes
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
500ml/18fl oz chicken stock
1 lime, juice only
200ml/7fl oz double cream
salt and freshly ground black pepper
4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil, to serve
2 tbsp coriander cress

Method:

Heat a frying pan until hot, then add the oil, onion and pumpkin and fry for 1-2 minutes.

Add the garlic and cook for another minute, then add the stock and bring to the boil. Simmer for about 5-6 minutes, or until the squash is tender.

Pour into a blender and blend to a fine purée (do this is batches if necessary).

Place the soup back into a clean saucepan and add the lime juice and cream, then season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Return to the heat to warm through.

To serve, ladle the soup into soup plates and drizzle over a little extra virgin olive oil and a scattering of cress. Serve immediately.

Pumpkin Stew

Ingredients: 40g/1½oz butter

2 onions, chopped
1 carrot, chopped
1 stick celery, chopped
3 sprigs rosemary
2 bay leaves
1 clove garlic, chopped
400g/14oz lentils
1.2litres/2pints 2fl oz vegetable stock
600g/1lb 5oz assorted pumpkin or
squash (total chopped weight)
small bunch parsley, chopped
2 tbsp red wine vinegar
4 tbsp sour cream

Method:

In a large pan melt the butter and then add chopped onions, carrot and celery. Tear in the rosemary and a couple of bay leaves and after a few minutes add the chopped garlic. When all have nicely softened, tip in the lentils and pour over 1litre/1¾ pints of vegetable stock. Bring to the boil and then leave to simmer whilst you tend to the pumpkin.

Using a variety of pumpkins and squashes gives the stew a more complex flavour. Here I use acorn squash and Cinderella, but you want to end up with about 600g/1lb 5oz of peeled pumpkin in large chunks. Add them to the stew, season and then pour over enough water to just cover all the ingredients. Put a lid on the pan and leave to simmer for 30-40 minutes.

When the stew is almost ready, add the chopped parsley.

Things may go "bump in the night" in the kitchen this month and we hope these spooky recipes are enjoyed in the lead up to Halloween.

To make the stew creamier, remove a small bowlful to a food processor and blitz it with 200ml/2fl oz of stock. Pour it back in and the stew becomes instantly more velvety.

Serve the stew in bowls, finishing each helping off with a cooling spoonful of sour cream.

Pumpkin Seeds

Ingredients:

100g/3½oz pumpkin seeds ¼ tsp celery salt ¼ tsp salt ¼ tsp freshly ground black pepper ¼ tsp paprika 1 tsp vegetable oil

Method:

Brush a frying pan with a very small amount of oil and place over a medium heat. Add the pumpkin seeds, stirring frequently. They will expand and brown fairly quickly, and when this is done, place them in a bowl and add the salt, celery salt, freshly ground black pepper and paprika. This is delicious if the pumpkin seeds are reasonably fresh.

Pumpkin Pie



Ingredients:

For the pastry

Sweet short crust pastry case (or a packet of ready-made sweet short crust pastry with $40g/1\frac{1}{2}$ oz crushed pecans mixed in)

For the pumpkin pie filling:

450g/1lb. prepared weight pumpkin flesh, cut into 1in/2.5 cm chunks 2 large eggs plus 1 yolk (use the white for another dish) 75g/3oz. soft dark brown sugar 1 tsp. ground cinnamon ½ level teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg ½ tsp. ground allspice ½ tsp. ground cloves ½ tsp. ground ginger 275ml/10fl oz. double cream

Method:

Pre-heat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. If using a shop bought sweet crust pastry case, use one that is 23cm/9in diameter and 4cm/1½in deep. If using your own pastry, roll it out and use it to line a 23cm/9in pie plate (not loose bottomed). Bake the pastry case blind for 20 minutes.

To make the filling, place the pumpkin chunks on a baking tray, cover with foil and roast until tender. This will take about 20-30 minutes, depending on your pumpkin. Press the cooked pumpkin in a coarse sieve and to extract any excess water. Set aside to cool before blending in a food processor, or mashing by hand to a pureé.

Lightly whisk the eggs and extra yolk together in a large bowl.

Place the sugar, spices and the cream in a pan, bring to simmering point, giving it a whisk to mix everything together. Then pour it over the eggs and whisk it again briefly. Now add the pumpkin pureé, still whisking to combine everything thoroughly.

Reduce the oven temperature to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Pour the filling into your pastry case and bake for 35-40 minutes, by which time it will puff up round the edges but still feel slightly wobbly in the centre.

Remove the pie from the oven and place the tin on a wire cooling rack. Serve warm or chilled (stored loosely covered in foil in the fridge) with some chilled créme fraïche or whipped cream.

Halloween Biscuits Ingredients:

100g/3½oz unsalted butter, softened at room temperature 100g/3½oz caster sugar 1 free-range egg, lightly beaten 275g/10oz plain flour 1 tsp vanilla extract To decorate: 400g/14oz. icing sugar 3-4 tbsp water 2-3 drops food colourings

Method:

Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.

