



the Scottish Banner



Years Strong - 1976-2020 www.scottishbanner.com

A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 43 Number 9 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper March 2020



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the Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

Bagpipes-*the world's instrument*



by Sean Cairney

This month we can't go past mentioning March 10th and International Bagpipe Day. Anywhere across the world the bagpipe is synonymous with Scotland. Love them or hate them (who could?), bagpipes are considered the national instrument of Scotland. However, they truly are a global instrument with historians believing they can be traced back to Egypt and introduced into Scotland by Roman armies. Others have looked at the possibility of them originating in Ireland. The then powerful Emperor of Rome from A.D. 54, Nero, was said to be quite a skilled piper. What is certain however is that ancient bagpipes have existed in various forms in a variety of places around the world for many years.

The pipe band movement flourishes across the world today with bands across Europe, Asia, North America, the South Pacific, Africa, South America and the Middle East. Interestingly, some Celtic regions have individual national versions adapted to suit their own unique sound. For example, the Scottish Highland pipes are the loudest, and most played in large pipe bands worldwide. However, in Ireland, the quieter uilleann pipes are more popular, in French Brittany they favour the binou and in the Spanish Celtic regions of Asturias and Galicia, the local bagpipe is the gaita. It is thought that there are approximately 130 distinct varieties of bagpipes across the world.

Traditionally, bagpipes were made from the skin of a sheep or goat, turned inside out, with the

pipes attached where the legs and neck would be. Today you will find both synthetic and leather varieties available, with fans of each.

A weapon of war

Bagpipes were originally used on the battlefield. It is the only musical instrument in history that has ever deemed a 'weapon of war'. The bagpipes have been banned twice in Scotland, once in 1560 and again in 1746.

Bagpipes were originally used on the battlefield. It is the only musical instrument in history that has ever deemed a weapon of war.

James Reid, a Scottish Jacobite piper, was hung by British authorities for having a bagpipe during the Battle of Culloden in 1746. Incredibly there are stories of the brave pipers, who during WWI, climbed out of the trenches, unarmed, to play bagpipes for the Highland regiments going over the top and into battle. This remarkable feat earned the respect of German troops who dubbed them 'Die Damen aus der Hölle' or 'Ladies From Hell' due to the kilts worn and fighting spirit of the Scots.

More recently the then Mayor of London, now Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, attempted to ban busking pipers in London as he felt the pipes were 'annoying'. Though I am sure Londoners are still able to enjoy busking pipers across the city. I was surprised to hear from a US reader recently who advised his local McDonald's restaurant in Sacramento, California blasted bagpipe music to ward off homeless people from outside its restaurant, which led to many complaints by residents. Some readers however may just think that is the best thing to go on the menu!

In this issue

The sound of Scotland made its way recently across the Atlantic Ocean as three Scottish brothers rowed their way into the record books. Ewan, Jamie, and Lachlan Maclean rowed across the Atlantic Ocean to help raise money for two Scottish charities. A set of pipes travelled with them as they faced a variety of challenges and whilst doing so became the first three brothers, the fastest and the youngest trio to row across the Atlantic Ocean. We are fortunate to catch up with the Jamie, who happens to be the piper of the trio, and perhaps we can add a fourth record for the only set of pipes to be rowed across the Atlantic as well?

Another mode of transportation altogether different is rail. 298 years ago, Scotland's very first railway was taking shape. In 1722 transporting both coal and salt was an important business. The Wagonway track connected the coal pits in Tranent to salt pans in Cockenzie and harbour at Port Seton. The recent discovery of the remains of Scotland's first railway is considered as one of the most important Scottish archaeological discoveries lately.

We also examine the Highland/Lowland divide: what it is, when in history it really got ingrained in people's consciousness, what makes the Highlands the Highlands and the Lowlands the Lowlands, and what, historically, people of the Lowlands had to say about those in the Highlands and vice versa. We look at some cultural, geographical, and historical insights and bust some myths.

Celtic cousins

March is of course always a month we share in the celebrations taking place with our Celtic cousins. Wales, Cornwall and Ireland will mark celebrations this month. We have so many common connections with these places through language, music, food and literature we can easily slip into their celebrations, as they can slip into ours. I have no doubt bagpipes will play at events for these national days. For many, a St. Patrick's Day parade would not be complete without the sound of bagpipes. Proving the global appeal of the pipes, and how it really is an instrument that connects us all.

Enjoy your March! 🍀

Do you enjoy the pipes? Do you have a bagpipe story or are you celebrating on of the Celtic celebrations taking place in March?

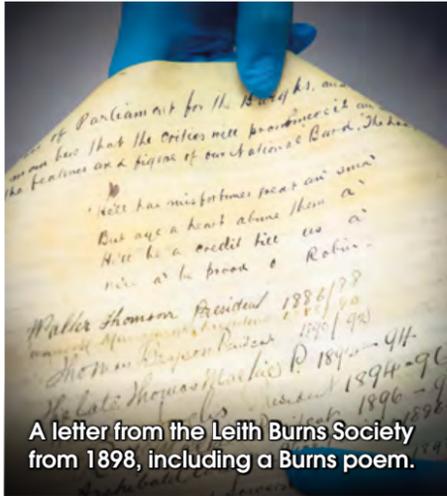
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Gracing our front cover: Team Broar- The Maclean Brothers. Photo courtesy of GRM.

Scotland's Bard through the ages

Uncovering 19th century Leith's love of Burns



A letter from the Leith Burns Society from 1898, including a Burns poem.

A time capsule discovered in Leith containing relics from the 19th century has offered a glimpse into locals' love of the national bard.

The cache of mementos was unearthed by contractors working on the City of Edinburgh Council's Trams to Newhaven project in December, when the Robert Burns statue on Baltic Street was temporarily removed to make way for construction.

Conservators and archaeologists excavating the site found the lead time capsule beneath a lead sheet in a purpose-carved socket in the plinth underneath the statue. It is believed to have been placed there when the statue was erected

in 1898, though on opening the capsule, conservators learned that it has been subsequently opened and resealed in 1961.

Historic artefacts

Found inside the capsule from 1898 were newspapers, coins of all denominations from the time, a pamphlet including information on crimes investigated in Edinburgh in 1897, a small leaflet containing rules and the constitution of the Leith Burns Club and a letter from the club, who also erected the Burns statue, detailing members, information on the statue and a Burns poem. From 1961, there were also newspapers and a letter from the people who had opened the original time capsule.

Council Leader Adam McVey said: "It was extremely exciting to witness the unveiling of these historic artefacts, which shed some light on life in 19th century Leith, and just what Burns meant to residents. Our contractors and archaeology team are working hard to make sure the historic elements of the area are preserved and to maintain its unique character as works progress. I'm looking forward to seeing what the newest generation of Leithers plan to bury beneath the Burns statue when it is returned!"

Council Archaeologist John Lawson said: "It's not every day that we unearth direct messages from our past and information on what people felt was important to commemorate Robert Burns for future generations.

We'll be sharing our own messages with the future when the statue is returned, by placing a new time capsule, and we're looking forward to working with the local community to find out what they think is important about Leith today and what they hope Leith and Edinburgh will be like in the future."

Time capsule

Conservator Nic Boyes, who has been working on behalf of Morrison Utility Services, said: "For me it was an utter delight to have done work to reveal the contents of this time capsule and I must pay credit to the people who opened it in 1961. They retained the container which has been a perfectly functional vehicle to bring these items, yet to be really processed, into our knowledge. Once we've read these newspapers and properly assessed all of these items we'll have a three-dimensional understanding of how in 1961 they regarded Burns and, more importantly, how in 1898 they regarded Burns - and how they came to build that fabulous statue."

Moira Burke, Secretary of the Edinburgh Burns Group, said: "This is fascinating. I would hope that, within the documents from the Leith Burns Club, there is a full description of how the statue came about - how it was conceived, how they had the idea, how they raised the money - because

it would have been a lot of money - who was responsible, how many arguments there were about it, where in Leith it should be sited. And then, who on earth would decide what to put in the time capsule!"

Construction and enabling work for the Trams to Newhaven project began on Constitution Street and Leith Walk in mid-November. This involves road excavations to allow utility diversions, track-laying, installation of tram infrastructure, public realm improvements and heritage and archaeology works. It also includes the Robert Burns statue on Baltic Street being removed and undergoing restoration works to be returned once construction is complete. Before the statue's return, it is intended that a new time capsule is put together by the local community to give future generations an insight to the lives of those in Leith and Edinburgh today.



Conservator Nic Boyes displays the findings.

Exhibition of Scotland's boxing heritage opens in Stirling



Memories Foundation Scotland, which the University supports in its work to bring people together through the power of sport.

The rich history of Scottish boxing

The archive project team remain keen to hear from ex-boxers and their families who are interested in providing an oral history or items for the exhibition. Ex-boxers already taking part in the project include Dick McTaggart, gold medallist at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and 1958 Cardiff Commonwealth Games. The University's expert team of archivists will also provide training to members of the Sporting Memories Foundation Scotland.

Karl Magee, University Archivist, said: "We are delighted to be opening this exhibition to the public and are grateful to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for their support. We are proud to be playing a part in promoting and preserving the rich history of Scottish boxing. The University of Stirling Archives holds one of the largest collections of sporting archives in the country, including the Commonwealth Games Scotland Archive, and this new project continues our commitment to supporting Scotland's sporting heritage."

Anybody interested in providing an oral history or items for the exhibition should contact the University Archives at: archives@stir.ac.uk

A new exhibition displaying Scotland's proud boxing history has opened to the public at the University of Stirling. Following a funding award from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the University has created 'Tales from the Ring: Celebrating Scotland's Boxing Heritage'. The project, working with members of the Scottish Ex-Boxers Association, is creating an archive of material and oral histories to identify and explain the country's boxing heritage.

The materials already collected will be available to view in the University's library until Thursday 26 March. The archive will be housed permanently at the University of Stirling.

The opening of the archive will also mark the launch of a new set of boxing reminiscence cards by the Sporting

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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?

Scottish thistles



Here is a couple of photos of our very own Scottish thistles. It's just a wee bit of Scotland here in Victoria, Australia. We were very surprised to find a white thistle in flower alongside a purple thistle... White or purple they are just beautiful.



Debbie Rowse
Victoria, Australia

Ed note: Thank you for sending Debbie. If any other readers have thistles growing for them around the world, please share your photos and locations.

D-Day Piper Bill Millin

I have always been interested in the story of the D-Day Piper, Bill Millin. Under the command of Simon Fraser (Lord Lovat), Bill was one of the first commandos to land in Normandy. Without a rifle, carrying only his bagpipes, Bill piped on Sword Beach wearing his father's World War I kilt.

While there are some great articles out there and a few videos, there is very little that provided the details to the story. After digging into interviews with veterans, reading dozens of books and a little help from Bill's son John, I pulled together what I hope is an interesting story as seen through the eyes of those who were witness to the legendary feats of bravery. "We were pinned down on the beach, many of our comrades dead or dying," recalled Private René Rossey of No. 4 Commando, "but when Lovat's piper walked up and down the beach, piping his lungs out, the Germans seemed stunned, as if they'd seen a ghost. They briefly stopped firing and we made it to the barbed wire at the top of the beach." The book is available on Amazon in hard copy, as well as Barnes & Noble, iTunes, Kobo and Kindle in soft copy.
Ian Moran

Kings, Castles & "Durdy" Wee Rascals

My name is William McAllister, born 1942, so I am of your era and love to read your column in *the Banner*. It brings back memories from my early days spent in Glesca, as we called it, at my Aunt Jenny, Uncle Jimmy's and cousin's who lived at 32 Carfin St in Govanhill, and later at Castle Hill Drive, Castle Hill. A few things that I remember are climbing up on the midden roof and either jumping off or over a wall that looked down to the school. We would go to the slag pit and play on the large lumps of slag, sometimes we would go into the steamie with my Aunt Jenny who would be pushing around a large pram full of washing and going to the wee shop at the end of the street and buying a vant ice-I loved the black current flavour.

We had some good times when a few of the relatives had a get together as music was their forte. There was banjo guitar and depending where we were at times a piano and as expected singing.

What prompted me to write was your column in the June edition, *What's In A Name*, regarding your ancestors. For my part I am of McAllister and Erskine stock from Alloa, old families of this area. Unfortunately, in June 1946 my father passed away and was buried one day before my 4th birthday. A few years later my mother married again to John Stoddart, who was a ploughman and lived on the farm. Both parents were from large family's but think there is only one left who today lives in Oban.

I wish you all the best in your family search.
W.E McAllister
Mt Pritchard
Australia

Falls of the Clyde



A fresh effort has been made to submit a further offer to the Hawaii State, in an effort to save a 'Clyde built' sailing ship, the *Falls of Clyde*. This 141 year old, Port Glasgow built survivor is destined to be scuttled by the Honolulu harbors department, unless we can agree a deal to save her.

We have secured a new deal with international lift ship operators Roll-Dock to collect her from Hawaii this year and return her to the Clyde. Once home she will be rebuilt as an education at sea, cargo, sail training and ocean plastic collector of waste plastic.

A series of events are planned en-route across the U.S. & Canada, where the lift vessel will stop to celebrate our links to the U.S. and Canada. The journey will culminate on her arrival with a large flotilla escort of sail and motor cruisers and perhaps some other tall ships from around Europe!

See: www.foci.scot
David O'Neill
USA

UK's Best Bikers Café



Our wee bikers cafe in South Queensferry is in the finals of a UK wide best Bikers Cafe.

Trish MsTaz Sutton and Chas Fuzz McLeod do an amazing job, not only running a fantastic venue for Bikers to meet up but also a real community hub where they do some fantastic charity work for the likes of the Royal National Lifeboat Inst. Etc.

Above all the they are passionate about bikes and people and it would be great if we can take the prize to Scotland. Well worth a visit.

So here's the link, scroll down and vote for the Bikers Cove. Be awesome to get your support by voting for The Bikers Cove and sharing: www.motorcyclenews.com/news/2020/january/golden-sausage-2020/CrawfordHendyScotland

The Queensland Police

I won't go on and rave about *the Scottish Banner*. You have heard it all before, I will get on with it. I was born in Aberdeen in 1948, coming to Australia when I was two-hence no accent at all. Still proud and always a Scot.

I went to South Vietnam in 1970 as a National Serviceman. I saw death as you may imagine. I also served in the Railway Police in Vietnam and have had a lot of medical hospital help for fifteen years-which was no help at all.

I wear medals and a uniform every day-it helps me. Victoria Police but more the Queensland Police, they are so supportive of me and anyone. I wear the kilt, Campbell of Argyle tartan and tie. What cheers me up every month without fail is my copy of *the Scottish Banner* and the Queensland Police-hugely every day.

George Broun
Chermside, Queensland
Australia

Ed note: Thank George for your note and we are honoured to hear you enjoy the *Banner* so much from a true Scot.

FROM OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

Send us your photos or letters via social media



Forth Bridge



On the #ForthBridge with a Virgin Train passing.
Gary Chittick
Scotland

The magic of Edinburgh



Edinburgh is gorgeous at any time, but as evening falls is something very special.
ShutterBugShots
Scotland

Eilean Donan Castle



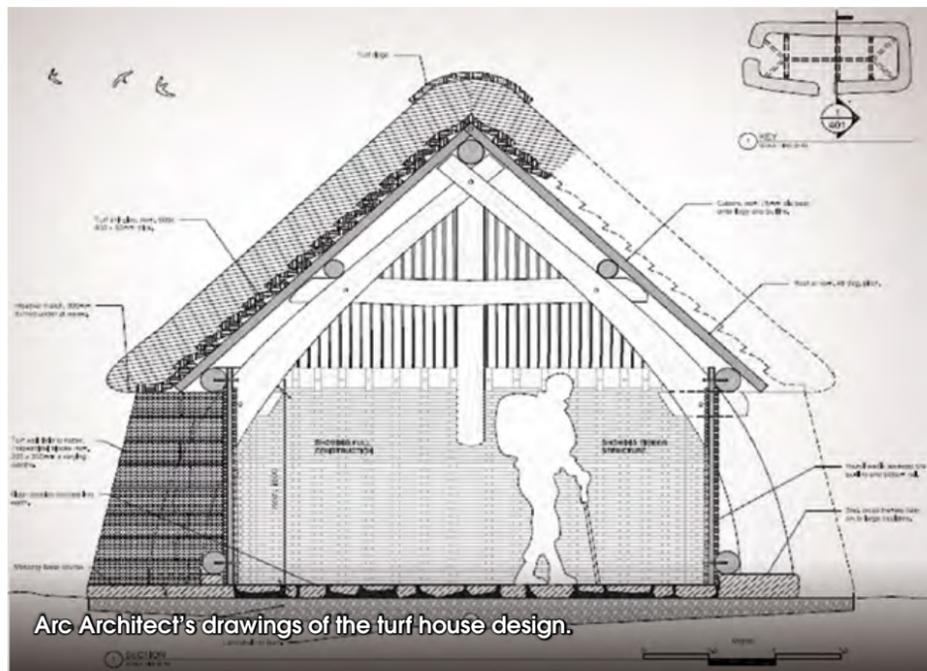
Here's one I took a while back:) of Eilean Donan.
liquid8

Walkies



Kepler enjoying her morning walk below Stirling Castle.
#schnoodle
Robert Gibb
Scotland

Building history with Glencoe turf house



Arc Architect's drawings of the turf house design.

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland is offering an unusual holiday experience for 2020 – the chance to help build a replica 17th century turf house at Glencoe Visitor Centre. Informed by archaeological discoveries, it will help give a glimpse of how people once lived in Scotland's most famous glen.

Those with an interest in Scottish history, traditional crafts, or simply outdoor enthusiasts looking for a holiday with a difference will be able to take part in the project by signing up for one of a special series of working holidays taking place in the glen from April to September.

There will be the chance to get involved in a wide variety of tasks, from whittling wooden pegs to weaving wattle walls, archaeological excavation to mud daubing. Around 70 places will be available on these Glencoe Thistle Camps – booking is now open at www.nts.org.uk/thistlecamps.

Unique experiment in historical reconstruction

Glencoe Operations Manager Emily Bryce said: "It's nearly a year since we revamped our Glencoe visitor centre and this project, with the support of public donations, is our next step in sharing the story of this

incredible landscape which we are so proud to protect. It's very exciting that we'll be able to involve the public and visitors in such a hands-on way. We'll also be working with our local community and schools too, and are keen to make sure that the whole area benefits from this project."

The Trust has recruited a team of Scotland's most experienced traditional building craftspeople to work with their archaeologists on the building design. This follows a series of archaeological digs investigating long-lost historic dwellings at the heart of the glen at Achtriachtan.

These specialists in turf-building, heather thatching, wattle and daub, timber creel and cruck frame structures, will lead trainees and volunteers over the course of the year in this unique experiment in historical reconstruction. The building will be located in the grounds of Glencoe Visitor Centre, offering access for over 300,000 visitors every year.

World-renowned glen

The project is being made possible thanks to members of the public from around the world who donated to a fundraising appeal last year. In 2019, the conservation charity that protects Scotland's national and natural treasures invested over £1m at Glencoe Visitor Centre, transforming the existing eco-friendly buildings into a more modern, immersive and welcoming 'gateway' to this world-renowned glen. The visitor centre has a 50 seat film screening space showing a specially-commissioned film which takes viewers

on a 10 minute journey from the glen's volcanic origins, towards the tragic events of the 1692 Glencoe Massacre, and on to its popularity today. A large 3D map and knowledgeable staff in the Info Hub help visitors planning their adventures and share advice on how to explore responsibly.

With a new café and shop too, the Glencoe Visitor Centre also plays an essential part in generating income to support the National Trust for Scotland's conservation work in Glencoe National Nature Reserve, where it cares for over 14,000 acres, including 60km of footpaths and eight Munros.

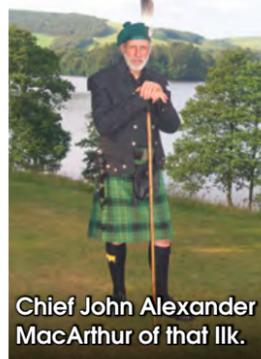
To find out more about Glencoe, visit www.nts.org.uk/glencoe



Archaeologists studied the remains of this historic dwelling during a dig in 2019.

Clan Arthur/MacArthur Chief will be a Special Guest at the 75th Fergus Scottish Festival, Ontario, Canada in August 2020

By: Carol McArthur Budlong



Chief John Alexander MacArthur of that Ilk.

Chief John MacArthur of that Ilk & his wife, Lorraine, will be Special Guests at the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games from August 7-9, 2020. Chief John would love to personally welcome clan folk from all over the globe who attend this exciting event.

This will be a unique opportunity for everyone to meet the Chief and Lorraine. There will be a Clan reunion held during this time. Kin will be able to meet distant cousins, attend Scottish games Canadian style & join in the fun at this picturesque setting.

Everyone is invited to take part in the Fergus downtown clan parade. Another march will be held on the parade grounds at the Festival site.

Fergus is a pretty, historical town which was first settled by Scottish immigrants in 1833. A little more than one hundred years after the start of Scottish settlement in Fergus, the first Fergus Highland Games was held on August 17, 1946. The games represent the largest gathering of clans in the world outside Scotland and Cape Breton Island.

Anyone interested in attending or who would like more information, please contact Michael McArthur, High Commissioner USA: hcusaca@gmail.com or Carol Budlong, High Commissioner Australia: carolmcarthur18@gmail.com

Details on the Fergus Scottish Festival and Highland Games can be found at: www.fergusscottishfestival.com

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SCOTSPEAK

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

"It's an old-fashioned remedy but it seemed to do the trick, I am proof coronavirus can be beaten. I was stunned when the doctors told me I was suffering from the virus. I thought I was going to die but I managed to beat it."

Wuhan based English teacher Conor Reed said he beat the coronavirus by drinking a hot whisky with honey. The Welshman said he beat the virus without the help of the antibiotics he was prescribed, and used instead the 'water of life'.

We hope this and some of the other initiatives we have discussed become a permanent feature at Caledonian Stadium, and I believe it is a project which everyone can be rightfully proud of."

Caley Thistle Football Club chief executive Scott Gardiner said that Inverness Caledonian Thistle have introduced tannoy announcements in Gaelic at all home games. Several players and fans speak Gaelic and the club feels it is important for the greater community incorporating a greater Gaelic presence.



