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Celebrating Burns Night

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The Year of Scotland in Australia 2020

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2020-A Year in Piping » Pg 27

Glasgow crowned the UK's top cultural and creative city

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Plan your wedding in Scotland » Pg 11 Volume 43 - Number 7

*Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

Robert Burns The heaven taught ploughman

Robert Burns has become an



by Sean Cairney

s the sun rises on a new decade, I hope the year (and decade) ahead will be good to you and filled with health, happiness and hopefully include celebrating your Scottish identity.

One way to celebrate your Scottish identity this month is honouring Scotland's Bard, Robert Burns. Robert Burns is Scotland's most celebrated poet. Also known as Rabbie Burns, or The Bard, he was born in 1759, the son of a farmer. During his lifetime, he penned hundreds of songs and poems, and the anniversary of his birth is celebrated on 25th January. Everyone knows Burns as Scotland's most famous and respected poet. Even people with no connection to Scotland or possibly not aware of his name are likely to know some of his works. You don't need to be a poetry or literary buff to be exposed to Robert Burns, either his works or his likeness.

An international icon

How many Hogmanay's worldwide have started with the words of Robert Burns? Auld Lang Syne is recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as one of the top three most popular songs in the entire English language, the others being Happy Birthday and For He's a Jolly Good Fellow. Auld Lang Syne has also been adapted by the Chinese and represents a song of friendship which is often played at graduations and gatherings.

international icon - the Ayrshire ploughman who rose from humble beginnings to become one of the world's best-known poets. In 2009 Burns was voted "The Greatest Scot" ever, polling ahead of Scottish cultural giants Sir William Wallace and Robert the Bruce. After Queen Victoria and Christopher Columbus, Robert Burns has more statues dedicated to him around the world than any other non-religious figure. I have seen them in Scotland, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, England and the USA. A replica of Burns' birthplace in Alloway can be found in Atlanta, Georgia which was constructed by the Burns Club of Atlanta. Robert also is the first person whose face has ever appeared on a bottle of drinks giant Coca-Cola. You may have also seen Robert's face on stamps, shortbread tins, money, post cards, mugs and an edition of his works has even been blasted into space, so if there is life beyond this Earth I hope they too enjoy Scotland's most famous son.

Whilst Burns wrote in both English and Scots his works have been translated in numerous languages around the world including most European languages, Russian and Japanese.

In this issue

We certainly give a nod to Burns in this issue with some great content, tartan and recipes.

Also make sure you have a look at our events page and hopefully you can find a Burns Supper taking place near you, or perhaps this issue will inspire you to host one of your own. You certainly do not need to pipe in a haggis to raise a glass, and awareness of the night, to your friends at your own home.

January heralds in a new year and decade and we have you covered on some great things to do this year. Scotland will be celebrating a new themed year, the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020. The year is full of events and places to visit which will celebrate the remarkable coasts and waters of Scotland.

In Australia the sound of Scotland will be very much be heard across the country as the Year of Scotland Australia will see a diverse range of Scotlish talent heading Downunder for an unprecedented program which goes across all regions. No country in the world has had this opportunity before and I urge all our readers to find out what is taking place and support and enjoy the amazing year of entertainment coming.

Across the globe the bagpipes will continue to sound, we have a roundup of some of the contests taking place in Scotland and internationally. Of course, there is always a Highland Games or Scottish festivals taking place throughout 2020 to hear the sound of Scotland.

Whilst Robert Burns may be a Scottish icon, Scotland also has many iconic landmarks. Firmly established on the tourist trail are heavy weights Loch Ness, The Calanais Standing Stones, Arthur's Seat and Dunnottar Castle. David C Weinczok gives us some alternatives to try on your next Scottish visit, allowing you to try something new, with less people.

The legacy of Robert Burns

The legacy of Robert Burns is an incredible one. In his 37 short years he left the world with works that touched upon universal emotions that is still relevant hundreds of years later. Robert never forgot his roots and craved greater social equality. He was called a 'heaven taught ploughman' by an Edinburgh critic in the late 1700's and has inspired people from every walk of life for many years. As we begin the 2020's, as Burn's penned in Auld Lang Syne, all of us that contribute to the Scottish Banner hope you will 'tak a cup o' kindness' and go forward into the new year with a sense of belonging and hope for the future.

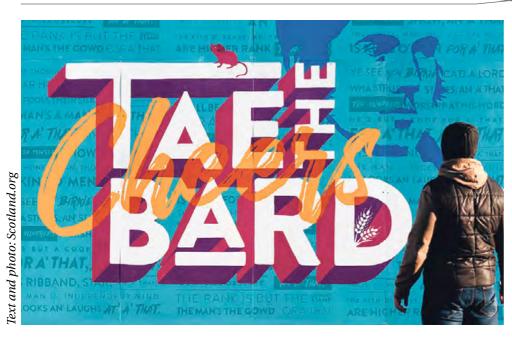
Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends the very best for the year ahead and of course a very Happy Burns Night!

Do you have a Robert Burns related story? How are you celebrating Burns Night? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us



Gracing our front cover: Celebrating Burns Night. Photo: VisitScotland.





Burns' Supper Guide

round the world tributes to Robert
Burns are held through the ritual of
the Burns' Supper. Originally started
a few years after his death by a group
of his friends and acquaintances, to honour
his memory, the suppers are now celebrated
annually on the date of his birth, 25th
January. Here are the perfect ingredients
needed to hold your very own Burns' Supper.

Burns' Night Menu

The centrepiece of any good Burns' Supper menu is the iconic haggis, or as the bard himself described it, the 'great chieftain o' the puddin'-race'. You can buy this from your local butcher, deli, supermarket or nearest Scottish store if you live overseas.

Traditional accompaniments to the haggis are neeps and tatties or as they are more commonly known - turnip and potatoes. These are normally served mashed.

The haggis is already cooked and just needs some careful re-heating until it is piping hot. You can do this in the oven or the pan and for the less domesticated out there you can even do it in the microwave!

A tasty alternative for non-meat eaters is the vegetarian haggis.

For a starter, you might consider a homemade Scots broth or cock-a-leekie soup.

Finally, to round off your Burns' Supper menu, desert might consist of a traditional Clootie Dumpling or a classic cranachan.

What to drink

Malt Whisky is the usual choice at Burns' Suppers. Contrary to popular belief, adding a little water to your malt should improve rather than dilute the flavour, although some whisky drinkers may not take kindly to watering down their drams!

It is traditional to pour a dram over the haggis but some may prefer not to as it drowns out the taste of the meat and makes it soggy and cold! It's perhaps best to enjoy each independently of the other.

If you don't like whisky, then robust red wines make a good accompaniment. White wines don't complement the dish quite so well, but it's whatever takes your fancy. Ales, lager, punch, Scottish fruit wines or soft drinks (perhaps Irn Bru, being Scotland's 'other national drink') are all alternatives.

Burns Supper Music

The haggis is traditionally piped in, which could prove difficult if neither you or any of your guests can play the bagpipes!

There is no shortage of CDs or downloads of Robert Burns' songs which you can use to dance to later on in the evening's celebrations.

A rousing chorus of *Auld Lang Syne* at the end of the night is a must.
Don't forget, Burns' Suppers can be contemporary too, so feel free to play more modern Scottish music.

Poems and Toasts

Traditional recitals on the evening include the *Selkirk Grace* and the *Address to a Haggis*.

Other recitals on the evening include a speech commemorating Burns and a toast to the great man, known as the 'Immortal

Memory', the 'Address to the Lassies' and of course 'The Reply from the Lassies', which are normally created especially for the evening.

Selkirk Grace

Some hae meat and canna eat, And some wad eat that want it, But we hae meat and we can eat, Sae let the Lord be Thanket!

Tartan

If you're hosting this event at home then literally anything goes, but it is definitely recommended that you wear at least a little bit of tartan! Whether it be a tartan hat, a tartan tie, or the full kilt get up, it's entirely up to you.

If you want to look the part then kilt up.





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?

79th Cameron Highlanders



Some of your readers might be interested in these pictures of the New York 79th Cameron Highlanders field uniform, dress uniform, trews, battle flag of the regiment, replica of flag, civil war

of flag, civil war
era American flag, they can be found
on Facebook, Two soldiers of the
regiment, another soldier, the New York
79th Highlanders wore both during
the early part of the civil war, Colonel
James Cameron killed early in the war,
my great- great uncle General Sherman
commanding general of the regiment,
I'm wearing a replica of the uniform,
another Cameron American Civil
War regiment and for your Canadian
readers 79th Cameron Highlanders of
Canada.

Jon Evans USA

Scottishness today

I refer to Malcolm Leslie's comments relating to problems maintaining Scottish heritage and culture (Scot Pourri, November 2019) together with the Editor's invitation to hear how people are responding to keeping Scottish interests alive.

For the past 3 years a research program has been looking at the evolution and nature of 'Scottishness' in South Australia. Amongst the many findings is that acknowledgement of Scottish ancestry remains significant, but most people do not connect to Scottish organisations. This in a State that probably still has the highest pro rata percentage of Scots descendants in the country. Many reasons were identified with a major component resting with these bodies themselves.

South Australia has well over 100
Scottish organisations but most of these are small and struggling. The State no longer holds a Highland Games and within the Adelaide region (population 1.3m) there is only one functioning Caledonian Society. Considerable undermining of activities (mainly unintentional) was also evident and this includes Clan groups competing with the more traditional bodies.

The whole situation appears quite complex but ways around the problems are clear. Organisations need to strive to understand them and competently work on their resolution, including with strong visions as to a desired future. In view of the recent past and where things are going in our communities, this is not going to be easy, but things need to get on better ground sooner rather than later.

Ron Layton Crafers South Australia

Last name Dow

Is the last name Dow a from Scottish or Irish descent, or both?

Thank you,

Doug Dow

USA

E-mail: dougdow@comcast.net

Dunce

My son, who now lives in Brisbane has just responded to my last email in which I told him that I had been putting pen to paper and writing about what school was like for me in the late 40's and early 50's. I was doing this in the hope that my Grandchildren in years to come might be interested in what school was like in their old Gramp's days.

He told me about your publication and when I looked it up noticed that you had described where the word 'dunce' originated from (*Scottish Banner, The Banner Says*, November 2019 Vol'43 Number 05). I found this so coincidental, as I for the first time since I can remember, I used this word in my reminiscing. *Stuart McKay Scotland*

Paddle Steamer Waverley



It's been a while since my last communication but I'm still enjoying my *Scottish Banner* every month, of course. However, today's contribution is a about a letter in October's edition re *SS Waverley* from Vince Flynn in New Zealand.

When I was a wee girl, many years ago, the family often went "doon the watter" at the Glasgow fair—which we always enjoyed, and I remember peaking at the adults downstairs (in the bar) singing away. Visiting my niece Alison in 2015 from Helensburgh she took us on the trip. It was great. I remember docking at Millport and the welcome we got there from a few pipers and a drummer standing-drenched- in the pouring rain. Stoic!! Later on, we retreated to the lounge and enjoyed the music of 'Bob the Box' —a great accordion player. The other passengers thinned out somewhat, even Peter my husband was on the other side off the room like he was disowning us. I don't know why, unless it was because Alison and I were singing our wee hearts out loudly—ah well can't please them all.

I had never been on *Maid of the Loch* until 1982 when my friend Maura (Irish) and I went over to Scotland to visit my rellies. We sailed up the loch from Balloch and stopped further up and disembarked. We had a lovely meal there in a grand

house -with a few wee wines. On the way back to Balloch it was raining so we adjourned downstairs and were having a good old 'chinwag' when a loud voice yelled down the stairs "Are yous getting aff or whit?" Apparently, we had been docked in Balloch for some time. Oops!! Great day.

In 2003 on our trip round New Zealand's South Island, Peter and I spent a few days in Queenstown –lovely. Of course, we went on the *SS Earnshaw* across Lake Wakatipu and that was a great experience too—so good.

It is such a terrible pity that the *Waverley* and the *Maid* are in such dire straits and like Vince, I sincerely hope they can be restored—such treasures.

Anne Koomen

Ed note: Thank you Anne for your note and memories. An appeal to Save the Waverley has been running to raise the £2.3 million required to return Waverley to service in 2020. This appeal has now raised £2.2 million, anyone who wants to help get over the finish line please see: www.waverleyexcursions. co.uk/supporting_waverley/donate

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media





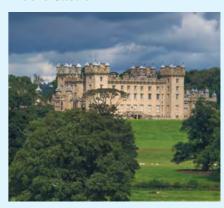
Pipe Major Ian Duncan, a native of Perthshire, teaches his workshop on piobaireached at Pittsburgh's Balmoral Classic this past Sunday! Balmoral School Pittsburgh, PA USA

Queensferry Crossing



The Queensferry Crossing sticking above the early morning mist. *Robert Gibb Scotland*

Floors Castle



Floors Castle looking great under a moody sky. I've never been inside the castle or the grounds...yet.

A View From My Camera
Scotland

Tigh Mor Trossachs



Tigh Mor Trossachs at Loch Achray beautiful autumn colours. *GN Photography Scotland*

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

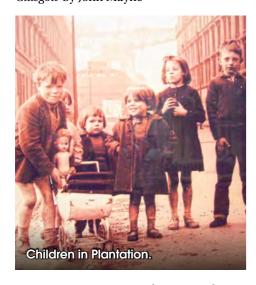
KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS

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 Port of Glasgow

Hail, Glasgow! Famed for ilka thing That heart can wash, or siller bring! May peace, wi' healing on her wing, Aye nestle here; And plenty gar thy children sing, The lee-lang year! Glasgow by John Mayne



ovan from the 9th to the 11th centuries was a power centre for the Strathclyde Britons whose capital lay at Dumbarton.

Over the past 150 years 31 carved stones have been recovered from the graveyard of the Old Govan Parish Church. The collection includes a unique and highly decorated sarcophagus carved from solid stone.

There are also five distinctive Viking

hogback tombstones, the earliest of which dates from the mid-10thcentury.

The rest of the group includes free-standing crosses, cross-slabs and early gravestones.

Thirty of the stones are still housed inside the church and one is in the graveyard.

The presence of the long-standing and mysterious Doomster Hill and fairly recent excavations by Glasgow University and television programme *Time Team* confirm the archaeological potential of the area.

John Robertson

This significant archaeological site lies only a short distance to the west of Plantation. In 1783 John Robertson, an enterprising Glasgow merchant, purchased Craigiehall, the largest of three estates making up the lands later referred to as Plantation. The northern boundary of his estate was the River Clyde and the southern boundary, the Paisley Canal, later the G. & S. W. Railway line and part of what would now be regarded as Kinning Park.

Robertson was the proprietor of several sugar and cotton plantations in the West Indies and for that reason he may have chosen to name his Glasgow acquisition 'Plantation', a name which it was to retain from then on. Nevertheless, this is only one version of that history because according to Andrew McMahon in his very comprehensive *History of Kinning Park* there is some evidence from an early map that it may have been called Plantation prior to Robertson's acquisition. It remains unclear.

Robertson was an entrepreneur and among many involvements was a partner in the Smithfield Company and Cashier of the Glasgow Arms Bank. He established a slitting and rolling mill at the mouth of the River Kelvin on the other side of the Clyde. He owned a cluster of houses at Pointhouse, and from there established the first regular ferry service from Pointhouse to Govan. He also owned a warehouse at the Broomielaw, where present day Robertson Street, running through his former property, was named after him.

The Plantation Estate

In 1793 the Plantation Estate was sold to John Mair, a rich Paisley mason and businessman. The story goes that Mair had survived a dangerous fall when working on a high building and had made a miraculous escape. He fell and was saved by grabbing hold of a stone that jutted out of the building. In gratitude to the stone, he had it preserved and taken to his estate in Plantation where it occupied an honoured and prominent position in his garden.

In 1829 the estate was purchased and passed on to William MacLean, another Glasgow merchant. William Maclean was a successful businessman and, as it turns out, was a man of some foresight as well as integrity. In 1828 he was the Deacon-Convenor of the Trades House and a city magistrate. When the Plantation Estate came on to the market for the sum of fifteen thousand pounds, he strongly

advised and argued for its purchase by the Trades House for he was able to point out the commercial advantages from such a sensible purchase. His advice was totally ignored by his business colleagues and he decided, in the end, to purchase it himself.

He later sold a very small portion of the land, then used for market gardening, to the G. & S.W. Railway Company for twice the purchase price of the whole estate and he also sold a strip along the river to the Clyde Trustees. William MacLean's wise investment proved something of a gold mine to his successors. These once green fields and market gardens were to become the wharves and quays of the docks that were to serve Glasgow's flourishing industries, some of which were located at the end of our family's Street, Blackburn Street, in Plantation.

Construction of the 35 acre Cessnock Dock was begun in 1893. At its formal opening, performed by the Duke and Duchess of York on the 10th September 1897 during Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Year, it was renamed the Prince's Dock. The 34-acre Queen's Dock was built on the North side of the river. Like the Prince's Dock it was also built upon the site of market gardens and a farm. Eventually, the remaining lands of the Plantation estate were built over and used to build tenements to house the dockers and the shipyard workers of industrial Govan, the same tenements that were to house my grandparents and my parents and into which I was born in 1943.



- The traditional Burning of the Clavie takes place in Burghead, Moray.
- The festival dates back to 400AD, when the village was the capital of the ancient Pictish kingdom
- The event takes place annually, as the townspeople of Burghead celebrate New Year twice - on January 1 and then again 10 days later.
- The Burning of the Clavie is a celebration of the ancient Scots Hogmanay, which fell on January 11 before the Gregorian calendar was introduced in Britain in the 18th century.
- The event involves lighting a 100kg barrel of tar which is then carried around the town. Tradition dictates that members of the 'Clavie Crew' must be natives of the town.
- The Clavie is then taken up Dorie Hill before being allowed to burn out and tumble down the hill.
- Locals then gather around the smoking remains as it is supposed to bring good luck for the year ahead.
- The Burning of the Clavie is held on 11 January each year, except when the 11th is a Sunday, in which case it takes place on the 10th.



Returning to The Scots College in 2020 ...

Join the Pipe Bands competing on the main oval at Scots for Sydney Highland Gathering 2020. Who will be crowned best on the day?

Where: The Scots College, 53 Victoria Road, Bellevue Hill 2023

When: Sunday 15 March 2020 Time: Gates open 11:00am

Watch Highland Dancers compete for glory, or see the Heavy Lifters toss the caber

Try a square sausage or give a haggis burger a go! Run the William Wallace Dash!

Grab your tartan or kilt and enjoy a day out with the family.

For more information or enquiries

e: sydneyhighlandgathering@gmail.com t: Rosemary Hayman, 0404 305 757

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Sydney Australia

SCOTSPEAK

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



"I'm delighted that V&A Dundee is in the running for such a prestigious international prize. Our stunning museum is now very firmly part of the cultural fabric of the city, with its design galleries and exhibition programme attracting locals and visitors alike in their hundreds of thousands. In a little over a year, it has massively raised Dundee's international profile and played a key part in record-breaking tourism figures – helping to create jobs and new economic opportunities."

Councillor John Alexander, leader of Dundee City Council, said as V&A Dundee has been nominated for the European Museum of the Year Award 2020, one of the world's most prestigious cultural prizes. Scotland's first design museum opened in September 2018 and in its first 12 months welcomed over 830,000 visitors, far in excess of the 500,000 visitors that had been estimated. V&A Dundee is one of only three UK nominees, alongside National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and St Fagans National Museum of History in Wales.

"Scottish Gaelic is such a rich and fascinating language with an incredible history. The songs, poetry and meaning given to Scottish place names really open your eyes to a deeper understanding of Scotland and its culture." I'm sure this course will raise the profile of Gaelic and increase the number of people learning. Duolingo is a fantastic way to start a new language and lets people learn in a fun, engaging game based way. We hope many of those that start learning go on to engage with other learning resources like LearnGaelic.scot, or take part in real life language classes and events."

