



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

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The Banner Says...

Robert Burns

The heaven taught ploughman



by Sean Cairney

As 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.

Robert Burns has become an 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 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 heard across the country as the Year of Scotland Australia will see a diverse range of Scottish 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 Burns 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.

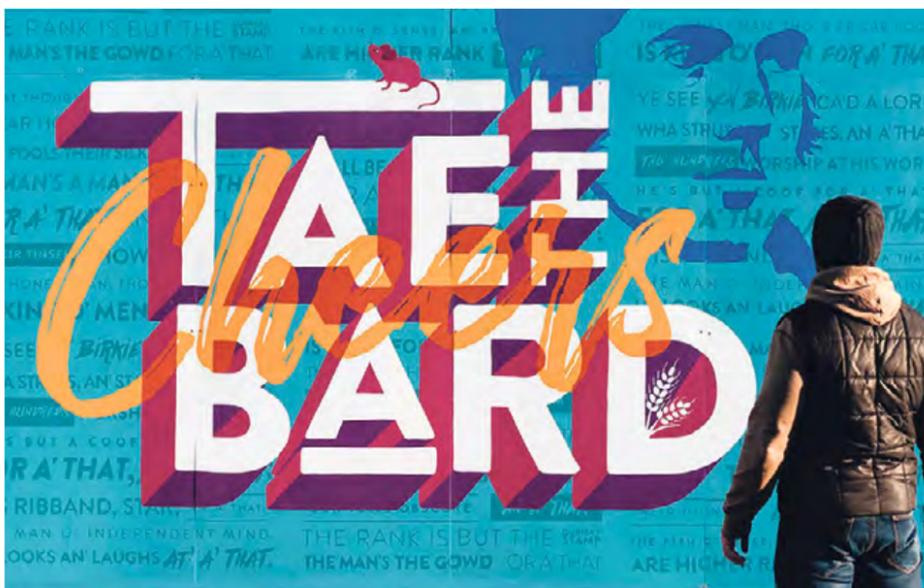
Wishing all our readers, advertisers and friends the very best for the year ahead and of course a very Happy Burns Night! 🍷

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.

Text and photo: Scotland.org



Burns' Supper Guide

Around 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 home-made Scots broth or cock-a-leekie soup.

Finally, to round off your Burns' Supper menu, desert might consist of a traditional Cloutie 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.



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SCOT POURRI

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

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

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 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

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

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
Crafer
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: dougdown@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.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



Balmoral Classic



Pipe Major Ian Duncan, a native of Perthshire, teaches his workshop on piobaireachd 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

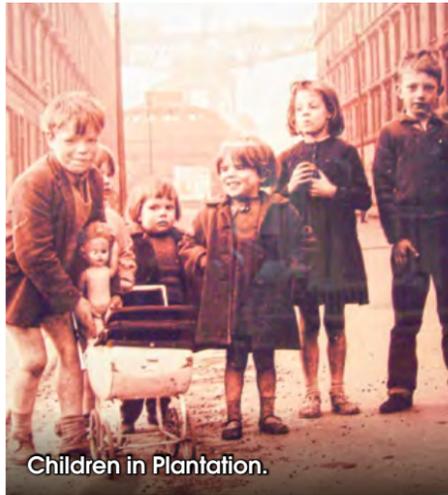
KINGS CASTLES AND "DURTY" WEE RASCALS

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*



Children in Plantation.

Govan 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-10th century. 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 Craighall, 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.

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.

As 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 Queen Mary's Scots Festival & International Highland Games XXVII Returns February 15-16



The Queen Mary is pleased to welcome Scotland back to Long Beach for the 27th annual Scots Festival & International Highland Games XXVII on Saturday, February 15 and Sunday, February 16 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. This year's games welcome the highest level of Professional Scottish Athletes to compete in the all-new North American LightWeight Women's Championship and returning for the second year, the North American Professional Male Championship.

The Queen Mary's Scots Festival honors the rich culture and history of Scotland, along with nearly fifty Scottish clans & vendors, with a weekend of professional and amateur competitions in Highland athletics, Highland dancing, piping, drumming, massed bands, and darts, along with fan-favorite activities such as falconry, sheepherding, axe-throwing, re-enactments, and live entertainment and music on multiple stages. Whisky tasting sessions with aged malt experts are available for adult festival goers while the wee laddies and lassies can bear witness to Queen Mary's coronation, knighting ceremonies, and even take part in the Wee Highland games.



The Queen Mary Scots Festival & International Highland Games takes place at 1126 Queens Highway Long Beach, CA. For details further visit: www.queenmary.com or call (800) 437- 2934.

Text and image use is courtesy of the Scottish Register of Tartans (SRT).

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 record-breaking visitor numbers who all come to the castle to enjoy its 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.



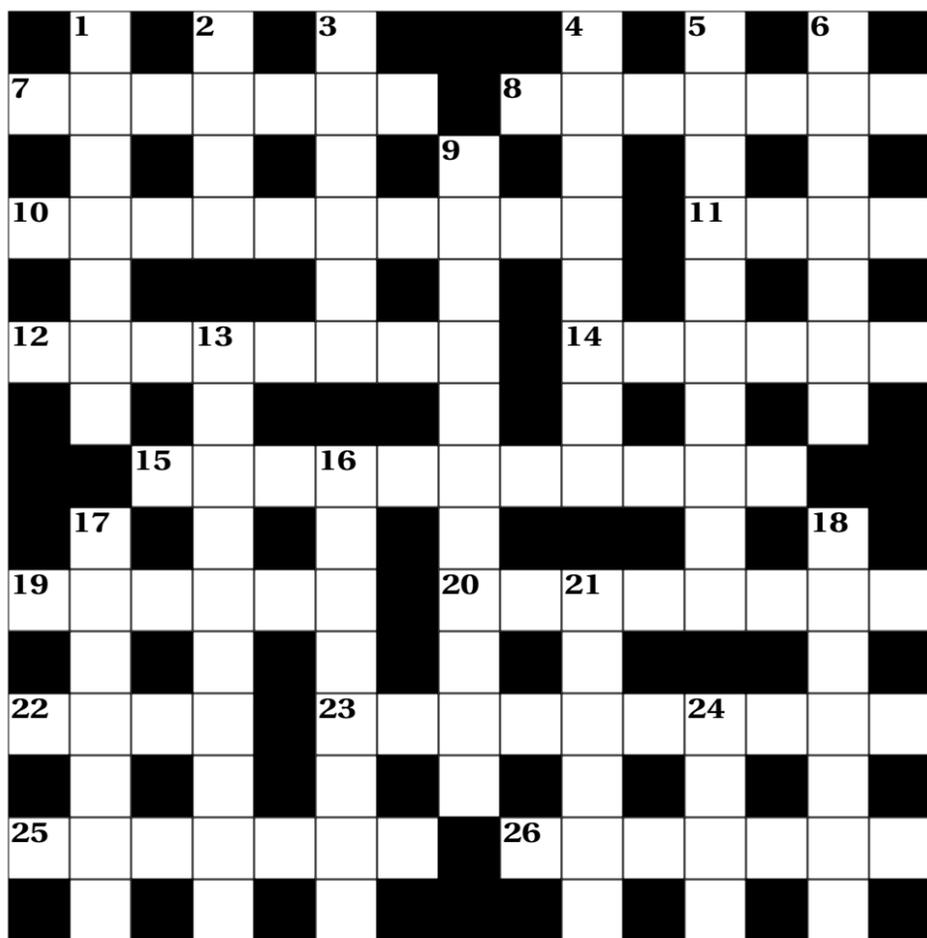
"It's almost impossible to describe it because it's also very emotional. When you're trying to do your daily business you find you can't because you have to plan one or two hours ahead, if you can get out your door, if you can get your car through the junction, if you can get into town for your appointment. 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 25!

