



# the Scottish Banner



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*A' Bhratach Albannach*

Volume 43 Number 6 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper December 2019

*Be together at Edinburgh's*

# Hogmanay 2019

» Pg 14

## The Cairngorm Reindeer

*At home in the Highlands*

» Pg 16

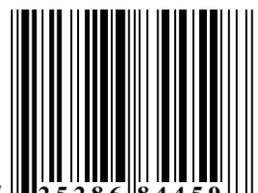
## A Day in Paisley

» Pg 19

## A victim of Scotland's witch hunt

» Pg 31

Australia \$4.50; N.Z. \$4.95



7 25286 84459 8 12

10 reasons why Scotland is wonderful in winter ..... » Pg 8  
How an Edinburgh grave inspired a Christmas Carol..... » Pg 10  
Clan Carruthers announces Chief after 210 years ..... » Pg 25

**the Scottish Banner**

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The Banner Says...

# A call to protect Scotland's heritage



by Sean Cairney

The call has literally been made recently across mainly rural parts of Scotland to save the iconic red call box. In fact, across Britain telephone bosses and community groups are looking at ways to save one of most recognisable cultural symbols of the country.

The first red phone boxes were installed in 1921, but the red telephone box we have come to know (the Jubilee kiosks, commemorating the Silver Jubilee of the coronation of King George V) was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, following a competition in 1924.

However, as technology has leaped forward, with most of the Scottish public having mobile phones, the need for call boxes has seen a massive reduction creating a unique 21<sup>st</sup> century problem. Calls made from public telephones have fallen by around 90% in the past decade and the costs to maintain them continues to increase. With BT (British Telecom) now closing call boxes across the country (650 have been removed this year so far), with the Highlands and Scottish Borders most impacted. There are today just over 31,000 BT payphones still in place across the UK, but in Scotland one in five call boxes will be closed, leaving just 3,300 active phones.

**A significant part in Britain's national heritage**

It is the Scottish communities in rural areas that have the most concern, to lose what could for some be a lifeline. Not all communities have reliable mobile reception and rely on the trusted call boxes as a communication back up.

Also depending on what decade you were born, you may or not, be surprised to read some older Scots do not use mobile phones and rely on telephones. This is a further hit for rural Scottish communities as some have also lost a variety of essential services such as post offices, banks and the Scottish invention of ATM's. BT however has said it will not remove any payphones on the Scottish islands or in areas where there was no mobile coverage.

**Adopt a Kiosk**

Understanding that the red telephone box plays a significant part in Britain's national heritage and in many cases forms a focal point for communities across the country, BT is offering communities the opportunity to keep these kiosks. Since the Adopt a Kiosk programme was launched, more than 2,300 communities across the UK have seized the opportunity to do something wonderful with local phone boxes that had little or no usage. For just £1 communities can give their local red phone box a new lease of life as something completely different.

Adopted kiosks have been adapted to include a book exchange, art gallery, grocery shop, a bakery, a wildlife information centre, a coffee shop and even lifesaving defibrillators in some local boxes. BT will continue to provide electricity (if already in place) to power the light for adopted kiosks, free of charge to communities. In Scotland over 700 call boxes are available under the Adopt a Kiosk programme.

**In this issue**

Festive fun is certainly a thread in this issue as we look at how the Scottish capital will be celebrating both Christmas and Hogmanay. I have spent these holidays in Scotland before and have great memories of being at Edinburgh's Hogmanay or going for a cool but lovely Christmas walk around Glasgow University with my family. Of course, Scotland really puts a show on for Hogmanay like nowhere else.

Clearly Christmas would not be complete without reindeer.

They surely must have one of the world's most important transport jobs this month and we are lucky the team at Cairngorm Reindeer Herd took the time to speak to us about these majestic creatures who live in one of the most stunning areas of Scotland.

I was surprised to learn that the classic *A Christmas Carol*, written by Charles Dickens in the 1843 was inspired from a visit he made to an Edinburgh grave. The main character of the classic book is the mean-spirited man Ebenezer Scrooge who famously gets a visit from the ghosts of Christmas present, past and future. Ebenezer Lennox Scroggie was a wealthy vintner and meal man (a corn merchant), and as was customary in Scotland at the time, when he died his trade was etched on his gravestone for all to see. In 1841 Charles Dickens was visiting Edinburgh on a lecture tour and he strolled around Canongate Kirkyard. There he noticed an unusual inscription on a gravestone which said, "Here lies Ebenezer Lennox Scroggie, A Meal Man". However, what Dickens read was "A Mean Man", with that Scroggie eventually became immortalised as Scrooge to millions of people in *A Christmas Carol*.

For hundreds of years in Scotland during the 16 and 1700's thousands of women were branded as witches and often burned at the stake, strangled or drowned. The suspected 'witches' were defined as witches by their neighbours, through a process of gossip and quarrelling. Witches were believed to be malicious and vengeful and have devil like powers. If someone suffered a misfortune after a quarrel, they might conclude that the other person had bewitched them in revenge. Unlike most criminal trials, witch trials permitted the torture of suspected women until a confession was extracted. In this issue we learn of Liliias Adie, who was Scotland's only 'witch' to have a grave and how history is remembering her today.

**Happy Christmas**

As we all prepare for the festive season ahead, all of us that work on *the Scottish Banner* wish all our readers, advertisers and friends the very best for the holidays.

And whilst many will spend too much, and possibly eat even more, try and remember the simple joys of the season, spending time with friends and family and perhaps looking out for those who are alone or in need. What ever you do, and where ever you spend it, I hope you find some of the magic of the holiday's surrounds you. Happy Christmas & Hogmanay! ❄️



*Gracing our front cover: Edinburgh's annual Christmas celebration. Photo: Snaps By Shirin/Edinburgh Christmas.*

# Ten things you might not know about Hogmanay

*Find out why a visit from a dark-haired man on New Year's Day is good luck, along with some other fascinating facts about Scotland's Hogmanay.*

Text and image courtesy of Scotland.org



## Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations.

- 1 Hogmanay is the Scots word for the last day of the year and is synonymous with the celebrating the year in true Scottish style. Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party is famous around the world, with visitors travelling from around Scotland and beyond to soak up the Scottish celebrations.
- 2 Nobody knows for sure where the word 'Hogmanay' came from. It may have originated from Gaelic or from Norman-French. What we do know, is that in Scotland, it means a good time surrounded by friends, ceilidh dancing and laughter.

- 3 Historically, Christmas was not observed as a festival in Scotland and Hogmanay was the more traditional celebration. Nowadays, Christmas is widely celebrated, with Hogmanay signalling that the festive period is coming to an end and a new year is beginning.
- 4 'The Bells' is the phrase used to describe the midnight hour when New Year's Eve becomes New Year's Day. It stems from the noise the church bells make as the clock strikes midnight signalling the beginning of a new day and a new year.
- 5 Famous Scottish poet Robert Burns' *Auld Lang Syne* is sung to celebrate the start of the New Year at the stroke of midnight, not just in Scotland but in many countries around the world.
- 6 *The Guinness Book of World Records* lists *Auld Lang Syne* as one of the most frequently sung songs in English. The song is sung or played in many movies, from festive blockbuster *It's a Wonderful Life* to romantic comedy *When Harry Met Sally*.
- 7 To sing *Auld Lang Syne* a circle is created and hands are joined with the person on each side of you.

- 8 An important element of Hogmanay celebrations is to welcome friends and strangers, with warm hospitality and of course a kiss to wish everyone a 'Guid New Year'. The underlying belief is to clear out the vestiges of the old year, have a clean break and welcome in a young, New Year on a happy note.
- 9 'First Footing' – the 'first foot' in the house after midnight is still very common in Scotland. To ensure good luck, a first footer should be a dark-haired male. Fair-haired first footers were not particularly welcome after the Viking invasions of ancient times. Traditional gifts include a lump of coal to lovingly place on the host's fire, along with shortbread, a black bun and whisky to toast to a Happy New Year.
- 10 To first foot a household empty-handed is considered grossly discourteous, never mind unlucky! You must not only bring yourself, but a gift of some description for the kind host. Consider yourself sufficiently warned!

## Reader Giveaway

### The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Sydney 2019: At All Points of the Compass

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo marched into Sydney's world-famous ANZ Stadium in October 2019, with over 1500 performers from 14 countries coming together for the largest Tattoo ever staged in its 69-year history – only the fifth time that the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo has left Edinburgh. Recorded in Sydney, performers from the United Kingdom, Australia, the USA, Switzerland, France, Tonga, Fiji and New Zealand were joined for the very first time by acts from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu for a once-in-a-lifetime spectacle.

*The Scottish Banner* is pleased to be offering 5 copies of the CD or DVD, courtesy of ABC Classic, to 10 lucky readers. To enter simply tell us how many times the Tattoo has left Edinburgh by



**Email:** [competitions@scottishbanner.com](mailto:competitions@scottishbanner.com)  
**Web:** [www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us](http://www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us) or post (sorry no telephone entries) our Sydney office, our full contacts can be found on page 2. Please ensure you include your full name and address, and if after the CD or DVD prize. Winners will be notified directly, good luck!

## Edinburgh Castle becomes 'Castle of Light'

History is set to come to life at Edinburgh Castle this winter, as the iconic landmark is illuminated with tales from Scotland's past. The mesmerising 90-minute journey of light, sound and wonder, entitled *Castle of Light*, will treat guests to an evening of dazzling animations, never seen before at the castle in its 900 year history. Running throughout the festive season to Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the castle will be transformed using state-of-the-art projections and enchanting storytelling.

The event which will be the biggest light experience to hit the city centre, bringing together a consortium of the finest digital and visual talent in Scotland to create a truly immersive experience which will captivate locals and visitors alike every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

### History, geology, mythology and the sheer drama

Gillian Macdonald, Head of Business Development at Historic Environment Scotland (HES), which operates Edinburgh Castle, said: "Castle of Light invites visitors to watch the history of this iconic landmark come to life as it illuminates the very walls that saw it unfold. Guests will have the chance to follow in the footsteps of Scotland's heroes as they're welcomed by stunning visuals and impressive lighting installations within the Castle's walls.

Using state-of-the-art projections to create a truly wonderful, immersive

lighting adventure, this is sure to be a magical experience for all the family and we can't wait for everyone to enjoy it."

Andy McGregor, Creative Director of Castle of Light, said: "This is an amazing opportunity to create a major lighting projection event for the truly iconic site that is Edinburgh Castle – a place recognised throughout the world and one which embodies so much Scottish history. I grew up by the Meadows in the shadow of this rock but I'm now seeing the Castle with fresh eyes. As a team, we will be drawing on the history, geology, mythology and the sheer drama of the site to conjure a spectacle that we hope will excite, entertain and enlighten audiences of all ages and backgrounds. To a certain extent, it is like being given a set of (very big) keys to a (a very big) toy shop – but with rather more responsibility! - and we are thrilled to be involved in such an exciting project for this national treasure."

**For more information and to get your tickets, visit [www.castleoflight.scot](http://www.castleoflight.scot)**



A projection on to St Margaret's Chapel at Edinburgh Castle.

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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?

## Killin

*For Anne, David, Kim and James Gray.*

Here the centuries run like seconds, skies of cloud and countless suns scud in time-lapse overhead.

Long swathes of time etch their histories on the hillsides, the stones of the river bed...

This valley gouged by ice felt one day the thaw begin, grew gradually green, inhabited – and echoes now this summer with the bleating of black-faced sheep.

When did the last ice melt away and the glacier leave its footprint here, this small deep loch holding in silence its complement of brown trout and the elusive char? Such questions disappear in the wind whispering at night through Henry's wood, or dissolve in the brown water rounding old stones, the river's slow revenge on glacial imprisonment.

Here the summer dark is brief and light, laughter and stories dance together in the Lodge ...

but in Winter, if the mood is right, the ice will reassert itself and whip

the length of glen to gale, from the blind face of Strone to Garrogie's spruce towers.

Each winter brings this inkling back of what once was, a cold hackling in the early dark of how things were for time beyond remembering.

© Graham Wood

This poem was written for good friends of mine whose family have a lodge in the small glen near Loch Killin in the Monadhliath mountains. It is at the southern end of Loch Ness and is not to be confused with the other Killin, a village near Loch Tay. The poem celebrates the glacial origins of the glen

and the fact that on some days in winter, it is impossible to escape the memory of the ice. In Summer, the lodge is a very friendly place with extended family visiting from all over the world. And in any season, the glen and the loch display the stark beauty characteristic of the Scottish Highlands.

**Ed note:** Thanks Graham for sharing such an atmospheric piece with us.

### Looking to correspond with many like-minded people

Greetings from Adelaide, Australia. I have recently subscribed to this wonderful newspaper and am thoroughly enjoying each paper received monthly. I have also purchased a few CD's/clothing from this site also and am extremely pleased not just with the product selection and the prompt and safe delivery, but also the prompt replies to my enquiries. I will be travelling over to beautiful Scotland again in four weeks (this being my 4<sup>th</sup> trip) and this time heading to the Outer Hebrides, as well as Skye, Islay and the Orkneys. Looking forward to staying in the Bowmore Cottages again and tasting those peaty whisky's from Islay.

Would love to correspond with many like-minded people across the miles. I love music whisky, haggis, travelling, animals and photography. Favourite music: Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Runrig, Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and Capercaille.

Rachel Hopkins

Adelaide, South Australia

E-mail: rachelhopkins70@gmail.com

### Family of Bruce International



Family of Bruce International, Inc. had their AGM at Stone Mountain Highland Games on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Attending the AGM and visiting the Bruce tent site, were members from the following states: Kentucky, Georgia, Minnesota, New York, Indiana, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Polly Bruce Tilford  
National Secretary, Family of Bruce International  
USA

**Ed note:** Great to see so many Bruce's come together.

### Kiwi's at Killara



The members of the Royal Country Dance Society at Killara had a wonderful fun day of dance at the Killara Hall on October 12<sup>th</sup> this year were fiddlers from New Zealand who are also guests at the Royal Military Tattoo in October in Sydney. All the dances were introduced by Jan McCubben from the Hunter Valley Branch (Gosford Class) and what a day we had. Some to the dancers came from Newcastle, Epping (Sydney) the southern highlands and the south coast. The wonderful dance orchestra were from

Auckland, New Zealand where they play for the Auckland branch of the RSCDS.

Robert Findley

Gosford Class Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Gosford, NSW

Australia

### My favourite paper

Please find enclosed my annual subscription renewal for my favourite paper *the Scottish Banner*. Whilst it is not due until next month, I want to ensure you have it well before, as I would hate to miss out on a single issue.

*The Banner* is always full of such interesting articles and I look forward to each copy monthly. It's a grand read from cover to cover-taking me back to my Scottish roots, of which I am so proud. Keep up your guid work!

In appreciation,

Mrs Margaret Benney

Craigieburn, Victoria

Australia

## FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send your photos or letters via social media



### The stag



Lovely stag at Glen Etive he was just amazing.

GN Photography  
Scotland

### Glencoe



The ever atmospheric Glencoe before the unforecasted rain...

A View From My Camera  
Scotland

### Schiltrom formation



Schiltrom formation on the Falkirk High Street. From this year's battle of Falkirk 1298 event with Britannia XIV Re-enactment.

The Society of John De Graeme  
Falkirk, Scotland

### Scottish fiddle competition



Warming up for the Scottish fiddle competition at the Richmond Highland Games.

Clan Currie  
USA

# Pipes call young musicians to international stage



The pipes were calling, and 36 young Australian musicians answered the call to perform at the Belfast International Tattoo in Ireland in September. And now the call has gone out for even more pipers and drummer to join the National Youth Pipe Band of Australia which has gigs lined up in Tasmania next year and is set to return to Europe again in 2021.

## National Youth Pipe Band of Australia

The Tattoo's youth focus for the two-day event was a perfect fit for the newly formed National Youth Pipe Band of Australia which included kids from as young as 11 and as old as 21. Pipers and drummers from all across Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and the ACT got to rub shoulders with other young bands from across the world and met some elite players from Scotland.

Assistant tutor and chaperone Merran Moir said the trip was an opportunity of a lifetime for the young players. "It's an inspiring opportunity for them," Mrs Moir said. In the lead-up to the 11-day trip, the young musicians had a number of full-weekend band camps held across Victoria and New South Wales.

Piper Ebony Ciccocioppo said she couldn't wait for the next band camp so she could catch up with her new friends. "Going to Ireland was amazing, but I've made some new friends for life," she said. Students performed a number of tunes including the well-known *Mull of Kintyre*, the *Outlander* theme song *The Sky Boat Song*, *Scotland the Brave* and a number of tradition Irish pieces. The band also performed alongside bands from Scotland, London, The Netherlands as well as Highland dancers from Canada and a circus bicycle act. One of the highlights for the band members was performing a pop-up concert in the centre of the Belfast's shopping district - a performance that attracted a large crowd. They treated the crowd to some Australian favourites such as *Waltzing Matilda*. The band also helped Campbell College in Belfast celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, performing alongside Irish pipers and drummers.

## A real positive step for the bagpipe movement in Australia

Calum Tait, 18, has been playing pipes for six years, said the trip was one of the many opportunities you get through playing the bagpipes.

"We get to meet and watch some of the best bands in the world," he said. Piper Hannah Van Zyl said playing the Tattoo and meeting "tonnes on new people and faces from around the world" were the highlights of the trip. "I liked doing all the sightseeing with our band, that was really cool, and found some new friends," she said.

Pipe Major Scott Nicolson said the highlight would have definitely been the Tattoo itself. But getting the chance to meet Pipe Major Dr Richard Parkes MBE, from the 11 times World Champion Pipe Band Field Marshall Montgomery, and having some time to do a bit of sightseeing, also helped make the trip even more special, he said. "All the while keeping up with their studies, which is an important aspect of a trip like this," he said. He said the proudest moment was walking out into the stadium and the kids being so well received by the other bands and the audience. "The way they conducted and represented themselves, their bands, their schools and the country is something to be proud of," he said.

"I think it's a real positive step for the bagpipe movement in Australia - allowing young like-minded people to come together for a common cause." Mr Nicolson said applications remain open for the band's 2020 trip and information can be found on the band's Facebook page. Next year the trip will be to Launceston for the Celtic Force festival during the first week of July. "There is a major international trip in the works for 2021," he said. Mr Nicolson said the trip was made possible with the help of the band's major sponsors - RG Hardie, St Kilda Retail and Victorian Heritage Cultural Scottish Foundation.

For more information, contact Pipe Major Scott Nicolson: [maccrimmon1@gmail.com](mailto:maccrimmon1@gmail.com) or 0412 998 991 or Drum Tutor Andrew Womersley: [womersleyandrew@mac.com](mailto:womersleyandrew@mac.com)



- **First footing** - The 'first foot' in the house after midnight is still very common in Scotland. To ensure good luck, a first footer should be a dark-haired man. Fair-haired first footers were not particularly welcome after the Viking invasions of ancient times. Traditional gifts include a lump of coal to lovingly place on the host's fire, along with shortbread, a black bun and whisky to toast to a Happy New Year. These days shortbread and whisky will suffice. Showing up empty handed is not only very rude but also bad luck!
- **Redding the house** - Rather than a Spring clean, the Scots have a New Year's clean to welcome in the New Year. Starting the New Year with a dirty house is bad luck. When open fires were common, people would clear the ashes and lay a new fire for the New Year. Cleaning one's house also extends to clearing one's debts. An old Scottish superstition states that you should try to clear all your debts before the stroke of midnight.

- **Bonfires and Fire Festivals**- Scotland's fire festivals at Hogmanay and later in January may have pagan or Viking origins. The use of fire to purify and drive away evil spirits is an ancient idea. Fire is at the centre of Hogmanay celebrations in Stonehaven, Comrie and Biggar and has recently become an element in Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebration.
- **The singing of *Auld Lang Syne*** all over the world- People sing Robert Burns' version of this traditional Scottish air. How it became the New Year's song is something of a mystery. At Edinburgh's Hogmanay, people join hands for what is reputed to be the world's biggest *Auld Lang Syne*.
- **The Saining of the House**- This is a very old rural tradition that involved blessing the house and livestock with holy water from a local stream. Although it had nearly died out, in recent years it has experienced a revival. After the blessing with water, the woman of the house was supposed to go from room to room with a smouldering juniper branch, filling the house with purifying smoke.



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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.

*"Brexit will disrupt existing environmental protections in Scotland, including the independent oversight of the European Commission. The National Trust for Scotland therefore welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to examine how our protections can be sustained post-Brexit. Our own public polling found that the Scottish public favoured the creation of a new body, independent of government, and able to hold government to account, and this should be part of the government's discussions."*

The National Trust for Scotland's Head of Public Policy, Diarmid Hearn said as the conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has responded to news from the Scottish Government that in the event of a 'no deal' Brexit an environmental standards advisory panel will be established. A poll of 1,000 Scots commissioned by the charity last month found that 81 per cent of respondents said they would support or strongly support the creation of an environmental protection body to ensure that Scotland upholds similar levels of environmental protections as currently. Sixty-seven percent of those polled thought that this body should be independent of government.