Gaelic course creator Martin Baillie said as free Gaelic courses have been offered via online app Duolingo. The course was released eight months ahead of schedule and put together by volunteers working ten hours a week over seven months to get it ready. Nearly 61,000 users signed up from around the world in just two days during the launch at St Andrews Day.



"We are incredibly proud to win this prestigious award for the fifth time and very grateful to all our visitors who voted. Their support is a huge vote of confidence to our hardworking and professional staff at Edinburgh Castle. This recognition comes after another year of recordbreaking visitor numbers who all come to the castle to enjoy it's fascinating history and its unbeatable views of the city."

Edinburgh Castle Executive Manager, Nick Finnigan, said as Edinburgh Castle has won 'Best Heritage Attraction' at the prestigious British Travel Awards for a staggering fifth time. Last year over 2 million people visited Edinburgh Castle, making it Scotland's number one paid-for visitor attraction.

"It recognises both the beauty of the town's historic centre, and the efforts of local individuals, public bodies and voluntary organisations to make the town a wonderful place to live, work and socialise. Most importantly, it was the support of our community that won this award, and to know that the people of Kirkwall love and are proud of their town is the best reward of all."

Duncan McLean, chair of the Kirkwall Business Improvement District, said as Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands has Scotland's most beautiful high street, according to a public poll. Other candidates were Ayr, Innerleithen, Linlithgow, Lanark, and Rothesay.



"It's almost impossible to describe it because it's also very emotional. When you're trying to do your daily business you find you can't because you have to plan one or two hours ahead, if you can get out your door, if you can get your car through the junction, if you can get into town for your appointment. And it's every day it's Monday through to Sunday."

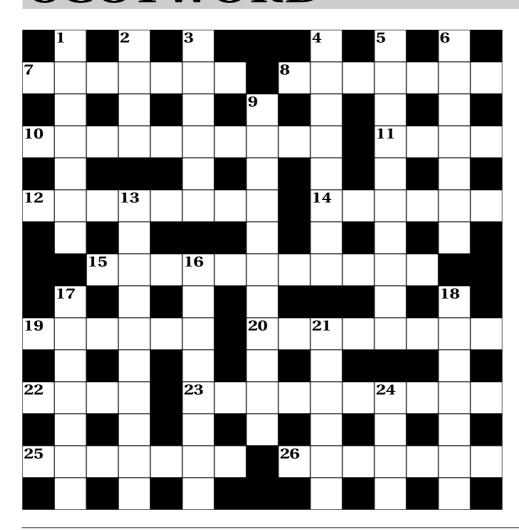
Glenfinnan resident Fiona Gibson said as a fundraiser for a new footbridge at the popular tourist attraction, the Glenfinnan Viaduct, in the Highlands made famous by *Harry Potter* has been launched.

The historic railway bridge first opened in 1901 but came to the attention of the wider world over 100 years later after appearing in four *Harry Potter* films and now attracts 300,000 visitors a year. Plans are now underway to improve the safety of the area for both tourists and residents.

"Wildcats are on the brink of extinction in Scotland but it's not too late. With funding in place, it is tremendously exciting to begin the UK's first wildcat release project and bring together all the necessary resources and expertise to make it happen. Using wildcats from the existing captive population, as well as cats from Europe to boost the gene pool, the reintroduction centre will provide a sustainable source of wildcats for years to come. The Cairngorms have historically been a key part of the wildcat range and we are working closely with the partners to understand which is our preferred first release site. Further wildcat releases may also take place in other strategically important locations across Scotland, with the potential to support well-planned future efforts in the rest of the UK."

Helen Senn, head of conservation and science programmes at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, said the Cairngorms has been named as potential location for releasing wildcats in 2022 in a bid to save the species from extinction. It comes after a report in 2019 that indicated the extinction of wildcats in Scotland would be highly likely without any releases.

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!

CLUES ACROSS:

- 7) It's prettier in Scotland (7).
- 8) Small mound (7).
- 10) Island west of Girvan 5, 5).
- 11) Captures open fabrics (4).
- 12) One corner to another (8).
- 14) Glossy coating (6).
- 15) Stronghold near Rothesay (5, 6).
- 19) Rush into occupation (6).
- 20) Gives a service (8).
- 22) A threesome (4).
- 23) Town south-west of Dumfries (10).
- 25) Bums! (7).
- 26) System of servitude (7).

CLUES DOWN:

- 1) Old schoolmaster (7).
- 2) Played in curling (4).
- 3) A Presbyterian official (6).
- 4) Vests (8).
- 5) Top Scots stay-over (10).
- 6) Old mowers (7).
- 9) House near Mauchline (11).
- 13) Bagpipe embellishments (5, 5).
- 16) Dignities of noblemen (8).
- 17) Top chambers (7).
- 18) Deer meat! (7).
- 21) They're kinfolk (6).
- 24) A swell (4).

Six of the best free things to do in Edinburgh this winter

lanning to visit the Scottish capital this winter? Why not spend more time in Edinburgh exploring its fantastic array of free attractions this winter? Plus, what is already a beautiful city is even more alluring when bathed in winter sunshine, dusted with frost and buzzing with festive spirit.

National Galleries of Scotland

Not one, not two, not even three but four buildings across Edinburgh house an astounding collection of art and are all well worth a visit. And, aside from certain paid-for exhibitions, they're all free admission. Princes Street in the city centre is where you head to see iconic works from the Masters of 14^{th} – 18^{th} century European art at the National; then stroll over to the National Portrait Gallery nearby, before ending the day at the Modern gallery, which is set across two buildings in a magnificent sculpture park.

Why go this winter? Obviously for the art...but there's also free live music ranging from Gaelic to opera on certain dates at the National; drop-in easel sketching workshops at the Portrait; or lectures and talks on subjects such as surrealism at the Modern.

The National Museum of Scotland
Seven levels of spectacular exhibitions
await you at this fascinating free

await you at this fascinating free attraction in Edinburgh's picturesque Old Town. The museum is packed with intriguing displays and insights into science and technology, fashion, the natural world and art and design that will keep you busy all day. Gain a wonderful insight into Scotland from prehistory to the present day in its must-visit Scottish Galleries.

Why go this winter? Fascinated by clocks? Explore the history of early British clock makingat The Luxury of Time: Clocks from 1550-1750. Featuring beautiful objects from the golden age of British clock making in the 17th century, these exquisitely decorated pieces were at the cutting edge of technology and many were the ultimate status symbol of their day.

Royal Botanic Gardens



Proving that gardens are not just for summer, visitors can appreciate the gorgeous winter landscape of these gardens, which are split across three themes and stretch across an impressive 70 acres. Discover seasonal flora and fauna as well as modern sculptures and installations dotted throughout. There is a fee for the Victorian glass houses but if you don't want to spend any money, you can still admire the exterior of this stunning piece of architecture.

Why go this winter? Check out the Hidden World of Plants. There is a

hidden microscopic world that the naked eye cannot see. This world is revealed through the breath-taking images produced by a scanning electron microscope. This exhibition reveals the structures of plants in images created at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh by microscopy technician Frieda Christie

Stand Up Comedy Club

Edinburgh is a world leader on the comedy stage, thanks to its brilliant Fringe Festival that takes place every August, which hosts plenty of comedy shows that won't break the bank. But you can still get laughs aplenty – and find free events – throughout the year at the excellent Stand Up Comedy Club.

Why go this winter? Head to the club on a Sunday to enjoy its long-running, improvised comedy show – and it won't cost you a penny! Resident comedians Stu and Garry take on the audiences' suggestions and create comedy, so the show is very much for everyone.

Calton Hill



Pack your camera because a walk up Calton Hill, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, will result in some of the best views of Edinburgh. Aside from the remarkable vistas over the city, this is also where you'll find some of Scotland's legendary monuments, including Nelson's Monument and the National Monument. It's also home to the Royal Observatory, which has a visitor centre to explore and which also hosts public events such as astronomy evenings.

Why go this winter? Catch the sunrise from its summit too – the beauty of a winter sunrise is it is a little later, which means not such an early start to the day!

Window shopping

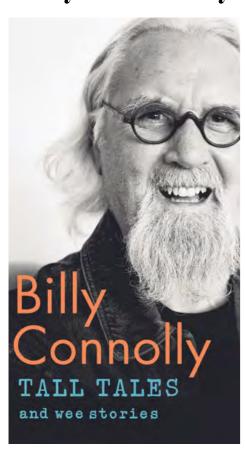


Even if you don't want to splurge the cash, Edinburgh's lovely shops and markets are worth exploring just for a spot of window shopping. From Princes Street to the Farmers' Market, the pretty boutiques and uniquely Scottish stores, there's plenty to explore to gather inspiration for your wish list.

Why go this winter? Into January come the East Princes Street Gardens will be alive with festive stalls, twinkling lights and delicious food as the annual Christmas Market takes place. With stalls selling everything from local and bespoke products and gifts to tasty treats, visiting the market is a must this year.

READER GIVEAWAY

Tall Tales and Wee Stories: The Best of Billy Connolly



In December 2018, after 50-years of belly-laughs, energy, outrage and enjoyment, Billy Connolly announced his retirement from stand-up comedy. It had been an extraordinary career. When he first started out in the late Sixties, Billy played the banjo in the folk clubs of Glasgow. Between songs, he would improvise a bit, telling anecdotes from the Clyde shipyard where he worked. In the process, he made all kinds of discoveries about what audiences found funny, from his own exaggerated body movements to the power of speaking explicitly about sex. He began to understand the craft of great storytelling too. Soon the songs became shorter and the monologues longer, and Billy quickly became recognised as one of the most exciting comedians of his generation.

Tall Tales and Wee Stories: The Best of Billy Connolly brings together the very best of Billy's storytelling and it is an inspirational, energetic and riotously funny read, and a fitting celebration of our greatest ever comedian.

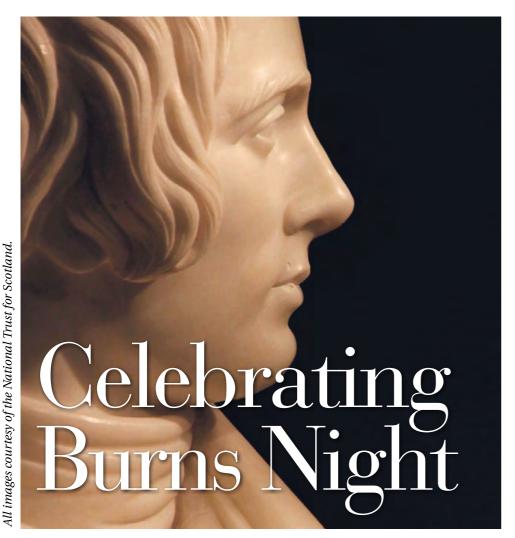
The Scottish Banner is pleased to be offering 3 copies of Tall Tales and Wee Stories: The Best of Billy Connolly, courtesy of Hachette Australia. To enter simply tell us what Scottish city Billy hails from by email: competitions@ scottishbanner.com, via our website at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us 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. Winners will be notified directly, good luck!





Great wine at great prices. saltireestate.com.au

Hosts of the Hunter Valley Highland Games.



On 25 January every year, Scots and Scots-at-heart come together to celebrate Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns. From its history to how a Burns Night generally takes place, Nick Drainey gives us a background on this uniquely Scottish celebration that takes place across the world.

his Burns Night the cottage where the bard was born will throw open its doors after a major conservation operation. Vital conservation works at the Alloway landmark began in November and won't be fully completed until April. They include the replacement of the cottage's traditional thatched roof, repairs to chimneys, internal plaster work, external harling and limewashing. But during the big celebration of all things Robert Burns it will host a gala day with games, live music and a ceilidh.

Caroline Smith, Operations Manager at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum said: "Thanks to the generous support of our many donors, work is now underway to repair the cottage. We've worked very hard behind the scenes carrying out essential surveys and tests, and have a comprehensive programme of work planned to protect the cottage for the future." But the highlight of January 25 is a Burns Supper, which have held for over 200 years. A supper is held to celebrate good fellowship and the genius of Scotland's national poet but what is it really all about?

The origins

The first Burns Supper was held in 1801 in Burns Cottage, Alloway, according to the National Trust for Scotland, which looks after the property. This first supper was organised by the Reverend Hamilton Paul for a gathering of nine 'honest men of Ayr'. For some years there was a question over whether a woman had been in attendance, as one of those noted had the Christian name Primrose, an uncommon name for a man. It introduced all the key ingredients of the Burns Suppers we see today, namely good food, plenty of drink and friends who toasted the *Immortal Memory of Robert Burns* as well

as reciting some of his works. Guests at this first supper were served sheep's head; this rarely features on modern menus.

What happens

Traditionally, Burns Suppers are held on or around Burns' birthday – 25 January. They've become popular around the world. While it used to be the case that a Burns Supper was a male-only affair, this is definitely not still true. Large Burns Suppers may have a top table for the Chairman, speakers and their partners, any special guests and the organising committee (if there is one), but you can also run a smaller and less formal affair. The menu or Bill o' Fare will detail what the party will be eating and usually includes a list of the speeches, speakers and entertainers. You may also find the words to Auld Lang Syne, which will be sung at the end of the evening before guests depart.

Most suppers start with a grace, most commonly *The Selkirk Grace* attributed to Burns.

What to wear

As a celebration night, dress can be quite formal. The National Trust for Scotland says there's no rule obliging a kilt to be worn but this has become common evening dress for many Scots. A dinner suit or trews (tartan dress trousers) are equally acceptable.



It should be noted that it's very unlikely that Burns himself would have worn a kilt. He was a Lowlander and the kilt is traditionally Highland dress. It was also illegal to wear a kilt between 1747–82, in the aftermath of the Jacobite Risings.

At a more traditional Burns Night, ladies might wear a black or white dress with a hint of tartan, perhaps a tartan sash pinned to the right shoulder (only a Clan Chief's wife should wear her sash pinned to the left).

Many suppers are 'come as you are'. If you're the organiser, just let your guests know how formal you intend the evening to be.

What to eat

The first course is traditionally soup, either Scotch broth, cock-a-leekie or Cullen skink - all good Scottish recipes using Scottish ingredients. Haggis is then served either as the main course or an intermediate course. The haggis is accompanied by champit tatties (mashed potato) and neeps (mashed turnip). Sometimes carrot is mixed with the neeps, although this is not traditional. Many suppers now include a whisky sauce to accompany the haggis. If haggis is the intermediate course, it's often followed by a main of Scottish salmon, Scottish beef, a steak pie or game such as grouse or pheasant. This would be accompanied by potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

The pudding is an essential part of the meal. It might be a traditional Scottish trifle or cranachan, a dish of oatmeal, cream and raspberries with a hint of whisky. Finally, a cheeseboard is passed around, usually with a selection of Scottish cheeses such as Caboc, Arran cheddar, Dunlop cheese from Ayrshire (similar to cheddar) or a Lanark Blue, served with Scottish chutneys and oatcakes. This can be accompanied by port or whisky and followed by coffee and tea, before the speeches begin.

Addressing the Haggis

This has become a key part of all Burns Suppers and involves the Addresser, the chef, a piper and 3 drams of whisky. It's likely that all guests will be given a dram at this point, if they don't already have one.

The piper leads the procession of the haggis, carried on a platter by the chef. As they circle the room, guests clap in time to the music. The haggis is presented in front of the Addresser who is flanked by the piper and the chef.

The Addresser will then recite the *Address to the Haggis*.

Once the Address is complete, the Addresser gives a glass of whisky to the chef and the piper, and invites the whole company to 'toast the haggis'.

By: Nick Drainey



The chef will then recover the haggis and leave the room to plate this part of the meal. Sometimes the haggis is passed around the table for guests to help themselves, adding tatties and neeps from large bowls placed on the table.

Speeches and entertainment

After the meal, the speeches and entertainment begin in earnest, starting with a toast to the monarch, known as *The Loyal Toast*. This is followed by the main toast of the night, to *The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. The Immortal Memory*should be a heartfelt toast to the genius, life and works of our National Bard. At more formal dinners this speech focuses on a theme of Burns' works, ending with a formal toast where all guests are invited to raise their glass.

The next speech will be *The Toast* to the Lassies, a reflection of Burns' 'appreciation' of women. Traditionally, this takes the form of a witty reflection on the relationships between men and women, ending with the men rising to toast 'the Lassies'.

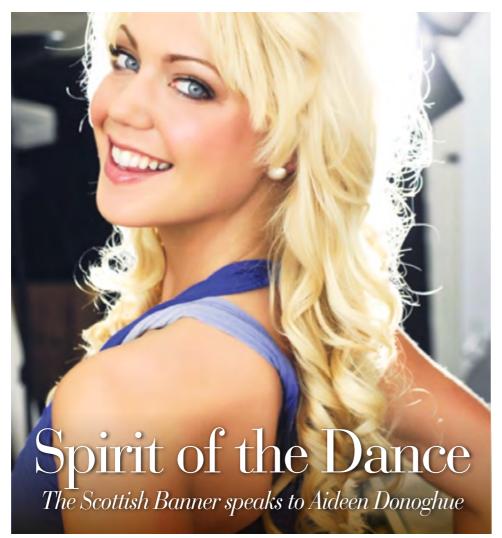
This is followed by the *Reply to the Toast to the Lassies*. This should also be witty and seek to correct the previous speaker's assumptions about women. The speech often ends with rousing applause from the women present, who then rise and raise their glasses to the men, toasting 'the Laddies'.

At larger or more formal Burns Suppers, there may be further speeches that reflect on the guests and absent friends, Scotland and a formal vote of thanks. The speeches are followed by entertainment – often including recitations and music. The night should end with a rousing rendition of *Auld Lang Syne* and three cheers, marking the end of a successful Burns Night.



Copy of a portrait of Burns by Alexander Nasmyth.





International dance sensation Spirit of the Dance has conquered the world and is coming to Australia in April/May 2020 with their new spine tingling 21st anniversary show. Dancer and cast member Aideen Donoghue spoke to the Scottish Banner on what it is like to be a part of this amazing Celtic production and what Australian audiences can expect to see in 2020.

Thank you Aideen for taking the time to speak to *the Scottish Banner*. Can you tell us how you got into dance and just what you love most about it?

AD: I started dancing when I was three, beginning with Irish dancing back in Ireland. Something would change me whenever I was dancing. I took it a bit more seriously when I was a bit older and started competing more. Then I auditioned for a college in London in the hopes of doing dance professionally. I got a scholarship at the age of sixteen. For me there was no other choice, I knew from the age of fourteen this was what I wanted to do.

Your very first job was with Spirit of the Dance. How amazing was it for you to have such an incredible opportunity as your first professional job?

AD: Yes, it was my first job ever and when I got it we toured America for two months and I never looked back. I was eighteen back then and it was incredible. We were performing in front of thousands of people and obviously the Americans are

so enthusiastic and theatrical themselves. The response was so overwhelming and something that is very close to my heart. I never get bored of this show and met some amazing friends through this show.

Spirit of the Dance has been seen by over 20 million people. How does it make you feel to be part of production that has had such a global impact?

AD: It is incredible. When you do a show like Spirit no one knows just how much hard work goes into it. The rehearsal time and pain that you go through, both physical and mental, it can take a toll. But when you get the chance to perform the show, everything disappears and it is simply an amazing feeling. I always want to express that gratitude to the audience so they enjoy each show we do.

Celtic song and dance is so powerful and tells such an incredible story. What is it about Celtic music you feel connects the audience with the production of Spirit of the Dance, regardless of their cultural background?



AD: Me being Irish I am very connected to Celtic music, I grew up with it. I think with a production like ours it needs rich and haunting Celtic music. The show is not about the glamourous side of things with the costumes, it really is about the beats you make with your shoes. That simplicity of it and creating a sound with our feet. We all come together as a tribe almost and that is very powerful.

Spirit of the Dance infuses Irish dance with a variety of dance styles such as Scottish, flamenco, salsa, ballet, street dance and tango. How much do you enjoy bringing other dance genres into the mix of the show?

AD: I love it, it is great change. Doing Irish you don't use your arms so with other styles you can use other parts of your body. You can also bring a bit more of your personality out with other genres. With Irish dance there can be a nearly robotic element as you all have to be moving together at the same time, with other styles it gives you more freedom to show what else you can bring to the table.