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



Edinburgh skyline from Carlton Hill.

Planning 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 14th-18th 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 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 making at 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.

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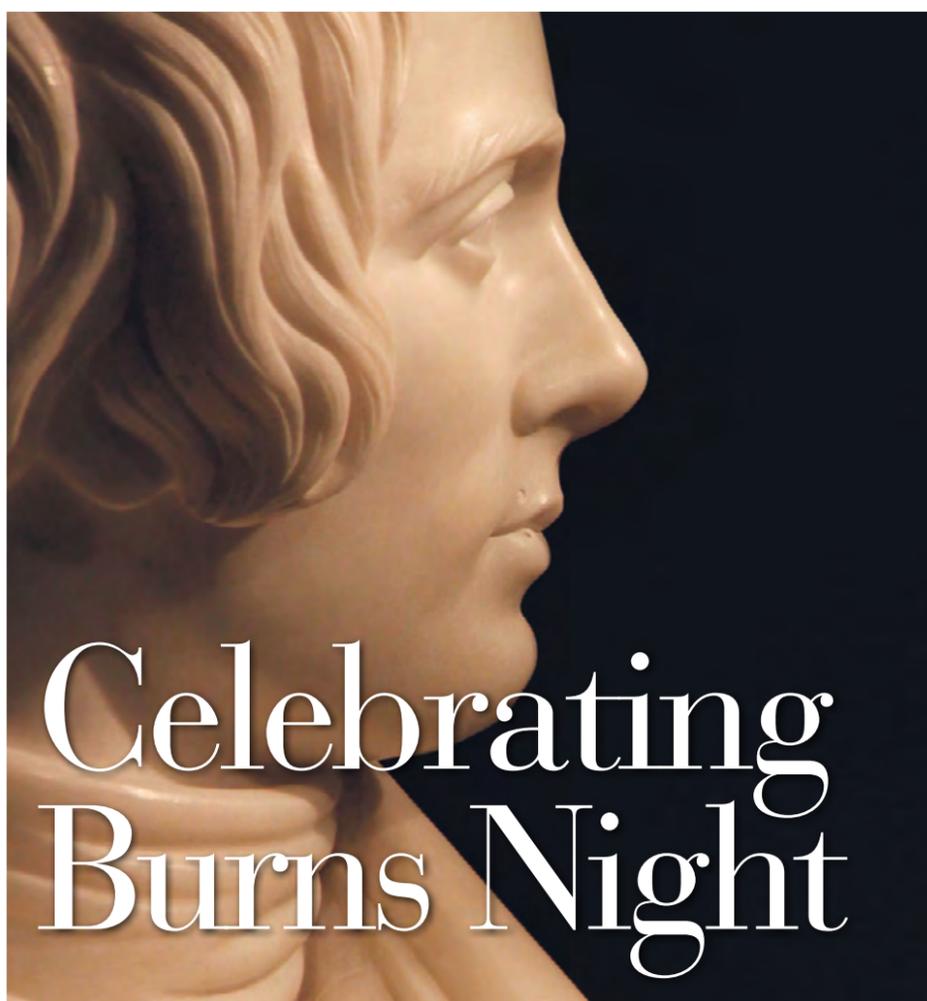
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All images courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland.



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.

This 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.



Brig o' Doon, Alloway.

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'.



Burns Cottage, Alloway.

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.

Glasgow crowned the UK's top cultural and creative city



Glasgow 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 re-open 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.



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

Images courtesy of Fiona Watson Photography.



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.

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.

Scotland 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 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. It's 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 save-the-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.

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, hand-fasting 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 it's crammed full of hints and tips for your big day!

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



By: Don Cummer

Kilt Skate Capital has Deep Scottish Roots

Once again, to celebrate Scotland's contribution to Canada's multicultural heritage, skaters across Canada are taking to the ice kilts, tartans and other Scottish regalia.

As of December, seven cities have named a 2020 date for a kilt skate:

- Ottawa, January 18;
- Winnipeg, January 19;
- Montreal, January 25
- New York City, February 1
- Lethbridge, February 1
- Saskatoon, February 8
- Calgary, February 9.

Note the inclusion of New York City. Elsewhere in The Scottish Banner, readers will learn how the Canadian kilt skate phenomenon has spread south of the border. Toronto and Glengarry will soon set their dates for their 2020 kilt skates.

As in past years, the Scottish Government is supporting the kilt skates through funding coordinated by the Scottish Society of Ottawa. This year, the kilt skates will help celebrate Scotland as a forward-thinking country – not just a place to visit, but a place to work and invest in. The theme is "Scotland is Now."

Kilt Skate Capital of Canada

Across Canada communities will vie for the title of "Kilt Skate Capital of Canada" awarded by the website www.kiltskate.com. For 2019, the laurels went to Glengarry – two townships in Eastern Ontario that worked together to host a skate in the village of Maxville. In the summer, that town is noted for its annual Highland Games and North American Pipe Band Championships, estimated to be one of the largest Highland games in the world.

The Scottish heritage runs deep in the Glengarry townships. They were first settled in the late 18th and early 19th century by retired soldiers, United Empire Loyalists and refugees from the Clearances and the closure of the woollen mills.



Glengarry also became a home for many of the Scots who retired from Canada's early fur trade, and it provided soldiers who served with distinction, turning back the American invasions in the War of 1812.

Right from the outset, people in Glengarry were enthusiastic supporters of the idea of celebrating Scottish heritage by skating in their kilts. They drove an hour or more up Highway 417 where the Scottish Society of Ottawa had organized its first kilt skate to mark the bicentennial of the birth of Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald.

Ottawa organizers joked that, with so many Glengarry skaters, a bus could be chartered to bring them to the city. But Glengarry had a different idea. In fact, they introduced a few new ideas.

Quirks of the Scottish character

In 2018 they decided to host their own event on a local mill pond. When a January thaw weakened the pond ice, they quickly organized the first-ever indoor kilt skate in a nearby hockey arena. This enabled Glengarry to combine a kilt skate with an old-fashioned social, with live music, dancing, and refreshments, all in the warm comfort of the arena hall.

After years in which they've had to reschedule or postpone events because of weather, Montreal and Winnipeg will follow Glengarry's lead and will hold their kilt skates indoors this year.

What made Glengarry the Kilt Skate Capital of Canada for 2019? For one thing, a video on Facebook went viral showing kilted army cadets skating in march tempo to the skirl of the pipes. A costume contest brought out many of the quirks of the Scottish character. Upstairs in the arena hall, the pipers piped and the dancers danced and there was cake and refreshments for all. An estimated 150 people attended the Glengarry event, and we're sure that they be back with more friends and relatives for 2020.