"Edinburgh Castle is Scotland's top paid-for visitor attraction, and we are committed to investing in the site and finding new and inventive ways of engaging a wide range of people with its history. We're delighted that a host of talented figures – including our own

staff – have been involved in this project and contributed to the ongoing legacy of the castle in such a unique way. This new audio guide will allow visitors to connect more closely with the living history of the castle and gain new insights into the story of Scotland's greatest fortress."

Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of Historic Environment Scotland, said a star-studded cast will take visitors to Edinburgh Castle on a journey through the castle's history in a brand-new audio guide. An array of notable names from the fields of film, television and entertainment have lent their voices to the new guide, including four-time Oscar nominee Saoirse Ronan, celebrated TV and movie actor Bill Paterson and *Outlander's* Andrew Gower. There are also writers such as *Inspector Rebus* creator Ian Rankin, *Game of Thrones* author George R.R. Martin and Scots Makar Jackie Kay; historians including Clare Jackson, Allan MacInnes and David Caldwell; Ian Hamilton, who took the Stone of Destiny from Westminster Abbey in 1950; war correspondent Orla Guerin; comedian Susan Morrison and The Proclaimers.

"Migration is an issue which is crucial for our future, but the Scottish Government doesn't currently have the powers needed to deliver tailored immigration policies for Scotland. Devolving immigration powers by introducing a Scottish Visa would allow Scotland to attract and retain people with the skills and attributes we need for our communities and economy to flourish."

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said as proposals for a new Scottish Visa to address depopulation and cut skills gaps have been unveiled. Migrants wanting to live in Scotland could choose to apply

for a Scottish Visa, or one of the existing immigration routes offered by the UK Government. Scotland's population growth for the next 25 years is projected to come from migration.



"This is another tremendous achievement for V&A Dundee and the city. Our stunning museum is now very firmly part of the cultural fabric of Dundee, with its design galleries and exhibition programme attracting locals and visitors alike. It has raised Dundee's international profile and played a key part in securing record-breaking tourism figures. V&A Dundee is helping to create jobs and new economic opportunities for the city."

Dundee City Council leader John Alexander said as V&A Dundee has welcomed its 1 millionth visitor, just over 500 days after it first opened. The museum opened in September 2018 and welcomed over 830,000 visitors in its first year, far exceeding the estimate of 500,000. V&A Dundee also had a £75 million economic impact across Scotland in its first year after opening, according to recent independent research.

"We are extremely proud of what The Royal National Mòd has achieved compared to last year. We have seen a higher number of festival attendees, spending habits, and amount generated for the host city – what a fantastic

achievement. This is the first time that the festival has been hosted in Glasgow since 1990 and we are ecstatic about the healthy number of individuals that came to the city to celebrate with us. We are looking forward to our 2020 festivities which are taking place in Inverness where we invite you to join us for another year of celebrating Scottish & Gaelic art, music, and literature."

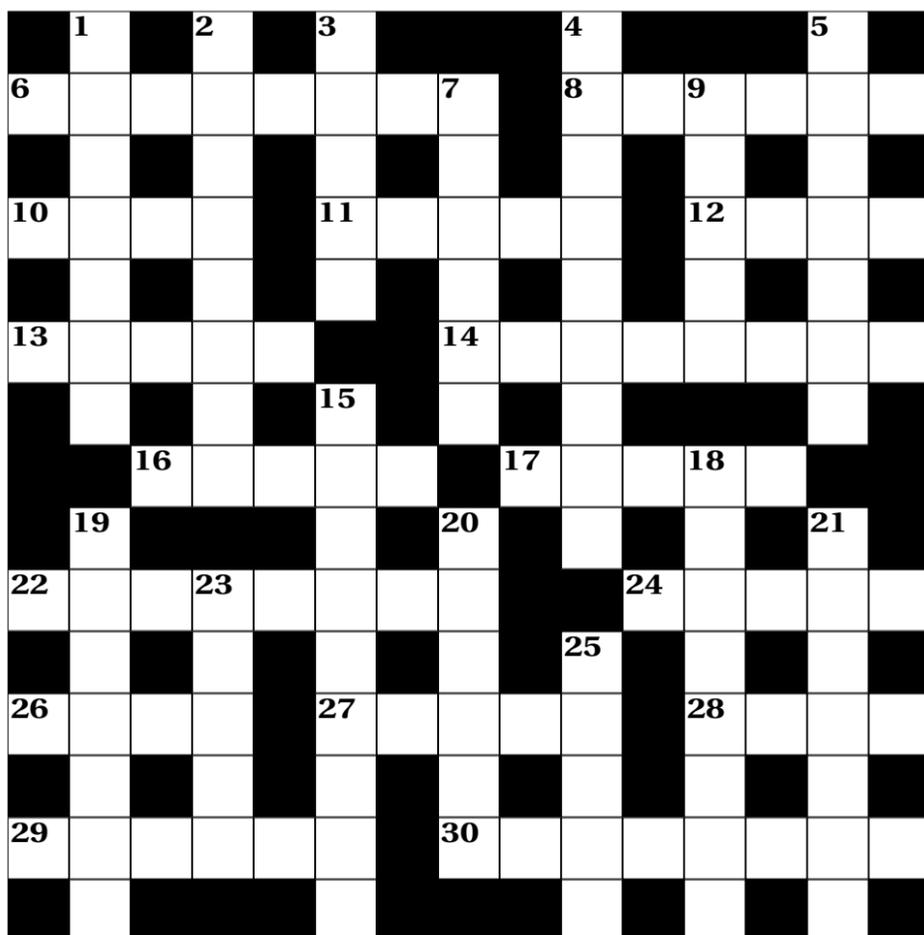
President of An Comunn Gàidhealach, Allan Campbell, said as it was revealed The Royal National Mòd generated £3.2million for host city Glasgow's economy in 2019. Scotland's premier Gaelic culture and language takes place in October in Inverness in 2020.



"I was thinking of replacing the Union Jack with an EU flag or a rainbow flag. I noticed what a big deal it was for the Scots that they're no longer in the EU and that they are still flying the European flag in the Scottish Parliament. That's when I thought: we could do something with this too."

Alderman for culture Sjoerd Feitsma from the Netherlands town of Leeuwarden said, as the town replaced the Union Jack with Scottish saltire after Brexit. The Scottish Parliament voted not to take down the EU flag when the UK formally left the European Union on January 31st. In the 2016 Brexit referendum, 62% of those who voted in Scotland opted to remain in the EU.

SCOTWORD



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

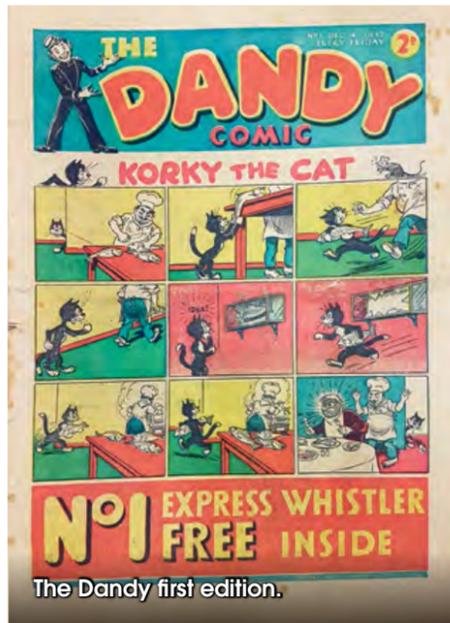
CLUES ACROSS

- 6) Cathedral town on Allan Water (8).
- 8) Town 23 miles west of Aberdeen (6).
- 10) Scots stair landing (4).
- 11) The sound o' the pipes (5).
- 12) Measures of land (4).
- 13) Walk furtively (5).
- 14) Clergyman (8).
- 16) Church council (5).
- 17) Smokes in Scotland! (5).
- 22) UK checkers (8).
- 24) Try writing a composition! (5).
- 26) Net (4).
- 27) Town 6 miles east of 30 Across (5).
- 28) Enjoyable to a Scot (4).
- 29) Mountain hollow (6).
- 30) Historic Central castle (8).

CLUES DOWN

- 1) The roaring game (7).
- 2) Late news! (8).
- 3) 14 Across's house (5).
- 4) Town 14 miles NW of 30 Across (9).
- 5) Highlander's footwear (7).
- 7) A mystery (6).
- 9) Water crossings (5).
- 15) Ross and Cromarty waterway (4, 5).
- 18) Birds of prey (8).
- 19) Wallace's fighting war-cry (7).
- 20) Scottish hymns (6).
- 21) Central loch (7).
- 23) Wedding seater! (5).
- 25) Song thrush (5).

First ever appearance of Desperate Dan added to national collections



The Dandy first edition.

of great interest to anyone researching popular literature. Today, it is estimated there are only around 20 copies of the first edition known to be in existence. Which makes this copy one of the rarest items in the Library's collections. We were pleased to add this rare first edition to our holdings – ensuring its preservation for future generations. We're actively filling the gaps in our holdings of British comics and annuals. They tell us so much about the social mores of the time."

However, significant gaps of *The Dandy* in the national collections remain, particularly from 1937 – when the first *Dandy* was published – up until the 1970s.

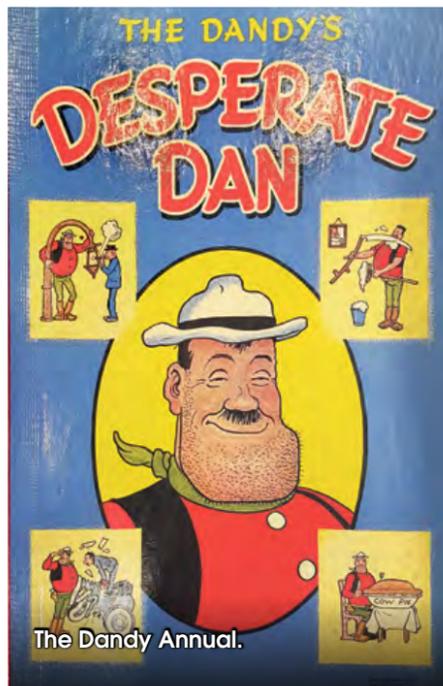
Mr Scott adds: "We appeal to anyone who may have pre-1970 editions of *The Dandy* – or indeed its sister publication, *Beano* – to consider adding them to the national collections."

Importance to public morale

The first edition of *The Dandy Comic* was published on 4 December 1937. It was edited by then 25-year-old Albert Barnes, who remained as editor until he retired 45 years later in 1982. He had a large chin, which led many to speculate that his was the inspiration for Desperate Dan's jawline.

As well as the character Desperate Dan, which was illustrated by Dudley D Watkins, *The Dandy* featured Korky the Cat and Keyhole Kate.

It was the first time most readers had ever seen dialogue contained in speech bubbles – up until then, dialogue was mostly found in the text below the illustrations in British comics. Watkins' illustrative work on *The Dandy*, *Beano*, *Oor Wullie* and *The Broons* was deemed of such importance to public morale that he was excused war service, but still served as a Reserve Police Constable in Fife during the Second World War.



The Dandy Annual.

The Library holds complete sets of *The Dandy* and *Beano* annuals, which are perennially popular Christmas gifts. Anyone can view these, and early editions of the comics, at the Library's Reading Rooms.

Did you know?

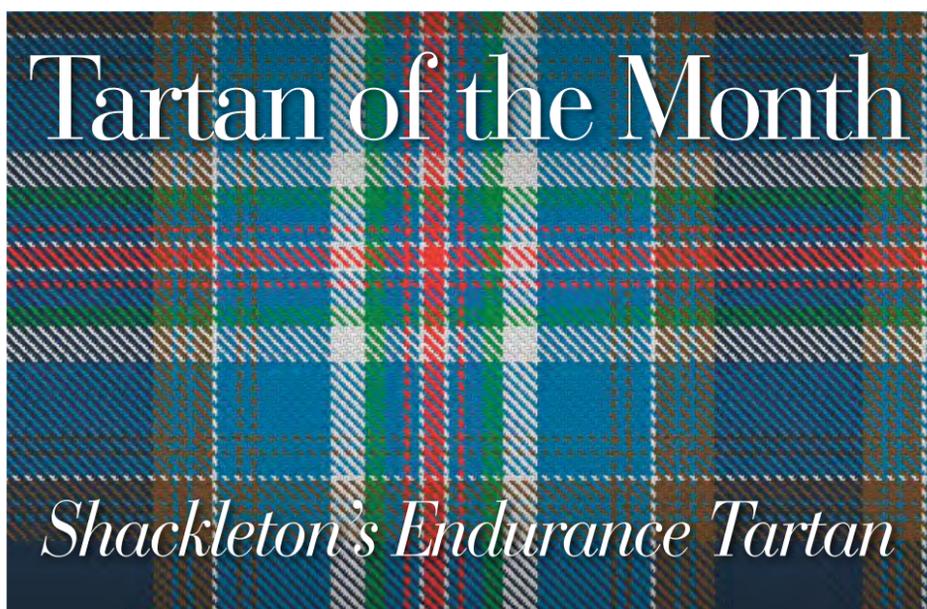
Dundee-based publishers, D.C. Thomson were known for the 'Big Five' text-based adventure stories for boys: *Adventure*, *The Rover*, *The Wizard*, *The Skipper* and *The Hotspur* which were launched in the 1920s and early 1930s. It was decided to branch out into humour comics, with *The Dandy Comic* planned to be the first in a second suite of titles, followed by *Beano* in 1938, and *The Magic Comic* in 1939.

The Magic Comic was put on hold in 1941 due to paper shortages during the Second World War. Its editor, Bill Powrie, had enlisted and was killed on active service aged 26. *The Magic* was relaunched in the 60s as a nursery title. *The Dandy* and *Beano* were reduced to bi-weekly frequencies during the War, and reverted to weekly in 1949. It is believed *The Topper* and *The Beezer* were the two other titles suggested for the 'Big Five', but the grouping never materialised.

The National Library of Scotland has filled a crucial gap in its collection of *The Dandy* weekly comics following its acquisition of the first-ever copy. *The Dandy Comic* was first published in December 1937, costing two pennies for 28 pages. It was an instant success, selling more than 480,000 copies.

The first modern British comic

General Collections Curator, Ian Scott, said: "In many ways, it was the first modern British comic, and should be



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

This tartan (Reference: 12715) was designed to commemorate the heroic British Antarctic explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton. He will be remembered forever for his perseverance, bravery and dedication to the successful

rescue of every man of his crew in August 1916 after their ship, the "Endurance" was lost to pack ice many months before. Colours: brown represents the oak, Norwegian fir and greenheart chosen by master Norwegian shipbuilders to construct the Endurance; green represents the rolling hills of County Kildare, Ireland, Shackleton's birthplace; grey represents the seals used as food and oil for the sailors' lamps and stoves and the rocky cliffs of South Georgia and Elephant Islands; red represents the courage and strength of Shackleton's leadership; white represents the Antarctic pack ice that trapped the Endurance; blue represents blue Antarctic summer sky, the pack ice reflected by the sun and the relentless Southern Ocean. Taken together, the red, white and blue represent the Union Jack flag. This tartan was designed by Carol A L Martin and Drew Smith and registered in January, 2020.

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Celebrating Scotland's first railway - the 1722 waggonway

By: Judy Vickers

Judy Vickers discovers Scotland's first railway was a marriage between coal and salt.



The 18th century wagon.
Photo: Arran Johnston.

Once it was a booming industry on the shores of the Forth. Sea water was collected from pools along the rocky section of the East Lothian coast, then boiled in huge pans until the liquid disappeared and the valuable sea salt remained. The salt industry even gave its name to Prestonpans, one of the towns where the salt was produced. But the industry fell into decline and disappeared in the mid-19th century as cheaper imports from salt mines appeared in the country.

However, sea salt from Cockenzie, another historic salt panning centre, is still available – although in rather smaller amounts than in ages past. A recreated salt pan built by the 1722 Waggonway Heritage Group has been producing the sea salt, with the sales helping to finance the project's activities. And according to the group's chair, Ed Bethune, the salt has a rather individual taste. "It's light and flaky and it does have a flavour of the sea about it, it's very clean and fresh tasting. Ordinary salt tastes actually quite chemically after you have tasted the proper sea salt."

Coal

Today, when salt is cheap, readily available in the supermarkets and we are all told we should consume less of it anyway, it's easy to forget how vital it was just a few hundred years ago. "Salt was an essential, a necessary product when you go back to the 1700's and beyond even to Roman times. People were sometimes paid in salt, the term salary is derived from that," says Ed. But in Scotland there was another key element to the industry - coal. "It is almost particular to Britain this need for fuel for salt, because in warmer countries they do it with a solar operation," says Ed. But coal was needed here to heat the pans to boil off the water and so the marriage between the two substances was formed.

"We think of coal as being the backbone of the Industrial Revolution but without the salt industry, it would never have been big enough to do that," explains Ed.

But shifting coal with packhorses and carts is hard, slow work and so the third vital element of this industrial equation was introduced – the 1722 waggonway. Originally built with wooden rails and with waggons pulled by horses, it was the first railway in Scotland and designed to carry coal from the mines of Tranent to the salt pans of Cockenzie – and amazingly a small section of the original line was still in use as late as the 1960s, as sidings for coal trucks, albeit by that time with a different gauge and metal rails.

First railway in Scotland

Now, more than 50 years on, the 1722 Waggonway Heritage Group is uncovering the remains of the track and bringing its history to life. Ed explains: "I moved to Cockenzie in 2013. I am from a railway obsessed family, but until I moved there, I had no idea it was the location of the first railway in Scotland. Everyone here knew about it, but no one knew any details." Research uncovered details as well as leading to a group of like-minded folk, including an archaeologist. "We did several years of piecing together where the line should be. We decided we would like to do some digging, we got all the necessary permissions and we created a heritage group. It's grown arms and legs since then, people have really responded to the story, the project seems to have a life of his own."

Digs over the last three years at Cockenzie harbour have seen an original turntable found, as well as two salt pan houses. Their dig in June last year further along the line from the harbour uncovered some remains of the wooden railway and was named one of the top five most amazing archaeological finds of year in Scotland by the archaeological group Dig It!

But this spring when Ed and his fellow volunteers to set to work on their latest phase of the project, further up the line, they will be going one better. "It will be the earliest railway ever excavated in the world," says Ed. Their finds will go with others already on display to the public in

the Waggonway Museum in Cockenzie as part of the group's mission to celebrate and promote the industrial heritage of the area. The land on which the waggonway was to lie originally belonged to the Earl of Winton but his estates were forfeited to the Crown after he supported the Old Pretender in the 1715 Jacobite rebellion. "A London company, the York Buildings Company, bought up the Winton estate, with the goal to make as much money as possible from it, so it built the railway with the idea of maximising their return," explains Ed.

Industrial heritage

Waggonways had first appeared more than a century before, at the beginning of the 17th century, but had really expanded in northern England, around the coal fields of Newcastle and Durham, at the beginning of the 18th century.

"Comparatively this waggonway was successful; most of the early waggonways fizzled out after a couple of years down to the fact that most were on the flat so they need a lot of horse power. The advantage of this location was that there was a good gradient all the way through, so they could minimise the amount of horsepower they need to use and allow gravity to do much of the work," says Ed.

The waggonway was not operated by the York Buildings Company but leased out, including in the 1720s and 1730s to William Adam, the architect best known for designing landmark buildings such as Hopetoun House and who also had investments in the Cockenzie salt pans. In 1745, it also had another brush with the Jacobites, when the Battle of Prestonpans was fought over its line, the government forces using the line embankment for cover.

The York Buildings Company went bust in 1777 but the waggonway was taken over by the Cadell family, who had been leasing it from the company for the previous decade, along with the rather grand Cockenzie House which became their family seat. They also invested in the waggonway, converting the wooden rails to iron – "wood tended to wear out very quickly, there was a lot of maintenance," says Ed – and improving the levels of the track. "In 1833, they began construction of Cockenzie harbour as we know it today. They employed Robert Stevenson, the chap who did all the lighthouses, to build the harbour."



The 18th century wagon.
Photo: Arran Johnston.



Birds eye view of Cockenzie Harbour.
Photo: Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Heritage Trust.

When the North British Railway main line was built through the area in 1846, the Cadells made sure there were loading bays from the waggonway connecting to the main line but it was the beginning of the decline and the coastal end fizzled out in 1875.

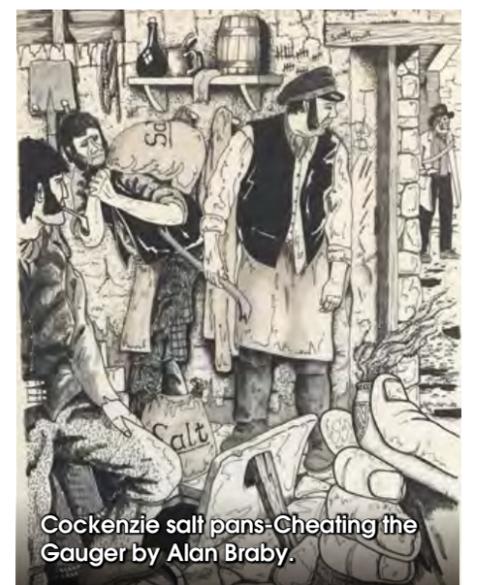
If the latest dig turns up some interesting finds, it will provide more artefacts for the museum, which will be open one weekend in March, then each weekend from April for the summer season. It will also raise awareness of the area's industrial heritage, as well as the group itself. "It's a constant battle to raise enough money but we manage to do it," says Ed. "We have our own range of merchandise, we built ourselves a salt pan and we make salt in the traditional way and we sell that, we give talks to history groups."

"Even if we run out of places to dig we would like the artefacts out for people to see and turn it into a destination for people who are interested in heritage and industrial archaeology."

For more info, visit www.1722waggonway.co.uk. The Waggonway Museum is at West Harbour Road in Cockenzie, check the website for opening hours.



Cockenzie Harbour and Waggonway circa 1854.



Cockenzie salt pans-Cheating the Gauger by Alan Braby.

Final stitches sewn into Arbroath Tapestry

After 1,950 hours of needlework, the final stitches of the Arbroath Tapestry have been sewn by a highly-skilled group of Angus embroidery and textile artists.

Created as part of the Arbroath 2020 celebrations, the intricate, three-panel tapestry was handed over to the safe-keeping of Historic Environment Scotland where it was unveiled at a special reception at The Scottish Parliament. The tapestry will be on long-term display in Arbroath Abbey in early April to coincide with the 700-year anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath.

“The Arbroath Tapestry commemorates the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath and the history and heritage of Arbroath Abbey so we’re absolutely thrilled it’s to become part of the Abbey’s collection,” said Linda Walker, one of the ten embroidery and textile artists who worked on the tapestry. We created the Arbroath Tapestry for the people of Arbroath so it’s only fitting it will be displayed for all to see within our town’s historic Abbey during the Arbroath 2020 commemorations and beyond.”