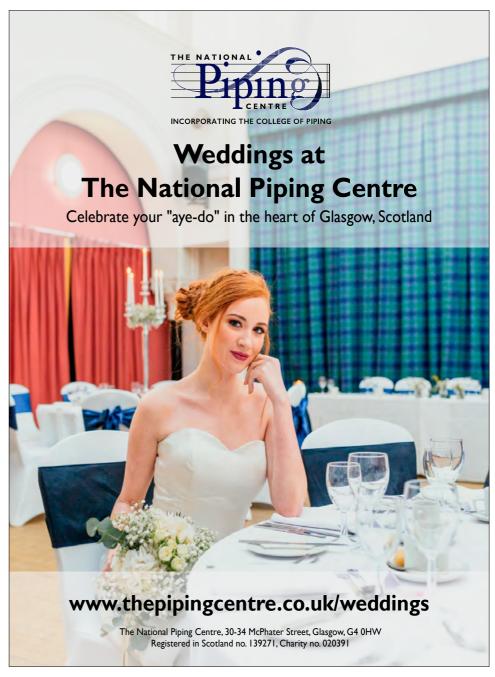
With more than 20 years of performances, Spirit of the Dance is one of the most successful shows to come out of Ireland. Each year the production changes with new and exciting choreography, what can audiences expect to see with the 2020 performance?

AD: You can expect a great night, we have a two-hour production so it is full on. We will have a fiddle player and singer with us as well. There is a story we tell throughout the show, including a tribal battle and a love story as well. I am really looking forward to coming back to Australia, a place I have always wanted to live.

Spirit of the Dance is touring Australia in April and May, 2020. For tickets and details see: www.mellenevents.com.au







Glasgow crowned the UK's top cultural and creative city



lasgow has been named the UK's top cultural and creative city as part of a landmark report by the European Commission. The report puts Glasgow ahead of London, Bristol, Brighton and Manchester which make up the rest of the top five in the UK. Edinburgh is ranked 6th in the list. As befits the city's 'People Make Glasgow' slogan, the report also ranked Glasgow as Europe's leader for 'openness, tolerance and trust'. The Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor 2019 report looked at 190 cities from across 30 European countries and ranks 29 different aspects of a city's cultural health, including its cultural vibrancy, creative economy and ability to attract creative talent and stimulate cultural engagement. The report states: "Glasgow was one of the first European Capitals of Culture, in 1990. Known as

an industrial city, it has now gained recognition as a creative and cultural centre of European importance."

The UK's leading cultural and creative city

Dr Bridget McConnell CBE, the Chair of Glasgow Life, said: "We always knew Glasgow was a global cultural leader and we're delighted that the European Commission has confirmed our position of the UK's leading cultural and creative city. Glasgow is a city bursting with energy, passion and creativity and filled with artists, designers, creators and innovators. We have world-class museums and galleries, incredible architecture and history and as a UNESCO City of Music, there's nowhere better to enjoy a gig. A focus for the performing arts and a hub for the creative industries, it's no wonder that we've come out top of the ranking. What's more,

our openness, tolerance and trust has been rated as the best in Europe, confirming what we already know, that our people make Glasgow the best city in the world."

Glasgow is home to more than 100 cultural organisations and five of Scotland's six internationally renowned national performing arts companies, namely the Royal Scottish National Orchestra; National Theatre of Scotland; BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra; Scottish Opera and Scottish Ballet. It is also home to music venues including the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, City Halls and Old Fruitmarket.

More people visit Glasgow's museums each year than in any other UK city outside of London, with both Kelvingrove Art Gallery and the Riverside Museum attracting more than 1.3 million visits each in the last year. The city is also investing £66 million in a full refurbishment and redisplay of The Burrell Collection, which is set to reopen to the public in 2021. Glasgow's nine city museums are home to Europe's largest civic arts collection, with masterpieces by Dali, Van Gogh, Degas, Renoir, Whistler and Monet as well as stunning works by the Glasgow Boys and the Scottish Colourists all on show for free in the city's museums. In terms of contemporary art, Glasgow has no fewer than eight Turner Prize winners and 12 nominees who have hailed from, trained in, or worked out of the city in recent years.

Huge and diverse cultural offer
The city is also the place to come to
admire the genius of architect and
designer, Charles Rennie Mackintosh,

or a gig at the SSE Hydro which in 2018 was named the world's best performing music venue by size, or to enjoy shows by trailblazing companies such as The Citizen's Theatre. Glasgow is also home to a year-round calendar of major cultural events from the UK's biggest Mela to the Merchant City Festival and the World Pipe Band Championships. Every January, the city's Celtic Connections festival welcomes more than 2,000 artists from across the globe to take part in some 300 events on 35 city stages as part of an incredible celebration of traditional and folk music. The city is also home to the Glasgow Jazz Festival, Glasgow International Comedy Festival and the Glasgow Film Festival.

Dr McConnell added: "We're proud to have a huge and diverse cultural offer that's open to everyone, whether that's enjoying a community pantomime in venues across the city or being inspired in our world-class museums. We also recognise that we need to invest in our cultural legacy, and we are doing just that with a £66 million refurbishment of The Burrell Collection. I have no doubt that when we once again reveal Sir William's incredible gift in its new home, Glasgow's cultural credentials will be lifted to even greater heights."

Work is progressing on a new Culture Plan for Glasgow which will set out ambitious new targets to build the city's reputation as globally recognised creative and cultural world city, with citizens at its heart.

2020 Geelong Highland Gathering returns to Osborne Park, North Geelong





he 2020 Geelong Highland Gathering, will again be held at Osborne Park, Swinburne Street, North Geelong on Sunday, 15 March 2020. The Chieftain/ President of the Geelong Highland Gathering Association, Doctor Maurice Marshall, said, "The use of this venue for the 2019 event attracted very favourable comments and the best crowd since the 2014 event.



Accordingly, the Committee approached the North Geelong Cricket Club and the City of Greater Geelong to determine if the Geelong Highland Gathering could be staged again at this venue again in 2020. An attraction of this venue is its close proximity to the North Geelong Railway Station which suited many of our patrons residing in the Melbourne metropolitan area in 2019."

A meeting of friends

Doctor Maurice Marshall also stated: "This year's Geelong Highland Gathering will be the 63rd in the modern era and the iconic event dates back to New Year's Day in 1857 when the first Geelong Highland Gathering was held on the plains of South Geelong organized by the then Comunn na Feinne

Society (1856 - 1946) that ran the event on New Year's Day up until 1927 when it lapsed. The Gathering recommenced in 1958 as part of the 100 years celebration of the then former City of Newtown on their creation as a borough on 9 March 1858. Since 1995 the Gathering has been organized by the Geelong Highland Gathering Association a voluntary, incorporated, not for profit, cultural organization. It is important to remember this is a Gathering, a meeting of friends to enjoy and participate in all things Scottish."

Great events

The 2020 Gathering will see all the usual events including the 2020 Western Victorian Pipe Band Championships, the South Pacific Heavy Scottish Games Championships, Highland Dancing, 42nd Highland Regiment historic re-enactment groups, Clan and heritage associations, Glen Lachlan College of Arms swordplay demonstrations, whisky tasting, vintage cars display, haggis and other Scottish foods and a Scottish dogs. There will also be a Scottish faire market with food, souvenir, clothing and other stalls, children's activities etc.

One of the highlights of the day will be the massed pipe bands at the end of the day including the Geelong RSL Pipes & Drums and prospective learner and or existing pipers and drummers can find more information about the band on www.thegeelongpipesanddrums.com or telephone 0407 512 672.

The Geelong Highland Gathering takes place on March, 15, 2020. For more details: www.geelonghighlandgathering.org.au or telephone 0407 512 672.



Plan your wedding in Scotland – things to consider for a destination wedding



cotland is a popular location for destination weddings - and it's no wonder! With beautiful scenery, romantic venues, and marriage laws that are much more liberal than in other countries, Scotland is the ideal place to host your dream wedding day. Let the wedding experts from The National Piping Centre, Glasgow, guide you through why you should choose Scotland and what you need!

Is Scotland for you?

Now, we may be biased but if you're looking for a beautiful backdrop for your own wedding, we think that Scotland is the perfect choice. Not only is there beautiful scenery and romantic venues like The National Piping Centre, the marriage laws here are much more liberal than in other countries, giving you the freedom to celebrate in a way that suits you as a couple!

Do your research

Planning a destination wedding can be quite different to planning a more traditional ceremony, so it's very important that couples to do their research. You may have dreamed of a sunlight drenched beach ceremony, but this is Scotland – make sure you have alternative options from your venue. You should also research any political issues, from economic worries to health and safety, such as whether any religious or LGBT guests might feel uncomfortable in your chosen destination.



If you are travelling from outside the European Economic Area you'll need entry clearance through a Marriage Visa to get in to Scotland, so make sure you have this!

Whilst you are in early planning stages for coming to Scotland, The National Records of Scotland have a handy guide to the legalities of and administration involved in getting married here. Its well worth a read to ensure you have everything!

Send your invitations early
While it's usually considered best to
follow up your save-the-dates with
invites around 6-8 weeks before the
wedding, this simply isn't enough time
when planning a destination wedding.
It's crucial that you allow your guests
enough time to confirm holidays from
work, save money for the trip and apply
for any necessary documentation.
We'd recommend sending your savethe-dates as soon as you've set your
location, and posting your official
invitations with a minimum of three
months to go.

In choosing your ideal Scottish location, the good news is that you can get married almost anywhere legally. From castles to churches to lochs and beaches you are free to create your dream wedding in the perfect location.

Getting there

It can be challenging enough to arrange a wedding suitable for all of your guests to attend at home, so going away can seem like a logistical nightmare.

Your priorities will include coordinating travel arrangements and securing appropriate accommodation at a price that's suitable for all. One way to manage to this effectively is to pick a travel agent, who can help make group arrangements and help your guests with reminders. If the agent is paid by the resort or airline, there's no additional cost for you, and it can reduce the stress you're under significantly.

Remember you must notify the registrar in the district where your marriage is to

take place between 3 months and 29 days in advance of the wedding – so make sure you remember to do this in the time frame!

Be clear about costs

It's customary for guests to cover their own accommodation and transport costs when attending a destination wedding - though it's essential that you make this clear in your communications to avoid any confusion or later awkwardness. One way to do this is to supply advice on getting the best rates on travel costs and accommodation recommendations - this is one of the more subtle options, but still makes it clear that the onus is on the guest to pay. If there are costs you are covering for your guests, such as transfers between the airport and their hotel, it's good to include this information too. Just make sure that you provide a range of price points, so that guests can plan according to their needs and not feel priced out of celebrating your big day.

What about gifts?

If you're holding a destination wedding, bear in mind that your guests will often spend a lot in order to be with you on your big day. There are also logistical issues involved with getting your gifts home if presented with them at your destination! Many couples holding destination weddings often forgo the

wedding registry, opting to let their guests know that their presence is gift enough, or opt only for smaller, travel-friendly items, gift vouchers or a contribution to an experience at the destination itself.

Choose Scotland

From being able to pick your dream location to including some fantastic Scottish traditions like ceilidh dancing, a piper, handfasting and drinking from a Quaich, Scotland is the perfect location for a wedding. If you aren't sure where to start, take a look at The National Piping Centre in Glasgow. They can create a Highland House party in the middle of the city, with our tartan theme and museum of piping with come and try giving your guests a fun ice breaker during the drinks reception. Take a peek at their wedding blog, too, as its crammed full of hints and tips for your big day!

Find out more at: www.thepipingcentre.co.uk/weddings





IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Scotland votes

The results of UK General Election saw Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party win with 365 seats, an 80 seat majority. In Scotland however the Scottish Nationalist Party (SNP), won 48 of Scotland's 59 constituencies, winning 13 more seats than in the last election in 2017, making them Scotland's largest political party.

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said Scotland has chosen a different future than the rest of the UK. At a press conference after the poll results came in Sturgeon said, "This is not about asking Boris Johnson or any other Westminster politician for permission. It is an assertion of the democratic right of the people of Scotland to determine their own future." She addressed Mr Johnson directly in saying, "Let me be clear. This is not simply a demand that I or the SNP are making. It is the right of the people of Scotland - and you as the leader of a defeated party in Scotland have no right to stand in the way."

A Downing Street spokesperson said, "On Brexit, the prime minister said that he is now in a position to get this done in a way that allows the whole of the UK to move forward together, providing certainty for Scottish businesses and improving the lives of people right across Scotland. The prime minister made clear how he remained opposed to a second independence referendum, standing with the majority of people in Scotland who do not want to return to division and uncertainty. He added how the result of the 2014 referendum was decisive and should be respected."

Appeal to protect Robert the Bruce letter



The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) has launched an appeal to help it raise funds to protect one of Scotland's most important historical documents. Brodie Castle in Moray is home to one of the oldest documents in the NTS collections - a letter from King Robert the Bruce. Written in 1312 to Malcolm, Thane of Brodie, regarding the maintenance of his property, it pre-dates the oldest parts of the castle by about 200 years. This document has considerable importance due to its antiquity and provenance. Relatively few documents from this time survive intact and are still legible, so we're extremely lucky to be in possession of this, especially as it was written by such a key figure in Scotland's history. In 1645, Brodie Castle was ransacked by Lord Lewis Gordon and many of the family papers were burnt, so it's even more fortunate that this letter survived. The letter is now almost 700 years old, and donations enabled NTS to complete essential conservation work on it over the summer. Now the NTS would like to purchase a 'ColliderCase' to display this special document. This exciting new way to present artefacts offers increased learning and engagement opportunities, as well as state-of-the-art protection for delicate materials.

To help see: www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/greetings-from-robert

Nine possible Bronze Age figurines unearthed in Orkney



A team from ORCA Archaeology has discovered an amazing series of half-metre tall stone-carved objects while completing exploratory archaeological excavations connected with the development of an electrical substation on behalf of SSEN Transmission in Orkney. In total, nine carved stones have been unearthed in

the remains of a structure revealed at the proposed Finstown substation site, after digging through sixty centimetres of midden deposits.

Some of the objects look remarkably like stylised representations of the human form, whilst others look more like stones set upright into the floor of a Bronze Age building excavated by EASE Archaeology at the Links of Noltland, Westray. These may have been used to tie mooring ropes onto, to help hold the roof on.

The archaeologists working on site uncovered the carved stones scattered around a hearth within the remains of an enigmatic structure that contained three cists, two hearths and a partial ring of holes packed with broken off upstanding stones. Three of the roughly carved figures were also important enough to the people who used the building to be incorporated within the structure of one of the hearths and in the foundations of one of the standing stones. The purpose of the building and how it was used by the inhabitants of this site four thousand years ago is still an enigma.

Professor Colin Richards from the University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute said, "This is a significant discovery in Orkney and probably within North West Europe. It is very rare to find representations of people in prehistoric Orkney and when found, they are usually individual or in very small groups. If they are figurines, to find nine figures within one structure is very exciting and together with the archaeology found at this site has the potential to add to our understanding of Orcadian society in prehistory."

The survival of these marks together with the remnants of the Early Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement structures gives an insight into the prehistoric use of this site over some two thousand years with people living, farming and burying their dead across this windswept hillside.

Large bear sculpture to celebrate famous Scot erected in East Lothian



The legacy of one of East Lothian's most famous sons, John Muir, has been immortalised through a five-metre high steel bear sculpted by renowned Scottish artist, Andy Scott, the man behind the Kelpies and other well-loved sculptures.

This remarkable sculpture, fixed to a base erected on a mound planted with wild flowers, was unveiled on the 19thNovember. It will be illuminated by lighting using renewable energy. The bear is located off the A1 in close proximity to the Spott Roundabout at Dunbar.

John Muir, born in Dunbar in 1838, played a key role in the development of America's national parks. He emigrated from Scotland in 1849 and is famous for petitioning the U.S. Congress for the National Park bill, establishing Yosemite National Park. The bear is symbolic of John Muir's travels through the far-off wilderness of America's west, in the Rockies and his advocacy for National Parks.

The sculpture is made of welded steel and is fabricated from steel plates of various thicknesses, heavy at the bottom and lighter towards the top, giving the structure an inherent strength. Visitors can access it via a walkway.

Andy Scott, a graduate of Glasgow School of Art, has completed over 70 projects across the UK and internationally. His distinctive hand-crafted figurative sculptures combine traditional skill with contemporary fabrication techniques.

Commenting on the erection of the sculpture he said: "It is fantastic to see this sculpture finally being erected as part of the Hallhill development, especially in memory of such an influential character as John Muir, which is particularly apt given today's focus on the environment. This bear sculpture will provide an opportunity to enlighten people about the man and his work. It is a symbol of the wilderness John Muir was such a passionate advocate of and is testament to his incredible desire to protect the natural environment."

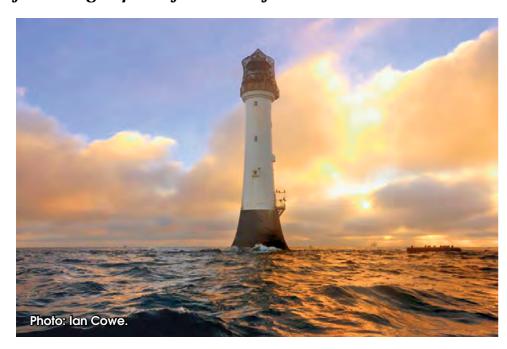
Ullapool gets into the festive spirit



Ullapool on the shores of the west Highlands celebrated Christmas with a 9m (29.5ft) "tree" made from fishing gear. Scotland's most unique Christmas tree is made from creels used for catching shellfish, and has become a tradition in Ullapool since it was first constructed in 2016. One of the Creel Tree organisers Robert Hicks said: "It brings so many people to the area and so much so now that December is almost as busy as some of the summer months and it is great to see. Anything that generates more income and trade in the village is a good thing and we are very much hoping many people will come west this weekend and join us." Volunteers begin to assemble the tree each November and the installation on the he village's shorefront has boosted the towns tourism numbers.

Review of Scotland's historic lighthouses

Lighthouses up and down the country will be reviewed for listing as part of the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020.



istoric Environment Scotland (HES) has announced it will undertake a review of listed and unlisted lighthouses owned by the Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB). As part of the year-long project, in partnership with NLB, HES will update existing listed building records for lighthouses and explore unlisted lighthouses to determine if they meet the criteria to become listed.

Since the building of Scotland's first lighthouse in the 17th century, lighthouses have played a crucial role in ensuring safe passage for ships.

Research will be undertaken using information and photographs from NLB's collection held in the National Record of the Historic Environment. The project will be a major project throughout Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020.

Wonderful landmarks

Buildings listed as having 'special architectural or historic interest' form part of the nation's rich heritage and help to tell the story of Scotland's past. Listing celebrates these buildings and ensures their special interest is considered in the planning process. HES as the lead public body for Scotland's historic environment, are responsible for listing buildings, while NLB is responsible for the provision of Marine Aids to Navigation in the waters surrounding Scotland and the Isle of Man, and currently operates and maintains over 200 lighthouses.

Philip Robertson, Deputy Head of Designations at HES, said: "There are around 150 listed lighthouses throughout the country, and they are not only wonderful landmarks but also a testament to Scotland's exceptional engineering achievements. There are a range of lighthouses which have never been assessed for listing, including some dating from the 1970s and 1980s, so we're really excited to look at these structures for the first time and explore their potential. By reviewing and updating the records of these fascinating buildings, we will be able to offer more information about what makes them special to help their future care and maintenance."

Iconic features of our coasts and seas
Jane Ryder, Chair of HES Board, said:
"Scotland's lighthouses are iconic
features of our coasts and seas with rich
associations with those who have designed
them, who have lived and worked in
them and those who have and continue
to rely on them. With the Year of Coasts
and Waters encouraging people to explore
Scotland's coasts we hope that our project
with NLB will highlight the importance
that our nation's unique lighthouses have
as part of our community heritage as well
as our wider maritime history."

