



the Scottish Banner



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A' Bhratach Albannach

Volume 44 Number 2 The world's largest international Scottish newspaper August 2020

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the Scottish Banner

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The Banner Says...

The Power of Pipe Bands



by Sean Cairney

The world we live in today is a vastly different place than the one we all knew just a few short months ago.

In August, traditionally, pipe bands and their fans should be descending on Glasgow for some of the world's top piping events such as the World Pipe Band Championships and Piping Live! This is of course in addition to all the missed pipe band concerts, competitions, practices and performances that should have also taken place these past few months across the world.

I am not part of a pipe band but as someone who knows people in bands and has watched the pipe band community for decades, I know what an incredible fraternity it is. The spirit of the pipe band movement is clearly an incredibly special one. It is a global brotherhood and sisterhood that is quite unique.

Joining a pipe band is an instant in with a great network of people of varying backgrounds, ages and interests. It offers members some unique experiences such as attending a wide range of community and international events, be a part of joyous and solum occasions and for many includes life-long involvement and friendships.

Homage to the pipe band community

Across the worldwide Scottish community during the Covid-19 pandemic I have seen some great outside the box initiatives take place, and the pipe band community has certainly been at the forefront of this.

Depending on where you live your restrictions may have been, or still be, extremely strict and whilst physical practices may have not been taking place, the music has never stopped. Online practices, competitions and musical creations are taking place across the world and connecting players and pipe band fans with each other in a whole new way.

The spirit of the pipe band movement is clearly an incredibly special one.

With this issue we hope to pay homage to the pipe band community and whilst we have never tried to be a piping publication, we are firmly a publication of pipe band fans and supporters. It is the music that joins us all, whether you are playing a lament, or watching a band play your favourite piping tune, a shared love of pipe bands is created by both the player and the audience.

In this issue

An example of the resilience of the pipe band movement can be found in this issue as a variety of piping organisations and leaders have shared with us how they are not only engaging with their members and colleagues, but finding ways to move through a 'corona world' and working towards when we can next all gather as before.

This month we also speak to Tyler Fry, a champion drummer who has made a career out of his love and clear passion for pipe bands. From a young age he was enthralled by pipe bands and joined his local band in Canada as soon as he could. Today Tyler has his own successful drumstick business, conducts workshops and livestream hosts at events across the world. Tyler is an example how joining a pipe band can change your life, open your world and create incredible opportunities.

On August 29, 1930, the last inhabitants of St Kilda, on the western edge of Scotland, were evacuated.

Years of hardship and hunger had caused many to leave over many years and the remaining inhabitants requested to leave, ending over 4,000 years of human habitation.

The once powerful Roman Empire cast its net across Europe to conquer new lands and gain power. There is quite a bit of historical evidence of Roman occupation across Britain, but how far did they make it into Scotland? In Roman times, there was no such country as Scotland, instead it was a wild region called Caledonia. The Romans may have left Caledonia, but they did leave behind some amazing historical evidence of their visit and today people can still literally step in the same spots the Romans once did.

Many things to many people

Pipe bands are of course a symbol of Scotland and Scottish culture, but they are truly a global cultural movement with bands across the world. Being part of a band prepares members for many aspects of life and quite simply for some becomes a lifestyle. Pipe bands are also a constant part of the community for so many. We count on pipe bands at parades, services, celebrations and whether it be a lone busker or massed bands, the pipes and drums stir something inside so many people.

This is the power of pipe bands. The power to connect so many across the world in a unique celebration of music. The power of a local and global network of friendship. The power of a lifelong passion. The power of our heritage. The power of enjoyment. The power of performance. The power of emotion. The power of collaboration. Pipe bands can be these and so many things to many people, and surely *that* is their power.

Has been in a pipe band been important for you or do you have a love of pipe bands? Do you have any comments from the content in this month's edition? Share your story with us by email, post, social media or at: www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us #ScottishBanner, #TheBanner

Covid-19 is having a major impact on many of our regular advertisers, with events being cancelled and businesses suffering. The Scottish Banner is more reliant than ever on our readers helping us to provide you with our unique content by buying a copy of our publication, regardless if by print or digital subscription or at a retail outlet. We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy this edition.

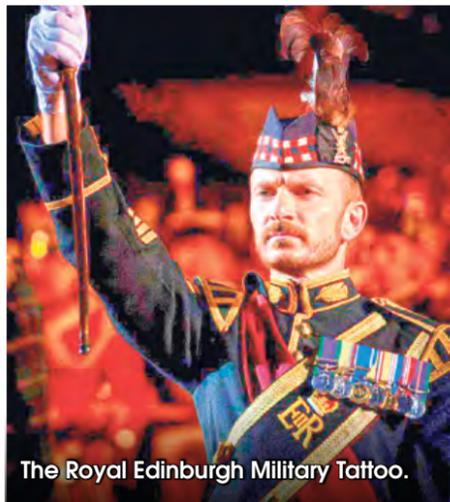


The Pipers Trail. Photo: The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



Gracing our front cover: The next generation celebrating the sound of Scotland at the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships. Photo: Susanna Buckton.

Edinburgh - *The world's festival city*



The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Together, the five August festivals comprise over 5,000 events across Scotland's capital each summer, welcoming audiences of 4.4 million and over 25,000 artists, writers and performers from 70 countries, making them the second biggest cultural event in the world after the Olympics.

The most significant and important celebration of culture anywhere in the world

The festivals' history stretches back to 1947, where in the aftermath of the Second World War the Edinburgh International Festival was founded to reconcile and reunite people and nations through art, in an event that transcended political and cultural boundaries. Many years later the International Festival continues to present the world's leading theatre, dance and music artists in Edinburgh's magnificent venues.

The Fringe story began when eight theatre groups turned up uninvited to perform on the fringes of the very first International Festival. Since the dawn of this spontaneous artistic movement, millions have flocked to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe to produce,

and to enjoy art of every genre. Conceived in 1950 the iconic major event, now known as The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, brings together a huge cast of international military and folkloric performers to perform live to 220,000 visitors each August, with many millions seeing the show on BBC TV around the world.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival began in 1983 and has grown rapidly in scope and size, welcoming writers from all over the world to exchange ideas on some of the world's most pressing issues. The youngest of the August festivals, Edinburgh Art Festival was founded in 2004 to provide a platform for the visual arts, each year bringing together the capital's leading galleries, museums and artist-run spaces to present work by international and UK artists.

Since their visionary beginnings the August festivals have presented the very best established and emerging artists from all corners of the globe and across all aspects of the performing, literary and visual arts in what has become the most significant and important celebration of culture anywhere in the world.

A Fringe reimaged



The artwork for the Fringe programme cover that never was.

Following the announcement that the Edinburgh Festival Fringe will not be going ahead as planned in 2020, the Fringe Society has unveiled alternative digital plans taking place this summer, complementing a variety of activities planned by Fringe artists and venues.

Under hugely difficult circumstances, creatives from across the Fringe landscape will be bringing versions of their work to life digitally, many for the very first time. From livestreamed performances to nostalgic throwbacks and community-focused events and support sessions, the spirit of the Fringe will live on in the work of thousands of Fringe artists and venues, and the Fringe Society will help audiences navigate them through a central listings service on www.edfringe.com

Alongside this, the Fringe will be running a series of digital activities, including virtual shows, a festival-wide crowdfunding campaign, artist-facing workshops, a new online arts industry platform and a virtual Fringe Central, so there are still plenty of ways to #MakeYourFringe in 2020.

For the first time in over 70 years, the five festivals that transform Edinburgh into the world's leading cultural destination every August are not going ahead this year due to concerns around the Covid-19 pandemic. Edinburgh Art Festival, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh International Festival and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo are not happening as planned in 2020.



Book Festival village. Photo: Edinburgh International Book Festival.



Dancers on High Street at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Photo: Edinburgh's Festivals.

Cycling across the States to Save Our Scotland

Colorado man George Russell is cycling from San Diego, California to Saint Augustine, Florida to raise funds for the National Trust for Scotland (NTS). The dedicated US-based Trust supporter plans to begin his 3,200 mile bike ride across the States on 27 August. He aims to complete his challenge in just 50 days and is hoping to raise £100,000 in donations for the charity. Although George, who is 73, now lives in Colorado, he has strong ties to Scotland and to the Trust – his grandfather was the charity's first Secretary and Treasurer. His father also worked for the Trust for many years and was a Council Member Emeritus. George himself served on the Trust's Council.



George Russell is preparing for an epic bike ride.

Texas, Louisiana and finally Florida, George will be thinking of Glencoe, the property and iconic Scottish location his father helped to purchase for the Trust in the 1930s.

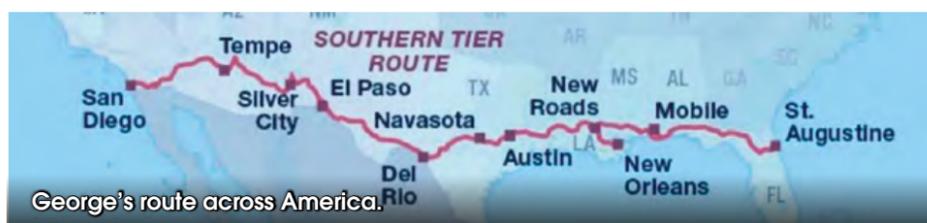
Head of Fundraising Ali Macleod said: "We are overwhelmed at this incredible support from George. His dedication to our charity and all we do to protect what's special about Scotland is so appreciated at this difficult time." George will be documenting his journey and we look forward to following his progress.

If you would like to support George's incredible challenge directly, please give via his Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/george-russellcycleacrossusafornts

Due to Covid-19 Scotland's most loved places are at risk. To help the NTS and their Save Our Scotland campaign see: www.nts.org.uk/donate

Love of Scotland

Today, George wants to continue his family tradition of helping the Trust, and contribute to the NTS Save Our Scotland campaign. However, instead of providing counsel, George will be covering nearly 100 miles per day on his bike to raise funds and awareness. Battling head winds, heat and hurricanes while hauling a tent and luggage is a test of endurance, as well as George's love of Scotland! As he travels from San Diego, California, and pedals through Arizona,



George's route across America.

Text and images courtesy of The National Trust for Scotland

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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?

A love letter from the Highland Games



What a lovely piece you put together in the July edition from Highland Games across the world (*A love letter from the Highland Games, the Scottish Banner*, July, 2020). You tend to forget what impacts are being felt by Scottish

communities internationally and I see we are all in the same boat with cancellations. I have attended Highland Games for many decades and have been to several here in Canada as well the USA and Scotland itself. As I have seen all the events of our summer get cancelled my heart breaks for the Games committees, bands, dancers, athletes and vendors. We as a Scottish community are so lucky to have Highland Games to not only come together and celebrate with friends and families, but also showcase our rich culture to non-Scots who also love being a bit Scottish for the day with us.

I look forward to when we can all safely gather again and want to wish all the Scots across the world the best and when our events come back please support them!

Wendy McDonald
Toronto, Ontario
Canada

Ed note: We agree Wendy, once safe we need to support these great community events which are very missed today.

Campaign to achieve fair uprating for all recipients of the UK State pension



Many of us 500,000 British expats living in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, know that the UK pension, full or partial, for which many of us contributed

when working in the UK, is never uprated in most Commonwealth nations, even though the British Government do uprate the UK state pension annually for over 680,000 expats retired in the EU, the USA, Turkey, Israel, the Philippines among some other nations.

This appalling British government pension practice has been the subject of an unsuccessful legal challenge even reaching the European Court of Human Rights. The case failed on a legal technicality, but since 2010 a group of British Expat pensioners has teamed up as the International Consortium of British Pensioners and continued to fight the UK's outrageous frozen pension policy.

In recent weeks the campaign for UK pension policy change has, ahead of the 75th anniversary of VE Day, focussed on the several WW2 veterans who fought for and served the UK in their youth, and they now want British MPs to fight for a pension policy change to ensure all UK pensioners are treated fairly and equally, without the discrimination with which they are unfairly treated now.

95 year old Robert Haley from a Sydney suburb, in the constituency of Australia's PM Scott Morrison, was a young Royal Navy signaller at 17 years old. He first served on an Arctic convoy cruiser HMS Suffolk in 1942 43, later redeployed in the Indian Ocean, helping keep Western Australia safe from Japanese attacks.

Robert made enough NI contributions in his life for a full UK pension, but since he reached pension age in 1990, when he retired in Australia, he was first paid his UK pension of £47/week, his UK pension has never increased, although it would have increased each year to £134/week in 2020, had he retired in The USA, Germany, Israel etc.

The campaign these British expats are running is being managed by a London based PR team Tendo consulting, with advocacy from actress Miriam Margolyes. It is being paid for from membership subscriptions to 2 major, not for profit organisations, the Canadian Alliance of British Pensioners (www.britishpensions.com) and British Pensions in Australia (www.bpia.org) both of whom are seeking more members to help win this fight for justice.

We hope this appeal will result in many enquiries and readers will also visit www.endfrozenpensions.org and www.pensionjustice.org.

Sincerely,
Jim Tilley
Hon Vice Chairman, British Pensions in Australia Inc & Director of the ICB

For the love of Highland Games



I thought your article on the importance of the Highland Games was excellent (*the Scottish Banner*, July, 2020). Wherever in the world you attend a Highland Games, there is always a warm welcome

there for you. The value of these wonderful events is tremendous!

The celebration of Scottish culture and traditions, that involves so many different forms: the pipe bands, Highland dancers, the Heavy Games (now including both men and women), music, singing and all the stalls selling a wide variety of Scottish goods and food. The sounds, sights and tastes there for everyone to enjoy!

Highland Games are an event for the whole community, for all ages and backgrounds.

Proud Scots and descendants mingle with friends, in their colourful tartans...a day to look forward to.

We all look forward to the return of the Highland Games!

Sue MacLeod OAM
Ringwood, Victoria
Australia

Ed note: Thanks Sue for your letter and yes Highland Games are so important for so many of us in the Scottish community, we can't wait to come together again!

Kilts and Kiwis



Kilts and Kiwis – brought to you by Marion and Simon from the Dunedin Edinburgh Sister City Society. Members of the Society, and wider Scottish community, explore the connections between Dunedin, Edinburgh and Scotland, culminating in November's St Andrews Day Celebrations in the Octagon (this year Sunday Nov 29th 2020). Chat, music, history and giveaways, proudly supported by Dunedin City Council Events, Community Development and Harraways. Happy to hear from any other sister city groups with Scottish connections or activities that they run over the year.

Otago Access Radio 105.4 FM and 1575 am every fortnight Friday from 11 am or via live stream or podcast for more details go to: www.oar.org.nz/kilts-and-kiwis www.facebook.com/DunedinEdinburghSisterCitySociety
Simon Vare
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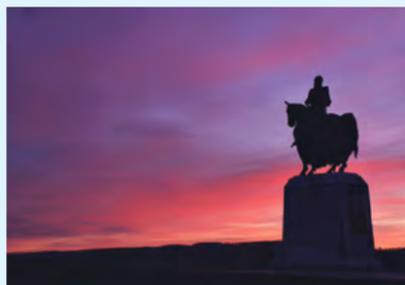


Glencoe snow



Scotland's icing sugar dusted chocolate Glen Coe truffles. Bidean Nam Bian in winter.
Gary Chittack
Scotland

King Robert the Bruce



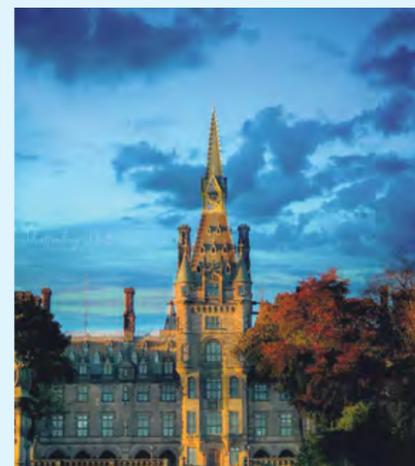
As the sunsets over Bannockburn and King Robert the Bruce looks on.
Charles McGuigan
Scotland

Edinburgh Vista's



Vista's from Edinburgh Castle.
Kenny Bruce Photos
Scotland

Fettes College



Fettes College in Edinburgh looks almost Disney castle magical.
Shutter Bug Shots
Scotland

By: Lady Fiona MacGregor

Lady MacGregor's Scotland



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



Rummie the not so very brave Norfolk Terrier.

The Queen, the Duchess, and Miss MacGregor

In the meantime, the vegetable plot is coming on nicely. Yes, being stuck at home has had some positive results. You name it, I'm growing it. From radish to sweet turnip, curly kale to potatoes. The only problem is that everything comes at once. I must learn the secret of sowing in rotation. In fact, with time on our hands the garden has never looked so good. The MacGregor has been mowing and strimming. He's even managed to get rid of the great fir tree that fell last year in a storm. That has now been logged, so we should be okay for wood for the winter. The winter. What a thought. It seems like the year is slipping away. And what have we really done? This month we planned to take a camper van to the Highlands. We would park up somewhere dramatic and the chief would go photographing whilst I continued to work on my book. Which, like the garden, is coming on well...