With last year's introduction of New York City as a kilt skate centre, perhaps Glengarry should now hold the title of "Kilt Skate Capital of North America"! Maybe it's time to bring kilt skates across the Atlantic. Tentative plans are in place to celebrate Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday with a kilt skate in Dublin, Ireland.

Go to www.kiltskate.com for up-to-date information on this and other kilt skates in 2020.



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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Nicola Sturgeon launching the SNP's 2019 manifesto in Glasgow. Photo: SNP.

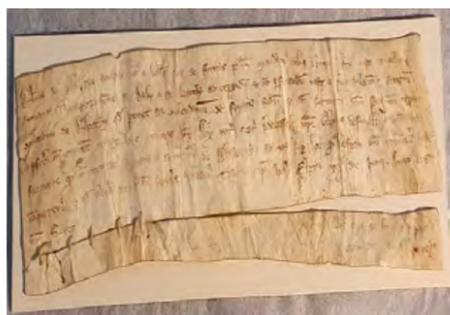
Scotland votes

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 19th November. 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 village's shorefront has boosted the town's tourism numbers.

Kilts and Cowboy Boots

A Novel Recruitment Event

Submitted by:

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All Clan organizations, societies and family groups in the USA are having difficulties recruiting new members. Despite the popularity of some Celtic and Scottish films and events, and the huge turnout at Highland and Celtic Festivals around the country, we are finding it difficult to recruit younger (read non-silver haired) members.

What is really surprising is that other volunteer organizations are having the same issues. Sailing clubs in the US are also having problems in attracting new and younger sailors. This suggests we are either not providing the targeted population with the information they are seeking or our information is not sufficiently attractive to them.

Camaraderie together

In 2017 we registered to have a Clan Gregor tent at the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games in Orlando, FL. On arrival we were informed that Clan Colquhoun had specifically requested, almost demanded, that Clan Gregor must be located next to their Clan Colquhoun tent. Based on the history between these two Clans (read that as Proscription in 1603 against the Gregor Clan) we were surprised on arrival to hear this from the front gate staff!

However, it was a truly wonderful Games with some friendly, humorous yet serious new found friends. The common thread seemed to be the past is the past and we are here to show that to be the case. Sir Malcolm Colquhoun of Luss attended and participated in the bi-Clan show of camaraderie together with the CEO of Colquhoun International, Michael Lloyd-Stern and officers of the Clan. At this time we all lamented the aging of our memberships and the dearth of younger members.

Fast forward to 2019. Michael and I discussed various "out-of-the-box" ideas to improve recruitment of new members. The long and short is this concept "Kilts and Cowboy Boots" detailed below.

The event will showcase a limited number of Clans through social interaction, quiz show, physical conflict and plenty of food and whisky. Even some dancing! This will take place over 2 days at the San Antonio Highland Games, April 3-5, 2020. Specifically, Friday the 3rd evening and Saturday the 4th all or part of the day, depending on the attendees.

Colquhoun, Gregor, MacFarlane and Scott

The only Clans that will participate in this test event are Colquhoun, Gregor, MacFarlane and Scott. On Friday evening, at the Lion and Rose British Restaurant and Pub, there will be a meet and greet hosted by Sir Malcolm and Lady Colquhoun.



The main feature is a "How Scottish or Nottish are You" team quiz. This will pit teams of 2-3 from each Clan against each other and attempting to correctly answer Scottish based questions that have been provided by *the Scottish Banner*.

No doubt there will be some drams after the quiz to honor that Clan team with the highest score. It is important to note that all Clan attendees from all Clans are welcome to observe these festivities. You just cannot participate in this test event. This is included in your ticket and only if you are a member of one of the four Clans.

Saturday is planned to be a really fun day. All four Clans will have a tent of course, but all four tents will be together and readily identifiable. All will act as one large tent.

The event will showcase a limited number of Clans through social interaction, quiz show, physical conflict and plenty of food and whisky.

There will be some athletics around midday that are so avant garde that the professional athletes will be asked to leave the field to the event. The combatant component consists of a battle between Clan teams that will be co-ed, amateur, multigenerational, international members of the four Clans. Events to be held include tug-o-war, reverse wheat sheaf hurling, tomahawk throwing, maybe knife throwing also and there may be some new ones on the day. This component will last about an hour, maybe a little longer if we are really good out there!

Bring different Clan people together

The evening events start around 7:00 pm at the Pedrotti's North Wind Ranch. There we will be entertained by the Cowboys who no doubt will envy the kilt. The evening will be hosted by Sir Malcolm and Lady Colquhoun of Luss and will include a reception with Hors d'oeuvres and drinks, a performance by

the Texas Horse Mounted Drill Team, a Texan BBQ buffet dinner, awards and remarks. The final event of the evening will be some active line dancing. All this is included in your ticket, but only if you are a member of one of the four Clans and there will be a cash bar also.

There are several requirements to be eligible to attend:

- You must be a member of one of the four Clans (Colquhoun, Gregor, MacFarlane, Scott);
- You must have a ticket. These are \$149 that includes everything on Friday evening and all of Saturday (there is a cash bar at the Pedrotti Ranch).

The ticket price is good through January 31, 2020. After that date, the price increases to \$169. Note, this does not include any accommodation.

This is designed to be fun. It is designed to show that the usually stodgy, silver haired people the public meets at their various tents, are in fact, pretty decent people who enjoy life. It is designed to bring different Clan people together in fun. It is designed to show you can learn while having fun, even at your own expense. It is an experiment to see if the public likes this approach. The ultimate success would be seen in increased members that can document their decision based on an event such as this.

For further details see: www.clancolquhoun.com



- 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.

Text courtesy of: Scotland.org

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.

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.



Photo: Ian Cowe.

Historic 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.

Flowers of the Forest- Chip Crawford



Woodrow "Chip" Crawford, Jr., 65, of Orlando, Florida passed away Saturday, November 23, 2019. He was the president of the Central Florida Scottish-American Society. This month the Society will present The Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, an event which Chip was synonymous with. Chip was incredible

friend to not only the Games, but also *the Scottish Banner* and the wider Scottish community.

The Scottish-American Society of Central Florida was founded in 1976 to celebrate and carry on the Scottish traditions here in the U.S. The purpose of this organization is to provide education to the Central Florida community through schools, churches, civic lectures and demonstrations, as well as organizing and hosting the annual Central Florida Scottish Highland Games held on the third weekend in January.

Chip will be remembered at this year's Games and his memory and dedication to the Scottish community never forgotten. Chip was a true 'Braveheart'.

The Central Florida Highland Games takes place on January 18-19, 2020. For further details see: www.flascot.com

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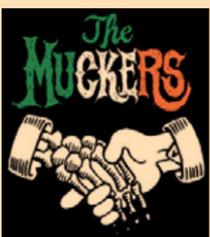


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In the shadow of icons

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.



Machrie Moor.



The Calanais Stones.