Beat the butter and sugar together in a bowl until combined.

Beat in the egg and vanilla extract, a little at a time, until well combined.

Stir in the flour until the mixture comes together as a dough.

Roll the dough out on a lightly floured work surface to a thickness of $1 \text{cm}/\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Using Halloween-style biscuit cutters, cut biscuits out of the dough and carefully place onto the baking tray.

Bake the biscuits for 8-10 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to harden for 5 minutes, then cool on a wire rack.

For the icing, sift the icing sugar into a large mixing bowl and stir in enough water to create a smooth mixture. Stir in the food colouring.

Carefully spread the icing onto the biscuits using a knife and set aside until the icing hardens.

Scary Highland Mary Ingredients:

2 dashes of Tabasco Sauce 1 splash of Worcestershire Sauce 45 ml./1½ oz. scotch whisky 1 sprig of fresh rosemary, slightly bruised

Method:

Pour over ice in large rocks glass, stir well. Garnish with rosemary.

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 Battle of Largs Scots defeated the Vikings who were attempting to invade. 1263
- 1 Contract to construct the North Bridge, Edinburgh, signed. 1763
- 2 Birth of Sir William Ramsay, Scottish chemist who discovered helium, xenon, neon, argon, radon and krypton. 1852
- 2 Death of Sir Thomas Lipton, grocer, tea merchant and contestant for the Americas Cup. 1931



- 2 The new paddle steamer *Waverley* was launched from A. & J. Inglis's yard on the Clyde. After providing services on the Firth of Clyde she has been preserved and still takes passengers "doon the watter" as the oldest sea-going paddle steamer in the world. 1947
- 3 Treaty of Berwick, freeing David II from imprisonment by the English. 1357
- 3 Last Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh before the Union with Westminster. 1706
- 4 Boys' Brigade founded in Glasgow by Sir William Alexander Smith. The first uniformed youth organisation in the world, from one small company of 35 boys it has grown into a worldwide organisation with companies in over 60 countries. 1883



- 5 Balloon flight by Italian aeronaut Vincenzo Lunardi from Heriot's School, Edinburgh to Ceres in Fife. 1785
- 5 -The birth of Jock Stein, famous Scottish football manager. Stein was manager of Celtic between 1965 and 1978, during which time it was one of the most successful clubs in Europe, and in 1967 became the first British club to win the European Cup. 1922
- **6** Scot Ebenezer Henderson formed the first Congregational church in Sweden. He spent many years travelling throughout Scandinavia and Russia, giving out bibles translated into local languages. **1811**
- 7 Birth of Charles McLaren, one of the founders of the *Scotsman* newspaper. 1782
- 8 Rev Henry Duncan, founder of the first savings bank, born in the Manse at Lochrutton. 1774
- 9 King James IV ratified the Charter incorporating the Surgeons and Barbers. 1506
- 9 Death of Lord Home of the Hirsel, also known as Sir Alec Douglas-Home, formerly Foreign Secretary and UK Prime Minister. 1995
- 10 Writer and geologist Hugh Miller born on the Black Isle, Cromarty. 1802

- 10 Jock Stein, Scottish football manager, collapsed and died. He suffered a massive heart attack after watching Scotland draw 1-1 with Wales in a World cup qualifying match in Cardiff. As well as managing the national team, from 1965-78 he was Celtic's most famous manager, seeing them win the European Cup in 1967. 1985
- 11 Letter from Wallace and Moray to the mayors of Lubeck and Hamburg saying that "The Kingdom of Scotland has, by God's Grace, recovered by battle from the power of the English". The Lubeck Letter was thought to have been destroyed during World War Two, but was found in a Lubeck Museum and is now on permanent loan to the Museum of Scotland. 1297
- 11 Ship *Great Michael* launched for King James IV. 1511
- 11 The British fleet, under the command of Admiral Adam Duncan (born in Forfar in 1731), defeated the Dutch off the village of Camperdown, Holland. 1797
- 11 Scotland's first First Minister Donald Dewar died suddenly at 63 after a fall on the steps of his official residence in Edinburgh. He was the first person to hold the position of First Minister following the establishment of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. 2000
- 12 Ramsay MacDonald, first Labour Prime Minister of UK, born in Lossiemouth. 1866
- 12 -The birth of Magnus Magnusson, writer and broadcaster. Born in Iceland, Magnus moved to Scotland when only a baby. He made a career in journalism, finally achieving the post of Assistant Editor with *The Scotsman*. Magnusson died on January 7th 2007. 1929
- 13 Battle of Aberdeen, James Graham, 1st Marquess of Montrose, sacked the city. 1644
- 13 Birth of Allan Ramsay, painter and son of Allan Ramsay the poet. 1713
- 14 Second marriage of King Alexander III (to Yolanda de Dreux). 1285
- 14 Edward Bruce, brother of Robert the Bruce, killed in a battle near Dundalk, Ireland. 1318
- 14 Birth at St James' Palace, London of King James VII, second son of King Charles I and brother of King Charles II. 1633
- 14 The 50 pence decimal coin was first issued, replacing the ten shilling note. 1969
- 14 Introduction of plastic shopping bags charges in Scotland. The number of plastic bags handed out in stores was slashed by 80% - the equivalent of 650 million carriers - in the first year of Scotland's 5p charge. 2014
- 15 Birth of poet Allan Ramsay, father of Allan Ramsay the painter. 1686