It's a biography and it tells the story of the chief's great great great aunt and her time at court and at Blair Castle in northern Perthshire. The provisional title is *The Queen, the Duchess, and Miss MacGregor*. I think it's a riveting tale. Then I would, wouldn't I?

Talking of history, with little else to do we have been unearthing old boxes - and reading letters written by the chief's great grandfather. Sir Malcolm MacGregor lived in west Perthshire, but a naval career meant he spent long years away at sea. In these missives, composed a hundred and fifty years ago, the Rear Admiral is in the middle of the ocean. He's missing the Highland hills and glens and taking a wee dram to remind himself of home. He is also detailing the sort of ship's biscuits his little dog likes to chew on. Because, from the coast of Africa to Brazil, the man was accompanied a small black and tan terrier. Then that's what they did then. A faithful friend could follow his master to the ends of the earth.

Man's best friend

I know dogs are trained to work in combat zones today. But imagine taking a simple pet into a modern conflict. I decide to look further into the matter - and stumble on a poignant place. High above Edinburgh is a resting place for regimental mascots and the pets of officers. It is a cemetery for soldiers' dogs.

Among those buried a medieval tower at the city's castle is a little white animal that 'served' with the 72nd Highlanders. Pat took part in the Victorian Afghan

campaign; marching with the troops from Kabul to Kandahar - and no doubt keeping up spirits on the way.

'Dobbler', meanwhile, was a bull terrier that accompanied the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to far-flung places like China and South Africa. Flora was a band dog. Then there is Scamp and Tinkler - and the rest - all remembered in verse.... 'Berkin digs lie here at rest/ The yappin worst, obedient best/Sodgers pets and mascots tae/Still the guard the castle to this day.'

I do not think our doggies will ever sit in a hall of fame - or on a castle rampart. The littlest MacNaughties likes to think he's brave. And the tiny terrier has challenged a few Alsatians in his time, but he is not comfortable with noise. As the first shot rang out, Rummie would be gone. As for the Spaniel. Well, as a shooting dog, gunfire does not phase. Especially now he is deaf. But put him on water and he does not like it one bit. Indeed, the chief once took him on the ferry to the Shetland Isles. It was not a successful trip.

No, our two will never make the grand heights of Edinburgh Castle. Then they will probably be quite happy to rest among the bluebells in the garden. We try not to think about that. And dwell instead on the bravery of man's best friend...

Greetings from Scotland - where we are still waiting for the sun to make an appearance. If the weather improves the chief might even be able to crank up the barbecue in the back courtyard. A fair bit of work has been going on there; walls painted, cobbles cleaned, and I want to show it off. We don't usually need an excuse to party, but with restrictions still in force over the virus, we have to do our entertaining outside - so we do need a dry day. I do hope you haven't been really badly affected. Here, touch wood, the number of reported cases is falling. Then the Scottish Government has been ultra-strict on who can go where and do what. Plus, we now have to wear face masks in shops and on public transport.

Heather blooms on Ben A'an, Trossachs. Photo: Andy Belshaw.



- Scotland is the European stronghold for upland, heather-rich heath, with about a quarter of the whole surface of the country covered in it.
- Heather grows from sea level to elevations of about 1,000 metres in the mountains.
- Large areas of upland Scotland - particularly in Perthshire, the Cairngorms, Deeside and the Borders - are dominated by ling or common heather.
- In the Highlands the medicinal properties of an infusion of heather tops were used to treat coughs, consumption and to soothe the nerves, and heather tea and ointments were used to treat arthritis and rheumatism.

- Heather was used to make brooms which is how it got its Latin name: Calluna, which is derived from the Greek word meaning 'to brush'.
- Heather blooms July to October and is at its best in late summer, peaking in August.
- The idea that white heather is lucky was popularised by the Victorians and their love of Scottish traditions.
- Heather ale was made in Scotland for thousands of years - archaeologists have found traces of an alcoholic drink made from heather on shards of pottery more than 3,000 years old used by the Picts!



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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.



"This is an incredible opportunity to own a piece of whisky history. This is an exciting time for everyone at the Grand Whisky Auction and we are expecting interest from bidders worldwide seeking to add this rare bottle to their collection."

Beau Wallace, director of The Grand Whisky Auction, said as a historic bottle of whisky went up for auction from the shipwreck which inspired the book and film *Whisky Galore*. 50,000 cases of whisky washed up from a stricken vessel leaving Scottish islanders trying to recover the liquid cargo during the Second World War. The bottle comes from one of the most famous shipwrecks in history, the *S.S Politician*, which ran aground off the shores of Eriskay in the Outer Hebrides in 1941.



"The decision has been an extremely hard one to make but the committee have a responsibility to the community of Shetland to ensure the festival does not contribute to the spread of Covid-19. The nature of Up Helly Aa, the numbers involved and the potential of large numbers of visitors to the isles are all risks that were taken into account. The festival going ahead in its current format would be difficult with any restrictions in place

and with uncertainty surrounding what guidance would be in place in January meant there was no guarantee the festival could happen at all. The health and safety of the community, participants and the many volunteers it takes to deliver the festival was the priority of committee members when making the decision."

Organisers said Shetland's Up Helly Aa festival will be cancelled in 2021. The popular fire festival includes people dressed as Vikings marching through the streets of Lerwick to recreate its ancient Viking past, in a tradition dating back to the 19th century. The festival has rarely been postponed or cancelled in its 140-year history, with the last cancellation taking place in 1965 due to the death of Winston Churchill.



"Abbotsford is not only one of Scotland's most significant heritage icons, it is also a crucial linchpin to supporting the local and regional economy across the whole of the south of Scotland. Although we still anticipate there may be tough times ahead for us, the Heritage Emergency Fund grant is helping us to look to the future with more confidence. We can't wait to welcome our visitors, friends and neighbours back again and are carefully following announcements from the Scottish government for guidance on when we can reopen."

Giles Ingram, chief executive of the Abbotsford Trust, said the £224,200 Heritage Emergency Fund grant will help pay for a range of essential day-to-day costs including salaries, utilities, garden upkeep and security at Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott, near Melrose in the Scottish Borders. The Trust had to shut Abbotsford's doors to visitors on 20th March and even though it has been closed to visitors, the running and conservation costs of the Category A listed buildings, gardens and collections remain virtually unchanged. At least 70,000 people of all ages from all over the world visited Abbotsford last year.

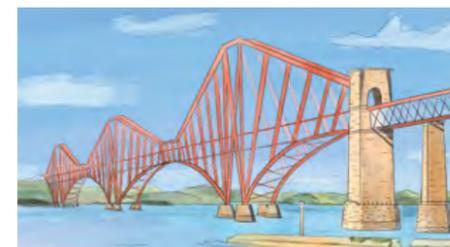
"As our local economies open back up and particularly with busy streets like Buchanan Street and Argyle Street it will be more challenging for people to remain physically distanced, so if we can help them in any way at all to make that easier we are willing to give it a try and see how it works out."

Glasgow City Council leader, Susan Aitken, said as the city makes plans to get stores trading again in Scotland's busiest shopping precincts. Signs to encourage pedestrians to walk on one side of the road could be introduced on major pedestrian thoroughfares such as Buchanan Street.

"Sam is clearly very popular with fans, and this victory solidifies his position as one of the public favourites for this most coveted of film roles. With a host of incredible talent in the frame to take over from Daniel Craig, Sam certainly has some stiff competition – but this big vote of confidence will certainly be something for Bond 26 producers to consider."

RadioTimes.com editorial director Tim Glanfield said that Scottish actor Sam Heughan top a recent poll to find the next James Bond.

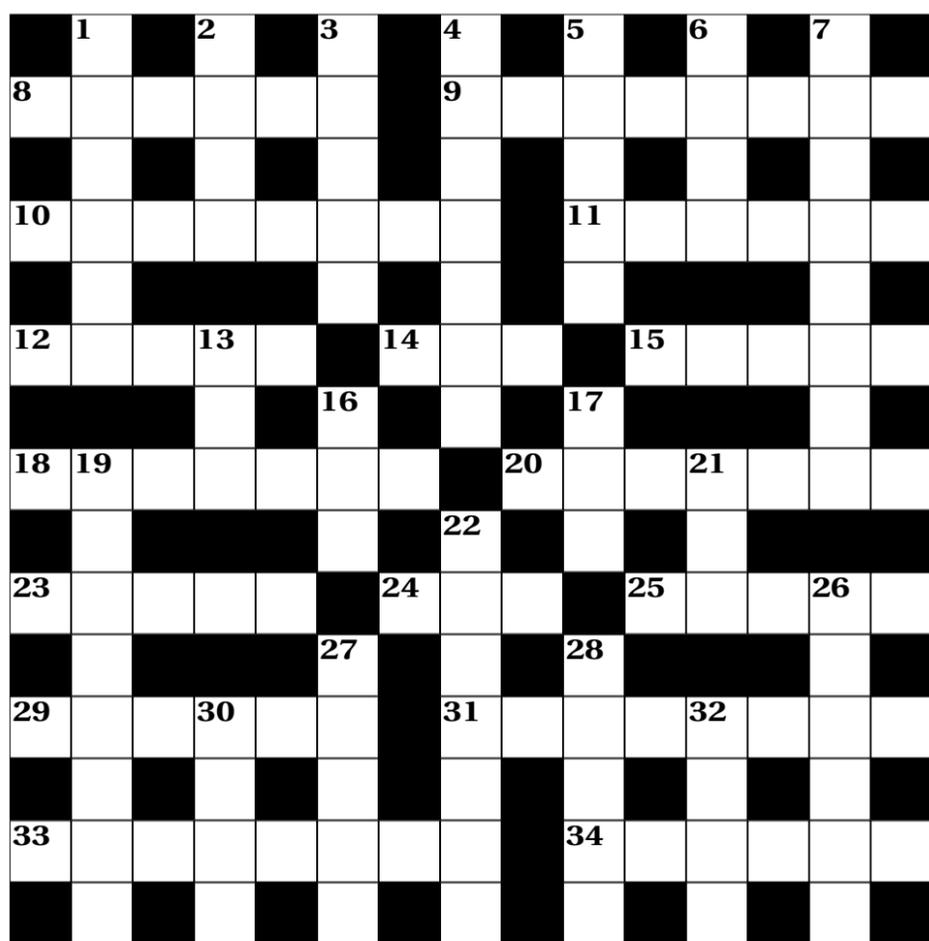
The *Outlander* actor beat stars like Tom Hardy and Idris Elba in the poll for RadioTimes.com as Daniel Craig has filmed his final Bond movie.



"The Coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact on the tourism industry. It's important that new and returning visitors are still dreaming about Scotland even if they can't physically explore just yet. We felt Sketching Scotland was a fun take on sightseeing, so even if you can't physically visit you can still learn about some of our best-loved attractions in a completely new way. We were also conscious that people are looking for ways to use their time creatively and learn a new skill. We loved the thought that people all over the world could be taking 15 minutes to relax, draw and think of Scotland, and of course hopefully visit in real life when that is possible."

Eva Kwiecinska, VisitScotland's Senior Content Marketing Manager, said that VisitScotland has come up with a new way to draw attention to some of the country's most iconic sights. Part of its online activity to help visitors dream now and travel later, the national tourism organisation has launched Sketching Scotland. A series of 20 short videos teaching virtual visitors how to sketch landmarks and locations such as Glenfinnan Viaduct, Caerlaverock Castle and the Kelpies. To try Sketching Scotland visit: www.visitscotland.com/see-do/attractions/arts-culture/sketching-scotland

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 23!

CLUES ACROSS:

- Clues Across
- 8) Town west of Peebles (6).
- 9) Chief town on Bute (8).
- 10) Birthplace of David Livingstone (8).
- 11) Type of scone (6).
- 12) Top peak! (5).
- 14) Scots roll (3).
- 15) Scotland's renowned author (5).
- 18) Scotland's second city (7).
- 20) Admin region of south-east Scotland (7).
- 23) Castle near Perth (5).
- 24) Anger (3).
- 25) A dishonest card! (5).
- 29) Search out this animal (6).
- 31) Town south-west of Barrhead (8).
- 33) Town near Linlithgow (3).
- 34) Glasgow river (6).

CLUES DOWN:

- 1) Tayside castle of the Ogilvies (6).
- 2) Once more in Scots (4).
- 3) The Royal Scots (5).
- 4) Top gathering village (7).
- 5) Party animals! (5).
- 6) ---- of Hermiston (4).
- 7) Village on the River Dee (8).
- 13) Short measures! (3).
- 16) Mountain pass (3).
- 17) Scots farm animal (3).
- 19) Tayside expanse of water (4, 4).
- 21) North-east river (3).
- 22) A capital street (7).
- 26) It's a fiddle! (6).
- 27) In winter it's an ermine! (5).
- 28) Highland daggers (5).
- 30) Gather in the harvest (4).
- 32) Farm silage store (4).

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.



Jauries

Wee Jimmy's lost his jaurie,
doon by the Broomielaw,
He drapped it doon a stank so he
went and got a clathespole.

He shoved that doon the stank
but coudnae reach at all,

So he went and got some gunpowder
and rammed that doon the stanks,

But still he still coudnae get it and
blew up half of Glasgow - thanks!

And It was in his bloody pocket,
it wisnae lost at all.

A sad Glasgow tale, circa 1950s.

We loved to make stilts and the simplest type to engineer were those that had an old tin can for each foot and a strong piece of string or better still some washing line to loop up to hold tight as we tentatively plodded forward. Another design which made us even taller required us to acquire two poles from a Corporation Parks and Gardens fence in Househillwood Park and attach a wooden block to each pole with a six-inch nail. A far-sighted Glasgow Corporation had provided a

plentiful supply of these fence poles all along Barrhead Road all the way from Pollokshaws to the Hurler and beyond.

Marbles

Yo-yo's and hula hoops and other attractions which captured the imaginations of both children and adults came and went. Girds made from an abandoned bicycle wheel and a sturdy stick and peerie tops from an earlier era were losing favour but the popularity of games like 'jauries' came around each year as reliably as the seasons, only more mysteriously.

The popularity of games like 'jauries' came around each year as reliably as the seasons, only more mysteriously.

We never quite knew or even took the time to ask, why it was that all of a sudden just about everyone was scrambling through their mother's sideboards to search out that bag or old sock containing the marbles from the year before. Suddenly everyone was spending big at the local shops and everywhere else in Glasgow on new marbles. The mysterious names passed down by word of mouth from each generation of 'jaurie players' were heard once again on our streets and in our school playgrounds.

Combies or clayies, made of fired clay, were the least attractive but they were cheap and readily available in our post-war stringent environment where even sugar for our precious sweets was still being rationed. Chinas were made of porcelain clay, glazed or unglazed and one step up, but not near as attractive as clearies made of clear, light blue or green glass. Glessies were made of clear brightly coloured glass and milkies were opaque milky white marbles. The more highly valued special marbles had fancy swirls inside and cat's eye marbles were a later addition from Japan coming into the UK in the 1950's. Lastly there were steelies, shiny ball-bearings of various sizes and were naturally readily available in a city of heavy engineering works and shipyards.

Greetin' and girnin'

Establishing the finer rules in a game, where some people were going to go off home with less than they came with and possibly greetin' and girnin' for good measure, was most important before the commencement of any contest. 'Fairsies' was when each player got back his marbles at the end of the game no matter how many they won or lost during the game but the cut and thrust of 'keepsies' was more commonly favoured within my group of friends. In 'keepsies' our losses were not returned and there was always someone with an eye on our best and most attractive jauries. The person that got closest to the line that we were shooting to commenced play by having 'first go' at shooting his marble toward the group of marbles put into the pool. That was usually the first point of contention.

"You've only pit in two of they wee commies. That's no' fair. Ah put in two of my best glessies. Ah'm no playin' if you don't put in at least wan of your milkies to make up for ma good wans." We were allowed to use and usually keep the marble we selected as our shooter, but everything else was up for grabs. With such riches at stake cheating had to be watched out for. Moving a hand forward over the pitch line while shooting, placing a hand over the shooting line, having our knuckles off the ground when they were supposed to be touching the ground were all frowned on and a great source of argument.

"Hey, haud oan a minute! You pushed yer hand ower the line. Ye'll have to take that shot again."

"No ah don't - No ah didnae!. If ah did do it, it must have moved over that wee stone. Ah didnae mean it." We won a marble by either hitting it or pushing it over the line by striking it. "That jaurie didnae move. That disnae count."

"Aye it does. We didnae say that it had to move to count." Some of us went home with a sock bulging with new trophies to be enthusiastically counted and admired with all the delight of a rich man counting his golden guineas. Inevitably, some of us went home, sniffing back tears, with a wee near-empty sock of jauries to be carefully counted, one by one, like a miserable miser. Thank goodness the jaurie season finally came to its inevitable end and what remained of those marbles went into a sock but to emerge just as reliably in another year's time.



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Ditch plastic-go Scottish!



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Glencoe



Towering mountains surround hidden valleys, glittering lochans and some of Scotland's most-loved wildlife. A change in weather dramatically alters the mood. Scotland's most famous glen is as much known for its outstanding wild beauty as it is for its tragic past – and both have inspired countless pieces of art. Everyone who visits Glencoe leaves with treasured memories of this remarkable place.