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 standing high as giants. Apty, legends of the giant Fingal abound in the area, with one of the Moor's stone circles dubbed Fingal's Cauldron Seat. Robert the Bruce is alleged to have had his encounter with a determined spider in the nearby King's Cave, so there is plenty in the area to keep history hunters happy, too.

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 icon: Dunnottar Castle, Stonehaven

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 place that comes close.

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.



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

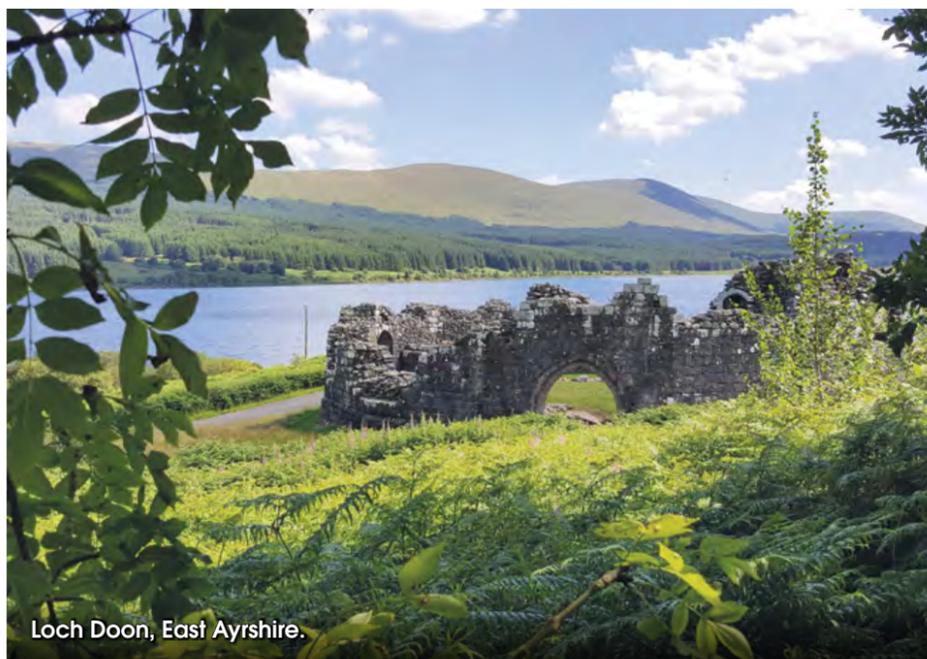
In *the Scottish Banner's* 2019 August edition, I drew attention to the issue of 'overtourism' in Scotland and, in particular, the tendency of visitors to plan itineraries around the same small set of usual suspects. Invariably Loch Ness appears on the list, and while it does feature the fantastic Urquhart 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.



Findlater Castle cave.

Findlater Castle.



Loch Doon, East Ayrshire.



Loch Ness, Highlands.

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, 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!



Arthur's Seat.



Dumbarton Rock.

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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - King James V married Magdalene of France. **1537**

1 - Charles II crowned at Scone, the last coronation on Scottish soil. **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**

1 - The constitution is drafted for the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, making it the oldest in Britain. **1783**



1 - The first Looney Dook event took place. The Looney Dook, is an annual event held on New Year's 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* 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-year-long 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 Glasgow 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 *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 - Treaty of Union of Scottish and 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**

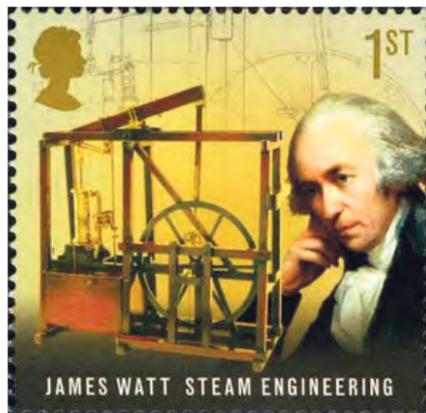
17 - Author Compton Mackenzie (*Whisky Galore* etc) born. *Whisky Galore* is based on a real life true story. In the middle of war time rationing, the SS Politician ran aground with a cargo of 264,000 bottles of malt whisky. **1883**

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 meteoric 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 - 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 MacMillan, 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**

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

Lady MacGregor's Scotland



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.



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.

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.

Lady MacGregor and Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor.

Greetings 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.

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.

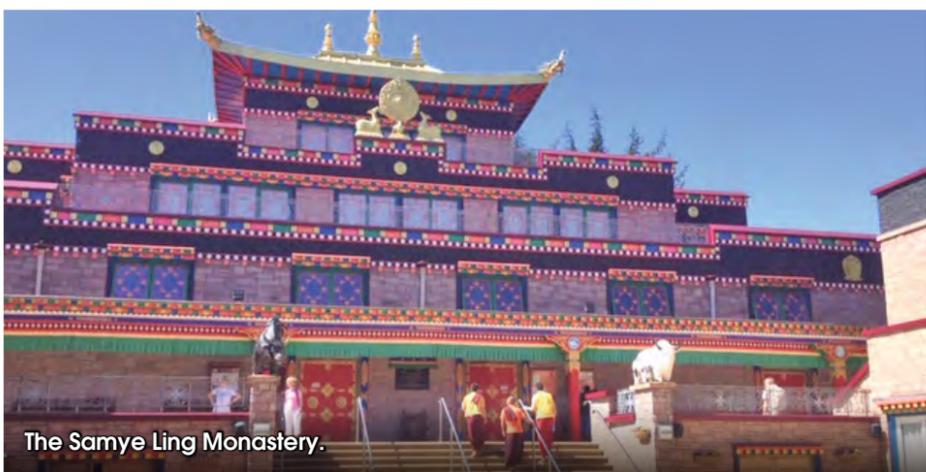
On a more mundane note, meanwhile, another birthday comes and goes. These anniversaries, as you know, can be hit and miss things. And some are infinitely more interesting than others.

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.



The Samye Ling Monastery.

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.

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.

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 flower-pots. 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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Calling the Clans

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

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

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

Dr. Debra J. Baird, President

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

Regional Directors for Australia

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



Clan Davidson Society in Australia Inc.

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

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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



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

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

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

Clan Fraser Society of Australia



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

All members receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter "Strawberry Leaves"

Membership enquiries to Don Chitts

Ph: (03) 9754 5120 donchitts@hotmail.com

Website: <http://clanfraseraustralia.org>

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

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Clan Bell North America

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

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Contact our Membership Chairperson: Pauline Bell
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Email: debellinn@reagan.com

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secretary.clan donald australia@gmail.com

There is no joy without Clan Donald



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

Chieftain David C. Dunbar

16419 Carlton Vale Ct.

Tomball, TX 77377-8488



Clan Galbraith Association

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

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

www.clan galbraith.org



Family of Bruce International, Inc.

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

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

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



Clan Donald Queensland

Commissioner: Neil Macdonald

Ph: 0412 090990

Email: clan donald qld@optusnet.com.au

Web: www.clan donald qld.org

ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.