The Declaration of Arbroath

The Declaration of Arbroath was a letter sent from Scotland’s nobles to Pope John in Avignon on April 6, 1320. Widely acknowledged as one of Scotland’s most important documents, the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath has inspired Arbroath 2020, a highly impressive six-month programme of special events.



Arbroath Abbey.

Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of Historic Environment Scotland (HES), who manage Arbroath Abbey, said: “We’re delighted to be receiving the Arbroath Tapestry and making it part of the Abbey’s continuing story. This amazing piece of craftsmanship not only tells the story of the Declaration of Arbroath but also covers key moments in the history of the Abbey right up to the present day. This magnificent Tapestry doesn’t just pay tribute to the importance of the Declaration – it also shows how the people of Arbroath are working together in imaginative ways to celebrate the extraordinary history of their town and its Abbey.”

Angus South MSP Graeme Dey who hosted the event in Parliament, commented: “The painstaking work, stretching to almost 2,000 hours in total, on the part of Linda Walker and her team has produced a stunning tapestry which memorably captures the history of the Declaration and all it stands for.

I’m in no doubt the Tapestry will prove a real crowd puller when it goes on display in the Abbey and everyone fortunate enough to see it, will I am sure marvel at the dedication and skill which has gone into creating it.”

The Arbroath Tapestry’s three richly-coloured panels were designed by Andrew Crummy, designer of the Great Tapestry of Scotland. “The central panel portrays Robert the Bruce and Abbot Bernard of Arbroath writing the Declaration,” explains Linda Walker. “The two smaller panels represent the role and influence of the Abbey within Arbroath. The left panel features William I, founder of the Abbey, along with a fisherwoman, highlighting the importance of the local fishing industry. The right panel represents the many trades which were involved in building and maintaining the Abbey and depicts two Scottish nobles setting sail to deliver the Declaration to Avignon.”

The rich cultural heritage of Angus

Before starting work on the Tapestry, the project’s embroidery and textile artists carried out in-depth research on medieval threads, dyes and stitches. “We were determined to reflect the materials, colours and style of the tapestries which once adorned the walls of Arbroath Abbey,” said Linda Walker. “It’s wonderful that the Arbroath Tapestry will be resurrecting this medieval tradition when it goes on display in the Abbey in April.”

The tapestry is decorated with Arbroath’s unique Oslin apples, introduced to the area by the Abbey’s monks, and 46 seals of the barons who ‘signed’ the Declaration of Arbroath.

“These seals were very tricky as they’re small and very detailed – and had to be accurate depictions of the seals on the original Declaration,” reveals Linda. “Each seal involved hours and hours of research before we even started stitching.”

Karen Dick, Interim Head of Place, Partnerships and Communities at Creative Scotland said: “The showcasing of the Arbroath Tapestry in Arbroath Abbey demonstrates the rich cultural heritage of Angus. Creative Scotland’s Angus Place Partnership is supporting the Arbroath 2020 celebrations, and we hope it will increase ambition and opportunity for both artists and audiences across the region.”

For more information about the Arbroath Tapestry and the Arbroath 2020 celebrations visit: www.arbroath2020.com



The three-panel tapestry.

Study seeks people with Northern Isles ancestry



People with at least two grandparents who were born in Orkney or Shetland are being asked to join a genetic study aimed at improving medical treatments. Some 4,000 people will be invited to take part in the study, which will seek to better understand the causes of conditions such as diabetes, stroke, heart disease, cancer and others. Researchers hope the findings will lead to new treatments for these conditions. The unique genetic identity of those with Northern Isles ancestry offers a rare opportunity to give a detailed picture on how genes are implicated in health.

Those taking part of the University of Edinburgh study – called VIKING II - will complete an online questionnaire about their health and lifestyle. They will also return by post a saliva sample kit, which will be analysed by researchers including genetic sequencing.

The global Northern Isles diaspora

The study is not limited to those who currently live in Orkney or Shetland. Those who are part of the global Northern Isles diaspora

can also take part. There are significant numbers of diaspora from the Northern Isles to be living in Saskatchewan, Canada; Chicago, USA; and Dunedin, New Zealand, among many other parts of the world.

For those living in the UK who volunteer to be part of the study, they can choose to have information on limited genetic results returned to them through the NHS. This information could be useful in terms of their future healthcare, including taking preventive actions to reduce the impact of health conditions. Jim Wilson, Professor of Human Genetics, said: “Adding 4,000 more volunteers from these special populations will increase the scope and impact of our research into the genetics of health and disease. We hope in the long term, this will bring us a better understanding which is the basis of new approaches to treat or prevent disease.”

People who would like to take part can register their interest by visiting the study website: www.ed.ac.uk/viking/volunteer-for-viking



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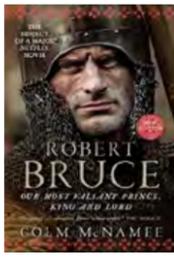


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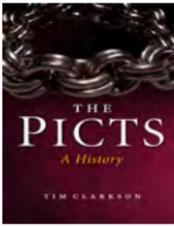
Robert Bruce: Our Most Valiant Prince, King and Lord

The life of Bruce is one of the greatest comeback stories in history. Heir and magnate, shrewd politician, briefly 'king of summer' and then a desperate fugitive who nevertheless returned from exile to recover the kingdom he claimed, Bruce became a gifted military leader and a wise statesman, a leader with vision and energy. Colm McNamee combines the most up to date scholarship on this crucial figure in the history of the British Isles with lucid explanations and context, so that readers can appreciate Bruce's enormous contribution to the historical impact not just on Scotland, but on England and Ireland too. **Price: \$29.95 + postage**



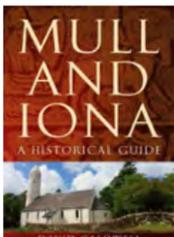
The Picts: A History

New edition of this popular history of the Picts, an ancient nation who ruled most of northern and eastern Scotland during the Dark Ages. Despite their historical importance, they remain shrouded in myth. Absorbed by the kingdom of the Scots in the 9th century, they lost their unique identity, their language and their vibrant artistic culture. It pieces together the evidence to tell the story of this mysterious people from their emergence in Roman times to their eventual disappearance. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



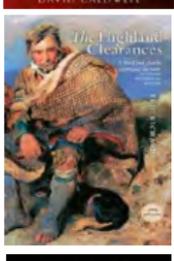
Mull and Iona: A Historical Guide

Mull and Iona are two of the most visited islands in Scotland, and have played a central role in the history of the country. This book provides a full and engaging history of the islands from the time of their earliest human inhabitants to the present day. Lists places of interest from all periods in the islands' history, from the world-wide renowned churches, crosses and grave slabs on Iona and the magnificent restored Duart Castle on Mull, seat of the Clan Maclean, mausoleum of Lachlan MacQuarrie, the much esteemed 18th-century Governor of New South Wales. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



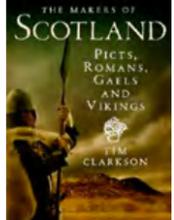
The Highland Clearances

The Highland Clearances was one of the most emotive chapters in Scotland's history. This book traces the origins of the Clearances from the 18th century to their culmination in thecrofting legislation of the 1880s. In considering both the terrible suffering of the Highland people as well as the stark choices that faced landowners during a period of rapid economic change, it shows how the Clearances were one of many 'attempted' solutions to the problem of how to maintain a population on marginal and infertile land. This book offers a balanced analysis of events which created a terrible scar on the Highland and Gaelic imagination. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



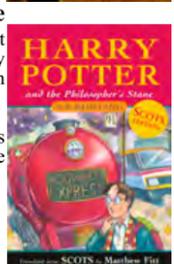
The Makers of Scotland

During the first millennium AD the most northerly part of Britain evolved into the country known as Scotland. The transition was a long process of social & political change driven by the ambitions of powerful warlords. At first these men were tribal chiefs, Roman generals or rulers of small kingdoms. Later the initiative was seized by dynamic warrior-kings. Armies of Picts, Scots, Vikings, Britons and Anglo-Saxons fought each other for supremacy. In this book the remarkable story of how



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in Scots

J. K. Rowling's world-beating debut novel Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone recently celebrated its 20th anniversary and this is a Scots version of the classic text: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. The novel has already been translated into a staggering 79 languages — and this Scots translation is language number 80, all in the wonderful Scots language which has the power to engage, excite and entertain readers of all ages. **Price: \$19.95 Plus postage**



Maclean's Whiskypedia: A Gazetteer of Scotch Whisky

Why does Scotch whisky taste as it does? Where do the flavours come from? The flavour of Scotch whisky is as much influenced by history, craft and tradition as it is by science. Whiskypedia explores these influences. Introductory sections provide an historical overview, and an explanation of the contribution made by each stage of the production process. Each entry provides a brief account of the distillery's history and explores the flavour and character of each make. Charles MacLean has spent 30 years researching Scotch whisky. Whiskypedia is the result of deep immersion in its subject. It will guide, entertain and inform novices and experts alike. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**



Bake with Maw Broon

Always up to her elbows in flour or stirring pots of homemade jam, Maw Broon has been baking cracking cakes, braw biscuits and perfect pastry for her family for years. Maw will show you how to bake a mouth watering collection of sweet favourites, from shortbread to sugar craft, from Dundee cake to Edinburgh tart, and from black bun to clootie dumpling. Beautifully designed and easy to follow. A definitive guide to traditional baking for all the family. **Price: \$29.95 plus postage**



Scotland: Her Story

Scotland's history has been told many times, but never exclusively by its women. This book takes a unique perspective on dramatic national events as well as ordinary life, as experienced by women down the centuries. From the saintly medieval Queen Margaret to today's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, it encompasses women from all stations of class, fame & notoriety, offering a tantalising view of what happened to them, and how they felt. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



Scottish Customs: From the Cradle to the Grave

A highly readable and absorbing anthology of traditional Scottish customs and rites of passage, that draws upon a broad range of literary and oral sources. This expanded edition includes a large amount of new material. The result is a detailed and comprehensive picture of social behaviour in Scotland over the last 400 years. The book is divided into three sections, each covering a stage in the cycle of life: Childbirth and infancy; Love, courtship and marriage and Death. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Scotland: A History from Earliest Times

From the Ice Age to the recent Scottish Referendum, historian and author Alistair Moffat explores the history of the Scottish nation. As well as focusing on key moments in the nation's history such as the Battle of Bannockburn and the Jacobite Risings, Moffat also features other episodes in history that are perhaps less well documented. From prehistoric timber halls to inventions and literature, Moffat's tale explores the drama of battle, change, loss and invention interspersed with the lives of ordinary Scottish folk, the men and women who defined a nation. **Price \$34.95 Plus postage**



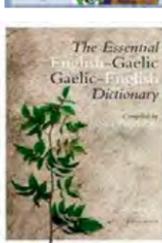
A History of Scotland

Scotland is one of the oldest countries in the world. Yet the stories and figures that dominate Scottish history — tales of failure, submission, thwarted ambition and tragedy — overshadowing the rich tapestry of her intricate past. Historian Neil Oliver presents a compelling portrait of Scottish history, peppered with action, high drama and centuries of turbulence that have helped to shape modern Scotland. He takes in iconic landmarks; debunks myths surrounding Scotland's famous sons; recalls forgotten battles; charts the growth of patriotism; and explores political developments, capturing Scotland's sense of identity and celebrating her place in the wider world. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



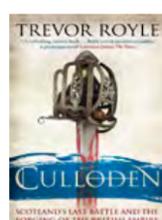
Essential English-Gaelic/Gaelic-English Dictionary

Ideal for learners of Gaelic at all levels, and its generous coverage of vocabulary from fields such as business and IT makes it a valuable tool for all those who require an up-to-date reference work. It contains a large amount of explanatory material, numerous examples of usage and idiomatic phrases and expressions. Many registers and styles are sampled, from the familiar (and occasionally the vulgar) to the formal and the literary. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Culloden: Scotland's Last Battle and the Forging of the British Empire

The Battle of Culloden has gone down in history as the last major battle fought on British soil: a vicious confrontation between Scottish forces supporting the Stuart claim to the throne and the English Royal Army. But this wasn't just a conflict between the Scots and the English, the battle was also part of a much larger campaign to protect the British Isles from the growing threat of a French invasion. In Trevor Royle's vivid and evocative narrative, we are drawn into the ranks, on both sides, alongside doomed Jacobites fighting fellow Scots dressed in the red coats of the Duke of Cumberland's Royal Army. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



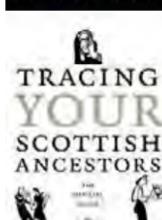
Scottish Queens 1034-1714

The lives of the Scottish queens, both those who ruled in their own right, and also the consorts, have largely been neglected in history books. One of the earliest known Scottish queens was none other than the notorious Lady MacBeth. Was she really the wicked woman depicted in Shakespeare's famous play? Was St Margaret a demure and obedient wife? These are just a few of the questions addressed by Dr Marshall in her entertaining, impeccably researched book. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors

With 5 million people in Scotland, and over 30 million of Scottish descent scattered over the globe, it is not surprising that research into Scottish family history is so popular! Especially now that huge amounts of information on family origins are available online. If you are one of those who wish to trace their roots in Scotland, this major edition of the official guide is the one book you must have. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



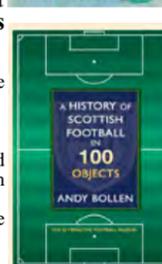
50 People Who Screwed Up Scotland

The Complete History of Scottish Disappointment. To be Scottish is to have a lot to live down, and as Allan Brown shows, this lot do the job superbly. Whether it be Robert Burns, indecipherable bard of rustic gibberish or Sean Connery, die-hard advocate of a country he refuses to live in. They're all here, and many others; a veritable embassy of bad ambassadors. 50 People Who Screwed Up Scotland is a humorous and chronologically-sequential series of essays, histories and anecdotes that consider those episodes and occurrences in Scotland's political, cultural & social story where, against all odds, defeat was plucked from the jaws of victory. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



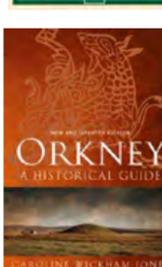
History of Scottish Football in 100 Objects

Andy Bollen has created a fantasy football museum to collect together a treasure trove of Scottish football exhibits that ranges from Jimmy Johnstone's oar to Aggie the tea lady's trolley. Learn why Puskas and Socrates should've been Scottish, the versatility of the pie and Napoleon's links to Bovril and explore all the wonders of the game north of the Border — from Arthur Montford to the phone-in, Think Tanks, Buckfast, vanishing cream for referees, Twitter, VAR technology and flares (pyrotechnics, not 1970s attire). These exhibits distill the beauty of Scottish football into an entertaining volume that will make the perfect gift for any fan. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Orkney: A Historical Guide

Orkney lies only 20 miles north of mainland Scotland, yet for many centuries its culture was more Scandinavian than Scottish. Strong westerly winds account for the scarcity of trees on Orkney and also for the tradition of well-constructed stone structures. As a result, the islands boast a large number of exceptionally well-preserved remains, which help us to form a detailed picture of Orcadian life through the ages. In this updated edition introduces the history of the islands and provides a detailed survey of the principal places and sites of historic interest. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Scottish Traditional Tales

All over the world traditional tales were told at the fireside until their place came to be taken by books, newspapers, radio and television. A.J. Bruford and D.A. MacDonald present an entertaining collection of the oral tales that have been passed down by generations of Scottish story-tellers, and have been recorded and collected by researchers from the School of Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh over the past fifty years. With almost a hundred tales, this is the most wide-ranging introduction available on this fascinating part of Scotland's heritage. **Price: \$ 34.95 Plus postage**



Best of Scotland: A Caledonian Miscellany

From bagpipes, haggis, whisky to The Falkirk Wheel, John Knox, Loch Lomond and Dolly the Sheep, this book is a fascinating celebration of Scotland that will appeal to visitors and locals alike. This imaginative, informative & amusing miscellany, explores some of the well-known symbols of Scottish culture (as well as some of the quirkier ones) and looks beneath the surface to shatter some long-held assumptions that will surprise even the most well-informed Scotophile. **Price: 34.95 Plus postage**



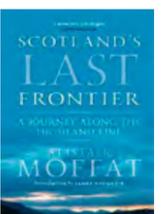
Made in Scotland

Of the wide range and diversity of British products that are now household names, the Scots can take pride in the fact that many of them began in Scotland. When people first spread Robertson's Golden Shred Marmalade, it was by courtesy of a Paisley man. How would the housewife have thickened her sauce without cornflour, produced in Paisley in 1854? Pringle of Hawick gave the world the first knitted twin-set, these are the stories behind a wide number of the best-known household names that originated in Scotland. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**



Scotland's Last Frontier

In Britain's Last Frontier best-selling author Alistair Moffat makes a journey of the imagination, tracing the route of the Line from the River Clyde through Perthshire and the north-east. In addition to exploring the huge importance of the Line over almost two thousand years, he also shows how it continues to influence life and attitudes in 21st-century Scotland. The result is a fascinating book, full of history and anecdote. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Whisky Wars

Nineteenth-century life in the Highlands was not easy. Rather than a rural idyll, the glens and moors were home to poachers and whisky smugglers, while the towns were often ready to explode into riot and disorder. Even the Hebridean seas had their dangers, while the Islands seethed with discontent. Whisky Wars goes behind the facade of romantic tartan and vast estates. Here, the hidden history of the Highlands and Islands is unearthed in all its unique and terrible detail. **Price: \$19.95 Plus postage**



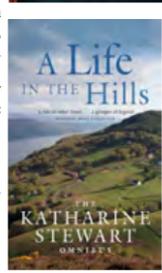
The Secret of Tartan

Tartan is so much more than just a cloth. From its clan origins in the Scottish Highlands to the catwalks of Milan, London and New York, from its regimental history to its anti-establishment status, tartan has not only shaped a nation but has become an international style icon. Tartan truly has a remarkable universal status. Today, tartan evokes history, kinship, tradition, romance, irreverence, fashion and style. The Secret Life of Tartan unravels the truths and the myths of the cloth that shaped a nation to reveal how it has captured hearts around the world. **Price: \$89.95 Plus postage**



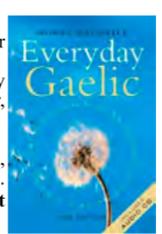
A Life in the Hills-3 novel omnibus

This omnibus gathers A Croft in the Hills together with some of Katharine's later books: A Garden in the Hills, describing a year in the life of her Highland garden; A School in the Hills, a vivid history of the school at Abriachan which eventually became the Stewarts' family home; and The Post in the Hills, which tells the dramatic story of the postal service in the Highlands, from the point of view of Katharine's later role as postmistress of the smallest post office in Scotland, run from the porch of her Abriachan schoolhouse. The omnibus will bring the grace, charm and wisdom of Katharine Stewart's writing to a new generation of readers. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**



Everyday Gaelic/w Audio CD

Since English is also spoken in the Gaelic-speaking areas, communication in Gaelic is not so much a matter of necessity as of choice and interest. This book, therefore, covers more than just the phrases needed by an outsider in a foreign land - it also dips into the chatty, personal and domestic aspects of the language. It ranges from simple words and phrases to the more complex and idiomatic. Includes imitated pronunciation, audio CD improves pronunciation and comprehension. **Price: \$24.95 book only/\$39.95 book & CD Plus postage**



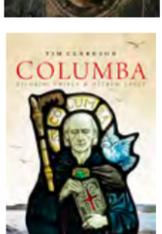
Scottish Battles

Scottish history has been shaped and defined by a series of great battles. John Sadler gives the first full military history of Scotland for many years. From Mons Graupius to Culloden, he shows how terrain and politics shaped the campaigns and decisive engagements we still remember today. This new paperback edition includes detailed battle plans and eyewitness accounts where possible, and sections on the development of warfare — tactics, equipment and styles of fighting. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



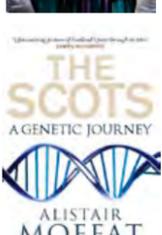
Columba: Pilgrim, Priest & Patron

Who was St Columba? How did this Irish aristocrat become the most important figure in early Scottish Christianity? This book examines the different roles played by the saint in life and death, tracing his career in Ireland and Scotland, where we encounter not only Columba the abbot and missionary but also Columba the politician and peacemaker. We follow him then to Scotland, to Iona, where he founded his principal monastery. It was from this small Hebridean isle that he undertook missionary work among the Picts and had dealings with powerful warrior-kings. The final chapters look at the evolution of the cult of Columba from the 7th century onwards. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



The Scots: A Genetic Journey

History has always mattered to Scots. An almost limitless archive of our history lies hidden inside our bodies and we carry the ancient story of Scotland around with us. The mushrooming of genetic studies, of DNA analysis, is rewriting our history in spectacular fashion. This new edition explores the history that is printed on our genes, and in a remarkable new approach, uncovers the detail of where we are from, who we are and, in so doing, vividly paints a DNA map of Scotland. This edition takes into account recent developments in DNA science and Celtic gene markers. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



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VP Day 2020 – 75th Anniversary World War Two

On 15 August 2020, Australia will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War Two – VP Day. Pipe Bands Australia has been in consultation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs ahead of this important occasion in the history of Australia, the last major commemoration where we will be fortunate to still be able say a personal thank you to some surviving veterans. As a result, Pipe Bands Australia is developing a special Australian contribution on VP Day 2020, the day when for Australia there was finally peace after almost six years of conflict in Europe, the Middle East and South East Asia and for the first time, had seen Australia come under attack.

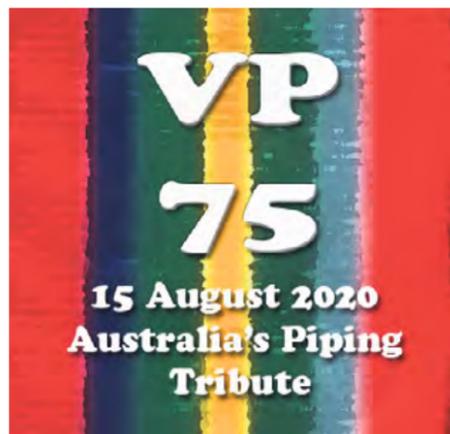
Piping commemoration

Pipe Bands Australia will commission a special tune to be performed on 15 August 2020 as a tribute to the Australians who served in World War Two and particularly pipers and drummers in regimental and battalion bands, including the Mildura Pipe Band that enlisted virtually en masse.