*"I hope someone will come along and buy it and keep it going because this is Scotland's heritage and more particularly Sanquhar's. The post office has been in operation since*

*1712 so it would be a shame to have to shut it down. I've enjoyed every moment of running it. The last five years has been a remarkable journey and I've enjoyed it, it's a nice area and nice people and we have visitors from all over the world."*

Sanquhar postmaster Nazra Alam said as the world's oldest post office went up for sale. The branch in Sanquhar, Dumfries and Galloway, has been in continuous service since 1712. The post office pre-dates the second oldest, in Stockholm, Sweden, by eight years while the third oldest in Santiago, Chile, opened in 1772. The post office is listed at £275,000, and comes with a three-bedroom cottage, a courtyard and outbuildings. It started out as a staging post for mail carriages, with the old stables thought to have once provided a resting place for horses drawing the mail carriages.



*"In addition to this impressive feat, the out-turn cost improved from the original budget of £3.2bn to a final cost of only £1.35bn. This new bridge is a worthy winner in this category and a tribute to collaborative teamwork."*

Rics judge David Brooks Wilson said The Queensferry Crossing has been named as the best infrastructure project in the UK. The £1.35bn bridge over the Forth - which opened to traffic in August 2017 - won the infrastructure

category at this year's Rics Awards grand final. Judges hailed the crossing - the world's longest three-towered, cable-stayed bridge at 2633 metres - as a "worthy winner".

*"We have felt a few in recent years but this was the worst so far, so I was surprised it was only 1.9 on the scale. My husband and I were sat on the sofa chatting, the noise was like an articulated lorry coming through the wall or a train. A few minutes later there was a second shorter one."*

Glencoe resident Annie Harpur said as two small earthquakes were felt in Glencoe. The first had a magnitude of 1.9, and second with a rating of 1.7 ML.



*"The 1901 recipe has aged beautifully over the last 118 years. For a limited time, we'll be producing a premium 'old and unimproved' Irn-Bru 1901 just as it was enjoyed by our first fans. This is Irn-Bru as you've never tasted it. It's a chance to enjoy a unique and authentic piece of Scottish history - but don't hang about, we don't think it will be around for long."*

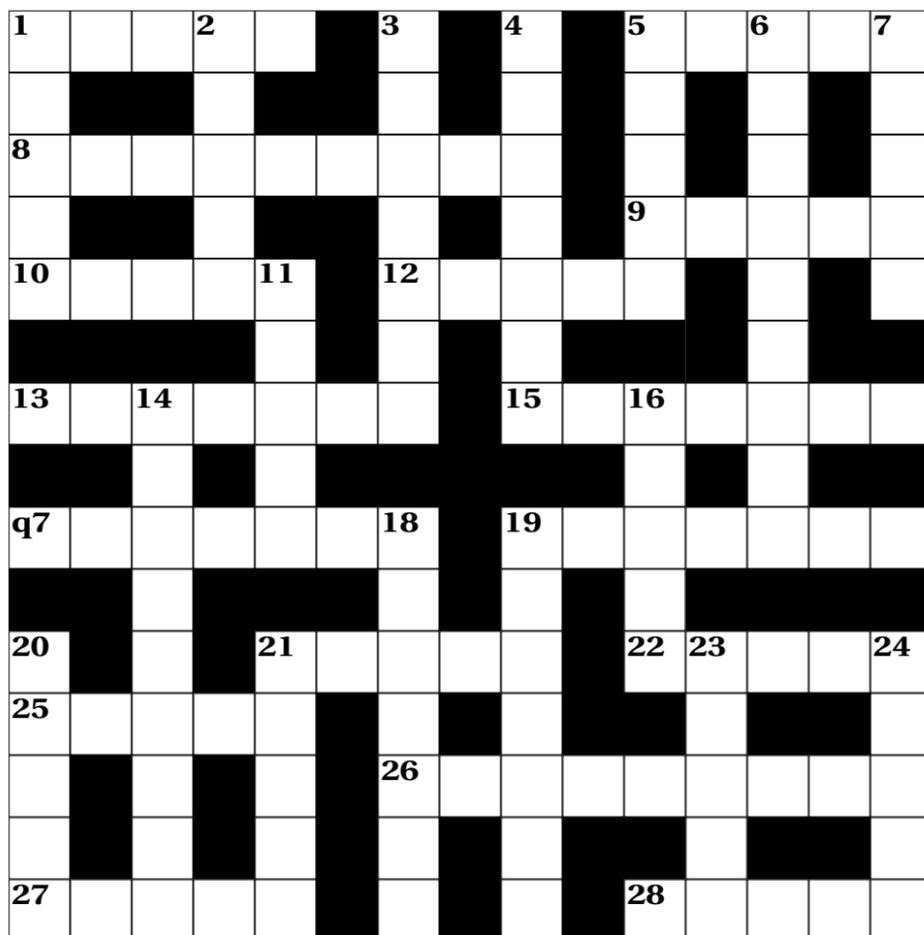
Robin Barr, of Scottish drinks maker AG Barr, said as the Irn-Bru maker will launch a limited-edition new version it claimed was based on an original recipe from 1901.

The firm said Irn-Bru 1901 - to hit shelves in December - was made from a handwritten recipe which had been "stored deep in the company archives for over 100 years".

*"I'm delighted that another example of Scotland's remarkable heritage of bridge construction has become a listed structure. One of the many innovations of the Drochaid Ceasaig (Kessock Bridge) was its ability to withstand extreme weather and earthquakes resulting from the Great Glen geological fault. It also contributed significantly to driving economic growth in the area, making travel between Inverness and the far northeast significantly easier. We have such a strong heritage of bridge building in Scotland and the Drochaid Ceasaig (Kessock Bridge) is an important part of that distinguished tradition."*

Elizabeth McCrone, Head of Designations at Historic Environment Scotland (HES), said as The Drochaid Ceasaig (Kessock Bridge) near Inverness has been awarded category B status by HES after it was recognised as being of special architectural interest. A major piece of 20<sup>th</sup> century engineering, it was the first multi-cable-stayed bridge to be built in the United Kingdom, and at the time of its completion in 1982 was the largest of its type in Europe. The Drochaid Ceasaig (Kessock Bridge) was also among the first to apply special 'quake-proof' technology, designed to allow for seismic and geological movement from the Great Glen Fault. This is the third bridge in Scotland to be listed by HES in the last 12 months, following The Erskine Bridge and Drochaid a' Chaolais Chumhaing (Kylesku Bridge).

## SCOTWORD



*Here is a fun crossword for you to try with a few of the answers to be found in Scotland! If you are in doubt, you may need a wee peek at a Scots dictionary or a map. Or, if you are really stuck, the answers can be found on page 24! Good Luck!*

### CLUES ACROSS:

- 1) Low temperatures in Scotland (5).
- 5) Sir Jimmy (5).
- 8) Peninsula near Inverness (5, 1).
- 9) Endure in Scots (5).
- 10) A bird's resting place! (5).
- 12) Miss Laurie (5).
- 13) North-east stone (7).
- 15) The auld enemy (7).
- 17) Wallace's battle cry (7).
- 19) Old schoolmaster (7).
- 21) Front of kilt (5).
- 22) Ask a Scot (5).
- 25) Old warhorse (5).
- 26) Village south-west of Callander (9).
- 27) An English provost (5).
- 28) Curling captains (5).

### CLUES DOWN:

- 1) Tossed at 16 Down (5).
- 2) Scottish lakes (5).
- 3) Island off Seil (7).
- 4) Rush forward recklessly (7).
- 5) Sudden rise of water (5).
- 6) Instrument of 5 Across (9).
- 7) Scots stone boundary lines (5).
- 11) Lanark, old soccer team (5).
- 14) Village near Bridge of Earn (9).
- 16) Sporting get-togethers (5).
- 18) Water nymph (7).
- 19) Cathedral city on the River Tay (7).
- 20) Kirk hymn (5).
- 21) It'll put the bite on you! (5).
- 23) Scots pimple (5).
- 24) Scots dances (5).

# Snow Better Place to Be...



With so much to do, only in Scotland is there a reason to stay longer. From befriending reindeer in the UK's only wild reindeer herd, to toasting the national bard with a dram; to partying through a three-day Hogmanay celebration, to basking in the glow of a traditional Celtic fire festival - adventurers, comfort-seekers and revellers will never be short of unique and exciting experiences in Scotland this winter.

Scotland is a beautiful and exciting place to visit all year round, but there is something special about driving through a mist-covered glen or catching a sunset over the snow dusted mountains. As the days get shorter and the temperature drops, Scotland doesn't go into hibernation... the party is just getting started.

Here is just a pick of the one-of-a-kind and unforgettable events and experiences happening from this month, into the New Year:

## Feel the heat (of a fire festival)

Winter in Scotland might sound like a chilly time, but there is a lot to experience off-season. From October onwards, there is a huge variety of unique and traditional fire festivals held all over the country. Catch the Samhuinn Fire Festival which celebrates the Celtic New Year on top of Edinburgh's iconic Calton Hill with a dramatic mix of dance, immersive theatre and fire play. Head north to Up Helly Aa Viking Festival in the small town of Lerwick in the Shetland Isles and see the burning of the long ship on the last Tuesday in January (one of 12 fire festivals

taking place in January). These unique experiences guarantee to keep participants and spectators alike warm on a cold night.

Scotland is known for its wide range of outdoor activities and that doesn't stop in winter, in fact - it enhances it. Dust off the cobwebs on 1<sup>st</sup> January with the famous Loony Dook in South Queensferry by joining the brave participants in throwing themselves into the freezing Firth of Forth waters. Why not try curling in the country it was invented in or ski and snowboard across the Cairngorm mountains? Scotland is home to five world-class ski resorts.

## Getting festive

Scotland loves a festival, and they're not just for the summer months. Celtic Connections brings the very best of Celtic, folk and roots music from all over the world to Glasgow. The 18 day-long festival event draws over 2,000 musicians and uses over 33 of the UNESCO City of Music's iconic venues during the month of January. The Oban Winter festival is a 10-day long event that is jammed pack full of markets, parades, live music, exhibitions and much more. Oban is compact and easy to get around, so this festival is a great opportunity to get in the festive spirit and discover all the brilliant attractions that Oban has to offer.

'Hogmanay', or New Year's Eve, is a uniquely Scottish experience, and Edinburgh is known all over the world for throwing legendary Hogmanay celebrations along its cobbled streets and its residents and visitors dancing into the early hours of the morning.

However, the rest of Scotland is also embracing this time to party like nowhere else: head north and party at the Red-Hot Highland Fling in Inverness. This free family-friendly event attracts over 10,000 spectators and brings the very best Scottish music acts to the Highland Capital to help bring in the New Year. The exciting and traditional Stonehaven Fireballs Festival lights up the small town on the east coast with a procession of approximately 40 men and women swinging fireballs above their heads when the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve. Also, don't forget the 'First-foot' custom, which arguably began in Scotland: it's said that the first-footer must be out of the house before the clock strikes midnight, then cross the threshold to welcome in the new year, bearing gifts. Traditional items for the first-footer to carry include pieces of coal, a coin, salt, bread, and a 'wee dram' of whisky.

## Making new friends

Winter in Scotland is a great time to spot wildlife and make a furry friend or two. The Cairngorm Sled dog Centre in Aviemore is the UK's only designated sled dog centre which offer visitors the ultimate sled dog experience, this involves helping the kennel with their daily routine and a 50-minute training session with the huskies through remote forest trails - a one of kind way to see the cairngorm mountains.

Visit the UK's only wild reindeer herd in the Glenmore Forest Park with an experienced herder and pet and befriend the cute and cuddly reindeer - this unique experience will get any scrooge feeling festive in no time.

## Burns, baby, Burns

It's not just Christmas and New Year we celebrate in Scotland. On 30<sup>th</sup> November, Scotland celebrates its patron saint, St Andrew, with a wide variety of events and celebrations all over the country from parties in the town named after the saint himself to rural ceilidhs on the Isle of Skye. Fun lovers are never far away from a party at this time of year. Another thing Scotland is celebrated for is its creativity so, on 25<sup>th</sup> January each year there is Burns Night where haggis, whisky and famous prose are combined to celebrate the life and work of our national bard, Robert Burns. The first ever Burns Supper was held in July 1801 when nine of Burns' close friends gathered to mark the fifth anniversary of the poet's death. The evening took place at Burns Cottage in Alloway and included a meal of Haggis, performances of his work and a speech to honour him. After the success of the first night, it was decided that the friends would hold a similar evening on his birthday (25<sup>th</sup> January), thus beginning the tradition that we still celebrate today. There are lots of Burns Suppers and events held all over the country on this date such as Burns & Beyond in Edinburgh, The Big Burns Supper in Dumfries and Burns Night at Glamis Castle.

For more information on trips to Scotland, please go to [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)






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# 10 reasons why Scotland is wonderful in winter

*It may be cold outside, but there is something undeniably magical about Scotland in winter. Here are some top reasons for visiting Scotland at this time of year.*

Text and images courtesy of Scotland.org



Christmas markets.

## 1-See Scotland at its most affordable



Edinburgh sparkles during the festive season.

Visiting Scotland outside of the peak season most definitely has its perks. Nightly rates for hotels, B&Bs and other accommodation providers can be prohibitively expensive, particularly during the summer months. Planning on renting a car for a week or booking an activity? Soaring prices and limited availability can really stretch your budget or even cause you to miss out entirely. Save yourself some money by planning a visit this winter.

## 2-Escape the crowds



On top of Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh.

If you have always dreamt of wandering down the Royal Mile in Edinburgh, witnessing the legendary Fairy Pools on Skye, or capturing the evocative ruins of Doune Castle. Do yourself a favour and considering scheduling your visit to Scotland's most popular attractions during the winter months. You will have to deal with the shorter days and the greater likelihood of rain and inclement weather, but the chance to savour the country's most special places without jostling for space or having the experience marred by congested roads and endless queues is worth it.

## 3-Go walking in a winter wonderland

It's no secret that Scotland's iconic landscapes can be especially spectacular during the winter months. The low-hanging

winter sun illuminates the Highlands and rugged coastline in an amber glow which is a joy to photograph. What's more, this highly Instagram-able 'golden hour' is extended at this time of year. You will also find that the dark-heavy clouds, moody light-effects, and even the rain renders mysterious locations like Loch Ness even more beautiful. Add a light dusting of frost and Scotland's landscapes positively sparkle.

## 4-Spectacular sunrises and sunsets



The winter glow of the Highlands.

Scotland's northerly location produces some phenomenal sunrises and sunsets. To witness these during the summer months, you have to rise as early as 4am and stay up well into the evening to catch them. Not so in winter. Sleep in as late as 9am and you can watch the sky turn dramatic hues of orange, pink and red before watching the spectacle repeat itself when the sun goes down by 4pm. Juxtaposed against snow-blanketed mountains, frozen lochs and empty stretches of beach, dawn and dusk in Scotland at this time of year is truly special.

## 5-Winter festivals

Scots know how to keep themselves entertained at this cold time of year. It's no accident that many of our most celebrated events and traditions fall over the winter period. The season kicks off with St Andrew's Day on November 30 – our national day which honours our patron saint and unique cultural identity. Events and get-togethers are held across the whole country and may even extend into December. There are also a plethora of Christmas and festive markets to enjoy across all of Scotland's seven cities, and many of our towns and villages, throughout the advent season. Then, of course, there's Hogmanay – a unique Celtic tradition that marks the New Year.

## 6-Up Helly Aa



Viking fun at Up Helly Aa.

But perhaps out of all of Scotland's winter festivals, the most unique is Up Helly Aa, an annual fire festival held every winter across the Shetland Isles which harks back to the islands' distinct Viking heritage. The largest and most popular Up Helly Aa festival takes place in Shetland's capital of Lerwick on the last Tuesday on January every year. Watch as thousands of 'guizers' dressed up as Norsemen and all other kinds of fancy form a torch-lit procession down to the harbour. Here a beautiful purpose-built wooden long-ship is berthed before being torched by the revellers. As with Hogmanay, the party continues long into the night as everyone hops from bar to dancehall, to bar, then back again.

## 7-Burns Night



Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns.

Finally, to mark the end of the winter festivals is Burns' Night on 25 January, the birthday of Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns, which celebrates his life and poems. The highlight of every Burns' Night event is his poem *Address to a Haggis* which is usually performed as the night's main course – haggis, neeps and tatties – is served for dinner.

## 8-Snowsports adventures



Scotland a skiers delight.

Whether you are a seasoned mountaineer or a complete newcomer to the world of snowsports, the Scottish Highlands are a great place to be of all kinds of outdoor adventures.

From indoor ice-climbing at the Scottish Climbing Centre in Kinlochleven to hitting the slopes at ski resorts including Glencoe and Nevis Range by Fort William, or Glenshee and The Lecht in the Cairngorms, Scotland as plenty of options when it comes to making the most of the snowy conditions. Even if you aren't a skier or a snowboarder, the view from the top of the mountains is something to savour.

## 9-Winter wildlife



Monarch of the Glen.

The trees might be bare, but not all of Scotland's wildlife is deep in hibernation. The barren winter landscapes makes this one of the easiest times of year to catch a glimpse of rarely-seen creatures in Scotland's forests and wilderness areas including many species of deer, mountain hares, red squirrels and ptarmigans. Winter is also the season when vast numbers of geese travel to Scotland from their breeding grounds further up north - a prime sighting for keen birdwatchers.

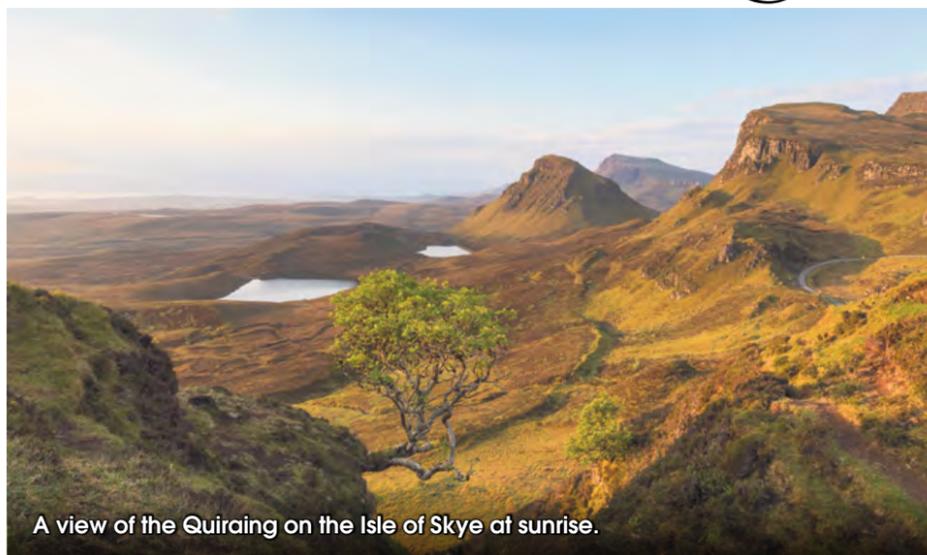
## 10-Winter warmers



Scottish culinary delights.

Scotland's cuisine is delicious year-round. But this is the perfect time of year to enjoy certain dishes. Creamy porridge, mouth-watering stews concocted from harvested vegetables and local game; nourishing soups like cullen skink and cock-a-leekie; delectable shortbread, cranachan and cloutie dumpling; all washed down with a dram of the finest malt. It goes without saying that Scotland's foodie staples are best enjoyed during the winter season in front of a roaring fire.

# Isle be loving Scotland



A view of the Quiraing on the Isle of Skye at sunrise.

VisitScotland has run a poll to find out which Scottish islands people would most like to visit. The poll, run by the national tourism organisation to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the novel *Robinson Crusoe*, thought to be based on the life of Scottish castaway Alexander Selkirk, asked 1227 respondents from across the country to select the island or islands they wanted to visit most. The top three islands were the Isles of Skye, Arran and Harris, closely followed by the Orkney and Shetland Islands, as well as the Isle of Lewis. The Isles of Mull and Islay were also very popular and Bute, Barra, Iona and Tiree and Colonsay also made the top Scottish islands to visit.

Organised through ScotPulse, the first online research panel just for Scotland, the poll informed respondents about the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Robinson Crusoe* and its Scottish connections before asking them which of Scotland's islands they would most like to visit. Fieldwork took place in September and respondents were evenly distributed in age, gender and location.

*Robinson Crusoe* was written by Daniel Defoe and published in 1719. Often credited as marking the beginning of realistic fiction as a literary genre, it is a contender for the first English novel and is presented as an autobiography of the title character - a castaway who spends 28 years on a remote tropical

desert island near Trinidad, encountering cannibals, captives, and mutineers, before ultimately being rescued.

## The popularity of Scotland's islands

It is widely considered to be inspired by the life of real-life castaway Alexander Selkirk who lived for four years on a Pacific island called "Más a Tierra", now part of Chile, which was renamed Robinson Crusoe Island in 1966. Selkirk was from Lower Largo in Fife and the town has a bronze statue and plaque in memory of him as well as a sign pointing to Robinson Crusoe Island.

The timing of the poll is particularly apt as Scotland prepares to celebrate the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020, a year-long programme of events and activities which will shine a spotlight on these vital elements of our landscape.

Chris Taylor, VisitScotland Regional Leadership Director, said: "As a country we are blessed with a vast number of fantastic islands, each with their own unique offering. The Shetland and Orkney Islands, Skye and the Outer Hebrides have all received coveted accolades this year, suggesting our islands are becoming an increasingly attractive proposition for visitors. This latest poll further highlights the popularity of Scotland's islands and I'm delighted to see such a range of islands from across the country voted for. At VisitScotland we have a marketing focus on sharing the tourism windfall in lesser known parts of the country outwith peak times to ensure that every part of the country enjoys the benefits it brings."