*Not wildwood deep, nor mountain gray,
Not this deep dell, that shrouds from day,
Could screen from treach'rous cruelty.*
(Sir Walter Scott, 'On the Massacre of Glencoe')

*The road winds in
Listlessness of ancient war,
Langour of broken steel*
(T S Eliot, 'Rannoch, by Glencoe')

Culzean Castle & Country Park



This 18th century Scottish castle offers a dramatic cliff top setting, Robert Adam architecture, fascinating history and beautiful surroundings. Packed with antique furniture and furnishings, artworks, porcelain and other fascinating period objects, it's a superb example of 18th century high-class living.

Culzean is surrounded by a large estate with lush woodland, landscaped gardens and rugged coastline – all of which must have inspired Georgian artist Alexander Nasmyth very shortly after the castle was completed. This beautiful oil painting now hangs in the Long Drawing Room in Culzean Castle.

Staffa



Follow in the footsteps of J M W Turner, Mendelssohn, Wordsworth and Sir Walter Scott – and fall under the spell of this magical island. Staffa looks as if it has come straight out of the pages of a fantasy novel with its volcanic rock columns, caves and sheer cliffs. Listen to Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture* (inspired by Fingal's Cave) and lose yourself in Wordsworth's 'Cave of Staffa':

*[...] stand
Gazing, and take into his mind and heart,
With undistracted reverence, the effect
Of those proportions where the Almighty hand
That made the worlds, the sovereign Architect,
Has deigned to work as if with human art!*

Countless artworks take as their inspiration not only the landscape of Scotland, but also its wonderful historic buildings. The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) care for these amazing places so they can continue to inspire future generations.

Glenfinnan Monument



Glenfinnan is pretty much a living artwork, with the spectacular Highland scenery at the head of Loch Shiel framing the 18m-high monument. This is where Prince Charles Edward Stuart set off on his ill-fated 1745 campaign, the final Jacobite rising. The views are amazing in every season.

You should also be able to spot the equally impressive Glenfinnan Viaduct, made famous by its starring role in the *Harry Potter* films and in many railway posters.

Robert Burns Birthplace Museum



The best place to get close to Burns and his genius is his birthplace of Alloway, now home to the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. This wee village inspired much of Burns's work, most famously his epic poem *Tam o' Shanter*.

*Kirk Alloway was drawing nigh,
Where ghaists & houlets nightly cry.*

Due to his enduring popularity, Burns has inspired countless artists in the last 200 years, from painters and sculptors to Bob Dylan and John Steinbeck.

Torridon



A magnet for hikers and climbers, Torridon is a place of majestic beauty and uncompromising terrain. At the foot of the mountains, the upper shore of Loch Torridon is a peaceful spot to contemplate the awe-inspiring scenery. We think this must have been where Victorian poet A C Swinburne camped overnight, to admire the sunrise he captured in his *Loch Torridon*:

*From mountain to mountain the water
was kindled and stung to delight.
And the grey gaunt heights that embraced
and constrained and compelled it were glad,
And the rampart of rock, stark naked,
that thwarted and barred it, was clad
With a stern grey splendour of sunrise*

Culloden



Scotland's future was changed on 16 April 1746 when the Jacobite army fought to reclaim the throne of Britain from the Hanoverians for a Stuart king. The Battle of Culloden was the last hand-to-hand battle fought on British soil, and resulted in a brutal defeat for the Jacobites.

Visitors today can wander the battlefield and experience the powerfully evocative atmosphere. The bleak aspect across boggy moorland captures something of the experience for those clansmen. Gaelic poet Aonghas MacNeacail has created a series of poetry benches around the field, inspired by his surroundings. The inscription on one reads:

*cluinn màrsail, each is gunna, claidheamh
caithream 's caoineadh, ameasg ceilearai dh
hear marching, horse and gunfire, sword and
drumbeat, weeping, amid birdsong*

Brodick Castle, Garden & Country Park



The quintessential Victorian 'Highland' estate, the grand Scottish baronial-style Brodick Castle has stunning views over Brodick Bay to the Firth of Clyde, enjoyed every bit as much today as they were almost 200 years ago. Nestled beneath Goatfell and surrounded by woodland, the castle is a favourite thing to spot from the ferry on the journey over to Arran.

The gardens, woodland, waterfalls, bathing pools and bold rhododendrons conjure up an island charm that will beguile children and adults alike.

Landscape artist George Hering was a close friend of Princess Marie of Baden, who lived at Brodick Castle in 1844 after marrying the future Duke of Hamilton. Hering visited Brodick often and painted this in 1857.

Iona



This little island of bright white sands and twinkling turquoise waters is an artist's dream, and inspired a series of works from Scottish Colourists Francis Cadell and Samuel Peploe in the 1920s. The sense of spiritual calm on Iona is enhanced by this natural beauty. The Hebridean folklorist and photographer Margaret Fay Shaw, who lived on Canna, visited a couple of decades later and took a series of photographs that, even in black and white, capture the sense of peace and tranquillity in this special place.

Preston Mill



With its curious Dutch-style conical roof, the mill is an architectural oddity that will beguile visitors as much as it delights painters and photographers. Perhaps currently best known as Jamie Fraser's mill pond in the hit TV series of

Outlander, the storybook nature of Preston Mill also inspired Lady Ailsa in 1909. Her watercolour now hangs in the Eisenhower apartments in her former home at Culzean Castle.

Bannockburn



We've mostly looked at artists from centuries past, but National Trust for Scotland places remain every bit as inspirational today and continue to play an important role in the modern Scottish arts. When the new Battle of Bannockburn visitor centre opened in 2014, the NTS revealed a very special inscription on the restored rotunda. Written by Kathleen Jamie for the 700th anniversary of this nation-defining battle, it concludes with the lines:

*'Come all ye, the country says
You win me, who take me most to heart.'*

Scotland holds such an important place in so many hearts, and it's thanks to the support of NTS members, friends and donors that they are able to protect these special places today, and for generations to come.

Text and images are courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland. For more information on the Trust or to help them protect Scotland's heritage see: www.nts.org.uk



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 (SRT Reference: 12848) was designed for Olly Bobbins Florists, based in Perthshire, who wanted to design a tartan that represents memories of the fresh Highland landscapes in the Scottish summertime. The colour palette was inspired by the memories of fields with sweet-smelling heather and hazy mornings: purple and green represent the heather and forests of the Highland landscape; light purple grey represents the morning haze and pinks represents the night sky. Purple doubles as the colour for Alzheimer's Scotland, a charity personal to Olly Bobbins. The tartan was designed by Joe Rodger and was registered in June, 2020.

Volunteers isolate at Highlands 'lost world' to save thousands of young trees



Patrick Fenner, Louise Cameron and Emma Beckinsale tend the young trees at Dundreggan.

A team of six people from Trees for Life have been voluntarily isolating themselves at the charity's flagship Dundreggan rewilding estate in Glenmoriston, near Loch Ness in the Highlands since 23 March – to save more than 100,000 native young trees from being lost due to the coronavirus crisis lockdown. The trees – including Scots pine, rowan, juniper, hazel, holly and oak, as well as rare mountain species such as dwarf birch and woolly willow – have all been grown carefully from seed in Dundreggan's specialised nursery, and were due for planting out on the hills this spring.

Restore Scotland's ancient Caledonian Forest

Dozens of volunteers help to propagate and grow over 60,000 trees a year at the nursery, from seed collected across the estate. These trees are then planted out at Dundreggan and other Highland sites to restore Scotland's ancient Caledonian Forest and its unique wildlife.

"We were all set for another busy season of preparing thousands of young native trees for planting on the hills by our volunteers, when the coronavirus crisis forced the postponement of this spring's tree planting – meaning tens of thousands of young trees have not left our nursery as planned. But nature isn't in lockdown. All these precious trees have been coming into leaf, and we need to take care of them – especially in the dry weather we've been having. Without regular watering, they would all die. We also needed to start sowing new seed now, to ensure a supply of trees for future planting seasons" said Doug Gilbert, Trees for Life's Dundreggan Manager.

So, Doug – with colleagues Abbey Goff, Emma Beckinsale, Patrick Fenner, and trainees Catriona Bullivant and Louise Cameron – opted to voluntarily isolate themselves at Dundreggan rather than at their homes when the national lockdown was announced. Doug and his colleagues aren't leaving Dundreggan

except for a few essential reasons, such as collecting prescriptions. Food is arriving at the rewilding estate via supermarket deliveries.

The world's first rewilding centre

Doug added: "The local Redburn Cafe has started local takeaways, so they're an occasional treat! No one has visited us for weeks now, except for delivery drivers and the postie. We're here in isolation for the long-haul if needs be – together with a growing forest for the future."

Trees for Life plans to open the world's first rewilding centre at Dundreggan in 2022. This is expected to welcome over 50,000 visitors annually – allowing people

to explore the wild landscapes, discover Gaelic culture, and learn about the region's unique wildlife including golden eagles, pine martens and red squirrels.

As well as being an internationally important forest restoration site, Dundreggan is a biodiversity hotspot that is home to over 4,000 plant and animal species. Discoveries include several species never recorded in the UK before, or previously feared extinct in Scotland.

Trees for Life is dedicated to rewilding the Scottish Highlands. So far its volunteers have established nearly two million native trees at dozens of sites, encouraging wildlife to flourish and helping communities to thrive.

For more details see: www.treesforlife.org.uk

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Canadian born Tyler Fry has had a love of pipe bands from an early age. His passion for pipe bands, and particularly the drums, has made him become a world champion drummer, instructor and entrepreneur. Tyler took time to talk all things pipe bands with us this month from his home in Houston, Texas.

TF: How did you get into the pipe band scene? And what specifically drew you to drumming?

TF: I grew up in a small town called Kincardine along the banks of Lake Huron in Ontario, Canada. The town is named by Scottish migrants after the town in Fife. In 1909 a group of Scottish settlers formed the town's first pipe band and over the years the band marched up and down the main street every Saturday night during the summer. When I was just a small boy in the 1980s, I was drawn and mesmerised by the sounds of the pipe band and watched them perform each Saturday.



By 1984 my grandparents bought me my first toy drum and I already made by mind up I wanted to be a bagpipe drummer. My grandmother tied a string to my toy drums sticks and attached a pom pom at the end of them, so I was actually able to flourish my stick while sitting on my dad's shoulders and follow the pipe band up the street, so as a kid I knew I wanted to be in the band and drum.

Anyone who is involved in the pipe band movement is no doubt also mesmerised by the sound and the power of the bagpipes. However, I was drawn to the drummers in the band particularly. I was drawn to the drummers who flourished or twirled their sticks whilst drumming at the same time, and by not only the sound but the spectacle and showmanship of the drums, making it for me a visual show as well as audible performance.

You produce the world's most popular tenor drumstick and amazingly began your own drumming brand, TyFry, at age 13 can you tell us more?



TF: When I got the opportunity to join my local pipe band at the age of 10 or 11 I told them I wanted to be a tenor drummer. While I was playing with the band I was watching, listening and mimicking the tenor drummers.

During 8th grade I was given a home economics project which involved me having to sew on a sewing machine. So, I created my first tenor drumstick at 13 years old. Shortly thereafter I was playing several solo drumming events and was invited to play for the 78th Highlanders and soon after began producing drum sticks for myself because I wasn't happy with the way the sticks I was using felt when I flourished them and I certainly could not produce a good sound when I used any of the current products in the market at that time. So I created something for me and by word of mouth, slowly but surely, over the next year or so I started getting requests for my sticks from bands such as the Chicago Police Pipe Band and more and all of the sudden I had a little bit of money and I put that into creating a business.

So many people love the pipes but can forget that the drumming aspect of a pipe band is crucial. What is your perspective on just how important the drum corps are?

TF: The bagpipe is an amazing instrument, but unfortunately it only has one volume. A bagpiper does not have control over their dynamics, the loudness or softness of the sound so the drum corps has the ability

to create that for them. A drum corps can enhance the rhythmic pattern of bagpipes in ways that arguably a bagpipe cannot do on its own. Bass and tenor drums can harmonically enhance what is going on with the bagpipe. Drums create another visual element to enhance a pipe band performance. Our job is really to make the bagpipes even better than they already are.

Your passion for the pipe bands is obvious and you are fortunate to be a global ambassador in the pipe band scene by playing, running work shops and even as a live stream host. What is it you love about the global pipe band community and what international similarities or differences do you see amongst the bands?

TF: I love that globally we have a fraternity of people that love Scottish music and culture. What pipe bands have taught me is that the world is a big place but at the same time a very small place.

Drums create another visual element to enhance a pipe band performance. Our job is really to make the bagpipes even better than they already are.

I can be in Canberra, Christchurch, Glasgow or Kincardine and the interest and love for Scottish music is the same, no matter where I go. So the great thrill for me is travelling all over the world, whether it be as a tutor or instructor, live stream host or as you say an ambassador, is being able to share the same passion for what I love with other people. I think we are the same, and we have a global community which shares a common passion for Scottish music, culture and identity and I feel so fortunate to be a part of it.

Tyler you are associated with the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Scotland's most famous bag pipe band. Can you tell us how you got involved and how important you feel bringing a modern edge to piping music is today?

TF: I began touring with the Red Hot Chilli Pipers (RHCP) in 2013 and it was actually kind of by accident. Being in the pipe band scene I have become friends with many members of different bands throughout the years, including some of the founding members of the RHCP. I live in Houston, Texas and they called me to join them at an event for Richard Branson in Barbados which I jumped at the chance to do. A month later I was in Scotland and they invited me to join them on stage at a show in Buckie, on the Moray coast, and I did my flourish.

The next year I took part in the filming of their DVD *Live at the Lake* in Milwaukee in America. From there on I toured with the band when my schedule allowed, and it is a massive honour to be part of it. No one has done more in the advancement of Scottish music, outside of pipe bands, than the RHCP. I think it is important to find innovative ways to appeal to the next generation and look for new ways to bring the audience into what we do and be interested in what we do. The RHCP have done a great job in bringing both Scottish songs and songs we all know and love on the radio to the pipes to not only the next generation of pipers and drummers, but

also to the general public who may not know anything about bagpipes or Scottish culture. The RHCP do a great job in selling pipe band music to an audience that otherwise may not have an interest and has brought Scottish culture to people of all different backgrounds and made bagpipes for everyone.

What advice would you give to someone, regardless of age, who may be interested in getting involved with their local pipe band?

TF: I think that there is nothing more exciting that learning an instrument. Pipe bands are one of the most amazing things that have ever come into my life. I love the global fraternity we all have through pipe band and Scottish music, and it is so exciting to me that the pipe band movement has allowed me to create a global network of friends and family that I never thought I would have in my life. It does not matter how young, or old you are, it is never too late to get involved. Whether it is small country town Australia or mega city USA, pipe bands are a culture, a way of life and for me nothing has opened more doors. Creating music as a group is amazing and the energy I get from performing is incredible so get out there and give it a try.

The pipe band scene across the world is currently doing it very tough due to Covid-19 with contest and performance cancellations. What positive initiatives do you see/or would like to see that will help keep bands spirits going and competitions alive?

TF: It is really tough if you can't get musicians together to keep the spark alive. I love seeing all the innovation that has



occurred online with respect to online competitions, band practices and social connection. A lot of these things are probably here to stay. Things are so very different in different parts of the world just now, with some bands able to meet and others which cannot. I think it is important we find innovative ways to connect using technology, not only to practice together but to perform. Social media is rampant with individuals and bands who have found creative ways to connect throughout this time of chaos. I am optimistic that bands, individuals and associations will continue to explore these new opportunities of how bands can play, nurture and promote pipe bands and bring new opportunities to our community. A lot of innovation in piping and drumming has come out in times of crisis and I think we will look back to 2020 the same way.

This month should be the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow. How special is this event to you and how important do you feel it is for the piping community to have not only The World's but also so many great piping competitions to foster piping excellence?



At The Worlds in Glasgow.

TF: Anyone in piping and drumming knows that The World's is the pinnacle of competition and the ultimate goal of competitive pipe bands. I think it is a massive shame that the bands are not able to get together this year on Glasgow Green and the other performance related events like PipingLive! or the Northern Meeting. I also think perhaps as a culture we place too much emphasis on competition and maybe we will be able to use this time to evaluate if it should be all about competing, or should we also look at performance. Very often if you are a competitive pipe band the emphasis is on competition, I think it is possible given technology that we can look at different avenues beyond competition. Perhaps use this break to re-evaluate what the pipe band movement is doing and find ways of not only competing, but harmonising competition with performance and to sell what we do to a wider changing global audience. Competitions are an important and great experience for band members but should not be the be all and end all of the pipe bands.



Tyler with the Red Hot Chilli Pipers.

What is next for you Tyler?

TF: For the first time in a long time I am not travelling. I have been using the time of Covid-19 to re-evaluate what I do musically and an opportunity to innovate in ways I have not been able to before. I have new product ideas coming and plan to innovate and build my business. I am using this as an opportunity to evolve what I do not only as a musician, but also personally and professionally.