The tune will also be a thank you to those who remained at home and worked in supporting industry and on the land, people who kept pipe bands alive during those dark days. The tune, including recordings, will be available from early 2020 and online registrations for bands and individual pipers will open shortly on the Pipe Bands Australia website.

Members are welcome to participate in the VE Day world-wide piping commemoration next May being co-ordinated in Britain however, the advice received by Pipe Bands Australia is that the focus of Australia's commemoration will be on VP Day three months later as was the case in 1945 when Australia acknowledged VE Day but felt it inappropriate to celebrate while the war in the Pacific continued. Pipe Bands Australia co-ordinated the involvement of more than 1500 pipers and drummers at more than 200 locations across Australia on the centenary of the Armistice in November 2019 and trusts that bands, members and former members will be part of the VP75 Piping Tribute in August 2020.

For further details see: www.pipebandsaustralia.com.au



Protecting Scotland's seas

A world first for conservation of marine life



A basking shark in Scottish waters.

Plans to safeguard some of the most iconic species in Scotland's waters have been announced. The Scottish Government has proposed four new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which would make Scotland the first country in the world to provide designated areas of protection to minke whale and basking sharks. Covering a combined area of more than 5,000 sq miles, the new MPAs would also protect Risso's dolphins and a wide range of biodiversity and geological features. The Scottish MPA network currently covers 22% of our seas and consists of 231 sites. The network supports nature conservation, protects our historic marine sites and helps develop new approaches to marine management.

Scotland's marine diversity

Launching a consultation, Minister for the Natural Environment Mairi Gougeon said: "It is our duty to help protect and enhance our marine environment so that it remains a prized asset for future generations."

Not only are they fundamental to our way of life, they provide habitats for a huge diversity of marine wildlife and it is vital that we ensure appropriate protection for them. Scotland's seas account for 61% of the UK's waters and are internationally recognised as being important for whales, dolphins and basking sharks. These MPAs would offer additional levels of protection to these species, and ensure the MPA network is fully representative of Scotland's marine diversity."

The four proposed Marine Protected Areas are:

North-east Lewis: The proposed protected features include Risso's dolphins and sandeels.

Sea of the Hebrides: The largest of the four proposed MPAs. The proposed protected features are basking shark, minke whale and fronts. Fronts are created by cool nutrient-rich water mixing with shallow warmer water. They are areas of high productivity and create feeding grounds for predators of all shapes and sizes.

Shiant East Bank: Located in the middle of the Minch, the sea which separates the Outer Hebrides from the Scottish mainland. The proposed protected features include sponge habitats and sea fans, a variety of coral.

Southern Trench: The proposed protected features include minke whale.

FOR MORE INFO CALL MARYBOROUGH HIGHLAND SOCIETY ON (03) 5461 1480 OR VISIT WWW.HIGHLANDSOCIETY.COM.AU



2020 AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

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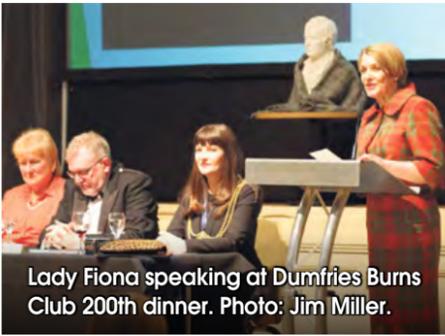
The championships . . . back to where it all began!

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Lady MacGregor's Scotland By: Lady Fiona MacGregor



Lady Fiona speaking at Dumfries Burns Club 200th dinner. Photo: Jim Miller.

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.



Greetings from Scotland where thick snow fell last night and scraping it off the car made for quite a job this morning.

At least the farm tractors were out early which meant the roads were clear enough to get to work.

Driving along this winter wonderland I note how the sheep blend into the background as they scrabble round, trying to find the odd blade of grass in the fields. The snowdrops are lost against the frosted soil. But the yellow and purple crocuses and the male pheasants stand out; red and orange feathers against a blanket of white.

Robert Burns

It is rather nice to see these fluffy flakes falling. For, unlike the Highlands, snow is in short supply here in the south of the country. Everyone will tell you that winters just aren't what they used to be. And they are right - we are seeing wetter, warmer seasons. But some things remain constant and one of them is the annual celebration to honour Robert Burns.

This year as the Queen's personal representative in this area, I laid a wreath at the place where his body lies.

St Michael's kirkyard in Dumfries is the spot. The Bard resting in a small white mausoleum alongside the red sandstone graves.

This striking domed structure was erected in 1817 and among those who helped fund it were local Burns' enthusiasts. Three years later these town worthies went on to set up the Dumfries Burns Club – which has just celebrated its bi-centenary.

1820 was the year it started. The first president was a banker with the British Linen Company whilst his committee included a newspaper editor, a merchant and a surgeon. Robert Burns became Scotland's national poet and the inaugural dinner was taken seriously, with dozens of toasts proposed and the speeches – more than thirty of them - going on into the wee small hours.

The club dinners continued over two centuries. There were a few misses. In 1849 the event was cancelled due to cholera in the town. In 1879 there was no get-together 'in respect of the general distress and depression prevalent in the country.' 1901 saw the death of Queen Victoria and the gathering was abandoned out of respect for her passing. Then there was the first world war when pretty much any sort of party was put on hold...

Anyhow, I had the honour of being invited to the 200th dinner. And I can report that it was a memorable night. And a delicious one, with lentil broth, roast beef and raspberry pudding on the menu. Afterwards another feast followed. One of music and poetry, all linked, of course, to the Bard.

**Robert Burns famously said.
'Don't be afraid. I'll be more respected a hundred years after I am dead than I am at the present day' - and how right he was.**

Robert Burns famously said. 'Don't be afraid. I'll be more respected a hundred years after I am dead than I am at the present day' - and how right he was. The current president and six past presidents of the Robert Burns World Federation turned out in their chains of office to mark the bicentenary of the Dumfries Burns Club.

Dreich

Over in the Scottish Borders, meanwhile, a medieval ruin looks set to rise from the ashes. Cavers Castle near Hawick was once home to one of Scotland's most famous clans. The Douglas's occupied

the place from the 14th century onwards. But twentieth century owners could not afford to maintain it – and in the 1950s this ancient pile was mostly demolished. But that is not the end of the story. A few years ago, what was left of the castle was put up for sale. And it now appears that an American lady has bought the place and plans to restore it to its former glory. We wish her luck – and will be following her story with our television cameras. When I know more about this ambitious project, I will tell you, so watch this space!

Last year there were ten castles for sale in Scotland, so a chance there to become a laird and have your own piece of history. Not that I want to dampen anyone's enthusiasm, but I offer a slight word of warning. The chief and I have lived in a Scottish tower house – and jolly cold it was too. So, anyone planning to go down this route should be of a hardy disposition!

Which brings us back to the elements. Well, you know what we are like here in Scotland. If in doubt, we talk about the weather... Indeed, a recent survey shows that 'dreich' - meaning wet, cold or bleak - is the favourite word here in Scotland.

Yes, it is dreich here at the moment. But the good thing is that Scots are certainly not – and hey, spring is on the way! Just look at all those bulbs in the garden and you will know what I mean...

Award-winning organic dairy farmer is 'moo'-ving with the times By: Norry Wilson



Text courtesy of www.Scotland.org

To do that, he went back to basics. He notified the dairy that he would no longer be supplying them with milk and took the bold step of deciding to offer his non-homogenised milk directly to the public. A pasteuriser was installed on the farm, to reduce food miles to zero, and he signed up to take the farm completely organic. That bold move was rewarded recently when Bryce won the BBC Food and Farming "Future Food Award".

Bryce told BBC Radio 4 programme Farming Today: "We lost so much money in my first year of farming after my father Robert's death that I felt we had to do something different to what we were doing. I started to think the consumer today has no connection to the farm or where the food comes from. Then I was thinking about single use plastics and how we had the solution 50 years ago with bottles, there is a drive behind this, and I thought there was an opportunity there".

Environmentally friendly farming methods

It was a massive step, but the local community was behind it and they launched two crowd funders which were really successful. Today they are now in a position to support two other local

organic farmers who were in the same position as them five years ago by simply being in the wrong milk contract.

Bryce's 'girls' – his prized herd of Ayrshire cows – supply doorstep deliveries of organic milk and cream, in glass bottles featuring the face of Burns – to families across Ayrshire. His milk is also finding favour with chefs and baristas, who praise its quality and taste, and the way it holds its foam in a perfectly made coffee. Mossgiel Farm now supplies milk to 250 speciality coffee shops across Scotland.

As well as that, locals and passers-by can access Mossgiel milk directly, buying or refilling glass bottles from a vending machine at the farm, an idea which Bryce hopes to roll-out to local shops and suppliers, so more people can enjoy Mossgiel milk, and help further cut down on food miles and single use plastics.

Bryce has now been appointed as one of the Scottish Government's Climate Change Champions, and hopes to use his experience to help other farmers switch to more environmentally friendly farming methods.

Although fonder of a dram than a daily drink of milk, you can't help but think that Robert Burns must be looking down on the fields of Mossgiel and raising a glass to Bryce.

When poet ploughman Robert Burns famously wrote that 'The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men / Gang aft agley', he might have added dairy farmers to the couplet. In 2015, when Bryce Cunningham took over the dairy herd at Mossgiel Farm, in Ayrshire, he faced a double dilemma. His father, a noted dairyman, sadly passed away and the UK dairy industry had entered the worst

downfall in prices for generations. With the mega-dairies paying just 15p a litre for their milk, the farm was losing £10k a year.

Faced with having to leave the farm, which had been in the family for three generations and on which Robert Burns himself worked in the 1700s, Bryce decided to work with nature to ensure a sustainable and ethical future for the environment, his community and of course – his prized Ayrshire cows.

Edinburgh's Mollie Hughes becomes the youngest woman in the world to ski solo from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole



After 58 days and 650 hours of skiing alone in whiteouts, storm-force winds and temperatures hitting minus 45C, Mollie Hughes has reached the Geographic South Pole – achieving her second world record by becoming the youngest woman in the world to ski solo from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole.

The 29-year-old adventurer and motivational speaker, who was born in Devon and lives in Edinburgh, started her world record attempt at 1.40pm (Chilean time / 4.40pm UK time) on Wednesday 13 November. Departing from Hercules Inlet in Western Antarctica, she skied eastwards for 702 miles and arrived at the South Pole at 8.50am (Chilean time / 11.50am UK time) on Friday 10 January.

Having initially hoped to reach the South Pole by New Year's Day, her quest was almost derailed by severe weather in the first two weeks, with Hughes facing headwinds of more than 55 knots, temperatures of minus 45C and a whiteout for eight days in a row.

Hughes has now broken two world records

But despite this initial setback, and the physical and mental challenge of skiing alone over steep hills and deep snow, Hughes battled on.

During the expedition, she pulled a sled weighing 105kg, the equivalent of the average international rugby player, and skied alone for between 10 and 12 hours a day.

After 58 days and 650 hours of skiing alone in whiteouts, storm-force winds and temperatures hitting minus 45C, Mollie Hughes has reached the Geographic South Pole.

To sustain her energy levels, Hughes consumed around 4,500kcal per day, more than twice the average daily amount for a woman, with favourites including Snickers bars and freeze-dried spaghetti bolognese, which she consumed on Christmas Day. Despite this, she lost around 15kg during her expedition. She takes the world record from previous holder, Vilborg Gissuradottir from Iceland, who completed the challenge in 2013 when she was 32. The feat means Hughes has now broken two world records; in 2017, aged 26, she became the world's

youngest person to climb both the south and north sides of Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

On her return to the UK, Hughes is carrying out a series of speaking engagements, using her story and experiences to inspire others to achieve their goals. Her first talk was given exclusively to Cancer Research UK, the charity that Hughes raises funds for, in Glasgow.

Determination and resilience

Hughes said: "It's a surreal feeling, I can't quite believe I've done it. I knew it would be hard but this has been an exceptionally tough experience, especially in the first two weeks when I was struggling through the whiteout for over a week and incredibly strong winds. That really tested my resilience, especially as I was all alone, but I managed to get through it and carry on. I feel really fortunate not to have experienced any major disasters knowing what can happen in these challenging conditions. I am also so thankful that my GORE-TEX kit did such an outstanding job protecting me. All of my kit remains intact which is quite unusual after almost 60 days. Christmas Day away from my girlfriend and family was hard too, as was my Spotify needing

rebooted after 30 days which obviously wasn't possible! Now I'm looking forward to my first shower and proper food in almost two months, before I head home to see everyone and share my story."

Hughes funded her expedition by raising £75,000 from sponsors and crowdfunding, including Kae Tinto, an ambassador for Cancer Research UK. She has also received support from the global brand Gore, makers of GORE-TEX technology who provided her with specialist kit, and Dunfermline-based boiler and heating business ATAG.

Michelle Mitchell, chief executive of Cancer Research UK, said: "A huge congratulations to Mollie for this phenomenal achievement. It's difficult to imagine the challenges she's faced, but she's done it. We've been in awe of the determination and resilience she's shown. I'd also like to thank Mollie for using the trek as an opportunity to raise vital funds to beat cancer, a disease that affects so many. We receive no government funding, and it's thanks to people like Mollie that we're able to continue to fund world leading research. We hope others will feel inspired by Mollie's effort and support our lifesaving work."



Mollie and her expedition equipment.

Hunter Valley Highland Games

9.30am-4pm, Saturday 8 August 2020

huntervalleyhighlandgames.com.au

SALTIRE 113 Wilderness Rd, Lovedale NSW

Montrose through the ages

All images courtesy of VisitScotland.



North Sea oil arrived during the 1970s and Montrose's main asset, its sheltered anchorage and deep-water berths, again brought prosperity to the town.

Montrose's main attractions today are still its tourist sites with beautiful floral exhibits in the town centre, and the majestic steeple. The 220-foot steeple is atop the Parish Church, located in the High Street and designed and built in 1834 by Gillespie Graham. The grave of a 13th-century priest was unearthed when excavating for a new tower, and one of the four urns found beside the body is now in the town's museum.

Elders hours

A curfew bell - or to give it its legitimate title, Big Peter - can be heard every evening at ten. The bell dates back to 1676 and is the oldest one at the steeple. It primarily sounded to remind the townsfolk of the "Elders Hours," when all decent and clean-living people should be indoors! Over the last decade or so a few of the locals have grumbled about the noise the bell makes, but it looks unlikely that it will be hushed soon. Behind the steeple you'll come across one of the most beautiful walks in the town - it traverses the ancient kirkyard where many interesting 18th and 19th-century gravestones of merchants and sea captains can be found.

Nearby is the statue of Joseph Hume, a native Montrosian and famous radical MP for the Angus Burghs from 1819 until his passing in 1854. So next time you're touring the east coast of Scotland make sure that Montrose is on your itinerary. Keen golfers can have hours of fun on any of the two world-renowned links courses beside the beach, which has a wealth of golden sands and ample room for the kids as well as you to enjoy.

Dundee based writer Charlie Mill provided stories for the Scottish Banner for many years, touching on Scottish history, lifestyle and some of Scotland's truly unique characters. We recently opened the vault of Charlie's great work to share a collection of some of his favourites with readers today.

The wee east-coast town of Montrose has remained one of the most important ports of the area as well as being a major tourist target. The oldest recorded civilisation in the town was claimed to be in 8000 BC, along with records of a Roman camp at Dun, three miles to the north-west, and a religious settlement on what is now called Rossie Island, lying on the south side of Montrose Basin. After that era the Vikings established the town as a safe anchorage and port. Montrose was formerly established in the years between 1130 and 1140 by King David I as a burgh and port serving Angus and the Mearns.

But it was some years later in 1178 when William I named it Monros by awarding it his Royal Manor and establishing the Church of St Mary. By the end of the next century the town had a hospital, windmills, saltpans and trading rights in the area, while 1329 saw the opening of the first school.

The following century saw the construction of many houses beside the market producing Murray Street and High Street and along the river up to Castle Street towards the Bell Tower and Parish Church.

Try their luck in the New World

In 1648 the plague came to Montrose killing almost half the population. But life carried on and by the 18th century the town was a thriving market centre, during which linen began to be made, while whaling began in the 1790s. The town's population startlingly increased from 4000 in 1800 to 16,000 by 1880.

Ford's Mill was the first to utilise steam power, and other mills soon sprang up around the town. People swarmed into Montrose from the surrounding country areas eager to gain employment in these cramped, noisy factories. Linen was manufactured in all its forms from sacking to the finest sheeting. Sailcloth or canvas for shipping was particularly important.

But by the end of the century the call for linen started to diminish and many families sailed off to try their luck in the new worlds of America, Canada and Australia.

The wee east-coast town of Montrose has remained one of the most important ports of the area as well as being a major tourist target.

These same vessels that carried the emigrants returned full of timber which was processed at Montrose and re-exported to Australia and the colonies in fact, at that time the wee town was the second largest timber port in Scotland, after Greenock. Timber was also required for the shipbuilding industry, for this was the century of the Baltic Brigs — sturdy ships built to transport the enormous amounts of flax from the Baltic ports to feed the linen mills of Montrose.

Local attractions

The 19th century saw the construction of the Academy (1815), the Infirmary (1838) and the Museum (1842). At the harbour a grandiose new wet dock was constructed, and a new bridge spanned the Esk. In 1840, gas came to the town, and it was followed in 1901 with electricity. The early part of the 20th century saw a dwindling in the town's traditional industries as tourism started to take over as the main attraction, and parks were laid out along with tennis courts and golf courses. Montrose survived both wars relatively intact. The aerodrome was built in 1914 and was operational during both conflicts. German bombs landed on the town on five occasions with a number of fatalities.



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 Black Squad

*I've helped to build a wheen o'
them in mony a different yaird,*

*Frae barges up to battleships,
the Empire for to guard,*

*An' all, the names I could reca',
o' men noo passed awa',*

*Who planned and built the boats Lang
Syne' aye trig and strang and brau,*

*The men hae gone, but left
ahint a legacy o' fame,*

*For honest work an' bonny boats
that gied the Clyde its name.*

The Yairds by John F. Fergus

My sister once told me how she got a surprise when she first met 'the boy', the supposed lad that my father worked with in Fairfield's Shipyard. My father and my sister were walking down Paisley Road West when they bumped into him as he shuffled out of a pub. He turned out to be a 'gey auld boy', much older than my father.

For, of course, when my father referred to 'the boy' he was referring to the rivet boy, to what the man did at the shipyards, not to how old he was. The rivet boy was part of my dad's team, the black squad, and the people with the mysterious names that my father spoke about in his everyday talk of happenings at the shipyards. There was 'the buoy, (the rivet boy), the hauder oan, (the holder on) and the plater and the caulker as well as the riveter.

The rivet

The 'rivet boy' heated about half a dozen rivets in a small portable furnace, using his tongs and leather gauntlets to lift them out. When hot enough to use he threw a rivet to the 'holder on' who picked it up, put it through the hole already prepared by 'the plater'. The rivet was now held in position with the tongs of the 'holder on' and rammed through with a back hammer.

The rivet already had a head on it at one end but the riveter, like my father, had to hammer it in with alternate blows on the outside of the ship's shell and shape a head at that end while it was still red hot.

The 'plater' or fitter's job was to temporarily bolt the plates of the ship in place before the rivet squad arrived to fix the joints properly. The riveters removed the bolts as they worked to replace them with the rivets that held the massive steel plates of the ship in place. When the riveter was finished 'the caulker's' job was to make the joints between the riveted steel plates watertight by hammering the seams with a special caulking tool. If the squad was on piecework the 'rivet counter' had the job of counting how many rivets had been hammered home during that shift. That determined how much you might be paid for that day's labour.

That all sounds simple enough except that the rivets were red hot and the men had to work fast while it remained red hot as they were more often as not on piece work where the squad had contracted to meet a target of an agreed number of rivets per day. Sometimes the rivets had to be thrown a considerable distance by 'the rivet boy' to the 'holder on' that is if the squad was working in an inaccessible part of the ship's hull. On these occasions the rivets were caught in a bucket, but it was a dangerous practice and there were lots of accidents. All this activity, throwing red hot rivets and swinging a hammer took place high up off the ground, maybe a hundred feet up on the stocks, on planks of wood with no guard rails. This dangerous work went on in all weathers and on the half-constructed decks of the ship where it was almost impossible for the squad members to communicate with each other, except by sign language, because of the constant din all around them.

I've yet to see a photograph of the days when my father worked in the shipyards that shows that there was any attempt by the employers to introduce safety measures and make the men adhere to any kind of occupational health and safety standards. You don't see any hard hats, safety goggles, ear-muffs or protective clothing on the men working in the yards that my father knew. Serious accidents were common, and my father often brought home horrific tales of yet another death at the yard he was working in at the time, sometimes of a man he knew personally. Shipyard photographs of rivet squads at their work stations also confirm that the

men simply wore what they arrived in, the same work clothes that I saw them leave in, as a boy, as they hurried out of the yard gate at the end of the day.

Injuries

During my childhood the shipyard day started just before 8.00 a.m. and ended at 5.30 p.m., 5 days a week with a horn starting and finishing the working day and the 'pay whistle' sounding instead on a Friday evening. When the black squad arrived in the morning, they often had the indignity of depending on getting the nod from the all-seeing and all-powerful foremen before getting a start for the day. When my dad started his apprenticeship at the age of fourteen, in 1918, he would have worked a half day on a Saturday as well. So, I can now appreciate why he valued his Saturday morning jaunts around the city with me in later years.

It was common knowledge within my family that my father had broken just about every bone in his body, except for his neck, from the numerous falls he had over the years at the yards. I remember when our Minister visited him when he was recuperating from one of these injuries, they joked about that. He was also forever up at the eye infirmary getting slivers of metal removed from his eyes and when he was still quite young as an apprentice, a riveter's mallet was accidentally swung into his face, damaging the cartilage in his nose. He claimed to me, when I was a child, that he had a false nose inside, made of plaster, and I was forever trying to look at his nose to see if I could see anything peculiar about it. The truth was it always appeared quite normal and much better shaped than my own pug nose. The only trouble it seemed to give him was that he needed an awful lot of smelling salts to keep the passages clear and that was probably also why he used too much Old Spice aftershave when he was heading out for the evening.

His long-lasting and most debilitating industrial injury, however, was his deafness. He had put up with 'the hammer's ding dong' of Kenneth McKellar's *Song of the Clyde* since he was fourteen years old, and when you add the noise from the later pneumatic riveting and caulking machines, together with the multitude of other noise sources in a shipyard, his deafness was not surprising. He received no compensation in an era when such injuries were taken as an inevitable part of the job or were shrugged off as coincidental and not work related.