World record set as whisky sells for £1.5 million



A rare bottle of Macallan 1926 60-year-old Scotch whisky has set a new world record after fetching £1.5 million at auction. The 60-year-old Macallan, described as the "holy grail" of whisky, from cask #263 was the headline sale of the Ultimate Whisky Collection auction, which was held by Sotheby's in London. More than 460 bottles have gone on sale during the auction, including 178 bottlings from The Macallan Fine & Rare series. The Macallan Fine & Rare 60 Year Old 1926 bottle (42.6% ABV) was offered for auction by a private American collector and had been estimated to sell for £350,000-£450,000 – less than a third of the final auction price. The 60-year-old bottle is the first to appear from the Fine and Rare series in more than a decade. It breaks the previous world record for the most expensive whisky set by the only bottle of the 1926 Macallan featuring a hand-painted design by Irish artist Michael Dillon. The bottle went under the hammer at Christie's in London and sold for £1.2m at auction.



## Tartan of the Month

### Highland Celebration 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).

Inspired by the clan tartans, this tartan (SRT ref: 12553) celebrates the Highlands and the colours found there. The design is inspired in part by the landscape of the Highlands and in part by the history, with elements of some traditional clan tartans and a nod to the events of the Jacobite uprising. This tartan was designed by Ruth Black who is based in the Highlands and was registered in July, 2019.

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Crawford Logan as Scrooge in An Edinburgh Christmas Carol. Photo: Laurence Winram.

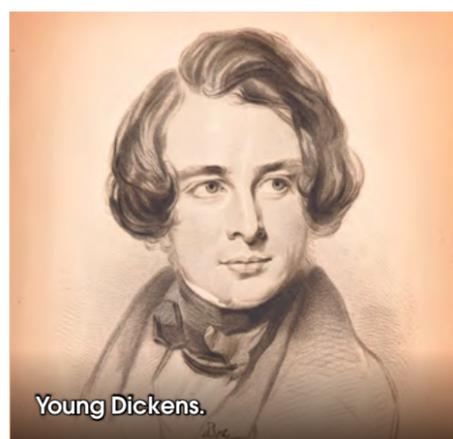
By: Judy Vickers

# How an Edinburgh grave inspired a Christmas Carol

**As the holiday season approaches one of the worlds most famous holiday productions, A Christmas Carol, will be played across the world on stages and televisions. Some may be surprised to learn the inspiration for the Charles Dickens classic character Ebenezer Scrooge came from a Scot who was buried in Edinburgh, as Judy Vickers explains.**

His visit to Edinburgh in 1841 was a whirl of activity; the young Charles Dickens, not yet 30 but already the acclaimed author of soon-to-be classics such as *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*, was feted at parties, given the freedom of the city and applauded for a literary lecture.

But somewhere in between meeting Edinburgh's glitterati and being mobbed by an adoring public during his 12-day stay, the author managed to fit in a stroll through Canongate Kirkyard. And here he came across something which proved rather more valuable than any of the dinners given in his honour by lords and ladies – it was the inspiration for one of his most famous characters. He came across



Young Dickens.

a tombstone engraved "Ebenezer Lennox Scroggie - a meal man" and misread it as "mean man", an epitaph that haunted him. He wrote in his notebook: "I thought it was a grievous message for Eternity. The Scots are famous for frugality but mean man was an advertisement of a shrivelled soul... this was the emblem of a life surely wasted."

## A Christmas Carol

But it was the shrivelled soul of the slightly renamed Scrooge which captured the public's imagination when *A Christmas Carol* was published two years later. The story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his miserly ways, and his visits one Christmas Eve from four ghosts – that of his former business partner and of the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet To Come – who teach him to change his ways is famous around the globe. And it is in a graveyard, confronted with the neglected tomb bearing his own name, that Scrooge repents his past and promises he is not the man he was.

But Dickens' misreading of meal man – meaning corn merchant – for mean man has had the consequence that the real Ebenezer Scroggie has now gone down in history as the inspiration for the world's most miserly man. "By all accounts, Scroggie was a really jovial, happy generous sort of guy, someone who doesn't really deserve to be associated

with the Ebenezer Scrooge we know," says Tony Cownie, the writer and director of *An Edinburgh Christmas Carol*, this year's festive production at the Royal Lyceum Theatre in the Scottish capital, which sets the story back in the city which inspired it.

Scroggie, a cousin of the economist Adam Smith, was born in Kirkcaldy in 1792 – the name comes from a village in Perthshire. A merchant dealing in wine, whisky and corn, Scroggie secured the first contract to supply whisky to the Royal Navy offices at Leith, and even became the chief beverages supplier for King George IV's visit to the Capital in 1822, providing bottles of "Scroggie's Highland Brandie". He lived in the Grassmarket and was well-known for throwing parties – legend has it that he goosed the Countess of Mansfield at a General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and that he got a maidservant pregnant.

He died in 1836 and was buried in the Kirkyard's cemetery - metres away from his famous cousin Adam Smith and just five years before Dickens' stroll. The grave itself was lost in 1932 in redevelopment work.

## Moved by this trip to Edinburgh

As for Dickens, he was greatly moved by this trip to Edinburgh and his subsequent journey to the Highlands. He was travelling with his wife Catherine, whose father George Hogarth was born and brought up in the city. Hogarth, who had trained as a lawyer in Edinburgh with clients including Sir Walter Scott, gave Dickens his first break, inviting him to contribute more of his "street sketches" to the publication he edited, the *Evening Chronicle* in London. The series would eventually be collected as his first work, *Sketches By Boz*, in 1836. Hogarth's wife, Georgina, was the daughter of George Thomson, the publisher and friend of Burns. No doubt his father-in-law's Edinburgh illustrious connections, as well as Dickens' own reputation, helped to make his Edinburgh trip such a whirl of social engagements; his itinerary includes dinners with the judge and literary critic Lord Francis Jeffrey, the painter William Allen and publishers Alexander and Robert Blackwood.

He was presented with the freedom of the city and given a scroll, which he kept in his study for the rest of his life. Crowds gathered wherever he went – he wrote the day after arriving at the city: "The hotel is perfectly besieged, and I have been forced to take refuge in a sequestered apartment at the end of a long passage." When he and Catherine took a trip to the Adelphi Theatre, the orchestra burst into a chorus of *Charlie is My Darling*. He gave a speech to the crowds which were gathering wherever he went, saying: "I believe I shall never hear the name of the capital of Scotland without a thrill of gratitude and pleasure. I shall love, while I have life, her people, her hills, and her houses, even the very stones of her streets."

## Iconic tales

But the fact that he also made time for dinner with Dr William Alison, a medical professor at Edinburgh University and social reformer, which may give a clue to why Dickens was strolling in the Canongate in the first place. Alison was a campaigner for the relief of poverty, believing that overcrowding and insanitary conditions were leading to the spread of disease. Poverty – and the plight of the poor – was a passion of Dickens, a reflection of his own deprived childhood and reflected in the themes and characters of his books. The Royal Mile at the time of his 1841 visit was in a sorry state; with the building of the New Town, between the 1760s and 1830s, its wealthier citizens had decamped to the stylish streets across the valley from the drained Nor Loch. The High Street, and more latterly the Canongate, had gone into a decline and were rapidly becoming slums.

Dickens describes a trip to the Old Town in which he saw "more poverty and sickness in an hour than people would believe in, in a life" and talks of seeing in a slum tenement "a little, feeble, wan sick child. With his little wasted face, and his bright attentive eyes, I can see him now, as I have seen him for several years, looking steadily at us." One of his most impassioned speeches, fundraising for The Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children in London, specifically recalls the miserable sights he saw in Edinburgh.

Dickens and his wife left Edinburgh on July 4, heading to Callander via Stirling, walking by Loch Katrine in the evenings, then on to Lochearnhead, where Dickens continued to work on his next novel *Barnaby Rudge*, before taking in Glencoe which he described as "perfectly horrific". Then it was back to London. And while this wasn't his last trip to Scotland - he was back in Edinburgh in 1847, when he said he was "sorry to report the Scott Monument a failure" – it was his month-long summer stay in 1841 which has given Christmas one of its most iconic tales.



Canongate Kirkyard, Edinburgh.



Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh.

# 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.



## The Lorne Cinema

*Born in a tenement in Gorbals Cross,  
Of a' the teddy boys, he wis the boss,  
He had a razor six feet wide,  
Killed a' the folk and threw them in the Clyde.*

My Aunt Peggy worked in the ticket office at the Lorne Cinema and my cousin, June, was the girl who sold the ice creams and drinks. They had got me a job there as an usher or 'chucker oot' as the locals would have said. My aunt and my cousin worked at the Lorne Cinema in Kinning Park, part-time, and over and above their day-time jobs. It gave them the extra income to go on continental holidays each year at a time when most Glaswegians were still heading off to Saltcoats and other Clyde Coast resorts for their summertime respites. The Fair Fortnight stemming back to medieval times was Glasgow's traditional holiday time when most of its heavy industry closed down completely and the city took a deep breath of fresh seaside air.

I had already been the beneficiary of the castanets, bull horns, pennants, flags and other souvenir items from Majorca, Spain, Portugal and Yugoslavia over the years from these more exotic Fair Fortnight excursions of my aunt and cousin.

## The Lorne

I was now in uniform, chocolate brown with brass buttons, gold piping and nice big epaulettes. The other staff consisted of the manager, an alcoholic who we rarely saw, the projectionist who we never saw, and the head usher or gaffer, Alec, who did all the locking up but who otherwise kept well out of the way. There was a young woman usherette up in the balcony among the nice people who had paid extra. We never saw much of her either. John was the other usher and he and I were on together at the weekends, on busy nights and we both worked some nights the rest of the time on our own in the stalls. We were the people who led people to their seats with our torches and politely asked youths to take their feet off the backs of the seats and tone things down when they were getting boisterous.

They got me the job at the Lorne when I was seventeen and still at school. I worked a shift of four nights a week at the cinema and had to juggle this with my homework and study commitments, as well as being able to spend time with my girlfriend, Jean. She often came over to the cinema by bus and met me at closing time and then I saw her back home to Pollok on the bus. On the quiet nights I could park myself in front of

a pillar and even watch most of the picture and talk to her, occasionally guiding a patron or two to their seats with my torch. At the busy times it could get quite boisterous at the Lorne. There were the Saturday afternoon matinees and lost kids to attend to and on Friday and Saturday nights the local hooligans to cope with.

The gaffer, Alec, required John, the other usher and me to constantly monitor whether people were putting their feet up onto the backs of the seats, although that was about the least of our worries. This often caused a bit of an altercation with rowdy and un-co-operative patrons, but then Alec, 'the heid yin' would be nowhere to be seen. He was always out of sight, busying himself somewhere else at the first sign of trouble. John was a good person to have around, a pleasant bloke but a bit of a Glasgow hard man. He worked at a brewery during the day and had ready access to some strange alcoholic concoctions. He often had a half bottle of near enough 100+ proof spirit secreted in the inside pocket of his usher's uniform and was not always fighting fit by the end of the evening.

## Scots wa hae Wi' Wallace bled

I dreaded some of the so-called popular films for they would run for six or seven nights instead of the usual three or four. I saw *April Love* and heard Pat Boone sing the title song enough times to last me a lifetime. That made me finally move on to other things, but not before I had witnessed a touching end to a night at

the pictures by the people of Govan, the place of my birth. It was customary for all performances at cinemas and theatres to end with the playing of the British National Anthem and everyone, including me, dutifully stood to attention until the end of *God Save the Queen*, before moving off to the exits and our homes.

I was working my shift as usual on what was the evening of St Andrews Day, the 30<sup>th</sup> November 1960. However, when the anthem started up that evening, a small group of patrons burst out into singing *Scots wa hae Wi' Wallace bled*, which together with *Scotland the Brave* had over time become our country's unofficial anthems. Quite spontaneously everyone else in the cinema joined in and 'gave it laldy'. As the scratchy recording and refrain of *God Save the Queen* died away *Scots Wa Hae* continued with vigour. I walked to my bus that night with a new spring in my step, inspired by this simple, peaceful act of protest against an anthem that often had little emotional affect upon Scottish citizens. That would have been especially pertinent if they had known the other verses of the song as first performed on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1745, in the theatre in Dury Lane in London which included;

*"Lord grant that Marshal Wade,  
may by thy mighty aid,  
Victory bring.  
May he sedition hush, and like a torrent rush,  
Rebellious Scots to crush.  
God save the King."*

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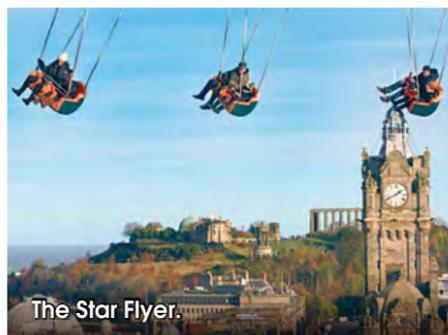
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# Edinburgh's popular annual Christmas celebration returns for 2019



Princes Street alive with festive fun.



The Star Flyer.

Community Centre in Craigmillar, Drumbrae Library and Community Hub, Corstorphine Community Centre, Gilmerton Community Centre, Pentland Community Centre – Oxgangs, Westside Plaza – Wester Hailes, Granton Primary School, Inch Community Education Centre, The Craggs Centre by Holyrood Park, Craigminty Community Centre and Broomhouse Community Hub.

### Christmas markets

Also new to Edinburgh's Christmas this year and returning after its sell out success at the Edinburgh International Festival 2019, Canadian artists Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller present Night Walk for Edinburgh, an intimate, one-on-one video experience taking audiences on a specially curated tour of Edinburgh's Old Town at twilight. This unique opportunity allows participants to discover a new Edinburgh where history and memory collide and where our perceptions of what is real are challenged. Featuring a three-dimensional soundscape, Night Walk engages all senses as audiences are led through the capital by Janet Cardiff's voice, discovering the city past and present.

Once again East Princes Street Gardens hosts one of the UK's most stunning Christmas Markets, offering a range of craft and food and drink stalls as well as rides and attractions, all against the backdrop of the iconic Edinburgh Castle. The Market's rides include, among others, the famous 60m high Star Flyer with spectacular 360° views of the city centre, equally not-for-the-faint-hearted Forth 1 Big Wheel, the most Instagrammable Christmas spot in Edinburgh the Christmas Tree Maze, fairground staple – Helter Skelter and, for the keen little travellers, Santa Train.

Castle Street once again becomes Santa's Edinburgh base this Christmas with his Grotto welcoming naughty and nice children every day until Christmas Eve. 24 Doors of Advent returns to offer a peek behind the scenes of some of Edinburgh's key institutions and venues, including the home to Scottish rugby, BT Murrayfield Stadium, The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre, a centre for spiritual and mental wellness named in honour of the famous writer who spent many years studying spiritualism and the iconic Robin Chapel with its stunning stained-glass windows. The Nativity Scene moves this year to the Mound beneath the Christmas Tree donated by the Hordaland County Council in Norway. The Nativity Carol Concert, organised in conjunction with Edinburgh Churches Together, takes place at 3pm on 1 December on Mound Place.

### One of the best Christmas celebrations in Europe

Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam, producers of Edinburgh's Christmas said: "We're delighted to be returning with our seventh season of Edinburgh's Christmas. The nearly 300,000 unique visitors from Edinburgh and the Lothians in 2018 show what a popular local event it is but it's also the time of year when the city welcomes in hundreds of thousands of visitors and, once again, we're able to provide them with one of the best Christmas celebrations in Europe. We're particularly excited to be able to introduce Community Christmas to twelve different locations across Edinburgh, bringing communities together locally to celebrate Christmas and also to officially start the celebrations on the Royal Mile with Light Night and a very special appearance from Santa Claus. Merry Christmas!"

Edinburgh's Lord Provost, Frank Ross, said: "There is simply no better place to celebrate Christmas than Scotland's Capital. This winter will see Edinburgh's Christmas cheer spread even further across the city. The Festival is a chance for us to celebrate our local talent and creativity and I'm looking forward to the launch of our city's Christmas with Light Night providing a stage for so many local performers. Alongside this, budding young artists will have the chance to showcase their work with Winter Windows, the Christmas markets will be awash with Scottish produce, and this year we will have sensory backpacks available free of charge to make the visit to the festival more accessible for people with autism or who have difficulty processing sensory information."

**Edinburgh's Christmas takes place until 4 January 2020. For details see: [www.edinburghschristmas.co.uk](http://www.edinburghschristmas.co.uk)**



Community Christmas.



All images courtesy of Edinburgh Christmas.

Edinburgh's Christmas 2019, the hugely popular, world-renowned celebrations which last year welcomed almost 1 million unique visitors is again ready to welcome to the world to the Scottish capital this month. This year's offer promises another spectacular festive season for people of all ages to enjoy.

Brand new this season is Community Christmas, a wonderful, free, fun celebration which brings local Edinburgh communities together to spread festive cheer across the whole city. Community Christmas sees 12 locally significant buildings, across all four of Edinburgh's localities, come alive with festive projections over 12 consecutive nights, a new building every night. Each event also features a different local choir performing some of the best-loved festive tunes alongside the projection. The locations are: Abbeyhill Primary School, Sandy's

# Lady MacGregor's Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



Lady MacGregor of MacGregor – otherwise known as British writer and broadcaster Fiona Armstrong - works for ITV news and current affairs. Fiona's husband is the Chief of Clan Gregor, Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor. She is an active member of Clan Armstrong, so their lives are interwoven with all things tartan. The couple live in the Scottish Borderlands, although filming and writing takes Fiona all over Scotland.



Tapestry work by Lady Fiona.

Greetings from a frosty Scotland where the chief and I have been hibernating; wrapping up warm and hugging the fire. With no rush to brave the great outdoors, we are head down in books.

And why not?! Scotland is a nation of readers. This is the land of Robert Burns and Walter Scott. It is the birthplace of Arthur Conan Doyle who gave us Sherlock Holmes. And J.M Barry who invented *Peter Pan*.

Our house is full of books and where we live, we are not that far from Scotland's national book town. Wigtown is about an hour and a half away. It sits on the Galloway coast – and this year this literary centre has come of age.

21 years ago, Wigtown was a run-down place. Over the years the tourists and the curious came to this scholarly part of Scotland and the place has now been invigorated by reading and writing.

Books are big business in Scotland. In fact, the country has more than fifty literary festivals and I am just back from one of my favourites. 'Bookmark' at Blairgowrie in Perthshire is a fairly new event but it is going from strength to strength. Attracting famous authors and thousands of keen readers.

This time I am not just there to sit in the audience and hear a talk. This time, I am singing for my supper. I am interviewing two women, one who's produced a book on wool, the other on cotton and silk.

## Tapestry

On the face of it, knitting and sewing might not sound that exciting. But what fascinating stories these ladies have unearthed!

Clare Hunter comes from Glasgow and her work, *Threads of Life*, is a history of the world through the eye of a needle. It tells how folk have used the language of sewing to make their voices heard over the centuries. From ancient tapestries clothes, to embroidered banners on the battlefield, to silken cushions in our sitting rooms.

Esther Rutter, meanwhile, is the wool lady. She comes from Fife and her book is a gold mine of facts. *This Golden Fleece* tells how knitting has not just been for grannies. There were the gnarled fishermen that sat on the quayside, fashioning their gansies. There were the prisoners of war who knitted to keep up spirits.

Indeed, the most unlikely people could be found click-clacking with their needles. Among them, members of the racy, literary London Bloomsbury set.

It is good to know that the old skills are still alive. Pastimes that might once have been seen as square and now considered stress busters. For my part, I am not averse to a bit of tapestry work. In fact, I can confess to creating a fair few cushions in my time.

## And now, as 24<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan Gregor, my husband's image must join the tartan hall of fame.

I have stitched flowers, birds and animals. This work has been carried out on trains and in cafes. It has been done in kitchens and doctor's waiting rooms. That stubby needle laboriously going in and out.

Now, 'look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves' is the saying. And that is certainly true for a little school I visit this month. For six decades youngsters at Lochmaben Primary in south-west Scotland have been putting money into a charity box. The scheme was started in 1959 by the then headmaster and each week every pupil and member of staff has put in a penny.

The money raised was given to the 'Save the Children'. And now to mark sixty years

of collecting for the charity, the pupils hold a concert. These Scottish youngsters recite poetry and sing songs from far-off lands. And they have reason to celebrate. Over the years they have raised a staggering forty thousand pounds to help children in other parts of the world. It is some achievement.

## Tartan hall of fame

Back at home, meanwhile, we are having an interesting time because the MacGregor chief is being captured on canvas. His ancestors were all painted, and their likenesses hang in the hall. And now, as 24<sup>th</sup> Chief of Clan Gregor, my husband's image must join the tartan hall of fame.

This masterpiece is being created in the dining room. The table pushed back, and dust sheets spread on surfaces. For it is possible that the artist may flick the odd spot of oil paint as he works.

We are lucky to get him. For he is a sought-after Scottish portrait painter. Ewan McLure hails from Aberdeen. Look him up on the internet and you will see his work.

Being painted is not a job for the faint-hearted. The sitter must stay still for hours whilst the artist creates. It can take four days to complete. So, stamina is a must.

Every now and then, the chief is allowed to leave the room to grab a coffee and stretch his limbs. It is my turn next. So, watch this space. When both paintings are finished, you may get a sneak preview...



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# Be together at Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2019

*Edinburgh's Hogmanay programme announced with warm invitation to friends old and new to come together to celebrate in the home of Hogmanay.*

All images courtesy of Edinburgh Hogmanay.