- 15 Edinburgh's Balmoral Hotel opened its doors for the first time. The hotel was originally known as the North British. Acclaimed as one of the great railway hotels, it originally boasted 300 bedrooms and 52 bathrooms. It was later renamed The Balmoral — which means "majestic dwelling" in Gaelic. 1902
- 15 Poet William Souter died in Perth. 1943
- 15 HMS Hawke was shot and sunk off the coast of Aberdeen by a German submarine. Launched in 1891 the ship was the sixth British warship to be named Hawke. 524 officers and men died, including the ship's captain, Hugh Williams, with only 70 survivors. 1914

- 16 King James II born. 1430
- 16 Poet Robert Fergusson died. 1774



- 16 Bridge to the Isle of Skye opened. Built as a private finance initiative, the bridge initially had the highest tolls in Europe which led to a decade of non-payment protests. 1995
- 17 Battle of Neville's Cross during which King David II was captured by the English. 1346
- 17 James "Paraffin" Young obtained a patent for the extraction of paraffin from shale, starting the chemical industry in West Lothian. 1850
- 18 Aberdeen-born Denis Law became the youngest footballer to play for Scotland. At the time playing for Huddersfield Town, he was 18 years and 7 months old when he played against Wales at Cardiff. Scotland won 3-0. He has recently been nominated Scotland's best player of the last 50 years by the SFA. 1958
- 18 The death of Margaret Tudor, English princess, sister of Henry VIII, wife of James IV, and mother of James V. It was through Margaret, a paternal great-grandmother (through Henry, Lord Darnley), and a maternal great-grandmother (through Mary, Queen of Scots), that James VI based his claim to the throne of England following the death of Queen Elizabeth I. 1541
- 19 The first public-hire sedan chairs became available in Edinburgh. A sedan was an enclosed chair for one person, carried on poles by two men. They reached the height of their popularity in the 18th century, when there were as many as 180 sedans for public hire in Edinburgh. 1687
- 20 Explosion at Clarkston Toll shopping centre, killing 12. 1971
- 21 Last tram car ran in Dundee. $1956\,$



- 21 The Queen officially opened the Burrell Collection in Glasgow's Pollok Country Park. The museum's collection had been donated to the city nearly 40 years earlier by the shipping magnate Sir William Burrell. The Burrell Collection is now closed for refurbishment and will reopen in 2021 after a multi-million pound redevelopment is complete. 1983
- 22 Foundation stones of main Post Office and National Museum of Scotland laid by Prince Albert in his last public engagement before his death. 1861
- 23 Treaty between King John Balliol of Scotland and King Philippe IV of France which promised mutual help against the English - the start of the "Auld Alliance". The Alliance, which was described in 1942 by Charles de Gaulle as 'the oldest alliance in the world' promised mutual help against the English, asserting that should either Scotland or France be invaded by England, the other country would invade English territory. 1295

- 23 Death of John Boyd Dunlop who re-invented the pneumatic tyre from the design of Robert W Thomson. 1921
- 24 Artist David Roberts born in Edinburgh. He died on 25 November 1864 whilst working on a painting at St Pauls Cathedral. 1796
- 25 Elvis Presley touched down at Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire, his only visit to Scotland. This was also the only time "The King" set foot on British soil. 1960
- 26 George III crowned, beginning a 60 year reign, one of the longest in British history. 1760
- **26** Lady Caroline Nairne, songwriter and poet, died at Gask, Perthshire. **1845**
- 26 Poet Sorley MacLean born on the island of Raasay. Sorley MacLean was the greatest Gaelic poet of the 20th century. He died in 1996. 1911



- 27 William Smith, founder of the Boys' Brigade, born. 1854
- 28 Birth of Robert Liston in Linlithgow who was to carry out the first operation in Britain with the aid of an anaesthetic. 1794
- 28 Dr Henry Faulds, a Scots medical missionary working in Japan, published a letter in "Nature" which gave the first evidence that fingerprints could be used as proof of guilt or innocence in legal cases. 1880
- 28 Journalist and novelist Cliff Hanley (*Dancing in the Streets*) born in Glasgow. 1922
- 29 James Boswell, biographer of Dr Johnston, born at Blair's Land, Parliament Square, Edinburgh. 1740
- 30 Caledonian Canal opened. The Caledonian Canal links the west of Scotland to the East, and makes it possible to navigate a canal boat journey coast to coast right through Scotland's Great Glen, between Fort William and Inverness. It is scenically spectacular along its whole length, surrounded as it is by Scotland's highest mountains and most beautiful scenery. 1822
- 30 First moving image on a television screen when John Logie Baird transmitted the image of a 15-year-old office boy in his London workshop. 1925
- 30 Glasgow born Scottish aviator Scottish aviator Jim Mollison died. Mollison became the RAF's youngest serving officer, the first person to fly solo east to west across the Atlantic and flew from Scotland to Australia in 8 days, 19 hours and 28 minutes. 1959
- 31 Pneumatic bicycle tyres were patented by inventor John Boyd Dunlop from Ayrshire. 1888