For more details see: www.tyfr.com

Eat Sleep Pipe Repeat – Music for the Bagpipes

Eat Sleep Pipe Repeat is the new collection of bagpipe music by Kyle Warren (Field Marshal Montgomery and Red Hot Chilli Piper). The book consists of 50 tunes, of which 42 are by Kyle. These include 34 new compositions, and 8 arrangements of modern and classic pipe tunes, with the original tunes also published in the book from famous composers such as Gordon Duncan, Chris Armstrong and Mark Saul. This book is all about driving jigs, reels and hornpipes. Whilst a nice mix of strathspeys, dances, slow airs and a few light marches complete the collection. The book consists of tunes suitable for all players, from the pipe band competition field to the folk music stage, or for having a wee tune at home!

The book includes tunes played by some of the best pipe bands in the world; Field Marshal Montgomery (FMMPB), Inveraray and District, Scottish Power Pipe Band and more.

Four-time World Champion

Four-time World Champion piper Kyle Warren has recently returned to Scotland after spending 5 years in Australia, teaching at the prestigious Scotch College in Melbourne and leading the Grade 2 Australian Champions - Hawthorn Pipe Band.

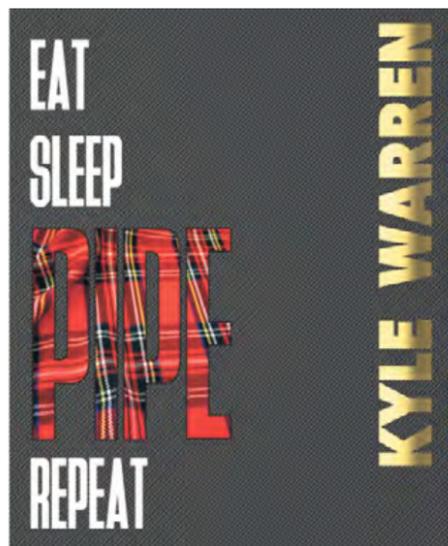
Before emigrating, Kyle was a member of the Field Marshal Montgomery Pipe Band winning 17 major titles in four years (2011-2014), which included a history making double 'Grand Slam'. Kyle was also a full-time member of the Red Hot Chilli Pipers touring worldwide, joining the famous 'BagRock' band after graduating

with a First Class Honours from the Scottish Music – Piping Degree at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Highlights in Kyle's piping career include releasing his debut album *Wanted* and book of music *Tunez*, recording pipes on the Disney Pixar Oscar winning movie *Brave*, reaching the final of the BBC Scotland Young Traditional Musician of the year, Pipe Major of the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland, winning a Danny Kyle award with 'TNT' at Celtic Connections, winning the Bagad Championship in Lorient with Bagad Cap Caval and teaching at the highly successful Dollar Academy prior to emigrating to Australia.

2020 sees Kyle based back in Scotland, back with FMMPB, and excited to release his second music book, *Eat Sleep Pipe Repeat*.

Orders are now available at: www.kylewarrenbagpipes.com



Bob Semple: a new tune for a pipe band legend

A new tune has been composed in honour of Robert – Bob – Semple O.A.M, B.E.M. who died in January after a short illness, aged 99.

Bob was a huge figure in the piping scene of Australia and was at the centre of the pipe band movement there for most of the 20th century. At his funeral a couple of months ago, a former Governor-General (Quentin Bryce) and a former Victoria State Premier (Ted Baillieu) delivered readings and comments.

Two pipe bands played, Australia's armed forces sent a troop of soldiers and the Scots' Church Melbourne was filled to overflowing. The police closed part of the street to allow for mourners. It was reportedly almost like a state funeral.

During the Second World War Bob joined the 2/12th Australian Field Regiment – 9th Australian Division, which ultimately saw more front-line combat action than any other Australian division. The unit was dubbed the 'Rats of Tobruk'. In 1946, in same month he returned to Australia, Bob joined the Hawthorn City Pipe Band and played in its ranks until 1960. He remained associated with the band for the rest of his life, though, being appointed Drum Major until his death.

Iain Bell of Canonbie never knew Bob but was touched by the news of his death. Iain composed this 2/4 march in honour of Bob but also of his comrades:

Iain, who in 2018 published his own collection of original pipe tunes, *From Scots Borderer To Ulster Scot*, said: "I believe Bob had a couple of tunes composed for him

already and I hope those who knew him find my tune worthy of him and a 'cheery' one suitable to his 'upbeat' character."

A spokesman for the Hawthorn Pipe Band said: "It's wonderful to see another tune in Bob's name and I'm sure he would be pleased to see that this tune is also for his former comrades."



A photograph of Bob Semple taken during WW2.



Images and text courtesy of Bagpipe.News: www.bagpipe.news

The Worlds in Glasgow.



This month should have seen the pipe band world descending or watching the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, where some of the top bands gather to compete, experience and build friendships. The sound of pipe bands may have temporarily been diminished but the music continues and this month we hear from a variety of pipe band leaders on how the spirit of the pipe band movement flourishes.

The Midwest Pipe Band Association-USA

All of the Highland Games in the Midwest United States have been cancelled for 2020. That does not mean the Midwest Pipe Band Association is taking the year off. All of our Games have told us they will be back in 2021. We are currently conducting an online solo piping and drumming event for all amateur pipers and drummers. It is called the Brian Conry Memorial Solo Online Piping & Drumming Contest. We are waving all entry fees for those that enter. We will be having an international judging panel for the event. Those prize winners under the age of 18 will be getting free online lessons from some of the best teachers in the world. There are other prizes as well. We are also posting several instructional videos for our members.

After this event is completed, we have a couple of other initiatives we will be announcing that are a little different. Most of our bands are still giving lessons to anyone who would like to join a band or to their own players so the band can pick right up after they can meet again at practice.

We are certainly hoping we will be able to pick up our indoor season early in 2021 at least in a modified fashion. It really makes us all appreciate how much we enjoy what we do. We hope the 2021 season is bigger and better than ever before. The Chicago Games already has plans for some new and innovative plans for their 2021 Games. They already hold a concert formation contest rather than the usual circle with the pipers and drummers' backs to the crowd and this has been very popular. They have plans to expand on this as well as other innovative ideas.

We are all looking forward to 2021.

*Jim Sim
President
MidWest Pipe Band Association*

Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands' Association-New Zealand

Around the world the Covid-19 pandemic has had a lasting effect on communities, and New Zealand has been no exception. But while the rest of the world works to manage this invisible threat, at the bottom of the world life has returned to some semblance of normality. But, it wasn't always the case.

New Zealand went into lockdown slightly over a week after our National Pipe Band Championships in mid-March. The contest is held on a Friday and Saturday, which was fortunate as we may have had to pull the pin on the contest if it had been held a day later. We were very lucky to have been able to host the Championships, which was to be one of the last major events in New Zealand for around three months.

During the lockdown, which began at the end of March, the Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands' Association (RNZPBA) has focused on ensuring our bands had good information about managing the virus, and knew their responsibilities when it came to their communities. We have made our digital communication facilities available to our members to help them with practices, workshops or meetings online and lots of bands took advantage of holding virtual band practices.

We've also helped our young players to have more time to audition for the upcoming New Zealand Youth Pipe Band, and have offered an online audition option, which has ensured all players have had the opportunity to apply to be part of this group. A number of youth pipe bands around the country have also successfully held band camps online, showing that anything is possible in the digital age – although the excellent home-cooked meals these camps are often famous for may not have been at the usual standard!

The New Zealand season will kick off around October, so bands have been cautiously getting back into 'normal' band practices. Sadly, a number of events have had to be cancelled, such as the Waipu Highland Games on 1 January 2021, mainly due to international travel restrictions potentially likely to still be in place. Other event organisers are looking at how their events might be affected, including the RNZPBA, who are taking a more hands-on risk management approach to preparations for next year's national contest in March. Funding streams are likely to be affected, and we want to ensure all bands have accommodation, as a number of hotels and motels have had to close their doors due to the tough economic times the lockdown has created. Bands tell us they are still very keen to be a part of a national contest, so we are very much looking forward to bringing everyone together again in March 2021.

With the World Pipe Band Championships cancelled, a number of kiwi bands who would have been making final plans for trips to Glasgow for The Worlds are now turning their attention elsewhere, with a number of ceilidhs being organised to fill the gap.

While the economic fallout from Covid will cause a lot of pain for years to come, it has definitely shown the pipe band world there are a number of options to do things online, and we will no doubt see a lot more online streaming of events, and less travel to meetings in the future – a silver lining perhaps?

The Competing Pipers' Association-Scotland

The Competing Pipers' Association (CPA) is responding to the Covid-19 outbreak by running a series of online contests for our members. These solo piping competitions will take place in the competitor's own home and they will submit a recorded video performance to our expert judging panel for assessment. These will be separated by the current grading system with the C grade taking place in July, B grade in August and A&P grades in September. It is hoped that these competitions will provide motivation for our members to continue to practice with a goal of testing themselves at a good, competitive level and also receiving constructive feedback on their performances.

There would normally be eleven CPA sanctioned events as well as numerous Highland Games with solo piping events throughout the calendar year. Of these,

all but two have been cancelled for 2020 and the remaining ones are in October and November indoors so it remains to be seen what will become of them, with organisers constantly assessing the government guidelines on gatherings.

There are also plans to hold the CPA AGM online and this will allow our members worldwide to join and have their say on matters. More details on this will be circulated with members in due course. The CPA had also planned to host the Jimmie MacGregor seminar in August at the PipingLive! Festival in Glasgow but this event will now take place online. A conversation with two top players and adjudicators is planned.

The CPA are hopeful that 2021 will bring a return to 'in-person' competitions.

The Pandemic Piper Project-Canada

With the cancellation of all events because of the Pandemic, the Scottish community in Montreal was facing a summer without the Highland Games and a fall without the St. Andrew's Ball. The Saint Andrew's Society has been around since 1835, and our events have rarely been cancelled, so these are clearly unusual times. Showing our Scottish ingenuity, we have taken purposeful action and launched two new initiatives.

The Pandemic Piper Project sees a pop-up piper perform in an iconic location tied to the Scottish history of Montreal. As we are specifically precluded from drawing a crowd, the performances are not publicized in advance and instead we create short videos which are shared on social media with our members and the community at large. We have had pipers perform at locations such as the Burns Memorial, the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, McGill University, and the Montreal International Airport, all eerily deserted. "During what is a very difficult time for many people, this project is a positive activity that we hope will bring a smile to the faces of many" said Ian Aitken, Past President of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal. In total, 13 videos have been created and one is released each week. The pipers and the videographers have volunteered their time and the project has been featured on local television and radio.

The organizing committee of the Montreal Highland Games has also refocused its attention and is hosting an on-line piping competition in August for local pipers. The top performances will be shared on social media. "This is a great opportunity to engage pipers and entertain the broader community" said Brian MacKenzie, President of the Montreal Highland Games Society.

While we clearly cannot gather as we have done for many years, we are finding new ways to promote Scottish culture and to remain present in our community. "We look forward to hearing what other Scottish cultural organizations are doing differently during the pandemic and hope that together we can all make the most of these very unusual times" said Marilyn Meikle, President of the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal.

In addition to these two virtual activities, the Society has remained active in other ways during the pandemic. We have continued to provide educational aid to students as well as direct community assistance to people in need and to organizations such as the Douglas Hospital Foundation, the Montreal Neurological Institute and the McCord Museum's collection of Canadian tartans. "We don't like to make excuses; we prefer to get things done" said Mr. Aitken.



Canadian precision.
Photo: Peter Matulina.



New Zealand's pipers on display.
Photo: Susanna Buckton.



Glasgow's Piping Live!

Pipe Bands Australia-Australia

Pipe Bands Australia has moved its education and training workshops online since the beginning of COVID-19 restrictions, engaging with hundreds of members in the piping and drumming seminars.

Already four workshops have been presented, also attracting attendees from overseas both during the live presentation and later when they are uploaded to YouTube.

Our internationally recognised qualification programs have experienced an upsurge in enrollments as members unable to gather weekly for band practices or perform take up opportunities to grow their musical proficiency.

A survey is underway of our member bands and early data shows bands have on average foregone more than \$2000 each in performance fees as a result of events cancelled in their local communities and Scottish celebrations. Some bands have also seen their annual local council funding allocation disappear.

We have adjusted annual band and player membership fees to support bands during these challenging times.

Across Australia, gatherings and pipe band contests have been cancelled and in the early weeks of the coronavirus crisis, our primary focus had been on scheduling of our Diamond Jubilee year Australian Pipe Band Championships in Maryborough that have now been postponed to next April at this stage.

Varying levels of restrictions across Australia mean that bands in some states may be able to return to contesting before others and Pipe Bands Australia will shortly release guidelines on the conduct of contests.

What we do know is that pipe band contests as they have been presented for many decades may not look the same as Australia comes out of the stages of social restriction.

Pipe Bands Australia has also created special performance opportunities since March with the Amazing Grace at 11 tribute on ANZAC Day and the upcoming VP 75 tribute on 15 August to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War Two – performances that can be given while socially distancing.

All in our pipe band family across Australia miss being unable to gather and share our music. We are supporting our bands and members to be ready for the time when bands can again come together in friendship.

And Pipe Bands Australia will continue to support its members with opportunities learning and performance.
Chris Earl President, Pipe Bands Australia

Kyle Warren-Scotland

What to do in 2020? It's time to enjoy your piping! With piping being my fulltime career and hobby, 2020 went from jam packed to 'heehaw' rather quickly. It's easy to be frustrated and annoyed amongst other feelings, but when something is literally so out of your control, all you can really do is stand back and reassess. So, right now, what can we control?

The reflection that I am sure many of us have taken time to do, has certainly made me appreciate much that in hindsight was taken for granted. Over the years how many times has it been a struggle to find motivation to give the pipes a blow when needed? Or to travel on cold, wet, dark nights to band practice, when staying at home, warm and dry was much more tempting. Or standing at the massed bands, having made the decision not to wear capes, only for the heavens to open, leaving you drenched

along with that quite possible feeling of disappointment that the prize announced wasn't the one you had hoped for. There are not always enough prizes to go round!

All that said and done, I'd give my left-hand pinky (the only finger you really don't need to play the pipes) to be back at the above just now! So, what to do instead? Perhaps, and it's a bit of a crazy thought, we could just play for enjoyment?

Enjoyment should be number one on the list of why we do it anyway, right? But the question is, what part of piping brings through the enjoyment for you?

The social side of pipe bands is legendary, the craic and the humour, then there is the music, the sound (tuning), and of course that winning feeling. These reasons all offer varying degrees of enjoyment for each individual. When chasing one however, often another can be left behind. Does the music go when chasing the win? Does the craic go when chasing the win? Does the win go when the craic is too mighty?

Right now, for me it feels like there are no rules with my piping. No band practice, no tunes to learn or to improve specifically. Right now, it is just me and my pipes (OK practice chanter as my pipes have seen daylight just once since Covid-19 started. Having a 2-year-old, 1 year old and another on the way this November being my excuse). But for me this time has been a great chance to listen, play and write music with freedom and very little pressure in the way of deadlines, be it band practices, performances or contests to aim for.

This month I release my second collection of music and I am very proud of how it has turned out. Had I been in the full swing of what 2020 was set to be; teaching, travelling and contests perhaps the book may have turned out a little differently. Having had the last few months to focus solely on this project has certainly made it as good as it could have been, and of course, it will be for others to judge the quality of the music inside.

So, what's next for us all? Playing solely for enjoyment, just you and the music you want to play, just you and your instrument, that goes back to long before competitions were even a thing, connecting us with the pipers of centuries ago. Why did they play? Did they get caught up in chasing the win? No. Without contests, they got caught up in the music, and that's not a bad place to be! So, enjoy your music, and make sure as things return to a gradual normal over time you don't lose this renewed connection and enjoyment with the music. And, lockdown or no lockdown, if you find yourself still with a fair amount of spare time on your hands, or you fancy freshening up your repertoire with some new tunes, I know a wee book you may like!
Kyle Warren

PS. Just encase I have come across on one side of the competition fence, I am, 100%, all for the win! There, I said it out in the open, balance in my writing restored.

The Balmoral School of Piping & Drumming-USA

In 1979, Balmoral began bringing the very best Highland pipers from Scotland to Pennsylvania, in order to teach piping to US students. In 2020, the year of the coronavirus, we're bringing instructors from Scotland (Robert Mathieson), Nova Scotia (Bruce Gandy) and Northern Ireland/Pittsburgh (Andrew Carlisle) into homes across the US and abroad, to teach students via Zoom. The response to these online schools has been universally positive.



Marching out at Melbourne Tartan Day.



Pipers at Chicago.



The Pandemic Piper.
Photo courtesy of Ian Aitken.

One result of our pivot to online instruction has been that we have attracted students from faraway states and nations for whom travel to Pittsburgh would've been prohibitively expensive. Along with classes and one-on-one instruction, we have been able to include online social hours, and tours of GI Reeds in Fife, McCallum Bagpipes in Kilmarnock, and Wallace Bagpipes in Paisley, Scotland. Our summer instructors' concert, usually available only to students and Pittsburgh residents, went public this year, premiering on YouTube Thursday, July 16, 2020. Both acts of the concert will remain on YouTube for the foreseeable future.