Mike Bullock, Chief Executive of the Northern Lighthouse Board, said: "We place a great deal of importance on the preservation and sharing of our remarkable history and we are delighted to be working on this project with HES during Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters. Many of our lighthouses are now over 200 years old but they continue to serve the same purpose as when they were built - to guide all mariners safely through Scottish and Isle of Man waters. It will be enormously helpful to determine the appropriate listed status for our lights built in the 1970s and 1980s. Architecturally, they might be very different structures to the Stevenson lighthouses but they are very much a part of our lighthouse heritage."

Since the building of Scotland's first lighthouse in the 17th century, lighthouses have played a crucial role in ensuring safe passage for ships. One of the most famous is the Bell Rock Lighthouse which was built in 1808-11 by Robert Stevenson (Robert Louis Stevenson's grandfather) and its construction was an epic feat. It is listed at category A.

In the words of the Bard Robert Burns quotes



Scotland's national poet Robert Burns is celebrated throughout the world. The universal and timeless appeal of his words has spoken to people across the globe down through the years. Here are a few well-known quotations by the Bard.

My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose Oh, my luve's like a red, red rose,

That's newly sprung in June;
Oh, my luve's like the melodie
That's sweetly played in tune.
From Burns' most famous love
song My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose,
penned in 1794. It is written to
someone from whom he is parted and
hopes to meet again one day, however
great the separation.

To A Louse

Oh wad some power the giftie gie us To see oursel's as others see us! It wad frae monie a blunder free us, And foolish notion.

The poet notices an upper class lady, Jenny, in church with a louse roaming around unnoticed in her bonnet. The theme is contained in the final lines (above) and is that we would all be disabused of our pretensions if we were to see ourselves through each others' eyes.

To A Mouse

The best laid schemes o' mice and men Gang aft a-gley;

And leave us naught but grief and pain For promised joy.

These lines, which are amongst the most famous in world literature, are from Burns' poem 'To a Mouse'.

The lines inspired the title of John Steinbeck's 1937 classic novel 'Of Mice and Men'.

Tam O'Shanter

But pleasures are like poppies spread
You seize the flow'r, its bloom is shed
Or like the snow falls in the river
A moment white then melts for ever
From Burns' epic poem Tam O'Shanter,
written in 1791. As well as containing
humour, horror and social commentary,
the poem also includes beautiful lines
like the above.

The Cotter's Saturday Night

From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs,

That makes her loved at home, revered abroad:

Princes and lords are but the breath of kings,

An honest man's the noblest work of God.

From The Cotter's Saturday Night, this poem was written for inclusion in the Kilmarnock Volume, Burns' first book of poems. It is one of the best known and most admired of his works.

A Man's A Man For A' That

For a' that, an' a' that, It's coming yet for a' that, That Man to Man, the world o'er, Shall brothers be for a' that.

These lines are from Burns' song of equality and universal brotherhood *Is* there for Honest Poverty (also known as A Man's A Man for a' That).

Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne!

Amongst the top most sung lines in the English language, these words are, of course, from *Auld Lang Syne*, which has become an anthem sung the world over at New Year.



In the shadow of icons

By: David C Weinczok



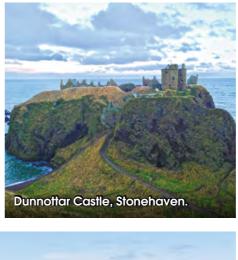
Four Scottish historic sites for those who think they've seen it all

Certain iconic locations have become almost synonymous with Scotland itself in the minds of people around the world. For evidence, just survey the shortbread tins sold on Edinburgh's Royal Mile and you'll likely be able to count on one hand the number of places gracing the lids. That's not to imply they don't deserve to - the likes of Eilean Donan Castle and Glencoe are truly special places that deserve the accolades. But Scotland is a big wee place, and for every international superstar there are many locations that are just as atmospheric and awe-inspiring but which haven't quite managed to take centre stage. In that spirit, here are four perfect destinations for all those who revel in taking the road less travelled.



and comprises six stone circles as well as scattered chambered cairns, hut circles, and other historic remnants. The most sensational, pragmatically called Circle No.2, has three stones one of the Moor's stone circles dubbed Cave, so there is plenty in the area to keep history hunters happy, too.

standing high as giants. Aptly, legends of the giant Fingal abound in the area, with Fingal's Cauldron Seat. Robert the Bruce is alleged to have had his encounter with a determined spider in the nearby King's





The icon: The Calanais Stones, Isle of Lewis

The starlet: Machrie Moor Stone Circles, Isle of Arran

Standing stones have been drawing crowds since long before Outlander hit the silver screen. Archaeologists, neo-Pagans, romantics and artists all draw their own distinct types of inspiration from these megaliths. The Calanais Stones are rightly revered as amongst the finest examples of standing stones in the world, yet reaching them from the mainland can be quite the multi-day quest.

Machrie Moor, on the other hand, can be done in a day from anywhere in central Scotland while losing none of the drama. Arran, popularly known as Scotland in miniature, has scenery to rival anywhere in the Highlands and Isles. I recommend, if you can, experiencing it by bicycle, both to savour the surrounds and to make the journey green. Machrie Moor lies on the island's western coast



The Starlet: Findlater Castle, Portsoy Perched atop a clifftop promontory thrust defiantly into the cold embrace of the

North Sea, Dunnottar Castle is a contender for Scotland's most fantastically situated castle - quite the feat, seeing as there are over 2,000 competitors. It has been fortified since before Scotland existed, and has played a pivotal role in many of the most decisive moments in the nation's history. It seems impossible to rival, and yet if you travel along the northeast coast to the shores of the Moray Firth there's a

At first glance Findlater Castle, also built into a promontory, almost seamlessly blends into the stones it is rooted in, such that a casual observer scanning the coastline may not see a castle at all. An admittedly precarious path leads out to it, and as you approach details slowly begin to emerge until, almost by surprise you find yourself standing atop the ruins of a hidden leviathan.

place that comes close.

The icon: Dunnottar Castle, Stonehaven

But Scotland is a big wee place, and for every international superstar there are many locations that are just as atmospheric and awe-inspiring but which haven't quite managed to take centre stage.

Beneath your feet are a complex of chambers, halls and corridors, half-filled in sand like the set of an Indiana Jones film. You can clamber down into the belly of the beast, but take great care - both of yourself and of the structure - if you dare to do this. The best perspective of the site is gained from the stony shore immediately to the west, where a deep cave once used by pirates can be explored when the tide is out. It's nearly impossible to give Dunnottar a run for its money, but with hidden caverns, a pirate cave, and the luxury of usually having it to yourself which would never happen at Dunnottar - Findlater comes admirably close.

The icon: Loch Ness, Highlands The Starlet: Loch Doon, East Ayrshire

In the Scottish Banner's 2019 August edition, I drew attention to the issue of 'overtourism' in Scotland and, in particular, the tendency of visitors to plan itineraries around the same small set of usual suspects. Invariably Loch Ness appears on the list, and while it does feature the fantastic Urquhart Castle and tales of a certain beastie, when it comes to overall scenery it is - and I say this with great affection for the area - entirely average. Don't by any means let that stop you from ticking it off your bucket list, but if you're the sort to venture off the beaten path then follow the road signs south instead of north until you reach the Galloway Forest Park in Ayrshire

With Loch Doon at its heart, the Galloway Forest Park is one of Scotland's best kept secrets. The loch sports a uniquely formed and incredibly picturesque stone castle along its banks, the forested hills that flank it are rife with hiking and biking trails, and some of the best wildlife spotting and stargazing anywhere in the country can be found here.

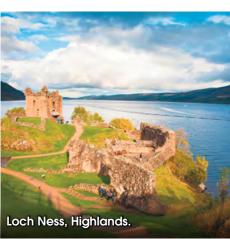


all kinds of legends have swirled around it including how it was formed from the body of a lazy dragon and that King Arthur himself rests beneath it. Yet, it is not the only stony spire swirling with myth to loom above a Scottish capital.

Dumbarton Rock, the ancient capital of the Kingdom of Strathclyde, rises as an indomitable sentinel from the waters of the Clyde just a few miles west of Glasgow. Just like Arthur's Seat, Dumbarton Rock was once a mighty volcano whose eruptions forged the land around it. From the top you can see as far as the peaks of the northern Trossachs deep behind the Highland Line, and from here the Rock's residents watched in terror as a vast fleet of Viking ships made their way to bring fire to Dumbarton once again in 870 CE.

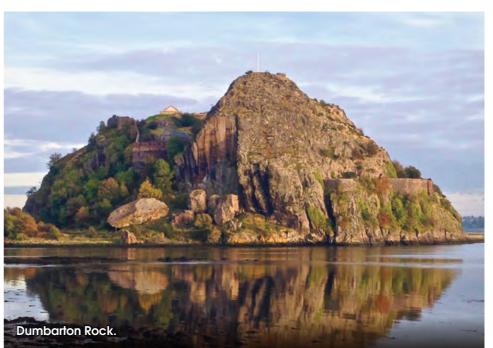
Some even say that the wizard Merlin held court here in the mists of the Dark Ages. Despite all that and it being the oldest continually fortified site in all of Britain, however, Dumbarton now flies inconspicuously under most peoples' radar - it's time to bring the Rock of the Britons back to its former glory!





Best of all, while the road along Loch Ness overflows with souvenir shops and heavy vehicles in a hurry, the small routes along Loch Doon and through the Forest Park are some of the quietest in the country, allowing plenty of opportunities to stop and take it all in. Loch Doon may not have anywhere near the name recognition of Loch Ness or a mysterious monster stalking its shores, but it makes up for it by providing serenity in spades.

The icon: Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh
The Starlet: Dumbarton Rock, Dumbarton
Arthur's Seat, a vast volcanic plug
towering over the heart of Edinburgh's
medieval Old Town, is so striking precisely
because of its abruptness. In contrast
to the tame fields and rolling hills of the
Lothians, Arthur's Seat and the rest of
Holyrood Park are a towering, elemental
exclamation point on the land. Looking
from certain angles like a lion in repose,



Tartan of the Month Burns 1930 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.

s the world celebrates Burns Night this month, we feature the Burns 1930 Tartan. Modern family sett discovered by MacKinlay at Messrs Forsyth. Probably dates between 1930-50. There is also a Robert Burns check. James Mackinlay, a tartan collector, put this collection together between 1930s -1950s. It is found in the Scottish Tartans Society archive. This tartan (SRT ref: 1539) was recorded prior to the launch of The Scottish Register of Tartans.

Wishing you a Happy Burns Night!



The Year of Scotland in Australia 2020

The Scottish Banner speaks to Alan Morrison





The Year of Scotland in Australia 2020 (YOSA) is the largest showcase of traditional Scottish music and heritage in Australia, ever. The programme includes 150 performances by Scotland's finest traditional, Gaelic and Celtic musicians at over 70 Australian festivals and venues, in more than 60 towns and cities, nationwide. Alan Morrison is the Head of Music at Creative Scotland and took the time to speak to the Scottish Banner on his love of music and just what an exciting year of Scottish music will take place in 2020 across Australia.

Alan you are Head of Music at Creative Scotland. Can you tell us more about your role and broadly what Creative Scotland does?

AM: Creative Scotland is not directly the Scottish Government, but it is an arm's length organisation from the government which is able to distribute the government's culture budget and also the money for the

arts that is raised through the national lottery. We are effectively like an arts council, a funding body primarily, but also to an extent an advocacy and development body of the arts. We cover everything from theatre, dance, literature, visual arts, a very big screen team doing television and cinema development, and creative industries such as digital games and even



crafts and jewellery. Within the music team, which I head, we have three music officers who specialise in separate genres (jazz & classical, folk & trad, rock & pop/indie). We fund bands to make albums or go on tour, we fund different festivals, arts venues to be able to put on programs and quite a bit of what we do is international showcasing. The export element of getting Scottish music out around the world. We may represent Scotland at different trade fairs or helping put on some music showcases at some of the bigger international events such as South by Southwest, Great Escape, Jazz Ahead and across all genres.

You have a lifelong passion for music, what it is about Scottish music that excites you and can you tell us how you championed the creation of the Top 50 Scottish Albums of the Year?

AM: As a kid I was trained on the violin and fiddle simultaneously. I was having classical lessons from the age of nine and playing with local youth orchestras. I was also learning Scottish trad tunes, had piano lessons, sang in school musicals and when I was about 16 taught myself how to play the guitar and formed a post punk band with my mates doing covers of The Cure, U2, Stranglers and things like that. Music has been part of my life from very early on. When I went to university I

stopped playing as much and when I left, I became a journalist and started writing about music. About 11 years ago I got the job as the Arts Editor at the *Sunday Herald* newspaper and that is when I started commissioning myself to write more about music. My interest in music is across every genre from opera to hip hop, from jazz to the oldest, most melancholic Gaelic songs you can think of, I love it all.

In regards to the Top 50 Scottish Albums of the Year, it was at end of each year when I saw the music magazines and newspapers pick their top 50 albums, there was always very few Scottish albums in there. I realised that it was typically albums or bands that were signed to labels in London that were getting the showing. All the great smaller labels or self-releases in Scotland were not getting a look in and the whole range of music across genres was not getting a chance. I put together a Top 50 Scottish Albums for four years in a row in the Sunday Herald and just championed the Scottish scene. When I got the job at Creative Scotland you could say what I had been doing up to then was the longest application for the job that I currently have you can possibly do.

Scottish music is known as quite emotive and often tells a story, regardless of genre. You have said that you see music as a central pillar of Scottish identity. Can you tell us more?

AM: When you look at Scottish music with external eyes what you think of is the fiddles, bagpipes and accordion and that what fits into Scottish history and that has gone out across the world. We have had the Highland Clearances through to different kinds of migration in the 20th, where Scots have moved across the world to predominantly Australia, New Zealand and North America and have taken that more traditional music with them, the Celtic music, Gaelic music, Scots music. I think one of the things that appeals about that is that Scottish music has always been a music for sharing with other people. Whether it's ceilidhs or fireside sessions, musicians who have never met before can sit down and play together and share that musical language. In Scotland it is not just music that is at the heart of our national identity, it is our rich culture, our poetry, visual arts and theatre. An oral culture where it is about sharing within the community and passing down stories to the next generation.

You have collaborated with major Scottish cultural events such as Celtic Connections, Wickerman Festival, T in the Park, Edinburgh International Festival & Film Festival, Aye Write and many more. What do you feel Scotland does so well in terms of its events?

AM: Our major festivals are great for people who live in Scotland, we get a chance to let our hair down and see the



best of our own acts and up and coming acts. It is however also one of the great attractions for people to come from abroad and experience the music scene of Scotland. People are choosing when coming to Scotland culture as one of if not the reason for visiting Scotland. We have great obviously great mountains and fantastic castles, but the culture is something that is a real draw. Those big pillar festivals we have through the year from Celtic Connections to HebCelt or folk festivals in Orkney or Shetland, people know if they come and visit Scotland there will always be some great provision of music on offer at the time of their visit.

The figures are impressive, the quantity of events is unprecedented. It is also the quality, the depth of talent we are bringing over is something we have never done anywhere in the world.

You are here for the Year of Scotland in Australia which is a year-long program that includes over 30 festivals and events around Australia, featuring over 150 Scottish artists. This is an unprecedented program for not only Scottish Australians but the wider community to enjoy. Can you tell us how this all came together and what people can expect to see?

AM: It came together from an event we fund called Showcase Scotland Expo, who help with the exporting of Scottish music. One of the domestic events is called The Visit where we pick a different territory every year and bring over a mix agents and festival bookers and media, who come to Scotland for 4 or 5 days and watch 21 acts play a half hour showcase. We present bands who are export ready, at a stage of their careers where we know if they get booked abroad, they are professional and artistically ready to take that on. In 2018 we hosted Australia and soon

after their visit it was thought Australian festivals could book more acts than they normally do. And boy has that escalated, it has gone from a few festivals to 30 and counting. The figures are impressive, the quantity of events is unprecedented. It is also the quality, the depth of talent we are bringing over is something we have never done anywhere in the world. We have our big-name tradition bearers, but also the best of our emerging talent playing in a concentrated period over a year. It is going to be so exciting on so many levels and for me the fact that the Year of Scotland will take place at the Sydney Opera House, one of the most iconic buildings in the world to grassroots community level events. There are so many people in Australia, particularly with Scottish ancestry, who have been keeping the Scottish flag flying for Scottish culture at the community level in Australia. This year is in a way is an acknowledgement and thanks from Scotland for all the years of effort the Scottish community here has put in.

The YOSA performances are estimated to play to a total audience of half a million Australians, over 300 individual performances. How important do you feel this opportunity is for the Scottish bands hitting Australian shores?

AM: We have several bands that are known in Australia that are coming and it will be exciting to see them in a different context. We have Capercaillie coming and

doing a more acoustic tour of some grand houses which are part of the National Trust properties, this will be a more intimate way to enjoy their music. Capercaillie are so important to Scottish music, having brought the Gaelic language into the pop charts. I have always had an eye and ear out for emerging talent and really love when we can help a band who may be visiting here for the first time and start to form a relationship with a new fan base and that becomes the foundation of the next tour they do. This is not just going to be a oneoff year with a big splash and we go away again. It is something we want to also build for the future and a legacy can grow out of this where a whole load of new bands can start getting roots down in Australia and building audiences here, that in itself brings out two countries closer together.

The YOSA program is quite diverse and includes Burns Suppers, historic homes, live performance, whisky and taking place across both regional and capital city locations. How challenging has it been for the team to create such an array on offer over such a vast distance (especially compared to Scotland!)?

AM: In some ways we in Scotland have the talent on tap. We have formed ourselves a 'Team Scotland' with ourselves at Creative Scotland, The Scottish Government, VisitScotland, Showcase Scotland Expo coming together to provide both administrative and financial backbone to help the costs of the musicians to get here. Such a hearty thanks to the Australian programmers Woodfordia who are helping put together the whole year long event. The scope of what we are able to do is very much down to the Australians networking and creating this opportunity. Australia itself has made this happen, with Scotland being able to lend a helping hand.

YOSA is a national program of performances and events which will showcase the vibrancy of Scotland's living tradition. What do you hope audiences take home with them and how can they get involved with this great year of events?

AM: First and foremost, I hope people have a brilliant time listening to some of the best music they have ever heard. I hope they continue to listen to those bands and help the musicians by buying the albums. I hope Scottish music becomes a little bit more foregrounded in their cultural lives. There is something deeper and that is bringing our county's together. Scotland wants to be able to share and collaborate and share with countries across the world. I hope one of the outcomes is more twoway traffic between Scotland and Australia. I hope people with a Scottish background are able to find something tangible from our heritage and enjoy the music and perhaps visiting our county later on. This year of music isn't just for people that have a Mac in their name or a family tartan, it is for everyone speaking the international language of music. I hope we can use music to make the world closer and it creates something that links us together regardless of our distances apart.