There is no joy without Clan Donald



Edmonstone Clan Society

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

Contact: Mal Edmiston

3 Laguna Ave

Kirwan, Qld, 4817

61 (0)7 4755 4370

m.edmiston@bigpond.com

Clan Gregor Society

Established 1822, Edinburgh, Scotland

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balgihuder,
24th Chief of Clan Gregor



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

www.clan gregor.com

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

Peter Lawrie, Secretary

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



Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

President: Alistair Cameron

cameron490@ozemail.com.au

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 Australasia

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

Frank McGregor - Clan Gregor Society

PO Box 14

North Hobart TAS 7002

Email: clan gregor australia@gmail.com

Web: www.clan gregor.com

"Royal is my Race"



The Clan Campbell Society Of Australia

The Society exists for the benefit of all its members. All Campbells or descendants of Campbells and members of Clan Septs are most welcome to join the Society.

For information on State Branches contact the National Secretary, Margaret Vallance

Email: libertyv93@gmail.com

www.clan-campbell.org.au

CLAN DONALD in VICTORIA

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

CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald

Contact: secretary.clan donald vic@gmail.com

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

CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

Hon Chief: Mrs Christina Milne Wilson

Contact: secretary@clan macdonald yarraville.com

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



Clan Farquharson Association Australia

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

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

The Secretary: Clan Farquharson Association Australia

PO Box 585 Springwood, NSW 2777

or by Email to: finlaysb@bigpond.com



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.clan cumming.us
info@clan cumming.us

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



Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid

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

For information and membership application, contact Gordon Robertson

58/157 Marconi Rd. Bonnell Bay NSW 2264



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CONTACT: MEMBERSHIP@CLAN-FORBES.ORG



Clan Hamilton Society

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

Inquiries to be sent to:

Sheri Lambert, Treasurer

P.O. Box 5399

Vernon Hills, IL 60061

visit our website:

www.clan hamilton.org



Murray Clan Society of North America

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

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

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



Clan Shaw Society

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

Secretary: Mike Shaw
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

Email: clanwardlaw@yahoo.com

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



Clan Pollock

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



Clan Sinclair Australia

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

For further info contact

President: WayneSinclair 0417 146 174
Secretary : Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263
E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com
www.clansinclairaustralia.com



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Clan Ross in Australia

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

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

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



The Stewart Society

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

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

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



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

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

www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au

Clan Ross America

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1015 Archer St, San Diego, CA, 92109
membership@clanross.org
info@clanross.org
www.clanross.org



Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated

Contact: M Hodgkinson
212 MacKenzie Street
Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559)

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



Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

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

Ruaraidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor)
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org
Web: www.ozgaelic.org
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 Ross of The United States

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

www.clan-ross.org
clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com
Contact L. Q. Ross
105 S. Graham Ave, Orlando, FL 32803



Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

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



Caledonian Society of WA Inc.

Promotes Scottish Culture and Traditions in Perth, Western Australia

For further details contact John: 0427 990 754
Email: caledoniansocietyofwa@gmail.com
www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

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The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited
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The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC,
www.standrewsociety.com



Clan Scott Australia Group

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

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

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

CLAN YOUNG AUSTRALIA



For those affiliated with the Young surname

Ian J Young
Convenor

Membership inquiries:
Clan Young Australia
10 Cedric Street
Parkdale VIC 3195
membership@clanyoungaustalia.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

Established 1905

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

Photos courtesy of the RCMP Pipes & Drums/The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Mounties grace Edinburgh in the Tattoo



By Drum Major Brad Hampson, M.O.M.

From 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.

CANADA

JANUARY

18 - Ottawa, ON - The Great Canadian Kilt Skate
Admission to the Kilt Skate is free, and there is free birthday cake and hot chocolate, at Lansdowne Park Skating Court, near the Aberdeen Pavilion. Info: www.kiltsskate.com

18 - Vancouver, BC - RSCDS Vancouver Branch Burns Supper
A traditional Scottish meal with all the trimmings, wonderful music by the Tartan Players and a dance programme to suit everyone at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson St. Info: www.rscdsvancouver.org

19 - Winnipeg, MB - The Great Canadian Kilt Skate
Hosted by The St. Andrew's Society of Winnipeg at Seven Oaks Sports Plex, Garden City Community Centre. Info: emitchell54@shaw.ca, 204-960-1612 or www.kiltsskate.com

24 - Calgary, AB - Robbie Burns Night at the Rocky Mountain Folk Club
Come and celebrate the Scottish bard with music, song, the highland pipes and of course some haggis at Rosedale Community Association Hall. Info: www.rockyfolkclub.com/robbie-burns-night-2/

24 - Montreal, QC - St. Andrew's Society of Montreal Burns Night
Join the Society's Annual event that celebrates Robbie Burns who came to fame as a poet when he was 27 years old, and whose lifestyle of wine, women and song made him famous all over Scotland. Share a wee dram with friends, enjoy a traditional Scottish meal (with a gourmet flair) and raise your glasses in a toast to the lads and lassies at the Mount Royal Club. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca/burns-supper.html

24 - Toronto, ON - St. Andrew's Society of Toronto Annual Burns Supper
A very special evening to celebrate Scotland's national bard, Robert Burns, in traditional style. One of the best Burns events in the city for many years at the University Club. Info: www.standrews-society.ca

25 - Brampton, ON - 76th Annual Lorne Scots Pipes & Drums Robbie Burns Supper
Dine and Dance the night away with the Lorne Scots Pipes & Drums in honour of Sir Robert Burns' birthday at the Pearson Convention Center, 2638 Steeles Ave E. Info: lornescotpipesanddrums@gmail.com

25 - Cobourg, ON - Robert Burns Ceilidh
A fun evening of Scottish and Celtic Music and Dancing, as well as a wee taste of Scotland, with The Cobourg Legion Pipes and Drums, and Madman's Window and The Cobourg Scottish Country Dancers at LiUNA Hall, 560 Dodge St. Info: www.cobourghighlandgames.ca/robert-burns-supper

25 - Halifax, NS - The Burns Supper 2020
A festive evening to celebrate the life and works of Scottish poet Robert Burns. It's the biggest traditional Burns Supper on Canada's East Coast. This year we welcome Dr. Iain Nicolson Findlay as our chief speaker. He is a Past President of the Paisley Burns Club, and the 37th Member of the Guild of Robert Burns Speakers. It will be a night of merriment and great fellowship at Hotel Halifax, 1990 Barrington St. Info: www.halifaxburnsclub.org

25 - Montreal, QC - Great Canadian Kilt Skate
Kilt skate hosted by the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal at Patinoire Atrium, 1000 rue de la Gauchetiere. Info: www.standrews.qc.ca/kilt-skate.html

25 - Nationwide - Canada - 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 - Ottawa, ON - Gala Burns Supper & Ceilidh
Celebrate the life and poetry of Robert Burns with pipes and drums, haggis, whisky, and dancing with the Scottish Society of Ottawa. Info: www.ottscot.ca/burns-supper-ottawa

25 - Ottawa, ON - Sons of Scotland Pipe Band Burns Night Ceilidh
The 129th annual Burns Ceilidh hosted by the Sons of Scotland Pipe Band of Ottawa. Our evening will have the pipes and drums, dancing and a big catered buffet, silent auction and cash bar - all in support of Robert Burns and the traditions of the dinner, the Montgomery Legion, and the pipe band. Tickets are onsale at: www.tickettailor.com/events/thesonsofscotlandpipeband