Torchlight Procession.



**B**e together—that is the invitation issued to residents and visitors, to friends old and new by Edinburgh's Hogmanay organisers as they announce a raft of top artists, musicians, authors, puppeteers, street performers, drummers and superstar DJs from Scotland and across the world as part of Edinburgh's Hogmanay. Be Together is more than an invitation, it's the core thematic that runs throughout the 2019 programme which explores Scotland and Edinburgh's relationship with itself and the rest of the world as the international spotlight shines on Scotland's capital.

### The home of Hogmanay

Marking the 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the world's best New Year Party, the three-day festival combines much loved Scottish traditions with the very best contemporary artists and acts from across the world in Edinburgh, the home of Hogmanay. Celebrations are officially ignited on the 30<sup>th</sup> December with the iconic Torchlight Procession in partnership with VisitScotland, the family friendly event which sees a cast of thousands joined by pipers, drummers and fire performers to forge a river of light through Edinburgh's historic heart, culminating in Holyrood Park. Following recent tradition, torchbearers will collectively gather in formation in Holyrood Park to create the outline of a hugely symbolic image of two people joining hands, captured from the air and beamed across the world. There is also a platform for local bands to entertain the crowds in Holyrood Park, culminating in a stunning fireworks display.

Edinburgh's world-famous Street Party features a non-stop six-hour party as Princes Street is transformed and animated by a host of international, UK and Scottish artists. Collaboration and artistic exchange remain at the heart of the festival as Scottish companies work alongside European acts to create bold new performances.

As New Year's Day dawns, and Scotland's celebratory Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 begins, what better way to clear any foggy heads from the night before than with a swift dip in the Firth of Forth?! The much loved, long held traditional Loony Dook returns to the beautiful shores of South Queensferry which sees thousands of brave souls decked out in the finest fancy dress take the plunge into the icy waters to welcome in the New Year, raising thousands of pounds for a range of charities in the process.

### The biggest and best Street Party in the world

As dusk falls on January 1<sup>st</sup> Message from the Skies returns to illuminate Edinburgh's buildings, streets and monuments until Burns Night on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020, this year taking inspiration from Scotland's coasts and waters and looking at the central role they've had and continue to have in moulding Scottish identity. Marking the beginning of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters, Message from the Skies 2020 sees five Scottish authors; Charlotte Runcie, Irvine Welsh, Kathleen Jamie, Kayus Bankole and Robin Robertson pen a love letter to Scotland, exploring how we regard ourselves as a coastal nation while considering how the world sees us. The letter will be a living letter, animated and brought to life through a set of new and



Loony Dook.

unique collaborations with composers, visual artists and artists working to realise the letters in live animation which will then be projected across the city.

**Edinburgh is the world's festival city with internationally renowned festivals year-round and Edinburgh's Hogmanay kicks them off at the beginning of every year.**

Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "Edinburgh's Hogmanay truly remains the place to be to ring in the new year and this year's exciting programme is no exception. An internationally-acclaimed event, Hogmanay draws crowds from across the world but also remains uniquely ours.

It brings new entertainment and attractions but also continues to honour our long-held traditions. So, whether you join the Torchlight Procession, spend your midnight moment as part of the biggest and best Street Party in the world or if you begin the next decade with a brave Loony Dook. Make sure to be here, be part of it and be together."

Edinburgh is the world's festival city with internationally renowned festivals year-round and Edinburgh's Hogmanay kicks them off at the beginning of every year.

For more details see: [www.edinburghshogmanay.com](http://www.edinburghshogmanay.com)



Midnight fireworks.

# Over 120,000 people attend The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Sydney

All photos courtesy of Cristina Moir/Michael Cassel Group.



The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo was inspired by a simple show called *Something About a Soldier* performed in 1949 at the Ross Bandstand below Edinburgh Castle. 70 years on, the Tattoo has become a worldwide phenomenon, with a remarkable live audience of 220,000 at Edinburgh Castle each August and a global TV audience of 100 million that continues to captivate the hearts and minds across the globe. The word tattoo is derived from a Dutch word for the signal played on a drum or bugle to summon soldiers back to their barracks at night. The term evolved in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to mean a form of evening performances given by military bands.

including the UK, Switzerland, France, Tonga, Fiji, Cook Islands, New Zealand and Australia as well as, for the first time ever, acts from Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu.

### A worldwide phenomenon

This production boasted all the hallmark elements of the world-famous Scottish military and cultural event including traditional crowd favourite songs *Auld Lang Syne* and *Scotland The Brave* in addition to contemporary favourites, including a special performance by John Paul Young singing his much-loved classic, *Love Is In The Air*, joined by the entire cast of the Sydney 2019 Tattoo.



and I couldn't be prouder of the stellar team that joined us to deliver these shows – representing a who's who of the world's best major event and ceremonies production teams. The performances, from our cast of 1521, were thrilling and the audience enjoyment palpable. I'm most grateful to our Producer and CEO of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Brigadier David Allfrey MBE, for his creativity, trust and collaboration. It truly was an experience we will never forget".

Audiences were treated to a culturally diverse production with 33 musical, folkloric and military groups including 297 of the very best Pipers and Drummers, 630 Military performers, 42 Shetland Fiddlers, 102 Tattoo Dancers, 4 Indigenous Song Men and 195 Cultural Performers from Australia and abroad. The Sydney 2019 production had 14 nations represented



The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo ended its 4-show run at Sydney's ANZ Stadium with over 120,000 people attending the historic production.

The major event featured a record-breaking 1521 cast making it the largest ever production in the Tattoo's 69-year history.

### Culturally diverse production

Australian Producer, Michael Cassel said "The four stadium shows are the culmination of three year's planning,

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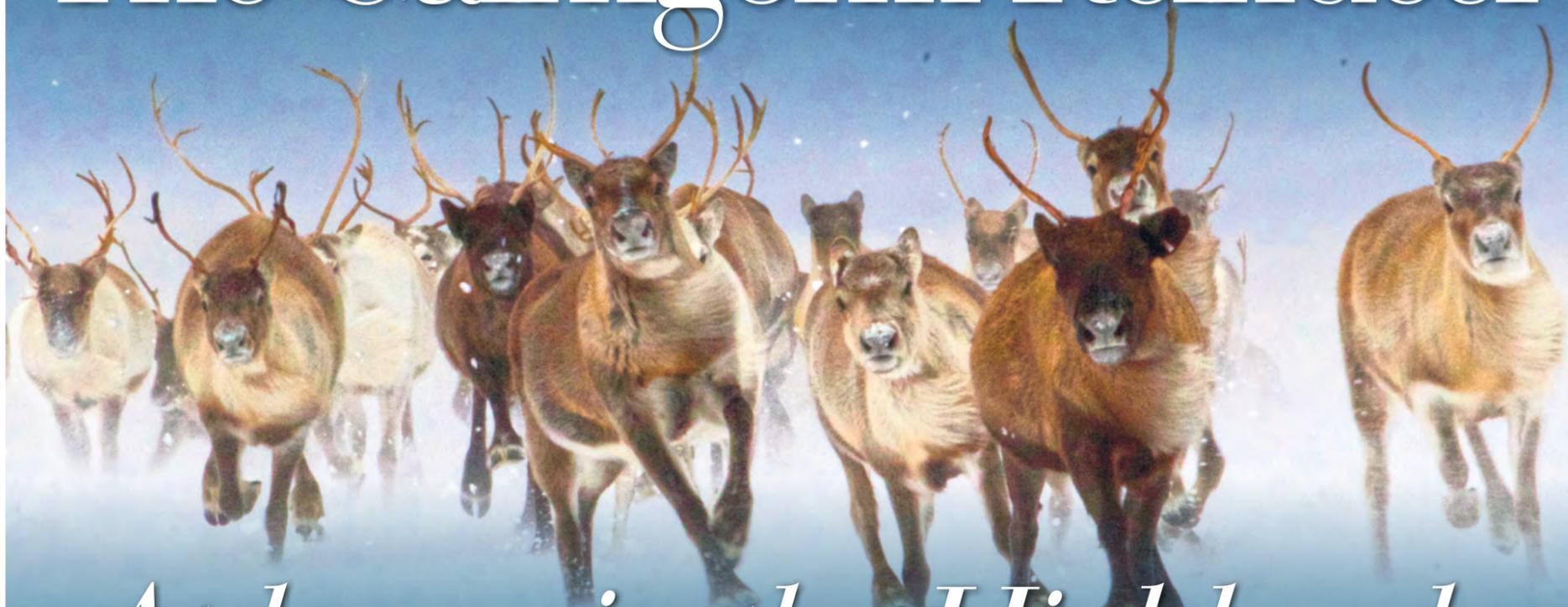
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# The Cairngorm Reindeer



## At home in the Highlands

All images courtesy of the Cairngorm Reindeer Herd.

***This month see's the eyes of the world looking out for reindeer to deliver the magic of the holiday's for millions of children. For nearly 70 years the beautiful Cairngorms have been home to Britain's only free ranging herd of reindeer. The team who mange the Cairngorm Reindeer Herd took the time to answer some questions about how the herd found their home in the Highlands, have thrived there and how they help bring Christmas joy to people across the UK.***

**The Cairngorm Reindeer Herd is Britain's only free-ranging herd of reindeer found in the Cairngorm mountains in Scotland. And whilst it is believed the Vikings hunted reindeer how did they get reintroduced to Scotland?**

Our herd were reintroduced in 1952 by a Sami reindeer herder, Mikel Utsi, and his wife Ethel Lindgren. From the original eight reindeer, with a few more imports over the years to keep the bloodlines varied, the herd has grown to around 150. We maintain the number at this by managing the breeding - none of our reindeer are sold or used for meat.

**The Cairngorm National Park is in one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland. It is also UK's largest National Park and a thriving habitat for reindeer. Can you tell us why the park is so perfect for the reindeer?**

The Cairngorms offer the only sub-arctic eco-system left in the UK. This habitat offers a cooler climate and ideal food plants for the reindeer, including ample lichen which is essential for them in winter. There is also a vast area of wild mountainous land for the reindeer to roam free on in their natural habitat - meeting all of their needs.

**Training for the reindeer to pull a sleigh can start from when they are five months old, takes three years and involves them being castrated. Can you tell us more?**

Just like socialising a puppy, it is essential that reindeer are exposed to different sights and sounds from a young age, so they don't become worried by any situation. As a herd animal, they learn best from other reindeer, so all our handling is done alongside older animals, who lead by example.

There is also plenty of tasty food involved as bribery! The calves are trained to walk on a headcollar at five months old, join the big boys at Christmas events, and then are introduced to wearing a simple harness. By the time they first pull a sleigh, alongside an experienced reindeer, at three years old, they rarely bat an eyelid and tend to act as if they've done it all their life. We castrate most of our male reindeer when they are fully grown at three years old as this helps prevent inbreeding and training them to harness gives them an ongoing purpose in life!



The Christmas team.



Reindeer in summer.



**This month is no doubt a very busy one for the herd with Christmas fast approaching. How does the herd help people across the UK celebrate the festive season?**

Our docile mature male castrated reindeer are trained to pull the sleigh and head out in teams of six on short trips to meet the public across the UK. They are well-socialised from a young age and as a domesticated animal take it all in their stride. There is a common misconception that reindeer are 'wild' but in fact they have been domesticated for thousands of years, like dogs and horses, so are used to working alongside people.

**Many kids will leave a carrot or cookie out for Santa and his reindeer on Christmas. Can you tell us what reindeer most enjoy feeding on?**

The favourite food of the reindeer is actually lichen, which grows high on the mountains on the ground among the heather. It's not the most nutritious of feed but contains enough goodness to help the reindeer through the winter when other food is scarce. They also enjoy a special cereal mix that we give them as a supplementary feed, a bit like your porridge. The only time reindeer are allowed carrots is on Christmas eve, as they help them to see when flying in the dark!

**Some may be surprised to learn that reindeer are the only species of deer in which both the males and the females grow antlers. Why do antlers fall off the reindeer each year?**

There are a couple of reasons. Antlers are made of solid bone, so once they have hardened at the end of the summer, they cannot grow any more.



Therefore, in order to grow a bigger, better set the next year, the reindeer must cast them and start afresh. The other reason is that carrying the extra weight of antlers (up to 12kg for the bulls) through the heavy winter snows seriously compromises their chances of survival. The bulls only need them for dominance during the autumn rut, then cast them immediately after, usually before Christmas (which says something about Rudolph!). The females hold their (much smaller) antlers longer which means they are in charge in winter, when they are pregnant and most in need of the food.

**The herd has grown quite a bit since the 1950s to over 150 today. What, either positive or negative, impacts to the local environment do you need to keep an eye on?**

Whilst reindeer are a native species here in the Highlands and are comparatively light on the ground, we are still careful to ensure our numbers don't grow to a point where they impact the grazing. We have held the number at around 150 for the last twenty or so years, which keeps grazing pressure low whilst giving us enough genetic diversity to prevent inbreeding. We also limit the numbers as every reindeer has a name and there is a limit to how many we can remember!



**Reindeer of course are very much a part of Highland culture and are more than just for Christmas. How can visitors to Aviemore interact with the herd when in Scotland throughout the year?**

We have the Reindeer Centre open in Glenmore from February to Hogmanay, with daily guided trips to see the herd on the hillside. This is the perfect way for people to meet and learn about reindeer in their natural habitat and experience the conditions that they are so well adapted to firsthand. The reindeer are incredibly friendly and delighted to come and eat out of visitors' hands. We also have a small group of reindeer in the Paddocks at the Centre from Easter to Hogmanay, which allows those unable to make the walk onto the hillside to still see some of our beautiful animals.



*The Cairngorm Reindeer Herd are in Aviemore in the Highlands of Scotland. For details see: [www.cairngormreindeer.co.uk](http://www.cairngormreindeer.co.uk)*



A Christmas parade.

IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Inverness, the capital of the Highlands.

## Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Inverness ranked among top 10 cities to live and work in UK

Inverness, Edinburgh and Aberdeen are ranked top in Scotland, and among the top 10 locations overall in league tables of the best cities to live and work in the UK. The latest Demos-PwC Good Growth for Cities Index shows Aberdeen leapfrogging Edinburgh (7<sup>th</sup> position) into sixth spot in the UK. A separate index covering just Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland puts Inverness in pole position, ahead of other Scottish and UK cities, including Aberdeen, thanks to its quality of life. PwC says the two indices have been calculated differently so it is not possible to directly compare them. The UK-wide index covers 42 cities and is based on 11 indicators of socio-economic growth. These include employment, health, income and skills, while housing affordability, commuting times, environmental factors and income inequality are also included, as is the number of new business start-ups. Oxford retained its place as the top ranked city in the UK this year, followed by Reading and Southampton. Bristol and Milton Keynes round off the top five.

### Archaeologists put face to 600 year-old medieval man



The face of a medieval man whose remains were found during Aberdeen Art Gallery's redevelopment has been

revealed to the world for the first time in at least 600 years thanks to amazing facial reconstruction technology. The man, known only as Skeleton 125 (SK125) was among 60 entire skeletons and 4272 human bone fragments from at least 381 individuals discovered on the site of the Art Gallery shortly after the redevelopment work began in 2015. The discovery resulted in construction work being suspended to allow for archaeological investigations.

Following extensive post-excavation research, AOC Archaeology Group have reconstructed SK125 and concluded that he was a mature adult male over 46 years old. At between 159 and 166cm tall (5'2" - 5'5"), he was shorter than the average male for the later medieval period. He suffered from extensive dental disease, including tooth loss, periodontal disease, cavities and a chronic abscess.

Dr Paula Milburn of AOC Archaeology Group explained: "SK 125 has provided us with a first fascinating glimpse of one of the people buried on the site of Aberdeen Art Gallery over 600 years ago. The on-going post-excavation work is examining the remains in detail and will provide us with amazing information on the kind of people buried here, including their ages, gender, health and lifestyles."

Dr Milburn added that the man displayed the effects of age, with degenerative joint disease observed in the middle and lower back. Research also indicated that, while many individuals buried at the site display 'local' values – consistent with growing up on soils local to Aberdeen – he was not local to Aberdeen but perhaps spent his childhood in an area such as the north-west Highlands or Outer Hebrides. Fascinatingly, sulphur isotope data – which can reveal residence later in life – indicates that he may have spent the last years of his life in or around Aberdeen."

The Art Gallery was built in 1885 on the site of the former Blackfriars Dominican Friary, believed to have been founded between AD1222–1249. The friary and its church, dedicated to St John the Baptist, were destroyed by reformers in AD1560.

Excavations outside the Gallery uncovered a red brick chancel house containing three Victorian coffins, holding a mass of disarticulated human remains. Inside the Gallery excavations revealed in situ burials including the 60 skeletons and the remainder of the human bones. SK125 was recovered from the lowest level of the burials, with other skeletons dated to the period 1050 to 1410. Of the 60 skeletons, 56 were adults (18+ years), one an adolescent (13 years) and three were children of six, eight and 11 years of age. Of the adult skeletons, 26 were male and six were female, and they ranged in age from 18 to 25 through to 46 years and older. The remains provided evidence of a strenuous, physically active lifestyle with high rates of dental disease.

### Bank of Scotland unveils two new £20 polymer note designs



The Bank of Scotland has unveiled the design of its new Polymer £20 note which will enter circulation early in the new-year. The front of the note will continue to feature the portrait of the Scottish novelist and poet, Sir Walter Scott, alongside the image of The Mound in Edinburgh. The distinctive red Forth Bridge remains on the reverse which

was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in July 2015. Holders of the new £20 polymer note will recognise a new image of the Forth Bridges, with the Queensferry Crossing visible in the background. In celebration of the longest three-tower, cable stayed bridge in the world, the Queensferry Crossing will be celebrated in its own right by featuring on a limited number of commemorative £20 notes. Sir Walter Scott will remain on the front of the note. Tara Foley, Managing Director Bank of Scotland, said: "Bank of Scotland has issued bank notes for more than 320 years, showcasing the country's proud history. The Queensferry Crossing is the perfect example of Scottish ingenuity and innovation, and that's why we have decided to commemorate the landmark site on a collection of our £20 Polymer notes." Like the £10 Polymer note, the £20 note will also introduce the tactile emboss feature to aid the visually impaired. All existing paper Bank of Scotland £20 notes will be gradually withdrawn following the issue of the new note, but any currently in circulation will continue to be accepted at shops, banks and cash payment machines.

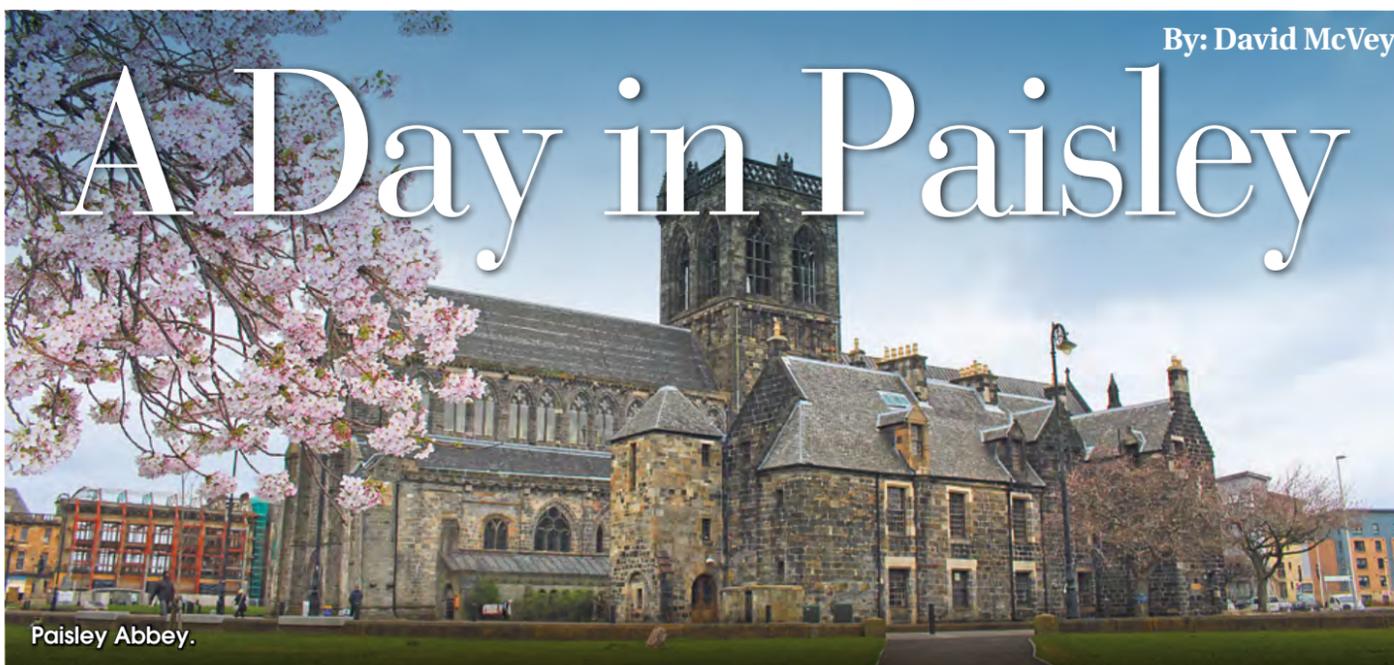
### Skye flag competition in launched



The search has begun for a flag design to represent the Isle of Skye. The competition is open to people of all ages from anywhere on the planet. The competition is being guided by the Court of the Lord Lyon - the ancient body responsible for the registration of all flags and Coats of Arms. The Honorary Vexillologist to the Court of the Lord Lyon, Philip Tibbets has been on Skye visiting schools to encourage the pupils to enter the competition. The final flag design will be unveiled in March, after which it will become a freely useable symbol for all to display and associate with the Isle of Skye. Phillip Tibbets said the key to a successful flag design usually lies in its simplicity and symbolism. He advises entrants to use no more than three basic colours in coming up with a flag that should be bold, distinctive and meaningful. "The flag should be simple enough to draw it from memory, and it shouldn't include writing and other intricate detail which is difficult to see at a distance," he said. "But given Skye's iconic status, the potential for both the design and subsequent usage of a flag for the island is incredible. It's fantastic to see Skye become the latest community to start the journey of developing its own flag to fly proudly alongside the Saltire."