The Year of Scotland in Australia will bring a breadth of Scottish culture and heritage to Australian audiences, the program already features The Glenturret Burns Night Supper, the world-renowned Capercaillie, alongside Elephant Sessions and multi-award winning Breabach, as well as Moishe's Bagel, Rura, The Langanband, The Jellymans Daughter, and rising stars such as Brìghde Chaimbeul, Fara, and Siobhan Miller. To keep up to date with the fast expanding year long programme, more detailed information and ticket links, visit: www.yearofscotlandaustralia2020.com and follow @YOSA2020 #YOSA2020





THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

- 1 King James V married Magdalene of France. 1537
- ${f 1}$ Charles II crowned at Scone, the last coronation on Scottish soil. ${f 1651}$
- 1 James Stewart the "Old Pretender" died. 1766
- 1 First celebration of New Year in Scotland on this date (was March 25th till then). $1600\,$
- 1 The Beatles opened a 5-day tour of Scotland to promote their first single *Love Me Do.* **1963**
- $\begin{array}{ll} 1\text{-} \text{ The constitution is drafted for the} \\ \text{Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, making} \\ \text{it the oldest in Britain.} \end{array}$



- 1 The first Looney Dook event took place. The Loony Dook, is an annual event held on New Years' Day in which people dive into the freezing waters of the Firth of Forth at South Queensferry (north of Edinburgh, Scotland), often in fancy dress. $1986\,$
- 2 Ibrox Park disaster, 66 supporters killed on stairway 13. The disaster led to the rebuilding of Ibrox Park as an all seater stadium. 1971
- **3** O H Mavor (James Bridie) physician and prolific playwright, born in Glasgow. **1888**
- 3 Poet and critic Edwin Muir died. 1959
- 4 -The death of George Cathcart. Cathcart was a doctor from Edinburgh who instigated the annual series of concerts now known as the Proms, short for promenade concert. 1951
- 5 89,000-tonne Liberian-registered Braer oil tanker, carrying 84,500 tonnes of crude oil, hit rocks on Shetland Isles in heavy seas. 1993
- **6** A.J. Cronin, author of *Keys of the Kingdom* and creator of the British television series *Dr Finlay's Casebook* died. **1981**



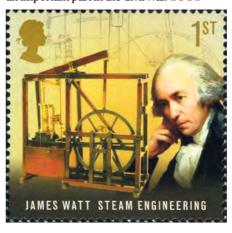
- 7 Glasgow University founded at the request of James II and Bishop Turnbull. $1451\,$
- 8 The first newspaper in Scotland was published. *Mercurius Caledonius w*offered coverage of "the Affairs now in Agitation in Scotland, with a Survey of Foreign Intelligence." It ceased publication on 28 March after only nine issues. 1661
- 8 King Alexander I crowned. 1107
- 8 Earl of Stair, held responsible for the massacre of Glencoe, died. $1707\,$
- 8 Rationing of sugar, bacon and butter introduced. 1940
- 9 The Diocese of Glasgow was elevated to an Archdiocese by Pope Innocent VII. $1492\,$
- 9 Income tax introduced for the first time. 1799
- 9 The first women's golf tournament took place in Scotland, at Musselburgh. $1811\,$
- 9 Liner Queen Elizabeth I, launched at John Brown's shipyard, Clydebank, in 1938, caught fire and sank in Hong Kong where it was to serve as a floating marine university. 1972

- 9 Author and *Scottish Banner* columnist Nigel Tranter died. Tranter published more than 130 novels and biographies during his 60-yearlong career, most covering famous Scots and their place in the country's history. 2000
- 10 Pop star Rod Stewart born. 1945
- 11 John A MacDonald, first Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada in 1867, born at 20 Brunswick Street in Glasgow. 1815
- 11 The Scottish National Blood Transfusion Association was created. This independently funded service was responsible for Scotland's blood and blood products. The National Blood Transfusion Service in England and Wales was not set up until the 26 September 1946. 1940
- 12 John Buchan, author (39 Steps etc) and diplomat (Governor General of Canada, 1935/1940) died. 1940
- 13 Death of St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow (and also known as St Kentigern) and is buried at his church in Clas-gu which later becomes Glasgow. 603
- 13 Mary Slessor, missionary in West Africa and known to many as "Ma", died in Calabar. $1915\,$



- 14 Skye Terrier Greyfriars Bobby died after staying by his master's grave for 14 years. The terrier belonged to Edinburgh policeman John Gray who died of tuberculosis in 1858. His grave stone reads: "Let his loyalty and devotion be a lesson to us all". A statue of Bobby is now one of the most popular in Edinburgh. 1872
- 14 Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated his telephone to Queen Victoria. She made the first call in the British Isles from her residence on the Isle of Wight. $1878\,$
- 14 The birth of Scotland's first test-tube baby, a healthy baby boy named Alastair. 1979
- 15 Neil M Gunn, author of \textit{The Silver Darlings} and many other books and short stories, died. $1973\,$
- 15 Strathclyde Regional Council applies for 250,000 summary warrants against residents refusing to pay the highly controversial "Poll Tax", introduced in Scotland in 1989. 1990
- 16 Retreating Jacobite army defeated Hanoverian forces at Battle of Falkirk. 1746
- $16 \hbox{ Treaty of Union of Scottish and} \\ \text{Westminster Parliaments ratified. } 1707$
- 17 Duddingston Curling Society became formally organised, one of the earliest in the history of curling though Kilsyth lays claim to a date of 1716. Curling dates back to the sixteenth century in Scotland, with Scots taking the sport across the world where it still flourishes. 1795
- 17 Author Compton Mackenzie (*Whisky Galore* etc.) born. *Whisky Galore* is based on a real life true story. In the middle of war time rationing, the SS Politician ran aground with a cargo of 264,000 bottles of malt whisky. 1883
- 18 Death of Sir John Pringle, President of the Royal Society from 1772-1778 and physician to King George III. Sometimes called the "father of modern military medicine", the Scottish-born physician focused on the need to adopt a clean medical environment for the treatment of wounded soldiers. He also coined the term "influenza". 1782
- 18 The launch of the Scottish Labour Party. The inaugural meeting of the breakaway party was held in Glasgow. It was formed as a result of the dissatisfaction several Labour MPs felt with their party over its stance on devolution for Scotland. 1976

- 18 -Raasay House on Raasay off Skye was badly damaged in a fire. The building was undergoing a £4m restoration project. The former stately home had been run as an activity centre since 1984 and was being restored for that purpose again. The sprawling 258-year-old mansion once belonged to the Clan MacLeod. 2009
- 19 A Scottish army under the Earl of Leven crossed the river Tweed into England. It remained in England for three years playing an important part in the Civil War. $1644\,$



- 19 Birth of James Watt, mathematical instrument maker, developed the steam engine, invented the condenser and copying machine. Watt is regarded as one of the founding fathers of the Industrial Revolution. 1736
- 20 Benny Lynch crowned world flyweight champion. Recognised as probably the greatest boxer Scotland has produced, Lynch enjoyed a meteroic rise to the top of the sport. 1937
- 20 The chemist Thomas Graham, was born. Graham is famous for discovering the diffusion rate of gasses, which is known as "Graham's Law". He is also called the "father of colloid chemistry", and was the author of, Elements of Chemistry. 1805
- $21\,\textsc{-}$ Sweetheart Abbey, near Dumfries, founded by Devorguilla, mother of John Balliol. $1290\,$
- 22 Poet George Gordon Byron (later Lord Byron) born. He moved to Aberdeen at the age of four and attended Aberdeen Grammar School. The title was inherited from an uncle. 1788
- 23 James Stewart, the Regent Moray on the abdication of Mary Queen of Scots, murdered in Linlithgow, triggering civil war. $1570\,$
- 23 William Hamilton, the Scottish Labour politician, died. He was MP for Fife West, 1950-74, and Fife Central, 1974-87. He became a controversial public figure due to his outspoken advocacy of Scottish independence and his dislike of the Royal Family. 2000
- 24 Birth of Publius Aelius Hadrianus, who built Hadrian's Wall to cut off Scotland from the rest of Britain. 76



- 24 First train over Forth Rail Bridge. The bridge is considered as a symbol of Scotland, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This magnificent railway bridge was built between 1883 and 1890 by over 4,500 men. 1890
- 25 Scottish poet and lyricist Robert Burns was born Alloway. He is widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland and is celebrated worldwide. Burns Night is celebrated around the world on this night. Burns died on July 21, 1796 in Dumfries. 1759

- 25 First Minister Alex Salmond launches a consultation on the SNP Government's proposals for a referendum on Scottish independence. The referendum on Scottish independence was held on 18 September 2014 saw Scotland vote to remain part of the United Kingdom, with 55% voting against the proposal for Scotland to become an independent country and 45% voting in favour. 2012
- 26 One o'clock gun fired for the first time from Edinburgh Castle. The gun was created to complement a time ball on Nelson's Monument which was not reliable during Edinburgh foggy days. 1861
- 26 The 1st Glasgow Scout troop was registered, the first to be formed. $1908\,$
- 26 Kirkpatrick McMillan, inventor of the bicycle, died. The thought of patenting his invention or trying to make any money out of it never crossed MacMillan's mind, but others saw its potential, and soon copies began to appear. However, Macmillan was quite unconcerned with the fuss his invention had prompted, preferring to enjoy the quiet country life he was used to. 1878
- 26 First public demonstration of TV by Scottish inventor John Logie Baird, from an attic room in central London. In 1927, his television was demonstrated over 438 miles of telephone line between London and Glasgow, and he formed the Baird Television Development Company. 1926

The Herald

- 27 Glasgow Herald newspaper first published. It is the longest continuously published daily newspaper in Britain. Today the paper is simply called *The Herald*. 1783
- 28 William Burke, murderer and body snatcher of "Burke and Hare" fame, executed. The duo were accused of killing 16 people over the course of 12 months, in order to sell their cadavers as "subjects" for dissection. 1829
- 29 Earl Haig, Commander in Chief of British forces 1915-18, founder of the British Legion, died. 1928



- 29 The first adoption of GMT by Scotland. The subject has been the source of controversy ever since. 1848
- 30 King Charles I executed. His execution caused a change of sides by most of the Scots who had previously supported the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War as, for all his faults, Charles was still a Scottish Stuart king. 1649
- 31 Lachlan MacQuarie, "Father of Australia" born Ulva. Lachlan Macquarie was the governor of the colony of New South Wales from 1810 to 1821. 1761
- 31 Charles Edward Stewart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie" died in Rome. 1788
- **31** Princess Victoria, Stranraer-Larne ferry, sank in a storm with the loss of 133 lives; 44 were rescued. **1953**
- **31** 270 Royal Navy servicemen were killed whilst on practice missions with other Royal Navy vessels in the Firth of Forth. **1918**



reetings from a contrary Scotland.
One day wet and windy. The next
clear skies and a glimmer of
sunshine. As I write, there are
masses of berries on trees and bushes.
Which suggests we are in for a hard winter.
We must wait and see what 2020 brings...

Winter is not an especially good season to view gardens. Yet, here in Scotland there are landscaped pieces of ground that make you marvel - whatever the time of year. These magical mystery places have been created by an American.

Charles Jencks

Charles Jencks was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He came over to London to study architecture in the 1960's. And it was here that he met a Scottish woman. Maggie Keswick came from a wealthy landed family and the pair set up home in Scotland.

Charles Jencks would go on to be known as the father of post-modern architecture. A writer of some thirty books, his work reflects an escape from the harshness of concrete and squares. Hence his vast curved grass mounds that fall away to pools of water. They are lawns with a difference: a mix of dramatic, scientific and romantic.

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.



His Garden of Cosmic Speculation in Dumfriesshire has been called one of the most important gardens of the 20th century. Just further north he set out to create the universe in a corner of Scotland. The Crawick Multiverse is set on the site of a former open-cast coal mine and with its galaxies and swirling green rises, its amphitheatre and dramatic stone circles, it has transformed an eyesore into a masterpiece.

When his wife died of cancer in 1995, Charles Jencks continued her dream of setting up a series of therapeutic centres. The 'Maggies Centres' were pioneering places. They offered Scottish cancer patients support, relaxation - and, of course, an inspirational setting.

Charles Jencks died recently. But I was lucky enough to meet him; making films about his extraordinary work; seeing for myself what a brilliant man he was. Always creating, always chasing new ideas and possibilities. He might have been internationally renowned, but he always saw Scotland as his home.

On a more mundane note, meanwhile, another birthday comes and goes. These anniversaries, as you know, can be hit and miss things. And some are infinitely more interesting than others.

One of the most memorable was my fiftieth. The day spent making a film in a biscuit factory. The smell was divine. Creamy cookies sliding off the production line. Batches of bourbons being expertly bagged. Slivers of shortbread being carefully sorted.

Samye Ling Monastery

More than a decade on and this birthday is also a good one. The day spent at a Buddhist centre. Making a TV programme about the Samye Ling Monastery.

I am sure I have told you about this iconic place. It sits in the Dumfriesshire hills and is where, more than fifty years ago, a group of Tibetan refugees arrived to find sanctuary.

Their little community began life in a run-down farmhouse near the village of Eskdalemuir. Now it is an international visitor centre; a sprawling complex boasts a spectacular gilded temple – said to be the biggest in western Europe - whilst gold and white statues sit in pools of water in the landscaped grounds.

Orange-clad monks and nuns weave their way past fluttering prayer flags and trees adorned with ribbons. It is an unlikely sight in Scotland. But those who live nearby are well-used to it - and so we arrive to start filming.

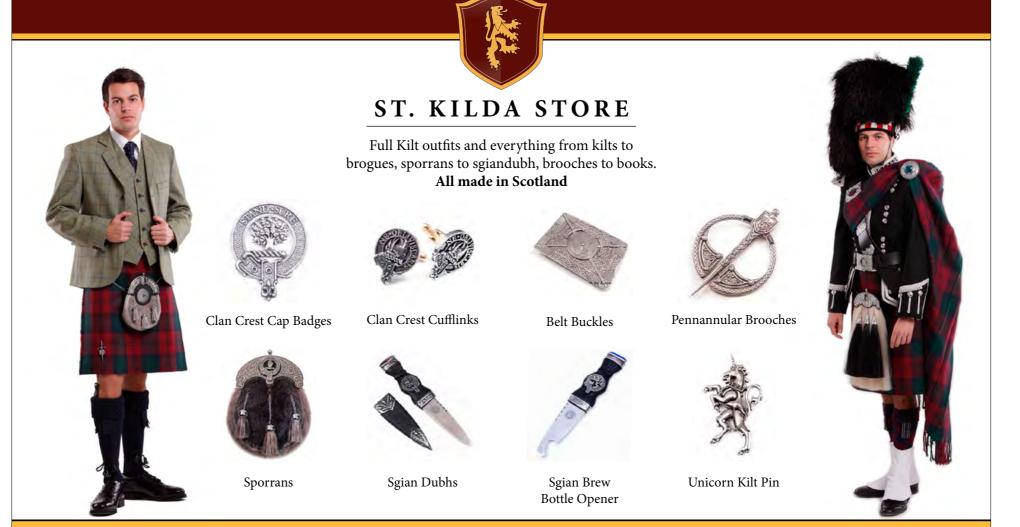
Llama Yeshe is the main man here. He is the abbot. A serene person who radiates calm and contentment. If anyone knows the secret of happiness, he will. When I ask him about it, he smiles and talks of the importance of thoughtfulness and consideration. He puts a particular emphasis on kindness. And warns of the danger of materialism. The west, he says, is allowing possessions to drag us down.

He tells me the simple life is the best. And here, in the south of Scotland, they flock in their thousands to either find it, or briefly watch it. Samye Ling is one of Scotland's top tourist attractions.

Happy birthday

I return home resolving to want less and buy less. The problem is, it is my birthday and the MacGregor has bought me a gift. Or rather, he has purchased two. Sitting by the front door is a pair of giant flowerpots. They are magnificent and I cannot wait to fill them with something green and growing.

From the MacNaughties, meanwhile, comes a box of chocolates. Those doggies must have taken such care in choosing! My daughter presents me with some make-up. My brother has sent flowers and a bottle of champagne. I am a lucky girl. But I ask you, what can you do? As the year comes to an end, I make a resolution. In 2020 to work on being less acquisitive... in the meantime I leave you with the Chief and I – up in MacGregor clan lands on a piece of green!



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St. Kilda (Holdings) group

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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

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

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President 3491 County Road 3459, Haleyville, AL 35565 Email: djbaird4@gmail.com

Regional Directors for Australia

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

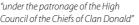


Cordially invites membership inquiries from persons Named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Computerized Genealogical data base available to help members in their research. Quarterly newsletter published. Tents hosted at major Scottish games from coast to coast

Your Bell ancestry is important!

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





State Commissioners NSW Qld

High Commissioner

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

Mr Lachlan Macdonald

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

MacDhai; McKeddie. In addition we welcome into membership all

Applications may be made online: www.clandavidson.org.au

Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

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

Davidson; Davison; 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;

who have a family association with the Clan Davidson.

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

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

London & Southern Counties * Rannoch & Highlands Canada: New South Wales * Victoria * Queensland * Western Australia: New Zealand: New Zealand

Spain South Africa 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.donnachaldh.com/

Facebook: The Clan Donnachaidh Society

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

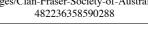
Chieftain David C. Dunbar 16419 Carlton Vale Ct. Tomball, TX 77377-8488

Clan Fraser Society of Australia

and Fraser septs to join our clan society.

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves" Membership enquiries to Don Chitts Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com Website: http://clanfraseraustralia.org

Facebook:https://www.facebook.com/ Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/



Clan Galbraith Association

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

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

www.clangalbraith.org



Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

Donald E. Bruce 1051 Eagle Ridge Trail Stillwater, Minnesota 55082 Polly A. (Bruce) Tilford, Secretary 5561 Earl Young Road Bloomington, IN 47408

www.familyofbruceinternational.org



Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald Ph: 0412 090990 Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au Web: www.clandonaldqld.org ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.

There is no joy without Clan Donald



Edmonstone Clan Society

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

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



Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor 7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balqhidder 24th Chief of Clan Gregor Great Lakes,

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

www.clangregor.com or membership contact Keith MacGregor

P.O Box 56, Redding Ridge, CT 06876 kmac1@opt

6 The Esplanade, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 2EL Scotland



Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

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

www.clan-cameron.org.au



Clan Donald 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



Elliot Clan Society, U.S.A.

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

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



Clan Gregor **Society**

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

Frank McGregor - Clan Gregor Society PO Box 14 North Hobart TAS 7002 Email: clangregoraustralia@gmail.com Web. www.clangregor.com "Royal is my Race"



The Clan Campbell Society Of Australia

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



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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald

Contact: secretary.clandonaldvic@gmail.com

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mrs Christina Milne Wilson

Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldyarraville.com A hereditary clan society formed by the children of Norman Hume Macdonald and Johan McKenzie Macdonald (nee Munro) who departed Scotland in 1854



Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

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

> **Association Australia** PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777

> or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com



American Clan Gregor Society

Est 1909

Membership inquiries welcomed from MacGregors of all spellings and Septs

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

Contacting our registrar, Jeanne P. Lehr 11 Ballas Crt. St. Louis, MO 63131-3038

Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org website: www.acgsus.org



Clan Cumming Society of the **United States**

www.clancumming.us info@clancumming.us

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



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

Duncan Robertson Reid

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

For information and membership application, contact Gordon Robertson 58/157 Marconi Rd. Bonnells Bay NSW 2264

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Clan Hamilton Society

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

> visit our website: www.clanhamilton.org

Clan Hay

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

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

www.clanhay.com

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

Clan Henderson Society



www.clanhendersonsociety.org

Clan Hope of Craighall Society

INTERNATIONAL & USA hard Rex Hope Membership Chair

AUSTRALIA

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



Clan Irwin Association **Chief and Patron**

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

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

www.clanirwin.org

Clan MacAlpine Society

102 Rainbow Drive #48 Livingston, TX 77399-10020 USA Earl Dale McAlpine - President Email: earlmcalpine@yahoo.com

Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

Valerie McDougall VP Membership

505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON NSZ 3B2

Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyll and Clan MacDowall of Galloway

INTERNATIONAL CLAN MACFARLANE SOCIETY, INC

The OFFICIAL Clan MacFarlane Society Founded 1911 - Glasgow & London Re-established- 1973 Grandfather Mountain, NC Loch Sloy! We welcome all descendants of

Clan MacFarlane from around the world! Michael R. MacFarlane. FSA Scot - President Brian J.W. MacFarlane - Vice President Richard G. Kilby, FSA Scot - Treasurer John K. Manchester - Secretary

International Clan MacFarlane Society Inc.