31 - Hampden Park Stadium opened in Glasgow as the home of Queen's Park Football Club. The national stadium of Scotland bears the name of an English politician John Hampden and is actually the third venue to be called Hampden Park in Glasgow. 1903



s Halloween approaches and the nights grow longer and colder, the stage is set for stories of the macabre. There is hardly a castle, town or kirkyard in Scotland that does not claim its share of ghosts, demons, or malevolent monsters, a tendency that reflects the deeply seated fears that our ancestors felt as the peril of winter

scraped closer. In some places, no such tales are required to make the hair on the back of even the most committed rationalist's neck stand up.

In that spirit, I wandered through my local Edinburgh graveyard and decided on four historic sites that gave me the creeps more than any others in Scotland.

If you're planning to visit Scotland and

fancy testing your nerve, these places will have you leaving a light on in the night long after you leave them.

Greyfriars Kirkyard-EdinburghOften named among the most haunted locations in Britain, Greyfriars Kirkyard is in the gothic heart of Edinburgh. Though it is perhaps best known as the home of the

loyal dog Greyfriars Bobby, the kirkyard's macabre side has drawn thousands of ghost hunters, mediums, and terrorseekers from all around the world through its wrought iron gates.

More than 100,000 bodies lie beneath the soils here, and following periods of harsh storms and lashing rains they have been known to make the occasional reappearance. Burials began here in the 1560's, with plague victims, merchants, religious rebels, soldiers, criminals, lords and lawyers all amongst its eternal inhabitants. There are too many skull and crossbones etched on to graves to count, and the visage of the mysterious Green Man can be seen on many of the mausoleums. Mortsafes adorn several graves, great iron cages built to deter grave robbers who plundered Edinburgh's dead to sell the cadavers to the nearby medical school.

The epicentre of the alleged hauntings is the tomb of George 'Bluidy' Mackenzie, a 17th century Lord Advocate who rounded up, tortured, and executed countless Covenanters a mere stone's throw from his final resting place. His poltergeist is said to stalk the kirkyard searching for Covenanters to torment. A popular rite of passage for local schoolchildren is to taunt Mackenzie's ghost three times at the door of his tomb at which point he is said to make an appearance, especially if done after dark. One glimpse of Greyfriars in the murk of the haar, the thick mist which sometimes rolls in off the Firth of Forth and shrouds



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the city, and it is easy to see why many visitors see shadows behind every grave.

Yester Castle-Gifford, East Lothian More than any other Scottish castle, Yester has an air of dark secrecy. The once-mighty fortress is now barely perceptible through the trees in a valley near Gifford, just close enough to the path to tempt the eye yet far enough to seem isolated. At first it appears as though small scatterings of masonry are all that remain of the 13th century castle, yet follow them far enough and they give way to what seems an impossibly large stone edifice. A corridor of trees lead down overgrown steps to dark windows peering in to the depths of a brooding chamber known as the Goblin Hall.

Its most infamous laird, Sir Hugo de Giffard, was a guardian of the young Alexander III and, as courtly rumours and local lore claimed, a necromancer known as the Wizard of Yester. A pact with the devil granted him an army of hobgoblins who built his hall and terrorised his foes. For many years after its ruination in the 17th century locals avoided it at all costs, believing that a passage beneath the Goblin Hall led to a 'Hell Mouth'.

The only way in to the Goblin Hall is by a low, hidden door in the forest hillside leading into subterranean darkness.

to seal up the evil summoned by the Wizard of Yester. With the only source of light being the small pocket torch I had to hand, and standing at the bottom of a claustrophobically narrow staircase several storeys below the surface, it was all too easy to think how the story of that day's sojourn would end: "and he was never seen again."

Blackhammer & Taversoe Tuick Cairns-Isle of Rousay, Orkney Alone on a desolate Orcadian hillside as the last vestiges of sunlight retreated across the waters of the Eynhallow Sound, I pulled open a creaky metal hatch and leapt down into a 5,000 yearold tomb where several skeletons had been found. In retrospect, it was exactly as creepy as it sounds.

Rousay is home to one of Scotland's most magnificent collections of chambered cairns, ancient funerary and ceremonial monuments in use over centuries by the local farming communities. They rise like grassy whales' backs from the heather, some fifteen in all on the island, and each is as distinctive as its name - Taversoe Tuick, Knowe of Yarso, and Blackhammer being but a few. It was Blackhammer that I descended into via the hatch, emerging into an enclosure once used for displaying and revering the dead. Human as well as animal remains have been found in cairns across Scotland, often with skeletons reconfigured from multiple individuals or with heads - so crucial to Celtic spirituality - being prominently displayed in stone compartments.