By: David McVey

# A Day in Paisley



Paisley Abbey.

**Situated 10 minutes from Glasgow, Paisley is Scotland's largest town with a rich history especially in textiles. Surrounded by rolling countryside, Paisley is home to a host of architectural treasures, hidden gems and a vibrant history as David McVey explains.**

In the Middle Ages a monk crossed to Scotland from Ireland and built a church near the White Cart Water in modern Renfrewshire. He was later remembered as St Mirin or Mirren and the town that grew up around his church became Paisley.

## Scotland's largest town

Paisley is now Scotland's largest town (anything that's bigger is a city) and is dominated by Paisley Abbey. The abbey dates from 1163, and was dedicated to no less than four saints, only one of whom had a connection with Paisley; St Mirin. The town's Roman Catholic cathedral also carries his name and so, of course, does the town's football club; if you take the train to watch St Mirren FC play, you alight at Paisley St James Station. Paisley is full of saints.

By 1830, much of Paisley Abbey was in ruins, but it has undergone several programmes of restoration since then. The oldest parts date from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, while the adjoining Place (i.e. 'palace') of Paisley is a monastic range of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was also restored during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the Abbey café and shop are based there.

I've been to many places of Christian worship - for example, St Giles' in Edinburgh, Notre Dame in Paris, St Vitus in Prague - where the sheer volume of visitors, all merrily snapping selfies, detracts from the experience. Paisley Abbey is a happier place to visit; still a parish church, it's rarely overrun by tourists and you get a greater sense of what it's for. Inside you'll find the tomb of Robert III, a memorial window to William Wallace, the historic Barochan Cross, and a memorial tablet to John Witherspoon.

Witherspoon was a signatory to the American Declaration of Independence. A minister from East Lothian, he served in Paisley's Laigh Kirk; the building survives as the Paisley Arts Centre. He then moved to the USA where he became president of Princeton University. Witherspoon is well-remembered in Paisley. There's a street named after him and a statue, by Paisley sculptor Sandy Stoddart, stands outside the town's university.

The former Paisley College became the University of Paisley in 1992. I worked there for 14 happy years but, like many others, was

saddened when it changed its name to the vague 'University of the West of Scotland'. It has a fine record of education and research, a proud reputation for attracting students from disadvantaged backgrounds - and Vanish stain remover was developed there!

## Textile town

Paisley was a textile town, a weaving town, a thread town. It became a world centre of the trade in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and specialised in intricately patterned shawls modelled on those formerly imported from Kashmir. They cornered the market so well that these are now widely-known as paisley shawls displaying the paisley pattern.

The profits from Paisley's thread and textiles wealth were ploughed into many of the town's impressive buildings. The Thomas Coats Memorial Baptist Church soars impressively across from the university; the Coats family were a renowned Paisley thread dynasty. Thomas Coats was a devout Baptist, but the building never sat well with a denomination that often favours modest simplicity. The congregation moved out in 2015 and the building is now being refurbished as an events venue.

Paisley Museum claims to be Scotland's first municipal museum; it was built between 1871 and 1884 to a design by John Honeyman and funded by another member of the Coats family. It houses a fine collection of paisley shawls and much else, though at the time of writing it was closed for a major refurbishment.

Near the abbey is the Clark Town Hall, dating from 1882. It was built with a bequest from George A Clark, another textile magnate. It's an imposing building and a popular wedding venue. Across the river, Dunn Square is laid out in Italianate style to match the Town Hall and features several statues, including a stern Queen Victoria, who looks nothing like Jenna Coleman. The square commemorates Sir William Dunn, who was Paisley's MP in the 1890s.

St Mirren FC used to play at a fine old stadium in Love Street, just north of Gilmour Street Station. On your way there from the town centre, you would pass the entrance to Fountain Gardens, a small formal park gifted to the town in 1868 by the Coats family (again). The centrepiece was the Grand Fountain, which was cast by the Glasgow's Sun Foundry.

We think of the Victorians as staid and humourless, a bit like the Queen Victoria statue in Dunn Square. But they created the Grand Fountain which is exuberant, colourful, exotic, funny and plain off-the-wall, with its gilded herons and cherubs squirting jets of water from alligators they hold like machine-guns. And then there are the four life-size walrus cheerfully squirting water from their nostrils.

The Grand Fountain had been showing its age but is now beautifully restored to its original condition having been relaunched in the summer of 2014. I'd dare to call it one of Scotland's great man-made wonders and it really should be better known. You'll like it and it'll make you laugh. Not many fountains manage that.

## Buddies

Paisley folk are known as 'Buddies', though no one is really sure why. Buddies who have achieved fame include *Doctor Who* and *Sherlock* writer Steven Moffat, Scotland cricketer Majid Haq, Scotland footballers Davie Hay and Archie Gemmill, artists John Byrne and Sandy Stoddart and actors Tom Conti, Gerard Butler, David Tennant and Phyllis Logan. The town really punches above its weight in music; think of Kenneth McKellar, Carol Laula, Gerry Rafferty and Paulo Nutini.

The town is particularly proud of Rafferty, a singer-songwriter who had a real purple patch in the late 1970s and early 1980s and whose Baker Street is one of the most recognisable tracks in music. Sadly, he died in 2011 but his home town is very proud of him. There's now a street named Gerry Rafferty Drive and in Browns Lane, near the town centre, there's an impressive mural of Rafferty, based on the cover of his *City to City* album. The original cover was painted by Paisley artist John Byrne while Danny McDermott produced the mural.

There are several music-related pieces of street art around Brown's Lane (I'm not sure what links Jimi Hendrix and John Lennon have to Paisley...) but others address football; perhaps the most impressive celebrates St Mirren FC's Scottish Cup win in 1987.

Paisley has applied in the past to be granted city status, but I think it should instead make the most of being our largest town. Its history, its heritage and its people - Buddies - are hard to match in any city or town.



Queen Victoria statue and Clark Town Hall.



The Grand Fountain.

LIVERPOOL PLAINS SHIRE COUNCIL PRESENT

## LIVERPOOL PLAINS MILITARY TATTOO

SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2020  
QUIRINDI NSW

WWW.LIVERPOOLPLAINSMILITARYTATTOO.COM.AU

# Calling the Clans

Welcome to our "Classified" 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 genealogist. **For information write:**

**Dr. Debra J. Baird, President**

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

**Regional Directors for Australia**

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



## Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

**CHEIF:** Grant Davidson of Davidston cordially invites to membership all who bear one of the Clan Names, and all who can trace their descent from an ancestor bearing one of these Names: Davidson; Davison; Dawson; Davis; Davie; Davey; Davy; Day; Dye; Dyson; Dawson; Dea; Dean; Deane; Deas; Deason; Dees; Dee; Dey; Daw; Dow; Dhai; Kay; Keay; Key; Keys; MacDade; MacDaid; MacDavid; MacDavett; MacDagnie; MacDagny; MacDhai; McKeddie. In addition we welcome into membership all who have a family association with the Clan Davidson. Applications may be made online: [www.clan davidson.org.au](http://www.clan davidson.org.au) or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P. P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhil11@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

## CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

**UK:** London & Southern Counties \* Rannoch & Highlands  
**Canada:** Ontario \* Western Canada  
**Australia:** New South Wales \* Victoria \* Queensland \* Western Australia  
**New Zealand:** New Zealand  
**Europe:** Spain  
**Africa:** South Africa  
**USA:** Arizona \* Carolinas \* Florida \* Gulf Coast \* Mid-Atlantic \* New Mexico \* Mid-West \* Northeast \* Northern California \* Pacific Northwest \* Rocky Mountains \* South \* Southern California \* Texas \* Upper Mid-West



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

<http://www.donnachaidh.com/>

Facebook: [The Clan Donnachaidh Society](https://www.facebook.com/TheClanDonnachaidhSociety)  
Email: [ivc@donnachaidh.com](mailto:ivc@donnachaidh.com)

## Clan Fraser Society of Australia



Invites all Frasers and Fraser septs to join our clan society.

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"  
Membership enquiries to Don Chitts  
Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com  
Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/>  
482236358590288

## Clan Bell North America

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

**Your Bell ancestry is important!**

Visit our web site: [www.clanbell.org](http://www.clanbell.org)  
Contact our Membership Chairperson: Pauline Bell  
1513 Anterra Drive, Wake Forest, NC 27587  
Email: debellinn@reagan.com

## Clan Donald Australia

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

**High Commissioner** Mr Lachlan Macdonald  
**State Commissioners**

NSW Mr Lachlan Macdonald  
Qld Mr A. Neil Macdonald  
SA Ms Therese McCutcheon  
Vic Mr Norman A Macdonald  
WA Ms Pamela McDonald

**secretary.clan donald australia@gmail.com**  
**There is no joy without Clan Donald**

## Clan Dunbar of The House of Gospatric the Earl

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

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

## Clan Galbraith Association

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

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

[www.clan galbraith.org](http://www.clan galbraith.org)

## Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

**Membership inquiries should be directed to:**

Donald E. Bruce Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary  
President 5561 Earl Young Road  
1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Bloomington, IN 47408  
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 [www.familyofbruce.org](http://www.familyofbruce.org)

## Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald  
Ph: 0412 090990  
Email: [clan donald qld@optusnet.com.au](mailto:clan donald qld@optusnet.com.au)  
Web: [www.clan donald qld.org](http://www.clan donald qld.org)  
**ELIGIBILITY:** Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.  
**There is no joy without Clan Donald**

## Edmonstone Clan Society

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

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

## Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland  
Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor  
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balgilder,  
24th Chief of Clan Gregor  
Great Lakes,  
New England,  
Pacific North West,  
Western U.S.  
and Southeast Chapters  
[www.clan gregor.com](http://www.clan gregor.com)  
For membership contact Keith MacGregor  
P.O. Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876  
[kmac1@optonline.net](mailto:kmac1@optonline.net)  
Peter Lawrie, Secretary  
6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland

## Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

**President: Alistair Cameron**  
[cameron490@ozemail.com.au](mailto:cameron490@ozemail.com.au)  
**Secretary: Terry Cameron**  
[jr.ta.cameron@gmail.com](mailto:jr.ta.cameron@gmail.com)

[www.clan-cameron.org.au](http://www.clan-cameron.org.au)

## Clan Donald U.S.A. Inc.

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

**William H. McDaniel**  
**High Commissioner, CDUSA**  
[bill-mcdaniel@att.net](mailto: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 Australasia

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

Frank McGregor - Clan Gregor Society  
PO Box 14  
North Hobart TAS 7002  
Email: [clan gregor australia@gmail.com](mailto:clan gregor australia@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.clan gregor.com](http://www.clan gregor.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](mailto:libertyv93@gmail.com)  
[www.clan-campbell.org.au](http://www.clan-campbell.org.au)

## CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

**CLAN DONALD VICTORIA**

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald  
Contact: [secretary.clan donald vic@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.clan donald vic@gmail.com)  
Formed in 1934, with membership from many MacDonald, McDonald and Macdonald families living in Victoria. Membership available, with dance classes for Scottish Country Dance most Friday evenings in Gardenvale.

**CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE**

Hon Chief: Mrs Christina Milne Wilson  
Contact: [secretary@clan macdonald yarraville.com](mailto:secretary@clan macdonald yarraville.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. Farquharson, MC of Invercauld**

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

**The Secretary: Clan Farquharson Association Australia**  
PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777  
or by Email to: [finlaysb@bigpond.com](mailto:finlaysb@bigpond.com)

## American Clan Gregor Society

**Est 1909** Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

**Gregor Grier MacAdams MacNish Magruder McGehee Gregory King Peter Fletcher Gregg Lecky Black and many others**  
Contacting our registrar, **Jeanne P. Lehr 11 Ballas Crt.**  
**St. Louis, MO 63131-3038**  
Phone: 314-432-2842, [registrar@acgsus.org](mailto:registrar@acgsus.org)  
website: [www.acgsus.org](http://www.acgsus.org)

## Clan Cumming Society of the United States

[www.clan cumming.us](http://www.clan cumming.us)  
[info@clan cumming.us](mailto:info@clan cumming.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. Bonnell Bay NSW 2264

## FORBES

**WEB** [WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG](http://WWW.CLAN-FORBES.ORG)

**f** @CLANFORBESSOCIETY

**ig** @CLANFORBESSOCIETY

**tw** @CLANFORBES1

#CLANFORBES #CLANFORBESSOCIETY  
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**CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG**

## Clan Hamilton Society

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

Inquiries to be sent to:  
Sheri Lambert, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 5399  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061  
visit our website:  
[www.clan hamilton.org](http://www.clan hamilton.org)





## Murray Clan Society of North America

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

**In Canada contact: William J.M. Murray**  
1001 Cordero Crescent  
Campbell River, BC V9H 0C3

**In the U.S. contact: Robert W. Murray**  
2000 Cambridge Ave #329  
Wyomissing, PA 19610-2738



## Clan Shaw Society

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

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



## Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

Email: [clanwardlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:clanwardlaw@yahoo.com)

**'Wardlaw ivermair!'**

[www.clanwardlaw.com](http://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](mailto:noelwright@netspace.net.au)



## Clan Pollock

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

**A. D. Pollock, Jr.**  
PO Box 404  
Greenville, KY 42345  
e-mail: [apollockis@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com)  
[www.clansinclairaustralia.com](http://www.clansinclairaustralia.com)



## Australian Scottish Communtiy (Qld) Inc.

Promoter of International Tartan Day, Brisbane, Queensland

PO Box 3188, South Brisbane 4101  
Bi-Monthly Newsletter, All things Scottish  
All persons of Scottish Descent welcome.  
[www.aussie-scots.org.au](http://www.aussie-scots.org.au) Ph 07 3359 8195  
Email: [secretary@aussie-scots.org.au](mailto:secretary@aussie-scots.org.au),

### Scottish Associations and Societies

## 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](http://www.scottishheritageusa.org)  
email: [shusa@embarqmail.com](mailto:shusa@embarqmail.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](mailto: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.stewartociety.org](http://www.stewartociety.org)



## 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](http://www.chicagoscots.org)**

## The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Founded at a meeting held in Sydney 18 June 1981  
Welcomes membership from all Australians of Scottish descent.  
Applications for membership can be obtained from:

The Hon Secretary, SAHC  
Susan Cooke tel: 02 6355 4158  
Email: [alfredhcooke@gmail.com](mailto:alfredhcooke@gmail.com)  
[www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au)

## Clan Ross America

Representing the great Highland Clan of Ross since 1976.



Paul D Ross, President  
Virg Bumann, VP Membership  
1015 Archer St, San Diego, CA, 92109  
[membership@clanross.org](mailto:membership@clanross.org)  
[info@clanross.org](mailto:info@clanross.org)  
[www.clanross.org](http://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](mailto:william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au)  
<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaustralia>  
Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



## 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](mailto:fios@ozgaelic.org)  
Web: [www.ozgaelic.org](http://www.ozgaelic.org)  
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

## Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

[www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org](http://www.scottishgaelicsocietyvic.org)  
Founded in 1905

**Scottish Gaelic Choir:**

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

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

**Contact** Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277  
**Email:** [scottishgaelicsocietyvic@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.clan-ross.org)  
[clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:richard@langfordmail.net)



## 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](mailto:caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com)  
[www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com](http://www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com)

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER



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**Commissioner: Heather de Sylva**

Membership welcome from Scotts and Septs:  
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Info: Secretary, PO Box 320, Maclean, NSW, 2463

**E: [heatherdesylva@bigpond.com](mailto:heatherdesylva@bigpond.com)**  
**W: [clanscottaustraliagroup.moonfruit.com](http://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](mailto:membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au)

Find us on Facebook:  
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## Hunter Valley Scots Club Inc

Promotes and supports all forms of Scottish culture in Newcastle, Hunter Valley and surrounding areas.  
Members and interested people are welcome to attend activities such as Burns Night, Caledonian Night, St Andrew's Day, and other social functions.

**Web: [hvscots.org](http://hvscots.org) Email: [hunterscots@gmail.com](mailto:hunterscots@gmail.com)**  
**P.O. Box 34, Kotara NSW 2289**

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Established 1905

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Balmoral Highland Dancing Society	Glenbrae Celtic Dancers
Begonia City Highland Dancing Society	Kilmore Celtic Festival
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Clan Donald Victoria	Mornington Peninsula Caledonian Society
Clan Grant	Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
Clan Macdonald Yarraville Inc	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne
Clan Mackenzie of Australia	Robert Burns Club of Camperdown
Clan Maclean Australia	Warmambool & District Caledonian Society
Clan Sinclair Association	Warmambool Caledonian Highland Dancing Society
Clan Sutherland Australia	

**Chief:** Ms Ceilidh McKinna Robertson  
**President:** Mr Douglas Pearce  
**Secretary:** Mrs Jan Macdonald  
**T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930**  
**E: [secretary@victorianscottishunion.com](mailto:secretary@victorianscottishunion.com)**  
[www.victorianscottishunion.com](http://www.victorianscottishunion.com)

# Shetland named as one of the best cruise ship destinations in Europe



Text and images: Shetland Islands Council.

Shetland's tourism industry goes from strength to strength as it was announced that Lerwick has been recognised as one of the best destinations in Britain and Western Europe to visit by cruise ship. Lerwick came third in the list, with Kirkwall in Orkney ranking number one and Cork, Amsterdam and Bruges completing the top five.

The Cruisers' Choice Destination Awards is based on cruise ship passenger ratings posted on the Cruise Critic website, an online cruise guide, featuring more than 350,000 cruise reviews.

"To be placed third in the category is another great accolade, bringing more international recognition that Lerwick and Shetland are providing what passengers and cruise operators want," said Melanie Henderson, Lerwick Port Authority Cruise Manager. "On top of Lonely Planet's recent praise for the islands, it's another tremendous boost for everyone involved in attracting and servicing the highly-competitive cruise sector."

Earlier this year, Shetland was named in the Lonely Planet's top 10 must-see European destinations for 2019, the only UK location included. This latest award is proof that the islands are fast becoming a destination of choice for tourists.

"We're thrilled that Lerwick has been recognised as one of the best places in Britain and Western Europe for cruise passengers to visit," continued Lauren Doughton, Project Manager at Promote Shetland. "The fact that the awards are voted for by the passengers themselves, based on their positive experiences in Shetland, is testament to the warm welcome and first-class facilities they find when they arrive here."

## Lerwick street nominated for national award

With its network of lanes and short distance from Lerwick's historic waterfront, it's little wonder that Commercial Street has been nominated as one of the most beautiful streets in Scotland. Affectionately known as 'Da Street' by locals, it serves as Shetland's main commercial centre and is home to a post office, banks and a number of independent shops, selling everything from knitwear and gifts to camera equipment, clothing and homeware.

Living Lerwick project manager Emma Miller, who entered Da Street for the award, is delighted it made the shortlist. She said "We all know that Commercial Street is a beautiful area, and now we have a chance to confirm that it is the most beautiful in the country! It's easy to forget how lucky we are to have a local high street with such a wide variety of goods and services available – and it's an added bonus that it's pretty stunning to look at."

Da Street faces competition from high streets in Ayr, Innerleithen, Kirkwall, Linlithgow, Lanark, Milngavie and Rothesay



## Royal Conservatoire of Scotland delighted by extension of royal patronage



His Royal Highness, The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, pictured here at the Royal Conservatoire with past student Outlander actor Sam Heughan.

His Royal Highness, The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, has extended his Patronage of Scotland's national conservatoire. Welcoming the announcement, Professor Jeffrey Sharkey, Principal of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, said: "The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland values deeply and benefits from The Duke of Rothesay's Patronage and we are delighted and honoured to have this continue. Our Patron is passionate about the value of the arts to society and is committed, as we are, to the vital importance of early access to and progression in arts education."

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is a world leader in performing arts education and one of Europe's most multi-disciplinary arts education environments, teaching music, drama, dance, production and film. The institution received its royal prefix in 1944 from King George V. The then-Queen Elizabeth assumed the role of Patron, a role in which she continued as Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother until her death in 2002.

During her Patronage, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother officially opened the Conservatoire's purpose-built Renfrew Street building in 1987. She also received the institution's first honorary doctorate at Clarence House on 17 November 1994 to mark her Golden Jubilee as Patron. Following in his grandmother's footsteps, The Duke of Rothesay became Patron in 2003.

### Creative and performance work

The Duke of Rothesay's most recent visit to the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland was in May this year when he met students from a range of disciplines and viewed their creative and performance work. Royal Conservatoire graduate, actor Sam Heughan, star of hit TV drama *Outlander*, returned to his roots and met with His Royal Highness during his tour.