25 - Regina, SK - Robert Burns Tartan Ceilidh
Join the Scottish Heritage Society of Regina for their annual Robert Burns Dinner and Evening of Scottish entertainment (aka Ceilidh) at St. Martin's Parish Hall, 4720 Castle Rd. Info: S_H_S_R_BurnsNight@yahoo.com

25 - Rockwood, ON - Guelph Pipe Band Burns' Supper
Entertainment by the Guelph Pipe Band, Stringymajig and Scottish Country Dancing, Rockmosa Community Hall, 110 Rockmosa Dr. Info: www.guelphpipeband.com

25 - Toronto, ON - East York Kiwanis Robbie Burns Supper 2020
Join the East York Kiwanis for roast beef, haggis, and neaps & tatties. Door prizes, Silent Auction, Scottish Dancers, Cash Bar at The Birches Catering (Latvian Canadian Centre), 4 Credit Union Dr. Info: 416 451 6777 or www.eventbrite.ca

25 - Vancouver, BC - SFU Robbie Burns' Dinner 2020
Simon Fraser University Pipe Band annual celebration of Burns' Night. The evening will include Piping in of the Haggis, Burns' poetry, song, dance and copious band performances by the SFU Pipe Band and the RMM Pipe Bands at Executive Plaza Hotel. Info: www.sfupipeband.com/events

25 - Winnipeg, MB - 113th Winnipeg Robert Burns Club Burns Supper
Immortal Memory proposed by Bobby Kane HLM, Past President Robert Burns World Federation Ltd at Holiday Inn Winnipeg South. Info: www.winnipegrobertburns.org

29 - February 02 - Halifax, NS - Halifax Celtic Festival
A celebration of Celtic culture in Halifax. Info: www.facebook.com/hfxcelticfest

FEBRUARY

01 - Calgary, AB - Robbie Burns Dinner, Dance and Fundraiser
Alberta Rocky Mountain Highland Dancers invite you the 2020 Robbie Burns Dinner, Dance and Fundraiser. Traditional Roast Beef Dinner with all the trimmings and Haggis and Highland Dance performances at Varsity Community Center, 4303 Varsity Drive NW. Info: Phone: 403-998-1057 or alan.dancing.dad@gmail.com

01 - Lethbridge, AB - The Great Canadian Kilt Skate
With bagpiping provided by the Bridgecity Highlanders at ATB Centre, 74 Mauretania Road West. Info: www.kiltsskate.com

08 - Saskatoon, SK - The Great Canadian Kilt Skate
Get your kilt and skates on at The Great Canadian Kilt Skate. Info: www.kiltsskate.com

09 - Calgary, AB - The Great Canadian Kilt Skate
Get your kilt and skates on at Calgary Olympic Plaza. Hosted by the St Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary. Info: David Aftergood: da@nahi.ca, 403-975-8902 or www.kiltsskate.com

11 - 12 - Victoria, BC - Victoria Highland Games Highland Dance Competition
A weekend of Highland Dance in Victoria. The Victoria Highland Games Association and the Victoria Highland Dancing Association are offering two competitions over the BC Family Day long weekend. Info: www.victoriahighlandgames.com

27 - Montreal, QC - WhiskyFête 2020
An evening of unique and rare whiskies in aid of the Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital at The Mount Royal Club, 1175 Sherbrooke Street W. Info: www.whiskyfete.org

USA

JANUARY

08 - Indianapolis, IN - Robert Burns Celebration
The Scottish Society of Indianapolis hosts its annual Robert Burns Celebration as part of the regular monthly meeting schedule. Join us for an evening of toasts and speeches to celebrate Robert Burns at 1008 West 64th St. Cover charge: \$5 for members, \$7 for returning guests. Info: www.indyscot.org

11 - St. Louis, MO - The Saint Louis Scottish Rite Knights of Saint Andrew 9th Annual Robert Burns Evening
Come join The Saint Louis Scottish Rite Knights of Saint Andrew in raising funds for restoration of the St. Louis Scottish Rite Cathedral. After all, everybody is a wee bit Scottish on a Burns Night, at The Cathedral. Info: info@scottishrite-stl.org

16 - 19 - Kansas City, MO - Winter Storm Weekend
The pipes and drums event in Kansas City. World-class concerts, competitions, and master classes. Info: www.mhaf.org

17 - New York, NY - Burns Night Celebration
The Burns Supper celebrates, in words and music, the immortal memory of Robert Burns and Scotland's heritage. Presented by the American Scottish Foundation together with the University Club. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.org

18 - Bloomington, IN - Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington Burns Supper
Join the Scottish Society of Greater Bloomington in celebrating the 261st birthday of Robert Burns. Info: info@bloomingtonscots.org

18 - 19 - Winter Springs, FL - Central Florida Scottish Highland Games
A weekend of Scottish culture and fun presented by The Scottish-American Society of Central Florida, with pipes & drums, Celtic entertainment, athletics, Clans and more at Central Winds Park. Info: www.flascot.com

23 - 26 - Dunedin, FL - DunedinLive: Haggis Winter MusicFest 2020
Whisky Tasting & Burns Supper, featuring Skerryvore and the works of Robert Burns at The Scottish Cultural Center, Loudon Ave. Info: www.haggiscelticconcerts.com

25 - Hollywood, FL - Robert Burns Supper
Celebrate the bard! Presented by the Scottish American Society of South Florida at Orangebrook Golf and Country Club, 400 Entrada Dr. Info: www.sassf.org

25 - Hyattsville, MD - Robert Burns Dinner
Robert Burns Supper for DMV Scots with a connection to Lewis/Harris or Orkney Islands at 4104 Oglethorpe St. Info: Aaron Dorfman 202 870 2280.

25 - Nationwide - USA - 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 - Washington, DC - 2020 Scottish Universities Burns Night & Ceilidh
The Alumni Clubs of The University of Edinburgh, The University of St Andrews, and The University of Glasgow, invite you to our annual Burns Night Supper & Ceilidh in the Grand Ballroom at the historic Willard Intercontinental Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest. Info: events@eduni-dc.org

28 - Amarillo, TX - Burns Supper 2020 at Esquire Jazz Club
Grab your friends and cinch up your clan tartan, kilt and sporran for the annual Burns Supper Celebration. A night of all things Scottish! Hosted by Wildcat Bluff at Esquire Jazz Club. Featuring Scotch tastings paired with tasty finger foods and haggis. Music of the isles by Those Guys, Mike Fuller, James Lee Baker, and Keralee Clay and Neil Nossaman as well as the Amarillo Fire Department Bagpipers. Info: www.wildcatbluff.org or 806-352-6007.

FEBRUARY

01 - Cumberland, MD - Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew 13th Annual Burns Supper
Celebrating the life and poetry of Robert "Rabbie" Burns. The Cumberland Knights of St. Andrew will host their annual Burns Supper at the Cumberland Masonic Temple, 15 Greene St. Info: Tom Paxton 301-876-0806.