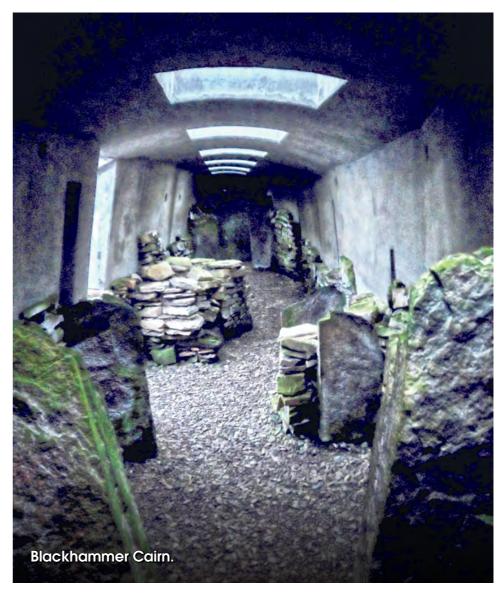
Of Rousay's cairns, Blackhammer and Taversoe Tuick are the ones that had me doubting myself. The latter is spread over two levels, the lower section accessed by a black iron ladder dropping through a small gap in the floor's masonry into a chamber where a crouched skeleton and three heaps of cremated bones were uncovered during excavations. While horror about such findings is a thoroughly modern phenomenon, with the dead being a part of daily life in the ancient and medieval worlds, that's little enough consolation for your imagination when you wander inside as the night closes in.

Honourable Mention: Roslin Yew Tree-Roslin Glen, Midlothian Great slaughter descended on Roslin on 24 February 1303 when the Scots defeated three English armies in a single day along the steep banks of

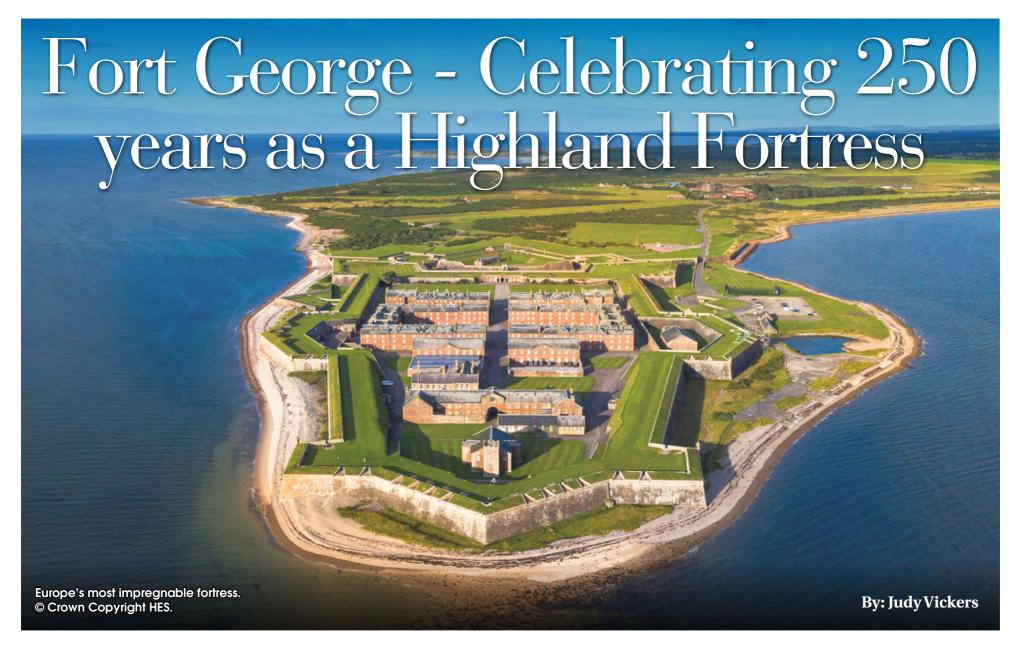
Roslin Glen. One Englishman had a great war hound with him, and both were slain in the chaos. The night after the battle, chroniclers recorded that the Scots were kept awake by the terrible baying of a hound in the glen, and the man who slew the Englishman and his hound was found dead having been well only hours earlier.

The beast has been heard and sighted prowling the area around Roslin Castle, a stronghold of the Sinclair's a short walk

away from the world famous Rosslyn Chapel. There you will find an ancient yew tree, its twisting branches grasping out in all directions. It is tightly pressed against the walls of the early 14th century castle, with several small gaps in the masonry allowing just a sliver of a glimpse into the darkened vaults beneath the castle. The feeling of being watched from within them is palpable while standing under the yew, and few linger long in this shadowy corner of the glen.