In June, students and graduates of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, including Sam Heughan, international mezzo-soprano Karen Cargill and conductor Jessica Cottis performed at Buckingham Palace at a celebration for The Prince's Foundation. The Conservatoire works in partnership with The Prince's Foundation to provide specialist arts teaching for children, a relationship His Royal Highness has inspired and encouraged. A thriving programme at Dumfries House in Ayrshire currently delivers specialist strings and dance tuition, with further programmes being planned in Scotland.

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# 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](http://www.scottishbanner.com/events) or email [info@scottishbanner.com](mailto:info@scottishbanner.com). Please ensure you submit your event in the exact format we use below, events not submitted in this way cannot be guaranteed to be printed. Events will run both in print and online and is a free service.

## AUSTRALIA

### DECEMBER

- 02 - Adelaide, SA - Adelaide Pipers' Gathering**  
Piping event. Info: Jack Brennan: [brennanjack@optusnet.com.au](mailto:brennanjack@optusnet.com.au)
- 07 - Daylesford, VIC - Daylesford Highland Gathering**  
Gathering includes a captivating Street March in the Main Street of Daylesford and then a full days Drumming, Piping and Dancing at the picturesque Victoria Park, located at the southern entrance of Daylesford. Info: [www.daylesfordhighland.com](http://www.daylesfordhighland.com)
- 11 - Teralba, NSW - Hunter Valley Scots Christmas Social Night**  
Members and friends, come and celebrate the festive season together, 7pm at Teralba Hall, Cnr Margaret St & Anzac Pde. Info: [www.hvsc.org.au](http://www.hvsc.org.au)
- 14 - Khancoban, NSW - Khancoban Carols Pipes and Drums**  
Presented by Tumbarumba Pipe Band and Khancoban Alpine Inn. A free evening of Celtic and Christmas music, including pipes culminating in Massed Pipe Band performances throughout the evening. Info: Joanne Lorimar 0417 219 743.
- 15 - Adelaide, SA - Mighty Mini MacLeod end of year event**  
The Mighty Mini Macleods end the year on a high at The Beachouse Swimming Centre. We will have fun, plan next year's activities and start the school holidays. Meet in the foyer at 3:00pm near the ticket office of The Beachouse, 4 Colley Terrace, Glenelg Beach. Cost from \$20.00. Info: Nicole 0415 654 836 or [www.thebeachouse.com.au](http://www.thebeachouse.com.au)
- 20 - Melbourne, VIC - Grumpy Celtic Christmas - Eric Bogle & Claymore**  
Audiences are in for a Celtic treat as, Eric Bogle and Claymore join forces at the Memo for a one night only in Melbourne Christmas extravaganza, "A Grumpy Celtic Christmas". Considered two of Australia's top artists, along with the incredible Glenbrae Celtic Dancers, the event will showcase the best of Celtic entertainment. Info: [www.facebook.com/events/2418523578396137](http://www.facebook.com/events/2418523578396137)
- 25 - Nationwide - Happy Christmas**  
Wishing all our readers and friends a very Happy Christmas and festive season!
- 31 - Inglewood, WA - Caledonian Society of WA Hogmanay Ceilidh**  
Come sing and dance to Heel n Toe Ceilidh band. Listen to our Piper. Finger food supper supplied BYO alcohol. Children free enter. \$20 non members. Info: John 0427 990 754.
- 31 - Nationwide - Happy Hogmanay**  
The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2020!

### JANUARY

- 01 - Maryborough, VIC - The Maryborough Highland Gathering**  
Australia's oldest continuous running sporting event with pipe bands, Scottish dance, athletics and more at Princes Park. Info: 03 5461 1480 or [www.highlandssociety.com.au](http://www.highlandssociety.com.au)
- 06 - Adelaide, SA - Adelaide Pipers' Gathering**  
Piping event. Info: Jack Brennan: [brennanjack@optusnet.com.au](mailto:brennanjack@optusnet.com.au)
- 25 - Gosford, NSW - Central Coast Scots Burns Night**  
Celebrate Robert Burns at East Gosford Progress Hall. Info: Ian Davidson 0435 578 353.
- 25 - Ipswich, QLD - Ipswich Burns Supper Ceilidh**  
Enjoy a traditional Burns Supper Ceilidh, and celebrate the life of Rabbe Burns. Including a traditional supper while you are captivated by the Address to the Haggis and all the formalities, followed by live band Ishka with a dance caller for your Dashing White Sergeants and Gay Gordons - and of course the Ipswich Pipe Band live in action. Info: [treasurer@ipswichpipeband.com](mailto:treasurer@ipswichpipeband.com) or 0429 362 142.
- 25 - Nationwide - Happy Burns Night**  
Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.

## Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
1-Cauld	1-Caber
5-Shand	2-Lochs
8-BlackIsle	3-Easdale
9-Thole	4-Breenge
10-Roost	5-Spate
12-Annie	6-Accordion
13-Granite	7-Dykes
15-English	11-Third
17-Freedom	14-Abernethy
19-Dominie	16-Games
21-Apron	18-Mermaid
22-Speir	19-Dunkeld
25-Steed	20-Psalm
26-Aberfoyle	21-Adder
27-Mayor	23-Plook
28-Skips	24-Reels

- 25 - Perth, WA - Saint Andrew Society of Western Australia Burns Supper**  
Celebrate the Bard at the Pan Pacific Hotel, with Scottish food, music and fun. Info: [www.saintandrew.org.au](http://www.saintandrew.org.au)
- 25 - Wongawallan, QLD - Burns Supper**  
Celebrate Rabbi Burns Supper with Pipes, Selkirk Grace, Address to the Haggis and poetry. A special appearance by members of the Brisbane City Pipe Band. 3 Course dinner with haggis and more at Fox and Hounds Country Inn, 7 Elevation Dr. Info: 07 5665 7582 or [www.foxandhounds.net.au](http://www.foxandhounds.net.au)

## NEW ZEALAND

### DECEMBER

- 01 - Wellington - Shetland Society of Wellington Christmas Party**  
Christmas Party and Members' Afternoon Tea. Info: [www.shetlandwellington.org.nz](http://www.shetlandwellington.org.nz)
- 06 - Auckland - Scottish Celtic Music Group**  
Monthly on the first Friday at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd. All instruments welcome to read through favourite Scottish tunes and dance sets. Info: John Hawthorn: [john.hawthorn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.hawthorn@xtra.co.nz)
- 13 - Auckland - Scottish Fiddle Club Night**  
7:30 PM - 11:00 PM at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd. Info: [www.freeewebs.com/aucklandsctiffiddleclub](http://www.freeewebs.com/aucklandsctiffiddleclub)
- 14 - Christchurch - Christmas Celebration with a Celtic Spirit**  
Celebrate the holiday's with a Celtic spirit at Nut Point Centre, 703 Old West Coast Road /222 Langdales Rd. Info: 03 342 1033.
- 14 - Palmerston North - 40<sup>th</sup> Jenny Mair Highland Square Day**  
Upwards of 20 Highland Pipe Bands and scores of contestant solo bagpipers and solo drummers will converge on The Square, with an extra special element this year in celebrating this milestone. Info: Brent Le Quesne on 027 289 8711 or [lequesne@gmail.com](mailto:lequesne@gmail.com)
- 14 - Wellington - Wellington Gaelic Club Ceilidh**  
Come dance with the Wellington Gaelic Club at Wellington City Pipe Band hall on the corner of Hanson and Stokes Street, Newtown. Info: [www.wellingtongaelicclub.org.nz](http://www.wellingtongaelicclub.org.nz)
- 25 - Nationwide - Happy Christmas**  
Wishing all our readers and friends a very Happy Christmas and festive season!

- 28 - Wellington - VUW Wellington Scottish Interest Group**  
A friendly group for all interested in all facets of Scottish life - history, culture, etc at the Victoria University of Wellington Law School, Old Government Buildings, Lambton Quay. Info: [www.wellyscots.wordpress.com](http://www.wellyscots.wordpress.com)
- 28 - January 05 - Cambridge - 2019-20 RSCDS New Zealand Branch Summer School**  
Scottish country dance classes and events at St Peters School. Info: <https://ss2019.waibopscd.org.nz>
- 30 - Northcote - Northcote Invitational**  
Come along and listen to some of New Zealand's top solo pipers in their build up for the Waipu Highland Games. No entry charge. Events: Double MSR and Open Medley with a prize for the overall winner (based on medley preference) at Northcote Tavern. Info: Auckland & District Pipe Band: [andpipeband@gmail.com](mailto:andpipeband@gmail.com)
- 31 - Nationwide - Happy Hogmanay**  
The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2020!

### JANUARY

- 01 - Waipu - Waipu Highland Games**  
The first Highland Games in the world each year with pipe bands, Scottish dance, heavy events, Clan tents and more at Caledonian Park, Main Road. Info: [www.waipugames.co.nz](http://www.waipugames.co.nz)
- 03 - Auckland - Scottish Celtic Music Group**  
Monthly on the first Friday at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd. All instruments welcome to read through favourite Scottish tunes and dance sets. Info: John Hawthorn: [john.hawthorn@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.hawthorn@xtra.co.nz)
- 10 - Auckland - Scottish Fiddle Club Night**  
7:30 PM - 11:00 PM at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd. Info: [www.freeewebs.com/aucklandsctiffiddleclub](http://www.freeewebs.com/aucklandsctiffiddleclub)
- 25 - Nationwide - Happy Burns Night**  
Celebrate the anniversary of the birth of Scottish poet Robert Burns. The tradition of the Burns Night Supper was first held in 1801 by the poet's friends, five years after his death.
- 25 - Turakina - Turakina Highland Games**  
The event is a family friendly day at Turakina Domain, including Pipe Bands, solo piping & drumming, Highland and National Dancing, traditional field events, children's events, Clan & market stalls and an evening ceilidh. Free on site parking and camp sites available @ \$5. Entry \$10 per person, children under 15 free. Info: [highlandmay@gmail.com](mailto:highlandmay@gmail.com) or [www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz](http://www.turakinahighlandgames.co.nz)
- 26 - Ashburton - Ashburton's Festival of Pipe Band Music**  
Ashburton's annual Pipe band music festival beginning with Street March at 12:30pm, followed by Medleys & Sets in the Domain. Info: Peter MacLean: [petermaclean@xtra.co.nz](mailto:petermaclean@xtra.co.nz)

## SCOTLAND

### DECEMBER

- 07 - Edinburgh - Christmas Ghost Stories**  
Pull up a chair by the fire, relax with some Christmassy goodwill, but pull up the covers because not only does the winter chill - but so do the tales of terror. Join a collection of story tellers for a Christmas afternoon of Victorian and Edwardian Ghost stories in the atmospheric and beautiful surroundings of Lauriston Castle. Info: [www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk](http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk)
- 11 - Glasgow - Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Ceilidh**  
Join our traditional music students for their annual, rip-roaring, toe-tapping ceilidh in the home of Scottish music, the National Piping Centre. [www.rcs.ac.uk](http://www.rcs.ac.uk)
- 13 - Aberdeen - The Red Chilli Pipers Live**  
A unique brand of 'bag rock' (that's bagpipes plus rock, if you were wondering) with stirring tunes and energetic performances. Expect everything from 'Flower of Scotland' to Coldplay's 'Clocks', via AC/DC and Deep Purple at Music Hall, Union St. Info: [www.redhotchillipipers.co.uk](http://www.redhotchillipipers.co.uk)
- 13 - Lanark - Lanark Christmas Ceilidh**  
Festive ceilidh dance led by the Clyde Valley Ceilidh Band. Lanark Memorial Hall welcomes the Clyde Valley Ceilidh Band for an evening of foot stomping tunes and Christmas ceilidhing. Info: [LanarkMemorial@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk](mailto:LanarkMemorial@southlanarkshireleisure.co.uk)
- 13 - 15 - Glamis - Glamis Castle Christmas Markets**  
Celebrate the festive season at Glamis Castle, with winter walks, holiday stalls, tours and more. Info: [www.glamis-castle.co.uk](http://www.glamis-castle.co.uk)
- 25 - Nationwide - Happy Christmas**  
Wishing all our readers and friends a very Happy Christmas and festive season!
- 30 - January 01 - Edinburgh - Edinburgh's Hogmanay**  
Edinburgh's Hogmanay is one of the world's greatest New Year celebrations, including street party, torchlight procession, ceilidh and more. Join for three days of spectacular events, as Edinburgh shows the world how to party! Info: [www.edinburghshogmanay.com](http://www.edinburghshogmanay.com)
- 31 - Stonehaven - Scotland - Stonehaven Fireball Ceremony**  
The Fireball Ceremony is Stonehaven's unique way to welcome in the New Year and greet friends and neighbours. As the midnight chimes ring out on December 31st, approximately 40 men and women parade up and down the High Street swinging fiercely flaming balls around their heads. Info: [www.stonehavenfireballs.co.uk](http://www.stonehavenfireballs.co.uk)

- 31 - Nationwide - Happy Hogmanay**  
The Scottish Banner wishes all our readers and friends a very Happy Hogmanay and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2020!

### JANUARY

- 01 - South Queensferry, West Lothian - The Loony Dook**  
The Loony Dook continues its New Year's Day tradition at South Queensferry. In the shadow of the Forth Bridges, the dippers in fancy dress, scantily clad or even fully clothed from the night before will brave the chill to raise money for charities while shaking off their Hogmanay hangover. Dookers will march the length of South Queensferry High Street as part of the Dookers' Parade before launching themselves into the freezing Firth of Forth. Info: [www.edinburghshogmanay.com/whats-on/loony-dook](http://www.edinburghshogmanay.com/whats-on/loony-dook)
- 16 - February 02 - Glasgow - Celtic Connections**  
Celtic Connections is the largest winter music festival of its kind and the UK's premier celebration of Celtic music. Info: [www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com)
- 19 - 21 - Glasgow - Scotland's Trade Fair Spring**  
Over 500 companies exhibit thousands of products in Clothing, Textiles, Jewellery, Fashion Accessories, Clan Products, Beauty & Bath Products, Stationery, Giftware, Gift Food & Speciality Fine Food at Glasgow's SEC-trade only event. Info: [www.spring.scotlandstradefairs.co.uk](http://www.spring.scotlandstradefairs.co.uk)
- 21 - Edinburgh - Scots Music Group - Celebrating Robert Burns**  
Join friends from Scots Music Group for an afternoon session of traditional songs, music, poems and stories celebrating Scotland's national bard. Held in the relaxed setting of the Storytelling Court. All welcome to listen or bring a turn and join in! Info: [www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com](http://www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com)
- 23 - February 02 - Dumfries - Big Burns Supper 2020**  
Dumfries, one of Scotland's friendliest towns flings open its doors for 114 events across 11 days of top-class music, comedy, dance and cabaret at the world's biggest contemporary Burns celebration. Info: [www.bigburnssupper.com](http://www.bigburnssupper.com)
- 28 - Lerwick - Up Helly Aa**  
Taking place annually on the last Tuesday of January in the town of Lerwick, the Shetland's Viking Fire Festival, or Up Helly Aa as it's known locally, is the largest event of its kind in Europe. Thousands of visitors from across the world travel to this northernmost corner of Scotland to join in this Scandinavian Vikings' style celebrations of the end of winter and the return of the sun. Info: [www.uphellyaa.org](http://www.uphellyaa.org)

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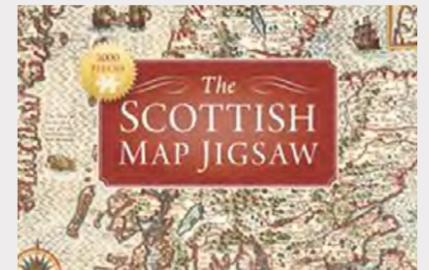
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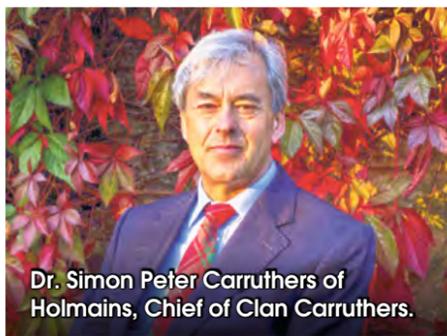
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The map was created by John Speed (1552–1629), known after his death 'the English Mercator', was one of the best-known mapmakers of his time, and also a noted historian. His atlas *The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain* (1612) is his most well-known work, which he produced to accompany his monumental History of Great Britain, which was published in 1611.

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# Clan Carruthers announces Chief after 210 years



Dr. Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains, Chief of Clan Carruthers.



The Carruthers tartan.



Carruthers Arms from 13th century to date. The Chiefs Arms are in the middle (of Holmains).

Clan Carruthers Society International is extremely pleased to announce that Carruthers, after 210 years, has again a recognised Chief. Dr. Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains has been recognised as Chief of Clan Carruthers by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Dr Joseph Morrow, CBE, KStJ, QC, DL, LLD, the arbiter in determining chiefships through the confirmation of the right to bear the hereditary Chiefly Arms of a Scottish clan or family.

## Origins in Dumfriesshire

In a Decision issued on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and published on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019, the Lord Lyon found Peter; "entitled to be recognised in the name, style and title of; 'Simon Peter Carruthers of Holmains, Chief of the Name and Arms of Carruthers' and maintained, ratified and confirmed the undifferenced Arms of Carruthers of Holmains c. 1672".

This decision followed nearly 20 months of proceedings before the Lord Lyon, including two hearings of the Lyon Court in Edinburgh. The last of which was held on March 2019, at which Dr. S. P. Carruthers was represented by Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw, Bt, QC.

Dr. Carruthers succeeds his fourth great-grandfather, John Carruthers, 12<sup>th</sup> of Holmains & Kirkwood (died 1809), the last recognised head of the Carruthers family. John 12<sup>th</sup> was a direct descendant of the first chiefs of Carruthers, dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

The Carruthers are an ancient Scottish family from Annandale in the Anglo-Scottish Borders. They were one of the Scottish 'unruly clans' named in the 1587 Act of the Scottish Parliament and the Laird of Holmains (Holmends) was one of the chiefs listed. From their origins in Dumfriesshire, Carruthers have spread across the world and are today represented in every continent.

Dr Simon Peter Carruthers (64, known as Peter) is an agricultural scientist, with further qualifications in management and theology. For many years he was on the staff of the Centre for Agricultural Strategy at the University of Reading. Subsequently he worked in environmental education and rural policy in the public and third sectors. Currently, he is Director of a Christian charity that supports the rural church. He is a co-founder and former Chairman of Farm Crisis Network (now the Farming Community Network) in the UK, is a member of the Royal Society of Biology and an Honorary Senior Fellow at the University of Worcester.

## A unique and special family

Peter is quoted as saying; "The Carruthers are a unique and special family. There are many more of us in Scotland, the UK and around the globe than people realise! And over the centuries we have had many distinguished family members, some known and some unsung, who have served their countries and contributed to human flourishing and the common good. It is therefore a great privilege and a sober responsibility to have inherited the position of Chief of Carruthers and I will do my best to lead and serve the family in our future together."

Dr George Carruthers, FSA Scot, Convenor of the Clan Carruthers Society International stated: "Not only is this wonderful news to have Chief recognised and in place, it also means that with the confirmation of our hereditary Chief, Carruthers are no longer an armigerous clan.

It may have taken 12 long years of research, hard work and waiting, but we can now take our rightful place alongside the many other Scottish clans with legally accepted chiefs and be recognised in our own right as a 'noble incorporation. This is a great moment for Carruthers worldwide and more importantly for all of our family who proudly look to Scotland's heritage and culture for their roots and a sense of belonging. The congratulations we have already received from many across the world, both from Carruthers and members and chiefs of other clans, have been humbling and heart-warming. These messages of congratulations have been conveyed to our Chief, who hopes that this will help gather the Carruthers together under one banner and further encourage other armigerous clans to persevere in seeking to identify and confirm their Chiefs or Commanders, through the auspices of the Lyon Court."

The Arms of Carruthers of Holmains, which only the Chief can legally bear are: 'Gules, two chevrons engrailed between three fleur-de-lis Or. The crest is 'a seraphim volant Proper' and the motto, 'Promptus et fidelis' (ready and faithful).

*The Clan Carruthers Society International (CCSI) was founded in January 2017 and is officially recognised by the Chief of Carruthers as representing the worldwide Carruthers family. It is non-commercial, apolitical and non-partisan and is open to any member of the international Carruthers family and derivatives of that name. The Society is based in the United Kingdom, but is represented by an international Executive Council. For further details visit: [www.clancarrutherssociety.org](http://www.clancarrutherssociety.org)*



# Being Scottish is Bags of Fun!

Ditch plastic-go Scottish!

Most bag styles also include a handy inside key/coin zip pouch.