01 - Dallas, TX - Robert Burns Fundraising Dinner
Celebrate the life and works of Scotland's most beloved poet and support the Dallas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, featuring three elegant courses, traditional Scottish entertainment, rare and unique silent auction items, good whiskey, good cheer and of course poetry! Info: Gary Pennington at (469) 273-0654 or GaryP23@outlook.com

01 - Los Angeles, CA - Robert Burns Supper
Celebrate the bard with music, poetry and food at the Los Angeles Athletic Club. Presented by the Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles. Info: www.saintandrewsla.org

01 - New York, NY - 2nd Annual Kiltskate NYC
Come join the Scottish American Foundation at Bryant Park as together as they bring Scotland to the ice for Kiltskate NYC. Pipers piping and skating, Shot of Scotch dancing - bring your skates - wrap some tartan around you, no charge to skate, or rent skates for \$20. Info: www.americanscottishfoundation.org

01 - Sarasota, FL - 26th Sarasota Highland Games & Celtic Festival
The sound of the pipes, the beating of drums, Food Vendors, Merchandise Vendors, Dancing and Athletic events reminds all Scots of our ancient and glorious heritage at 3000 Ringling Blvd. Info: www.sarasotahighlandgames.com

01 - Sarasota, FL - 3rd Annual Kilt Night
Please join New World Celts - Sarasota for a Kilt Night at The Shamrock Pub in Sarasota. You will enjoy Celtic music, food truck and a great selection of beer & wine. Raffle prizes too. Info: www.newworldceltsarasota.com

07 - 08 - Brooksville, FL - 8th Annual Celtic Family Jamboree FamJam!
Family friendly, leashed dogs OK, RV & Tent camping on site. Ongoing Highland athletics and sheepdog herding demos. A labyrinth of Celtic merchandise & jewelry for sale. Info: www.celticheritageproductions.com

15 - Fletcher, NC - The Asheville Celtic Festival
A winter indoor Celtic festival bringing the Celtic spirit of the Seven Nations to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina at Western North Carolina Agricultural Center - Davis Event Center, 761 Boylston Highway. Info: www.ashevillecelticfest.com

15 - 16 - Long Beach, CA - Queen Mary Scots Festival & International Highland Games
Experience the rich culture and history of Scotland first hand through an array of authentic activities, athletics, dancing, entertainment, and cuisine, paying homage to the Queen Mary's Scottish legacy. Info: www.queenmary.com

22 - Davison, MI - Flint Scottish Pipe Band 104th Anniversary Ceilidh
Experience a true Ceilidh with audience participation, dancing and singing at the Knights of Columbus Hall located, 8428 Davison Rd. This year's Ceilidh will have non-stop entertainment: Bagpipe Bands, Irish Dancing, Highland dancing and more! Info: Tom Dillard 989 928-4687.

28 - Oranage Park, FL - Whisky Tasting
With Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games & Festival at The Hill Top Restaurant, 2030 Wells Rd. Info: www.neflgames.com/events

29 - Green Cove Springs, FL - Northeast Florida Scottish Highland Games & Festival
Bringing a "Wee Bit o' Scotland" to the Northeast Florida area with athletics, music, food and fun of the games, at Clay County Fairgrounds, 2497 State Road 16 West. Info: www.neflgames.com

SCOTLAND

JANUARY

01 - South Queensferry, West Lothian - The Loony Dook
The Loony Dook continues its New Year's Day tradition at South Queensferry. In the shadow of the Forth Bridges, the dippers in fancy dress, scantily clad or even fully clothed from the night before will brave the chill to raise money for charities while shaking off their Hogmanay hangover. Dookers will march the length of South Queensferry High Street as part of the Dookers' Parade before launching themselves into the freezing Firth of Forth. Info: www.edinburghshogmanay.com/whats-on/loony-dook

16 - February 02 - Glasgow - Celtic Connections
Celtic Connections is the largest winter music festival of its kind and the UK's premier celebration of Celtic music. Info: www.celticconnections.com

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 - Scotland - 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.uphellyaa.org



The Scottish Banner has one of North America's most comprehensive Scottish events listings available! With hundreds of Scottish events listed from around the world and updated weekly. See our most up to date listings and add your event anytime at: www.scottishbanner.com/events

By: Albert Syeles, President of Romanza

St. Augustine

America's Oldest Celtic City



Scottish headliners Albannach.

The sounds of the ancient Celtic peoples of Scotland and Ireland are as alive today as ever at the St. Augustine Celtic Music Festival.



Heavy events.

live performances on two stages at Francis Field on Castillo Drive. The weekend also features The St. Augustine Highland Games, Celtic artisans and food, and kids' games. Of course, The World's Original St. Patrick Parade steps off at 10 a.m. on Saturday from the Festival grounds and returns there after circuiting the City. St. Augustine's St. Patrick's Day Parade has been recognized internationally by Ireland of the Welcomes magazine, and IrishCentral.com as one of the United States' most remarkable St. Patrick celebrations.

Please explore our "European" city, loaded with history, arts, many cultures, beauty and great food. Find the Celt in you in America's oldest Celtic city!

St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival

The St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival has been voted Best Concert/Event of the "Bold City Best" in the Jacksonville region, Best Festival in St. Augustine, and even Runner-Up Best Food Festival in the Jacksonville area. The Festival has thousands of fans from as far away as Canada and the British Isles.

The sounds of the ancient Celtic peoples of Scotland and Ireland are as alive today as ever at the St. Augustine Celtic Music Festival. Find the Celt in you as you take in the sights, sounds and tastes of centuries of European history. Celtic clans from around the world show their ancestral pride, the St. Patrick's Day Parade marches through the streets of the Oldest City's Historic District, Highland games athletes demonstrate their mind-boggling strength, and vendors offer up Celtic cuisine and handmade crafts.

Every March "Spanish" St. Augustine, Florida, USA, celebrates its Celtic roots with "the world's original St. Patrick Parade", the St. Augustine Highland Games, the internationally recognized St. Augustine Celtic Music and Heritage Festival and something new: "Celtic Noir! Authors Symposium".

extraordinarily: St. Augustine was founded by Celts. St. Augustine's history used to be thought-of as primarily Spanish. Even the significant British Colonial period here, which spans the American Revolution, only gets occasional attention. But more than half the residents of St. Augustine can claim an ancestor from Scotland, Ireland, Wales or one of the other Seven Celtic Nations. And thousands of heritage tourism visitors have discovered and come to celebrate St. Augustine's Celtic roots.

Although each of the bands have been the headliner at Irish, Scottish or Celtic Festivals throughout the world, the St. Augustine Festival is known as the finest Celtic Music Festival in the U.S. because it presents 8 or more major Celtic headliners. St. Augustine's Celtic Music and Heritage Festival is "arguably the finest collaboration of Celtic artists assembled in the United States" according to the many bands who perform here and around the world.

St. Augustine's has an amazing Celtic history, including Colonial Governors and historic vicars of Celtic descent, stories of romance and mystery, and most

The event is held the weekend before St. Patrick Day every year. Festivities begin on Friday with a pre-festival Whiskey Tasting, then continue Saturday and Sunday with

St. Augustine's has a long and amazing Celtic history that started right at its beginning in 1565. St. Augustine was founded by Celts... Spanish Celts. We are not only the nation's oldest city, we're "The Oldest Celtic City in all the Americas!"