But Balmoral is not only a piping school. With Director George Balderose serving as Pipe Major, we sponsor Balmoral Pipes & Drums, a local band in Pittsburgh, PA, where the school is headquartered. We also host the Balmoral US Junior Solo Piping & Drumming Championships each November, and present a yearly concert, featuring internationally recognized Pipe Bands and Celtic Music ensembles. We are working hard to bring everything we do online, at least until the pandemic is over. And because we have gotten such encouraging feedback, we will continue to incorporate online classes and events into our schedule once the virus is under control, even as we resume "in person" gatherings.

Balmoral Pipes & Drums have been holding weekly band practices via Zoom, with these sessions run by Pipe Sergeant and instructor, Sean Patrick Regan. A talented professional piper himself, Regan has also taken charge of keeping Balmoral's online summer schools running smoothly. Holding remote band practices has worked out better than almost anyone could have guessed. Seeing everyone's faces, speaking with band members, and hearing them play on an ongoing basis has been therapeutic, as well as practical for all involved. As with in-person practices, everyone receives comments on ways to improve for the next week. We also spend time catching up and working through the crisis together. We are not putting our pursuit of music and community on hold just because we can't meet in person.

Plans for the 14th Annual Balmoral Classic competition, to be held November 14 this year, are currently underway. We will be taking the Classic online this year. First prize will be a set of MacCallum bagpipes. Though we're just beginning to work out the details, it is likely competitors will send in recorded performances, which will then be sent to our panel of judges. The competition would premier on YouTube on November 14th, with live chat. Plans for the fall concert are presently under consideration. Whatever we do will be open to piping fans worldwide.

The National Piping Centre -Scotland

The National Piping Centre, as the global home of piping, has been so sad to see the summer of piping cancelled in such sad circumstances. Over the last few months we have been encouraging pipers to keep

practicing with our digital practice tips, as well as encouraging new pipers to start their piping journey while on lockdown. Through our online piping school we reached pipers from 8 countries and had 2 time zones to make sure we could encourage pipers to keep playing through this tough time.

We recognise that focussing on piping, learning new tunes, listening to great pipers can all have a positive effect on mental health, giving players something to focus on. We would encourage all pipers and drummers everywhere to keep having a tune, getting together digitally to practice, or why not even listen along to your favourite piping CD. We are also hoping to offer some Piping Live! activity this summer, so keep an eye out on the NPC website for a way to tune into great piping online.

Piping Live! Glasgow International Piping Festival—Scotland

Piping Live! will live-streaming a mini-programme of this year's event between 8 – 14 August - after a summer of cancelled piping events left audiences at a loss and a number of performers financially struggling. Organisers revealed the series of competitions, performances, and panel talks, after being forced to cancel this year's festival due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The events - both free and ticketed - will showcase the same world-class musical talent, with an international flavour, that audiences have come to expect from the festival, and re-affirm the National Piping Centre's commitment to supporting and promoting piping excellence around the world. Finlay MacDonald, Artistic Director of Piping Live! Glasgow International Piping Festival, said: "To say we're thrilled to be streaming some of the best events from this year's Piping Live! Glasgow International Piping Festival programme is an understatement. Since we made the heart-breaking announcement that this year's event couldn't take place, we've been working hard to find a way to celebrate the amazing piping and traditional talent across the world. We wanted to lift the spirits of our fans after an incredibly difficult few months, while also financially supporting trad musicians at a time when they need it most, and these events do just that. To be able to bring back our beloved festival in any way is a true honour, and we can't wait to see you all, virtually, in August, for a week of piping hot events."

For more details or to donate see:
www.pipinglive.co.uk

THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Names & Places In The News From Today And The Past

1 - Death of Queen Anne; George I, Elector of Hanover becomes king. **1714**

1 - Proscription Act introduced, banning tartan and the carrying of weapons. The penalty for a first offence was six months in jail and a second offence resulted in transportation for seven years. **1747**

1 - University of Dundee which was incorporated into the University of St Andrews (as Queen's College) in 1890, constituted as a separate university. **1967**

2 - Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, died in Nova Scotia. Although he is best known for this invention Bell was also well known for his work on deafness. **1922**

3 - Sir William Kirkcaldy of Grange executed, after defending Edinburgh Castle on behalf of Mary Queen of Scots from May 1568 to May 1573. **1573**

3 - King James II killed by an exploding cannon at the siege of Roxburgh Castle. **1460**

3 - William Wallace is captured near Glasgow. Wallace is tried in London on 23 August, then executed. **1305**

3 - The 2014 Commonwealth Games (officially the XX Commonwealth Games) closing ceremony took place in Glasgow, Scotland. **2014**

4 - Birth of the entertainer Sir Harry Lauder, his hits included *Roamin' in the Gloamin'* and *Keep Right on to the End of the Road*. Lauder died in 1950 at the age of 79. **1870**

4 - Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, the future Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, born. **1900**

5 - James, Earl Douglas, died out of sight of his army, in a bush, at Battle of Otterburn in which Scots defeat Henry Percy, (Hotspur) but with the loss of the Earl of Douglas. **1388**

5 - The Scottish Parliament established a General Post Office. **1695**

6 - First Glasgow/Edinburgh coach service began from White Horse Inn, Edinburgh. **1678**

6 - Donald Alexander Smith - later Lord Strathcona - born in Forres. A pioneer of the Hudson Bay Company in the North-West, he later championed the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway across Canada and drove the last spike at Craigellachie, British Columbia. **1820**

6 - Birth of Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin. **1881**

7 - Lord Kitchener, the war minister, began a mass recruiting campaign, three days after Britain declared war on Germany. By the war's end a total of 147,609 Scots had been killed, a fifth of Britain's dead from a country that made up only 10% of its population. **1914**



7 - Air services begin from Barra Airport, the only beach airport anywhere in the world to be used for scheduled airline services. **1936**



7 - The first train arrives in Fort William on the newly opened West Highland Line. **1894**

8 - Former World flyweight boxing champion Benny Lynch died. **1946**

8 - King Edward I removed to England the Stone of Destiny on which generations of Scottish kings had been crowned. **1296**

8 - King James IV married Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII of England. The marriage was known as the Union of the Thistle and the Rose. **1503**

9 - Civil engineer Thomas Telford born in Dumfries. **1757**

9 - Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire opened after David McIntyre set up Scottish Aviation Ltd. Aircraft had been flying from the area since 1913. **1935**

10 - King James III crowned at Kelso Abbey. **1460**

10 - Education (Scotland) Act passed, providing elementary education for all children. **1872**

10 - Perth Museum and Art Gallery opened by the Duke and Duchess of York. **1935**

11 - Andrew Carnegie, the Dunfermline-born steel industrialist and philanthropist, died. Throughout his later life Carnegie established a number of foundations for education and research such as the Carnegie Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. **1919**

12 - Roy Williamson, the Scottish folk musician and songwriter, died. Williamson was one of the famous duo, The Corries, along with Ronnie Browne. **1990**

13 - Explorer Alexander Gordon Laing became the first Christian to reach Timbuctu, Africa. **1826**

13 - Birth of John Logie Baird, developer of television. **1888**

13 - Scotland's first nuclear power station at Dounreay went "critical" ushering in the generation of power from atomic reactions. **1957**

14 - King Duncan I killed in battle at Pitgavney by Macbeth. **1040**

14 - King Robert III born at Scone. **1337**

14 - King Robert III crowned at the Augustinian abbey of Scone. **1390**

14 - University of Strathclyde was constituted in Glasgow, based on the Royal College of Science and Technology. **1964**

15 - Macbeth killed in battle by Malcolm at Lumphanan. **1057**

15 - Novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott born. Synonymous with the Scottish Borders Scott wrote classics such as *Waverley* and *The Bride of Lamermoor*. **1771**



15 - Foundation stone for the Monument to Sir Walter Scott laid in Princes Street Gardens. **1840**

16 - Birth of Carolina Oliphant (Lady Nairne), poet and author of many Jacobite songs, including *Charlie is my Darling*. Her songs are second only in popularity to Burns. **1766**

17 1472 - The see of St Andrews became an archbishopric by a bull of Pope Sixtus IV.

17 - Visit of George IV to Edinburgh began, orchestrated by Sir Walter Scott. **1822**

17 - First Edinburgh International Festival opened. **1947**



18 - The Tay Road Bridge opened, linking Dundee city centre with Fife. The Tay Road Bridge carries the A92 road across the Firth of Tay from Newport-on-Tay in Fife to Dundee. **1966**

18 - Arthur Elphinstone, Lord Balmerino, the Jacobite noble, was executed. Balmerino was captured along with Lord Kilmarnock after the Battle of Culloden and the pair were tried for treason in London and beheaded in the Tower of London. **1746**

19 - Mary Queen of Scots lands at Leith on her return from France, after the death of her husband, King Francis II. **1561**

19 - Charles Edward Stuart, raises his standard at Glenfinnan, at the start of the '45 uprising. **1745**

19 - Scottish aviator Jim Mollinson landed after the first East/West solo flight of the Atlantic from Portmarnock, Ireland to Pennfield, New Brunswick. **1932**

20 - Ronald Ross, the first Scot to win a Nobel prize (in 1902) dissected a mosquito and established the link with malaria. **1897**

21 - Battle of Dunkeld when the newly formed Cameronians defended the town against 3,000 Highlanders. **1689**

21 - Birth of William Murdoch who pioneered the use of coal-gas lighting in 1792 in partnership with James Watt and Mathew Boulton. **1754**

21 - Birth of Donald Dewar, former Secretary of State for Scotland and First Minister in the new Scottish Parliament. **1937**

22 - Battle of the Standard at Northallerton in which King David I was defeated by the English. **1138**

22 - Devorgilla, Countess of Galloway founded Balliol College, Oxford. She was mother of John Balliol (who acceded to the Scottish throne in 1292). **1282**

22 - King Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham, initiating a Civil War in England between the Royalists (also known as Cavaliers) and Parliament (Roundheads). **1642**

23 - Sir William Wallace was executed in London. Wallace was captured after being betrayed by Sir John de Menteith and was transported to London. King Edward I had devised a new method of execution for one of his arch-enemies, and Wallace became the first person to endure the agonies of being hanged, drawn and quartered. **1305**



23 - Work begins on the rebuilding of Eilean Donan Castle. It will take until 1932 to complete. The castle is today one of the most photographed in Scotland. **1913**

24 - Berwick on Tweed finally ceded to England (Edward IV) after changing hands 12 times. **1482**

24 - The first Edinburgh International Festival of Music and Drama opened. The festival was inspired by the arts festivals organised in Salzburg before the Second World War, but has grown to become the largest event of its kind in the world. It has also spawned a book festival, film festival and the festival fringe. The festival was also responsible for the creation of Scottish Opera and forced a greater amount of funding from the Arts Council to be given to Scotland. **1947**

25 - James Watt, developer of steam power, died. Watt was known as the 'father of the industrial revolution'. **1819**

25 - Actor Sir Sean Connery born. Connery famously went from an Edinburgh milk man to global movie superstar, best known for playing James Bond 007. **1930**

26 - Novelist and statesman John Buchan born in Perth. **1875**

26 - Mary Queen of Scots leads an army

out of Edinburgh to suppress a rebellion led by her half brother James Stewart, 1st Earl of Moray, who is opposed to her marriage. She puts the rebellion to flight in what becomes known as the Chaseabout Raid. **1565**

26 - The Donibristle Mining Disaster occurred in the Fife coalfield. The disaster occurred when part of Mossmorran peat bog near Cowdenbeath collapsed on sixteen miners 360 feet underground. Four miners were lost, as was a four-strong rescue party. All the bodies were eventually recovered but some remained underground until the December of that year. **1901**

27 - First balloon ascent in Britain by James Tytler, Edinburgh. **1784**

27 - James Thomson, the Scottish poet, died. Thomson's most famous works include the anthem, *Rule Britannia*. **1748**



27 - The trial began in Edinburgh for Deacon William Brodie, a cabinet-maker and member of the town council, who also was a notorious criminal. On 1 October 1788 he was hanged for theft in the Lawnmarket in front of a crowd that was the largest seen in living memory. **1788**

28 - Edward I of England held a parliament at Berwick to which he summoned all Scottish landholders to sign the Ragman Roll. **1296**

28 - The Battle of Newburn on Tyne. The battle was fought between Leslie's veteran Scottish army and a hastily assembled English force. The Scots had invaded northern England in response to the attempts of Charles I to impose an Anglican prayer book upon Scotland. **1640**



Photo: National Trust for Scotland.

29 - The population of St Kilda were evacuated from the island. The island was evacuated on economic grounds at the islanders own request as the population had dwindled from 73 in 1920 to only 37 in 1928. The island had been populated since Bronze Age times, but from the latter part of the 19th century, the islanders had begun to lose their means of self-sufficiency and the fate of the resident population was sealed. The island was sold to the Marquess of Bute, a keen ornithologist, who bequeathed it to the National Trust for Scotland in 1957. **1930**

30 - The Royal Research Ship Discovery reaches the Falkland Islands on a mission to rescue polar explorer Ernest Shackleton, to find he has already been rescued. **1915**

30 - Birth of golf course designer Dr Alister Mackenzie; he was responsible for Augusta National and Cypress Point, among others. **1870**

30 - Liz McColgan won the World Athletics Championship 10,000 metres in Tokyo by a margin of 20 seconds. **1991**

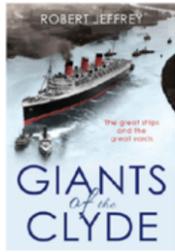
31 - The first Edinburgh Film Festival opened. The festival was officially opened on this date by the Lord Provost at the Playhouse Cinema. The festival was originally known as the International Festival of Documentary, but has now grown to become recognised as one of the great worldwide film festivals. **1946**

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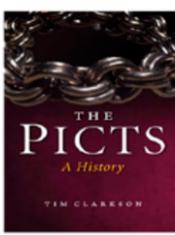
Giants of the Clyde: The Great Ships and the Great Yards

There is barely a corner of the five great oceans where Clyde-built is not recognised as the ultimate shipbuilding accolade. As late as the 1950s, around a seventh of the total of the world's sea going tonnage was built on the Clyde. From the many yards on its banks, north and south, en route from the gentle hills of Lanarkshire to the Firth of Clyde, came engineering innovation and fabled names in shipping. This is the fascinating, often turbulent story of a great river, its great ships, and the folk who built them. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



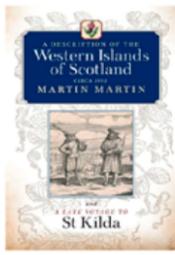
The Picts: A History

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**



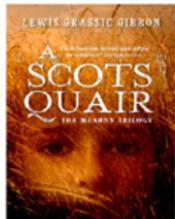
A Description of the Western Isle of Scotland: Circa 1695

It is 300 hundred years since Martin Martin's journey around the Western Isles, Orkneys & Shetlands. The 1st and one of the greatest of all travellers in Scotland, Martin is also unique in being the only native Gaelic speaker amongst them. This gives his account a unique & authoritative resonance which even today is a mine of info on the history & traditions of the Hebrides. It also casts light on the islands during a crucial period, when the old structures of society still held sway before Jacobite rebellions altered society irrevocably. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



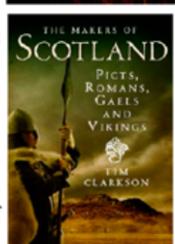
A Scots Quair-The Mearns Trilogy

One of the all-time greats of Scottish literature, truly revolutionary, A Scots Quair is a trilogy of novels: Sunset Song (1932), Cloud Howe (1933) and Grey Granite (1934). At each book's core is the heroine Chris Guthrie, as she grows from a child into adulthood through the Great War to the development of communism in the 1920s. Grassie Gibbon's writing is unique and riveting, blending Scots and English in an accessible style, and eloquent in its humanity and celebration of nature. **Price: \$34.95 Plus postage**



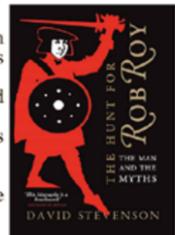
The Makers of Scotland

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 ancient North Britain became the medieval kingdom of Scotland is told. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



The Hunt for Rob Roy: The Man and the Myths

This is the first time that Rob Roy's life has been written with a full range of sources. The picture that emerges is indeed striking, but not heroic. A man deeply wronged and oppressed, forced into outlawry, has to be modified by the clear evidence that he was only outlawed after undertaking a careful plan to swindle his creditors. This radical revision of popular views on Rob Roy is based on much recently discovered material and is the first new biography for 30 years. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



Our Glasgow

This oral history of Glasgow spans most of the last century - a time of economic downturn and eventual renewal, in which the many communities making up the city experienced upheavals that tore some apart and brought others closer together. It tells of the beating heart of no mean city in the words of the people who made it what it is. Their stories will make you laugh and cry. It is people's own memories that make history real and this engrossing book captures them vividly. **Price: \$29.95 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**



Maw Broon's Afternoon Tea Book

Maw Broon and the Gleebe Street Afternoon Tea Ladies bring you the best of their Scottish recipes for fancy cakes and dainty savouries. They've also written their very own (idiosyncratic) advice on the etiquette of afternoon tea for their friends and family, at home and abroad in the Commonwealth and Empire. This is the perfect gift, full of Broons humour and delicious Scottish recipes to enable you to host your own afternoon tea party - or just conduct yourself with manners when you're in a posh tearoom. All the main recipes are braw! **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