The boiler suit

Proper toilet and wash facilities were practically non-existent at the yards or too far to walk to. Shipyards were big workplaces with as many as 5,000 men on the workforce at any one time. The men might have to walk up to a mile to find an inadequate toilet. They weren't always going to make that effort especially

if they were on piecework which the black squads often were. The rivet squad worked out in the open, in all weathers, in the bitter cold and the rain and snow of Glasgow's winters, with no shelter.

The steel plates that they worked with came with mill scale and rust on them and this mixed with the grease, the engine oil and other muck that was all around them to create an unavoidable filth that the men brought home from their jobs on their clothes.

My dad usually wore a tan or navy-blue coloured boiler suit covering old trousers, a shirt and worn underneath an old jacket. He wore the working man's traditional cloth bunnet and a good pair of steel-capped boots. The boiler suit got laundered each week but the jacket and cap simply gathered more grime and grease, each day, until it had to be thrown away and replaced with another old jacket and cap, any one that he could lay his hands on. There must have been a constant struggle for men like my father to find old clothing to use for work and some observers at the time have described some of the men piling out of the shipyards as looking not much better than a pile of rags.

The filth of the shipyards

To me, all of the men that I saw streaming out of the yards in Govan looked much the same and exactly like that. It was like a uniform. The bunnets, jackets, trousers and boiler suits were coated in so much grease and oil that their clothes had a glazed and shiny look about them and as others have said they looked as if they could have stood up on their own. Men like my father then had to sit on the buses and trams and bring the filth of the shipyards back to their homes. So, the first thing my father did when he got home from work and back to Pollok was to shed all of his outdoor clothing at the end of our hallway and hang them up in the hall wardrobe.

I thought I would be a smart Alec one night and decided to hide in the wardrobe and give him a fright. As he opened the wardrobe door after an exhausting day at the yards there was I, like a daftie, shouting "boo". Thinking that I was some kind of intruder, I got the fright of my life as a big fist came toward me. Luckily, I was too small for it to land but it ruffled up the spare clothes and hangers quite a treat. He was very angry with me for putting myself at risk, and I never tried that trick again.

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The Broar celebration in Antigua. Photo: Atlantic Campaigns.

Ewan, Jamie, and Lachlan Maclean recently rowed across the Atlantic Ocean to help raise money for two great Scottish causes, and these young Scots are also placing themselves in the record books doing so. The Scottish Banner spoke to Jamie Maclean on their return from the 3,000-mile journey from San Sebastián de La Gomera in the Canary Islands, off the west coast of Africa, to Antigua in the West Indies, in what has become an incredible feat of strength, brotherhood, endurance and ScotSpirit.

In December you set off on a 3,000-mile unsupported rowing race across the Atlantic Ocean, called the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. It has been described as the world's toughest rowing race. How did you come up with the idea and what needed to happen for you to take part?

JM: We need to wind back about a year and half ago or more, our dad, Charles MacLean, is quite involved in the whisky industry and he showed my younger brother Lachlan an advert for the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. Prior to that Lachlan had done a couple

of casual endurance type challenges, mainly cycling and dad thought it might be something he would be interested in. I don't my dad thought Lachlan would get Ewan and myself involved and signing up for it. We have all had quite adventurous upbringings and whilst we

grew up in Edinburgh we also had a tiny wee cottage our grandfather had built on the North West of Scotland with no TV or wi-fi and made us look to the outdoors to be entertained. We grew up in that environment of hiking the hills, throwing ourselves off cliffs and swimming in the loch. The preparation is great. A lot of work goes into it besides the physical training. We were in the gym five days a week for 2-3-hour sessions. But there is also a campaign to raise enough money to supply the boat, equipment and associated training costs.

You essentially have to start a small business, you have an idea, which to many people seems ridiculous, and you have to create a brand and take that to sponsors and try and get them to see the value in it and to get involved. It is a pretty full on experience and the race organisers gave us the heads up that 9 out of 10 teams that register for the race, don't actually make it to the starting line. Purely because it is such an all-consuming process and it really becomes a full-time job just trying to raise the funds. The rowing itself may not have been the easiest part but it was the simplest.

Can you tell us more about your team name, Team Broar?

JM: In its simplest form, it is a combination of brothers and oar. In Scots also a brow thing is a good thing, so we worked off that. There are other meanings we found out along the way, apparently it means bridge in Swedish which is also quite fitting.



Images courtesy of Lost Clock Productions.



Jamie piping at sea.



The musical Maclean brothers.

You have set an incredible three world records and have become the first three brothers, the fastest and the youngest trio to row across the Atlantic Ocean. How does that make you feel to go into the history books?

JM: It is amazing, and we are equally surprised as everyone else. We knew if we made it across, we had the three brothers and youngest in the bag. The speed record hadn't even been considered until we were 3-4 weeks into the race. All our preparation and training then was really beginning to pay off. We had a great support team as well at home which helped us greatly and the speed record is very much their record as well as ours.

How special, or maybe a times frustrating, has it been to experience this adventure with your brothers?

JM: There were no real fallouts and to be honest being brothers was probably our greatest asset compared to the other teams. Due to the fact that we had similar goals and objectives going into the race, a year out we sat down and tried to look at core reasons why we were looking to do it. We have similar perspectives in life and deal with things in similar ways. When we wanted to push ourselves or the weather turned bad, we all reacted the same way to the different environments. If I was to call it friction the main issue was always over food!

We always wanted to try and sail across the Atlantic from a young age, before we even knew we could row across it!

You were rowing two hours on, one hour off. Just how gruelling is that both physically and mentally for you?

JM: It was pretty full on. We did two hours on and one off from 6am to midnight. None of us really wanted to sleep during the day and with those hours you can't get a full sleep in. When you are not rowing there are also other jobs that need to be done on the boat or you need to rehydrate or refuel yourself. At midnight we would swap one on the oars and two people off and that was 2 hours on the oars and 4 hours off. So, every 24 hours you would get one 4-hour block of sleep. If someone had told me that is what we would be doing for 35 days, I would have told them I don't think I could physically or mentally cope. Your body though does adapt and gets used to this routine and can function actually well. It took us 10 days to get into that routine and it was sustainable for us to keep it up throughout.

There is no question you will have endured some great challenges on the race, from dehydration, sunburn to sea sickness. What has been the worst aspect of the trip and what has been the most rewarding?

JM: It was amazing, the beauty of the natural world. The moon when it is full is like a flood light and lights up the ocean around you. Likewise, when it is cloudy it can be completely pitch black. You can have luminescence in the water, where every oar stroke is like an underwater firework. We had a shark do a couple of loops of our boat and then took off, we also saw whales and dolphins who were throwing themselves off 20-foot waves. There were also flying fish everywhere and they almost became a nuisance as they would hit you in the middle of the night. They were so common that we devised a game where we split the boat into 3 sections and if a fish landed in your section you would get a point, the winner at the end would get the final chocolate bar.

I did fall ill from the packaged food which caused Ewan and Lachlan to work harder as I recovered. We had issues with our batteries which impacted our water system. It is weird though how you get used to things and everything you experience becomes normalised and you actually begin to enjoy it and reflect on it. You just have to get on with it.

You spent much of your youth in the North-West coast of Scotland. Can you tell us more and did growing up by the coast and having access to the incredible outdoors have an impact on you taking on this adventure?

JM: The time we spent up north was instrumental in us doing this. From a young age being introduced to the natural beauty of Scotland and our parents nurturing a love of it for us. Whether it was running up hills or fishing and swimming in the lochs or going to the coast in our fishing boat. We would often find ourselves looking into the Atlantic and often had a dream to set off into the vast expanse of the deep blue. We always wanted to try and sail across the Atlantic from a young age, before we even knew we could row across it! The time we spent up north built the foundation for our love of adventure.

You grew up with not just a love of adventure but also of music. You were travelling with a set of bagpipes, a ukulele, and a harmonica. Can you tell us more?

JM: Music has been key to us bonding us a team over the years and 100% helped us on this trip. We have always played music together since a young age and spending that time musically together cemented our bond together as brothers. We wanted to bring our instruments with us for the crossing but did need to downscale them. Ewan downscaled from a guitar to a ukulele, Lachlan from an accordion to a mouth harmonica and I went from the pipes to a whistle but then decided we wanted to arrive in Antigua in style and took a full set of pipes. Thankfully McCallum Bagpipes offered us a set a plastic pipes which was perfect for the race. Looking back on it now it was a great way to boost moral taking our instruments with us.

Team Broar hope to raise £250,000 for the Scottish charities Feedback Madagascar and Children First. Can you tell us why you chose these charities and how people can get behind your incredible journey?



Images courtesy of Lost Clock Productions.



JM: We had a very humbling experience in meeting a variety of Scottish charities. Lachlan had been to Madagascar before and had stayed in a youth hostel the charity had built. When he came home, he met with the director Jamie Spencer in Edinburgh to talk over his experiences and it was really important to have a charity we believed in and also one that was going to be proactive in the campaign with us. Jamie was heavily involved and still is to this day.

There are so many great causes out there it is difficult to decide on one. With Children First we all agreed we had very happy and loving families growing up and a great education in Edinburgh. I suppose a very fortunate upbringing and wanted to raise money for children in Scotland who don't have those stable foundations, in what is arguably some of the most important years of their lives.

We are still very much looking to raise funds. We have made a decent dent in our £250,000 target via our Virgin Money Giving page, where people still can donate. We have a few events coming up in Scotland to help us reach that target. We did recently go up the west coast of Scotland and contacted 16 distilleries from Isle of Arran to the Isle of Skye and all have kindly agreed to donate 24 bottles on average and we have called this campaign Whisky for Water. That whisky is now being blended by our dad and maturing in a cask and will be rebottled as two variations soon as a

blended malt and called Maclean's Pillage and a blended Scotch Maclean's Spillage. Both will be auctioned through Royal Mile Whiskies, an Edinburgh whisky merchant. All the proceeds will go towards Feedback Madagascar, so any whisky fans should keep their eyes out. All the money will help raise funds for lifesaving freshwater boreholes in Madagascar.

Help Team Broar reach their goal by donating something today at: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/Broar>

For more details or to follow Ewan, Jamie, and Lachlan see: www.broar.co.uk



IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Ancient secret of stone circles revealed

New evidence of a massive lightning strike at the centre of a hidden stone circle in the Outer Hebrides may help shed light on why these monuments were created thousands of years ago. The Calanais Virtual Reconstruction Project, a joint venture led by the University of St Andrews with the Urras nan Tursachan and the University of Bradford, with funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, has uncovered a potential link between ancient stone circles and the forces of nature.

While studying prehistoric Tursachan Calanais, the main stone circle at Calanais on the Isle of Lewis, the project team surveyed nearby satellite sites to reveal evidence for lost circles buried beneath the peat.

One rarely-visited site surveyed, known as Site XI or Airigh na Beinne Bige, now consists of a single standing stone on an exposed hillside overlooking the great circle.

Geophysics revealed that not only was the stone originally part of a circle of standing stones, but also that there was a massive, star-shaped magnetic anomaly in the centre – either the result of a single, large lightning strike or many smaller strikes on the same spot.

Project leader Dr Richard Bates, of the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of St Andrews, said: “Such clear evidence for lightning strikes is extremely rare in the UK and the association with this stone circle is unlikely to be coincidental. Whether the lightning at Site XI focused on a tree or rock which is no longer there, or the monument itself attracted strikes, is uncertain. However, this remarkable evidence suggests that the forces of nature could have been intimately linked with everyday life and beliefs of the early farming communities on the island.”

The researchers were also able to virtually recreate another nearby circle, with the help of the Smart History team based in the University of St Andrews School of Computer Science, which had been lost with its stones either buried or lying flat.

Known as Na Dromannan, careful scanning of the stones allowed a full 3D

model to be built allowing the passage of the sun and moon around this circle to be tracked for the first time in four millennia.

Dr Bates added: “For the first time in over 4000 years the stones can now be seen and ‘virtually’ walked around. Everyone will be able to visit this remote site and get a real sense of what it was like just after it had been constructed. We have only just scratched the surface of this landscape and already we can get a feel for what might be buried out there waiting for discovery.” Some of the research findings will be available to see at the Calanais Visitor Centre, on the isle of Lewis, this year.

Glasgow’s George Square to be car free



Work to pedestrianise George Square in Glasgow is to get under way after plans were approved by councillors. Two sides of the square will be completely closed to traffic, while the others will be open to public transport only. All parking will be removed around the square and public spaces will be provided with “more greening”, such as flowers and trees. Glasgow City Council said it was now drawing up a detailed “design strategy” to transform the civic square.

Construction works are likely to begin after the city hosts the UCI Cycling World Championships in summer 2023. Council leader Susan Aitken said: “We can now begin work on the redevelopment of George Square to deliver the changes that the people of Glasgow have told us they want. Throughout this process, we will continue to engage with everyone with a stake in the square to create a civic space we can all enjoy and be proud of.”

Plans for Moffat whisky distillery



Dumfries & Galloway Council has awarded planning consent a single malt whisky distillery to be built in Moffat, making it the town’s first legal Scotch distillery. Dark Sky Spirits is hoping to commence construction later this year with distillation beginning in 2021.

Once operational, the distillery, which will also feature a visitor centre, will initially be capable of producing 60,000 litres of alcohol a year – enough to fill around one barrel per day. The project will create a dozen jobs across production and visitor centre roles, with an estimated 9,000 visitors anticipated in its first year of opening. Nick Bullard, founder and managing director of Dark Sky Spirits, said the new craft whisky distillery will benefit the area with additional tourism. He said: “Even though it’s small, this distillery will make a big difference to our town and our region. It will attract visitors, bring new jobs and boost retail and hospitality trade. It will broaden and deepen Moffat’s attractiveness to whisky lovers around the world.”

Moray Spaceflight Centre welcomed



The arrival of space company Orbex has been welcomed by the Highland and Islands Enterprise (HIE). Orbex has set up a new Scottish base at the Enterprise Park

Forres, which opened in February. It will include a rocket design and integration facility, a space mission control centre and executive offices. Recruitment is well underway for the many skilled technical and well-paid jobs at the new centre. The company’s move to create a base in Scotland follows the announcement in July 2018 of funding for a satellite vertical launch facility in Sutherland. Orbex plans to launch satellites from the new facility.

Speaking at the opening of the new premises, Charlotte Wright, HIE chief executive, said: “Today is a significant day for Orbex, for Moray and for the Highlands and Islands. The space sector has the potential to make a positive impact on communities across the region. The opening of Orbex’s premises is one of the first tangible signs of that positive impact. The Moray economy is rich in aviation, technology and advanced engineering skills, stemming from the RAF presence and of course the energy sector. The Enterprise Park Forres is already home to a cluster of technology companies. We very much welcome Orbex to the Park and look forward to the company becoming part of that growing cluster.”

World’s oldest post office faces closure



The world’s first and oldest Post Office may close after more than three hundred years after the owners put it up for sale. It was opened in Sanquhar, in Dumfries and Galloway, in 1712 but is now at risk after the current owners announced they would be retiring in May. Nazra Alam, 67, and husband Dr Manzoor Alam, 77, have been running the business for more than four years. They are the 16th postmasters to run the branch. The couple say they don’t want the sale to mean the Post Office closes, because of its legacy and cultural value to the region. It’s been located in the centre of Sanquhar since Queen Anne was on the throne.

Mrs Alam said: “I hope someone will come along and buy it and keep it going because this is Scotland’s heritage and more particularly Sanquhar’s. The post office has been in operation since 1712 so it would be a shame to have to shut it down. It’s part of the community, we offer full postal services, banking and we’ve got stationery and a gift section. The last five years has been a remarkable journey and I’ve enjoyed it, it’s a nice area and nice people and we have visitors from all over the world.”

The asking price of £275,000 includes the post office, a three-bedroom cottage, a courtyard and some outbuildings that were originally the home of the Mail Coaches Horses.

National Library to launch major exhibition on Scottish Enlightenment



Ideas that shook the world - the National Library of Scotland's exhibition exploring the Scottish Enlightenment, Northern Lights.

A major exhibition exploring the Scottish Enlightenment, Northern Lights, has opened at the National Library of Scotland. The exhibition takes a fresh look at one of the most concentrated periods of intellectual enquiry the world has ever seen, a time when polymaths peer-reviewed, challenged and encouraged one another's work through the many social networks available to them. Household names connected with the Scottish Enlightenment such as David

Hume and Adam Smith feature in the exhibition, as well as other figures less commonly associated with it such as Robert Burns and James Watt. A rare first edition of *Encyclopaedia Britannica* is on display, as well as a first edition of Smith's *Wealth of Nations* and countless unique manuscripts.

National Librarian, Dr John Scally, said: "We have an unparalleled collection of items relating to the Scottish Enlightenment. Indeed, some of the chief figures such as David Hume and Adam

Ferguson worked at our predecessor institution, the Library of the Faculty of Advocates. This exhibition tells the story of those who helped shape the world we live in today. These individuals developed radical ideas on the sciences, economics, society and identity, amid a growing awareness of the world around them.

The exhibition celebrates 18th century Scotland as a place of enlightened discourse and debate.

The exhibition celebrates 18th century Scotland as a place of enlightened discourse and debate. It was a time of mutual respect and politeness, where people appreciated each other's opinions and values, and further developed their theories on the basis of such conversations. Some may find this a contrast to the present day, where people are less inclined to expose themselves to alternative ideas. We present the world as it was then, and we are in a prime position to do so given we were actively collecting items relating to the Enlightenment during the Enlightenment itself. We welcome those whose appetite is whetted by the exhibition to explore these ideas further in our reading

rooms, and we will also be examining the period with a contemporary lens in our programme of talks and events."

Treasure trove for Scotland's knowledge

Northern Lights is curated by Robert Betteridge, Curator of 18th Century Printed Collections, and Ralph McLean, Curator of Manuscripts for the Long 18th Century. It explores the Scottish Enlightenment through the display of rare books and manuscripts from 18th century Scotland, and is grouped into themes: pre-Enlightenment Scotland, moral philosophy and religion, social science and academic innovation, language and literature, art and architecture, science and medicine, and sociability and society.

The National Library is a major European research library and one of the world's leading centres for the study of Scotland and the Scots – an information treasure trove for Scotland's knowledge, history and culture.

The Library holds more than 29 million physical items dating back over 1000 years in addition to a growing library of e-books, e-journals and other digital material.

Northern Lights runs until 18 April 2020 at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EW. Entry is free. For more details see: www.nls.uk

Facial reconstruction is head of the table

A facial reconstruction of a historic Fife man is joining a modern day family for dinner thanks to the skills of a University of Dundee student. Rachel McGarvey, an MSc Forensic Art student at the University's Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, has painstakingly recreated the visage of Archie Flockhart, a well-known character on the streets of 19th century Dunfermline. With his skull having been preserved as part of the phrenology collection at Edinburgh University following his death in 1877, Archie's face has been recreated as part of this year's Masters Show, one of Scotland's most exciting displays of artistic talent.

With Rachel having painstakingly reproduced Archie's features from wax while sitting at her family's dining room table in Glasgow, she says that meal times have taken a surreal twist in recent weeks. "Archie has definitely become a part of the family," said Rachel. "I've been working away on him for weeks but it was when I added his features that he really came to life. Sometimes we would talk about him over dinner, but when I added the ears we joked that we couldn't do that anymore or he would hear us. I have to admit that even I didn't expect him to look so realistic, but now that he's complete it feels as though you can even chat to him."

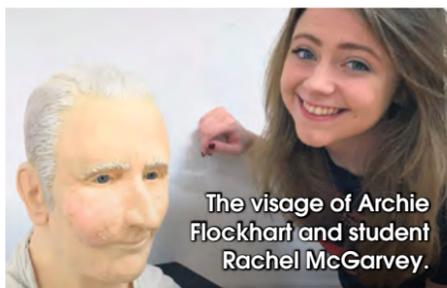
One of Dunfermline's best known characters

Born in 1801, Archie Flockhart was one of Dunfermline's best known characters and was regularly seen attending sermons at churches or strolling through the local streets with his

best friend, Bobby Gow. Living until the age of 75, an impressive achievement for the time, Archie endured a tough life and is described in the book *Reminiscences of Dunfermline* as a 'poor half-witted creature' who was routinely mocked and even physically assaulted by members of the public. He eventually ended up in Dunfermline Poorhouse having lived most of his life with his mother.

He was notable for a distinctive growth on the right side of his upper jaw, which is widely believed to be the reason that his skull was preserved for further research. Following his death, Archie's skull was studied by phrenologists who were keen to learn more about the abnormality, with some believing that he may have lived with developmental disabilities. As well as a wax reconstruction of his face, Rachel's exhibit at Masters Show 2019 includes an 'Archie's Anthropology' section, outlining some of the metric and morphological forensic anthropology methods carried out on the original skull.

"Archie was a big guy who seemed to have a personality to match," added Rachel. "It's been a real pleasure working on this reconstruction and I can't wait to see people's reactions to Archie when they see him at the show."



The visage of Archie Flockhart and student Rachel McGarvey.

Tying the Scot

Visitors from across the world flock to Scotland's shores, castles and mountaintops, to tie the knot with over 950 couples from abroad getting married in Scotland last year. On average 20 per cent of weddings held in Scotland every year are between non-residents. Over 130,000 couples living outside the UK have chosen Scotland for their wedding over the last 20 years and wedding venues across the country are reporting an increase in enquiries from far flung places. Venues stated that American and Australian couples prefer traditional Scottish themes and touches like thistles, tartan, whisky and ceilidhs. Some grooms with no Scottish roots still choose to don a kilt when getting married here.

Venues such as Dundas Castle near South Queensferry now offer themed weddings based on shows such as *Outlander*, embrace cultural requirements such as Chinese and Asian ceremonies and use a virtual 3D tour of the venue to tap into the international market. Scotland's history as a place for young couples to elope still resonates with visitors with Gretna Green in Dumfries and Galloway remaining a popular spot to tie the knot. Unlike the national picture, the vast majority of weddings conducted at Gretna Green are between two people who live outside of Scotland.



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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.

CHIEF: 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: clandavidsonaus@gmail.com or contact the Hon. Secretary Mr Dennis Hill, J.P., P.O. Box 519 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 dhill1@bigpond.net.au 0431 527 662

CLAN DONNACHAIDH SOCIETY

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

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

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

Clan Donald Australia



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



Clan Galbraith Society

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

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

www.clanGalbraith.org



Family of Bruce International, Inc.