The St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival takes place on March 14 & 15, 2020 in St. Augustine, Florida. For details: www.celticstaugustine.com



Scottish Genealogical Research

Let us build your Scottish Family Tree!



Ron Dempsey
General Delivery
Udora, Ontario
LOC 1L0, Canada

For details email: dempseyrand@gmail.com

Scotword answers from page 6

- | Across: | Down: |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 7-Bonnier | 1-Dominie |
| 8-Hillock | 2-Ends |
| 10-Ailsa Craig | 3-Deacon |
| 11-Nets | 4-Singlets |
| 12-Diagonal | 5-Glen Eagles |
| 14-Enamel | 6-Scythes |
| 15-Kames Castle | 9-Ballochmyle |
| 19-Career | 13- Grace Notes |
| 20-Minister | 16-Earldoms |
| 22-Trio | 17-Garrets |
| 23-Dalbeattie | 18-Venison |
| 25-Streams | 21-Nieces |
| 26-Serfdom | 24-Toff |

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/17½oz. 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/10½oz. potatoes, peeled, chopped
500ml/17½fl 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/2¾fl 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

Ingredients:

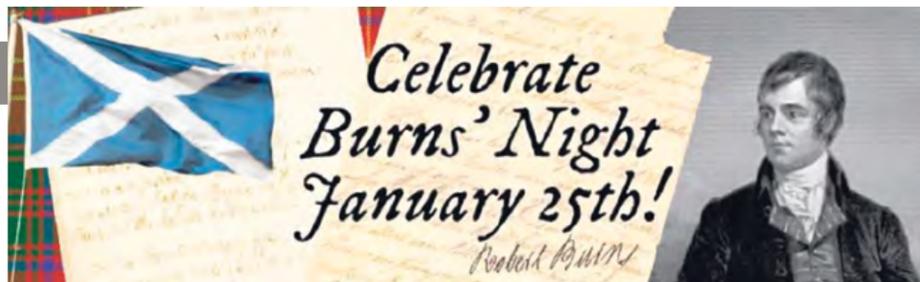
4 large flat open/Portobello mushrooms
1 tbsp. olive oil
75g/2½ oz. breadcrumbs
2 tbsp. pine nuts, toasted
2 tbsp. pecorino, grated
2 tsp. chopped fresh parsley
350g/12 oz. vegetarian haggis, sliced

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.



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!

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



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



The World Pipe Band Championships.



Canada's Glengarry Highland Games.

Happy 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 27th 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 uilleann 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:

- British Championships - May 23rd - 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



Paisley hosts British Pipe Band Championships.

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 13th–14th March 2020, the Diamond Jubilee year Australian Pipe Band Championships in Maryborough, Victoria on 4th and 5th April 2020 and the North American Pipe Band Championships at the Glengarry Highland Games in Maxville, Ontario on 31st July – 1st August 2020.

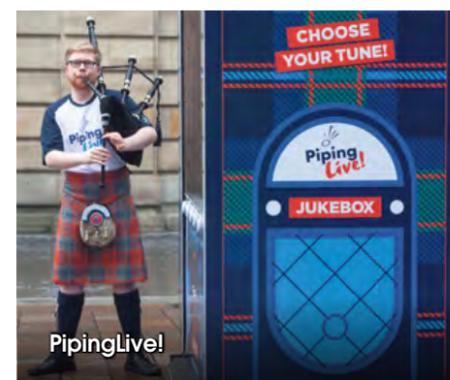
Once the Pipe Band season is over, thoughts turn to major solo competitions.

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.

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!



PipingLive!



The New Zealand Pipe Band Championships.

By: Judy Vickers

Celebrating 350 years of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh



Artist's impression of the view towards the new glasshouse from the front lawn, part of the biomes project.

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.

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. 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. That didn't succeed but in the process they damaged the dam at the east end of the loch. The ensuing 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.

“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 11½d for women and children who were clearing the weeds from the new site,” says Suzie



Palm house.



McNab's plant moving creation.tif

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.



McNabs tree transporter.

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 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.

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



1771 Jacob More watercolour of Leith Walk Garden.



Coffage on a frosty morning.

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 RGE 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.

THE SCOTTISH CLAN AND FAMILY ENCYCLOPAEDIA



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New attractions and only in Scotland experiences for 2020



VisitScotland wants to start the new 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



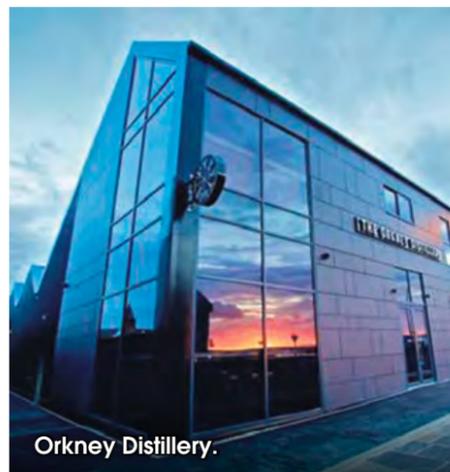
DolphinFest.

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 74th 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



Orkney Distillery.

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



Arbroath 2020.

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 a £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 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?



Bottlenose dolphin in Tobermory Bay, Isle of Mull © HWD/Karen Denoon.

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 hot-spot 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 hot-spots 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-of-a-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.

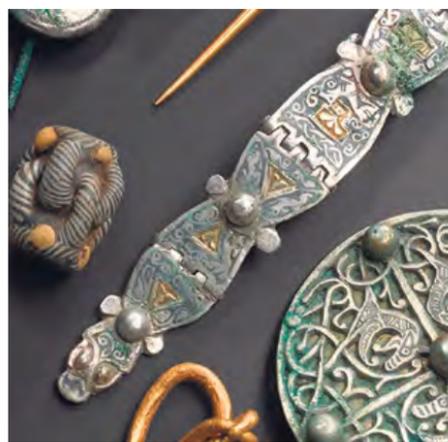
Loch, its Nessie!



Loch Ness, the largest lake by volume in the UK.

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 10th century 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.

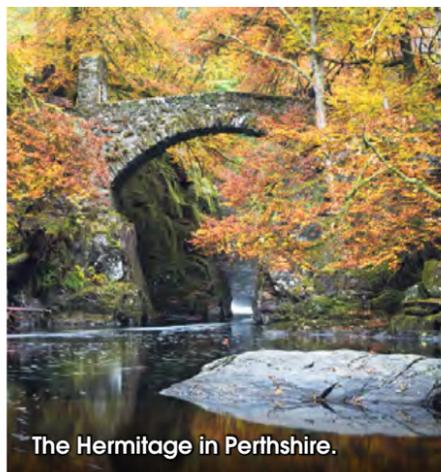
Scotland has chainmail



Hill House.

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 protect 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 Hermitage in Perthshire.

The beautiful Craufurdland Estate in Fenwick has introduced a new tree-top course 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



Up Helly Aa. Photo: VisitScotland.

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.

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