 <p><b>Keep Calm and Wear Tartan Jute Bag</b></p> <p>Show your Scottish pride with this brand new jute bag style. In a lovely purple tartan design with webbed handle.</p> <p>H: 30cm, W: 30cm, D: 20cm</p>	 <p><b>The Multi Scottish Dog Canvas Bag</b></p> <p>The sturdy canvas bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish Terrier Dogs. Includes an interior key/coin pouch and strong black webbed handles.</p> <p>H: 30cm, W: 40cm, D: 15cm</p>	 <p><b>Scottie Dog Single Canvas Bag</b></p> <p>This sturdy bag comes with a classic pattern of a Scottish Terrier dog with sturdy handles.</p> <p>H: 30cm, W: 40cm, D: 12cm</p>	 <p><b>Highland Coo Jute Bag</b></p> <p>This sturdy bag comes with a colourful pattern of bonnie Highland coo's.</p> <p>H: 20cm, W: 20cm, D: 14cm</p>	 <p><b>Tartan Scottie Jute Bag</b></p> <p>This sturdy bag comes with a tartan Scottie pattern, handle and gussets.</p> <p>H: 20cm, W: 20cm, D: 14cm</p>
 <p><b>Scottish Dialect Canvas Bag</b></p> <p>The sturdy bag comes with a variety of 18 fun Scottish words. Includes a humorous word description, in case you did nae know! Quality cream canvas with black text and sturdy handles.</p> <p>H: 40cm, W: 35cm, D: 20cm</p>	 <p><b>Highland Cow and Calf Canvas Bag</b></p> <p>A lovely design of a Highland Coo mother and calf. With sturdy black webbed handles.</p> <p>H: 30cm, W: 30cm, D: 20cm</p>	 <p><b>Thistle Jute Bag</b></p> <p>This sturdy bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish thistles. With purple tartan gusset and purple webbed handle.</p> <p>H: 30cm, W: 30cm, D: 20cm</p>	 <p><b>Westie Jute Bag</b></p> <p>This sturdy bag comes with a colourful pattern of playful Westies, along with a solo Scottie pal. With black webbed handles.</p> <p>H: 20cm, W: 20cm, D: 14cm</p>	<p><b>From the Scottish Banner</b> the canvas and jute bag collection direct from Dundee, Scotland.</p> <p>These great and fun bags show off your Scottish pride wherever you go and have many uses. Make shopping or going to the beach fun with these multi use carry bags. Great for yourself or as a unique gift!</p> <p>\$24.95 plus \$9.50 postage or \$16 for up to 3 multi-bag orders Australia wide (NZ orders please add \$10 airmail postage fee).</p> <p>To order yours simply contact us on <b>02 9559 6348</b> or email: <a href="mailto:info@scottishbanner.com">info@scottishbanner.com</a> online at: <a href="http://www.scottishbanner.com/shop">www.scottishbanner.com/shop</a></p> <p><i>More bag styles available online!</i></p>

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



# Glazed Christmas ham

## Ingredients

For cooking the gammon  
 2-4kg/4lb 8oz.-9lb unsmoked  
 boneless gammon joint, tied  
 2 onions, halved  
 2 carrots, unpeeled, cut into 5cm/2in pieces  
 2 celery stalks, cut into 5cm/2in pieces  
 4 bay leaves  
 12 black peppercorns  
 small handful cloves  
 For the glaze  
 4 tbsp. runny honey  
 4 tbsp. English mustard

## Method:

Place the gammon joint into a large lidded saucepan, cover with cold water and bring to the boil over a high heat. Drain the water from the saucepan, add fresh cold water, add the onions, carrots, celery, bay leaves and peppercorns and bring to the boil once more. Reduce the heat, cover with a lid and simmer the gammon and vegetables gently for 20 minutes per 500g/1lb 2oz. (If your pan is not quite large enough to cover the joint completely, turn the gammon over halfway through the cooking time.)

Remove the gammon from the water and set aside to cool for fifteen minutes. (The cooking liquid can be strained and reserved for making soup for another time.)

Pre-heat the oven to 200C/400F/ Gas 6 and line a large roasting tin with aluminium foil.

Use a small knife to remove the rind from the gammon joint, leaving as much of the fat intact as possible. Score the fat in a diamond pattern, and push a clove into the centre of each 'X'.

Place the gammon into the foil-lined roasting tray, ensuring that the sides of the foil come half way up the joint to contain any roasting juices.

For the glaze, mix the honey and mustard together and brush half of it evenly over the gammon, including one side of the joint. Roast in the centre of the oven for ten minutes, then take the joint out and brush the top and remaining side with the rest of the glaze. Return the gammon to the oven for a further 10-15 minutes, rotating the roasting tin so that the opposite side of the gammon faces the back of the oven.

The gammon is ready when the fat on top is glossy and golden brown. Cover loosely with foil if the top begins to look too brown. Remove the gammon from the oven and set aside to rest for 15 minutes before carving.

Pour any juices that have collected in the aluminium foil into a small pan, and warm through gently.

Carve the gammon, serve on a large platter and spoon over the warmed juices.

## Christmas turkey



## Ingredients:

20ml/¾fl oz. rapeseed oil  
 1 x 5kg/11lb good-quality free-range turkey, preferably organically reared, wishbone removed (ask your butcher to remove the wings and neck and chop them into 2.5cm/1in pieces to use in the dish)  
 40g/1½oz unsalted butter, softened to room temperature  
 2 pinches sea salt flakes  
 2 pinches freshly ground white pepper  
 200ml/7fl oz. water  
 salt and freshly ground black pepper  
 1-2 tsp ground arrowroot (depending on how thick you like your gravy), dissolved in 1 tbsp. cold water  
 roast potatoes and steamed seasonal vegetables, to serve

## Method

Remove the turkey from the fridge and bring to room temperature - this will take at least an hour.

When you are ready to cook, preheat the oven to 230C/220C fan/Gas 8.

Heat the rapeseed oil in a large, heavy-based roasting tray on the stove top. Add the chopped turkey wings and neck and fry for 8-10 minutes, turning the pieces over every 2-3 minutes, or until evenly browned all over.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, soften the butter with the back of a dessert spoon, then season with the salt and freshly ground white pepper. Using a pastry brush

or your hands, smear the seasoned butter all over the turkey. Add any remaining butter to the roasting tray once the chopped wings and neck have browned.

Place the turkey on top of the wing and neck pieces, then roast in the oven for 30 minutes.

Remove the turkey from the oven and baste all over with the cooking juices.

Reduce the oven temperature to 160C/150C fan/Gas 3.

Pour the water into the roasting tray, then return the turkey to the oven and continue to cook for a further 1 hour, basting the bird with the cooking juices every 20 minutes (do this quickly to prevent the heat escaping from the oven).

At the end of the cooking time, test that the turkey is cooked through by inserting a skewer or roasting fork into the thickest part of its thigh; if the juices run clear, the meat is cooked. Alternatively, use a meat thermometer; if cooked, the temperature should be 74°C or above. If the turkey is not fully cooked, return it to the oven for a further 20 minutes or until the juices run clear.

Remove the turkey from the oven and transfer the bird to a large, deep-sided tray, reserving the roasting tray the turkey was cooked in along with the cooking juices. Set the turkey aside to rest for a minimum of 30 minutes and up to 1½ hours.

While the turkey is resting, cook your roast potatoes and vegetable dishes.

When you're almost ready to serve the meal, return the roasting tray used to cook the turkey to the stove top. Bring the cooking juices to the boil over a medium heat, scraping up any burned bits from the bottom of the tray using a wooden spoon.

Collect the juices released by the turkey as it was resting and add them to the gravy. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper, if needed.

Reduce the heat until the gravy is simmering, then stir in the dissolved arrowroot and cook until the gravy has thickened.

Strain the gravy through a fine sieve into a warmed jug. Keep warm.

To serve, bring the turkey to the table and carve into slices. Serve with the roast potatoes and vegetables. Pour over the gravy.

## Brandy butter



## Ingredients:

110g/4oz. unsalted butter, softened  
 85g/3oz. light muscovado sugar  
 85g/3oz. icing sugar, sieved  
 3 tbsp. brandy or cognac

## Method:

Put the butter in a bowl. Beat well with a wooden spoon till soft or for speed use an electric hand whisk (and if you use a food processor then there is no need to sieve the icing sugar).



*This month gather friends and family around and eat perhaps a bit more than you should, and celebrate Christmas and Hogmanay with a great range of food and drink. From our table to yours-Happy Holidays!*

Beat in both the sugars till smooth, then add the brandy. If you are over generous with the brandy it will curdle so just beat in more sieved icing sugar and it will come smooth again.

Serve with the Christmas pudding or even as a addition to a mince pie.

## Eggnog



## Ingredients:

6 medium free-range eggs (preferably organic and as fresh as possible), separated  
 150g/5½ oz. golden caster sugar  
 500ml/18fl oz. whole milk  
 400ml/14fl oz. double cream  
 350ml/12fl oz. rum, bourbon or a mixture of the two, depending on your preference  
 freshly grated nutmeg, to taste

## Method:

Whisk the egg yolks in a bowl with 100g/3½ oz. of the caster sugar until the mixture is pale yellow and thick (this is best done with an electric handheld mixer).

Stir in the milk, double cream, and the rum and/or bourbon. You can add a little grated nutmeg as well, if you like your nog this way.

Pour the mixture into two 750ml/1½ pint bottles with stoppers and store in the fridge for up to two weeks. (The alcohol will prevent any spoilage of the eggs or cream.)

Place the egg whites in a box and freeze until ready to serve the egg nog.

When ready to serve, defrost the egg whites into a clean metal or glass bowl. Using a handheld electric mixer, whisk the egg whites until foamy and opaque. Add the remaining 50g of sugar and whisk the egg whites until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed.

Pour the egg nog from the bottles into a large bowl and fold in the egg whites until well combined.

Ladle the egg nog into glass tumblers and serve with a little freshly grated nutmeg over the top of each glass.

# 9th Annual Hororata Highland Games a success

All images courtesy of David Baird.



Massed Highland Fling.



Terry Sparks competes in the Stone Put.

The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Hororata Highland Games has once again turned on a spectacular event and been enjoyed by thousands of visitors and competitors. Australian Heavy Events competitor Tim O'Shea commented "For all of the Heavy competitors, Hororata is our favourite Highland Games. The event itself is run so well and the atmosphere is amazing. What really makes it for us as competitors are the people who open their homes and welcome us to their community. It is a privilege to be part of this, we are so lucky."

The Oceania Heavy Championship was won by Australian Terry Sparks in his first appearance at the Games. The Amateur Women's Championship was claimed by Siositina Hakeai in this just her first Highland Games competition, which is a bit different to her usual discus events. Connor O'Brian took out the Amateur Men's Championship. The Band of the day went to the Grade 4 Canterbury Caledonian Society's Pipe Band and the Champion Highland Dancer was Abby Smith.

The Highland Games is a unique event with 10 competitive events taking place in amongst a huge cultural festival which celebrates a very special blend of Scottish and Kiwi culture. There are very few events that manage to mix such a diverse range of elements giving visitors a full experience.

### Truly wonderful games

Chieftain of the day, a traditional Scottish ceremonial role for Highland Games, Peri Drysdale spoke of her experience; "It was a privilege to be witness to these truly wonderful games. The spirit throughout the event was phenomenal.

The spirit of competition and fun, the gamesmanship and the have-a-go spirit are all done with really impressive feats of skill, strength, team work and creativity. This spirit is sown deep within the Games by a passionate and dedicated community who pull together every year to create something really special and unique."

Peri was a judge in the new competition Best Dressed Lad and Lassie which showcased Scottish culture celebrated with the creative use of Tartan in a wide range of outfits. Hororata Community Trust Chair, Richard Lang spoke about the event, "one of the most pleasing things I saw at the Games were families of all ages taking part in the many Have A Go activities together. The vibe of the whole event was of relaxed family fun. The huge team of volunteers has done an amazing job yet again. To pull off an event this big and do it so well is a massive undertaking. We are grateful to our partners for their support and for joining our community on this journey.

Next year is going to be the Hororata Highland Games 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. The festival has come a long way in a very short space of time. Our community has pulled together to create an event from the grassroots that has not only put Hororata on the map and brought many benefits for this small rural area, but is also recognised as a leading festival that is run to a very high standard. As a community we are fundraising for our new Hororata Community Centre, this is going to be no small feat but we have a track record of punching well above our weight so I have no doubt we will achieve our target. The Games is the launch pad and we have been building a foundation from its success to build a bright future for our community."

**The 10th Hororata Highland Games will be held 7th November 2020 at the Hororata Domain. For details see: [www.hororatahighlandgames.org.nz](http://www.hororatahighlandgames.org.nz)**



Canterbury Caledonian Pipe Band.



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# THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

*Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past*

**1** - The first volume of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* was published in Edinburgh, edited by William Smellie. **1768**



**1** - First lighthouse in Scotland opened (at Kinnaird Head, Fraserburgh). It was built by Thomas Smith and Robert Stevenson. **1787**

**1** - Hurricane-force winds caused widespread damage. **1966**

**2** - Mary Slessor, West African missionary, born in Aberdeen. Slessor was adopted by an African tribe, who called her "ma". **1848**



**3** - Robert Louis Stevenson died in Samoa. The Edinburgh born author penned classics such as *Treasure Island* (1883), *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886) and *Kidnapped* (1886). **1894**

**3** - His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen opened and soon became the city's leading centre of entertainment. **1906**

**4** - King William I (Lion) died at Stirling and was succeeded by his son Alexander II. **1214**

**4** - Treaty of London, releasing James I from his 18 years captivity in England. **1423**

**4** - Essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle, best known for his *History of the French Revolution* born in Ecclefechan. **1795**

**4** - Cartoon character Desperate Dan first appeared in the *Dandy* comic. **1937**

**5** - King Francis II of France, husband of Mary Queen of Scots, died. **1560**

**5** - Death of Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the Brechin-born inventor of radar. **1973**

**6** - King Alexander II crowned at Scone. **1214**

**6** - Charles Edward Stewart's entry into Derby. A reluctant Charles and his Jacobite army was forced to withdraw from Derby only two days later. **1745**

**6** - The Battle of Dryfe Sands took place near Lockerbie, Scottish Borders, resulting in many casualties, it was a battle between the clans of Clan Maxwell and Clan Johnstone. Many were wounded by downward sword strokes known as "Lockerbie Licks". **1593**

**7** - The birth of Henry Stewart, Lord Darnley, the Anglo-Scottish aristocrat and second husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. Mary married Henry, her first cousin, on the 29 July 1565, to be the uncrowned "King Henry". Darnley was the second husband of Mary and father of King James VI of Scotland and James I of England. He was assassinated in February 1567 by person unknown, although Mary's third husband James, Lord Bothwell, was seriously implicated in the murder. **1545**

**8** - Mary, Queen of Scots, born Linlithgow Palace. The only surviving child of James V and Mary of Guise, Mary ascended to the Scottish throne following her father's death when she was only six days old. Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England for her complicity in a plot to murder Queen Elizabeth I at the age of 44 years. **1542**

**9** - King Malcolm IV, King of Scotland, died at Jedburgh Castle. **1165**

**10** - King Edward VIII abdicated and King George VI acceded to the throne. **1936**

**10** - The death of Duncan Forbes of Culloden, the Lord President of the Court of Session. As a prominent Whig, like many Scots Forbes supported the Hanoverian cause and used his influence to dissuade a number of clans from joining the Jacobites. **1747**



**10** - 1928-Designer and architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. Known for his 'Glasgow style' with works such as the House for an Art Lover, the Scotland Street School, and the Glasgow School of Art. **1928**

**11** - David Brewster, inventor of the kaleidoscope born. **1781**

**11** - Architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh died. **1928**

**12** - Anne of Denmark, wife of King James VI, born. **1574**

**13** - William Drummond, poet, born. Drummond was one of the first notable Scots poets to write exclusively in English after the Union of the Crowns in 1603. **1585**

**13** - The death of Thomas Glover, an industrial pioneer in Japan. Born in Fraserburgh, he is considered a national hero in Japan. Fraser brought the first steam train to Japan, and created the shipyard in Nagasaki which would eventually form the Mitsubishi Corporation. **1911**

**14** - James V died at Falkland Palace. Mary Queen of Scots succeeded him. **1542**



**14** - Glasgow District Underground opened, powered by electricity. **1896**

**14** - Will Fyfe, comedian, died. **1947**

**14** - University of Stirling instituted by Royal charter. **1967**

**15** - The Zoological Society of Glasgow was founded on this day. **1936**

**16** - Oliver Cromwell becomes Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland. Cromwell was the only invader of Scotland to conquer the whole country. **1653**

**16** - Thomas Blake Glover, founding father of Japan's industrialisation (including Mitsubishi) and Japanese Navy, born Fraserburgh. **1838**

**17** - Marriage contract between James IV and Margaret Tudor signed by King James. **1502**

**17** - Lord Kelvin, scientist and inventor, died. **1907**

**17** - Petrol rationing was imposed following the Suez crisis and the closure of the canal. **1956**

**18** - Many Scottish historical records were lost when the ship Elizabeth of Burntisland sank off the English coast. The records had been taken to London by Oliver Cromwell and were being returned to Edinburgh. **1661**

**18** - Society of Antiquaries founded. **1780**

**18** - Death penalty for murder was formally abolished in Britain. **1969**

**19** - *The Scotsman* newspaper moves to new offices at North Bridge in Edinburgh, remaining there until 1999. **1904**

**20** - First General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. **1560**

**20** - Entertainer Andy Stewart was born in Glasgow. Stewart is perhaps best known for his STV show, *The White Heather Club*, which began in 1960, and his songs *Ye Canna Shuv Yer Granny Off A Bus* and *Donald Where's Yer Troosers*. He died in 1993. **1933**

**21** - Robert Liston, who was born in Linlithgow in 1794, performed the first operation in a British hospital using anaesthetic (ether). **1846**

**21** - Pan Am 747 blew up and crashed at Lockerbie, Dumfries, killing 243 passengers, 16 crew and 11 Lockerbie residents. The Pan American jumbo jet bound for New York was blown out of the sky by a terrorist bomb and crashes onto the Scottish town of Lockerbie killing all 259 passengers and 11 people on the ground. **1988**

**22** - James Edward Stuart, the Old Pretender, son of James II, the deposed Catholic King of England, arrived at Peterhead in north-east Scotland to lead a Jacobite rebellion. **1715**



**22** - Pop mega-star Madonna married movie-producer Guy Ritchie at Skibo Castle, putting Dornoch into the media spotlight. The couple has since divorced but helped create a Scottish wedding boom. **2000**

**23** - Major outbreak of cholera in Scotland. **1831**



**23** - Fife born accordionist Jimmy Shand died. Shand's recordings are famous throughout the world due to his distinctive playing style on the button accordion, and later on the BBC with *The White Heather Club*. **2000**

**24** - King William I (Lion) crowned at Scone. **1165**



**24** - Edinburgh Castle surrendered to Oliver Cromwell. **1650**

**24** - General George Wade was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the British army in Scotland after he had reported on the need for military roads in the country. **1724**

**24** - Writer and geologist Hugh Miller died. **1856**

**25** - Stone of Destiny removed from Westminster Abbey. Used as the coronation stone of the Scottish kings from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the stone was removed by four Scottish university students whose story became a book and movie. The ringleader Ian Hamilton is a former contributor to *the Scottish Banner*. **1950**

**25** - Christmas Day becomes a public holiday in Scotland. It was abolished in 1640. **1958**

**25** - The Jacobite army reached Glasgow. The military campaign to return a Catholic Stewart king to the throne in place of the Hanoverian Protestant King William III. **1745**

**26** - Alexander III, the King of Scots, was married to Margaret, the daughter of Henry III, King of England, in York. **1251**

**27** - King Charles I, imprisoned at Carisbrooke Castle, reached an agreement with the Scots who offered military aid in exchange for a promise to establish Presbyterianism in England (but only for three years). **1647**

**27** - Premiere of J M Barrie's play *Peter Pan* at the Duke of York Theatre, London. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir in 1860. **1904**

**28** - The Tay Bridge disaster occurred. 75 passengers were killed when the structure collapsed under a train during a storm. **1879**

**28** - Scotland's famous outlaw, Rob "Roy" MacGregor, died. He was immortalised in Sir Walter Scott's novel, *Rob Roy*. **1734**

**28** - James IV who liked to gamble played 'byllis' (similar to billiards) with a man described in records as "John Anderson that wantis the feit and handies". There's also a note mentioning that the king gave Anderson 14 shilling. **1501**

**29** - Charles Macintosh, who patented waterproof fabric, born in Glasgow. **1766**

**29** - William Ewart Gladstone, UK Prime Minister on four occasions, born 1809. **1809**



**30** - Rangers' first match at their new Ibrox Stadium, with capacity of 75,000. It was a 3-1 victory over Hearts in the Inter-City League. **1899**

**30** - The Albion Motor Company was established. At first the firm made motor cars and commercial vehicles, but from 1913 concentrated on the latter. **1899**

**31** - Prince Charles Edward Stewart, The Young Pretender, was born in Rome. Known as "Bonnie Prince Charlie", after the Gaelic pronunciation of his name, he led the 1745 Jacobite attempt to overthrow the Hanoverian monarchy. Bonnie Prince Charlie or the Young Pretender, was the son of James, the Old Pretender. **1720**

**31** - 72 killed at Glen Cinema Fire, Paisley. **1929**

**31** - The farthing coin (a quarter of an old penny) ceased to be legal tender. **1960**

# Absence makes the art grow fonder in Aberdeen

**A**berdeen Art Gallery has reopened following a once-in a lifetime multi-million pound investment to create a major cultural attraction in the heart of the Granite City. This world-class arts complex, which aims to be a must-visit attraction for both local residents and tourists alike. The historic Grade-A listed buildings have been re-imagined as an exciting visitor destination which blends the historic with the contemporary. Visitor access, orientation and facilities have been dramatically improved, including the addition of a stunning new rooftop café.

The new Gallery will see dramatically increased display space for its nationally-recognised collection, with the number of galleries increasing from 11 to 19 and a further three galleries presenting a programme of regularly-changing special exhibitions. The number of items from the permanent collection on display has increased from 370 in 2015 to 1,080 in 2019.