PO Box 398 Glenora, CA 91740 USA



MACFARLANE.ORG

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International Association of

Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

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(Mc)Ginnis, (Mc)Ninch, (Mc)Neish, (Mc)Canse,

(Mc)Masters, (Mc)Innes, (Mac)Masters

www.clanmacinnes.org

Eric Perry, Director-Member Services 14 Jakes Lane

Dexter, ME 04930; eric@macinnes.org

Clan MacLellan

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

75070-6032

Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

Visit our website: www.clanmaclellan.net



Chief: John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

> Contact Ross Nicolson 10/377 North Rocks Rd., Carlingford NSW 2118 www.clanmacnicol.org

Clan MacLeod Societies of Australia

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

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

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

Clan Macpherson

For information about local activities visit our web site www.clan-macpherson.org/branches. or see our 'Official Clan Macpherson Association' Facebook page

Africa. Derek Macpherson Atrıcan.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +265 999 512 620

Canada. Ed Smith

Europe. Will Tulling Europe.Chairman@clan-n phone +31 655 774 425 lan-macpherson.org

Scotland & Northern Ireland. Rory Macphers SandNI.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7525 763 765

Australia. John L Macpherson Australian.Chairman@clan-macp phone +61 409 122 141 England & Wales. William Macpherson EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7877 363 507

New Zealand. Tony McPherson NewZealand. Chairman@clan-ma phone +64 274 587 813 USA. Xerxes Herrington UnitedStates.Chairman@ phone +1 703 341 9588

The Clan Macpherson Museum is located in Newtonmore, Inverness Shire PH20 1DE, at the junction of the A86 and B9150, and is open from 1st April to 31st October. Ph + 44 1540 673 332. See http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/ for more details.

The Clan MacRae

and New Zealand

Society of Australia

Clan Mackenzie Society in Australia Inc.



Membership enquiries welcomed from Mackenzies of all spellings and Septs

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

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

Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada

We invite you - whether you are a clansperson

Website: www.clanmackenziecanada.ca

a member of one of our septs, a highlander,

a Scot, or just an history enthusiast – to join

the Society and participate in many activities

MACLEODS RICH IN HIGHLAND

TRADITIONS FOR INFORMATION:

WWW.CLANMACLEODUSA.ORG A.L. MACLEOD

3923 ROCKWOOD WAY #B WEST VALLEY CITY, UT 84120-6880



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

If your surname is MacRae,

Australian Contact:

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

Association Worldwide

We welcome membership from all Scots named MacNaughton or any of the Septs on our Website: Contact the Membership

Australia - Regional Commissioner - Bruce McNaught +61 7 3266 2047 bruce@brucemcnaught.com W. Canada - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughton 250-999-9636 milescammac@aol.com

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



Secretary, Vice-Chairman or Regional Commissioners in:

WWW.CLANMACNAUGHTON.NET



Clan MacRae Society of North America

Granted Arms in 2008

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

www.macrae.org

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



Clan Mackenzie **Society in the United States**

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

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



Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

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

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



Clan Maitland

Chief: Ian Maitland. The Earl of Lauderdale! We are all related! Contact your local society North America: Rosemary Maitland Thorn

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

New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz 33 Disley Street, High bury, Wellington 6012. NZ We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at:





Clan MacLaren

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

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



Clan MacNeil **Association of America**

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

Contact: Rhonwyn Darby

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



www.clanmaitland.org.uk

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

COME JOIN US!

Web site: www.Clanmunrousa.org

Write: Heather Munro Daniel 4600 Lloydrownn Road Mebane, NC 27302



Murray Clan Society of North America

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

> In Canada contact: William J.M. Murray 1001 Cordero Crescent Campbell River, BC V9H OC3

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



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



(By appointment David Ross Bt Chief of Clan Ross and Balnagowan)

with Ross Clan heritage and interest.

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

Clan Ross America



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



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

www.clan-ross.org

clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com

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



Commissioner: Heather de Svlva

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

W: clanscottaustraliagroup.moonfruit.com



Invites membership or inquires from all: Shaw, Ayson, Adamson, Esson, MacAy, MacHay, Shiach, Sheach, Sheath, Seith,

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

Seth, Skaith, Scaith and Shay.



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

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

www.clansinclairaustralia.com

Australian Scottish Communtiy (Qld) Inc.

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



Clan Wardlaw Association

Worldwide organization for all Wardlaws or related

families. We invite you to join us.

Email: clanwardlaw@vahoo.com

'Wardlaw ivermair!'

www.clanwardlaw.com

Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

Scottish Associations and Societies

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

Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

P.O. Box 457 Pinehurst, NC 28370

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

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

The Scottish Australian



for information contact Commander Des Ross

We would be pleased to hear from anyone



The Stewart Society

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

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



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



Heritage Council



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

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated Contact: M Hodgkinson

212 MacKenzie Street Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559)

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

(The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a

and culture of Scottish Gaels Ruaraidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor) Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org Web: www.ozgaelic.org

Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

nonprofit organisation which supports the language

Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

Scottish Gaelic Language Classes:



Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm during school terms 420-424 William Street, West Melbourne.

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

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

Founded in 1905

https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com



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



Caledonian Society

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia For further details contact John: 0427 990 754 Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com

www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com



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

Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association

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



Clan Scott Australia Group

Clan Chief: The Duke of Buccleuch KT, K.B.E

E: heatherdesylva@bigpond.com

CLAN YOUNG AUSTRALIA



For those affiliated with the Young surname

> Ian J Young Convenor

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

membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au

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



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 Email: hunterscots@gmail.com P.O. Box 34. Kotara NSW 2289

Victorian Scottish Union Inc

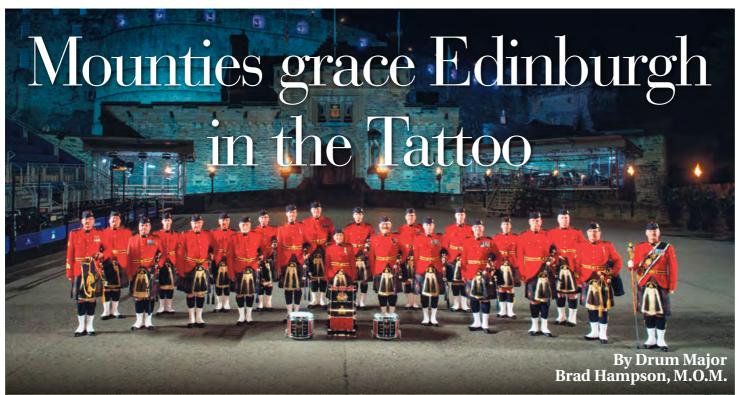
Umbrella group representing the interest of Scottish Clans and Societies in Victoria. Affiliated Clans & Societies

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

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

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

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



rom August 2 to 24, 2019, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Pipes & Drums performed in the iconic Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. An annual event since 1950, this show is the pinnacle bucket-list item for any piper, drummer or dancer of the Highland traditions worldwide.

Music, dance and precision display with the Massed Pipes and Drums, the Massed Military Bands, cultural troupes, singers and the poignant refrain of the Lone Piper against the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. More than 14 million people have attended the Tattoo, with an annual audience of around 220,000 people. In addition, around 100 million people see the Tattoo each year on international television.

Not a single performance of the Tattoo has ever been cancelled, and the Tattoo has been graced over the years by the presence of the Mountie's boots, breeches, horses and pipe bands. We represented Canada once again in 2019 with pride and honour.

Kaleidoscope

Led by Pipe Major Graeme Ogilvie, our RCMP band was composed of 24 pipers and drummers from across Canada. These band members represented bands from Ottawa, Halifax, Moncton, Montreal, Regina and Vancouver. After our pipe band's previous involvement in 2015, we were excited to return for this year's show, entitled *Kaleidoscope*.

Throughout the early months of 2019, music scores and videos were shared with all our players by the Tattoo's Director of the massed pipes and drums, UK Army Maj. Gordon Rowan. This year's music is said to have been the most challenging ever performed in the 69-year history by



the massed bands. With good leadership and planning, success was achieved with the Tattoo staff's intensive rehearsal days prior to first show.

After our final rehearsal, the Tattoo's inspirational visionary leader Brigadier David Allfrey happily announced to the entire cast of over one thousand performers, that we were ready for our run of 25 shows. Not lost on all of us was the intricate choreography and drill required of the finale *Kaleidoscope* number, which included the entire cast. The precision planning and direction of the manoeuvres required were said to be the most difficult in Tattoo history.

Massed pipes and drums
Brig. Allfrey's themed vision for this
year's Tattoo, was inspired by the myriad
of colours resplendent in the uniforms
of the entire cast. Inspired by the 1817
optical invention in Scotland of the
Kaleidoscope reflecting brilliant colours
in movement of multiple patterns,
the finale was a huge success. Led by
Coldstream Guards Drum Major Scott
Fitzgerald, Scots Guards Band Sergeant
Major Tony Furzey, and Welsh Guards
Principal Director of Music Kevin
Roberts, these guardsmen taught and





delivered the intricacy of complex choreography and sound in brilliant fashion, and in only two days, which became the centrepiece of this year's show. So difficult during rehearsals, many of us Drum Majors from all bands initially felt this plan impossible to deliver on.

An annual event since 1950, this show is the pinnacle bucket-list item for any piper, drummer or dancer of the Highland traditions worldwide.

All of us had to "eat our hats" as the saying goes, when the final product was put on parade for the first show. "Bravo Zulu" to all for getting this done. The crowds certainly saw a kaleidoscope of colour, movement, and sound, now available across YouTube for all the world to see.

As one of the show highlights, the massed pipes and drums were busier than ever performing in five numbers over the entire show, starring in the opening and finale, as well as supporting the Tattoo's highland dancers, New Zealand's Lochiel dancers, and Shetland Fiddlers.

The massed pipes and drums included the RCMP, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment of Canada), Royal Gurkha Rifles, British Army University Officer Training Corps, Royal Dragoon Guards, Royal Artillery, Tasmania Police, The Pipes and Drums of Christchurch City, Tattoo Piper's Trail, and 3 Scots (Black Watch) Royal Regiment of Scotland.

World-famous Scottish Tattoo

We were also given a personally guided tour of Edinburgh Castle by its newly appointed Governor, a very hospitable Maj. General Alastair Bruce, whose ancestry links him not only to the historic Scottish King "Robert the Bruce," but also to two former Governors General of Canada, Lord Durham (1838-1839), and Lord Elgin (1847-1854). Canadians will recall these significant names from our early Canadian history lessons. Both were famous particularly for assisting in bringing responsible elected government to Canada leading up to confederation in 1867. The Governor was a great host and a big fan of all things Canadian, including the RCMP. Our Pipe Major has since written and presented a tune honouring his hospitality, entitled General Bruce's Ramparts.

As one who has performed in multiple Tattoos and shows across the world, nothing has compared to the experience of performing in this world-famous Scottish Tattoo. All my fellow RCMP band members felt the same. To stand or march in this ancient castle venue, amidst fireworks, grand music, spectacular colours, driving rain, mist, flags and banners flying in the wind, and amidst throngs of 8,800 screaming patrons nightly, it was something I will never forget. Last out of the esplanade each night were the 250 some pipers and drummers from across the world, united in the Scottish highland tradition together as we marched down the Royal Mile playing Scotland the Brave and The Black Bear. Through all this the crowds stomped, clapped and joined the drummers hollering throughout as we marched back to the "barracks." And on one special night, the entire massed band was even led by a Mountie Drum Major.



SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

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

AUSTRALIA

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.highlandsociety.com.au

06 - Adelaide, SA - Adelaide Pipers' Gathering

Piping event. Info: Jack Brennan: brennanjack@optusnet.com.au

18 - Devonport, TAS- Scottish Power

From the misty purple highlands of Scotland to the green valleys and deep lochs, the sound of bagpipes has returned. St Andrews Caledonian Pipe Band is back from their tour of Scotland to perform at Scottish Power 2020. Featuring a return of pianist Ben Austin, violinist Catherine Johnstone, singer Sally-Anne Richter as well as the Scottish Power Highland Dance Troupe and the marching girls from Island Dance Drill at Paranaple Art Centre, 145 Rooke St. Info: www.paranapleartscentre.com.au or 03 6420 2900.

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 Rabbie 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 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.

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

25 - Sydney, NSW - The Glenturret Burns Night Supper at Sydney Opera House

Superb whisky, a 4 hour, uniquely Australian-Scottish feast and the powerful sounds of two nations united for a Burns Night Supper featuring award-winning Scottish 5 piece, Breabach, and Ngiyampaa, Yuin, Bandjalang and Gumbangirr artist, Eric Avery. Tickets: www.sydneyoperahouse.com

25 - Townsville, QLD - Burns Night 2020 Townsville Come join us celebrate Robert Burns at The Metropole Hotel, Townsville. Piping in of the haggis, poetry, songs, Highland dancers, good cheer, and great company. Three course dinner including wine only \$65. Ticket purchase online only. Book tickets and pre-order menu at burnsnight.floktu.com

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

26 - Melbourne, VIC - Robert Burns Club of Melbourne, Robert Burns Celebration

from page 6

Across:

7-Bonnier

10-Ailsa Craig

12-Diagonal

15-Kames Castle

14-Enamel

19-Career

22-Trio

20-Minister

23-Dalbeattie

25-Streams

26-Serfdom

8-Hillock

11-Nets

The club conducts a celebration on the poet's birthday near the Robert Burns statue in Treasury Gardens Spring Street, Melbourne and also holds a Burns Supper each year including the address to the haggis, dinner and dancing. Info: 03 8333 0973 or noelwright@netspace.net.au

Scotword answers

Down:

2-Ends

1-Dominie

3-Deacon

4-Singlets

6-Scythes

5-Glen Eagles

9-Ballochmyle

13- Grace Notes

16-Earldoms

17-Garrets

18-Venison

21-Nieces

24-Toff

31 - February 02 - Canberra, ACT -Southern Fling Canberra 2020

Youth Scottish Country Dance weekend for people aged 18 - 40 years. Social dancing and expert tuition. Info: www.rscds-canberra.org

FEBRUARY

01 - Argenton, NSW - Hunter Valley Burns Night Celebrate the Bard with the Hunter Valley Scots with Scottish food, music and friendship at Club Macquarie, 458 Lake Road, Info: www.hvsc.org.au

01 - Toowoomba, QLD - Burns Supper

The Toowoomba Caledonian Society & Pipe Band Inc. will hold their Annual Burns Supper in the Drayton Hall. It is a 4-course formal dinner which includes a Haggis entrée. Entertainment by 2 Lassies singing Burns songs, The Immortal Memory by Mal Leslie (Past Chieftain & Past president of the Society in Toowoomba). Bookings are essential for catering purposes, cost of dinner is \$45.00 please contact Treasurer ronimctcs@gmail. com or phone 0429 700 217 for more information.

03 - Adelaide, SA - Adelaide Pipers' Gathering Piping event. Info: Jack Brennan: brennanjack@optusnet.com.au

04 - Milton, QLD - Brisbane Smallpipe Session Piping event. Info: Malcolm McLaren on (07) 3820-2902 or mrmclaren@bigpond.com

08 - Tallangatta, VIC - Tallangatta Ceilidh 2020 Enjoy an evening of traditional Scottish dancing, live band music and other live entertainment for your

enjoyment. The evening will include a traditional Scottish dinner commencing at 6.30 pm with the Piping of the Haggis, then a tasting of the haggis as an entree. A two-course dinner is included with refreshments available at Tallangatta Memorial Hall, Towong St. Info: www.trybooking.com/BGRWO or Ross Smith: smida01@bigpond.com, 0418 690 328.

16 - Richmond, TAS - Richmond Highland Gathering St Andrew Society of Hobart will again be holding its annual Highland Gathering on the Village Green, with Pipe Band displays from across Tasmania, Scottish dancing and stalls. Info: Di Cornish 0408

23 - Ballarat, VIC - Ballarat Highland Gathering The Federation University Australia Pipe Band hosts the Ballarat Highland Gathering supported by Pipe Bands Victoria. Come join the free event in the Ballarat sunshine with your loved ones at Victoria Park, Sturt St. Info: www.fedunipipeband.com.au

528 658 or dianne.cornish1@bigpond.com

29 - Bendigo, VIC - Scots Day Out

A free community event with pipe bands, Scottish dancers, Scottish dogs, Clans, Scottish food & stalls and more in the beautiful setting of Rosalind Park. Info: www.scotsdayout.com

NEW ZEALAND

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

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

10 - Auckland - Scottish Fiddle Club Night 7:30 PM - 11:00 PM at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd. Info: www.freewebs.com/aucklandscottishfiddleclub

25 - Auckland - Burn's Supper 2020

Celebrate the life & poetry of Scotland's national Bard, Robert Burns. With a 3 course set menu for \$65 including a drink on arrival & a dram of whisky for the presentation of the Haggis. There will be some live music throughout the evening from our good friend Gerry O'Neil & of course plenty of bagpipes at Malt Public House, 442 Richmond Road, West Lynn. Info: www.maltpublichouse.co.nz

25 - Dunedin - Burns Night Dinner 2020 - Burns + Brexit

Join Toitu Otago Settlers Museum and the Dunedin Burns Club to consider thoughts on how Burns might have viewed Brexit from British High Commissioner Laura Clarke and Professor Alison Phipps from the University of Glasgow. Enjoy traditional Scottish food and drink, kick your heels up at the ceilidh. Info: toituevents@dcc.govt.nz or 03 477 5052.

25 - Napier - Burns Night

Come celebrate beautiful Bonnie Scotland's favourite event with a traditional Burns Night! From Kilts to Bagpipes and copious amounts of Whisky and a delicious 3-course dinner - this is going to be a night not to miss! Come enjoy all that is amazing about the incredible country of Scotland at Taradale Club, 55 Wharerangi Road, Taradale. Info: 06 844 2088 or www.taradaleclub.co.nz

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 or 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

07 - 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

08 - Paeroa - Paeroa Highland Games and Tattoo

The 27th Annual Paeroa Highland Games & Tattoo will be held on Saturday 8th February 2020 at the Paeroa Domain. What started out as a small Pipe Bands Competition has grown over the years, and today is a fully-fledged Highland Games, one of only seven such Scottish gatherings in New Zealand, and the only one in New Zealand to hold an Evening Tattoo. Info: www.paeroahighlandgames.co.nz

14 - Auckland - Scottish Fiddle Club Night

7:30 PM - 11:00 PM at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd. Info: www.freewebs.com/aucklandscottishfiddleclub

15 - Wellington - Pipes In The Park 2020

Wellington's very own Highland Games. Pipe Band competition, Highland dancing, Scottish Country Dancing, Irish Dancing, Clans, Castles (of the bouncy kind) and Craft Markets. Bring your picnic blanket or deck chair, sit back and enjoy some great entertainment from some of the best Pipe Bands in the country. A fun family day out at Waitangi Park, 107 Cable St. Info: www.facebook.com/pipesintheparkWGTN

29 - Christchurch - New Zealand -**Canterbury Centre Pipe Band Contest** Street March and piping events in Templeton. Info: kim.robertson@outlook.co.nz

29 - Rotorua - New Zealand - Central North Island Piping Contest

City of Rotorua is hosting the CNI Contest on the Village Green, includes a pipe band Street March. Info: Paul Fuller fullerwhanau@icloud.com

SCOTLAND

JANUARY

${\bf 01 - South\ Queens ferry, West\ Lothian - The\ Loony\ Dook}$ 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

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

themselves into the freezing Firth of Forth. Info: www.

of Celtic music. Info: 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

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

23 - Glasgow - Glasgow Burns Night

This fun, informal and traditional Burns Night will include poetry, bagpipes and plenty of merriment and the opportunity to meet old friends and new at Royal Exchange Square. Info: info@scotlandinunion.co.uk.