This year marks 250 years since Fort George was built in the Scottish Highlands. It is considered one of Europe's mightiest artillery fortresses, a training base for Highland regiments and is now today a tourist attraction as Judy Vickers explains.

ort George has not been short of contradictions over its 250-year history; it was designed to be Europe's most impregnable fortress – and yet it has never heard a shot fired in anger. Its scenic location, on a promontory jutting out into the Firth of Moray, helps to make it a popular tourist attraction – yet troops garrisoned there in the 18th and

19th century nicknamed it "Fort Misery". It began as a symbol of hated imperialistic power, but has become a well-loved part of the landscape of the Highlands.

Even today the fort, cared for by Historic Environmental Scotland, has a curious duality; tourists mingle freely with Black Watch soldiers – officially known as 3 SCOTS – who have been stationed there since 2007.

Even the café is called The Red Hackle, after the feather plume worn by Black Watch troops.

The Jacobite rebellions

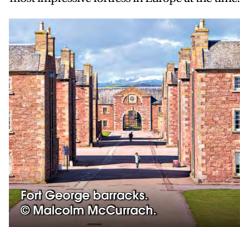
The fort was completed 250 years ago this year, having taken 21 years to construct and costing almost twice its original budget. The origins for its construction lie in the Jacobite rebellions of the 18th century. Following the 1715 uprising, when many Highlanders fought in support of the exiled Catholic Stuart family's bid to regain the throne, the key Great Glen was defended by three fortifications; Fort William, Fort Augustus and the original Fort George, built around the old Inverness Castle within the town.

Fort George has not been short of contradictions over its 250year history; it was designed to be Europe's most impregnable fortress – and yet it has never heard a shot fired in anger.

But when the Highlands rose again, this time in 1745, led by the Stuart claimant Bonnie Prince Charlie, Fort Augustus and Fort George fell to the rebels. The Jacobites were defeated at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 but among the repercussions which were to reverberate in the Highlands for decades to come was the plan for a new, stronger Fort George.

A site outside the town, thought to be more easily defendable and away from Inverness Town Council claims for compensation for any damage, was chosen. The new location, Ardersier Point, was 11 miles north-east of the town and just five miles from Culloden on a barren sandy spur of land owned by the loyalist Cawdor Estate, and surrounded on three sides by the sea. The new fort was designed by Lieutenant General William Skinner and the buildings created by the Adam family of architects, renowned for their neoclassical buildings of Edinburgh.

Most impressive fortress in Europe Skinner, Britain's Chief Royal Engineer and most famous for his fortification work in Menorca and Gibraltar, created the largest and most impressive fortress in Europe at the time.







The ramparts stretch for more than 1km, enclosing more than 40 acres within the walls which were capable of holding a garrison force of 2,000 – around a quarter of the size of Inverness in the middle of the 18th century. It could house 2,500 barrels of gunpowder in dry, secure conditions, any attack on any wall was within the sights of at least one cannon and shingle on the ground outside prevented an enemy bringing up heavy guns. It could also be relieved by sea through its own small harbour in case of a siege and



had its own bakery, brewery, chapel and workshops, with a hospital and prison added soon afterwards.

Little wonder than that the original budget of £92,673 19s 1d rose to a final £200,000, more than £20 million in today's prices – although part of that and the reason for the lengthy construction period was due to the remote location.

Lt Col James Wolfe, a veteran of Culloden, described it as "the most considerable fortress and best situated in Great Britain", and English writer Dr Samuel Johnson was impressed when he visited with his biographer James Boswell in 1773 as part of their tour of the Highlands. "I could not help being struck with admiration in finding upon this barren sandy point such a building – such a dinner – such company; it was like enchantment."

And when the French looked as if they would assault it in 1759, Lord Ligonier, commander-in-chief of the British Army, said: "I shall be extremely glad they would do it, because I look upon that fort to be impregnable."

But the French, nor any other enemy either domestic or foreign, ever did. By the time of its completion support for the Jacobite cause had dwindled.

Fort Misery

Too expensive to abandon, it became a training base for Highland regiments recruited to fight in the French and American wars – records show that in the near 70 years between Culloden and Waterloo, about 50,000 men were recruited into the British Army from the Highlands and Islands. Its coastal defences were beefed up in the mid-19thcentury during fears of French aggression, one of very few alterations to have been carried out over its 250 years.

Nicknamed "Fort Misery" by soldiers fed up with its remoteness, the fortress became a barracks for the Seaforth Highlanders when they were formed in 1881. It also housed troops during the First and Second World wars.

Today, it is still an active military base, home to the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland or 3 SCOTS, but more generally known by their former regimental name The Black Watch.



The Black Watch, which traditionally recruits from Tayside and Fife, was originally raised to police the Highlands in the wake of the 1715 Jacobite rebellion.

But this continuous history of military use may soon come to an end – in 2016 the British Government announced that as a military base, Fort George would close within 15 years. Its role as a tourist attraction will remain, however. More than 60,000 arrive at the site each year to visit the fort's Highland Museum, walk its ramparts, and see the barracks, dog cemetery and chapel – and perhaps catch sight of dolphins in the sea just off the point.