## Aberdeen's cultural renaissance

Jo Robinson, VisitScotland Regional Director, said: "The reopening of the gallery is a hugely exciting time for Aberdeen. It is the culmination of years of planning, designing and reimagining a showstopper attraction that will underpin Aberdeen's cultural renaissance. The opening offers a real opportunity for civic pride at a time when the Granite City – renowned the world over as Europe's oil capital – is moving in a new direction, becoming a credible player on Scotland's leisure tourism stage.

We need to create world-class experiences, events and attractions to keep up with the ever-changing visitor demands. Visitors of all ages and backgrounds will be able to enjoy the enhanced programme of exhibitions at the new Gallery. Tourism is more than a holiday experience – it is the heartbeat of the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire economy, touching every community, generating income, jobs and social change. Scotland's reputation as a quality destination relies on continued investment to ensure that current provision meets future demand. The refurbishment of Aberdeen Art Gallery will be a game-changer for the city's tourism offering, attracting new visitors and drawing past visitors back to Aberdeen."

The Gallery is expected to attract upwards of 250,000 visits per year making it one of the North-East's most popular unpaid visitor attractions with the potential to generate an additional £1.1m spend in the wider local economy.

**For further information about Aberdeen Art Gallery, visit: [www.aagm.co.uk](http://www.aagm.co.uk)**



Aberdeen Art Gallery has reopened to the public following a major transformation.

# Glasgow named in world's top five cities for sustainable tourism



**G**lasgow has been recognised as one of the world's top five cities for its commitment to sustainable business tourism. The Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDS-Index) published its 2019 ranking, with Scotland's largest city climbing three places from joint-seventh to fourth. It's a huge boost for Glasgow as the city prepares to host the United Nations' 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties Climate Change Conference (COP26) in 2020. Governments and destinations around the world are responding to the global climate emergency and Glasgow's ambitions include a pledge to become the UK's first carbon neutral city by 2030. The Scottish Government has set a net zero emissions target for Scotland by 2045. The GDS Index was launched in 2016 and promotes responsible business tourism best practice.

Compiled by global sustainability academics and policymakers, it ranks nearly 60 cities around the world based on four key criteria – environmental strategy and infrastructure; social sustainability performance; the strategy of the host city's Convention Bureau; and industry supply chain support (from the likes of convention centres,

meetings venues, hotels, restaurants and transport operators). To date, Glasgow remains the only UK city to feature in the Index, which also includes Sydney, Barcelona and Kyoto.

Councillor David McDonald, Chair of Glasgow Life and Depute Leader of Glasgow City Council, said: "Glasgow's ambition is to be at the forefront on climate action and we are determined to become the UK's first carbon neutral city by 2030 and a world-leading centre for sustainable policy and innovation. Being named as one of the world's top five sustainable conference and business events destinations by the Global Destination Sustainability Index shows the great strides that we are making in that respect. Glasgow is home to some of the world's biggest energy companies and we're internationally recognised as having one of the healthiest and most diverse energy industries globally; particularly in terms of low carbon industries, which has had a hugely positive impact on the volume of conferences that we're attracting in these sectors."

Glasgow hosted 25 energy, sustainability and carbon reduction related conferences in the 2018/19 financial year, boosting the city's economy by nearly £8m.

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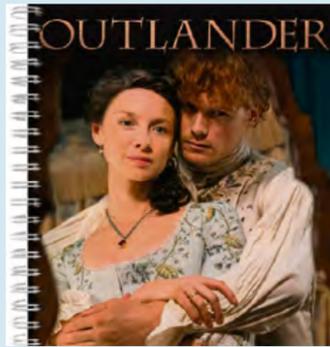
## Outlander 2020 Daily Planner



The lives of the heroic characters of the outrageously popular Outlander TV series—an alchemy of romance, time travel, and historical drama! Filled with gorgeous photos and trivia from four seasons, this daily calendar is sure to delight Outlander fans. Small but impactful, this desk calendar is perfect to brighten up even the smallest of spaces offering a pop of personality and quick monthly reference.

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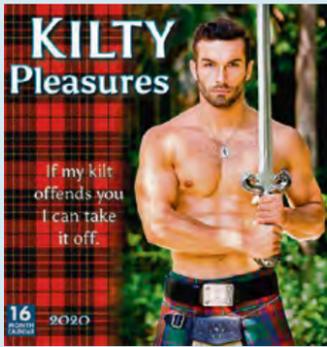
## The Scots Magazine Calendar 2020



Seasons come and go, but Scotland's magical beauty is timeless. The Scots Magazine Calendar 2020 includes a great spread of photographs from all over Scotland from Sutherland to Stirlingshire. This spectacular calendar makes a wonderful gift for everyone who loves Scotland.

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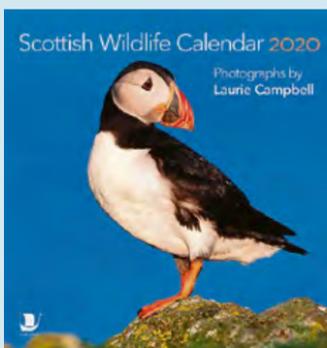
## Kilty Pleasures 2020 16-Month Calendar



Indulge in a little kilty pleasure with these handsome Highland hunks! Each month features a different luscious lad showing off his finely sculpted physique, and his favourite tartan, of course. Paired with tongue-in-cheek sayings about men in kilts, if these images don't get your heart racing, you may want to check your pulse! Spend the year with these hunky men and find yourself dreaming of Kilty Pleasures.

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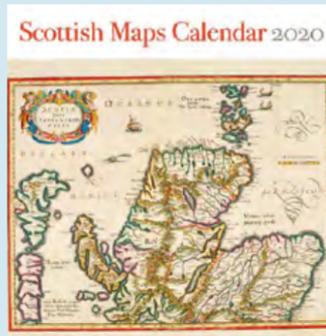
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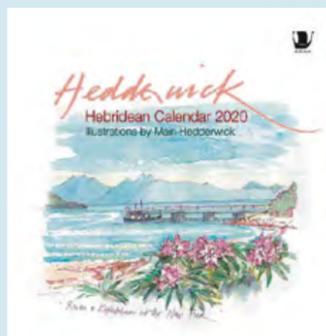
## Scottish Maps Calendar 2020



This new calendar features more of the most beautiful maps of Scotland ever made. From the very earliest representations of Scotland in the second century AD, through the first printed maps of the 16th century and the achievement of the Ordnance Survey in the 1920s and 1930s to the most recent satellite imagery, these images tell the story of a nation.

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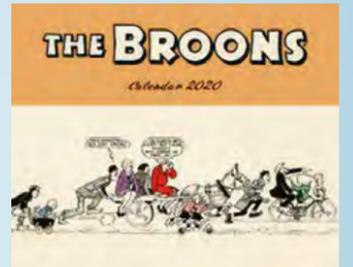
## Hebridean Calendar 2020



This calendar features distinctive full-colour paintings by one of Scotland's best-loved authors and artists and is a wonderful celebration of the extraordinary natural beauty of the Hebrides throughout the seasons. Mairi Hedderwick's drawings, produced over a period of more than forty years, expertly capture the unique character and diversity of Hebridean land and seascapes, from wind-swept moors and dramatic cliffs to rolling hills and secluded woods.

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## The Broons Calendar 2020



The Broons Calendar is a must-have for every Broons fan. Colourful, nostalgic and cheerful, the calendar is crammed full of Glebe Street charm from Scotland's longest-established, and best-loved family.

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The Oor Wullie Calendar is a must-have for every Oor Wullie fan. Nostalgic & cheerful, the calendar is crammed full of Oor Wullie's charm. Classic strips from Dudley D. Watkins will entertain you throughout the year.

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The ever-popular The People's Friend Calendar features twelve of Britain's most scenic locations, carefully selected from the delightful paintings of The People's Friend's favourite artist, J. Campbell Kerr. It makes a wonderful gift for a friend or loved one. Dates are in specially clear type.

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# Lillias Adie - A victim of Scotland's witch hunt

**Lillias Adie, from Torryburn, Fife, died in 1704 while held in prison for her "confessed" crimes of being a witch and having sex with the devil. Her remains were buried on the beach between the low and the high tide marks under a large stone. Locals had sought to weigh down Ms Adie in her grave, perhaps to prevent her coming back to haunt them. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, scientific curiosity outweighed zombie fears and antiquarians dug up Ms Adie, the only witch's grave in Scotland. Now plans are underway to create a memorial not just for Lillias but for all the women who perished after being accused of being a witch as Nick Drainey explains.**



Grave covering slab uncovered 2014.



locked up in the local church. Just the day after she was imprisoned, Lillias began a series of extraordinary "confessions"; admitting that she was a witch, that she had been so since "the second burning of witches in this place" (thought to refer to witchcraft trials in Torryburn in 1666, 38 years earlier), that she had renounced her Christian baptism, had sex with Satan and joined in midnight dancing cabals with other witches and the Devil. And according to the minutes of the kirk session, she continued to make these assertions up until a few hours before her death.

The question is why after only a day in custody she would make a confession that we know today cannot have been true and which Lillias would have known would have led to her own death – four witches were burned at Culross, a mile down the road, in 1675; there were five executions for witchcraft in Fife between 1677 and 1701; the Paisley witch trials took place in 1697; and six witches had been accused in Pittenweem in 1704.

There are several theories including one which may shed light on why Lillias was accused in the first place; she was a very curious-looking woman. Her bones reveal that she was very tall (around 6ft) with a small head. She also had very prominent, protruding front teeth – her unusual appearance might not only have led some villagers to treat her as an outsider, but they may point to some form of learning difficulty. It is also believed, due to events she recalls during her interrogation, that she was quite old for the 18<sup>th</sup> century – between her late 50s and 70s – so there may even have been an element of dementia.

The other theory is that the records were plain and simply fabricated after the ageing, terrified and tormented Lillias died on August 29, a month after she was locked up, leaving the local minister, Reverend Allan Logan, with a potential legal problem. He wasn't allowed to put witches to death even after confession; they had to be brought to a proper trial, where many were, in fact, cleared especially in this later period. And, by this time, ministers who overstepped the mark could find themselves in hot water.

The fact that an uneducated peasant woman managed such a creative confession speaks to someone putting words into her mouth at the very least. But her descriptions, though imaginative, were not random. "Everything she confessed to is almost word for word taken

from the contemporary, industry-standard handbook on identifying and dealing with witches, *Daemonologie*," says Douglas. A book which a poor peasant woman would have been unfamiliar with – but not an educated minister. And conveniently her confession ticked every box required to convict a witch, should the authorities have later inquired.

## Watermark grave

It's impossible to ever know. But Lillias's watermark grave was known locally for generations, being opened up in 1852 and the bones removed. Its exact location had never been recorded, though, until Douglas went looking for it in 2014. Since then, the interest in Lillias, and through her the other victims of witchcraft persecutions, has grown, with a reconstruction of her face from photographs of her skull and a wreath laying ceremony at the shore on the anniversary of her death in August.

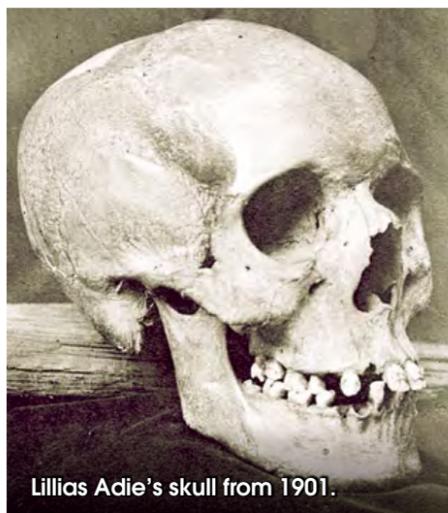
Organisers are now working with local artists on plans for the memorial, which may include the Stevenson-built Beamer beacon lighthouse, moved from its original location when the new Forth crossing was built. Potential locations include at Torryburn itself or elsewhere on the coastline including at Culross, a mile away, and already a focus for visitors thanks to its *Outlander* connections.

As for Lillias, her return has had nothing of the diabolical implications the villagers of her time feared. In August, at the anniversary of her death a crowd gathered at the shore near her grave to lay a wreath on the water. Among the crowd was historian and BBC radio presenter Dr Louise Yeoman, who has produced and presented a series of podcasts on Scottish witchcraft. She says: "It was like she was being welcomed back into the community."

**For more information, visit: [www.facebook.com/A-memorial-for-Scotlands-Accused-Witches-101145571295783/](http://www.facebook.com/A-memorial-for-Scotlands-Accused-Witches-101145571295783/) \*Dr Yeoman's podcasts on Scottish witchcraft can be accessed free of charge internationally, visit: [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07rn38z/episodes/downloads](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07rn38z/episodes/downloads)**



The University of Dundee recreated Lillias Adie's face from a photograph of her skull. Photo: Dr Christopher Rynn/University of Dundee.



Lillias Adie's skull from 1901.

archaeologist Douglas Speirs, hasn't been just important in archaeological terms but also because it has led to calls for the whole cartoonish cliché of witches to be re-evaluated.

"We now know, we have known for many years, that there were no crimes, that these people were innocent but they were persecuted, they were tortured, they were humiliated. It was a gross injustice. And 85 per cent of them were women – women had no voice, no defence," says Cllr Stewart.

Now, that revival of interest sparked by Lillias is at the centre of plans for a national memorial to all of Scotland's victims of witchcraft accusations and a new witches' trail along the coast of Fife. Witchcraft persecutions in Scotland began in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century under the direction of the new puritanical Protestant Church. Four times more cases were tried in Scotland than England, despite its smaller size, with 3,300 accusations and 1,400 executions on record, although actual numbers are believed to be much higher. By the time Lillias was accused, witchcraft persecutions were actually tailing off – they'd peaked in the mid-1600s, with the last witch executed in 1727.

"Witchcraft died out in 18<sup>th</sup> century Scotland not because the Church and rural society stopped believing in witches, but because the town-based civil authorities were increasingly reluctant to sanction the burning of old, peasant women on the basis of the ridiculous confessions wrung out of them by sleep deprivation and maltreatment," says Douglas. "They wouldn't have gotten away with this in Torryburn just a few years later."

## Bewitching

In June 1704 a special meeting of the kirk session was held to look into gossip that Lillias Adie and another woman, Janet Whyte, were witches. The accuser was Jean Bisset, a villager who had been drinking for several hours before she began ranting that Lillias was bewitching her. When another woman then also claimed Lillias had made her ill using witchcraft, Lillias was

The mud is inches thick on the shore at Torryburn in Fife where the tide washes in twice a day, a fact Kate Stewart discovered when she took some visitors out a couple of weeks ago. The Fife councillor says: "I was way over my ankles within minutes. I could feel it pulling me down. And that was where they buried her."

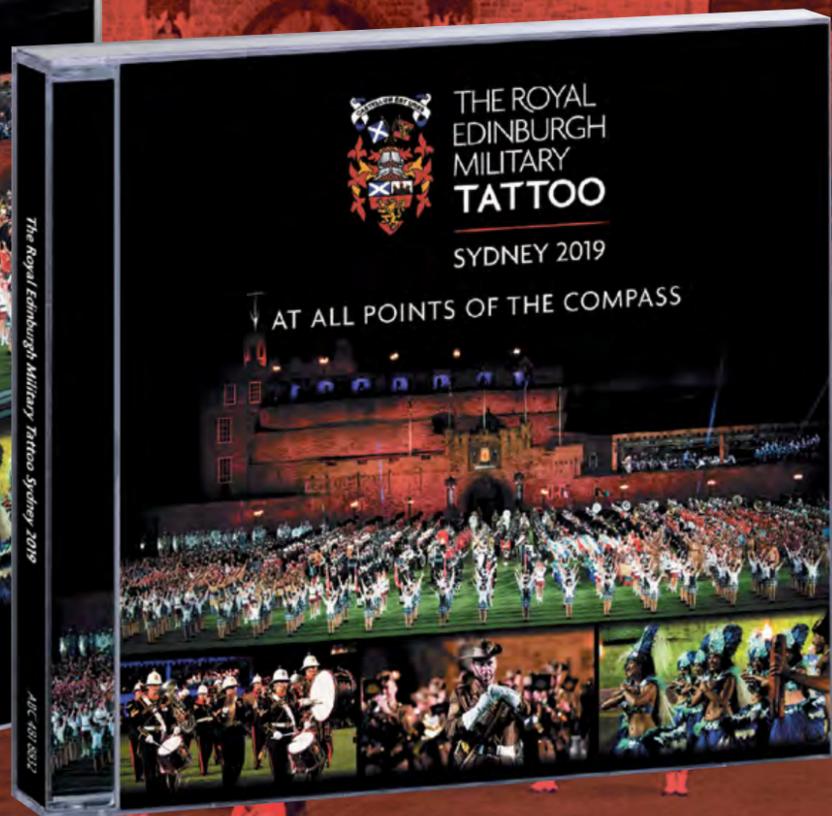
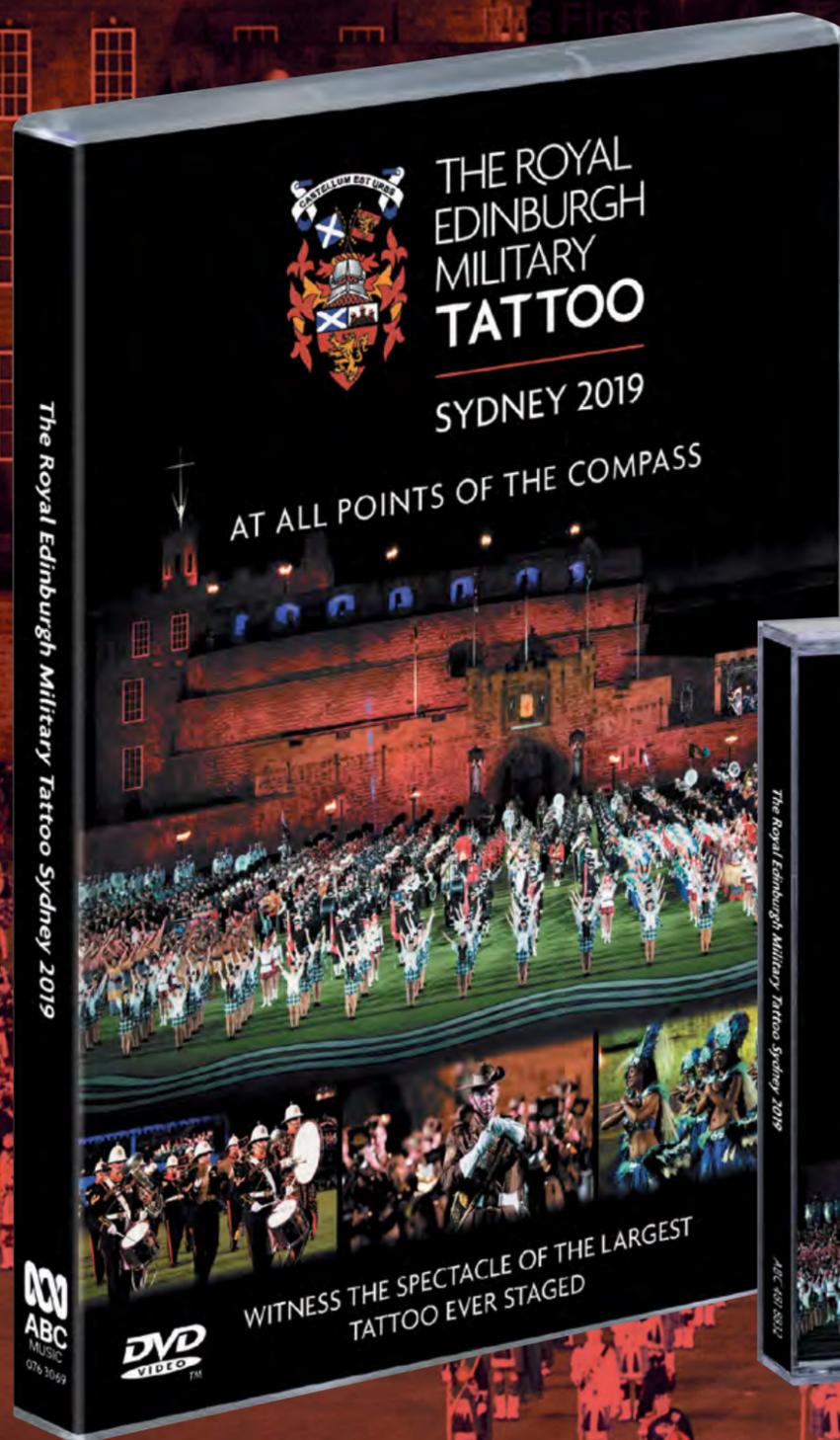
## Women had no voice

Lillias Adie died on August 29, 1704. She was, up until a month before her death, a simple and unimportant peasant woman but a great deal of trouble was gone to dig a grave in the intertidal zone of this part of the Firth of Forth shore and to place a large slab of sandstone over the top of her tomb. And that was because Lillias had been accused of being a witch - and had confessed. However, she had died in custody before the normal procedures in such cases could be carried out – have a witch beg for repentance, strangled, then burned in a cleansing fire. Without that, there was a danger that Lillias could rise from the dead and return to inflict evil on the village, so the stone and the location – covered by water for much of the time – were designed to stop her returning.

It's known as a revenant burial, from the Old French meaning "to return" and it is the only verifiable example of such in Scotland. Its rediscovery in 2014, by Fife

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