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

24 - Edinburgh - A Celebration of Burns Night Aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia

You will enjoy a red carpet welcome as you are piped aboard Britannia. The unforgettable $\,$ Scottish evening begins with a drinks and canape reception before touring the yacht. Info: +44(0)1442 768 110 or hello@olivermyles.co.uk

25 - Alloway, Ayr - A Blazing Burns Night Spectacular What better way to celebrate Burns Night than

with a ceilidh and a spectacular choreographed fire show? An evening of live music, dancing, an awe-inspiring fire performance finale and, of course, haggis, neeps and tatties at Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. Info: www.nts.org.uk/visit/ places/robert-burns-birthplace-museum/events

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 - Forfar - Glamis Castle Burns Supper Your evening will begin with us from 6pm in the

magnificent 17th Century drawing room with a glass of fizz on arrival, followed by a traditional 3 course Burns Supper served in the stunning Strathmore Dining Room, where you will also be entertained by a full cast of well-known local speakers throughout. Info: enquiries@glamis-castle.co.uk

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.uphellvaa.org

FEBRUARY

03 - 08 - Ayr - Oor Wullie

Jings, Crivvens, Help Ma Boab! Scotland's cheekiest, spiky-haired scamp is back! Only question is; where's his bucket?! Join Wullie, Fat Boab, Soapy Soutar, Wee Eck, and the rest of the Sunday Post gang, in a brand new musical adventure celebrating their 80th anniversary as Scotland's most beloved comic strip. Info: www.thegaiety.co.uk/oor-wullie

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Answer the Celtic call as Australia celebrates a year of Scottish culture, music and arts in 2020



A nationwide calendar of activity celebrating Scottish music, culture, food and drink, YOSA2020 starts 31st December 2019 and continues through until 31st December 2020.

ay homage to the art, music and culture of the Scottish cities, highlands, lochs, moors and isles with 35 festivals across Australia signing on to participate in the Year of Scotland in Australia 2020 (YOSA 2020). YOSA 2020 begins at Woodford Folk Festival on 27 December 2019, going on to incorporate events in every Australian state and territory until 1st January 2021.

These two traditional Hogmanay celebrations will bookmark hundreds of activities across the year showcasing the remarkable quality and diversity of Scottish musical culture.

Scottish talent across traditional, folk and roots music

YOSA 2020 activities include expansions to the National Celtic Festival's annual ceilidh trail, Scottish artists touring regional and remote areas via the Festival of Small Halls Australia, food and drink events as well as a renewed focus on world renowned Scottish cultural celebrations such as Burns Night, St Andrew's Day, Highland Games and Clan Gatherings.

Festivals and events of all sizes – from a 125,000-capacity celebration to an intimate 50-person event – will experience the best of Scottish music and culture in Australia in 2020.

Organisers say the unprecedented year-long programme of events came about collaboratively after a group of festival directors and agents were welcomed to Scotland in August 2018 for The Visit organised by Showcase Scotland Expo where they were enchanted by the wealth of Scottish talent across traditional, folk and roots music.

As 2020 marks the year of Coasts and Waters in Scotland – a celebration of the country's 10,000km coastline and spectacular lochs, seas, streams and rivers – YOSA 2020 will incorporate a program of music, art and activities referencing the Celtic lifeblood.

A special historical bond between Scotland and Australia

Executive Producer of the Showcase Scotland Expo, Lisa Whytock said: "We are delighted to see this year take shape. There have always been strong connections with Australia and Scotland and this seems a great way to celebrate those. Showcase Scotland Expo exists to further opportunity for our artists and to facilitate co-operation and support around the globe, although this is the first time ever that we have seen a full calendar year of activities and we would like to extend a thank you to all of those involved. We really look forward to bringing some of Scotland's finest musicians to Australia and to work closely with all of the festivals, venues and organisations who have come together to make this year possible."

Creative Scotland's Head of Music, Alan Morrison, said: "There's a special historical bond between Scotland and Australia that will only get stronger through this oncein-a-lifetime opportunity. By bringing Scotland's traditional music to stages all the way across Australia, we'll be able to feed the hunger of a diaspora eager to know more about their family heritage, but also reach Australian audiences from all backgrounds who just want to hear the brilliant, world-class music that energises the Scottish scene. As well as presenting some of our best-known tradition-bearers, we can introduce an entire generation of emerging talent to new audiences on the other side of the planet and raise the global recognition of our home-grown culture. Creative Scotland is proud and excited to be part of the team that will make this happen on an unprecedented scale."

According to the 2016 Australian census, 119,416 Australian residents were born in Scotland, while 2,023,474 claimed Scottish ancestry. YOSA 2020 will give those of Scottish heritage a taste of home while satisfying renewed interest in Scottish culture generated by recent film and television productions including *Outlander* and *Mary, Queen of Scots*.

40 acts will visit Australia

At least 40 acts will visit Australia for festivals and tours during YOSA 2020, including award-winning indie-folk band Elephant Sessions, from the Highlands. "We love touring in Australia, it's a brilliant country full of class people and places. We've had some of our best times as a band at Byron Bay Bluesfest and the Blue Mountains Folk Festival in Katoomba," said Elephant Sessions.

"We played Bluesfest twice last year and then again this year and each time we have been met with an amazing audience response that has made us feel so welcome and at home.

We are heading back out again in 2020 and will be one of the first bands to appear as part of the Year of Scotland Australia 2020, which is a total honour for us. It's very exciting to be heading back out again so soon and we are really looking forward to Australia discovering even more bands from Scotland as part of the year. We are sure that they will be made as welcome as we have been on our first two trips!"

Woodford Folk Festival's Head of Programming, Chloe Goodyear, said: "We are so excited to be acting as a presenting partner with Woodford Folk Festival, Festival of Small Halls, The Planting and our boutique touring programme, as well as to assist with the coordinating of the Year.

Australia has a beautifully cooperative festival scene, especially within the folk world, and many of the events who have signed up have been presenting Scottish talents for years – they're just happy to work further together to try to increase benefits for each other and for the artists. In addition, we're speaking with organisations and events we've not yet worked with before – there's so much enthusiasm for the idea of Year of Scotland, and everyone has a story about their town or grandparent that they can't wait to tell."

YOSA 2020 is supported by a range of organisations across Scotland including Showcase Scotland Expo, The Scottish Government, Visit Scotland, Creative Scotland and the Scottish Music Centre. In Australia, YOSA 2020 is produced by Woodfordia Inc.

Festivals, community events and groups who would like to be involved in the Year of Scotland in Australia 2020 or to learn more see: www.yearofscotlandaustralia2020.com



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IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Cullen skink

Ingredients:

For the stock:

75g/2½oz. butter 1 tbsp. vegetable oil 2 leeks, roughly chopped 2 onions, peeled, roughly chopped 2 fennel bulbs, roughly chopped 250ml/9fl oz. white wine 500g/171/2 oz. smoked haddock 750ml/1 pint 7fl oz. water

For the soup:

75g/2½oz. butter 1 tbsp. vegetable oil 2 leeks, finely chopped 2 shallots, peeled, finely chopped 2 garlic cloves, peeled, crushed 300g/101/2 oz. potatoes, peeled, chopped 500ml/171/2fl oz. double cream 1 tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley pinch freshly grated nutmeg

Method:

For the stock, heat the butter and vegetable oil in a large pan and gently fry the leeks, onions and fennel for 3-4 minutes, or until softened. Add the white wine to the pan and bring to the boil. Add the smoked haddock, pour in the water and bring back to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 30 minutes, skimming off any scum that rises to the surface, until the haddock is cooked through. Strain the haddock, reserving the cooking stock. Chop the haddock into bite-sized pieces. For the soup, heat the butter with the vegetable oil and fry the leeks, shallots and garlic for 3-4 minutes, or until softened. Add the potatoes and the chopped smoked haddock to the pan. Add the reserved cooking stock and bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 10-15 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender. Stir in the cream and briefly blend the soup with a stick blender. Serve the soup with crusty bread and sprinkle with the chopped fresh parsley and a sprinkling of freshly grated nutmeg.

Haggis, clapshot and whisky sauce

Ingredients:

500g/1lb 2oz. haggis

For the clapshot:

500g/1lb 2oz. floury potatoes, such as Maris Piper or King Edward, peeled, chopped 500g/1lb 2oz. swede (yellow turnip), peeled, chopped 50g/2oz. butter 75ml/23/4fl oz. double cream sea salt and freshly ground white pepper 1 tbsp. chopped fresh chives

For the whisky sauce:

500ml/17fl oz. double cream 2 tsp. wholegrain mustard 1 tbsp. Dijon mustard 2 tsp. whisky sea salt and freshly ground white pepper 1 tbsp. chopped fresh chives ½ lemon, juice only

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4.

Wrap the haggis tightly in aluminium foil and place onto a baking tray. Bake in the oven for 45 minutes to one hour, or until cooked through.

Meanwhile, for the clapshot, boil the potatoes and swede in separate saucepans of salted water for 15-18 minutes, or until tender. Drain well. Add the drained swede to the drained potatoes and mash thoroughly. Add the butter and cream and mash again until smooth and well combined. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground white pepper. Stir in the tablespoon of chives. Set aside and keep warm.

For the whisky sauce, heat the double cream in a pan over a medium heat. Add the wholegrain mustard, Dijon mustard and whisky and stir to combine. Increase the heat until the mixture is simmering and continue to cook for 1-2 minutes.

Remove the pan from the heat and season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground white pepper. Stir in the tablespoon of chives, then whisk in the lemon juice.

To serve, divide the clapshot equally among four serving plates. Place a spoonful of steamed haggis alongside each. Spoon over the warm whisky sauce.

Vegetarian haggis stuffed mushrooms

Inaredients:

4 large flat open/Portobello mushrooms 1 tbsp. olive oil 75g/21/2 oz. breadcrumbs 2 tbsp. pine nuts, toasted 2 tbsp. pecorino, grated 2 tbsp. chopped fresh parsley 350g/12 oz. vegetarian haggis, sliced

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6. Place the mushrooms onto a baking sheet and drizzle with a little oil. Cook in the oven for 5-6 minutes or until beginning to soften.

Mix together the breadcrumbs, pine nuts, pecorino and parsley.

Remove the mushrooms from under the grill and top each mushroom with a slice of vegetarian haggis.

Spoon the breadcrumb mixture over the haggis and drizzle with a little more oil.

Return to the oven for about 15 minutes or until the cheese is slightly melted and the filling is hot and bubbling.

Serve one mushroom as a starter or 2-3 with tatties and neeps as a main course.

Bannock



Ingredients:

1 x 7g sachet fast-action yeast 1 tsp. caster sugar 500g/1lb 2oz. strong white flour 125g/4½oz. unsalted butter, melted 250g/9oz. dried mixed fruit 50g/2oz. light muscovado sugar beaten egg, for glazing

Method:

Mix together the yeast, caster sugar and 250ml/9fl oz. lukewarm water in a large bowl. Leave to stand for 10 minutes until the mixture is frothy.

Add the flour and butter and mix thoroughly. Tip onto a lightly floured surface and knead for about five minutes to form a smooth elastic dough.

Place the dough into a clean, lightly oiled bowl and cover with a damp tea towel. Leave to prove in a warm place for about one hour or until doubled in size.

When the dough has risen, remove the tea towel and punch the dough down. Tip onto a lightly floured surface and knead in the fruit and muscovado sugar until well combined.

Shape the dough into a round shape and place on a lightly greased baking sheet. Cover again with a damp tea towel and leave to rise in a warm place again for 30 minutes or until it has doubled in size.

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4. Brush the bannock with a little beaten egg to glaze. Bake for 45-50 minutes until risen and a rich brown colour. If the bread is getting too dark, cover lightly with parchment paper or foil. When the bread is ready it should sound hollow when the underneath is tapped gently.

Leave to cool slightly before slicing and serving warm with plenty of butter.

Cranachan

Celebrate
Burns' Night
January 25th!

Burns Night Recipes

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face, Great chieftain o' the pudding-race! The Burns Supper on January 25th is an institution of Scottish life: a night to celebrate the life and works of the national Bard. Suppers can range from an informal gathering of friends to a huge, formal dinner full of pomp and circumstance, enjoy!



Ingredients:

570ml/1 pint double cream 85g/3oz. porridge oats 7 tbsp. whisky 3 tbsp. honey 450g/1lb. raspberries fresh mint, to garnish

Method:

Toast the oats in a frying pan, being careful not to burn them.

Lightly whip the cream until it reaches the soft peak stage, then fold in the whisky, honey, oatmeal and raspberries.

Serve in dessert glasses garnished with a few raspberries and mint.

Shortbread

Ingredients:

125g/4oz butter 55g/2oz caster sugar, plus extra to finish 180g/6oz plain flour

Method:

Heat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5. Beat the butter and the sugar together until smooth. Stir in the flour to get a smooth paste. Turn on to a work surface and gently roll out until the paste is 1cm/½in thick. Cut into rounds or fingers and place onto a baking tray. Sprinkle with caster sugar and chill in the fridge for 20 minutes. Bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to cool on a wire rack.

Bobby Burns Cocktail

Ingredients:

60ml/1.5 oz. Scotch whisky 30ml/3/4oz. red vermouth 2 dashes Benedictine

Method:

In a mixing glass with ice, add the whisky, vermouth and Benedictine and stir until condensation forms along the outside of the glass. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a twist of lemon peel.

2020-A Year in Piping





appy New Year from The National Piping Centre! Across the world each year there are lots of opportunities to hear Scotland's national instrument, but these are some of the key events here in Scotland and abroad. Celtic Connections, now in its $27^{\mbox{th}}$ year, kicks off the year in style as Glasgow's annual folk, roots and world music festival, celebrates Celtic music and its connections to cultures across the globe. From 16th January – 2nd February 2020, over 2,100 musicians from around the world will descend on Glasgow and bring the city to life for 18 days of concerts, ceilidhs, talks, art exhibitions, workshops, and free events, including a spectacular pipe band concert from People's Ford Boghall and Bathgate Pipe Band, featuring TRYST pipers - a collective of 10 of the world's foremost trad pipers including Ross Ainslie, Ali Hutton, Finlay MacDonald, Lorne MacDougall and Mairearad Green. There is also a plethora of piping through out the festival, including on Sunday 19th January a concert called "A celebration of women in piping" featuring some of the best female pipers playing uillean pipes, highland pipes and more.

On 15th February, our National Piping Centre Junior Piping Championship returns, one of a host of fantastic contest for young pipers aged Under 18 across the country every year. It aims to encourage all young players to compete, with chanter competitions through to Piobaireachd events. In April The National Piping Centre's Seasonal Schools return with our spring editions of our Young Stars for Under 18s and our NPC Adult Spring Gatherings for those aged 18+. These great 4-day workshops are tailored for different age groups and are a great way to meet other pipers and get immersed in learning.

UK contests

There are 5 major pipe band championships in the UK, and this year they are:

ullet British Championships - May $23^{ ext{rd}}$ - Paisley

- United Kingdom Championships June 13th Lurgan, Northern Ireland
- European Championships June 27th Inverness
- Scottish Championships July 25th-Dumbarton
- World Championships August 14th 15th Glasgow Green, Glasgow

The last of these championships is the biggest and the best. It is part of the world's biggest week of piping here in Glasgow, with Piping Live!, taking place from Saturday 8th—Sunday 16th August. This festival brings together musicians from across the globe,

who come to the city with pipe bands and music groups from many different countries to take part. With Pipe Idol, The Piping Live! Big Band, The Masters, Evening Concerts, the festival club, Street Café and more, Piping Live! has something for everyone. This all leads up to the World Pipe Band Championships on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th August. For 2 days the piping world gathers on Glasgow Green (even via the live streaming of the event!) to celebrate a new world champion. Will Inveraray and District Pipe Band repeat their phenomenal success of 2019? We will wait with bated breath and see...

Worldwide contests

This marks the end of the UK pipe band season. Other significant worldwide contests include, and the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships, this year in Invercargill on 13^{th} – 14^{th} March 2020, the Diamond Jubilee year Australian Pipe Band Championships in Maryborough, Victoria on 4^{th} and 5^{th} April 2020 and the North American Pipe Band Championships at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario on 31^{st} July – 1^{st} August 2020.

Once the Pipe Band season is over, thoughts turn to major solo competitions. The end of August see's The Argyllshire Gathering and Northern Meetings, the two most prestigious solo piping competitions in Scotland. Each event takes place over 2 days with competitors taking part in Piobaireachd and light music events. This year, for the first time in many years, the Northern Meeting will take place in Inverness before the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban. The dates for these events are Thursday 20th and Friday 21st August for Northern

Meetings at Eden Court Theatre, Inverness. The Argyllshire Gathering is on Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th August 2020.

By: The National Piping

Once the winners have been announced for these, then the 10 competitors for the Glenfiddich Piping Championship are declared. This solo championship, taking place at the end of October each year has been called the de facto world solo championship, where the 10 best pipers of the year compete for the overall trophy. Last year's top honour went to National Piping Centre teacher Finlay Johnston, his second win in this top solo piping competition, in consecutive years too!

The Glenfiddich is the end of the 2020 season, only for the 2021 season to start the very next weekend in London with the Scottish Piping Society of London's annual competition, which has its 82nd year in 2020.

So, if you are travelling this year, come and hear piping in Scotland – or look out for it around the world!









Celebrating 350 years of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh



Throughout 2020, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh will celebrate the scientific and horticultural achievements of the past 350 years, tracing their progress from 17th century physic garden to world-leading botanic garden. A history going back to 1670 will be celebrated with a year-long programme of talks, events and exhibitions as Judy Vickers explains.

t began as a physic garden – a collection of plants grown for their medicinal properties - on a patch of ground no bigger than a tennis court. Now, as it marks its 350th anniversary, the

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh covers 11 hectares, welcomes more than one million visitors annually to admire its 13,500 species and its scientists discover around 35 new plants every year.

It's been an incredible journey for the garden which was founded by two doctors, Robert Sibbald and Andrew Balfour, in 1670 in a small rented plot near Holyrood Palace, as Suzie Huggins, 350th anniversary project co-ordinator, explains.

"At that time you couldn't train to be a doctor in Scotland, you had to go off to London or Europe, and that's what the two doctors who were our founders did. They came back to Scotland, full of ideas, one of which was to start a small physic garden and to teach students about their medicinal properties."

Aligned with medicine

The pair's work to emulate the medical faculties they had seen on the continent didn't stop there – they also founded the College of Physicians in Edinburgh in 1681. The garden was a huge success, rapidly growing until it housed 800 plants. Within five years, it moved to a larger site, then Trinity Hospital on the banks of the Nor' Loch, where Waverley Station now stands.

The garden's 90 years in its new home saw many successes – it received a Royal Warrant in 1699 and in 1713, the first glasshouse was built. But the site, albeit bigger, proved to have its own challenges.



"In 1689, Edinburgh Castle was being held for King James [against William of Orange, the new king] by the Duke of Gordon, who refused to surrender and a siege began. The besiegers decided to try to find the bottom of the well which was supplying the castle with fresh water so they tried to drain Nor' Loch.

species and its scientists discover around site, albeit bigger, proved to have its own challenges. supplying the castle with fresh water so they tried to drain Nor' Loch. Supplying the castle with fresh water so they tried to drain Nor' Loch. Supplying the castle with fresh water so they tried to drain Nor' Loch. Supplying the castle with fresh water so they tried to drain Nor' Loch.

Ditch plastic-go Scottish! <



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H: 30cm, W: 30cm, D: 20cm



Scottie Dog Single Canvas Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a classic pattern of a Scottish Terrier dog with sturdy handles.

H: 30cm, W: 40cm, D: 12cm



Thistle Jute Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish thistles. With purple tartan gusset and purple webbed handle. H: 30cm, W: 30cm, D: 20cm



Highland Coo Jute Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a colourful pattern of bonnie Highland coo's.

H: 20cm, W: 20cm, D: 14cm



Westie Jute Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a colourful pattern of playful Westies, along with a solo Scottie pal.
With black webbed handles.
H: 20cm, W: 20cm, D: 14cm



Tartan Scottie Jute Bag

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That didn't succeed but in the process they damaged the dam at the east end of the loch. The ensuring flood saw water run straight through the grounds of Trinity Hospital garden. The whole site was inundated and when the water drained away, they were left with a layer of mud, rubbish and effluent. Almost all the plants were obliterated," says Suzie.

Despite such episodes, the garden clung on at the Nor' Loch until 1763. "But it wasn't a good space for a garden growing plants for medicine. It was polluted, over-crowded and dirty," says Suzie. So in 1763, the garden made its second move, to Leith Walk, at this time outside the boundaries of the city in open countryside and there its purpose also began to expand. "The garden was very much aligned with medicine; the reason for having it was firstly to grow plants which had medicinal properties and secondly to teach apprentices about those plants. There were strong links between the garden's head, the Regius Keeper, and Edinburgh University - initially the Keeper was also the university's professor of medicine, then later the professor of botany. Students studying medicine at the university would come to the garden to learn about medicinal plants and that link continued into the 20th century," says Suzie.