Australian and Canadian pipe bands make music in Scotland

By: Bethany Bisaillion Sons of Scotland Pipe Band



he Sons of Scotland Pipe Band from Ottawa, Canada had a wonderful time in Scotland this August when they travelled over to Edinburgh and played at shows throughout the region with their friends in the St. Andrew's Caledonian Pipe Band from Tasmania, Australia – a venture 15 years in the making!

The bands joined forces to compete at the World Pipe Band Championships and to do shows in Pitlochry, Blair Atholl and Glasgow, and the Sons performed at 3 concerts in Stirling.

Along with members from other cities, the band had a marvelous trip and look forward to next year's journey which will include the charity march Pipefest in Edinburgh – email the band for details on how you can take part in next year's or future trips to Scotland, or to take part in Pipefest 2020. We are at sospb@sospb.com and we look forward to more wonderful trips to Scotland.

For more information on The Sons of Scotland Pipe Band visit: www.sospb.com or St Andrew's Caledonian Pipe Band: www.sacpb.org







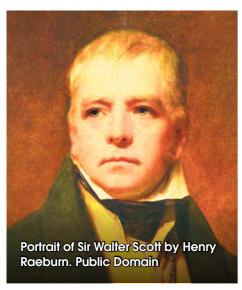
Scottish stories of horror and the supernatural

'On All-Hallows Eve, there is a bogey on every stile.'

Scottish proverb

amhain, the Celtic-pagan festival celebrated from 31 October to 1 $\,$ November, marked a point about midway between the autumn equinox and winter solstice, when the harvest season closed and winter began. Bonfires were part of the ceremony, and in some regions of Scotland people carried turf or fir torches sunwise (clockwise, which was regarded as the fortunate course or direction) around their fields and homes in the belief that the ritual would protect their property from evil forces during the coming season. Sometimes the torch was lit by the flame of a communal bonfire and was then used to ignite the people's hearth fires, a possibly druidic tradition which symbolically united the residents of a village or community. The ancient Celtic Samhain - or Halloween - is an ideal time to sit beside the fire and enjoy some classic Scottish fiction; in particular, short stories of horror and the supernatural by a few Scottish literary giants.

Sir Walter Scott



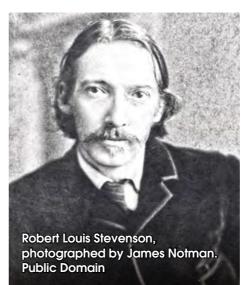
Though famous for his massive novels, Scott was one of the earliest practitioners of what evolved into the modern short story. Of interest for Halloween reading are three stories of the supernatural by Scott. Wandering Willie's Tale appears as in insert in the epistolary section of the novel Redgauntlet (1824). This is a Highland ghost story, taking place around the year 1700. Narrated by Willie Steenson who is an itinerant musician, it involves a supernatural encounter connected to Willie's and the Redgauntlet families. The story culminates in an encounter between Steenie Steenson (Willie's grandfather) and the ghost of Robert Redgauntlet, Steenson's feared and notorious landlord. 'Wandering Willie's Tale' is regarded as one of the high points of Redgauntlet.

'My Aunt Margaret's Mirror' was published in The Keepsake in time for Christmas, 1828. Scott heard this ghost story when he was a child from a spinster named Mrs Swinton. The tale, set around 1700, includes a Paduan doctor with strange powers, and a ceremony involving a human skull. Lady Jemima's husband Sir Philip Forester has gone to Flanders to serve as a volunteer with the Duke of Marlborough's army. Many months pass by without her hearing any news of her husband, so Lady Jemima decides to pay a visit to the Paduan doctor, who reputedly has the ability to reveal to his visitors scenes and actions of far-away loved ones. Through the agency of a certain looking glass, Lady Jemima witnesses Sir Philip in an act of betrayal against her.

'The Tapestried Chamber' likewise appeared in The Keepsake near Christmas, 1828. A ghost story, Scott said that writer Miss Anna Seward narrated this tale to him a number of years previously. The story tells of General Browne who, back from the American war, is travelling in the western counties. Drawn to Woodville Castle, the home of Lord Woodville (whom it turns out was a schoolfellow of Browne's), the General spends the night in an old room decorated with tapestries. The next morning at breakfast Browne appears drawn and dishevelled. Lord Woodville urges him to explain why he is in such a state, and the General narrates the frightening events of the night before.