Family of Bruce International, Inc., the only such organization recognized by the 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: clanDonaldQld@optusnet.com.au
Web: www.clanDonaldQld.org
ELIGIBILITY: Those with the name of MacDonald Macdonald McDonald McDonell, Donald, OR of one of the Septs of Clan Donald, OR with a connection through family lineage.
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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 Balgilder,
24th Chief of Clan Gregor
Great Lakes,
New England,
Pacific North West,
Western U.S.
and Southeast Chapters
www.clangregor.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
secretaryclanCameronNSW@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.

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

Direct inquires to: Jim Dougherty
Treasurer/Membership Chair
Email: elliottcommia@gmail.com

Website: www.elliottclan-usa.com



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: clangregoraustalia@gmail.com
Web: www.clangregor.com
"Royal is my Race"



All Campbells or descendants of Campbells and members of Clan Septs are welcome to join the Society.

For 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.
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CLAN DONALD VICTORIA

President: Mr Norman A. Macdonald
Contact: secretary.clanDonaldVIC@gmail.com
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CLAN MACDONALD YARRAVILLE

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



Clan Farquharson Association Australia

Clan Chief: Captain A.A.C. 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

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Contacting our registrar, **Jeanne P. Lehr**
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St. Louis, MO 63131-3038
Phone: 314-432-2842, registrar@acgsus.org
website: www.acgsus.org



Clan Cumming Society of the United States

www.clanCumming.us
info@clanCumming.us

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



Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid
People who bear any of the above names or other Sept names of Clan Donnachaidh "The Children of Duncan" are invited to join in our activities by participating in the Scottish Gatherings held in NSW.
For information and membership application, contact Gordon Robertson
58/157 Marconi Rd. Bonnell Bay NSW 2264



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Clan Hamilton Society

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

Inquiries to be sent to:
Sheri Lambert, Treasurer
P.O. Box 5399
Vernon Hills, IL 60061
visit our website:
www.clanhamilton.org



Clan Munro Association, U.S.A

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Write: Heather Munro Daniel
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Mebane, NC 27302



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: clanscottaustrialiagroup.moonfruit.com



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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www.clanwardlaw.com

Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

The Scottish Australian Heritage Council



Membership is welcomed from all Australians of Scottish descent.

For information please contact
The Hon Secretary SAHC, Susan Cooke
Ph: 0411097724
Email: alfredhcooke@gmail.com



www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au



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



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Secretary: Mike Shaw
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020



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Contact: Maurice Fowler 0408 223 277

Email: scottishgaelicvictoria@gmail.com

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Founded in 1905

<https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com>



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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: Wayne Sinclair 0417 146 174

Secretary : Liane Sinclair 0410 045 263

E: clansinclairaustralia@hotmail.com

www.clansinclairaustralia.com



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



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.stewartociety.org**



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

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER



The Society of St. Andrew of Scotland (Queensland) Limited

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www.standrewsociety.com

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info@clanross.org
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Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated

Contact: M Hodgkinson

212 MacKenzie Street

Toowoomba 4350 (07 4632 8559)

william.hodgkinson@bigpond.com.au

<http://goldenvale.wixsite.com/clansutherlandaus>

Facebook: Clan Sutherland Society in Australia



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

Scots of Victoria Coordinating Group

Supporting the Scottish Community in Victoria

Scottish Resource Centre
Level 1, 420 - 424 William St.
West Melbourne VIC 3003

E-mail: resource_centre@scotsofaus.org.au

Website: <https://scotsofaus.org.au>

Facebook: facebook.com/ScotsofVictoria



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.theclanross.com

clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com

Contact L. Q. Ross

105 S. Graham Ave, Orlando, FL 32803



Clan Young Australia

Ian J Young AM
Convenor

Membership inquiries:

Clan Young Australia

10 Cedric Street

Parkdale VIC 3195

membership@clanyoungaustralia.com.au

www.facebook.com/groups/youngsofaustralia/

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.



> Promotes interest in the works, life and milieu of the Scottish Poet Robert Burns
> Celebrates Scottish Culture

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

For Membership Information contact:

Secretary: Noel Wright (03) 8333 0973

Email: noelwright@netspace.net.au

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T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930

E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com

www.victorianscottishunion.com

Highlands, Lowlands, Our Lands

By: David C Weinczok



Highlands and Lowlands - this fundamental division defines Scotland for people the world over, not least Scots themselves. But does this do it justice?



The Isle of Arran.

The most tangible divide between Highlands and Lowlands is, perhaps obviously, in the land itself. For a vivid demonstration of this, visit the Isle of Arran. The Highland Boundary Fault splits this island, aptly known as 'Scotland in Miniature', clean in two. From Brodick in the centre, gaze to the north and you will see a mountain range as sharp and foreboding as the Black Cuillins of Skye, while to the south stretches an idyllic vision of rolling hills. Even better, make your way up to the esplanade of Stirling Castle. Stirling too has a popular moniker, 'the brooch that clasps the Highlands and Lowlands together', and this fact of geography has made it a prize worth any cost to claim throughout Scottish history. From here, the north once more climbs higher and higher into a wall of mountains as stark and sudden as any wall built by the hands of man. Simple, then: to the North lie the Highlands, and to the south the Lowlands.

'Highland' and 'Lowland'

If only the truth were so simple. A funny thing happens when you view a map of Scotland with topographical features enabled, for instance on Google Maps. Go ahead, take a look now. Follow the mainland north until you reach its northern extremity in Sutherland and Caithness. Yes, there are some hills, as well as dramatic coastal cliffs, but much of the region is flat as a board and lush with farms and open fields. Now, track south as far as you can until you reach England and the Irish Sea. In Galloway and the Borders, high moors, narrow glens and steep slopes just as rough and remote as most any in the north have defined life here since it first took root. What is going on?

The terms 'Highland' and 'Lowland' are only partially about location; even more so, at their essence they refer to the possibilities that the land confers. Highland regions have thin, usually acidic soils, ill-suited to the kind of intensive agriculture that can sustain large population centres. Pastoralism, sea-borne trade (far safer and faster than overland), and tightly knit kin-based communities were, historically, the name of the game. In contrast, Lowland

soils have high yields allowing for the development of cities with a mercantile and manufacturing-based economy that tends more towards individualism than collectivism. Now, this is not to say that a resident of Melrose is in fact a Highlander, nor that a resident of Mallaig is in fact a Lowlander - some strong words would rise in protest at such a claim! But looking at the map of Scotland in this more nuanced, patchwork way better reflects the realities of life for most Scots throughout history than the Highland-Lowland binary implies.

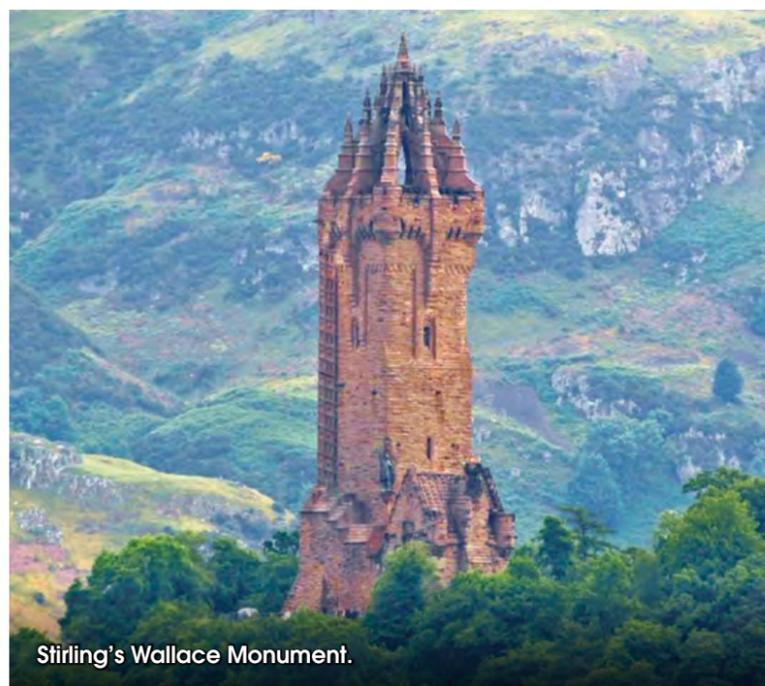
Geography is one thing; identity as an altogether murkier matter. The first explicit discussion of the Highland-Lowland divide was decidedly cultural. It occurs in John of Fordun's *Cronica Gentis Scotorum*, or *History of the Scottish Nation*, composed in the 1370s to 80s. According to Fordun, while the "people of the coast [by which he means Lowlands] are of domestic and civilised habits...affable, peaceful, devout in Divine worship," the people of the Highlands and Isles were "a savage and untamed nation, rude and independent, given to rapine, ease-loving ... unsightly in dress, hostile to the English people and language, and, owing to a diversity of speech ... exceedingly cruel." Two centuries later, George Buchanan, tutor to Mary,

Queen of Scots, painted a ghoulish vision of Highlanders "eat(ing) the flesh raw, merely squeezing out the blood". Not off to a good start, then.

Gaelic

And yet, these perceptions were not always so. Elders alive while Fordun was writing could recall how Highlanders fought in their thousands for Wallace and Bruce, with the latter speaking to them as brothers in Gaelic, the language of his mother. What happened in the intervening decades to sour relations so bitterly? Perhaps the greatest political factor was the rise of the Lordship of the Isles, a kingdom within a kingdom whose authority stretched from the Mull of Kintyre in the south to the Butt of Lewis in the north. A thoroughly Gaelic institution, it collided with the mainland Kingdom of Scotland and for over 200 years Islesmen raided the mainland while Scottish kings launched punitive expeditions in the west. A former ally slowly became a menace, and resentment boiled on both sides.

Fordun's observation about language is perhaps the most crucial. So much of the divide between Highlands and Lowlands comes down to it. We see as much in *The Flyting of Dunbar and Kennedie*, an early-16th century 'war of words' between two noblemen conducted in Middle Scots that makes even the most ruthless modern rap battle seem perfectly pleasant by comparison (seriously - the vast majority is utterly unpublishable here, but makes for brilliantly raucous reading). Dunbar, from Scotland's south-eastern extremity, delivers the following coup de grâce: *Renounce, rebel, your rhymes and sorry shrieks, Mismade monster, mad out of your mind; Your traitor's tongue sings with a Highland scream; A Lowland ass could make a sweeter sound.*



Stirling's Wallace Monument.

Not one to go down lightly, Kennedy, of Gaelic stock, retorts with a tried and true insult levied by Highlanders against Lowlanders - of being effectively English! *England, owl, should be your habitation, There to make homage to Longshanks, your kin; Through Dunbars we received him and his false nation; They should be exiled from Scotland, mares and men.*

Linguistic dividing point

Even this linguistic split is not quite what it seems, however. After all, Gaelic was once spoken south of the River Tweed, well beyond Dunbar's home. Gaelic itself had replaced the Brythonic languages spoken by the peoples of Iron Age Britain, and was gradually chased from the Lowlands through political and cultural Anglicisation.

Nowadays, it is said that Nairn, near Inverness, marks the linguistic dividing point, with folk east of it speaking in the distinctive Scots variant of the northeast and folk to the west taking on a more quintessentially Highland tone, though you would have to travel much further west these days to hear Gaelic spoken with any regularity. We have previously mentioned Galloway in Scotland's southwest, a region now firmly considered Lowland despite Gaelic being spoken there well into the 18th century. What a tangled web we weave!

Interrogating the binaries which for so long have defined Scotland, inwardly and outwardly, is not meant to confound (though it may feel that way after reading this very brief account). Instead, I encourage you to think of Scotland not as a duality but as a patchwork. There is no single 'Scotland', nor two, nor three, but many, and we are all the greater for it.

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Sunday 31st May - Thanksgiving Service, Blessing of the Banners, Breakfast and Farewell

For more information contact
John
02 6556 9057
bonnewingham18@gmail.com

SCOTTISH BANNER EVENTS

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

AUSTRALIA

MARCH

01 - Adelaide, SA - Scottish Radio 35th Anniversary Lunch

Celebrate 35 great years with Scottish music and friendship at the Fogolar Furlan Function Centre. Info: Martin: martinc@bigpond.net.au or 0415 471 709.

02 - Adelaide, SA - Adelaide Piper's Gathering

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

03 - Milton, QLD - Brisbane Smallpipe Session

Piping event. Info: Malcolm McLaren on (07) 3820-2902 or mrmclaren@bigpond.com

05 - 06 Adelaide, SA - Caledonian Castaways at Wheatsheaf Hotel (Fringe show)

Melbourne's Scottish supergroup bring their all original Blues/Soul/Rocksteady songs and patter to Adelaide for the 1st time. Don't miss out. From selling out at Perth Fringe to headlining festivals it's been a big 2019 for the Caleys at 39 George St., Thebarton. Info: Stuart Ferguson 0448 799 035 or <https://adelaidefringe.com.au/fringetix/caledonian-castaways-af2020>

07 - Quirindi, NSW - Liverpool Plains Military Tattoo

Get your kilts out and your bagpipes at the ready at the Liverpool Plains Military Tattoo. Pipe bands, dancers, musicians and more. Info: www.liverpoolplainsmilitarytattoo.com.au

07 - 08 - Castle Hill, NSW - A Celtic Affair

Two shows featuring the Governor Macquarie Pipe Band with singer & violinist Eileen McCann at Pioneer Theatre, 12-14 Pennant St. Info/tickets: 0426 134 058 or www.trybooking.com/BFXWD

10 - Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day

Every March 10th you are invited to go out and play your pipes - anywhere, anyhow to anyone. Or you can simply listen to the pipes and enjoy the sound of Scotland!

14 - 15 - Melbourne, VIC - Ozlander Fan Gathering 2020

The inaugural Outlander specific fan convention in the Southern hemisphere. Spend two days at The Melbourne Museum, surrounded by the glorious Carlton Gardens and the wonders of the world, whilst immersing yourself in all things Outlander with some of the cast will be joining. Info: www.facebook.com/ozlanderfangathering

15 - Geelong, VIC - The Geelong Highland Gathering

The 2020 gathering will mark 163 years since the first Geelong Highland Gathering was held on New Year's day 1858 and will be the 60th anniversary of the modern era, which began in 1958. Featuring pipe bands, Scottish dancers, Scottish stalls and more. A great Geelong day out! Info: www.geelonghighlandgathering.org.au

15 - Sydney, NSW - Sydney Highland Gathering

The Scots College in Sydney's Bellevue Hill plays host to the annual Sydney Highland Gathering. The event celebrates its Scottish Heritage with Pipe Band Competitions, Highland dancing, Scottish food, Highland Strongmen displays and Gift and home wares stalls. Info: sydneyhighlandgathering@gmail.com

17 - Melbourne, VIC - Melbourne Celtic Festival

Gather your clan and join us to celebrate all things Celtic on St Patrick's Day at The Mission to Seafarers Victoria, 717 Flinders St. Info: www.melbournecelticfestival.com.au

21 - Sydney, NSW - Scots on The Rocks - Chaotic Ceilidh

Featuring music by ARIA Award winning Chris Duncan & Catherine Strutt, it will be a night of energetic and popular dances. Includes supper (BYO alcohol) at The Rocks. Info: 0435 154 433 or <http://sotr.org.au/chaos>

21 - Brunswick East, VIC - Brunswick Scottish Society Social

Dancing and friendship at Fleming Park Hall, 96 Victoria St. Info: www.facebook.com/BrunswickScottishSociety

22 - Kooweerup, VIC - Kooweerup Scots on the Swamp

Rats of Tobruk Pipe Band. Scottish & Irish dancing. Country dancing, fiddler, Highland cattle, Old crafts, Clans, vintage cars, kilt run. Best dressed man, lady, boy & girl at Harewood House. 3310 Sth. Gippsland Highway. Info: Joyce Mills 03 5997 1571 or potsjan@bigpond.net.au

25 - Teralba, NSW - Hunter Valley Scots Club Social Night

With Maitland Pipe Band and other items at Teralba Community Hall, cnr Margaret St & Anzac Pde. Info: hunterscots@gmail.com or www.hvsc.org.au

27 - Prospect, SA - Ernest Dowler Memorial Contest

Presented by the R. U. Brown Piobaireachd Society of South Australia at Prospect RSL, Wilcox Ave. Info: www.rubrown.org.au

27 - Nationwide - International Whisky Day

The annual celebration of whisky- raise a dram - wherever in the world to honour the many unsung heroes of the past and present, who have been crafting the King o'Drinks for centuries. Info: www.internationalwhiskyday.org

27-29 - Callala Beach, NSW - Scottish Gaelic Retreat

Formal Gaelic language classes will be interspersed with gentle walks on the beach, cooking traditional Scottish dishes and enjoying the outdoors - all in Gaelic. No prior knowledge of Gaelic required. Info: <https://celticlearningcomau.wordpress.com/events/>

28 - Inglewood, WA - Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh

Come dance and sing to Heel N Toe Ceilidh Band. Listen to our piper. Finger food supper supplied. Children welcome. BYO drinks at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beaufort St. Info: John 0427 990 754 or www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

29 - Henley Brook, WA - Swan Valley Highland Games

A great day for the whole family with heaps of stuff for kids and adults alike! Celebrate Scotland with heavy events, haggis, pipes and ale. Events include Heavy Athletics all day (caber toss, weight for distance, stone put, weight for height etc.), pipe band competition run by Pipe Bands WA and more at 8731 West Swan Road. Info: www.elmars.com.au

29 - Wantirna, VIC - Ringwood Highland Games

Metropolitan Melbourne's only Highland Games at JW Manson Reserve, Selkirk Ave. Includes a full day of Scottish fun with pipe bands, Scottish dancers, Clans, stalls and more. A great family day out! Info: 0418 370 051 or www.ringwoodhighlandgames.org.au

29 - Toowong, QLD - BBC Highland Gathering

The Brisbane Boys College Highland Gathering is a brilliant day with Pipe Bands, Drum Majors, Medieval Re-enactment, Highland Dancing, stalls and more at Brisbane Boys' College. Kensington Terrace. Info: 07 3309 3500 or mail@bbc.qld.edu.au

APRIL

01 - Sydney, NSW - Celtic Poetry Slam

Do you enjoy Celtic poetry - Irish, Scottish Gaelic and others? Come and listen to presenters recite and discuss much-loved Celtic poems, ancient and modern. Participants are also encouraged to recite to their own favourite pieces during the evening at Gaelic Cultural Centre, 1/64 Devonshire St. Info: <https://celticlearningcomau.wordpress.com/events>

04 - Bundanoon - Australia - Brigadoon - The Bundanoon Highland Gathering

Australia's largest Scottish celebration with pipe bands, heavy events, Scottish dancing & entertainment, Clans village, stalls and much more. A great day for the entire family in the beautiful NSW Southern Highlands. Info: 02 4883 7471 or www.brigadoon.org.au

04 - 05 - Maryborough, VIC - 2020 Australian Pipe Band Championships

Pipe Bands Australia diamond jubilee year Australian Pipe Band Championships are expected to attract bands from across the country and overseas with a full program of events which include Highland dancing and Scottish stalls. Info: 03 5461 1480 or www.highlandsociety.com.au

05 - Melbourne, VIC - The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Poetry Afternoon

Join in the discussion and presentation on the life and works of Robert Burns at a Poetry Afternoon at the Canterbury St. Stables Community Centre, 49-53 Canterbury St., Flemington commencing at 1:00pm. Afternoon tea provided. Info: Ina Graham 03 8361 0308 or Noel Wright 03 8333 0973.

06 - Adelaide, SA - Adelaide Piper's Gathering

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

07 - Milton, QLD - Brisbane Smallpipe Session

Piping event. Info: Malcolm McLaren on (07) 3820-2902 or mrmclaren@bigpond.com

07 - Melbourne, VIC - The Seventh Annual Dinner for Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in Australia

The evening will be chaired by Dr James Donaldson FSA Scot, a short talk on "The Legacies of Gilbert Innes of Stov" will be given by David Rampling FSA Scot, and a Toast to the Society will be proposed by Dr Joe Johnson FSA Scot, at the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria in Bourke St, commencing at 6.30 pm. Info: Dr James Donaldson: illa123@bigpond.com

10 - 11 - Carrara, QLD - Champion of Champions

Champion of Champions is Australia's most prestigious Highland Dancing event. Held every two years, this event attracts highland dancers from across Australia and indeed the world to contest the championships and supporting events over two days of thrilling competition. Info: www.facebook.com/championofchampions2020 or www.sqrchdi.com

10 - 11 - Maclean, NSW - 116th Maclean Highland Gathering

Easter weekend with bagpipes in Australia's "Scottish town", with Scottish dancers, stalls and more. Info: www.macleanhIGHLANDGATHERING.COM.AU

18 - Revesby, NSW - History of the Celts in 20 Objects study day

This study day seeks to touch on some of the more intriguing aspects of Celtic culture though the objects that are associated with it. In examining our twenty objects, we will also glance quickly at some additional objects that did not make the cut. We will talk about what makes an object Celtic, what is special about each object, and how it represents a particular aspect of Celtic culture at Revesby Workers Club. Info: <https://celticlearningcomau.wordpress.com/events>

20 - May 20 - Sydney, NSW - Scots on The Rocks Ceilidh Course

This course is for people who are going to a ceilidh or to an occasion where there might be a ceilidh (wedding, birthday or whatever). Four Weeks (20 April, 27 April, 4 May and 11 May). In the course you will learn steps and basic dance formations as well as popular ceilidh dances you may come across. No previous dancing experience is necessary - \$50pp at Fort Street Public School, Observatory Hill, The Rocks. Info: <http://sotr.org.au/ceilidhcourse>, info@sotr.org.au or 0435 154 433.