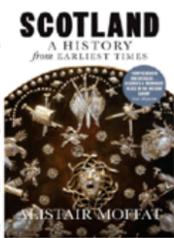
Scottish Customs: From the Cradle to the Grave

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**



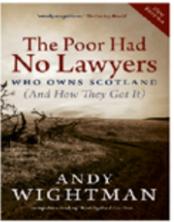
A History of Scotland

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**



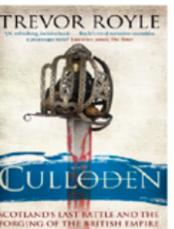
The Poor Had No Lawyers-Who Owns Scotland and How They Got It

Who owns Scotland? How did they get it? This book takes the reader on a voyage of discovery into Scotland's history to find out how and why landowners got their hands on the millions of acres of land that were once held in common. From Robert the Bruce to Willie Ross and from James V to Donald Dewar, land has conferred political and economic power. For all those with an interest in urban and rural land in Scotland. **Price: \$34.95 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**



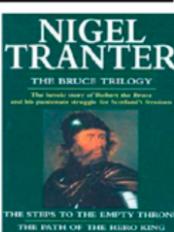
Scottish Queens 1034-1714

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**



The Bruce Trilogy

King or outlaw? Discover the life of Scottish hero Robert the Bruce in this trilogy. Master storyteller Nigel Tranter tells the tale of the legendary warrior, and future King of Scots. Tutored and encouraged by William Wallace, Robert the Bruce determined to continue the fight for an independent Scotland, sustained by a passionate love for his land. This edition collects together Steps to the Empty Throne, Price of the King's Peace and Path of the Hero King. **Price: \$39.95 Plus postage**



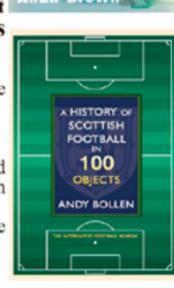
50 People Who Screwed Up Scotland

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**



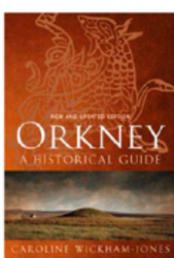
History of Scottish Football in 100 Objects

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 Scandanavian 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**



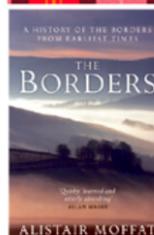
Oor Wullie: 100 Greatest Moments

Every week for as long as can be remembered, Oor Wullie has captivated the Scottish nation with his exploits and left readers wondering what he'll do next. Most of what he does has people of all ages laughing out loud, and this brand new collection is no exception. Join Oor Wullie on a romp through the years as he reveals for the very first time his own personal hundred greatest moments from a very mischievous life. **Price: \$14.95 Plus postage**



The Borders

This is the story of an ancient place; where hunter-gatherers penetrated into the virgin interior, where Celtic warlords ruled, the Romans came but could not conquer, where the glittering kingdom of Northumbria thrived, the place where David MacMalcolm raised great abbeys, where the Border Reivers rode into history, and where Walter Scott sat at Abbotsford and brooded on the areas rich and historic legacy. **Price: \$29.95 Plus postage**



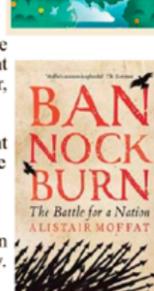
Whiskies Galore: A Tour of Scotland's Island Distilleries

This is not your average whisky book. It is not simply a catalogue of distilleries, but a story of discovery and adventure. Join Ian Buxton on a personal journey across Scotland's islands, where he learns to fish with high explosives, ends up hurling his dinner into the sea, and comes face to face with a basking shark. Combining an expert's knowledge of whisky with a travel writer's fondness for anecdote, and with a keen description of place, he provides a special treat for all who love the islands' magical drams. **Price: \$24.95 Plus postage**



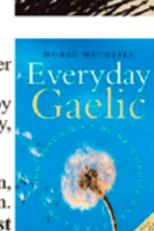
Bannockburn: The Battle for a Nation

As 8,000 Scottish soldiers faced 18,000 English on June 1314 near the Bannock Burn, many would have thought that the result a foregone conclusion. But two days later, few English soldiers escaped from Scotland unhurt. This emphatic victory was the moment that enabled Scotland to remain independent and pursue a different destiny. This book offers fresh insights into one of the most famous battles in history, yet one which is surprisingly little understood. It follows in detail the events of those two days that changed history, and captures all the fear, heroism, confusion and desperation that led to a stunning and unexpected Scottish victory. **Price: \$19.95 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, the 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 post**



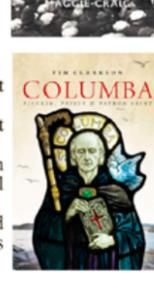
When the Clyde Ran Red

A picture of the heady days when revolution was in the air on Clydeside. Through the strike at the huge Singer Sewing machine plant in Clydebank in 1911, Bloody Friday in Glasgow's George Square in 1919, the General Strike of 1926 and on through the Spanish Civil War to the Clydebank Blitz of 1941, the people fought for the right to work, the dignity of labour and a fairer society for all. This book puts the politics into the social context of the times and tells the story with warmth & humour. **Price: \$24.95 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**



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**



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IN SCOTLAND TODAY



Saltmarsh at the head of Loch Fyne. Photo: Professor Bill Austin.

Scottish coastlines vital role in tackling climate emergency

Scientists from the University of St Andrews will undertake the first comprehensive study of the carbon stored in Scotland's coastal wetlands and their vital role in the fight against climate change. Supported by Marine Scotland, the team of Early Career Researchers (ECR), led by Professor Bill Austin from the School of Geography and Sustainable Development at the University, will deliver a new, first-order estimate of the carbon stored in Scotland's coastal wetlands (saltmarshes). The scientists will input their research findings into a Geographic Information System (GIS) project, providing the first systematic overview of blue carbon storage in Scotland's vulnerable coastal wetlands. Coastal wetlands are the most threatened habitats on our planet, threatened by centuries of coastal development and now, increasingly, by rising sea levels and coastal erosion. Blue carbon, which refers to the carbon stored in marine habitats such as saltmarshes, plays a vital role in trapping and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) that would otherwise contribute to global warming. These marine ecosystems are highly effective at capturing CO₂ and storing carbon in organic-rich soils, often over thousands of years. The degradation or damage of these ecosystems may therefore cause carbon to be released from the soil stores back to the atmosphere, at the same time compromising their ability to capture and store carbon in the future.

The discovery of the blue carbon resources held in saltmarshes has also driven a new research agenda to account for this carbon. The team from St Andrews will work to provide the evidence that will pave the way for management plans and Government policies to protect and restore these habitats to maximise their carbon storage capabilities. Project lead Professor Bill Austin said: "While the current Covid-19 lock-down is seriously impacting both field and laboratory activities, we

have been seeking creative ways to develop desk-top research initiatives. In this case, using existing mapping and field-data, we are able to deliver a new, first-order assessment of these carbon stores around Scotland. I'm delighted that Marine Scotland have funded this research, highlighting Scottish Government's commitment to nature-based solutions to help tackle the global climate emergency. As we transition out of the Covid-19 pandemic and our global economies begin to recover, I am encouraged that we can look forward to a greater understanding and appreciation of our environment. In some small way, I hope that our research will support that ambition."

Scottish island on Loch Lomond up for sale



Ever wanted to own your very own Scottish island? Inchconnachan (Innis Chonachain in Gaelic), meaning the Colquhoun's island is situated just off the western shore of southern Loch Lomond close to the village of Luss has been put on the market, for offers of more than £500,000. Extending to about 103 acres and lying uninhabited for the last 20 years, the island provides a wonderful opportunity to own a private island on Scotland's largest loch with consent in place to build a house, boathouse and pier. Cameron Ewer for Savills said: "This is an extraordinary

opportunity to acquire a beautiful and completely private, yet accessible, retreat and create a wonderful new residence there. For those seeking peace and seclusion, yet wanting all that this part of Scotland has to offer in the way of nature and water-based sport and activities, this is surely the ultimate prize." Inchconnachan has a number of designations due to its abundance of flora and fauna including ancient oak woodland, habitat for otters and also historically as a habitat for the critically endangered capercaillie. The island has a number of visitors throughout the year including the famous resident wallabies and also red, roe and sika deer, jays, coal tits, crossbills, collared doves and, occasionally, nesting ospreys. Inchconnachan has been in the ownership of the Colquhoun Family since the 14th century. The existing timber house was constructed on the island in the 1920s, reputedly by an Admiral Sullivan who was a retired tea merchant, in the style of an Indian tea plantation bungalow. The house was later the holiday home of Fiona Gore, Countess of Arran.

Diageo announces creation of world's first ever 100% plastic free paper-based spirits bottle



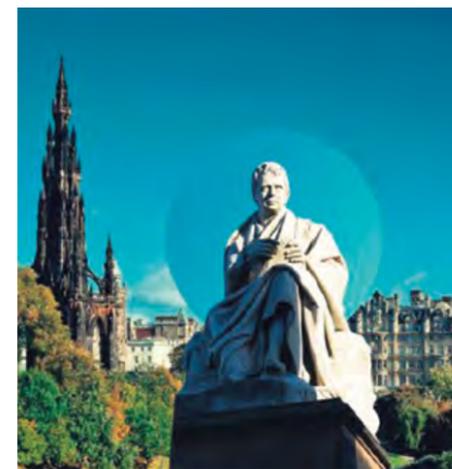
Diageo has created the world's first ever 100% plastic free paper-based spirits bottle, made entirely from sustainably sourced wood. The bottle will debut with Johnnie Walker, the world's number one Scotch Whisky, in early 2021. It has been created through a new partnership with Pilot Lite, a venture management company, to launch Pulpex Limited, a new world-leading sustainable packaging technology company.

Ewan Andrew, Chief Sustainability Officer, Diageo PLC said: "We're proud to have created this world first. We are constantly striving to push the boundaries within sustainable packaging and this bottle has the potential to be truly groundbreaking. It feels fitting that we should launch it with Johnnie Walker, a brand that has often led the way in innovation throughout its 200 years existence."

Pulpex Limited has developed a 'first-of-its-kind' scalable paper-based bottle designed and developed to be 100% plastic free and expected to be fully recyclable. The bottle is made from sustainably sourced pulp to meet food-safe standards and will be fully recyclable in standard waste streams. The technology will allow brands to rethink their packaging designs, or move existing designs into paper, whilst not compromising on the existing quality of the product.

Pulpex Limited's technology allows it to produce a variety of plastic-free, single mould bottles that can be used across a range of consumer goods. The packaging has been designed to contain a variety of liquid products and will form part of Diageo's commitment towards Goal 12 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: 'Responsible Consumption and Production'.

Sir Walter Scott inspires during lockdown



A popular online course on Scottish legend Sir Walter Scott is being kept open and free until September in response to the Covid-19 crisis and the increased demand for armchair learning opportunities. The course, Walter Scott: The Man Behind the Monument, attracted 1028 learners from 92 countries when it originally ran in March as a four-week mentored course. Now it is going to be kept running until the end of September, with people able to drop in anytime or join the mentored four-week course which will run again in August.

The course has specifically been designed for beginners and there is no prior knowledge of the subject required. It requires no more than two hours of work each week and will provide a comprehensive overview of Scott's work and legacy, while challenging common misconceptions.

Hosted by digital education platform FutureLearn, the course is being offered by Abbotsford, the author's home in the Scottish Borders, in conjunction with experts at the University of Aberdeen. Professor Ali Lumsden, Director of the University's Walter Scott Research Centre and Honorary Librarian at Abbotsford, will deliver a series of video-based modules as part of the course, along with Kirsty Archer-Thompson, Collections and Interpretation Manager at Abbotsford.

Kirsty said: "In this time of real need and unprecedented demand FutureLearn wanted to make as many of the courses on their platform available to as many people as possible. We were delighted to be able to support this initiative with our course on Scott. We'll be moving to a 'light-touch' approach, asking learners to tag us in questions and logging on once a week to answer them all. We still intend to run our full mentored version of the course in August too, to coincide with Scott's birthday on August 15, so there's plenty of opportunity for people to join in and learn from home."

For details see: www.scottsabbotsford.com/whats-on/scott-the-man-behind-the-monument

The monuments debate in Scotland: *Reflections on how we make our history*

By: David C
Weinczok



Edinburgh's Melville Monument.

Edinburgh is a capital of monuments. Iconic structures, statues, and architectural celebrations of individuals and events are everywhere to be found in both the Old and New Towns. To students of those monuments and the stories behind them, it is therefore no surprise that Edinburgh has found itself grappling with the hard questions being raised by the international Black Lives Matter movement. In many ways it is a debate about how we learn history, and throughout this article I invite you to keep that concept at the forefront of your thoughts regardless of where you stand in the debate around public monuments.

In St Andrew Square at the heart of the New Town, a place celebrated as the 'Enlightenment in stone', is the Melville Monument, a great stone column surmounted by a likeness of Henry Dundas, 1st Viscount Melville. While it is far from the only Edinburgh monument with historical connections to slavery it has undeniably become the city's most prominent subject of controversy. Calls range from toppling the 150-foot high monument altogether to adding a plaque which gives greater details about Dundas' career, a stance supported by Sir Geoff Palmer OBE, Scotland's first black professor and an instrumental researcher into Scotland's role in the slave trade. He posits that, "If you remove the evidence, you remove the deed."

Historical facts

On July 13th the City of Edinburgh Council placed temporary signs around the Melville Monument displaying the wording of such a plaque soon to be installed. The new plaque described Dundas' role as Scottish Lord Advocate, MP, and First Lord of the Admiralty, the sort of raw biographical facts you expect of public signage. It then goes on to describe how Dundas was "instrumental in deferring the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade. Slave trading by British ships was not abolished until 1807. As a result of this delay, more than half a million enslaved Africans crossed the Atlantic." It continues to note his impeachment from public office for misuse of public funds and his enthusiasm for colonial subjugation, but also that the monument itself was funded by voluntary donations from members of the British Navy.

While some have voiced concerns that the removal or amending of monuments linked to the slave trade is a judgmental process meant to 're-write history', this new plaque does no such thing. What it does instead is provide vital details and context that was altogether absent before. From a historian's perspective, this is not a re-writing of history but a filling in of the blanks which have until now resulted in an incomplete picture. It does not seek to score points but to flesh out a biography with irrefutable historical facts, a biography which would be woefully deficient if it did not mention Dundas' role in delaying abolitionism. It is left to us to decide how to reflect on that information.

By virtue of their prominence, monuments and statues can often get the first say in how the individuals they celebrate are perceived for many people, especially visitors to a place.

Besides, the very practice of history is in many ways a process of constant revision, not in the sense of choosing agendas to follow but of developing more nuanced ways of understanding the past. It is only when that process stops being critical – of its subject and of itself – that we stray into murky waters.

The first and last word

By virtue of their prominence, monuments and statues can often get the first say in how the individuals they celebrate are perceived for many people, especially visitors to a place. To find another perspective or even just further detail about them requires a proactive approach, for instance, by visiting local museums or reading local history books. Perhaps after seeing the Melville Monument a visitor would venture to the National Museum of Scotland for more information. However, all three of the items in their collections relate to Dundas' role in abolition – not of slavery, but of taxation on waterborne coal, hardly enough to give a fuller picture of the man and still any reference to his role in the slave trade is absent. How many would take the further step to seek out specialist history books compared with how many could very realistically leave Edinburgh with the statue being their only impression of Dundas? After all, his monument stands 150 feet high in the centre of a major civic square named for Scotland's patron saint – left to speak for itself, how could anyone be expected to conclude anything other than that this was an unambiguously great man?

Racial injustice is not the only paradigm being challenged by the monuments debate in Scotland. Looming over the Highland village of Golspie is one of Scotland's most visually prominent statues.

At one hundred feet tall and built atop at the summit of Ben Bhraggie, it is impossible to drive along the main road without catching sight of it. It depicts the first Duke of Sutherland, George Leveson-Gower, who alongside his wife Elizabeth, Duchess of Sutherland, presided over an especially infamous episode of the Highland Clearances. Between 1811 and 1821 around 15,000 people were cleared, often forcibly and with fire, from the Sutherland estate in order to enhance the profitability of the land. This was administered from Dunrobin Castle, and yet a visit there today yields no mention of the Clearances aside from a brief section of the guidebook which describes them as a force for progress. As with Edinburgh's Melville Monument, in the absence of other sources of information that the average visitor to the area is likely to encounter, the Sutherland statue – whose inscription says that it was built by "a mourning and grateful tenantry" to a "judicious, kind and liberal landlord" – often gets the first and last word.

We cannot change the past

The controversy around the Sutherland statue is comparable to the renewed debate about monuments around the world right now. On one hand it has been the subject of petitions, graffiti, and even two toppling attempts on 2011, while the BBC quoted a local resident as arguing that, "It is part of history...if he stays there people will

ask what it is and then hear what happened here during the Highland Clearances."