It began as a physic garden – a collection of plants grown for their medicinal properties - on a patch of ground no bigger than a tennis court.

"But the move to Leith Walk is when we see the garden start to move away from a purely medicinal garden and develop into something similar to what we have today. We see trees, conservatories, a pond and exotic plants being introduced, such as coffee, bananas and tea."

Education was still a key task -Benjamin Rush, signatory of the American Declaration of Independence, was one of the many who attended lectures at the Leith Walk garden. But life was not all enlightened debate at the garden - one of the darkest episodes in its history was the murder of head gardener John Williamson. Williamson was also a part-time customs officer, most likely because he was handily situated on a main route between the port of Leith and the city of Edinburgh. On September 23, 1780, he left the garden in pursuit of some smugglers - he caught up with them at Princes Street, but they turned on him and beat him to death.

Inverleith

In 1820 the garden made the move to its current site at Inverleith. The Leith Walk site was now a substantial garden and such a move was not an easy task. However, curator William McNab devised ingenious machines to transport the trees and plants the two-mile journey to their new home. "He moved the entire collection of trees and plants and nothing died. I'm not sure we could do the same today," says Suzie.



The move took three years and McNab's accounts of the time reveal how much meticulous planning was involved. "There is a line in the accounts for September 1820 showing a payment of £1 17s $11\frac{1}{2}$ d for women and children who were clearing the weeds from the new site," says Suzie

As the garden grew, gaining the grounds of Inverleith House for the arboretum and the former territory of the Caledonian Horticultural Society for the Rock Garden, so did the wealth of plants collected by a host of great Scottish plant hunters in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Perhaps the most famous - certainly the most colourful – was plant hunter George Forrest who introduced more than 10,000 specimens. Falkirk-born Forrest travelled to China in 1904 for the garden, narrowly escaping a massacre in the 1905 Tibetan Rebellion and helping to inoculate local people against smallpox as well as collecting many species of rhododendron.

At Inverleith, the garden also saw the building of the glasshouses, including the iconic Victorian Palm Houses.

The oldest is the tropical palm house, built in 1834, and then the tallest in the UK, followed by the 50ft tall temperate palm house in 1858. Joining them in 1967 were Allan Pendreigh's glasshouses, filled with topsoil that had been removed from the construction site of the Forth Road Bridge, which was opened in 1964.

It wasn't until 1889 that the garden was open and free to the public seven days a week as it is now, although tickets could be purchased by the public to visit the Trinity Hospital site in the 1700s and in the 19th century, it opened for special occasion such as Queen Victoria's birthday. When the garden began to open six days a week, barring Sunday, however, it proved contentious. "The working men of Edinburgh petitioned for it to be open on Sundays so that they could visit and enjoy the garden, and the Church petitioned against Sabbath opening," says Suzie.

The Botanics

With deforestation and climate change hot topics of concern, the 350th celebrations will also focus on the future in which the garden's scientists play a leading role. In August there will be a plant-finding





expedition to Papua New Guinea, almost certain to uncover new species. There will be conferences in April and in June, the latter arranged by the Friends of RGBE and with delegates from equivalent groups in Australia, the US and Scandinavia. A series of lectures in the autumn will include a debate by global experts on plant extinction.

There will also be a big birthday party in June as well as a project to record people's memories of the Botanics.
"We know there is a huge amount of

affection for the Botanics. We wouldn't survive without the love and support of the people of Edinburgh," says Suzie.

As to the future beyond 2020, plans are afoot for the most significant project in the garden's history.

The £70m Edinburgh Biomes scheme will result in new research and education facilities, a state-of-the-art plant health suite, refurbishment of the existing public glasshouses and a new visitor experience.



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New attractions and only in Scotland experiences for 2020



decade off by sharing the new attractions and one-of-a-kind experiences travellers can enjoy in Scotland. Scotland will be celebrating a new themed year: Year of Coasts and Waters 2020. A year-long programme of events and activities that shine light on Scotland's lochs, rivers, canals, seafood, inland and coastal landscapes and history. Visitors will be able to immerse themselves in Scotland's maritime heritage through attractions, events and food and drink.

After ringing in the new decade at one of Scotland's annual and famous Hogmanay events, check out an abundance of recent and different activities....

Festivals that make a splash

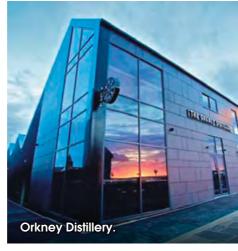


Dive into Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters 2020 with DolphinFest 2020 and Edinburgh International Film Festival presents Scotland's Shores. One of the best places in Europe to watch bottlenose dolphins is on the harbour shores of Aberdeen. The DolphinFest 2020 will take place throughout the month of April in Aberdeen, celebrating the region's dolphins through interactive games, pop-up activities, conservation talks and citizen science projects. The festival's mission is to promote sustainability and further inspire guests to reduce, recycle and refuse, attend beach cleans and reduce their carbon footprint.

The Edinburgh International Film Festival is celebrating its 74^{th} edition in 2020 and is excited to announce Scotland Shores, an exciting programme showcasing Scotland's coasts and waterways through unique events, classic film screenings and a special outdoor coastal experience from 19-30 June, 2020.

Film-lovers can dip their toes into the Fest on the Forth, a unique outdoor cinema experience. Audiences will be able to watch classic films that feature Scotland's beautiful coasts and landmarks while on the sandy shores of the Forth.

Let the year be-gin



Most visitors know Scotland makes a good bottle of whisky. However, some may not know that Scottish gin accounts for 70% of the UK's overall gin production and three of the world's best- selling gins (Hendrick's, Gordon's and Tanqueray).

Peebles Hydro, a stunning hotel set in the heart of Tweed Valley, has recently launched their very own gin. Not only one bottle, but four different gins (London Dry, Pavilion Pink, Navy Strength and Subtly Smoked), four different tonics and a gin school! The launch of their 1881 gin is named after the year the hotel was opened and uses waters from the rolling Border hills located behind their hotel.

The Orkney Distillery was recently awarded a Five Star Quality Assurance award from VisitScotland after being opened to visitors just over a year ago.

Two of the gins – Aurora Gin and Kirkjuvagr Gin – were awarded Great Taste badges for 2019. The distillery also offers a unique gin-making experience where visitors can craft their own gin recipe using over 30 different botanicals.

2020 marks 200 years of Johnnie Walker and 700 Years of the Declaration of Arbroath



The Johnnie Walker brand celebrates its 200th anniversary in 2020. Situated within the former House of Fraser department store on Prince's Street in Edinburgh, the Johnnie Walker Experience will be a three-storey immersive space exploring whisky making and the blended Scotch brand's 200-year history. The Johnnie Walker Experience, which should launch at the end of 2020, forms a central part of Diageo's £150 million investment in Scotch whisky tourism, which includes the upgrade of the company's 12 distillery visitor centres across Scotland.

A further £35 million is being invested in reopening the silent distilleries of Port Ellen on Islay, and Brora in Sutherland. While whisky from Diageo's distilleries all over Scotland contribute to the Johnnie Walker blend, four distilleries. Glenkinchie, Cardhu, Caol Ila and Clynelish, will be put at the heart of the Johnnie Walker experience in Edinburgh, representing the "four corners of Scotland" and the regional flavour variations of Lowland (Glenkinchie), Speyside (Cardhu), Island (Caol Ila) and Highland (Clynelish). The anniversary of Johnnie Walker will be celebrated throughout 2020.

On 5 April, 2020 a horse-led procession of over 500 people will march from Arbroath Abbey to Arbroath Harbour to re-enact the Declaration of Arbroath sailing to France in 1320 in celebration of the 700th anniversary. The Declaration of Arbroath emphasised Scotland's right as a nation and was sent from Arbroath Abbey to Pope John in Avignon on 6 April 1320. Events include a giant outdoor lunch on Beacon Green and hundreds of voices singing within the walls of Arbroath Abbey.

The Declaration of Arbroath will be displayed at the National Museum of Scotland from 27 March to 26 April, 2020. The document has not been on display for 15 years.

In the he(art) of Aberdeen



The Aberdeen Art Gallery officially reopened to the public on Saturday, 2 November after at £34.6 million investment. The gallery which first opened in 1885 closed in 2015 for refurbishments with the improved gallery including nationally and internationally-acclaimed artists such as Rachel McLean, Bill Gibb, Vincent van Gogh and Claude Money.

The investment went into the fabric of the buildings, new exhibition and display galleries, improved visitor facilities and an enhanced activity programme.

Having a wheel nice time on the Heart 200 and the Coig



The Heart 200 launched July 2019 as a new touring route of approximately 200 miles around Perth, Stirling, The Trossachs and Highland Perthshire – the very Heart of Scotland. What's more, this stunning journey uniquely links Scotland's two national parks, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs and the Cairngorms.

The Coig is an exciting new set of tourist routes covering Ayrshire, the Firth of Clyde and Clyde Islands. There are five routes to explore – the Shire, the Shiel, the Arran, the Bute and the Cumbrae. Gaelic for 'five', the Coig covers Ayrshire, Arran, Bute, Cumbrae, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. The routes aim to showcase the area's unique coast and countryside, as well as the outstanding natural beauty, history and heritage, food and drink and outdoor family activities across the regions.

Whale you come to Scotland?



Launched in June 2019, the Hebridean Whale Trail showcases Scotland's west coast as a world-class destination for spotting whales, dolphins and porpoises from land, and champions conservation of the Hebrides' globally important marine wildlife and environment. It's the first of its kind in the UK connecting more than 30 top places offering opportunities for land-based sightings. In addition to the Hebrides', Banffshire and The Moray Coast, also known as 'The Dolphin Coast' is a hotspot for those wanting to see bottlenose dolphins in their natural environment.

For those wanting to spot charming grey seals or puffins, visit Orkney and join one of the Wild Orkney Walks. There's a wildlife walk for every season! Or how about swimming with Britain's largest fish – the basking shark? Sighting hotspots include the Firth of Clyde, off the coast of Oban and around the Isles of Coll, Tiree and Canna. Book a tour with Basking Shark Tour from April to October – beginners are welcome!

Back on dryland, enjoy a one-of-a-kind experience and enjoy a new guided tour of farm animals in their natural environment with Kitchen Coos & Ewes in Dumfries and Galloway which launched in September 2019. Guests will get the chance to meet Scotland's beloved Highland Coo. Or join an Arran Forest Safari on the Isle of Arran with Mogabout Tours to catch red squirrels, deer and birds of prey.

Eat reasons to go to Scotland



The delicious foodie town of Dundee has launched their #DundeeEats guide in November. Dundee is extremely important to the food industry in Scotland as 70% of Scotland's fresh produce is grown within a 30-mile radius of Dundee due to its proximity to the field, farm and coastline. Visitors are encouraged to visit the city's West End's cosmopolitan food and drink scene, the family-run cafes in the city centre and ice cream at 'The Ferry'.

Try some local Dundee creations like 'pehs', marmalade and Dundee cake and visitors should eat their way through the Food Bucket list! The region has a clear mission on reducing its food waste by working with Zero Waste Scotland through cutting their own waste and educating.

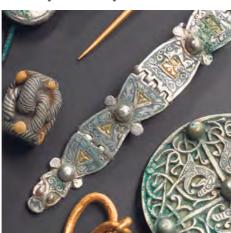
In April 2020 a truly one-ofa-kind tour will be launching in Stirlingshire close to Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park at a working sheep farm. A trip to Scotland isn't complete without sampling our national dish, haggis and The Haggis Experience takes the tasting to a whole new level. Visitors will be able to choose from three different tour options and learn the origins, myths, ingredients and how to make the wonderful dish. Guests will get to try traditional haggis and/ or vegetarian haggis and will receive a complimentary recipe pack and a souvenir Haggis Experience Certificate.

Loch, its Nessie!



The Loch Ness 360° Trail is an epic new walking, cycling, running and outdoor activity trail in the Scottish Highlands. The trail loops the entire circumference of Loch Ness. The trail starts and finishes in the Highland Capital of Inverness but can be joined at any point. This trail connects the Great Glen Way and the South Loch Ness Trail into one circuit around the loch covering 80 miles.

All the way from 10th century Galloway



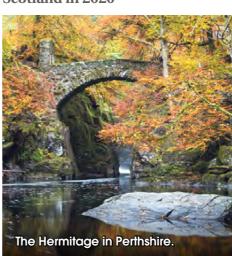
In September 2014 a metal detectorist came across an incredible discovery of the Galloway Hoard: Viking Age Treasure which laid undisturbed for a thousand years. Buried in the 10thcentury in Dumfries and Galloway, this rich Viking Age hoard contains more than 100 objects of silver jewellery, rare gold ingot and a range of precious metals, brooches, amulets and more. This is the richest collection of rare and unique Viking-age objects ever found in Britain or Ireland. These objects will help understand hidden history and the stories from people of the past. The exhibition is planned for 29 May – 18 October 2020 and will tour Edinburgh, Kirkcudbright Galleries, The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum and Aberdeen Art Gallery.

Scotland has chainmail



In June 2019, the National Trust for Scotland revealed its largest conservation project with the Hill House Box. The structure is wrapped with world's largest chainmail, with walkways zigzagging through the chimney pots. Owned by the Trust since 1982, the Hill House Box in Helensburgh is considered to be the finest example of domestic architecture by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. However, the building has been soaking up water like a sponge for over 115 years which is why the National Trust for Scotland came up with an innovative solution to project the building from any further water damage is truly remarkable. Onsite there is a new café and visitor centre so guests can learn more about Charles and Margaret Mackintosh and the Blackie family who the house was originally built for. The Hill House stands out amongst other Arts & Craft and Art Nouveau houses in the UK because it has survived intact for so long.

Tree reasons to go to Scotland in 2020



The beautiful Craufurdland Estate in Fenwick has introduced a new treetop coursed called Tree Top Trial. It's a tremendous addition to the already vast amount of activities the estate has including forest fitness, mountain bike trails, crate climbing, mud runs, archery and more. They also recently opened a new restaurant Laird's Table that has been awarded a Taste of our Best accreditation.

Explore by foot, forest bathing a Japanese form of nature therapy. The Hermitage in Perthshire is a beautiful walk that was created in the 18th century by the 3rd Duke of Atholl and covers 33 acres. The forest features both conifer and deciduous trees, including one of Britain's tallest Douglas fir trees. Rumour has it the duke used a canon to scatter the tree seeds!

Or hop on a quad trek with Cairngorm Quad Treks in Aviemore where visitors will be guided through beautiful views of rolling moorland and the woodlands of Cairngorms National Park. Dancing into 2020



2020 is an exciting year for the Shetland Folk Festival as it celebrates its 40th year! Head up to the festival from 30 April to 3 May in Shetland and ceilidh the night away at the most northerly Folk Festival in the UK. Listen to local Shetland and folk artists from Britain and beyond for one of the most entertaining festivals of the year.

Flaming hot events in 2020



Events in Scotland are hot, really hot. Throughout 2020 visitors can enjoy a plethora of different fire festivals including the Samhuinn Fire Festival in Edinburgh to celebrate the Celtic New Year which happens to be what is more commonly recognised as Hallowe'en. The Beltane Fire Festival to celebrate the return of the summer in April. Fend off evil spirits at the Comrie Flambeaux in Perthshire or Stonehaven Fireballs in Aberdeenshire to welcome in the New Year. Up Helly Aa in Shetland celebrates their Viking heritage on the last Tuesday of January for 24 hours.

And the Burning of the Clavie in Moray Speyside which dates back to the 1750s and celebrates the New Year on the 11th of January when the Julian calendar was reformed in Britain.

Lagg Distillery



Lagg Distillery on the Isle of Arran opened in June 2019 and is the first new distillery on the island since the opening of Isle of Arran Distillery's in Lochranza 25 years ago. The distillery has a few more years until their own Lagg Single Malt Whisky launches, however, guests can enjoy the south-end distillery's two delicious dining options including The Sheiling Bar & Bistro and the Kilmory Café. Guests can enjoy a dram from their sister distillery Isle of Arran while there's continue to distil.

The 2020 Diamond Jubilee Australian Pipe Band Championships



The Championships back to where it all began.

ipe Bands Australia diamond jubilee year Australian Pipe Band Championships, expected to attract bands from across the country and overseas, will be held in Maryborough, Victoria on 4 and 5 April 2020. Pipe Bands Victoria has named Maryborough Highland Society as promoter for the championships following consideration of two extremely strong proposals received during the expression of interest stage. The decision has been endorsed by Pipe Bands Australia. Maryborough Highland Society has been central in the advancement of pipe bands in Australia since holding its first Highland Gathering on New Year's Day 1857.

New champion band banners
Three new champion band banners
will be awarded for the first time at the
Diamond Jubilee year Australian Pipe

Band Championships at Maryborough. The banners for the newly introduced grades of Grade 4B, Novice Juvenile A and Novice Juvenile B will be named in honour of three stalwarts of the Australian pipe band movement in the 20thcentury – Ron Gallacher OAM, Danny McPherson MBE and Ray Lee OAM.

Ron Gallacher was a long-time pipe major of Hawthorn Pipe Band winning a number of Australian Grade 1 championships, an active tutor to many bands and particularly in regional areas and served as Principal Piping of the Australian Pipe Band College for 20 years. He was an inaugural inductee into the Pipe Bands Australia Hall of Fame in 2018.

Danny McPherson served in the Boer War and world War One and then became Ballarat Caledonian Society Pipe Band Assistant Pipe Major before the founding pipe major of the Mildura and District Pipe Band in 1922. Millicent in 1926 and later moving to Melbourne with the Royal Caledonian Society Pipe Band. After World War Two he established the first Scotch College band and then established the pipes program at Haileybury College. He was an inaugural recipient of the Pipe Bands Australian education and training award in 2018.

Ray Lee was for 23 years the Band Master of The Scots College Pipes and Drums Sydney during which time the band won national and state championships and performed in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo and other international events. During his 23 years, Ray built the Scots program to be one of the largest school-based pipes and drums programs in Australia.

This will be the first Australian championships conducted since the introduction of the additional grades.

Champion band banners were introduced by Pipe Bands Australia in 2016. Banners honouring RJK Semple OAM BEM, Michael Stubbings, Tony Sell OAM, Ewan Masson OAM and Greg Gordon OAM will continue to be awarded in the respective grades.

Prizemoney increase for the Championships

Prizemoney for the Pipe Bands Australia Diamond Jubilee year Australian Pipe Band Championships in Maryborough, Victoria now totals more than \$14,000 with an agreement with the Clan Donald Lands Trust to be an ongoing sponsor of Grade 4A beginning in 2020. The agreement between the Trust and Pipe Bands Australia together with the re-allocation of prizemoney to other grade by championship host the Maryborough Highland Society will see the champion band in each of Grades 1 through to 4B collect a prize cheque for \$1000. Second and third place prizemoney



in each grade will be \$500 and \$250. The Grade 4A award will be known as the AWR McDonald Memorial Prize and include a trophy for the champion band.

With trophies valued at more than \$3000 also on offer for the Diamond Jubilee year championships, the total prize pool in 2020, inflation adjusted, out does the reward for successful bands at the first championships in 1961, also hosted by the Maryborough Highland Society.

The High Commissioner of Clan Donald in Australia, Neil Macdonald, said the Trust was delighted to cement a firm and ongoing partnership with Pipe Bands Australia to support and rewards bands in the nation's premier championship.

"We look forward to a long relationship in our shared promotion of the great cultures of Scotland," he said. Pipe Bands Australia president Chris Earl said the Diamond Jubilee year was a fitting time to establish firm links with kindred organisations in their support of the pipe band movement. "The generosity of the Clan Donald Land Trust and the commitment of the Maryborough Highland Society to making our championships a great celebration will enable bands to compete for prizemoney and trophies of more than \$17,000 in 2020."

Entries for the 2020 Australian Pipe Band Championships on 4 and 5 April, close on 4 January. For detail see: www.highlandsociety.com.au

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