21 - May 16 - Nationwide - Spirit of the Dance

The international Celtic dance sensation is returning to Australia, a celebration of Celtic dance, music and spirit. Info: www.mellenevents.com

25 - Inglewood, WA - Caledonian Society of WA Ceilidh

Come dance and sing to Heel N Toe Ceilidh Band. Listen to our piper. Finger food supper supplied. Children welcome. BYO drinks at Bob Daniels Community Centre, 895 Beaufort St. Info: John 0427 990 754 or www.caledoniansocietyofwainc.com

26 - Burnside, VIC - Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Pleasant Sunday Afternoon

The Annual Pleasant Sunday Afternoon held by the Robert Burns Club of Melbourne will be held at The Burnside Retirement Village - Community Centre, 16 Nicol Avenue, Burnside. The afternoon commences at 2:00pm. Entertainment includes Scottish Folk songs, Pipers, music by Matthew Robertson & David South as well as the Glenbrae Celtic Dancers. Bookings essential for catering purposes. Cost \$20.00 includes afternoon Tea. Info: Ina Graham 03 8361 0308 or william.graham3@bigpond.com

29 - 31 - Nationwide - Scottish Towns and Grand Houses Tour featuring Capercaille

Scots folk band Capercaille will perform in a special stripped back quartet format for the inaugural Scottish Towns and Grand Houses Tour, a new national tour to celebrate the Year of Scotland in Australia, 2020. Presented in Australia's splendid National Trust properties and town halls where the Scottish diaspora have made their homes, the 20 date Scottish Towns and Grand Houses Tour is a magnificent opportunity to celebrate the very best in Scottish Gaelic music in historic settings. Info: www.yearofscotlandaustralia2020.com

30 - May 03 - Glen Innes, NSW - Australian Celtic Festival

A full weekend of Celtic entertainment and events held at the Australian Standing Stones. 2020 celebrating Ireland and the Isle of Man. Info: www.australiancelticfestival.com

NEW ZEALAND

MARCH

06 - Auckland - Scottish Celtic Music Group

Monthly on the first Friday at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd. All instruments welcome to read through favourite Scottish tunes and dance sets. Info: John Hawthorn: john.hawthorn@xtra.co.nz

07 - 08 - Christchurch - DramFest

New Zealand's largest whisky tasting and education festival and an iconic event in the drinks industry calendar at Christchurch Town Hall. Info: or 03 377 6824 or www.dramfest.co.nz

10 - Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day

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13 - Invercargill - Pipe On In NZ Pipe Band Championships 2020 Invercargill

A day of celebration as some of the world's best bands gather for two days at the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships 2020. Pipe, drum, eat and drink in true southern style along side bands from NZ, Australia and the USA compete for the NZ title at Queens Park. Info: www.facebook.com/events/329868521068407

15 Invercargill - Terry Tully and Paul Turner - Post-Nationals Session

Meet World Champion Pipe Major Terry Tully and World Solo Drumming Champion and RSPBA Adjudicator Paul Turner. A relaxed seminar for all pipers, drummers, drum majors and judges at the Ascot Park Hotel. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/861254404305128/>

13 - Auckland - Scottish Fiddle Club Night

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

27 - Nationwide - International Whisky Day

The annual celebration of whisky- raise a dram - wherever in the world to honour the many unsung heroes of the past and present, who have been crafting the King o'Drinks for centuries. Info: www.internationalwhiskyday.org

APRIL

03 - Auckland - Scottish Celtic Music Group

Monthly on the first Friday at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd. All instruments welcome to read through favourite Scottish tunes and dance sets. Info: John Hawthorn: john.hawthorn@xtra.co.nz

04 - Palmerston North - New Zealand Military Tattoo

New Zealand's biggest military spectacular is coming to Palmerston North City. Experience an inspiring musical extravaganza bringing together more than 600 performers from around New Zealand who will showcase military and cultural heritage. Info: 0800 46 2020 or www.nzattoo.nz

10 - Auckland - Scottish Fiddle Club Night

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

19 - Dunedin - Mairi Campbell with Ada Francis Live

Multi-award winning Mairi Campbell is a pioneering Scottish musician: an improviser, ballad singer, violinist and theatre maker. She extends the boundaries of traditional music, powerfully injecting deep craft, groundedness and spirit to the stage at 50Dundas, 50 Dundas St. Info: 0800 BUYTIX (289 849).

SCOTLAND

MARCH

04 - 08 - St Andrews, Fife, - StAnza

Scotland's Poetry Festival, is held every March in St Andrews, Scotland's oldest university town. With readings, exhibitions, performances, music, film and more. Info: www.stanzapoetry.org

05 - Duns - Seabirds on the Isle of May Talk

David Steel, Reserve Manager on the Isle of May, gives an illustrated talk at Duns Parish Church, Castle St. Info: andrew@dunsparishchurch.org.uk

10 - Nationwide - International Bagpipe Day

Every March 10th you are invited to go out and play your pipes - anywhere, anyhow to anyone. Or you can simply listen to the pipes and enjoy the sound of Scotland!

12- 29 - Glasgow - Glasgow International Comedy Festival

Europe's biggest comedy festival! Info: www.glasgowcomedyfestival.com

27 - Nationwide - International Whisky Day

The annual celebration of whisky- raise a dram - wherever in the world to honour the many unsung heroes of the past and present, who have been crafting the King o'Drinks for centuries. Info: www.internationalwhiskyday.org

27 - 29 - Hawick - Hawick Reivers Festival

Step back in time to the mid sixteenth century when the Borderlands were an area of constant feuding - when loyalties were to kinship rather than king and country and when "Reiving" was a means of survival. A programme of music, drama and re-enactments allow you to experience what life was like in the mid-sixteenth century. Info: www.hawickreivers.com

Scotword answers from page 6

Across:

- 6 Dunblane
- 8 Alford
- 10 Plat
- 11 Skirl
- 12 Rigs
- 13 Sneak
- 14 Minister
- 16 Synod
- 17 Reeks
- 22 Draughts
- 24 Essay
- 26 Mesh
- 27 Alloa
- 28 Rare
- 29 Corrie
- 30 Stirling

Down:

- 1 Curling
- 2 Obituary
- 3 Manse
- 4 Callander
- 5 Brogues
- 7 Enigma
- 9 Fords
- 15 Loch Maree
- 18 Kestrels
- 19 Freedom
- 20 Psalms
- 21 Katrine
- 23 Usher
- 25 Mavis



The Scottish Banner is the #1 source for Scottish events in Australasia! 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

IN THE CELTIC KITCHEN



Irish Champ

Ingredients:

1.35kg/3lb potatoes, well-scrubbed and left whole in their jackets
290ml/½ pint milk
85g/3oz. butter
salt and white pepper
1 large bunch spring onions, finely chopped

Method:

Boil the potatoes in salted water until soft. Drain and remove from the pan. Leave until just cool enough to peel. Mash thoroughly. Boil the milk and add to the potato, together with the spring onions. Season and stir well. Pile into a serving dish. Make a well in the centre and add the butter. Serve immediately.

Leek Soup

Ingredients:

For the vegetable stock

1 carrot, grated
1 onion, grated
2 sticks celery, grated
2 garlic cloves, roughly chopped
salt and pepper
stalks from a small bunch of parsley

For the leek soup:

olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
200g/7oz. floury potato, peeled and chopped into cubes
350g/12oz. celeriac, peeled and chopped
1 sprig thyme, leaves only
4 leeks, finely sliced
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 small bunch chives, finely chopped

Method:

To make the stock, put the grated carrot, onion, celery and garlic into a large heatproof bowl. Add a pinch of salt and pepper and pour over 1 litre/1¾ pints of boiling water. Set aside to steep for 10-15 minutes while you prepare the soup.

Heat a large heavy-based saucepan or casserole dish over a medium heat. Add a dash of oil and, once hot, add the onion, potatoes, celeriac and thyme leaves. Cook over a medium heat for 10 minutes, or until the vegetables have softened.

Strain the stock through a sieve into the pan of celeriac. Simmer gently for 10-15 minutes until the celeriac is nearly tender.

Add the leeks, cover the pan and cook for a further 5-7 minutes, or until the leeks are wilted and tender but still bright green.

Remove from the heat and blend in batches until really smooth. (Blend for a minute or longer for a really velvety texture.) The soup can be stored in the fridge or frozen at this stage.

Transfer the blended soup to a clean pan. Reheat the soup if necessary, taste and season with salt and pepper to taste. To serve, spoon into bowls and garnish with chopped chives.

Lamb burgers

Ingredients:

120g/4½oz. hard sheep's cheese coarsely grated
800g/1lb 12oz. coarse lamb mince, fattier the better
1 red onion, finely chopped
4 anchovy fillets, finely chopped
8 small gherkins, finely chopped
4 tsp capers, drained
salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 tbsp. olive oil
4 burger buns

Method:

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

Divide the cheese into four piles, and roll each one into a tight ball. Set aside.

Place the lamb mince in a large mixing bowl. Add the onion, anchovies, gherkins and capers and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Mix the contents of the bowl together, ideally by hand. Divide the mince mixture into four.

One by one flatten each pile of mince into the palm of your hand, leaving a little well in the centre. Place the cheese ball in the well and mould the mince around the cheese to form a tight, plump burger shape that is almost spherical.

Heat the olive oil in a frying pan over a moderate heat and brown the burgers.

If the panhandle is ovenproof, transfer the pan to the oven to bake. If not, carefully transfer the burgers to an oven tray and bake for 30 minutes.

Slice the buns and when the burgers are cooked, soak the cut side of the bread in the pan juices. Fill the buns and serve.

Irish rarebit

Ingredients:

150ml/5fl oz. whole milk
1½ tbsp. plain flour
400g/14oz. Irish cheddar cheese, grated
160g/6oz. breadcrumbs
1 tsp English mustard powder
120ml/4fl oz. stout
2 free-range eggs, yolks only
4 spring onions, finely chopped
6 slices toasted soda bread

We celebrate our Celtic cousins of Wales, Cornwall and Ireland who will be celebrating St David's St Piran's and St Patrick's Day this month. People in Wales and those of Welsh origin celebrate the life of their patron saint, St David, and the Welsh culture on March 1st. Saint Piran's Day is celebrated each year on 5th March, as the national day of Cornwall. The Irish Saint Patrick will be celebrated across the world on March 17th by the Irish community.

Irish Kitchen Prayer: Bless us with good food, the gift of gab and hearty laughter. May the love and joy we share be with us ever after. Amen.

Method:

Warm the milk in a saucepan and whisk in the flour. Keep stirring and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer. The milk should thicken slightly.

Add the cheese and stir over a low heat until it has melted. Add the breadcrumbs, mustard and stout. Continue stirring until the mixture comes together, it should leave the sides of the pan.

Remove from the heat and tip into a bowl, leave to cool slightly. Once cooled add the egg yolks and beat vigorously with a wooden spoon until the egg is thoroughly mixed in. Add the chopped spring onions.

Spread the rarebit on toasted soda bread and place under a hot grill until bubbling and golden-brown.

Classic Cornish pasty



Ingredients:

For the pastry:

500g/1lb 1oz. strong bread flour
120g/4oz. vegetable shortening or suet
1 tsp. salt
25g/1oz. margarine or butter
175ml/6fl oz. cold water
1 free-range egg, beaten with a little salt (for glazing)

For the filling:

350g/12oz. good-quality beef skirt, rump steak or braising steak
350g/12oz. waxy potatoes
200g/7oz. swede
175g/6oz. onions
salt and freshly ground black pepper
knob of butter or margarine

Method:

Tip the flour into the bowl and add the shortening, a pinch of salt, the margarine or butter and all of the water.

Use a spoon to gently combine the ingredients. Then use your hands to crush everything together, bringing the ingredients together as a fairly dry dough.

Turn out the dough onto a clean work surface (there's no need to put flour or oil onto the surface because it's a tight rather than sticky dough).

Knead the dough to combine the ingredients properly. Use the heel of your hand to stretch the dough. Roll it back up into a ball, then turn it, stretch and roll it up again. Repeat this process for about 5-6 minutes. The dough will start to become smooth as the shortening breaks down. If the dough feels grainy, keep working it until it's smooth and glossy. Don't be afraid to be rough – you'll need to use lots of pressure and work the dough vigorously to get the best results.

When the dough is smooth, wrap it in cling film and put it in the fridge to rest for 30-60 minutes.

While the dough is resting, peel and cut the potato, swede and onion into cubes about 1cm/½in square. Cut the beef into similar sized chunks. Put all four ingredients into a bowl and mix. Season well with salt and some freshly ground black pepper, then put the filling to one side until the dough is ready.

Lightly grease a baking tray with margarine (or butter) and line with baking or silicone paper (not greaseproof).

Preheat the oven to 170C (150C fan assisted)/325F/Gas 3.

Once the dough has had time to relax, take it out of the fridge. The margarine or butter will have chilled, giving you a tight dough. Divide the dough into four equal-sized pieces. Shape each piece into a ball and use a rolling pin to roll each ball into a disc roughly 25cm/10in wide (roughly the same size as a dinner plate).

Spoon a quarter of the filling onto each disc. Spread the filling on one half of the disc, leaving the other half clear. Put a knob of butter or margarine on top of the filling.

Carefully fold the pastry over, join the edges and push with your fingers to seal. Crimp the edge to make sure the filling is held inside – either by using a fork, or by making small twists along the sealed edge. Traditionally Cornish pasties have around 20 crimps. When you've crimped along the edge, fold the end corners underneath.

Put the pasties onto the baking tray and brush the top of each pasty with the egg and salt mixture. Bake on the middle shelf of the oven for about 45 minutes or until the pasties are golden-brown. If your pasties aren't browning, increase the oven temperature by 10C/25F for the last 10 minutes of cooking time.

Traditional Welsh cakes

Ingredients:

225g/8oz. self-raising flour
110g/4oz. salted butter, diced
85g/3oz. caster sugar, plus extra for dusting
handful of sultanas
1 free-range egg, beaten
milk, if needed
extra butter, for greasing

Method:

Sift the flour into a bowl and add the diced butter.

Rub with your fingertips, or pulse in a food processor, until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.

Add the sugar, sultanas and beaten egg and mix well to form a ball of dough, using a splash of milk if needed.

Roll the dough out on a floured board to a thickness of about 5mm/½in.

Cut into rounds with a 7.5-10cm/3-4in plain cutter.

Rub a bakestone or heavy iron griddle with butter, wipe away the excess and place on the hob until it is heated through.

Cook the Welsh cakes a few at a time for 2-3 minutes on each side, or until golden-brown.

Remove from the griddle and dust with caster sugar while still warm.

Opening up Aberdeen's 'jewel in the crown' to the world



The Aberdeen Burgh Records.

Aberdeen's earliest medieval Burgh Records have long been regarded as a jewel in the city's crown - earning UNESCO status for their historical significance - but they will now be opened to the world after researchers painstakingly transcribed more than 1.5 million words contained within their volumes. Researchers in a project based at the University of Aberdeen have worked with archivists at Aberdeen City Council, where the records are held, to decipher the complex Scots and Latin text which constitutes one of the great reservoirs of historical information on urban life anywhere in northern Europe.

A great insight into Scottish history and language

The resulting digital transcription, together with the original images of the pages from eight volumes covering a period from 1398 to 1511, have been made accessible online - meaning they

can now be viewed from anywhere in the world. It has taken researchers three years to unpick the complex hand-written entries which contain details of everyday life in the reigns of Robert III, James I, James II, James III, and James IV, and run to more words than the complete works of Shakespeare. The project was led by Dr Jackson Armstrong, a senior lecturer in history at the University of Aberdeen, and was funded by the Leverhulme Trust, Aberdeen City Council and the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies.

Dr Armstrong said: "The early council registers are an important cultural asset providing a great insight into Scottish history and language. They are so significant that in 2013 they were recognised by the UK national commission for UNESCO, a body of the United Nations responsible for the protection of the world's cultural heritage. This important corpus of material will now be much more accessible to others investigating

medieval and renaissance life." He added: "The registers are a local archive but they stand for all of Scotland in this period. What survives from Aberdeen alone before 1500 comprises more than that of all other Scottish towns combined."

Many fascinating insights

The Burgh Records offer historians a precious glimpse into medieval life and have already offered up many fascinating insights including a letter written by King James V which shows he stepped into a dispute on piracy and details of the first ever recorded ship to sail from Scotland to the New World. They also give clues about the region's response to outbreaks of plague, in one entry from 1499 detailing the setting up of two lines or quarantine first around the town and then in the hinterland stretching from the river Dee on the southern edge of Aberdeen, out to St Ternan's (modern-day Banchory) in the west, and from there up through Monymusk to Strathbogie (modern-day Huntly).

As editorial research fellow Dr Edda Frankot coordinated the transcription of the material. She said that the need for researchers to spend hours - and sometimes days - deciphering just a few paragraphs of text had now been removed, meaning greater focus can be placed on unlocking the historical secrets they contain. Frankot said: "Getting to grips with the information contained within more than 5,000 pages is no easy task, not least because of the mix of Latin and Scots and the particularities of the handwriting of the period. Some of the pages presented a challenge because they have suffered from damage over the centuries, while others remain in pristine condition. It meant progress on some days was faster than on others but in just over two years we had successfully transcribed every word contained within the volumes. After three years we had completed the detailed checking, editing and processing

of the digital transcription. It has been a challenging project and, when the team started, deciphering just a couple dense pages could take most of the day. But as we became more and more familiar with recurring letter forms and sentence structure the speed increased and by the end together we could transcribe nearly seventy pages a week."

One of the 'great towns' of Scotland

The team has not translated the Latin or Scots text into modern English - that was never the intention of the project. Translation would create an additional layer of interpretation, and raises the challenge of what sort of translation is desirable: a word-for-word translation is not necessarily the best way to capture meaning. However, Dr Armstrong said there are a number of possible and creative ways to interpret the material in the future, with a view of making it accessible to wider audiences. He said: "We have made huge progress in understanding the Burgh Records but this is far from the end of the story. It will be fascinating to see how others beyond Aberdeen are able to work with this wonderful resource."

The Aberdeen Burgh Records are the earliest and most complete body of surviving records of any Scottish town. They contain court documents from as early as 1317, during the reign of King Robert the Bruce, and are then a complete record from 1398 to the present day with the exception of one missing volume. They are considered a unique asset providing a great insight into medieval life in Scotland and particularly in Aberdeen. They show that the city 'outperformed' on the European stage in terms of its size and that it was recognised by Bruges - one of northern Europe's foremost medieval cities - not only as a significant trading hub but as one of the 'great towns' of Scotland.

Images courtesy of The University of Aberdeen.





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CELTIC FESTIVAL**
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The Boatmen	Murrumba Pipes & Drums
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Frankie Boy	Jacaranda Highland Dancers
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THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - The Advocate's Library (known as the National Library of Scotland since 1925) opened by its founder, Sir George Mackenzie, the Lord Advocate in Edinburgh. **1682**

1 - Scots voted in favour of Devolution, but failed to reach the required 40% of the population in favour of implementing it - due to 36% of the electorate not voting. **1979**

1 - Actor David Niven was born, roles included *The Pink Panther* and *Around the World in Eighty Days*. Niven had claimed several times that he was born in Kirriemuir, but according to his birth certificate, was born in London. **1910**

2 - King Robert II born in Paisley, the first monarch of the House of Stewart. He was the son of Marjorie Bruce, daughter of Robert the Bruce, and Walter, High Steward of Scotland. Robert acted as regent three times during the reign of his uncle, David II, and acceded to the throne in 1371. He died in 1390 and was succeeded by his son Robert III. **1316**

3 - Robert Adam, architect, died. Among his many works were Culzean Castle, Fort George, The Town House, Inveraray and Glasgow Trades Hall. **1792**

3 - Alexander Graham Bell born Edinburgh. Bell was scientist, inventor, engineer, and innovator who is credited with patenting the first practical telephone and died in Nova Scotia, Canada in 1922. **1847**

4 - Sir Henry Raeburn, renowned for painting the portraits of many of the citizens of Edinburgh, born. **1756**



4 - Forth Rail Bridge opened by Prince of Wales. **1890**

4 - Jim Clark, Formula I World motor racing champion, born Fife. **1936**

5 - King David II born. **1323**

5 - Flora Macdonald, who helped to save Prince Charles Edward Stewart during his flight after the defeat at the Battle of Culloden, died in Kingsburgh, Skye (in the same bed in which Bonnie Prince Charlie had slept during his escape). **1790**



5 - *The Maid of the Loch* paddle steamer was launched, she was built in Glasgow and was the largest ever vessel to be built for an inland waterway in Britain, this was also the last of a series of steamers to sail on Loch Lomond, dating back to 1818. **1953**

6 - King James II decreed in an Act of Parliament that there should be regular target practice and military parades and that "football and golf be utterly cried down and not used". This was the first time that the games had been mentioned in Scottish documents. **1457**



6 - Scotland's first radio broadcast took place. The broadcast took place from Rex House, 202 Bath Street in Glasgow. By the summer of 1924, stations had opened in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and, by the eve of the Second World War, over 90% of the Scottish population were served by BBC transmitters. **1923**

7 - Sculptor and artist Sir Eduardo Paolozzi born in Leith, the eldest son of Italian immigrants. **1924**

7 - The world's first golf club was founded in Edinburgh. The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers held their first meeting on Leith Links and petitioned the Edinburgh Council to provide a silver club for competition. **1744**

8 - Kenneth Grahame, author of *The Wind in the Willows* born in Edinburgh. **1859**

8 - The *Oor Wullie* cartoon strip first appeared in *the Sunday Post*. **1936**

9 - David Rizzio, Mary Queen of Scotland's secretary, murdered by Lord Ruthven in the Palace of Holyrood. **1566**

9 - *Wealth of Nations* by Adam Smith published. **1776**

9 - Scottish faith healer John Alexander Dowie died in Illinois, USA. Edinburgh born Downie believed in the power of prayer only for curing ailments and banned followers from eating certain food, drinking and smoking. **1907**

10 - Birth of James Herriot, author of *All Creatures Great and Small*. **1916**

10 - St Kessog, the Irish missionary in the Lennox area and southern Perthshire, was killed. Kessog was Scotland's patron saint before Andrew, and his name was used as a battle cry by the Scots. Son of the king of Cashel in Ireland, St Kessog is said to have worked miracles, even as a child. **560**

11 - Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, died. **1955**

11 - The birth of Binkie Stuart, the child film actress, in Kilmarnock. Born Elizabeth Alison Fraser, she was hailed as Britain's answer to Shirley Temple and enjoyed huge fame as a child star. **1932**

12 - The last salmon was caught in the River Kelvin. The salmon population in the river had been in decline due to the rise of industrial pollution in the area. However, in February 1999, after £43 million of investment, salmon again spawned in the river and anglers were allowed back. **1852**

13 - Death of poet and historian John Barbour, author of *The Bruce* recounting the history of King Robert I. **1395**

13/15 - Blitz of Clydebank by German Luftwaffe. **1941**

14 - First television programmes broadcast in Scotland. **1952**

14 - The birth of Scottish lawyer, Dame Margaret Kidd. Not only was Kidd Scotland's first woman advocate, but she was also the first woman King's Counsel in Britain and the first woman to plead before the House of Lords. **1900**