It has been argued that the Duke of Sutherland was only of his time, and that landlords across Scotland were coercively clearing their estates of tenants; it is also the case that it was built posthumously with funds derived from human exploitation to celebrate the supposed worthiness of those deeds. Fundamentally, both sides of the debate agree that the Highland Clearances were an injustice – the disagreement, as with the legacy of slavery, comes down to what to do about the monuments to those involved in it.

One positive outcome from all this is that more people than perhaps ever before are becoming aware of the messy process by which history is made.

We are learning to be more critical of the public monuments that we quite literally look up to every day, not just who they represent but the context for the monuments' existence in the first place. "We cannot change the past," Sir Geoff Palmer commented, "but we can change the consequences, such as racism, for the better, and one of these changes can start with putting a plaque on (the Melville Monument) and telling the truth about what Dundas did." On its own the addition of more information can never be a bad thing. No single historical source or artefact, regardless of the topic, should ever have the final say on itself.

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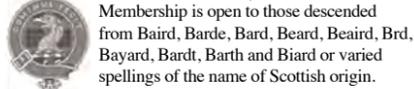
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Welcome to our "Classified" listing of Scottish Clans, Societies and Clubs. If you would like to add your Clan please contact our office for full details. Our address and phone numbers are located on page 2. If you are contacting your Clan be sure 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 Cumming Society of the United States

www.clancumming.us
info@clancumming.us

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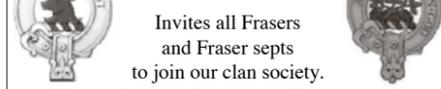
Clan Donnachaidh Society of New South Wales Inc., Australia

Duncan Robertson Reid

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

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

Clan Fraser Society of Australia



Invites all Frasers and Fraser septs to join our clan society.
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Membership enquiries to Don Chitts
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Website: http://clanfraseraustralia.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Pages/Clan-Fraser-Society-of-Australia/482236358590288

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Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ClanBell
Email: President@clanbell.org
Clan Bell North America
5284 Cross Creek Court
Acworth, GA 30102

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; McKeedie. 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

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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/TheClanDonnchaidhSociety)
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Clan Galbraith Society

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

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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:
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Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
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For membership contact Keith MacGregor
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Peter Lawrie, Secretary
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Clan Cameron NSW Inc.

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www.clan-cameron.org.au

Clan Donald Queensland

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Ph: 0412 090990
Email: clandonaldqld@optusnet.com.au
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Bill Elliott-Clan President welcomes membership of all who are connected with this great border family.

Direct inquires to: Jim Dougherty
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Email: elliottcommia@gmail.com

Website: www.elliotclan-usa.com

Clan Gregor Society Australasia

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Frank McGregor - Clan Gregor Society
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For State Branches contact the National Secretary Margaret Vallance
Email: libertyv93@gmail.com
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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

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

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

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Contact: secretary.clandonaldivic@gmail.com
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Contact: secretary@clanmacdonaldivic.com
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Purposes of the Society

- Foster Scottish culture and activities
- Promote Scottish festivals and games
- Assist in genealogical research
- Foster fellowship among kith and kin
- Promote the history of Scotland
- Promote charitable and educational activities via a scholarship fund
- Gather the Clan, as directed by our Chief, **Alistair of Fordell**

Contact: Jeff Henderson
jeffh@bigpond.com
0439 330 012

www.clanhendersonsociety.com

Clan MacInnes

International Association of Clan MacInnes (Aonghais)

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www.clanmacinnes.org

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

Clan MacLeod

Societies of Australia

Membership is open to MacLeods and Septs (of any variant spelling), and descendants. **Recognised Septs:**

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Harold MacCaig MacHaigh Tolmie
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- NSW, ACT & Qld - Peter Macleod 02 4397 3161
- Victoria & Tas - David Dickie 03 9337 4384
- South Australia - Rachel Hopkins 0433 184 375
- Western Australia - Ruth MacLeod 08 9364 6334

• Email: peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

Clan Macpherson Association

Clan Macpherson welcomes enquiries from Macphersons and members of our Associated families. For information about local activities visit our web site www.clan-macpherson.org/branches

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

Canada: Ed Smith Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org phone +1 519 802 8821

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

Scotland & Northern Ireland: Rory Macpherson SandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org phone +44 7525 765

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

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Australian Contact:
Roslyn MacRae 0412 291 054 email: learn@vsr.com.au

NZ Contact: Sue Tregoweth email: sue.treg1@gmail.com

Clan Irwin Association

Clan Irwin Association Patron

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Sir Malcolm F. Macnaghten of Macnaghten, Bart - Chief of Clan

Chairman - Peter McNaughton - 360-686-8451

We welcome membership from all Scots named MacNaughton or any of the Septs on our Website: Contact the Membership Secretary, Vice-Chairman or Regional Commissioners in:

Australia - Regional Commissioner - Bruce McNaughton +61 7 3266 2047 bruce@brucemcnaughton.com

W. Canada - Regional Commissioner - Miles MacNaughton 250-999-9636 miles@macnaughton.com

New Zealand - Regional Commissioner - John Macnaughtan +64 9 441 4984 macnaughtan@xtra.co.nz

USA - Membership Secretary - Mary Nivison Burton 541-401-2613 membersec@clanmacnaughton.net

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Contact: **Malcolm W. Leslie D.Ua.**
117/303 Spring Street.
Kearney's Spring, Qld, 4350, Australia.
Phone: +61 418 986 876
malncol@icr.com.au www.clanleslie.org

Clan MacLaren Clan Labhran

Clan MacLaren Society of Australia (includes New Zealand members)

www.clanmaclarenau.org
clanmaclarenau@gmail.com
0422 223 161

Clan MacNeil Association of Australia

For all enquiries about the clan and membership contact: **John McNeil**
21 Laurel Avenue,
Linden Park, SA 5065
Email kisimul@chariot.net.au

Clan Maitland Society

Chief: Ian Maitland, The Earl of Lauderdale!
We are all related! Contact your local society

North America: Rosemary Maitland Thorn
rthomnvrpcan@aol.com www.clanmaitlandna.org

Australia: Carole Maitland carole_maitland@yahoo.com.au
4230 Colac- Lavers Hill RoadWeeaprounah. VIC. 3237

New Zealand: Judette Maitland judette@xtra.co.nz
33 Disley Street, High bury, Wellington 6012. NZ

We welcome all with Maitland, Lauderdale, Maitlen and similar name spelling. See the entire list and your family history at: www.clanmaitland.org.uk

Clan MacDougall Society of North America, Inc.

Valerie McDougall
VP Membership
505-470 Scenic Drive, London, ON
N5Z 3B2

Email: info@macdougall.org Home page: www.macdougall.org
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Names Associated with Clan MacDougall of Argyll and Clan MacDowall of Galloway

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Clan MacLellan

John B. McClellan, Jr.
Treasurer
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Email: treasurer@clanmaclellan.net

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

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of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac

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

Clan Pollock

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

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



Clan Ross in Australia

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

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

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



The Stewart Society

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

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



Australian Scottish Community (Qld) Inc.

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

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

Clan Ross America

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



Clan Sutherland Society in Australia Incorporated

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



Comunn Gàidhlig Astràilia

(The Scottish Gaelic Association of Australia) is a nonprofit organisation which supports the language and culture of Scottish Gaels.
Ruairaidh MacAonghais, N each Cathrach (Convenor)
Phone: 04 0482 2314 E-mail: fios@ozgaelic.org
Web: www.ozgaelic.org
Mail: PO Box A2259, SYDNEY SOUTH 1235

Scottish Gaelic

Language Classes:

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

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

Scottish Gaelic Society of Victoria

Founded in 1905
<https://www.scottishgaelicvictoria.com>



Clan Ross of The United States

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

www.theclanross.com

clanrossoftheunitedstates@gmail.com
Contact L. Q. Ross
105 S. Graham Ave, Orlando, FL 32803



Clan Sutherland Society of North America Inc.

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

Email: Secretary@ClanSutherland.org
Website: www.ClanSutherland.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

Còisir Ghàidhlig Bhiocòiria

Scottish Gaelic Choir of Victoria

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Rehearsal times:
Thursday 7-9pm during school terms,
Term 1 2020 beginning 6th February
at The Kildara Centre, rear of
39 Stanhope Street, Malvern.

Contact Raghnaid NicGaraidh
rachel.hay@iinet.net.au

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 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/

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



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

ABN 30 093 578 860
Invites membership of all people of Scottish descent or association
The Secretary, P.O. Box 3233, South Brisbane, BC,
www.standrewsociety.com



Clan Shaw Society

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

Secretary: Mike Shaw
2403 West Cranford
Denison, TX 75020



Clan Wardlaw Association

Founded 2004

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

'Wardlaw ivermair!'
www.clanwardlaw.com
Wardlaw Tartan and Ancestry Books

The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne Inc.

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

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



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@scotsfaus.org.au
Website: <https://scotsfaus.org.au>
Facebook: facebook.com/ScotsOfVictoria



Clan Sinclair Australia

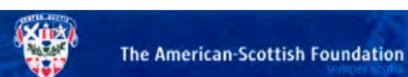
Membership and inquiries from all Sinclairs, Sinclair Septs and Sinclair descendants.

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



Through our platform of projects and events ASF helps share and strengthen the heritage and cultural message of Scotland's past and future. A bridge between the United States and Scotland.

www.americanscottishfoundation.org



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email: shusa457@gmail.com
(910) 295-4448

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Established 1905

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Balmoral Highland Dancing Society
Bega City Highland Dancing Society
Brunswick Scottish Society
Clan Donald Victoria
Clan Grant
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Maryborough Highland Society
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Scottish Country Dance Victoria Society
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Warrambool & District Caledonian Society
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Chief: Ms Ceilidh McKinna Robertson
President: Mr Douglas Pearce
Secretary: Mrs Jan Macdonald
T: 03 9360 9829 M: 0438 584 930
E: secretary@victorianscottishunion.com
www.victorianscottishunion.com

IN THE SCOTTISH KITCHEN



Scottish Oatcakes

Ingredients:

4oz/125g medium oatmeal, plus extra for kneading
 ½ tsp. bicarbonate of soda
 Pinch salt
 2 tps. melted fat (goose or bacon)
 1 tbsp. hot water

Method:

Preheat the oven to Gas5/375F/190C. In a large bowl mix together the oatmeal, salt and bicarbonate of soda. Then drizzle in the melted fat and stir vigorously to a thick paste.

Cut the paste into two small balls, sprinkle a work surface with oatmeal and roll each ball on the surface to coat and to prevent sticking.

Knead each ball for a few minutes until the mixture starts to dry slightly and stops sticking to the surface.

Add a little more oatmeal as required. Roll each ball into a 1/4 thick disc, then cut into quarters. Place on a greased baking sheet and bake for 30 minutes in the oven or until brown at the edges.

Alternatively, the oatcakes can be cooked in a hot frying pan, 3 minutes on each side.

Shepherd's pie



Ingredients:

25g/1oz. dripping
 1 large onion, finely chopped
 2 tbsp. olive oil
 500g/1lb 2oz. minced lamb
 1 tbsp. plain flour
 2 bay leaves
 2 sprigs fresh thyme
 1 anchovy, finely chopped (optional)
 1 x 400g tin chopped tomatoes

2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
 450ml/16fl oz. chicken, beef or lamb stock
 salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the mash:

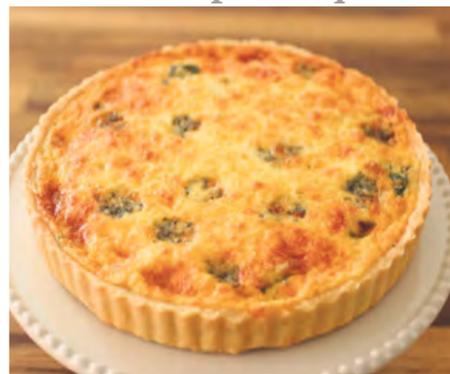
700g/1½lb potatoes, peeled and cut into halves or quarters
 55ml/2fl oz. milk
 75g/3oz butter
 1 free-range egg yolk

Method:

In a large saucepan, heat the dripping. Add the onion and cook for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, in a large frying pan, heat a little olive oil and fry the mince, stirring, until browned all over. While the meat is frying, break up any lumps with the back of the spoon. Stir the onions and add the flour (this helps to thicken the juices) and stir. Mix well and add the bay leaves, thyme and the anchovy and stir. Add the chopped tomatoes, stock (keep a little aside, for putting into the mince pan to de-glaze the pan) and Worcestershire sauce. Add the cooked mince and then pour the stock mixture into empty mince pan, scraping off any bits of mince left in the pan. Pour the remaining stock into the pan containing the sauce mixture.

Bring the mixture to the boil, adding a pinch of salt and pepper and let it simmer for about 45 minutes, stirring regularly. Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6. For the mash, boil the potatoes until tender (about 10 minutes). Drain, add the milk, butter and egg yolk, then mash until smooth. Season with salt and pepper. Pour the meat into a 1.4 litre/2½ pint ovenproof dish and spread the mash on top, smooth over and mark with a spatula. Put the dish into the oven and cook until the surface is golden-brown.

Salmon and potato quiche



Ingredients:

225g/8oz. ready-made shortcrust pastry
 1 free-range egg, beaten

For the filling

175g/6oz smoked salmon, chopped
 100g/3½oz. smoked bacon lardons, cooked and cut into cubes
 3 free-range eggs
 1 tbsp finely chopped fresh dill
 200ml/7fl oz. crème fraîche
 1 tsp grated nutmeg
 salt and freshly ground black pepper
 green salad leaves, to serve

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas Mark 4. Roll out the shortcrust pastry until it is slightly larger than a 25cm/10in loose-bottomed cake tin.

Prick the pastry all over with a fork, line the pastry case with greaseproof paper and fill it with rice or dried beans. Place in the oven and bake for 20 minutes.

Remove the greaseproof paper and rice or beans. Brush the pastry with the beaten egg, then return the tart to the oven and bake for a further five minutes, or until golden-brown.

For the filling, arrange the smoked salmon, lardons and new potatoes evenly in the bottom of the pastry case.

In a bowl, beat together the eggs, dill, crème fraîche and nutmeg until well combined. Season, to taste, with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Pour the mixture into the pastry case.

Transfer the quiche to the oven and bake for 30-40 minutes, or until the egg mixture has set.

Set the quiche aside to cool.

To serve, place a wedge of quiche onto a serving plate, then place the salad leaves alongside.

Cheese scones



Ingredients:

225g/8oz. self-raising flour
 pinch of salt
 55g/2oz. butter
 25g/1oz. mature cheddar cheese, grated
 150ml/5fl oz. milk

Method:

Heat the oven to 220C/425F/Gas 7. Lightly grease a baking sheet. Mix together the flour and salt and rub in the butter. Stir in the cheese and then the milk to get a soft dough. Turn on to a floured work surface and knead very lightly. Pat out to a round 2cm/¾in thick. Use a 5cm/2in cutter to stamp out rounds and place on the baking sheet. Lightly knead together the rest of the dough and stamp out more scones to use it all up. Brush the tops of the scones with a little milk. Bake for 12-15 minutes until well risen and golden. Cool on a wire rack.

Low-fat cheesecake

Ingredients:

For the base:

6 low-fat digestive biscuits
 10 low-fat/reduced sugar plain biscuits
 2 tbsp clear honey
 75g/2½oz butter, melted

For the filling:

6 leaves gelatine
 150ml/5fl oz. skimmed milk
 50g/2oz cocoa powder
 100g/3½oz. caster sugar
 500g/1lb 2oz. quark cheese
 300g/10½oz. fat-free Greek yoghurt
 1 tsp vanilla extract
 1 vanilla pod, seeds only
 2 free-range egg whites

To serve:

300g/10½oz fresh strawberries

Method:

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas 4 and line a 23cm/9in spring form cake tin with greaseproof paper.

For the base, put all the biscuits into a freezer bag and bash with a rolling pin until they resemble breadcrumbs. Place into a mixing bowl and add the honey and melted butter and mix well to combine. Press the mixture into the bottom of the tin.

Bake for 10-12 minutes. Remove from the oven and leave to cool while you prepare the filling.

To make the filling, soak the gelatine leaves in a bowl of ice-cold water for 10 minutes. Put the milk, cocoa powder and sugar into a saucepan. Bring to a simmer, stirring constantly, until the sugar has melted and the cocoa is completely combined. Remove from the heat and leave to cool for a few minutes. Whisk in the gelatine and set aside.

Put the quark and yoghurt into a mixing bowl and beat together until smooth. Add the vanilla extract and the vanilla seeds. Beat to mix well and then add the cocoa mixture. Beat until smooth and set aside.

In a separate bowl, whisk the egg whites until soft peaks form when the whisk is removed from the bowl. Fold one third of the egg whites into the cheesecake mixture and then carefully fold in the remainder.

Spoon the mixture onto the base then put into the fridge to set for at least 4-6 hours or overnight if possible. Decorate with strawberries and serve.