Robert Louis Stevenson



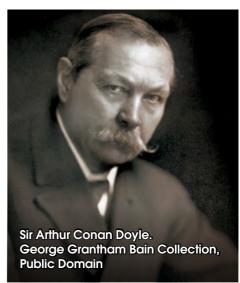
Beyond The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Stevenson has other frightful surprises in store in his short horror stories, which he dubbed 'crawlers'. After debuting in magazines or newspapers, the stories were published in the collections The Merry Men and Other Tales and Fables (1887), and Tales and Fantasies (1905). 'A masterpiece in thirteen pages' was Henry James' verdict on Thrawn Janet, an historical Scottish hill parish ghost story. Stevenson wrote the tale in a leased Highland cottage near Pitlochry in the summer of 1881. Written in Scots, in the first sentence Stevenson sets the morose tone with a little word-painting and verbal invention: 'The Reverend Murdoch Soulis was long minister of the moorland parish of Balweary, in the vale of Dule.' The gruesome story premiered in the October 1881 edition of *The Cornhill Magazine*.

The Body Snatcher, though not a tale of the supernatural, chills through its horrific elements. The story is based on the practices of Dr Robert Knox and 'resurrection men' Burke and Hare. Knox's enthusiasm for dissection generated a black market for corpses, supplied by William Burke and William Hare. (Burke was tried and executed for murder in 1829.) Stevenson became so appalled while working on the story in 1881 that he

put it away 'in a justifiable disgust, the tale being horrid,' as he wrote to friend and literary critic Sidney Colvin. Stevenson finally returned to the story and completed it for the 1884 Christmas number of the Pall Mall Gazette.

Markheim is a macabre story with features which prefigure Jekyll and Hyde by two years. The supernatural enters, possibly in the form of the Devil, though Stevenson leaves room for the reader to conjecture. Through this agency, the tale develops into a parable about duality, and good and evil. Stevenson wrote the story for an 1884 edition of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, but it was published as part of the 1885 *Unwin's Christmas Annual*.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle



If you're an enthusiast of stories of the supernatural you may have been frustrated by Sherlock Holmes' beacon of logic coldly illuminating the dark corners in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Sussex Vampire*. But Doyle explored supernatural themes in many other stories. Perhaps following on from Stevenson's 'crawlers', Doyle called his works of this variety 'creepers'. (*Twilight Tales*was a title he had in mind for an early collection of such fare.)

Doyle takes us to the Louvre in *The Ring* of *Thoth*, which was first published in *The Cornhill Magazine* in January 1890.



When an Egyptologist is locked into the museum overnight, he meets a curious French-speaking gentleman amongst the Egyptian artefacts. The man, who has seemed to have conducted a ritual over a mummy in the museum, tells the Egyptologist his incredible story.

Doyle's Lot No. 249 likewise is Egyptian-themed. The story centres on Edward Bellingham, an Oxford student of Egyptology. Bellingham has won an Egyptian mummy at auction, after which strange events begin to occur, including mysterious physical attacks on some of Bellingham's foes. The story premiered in Harper's Magazine in September 1892. Readers will recognise the genre of tales,

inspired by the Egyptomania then current in Britain, which Lot No. 249 and The Ring of Thoth instigated.

The Brown Hand is a ghost story which Doyle requested you read 'round the fire.' A doctor must administer to a patient in India, but when the medical man returns to Wiltshire, he is pursued. The plot is based on an Indian urban legend in which a man loses a hand in an accident, then dies some months later. The ghost of the man then rises and goes searching for the lost appendage. Nightly haunting for four years preys on the health of the doctor and his wife, until at last a solution to the dilemma is found. The story debuted in The Strand Magazine in May 1899.



Saki



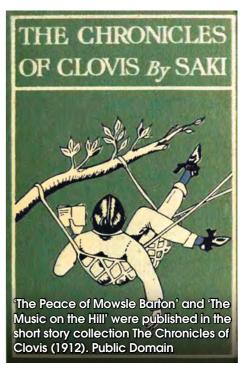
Burma-born Hector Hugh Munro was proud of his Scottish heritage. Writing as 'Saki', he became a specialist in brilliantlytwisting short stories. In her Biography of Saki (1924) Munro's sister Ethel wrote of him: 'To me, his strongest characteristics were - whimsicality, keen sense of humour, love of animals, and pride in being Highland.' She said that they were Celtic on both sides, being descended from the Macnab clan through their mother. Ethel credited Saki's ability to create stories of the uncanny to his 'Celtic sense of the unseen.'

In Saki's story The Peace of Mowsle Barton, a traveller named Crefton Lockyer seeking peace in the countryside instead is put on edge when he seems to become entangled in a feud between two witches. Lockyer is confronted with inexplicable occurrences such as water in kettles which won't come to a boil, and ducks

that drown. The story first appeared in the Westminster Gazette in February 1911.

Saki brings Greek mythology to a similar pastoral locale in The Music on the Hill, where another attempt to escape the city results in an uncanny rural encounter. The protagonist Sylvia Seltoun enters a nut copse surrounded by yews and in a clearing finds a bronze statue of Pan. Meddling with an offering of grapes which had been placed there proves to be a foolhardy move.

While they wrote their stories, whether by candle, gas or electric light, maybe somewhere in the backs of the minds of all four of these authors lingered the old Scottish proverb, 'On All-Hallows Eve, there is a bogey on every stile.'





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