15 - Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh founded Advocates' Library "equipped with works written by lawyers". **1689**



15 - The end of two nights of heavy German bombing of Clydebank. The Clydebank Blitz, as it became known, destroyed a third of the buildings of Clydebank, leaving 35,000 people homeless. A thousand German bombers were used in the raid and the devastation of the town was so complete that only eight buildings remained entirely unscathed after the bombing. To further compound Clydebank's misery, only two enemy planes were shot down. **1941**

16 - King Robert the Bruce convened his first parliament, at St Andrews. **1309**

16 - Death of Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat, chief of the Fraser clan. He developed the Commando force in the British army and was active in the Dieppe Raid (1942) and the D-Day landings (1944). **1995**

17 - Treaty of Edinburgh between King Robert I and Edward III which recognised Scotland's independence, ending the 30 years of Wars of Independence. **1328**

17 - Scotland won Rugby "Grand Slam" at Murrayfield Stadium- the first time in 59 years. **1984**

18 - Earl of Leven raises a Border regiment to hold Edinburgh against the Jacobites. It later becomes the King's Own Scottish Borderers. In 2006, the Kings Own Scottish Borderers Regiment was amalgamated with the Royal Scots to form the Royal Scots Borderers, which became the 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland. **1689**

19 - King Alexander III died after crossing the river Forth to Fife at Queensferry. **1286**

19 - David Livingstone, missionary and explorer, born Blantyre. **1813**

20 - King Malcolm IV born. **1141**

21 - National Gallery of Scotland opened in Edinburgh. **1859**

21 - Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh opened, becoming the home of Scottish rugby. Scotland marked the occasion by beating England 14-11 and winning their first Grand Slam. Unfortunately, the Scottish rugby team have only managed to repeat this success twice more, in 1984 and 1990. **1925**



22 - Neil Gow, first of a famous family of fiddle players and composers, born at Inver, near Dunkeld, Perthshire. **1727**

22 - Last fully public hanging in Scotland - that of Joseph Bell at Perth. **1868**

23 - The Free Church of Scotland settlement at New Edinburgh, New Zealand was founded under Rev Thomas Burns, a nephew of the poet Robert Burns. The settlement later became Dunedin, one of the largest towns in the country, and one which still retains a distinctive Scottish character. **1848**

23 - Roddy McMillan, the Scottish stage and TV actor, was born. His credits include the TV series, *The View From Daniel Pike*, and the play, *The Revellers*. However, he will be most fondly remembered for his portrayal of Para Handy, the captain of the *Vital Spark* in the much loved television series of the 1960s. **1923**

24 - Union of the Crowns of England and Scotland on the death of Queen Elizabeth I and the succession of King James VI of Scotland. **1603**

24 - An estimated one million people watched the *Queen Mary* leave the Clyde for the first time. However, the sailing did not quite go to plan: despite extensive dredging having taken place, the liner ran aground twice on the way to Gourock. **1936**

25 - King Robert I ("The Bruce") crowned at Scone. Bruce was crowned by Bishop William de Lambertton in front of the banner of the kings of Scotland, wearing royal robes which had been hidden from the English. **1306**

25 - The Commercial Bank of Scotland was founded in Edinburgh by John Pitcairn, Lord Cockburn and others. **1810**

26 - Car driving tests introduced for the first time. **1934**

27 - King Robert II crowned at Scone. **1371**

27 - Scottish chemist Sir James Dewar, inventor of the Dewar Flask, which later became known as the Thermos flask, died. **1923**

27 - King James VI died at Theobalds Park, Hertfordshire and buried at Westminster Abbey. Succeeded by his son, King Charles I. **1625**



27 - David Coulthard, Grand Prix racing driver born in Twynholm, Dumfries and Galloway. **1971**

28 - King Robert the Bruce captured Berwick on Tweed. **1318**

28 - The Scots Guards Regiment was formed when King Charles I issued a commission to the Marquess of Argyll, Chief of Clan Campbell, authorizing him to raise in Scotland a regiment of 1,500 men. The King's 'Lyfe Guard of Foot' became the Scots Guards. **1642**

29 - Longannet, Scotland's last deep coal mine, closed, ending centuries of mining tradition. The Fife mine was put into liquidation after being flooded on the 23rd, when a dam separating old workings from new seams under the river Forth collapsed. **2002**

29 - The Royal Society of Edinburgh incorporated by charter. **1783**

30 - King James I captured by English near Flamborough Head on his way to France. **1406**

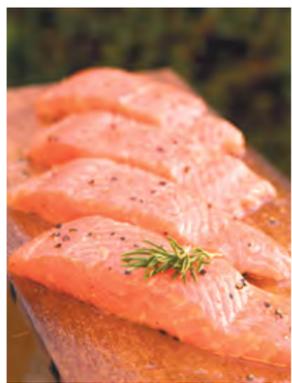
30 - Edward I of England sacked the Scottish town of Berwick. The English army destroyed the town and decimated the population of around 15,000. This act was retaliation for the widespread carnage perpetrated in the north of England, and what Edward considered to be the treacherous stab in the back of the Scottish-French alliance. Berwick was rebuilt by Northumbrians, and the Scottish-English border forever after remained north of this town. **1296**



31 - Scottish Regalia (crown, sceptre and sword) saved from invading army of Oliver Cromwell by James Granger, minister at Kinneff, Aberdeenshire, after they had been smuggled from Dunnottar Castle which was under siege. **1652**

31 - General Patrick Gordon was born. Gordon led a remarkable life. Upon leaving Scotland, he entered the Russian army as a major and soon rose to become a close advisor to Russian Tsar, Peter the Great. Gordon rose to the rank of General-in-Chief and was made an admiral of the Russian navy. **1635**

Salmon exports achieve record value of £618 million



Scottish salmon exports hit a record high in 2019, according to new figures published. Official statistics released by the UK Government HMRC show the highest ever value of Scottish salmon exports. With a value of £618 million, sales of salmon overseas increased by 22% in 2019 over the year before.

France, USA, and China were the top three markets of a total of 54 countries which imported Scottish salmon. For the third year running, France emerged as the largest market for Scottish salmon with sales worth £221million, followed by USA (£179million), and China (£59million). The EU accounted for 56% of the volume of global Scottish salmon exports and 52% of the value. Outside the EU, the USA remained Scottish salmon's largest market. Worth £179 million in 2019. Julie Hesketh-Laird, Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) chief executive, said: "These figures demonstrate just what an extraordinary success Scottish salmon is. Such record-breaking performance is hugely encouraging and reflects the excellent reputation which Scottish salmon has in international markets. Scottish salmon's good environmental story with its small carbon footprint and low water use plus global recognition of its taste, quality and provenance is clearly understood in almost every corner of the globe. Salmon's continued export success sustains more than 2,300 jobs in Scotland, mostly in sparsely populated rural areas. This success has led to substantial sums being re-invested into local communities, providing much-needed employment and economic support."



International dance sensation Spirit of the Dance has conquered the world and is coming to Australia for the first time in April/May 2020 with their new spine tingling 21st anniversary show. Spirit of the Dance is Irish in origin and bursts with raw energy, having been described as "explosive", "breathtaking", and "spectacular".

The Scottish Banner is pleased to be offering 4 double passes to the following performances:

- Sydney (State Theatre) on Apr 24 – 2 tickets (one double)
- Brisbane (QPAC) on Apr 30 – 2 tickets (one double)
- Melbourne (Hamer Hall) on May 6 – 2 tickets (one double)
- Perth (Crown Theatre) on May 15 – 2 tickets (one double)

To enter simply tell us how many years Spirit of Dance has been running for by

email: competitions@scottishbanner.com, via our website at www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us or post (sorry no telephone entries) our Sydney office, our full contacts can be found on page 2. Please ensure you include your full name and contact details.

Spirit of the Dance is touring Australia in April and May. For tickets and information see: www.mellenevents.com



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Show your Scottish pride with this brand new jute bag style. In a lovely purple tartan design with webbed handle.

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The sturdy canvas bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish Terrier Dogs. Includes an interior key/coin pouch and strong black webbed handles.

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

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Highland Cow Jute Bag

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

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



Tartan Scottie Jute Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a tartan Scottie pattern, handle and gussets.

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



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H: 40cm, W: 35cm, D: 20cm



Royal Stewart Jute Bag

This sturdy bag comes in Scotland's most famous tartan design-the Royal Stewart and includes inner key purse for coins and keys. Webbed handle.

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



Thistle Jute Bag

This sturdy bag comes with a lovely pattern of Scottish thistles. With purple tartan gusset and purple webbed handle.

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



Westie Jute Bag

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

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A Heritage of Army Pipers

Professor and historian Christopher Pearcy looks at the history of how the bagpipes have been used in battle, and today are celebrated across the world at Military Tattoos.



Pipes and Drums of the Highlanders, 4th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland.

At 6a.m. on 11 November 2018 pipers struck-in to the tune *When the Battle's Over* for an international effort via social media to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War in 1918. Similarly, this year on 8 May, pipers are poised to strike-in again in commemoration of 75 years since the end of the Second World War in 1945. Nations are expected to pay tribute to the sacrifices made between 1939 and 1945, where in areas like the United Kingdom and Commonwealth countries military bands will take center stage. This year, the Virginia International Tattoo in Norfolk, VA will also honour America's Greatest Generation featuring the US military's best military bands alongside the quintessential Tattoo contingent of massed pipes and drums.

Outside of the competition field, the Highland bagpipes have a strong connection to martial ardor that has found a home in Britain's regimental army dating back to the 17th century. Before there was an army so-to-speak, pipers occupied a high social status within Scotland's clan system, where they supplied the musical support of *Piobaireachd*, or "great music," for clan chiefs on solemn occasions or raised men's spirits upon entering battle. As the political and religious clouds of Reformation, Civil War, and Restoration loomed on the horizon, the piper's role as well as the music would change forever.

The Highland regiments

Towards the end of the Stewart dynasty, Britain's modern army came to fruition from the ashes of Cromwell's New Model Army as well as the few remaining contingents loyal to the crown such as General Monck's regiment of Coldstream Guards. The popular narrative of Highland rebellion begins after the Glorious Revolution in 1688, when William & Mary ascended to the throne upon James II's abdication. Yet Scotland's inclusion in the new British army was already established with the first regiment of foot soldiers, the 1st Royal Scots since 1633. Subsequently, new Scottish regiments were raised to help further solidify Scotland's inevitable union with England as well as William III's legitimate reign over James II. The 21st Royal Scots Fusiliers were raised in 1678

and both the 25th King's Own Scottish Borderers and the 26th Cameronians were raised in 1689, reflecting both of King William's interests for peace in Britain but also growing warfare on the European continent.

For much of the 18th century, Highland regiments were slowly brought into the British army as the Jacobite rebellion was suppressed and yet Britain's need of skilled Highland soldiers grew due to the imminent French threat. From 1725 up until 1800 Britain's infamous highland regiments – the Black Watch (the Royal Highland Regiment), the Highland Light Infantry, the Seaforth Highlanders, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, the Gordon Highlanders, and the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders – were raised as regular infantry regiments taking up arms with their Lowland forbearers. Yet the ultimate question remained, what about the pipers?

All through the Napoleonic Wars, Scottish soldiers fought alongside English, Welsh, and Irish as well as allied troops in a coalition to vanquish the French hegemon, succeeding at Waterloo in 1815. However, incorporating pipers into the army establishment was a slow task at hand, largely since fife and drum still ruled the battlefield. Scottish regiments did indeed have pipers, yet still akin to the clan model; pipers were often show pieces of the regiment's officers because they paid for the pipers and not the army. Luckily, the Highland image was made popular in the 19th century, due to both Sir Walter Scott's homecoming party for George IV in Edinburgh but also due to Queen Victoria's love of all things Scottish.

A new legacy in musical tradition

In 1854, following the appointment of Angus MacKay as the first Sovereign's Piper and with war looming again in Crimea, the Queen issued an order via the War Office that all Scottish Regiments were to include a Pipe Major and 5 pipers. Although pipers appeared on the muster rolls of Scottish Regiments back to the 1600s, they appeared to be paid personally by their Company Commander or Regimental Commanding Officer. Their official establishment became a major feat for Scotland's identity within the army, yet one thing still lacking was a pipe band.

Each regiment had its own corps of drums and military band, and thus the missing component for a pipe band was the percussion. The bass drummer being the heartbeat of a band, allowed for a pipes and drums ensemble to play with a steady beat whilst the battalion was marching. Since the mid-19th century, army pipers established a new legacy in musical tradition with new compositions such as PM John MacDonald's 2/4 march *The 79th's Farewell to Gibraltar* and PM John MacLellan's retreat march, *The Highland Brigade at Magersfontein*.

Many of the best-known pipers in history were not necessarily discovered from their tunes but from their gallantry in battle, earning some the Victoria Cross. Piper George Findlater of the 92nd Gordons continued to play the regimental tune 'Cock of the North' albeit injured, providing the esprit de corps for the Gordons to take Dargei Ridge in 1897. In the First World War, Piper Daniel Laidlaw of the 25th King's Own Scottish Borderers played his regimental tune 'All the Blue Bonnets Over the Border' in 1915 at the Battle of Loos, when he saw his comrades under duress from German gas attack. Laidlaw going up and over into No Man's Land much like Piper James Richardson of the 16th Canadian Scottish at the Somme, had restored that martial ardor for their fellow Scotsmen at arms.

In the Second World War, army pipers still played an integral part with their regiments, however much the government had hoped to avoid piper-casualties that were seen in 1914-1918. Made evermore famous in the 1962 film *The Longest Day*, Piper Bill Millin of the 1st Special Service Brigade was the personal piper to Lord Lovat, its commanding officer that landed at Sword Beach, 6 June 1944. That legacy continued in pipers like Millin up till the end of the war with Piper John Laidlaw of the 79th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, lead a rifle company of the Battalion into combat in Upper Burma in 1945.

Strike the taps

Originating from the Low Countries of Old Europe, Tattoo derived from the saying 'tap toe' or to 'strike the taps' (which is literally the German *Zapfenstreich*). This signaled the end of day, when soldiers were to return to barracks for final roll call and Last Post. In the later 19th century, Tattoo lost its meaning to obscurity as barracks life became more flexible, provided everyone mustered for morning reveille.

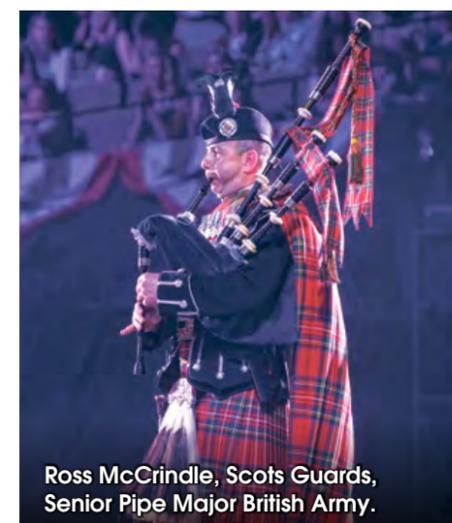
Today, Tattoo performances around the world are produced that endeavor to keep the memory of army pipers along with all past soldiers, sailors, and airmen alive. Born from the Cold War climate, Tattoos provide a new sense of cultural diplomacy amongst allied nations, starting with the Edinburgh Military Tattoo's first performance in 1950. From Scotland, the Tattoo craze traversed the world; in 1979 the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo

produced its first show in coordination with a royal visit of Her Majesty, the Queen Mother to Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 1997 this centuries-old military spectacle made its way to the United States with the Virginia International Tattoo in Norfolk, VA, which is home to the largest naval port in the world. Since then Tattoos have sprung-up all over however large or small from Basel to Berlin, Amsterdam, and Moscow. Each production highlights that countries significant military heritage and cultural history, coupled with the legacy of army pipers forever present in the massed pipes & drums.

Warrant Officer Class 1 Ross McCrindle, Scots Guards, Senior Pipe Major British Army 2017 – 2020 said: "Pipers and drummers in the Scottish Regiments of today's British Army take enormous pride in their heritage of over 400 years of service. They continue to stand side by side with their brothers and sisters in arms, deploying on combat operations in every conflict the United Kingdom has been engaged in from the Crimean Peninsula in 1854 to Afghanistan in the present day. They are the guardians of a tradition that marks their individual Regiments as being unique, distinct from one another, yet tied by a single thread to the age old Scottish martial tradition. They with their instruments have the singular distinction of being the announcer of overwhelming force, striking fear and awe into the hearts of those who would oppose them, but also of being the builders of the greatest friendships, the bringers of peace, and providers of solace. They endow the United Kingdom with a defence engagement and diplomacy capability that is unmatched anywhere in the world. Above all, they are not musicians in military uniform, they are soldiers who play music."



The Scots Guards.



Ross McCrindle, Scots Guards, Senior Pipe Major British Army.

The Australian Celtic Festival

A Celtic experience like no other set in the stunning region of Glen Innes Highlands. Witness the town embrace their Celtic Heritage and join in the main Festivities held among the majestic National Monument the Australian Standing Stones.



Australian Standing Stones.



Great entertainment.

Glen Innes located in regional New South Wales, proudly hosts the Australian Celtic Festival as one of their premier events each year on the first weekend in May. This unique, action-packed Celtic experience draws visitors from all over Australia and the world. This year's Festival theme celebrates the Celtic Nations of Ireland and The Isle of Man. Into its 28th year the Glen Innes Severn Council, ambassadors, local community and businesses are collaborating to deliver perhaps the best ever Festival in 2020 defying the drought and bushfire crisis that impacted the region in 2019.

Enjoy the major attractions over the main Festival weekend at the Australian Standing Stones on the Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd May. Catch the live action jousting tournaments or strongman competition where you can compete for the 2020 title. Browse Celtic inspired market stalls, meet your Clan and learn about you Celtic Heritage, enjoy a broad range of live Celtic music, Celtic dance or traditional fashions. At the end of the day kick back at the Boar and Drum Bar during the concerts with old friends and new and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere.

100,000 Welcomes

In 2020 the Festival will feature the New England Medieval Arts Society (NEMAS), a social community made up of members

and volunteers, offering a look at Celtic and Viking culture from over 1000 years ago. NEMAS provides a static encampment, consisting of tents and various aspects of everyday life including blacksmithing, woodcarving, spinning and weaving, storytelling and more. At the encampment or village, you can find cooking stews, roasting meat (not for sale to the public), and bread-making; tents and cauldrons and everyday items not seen anymore; folk playing the lyre and pan pipes; the playing of traditional games where the public is invited to participate; traditional arts and crafts both static and demonstrated; and the practice of military drills and exercises. NEMAS will perform a variety of demonstrations each day, including clothing and lifestyle talks, armour and sword displays, embroidery demonstrations, blacksmith demonstrations, and battles with a narrative theme and audience participation. Everyone is welcome to visit the village during the weekend. Feel free to enter their space, sit with them and ask questions. They look forward to hearing *your* ancestral stories, too. This display is a must-see while at the Australian Celtic Festival.

Festival week also hosts a range of fun events around town for visitors and the community, catering to all interests and ages. Take a Cultural Heritage Town Tour and learn about Glen Innes Celtic Ancestry or enjoy a Celtic Night at the Museum with artist GraceJean enjoy a meal and

complimentary drink. For the adventurers take a two-hour guided walking tour at the village of Ben Lomond and enjoy the picturesque scenery of the New England. Go along to the 100,000 Welcomes Concert on Thursday 30th April or visit the many more venues around town hosting musicians, bands and entertainment. Bookings and tickets are required for these events.

Family friendly activities

There are also some fantastic, free, family friendly activities to enjoy; pick up a bargain at the Glen Innes Severn Learning Centre's annual Friends of the Library Booksale, Join the Caledonian society at Quinton Park and experience Manx and Irish traditional dances, enjoy traditional costumes and enjoy a Free Irish themed lunch. The Official Opening Ceremony in the Town Square with special guest Alastair Kneale, President of the London Manx Society is not to be missed along with the Lone Piper in Town Square midday Friday, Limerick Concert at the Glen Innes Severn Library Learning Centre, Friday Night Twilight concert at the Australian Standing Stones, Celtic Symposium and much more.

The Festival draws the crowds back year on year and once you have had a taste you will be sure to visit again.

The full program of events can be found online at australiancelticfestival.com or follow Australian Celtic Festival on Facebook.



Street parade.



Clans on the march.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2019 CD & DVD

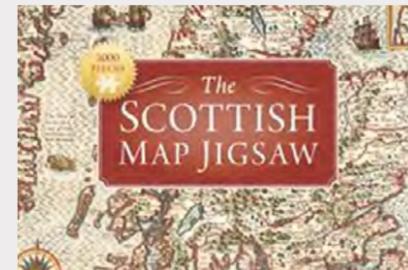


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The Scottish Map Jigsaw



This unique 1,000 piece jigsaw, featuring of the most famous maps from the collection of the National Library of Scotland, will appeal to jigsaw fans of all ages and abilities. The map has plenty of detail of the Scottish mainland and islands, and also includes vignettes of historical figures –James VI and I; his wife, Anne of Denmark; Henry, Prince of Wales; and Charles, Duke of York.

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

A great gift idea for your favourite Scot, which just may be you!

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COMING TO AUSTRALIA IN 2020

BY POPULAR DEMAND, ADDITIONAL SHOWS JUST ADDED!

TUE 21 APR • GLASSHOUSE, PORT MACQUARIE **2PM SHOW JUST ADDED**

WED 22 APR • CIVIC THEATRE, NEWCASTLE

THU 23 APR • RIVERSIDE THEATRES, PARRAMATTA

FRI 24 APR • STATE THEATRE, SYDNEY

SUN 26 APR • CANBERRA THEATRE CENTRE

MON 27 APR • IPAC, WOLLONGONG **2PM SHOW JUST ADDED**

WED 29 APR • THE EVENTS CENTRE, CALOUNDRA

THU 30 APR • QPAC, BRISBANE

FRI 1 MAY • THE STAR, GOLD COAST

SAT 2 MAY • LISMORE CITY HALL, LISMORE

TUE 5 MAY • WCPA, WENDOUREE

WED 6 MAY • ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE

THU 7 MAY • THE FAC, FRANKSTON

FRI 8 MAY • BUNJIL PLACE, NARRE WARREN

SAT 9 MAY • COSTA HALL, DEAKIN UNI, GEELONG

THU 14 MAY • CROWN THEATRE, PERTH

FRI 15 MAY • CROWN THEATRE, PERTH

SAT 16 MAY • MANPAC, MANDURAH **2PM SHOW JUST ADDED**

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EVENTS