Ginger alert

Ingredients:

40ml/1½fl oz. whisky
 2 tsp clear apple juice
 1 tsp clear pear juice
 20ml/½fl oz. fresh lemon juice
 2.5cm/1in piece fresh ginger, peeled
 ginger ale, to top up
 apple slice, to garnish

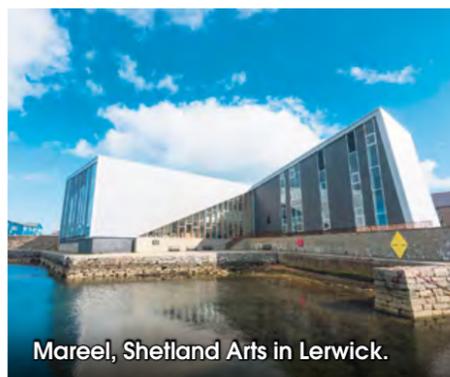
Method:

Pour the whisky, apple juice, pear juice, and lemon juice into a cocktail shaker with a handful of ice. Grate the ginger into the shaker, then shake well. Strain into a highball glass filled with ice cubes. Top up with ginger ale and garnish with an apple wedge.

Inspirational stories from Scotland's tourism industry

In light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation we continue to be amazed at the resilience and innovation of Scotland's tourism industry across the country. VisitScotland wanted to share a few examples of the great work that is being replicated in regions across the country:

North



Mareel, Shetland Arts in Lerwick.

Some examples from the north of Scotland, including our islands:

- Speyside Wildlife has started a live #dailybirdsong every day on Facebook, bringing the local area to followers.
- Deeside Distillery has been using its gin to make hand sanitiser for local charities and frontline services struggling to source any.
- Isle of Harris Distillery is producing hand sanitiser to help support local businesses. It has also released a second online album on Spotify, The Harris Ceilidh #02, and the first in a series of short films, Harris Pause #01, to help future visitors find a moment of mindful connection with the Outer Hebrides.
- Ortak, in Orkney, are offering a free grocery service to supply essentials to the local community who cannot access shops. They're serving up to 150 people in their local community with the help of Orkney Football Club. The Ortak showroom has now developed into a small supermarket where those considered at risk to shop alone in safety. They are also offering free delivery of hand sanitiser provided by Deerness Distillery.
- Orkney Distilling (Kirkjuvagr Gin) have donated 1,000 litres of hand gel to locals, and those further afield through donations to ferry services, hospitals, coast guards and Search & Rescue teams across the UK.
- Zoe Davidson Jewellery, in Orkney, has launched a Facebook campaign to shine a light on key workers in the UK.
- The Papay Ranger is creating virtual tours of Papay, Orkney, which are available on Vimeo.
- Orkneyology, the storytelling site, is posting stories by storyteller Tom Muir under Tales for Troubled Times.
- Fèis Rois, a Highland based traditional music festival, is taking its 30th anniversary festival online. Scotland's top musicians and singers took part in Virtual Fèis Rois via Facebook Live.

- Shetland Arts is hosting its regular programme of wellbeing activities online to help boost spirits. Tune into the Wellbeing Choir via Facebook Live. Singers will be able to download the song sheets in advance on social media.
- MacGregors Bar in Inverness is hosting daily Facebook Live sessions #liveatfive. Expect online pub quizzes, traditional music sessions and storytelling from this Thistle award-winning business.
- Aberdeen-based Boozy Events will bring cocktail making experiences to your door after launching a new online mixology masterclass. Boozy Events: To Your Door will shake things up for those looking for something different to do during isolation.

East



Pillochry Festival Theatre.

Innovative examples from the east of Scotland:

- Pitlochry Festival Theatre has launched an entertainment programme for all ages. #PFTLightHopeJoy aims to entertain audiences in isolation with demonstrations and performances.
- Blair Drummond Safari Park is now doing weekly Facebook live sessions on a Thursday at 12pm GMT (subject to change). Learn about the animals and how keepers look after them.
- Etape Caledonia has launched the Virtual Etape Caledonia. This new event, based on the annual live event, will take place during May in support of The NHS Charities COVID-19 Appeal and Marie Curie.
- While V&A Dundee is closed, you can still enjoy the museum online. Access learning resources, take on challenges and read stories.
- Museums of the University of St Andrews has launched online workshops through Facebook, including experiments, stories and crafts.
- Farms across Scotland, including Belkello Farm (Dundee), Newton Farm Holidays (Angus) and Ardrross Farm Shop (Fife), have been taking part in #Lambathon. A different farm will be showcasing farming life each day over a week at 2pm via Facebook live. Check Go Rural Scotland on Facebook to see which farm will be broadcasting each day.

South



Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh.

From Dunbar to Kirkcudbright, find out what businesses are doing across the south of Scotland:

- In replacement of its regular farm tours, Jacksons at Jedburgh is providing virtual farm tours and sharing photos and educational information on Facebook.
- Tour company Mary's Meanders, based in Linlithgow, has launched a virtual *Outlander* locations tour to be delivered via Zoom.
- The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is creating a Virtual Spring by sharing images and films of its four Gardens – Edinburgh, Benmore, Dawyck and Logan – online via its website and social media platforms.
- The Station House Cookery School in Kirkcudbright is offering a free cookery advice helpline, providing online food orders for collection and has launched a new recipes and factsheets section to its website.
- Dynamic Earth has launched #DynamicEarthOnline. Everyday families can get involved with new and exciting challenges.
- While all Invisible Cities tours have been suspended, the team at Invisible (Edinburgh) has created a virtual tour for you to enjoy from the comfort of your home.
- Belhaven Bikes in Dunbar is offering a free bike hire service to NHS staff and other key workers.
- Edinburgh School of Food & Wine is making around 500 meals a day from its kitchen facilities to send to people in need, to support Edinburgh Food Social.

West



The Laird's Table restaurant at Craufurdland Country Estate.

And there's lots going on across the west of Scotland too:

- Mackintosh at the Willow is adding weekly historic blogs to its website and created a new Home Sweet Home page sharing different Mackintosh recipes each week.
- Maid of the Loch, Loch Lomond's paddle steamer, has launched a virtual cruise to celebrate the anniversary of her first ever public cruise on 25 May 1953. Step back in time and experience the joys of the 'bonnie banks' from this historic steamship. Book a 'ticket' via the online shop – all income raised will be a much-needed boost for the charity.
- Yellow Hare Café on Tiree has launched a baking delivery service, with home baking being delivered by owner Kate MacLeod across the UK. More than 250 boxes were baked and delivered within the first month of this new service, reaching locations as far as London and Devon!
- Glasgow Science Centre is bringing science into people's homes every day at 10am with GSC at home across its social media channels.
- Once Upon a Whisky, which normally operates whisky and beer tours in Glasgow and Edinburgh, has launched virtual whisky tastings on Thursday and Friday evenings.
- Stanelydrive, a Renfrewshire-based chauffeur travel company, has been supporting Accord Hospice by offering its V Class Mercedes (normally used for tours and transfers) to help maintain the vital patient services the Hospice provides within the community. By removing the middle row of seats, a two-metre safe distance between the driver and patient has been created, allowing patient transfers so that treatment can continue while maintaining social distancing.
- The Coig, touring routes around the Clyde coast and islands, has started a #SaveYourFaves campaign to provide future visitors with inspiration to make plans once the travel restrictions are eased.
- The Laird's Table Restaurant at Craufurdland Country Estate has introduced hampers and homemade ready meals for takeaway and offering a home delivery service locally on weekends.
- Although Islay's annual Fèis Ìle festival is cancelled for 2020, Kilchoman Distillery has plans to bring Islay to your home with tasting packs, live online events, whisky giveaways and video updates.

Is your business or event doing something unique during Corona Virus restrictions? Share your story with us and inspire others at: www.scottishbanner.com/contact-us

The 90th anniversary of the evacuation of St Kilda

Internationally recognised for its birdlife, St Kilda is no less famous for its human history. A community existed here for at least 4,000 years, exploiting the dense colonies of gannets, fulmars and puffins for food, feathers and oil. This month marks the 90th anniversary of the evacuation for the last inhabitants of the remote Scottish archipelago of St Kilda, the 'islands at the edge of the world'.



The village on Hirta.

The isolated cluster of islands, situated 40 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, off Scotland's north-west coast, had been inhabited for at least 4,000 years. In 1930, however, the simple existence of the inhabitants had become unsustainable and the St Kildans wrote a letter petitioning to leave. Six months later, on 29 August, the last 36 people living on Hirta, St Kilda's main island, were evacuated.

Julie Hunt, chair of the St Kilda Club, explains that the decision to leave was a difficult but necessary one. "They didn't want to go but they knew it was the best thing to do", she says. "They'd just come out of a particularly devastating winter and things had got harder and harder for them.

They weren't self-supporting and able to better themselves as the letter says. They knew they couldn't survive but they didn't know what the other options were. It had got to the point where they were relying on ships coming in and those were becoming less frequent. There's a history of them sending letters out on the mailboats asking for food as they were starving, but in the 1930s that shouldn't have been something that was happening."

Extraordinary place

There was a precedent too. Mingulay, at the southern tip of the Western Isles (also now cared for by the National Trust for Scotland), had been evacuated in 1912.

St Kilda was even more remote. While the decision to leave – and to write the letter asking for help – was a communal one, some were keener to find a new life on the mainland than others. Julie explains: "The younger islanders were more aware of the world outside and wanted to start afresh. For some of the older members of the community, the decision to leave was harder. They were more of the opinion that St Kilda was their life and all they'd ever known."

Julie sees that the 10 May letter wasn't just to ask for help to leave the island, but also to set up a whole new life on the mainland. "The islanders weren't looking for a handout. Having lived nowhere else but this tiny storm-battered island, they didn't know what work they could do or how they would go about getting it. Boats were so infrequent that communication with the mainland to set up a new life was even more difficult. They were happy to work but they didn't know what that could be", she says. "The irony was they went to work for the Forestry Commission, when St Kilda has no trees."

The letter was passed to the skipper of the first passing trawler. Soon after, George Henderson, Inspector of Public

Health, went out to St Kilda and reported back that 'swift action' was required to remove the St Kildans.

Plans were put in place over the summer to end life on this extraordinary place after four millennia of struggle against Mother Nature and, ultimately, the outside world.

Text and images are courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland. For more information on the Trust or to help them protect Scotland's heritage see: www.nts.org.uk

Did you know?

- St Kilda is the UK's only dual UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of only 39 in the world.
- Home to nearly 1 million seabirds, including the UK's largest colony of Atlantic puffins.
- Evacuated on 29 August 1930 after the remaining 36 islanders voted to leave as their way of life was no longer sustainable.
- St Kilda has its own unique wren, as well as a sub-species of mouse which is twice the size of a British fieldmouse.



St Kilda 'parliament'.

The Australian Pipe Band Championships 2021

With new government directives on social distancing and advice they will be in place for at least six months, the 2020 Australian Pipe Band Championships have been officially postponed to April 2021. An assessment of date options and consideration of government directives and advice in response to the coronavirus pandemic by Pipe Bands Australia, host branch Victoria and promoter Maryborough Highland Society concluded that proceeding with a deferred October date could not be guaranteed based on current government information and requirements for Australian people.

The original provisional postponed date in October, or later in the year, would also have increasingly presented greater challenges for participation by both school and community bands. An October date may also have allowed bands only limited musical preparation.

Keep the music going

To ensure greater certainty for bands and championship patrons, the host branch and promoter have selected the weekend of 10 and 11 April – the weekend after Easter when the 116th Maclean Highland Gathering will be held in northern NSW and the weekend before the Bundanoon Highland Gathering.

All decisions remain subject to further government direction and review. The closing date for confirmation of original entries/new entries will be 5 January 2021.

Pipe Bands Australia, Pipe Bands Victoria and Maryborough Highland Society appreciate the support, understanding and patience of people from across the pipe band community and within the Maryborough and central Victoria district recently in these difficult and challenging times for all Australians.

Pipe Bands Australia again ask all members of our pipe band family to remain safe, observe government advice and find ways to keep the music going.

For details on the Australian Pipe Band Championships see: www.australianpipebandchampionships.com.au



Scotword answers from page 6

Across:	Down:
8 Biggar	1 Airlie
9 Rothsay	2 Agin
10 Blantyre	3 Greys
11 Girdle	4 Braemar
12 Nevis	5 Stags
14 Bap	6 Weir
15 Scott	7 Ballater
18 Glasgow	13 Ins
20 Borders	16 Col
23 Scone	17 Coo
24 Ire	19 Loch Earn
25 Knave	21 Don
29 Ferret	22 Princes
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33 Armadale	27 Stoad
34 Kelvin	28 Dirks
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By: David McVey



The Bath House at Bar Hill Fort.

Rome in Scotland

All images courtesy of David McVey.



Glasgow University, home of the Hunterian Museum.

Everyone has heard of Hadrian's Wall, the Roman frontier that runs from coast to coast just south of the Scotland-England border. But there is another, later Roman border in Scotland itself, and it is fast becoming a popular tourist draw.

It was, of course, the Emperor Hadrian, who ruled from AD117, who ordered the building of the wall that bears his name. It was largely constructed during the year AD122, an amazing technical feat and nearly 2000 years on its remains are still impressive. Hadrian died in AD138 and was succeeded by his son Antoninus Pius (or Antonine) whose frontier policy was different. Hadrian's Wall, less than 20 years old, was abandoned, though it would later be re-occupied. Antonine ordered a new frontier to be constructed further north, between what we know as the Firths of Clyde and Forth.

The Antonine Wall

The Antonine Wall ran from Old Kilpatrick on the Clyde to Bo'ness on the Forth, around 37 miles. Built between AD142 and AD143, it hasn't survived as well because it was built of turf rather than stone, but the massive ditch that was dug - and sometimes cut from rock - to the north of the wall has survived well, and the outlines



Kirkinfilloch's Auld Kirk Museum.

of a number of forts and other buildings have also been preserved. Bar Hill Fort is perhaps the best place to appreciate the achievement of Antonine's Wall.

Like Hadrian's Wall, the Antonine Wall snakes across country picking out the high ground. The highest point is Bar Hill, near between Twechar and Kilsyth. It rises to 143m at its summit, Castle Hill. The latter name comes from an Iron Age fortification that was constructed on this windy site, but which was long abandoned by the time the Romans came. Just to the west is a high green plateau, pleasantly wooded, and it is there that you will find Bar Hill Roman Fort.

Historic Environment Scotland have preserved and displayed the outline of parts of the fort, with helpful information boards. Perhaps the clearest and most evocative spot is the former bathhouse, slightly downhill to the north of the rest of the site. Each of its rooms is identifiable, laying bare the Roman obsession with cleanliness. Although perhaps not just Roman; there's evidence that Bar Hill was manned by troops recruited from Syria. With recent turmoil in modern Syria, some refugees have found sanctuary in Scotland. Most of them love their new home but struggle to adapt to the cold. I wonder what their ancestors made of being posted on a wet, windy hilltop like this?

The best way to approach Bar Hill is, I think, from the east. A path - part of the John Muir Way - starts from the north end of Croy village, which has a railway station with trains from Glasgow and Edinburgh. Mid-way to the top, you have a choice of routes; to the south, there is a grassy sward that rises directly to the fort site. This follows the route of the Military Way, the supply road for the wall. A little north, the John Muir Way signposts take you along roughly where the wall itself stood. It is steep and a little slippery, and it is best to avoid what looks like a striking natural gully to the north. But it is not natural; it is the Antonine Wall ditch.

Here the ditch is cut from the rock, though it is now entirely grassed over. It is a genuinely breath-taking sight. Where the ditch climbs its highest point, it runs just north of the final steep climb to Castle Hill' summit. If you have youngsters with you, keep an eye on them. The fence to the south of the summit guards a disused quarry edge.

From Castle Hill or the fort, the strategic significance of the wall is clear. You can see for miles along the Kelvin-Carron valley, and across to the much higher Campsie

Fells which soar to 500m. No one would mess with a strong Roman force in a defensive position like this.

Statements of Roman power and ambition

Opinions differ on whether Hadrian's and Antonine's walls served as barriers or merely frontiers for controlling trade and movement. Certainly, they were intended to be impressive, imposing statements of Roman power and ambition.

If the climb to Bar Hill is a bit much for you, you do not have to just marvel at pictures in books or on the web. Several museums have treasures from Bar Hill and the wider Antonine Wall. The Auld Kirk Museum in Kirkintilloch has a number of items unearthed locally and there's an impressive collection

of 'distance slabs' in the University of Glasgow's Hunterian Museum. The slabs were engraved to mark the completion of a section of wall by Roman Legions and some of them are still impressive bits of sculpture. The Hunterian also has some smaller, more poignant items found at Bar Hill; sandals designed for men, women, and children, and even a cartwheel that must have rumbled up and down the Military Way to Bar Hill many times.

The Antonine Wall did not last long in service. It may have been abandoned as early as AD158, with Hadrian's Wall being re-occupied at the same time. When the Romans withdrew, they would have demolished some structures. Other parts, such as stonework, would have been re-used by local people. Mostly, the wall just faded, sank into the soil or grassed over, eventually leaving what remains today. It was largely forgotten until canal, rail and road building in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries uncovered many buried structures and artefacts.

The events and peoples and cultures of Roman Scotland can seem very remote, now. Bar Hill, though, is one place where you can stand in the silence and quite believe that you are on Rome's Northwest Frontier.

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